

Prime Minister General Thein Sein congratulates Malaysian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March — General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Dato' Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi who has been re-elected as Prime Minister of Malaysia. *MNA*

True patriotism

- * It is very important for everyone of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.
- * Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

Curriculum Vitae of His Excellency Mr Samak Sundaravej, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March—His Excellency Mr Samak Sundaravej was born on 13 June, 1935 in Bangkok, Thailand. He attended the Saint Gabriel's College and the Assumption Commercial College, and obtained Bachelor of Law Degree from Thammasat University. In 1968, he became a member of the Democrat Party.

During his political career, he has served as Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives (1975-1976), Deputy Interior Minister (1976), Minister of Interior (1976-1977), and Minister of Transport (1983-1986, 1990-1991). From 2000 to 2003, His Excellency Mr Samak Sundaravej was elected and served as the

Governor of Bangkok. Later he was elected as Senator in 2006 and in 2007, he became the leader of People's Power Party. After the General Elections in 2007, Mr Samak Sundaravej was elected as Thailand's 25th Prime Minister and Minister of Defence. He has been serving those duties since 29 January 2008.

He has been conferred with various Royal Decorations including Commander (Third Class) of the Most Noble Order of the Crown of Thailand (1974), Commander (Third Class) of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant (1975), Knight Commander (Second Class) of the Most Noble Order of the Crown of Thailand (1976), "Maha Yodhin" (Knight Com-

mander) of the Honourable Order of Rama (1977), Knight Grand Cross (First Class) of the Most Noble Order of the Crown of Thailand (1979), Knight Grand Cross (First Class) of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant (1981), Knight Grand Cordon (Special Class) of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant (1983), Knight Commander (Second Class, lower grade), of the Most Illustrious Order of Chula Chom Klao Knight Grand Cordon (Special Class) of the Most Noble Order of the Crown of Thailand (1984), Knight Grand Cross (First Class) of the Most Admirable Order of the Direkgunabhorn (1996) and Knight Commander (Second Class, higher grade) of the Most Illustrious Order of Chula Chom Klao



Mr Samak Sundaravej, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand.—MNA

(2002).

His Excellency Mr Samak Sundaravej is married to Surat Sundaravej and have two children.—MNA

Shan State (East) Sub-commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution holds coord meeting



Coordination meeting of Shan State (East) Sub-commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution in progress. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March — Shan State (East) Sub-commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar held the meeting 1/2008 at its office in Kengtung on 8 March afternoon.

After delivering an address, Chairman of the Sub-commission U Mya Aung explained the organizational set-up of the sub-commission and its duty and functions.

Shan State (East) Law Officer U Shu Aung explained the law and by-law for approval of the draft constitution.

Members of the sub-commission reported on their respective sectors. Later, the chairman of the sub-commission gave concluding remarks.

Afterwards, they viewed the demonstration on voting rolls at the polling booths at the hall of the sub-commission.— MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 14 March, 2008

Rural people enjoying better health care and socio-economic life

The majority of the nation’s population live in rural areas, so the government is now in pursuit of many projects designed to improve the economic, education, health standards of rural folks.

Agriculture is rural areas’ major business. Supply of irrigation water and safe drinking water is one of the government’s top priorities. Thanks to its assistance for boosting per acre yields of crops and fulfilling of agricultural requirements, there has been a boom in the agriculture sector.

In addition, the government is fostering formal education, non-formal education and informal education for all citizens irrespective of age, educational qualification and status to broaden their horizons and pursue education. At the same time, it is opening more and more self-reliant libraries in the villages in rural areas, thus helping rural people carry out post-literacy activities and gain knowledge.

The inauguration of Homalin Township People’s Hospital (100-bed) took place on 11 March. The township has got three station people’s hospitals and one rural health care centre, apart from the upgraded hospital. Therefore, the people in Homalin Township and from surrounding areas have started to enjoy better health care.

Now, the government, the people, social organizations and wellwishers are contributing cash donations and labour towards rural development projects. As a result, rural areas have seen a large number of model villages with all characters of a village. So, the health standard and socio-economic life of rural residents are improving as rural health care services are being carried out on a wider scale with the use of good foundations in accordance with the fine traditions.

Man gets injuries on leg in mine explosion

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March — A man got injuries on his left leg in a mine explosion in Mone Township, Bago Division, on 8 March.

U San Lwin, 40, son of U Pauk San of Aungchantha Village in Mone Township, together with his two companions Ko Min Naing and Ko Nu Nu, was on his way to the woods to get bamboo when the mine planted by insurgents exploded as he stepped on it, leaving his left leg injured.

The victim was rushed to Mone Station Hospital and provided with necessary help. The authorities and local people are in hot pursuit of the insurgents.

Insurgents, undermining the State stability and jeopardizing community peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order, are committing the terrorist acts resorting to all means with the aim of causing panic among 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

KOICA assists in Greening of Dry Zone in Myanmar

YANGON, 13 March — The representatives of the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the Dry Zone Greening Department (DZGD), Minister of Forestry, signed the Record of Discussions for the project for the Greening of the Dry Zone of Central Myanmar and confirmed the work scope, both sides’ roles and responsibilities and an implementation scheme of the project at the DZGD Head Office at Patheingyi, Mandalay.

The signing ceremony was attended by the KOICA survey team, consisting of the KOICA resident representative, KOICA officer in charge and 2 forestry experts, as well as the Director General of the DZGD and other officials from the Ministry of Forestry.

This 1.5-million-dollar project aims to improve rehabilitation capacity of the deforested NyaungU Township’s project site. The project includes construction of operation office and nursery houses, provision of seedlings’ equipment and vehicles, training of Myanmar officials for appx. 200ha afforestation and forest management over the 3 year period (2008-2010). — H



Officials of KOICA and Dry Zone Greening Department sign Record of Discussions for project for greening of Dry Zone of Central Myanmar.

UMFCCI to hold Annual General Meetnig in Nay Pyi Taw

YANGON, 13 March — The 17th Annual General Meeting of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry will be held at the City Hall in Nay Pyi Taw on 16 March at 1:30 pm.

Members of UMFCCI, Chambers of Commerce and Industry in States and Divisions and represenatives of Myanmar Industry Association, Myanmar Border Trade Merchants Association and other relevant associations were invited to attend the meeting. — MNA

Talks on dental knowledge 16 March

YANGON, 13 March — With the supervision of Myanmar Dental Association (Central), the education subcommittee at the association will stage the talks on dental knowledge, to be sponsored by Zizawa Health Care Company, at the multi-functional hall of the MDA at No 582/A on Thanthuma road, Thutwainggyi Ward of Thingangyun Township on 16 March.

Professor Dr U Ko Ko Maung of Department of Plastic, Maxillo-facial and Oral Surgery of University of Dental Medicine (Yangon) will give talks entitled “How to overcome the Failure of Local Anaesthesia in Clinical Practice”.

Doctors and any interested person may attend the talks. — H

Vehicle overturns killing 9, wounding 49

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March — A six-wheeled vehicle with number plate Zamyinswe/1441 driven by Soe Thu Htwe, aged 19, son of U Htin Kyaw on its way back to Linzin village, Salin of Magway Division from Shwesettaw pagoda festival overturned at Pathein-Monywa mile post No 126/4 due to faulty brake at about 11 am on 12 March.

The incident killed 9 and injured 49 out of 72 passengers aboard. The injured were rushed to Minbu District and Magway People’s Hospitals and medical treatment was being provided to them. Sagu Police Station opened a file on driver Soe Thu Htwe. — MNA

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“World TB Day”

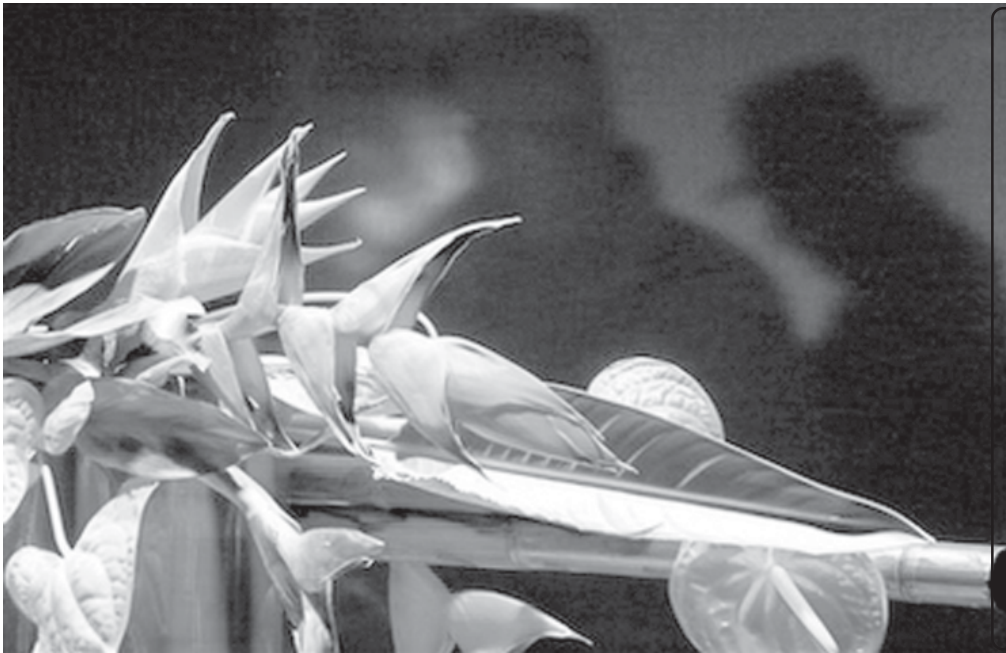
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“I AM STOPPING TB”

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန



*Plant is on display
at the 2008 New
England Spring
Flower Show, on
8 March, 2008 in
Boston. The show
is scheduled to
run through
on 16 March.*
INTERNET

Indonesia urges Iran to step up UN nuke contacts

TEHERAN, 13 March—Indonesia called on Iran on Tuesday to increase its cooperation with a UN nuclear watchdog to avoid further confrontation over its atomic programme.

Indonesia, a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, abstained in a vote last week to introduce a third sanctions resolution against Iran. The United States is spearheading a drive at the United Nations to isolate Teheran because of its nuclear programme, which Washington says it aimed at developing atomic weapons. Iran says the programme is solely for peaceful energy needs.

“We believe that the cooperation of Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency should be strengthened... to avoid bringing Iran’s nuclear programme into the political field,” visiting Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono told reporters through an interpreter. —MNA/Reuters

INTERNATIONAL NEWS Top US Mideast commander quits after Iran article

WASHINGTON, 13 March — The top US commander for the Iraq and Afghanistan wars said on Tuesday he would quit after a magazine reported he was pushing President George W Bush to avoid war with Iran.

Admiral, William “Fox” Fallon, head of the US Central Command headquarters responsible for the Middle East, insisted he did not disagree with the Bush Administration over Iran

but perceptions of a rift made it difficult for him to do his job. Defence Secretary Robert Gates dismissed suggestions that Fallon’s departure made war with Iran more likely.

MNA/Reuters

Strong earthquake jolts Vanuatu

WELLINGTON, 13 March — An earthquake measuring 6.5 on the Richter Scale hit the South Pacific Island nation of Vanuatu on Wednesday, the US Geological Survey reported.

The quake hit at 10:23 pm Vanuatu Time (1123 GMT), at a depth of 10 kilometres, some 120 kilometres southeast of Luganville, Espiritus Santo of Vanuatu.

No casualties or damage have been reported so far and no tsunami has been issued. —MNA/Xinhua

Clinton, Obama disagree on Florida, Michigan revote

WASHINGTON, 13 March — Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama sharply disagreed on disputed contests in Florida and Michigan on Wednesday, as Florida Democratic officials finished a proposal for a new mail-in presidential primary.

Clinton, who won unsanctioned contests in both states, said the results should be honoured or new votes held. Obama said he abided by party rules in skipping the two contests and questioned Clinton’s call now for counting them. The two states were stripped of their delegates in a dispute with the national party, but held the contests won by Clinton anyway even though no candidates campaigned there and Obama was not even on the ballot in Michigan. “The Clinton campaign seems to

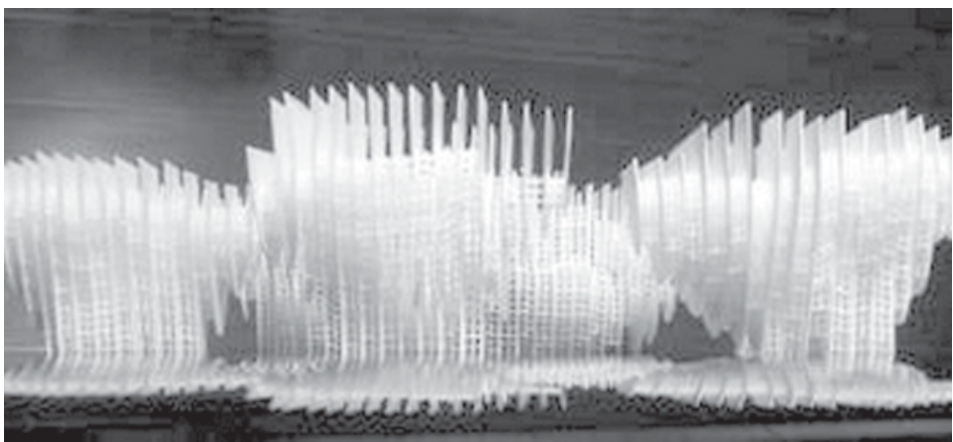
want to make up rules as they go along on this issue,” Obama said. He said he would work with the national party to find a solution.

A resolution of the dispute has become vital as the two Democratic presidential contenders scratch for every available delegate in their tight

battle for the right to face Republican John McCain in November’s election.

Florida Senate Democratic leader Steve Geller said in Tallahassee the mail-in primary would replace the state’s disputed 29 January vote, and all votes would be counted and verified by 3 June.

MNA/Reuters



A model of The Swabhumi Hotel complex in Kolkata, India, is seen in this undated photo released by architectural firm Morphogenesis on 11 March, 2008. A breeze flows below the building because of a design inspired by the way trees trap winds. —INTERNET

China says US unfit to criticize human rights

BEIJING, 13 March — China said the United States is unfit to present itself as a “defender of human rights”, denouncing the latest US assessment of Beijing’s controls on political and religious life as unfounded distortion.

The US State Department’s latest report on human rights across the globe, issued this week, did not include China among the world’s worst offenders but said Beijing’s record remained “poor”.

But with Beijing due to host the Summer Olympic Games starting August 8, drawing increased international attention to China’s strict, sometimes harsh controls on citizens, a Chinese official spokesman on Thursday hit back with sarcasm.

“We humbly suggest that the US desist from posing as a ‘defender of human rights’ and pay more attention to the United States’ own human rights record,” Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said in a statement issued by the official Xinhua news agency. — MNA/Reuters

China issues Human Rights Record of US in 2007

BEIJING, 13 March — China issued on Thursday the Human Rights Record of the United States in 2007 in response to the Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2007 issued by the US Department of State on Tuesday.

Released by the Information Office of China’s State Council, the Chinese report listed a multitude of cases to show the human rights situation in the United States and its violation of human rights in other countries.

The report says the United States reigns over other countries and make arrogant and malicious attacks on their human rights issues, but mentions nothing about its own human rights problems.

By publishing the Human Rights Record of the United States in 2007, the report says it aims to “help the people have a better understanding of the real situation in the United States and as a reminder for the United States to reflect upon its own issues”.

MNA/Xinhua

Russia says US rights report shows double standards

MOSCOW, 13 March — Russia on Wednesday poured scorn on the United States annual report on human rights, which accused Moscow of corruption and electoral abuse, as an “opus” that showed Washington’s “mentoring tone and double standards”.

The report, issued by the US Department of State on Tuesday, detailed alleged rights violations in Russia in 2007, including harassment of the media and reported killings and torture by the security forces.

It also criticized the centralization of power in the Russian executive branch and restrictions on opposition parties during elections.

“The report became yet another proof of ‘double standards’ in US policy on human rights,” Russia’s Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

“It is obvious the human rights issue is being distributed for external and internal consumption,” it said.

MNA/Reuters

All items from Xinhua News Agency

PNA vows no negotiations until Israel withdraws

RAMALLAH, 13 March — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) on Tuesday vowed that peace talks with Israel will remain suspended unless Israel withdraws its decision to build new settlements and accepts ceasefire with the Palestinians.

Saeb Erekat, a senior PNA negotiator, told Voice of Palestine radio that the upcoming meeting between Palestinian and Israeli negotiation crews with a US envoy “doesn’t mean that the negotiations are resumed”. The meeting, which will be held with US General William Fraser on Thursday, “comes in the context of implementing the first phase” of the US-backed Road Map peace plan, Erekat explained.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas halted the PNA negotiations in response to a deadly offensive which Israel carried out in Gaza early this month.

As Abbas was about to resume the talks, Israel announced plans to build 750 new houses in a settlement near Jerusalem, provoking the PNA and violating the Road Map which is the reference of the negotiations.

Xinhua

Japanese governors call for review of SOFA agreement

TOKYO, 12 March — A group of Japanese prefectural governors on Tuesday conveyed to the central government their request to review the Japan-US Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA), one of the basic bilateral security treaties.

Kanagawa Governor Shigefumi Matsuzawa and Okinawa Governor Hirokazu Nakaima, on behalf of an organization made up of 14 governors of prefectures hosting US forces, made the request during meeting with Defence Minister Shigeru Ishiba and Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura earlier in the day.

The governors made the request in wake of a series of crimes committed by US servicemen in Japan.

The alleged rape of a minor girl by a US Marine in Okinawa Prefecture last month and following indiscipline involving US military personnel prompted discontent all over Japan.

Xinhua

Japanese exchange students arrive in China

BEIJING, 12 March — A total of 1,000 Japanese youth arrived in China on Monday for a seven-day tour of the country to mark the start of the China-Japan Friendly Exchange Year of the Youth.

The Japanese delegation, breaking into small groups, will respectively visit such cities as Shanghai and Hangzhou in the east, Chongqing and Chengdu in the west, Guangzhou in the south and Dalian in the northeast and hold get-togethers with their Chinese peers.

They will gather in Beijing on Saturday to

participate in the China-Japan Friendly Exchange Year opening ceremony.

The delegation, led by Japanese Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Osamu Uno, consists of 500 high school students, 200 university students and 300 young representatives from all walks of life.

Yotaro Kobayashi, the chief Japanese member of the new 21st Century Committee for China-Japan Friendship, is the delegation’s special adviser.

The China-Japan Friendly Exchange Year was created last year by

China Premier Wen Jia-bao and Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda when the two met over lunch in Singapore at the Asian Summit in November.

It also marks the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Japan-China Peace and Friendship Treaty.

A series of youth exchange activities will be conducted over the course of the year in the fields of culture, academia, environmental protection, science and technology, media, tourism, film and television.

Xinhua



People take photos of a model displaying a creation by Di De Sant during the “Pasarela Castillay Leon Autumn/Winter 2009” in Burgos, northern Spain, on 11 March, 2008.—XINHUA

EC opens probe into US on-line gambling measures

BRUSSELS, 12 March — The European Commission decided on Monday to launch investigation into US measures affecting suppliers of Internet gambling services.

“The commission will now examine whether these actions are in breach of international trade rules

and discuss the matter with the United States,” the European Union’s executive arm said in a statement.

The decision followed a complaint lodged by the Remote Gambling Association (RGA) in December 2007, which concerns the fact that laws and

regulations that ban the supply of Internet gambling into the US market were already in place at a time when the US had WTO commitments allowing such services.

European industry also claimed that the United States is now selectively enforcing those measures against foreign suppliers, for on-line gambling services which they offered in the past.

“The US has the right to address legitimate public policy concerns relating to Internet gambling, but discrimination against EU companies cannot be part of the policy mix. We are interested in a constructive and mutually satisfactory solution to this issue,” EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson said.—Xinhua

Argentina to handle Ecuador’s dip affairs with Colombia

BOGOTA, 12 March — The Ecuadorean Government has entrusted Argentina with handling its diplomatic affairs with Colombia after the two countries severed ties following a border crisis

last week, Colombian Foreign Minister Fernando Araujo said Monday.

“Ecuador’s Government has entrusted the Argentine Government with representing it in Colombia,” the minister said.

“We received a diplomatic note today and I got in touch with the Argentine ambassador straight away to express Colombia’s wish to normalize diplomatic relations (with Ecuador),” he added.

Araujo said he is awaiting a response from the Ecuadorean Government through Argentine diplomats regarding a revival of relations.

Meanwhile, Venezuela also said Monday that it will send its diplomats back to Colombia and name a new ambassador within days, Araujo added.

Xinhua

Sri Lanka defends its HR record at UN meeting

COLOMBO, 12 March — Sri Lanka has successfully defended its human rights record in the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) sessions held in Geneva last week, a government minister said here Tuesday.

Mahinda Samarasinghe, the Human Rights Minister, told reporters that most of the countries present at the UNHRC session had understood Sri Lanka’s position on its war against terrorism and its efforts to find a political solution to the island’s long running dispute with Tamil Tiger rebels.

“We were able to convince the countries that Sri Lanka’s human rights record has improved and not deteriorated,” Samarasinghe said, adding that despite criticism from a handful of nations, the human rights safeguards implemented in the country received praise at the UNHRC.—Xinhua

Models perform on

stage as they present

hairdos at the “Hair

Colouring Splash”

event in Tokyo on 11

March, 2008. XINHUA



Russia close to earning \$1b a day from energy

MOSCOW, 12 March — Russian energy exports are close to reaching a milestone one billion US dollars per day value mark bringing in more money for social spending and creating additional inflationary pressure, a report said on Tuesday.

Russian brokerage UralSib said in written research high earnings may also prompt the

government to alleviate the tax burden on the oil sector to revive the output growth.

Russia's benchmark Urals crude tipped a record 100 US dollars per barrel mark this week and once it trades at 107.5 US dollars per barrel, the daily value of crude, refined products and gas exports will hit one billion US dollars.

“Higher oil and higher state spending are hugely inflationary, along with likely increased speculative capital inflows that are also pressuring the rouble higher against the US dollar, will increasingly reduce the competitiveness of the Russian economy,” said Chris Weafer, chief strategist at UralSib.

MNA/Reuters



French Defence Minister Herve Morin (R) and Russian Defence Minister Anatoly Serdyukov (L) hold a joint Press conference in Paris, capital of France, on 11 March, 2008.— INTERNET

Singapore to promote trade ties with M-E countries

SINGAPORE, 12 March — Singapore has completed a free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), a senior official said on Tuesday. The FTA will help to form a strategic link between Singapore and the Gulf Region, and will assist in facilitating the growth of trade and investments between the two sides, Zainul Abidin Rasheed, Singapore's Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, said at a seminar themed "Rise of the golden crescent -- doing business in the Middle East".

Trade between Singapore and the Middle East countries increased 42 per cent between 2004 and 2006 to reach 48 billion US dollars while the figures are predicted to grow faster in the next few years, according to Rasheed. — MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia to jointly build \$6b refinery

JAKARTA, 13 March — Indonesia's state oil company PT Pertamina has signed a joint venture shareholder agreement with state firms from Iran and Malaysia to build a six-billion-US-dollar oil refinery plant in Banten Province, local Press said Wednesday.

Within two weeks of the signing, the three parties including National Iranian Oil Refining

and Distribution Co. (NIORDC), Pertamina and Petrofield Refining Company of Malaysia will establish a joint venture company in Indonesia which would start immediately on the project.

If things proceed as expected, the refinery plant will be ready by 2012, reported English newspaper *The Jakarta Post*. Pertamina and NIORDC would each have a 40-per-cent stake in the new company, with Petrofield holding the other 20 per cent.

MNA/Xinhua

Brazil's Petrobras signs gas agreement with Shell

RIO DE JANEIRO, 13 March — Brazil's state-owned oil and gas giant Petrobras announced Tuesday it has signed an agreement with multinational Shell, which agreed to provide liquefied natural gas (LNG) to regasification terminals in Brazil.

Petrobras said the LNG will be delivered to the terminals "Pecem, in Ceara state, in northeastern Brazil and Baia de Guanabara, in Rio de Janeiro".

The regasification units will have a total capacity to produce 21 million cubic metres of natural gas per day, including seven million in Ceara and 14 million in Rio.

The Brazilian company said the agreement will help satisfy part of import demand and form, along with other agreements, a "portfolio, which supplies natural gas to generate thermoelectric power in Brazil".—MNA/Xinhua

China becomes Panama's third largest export market

PANAMA CITY, 12 March — China has become the third largest export destination for Panama, whose exports to China soared almost 80 per cent last year, the latest official statistics from the Central American country show.

China was only the 17th

largest export destination for Panama in 2006, but jumped to third place last year after its exports to China grew to 62.9 million US dollars, a 78.6-per-cent rise over the previous year, media reports said Sunday.

China now ranks third in terms of imports from Panama, next only to the

United States and the Netherlands, importing mainly scrap iron, coffee and chicken from that country. Bao Esheng, a Chinese trade official, said China's rapid economic growth guarantees the development of trade between the two countries.

MNA/Xinhua



Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade (L) welcomes Sudanese President Omer al-Bashir at the airport in Dakar, capital of Senegal, on 12 March, 2008. Leaders arrived in Dakar in succession to attend the 11th summit of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), which is to take place from 13 to 14 March in Dakar. —INTERNET

IEA sees slower oil demand, cheap crude era dead

LONDON, 13 March — World oil demand will be less than expected this year because of slower economic growth in industrialized countries and record prices, the International Energy Agency said on Tuesday.

The latest monthly

report from the IEA adds to evidence that a slowing economy in the United States and record oil prices above 100 US dollars a barrel are denting fuel consumption in some of the world's biggest economies.

But the IEA also said

that the baseline for oil prices has moved higher and that only a severe world recession would send oil back below 60 US dollars a barrel for a sustained period. Oil has climbed from below 20 US dollars in early 2002.

MNA/Reuters

Vietnam to spend \$13.4m recovering cattle flock

HANOI, 13 March — Vietnam will offer 214 billion Vietnamese dong (VND) (nearly 13.4 million US dollars) to local farmers to recover their cattle which died in a recent prolonged cold spell, local newspaper *Investment* reported on Wednesday.

Under a programme on

the issue submitted to the government by the Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, 108 billion VND (about 6.8 million dollars) from the state budget will be used to assist farmers in the northern region hard hit by the spell.

Other sums of money

will be spent on animal feed and veterinary medicine assistance.

Up to 107,533 cattle in Vietnam's northern localities died in the cold spell from mid-January to late February, causing a loss of 380 billion VND (some 23.8 million dollars), according to the ministry. —MNA/Xinhua

New York Governor Spitzer resigns amid sex scandal

NEW YORK, 13 March — New York Governor Eliot Spitzer resigned on Wednesday amid a scandal over a 1,000-US-dollar-an-hour prostitute, ending a career built on pugnacious investigations of Wall Street crimes and an image of moral rectitude.

His resignation completed a fast and spectacular downfall for the former New York state chief prosecutor, who became prominent by probing financial crime with a publicity conscious vigor that earned him the nickname Sheriff of Wall Street.

Lieutenant Governor David

Paterson will replace him next Monday, Spitzer announced in a brief statement that dwelt on his remorse for “private failings” but did not detail what they were. Spitzer, 48, is married with three children.

The Democratic governor had faced intense pressure to resign and impeachment threats from Republicans since *The New York Times* reported Monday he was caught on a federal wiretap arranging to meet a prostitute in a Washington hotel room.

MNA/Reuters

Democrat Obama beats Clinton in Mississippi

WASHINGTON, 12 March — Democrat Barack Obama easily beat rival Hillary Clinton in Mississippi on Tuesday, giving him new momentum in their heated presidential fight as they head to the next showdown in Pennsylvania in six weeks.

Obama, who would be the first Black US president, rode a wave of heavy Black support to victory and

extended his lead over Clinton in pledged delegates to the August nominating convention. The Illinois Senator also won on Saturday in Wyoming. Clinton revived her hopes in the Democratic race last week by beating Obama in primaries in Ohio and Texas, prolonging their bitter Democratic fight for the right to face Republican John McCain in November’s presidential election.

“What we have tried to do is steadily make sure that in each state we are making the case about the need for change in this country, and obviously the people of Mississippi responded,” Obama said in an interview on CNN.

Clinton did not speak publicly after the result, but her campaign manager, Maggie Williams, released a statement thanking the New York Senator’s supporters in Mississippi. — MNA/Reuters

At least 46 killed in Iraq violence

BAGHDAD, 12 March — At least 46 people were killed in a surge in violence across Iraq on Tuesday, including a roadside bomb attack on a bus carrying mourners and day-long clashes between gunmen and US and Iraqi security forces. Violence had fallen across Iraq by 60 per cent since last June, but Tuesday’s attacks underlined how fragile the security gains are.

In the southern city of Kut, members of anti-US Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr’s Mehdi Army fought US special forces and Iraqi security forces backed by US warplanes in clashes in which 14 people died, security officials said.

Police at the general hospital in Nassiriya, 375 kilometres (235 miles) south of Baghdad, said the casualties from the roadside bomb attack on a bus included women and children. Survivors said the bomb appeared to target a passing US military convoy.

MNA/Reuters



Two women take photos of the blossoming Yulan magnolias on the Chang'an street in Beijing, capital of China, on 13 March, 2008.

INTERNET

Bird flu expert urges vigilance in China

HONG KONG, 12 March — A Chinese expert on respiratory diseases says the H5N1 bird flu virus has shown signs of mutation and urged vigilance at a time when seasonal human influenza is at a peak, newspapers reported on Tuesday.

“When avian flu is around and human flu appears, this will raise the chances of avian flu turning into a human flu. We have to be very alert and careful in March,” Zhong Nanshan was quoted by the *Ming Pao* newspaper as saying. “People who were killed by bird flu last year and this year were too poor to seek treatment. If you happen to have high fever and pneumonia, you must seek treatment fast,” said Zhong, director of the Guangzhou Institute of Respiratory Diseases in China’s southern Guangdong Province.

Experts are worried about seasonal flu, because it could get mixed up with a deadly novel strain, such as the H5N1 bird flu virus. Such a hybrid would not only become easily transmissible between people, but packed with great killing power.

MNA/Reuters

India Congress asked to prepare for poll next year

NEW DELHI, 12 March — The leader of India’s ruling Congress Party Sonia Gandhi told her party on Tuesday to prepare for elections next year “with a firm sense of self-confidence”, but gave no hint of an earlier poll.

A general election has to be held by May 2009, but talk of an early poll resurfaced when the government presented a voter-friendly budget late last month. Gandhi, India’s most powerful politician, signalled that her party should go into election mode in an address to Congress Party members of Parliament.

“Inevitably, we have also to start preparing for Lok Sabha polls next

year,” she said, referring to the Lower House of Parliament.

“We will go into these polls with an outstanding record of achievements, both in terms of government programmes and of legislation enacted,” she said. “These achievements give us a firm sense of self-confidence to take on our political opponents.”

MNA/Reuters

Coal mine fire kills six in N China

TAIYUAN, 12 March — Six people were killed in a coal mine fire in north China’s Shanxi Province, a local source said on Tuesday. The fire broke out at 12:30 pm on Sunday in a private mine in Pingding County when 21 miners were underground, said an official with the Yangquan municipal government on Tuesday.

Nine people managed to escape the fire but 12 were trapped. Six miners were later rescued, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

24 dead in suicide bombing attacks in E Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 12 March — As many as 24 people were killed and 170 others injured in twin suicide bombing attacks in eastern Pakistan on Tuesday, the Pakistani Interior Ministry said in a statement.

The first blast took place on Temple Road in the premises of the Federal Investigation

Agency (FIA) building, the statement released at the weekly news briefing here said.

“According to initial reports a suicide bomber exploded his explosive-laden vehicle near the reception office of the FIA building, killing 21 innocent people and injuring another 167,” said the statement.

A total of 12 personnel including an inspector of the FIA were among the dead, said the statement.

Local media reports said that 11 human smugglers were being questioned in the FIA office at the time of the blast. Nobody had any clue of their whereabouts after the blast.

MNA/Xinhua



People board a China-made articulated bus in Havana on 13 March, 2008.

INTERNET

State Constitution (draft) deserves unanimous approval of independent Myanmar people

Tekkatho Myat Thu

I am just a journalist-cum-writer. According to the press ethics, all the news stories inserted must be correct and exact, and they must not be invented ones. The newspapers, journals and magazines in circulation today will be part of tomorrow's history. So, the news stories must be authentic ones. The news stories stated in a newspaper reflect the political, economic, social and military affairs of the nation concerned. Therefore, analysts make comments and reviews on the basis of the news stories.

People should be vigilant against slanderous news, news designed to sow seeds of hatred and doubts, made-up news, groundless news, and invented news intended to mislead the people into misunderstanding the prevailing situations because such news can make the readers waver in their decisions.

Journalists know the news stories including the ones that are omitted from newspapers due to lack of space, and the stories that are not appropriate to be stated in newspapers. If one makes reviews based on what one reads in the newspapers, listens to the radio and watches on TV, one will understand what is appropriate and what is not for the nation and the people. **Saboteurs at home and abroad are dissuading the people from reading the newspapers, listening to the radio, and watching TV, saying that all the statements and broadcasts are how much the government is hardworking. If one regularly listens to and relies on their propaganda broadcasts, surely, one will be caught in their political snares.**

I have to listen to the Myanmar language broadcasts of foreign radio stations such as BBC, VOA, RFA and DVB. They should not be considered to be normal radio stations because they instigate the people politically. The countries that have established these radio stations are colonialist countries that have been invading and colonizing many other countries. Till today, they are exercising neo-colonialism and interfering in the internal affairs of and bullying and exploiting other nations. Furthermore, many of those who have violated the existing law, provoked riots and committed crimes and fled the mother country are appointed in these radio stations. Thus, the people should weigh their broadcasts if they want to listen to them. While listening to the news stories these stations air, the people should be equipped with nationalistic awareness.

We listen to, watch and read news broadcasts stated by local media especially the government media. News on projects of irrigation facilities, educational institutions, roads and bridges, factories and hospitals are reported with pictures. Anyone with doubt about it may visit the project sites for their first-hand experience. These news stories are tangible evidences for those who have visited the project sites and those who have witnessed the facilities through the media. Nonetheless, the media of the colonialists do not mention such news. It is food for thought.

The people have taken lessons from and witnessed the strengths and weaknesses of the Parliamentary Democracy (AFPFL, Pa-Hta-Sa) period, the Socialist Democracy (Revolutionary Council, Myanmar Socialist Programme Party) period, and unrest, protests, boycotts, riots, armed insurgency, and

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competitions of different groups for power. Moreover, the government's hard work for political reforms, democratic transition, internal peace, practice of the market economy, nation's economic growth, and construction of roads, bridges, dams, factories, mechanized farming and development of human resources are tangible to the people.

Here, I would like to present a meeting held on 14 November 1997. US Senator John McCain, who is to enter the US Presidential election, at that time held a meeting at the residence of the Ambassador of the US on Pyay Road in Yangon. John McCain said that he had come here to know about Myanmar's democratic process, political affairs, drug elimination drive and human rights.

The meeting took place at 1.30 pm. At about 1 pm, those who would meet him arrived at the venue including NLD U Kyi Maung, U Aung Shwe and U Tin Oo. Then, Daw Suu Kyi who arrived earlier had held a private meeting with McCain. U Khun Tun Oo and party of Shan National League for Democracy had arrived and presented a letter to McCain. The attendees also included national race peace group leaders such as U Za Khun Ting Ring, U Aung Kham Hti and U Ma Htu Naw, representatives from the National Unity Party led by U Khin Maung Gyi, and writers including Zeya Maung (a) U Ko Lay and me, National Convention delegate.

When McCain invited discussions, Daw Suu Kyi said that she had already said. She meant she had held private talks. U Khun Tun Oo said that the letter carried their stance. U Za Khun Ting Ring (Kachin Special Peace Region-1) said that the Tatmadaw government had pledged that it would pave the way to democracy, so they would attend the National Convention to the end. He said that they were speeding up drug elimination tasks, and then Mongla region had been free from opium. Their region would also become a poppy-free region soon.

U Khin Maung Gyi of the National Unity Party said that that day in Myanmar, all were trying to introduce genuine democracy. NLD was not the only party that was pursuing the goal. All the political parties including the National Unity Party and the entire people were working hard in that regard, he said.

In response to our request, U Ko Lay told McCain that he was 80. The peace, stability and progress Myanmar was enjoying were the greatest he had ever witnessed. He said that he would like any foreign country not to disrupt his country's stability, peace and development, and he would like them to provide assistance as much as they could, he said.

Using three or four pen names, U Ko Lay wrote many works including anti-colonialist works, Sekkubyu (White Paper) Play and the book "King Thibaw and New York Times Newspaper". While we were at Mandalay University in 1951-52, he was a schoolmaster.

He translated many books on Pitakat (Buddhist Scriptures) into English. He also served as a visiting professor in a religious university. He translated the book "What the Buddha taught" by Sri Lankan Monk Vepulla Rahula. Under the pen name of Maung Thitsar, he compiled a book on Theravada Buddhism. In the end, John McCain understood the prevailing situations of the nation due to the clear and comprehensible explanation of U Ko Lay.

We people should understand that according to the 1988 unrest, the 1947 constitution and 1974 constitution have many defects and those loopholes made the nation become in disorder. We are convinced that there should be an enduring State constitution in order to avert similar incidents. So, we actively attended the National Convention held from 9 January 1993 to 3 September 2007, and throw ourselves with life and soul to the processes for emergence of a constitution or transition to discipline-flourishing democracy. We delegates held discussions, sometime argued with each other at the National Convention so that the forthcoming State constitution would be most reliable one.

Those who are desperate to deprive Myanmar of independence, development and peace and colonialists who are anxious to manipulate Myanmar are opposing the draft of the State constitution. Therefore, we will never yield to their objections. In my opinion, nothing in the draft constitution needs amendments. I want to see our country remain perpetually as an independent one with this constitution. Moreover, I want to see Myanmar enjoying peace and stability with economic development and high living standard of the people. This desire is patriotism.

The draft constitution winning the support of national patriots carries a chapter on citizens' fundamental rights made up of 50 articles. Each of the previous constitutions enumerated over 20 articles only. Western capitalist (colonialist) countries that oppose Communism and Socialism even did not disrupt the 1974 constitution that was under the influence of Socialism. However, they are now criticizing the new State constitution that reflects the democratic practice, or that carries principles of sharing the three sovereign powers like the US constitution. So, neo-colonialists' stances have become clear that they are anxious to dominate our country and install a puppet government. So, I would like to urge the entire people to unanimously approve the constitution that has been drafted in accordance with the wishes of the people, while taking awareness of the dangers of colonialists.

Translation: MS

Myanma Alin, Kyemon: 13-3-2008

Minister inspects Diesel-fired Power Station in Sittway

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March — Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint together with officials inspected maintenance of generators and supplying of power at Diesel-fired Power Station in Sittway of Rakhine State on 10 March.

After meeting with service personnel, the minister viewed transformers and linkages of power lines at the station.

While in Sittway,

the minister inspected installation of electrical equipment at lamp-posts along the 11-mile power line on Lanmagyi Road, Pyidaungsu Road, Mayyu Road and the road to the airport. He instructed officials to place emphasis on supply of electricity.

Afterwards, the minister supervised arrival of one 100 KVA Duetz brand generator and two 315 KVA transformers at Rakhine State Electrical Engineer's Office. The

False thinking does not arrive at essential

Viewing the non-essential as the essential and the essential as the non-essential they, nourished on false thinking, do not arrive at the essential.

Dhammapada 11

minister and party inspected the site chosen for construction of the avenue for electrical staff on Lammagyi Road. MNA

Mayor inspects road works

YANGON, 13 March — Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected road works and dredging here this morning.

First, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected paving asphalt on Strand Road from Theinbyu

Junction to Botahtaung Pagoda Road Junction in Botahtaung Township.

Afterwards, the mayor inspected laying slabs on the pavement on Anawrahta Street in Latha Township and dredging drains on 22nd Street between Anawrahta Street and Maha Bandoola Street and

dredging Thamaing Creek in Mayangon Township.

During his inspection tour, the mayor visited Myanmar Convention Centre in Mayangon Township and also inspected construction of warehouses to store jade stones.

MNA

Deputy Education Minister inspects Matric exam centres



Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min views students sitting for the matriculation examination at No 6 BEHS, Botahtaung Township.

EDUCATION

YANGON, 13 March — Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min together with U Aye Kyu, Director-General of No 3 Basic Education Department, visited matriculation exam centre of No3 BEHS in

Botataung Township and viewed the students taking the matriculation exam.

He also viewed the students sitting for the matriculation exam at Yangon General Hospital. He later visited matriculation exam centre

of No 3 BEHS in Dagon Township where students including those who are hard of hearing were taking the matriculation exam.—MNA

Cash, gold foils donated to Kyaik Thot Pagoda in Mawlamyine

YANGON, 13 March — A cash donation ceremony for hoisting Seinbudaw (Diamond Orb) and offering gold foils to Kyaik Thot Pagoda in Mawlamyine of Mon State was held at the Dhammayon on the platform of the

pagoda yesterday. The wellwishers donated cash to the pagoda through a responsible person and the cash donation amounted to K 1.2 million. The donors have already donated 29 gold foils until 12 March.

Those wishing to

donate items may contact the Board of Trustees of the pagoda, Tel; 057-24690.

The gold foil offering and Seinbudaw (Diamond Orb) hoisting ceremony will be held on 21 March (Full Moon Day of Tabaung).—MNA

Japan-Myanmar Cross Certification-ITPEC Exam on 6 April

YANGON, 13 March — With a view to ensuring development of information technology, the Japan-Myanmar Cross Certification-ITPEC Exam, organized by Information-Technology Promotion Agency (IPA) and the Myanmar Computer Federation, will be held at Myanmar Info-Tech in

Hline Township on 6 April.

The intensive course for the ITPEC will be conducted from 18 to 31 March. Everybody may attend the intensive course free of charge at e-Learning Center of MCF. Interested persons may dial 652307 and 707503 of the office of MCF at Myanmar Info-

Tech in Hline Township for further information. Applications for the examination are to be submitted, not later than 31 March.

Similar examinations will be held in Taunggyi of Shan State and Pathein of Ayeyawady Division on 6 April.

MNA

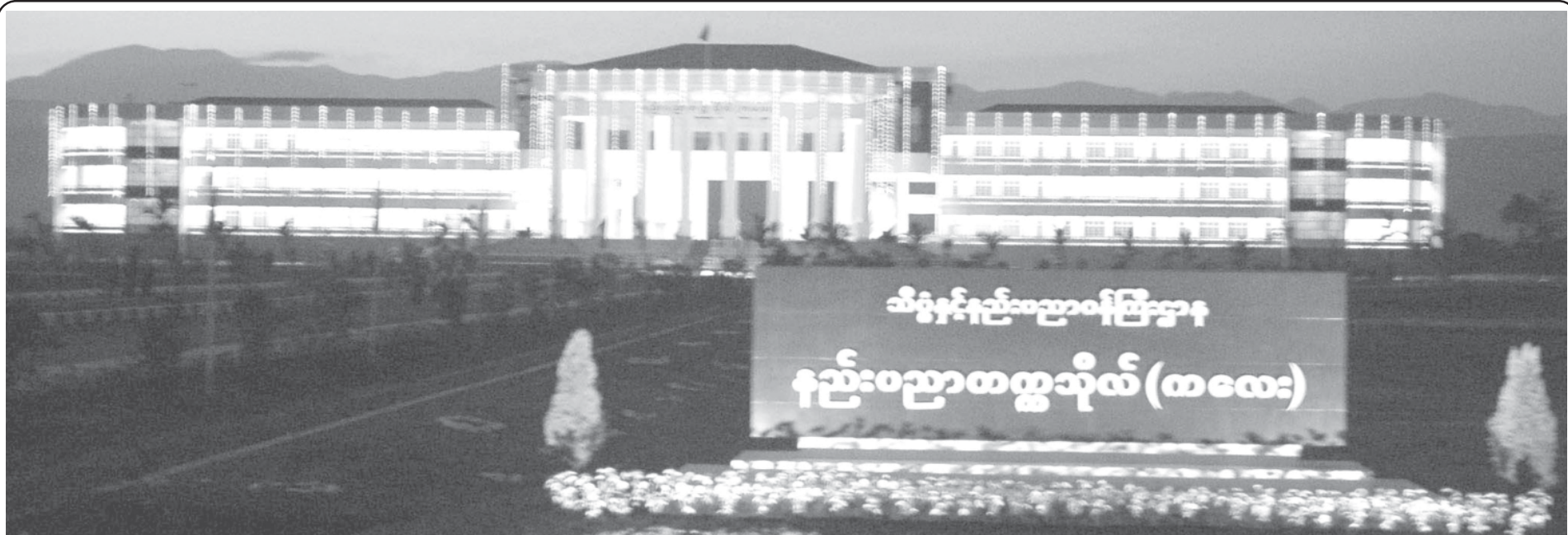
Weather forecast for 14-3-2008

Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area:
Generally fair weather.

Yangon and neighbouring area:
Partly cloudy.

Mandalay and neighbouring area :
Generally fair weather.

A cargo train of Myanma Railways serving the interests of the people. — MR



Technological University (Kalay) illuminated at night was opened on 4 February, 2008 in Kalay.—MNA

Chinese researchers claim Comoros malaria success

PORT LOUIS, 13 March — A Chinese herbal medicine has slashed malaria cases on Comoros’ tiny Moheli island, to less than 2 per cent of the population from 23 per cent last year, Chinese researchers said on Tuesday.

A four-tablet treatment given to all of Moheli’s 40,000 people in November killed the malaria parasite in most of the island’s population, said May Lee, project team leader for China’s Guangzhou University of Traditional Medicine.

“Sixty days after our project started, the parasite carriage rate was around 1.4 per cent,” she said from Moheli, the smallest of the Indian Ocean archipelago’s three islands.

The World Health Organization (WHO) said

it needed more data on the drug, which Lee said was Artequick, a new herbal formula based on the shrub Artemisia.

“We will try to see what are the long-term adverse effects of this drug, which is not internationally scientifically proven,” said the WHO’s country representative Yao Kassan-kogno. — MNA/Reuters

Building of China’s Longtan hydropower plant completes

NANNING, 13 March — Construction has been finished on the dam at the Longtan Hydropower Project, the third-largest project of its type in China, the project manager said on Tuesday.

Workers poured 7.36 million cubic metres of concrete into the main wall of the project, completing the 216.5-metre high, 832-

metre long dam early this month. The first batch of concrete was poured in August 2004. The concrete placement of the dam’s main section was completed eight months ahead of schedule, which would enable the dam to start its role in power generation, flood control and shipping improvement this year, said Daibo, general.

MNA/Xinhua



Hailong 1388, a speedboat made by Shenzhen Hi-speed Boats Technology & Development Co, Ltd, makes its debut at the Shenzhen Shekou harbour, on 12 March, 2008.—XINHUA

Singapore to boost logistics industry

SINGAPORE, 13 March — The Singapore Government is committed to the future of the logistics and supply chain industry, and will focus on deepening its integrated logistics capabilities and specialising infrastructure to boost this industry, a minister said Wednesday.

Speaking at a business event, Singapore’s Minister for Trade and Industry Lim Hng Kiang said, “We want this industry to be best-in-class and stay ahead of the curve. This will allow us to capture the huge growth opportunities in Asia-Pacific, which at 10 to 15 per cent is twice that of the global growth rate.”

He noted three key initiatives the government should focus on. Firstly, he said Singapore needs to deepen the integrated logistics capabilities. — MNA/Xinhua

Angola, Bulgaria sign memo to re-launch cooperation

LUANDA, 13 March — Angola and Bulgaria have signed a memorandum in principle to re-launch the bilateral cooperation between the two countries, Angola’s official news agency ANGOP reported on Tuesday.

The memo was signed on Monday between visiting Bulgarian Deputy Foreign Minister Feim Chaushev and Secretary General of the Angolan Foreign Ministry Manuel Gomes dos Santos in the capital Luanda.

At the signing ceremony, the Angolan official said that talks between him and Chaushev focused on the re-launch of the two countries’ cooperation relations which started in 1975 when Angola declared independence from Portugal’s colonization. — MNA/Xinhua

Monaco’s Prince Albert set to wed at 50

PARIS, 13 March — Prince Albert of Monaco will marry his girlfriend, former South African Olympic swimmer Charlene Wittstock, in September, a French magazine said on Tuesday.

A photo of the Prince, who will be 50 on Friday, and 30-year-old Wittstock filled an online front-page preview of the latest edition of *Point de Vue* magazine, which hits news stands on Wednesday.

“While the date is not yet fixed, two sources confirm that preparations are under way for a royal wedding at

the end of summer,” the celebrity gossip weekly reported.

The media have portrayed Albert as a playboy with a liking for fashion shows, but he has also set up an environmental foundation. He has dated a series of models and said he wants to marry, but in his own time.

He has two children out of wedlock but, under the succession rules in the Catholic principality on the French Riviera, only children born within marriage may succeed to the throne.

MNA/Reuters



Holidaymakers visit Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain Garden which was opened on 4 January 2008. —MNA

The Second Meeting of the Sixth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders and the great grand Religious Title-Presentation Ceremony of 2008

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

The State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders of the Union of Myanmar comprising 300 members of the Sangha represents over four hundred thousand members of the Sangha residing in the Union of Myanmar According to the fundamental principles which were passed and adopted by the very First Successful Congregation of the Sangha of All Orders of the Union of Myanmar in 1980. The State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders shall hold its annual meeting at least once a year.

We all Buddhists throughout the Union of Myanmar know that altogether Five Congregations of the Sangha of All Orders leading and contributing to the purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of the Buddha Sasana were successfully held by arrangements and supports of Buddhist people and Government of the Union of Myanmar in 1980, 1985, 1990 and 2000 respectively. In accordance with the objectives and guidelines laid down by these successful congregations of the Sangha of All Orders, the very first unity of the members of Sangha could be formed in the Union of Myanmar within one hundred years.

We all Buddhists all over the world know that altogether six great Buddhist Councils (Synods) leading and contributing to the purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of the Buddha Sasana were convened after the noble demise of the Omniscient Gotama Buddha over 2550 years ago. The Fifth and Sixth Great Buddhist Council was held in 1954, and attended by 2500 Mahatheras from the Five Theravada Buddhist nations, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Sri Lanka and Myanmar. The Buddhist peoples from those Theravada Buddhist nations were greatly pleased and honoured for successfully holding the Sixth Great Buddhist Council in the Buddhist world.

It was felt that without the unity of the Sangha, it was impossible to execute purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of the Buddha Sasana. As different schools and sects of the Sangha of All Orders appeared separately, they were not able to unitedly implement the noble task of purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of the Buddha Sasana. In reality, all members of the Sangha and devotees want the everlasting unity of the Sangha of All Orders. They firmly believe that it only can be possible to purify, perpetuate, propagate and promote the Sasana by the unity of the Sangha. The Buddha, Himself urged the members of the Sangha to unite in

order to carry out His teachings.

In fact, the main objectives of holding the First Great Buddhist Council (Synod) through the Sixth Great Buddhist Council (Synod) were to purify, perpetuate, propagate, promote and preserve the Buddha Sasana. Although altogether Six Buddhist Councils (Synods) were held, it was found that different schools and sects still appear. They were not united and they parted from each other. Because of different schools and sects, many unlawful views (Adhammavadas) which were contrary to and incompatible with the Pitakas of the Theravada Buddha Sasana appeared. In reality, these unlawful views endangered true Buddhism.

Therefore, all the Buddhists felt worried about the situation of true Buddhism. They really want to purify, perpetuate, propagate and promote the Theravada Buddha Sasana. According to the history of Buddhism, it is learnt that schisms and split of schools and sects usually occurred among the Monastic Orders whenever some members of the Sangha of Orders were in trouble through dispute and mutual misunderstanding.

To rebuild the unity and mutual understanding between different schools and sects of the Sangha Orders is deeply needed for the welfare and interest of the nation as well as for the Buddha Sasana. Altogether Six Buddhist Councils (Synods) were held to establish the unity of the Sangha or All Orders so long as the Buddha Sasana exists. All the Buddhists firmly believe that without the unity of the Sangha, it is impossible to promote the Buddha Sasana. An old saying goes, "Whenever religion is pure, the society prospers". The situation of the nation was well-developed and prosperous in those golden times when the members of the Sangha of Orders unanimously practiced the Vinaya Laws and fulfilled their religious duties.

The First, the Second, the Third, the Fourth and the Fifth Congregations of the Sangha of All Orders of the Union of Myanmar successfully rebuilt the unity of the Sangha of All Orders with the support of Buddhists and the Government since 1980. A single Sangha Organization could be formed in the Union of Myanmar for the first time in one hundred years.

The Second Meeting of the Sixth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders

In accordance with the prescribed terms of the Sangha Organizations of the Union of Myanmar, the Second Meeting of the Sixth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders are fixed to be held at the Mahapasana Cave (Great Cave) on Kaba Aye Hillock, Yangon, from 17 to 19 March 2008. The

meeting will be attended by 300 members of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders and 111 members of the State Sangha Ovacariya (Patrons) representing all members of Sangha throughout the country.

The main objectives of the Second Meeting of the Sixth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders are to strengthen more efforts for purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of Theravada Buddha Sasana throughout the world. It is further learnt that all necessary arrangements and requirements for holding the Second Meeting of the Sixth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders have already been made by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and authorities concerned.

The great grand Religious Title-Presentation Ceremony of 2008.

In order to promote and flourish the three kinds of the Buddha Sasana, viz, (1) Pariyatti Sasana (learning Buddha's teachings), (2) Patipatti Sasana (practical application of Buddha's teaching) and (3) Pativedha Sasana (realization of Buddha's teachings). the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar issued Notification No 1/2008 on the 60th Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar which falls on the 4th January 2008, conferring Religious Titles on the 335 eminent Buddhist monks including 9 from abroad. 16 elder nuns including 1 from abroad and 83 laypersons including 1 from abroad who distinctively carried out purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of the three kinds of the Buddha Sasana across the world.

The great grand ceremony for presenting the religious titles to the title recipients will be held at the Mahapasana Cave (Great Cave), on Kaba Aye Hillock, Yangon, on the 21st March 2008 (Fullmoon of Tabaung 1369 ME). All religious title recipients have already been invited to attend the great grand ceremony. It is further learnt that altogether 745 members of the Sangha, 16 elder nuns, 83 laypersons and others will be present on this auspicious occasion.

Besides, the auspicious ceremony for offering of provisions and various articles to 335 members of the Sangha and 16 elder nuns will be held on a large scale on Kaba Aye Hillock, in the late afternoon of 21st March, 2008. Provisions and various articles will be also offered to 410 members of the Sangha staying at the hostels on Kaba Aye Hillock on the same day. It is learnt that altogether 745 members of the Sangha and 16 elder nuns will be offered provisions and various articles.

All Buddhists, donors and wellwishers are cordially invited to attend this auspicious ceremony for paying profound respect to the members of the Sangha and sharing merits of good deeds.

We all Buddhists throughout the Union of Myanmar are heartily pleased and honoured to be able to pay profound respect to the members of the Sangha present at the Second Meeting of the Sixth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders and the Great Grand Religious Title Presentation Ceremony of 2008.

The auspicious ceremony for offering of provisions and various articles to 335 members of the Sangha and 16 elder nuns will be held on a large scale on Kaba Aye Hillock, in the late afternoon of 21st March, 2008. Provisions and various articles will be also offered to 410 members of the Sangha staying at the hostels on Kaba Aye Hillock on the same day. It is learnt that altogether 745 members of the Sangha and 16 elder nuns will be offered provisions and various articles.

Images of the Day



A model presents a hairdo at the "Hair Coloring Splash" event in Tokyo on 11 March, 2008.—XINHUA

Museum contractors prepare the artwork "Surrounding David", by Indonesian artist Titurabi, for display at the National Museum in Singapore on 12 March, 2008. The fibreglass statue, standing 8.5 metres (28 feet) tall, is wrapped in a material used to make a type of traditional Indonesian blouse known as a Kebaya and was inspired by the iconic Statue of David by Michelangelo.—XINHUA



A doctor examines a mammogram at the P'Institut Curie à Paris. Geneticists have identified a super gene which causes breast cancer to metastasise, the deadly process by which the disease spreads to other organs.—INTERNET



Two dogs take part in a mass in honor of San Lazaro celebrations in the indigenous community of Monimbo in Masaya City, some 15 miles (24 km) south of Managua, on 9 March, 2008.—XINHUA

World Kidney Day promotes awareness

BEIJING, 13 March —World Kidney Day is observed Thursday to bring to the public's awareness the growing threat kidney diseases pose to peoples all over the world.

It was launched in 2006 through the joint initiative of the International Federation of Kidney Foundations and the International Society of Nephrology.

Various studies show that some 500 million persons worldwide, or one in 10 persons, are afflicted

with some form of kidney disease. Over 1.5 million persons are kept alive through dialysis and kidney transplants. The estimated overall cost of kidney therapy is about one billion dollars every year.

"Kidney Disease: Common, Harmful, Treatable" is the theme for this year's observance of World Kidney Day. The theme highlights the message that early detection and prevention are important in controlling kidney diseases.

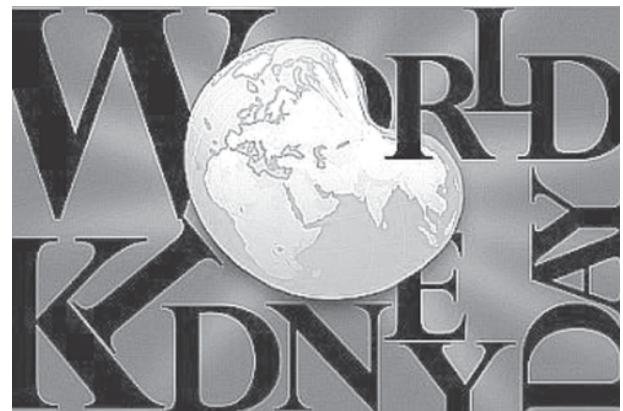
Those interested in finding out the life-sustaining functions their kidneys perform every day or discovering if they might be at risk for kidney disease can visit the US National Kidney Foundation's Web site at www.kidney.org.

One of the awareness-promoting items on the site is a kidney quiz that tests a person's knowledge of the prevalence, causes and risk factors of chronic kidney disease in the United States. The quiz encourages those who do not yet have kidney

disease to drink plenty of water, monitor and maintain their blood pressure and eat in a healthy way.

A special diet is especially important for patients diagnosed with kidney failure or decreased kidney function, said renal dietitian Janie Kane of DaVita Dialysis. It is her job to counsel people on dialysis to ensure that they are not eating foods filled with the substances their kidneys are no longer able to process and eliminate from their bodies.

Xinhua



World Kidney Day is observed on Thursday to bring to the public's awareness the growing threat kidney diseases pose to peoples all over the world. "Kidney Disease: Common, Harmful, Treatable" is the theme for this year's observance of World Kidney Day.

XINHUA

ADVERTISEMENT

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV VASCO DA GAMA VOYNO (VDG-089)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV VASCO DA GAMA VOY NO (VDG-089) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.3.2007 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 INTERASIA LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်
ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ
ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့

ရက်စွဲ၊ ၂၀၀၈ ခုနှစ် မတ်လ ၁၃ ရက်

ချုပ်ပိတ်ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာခေါ်ယူခြင်း

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ၊ ဘိလပ်မြေ စက်ရုံတည်ဆောက်ရေး စီမံကိန်းအတွက် 132/33/11 kv (60) MVA ဓါတ်အားခွဲရုံသုံး လျှပ်စစ်ပစ္စည်း (1) Lot ကို ပြည်ညောင် ဘိလပ်မြေစက်ရုံစီမံကိန်း လုပ်ငန်းခွင်အရောက် ကျပ်ငွေဖြင့်ဖြစ်စေ၊ CIF/Yangon (US\$) စနစ်ဖြင့်ဖြစ်စေ ဝယ်ယူလိုပါသဖြင့် ချုပ်ပိတ်ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာများ တင်သွင်းနိုင်ပါကြောင်း စိတ်ဝင်ပါသည်။

ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာပိတ်ရက်မှာ ၃၁.၃.၂၀၀၈ နေ့ (၁၆:၀၀)နာရီ ဖြစ်ပြီး ဈေးနှုန်းတင်သွင်းလွှာပုံစံတစ်စုံလျှင် ကျပ် ၃၀၀၀/- (ကျပ်သုံးထောင်တိတိ) နှုန်းဖြင့်ဘတ်ဂျက်နှင့် ငွေစာရင်းဌာန၊ ပစ္စည်း ဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးဌာနစုတွင် ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။ အသေးစိတ် အချက်အလက်များကို ဖုန်းအမှတ်-၃၈၈၇၃၂၁၅ ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း ဆက်သွယ် မေးမြန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

ဥက္ကဋ္ဌ
ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့

Nokia, techs drop as TI points to 3G weakness

HELSINKI, 13 March— Shares in the world's top cellphone maker Nokia and several other European technology firms fell on Tuesday after Texas Instruments cut its first-quarter forecasts, citing a weaker 3G market.

Fears that the weakening global economy is biting into consumers' appetite for pricier cell-phones sent Nokia shares down 6.6 per cent to 20.07 euros by 1038 GMT, helping pull the DJ Stoxx European technology

index down 3.1 per cent. "In our view the replacement cycle will slow due to the economy and consumers will increasingly go for cheaper phones over more pricier models," said Carnegie analyst Janne Rantanen.

Texas Instruments said the warning came after one of its key clients cut plans for 3G phone production for March.

Analysts said the 3G customer, which TI did not name, was likely to be Nokia, its biggest client for mobile chips. A Nokia spokeswoman declined to comment. Citing weak wireless demand especially for third-generation high-end chips, TI cut its January-to-March quarter profit forecast and sales target ranges on Monday.—MNA/Reuters

TRADE MARK CAUTION

WATERMAN SAS, of 9 & 11 rue Christophe Colomb, F-75008 Paris, France, is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:



in respect of "Paper and paper articles, cardboard and cardboard articles; printed matter, newspaper and periodical, books, book binding material, photographs, stationery, adhesive materials (stationery), artist's materials, paint brushes; typewriters and office requisites (other than furniture); instructional and teaching material (other than apparatus); playing cards (printers) type and cliches (stereotype); fountain pens, ball point pens, propelling pencils, pencils; crayons; charcoal for drawing and markers in this class, refills for the said implements including lead refills and ink cartridges; articles for drawing rubbers (stationery) and inks".

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
for WATERMAN SAS
P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 14 March 2008

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

MYANMAR IVANHOE COPPER COMPANY LIMITED(TENDER NOTICE)

TENDER NO. (IFB No. CCS-02-08)

Sale of an estimated (4,000 metric tonnes) of copper cathode from MICCL S&K Mine site in Monywa, Myanmar. Interested buyer may quote for the whole 4,000 metric tonnes or for a minimum quantity of 1,000 metric tonnes.

CLOSING DATE & TIME 4th April 2008 at 12:00 p.m

Tender documents are available at the following address or can be accessed at www.miccl.com.mm. Any queries can be done between 10 am and 4pm at MICCL Yangon office before the tender closing date.

Myanmar Ivanhoe Copper Company Limited
70(I) Bo Chein Street, Pyay Road, Hlaing Township
Yangon, Myanmar (Tel: (95) 1-514194 to 7/ Fax: (95) 1 514208/ Email: miccl@miccl.com.mm)

Three Gorges Dam “could get 1.18m visitors this year”

YICHANG, 12 March— The Three Gorges Dam, the world's largest, could attract at least 1.18 million tourists this year when the entire hydropower project is basically completed, tourism developers said on Wednesday.

As China's largest industrial tourist site, the dam had seen its annual visitors exceed 1 million for three consecutive years, with 2007 seeing a record high of 1.25 million.

“The 15 square-metre dam area will have a tourist boom this year thanks to the Olympic Games in August and the basic completion of the Three Gorges Project by the end of the year,” said Chen Mengjiong, manager of the Three Gorges Tourism Development Co Ltd (TGTDC).

Builders completed construction of the 2,309-metre-long, 185-metre-high dam in 2006. Power transmission facilities were completed in 2007.

The relocation of 1.2 million people in the region would be finished before the summer flood season started on the Yangtze River, making it possible to raise the water level in the reservoir to 172-175 metres.

Internet

Costa Rica authorities seize 400 kilos of cocaine

SAN JOSE, 13 March—Costa Rica's Drug Enforcement Police seized 400 kilos of cocaine and smashed a international drug trafficking ring on Tuesday, a top law enforcement official said.

Following search operations in central Alajuela, a region around 20 kilometres northeast of the Costa Rican capital San Jose, police arrested a Panamanian, a Mexican and a Costa Rican, Vice Minister of Public Security Gerardo Lazcares told reporters.

The operations were “very important for the international fight against drug trafficking”, said Lazcares. Follow-up investigations would reveal more details, he said.

The drug trafficking ring operated in Colombia, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Panama and Mexico, according to Lazcares.—MNA/Xinhua

Climate change could snarl US transport

WASHINGTON, 13 March—Flooded highways, railroads and airport runways are among the transportation snarls looming as the world's climate changes, and officials should plan with this in mind, a US study says. Modern transportation that runs on fossil fuel has been singled out as a key cause of climate change but the study released on Tuesday by the National Research Council said most transport also is vulnerable to the effects of global warming.

“We're not just concerned about gradual changes in temperatures,” said Henry Schwartz, who chaired the panel that wrote the report. “We're mostly concerned about the extremes, the surprises that may come forth. “We believe ... that the time to begin to address this issue as a routine part of design and operations is now,” he told reporters in a telephone briefing.

Specifically, an expected rise in sea levels would hit roads, pipelines and airports in US coastal areas where population is concentrated, Schwartz said. “As seas rise, plus storm surges, the impacts (to transportation) can be much more severe and extend greater inland than anything we've experienced heretofore,” he said.

MNA/Reuters

Carbon sequestration project launched in Hubei

WUHAN, 13 March— A forestation project was launched in the central province of Hubei on Tuesday, part of an effort to capture carbon dioxide blamed for global warming. Under the carbon sequestration programme, some 667 hectares of black locust, Liquidambar formosana and four other broadleaf trees will be planted in the province to help absorb carbon emissions and improve the local ecological system.

With a total investment of six million yuan (over 845,000 US dollars) from the local government and China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), 400 ha of forest will be planted over 20 years in the eastern suburbs of Wuhan, the provincial capital, during the first phase of the project.

“China will continue to work actively to tackle climate change,” Zhang Jianlong, deputy director of the State Forestry Administration (SFA), told the launching ceremony.—MNA/Xinhua

Space shuttle “Endeavour” launches with Japanese lab

CAPE CANAVERAL (Florida), 12 March —The US space shuttle *Endeavour* blasted off from a seaside Florida launch pad on Tuesday to deliver part of a long-awaited Japanese space laboratory and a Canadian-built robotic system to the *International Space Station*.

Piercing the still of night with a thunderous boom and a flash of white-hot flame, the spaceship lifted off from the Kennedy Space Centre at 2:28am EDT (0628 GMT) and disappeared swiftly into clouds to begin a 16-day flight.

“We’d like to say

konnichiwa, domo arigato and banzai (hello, thank you and banzai),” commander Dominic Gorie said shortly before liftoff, speaking some Japanese in a nod to that country’s important role in the mission.

“God truly has blessed us with a beautiful night here to launch so let’s light ’em up and give ’em a show.”

With the arrival of Japan’s lab, all 15 partner countries in the space station venture —the United States, Russia, Canada, Japan and 11 members of the European Space Agency—are

represented in orbit. Europe’s first permanent space lab, *Columbus*, was delivered to the station last month.

The 100-billion-US-dollar space station is 60 per cent complete after a decade of construction and must be finished by the time the three remaining US space shuttles are retired in 2010.

MNA/Reuters



People get dressed before a fire-worshipping ceremony in Mi’le County, Southwest China’s Yunnan Province, on 10 March, 2008—INTERNET

10 killed in Peru helicopter crash

LIMA, 12 March—All 10 people aboard a helicopter that crashed Tuesday in northwestern Peru’s Cajamarca province are dead, Peruvian police said.

The wreckage of the helicopter, which disappeared while flying over a mountainous area, was found in a precipice Wednesday.

The victims included two crew members and eight passengers.

Peru’s Air Force Aerial Group chief Colonel Jose Briceno said rescue brigades were heading to the scene to salvage the remains and carry out further investigations.

The helicopter, belonging to the Helinka-Evergreen company, lost contact with the ground at 11 am local time (1600 GMT) Tuesday while offering transportation services for the Rio Tinto mining company.

Witnesses said the copter crashed in the Chiclayo region, a mountainous zone some 800 km northwest of Peru’s capital Lima.

Internet

Hong Kong to close schools due to flu outbreaks

HONG KONG, 13 March—Hong Kong’s top health official announced here Wednesday night that all primary schools, special schools and kindergartens in the city will close for two weeks starting from Thursday, due to seasonal flu outbreaks.

Dr York Chow, secretary for Food and Health of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government made the announcement after the Department of Health and the Bureau of Education met Wednesday night to review the data of the flu and the response of parents.

“We made the decision given the rising trend of flu infections within the community as the flu peak is expected to continue for weeks,” Chow told reporters.

“We hope such precautionary measures will help reduce the cross infection of the flu virus in schools and the community.”

Internet

Thousands of British women “forced into marriage”

LONDON, 12 March—Several thousand more British women than

previously thought could have been forced into marriage, according to a report on Tuesday.

Government figures showing that several hundred woman, from different backgrounds all over the country, have been forced to marry represent just the “tip of the iceberg”, said the report from a parliamentary specialist adviser.

Nazia Khanum’s study, commissioned by Margaret Moran, a member of the House of Commons Home Affairs Select Committee, focused on Luton, north of London, and found there had been about 300 forced marriages in that area alone.

MNA/Reuters

Bird flu kills four civets in Vietnam national park

HANOI, 12 March—Bird flu killed four civets in a Vietnamese national park, the second time the rare type of mammal was reported to have died there of the H5N1 virus since 2005, a park official said on Tuesday.

Four endangered Owston’s palm civets died early last month at Cuc Phuong park and tests of their samples found they had the H5N1 virus, the official said. “Visitors are not allowed to come near the civet’s area now,” the official said by telephone from the park about 90 kilometres (55 miles) south of Hanoi in Ninh Binh Province.

In June 2005 three civets, born in captivity and raised in the same cage, died at the park and tests later confirmed they had been infected by bird flu, park officials said. The park has eight of the rare cat-like civets left.

Civets eat pork, worms and fruit, but not poultry.

However, Ninh Binh is one of nine locations where outbreaks have been detected among poultry in the past month, including a farm outside Hanoi, the Animal Health Department said.

It is not the first time that bird flu has killed exotic animals. The H5N1 virus has infected ostriches in South Africa, a clouded leopard and tigers in Thailand.

MNA/Reuters



Palestinian animal owners protest in Gaza City against the Israeli blockade and air raids on the Gaza Strip on 11 March. Israeli warplanes hit Hamas-run Gaza after militants rattled the Jewish state with rocket fire, ending a five-day lull and threatening efforts to push forward Middle East peace talks.—INTERNET

Hundreds flee, several dead in Kenyan Army offensive

CHEPTAIS (Kenya), 12 March—Hundreds of Kenyans fled the remote Mount Elgon region on Tuesday and several people have been killed as Army helicopters attacked a small rebel militia for the second day, witnesses and a legislator said.

A Reuters witness saw at least 300 people escaping the area, where helicopters have strafed the foothills and hundreds of heavily-armed soldiers have poured into the forest since Monday, to flush out the little-known Sabaot Land Defence Force (SLDF).

The Mount Elgon violence preceded a wave of ethnic killings around Kenya over President Mwai Kibaki’s disputed re-election in December—but it shares some of the root causes like tribal tensions and resentment over land distribution.

“The helicopters were firing next to the village throughout the morning. It was unbearable,” one farmer told Reuters as he fled out of the area beyond the Army cordon into Cheptais Town.— MNA/Reuters

SPORTS

Lampard scores 4 as Chelsea thrash Derby 6-1

LONDON, 13 March — England midfielder Frank Lampard struck four goals on Wednesday as Chelsea rebounded from their FA Cup reverse at Barnsley at the weekend to defeat Derby 6-1 in the Premier League.

Lampard, who was left out of Saturday's match, scored from the penalty spot in the 28th minute after he was fouled by Dean Leacock.

He added three more in the second half to record his fourth career hat-trick and his first for Chelsea.

Lampard's fellow England international Joe Cole and Ivory Coast's Salomon Kalou scored the other goals while David Jones notched a late consolation for struggling Derby.

Chelsea moved to within five points of Arsenal, who top the standings with 66 points from 29 games and are two ahead of champions Manchester United, who have a game in hand.

Aston Villa, chasing fourth place and a Champions League spot, were held 1-1 by Middlesbrough at Villa Park. — MNA/Reuters

Henry says personal problems for difficulties at Barca

MADRID, 13 March — Barcelona striker Thierry Henry has said that personal problems have hampered his ability to adapt to life at his new club.

The 30-year-old France striker divorced from his wife Claire Merry last year shortly after his transfer from Arsenal to Barcelona and does not see his young daughter Tea as much as he would like.

"As you all know I've got some personal problems and my daughter is the most important thing in my life," Henry told a news conference on Wednesday.

"I'm not happy because a father that only sees his daughter five times in the last eight months cannot be.

"If you know what it is to have a daughter then you can imagine what it is like. I'm not asking you to cry for me only that people don't talk for me."

Henry's former Arsenal teammate Robert Pires had been quoted as saying in the Spanish media that the striker had left the Nou Camp without talking to him on Sunday because he was disappointed at being substituted during the team's 2-1 defeat at home by Villarreal.

But Henry said he had rushed off from the stadium to see his daughter. — MNA/Reuters

Celtic held goalless draw by Dundee United

GLASGOW, 13 March — Champions Celtic missed the chance to eat significantly into Rangers's lead at the top of the Scottish Premier League when they were held to a goalless draw by Dundee United on Wednesday.

They now have 65 points from 28 games while leaders Rangers have 68 and a game in hand.

Celtic started strongly and Japanese midfielder Shunsuke Nakamura struck the base of the post with a third-minute shot from 15 metres on the right.

And Australian striker Scott McDonald fired an angled shot against the right post on the half hour before Celtic suffered a nervous moment in defence seven minutes from the break.

United's Craig Conway was allowed a free header just eight metres out, but sent the ball sailing over the top. —MNA/Reuters

Five Cuban soccer players defect in US

MIAMI, 13 March — Five members of the Cuban Under-23 soccer team have defected in the United States while visiting the country for an Olympic qualifier, local media said on Wednesday.

A report on the website of Miami's Spanish-language *El Nuevo Herald* newspaper said the players abandoned their team after a match against the United States near Tampa Bay, Florida, on Tuesday night. The match ended in a 1-1 draw.

They were believed to have headed to California in a cross-country bid to avoid returning home to their communist-ruled island, the newspaper said.

It said Cuban coach Raul Gonzalez had confirmed the disappearance of the five players, who included goalkeeper Jose Manuel Miranda and team captain Yenier Bermudez. Gonzalez could not immediately be reached for comment.

MNA/Reuters

Colombian coach banned for punching rival in riot

BOGOTA, 12 March — America coach Diego Umana has been suspended for 11 matches for punching his Deportivo Cali rival Daniel Carreno during Saturday's Colombian championship match, when around 60 people were injured during a crowd riot.

The game at the Pascual Guerrero stadium in Cali was abandoned in the 82nd minute when riot police went onto the terraces to stop fighting amongst an organised group of America supporters known as the Red Baron.

MNA/Reuters



Peter Sampras returns a shot to Roger Federer during the third set of their exhibition tennis match at Madison Square Garden in New York. INTERNET

Feyenoord close gap with leaders

AMSTERDAM, 13 March — A first-half goal from Jonathan de Guzman handed Feyenoord a 1-0 win over AZ Alkmaar on Wednesday, allowing them to close the gap with the top two teams in the Dutch League.

Guzman struck after 19 minutes to settle the match which was postponed from last weekend due to a police strike. Alkmaar defender Kew Jaliens was sent off in injury time.

Feyenoord were beaten 3-1 by NEC Nijmegen on their last outing but were back to their winning ways on Wednesday.

PSV Eindhoven top the standings with 59 points from 27 matches, while Ajax Amsterdam are six points adrift. Feyenoord moved into third with 51 points after 28 matches.

The top-of-the-table clash between PSV and Ajax was also postponed due to the lack of police presence.

MNA/Reuters



Mexico's Guadalajara Chivas defender Francisco Rodriguez (back) battles for the ball with Colombia's Deportivo Cucuta striker Mat. —INTERNET

Benitez says Champions League is easier than Premier

MILAN, 12 March — Liverpool coach Rafael Benitez said the Champions League was easier than the Premier League after his side won 1-0 at Inter Milan on Tuesday to reach the quarterfinals 3-0 on aggregate.

Liverpool won the Champions League under Benitez in 2005 and were runners-up last year, but they have struggled to overcome Manchester United, Arsenal and Chelsea domestically. Those three teams are also in the last eight of the European Cup.

"For us the Champions League is a bit easier because we can be concentrated in two games. In the Premier League the top three English clubs are tough and it is hard every game," he told a news conference.

"The difference is the Premier League is for nine months."

Inter coach Roberto Mancini announced after the game that he would be leaving at the end of the season.

Benitez laughed off suggestions Inter may try to recruit him and said he was happy with his Liverpool team, who are fourth in the Premier League. — MNA/Reuters

Leverkusen oust Hamburg, Zenit reach UEFA Cup last 8

LONDON, 13 March — Former winners Bayer Leverkusen dumped out Bundesliga rivals Hamburg SV in a thrilling second leg tie to reach the quarterfinals of the UEFA Cup on Wednesday.

The 1988 winners, 1-0 up from the first leg, went through on away goals after losing 3-2 in Hamburg. Leverkusen looked to have sealed the tie after taking a 2-1 lead on the night before Hamburg hitback to leave the visitors clinging on.

Russian champions Zenit St Petersburg also advanced on away goals as a 2-0 home win over Olympique Marseille, earned with two goals from Russia striker Pavel Pogrebnyak, saw the tie finish 3-3 on aggregate.

Competition favourites Bayern Munich host Anderlecht in one of four second-leg ties later on Wednesday.

Separated by just one place and one point in the Bundesliga, fourth-placed Leverkusen struck first with a 19th-minute goal from Sergej Barbarez.

MNA/Reuters

Thousands of Indian airport workers begin strike

NEW DELHI, 13 March—Thousands of airport staff began an indefinite strike at 127 airports across India on Wednesday, but flights from India’s main cities of Mumbai and New Delhi were unaffected, according to airport officials. About 14,000 union members are striking over the imminent closure of two airports in the southern cities of Hyderabad and Bangalore, both home to many of India’s software and outsourcing companies, to make way for new facilities. Strikers are mostly employed in airport support services, and include electricians, plumbers, cleaners, engineers and emergency fire support staff.

“The flights are all on schedule in big cities like Delhi and we are not facing any problems so far,” Arun Arora, Airports Authority of India spokesman said in New Delhi. —MNA/Reuters

At least six killed, 16 injured in Kabul’s suicide attack

KABUL, 13 March—A suicide explosion targeting one foreign convoy early Thursday morning near the airport in Afghan capital Kabul, killing at least six civilians and injuring 16 others, said an official.

Munir Mohammad Mangal, the deputy Interior Minister, told *Xinhua* that a suicide bomber blew himself up

near the foreign convoy causing huge casualties and some injured ones were in critical situation.

A Press staff from the Interior Ministry who identified himself as Najib told *Xinhua* from the spot that the suicide attack happened around 8:20 am (0350 GMT) on the way from US Embassy to the airport and damaged some 10 civilian cars and two US vehicles.

Conflicts and Taleban-related violence claimed around 8,000 lives last year, according to a latest-released UN figure.

Over 200 people have been killed mostly in suicide attacks and roadside bombings this year across the war-torn country, where the anti-government militants have vowed to intensify their guerilla-style attacks.

MNA/Xinhua

WWF says tiger population critical, species at crossroads

STOCKHOLM, 13 March — The world’s tiger population may have halved in the past quarter of a century and at least one of the remaining five sub-species is in danger of becoming extinct, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) experts said on Tuesday.

Chinese demand for tiger parts used in traditional medicines and habitat destruction are the two greatest perils facing the big cat, scientists and conservationists said.

Speaking in Sweden at a seminar featuring experts

from Asia, Africa and Europe, they said the South China tiger could soon be extinct and the Sumatran tiger population was the next most threatened sub-species.

But WWF officials also said with proper measures, tigers could thrive and increase their numbers by thousands, and they believed the species would survive.

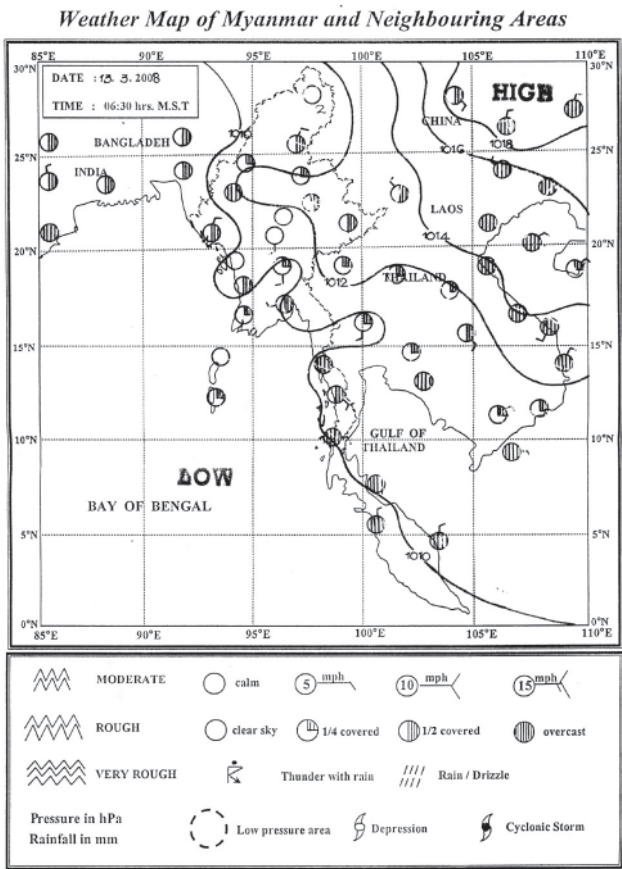
“In many ways the tiger stands at a crossroads between extinction and survival, and which path it takes is totally dependent

on us,” said Sujoy Banerjee, director of WWF India’s species programme.

The WWF’s tiger coordinator based in Nepal, Bivash Pandav, said he believed there were some 3,500 tigers left in the world. That compared with rough estimates of about 5,000-7,500 in 1982.

Pandav said in Sumatra, Indonesia, the number of tigers had dwindled to about 400 and the situation was now critical as forest areas have been decimated.

MNA/Reuters



WEATHER

Thursday, 13 March, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thunder-showers have been isolated in Kachin State, weather has been partly cloudy in Shan, Chin and Rakhine and Mon States, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (3°C) above March average temperatures in Chin State, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions, (3°C) below March average temperatures in Bago Division and about March average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures were Minbu and Magway (39°C) each. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Putao (0.08) inch.

Maximum temperature on 12-3-2008 was 97°F. Minimum temperature on 13-3-2008 was 69°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 13-3-2008 was 77%. Total sunshine hours on 12-3-2008 was (8.5) hours approx.

Rainfall on 13-3-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (0.67) inch at Mingaladon, (0.47) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.35) inch at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from West at (17:30) hours MST on 12-3-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 14-3-2008: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin States and weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine and Shan States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 14-3-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 14-3-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 14-3-2008: Generally fair weather.



Friday, 14 March
View on today

7:00 am

- ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကုန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာမဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မဟောရ၍၊ အဘိဓမ္မေဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

- To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

- Morning news

7:40 am

- Nice and sweet song

7:50 am

- လှုပ်ရှားပုံပြင် စိတ်ပျော်ရွှင်

8:00 am

- The mirror images of musical oldies

8:15 am

- (၆၃)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့၊ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

8:30 am

- International news

8:45 am

- English for Everyday Use

4:00 pm

- Martial song

4:15 pm

- Song to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

- Demonstration exercises for correct pronunciation

4:40 pm

- အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ-ပထမနှစ် (သတ္တဗေဒအထူးပြု) (သတ္တဗေဒ)

4:55 pm

- တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုတေးသီချင်း ဖြိုင်ပွဲဆုရတေးများ(၂၀၀၅ခုနှစ်)

5:10 pm

- Song of national races

5:25 pm

- မြန်မာစာ မြန်မာစကား

5:35 pm

- “လုံ လုံ လုံ” (မိုးညှော်၊ မေကဗျာ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မလိခစိုးထိုက်အောင်)

5:40 pm

- Song of yesteryears

5:50 am

- (၆၃)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့၊ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

6:00 pm

- Evening news

6:30 pm

- Weather report

6:35 pm

- သုတစုံလင် ရွှေညောင်ရှင်

7:05 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “လေဒီယာနှင့်ဆုံစည်းခြင်း” (အပိုင်း-၁၆)

7:50 pm

- ရွှေယံစုံညီမြန်မာပြည်

8:00 pm

- News

- International news

- Weather report

- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ဘဝဆက်တိုင်း” (အပိုင်း-၉)

- The next day’s programme

Friday, 14 March
Tune in today

8:30 am Brief news

8:35 am Music

-One & One

8:40 am Perspectives

8:45 am Music

-Don’t go away

8:50 am National news/ Slogan

9:00 am Music

-I’m raving

9:05 am International news

9:10 am Music

-Unbreak my heart

1:30 pm News/ Slogan

1:40 pm Lunch time music

-Summer wine

9:00 pm WOM

9:15 pm Article

9:25pm Music at your request

-Honesty

9:45 pm News/Slogan

10:00 pm PEL

People's Desire

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

Ayeyawady Division Sub-commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution meets



Meeting of Ayeyawady Division Sub-commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution in progress. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March — Coordination meeting No 1/2008 of Ayeyawady Division Sub-commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar took place at the office of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council in Patheingyi on 10 March morning.

Members of the Commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U San Lwin and U Tin Hsan presided over the meeting.

Commission member U San Lwin delivered a speech. The chairman of the Ayeyawady Division Sub-commission reported on the law and rule for approval of the draft constitution and the Secretary of the Ayeyawady Division Sub-commission on formation of the District and Township Sub-commissions and assignment of duties.

The attendees participated in the discussions. The meeting ended with concluding remarks by Commission member U San Lwin. — 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

State Constitution (draft) deserves unanimous approval of independent Myanmar people

We delegates held discussions, sometime argued with each other at the National Convention so that the forthcoming State constitution would be most reliable one.

In my opinion, nothing in the draft constitution needs amendments. I want to see our country remain perpetually as an independent one with this constitution. Moreover, I want to see Myanmar enjoying peace and stability with economic development and high living standard of the people.

This desire is patriotism.

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TEKKATHO MYAT THU