

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

Prime Minister General Thein Sein attends 17th Annual General Meeting of UMFCCI

Stability of national economy, strength of entrepreneurs, development of socio-economy of people can shape discipline-flourishing democratic nation with peace and stability



Prime Minister General Thein Sein views scale model of UMFCCI Office to be built in Nay Pyi Taw.— MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March — Prime Minister General Thein Sein attended the 17th Annual General Meeting of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry at Mingala Hall of the Nay Pyi Taw City Hall, here, this afternoon.

Also present at the meeting were ministers, deputy ministers, diplomats and officials, directors-general of the State Peace and Development Council Office and the Government Office, departmental heads, the president, vice-presidents, advisers, CEC members, executives and members of the UMFCCI and guests.

In his speech the Prime Minister said in striving for all-round development of the State, the government has attached great importance to strong national economy as a main pillar. To ensure strong economy, efforts are being exerted to enable the State and the national entrepreneurs to improve national economy while encouraging the development of national and private businesses.

As such, it is an honour for the nation to see the success of UMFCCI leading the national entrepreneurs for the development of private economic sector.

(See page 8)

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If in no mood to help, do not disturb

The government issued Announcement 1/2008 and Announcement 2/2008, regarding the forthcoming referendum to be held in May 2008 to approve the draft of the State Constitution and the multi-party democracy general elections to be held in 2010.

The entire people were pleased with and wholeheartedly welcomed the announcements. Every citizen is convinced that a constitution is a must because it serves as the lifeblood of a nation.

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PAUK SA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 17 March, 2008

Provide more health care services to people

In an effort to provide full health care services to the people the government has built hospitals and rural health care centres the length and breadth of the nation.

The Minbu Township People's Hospital in Magway Division was upgraded step by step, and now, it has already been upgraded into a new general hospital (200-bed).

In the meantime, the Homalin Township People's Hospital in Sagaing Division was upgraded into a new people's hospital (100-bed). And the facility is now able to provide more health care services to local people residing in Homalin and its environs.

The government built more modern hospitals, general hospitals, specialist hospitals and teaching hospitals and has equipped them with modern medical equipment including disease diagnostic machines.

Moreover, universities of medicine and other health institutions were opened in order to produce and train qualified human resources in the medical field.

As systematic efforts are being made for uplift of health and fitness of the entire nation and improvement of the health standard of the people, all the health staff members are required to actively participate in the drive.

At a time when efforts are being made for development of the health sector it is incumbent upon all the health staff including specialists, doctors, nurses and technicians to do their bit for the success of the task. Only then, will the public health care services meet with success.



Deputy Administrator U Hla Shein accepts K 100,000 for Jivitadana Sangha Hospital donated by Daw Than Than Aung (Si Taw Wun) Co Family of No 25 on Groundfloor on Thandadar Street in Sangyoung Township in memory of late Dr Iida Tatsuku of Japan. — H

People's Desire

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

Communication functions in Yangon inspected



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw gives instructions to departmental officials at International DHL Office in Yangon. — MPT

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March—Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw this morning inspected communication functions of the External Communication Exchange in Mayangon Township, Yangon and fire preventative measures and gave necessary instructions.

Next, the minister met with service personnel at the meeting hall of the International DHL and stressed

the need to improve communication functions. On arrival at the Hanthawady Auto Exchange, Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw looked into the installation of new communication equipment. During his inspection tour of Yangon, the minister fulfilled necessary requirements for improvement of communication functions and fire preventative measures.—MNA

Indian delegation visits Union National Races Village



Director-General of Military Operations Lieutenant-General AS Sekhon, AVSM, YSM and wife of Indian Armed Forces visiting Union National Races Village in Thakayta Township. — MNA

Significant day temperatures

- Minbu (41°C)
- Nay Pyi Taw(40°C)
- Chauk (40°C)
- Magway (40°C)
- Aunglan (40°C)
- Bago (40°C)
- Hinthada (40°C)

YANGON, 16 March — A goodwill delegation led by Director General of Military Operations Lt-Gen AS Sekhon, AVSM, YSM of Indian Armed Forces and wife arrived here yesterday evening. They were welcomed at Yangon International airport by

Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun and wife, senior military officials, Indian Military Attache to Myanmar Colonel Manoj Mukund Naravane and officials of Indian embassy. The delegation accompanied by the

Talks on Fourth Generation Time Management 22 March

YANGON, 16 March — The Myanmar Fisheries Federation and the Myanmar Prawn Entrepreneurs Association will jointly stage the talks on management knowledge at Thiri Annawa Hall of the federation at the corner of Bayintnaung Road and Sethmu Hsaywah Road in Insein Township on 22 March afternoon.

General Manager of Myanma Insurance honorable professor Dr Maung Maung Thein will give the talks entitled “4th Generation Time Management”. Any interested person may attend the talks.

officials visited Union National Races Village today. They were entertained with traditional dances.

Thousands in UK anti-war protest march

LONDON, 16 March — Thousands of anti-war protesters joined marches in Britain on Saturday to mark the fifth anniversary of the start of the war in Iraq. They took to the streets in London and the Scottish city of Glasgow demanding that British troops pull out of Iraq and Afghanistan.

A spokesman for the Stop The War coalition, which organized the marches, said that five years after the invasion of Iraq, the world had become “a much more dangerous place”.

“Estimates suggest as many as one million people have died violent deaths as a result of the occupation

of Iraq,” spokesman Paul Collins said.

He said Prime Minister Gordon Brown was sending more troops to Afghanistan and claimed “this hidden war is fast becoming a disaster mirroring Iraq”.

But the Foreign Office disputed Stop the War’s conclusions. “In Iraq, there is clear evidence we are making steady progress, particularly in terms of security,” a spokesman told Reuters. — MNA/Reuters



Thousands of anti-war protesters, holding placards, walk past the Houses of Parliament in central London, demonstrating against war, calling for troops to be pulled out from Iraq and Afghanistan and to mark the fifth anniversary of the invasion of Iraq, on 15 March, 2008.—INTERNET

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



A model displays a creation from the “SOMARTA” collection by Japanese designer Tamae Hirokawa at Japan Fashion Week in Tokyo on 14 March, 2008.—XINHUA

Three killed in S Philippines blast

MANILA, 16 March — A grenade explosion killed three people and wounded 19 others in the southern Philippines, media reports said on Saturday.

The accident occurred in the country’s province of Davao del Sur, where a disco session was ongoing at 10 pm Friday local time (1400 GMT), Philippine TV network GMA News reported.

Initial investigation

showed that civilian volunteer organization member Reto Pelonio, reportedly drunk at the time, dropped the grenades while dancing.

Police said it was likely Pelonio had the grenades in his pockets because there was no crater formed by the explosion.

MNA/Reuters

Clinton, Obama clash despite plan to talk issues

WASHINGTON, 16 March — Democratic US presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama clashed on Saturday over his ties to an indicted Chicago businessman and her tax records, despite their agreement two days earlier on the need to focus on issues. Clinton’s campaign questioned Obama’s judgment in his dealings with campaign supporter and businessman Antoin “Tony” Rezko.

Obama’s campaign fired back, calling it “the height of hypocrisy for Senator Clinton to demand the release of documents already on our campaign web site” while she has refused to release her full tax returns during her time in the Senate. The stepped-up attacks came ahead of the crucial 22 April Pennsylvania primary. —MNA/Reuters

**EU says
saving planet
must not cost
the earth**

BRUSSELS, 16 March — European Union leaders pledged on Friday to agree laws within 12 months to implement their ambitious goals for combating climate change but promised to soften the blow for heavy industries.

A final statement at a two-day summit set a tight timetable for adopting mechanisms to curb greenhouse gas emissions and promote green energy sources but stressed they must be affordable at a time of economic downturn and market turmoil.

Concerns about slowing growth and financial instability prompted the 27 leaders to add the tell-tale phrase “so as to avoid excessive costs for member states” to the statement. — MNA/Reuters

Sri Lanka accuses US throws lifeline to Tamil Tigers

COLOMBO, 15 March — Sri Lanka’s Government has accused the United States of throwing a lifeline to the widely banned Tamil Tiger rebels.

“The report presents a distorted view of the actual situation in Sri Lanka during the year 2007 and is unfortunately a litany of unsubstantiated allegations, innuendo and vituperative exaggerations,” the Foreign Ministry said in a state-ment issued late on Friday.

“It is indeed a matter of concern that the report, based on hearsay ... has resulted in throwing a lifeline to the LTTE (Tigers) at a time when it is struggling to maintain its position both militarily on the ground and internationally.”

MNA/Reuters

Anti-war demonstrators march in Hollywood, California on 15 March, 2008. Protesters rallied on the fifth anniversary of the start of the war in Iraq.—INTERNET



Egypt says US criticism of rights record “biased”

CAIRO, 16 March — Egypt struck back at a US Government report criticizing its human rights record on Friday, saying the report was biased and neglectful of the social situation in the most populous Arab country.

Egypt, a US ally, also said a White House statement expressing concern at a “campaign of arrests” of opposition members reflected a “lack of understanding” of

Egypt.

In an annual report released this week, the US State Department said Egypt, a major recipient of US aid, sought to “thwart” opposition activities, journalists and civil society groups.

Egyptian authorities continued to hold former presidential candidate Ayman Nour as a “political prisoner,” detained Internet bloggers and charged independent journalists with libel and

other crimes, including defaming President Hosni Mubarak, the report said.

“The report was unfortunately a mix of non-objectivity and non-science in presenting the biased views of some non-governmental organizations,” Egypt’s Foreign Ministry said. “It neglects the social components surrounding the human rights development process.”

MNA/Reuters

Clinton defends role in N Ireland peace process

PITTSBURGH, 16 March — Democratic US presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton defended her role in the Northern Ireland peace process on Saturday and accused rival Barack Obama of “nitpicking” her record on the issue. Clinton, a Senator from New York, and Obama, a Senator from Illinois, have made experience and judgment key arguments in their respective quests to become the Democratic

Party’s White House nominee.

Clinton has cited repeatedly her involvement in the peace process as First Lady during former President Bill Clinton’s Administration as an example of her foreign policy credentials. Obama advisers have said her role was minimal at best.

“I helped with the peace process in Northern Ireland,” Clinton told reporters on her campaign plane on Saturday. “That’s

been validated in many different settings by many different people who were part of the process.”

Her husband helped broker the 1998 Good Friday peace accord that paved the way for a power-sharing government in Belfast and a greater role for Dublin.

She said she continues to be engaged with leaders from Northern Ireland and questioned whether Obama could say the same. — MNA/Reuters



Actors in historical Ottoman outfits attending a promotional event for a festival walk past Turkish riot police watching demonstrators protesting the US-led invasion in Iraq in a main shopping street in Istanbul on 15 March, 2008.—INTERNET



In this undated image released by the SITE Intelligence Group, a man who SITE identified as Austrian hostage Wolfgang Ebner (L) is seen next to another person which SITE says could be the second Austrian hostage Andrea Kloiber (face blurred), somewhere in Tunisia. Al-Qaeda’s North Africa branch called for the release of prisoners in Tunisia and Algeria in exchange for freeing the two hostages.—XINHUA

Minister denies Germans complicit in US rendition

BERLIN, 15 March — Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier denied on Thursday Berlin had advance knowledge of a 2001 US operation to seize a German citizen in Morocco and transfer him to Syria where he was allegedly tortured.

Steinmeier was testifying before a special parliamentary committee set up to investigate German cooperation with the US “war on terror”, particularly its knowledge of secret CIA transfers of terror suspects known as “renditions”.

Thursday’s hearing focused on the case of Mohammad al-Zammar, a Syrian born man with German citizenship who had links to the Hamburg al-Qaeda cell that led the September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States. — MNA/Reuters

Police arrest dozens after clashes in Iraqi city

KUT (Iraq), 16 March — Iraqi police arrested dozens of members of Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr’s Mehdi Army militia on Saturday, hours after two policemen were killed in gunbattles in the southern city of Kut, police said. Clashes this week between Iraqi security forces and the militia in Kut, 170 kilometres (105 miles) southeast of Baghdad, have raised fears a ceasefire called by Sadr may unravel, although the violence has so far been confined to Kut. It is the first major violation of the seven-month-old truce, which has been credited by the US military with helping to reduce violence between majority Shiite and Sunni Muslims that has killed tens of thousands of Iraqis.— MNA/Reuters

Chad, UNICEF repatriate kidnapped children to families

N’DJAMENA, 16 March — Chadian authorities and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Friday officially launched the process of restituting the 103 children at the centre of child trafficking scandal back to their families, according to official sources.

After a ceremony at an orphanage in Abeche, eastern Chad, where the children have been staying since the arrest of six

members of a French aid Zoe’s Ark on October 25, 83 of the children boarded two buses bound for Andre, about 150 kilometres further east, where they were eagerly awaited by their families. The remaining children are expected to be sent to Tinah-Chad and Biltine, 250 kilometres north-east and 75 kilometres north of Abeche respectively in coming days. Five children originally from Sudan, who are yet to be identified have

been assigned to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) temporarily.

“My organization is committed to support these children even after they are taken back to by respective families,” UNICEF country representative for Chad Mariam Ndiaye said while launching the operation, calling on other partners to “support” the initiative.

MNA/Xinhua

4 dead, many injured in NY crane collapse

NEW YORK, 16 March — A construction crane snapped Saturday from a 25-storey building in Manhattan, killing at least four people and injuring many others, New York City authorities said.

All four known deaths were of construction workers at the site and some of the injured are in serious or critical condition, Mayor

Michael Bloomberg told a Press conference. The crane snapped into two parts, damaging three nearby buildings and completely destroyed a fourth, Bloomberg said.

The building that was destroyed was a five-storey brownstone with a popular bar in the first floor which, fortunately, was not open at the time.

Over 300 fire-fighters, 150 police officers and many other emergency workers are working at the site. Police dogs and listening devices were deployed to looking for victims trapped in the rubble. Several blocks in the vicinity of crane collapse remain cordoned off to traffic. Several buildings nearby are being vacated and occupants are told to go to a shelter set up in a school.—MNA/Xinhua



Rescue workers work at the scene of a crushed building on 50th Street near Second Avenue Saturday, on 15 March, 2008 in New York. A giant crane toppled over at a construction site and smashed into a block of residential killing four people and setting off a scramble for survivors.

INTERNET

China posts double-digit growth in LPG import in 2007

BEIJING, 15 March — China imported 6.98 million tons of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) at a cost of 3.09 billion US dollars in 2007, a year-on-year growth of 15.2 per cent and 2 per cent, respectively.

Of the total, liquefied natural gas accounted for

41.7 per cent, or 2.91 million tons, up 320 per cent, sources with the General Administration of Customs said on Saturday.

Foreign-funded companies made up 83.4 per cent, or 5.82 million tons, of China's total LPG

imports, up 37.5 per cent.

Last year saw China buy 3.38 million tons of LPG, or 48.5 per cent of the total, from Australia, up 100 per cent, and 2.83 million tons, or 20.6 per cent of the total, from the Middle East, down 23.5 per cent. —MNA/Xinhua

Philippine Airlines makes first flight to west China

CHONGQING, 16 March — Philippine Airlines (PAL) completed its maiden voyage into western China on Friday with a flight from Manila to Chongqing Municipality.

The country's flagship carrier has begun to offer twice-weekly flights to the

southwestern city via an Airbus A320 on Tuesday and Friday.

A round-trip ticket for the 3.5-hour flight is around 1,400 yuan (197 US dollars), a PAL official said.

Previously, passengers had to transfer at Hong Kong if they were

travelling to the city from the Philippine capital.

Starting on Tuesday, the carrier will also begin offering flights to neighbouring Chengdu with a similar frequency. On 1 May, it will launch five weekly flights to the Macao Special Administrative Region.

MNA/Xinhua

ADB funds Asia's sea, rainforest preservation project

MANILA, 16 March — The Asia Development Bank on Friday said it will fund a regional project to protect the shrinking seas and rainforests in Southeast Asia.

The region is home to the Coral Triangle, which has the highest marine biodiversity in the world, as well as the Heart of Borneo, rainforests covering 22 million hectares that are some of the last refuges for orangutans, Asian elephants, and Sumatran rhinos, the regional lender said.

Each year logging, mining and farming destroy millions of hectares of forests. Global warming also had its shares of damage, the ADB said.

The ADB grant, amounting to 1.5 million US dollars, will provide funding for the World Wildlife Fund for Nature to undertake an environmental and socio-economic profile of the region, GIS (geographic information system) mapping and stakeholder consultations in the region.

The grant will also allow the countries to assess policies and institutional capabilities in managing natural resources, address cross-border environmental issues and implement policies through the setting of minimum standards, monitoring and self regulation.

MNA/Xinhua

Trade volumes between Cambodia, Thailand up 10% in 2007

PHNOM PENH, 16 March — The trade volumes between Cambodia and Thailand showed an increase of 10.56 per cent in 2007, with total trade figures reaching 1.404 billion US dollars, Cambodian Commerce Minister Cham Prasidh said here on Friday.

The amount of 49 million US dollars represented the cost of goods exported from Cambodia to Thailand, Cham Prasidh said at the opening ceremony of Thailand Exhibition 2008, which is being held in Phnom Penh from 14 to 18 March. With the steady increase of trade volumes,



Workers collect rubber gloves at Top Glove's factory in Klang, outside Kuala Lumpur, on 11 March, 2008.—INTERNET

UAE tries Jordanian for trade in nuclear component

DUBAI, 15 March — A Jordanian man on trial in the United Arab Emirates for trading in a metal used in nuclear reactors told the court on Thursday that he did not realise he was breaking the law.

The suspect, who is

48, remains in custody and the magistrate scheduled the next hearing in the case for 25 March.

The Gulf Arab trade hub foiled an attempt to import for re-export 240 kilos (529 pounds) of zirconium as part of its

efforts to keep the region clear of weapons of mass destruction, the official WAM news agency said on Wednesday.

It did not say where the shipment was destined for but Dubai is situated across a short stretch of water from Iran, which is locked in a standoff with the West over its nuclear programme.

The United States accuses Iran of planning to build bombs but Teheran says its nuclear programme is aimed at generating electricity.

MNA/Reuters

ECONOMIC NEWS

Nestle wins trademark suit over Dumex in Chinese court

BEIJING, 15 March — Nestle has won a trademark infringement suit in a Beijing court against its powdered milk competitor Royal Numico Dumex and received 200,000 yuan

(28,129 US dollars) in compensation.

Dutch firm Royal Numico Dumex was also ordered to stop using the trademark of a shield device on its powered milk products and stop selling infringing products in the Xizhimen branch of the Ito Yokado Mall, according to a Beijing Municipal No 1 Intermediate People's Court ruling on Wednesday afternoon.

Swiss-based Nestle sued Royal Numico Dumex in September 2007 for trademark infringement and requested the defendant to immediately stop selling the infringing products and compensate Nestle 500,000 yuan.

Nestle alleged that it had already globally registered the figurative trademark of a shield device and the other trademark "Golden shield trademark in Chinese character" of Nestle had also been applied for registration with the Chinese trademark authority and this trademark had been widely used on its milk powder product.

Nestle found that, without its authorization, the defendant used a device which was similar to its registered figurative mark on the packages of a series of Royal Numico Dumex milk powder.

MNA/Xinhua



Thai customers view gold jewelry at a gold shop in Bangkok, Thailand, on 14 March, 2008. After soaring to record levels in the past year gold reached a new milestone Thursday, rising to \$1,000 an ounce for the first time in futures trading, a boon for investors, but a deterrent to consumers shopping for jewelry.

INTERNET

Li Jianguo elected S-G of NPC Standing Committee

BEIJING, 15 March — Li Jianguo was elected secretary-general of the Standing Committee of the 11th National People’s Congress (NPC), China’s top legislature, Saturday morning at the ongoing NPC annual session.

Li was concurrently elected one of the 13 vice-chairpersons of the 11th NPC Standing Committee.

Xinhua

Health authorities say no novel flu virus in HK

HONG KONG, 16 March — Hong Kong health authorities said on Friday that gene sequencing on flu viruses from two children who died amid a recent outbreak showed no novel flu virus.

The Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government said in a statement that the flu viruses from the two victims match the genetic makeup of viruses that are already circulating.

The two children who died were a seven-year-old boy and a three-year-old girl. “Gene sequencing results available today confirmed that the H1N1 virus found in this boy has the same genetic makeup as the circulating H1N1 (Brisbane) strain in Hong Kong,” said the spokesman of the centre.

Xinhua



Police and military officials survey the site of a bomb explosion at the entrance of the CS Pattani Hotel in South Thailand’s Pattani Province on 15 March, 2008. A bomb killed one man and wounded 12 people in Thailand’s south on Saturday, police said. The bomb, hidden in a car, exploded near the entrance of a hotel in the city of Pattani, one of three far south provinces where more than 2,300 people have been killed in a separatist insurgency that erupted in January 2004.— XINHUA

Vietnam to host int’l network, data security conf

HANOI, 15 March — Vietnam will organize an international conference and showcase christened Security World 2008, the biggest of its kind, with the participation of 30 prestigious speakers and over 20 well-known information technology companies from 19-20 March, organizers said Friday.

During the event themed “Strengthening Security Awareness and Deployment” and held by

the General Department of Technology under the Vietnamese Ministry of Public Security and the International Data Group, the speakers from Vietnamese ministries and organizations, and such foreign firms as Cisco Systems and Symantec will touch current status and trends of, and solutions to network and data security in the Asia-Pacific region in general and Vietnam in particular.

Delegates to the two-

day event in Hanoi will focus their discussions on implementation of data security systems in stock and e-commerce transactions, solutions to prevent and deal with hackers’ attacks targeted at mobile phones and computers, and experiences in carrying out surveillance activities based on the employment of advanced cameras and alarm equipment in enterprises and urban areas.—Xinhua



Japanese students and Chinese students pose for a group photo in a high school in Beijing, capital of China, on 14 March, 2008.

XINHUA

All Items from Xinhua News Agency

China names premier, top judge, prosecutor

BEIJING, 16 March — China’s Parliament re-elected Wen Jiabao as Premier on Sunday, but a next-generation leader was passed over for promotion to a top military job. The National People’s Congress gave Wen, ranked third in the Communist Party hierarchy, a second five-year mandate with 2,926 votes for, 21 against and 12 abstentions.

People’s Liberation Army Generals Xu Caihou and Guo Boxiong were elected vice-chairman of the decision-making Central Military Commission.

A Hong Kong

newspaper had said next-generation leader Xi Jinping would become the third vice-chairman of the military commission, but he was not on the ballot on Sunday.

If Xi, who was elected vice-president on Saturday, had been given the military portfolio, it would have cemented his role as heir apparent to President Hu Jintao, who doubles as Communist Party and military chief.

Parliament also endorsed the nominations of Wang Shengjun as the country’s top judge and Cao Jianming as the top prosecutor.

Xinhua



A police officer monitors demonstrators during a march after a rally in Sydney marking the fifth anniversary of the war in Iraq on 16 March, 2008.—XINHUA

Engine fault grounds over 300 aircraft in New Zealand

WELLINGTON, 16 March — More than 300 small planes and helicopters were grounded on Friday due to fears they may have a faulty part that can cause loss of power and engine failure, Radio New Zealand reported on Saturday.

The problem was discovered in the United States, where 18 incidents were recorded of gasket failure inside the fuel injection system of some aircraft engines.

The New Zealand Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) issued an emergency directive to 225 operators and owners of single and twin-engined, piston-engined aircraft about a possible fuel injector fault.

The authority says 326 aircraft could be affected.

The CAA Spokesperson Bill Sommer said aircraft affected by the

directive cannot be flown until a plug in the fuel injector is checked and, if necessary, replaced.

Xinhua

Death toll in Baghdad car bombing rises to 10

BAGHDAD, 15 March — The death toll from a car bomb attack in central Baghdad on Thursday rose to 10, with 50 others wounded, an Interior Ministry source said on Friday.

“The final toll from the Bab al-Sharji area car bombing rose to 10 killed and 50 others injured,” the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The attack took place at about 2:00 p.m. (1100 GMT) when a booby-trapped car parking near the commercial building of al- Khaiyam in the crowded area of Bab al-Sharji detonated, the source said.

Earlier, the source put the toll at seven civilians killed and 20 others wounded. Violence and bloodshed in Iraq have increased recently, despite the US military’s announcement of a 60-per-cent drop in attacks since last June. — Xinhua

If in no mood to help, do not disturb

Pauk Sa

Current comments provoked me to write this article. **The government issued Announcement 1/2008 and Announcement 2/2008, regarding the forthcoming referendum to be held in May 2008 to approve the draft of the State Constitution and the multi-party democracy general elections to be held in 2010.**

The entire people were pleased with and wholeheartedly welcomed the announcements. Every citizen is convinced that a constitution is a must because it serves as the lifeblood of a nation. However, a particular party and person that are desperate to monopolize the process of drawing a constitution are not happy with and are criticizing the announcements.

NLD central executive committee members are now uneasy with the knowledge that the government's Announcement No 1/2008 and Announcement No 2/2008 imply that the constitution they have written unilaterally has gone down the drain. They are so agitated for the announcements that they are opposing them by issuing various forms of objection flyers and by conducting prearranged interviews with some foreign radio stations such as BBC and VOA.

Before the announcements came out, they made comments that it took 14 years for the government to complete the National Convention, and they wondered how long it would take for the government to complete the drafting of the State Constitution. The army, they said, was deliberately prolonging the processes because it was unwilling to hand over power. When elections would be held was difficult to guess, and the process lacked a time frame, they added. However, nowadays, they said that the completion of the drafting of the State Constitution in a short time lacked honesty; that the Pyithu Hluttaw would be formed with the representatives elected at the constituencies according to Law No 14/89 or Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law; and they did not accept or recognize the processes to hold elections according to the constitution the government had drafted, and the processes would not be legitimate.

NLD is in the habit of easily forgetting what it has said and done. The government issued Announcement No 1/90 offering to write a constitution in order to form a hluttaw in accordance with the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law.

The Multi-party Democracy General Election Commission scrutinized the representatives-elect and announced its approval. Then, the government made an offer through Announcement No 1/90 to write a constitution with representatives of legal political

parties, representatives of national races and representatives of the people from all walks of life including representatives-elect to form Pyithu Hluttaw in line with the constitution.

NLD won the votes of 31 per cent of the number of eligible voters. But, it said as if it won the votes of the great majority of the entire people. In addition, it asked when power would be handed over and a hluttaw would be convened. On 28 and 29 July 1990, NLD held a meeting in Gandhi Hall and issued Gandhi Announcement. Through the announcement, NLD called for holding Pyithu Hluttaw by September 1990, and handing over power with the constitution drawn by itself. Late NLD Central Executive Committee Member U Kyi Maung declined the government's offer through Announcement No 1/90 to cooperate with the government and to make collaborative efforts in building a new democratic nation.

During the period to coordinate plan to lay down fundamental principles and detailed basic principles, NLD attended the National Convention being held by the government with representatives from various parties, national races, and all strata of life, and representatives-elect to draw an enduring State Constitution. Nevertheless, NLD made unreasonable accusations of the discussions including the ratios of NC delegates and proceedings and gave unreasonable excuses that did not concern the National Convention and walked out of the Nation Convention on 28 November 1995.

Fulfilling the demands of NLD as far as it could and expressing its magnanimity and great patience, the government invited NLD to the National Convention that resumed on 17 May 2004. NLD replied that it would attend it, and when it was close to the National Convention, NLD announced that it would not attend it, giving excuses that the government could not fulfil its demands that were not in conformity with the prevailing situations.

The government held the National Convention together with representatives-elect, representatives of various parties, national races, and the people from all walks of life to draw a constitution to be able to convene a Pyithu Hluttaw session in accordance with Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law. NLD failed to attend the National Convention of its own volition and made its choice. However, it is now levelling accusations against the government that the processes do not meet the Election Law and that are against Announcement No 1/90.

Frankly speaking, if NLD had assumed itself to be a standard political party, it would have realized that it had to cooperate with the ruling government to draw a

constitution because a hluttaw could not be convened if the nation lacked a constitution.

Instead, NLD chose the way of confrontation with the government. **It is resorting to various means in complicity with the colonialist bloc to put pressure politically on and impose economic sanctions against the nation. At the same time, it provoked riots, after forming so-called hluttaw representative committee. It tried to destabilize the nation.** In consequence, its members resigned from it in groups, and so did representatives-elect. Its political organizing work went down to the bottom. Initially, the number of NLD representatives-elect was 392, and **so far, the number has decreased to 80 due to the fact that some committed crimes, some violated the existing law, and some have fled the nation and are living abroad as expatriates or absconders. Some have become independent representatives-elect, some have died, and some resigned from the party as members and representatives-elect. Now, the number of NLD representatives-elect is only 80.**

According to the international hluttaws, a hluttaw can be called at least one-third of the total number of hluttaw representatives so requisition. The total number of remnant NLD representatives-elect, the representatives-elect of other parties and independent representatives-elect is less than one-third of the total number of hluttaw representatives.

I wonder if NLD thinks it still wins the support of those who voted for it in the 1990 elections. If NLD assumes that winning once in the election will help win the support of the public always, I would say it is crazy about something.

NLD has constantly demanded the approval of the 1990 election results. However, it did not cooperate with any forces when the government invited it to draw a constitution to approve the 1990 election results to convene a Pyithu Hluttaw session. It persisted in making a demand for handing over power through the constitution it had drawn alone. It is claiming democracy, but practising one-party dictatorship. Any citizen will not accept that a single party monopolizes the process of drawing a constitution that should be done through coordination by many representatives. If NLD had attended the National Convention and worked together with other representatives in drawing the constitution, the National Convention would have been completed earlier, State Constitution would have been approved and the Pyithu Hluttaw would have been about two terms.

Now, the government and the people are working together with might and main to hold elections in accordance with the forthcoming State Constitution after approving the constitution through a referendum. I do not think it is wise that NLD is criticizing that holding new elections is not legitimate and persists in making demands that are no longer in line with the present time and present way of life of the people. So, I would like to say that if NLD is in no mood to extend a helping hand, it does not matter, but it is requested not to disturb the processes.

Translation: MS

Myanma Alin, Kyemon: 16-3-2008

NLD is resorting to various means in complicity with the colonialist bloc to put pressure politically on and impose economic sanctions against the nation. At the same time, it provoked riots, after forming so-called hluttaw representative committee.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein attends...

(from page 1)

Looking to the international community, all nations are found to be vying for the development of their economy keeping in the fore their national interests. At the World Trade Conferences also, global nations are placing emphasis on national interests. They are always arguing for creating more economic opportunities and lifting of economic restrictions.

A glance at the condition of global economy reveals that some big nations that monopolized the world's economy are trying to revive their economy as their economic powers have come to a downgrading situation while new economic forces are emerging extensively. And as a consequence, there has been more competition between the global countries.

At the same time, more economic cooperation is being forged between the nations or the associations in order to surmount the challenges. So the developing nations like Myanmar has to face such challenges. What's more, some economically powerful nations are discriminating against others economically with the intention of influencing the developing nations. They are trying to widen the gap between rich and poor more and more.

Particularly, they are imposing economic restrictions against Myanmar designing to affect the economy of national entrepreneurs. This is why all the people are to make more efforts for the improvement of national economy keeping the national interest in the fore.

To ensure strong economy, national entrepreneurs are required to work hard side by side with the government. The government on its part is building more economic infrastructures and has granted permission to the private national entrepreneurs to invest in the State projects. Opportunities have been created for them to build roads, airports, seaports, international container yards and to carry out international air and water transport services. Besides, private sector has expanded to engage in forest, mineral and gems businesses.

In the strategic regions, industrial zones have been established and State-owned factories have been privatized to improve the industrial sector. Departmental work is being carried out systematically and speedily for the establishment of new companies, investments and trade services.

Import and export activities, financial activities and trade and revenue services are also being carried out smoothly. And as a result, the State has been able to increase its trade volume.

The geographical conditions of the country create good opportunities for conducting not only the transit trade and re-export but also the trade services. As such, merchants and entrepreneurs are to grasp the good opportunities for promotion of the trade sector.

Nowadays, private entrepreneurs who play a key role in bringing about the national economy are to extend their businesses in line with the State economic



Prime Minister General Thein Sein browses documentary photos of UMFCCI activities performed at home and abroad.— MNA

policies. They are to strive for exporting quality products meeting international set standards, seeking new markets and manufacturing new quality export items.

Likewise, the entrepreneurs are to avoid the importing of dangerous goods of poor quality that may harm the interests of the State and the people. In addition, they are to import the commodities for the investment and development of local industries.

The brokerage plays an important role in systematically controlling the internal trading, the external trading and other commercial tasks in States and Divisions. Therefore, the brokerages in States and Divisions are to adjust the benefits of the State and the people to that of the merchants. In doing so, the federation needs to supervise the tasks to minimize the fluctuations of commodity prices and the acts to harm the local and international trades.

The role of equitable development for the trade services and industries is very important in the economic sector of the nation. It is necessary to develop the industries for economic growth of the State in long term.

Therefore, the entrepreneurs earning foreign exchange are to make investment in the industrial sector with a view to creating job opportunities for the people, increasing the per capita income, establishing value-added products industries that can effectively apply human resources and setting up new industries.

At present, the government is ready to privatize the State-run workshops and factories. The national entrepreneurs are to try hard to have more abilities to penetrate the international economic sector. While the government is joining the ASEAN, BIMSTEC, GMS and ACMECS to promote regional and international economic cooperation, the private sector is also to make concerted efforts to penetrate the international economic sector.

The government is giving encouragement to

the entrepreneurs to have experiences and the wide range of knowledge to become those who have the capabilities to do businesses at world level. The UMFCCI is to organize its members to participate in the international economic cooperation of the State and to realize the international commercial laws, rules and regulations, ethics, traditions and economic and commercial news.

To overcome challenges stemming from global market changes and hardships resulting from outside political instigation, long-term plans should be made to protect the interests of the State, the people and the national entrepreneurs. Social standards of the people can be raised through the improvement of national economy.

This being the case, stability of the national economy, strength of the national entrepreneurs and the development of socio-economy of the people can shape a discipline-flourishing democratic nation with peace and stability. The principles that can guarantee sound economic foundations for a future democratic nation have been inscribed in the draft constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Those principles include the points that all economic forces such as State cooperatives, joint-ventures and private sector are permitted to engage in economic affairs, that private business are not to be nationalized and that the denominations issued legally are not to be demonatized. In addition, the approval of the draft constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is the national duty of all citizens.

Like the general people, UMFCCI and its members are to unitedly participate in the drive for the approval of the constitution without sidelining the right to cast their votes. In conclusion, the Prime Minister urged UMFCCI to actively participate in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation while striving for the improvement of the private economic sector as it is the biggest NGO across the nation.

After the first session of the meeting, Prime Minister General Thein Sein posed for documentary photo together with the ministers, the deputy ministers, the president, CEC members, executives and advisers of the UMFCCI.

The Prime Minister cordially greeted the attendees to the meeting. Next, the Prime Minister and party viewed the scale model of the UMFCCI Building to be constructed in Nay Pyi Taw, documentary photos of the federation and its brother associations.

MNA

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Volunteers for regional development honoured in Htantabin Township

YANGON, 16 March — A ceremony to honour departmental personnel and members of social organizations who participated in the regional development tasks was held at the office of Htantabin Township Peace and Development Council this morning.

Chairman of Yangon North District PDC U Thein Naing reported on participation of the departmental personnel and members of social organizations in the regional development tasks in Htantabin Township from 24 February to 8 March. U Than Mani of Kalein Village spoke words of thanks.

Chairman of Yangon Division PDC Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win presented certificates of honour to those who participated in the regional development tasks.

In his instruction, the commander explained endeavours of the government for ensuring equitable development of

the rural and urban areas. Next, the commander and party visited Htantabin Township Hospital and viewed progress in construction of Bayintnaung circular road stretching 1,580 feet long, thriving maize and summer paddy plantations in the region. — MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win inspects construction of a new operation room at Htantabin Hospital. — MNA

Minister attends setting up of Taungtha Township Association (Mandalay)

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March — The ceremony of setting up the Taungtha Township Association (Mandalay) was held at

Waizayanta Maha Bandoola Dhammayon of Thakkyathiha Pagoda in Mandalay yesterday.

Patron of the association Secretariat Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung gave a speech on the occasion.

Wellwishers collectively donated K 3.35 million to the funds of the association through Chairman of the association (Mandalay) U Soe Myint.

At the hall of Mandalay Zaygyo Market, Minister U Aung Thaung and Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han met with

shopkeepers of the market and gave necessary instructions. — MNA

Education Minister arrived back from Kuala Lumpur

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March — A Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein arrived back here by air this morning after attending the 43rd South-East Asian Education Ministers Organization Council Conference and the 3rd ASEAN Education

Ministers Meeting in Kuala Lumpur of Malaysia from 12 to 15 March.

The Myanmar delegation was welcomed back at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy

Ministers for Education and departmental officials.

At the meetings, Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein explained progress in the education sector of Myanmar, tasks of the education for all and application of information and technology in the education sector. — MNA



Minister Dr Chan Nyein being welcomed back by Ministers at Nay Pyi Taw airport. — MNA

Three dead, 27 injured as garment factory ferry turns over

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March — A ferry with Number Plate Za/1221 carrying 33 staff of Tashin Garment Factory in Mingaladon Industrial Zone and driven by Win Nyunt veered onto the wrong side of the road and turned over near Nwekhway Village in Mingaladon Township at 7 am yesterday when it was on its way from Hlegu to Mingaladon Industrial Zone along Highway No 3.

Of the staff, Ma Than Htay, 34, Ma Soe Soe Aye, 28 and Ma Phyo Phyo, 25, were dead and 27 others injured in the accident. Of the injured, ten were admitted to North Okkalapa General Hospital and 17 others received medical treatment as outpatients.

Action is being taken against the driver according to the law. — MNA

**Take Fire
Preventive
Measures**

**Beware
of
Fire**



Overweight women have worse breast cancer

WASHINGTON, 16 March — Breast cancer patients who are overweight have more aggressive disease and are likely to die sooner, US researchers reported on Friday.

A dangerous type of breast cancer, known as inflammatory breast cancer, was seen in 45 per cent of obese patients, compared with 30 per cent of overweight patients and 15 per cent of patients of healthy weight.

“The more obese a patient is, the more aggressive the disease,” said Dr Massimo Cristofanilli of the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Centre, who led the study.

“We are learning that the fat tissue may increase inflammation that leads to more aggressive disease.”

Writing in the journal *Clinical Cancer Research*, Cristofanilli and Colleagues said they studied 606 women with breast cancer that had spread within the breast.

They classified them according to body mass index or BMI, a globally accepted measure of obesity. People with BMIs of below 25 are considered normal, while 25-29 marks overweight and 30 or above is clinically obese.

After five years, 56.8 per cent of obese women and 56.3 per cent of overweight women were still alive. But 67.4 per cent of the normal weight women had survived.

More than 56 per cent of women of normal weight survived 10 years, compared to 42.7 per cent of obese women and 41.8 per cent of overweight women.—MNA/Reuters

People celebrate the Hindu festival of Holi (Festival of Colours) in Barsana, in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, on 15 March, 2008. The tradition of Holi heralds the beginning of spring and is celebrated all over India.—INTERNET

Indonesia raises fuel prices for industrial uses

JAKARTA, 16 March — Indonesia's state-run oil and gas firm Pertamina announced on Saturday it has increased fuel prices by between 1.1 per cent and 4.6 per cent for corporate customers effective from the same day.

Under the new pricelist, low-grade gasoline for industrial uses sells at between 7,000 rupiah and 7,385 rupiah (between about 77 US cents and 81 US cents) per litre, depending on the distribution areas in the huge archipelago.

Diesel fuel is priced up to 8,192 rupiah (90 cents) per litre and kerosene 8,111 rupiah (89 cents) per litre, the company said in a statement.

MNA/Xinhua

Meg Whitman to co-chair McCain's campaign

SAN FRANCISCO, 16 March — Meg Whitman, eBay Inc.'s outgoing chief executive officer, will co-chair the national presidential campaign of US Senator John McCain, the presumptive Republican nominee.

The organization said on Friday Whitman, 51, would play a lead role in the campaign's financing and policy development.

Since Whitman joined

eBay in 1998, the 30-employee start-up has been transformed into a Fortune 500 company with nearly eight billion US dollars in revenue.

This success made Whitman one of the most powerful women in business and earned her a ranking among *Time* Magazine's list of the world's most influential people.

MNA/Reuters

Rain, floods kill 73 in Bolivia since November

LIMA, 16 March — Heavy rain and floods have killed 73 people, made five missing and affected 95,000 families in Bolivia since November, Bolivia's Civil Defence Department said on Friday.

Bad weather caused by

“La Nina”, or the extensive cooling of the central and eastern Pacific, has mainly caused damages in Chuquisaca Province in southern Bolivia, according to reports from La Paz, Bolivia's administrative capital.

A total of 22 deaths occurred in Chuquisaca, followed by Santa Cruz, Cochabamba and La Paz with 14 deaths each.

January was the most fatal month, and the international community has sent emergency aid to Bolivia.

Germany, Spain, Argentina, Brazil, Japan, Chile, the United States and some other countries as well as organizations like the United Nations and the World Bank have provided aid for Bolivia.

Bolivia's National Weather Service reports “La Nina” phenomenon has started to decrease and will disappear in April.

MNA/Xinhua



Firefighters check an area after a truck crashed into a passenger and cargo train near the town of Pyrgos in the western Peloponnese region, 320 kilometres (200 miles) southwest of Athens on 15 March, 2008. The truck driver killed and two passengers were injured, the Fire Service said. — INTERNET

50 feared dead in Albanian Army depot explosion

TIRANA, 17 March — At least 50 people working at the site of an Army depot have been feared dead in an explosion which occurred Saturday near the Albanian capital Tirana, it was reported.

The depot is located near Vora, about 15 kilometres west of Tirana. The explosion can be heard in Tirana and Durres, the biggest port city of Albania.

A witness told a local TV that there were at least 50 people working at the site, dismantling weapons, and they were feared killed in the explosion.

Albanian Prime Minister Sali Berisha said they still have not got the full information about the situation, and

the country's President Bamir Topi said that the exact casualties cannot be established yet.

Albania has destroyed some 46,000 tons of ammunition it has inherited from the past, and is continuing to scrap excess weaponry, hoping this might help the country get the ticket to a NATO membership at the alliance's April 2-4 summit in Bucharest, Romania.

Albania was the first country to destroy 16,000 tons of chemical agents in July last year through the Nunn-Lugar programme, which was launched by two US Senators for the elimination of chemical weapons and other substances.—MNA/Xinhua

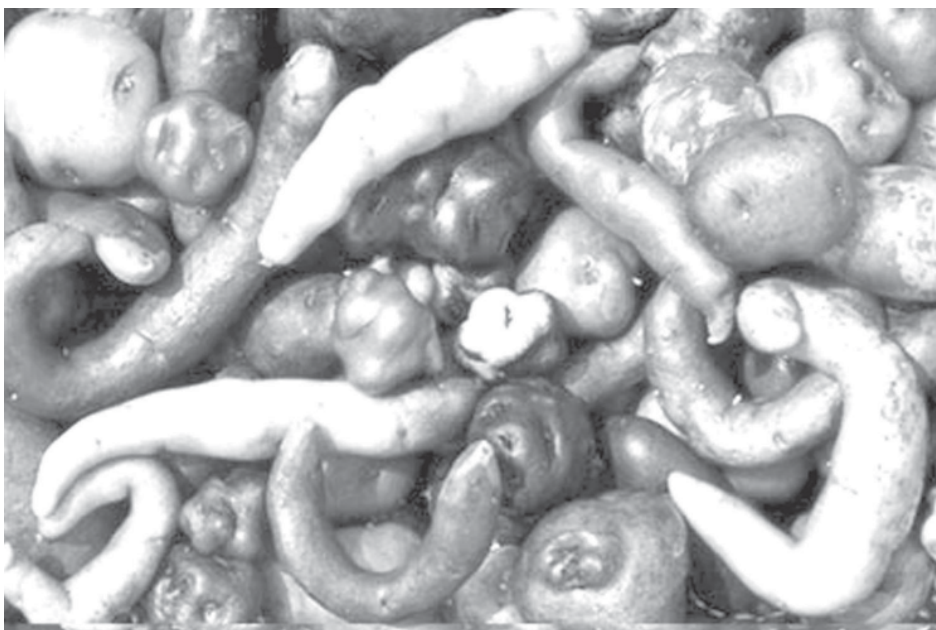


Albanian people wait for news of relatives after an explosion at an Army base some 16 km (10 miles) from the capital Tirana on 15 March, 2008.—INTERNET



Models present creations from Indian designer Monapali's Autumn/Winter 2008 collection at the Wills Lifestyle India Fashion Week in New Delhi on 15 March, 2008. More than 80 designers are showcasing their creations on the runway or in stalls at the five-day fashion week. — INTERNET

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Potatoes and sweet potatoes cultivated at the International Potato Centre in Lima, Peru. The United Nations is seeking photographers to 'capture the spirit of the spud' as part of a competition aimed at raising the profile of the humble tuber for International Year of the Potato.—INTERNET



Fishermen search for fish in the Matan Fada River during the Argungu fishing festival in Nigeria's Kebbi state on 15 March, 2008. INTERNET

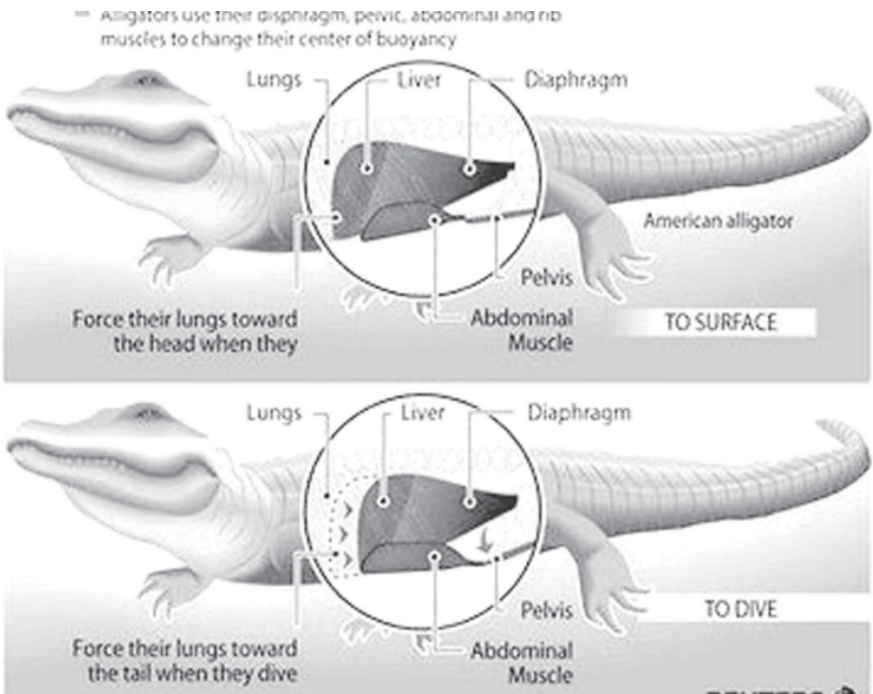


Dancers of International Akram Khan Group performing 'Bahok' dances at Dar al-Assad for Culture and Arts in Damascus on 15 March, 2008.—INTERNET

A Hello Kitty balloon floating at a parade. The Japanese cartoon figure popular with teenagers around the world. INTERNET



Alligators can stealthily maneuver through the water leaving nary a ripple, despite having neither fins nor flippers like other adept swimmers. Instead, they use special muscles to shift the position of their lungs, researchers said on Thursday. INTERNET



ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရန်ချိပ်ပိတ်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း

စဉ်	ပစ္စည်းအမျိုးအမည်	အရေအတွက်	တင်ဒါခေါ်ရက်	တင်ဒါပိတ်ရက်
1.	Special Grade Bauxite (Ks.)	357 Tons	17.3.2008	7.4.2008
2.	Glaze/ Frit (Ks.)	20 Tons	17.3.2008	7.4.2008
3.	Mechanical Spare Parts (Ks./FE)	7 Items	17.3.2008	21.4.2008
4.	Refractories For Glass Factory(FE)	1 Lot	17.3.2008	21.4.2008
5.	Electrical Spare Parts (Ks./FE)	13 Items	17.3.2008	21.4.2008
6.	Soda Ash Dense (FE)	4540 Tons	17.3.2008	21.4.2008

အမှတ် (၁) စက်မှုဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာ့ကြွေထည်မြေထည်လုပ်ငန်းရောင်းဝယ်ရေးဌာန၊ ရုံးအမှတ် (၄၁)နေပြည်တော်တွင် ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း ဆက်သွယ်စုံစမ်းပြီး တင်ဒါများလာရောက်ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။ တင်ဒါပုံစံတရားဝင် ဝယ်ယူထားသူများထံမှ တင်ဒါကိုသာ လက်ခံပါမည်။ (အသေးစိတ် သိလိုပါက စုံစမ်းရန် တယ်လီဖုန်းအမှတ် ၀၆၇-၄၀၈၂၉၈)

မြန်မာ့ကြွေထည်မြေထည်လုပ်ငန်း

Sinopec denies report of projected Q1, Q2 losses

BEIJING, 15 March — China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation (Sinopec) has denied a report that it would probably suffer losses in the first two quarters due to high crude prices, the *China Securities Journal* reported on Friday.

“Such reports are groundless and untrue,” an unnamed company official was quoted as saying in reference to an article in Thursday’s *21st Century Business Herald*.

Refining business undoubtedly lost money, but that was not the case for the whole company,

he said. “Sinopec’s oil and gas exploitation, gas stations and chemical segments are very profitable.”

It was also untrue that Sinopec booked a January profit of only one billion yuan (140.8 million US dollars), about a sixth or a seventh of the level in the same month of the past two years, he said. But he recognized that profits in the first quarter declined compared with the year-earlier period. Sinopec is scheduled to release its first quarter financial results in late April.

“The company’s refining profitability depends on the market condition and the national policy,” he said. “The current 110 US dollars per barrel on the international market is an appalling price.”

MNA/Xinhua



Pakistani security officials arrive to examine the site of a bomb explosion in Islamabad, Pakistan on 15 March, 2008.

INTERNET

Bomb kills foreign woman in Pakistan restaurant

ISLAMBAD, 16 March — A foreign woman was killed and US Embassy staff were wounded in a bomb attack on a restaurant in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad on Saturday night, police said.

Police Deputy Inspector General Shahid Nadeem Baloch said the victim was a Turkish woman who worked for a relief agency. Baloch said 11 people were wounded, eight of them foreigners.

Doctors at the hospital where the dead woman was taken gave conflicting accounts, identifying her as an American nurse working at the US Embassy.

“US Embassy staff were among those wounded,” US Embassy spokeswoman Kay

Mayfield said, but she could not confirm any death.

Pakistan has been battling Islamist militancy since joining the US-led campaign against terrorism after the September 11 attacks on the United States.

More than 500 people have been killed this year in militant-related violence, including a wave of suicide bombings.

Bombers have targeted US diplomats several times in the past. A suicide bomber killed a security guard outside Islamabad’s Marriott hotel last year, but attacks on soft targets like restaurants frequented by foreigners would mark a change in militant tactics.

MNA/Reuters

Five bodies found in Peru helicopter crash

LIMA, 15 March — Rescue teams found on Thursday five of the 10 bodies of the helicopter that crashed on Tuesday in northwestern Peru.

The preliminary reports said the rescue teams discovered five yet unidentified bodies at Chiriato hill in Santa Cruz Province, some 800 kilometres northwest of Peru’s capital Lima.

The Bell 412B 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. The wreckage of the helicopter, which disappeared while flying over a mountainous area difficult to get access with heavy rainfalls and fog, was found in a precipice Wednesday.

The 10 people aboard included two pilots and eight passengers being transferred by the helicopter rented by an mining exploration firm.

MNA/Xinhua

Afghan mobile phones cut after Taleban attacks

KANDAHAR, 16 March — Mobile phone operators have shut down their networks at night in parts of Afghanistan after attacks by Taleban militants who say troops use the signals to track them down, residents and a phone company official said on Saturday.

Residents in parts of southern Afghanistan reported their mobile telephones no longer worked at night and an official from one of the companies confirmed its network had been shut

down from dusk till dawn in some areas of the country.

The Taleban last month ordered mobile phone operators to switch off their networks from 5 p.m. till 7 a.m. and have attacked and destroyed around 10 mobile phone towers since then to drive home their threat.

The latest attack on a mobile phone tower came just before dawn on Saturday in the southern province of Kandahar, a mobile telephone company official said.

MNA/Xinhua



A man in a military uniform takes part in a demonstration in Madrid, on 15 March, 2008 marking the fifth anniversary of US led war in Iraq. The demonstrators were protesting against the current occupation of Iraq, Palestinian territories and Afghanistan.—INTERNET

Japan starts environment assessment on US Marines’ site

TOKYO, 16 March — Japan’s Defence Ministry on Saturday launched comprehensive environmental assessment on a US Marine Corps’ relocation site, said reports from the southern Japanese port city of Naha, capital of Okinawa Island.

The assessment work, which includes the evaluation of weather conditions, the impact on the ecological environment and noise levels from the aircraft, is conducted by the Okinawa Defence Bureau of the ministry at the US Marines’ Camp Schwab in Nago, Okinawa Prefecture, a planned relocation site for the Marine’s Futemma Air Station

in Ginowan.

Under an implementation agreement reached by Japan and the United States in May 2006, the Japanese Government agreed to build a new airfield at Camp Schwab in Nago by 2014 to relocate the Futemma Air Station from the densely-populated area of Ginowan.

The local governments, however, have repeated asked the defence authorities to consider the impact of aircraft noise on the neighbouring residential areas and the potential negative effect on local biological environment.

MNA/Xinhua



Fumigation against *Aedes Aegypti*, the mosquito which transmits dengue fever. A top Thai health official Friday warned of a surge in dengue fever after the mosquito-borne disease killed six people and infected nearly 6,000 this year.—INTERNET

Software “hiccup” undermines trip past Saturn moon

WASHINGTON, 15 March — A software malfunction prevented a key piece of equipment on the *Cassini* spacecraft from recording data as it flew through the plume from a geyser shooting off a moon of Saturn, NASA said late on Thursday.

NASA called the problem “an unexplained software hiccup” that came at a very bad time, preventing *Cassini*’s Cosmic Dust Analyzer instrument from collecting data for about two hours as it flew over the surface of the moon Enceladus on

Wednesday.

A key objective of the fly-by was to determine the density, size, composition and speed of particles erupting into space from the moon’s south pole in a dramatic plume.

Bob Mitchell, Cassini programme manager, said the problem meant that the instrument did not collect data as the craft flew

through the plume — a process lasting under a minute.

“When it went through the plume, it was not working properly,” Mitchell said in a telephone interview, expressing disappointment. “We had tested that software very carefully. We don’t know why it didn’t work properly.”—MNA/Reuters

Feelin’ groovy even a 10-minute workout can help

CHICAGO, 15 March— Exercising as little as 10 to 30 minutes a day can make overweight or obese older women get more done and feel better about their lives, US researchers said on Thursday.

They said even women who only exercised 10 minutes a day saw significant improvements in quality of life — they had more energy, less anxiety and were simply

happier. The study is among the first to examine how exercise can improve the quality of life of postmenopausal women who were extremely out of shape but otherwise healthy, said Dr Timothy Church of the Pennington Biomedical Research Centre in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

“This is by far the largest exercise trial which has ever looked at

quality of life,” Church said in a telephone interview. The results, which were presented at the American Heart Association’s Conference on Nutrition, Physical Activity and Metabolism in Colorado Springs, Colorado, update a 2007 study by Church and others in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

MNA/Reuters

Scientists discover gene that controls tomato shape

WASHINGTON, 16 March — US scientists have identified a gene that controls the shape of tomatoes, a discovery that could help unravel the mystery behind the huge morphological differences among edible fruits and vegetables.

The discovery was reported, as the cover article, in the March 14 issue of the journal *Science*.

The gene, dubbed SUN, is only the second ever found to play a significant role in the elongated shape of various tomato varieties, said

Esther van der Knaap, lead researcher in the study at Ohio State University.

As one of the most diverse vegetable crops in terms of shape and size variations, tomatoes have evolved from a very small, round wild ancestor into the wide array of cultivated varieties — some large and segmented, some pear-shaped, some oval, some resembling chili peppers — available through most seed catalogs and for sale in supermarkets.

MNA/Xinhua



People walk through the debris in front of CNN Center in downtown Atlanta on 14 March, 2008. A severe windstorm ripped through downtown Atlanta Friday night, downing trees, breaking windows and tearing holes in the roof of the Georgia Dome while the Southeastern Conference basketball tournament was in progress.—XINHUA

Japan’s space state lab section opens for business

HOUSTON, 15 March — A key component of a huge new orbital research laboratory was installed by spacewalking astronauts on Friday, launching construction of Japan’s signature contribution to the *International Space Station*.

Wearing protective masks and goggles,

station commander Peggy Whitson, Japanese astronaut Takao Doi and lead shuttle spacewalker Richard Linnehan floated into an equipment-jammed storage closet that will be hooked up in May with Japan’s main laboratory, named Kibo, or “hope”.

“This is a small step

for one Japanese astronaut, but a giant entrance for Japan to a greater and newer space programme. Congratulations,” Doi radioed to the Japan’s new space control centre outside Tokyo.

“We love our new room already,” added Whitson. “It looks great.”—MNA/Reuters



An Arowana dragon fish, a king red type, swims during an exhibition in Jakarta in February 2008. While the so-called “super red” arowana is disappearing in nature, demand for the undulating fish is booming in the tanks of Asia’s rich.—INTERNET

SPORTS



Arsenal’s William Gallas (R) takes a shot at goal against Middlesbrough’s Luke Young and goal-keeper Mark Schwarzer during their English Premier League soccer match at the Emirates stadium in London on 15 March, 2008.—INTERNET

Kezman pleased to draw former club Chelsea

BELGRADE, 16 March — Serbia striker Mateja Kezman was happy Fenerbahce drew his former club Chelsea in the Champions League quarterfinals.

“I am glad we are up against Chelsea, they were second on my wish list before the draw (on Friday),” Kezman told Belgrade’s B92 Website (www.b92.net).

“I would have preferred German side Schalke because they might be somewhat easier opposition but I’ll be delighted to play at Stamford Bridge again.”

Kezman was a disappointment in his only season at Chelsea in 2004-05. He moved on to Atletico Madrid before joining Fenerbahce in 2006. — MNA/Reuters



Manchester United’s Cristiano Ronaldo (C) scores against Derby County during their English Premier League soccer match at Pride Park in Derby, central England on 15 March, 2008. —INTERNET

Olympiakos go two points clear in Super League

ATHENS, 16 March — Olympiakos Piraeus beat Atromitos Athens 2-0 thanks to second half goals on Saturday to move two points clear at the top of the Super League.

Slovenian midfielder Mirnes Sisic opened the scoring four minutes into the second half when he got on the end of a cross from Predrag Djordjevic and fired in from close range. Julio Cesar scored the second five minutes from time when he scuffed home another cross from the right-hand side.

The win gives Olympiakos 58 points from 25 games, two ahead of Panathinaikos who will reclaim top spot if they win at Xanthi on Sunday. — MNA/Reuters

United back on top after Arsenal stumble again

LONDON, 16 March — Champions Manchester United went back to the top of the Premier League on Saturday after they won 1-0 at Derby County and Arsenal were held to a 1-1 draw by Middlesbrough at the Emirates Stadium. Arsenal looked set for a rare home defeat until Kolo Toure’s header went in off defender Matthew Taylor and goal-keeper Mark Schwarzer four minutes from time.

Former Arsenal forward Jeremie Aliadiere marked his return from a four-match ban by scoring against his old club after 25 minutes with a volley into the roof of Manuel Almunia’s net.

It was Arsenal’s fourth successive draw in the league and allowed United to move above them on goal difference.

United have 67 points from 29 matches, Arsenal have 67 from 30 while Chelsea kept the pressure on the top two with a 1-0 win at Sunderland. They have 64 points from 29 matches and face Arsenal at Stamford Bridge next weekend.

Cristiano Ronaldo was United’s hero at Pride Park, scoring with just 14 minutes to go as Derby, bottom of the table with only one league win all season and beaten 6-1 at Chelsea on Wednesday, offered far tougher resistance than United expected.

MNA/Reuters



Sunderland’s Roy O’Donovan (R) tackles Chelsea’s Michael Ballack during their English Premier League soccer match at The Stadium of Light in Sunderland, northern England on 15 March, 2008.—INTERNET

Bayern stunned by Lowly Energie Cottbus

BERLIN, 16 March — Lowly Energie Cottbus stunned Bayern Munich 2-0 on Saturday, handing the Bundesliga leaders only their second defeat in 24 matches this season.

Serbian striker Branko Jelic scored two first-half goals to lift the home side off the bottom of the table with only their fourth win of the season.

With 10 matches remaining, Bayern have 50 points, five more than Hamburg SV, who moved in front of Werder Bremen into second with a 1-0 win against Borussia Dortmund. Bremen host VfL Wolfsburg on Sunday. Bayern sorely missed defender Martin Demichelis, who was disciplined by Ottmar Hitzfeld and left behind in Munich on Friday after refusing the coach’s request to play in midfield.

“It was a disastrous day,” Hitzfeld told Premiere Television. “I had a feeling after 10 minutes it’d be difficult. We weren’t aggressive enough and let them have far too much space. There were just too many defensive lapses.”

Jelic put Cottbus in front in the 18th minute, slipping in unmarked between defenders Lucio and Daniel van Buyten to tap in an Ervin Skela cross from the right. — MNA/Reuters



Terdsak Jandaeng (L) of Thailand and WBO featherweight champion Steven Luevano of the US exchange punches during their title fight at the Mandalay Bay Events Center in Las Vegas, Nevada, on 15 March, 2008. Luevano won by unanimous decision.—INTERNET

Answers to yesterday’s Crosswords Puzzle

1	M	A	K	E	R	8	B	L	O	O	M	E	R			
	I	8	H	8	E	8	R	8	B	8	I	8	A			
8	G	R	A	N	D	E	E	8	E	S	S	E	N			
	R	8	K	8	R	8	T	8	S	8	T	8	C			
10	A	N	I	S	E	8	11	O	P	E	R	A	T	E		
	N	8	8	8	S	A	13	14	N	E	8	8	K	8	8	
15	16	T	H	R	U	S	T	8	17	18	S	T	R	E	A	M
	8	8	E	8	8	20	21	B	O	E	8	8	8	8	Y	
22	W	E	L	C	O	M	E	8	24	L	O	25	C	U	S	
	H	8	E	8	U	8	N	8	S	8	A	8	T			
26	E	X	A	C	T	8	27	I	N	T	E	N	S	E		
	A	8	S	8	D	8	T	8	A	8	E	8	R			
28	T	R	E	M	O	L	O	8	29	R	U	D	D	Y		



Real Madrid’s Raul Gonzalez tries to control the ball during their Spanish first division soccer match against Deportivo Coruna in Coruna on 15 March, 2008.—INTERNET

Real lose 1-0 to Depor as Riazor jinx strikes again

MADRID, 16 March — Real Madrid lost 1-0 against Deportivo Coruna in the Primera Liga on Saturday as they failed to break their jinx at the Riazor.

The Spanish champions have not won in La Coruna since November 1991 and never looked like breaking the sequence after losing to a second-half own-goal by Portugal defender Pepe. Real stay eight points clear of second-placed Barcelona but Frank Rijkaard’s side can close to within five with a win in Almeria on Sunday.

The match between Real Betis and Athletic Bilbao at the Manuel Ruiz de Lopera was suspended in the second half with the score at 2-1 after Bilbao goalkeeper Armando was hit in the face by a bottle thrown from the stands.

At the foot of the table, Real Murcia’s chances of avoiding relegation suffered a blow when they were beaten 4-2 at fellow strugglers Recreativo Huelva. In Saturday’s late game, Valencia host Sevilla at the Mestalla. — MNA/Reuters

Betis game abandoned after keeper hit by bottle

MADRID, 16 March — Real Betis’s Primera Liga match against Athletic Bilbao was abandoned on Saturday after visiting goalkeeper Armando was struck by a bottle thrown by a fan.

Bilbao were leading 2-1 during the second half at the Manuel Ruiz de Lopera stadium when a fan behind the goal threw what looked like a small plastic bottle full of liquid at Armando.

The keeper, who had gone to get the ball for a goalkick, was treated on the pitch and taken off on a stretcher. Referee Carlos Clos Gomez stopped the game with about 18 minutes left. — *MNA/Reuters*

Ronaldinho to miss Almeria game with injury

MADRID, 16 March — Ronaldinho was added to Barcelona’s lengthy injury list ahead of the trip to Almeria in the Primera Liga on Sunday.

The Brazil forward has a groin strain and was left out of the squad along with Lionel Messi, Giovanni dos Santos, Deco, Yaya Toure and Rafael Marquez.

Fullback Gianluca Zambrotta is suspended so coach Frank Rijkaard included three B team players for the trip south.

Leaders Real Madrid, who have an eight-point advantage over second-placed Barca, were at Deportivo Coruna on Saturday. — *MNA/Reuters*

Nigeria qualify for women’s soccer tournament

JOHANNESBURG, 16 March — Nigeria beat Ghana 2-0 on Saturday in Abuja to book a place in the women’s tournament at the Olympic Games in Beijing later this year.

Cynthia Uwak opened the scoring in the 38th minute and made sure of top place in the African qualifying group with a second goal two minutes from time.

Ghana, who finished runners-up in the group, play off against Brazil for the last place in the 16-team tournament at the August 8-24 Games.

The playoff will be on April 19 in Beijing, the day before the draw for the men’s and women’s tournaments. — *MNA/Reuters*

Jankovic breezes into 3rd round at windy Indian Wells

INDIAN WELLS (California), 16 March — Serbia’s world number four Jelena Jankovic crushed American wildcard Ahsha Rolle 6-0, 6-2 to reach the third round of the Pacific Life Open on Saturday.

Jankovic overcame the gusting winds at the Indian Well Tennis Garden

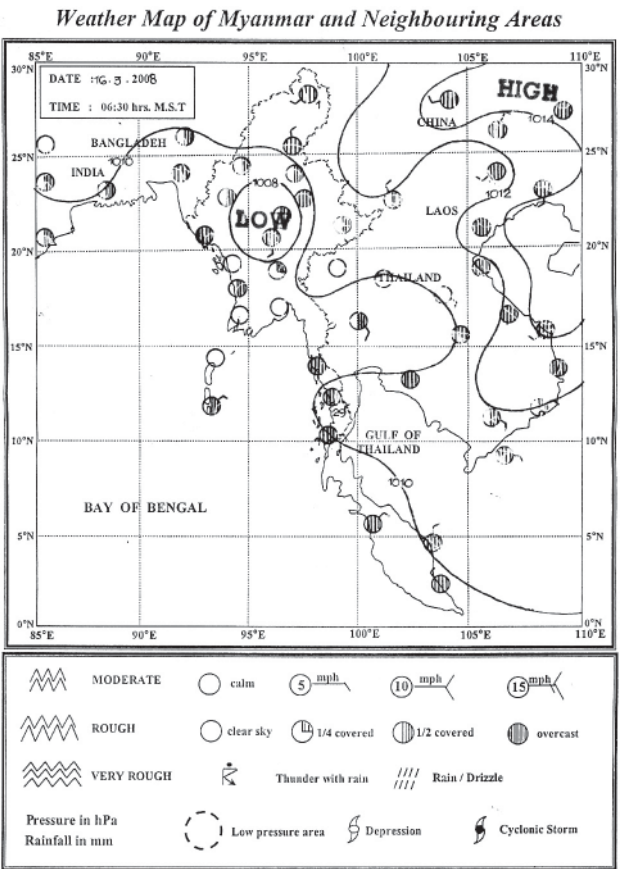
to break her opponent three times in each set and seal victory in just under an hour.

“The first rounds are always tough, especially in the windy conditions, and you have to be really focused and try to move your feet,” she told reporters.

“That’s what I did today so I’m really glad with my performance. I’m happy to get through.

— *MNA/Reuters*

Katsiaryna Kulpo and Olga Nesterovich of Belarus compete in the synchronised swimming preliminary duet technical routine at the European Swimming Championships in Eindhoven on 14 March, 2008. — *XINHUA*



WEATHER

Sunday, 16 March, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin State, Taninthayi Division, weather has been partly cloudy in Rakhine State, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (3°C) above March average temperatures in Shan State, Magway and Bago Divisions, (5°C) below March average temperatures in Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions and about March average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Minbu (41°C), Nay Pyi Taw, Chauk, Magway, Aunglan, Bago and Hinthada (40°C) each. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Myeik (1.14) inches.

Maximum temperature on 15-3-2008 was 102°F. Minimum temperature on 16-3-2008 was 71°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 16-3-2008 was 83%. Total sunshine hours on 15-3-2008 was (8.3) hours approx.

Rainfall on 16-3-2008 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 (7) mph from South at (12:30) hours MST on 15-3-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 17-3-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin, Chin and Northern Shan States, Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy 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: Isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in the extreme Northern and Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 17-3-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 17-3-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 17-3-2008: Partly cloudy

 Monday, 17 March View on today	7:00 am 1. တောင်တန်းသာသနာပြု ဆရာတော်ကြီး ဦးဥတ္တမသာရ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်	7:40 am 4. Dance variety	4:20 pm 3. “လုံ လုံ လုံ” (ဖိုးညွှတ်၊ မောဗျာ၊ ဖိုးသီရိဇော်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မလိခဇွဲထိုက်အောင်)	5:40 pm 10. (၆၃)နှစ်မြောက် တပ်မတော်နေ့၊ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
	7:25 am 2. To be healthy exercise	8:00 am 6. One village one product	4:30 pm 4. Musical programme	6:00 pm 11. Evening news
	7:30 am 3. Morning news	8:10 am 7. (၆၃)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့၊ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်	4:40 pm 5. နားဝင်ပီယံသူ့လက်သံ	6:30 pm 12. Weather report
		8:20 am 8. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ(၃၈)မြာမင်္ဂလာ	4:45 pm 6. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ-ပထမနှစ် (ရသစာပေအရေးအသား အထူးပြု)(ရသစာပေ)	6:35 am 13. အလှူရှာမယ်၊ လှူကမ္ဘာဝယ်
		8:30 am 9. International news	5:00 pm 7. မျိုးချစ်စိတ်ဓာတ်ရှင်သန် ထက်မြက်ရေးတေးများ	6:50 pm 14. Musical programme
		8:45 am 10. The mirror images of the oldies	5:15 pm 8. Musical programme	7:00 pm 15. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ချစ်တယ်--ချစ်တယ်” (အပိုင်း-၈)
		4:00 pm 1. စစ်ချီတေး၊ စစ်သည်တေး	5:30 pm 9. Cute little dancer	8:00 pm 16. Local news
		4:10 pm 2. တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြု တေးသီချင်းပြိုင်ပွဲဆုရတေးများ		17. International news
				18. Weather report
				19. Musical programme
				20. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “မေတ္တာမျဉ်းပြိုင်” (အပိုင်း-၁၂)

Coord meeting of Rakhine State Sub-commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution organized

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March — Rakhine State Sub-commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar held the meeting 1/2008 at the hall of Rakhine State General Adminis-

tration Department in Sittway on 8 March afternoon.

Chairman of the Rakhine State Sub-commission U Ye Naing Aung, who presided over the meeting, delivered an address. Those present discussed the law, the by-

law and directives for approval of draft constitution and setting up of the sub-commissions at different levels.

Later, the meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the meeting chairman.

MNA



Meeting 1/2008 of Rakhine State Sub-commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution in progress.

MNA

Kayin State Sub-commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution meets



Kayin State Sub-commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution meets. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March — Members of the commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Saw Ba Hlaing and U Lan Zone presided over the coordination meeting of the Kayin State Sub-commission Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution at the hall of Kayin State Peace and Development Council on 12 March

noon.

Commission Member U Saw Ba Hlaing delivered an opening speech. The chairman of Kayin State Sub-commission discussed the law, the by-law and directives for approval of draft constitution.

Commission Member U Lan Zone explained matters related to the Ward and Village-tract Sub-commissions and Commission Member U Saw Ba Hlaing, matters related to the in-

charge of the polling booth and its members. The Secretary of the Kayin State Sub-commission reported on formation of the District and Township Sub-commissions.

Those present took part in the general round of discussions.

Later, the meeting ended with the concluding remarks by Chairman of the Kayin State Sub-commission U Maung Maung.

MNA

Magway Division Sub-commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution holds meeting 1/2008

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March — Magway Division Sub-commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar held the meeting 1/2008 at the hall of Magway Division Peace and Devel-

opment Council on 8 March morning.

It was attended by members of the Commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Aung Hsan Win and U Khet Htein

Nan, Chairman of the Magway Division Sub-commission U Myint Thein and members, chairmen and secretaries of district and township sub-commission in Magway Division.

The meeting approved the setting up of district and township sub-commissions in the division and discussed the law, by-law and manuals for approval of draft constitution.

Those present took part in the general round of discussions, and the meeting came to a close in the afternoon. —MNA



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

Weather Forecast for (17-3-2008)

Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area:
Partly cloudy.

Yangon and neighbouring area:
Partly cloudy.

Mandalay and neighbouring area:
Partly cloudy.