

Senior General Than Shwe congratulates Mr Hu Jintao

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr Hu Jintao, on his re-election as the President of the People's Republic of China at the 11th National People's Congress of China on 15 March 2008. —MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sends message of congratulations to PRC Vice-President

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March — Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr Xi Jinping, on his election as the Vice-President of the People's Republic of China at the 11th National People's Congress of China on 15 March 2008. — MNA

New roads opened in Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 17 March — As a gesture of hailing the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day, newly-built Thitpokkon-Kwinpaukgyi rural gravel road was opened in Pathein, Ayeyawady Division today.

It was attended by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe and CEC Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Af-

fairs Col Thein Nyunt who inspected the road.

The Thitpokkon-Kwinpaukgyi new rural gravel road is two miles

and 1.8 furlongs long and 10 feet wide and it links Pathein-Ngwehsaung motor road.

It was built with the

fund of Pathein Township Development Affairs Committee.

People in seven villages in Thitpokgon

village-tract namely, Thit-pokkon, Taikkyigon, Padaukchaung, Bant-bwelon, Kyakhat-chaung, Natkagon and Ywathitkon

and Kwin-paukgyi and Ainsaunglay villages in have easy access to travelling (See page 8)



Commander Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe and Minister Col Thein Nyunt stroll along a new tarred road in Pathein.— MNA

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Let's work together to transform nation to new system

It has come to the knowledge of all people that a society with systematic development cannot be built without a constitution of its own. Their common goal is to exercise the multi-party democracy system and the market economy.

PAGE 9

A PENSIONER

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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 18 March, 2008

Strive for economic growth in accord with economic policies

The government has laid down economic policies and national economic plans and is implementing them for raising the living standard of every citizen.

The geographical conditions of the country create good opportunities for conducting not only the transit trade and re-export business but the trade services. Therefore the merchants and entrepreneurs are to make endeavours for realizing the targets grasping the good opportunities.

Development of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry indicates the existence of the force on which the State relies.

Services such as imports and exports, finance and transport of commodities were carried out smoothly. As a result, trade volume has increased yearly. Trading will become wider and wider as the national entrepreneurs extend their economic enterprises in accord with the economic policy of the State.

The national entrepreneurs are to make efforts for exporting quality products meeting international standards, seeking new markets and earning handsome prices.

It is necessary for UMFCCI to give information on economy and trade to its members.

By correctly implementing the projects in accord with the economic policy keeping in mind long-term interests of the entire people, UMFCCI will be able to contribute towards economic progress of the nation.

Ukraine says seeking long-term gas deal with Russia

KIEV, 17 March— Ukraine is seeking a long-term agreement on gas supplies from Russia’s Gazprom, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko said on Friday, after the two former Soviet neighbours resolved their latest energy squabble.

Kiev on Thursday signed a deal with Gazprom that detailed supply volumes and prices for 2008, to the relief of European countries that get almost a quarter of their gas from Russia via Ukraine and are wary of any cuts to supplies caused by disputes.

But the two countries, whose frequent gas disagreements have jangled EU nerves after a brief supply cut in January 2006, have not yet signed a deal for next year.

We would like to have strategic relations with Gazprom, so that our contracts with Gazprom could last three, five, or if possible, 10 years, in which prices would be forecast and the balance of supply be stable,” Tymoshenko told a news conference.

MNA/Reuters

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

Vice-Mayor inspects development tasks in Dalla Township

YANGON, 16 March — Central Executive Committee member (Yangon Division In-charge) of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa inspected the construction of Ah Hta Ka bridge which is 143 feet long on Baho Road in Seikkyi Khanaungto Township, Yangon South District, this morning.

He met the executives, members of the USDA, departmental heads, members of social organization and town-selders in Dhamapite Monastery.

On behalf of the USDA, he donated K 100,000 for Township People’s Hospital and Auxiliary Fire Brigade each.

He also comforted



Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa meeting with departmental officials, town-selders and members of social organization in Seikkyi Khanaungto Township.— YCDC

the patients receiving medical treatment at Dalla Township Hospital and Phyo Saytana free clinic.

The Vice-Mayor met the executives, members of the Township USDA, departmental heads, members of social

organization and town-selders in Mahathingyan Pagoda.

The Vice-Mayor and family donated K 300,000 for the construction of Dhama-

dipane Yarpyay Beikman.

The Vice-Mayor inspected Dalla Township water supply pumping project and gave necessary instructions.

MNA

7th Asian Billiards Championship and 9th Asian U-21 Snooker Championship to be held

YANGON, 16 March—The coordination meeting for holding of the 7th Asian Billiards Championship and 9th Asian U-21 Snooker Championship hosted by Myanmar was held at Aung San Stadium here this morning.

First, General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik made a speech on the occasion.

Next, Chairman of Myanmar Billiards and Snooker Federation U Soe Myint explained matters on holding of the championship.

Afterwards, those present made suggestions for successful holding of the championships and the meeting came to a close.

The championship will be held at Kandawgyi Palace Hotel from 5 to 12 April.

Myanmar, Pakistan, India, Iraq, Thailand, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea, Qatar, Iran, Vietnam, Bahrain, UAE, People’s Republic of China, Indonesia, Singapore and Sri Lanka will participate in the championship.—MNA

UMFCCI annual meeting held

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March—Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry held second session of its 17th annual general meeting yesterday.

At the meeting, President of UMFCCI U Win Myint presided over the meeting and made a speech. Chairman of the committee for supervising export and import Services Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe and Patron of UMFCCI Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein delivered addresses.

Next, General Secretary of UMFCCI U Sein Win Hlaing briefed on the executive committee’s 2007-08 annual report and financial statement.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks by President of UMFCCI U Win Myint.— MNA

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“WORLD TB DAY”

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Venezuelan President hits back at Bush's accusation

CARACAS, 16 March—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said Sunday that US President George W Bush was a “terrorist” responsible for “genocide.”

Chavez made the remarks on his weekly “Alo, Presidente” television and radio show, in response to a Wednesday speech in which Bush charged him with squandering

Venezuela’s oil wealth on an anti-American campaign, and supporting “terrorists” in Colombia.

“The president of the United States himself has come out and attacked us and attacked me personally, calling me a demagogue. Well, I am calling him a terrorist and genocidal,” he said.

Chavez also rejected Bush’s allegation that

Venezuelans are suffering hunger, saying that instead they are “better fed than ever.” In the United States, by contrast, there are 30 million poor people, he added.

“The people taking hits from their own government are in the United States, which has an economic crisis,” Chavez said.

Internet



Calligrapher He Wenjun writes a large Chinese character “long,” meaning dragon, with a 3.8 metre and 54 kilogramme ink brush at Beihu square in Nanchong of southwest China’s Sichuan Province on 15 March, 2008 to deliver his good wishes for Beijing Olympic Games, which will start this August. —XINHUA

Canada’s group demands withdrawal of its Afghan troops

OTTAWA, 17 March—A Canadian anti-war group is planning rallies in 20 cities across Canada later Saturday to voice their opposition against ongoing conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq and demand the government withdraw troops from Afghanistan. “This war has nothing to do with the defence of

democracy or women’s rights in Afghanistan and everything to do with advancing US strategic interests in the region,” the Canadian Peace Alliance said in a news release.

“We reject sending our youth to serve as cannon fodder in Afghanistan, where 78 Canadians soldiers have now died,

with hundreds wounded, and even more psychologically damaged in an unjust, illegal war.”

Protests are scheduled for Saturday night in almost all of provincial capitals as well as the national capital Ottawa and other big cities as Vancouver, Calgary and Montreal.—MNA/Xinhua

Two Afghans killed in suicide attack on NATO convoy

KHOST (Afghanistan), 17 March—A suicide car bomb attack on a convoy of NATO-led forces in southeastern Afghanistan on Saturday killed two Afghan civilians, an official said. One NATO soldier

was wounded in the attack which happened on a road outside the town of Khost, close to the border with Pakistan. US troops form the bulk of foreign forces in eastern Afghanistan.

“One child and one elderly man have been killed and three more civilians were wounded,” said Dawlat Qayoumi, district chief of Mandozai where the attack took place.

MNA/Reuters

Colombia seizes over 11 tons of cocaine in two days

BOGOTA, 17 March—Colombian anti-drug authorities have dealt a heavy blow to smugglers in the past two days, seizing more than 11 tons of cocaine, police said on Saturday.

At least seven tons of cocaine, heading for the United States and hidden in several containers, were seized in the Caribbean coastal city of Cartagena in northwest of the country Saturday.—MNA/Xinhua

US drug smuggler caught as swallowed capsules burst

SAN JOSE (Costa Rica), 17 March—An American in Costa Rica was caught smuggling nearly a pound of cocaine (0.4 kilo) in his stomach after he went into convulsions on a plane bound for Miami, police said on Friday. The 22-year-old man swallowed dozens of capsules stuffed with the drug before boarding a plane on Thursday in the Costa Rican capital, San Jose.—MNA/Reuters

Portuguese police seize 514 kilos of cocaine

LISBON, 17 March —Portugal’s Judicial Police confiscated 514 kilos of cocaine hidden inside a container allegedly used to transport paper to Alicante, Spain, Lusa news agency reported on Friday.

The drug had a high degree of purity and was compressed and packaged inside carton boxes weighing a little bit over one kilo each, police officers were quoted as saying.—MNA/Xinhua

Iraqis inspect the site of a suicide attack in Baghdad’s Bab al-Sharji district on 13 March, 2008.

INTERNET

US soldier killed by small arms fire in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 17 March — An American soldier was shot dead by insurgent’s small arms fire during combat operations in southwestern Baghdad on Saturday, the US military said on Sunday.

The soldier was announced dead in a military medical facility at about 3:30 pm (1230 GMT) as a result of fatal wounds suffered by the attack which occurred an hour earlier, a military state-ment said.

The latest death brings the number of US soldiers who have been killed in Iraq to about 3,988 since the outbreak of the Iraq war in 2003, according to media count based on Pentagon figures.—MNA/Xinhua

My Lai massacre survivor Troung Thi Le cries during the 40th anniversary of the My Lai massacre in My Lai village, about 930 km (578 miles) south of Hanoi, on 16 March, 2008. My Lai, a hamlet in Son My village in central Quang Ngai Province, is the site of the killing of 504 civilians, mostly women and children, by US soldiers on 16 March, 1968, the worst recorded US War crime committed in Vietnam

INTERNET





A traditional temple fair kicks off at the Nanhai God Temple in Guangzhou, southern China's Guangdong Province, on 16 March, 2008.—XINHUA

State of emergency lifted on Canadian island

OTTAWA, 17 March — A state of emergency was lifted Saturday on an island in Canada's eastern Newfoundland and Labrador Province after a fierce storm dumped more than 60 centimetres of snow and triggered an avalanche, reports reaching here said.

The state of emergency, declared on Friday after two days of severe blizzard conditions, was lifted early Saturday morning, announced mayor of the region of Fogo Island, Gerald McKenna.

Fierce snow dumped enough snow to cause an avalanche Thursday, which damaged properties and a bridge in the region, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

(CBC) said, adding snow and gale force winds made roads impassable.

The mayor said crews worked through the night to get the roads open, and

things have improved considerably.

More snow is forecast for the region on Monday and Tuesday.

Xinhua

6.4 -Richter Scale quake jolts Aceh

JAKARTA, 17 March — An earthquake with magnitude of 6.4 rocked Aceh Province in the northern tip of Sumatra Island on Saturday evening, no damage or

casualty was reported, local meteorology agency said here.

The quake struck at 21:43 Jakarta time (1443GMT) with an epicentre of 200 kilome-

tres northwest Sinabang town of the province and 10 kilometres under sea bed, an official of the agency Andi Suryani said.

The intensity of the quake was not felt on land, she said.

"It is because the epicentre of the quake is far from the land," Suryani told Xinhua.

In Sinabang town, the closest area to the epicentre, there were no reports of damage or casualty, said a military officer in charge of the Aceh provincial military command who only gave his name as Bachtiar.

Xinhua

12 killed, 30 injured in Peruvian bus crash

LIMA, 17 March — At least 12 people were killed and another 30 injured in a serious bus collision in Peru's northwestern Ancash Province, Police said on Saturday.

Police said the crash happened on the Pan-American Highway when a fully-packed bus tried to overtake another vehicle and collided with an oncoming bus. Twelve people were killed on the spot and the injured have been sent to nearby hospitals for treatment, Police added. —Xinhua

Indonesia to join UN peacekeeping mission in Lebanon

JAKARTA, 17 March — The Indonesia will send soon 90 military police personnel to join UN peacekeeping forces in Lebanon, a military spokesman said on Sunday.

"The military chief will of course discuss the matter with President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono shortly after he has returned from his overseas trip," Antara news agency quoted Head of the military headquarters' Information Service Rear Marshal Sagom Tamboen as saying.

"We will prepare the personnel shortly after the president and the military chief have arrived at a final decision. To be sure, we are ready," Sagom said.

On Friday, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono met with Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Siniora on the sidelines of the 11th Organization of Islamic Conference (ICO) Summit in Dakar, Senegal. At his meeting with Siniora, Yudhoyono reiterated Indonesia's support for Lebanon's sovereignty.

Xinhua

All Items from Xinhua News Agency

Chinese modern design exhibition opens in London

LONDON, 17 March — An exhibition exploring the creative energy in modern China opens Saturday at the Victoria & Albert Museum (V&A) in the British capital.

The V&A's spring exhibition, dubbed China Design Now, is the first in Britain to showcase the recent explosion of new design in China and the first attempt to understand the impact of rapid economic development on architecture and design in China's major cities.

The exhibition displays the work of Chinese and international designers, focusing on architecture, fashion and graphic design

as well as film, photography, product and furniture design, youth culture and digital media.

Around 100 designers are featured, with Chinese accounting for more than 95 per cent of the total.

Mark Jones, director of the V&A, said: "The tremendous pace of change (in China) has inspired a whole new generation of

designers and architects who are shaping fashion, product and urban design in China's big cities."

"We need to understand what is happening in China and the aim of this exhibition is to help people to get a snapshot of the development of design in today's China," he said.

Xinhua



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. —XINHUA

EU nations to sign visa deal with US next week

BRUSSELS, 17 March — Three or four more European Union states will sign visa agreement with the United States next week, US

Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff said here on Sunday.

Currently, only 15 EU member states enjoy the US visa waiver. Citizens from Greece and 11 of the 12 newest states — Slovenia is the exception — are obliged to have visas, even for a short stay, when they travel to America.

Top justice officials from the EU and the United States discussed Thursday in Brdo, Slovenia, the issue of the US Visa Waiver Programme, which the EU hopes will allow all EU citizens to travel to America without a visa as soon as possible.

Xinhua



A public transport bus burns dramatically after an accident in Kolkata, India on 15 March, 2008. —XINHUA



Visitors gather at the Fiat booth during the last weekend of the 78th Geneva International Motor Show, on 15 March, 2008, in Geneva, Switzerland.

INTERNET

ECONOMIC NEWS

B'desh decides to withdraw import duty on edible oil

DHAKA, 17 March — The Bangladeshi caretaker government has decided to withdraw customs duty on import of edible oil considering its soaring prices, said a senior official here on Sunday.

“The National Board of Revenue (NBR) would issue a circular in this regard within a day or two,” Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam said at a Press briefing. NBR Chairman Muhammed Abdul Mazid, who was present at the briefing, said there is 10 per cent duty on edible oil.

The price of edible oil should come down following the duty withdrawal and its price on the international market has also declined, he said. —MNA/Xinhua

Alitalia agrees to be sold to Air France-KLM

ROME, 17 March—Alitalia has agreed to be bought by Air France-KLM, the world’s biggest airline by revenues, in a deal valuing the near-bankrupt airline’s equity at just 138 million euros — far less than expected.

The sale of the loss-making airline is a hot issue ahead of Italy’s general election on 13-14 April and Air France-KLM has stipulated it wants approval from the next government as well as from Alitalia’s labour unions.

Opposition leader Silvio Berlusconi, who is currently ahead in opinion polls, criticized the sale to Alitalia’s long-time partner and European neighbour, saying he favours an Italian solution.—MNA/Reuters



An actor dressed in historical Ottoman outfits to resemble Sultan Mehmet the Conqueror rides a horse during a festival promotion through a shopping street of Istiklal in Istanbul on 15 March, 2008.—INTERNET

Investor sits in front of an electronic board at a private trading floor in Bangkok, Thailand on 17 March, 2008. Thai shares down 1.2 percent at 809.49 points midday, tracking losses in most external bourses amid jitters over health of US financial markets.

INTERNET



UAE’s Taqa in acquisition talks with Shell, ExxonMobil

ABU DHABI, 17 March—The Abu Dhabi National Energy Company (Taqa) of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is in talks with Shell and Exxon-Mobil to acquire their equity interests in several fields and infrastructure in the North Sea, local newspaper *Gulf News* reported on Saturday.

Taqa is interested in the Tern, Eider, Cormorant North, South Cormorant fields and related sub-sea satellite fields and infrastructure in the North Sea, according to the report. The negotiations are being conducted by Taqa’s wholly-owned subsidiary Taqa Bratani.

Oil prices hit fresh high at US\$111.42

SINGAPORE, 17 March—Oil prices soared to a new intraday trading high above US\$111 in Asian trade Monday as the US dollar slumped to fresh lows against the euro, dealers said.

New York’s main contract, light sweet crude for April delivery, briefly traded at a new all-time high of US\$111.42, breaking the previous peak of US\$111 set last Thursday.

The contract closed Friday at the end of US trading hours at US\$ 110.21.

The surge came as the euro hit a new lifetime high above US\$1.58 in Asian

trading Monday while the US unit fell to as low as 96.57 yen, a level not seen since September 1995.

“We can continue to expect strong prices for oil and commodities like gold in the near term,” said Victor Shum, an analyst with energy consultancy Purvin and Gertz in Singapore. The record-breaking spree has been fuelled by investors rushing into commodities including oil, which they see as a safe haven amid rising concerns over the US economy and a credit squeeze.—Internet

Arroyo orders promotion of corn farming

MANILA, 17 March — Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has ordered a nationwide adoption of a corn-based farmer-scientists research, development and extension-training

programme to liberate upland farmers from hunger and poverty, said the Presidential Palace on Sunday.

Arroyo said in an executive order that adoption of the programme

is part of government plan to develop at least two million hectares of new agribusiness lands, including 280,250 hectares of new areas for corn production, which are tilled by more than 20 million poor upland farmers dependent on corn grits for food and do not have enough grain for consumption.

She said the programme integrates agricultural research and development, and seeks to help poor corn farmers grow multiple crops and livestock to boost their income.

MNA/Xinhua

Hong Kong singer Kelly Chen poses for photographers to promote movie ‘An Empress and the Warriors’ in a Hong Kong shopping mall on 16 March, 2008.

INTERNET



Chinese, Japanese youth celebrate exchange year of youth

BEIJING, 17 March — Some 2,000 Chinese and Japanese youth celebrated here Saturday afternoon the opening ceremony of the China-Japan Friendly Exchange Year of the Youth, marking the official launch of a year-long youth exchange programme.

Chinese President Hu Jintao met with principal members of the 1,000-strong Japanese delegation at Renmin

University in Beijing and is expected to attend the ceremony later this afternoon.

The China-Japan Friendly Exchange Year of the Youth was created last year by China Premier Wen Jiabao and Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda when the two met over lunch in Singapore at the Asian Summit in November. A MoU on the exchange year was signed during

Fukuda's China visit in December.

It also marks the 30th anniversary of the signing of the China-Japan 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.

MNA/Xinhua



A student of Beijing International Studies University (L) introduces her school to a Japanese student in Beijing, capital of China, on 14 March, 2008.

XINHUA



Spacewalker Rick Linnehan with the earth in the background works to complete the assembly of the Canadian Space Agency's two-armed robotic system Dextre during an extravehicular excursion from the International Space Station in this image from NASA TV on 15 March, 2008. —XINHUA

Brown under fresh pressure over Iraq war

LONDON, 17 March — British Prime Minister Gordon Brown is under fresh pressure from opposition parties over the Iraq war with the Conservatives calling for a Privy Council inquiry into the “origins and conduct” of the war and the Liberal Democrats demanding for an “early and full” withdrawal of British troops. The Conservatives call for a comprehensive Iraq war inquiry.

Its shadow Foreign Secretary William Hague said on Sunday the fifth anniversary of the war was the right time for a full probe.

The Liberal Democrats leader Nick Clegg said on Sunday Iraq was the biggest strategic failure of British foreign policy for decades, demanding for an “early and full” withdrawal of British troops.

MNA/Xinhua

G-20 environment meeting minimizes gas emissions of self

CHIBA (Japan), 17 March — In close accordance with its topic, the fourth ministerial meeting of the Gleneagles Dialogue on Climate Change, Clean Energy and Sustainable Development which is being held in Chiba city, east of Tokyo, set “zero greenhouse gas

emissions” for itself.

Attendees rode fuel-cell vehicles from the point they arrived at Narita International Airport; the convention centre and hotels use eco-generation system to provide hot air and water and save water resource with purifying systems;

recycled products are used throughout the meeting, organizers said.

Furthermore, participating officials were recommended to wear warm clothes for the sake of lowering heating system temperatures at the meeting hall and hotel rooms. — MNA/Xinhua



BBC reporters arrested in Irish paramilitary probe

DUBLIN, 17 March — Irish police arrested 11 men including some BBC journalists over the weekend as part of a probe into paramilitary activity, the police and the BBC said on Sunday.

Seven men aged between 30 and 48 were arrested in Donegal, a county in the northwest of the Republic of Ireland that borders the British Province of Northern Ireland, as part of an investigation into paramilitary activity, the police said.

In a later statement they said a further four men had been arrested and detained under the Offences Against the State Act.

The British public broadcaster said its journalists were among the 11 arrested.

“The journalists were working on a BBC Northern Ireland current affairs investigation and had full editorial authority under the BBC’s guidelines,” the BBC said on its news.bbc.co.uk website. “A spokesperson said the other parties present were fully aware that they were with BBC journalists,” the BBC said. — MNA/Reuters

In this photo courtesy of Dorothea Nowatius, cars sit sandwiched together by the side of Interstate 40 just outside Flagstaff, Ariz after white-out conditions led to a series of multiple vehicle collisions on a stretch of highway four miles long Sunday afternoon, 16 March, 2008.

INTERNET



Confectioner Livia Pieri removes the casting mold from a white chocolate Easter bunny in the confectionery store 'Beck Glatz Confiseur' in Berne, Switzerland, in this 28 Feb, 2008 file photo. Easter is on Sunday, 23 March, 2008.—INTERNET

Britain's ruling Labour Party suffers lowest support

LONDON, 17 March — Britain's ruling Labour Party's approval ratings have slumped to their lowest level since 1983, a survey showed on Sunday.

Labour's support rate slipped to 27 per cent, 16 points behind the opposition Conservatives, amid growing concerns over the government's economic competence, *The Sunday Times* reported.

Analysts said if the poll results were repeated in a general election,

Conservative leader David Cameron would lead his party to victory with an overwhelming majority of 120 seats in the House of Commons, while Cabinet ministers including Chancellor of the Exchequer Alistair Darling would lose their seats in Parliament.

The main cause of the swing to the Conservatives is the collapse of faith in Prime Minister Gordon Brown and Darling's stewardship of the economy, according

to the survey.

Eighty-three per cent of the respondents believed that the economy will either grow more slowly over the next 12 months or slide into recession.

Only 21 per cent of those polled said they would trust Labour more than the Conservatives in terms of raising the standard of living for their families, with the Tories taking a decisive lead on the issue.

MNA/Xinhua

Argentina, Brazil to drop US dollar in bilateral transactions

BUENOS AIRES, 17 March — Argentina and Brazil are to scrap bilateral commercial transactions in US dollars and start using their own currencies from August, an official in charge of currency settlement at the Argentine Central Bank said here Saturday.

The new payment system is aimed at reducing costs in commercial transactions and would benefit small and medium-sized enterprises, the official said.

Under the new

system, there will be a unified exchange rate between the real and peso, the so-called reference rate, which will be applied by Brazilian and Argentine central banks at the end of each day.

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva reached an agreement to establish a new payment system with his Argentine counterpart Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner during his visit to Argentina in February.

Technical preparations are underway for the new system, which the two

countries will adopt in several steps due to the large amount of bilateral trade.

MNA/Xinhua

Austria says deadline extended for al-Qaeda hostages

BAMAKO, 17 March — Austria said on Sunday it had won more time to try to secure the release of two Austrian tourists

being held hostage by al-Qaeda in Mali's remote northeast Kidal Region.

The captives, Andrea Kloiber, 43, and Wolfgang Ebner, 51, went missing while on holiday in Tunisia last month and the Algerian-based Al-Qaeda in the Islamic

Maghreb said it seized them on 22 February.

Al-Qaeda had set a deadline of midnight on Sunday for its demands to be met, but Austria said this had been extended for an unspecified amount of time.

MNA/Reuters

Belgian hostages held by Guatemalan farmers released

MEXICO CITY, 17 March — Guatemalan authorities said four Belgian tourists held hostage by a group of Guatemalan farmers were released late Saturday, according to reports from Guatemala City.

Ronaldo Robles, the communications secretary of Guatemala's presidency, said late Saturday that the four Belgians were freed by the farmers after security troops carrying out a search along the Rio

Dulce river located them.

He said the hostages will be taken to a naval base on the northeastern coast and then flown to Guatemala City early Sunday.

The two Belgian couples, aged between 59 and 64, were taken hostage Friday along with two local guides in Rio Dulce, a tourist resort some 250 kilometres northwest of the capital Guatemala City.

MNA/Xinhua

Rival wins seat, plays down row with Iran President

QOM (Iran), 17 March — Former chief nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani on Saturday celebrated winning a seat in Iran's Parliament by saying he differed with the President over style not substance and that he would work with the government.

Larijani quit his post last year citing differences with President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad about how

to handle Iran's dispute with the West over its nuclear programme. The President has taken a notably combative line.

Speaking in Qom, the city where he won a seat in Friday's election, Larijani offered to co-operate with the government and said he had no ideological dispute with Ahmadinejad.

MNA/Reuters

Controversy arises from London Mayor's secret donation

LONDON, 17 March — London Mayor Ken Livingstone, who is seeking a third term as mayor in the May election, has been accused of receiving a secret donation from a property developer.

According to the report on the website of Times Online Sunday, in 2004, the property tycoon Gerald Ronson made a donation worth 4,990 pounds (about 9,980 US dollars) to Livingstone, who later won the 2004 London mayoral election.

The fund is just 10

pounds below the 5,000 threshold at which donations have to be publicly registered with the Electoral Commission in accordance with the rules governing donations to political parties in the usual way.

Opposition party criticized Livingstone for his use of a legal "loophole" which has allowed him to keep secret the identities of campaign donors and support for the businessman's plan for the 202-metre skyscraper.

MNA/Xinhua



This undated image shows tortoises in the Southern California desert are facing an illness that carries symptoms of a bad cold but is potentially deadly to the federally protected species. The disease can damage the tortoise's upper respiratory tract. It can cause a runny nose with serious consequences, mucus hinders the animal's sense of smell, making it harder to find food.—INTERNET

Minister meets officials in Pyay

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March — Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo met with State/ District and Township level departmental officials and social organization members at Thirikhettaya Yadana City Hall in Pyay yesterday.

After the meeting, the minister inspected construction of new No 3 Police Station and measures taken for agriculture and livestock breeding.

MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo gives instructions to officials and social organization members in Pyay.— MNA

Employees of F & R Ministry receive computer skills

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March—Basic Computer Course No 1/2008 of Ministry of Finance and Revenue was opened at the ministry here today.

The course organized by the committee for information and communication technology was opened with an address by Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun.

It was also attended by Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe, Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein,



Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun addresses opening of basic computer course 1/2008.— F&R



directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the ministry, and trainees.

MNA

Phayagon sub-power station inspected

YANGON, 17 March — Deputy Minister for Electric Power No 2 Brig-Gen Win Myint went to Thanlyin Township yesterday and inspected construction of sub-power station.

During his tour in Thanlyin township, the deputy minister looked into 230/33/11KVA (100 MVA) Phayagon sub-power station in the township, construction of switch yard, connection of 230 KV grid and staff quarter.

MNA

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa open taps of Gyobyu water pipe line in Dagon Myothit (North) Township.

YCDC

Ngamoeyeik-Gyobyu water pipe line opened in Dagon Myothit (North) Tsp

YANGON, 17 March — As a gesture of hailing the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day, the Union Solidarity and Development Association organized a ceremony to open Ngamoeyeik-

Gyobyu water pipe line at the junction of Bayintnaung road and Yarzathingyan road in Dagon Myothit (North) Township.

CEC Members of USDA Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Vice-

Mayor Col Maung Pa, Yangon Division USDA Secretary U Aye Myint, officials concerned attended the ceremony and opened the pipe line by cutting the ribbon. Then, the mayor unveiled the signboard and the CEC members opened the taps of the pipe.

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin gave a speech on the occasion. A total of 1200 USDA membership applications of residents of Nos 49, 50 and 51 wards were presented to the mayor.

Ngamoeyeik-Gyobyu water pipe line opened today runs 1,836,669 feet and will provide residents of 2000 homes with sufficient drinking water.

MNA



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

The second best time is now.

Let's work together to transform nation to new system

A Pensioner

Now, the membership of the United Nations is more than 190. Each of the member countries has sovereign powers and a constitution. Every country is working hard through own constitution for development of the society concerned.

Myanmar, like other developing countries, strove a lot to be free from the yoke of the colonial rule. The nation fell under the subjugation of the colonialists for over 100 years and under the Fascists for three years. It regained independence on 4 January 1948, and then it exercised the 1947 constitution.

The 1947 constitution was based on the parliamentary democracy system. So, the political party that won votes most gained a dominant position in the parliament. However, the ruling political parties lacked the democratic practice, let alone encouraging the democratic practice of the entire people. The parties played political give-and-take games for coming to power of the party concerned. They canvassed for votes, giving the people promises excessively, thereby splitting up each party into several factions. In consequence, the Union was on the point of collapse, and the nation's development hopes were diminished severely.

So, the Tatmadaw had to take up State duties in March 1962. Evil consequences diverted the people's attention from the parliamentary democracy system to Socialism. Then, the 1974 constitution was approved to practise Socialism. However, it was one-party system, so, the democratic exercise ebbed gradually. The centralized economic system hindered the process for national development, and the people were under the load of the system. The unrest of the nation was fueled by internal and external interference, so Myanmar was close to becoming a

battle-field, and the nation remained hopeless for development. So, the Tatmadaw again had to take State responsibilities in September 1988.

It can be deduced from the past historic events that the Tatmadaw had to take over State power in times of nation's economic recession following political unrest. And the Tatmadaw had to make earnest efforts to surmount the political unrest and economic decline, thus reflecting the leadership role it played in the national politics.

The time Myanmar has passed after regaining independence to date can be divided into three parts—the parliamentary democracy period, the Myanma Socialist Programme Party period and the period during which the Tatmadaw played in the national political leadership role.

In the present time, the major requirement of the people is to restore stability and peace, improve socio-economic life and ensure flourishing of democracy. That is the national goal of the entire people or the national politics of Myanmar. The Tatmadaw is paving the national political way to the national goal.

Now, peace and stability has been restored and internal peace has been built throughout the nation. The processes of building good foundations for improving the socio-economic life of the people have been completed nearly cent per cent. The State constitution, which can guarantee flourishing of democracy, has been drafted.

Actually, democracy practice of a nation is to be based on the history and experiences of the nation. According to the global events, it took about 400 years for Western democracies, and 40 years for eastern Asian countries to establish democracy. During the

periods, the nations saw battles, conflicts and reconstruction many times.

In the end, they found a solution that mutual trust and reliance is higher than democracy, and democracy cannot be practised without mutual trust and reliance. So, the government could build peace with national race armed groups through mutual understanding and reliance in the time of the Tatmadaw government. The representatives of various national races and the people from all strata of life could lay down the foundation of the State constitution through mutual understanding and reliance.

The stage to be overcome now is to approve the draft of the State constitution through mutual understanding and reliance. The draft constitution encourages the genuine discipline-flourishing multi-party democracy system.

In this regard, it is required of the people to be able to distinguish between the nature of a referendum and that of elections.

In a referendum, a citizen can express his main wish, in other words, he had to vote for himself and to prescribe the way he favours. In elections, a citizen has to vote for a representative and the political party he favours.

It has come to the knowledge of all people that a society with systematic development cannot be built without a constitution of its own. Their common goal is to exercise the multi-party democracy system and the market economy.

Therefore, the common goal of the people should not be deviated from the route due to the rumours, hearsay, words of the two extremes, and words that derive from wrath and animosity. Disruptive acts are the usual business of saboteurs. So, the people should try not to fall in the political snares the destructive elements have set.

Now, the people should no longer go backward, engaging in conflicts. And now is the most opportune time for them to move forward. The entire people have worked a lot together, pursuing the common goal, and they will have to continue to do so in order to transform the nation from the old system to the new one.

Translation: MS

Myanma Alin, Kyemon: 17-3-2008

In the present time, the major requirement of the people is to restore stability and peace, improve socio-economic life and ensure flourishing of democracy. That is the national goal of the entire people or the national politics of Myanmar. The Tatmadaw is paving the national political way to the national goal.



A wedding cake featuring two grooms and two brides.—INTERNET

China provides emergency aids to Palestinians

RAMALLAH, 17 March — China signed an agreement with Palestinian National Authorities (PNA) in the West Bank city of Ramallah on Saturday, granting 500,000-US-dollar emergency humanitarian aids to the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip.

After signing the agreement with the Secretary General of the Palestinian Presidency Tayeb Abdel Rahim, Yang Weiguo, head of the

Office of the People’s Republic of China in the Palestinian territories, said China has been long supporting the Palestinian people’s just cause, and will continue to provide aids in the future.

Appreciating China’s long-term support and assistance to the Palestinian people, Abdel Rahim, for his part, highly praised the friendship between China and the Palestinians.

MNA/Xinhua



A view of destroyed houses and an ammunition depot in the village of Gerdec, Albania, on Monday, 17 March, 2008. —INTERNET

Death toll rises to 23 in Egyptian traffic accident

CAIRO, 17 March — The death toll of a traffic accident in northern Egypt has risen to 23, police sources said on Sunday.

The accident occurred in the evening when a police transport vehicle collided with a truck on the highway linking the capital city of Cairo with the Mediterranean coastal city of Alexandria, said

the sources on condition of anonymity.

Earlier report said at least 15, most of whom were policemen, were killed at the scene and 20 others were wounded in the accident.

The sources said eight wounded died from their serious injuries after reaching hospital and the others were receiving

medical treatment.

The cause of the accident was not immediately clear, added the sources.

Road accidents are common in Egypt as police statistics estimated that some 6,000 people died annually in traffic accidents in the populous Arab country.

MNA/Xinhua

B’desh expects more power generation from March-end

DHAKA, 17 March — The power generation in Bangladesh would increase from the end of March, said a senior official here on Sunday.

The caretaker government Chief Adviser’s Special Assistant for Power and Energy Ministry M. Tamim said Bangladesh is presently experiencing load shedding of 200-400 megawatts due to short supply of gas. He said the

daily power generation is between 3,400 megawatts and 3,800 megawatts across the country.

Tamim said the government now has to supply gas to fertilizer factories on priority basis for undisrupted production of the agri-input.

But, he said, the fertilizer factories will not require huge gas after the end of March and that gas supply will be diverted to

power plants that will help generate 300 megawatts more electricity.

The special assistant said short supply of power has become acute in recent days due to the shutdown of a 125-megawatt power plant.

Tamim said the power generation would continue to increase in the days ahead as a number of new power plants would go into operation.

MNA/Xinhua

Over 70% of conservatives win seats in Iran’s Parlt

TEHERAN, 17 March — Over 70 per cent of conservatives have found way into the Parliament, the state-run Press TV Channel quoted Iran’s Interior Minister Mostafa Pour-Mohammadi as saying on Saturday.

Addressing a Press conference, Pour-Mohammadi said the final results would come out two days ahead of the new

Iranian year, which will be on 21 March.

Press TV reported earlier that out of 118 seats already decided in the country’s 18 provinces, the “principlists” — conservatives loyal to Islamic Revolutionary ideals — were leading with 85 seats, accounting for around 72 per cent.

The reformist camp reportedly won 25 of the

already decided seats, while the other eight seats went to independents.

Earlier in the day, Safar Ali Barati, chief of the Teheran Province Election Office, predicted that conservatives are to win 70 per cent out of the 30 seats in Teheran while their reformist rivals are on the edge of 30 per cent.

MNA/Xinhua

German leader visits 60 yrs after birth of Israel

TEL AVIV, 17 March — Angela Merkel began on Sunday a highly symbolic visit to Israel, where she will become the first German chancellor to address its Parliament more than 60 years after the Nazi Holocaust that killed six million Jews.

“I am grateful we can open a new chapter in relations between our two countries,” Merkel said at a red carpet ceremony at Tel Aviv’s Ben-Gurion Airport.—MNA/Reuters

US House passes spybill, rejects phone immunity

WASHINGTON, 17 March — The Democratic-led US House of Representatives defied President George W Bush on Friday and passed an anti-terrorism spy bill that permits lawsuits against

phone companies.

But the 213-197 vote was far short of the two-thirds majority needed to override a promised veto by Bush. He has demanded that any telecommunication

company that participated in his warrantless domestic spying programme secretly begun after the 11 September 11 attacks receive retroactive immunity.

MNA/Reuters



Veterinarian, Jacqueline Jencek, left, and veterinary technician Carol Casy give a 9-day-old Sumatran tiger cub his first health exam, on 15 March, 2008 at the San Francisco Zoo in San Francisco.—INTERNET

Images of the Day



Tourists visit the Xiyue Temple which is located at the foot of the Huashan mountains in northwest China's Shaanxi Province, on 15 March, 2008.
XINHUA



Fiordland penguins Milford, front, and Chalky run past a keeper while out for a stroll out of his enclosure at Sydney's Taronga Zoo on Monday, 17 March, 2008. Chalky and Milford along with another male, Mr. Munro, are the only Fiordland penguins in captivity and are listed as a vulnerable species found only in New Zealand's south.—INTERNET



Russia's Maria Sharapova celebrates winning a point during her match against Greece's Eleni Daniilidou at the Pacific Life Open tennis tournament in Indian Wells, California on 16 March, 2008.—INTERNET



Doll display : A visitor inspects decorative dolls at the exhibition in Minsk.—INTERNET

Computer generated image, released by Public relations company Kingpinmedia, shows the main stand area of the Formula One race circuit in Singapore. Territory's strict laws banning tobacco advertisements will apply to the city-state's inaugural Formula One Grand Prix in September, a report said on Sunday.
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၊ မြန်မာ့ကြွေထည်မြေထည်လုပ်ငန်း၊ရောင်းဝယ်ရေးဌာန၊ ရုံးအမှတ် (၄၁)နေပြည်တော်တွင် ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း ဆက်သွယ်စုံစမ်းပြီး တင်ဒါများလာရောက်ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။ တင်ဒါပုံစံတရားဝင် ဝယ်ယူထားသူများထံမှ တင်ဒါကိုသာ လက်ခံပါသည်။ (အသေးစိတ် သိလိုပါက စုံစမ်းရန် တယ်လီဖုန်းအမှတ် ၀၆၇-၄၀၅၂၉၈)				
မြန်မာ့ကြွေထည်မြေထည်လုပ်ငန်း				

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA TERAJU VOYNO (TRJ-291)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TERAJU VOY NO (TRJ-291) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.3.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES PTE LTD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Mexican police catch top Tijuana drug hitman
TIJUANA (Mexico), 17 March—Mexico captured a high-ranking Tijuana drug cartel hitman on Saturday, the Public Security Ministry said, the second big arrest to hit the organization in five days.
Saul Montes de Oca, known as “El Ciego” (the blind guy) and close to cartel bosses, was arrested as he was about to take part in a car race in the tourist resort of San Felipe, the Baja California state attorney general’s office said. Montes de Oca is suspected of being a top killer at the powerful cartel, also called as the Arellano Felix Organization and known for its gruesome torture and execution methods.

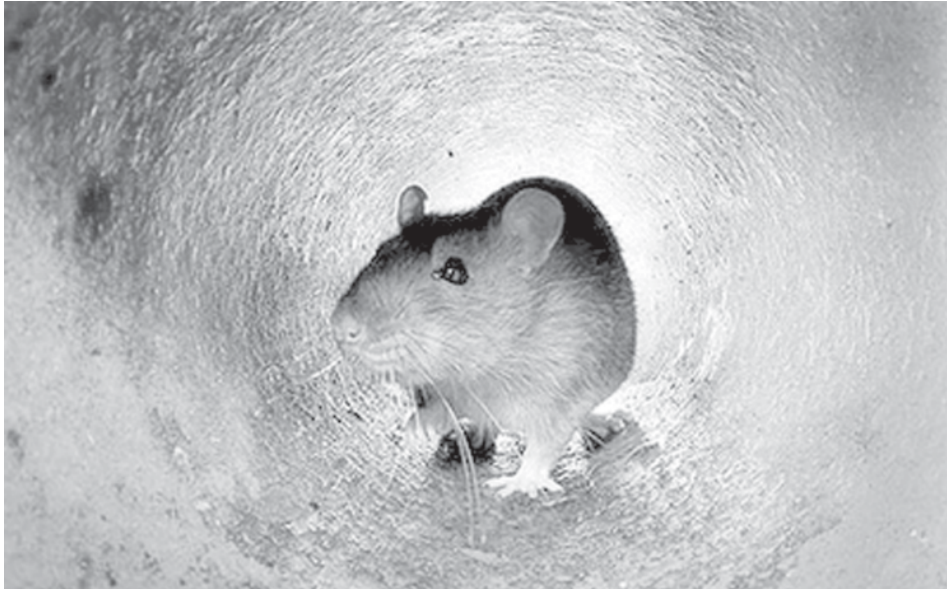
Beware of Fire

Austria says will not bow to al-Qaeda’s demands
BRUSSELS, 17 March—Austrian Chancellor Alfred Gusenbauer appealed on Friday to al-Qaeda’s North Africa wing to release two Austrian tourists but said he had no intention of yielding to the hostage-takers’ demands.
In Algiers, a security source said al-Qaeda had demanded the release of 10 jailed militants including Amari Saifi, an Algerian guerilla chief who abducted 32 European tourists for several months in 2003.
Five of the militants are in Tunisian jails and the other five, including Saifi, more popularly known as Abderrazak el Para, are in custody in Algeria, the security source said.
Gusenbauer told reporters on arrival for the final day of a European Union summit in Brussels: “Our priority is the health of the hostages. Hence we appeal to the kidnappers to free the hostages unconditionally.”
Gusenbauer said he would raise the issue at the summit.— MNA/Reuters

Suicide bomber hits border point in N Iraq
BAGHDAD, 17 March—A suicide bomber blew himself up at a border point near the Syrian border, killing an interpreter and wounding six other people, including two American soldiers, the US military said on Saturday.
The attack occurred on Friday when the suicide bomber wearing explosive vest was trying to cross the Rabiya border point, some 120 kilometres northwest of Mosul City, a military statement said.
The wounded included two US soldiers, two personnel from the US Department of Army and

he previously reported, according to two Chicago newspapers.
The Illinois Democratic Senator’s campaign has previously said it donated to charity more than 150,000 US dollars in contributions traced to Antoin “Tony” Rezko. The property developer and restaurant entrepreneur is on trial, accused by federal prosecutors of extorting bribes and campaign donations as well as money laundering.
Obama has long denied there was anything in his relationship with Rezko that relates to the corruption trial and there is no evidence he did anything wrong.
Obama, a former Illinois state senator, told the Chicago *Sunday Times* in an interview that “Rezko was not my largest fundraiser but a significant fundraiser” in his 2004 US Senate campaign.
Saying the contributions could be as high as 250,000 US dollars he said, “It’s hard for me to know precisely.”
Besides Rezko’s fundraising, a 2005 real estate deal with Obama has drawn scrutiny.
MNA/Reuters

Rescuers search for survivors from Albania blast
GERDEC, Albania, 17 March — Albanian troops searched through rubble on Sunday for survivors of a huge munitions blast that razed an Army base near the capital Tirana and killed at least nine people.
At least nine were still missing. More than 240 people were injured in the string of blasts at a base stocking obsolete munitions for destruction. Most suffered burns, broken limbs, or cuts from flying glass and shrapnel.
A Reuters reporter saw a ravaged landscape strewn with debris from blown-out buildings. The blast had made craters, some 50 metres in diameter and 20 metres deep. — MNA/Reuters



A rat walking through a pipe. An Ethiopian farmer who stashed his life savings of more than 12,000 dollars in a haystack has lost almost one-third of the deposit to rats who gnawed it away, state media said on Thursday.

INTERNET

Chinese, Russian DMs open direct telephone line

BEIJING, 16 March — The Chinese and Russian Defence Ministries opened their direct telephone line Friday to enhance bilateral cooperation, according to a statement by the Chinese ministry. In their first telephone conversation over the line, Chinese Defence Minister

Cao Gangchuan told his Russian counterpart Anatoly Serdyukov that the newly opened link reflects the level of political trust and strategic coordination between the two countries, the statement said. Cao said the line will ensure timely consul-

tations and coordination between the two sides on hot issues around the world, hoping the link will promote bilateral cooperation and world peace.

Serdyukov said the opening of the line is further evidence of the high-level strategic partnership between Russia and China. He vowed to work with his Chinese counterpart and carry out the consensus reached between the Russian and Chinese leaders to promote military ties between the two countries. The two defence chiefs frankly exchanged views on bilateral ties and other issues of common concern, the statement said. —MNA/Xinhua

Thousands in Italy rally against mafia

BARI, (Italy), 17 March—Thousands of Italians marched on Saturday in an anti-mafia protest and called on all citizens to take a public stand against Italy's powerful crime syndicates. Crying open-ly and shouting "Basta!" (Enough!), politicians and anti-mafia leaders made emotional appeals against keeping silent and read out the names of people assassinated by the mafia.

Many at the rally in the southern city of Bari held up pictures of relatives gunned down by members of organized crime.

"The mafia has not been defeated and above all the incurable ill of turning a blind eye needs to be defeated," said Enzo Longo, the mayor of the Sicilian town of Capaci best known for the 1992 killing of a judge and his entourage

by the mafia. The founder of anti-mafia group Libera, Don Luigi Ciotti, led the march holding a small piano flute that belonged to an 11-year-old boy strangled 15 years ago by the mafia, who then left his body to dissolve in a tub of acid.

MNA/Reuters

Hungarian far-right, police clash in Budapest

BUDAPEST, 17 March — Hundreds of far-right protesters and Hungarian police clashed in Budapest on Saturday in anti-government protests on the country's national holiday.

A crowd of several hundred people threw stones at police wearing riot gear in the centre of the city and police

responded with tear gas rounds.

News portal Origo said a petrol bomb was thrown at a police car and state news agency MTI said protesters injured a photographer from a news organization.

A police spokesman said that 21 people were arrested in minor clashes throughout the day and



Egyptians buy traditional sugar candy in the shape of dolls, ships and horses in old Cairo on 16 March, 2008. — INTERNET

Lions speared to death near Kenyan park

NAIROBI, 16 March — Three lions have been speared to death close to Kenya's Amboseli national park, a senior Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) official said on Friday, raising concerns about the country's

dwindling population of big cats.

Five suspects have been arrested over the killings, which occurred over a one month period, said Patrick Omondi, head of Species, Conservation and Management for the KWS.

He said Maasai

herdsmen were suspected of killing the lions after the predators attacked their cows outside the park.

"People purported that two lionesses had killed two cows," Omondi told Reuters, but added that poachers may have been involved. —MNA/Reuters

22 students killed in Iran bus crash

TEHERAN, 17 March—Twenty-two Iranian students were killed when a bus collided with a fuel vehicle in southwestern Iran, the official news agency reported on Sunday.

The bus was taking those university students back home to Iran's northeastern city of Mashhad and collided with the fuel tanker late Saturday on the roads of Khuzestan Province, the report said.

The vehicles then burst into flames and burned the victims alive, the report said, adding that seven others were injured in the accident.

According to the local police, "the driver of the fuel vehicle was drowsy and speeding" at that time and caused the accident, the report said. —MNA/Xinhua

Japan denies German activist entry ahead of G-8

TOKYO, 16 March — Japan's immigration authorities denied a German anti-globalization activist entry at a port near the venue for the July Group of Eight summit,

Kyodo News agency reported on Friday.

Quoting his supporters, Kyodo said Martin Kraemer, 37, was denied entry to Japan after arriving on Monday

aboard a freighter from Russia at a port on Japan's northern island of Hokkaido. He has filed an objection with immigration authorities and has remained on the freighter awaiting a response, the report said.

A spokesman for the German Foreign Ministry in Berlin later said Kraemer had declined to be sent to a third country.

"He will probably set off on his return trip from Japan to Russia on a ship today," the spokesman said. "We have to respect that it's up to each country to allow entry or not, according to its rules."

MNA/Reuters

The back wall of a building has fallen on the bus parked at right after a tornado struck the area late Friday night, 15 March, 2008, in Atlanta.
INTERNET



Anti seal hunt protesters hold a rally, part of the international day of protest against the annual Canadian seal hunt, in Halifax on 15 March, 2008. —INTERNET

SPORTS



Juventus's Mohamed Sissoko (R) challenges Michele Pazienza of Napoli during their Italian Serie A soccer match at the Olympic stadium in Turin on 16 March, 2008. Vincenzo Iaquinta's goal two minutes from time gave Juventus a potentially crucial 1-0 win over Napoli that extends their lead over fifth place to eight points.—XINHUA

Inter beat Palermo to regain six-point lead

ROME, 17 March — Inter Milan beat Palermo 2-1 at home on Sunday to restore the champions' six-point lead at the top of Serie A after a troubled week.

Goals by Patrick Vieira and Luis Jimenez settled nerves at the club after coach Roberto Mancini said he was leaving at the end of the season following Tuesday's Champions League last 16 defeat by Liverpool. Mancini changed his mind the following day.

Inter have 67 points from 28 games, while second-placed AS Roma have 61 after coming from behind to beat AC Milan 2-1 on Saturday.

Juventus, who are seven points behind Roma in third, beat Napoli in the late Sunday game thanks to an 88th-minute strike by substitute Vincenzo Iaquinta.

Fiorentina tightened their grip on fourth place, worth a slot in the Champions League qualifiers, with a 3-1 home win over Genoa to move four points ahead of fifth-placed Milan.

At the San Siro, France midfielder Vieira nodded in a perfectly weighted chip from Zlatan Ibrahimovic to put Inter in front in the fifth minute. — MNA/Reuters

Woman cyclist stabbed to death

LONDON, 17 March — Police launched a murder inquiry on Saturday after a young woman cyclist was stabbed to death following an argument with two women in a car.

The woman, who has not been named, died after being stabbed several times in the Anfield area of Liverpool at about 8:30 pm on Friday, police said.

Witnesses told police the car, driven by a man, had pulled up alongside the cyclist and an argument broke out.— MNA/Reuters

Benfica miss chance to consolidate second spot

LISBON, 17 March — Benfica missed the chance to consolidate second place in the Portuguese Premier League when they drew 1-1 at Maritimo on Sunday.

Porto, who beat struggling Leixoes 2-1 away on Saturday, hold a 16-point lead on 57 points with seven matches remaining. Benfica and in-form Vitoria Guimaraes, who beat bottom club Uniao Leiria 1-0 on Friday, share second place with 41 points, but with the Lisbon team ahead on head-to-head results.

Vitoria Setubal, who lost 2-1 at relegation-threatened Pacos Ferreira, are fourth on 37 and Sporting, who host Nacional Madeira on Monday, are fifth a further three points behind. Middle-of-the-table Maritimo took the initiative in the opening minutes and Benfica keeper Quim twice produced fine saves to deny Brazilian midfielder Marcinho.— MNA/Reuters

Everton lose at Fulham in traditional style

LONDON, 17 March — Everton lost ground in the race for a Champions League place on Sunday when they went down 1-0 to struggling Fulham at Craven Cottage, a ground where the Merseysiders have not mustered a point in 42 years.

In the day's other games Manchester City came from behind to beat Tottenham Hotspur 2-1 while Wigan Athletic beat Bolton Wanderers 1-0 despite playing with 10 men for 85 minutes.

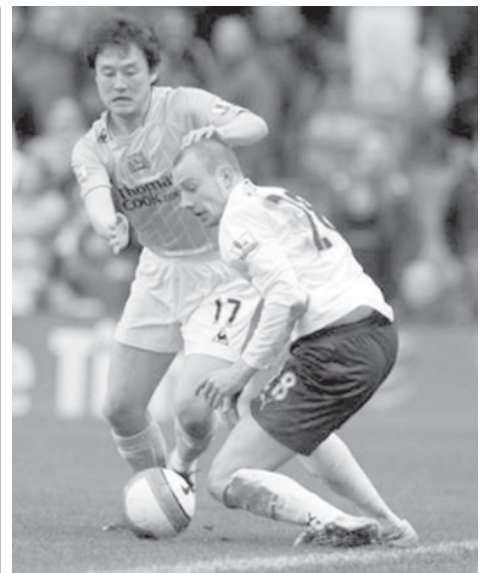
Fulham, second-last in the standings but now only three points from safety, won a scrappy game in the 67th minute when Simon Davies crossed for fellow

former Evertonian Brian McBride to score with a firm header.

"We can look forward to the last eight games with optimism," Fulham coach Roy Hodgson told the BBC. "The goal was vital. For us the difference between one and three points in the match was everything," added the manager after only his second win since taking over last December.

Everton, unbeaten in the league all year but knocked out of the UEFA Cup on penalties by Fiorentina in midweek, looked flat all afternoon in blustery conditions and rarely tested home goalkeeper Kasey Keller.

MNA/Reuters



Manchester City's Sun Jihai (L) challenges Tottenham Hotspur's Jamie O'Hara for the ball during their English Premier League soccer match in Manchester, northern England, on 16 March, 2008.—INTERNET



Dinara Safina, of Russia, returns the ball during her match against Ashley Harkleroad in the third round of the Pacific Life Open tennis tournament in Indian Wells, Calif, on 16 March, 2008. —INTERNET

Substitute Boyd spurs Rangers to dramatic Cup victory

GLASGOW, 17 March — Substitute striker Kris Boyd produced a sparkling performance to help Rangers beat Dundee United 3-2 in a penalty shootout and lift the League Cup on Sunday. Boyd scored the winning spot kick after twice pulling Rangers back level against United.

After a lacklustre 30 minutes, Irishman Noel Hunt brought the final alive when he put United ahead on his second attempt.

Rangers keeper Allan McGregor initially parried a 12-metre shot from Hunt but he could not be denied just seconds later when he

flicked the ball into the net.

United almost doubled their advantage a minute from halftime when Bosnian defender Sasa Papac knocked the ball through McGregor's legs from six metres, but Spanish defender Carlos Cuellar blasted it clear from the line. — MNA/Reuters

Singh relinquishes lead, Woods advances in Orlando

ORLANDO (Florida), 17 March — Holder Vijay Singh relinquished his overnight lead at the Arnold Palmer Invitational on Saturday with two bogeys and a double-bogey inside his first seven holes to slip to five under-par.

Sweden's Carl Pettersson and American Nick Watney shared the lead on seven-under while world number one Tiger Woods was moving into contention.

Singh, who recovered from a nasty bout of food poisoning last week to take the lead on Friday, double-bogeyed after he drove into the water on the par-five sixth.

Woods, searching for his ninth win in 10 competitions, was three-under par from his first 15 holes taking him into a pack of nine players on five-under.

American Sean O'Hair, winner at

Almeria hold 10-man Barca to 2-2 draw

MADRID, 17 March — Barcelona were held to a 2-2 draw at promoted Almeria in the Primera Liga on Sunday as they failed to make the most of leaders Real Madrid's 1-0 defeat away to Deportivo Coruna on Saturday.

Bojan Krkic and Samuel Eto'o put Barca on course to cut Real's lead to five points, but after they had Gabriel Milito sent off late on, Almeria grabbed an 85th-minute equalizer through Kalu Uche.

Real have 62 points, seven ahead of second-placed Barca on 55, while Villarreal climbed to 53 after they saw off Real Zaragoza 2-0 at home.

Building on their 2-1 win at the Nou Camp last weekend, Turkish striker Nihat Kahveci gave Villarreal an early lead and Italian striker Giuseppe Rossi made sure of the points from the penalty spot in the second half. But much of the credit must go to their goalkeeper Diego Lopez who denied Zaragoza on numerous occasions.

Sevilla are fourth after beating Valencia 2-1 away on Saturday, and they were joined on 45 points by Espanyol who came from behind to beat Real Mallorca 2-1 at home with a brace from Spain striker Luis Garcia. Sixth-placed Atletico Madrid, on 44 points, are at home to bottom club Levante in the late game.

MNA/Reuters



Arnold Palmer (R) and Tiger Woods pose with the winner's trophy after Wood's win at the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament in Orlando on 16 March, 2008. —XINHUA

Missiles hit Pakistan's Waziristan, twelve dead

WANA (Pakistan), 17 March — Up to three missiles struck a house in a Pakistani region known as a safe haven for al-Qaeda and Taleban militants on Sunday, killing 12 people including foreign militants, local officials said.

The attack took place in a village in the South Waziristan region on the Afghan border.

“Eight foreigners and four of their supporters were killed,” said a District government official who declined to be identified.

The nationality of the

foreigners was not known but some resident of the area said Arabs were among the dead.

A military official said earlier militants were believed to have been hiding at the house and seven of them were killed and several wounded.

It was not clear who fired the missiles but villagers said they had heard the sound of a pilotless drone in the sky before the blasts.

US forces have fired missiles at militants on the Pakistani side of the border several times in recent years.

MNA/Reuters

Suicide bomber hits Kurdish party office in N Iraq

MOSUL (Iraq), 17 March — Eleven people were wounded in a suicide bomb attack and a following roadside bomb explosion outside the office of a Kurdish party in the city of Mosul on Sunday, a provincial police source said.

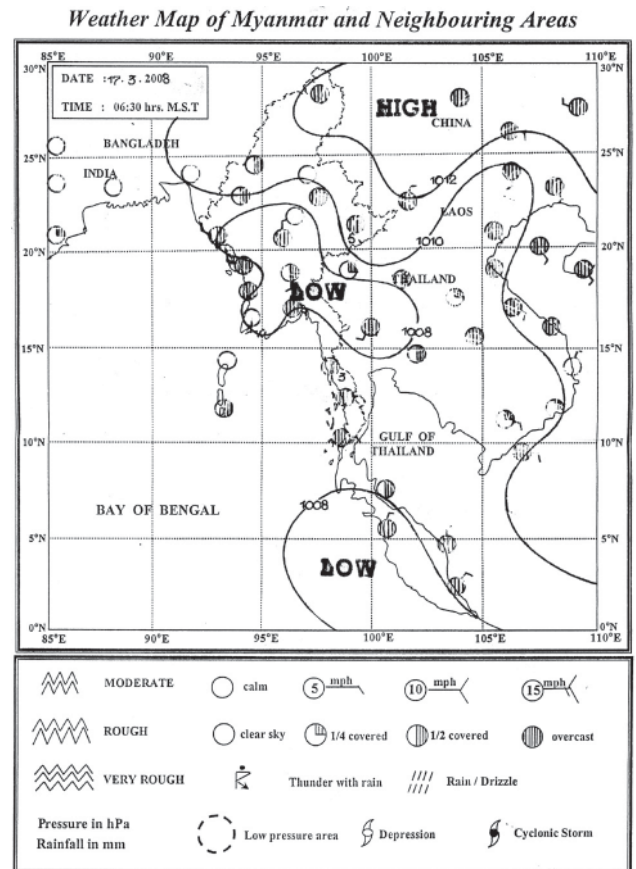
“A suicide bomber wearing an explosive vest blew himself up at about 10:30 am (0730 GMT) in front of the office of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) in the al-Nabi Younis neighbourhood in northeastern Mosul,” the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

The attack resulted in the wounding of nine people, including one of the office guards, the source said.

Afterwards, a roadside bomber went off near a police patrol while heading to the site of the first bombing, destroying a police vehicle and wounding two policemen aboard, the source added.

The KDP is headed by Massoud Barzani, president of Kurdish regional government in northern Iraq.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Monday, 17 March, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin and Shan States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, weather has been partly cloudy in Chin and Rakhine States, Mandalay Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (3°C) above March average temperatures in Yangon, Mandalay, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions, (5°C) above March average temperatures in Taninthayi Division, (3°C) below March average temperatures in Shan State and about March average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Yamethin, Pyinmana, Bago and Hinthada (40°C) each, Nay Pyi Taw and Thayawady (39°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfalls recorded were Myitkyina (0.56) inch, Kengtung (0.20) inch and Dawei (0.12) inch.

Maximum temperature on 16-3-2008 was 100°F. Minimum temperature on 17-3-2008 was 73°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 17-3-2008 was 77%. Total sunshine hours on 16-3-2008 was (8.5) hours approx.

Rainfall on 17-3-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (0.67) inch at Mingaladon, (0.47) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.35) inch at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southwest at (18:30) hours MST on 16-3-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 18-3-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States, Sagaing, Mandalay and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 18-3-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 18-3-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 18-3-2008: Partly cloudy

Palestinian groups reject truce deal under Israeli strikes

GAZA, 17 March — Leaders of Hamas and Islamic Jihad (Holy War) movements said Sunday they reject to agree on a cease fire with Israel under ongoing Israeli strikes on Gaza and West Bank militants.

Khaled al-Batsh, a senior Islamic Jihad leader in Gaza said that the ongoing Israeli strikes on Palestinian militants in Gaza and West Bank “aim at undermining the efforts to reach a cease fire agreement.”

MNA/Xinhua



Contest officials time contestants as they eat “Gyudon”, a Japanese dish consisting of a bowl of rice topped with beef and onions, during “Yoshinoya’s Gyudon Eating Contest” at a mall in Manila on 15 March, 2008. About 80 “heavy-eater” finalists of the contest entered the event to stand a chance at winning the first prize of 70,000 pesos (\$1,700).—INTERNET



Tuesday, 18 March
View on today

7:00 am

1. တောင်တန်းသာသနာပြု ဆရာတော်ကြီး ဦးဥတ္တမသာရ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. ရင်းငြိမ်ရေထိန်းတံခါး

7:45 am

5. “ပေါင်ပေါ်ကျတဲ့မီး”

(ရဲအောင်၊ ထွန်းထွန်းဝင်း၊ ညီညီမင်းထက်၊ ဘုန်းလှိုင်၊ ဟန်နီထွန်း၊ ရိုင်းစုခိုင်သိန်း) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်မောင်မြင့်လွင်၊ မင်းအုပ်စိုး)

8:00 am

6. Musical programme

8:10 am

7. မြန်မာမှုပန်းဆယ်မျိုး (ပန်းတိမ်)

8:20 am

8. (၆၃)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့

ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

8:30 am

9. International news

8:45 am

10. မြူးမြူးကြွကြွယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက

4:00 pm

1. စစ်ချီတေး၊ စစ်သည်တေး

4:10 pm

2. တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြု တေးသီချင်းပြိုင်ပွဲဆုရတေးများ

4:25 pm

3. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ-ဒုတိယနှစ် (သတ္တဗေဒအထူးပြု) (သတ္တဗေဒ)

4:40 pm

4. Songs to uphold National Spirit

4:50 pm

5. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

5:00 pm

6. Musical programme

5:10 pm

7. Sing & Enjoy

5:50 pm

8. (၆၃)နှစ်မြောက် တပ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

6:00 pm

9. Evening news

6:30 pm

10. Weather report

6:35 am

11. ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲ့ရင်ခုန်သံ

6:50 pm

12. သုတစုံလင်ရွှေညက်ရှင်

7:10 pm

13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

“ချစ်တယ်--ချစ်တယ်”

(အပိုင်း-၉)

8:00 pm

14. Local news

15. International news

16. Weather report

17. သုတ္တံသီရတေးကဗျာ

18. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

“မေတ္တာမျိုးပြိုင်”

(အပိုင်း-၁၃)

People's Desire

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

Objectives of the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day

- * To work in concert with the people in building a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation
- * To realize the seven-step Road Map of the State joining hands with the people
- * Joining hands with the people and based on Union Spirit to crush internal and external destructive elements sabotaging stability and development of the State
- * To build a strong, capable and modern patriotic Tatmadaw to safeguard Our Three Main National Causes

Prime Minister congratulates Mr Wen Jiabao

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March — General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr Wen Jiabao, on his re-election as the Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China at the 11th National People's Congress of China on 16 March 2008. — MNA

Workshop on intensification of transport services held

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March — A workshop on promotion of transport services supporting economic progress organized by the Ministry of Transport was held at the ministry here today. Minister for Transport Maj-Gen

Thein Swe gave an opening address at the workshop.

Also present on the occasion were ministers, deputy ministers, Directors-General, managing directors, departmental officials, officials of Union

of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Computer Professionals Association, Myanmar Maritime University, Yangon Institute of Economics, Institute of Marine Technology and

guests. Director-General of Foreign Economic Relations Department Daw Myo Nwe briefed on implementation of twelve special sectors to set up ASEAN Economic Community as the destination of economic cooperation in ASEAN region.

After the workshop, a paper reading session was held and six resource persons read the paper entitled "Fully Utilization of Infrastructure Development" focusing on smooth transportation sector-wise. Directors-General and managing directors of Public Works, Myanma Railways and Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems supervised the paper reading session. The workshop continues tomorrow. — MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe speaks at workshop on intensification of transport services supporting economic progress in Nay Pyi Taw. — TRANSPORT

- ★ **Skyful liars attempting to destroy nation**
- ★ **BBC lying**
- ★ **VOA deceiving**
- ★ **RFA setting up hostilities**
- ★ **Beware! Don't be bought by those ill-wishers**