

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

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San attend ceremony to offer 'soon' to State Ovadaçariya Sayadaws, members of SSMNC and SCWCS, Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida Sayadaws, title recipient Sayadaws

YANGON, 20 March — Under the aegis of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing, the State Peace and Development Council and Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) families offered 'soon' (day meal) to the State Ovadaçiriya Sayadaws, the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee member Sayadaws, members of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha, Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida Sayadaws and title recipient Sayadaws at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthta, here, this morning.

Also present on the occasion were title recipient Sayadaws and nuns, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Prime Minister General Thein Sein and wife DawKhin Khin Win, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, Members of SPDC Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, Lt-Gen Myint Hlaing, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung of the Ministry of Defence, the Commander of Yangon Command, Ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Auditor-Gen-



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San donate robes and alms-bowl to a Sayadaw. — MNA

eral, the Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Yangon Mayor and their wives, senior military officers, deputy ministers, the director-general of the SPDC Office, departmental heads, title recipient lay persons and guests.

Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka

Committee Magway Maha Withutayama Taikthit Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Kumara administered the Five Precepts. Members of the Sangha recited Metta Sutta.

(See page 8)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 21 March, 2008

Contemplate Buddha’s Supreme Attributes on Fullmoon Day of Tabaung

Today is Fullmoon Day of Myanmar month Tabaung, a day of religious significance for Buddhists.

Tabaung falls between the cold season and the hot season.

In the Pisces that coincides with Tabaung, seasonal flowers such as Ingyin (Pentacms) and Tharaphi (Calophyllum amoenum) are in full bloom. Forests and mountain ranges are reverberated with the songs of koels and collared doves.

Kaludayi Minister supplicated to the Buddha for an itinerary to Kapilawut, reciting 64 verses that portrayed the pleasant month Taboung and the route between the two provinces.

On the First Waning of Tabaung, the Buddha left Rajagjo for Kapilawut and expounded sermons to His father King Suddhodhana and Gotami.

In olden days, ancestors of Myanmar people built sand pagodas and contemplated the Supreme Attributes of the Buddha in the month Tabaung. In Tabaung, there form sand banks along the rivers and creeks. People held sand-pagoda building festivals and were mindful of the Supreme Attributes of the Buddha in the past.

Today, the people perform meritorious deeds such as holding Buddha Pujaniya, reciting Patthana, offering alms food to members of the Sangha, and offering provisions in the auspicious time in Tabaung.

On the auspicious occasion of the Fullmoon Day of Tabaung, Buddhists are exhorted to constantly do meritorious deeds, contemplating the Supreme Attributes of the Buddha.

Meditation course for service personnel only on 11-18 April

NAY PYI TAW, 20 March — Kammathanacariya Sayadaw Bhaddanta Dhammapala of Shwepyi Aye Mahasi Meditation Centre of Phayagyi Tawya Monastery on Pinma Road in Pankhin Kwetthit of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana will open the 1st seven-day meditation course for service personnel of the ministries at the centre on the holidays of Maha Thingyan Festival from 11 to 18 April.

Those wishing to take the ordination and nunhood are to contact the meditation centre in person, not later than 3 pm on 11 April, and dial 067-23043 to make registration and donation.

MNA

People’s Desire

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

Minister meets USDA members in Hlinethaya Township

YANGON, 20 March — Secretariat Member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan met with executives, secretaries and organizers of district/township USDAs in Yangon North District and gave instructions to them today.

At the meeting held at the office of Hlinethaya Township USDA, Secretary of Hlinethaya Township USDA U Nyan Win and executives and organizers of ward USDAs in the township, reported to the secretariat member on social welfare tasks and organizational matters of the association in the township.

After hearing reports,



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents cash assistance to Hlinethaya Township USDA through Secretary of Hlinethaya Township USDA U Nyan Win. — MNA

Secretariat Member of USDA Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan fulfilled the requirements and urged the members to actively carry out organisational tasks.

Minister Brig-Gen

Kyaw Hsan handed over cash assistance for Hlinethaya Township

USDA to the secretary of the township USDA, and the meeting ended.—MNA

Health Deputy Minister inspects hospitals

NAY PYI TAW, 20 March — Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe, accompanied by officials, arrived at Bago District People’s Hospital, Waw Township Hospital of Bago Division (East), Paung Hospital of Mon State, Thaton District People’s Hospital and Mawlamyine General Hospital of Mon State on 16 March.

During the tour, the deputy minister met with surgeons, specialists, doctors, house surgeons, medical experts and nurses. Next, he instructed them to give educative talks on health and to counsel patients besides giving medical treatment to them and inspected patient wards and stockpiling of medicine at the hospitals. On 17 March, the deputy minister inspected progress in building for the extension of Mawlamyine General Hospital. He also comforted in-patients of Mawlamyine Traditional Medicine Hospital.—MNA

Article collection “Think and feel freely” in circulation

NAY PYI TAW, 18 March — The collection of articles “Think and feel freely, and other poems” by U Maung Maung Soe Tint (Retd Ambassador) came out today.

The book consists of eight chapters, featuring religious, education, Myanmar, love, youth and social affairs and feelings. The bilingual work (English and Myanmar) is published and distributed by Pyae Sone Books Centre of No 78, Hledan Street, Lanmadaw

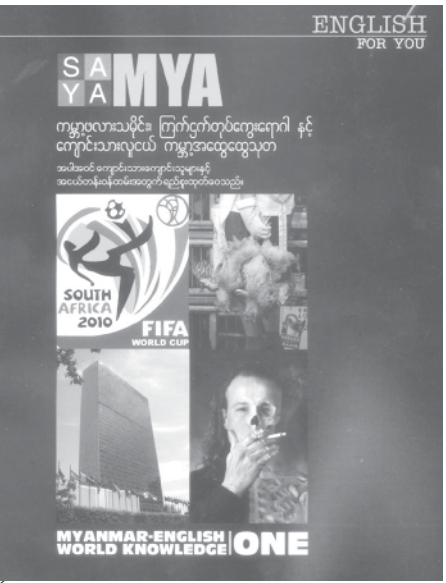


Cover of the book entitled “Think and Feel Freely”. — MNA

Township, Yangon, (Tel: 224375).—MNA

Saya Mya’s Myanmar-English World Knowledge comes out

“Myanmar-English World Knowledge” by Saya Mya. MNA



YANGON, 20 March — Writer Saya Mya’s English-Myanmar General Essays featuring Lord Buddha, background history of FA Premier League and awareness of HIV/AIDS came out recently.

The book has covered eleven articles. The book on collective articles of World General Knowledge including history of World Cup and bird flu was published in June 2007.

The book is available at Myat Htun Oo book centre, Room No 5, Building No 170/2, Pahtama Thiri Yeiktha on Lower Kyimyindine road, Ahlon Township, Yangon. (Tel: 222386, 225685) — MNA

New NY governor admits extramarital affair

NEW YORK, 20 March—The new governor of New York who assumed power after his predecessor stepped down in a sex scandal admitted to the *New York Daily News* that both he and his wife had extramarital affairs years ago. David Paterson, 53, the former lieutenant

governor who was sworn in to replace Eliot Spitzer on Monday, told the *Daily News* he agreed to speak about his marital difficulties in response to rumours about his private life that had been circulating among reporters in the state capital of Albany. He flatly denied rumours

that he had a child out of wedlock.

He also said top government officials were bound to come under closer scrutiny for their personal actions, especially in light of Spitzer's resignation, which followed a *New York Times* report that he was under federal investigation for patronizing a prostitution ring.

"This was a marriage that appeared to be going sour at one point," Paterson told the *Daily News* in comments appearing in Tuesday's editions. "But I went to counselling and we decided that we wanted to make it work. Michelle is well aware of what went on." — MNA/Reuters



Governor David A. Paterson gives his inaugural address after being sworn in as the 55th governor of the state of New York at the state capitol building in Albany, New York on 17 March, 2008.—INTERNET

Pak's PPP takes power, facing challenge to remain united

ISLAMABAD, 20 March—Pakistan's political scenario is unfolding as Pakistan People's Party (PPP) is taking over power from the caretaker government.

Two candidates fielded by assassinated former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's party PPP on Wednesday took oath as the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, lower house of Pakistan's parliament.

Dr Fahmida Mirza was

elected as Speaker of National Assembly while Fazal Karim Kundi of the same party was elected as Deputy Speaker of National Assembly.

Fahmida Mirza, a 52-year-old woman member of PPP from Sindh province, won the election of speaker of National assembly and elected as the first ever woman parliamentary Speaker of the country.

She received 249 votes out of 324 polled in the

342-member lower house of the parliament, according to the announcement by the outgoing Speaker Chaudhry Amir Hussain on Wednesday.

She is wife of Dr Zulfiqar Mirza, who is a close aide of PPP co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari and was also elected member of provincial assembly in Sindh.

Internet

Floodwaters flow through a mill building in Ozark, Mo on 19 March, 2008.

INTERNET



Blast near Philippine presidential palace wounds 15

MANILA, 20 March—Fifteen people were injured, two seriously, in a blast outside a college near the presidential palace in Manila on Tuesday, Philippine police said. The city's police chief said they were investigating whether a feud between college fraternities was behind the explosion, which occurred around 300 metres from the palace gates. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo was not in the palace.

"It looks like it's ... a rivalry among a group of students," said Geary Barias, adding that part of a hand grenade and an improvised explosive device were discovered at the La Consolacion College.

The blast occurred at around 4:30 pm (0830 GMT) while classes were in session at the Catholic institution.

Barias said a man in a red shirt and a brown baseball cap was seen running away from the explosion. Three students have been taken in for questioning.

MNA/Reuters

At least 200 arrested in US anti-war protests

WASHINGTON, 20 March—More than 200 people were arrested across the United States on Wednesday as protesters marking the fifth anniversary of the US invasion of Iraq obstructed downtown traffic and tried to block access to government offices.

There were 32 arrests in Washington after demonstrators attempted to block entrances to the Internal Revenue Service, while 30 others were

arrested outside a congressional office building, police said.

In San Francisco, long a centre of anti-Iraq war sentiment, police arrested more than 100 people who protested through the day along Market Street in the central business district, a spokesman said.

Sergeant. Steve Maninna said officers had arrested 143 people on charges including trespassing, resisting arrest and obstructing traffic.

Four women were also detained for hanging a large banner off the city's famous Golden Gate Bridge and then released, said bridge spokeswoman Mary Currie.

On Washington's National Mall, about 100 protesters carried signs that read: "The Endlessness Justifies the Meaninglessness" and waved upside-down US flags, a traditional sign of distress.

MNA/Reuters



Anti-war activists take part in a protest to mark five years of the war in Iraq during rush hour at Union Station in Washington on 18 March, 2008.

XINHUA

Hundreds of people flee home as flood hit US states

WASHINGTON, 19 March—Hundreds of people were forced to flee home on Wednesday as the US midsection was hit by flood caused by heavy rain, leading nine deaths and four missing.

According to local media reports, four were

killed in the flood in Missouri, and five others died in a highway wreck caused by heavy rain in Kentucky.

The National Weather Service has raised alert of flood and the flash flood to the states from Texas to Pennsylvania. In

Missouri, Arkansas and Ohio, the evacuations were still undergoing.

The rain began pouring to the region on Monday and more is still coming as the weather system crawled toward the northeast, according to the service.

In Arkansas, flood has washed out some highways and driven residents in some areas away from homes. Local authorities said that two motorists went missing after their vehicles were taken away by quick waters. In southwest Missouri, local rescuers were searching a man also reported missing in rushing water. A teenage boy was suspected being swept away by the flood when he was playing in a creek in Texas.—Internet

Malaysia's new Cabinet sworn in

KUALA LUMPUR, 20 March — Malaysia's new Cabinet, which were unveiled by Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on Tuesday, were sworn in here on Wednesday at Istana Negara, or National Palace.

Members of the new Cabinet, which include Deputy Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak and other 32 ministers, took the oath at the National Palace for

a five-year term of office before Supreme Head Mizan Zainal Abidin.

Badawi, already sworn in on 10 March as Prime Minister, also attended the ceremony. He also holds the portfolio of Finance Minister. Najib is also the country's Defence Minister.

Badawi announced the lineup of his new government on Tuesday, appointing 32 ministers and 37 deputy ministers,

more than half of whom were news faces. Badawi also merged the Internal Security Ministry with the Interior Ministry to form the Home Ministry.

Former foreign minister Syed Hamid Albar now takes the portfolio of Minister of Home Ministry, while Rais Yatim, Minister of Arts, Culture and Heritage, replaced Syed Hamid to be the Foreign Minister.—MNA/Xinhua

No more troops to Afghanistan unless NATO reforms

CANBERRA, 20 March — Australian Defence Minister Joel Fitzgibbon said here Tuesday his country will not consider sending more troops to Afghanistan until NATO adopted a winning strategy.

Speaking at a forum of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, Fitzgibbon said he would continue to push for a new roadmap for success in Afghanistan and a greater

commitment from NATO partners.

Speaking ahead of next month's NATO summit in Bucharest, Romania, Fitzgibbon said Australia was committed to Afghanistan in the long term but it was not unconditional, he said. Australia, a non-NATO nation, has 1,000 troops serving in south-central Afghanistan as part of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force.

Fitzgibbon has been highly critical of the absence of an effective strategy for long-term victory and of some NATO nations that restrict their troops from serving in the more dangerous parts of the country. "We will continue to review our commitment on a regular basis but as a matter of principle we are committed in the long term," he added.—MNA/Xinhua



Visitors pose with Beijing Olympic mascots outside Yingdong Natatorium, the water polo Olympic venue, in Beijing on 19 March, 2008.—INTERNET

Kenya police reject Human Rights Watch report

NAIROBI, 19 March — Kenyan police on Tuesday rejected a report by a US-based rights group that said officers had used excessive force and applied double standards during the country's deadly post-election crisis.

Monday's report by Human Rights Watch

accused police of causing "hundreds" of deaths through the use of excessive force, particularly in opposition strongholds.

More than 1,000 people died nationwide in violence after a disputed 27 December election.

"Every case reported by any party, including where police officers were suspected of either criminal or unprofessional acts, were investigated and appropriate action taken," Kenya's police

spokesman Eric Kiraithe said in a statement.

"It is professionally wrong for the report to make a blanket accusation that police were partisan or used excessive force."

The statement called on members of the public with information about the violence to bring it to officers, and said that out of more than 4,000 cases under investigation, more than 100 had already been presented to courts.

MNA/Reuters

Security forces raid Thai South

BANGKOK, 20 March — More than 100 Army soldiers and policemen on Tuesday raid two villages in Thailand's southernmost province of Narathiwat and exchanged fire with suspected insurgents.

A suspected insurgent was shot dead and another injured while resisting arrest during the raid in Muh and Moo 1 villages in Rusoh District, police said. Local police said three suspects ran away from a house and they opened fire at the authorities and the two sides exchanged gunfire. One suspect was injured and arrested. He is wanted on an arrest warrant for launching bomb attacks in three areas several months ago. The authorities also found the body of another suspect at the scene.

MNA/Xinhua

Economy fears push Labour to 24-year poll low

LONDON, 19 March — British Prime Minister Gordon Brown's ruling Labour Party suffered another battering in the polls on Tuesday with data showing it falling to a 24-year low.

With turmoil sweeping financial markets, the ICM poll in the *Guardian* newspaper showed Labour with 29 per cent support, 13 points behind opposition Conservatives,

as voters said they no longer felt they could trust Labour to protect the economy.

A similar poll by YouGov in the *Sunday Times* at the weekend put Labour at a 25-year low with 27 per cent support, compared with 43 per cent for the Conservatives.

The ICM poll will make grim reading for Brown, particularly because it shows the public

losing confidence in his party's financial and economic competence.

Despite 10 years as finance minister under former prime minister Tony Blair, where he was eager to be seen as capable and cautious, Brown now is considered less able to steer Britain through economic woes than his rival Cameron, the poll showed.

MNA/Reuters



UN reports say western Congo violence killed 68

KINSHASA, 19 March — At least 68 people were killed in a two-week government crackdown against separatists in Democratic Republic of Congo's western Bas-Congo Province, according to internal UN reports seen by *Reuters* on Monday.

Starting on 28 February, hundreds of soldiers and police battled members of the ethnic-based political and religious movement Bundu dia Kongo (BDK) in an operation that initially began at Luozi, 200 kilometres (125 miles) west of the capital Kinshasa.

BDK is campaigning for reestablishment of the pre-colonial Kongo kingdom, which encompasses parts of present-day Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo and Gabon.

After the violence at Luozi, clashes moved from town to town as police pursued BDK militants in a security crackdown the government said aimed to restore state authority in Bas-Congo.

MNA/Reuters

At least 24 people were wounded in Indian Kashmir's main city in a bomb attack by militants.

INTERNET

UN body eyes trade talks as recession fears grow

GENEVA, 20 March — Developing countries should push for a compromise deal in the six-year-old effort to revamp free trade rules and help restore the global economy's health, a United Nations official said on Tuesday.

Supachai Panitchpakdi, the former World Trade Organization (WTO) chief who now heads the UN Conference

on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), said it was important to keep exports and imports flowing.

Economists fear a credit crisis in the United States could throw the world's largest economy into a recession and drag global growth down with it.

Protectionist policies cropping up in the form of "economic patriotism" or "neomercantilism" —

where governments seek to limit imports to protect domestic industries — could hurt developing nations which depend upon exports to grow, he said.

"There are all kinds of new waves of protectionism that may be misconceived and misdirected," Supachai told a news briefing in Geneva, where UNCTAD is headquartered.

MNA/Reuters

ALO chief urges Arab countries to cut unemployment

CAIRO, 19 March — Director-General of the Arab Labour Organization (ALO) Ahmed Luqman on Monday urged Arab countries to create more jobs to face the challenge of unemployment in the Arab world.

In his speech at the inaugural session of the International Conference on Unemployment in the Arab World opened here

on Monday, Luqman said the problem of unemployment has adverse impact on the region, the Egyptian official MENA news agency reported.

In order to minimize the problem of unemployment, the Arab governments should adopt a policy to improve economic performance and lure more investments to create more jobs, Luqman said.

According to Luqman,

the Arab region is among the worst in the world regarding rates of unemployment that exceeded 14 per cent in some Arab countries.

This means that some 17 million people are unemployed and the Arab countries should provide around 3.9 million new jobs annually, said Luqman.

MNA/Xinhua

Beijing to build 2nd airport before 2010

BEIJING, 19 March — Chinese capital Beijing will start building a second airport before 2010, the General Administration of Civil Aviation (CAAC) said on Tuesday.

This goal was included in the national civil airport development plan, which covers the years up to 2020. Under the plan, the number of airports nationwide will rise to 190 or so by 2010, including 55 for both civilian and military purposes.

The location of the second Beijing airport, which will be for domestic services, is yet to be decided.

However, CAAC officials said that it would probably be in the southern part of the capital, near the Yongding River.

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia to export 13.95 m tons of crude palm oil

JAKARTA, 20 March — Indonesia is forecast to export 13.95 million tons of crude palm oil (CPO) this year, higher than last year's export of 12.54 million tons, said a monthly report of an Indonesian CPO producing company here Tuesday.

The increase was due to the improvement of productivity in Indonesia, the world's biggest palm oil producer, said the report from CPO producer Astra Agro Lestari.

The export target is less than the country's target of CPO production of 18.4 million tons this year, the chairman of the country's palm oil association (Gapki) Derom Bangun has said.

The chairman said that over four million tons of the production would be allocated to meet domestic demand. —MNA/Xinhua

ECONOMIC NEWS



The BMW Concept CS is shown at the New York International Auto Show on 19 March, 2008.—XINHUA

Air China's 2007 profit up 30%

BEIJING, 20 March — Air China, the country's largest international carrier, said on Tuesday that its 2007 net profit rose 30.37 per cent year-on-year on higher passenger traffic and improved investment returns.

Net profit was 3.88 billion yuan (547 million

US dollars), or 0.33 yuan per share, the Beijing-based airline said in a statement to the Shanghai Stock Exchange.

It reported 1.24 billion yuan of investment returns. It planned to offer 0.684 yuan in cash dividends per 10 shares, the statement said. In 2006, its profit soared 65 per cent to 2.98 billion yuan. Sales last year rose 14.58 per cent to 49.74 billion yuan.

Costs for its core air business rose 9.7 per cent to 39.9 billion yuan due to higher fuel costs — a reflection of higher global crude oil prices — and increased consumption as services expanded.

MNA/Xinhua

Mercedes-Benz to set up bus plant in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 20 March — The German top auto firm Mercedes Benz will build its first bus assembly plant in Indonesia with an investment of 10 million euros, an executive said Tuesday.

"Mercedes buses control the biggest market share in the world.

We are confident about meeting the market demand by producing in Indonesia," Rudi Borgeheimer, president director of local unit PT Mercedes Benz Indonesia, was quoted by leading news website Detikcom as saying.

MNA/Xinhua

Beijing has "A380" maintenance hangar

BEIJING, 20 March — Construction of an A380 aircraft maintenance hangar, claimed to be the largest in Asia, was completed in Beijing on Tuesday.

The hangar, the first of its kind in the city, will be able to accommodate all Boeing and Airbus series aircraft including the A380 "superjumbo" aircraft after it is put into operation next month, according to the Aircraft Maintenance and Engineering Corporation (Ameco Beijing).

Located to the north of the new third terminal in the Beijing Capital International Airport, the hangar is expected to carry out maintenance services for 11,500 planes every year, according to the joint venture between Air China Ltd and Lufthansa.

The hangar covers a floor area of more than 70,000 square metres, a part of the airport's expansion project marked by the launching of the No 3 terminal last month. —MNA/Xinhua



South Korean labourers work on a construction site in Seoul. South Korean concrete suppliers have gone on strike in protest at rising raw material prices, stopping work at many construction sites, officials said on 20 March, 2008.

INTERNET



Tourists visit the Imperial Palace in Shenyang, capital of northeast China's Liaoning Province, on 18 March, 2008. As the founding base of ancient China's Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), the Imperial Palace in Shenyang began to be constructed in 1625. —XINHUA

Singapore opposes calls to boycott Beijing Olympics

SINGAPORE, 19 March — Singapore on Tuesday voiced its strong opposition to the calls to boycott the Beijing Olympic Games in August this year.

“The Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports opposes the call from some quarters to boycott the Beijing Olympic Games,” said the ministry in a statement on Tuesday night. Singapore’s Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports Vivian Balakrishnan said in the statement that a boycott will mean many missed opportunities for better cross-border and inter-cultural understanding. It will also be a great disappointment for all the athletes who have trained so hard to fulfil their dreams of competing in the Olympics, he added. The minister stressed that sports should be separated from politics. — *Xinhua*

Russia opposes attempts to politicize Beijing Olympic Games

MOSCOW, 19 March — Russia opposes those attempts to politicize the Beijing Olympic Games by making use of the Tibet issue, the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement published on its website Monday.

“Attempts to politicize the conduct of the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in China are unacceptable,” the statement stressed. “Russia has repeatedly declared that it regards Tibet as an integral part of China, considering resolving relations with the Dalai Lama to be an internal affair of the People’s Republic of China,” the statement said.

Russia hoped that the Chinese side will take all the necessary measures to end illegal actions and secure an early return to normalcy in the autonomous region, it added. Russia is convinced that the Chinese side will provide



UN, AU urge warring sides in Darfur to seek peace

GENEVA, 19 March — United Nations and African Union envoys on Tuesday called for more international support for peacekeeping efforts in Darfur, but stressed that only the warring sides themselves can make peace in the region.

“The only people who can make peace in Darfur are the people of Darfur themselves and the government,” said Salim Ahmed Salim, the African Union’s special envoy for Darfur. “The international community can help, it can encourage, it can persuade,

but it cannot impose peace,” he told a Press conference in Geneva.

Jan Eliasson, the UN’s special envoy for Darfur, echoed Salim’s remarks. “For peacekeeping to be successful there has to be a peace to keep,” he said.

But Eliasson said a quicker deployment of the hybrid UN-AU peacekeeping force would undoubtedly help promote security in the strife-torn Sudanese region, where more than 200,000 people have been killed since 2003, when rebels began fighting government forces and allied Janjaweed militiamen.

Somali pirates release hijacked Russian ship

NAIROBI, 19 March — Somali pirates have released a Russian ship captured off the piracy-infested waters of the Horn of Africa nation early last month, reports reaching here said Tuesday.

The company that owns the Svitser Korsakov ice-class tug vessel seized by Somali pirates on 1 February confirmed that the vessel has been released.

Company spokesman Patrick Adamson reportedly said the ship and crew had been released,

but gave no details on the ransom paid to the pirates. Reports say 700,000 US dollars were paid.

The Danish-owned vessel had four Russian crew members, a British captain, and an Irish engineer on board.

— *Xinhua*



Chinese TV series popular in DPRK

PYONGYANG, 20 March — A Chinese TV series with the theme of anti-Japanese guerrilla war during the Second World War is being broadcast on Pyongyang’s television screens, drawing great attention from viewers.

“Di Hou Wu Gong Dui” (guerillas in the enemy’s rear guard), produced by CCTV in 2005, is currently being broadcast on prime-time TV by the Korean Central Television Programme (KCTP) of the Democratic People’s Re-

public of Korea (DPRK).

Xinhua correspondents in Pyongyang saw many people gathering before televisions in public places, watching the series attentively. “It’s very interesting. I’m very eager to know how the story goes on,” a woman said. The KCTP often televises foreign TV series and films, with those coming from China and Russia accounting for the largest amount. — *Xinhua*

Photo taken on 19 March, 2008 shows micro kites printed with characters in the Water Margin (one of the four Chinese classical novels) at a store specializing in kite business in Weifang, east China's Shandong Province. —XINHUA

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Indonesia, Malaysia to increase coop in Malacca Strait

JAKARTA, 19 March — The Indonesian Navy and its Malaysian counterpart have agreed to increase cooperation in maintaining security in the Malacca Strait, *Antara* news agency reported on

Tuesday.

The agreement was reached during a meeting between Indonesian Navy Chief of Staff Admiral Sumardjono and his Malaysian counterpart Admiral Tan

Sri Ramlan Mo-hamed Ali at the Indo-nesian Navy’s Head-quarters in Cilangkap, East Jakarta, on Monday.

“We hope that all forms of cooperation that had been established so far between the two navies would be stepped up in the future,” Admiral Mohamed Ali said after the signing of the agreement.

The Malacca Strait is one of the world’s busiest sea and trade lanes as it links West Asia and East Asia. At least 50,000 cargo ships use the strait every year.

— *Xinhua*

Chema Chuxing Tu (The painting of a tour by chariot) among the Han Dynasty was engraved on a rock of barren hills to beautify the environment in Xuzhou City, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 19 March, 2008. —XINHUA

To serve as balancing weight

Si Thu Aung

“Let’s talk about 25 per cent stated in the draft constitution.”

“You mean the matter that 25 per cent of membership are Tatmadaw member representatives in the legislative bodies?”

“Of course this case is now very common and has become a topic of discussion for some people. If it is clear to the people by now, it will be more convenient for them to make a correct choice.”

“Yes, I agree with you in this point. I am also interested in this topic. Well, what is confusing and in dispute?”

“There is much being discussed, but I’ll talk about two main points. The first they are discussing is that Legislative Hluttaws must be formed only with representatives-elect, and the second is appointing non-representatives-elect is undemocratic. They said that appointing Tatmadaw member representatives implies that the Tatmadaw intends to hold on power for ever.”

“Well, the first point is that Legislative Hluttaws must be formed only with representatives-elect. Firstly, I want to recount the history of our country. The 1947 constitution was agreeable to the democratically-drawn constitution approved by the Constituent Assembly. Well, the Chamber of Nationalities that was drawn and promulgated by that constitution included many Shan sawbwas (chieftains), who were not representatives-elect. To be exact, it is stated in Section 154 (2) under subtitle “Shan State” of the constitution Chapter (9) Part (1). It says that sawbwas of Shan State shall elect MPs representing Shan State from among themselves for the Chamber of Nationalities. As you know, hereditary sawbwas did not get legislative power in the colonialist period. They got the legislative power in the democracy period, didn’t they?”

“If it is said that it is because the 1947 constitution is outdated, I have to present the newly-approved constitution of Thailand. Section 111 of Part (III) of Thai constitution says that the Senate shall be formed

with 150 MPs: one MP from each province, and the MP selection committee shall appoint MPs for the remaining seats. In that regard, the Thai Constitution Drafting Committee in the announcement said that the purpose was to avert possible interference of political parties in the elections, and to enable the people of different lives and careers to represent the people in the Senate. And Section 115 says Senators shall not be members of any political party, or a spouse, child or inheritor of an MP of the lower chamber or a member of the governing body.”

“Thailand is made up of 76 provinces. So, if 76 representatives-elect is subtracted from the 150 Senators, there will be 74 appointed ones. So to say, it is 50 per cent.”

“In the Thai Senate, the number of representatives-elect and that of the appointed ones are nearly equal. In our country, 75 per cent of MPs will be representatives-elect and 25 per cent will be directly-appointed Tatmadaw member representatives.”

“In making a decision by voting at Hluttaws, the side that wins more than half of the total number is the winner. If a party is able to organize just 50 per cent of MPs, the proposal will be surely approved, and there is no need to take account the votes of Tatmadaw member representatives.”

“Then, think it over to know the accusation of whether Tatmadaw’s occupying 25 per cent seats is intended to hold on power is logical. If it had intended to keep on holding power, it would have occupied at least 50 per cent like some do.”

“Then, why do you think the Tatmadaw occupies only 25 per cent of the seats?”

“In this regard, I would like to give you an example. If you drop a ball and a billiken on the floor, how would they stand when they are stable?”

“Nothing will happen to the ball. It has a round shape, so it can stand on any side when it is stable. But, the billiken will stand upright, with its head on the upper side and its belly, on the lower side.”

“May I ask you, why does the billiken always

stand upright, then?”

“It is quite obvious. As you know, the lower part of the billiken is filled with mud. So, it always stands upright due to the weight of mud. Without weight, the billiken will lie in any position.”

“Yes, that is what I want to say to you. It is due to balancing of the weight. Like the mud filled into the lower part of a billiken, Tatmadaw member representatives will serve as a balancing weight in the Myanmar politics. **In the past in Myanmar, whenever a party won the majority of seats, the party neglected the wishes of the opposition minority. So, the constitution was just as valuable as a paper sheet. However much the proposals of the opposition party were reasonable or beneficial to the nation, the ruling party turned them down by vote in case the opposition party would become more popular and will win in the next elections. And if the parties were disunited, they tried to win the support of independent representatives-elect and small parties in order to win more votes. Many parties gave priority to their coming to power rather than to the national interests, so the nation faced a lot of bitter experiences.**”

“Twenty-five per cent of seats in the legislative bodies are designated for Tatmadaw member representatives to be able to address such cases. The responsibility of the Tatmadaw member representatives is to keep a good balance in the interest of the nation. National interest is Our Three Main National Causes—Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity and Perpetuation of sovereignty. The Tatmadaw member representatives will have to control the situations in order that nothing may harm the interests of the nation and the people. There is no need to worry in case the ruling party will not win the votes of the Tatmadaw member representatives if the case is to be dealt in the interests of the nation and the people. I believe that if it is the case, Tatmadaw member representatives will not vote against the proposals submitted by either the ruling party or the opposition party.”

“The Tatmadaw wants to see the nation always stands upright like a billiken. When the people are mature enough to practise democracy, it will not matter. The Tatmadaw will have to serve as the balancing weight of a billiken, as long as necessary in order that the nation will not get into miserable conditions.

Translation: MS

Myanma Alin, Kyemon: 20-3-2008

In the past in Myanmar, whenever a party won the majority of seats, the party neglected the wishes of the opposition minority. So, the constitution was just as valuable as a paper sheet. However much the proposals of the opposition party were reasonable or beneficial to the nation, the ruling party turned them down by vote in case the opposition party would become more popular and will win in the next elections.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San attend ceremony to offer ‘soon’ to State Ovadaçariya Sayadaws, members of SSMNC and SCWCS, Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida Sayadaws, title recipient Sayadaws



The congregation led by Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San receive Five Precepts from Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Kumara. — MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San offer “soon ” (day meal) to members of the Sangha. —MNA

(from page 1)

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San offered robes and alms to the Chairman Sayadaw.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win donated offertories to Secretary Nyaungdon Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin presented robes and provisions to State Ovadaçariya Mandalay Maha Withoddhayon Taikthit Waso

Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Shwegyin Sangharaja Bhaddanta Agghiya.

Members of the SPDC, senior military officers and the ministers donated alms to the Sayadaws.

Secretary Nyaungdon Sayadaw Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa delivered a sermon, and Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, wife Daw Mya Mya San and party shared merits gained.

After the ceremony, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, wife Daw Mya Mya San and party offered ‘soon’ to members of the Sangha.

MNA

Senior military officers and ministers donate offertories to Sayadaws. — MNA





Prime Minister General Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win donate robes and alms-bowl to a Sayadaw. (News on Page 1) MNA

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

Vietnamese goodwill delegation arrives in Yangon

YANGON, 20 March— At the invitation of the Secretary-General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, Vice-President Cum General Secretary of the Central Committee of

the Vietnam Father Land Front (VFF) Mr Vu Trong Kim arrived here by air yesterday evening.

The Vietnamese goodwill delegation was welcomed at the airport by USDA CEC member,

Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor U Aung Thein Lin and officials of USDA and Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Tran Van Tung.

MNA

USDA S-G meets Vice-President Cum General Secretary of Central Committee of Vietnam Father Land Front (VFF)

YANGON, 20 March— Secretary-General U Htay Oo of the Union Solidarity and Development Association met the Vietnamese delegation led by Vice-President Cum General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Vietnam Father Land Front (VFF) Mr Vu Trong Kim at the hall of USDA Headquarters on New University Avenue in Bahan Township this morning.

Also present at the call were USDA CEC member U Maung Pa and officials of the headquarters, Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Tran Van Tung and officials.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary-General U Htay Oo explained the aims of the USDA, implementation of the future plans, participation of the association in the tasks to build the new nation and

progress of the State.

Likewise, Vice-President Cum General Secretary of the Central Committee of VFF Mr Vu Trong Kim explained participation of the VFF in development tasks of Vietnam.

He said that as Myanmar is a sovereign nation he supports it in solving the internal affairs. He also supports the tasks in realizing the seven-step Road Map



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin donate robes and alms-bowl to a Sayadaw.

(News on Page 1) — MNA

phase by phase. He recognizes the participation of the USDA in successfully building the new nation.

He continued to say that he will perform the tasks to enable the Vietnamese people to know the correct progress of Myanmar. And, he said that efforts will be exerted for further cementing the friendly relationship

between the two associations.

After the meeting, the USDA Secretary-General and the Vietnamese guests exchanged gifts and posed for documentary photo.

In the evening, Secretary-General U Htay Oo hosted a dinner to the visiting Vietnamese delegation at Sedona Hotel.

MNA

Inter-State/ Division golfers awarded

NAY PYI TAW, 19 March—The 30th Inter-State/Division Golf Tournament 2008 was held at Yetaguntaung Golf Club in Mandalay through scratch system starting from 14 March. A total of 12 teams of states and divisions took part in the tournament.

Chairman of Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint watched the events of the final round on 18 March. After the final round, the prize presentation ceremony was held in the evening.

Officials concerned presented prizes to winners. Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presented the championship trophy to champions Mandalay Division Team.—MNA



USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo receives Vietnamese delegation led by Mr Vu Trong Kim, Vice-President Cum General Secretary of Central Committee of the Vietnam Father Land Front (VFF). —MNA

MWAF President receives UNICEF Resident Representative



President of MWAF Daw Khin Win receives Resident Representative of UNICEF Mr Ramesh Shrestha. — MNA

Greece, Azerbaijan agree to promote energy coop

ATHENS, 20 March — Greece and Azerbaijan agreed on Tuesday to sign a four-party agreement on natural gas supplies with Italy and Turkey aimed to ensure the successful completion of a Turkish-Greek-Italian natural gas pipeline project.

According to Athens news agency, Greek Development Minister Christos Folias, currently on an official visit to Azerbaijan aimed to promote energy cooperation between the two countries, recommended that Greece would undertake a

coordinating role towards this goal by hosting a meeting in Athens to finalize details of the agreement.

The Greek Minister and Azeri Industry and Energy Minister Natiq Aliyev signed a joint declaration, expanding a bilateral agreement signed in August 2007, confirming energy partnership between the two countries. Greece and Azerbaijan agreed to intensify efforts aimed to creating a safe energy corridor for the supply of natural gas.

MNA/Xinhua

NAY PYI TAW, 20 March — President of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Daw Khin Win received Resident Representative of United Nations Children’s Fund Mr Ramesh Shrestha at MWAF on Than Lwin Road here this afternoon.

Vice-presidents Daw Khin Lay Myint and Daw Khin Thet Htay, General Secretary Dr Daw Myint Kyi and officials were also present.

MNA

USDA Joint Secretary-General undertakes regional development tasks

NAY PYI TAW, 20 March — Joint Secretary-General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association U Zaw Min met with departmental personnel and executives and members of Village USDA, townselders and members of social organizations at Kyaukpadaung Village in Thayet District on 15 March morning and fulfilled their needs.

The Joint Secretary-General met USDA members, members of social organizations, townselders and local people from 13 village- tracts in Aunglan Township. He donated 100 bags of cement for Pyalo Village Basic Education Primary School.

At the hall in Aunglan, he also met with departmental officials, district and township USDA executives, organizers and members, members of social organizations and local peoples and explained regional development task.

In meeting with USDA executives and members of social organizations of Thayet, Kanma, Mindon and Minhla, the joint secretary-general gave instructions on regional development.

On 16 March, he met with executives of District and Township USDAs and local people in Thayet.

While in Sinbaungwe, U Zaw Min met with local people and urged them to participate in social, education, health and social welfare tasks.

At No 80 BEPS in Phyauckseikgon Village of Taungdwingyi Township, the Joint Secretary-General met executives and members of USDA and local people from 55 village-tracts and explained rural development tasks.

At the hall of the township Peace and Development Council, the Joint Secretary-General met departmental officials, USDA executives and local people and stressed the need for progress of education and health and economic growth. —MNA

Minister meets with officials and staff of INRD and FSD



Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe meeting with employees of Immigration and National Registration Department and Yangon Division FSD. — MNA

YANGON, 20 March — Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe met with officials and staff under Yangon Division Immigration and National Registration Department and Yangon Division Fire Services Department at the meeting hall of Population Department, here, today.

At the meeting, Director U Hla Daung of Yangon Division INRD briefed the minister on the process of taking census in Yangon Division, measures for issuing Citizenship Scrutiny Cards and conducting poll to be able to hold the referendum.

Regarding the reports, the minister attended to the needs and gave instructions on tasks being

carried out for issuing CSCs in respective states and divisions including the remote areas, the process of taking census, accomplishment of the tasks for conducting poll to be able to hold the referendum, constant analysis and compilation of facts and figures, tasks to be carried out with greater momentum, fire preventive measures, striving for giving educative talks effectively, coordination on the requirements for fire preventive measures with authorities concerned, objectives to be realized successfully and active participation in the realization of seven-step Road Map of the State.

MNA

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“World TB DAY”

24-3-2008

တီဘီကင်းစင်ကမ္ဘာတစ်ခွင်

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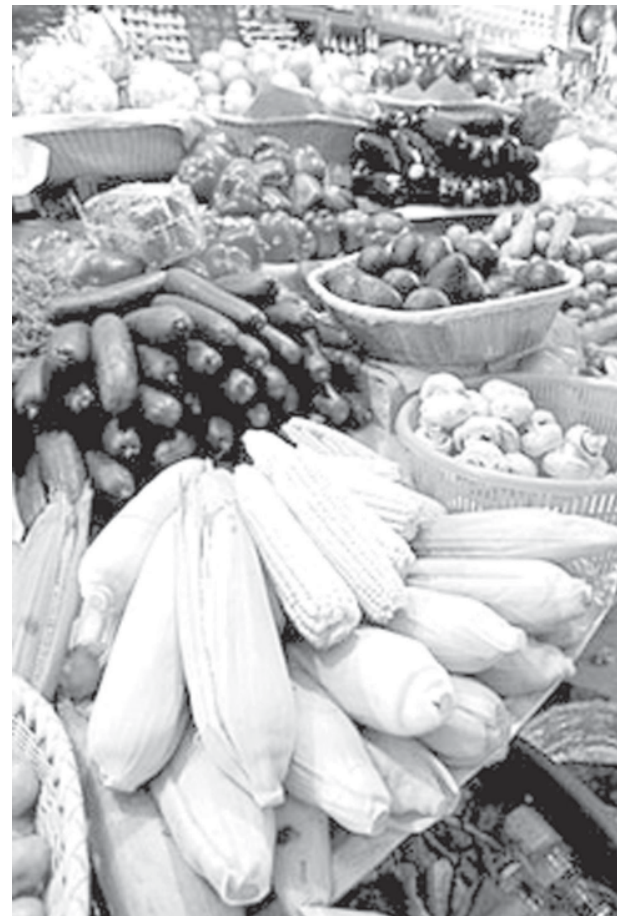
“I AM STOPPING TB”

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန



Star formation seen by NASA's Hubble Space Telescope. Astronomers on Wednesday announced they had detected methane in the atmosphere of a planet 63 light years away, boosting prospects for identifying any life that exists beyond our Solar System.—INTERNET

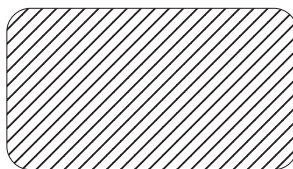
Images of the Day



Corn cobs are displayed for sale along with other vegetables in a market. Men and women have different tastes in food, with men favoring meat and poultry, and women fruits and vegetables, researchers said in what was touted as the most extensive study to date of gender differences in eating habits.—INTERNET



Girls dressed in traditional costumes run as men throw water on them as part of Easter celebrations during a presentation to the media in Mezokovesd, 130 km (81 miles) east of Budapest, on 20 March, 2008. Locals from northeast Hungary celebrate Easter with the traditional "watering of the girls", a fertility ritual rooted in Hungary's tribal pre-Christian past.—INTERNET



A girl participates in the celebrations for the spring season during Holi, the festival of colours, in the eastern Indian city of Kolkata on 20 March, 2008. The tradition of Holi heralds the beginning of spring and is celebrated by Hindus throughout the country. INTERNET



People watch while farmers use an elephant to plough a paddy field in Kegalle, about 48 miles north of Colombo, in this 9 Oct, 2007 file photo.—INTERNET

10m US baby boomers can develop Alzheimer's disease

WASHINGTON, 20 March — One of eight baby boomers in the United States will likely develop Alzheimer's disease, affecting an estimated 10 million people, according to a new report released by the Chicago-based Alzheimer's Association on Tuesday.

The baby boomers group, who were born from 1946 through 1964, now includes about 78 million Americans. Among them, 27 million are now ages 55-62 and 51 million ages 44-54.

According to the disease's average incidence rate, the association estimates that 10 millions of these baby boomers can expect to suffer from Alzheimer's disease in their remaining lifetime.

MNA/Xinhua

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THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS

INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER

1. Sealed Tender is invited by Myanma Railways, for supply of the following Stores which will be purchased in Myanmar Kyat;
- | Sr.No | Tender No. | Description | Quantity |
|-------|----------------|-----------------------------|----------|
| i. | 12(T)35/MR(MC) | AAR Coupler Knuckle (China) | 200-Nos |
| | 2007-2008 | AAR Coupler Knuckle (Korea) | 100-Nos |
| | | AAR Coupler Knuckle (Yugo) | 100-Nos |
- Closing Date/Time -30.4.2008 (Wednesday)(12:00) Hours
2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanma Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon starting from 20.3.2008 during the office hours.
3. For further details please call: 01-291982,291985 (201555Ext 601, 605).Deputy General Manager Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Botahtaung, Yangon .

TRADE MARK CAUTION

Schering-Plough Ltd.,
of Weyrstrasse 20, CH-6000
Lucerne 6, SWITZERLAND,
is the Owner of the following
Trade Mark:-

CYLATRON

Reg. No. 315/2008

in respect of "Pharma-
ceutical preparations".
Fraudulent imitation or
unauthorised use of the
said Trade Mark will be dealt
with according to law.

Win Mu Tin
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
for Schering-Plough Ltd.
P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 21 March 2008

Don't Smoke

Disowned

Eldest son Aung Zaw holding Citizenship Scrutiny Card No 13/RaSaNa (Naing) 000323 did not listen to the parents and created various problems and caused anxieties. He evaded to hand over the investment money entrusted to him by the parents for ZIN 9 Company run by the family. He conspired the collapse of the company. We disown him as a son as from 21-3-2008. Moreover, we hereby declare that we shall not be responsible for monetary and other matters related to Aung Zaw.

Please do not enquire.
Aung Naing-Aye Mi

Russia to resume flights to Georgia from 25 March

Moscow, 20 March— Russia said on Tuesday it would resume passenger flights to Georgia later this month after Moscow cut them in November 2006 during a political row.

“Russia’s aviation authorities have informed the Georgian side of their consent to resume the Russian Federation’s air links with Georgia from 25 March,” Russia’s Transport Ministry said in a statement.

Ties between the two ex-Soviet states dipped to nearly an all-time low in late 2006 after Georgia arrested several suspected Russian spies. Moscow retaliated by cutting all railway, aviation and postal links with the country.—MNA/Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EAGLE PRIDE VOY NO (805N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EAGLE PRIDE VOY NO (805N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.3.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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 EAGLE SHIPPING CO, LTD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Thai police issue arrest warrant for Swedish tourist’s killer

BANGKOK, 20 March—Thai police issued an arrest warrant Tuesday for the main suspect in the murder of a Swedish female tourist on Thailand’s southern resort island Phuket over the weekend.

Phuket Governor Nirand Galayanamitra announced the arrest warrant for Akardej Tanke, 31, a local fisherman in Phuket, at a Press conference Tuesday.

Police held Akradej as the prime suspect in the murder of 27- year-old Swedish tourist Charlotta Hanna who was found hacked to death Saturday on Mai Khao beach in Phuket over the weekend.

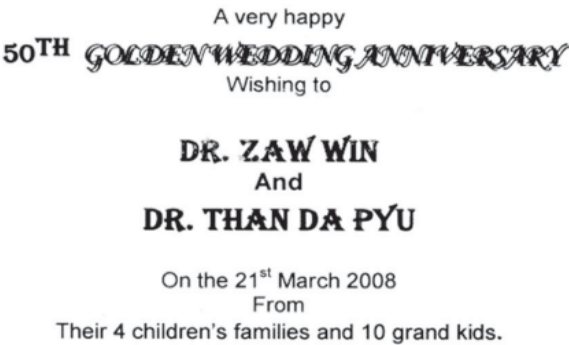
Police believe she was killed some time between 11:30 pm (1630 GMT) Saturday and 1:00 am (1700 GMT) Sunday while taking a walk on the beach.

The suspect was believed to have fled his home in Phuket Province’s Thalang District and gone to the southern province of Chumphon after the murder, the governor said.

“A large-scale manhunt by the combined police forces of Phuket and Chumphon is now underway to bring him to justice as the case has tarnished the tourism industry,” said Nirand, quoted by the Thai News Agency.

Akradej was convicted on a charge of theft in 2006, and has changed his name many times, he said.

The case has hurt Phuket’s reputation, said the governor.— MNA/Xinhua



Indonesia plays down threat to forests from mining

JAKARTA, 20 March—An Indonesian decree allowing mining companies to operate in tropical forests is unlikely to lead to massive deforestation, a forestry expert and government officials said on Tuesday arguing that mining had a limited impact.

Under a presidential decree issued on 4 February, mining firms, including open-pit miners, will be able to pay between 1.8 million and 2.4 million rupiah (200-265 US dollars) per hectare (2.5 acres) for forest land used for activities such as housing, roads, mine sites and waste dumps.

The decree has alarmed environmental groups concerned about Indonesia’s rapid deforestation.

The country had the fastest pace of deforestation in the world between 2000-2005, according to Greenpeace, with an area of forest equivalent to 300 soccer pitches destroyed every hour.—MNA/Reuters

Israeli FM says to pursue peace talks, “war on terror”

JERUSALEM, 19 March—Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni said on Tuesday that peace negotiations with moderate Palestinians and “the war on terror” should be pursued simultaneously, local daily The Jerusalem Post reported.

Livni outlined the basic principles of Israeli policy regarding the Gaza Strip and the West Bank during a meeting with visiting German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

The Israeli top diplomat said that Israel plans to negotiate with moderate Palestinian officials in the West Bank while simultaneously continues “the war on terror” in Gaza.

Livni’s remarks echo a speech by Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert on Monday.

Addressing a meeting of Israeli and German Cabinet Ministers in honour of visiting German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Olmert said Israel would spare no effort to prevent Hamas from hurting its citizens and at the same time try to promote the peace process with the Palestinians.

MNA/Xinhua

In US court fight, the shark fins win

SAN FRANCISCO, 19 March—In the case of “United States of America v Approximately 64,695 Pounds of Shark Fins,” the shark fins have prevailed.

The lawsuit stemmed from the US seizure of 618,956 US dollars worth of the fins, used in Asian soups, from the King Diamond II, an American vessel stopped about 250 miles off the coast of Guatemala in 2002.

The three-judge US 9th Circuit Court of Appeals

decided on Monday the seizure of the 29,407 kilos of fins was not legitimate because the ship was not actually a fishing vessel.

In shark finning, fishermen chop off the fins and dump the sharks back in the sea. A Hong Kong firm had bought the shark fins from other boats at sea.

According to a 2000 US law, it is illegal for a “fishing vessel” to possess shark fins without the rest of the carcass. The Hong Kong firm, Tai Loong Hong, argued the boat was not a fishing vessel and was engaged only in trading.

“In the absence of any other indication in the statutes or the regulations, a vessel engaged in such trade has reason to believe that it is not subject to the possession prohibition as a fishing vessel,” the court said.

MNA/Reuters

Beware of Fire

India tribe sacrifices animals to stop mine

BHUBANESWAR (India), 19 March—An ancient Indian tribe opposed to an alumina refinery by Britain’s Vedanta Resources has sacrificed dozens of chickens and goats in the hope their gods will prevent the firm’s mining plans. Vedanta wants to dig open-cast mines in the Niyamgiri hills in Orissa State to feed an alumina refinery it has already built in the area. It is spending 800 million US dollars on the project.

But the local Kandha tribe says the mine will destroy hills they consider sacred, force them from their homes and destroy their forest-dependent livelihoods.

Many of them participated at the weekend in a ritualistic sacrifice of

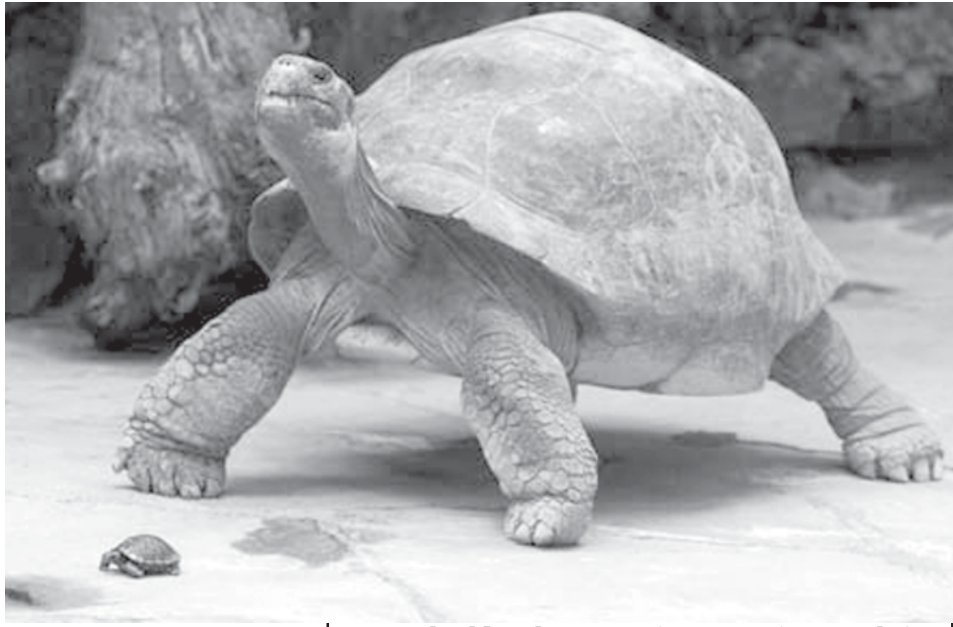
chickens and goats as an offering to their gods and vowed to fight Vedanta off their lands. “We performed the rituals because some of us have seen the gods in dreams telling us to protect the hills, Kumuti Majhi, a tribal woman leader, said on Monday.

The tribesmen danced for hours in front of a stone

and wooden pillar, representing their gods, while shamans chanted tribal prayers to the beat of drums, police and eyewitnesses said.

After protests, India’s Supreme Court barred Vedanta in November from mining bauxite in the Niyamgiri hills.

MNA/Reuters



A week-old Galapagos Giant Tortoise crawls in front of its 70-year-old mother “Nigrita” inside an enclosure at Zurich zoo on 19 March, 2007.

INTERNET

Korean film scoops top prizes in Asian film awards

HONG KONG, 19 March — South Korean film “Secret Sunshine” won a clutch of awards including best film at Monday’s second pan-Asian film awards in Hong Kong, which seeks to recognize the region’s diverse film talent. The film, about a

bereaved widow and her child seeking a new start in a quiet Korean town, picked up the best film award, as well as prizes for best director Lee Chang-dong and best actress Jeon Do-yeon. “For me, I had to play a mother who loses her child and it was a little

hard,” said Jeon through a translator at a post-award news conference.

The best actor award went to Hong Kong actor Tony Leung for his role in the award-winning “Lust, Caution”—which features lengthy and sometimes violent sex scenes with Chinese co-star Tang Wei.

The best supporting actress award went to Chinese-American actress Joan Chen for her role in “The Sun Also Rises”, based on several inter-weaving stories set during China’s tumultuous Cultural Revolution.—MNA/Reuters

“Older” blood does more harm than good

BEIJING, 20 March—A new study showed that blood deteriorates with age and heart surgery patients are more likely to suffer problems if they receive transfusions of blood that has been stored for more than two weeks than those who get fresher blood, said a study in Thursday’s New England Journal of Medicine.

In the study, researchers examined the records of 6,000 patients treated at the Cleveland Clinic, who

were given blood transfusions during heart-bypass or heart-valve surgery.

A little less than half of the patients received blood that had been stored for 14 days or less, and a little more than half got blood that was older.

The study found that the one-year survival rate was 89 percent for those who got older blood, but nearly 93 percent for patients who got fresher blood.—Internet



Olympic champion Pieter van den Hoogenband’s preparations for the Beijing Games were thrown into turmoil as the Dutch swimmer fails to qualify for the 200m freestyle final at the European swimming championships.

INTERNET

Bird flu kills Vietnamese teenager

HANOI, 20 March—Bird flu has killed a 11-year-old boy in northern Vietnam, the fifth casualty from the H5N1 virus this year, a health official said here. The boy died last Friday at a Hanoi hospital, more than

a week after he had fallen sick, and tests confirmed he was infected by the H5N1 virus, said Nguyen Lap Quyet, Health Department Director in Ha Nam Province.

“Controlling bird flu has

been difficult because poultry raising is not on a large scale but still on a family basis,” Quyet said by telephone from Ha Nam, about 60 kilometres (37 miles) south of Hanoi.

MNA/Reuters

China lifts bird flu quarantine in southwest

BEIJING, 20 March—China has lifted a bird flu quarantine in southwestern province of Guizhou on Tuesday after no new cases were reported for 21 days.

No new outbreaks of the deadly H5N1 bird flu virus strain were found 21 days after at least 240,000 poultry have been slaughtered since it broke out on 17 February in Zheng’an County, Zunyi City in Guizhou, the

Ministry of Agriculture said on Tuesday.

The ministry has urged local authorities to beef up supervision and prevention measures and raise people’s awareness to prevent new outbreaks. Bird flu, or Avian influenza, is a contagious disease of animal origin caused by viruses that normally infect only birds and, less commonly, pigs. It can kill humans.

MNA/Xinhua

Vegan diet may help ease rheumatoid arthritis

LONDON, 20 March—A gluten-free vegan diet full of nuts, sunflower seeds, fruit and vegetables appears to offer protection against heart attacks and strokes for people with rheumatoid arthritis, Swedish researchers said on Tuesday. The diet appeared to lower cholesterol and also affect the immune system, easing some symptoms associated with the painful joint condition, they said.

The study suggested diet could play an important role for people with rheumatoid arthritis who are often more prone to heart attacks, strokes and clogged arteries, said a team from Sweden’s Karolinska Institute.

“These findings are compatible with previous results of vegetarian/vegan dietary regimens in non-rheumatoid arthritis subjects which have shown lower blood pressure, lower body mass index and lower incidence of cardiovascular disease,” the researchers wrote in the journal *Arthritis Research and Therapy*.—MNA/Reuters

Britons gift taxman over 300m pounds

LONDON, 20 March—Taxpayers needlessly gave 322 million pounds to the taxman last year by failing to claim back income tax overpayments, according to research by website Unbiased.co.uk.

The bulk of that — 224 million pounds — was lost by people failing to transfer deposits to lower-taxed partners, said the site, which promotes independent financial advice.

“The transfer of assets between partners subject to different tax rates can result in the reduction of tax liability and can provide an extra slice of savings for many households,” said David Elms, chief executive of IFA Promotion, which runs the Unbiased.co.uk site.

MNA/Reuters

SPORTS



Walter Julian Martinez(L) from Beijing Guo'an battles for the ball during game against Thailand's Krung Thai Bank on 19 March, 2008. — INTERNET

Ronaldo sends United clear as Chelsea stumble

LONDON, 20 March — Manchester United opened up a three-point lead at the top of the Premier League after cruising past lowly Bolton Wanderers 2-0 on Wednesday.

The prolific Cristiano Ronaldo inspired the reshuffled Reds to a fourth consecutive league victory with two classy first-half goals to take his tally for the season to 33.

In a rip-roaring London derby at White Hart Lane, Chelsea led three times against Tottenham Hotspur but were held 4-4. Joe Cole's double looked to have earned Chelsea the points before Robbie Keane struck a superb 88th-minute equalizer.

Victory would have put Chelsea level on points with Arsenal but they still trail the Gunners by two points and champions United by five in a thrilling title race.—MNA/Reuters

Defiant Sanchez not quitting Mexico posts

MEXICO CITY, 19 March — Hugo Sanchez said he will not resign as coach of Mexico's senior and Under-23 squads after the unexpected failure to qualify for the Olympic Games. "I've said it already, I'm not resigning," Sanchez told a news conference at Mexico City airport on Tuesday after the Under-23 team returned from the CONCACAF Olympic qualifiers in the United States.

"I'm sad, as are all Mexicans, and disappointed, because our dream was to take part at the Olympic Games," he said.

MNA/Reuters



Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland returns a shot to Russia's Svetlana Kuznetsova in the quarter finals of the Pacific Life Open tennis tournament in Indian Wells, California. —INTERNET

Rangers leave it late to earn Scottish Cup replay

GLASGOW, 20 March — Striker Kris Boyd scored a late equalizer for Rangers at Ibrox as Second Division Partick Thistle clung on for a 1-1 draw in the Scottish FA Cup quarterfinal on Wednesday.

Boyd, who scored twice and then hit the decisive penalty in Rangers's League Cup final shootout win on Sunday, knocked in the equalizer against Thistle just two minutes after Damon Gray slotted home the opener.

Rangers struggled to make any impact on a frustrating night and it took almost an hour for them to manage an effort on target when Steve Naismith sent a 58th-minute header skidding off the top of the bar.

Thistle stunned the home support by snatching the lead with Gray's goal on 67 minutes.

He latched onto a low ball from Gary Harkins before drilling a 15-yard shot across keeper Allan McGregor into the bottom left.

Boyd levelled matters almost immediately after a goalmouth scramble, and Rangers were booed off the pitch by their supporters at the final whistle.

MNA/Reuters



Denver Nuggets forward Carmelo Anthony (C) heads to the basket under pressure from the Philadelphia 76ers centre Samuel Dalembert (L) and 76ers forward Andre Iguodala (R) during the first quarter of their NBA basketball game in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on 19 March, 2008. The 76ers beat the Nuggets 115-113. —INTERNET

Bottle thrower says did not mean to harm anyone

MADRID, 19 March — The Real Betis fan accused of throwing a bottle at Athletic Bilbao goalkeeper Armando did not mean to cause harm, his lawyer was quoted as saying in Spanish media on Tuesday.

"My client is deeply sorry. He didn't want to injure Armando. Carmelo is really affected by all this because he is a true Betis fan," Alvaro Pimentel said.

"All he asks now is that people show respect towards his family."

The 40-year-old man identified with the initials CPR, a builder from near Seville, was released on bail on Monday after being charged with a public disorder offence and causing injury.

MNA/Reuters



Tottenham Hotspur's Didier Zokora (L) is held back by Chelsea's Frank Lampard during their English Premier League soccer match at the White Hart Lane stadium in London. Clarke.—INTERNET

Bayern beat Wolfsburg to reach German Cup final

BERLIN, 20 March — Bayern Munich scored two second-half goals to beat VfL Wolfsburg 2-0 in the German Cup semifinal on Wednesday.

France playmaker Franck Ribery and Miroslav Klose scored to lead the home side to victory over Wolfsburg, with former Bayern coach Felix Magath in charge, and into the final on 19 April against Borussia Dortmund.

Bayern, who went into the game on a two-match losing streak, went ahead when Ribery caught up with a through ball from Germany striker Klose on the hour and beat Diego Benaglio with a crisp low shot between the Wolfsburg goalkeeper's legs.

Six minutes later an unmarked Klose tapped in from the right after Benaglio was only able to knock down a Lukas Podolski shot from the left, keeping alive Bayern's hopes of three titles this season in the German Cup, Bundesliga and UEFA Cup.

"We had a black day at Cottbus (on Saturday) and the team rehabilitated itself," Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld, whose team lead the Bundesliga by five points over second-placed Hamburg SV, told reporters.—MNA/Reuters

Genoa hold Inter, late Lazio goal sinks Roma

ROME, 20 March — Inter Milan moved seven points clear at the top of Serie A on Wednesday despite drawing 1-1 at Genoa, after second-placed AS Roma lost 3-2 to Lazio in a thrilling city derby.

A late Marco Borriello goal earned Genoa a point after Honduran striker David Suazo scored in the 12th minute for Inter, who had Portuguese midfielder Pele sent off for a second yellow just before halftime.

Roma were sunk by a stoppage-time winner from Lazio's Swiss midfielder Valon Behrami. Goran Pandev and Tommaso Rocchi also scored for Lazio with Rodrigo Taddei and Simone Perrotta on target for Roma.

Third-placed Juventus have 55 points from 29 games, 13 fewer than Inter, after being held to a goalless draw at struggling Empoli.

Fiorentina stay fourth and in control of Italy's final Champions League qualification slot despite losing 2-0 at Napoli, for whom Argentine striker Ezequiel Lavezzi hit a double.

Fifth-placed Milan remain four points behind the Florence side after losing 2-1 to Sampdoria at the San Siro.

Inter had looked comfortable after Suazo tucked away a sweet Zlatan Ibrahimovic cross until Pepe's harsh red card.—MNA/Reuters

Iraqi refugee conference held in Jordan

AMMAN, 20 March — An international conference on Iraqi refugee issues was held on Tuesday in Amman, Jordan. Representatives from Iraq, Egypt, Syria and Lebanon attended the meeting, while Turkish, Iranian representatives and officials from United Nations and the European

Union also took part in the conference as “observers”.

During the one-day conference, Jordanian Foreign Minister Salah Bashir called for more efforts to help countries hosting Iraqi refugees to cope with the burdens of sheltering Iraqis.

According to official

statistics, Iraqis residing in Jordan cost the country 2.26 billion US dollars over the past three years.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimated that more than two million Iraqis have fled their homeland for safety abroad to wait out the war, with more than 700,000 and 1.2 million spilling into neighbouring Jordan and Syria respectively.

“We need a mechanism to help these states cope with the burdens of hosting Iraqis and provide them with adequate care until they return to Iraq,” said Bashir.

He also stressed the importance of restoring security and stability in Iraq through a political process.

In January, the UNHCR appealed for 261 million US dollars for programmes to “support the most vulnerable of the uprooted inside and outside Iraq”. —MNA/Xinhua

Cairo’s Confucius Institute debuts Chinese-language class

CAIRO, 20 March — The Confucius Institute of Egypt’s famed Cairo University held a ceremony Tuesday afternoon to celebrate the opening of its first Chinese-language class.

Wang Kejian, Minister Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in Egypt, voiced his appreciation to those involved in the establishment and operation of the Confucius Institute of Cairo University.

“The opening of its first Chinese-language class is of great significance for both sides,” Wang said at the ceremony.

To study the Chinese language would help enhance the exchange of culture and promote further economic cooperation between China and Egypt, said Wang.

It’s also helpful for Egypt to attract more Chinese tourists since the Chinese-language class has special programmes for tourism, added Wang.

Hamdi Ibrahim, head of the Confucius Institute and Counsellor of the Cairo University President for Open Learning, said it’s a good chance for

Egyptians to study Chinese.

Egyptian youths have the desire to study foreign languages including Chinese which would open the door to another civilization, said Ibrahim.

At the end of the ceremony, Ibrahim, on behalf of the Confucius Institute, received some 3,000 Chinese books offered by the Chinese side.

MNA/Xinhua

Bosnia blast kills 2 mine clearers, injures one

SARAJEVO, 20 March — Two Bosnian mine clearers were killed and one seriously injured in a landmine blast in northern Bosnia on Tuesday, the second such accident this week, *Fena* news agency reported.

“Two deminers died instantly when an anti-infantry mine went off,” Pavo Vukovic, head of a private demining company, told *Fena*. He said the injured mine clearer was admitted to hospital and was in a stable

condition.

On Monday, a 35-year-old deminer was killed during a mine-removal operation in the northern Stanari Village.

Almost 4 per cent of the Balkan country remains planted with landmines left over from the 1992-95 war, endangering the lives of 900,000 people living nearby, said Prime Minister Nikola Spiric, launching a new anti-mine campaign.

MNA/Reuters

French court releases Socgen rogue trader

PARIS, 20 March — A French court on Tuesday ordered the release of a rogue trader accused of a massive fraud at Societe Generale pending investigations on a multi-billion-dollar scandal.

Jerome Kerviel, suspected of having engineered rogue deals involving a massive 4.9 billion euros (7.3 billion dollars) at Societe Generale, was detained by police for questioning on 8 February.

MNA/Xinhua

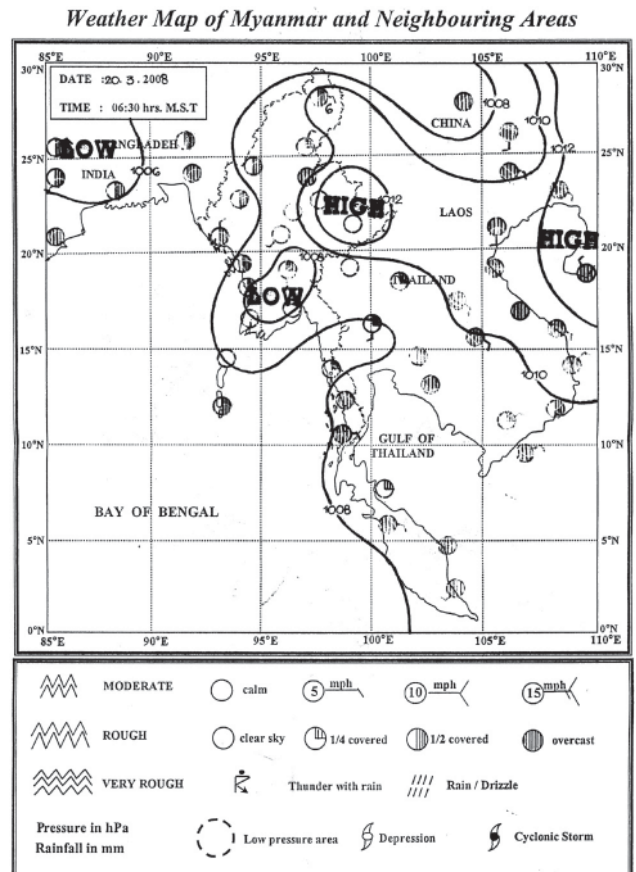
Fatah ready to talk if Hamas accepts Yemen initiative

SANAA, 20 March — Fatah officials said on Tuesday they were ready to begin a Palestinian national dialogue if the rival Hamas faction accepts the terms of a Yemeni initiative to end hostilities between them.

Delegations from the rival factions will meet separately with Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh but a breakthrough seems unlikely in the absence of Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas of Fatah.

Hamas Islamists routed Fatah forces to seize control of the Gaza Strip in June. After the takeover, Abbas dismissed a Hamas-led government and appointed a new Western-backed Cabinet in the occupied West Bank.

MNA/Reuters



WEATHER

Thursday, 20 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, weather has been partly cloudy in Shan, Kayin and Mon States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Ayeyawady, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above March average temperatures in Chin and Kayin States, Sagaing, Magway, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and about March average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures were Chauk (42°C), Minbu (41°C), Magway, Pakokku and Monywa (40°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Machanbaw (0.47) inch and Putao (0.28) inch.

Maximum temperature on 19-3-2008 was 99°F. Minimum temperature on 20-3-2008 was 69°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 20-3-2008 was 70%. Total sunshine hours on 19-3-2008 was (8.9) hours approx.

Rainfall on 20-3-2008 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 (6) mph from South at (17:30) hours MST on 19-3-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 21-3-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin and Chin States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in Shan State and Yangon Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 21-3-2008: Generally fair.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 21-3-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 21-3-2008: Generally fair.



Friday, 21 March
View on today

7:00 am

1. တောင်တန်းသာသနာပြု ဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော် ယောဆရာတော်ဘုရား၏ ဥပ္ပါတသန္တိပါဠိတော်

7:30 am

2. Morning news

7:40 am

3. မြတ်ဗုဒ္ဓ၊ မဇ္ဈိမ၏ အနှိုင်းမဲ့ ရတနာ

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:10 pm

2. တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြု တေးသီချင်းပြိုင်ပွဲဆုရတေးများ

4:20 pm

3. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ-တတိယနှစ် (မြန်မာစာအထူးပြု) (မြန်မာစာ)

4:35 pm

4. Song to uphold

National Spirit

4:45 pm

5. ဓမ္မပူဇော်တေးအစီအစဉ်

5:00 pm

6. သီတဂူဆရာတော် အရှင်ဉာဏိသာရ၏နေ့ဦးဆောင်း နှောင်းလတပေါင်း(အပိုင်း-၂)

6:00 pm

7. Evening news

6:30 pm

8. Weather report

6:35 am

9. သုတစုံလင်ရွှေညာဏ်ရှင်

7:00 am

10. မြန်မာရုပ်ရှင်

“ဆလည်းအေးကြလည်းအေး”

(အပိုင်း-၁)

(ကျော်ဟိန်း၊ ဒွေး၊ တင့်တင့်ထွန်း၊ မြင့်မြင့်ခိုင်

(ဒါရိုက်တာ-ခင်မောင်ဦး

စိုးသိမ်းထွန်း)

8:00 pm

11. News

12. International news

13. Weather report

14. မြန်မာရုပ်ရှင်

“ဆလည်းအေးကြလည်းအေး”

(အပိုင်း-၂) (ကျော်ဟိန်း၊ ဒွေး၊

တင့်တင့်ထွန်း၊ မြင့်မြင့်ခိုင်

(ဒါရိုက်တာ-ခင်မောင်ဦး

စိုးသိမ်းထွန်း)

Secretary-1 receives Vice-President Cum General Secretary of Central Committee of Vietnam Father Land Front (VFF)

YANGON, 20 March — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo received a goodwill delegation led by Mr Vu Trong Kim, Vice-President Cum General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Vietnam Father Land Front (VFF) at the Hall in 9th Mile here today.

Also present at the call were Secretary-General of Union Solidarity and Development Association U Htay Oo, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office Col Kyaw Kyaw Win, Deputy Director-General U Soe Win of Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ambassador of Vietnam to Myanmar Mr Tran Van Tung.



After the meeting, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Vice-President Cum General Secretary Mr Vu Trong Kim exchanged gifts and posed for documentary photos.—MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo receives Mr Vu Trong Kim, Vice-President Cum General Secretary of Central Committee of the Vietnam Father Land Front (VFF) in Yangon. —MNA

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To serve as balancing weight

If the parties were disunited, they tried to win the support of independent representatives-elect and small parties in order to win more votes. Many parties gave priority to their coming to power rather than to the national interests, so the nation faced a lot of bitter experiences.