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The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Tatmadaw and people united as one

Being precious sons, all of you must also abide by the 60 rules and regulations contained in the codes of conduct of soldiers. As the Tatmadaw and the people are united as one, our nation will be able to ward off any danger that may befall the nation.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
(From address delivered at the 62nd Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade)

Khabaung Reservoir opened in Ottwin Township

On completion of projects, Bago Division to be region on which State can rely in agricultural and electric sectors

NAY PYI TAW, 23 March — Khabaung Reservoir built by Construction-5 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation was opened in Ottwin Township this morning, with an address by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo.

The Secretary-1, accompanied by Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko, the ministers, the deputy ministers, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the director-general of the State Peace and Development Council Office and officials, arrived at Khabaung Reservoir at 8 am.

(See page 6)

***Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo delivers an address at opening of Khabaung Reservoir Multipurpose Project.*—MNA**

SPECIAL FEATURES TO HAIL THE 63rd ANNIVERSARY ARMED FORCES DAY

ARTICLE

The Tatmadaw, protector of the constitution

Success has been achieved as the Tatmadaw government has been making efforts for ensuring peace in the country since 1988 upholding the national cause or national politics.

PAGES 8+9

Progress of Education Sector in the Time of Tatmadaw Government

POEM

* In picturesque winter
Together with cherries
Blossom young graduates
Sun-burnt and crew cut
One summer day
Saluting with joy
Blessing each other
Like birds about to fly
Departed they

CARTOON

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 24 March, 2008

Tatmadaw upholding fine tradition of protecting the State and people

The Tatmadaw made up of the youth born of the people of various national races came into existence in the period of independence struggles.

The Tatmadaw managed to help the nation regain independence. Since then, it has been restoring community peace, ensuring prevalence of law and order, and safeguarding the people and public property. It has possessed a fine tradition of patriotic Tatmadaw as it has put the national cause in the fore.

At the same time, it has been carrying out the three primary tasks—national defence, military training, and community welfare service.

In addition, it is trying to become a strong and capable one for defending and safeguarding the motherland, remaining loyal to the nation and the people, and upholding Our Three Main National Causes.

Now, the Tatmadaw is working hard in harness with the people in the process of building a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

It tries its utmost to always possess the five qualities such as morale, discipline, loyalty, etc. The Tatmadaw with such fine qualifications is guarding the State's territory and sovereignty of the nation.

It is believed that the Myanma Tatmadaw will continue to discharge the duties with might and main to protect the lives and property of the people, while preserving the historic fine traditions.

Vietnamese delegation concludes visit

YANGON, 23 March — At the invitation of Secretary-General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association U Htay Oo, Vietnamese goodwill delegation led by Vice-President Cum General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Vietnam Father Land Front (VFF) Mr Vu Trong Kim was here last week and left this afternoon.

They were seen off at the Yangon International Airport by USDA CEC member Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor U Aung Thein Lin and officials and Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Tran Van Tung. — *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 U Nyan Win and wife being welcomed by Pakistani Ambassador Mr Muhammad Nawaz Chaudhry and wife at the reception to mark the anniversary of the Pakistan Day Sunday.*—MNA**

e Trade Myanmar launches SMS service

YANGON, 23 March — e Trade Myanmar Co Ltd will launch SMS service with the use of prepaid card system at Myanmar ICT Exhibition. It is available at Tatmadaw Convention Hall, GSM service centres and Internet cafes.

The users can open accounts on www.etmsms.com/ Register .aspx and can view www.etmsms.com for further information.

To mark the Myanmar ICT Exhibition, the special services will be given to religious and social organizations, private-owned businesses and GSM phone users during the exhibition days.

Every one may contact Room 8, Building 4, Myanmar Info-Tech in Hline Township, Ph: 01 652283, 507153, 4410909 and 09 5148626, Email-info@etrademyanmar.com, www.etrademyanmar.net and Mandalay Branch, Room 2/3, Building 3, second floor, 32nd street between 77th and 78th streets, Ph: 02 73417 and 09 5195222. — *MNA*

***e Trade Myanmar Co Ltd introduces SMS service at Myanmar ICT Exhibition.*—MNA**

International Beverages Trading Co Ltd holds dinner

YANGON, 23 March — International Beverages Trading Co Ltd hosted ato mark the Myanmar ICT Exhibition to mark the Myanmar ICT Exhibitioto mark the Myanmar ICT Exhibitionto mark the Myanmar ICT Exhibitionndinner to honour the owners of Brand Communication Outlet (BCO) restaurants and stores in lower Myanmar at Sedona Hotel here yesterday.

Managing Director U Aung Moe Kyaw of the company extended greetings and the entertainment programme followed.

Similarly, the company held a dinner in honour of the owners of Brand Communication Outlet (BCO) restaurants and stores in upper Myanmar at Sedona Hotel in Mandalay on 8 March.

The purpose of holding dinner was to set up good relations, to promote retailing and wholesaling and trade and to make cooperation in maintaining security and sales of the products between the company and its outlets.

MNA

***Managing Director U Aung Moe Kyaw extends greetings at the dinner.*—MNA**

Anti-war demonstrators arrested at NATO HQs

BRUSSELS, 23 March — Hundreds of anti-war demonstrators were arrested on Saturday at NATO headquarters as many of the protesters tried to enter the compound, organizers of the protest said. The protest took place on the fifth anniversary of the Iraq War. The protest, under a campaign called "NATO GAME OVER," was held 10 days before a NATO summit in Bucharest, capital of Romania. The organization behind this campaign, Vredesactie, said about 500 people have been arrested. There was no confirmation from the police.

Vredesactie said more than 50 activists successfully got inside NATO headquarters despite a heavy police presence. Police used water cannons to prevent protesters from gaining access to the compound in a suburb of Brussels. The organization accused NATO of helping the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. "Without NATO the war in Iraq and Afghanistan would not be possible," said Vredesactie in a statement.

NATO has made European countries logistic hubs for the US military. European soldiers are also fighting in Afghanistan, it said.

On the NATO summit, it said Europeans do not want to use war and military threats to solve conflicts, as their leaders do.— *Xinhua*

***Policemen surround demonstrators during a non-violent demonstration, "NATO Game Over" at the gates of the NATO headquarters in Evere, Brussels. Hundreds of demonstrators from member countries of NATO laid siege to the alliance's headquarters on the outskirts of Brussels on Saturday to mark the fifth anniversary of the Iraq war.*—INTERNET**

***Belgian riot police arrest an activist who attempted to enter the NATO headquarters in Brussels, on 22 March, 2008.*—INTERNET**

Brazilian police seize cocaine from truck batteries

BRASILIA, 22 March — Brazilian police seized about one ton of cocaine hidden in truck batteries near Itabiba, Sao Paulo State, the Brazilian Federal Police announced here Friday.

Three suspects, two of them from Suriname, were arrested.

Police were investigating the origin of the cocaine, which was going to be shipped to Poland and the Netherlands.

A recent UN report said Brazil has become an important transfer station for world drug smuggling. A kilogramme of heroin is priced at 8,000 real (4,706 US dollars) in the Brazilian market.

Xinhua

***Children touch the model of extraterrestrial creature in Quancheng Park in Jinan, capital of east China's Shandong province, on 22 March, 2008. An exhibition of universe exploration was held there on Saturday.* XINHUA**

Yellow River flood causes blackout in N China town

DUGUITALA, 22 March — Up to 5,000 people in Duguitala Town in north China's Inner Mongolia were without drinking water and electricity on Friday. after icy waters from the Yellow River flooded a local power transformer station. The blackout in Duguitala and surrounding areas in Hangjin Banner, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, occurred at 10:00 p m on Thursday, after the flood waters rose to a metre deep. No casualties have been reported. Emergency workers are building barriers to patch up collapsed sections of the embankments.

The local telecommunication company sent two engineers to the venue, and prepared cellphone chargers and an emergency mobile signal transmitter to guarantee communications to the region. —*Xinhua*

***Visitors view an old marriage certificate at the exhibition on the century's marriage certificates held in Weifang City, east China's Shandong Province, on 22 March, 2008. Over 30 marriage certificates were shown to visitors.* —XINHUA**

All Items from Xinhua News Agency

Civilian killed in bomb attack in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 23 March — An Iraqi civilian was killed and three others were wounded by a roadside bomb explosion in the Iraqi capital on Saturday, an Interior Ministry source said.

"A roadside bomb went off near a minivan carrying passengers while passing in Baghdad's eastern neighbourhood of Mashtal, killing a passenger and injuring three others aboard," the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

The blast damaged the minivan along with several nearby civilian cars, the source said.

Also in the capital, the source said that police patrols picked up two unidentified bodies dumped in different parts of Baghdad during the past 24 hours.

Xinhua

Two killed, four wounded in Gaza explosion

GAZA, 22 March — Two Palestinian militants were killed and four wounded in an explosion in southern Gaza City, Palestinian medics and witnesses said on Thursday.

Reports on casualties and reason of the explosion were conflicting. Palestinian security sources close to Hamas said that two militants were killed and four wounded "in an explosion that was a result of a working accident in a base belongs to al-Qassam Brigades in southern Gaza City."

While Mo'aweya Hassanein, chief of emergency and ambulance service in the Palestinian Health Ministry, said one Palestinian militant was killed and four wounded in the explosion in southern Gaza City. —*Xinhua*

36,000 dengue cases reported in Brazilian city

RIO DE JANEIRO, 22 March — Some 36,000 citizens in this second largest city of Brazil have acquired dengue fever so far this year, causing an emergency situation in hospitals, local health officials said on Friday.

On Thursday alone, 2,053 new dengue cases were registered in the city. At least 47 people have died from the disease so far this year and the number could double as 49 other fatal victims are being tested to see if they died from the disease. —*Xinhua*

Kurdish spring festivals in Turkey turn violent

DIYARBAKIR (Turkey), 23 March — More than 100 Kurdish demonstrators and 10 policemen were injured and more than 160 Kurds detained across southeastern Turkey on Saturday when police broke up spring festival celebrations, security sources said.

Turkish police firing water cannons, teargas and wielding batons clashed with demonstrators in the streets in the southeastern cities of Van and Siirt.

More than 60 Kurdish demonstrators and two policemen were injured in fighting in Van after security forces tried to disperse a crowd of nearly 10,000 Kurds celebrating Newroz and shouting slogans supporting the banned separatist Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK).

Tensions are high in Turkey's mostly-Kurdish southeast as military operations against the PKK have continued after the military launched an eight-day operation into northern Iraq to wipe out PKK camps there.

MNA/Reuters

Turkish riot police charge with batons to disperse pro-Kurdish DTP supporters during a demonstration in the eastern Turkish city of Van on 22 March, 2008, while celebrating Newroz by shouting slogans supporting the banned separatist Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK).

INTERNET

Bird flu detected in Turkish village

ANKARA, 23 March — Turkish authorities detected bird flu in chickens at a village in northwestern Turkey and began culling poultry, the semi-official *Anatolia* news agency reported on Saturday.

Some 1,000 chickens had been culled at the village of Esetce in Edirne Province which was close to Turkey's border with Greece, said the report, adding that the area was under quarantine for the time being. The report did not specify the strain of the bird flu virus, so it was not clear whether the virus found at Esetce was the deadly H5N1 strain.

MNA/Xinhua

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

US soldier killed by indirect fire in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 23 March — An American soldier was killed and four others were injured by an indirect fire attack in Baghdad, the US military said on Saturday.

The soldier died of wounds sustained from the indirect fire attack in south of the capital on Friday, a brief military statement said.

Indirect fire usually refers to mortar or rocket attacks in the terminology of US military statements. The name of the deceased is being withheld pending notification of the relatives, the statement added. The latest death brings the number of US soldiers that have been killed in Iraq to about 3,993 since the Iraq war broke out in 2003, according to media count based on Pentagon figures.

MNA/Xinhua

US sailor arrested for killing of Japanese taxi driver

TOKYO, 23 March —A US serviceman linked to the killing of a Japanese taxi driver near an American navy base has been arrested, local media reported on Saturday.

Earlier, the Japanese Defence Ministry has been notified by the US fleet authorities that one of their soldier might have been implicated in a murder case, Defence Minister Shigeru Ishiba said in a Press conference on Friday.

The US serviceman is suspected of fatally stabbing a taxi driver in Yokosuka, Kanagawa Prefecture late Wednesday as the credit card that is believed to belong to him was found in the vehicle, said reports from the southeast Japanese port city of Yokosuka in Honshu.

MNA/Xinhua

Gunmen kill five in attack on Mexico police

MEXICO CITY, 23 March — Suspected drug cartel gunmen killed five people in an attack on a police station in central Mexico and during their subsequent escape, authorities said on Saturday.

At least six masked, heavily armed men raided the police station in the town of Jerecuaro, in the state of Guanajuato, on Friday, shooting and killing two police officers and a secretary.

Making their escape in sport utility vehicles, they gunned down another two police officers on a nearby highway, state authorities said.

MNA/Reuters

A woman takes part in a Via Crucis procession to protest in front of the US Embassy in Managua on the fifth anniversary of the war in Iraq on 21 March, 2008. The banner reads "Via Crucis — for peace and against war in Iraq".—INTERNET

Three killed in raid in Thai south

YALA (Thailand), 22 March — Two policemen and a suspected rebel were killed on Friday during a house raid in a village in Thailand's Muslim south, where nearly 3,000 people have died in four years of separatist unrest, police said. The two policemen, a Muslim and a Buddhist, were shot dead during a raid on the home of a suspected guerilla in Yala, one of the four southernmost provinces roiled by the violence.

Fifty soldiers and police then stormed the one-storey house and killed a 25-year-old Muslim man, police said.

The raid followed clashes on Wednesday between security forces and insurgents suspected of killing a 70-year-old Buddhist shopkeeper.

Two Muslim men, one of whom was believed to be a leading member of an insurgent group and with a 500,000 baht (16,000 US dollars) bounty on his head, died in that operation, police said.

MNA/Reuters

A mailbox is partially submerged by the flooding Meramec River on Water Street in Fenton, Missouri outside of St Louis on 21 March, 2008.—INTERNET

Asian central bankers see US cushion

BEIJING, 23 March—Intra-regional trade within Asia and domestic demand will help reduce the effects of a United States slowdown, while continued efforts to diversify financial markets may also soften the impact, according to South East Asian central bankers.

Growth in the US is projected to slow because of the continuing fallout from turmoil in the country's subprime mortgage market, the central bankers, known as the SEACEN Governors, said yesterday in a joint statement after a two-day meeting in Jakarta.

Even so, support from domestic demand among Asian economies has enabled "greater intra-regional trade," Heng Swee Keat, managing director of the Monetary Authority of Singapore, told Bloomberg News after the meeting. "The fundamentals in most economies are better than they were in previous recessions."

The US Federal Reserve on Wednesday cut its key interest rate by three-quarters of a percentage point to help avert a recession in the world's largest economy, amid its worst housing slump in 16 years. The US is Asia's biggest export market. —*Internet*

***Indonesia's Central bank governor Burhanuddin Abdullah gives a speech during the opening ceremony of the 43rd Southeast Asian Central Banks (SEACEN) Governors Conference in Jakarta on 21 March, 2008. SEACEN will discuss financial market uncertainty and dollar weakness at a two-day central bankers' meeting in Jakarta, Indonesian central bank officials said on Friday.—*XINHUA**

Police investigate dioxin in Italian mozzarella

ROME, 22 March — Makers of Italy's best mozzarella battled on Friday to save the reputation of their cheese after police found some of it was being made with milk contaminated with cancer-causing dioxin.

***Buffalos eating grass. Sixty-six buffalo herds in the Naples region have been quarantined because of high levels of dioxin found in buffalo milk used to make mozzarella, the ANSA news agency reported on Thursday.* INTERNET**

Police near Naples are investigating whether feed given to buffalo herds, which produce the best milk for mozzarella, was tainted, possibly by gangsters involved in illegal waste disposal.

The scandal is the latest blow to the cheese which used to be seen as by-word for fresh and natural Italian produce.

Sales of buffalo mozzarella plunged 40 per cent in January due to health fears when Naples and the surrounding Campania region became inundated with household waste when the garbage disposal system ground to a halt.

In an attempt to stop further damage, the association of buffalo mozzarella makers took out full-page advertisements in Italian newspapers on Friday to state that none of their members were being investigated.

MNA/Reuters

Zimbabwe set to clinch deals in Russia

HARARE, 22 March — Zimbabwe is this week set to clinch several tourist marketing development deals with top Russian tourist wholesalers as it starts to penetrate the Russian market, *The Herald* reported on Thursday.

Zimbabwe Tourism Authority (ZTA) chief executive Karikoga Kaseke on Wednesday held a series of meetings which have culminated in the drafting of tourist market development agreement that should be signed before the end of the week.

Kaseke met with the managing director of Ultra Travel Vladimir Pavlov, who was representing 14 tourist wholesalers and agreed to come up with a programme of action that should see the company bringing to Zimbabwe scores of tourists.

He also met with Paddington Tucker of Travel E-Sense, a company that dispatched 110 tourists to Hwange National Park and Victoria Falls early this year and agreed to immediately roll out a programme of action by the end of the week.

Kaseke also met World Without Borders, a consortium of 10 outbound tour operators, operations director Iilyn Toropovskivy and their discussion centred on Zimbabwe as a tourist destination. World Without Borders concentrates mainly in Europe and is beginning to consider adventure and safari packages for Africa.

MNA/Xinhua

Unemployment rate remains high in California

LOS ANGELES, 22 March — Unemployment rate remained high in California, the most populous state in the nation, but showed signs of declining, according to statistics released on Friday.

State unemployment declined to 5.7 per cent from 5.9 per cent in January as 26,000 new jobs were created in the month, the California Employment Development Department (CEDD) said.

The biggest gains came in the information sector and the educational and health services category. The steepest decline hit construction, which has been battered by a weak housing market and the sub-prime mortgage meltdown.

In the Los Angeles metropolitan area, unemployment fell to 5.3 per cent in February from a revised 5.7 per cent in January. That total, though an improvement, was well above 4.7 per cent in February of last year.

MNA/Xinhua

***A hostess presents a Samsung mobile phone at the CeBIT trade fair in Hanover on 3 March. Samsung will build a major mobile phone plant in Vietnam to expand its global market share, news reports said on Friday.—*INTERNET**

Official says Australian carbon should be auctioned

CANBERRA, 22 March — Australia's farmers, coal miners and power generators should have to bid at auction for carbon permits when carbon trading starts in 2010, the government's top climate adviser said on Thursday. Ross Garnaut, appointed by the government to help work out how to best introduce carbon trading, said giving major polluting industries free carbon permits would make no difference to the higher prices people would pay for energy or goods.

"Whether permits are allocated freely or auctioned to existing (electricity) generators, the price impact on households will be the same," Garnaut said in a discussion paper on Thursday.

MNA/Reuters

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo presses the button to open the stone inscriptions of Khabaung Hydropower Station.—MNA

Khabaung Reservoir opened in Ottwin …

(from page 1)

The opening ceremony was also attended by chairmen and members of division, district and township PDCs, technicians of CHMC and CHNEEC from the People's Republic of China, members of social organizations and local people.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko delivered a speech. He said rainwater is sufficient for cultivation of paddy in Bago Division only in the rainy season. After completion of the reservoir project, the 209th irrigation facility and 45th in Bago Division, summer paddy can be cultivated. The reservoir can generate 120 million kwh, he said.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo said there are more job opportunities with the development of agricultural sector. The number of farmers increased from 10.4 million to 22.9 million.

He said dams, sluice gates, river water pumping projects and underground water tapping projects are being implemented nationwide.

The minister spoke on increase of irrigated acreage, manufacture of farm implements and boosting production of paddy and beans and pulses. He said Myanmar stands a leading country in production of beans and pulses.

Next, Minister for Electric Power Col Zaw Min also spoke.

Next, the Secretary-1 delivered a speech saying the Head of State gave guidance that Bago Division experienced floods in the rainy season and it was again unable to grow crops in the summer due to scarcity of water. So efforts were to exerted to enable the division to become a region where crops could be cultivated in all seasons by tapping water resources of natural river and creeks in East and West Bago Yoma.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo inspects Khabaung Hydropower Station.–MNA

The Secretary-1 said Khabaung Reservoir opened today is the multi-purpose project designed to prevent floods in monsoon, to supply irrigation water and clean drinking water in summer and to fulfill the electricity needs if possible.

Like Yangon, Ayeyawady, Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway Divisions, Bago Division is populous and it is economically reliable for the country. The government has built a number of dams in both East and West Bago Yoma to make full use of the creeks flowing from the east to the west of Bago Yoma and to prevent silt and floods. As small-scale river-water pumping and embankment projects have been implemented, 1.1 million acres of irrigated land has been extended increasing, up to 2 million acres of land with double cropping, up from 500,000. And there are now 3 million acres of monsoon paddy and over 350,000 million acres of summer paddy.

Likewise, acreage of edible oil crops has increased from 0.15 million to about 0.5 million while acreage of beans and pulses has increased from 0.2 million to 1.3 million. As a result, the agricultural sector has improved significantly in terms of value and quantity. These fruitful results are due to the efforts of the local people making use of the good opportunities created by the government.

Prior to the Khabaung project, 20-megawatt Zaungtu hydro power station, 25-megawatt Ye Nwe

(See page 7)

Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko, Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo and Minister Col Zaw Min open Khabaung Reservoir.—MNA

Khabaung Reservoir opened in Ottwin …

(from page 6)

hydro power station and 2-megawatt Pathi hydro power station have already been built. Moreover, 40-megawatt Phyuchaung hydro power project, 60-megawatt Kunchaung hydro power project, 75-megawatt Shwekyin hydro power project and 140-megawatt Thaukyekhat-2 hydro power projects are under way. On completion of those projects, Bago Division will be a division on which the State can rely in the agricultural sector as well as the electric sector.

Now is the time when the State is striving for the improvement of all sectors such as politics, economics, social affairs, transport and communications. As infrastructures have been built as many as possible, democratic transition is being carried out step by step. And steps are being taken to hold a national referendum for the approval of the draft constitution.

At such a time, all the people are to try to safeguard sovereignty and independence and the right to decide on their internal affairs as there are outside interference and pressures in various forms. As the state constitution is the one drawn to be compatible with the nation's prevailing conditions, it is the concern of all the national people. Any instigation to disrupt the approval of the constitution will be a long way to introduce democracy for the people allowing the nation to become a follower of some Western nations. So it is necessary for all to prevent it. Again, all the people are to cooperate in successful implementation of the seven-step Road Map and it is the duty of all.

In conclusion, the Secretary-1 said he praised the staff at all levels for their contribution to the Khabaung project. He then urged them to maintain durability of Khabaung reservoir and hydro power station and protect the environment.

On behalf of the local people, U Than Htaik of Ottwin Township spoke words of thanks.

The Secretary-1 cordially greeted the local people who attended the ceremony.

The Secretary-1 sprinkled scented water on the stone inscriptions of the reservoir. The commander, Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo and Minister Col Zaw Min also sprinkled scented water on it and formally opened Khabaung Reservoir. The Secretary-1 and party posed for documentary photo. Next, the Secretary-1 visited the reservoir.

Khabaung Reservoir was built on Khabaung Creek, 15 miles west of Ottwin. It was an earth embankment type measuring 200 feet by 920 feet. The dam can irrigate 100,000 acres of farmlands. Khabaung Reservoir is the 209th irrigation facility of its kind in the entire nation and the 45th in Bago Division.

A ceremony to launch Khabaung Hydropower Plant was held. The commander and two ministers formally opened the power plant.

The Secretary-1 and party posed for documentary photo. The Secretary-1 unveiled the stone inscriptions of the power plant and sprinkled scented water on it. They viewed operating of turbine and generators at the power plant and functions of the radiator and control room.

The Secretary-1 presented the flower basket to technicians of CHMC and CNEEC of the People's Republic China and posed for documentary photo.

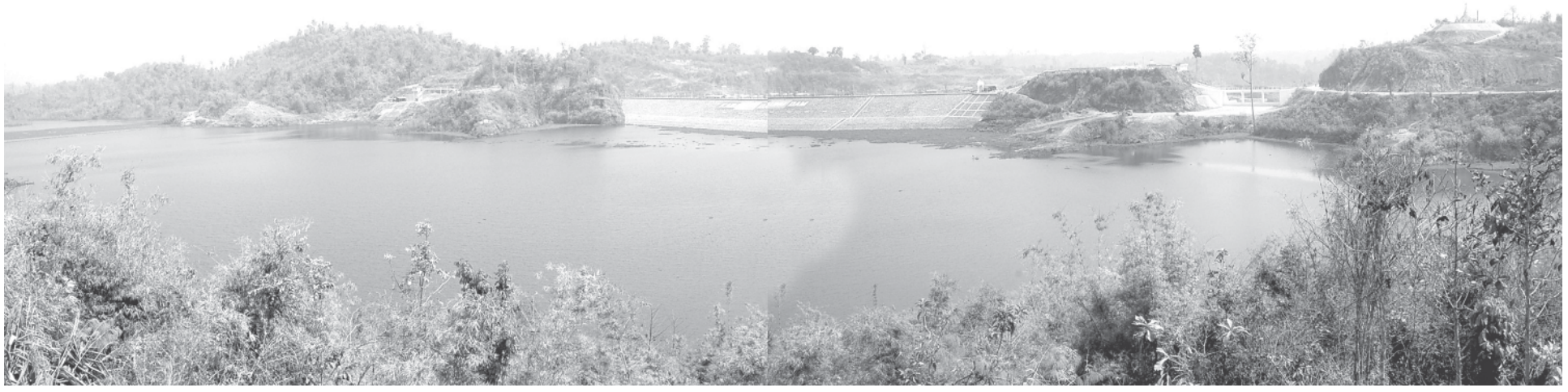
Next, the Secretary-1 and party visited the site of Khabaung Multi-purpose Reservoir Project.

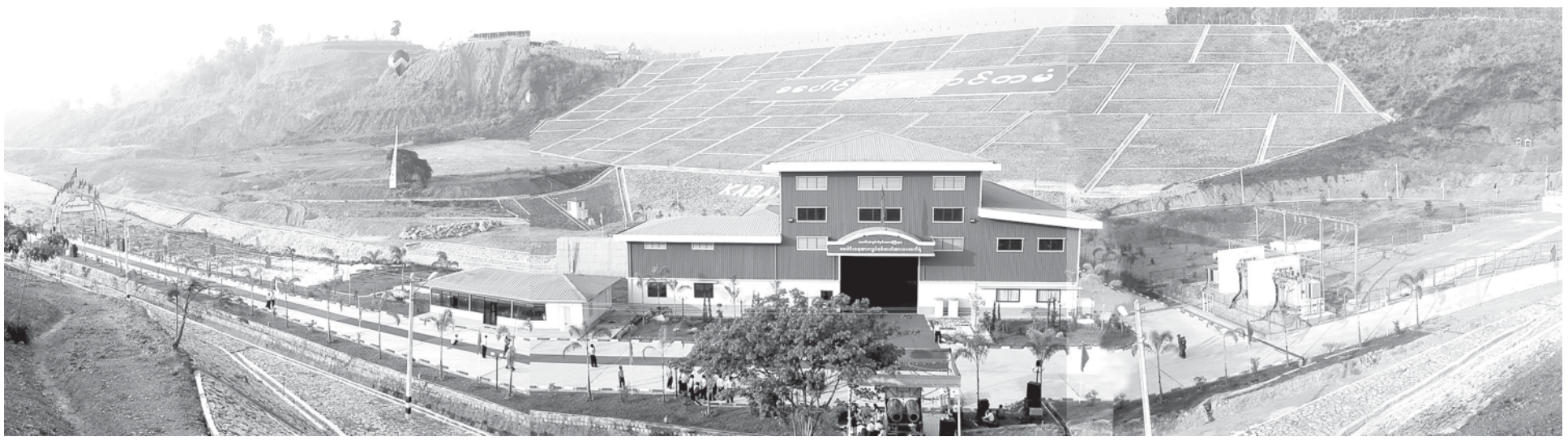
At the briefing hall, Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo reported to the Secretary-1 on matters related to the reservoir, and Minister Col Zaw Min on facts about the power plant. After hearing the reports, the Secretary-1 gave necessary instructions.

Later, the Secretary-1 viewed the tasks of Khabaung Multi-Purpose Reservoir Project and left for Nay Pyi Taw by car.

MNA

***Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo views Khabaung Reservoir.*—MNA**





***Khabaung Hydropower Station seen at Ottwin Township in Bago Division.*—MNA**

HAILING THE 63rd ANNIVERSARY ARMED FORCES DAY:

The Tatmadaw, protector of the constitution

Khaing Htet Aung

Only when the Tatmadaw is strong, will the nation be strong

— The Tatmadaw is mainly responsible for safeguarding the State Constitution.
— The Tatmadaw is mainly responsible for safeguarding non-disintegra-tion of the Union, non-disintegra-tion of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty.
— The Tatmadaw is the sole patriotic Tatmadaw which is strong, efficient and modern.

These are the principles on the Tatmadaw in Chapter 1 according to the fundamental principles and the detailed basic principles laid down by the National Convention completed on 3 September 2007.

The Commission for Drafting the State Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar drew the draft constitution from 3-12-2007 to 19-2-2008 based on the fundamental principles and the detailed basic principles laid down by the National Convention.

The fundamental principles on the Tatmadaw and the detailed basic principles regarding the constitution, the entire Union of Myanmar, the people of the Union of Myanmar and the independence of the people to be safeguarded by the Tatmadaw are stated in the Chapter 1 State Fundamental Principles and Chapter 7 the Tatmadaw.

Article 337 of Chapter 7 Tatmadaw states that the Tatmadaw is the core armed forces for national defence.

Article 339 states that the Tatmadaw must play a leading role in safeguarding the Union of Myanmar against all internal and external dangers.

Article 341 states that the Tatmadaw must render assistance to the people in case of the occurrence of a calamity in the nation that affects the nation and the people.

The approval of the draft of the State Constitution will be sought in May 2008 through a national referendum. After that the State Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar 2008 will emerge.

The State Constitution is a book that formally states that sovereignty which exists in the whole country can freely be exercised in the interest of the State and its people by the people themselves. In every sovereign nation how the power is shared, who is to govern the country under certain regulations on behalf of the people are stated. It also states the rights and privileges of the citizens. Safeguarding the constitution means safeguarding the independence of the citizens.

Myanmar people lost sovereignty under the rule of the imperialists for over a hundred years. They were oppressed and resources were exploited by the imperialists as they wished. Myanmar lost its independence or sovereignty. Therefore they tried to regain the independence. In those days, the people took part in the national political movement.

Myanmar patriots decided to drive out the imperialists by using arms if necessary because independence could not be regained through words or asking. Thus, Myanma Tatmadaw based on patriotism came into existence.

The Tatmadaw of Myanmar people was established for regaining independence. Fascists who entered Myanmar during the Second World War changed the name of Myanma Independence Army. They hindered the Tatmadaw in order not to become a strong force. When the imperialists re-entered Myanmar after the end of the Second World War, they reduced the number of the Tatmadaw members. Removing the national political concepts, politicians holding some political ideology created grabbing of power or armed insurgency. Secessionist insurgents under the influence of external imperialist group emerged.

Myanma Tatmadaw was changed into BIA, BDA and patriotic Tatmadaw and its strength was reduced by the fascists and the imperialists.

(See page 9)

The fundamental principles obviously state that the Tatmadaw shall safeguard the State Constitution, non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty. The Tatmadaw is the patriotic Tatmadaw which is strong, efficient and modern and can safeguard the State, its citizens and independence of the people against all internal and external dangers. These duties are assigned to it in the constitution by the national people.

HAILING THE 63rd ANNIVERSARY ARMED FORCES DAY:

The Tatmadaw, protector of the constitution

Khaing Htet Aung

(from page 8)

However, it was documented as the force that strove for independence at the risk of lives. Due to the conflicts of the sectarians after regaining independence, the country led to situation in which independence was nearly lost. In the interest of the people, the Tatmadaw safeguarded the sovereignty (independence), the Union of Myanmar and the lives and property of the people. In 1948-49, multi-coloured insurgents occupied towns and villages in the country. The Tatmadaw safeguarded the country and its people with the strength it had. As a result, Pha-sa-pa-la (AFPFL) government came to power.

In 1958-59, the ruling Pha-sa-pa-la (AFPFL) political party was split into groups. The Tatmadaw took control of the country when the stability of the State and perpetuation was in danger. The Tatmadaw held a free and fair election in early 1960. The Tatmadaw transferred power to Pha-sa-pa-la (clean) group or Pa-hta-sa (Pyidaungsu) government.

The situation in the country deteriorated due to the issue of the federal policy under the Pa-hta-sa (Pyidaungsu) government. On 2 March 1962, the Tatmadaw safeguarded the country when it was on the brink of the abyss. In 1988 disturbances, the country encountered the threat of the disintegration of the Union. The Tatmadaw defended the Union and safeguarded the independence (sovereignty).

Now the imperialists have invaded many countries with the use of new type (neo-colonialism) and exploited them. They have also tried to break up the Union of Myanmar people. The national forces comprising the national races and the Tatmadaw are carrying out the tasks for non-disintegration of the Union and perpetuation of sovereignty through national solidarity.

Success has been achieved as the Tatmadaw government has been making efforts for ensuring peace in the country since 1988 upholding the national cause or national politics. It has implemented all-round development tasks for the Union. Myanma Tatmadaw established for regaining independence is undertaking the development tasks while safeguarding the independence for the people. These are the tangible works of national political processes.

The history of the Tatmadaw is not only the military history but also the history of independence struggle, defence and emergence of a peaceful modern genuine discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

Therefore, the principles on the Tatmadaw are stated in the State Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (2008) drafted by the Commission for Drafting the State Constitution after the National Convention had laid down the principles with historical outlook.

The fundamental principles obviously state that the Tatmadaw shall safeguard the State Constitution, non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty. The Tatmadaw is the patriotic Tatmadaw which is strong, efficient and modern and can safeguard the State, its citizens and independence of the people against all internal and external dangers. These duties are assigned to it in the constitution by the national people.

Translation: NY

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**

POEM:

Ongoing task

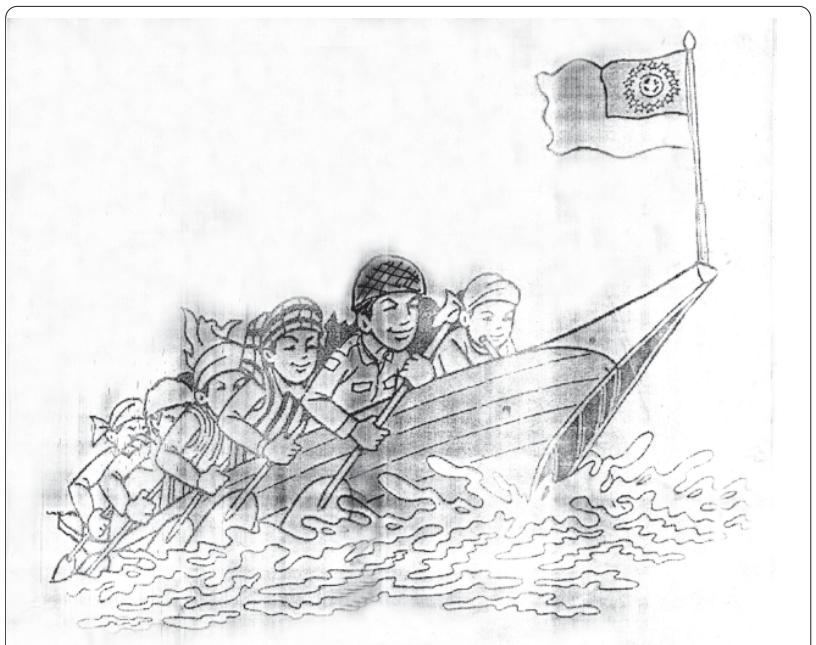
* In picturesque winter
Together with cherries
Blossom young graduates
Sun-burnt and crew cut
One summer day
Saluting with joy
Blessing each other
Like birds about to fly
Departed they
And time goes by
* Have passed years of thirty
Transfers they receive
To all parts they travel
In assigned places
Never have they reunions
But news of others
Hearing with joy
Winning victories
Dutiful they are
In every assigned region
Some dare like eagles
Flying high in sky
Some venture like fish
Into blue seas without fear
National dignity they enhance
So dutiful are brothers
Soldiers of victories
* From generation to generation
Go the spirit and strength
So sacrificing for nation
Dare to risk life
With brilliant capabilities
Heroes they are
Nation's loved sons
In ongoing task
Thou art dutiful.

(Hailing the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day)

Soe Moe (Pathein)

Translation

Take Fire Preventive Measures



On the same journey in the same boat

Kaung Htet

Loikaw University

The photo shows the main building of Loikaw University opened in Loikaw Township to enable students residing in Kayah State to have the opportunities for pursuing higher education.

Hailing 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day

Technological University (Monywa)

The main building of Technological University (Monywa) in Monywa of Sagaing Division.

The main building of Government Technological College (Myitkyina).

Progress of Education Sector in the Time of Tatmadaw Government

Sr.	Subject	1988	2007	Progress
1.	**Basic education schools**	33747	40553	6806
	- Number of teachers (million)	0.174	0.26	0.086
	- Number of students (million)	5.24	8.83	3.59
	- Multi-media classrooms	-	1694	1694
2.	**Teachership Training**			
	- Education College	17	20	3
	- Number of teachers	456	917	461
	- Number of trainees	4516	34643	30127
3.	**Higher Education**			
	- University/college/degree college	27	64	37
	- Human resource development centre	-	44	44
	- Number of faculty members	5996	17250	11254
	- Number of students (million)	0.134	0.52	0.386
4.	**Science and Technology**			
	- Technological Universities	1	29	28
	- Government Technological Colleges	-	8	8
	- Universities of Computer Studies	1	26	25
	- Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University	-	1	1
	- Number of faculty members	40	932	892
	- Number of students	-	54679	54679
5.	Myanmar Maritime University	-	1	1
6.	Universities/colleges of other ministries	1	22	21

Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo delivers an address at opening of Sub-Printing House (Myeik).—MNA

Sub-Printing House (Myeik) opened…

(from page 16)

to inform, to educate and to entertain the people, sub-printing houses were established in States and Divisions. As a result, the circulation of the newspapers will be increased for the local people. Likewise, the local people will have the opportunities to insert advertisement in the daily newspapers. In addition, the Sub-Printing House (Myeik) will run the printing works in addition to the production of newspapers.

A local spoke words of thanks.

The commander handed over 10 tons of newsprint to Managing Director U Soe Win.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein formally opened the Sub-Printing House (Myeik).

Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo unveiled the Sub-Printing House.

Next, they viewed the production process of the newspapers.

Sub-Printing House (Myeik) distributes Myanma Alin and Kyemon newspapers to townships and villages in Taninthayi Division as from 23 March (today). Local people in Myeik are pleased to read the newspapers in early mornings, it is learnt.

MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and Managing Director U Soe Win cut the ribbon to open the Sub-Printing House (Myeik).—MNA

Briefing on CICT diploma courses held

YANGON, 23 March — A briefing on CICT diploma courses, organized by Myanmar Information Technology Pte Ltd, was held at the Park Royal Hotel in Dagon Township this afternoon.

The company director U Aung Soe Tha made an opening speech and Business Operation Director Ms Olivia of Cambridge ICT For All in Malaysia explained facts about the course. Senior Project Manager Daw Le Mon Win explained the course syllabuses and teaching methods.

Next, Company Managing Director U Tun Thura Thet gave an account of Industry Oriented Aspect of Cambridge ICT and replied to the quarries raised by those present.

CICT diploma course will be taught based on industry oriented. Those completing the course will be able to stand as qualified software engineers and they can pursue bachelor degree in IT-related subjects abroad. The sole agent Myanmar Information Technology Pte Ltd will conduct CICT diploma in software engineering and CICT diploma in business IT in Myanmar.

The diploma courses will open in May 2008 and those wishing to join the courses may contact No 112, Room (11/12), 8th Mile, Pyay Road, Mayangon Township (Ph: 668779, 668259 or 650124). — *MNA*

Commander, Minister meet USDA members in Myeik

USDA Secretariat Member Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan delivers an address in meeting with secretaries, executives, organizers and members of Division/District/Township USDAs in Myeik.—MNA

YANGON, 23 March — Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo and Secretariat Member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan met with secretaries, executives, organizers and members of Division/District/Township and Ward USDAs in Myeik District at the Division USDA office yesterday.

Taninthayi Division USDA Joint-Secretary U Win Swe and secretaries and organizers reported on community welfare services for regional development and organizational tasks.

After hearing the reports, the commander and the minister fulfilled the requirements and stressed the need for public welfare services.—*MNA*

Business Operation Director Ms Olivia giving accounts on CICT diploma courses.—MNA

ADVERTISEMENT

ရက်စွဲ၊ ၂၀၀၈ ခုနှစ် မတ်လ ၂၀ ရက်

ချိပ်ပိတ်ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာခေါ်ယူခြင်း

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ၊ ဘိလပ်မြေစက်ရုံတည်ဆောက်ရေးစီမံကိန်းတွင် အသုံးပြုရန်လိုအပ်သော ကွန်ကရိသယ်ယာဉ် (အသစ် သို့မဟုတ် ပြုပြင်ပြီး)နှင့် ဆက်စပ်စက်ပစ္စည်းများကို အောက်ပါအတိုင်း ဌာနအရောက်ကျပ်ငွေဖြင့်ဖြစ်စေ၊ CIF/Yangon US$ စနစ်ဖြင့်ဖြစ်စေ ဝယ်ယူလိုပါသဖြင့် ချိပ်ပိတ်ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာများတင်သွင်းနိုင်ပါကြောင်း ဖိတ်ခေါ်ပါသည်။

စဉ်	ပစ္စည်းအမျိုးအစား	အရေအတွက်
(က)	Agitator/Mixer Truck (5m³ Capacity)	2 Nos
(ခ)	Mixer for Agitator Truck (3m³ Capacity)	3 Nos
(ဂ)	Concrete Pump With Accessories (Min 60m³ per hr)	1 No

ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာပိတ်ရက်မှာ ၈-၄-၂၀၀၈ နေ့ (၁၆း၀၀)နာရီဖြစ်ပြီး ဈေးနှုန်းတင်သွင်းလွှာပုံစံ တစ်စုံလျှင် ကျပ် ၂၀၀၀/- (ကျပ်နှစ်ထောင်တိတိ) နှုန်းဖြင့် ဘတ်ဂျက်နှင့်ငွေစာရင်းဌာန၊ ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးဌာနစုတွင် ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။ အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များကို ဖုန်းအမှတ်-၃၈၈၇၃၂ သို့ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း ဆက်သွယ်မေးမြန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

ဥက္ကဋ္ဌ
ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့

Some 66m tourists visited Poland in 2007

WARSAW, 22 March — A total of 66.2 million tourists visited Poland in 2007, 1.7 per cent more than in 2006, according to estimates issued by the Tourist Institute IT on Friday.

The number of Poles travelling abroad has also risen, Polish news agency *PAP* quoted IT as saying.

German tourists (over 38 million) were the most numerous group of visitors, followed by citizens from the "new" EU countries (over 13 million people) as well as Russians, Belarussians and Ukrainians (altogether over 10 million people), according to IT.

The number of arrivals from overseas grew by 1 per cent in 2007 against a year before, while Poland was visited by 567,000 people from overseas countries.

The IT also said that 47.6 million Poles went abroad last year, that is a 6.4-per-cent rise on 2006.

MNA/Xinhua

Russian PM calls on US to ease pressure on Belarus

MINSK, 22 March — Russia's Prime Minister on Friday called on the United States to ease its pressure on Belarus, and vowed support for the ex-Soviet country's President.

Belarus is involved in a diplomatic spat with the United States, which calls the country the "last leadership in Europe" and has imposed a travel ban on President Alexander Lukashenko over Minsk's detention of an opposition politician.

"The Russian Federation thinks this is a politicised step. We call on Washington to rethink its line on Belarus," Russian Prime Minister Viktor Zubkov told Lukashenko at a news conference for an economic forum.

US Ambassador Karen Stewart left Minsk temporarily last week after two requests for her departure over financial sanctions placed by Washington on a Belarussian state company.

Stewart said on Tuesday Washington would only hold talks on easing sanctions if Belarus released its most prominent political detainee, Alexander Kozulin, who ran against Lukashenko in the 2006 vote that kept him in power.

Belarus on Thursday suggested Stewart would not be allowed back to Minsk until financial sanctions imposed on the state oil products company Belneftekhim were lifted.

On Friday Belarussian Prime Minister Sergei Sidorsky said his country had no interest in a confrontation with the United States, nor in a worsening of relations.

MNA/Reuters

Gunmen kill Nigerian sailor in Delta boat attack

LAGOS, 22 March — Gunmen aboard a speedboat attacked a security vessel as it travelled to a major oil industry port in Nigeria's Niger Delta, killing a Nigerian sailor, security sources said on Thursday.

Around 15 unknown gunmen attacked the vessel late on Wednesday as it travelled along the Bonny River towards Onne, a port used to supply oil industry contractors and ships that service the offshore sector. "The vessel was on its way to Onne when armed men attacked," one of the security sources, who works in the oil industry, said. Further details were not immediately available.

Onne lies close to Bonny Island, home to a 400,000 barrel-per-day oil export terminal operated by Royal Dutch Shell and to the Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas (NLNG) plant which exports 22 million tons per year of compressed gas.

Nigeria, an OPEC member, is the world's eighth-biggest exporter of crude oil and disruptions to supply due to violence in the Delta have been one of the causes of the rise of world oil prices to more than $100 a barrel.

The Delta, home to Africa's biggest oil industry which exports around 2.1 million barrels per day, is frequently hit by abductions for ransom, armed robberies and crude oil smuggling.

MNA/Reuters

Sri Lankan troops capture rebel territory

COLOMBO, 23 March — An area of a square kilometre in Parayanakulam in the Mannar District in north Sri Lanka held by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels was recaptured by government troops during early hours of Saturday, defence officials said on Saturday.

At least 15 rebels and two soldiers were killed in the fierce fighting that took place, officials said. Nine soldiers and a large numbers of rebels had also been injured. Frequent clashes take place in the north with government troops taking on the rebels in three different fronts, officials said.

The military said the present thrust is meant to crush the rebel strongholds in the northern province.

More than 70,000 people have died in the long running separatist war since the mid 1980s.

MNA/Xinhua

An Alitalia airplane sits on the tarmac of Rome's Fiumicino Airport. Italian conservative leader Silvio Berlusconi said on Friday he would veto a planned sale of loss-making Alitalia to Air France-KLM if he wins election in mid-April polls, the ANSA news agency reported.—INTERNET

Baghdad's Green Zone hit by barrage of blasts

BAGHDAD, 23 March — Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone was hit by a sustained barrage of rocket or mortar bomb fire early on Sunday and emergency sirens could be heard in the Iraqi capital's government and diplomatic compound.

It was not immediately clear where most of the missiles landed or if there were any casualties after an apparent attack lasting about 15 minutes, *Reuters* witnesses said.

The US military has blamed past missile attacks on the Green Zone on rogue elements of anti-US cleric Moqtada al-Sadr's Mehdi Army militia. Sadr last month renewed a seven-month old ceasefire for his militia.

A large plume of thick black smoke could be seen rising from one area of central Baghdad's Green Zone, which houses the Iraqi Parliament and many government ministries as well as the US Embassy and other diplomatic missions.

At least two US attack helicopters could be seen circling over an area in the city's northeast soon after the attack.

MNA/Reuters

Strong quakes affect 44,000 people in Xinjiang region

URUMQI, 23 March — At least a dozen earthquakes jolted Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in China's remote northwest on Friday affecting 44,000 people, but no casualties reported, local authorities said on Saturday.

Meanwhile, about 2,200 houses were damaged or flattened in counties of Yutian, Qira and Lop in southern Xinjiang's Hotan Prefecture during the quakes, which also toppled hundreds of livestock sheds and vegetable greenhouses, a spokesman with the regional Department of Civil Affairs said.

Direct economic losses were estimated at about 10 million yuan (1.4 million US dollars), the spokesman said.

The first and strongest 7.3-magnitude tremor hit Yutian at 6:33 am on Friday, which was followed by at least 12 aftershocks measuring over 3.8 on the Richter Scale. A number of other minor quakes were also registered, according to the Xinjiang seismological bureau.

Four houses in Pulu, the nearest village to the epicentre in the sparsely-inhabited Kunlun Mountain region, collapsed during the first tremor, but the residents escaped. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Writing 'eases stress of cancer'

LONDON, 22 March—Encouraging cancer patients to write down their deepest fears about the disease may improve their quality of life, according to a US study.

Nancy Morgan, a "writing clinician", approached patients waiting in a clinic at a cancer centre in Washington DC. Half those who took part said the exercise changed the way they thought about the illness, according to the journal *The Oncologist.*

Younger people, and those recently diagnosed, were most likely to benefit. Ms Morgan developed her role as part of the Arts and Humanities Programme at the Lombardi Centre. Her "expressive writing" exercise, lasting just 20 minutes, posed questions to leukaemia or lymphoma patients about how the cancer had changed them and how they felt about those changes.

When those taking part were contacted again a few weeks later, 49% said that the writing had changed their thoughts about their illness, while 38% said their feelings towards their situation had changed.

While there was no evidence of direct impact of the session on their illness, where the patients had reported greater changes in their mindset during the writing, this could be linked to more positive reports of quality of life given to their doctors during follow-up appointments.

Writing was found to help cancer patients

Ms Morgan said: "Thoughts and feelings, or the cognitive processing and emotions related to cancer, are key writing elements associated with health benefits, according to previous studies.

"Writing only about the facts has shown no benefit."

Dr Bruce Cheson, the head of haematology at Lombardi, said: "I'm pleased to see that so many of our patients were interested in this kind of therapy.

"Our study supports the benefit of an expressive writing programme and the ability to integrate such a programme into a busy clinic." —*Internet*

Astronauts ready for 5th spacewalk of busy mission

HOUSTON, 23 March — Astronauts aboard the *International Space Station* prepared on Saturday for a spacewalk to store an extension boom and other tasks, the fifth and final outing during a busy visit by the shuttle *Endeavour*. The extension sensor-studded boom was used on Friday to scan Endeavour's heat shield to ensure it is safe for next week's re-entry through the Earth's atmosphere.

The scan, part of the safety enhancements NASA implemented after shuttle *Columbia's* fatal flight in 2003, is usually done after the spacecraft undocks from the station. But the next shuttle mission will have such a crowded payload that there will be no room for the boom, so it must be stored on the space station.

The complex storage procedure will be done in stages.

"This is very complicated," lead shuttle flight director Mike Moses said late on Friday at a mission status briefing at the Johnson Space Centre in Houston.

Moses said it would be 24 to 36 hours before the data from Friday's scan was fully assessed. Initial observations suggested no damage, but he said those visual scans can fail to detect problems.

"It is very easy to get a false sense of security from the visuals," he told *Reuters*. — *MNA/Reuters*

Children watch chicks hatching from their eggs in the Natural Museum in Lucerne, Switzerland, on 22 March, 2008. Easter Sunday is 23 March.
INTERNET

An artist's imagination of hydrocarbon pools, icy and rocky terrain on the surface of Saturn's largest moon Titan is seen in an undated handout image.
INTERNET

Chinese scientists' breakthrough in GM-modified rice

HANGZHOU, 23 March — China's prestigious Zhejiang University announced that it has developed a method for creating selective terminable GM-modified rice, which could probably lead to the industrialization of the GM-modified crops.

The invention was reported on the latest version *www.plosone.org*, an open access, online *Scientific* journal from the Public Library of Science, which was published on Wednesday.

The accidental escape of GM-modified crops has been reported in the past few years, which has caused major safety concerns over utilization of GM-modified crops, especially GM-modified crops for industrial and pharmaceutical applications.

"To make GM-modified crops selectively controllable is critical for the full utilization of the plant GM-modified technology," said Zhang Zhitao, former associate director of the Rice Institute of China.

"The principle beneath this strategy is simple: the genes of interest in these GM-modified rice plants are tagged with an RNAi cassette which suppresses the expression of the rice detoxification enzyme against a common herbicide, rendering the GM-modified rice to be sensitive to this herbicide," said Dr Shen Zhicheng, the project leader. – *MNA/Xinhua*

Cambodia unveils new hospital for major-shot clients

PHNOM PENH, 22 March — Cambodia here on Thursday unveiled the Royal Ratanak Hospital to provide health services at international standard to rich Cambodians as well as foreigners.

Prasert Prasarttong Osoth, owner of the Bangkok Airways and the Bangkok Dusit Medical Service, altogether invested about 8.5 million US dollars in building the hospital, said Prime Minister Hun Sen at the opening ceremony.

It will help VIP clients reduce payment, as they do not have to go to Singapore, Vietnam, Thailand and other countries to see doctors any more, said Hun Sen. "They will turn to use local health services as they trust this hospital," he said.

Thai investor Prasert said at the ceremony that the economic growth and development of Cambodia urge business people to invest more in the health service sector.

MNA/Xinhua

This file photo shows South Korean environmental activists holding a demonstration in Seoul. South Korea on Friday announced a plan to freeze greenhouse gas emissions at 2005 levels for the next five years, sparking cricitism from activists who are demanding more drastic measures.—INTERNET

SPORTS

Toni scores twice to lead Bayern past Leverkusen

BERLIN, 23 March — Italy striker Luca Toni scored twice to steer Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich to a 2-1 victory over Bayer Leverkusen on Saturday.

Bayern (53) went seven points clear at the top after second-placed Hamburg SV drew 1-1 at VfL Wolfsburg in a match featuring four red cards in the final 10 minutes. Leverkusen are third with 44 points from 25 games. Werder Bremen, fourth on 43, visit Arminia Bielefeld on Sunday.

Toni broke free from his marker to convert a short pass from Miroslav Klose in the 17th minute in front of a sellout crowd of 69,000 at Bayern's Allianz Arena.

The towering striker doubled the lead on 59, heading in a Philipp Lahm cross at the far post as the league's top scorer took his tally for the season to 16 goals.

Bayern controlled the game but were let down by poor finishing from Klose and Lukas Podolski.

MNA/Reuters

Tottenham Hotspur's Pascal Chimbonda, right, is tackled by Portsmouth's Glen Johnson during their English Premier League soccer match at the White Hart Lane stadium, London, on 22 March, 2008.—INTERNET

Robinson recalled to revised England squad

LONDON, 23 March — Tottenham Hotspur goalkeeper Paul Robinson has been restored to the England squad by Fabio Capello for the friendly with France in Paris on Wednesday.

Robinson, who lost his England spot in the final Euro 2008 qualifier against Croatia last year and also found himself demoted at club level, comes in for the injured Scott Carson.

Carson, on loan to Aston Villa from Liverpool, was withdrawn on Saturday after his team's home defeat by Sunderland. Robinson was not named in Capello's initial 30-man squad on Thursday.

West Ham United defender Matthew Upson was also forced out by injury when Capello trimmed his squad to the 23 listed by the FA on its website (www.the-fa.com). *—MNA/Reuters*

Newcastle finally get first win under Keegan

LONDON, 23 March — Newcastle United eased their relegation fears with a 2-0 home win over Fulham on Saturday as attention focused on the battle to stay in the Premier League.

Sunderland, Reading and Middlesbrough also claimed important wins but nowhere was there more relief than at a wintry St James' Park.

Mark Viduka's early shot and a late Michael Owen header gave Kevin Keegan the winning feeling for the first time since returning as Newcastle manager in January.

"It was a great result," Keegan told Sky Sports television. "We showed character... and when we had to dig in we stuck together and that's what these players have been criticized for in the past.

"Michael Owen has been magnificent, not just his goals but his leadership on the pitch."

Viduka, who has recently returned to the side after niggling injuries, fired past keeper Kasey Keller after six minutes and Owen should have made the points safe before finally ending Fulham's resistance seven minutes from time. *—MNA/Reuters*

Stuttgart's Cacau, right, and Rostock's Kai Buelow, left and Christian Rahn challenge for the ball during the German first division Bundesliga soccer match between VfB Stuttgart and Hansa Rostock in Stuttgart, Germany, on 22 March, 2008.—INTERNET

Dortmund's Nelson Valdez, top, and Karlsruhe's goalkeeper Markus Miller challenge for the ball during the German first division Bundesliga soccer match between Borussia Dortmund and Karlsruher SC in Dortmund, Germany, on 22 March, 2008.—INTERNET

Argentines earn Atletico rare win at Sevilla

MADRID, 23 March — Atletico Madrid earned a rare 2-1 win at 10-man Sevilla on Saturday thanks to goals by Argentine forwards Maxi Rodriguez and Sergio Aguero to tighten their grip on fourth place in the Primera Liga.

The victory, Atletico's first in over 15 years at the Sanchez Pizjuan, puts them on 50 points, five clear of fifth-placed Sevilla and only three behind Villarreal who visit basement side Levante on Sunday.

Clashes between the two sides have traditionally been fiery affairs and this was no exception with Sevilla midfielder Enzo Maresca receiving his marching orders on the hour after headbutting goalscorer Aguero.

MNA/Reuters

Panathinaikos title challenge fades after draw

ATHENS, 23 March — Panathinaikos' hopes of celebrating their centenary by landing a first league title in four years faded when they were held 1-1 by Iraklis on Saturday.

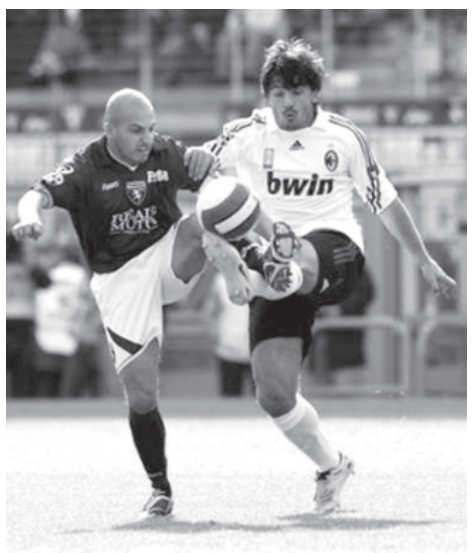
Leaders Olympiakos Piraeus, looking for their 11th crown in 12 years, can go four points clear of Panathinaikos with four matches left if they win at struggling Levadiakos on Sunday.

Panathinaikos went behind in the 10th minute when Brazilian midfielder Luciano Fonseca struck a speculative shot from the right-hand corner of the penalty area that swerved into the bottom corner.

MNA/Reuters

Answers to yesterday's Crosswords Puzzle

1 S	T	2 A	I	3 D	E	4 R	■	5 N	I	6 G	H	7 T
W	■	R	■	E	■	A	■	I	■	R	■	A
8 I	N	C	U	R	■	9 F	A	C	T	U	A	L
F	■	■	■	W	■	F	■	E	■	E	■	L
10 T	R	11 A	V	E	L	L	E	R	■	12 L	O	B
■	■	V	■	N	■	E	■	■	■	L	■	O
13 C	R	A	F	T	Y	■	14 E	15 F	F	I	G	Y
A	■	L	■	■	■	16 S	■	I	■	N	■	■
17 S	P	A	■	18 G	O	O	D	N	I	G	H	19 T
S	■	N	■	U	■	R	■	E	■	■	■	H
20 O	R	C	H	A	R	D	■	21 S	A	22 L	V	O
C	■	H	■	R	■	I	■	S	■	I	■	R
23 K	N	E	A	D	■	24 D	R	E	S	D	E	N



AC Milan's Gennaro Gattuso (R) challenges Alessandro Rosina of Torino during their Italian Serie A soccer match at the Olympic stadium in Turin on 22 March, 2008.—INTERNET

Juventus beat leaders Inter, Roma gain ground

ROME, 23 March — Second-half goals by Mauro Camoranesi and David Trezeguet gave Juventus a 2-1 win at Serie A leaders Inter Milan on Saturday.

Portugal midfielder Maniche pulled one back for Inter seven minutes from time to set up a tense finish after Brazilian Maicon had danced through the Juve defence.

Earlier on Saturday, Christian Panucci headed 10-man Roma to victory shortly after Simone Perrotta was sent off in the 57th minute, giving them 64 points from 30 games, six more than third-placed Juve.

Empoli's Sebastian Giovinco had levelled after Max Tonetto's first-half opener.

Fiorentina consolidated fourth place, worth a slot in the Champions League qualifiers, by beating 10-man Lazio 1-0 at home thanks to Giampaolo Pazzini's second-half goal.

AC Milan remain four points behind the Florence side in fifth after Alexandre Pato gave them a 1-0 win at Torino. *—MNA/Reuters*

An artist's concept shows dusty grains blowing in the winds of an active black hole. NASA has detected the brightest cosmic explosion ever recorded — a burst of energy that could be seen with the naked eye from Earth, the space agency said on Thursday.—INTERNET

Israel grounds some "F-16" fighters over cancer fears

JERUSALEM, 23 March —The Israeli air force said on Friday it was suspending training flights using US-made *F-16I* fighter jets after finding a suspected cancer-causing substance in the cockpit.

Israel informed Lockheed Martin Corp, the US defence contractor that manufactures the *F-16*, that formaldehyde residues were leaking into the cockpit, the military said in a statement.

MNA/Reuters

Serial moderate quakes jolt Indonesia

JAKARTA, 23 March— A series of earthquakes with magnitudes of 5.4 and 5.1 jolted western and eastern parts of Indonesia on Saturday, but no damage or casualty was reported, local meteorology agency said here.

The first quake of 5.4 struck at 11:09 Jakarta Time (0409GMT) with an epicentre of 90 kilometres southeast Gorontalo of North Sulawesi Province and of 70 kilometres in depth, an official of the agency said.

One hour and thirty six minutes later, a 5.1-magnitude quake rocked Aceh province, with an epicentre of 161 kilometres southwest Sinabang of Aceh Province and of 55 kilometres in depth, the official said.

Six minutes later, another quake with magnitude of 5.4 struck North Sulawesi Province with an epicentre of 262 kilometres northeast Bitung of the province and of 145 kilometres in depth, said the official.

MNA/Xinhua

Fire destroys Nigeria Navy boats, at least two dead

PORT HARCOURT, 23 March — Fire tore through a Nigerian Navy base in the restive Niger Delta on Friday, killing at least two sailors and destroying four vessels, authorities said.

"There was an electrical explosion this morning at about 09:00 (0800 GMT) at the Nigerian Navy Pathfinder jetty. It was purely an accident," said Sagir Musa, Army spokesman in Port Harcourt, the Delta's main city.

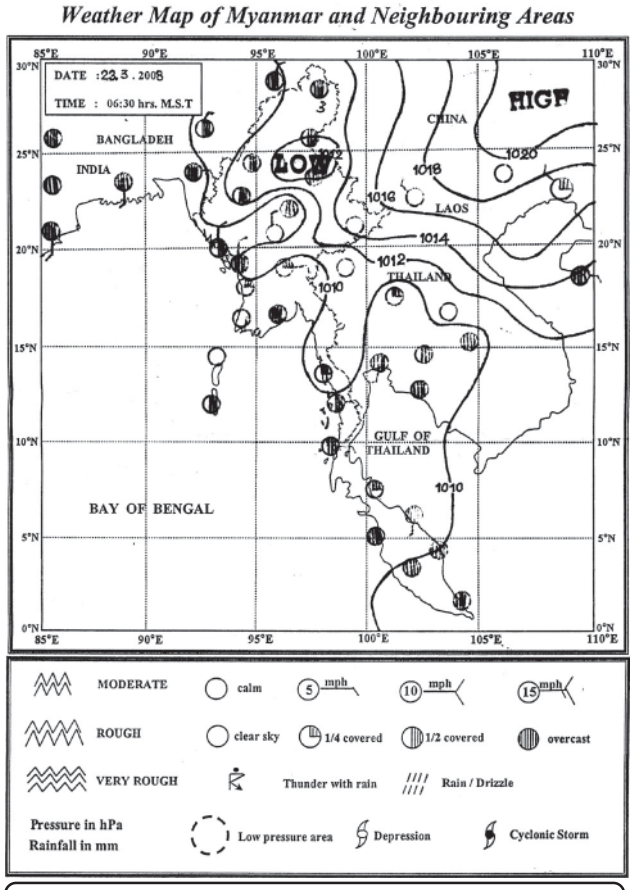
"Two naval men died in the explosion," he said, adding that around three boats and a barge had been destroyed.

One private security contractor involved in the oil industry said five Nigerian sailors had been killed. He said four bodies had been found and that divers were searching for a fifth.

The Delta, home to Africa's biggest oil industry which exports around 2.1 million barrels per day, is frequently hit by abductions of oil workers for ransom, armed robberies and crude oil smuggling.

MNA/Reuters

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Sunday, 23 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 and upper Sagaing Division, weather has been partly cloudy in Chin, Shan and Rakhine States, Mandalay, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3ºC) to (4ºC) above March average temperatures in Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions, (3ºC) to (4ºC) below March average temperatures in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division and about March average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Nay Pyi Taw, Minbu, Magway and Aunglan (40ºC) each. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Putao (0.12) inch.

Maximum temperature on 22-3-2008 was 99ºF. Minimum temperature on 23-3-2008 was 72ºF. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 23-3-2008 was 83%. Total sunshine hours on 22-3-2008 was (7.4) hours approx.

Rainfall on 23-3-2008 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 Southeast at (15:30) hours MST on 22-3-2008.

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 24-3-2008: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Kachin, Northern Shan and Chin States,upper Sagaing Division and weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine State, lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon and Taninthayi 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 slight increase of day temperature in the Central Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 24-3-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 24-3-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 24-3-2008: Partly cloudy.

TV Myanmar

Monday, 24 March
View on today

7:00 am
1. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am
3. Morning news
7:40 am
4. မြန်မာစာမြန်မာစကား(အပိုင်း-၁)
7:50 am
5. "ချစ်သောမြေချစ်သောရေ" (ရာဇာနေဝင်း၊ခိုင်နှင်းဝေ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ခင်နွဲ့.နွဲ့.မူ)
8:00 am
6. Musical programme
8:15 am
7. (၆၃)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
8:30 am
8. International news
8:40 am
9. Let's Go
8:50 am
10. နှောင်းခေတ်တေးပဒေသာ
4:00 pm
1. Martial song
4:10 pm
2. တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုတေးသီချင်းပြိုင်ပွဲဆုရတေးများ
4:20 pm
3. English for Everyday Use
4:35 pm
4. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ-တတိယနှစ် (ရူပဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ရူပဗေဒ)
4:50 pm
5. မျိုးချစ်စိတ်ဓါတ်ရှင်သန် ထက်မြက်ရေးတေးများ
5:05 pm
6. "အေးမြသောလေညင်းလေးများ" (မေတ္တာ၊ ဇေယျ၊ စိုးမိုးကြည်၊ ဇူးဇူးမောင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-အောင်မိုး-ပဲရစ်)
5:25 pm
7. မှုဟန်သွယ်သွယ်ဆိုကြမယ်
5:35 pm
8. (၆၃)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
5:45 pm
9. "ပြည်သူ့အတွက်တပ်မတော်" (နတလ/ဆကသဝယ်ရေး၊ ပြန်ကြားရေး၊ယဉ်ကျေးမှု)
6:00 pm
10. Evening news
6:35 pm
11. အလှရှာမယ်လှကမ္ဘာဝယ်
7:15 pm
12. "အဖေတူသား"(အပိုင်း-၁) (ဇင်ဝိုင်း၊ လူမင်း၊ မင်းမော်ကွန်း၊ နေမျိုးအောင်၊ ထွန်းထွန်း(Examplez)၊ ပန်းဖြူ၊ နန္ဒာလှိုင်၊ သက်မွန်မြင့်၊ မေသဏ္ဌာဦး) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ပန်းချီစိုးမိုး)
8:00 pm
13. News
14. International news
15. Weather report
16. "အဖေတူသား"(အပိုင်း-၂) (ဇင်ဝိုင်း၊ လူမင်း၊ မင်းမော်ကွန်း၊ နေမျိုးအောင်၊ ထွန်းထွန်း(Examplez)၊ ပန်းဖြူ၊ နန္ဒာလှိုင်၊ သက်မွန်မြင့်၊ မေသဏ္ဌာဦး) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ပန်းချီစိုးမိုး)

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Myanmar ICT Exhibition-2008 opened

YANGON, 23 March — The Myanmar ICT Exhibition-2008 jointly organized by Myanmar Computer Professionals Association and Myanmar Computer Industrialists Association under the supervision of Myanmar Computer Federation was opened at Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road here this morning, attended by Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence.

President of MCF U Thein Oo of the federation briefed Lt-Gen Myint Swe on exhibition. Next, Chairman U Khun Oo of MCPA and Chairperson Daw War War Tun of MCIA formally opened the Myanmar ICT Exhibition-2008.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party viewed computers and accessories, new technologies of networking and software solutions, computer training courses and books at the booths of local companies and entrepreneurs. Altogether 82 local companies open 166 booths at the exhibition up to 25 March. Computers and accessories and books will be sold at reasonable prices. — *MNA*

***Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence visits booths at Myanmar ICT Exhibition 2008.* —MCPA**

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**

Teleplay entitled Thitsar-Mawgun to be on air

NAY PYI TAW, 23 March — Hailing the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day, a teleplay entitled "*Thitsar-Mawgun*" will be broadcast on MRTV and MWD televisions at 6.30 pm and after the 8 o'clock news on 26 March.

The teleplay was directed by Nyo Min Lwin and story and scripts were written by Tin Aung Soe (Panmyodaw).

The teleplay was based on life of the university students and it features courage and sacrifices of the Tatmadaw members for ensuring peace and national solidarity.

Thu Htoo San, Min Hein, Pyay Ti Oo, Nanda, Thar Nyi, Thet Mon Myint, Chit Snow Oo and other artistes acted in the play.

MNA

Sub-Printing House (Myeik) opened in Myeik hailing 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day

NAY PYI TAW, 23 March — As a gesture of hailing the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day, a ceremony to open the Sub-Printing House (Myeik) of News and Periodicals Enterprise under the Ministry of Information was held at the Sub-Printing House on Myitta Road in Shanchaung Ward of Myeik this morning.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo expressed thanks for the government and the Ministry of Information considering that local people in Myeik will have the opportunities to read the newspapers in early mornings and those from other townships and villages in the division will have the chance to read the newspapers timely. The newspaper is the print media that reflects political, economic, social and other matters of the State and the people. He said he firmly believes that all the people will have the opportunities to gain general knowledge and information in time.

In his address, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said that the Ministry of Information is carrying out the task to broadcast radio and TV and distribute newspapers to remote and rural areas of the country in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. The Sub-Printing House (Myeik) opened in Taninthayi Division is the ninth facility of its kind throughout the nation. Thanks to opening the house, local people in townships in the division including Myeik, Dawei and Kawthoung can read the newspapers daily. Especially, the people in Myeik can read the newspapers in early mornings.

The minister said that today is knowledge age and IT age as well as media age. Efforts are being made to issue correct information to the people to be able to know the true information. In accord with the aims of the Ministry of Information such as

(See page 11)

***Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, the ministers and guests view newspapers at Sub-Printing House (Myeik).*—MNA**