

Prime Minister congratulates Belgian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March — General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr Yves Leterme on assumption of duties as the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Belgium on 20 March 2008. — MNA

Prime Minister sends congratulatory message to Pakistan

NAY PYI TAW, 27 March — General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, who has been elected as the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo opens Zoological Garden (Nay Pyi Taw)

Six sanctuaries and national gardens in Myanmar have been recognized as ASEAN heritage gardens

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo addressed the opening of Zoological Garden (Nay Pyi Taw) and pressed the button to open the archway of the zoo this morning.

The Zoological Garden (Nay Pyi Taw) is built near Yezin Dam, east of Yangon-Mandalay Highway under the arrangement of the Ministry of Forestry.

Also present were member of the SPDC Lt-Gen

Maung Bo, Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, the ministers, the Chief Justice, the Auditor-General, the deputy ministers, members of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, senior military officers, the directors-general of the SPDC Office, Government Office and Pyithu Hluttaw Office, departmental heads, Dean of Diplomatic Corps Cambodian Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr Hul

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

Phany and the Ambassadors, Charges d'Affaires *ai*, officials of the UN agencies, military attachés, correspondents of foreign news agencies in Myanmar, members of social organizations, personnel of departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Forestry and local people.

First, the Secretary-1 cordially greeted the ambassadors and military attaches.

(See page 8)



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo unveils the signboard of Zoological Garden (Nay Pyi Taw) in Nay Pyi Taw.— MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 27 March, 2008

Build a strong Tatmadaw, safeguard national interests

Today, 27 March 2008, is the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day of the Union of Myanmar. The Tatmadaw formed with offspring of the people was born during the independence struggle. The Tatmadaw hand in hand with the people waged anti-imperialist wars and fought the fascists.

On 27 March 1945, Tatmadaw together with the people launched anti-fascist movement and gained victory. That day was marked as the Armed Forces Day.

In its efforts to regain independence the Tatmadaw was formed under different names such as Burma Independence Army (BIA), Burma Defence Army (BDA), Burma Army and Patriotic Burmese Forces in different periods. The Tatmadaw with bravery, military skill and patriotism has been safeguarding the interests of the people sacrificing a lot of lives and blood.

Now the Tatmadaw hand in hand with the people is building a peaceful modern developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation. At the same time, it is making endeavours for gaining political and economic strengths in all sectors.

A modern Tatmadaw is essential for a modern developed nation. That is why the Tatmadaw is being built to become a strong, efficient and modern patriotic one.

The Tatmadaw that has been safeguarding the country in successive periods will continue to safeguard the interest of the State and the people and their lives and property forever while participating in the tasks for successful implementation of the seven-step Road Map together with the people upholding the dignity of the national Tatmadaw.

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရနှင့်ပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်မသုံးစွဲရန်

လစဉ် လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေသွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည့်ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရန်ဖြစ်သည်။

၂၀၀၈-ခုနှစ် မတ်လအတွက်
နောက်ဆုံးပတ်(တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)
(၃၀-၃-၂၀၀၈) ရက်နေ့
၂၀၀၈-ခုနှစ် ဧပြီလအတွက်
(၁၃-၄-၂၀၀၈) ရက်နေ့
နှင့်
(၂၇-၄-၂၀၀၈) ရက်နေ့

Officials open new school building for Pyin Phyu Maw Basic Education Primary School in Kyaukpyu Township.— TRANSPORT

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

Commander attends opening ceremony of 200 KVA power line



Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win unveils the signboard of power line of Phoe Khaung village-tract in Taikkyi Township.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win inspected Aingkalaung Station Hospital in Taikkyi Township yesterday morning and presented cash to the patients. The commander and officials donated cash to the hospital through Dr Aung Myint Myat who then presented certificates of honour to them. Next, the commander attended an opening ceremony of 200 KVA power line in Phoe Khaung Village-tract and unveiled the signboard.

Secretary of Yangon City Electric Power Supply Board U Maung Maung Latt pressed the button to supply power to the villages. The commander made an opening speech at the opening ceremony. Then, the secretary explained measures taken for the supply of electricity. Afterwards, a resident expressed words of thanks. Later, the commander and officials looked into land preparation for preventing Aphyauk from flood and construction of embankments. —MNA

New school building opened in Kyaukpyu Township

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March — A new school building for Pyin Phyu Maw Village Basic Education Primary School was opened in Kyaukpyu Township on 23 March. Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Maung Shein, CEC Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association (Rakhine State In-charge) Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe and Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi attended the ceremony. Kyaukpyu Township Education Officer Daw Tin Tin Ohn, secretary of the township USDA Dr Khin Soe and Director of Good Brother Co Ltd U Hla Oo opened the new school building by cutting

the ribbon. Then, the commander and the Minister for Transport made opening speeches. Chairman of committee for construction of new school building U Tin Maung Saw presented documents related to the building to the township education officer. Next, Director U Hla Oo donated K 10 million for the school through the committee chairman. A townselder spoke words of thanks. MNA



Talks on Brands and Branding on 5 April

YANGON, 26 March — The Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry will organize the monthly educative talks on the first floor of UMFCCI Office Tower on Minye Kyawswa Road in Lanmadaw Township, here, on 5 April. Professor Dr Daw Khin Sann Ye of Yangon Institute of Economics will give the talks on Brands and Branding. Executives and members of UMFCCI and its associates and those interested may attend it. MNA

Medvedev says NATO expansion “troublesome”

Moscow, 26 March—Granting NATO membership to ex-Soviet Ukraine and Georgia could undermine European security, Russia’s president-elect Dmitry Medvedev said in a newspaper interview published on Tuesday.

His warning came before a NATO summit in Bucharest next week at which alliance members are expected to consider requests from the two countries’ pro-Western leaders to set them on the path to NATO

membership.

“We are not happy about the situation around Georgia and Ukraine,” the *Financial Times* newspaper quoted Medvedev as saying in the interview.

“We consider that it is extremely troublesome for the existing structure of European security. ... No state can be pleased about having representatives of a military bloc to which it does not belong coming close to its borders.”

Ukraine and Georgia are lobbying NATO to

grant them a Membership Action Plan, which is seen as the first step towards joining the alliance. Washington has said it backs their bid, but some NATO members in Europe are cool on the idea. Medvedev will be sworn in on 7 May to replace his mentor, outgoing President Vladimir Putin. A 42-year-old former law professor, Medvedev won a 2 March presidential election by a huge margin.

MNA/Reuters



Iraqi children try to salvage goods from a burned shop at Jamila market following clashes between Mahdi Army fighters and Iraqi and US forces in Sadr City, in Baghdad, Iraq, on 26 March, 2008.

INTERNET

Chavez calls on Colombia to keep regional peace

CARACAS, 26 March—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez Monday called on his Colombian counterpart Alvaro Uribe to keep the peace in the region and not to be guided by what he described as bellicose voices from the United States.

“I am obliged to make these comments because it has cost us much. Uribe, protect yourself from the spokesmen of the imperial war,” he said. Chavez said he was worried about Colombian Defence Minister Juan Manuel Santos’ comments on Colombia’s 1 March raid on Ecuadorean territory.

Earlier in the day, Manuel Santos said that bases run by the

Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) are a “egitimate military objective”.

On 1 March, Colombian troops entered Ecuadorean territory to attack a FARC camp and killed over 20 guerillas, including a top rebel leader.—MNA/Xinhua

US aircraft kill five “insurgents” in Iraq’s Basra

BAGHDAD, 26 March — US aircraft opened fire on a group of “suspected insurgents” who were planting roadside bombs in the southern city of Basra, killing five of them and wounded others, the US military said on Tuesday.

Basra, some 550 kilometres south of Iraq, has been the scene of a fierce clashes between the Iraqi security forces and Mahdi Army militiamen loyal to Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr.—MNA/Xinhua



Brazilian youth learn to perform traditional Chinese dragon dance in Sao Paolo of Brazil, on 23 March, 2008.

XINHUA

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Clinton proposes steps to ease US housing crisis

PHILADELPHIA, 26 March —Democrat Hillary Clinton proposed steps on Monday to boost the ailing US economy and ease the housing crisis in a pitch for support from blue-collar workers ahead of next month’s pre-sidential showdown with Barack

Obama in Penn-sylvania.

Clinton called for President George W Bush to appoint a high-level group of economic experts led by former Federal Reserve Chairmen Alan Greenspan and Paul Volcker and former Treasury Secretary Robert

Rubin to determine if the government should buy up homes to stem the country’s housing crisis.

The New York Senator and former first lady said the Federal Housing Administration should stand ready to buy, restructure and resell failed mortgages to strengthen the ailing economy.

“Just as it has in the past, this kind of temporary measure by the government could give our economy the boost it needs and families the help they need,” Clinton said in a speech in Philadelphia.

MNA/Reuters

Russia, Egypt seal nuclear power deal in Mubarak visit

NOVO-OGARYOVO, (Russia) 26 March—: Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Russia’s President Vladimir Putin oversaw the signing



Russian nuclear agency chief Sergei Kiriienko (R) and Egyptian Electricity Minister Hassan Yuniss (L).

on Tuesday of a deal that will enable Moscow to bid for the construction of Egypt’s first atomic power station.

The head of Russia’s Rosatom nuclear energy agency, Sergei Kiriienko, and Egyptian Energy Minister Hassan Yuniss signed the civilian nuclear cooperation accord at Putin’s residence just outside Moscow.

The agreement, which has taken years to draw up, will allow Russia to bid in an international tender for a 1.5-1.8 billion dollars (1.0-1.2 billion euros) reactor project on Egypt’s Mediterranean coast.

Mubarak said the deal was reached after “difficult” negotiations, Interfax news agency reported. —Internet

The wreckage of vehicles destroyed in an accident on a motorway are seen near Seewalchen, Austria, on 25 March, 2008.

INTERNET





Chinese children enjoy a visit to Tiananmen Square in Beijing on 25 March, 2008. —INTERNET

Many Arabs fear McCain would continue Bush policy

BEIRUT , 25 March — Arabs keen to see the end of George W Bush’s presidency fear that a win for likely Republican candidate John McCain will bring little change to US policies they blame for destabilizing the Middle East. For Arab politicians who have gained from US policy in countries including Iraq and Lebanon, continuity may be a good thing. But Bush’s many critics in the Arab world worry that McCain will continue current US policies, which they fault for unleashing chaos in Iraq and providing unflinching support for Israel in its conflict with the Palestinians.

McCain wants to keep troops in Iraq until it is

more stable, setting him at odds with Democratic rivals who want to withdraw from a country which has been wracked by violence since US-led forces toppled Saddam Hussein five years ago.

During a Middle East tour this month, McCain’s statements on Israel also sounded alarm bells for Arabs who have long criticized Washington for not exercising enough

pressure on the Jewish state to withdraw from occupied Arab land.

“The first time McCain started to catch attention was when he visited... Israel and committed himself to recognizing Jerusalem (as its capital) and not pressuring Israel,” Mohamed al-Sayed Said of Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies told *Reuters* in Cairo. —MNA/Reuters

Lebanese presidential elections postponed again

BEIRUT, 25 March — Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri on Monday postponed a parliamentary session scheduled Tuesday to elect Lebanon’s president to 22 April, local NBN TV reported.

The parliamentary session for electing a new president scheduled on Tuesday was postponed till 22 April, Berri was quoted in a statement as saying.

It is the 17th postponement since 25 September.

The statement said that Speaker Berri would set a prior date “in case a positive development takes place”.

The postponement came just one day that the speaker hinted in a talkshow that the Parliament session scheduled for 25 March to elect a president might be postponed for another

US ship fires to deter Egyptian boat in Suez

ISMAILIA (Egypt), 26 March — A cargo ship chartered by the US Navy opened fire when approached by an Egyptian motorboat late on Monday near the Suez Canal, and Egyptian and US officials gave conflicting reports on Tuesday on casualties.

Egyptian security sources and witnesses said the gunfire killed an Egyptian trader on the motorboat and wounded two other people. The US Navy said it had recorded

no casualties.

The small Egyptian craft had been trying to sell goods to ships passing through the Suez Canal, the Egyptian sources said.

The US Navy said the *Global Patriot*, on short-term charter to the military, had fired warning shots near the Egyptian boat after it ignored verbal orders and a signal flare telling it to stay away.

“Global Patriot was approached by several boats while preparing to transit the Suez Canal,” the

Navy said in a statement.

“The boats were hailed and warned by a native Arabic speaker on the *Global Patriot* to advise them to turn away... One small boat continued to approach the ship and received two sets of warning shots 20-30 metres in front of the boat’s bow.”

All shots were accounted for as they entered the water, and there were no reports of casualties, the Navy said.—MNA/Reuters



The *Global Patriot*, a US cargo ship which was under short term charter to the US Navy’s Military Sealift Command, sails in the Suez canal in Ismailia, Egypt, on 25 March, 2008. The *Global Patriot* fired warning shots at a small Egyptian boat while passing through the Suez Canal, the US military said Tuesday. —INTERNET

Five slain in Iowa; killer may be accused banker

DES MOINES (Iowa), 26 March — A woman and four children were found dead in an Iowa house on Monday and police searched for a man who lived there, identified in media reports as a bank

official awaiting trial on embezzlement charges.

There also was a fatal, flaming one-car crash on Interstate 80 not far from the death scene involving a vehicle that may match the one owned by the man, police in Iowa City said.

Police were called to a house in a suburban neighbourhood of Iowa City, home of the University of Iowa, and found the bodies of four children and a woman. They said the male resident of the house was Steven Sueppel, 42, named in various media reports as vice president and controller of the Hills Bank & Trust.

MNA/Reuters

Serbs in Austria protest against NATO bombing of Yugoslavia

VIENNA, 26 March—More than 100 Serbs staged demonstrations here Monday in protest against NATO’s bombing of former Yugoslavia nine years ago.

The protesters braved cold weather in the centre of Vienna, holding flags of former Yugoslavia and banners with pictures depicting US-manipulated dismemberment of the country.

The “cruel” bombing of Yugoslavia by the US-led NATO will never be wiped off from history, said Lazar Bilanovic, president of the Austrian-Serbian Solidarity Movement, which organized the protest.

MNA/Xinhua



A protester from the Korea Association for Animal Protection participates in a demonstration near the Seoul city hall on 25 March, 2008. INTERNET

Vietnam to remain tightened monetary policies

HANOI, 25 March—Vietnam will remain its tightened monetary policies until high consumer price index (CPI) is under control, local newspaper *Vietnam Investment Review* reported Monday.

The policies will remain stable until June.

If the policies can help curb inflation, the State Bank of Vietnam (SBV) will possibly relax them to support local firms, said Le Xuan Nghia, an official of the bank's Banking

Development Strategy Department.

The country has taken measures to slow down credit growth, which was 53 per cent in 2007, a driving factor behind last year's record consumer price index of 12.63 per cent.

The Vietnamese Government has requested the SBV to manage credit growth of the local banking system under 30 per cent in 2008.

The reserve requirement

has also been raised by one percentage point to 11 per cent.

In the latest move, the SBV forced commercial banks to buy its bills worth 20.3 trillion Vietnamese dong (nearly 1.3 billion US dollars).

Vietnam reported consumer price index of 15.67 per cent in February, the highest in more than a decade, according to the General Statistics Office.

MNA/Xinhua



A view of the Kamchay hydroelectric project in Kamport province, 146 km west of Phnom Penh, on 22 March, 2008.—INTERNET

US charges 19 in alleged nationwide mortgage scam

SACRAMENTO, 25 March—US officials said on Monday that they had charged 19 people with targeting desperate homeowners facing foreclosure and stealing at least 12.6 million US dollars through illegal mortgage and loan activities.

At a news conference in the California capital Sacramento, US Attorney McGregor Scott said "Operation Homewrecker" investigated one of the largest mortgage frauds

ever probed by the FBI and the Internal Revenue Service. "The markets in this country are tottering because nobody knows how much fraud is out there," he said.

The prosecution comes as foreclosures have risen sharply across the United States, especially in places such as California's Central Valley. Stockton,

south of Sacramento, has experienced the highest foreclosure rate in the nation. Sealed indictments were filed 13 March and 28 February against 19 people — including three licensed mortgage brokers charged with cheating homeowners across the country out of their homes.

MNA/Reuters

Indonesia plans to slap excise on more goods

JAKARTA, 25 March —The Indonesian Government plans to broaden categories of goods subject to excise duty in response to an expanding state budget deficit, local Press said Tuesday. A proposal to expand the list of goods subject to excise is under discussion in the House of Representatives. The duty is currently applied to tobacco, alcohol and ethanol derivatives.

Rubber tires and soft drinks are among the 41 items proposed by the government for the new excise list submitted to the House of Representatives, reported English daily *The Jakarta Post*.—MNA/Xinhua



File photo shows Tourists on Singapore's waterfront overlooking highrise hotels. Singapore has teamed up with US-listed Host Hotels and Resorts in a 600-million US dollar venture to explore hospitality-related investments in Asia and Australia, the partners said.—INTERNET



At least five people were fear dead after an apartment building collapsed Wednesday morning in Norway's west coastal city of Aalesund.—XINHUA

Brazil-India trade volume up 29.4% in 2007

BRASILIA, 26 March —The trade volume between Brazil and India totalled 3.12 billion US dollars in 2007, up 29.4 per cent year-on-year, the Brazilian Ministry of Development, Industry and Foreign Trade said Monday. According to figures released by the Ministry, Brazil's exports to India rose merely 2 per cent to 957.9 million dollars last year while its imports surged by 46.9 per cent to 2.16 billion dollars, creating a 1.2-billion-dollar deficit, a staggering increase of 126 per cent year-on-year.

The ministry said Brazil's products with an advantage in the Indian market include oil and chemical products, cell phones, copper and beef, among others, while Brazil's imports of fuel oil, jewellery, rice and auto parts from India are likely to increase. —MNA/Xinhua

Chile economy expands by 5.1% in 2007

SANTIAGO, 26 March—The Chilean economy grew by 5.1 per cent in 2007, lower than the expected rate of between 5.25 and 6.25 per cent, the Chilean Central Bank reported on Monday.

According to the report, the telecommunications sector registered the highest growth rate, with 13.4 per cent, followed by construction with 8.3 per cent, and retailing, restaurants and tourism with 6.5 per cent.

The report said the output of electricity, gas and water supply decreased by 10.7 per cent and fisheries was down 0.1 per cent.—MNA/Xinhua

ECONOMIC NEWS

China's cellphone users grows by record 9.46 mln

BEIJING, 26 March—The number of China's mobile phone subscribers in February grew by a record 9.46 million from the previous month, powered by reduced handset prices and user charges, the Ministry of Information Industry said on Monday. China had 565 million mobile phone users by the end of last month, up from 556 million in January and 547 million in December, the ministry said in a statement.

The number of fixed-line subscribers fell 3.26 million in the first two months to 362 million by the end of February. The figure has decreased for seventh months in a row, according to the ministry data. China's two wireless operators signed up a total

of 86.2 million new subscribers last year, with 68.1 million attributed to China Mobile.

The nation's top wireless operator said in its annual report last Wednesday that half of the new subscribers were from the countryside, which had "become a key source of new subscribers and an important impetus behind revenue growth".

MNA/Xinhua

Myanmar Government joins international community in voicing its opposition to any move to link incidents in Tibet with Beijing Olympic Games

NAY PYI TAW, 27 March — The Union of Myanmar and the People’s Republic of China have traditionally maintained close and cordial relations based on the pauk-phaw kinship, mutual understanding and good neighbourliness throughout the long history.

The existing pauk-phaw relationship is based upon the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, which also include the cardinal principle of non-interference in each other’s affairs.

The Government of the Union of Myanmar therefore views the recent occurrences in the Tibet Autonomous Region as purely the internal affairs of the People’s Republic of China. Myanmar is fully confident that the Chinese Government with all its wisdom and far-sightedness will overcome the challenges successfully and will be able to maintain the domestic peace and stability.

Moreover, the Government of the Union of Myanmar also joins the international community in voicing its opposition to any move to link the incidents in Tibet with Beijing Olympic Games.

MNA

Tarred roads opened in Botataung

YANGON, 26 March— The tarred road section on 49th Street and Myitta tarred road at No 5 Ward in Botataung Township were put into commission to hail the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day at a ceremony held at the archway of the junction of Merchant Street and the 49th Street today.

The project was supervised by Yangon Division Union Solidarity and Development As-

sociation and undertaken by Township USDA.

USDA CEC member Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Yangon Division USDA executive U Min Thein and Chairman of the committee for construction of the road U Thein Aung cut the ribbon to open the road.

The mayor extended greetings and accepted 385 membership applications presented by the chairman of the road

People visit 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day Exhibition

YANGON, 26 March— The 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day Exhibition was held at the Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road here this morning.

Documentary photos, paintings and pictures are put on display at the booths of ministries, the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Air), Office of the Chief of Armed Forces Training, directorates of the Ministry of Defence, military commands, twelve objectives booth, booths on nation-building endeavours of the ministries, Yangon City Development Committee booth, MCDC booth and office of the Defence Services Museum and Historical Research Institute booth.

The exhibition will be kept open up to 4 April from 9 am to 4 pm daily. Everybody may observe the exhibition free of charge. — MNA

In interest of State and people

- (1948-49)
- Danger of multi-coloured internal insurgency
- Intrusion of Kuomintang nationalist Chinese
- (1958)
- Imminent danger of nation-wide bloodshed due to party splits
- (1962)
- Danger of secession from Union caused by narrow-minded racism
- (1988)
- Danger of riotous, destructive acts

Min Oo (Dathana)

Poem Armed Forces Day resolve

- * Undivided we are
Who ever try to divide us
Never dissolve are we
Yield never to any threats
Everyone trying to divide
Us or Tatmadaw
Is our enemy
- * Against storm and gale
Nay abandon pride
With perseverance
March to new nation
Our victory with people
- * Never do we bear grudge
Skyful of lies and slanders
Low-breds overseas
And foreign-relied traitors spread
- * Fearless heart we have
Unwavering like stone pillar
As stable as statue
- * Building new silos and roads
Prevailing peace in nation
Our victory, people’s victory
- * For Union
Enact we laws
Marching with conquest
Ever undivided we are
- * Historical duty for nation
For peace, prosperity
And pride Myanmar to have
With secure Road Map
March we in unity
- * Goodwill as base
Achieve we hundred victories
Raising victorious flag
Beating triumphal gongs
We hail conquest
- * With a heart of gold
And with heart and soul
Soldiers win victories
Towards successful Myanmar
March the triumphal Tatmadaw

(Honouring the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day)

Dr Shwe Pyi Soe
(Translation)



People visit Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road.

MNA

**Progress of Communications Sector in
the Time of Tatmadaw Government**

Sr.	Subject	1988	2007	Progress
1.	Post Office	1114	1356	242
2.	Telegraph Office	310	504	194
3.	Telephone service			
	- Telephone station	245	891	646
	- Number of lines	71855	747565	675710
	- Number of carrier boards	245	650	405
	- Rural telephone exchange	-	241	241
	- Direct lines	67016	659313	592297
	- Auto/hand carrier	67016	87636	20620
	- ARTS radio telephone	-	3981	3981
	- CDMA telephone	-	30390	30390
	- D-AMPS telephone	-	23710	23710
	- DECT-Radio telephone	-	2574	2574
	- GSM Cellulor telephone	-	211812	211812
4.	Microwave station	71	232	161
5.	Internet	-	7772	7772
6.	External satellite ground station	1	3	2
7.	External satellite channel	26	543	517
8.	International telephone channel	26	2031	2005



Myanmar Tele-Port Building constructed in Yangon to improve internal and external communications and information and communication technology.

**Honouring 63rd Anniversary
Armed Forces Day**



A microwave station built in Falam of Chin State to enable local people to have easy access to plain regions of the country in communications sector.



Communications Station of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications built in Kengtung of Shan State (East).

*The photo shows
the main building
of Yatanarpon
Tele-Port
constructed in
Yatanarpon
Myothit of
PyinOoLwin
Township,
Mandalay
Division.*



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo opens...

(from page 1)

Next, the artistes sang a song composed by Bogale Tint Aung as a gesture of honouring the opening of the zoo to the accompaniment of the Pianist Maung Hla Aye band.

The Secretary-1 in his speech said that Myanmar conserves its expressive geographical features and natural resources. So, it stands as a nation that is rich in bio-diversity.

Living creatures and inanimate world, and human beings and animals have relied on each other



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo views a white tiger at Zoological Garden (Nay Pyi Taw).— MNA

Myanmar is taking measures to upgrade the zoological gardens into all-round recreation ones.

The government, being convinced that the peo-

throughout the nation for public rest and recreation.

Of the ecotourism services, PyinOoLwin National Gardens was upgraded to an international

lish zoological gardens. London zoological association was set up in 1928.

After 1950, there emerged many zoological gardens around the world for the public recreation, information and science and research. Thanks to cooperation between zoological gardens, zoological gardens are making

progress of natural resources. It has established 42 natural conservation zones such as sanctuaries and national gardens. In addition, it is building more zoological gardens. In this regard, it has designated Hugaung valley in northern part of Myanmar as a tiger sanctuary region for increasing the population

level zoological garden came into existence in seven months due to supervision of the Ministry of Forestry. Being located near Yangon-Mandalay Highway, Zoological Garden (Nay Pyi Taw) is easily accessible from various regions. It keeps 423 animals of 81 species including white tigers, kan-



Deputy Director-General Mr Wisid Wichasilpa gives documents related to a pair of penguins to Director-General U Soe Win Hlaing.—MNA

since the ancient world. Like in other countries, in Myanmar, animals have been tamed and used for years in farming, ploughing and transporting goods.

Today, world countries can enjoy beauties of trees and flowers based on the geographical features concerned. Similarly,

ple can constantly serve national interests and their own only when they are healthy with a peaceful mind, the government since its assumption of State duties have placed emphasis on community welfare service. As part of the drive, it established more gardens and parks

level facility, and so were Mt. Popa National Garden, Lawka Nanda Sanctuary, Alaungdaw Kassapa National Garden and Yangon Kandawgyi and Zoological Gardens.

Animal shows for public study came into existence in Rome period. Then, Europe planned to estab-



Diplomats and representatives of UN agencies and mediapersons attend opening of Zoological Garden (Nay Pyi Taw).— MNA

progress. With technological advancements, animal shows are presented for economic purpose in many zoological gardens.

Now, the world sees about 1200 zoological gardens, half of which are in Asia. Myanmar can be proud for Yangon Zoological Gardens that has stood for more than 100 years.

The government is working hard for equitable development of all parts of the country at unprecedented level with the aim of paving way to a discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

The government is promulgating laws and rules for sustainable

of tigers under the threat of extinction.

It is encouraging to note that six sanctuaries and national gardens in Myanmar have been recognized as ASEAN heritage gardens thanks to attractive geographical features, existence of rare species of animals, and rare eco system.

In compliance with the guidance of the Head of State on establishment of an international level zoological garden in Nay Pyi Taw like in the capitals of other countries, the zoological garden (Nay Pyi Taw) began to be constructed on 18 September 2007. It is heartening to note that the international

garoos and penguins. In the garden are natural beauties, so it is a good place for local and foreign travelers for recreation and study.

Now, the government and the people are working hard for all-round development of the nation. And intellectuals and intelligentsia, businessmen, entrepreneurs, service personnel and workers are doing their bit in their workplaces for raising the development momentum. Therefore, it is required to ensure peace and spiritual convenience of the people. And increasing population means that is needed to set up many more recreation centres.

(See page 9)



An elephant show at the Zoological Garden (Nay Pyi Taw).— MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo opens...

(from page 8)

With this concept, the government has built many zoological gardens, parks and playgrounds for rest and recreation of the people, spending huge funds. In conclusion, he called on the people to maintain the facilities for their durability.

Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung explained construction of the Zoological Garden (Nay Pyi Taw). He said that the Ministry of Forestry set the plans to uplift the characteristics Nay Pyi Taw by setting up an international class zoological garden, to enable the people and service personnel in Nay Pyi Taw to relax at the zoo and to enable interested persons from home and abroad to visit the zoo, and the ministry commenced construction of the Zoological Garden (Nay Pyi Taw) on 18 September 2007 in accord with the guidance of the Head of State on establishment of a good socio-environmental symbol for new generations.

In the 612 acres of the zoo, a total of 423 animals in 81 species —39 species of mammal, 30 kinds of bird, 12 species of reptile including rare animals such as penguin, white tiger and Kangaroo — are being shown at 27 booths. The minister said that



People gather at Zoological Garden (Nay Pyi Taw).— MNA

of Zoological Park Organization handed over documents related to a pair of penguins to Director-General U Soe Win Hlaing of Forest Department.

Students of Nay Pyi Taw BEHS No 1 and Yezin BEHS entertained the Secretary-1 and party with songs and dances.

The Secretary-1 and party sprinkled scented water on the plaque of the Zoological Garden.

At the elephant camp, the Secretary-1 and party enjoyed demonstration of elephants and presented the flower basket to the elephant group. Next, they fed elephants.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 and party visited the booths of deer, hyena, mythun and monkey, white tiger, reptile and penguin at the zoo by buggy.

The sound atmospheres of the respective animals are created at the Zoological Garden (Nay Pyi Taw).

The zoo will be kept open as from 1 April from 8 am to 6 pm daily. The skills demonstration of animals will be staged on every Saturday and Sunday. Holiday-makers and the people may visit the natural ponds, forests, educative booths, modern playgrounds, modern restaurants and souvenir shops. They may ride elephant and enjoy lights illuminated at the zoo.

After the opening ceremony, about 200,000 people visited the zoo.

In the afternoon and evening, the bands entertained the visitors with songs. The Zoological Garden (Nay Pyi Taw) and its one-mile radius area was packed with the people from various regions of the nation.

MNA



Fountains at Zoological Garden (Nay Pyi Taw).— MNA

efforts will be made for durability of the Zoological Garden (Nay Pyi Taw) in addition to systematic maintenance of the zoological gardens of the ministry.

Deputy Director-General Mr Wisid Wichasilpa

Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Ministers Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Col Thein Nyunt and Brig-Gen Thein Aung formally opened the zoo.

The Secretary-1 unveiled the archway of the zoo.



Deer seen at Zoological Garden (Nay Pyi Taw).— MNA



Monkeys at Zoological Garden (Nay Pyi Taw).— MNA

ZOOLOGICAL
GARDEN
(NAY PYI TAW)



Archway of Zoological Garden.— MNA



Performance of a dog.— MNA



A pair of white
tigers.
MNA



Bear.— MNA



King cobra.
MNA



A view of Zoological Garden (Nay Pyi Taw).— MNA



Hippopotamus.— MNA

Images of the Day

Meng Jie, a sports devotee from Heilongjiang Province, poses with his self-designed Olympic ring-shaped bicycle on the Tian'anmen Square after arriving in Beijing on the bike.

XINHUA



A Dodge 1926 model car, owned by Nawabzada Nusrat Khan, is parked in a lane in Pakistan's northern town of Dera Ismael Khan on 25 March, 2008. Nusrat's father, Nawabzada Qutub-ud-Din Khan, the Nawab of Tank bought the US made Dodge Brothers car in 1926. The ownership of the car was transferred to his son after Qutub-ud-Din's death in 1970. The car won in the Oldest Car Competition and Rally, which was from Lahore to Islamabad on 13 March, 2002, organised by the Punjab Tourism Department.

INTERNET



Ukrainian Leonid Stadnyk stands beside a new bicycle specially made for him in the village of Podolyantsi in Ukraine's Zhytomyr region, about 200 km (124 miles) from the capital Kiev, on 23 March, 2008. Stadnyk, at 2.53 metres (8-foot, four-inch), is the world's tallest man according to the Guinness World Records.—XINHUA



Miss Venezuela Maria waves to people after winning the Best Evening Dress competition for the 2008 Miss Tourism Queen International, held in Zhengzhou, capital of central China's Henan Province, on 25 March, 2008. A total of 115 contestants from around the world attended the 2008 Miss Tourism Queen International competition.

XINHUA



Picture taken on 25 March, 2008 shows a DA40 light aircraft parking inside the workshop of Bin Ao Aircraft Industries Co, Ltd in Zhanhua County, east China's Shandong Province.—XINHUA

Air China to invest 18 bln yuan on capacity expansion

BEIJING, 26 March—Air China, the country’s largest international airline, said that it would invest 18 billion yuan (about 2.55 billion US dollars) to expand capacity in 2008.

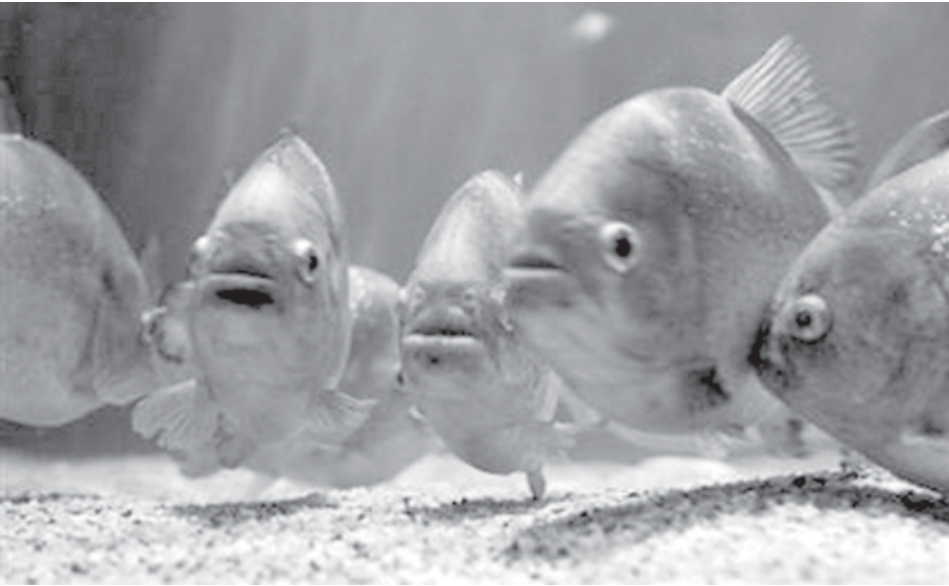
The carrier announced on Monday that it would spend 11.88 billion yuan on aircraft and the rest on infrastructure improvement.

Some two dozen new planes, including eight A320s, seven A330s and nine B737s, will enter service this year. This will expand the fleet to 244 and help the airline deal with an anticipated visitor influx during the Olympics and Paralympics.

Air China, which is second in China by fleet size, served 280 routes (72 international), with 220 passenger and cargo planes in operation as of the end of 2007.

As to rising oil costs, Huang Bin, secretary of the airline’s board of directors, said that the company would hedge 50 per cent of its fuel costs this year.

Air China’s net profits rose 30.37 per cent last year and its ridership rose 10.59 per cent.—MNA/Xinhua



Celebrity link! Obama related to Clinton?

BEIJING, 26 March—US Democratic presidential hopeful Sen Barack Obama is a distant cousin of actor Brad Pitt and Hillary Clinton is related to Pitt’s girlfriend Angelina Jolie, a genealogical society said Tuesday.

Researchers at the New England Historic Genealogical Society have discovered that Jolie and Clinton are ninth cousins, twice removed, while Pitt and Obama are ninth cousins, according to a genealogical study conducted over the last three years.

Clinton, who is of French-Canadian descent on her mother’s side, is also related to Madonna, Celine Dion and Alanis Morissette, researchers found. Other cousins include Camilla Parker Bowles and Jack Kerouac.

Obama, the son of a white woman from Kansas and a black man from Kenya, on the other hand, shares his ancestry with six US presidents, including current commander in chief, George W Bush, and his father, George HW Bush.

Other far-reaching Obama relations include Gerald Ford, Lyndon Johnson, Harry S Truman and James Madison, as well as Vice President Dick Cheney and Sir Winston Churchill.

Internet

Piranhas swim in the sweet water aquarium in Mora Southern Portugal on 21 March, 2008.—INTERNET

Five hurt, one killed in US crane accident

WASHINGTON, 25 March—At least 5 people were injured and another died after a portion of a high-rise crane fell through the roof of an adjacent home Tuesday in Miami, Florida, police said.

Miami police said two of those were critically injured while another person trapped under the wreckage of the roof was killed. Police have yet to release the names of anyone involved in the accident.—Internet



Construction workers look on at the site of a crane accident on 25 March, 2008 in Miami. One workers were killed and five others were injured when a crane collapsed at a downtown high-rise condominium site and fell on top of a home that the contractor used as an office, police said.—INTERNET

Rice heist sows panic among Thai farmers

BANGKOK, 25 March—Thai rice farmers are guarding paddy fields and hurrying to bring in their crops after a granary theft last week fuelled rumours of bandits lured by surging rice prices, officials said on Monday.

Reports of widespread paddy theft, although unsubstantiated by police, spread quickly after the theft of 100 kilogrammes (220 pounds) of premium quality fragrant rice from a farmer’s granary in the province of Kalasin, 500 kilometres (310 miles) northeast of Bangkok.

“Villagers have set up teams and are patrolling the community,” Urit Poo-aob, a district chief in Kalasin, told Reuters by telephone.

The northeast is the key producing region for premium grade fragrant rice in Thailand, the world’s

biggest rice exporter.

Thai rice prices have been rising since late last year when India banned exports of non-basmati rice to ensure it had enough for its own people.

Vietnam, the number two rice exporter, halted

exports during March and April in order to meet Filipino contracts.

As a result, the price of Thai premium fragrant price has soared 30 percent to nearly 900 US dollars a ton.

MNA/Reuters

Oil trucks attacked on Pakistan-Afghan border

JAMRUD (Pakistan), 25 March—Suspected militants in Pakistan have attacked oil tankers supplying fuel to foreign forces in Afghanistan, destroying 36 tankers and wounding up to 70 people, officials and residents said on Monday. The attack took place on Sunday night in Torkham, the main crossing point on the Afghan-Pakistani border just west of the Khyber Pass, where about 100 oil tankers were parked in a field.

“We have reports of 60 to 70 injured but none in critical condition,” said a senior official in Jamrud, the main town in the Khyber tribal region.

The militants set off two bombs that started a fire and many people who had gathered in the field were hurt when some of the tankers exploded, said the official, who declined to be identified.—MNA/Reuters

Vietnam tests bird flu vaccines on first volunteers

HANOI, 25 March—Vietnam is testing its bird flu vaccines on 10 first volunteers with encouraging results, according to local newspaper Youth on Tuesday.

The health of the 10 volunteers, staff of

Vietnam’s National Hygiene and Epidemiology Institute which produces the vaccines, after vaccination is good. The trial vaccination will be extended to nearly 300 local medical students in April. Vietnam is one of

few countries in the world having been successful in making bird flu vaccines from monkey kidneys’ cells in international-standard laboratories, the newspaper said.

MNA/Xinhua

Clashes kill over 500 in Sri Lanka in 20 days

COLOMBO, 26 March—Sri Lankan military said Tuesday that 501 Tamil Tiger rebels and 54 government soldiers have been killed in battle in the last 20 days in northern Sri Lanka.

Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara, the military spokesman told reporters that an unknown number of rebels and 223 soldiers have also been injured in the clashes from 5 March

5 to 24 March.

Nanayakkara said military operations were continuing in Mannar, Vavuniya and Jaffna District’s Muhamalai area.

“The security forces have been successful in capturing 31 square kilometres of territory south of the A14 road in Mannar,” Nanayakkara said.

He said so far this year some 115 bodies of

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels have been handed over with 11 more bodies to be delivered to the International Committee of the Red Cross. The fighting has intensified in the northern battle front after the government’s announcement in mid-January to withdraw from the 2002 Norwegian-backed cease-fire with the LTTE.

MNA/Xinhua

Hizbollah says Israel prisoner swap talks go on

BEIRUT, 25 March — Hizbollah said on Monday talks for a prisoner swap with Israel were continuing despite the killing of its top military commander in an assassination the Lebanese guerilla group blamed on the Jewish state.

Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah reiterated his pledge to take revenge for the 12 February assassination of Imad Moughniyah. “We shall pick the time, the place, the

punishment and the means and method,” Nasrallah said.

Moughniyah commanded Hizbollah’s guerilla forces during the 34-day war with Israel in 2006. The war was triggered when Hizbollah, which is backed by Syria and Iran, raided Israel and captured two soldiers, saying it wanted to use them to negotiate a prisoner swap.

Moughniyah was killed by a car bomb in

Damascus.

“Among his hopes was the liberation of the prisoners and we will continue this work despite the fact that the Israelis killed (Moughniyah),” Nasrallah said in a speech to commemorate the 40th day since his death.

“We did not halt the negotiations for the exchange of prisoners. Meetings happened recently and we will not halt the negotiations,” he said.

MNA/Reuters



A member of the French Group F performs during the closing ceremony of the Bogota International Theatre Festival 2008 in Bogota, Colombia, recently.—INTERNET

ROK scientists find gene promoting liver cancer growth

SEOUL, 25 March — A group of Korean researchers announced they have found how a gene causes the uncontrolled growth of tumour cells in liver cancer, the *Korea Times* reported on Monday.

According to the local daily, the research is the first to confirm the role of a gene called TM4SF5 in liver cancer and could lead to the development of efficient anti-cancer drugs.

A joint research team, led by Seoul National University Professor Lee Jung-weon, have already succeeded in producing a chemical compound that can inhibit the catalytic role of TM4SF5, the daily

said. The paper about the research was published in *Journal of Clinical Investigation* on Friday.

“We are now searching for a business partner to conduct clinical research into liver cancer drugs,” the daily quoted the team as saying. According to the researchers, the TM4SF5, or tetraspanin transmembrane 4 super-family member 5, has been suspected of being linked to various cancers since 1998.

The researchers first found that seven of nine patients suffering from liver cancer had more TM4SF5 in their tissue cells than those of healthy people. To confirm the

relationship between the gene and cancer, they injected mice with the substance and observed it caused tumour cells to grow.

They said that their finding can allow specific research to go forward on how to suppress the tumour cells from becoming overly active. — MNA/Xinhua



A daffodil in bloom is pictured in the Mon-Repos public park after snowfall in Lausanne recently. —INTERNET

Over 20,000 annually die of TB in Vietnam

HANOI, 25 March — Vietnam has some 100,000 tuberculosis infections and 20,000 deaths caused by the disease each year, according to local newspaper *Vietnam News* on Tuesday.

Vietnam now ranks the 13th among 22 countries having the highest numbers of tuberculosis infections.

To curb the disease, Vietnam is intensifying vaccination, urging local people to keep hygienic and have healthy lifestyles, encouraging them to go to see doctors when having signs of tuberculosis infection, and strengthening diagnosis and treatment systems nationwide. — MNA/Xinhua

S-W China landslide kills seven, injures seven

CHENGDU, 26 March — Seven people were killed and another seven were injured in a landslide on Saturday morning in southwest China’s Sichuan Province.

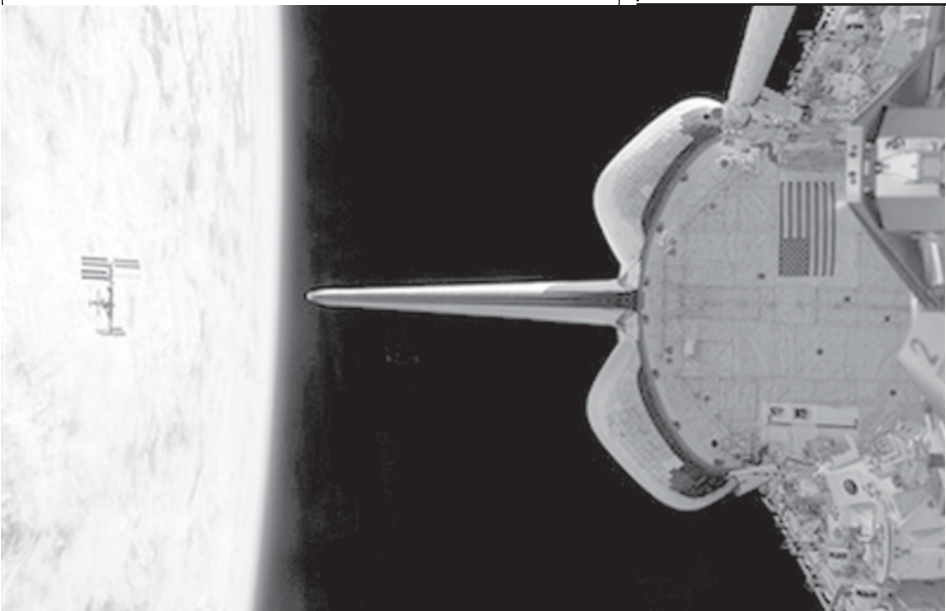
The accident occurred in the early hours of Saturday, in Maoling Village of Wenchuan County, leaving seven dead, seven injured and one missing.

The landslide also caused more than five million yuan (about 660,000 US dollars) of economic losses, with 700-metre-long road, 1,000-metre-long water pipe-line, 1,000-metre-long electricity line, and 150-square-metre shed destroyed.

MNA/Xinhua

In this image provided by NASA backdroped by Earth’s horizon and the blackness of space, the International Space Station appears very small from the point of view of the Space Shuttle Endeavour as the two spacecraft carry out their relative separation on 24 March, 2008.

INTERNET



Death more common in baby boys than girls

WASHINGTON, 25 March — Infant boys are more likely to die than infant girls in industrialized countries, although the disparity has narrowed since the 1970s, US researchers said on Monday.

Mortality data spanning 15 countries — 11 in Europe plus Canada, the United States, Japan and Australia — showed this

gap was at its widest in 1970 when boys had about a 30-per-cent higher chance than girls to die by age one, the researchers said. In the past three decades, the gap has closed a bit, with boys this decade having roughly a 20-per-cent higher chance of death by age one than girls, according to Eileen Crimmins of the

University of Southern California, one of the researchers.

This narrowing has occurred due to medical practices that seem to have helped more infant boys survive, including more Caesarean sections and intensive care units for premature babies, the researchers said.

MNA/Reuters

SPORTS

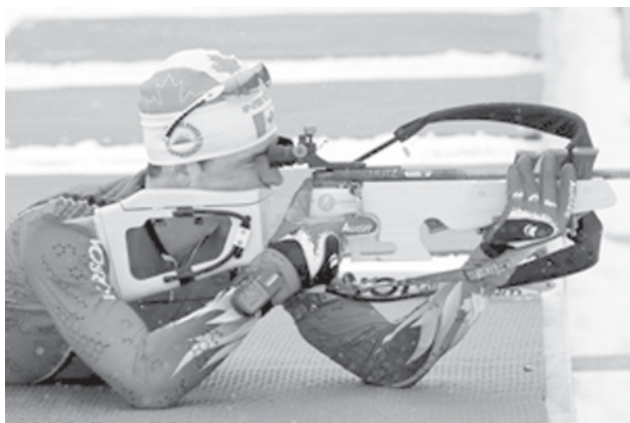
Bilic wants Eduardo in Croatia's Euro 2008 camp

ZAGREB, 26 March — Injured striker Eduardo da Silva will be invited to join Croatia's squad at the Euro 2008 finals to help boost team morale, manager Slaven Bilic said.

"I want Eduardo there and so do the players, it would also mean a lot to him," Bilic told Croatian media ahead of Wednesday's friendly with Scotland at Hampden Park.

"He has been a driving force on our road to the finals and has a big desire to be a morale-boosting factor during the event but it's up to his club Arsenal of course," Bilic said.

"He is making very good progress and we expect he will be able to jog lightly by the time the European Championship starts but he will need plenty of time to make a full recovery." —MNA/Reuters



Canadian biathlete Jean-Philippe LeGuellec trains at the 2010 Olympic biathlon range at the Whistler Olympic Park. The Canadian National Biathlon Championships begin Wednesday.—INTERNET

Attack images heighten concern over fan violence in Spain

MADRID, 26 March — Film of an Atletico Madrid fan being kicked and beaten with a stick by Sevilla supporters before last Saturday's league match has heightened concern about the level of violence in Spanish football.

The images, taken on a mobile phone and published on the Internet before being aired on television, show the fan being attacked as he lay bleeding on the ground outside Sevilla's Sanchez Pizjuan stadium.

Spanish media reported that a Sevilla fan was also attacked and stabbed in the leg before the match, which Atletico won 2-1, though local police said they had no knowledge of the incident.

"They are deplorable incidents that have no place in football and should not be allowed to be repeated," Atletico de-

fender Pablo Ibanez told a news conference on Tuesday.

Violence at Spanish football has increased in recent seasons with clashes between rival fans and the police and the throwing of objects onto the pitch becoming regular occurrences.

MNA/Reuters



Sri Lanka's opening batsman Malinda Warnapura (R) plays a shot as West Indies' Dwayne Bravo (L) and umpire Simon Taufel watch during the second inning on the fourth day of the first cricket Test match, in Providence, Guyana.—INTERNET

Benitez seeks talks with refs' chief over Mascherano

LONDON, 26 March — Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez said he will seek talks with referees' chief Keith Hackett following Javier Mascherano's red card in Sunday's 3-0 defeat by Manchester United at Old Trafford. The Argentine midfielder was given a second yellow card for dissent having earlier been booked for a foul, and then added to his troubles when he refused to leave the pitch.

He will serve an automatic one match ban, ruling him out of Sunday's Merseyside derby against Everton, but could face a longer suspension if the FA punish him for his histrionics. Benitez initially seemed angry with his player, who he gripped firmly while talking to him in Spanish when he eventually left the pitch, but later said he considered the sending off to be harsh.

"I would like to speak to Keith Hackett because it is important that we find a solution," he told Liverpool's website (www.Liverpoolfc.tv) on Tuesday.

"At Liverpool, we respect the game, we respect the rules and we respect the referee, and it is important to remember that Mascherano was the first Liverpool player to be sent off in the league this season."

The FA were expected to announce details of Mascherano's suspension later on Tuesday.

MNA/Reuters



Bruno Marioni of Mexico's Atlas (L) fights for the ball with Gabriel Urdaneta of Union Atletico Maracaibo during their Copa Libertadores soccer match in Maracaibo on 25 March, 2008.

INTERNET

Ferdinand to captain England against France

LONDON, 26 March — Rio Ferdinand will captain England in Wednesday's Paris friendly against France but coach Fabio Capello will not select his permanent skipper until his side begin their 2010 World Cup qualifying campaign.

"Capello has confirmed that this continues his approach of rotating the captaincy between players during the friendly matches before confirming the permanent captain for the qualifying games," the FA said in a statement on its web site (www.thefa.com) on Tuesday.

Manchester United centre back Ferdinand takes over from Steven Gerrard, who captained the side for Capello's first game in charge against Switzerland when John Terry, captain under previous coach Steve McClaren, was injured.

MNA/Reuters

directors and referees, according to media reports.

The *Lusa* news agency quoted Portugal's public prosecutor's office as saying Pinto da Costa was suspected of giving an envelope containing 2,500 euros (3,895 US dollars) to Duarte before the match.

No date has been set for the trial, *Lusa* said.

MNA/Reuters

Porto president to stand trial for alleged bribery

LISBON, 26 March — Porto president Jorge Nuno Pinto da Costa will stand trial for allegedly bribing a referee before a Portuguese Premier League match in 2004, a Porto tribunal source told *Reuters* on Tuesday.

The referee, Augusto Duarte, who was in charge of the match between Beira Mar and Porto that year which ended in a goalless draw, will also stand trial for corruption, the source said.

Pinto da Costa's lawyer declined to comment while Duarte was not immediately available to comment.

The decision, by a criminal court in Portugal's northern city of Porto, follows an investigation branded "Apito Dourado" (golden whistle) which began in 2003 and involves several soccer

Spain's Sergio Ramos (R) fights for the ball with Albert Riera during a training session in Elche on 25 March, 2008. Spain will face Italy in a friendly soccer match on Wednesday. —INTERNET



Ajax defender Heitinga agrees to join Atletico Madrid

AMSTERDAM, 26 March — Ajax Amsterdam's Netherlands defender John Heitinga has agreed to sign a five-year deal with Atletico Madrid, he told Tuesday's *De Telegraaf* newspaper.

"I'm thrilled. This is a fantastic next step in my career and I will miss Ajax unbelievably," he was quoted as saying.

The 24-year-old international said he had reached an agreement to join the Primera Liga side but the clubs had yet to discuss payment terms for the transfer fee. Heitinga has a clause in his contract stating that the maximum fee Ajax can demand is 10 million euros (15.58 mil-

lion US dollars) and the defender said Atletico would pay that sum.

Heitinga, who has 32 caps, made his Ajax debut aged 17 in 2001 after coming through their youth system.

"It is a pity, but also understandable, that a player who has played for Ajax for 17 years wants to play somewhere else," Ajax technical director Martin van Geel told *De Telegraaf*.

"We have tried for months to keep him in Amsterdam. Most times players leave Ajax just when they have reached their best, just like Wesley Sneijder last year."

MNA/Reuters

Ex-Nicaragua official backed for UN assembly post

UNITED NATIONS, 26 March — A former Nicaraguan official who has sharply criticized US Republican presidents has been backed by regional countries to be the next president of the UN General Assembly, a spokesman said on Monday.

The endorsement by Latin American and Caribbean countries makes it likely that Miguel D'Escoto Brockmann will be elected as it is the region's turn for the post, which lasts for a year and changes hands every September.

The current President, Srgjan Kerim of Macedonia, was informed of the endorsement in a letter last week from the UN Ambassador of Venezuela, which currently chairs the grouping, UN

assembly spokesman Janos Tisoyszky told reporters.

The president of the 192-nation General Assembly has little power but chairs an annual gathering of world leaders in September that includes an address by the US President.

He or she also oversees reform issues such as a long-running drive to expand membership of the powerful UN Security Council.

MNA/Reuters

Death toll in Honduras bus accident rises to 26

TEGUCIGALPA, 26 March — At least 26 people died in Honduras on Tuesday when a bus ran off a road and plunged over 1,600 feet (500 metres) into a ravine, rescuers said.

The accident happened between San Isidro and Jesus de Otoro, 93 miles (150 kilometres) west of the capital, Tegucigalpa.

“There are 26 dead

so far.... Twenty-three died at the site and three others in hospital,” fireman Carlos Cordero told Reuters.

Four children were among the dead and 16 survivors were under medical observation, he said.

The cause was unclear, but bus crashes on Central America's poorly maintained roads happen often. — MNA/Reuters

Over 50 flights delayed for power outage in Philippines

MANILA, 26 March — More than 50 domestic flights of the Cebu Pacific and Asian Spirit airlines were delayed Tuesday as a circuit breaker at the Philippines' Manila Do-

mestic Airport caused a power failure, media reports said.

Thirty-three flights of Cebu Pacific Airline and 18 flights of Asian Spirit were delayed,

Philippine TV network GMA News reported, citing officials from the media affairs division of the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA).

On the average, at least 51 flights will be delayed by around an hour.

Tirso Serrano, MIAA assistant general manager, said that while an investigation is still ongoing to determine the cause of the power failure, he suspected the high temperature and passenger volume as the probable “culprits”.

Serrano said that during the past Holy Week, the domestic airport accommodated some 13,000 passengers daily, almost 35 per cent higher during the same period last year.

MNA/Xinhua

Gas leak in Singapore mall puts 18 in hospital

SINGAPORE, 26 March — A leak of an unknown gas in a Singapore shopping centre on Monday sent 18 people to hospital complaining of breathing difficulties, a government official said.

The official declined to comment on whether the leak at Golden Landmark Shopping Complex in central Singapore was deliberate or an accident, with investigations still going on.

“Investigations showed a small quantity of unknown gas that was released on the first storey of the building somewhere

near the exterior of a staircase,” N Subhas, director of public affairs for the Singapore Civil Defence Force, told Reuters.

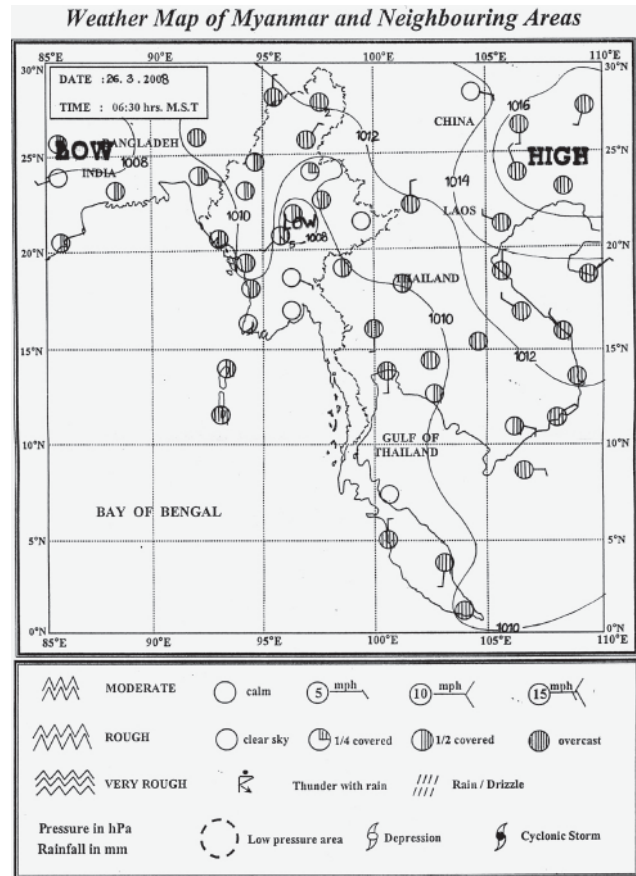
“We conducted checks and there are no more traces of the gas found in the building, the situation is under control,” he said.

The injured, including an infant, were sent to Singapore General Hospital

and Tan Tock Seng Hospital for treatment. The hospitals could not be reached for comment.

Singapore has tightened its security in recent weeks after the escape last month of the alleged Singapore leader of an Islamic militant group from the toilet of a detention centre.

MNA/Reuters



WEATHER

Wednesday, 26 March, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been fairly widespread in Kachin State and isolated in upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in Yangon Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (5°C) above March average temperatures in Taninthayi Division, (3°C) below March average temperatures in Eastern Shan State, Mandalay and Bago Divisions and about March average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures were Minbu (39°C), Yamethin, Pyinmana, Thayawady, Yangon (Kaba-Aye) and Hpa-an (38°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Meiktila (0.19) inch and Putao and Machanbaw (0.08) inch each.

Maximum temperature on 25-3-2008 was 100°F. Minimum temperature on 26-3-2008 was 72°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 26-3-2008 was 73%. Total sunshine hours on 25-3-2008 was (8.8) hours approx.

Rainfall on 26-3-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (0.67) inch at Mingaladon, (0.47) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.35) inch at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southwest at (13:30) hours MST on 25-3-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 27-3-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin, Chin, Northern Rakhine, Northern Shan States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in Mon and Kayin States, Yangon and Bago Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 27-3-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 27-3-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 27-3-2008: Partly cloudy.



Thursday, 27 March
View on today

- 6:00 am**
1. (၆၃)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့စစ်ရေးပြအခမ်းအနားကျင်းပပုံတိုက်ရိုက်ထုတ်လွှင့်မှုအစီအစဉ်
- 8:20 am**
2. (၆၃)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 8:45 am**
3. International news

- 4:00 pm**
1. Martial songs
- 4:10 pm**
2. တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုတေးသီချင်းပြိုင်ပွဲဆုရတေးများ
- 4:20 pm**
3. မြူးမြူးကြွကြွယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက
- 4:30 pm**
4. Musical programme
- 4:40 pm**
5. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ-တတိယနှစ်(ဓါတုဗေဒအထူးပြု)(ဓါတုဗေဒ)
- 4:50 pm**
6. မျိုးချစ်စိတ်ဓါတ်ရှင်သန်ထက်မြက်ရေးတေးများ

- 4:55 pm**
7. “ရေမြင့်ကြာတင့်” (ခန့်စည်သူ၊ ဇရာ၊ ငှက်ပျောကြော်၊ မိုးပြည့်ပြည့်မောင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဖုန်းမြင့်အောင်)
- 5:00 pm**
8. (၆၃)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 5:30 pm**
9. ကြေးမုံရိပ်သွင်တေးနယဉ်
- 5:40 pm**
10. ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲ့ရင်ခုန်သံ
- 6:00 pm**
11. Evening news
- 6:30 pm**
12. Weather report
- 6:35 pm**
13. တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ် (တပ်မတော်နှင့်ပြည်သူ့လက်တွဲကျွန်ုပ်တို့ချစ်မည်ပြည်သစ်ဆီ)(တရုတ်ဘာသာ)

- 6:45 pm**
14. (၆၃)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 7:00 pm**
15. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “လေဒီယာနှင့်ဆုံဆုံခြင်း” (အပိုင်း-၁၈)
- 7:50 pm**
16. ပြည်သူ့အတွက်တပ်မတော်
- 8:00 pm**
17. Local news
- 8:10 pm**
18. International news
- 8:20 pm**
19. Weather report
- 8:30 pm**
20. (၆၃)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 8:40 pm**
21. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ဘဝဆက်တိုင်း” (အပိုင်း-၁၁)

People's Desire

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

Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Ywataw Modern Market opened

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March — As a gesture of honouring the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day, a ceremony to open Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Ywataw Modern Market was held at the market here today.

First, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Secretary of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee U Tun Kyi and Committee for Construction of Ywataw Modern Market Chairman U Tha Htay opened the market.

After the opening ceremony, the commander and party visited around the market and gave necessary instructions to the officials.

There are 854 shops at the market. Everybody may buy the shops through installment system to sell goods.—MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee Secretary U Tun Kyi and Market Construction Committee Chairman U Tha Htay open Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Ywataw Modern Market.— MNA



SPECIAL FEATURES TO HONOUR THE 63rd ANNIVERSARY ARMED FORCES DAY

ARTICLE



Today (27 March 2008) is the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day. So the Myanmar Tatmadaw conceived along with the independence struggles has turned 63 years.

MYINT WAI HLAING
ARMED FORCES DAY SUPPLEMENT

Progress of Communications Sector in the Time of Tatmadaw Government



POEM

Armed Forces Day resolve

- * Undivided we are
Who ever divide us
Never dissolve are we
Yield never to any threats
Everyone trying to divide
Us or Tatmadaw
Is our enemy
- * Against storm and gale
Nay abandon pride
With perseverance
March to new nation
Our victory with people
- * Never do we bear
grudge

CARTOON

