

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Established 1914

Volume XV, Number 348

8th Waning of Tabaung 1369 ME

Saturday, 29 March, 2008

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



Seriously value Independence and Sovereignty

The life under colonialism, when we had to call foreigners “*Thakhin*” and respond “*Phaya*” to them, was a life so unbelievably bitter that it could not be understood just by the telling of the tale — one had to actually endure it to appreciate its bitterness. After bearing this unbearable situation for over a long hundred years the people, with their patriotic pride of origin rising in their blood, regained their independence only after sacrificing a great deal of their blood, sweat and lives. Therefore, I would like to urge you to seriously value, protect and preserve our Independence and Sovereignty.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

(From address delivered at the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade)

Phyo Cetana Free Eye Specialist Clinic opened

YANGON, 28 March — As a gesture of honouring the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day, a ceremony to open Phyo Cetana Free Eye Specialist Clinic, jointly set up by Yangon Division Union Solidarity and Development Association and Yangon City Development Committee, was held at the clinic at the corner of Kyaikwaing Pagoda Road and Insein Road in Mayangon Township yesterday morning.

CEC member of USDA U Aung Thein Lin (Yangon Division in-charge) explained the purpose of opening the clinic and providing of free health care services to eye patients.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, CEC member U Aung Thein Lin and officials accepted K 92,794,000 including an eye operating microscope donated by 20 wellwishers and presented certificates of honour to them.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe, CEC member U Aung Thein Lin and party enquired after eye patients receiving medical treatment.

At the clinic, eye specialists from Eye Specialist Hospital, North Okkalapa General Hospital and Insein General Hospital led by eye specialist Professor Dr U Ko Ko Thant provided eye care services to 317 patients on 26 March. Yesterday, eye care services were given to 150 patients and eye surgical operation on 73 eye patients.

The clinic will provide eye check-up to eye

patients twice a week free of charge and free surgical operation on eye patients once a week. In addition, the clinic is ready to perform minor surgical cases.

Yangon Division USDA and YCDC have jointly opened 18 Phyo Cetana Free Clinics and pro-

vided free health care services to over 230,000 people.

Similarly, the Funeral Service Association of Yangon Division USDA gives free funeral services to the needy people using 16 hearses.

MNA



Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence views providing of eye care service to patients at Phyo Cetana Free Eye Specialist Clinic. —MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 29 March, 2008

Tatmadaw in service of safeguarding lives and property of people

The Tatmadaw was born out of the people along with the Independence struggle. Joining hands with the people it had to sacrifice a lot of lives, blood and sweat to regain Independence. Therefore, every citizen is required to safeguard independence and sovereignty in all seriousness.

The entire national people are to be fully equipped with Union Spirit and national political awareness wherever they reside.

Since assumption of the State responsibilities the Tatmadaw has further strengthened national solidarity, thereby securing the participation of national race armed groups that had exchanged arms for peace in nation-building endeavours. And now, peace and stability has prevailed throughout the nation.

As harmonious development has been brought about in urban and rural regions including border areas local people are now enjoying the fruits of peace and stability as well as development.

Nowadays, the Tatmadaw is making all-out efforts for the emergence of a new democratic nation as aspired by the people. In this regard, work is well under way for approval of the draft Constitution, the fourth step of the seven-step Road Map, in compliance with the wishes of the people.

Arrangements have been made for holding the multiparty democracy general election in 2010 in line with the new Constitution.

This is the tasks being carried out by the Tatmadaw in order to hand over the State power to the people. Making efforts by the Tatmadaw in the process of transition to democracy amounts to shouldering the historic tasks of the nation.

All in all, we firmly believe that the Tatmadaw will be able to discharge the national defence duty while striving for becoming a modern and capable one in accord with the fine tradition of constantly safeguarding the lives and property of the people.

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်မသုံးစွဲရနေ

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

၂၀၀၈-ခုနှစ် မတ်လအတွက်

နောက်ဆုံးပတ်(တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)

(၃၀-၃-၂၀၀၈) ရက်နေ့

၂၀၀၈-ခုနှစ် ဧပြီလအတွက်

(၁၃-၄-၂၀၀၈) ရက်နေ့

နှင့်

(၂၇-၄-၂၀၀၈) ရက်နေ့

People's Desire

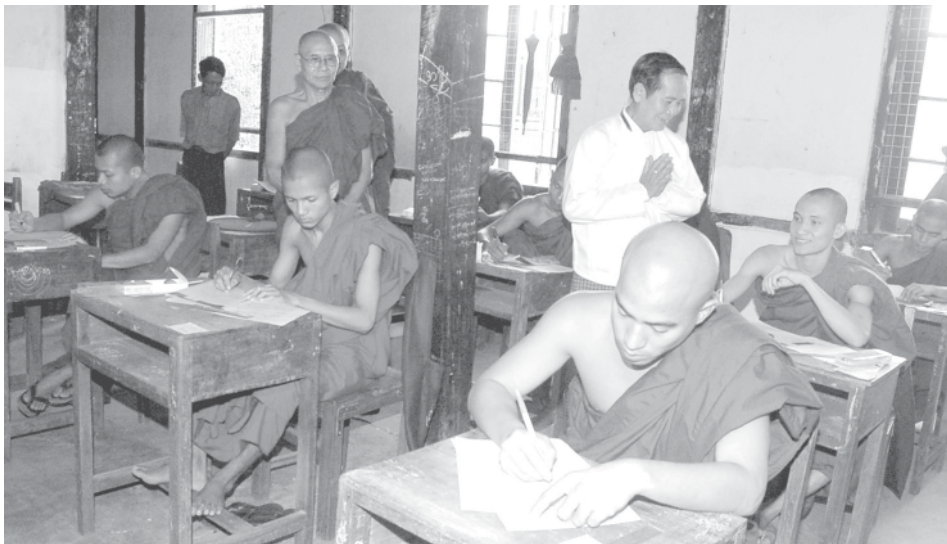
- * Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- * Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- * Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- * Crush all internal and external destructive elements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

D-G of DPPS visits Pahtamabyan exam centre

YANGON, 28 March — Director-General Dr Myo Myint of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana under the Ministry of Religious Affairs paid homage to supervisor Sayadaws at the Pahtamabyan religious examination centre at No 1 Basic Education High School in Bahan Township this noon.

The director-general supplicated on the religious affairs. He also visited the monks who were sitting for the examinations peacefully.

Beginning 24 March, a total of 400



Director-General Dr Myo Myint pays homage to monks who are sitting for Pahtamabyan religious exam.—MNA

members of the Sangha and nuns are sitting for the Pahtamabyan religious examinations in Bahan Township.

MNA

Training Course concludes at Border Areas and National Races Technical School in Laukkai

YANGON, 28 March — The Training Course No 3/27 of Border Areas and National Races Technical School under the Education and Training Department concluded at its school in Laukkai on 17 March.

Brig-Gen Win Maung of the local station delivered an address, and Deputy Director-General U Win Aung explained facts about the training course.

Next, Brig-Gen Win Maung and Deputy Director-General U Win Aung viewed the practical tasks of the trainees.

Altogether 30 trainees —10 at the electrical welding subject, 10 at the construction subject and 10 at the mechanics subject — attended the 24-week training course. During the training period, the government bore the cost of reception and accommodation of the trainees and equipment for the practical tasks.

The Deputy Director-General

inspected the buildings in the compound of the training school and installation of teaching equipment. He also visited the Border Areas and National Races Development Training School in Kunlong.

MNA

Innocent civilian loses left foot

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March—A man lost his left foot as he treaded on a mine planted by insurgents at Yaychaung in Papun Township, Kayin State, at about 4.45 pm on 19 March.

At that time, Kawkaman, 38, son of U Be Tu, of Ward 1, Papun Township, was on his way from Papun to Pwe Village to buy some cardamom seeds and pepper.

Now, he is receiving medical treatment and assistance. Officials and local people are working together to expose the perpetrators.—MNA

Local and foreign journalists attending the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade at Nay Pyi Taw Parade Ground on 27 March.—MNA



Journalists cover news of 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March—Correspondents from foreign news agencies in Yangon and editorial staff from local journals and magazines

covered the news about the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade yesterday.

There were 16 correspondents from the

Foreign Correspondents Club and 26 chief editors, editorial staff and reporters from local journals and magazines, totalling 42.—MNA

Clinton takes hit in new poll on White House race

WASHINGTON, 28 March—US Democratic Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton's positive rating has dropped to a new low of 37 per cent in an NBC/*Wall Street Journal* poll released on Wednesday.

According to the poll, the New York Senator's positive rating slid 8 percentage points in two weeks and she had a negative rating of 48 per cent in a week where she admitted making a mistake in claiming she had come under sniper fire during a 1996 trip to Bosnia. Clinton's Democratic rival, Illinois Senator Barack Obama, also saw a slight dip in his positive rating, to 49 per cent from 51 per cent, the poll found.

Indonesia to build defence school

JAKARTA, 28 March—The Indonesian Government has announced a plan to establish a world-class postgraduate school of defence aimed at upgrading military officers' scientific knowledge, local Press said Thursday.

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono has instructed Education Minister Bambang Sudibyo and Military Chief General Djoko Santoso to implement the plan. The President's dream is to have a world-class school issuing a master's degree in defense, the English newspaper *The Jakarta Post* reported.

MNA/Xinhua

The survey was taken after Obama gave a speech last week on race in America and rejected racially charged remarks by his pastor in Chicago of two decades, Reverend Jeremiah Wright.

NBC said 32 per cent of respondents said Obama "sufficiently addressed the issue" and 26 per cent said he needed to say more about the Wright controversy.

MNA/Xinhua

Saada Abdel Al, center holds her two children Rahma, 4, left and Fouad, 8 months along with a photo of her slain husband Mohammed Fouad, 27 who is claimed by his family to have been shot and killed by an American cargo ship passing the Suez Canal, at the family house in the city of Suez, Egypt, on 25 March, 2008.—INTERNET



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Chavez blames US invasion of Iraq for soaring oil prices

RIODE JANEIRO, 28 March—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said on Thursday that the US invasion of Iraq is partly to blame for rising oil prices.

Oil producing countries are not to be held responsible for the surge in oil prices, but the United States is "partially to blame" for it, Chavez told a Press conference during

a visit to Recife in north-eastern Brazil.

During this visit, Chavez met his Brazilian counterpart Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and the two countries' state-owned oil and gas companies, Petrobras and PDVSA, signed a cooperation agreement.

Chavez said as a member of the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting

Countries (OPEC), Venezuela favours the fixing-price system that has worked well for three years, but the US invasion of Iraq has brought instability to the market.

MNA/Xinhua



An artist's rendition of the Moon Rover which will carry capsules containing a portion of cremated remains of persons in a payload to the surface of the Moon by Celestis, Inc as soon as 2009 are shown in this undated publicity photograph provided by one of the companies that will provide transportation to the moon.—INTERNET

Two police killed by Taleban rocket attack

KABUL, 28 March—A poppy eradication police compound on Wednesday morning was attacked by Taleban militants, leaving two police dead and another injured in southern Afghan province of Helmand, an official said on Thursday.

Mohammad Hussein Andiwal, the provincial police chief, told *Xinhua* that Taleban insurgents fired five rockets on a poppy eradication police compound in Marja District of Helmand. Meanwhile, Qari Yusuf Ahmadi, the purported spokesman of Taleban, claimed responsibility for the rocket attack on police compound.—MNA/Xinhua

Five Taleban militants killed in clash in Afghanistan

KABUL, 28 March—Five Taleban insurgents were killed in Afghanistan's southern Uruzgan Province on Wednesday, according to provincial police chief Juma Gul Humat.

"The clash took place when Taleban insurgents attacked a convoy of trucks supplying logistic items to international troops based in the province," he said.

"The convoy was moving towards Khas Uruzgan District when came under Taleban attack and police accompanying the convoy returned fire killing five insurgents on the spot," Humat told *Xinhua*.

MNA/Xinhua

Iran to hold run-off Parliament votes on 25 April

TEHERAN, 28 March—Iran will hold run-off votes on 25 April for parliamentary seats not decided in a first election round earlier this month, Iranian media said on Wednesday, but the outcome will not threaten a conservative majority. More than 200 of Parliament's 290 seats were decided in the first round and the Interior Ministry said over 70 per cent of those went to conservatives, who call themselves "principlist" for their loyalty to the Islamic Republic's ideals.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad may not get an easy ride even though he shares the "principlist" tag because the camp is broad and includes political rivals who

may use Parliament as a springboard for next year's presidential race.

Some conservatives have also joined the President's staunchest critics, reformists, in questioning Ahmadinejad's economic management, blamed for double-digit inflation.

The Guardian Council, a supervisory body of clerics and jurists, said run-offs would take place on Friday, 25 April, the official IRNA news agency reported.

IRNA did not spell out how many seats would go to a second round but said they would take place in 43 constituencies, which can have more than one seat in each.—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

Egypt snubs Arab summit, tension high

DAMASCUS, 27 March — Egypt plans to send a junior minister to the upcoming Arab summit in Damascus, effectively snubbing a meeting which is usually attended by heads of state, officials and media said on Wednesday.

An Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesman in Damascus said Minister of State for Legal and Assembly Affairs Moufid Shehab would represent Egypt at the meeting.

In Cairo, an official said Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit would not attend.

Tension is running high ahead of the 29-30 March summit over a political crisis in Lebanon that has prevented rival parties from electing a new president. Egypt says Syria had not done enough to resolve the Lebanese crisis.

Egypt is the second major Arab country which is planning to send a low-

level representative to the summit in Damascus, expected to discuss lingering problems in Iraq, Lebanon and the fate of an Arab peace initiative with Israel. Analysts say Syria is facing diplomatic isolation by Saudi Arabia and Egypt for its alliance with non-Arab Iran in a regional jockeying for power against the United States.—MNA/Reuters

Plane carrying Brazilian ministers crash-lands

RIO DE JANEIRO, 27 March—A plane carrying two Brazilian ministers crash-landed at an airport in northeastern Brazil Wednesday. No one was injured in the incident. The Brazilian Air Force plane suffered a technical problem just after take-off at Guararapes Airport in Recife, capital city of Pernambuco State.

The plane, bound for Brasilia, the country's

federal capital, was forced to return. Geddel Vieira Lima, Brazilian Minister of National Integration and Communications Minister Helio Costa were on board.

As it was landing, the Learjet 35's left-hand undercarriage failed to lower, forcing the plane's underside to touch the ground. — MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia, Thailand to step up coop to end conflict

JAKARTA, 27 March — Indonesia and Thailand will step up cooperation to end conflict in southern Thailand, leaders of the two countries said here on Wednesday at a joint Press conference after meeting at the State Palace.

“On the issue of the southern border of Thailand, I thank President Susilo Yudhoyono for Indonesia's kind understanding as well as strong

cooperation and support,” Thai Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej said.

Samak said that his country expected Indonesia could help settle the crisis and Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono expressed Indonesia's availability for it.

Thailand has indicated that the country wanted to settle the crisis through negotiation and dialogue, and thought Indonesia has the potential to help solve the issue, Indonesian Foreign Minister Hassan Wirajuda told reporters after the Press conference.

MNA/Reuters

Hot air balloons fly during the celebrations of “Sri Lanka Balloon Festival 2008” at Tissamaharama, in Hambantota, about 238 kilometres (148 miles) south of Colombo on 26 March, 2008.—INTERNET



A newly-discovered prehistoric marine crocodile, given the scientific name of Guarinisuchus munizi, in an undated image. The crocodile, estimated to have lived some 62 million years ago, is one of only two animal groups that survived the massive extinction of dinosaurs some 65 million years ago.

INTERNET



Brazil finds prehistoric “Sea Warrior” crocodile

RIO DE JANEIRO, 28 March —A fossil of a new marine crocodile species found in Brazil shows the reptiles survived the extinction of dinosaurs 65 million years ago, researchers said on Wednesday.

Brazilian paleontologists said the discovery of the fossil of Guarinisuchus munizi, dubbed Sea Warrior, also engendered a new theory on the migration of prehistoric crocodiles from Africa to South and then North America.

The 62-million-year-old fossil, described in the

London-based *Proceedings of Royal Society B* research journal, is part of the Dyrosauridae group, which replaced mosas-

saurs, or serpentine marine lizards, as the dominant marine predators in the Paleocene epoch.

MNA/Reuters

Car bomb in Afghan market kills eight

KABUL, 27 March — A car bomb exploded in a market in the southern Afghan province of Helmand on Wednesday killing at least eight people and wounding 17, police said.

Taleban insurgents have vowed to intensify attacks on Afghan and foreign troops country-wide, launch a wave of suicide bombings and attack supply lines from Pakistan this year in their campaign to overthrow the pro-Western Afghan Government.

MNA/Reuters

Eurozone economy faces stronger headwinds

BRUSSELS, 28 March— The eurozone economy is facing stronger headwinds from financial turmoil, a US slowdown and surging oil prices, the European Commission said on Wednesday, while maintaining its previous forecast.

“The euro-area economy continues to face strong headwinds, including persistent uncertainties about the duration and the

ultimate cost of the financial turmoil, a weakening US economy and surging commodity prices,” said EU Economic and Monetary Commissioner Joaquin Almunia.

“In spite of its sound economic fundamentals the euro area is starting to feel the pinch,” he added.

Figures showed eurozone economic growth decelerated from 2.6 per

cent year-on-year in the third quarter of 2007 to 2.2 per cent in the fourth quarter, which owed much to a weakening of private consumption on the back of surging consumer prices.

According to the commission’s interim forecast of February, economic growth in the euro zone was expected to slow down to 1.8 per cent for 2008. —Xinhua



Greek children holding a torch of the 2008 Beijing Olympics pose for photographers in Giannitsa, Greece on 27 March, 2008. The Olympic flame travelled for the fourth day in Greece after it was lit in the site of ancient Olympia. —XINHUA

All Items from Xinhua News Agency



Leonid Stadnyk (R) of Ukraine, named as the world’s tallest man by the Guinness World Records, gets into a car as Ukraine’s President Viktor Yushchenko watches in Kiev on 24 March, 2008. —XINHUA

Cambodia to halt rice export for two months

PHNOM PENH, 28 March— Cambodia will halt rice export for two months in order to help bring down the spiraling price of the staple food, said Prime Minister Hun Sen on Wednesday.

It is a temporary measure, but aims to ensure food security, he said while attending a road construction ceremony in northwestern city of Pailin.

Cambodia has enough rice to satisfy the market demand and the people do not have to fear any shortage, national television station TVK quoted the Prime Minister as saying. —Xinhua

SIA grounds second “A380” for fuel pump problem

SINGAPORE, 27 March — Singapore Airlines (SIA) said on Wednesday that it had grounded a second Airbus A380 aircraft on Monday night and switched Sydney-bound passengers to smaller planes because of a fuel pump problem.

Singapore Air spokesman Stephen Forshaw said in a statement that the problem with the fuel pump was similar to the problem that grounded another A380 in February. “The cause has been traced to the premature failure of a new fuel pump provided by Airbus,” he said. —Xinhua

China’s Hainan Airlines almost quadruples profit in 2007

BEIJING, 27 March— Hainan Airlines, China’s fourth biggest carrier, said Tuesday its net profit almost quadrupled last year, buoyed by a booming domestic industry and the stronger Chinese currency.

Net income reached 651.4 million yuan (91.7 million US dollars) or 0.18 yuan per share, up from 166.8 million yuan or 0.06 yuan in 2006, the Haikou-based airline said in a

statement to the Shanghai Stock Exchange.

Operating revenue rose 6.1 per cent from a year earlier to 13.6 billion yuan last year, it said.

The airline reaped 11.3 billion yuan from passenger transport last year, after carrying 14.5 million passengers, up 0.7 per cent.

Xinhua

The new ‘Pantech duo’ global smart device which runs on Microsoft Corp’s mobile phone operating system is displayed in its various dual-keyboard configurations as AT&T, Microsoft and Pantech announce the new crossover mobile phone availability at an AT&T retail store in New York. —XINHUA



China’s economy expected to grow 10.7% in 2008

BEIJING, 27 March — China’s economy would moderate but remain robust in 2008 with a growth rate of 10.7 per cent, providing a cushion against the expected international downturn, according to a forecast issued by the United Nations commission here on Thursday.

“Investment continues to be the main driver of

growth, remaining resilient despite government cooling measures and with support from low real interest rates,” said a report released by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).

“A slowdown in exports and the country’s efforts to cool the economy are the main reasons for the moderation,” it said.

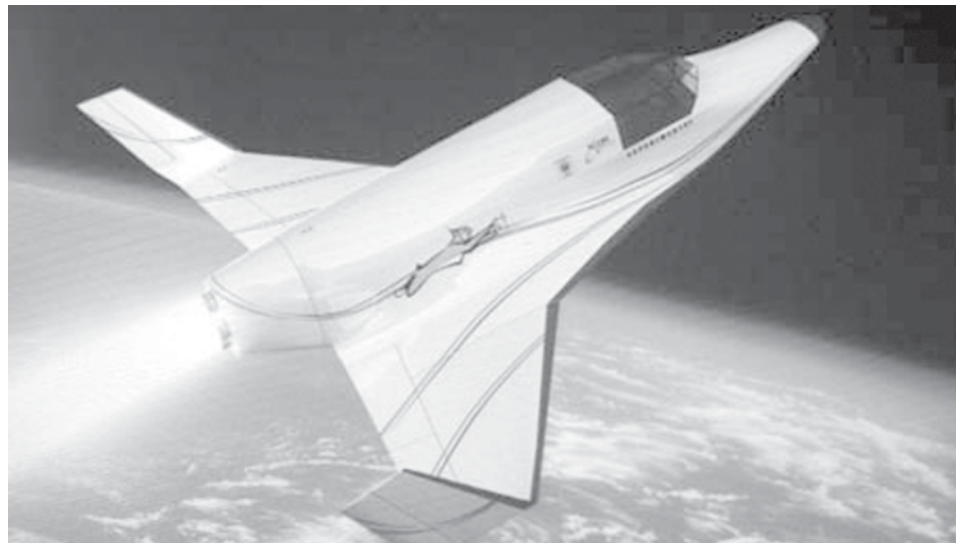
Other factors expected to underpin China’s growth include domestic demand, increasing spending power of rural consumers and rising consumption through higher government spending on social welfare. Official statistics show China’s gross domestic product growth accelerated to 11.4 per cent in 2007, the fastest for 13 years. —Xinhua

Chavez says Brazil’s economy could surpass that of US

RIO DE JANEIRO, 28 March — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said Wednesday that Brazil’s economy could surpass that of the United States if the latter continues its slowdown.

Chavez told reporters that he does not want the United States to suffer a recession, but if its economy continues to slow down, “Brazil’s economy, currently the biggest in Latin America, could become the biggest in the continent,” he said upon his arrival to Brazil’s Recife where he will meet with Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

Xinhua



XCOR Aerospace of Mojave, California, announced on 26 March, 2008 in Beverly Hills, that its two-seater Lynx suborbital spaceship, shown in this undated publicity photograph, will carry people or payloads into space to experience weightlessness and see the Earth below. —XINHUA

Scottish company discovers two gas fields in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 28 March — The Scottish company Cairn Energy has discovered gas at Magnama and Hatiya in the Bay of Bengal in Bangladesh, officials here said Thursday.

The company informed the state-owned company Petrobangla this week that it has discovered gas at the structures near the southeastern port city of Chittagong and has sought permission to conduct

appraisal to find out the size of the discovery.

Cairn has already submitted an appraisal programme to conduct further exploration in a bid to confirm the quantity of the discovery and how much of it can be extracted commercially, Petrobangla Director Muktadir Ali said.

He said a Petrobangla committee comprising technical and financial experts held meeting on

Thursday to review Cairn's appraisal programme and would sit with the company to discuss its action plan.

MNA/Xinhua

A pupil receives measles vaccination in Gaosheng Experimental Elementary School in Suining, southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 26 March, 2008. —XINHUA



Man charged as Iraqi agent over US Congress trip

WASHINGTON, 28 March — An Iraqi-American who helped organize a controversial US congressional trip to Baghdad in 2002 was charged on Wednesday with working for ousted Iraqi president Saddam Hussein's government, which paid for the visit, the Justice Department said. The indictment against Muthanna al-Hanooti said Iraq's foreign intelligence service funneled 34,000 US dollars through the Islamic charity Life for Relief and Development to pay delegation expenses.

It said al-Hanooti had

been a lobbyist and public-relations coordinator for the charity, based in Southfield, Michigan.

The indictment did not name the three lawmakers who took the trip in September-October 2002, less than six months before the US-led invasion to oust Saddam. —MNA/Reuters

Oil hits \$106 as US fuel supplies fall

NEW YORK, 27 March — Oil climbed over 106 US dollars a barrel on Wednesday after a US Government report showed larger-than-expected drops in fuel stocks and declining fuel production in the world's top oil consumer.

US crude oil futures hit a session high of 106.20 US dollars and settled at 105.90 US dollars a barrel, a 4.68-US-dollar gain for

the day. London Brent added 3.39 US dollars, settling at 103.99 US dollars. Crude oil hit its record high of 111.80 US dollars on 17 March.

"Today's numbers are a nice bullish surprise and come on a day when the other commodities are picking up as well," said Mike Zarembski, analyst at optionsXpress in Chicago.

MNA/Reuters

Eight killed in Indian temple stampede

BHOPAL (India), 28 March — At least eight people were trampled to death and 10 seriously injured in a stampede at a Hindu temple in central India, officials said. The stampede happened late on Wednesday, when thousands of villagers were making their way to a temple during an annual fair in remote Karila Village, about 260 kilometres (160 miles) from Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh State.

"It was simply an accident as people who attempted to enter the temple by climbing over a railing fell," Geeta Mishra, a senior government official, said on Thursday. Authorities sealed the temple gates and were investigating the stampede. —MNA/Reuters

Survey shows severe school violence exists in Austria

VIENNA, 28 March — An online survey result published on Wednesday by the Austrian Association Neustart, showed that the school violence in Austria was quite severe.

A total of 5,454 teachers, 4,509 parents and 864 students in Austria participated in the survey.

According to the survey, 32 per cent teachers and 27 per cent students confronted with school violence at least once every week. Poverty, overloaded pressure due to high expectations, combined with the fear of excessive high standards were the main reasons for aggressive behaviours of the students. Drug abuse also played an important role on this issue, experts added. The abuse of alcohol or synthetic drugs stimulated the potential aggression for fights. —MNA/Xinhua

A man surfs the Internet in Beijing. The Chinese government will clamp down on mapping websites, state media reported on Thursday.

INTERNET



Honouring 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day

Sr.	Subject	1988	2007	Progress
1.	Earth road miles	-	3492/2	3492/2
2.	Gravel road miles	-	1047/4	1047/4
3.	Tarred-road miles	-	131/3	131/3
4.	Small/big/suspension bridge	-	78	78
5.	Small bridge	-	1017	1017
6.	Suspension bridge	-	46	46
7.	Hospital	-	80	80
8.	Dispensary	-	102	102
9.	Rural health centre	-	38	38
10.	Rural health branch	-	87	87
11.	Primary/Middle/High School	-	855/90/92	855/90/92
12.	Agricultural office	-	31	31
13.	Agricultural camp	-	118	118
14.	Dam	-	51	51
15.	Canal	-	5	5
16.	Tractor Station	-	11	11
17.	Reserve forest	-	11	11
18.	Nursery	-	14	14
19.	Breeding Farm	-	19	19
20.	Veterinary Office	-	40	40
21.	Generator	-	265	265
22.	TV relay station	5	111	106
23.	Post Office	-	52	52
24.	Telephone Station	-	87	87



Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College (Yangon).

An aerial view of Thanlwin Bridge (Hpa-an) built in Hpa-an Township of Kayin State.



Border Areas National Races Youth Training School built in Kengtung of Shan State (East).



Progress of Border Areas and National Races Sector in the time of Tatmadaw Government

Pyaingchaung Dam built in Kyauktaw Township of Rakhine State to irrigate 10,000 acres of farmland.



A microwave station seen in Haka Township of Chin State.

HAILING THE 63rd ANNIVERSARY ARMED FORCES DAY:

Indivisible are the Tatmadaw and the people

Si Thu Aung

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



Each nation has own armed forces. The duty of the armed forces is to safeguard sovereignty and territorial integrity of own motherland.

Although safeguarding own land is the main duty of the armed forces, it cannot be carried out by the armed forces alone. Only when the nation is to be safeguarded by the national brethren and the Tatmadaw in unity, can any danger that might befall the country be warded off.

In reality, national defence is the duty of all the citizens. At present day, there are various threats to a nation. For

example, the sovereignty of a nation can be threatened; there might be an attempt to forcibly occupy a part of a nation so that a dependent nation can emerge seceding from the main one; there might be an attempt to weaken the culture, tradition, custom and national character of a nation; and there might be an attempt to dominate a nation by employing various means and ways to break up its national consolidation.

If we liken a nation to a house compound, the Tatmadaw is like a fence. The fence will not be set up by anyone from outside at all. But it has to be built only by the family

members of the house. With the strong fence, anyone including a thief or robber as well as stray dogs cannot enter the house easily. If the fence is dilapidated, then the house can easily be broken in by thieves and the like. Therefore, it is necessary for all the family members to maintain and repair their fence to be firm and strong. Despite the fence being firm and strong, there will be danger if one of the family members who is in disagreement allows the enemy to enter the house through the trap door.

Looking to the examples of the international community, even the very strong enemies could be crushed when the armed forces and the people of a nation were united. For instance, the people of Vietnam side by side with Vietcong troops were able to drive out the invaders of a superpower.

However, a nation fell under subjugation when its armed forces were not strong. There were also incidents that a nation was easily invaded by others and the armed forces broke up when national unity was weakened. The clear examples can be found in

Iraq and Afghanistan. There are no strong armed forces in those countries and they have only follower troops of invaders. There are no modern high-tech fighter aircraft, warships, artillery, tanks and missiles. There are no airforce and navy and the army does not have enough heavy weapons. The war victors have no faith in them (Iraq & Afghanistan) just allowing them to be armed with small weapons in order to incite infighting among their own national people. Lackey troops are sent to hot spots first so that they will die if necessary. Those local troops on their part have no fighting skills as they are salaried soldiers who are good-for-nothings in battles. How can such troops safeguard their nation? Iraq could do nothing when the Turkish troops invaded the nation and raided the Kurd rebel camps in the north of Iraq. Likewise, the government's administrative machinery cannot still reach all parts of Afghanistan except some cities and a few southern plains.

The above-mentioned examples show that in the nations with disintegration of national consolidation, the armed forces are divided and their sovereignty and territorial integrity cannot be effectively protected.

In Myanmar, the Tatmadaw was born of the people during the national independence struggles. March 27, the Armed Forces Day, reflects the day when the Tatmadaw side by side with the people rose against the fascists. The Tatmadaw is the people and vice versa. So, indivisible are the Tatmadaw and the people. Whenever any danger befall the nation, the Tatmadaw and the people

saved it at risk of their lives. The people also rendered all necessary assistance to the Tatmadaw.

The Tatmadaw and the people were in oneness and united in the fight against the fascists, in the chaotic period of post-independence, in the period of the nationalist Chinese invasion and in the period of internal armed insurgency. With the strong support of the people, the Tatmadaw was able to put an end to the internal armed insurgency. National reconsolidation was built and peace restored.

Tatmadaw was also built into a modern, strong and capable one. As peace and stability has prevailed in the nation, Tatmadawmen have been able to undertake the nation-building tasks and serve the interests of the people.

The state constitution has been drawn with the principles that can ensure the Tatmadaw and the people to be always in oneness and it will be approved soon. All in all, so long as the Tatmadaw and the people are united through thick and thin, any danger can be thwarted.

(Translation: ST)

Poem

Tatmadaw with historic fine traditions

- * All along history
Powerful was the nation
And tall it stood Tatmadaw
- * Throughout successive eras
Sacrificing lives, blood its members
Safeguards nation the Tatmadaw
- * Removed all restriction
And colonialism yoke
Freed it nation from subjugation
- * Valuable independence
Fragrance so sweet
Safeguards the Tatmadaw
- * Ready for any emergency
Duty historic for nation
Well it performs always
- * Makes nation prevail
With peace and unity
Blooming flowers everywhere
- * Its long march all along
Matures Tatmadaw
With faith and efficiency
- * They dare sacrifice
Even lives for country
O nation's good sons
- * Golden era it establishes
For nation to gain modernization
And peace, prosperity
- * Till 63rd anniversary
United always and never wavers
Is the Tatmadaw
- * Its noble pride
Added with fine traditions
Tatmadaw the people's strength
Lives forever strong
For years in thousand
Wish we make for it

(Honouring the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day)
Maung Maung Moe Aung
(Translation)

Our Three Main National Causes

Modernizing
and
developing
the nation

Kaung Htet

Winners in Mily Codes of Conduct contest awarded



Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin addresses prize-presentation ceremony of military codes of conduct contest to mark the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March — Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin yesterday attended a ceremony to present prizes to the winners in the military codes of conduct contest to honour the 63rd Anniversary of Armed Forces Day at the command headquarters.

After the opening speech, the commander

presented certificates of honour and cash awards to those who stood first in the contest at different levels.

There were 12 officers and 36 Tamadawmen from four stations and three officers and nine Tamadawmen from the Ministry of Defence who had sat for the military codes of conduct, totaling 60.

MNA

Village-to-village gravel road inaugurated in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March — CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe paid homage to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tejaniya and members of the Sangha at Sasana Hitakari Zigon West Monastery in Zigon Village of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township yesterday.

Next, the CEC member attended the opening ceremony of Yisar village-to-village gravel road in Zigon Village.

Construction Committee member U Tin Win reported on the purpose of construction.

Member of Zigon Village Peace and Development Council U Htay Hlaing presented gifts to employees of Thawda Win Co that provided necessary assistance for the road construction. A local spoke words of thanks.

Executive of the Township USDA U Kyaw Thet Oo and Village USDA Organizer U Hla Myint formally opened the road.

After the ceremony, the CEC member cordially conversed with the local people.

The village-to-village gravel road measuring 15,000 feet by 15 feet links Shansulay and Zigon villages.—MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and wife being welcomed by Bangladeshi Ambassador Major General Abu Roshde Rokonuddawala at the reception to mark the National and Independence Day of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on 28 March.—MNA

Nibban Group honours sale agents

YANGON, 28 March — Nibban Electric & Electronic of Nibban Group organized a ceremony to honour the sale agents at Traders Hotel, here, yesterday evening.

Chairman of Nibban Group U Thein Kyi extended greetings and spoke words of thanks. Managing Director Dr Aung Thein of Nibban Electric & Electronic explained quality and use of new products including Nibban Digital Antenna and Nibban All Plus 3

Antenna and presented gifts to those who sold the most in 2007.

Nibban Electric & Electronic was certified ISO 9001:2000 and distributes Nibban TV Antenna & Booster, Servo Stabilizer, Fully Auto Inverter, Smart AVR, AVR & Safeguard, Auto & Manual Voltage

Nibban Group Chairman U Thein Kyi extends greetings at a ceremony to honour sales agents.—MNA

Regulator, Electric Fan, Rice Cooker, DVD Player, Baho Inverter, Voltage Regulator and Rechargeable Battery. The 36-year old company has won customer satisfaction.—MNA



Prizes, cash assistance presented to WVO members



Chairman of Township WVO Major Tun Myint (Retd) addresses a ceremony to honour over 75 aged members of WVO.—MNA

YANGON, 27 March — In honour of the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day, a ceremony to honour members of Pabedan Township War Veterans Organization, who are over 75, to present prizes to outstanding students and to provide cash assistance for the disabled members of Township WVO was held at WVO office in Pabedan

Township this morning.

Township WVO Chairman Major Tun Myint (Retd), Chairman of Township PDC U Kyaw Myint Hlaing and Secretary of Township USDA U Aung Naing made speeches on the occasion.

The chairman of Township WVO presented cash assistance to over 75 aged members and the

disabled members of Township WVO. Vice-chairman Major Aung Tin Oo (Retd) gave prizes to the outstanding WVO members and Lt-Comdr Hla Tun (Retd) prizes to the outstanding students, the Myanmar Selected athlete and the staff.

Next, an aged member of WVO expressed his thanks.

MNA

Sadr followers resist crackdown in Basra

BASRA (Iraq), 28 March — Explosions could be heard every 10 or 15 minutes in Basra, epicentre of an Iraqi Government crackdown on followers of Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, on Thursday.

Authorities imposed curfews across southern Iraq in an effort to halt the spread of violence after the largest military offensive carried out by

Iraqi forces without major backing from US or British combat units.

More than 100 people have been killed and hundreds wounded in clashes which have divided Iraq's majority Shiite community and wrecked a ceasefire declared last year by Sadr.

Residents of Basra, Iraq's second largest city and main oil centre, have described the fighting as

the worst since the US invasion in 2003. Clashes have spread to the southern cities of Kut, Hilla, Diwaniya, Amara and Kerbala, as well as Shi'ite neighbourhoods of Baghdad.

Hundreds of Sadr followers were gathering in Baghdad neighbourhoods for demonstrations to demand the resignation of Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki. — *MNA/Reuters*



Demonstrators chant slogans during a protest in Baghdad's Sadr City on 27 March, 2008.—INTERNET

Brazil, Venezuela agree food and defence, not oil

RECIFE, BRAZIL, 28 March — The presidents of Brazil and Venezuela signed farm and industry accords on Wednesday and agreed to form a regional defence council but failed to reach final agreement on a key oil project.

Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and his Venezuelan counterpart, Hugo Chavez, met in the northeastern city of Recife and reiterated their intention to build a joint

four billion US dollars oil refinery there. But they could not reach a definitive agreement.

Both leaders already visited the site in Recife three times and repeatedly celebrated the project being discussed since 2003. Brazil's state-controlled oil giant Petrobras began construction last year but cannot agree with the Venezuelan state oil company PDVSA on commercial terms.— *MNA/Reuters*

At least six killed in attack on Pakistan ambulance

PARACHINAR (Pakistan), 28 March — Suspected militants attacked an ambulance in a Pakistani tribal region on the Afghan border on Thursday killing at least six people, including two paramilitary soldiers, a government official said.

The ambulance was taking people to a health meeting when it was attacked with a rocket-propelled grenade in the Kurram tribal region, residents of the area said.

"Six people, including two paramilitary soldiers who were travelling in the ambulance have been killed and two wounded in the attack," said Zaheer-ul-Islam, the region's top political administrator.

MNA/Reuters

Two US soldiers killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 28 March — Two American soldiers were killed in two attacks in Baghdad on Wednesday, the US military said on Thursday.

A soldier assigned to Multi-National Division-Baghdad died of fatal wounds sustained from a small-arms fire attack on his combat patrol in the Iraqi capital at around midnight (2135 GMT), a US military said.

Another soldier assigned to the same unit was killed by "hostile fire" at about 4:30 pm (1330 GMT) in the eastern Baghdad, another statement said.

The latest deaths bring the number of US soldiers that have been killed in Iraq to about 4,003 since the Iraq war broke out in 2003, according to media count based on Pentagon figures.

MNA/Xinhua

Drug use in men unaltered by partners' pregnancy

NEW YORK, 28 March — Young women who smoke cigarettes, use marijuana or binge drink will often stop doing so while they are pregnant, but a partner's pregnancy has no effect on young men's pot use or binge drinking pattern, a new study shows.

The researchers also found that while many women reduced their substance use during pregnancy, it quickly returned to pre-pregnancy levels after the child was born.

The findings are "troubling, and highlight a need for preventive intervention", Dr Jennifer A. Bailey

and colleagues from the University of Washington in Seattle write.

Efforts to reduce substance use during pregnancy focus almost exclusively on women, although research has shown that if a woman's partner continues to drink or smoke during her pregnancy, she is more likely to do so as well, and will also be more likely to return to substance use after giving birth, the researchers point out.

Studies have also linked fathers' cigarette and pot smoking to poor outcomes for children, including

sudden infant death syndrome and childhood cancers, according to the report in the current issue of the journal *Birth*.

To better understand patterns of substance use during pregnancy for fathers as well as mothers, the researchers evaluated 412 men and 396 women who were 24 years old and were participating in a long-term study of behaviour. Seventy-seven men and 131 women reported having a child during the previous three years.

MNA/Reuters

Canada's top court hears Guantanamo terrorism case

OTTAWA, 28 March — Lawyers for Canadian terrorism suspect Omar Khadr argued on Wednesday that Canadian investigators had violated his rights by interviewing him at Guantanamo Bay after his capture by US forces in Afghanistan.

The Supreme Court of Canada is examining the narrow question of whether Canada must provide Khadr any

information relevant to him, but Wednesday's hearing broadened to consider whether the whole US process at its Guantanamo Bay prison violated human rights.

The United States accuses Khadr of throwing a grenade that killed one American soldier and wounded another during a firefight at an al-Qaeda compound in Afghanistan in 2002. Khadr, 15 at the time and now 21, was shot twice in the back.

MNA/Reuters

Russian rocket sends Germany spy satellite into orbit

MOSCOW, 28 March — A Russian rocket sent a Germany spy satellite into orbit on Thursday night, *ITAR-TASS* news agency reported.

The Russian carrier rocket *Kosmos-3M* lifted off from the Plesetsk space centre in the north of European part of Russia at 20:15 Moscow Time (1715 GMT), carrying into orbit the Germany spy satellite *SAR-Lupe-4*.

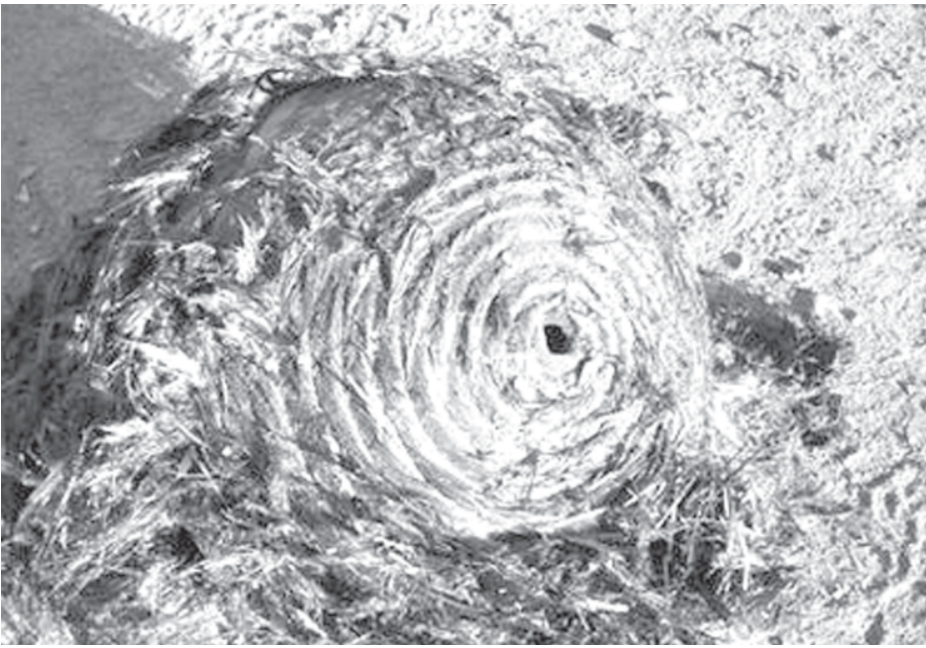
Lieutenant-Colonel Alexei Zolotukhin, a spokesman for Russia's Space Troops said the satellite is expected to get to the designated orbit at 20:43 Moscow Time.

MNA/Xinhua



A zoo employee feeds Monika the donkey at St Petersburg's zoo on 24 March, 2008.
Russia's Mariinsky ballet has said farewell to one of its longest-serving artistes: a 21-year-old female donkey named Monika.
Internet

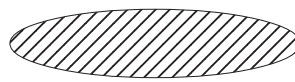
Images of the Day



A ball of twisted metal, purported to be fallen space junk, is pictured in James Stirton's farm in southwestern Queensland is this undated handout photograph received on 28 March, 2008.—INTERNET



A camel passes in front of the Pyramids at Giza in Egypt.
INTERNET



Saudi men perform a traditional folk dance to inaugurate the tourism season in Asir on 27 March, 2008.
INTERNET



A model poses for a photo next to a display of shoes during the opening of the exhibition for the 80th anniversary of the Italian Salvatore Ferragamo Company in Shanghai on 28 March, 2008.—INTERNET



An African rat. Rats can learn rules and apply them to new situations, an ability which is thought to be a keystone of human thought, according to a study released on Thursday.—INTERNET

Giant bottles, part of an art installation by the artist Eduardo Srur, are seen on the banks of Tiete River, one of the most polluted Sao Paulo's rivers, on 26 March, 2008. The installation was set up to warn people of the dangers of pollution from non-biodegradable stuff like plastic bottles.—INTERNET



ADVERTISEMENT

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TERAJU VOY NO (TRJ-293)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TERAJU VOY NO (TRJ-293) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.3.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES PTE LTD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EAGLE PRIDE VOY NO (805N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MVEAGLE PRIDE VOY NO (805N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.3.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EAGLE SHIPPING CO., LTD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Disaster Civil Protection
experts meet in Venezuela

CARACAS, 27 March — Experts from Latin America, the Caribbean, Europe and Asia met here Tuesday to attend the 5th International Conference on Civil Protection and Disaster Administration.

Participants will discuss plans facing natural disaster threats, including earthquake, in the conference.

Some 80 per cent of Venezuela's inhabitants live in high earthquake risk zones located in the central northern coast and Andean region. Delegates from many international organizations, including the UN and the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid department (ECHA), also attended the conference.

In the 4th conference held in March 2007, participants discussed the issues of ecosystem change caused by human activities. — MNA/Xinhua



Rosa Rein, born on 24 March, 1897, celebrates her 111th birthday at a home for the elderly in Lugano Paradiso, Switzerland on 25 March, 2008. —INTERNET

TRADEMARK CAUTION
CASINO GUICHARD
PERRACHON, a corporation organized under the laws of France, of 1Esplade de France 42000 SAINT ETIENNE France, is the Owner and Proprietor of the following Trademark:-

CASINO

Reg : No.IV/152/2000
In respect of : "Meat, fish, poultry and game; meat extracts; preserved, dried and cooked fruits and vegetables; jellies, jams; eggs, milk and milk products; edible oils and fats; salad dressing; preserves.

Coffee, tea, cocoa, sugar, rice, tapioca, sago, artificial coffee; flour and preparations made from cereals, bread, pastry and confectionery, ices; honey, treacle; yeast, baking-powder; salt, mustard, vinegar, sauces (except salad dressings); spices; ice. Beers; mineral and aerated waters and other non-alcoholic drinks; fruit drinks and fruit juices; syrups and other preparations for making beverages. Wines and other alcoholic beverages.

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said Trademark shall be dealt with in accordance to the law of Myanmar.

U Myint Lwin, Advocate,
LL.B, DBL
Dip in Marine Affairs(UK)
Email:MYINT.Advocate@mptmail.net.mm
Ph : 371 990 293 2008

TRADE MARK CAUTION
WRANGLER APPAREL
CORP., a Delaware Corporation, of Concord Plaza, 3411 Silverside Road, Wilmington, Delaware, United States of America, is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:

RUSTLER

Reg. No. 2306/1996
in respect of "Articles of clothing".

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
for WRANGLER
APPAREL CORP.
P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 29 March 2008

Home prices in US metropolitan
areas fall record 10.7%

NEW YORK, 27 March—Home prices in 20 US metropolitan areas fell in January by the most on record, a sign the housing recession is deepening, a private survey showed Tuesday.

The S&P/Case-Shiller home-price index dropped 10.7 per cent from January 2007, after a 9-per-cent year-on-year decrease through December 2007. The index has fallen for 13 consecutive months.

Price declines will continue as foreclosures add to a glut of unsold properties, and stricter lending rules make it harder to get financing.

January home prices fell 2.4 per cent from a month earlier, following a 2.1-per-cent decline the prior month, the Case-Shiller report showed.

All but one of the 20 cities in the index showed year-over-year declines in prices in January, led by drops of 19.3 per cent in Las Vegas and Miami.

MNA/Xinhua

Britain seals \$25b air tankers deal

PARIS, 27 March— Britain is set to announce a deal to buy Airbus A330 refuelling tankers after a bank loan rescued plans for the world's largest public-private funding project, sources close to the deal said on Wednesday.

The deal is most likely to be announced on Thursday during a state visit to Britain by French President Nicolas Sarkozy, although it is not officially part of his programme, and comes weeks after a deal to supply similar jets to the United States.

"The financing is fully

committed," a source close to the deal said. Others said plans for a bond to cover the initial financing phase worth two billion US dollars or more had been dropped due to recent market turmoil and had been replaced with a loan.

The project is expected

to be worth at least 25 billion US dollars over its lifetime.

Britain is buying the planes under its Private Finance Initiative, a funding scheme more frequently used to lease public services such as hospitals from the private sector.—MNA/Reuters

Hand-Foot-Mouth Disease
cases increase in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 27 March—The number of Hand-Foot-Mouth Disease (HFMD) cases in Singapore increased this year, especially over the last two weeks, largely caused by a higher circulation of Enterovirus 71, the Health Ministry said Thursday.

A total of 3,721 cases have been reported this year, the ministry said in a statement.

EV71 is a deadly strain of the virus that is associated with serious complications. It is also the same strain responsible for the outbreak of HFMD in 2000 and 2001 in Singapore, said the statement.

HFMD is a common childhood disease. The infected person can develop fever, upper respiratory symptoms, rashes and mouth ulcers.

The infection is spread through direct contact with respiratory droplets such as saliva or feces. Young children, particularly those aged less than five years, are the most susceptible.—Internet

12 killed in Ukrainian
helicopter crash

KIEV, 28 March—Twelve of the 13 people on board the Ukrainian Mi-8 helicopter that crashed into the Black Sea Thursday have been killed, with the lone survivor seriously injured, officials said. The State Border Service helicopter was carrying three crew members and 10 passengers when it went down.

"One man has been found alive, but he is in serious condition. The bodies of 12 others were found near the crash site in the Black Sea," Sergei Astakhov, spokesman for the State Border Service, was quoted by the Interfax-Ukraine news agency as saying.

Emergency Situations Ministry spokesman Ihor

Krol said the helicopter crashed some 40 minutes into a flight from the Black Sea port of Odessa to the nearby Zmeinyi Island at about noon

MNA/Xinhua



A Russian girl learns Chinese kungfu from Chinese coach Chen Zhongli beside a swimming pool in Sanya, China's southernmost city in Hainan Province, on 25 March, 2008. —XINHUA



File photo shows a man walking past an AIDS awareness billboard in

Hanoi. Asian governments must devote more funds to preventing AIDS or face the risk the disease could kill nearly 500,000 people each year across the continent by 2020, a United Nations report says.—INTERNET

Millions at risk in S Asia from warmer world

KOLKATA, 27 March—Rising seas and water shortages will displace about 125 million people living along the coasts of India and Bangladesh by the turn of the century, Greenpeace said on Tuesday.

In a study on rapidly warming South Asia, the global environment group said climate change would also trigger erratic monsoons and break down agricultural systems in the vast and densely populated Gangetic delta.

India, whose economy has grown by 8-9 per cent annually in recent years, is one of the world's top polluters and contributes around 4 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions as its consumption of fossil fuels grows.

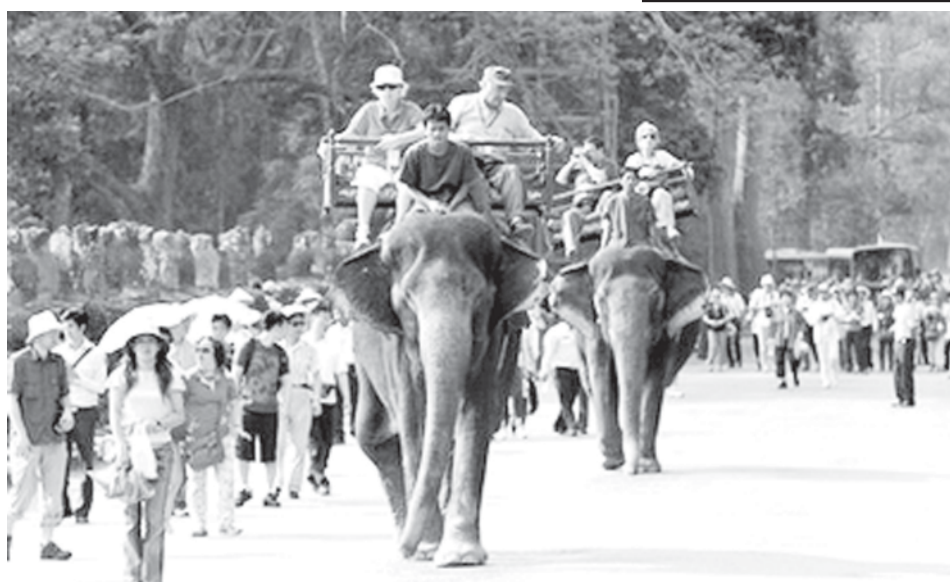
"We cannot wait for the inevitable to happen and hope to adapt to it," Vinuta Gopal, the group's climate and energy campaigner in India said, releasing the report on the ecologically sensitive region, one of the

poorest in the world.

"We need policies that reduce the risk of destructive climate change, and moves towards economic development through decarbonisation," Gopal said.

MNA/Reuters

Tourist ride elephants at one of the main shrines at Angkor Wat in Siem Reap, Cambodia in this 1 March, 2007 file photo. Destinations once deemed to dangerous or remote for travelers such as Angkor Wat are now being overrun with tourist seeking that one last great destination.—INTERNET



NASA science chief resigns post suddenly

WASHINGTON, 27 March — NASA's science chief resigned on Wednesday after just a year in the post, with the US space agency giving no reason for his sudden departure.

The US space agency said planetary scientist Alan Stern is quitting as associate administrator for the Science Mission Directorate.

The announcement came a day after NASA rescinded a letter sent last week to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California directing budget cuts in one of NASA's leading science missions, the Mars exploration programme. — MNA/Reuters

Lung cancer study funded in part by tobacco money

BEIJING, 27 March—The disclosure of 3.6 million US dollars in hidden tobacco money behind a big study suggesting that lung scans might help save smokers from cancer has shocked the research community and raised fresh concern about industry influence in important science.

Two medical journals that published studies by Weill Cornell Medical College researchers in 2006 are looking into tobacco

cash and other financial ties that weren't revealed. The studies reported benefits from lung scans, which the Cornell team has long touted.

Many were stunned to learn that a foundation Cornell set up and listed in the New England Journal of

Medicine in October 2006 as a sponsor of the study actually got 3.6 million dollars from a parent company of cigarette maker Liggett Group Inc. The tobacco source was reported in a New York Times story Wednesday.

Xinhua

The Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) has stopped all sales of Italian buffalo mozzarella cheese in Singapore following reports of unusually high levels of toxic chemical dioxin detected in the milk used to produce the cheese in some Italian farms.—INTERNET

"AIDS" cases could jump in Asia by 2020

UNITED NATIONS, 27 March— The number of people in Asia infected with HIV could jump by almost eight million by 2020 unless more is done to combat the spread of the virus that causes AIDS, a report presented to the UN Secretary-General said on Wednesday.

That increase could be kept to three million if a response programme is adopted immediately, according to the report from The Commission on AIDS in Asia.

Nearly five million people are infected with HIV in Asia now, with 440,000 people dying annually, the report said. The annual death toll will rise to almost 500,000 by 2020 without a scaled-up response, according to the report, entitled "Redefining AIDS in Asia - Crafting an

Effective Response".

"By implementing the recommendations of the commission, Asian countries can avert massive increases in infections and death, prevent economic losses and save millions of people from poverty," UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in a statement.

AIDS is the most likely cause of death and work

days lost among 15-to-44-year-olds in Asia, the commission said.

The commission recommended an annual investment of 30 cents to 50 cents per capita on focused prevention programmes. By spending one US dollar per person, the countries can implement a broader approach including treatment.

MNA/Reuters

Study finds key factors behind bird flu outbreaks

WASHINGTON, 27 March — Ducks, people and rice paddies are the primary forces driving outbreaks of avian influenza in Thailand and Vietnam, and the number of chickens is less pivotal, scientists said on Wednesday.

UN Food and Agriculture Organization experts and others looked at three waves of H5N1 bird flu in Thailand and Vietnam in 2004 and 2005.

The virus has killed 236 people in 12 countries since

2003.

They used computer modeling to study how various factors were involved in the spread of the virus, including the numbers of ducks, geese and chickens, human population size, rice cultivation and local geography.

Even though Thailand and Vietnam addressed the outbreaks in different ways, the researchers found that the numbers of ducks and people, and the extent of rice cultivation were the most important contributing factors underpinning the outbreaks.

"This provides better insight on where and when the H5N1 risk is highest, so it's possible to better pinpoint where to look for the virus or where to expect flare-up of disease and also when to expect it," Jan Slingenbergh, senior veterinary officer for the Food and Agriculture Organization, said in a telephone interview.

MNA/Reuters



SPORTS

Koller strike gives Czechs draw in Denmark

COPENHAGEN, 27 March — A vintage strike by Jan Koller earned the Czech Republic a 1-1 draw with Denmark in a friendly on Wednesday.

The towering striker soared above Christian Poulsen in the 42nd minute to head home a Libor Sionko cross just inside the right post, beyond the reach of Denmark goalkeeper Thomas Sorensen.

The Czechs dominated possession but created few chances, usually settling for speculative balls toward Koller in the penalty area.

The Danes opened the scoring through Nicklas Bendtner, who calmly slotted the ball home in

the 25th minute after a one-two with debutant Thomas Kristensen. William Kvist almost won the match for the Danes in the dying minutes, but Czech keeper Jaromir Blazek was there at full stretch to stop his well-placed shot from outside the box.

MNA/Reuters



Ramon Morales (L) of Mexico's Chivas fights for the ball with Charles Castro of Colombia's Deportivo Cucuta during their Copa Libertadores soccer match at the General Santander stadium in Cucuta on 27 March, 2008.—INTERNET

Karagounis strikes twice as Greece beat Portugal

DUESSELDORF (Germany), 27 March — Midfielder Georgos Karagounis struck twice to give European champions Greece a 2-1 win over Portugal in a friendly on Wednesday. Greece, who beat Portugal 1-0 in the Euro 2004 final in Lisbon, went ahead when the former Benfica player lashed home a stunning 20-metre free kick after 33 minutes.

Karagounis made it 2-0 from another 20-metre free kick 26 minutes later.

MNA/Reuters



Spain's national team player Joan Capdevila, right, duels for the ball against Italy's national team player Mauro Camoranesi, during an exhibition soccer match, at the Martinez Valero stadium in Elche, Spain, on 26 March, 2008.—INTERNET

Mexico beat Ghana as Sanchez prepares to face music

LONDON, 27 March — Pavel Pardo converted a late penalty to give Mexico a 2-1 friendly victory over Ghana on Wednesday, handing beleaguered coach Hugo Sanchez a boost five days before a meeting which is expected to decide his future.

The Mexican Federation (FMF) is due to meet on Monday to decide whether Sanchez, who

has been in charge for 18 months, can continue in the job.

Sanchez, widely regarded as the finest player Mexico has produced, has been under fire since the Under-23 team, which he also coaches, failed to qualify for the Olympic Games in Beijing.

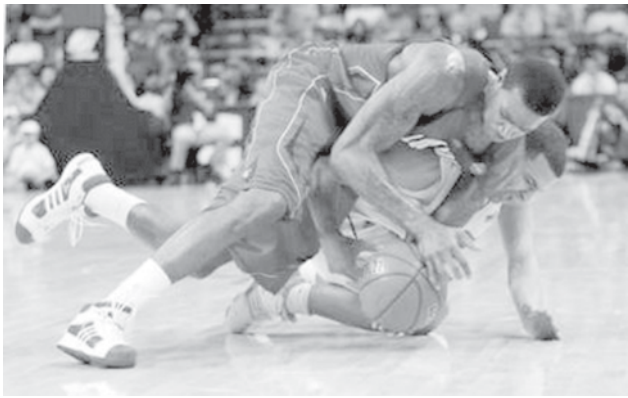
In the game played at Fulham's Craven Cottage, Mexico created plenty of chances, forward Antonio de Nigris forcing Ghana keeper Richard Kingson into making a save after only 17 seconds, while Nery Castillo had a shot blocked on the line by John Mensah. — MNA/Reuters

Poland slump to home defeat by US

KRAKOW (Poland), 27 March — Euro 2008 finalists Poland slumped to a 3-0 defeat by United States in a friendly on Wednesday.

The Americans took only 12 minutes to go in front, Carlos Bocanegra nodding in a pass from Landon Donovan. Another header by Oguchi Onyewu from a corner by Donovan made it 2-0 in the 35th.

MNA/Reuters



University of Louisville forward Earl Clark (L) and University of Tennessee guard Chris Lofton (R) crash to the floor while trying to gain possession of the ball in the second half of their NCAA men's East Regional basketball game in Charlotte, North Carolina on 27 March, 2008.—INTERNET

Euro 2008 finalists Turkey held to draw in Belarus

MINSK, 27 March — Tuncay Sanli scored one goal and set up another to help Euro 2008 finalists Turkey draw 2-2 with Belarus in a friendly on Wednesday. Vitali Kutuzov gave the hosts a 1-0 lead in the 34th minute before Middlesbrough striker Tuncay levelled with a low drive from the edge of the box three minutes later.

Vyacheslav Hleb, younger brother of Arsenal midfielder Aleksandr Hleb, put Belarus back in front with a solo effort in the 64th.

MNA/Reuters



Sergio Avila (L) of Mexico's Chivas fights for the ball with Charles Catro of Colombia's Cucuta Deportivo during their Copa Libertadores soccer match at the General Santander stadium in Cucuta on 27 March, 2008.—INTERNET

Romania beat Russia 3-0 in friendly

BUCHAREST, 27 March — Romania beat Russia 3-0 in a friendly on Wednesday with goals from strikers Ciprian Marica, Daniel Nicuale and Marius Niculae.

Romania dominated the match against a Russian team drawn entirely from the domestic championship, with VfB Stuttgart striker Marica opening the scoring from the edge of the area on the stroke of half-time.

Coach Victor Piturca took off Adrian Mutu and Cristian Chivu at the break and substitute Daniel Niculae made it 2-0 after 60 minutes.

Inverness forward Marius Niculae scored the third with a header from Banel Nicolita's cross from the right in the 76th. — MNA/Reuters

McCarthy breaks South African goalscoring record

PRETORIA, 28 March — Striker Benni McCarthy scored a record-breaking 30th international goal for South Africa as they beat Paraguay 3-0 in a friendly at the Super Stadium in Atteridgeville, near Pre-

toria, on Wednesday.

The Blackburn Rovers forward, playing in his 70th international, rose above two defenders to head home a cross from Surprise Moriri just two minutes into the second half.

The strike took him past the previous record of 29 set by Shaun Bartlett.

Moriri had opened the scoring just after the half-hour mark with a close-range volley after expertly chesting down a stinging square cross from overlapping full back Tsepo Masilela. Midfielder Siphiwe Tshabalala added the third in the 63rd minute, chipping Paraguay goalkeeper Justo Villar from the edge of the area.

MNA/Reuters

Israel beat Chile 1-0 with Benayoun goal

TEL AVIV, 28 March — Israel beat Chile 1-0 in a friendly international on Wednesday with Liverpool midfielder Yossi Benayoun scoring from a free kick in the 31st minute. Both teams had their share of chances in a fast-paced encounter but Israel's stronger defending and some loose finishing by the Chileans allowed most of the 24,463 spectators to go home happy.

Benayoun's free kick beat the wall and ended up in the back of Eduardo Lobos's net. It was the Israeli captain's 15th goal in 63 international appearances.

MNA/Reuters



A police officer displays a fossil jawbone they found while investigating a suspicious package on a bus in the mountains of Peru, during a news conference in Arequipa on 25 March, 2008. The fossil, initially identified by archeologist Pablo de la Vera Cruz of the National University as possibly that of a triceratops, weighs some 19 pounds (8.5 kilos) and was found in the cargo hold of an interprovincial bus.—INTERNET

Highway traffic accident kills seven in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH, 28 March — Seven people have been killed and at least 30 injured in a highway traffic accident Thursday on the Riyadh-Qasim Highway between a bus carrying Bahraini plates and a fuel tanker in Saudi Arabia, the official Saudi Press Agency SPA reported.

The report said the accident led to leakage of fuel from the tanker and fire engulfed the tanker and the bus. It resulted in the death of seven people and injury of 33 people, four of them are in critical condition.

The traffic accident occurred on the Qasim Highway in central Saudi Arabia, some 35 kilometres away from the province of Majmaah.

Local media spokesman Abdullah Alqfari said that local fire fighting teams, rescue teams and ambulances rushed to the scene to tackle the accident immediately.

MNA/Xinhua

Bulgaria seizes 38 kilos of heroin at turkey's border

SOFIA, 28 March — Bulgarian customs officers at the Malko Tarnovo border checkpoint with Turkey seized 38 kilos of heroin Wednesday, the local *Sofia News Agency* reported Thursday.

During a routine check, officials found 40 packages of the drug hidden in a secret compartment in a bus headed to Romania.

According to official preliminary estimates, the seized heroin is worth more than four million euros (2.5 million US dollars).

The Turkish driver of the bus was arrested and an investigation is underway.

Bulgaria is on a key transit route for the smuggling of drugs from Asia and the Middle East to Western Europe.

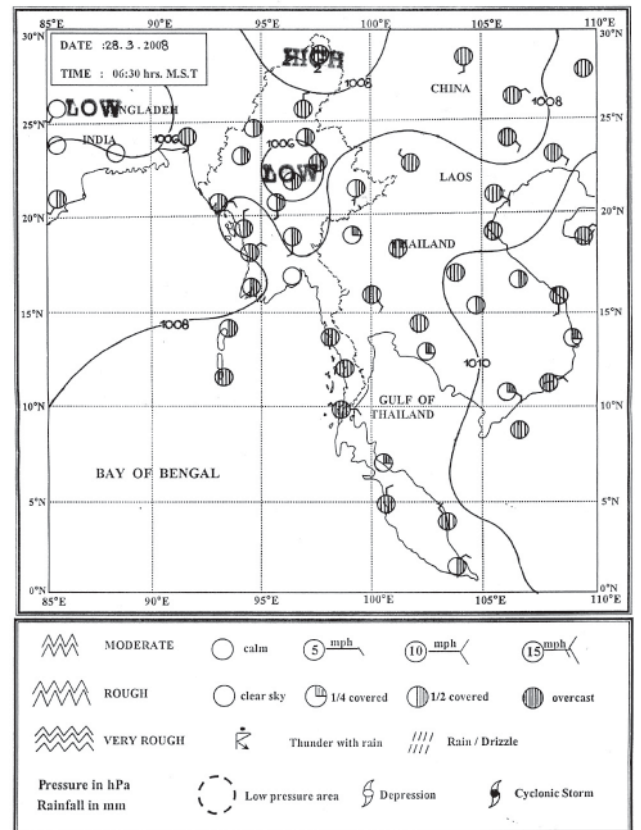
In the last eight years, Bulgarian Customs has confiscated over 19.2 tons of drugs. — MNA/Xinhua

Chavez hails Brazil's idea on S American defence council

RIO DE JANEIRO, 28 March— Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez Wednesday hailed Brazil's proposal to create a South American defence council, suggesting it could serve as a South Atlantic version of NATO.

Chavez said he regarded the proposal as "extraordinary" when he arrived in Recife, the capital city of northeastern Brazilian state of Pernambuco, for a meeting with his Brazilian counterpart Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.—MNA/Xinhua

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Friday, 28 March, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Shan State, isolated in Kachin State, weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above March average temperatures in Mandalay, Magway, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and about March average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures were Chauk and Minbu (42°C) each, Monywa, Myingyan, NyaungU and Magway (40°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Thipaw (0.20) inch, Putao and Lashio (0.08) inch each, Machanbaw and Kengtung (0.06) inch each.

Maximum temperature on 27-3-2008 was 98°F. Minimum temperature on 28-3-2008 was 73°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 28-3-2008 was 71%. Total sunshine hours on 27-3-2008 was (7.4) hours approx.

Rainfall on 28-3-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (0.67) inch at Mingaladon, (0.47) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.35) inch at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southwest at (18:30) hours MST on 27-3-2008.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (15:30) hrs MST today, a low pressure area has formed over Southeast Bay and adjoining East Central Bay. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea, East central and Southeast Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 29-3-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin and Shan States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in the Chin and Rakhine States, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight increase of day temperatures in the Central Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 29-3-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 29-3-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 29-3-2008: Partly cloudy

Weather outlook for first weeken of April 2008: During the coming weekend, weather will be partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.



Saturday, 29 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. “ဆေးလိပ်ကင်းကွာ အနုပညာကမ္ဘာ” (မင်းမော်ကွန်း၊ လွင်မိုး၊ စာနုည၊ စိုးမြတ်နန္ဒာ၊ ကြည်လဲ့လဲ့၊ ဂွမ်းပုံ)

7:50 am

5. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:00 am

6. Musical programme

8:10 am

7. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ(၃၈)ဖြာမင်္ဂလာ

8:30 am

8. International news

8:45 am

9. (၆၃)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့၊ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

11:00 am

1. Martial song

11:10 am

2. Musical programme

11:30 am

3. ချစ်စရာအရွယ်ကစားကြမယ်

11:55 am

4. တစ်ပတ်အတွင်းရုပ်မြင်သံကြား ပြည်တွင်းသတင်းစဉ်

1:20 pm

5. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

“စစ်သူကြီးဆွန်ကြီး”

(အပိုင်း-၁၅)

2:00 pm

6. နမူတီးတံတား(ကလေး)

2:10 pm

7. ပြည်ထောင်စုတိုင်းရင်းသား

ရိုးရာအက

2:20 pm

8. (၆၃)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့၊

ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

2:30 pm

9. International news

2:45 pm

10. မူဟန်သွယ်သွယ်ဆိုကြမယ် “ရှေးရေစက်”

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:10 pm

2. Musical programme

4:25 pm

3. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်

ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား

သင်ခန်းစာ-ဒုတိယနှစ်

(ဓာတုဗေဒအထူးပြု)

(ဓာတုဗေဒ)

4:40 pm

4. မြူးမြူးကြွကြွယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက

4:50 pm

5. မျိုးချစ်စိတ်ဓါတ်ရှင်သန်

ထက်မြက်ရေးတေးများ

5:00 pm

6. (၆၃)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့၊

ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

5:10 pm

7. မြန်မာဓလေ့ရိုးရာလက်ရာ

5:30 pm

8. ရသပေါ်လွင်သရုပ်ဆောင်လွင်ပြင်

6:00 pm

9. Evening news

6:30 pm

10. Weather report

6:35 pm

11. အလှူရှာမယ်လှူမ္ဘာဝယ်

6:55 pm

12. “ငွေကြေးကိစ္စမှန်သမျှ

ဘဏ်ကိုသာအားကိုးကြ”

(ခန့်စည်သူ၊ ဖိုးငွေစိုး၊ ပုလဲဝင်း၊

ဖိုးစုံ၊ သခင်)

7:20 pm

13. Musical programme

7:30 pm

14. နိုင်ငံစီးပွားအလေးထား

ကျေးလက်ထုတ်ကုန်များ

8:00 pm

15. News

16. International news

17. Weather report

18. Musical programme

19. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

“မာယာထောင်ချောက်”

(အပိုင်း-၁၁)

20. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး

ဦးပိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏

အရပ်ဆယ်မျက်နှာ

မေတ္တာဘာဝနာပွားများခြင်း

တရားတော်

21. The next day's

programme

People's Desire

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

Commander addresses 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade of Yangon Command

YANGON, 28 March — The 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade of Yangon Command was held at the parade ground of the command yesterday morning, with an opening speech by Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win.

The parade column led by Parade Commander Lt-Col Myo Myint took the designated place.

Then, Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win took the salute of the parade column after taking the

position on the dais in the ground.

The commander, the parade column and guests saluted the Flag of the Union of Myanmar and the fallen soldiers. Next, the Tatmadawmen of the parade column took four oaths, followed by the speech of the commander. Afterwards, the commander presented gifts to those who stood first in the military codes of conduct (central level) and first, second, third and consolation prizes to the respective parade companies. — MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win delivers an address at 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade of Yangon Command. —MNA

Objectives of the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day

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



SPECIAL FEATURES TO HONOUR THE 63rd ANNIVERSARY ARMED FORCES DAY

ARTICLE

Indivisible are the Tatmadaw and the people

The state constitution has been drawn with the principles that can ensure the Tatmadaw and the people to be always in oneness and it will be approved soon. All in all, so long as the Tatmadaw and the people are united through thick and thin, any danger can be thwarted.

PAGE 8

Progress of Border Areas and National Races Sector in the Time of Tatmadaw Government



POEM

Tatmadaw with historic fine traditions

- * All along history Powerful was the nation And tall it stood Tatmadaw
- * Throughout successive eras Sacrificing lives, blood its members Safeguards nation the Tatmadaw

CARTOON



Kaung Htet