

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

Senior General Than Shwe sees off Prime Minister General Thein Sein on departure for Laos to attend Third GMS Summit

NAY PYI TAW, 29 March — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe saw off Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein at Nay Pyi Taw airport at 10 am today. At the invitation of Mr Bouasone Bouphavanh, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Prime Minister General Thein Sein left here for Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic by special flight to attend the Third Greater Mekong Sub-region Summit (GMS Summit) to be held from 30 to 31 March 2008.

Together with the Senior General at the airport were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army)

(See page 8)



Senior General Than Shwe sees off Prime Minister General Thein Sein on departure for Laos to attend Third GMS Summit. —MNA

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In perpetual service of the State

Some western big nations are accusing Myanmar that she was deprived of democracy. However, contrary to those big nations there is no laws of conscription prescribed in Myanmar while they have to exercise such laws for military purpose.

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MAUNG AUNG (VETERINARY)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 30 March, 2008

People to do their bit in State's seven-step Road Map

Myanmar being an agro-based country, the majority of the people are rural folks. In its plan of action for improving the economy of the nation and the people, the government is working hard for development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy. So far, the government has constructed 209 dams, sluice gates and diversion weirs, 305 river water pumping stations, more than 7000 underground water tapping stations and a large number of rural small dams to supply irrigation water, the sine qua non for the agriculture sector. The cultivation capacity is now improving, as a result. Thanks to easy access to high-yield strains of crops and modern agricultural methods, the regions have enjoyed food safety with higher socio-economic standard of farmers.

Now, the whole country has seen a growing number of roads, bridges, railroads and airports. So, national races have been in a position to forge the amicable relations with each other, while enjoying the fruits of a boom in trade.

In the interests of the State and the people, the government is building good foundations in the political, economic and social sectors to pave the way to a new democratic nation. In the process, it is implementing the State's seven-step Road Map one step after another.

Now, the State constitution has been drafted. Plans are under way for approval of the draft constitution through a referendum and to hold multi-party democracy general elections in accordance with the new constitution.

The government is working in accordance with the State's seven-step Road Map for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation in compliance with the wishes of the people. The entire people are, therefore, to do their bit in the process.

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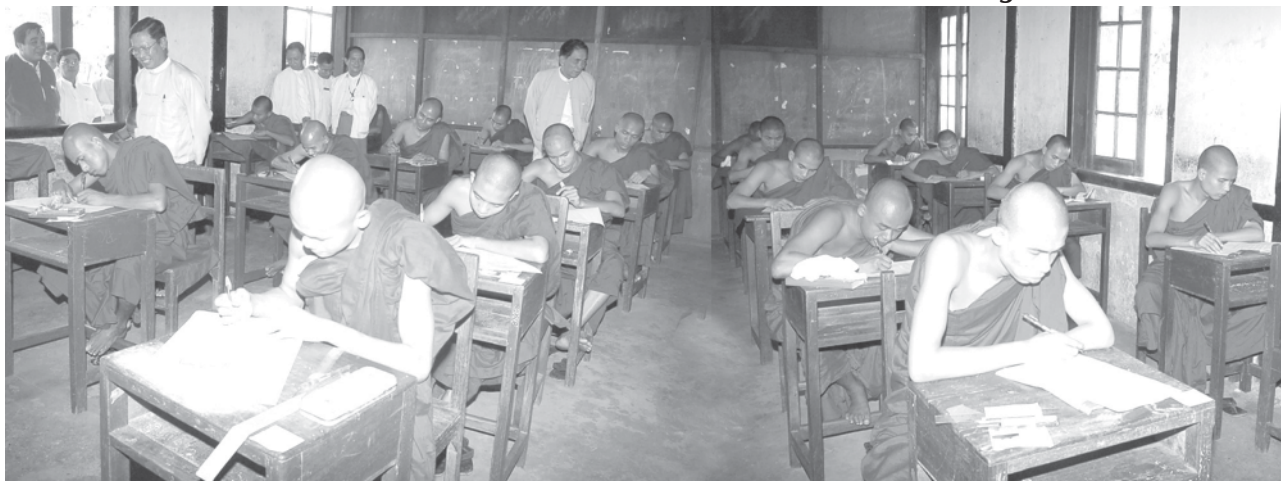
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(၂၇-၄-၂၀၀၈) ရက်နေ့

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

Deputy Minister pays respects to members of the Sangha sitting for Pahtamabyan Examination

YANGON, 29 March—Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and departmental officials paid homage to members of the Sangha who were sitting for the Pahtamabyan Examination (2008) held at No 1 BEHS in Yankin Township here this afternoon. The deputy minister and party offered alms and provisions to Joint-Secretary of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Kalewa Tawya Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Kammathana Cariya Duipitakadhara Duipitakakovida Bhaddanta Jagarabhivamsa and supervisor Sayadaws. A total of 8,856 members of the Sangha in Yangon Division sat for the examination. MNA



Minister visits Pahtamabyan exam centre in Pakokku

YANGON, 29 March — Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung yesterday afternoon paid homage to supervisory Sayadaws at Pariyatti Beikman in Pakokku where Pahtamabyan examination for members of the Sangha is being held. Next, the minister offered provisions to the Sanghas and supplicated on religious matters. After paying respects to members of the Sangha and nuns who are sitting for the examination, the minister proceeded to Taungzalatt Youth Training Centre in Pakokku and looked into the opening of summer Buddhist cultural course.—MNA

Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko visits Pahtamabyan religious examination centre in Yangon Division. —MNA

Dumex Gold Products introduced
YANGON, 29 March — Mo Asia Company Ltd Dumex held a ceremony to introduce Dumex Gold Products at Traders Hotel, here, this morning. Managing Director U Peter Moe Kyaw of the company spoke on the occasion and presented K 200,000 each to Myanmar Medical Association and Child Health Education Group through MMA Vice-President Prof S Kyaw Hla and Vice-Chairperson of the group Prof Daw Khin Htwe. Next, Prof Daw Khin Htwe spoke words of thanks. Afterwards, Immunofortis Breakthrough Launch Seminar followed. Prof Jacques G Bindels of Wageningen University of Netherlands elaborated Oligosaccharides Mixture and answered the questions raised by those present. Dumex Gold Products contains Oligosaccharides Mixture Immunofortis. — MNA



D-G of RAD visits Pahtamabyan exam centres in Mandalay

YANGON, 29 March—Director-General U Myo Kyaw of Religious Affairs Department paid homage and donated offertories to supervisor Sayadaws at the Pahtamange religious examination at No 7 Basic Education High School in Chanmyathazi Township yesterday. The director-general supplicated on the religious affairs and viewed the monks who were sitting for the examinations. At No 27 BEHS in Pyigyidagun Township, the director-general paid homage to supervisor Sayadaws at the Pahtamalat and Pahtamagyi religious examinations. At the examination centre for the Pahtamagyi class at BEHS No 26 in Chanmyathazi Township, the director-general paid homage to supervisor Sayadaws and donated alms. After supplicating on the religious affairs, he paid homage to the monks who were sitting for the examinations. MNA

Russia keeps up pressure on NATO expansion

Moscow, 29 March — NATO enlargement plans are out of touch with reality, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Thursday, days before a summit where alliance members will discuss whether to admit ex-Soviet Ukraine and Georgia.

His comments will maintain pressure on Washington, which is lobbying for Ukraine and Georgia to be set on the

path to NATO membership at the April 2-4 summit in Bucharest, despite opposition from Moscow and some alliance members.

“These plans for NATO’s enlargement we perceive as out of touch with the reality of the world, when the threats to all of us are common, and fighting against them across the globe is something we can only do in concert,” Lavrov said.

Russian president-elect Dmitry Medvedev said in an interview published this week that letting Ukraine and Georgia join NATO would undermine European security. Lavrov said the disagreement was also likely to come up when US President George W. Bush travels to Russia’s Black Sea resort of Sochi for a meeting with Russian leader Vladimir Putin after the NATO summit.

MNA/Reuters



Crew members of the Olympic Torch plane take oath in front of the plane at Beijing Capital International Airport on 27 March, 2008. The plane, chartered to carry the torch back to Beijing, took off for Athens on Saturday.

XINHUA



Diane Beeny holds up an anti-war sign as she stands with a large crowd of protesters on 28 March, 2008, in Freehold Township, NJ, near a company where President Bush was visiting to spotlight efforts to save struggling homeowners from foreclosure. The president plans to stop by a mortgage counseling company that’s part of the Hope Now alliance.—INTERNET

China-ASEAN ties reviewed at senior officials’ meeting

KUALA LUMPUR, 29 March — The 14th China-ASEAN Senior Officials’ Consultation concluded Friday following a review of the past year’s progress in China-ASEAN relations, according to reports from Bandar Seri Begawan, capital of Brunei.

The three-day meeting focused on discussing further implementation of the consensus reached at the China-ASEAN summit last year and strengthening measures to deepen the strategic partnership for peace and prosperity

between China and ASEAN.

The two sides also exchanged views on their development situations and East Asian cooperation as well as international and regional issues of common concern.

In addition, all parties concerned exchanged views on jointly

implementing follow-up actions of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea.

Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Wu Hongbo and senior officials and representatives from the ASEAN countries attended the meeting.

MNA/Xinhua

Israel seeking peace talks with Syria

JERUSALEM, 29 March — An Israeli minister said on Friday that the Jewish state was trying to revive peace talks with Syria and that the price of a deal was the occupied Golan Heights.

The comments by Infrastructure Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer came after Prime Minister Ehud Olmert reiterated this week that Israel was

willing to make peace with its Arab neighbour and hinted at behind-the-scenes talks.

“Every effort is being made to bring Syria to the negotiating table,” Ben-Eliezer told Israel Radio. “We know that sitting at the negotiating table is not to sing Hatikva (Israel’s national anthem) but to sign an agreement, and we know very well the

price of this agreement.”

Asked if the price was to relinquish control of the Golan Heights, Ben-Eliezer said: “Exactly.” Israel captured the Golan, a strategic plateau, from neighbouring Syria during the 1967 Middle East War and annexed it in 1981 in a move that has not been internationally recognized.

MNA/Reuters

Britain sits on sidelines as Iraq’s Basra burns

LONDON, 29 March — Britain ruled out deploying any troops to the Iraqi city of Basra on Friday, despite days of intense battles on the streets and signs Iraq’s forces cannot cope with a growing militant uprising.

US war planes dropped bombs on rebel areas in an effort to help the Iraqi Army regain control of the city, but Britain said its 4,100 heavily armed troops, based at an airport a few kilometres (miles) from the centre, would not join in.

“This is an Iraqi-led operation and it’s one that we have wanted to see since they took responsibility for security in Basra,” said a spokesman for Britain’s Ministry of Defence.

“It’s going to take time, but it shows the Iraqi Government’s political will in taking on the militants.”

At least 120 people described by the Iraqi Government as enemy

fighters have been killed and 450 wounded in four days of intense fighting, which began after Iraq’s Prime Minister, Nuri al-Maliki, decided to take on militant groups in the city.

MNA/Reuters



California Highway Patrol officers survey wrecked cars after being towed off the Golden Gate Bridge on 26 March, 2008 in Sausalito, Calif. after a pileup accident. Officials say at least seven people were injured Wednesday afternoon on the world-famous span. The California Highway Patrol says about 10 cars were involved.—INTERNET

Measles kills at least 165 children in Nigeria

LAGOS, 29 March — A measles outbreak has killed at least 165 children in the remote northwestern Nigerian state of Katsina, health officials said on Thursday.

About 3,064 other children have been infected with the highly contagious air-borne virus since January when the outbreak was first reported, the state director of disease control Halliru Idris told reporters.

The *News Agency of Nigeria* quoted the health official as saying the death toll could be much higher because many cases had not been reported.

Apart from causing death, measles is a cause of blindness among children in Africa and has the potential to damage the brain, leading to deafness and paralysis.

MNA/Reuters

Egypt, Palestinian movements tackle truce proposal

CAIRO, 29 March — Egyptian security team on Thursday met a delegation from the Palestinian Hamas and Islamic Jihad (Holy War) movements on the border situation in the Gaza Strip and proposals to reach a truce with Israel, the Egyptian MENA news agency reported.

Co-led by Islamic Jihad's leader Khaled al-Batsh and Hamas'

political bureau member Jamal Abu-Hashem, the Palestinian delegation called for efforts to press Israel into halting its military escalation in the Palestinian territories during the talks at Rafah crossing linking Egypt and Gaza.

Both Palestinian movements insisted that any cease-fire must lead to the end of Israel's siege of Gaza and be "comprehensive and reciprocal" to include both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

MNA/Xinhua

A boy swims in a pool to break the heat, in the outskirts of Hyderabad, India, on 28 March, 2008.—INTERNET



Two children found dead in Kentucky

WASHINGTON, 29 March — Two children are found shot to death at a home in Louisville, Kentucky, Thursday, and police said the deaths are related to a hostage situation earlier in the morning at the University of Louisville.

University of Louisville spokeswoman Cindy Hess told reporters that a female student walked into the student health services building with a gun. Police soon arrived at the scene and found a hostage situation.

It is not clear how many people were taken hostage, but there were no injuries. The female student was disarmed after a short time.

Police later found the bodies of the two children in a home 17 kilometres away from the campus.

Their names and ages are not being released and their relationship with the female student is not clear.

MNAXinhua



People queue at check-in desks in the new Terminal 5 building at Heathrow Airport in London 27 March, 2008. The opening of London Heathrow Airport's 4.3 billion pound (\$8.6 billion) Terminal 5 ended in chaos on Thursday with its new baggage handling system suspended and dozens of flights cancelled.—INTERNET

Heathrow T5 suffers "teething problems"

LONDON, 28 March — Passengers using Heathrow Airport's giant new Terminal 5 were left stranded for hours during its opening day on Thursday amid tight security and lost luggage.

The 4.3-billion-pound terminal suffered teething problems with its state-of-the-art baggage handling system

as well as with car parking, staff security screening and general stumbling over the unfamiliar layout. A Reuters witness was left sitting on a plane for two hours while crew searched for passengers' luggage.

"At one point the luggage was returned to the terminal because the system said our flight had

already departed," he said. British Airways, which now has its home at T5, said it had suffered "a few minor problems" during the first day of operation.

"This is not unexpected following one of the most complex and largest airport moves in history," it said in a statement.

MNA/Reuters

Over 30 arrested in US-Canadian joint drug raids

OTTAWA, 28 March — About 30 people were arrested Wednesday during a joint operation by US and Canadian police in a border region centred in Quebec Province.

About 300 police forces conducted the raids on the drug ring operating in Montreal and an aboriginal Mohawk

reserve.

The charges involve conspiracy, drug trafficking and gangsterism.

The suspects were involved in a marijuana production and exporting operation. The pipeline seemed to be from the

Mohawk territories here in Quebec across the US border, according to a Canadian Television report.

Kahnawake is about a 75 minutes' drive from the US border.

MNA/Xinhua

Residents gather at the scene of a US air strike in a parking lot in Baghdad's Sadr City on 28 March, 2008.—INTERNET



DPRK testfires several short-range missiles off W coast

SEOUL, 28 March — The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) test-fired several short-range missiles into the sea off its western coast, Yonhap news agency quoted sources as saying Friday.

The reported launches came a day after South Korea withdrew officials from the inter-Korean industrial complex in the DPRK, the agency said.

The missiles were believed to be Russian Styx missiles, Yonhap said.

MNA/Xinhua

Pipeline blast cuts Iraq's southern oil exports

BAGHDAD, 28 March — Saboteurs blew up one of Iraq's two main oil export pipelines in southern Iraq on Thursday, cutting about half a million barrels a day of oil exports, a Southern Oil Company official told Reuters.

The attack came on the third day of an Iraqi

military operation against fighters loyal to Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr in the oil port of Basra. The pipeline was attacked seven kilometres south of Basra. There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

US crude <CLC1> was trading up more than one US dollars at close to

107 US dollars a barrel after news of the attack.

"This morning saboteurs blew up the pipeline transporting crude from Zubair 1 by placing bombs beneath it. The pipeline was severely damaged," the official said.

MNA/Reuters

Portuguese police seize 121 kilos of cocaine

LISBON, 29 March — Portugal's Judicial Police said on Thursday of had seized 121.8 kilos of cocaine and arrested four people for

allegedly trying to smuggle the drug into Spain.

The detainees, three men one women, "armed to acquire and secure the

transport of cocaine from Portugal to Spain with the intention of distributing it there", the police said.—MNAXinhua

Brazilian bank loans \$5.8b to hydropower project

RIO DE JANEIRO, 29 March — Brazil's state-owned Social and Economic Development Bank (BNDES) is to pump one billion reais (580 million US dollars) into the construction of the Simpicio hydropower plant in the country's southeast.

BNDES said in a statement that Simpicio

will be the second largest hydropower plant in the state of Rio de Janeiro. With a capability of generating 333.7 megawatts, the plant will be able to meet the power demand of a city with 1.5 million inhabitants.

The agreement was signed between BNDES and Furnas Centrais

Eletricas, a major Brazilian power company Thursday.

By 2010, when the plant is expected to start operation, the hydropower supply in the state will be increased by 28 per cent. Rio currently has 10 hydropower plants with an overall capacity of 1,200 megawatts.

MNA/Xinhua



Buffalo mozzarella cheese is on sale in a shop in downtown Paris on 28 March, 2008. Italy has made satisfactory progress in controlling cases of mozzarella cheese found contaminated by cancer-causing dioxins and is not facing any EU trade ban at this stage, the European Commission said on Friday. —XINHUA

Italy seals off 83 farms over mozzarella scare

ROME, 28 March — Italy has sealed off 83 dairy farms after finding nearly one in five buffalo mozzarella producers were making cheese with above permitted levels of cancer-causing dioxin, the Health Ministry said on Wednesday.

Seeking to avert a major health scare over one of Italy's best known culinary products after Japan and South Korea blocked imports, the ministry said special

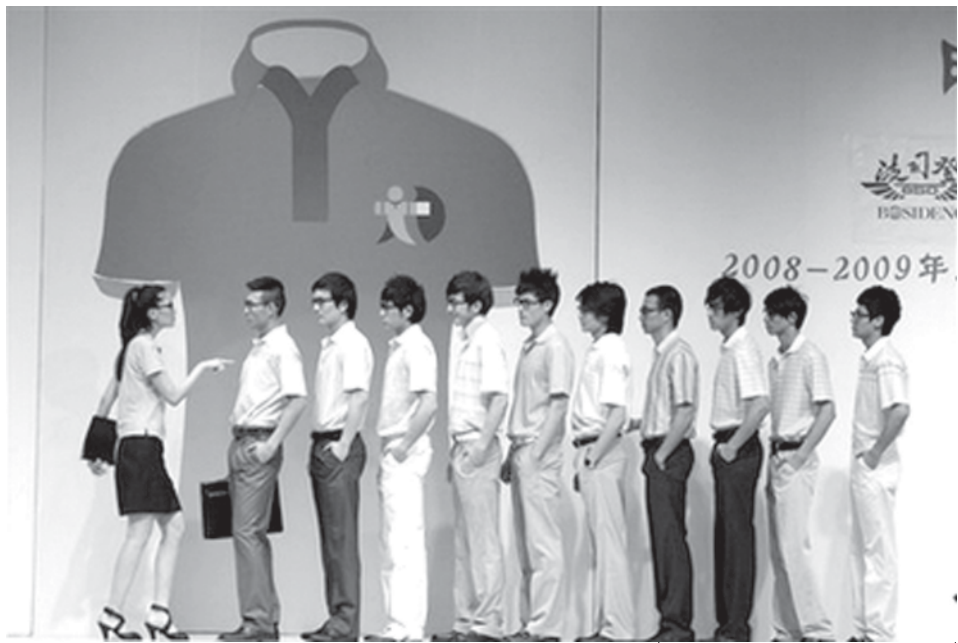
checks were being made to guarantee the safety of the cheese.

Foreign Minister Massimo D'Alema said international alarm was "totally exaggerated and unjustified".

A Health Ministry statement said checks had

revealed levels of dioxin "moderately higher than the limit allowed by European Union regulations" in the mozzarella and milk at 25 out of 130 cheese factories — a higher incidence than previously reported.

MNA/Reuters



Vietnam lowers 2008 rice export target

HANOI, 29 March — Vietnam has cut its 2008 rice export target to 3.5-4 million tons from its initial goal of 4-4.5 million tons to ensure the country's food security, according to local newspaper *Labour* on Friday.

The Vietnamese Government has also asked businesses to temporarily sign new rice export contracts. Local firms have inked contracts of shipping abroad 1.8 million tons of rice this year.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese models display t-shirt trends during a fashion show at the China International Clothing and Accessories Fair held in Beijing, on 28 March, 2008.

INTERNET

\$30m allocated to LatAm for cooperation programme

SANTIAGO, 29 March — A record amount of 30 million US dollars was allocated to Latin America and Caribbean countries between 2006 and 2007 to finance cooperation programme for economic and social development, a UN commission report said on Thursday.

According to the report released by the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the money, the highest amount over the past 10 years, is being used to support more than 200

technical cooperation projects in the region.

Of the funding, nearly 40 percent came from UN committees, including the UN General Assembly, the UN Population Fund, the UN Development Programme, UN Children's Fund, UN Development Fund for Women.

MNA/Xinhua



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

INTERNET

Philippines suspends bidder in helicopter tender

MANILA, 29 March — The Philippines has suspended the local partner of a US-based helicopter maker from bidding for state contracts for one year for attempting to mislead the government in a 2007 tender, a defence official said on Friday.

The defence department's bids and award committee has also recommended filling a criminal complaint against Asian Aerospace Corporation for violating procurement laws,

according to documents seen by *Reuters*.

In September 2007, Asian Aerospace Corp, a local partner of MD Helicopters, won a government contract to sell six MD530F night-capable attack helicopters for 1.2 billion pesos (28.6 million US dollars).

But a review of the bidding process showed that MD530F did not meet the technical specifications required by the Philippine Air Force, the documents said.

MNA/Reuters

Mitsubishi produces last car in south Australia

CANBERRA, 29 March — Mitsubishi produced its last car on Thursday in Adelaide, south Australia, ahead of closing down its Tonsley Park assembly facility on Friday. The last batch of 380 sedans came off the production line in the morning at the plant, with the very last car a

silver-coloured luxury version.

Several hundred workers will finish up at the Adelaide facility on Friday but others will stay on to officially decommission the plant over the next few months, the *Australian Associated Press* reported.

About 100 workers gathered inside the factory Thursday for an official function to mark the production of the last vehicles

. Mitsubishi closes the plant due to the falling sales in Australia's large car market and mounting debts. — MNA/Xinhua

Pakistan’s coalition parties undecided on key ministries

ISLAMABAD, 28 March — A first group of Pakistan’s Cabinet members is likely to take oath on Saturday as the coalition parties are yet decided on some key ministries, according to local media on Wednesday.

The Pakistan’s coalition parties, which gripped power from the February 18 elections, held

a meeting on Wednesday discussion the formation of the new government, *News Network International* (NNI) reported. The coalition partners, including Pakistan People’s Party (PPP), Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), The Awami National Party (ANP) and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F), agreed to complete the

formation of the federal Cabinet in three phases.

“With Pakistan’s new Premier Yousaf Raza Gillani set to seek a vote of confidence on Saturday, the first 20 Cabinet members are likely to be sworn in on the same day,” the NNI said. Under the agreed formula, the coalition partners will get representation in the Cabinet according to the proportion of their seats in the National Assembly and Senate, said the report.

Xinhua



A researcher of China’s 24th scientific expedition on oceanic research enjoys his time of fishing on board of China’s Antarctic ice breaker the Snow Dragon (Xuelong) in Fremantle anchorage ground near Australia, on 27 March, 2008. The Snow Dragon, or Xuelong in Chinese, with over 100 researchers aboard, is expected to arrive in China’s coastal city of Shanghai on 15 April. —XINHUA

Australia intercepts military style fiberglass knives

CANBERRA, 29 March—Australian Customs authorities announced on Thursday they had intercepted six knives made out of fibreglass resin this week while checking international mails.

Australian Customs national investigations manager Richard Janeczko said the knives, together with a slingshot and brace, were in an air mail parcel from the United States declared as containing clothes and literature and destined for a Sydney address.

The attempt to smuggle the potentially undetectable and prohibited weapons posed “a dangerous new threat”, he said. But despite claims by their American suppliers that the knives were “practically undetectable to modern security devices”, customs officers had been able to find them with specialised equipment, Janeczko added. Janeczko said no arrests had yet been made in connection with the offense, which carries a maximum penalty of 275,000 dollars (255,000 US dollars) and 10 years’ imprisonment. — Xinhua



A stonecutter works on a stone carving at the Chapungu Sculpture Park in Harare, capital of Zimbabwe, on 26 March, 2008. —XINHUA

Nicaragua, France sign accord on education exchange

MANAGUA, 28 March — Nicaragua’s army and the French Government signed a cooperation accord on Wednesday allowing Nicaraguan officials to have access to scholarships to study French or military-related courses in France.

The accord was signed by Nicaragua’s Army chief, general Omar Halleslevens, and France’s Ambassador to Nicaragua Thierry Frayse.

Xinhua

Four Pakistanis arrested in Indonesia on way to Australia

JAKARTA, 28 March — The Indonesian police have arrested four Pakistani citizens in the eastern town of Kupang allegedly on their way to enter Australia illegally, local Press said Wednesday.

The four, identified as Earooq, Ishaq Muhammad, Khudadad

and Muhammad, were arrested in their hideout in Kopalima district because they had no passports or visas to stay in Indonesia, according to a report in major newspaper *The Jakarta Post*’s website.

Local police officer Chief Brigadier Abner Kia said they had

travelled from Jakarta to Kupang last week by passenger ship on their way to Australia.

Abner said the police would coordinate with the Foreign Ministry and the Pakistani Embassy in Jakarta to seek a solution for the four.

Xinhua



All items from Xinhua News Agency

Panamanian Cabinet approves FTA with Guatemala

PANAMA 29 March— Panama’s Cabinet has approved the free trade agreement (FTA) between Panama and Guatemala signed on 26 February, Commerce and Industry Minister Alejandro Ferrer said on Thursday. The FTA must be approved by Parliament, or the legislative assembly, before it comes into force.

Bilateral trade will grow more rapidly if the agreement takes effect, Ferrer said, quoted by local daily *La Estrella de*

Panama.

Trade volume between Panama and Guatemala reached 120 million US dollars in 2007, representing a 15-per-cent increase over 2006. According to the agreement, 98 per cent of Panama’s exports to Guatemala will be tax free after it takes effect.

Panama’s exports to Guatemala include medicines, matches, bags, plastic cartridges, glass bottles, sauces, among others.—Xinhua

A ring-tailed lemur kisses the cub at a zoo in Hefei, capital of east China’s Anhui Province, on 27 March, 2008. The cub was born on 24 March.

XINHUA

13 missing as boat sinks off S Philippines

MANILA, 29 March— At least 13 people are missing after a fishing boat, with 14 passengers on board, sank off the south coast of the Philippines, according to Philippine Coast Guard on Friday.

The fishing banca, MBCA Judi ANN, encountered big waves and strong current when it passed the Sarangani Strait of the Davao del Sur Province on Wednesday afternoon, Coast Guard officials said in a statement.

Xinhua

In perpetual service of the State

Maung Aung (Veterinary)

In reality, I am not rich in retirement after 26 years in military service. I joined the army not for becoming rich. But, I am not poor and I am in the position of living a life of normalcy. I have no regret for not being rich. I am satisfied with what I have done that ought to be done in the interest of the State and the Tatmadaw.

I assume that the life-span of human beings is comparatively short. During our life time, we should serve the interest of the State and the Tatmadaw by doing our bit. We need not be rich or famous. I don't mean that I vehemently deny what is aspired by the people.

I am among ordinary people. I want to be rich and well-known. I want to be rich and well-known by means of serving the interest of the State through right livelihood. I want to be like that by serving the interest of the State at the risk of my life.

At about 7.30 pm on 24-3-2008, I watched a TV programme before taking meals after I had arrived back home from office. I was alone, for my family went to their native town. This TV is my companion. A radio was used to be my companion in the time when I was in front line as a soldier. Now, this TV is my companion.

I didn't know the title as I watched the programme partly. The story was that the adjutant and the wife of commanding officer informed the news on the fallen soldiers who died in action to their families at the family line. The wife of the commanding officer was May Thinza Oo and the wife of the sergeant was Pan Phyu.

Normally, when the mazda jeep of commanding officer headed for the family quarters all their families were happy. And children were turning up while the wives of soldiers were welcoming the jeep hurriedly. The families of soldiers regarded the commanding officer and his wife as their parents. This is a significant characteristic of the relations among the Tatmadaw families.

When I was in Tatmadaw in various capacities I used to stroll along the family quarters in the morning in order to see their living conditions and disciplines they observed. I gave them all necessary instructions including the one how to engage in agriculture for their welfare when they were found to be undisciplined. Let alone hating me they showed respect like parents and offspring to me over my instructions.

Let me continue my TV story. The wives of soldiers who regarded the wife of commanding officer as their mother didn't want to face her again when one of them heard the news about her fallen husband soldier. However, the wife of commanding officer like a mother who lost her own son had to go the family quarters to console the wives of fallen soldiers. And she was sharing sorrow and distress with them.

When I was a commanding officer there was no casualty under my command. I was in no position of going round to the family quarters to do so. And I had no chance to share misery and anxiety with the wives of fallen soldiers.

When I was in second-in-command in Panglong I had to experience such sorrowful event. Sometimes, I was distressing and pitiful to see the wives of fallen

soldiers who were left behind together with young children. Their lamentation and sorrow had become mine. And I felt more regrettable and distressing than them.

However, we cherish our land. We are determined to drive out foreign intruders who encroach upon our nation. Born in Myanmar we Tatmadawmen have safeguarded our State, our people and our motherland to our utmost risking our lives. We took an oath of sacrificing our lives for our State, our people and our Tatmadaw while waging just war.

Such being the case, although our nation was under foreign subjugation the entire national people drove colonialists out of the nation with nationalistic spirit and unyielding spirit. Consequently, we Myanmar people equipped with patriotism and Union Spirit regained independence.

By nature, Myanmar people are equipped with patriotism. The Tatmadaw is formed with patriotic soldiers who are willing to serve the interest of the State and the people of their own volition. This being so, the Tatmadaw has been able to safeguard independence and sovereignty for 60 years.

Some nations said to be independent, modern and democratic have to promulgate laws of conscription.

Some western big nations are accusing Myanmar that she was deprived of democracy. However, contrary to those big nations there is no laws of conscription prescribed in Myanmar while they have to exercise such laws for military purpose.

Our Myanmar Tatmadaw formed with patriotic soldiers has become stronger and stronger. And it is now playing a leading role in the drive for building a new modern and developed nation.

Now, I am 55 years old. I am still discharging the State duties as a civil servant after retiring from the military service. I am still fit and strong and able. And I am ready to join the Tatmadaw in the interest of the State and the people if necessary.

(Translation: TS)

Now, I am 55 years old. I am still discharging the State duties as a civil servant after retiring from the military service. I am still fit and strong and able. And I am ready to join the Tatmadaw in the interest of the State and the people if necessary.

International Year of Sanitation 2008 observed

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March—The International Year of Sanitation (2008) jointly organized by Ministry of Health and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) was observed at the ministry here this morning.

Present were Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister Dr Paing Soe, Directors-General, Deputy Directors-General,

Rectors, Resident Representative of UNICEF Mr Ramesh Shrestha, personnel of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation (MWAFF) and Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (MMCWA), officials of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee and Yangon City Development Committee, representatives of UN

agencies, international social organizations and local social organizations and guests. First, Minister Dr Kyaw Myint gave an opening speech.

Later, Mr Ramesh Shrestha delivered an address and the ceremony came to an end.

The minister and guests visited the exhibition marking International Year of Sanitation (2008).

MNA



Minister Dr Kyaw Myint and party view booths to mark International Year of Sanitation 2008. —MNA

Senior General Than Shwe sees off Prime Minister ...

(from page 1)

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, member of SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Secretary-1 of SPDC Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, members of SPDC Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of Ministry of Defence, Lt-Gen Myint Hlaing, Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Maj-Gen Khin Zaw of the Ministry of Defence, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, senior military officers, Director-General of SPDC Office Col Kyaw Kyaw Win and departmental officials and Charge d' Affaires ai Mr Thongkhoun Sengphachan of the embassy of the LPDR and officials.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein was accompanied by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha and Director-General of Government's Office Col Thant Shin and departmental heads and officials. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe sees off Prime Minister General Thein Sein at Nay Pyi Taw airport.

MNA



13th Anniversary...

(from page 16)

to Ko (Tekkatho) and the best Myawady short story

Han Win Aung and Sgt (Substitute) Sagar Wah.



Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win awards a winner.—MNA

Maj-Gen Ngwe Thein of the Ministry of Defence presented outstanding awards to Sgt/ Clerk Nyi Nyi Zaw, WO-II (Substitute) Lin Lin Mar, WO-I (Substitute) Naw Florence, Sgt Khin Win and Lt Hein Htut Aung.

Col Nyo Win of the Ministry of Defence gave outstanding awards to WO-I (Substitute) Mie Mie Maung Htwe of Myawady TV for her second prize in Basic Course for Junior Officer Course No 38 of Central Institute of Civil Service (Lower Myanmar), Sgt Myint Aung of No 4 Mobile Public Relations Company for his first prize in oboe contest of the 15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions, Ma Kyi Nu Pwint of Mingaladon BEHS No 2 for her first

prize in dancing contest of the 15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions, Ma Yin Nwe Aye of Mingaladon BEHS No 2 who stood ninth in the matriculation examination (science) for 2007 of the entire nation and School Administrator Major Ye Myint Aung of Mingaladon BEHS No 2 that secured the best pass rate school award in the matriculation examination 2007.

Officials presented gifts to intellectuals and intelligentsia, literati and photographers who contributed to tasks of the Myawady TV and Myawady Literary House.

Later, Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung hosted a dinner to the guests.

MNA

Entrepreneurs urged...

(from page 16)

that the second meeting of the Management Committee for Industrial Zones of Yangon Division is organized to know requirements of the entrepreneurs from the industrial zones. Officials at different levels have fulfilled the needs of the entrepreneurs submitted to the first meeting. At present, the government is striving for development of the State and national economy, particularly in the industrial sector. Therefore, the entrepreneurs are to join hands with the government for achieving progress in the industrial sector and development of the national economy.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win explained efforts being made for development of the industrial sector in Yangon Division.

Chairmen and officials of the Management Committee for Industrial Zones in the division reported on progress of respective zones and requirements. Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the commander, the Yangon Mayor and officials attended to the needs.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by Lt-Gen Myint Swe. Also present at the meeting were Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and officials.

A total of 2,921 factories at 10 industrial zones in Yangon Division are manufacturing import-substitute products. —MNA

award to Chin Gyar (Maubin).

Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win handed the best Ngwetayi cartoon award to cartoonist Mye Zar, the best Ngwetayi article award to Maung Myint Kyi (Sarpay Beikman), the best Ngwetayi short story award to Hsinbyugyun Aung Thein and the best Ngwetayi novel award to Ko Nine (Chin Hill).

Maj-Gen Khin Maung Tun of the Ministry of Defence gave outstanding awards to Sgt (Substitute) Zarni Win, WO-II (Substitute) Cho Cho Khaing, WO-II Zaw Aung, WO-I (Substitute)

NAY PYI TAW, 29 March — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspected Madan Dam Project built on Mann Creek near Nanwinkyin village in Nay Pyi Taw Lewe Township this morning.

First, U Myint Than, Advisor cum Director, of Construction 5 of Irrigation reported to the minister on progress of conduit and control tower of main dam and spillway, construction of diversion weir and irrigation

system to be carried out in future. Director-General U Khin Zaw made a supplementary report on arrangements

being made to supply electricity to the villages. The minister gave necessary instructions.

Next, the minister

cordially conversed with local people and gave instructions on rural development tasks.

Afterwards, Mi-

nister Maj-Gen Htay Oo looked into construction of spillway and conduit of the main dam.

MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects Madan Dam Project in Nay Pyi Taw Lewe Township.—MNA

Members of the Sangha and successive governments working in concert for promotion and propagation of Theravada Buddhism from ancient times to date

Article by Maung Maung Htwe (Myanmar News Agency)

Photo by Myanmar News Agency

The Union of Myanmar is a land of flourishing Theravada Buddhism. Historians have recognized that among the nations with flourishing Theravada Buddhism, the Union of Myanmar is in the forefront serving the interest of Theravada Buddhism.

The reason why Theravada Buddhism is flourishing in Myanmar like the shining sun and moon is due to the fact that Buddhist monks of various orders have passed the Buddha Sasana to date from the time of the Buddha for 2551 years, that from the times of ancient kings to the time of the present State Peace and Development Council, Buddhist monks and the governments have been working in concert for the propagation of the Buddha Sasana and that the citizens have been adoring the Buddha Sasana keeping their race, religion and Sasana in the fore.

When Myanmar was under the colonial rule, the Theravada Buddha Sasana happened to wane because with bitter experiences, some monks practised wrong livelihood disrespecting Vinaya rules or disciplines and established parallel Sasana organizations. The citizens who had faith in Buddhism felt disappointed by the situation.

That was why with the assistance of the government, head Sayadaws and 1218 member Sayadaws from various states and divisions held the



Religious Titles offering ceremony in progress at Maha Pasana Cave on Thiri Mingalar Gaba Aye Hill.—MNA

meeting of All Ganas of the Sangha in 1980 for the promotion and propagation of Theravada Buddhism. The meeting issued "Sangha Organizations' basic rules

and regulations" and "procedures". In accord with the rules and regulations and procedures, Sangha Nayaka Organizations at different levels from ward / village to the State level were formed in order to manage religious affairs for purification, promotion and propagation of the Sasana.

In the times of the State Law and Order Restoration Council and the State Peace and Development Council after 1988, religious titles, which have been awarded since successive periods, and 20 more new religious titles in various genres have been conferred on the outstanding monks for further promotion of the Sasana.

During the period of 16 years from 1992 to 2007 a total of 4263 monks, nuns and lay people were awarded the religious titles in various genres.

Likewise, the State Peace and Development Council issued the notification No 1/2008 dated 4-1-2008 (Independence Day) to confer Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Title on three Sayadaws; Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Title on six Sayadaws; Agga Maha Pandita Title on 28 Sayadaws; Missionary Title on 103 Sayadaws; Dhammakathika Title on eight Sayadaws; Kammathanacariya Title on 31 Sayadaws; Lecturer Title on 156 Sayadaws; Lecturer Title on 14 nuns; Missionary Title on six nuns; Missionary Title on three laymen; Sasana Nuggaha Title on 36 laymen; and Sasana Nuggaha Title on 44 laywomen totalling 438 religious title recipients. On 21 March (Fullmoon Day of Tabaung) the religious title-conferring ceremony took place on a grand scale at Sri Mingala Kaba Aye Cave in Yangon in conjunction with a provisions-offering ceremony.

(Translation: ST)

The Union of Myanmar is a land of flourishing Theravada Buddhism. Historians have recognized that among the nations with flourishing Theravada Buddhism, the Union of Myanmar is in the forefront serving the interest of Theravada Buddhism.



Title recipient lay persons seen at the Religious Titles offering ceremony.—MNA

Study says mutant gene linked to most severe type of TB

HONG KONG, 29 March — People who carry a mutant gene can develop potentially fatal meningitis if they get infected with the drug resistant Beijing strain of tuberculosis, a study in Vietnam has found.

Tuberculous meningitis is the most severe form of the disease in which the infection spreads to membranes enveloping the brain and the spinal cord. One in three people who develop

TB meningitis dies, even if he or she gets hospital treatment.

The study published in the open-access journal PLoS Pathogens (<http://www.plospathogens.org/dot/ppat.1000034>). Tound people most likely to develop TB meningitis were those who carried a variant of the TLR2 gene and who get infected with the Beijing TB strain, prevalent in Asia and the former Soviet states.

Previous studies have

linked TLR2 to the immune system and it seems to be important for recognizing and initiating a defensive response to the TB bacteria.

MNA/Reuters

S'pore to help local firms adopt new technologies

SINGAPORE, 29 March — Singapore launched an Exploit- IP Programme on Thursday to help local companies gain access to a larger pool of intellectual property and innovations. The new programme will help bring technologies to Singapore, especially to

small and medium enterprises (SMEs), said Singapore's Minister of State for Trade and Industry S Iswaran when he officiated the event.

"The programme will encourage MNCs (multinational companies) to unlock and promote their

IP to Singaporean enterprises alongside established universities and R&D (research and development) organizations, and at the same time assist local enterprises in identifying the appropriate IPs to exploit," he said.

MNA/Xinhua



File photo shows a doctor examining an x-ray of a tuberculosis patient at the Beijing Tuberculosis Hospital.—INTERNET



Mehdi Army fighters loyal to cleric Moqtada al-Sadr hold up their weapons as they chant slogans on a street during a lull in fighting in Basra, 340 miles south of Baghdad, on 28 March, 2008.—INTERNET

US West warming faster than rest of world

LOS ANGELES, 29 March — The US West is heating up at nearly twice the rate of the rest of the world and is likely to face more drought conditions in many of its fast-growing cities, an environmental group said on Thursday.

By analyzing federal government temperature data, the Natural Resources Defence Council concluded that the average temperature in the 11-state Western region from 2003-07 was 1.7 degrees Fahrenheit (0.94 degrees Celsius) higher than the historical average of the 20th Century.

The global average increase for the same period was 1.0 degrees Fahrenheit (0.55 degrees Celsius).

In the Colorado River Basin, which supplies water to big and fast-growing cities like Los Angeles, San Diego, Las Vegas and Denver, the average temperature rose 2.2 degrees Fahrenheit (1.21 degrees Celsius), the US group said.

MNA/Reuters

Iran cleric calls on Iraqis to end their fighting

TEHERAN, 29 March — A hardline Iranian cleric called on Friday for the Iraqi Government and a Muslim Shiite militia to stop fighting and strike a deal.

Ayatollah Ahmad Janati made his appeal in a sermon broadcast on state radio on the fourth day of a crackdown launched by US-backed Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, himself a Shiite, against a Shiite militia in the southern Iraqi city of Basra.—MNA/Reuters

Indonesian police probe 23 deaths linked to drink

JAKARTA, 29 March — Police on Indonesia's Sumatra island said on Friday they were investigating the deaths of 23 people after they drank a beverage made of fermented pineapple.

Police seized 7,000 bottles of the drink from its factory in Jambi Province and were questioning factory and shop owners, said provincial police spokesman Yatim Suyatmo.

The victims all died in the last two weeks although the factory had produced the drink locally for years, he said.

"We still don't know whether the victims had mixed the drink with another concoction to make its effects stronger," he said, adding the label stated that the drink contains less than 1 per cent of alcohol.

MNA/Reuters

US Senator Casey endorses Obama

NEW YORK, 29 March — US Senator Bob Casey of Pennsylvania endorsed on Friday Barack Obama's campaign for the Democratic nomination for president in a boost for the Illinois Senator.

Aides to Obama said Casey would appear later at an Obama campaign event in Pennsylvania, where Obama is vying with New York Senator Hillary Clinton for support in the April 22 primary election.

Casey also would join part of Obama's six-day bus tour across the state, due to start in Pittsburgh, they said.

Endorsements by politicians state can bolster a candidate's credibility in a state with a specific section of the electorate, although their precise impact on voters is often unclear.—MNA/Reuters



A firefighter work at the scene of an accident involving a fuel tanker truck that left the roadway and caught fire after a crash on Interstate 91, on 28 March, 2008, in Chicopee, Mass.—INTERNET

Images of the Day

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MISS GRAND SLAM 2007



Honey Lee, Miss Korea Universe, is the most striking beauty of 2007! A huge favorite in last year's Miss Universe pageant, in Mexico City, Honey ended the competition as 3rd runner-up, Korea's best result in Miss Universe in 19 years!

In 2nd place came Miss Dominican Republic World, Ada Cruz, the front-runner at the 2007 Miss World pageant who surprisingly was "just" a semi-finalist in Sanya.

Miss Venezuela Universe, Ly Jonaitis, already chosen as the Sexiest Woman Alive by Global Beauties, is the 2nd runner-up, rounding out a magnificent Top 3 for a ravishing year!

Honey Lee, Miss Korea Universe, is voted as the world's No1 beauty on Globalbeauties.com. Lee ended as the 3rd runner-up in last year's Miss Universe pageant, in Mexico, Korea's best result in Miss Universe in 19 years.—XINHUA



Four winners smile on the stage during the 21st edition of Most Beautiful Girl in Nigeria (MBGN) 2008, Nigeria's national beauty contest, on 28 March, 2008.—XINHUA



Petra, a black swan, swims next to a boat shaped like an outsized white swan after she was taken back to the Aasee in Muenster, Germany, on 28 March, 2008. In 2006, Petra, became so attached to the boat that she refused to leave its side.—INTERNET



The Giza pyramids in a file photo. New evidence of a sick, deprived population working under harsh conditions contradicts earlier images of wealth and abundance from the art records of the ancient Egyptian city of Tell el-Amarna, a study has found.—INTERNET

Asia must reverse massive deforestation trend

NEW DELHI, 29 March—Parts of Asia are losing more than 28,000 square kilometres (10,800 square miles) of forest every year, a trend that must be reversed immediately to fight climate change, a United Nations report said on Thursday.

Deforestation accounts for about 20 per cent of global greenhouse gases — trees soak up carbon dioxide when they grow and release it when they rot or are burnt.

A UN climate conference in Bali last year agreed to launch pilot projects to grant poor countries credits for slowing deforestation under a new long-term climate pact beyond 2012.

With 28,000 square kilometres of forests disappearing every year, South and South-East Asia nations were among the most vulnerable to climate change, the report from the UN's Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific said.

MNA/Reuters

China closes almost 5,000 illegal blood banks in '07

BEIJING, 29 March—China's health authorities reported 280 illegal blood deals and closed 4,915 blood banks for violating collection regulations last year, a senior health official said on Thursday.

Health authorities also disqualified 25 blood collection personnel and closed two blood plasma collection stations last year, said Vice Health Minister Ma Xiaowei during a meeting on health supervision.

"The supervision of blood collection has improved thanks to a nationwide campaign specifically against illegal blood deals," he said.

The campaign, launched in 2005 by the Ministry of Health, saw 251,000 unlicensed health organizations closed, and the revocation of the practise licenses of 1,110 doctors and 3,201 medical institutions.

"Medical services have obviously improved, while illegal medical advertisements and unqualified medical staff have declined," Ma said.

MNA/Xinhua

UK house prices fall for fifth straight month

LONDON, 29 March—British house prices fell for a fifth straight month in March, bringing the annual rate of increase to its lowest in 12 years, in a clear sign the on-cer-hot property market is weakening fast.

The Nationwide Building Society said on Friday that house prices fell by 0.6 per cent this month after a 0.5-per-cent fall in February. That left the average house price just 1.1 per cent higher than a year earlier, the weakest annual increase since March 1996.

The mortgage lender said it now expected house prices to record a modest fall over 2008, in line with a number of other analysts who are also predicting an annual price drop after a decade in which the cost of the average home has trebled.

"A clear change in sentiment since the late summer has led to a sharp slowing in house price growth," said Fionnuala Earley, Nationwide's chief economist.

MNA/Reuters

ADVERTISEMENT

“Happy 29th Anniversary”

Lots of love & happiness to Pe Pe Aye Lwin (Freddy Saing) & May May Wai Yi Kyi Win, as you celebrate your anniversary today.

From
Your loved sons
Htut Htut Lwin
Zarni Lwin

Britain, France sign civil nuclear cooperation pact

LONDON, 28 March — French President Nicolas Sarkozy and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown agreed on Thursday to cooperate on civil nuclear technology, improving French companies’ chances of leading the UK’s nuclear power push.

France already gets 78 per cent of its electricity from nuclear power and the deal will give French companies favoured access to Britain where the government says it urgently needs a new fleet of nuclear reactors.

After their meeting at a soccer stadium in north London, the two leaders said in a statement they had agreed to streamline the development of projects by getting French and British nuclear regulators to work more closely on nuclear safety, security, waste management and reactor licensing.

They also agreed to increase the exchange of nuclear technicians and expertise, which France’s thriving nuclear industry can offer more of after decades of decline in the sector in Britain.

The two leaders said the deal might at some stage be extended to include other European Union countries.

EDF Energy, the British subsidiary of major French power utility EDF, has said it wants to build four new nuclear power plants in Britain and has opted for the new European EPR reactor design. —MNA/Reuters

Olmert cool on Russian offer to host peace summit

JERUSALEM, 28 March — Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert signalled reluctance on Wednesday to attend a Middle East peace summit proposed by Russia, but did not rule it out.

“I think, quite frankly, as I said to (Russian Foreign Minister Sergei) Lavrov that, you know, what we need in order to make peace in the Middle East is to see the two sides sitting together and talk rather than going to international conventions,” Olmert told reporters in English.

Russian officials said last week Moscow was preparing to host a Middle East peace conference this year to try to relaunch talks between Israel and Syria about the occupied Golan Heights.

Lavrov said during a visit to Syria the conference would be a follow-up to a US-hosted meeting in Annapolis in November that relaunched peace talks between the Jewish state and the Palestinians.

MNA/Reuters

China, France join in training Chinese aviation engineers

TIANJIN, 28 March — French Ambassador to China Herve Ladsous visited the Civil Aviation University of China (CAUC) on Thursday, saying initial success was made in running the Sino-European Institute of Aviation Engineering (SIAE) jointly set up by the CAUC and four of French top aviation colleges.

The establishment of the SIAE marked the beginning of cooperation of Chinese and French governments, higher education institutions and enterprises in training senior Chinese aviation engineers, Ladsous said, adding that further cooperation will be conducted in this field.

“It is a good attempt to train local aviation engineers in a multi-cultural environment,” he said.

Established in April 2007, the SIAE aims to bring in French engineer training system to China’s civil aviation system and train Chinese aviation engineers in both knowledge and capacity.

Last September, 100 students were enrolled. They receive education in three majors, including aircraft structure and materials, operation and maintenance of propulsion systems as well as electronic systems and on-board equipment, according to CAUC President Wu Tongshui. —MNA/Reuters

China asks flyers to remove shoes for security checks

BEIJING, 28 March — China (CAAC). Aviation authorities are now telling passengers in China to remove their shoes for safety checks as part of a tighter security system ahead of the Olympics. The order took effect nationwide on Wednesday, according to the General Administration of Civil Aviation of China (CAAC).

The agency also suggested that passengers to arrive at airports two hours before their flights to allow time for tighter security procedures.

The authority banned liquids on domestic flights on 13 March after what was described as an attempt to blow up a China Southern Airlines flight en route from Urumqi to Beijing.

Staff would also examine cabin baggage more closely and “easy boarding” services, where passengers pay for the privilege of speedier security checks and priority boarding, would be banned.

MNA/Xinhua

Peru police arrest guerilla suspects after ambush

LIMA, 29 March — Peruvian police said on Thursday they arrested five suspected rebels who work in drug trafficking, days after a police officer was killed and several others were wounded in an ambush in the coca-rich country.

The officers were caught off guard on Sunday while on patrol in Ayacucho — the birthplace of the Maoist Shining Path guerilla movement — some 360 miles (580 kilometres) southeast of the capital Lima.

The five arrests late on Wednesday in Huanuco, north of Ayacucho, come as the government tightens security before two presidential summits in Peru this year.

MNA/Reuters

Children play on a burnt vehicle destroyed during clashes in Basra, 550 km (340 miles) south of Baghdad, on 28 March, 2008. —INTERNET



Mexico troops head to new US border drug war zone

CIUDAD JUAREZ (Mexico), 29 March — Following a leap in drug murders in the rundown city of Ciudad Juarez, the government said on Thursday the troop deployment over the next three days aims to crush cartels warring over smuggling routes into the United States.

Some 200 people have been killed in drug violence in Ciudad Juarez so far this year, a tenfold increase over the same period in 2007. Some of the victims were shot dead on busy avenues or tortured and strangled.

MNA/Reuters

Most Canadians not recycling electronic wastes

OTTAWA, 29 March — Most Canadians just throw dead batteries, computer equipment and other electronic wastes in the trash instead of disposing them in the right place, according to a study released on Thursday.

Many Canadians also get rid of their old medication, leftover paint and other polluting wastes by throwing them in the trash, despite the environmental and health risks associated with doing so, Statistics Canada said in the study.

The study found that in 2005, only a quarter of Canadian households used designated depots to return batteries, less than half returned expired drugs to a pharmacy, more than one third were storing old computer waste they did not know how to dispose of.

Author of the study Adria Vasil said many Canadians are not recycling because they simply do not know where to take the wastes.

According to Vasil, more than 275,000 tons of consumer electronics end up in Canadian landfills every year, slowly seeping cadmium, mercury and lead into the environment.

MNA/Xinhua

Zhang Ziyi hosts in English for wildlife protection

BEIJING, 29 March — Chinese actress Zhang Ziyi is in the spotlight once again, but not as an actress. This time, Zhang Ziyi is hosting an English TV programme titled “The Story of Wildlife,” which aims to draw attention to wild animals facing extinction. Zhang shot the programme last December at a conservation area in Sabah, a region in Malaysia, *Xiaoxiang Morning Post* reported. The trailer of the

programme shows Zhang visiting a tropical rainforest and introducing some species of the nearly-extinct wildlife. Although the insects in the rainforest are potentially harmful, Zhang insisted going into the rainforest herself to give the audience a closer look at the animals. After spending three days with a pair of

orphaned orangutans, Zhang experienced their deteriorating living environment firsthand. This primate, which acts much like humans, is often captured and regarded as a pet. Some wildlife experts predict that they will die out in ten years if no effective measures are taken. —Internet

Chinese actress Zhang Ziyi got close to two orangutans at a conservation area in Sabah, Malaysia last December while shooting a program to promote wildlife protection. —XINHUA



Australian farmer James Stirton stands next to a ball of twisted metal, purported to be fallen space junk, on his farm in southwestern Queensland in this undated handout photograph received March 28, 2008. —INTERNET

Australian farmer finds mystery space junk

CANBERRA, 29 March — A cattle farmer in Australia’s remote northern outback on Friday said he had found a giant ball of twisted metal, which he believes is space junk from a rocket used to launch communications satellites.

Farmer James Stirton found the odd-shaped ball last year on his 40,000 hectare property, about 800 kilometres (500 miles) west of the northern Queensland state capital of Brisbane.

But Stirton only started

inquiring into what the ball of metal really was, and where it had come from, in the past week.

“I was riding out to check some cattle, and I came around the corner and there it was in a paddock,” Stirton told *Reuters* on Friday. “I know a lot of about sheep and cattle but I don’t know much about satellites. But I would say it is a fuel cell off some stage of a rocket.”

He said the object was hollow, and covered in a carbon-fibre material. He has contacted some US-

based aerospace companies to try to find out what the object really is. Sydney’s Powerhouse Museum said it was not uncommon for people to find space junk in remote areas of Australia.

In 1979, large parts of the *Skylab* space station fell to earth near a tiny outback town in Australia’s west. A local council sent NASA a ticket for littering and then then United States president Jimmy Carter rang a local motel to apologize.

MNA/Reuters

Experts find oldest voice recording, from 1860

WASHINGTON, 29 March — US audio historians have discovered and played back a French inventor’s historic 1860 recording of a folk song—the oldest-known audio

recording — made 17 years before Thomas Edison invented the phonograph.

“It’s magic,” audio historian David Giovannoni said on

Thursday. “It’s like a ghost singing to you.”

Lasting 10 seconds, the recording is of a person singing “Au clair de la lune, Pierrot repondit” (“By the light of the moon, Pierrot replied”)—part of a French song, according to First Sounds, a group of audio historians, recording engineers, sound archivists and others dedicated to pre-serving humankind’s earliest sound recordings.

It was made on April 9, 1860, by Parisian inventor Edouard-Leon Scott de Martinville on a device called the phonautograph that scratched sound waves onto a sheet of paper blackened by the smoke of an oil lamp, Giovannoni said.

MNA/Reuters

Pregnant women urged to avoid alcohol

LONDON, 29 March — Women should drink no alcohol during the first three months of pregnancy, despite uncertainty over whether the odd drink could harm their baby, a government watchdog said on Wednesday. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) said there was limited evidence that drinking in the early stages of pregnancy may be linked to a higher risk of miscarriage. Its new guidance says that pregnant women who choose to drink should limit their intake to one or two units, once or twice a week. One unit equals half a pint of beer or a single shot of spirits, while a small glass (125 millilitres) of wine has 1.5 units. While it is generally agreed that pregnant women should not drink to excess, studies have failed to find the exact level at which moderate alcohol consumption harms the foetus, the watchdog said. —MNA/Reuters

Rare genetic mutations may contribute to schizophrenia

WASHINGTON, 28 March — Many genetic mutations, each one rare, may contribute to schizophrenia, US researchers report in the journal *Science* published on Friday.

Schizophrenia has a

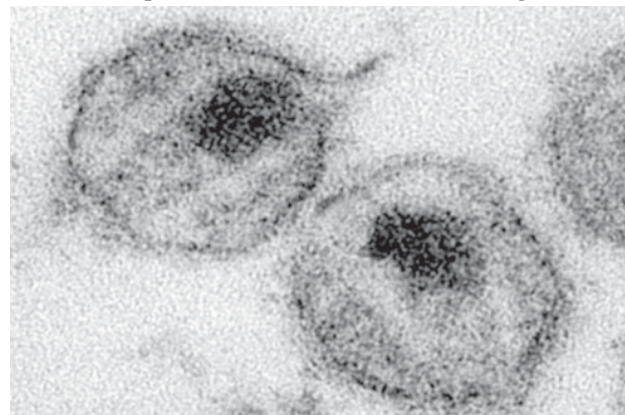
strong heritable component, and researchers have struggled to find the genetic culprits. The working hypothesis has been that the disease is caused by combinations of common gene variants, each contributing a modest

effect.

However, the US research team now provides evidence supporting an alternative model, in which some mutations that lead to schizophrenia are rare (even specific to one patient or family) but individually powerful.

They compared genomic DNA from 150 individuals with schizophrenia and 268 healthy individuals.

They found that multiple, individually rare mutations occurred more than three times more frequently among persons with schizophrenia than among controls, and more than four times more frequently among persons with schizophrenia by age 18. —Internet



An undated thin-section transmission electron micrograph shows two HIV virus particles. People with a genetic variation that slows down HIV may also be causing a mutation to the AIDS virus that makes it less potent if transmitted to others, researchers said recently. —INTERNET

SPORTS

Mourinho in Milan for talks on Inter job

LISBON, 29 March — Former Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho travelled to Italy on Friday for talks about a job with Inter Milan, said his personal adviser Eladio Parames.

"Jose has left for Milan for talks with Inter's directors," Parames told Reuters without giving further details.

Earlier this month, Inter coach Roberto Mancini said he wanted to quit the Serie A champions at the end of the season only to reverse his decision the following day. On Thursday, Inter owner Massimo Moratti laughed off speculation he was lining up a replacement for Mancini.

"There is all this stuff to deny but I no longer have the patience to do it," he told reporters. An Inter spokesman did not deny Friday's reports but said Moratti was not in Milan and reiterated the owner's comments about being fed up of denying rumours.

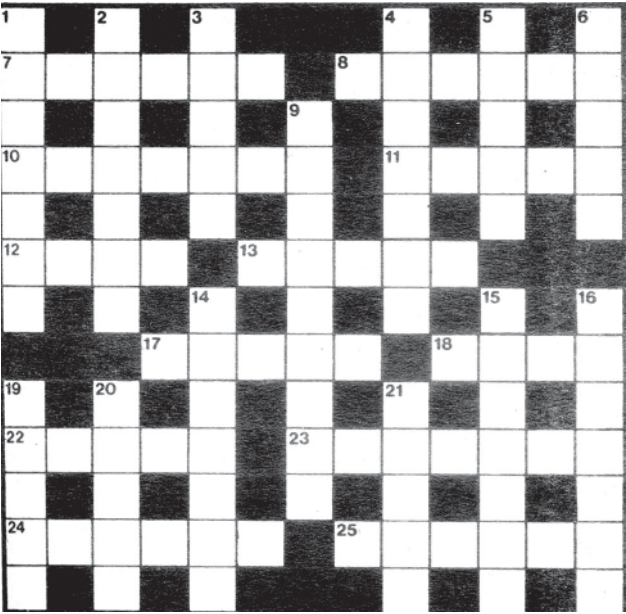
Mourinho has been linked with a host of top European clubs since his spell with Chelsea came to an end in September when the Premier League club said their relationship with the Portuguese had "broken down".

Mourinho, who dubbed himself the 'Special One' when he took over at Stamford Bridge after lifting the Champions League with Porto in 2004, was adored by Chelsea fans after winning two Premier League titles, two League Cups and an FA Cup.

The Portuguese, who has expressed a desire to work in Italy or Spain, was in Milan with his agent Jorge Mendes on Friday.

Inter remain top of Serie A but the gap has narrowed to just four points after they lost 2-1 at home to Juventus on Saturday while second-placed AS Roma beat Empoli 2-1. —MNA/Reuters

CROSSWORDS PUZZLE



- ACROSS
- DOWN
- 7 Turbulent

8 Chevalier

10 Arraign

11 Incorrect

12 Holm-oak

13 Disdain

17 Scale

18 Goad

22 Dot

23 Fit of temper

24 Trefoil

25 Fold
- 1 Pain reliever

2 Intricate

3 Smudge

4 Replies

5 Eskimo dwelling

6 Raised platform

9 Winning move at chess

14 Sparkle

15 Highlander's purse

16 Packed

19 Quickly

20 Infant

21 Irate



Angelique Kerber, of Germany, returns the ball to Justine Henin, of Germany, during their second-round match at the Sony Ericsson Open tennis tournament in Key Biscayne, Fla, on 288 March, 2008.—INTERNET

Peru ban Farfan and Pizarro for 18 months

LIMA, 29 March — Peru have banned strikers Claudio Pizarro and Jefferson Farfan from international football for 18 months as punishment for indiscipline.

Defender Santiago Acasiete and forward Andres Mendoza were also suspended for the same period by a disciplinary tribunal, the Peruvian Football Federation (FPF) said in a statement on Friday.

The quartet had been provisionally banned since December over alleged incidents at the team hotel in Lima after a World Cup qualifier against Brazil in November.

The bans have been backdated to November and effectively mean the four players will miss eight World Cup qualifiers.

Peru have taken just two points from their first four qualifiers for the

2010 World Cup.

The absence of PSV Eindhoven forward Farfan and Chelsea's Pizarro is likely to be a huge blow, although Pizarro has been frequently criticized for his performances for his country. Peru drew 1-1 with Brazil but were hammered 5-1 by Ecuador three days later when Farfan was left out of the lineup.

Peruvian football has been plagued by in-fighting among the directors for years and the country has not qualified for a World Cup since 1982.

MNA/Reuters

Chelsea issue fixture change complaint

LONDON, 29 March — Chelsea complained on Friday over a fixture change the club said would give an advantage to Premier League title rivals Manchester United and Arsenal. Chelsea's match at Everton has been brought forward 48 hours to Thursday, April 17 and will be televised live.

The weekend games involving United and Arsenal, against Blackburn Rovers and Reading respectively, are also due to be shown live on television on April 19.

With Chelsea facing Wigan Athletic on Monday, April 14, a day after United host Arsenal, the Stamford Bridge club will have less time to prepare for their trip to Everton.

"Chelsea Football Club is extremely disappointed with the announcement today regarding the Everton fixture," the club said on their website (www.chelseafc.com).

"The decision to hold the match on April 17 undermines the sporting integrity of the competition by giving our rivals ... an unnecessary competitive advantage at a critical time of the season, with more recovery time from their previous match and preparation time for their next fixture when we have to play two games during the same period.

"The decision sets a dangerous precedent in changing match days still further when fixture congestion does not exist and when a sensible solution regarding other television matches that weekend was suggested," the club added.

Leaders United are five points ahead of Chelsea with seven games to go. Arsenal are third, a further point adrift.

Chelsea are at home to Middlesbrough on Sunday and have fitness doubts over midfielder Frank Lampard and goalkeeper Petr Cech.

Lampard missed training on Friday with a stomach bug while Cech has been sidelined since the start of the month with an ankle problem. — MNA/Reuters

Platini says will not fight for foreign player quotas

VADUZ (Liechtenstein), 29 March — UEFA president Michel Platini further distanced himself on Friday from FIFA president Sepp Blatter's controversial plans to limit the number of foreign players

in club football.

Platini has repeatedly praised the principle behind Blatter's proposal to restrict teams to just five foreign nationals on the pitch but has expressed doubt as to its compatibility with EU laws on the free movement of workers. On Friday he went further, insisting that he would not fight for the idea.

"I have said to the president of FIFA that I will defend his idea as a friend, but as the president of UEFA I am not going to fight for it," Platini told a news conference after a UEFA executive committee meeting.

"It is difficult for me and I have the backing of all the UEFA associations, who are saying they do not want to introduce something that is impos-

sible. The philosophy behind it is a good one but I am not going to burn my fingers in Brussels.

"It is still possible that we can achieve much of the same aims through other means such as bans on the transfer of minors or other types of agreements between the clubs themselves." Blatter said earlier this month that he would present his "6 plus 5" proposal to FIFA's next Congress when it meets in Sydney in May but Platini said he did not anticipate confrontation between the European and world governing bodies.

"I think Mr Blatter will ask Congress for the possibility to continue working towards his goal," Platini said. "He is not going to ask for a vote on the issue flat out.

MNA/Reuters

Ferguson not expecting Queiroz to move to Benfica

MANCHESTER (England), 29 March — Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson does not expect his assistant Carlos Queiroz to become coach of Benfica next season.

Portuguese media reports said Benfica wanted Queiroz to take over from Fernando Chalana, who has been in temporary charge since Spanish coach Jose Antonio Camacho left this month.

"I can't speak for Carlos but I'm quite certain he'll not be going to Benfica next year," Ferguson told reporters on Friday.

Ferguson said there had been no approach from Benfica for former Portugal national coach Queiroz who is in his second spell at the Premier League champions.

The 55-year-old had a stint as coach of Real Madrid in the 2003-04 season. — MNA/Reuters

Indonesian teenager dies of suspected bird flu

JAKARTA, 29 March — A 15-year-old boy from Indonesia's West Java Province died just after he was admitted to the Hasan Sadikin Hospital to receive intensive medical treatment for alleged bird flu symptoms, local Press said on Friday.

Hadi Jusuf, head of the hospital's bird flu mitigation team, said the condition of the patient was very poor upon arrival at the hospital on Wednesday evening. "He had breathing difficulties and was unconscious. Moreover he had acute lung wounds," Hadi was quoted by national newspaper *The Jakarta Post* as saying.

Bird flu has infected 129 Indonesians so far, killing 105 of them, which is the highest death toll in the world. — MNA/Xinhua

Pest found in mango at Philippines airport from Thailand

MANILA, 29 March — Officials of the Philippine Bureau of Plant Industry discovered on Wednesday that seized mangoes from Thailand were infested with pests that attack the fruit's seeds, media reports said.

The illegal cargo containing the fruit was seized last Saturday at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in the country's capital of Metro Manila, Philippine TV network GMA News reported.

Laboratory tests showed that the confiscated mangoes were attacked by mango seed or nut weevil, said Luben Marasigan, officer in charge of the Plant Quarantine Services Unit at the airport.

According to Marasigan, the pest which attacks mango seeds has not been discovered in any kind of native Philippine fruit. He added that the seed weevil usually thrives in

mangoes that were grown in Indonesia and Malaysia.

"The (mango) specimen we tested at the laboratory showed the presence of the insect, which has patches on some portions of its head and wings and has a snout used to pierce through seeds," Marasigan said.

The shipment arrived in the country from Bangkok, Thailand, on board a Kuwait Airlines flight KU-411 on March 22.

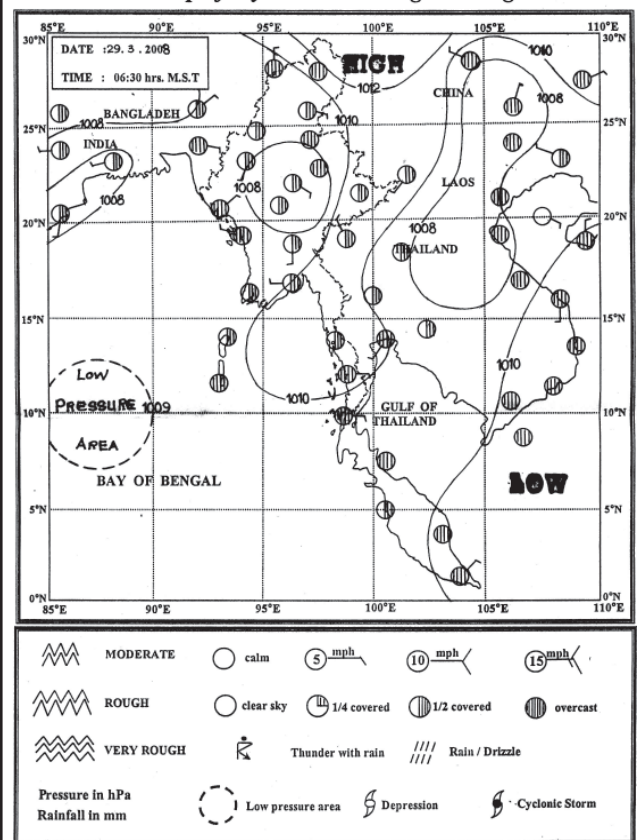
The Customs officials held the cargo because it did not have proper importation documents.

MNA/Xinhua

Lorena ochoa of Mexico watches her 28 foot putt for an eagle fall inches short of the hole on the 18th green during the second round of the KPGA Safeway International golf tournament in Superstition, Arizona, on 28 March, 2008. — INTERNET



Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Saturday, 29 March, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Shan State, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above March average temperatures in Kachin and Chin States Mandalay, Magway, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and about March average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures were Chauk (44°C), Minbu (42°C) and Magway (41°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Coco Island (0.47) inch, Thipaw and Phyarpon (0.16) inch.

Maximum temperature on 28-3-2008 was 100°F. Minimum temperature on 29-3-2008 was 74°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 29-3-2008 was 71%. Total sunshine hours on 28-3-2008 was (9.0) hours approx.

Rainfall on 29-3-2008 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 North at (08:30) hours MST on 29-3-2008.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (06:30) hrs MST today, yesterday's low pressure area over Southeast Bay and adjoining East Central Bay still persists. Weather is partly cloudy in the north Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy in Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 30-3-2008: Weather will be partly cloudy in Mon, Kayin, Kayah and Southern Shan States and isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in Coastal areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 30-3-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 30-3-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 30-3-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

"Untimely Rainfall Warning"

Issued at (12:00) hours MST on 29th March, 2008

According to the observations at (09:30) hours MST today, due to the influence of low pressure area over Southeast Bay and adjoining East Central Bay, rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Rakhine State, Ayeyawady, Yangon, Magway, Bago, Mandalay and Sagaing Divisions within next (48) hours commencing noon today.



Sunday, 30 March
View on today

7:00 am

1. တောင်တန်းသာသနာပြု
ဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏
ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

2. To be healthy
exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. 733 colourful system
of river (part-1)
734 colourful system
of river (part-2)

8:30 am

5. International news

8:45 am

6. မူဟန်သွယ်သွယ်ဆိုကြမယ်

11:00 am

1. Martial song

11:10 am

2. ရုပ်မြင်ရသတေးစုကဏ္ဍ

11:25 am

3. တစ်ပတ်အတွင်းနိုင်ငံတကာ
သတင်းစဉ်

11:35 am

4. ထက်မြက်ပျော်ရွှင်အိမ်ထောင်ရှင်

12:00 noon

5. မြန်မာ့ဒီယိုဇာတ်လမ်း
"ပျော်ပျော်ရွှင်ရွှင်"

(လွင်မိုး၊ အောင်လွင်၊ နန္ဒာလှိုင်)

145 pm

6. အတိုးမြှင့်ပွဲ

2:00 pm

7. Musical programme

2:15 pm

8. မြူးမြူးကြွကြွယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက

2:30 pm

9. ဒေသဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်စေမည့်ဒုဌာန

2:30 pm

10. International news

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:10 pm

2. "လှေကားသုံးထပ်
ဆင်းတဲ့အခါ"

(အရိုင်း၊ မင်းသူ၊ အေးသီတာ)

(ဒါရိုက်တာ-သိန်းဟန်-စီးနစ်)

4:30 pm

3. Say it in English

4:40 pm

4. Local Talent

4:45 pm

5. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်
ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား

သင်ခန်းစာ-တတိယနှစ်

(စီးပွားရေးပညာအထူးပြု)

(စီးပွားရေးပညာ)

5:00 pm

6. မျိုးချစ်စိတ်ဓာတ်ရှင်သန်
ထက်မြက်ရေးတေးများ

5:10 pm

7. ဆိုကြမယ်ပျော်ကြမယ်

6:00 pm

8. Evening news

6:30 pm

9. Weather report

6:35 pm

10. (ဖွဲ့)နှစ်မြှောက်တပ်မတော်

နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီစဉ်

6:55 pm

11. Musical programme

7:20 pm

12. "နတ်လူသာခုခေါ်စေသော်"

(ခေတ်သစ်၊ ဝင်းစု၊ ဝင်းသိန်း၊
သတိုးဇော်)

(ဒါရိုက်တာ-သော်ကိုကိုကျော်)

7:30 pm

13. Musical programme

7:45 pm

14. "ညောင်မယ်ဗျို"

(ခန့်စည်သူ၊ ငွေကုန်း၊ ငွေကုန်း၊
မိုးပြည့်ပြည့်မောင်၊ ဝင်းမိုး)

(ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဖုန်းမြင့်အောင်)

8:00 pm

15. News

16. International news

17. Weather report

18. Musical programme

19. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

"မာယာထောင်ချောက်"

(အပိုင်း-၁၂)

People's Desire

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

Entrepreneurs urged to join hands with government for achieving progress in industrial sector, development of national economy

YANGON, 29 March — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence attended the coordination meeting of the Industrial Zones Management Committee of

Yangon Division held at the hall of Yangon Command Headquarters this afternoon. In his address, Lt-Gen Myint Swe said
(See page 8)



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife to pay visit to India

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March — At the invitation of Mr Mohammad Hamid Ansari, Vice-President of the Republic of India, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, and wife Daw Mya Mya San will pay an official visit to the Republic of India in the near future. — MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe addresses coordination meeting of Industrial Zones Management Committee. —MNA



13th Anniversary of Myawady Television marked

YANGON, 29 March — The 13th Anniversary of Myawady Television was held at Myawady TV in Hmawby this evening, with an address by Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung.

Also present were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, officials of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, Myanmar Photographic Society, Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayone, Myanma Music Asiayone, personnel of Myawady TV, prize-winners and guests.

Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung said some nations are attempting to mislead international community about Myanmar, to break up national solidarity and to undermine peace and stability in the country applying the media improperly as a tool.

He said it is necessary for the media to cover prevalence of peace and tranquillity in the country, developments and the oneness of the Tatmadaw, the

people and the government.

He said Myawady TV has been broadcasting prevailing conditions in the country and various programmes for knowledge and recreation. That is why Myawady TV is popular among the people, he said.

He said such achievements were made due to the efforts of the officials, artistes and cooperation of the private media.

He said Myanmar National Digital Television and Broadcasting Committee was formed for changing analogue system to digital one.

He also said awards will also be presented to best contributors of Myawady and Ngwetayi Magazines and best Myawady photos.

Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung presented the third prize to Kyaw Win Hlaing (University of Culture) and the consolation prize to Kyaw Kyaw Win (MPS) in Myawady color photo contest, the best cartoon award of Myawady magazine to cartoonist Shwe Yoe, the best Myawady poem award

(See page 8)



Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung presents award to a winner. —MNA