

Kataññuta, gratitude towards the grateful; this is the way to auspiciousness

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Monday, 31 March, 2008

Taunggyi holds special market festival



Commander Maj-Gen Thaung Aye strolls along Swedaw tarred road in Taunggyi Township.— MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March — The Special market festival of the Ministry of Industry-1 was held at Shan State Sports Ground in Taunggyi on 19 March.

Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Thaung Aye unveiled the archway of the special market festival.

The commander and party visited the salesrooms.

As a gesture of honouring the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day, a ceremony to open Swedaw tarred road constructed by Taunggyi District Development Affairs Committee was held in Ward 3 of Ayethaya.

Executive Officer of District DAC U Aung Myint reported on the construction of the road. Chair-

man of Ward 3 PDC U Than Myint spoke words of thanks.

Director of Shan State DAC U Tin Cho and the Executive Officer of District DAC presented commemorative pennants to the commander and officials.

The Secretary of Shan State PDC and officials opened the repaved road, and the commander and officials inspected the road.

The repaved road measuring 960 feet by 12 feet was constructed spending K 6.76 million.

The commander also attended the opening of Hsele-Phetpon rural gravel road in Hsele Village in Taunggyi. Taunggyi Township DAC spent K 21.7 million on construction of the gravel road stretching one mile and four furlongs. —MNA

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

Earthquake report

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March — An earthquake of strong intensity of (6.3) on Richter Scale with its epicentre of the sea, 175 miles south of Banda Aceh, Sumatra, Indonesia about 1,300 miles south of Kaba Aye Seismological Observatory, was recorded at 10 hours 5 minutes 40 seconds Myanmar Standard Time on 30 March, 2008.—MNA

New Constitution and Union System (1)

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“As you know, the Revolutionary Council had to take up State duties in 1962 because at that time some were trying to form private armed forces to make a political demand for federal policy, and if their attempts were abortive, they would join SEATO military bloc after seceding from the Union under Chapter 10 of the constitution.

PAGES 8+9

SI THU AUNG

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 31 March, 2008

Build more roads and bridges to bring about better socio-economic life

Ensuring smooth and secure transportation contributes towards the swift flow of commodities and brings about better results of socio-economic life. That is why the government is building roads and bridges in various parts of the country including Rakhine State.

Transportation and flow of commodities have become smooth and easier from states to divisions as Yangon-Sittway Road, Yangon-Kyaukpyu Road and Ngathainggyaung-Gwa Road that contribute towards regional development were built.

Kyauktan Bridge on An-Sittway road section of Yangon-Sittway Road was inaugurated the other day. The old bridge was one-way Bailey facility and it was rebuilt for heavy trucks.

The 452 feet two-lane reinforced concrete bridge can withstand 60 tons of load. It is the 36th bridge in Rakhine State and also 212th one which is over 180 feet and above built by Public Works.

Now local people can transport regional products to Ayeyawady, Yangon, Bago, Magway and Mandalay Divisions through major and small bridges including Kyauktan Bridge in Rakhine State.

With the emergence of bridges and roads nationwide, transport and communication become easier and economic, social and educational progress of local people can also be made.

Managing Director U Aye Win speaks at prize presentation of Ba Gyan and Brothers Co Ltd.—MNA



People's Desire

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

Seinbudaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and Shwehtidaw hoisted in Hlinethaya Township

YANGON, 30 March — A ceremony to hoist Seinbudaw (diamond orb), Hngetmyatnadaw (pennant-shaped vane) and Shwehtidaw (Golden Umbrella) to the Ahlonechanthaya Sutaungpyae Pagoda was held at Padan Pariyatti Monastery in Padan village, Hlinethaya Township this morning.

First, Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, officials and congregations received the Five Precepts from Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of the monastery Gannavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Jotika. Members of the Sangha recited parittas.

Next, the commander and those present presented Seinbudaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and provisions to the Sayadaw and members of the Sangha and donated



Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win conveys Seinbudaw of Ahlonechanthaya Sutaungpyae Pagoda in Hlinethaya Township.—MNA

cash.

Afterwards, Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Insein Pariyatti Monastery Joint Secretary of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee

Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Tilokavibamsa delivered a sermon and the congregations shared the merits gained.

Next, the commander

and those present conveyed Seinbudaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and the tiers of umbrella and hoisted them atop the pagoda.

MNA

USDA members urged to actively take part in regional development tasks

YANGON, 30 March — CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association (Yangon Division In-charge) Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa met the members of Kyimyinedine Township USDA, social organizations and townsenders in Kyimyindine Township, Yangon West District yesterday morning. He urged them to participate in regional development tasks in accordance with the

five rural development tasks.

Afterwards, Executive U Min Thein of the Yangon Division USDA presented K 50,000 each to Township USDA and Township Auxiliary Fire Brigade.

Next, the CEC member inspected Aye Village street built under the arrangement of Kyimyindine Township USDA and he gave necessary instructions to them.—MNA

Annual get-together for GP Pistons, RBI rubber products organized

YANGON, 30 March — Ba Gyan & Brothers Co Ltd organized the 10th annual get-together to mark the import of GP Pistons and RBI brand rubber products

parts was held in conjunction with the 2nd prize presentation ceremony for distribution of UAE made Golden Power (GP brand) lubricants and engine oil at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road here yesterday evening.

First, U Aye Win (a) U Ba Gyan, managing director of Ba Gyan & Brothers Co Ltd, extended greetings.

Next, Mr Mohammed Hussein, managing director of German Mirror Lubricants and Greases Co Ltd and President Mr Wanla Pa Saelo of RBI Rubber Parts elaborated on production technology of automobile spare parts and GP brand lubricants, greases and engine oil.

RBI Rubber Parts and GP pistons are manufactured meeting international standard. GP brand lubricants and engine oil, produced through German technology, are suitable for durability of engines.

GP brand products are available at Salesroom No 1, Shed (A) 34, Bayintnaung market (Tel: 682872 and 681632) in Mayangon Township.—MNA

Syria opens Arab summit, promises to help on Lebanon

DAMASCUS, 30 March — Syrian President Bashar al-Assad on Saturday promised at an Arab summit in Damascus to help resolve a political crisis in Lebanon, which boycotted the meeting in protest at Syrian policy.

Eleven heads of state from the Arab League's 22 members were present at the opening, less than normal for the two-day annual event, reflecting suspicions that Syria has obstructed the election of

a new Lebanese President through its allies.

Along with Lebanon, three key US allies — King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and King Abdullah of Jordan — stayed away from the summit, reducing the chances it will break new ground on Lebanon or other conflicts.

The conflict over Lebanon reflects the wider struggle for regional influence between the

United States and Syria's ally Iran.

Assad dismissed the accusation that his country was behind the deadlock in Lebanon, which has not had a president since November because the government and the Syrian-backed opposition cannot agree on the composition of a new Cabinet. — *MNA/Reuters*

DPRK warns of “great lesson” if ROK continues to “provoke”

PYONG YANG, 30 March — The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) will not “remain an onlooker” following South Korea's provocative actions on its West Sea (Yellow Sea) border, a DPRK Navy Command spokesman said Friday.

South Korea has dramatically increased troop deployment and has been holding frequent

military rehearsals in the region, leading to a volatile situation, the spokesman was quoted as saying by the DPRK's official news agency KCNA.

If the South continued its provocative actions, it would receive a great lesson from the North, he added. Meanwhile, South Korea's *Yonhap* news agency reported that the DPRK launched three ship-to-ship missiles Thursday night.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

Thousands of Israelis attend a concert powered by electricity generated by people on pedal machines in Tel Aviv on 27 March. Tel Aviv was taking part in “Earth Hour”, a worldwide campaign to highlight global warming. — INTERNET

One inmate dead in Texas prison riot

SAN ANTONIO, 30 March — An inmate was killed and more than 20 injured on Friday in a riot at a federal prison in Three Rivers, Texas. No guards were hurt and the prison was back under control, the federal Bureau of Prisons said in a statement.

The cause of the fighting which broke out at two housing units in the

morning was unknown, the agency said.

“One inmate died as a result of his injuries,” the statement said.

“There were no staff injuries and 15 inmates were taken to area medical facilities for treatment of injuries, and seven inmates have been treated for minor injuries at the institution,” it said. — *MNA/Reuters*



Adaeze Igwe, from Anambra State, smiles while holding flowers on the stage after winning MBGN top title in Lagos, Nigeria, on 28 March, 2008. — INTERNET

US military deaths in Iraq at 4,007

WASHINGTON, 29 March — As of Saturday, 29 March, 2008, at least 4,007 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an *Associated Press* count. The figure includes eight military civilians. At least 3,261 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The *AP* count is seven more than the Defense Department's tally, last updated Friday at 10 am EDT.

The British military has reported 176 deaths; Italy, 33; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 21; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Denmark, seven; El Salvador, five; Slovakia, four; Latvia, three; Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand, Romania, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, South Korea, one death each. — *Internet*

Egypt to put cameras on Suez Canal after shooting

ISMAILIA (Egypt), 30 March — Egypt has started to install security cameras along the Suez Canal after a warning shot fired from a cargo ship chartered by the US Navy killed an Egyptian trader on a motorboat, officials said on Friday.

US President George W Bush expressed his regret to Egyptian leader Hosni Mubarak over the shooting on Monday.

Two other traders were

wounded in the shooting, according to Egyptian security officials and witnesses. The United States initially denied reports of fatalities.

A Suez Canal Authority official told *Reuters* monitors will watch the traffic in the waterway through large screens at the headquarters of the authority in the coastal city of Ismailia.

“Installing these

cameras will help achieve a better vision of all the movements of ships, vessels and small boats in the waterway,” the official, who asked not to be named, said.

The cargo ship *Global Patriot*, on a short-term charter to the military, fired warning shots near the Egyptian motorboat after it ignored verbal orders and a signal flare telling it to stay away, the US Navy said. — *MNA/Reuters*

Troops shell Somali market, killing 11

MOGADISHU, 30 March — At least 11 people were killed in Mogadishu on Saturday when troops at the Villa Somalia presidential palace returned fire against Islamist insurgents who attacked it with mortar bombs, witnesses said.

President Abdullahi Yusuf was meeting Ethiopian Foreign Mi-

nister Seyoum Mesfin there at the time, an aide told *Reuters*, but no one in the hilltop compound was hurt.

Residents said Ethiopian soldiers guarding Yusuf then launched shells at Bakara Market in the city below, killing a number of people and wounding dozens more.

“Seven people in-

cluding a woman died in the money changers' area when more than eight mortar bombs struck several parts of Bakara,” shopkeeper Muse Ahmed told *Reuters*.

“Four people were killed inside the market's food section,” said another local trader, Yonis Abshir.

The sprawling market is notorious for its open-air arms bazaar, and has been the site of frequent skirmishes between guerillas and government troops backed by Ethiopian forces.

Somalia's interim government has struggled to impose its authority on the Horn of Africa nation, and in the capital it has been rocked by an Iraq-style insurgency of artillery strikes, assassinations and roadside bombings.

— *MNA/Reuters*



A mother use a fan to keep flies of her son in the Medina hospital, Mogadishu on 30 March, 2008, after he was injured in an attack on Saturday in the Bakara market in Mogadishu, Somali. — INTERNET





Residents stand near a damaged Iraqi army armoured vehicle after clashes in Basra, 340 miles south of Baghdad, on 28 March, 2008.—INTERNET

India culls poultry to contain bird flu

KOLKATA (India), 30 March — Thousands of chickens have been culled in a bid to contain an outbreak of bird flu in India’s eastern state of West Bengal which has struggled to control the virus since January.

West Bengal briefly contained the outbreak by culling nearly four million birds in 13 of its 19 districts, but the virus has

intermittently resurfaced. On Friday, officials said the virus had spread to Jalpiguri, the 14th district to be hit by bird flu this year.

The communist-ruled state government said villagers were resisting culling operations.

“We are trying our best to convince villagers to hand over chickens and ducks for culling, but

they are hiding the birds inside their homes,” Anisur Rahaman, West Bengal’s Animal Resources Minister said by telephone.

Health workers said they were also looking for people with flu-like symptoms in Jalpaiguri after hundreds of backyard poultry died in the last few days.

MNA/Reuters

Eleven dead in crash after wedding shopping in Egypt

CAIRO, 30 March — Eleven members of an extended family were killed in Egypt on Saturday in a traffic accident while returning home from shopping for furniture for a couple about to be married, a security source said.

He said that 16 other people travelling in two minibuses were injured when a truck travelling at high speed in the opposite direction strayed into their lane and crashed head-on with the first vehicle, causing the second to plough into it.

MNA/Reuters

Virginia State Police investigators search for evidence inside a house in Crozet, Virginia, where I-64 shooting suspect Slade Allen Woodson, 19, was arrested by police during an early morning raid, on 28 March, 2008.

INTERNET

Displaced Somalis loot food aid in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU, 30 March — Somalis uprooted by fighting in Mogadishu looted trucks carrying UN food aid on Friday, peacekeepers said, highlighting what relief agencies warn is a fast deteriorating humanitarian catastrophe. Somalia now has one million internal refugees, aid workers say, and their numbers are swelled by an exodus of some 20,000 civilians each month from the capital, where Islamist insurgents are battling the Ethiopian-backed government. Captain Clement

Cimana, spokesman for a small African Union peacekeeping force in the coastal city, said the displaced residents targeted trucks carrying supplies for the UN World Food Programme (WFP) before local police restored order.

“They also blocked the main road, showing their anger,” he told Reuters. “They said they always see WFP-chartered trucks full of food passing in front of them while they are hungry.”

MNA/Reuters

Flights cancelled on Day two at new Heathrow T5

LONDON, 29 March — British Airways cancelled a fifth of its flights from Heathrow Airport’s cavernous new 4.3 billion pound (8.63 billion US dollars) Terminal 5 on Friday as the chaos of its shambolic opening spilled into a second day.

The open-plan terminal is Britain’s largest

enclosed space, equivalent to the size of about 50 football pitches, and was touted as the answer to the delays passengers can face at the world’s busiest international airport.

British Airways said 80 per cent of flights from Terminal 5, including all long-haul flights, would operate on Friday and that

customers could check in both hand and hold luggage.

Some stranded passengers spent the night in the gleaming terminal, reluctant to pay for nearby hotels even though the authorities had promised to reimburse them.

MNA/Reuters



A Tanzanian tanzanite miner. At least six people died and dozens have gone missing when a mine was flooded in northern Tanzania.—INTERNET

Death toll rises to 25 at China fireworks blast

TURPAN (Xinjiang), 29 March — The death toll from a fireworks blast in Turpan City, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region late on Wednesday has risen to 25, with the deaths of three people injured by the explosion.

Five others are missing, according to Zheng Qiang, deputy secretary of the Turpan Prefectural Committee of the Communist Party of China.

MNA/Xinhua

Iran denies Bush’s charge of meddling in Iraq

TEHERAN, 30 March — Iran has said the United States is trying to shirk its own responsibility by blaming Teheran for problems in Iraq, where US forces are supporting an Iraqi Government crackdown on Shi’ite militants. Washington accuses Teheran of stoking violence in Iraq by funding, training and equipping militants. Iran denies this.

US President George W. Bush sought to bolster Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki on Friday in his battle against militants and said he wanted to send a “clear message” to Iran that it could not have its way in the Middle East states.—MNA/Reuters

British Teenage boy guilty of “Goth” killing

LONDON, 29 March — A 15-year-old boy was found guilty of murder on Thursday after he kicked a woman to death because she was a “Goth”.

Brendan Harris was found guilty at Preston Crown Court of killing Sophie Lancaster after she was attacked in a park in Burnley, Lancashire, last August.

The 20-year-old gap year student had been with her boyfriend Robert Maltby when a group of youngsters set upon him in an unprovoked attack.

She begged them to stop, but was kicked and punched too. The pair were left unconscious. Lancaster’s injuries were described as so bad that it was difficult at first to tell what sex she was. The jury heard the couple were attacked because they were wearing “Goth” clothing. Followers of the “Goth” subculture, which began in Britain during the early 1980s in the gothic rock scene, stand out because of their black clothes and make-up.—MNA/Reuters



Laos sees comprehensive achievements with help of GMS

VIENTIANE, 29 March — Laos has made comprehensive achievements in various fields in recent years with the help of friendly neighbouring countries, especially that of China, Laotian Prime Minister Bouasone Bouphavanh told *Xinhua* here.

“Laos has achieved fruitful results through reforms and its economy posted an growth of 8 per cent in 2007,” he said in an exclusive interview with *Xinhua* prior to the upcoming Third GMS Summit, where leaders of the six Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) countries — Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam — will be

meeting in Vientiane, Laos on 30-31 March to discuss the progress and chart future directions in GMS cooperation.

The Sixth five-year Socio-Economic Development Plan (2006-2010) of Laos was issued on the

Eighth Congress of Lao People’s Revolutionary Party held in 2006, which set up the goals of relieving Laos people from poverty by 2010, Bouasone said.

MNA/Xinhua



Mattel Inc provided this photo of the Chevroletor, a Hot Wheels miniature car designed by General Motors Corp designer Amaury Diaz Serrano. Diaz Serrano’s design was the winner of a competition for auto company designers to come up with a new series of the miniature cars.—INTERNET



A man buys a card for his mobile phone inside the Cubacel mobil telephone store in Havana on 28 March, 2008.

INTERNET

US fruit company recalls cantaloupes

LOS ANGELES, 29 March — The US fruit company of Dole has ordered an urgent recall of Honduran cantaloupes because of a salmonella outbreak in the United States and Canada, health officials confirmed on Saturday.

The cantaloupes were distributed for sale throughout the United States and parts of Canada in cardboard cartons with the brand “Dole” and “PRODUCT OF HONDURAS” printed on each of the side panels of the carton, according to William Goldfield, Dole’s communications manager.

They were packed and shipped by the third-

party grower of Agropecuaria Montelibano of San Lorenzo Valle from Honduras, Goldfield said.

The Food and Drug Administration advises consumers who have recently bought cantaloupes to check with the place of purchase to determine if the fruit came from this specific grower and packer. If so, consumers should throw away the cantaloupes.

Symptoms of salmonella include diarrhea, fever and stomach cramps that usually go away within a week, although some cases may require hospitalization.

Internet

China says global economy may cause policy shifts

SHANGHAI, 30 March — China will keep monetary policy tight for now but recognizes it might need to adjust the strength and timing of policy in response

to changes in the global economy, a vice governor of the central bank said.

The potential threat to Chinese economic growth from the US credit crisis

has not prompted China to abandon its tight monetary policy, because fighting inflation remains its priority, Yi Gang was quoted as saying by Saturday’s official Beijing News. “But we will pay attention to adjusting the strength and timing of policy according to the domestic and international situation,” he told an academic forum on Friday.

Yi also said the central bank understood that its monetary policy might not be able to control inflationary pressure from external factors, such as rising global prices of oil, grain and other commodities.—MNA/Reuters



A South Korean promoter displays US beef during the Korea International Retailing Industry Fair in Seoul, in 2007. The World Trade Organisation has ruled against the United States and Canada in a row with the European Union over an EU ban on beef treated with growth hormones, a European official told on Friday.—INTERNET

Fertilizer prices in Vietnam hit highest level in 35 years

HANOI, 29 March — Fertilizer prices in Vietnam have increased by 59-300 per cent, the highest level over the past 35 years, due to rising material costs and world prices, according to local media on Friday.

In February, prices of super phosphate and

nitrogen-phosphate-kalium (NPK) fertilizers increased respectively by 126 per cent to 2.5 million Vietnamese dong (VND) (nearly 156.3 US dollars) per ton, and 80 per cent to nearly three million VND (187.5 dollars) over the same period last year, newspaper *Vietnam News*

reported.

Meanwhile, costs of diammonium phosphate (DAP) and kalium fertilizers even tripled to 18 million VND (1,125 dollars) per ton and doubled to nine million (562.5 dollars), respectively.

MNA/Xinhua

Turkey, Netherlands to cooperate in power generation

ANKARA, 29 March — Turkish Energy and Natural Resources Minister Hilmi Guler said Thursday Turkey and the Netherlands can develop joint projects regarding renewable energy resources and energy

efficiency.

Following his talks with visiting Dutch Minister of Economic Affairs Maria Van Der Hoeven in the Turkish capital of Ankara, Guler said, “we will set up a working group to this end”.

Guler also said he had discussed with Hoeven Turkey’s position on Nabucco project, adding that “Mrs. Minister has understood our position, and we think she will make significant contributions to speed up the project”.

The Nabucco pipeline is a planned natural gas pipeline that will carry natural gas from Turkey to Austria, via Bulgaria, Romania, and Hungary. It will run from Erzurum in Turkey to Baumgarten, a major natural gas hub in Austria. The project is backed by the European Union and the United States.

MNA/Xinhua



Fireworks explode near the Sydney Opera House at the conclusion of Earth Hour. Sydney kicked off a global dimming when it turns off its lights on Saturday night for one hour in an effort to combat climate change. More than 35 countries, including Singapore, took part in the event. —XINHUA

Sri Lanka worries about losing EU markets

COLOMBO, 30 March — The Sri Lankan Government said Friday that a sinister campaign has been launched by interested groups to tarnish Sri Lanka's image abroad and thereby to deprive Sri Lankan exports from reaching EU markets. GL Peiris, the minister of Export Development and International Trade, told reporters that the

campaign was aimed at depriving many young Sri Lankan women of their jobs. Peiris said some 7,200 items of Sri Lankan exports to the European Union currently enjoy tariff and duty concessions under the GSP+ (Generalized System of Preferences Plus) scheme. The campaign against Sri Lanka has been launched when the GSP+

stands for renewal for a further period of three years. "Three million of our total population of 19.5 million are dependents of these concessions," Peiris said. With the help of the so-called GSP+ scheme, Sri Lanka netted 3.2 billion US dollars from apparel exports to the EU in 2007, he said. *Xinhua*

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Syrian president says ready to help end Lebanon crisis

DAMASCUS, 30 March — Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said on Saturday that his country was ready to cooperate to help end the political crisis in Lebanon. Speaking on the opening session of the 20th Arab Summit, Assad said Syria is "full prepared" to cooperate with Arab or non-Arab

efforts to resolve the Lebanese political crisis on condition that "they are based on the Lebanese national consensus, the basis for stability in Lebanon". Only 11 heads of state of the 22-member Arab League (AL) attended the gathering, rendering a low turnout. Saudi King Abdullah, Egyptian President Hosni

Mubarak and Jordanian King Abdullah II shunned the meeting amid a rift with Damascus over the Lebanese crisis. Lebanon boycotted the summit as the country's presidential seat has been vacant since 24 November of 2007 when former President Emile Lahoud stepped down. *Xinhua*



Mehdi army fighters take their position in Baghdad's Sadr City on 29 March, 2008. Iraqi authorities on Saturday extended a curfew in Baghdad indefinitely in an attempt to contain clashes between Shi'ite militants and Iraqi security forces that have threatened to spiral out of control. —XINHUA

Two earthquakes jolt northern, central Philippines

MANILA, 30 March — Two earthquakes measuring 5.7 and 5.8 degrees of Richter Scale were reported in northern and central Philippines separately on Saturday, according to local television network GMA News. The quakes took place in Batanes in extreme Northern Luzon and Eastern Visayas Saturday morning, without causing damage or casualty, said the report quoting the United States Geological Service (USGS). The Batanes quake was recorded at 06:41 am (2241 GMT Friday) and traced the

epicentre 30 kilometres south-southwest of Basco in Batanes, while that in Eastern Visayas took place at 11:01 am (0301 GMT) and traced the epicentre to 180 kilometres northeast of Calbayog in Samar Province, according to the TV report. —Xinhua

HFMD cases increase in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 30 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 on 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. —Xinhua

Explosion in power plant kills two in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 30 March — A huge explosion Saturday morning hit a power plant in southern Afghan province of Helmand, killing two and injuring eight others, provincial police chief Mohammad Hussian Andiwal said. "It happened around 9 am (GMT0430) as explosion ripped through the administrative department of power plant in Gereshk district leaving two staffs dead and wounding eight others including six employees," Andiwal told Xinhua. He blamed the enemies of peace a term used against Taliban insurgents for the incident. However, Taliban militants fighting government have yet to make any comment. —Xinhua

Small plane crashes in western Canada

OTTAWA, 30 March — A small single-engine plane with five people aboard crashed on Friday in Canada's western Alberta Province, reports reaching here said. The fate of the people onboard remains unclear as military personnel and police examined the site. The Piper PA-46 aircraft went down northeast of Wainwright, a small community about a two-and-a-half-hour drive southeast of provincial capital Edmonton. Rescue crews have reached the crash location, and are searching for the passengers and pilot, Canadian Television reported. —Xinhua



Five people died in the crash of a single-engine plane en route from Edmonton to Winnipeg in western Canada. —XINHUA

A&I Ministry holds ordination, novitiation ceremony

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March—Under the aegis of Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo and wife Daw Ni Ni Win, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation held the 16th ceremony to ordain 60 men and novitiate seven boys at the ministry, here, this morning.

First, Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo and

wife, departmental heads, personnel and their families received the Five Precepts from Nay Pyi Taw Pinyinmana Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Chairman Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Maha Letisankyaung Monastery Bhaddanta Indavudha.

Next, the minister and wife and officials donated provisions to the

members of the Sangha.

Afterwards, member of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Nay Pyi Taw Pinyinmana Pali Tekkatho Monastery Bhaddanta Vimalabuddhi delivered a sermon. The congregation shared the merits gained and offered day meal to the members of the Sangha. — MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo and wife Daw Ni Ni Win donate provisions to a Sayadaw.— MNA

Inter-Ministry Basketball continues

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March—The group round matches of the First Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Men's Basketball Tournament continued at Nay Pyi Taw Basketball Grounds, here yesterday.

Ministry of

Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs won over Ministry of Education in the group-B and Nay Pyi Taw City Development Council beat Ministry of A&I. Ministry of Industry-1 defeated Ministry of Health.

Ministry of Sports of the group-C won over Ministry of Defence while Ministry of Commerce beat Ministry of Information.

The tournament continues on 31 March.

MNA

Taungtha Township Association (Yangon), Myothit Township Association (Yangon) hold meetings

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March—The 24th annual meeting of Taungtha Township (Yangon) was held at Sethmu Dhammayon on Shwedagon Pagoda Road, here, this morning.

Chairman of the association Dr Khin Maung Swe and Patron Secretariat Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung gave speeches.

Patron Minister U Aung Thaung, wife Daw Khin Khin Yi and officials presented prizes to outstanding students who passed the matriculation examination for 2007 with flying colours.

A total of 37 wellwishers donated K 1,856,000 to the funds of the association.

Secretary of the association U Than Aung submitted the executive committee report and the financial statement and sought the approval for the reports.

The meeting

ended with the concluding remarks by the chairman.

A similar meeting of Myothit Township Association (Yangon) was held at the same venue. Chairman of the association Lt-Col Kyi Win (Retd) and Patron Minister U Aung Thaung gave speeches.

Patron Minister U Aung Thaung and wellwishers presented prizes to the outstanding students who passed the matriculation examination for 2007 with distinctions.

Secretary of the association U Khin Maung Myint read the EC report and the financial report.

The meeting came to a close with the concluding remarks by the chairman.

MNA



Minister U Aung Thaung speaking at the annual meeting of Taungtha Township Association (Yangon).— INDUSTRY-1

Director-General of Religious Affairs Department visits Pathamabyan examination centres

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March—Director-General of Religious Affairs Department U Myo Kyaw yesterday afternoon paid homage to supervisor Sayadaws of Pathamabyan examination held at Patheingyi Township Basic Education High School in Mandalay Division and paid respects to members of the Sangha who are sitting for the examination.

Next, the director-general proceeded to No 4 BEHS of Aungmyay Thazan Township, Mandalay Division where he paid homage to supervisor Sayadaws of Pathamabyan examination and paid respects to members of the Sangha who are sitting for the examination.

After that, he arrived at No 9 BEHS of Aungmyay Thazan Township, Mandalay Division and paid homage to supervisor Sayadaws of Pathamabyan examination and paid respects to members of the Sangha who are sitting for the examination.

MNA

Outstanding Hindu students honoured

YANGON, 30 March—All Myanmar Hindu Organization (Temporary) and Hindu Entrepreneurs organized a ceremony to honour the outstanding Hindu students who passed the matriculation examination 2007 with three distinctions and above at U Ba Lwin hall of No 2 Basic Education High School (Myoma), here, this afternoon.

First, Secretary U Kyaw Thu of the organization explained the purpose of holding the ceremony.

Next, Patron of Board of Trustees of the

school Maj-Gen Sein Htwa (Retd) and President of the organization U Maung Shwe and responsible persons presented awards to outstanding students.

Afterwards, Director-General Dr Myo Myint of Department for Promotion and Propagation of Sasana spoke on the occasion. —MNA

A Hindu student is honoured by All Myanmar Hindu Organization and entrepreneurs.

MNA



New Constitution and Union System (1)

Si Thu Aung

“These days, some people are criticizing the draft constitution without studying it thoroughly. In this regard, I want to talk about the draft constitution, especially about the chapter “The State Structure” so that those who have heard the unreasonable comments will not be confused about it. They say that the system of seven regions and seven states that is prescribed in the constitution is not a real Union system.”

“They are just outdated ideas. As a matter of fact, they are trying to revive the wishes of the federalists who demanded secession of Shan State in 1950s and 1960s. Anyhow, let’s make a comparative study of State structure and formation of states and divisions that were manifested in the three constitutions for the public knowledge.

“The first one is the 1947 constitution. According to the constitution, Shan State, Kayinni (Kayah) State, Kachin State, Chin Special Division, and Kawthulay Special Region were formed. In 1951, Kawthulay Special Region was reconstituted as Kayin State. In that constitution, Bhamo and Myitkyina districts that were stated in table (2) and where the majority of local people were Shan and Bamar nationals were merged with Kachin hilly regions into Kachin State.

“There were some problems to form Kayin State because at that time Kayin nationals made up one-tenth of the nation’s population, but they were scattering around the country, especially in Thanlwin District, Toungoo District and delta region. So, Section 180 designated Thanlwin District as Kawthulay Special Region, and Kayin Affairs Council was formed for Kayin nationals. At that time, Chin nationals did not demand a state, and said that they wanted to

“At that time, a State constitution was being drawn in haste to be able to regain independence in a year. It took only 108 days to complete the process for emergence of the constitution. In the meantime, the colonialists provoked national races to secede from the Union. Furthermore, at that time, there was only a small number of Myanmar experts who were well-versed in drawing a constitution.

remain as a part of Myanmar as a special division. So, Chin Special Division was formed.”

“Then, the 1947 constitution stated several states and a special division for national races, didn’t it?”

“Yes, it did. At that time, a State constitution was being drawn in haste to be able to regain independence in a year. It took only 108 days to complete the process for emergence of the constitution. In the meantime, the colonialists provoked national races to secede from the Union. Furthermore, at that time, there was only a small number of Myanmar experts who were well-versed in drawing a constitution.

“So, Adviser for the State Constitution U Chan Tun visited India and met with Indian constitutional adviser Sir Benegal Narsinga Rao many times for his advice. U Chan Tun wrote the first draft of the constitution there. At the same time, at the plenary meeting, the AFPFL headquarters assigned duties to the 111-member committee to draw a constitution.

The two drafts were combined into the 1947 constitution.

“I would say while compiling the constitution, the legal experts were under various forms of pressure. Maybe, the constitution included some unnecessary points under the conditions and some defects.

“Despite many difficulties, the committee was formed systematically with as many national races as it could, and the members compiled the constitution, holding discussions thoroughly. In such a short time, they tried to the best of their ability to make the constitution complete with as many suitable points as it should be.

“British Prime Minister Attlee at the meeting of the House of Commons on 5 November 1947 praised the Myanmar constitution, and said that even when Myanmar submitted its Independence Bill, the State constitution was complete with the characters of a constitution; that the constitution had characters of democracy; that in the Chamber of Nationalities, ethnic groups had power to an extent; that states had self-administration and legislative powers along with revenue sources; and that special regions were somewhat vested with self-administration.”

“Yes, but some people are still commenting that the constitution does not reflect the Union system and it is not a real Union system.”

“Those who are not happy with the constitution and who want to incite riots said that it was designed to practise Bamar domination policy; and that Myanmar mainland was not formed Bamar state and was under the directive administration of the central government and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, and apparently Bamars wanted to monopolize the power.

“In fact, Bamars were not only ones who wrote the constitution of the Union. General Aung San took a leading role and Union and states subcommittee consisting of national race leaders such as Wuntho

(See page 9)

“There were some problems to form Kayin State because at that time Kayin nationals made up one-tenth of the nation’s population, but they were scattering around the country, especially in Thanlwin District, Toungoo District and delta region. So, Section 180 designated Thanlwin District as Kawthulay Special Region, and Kayin Affairs Council was formed for Kayin nationals. At that time, Chin nationals did not demand a state, and said that they wanted to remain as a part of Myanmar as a special division. So, Chin Special Division was formed.”

New Constitution and Union System (1)

Si Thu Aung

“At that time, Myanmar government was in a tight budget. Our country faced evil consequences of war twice and was struggling to rise from ash. But, the nation owed one billion kyats to the British and the British-India. So, our country had to try to regain independence, shouldering the load of huge debts. At such a situation, if the mainland was placed under direct administration of the Pyidaungsu government and there would not need to form Bamar state hluttaw, the expense would be reduced by half. So, the subcommittee of national race leaders made a decision not to form a separate Bamar state.”

(from page 8)

chieftain Sao San Tun, Kayin national race leader Mann Ba Khine, Kachin national race leader Samar Duwa Sinwanaung held discussions many times and signed the agreement.

“At the first meeting of the Union and states subcommittee held on 23 June 1947, legal adviser U Chan Tun thoroughly explained historical background and characters of three forms of Union formation. The committee members expressed their wishes to draw a constitution based on the appropriate points of Union countries for Myanmar because according to the situations, that could not be similar at all to the system of any Union country.

“At the meeting, General Aung San said that he did not think it was wise to directly copy the constitutions of other countries; that it was required to take all possible points into consideration to draw a constitution that was in conformity with the situation of the nation; and that in Myanmar, there was a development gap between one region and another, so, that point deserved a serious consideration in drawing a constitution.

“Regarding the sharing of legislative power between the Union and states, the states had separate legislative bodies and governments. The subcommittee decided not to form separate hluttaw and government for Myanmar mainland, and the Pyidaungsu hluttaw and the government had to take responsibilities for the mainland.

“In that regard, there was a reason. It needed a large number of administrative experts to form each state hluttaw, the Pyidaungsu hluttaw, each state government, and the Union government.

“Another reason was that supposing the mainland was designated as Bamar state, there would be many

Bamar members of parliament in the Pyidaungsu hluttaw because representatives would be elected in proportion to population, and many Bamar members of parliament in Bamar state hluttaw. Then, there would need a huge sum of expenses.

“At that time, Myanmar government was in a tight budget. Our country faced evil consequences of war twice and was struggling to rise from ash. But, the nation owed one billion kyats to the British and the British-India. So, our country had to try to regain independence, shouldering the load of huge debts. At such a situation, if the mainland was placed under direct administration of the Pyidaungsu government and there would not need to form Bamar state hluttaw, the expense would be reduced by half. So, the subcommittee of national race leaders made a decision not to form a separate Bamar state.”

“Then, Bamars lost some opportunities because Bamar state was not formed, and Bamars could not

stand for election to Bamar state hluttaw. At that time, each MP was provided with a Land Rover. Then, I wonder why some are demanding the eight-state policy and truly federal policy.”

“It is because they are power-craving. If the country practises a system similar to the US system in which eight states will have equal number of representatives, the ratio of Bamar representatives and that of other national races will be 1:7. They consider if so, the ethnic minorities will influence Bamars or the majority of the people through the voting system. In the 1947 constitution, of the 125 MPs of the Chamber of Nationalities, the number of national race MPs was 72 and that of the mainland was 53. So, it was impossible to practise Bamar domination policy.

“However, in the 1960s, some took advantage of the right of secession stated in the constitution, Shan chieftains who had relinquished power and some with racism came to demand federal policy.

“Actually, the federal policy was based on the four points — to form Bamar state, to vest equal power on the two hluttaws, to designate equal number of representatives to the upper house, and to entrust limited power to the central government and the remaining power to the states. And they tried to ensure that the minority would gain influence over the majority. In other words, they were trying to sow the seeds of breaking up the Union at any time.

“As you know, the Revolutionary Council had to take up State duties in 1962 because at that time some were trying to form private armed forces to make a political demand for federal policy, and if their attempts were abortive, they would join SEATO military bloc after seceding from the Union under Chapter 10 of the constitution.

Translation: MS

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Organizing Tipitakadhara Selection Examination, Pariyatti Pahtamabyan Examinations for promotion and propagation of Theravada Buddhism

Article: Maung Maung Htwe (Myanmar News Agency)
Photos: Myanmar News Agency

In the Union of Myanmar, the Pariyatti Sasana plays a significant role for ensuring the promotion and propagation of Theravada Buddhism.

The wise said that the Pariyatti is like the embankment of the lake and the Paripatti, like the water, and the Parivedha is similar to lotus, meaning the embankment of the lake, the water and the lotus are interrelated for their existence.

As a result, from the times of the monarchs to the State Peace and Development Council efforts have been made for development of the race and the religion for ensuring the promotion and propagation of the Pariyatti Sasana, the main source of the Theravada Buddha Sasana.

Since Bagan era, members of the Sangha have been making efforts in learning and teaching

Theravada Pitakat treatises. Later periods, oral and written Tipitaka examinations were held. From the time of King Thibaw to date, the oral and written Tipitaka examinations have been organized yearly.

Myanmar fell under colonialist subjugation in 1247 and from that time onwards, Myanmar people set up the associations that contributed to the Pariyatti associations such as Çakkasiha (Mandalay), the Çetiyangana (Yangon), the Suwunnabhumi (Thaton), the Susamaçara (Mawlamyine), the Vinayadhika (Bago) and the Sudhamma (Nyaungdon) and the Piççayanuggha groups like Malun Rice Offering Association and strived for promoting the race and the Sasana.

The academic system that gave too much priority to the grammar came to an end in the post-Independence period. At that time,

religious examinations such as the Abhidhamma and Visuddhimagga examinations were annually organized by the government. Besides, the Nikaya examinations, the Tipitakadhara selection examination, the Samyutta Nikaya (Myanmar language) examination (Yangon), the Majjhima Nikaya (Myanmar language) examination (Bago) and the Thamanegyaw examination have paved the way for Pariyatti Sasana of the Union of Myanmar to enter a new era.

Likewise, the All Ganas Sangha Meeting was successfully held in Myanmar in Nayon of 1324 Myanmar Era. It can be said that the Sangha meeting achieved remarkable success in forging unity among members of the Sangha of all Ganas.

The All Ganas Sangha Meeting laid down the basic rules and regulations of the Sangha organization as the basic



Members of the Sangha sitting for Pahtamabyan examinations at No 1 Basic Education High School in Yankin Township on 29 March.

foundations for promotion and propagation of the Theravada Buddhism. In this regard, the meeting unanimously adopted four principles for the Pariyatti academic matters. These principles were to uplift the morales of monks, and to enable them to be well-versed in Pitakat treatises and to pursue the Pali literature and Myanmar language well.

In accord with the Pariyatti Education Project, the new rules and regulations for the Tipitakadhara Selection Examination were drafted

and adopted. A total of nine members of the Sangha were selected from the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha and other Sayadaws to set up the Tipitaka Ovadaçariya Committee.

The Committee supervised the 59th Tipitakadhara Selection Examination in 2007 in accord with new rules and regulations.

The State Peace and Development Council offered religious titles to the monks who passed the Tipitakadhara Selection

Examinations.

The first stage of Pahtamabyan examinations for 2008 were held at 172 examination centres in Sagaing, Bago (West), Bago (East), Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions from 24 to 31 March, and a total of 38,370 monks — 15,028 monks sat for the Pahtamange examination, 12,095 monks for the Pahtamalat examination and 11,247 monks for the Pahtamagyi examination.

Translation: TTA



Staff families of News and Periodicals Enterprise offer meals to monks from monasteries in Dagon Township who sat for Pahtamabyan examinations.

Images of the Day

Visitors take photos under peach blossom trees at the opening of the first peach blossom festival in Xuchang in central China's Henan Province on 29 March, 2008. The peach trees cover more than 200 hectares.
XINHUA



Milan Roskopf from Slovakia juggles with two motor saws and one kilogram ball for photographers during the Impossibility Challenge 2008 in Dachau, southern Germany, on 30 March, 2008. Roskopf set the World record with 35 times juggling in this exceptionally discipline.—INTERNET



Competitors run on the dunes during the Les Sables Marathon, or the Marathon of Sands, in Merzouga in the southern Moroccan Sahara, near Er-Rachidia, on 30 March, 2008. The Marathon of Sands is a race with the reputation of being the most difficult in the world.

INTERNET



A Standard Poodle (L) and Miniature Poodle wait in the benching area at the Asian International Dog Show in Tokyo on 30 March, 2008.

INTERNET



People walk by the sculptures of capsicum in the street of Mexico City, capital of Mexico on 29 March, 2008. Capsicum is indispensable in Mexican's daily diet.—XINHUA



A skier stands above large insulation sheets covering parts of Rettenbach glacier in the ski resort of Soelden in 2007. Austria's glaciers retreated more than 22 metres (24 yards) on average last year, in the biggest shrinking for five years, the country's Alpine Club said on Saturday.—INTERNET

Four missing after cargo vessel hits bridge in China

HANGZHOU, 29 March — China's maritime search and rescue authority said on Thursday that an empty cargo vessel hit a bridge under construction near the eastern seaport of Ningbo, Zhejiang Province, leaving four crew members missing.

The vessel collided with part of the lower span of the Jintang Bridge in Ningbo at 1:15 am, causing the collapse of a 60-metre-long section that fell onto the ship, said Chi Fangqing, an official with the Zhejiang Maritime Bureau. Sixteen of the 20 crew on board had been rescued by 7 am but rescuers were still searching for the four

missing.

Officials speculated that the missing crew members might have been trapped in the cabin by the collapsed section weighing about 3,000 tons.

The ship, known by the code Qinfeng 128, has a designed capacity of 7,000 tons. More than 10 salvage ships were trying to lift the collapsed part of the bridge and pull the damaged cargo ship out.

Nobody was working on the bridge at the time, and there were no passerbys at the site since the bridge had not opened to traffic, according to the construction headquarters.

MNA/Xinhua

Scores injured as Angola police building collapses

LUANDA, 30 March — Scores of detainees were injured on Saturday when a six-storey police building collapsed in the Angolan capital Luanda, state news agency *Angop* reported. Angolan police chief Ambrosio de Lemos said the cause of the collapse of the National Criminal Investigation Department (DNIC) building was so far unknown but no "external factor" was involved.

The building in Luanda's Rangel District collapsed shortly before dawn.

De Lemos said emergency workers were rescuing those trapped in the rubble and that they were being taken to nearby hospitals for treatment.

The BBC reported on its Web site that more than 80 people were injured.

MNA/Reuters

Iran urges end to Iraq fighting, says helps US

TEHERAN, 30 March — Iran called on Friday for an end to fighting between Iraqi Government forces and Shiite Muslim militants to remove any "pretext" for US troops to stay in Iraq. Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, himself a Shiite, launched a crackdown against the Mehdi Army militia in the southern Iraqi city of Basra this week. Fighting has spread and exposed a deep rift within Iraq's majority Shiites.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran does not regard the recent clashes

JSF jets to join Turkish Air Force in 2010

ANKARA, 29 March — Turkish Defence Minister Vecdi Gonul said on Thursday that the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) jets would be enrolled in The Turkish Air Force (THK) as of 2010.

"Some of the F-4 and F-16 fighters constituting the strike force, which have successfully destroyed PKK (Kurdish Workers' Party) targets in a recent cross-border operation, will conclude their lifespan technically by 2010," said Gonul, adding that in order to maintain the balance of power in the region, the

process of determining the next generation of jet fighters would be done before the year of 2010.

"The 250-billion-US-dollar project of JSF jets is the greatest project of the Turkish defence industry ever," said Gonul at the meeting of Turkish Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs. The committee convened Thursday to discuss a draft

international agreement allowing Turkey to take part in the research and production of the JSF jets.

With a strategic decision, Turkey started to partake in the JSF project in 1999, which was led by England and the US with the participation of Italy, Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, Canada and Australia.

MNA/Xinhua



A view inside warehouse number nine at the Central Market in Buenos Aires, on 28 March, 2008. — INTERNET

Cross-border drug trafficking gangs busted in S China

SHENZHEN, 29 March — Chinese police have smashed two cross-border drug trafficking gangs in the southern Guangdong Province, the local public security authority said on Thursday. Among the arrests were six Hong Kong residents and one Malaysian.

Police seized 50 kilogrammes of ketamine, 5 kilos of heroin, 50 kilos of ice and arrested nine people at an apartment in Shenzhen's Luohu District on July 19, a Shenzhen Municipal Public Security Bureau spokesman said on Thursday.

On 7 March, police seized 10 kilos of ice, 2.2 kilos of ecstasy and apprehended three Hong Kong residents and a Malaysian man at 9 am in the city's Futian District when they were making a trade. The four were alleged to be buying drugs from the Chinese Mainland to sell in Malaysia.

Four million yuan (571,428 US dollars) held in a Hong Kong account of the Malaysian man named Chen Lin-chong was later frozen by police.

On Thursday, the bureau destroyed 1,329 kilos of drugs worth 400 million yuan at the Nanshan Waste Incineration Power Plant.

MNA/Xinhua

Four-nation information sharing exercise conducted in S'pore

SINGAPORE, 30 March — The littoral states of the Malacca Straits, including Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand, conducted the inaugural information sharing exercise here, Singapore Defence Ministry said on Friday.

The two-day Malacca Strait Patrols Information Sharing Exercise, participated by the four countries' armed forces, was held at the Information Fusion Centre

in Western Singapore's Tuas Naval Base.

It "validated and strengthened the information-sharing linkages for maritime security amongst the four countries," said a statement by the Defence Ministry.

The exercise employed the latest Internet-based information system, which aggregates shipping databases and relevant real-time maritime

information to improve coordination and overall awareness of the situation at sea, to enable timely responses to maritime incidents in the Malacca Strait.

The exercise is part of the Malacca Strait Patrols initiative which comprises the Malacca Strait Sea Patrol, the "Eyes-in-the-Sky" air patrols as well as the Intelligence Exchange Group.

MNA/Xinhua



South Korean family members watch North Korea's Scud-B missile, left, and other South Korean missiles on display at Korea War Memorial Museum in Seoul, on 30 March, 2008.— INTERNET



The Olympic flame arrived in Athens Saturday, ahead of its symbolic handover to Beijing Games organisers.—INTERNET

US company offers moon as final resting place

LOS ANGELES, 29 March — The moon could become a final resting place for some of mankind thanks to a commercial service that hopes to send human ashes to the lunar surface on robotic landers, the company said on Thursday.

Celestis, Inc., a company that pioneered the sending of cremated remains into suborbital space on rockets, said it would start a service to

the surface of the moon that could begin as early as next year. The cost starts at 10,000 US dollars for a small quantity of ashes from one person.

Celestis president Charles Chafer said his company reached an agreement with Odyssey Moon Ltd and Astrobotic Technology Inc, to attach capsules containing cremated remains onto robotic lunar landers.

Odyssey Moon and Astrobotic are among

private enterprises seeking to land a robotic craft on the moon and conduct scientific experiments. The cremation capsules would remain on the moon with the lunar landers when the missions were complete.

Chafer said he expected about 1,000 capsules containing ashes to be launched on the first lunar mission, expected in late 2009 or early 2010, and about 5,000 on future flights.— MNA/Reuters

Study shows life was tough for ancient Egyptians

CAIRO, 30 March — 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.

Tell el-Amarna was briefly the capital of ancient Egypt during the reign of the pharaoh Akhenaten, who abandoned most of Egypt's old gods in favour of the Aten sun disk and brought in a new and more expressive style of art.

Akhenaten, who ruled Egypt between 1379 and 1362 BC, built and lived in Tell el-Amarna in central Egypt for 15 years.

The city was largely abandoned shortly after his death and the ascendance

of the famous boy king Tutankhamun to the throne.

Studies on the remains of ordinary ancient Egyptians in a cemetery in Tell el-Amarna showed that many of them suffered from anaemia, fractured bones, stunted growth and high juvenile mortality rates, according to professors Barry Kemp and Gerome Rose, who led the research.

MNA/Reuters

A model displays NU's waterproof MP3 "Dolphin" at the Softex Taipei Show on Saturday, Dolphin is the first waterproof MP3 player in the world with a 1G/2G memory priced at US\$ 95.30/128.

INTERNET

India's tech hub catches dogs after plane hit

BANGALORE (India), 30 March — Authorities in India's technology capital began clearing stray dogs from the city airport on Friday, a day after an aircraft's landing gear collapsed after hitting a dog.

Three people were

slightly injured in that accident during take-off, which prompted the civic body to catch dogs that wander on to runways.

Within hours, six dogs had been caught. The strays would be sterilized and kept in a pound.

MNA/Reuters



China launches AIDS prevention, care programme

BEIJING, 30 March — The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) launched a three-year nationwide AIDS prevention and care programme here on Friday, aiming to reduce vulnerability to HIV and its impact in the country.

The initiative comes in

response to an escalating nationwide HIV epidemic, said Yang Xusheng, director of the HIV Prevention Office with the RCSC. "It's clear the spread of the virus, increasingly through sexual transmission, is being fuelled by a continuing lack of awareness about the disease," Yang said.

The programme will try to increase awareness of the disease through various activities, including education and community mobilization that will cover a population of 27 million people through 2010, said Jiang Yiman, RCSC vice-president. He said the programme would also provide home-based support and care to 90,000 HIV infected people and their family members.

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS



Arsenal’s Robin Van Persie (L) scores a penalty against Bolton Wanderers during their English Premier League soccer match at the Reebok Stadium in Bolton, northern England on 29 March, 2008. —INTERNET

Arsenal’s 10 men rally to win from two down

LONDON, 30 March — Ten-man Arsenal ended a six-year Premier League jinx at Bolton Wanderers, fighting back from two goals down for a 3-2 win that lifted them back into second place on Saturday.

Midfielder Matthew Taylor put Bolton two up in the first half but Arsenal, who had Abou Diaby sent off in the 31st minute for a high tackle on Gretar Steinsson, hit back with three goals in the last half hour.

Arsenal leapfrogged Chelsea, who entertain Middlesbrough on Sunday, into second place, three points behind Manchester United before the leaders host Aston Villa later on Saturday.

Captain William Gallas put Arsenal, who had not won at the Reebok Stadium in their previous five league visits and had lost on their last three, back into the match when he turned in Cesc Fabregas’s corner in the 63rd minute.

Robin van Persie equalized with a penalty five minutes later after Gary Cahill brought down Alexander Hleb and Fabregas’s 90th-minute shot was deflected in by J Lloyd Samuel as Arsenal ended a run of five league games without victory. "It was important to get into a winning way again," manager Arsene Wenger told Sky Sports television. "I know the mental strength of this team, they can dig deep."

Derby County were relegated after a 2-2 draw at home to Fulham, Birmingham City’s 3-1 win over Manchester City sealing the bottom team’s fate.

MNA/Reuters

Answers to yesterday’s Crosswords Puzzle

1	A	2	C	3	S	4	A	5	I	6	S
7	S	T	O	R	M	Y	8	K	N	I	G
	P		M		E		9	C		S	L
10	I	M	P	E	A	C	H	11	W	R	O
	R		L		R		E		B	E	O
12	I	L	E	X		13	S	C	O	R	N
	N		X		G		14	K		S	
			17	C	L	I	M	B	18	S	P
19	A	20	M		I		A	21	B	A	
22	P	O	I	N	T		23	T	A	N	T
	A		N		T		E		G		R
24	C	L	O	V	E	R		25	C	R	E
	E		R		R		Y		N		D

Man Utd march six points clear by routing Villa

LONDON, 30 March — Wayne Rooney scored twice in the second half and Cristiano Ronaldo played a part in all four goals to help Manchester United crush Aston Villa 4-0 to charge six points clear in the Premier League on Saturday.

Champions United, who also netted in the first half with a cheeky Ronaldo back-heel and a header from Carlos Tevez, lead second-placed Arsenal by six points with six games remaining.

Arsenal, down to 10 men for an hour, ended a six-year league jinx at Bolton Wanderers as they fought back from two goals down for a 3-2 win.

Chelsea, two points further back, can reclaim second spot by beating Middlesbrough on Sunday when Liverpool and Everton also resume their battle for fourth place in the Merseyside derby.

At Old Trafford, where the second half was played in pouring rain, the league’s top scorer Ronaldo took his tally for the season to 26 when he struck in the 17th minute.

A cross was poorly cleared and the loose ball fell to the Portugal striker who, with his back to goal, flicked it with his left heel through defender Martin Laursen’s legs and past keeper Scott Carson. Tevez made it 2-0 just past the half hour when he dived to head home Ronaldo’s far-post cross following a fine team move started on the halfway line by the Argentine. —MNA/Reuters



Manchester United’s Carlos Tevez (L) heads the ball past Aston Villa’s Scott Carson (R) to score during their English Premier League soccer match at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England, on 29 March, 2008.—INTERNET

PSV title celebrations on hold after Ajax win

AMSTERDAM, 30 March — PSV Eindhoven’s championship party was put on hold after they drew 0-0 at NEC Nijmegen on Saturday while Ajax Amsterdam registered a 4-2 victory at Heerenveen. PSV stayed top of the league on 65 points, five more than second-placed Ajax with three games left. Heerenveen slipped to fifth on 54 points behind Feyenoord and NAC Breda, who meet on Sunday. Luis Suarez netted a rebound on the stroke of halftime to put Ajax ahead before Kenneth Perez’s penalty doubled the lead 10 minutes into the second half. —MNA/Reuters

Villarreal go second after Barca throw it away

MADRID, 30 March — Villarreal leapfrogged Barcelona into second place in the Primera Liga by outclassing Atletico Madrid 3-0 on Saturday while the Catalans slumped to a shock 3-2 defeat at Real Betis.

Barca seemed to be cruising to an easy win over relegation-threatened Betis when Bojan Krkic and Samuel Eto’o put them 2-0 up inside 15 minutes.

But a revived Betis turned the tables with three superbly-worked goals in 13 second-half minutes.

“You almost can’t believe how the game changed and the way we reacted to it,” Barca coach Frank Rijkaard told a news conference. “I have to apologize to the fans for what happened.”

Hosts Villarreal downed fellow high-fliers Atletico thanks to two goals from Turkish striker Nihat Kahveci. Midfielder Santiago Cazorla drilled in the first goal, Nihat added the second before the break when he poked the ball in at the far post and then clinched victory with a pin-point shot midway through the second half. —MNA/Reuters

Inter, Roma held to away draws

ROME, 30 March — Inter Milan maintained their four-point lead in Serie A after drawing 1-1 at Lazio while AS Roma managed the same score at lowly Cagliari on Saturday.

Hernan Crespo put reigning champions Inter ahead when he stabbed in Maicon’s early cross but the visitors were often sloppy and paid the price when Tommaso Rocchi beat the offside trap and scuffed the ball home in the second half.

Mid-table Lazio deserved to win with midfielder Ousmane Dabo forcing Inter goalkeeper Julio Cesar into a superb save and then rattling the bar with a stinging shot late on. Valon Behrami also went close and had a penalty appeal turned down.

Inter, who lost their second league match this season at home to Juventus last weekend, had a troubled build-up to the game with more confusion about coach Roberto Mancini’s future. —MNA/Reuters

Late penalty hands PSG League Cup triumph

PARIS, 30 March — A controversial penalty three minutes into added time gave Paris St. Germain a 2-1 win over fellow Ligue 1 strugglers Racing Lens in the French League Cup final at the Stade de France on Saturday.

Substitute midfielder Bernard Mendy scored the winner from the spot after referee Laurent Duhamel ruled that Lens defender Hilton had fouled forward Peguy Luyindula.

The offence looked far from obvious and the penalty decision was met by deafening boos from the Lens fans, whose team had fought back from a goal down and were hoping for extra time.

“I feel we’ve been robbed and Mr. Duhamel robbed us,” Lens coach Jean-Pierre Papin told French television channel France 3.

“To lose a final that way is a scandal,” the former France striker added. —MNA/Reuters



Sunderland’s Andy Reid, left, scores a goal during their English Premier League soccer match against West Ham United at the Stadium of Light, Sunderland, England, on 29 March, 2008.—INTERNET

At least 75 Somali migrants drown off Yemen

SANAA, 30 March— At least 75 Somalis have drowned off the coast of Yemen while trying to cross from Somalia to the Arab country, a Yemeni official said.

The official said the captain of the vessel carrying more than 250 migrants forced them to leave the ship and to try to swim ashore on Thursday. About 180 survived, the official from southern Abyan Province told Reuters.

Many African migrants try to reach Yemen, which they see as a gateway to other parts of the Middle East, and the West. — MNA/Reuters

DPRK denies uranium enrichment, N-coop with Syria

PYONGYANG, 30 March— The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) on Friday categorically denied it had ever carried out uranium enrichment nor had it proliferated nuclear facilities to other countries.

“The DPRK has never enriched uranium nor rendered nuclear cooperation to any other country. It has never dreamed of such things. Such things will not happen in the future, either,” the official news agency KCNA quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying.

“The Bush Administration was so absurd as to raise the issue of suspected uranium enrichment,” the spokesman said. But “taking into consideration the face of the Bush Administration,” the DPRK rendered necessary sincere help by

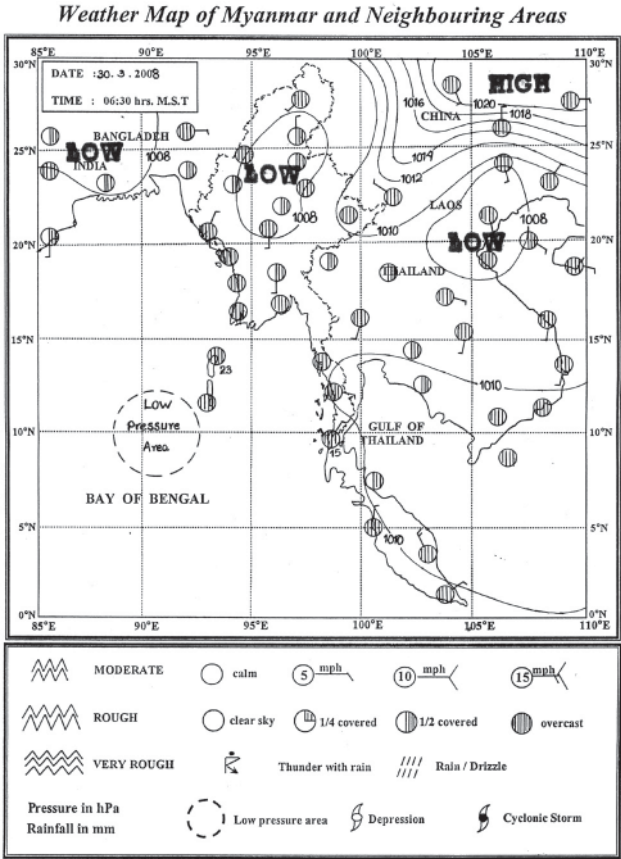
allowing US experts to see sensitive military objects and providing them with samples, he said.

As for the issue of “suspected nuclear cooperation with Syria” raised by the United States, the DPRK said it has nothing to do with it. Nevertheless, it still tries to meet the US request for reconfirming its commitment not to proliferate the nuclear

technology, the spokesman said.

“However, the further the negotiations went on, the greater disappointment the attitude of the Bush Administration brought to the DPRK,” said the spokesman, adding: “The DPRK can never fall victim to the Bush Administration’s move to justify its wrong assertion.”

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Sunday, 30 March, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Rakhine, Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Kachin and Shan States, weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) above March average temperatures in Kachin State, Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and about March average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures were Monywa (41°C), Mandalay, Minbu and Magway (40°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Coco Island (0.91) inch, Kawthong (0.59) inch, Ann and Pyay (0.16) inch each and Machanbaw, Pinlaung and Phayapon (0.08) inch each.

Maximum temperature on 29-3-2008 was 100°F. Minimum temperature on 30-3-2008 was 75°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 30-3-2008 was 79%. Total sunshine hours on 29-3-2008 was (6.6) hours approx.

Rainfall on 30-3-2008 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 (5) mph from Southwest at (15:30) 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 and West Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy in Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 31-3-2008: Weather will be partly cloudy in Chin State and lower Sagaing Division and likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers 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: Likelihood of isolated isolated rain or thundershowers in the lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 31-3-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 31-3-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 31-3-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

New UN envoy arrives in Afghanistan

KABUL, 30 March— Kai Eide, the new special representative of the UN Secretary-General for Afghanistan, arrived in the Afghan capital of Kabul Friday morning with the resolution of helping rebuild this war-torn country, said a UN statement.

Eide called on the international community to rally behind the Afghan Government to help rebuilding institutions as to protect and serve people in the post-Taleban country.

He noted that there has been much focus on the security situation in the past which now needs to be balanced with the political dimension of UN’s work to deliver peace, stability and visible progress.

MNA/Xinhua

Ten Taliban insurgents killed in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 30 March— At least 10 Taliban insurgents were killed and two others arrested when they clashed with anti-drug police in the southern Afghan province of Nimruz, an official said.

Ghulam Dastagir Azad, the provincial governor, told Xinhua that a group of Taliban militants ambushed poppy eradication police in Khash Rod District of Nimroz Province at around 12 am (0730 GMT).

“Three hours’ fighting claimed at least 10 Taliban militants and two policemen’s lives,” Azad said, adding that another two policemen were injured in the clash.

Witnesses on the spot also told Xinhua that a large number of Taliban rebels ambushed police and fierce clashes last for hours.

Meanwhile, Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, adding they have done huge damage on the police.

Conflicts and Taliban-related violence have left more than 300 people dead so far this year in war-torn Afghanistan, where Taliban militants recently have vowed to launch the “Spring offensive” to intensify their guerilla-style attacks on national Army and foreign troops.

MNA/Xinhua

<div></div> <p>Monday, 31 March View on today</p> <p>7:00 am</p> <p>1. တောင်တန်းသာသနာပြု ဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်</p> <p>7:25 am</p> <p>2. To be healthy exercise</p> <p>7:30 am</p> <p>3. Morning news</p> <p>7:40 am</p> <p>4. မြို့မြို့ကြွကြွယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက</p>	<p>7:50 am</p> <p>5. “မြို့တစ်ကင်းသောနေ့” (ထွန်းထွန်းဝင်း၊ မင်းထက်ကျော်စင်၊ ပုလဲဝင်း) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-သိန်းဟန်-မိုးနစ်)</p> <p>8:05 am</p> <p>6. Musical programme</p> <p>8:15 am</p> <p>7. Song and dance of national races</p> <p>8:30 am</p> <p>8. International news</p> <p>8:45 am</p> <p>9. Musical programme</p> <p>4:00 pm</p> <p>1. Martial song</p> <p>4:10 pm</p> <p>2. မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာတေးဂီတ ကျေးလက်တေးသံများ</p> <p>4:20 pm</p> <p>3. English for Everyday Use</p>	<p>4:30 pm</p> <p>4. (၆၃)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော် နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီစဉ်</p> <p>4:55 pm</p> <p>5. အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ-ပထမနှစ် (ဓာတုဗေဒ၊ ရူက္ခဗေဒ၊ သတ္တဗေဒအထူးပြုများ) (ဓာတုဗေဒ)</p> <p>5:10 pm</p> <p>6. Songs to uphold National Spirit</p> <p>5:20 pm</p> <p>7. Dance of National Races</p> <p>5:30 pm</p> <p>8. နားဝင်ပီသသူလက်သံ</p> <p>5:45 pm</p> <p>9. Musical programme</p>	<p>6:00 pm</p> <p>10. Evening news</p> <p>6:30 pm</p> <p>11. Weather report</p> <p>6:35 pm</p> <p>12. အလှူရှာမယ်လှူကမ္ဘာဝယ်</p> <p>7:00 pm</p> <p>13. The Mirror images of Musical Oldies</p> <p>7:10 pm</p> <p>14. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ချစ်တယ်---ချစ်တယ်” (အပိုင်း-၁၀)</p> <p>8:00 pm</p> <p>15. Local News</p> <p>16. International news</p> <p>17. Weather report</p> <p>18. May Sweet’s songs</p> <p>19. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “မေတ္တာမျဉ်းပြိုင်” (အပိုင်း-၁၄)</p>
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People's Desire

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



Commander Brig-Gen Tin Ngwe and Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han open Setmu Panchan tarred road in Pyigyidagun Township.— MNA

Re-paved road opened in Mandalay

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March — Honouring the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day a ceremony to open the new Setmu Panchan tarred road renovated on self-reliant basis in Pyigyidagun Township, Mandalay was held at the archway of the road on 24 March morning. It was attended by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Tin Ngwe and wife, Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han and departmental officials, members of the Industrial Zone Supervisory Committee and the Industrial Zone Development Committee, the road renovation committee, social organizations and local people.

Secretary of MCDC U Maung Pu explained the salient points of the new tarred road and Chairman of the road renovation committee U San Tin spoke words of thanks.

Next, the commander, the mayor and the chairman of the Industrial Zone Development Committee formally opened the new road.

After that, the commander inspected the finished wood industry of Jewellery Luck Co near the new tarred road and gave necessary instructions.

Later, the commander looked into the expansion of the new road in Mahaaungmye Township and heard a report presented by an official on renovation of the road. At 9.30 am, he attended a ceremony to mark Mandalay Division World TB Day held at the meeting hall of Chanayethazan Township USDA and made a speech on the occasion. Head of Mandalay Division Health Department Dr Khin Maung Tun read the message of the Ministry of Health sent to the 2008 World TB Day ceremony, which brought the ceremony to an end.

Next, the commander and those present on the occasion viewed photos and posters in commemoration of the 2008 World TB Day.—MNA

Commander inspects regional development in Mingin, Kani Townships

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March — Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen Myint Soe on 14 March inspected the physic nut special zone at Milepost No 26 on Monywa-Yagyi-Kalewa road and power supply in Pagyi Village, Kani Township and gave necessary instructions.

At the briefing hall, officials presented reports on progress in upgrading of Monywa-Yagyi-Kalewa road to the commander who gave instructions on timely completion of the task, meeting the set standard and durability of the road.

Next, the commander arrived at Mingin where he attended a ceremony to grow physic nut and presented seeds and grafts of physic nut to officials.

After that, the commander looked into the collective cultivation of physic nut. On arrival at Minyazar Hall in Mingin Township, the commander met with

departmental officials, social organizations and local people and heard a report presented by the Chairman of the Township PDC on regional development.

After hearing the report, he gave instructions and fulfilled the requirements.

Later, the commander proceeded to Mahamin Kyaungtaik in Mingin where he paid homage to the Presiding Sayadaw and presented offertories.

Next, the commander inspected operation theatre, X-ray unit, medical store of Mingin Township People's Hospital and provided cash assistance to the patients.

After inspecting Shwe Kyaung Dawgyi retaining walls under repair, he proceeded to Kin Model village and looked into Ahmanthit library.

On arrival at Kani, he met with departmental officials, social organizations and local people and attended to needs.—MNA

- ★ **Skyful liars attempting to destroy nation**
- ★ **BBC lying**
- ★ **VOA deceiving**
- ★ **RFA setting up hostilities**
- ★ **Beware! Don't be bought by those ill-wishers**