



The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Established 1914

Volume XVI, Number 321

10th Waxing of Taboung 1370 ME

Thursday, 5 March, 2009

Secretary-1 looks into development of Namsang

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen

Thiha Thura Tin

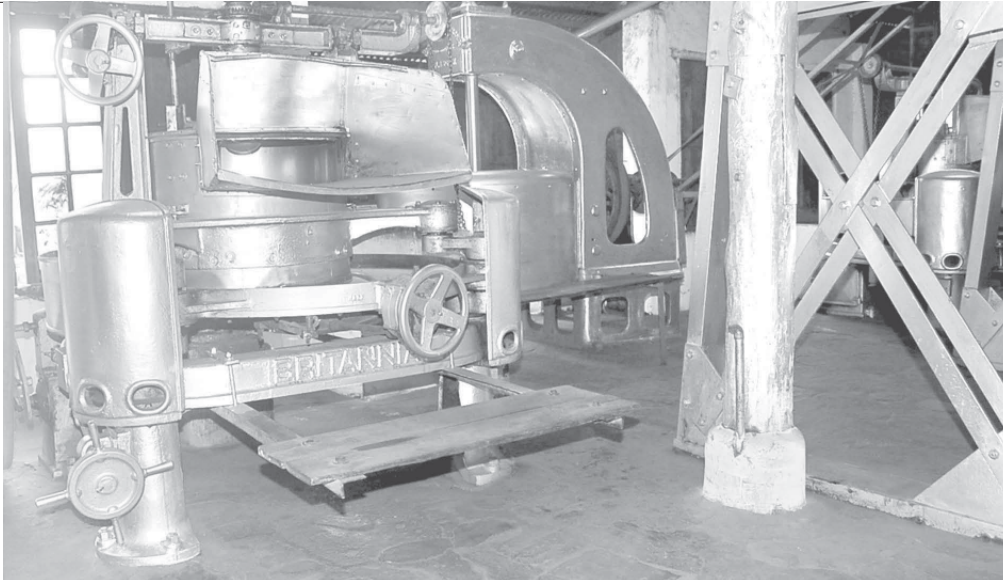
Aung Myint Oo

inspects Tatmadaw

Tea Processing

Factory in

Namsang.—MNA



NAY PYI TAW, 4 March — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo left Kyaukme by helicopter yesterday morning and arrived at Namsang at 9.45 a.m.

The Secretary-1 and party were welcomed by Deputy Commander of North-East Command Brig-Gen Hla Myint and departmental officials.

The Secretary-1 and party inspected the site

chosen for construction of 50-bed People's Hospital near Phayagyi Village in Namsang Township. Chairman of Township PDC U Than Lwin reported on the layout plan of the town.

At Tatmadaw Tea Processing Factory in Namsang, the Secretary-1 and party inspected completion of repair of the machines and test-run of the factory.

The Secretary-1 and party were conducted

round the factory by Factory Manager U Than Tun.

Machines of the factory have been maintained for production of the tea at full capacity.

At Zayangyi Monastery in Zayangyi Ward, they paid homage to Abbot Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pandita and members of the Sangha and offered robes and alms.

At Namsang People's Hospital, the medical superintendent conducted

the Secretary-1 and party round the buildings of the hospital.

At the hall of the hospital, the Secretary-1 met with doctors and nurses. Medical Superintendent Dr Than Htay reported on providing health care to the patients and common diseases in the region.

After fulfilling the requirements, the Secretary-1 instructed them to give health care to the patients with loving-

kindness, strive for winning the trust of the people, make field trips to the grassroots level for undertaking health care services and rehabilitation.

Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence presented medicines and Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, cash to the funds of the hospital through the medical superintendent.

At Phayagyi Monastery, they paid homage

and offered robes to Abbot Bhaddanta Tejavanta.

They offered flowers, water, lights and gold foils to Maha Muni Buddha Image in Namsang. The Secretary-1 and party signed in the visitors' book and viewed the renovation of religious structures.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 and party left there and arrived back here by helicopter in the evening.

MNA

Earth's highest known microbial systems fueled by volcanic gases

BUENOS AIRES, 4 March — Gases rising from deep within the Earth are fueling the world's highest-known microbial ecosystems, which have been detected near the rim of the 19,850-foot-high Socompa volcano in the Andes by

a University of Colorado at Boulder research team.

The new study shows the emission of water, carbon dioxide and methane from small volcanic vents near the summit of Socompa sustains complex microbial ecosystems new

to science in the barren, sky-high landscape, said CU-Boulder Professor Steve Schmidt. He likened the physical environment of the Socompa volcano summit—including the thin atmosphere, intense ultraviolet radiation and harsh climate—to the

physical characteristics of Mars, where the hunt for microbial life is under way by NASA.

The microbial communities atop Socompa—which straddles Argentina and Chile high in the Atacama Desert -- are in a more extreme environment and not as well understood as microbes living in hydrothermal vents in deep oceans, he said. The Socompa microbial communities are located adjacent to several patches of green, carpet-like plant communities—primarily mosses and liverworts—discovered in the 1980s by Stephan Halloy of Conservation International in La Paz, Bolivia, a co-author on the new CU-Boulder study.

Internet



Boulder team has discovered the highest-known microbial communities on Earth near the rim of the 19,850-foot-high Socompa volcano in the Andes.

New, unexpected mechanism identifies how brain responds to stress



Jaideep Bains, PhD, in his lab at the Hotchkiss Brain Institute.

CALGARY, 4 March — Chronic stress takes a physical and emotional toll on our bodies and scientists are working on piecing together a medical puzzle to understand how we respond to stress at the cellular level in the brain.

Being able to quickly and successfully respond to stress is essential for

survival.

Using a rat model, Jaideep Bains, PhD, a University of Calgary scientist and his team of researchers at the Hotchkiss Brain Institute have discovered that neurons in the hypothalamus, the brain's command centre for stress responses, interpret 'off' chemical signals as 'on' chemical signals when stress is perceived.

"It's as if the brakes in your car are now acting to speed up the vehicle, rather than slow it down," says Bains.

This unexpected finding is being published in the March 1st online edition of Nature Neuroscience.

Internet

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 5 March, 2009

Strive for realization of goals of the State

Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo visited Kyaukme the other day on his tour of inspection of regional development in Shan State (North).

Kyaukme District has better foundations for development. The Head of State had given guidance on the need for every region to try to achieve food security and he fulfilled the requirements. According to the data reported, Kyaukme District achieved 130 per cent in rice sufficiency and 123 per cent in edible oil.

The government has been fulfilling basic needs in order to achieve equal development in states and divisions. It is necessary for local people to make efforts for increase of per capita income. They have to continue to try to realize the target of average per capita income of K 600,000.

Health care services in Shan State (North) are being upgraded. Hospitals and dispensaries have been constructed and health staff have also been appointed. Regarding the transport sector, the government will make arrangements to upgrade Kyaukme-Hsipaw-Namsang-Panton road to an all-weather one.

The government is fulfilling the requirements of the education, health, social and economic sectors of local people while putting emphasis on development of every region in the Union. Local people on their part need to participate in the efforts so that the goals of the State will be realized sooner.



General Secretary U Aung Kyi of MGF explains facts about arrangements for holding Myanmar Master Golf Tournament at the meeting.—MGF

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 of Shwedagon Pagoda cleansed

YANGON, 4 March—Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence attended the ceremony to cleanse Seinbudaw (diamond orb) and Hngetmyatnadaw (pennant-shaped vane) at the platform of Shwedagon Pagoda this morning.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Nyaungdon Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa and Vice-Chairman Masoeyein Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Tejasarabhivamsa and SSMNC member Sayadaws. Ovadaçariya Sayadaw of the pagoda, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council



Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence cleanses Seinbudaw and Hngetmyatnadaw of Shwedagon Pagoda.—MNA

Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Chairman of the Work Committee for Perpetual All-round Renovation of the pagoda Deputy

Commander Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun and members, members of the pagoda board of trustees, religious association and pilgrims.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe offered the gold plate inscription to be fixed at the pennant-shaped vane and alms to Secretary Sayadaw Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party shared merits gained for meritorious needs.

Next, Lt-Gen

Myint Swe, the commander, the mayor and party conveyed the gold plate inscription and jewellery to be fixed at the pennant-shaped vane and the umbrella.

After fixing the plate and jewellery at the pennant-shaped vane, Lt-Gen Myint Swe cleansed the Seinbudaw and Hngetmyatnadaw together with the commander, the mayor, the deputy commander and party.

MNA

Coord meeting on holding Myanmar Master Golf Tournament held

YANGON, 4 March —The coordination meeting on holding the Myanmar Master Golf

Tournament 2009, to be organized by Myanmar Golf Federation at Punhlaing Golf Course in Hlinethaya Township, sponsored by Air Bagan Ltd, was held at the hall of Aung San Stadium, here, yesterday morning.

Director-General U Thaug Htaik of the Sports and Physical Education Department gave a speech.

On behalf of the president of MGF and MPGA, Vice-President U Min Thein, General Secretary U Aung Kyi of MGF and Executive U Chan Han reported on arrangements for holding the tournament.

Officials of SPED and departments concerned took part in the discussions.—MNA

Military Band Competition continues

NAY PYI TAW, 4 March—The 17th Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) Military Band Competition in commemoration of the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day 2009 continued for the fifth day, here, this morning.

Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the competition Vice Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe and members senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, members of the panel of judges and servicemen enjoyed the competition.

The military band company representing No. 44 Light Infantry Division, the band company-1 representing Western Command, the band representing South-Eastern Command, the band representing No. 66 LID and the band company representing Nay Pyi Taw Command and the band representing Yangon Command took part in the competition.

MNA



Russia allows through US supplies for Afghanistan

MOSCOW, 4 March—Russia has allowed a supply cargo for US forces in Afghanistan through its territory by train, a sign of Moscow's growing cooperation with Washington on the issue.

The cargo had entered Russia from NATO member Latvia and crossed the country en route to Afghanistan, a spokesman for the US embassy in Moscow said. Russia's foreign ministry later confirmed

the cargo had crossed into Kazakhstan.

NATO is looking for other supply routes for its troops fighting the Taliban as an alternative to using Pakistan, where Western military convoys are attacked by Taliban militants. "It is non-lethal goods, like construction equipment for example," the embassy spokesman said, adding: "I believe it crossed into Russia on Friday."

The Kremlin said Afghanistan was an area where it was willing to cooperate with the administration of President Barack Obama, who is sending more troops to fight in Afghanistan.

"The cargo of American non-military goods for Afghanistan yesterday left the territory of Russia and should be in Kazakhstan," a Russian foreign ministry spokesman told *Interfax* news agency.—*Internet*



A man fixes electrical wires next to a destroyed police patrol car in Zafraniyah in southeastern Baghdad, Iraq, recently. The patrol car was hit by a roadside bomb and three police officers were hurt as well as three bystanders, police said.—INTERNET



Shattered glass is cleared away at a popular restaurant damaged following a road side bomb that detonated along a popular street in central Baghdad.—INTERNET

Death threat, bullet mailed to French president

PARIS, 4 March—French President Nicolas Sarkozy and three top government ministers have been sent anonymous death threats in letters stuffed with bullets, a judicial official said on Tuesday. Counterterrorism agents are investigating the mailings to Sarkozy, Justice Minister Rachida Dati, Interior Minister Michele Alliot-Marie and Culture

Minister Christine Albanel — the latest members of the governing conservative party to be targeted by such a letter campaign, the officials said. The two-page, typed form letters feature disjointed messages addressed to "purveyors of freedom-killing and fascist laws," the judicial official said. She spoke on condition of anonymity because she was not authorized to

speak publicly about the matter.

The Associated Press saw a copy of the letter, which speaks of a mysterious "Cell 34" and evokes 1,000 combatants before concluding, "This letter is the last. There will be a black out. Total silence." The official said the letters contained 9mm or .38-caliber bullets.

Internet

China's defence budget to rise 14.9 percent in 2009

BEIJING, 4 March—China announced Wednesday its defence spending would rise by 14.9 percent in 2009 but insisted its expanding military power posed no threat to the rest of the world.

"China's defence expenditure for the year will increase modestly," the spokesman for China's parliament, Li Zhaoxing, told reporters.

The defence budget for 2009 is 480.686 billion yuan (70.2 billion dollars), an increase of 62.482 billion yuan from the previous year, he said.

The rise is slightly smaller than last year's increase of 17.9 percent.

The United States, Japan and their allies have long expressed concern about China's military

build-up, warning that the Chinese government has not been transparent on its intent behind the expansion. Li said these concerns were misplaced.

Internet

US military deaths in Iraq war at 4,255

WASHINGTON, 4 March—As of Tuesday, 3 March, 2009, at least 4,255 members of the US military had died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003.

The figure includes eight military civilians killed in action. At least 3,417 military personnel died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers. The British military has reported 179 deaths; Italy, 33; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 21; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Denmark, seven; El Salvador, five; Slovakia, four; Latvia and Georgia, three each; Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand and Romania, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan and South Korea, one death each.

Internet

US soldier killed in attack on base in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 4 March—Militants attacked a main US-Iraqi base on Tuesday in the northern city of Mosul, killing one American soldier and striking directly at the Iraqi command center for an offensive against the militants. The barrage underscored the resilience of al-Qaida in Iraq and other groups after repeated attempts to break their hold in Mosul, a dangerous city where at least seven US soldiers have been killed since early February.

With the US combat role in Iraq set to end in August 2010, Mosul represents one of the key remaining showdowns with insurgents. American military planners have backed up Iraqi forces in the crackdown launched last month.—*Internet*

Air strikes kill Taliban commander, 14 others in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 4 March—Air raids against Taliban militants in the restive Helmand Province south of Afghanistan claimed the lives of over a dozen insurgents including their commander, spokesman for provincial administration Daud Ahmadi said on Tuesday.

"Fifteen Taliban fighters driving three cars were roaming in Garmsir district on Monday night when aircrafts of international troops dropped precise bombs killing all including their commander Mullah Babrak on the spot," Ahmadi told *Xinhua*.

He also said that no civilians were hurt in the raid. Taliban militants have not made any comments on it so far.

Internet



Iraqi policemen bring in a suspected gang member at a police station in al-Husseiniyah, about 30 Km (19 miles) northeast of Baghdad, Iraq, on 3 March, 2009. Iraqi police captured three men accused of the robbery, kidnappings and rape.—INTERNET

US auto sales fall as recession deepens

DETROIT, 4 March—US auto sales dropped by more than 41 percent in February to the lowest level in almost three decades as deepening economic uncertainty drove Americans away from big purchases and new debt despite aggressive discounts from major automakers.

Australia's economy shrank in last quarter of 2008

SYDNEY, 4 March—Australia's economy shrank 0.5 percent in the last quarter of 2008, the government said on Wednesday in an unexpected announcement that suggested the country may be entering a recession.

The news of the economy's first contraction in eight years surprised economists who had expected the Australian Bureau of Statistics to report a slight increase in gross domestic product. But the bureau said GDP fell by 0.5 percent in the last quarter in seasonally adjusted terms.

Australia is not yet in a recession—technically two consecutive quarters of contraction — because a narrow rise of 0.1 percent was reported in the third quarter. Growth slowed to just 0.3 percent for the year, underlining how quickly Australia's resources-based economy has slumped since the US financial crisis sent shockwaves around the globe in the middle of last year.—*Internet*

General Motors Corp, which is racing to complete a restructuring plan this month to keep it from bankruptcy, led the sinking industry lower with a 53 percent drop in sales.

The results mark the 16th consecutive monthly drop in auto sales and come as a deepening recession in the United States and slowing global markets have pushed automakers to ratchet back production, ramp up

discounts and seek government financing in a bid to survive.

"In our view, we are in an automotive depression," said Standard & Poor's equity analyst Efraim Levy.

"Shell-shocked consumers fearful for their jobs, the value of their homes and stock market assets are wary of making the sizable discretionary purchases," he said.

Internet



A man checks traditional Chinese musical instrument "fou", or drum, at a pre-auction exhibition in Beijing, capital of China, on 3 March, 2009.—INTERNET



Displaced Darfurians arrive by truck at the Zamzam refugee camp in northern Darfur, Sudan, recently.—INTERNET

Oil steady above \$41 as investors eye inventories

SINGAPORE, 4 March—Oil prices were steady above \$41 a barrel on Wednesday in Asia as investors looked to a US crude inventory report later in the day for signs of demand amid the worst recession in decades.

Benchmark crude for April delivery fell 22 cents to \$41.43 a barrel by midday in Singapore on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Prices rose \$1.50 to settle at \$41.65 on Tuesday.

Traders awaited on Wednesday's release of crude inventory data by the US Energy Department's Energy Information Administration, with analysts expecting oil stocks to rise by 2.2 million barrels for the week ended 27 Feb, and gasoline stocks to fall by 600,000 barrels, according

to a survey by Platts, the energy information arm of McGraw-Hill Cos.

The EIA said last week that US crude inventories rose by 700,000 barrels for the week ended 20 Feb.

Analysts expected crude stocks would grow by 2.25 million barrels, and the smaller increase helped boost prices to over \$45 a barrel before they fell on Monday.

Internet

Canada cuts rates to record low

OTTAWA, 4 March—The Bank of Canada cut its main interest rate to a record low on Tuesday and signaled for the first time that it may take extra steps to pump money into a system that remains stubbornly short of credit.

The central bank reduced its key overnight rate by a half point to 0.5 percent, as expected, for a cumulative reduction of 400 basis points since December 2007.

As the rate approaches zero, the bank began preparing markets for its next step, which could involve buying securities in the market to drive down longer-term interest rates and help banks expand their lending. This is known as quantitative easing.—*Internet*

Bank of England to cut interest rates again

LONDON, 4 March—The Bank of England is expected to slash its key interest rate on Thursday by half a percentage point to just 0.5 percent — the lowest level in the bank's 315-year history, analysts said.

Faced with Britain's first recession in 18 years and falling inflation, the central bank is set to extend a series of sharp cuts since October, when interest rates stood at 5.0 percent.

The BoE's nine-member monetary policy committee (MPC) may also on Thursday announce plans for quantitative easing — a last-ditch effort to increase money supply — as it becomes clear that lowering rates has failed to stimulate the economy sufficiently.

Internet



Local people come to attend a celebration as the Merowe Dam began to generate electricity, Merowe, Sudan, on 3 March, 2009.—INTERNET

Sudan hails world's longest dam

MEROWE, 4 March — Squinting amid the dazzling sunshine on the brink of the Sahara Desert, Asem Khalil Idris tried to get a clear view of President Omar al-Bahir, who was addressing a crowd at the inauguration ceremony for Merowe Dam, the country's largest hydropower project.

"The power from the dam will create a lot of work opportunities," Asem, 39, a local resident

coming from the Wadi Halfa town, said on Wednesday morning.

"Before today, We had to rely on diesel-fueled generators, which is noisy and very inconvenient," he said, adding that "we will have a more colorful life with less blackouts thanks to the president and the dam's builders, and the fruit trees and vegetable planted in my town will get the badly-needed irrigation."

As Bashir signed a takeover paper at noon, siren resounded over the huge dam and the vast artificial lake that has moistened the local air over the arid desert, marking the official start of power generation of the project.

The 9.7-km dam is the longest one in the world with a total capacity of 1.25 million kilowatt, twice as much as Sudan's existing power supply.

Internet



Vietnam tightens measures to fight diseases in poultry and livestock

HANOI, 4 March—Vietnam's Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Diep Kinh Tan urged relevant agencies and provincial animal health bureaus to take quick response to the current complicated developments of diseases in poultry and livestock, according to a report of the ministry's website on Wednesday.

According to the National Steering Committee on poultry and livestock disease prevention, there will be five working groups to be established within this week to supervise the fight against bird flu and foot-and-mouth epidemic ravaging wide in Vietnam.

Vietnamese Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Cao Duc Phat will lead a group to the Mekong Delta provinces which have been hit hard by bird flu, said the report.—Xinhua

A model poses beside a Nissan Qazana concept car during the first media day of the 79th Geneva Car Show at the Palexpo in Geneva on 3 March, 2009.
XINHUA

China's jumbo rocket "carrying capacity factor" world's second largest

BEIJING, 4 March—A Chinese space expert said here on Tuesday that China's Long 5 March large-thrust carrier rocket, currently under development and scheduled to be put into service in 2014, uses less fuel for the same load than any other rocket in the world except Boeing's Delta 4 Heavy.

The jumbo rocket's "carrying capacity factor" — a key parameter reflecting rocket's performance — was "the world's second largest", said Liang Xiaohong, vice president of the China Academy of Launch Ve-

hicle Technology.

The Long March 5's "carrying capacity factor" is 0.0146 while Boeing's Delta 4 Heavy is 0.0175, the world's largest, he said. When carrying the same load, a rocket with a higher factor needs less fuel, said Liang, also a member of the 11th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), China's top political advisory body, which opened its annual session on Tuesday.

With a maximum payload capacity of 25 tonnes, Long 5 March is

expected to be able to send lunar rovers, large satellites and space stations into space after 2014.

Liang said "the rocket is currently China's best with the largest payload among the nation's rocket lineup" and was expected to deliver astronauts onto moon.

He said last year the first launch of the Long 5 March is most likely to happen in Wenchang of the southernmost island Province of Hainan, where a new satellite launch center is under construction.—Xinhua

Cologne building collapses, at least two missing

BERLIN, 4 March—At least two people remain missing after a building in the western German city Cologne collapsed on Tuesday, local media reported.

The four-story building, housing archives of Cologne city, collapsed into a pile of rubble and destroyed neighboring houses at around 2 pm local time (1300 GMT), local newspaper Koelner Stadtanzeiger reported. According to the report, seven of the nine people originally missing got in touch with the officials but at least two people are still missing. Many people inside the building managed to flee to safe places.

City officials told German media that rescue work could only start on Wednesday at daytime. Stephan Neuhoff, director of Cologne fire department said hope for finding more survivors is becoming slim.

The building collapsed onto a street in which subway construction work was reportedly being carried out, but a spokeswoman for the city of Cologne said the work had finished before the building collapsed.
Xinhua



The four-story building, housing archives of Koeln city, collapsed into a pile of rubble at around 2 pm on 3 March, 2009.—XINHUA



Newly-built Opel cars are ready for the transport in front of the company's plant in Bochum. German new car sales jumped 22 percent in February, beating the auto industry slump on the back of a government scheme to encourage buyers but exports slumped, industry group data showed on Tuesday.—INTERNET

Chile, Argentina to build tunnel

SANTIAGO, 4 March—The Chilean company Empresas Navieras and Corporation America of Argentina have signed a contract to build a tunnel linking Valparaiso, central

Chile, with Buenos Aires.

According to a report on the Ansalatina news website on Tuesday, the tunnel will be built across the Andean mountain range and will take about seven years to construct. The project will boost commercial exchanges and tourism in South America. It will also connect Chile with the economies of the Common Market of the South (Mercosur). Chile and Argentina will be able to send their products by the tunnel to the Asia-Pacific region, the United States and Europe without using the Panama Canal and or the Magellan Straits.—Xinhua

Two injured in Philippine hostel blast

COTABATO, 4 March—An improvised bomb planted inside a hostel here exploded on Tuesday night, wounding two guests, a regional military official said Wednesday.

The bomb, fashioned from a rocket propelled grenade or 90rr (M371-A1) mortar, went off around 9 pm local time (1300 GMT) in one of the rooms of Agong Lodging House in Cotabato city, Colonel Domingo Gobway, a local Army commander said.

Three neighboring rooms were damaged by the blast. No group has claimed the responsibility while the investigators have yet pinpointed suspects.—Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Deforestation in Brazil's Amazon rainforest down in Nov-Jan

RIO DE JANEIRO, 4 March—The deforestation of the Brazilian Amazon rainforest has eased somewhat, although the loss in its area is still considerable, statistics showed on Tuesday.

A total of 754 square kilometres of rainforest disappeared between November 2008 and January 2009, said a study by the country's National Institute of Space Research (Inpe). It represents a drop of 21.8 percent compared with the 964 square kilometers lost from August to October 2008, and 70.2 percent from the 2,527 square kilometers that disappeared in the corresponding period in the previous year.

However, the area devastated between November and January is still equivalent to half the size of Sao Paulo, the largest city in South America.

The Para state in northern Brazil was responsible for 42 percent of the deforestation in the period, or an area of 318.7 square kilometres.—Xinhua



Smoke and flames billows after an Israel air strike on smuggling tunnels that connect the southern Gaza Strip to Egypt.—INTERNET

Israeli aircraft fire on Gaza smuggling tunnels

JERUSALEM, 4 March—The Israeli military says its aircraft have fired upon three smuggling tunnels along the Gaza-Egypt border.

The military says on Wednesday's airstrikes were in response to rocket attacks on Israel the day before.

Palestinian officials in Gaza say no one was injured.

Militants use the tunnels to smuggle arms and ammunition into Gaza from Egypt.

The military says Palestinians have fired more than 130 rockets and mortar shells at southern Israel since Israel ended a three-week offensive against Gaza militants on 18 Jan.—*Internet*

Helicopter accident kills four in Colombia

BOGOTA, 4 March — Four people were killed on Tuesday when the police helicopter they were aboard fell in a jungle zone in the department of Putumayo in southern Colombia.

"The helicopter we have lost this morning fell down some 10 km to the municipality of Villa Garzon.

All its occupants were found dead," General Alvaro Caro, anti-drug police commander, told a press conference.

The cause of the accident has been investigating, Caro said.

The four people were the pilot, the copilot, and two artillerymen, according to a police report.

The helicopter took off from an anti-drug base in Putumayo near the border with Ecuador and Peru, said the report.—*Internet*

Russian senior officer says satellites collision possibly manipulated by US

MOSCOW, 4 March — A Russian senior officer on Tuesday suspected that the collision between a US Iridium satellite and a Russian military satellite last month was manipulated by the United States intentionally.

Major general Leonid Shershner told the daily Moskovski Komsomolez that the US may be testing a new technology designed to intercept and

destroy satellites from other countries.

Although the US Iridium 33 satellite was designed for peaceful purposes, yet it could be transferred for military purposes, the officer said.

He explained that the Iridium 33 satellite was equipped with a navigation system, which can detect any targets getting close to it and sent signal back to the control center on the ground, so that the ground center can change

the satellite's orbit timely to avoid such accident.

Unfortunately, such preventive measures did not occur, Shershner added.

The Russian satellite and the privately owned US communications satellite collided in space on 10 Feb, shooting out a pair of massive debris clouds.

NASA believed that the risk caused by the collision to other spacecrafts is low.

Internet

India test-fires new version of Brahmos cruise missile

NEW DELHI, 4 March — India on Wednesday successfully test-fired the new version of Brahmos supersonic cruise missile at a firing range near Pokhran in Rajasthan desert, Western India, said Indian defence ministry sources.

The Brahmos, a tactical supersonic cruise missile, may play a definitive role in cross-border "surgical strike" against terrorists, according to Indian defence officials.

This is the second time for India to test fire the missile since January.

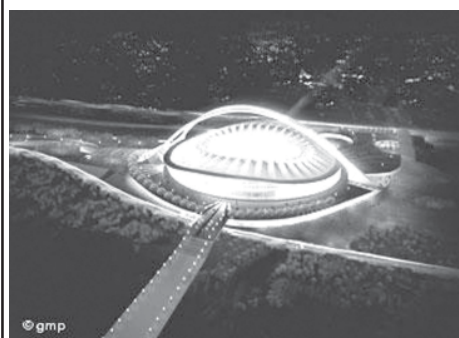
Internet

NEWS ALBUM

\$7,000 in stolen jewelry found in Cheetos bag

Bet you can't steal just one. Three teenage boys from central New Jersey have been charged with breaking into an apartment and stealing \$7,000 worth of jewelry, then hiding the loot in an empty Cheetos bag. The bag was later found inside a swing set in a local park in Freehold. The boys, ages 15 and 16, have been charged with attempted burglary, burglary and trespassing. Police recovered most of the stolen jewelry.

Police said the boys unsuccessfully tried to break into one unit at a condominium complex, they burglarized a second unit and took the jewelry while the resident was at church services. The boys have been released to their parents.



An artist's rendition of the future World Cup stadium in Durban at night.



People's Daily Online introduces vehicle-mounted telecommunication unit for the coverage of the forthcoming NPC and CPPCC sessions, the first time in the website's history. The unit will greatly improve data transmission speed and assist real video and text coverage of the sessions.

Man uses fake money to buy fake drugs

A man was been arrested after police said he used counterfeit money to purchase fake OxyContin pills from an undercover officer. Unicoi County Sheriff's deputies arrested a 21-year-old man on Tuesday and charged him with criminal conspiracy with schedule II drugs, forgery and criminal simulation.

Investigator Frank Rogers said the officer met with several people at a mobile home park and arranged for the suspect and another man to come to Unicoi to buy 76 OxyContin pills for \$4,875.

Officers said it was "obviously bad money" with some bills printed on just one side. Authorities also tracked down the device believed used to make the counterfeit money.

Man tries to steal laptop to check facebook

Sheriff's officers said a 19-year-old man snatched a Starbucks customers laptop after being told he could not use it to check his Facebook account.

According to officers, the man then grabbed the customer's laptop and ran out of the coffee shop, located in an outlet mall. Two people in the parking lot tackled the man and held him there until a mall security guard arrived.

The victim got his laptop back and the man was charged Saturday with robbery by sudden snatching, a felony.

Girls faint en masse in Nepali school, teaching halted

Teaching and learning activities have been halted in a hilly district of western Nepal after several girls started falling unconscious daily.

It is already a couple of months since the problem started, at the Lokaraj Adarsha High School located at Karkidanda, Lamjung, some 110 km west of Kathmandu. Till Monday, more than three dozen girls from nursery to grade 10 have fallen unconscious, local newspaper *The Rising Nepal* reported on Monday.

The problem, however, has not affected the boys, according to the report. Pratap Raj Silwal, a teacher of the school, said that when a student loses her consciousness, all others have to take care of her. "As teachers and students gather to help the patient, this creates disturbances in all the classrooms," he said.



Monarch butterflies gather on top of flowers at the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve, near the town of Chincua, Mexico. The Monarchs are not endangered, but scientists say deforestation could threaten their existence.



Industry-2 Minister visits Ponnagyun, Rathedaung

NAY PYI TAW, 4 March — Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein on 1 March held a meeting with departmental officials, NGOs and social organization members in

Ponnagyun Township, Rakhine State and fulfilled the needs for five rural development tasks.

During his tour, the minister met with residents of Rathedaung Township and called for

making efforts for five rural development tasks.

The minister donated machines for farm, nine Sokir generators for monasteries and schools and cash for power supply in the townships.—MNA

Junior Davis Cup Tennis Competition opened

YANGON, 4 March — Junior Davis Cup By BNP Paribas Asia Oceania Zone Group IV Tennis competition was held at Theinbyu Tennis Court here today.

First, President of Myanmar Tennis Federation U Zaw Zaw made a speech and on behalf of International Tennis Federation (ITF), Mr Suresh Menon spoke words of thanks.

Next, Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik and Mr Suresh Memon opened the competition and greeted athletes.

Next, Director-

General U Thaung Htaik and Chairperson of Central Working Committee for Myanmar Women's Sports Federation Daw Aye Aye gave souvenirs to officials of participating countries Bahrain, Mongolia, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia and Myanmar and officials of the supporting companies for the competition.—MNA

Use of bio-gas demonstrated

YANGON, 3 March — Villagers of Yekhalar Village in Thongwa Township, Yangon South District, learnt how to use the bio-gas to generate power on 25 February.

Managing Director of Shwe Khaing Win Co Ltd U Tin Shwe briefed on construction of the bio-gas tank and employees of the Co Ltd demonstrated how to run the diesel- and petrol-powered engines with the use of bio-gas.

A petrol-powered

engine can generate 2000 kilowatt with the use of bio-gas and can supply power to 13-watt 153 lamps.

A bio-gas tank can be constructed on 17x17 ft plot of land and can be used for 20 to 30 years. It takes about a week to construct the tank and droppings from cattle and decayed leaves can be used to produce the bio gas.

It is cost-effective for workshops, hostels and

restaurants to use bio-gas. The company will see to construction of the gas tank until it can be used and will present a bio-gas-powered oven, a bio-gas-powered rice cooker and a bio gas-powered lamp.

Those wishing to construct the bio gas tank may contact Shwe Khaing Win Co Ltd, No 19-A, Aye-yeik-kabar, Shwetaunggya Street, Bahan Township, Ph 01-511074; 09 99 21729, 09 507 3629.—MNA



Villagers view demonstration on cooking rice with the use of bio-gas at house of farmer U Maung Win in Yekhalar Village, Thongwa Township.—MNA



Minister Vice-Admiral Soe Thein meets with residents of Rathedaung Township.—MNA



Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and officials open Junior Davis Cup By BNP Paribas Asia Oceania Zone Group IV Tennis competition.—YCDN

Bomb explosions occur in Sangyoung, Kamayut townships No casualties in the blasts People reminded to call authorities if they see anything suspicious or destructive acts

NAY PYI TAW, 4 March—A bomb explosion took place inside Padomma Park in Shinsawpu Ward, Sangyoung Township, Yangon, about 9.40 pm yesterday.

The bomb blast left an eight-inch-diameter and four-inch-deep crater in the ground about five feet to the fence of the park, and broke the left windscreen of nearby light truck with the number plate 8D/5962. The sharpnells of the bomb hit a nearby Yaytama (*cedrela febrifuga*) tree and the fence. Sixteen six-millimeter diameter steel balls and two bottom covers of nine-volt dry cell batteries were found out around the scene.

In another case, a bomb went off under the bench of Hledan bus stop on Insein Road in Ward (1), Kamayut Township, at about 11.05 pm the same day.

The explosion left an eight-inch-diameter and four-inch-deep hole in the ground behind the passengers shelter, tearing a small piece off the concrete bench, making some small holes in the roof and destroying the plywood ceiling of the shelter and a piece of the glass window of the nearby desktop printing and copying shop. Two AA-sized Power Brand dry cell batteries and eight six-millimeter diameter steel balls were found nearby.

Both blasts claimed no casualties.

Responsible persons are now conducting investigation into the cases.

Authorities concerned have reminded the people to provide information to those responsible in time if there is something or someone suspicious of committing destructive acts in their societies.—MNA

Namsang Township urged to manufacture value-added tea products

NAY PYI TAW, 4 March—Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo held a meeting with township level officials in Namsang, Kyaukme District, Shan State (North) yesterday afternoon.

On the occasion, Chairman of the township PDC U Than Lwin gave an account of education, health, social and economic conditions and the tea enterprise of the township.

Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint reported on programmes to upgrade Namsang-Kyaukme, Namsang-Hsipaw and Namsang-Manton roads,



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo delivers speech at meeting with township level officials in Namsang, Kyaukme District, Shan State (North).—MNA

and ongoing work to provide electricity in Shan State (North); Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, on health plans, construction of more hos-

pitals and health care centres across the nation, and adding staff and medical equipment to medical facilities to improve national health standard, and

health educative talks and control measures against malaria, TB and HIV to raise the health standard of rural folks; and Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, on importance of cooperation of teachers, parents and students to improve the education standard.

Assessing the reports, the Secretary-1 said that he had fulfilled the requirements for regional development in meeting with service personnel on his tour of Kyaukme and

Hsipaw townships yesterday and he inspected some places.

His current inspection tour was to attend to the needs through coordination with departmental officials, he said, adding that Namsang Township needs a 50-bed hospital to provide better health care to local people as the township is difficult of access.

He stressed the importance of upgrading Namsang-Kyaukme, Namsang-Hsipaw and Namsang-Manton roads

tend a helping hand in order to keep a proportionate balance of profits between farmers and merchants, he pointed out.

The government has improved all the infrastructures in various sectors for equitable development of all parts of the nation, so service personnel are to organize the people to efficiently use the infrastructures, he said. In conclusion, he exhorted the service personnel to work hard with a sense of serving national interest as they are the ones who implement the State's policies and objectives in practice; to mobilize the public participation through organizing measures in the tasks; to demonstrate good moral conduct in order to win the people's affection, trust and reliance; to improve competence; and to cultivate the sense that the main responsibility of a staff member is to serve the public interest.

Also present on the occasion were Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Shan State (North) PDC Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut, townsenders of Namsang Township, and townselder U Aik Mone and party.

After the meeting, the Secretary-1 cordially greeted the attenders.

MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo cordially greets doctors and nurses at People's Hospital in Namsang.—MNA

Tea leaf is used to make not only green tea but also raw materials for cosmetics and personal goods.

Seminar on NIM 7 March

YANGON, 4 March—The education seminar of Nanyang Institute of Management (NIM) will be held at Myanmar Search International (MSI) Education Consultancy Services Co. Ltd on 7 March (Saturday).

Daw Cho Cho Win (Assistant Country Manager) of NIM will give accounts of the institute. Two students who worked in Australia as Paid Industrial Attachment after they completed Diploma in Tourism and Hospitality Management (DTHM) Program at NIM will explain their work experiences.

Courses on Tourism and Hospitality Management, Casino Management, Early Childhood Education and Master of Business Administration will be conducted at NIM in Tanjong Pagar Tamosek Tower (8 Shenton Way) in Singapore.

Those who want to join DTHM Program and Casino Management Program must have IELTS-5:0 or TOFEL-500 and IELTS-6.5 for Early Childhood

Education. MBBS degree holders with two years work experiences in related fields have to get IELTS-6.5 to join Master of Business of Administration. Students who are not qualified to join above programs may sit for English Proficiency Test (EPT) at Myanmar Search International (MSI) Education Consultancy Services Co. Ltd free of charges in advance.

NIM will offer two full scholarship awards in DTHM Program to Myanmar students. Applicants for scholarship are to submit their forms not later than 15 March.

MSI Company is a service company which was presented as top representative award for 2007-08 in Myanmar by NIM.

Enthusiasts who want to attend the seminar may contact MSI Co Ltd, No. (234), Shwebontha Street, Pabedan Township (Ph: 389915, 09 51 03915 and 250929) in advance.—MNA

to all-weather facilities. Tea leaf is used to make not only green tea but also raw materials for cosmetics and personal goods, he said, urging the township to establish more commercial-scale tea farms, using advanced agricultural methods and investments to manufacture value-added tea products. The township occupies about 80 per cent of the acreage of the nation's total tea farms, so it is required to boost quality tea leaf production, he said.

Tea farmers and merchants have to work together to improve tea and related enterprises, and service personnel, to ex-



Sayadaws to deliver sermons at Uppatasanti Pagoda

NAY PYI TAW, 4 March — To mark the accomplishment of religious ceremonies at Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw, Sayadaws will deliver sermons in Sasana Maha Beikmandaw at the Pagoda from 10 to 12 March.

Sitagu Saydaw Dr Bhaddanta Nanissara will deliver a sermon on 10 March, Dr Bhaddanta Nandamala Bhivamsa on 11 March and Ashin Çhekinda on 12 March.

MNA

Commander meets managers of Indian Armed Forces football/volleyball teams

YANGON, 4 March — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint met with Lt-Col A K Dey and Lt-Col Gurubaksh Singh, managers of Indian Armed Forces football and volleyball teams of the Republic of India at Zeyathiri Beikman Guest Hall on Konmyinthta, here, yesterday. The teams

will compete in friendly football and volleyball matches.

The commander and the managers presented souvenirs reciprocally and had the documentary photos taken.—MNA



Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint meets Lt-Col A K Dey and Lt-Col Gurubaksh Singh, managers of Indian Armed Forces football and volleyball teams of the Republic of India.—MNA

Entertainments performed to mark Htidaw and Seinbudaw hoisting, consecration ceremony



Local people at the ceremony in commemoration of hoisting Htidaw, Seinbudaw atop Uppatasanti Pagoda and consecration ceremony.—MNA



NAY PYI TAW, 4 March—In commemoration of hoisting Htidaw (umbrella) and Seinbudaw (diamond orb) atop Uppatasanti Pagoda and the consecration ceremony, the entertainments continued for the third day at the field near Yazahtani Road, south of the pagoda, yesterday evening.

Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen

Wai Lwin, Chairman of the Entertainment Subcommittee Director-General U Yan Naing Oo of the Fine Arts Department, departmental officials and over 10,000 local people enjoyed the entertainments.

Mandalay Nann Anyeint troupe performed entertainment and the Documentary Film Division of Myanma Motion Picture Enterprise showed academy

award winning movies entitled “Hmyaw-lint-gyin-myar-swar” and “Apyin-sar-yaik-chet”.

This evening, Moe Min theatrical troupe will present performances and Documentary Film Division present two movies “Gon-shein-pyin-de-chit-chin-theikkha” and “Apyaung-ale”.

MNA



Local people enjoy entertainment of Moe Min theatrical troupe staged in commemoration of hoisting Htidaw, Seinbudaw atop Uppatasanti Pagoda and consecration ceremony.

MNA

Entertainment on Ngwehsaung Beach on 7, 8 March

YANGON, 4 March — As part of efforts for development of tourism in Myanmar and for attracting visitors to Ngwehsaung Beach, festivities will be

held at Ngwehsaung Beach on 7 and 8 March.

The entertainment programme is jointly conducted by Myanmar Hoteliers Association and

Ngwe Hsaung Zone Hoteliers Association.

Entrance fees for the entertainments are K 1000, K 1500 and K 2000.

MNA

Multiplier course on taking farm censuses for 2010 opened

NAY PYI TAW, 4 March—Multiplier course on taking farm censuses for 2010 was held at Settlement and Land Record Department in Maubin on 20 February. Officials of Settlement and Land Record Department gave lectures.

Assistant staff officers and 55-clerks are attending the course. Maubin Township farm censuses of 44653-household in 442 villages will be taken.

MNA



Rural roads put into service in two townships in Rakhine State



Commander Maj-Gen Thaung Aye and Minister Col Thein Nyunt attend opening ceremony of Winzar-Ngapukwa gravel rural road in Minbya Township.—MNA

YANGON, 4 March — Hailing the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Thaung Aye and Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt attended an opening ceremony of Mingala Manaung new gravel rural road in MraukU Township on 2 March.

The road, 4,840 feet long and 12 feet wide, was built at a cost of K 13.4 million in 2008-2009 fiscal year. Rural people from Yadanabon, Tezayama, Hsinchaseik and Ywahaung-taw Villages can now go

to MyaukU any time.

The commander and the minister met with local people from five villages at Hsinchaseik village.

The Winzar-Ngapukwa gravel rural road was opened in Minbya Township hailing the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day.

The road, 4,300 feet long and 12 feet wide, was built at a cost of K 12.6 million in 2008-2009 fiscal year.

The commander and minister met with local people from five village tracts at Ngapukwa village.

MNA

Objectives of the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

1. To work hard together with the people to accomplish the State's seven-step Road Map in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation
2. To uphold Our Three Main National Causes as the national policy at risk to life
3. To crush, in cooperation with the people, internal and external subversive elements that are disrupting stability, peace and development of the nation
4. To build a strong and patriotic modern Tatmadaw capable of safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the nation

Myanmar-India friendly volleyball match held

YANGON, 4 March — The 8th friendly volleyball match between Myanmar and Indian Armed Forces took

place at National Indoor Stadium-1 in Thingangyun Township this afternoon.

Among the spectators were senior military officers of Ministry of Defence, the chairman and members of Myanma Tatmadaw Volleyball Committee and guests.

Before the match, the chairman of Myanma Tatmadaw Volleyball Committee and the manager of the volleyball team of Indian Armed Forces greeted the players from both teams.

After the match, gifts were presented to Indian Armed Forces volleyball team.—MNA



The 8th Myanmar-Indian Armed Forces friendly volleyball match-2009 in progress at National Indoor Stadium-1 in Thingangyun Township. —MNA

Myanmar-India friendly football match held

YANGON, 4 March—The 8th Myanmar-Indian Armed Forces friendly football match was held at the football ground of Youth Training Centre (Thuwanna), here, yesterday afternoon.

Among the spectators were military personnel

from Ministry of Defence, the Chairman of Tatmadaw Football Committee the Commandant of Defence Services Self-defence and Sports Institute and members of the committee and officials concerned from Indian Embassy.

The Chairman of Tatmadaw Football Committee and the manager of Indian Armed Forces football team greeted all the football players.

After an exchange of friendly flags by the players, the two football teams played the match.

After the match, souvenirs were presented to Indian Armed Forces football players.—MNA

Senior military officers, officials concerned, diplomats from Indian Embassy, guests and football fans enjoy 8th Myanmar-Indian Armed Forces friendly football match.

MNA





China opens political advisory session

BEIJING, 4 March—The Second Session of the 11th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), the country's top advisory body, started in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Tuesday afternoon.

A total of 2,160 CPPCC National Committee members coming throughout the country attended the opening meeting. They will underline major concerns of the nation's development during the annual session scheduled to conclude on March 12. CPPCC National Committee Chairman Jia Qinglin delivered a report

on the work of the CPPCC National Committee's Standing Committee over the past year. The top political advisor said the year 2009 marks the 60th anniversary of the founding of New China and the CPPCC and is crucial for properly responding to the global financial crisis and promoting further development of the cause of the Party and the country.—MNA/Xinhua



A man holds the new Amazon Kindle 2 at an unveiling event at the Morgan Library & Museum in New York City. Amazon opened up its electronic bookstore to the Apple iPhone and iPod, less than a month after unveiling the latest generation of its popular e-book reader, the Kindle.—INTERNET

China urges smoking doctors to quit the habit

BEIJING, 4 March—China has offered its male doctors, more than half of whom smoke, some urgent medical advice —

quit the habit and set an example to the hundreds of millions of other smokers.

China is the world's largest cigarette producer and Chinese are the world's most enthusiastic smokers, with a growing market of about 320 million making it a magnet for multinationals and focus of international health concerns. Chinese cigarettes are also among the cheapest in the world, with a packet costing as little as a few cents.

"Medical workers and those who take the decisions regarding people's health should take the lead to quit

smoking and completely ban indoor smoking to set a good example for their patients and others who look up to them," Health Minister Chen Zhu was quoted by the *China Daily* as saying.

About 56.8 per cent of male doctors were smokers, it added. "It is the highest rate in the world," the newspaper said, citing the China Preventive Medicine Association. "International experience has it that when doctors give up smoking, it encourages a lot of others to kick the habit," Chen was quoted as saying.

MNA/Reuters



Three horses run side by side through a snow covered meadow near Wangen im Allgaeu, southern Germany, on a sunny Wednesday, 25 Feb, 2009.—INTERNET

Iran signs deal to supply crude to Kenya

NAIROBI, 4 March—Iran will supply Kenya with four million metric tons of crude annually as part of a range of deals signed last week, Kenyan officials said on Tuesday.

The agreed supply from Iran, the world's fourth-largest oil exporter, is roughly equivalent to 80,000 barrels per day (bpd) by Reuters calculations. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad visited east Africa's biggest economy last week, where he and his Kenyan counterpart, Mwai Kibaki, also signed a grant and loan agreement totalling 800 million shillings (10 million US dollars) among others.

Kenya, like other

African countries, is increasingly turning east and strengthening trade and investment links with countries such as China and India. Commercial dealings with Iran have not been welcomed by the United States, which is embroiled in a row with the Islamic Republic over its disputed

nuclear programme. But US Ambassador to Kenya, Michael Ranneberger, was quoted by local media last week as saying his country was not alarmed by the Iranian leader's visit as the two countries were sovereign and free to make bilateral deals.

MNA/Reuters



This undated photo released by BMW shows the 2009 BMW X5 SUV.—INTERNET

A cat named 'Buddy' sits upright Monday, March 2, 2009 to survey the snowfall around his house in North Haven, Conn., as a late winter storm hit Connecticut Sunday and Monday.—INTERNET



MNA/Xinhua

Kuwait ruler plans to dissolve parliament

KUWAIT, 4 March—Kuwait's ruler has decided to dissolve Parliament, Al Jazeera television reported on Tuesday, after Islamist lawmakers asked to question the Prime Minister over his government's handling of the economic crisis.

Frequent Cabinet changes usually do not affect the oil policies of OPEC-member Kuwait, the world's seventh-largest oil exporter, which are set by a high state energy council. Al Jazeera's correspondent in Kuwait quoted parliamentary sources as saying Emir Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmed al-Sabah, who

has the last word in politics, would issue a decree to dissolve parliament.

"Parliamentary sources say that a decree will be issued to dissolve Parliament and call for elections within two months and that the decree would be issued within 48 hours," said Saad al-Anzi, the head of Al Jazeera's bureau in Kuwait. There was no confirmation of the report on state media and officials could not be reached to comment. The emir last dissolved Parliament a year ago to end a row between MPs and the Cabinet.

MNA/Reuters

Sponsored by

Central Co-operative Society & Kaung Myanmar Aung Company Ltd.

Post Nargis Myanmar Arts & Crafts Exhibition & Sales Fair*Display, Sales and Competition***Competition**

- *Freestyle Sculpture*
- *Lighting Sculpture*
- *Model Sculpture*

Display & Sales items

- *Myanmar Cultural Sculpture*
- *Chinese Cultural Sculpture*
- *European Cultural Sculpture*
- *Modern Cultural Sculpture*
- *Paintings*

Opening

March , 2009

09:00 hrs - 21:00 hrs

“ Sayasan Plaza ”

Junction of Sayasan Road
& New University Avenue Road
Bahan Tsp, Yangon.

Booths sales inquiry Phone : 01-540576, 557634, 546971

**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION
NEWS AND PERIODICALS ENTERPRISE
INVITATION TO TENDER**

1. Sealed tenders are invited by News and Periodicals Enterprise for the supply of the following prepress machines-

Description**Quantity**

CTP (Computer to Plate) Machine 2 Nos

2. Tender documents are available at Procurement Committee, No. 28, Kokkine Yeiktha Street, Bahan Township, Yangon. Closing date of bid will be on 23rd March 2009 at 16:30 hrs.

3. Please contact Phone No. 01-536029 & 01-534574 for further information.

Ministry of Information
Procurement Committee
No.28, Kokkine Yeiktha Street, Bahan Township,
Yangon.

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT



Myanmar

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is seeking applications from dynamic and highly motivated Myanmar nationals for the following vacancies with UNDP Yangon.

Detailed terms of reference are available at the bulletin board at No. 6, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon.

1. Administrative Analyst –(ICS-9) (Re-advertised)

Requirements: Master's Degree in Business Administration, Public Administration, Finance, Economics or related field. Background and experience in legal and contracting services and procurement essential. Minimum 5 to 7 years experience in operations with emphasis in procurement and contracting. Experience in handling of web-based management systems. Excellent communications skills in English an absolute requirement.

2. Administrative Assistant (Common Services) - (ICS-5)

Requirements: Bachelors degree preferable in Business or Public Administration/Social Science. Minimum 5 years of experience in general administration and building management. Strong interpersonal skill and ability to establish and maintain effective relations with people in a multi-cultural environment with sensitivity and respect for diversity. Excellent team spirit. Experience in the usage of computers and office software packages (MS Word, Excel, etc.) Experience in handling of web-based management systems and good knowledge in ATLAS, UNDP's corporate working tool an added asset. Very good communications skills in English, both written and spoken an absolute requirement.

Candidates should clearly indicate the Post Title in their applications, and should submit them together with complete bio-data stating personal details, academic qualification, work experience and a recent passport sized photograph. Candidates applying for both the positions should submit separate applications. Applications should be addressed to Deputy Country Director (Operations) Attention: Human Resources Unit, No. 6, Natmauk Road, UNDP, Yangon.

Note: For Post No. 1: those who have applied for Admin Analyst, ICS-9 advertised on 7 October 2008 need not apply.

For Post No. 2: those who have applied for Administrative Associate (Common Service-Level ICS-7) advertised on 7 October 2008 are invited to apply.

Only those candidates in whose qualifications and experience the Organization has further interest will be contacted for subsequent interview(s).

"UNDP practice relating to recruitment prohibits hiring of persons currently engaged by Government services or who left Government service during the past 6 months."

UNDP is an equal opportunity employer.

UNDP regrets its inability to reply individually or attend to telephone queries on the advertised posts.

Closing Date: **Wednesday, 18 March 2009 (COB)**

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.

Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed on 10th March (Tuesday) 2009, being public holiday under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

**Drive
with
care**

Worst of Australian wildfire season declared over

SYDNEY, 4 March—Australian authorities Wednesday declared the worst of the deadly wildfire season over, telling thousands of people who fled their homes it was safe to return.

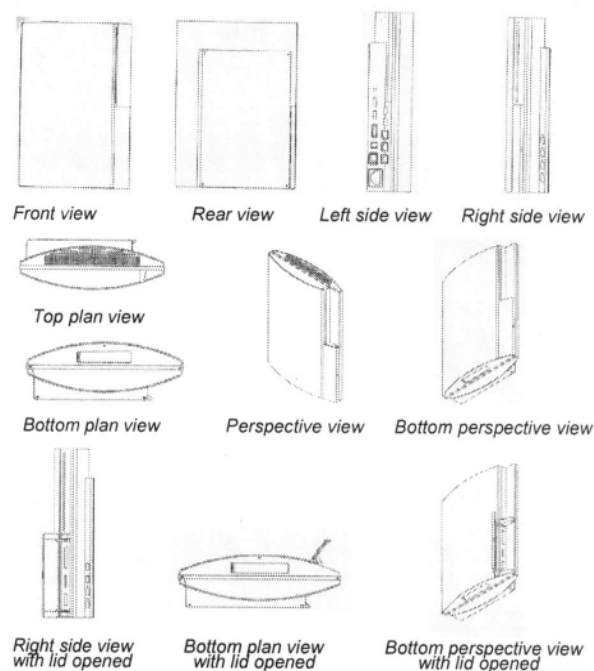
Fire-fighting authorities began scaling back their operations after cooling rains fell almost a month after a savage firestorm swept through Australia's south-east, killing 210 people.

"We see a very bright light at the end of the tunnel now," said Victoria state's emergency services commissioner Bruce Esplin.

"There's an opportunity for the communities of Victoria to start their process of grieving, start their process of rebuilding, without the ever-present threat of fire," he said. The search for bodies would continue for another three weeks, but the rain had greatly reduced the fire threat and Esplin said it was time for firefighters from overseas and other states to return home.—Internet

**INDUSTRIAL DESIGN CAUTIONARY NOTICE**

Sony Computer Entertainment Inc., a company incorporated in Japan and having its registered office at 2-6-21, Minami-Aoyama, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-0062, Japan, is the owner and proprietor of the following Industrial Design (in 11 different views) with respect to the product of "ARITHMETIC AND CONTROL UNIT" of which Myanmar Registration No. is 4/9097/2005:



Fraudulent or unauthorised use, or actual or implied imitation of the said Industrial Design shall be dealt with according to law.

U Than Maung, Advocate
For Sony Computer Entertainment Inc.,
C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.
Unit 701/702 Traders Hotel
Yangon, Union of Myanmar

Dated 5 March 2009

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV HANSEDUO VOY NO (104)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HANSEDUO VOY NO (104) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.3.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MAXICON CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**Apple unveils updates to
its desktop computer line**

SAN FRANCISCO, 4 March—Apple Inc on Tuesday took the wrap off a new line of its desktop computers with highlight on their cheaper prices in a reflection of the current economic condition.

The new line of iMac includes a 24-inch product starting at 1,499 US dollars, which Apple said is priced more affordably than ever before.

For the same price as its previous generation 20-inch iMac, the new flagship 24-inch iMac

Apple Inc on Tuesday took the wrap off a new line of its desktop computers with highlight on their cheaper prices in a reflection of the current economic condition.—INTERNET

delivers a 30-percent larger display, twice the memory and twice the storage, the company said.

Apple also introduced two new models of Mac mini, its tiny desktop computer. One of them is priced at 599 dollars.

The Mac mini has been updated with better graphic performance and higher energy efficiency, drawing less than 13 watts of power when idle.

"The Mac mini is not only our most affordable Mac, it's also the world's most energy efficient desktop computer," Tim Cook, Apple's chief operating officer, said in a statement.

The company also unveiled updates to its high-end Mac Pro desktop computer.

Internet

**Swedish scientists discover new protein
in lower air way**

STOCKHOLM, 4 March—Researchers from Uppsala University in Sweden reported that they have discovered a previously unknown protein in the cells of lower air ways, which brings new potential for early diagnosis of serious lung disease. The findings, published in the latest web edition of the US journal Proceedings of the Na-

tional Academy of Sciences, can also provide new knowledge of the cause of common diseases like asthma and chronic bronchitis.

The newly discovered protein, called KCNRG, occurs in cells in the lower air ways found on the surface of the bronchia.

The protein is important to the immune system in an autoimmune lung

disorder that is often fatal, according to the Uppsala research team.

The protein enables researchers to study more closely the first phase of the autoimmune disease, that is, when the immune system erroneously attacks the body's own tissues instead of attacking foreign organisms like bacteria or viruses.

Internet



Health workers in protective suits prepare to cull hundreds of pigs in an operation inside a hog farm in Pandi town, Bulacan Province, north of Manila on 2 March, 2009.—INTERNET

**World War Two bomb safely handled at
Singapore's construction site**

SINGAPORE, 4 March—A World War Two relic bomb was found and safely handled at a Singapore construction site, local media reported on Tuesday.

According to Channel newsasia's report, the war relic bomb was discovered on Monday evening at a construction site in southern Singapore.

The broadcaster said experts believed the relic was a Japanese aerial bomb dating from World War Two Bomb disposal specialists on Tuesday decided to dispose the

bomb at the site since the fuse had already been activated, the report said, adding that the bomb un-

expectedly exploded at about 5:30 pm (0830 GMT) and no harm was done.—Internet

**Four Indonesians die of bird flu; toll
climbs to 119**

JAKARTA, 4 March—Four Indonesians have died of bird flu, bringing the death toll in the coun-

try hardest hit by the disease over the past several years to 119, an official said on Tuesday.

Bayu Krisnamurthi, chief of the National Bird Flu Commission, said all the victims were believed to have been infected after coming into contact with sick poultry. They were from Java island and died in January and

February.

Indonesia, which has been criticized in recent months for refusing to immediately make public news of human deaths and in some cases hushing them up all together, has been worst affected by bird flu since it started ravaging Asian poultry stocks in late 2003.

It accounts for nearly half the 256 human fatalities tallied worldwide, according to the World Health Organization.

Internet

Students salvage items in a flooded teacher's room of their school in Lamongan in East Java Province on 2 March, 2009. INTERNET

SPORTS

Hiddink backs Drogha to lead Chelsea charge



Chelsea's Didier Drogha (R) challenges Portsmouth's Sylvan Distin during their English Premier League match at Fratton Park in Portsmouth on 3 March, 2009.—INTERNET

PORTSMOUTH, 4 March—Chelsea manager Guus Hiddink believes Didier Drogha is the man to wrest the Premier League title from Manchester United's grasp after rediscovering his best form since the Dutchman's arrival at Stamford Bridge.

Drogha scored his first league goal since December but

his second in Hiddink's four games at the helm as Chelsea rallied to another late victory by beating battling Portsmouth 1-0 at Fratton Park here on Tuesday.

The Ivory Coast striker made no secret of the fact he wanted to leave Chelsea during Luiz Felipe Scolari's ill-fated six month spell in charge but Hiddink believes he has helped rekindle Drogha's enthusiasm for the Blues.

"Didier has made a difference in the last few games," said Hiddink. "As long as he is so committed, and I am convinced he will be, we do not put the pressure on him. Automatically, he will score goals."

"From my first day at the club Didier has been working hard and enjoying himself," Hiddink, also still the manager of Russia, added after a win which saw Chelsea close to within four points of United.

"When players just play their efficiency goes down but when I see them enjoy everything in training it will help raise their game.—Internet

Season starts now, says Fergie

MANCHESTER, 4 March—Sir Alex Ferguson has insisted that Manchester United's race for glory starts now after claiming that the season will only be a success if his players land the "big" trophies between now and the end of May.

United, who added the League Cup to the FIFA Club World Cup trophy by defeating Spurs at Wembley last Sunday, have the chance to take another step towards sealing a hat-trick of Premier League titles by claiming three points at Newcastle on Wednesday evening.

Ferguson's men are still on course for an unprecedented quintuple this season, with the team going strong in the league, Champions League and FA Cup.

But the United manager insists the real trophies are still up for grabs and that the silverware already col-



Sir Alex Ferguson

lected this season will not be sufficient.

Ferguson said: "The only way we hope this season ends is with us winning the big ones."

"Winning the Club World Cup in December was an exceptional achievement, but the League Cup was fourth in our list of priorities at the start of the season."

"Now we have won it, though, we just move on because, for me, the Premier League and Champions League are the major trophies, with the FA Cup in third place."

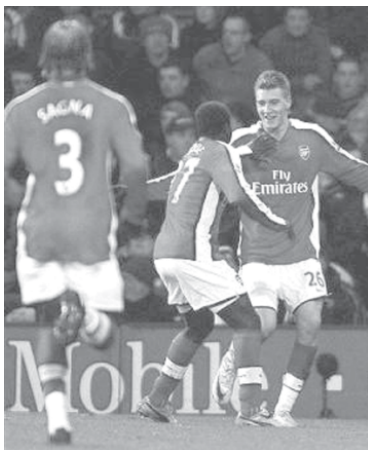
"If we win one major trophy a year, then I am happy with that.—Internet

Wenger's faith in Bendtner gets Baggies reward

WEST BROMWICH, 4 March—Arsene Wenger believes that Nicklas Bendtner is finally starting to prove his class after the striker inspired a 3-1 rout of West Bromwich Albion.

The Dane has been subjected to stinging criticism from sections of the Arsenal support this season thanks to some lacklustre performances, but the travelling fans at the Hawthorns here on Tuesday were bel- lowing his name by the end of an evening where he pulled Albion's dreadful defence to pieces. Bendtner rattled in two first-half goals - one curled into the bottom corner and another crunched past Scott Carson from an acute angle - and was only denied the match-ball when his low shot struck the post in the second period.

That took his season's tally to 11 and Wenger believes the young striker could now be running into form at the perfect time, with Arsenal's Champions League last 16 decider at AS Roma looming large next week.—Internet



Arsenal's Danish forward Nicklas Bendtner (right) celebrates after scoring his side's third goal during the English Premier league football match against West Bromwich Albion at The Hawthorns, West Bromwich. Arsenal won 3-1.—INTERNET

Virus rules Nalbandian out of Davis Cup tie

BUENOS AIRES, 4 March—World number 14 David Nalbandian has been ruled out of Argentina's Davis Cup first-round tie against the Netherlands here with a virus, team captain Modesto Vasquez announced on Tuesday.

"Nalbandian won't participate in the match against the Netherlands," Vasquez said. "He trained on Monday but he's still suffering from a virus which means he isn't in the right condition to play."

'King David', as he's known in his home country, was the figurehead of an Argentine team also containing Juan Monaco, Juan Ignacio Chela and doubles specialist Lucas Arnold Ker. They play the Netherlands at the Parque Roca claycourt arena between Friday and Sunday.

Nalbandian's possible replacements include world number seven Juan Martin del Potro, Jose Acasuso, ranked 45th in the world, and world number 50 Martin Vassallo Arguello.—Internet



Liverpool's French forward David N'Gog celebrates scoring against Sunderland in their English Premier League football match at Anfield in Liverpool. Liverpool won 2-0.—INTERNET

Lazio beats Juventus 2-1 in Italian Cup 1st leg

BEIJING, 4 March—Goran Pandev and Tommaso Rocchi scored as Lazio rallied to beat Juventus 2-1 in the first leg of the Italian Cup semifinals yesterday.

Marco Marchionni scored for Juventus in the 34th minute from the edge of the area, Pandev equalized in the 65th and Rocchi gave Lazio the lead in the 78th.

Pandev took a rebound and spun around before finding the target from the center of the area, while Rocchi beat defender Giorgio Chiellini to a ball inside the area and shot under goalkeeper Alexander Manninger.

Juventus forward Vincenzo Iaquinta had a goal annulled for a questionable offside call in the 18th and Manninger made a leaping save on a free kick from Cristian Ledesma in the 39th.

Juventus captain Alessandro Del Piero and goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon sat out.

Lazio forward Mauro Zarate, who scored twice in a 2-0 win over Bologna on Saturday, was suspended.

Inter Milan visits Sampdoria in the other semifinal today. The return legs are scheduled for 21 and 22 April, with the final on 13 May in Rome.—Internet

Swiss don't fault Federer for Davis Cup injury pullout



Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland plays a stroke in January 2009. Swiss players are determined to make do without the imposing presence of Roger Federer for the country's third meeting with the US at the Davis Cup World Group first round tie this weekend.—INTERNET

BIRMINGHAM, 4 March—Swiss players are determined to make do without the imposing presence of Roger Federer for the country's third meeting with the US at the Davis Cup World Group first round tie this weekend.

Beijing Olympic gold medal doubles partner Stan Wawrinka said that it had to be tough for Federer to skip the event as the world number two works to get his hobbled back in shape.

"We know it wasn't an easy decision," said Wawrinka, 16th in the world after reaching the Top 10 last spring with a final in Rome.

"But it's very very important for his career that he make this decision."

Swiss skipper Severin Luethi is a long-time friend of Federer and travels the circuit as an advisor and sounding board for the 13-time Grand Slam winner.

"With Roger out, we're not the favourites any more," he said. "We're now outsiders.—Internet

Victory at United vital for Benitez

LIVERPOOL, 4 March—Liverpool manager Rafa Benitez has told his side to forget their faint Premier League title hopes if they fail to win at Manchester United on 14 March.

Benitez saw his team move to within four points of Sir Alex Ferguson's leaders with a 2-0 win over Sunderland at Anfield here on Tuesday.

Liverpool, who have 10 league games remaining, have played two more matches than United but visit Old Trafford in their next league encounter with confidence sky high following goals by young French striker David Ngog and Yossi Benayoun.

However, Benitez knows that his side's domestic season will be over if they do not win at Old Trafford for the first time in five years later this month.

"We will try and win there," said Benitez after Liverpool's first win in three league outings.—Internet



Japan's DPJ leader's secretary arrested

TOKYO, 4 March—The secretary of Ichiro Ozawa, head of the main opposition Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) and a leading candidate for the next premier, was arrested Tuesday on suspicion of accepting illegal donation from scandal-tainted Nishimatsu

Takanori Okubo, who also serves as chief accountant of Ozawa's political body, "Rikuzankai," was allegedly received illegal corporate donations from Nishimatsu Construction Co., according to investigative sources. It is alleged Rikuzankai received the donations totalling 14 million yen (144,000 US dollars) from two groups headed by a former Nishimatsu official in violation of the political funds control law, NHK said in its news reports. Under the law, corporate donations, except for political parties or their political fund-managing organizations, are prohibited.

Ozawa is tipped as the next premier if his party takes power from the troubled Prime Minister Taro Aso in the next general election to be held by autumn.

MNA/Xinhua



Pemba, a four-month-old red panda cub makes his first public appearance at Sydney's Taronga Zoo, Australia, Wednesday, March 4, 2009. Pemba is the 44th red panda cub bred in the zoo's international breeding program for the endangered species since 1977.—INTERNET

MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (5.3.2009) (Thursday)

Transmissions

Local	Times
Europe	- (09:00am ~ 10:00am) MST
North America	- (15:30pm ~ 23:30pm) MST

Local Transmission

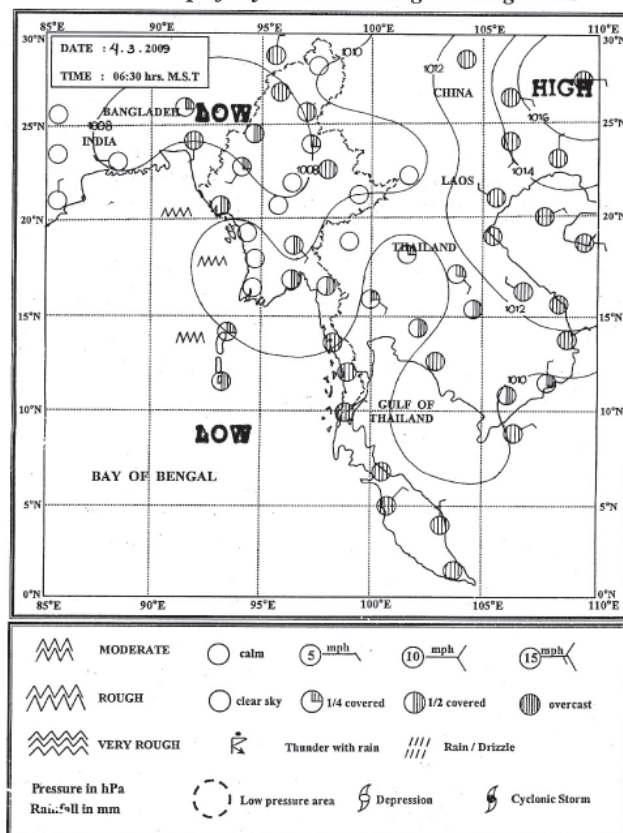
- ☐ Signature Tune
- ☐ Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- ☐ Ancient Han-Lin
- ☐ A Village of Pa-O
- ☐ The Beauty of Zwegabin and Livelihood of Kayin National
- ☐ Rakhine State Cultural Museum
- ☐ Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Europe/ North America Transmission

- ☐ Signature Tune
- ☐ Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- ☐ The Ancient City Mrauk U
- ☐ Myanmar Art of Marionettes
- ☐ National Races Village (Kachin, Kayah, Kayin)
- ☐ Strive for Development of Industrial Zone
- ☐ Let's keep fit by exercising
- ☐ Travel and Description (Mandalay to Lashio)
- ☐ Myanma Marionette "A Laudable Myanma Marionette (Part-1)"
- ☐ Ancient Han-Lin
- ☐ A Village of Pa-O
- ☐ The Beauty of Zwegabin and Livelihood of Kayin National
- ☐ National Races Village (Chin, Mon, Rakhine)
- ☐ Rakhine State Cultural Museum
- ☐ Use Natural Waste effectively to produce Bio-fuel
- ☐ Smogless sky, Enchanting Smiles (Inlay, Shwe Nyaung)
- ☐ Myanma Marionette "A Laudable Myanma Marionette (Part-2)"
- ☐ Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Wednesday, 4 March, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, Light rain or thunder-showers have been isolated in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division, weather has been partly cloudy in Shan, Mon and Rakhine States, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above March average temperatures in Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States, Sagaing and Bago Divisions, (5°C) above March average temperatures in Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions and about March average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant Day temperatures were Chauk, Minbu and Magway (40°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 3-3-2009 was 100°F. Minimum temperature on 4-3-2009 was 68°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 4-3-2009 was 83%. Total sunshine hours on 3-3-2009 was (9.2) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 4-3-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from Southeast at (13:30) hours MST on 3-3-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 5th March 2009: Isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Mon States, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 5-3-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 5-3-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 5-3-2009: Generally fair weather.



Thursday, 5 March
View on today

7:00 am

- မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

- To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

- Morning news

7:45 am

- Dance of national races

8:00 am

- Dance variety

8:15 am

- (၆၄)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

8:30 am

- International news

8:40 am

- Musical programme

8:50 am

- အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

4:00 pm

- Martial song

4:10 pm

- Cute little dancers

4:20 pm

- အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

4:30 pm

- တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုတေးသီချင်းပြိုင်ပွဲ ဆုရတေးများ

4:40 pm

- "တစ်လောကလုံးလင်းပါစေ" (ပြေတီဦး၊ မိုးပြည့်ပြည့်မောင်၊

မေသဉ္ဇာဦး၊ ဝါဝါအောင်၊

စက်ဖူးပွင့်)

(ဒါရိုက်တာ-စင်ရော်မောင်မောင်)

5:00 pm

- ၂၀၀၉ခုနှစ်တက္ကသိုလ်ဝင်စာမေးပွဲ ဘာသာရပ်ဆိုင်ရာသင်ခန်းစာ (စိတ်ကြိုက်မြန်မာစာ)

5:10 pm

- Songs to uphold National Spirit

5:35 pm

- (၆၄)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

5:45 pm

- ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲ့ရင်ခုန်သံ

6:00 pm

- Evening news

6:30 pm

- Weather report

6:35 pm

- ပျော်ရွှင်စေသောနေ့ရက်များ "ကလေးချီနည်း"

(ကျော်စိုး၊ စိုးရန်အောင်၊

စော်စော်အောင်၊ နှင်းယုဆွေ၊

ရွှေပန်းချီ၊ ပွမ်းပုံကြီး)

(ဒါရိုက်တာ-အောင်ကျော်သူရ)

6:50 pm

- ထူးဆန်းလွှေလာများကိုသိပ္ပံဖြင့် ချဉ်းကပ်ခြင်း

7:10 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

"ကုန်သွယ်မှုနိမ့်နိမ့်"

(အပိုင်း-၅၇)

8:00 pm

- News

- International news

- Weather report

- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

"မေတ္တာလမ်းဆုံ"

(အပိုင်း-၅)

- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

"မြူနိုဝေဝေချစ်သက်တည်"

(အပိုင်း-၄)

**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

Instead of making false allegations at other nations US should concentrate on uplifting own human rights records

MOFA rejects US State Department's human rights report (2008)

NAY PYI TAW, 4 March—An announcement was issued today that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs categorically rejected the 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices of over 190 countries including Myanmar released by the State Department of the United States of America on 25th February 2009.

The full text of the announcement is as follows:-

The United States Department of State released on 25th February 2009 its 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices of over 190 countries, including Myanmar. As in the past, the report repeated its unfounded and unsubstantiated allegations of human rights violations in Myanmar.

It is saddening to find that the report contained the usual sweeping accusations of human rights abuses in Myanmar without verification of the validity and accuracy of the information and reliability of its sources. Instead of making false allegations at other nations regarding human rights matters, the United States should concentrate on uplifting its own human rights records.

Myanmar has long been a victim of a systematic disinformation campaign launched by anti-government elements, generously funded by their foreign supporters. The rootless allegations of human rights violations which invariably emanated from anti-government elements have found their way into the reports of the US State Department. Thus, there is a need to verify all information before it is judged fit for inclusion in official reports.

Myanmar believes that the promotion and protection of human rights should be conducted in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter and international law. Human Rights issues must be addressed based on cardinal principles of objectivity, respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of States. There should be no double

standards or politicization of human rights issues. It is only cooperation, rather than politicization of human rights that can bring about improvement in human rights situations around the world.

Pursuant to its Foreign Policy, Myanmar has been cooperating with the United Nations in many fields including promotion of human rights. Myanmar has welcomed the visits of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Mr Ibrahim Gambari for a total of seven times. Likewise, the current Human Rights Rapporteur for Myanmar, Thomas Ojea Quintana has already visited Myanmar twice since his appointment last year. The Supplementary Understanding on the Treatment of Complaints regarding Forced Labour between the Government of the Union of Myanmar and the ILO was also extended again on 26 February 2009.

Like other developing countries, Myanmar accords high priority to the right to development. It has been striving for the all-round development of the country, paying attention to narrowing the gap between urban and rural areas, especially the border areas where the majority of the ethnic nationalities reside. The report ignored such positive developments taking place in the area of promoting the right to development of the people in Myanmar.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar therefore categorically rejects the biased assessment on the human rights situations in Myanmar contained in the United States Department of State's 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices.—MNA

Myanmar's national efforts in combating drug problem carried out with little or no external assistance

MOFA categorically rejects International Narcotics Control Strategy Report

NAY PYI TAW, 4 March—An announcement was issued today that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs categorically rejected the International Narcotics Control Strategy Report on over 100 countries, including Myanmar released by the US State Department on 27th February 2009.

The full text of the announcement is as follows:-

The US Department of State on 27 February 2009 released an International Narcotics Control Strategy Report on over 100 countries, including Myanmar. The report has groundlessly identified Myanmar as one of the three countries in the world that had "failed demonstrably" to meet its international counter narcotics obligations. It is regrettable that such an unfair categorization was made, ignoring Myanmar's strenuous efforts in combating narcotic drugs.

Myanmar has been waging a relentless war against illicit narcotic drugs for decades. A comprehensive 15-year National Plan was laid down in 1999. Myanmar's national efforts against the drug problem are based on two strategies: (1) eradication of narcotic drugs as a national task and (2) total eradication of opium poppy cultivation through the promotion of living standards of all the national races residing in the border areas where opium poppy was cultivated. These strategies are supported by three tactics: to reduce supply of drugs, to reduce demand and to increase enforcement measures.

Amphetamine-type stimulants pose a new and ominous threat because they are extremely easy to produce. The best way to counter this threat is to deny the traffickers of precursor chemicals required in the production of these drugs. Myanmar neither produces nor imports any precursor chemicals.

At the regional level, Myanmar is working together with other members of ASEAN to reach its common goal of making the region free from drugs by 2015.

Myanmar has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with six countries for the creation of a Greater Mekong Sub-Region Drug-Free Zone. Myanmar aims to rid the country of narcotic drugs by 2014, one year ahead of the date set by ASEAN.

The problem of drugs is closely linked to transnational crimes including terrorism. It is a global problem which can only be addressed through close international cooperation. National efforts must be complemented by cooperative efforts both at the regional and international levels.

The allegations of money-laundering leveled against Myanmar are also unfounded and politically motivated. Myanmar joined the UN Drugs Convention in 1988 and became a member of the Asia Pacific Group on Anti-Money Laundering in March 2006. Due to Myanmar's Anti-Money Laundering Projects in accordance with international regulations, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) deleted Myanmar from its list of Non-Cooperative Countries and Territories on 13 October 2006.

Myanmar's national efforts in combating drug problem were carried out with little or no external assistance. It is a sad fact that these sincere efforts have not received the full acknowledgement and support that they deserve.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar therefore categorically rejects the International Narcotics Control Strategy Report issued by the US Department of State as inaccurate and politically motivated assessments.

MNA