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Thursday, 19 March, 2009

Senior General Than Shwe meets Chinese PLA goodwill delegation

NAY PYI TAW, 18 March—Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, received a Chinese goodwill delegation led by Chief of General Staff General Chen Bingde of the People's Liberation Army of the People's Republic of China at Bayintnaung Yeiktha, here at 11 am today.

Also present at the call were Vice-Chairman of SPDC Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Member of SPDC General



Senior General Than Shwe receives Chief of General Staff General Chen Bingde of the People's Liberation Army of the PRC and party at Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Secretary-1 of SPDC Quartermaster-General

Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral

Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of

Defence, Myanmar Military Attaché to PRC Col Tint Wai, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar

Mr Ye Dabo and Military Attaché Senior Colonel Gao Tiejun.

MNA



Senior General Than Shwe welcomes back Prime Minister General Thein Sein at Nay Pyi Taw Airport.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe welcomes back Prime Minister General Thein Sein

NAY PYI TAW, 18 March — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe welcomed back Prime Minister General Thein Sein at Nay Pyi Taw Airport at 4 p.m. today on his arrival from Singapore after paying goodwill visits to Indonesia and Singapore at the invitations of President of the Republic of Indonesia Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore Mr. Lee Hsien Loong.

Also present at the airport together with Senior General Than Shwe were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Secretary-1 of SPDC Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, departmental heads, Charge d' Affaires ai of Indonesian Embassy Mr. Totok Prianamto and Charge d' Affaires ai of Singaporean Embassy Mr. Sim Siong Chye.

The delegation members the ministers, the deputy ministers, departmental heads and officials also arrived back on the same flight.

MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 19 March, 2009

Open more self-reliant libraries to enhance the socio-economic status of rural people

In its drive for building a modern developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation the government is making all-out efforts to bring about equitable development the length and breadth of the nation.

Literacy for all plays a pivotal role in enhancing the economic and social status of a nation.

At present, strenuous efforts are being made throughout the nation including rural and border areas for everyone to have basic literary skills.

In that regard, self-reliant rural libraries have been opened in villages and libraries established in those regions where there are no libraries to broaden the horizons of local people. The project also covers Rakhine State where the stake driving ceremonies have been held in Ngalapway Village, Kyaukpyu Township and Letpan-awa Village in Yanbye Township recently.

The extended opening of libraries in different regions largely helps equip local people with education and knowledge and develop their reading habits. As 70 per cent of the nation's population are rural people, more rural libraries are to be established to widen the scope of their knowledge.

Library science is indispensable in successful implementation of the nation's political, economic and social objectives, for it can provide a wide array of knowledge keeping pace with changes and developments.

At a time when efforts are being made for rural development it is incumbent upon the entire people to strive for perpetual existence of rural libraries. Only then, will the socio-economic status of rural people improve and will they be able to equip themselves with education and knowledge.

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

Goodwill delegation led by Chief of General Staff of PRC People's Liberation Army arrives



Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint welcomes Chief of General Staff of People's Liberation Army of PRC General Chen Bingde at Yangon International Airport. —MNA

YANGON, 18 March—A goodwill delegation led by Chief of General Staff of People's Liberation Army of the People's Republic of China General Chen Bingde arrived here by air at 2.30 yesterday.

They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint and senior

military officers, Ambassador of People's Republic of China to the Union of Myanmar Mr Ye Dabo, Chinese Military Attaché Senior Colonel Gao Tiejun, the military attaché of Myanmar and

officials.

Accompanied by officials concerned, the Chinese goodwill delegation visited Shwedagon Pagoda in the evening.

MNA

'KHinD' brand Nano Hygiene fans introduced

YANGON, 18 March—Monarch Company introduced its different kinds of new fans at a ceremony held at KHinD Electro World on Alanpya Pagoad Road here

yesterday.

The Nano Hygiene fans include 16 inch stand fans, 16 inch wall fans, 16 inch table fans and 12 inch table fans. Those facilities are most suitable to factories and mills, hospitals and clinics, restaurants and shops where there is air pollution as well as conference and meeting halls, departmental establishments, nursery schools and classrooms.

Also available along with the above-mentioned items at reasonable prices

are 99 different kinds of air coolers, air conditioners, kitchen appliances. And the company will also offer special prices for deep freezers of various sizes, 'maco' freezer (single door) and semi auto washing machines.

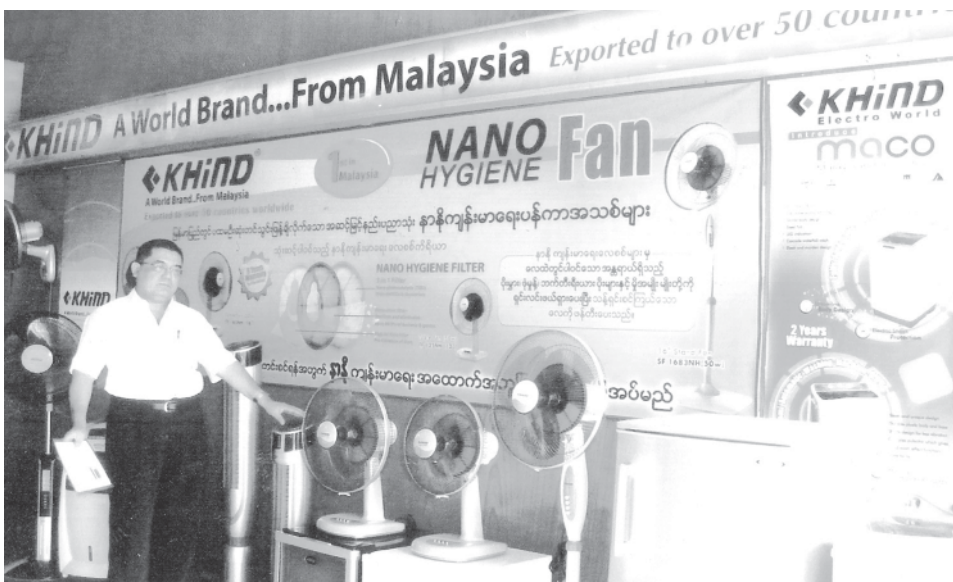
Contact the KHinD Electro World, United Condo, No 39, Alanpya Pagoad Road near Lapyiwun Plaza, Dagon Township, Yangon (Tel 242307 or 380475) and other super markets and electronic stores.—MNA

AGM of MFPTMA on 28 March

YANGON, 18 March—Myanmar Forest Products and Timber Merchants Association postponed its annual general meeting and the AGM will be held at International Business Center (I.B.C) on Pyay Road here on 28 March (Saturday). The association has invited its members to attend the meeting without fail.

MNA

**Beware
of
Fire**



KHinD brand Nano Hygiene fans put on display.—MNA



Iran official says US ties don't affect Afghan unrest

KABUL, 18 March—An improvement in Iran's relationship with the United States would have no effect on Afghanistan's Taliban militancy or the country's booming drug trade, an Iranian diplomat said Tuesday.

The comments came ahead of a conference to discuss the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan, proposed by US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. Afghan Foreign Minister Rangeen Dadfar

Spanta has said that any decrease in tensions between Iran and the West would benefit Afghanistan.

But Feda Hussein Maliki, Iran's ambassador to Kabul, said he wasn't even sure that Iran would attend the 31 March conference, adding that Tehran has yet to receive an invitation. Dutch Foreign Ministry spokesman Christoph Prommersberger says an invitation has been deliv-

ered by the Dutch embassy in Teheran and to the Iranian Embassy in The Hague.

"Our relation is a strategic relation with Afghanistan ... a deep relationship that has no links with other relations, whether America would or wouldn't be in Afghanistan," Maliki said on the sidelines of a ceremony marking a trade pact to import Iranian cars to Afghanistan.

Internet



A 3-year-old Iraqi girl who was blinded and disfigured in a Baghdad car bombing in 2006, sits with her relatives outside her home in Baghdad, Iraq, on 9 March, 2009.—INTERNET



Blood stains are seen at the spot following a suicide attack in Lashkar Gah, the capital of Helmand Province, south of Kabul, Afghanistan, on 16 March, 2009.

INTERNET

Australia says NATO wants more troops for Afghanistan

CANBERRA, 18 March —North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) asked Australia to commit more troops to the conflict in Afghanistan, Australian Foreign Minister Stephen Smith said on Wednesday.

"We haven't received a formal request from the US administration," Smith told Sky News, adding that he would not be surprised if a request was forthcoming.

Smith said NATO has asked all coalition nations with troops in Afghanistan to provide additional security arrangements or an additional security contingent for local elections in August. In response, Australia had provided 3 million Australian dollars (1.8 million US dollars) to assist with it.

Internet

US military deaths in Afghanistan region at 591

WASHINGTON, 18 March—As of Tuesday, 17 March, 2009, at least 591 members of the US military had died in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan as a result of the US invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001, according to the Defence Department. The department last updated its figures on Tuesday at 10 am EDT.

Of those, the military reports 435 were killed by hostile action.

Outside the Afghan region, the Defence Department reports 67 more members of the US military died in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Of those, three were the result of hostile action. The military lists these other locations as Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba; Djibouti; Eritrea; Ethiopia; Jordan; Kenya; Kyrgyzstan; Philippines; Seychelles; Sudan; Tajikistan; Turkey; and Yemen.

There were also four CIA officer deaths and one military civilian death.

Internet

Three people killed in northern Iraq

MOSUL, 18 March—Three Iraqis were killed in the northern city of Mosul on Tuesday, a provincial police said.

A student in Management and Administration College in Mosul University was shot dead by unknown gunmen in a southwestern neighbourhood of the capital city of Nineveh Province, the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

An Iraqi soldier was also shot dead in the day when unknown gunmen open fire on an Iraqi army checkpoint in Almuharibin neighbourhood in eastern Mosul, the source said.—Internet

Explosion shocks Afghan capital, wounds 3

KABUL, 18 March—A powerful blast rocked west of Afghan capital Kabul Wednesday morning, injuring at least three persons, all of them civilians, a police officer aid.

"It was 7:00 am local time when the blast hit Katai Sangi area in 5th precinct injuring three civilians," the police officer told *Xinhua* but declined to be identified.

He further added that the terrorists planted explosive device close to a police checkpoint and detonated by remote control. The blast also shattered windowpanes of buildings and shops next to the site.

Police have cordoned off the area and do not allow journalists and ordinary people to visit the place of the incident.—Internet

Chavez preparing 'artillery' for Americas summit

CARACAS, 18 March—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said Tuesday that he is preparing plenty of verbal "artillery" for his first encounter with President Barack Obama at an upcoming summit.

Chavez — long a fierce critic of Washington — said he expects that the future of US relations with Latin America will begin to take shape at April's summit of leaders from across the Americas in Trinidad and Tobago.

"Our artillery is being prepared. There's going to be good artillery," Chavez said during a televised Cabinet meeting.

"What will Mr Obama come with? I don't know. We're going to see. We'll see what the pitcher throws," Chavez said. Chavez said that immediately before the Americas summit in Trinidad, he

will host leaders of nations in his Bolivarian Alternative trade pact for talks in Caracas on 16 April. He also said he plans talks with the leader of Paraguay, and possibly Uruguay, before the summit.

Chavez called the US embargo against Cuba "absurd and stupid," saying he hopes to see the new US administration define its stance on the issue.—Internet

US soldiers walk past a concrete barrier in Baghdad's Shula district, on 18 March 2009.



Russia says US, NATO actions mean new arms are needed

Moscow, 18 March—Russia's defence minister on Tuesday accused the United States of beefing up its military presence near Russian borders and poaching for mineral wealth there, signaling that Moscow could take a tough position in upcoming talks with Barack Obama's new administration.

Anatoly Serdyukov's statement — made alongside President Dmitry Medvedev at a meeting of the military's top brass — reflected deeply entrenched Russian suspicions despite Obama's desire to improve relations with Moscow.

Medvedev, meanwhile,

cited NATO expansion, international terrorism and regional conflicts as reasons why upgrading Russia's nuclear forces was the top priority in an ambitious military modernization plan that he pledged to pursue despite the worst economic crisis in a decade.

Relations with Russia plunged to a post-Cold War low under the previous US administration, whose plans to build missile defence sites in eastern Europe and bring ex-Soviet republics into NATO angered Moscow.

Medvedev's first meeting with Obama next month will set the tone for

talks over a new arms control treaty and other major disputes — and Russia is signaling that it will be a tough negotiating partner.

"US aspirations have been aimed at getting access to raw materials, energy and other resources" of ex-Soviet nations, Serdyukov told military officers. "Active support was given to the processes aimed at pushing Russia out of the sphere of its traditional interests."

Internet



Piles of containers at Waigaoqiao Container Port are seen, on 3 March, 2009 in Shanghai, China. The World Bank cut its forecast of China's 2009 growth from 7.5 percent to 6.5 percent on Wednesday due to plunging exports but expressed confidence in Beijing's ability to keep the world's third-largest economy expanding amid global turmoil.—INTERNET

France opposes global role for NATO

PARIS, 18 March—Closer ties with Washington, and an olive branch for Moscow: France's defence minister on Tuesday laid out French plans to rejoin a crucial post in US-led NATO, while insisting that Russia must have a say in constructing European security.

Herve Morin said in an interview that France has no regrets about rejoining NATO's integrated military command, a position it quit 43 years ago.

"This step is designed so that we find our full place in the decision-making," he told *The Associated Press* from under 17th-century portraits in his sun-dappled Paris office. "We are actors, and we want to write the script."

President Nicolas Sarkozy, a firm believer in close friendship with the United States, first announced plans to rejoin the command in late 2007. But with criticism of that proposal building in recent weeks, his government called a no-confidence vote in the lower house of parliament on the subject on Tuesday. It was assured passage — and slid through at 329 to 238 votes — because fellow conservatives have a majority in the National Assembly.—Internet



Nokia's Research Center in Helsinki, October 2007. Nokia, the world's leading mobile phone maker, said it planned to cut another 1,700 jobs worldwide as part of cost-cutting measures to offset falling handset prices and sales.

INTERNET

Four arrested as hundreds protest Bush speech in Canada

OTTAWA, 18 March—Four people were arrested in Canada's western city of Calgary during a protest against an address by former US president George W Bush on Tuesday.

A crowd of roughly 400 noisy protestors gathered outside the Telus Convention Centre in downtown Calgary where Bush was making his first

official speech since leaving office, local reports said on Tuesday.

Blowing whistles and chanting "war criminal," demonstrators carried signs and shouted "shame on you" at people attending the event at a cost of 400 Canadian dollars (about 310 US dollars) each.

At the protest pinnacle, four people were arrested, Calgary police said. Two men were charged with obstructing a peace officer and resisting arrest. Another man was charged with breaching the peace, while the fourth was issued a ticket for violating a public behavior bylaw.

An invitation-only crowd of about 1,500 listened to the former US president. Security was tight as all guests were searched before entering the convention center. Media were not allowed inside.—Internet

Sexual assaults on rise among US soldiers

WASHINGTON, 18 March—Reports of sexual assaults among members of the US military increased by 8 percent in fiscal year 2008 that ended on 30 Sept, from the previous fiscal year, according to a Pentagon report revealed on Tuesday.

Among US troops stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan, such reports rose by 26 percent during the same period, according to the report.

Kaye Whitley, director of the Pentagon's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response office, told reporters the increases can be attributed to improved reporting methods and officials' belief that military personnel are less fearful of backlash from commanders and peers after reporting an assault.—Internet

Five west African countries to take Nile carp

ABIDJAN, 18 March—Experts from five west African countries gathered on Tuesday in Ivory Coast to discuss a plan to introduce tilapia, or the Nile carp, into waters of the Volta basin for fish farming.

"We need to take precautions before undertaking such a large enterprise," Ivory Coast's Minister of Animal Production and Fisheries Alphonse Douati told AFP on the sidelines of the meeting.

Douati said that if successfully managed in line with a fish farming scheme drawn up by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the "TIVO project" could deliver a fivefold increase in freshwater fish supplies in the region.

The nations involved in the project are Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali and Togo. The three-day Abidjan meeting was to assess studies of the environmental and biodiversity risks of introducing the carp into the Volta.—Internet



A massive bush fire threatens buildings as it sweeps across Cape Town's Table Mountain, on 18 March, 2009, causing hundreds of people to be evacuated. Strong south easterly winds, coupled with hot dry weather, have fanned hundreds of bush fires across the province in recent weeks.—INTERNET



General Thura Shwe Mann holds talks with Chief of General Staff of People's Liberation Army of PRC

NAY PYI TAW, 18 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe

General Thura Shwe Mann welcomes...

(from page 16)

At the airport, General Thura Shwe Mann and the Chief of General Staff of the PLA took the salute of the Guard of Honour and then inspected the Guard of Honour.

General Thura Shwe Mann cordially greeted the Chief of General Staff of the PLA and members of the PLA delegation who accompanied.

The Chief of General Staff of the PLA also cordially greeted General Thura Shwe Mann and party.

Afterwards, the PLA Chief of General Staff and party left for Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone in a motorcade.—MNA

Mann of the Ministry of Defence held talks with Chief of General Staff of the People's Liberation Army of the People's Republic of China General Chen Bingde at Bayintnaung Yeiktha here today.

Also present at the meeting were Member of the State Peace and De-

velopment Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Lt-Gen Myint Hlaing, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and senior military officers of Ministry of Defence, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Military Attache of Myanmar to the People's Republic of China Col Tint Wai

and military officers, Ambassador of the PRC to Myanmar Mr Ye Dabo and Military Attaché Senior Col Gao Tiejun.

At the meeting, the two sides cordially discussed matters related to mutual cooperation and strengthening friendship between the two countries. — MNA

General Thura Shwe Mann of Ministry of Defence meets with Chief of General Staff of the PLA General Chen Bingde at Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw.—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

FSD gets new fire engine

YANGON, 18 March — A ceremony to donate an Isuzu fire engine worth US\$ 5000 to the Fire Services Department of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement was held at Maykhala hall of the Fire Services Department (Head Office) this morning.

Firstly, wellwisher U Myint Maung explained the purpose of donation. Then he handed over documents related to the fire engine to Director-General U Myint Tun of the department.

MNA



Director General U Myint Tun of Fire Services Department accepts Isuzu fire engine donated by wellwisher U Maung Myint of Hmwe plastic bag industry.—FSD

Road inaugurated in Kyaikto to hail 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

YANGON, 18 March — As a gesture of hailing the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, an asphalt road was inaugurated in Kyaikto Township, Mon State, on 17 March, 2009.

The road constructed by the Kyaikto Township Development Affairs

Department was formally opened by Chairman of Kyaikto Township Peace and Development Council and Executive Officer of the township DAD U Nay Htet Shein. Officials concerned inspected the road after opening the ceremony. — MNA

Medical forum of MMA on 25 March

YANGON, 18 March — Myanmar Medical Association (Central) invited doctors to attend the Continuing Professional Development Forum conducted by the generalists' group of MMA here on 25 March.

At the forum, resource

persons will read out their papers and there will be "Q & A on Common Childhood Infections Family Practice" programme by a specialist.

The forum will be held at MMA from noon to 3 pm on 25 March.

MNA

Talks on DHF held in Mawlamyine

YANGON, 18 March — Mawlamyine Township Peace and Development Council organized the educative talks on dengue haemorrhagic fever at Shwemyaing Hall of the Township PDC on 2 March.

Chairman of the Township PDC U Thein

Win explained preventive measures to be taken against dengue haemorrhagic fever in township, wards and villages.

Dr Nyan Hsint of Mon State malaria specialist discussed the methods for taking DHF control measures.—MNA

GRSR Billiards and Snooker Championship 2009 (Yangon) opens

YANGON, 18 March — The opening ceremony of Grand Royal Special Reserve Billiards and Snooker Championship 2009 (Yangon) was held at Diamond Condominium this morning.

Vice-President of

Myanmar Billiards and Snooker Federation U Tin Maung Win opened the ceremony. A total of 79 participants competed in the first day's events. The championship will continue till 22 March.

MNA



Indonesian President Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono cordially greets Prime Minister General Thein Sein at the Istana Merdeka Presidential Palace in Jakarta, Indonesia.

MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein lays the wreath at the National Heroes Cemetery in Jakarta, Indonesia.

MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein arrives in Indonesia for goodwill visit

(from page 16)

The Prime Minister was welcomed at the airport by Indonesia Minister of Communications and Information H.E Mr Mohammad Nuh, Governor of Ja-

karta Hon. Dr Ing Fauzi Bowo and officials, Myanmar Ambassador to Indonesia U Nyan Lin and wife Daw Khin Mar Nwe, Military Attaché Col Aye Thaw and wife Daw Khin Oo May, staff of

Myanmar Embassy and Office of Military Attaché and their families.

Myanmar delegation led by Prime Minister General Thein Sein together with the Indonesian Minister of

Afterwards, the Prime Minister signed the visitors' book and viewed documentary photos of heroes of Indonesia. Then, the Myanmar delegation proceeded to Hotel Borobudur in Jakarta.

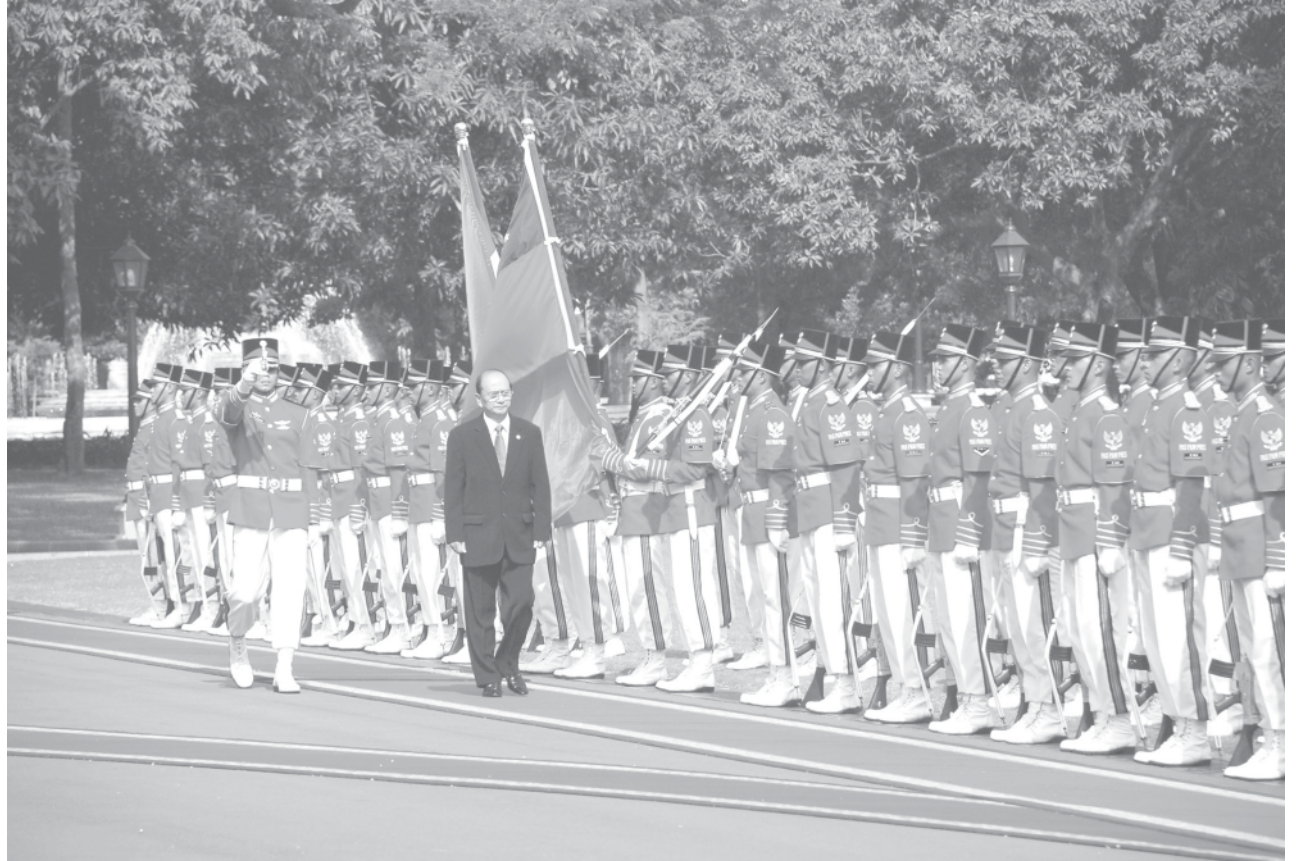
Republic of Indonesia Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono cordially welcomed Prime Minister General Thein Sein.

A ceremony to welcome the Myanmar delegation led by Prime Minister General Thein

oured with 19-guns salute.

Next, Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspected the Guard of Honour.

The Prime Minister introduced members of the Myanmar delegation to the Indonesian



Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects Guard of Honour at the Istana Merdeka Presidential Palace.—MNA



Communications and Information went to Kalibata National Heroes Cemetery in Jakarta where they were welcomed by Deputy Commander of Jakarta Military Region Brig-Gen Avianto Saptono and officials.

Next, Prime Minister General Thein Sein laid the wreath at the National Heroes Cemetery.

At 3.15 p.m., Prime Minister General Thein Sein and delegation members together with the Indonesian Minister of Communications and Information left Hotel Borobudur and they were welcomed by Acting Chief of the Presidential Palace Mr Winata Supritna at the Istana Merdeka Presidential Palace.

President of the

Sein was held in front of the Istana Palace.

First, Prime Minister General Thein Sein and Indonesian President Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono took the salute of the Guard of Honour. At that time, the State Band played the National Anthems of the Union of Myanmar and the Republic of Indonesia, and the Prime Minister was hon-

President. Likewise, the Indonesian President introduced ministers, military officers, police officers and senior officials to the Prime Minister.

Later, Prime Minister General Thein Sein and Indonesian President Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono posed for documentary photo in front of the Presidential Palace.

MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein calls on Indonesian President Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono

NAY PYI TAW, 18 March— Prime Minister General Thein Sein paid a courtesy call on President of the Republic of Indonesia Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono at Istana Merdeka Presidential Palace at 3.35 pm on 16 March.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe and Myanmar Ambassador to Indonesia U Nyan Lin. The President was accompanied by State Secretary Mr M Hatta Rajasa, Cabinet Secretary Mr Sudi Silalahi, Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr N Hassan Wirajuda, Minister of Communications and

Information Mr Mohammad Nuh and Indonesia Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Sebastianus Sumarsono.

First, President Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono extended greetings.

Next, Prime Minister General Thein Sein made a speech. He expressed thanks for a warm welcome extended to his delegation, and expressed his belief that his visit would further strengthen the existing friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein conveyed the message of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe wishing the President health and happiness, and the message of Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye wishing the President a physical and mental well-being.

He continued to say that friendship, close

cooperation and mutual help between Myanmar and the Republic of Indonesia have existed since the pre-independence period, and Myanmar thanked the Republic of Indonesia, for it stood firmly by her in regional and international spheres. And he expressed hope that the President would stand by Myanmar against pressures imposed on the country in the international arena turning a blind eye to objective and positive and developments in Myanmar.

He said that the Tatmadaw government after assuming the State responsibilities had to overcome a series of hardships and difficulties; that after addressing those problems it tried its utmost to transform the nation into a modern and developed one; that meanwhile, it has laid down and is implementing the seven-step Road Map phase by phase in the process of transition to democracy.

He added that the National Referendum was held in 2008 for approval of the new State



Indonesian President Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono receives Prime Minister General Thein Sein at Istana Merdeka Presidential Palace in Jakarta, Indonesia.—MNA

constitution written in accord with fundamental principles laid down by the National Convention; and that the new State constitution was successfully approved with 92.48 per cent of votes in favour at the National Referendum.

He said that at present the fourth step of the seven-step Road Map was successfully completed and the multiparty democracy

general election, the fifth step of the seven-step Road Map, will be held in 2010 according to its schedule that has already been announced; and that the remaining steps will be implemented in line with the seven-step Road Map. The Prime Minister also elaborated on aid and assistance provided to 'Nargis' storm-hit regions and work carried out by the Tripartite Core Group. Afterwards, the

President expressed thanks for the explanation about the objective conditions of Myanmar, and added that ASEAN member nations and the Republic of Indonesia supported the seven-step Road Map being implemented by Myanmar and hoped that Myanmar will be able to successfully implement it; and that only Myanmar people will be able to carry out the internal affairs of Myanmar.—MNA

Indonesian President hosts dinner to Myanmar goodwill delegation

NAY PYI TAW, 18 March—President of the Republic of Indonesia Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono hosted a dinner to the visiting Myanmar delegation led by Prime Minister General Thein Sein at Negara Hall of Istana Merdeka Presidential Palace in Jakarta on 16 March evening.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein was accompanied by Minister for National Planning and

Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Myanmar Ambassador to Indonesia U Nyan Lin, the director-general of the State Peace and

Development Council Office and heads of department. Together with the Indonesian President were Indonesian ministers, high-ranking officials, and Indonesian merchants and industrialists.

Indonesian President Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono cordially greeted Prime Minister General Thein Sein.

(See page 8)



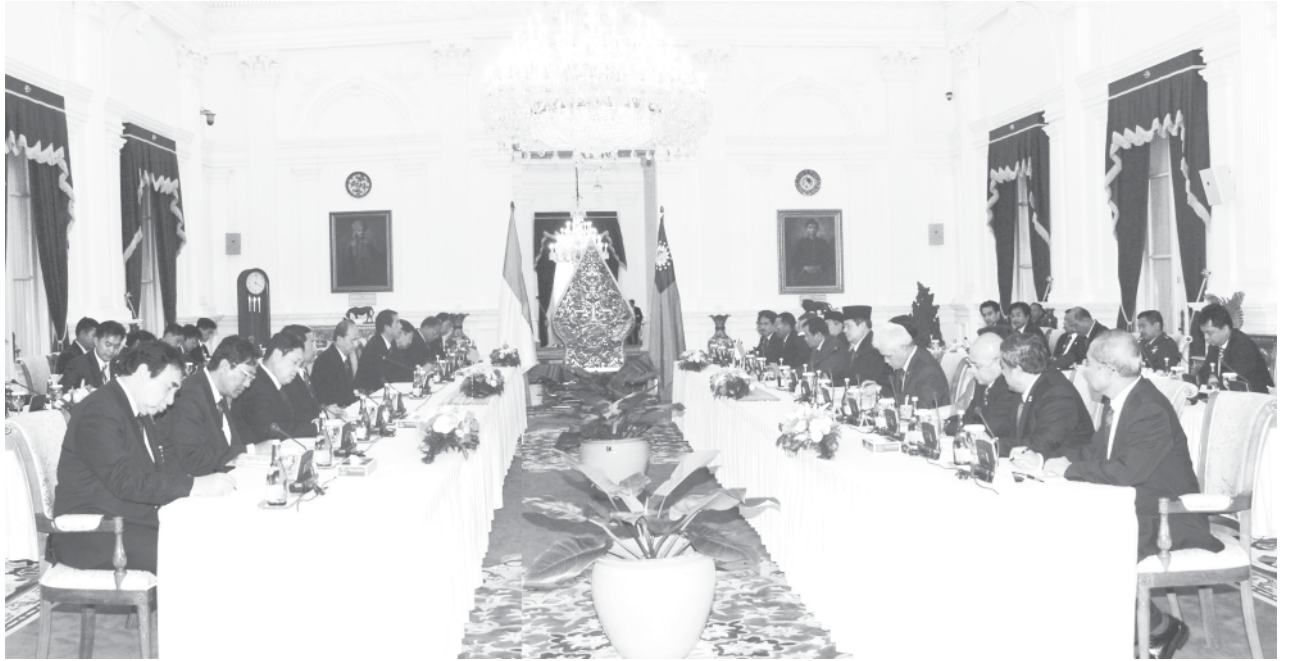
Prime Minister General Thein Sein and party enjoy Indonesian traditional dances presented by Indonesian cultural troupe at dinner.—MNA

Mutual understanding and friendship further strengthened between Myanmar, Indonesia

NAY PYI TAW, 18 March—Myanmar goodwill delegation led by Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein held discussions with President of the Republic of Indonesia Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and party at Reception Hall of Istana Merdeka Presidential Palace in Jakarta of Indonesia at 4 pm on 16 March.

Also present at the meeting together with Prime Minister General Thein Sein were Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Myanmar Ambassador to Indonesia U Nyan Lin, Director-General of the SPDC Office Col Kyaw Kyaw Win and Heads of Departments and together with Indonesian President Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono were Minister of Political, Legal and Security Affairs Mr Widodo AS, State Secretary Mr M Hatta Rajasa, Cabinet Secretary Mr Sudi Silalahi, Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr N Hassan Wirajuda, Minister of Trade Dr Marie Elka Pangestu, Minister of Forestry Mr MS Kaban, Minister of Transportation Mr Jusman Syafii Djamal, Minister of Culture and Tourism Mr Jero Wacik, Minister of Information and Communication Mr Mohammad Nuh, Minister of State Enterprises Mr Sofyan A Djalil, Indonesian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Sebastianus Sumarsono and high ranking officials.

At the meeting, Indonesian President Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said bilateral relations and friendship would continue for a long time besides being a milestone in history. Myanmar and Indonesia have maintained friendly ties for a long time and the



Myanmar delegation led by Prime Minister General Thein Sein holds discussions with Indonesian hosts led by Indonesian President Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono at Reception Hall of Istana Merdeka Presidential Palace in Jakarta of Indonesia.—MNA

two countries are members of ASEAN. He expressed hopes of holding discussions on regional issues apart from the bilateral relations. Next, Prime Minister General Thein Sein said Indonesia and Myanmar have been working closely together. In addition, mutual understanding and friendship have been further strengthening between the two countries. Close cooperation between the two countries have started since the struggle for independence. Forming the joint commission of Myanmar and Indonesia contributed a lot to the systematic cooperation in several areas.

Moreover, at the meeting matters relating to trade, investment, finance, hotel and tourism,

agriculture, livestock, forestry, oil and natural gas and information sectors were also discussed. Next, the Indonesian President expressed thanks for the discussions beneficial to both countries. He welcomed the discussions of the Myanmar Prime Minister to promote bilateral relations and carry out economic cooperation. The Indonesian President expressed hopes of creating opportunities for cooperation between the entrepreneurs of the two countries.

Next, the Prime Minister expressed thanks for the discussion about bilateral relations and economic cooperation cordially and frankly.

MNA

Indonesian President hosts dinner to Myanmar goodwill...

(from page 7)

Next, a dinner was hosted to the Myanmar delegation.

Before and during dinner, an Indonesian modern band entertained them with modern songs and Myanmar songs.

The Indonesian

President extended greetings, saying that the two countries have established friendly relations for long; that the two countries have to jointly implement the advice and suggestions made at the meeting and other meetings of the two nations;

that bilateral cooperation will be boosted in the agricultural, trade, investment, tourism industry, energy, health, communication, information and transport sectors; that the two countries are collaborating with each other in security, legal affairs, and combating cross-border criminal cases; that Indonesia supports the

Road Map Myanmar has laid down for democratic transition; and that he believes that Myanmar's future can be shaped with the strength of unity of Myanmar people.

The Indonesian State orchestra played the National Anthem of the Union of Myanmar.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein in his speech expressed thanks for invitation and the grand dinner; and that the warm welcome and friendship Indonesia has demonstrated to the delegation reflects the friendly relations that have existed between the two nations for decades.

He said that it is required to promote the friendly relations the State leaders of the two nations have maintained and promoted with farsightedness; and that

very soon, the bilateral relations will be boosted not only in the programmes of the two countries but also in the regional and international programmes.

He added that the bilateral trade is on the increase, but it has yet to pick up greater momentum; and that he believes the discussions will serve as the strength to promote bilateral cooperation, and friendly relations.

The trip to Indonesia was short, he said, but he has great chances to witness the development of Indonesia firsthand, to set up personally friendly relations, to let the president of Indonesia know the development of Myanmar, and boost mutual understanding; and that so the trip provides great benefits.

He said that while

currently in Indonesia, a beautiful nation, he wishes the Republic of Indonesia greater development and Indonesian people a prosperous future.

Next, the band played the National Anthem of the Republic of Indonesia.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein and party and the Indonesian President and party enjoyed Indonesian traditional dances presented by the Indonesian troupe at the cultural hall of the Presidential Palace.

After the entertainment programme, Prime Minister General Thein Sein presented a basket of flowers to the cultural troupe members.

Next, the Indonesian President and the Prime Minister posed for documentary photos.

MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein speaks words of thanks at dinner at Negara hall in Istana Merdeka Presidential Palace.—MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets Indonesian Vice-President

NAY PYI TAW, 18 March — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein met with Vice-President of the Republic of Indonesia Mr Jusuf Kalla at his office in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 16 March, 2009.

Also present at the meeting together with Prime Minister General Thein Sein were Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Transport

Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe and Ambassador of Myanmar to Indonesia U Nyan Lin. At the meeting, the vice-president of Indonesia was accompanied by Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. N. Hassan Wirajuda, Minister for Communications and Information Mr Mohammad Nuh, Ambassador of Indonesia to Myanmar Mr

Sebastianus Sumarsono and high ranking officers.

At the meeting, Prime Minister General Thein Sein briefed on matters related to transition to democracy in Myanmar.

The Indonesian vice-president expressed wishes for successful implementation of the seven-step Road Map of Myanmar and for the success of the election in 2010 in Myanmar. The two sides cordially discussed matters related to mutual cooperation between the two countries. — MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets with Vice-President of Indonesia Mr Jusuf Kalla at Vice-President's office in Jakarta, Indonesia. —MNA

Prime Minister meets Myanmar Ambassador, Myanmar Military Attaché, staff and families



Prime Minister General Thein Sein presents gifts to Myanmar Ambassador U Nyan Lin and wife and staff families. —MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 18 March—Ambassador of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Indonesia U Nyan Lin and wife Daw Khin Mar Nwe, Military Attaché Col Aye Thaw and wife Daw Khin Oo May, staff of the Myanmar Embassy and the Military Attaché Office and their families called on Prime Minister General Thein Sein at Hotel Borobudur in Jakarta on 16 March.

In line with the Myanmar tradition, the staff and families led by the Ambassador and the Military Attaché paid respects to the Prime

Minister.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister explained the continuous implementation of the guidance on all-round development of the country given by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, better livelihoods of the people in the regions hit by cyclone Nargis due to concerted efforts of the government, the people, the Tatmadaw, the social organizations plus donors of foreign countries in supplying food, clothing and shelter needs and developing agriculture,

fishing and salt industries, progress of the State and shaping the future State.

The Prime Minister instructed the embassy staff to abide by the diplomatic ethics and give priority to developing the economy and promoting the bilateral ties between Myanmar and Indonesia.

Later, the Prime Minister presented gifts to Ambassador U Nyan Lin and wife, Military Attaché Col Aye Thaw and wife, staff of the Embassy and the Office of Military Attaché and their families, and cordially greeted them. —MNA

Sports Ministry holds coordination meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 18 March—Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint delivered an address at the coordination meeting of the Ministry of Sports at the hall of the ministry, here, this morning.

The Director-General of the Sports and Physical Education Department reported on functions of the State/Division SPEDs. Officials of Institutes of Sports and Physical Education (Yangon) and (Mandalay) submitted reports on their respective sectors. Directors of the respective divisions of SPED discussed the reports of the officials at the division and state levels. The director-general and the deputy directors-general gave supplementary reports.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the minister. —MNA

Myanmar, Indonesian entrepreneurs meet

NAY PYI TAW, 18 March—The entrepreneurs of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) who accompanied the Prime Minister held discussions with the entrepreneurs of Indonesian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (KADIN) at the KADIN Office in Jakarta of Indonesia at 1.30 p.m. on 16 March.

It was attended by 11 Myanmar entrepreneurs led by UMFCCI President U Win Myint, Deputy Director-General U Myo Oo of the Directorate of Trade, Vice-Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Maung Maung Win, Director-General U San Thaung of the Customs Department and Managing Director U Thein Htay of the Myanma Port Authority.

Also present were CLMV Chairman Mr Juan Gondo Kusumo of KADIN of Indonesia and party.

They discussed trade promotion between

Myanmar and Indonesia, bilateral cooperation between the entrepreneurs of the two countries and individual meetings between the entrepreneurs of the two countries for trading in agricultural produce, garments, hotel and construction industries.

Mr Thomas Hartono, in-charge for Myanmar section of CLMV Committee of KADIN of Indonesia said that the coordination meetings are being held for organizing the 60th Anniversary Ceremony to mark the Indonesia-Myanmar diplomatic ties in Yangon in September 2009 and a trade show between 30 companies each of Indonesia and Myanmar. KADIN will hold the MoU signing ceremony between the two CCIs at the trade show. Myanmar and Indonesian entrepreneurs discussed the trading of goods between two sides.

MNA

International standard Yangon-Mandalay Highway Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw road section to be inaugurated soon

Article and Photos: Tin Htwe (MNA)

(from page 16)

When asked about construction of concrete road, Assistant Engineer U Wunna Zaw (Civil), in charge of work for laying concrete in the road sections being undertaken by Public Works, said, "To build a standard concrete road, the work of all the steps must meet the set

stockpiled and used 516,000 tons of cement, 35,000,000 cubic feet of rock, 10,100,000 cubic feet of gravel, and 3,710,000 gallons of diesel.

"Here, we splashed water over and compacted the ground layer by layer for greater density of the ground on which concrete would be laid. Then, the quality control group

Works of the Ministry of Construction drew the design of the concrete road. The road has two concrete layers: a 27 feet wide and six inches high under layer, and the 25 feet wide and 12 inches high upper layer. The road can withstand 80 tons of loads."

In the workforce of the Directorate of Military

Junction at mile post No. 173/1.

"For the time being, we are constructing the two-way / two-lane road considering the number of the traffic. When the road copes with more traffic, we will have to upgrade it to an eight-lane one. At that time, we will need to do concrete work only, because land



Workers pave concrete on Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw Road Section.

standards. They are: stockpiling quality raw materials for mixing and producing concrete; making the ground dense to the fixed degree; mixing and producing concrete; laying concrete; and controlling the quality of concrete.

"So far, the project has been completed by 202 miles and one furlong. Of them, Public Works constructed the 83 miles and six furlongs long section between No (3) Junction and Myochaung and the 29 miles long section between Thagara and Nay Pyi Taw C Junction, totalling 112 miles and six furlongs. To complete the sections, we

inspected the ground to know whether the ground was dense enough or not, before confirmation. We used 25 concrete mixers and produced 1,321,000 cubic metres of concrete for the structures Public Works constructed.

"We used six concrete laying machines to construct the four-lane concrete road with the concrete the concrete mixers had produced. We took great care in working to be able to avoid mistakes. The quality control group provided constant supervision to meet the standards in mixing and laying concrete.

"The Road Research Department of Public

Engineering that constructed the road sections with a total length of 172 miles and three furlongs of the 352 miles and six furlongs long Yangon-Mandalay Highway, Lt-Col Soe Si and Lt-Col Myint Oo supervised the tasks being carried out by the two groups consisting of over 500 officers and other ranks and over 1000 units of heavy machinery.

Regarding work progress and difficulties faced in the project, Project Engineer Lt-Col Soe Si said, "In Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw section, we undertake the tasks for the section between the top of Yenwe Bridge at mile post No. 83/6 and Thagara



Land preparations on construction of Nay Pyi Taw C Junction-Pantin section near Mile Post No 210.

consolidation work has been completed 100 per cent.

"In Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay section (2) the Directorate of Military Engineering undertakes, we have already begun the land consolidation work. The volume of the earth we removed in the upper parts of heights and filled the ravines and gorges in Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay section was much greater than that in Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw section.

of the ravines and gorges we filled earth with was about 80 feet. In section (1), the road went along the foot of the Yoma, but in section (2), it not only went along the foot but also passed through the Yoma. So, we had to demolish the top parts of the young rock mountains as high as about 80 feet. The most difficult part was Pantin-Hsinthay section. We demolished the young rock mountains as high

section, we found it very difficult to get water that is necessary for the ground consolidation work and mixing concrete. The location of the nearest water source was at least about five miles from the project location, and there are many mountains along the route.

"The workforce for the highway is based on the officers and other ranks who took part in (See page 11)



Photo shows underpass near Mile Post No 83/6 on Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw Road Section.



International standard Yangon-Mandalay Highway Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw road section to be inaugurated soon

Article and Photos: Tin Htwe (MNA)

(from page 10)

the airport projects in Homalin, Kyaukhtu, Bokpyin, Anisakhan, Elar and Dawei and they were reinforced by the servicemen the Directorate of Military Engineering had chosen. So, many servicemen gained experiences of building concrete roads.

"The group of the Directorate of Military Engineering for the highway launched its constructing the main road on 1 October 2005, after conducting preliminary engineering work such as seeking the alignment and drawing the design. In the first

challenging.

"It took very long if we removed the silt alone from the swamp lakes. So, we put earth into the swamp lakes, and then we removed the mixture of earth and silt with the use of heavy machinery. Earth to fill the ravines was not available around the work site, so we had to get the earth from long distance. The work we did between mile post Nos 118 and 120 was the same as that near Penwagon.

"The silted-up lake between mile post Nos 123 and 125 persisted in spouting water even though we filled it with earth in a normal way. So,



The 360-foot long Tonkan Bridge near Mile Post No 93/2 on Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw Road.

many uphill and downhill parts and bends, but to achieve that success, we had to complete dealing with steep valleys, swamp lakes, lakes, and creeks with swift currents in a short time.

"In constructing the highway, the drawing engineers group constantly checked to find out whether the route met with the imaginary line on the map and mended it if the alignment diverted a little from its real course. We collaborated with the engineering group that had a lot of experience to ensure that vehicles can use the highway in safety. We could avoid mistakes only if construction tasks were constantly checked under close supervision. Otherwise, it will be a little risky to use the road.

"In laying concrete, the surface must be even and smooth and meet the standard of fixed tonnage of loads. To make sure that the surface is even for a long period, we took great care in laying the lower and upper concrete layers and doing land consolidation work in a systematic way. And to

make the bends and uphill and downhill parts of the road smooth, we used level instrument and the odolite instrument in laying concrete with the use of concrete laying machines.

"The cement, gravel, sand and water in concrete are to be pure for the road to meet the standard. We had to see that materials used were fine free from sub-standard earth, rock and wooden particles at the rock grinding machine. And we had to supervise the work for filtering the rubbish with the use of threefold sieve in producing sand. We used only pure water in mixing concrete. Moreover, we

used chemical liquid in mixing concrete. We constantly check to find out and mend the holes and cracks in the concrete road that appeared due to pieces of impure rock. Constantly repairing the shoulders is important for durability of the concrete road. In repairing the road, we have to make sure that the road does not hold water and there is proper drainage.

"We spent about 600,000 tons of cement, about 39,000 tons of iron rods, 10690 feet wide steel girders, 60 million cubic feet of broken rock, and 0.47 million cubic feet of sand. The Myanmar

Economic Corporation provided us with cement and iron rods. All the construction materials we used to construct the road and the bridges are domestically-produced ones and the project is being implemented without any foreign experts and assistance.

"Throughout the project, officials closely supervised the tasks and fulfilled the requirements, so we managed to complete the two-way / two-lane road in a short time. It will be put into service soon.

Translation: MS
(To be continued)



Assistant
Engineer
(Civil) U
Wunna
Zaw.

phase, we filled one furlong wide and about 100 feet deep Danyingon ravine by Thewah Creek near Myochaung Village and dammed the creek.

"In that regard, we removed the mud and silt of the swamp lakes, constructed reinforced concrete retaining walls on the sides of ravines, and filled the ravines and gorges with earth, and compacted the sites, step by step. The two miles long section between mile posts 96 and 98 near Penwagon is full of ravines, gullies and gorges. Filling about 80 feet deep ravines with earth was very

we had to use geotextile. We again had to use geotextile to fill about one mile long Peikswa lake near mile post No. 166 with earth. At mile post No. 171 near Thagara, we had to cut a rock mountain and build about 20 feet high embankment for the highway to pass through low-lying areas. The region gets an average annual rainfall of over 100 inches, so the earth is of clay type. In the rainy season, we could do nothing more than construction of bridges, culverts and concrete structures.

"Now, the highway has taken its shape without



Two Way/Two Lane Concrete section near Myochaung Village on Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw Road.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV BANG PAKAEW VOY NO (166)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANG PAKAEW VOY NO (166) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.3.2009 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 WONG SAMUT OCEAN
SHIPPING CO., LTD**

Phone No: 256919/256916/256912

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV PULAU CEBU VOY NO (17)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PULAU CEBU VOY NO (17) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.3.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W-2 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: EASTERN CAR LINER LTD**

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV PACIFIC LOHAS VOY NO (16)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACIFIC LOHAS VOY NO (16) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.3.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-6 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: EASTERN CAR LINER LTD**

Phone No: 256924/256914

Caterpillar cuts another 2,454 jobs

CHICAGO, 18 March—Caterpillar Inc, the world's largest maker of construction and mining equipment, notified an additional 2,454 workers in three states on Tuesday that they were losing their jobs as the company continues to try to bring production in line with plummeting demand.

The bulk of the job cuts — nearly 1,600 in all — will come in Illinois at the company's plants in East Peoria, which makes track-type tractors and pipe layers, and Aurora, where it makes hydraulic excavators and wheel loaders.

The company also said it is closing a fuel systems factory in Jefferson, Georgia, and moving production to two other Caterpillar plants. It is also cutting jobs in Indiana.—*Internet*

**MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS
INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER**

1. Sealed Tender is invited for supply of the following in Euro ;

Tender No	Description	Quantity
15(T)10/MR(E)	Raw Materials for Concrete Sleeper Production	
2008-2009	(i) Rail Clip	360000 Nos
	(ii) H.T Steel Strand	456.22 M.Tons
	(iii) Cast Iron Insert	360000 Nos
	(iv) Fibre Pad	180000 Nos
	(v) Nylon Liner	360000 Nos
	(vi) Steel Wedges	40000 Pairs

Closing Date/Time - 15.5.2009 (Friday) (12:00) Hours

2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 16.3.2009 during office hours and for further detail please call Deputy General Manager, Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of Theinbyu Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon. Phone: 95-1-291994, 95-1-291985.

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 vacancy with UNDP Yangon:

Post title: Coordinator – Learning Academy
Contract Type: Fixed Term
Grade/Level: NO-B (ICS-9)

Responsibilities: Liaises with the UNDP Human Resource Unit, PACT and CO Learning Manager in planning, design, and conduct of corporate learning courses. Trains, liaises and monitors the performance of Area Learning focal points and Township Learning Managers in implementing UNDP learning policy and Learning Academy training plans. Liaises with the HDI Programme Board to conduct Learning Needs Assessment, Plan and execute trainings and ensure quality delivery. Support the Learning Academy Dean/Senior Advisor as well as Course Coordinators in establishing LA courses under the four main faculties (Corporate, Development Practice, Management Practice, and Community Capacity Development Faculties)

Detailed terms of reference is posted on the bulletin board at UNDP office, No. 6 Natmauk Road, Yangon.

Requirements: **Education:** Advanced university degree in Development Studies, Organization Development, Human Resources Management, Public Administration, ICT for Development or related disciplines. Specialized training, knowledge of Information Technology an asset.

Experience: At least 3 to 5 years relevant experience at national or international levels in administering and/or formulating knowledge-building, Capacity building, organization-development, learning programmes.

Language: Fluency in English and Myanmar

Other skills required: Proficiency in application of web technologies for knowledge systems; standard computer software (word-processing, excel, databases, power point and internet).

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. Applications should be addressed to **Deputy Country Director (Operations) Attention: Human Resources Unit, No. 6, Natmauk Road, UNDP, Yangon.**

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: **31 March 2009 (COB).**

Southern Chinese city to reinvent the wheel

BEIJING, 18 March— China is planning to build the world's highest ferris wheel in the southern city of Guangzhou to give tourism in the city a lift, state media said on Wednesday, stealing thunder from the capital Beijing.

The wheel, the highest if not the largest in the world, will be built on the sloping roof of the 450-metre Guangzhou TV tower and open before 1 October, 2010, when the city, capital of the once booming province of Guangdong, hosts the 16th Asian Games.

“The ferris wheel will withstand an earthquake of up to magnitude 8, owing to its quake-resistant design,” the China Daily said. “Lightning arresters will form part of the design to make sure there is little damage during storm and lightning.”

Internet

Air Force nurse charged in three patients' drug deaths

SAN ANTONIO, 18 March— An Air Force nurse has been charged with murder for allegedly giving lethal amounts of medication to three terminally ill patients in his care over one month last summer, military officials said on Tuesday. Capt Michael Fontana, 35, was formally charged on Monday by the Air Force with deliberately giving three Wilford Hall Medical Center patients lethal amounts of medication, and with conduct unbecoming an officer for allegedly changing a medical record for one of the patients.

The Air Force began investigating after another staff member at the San Antonio hospital discovered irregularities in Fontana's administration of medications that may have resulted in the death of a terminally ill patient, Air Force spokesman David Smith said.

Internet

TRADEMARK CAUTION

We, MIKASA CORPORATION, (formerly known as MYOJYO RUBBER INDUSTRY CO., LTD.), a Corporation organised under the laws of Japan, Manufacturers and Merchants of No.11-2, 3-chome, Kusunoki-cho, Nishi-ku, Hiroshima-shi, Hiroshima-ken, Japan, hereby give notice that we are the Owners and Proprietors of the following Trademark:

MIKASA

The said trademark is used in respect of the description of goods following, that is to say-

“Articles for sports and athletics and sportswear apparel, shoes and bags”

A Declaration of Ownership of the said trademark was registered on the 20th November 1969 under No.863 in Book IV, Volume No.283, page 247.

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use or any other infringement whatsoever of this trademark will be dealt with according to law.

Thein Aung B.Sc., R.L.D.B.L Advocate
MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM

E-mail: mtpip@mptmail.net.mm
Tel: 254037 G.P.O Box: 666
Yangon. 19 March 2009

(FOR LOCAL SERVICES ONLY)

Int. Org. requires:

(1) Assistant Programme Officer (NOA), 1 Post,
(2) Assistant Field Officer (NOA), 1 Post, stationed in Maungdaw, Northern Rakhine State.

Additional Information on vacancy at **any UN or INGO Bulletin Board** in Yangon, Maungdaw, Mawlamyine, Myeik and Thandaung.
Closing Date: 10 April 2009.

**Drive
with
care**



Egypt pressured to end underground organ trade

CAIRO, 18 March—The poverty of Cairo's slums forced a young couple to sell nearly everything they had. When that wasn't enough, each of them sold a kidney. The clandestine pre-dawn operation in a small private hospital ended with the man and wife being dumped semiconscious in taxis — the payment for their kidneys tucked into their clothes, they say.

Now, a year later, penniless once more, they are too weak to even move around their apartment. Unable to afford follow-up care, their health is so fragile they spend much of the day in bed in a dark room. "If anyone had made clear to me the danger, I wouldn't have done it," said Abdel-Rahman Abdel-Aziz, gaunt and looking older than his 24 years as he lay in bed beside his wife. He pulled up his sweatshirt to show the scar from the operation.

For years, word has spread among Egypt's destitute that selling a kidney — sometimes for as little as \$2,000 — can be a quick way out of a debt or to keep from sinking deeper into poverty. At rundown cafes, they are hunted by



Egyptians who each sold a kidney for US dlrs 2,300 each, Abdel-Rahman Abdel-Aziz displays a long scar as his wife, Asmaa, looks on at their home at Cairo's outskirts, in the sprawling Muqattam district on 8 March, 2009.

INTERNET

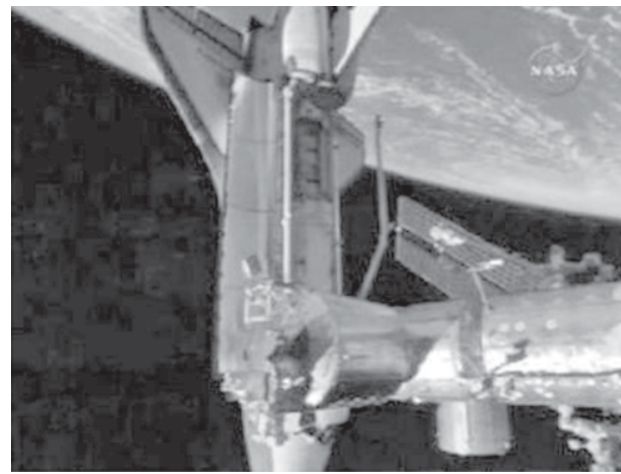
middlemen working for labs that match donors and recipients, many of whom are foreigners drawn to Egypt's thriving, underground organ trade. Egypt is one of a half dozen countries identified by the World Health Organization as organ-trafficking hot spots.—Internet

Discovery shuttle docks with space station

WASHINGTON, 18 March —The shuttle Discovery has docked with the International Space Station on a mission to deliver the orbiting lab's first Japanese crewmember and key parts to complete construction of the station.

The two vessels linked up at 2119 GMT as they flew over southern Australia, around six minutes behind the estimated docking time but, barring minor communication issues between the ISS and mission control in Houston, without a hitch.

During their 13-day mission, the Discovery crew, including Koichi Wakata, who will become the first long-stay Japanese crewmember on the ISS, will install two pairs of solar panels to the space station, one of the



The Space Shuttle Discovery is shown docked to the International Space Station with the earth in the background in this image from NASA TV on 17 March, 2009.—INTERNET

last major tasks of the more than decade-long effort to construct the orbiting outpost.

Installing the solar panels was to have taken a two-astronaut team four space walks of more than six hours each to complete, according to NASA's original plans.

But after lift-off was

delayed last week because of a hydrogen leak, the solar panels are now due to be installed during three space walks, the first one set for Thursday, NASA said.

The pairs of solar panels contain 32,800 solar cells and measure 35 metres (115 feet) long.

Internet

Adobe 1Q profit, sales drop, squeezed by downturn

NEW YORK, 18 March — Adobe Systems Inc, the company behind the popular Photoshop software, posted a decline in fiscal first-quarter profit and sales on Tuesday, squeezed by the economic downturn.

However, adjusted earnings slightly exceeded Wall Street's expectations, and the company's forecast for the current quarter was in line with analysts' estimates.

San Jose, Calif based Adobe had already warned this month of revenue falling below its previous targets. The recession has slowed sales of Creative Suite 4, the latest version of the software package that brings in the majority of Adobe's revenue. The product launched last fall, coinciding with the worsening economic turmoil.

For the December-February period, Adobe earned \$156.4 million, or 30 cents per share, down 29 percent from \$219.4 million, or 38 cents per share, a year earlier. Excluding one-time items such as stock-options expenses, restructuring charges and investment losses, adjusted earnings totaled 45 cents a share in the latest quarter, beating average analysts' estimates by a penny.—Internet



A polar bear mother and her two cubs in Wapusk National Park on the shore of Hudson Bay near Churchill, Manitoba, are seen in this 6 Nov, 2007 file photo.—INTERNET

Polar bears' plight subject of closed-door talks

OSLO, 18 March—Northern nations trying to find ways to protect the world's polar bears in a warming climate resolved on Tuesday to hold their talks behind closed doors — over Norway's objections.

"The polar bear ... has become politically dangerous," WWF's Norway chief Rasmus Hansson said as the five nations that have polar bears on their Arctic tundra began political talks in the Norwegian city of Tromsø.

"Polar bears have become the very symbol of climate change," he told *The Associated Press* by telephone from the meeting. Climate change is so touchy for some countries that they balked at public debate on it before December's climate treaty talks in Copenhagen, he said.

Norway, the United States, Canada, Russia and Denmark, which has polar bears on its Greenland territory, are reviewing for the first time in 28 years their accord on protecting the world's estimated 20,000-25,000 polar bears.

Internet

Indonesian mud volcano victims rally for payment

JAKARTA, 18 March — Over 200 victims of Indonesia's mud volcano staged a rally outside of the state palace on Wednesday, demanding the payment of compensation at once by a politically connected energy firm blamed for the catastrophe.

The furious protesters rejected the payment of the compensation with the way of installment of 15 million

rupiah (some 1,250 US dollars) per month to each displaced family as it was already decided in February by Lapindo, part of the business empire controlled by the family of Indonesian Welfare Minister Aburizal Bakrie, until all outstanding compensation is paid.

Carrying a banner saying "Cash and Carry," the protesters chanted

asking for the complying of their request.

"We demand the government to pay the compensation at once, not through installments," said a protester. Over one hundred policemen are on guard to secure the rally.

Mud burst during the drilling of a gas well in East Java three years ago, killing 13 people and displacing 36,000 others.—Internet

First sighting of humpback whale in Hong Kong

HONG KONG, 18 March—A humpback whale has been spotted in



An endangered humpback whale in Hong Kong. The whale has been spotted in Hong Kong waters, a government spokesman said, the first time the endangered mammal has been sighted in the southern Chinese city.—INTERNET

Hong Kong waters, a government spokesman said Wednesday, in the first reported sighting of the giant mammal off the southern Chinese city.

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department said it received a report on Monday that a 10 metre (33 feet) whale was seen swimming in the East Lamma Channel, a busy sea channel to the west of Hong Kong Island. "It is the first time we have seen a humpback whale in Hong Kong waters," the spokeswoman told APF.

Internet

SPORTS

F1 champion to be determined by race wins

PARIS, 18 March—Formula One's championship will be decided by the number of race wins and not accumulated points.

Governing body FIA decided on Tuesday that the current points system will remain in effect to determine the driver's title in the case of a tie, with points also determining the order of the drivers who finish the season behind the overall champion.

Under the new system, Ferrari's Felipe Massa would have won the 2008 championship instead of Lewis Hamilton of McLaren. The Brazilian driver won six grand prix races to Hamilton's five.

The 10 F1 teams had been looking to change the points to a 12-9-7 scoring system for first through third place, from its current 10-9-8 allocation. F1 boss Bernie Ecclestone had initially preferred a medals tally, but FIA approved Ecclestone's revised proposal, which will not affect the constructors' championship.

FIA's World Motor Sports Council also approved further regulation changes to decrease costs in the face of the worldwide economic crisis.—*Internet*

Gamba on fire, China, Australia celebrate

BEIJING, 18 March—Reigning champions Gamba Osaka maintained their red-hot form to stun FC Seoul 4-2 on Tuesday as China's Shandong Luneng got their AFC Champions League campaign back on track in emphatic fashion.

Elsewhere, Newcastle Jets handed Australia its first win of the tournament with a 2-0 victory over Korea's Ulsan Hyundai, while the clash between J-League stalwarts Nagoya Grampus and Beijing Guoan ended goalless.

Japan's Gamba have been impressive recently, following up on their 3-0 win

over Shandong in the Champions League last week by moving to the top of the J-League over the weekend.

Brazilian forward Montera Leandro was their dangerman in Korea, bagging a second half hat-trick after Masato Yamazaki put them in front on 13 minutes. Jung Jo-Gook levelled the score eight minutes into the second half before Leandro's blitz left Seoul out for the count.

The mauling leaves Gamba with six points from two games in Group F and firmly on track for the knockout rounds.

Internet

Arsenal advance in FA Cup amid controversy

LONDON, 18 March—Cesc Fabregas has been accused of spitting at Hull's assistant manager after Arsenal progressed to the last four of the FA Cup in a blaze of controversy.

Late goals from Robin van Persie and William Gallas sent Arsenal into a Wembley semi-final with Chelsea after Nicky Barmby had given Hull an early lead.

Hull boss Phil Brown — justifiably it seemed — complained that his side had been denied a replay by the officials' failure to spot that Gallas was in an offside position when he nodded in the winner, six minutes from time.

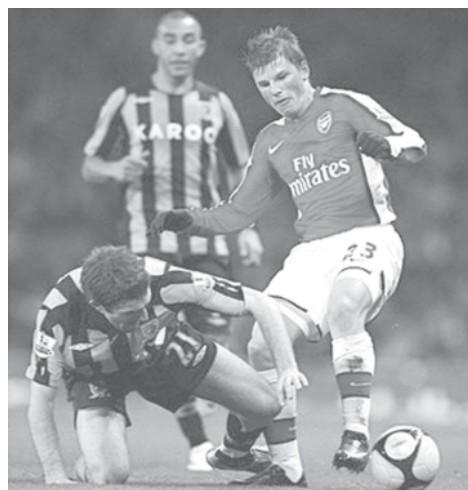
But the main focus of his anger was the currently sidelined Fabregas.

According to Brown's version of events, the Spanish midfielder spat at Hull's assistant manager, Brian Horton, in the tunnel, just after Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger had walked through without shaking hands with his counterpart.

"You're not going to get the rub of

the green when you come to the Emirates," Brown fumed. "But for their club captain, Cesc Fabregas, to spit at my assistant manager at the end of the game just shows you what this club (Arsenal) is about."

Internet



Arsenal's Andrey Arshavin (right) tries to get the ball past Hull City's Samuel Ricketts during the FA Cup quarter-final match at The Emirates Stadium in London. Arsenal won 2-1.—INTERNET

Cohen sees signs of Ramsey in Capello



Fabio Capello

LONDON, 18 March—George Cohen believes that in Fabio Capello England have a manager with similar qualities to those of 1966 World Cup supremo Sir Alf Ramsey.

Cohen, England's right-back when they beat the then West Germany 4-2 after extra-time in the World Cup final at Wembley nearly 43 years ago, reckons that successive sides have too often been allowed to lose their way. The 1966 World Cup remains the only major international football trophy

that England have won and, for Cohen, the team's failure to reach the Euro 2008 finals in Austria and Switzerland under Steve McClaren, Capello's predecessor, was a particular low point.

"Missing out a place at the qualifying for the European Championships last year was quite frankly a massive disappointment to all of us," Fulham great Cohen said Tuesday.

"It's been a long, long time since we won anything. I think the whole thing was poorly run for a long time - and without getting personal, the side has been badly managed."

Internet

Bayern's Hoeness suggests football levy

MUNICH, 18 March—Bayern Munich general manager Uli Hoeness has suggested each household in Germany pay an extra two euros (2.5 US dollars) per month to put German league football back on terrestrial television. Hoeness has suggested an additional levy to the 17.98 euros (23 US dollars) German TV licence fee to help the professional game here close the yawning gap between its TV revenue compared to those in England, Spain and Italy.

"My biggest hope is that folk will at some point be prepared to pay two euros a month for their football," Hoeness told German finance magazine Wirtschaftswoche. "That's not even half a pack of cigarettes or a small beer in the pub."—*Internet*

Eleven bids for 2018, 2022 World Cups

LONDON, 18 March—There are a total of 11 announced bids, including combined bids, for the 2018 and 2022 World Cups, FIFA said on Tuesday after the deadline for candidates expired on Monday.

England, Australia, joint bids from Belgium/Netherlands and Spain/Portugal, also the USA, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico and Russia have applied for both tournaments while South Korea and Qatar have targeted solely 2022.

Internet

Roberto Carlos mulling Real return

MADRID, 18 March—Brazilian defender Roberto Carlos says he is ready to move back to Real Madrid from Turkish side Fenerbahce if the



Brazil international Roberto Carlos, seen here in 2006, says he is ready to move back to Real Madrid from Turkish.—INTERNET

Spanish club's former president Florentino Perez returns.

"If Florentino comes and says 'Roberto, come back', I will have to think about it and talk about it. I have never said I won't come back," he told Spain's Cope radio late Monday.

The 35-year-old played for Real from 1996 until 2007, when he joined Turkish giants Fenerbahce on a two-year deal.

Real "is the team of my life and I would be lying if I said that I don't want to go back, but we must wait and see the people who come back with Florentino and what their plans are," he said.

Internet

Nadal, Djokovic on course for semi-final clash

INDIAN WELLS, 18 March—World number one Rafael Nadal and defending champion Novak Djokovic have stayed on course for a semi-final showdown with third-round triumphs in the Indian Wells Masters series.

Top-seeded Nadal triumphed 6-3, 6-3 in a tricky encounter with Russian Dmitry Tursunov, while third-seeded Serbian Djokovic beat German veteran Tommy Haas 6-2, 7-6 (7/1).

Nadal had little time to savor the victory, which earned him a fourth-round match on Wednesday night against Argentina's David Nalbandian, who hasn't dropped a set against Nadal in two career meetings, both in 2007 before the Spaniard's

rise to number one.

"The first thing is to play well," Nadal said of what he'll have to do against Nalbandian, who beat Serbian Viktor Troicki 6-4, 6-2.—*Internet*



Dinara Safina of Russia follows through on a forehand to Jill Craybas during the BNP Paribas Open in Indian Wells, California, on 17 March. Safina won 7-5, 6-4.—INTERNET

Women's boxing champ unveils Sports Laurels in Lima

LIMA, 18 March—Kina Malpartida, women's boxing world champion in super featherweight, will see her name written in the National Stadium of Lima since on Tuesday as she unveiled the Sports Laurels. Peruvian Institute of Sports (IPD) chief Arturo Woodman hailed Malpartida's strength and courage.

Malpartida previously has received a trophy and a check for 50,000 nuevos soles (15,000 US dollars) from the Peruvian government as a reward for her success.—*Internet*

OBITUARY

Meena Das (a) Daw Khin Myint
43 Yrs

Meena Das (a) Daw Khin Myint, 43 yrs, daughter of Mr. Shyam Lal (a) U San Mya and late Kaushalya Devi, wife of Rajen Das (a) U Tun Lin, Bosun, Bernhard Schulte Ship Management, mother of Shailen Das (a) Maung Pyae Soan and Jeevan Das (a) Maung San Myint Tun, expired on Monday, 16 March, 2009. Cremation at Yeway Cemetery on Friday, 20 March, 2009 at 4 p.m. Buses will leave from No. 8 Setkyar Street, Kyaukmyaung, Tamwe Yangon at 3 p.m.

INCB urges efforts to combat internet drug trafficking

VIENNA, 18 March—The international community must increase efforts to fight drug trafficking through the Internet, Hamid Ghodse, president of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), said on Tuesday.

He said in an INCB report that illicit drugs are increasingly being divided into small packages and distributed directly to drug addicts through the international underground, for which the Internet is one important channel.

The report said illicit Internet sales involve not only “drugs, but also products containing controlled narcotic and psychotropic substances, the abuse of which has triggered serious social problems in some countries. The abuse of dependent drugs is in some countries only next to marijuana”.

It said the Internet trade has developed quickly because of its convenience and rapidness, and “Internet pharmacies”, with “point to point” mode of ordering and private postmen, have been increasingly used by criminals to transfer drugs and controlled narcotics.

To this end, the INCB report proposed all countries should strengthen control of the international trade and make efforts to prevent drugs and controlled narcotics spreading through the Internet.—MNA/Xinhua

MRTV-3

Programme Schedule
(19.3.2009) (Thursday)

Transmissions

Local	- (09:00am ~ 10:00am) MST
Europe	- (15:30pm ~ 23:30pm) MST
North America	- (23:30pm ~ 07:30am) MST

Times

Local Transmission

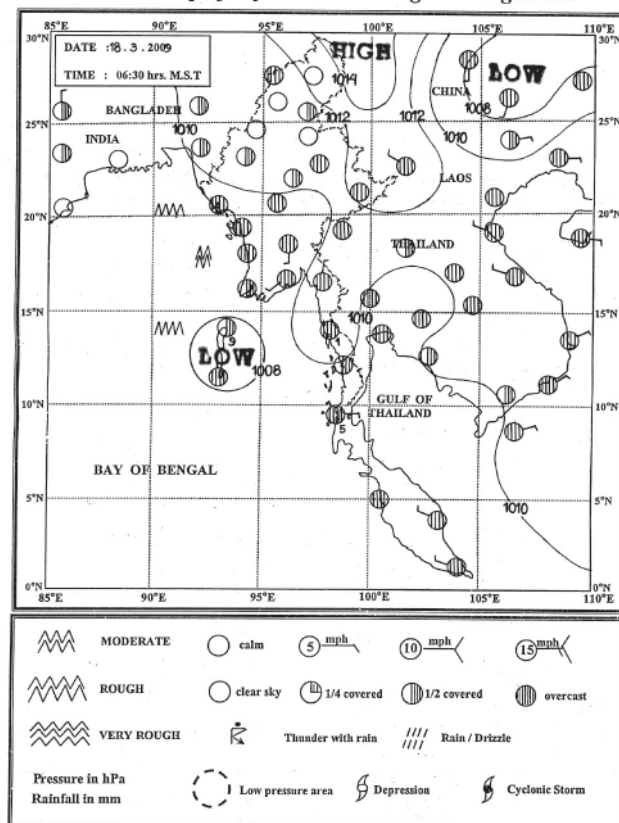
- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanmar Beauty and Scenic Sights
- * Ecstasy of Life
- * The Art of Aesthetic Mosaic
- * The Interesting Places of Kachin State
- * Hundred Fruits from a Common Stem, our Union “Mon State”
- * Lush and Green Myanmar Land
- * Song of Myanmar Beauty and Scenic Sights

Europe/ North America Transmission

- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanmar Beauty and Scenic Sights
- * If you happen to visit Mrauk-U
- * Mandalay and its popular Snack
- * Hundred Fruits from a Common Stem, our Union “Chin State”
- * A Picturesque Resort among Shan Mountain Ranges
- * Mandalay General Hospital gets New Five-story Building
- * Tiger Population Counting (Part-II)
- * Traditional Weaving Art
- * Myanmar Modern Song
- * Ecstasy of Life
- * The Art of Aesthetic Mosaic
- * The Interesting Places of Kachin State
- * Hundred Fruits from a Common Stem, our Union “Mon State”
- * Lush and Green Myanmar Land
- * Colourful Lotus-shaped Candles
- * Ancient Pakhangyi Monastery
- * Pickled Featherback
- * Beauty of the Women of Myanmar
- * Song of Myanmar Beauty and Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Wednesday, 18 March, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Shan, Kayin and Mon States, Mandalay, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above March average temperatures in Kachin State, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, (3°C) below March average temperatures in Shan State, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and about March average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures was Thayawady (40°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfalls recorded were Khayan (1.57) inches, Ye and Belin (0.55) inch each, Coco Island (0.35) inch, Minesat (0.32) inch and Kawthong (0.19) inch..

Maximum temperature on 17-3-2009 was 96°F. Minimum temperature on 18-3-2009 was 71°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 17-3-2009 was 80%. Total sunshine hours on 17-3-2009 was (3.2) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 18-3-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and 1 mm (0.04) inch at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (10) mph from Southwest at (08:30) hours MST on 18-3-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 19th March 2009: Light rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Shan, Rakhine, Mon, Kayin and Kayah States, Yangon, Bago, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 19-3-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 19-3-2009: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 19-3-2009: Partly cloudy.

Thursday, 19 March
View on today

7:00 am

1. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. Nice and sweet song

7:50 am

5. Dance of National Races

8:00 am

6. Dance variety

8:10 am

7. “သူဌေးရေလှောင်တံခံ”

8:20 am

8. (၆၄)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့၊ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

8:30 am

9. International news

8:40 am

10. Musical programme

8:55 am

11. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:10 pm

2. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

4:20 pm

3. Cute Little Dancers

4:30 pm

4. Musical programme

4:40 pm

5. တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြု တေးသီချင်းပြိုင်ပွဲ ဆုရတေးများ

4:50 pm

6. အဆေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ဂုဏ်ပြုသင်ကြားသင်ခန်းစာ (ပထမနှစ်) (ရူပဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ရူပဗေဒ)

5:05 pm

7. Songs to uphold National Spirit

5:10 pm

8. “စီးဆင်းပါစေမတ္တာရည်” (မေကဗျာဖူးဖူး) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ခင်ဇော်-ကုမ္ပဏီ)

5:25 pm

9. မူဟန်သွယ်သွယ်ဆိုကြမယ်

5:35 pm

10. (၆၄)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့၊ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

5:40 pm

11. ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲရင့်ခန့်သံ

6:00 pm

12. Evening news

6:30 pm

13. Weather report

6:35 pm

14. ဖျော်ရွှင်သောနေ့၊ ရက်များ “ကုလီချစ်” (ဇော်ဇော်အောင်၊ စိုးရန်အောင်၊ တိမ်ညွန့်၊ နန်းဆုရတီစိုး) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-အောင်ကျော်သူရ)

6:55 pm

15. ထူးဆန်းထွေးလားများကို သိပ္ပံဖြင့် ချဉ်းကပ်ခြင်း

7:15 pm

16. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ကုန်သွယ်မှုနံတိုင်း” (အပိုင်း-၆၁)

8:00 pm

17. News
18. International news
19. Weather report
20. “ရန်ကုန်-မန္တလေး အမြန် လမ်းမကြီး” (အပိုင်း-၂)
21. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “မေတ္တာလမ်းဆုံ” (အပိုင်း-၉)
22. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “မြူးနိုးစေချစ်သက်တည်” (အပိုင်း-၈)

**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

General Thura Shwe Mann welcomes Chief of General Staff of PLA and party

NAY PYI TAW, 18 March—At the invitation of Member of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, a goodwill delegation led by Chief of General Staff General Chen Bingde of the People's Liberation Army of the People's Republic of China arrived at Nay Pyi Taw this morning by special aircraft to pay a goodwill visit to the Union of Myanmar.

Chief of General Staff General Chen Bingde of the PLA and party were welcomed at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by SPDC member General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, Ambassador of the PRC to the Union of Myanmar Mr Ye Dabo, Myanmar

Ambassador to the PRC Col Tint Wai and Chinese Military Attaché Senior Colonel Gao Tiejun.

At 9.05 a.m., the special aircraft carrying the PLA goodwill delegation of the PRC arrived at Nay Pyi Taw Airport where they were welcomed by SPDC member General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence and party.

(See page 5)



General Thura Shwe Mann of Ministry of Defence and Chief of General Staff General Chen Bingde of the People's Liberation Army of PRC take the salute of Guard of Honour.—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein arrives in Indonesia for goodwill visit



Indonesian Foreign Affairs Minister Dr N Hassan Wirajuda welcomes Prime Minister General Thein Sein at Halim Perdanakusuma Airport. —MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 18 March —At the invitations of President of the Republic of Indonesia Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore Mr. Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein together with Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister

for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Director-General of the State Peace and Development

Council Office Col Kyaw Win and departmental heads left for Indonesia by special flight on 16 March and arrived at Halim Perdanakusuma Airport in Jakarta at 11.10 a.m local time the same day.

Myanmar Ambassador to Indonesia U Nyan Lin and Head of Protocol Department Mr. Ambrlutfi Rauf of the Ministry of Foreign Af-

fairs of the Republic of Indonesia welcomed Prime Minister General Thein Sein on board the aircraft.

Next, Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E Dr N. Hassan Wirajuda welcomed Prime Minister General Thein Sein.

Then, an Indonesian schoolgirl garlanded the Prime Minister.

(See page 6)

International standard Yangon-Mandalay Highway Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw road section to be inaugurated soon

Article and Photos: Tin Htwe (MNA)

(Continued from yesterday)

Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw section or section (1) of Yangon-Mandalay Highway is due to be put into commission soon. I also interviewed some more offi-

cials from Public Works and Directorate of Military Engineering who are those in charge of the project, so as to get as many facts as possible about the project.

(See page 10)