Established 1914

The New Light of Myanmar

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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

Secretary-1 receives President of China National Petroleum Corporation and party

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March—Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo received Mr Jiang Jie Min, President of China National Petroleum Corporation of the People's Republic of China at the hall of the office of the State Peace and Development Council, here, at 4 p.m., today.

Also present at the call were Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Director-General of the SPDC Office Col Kyaw Kyaw Win and Director-General U Soe Aung of the Energy Planning Department under the Ministry of Energy.

The Chinese guests were accompanied by Vice-President Mr Liao Yong Yuan, Deputy Chief Economist Mr Wang Lihua, Director-General Int, Dept, CNPC & Foreign Affairs Office, Mr Zhang Xin of Petrochina and General Secretary Mr Zhang Jialin of China Petroleum & Petrochemical Engineering Institute, Petrochina.—*MNA*

Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo receives Mr. Jiang Jie Min, President of China National Petroleum Corporation, and party. —MNA

Cash assistance provided to war veterans

YANGON, 28 March—Honouring the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, a ceremony to provide cash assistance to members of Pabedan Township War Veterans Organization was held at its office on Anawrahta Street in the township yesterday, with an address by Chairman of the Township Organizing Committee Major Tun Myint (Retd).

The chairman and officials of the Township WVO presented cash assistance to war veterans of 75 years old and above, disabled war veterans, outstanding trainees in the war veterans organizing training courses 2008, children of the WVO members who passed the matriculation examination for 2007-2008 academic year and the township accountants.

Later, a war veteran of above 75 years old spoke words of thanks.

MNA

INSIDE

A rapid development is largely due to the harmonious cooperation of the three main pillars of the nation: the government, the people and the Tatmadaw.

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Hninzigon Home for the Aged care committee holds annual meeting

YANGON, 28 March — The annual meeting of Care Committee of Hninzigon Home for the Aged was held at Diamond Jubilee Hall of the home in Bahan Township here this morning with an address by U Kyaw Shein, chairman of the executive committee of the home.

The executive committee presented annual and financial reports, sought the approval of those present and approved the resolutions of the meeting.

The meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by the chairman.

MNA

Public warning about untimely rains

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March — The Meteorology and Hydrology Department today announced that according to the observations recorded at 11:00 MST, under the influence of the low pressure areas moving from westwards, rains can be from isolated to scattered in Kachin, Shan, Chin and Rakhine states and Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Bago divisions in 48 hours from this noon. And there can be temporary strong winds at 35 to 40 mph from north-westwards with lightning and hailstones in the rain.—*MNA*

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 29 March, 2009

Remain cohesive in pursuing democratic transition process

Sixty-four years ago, the Tatmadaw, a patriotic force, launched the Anti-Fascist Resistance in harness with the people, after regaining its reduced strength on a self-reliant basis.

Today, the Tatmadaw devotes itself to both national defence duties and public well-being tasks simultaneously, putting public interest in the fore.

In times of emergency, the Tatmadaw stood firmly by the public interest, defending the motherland from various forms of internal and external threats. In its bid to achieve national reconsolidation, the Tatmadaw showed its benevolent attitude towards and persuaded national race armed groups, which had been in existence since the independence, to return to the legal fold.

The economic, transport, health and education infrastructures the Tatmadaw has built across the nation to expedite the Project for Progress of Border Areas and National Races, the 24-Special Region Development Project, and the Rural Development Project serve as the tangible evidence of how much development the nation has enjoyed in a couple of decades.

Such a rapid development is largely due to the harmonious cooperation of the three main pillars of the nation: the government, the people and the Tatmadaw.

Now, the new State constitution has been adopted with the approval of the great majority of the voters. So, the government will have to hold elections in a systematic way in 2010 to form respective hluttaws (parliaments) in line with the new constitution.

The democratic transition process of today's Myanmar is just in its infancy. Hence, it is required of the people to demonstrate great care and tenacity in concert to realize the goal by ensuring peaceful, stable transition to democracy.

No doubt, the lofty goal of building a peaceful, modern and developed nation will reach fruition in the near future if the government, the people and the Tatmadaw remain united in implementing the democratic transition process.

Photo shows MF 465 brand 120-HP Massey Ferguson Tractor. — NLM

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**

Member of Standing Committee of Political Bureau of Central Committee of Communist Party of China leaves for Mandalay

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March — The Chinese goodwill delegation led by member of the Standing Committee of Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China Mr Li Changchun left Yangon for Mandalay by special aircraft this morning.

They delegation was seen off at the airport by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu.

MNA

Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint sees off Standing Committee member of Political Bureau of the Central Committee of CPC Mr Li Changchun at the airport. — MNA

Basic summer sports courses open in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March — Jointly organized by the Ministry of Education and Sports Federations under the supervision of the Ministry of Sports, the opening of basic summer sports courses was held at Paunglaung Sports Ground in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana this morning.

Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint delivered an address and opened the ceremony.

Also present were member of MOC Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min and officials, teachers and students of basic education schools in Nay Pyi Taw and Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana and guests.

Next, the minister presented prizes to the band of Nay Pyi Taw BEHS (1) and the band and pom-pom dance troupe of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana BEHS (1) and skill demonstration groups of Myanmar Martial Arts, Taekwondo, Karatedo and Wushu Federations, and sports gear to the education officer of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township.

The deputy minister presented sports gear for the schools where sports courses will be conducted through officials.

Afterwards, athletes of Myanma Martial Arts, Taekwondo, Karatedo and Wushu showed off their skills and the ceremony came to an end.

The training courses will last up to 10 April.

MNA

Massey Ferguson Tractor introduced

YANGON, 26 March — Jointly organized by Universal Tractor Co Ltd (Myanmar) and Multi-Corporation (S) Pte Ltd (Singapore), a ceremony to introduce Massey Ferguson Tractors and Implements was held at UMFCCI Office Tower on Min Ye Kyaw Swa Road in Lanmadaw Township here on 24 March.

Mr. Paul Burridge, General Manager of AGCO (Massey Ferguson Tractors and Implements) Co, and Mr. Michael Wong Toh Tueng, Deputy General Manager gave talks at the ceremony.

Various kinds of Massey Ferguson (MF) Tractors ranging from 15.5 HP to 288 HP manufactured by AGCO Co of England are being widely used in agricultural, livestock breeding and landscaping businesses of many countries.

Universal Tractors Co Ltd, sole agent for Myanmar, distributed Massey Ferguson Tractors and Implements in Myanmar since 2007.

Those wishing to buy Massey Ferguson Tractors and Implements may contact Universal tractor Co Ltd at Building No. (F/S-2), Shwe Malar Yeik Mon on Bayintnaung Road in Kamayut Township (Ph: 01-536493), 505901 and 530893) and e-mail: multicoatt@myanmar.com.mm, utmyanmar@myanmar.com.mm and unitsales@myanmar.com.mm. Necessary services are being given to customers by Universal Tractor Co Ltd. —*MNA*

Talk on Weather Forecast for 2009 on 31 March

YANGON, 28 March— Director-General of the Meteorology and Hydrology Department Dr Tun Lwin will give a talk on "Weather Forecast for 2009" at the Myanmar Fishery Federation on Bayintnaung Road in Insein Township, here, at 10 am on 31 March. Any interested person may attend the talk.

MNA

*A boat and car sit frozen in flood water in Oxbow, North Dakota. With rapidly rising floodwaters lapping at sandbag dikes and scores of rural homes surrounded, North Dakota scrambled on Thursday to reinforce defenses against what is forecast to be its worst floods in recorded history.—*INTERNET

India, Israel sign $1.4b deal on air defence system

JERUSALEM, 28 March —India has signed its biggest defence deal with Israel for the purchase of a state-of-the-art air defence system at a whopping cost of 1.4 billion US dollars.

Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) has officially acknowledged that the defence deal between the two countries was inked on 27 February under which Israel will develop and manufacture seaborne and shore-based systems against missile attack on India, business daily *Globes* reported.

The signing of the deal comes as India is in advance stage of testing of its own anti-missile shield. The Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has already successfully test-fired its advanced air defence (AAD) missile.

The two sides have agreed that part of the payment for the systems will be made during the development period and the balance will be paid during the 66 month delivery period, which is slated to begin 90 months from the date the advance payment is received, the report said.

As per the agreement, IAI has also undertaken to procure military or aviation products and services from India. It will invest in defence companies in India up to an amount equal to 30 per cent of the contract.

India is currently Israel's largest arms buyer.—*MNA/PTI*

UK ready to send more troops to Afghanistan

LONDON, 28 March— Britain is ready to send more troops to Afghanistan to support an increase in US troop numbers to tackle the Taleban insurgency, the head of the British Army said on Friday.

General Sir Richard Dannatt told the *Times* newspaper members of 12 Mechanized Brigade, who were ready for deployment to Iraq but were later stood down, had been "earmarked for Afghanistan".

He said there were no plans to send the whole brigade of about 4,000 but the number of British troops serving in the country could rise to somewhere in between the current level of 8,300 and 12,000.

The Ministry of Defence said no final decision on numbers had been taken.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown said other countries also had to play their part in supporting the military effort in Afghanistan. He said Britain would step up training of local military and police, to bring Afghan troops trained in the country above 200,000 from 70,000 today, to support the US plans.

MNA/Reuters

Afghan soldier kills two US troops

KABUL, 28 March—An Afghan Army soldier shot dead two US servicemen and wounded a third before killing himself in northeast Afghanistan on Friday, US military said.

The Afghan soldier fired at the US soldiers, killing one and wounding two others, one of whom died later, it said in a statement.

"One coalition service member was killed ... another died of wounds and a third was wounded by an Afghan National Army soldier who reportedly fired upon them," it said. "The Afghan National Army soldier reportedly killed himself immediately after the incident."

The incident occurred at about 2:20 pm (1020 GMT), before US President Barack Obama unveiled the results of his Administration's strategy review of Afghanistan, which includes strengthening Afghanistan's national security forces.

The training of the Afghan Army and police is being undertaken by US forces.

MNA/Reuters

Guatemala finds Mexico drug smuggler training camp

GUATEMALA CITY, 28 March—Guatemalan security forces have discovered a camp run by Mexico's most violent drug gang where traffickers trained dozens of gunmen, police said on Friday. Security forces were tipped off about suspicious activity at a ranch in Quiche, in the central highlands, by residents who said men in ski masks were asking villagers to join their ranks, police chief Marlene Blanco said at a news conference.

Two commanders of the Zetas, the armed wing of Mexico's Gulf cartel, and 37 recruits fled the camp before the police and Army arrived, leaving behind 500 grenades, six rifles and hundreds of rounds of ammunition, Blanco said.

The spiraling violence of Mexico's drug war, where rival cartels have resorted to savage tactics in their struggle for territory, killed more than 6,200 people last year and has stoked increasing concern from both ordinary Mexicans and the country's neighbours.

"They wanted to recruit young men. They offered training in the use of certain weapons and said they had jobs," Blanco said.

Guatemalan authorities, helped by personnel from the US Drug Enforcement Administration, also found an illegal airstrip, an obstacle course and equipment for practicing shooting at moving targets. "We are facing a war against drug trafficking and you can see what kind of weapons they have waiting for us," Blanco said.

MNA/Reuters

Medvedev says Afghanistan must ultimately rule itself

LONDON, 28 March— Russia will help international efforts to stabilize Afghanistan but believes that the country cannot be ruled by outside forces, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev told the BBC in an interview aired on Friday.

Medvedev also said he expected to discuss missile defence and Iran's nuclear programme when he meets US President Barack Obama in London next week.

Obama unveiled a new war strategy for Afghanistan on Friday, with the goal of crushing al-Qaeda militants there and in neighbouring Pakistan.

"I believe that today a number of threats are still there and in that sense we are ready to participate in the efforts directed at putting things in order, at preventing terrorist attacks," Medvedev said in an excerpt from an interview recorded on Thursday.

"On the other hand, I too believe that sooner or later there must be a normal political system in place in Afghanistan," he added, speaking through an interpreter.

"It is impossible to rule Afghanistan with the aid of the (NATO) alliance, it is impossible to rule Afghanistan from abroad, Afghanistan should find its own path to democracy."

MNA/Reuters

***Medics at a central Baghdad, Iraq hospital transport a woman injured by a car bomb on 26 March, 2009.—*INTERNET**

Over 175 kilos of hashish seized in Turkey

ANKARA,28 March—Turkish security forces seized over 175 kilos of hashish in two counter-narcotics operations in Turkey on Friday, the semi-official *Anatolia* news agency reported.

Acting on a tip-off, the security forces stopped and searched a lorry, which came to Torbali Town of western province of Izmir from southeastern province of Diyarbakir, and confiscated 88 kilos of hashish hidden in the cache of the vehicle with the help of a sniffer dog, according to the report.

Six suspects were detained for their alleged involvement in drug trafficking, added the report. In another operation, the security forces stopped and searched a minibus and impounded 87.1 kilos of hashish in Gurpinar Town of eastern province of Van, said the report.

It added that the driver of the minibus was detained for his alleged involvement in drug trafficking.

Turkey is a key transit route for smuggling drugs from Asia and the Middle East to markets in Western Europe.—*Xinhua*

***Lin Erde aged 106, works in the field at Zhangkeng Village of De'an County, east China's Jiangxi Province, on 24 March, 2009.*—XINHUA**

Indian city of Goa legalizes bull fighting after 12-yr ban

NEW DELHI, 28 March—The south-western Indian city of Goa has legalized bull fighting 12 years after it was banned in the former Portuguese colony, reported local daily *The Asian Age* Friday.

The local Parliament of Goa passed unanimously on Wednesday an amendment to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act to make an exception for Goa's traditional bull fights, or "dhirio", said the newspaper.

But organizers of bull fights must ensure the bull fights are conducted properly and safely for both animals and spectators, said the newspaper.

Although the high court of Goa banned the game 12 years ago, the sport continued illegally and its popularity has never waned, leading to frequ-ent police raids upon illegal bull fights arenas, arrests of bull owners and confiscation of animals, said the newspaper.

India took back Goa by force in 1961 after a 450-year colonial rule of the city by Portugal.

Xinhua

Cambodia destroys over 80,000 illegal CDs, DVDs

PHNOM PENH, 28 March—The Cambodian Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts and the Phnom Penh Municipality here on Friday destroyed over 80,000 copies of illegal, pirate and pornographic CDs and DVDs confiscated in 2008.

"All these DVDs and CDs led to immorality in our society and violated the intellectual property rights in producing movies in the country," Khim Sarith, Secretary of State at the ministry, told the ruining ceremony.

"We have cracked down on illegal DVDs and CDs sales regularly and have been seeking to catch and punish the masterminds who copied DVDs and CDs by modern machines," said Khim Sarith, who is also chairman of the inter-ministerial committee for fighting against illegal DVDs and CDs.

Cheam Heng, a senior official at the Phnom Penh Municipality, said that foreigners were found to import porn and pirate DVDs and CDs to sell at shops in Phnom Penh. "Illegal CDs and DVDs made the Cambodian movie industry go down because people want to buy pirate DVDs and CDs at cheap prices," he said.

When original copies were pirated, movie producers lost money and did not want to produce any more movies, he added. —*Xinhua*

All items from Xinhua News Agency

China discovers two new oil fields in Bohai Bay

BEIJING, 28 March — China National Offshore Oil Company Limited (CNOOC Ltd) anno-unced Friday it has started drilling in two new oil and gas formations discovered in East China's Bohai Bay. Both are independent ex-ploration discoveries of CNOOC Ltd, the com-pany said in a statement.

Bozhong (BZ) 2-1, one of the two discoveries, is at the west of Bozhong Sag. At the point of the discovery well, a 50.9-metre layer of oil was found. The well drilled to a depth of 3,910 metres, with water depth at about 26 metres.

The well was tested to have an output of an average 1,270 barrels of oil and 393,000 cubic feet of natural gas per day.

The other new discovery was dubbed as Qinhuangdao (QHD) 29-2, found at the southeast of Qinnan Sag. A 34.7-metre oil layer and a 47.9-metre natural gas layer were discovered at the new field, with drill down to a depth of 3,991 metres, water depth at appro-ximately 27 metres.

Xinhua

Bangladesh takes fresh move to set up N-power plant

DHAKA, 28 March—The Bangladeshi Government has initiated a fresh move for setting up a one-billion-US-dollar nuclear power plant to meet the mounting demand for electricity in the country, a minister said Tuesday.

The country's chronic energy problem has prompted the government to ponder over installation of the country's first nuclear power plant, State Minister for Science and Information & Communication Technology Yafes Osman was quoted by local newspaper *The Fianncial Express* as saying.—*Xinhua*

***Members of the Qin Opera Art Troupe of Hami stage performance in Dahe Township of Barkol Kazak Autonomous County, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on 24 March, 2009.* —XINHUA**

NATO confirms first meeting with Iran on Afghanistan

BRUSSELS, 28 March—Iran and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) held their first secret and informal talks in 30 years in Brussels where NATO is head-quartered, focusing on Afghanistan, the alliance confirmed here Thursday.

The meeting took place on 9 March between NATO's Assistant Secre-tary General for Political Affairs and Security Policy Martin Erdmann and Iran's Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union, Ali-Asghar Khaji, NATO deputy spokeswoman Carmen Romero told *Xinhua.*

"It was a very informal contact and they basically discussed Afghanistan," she added. "You know the secretary-general (Jaap de Hoop Scheffer) has said recently that Iran should be involved in a regional approach in regard of Afghanistan."

Romero said that she did not know if there will be another meeting. However, she said "I don't rule out there will be another contact". The alliance's spokesman James Ap-pathurai also told reporters earlier that it was "a first informal contact" and the Iranian side is interested in cooperation on Afghanistan.

Speaking at the Brus-sels-based Security and Defence Agenda think tank in January, NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer called on the United States and its fellow NATO allies to engage with Iran to quell the insurgency in Afghanistan.

Xinhua

UN urges G-20 to back $1t aid for poor nations

UNITED NATIONS, 28 March — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Wednesday urged 20 of the world's most powerful economies to support a one-trillion-US-dollar stimulus plan for developing countries when the 20 meet in London next month.

That figure is based on an estimate of the "total financing needed to support developing countries through the (financial) crisis" in 2009 and 2010, Ban said in a letter to leaders of the so-called Group of 20 nations, seen by *Reuters*.

"A prolonged and severe recession, if not addressed boldly with urgent attention given to the needs of the vulnerable, could likewise affect countries and regions with profound consequences for the security and stability of us all," Ban wrote in the letter. Ban's proposal, first reported by the *Financial Times*, will be discussed at the G-20 summit meeting in London on 2 April. He also discussed it on Wednesday with British Prime Minister Gordon Brown during a meeting at UN Headquarters.

After the meeting, Brown and Ban told reporters that it was unclear how much money G-20 leaders would pledge for any stimulus package. That would be the subject of bilateral discussions ahead of the summit, they said.

UN diplomats said not all of the one trillion US dollars would be new financial aid. Some of it was available in existing programmes but has not yet been tapped into.—*MNA/Reuters*

Josh Kowalczyk, an intern with the West Michigan Whitecaps, in Comstock Park, Mich poses for a photo on 24 March, 2009. The $20 burger will feature a sesame-seed bun made from a pound of dough, five 1/3-pound beef patties, five slices of cheese, nearly a cup of chili and liberal doses of salsa and corn chips.—INTERNET

Singapore's PM gets his first younger deputy

SINGAPORE, 28 March—Singapore named Defence Minister Teo Chee Hean as Deputy Prime Minister on Thursday, handing 57-year-old Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong his first younger number two.

Teo, 54, will retain his defence portfolio and will also take on the deputy's role from 1April, the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement. Singapore has two deputy prime ministers but Teo will be acting prime minister in Lee's absence.

Wong Kan Seng remains as a Deputy Premier while S Jayakumar, 69, Singapore's other Deputy Prime Minister, will step aside to become senior minister. "These changes are part of continuing leadership renewal and testing out of younger office holders for broader responsibilities," the government said in the statement.

Singapore will also have its first female Cabinet minister when Lim Hwee Hua, 50, currently the Junior Minister for Finance and Transport, becomes Minister in the Prime Minister's Office as well as Second Minister for Finance and Transport.—*MNA/Reuters*

American Galbraith is UN deputy Afghanistan envoy

UNITED NATIONS, 28 March— The United Nations on Wednesday named as its deputy envoy to Afghanistan US diplomat and academic Peter Galbraith, seen as close to US point man for Afghanistan and Pakistan Richard Holbrooke.

But UN officials denied the appointment reflected US dissatisfaction with the man who will be Galbraith's boss, UN special envoy Kai Eide.

Galbraith, 58, a former US Ambassador to Croatia, succeeds Christopher Alexander of Canada as political deputy to Eide. Alexander completes his assignment at the end of March, UN spokeswoman Michele Montas said. Another deputy deals with humanitarian and development issues.

Montas said Galbraith would handle electoral, parliamentary and other political issues in the conflict-ridden nation where a presidential election is due in August, as well as peace and stability, security sector reform and human rights.

Montas dismissed media suggestions the United States was seeking to sideline Eide, a Norwegian diplomat, by having an American appointed as deputy.

MNA/Reuters

Man charged with killing two soldiers in N Ireland

BELFAST, 28 March — Police in Northern Ireland charged a leading pro-Irish nationalist on Thursday with the murder of two British soldiers earlier this month, the deadliest attack in the province in more han a decade.

A police spokeswoman said the 41-year-old man also was charged with the attempted murder of five other people outside the Massereene Barracks in Antrim on 7 March and possession of a gun and ammunition.

MNA/Reuters

Merkel wants NATO to focus on Russia ties

BERLIN, 28 March — German Chancellor Angela Merkel called on NATO on Thursday to strengthen cooperation with Russia and urged Moscow to send a signal to build trust, such as helping to settle a conflict in a Moldovan breakaway region.

With the alliance celebrating its 60th anniversary at a summit hosted by France and Germany next week, Merkel said NATO had to adapt to new challenges such as terrorism and energy security and build new partnerships in a post-Cold War world.

"NATO wants Russia as a good partner," she told the Bundestag Lower House of Parliament. "For 20 years, we've not been adversaries. The Cold War times are irrevocably over."

Moscow and Western partners have been at odds over a series of diplomatic and security issues in past months, including Russia's military action in Georgia last year and Moscow's gas dispute with Ukraine which cut supplies to Europe in January.—*MNA/Reuters*

German Education and Science Minister Annette Schavan poses in an electric car after a news conference in Berlin, on 26 March, 2009.—INTERNET

Sarkozy in Africa to boost political, business ties

KINSHASA, 28 March — French President Nicolas Sarkozy arrived in Democratic Republic of Congo on Thursday at the start of a three-nation Africa tour to boost Paris' political and business ties with allies on the continent.

Sarkozy's delegation includes executives from major French companies eager for contracts to rebuild Congo's infrastructure, devastated by decades of neglect under the kleptocratic rule of late dictator Mobutu Sese Seko and over a decade of violence.

Companies represented include France Telecom, the world's biggest cement maker Lafarge and Vinci, the world's biggest public works and transport concessions group, which is set to renovate Kinshasa's airport.

French officials said Sarkozy would congratulate Congolese President Joseph Kabila for his efforts to reduce tensions with former enemies Uganda and, in particular, Rwanda.

Kabila has allowed soldiers from both countries, who fought against him alongside Congolese rebels in a 1998-2003 war, to hunt down rebel militia groups operating in the vast former Belgian colony's lawless eastern borderlands, boosting relations.—*MNA/Reuters*

US Internet gambling laws breach WTO rules

BRUSSELS, 28 March—A US crackdown on European online gambling breaches World Trade Organization rules and would justify action at the World Trade Organization, the European Commission said on Thursday.

The European Union executive, which oversees trade policy for the 27-nation bloc, said its draft report found that such US laws hampered trade and thus were inconsistent with WTO rules but stressed it would seek a negotiated solution.

"It is for the US to decide how best to regulate Internet gambling in its market, but this must be done in a way that fully respects WTO obligations," EU Trade Commissioner Catherine Ashton said in a statement. "I am hopeful that we can find a swift, negotiated solution to this issue," she said.

In 2006, the US Congress passed legislation making it illegal for banks and credit card companies to make payments to online gambling sites. The move hit European Internet gambling companies hard, slashing billions of euros off their market value.—*MNA/Reuters*

Steam and ash bellows from Mount Redoubt across the Cook Inlet from Ninilchik, Alaska, on 26 March, 2009. The volcano on the west side of Cook Inlet erupted on Thursday morning sending ash clouds an estimated 65,000 feet into the air dusting the towns on the Kenai Peninsula including the towns of Kenai, Ninilchik and Homer.—INTERNET

Alaska volcano erupts twice, sends ash 12 miles up

ANCHORAGE, 28 March — Alaska's Mount Redoubt erupted several times Thursday, spewing a more than 12-mile-high cloud that could drop ash on Anchorage for the first time since the volcano began erupting Sunday night.

The Alaska Volcano Observatory said the first eruption around 8:30 a.m. shot an ash cloud about 30,000 feet in the air, and a second eruption about an hour later sent ash 65,000 feet high — the highest cloud since the eruptions began. Five to 10 smaller eruptions followed, with none of their plumes surpassing 20,000 feet.

The largest eruption caused a mud flow into the Drift River near the base of the volcano.Before Thursday's eruptions, the volcano had been relatively quiet for more than a day.

"We can have these large explosions pretty much any time," said Stephanie Prejean, an observatory seismologist. "We don't know how long this will continue."When Redoubt last erupted 20 years ago, it went on for four months.

The National Weather Service said prevailing winds were expected to carry ash from the larger eruption east across Cook Inlet toward some of Alaska's larger communities. An ash fall advisory for the western Kenai Peninsula covers the towns of Kenai, Soldotna and Cooper Landing.

Internet

US uncover new pathway of blood-forming stem cells

LOS ANGELES, 28 March — Researchers at the University of Southern California reported on Wednesday that they have identified a signaling pathway that helps regulate the movement of blood-forming stem cells.

"The finding provides important new insight into how stem cells move around the body and may lead to improvements in the efficiency of bone marrow transplants," researchers said. The study will be published in the journal *Nature*, and is available online on Wednesday.

"By identifying the key mechanism by which these stem cells home and engraft to the bone marrow, it may be possible to pharmacologically treat the cells to activate this pathway and thus increase the effectiveness of bone marrow transplants," said lead researcher Gregor Adams.—*Internet*

Frogs among new species found in Papua-New Guinea

WASHINGTON, 28 March — Jumping spiders, a striped gecko and a chirping frog are among more than 50 new species discovered in Papua-New Guinea, the environmental group Conservation International reported on Tuesday. The creatures were found during an expedition in July and August in Papua-New Guinea's highlands wilderness, the group said in a statement. A total of 50 spider species, two plants, three frogs and one gecko found on the expedition are believed to be new to science.

The three frogs include a tiny brown frog with a sharp chirping call, a bright green tree frog with big eyes and a torrent-dwelling frog that has a loud ringing call.—*Internet*

Bird flu suspect patient dies in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 28 March — A two-year boy suspected of contracting bird flu, identified as Wahyu Ibnu Saputra, died at Arifin Achmad Public Hospital in Pekanbaru, capital of Indonesia' s Riau Province on Thursday.

Wahyu died after suffering a respiratory problem and falling unconscious, Antara news agency quoted Dr Azizman Saad, coordinator of the bird flu control at the Arifin Achmad hospital, as saying in Pekanbaru on Thursday.The boy died at around 2 am local time on Thursday, he said.

However, the hospital could not confirmed the cause of Wahyu's death, whether it was because of H5N1 (bird flu) virus or not, as the hospital was still waiting for the result of laboratory test of the patient's blood sample. Meanwhile, the Garut Health Service in West Java Province has recorded 46 cases of bird flu in Garut District up to 23 March , 2009.—*Internet*

A car model assembled with plastic vehicle parts to reduce the total weight is displayed during the China International Energy Saving, Emission Reduction and New Energy Science and Technology Expo at the Beijing Exhibition Center in Beijing, capital of China. More than 200 companies and organizations took part in the expo, opened.

Cold worker traps himself in oven

Swedish authorities say they're conducting a review of a company where a truck driver tried to warm himself in an industrial oven and became trapped.

Officials told Sveriges Radio that the driver climbed onto a conveyor belt that led into an oven at a kitchen and bathroom fixtures manufacturing facility in Hassleholm, Sweden, in an attempt to escape the cold in the company's loading dock.

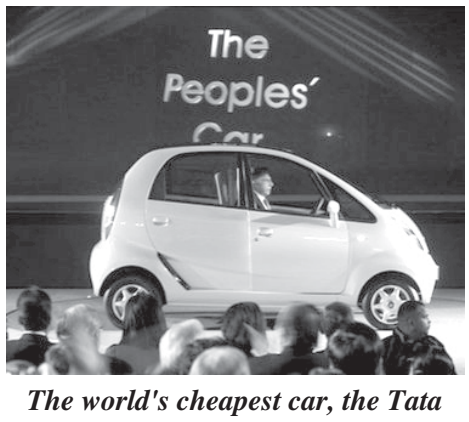
But because of the man's hefty stature, the conveyor shut down just as he was going through the oven, trapping him in the dangerously hot environment, the broadcaster said.

Students deliver food, end relationships for a fee

College students in Chengdu, capital of Sichuan Province, launched a new service to help classmates handle important but time consuming errands and difficult matters.

A junior student in Southwest University for Nationalities and organizer of the new service, said that he and four classmates launched the service that will help others buy meals, get water delivery, write love letters, or even handle the difficult job of informing someone their boyfriend or girlfriend is dumping them.

The service was well received but was also criticized by some for encouraging laziness.



The world's cheapest car, the Tata Nano, will be launched Monday with its makers hoping it will be a hit with India's emerging middle-classes.

Australian authorities on Monday placed The Big Pineapple on the Queensland state heritage register, ranking it alongside the state's top historic buildings and cultural sites. The 16-metre (52-foot) fibreglass pineapple has graced Queensland's Sunshine Coast tourist strip since 1971, thrilling and perplexing visitors in equal measure.

Microsoft rolls out Internet Explorer eight

Microsoft on Thursday formally released Windows Internet Explorer 8 (IE8), the latest version of its Web browser which the software giant said is safer, faster and easier to use.

Microsoft announced that IE8 is now available for download in 25 languages at its website starting from Thursday.

It claimed that IE8 can block two to four times more malware, or malicious software, than other browsers.

The new browser also cuts down on the time it takes to complete common tasks on the Web such as searching, mapping and sharing, the company said.

"With Internet Explorer 8, we are delivering a browser that gets people to the information they need, fast, and provides protection that no other browser can match," Steve Ballmer, Microsoft's chief executive officer, said in a statement.

Internet Explorer still dominates the Web browser market, though its share is being eroded by Mozilla's Firefox, Apple's Safari and other competitors.

NEWS ALBUM

Yangon Command holds 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade

YANGON, 28 March—The 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade of Yangon Command was held at the parade ground of the command yesterday morning with an address by Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint.

First, the commander took the salute of the parade columns.

Next, the commander, the Tatmadawmen of the parade columns and guests saluted the State Flag and fallen servicemen.

Tatmadawmen of the parade columns recited the four oaths.

Next, the commander delivered an address.

The commander presented prizes to outstanding officers and other ranks in military codes of conduct contest (central) to mark the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day and outstanding parade companies.

MNA

Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint delivers an address at 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade of Yangon Command.

MNA

Health Minister meets Malaysian guests

YANGON, 28 March—Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint received Mdm. Raja Riza, member of Mercy Malaysia Executive Council, and party of Malaysia at the building on Natmauk Road in Bahan Township here on 21 March. They held discussions on implementation of project for construction of buildings for health department, rural health center and rural health branch.

Also present at the call were Director-General Dr Khin Pyone Kyi of Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar), Director-General Dr Than Zaw Myint of Medical Science Department, Deputy Director-General Dr Kyaw Nyunt Sein of Health Department, Dr Kyi Myint and the directors. —*MNA*

Health Minister Dr Kyaw Myint meets Mdm. Raja Riza, member of Mercy Malaysia Executive Council and party of Malaysia.

MNA

MMA opens Primary Trauma Care Course

YANGON, 28 March— The Primary Trauma Care Skill Training in Myanmar, jointly organized by Myanmar Medical Association (Central) and Royal Australasian College of Surgeon, was opened at the hall of MMA on Theinbyu Street in Mingala Taungnyunt Township this morning.

Chairman of the MMA Prof U Kyaw Myint Naing and Director of External Affairs (RACS) Ms. Daliah Moss gave speeches on the occasion.

Altogether 44 doctors and specialists including orthopaedic surgeons, general surgeons, paediatricians, obstetricians, anasthesiologists and general practitioners are attending the course.

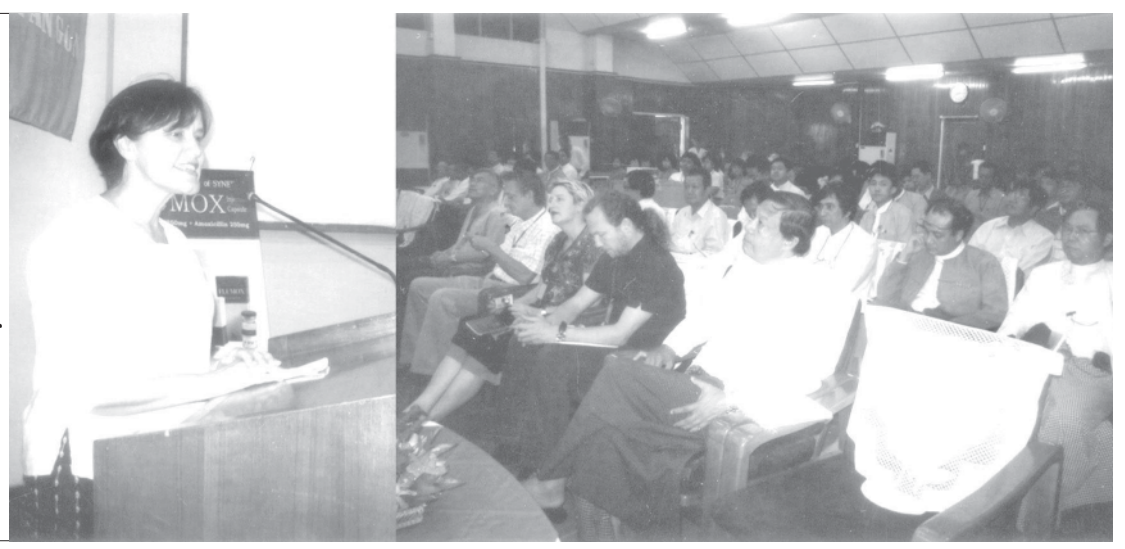
There will be one day instructor courses on 31 March. There will be future collaboration between the two associations for the wide coverage of doctors in the whole country and also aim for other health staff members and healthcare volunteers in the community.

MNA

Engineering Technology, Production Procedures and Product Show 2009

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March—The Engineering Technology, Production Procedures and Product Show 2009 of Myanmar Engineering Society (Mandalay branch) was opened at the hall of Mandalay City Development Committee on 20 March. The President of MES gave accounts of organizing the show. Next, Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han, the president of the society and the chairman of Mandalay branch formally opened the show.

Then the mayor and officials viewed exhibits of the show, and looked into upgrading of 68th, 37th and 87th streets and dredging of drains and visited Yatanarpon Myothit (North) housing project.—*MNA*



Director Ms Daliah Moss of External Affairs (RACS) makes a speech at opening of Primary Trauma Care course.

MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin unveils signboard of Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain Garden.
(News reported)
MNA

Nay Pyi Taw Mayor Col Thein Nyunt formally opens signboard of Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain Garden (Extension).
(News reported)
MNA

Environmental conservation and establishment of forests coordinated

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March — A work coordination meeting on environmental conservation and establishment of forests was held at the director's office of Bago Division (East) Forest Department on 22 March.

Chairman of Bago Division Environmental Conservation Committee Secretary of Bago Division Peace and Development Council U Pe Thein reported on ten future tasks of Environmental Conservation Committee (1/2009) of the Ministry of Forestry and measures taken by the ministry.

The chairman discussed environmental conservation activities through the media, cooperation with NGOs, holding of essay contests and talks in schools and arrangements for cultivation of teak and other hard wood plants and tree plantations for firewood.

MNA

Chinese goodwill delegation tours Yangon

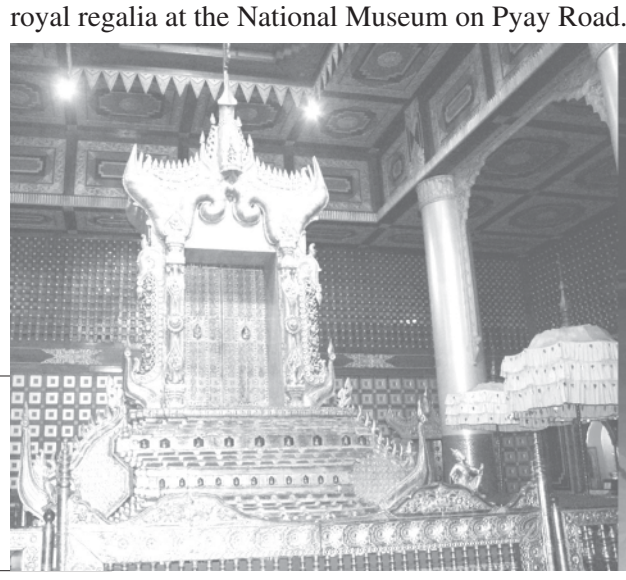
NAY PYI TAW, 28 March — The visiting Chinese goodwill delegation led by member of the Standing Committee of Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China Mr Li Changchun accompanied by Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Chinese Ambassador Mr Ye Dabo and officials visited the Shwedagon Pagoda yesterday.

The Chinese goodwill delegation also visited booths of Thihathana Throne, Yadanabon period and royal regalia at the National Museum on Pyay Road.

The Chinese guests went to WCDMA exchange of mobile communication station of Myanma Telecommunications in Lanmadaw Township and Myanma Gem Museum in Mayangon Township.

They proceeded to Kanaung Hall in Hlinethaya Industrial City where they were briefed on the development of the township by Director-General of Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development U Aung Win.

They also visited Tokyo Pipe Factory and Fame Pharmaceutical Factory.—*MNA*



***Standing Committee member of Political Bureau of Central Committee of Communist Party of China Mr Li Changchun and party visit National Museum on Pyay Road.*—MNA**

Gift for Myanmar Disabled Association

YANGON, 28 March — As a gesture of honouring the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, a ceremony to open the new office of the Myanmar Disabled Association was held at the office at No. 51, Ground Floor, Nyaungdon Street, Kyuntaw (South) Ward of Sangyoung Township this morning. U Myo Myint, patron of the association, U Myat Oo (Baby Vita), chairman of the association, and Chairman of Sangyoung Township Peace and Development Council U Tint Lwin cut the ribbon to open the new office.

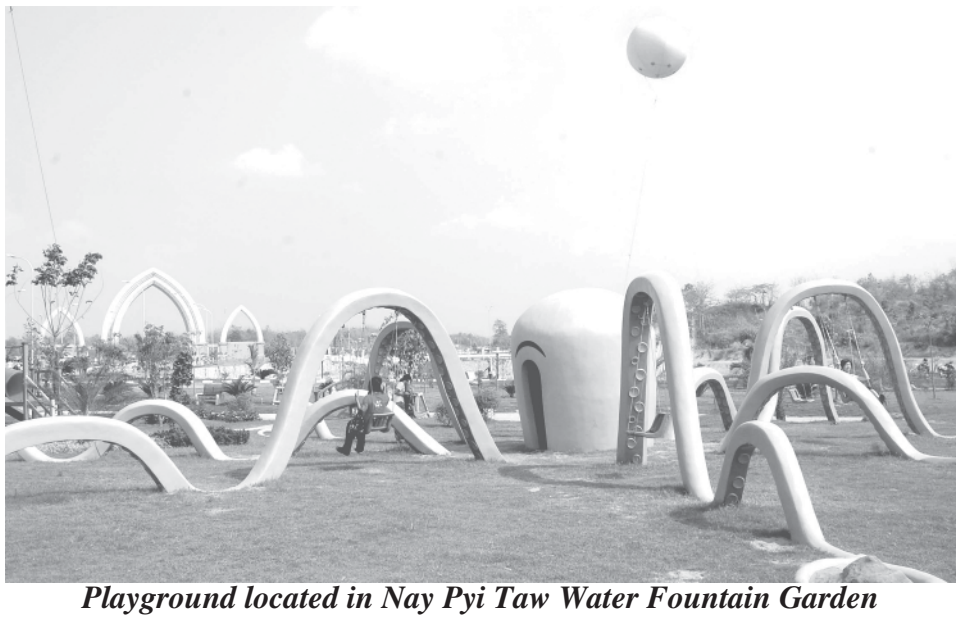
Next, U Aye Ko Ko, secretary of the association unveiled the signboard of the association.

Afterwards, Patrons U Myo Myint and U Ngwe Thein and Chairman U Myat Oo spoke on the occasion.

Patron U Myo Myint and U Myint Aung and Dr Yin Yin donated K 100,000 each, U Myat Oo (Baby Vita), K 2,000,000, U Tin Toe and U Myo Tun, K 30,000, U Ko Lwin and U Khin Maung Than Aye, a computer set, Dr Pike and Dr Zaw Moe Aung, K 40,000 and U Saw Naing and Daw Aye Aye Win (Pale Myanmar Handicraft Art), FEC 100.

MNA

The 165 acres wide Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain Garden is one of the public recreation centres in Nay Pyi Taw.



Playground located in Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain Garden (Extension).—MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin and Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo formally open Paunglaung Diversion Weir. **(News on page 16)**—MNA

Tatmadaw Park and Square decorated with multi-coloured flowery plants, lights and water fountains

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March—The Tatmadaw Park and Square in the compound of Parade Ground, the venue of the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade 2009, was kept open for the public recreation beginning this morning.

The Tatmadaw Park and the Square were decorated with multi-coloured flowery plants, lights and water fountains.

The Tatmadaw Park and the Square will be kept open up to 31 March from 7 am to 10 pm daily.

MNA

Tatmadaw Park and Square seen with flowery plants and multi-coloured lights and water fountains in Nay Pyi Taw Parade Ground on 27 March evening. — MNA

New tarred road inaugurated in Myeik

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March — A ceremony to put fingerlings and shrimps into the waters near fish auction market in Myeik under the arrangements of Taninthayi Division Fisheries Department, Division Fisheries Federation, Fisheries companies and fishery entrepreneurs on 21 March.

Present were Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, local authorities, departmental officials, members of social organizations and fishery entrepreneurs.

The commander delivered a speech. The commander and officials put fingerlings and shrimps into the waters near fish auction market.

The commander and party attended opening of Bo Bahtoo tarred road section-1 hailing the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day. They also attended the opening of new Phayakoezu tarred road.

The commander and party went to the site of Myeik Myothit and inspected construction of wharf and stall and paving of roads, arrival of powered-boats and flow of commodities.

They also inspected Kabin Dam that will supply water to Myeik Myothit and gave instructions.—*MNA*

Myanmar C.P Tennis Tour 2009 begins

YANGON, 28 March—The opening of Myanmar C.P Tennis Tournament took place at Theinbyu Tennis Court here at 8 am today.

President of the Myanmar Tennis Federation U Zaw Zaw and Adviser to the Myanmar C.P Co Ltd U Aung Din delivered speeches.

General Secretary of the Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of the Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik, the MPF president and Chairman of the Myanmar C.P Co Ltd Mr Phichet Sivasri formally opened the tournament, which continues till 1 April.

The opening of the fifth Sports Minister's Trophy and the 35th Inter-State/Division Chinlon (circular sepak takraw) Contest for 2009 took place at Aung San Gymnasium at 3 pm. Among the spectators were General Secretary of the Central Work Committee of the Myanmar Chinlon Federation Daw L Khun Yee and officials, the MCF president and executives and guests.

Director-General U Thaung Htaik gave an introductory speech and opened the contest. The first day's matches were held.

MNA

Build a modern, patriotic Tatmadaw

Padaung Than Kywe

More than 100 national races such as Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan are the descendants of the people that has existed in the area now known as the Union of Myanmar for millions of years. They have merged together into the Myanmar society for many periods, and that is, indeed, something to be proud of as national prestige. The national ethnic groups have been living together as a consolidated family in the Union sharing joys and sorrows.

Preserving the fine traditions, the ethnic groups have grown into a consolidated people "Myanmar" with high civilization, national prestige and integrity.

In the course of the Myanmar history, national races remained cohesive in repulsing the alien attacks on the motherland. As a result, their country could stand tall as a sovereign nation "the Union of Myanmar".

Every country is to be strong enough to safeguard their independence or sovereignty. Otherwise they will suffer alien hegemony towards them more or less. In order to boost its strength, a country must:

- have economic growth,
- build up the strength of its people,
- equip its armed forces with sophisticated weapons.

Unless a country is economically strong, it will not have enough resistance to any forms of alien pressure put on it before the bilateral conflict grows into a full-scale war. In that regard, economic strength covers not only economic wealth but also enough reserve funds with which the country concerned can show its resilience to a variety of crises.

It is required of the people to be physically strong with good morale characters in order that their country sustains as an independent one. And the people are to be proud of being citizens of their country. They have to understand and appreciate the culture, fine traditions, history and stability of their country. Moreover, the ethnic groups have to cultivate a sense of self-reliant fervour.

Strong armed forces are of great importance for a nation. In the face of alien invasion, a nation has to be at war with the intruders, so the entire people of the victim country have to get involved in the fight against the aliens. Here, it takes a certain period for the nation to mobilize the participation of its all people. The forces that have to repulse the alien invasion are the armed forces. So, every country, large and small, forms the Tatmadaw concerned. They try their best to strengthen and modernize their armed forces.

Without a Tatmadaw, a country will attract disrespects from other countries.

Myanmar, that had stood tall with own monarchs and sovereignty for thousands of years, once lost its national unity due to the wedge the colonialists drove among national brethren, and fell under alien subjugation for more than 100 years, which is a very costly, historic lesson.

Commencing 1824, British colonialists waged three aggressive wars known as Anglo-Myanmar wars on Myanmar. The whole Union fell under the yoke of colonialism, lost independence and had its Tatmadaw dissolved, following the Third Anglo-Myanmar War.

In July 1941, the Thirty Comrades underwent military training in Hainan Island, Japan, which helped revive the Myanmar Tatmadaw.

The Tatmadaw has played the firm leadership role in national causes throughout the period of independence struggles. For 60 years from the time when Myanmar regained independence to date, the Tatmadaw has dealt with a large number of battles and political instabilities making it mature.

It is the Tatmadaw that drove the colonialists out of the nation's soil to help regain independence, led the Anti-Fascist Resistance, crushed internal armed insurgency, repulsed alien intrusions, and made sacrifices in transiting the nation into a new society. Today, it is discharging the bounden duty of implementing national objectives.

The Tatmadaw's fine tradition of playing the national leadership role is nobler than that of any other organization. The Tatmadaw serves as a driving force for rebuilding the nation and national development. It has stood firmly as the force playing the leadership role. It finds public recognition as the force that can fulfil all the requirements of the nation. It came into existence with the lofty aims of regaining independence, and safeguarding the independence. So, the Tatmadaw has been the national force since birth.

The Tatmadaw is also the national force that puts in the fore well-being of the people, public interests, and a prosperous future of the entire people in shouldering national duties. The founding fathers of the Tatmadaw were the most active with the strongest sense of patriotic spirit and firmest determinations in independence struggles, so the Tatmadaw was born as the patriotic force.

Today's leaders of the Tatmadaw are patriotic Tatmadaw members who have relayed the bounden duty from one generation to the next. They are good leaders of the Tatmadaw with fine traditions. As a result of its dauntless effort, 17 major national race armed groups and many small armed groups have returned to the legal fold. It is now implementing the border area development project, the 24-region special development project for progress of border areas, and the five rural development plan day in, day out for equitable development of all parts of the nation. Now, the whole nation including border areas are in a position to enjoy significant development in the political, economic and social sectors. New facilities all over the nation are tangible evidence of national development.

Now, the State constitution has been approved with the support of the votes of the vast majority of the people. Elections will be held in line with the State constitution in 2010, and the State's seven-step Road Map will go on as scheduled. So, it is fair to say that the dream of a new democratic nation is within the touching distance.

So, every citizen is duty-bound to see to the State's seven-step Road Map laid down for building a peaceful, modern and developed nation in collaboration with the entire people. And it is mandatory for the Tatmadaw to safeguard the future nation at risk to life, upholding Our Three Main National Causes as the national policy.

Therefore, it is indispensable for wiping out the dangers posed by internal and external subversive elements to the detriment of stability, peace and development of the nation, as well as for building a strong, efficient and modern patriotic Tatmadaw capable of safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the nation.

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Translation: MS

Every citizen is duty-bound to see to the State's seven-step Road Map laid down for building a peaceful, modern and developed nation in collaboration with the entire people. And it is mandatory for the Tatmadaw to safeguard the future nation at risk to life, upholding Our Three Main National Causes as the national policy.

Hamas threats to kidnap more Israeli soldiers

GAZA, 28 March—Al-Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of Islamic Hamas movement, threatened on Saturday to kidnap more Israeli soldiers to exchange for Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

Ra'ed al-Attar, a member of the high military council of the group told reporters that "if Israel does not accept the demands to free 1,450 prisoners for captive Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, al-Qassam would kidnap more soldiers."

Hamas and two other Gaza armed groups kidnapped Shalit in an armed attack on an Israeli military base southeast Gaza Strip in the summer of 2006. Hamas asks for the release of 1,450 prisoners for freeing Shalit.

"Hamas movement is not intending to make any concessions concerning its demands to finalize the prisoners exchange deal, and if this soldier (Shalit) is not enough, we would kidnap more," said al-Attar.—*Internet*

Tourists experience a recreational facility in the carnival theme park seated northeast to the National Stadium known as the "Bird's Nest" in Beijing, capital of China, on 28 March, 2009.— INTERNET

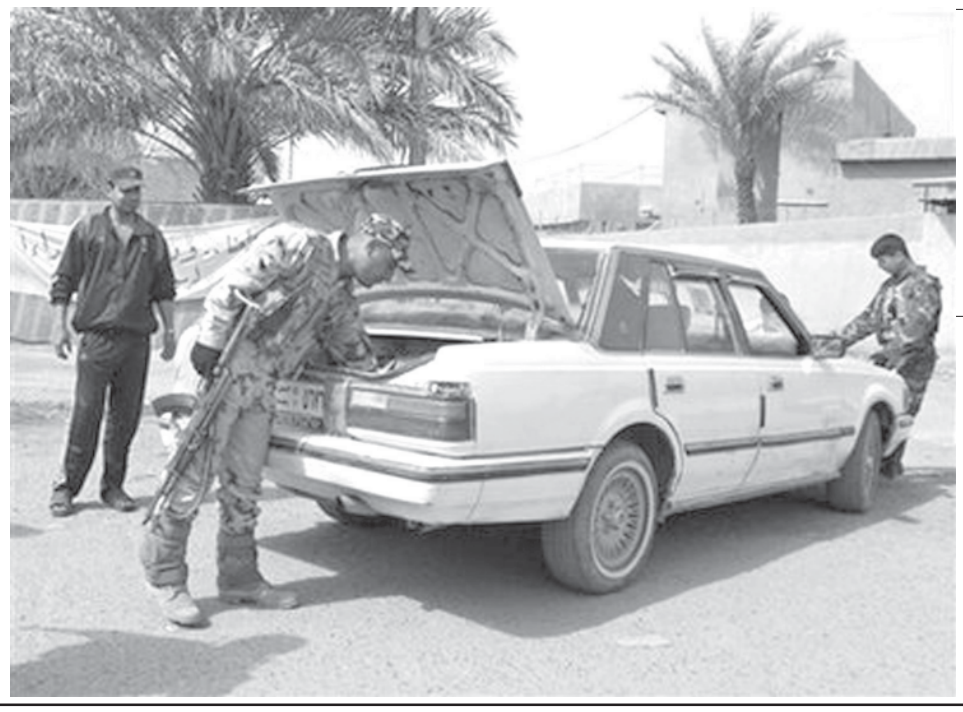
Six killed in helicopter crash in Turkey

ANKARA, 28 March—Yalcin Topcu, Secretary General ofGrand Unity Party (BBP), said Saturday that BBP leader Muhsin Yazicioglu and other five people accompanying him lost their lives in the helicopter crash.

Earlier on Wednesday, a helicopter with six people on board including Yazicioglu, crashed near the village of Haci Omerli in province of Kahramanmaras of southern Turkey.

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Thursday that the efforts to rescue six people were hampered by bad weather in the area.

Erdogan said 2,000 men, including police teams, military troops and village guards, participated in the efforts to locate the wreckage of the chopper, but the search-and-rescue teams were hampered by thick fog and blizzard.—*Internet*



Awakening Council members search a vehicle in the Dora area of southern Baghdad, Iraq, on 28 March, 2009. Dozens of Sunni guards protested the missed payments past two months.— INTERNET

Singaporeans participate in energy-saving Earth Hour

SINGAPORE, 28 March—Thousands of individuals and hundreds of companies across Singapore on Saturday night participated the one-hour energy-saving Earth Hour to switch off their lights.

According to local media reports, many parts of the city state were plunged into darkness from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 pm local time.

In Singapore, more than 1,000 volunteers were also mobilized to knock on the doors of 30,000 households to share about Earth Hour and some energy-saving tips.

Earth Hour, organized by the World Wild Fund for Nature (WWF) since 2007, aims to raise awareness of global warming and climate change.—*Internet*

China software industry sees revenue up 20.8% in first two months

BEIJING, 28 March—China's software industry took 126 billion yuan (18.45 billion US dollars) in revenue in the first two months of 2009, up 20.8 percent year-on-year, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology said Friday.

But the growth was 7.9 percentage points slower than the same period last year, the ministry said.

Revenue generated by software technology service rose 23.8 percent to 26.23 billion yuan during the period, but the growth was 14.5 percentage points slower than the same period in 2008.

The statistics also showed software exports rose 34.7 percent to 1.98 billion US dollars from January to February, but the growth was 9.4 percentage points slower year-on-year.

Industrial output of electronics fell 9.4 percent, and its exports plunged 19 percent in the first two months, the ministry said.

Among all electronic products, productions of integrated circuits rose 16.4 percent to 6.29 billion pieces, but that of computers, handsets and color TV sets fell 4.3 percent, 11.2 percent and 21.4 percent, respectively. *Internet*

China auto quality complaints up 36.8% in 2008

BEIJING, 28 March—Defective Product of Administration Centre (DPAC), a branch under China's quality supervisor, received 2,933 auto quality complaints in 2008, an annual increase of 36.8 percent.

Among domestic car-makers, Chang'an Ford Mazda Automotive Corporation received 386 complaints, the most among all auto-makers, followed by Tianjin FAW Toyota Motor Co, Ltd of 242complaints and Chery Automobile Co, Ltd of 235.

For overseas car-makers, the French brand Reno received 56 complaints, the most among its peers, followed by BMW of 21 complaints and Mitsubishi of 20.

Official data shows that 54 foreign and domestic auto-makers recalled more than 1.84 million vehicles in China over the past 4 years. Guangzhou Honda Automobile Co, Ltd made the single largest recall, which involved more than 420,000 Accords in March 2007.—*Internet*

Trainers play with dolphins in the water tank of the Beijing Aquarium in Beijing, capital of China, on 27 March, 2009. Three baby dolphins, who were born through artificial propagation here, were brought to meet audiences for the first time Friday.— INTERNET

Emergency workers use an air boat to rescue Destiny Dolan, front left, 15, and friend Kayla Weston, 15, on 25 March, 2009 from a home that was surrounded by Red River floodwaters in Oxbow, ND, south of Fargo. Dolan said the experience of being trapped was terrifying.—INTERNET

Dollar mostly higher amid better-than-expected profit reports

NEW YORK, 28 March—The dollar rose against most major currencies on Thursday after some major US companies in consumer products sector reported better-than-expected results.

ConAgra, one of North America's largest packaged foods companies, reported that its profit in the consumer segment rose 6percent in the latest quarter of 2008, excluding year-earlier restructuring charges, helped by price increases.

Best Buy, the largest consumer electronics retailer in US, said its sales rose by 10 percent during the fourth quarter, as demands were unexpectedly strong. Quarterly profit of soft beverages drink company Dr Pepper Snapple Group also topped analysts' estimates.

The dollar strengthened as the profit reports offered hopes that consumer spending, which account for two-thirds of US economic activities, is stabilizing. The euro bought 1.3511 dollars in late New York trading compared with 1.3564 dollars it bought late Wednesday. The pound fell to 1.4440 dollars from 1.4527.

The dollar fell to 1.2305 Canadian dollars from 1.2339, and rose to 1.1276 Swiss francs from 1.1207. It rose to 98.50 Japanese yen from 97.31.—*Internet*

Two European-owned tankers hijacked off Somalia

BRUSSELS, 28 March—Two European owned chemical tankers have been hijacked by pirates off Somalia in the past two days, a European Union mission on fighting piracy in the Horn of Africa said on Thursday.

"Two European owned chemical tankers have been hijacked in the Somali basin in the past 24 hours," the Maritime Security Center —Horn of Africa (MSCHOA) said in a statement posted on its website.

A 9,000-ton Greek-owned and Panamanian-registered vessel, with its 19 crew, was attacked approximately 450 miles east of Kismaayoon Wednesday afternoon, the statement said.—*Internet*

A photo taken in 2008 and provided by Shipspotting com, of the 23,000-tonne Norwegian-owned and Bahamian-registered MV Bow-Asir outbound from Rotterdam.—INTERNET

Strong 6-magnitude earthquake strikes off Japan

WASHINGTON, 28 March—A strong earthquake measuring 6 on the Richter scale struck off the coast of Japan early Friday, according to the US Geological Survey.

The quake hit 165 kilometres north, northwest of Naha, Okinawa, at 4:19 am (1919 GMT, Thursday) at epicenter, the agency said on its website. The epicenter was about 138.1 kilometer below the surface.

It was not clear whether the quake has caused casualties or damage.

Internet

China's township enterprises' added value up 8.4% in 1Q

BEIJING, 28 March—The added value of China's township enterprises reached an estimated 1.78 trillion yuan (260.4 billion US dollars) in the first quarter of 2009, up 8.36 percent year-on-year, the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) said on Thursday.

However, the growth rate was down from 10.27 percent a year earlier as a result of the global and domestic slowdown, the MOA said.

According to the ministry's preliminary statistics, 150,000 township enterprises and 140,000 self-employed firms in rural areas closed last year, and 3.2 million employees, or 2.2 percent of the total workforce in these firms, lost their jobs.—*Internet*

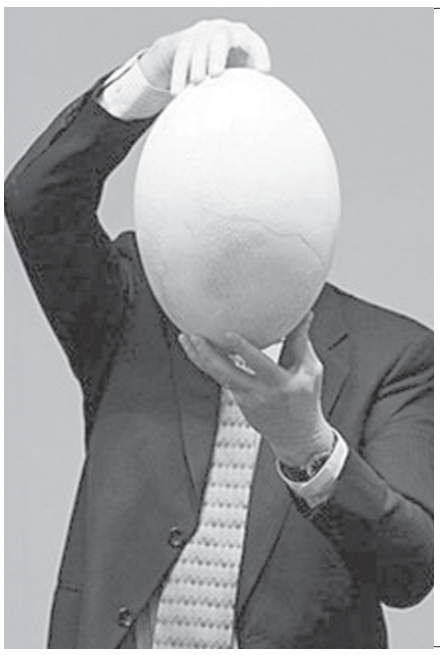
4.3 magnitude earthquake hits New Zealand North Island

WELLINGTON, 28 March—An earthquake of 4.3 magnitude on the Richter Scale was recorded in New Zealand's eastern North Island city of Gisborne on Friday morning, GNS Science reported.

The tremor occurred at 10:35 am local time (2135 GMT Thursday) and was centered 10 km north of Tolaga Bay at a depth of 50 km.

New Zealand Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences (GNS Science) said the earthquake would have been felt in the Gisborne region.

There were no immediate reports of injury or damage. —*Internet*



A man poses with the alleged largest egg in the world during a photocall in central London. The egg was laid in the early 17th century, by the now extinct Great Elephant Bird of Madagascarto.
INTERNET

A car rushes on National Highway 314 at the north edge of the Tarim Basin in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on 26 March, 2009. Sandstorm hit the north part of the Tarim Basin on Thursday.
XINHUA

Brazil's unemployment rate hits 8.5% in February

RIO DE JANEIRO, 28 March—Brazil's unemployment rate hit 8.5 percent in February, which meant the unemployed population reached 1.9 million, the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) announced on Thursday.

The rate is higher than 8.2 percent in January and lower than 8.7 percent in the same period last year.

In February, the unemployment rate increased in four of the six metro areas analyzed by the IBGE study. The most significant variation was in Sao Paulo, Brazil's largest city, where the unemployment rate jumped from 9.4 percent to 10 percent. The highest unemployment rate was 11 percent in Salvador, in Brazil's northeastern region; the lowest was six percent in Porto Alegre, in the southern region. —*Internet*

Loneliness results in poorer health in older adults

BEIJING, 28 March — People in old age who lack family and friends, or who feel lonely despite having others around them, tend to be in poorer physical and mental health, a new study released by Journal of Health and Social Behavior shows.

Researchers found that among roughly 3,000 U.S. adults ages 57 to 85, those with few social connections were less likely to describe their physical health as good or excellent. Meanwhile, those who felt socially isolated — even if they had friends, family and social activities — tended to report poorer physical and mental well-being.

The findings add to evidence linking social connections to older adults' health.

"Most older adults will experience significant changes in their social relationships due to things like retirement and bereavement, for example," said lead researcher Dr. Erin York Cornwell, of Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

Some people, she told media, respond to this by becoming active in social organizations or spending more time with friends and family. Yet some may still end up feeling lonely at the end of the day. On the other hand, some older adults are satisfied with having fewer relationships.—*Internet*

A morning tornado in Magee, Miss, destroyed a mobile home and crushed two vehicles outside the building, on 26 March, 2009. Severe weather across the South unleashed tornadoes in rural Mississippi, including one that shattered dozens of homes, flattened a church and injured at least 17 people.—INTERNET

Google to shed 200 more jobs

SAN FRANCISCO, 28 March — In further nod to economic recessions, Google on Thursday said it plans to cut another 200 jobs.

"Today we have informed Googlers that we plan to reduce the number of roles within our sales and marketing organizations by just under 200 globally," Omid Kordestani, Google's senior vice president in charge of global sales and business development, announced in a posting on the company's blog.

"Making changes of this kind is never easy — and we recognize that the recession makes the timing even more difficult for the Googlers concerned," he wrote.

Kordestani said the company did look at a number of different options but ultimately concluded that it had to restructure its organizations in order to improve effectiveness and efficiency.

Internet

A Model presents a creation by students of China Central Academy of Fine Arts at a fashion show of graduation designs during 2009 China Fashion Week held in Beijing, capital of China, 25 March, 2009.—INTERNET

Egypt reports one more human case of bird flu

CAIRO, 28 March — An Egyptian girl has contracted the bird flu virus, bringing the number of human cases of the avian influenza to 60, a spokesman for the Health Ministry said on Thursday.

The patient is a 30-month-old girl comes from the southern governorate of Qena, some 450 km south of Cairo, local media quoted Abdel-Rahman Shahine as saying.

The baby girl showed the symptoms of a fever on Monday and was admitted to hospital for treatment, said Shahine, adding that infection with the avian influenza virus was confirmed on Thursday.

Egypt is the most affected country by the deadly avian influenza outside Asia. It reported its first H5N1 virus in dead poultry in February 2006 and the first human case in March of the same year.

The death toll of the human cases of bird flu in the populous country is 23.

According to the latest statistics of the WHO, some 412 people in 15 countries and regions have contracted the virus and 256 of them died of the disease.—*Internet*

Biologists worry over increased turtle harvest

DES MOINES, 28 March — Surging demand for turtle meat in southeast Asia has prompted a huge jump in turtle harvesting, leading to concerns that populations of the reptiles could suffer permanent damage.

Freshwater turtle populations have plunged in Asia, where the meat is a delicacy, leading to increased trapping in U.S. ponds and streams, said Fred Janzen, an Iowa State University professor who studies ecology.

In Iowa, harvests have increased from 29,000 pounds in 1987 to 235,000 pounds in 2007. And during that period the number of licensed harvesters more than quadrupled to 175 people.

In Arkansas, an average of 196,460 aquatic turtles a year were harvested from 2004 to 2006, according to the state Fish and Game Commission.

Texas banned the commercial collection of all wild turtles in 2007. Florida regulators are to consider a ban April 15 at the urging of Gov. Charlie Crist, who said in November that continued commercial harvesting "could result in long term impacts very quickly."—*Internet*

5.8-magnitude earthquake hits northern Peru

WASHINGTON, 28 March — A 5.8-magnitude earthquake shook northern Peru on Thursday, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

The quake struck at 1:35 p.m. EDT (1735 GMT) about 855 kilometers north, northwest of Lima, capital of Peru, the USGS said on its website. The epicenter was about one kilometer below the surface.

In August 2007, Peru was stricken by a 7.9-magnitude earthquake that claimed 596 lives and destroyed some 70,000 houses.—*Internet*

One dead, two missing in separate avalanches in W Canada

OTTAWA, 28 March — One snowmobiler was killed in an avalanche in western Canada's British Columbia (B.C.) province and two others are still missing after being hit by a separate avalanche in the same province, police said Thursday.

The snowmobiler was killed Wednesday afternoon near Kimberley, in southeastern B.C..

On Tuesday three snowmobilers were also caught in an avalanche in northeastern B.C.. One man survived but the other two are still missing.

No rescue has been launched as experts determine the area is too dangerous to enter. The mountain will be surveyed again Thursday morning to establish whether it is safe for search and rescue teams to enter the area where two men remain missing, police said.

Internet

The photo "Baby Rhesus" taken by Jiang Hao wins the award of excellence in Nature & Environment News Singles in the 5th China International Press Photo (CHIPP) Contest held in Shanghai, China, from March 20 to 25, 2009.—XINHUA

SPORTS

Capello - Gerrard is best

LONDON, 28 March—England manager Fabio Capello believes Steven Gerrard is at the 'very top of his game'.

The Liverpool captain has hit stunning form over the past month and has been a major factor in his club's renewed challenge for the Premier League title and continued presence in the UEFA Champions League.

Gerrard, who has been playing as a second striker for the Reds, was recently described by French legend Zinedine Zidane as one of the best players in the world, and that sentiment has been echoed by Capello.

The England boss is expected to play Gerrard in a roaming role on the left of midfield in Saturday's friendly with Slovakia, and he is in no doubt about the 28-year-old's ability to perform at the highest level. "Zidane said Gerrard was one of the best in the world and I agree with him," said the Italian.—*Internet*

Terry calls for united front

LONDON, 28 March—John Terry has urged England fans to get behind the team during their games at Wembley.

Fickle supporters have been known to get on players' backs when things do not go entirely to plan.

Chelsea defender Ashley Cole was the terrace target during England's last outing at the national stadium, as a rare mistake allowed Kazakhstan to grab a consolation goal in a 5-1 World Cup qualifying victory for the Three Lions.

Terry believes the treatment of his Stamford Bridge team-mate was out of order and has called for a united front during England's next two Wembley outings - against Slovakia on Saturday and Ukraine on Wednesday.

"Ashley made a slight mistake in the last game at Wembley, Kazakhstan scored and he got a bit of stick. People were expecting us to win seven or eight nil," said the England skipper.

"Ashley is a good enough player to deal with that and the fans need to get back on his side because he has played an awful lot of games for his country.—*Internet*

Ronaldo responds to dive dig

LONDON, 28 March—Cristiano Ronaldo has hit back at Swedish star Henrik Larsson for branding him a 'diver'.

Former Celtic, Barcelona and Manchester United striker Larsson has stoked up Saturday's 2010 World Cup qualifying clash between Sweden and Portugal with his controversial outburst. The veteran frontman reopened the debate regarding Ronaldo's on-field antics by claiming that he will call upon the match referee to keep a close eye on the United superstar this weekend.

With both sides desperate to take maximum points from the crunch clash, Larsson's comments have only served to heighten the tension surrounding the game. Much will be expected of Ronaldo as he looks to help Portugal get their campaign back on track, but the reigning Fifa World Player of the Year insists he will not resort to underhand tactics in an effort to ensure his side emerge on top.

"It doesn't bother me what Larsson says because I know I don't dive, and that is all that matters," he said in the *Daily Mail*. "I may get kicked but I don't dive. It seems everyone wants to have a go at me over that but I don't care."—*Internet*

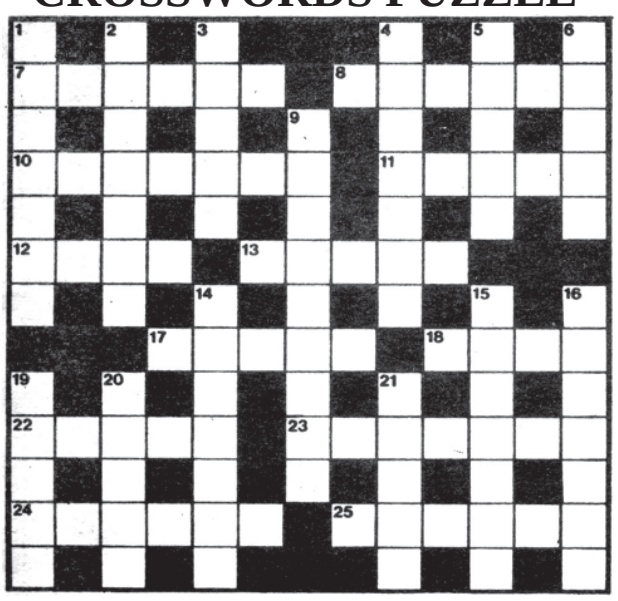
Britain, Chile urge G-20 action to beat crisis

VINA DEL MAR, 28 March—British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and Chilean President Michelle Bachelet urged fellow world leaders on Friday to shun protectionism and act at next week's G-20 summit to overcome the global crisis.

Brown and Bachelet held talks before a pre-G-20 warmup meeting of centre-left leaders in the Chilean coastal resort of Vina del Mar that started on Friday night and will debate the role of states in the economic crisis and solutions that protect the poor and the environment.

"One of the messages that must come from next week's summit is that we will reject protectionist tendencies," Brown, the first British Prime Minister to visit the copper-rich South American country, told a news conference with Bachelet at the presidential palace in the capital, Santiago.—*Internet*

CROSSWORDS PUZZLE



ACROSS

7 Extreme fear
8 More steadfast
10 Recipient of legacy
11 Motionless
12 Flat fish
13 Plank
17 Last
18 Indian coin
22 Hot pursuit
23 Let full
24 Actually
25 Mother or father

DOWN

1 Make use of
2 Easily broken
3 Plunder
4 Coast of France
5 Brown
6 Fireplace
9 Reminder notes
14 Luminous insect
15 Spoke sharply
16 Brigands
19 Fruit of the oak
20 Inland waterway
21 Wanderer

Now PEEPS(R) fans can enjoy a sweet treat with PEEPS(R) Sugar-Free Marshmallow Chicks! This delicious dessert is a bright delight that's sure to make you smile.

INTERNET

EU links Israeli ties to two-state commitment

HLUBOKA, 28 March—The European Union warned Israel's prime minister-designate Benjamin Netanyahu on Friday that EU ties with his country would suffer if he did not accept Palestinian calls for statehood.

Netanyahu this week said his future right-leaning Israeli Government would negotiate peace with the Palestinians, but made no mention of a policy aim long backed by both the United States and Europe.

Asked how a failure to commit to the goal would affect EU-Israel ties, Czech Foreign Minister Karel Schwarzenberg, whose country currently holds the rotating presidency of the EU, said: "Relations would become very difficult indeed. At one of our next ministerial meetings we would have to discuss what consequences the EU would draw from that."

Speaking after EU talks, Schwarzenberg did not elaborate but Luxembourg's Jean Asselborn said a long-mooted upgrading of EU-Israeli trade and political ties depended on Israel achieving a peace deal with the Palestinians.

"We must tell the Israelis that it is not allowed to walk away from the peace process... The upgrading process was always to be viewed from the perspective of the peace process having been completed," Asselborn told reporters. *MNA/Reuters*

Merkel expects "good results" from G-20

LONDON,28 March—German Chancellor Angela Merkel said in an interview on Saturday she expected "good results" from next week's G-20 summit in London but cautioned that global leaders would not be able to solve all the world's economic problems at one meeting.

"We are talking about building a new global financial market architecture and we will not be able to finish this in London," she told the *Financial Times*. "We will naturally not solve the economic crisis either, and we won't solve the issue of trade. We will definitely have to meet again."

Politicians from wealthy and emerging countries will gather in London under pressure to restore confidence and plot a course out of the worst economic slump since World War II. However, there are fears that disagreement between the US and Europe over the way ahead could mar the summit and further rattle nervous markets.

Merkel has been resisting US and British demands for extra spending to break the global recession, arguing that Germany has already boosted its economy sufficiently through two stimulus packages worth 81 billion euros (110 billion US dollars). Germany and France have instead been pushing for greater emphasis on stronger regulation of financial markets to guard against future meltdowns.— *MNA/Reuters*

Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) astronaut Koichi Wakata uses a computer at the Japanese Remote Manipulator System (JEM-RMS) work station in the Japanese Kibo laboratory of the International Space Station in this image released by NASA on 28 March, 2009.—INTERNET

Russian manned spacecraft docks with space station

Moscow, 28 March—A Russian manned spacecraft successfully docked with the International Space Station (ISS) on Saturday, the Mission Control Centre outside Moscow said.

The spacecraft, with two astronauts and one space tourist aboard, blasted off from the Baikonur space center in Kazakhstan on Thursday.

Russian cosmonaut Gennady Padalka and NASA astronaut Michael Barratt, the crew of the 19th ISS expedition, will work at the ISS for six months.

Hungarian-born US businessman Charles Simonyi will spend some12 days on the ISS and return to Earth with the crew of the 18th mission.—*Internet*

MRTV-3
Programme Schedule
(29.3.2009) (Sunday)

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

Local Transmission

* Signature Tune
* Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
* Fossilized Wood Picture
* The Star numbering in Five Star
* Inlay Orchids' Images
* Beauty of Myanmar Fasion among Various Fashion
* Natural Beauty of Puta-O
* Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Europe/ North America Transmission

* Signature Tune
* Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
* Scuba Diving Adventure
* Thahtay Hydropower Project to spread Light across Rakhine State
* Travelogue (PyinOoLwin)
* Teachers Matter
* Myanma Traditional Musical Instrument String Instrument (Donmin)
* Let's study the "World Biggest Book"
* Naga Traditional Handicrafts
* Fossilized Wood Picture
* The Star numbering in Five Star
* Inlay Orchids' Images
* Beauty of Myanmar Fasion among Various Fashion
* Natural Beauty of Puta-O
* The Source of the River Ayeyawady
* Orchid Garden
* The Art of Paper Folding "Origami"
* Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

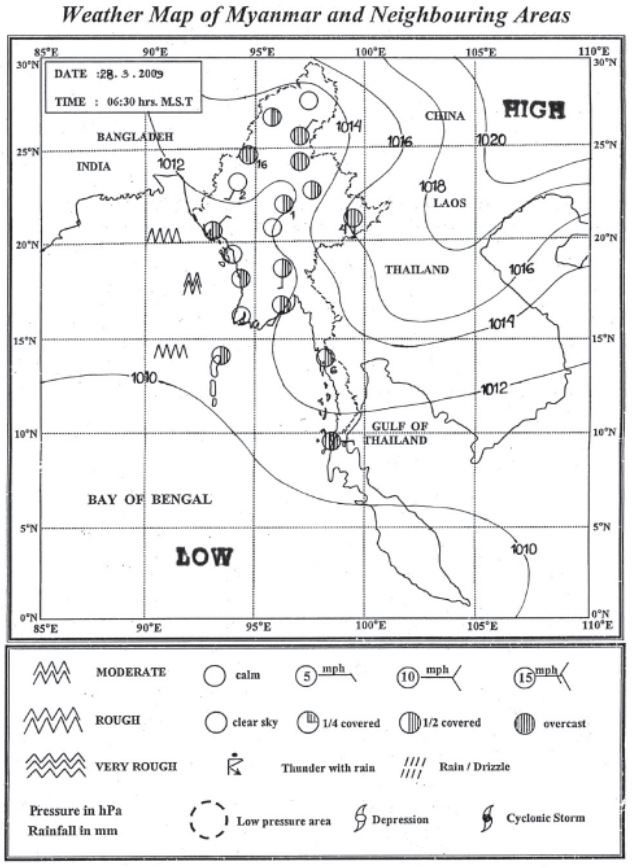
Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

TV Myanmar

Sunday, 29 March
View on today

7:00 am
1. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am
3. Morning news
7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song
7:50 am
5. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ (၃၈) ဖြာမင်္ဂလာ
8:05 am
6. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
8:10 am
7. ကျိုင်းတောင်းရေအားလျှပ်စစ် စီမံကိန်း
8:20 am
8. (၆၄)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
8:30 am
9. International news
8:45 am
10. Musical programme
11:00 am
1. Martial song
11:10 am
2. Musical programme
11:20 am
3. Round up of the week's international news
11:30 am
4. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "အားကိုးချစ်သူကျေးဇာသူ" (အပိုင်း-၃၄)
12:55 pm
5. မြန်မာပွဲဒီယို "ငါးနာရီမထိုးခင်" (ဒွေး၊ နန္ဒာလှိုင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ညီမင်းလွင်)
2:45 pm
6. International news
4:00 pm
1. Martial song
4:10 pm
2. Musical programme
4:20 am
3. ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန နိုင်ငံတော်ဆိုင်းဝိုင်းကြီးဖျော်ဖြေတင်ဆက်မှု အစီအစဉ်
4:30 pm
4. သက်တံရောင်သံစဉ်
4:40 pm
5. Dance of national races
4:50 pm
6. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေးရပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ ဒုတိယနှစ် (သချိုင်းအထူးပြု) (သချိုင်)
5:00 pm
7. Songs to uphold National Spirit
5:10 pm
8. (၆၄)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
5:20 pm
9. Sing and enjoy
6:00 pm
10. Evening news
6:30 pm
11. Weather report
6:35 pm
12. ကာတွန်းအစီအစဉ် "Pocket Dargon Adventure"
6:55 pm
13. တစ်မျက်နှာတစ်ကွက်စာ "သတ္တိရှိတဲ့မောင်ထုံ" (ကင်းကောင်၊ လုလု၊ လိုတ၊ ခိုင်ပွင့်၊ လေပြေ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကျော်နှင်းဆီ)
7:15 pm
14. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်သူသက်ထား" (အပိုင်း-၂၂)
8:00 pm
15. News
16. International news
17. Weather report
18. ပြည်သူ့အတွက်တပ်မတော် (လမ်းနှင့်တံတားနိုင်ငံအား)
19. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ကြမ္မာမုန်တိုင်း" (အပိုင်း-၂၂)

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Saturday, 28 March, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Sagaing Division,scattered in Shan and Chin States,isolated in Kachin State,Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions and weather has been pratly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (3°C) above March average temperatures in Bago Division, (3°C) to (4°C) below March average temperatures in Shan State, upper Sangaing and Taninthayi Divisions and about March average temperatures in the remaining areas.The significant Day temperatures were Chauk, Minbu, Magway and Thayawady (40°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Homalin (0.64) inch, Monghsat (0.47) inch,Dawei (0.24) inch and Pinlaung (0.20) inch.

Maximum temperature on 27-3-2009 was 98°F. Minimum temperature on 28-3-2009 was 71°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 28-3-2009 was 79%. Total sunshine hours on 27-3-2009 was (9.8) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 28-3-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (Tr) at Mingaladon, (0.20) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.04) inch at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (10) mph from West at (22:00) hours MST on 27-3-2009.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 29th March 2009: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Kachin, Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah and Mon States, Sagaing, Mandalay Magway, Bago 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 slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 29-3-2009: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 29-3-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 29-3-2009: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Drgree of certainty is (60%).

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Paunglaung Diversion Weir commissioned in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March—Honouring the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, Paunglaung Diversion Weir, built by Construction-5 of Irrigation Department, was opened at the diversion weir near Thitseintpin Village of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township on 25 March morning, with an address by Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin.

Next, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo delivered an address.

On behalf of local people, U Myint Kyaw of Thitseintpin Village spoke words of thanks.

The commander and the minister cordially greeted the local people at the opening ceremony.

The commander unveiled the stone plaque of the diversion weir and sprinkled scented water on it together with the minister.

After cutting the ribbon, the commander and the minister posed for documentary photo together with the local people.

They viewed the structures of the diversion weir. The director of the construction-5 reported on construction of the diversion weir.

The diversion weir will control the water from Paunglaung Dam and other water sources between Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon and Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana townships. On completion, the right and left canals will irrigate 35,000 acres of farmlands in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw Lewe and Yedashe townships.

Paunglaung Diversion Weir is of Ogee shape RC type. The main canals are stretching 59.07 miles and tributary canals 127.73 miles with 922 canal structures. This year, the diversion weir is supplying water to 1,000 acres of summer paddy.

Paunglaung Diversion Weir will contribute to boosting production of crops and raising income and livelihoods of the local people.—*MNA*

Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin unveils the stone plaque of Paunglaung Diversion Weir. —MNA

Paunglaung Diversion weir will control the water from Paunglaung Dam and other water sources between Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon and Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana townships.

Paunglaung Diversion Weir in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township.—MNA