Established 1914

The New Light of Myanmar

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New school buildings handed over

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence views learning of students at primary school of Ngabyema Village in Thanlyin Township.—MNA

YANGON, 29 March—Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence together with Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint arrived at Chaungsauk Village Basic Education High School (Branch), Thanlyin Township on 26 March.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the commander, the chairman of Shwedaung Development Company Limited, foreign

(See page 9)

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

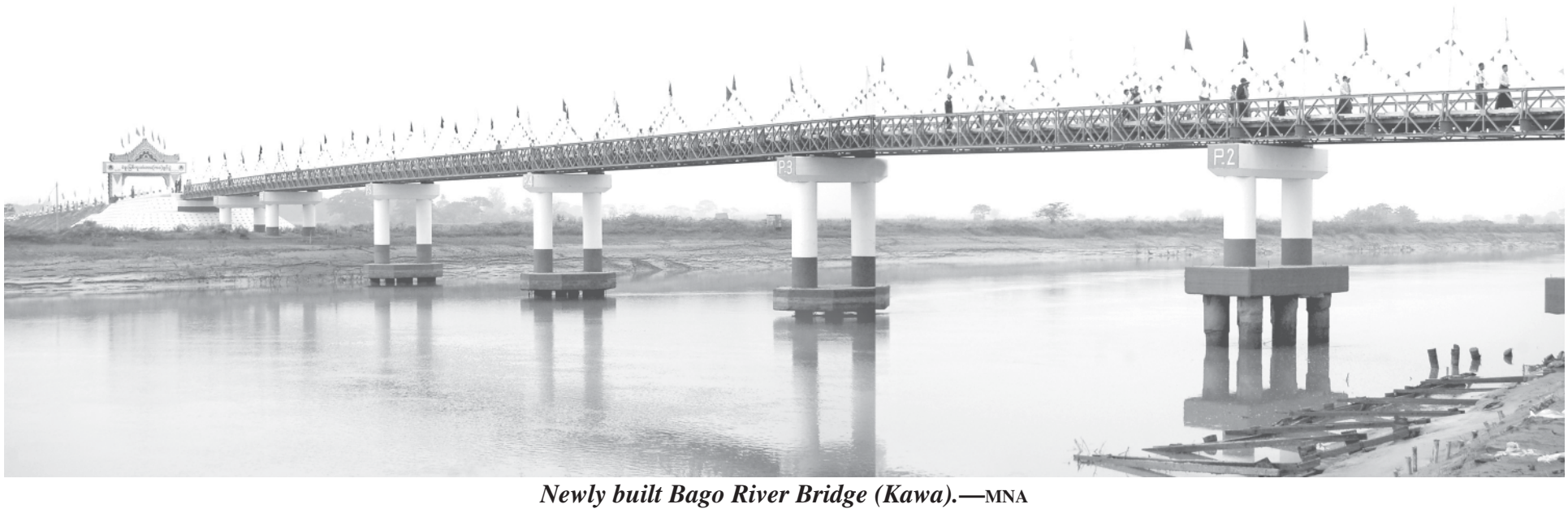
Bago River Bridge (Kawa) linking Bago and Kawa put into service

Bago River Bridge (Kawa) with the type of RC bailey steel frame, has 560 feet long and 12 feet and four inches wide motor road, and it has also 12 feet high and 76 feet wide clearance. The bridge can withstand 20-ton loads.

NAY PYI TAW, 29 March—Honouring the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, the inauguration ceremony of Bago River Bridge (Kawa), built by Bridge Construction Project Special Group-1 of Public Works, to link Bago and Kawa townships, was held at the pandal near the bridge in Htongyi Village of Bago Township on 21 March morning.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Brig-Gen Hla Min said that a road network has been established across the nation. He said that Bago River Bridge (Kawa) was the 221st facility of its kind. In Bago Division, he continued to say that Sittoung River Bridge (Shwegyin-Madauk) and Ayeyawady River Bridge (Nawade) were constructed in Bago Division, and Bago River Bridge (Kawa) was the 17th large bridge, over 180 feet long, in Bago Division. In the past, he added that the local people relied on ferry boats for

(See page 8)



Newly built Bago River Bridge (Kawa).—MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 30 March, 2009

Planetarium (Nay Pyi Taw) for knowledge and recreation

The opening ceremony of Planetarium (Nay Pyi Taw) of the Ministry of Forestry was held near the Zoological Gardens (Nay Pyi Taw) the other day, attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo.

The planetarium (Nay Pyi Taw) was established with the aim of serving as a public recreation centre, gaining knowledge and arousing the youth's interest in astronomy.

The design of the planetarium and all the structures were built by Myanmar engineers. In the world there are very few nations that can build modern planetarium and there are over 300 planetariums only. Advanced technology-installed and digital planetariums can be built in some developed nations.

Opening of the modern planetarium (Nay Pyi Taw) in the International Astronomy Year in the early 2009 is something Myanmar has done that she should be proud of.

The planetarium includes the main hall, the lecture hall and it is installed with modern equipment.

Opening of the planetarium (Nay Pyi Taw) for younger generation to enable them to keep abreast of the development of other nations shows the improved image of Myanmar to the world and it is a feather in the nation's cap.

Managing Director U Kyaw Swa Oo extends greeting at introduction of Korea brand CAMAC products.

MNA

Tobacco Kills

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 CPC Standing Committee of Political Bureau of Central Committee tours Mandalay

NAY PYI TAW, 29 March— A 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 Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Ye Dabo, arrived in Mandalay by special flight at 9.30 am yesterday.

They were welcomed at the Mandalay International Airport by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe, Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han, Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Kyaw Swa Khaing, senior military officers of the Central Command, departmental officials, Chinese Consul-General Mr Tang Yang to Myanmar in Mandalay and officials of the Consulate-General.

Next, the guests visited Myanan Sankyaw Golden Palace and the technical training school (Mandalay) of the Ministry of Industry-2.

The guests then proceeded to Mahaloka Marazein Pagoda and Hsutaungpyi Buddha Image on Mandalay Hill, and they enjoyed the beauty of sunset scene of Mandalay from Mandalay Hill.

In the evening, Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han hosted a dinner in honour of the guests at Mandalay Hill Resort Hotel.

MNA

***Member of Standing Committee of Political Bureau of Central Committee of the Communist Party of China Mr Li Changchun and delegation members visit Myanan Sankyaw Golden Palace.*— MNA**

NEO Tech Digital Village launches new brand items

YANGON, 29 March— NEO Tech Digital Village launched new branded CAMAC Speaker, CAMAC Keyboard, Keyboard (CAMAC) and related items at Café Melody in Mandalay on 24 March.

Present on the occasion were responsible persons of Mandalay Division Computer Professionals Association and Computer Entrepreneurs Association, media persons, officials of NEO Tech Digital Village and guests.

First, Managing Director of NEO Tech Digital Village U Kyaw Swa Oo extended greetings and explained facts about the quality of CAMAC branded products, service and guarantee.

Next, those present viewed products on display. CAMAC branded computer accessories as well as Laptop, Desktop and TV Link Network are available at reasonable prices at No 133 Ground Floor, Seikkantha Street (Lower), Kyauktada Township, Yangon (Tel-01-710752, 253115, 09-5042588) and 78th Street between 31st and 32nd Streets, south of Mandalay Station, Chanayethasan Township, Mandalay (Tel-09-5043120).—*MNA*

UMFCCI meets Thai delegation

YANGON, 29 March—Joint Secretary-2 U Tun Aung, CEC members and executives of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry met with a 25-member economic delegation led by Director Mrs Vasana Mututanont of Office of Board of Investment of Thailand at the office of UMFCCI, here, on 17 March.

They cordially discussed promotion of bilateral trade, opportunity for cooperation in investment and border trade matters.—*MNA*

PRC delegation concludes visit

NAY PYI TAW, 29 March— A Chinese delegation led by member of the Standing Committee of Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China Mr Li Changchun this morning arrived at the Mandalay International Airport.

At the lounge of the airport, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe presented the photo album and CDs on a trip to Mandalay to Mr Li Changchun.

Next, visiting Mr Li Changchun and party left Mandalay by special flight. They were seen off at the airport by Commander Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe, Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han, Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Kyaw Swa Khaing, senior military officers of the Central Command, Chinese Consul-General Mr Tang Yang to Myanmar and officials of the Consulate-General.

MNA

An Iraqi mother and her daughter run for cover in Fadil, near Baghdad in Iraq, on 29 March, 2009, when clashes between US and Iraqi forces and a patrol group broke out after a local Sunni militia leader was arrested. —INTERNET

Bomb explosion kills 6 in southern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 29 March —Six people were killed and seven others injured in a roadside bomb explosion targeted a police patrol in Iraq's southern city of Basra on Sunday, a local police source said.

Two policemen and four civilians were killed by the blast in the Hamdan neighborhood in southern Basra, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. The wounded were four policemen and four civilians, the source said—*Internet.*

Obama to seek NATO support for Afghanistan plan

WASHINGTON, 29 March — US President Barack Obama will urge European allies to support his new strategy for Afghanistan, telling NATO partners this week their security could be at risk if the country falls into chaos.

Making his first major foreign trip since taking office on 20 January, Obama will discuss the economic crisis at the London Group of 20 summit of major economic powers on Thursday. He will then attend the NATO summit in Strasbourg, France, on Friday and Saturday, marking the alliance's 60th anniversary.

Just ahead of the NATO summit, Obama has unveiled a plan for Afghanistan, where violence is at its highest level since US-led forces toppled the Taliban in 2001 and where the NATO mission has been criticized for disorganization.

Obama's strategy broadens the US focus to include Pakistan and puts as the highest priority the defeat of al Qaeda militants who he said were plotting new attacks on the United States. He will send 4,000 more US troops to help train the Afghan army and will add more civilian personnel to help tackle problems such as a booming narcotics trade and government corruption.

But Obama emphasized that international cooperation was crucial to the plan's success and promised to take that message to Europe, where the public has grown increasingly impatient with the Afghanistan effort.—*Internet*

Gunfight erupts as Iraqi Sunni leader arrested

BAGHDAD, 29 March — Authorities arrested the local leader of a Sunni group that had broken with al-Qaida, sparking a gunfight Saturday in central Baghdad that killed four people and wounded 10, Iraqi officials said.

Adil al-Mashhadani, the head of an Awakening Council group, was detained Saturday along with an aide after a warrant was issued for his arrest, Iraqi military spokesman Maj. Gen. Qassim al-Moussawi said.

The shooting started after Iraqi army and police units served the warrant in Fadhil, a Sunni enclave on the east bank of the Tigris River that was run by al-Qaeda until US and Iraqi soldiers regained control in 2007.—*Internet*

Iraqis rummage through piles of garbage at a dump in Baghdad on 28 March, 2009. The worsening economic situation in Iraq and the lack of jobs has forced many Iraqi families to spend their days looking for metal and other recyclable items to resell.
INTERNET

Roadside bomb kills three Afghan soldiers

KABUL, 29 March — Three soldiers of Afghan national army's commando unit were killed as their vehicle struck an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in Paktia province, east of Afghanistan, a press release of the US-led Coalition forces received here Sunday.

"Three Afghan Commandos of the Afghan National Army's 203rd Corps were killed Saturday when their vehicle struck an improvised explosive device in the Gardez district, Paktia province," the press release added.

The incident, according to the press release, occurred when the Afghan soldiers were conducting a combat reconnaissance patrol in support of ongoing operations to rout militants from the area, in order to bring security to the people.

Internet

Two explosions hit stable north Somalia kill one, injure three

MOGADISHU, 29 March — Two explosions rocked the northeastern Somali region of Puntland overnight, killing at least one person and wounding three others, all Ethiopian nationals, reports and officials said on Saturday.

Abdulahi Saeed Samatar, local minister for security, told *Xinhua* that the blast in Garowe, the regional capital, was caused by a hand grenade and confirmed the death of one person and injury of three all from neighboring Ethiopia but denied the occurrence of an explosion in Bossaso.

Internet

US military deaths in Afghanistan region at 599

WASHINGTON, 29 March — As of Saturday, 28 March, 2009, at least 599 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 Friday at 10 am EDT.

Of those, the military reports 442 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*

Members of the US Coast Guard patrol a flood zone in Moorhead, Minnesota. With freezing water lapping at the top of levees, an army of flashlight-wielding flood patrols worked through the night to search for leaks on Sunday as officials in Fargo, North Dakota reinforced defenses against a record-breaking flood.
INTERNET

Troops kill 19 'militants' in Afghanistan

KABUL, 29 March —Afghan and foreign forces killed 19 alleged Taleban-linked militants during battles in Afghanistan's flashpoint south, authorities said Saturday.

A dozen rebels were killed Friday in a raid on a bomb-making cell by US-led and Afghan troops in Helmand, a dangerous, opium-producing province where Taleban militants hold territory, the US military said.

"Afghan and coalition forces killed 12 militants Friday night during a raid of a militant location to further degrade bomb-making and facilitation networks in northern Helmand province," it said in a statement.

It was the latest in a series of recent military strikes on groups behind bombings, the weapon of choice of the Taliban and cause of most of the casualties from militant attacks.—*Internet*

US shuttle Discovery lands safely at Kennedy Space Centre

WASHINGTON, 29 March — The US space shuttle Discovery touched down on Saturday at Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, ending its 13-day mission to the International Space Station.

Discovery, with seven astronauts aboard, landed at 3:14 pm EDT (1914 GMT) at Kennedy, the space shuttle's home port, NASA TV showed.

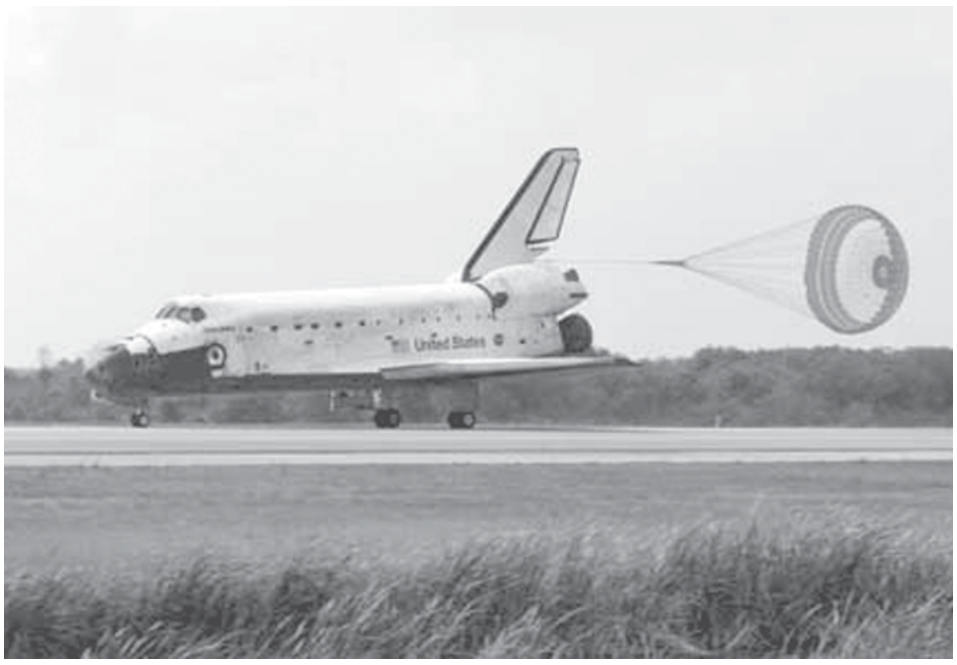
"Welcome home, Discovery, after a great mission," Mission Control radioed.

"It's good to be back home," Discovery's commander Lee Archambault replied. The space ship scrapped its first touchdown opportunity, scheduled for 1:39 pm EDT (1739 GMT) on Saturday, due to cloudy and windy weather.

Discovery blasted off to the space on 15 March. During its eight-day stay at the space station, astronauts performed three spacewalks to install the S6 truss segment to the starboard, or right side of the station, and deploy its fourth and final set of solar array wings.

Altogether, the station's arrays can generate as much as 120 kilowatts of usable electricity — enough to provide about 422,800-square-foot (260 square meters) homes with power. The arrays will provide the electricity to fully power science experiments and support the station's expanded crew of six in May.

The truss is a high-tech girder structure made up of 11 segments. It provides the backbone for the station, supporting the US solar arrays, radiators and other equipment. After S6 installation, the truss was 335 feet (102 metres) long. —*Xinhua*



The space shuttle Discovery has its drag parachute deployed as it rolls past the runway convoy after it returned to earth at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida on 28 March, 2009. The landing ends Mission STS-119 to the International Space Station. — XINHUA

Eight trapped in China iron mine flooding

SHIJIAZHUANG, 29 March — Eight people were trapped in an iron mine flooding in north China's Hebei Province Saturday night, according to local government sources.

The accident occurred at 9:50 pm at the north mining area of Xishimen iron mine in Wu'an city, and 26,000 cubic meters of water flowed into the mine in 20 minutes. When the accident took place, 22 miners were working below ground, and 14 people managed to escape.

Rescuers rushed to the site and started to pump water. Rescue operation is continuing. The iron mine belongs to China Minmetals Corp.—*Xinhua*

Powerful quake rocks easternmost Indonesia

JAKARTA, 29 March — An earthquake with magnitude of 6.2 struck easternmost of Indonesia earlier Sunday, no report of damage or casualty, local meteorology agency said here. The quake jolted at 00:59 Jakarta time (1759 GMT) with epicenter at 114 km southwest Jayapura of Papua province and at 108 kms in depth, an official of the agency said.

Indonesia with over 230 million population sits on a vulnerable quake-hit zone so called the Pacific Ring of Fire, where two continental plates meet that causes frequent seismic and volcanic movements.—*Xinhua*

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Marrow donation volunteers provide their blood samples during an activity held in Zhenjiang, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 28 March, 2009. More than 1000 volunteers took part in the activity Saturday.—XINHUA

Egypt's pyramids dim for Earth Hour

CAIRO, 29 March — Exactly at 8:30 pm local time (1830 GMT) on Saturday, lights shining around the Pyramids in Giza plateau in the western suburb of Cairo were switched off for the global initiative "Earth Hour" to highlight the threat of climate change.

All of a sudden, the colourful lights projected on the giant Pyramids and Sphinx disappeared and the famed historic landmark buildings in Egypt dimmed in the night.

"We are all ready to take part in this event tonight," said a staff member of the company organizing the sound and light show at the Pyramids and Sphinx.

"A few days ago we have received the notification to participate in the event," Maged el-Deeb, general manager for marketing of the Misr Sound and Light Company, told *Xinhua*. —*Xinhua*

Four injured in blast in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 29 March — At least four persons have been injured when an unidentified group detonated a socket bomb at Garuda Bazzar in Rauthat district in central Nepal on Saturday evening.

According to the police, they have intensified the search operation hunt down the ones responsible for the blast, some 110 km south of Kathmandu.

Nobody has taken the responsibility of the explosion as yet.—*Xinhua*

Artist July-Jose Knie performs with a horse during a rehearsal of the new show of Swiss National-Circus Knie in the town of Rapperswil east of Zurich 27 March, 2009. Circus Knie starts its tour 2009 on 28 March.—Xinhua

Five babies die of hand-foot-mouth disease in east China city

JINAN, 29 March — Hand-foot-mouth disease(HFMD) claimed the lives of five babies in a week in Heze City in east China's Shandong Province, local authorities said on Saturday.

A baby boy surnamed Liu fell ill Tuesday and died at 07:31 pm Thursday at the Central Hospital of Shanxian County. Another baby boy was sick on Monday and died at 10:12 am Friday at the Heze Hospital for Infectious Diseases, the Shandong Provincial Health Department said.

Three other deaths in Heze included a seven-month-old boy, a 15-month-old boy, and a one-year-old girl between Sunday and Wednesday.

Heze city reported 1,734 HFMD cases between Jan. 1 and midnight Friday, according to the city's health bureau. On Friday alone, 440 cases were reported —*Xinhua*

A young hand-foot-mouth disease (HFMD) patient is treated at a hospital in Heze City in east China's Shandong Province, on 28 March, 2009.—XINHUA

*A costumed employee spreads the table for a wedding banquet on the 2009 China International Wedding Exposition in Beijing, capital of China, on 27 March, 2009. The 2009 China International Wedding Exposition opened at the Beijing Exhibition Center on Friday, attracting almost 1,000 companies and brands to display their various wedding commodities. —*INTERNET

Obama launches major economies climate forum

WASHINGTON, 29 March — President Barack Obama stepped into the battle to combat global warming unveiling an international forum of 17 major economies to speed up work towards a key UN accord.

Dubbed the Major Economics Forum on Energy and Climate, Obama invited 16 other nations to join the United States at talks to be hosted in Washington at the end of April.

The 27-28 April preparatory talks will be followed by a summit of the 17 leaders to be held in Italy in July, aiming to help hammer out a new agreement to curb greenhouse gases to replace the Kyoto Protocol when it expires in 2012.

"The Major Economies Forum will facilitate a candid dialogue among key developed and developing countries, help generate the political leadership necessary to achieve a successful outcome at the UN climate change negotiations," the White House said in a statement.

Obama hopes the new forum will aid talks in Copenhagen in December aimed at producing a new UN accord.

And he aims to "advance the exploration of concrete initiatives and joint ventures that increase the supply of clean energy while cutting greenhouse gas emissions," the White House statement said.

UN talks on delivering the historic deal are set to resume in Bonn on Sunday, with many hoping Obama's untested negotiators can breathe life into the troubled process.

Some 190 nations will launch a marathon of meetings designed to culminate in Copenhagen with a new pact for curbing greenhouse gases beyond 2012.—*Internet*

Rare champagne sets world record at HK wine auction

HONG KONG, 29 March — A bottle of rare champagne fetched 164,560 Hong Kong dollars (21,097 US dollars) at a wine auction here on Saturday, setting a new world record for the price of any bottle of champagne sold at an auction.

The auction realized an impressive total of 35 million HK dollars (4.5 million US dollars) with 96 percent of the over 1, 000 lots sold to buyers from Hong Kong, the Chinese mainland, Taiwan, as well as Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Indonesia, among others.

A super lot of 132 bottles of Domaine de la Romanee Conti La Tache from vintages between 1985 and 2003 went for 1.89 million HK dollars (0.24 million US dollars), in line with previous estimates between 1.6 million and 2.4 million HK dollars.

More than 1,000 bottles of rare champagnes from the collection of Robert Rosania also attracted enormous interests, with a bottle of 1928 Krug collection vintage fetching 164,560 HK dollars after several rounds of fierce bidding.

The auction house, the United States-based Acker Merrall & Condit, said it was satisfied with auction results. Hong Kong announced a duty scrap on wine and beer last February, leading to high expectations by the wine industry and a potential boom of the wine market. —*Internet*

Venezuela, Iran FMs meet ahead of Chavez visit

CARACAS, 29 March—The foreign ministers of Venezuela and Iran have met here to discuss bilateral relations in preparation for an upcoming visit to Iran by Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez.

Nicolas Maduro and Manouchehr Mottaki "have achieved sustained progress in integrating joint industrial and financial projects," commented after the meeting Rodolfo Sanz, president of a joint technical Venezuelan-Iranian cooperation commission on Friday.

"We are ready to launch a joint Iranian-Venezuelan bank," he said. "We also plan to create a bilateral investment fund."

Chavez is expected to travel to Iran following an Arab-Latin American summit that will take place in Doha on 31 March.—*Internet*

Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki

World leaders call for new eco based on new values

VINA DEL MAR (Chile), 29 March— Presidents and government leaders from Latin America, Europe and the United States on Saturday called for a world economy based on new values of social progress.

It is time for new global values to sustain the economy and society, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown said at the Progressive Leaders' Summit in the Chilean city of Vina del Mar. Governments should be able to find "not only a theory about why the markets failed, but the policies to assure that this new global economy can work for the interest of the public," Brown said.

Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero called for more attentions on a "green economy". "The future of the economy is the future of the green economy. As sooner as we reach that paradigm, we will recover the economic growth," Rodriguez Zapatero said.

MNA/Xinhua

***Jobseekers queue to enter a venue of job fair held in Hubei University in Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province, on 28 March, 2009.—*INTERNET**

Bolivia hails China's entry to IDB

MEDELLIN, (Colombia), 29 March — Bolivia on Saturday hailed China's entry to the Inter American Development Bank (IDB), describing it as "very important".

China's entry to the IDB "widened its ties with other regions in the world," Noel Aguirre, Bolivian Planning and Development Minister, who is taking part in the group's annual meeting in Colombia city of Medellin, told Xinhua. "We want to invite China to join the Latin American peoples in these moments of the global economic crisis," he added.

China joined the IDB in January this year, becoming the 48th member country of the group. Zhou Xiaochuan, China's central bank governor, is attending the ongoing meeting in Medellin as Chinese representative.

The IDB group, founded in 1959 and headquartered in Washington DC, is the oldest and largest regional inter-governmental development financial institution whose purpose is to promote economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Internet

Fish in five US rivers tainted with Medications

LOS ANGELES, 29 March — Traces of medications and common chemicals were found in fish in five US rivers, a new study showed.

The study identified seven medications and common chemicals in the tissue and livers of fish such as antihistamine diphenhydramine (Benadryl), carbamazepine (a drug used for epilepsy and bipolar disorder), an anticonvulsant and two types of antidepressants. The tainted fish were from waterways in or near cities of Chicago, Dallas, Philadelphia, Phoenix and Orlando, said the study published on Friday in a special on-line edition of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry.

Each river is considered "effluent-dominated", because they receive large amounts of wastewater discharge from nearby sewage treatment plants, according to the study conducted by the US Environmental Protection Agency and Texas-based Baylor University. While other studies have found pharmaceuticals and personal care products in wild river fish, this is the first time multiple compounds have been found in fish from several different locations, said co-lead investigator Bryan Brooks, an associate professor of environmental sciences at Baylor.—*MNA/Xinhua*

A farm is seen flooded by the Red River south of Fargo, North Dakota March 28, 2009. Hundreds of residents of North Dakota and Minnesota evacuated their homes on Friday as the Red River rose to its highest level in 112 years in the key wheat and sugar beet growing region.
INTERNET

Ash falls on Anchorage as volcano keeps spewing

ANCHORAGE, 29 March—Alaska's Mount Redoubt continued to erupt on Saturday, sending plumes of ash tens of thousands of feet into the air that rained down on at least one Alaska town

Also, for the first time, the volcano spewed a thin layer of ash on Anchorage — enough to force the shutdown of the state's largest airport.The volcano got started early Saturday by sending an ash plume 50,000 feet into the air.A second eruption occurred shortly after 2 pm and sent ash 25,000 feet. Another occurred about an hour and a half later and sent ash 35,000 feet into the air.

Some of it came down on Nikiski, a community across Cook Inlet about 50 miles from the volcano. A thinner layer fell on Anchorage, Alaska's largest city about 100 miles northeast of the volcano."The volcano is very mad at us for something. It is kind of grouchy," said Chris Waythomas, a geologist at the Alaska Volcano Observatory in Anchorage.Linda Superman, owner of the Hunger Hut Bar in Nikiski, said the town received about one-eighth of an inch of ash. She said she was taking buckets of hot water and throwing them on the windshields of customers' cars so that the ash wouldn't scratch the glass when they turned their wipers on."It is all over," she said. "You can actually see the ash blowing through the air."

Internet

This photo provided by the Alaska Volcano Observatory shows Redoubt Volcano as seen from between Kenai and Nilnilchik, Alaska erupting at 3:29 pm, Alaska time on 28 March , 2009. The volcano about 100 miles southwest of Anchorage first erupted on Sunday night with the most resent eruption on Saturday evening.—INTERNET

Rat poison salesman's mouse bites onlooker

BEIJING, 29 March—A rat poison salesman who used a mouse to attract customers got into some trouble when the rodent bit a woman's foot. The mouse, which was tied to a string, was released from a cage and ran around outside a busy agricultural bazaar in the Sanshui district of Foshan city, Guangdong province,

The mouse bit the foot of a 40-year-old woman who was wearing slippers. After a ruckus ensued, security guards urged the man to take the woman to a hospital and pay her medical fees.—*Internet*

Despite a long lasting drought, flowers like these Bluebonnets along Loop 286 in Paris, Texas, are still coming up in large patches all around the Red River Valley attracting bees and other insects.

The Baroda pearl carpet already commanded a price of five million US dollars before being auctioned

This comes weeks after some items belonging to India's modern founding father Mahatma Gandhi were auctioned in New York.

In 1943, the then King of Baroda, Sir Pratap Sinh Gaekwad, married a woman known as Sita Devi, who took up her residence in Europe and soon, most of the Baroda treasures were transferred to her mansions in Monte Carlo in Monaco neighboring southern France.

In 1947, Baroda was merged with India. The Indian government deposed Gaekwad and forced him to return to India some of the most precious items, but the pearl carpet continued to be in the possession of Sita Devi.

Man dies at Rome marathon

A 46-year-old Italian man died from a heart attack after completing Sunday's Rome marathon.

Marco Franzosi, who was described as an experienced athlete, died suddenly an hour and a half after completing the course in just over three and a half hours.

The Parma resident was found collapsed in a road near his hotel.

Kasper, right, a three-month-old white lion cub, plays with zookeeper Nadja Radovic's hair in the lion's enclosure at Belgrade Zoo, Serbia. The cub, an extremely rare subspecies of the African lion, was born Dec. 9 in the zoo. White lions are unique to the Timbavati area of South Africa and are not albinos but a genetic rarity.

Saleswoman finds cocaine in box of bananas

BERLIN, 20 March—A stunned supermarket saleswoman stumbled upon 28 kilograms (60 pounds) of cocaine worth over a million euros (dollars) while unpacking boxes of bananas in southern Germany, police said on Friday.

The crates of fruit, flown in from Colombia and imported into Germany via the Belgian port of Antwerp, were probably mixed up when they were being loaded onto the delivery trucks, Ludwig Waldinger from the Bavarian police told AFP.

"Some dealers must have picked up the wrong boxes," he told AFP, adding that he would like to see the look on the faces of the drug dealers when they try to get their fix from the nutritious snack.

An osprey carries a freshly caught fish over the first tee box during the first round of the Transitions Championship golf tournament at Innisbrook in Palm Harbor, Fla.

Walkers should aim for 100 steps per minute

People who walk for exercise should aim for a pace of 100 steps per minute to ensure their workout is intense enough, according to researchers.

Many people who want to keep fit use a pedometer to keep track of how many steps they take. However, the device gives no information on how intensely they're exercising — that is, whether their heart rate is being raised enough to improve physical fitness.

NEWS ALBUM

51st Maha Thingyan Gold Cup Golf Tournament 13-15 April

YANGON, 29 March—The 51st Maha Thingyan Gold Cup Golf Tournament, jointly organized by Myanmar Golf Federation and PyinOoLwin Golf Club will be held at PyinOoLwin Golf Course in Mandalay Division from 13 to 15 April.

The tournament is categorized as the gold, silver and bronze levels, the club events, the gold, silver and bronze individual events, the senior event, the women's event and the PyinOoLwin Golf Championship. The team-wise first and second prizes, from the first to the tenth positions in the gold, silver and bronze individual events, seven prizes in the women's event, 10 prizes in the senior event and three prizes in the PyinOoLwin Golf Championship.

The golfers are to take part in the respective events in two rounds. Trophies and cash awards will be given by spending K 10 million including K 5.5 million for the prizes and K 5 million for the cash awards.

The golfer of 0-12 handicaps may take part in the gold level, those of 13-18 handicaps in the silver level and those of 19-24 handicaps in the bronze level. Four golfers of each team may participate in the team-wise event. Among the winners, the best three golfers have to take part in the scratch competition.

In the individual event, the golfers are to compete in the handicap and scratch events. Those between 0-18 handicap golfers may participate in the PyinOoLwin Golf Championship.

For convenient participation, the golfers will be accommodated at hotels and lodges in PyinOoLwin from 12 to 16 April. All the competitors will receive gifts worth over K 3,000.

Kaung Myat Companies (KM Golf Centre) has provided gifts for prizes worth K 5 million for successfully holding the gold tournament 2009.

The golf teams and golfers may enlist at PyinOoLwin Golf Club, not later than 10 April, (Tel: 085-22382, 09-2044715, 09-2044164 and 09-5261291.—*MNA*

Minister Col Thein Nyunt addresses concluding ceremony of advanced management course No 19.— MNA

PBANRDA concludes advanced management course

NAY PYI TAW, 29 March — The advanced management course No 19 of the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs concluded at the ministry here on 26 March.

Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt delivered an address at the ceremony.

Next, the minister presented prize to an outstanding trainee, Daw Nilar Htay (Head of the branch) of the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee. Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister Col Tin Ngwe, the directors-general, the deputy directors-general, directors, the secretary and members of the committee and course instructors.

A total of 35 trainees of three departments and Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee attended the 12- week course.

MNA

Thriving rubber plantations in Kunlong District

Article: ***Htein Lin (Myanma Alin);*** **Photos:** ***Aung Than (Mingala Taungnyunt)***

An employee collects rubber latex at Kyantineaung rubber farm.

U Kyar Win, Manager of Kunlong District Myanma Perennial Crops Enterprise.

(from page 16)

While the trees are young, rice, maize and peas are grown among plantations of rubber trees as a mixed-crop, he said.

In Shwewa Village-tract U Kyan Par, owner of Kyan Taing Aung Co which has grown 380 acres of rubber trees said the company started to grow rubber on 140 acres in 1997. The company has employed 80 workers in the farm and has sold rubber plants to other farms and farmers.

U Tin Maung Win, Chairman of Kunlong District Peace and Development Council.

Trees on 300 acres of Lunge-Ahman Rubber Farm in Hopan Township have been cut to collect latex, said U Maung Myint,

U Maung Myint, Owner of Lunge Ahman rubber farm.

Five month-old rubber saplings for rubber growers at a nursery garden in Kunlong Townhsip.

owner of the farm which started the cultivation of rubber in 1996-1997.

The farm has grown rubber in a commercial scale thanks to the encouragement of the government to grow rubber as an poppy-substitute crop and with the assistance of the ministries concerned and the local authority.

Rubber is grown in vacant land in Hopan Township to substitute opium and the road from Kunlong to Hopan is flanked by rubber plantations. The region lagged behind in development as community peace and tranquillity did not prevail in the region in the past. Today, growing of rubber has created jobs for local people and rubber plantations have replaced the opium plantations in the region.

(Translation AMS)
(14-3-2009)
(Myanma Alin)

Progress of Mechanized Farming Model Cultivation Special Zones inspected

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence inspects paddy field of Yuzana Co Ltd and progress in construction of production road.— MNA

YANGON, 29 March— Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, this morning viewed thriving summer paddy plantations, construction of production roads, preparation for cultivation of monsoon paddy and growing of Hsinnweyin and Shwebo-1 paddy fields of Dagon International Co Ltd at Mechanized Farming Model Cultivation Special Zone-1 in Dagon Myothit (East) Township.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspected paddy field of Yuzana Co Ltd, progress in construction of the product road and growing of paddy by Hsinshweli Co Ltd and left necessary instructions.

At the hall of Shwe Naga Min Co Ltd at No. 2 block of No. 2 Special Zone in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Lt-Gen Myint Swe attended the coordination meeting of mechanized farming model cultivation special zone and delivered an address on the occasion.

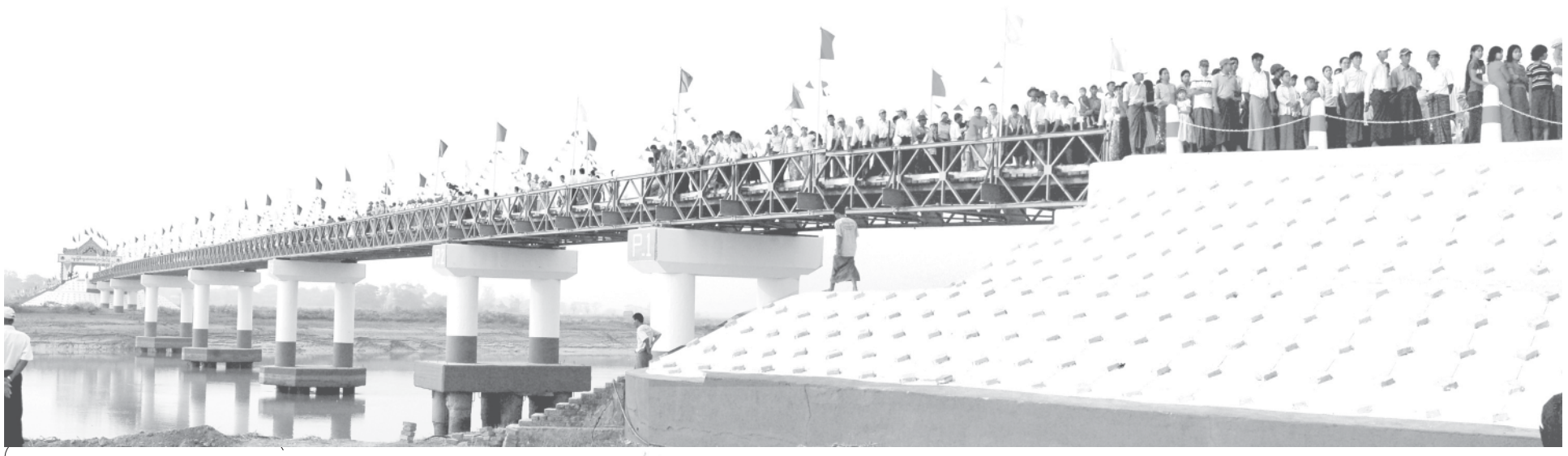
Next, the commander and the mayor gave speeches.

Departmental officials and entrepreneurs submitted the reports on their respective sectors. Lt-Gen Myint Swe attended to the needs.

After the meeting, Lt-Gen Myint Swe viewed thriving paddy plantation of Shwe Naga Min Co Ltd.

Later, they looked into completion of main canals, drains and production roads and land preparations being undertaken by Shwe Hein Htet Co Ltd, Green Asia Co Ltd, Pinle Koethwe Co Ltd and National Development Co Ltd.

MNA



The opening ceremony of Bago River Bridge (Kawa) in Htongyi Village, Bago Township in progress.— MNA

Bago River Bridge (Kawa) linking Bago and Kawa…

(from page 1)

passing across Bago River. Bago River Bridge (Kawa) contributed to the division to get better transportation, he noted. Thanks to construction of the bridge, local people are enjoying fruits of development in education, health and social sectors, he said. In conclusion, the commander urged the local people to maintain the bridge for its durability.

In his address, Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe explained construction of Bago River Bridge (Kawa). On behalf of the local people, U Aye Naing of Kawa Township spoke words of thanks.

Deputy Minister U Tint Swe and Secretary of Bago Division PDC U Pe Thein formally opened the bridge.

Also present on the occasion were Director-General U Aung Win of Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development, departmental officials, members of the social organizations and local people.

The commander, the deputy minister, officials and local people posed for documentary photos.

The commander unveiled the stone plaque and sprinkled scented water on it. Next, the commander and party strolled along the bridge.

Bago River Bridge (Kawa) with the type of RC bailey steel frame, has 560 feet long and 12 feet and four inches wide motor road, and it has also 12 feet high and 76 feet wide clearance. The bridge can withstand 20-ton loads.—*MNA*

Tatmadaw Park and Square in Nay Pyi Taw Parade Ground seen with water fountains.— MNA

People enjoy themselves at Tatmadaw Park and Square in Nay Pyi Taw Parade Ground.
MNA

Residents visit Tatmadaw Park and Square in Nay Pyi Taw Parade Ground.—MNA

New school buildings…

(from page 1)

ambassadors to Myanmar, Charges d' Affaires and embassy staff presented exercise books and stationery to teachers and students.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party arrived at Ngabyema Village Basic Education Primary School in Thanlyin Township.

Upon arrival at the school, a ceremony to hand over the new school buildings was held to honour the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day. First, Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint, Deputy Director-General of No. 3 Basic Education Department U Myo Myint and Managing Director of the Shwedaung development company Ltd Daw Sanda Tun formally opened the new school buildings.

Next, the ceremony of handing over new school buildings continued. Then, Managing Director Daw Sanda Tun handed over documents related to the new school buildings to Deputy Director-General U Myo Myint.

Next, the ambassadors and the Charges d' Affaires and officials of UN Agencies presented three sets of computer and accessories, exercise books, stationery and 50 pairs of desks to the headmistress of Ngabyema Village BEPS.

Afterwards, Yangon South District Education Officer U R Mya Lwin expressed thanks. Then, Lt-Gen Myit Swe viewed the students learning at the new school building. Shwedaung Development Company Limited donated three school buildings. The school building is of one-storey steel structure and it measures 40 feet long and 30 feet wide.—*MNA*

People relax in Tatmadaw Park and Square

NAY PYI TAW, 29 March — The Tatmadaw Park and Square in the parade ground where the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade was held were opened yesterday from 7 a.m to 10 p.m for public recreation.

Service personnel from the ministries in Nay Pyi Taw, families of Pyimana Station and local people visited there.

The Tatmadaw Park and Square were decorated with multi-coloured flowery plants, lights and water fountains and the people are taking a rest there.

Buses have been arranged for public transport. The Tatmadaw Park and Square will be kept open up to 31 March from 7 a.m to 10 p.m.—*MNA*

Respects paid to old instructors of film director course

YANGON, 29 March—The silver jubilee of film director course No. 1/1984 was held in conjunction with the respect paying ceremony at the hall of Myanma Motion Picture Asiayon on Wingabar Road in Bahan Township this morning.

Academy Khin Lay Theint (screenplay) acted as master of ceremonies, and Chairman of the organizing committee director Academy Zinyaw Maung Maung explained the purpose of holding the ceremony.

Instructors U Tin Yu, U Maung Maung Khin, U Myint Thein Pe, U Win Maung and U Soe Shwe spoke words of advice. The old trainees presented gifts to the instructors.—*MNA*

Twantay Township Music Asiayon organized

YANGON, 29 March — Myanmar Music Asiayon (Central) oragnized the committee for Twantay Township Music Asiayon at Chan Myay Yadana Hall in Twantay Township yesterday.

Present on the occasion were the Chairman and members of Twantay Township Peace and Development Council, departmental officials and social organization members, executives of MMA and musicians. U Myo Tint acted as Master of ceremony and the Secretary of the Township PDC delivered an address.

Next, Pyinmana U Myint Hlaing (information-1), the head of the organizing group explained matters on formation of association, Members of the Township Music Asiayon are Chairman Twantay U San Myint Win, Vice-Chairman Twantay Nay Min Aung, Secretary Taychit Thitsa, Joint-Secretary Win Ko, Treasurer San Lin (Twantay), Organizer Win Moe, head of information Htay Htay Yi, members—AKT, Ko Naing, WO 1 Hla Myint (Retired), Saw Thein Tun Kyaw. Harpist Pyapon U Thein Han Gyi presented assignment duty to them.— *MNA*

Let's cultivate a good habit of reading

Kyaw Oo Swe

Since the 11th Century AD, Myanmar had stood tall with own monarchs, national races, language, and culture. However, it fell under alien subjugation in the 19th century due to colonialism. In the colonial days, own language, literature, culture and traditions were nearly doomed to extinction. Being convinced of that danger, the Young Men's Buddhist Association, the first of its kind for independence struggles, aroused the people's sense of nationalistic spirit and national prestige through a motto in the early 20th century. The theme of the motto was to cherish and appreciate own literature and language. Due to those activities, the nation regained independence, and Myanmar literature and language have revived and developed till today.

The 21st century is considered to be the age of media. Thanks to the advancement of information technology, people can know what is going on in other parts of the world in seconds, and the world has been like a global village. The term "globalization" has been well-known all over the world. Globalization is replete with both good and bad results. Its bad consequences are far serious than the old colonialism of the 19th century, because that can remove a nation and its people from the world map. In particular, the evil consequences of globalization can seriously hurt and diminish innate nature, culture, traditions, literature and language of a people.

It is, therefore, required of **every nation to take advantage and avoid disadvantages of globalization. Here, what is the most crucial to be able to do so is that each and every citizen is resistant enough to its effects.** Particularly, they have to boost their mental resistance through religious faith. People can learn etiquette and civics through school lessons of general knowledge, or from elderly persons and experienced persons. However, the chance of learning lessons from school lessons may not be available when one is older than school age. And it would not be possible to learn lessons from elderly persons and experienced persons at all times. The source that is available at all times to strengthen resistance or to distinguish between good and bad is books and literature. However, reading alone will not work. A person has to read publications intensively. So, people have to cultivate a good habit of reading. Only then will a reader be able to enhance his resistance.

Here, just reading newspapers, journals and books for pleasure is not enough. Today being the age of media, people can keep in touch with what is happening in the world through daily, weekly and monthly publications, and the Internet within seconds. Doing so does not cover "reading". Just reading a news story is, indeed, a superficial study. It is needed to read the news story carefully and thoroughly to be able to make correct comments and gain correct concepts from it.

For instance, a news story that says a growing number of teenagers browse the Internet in Asia can be deemed to represent development. It is also needed to take into consideration possible adverse effects to the Internet user youths. So, **people should read a news story till they can identify the good and bad results of the event. The literature, language and culture of a nation will exist for ever only when its people have such an effective reading.**

Nowadays, the number of new publications is on the rise. In 1988, only 1597 books and 134 regular journals and magazines were published. In 2008, the number of books increased to 4299, and that of journals and magazines, to 6497. When it comes to genre, in the same period, the number of books on secular affairs increased from 13 to 82; books on political and social affairs, from 23 to 256; books on languages and literature, from 49 to 695; books on science, from 17 to 52; books on industry and farming, from 23 to 47, where as books on history and biography, decreased from 38 to 15. The books printed and published in Myanmar have developed both quantitatively and qualitatively, but not much satisfactory if judged in proportion to the period. In that regard, it is also required to weigh the conditions of Myanmar literature, writers and readers.

The printing media of Myanmar are related to the Press Scrutiny and Registration Division of the Printing and Publishing Enterprise under the Ministry of Information. According to the 1962 Printers and Publishers Registration law, regulations and directives of the Government of the Union of Myanmar, all the literary works need scrutiny and approval to be in circulation. Someone may openly ask if that is the cause of decreasing quality of the publishing process. In 2008, of the 125 books on secular affairs submitted to the division, all the manuscripts were approved but only 82 were published; of 149 submitted books on political affairs, 141 were approved but only 77 published; of 283 books on social affairs, all were approved, but only179, published; of 79 submitted collected poems, 78 were approved but only 52 published; of 782 submitted books on languages and literature, 780 were approved but only 695 published; of 73 submitted books on science, all were approved but only 52 published; of 98 submitted books on industry and agriculture, all were approved but only 47 published; and of 55 books on history and biography, 51 were approved but only 15 published. That accounted for the fact that only over half the submitted manuscripts could be published in the same year. And the division scrutinized all the submitted works and approved nearly cent per cent of them. According to the figures, publishers and printers of the Myanmar literary world could not print and publish books satisfactorily.

Then, what should be done to achieve greater success? Generally, the Myanmar literary world can be grouped into three categories: writers; those engaging in the journalism field; and publishers and producers. Writers and poets write separate books, novels, short stories and articles. Those in the journalism field comprising editorial staff, reporters, computer typists, proof readers, illustrators, photo correspondents, and cartoonists compile regular journals and magazines. Publishers have to publish the approved literary works into publications and distribute them to the people. The three major parts are necessary for writing, publishing and distributing publications. The Myanmar literature and Myanmar literary professionals will meet sustainable progress only if the three parts are combined in harmony.

With respect to the conditions of writers, they write and compile books, informative and creative, according to their hobby and interest. They also translate new ideas, policies, and terms in the political, economic, social and military fields into Myanmar version ones. In 2008, publishers submitted 2106 books. The Press Scrutiny and Registration Division approved 2091 of them. However, only 1398 books were published and distributed. The same year, 2245 novels and poem collections were submitted. The department approved 2058 of them, and only 1542 were published. That shows writers write, compile and translate books to help the people broaden their horizons.

The journalism field is improving with a growing number of regular journals and magazines. Now is the age of media, so the people are interested in latest news stories that happen as time goes by. In 2008, altogether 192 journal publishers and 230 magazine publishers got registered at the Press Scrutiny and Registration Division. They published 6497 magazines and journals the same year, accounting for over 500 a month, on average. In 2006, the Myanmar journalism world opened its new page, and many more new journals and magazines came into existence along with human resources in the journalism field. Now, the Press Scrutiny and Registration Division under the Ministry of Information focuses on improvement of the status of private journals and magazines. In response, publishers are working hard to expedite the process. Those who play a leading role in the development of literary world are the ones engaged in printing, publishing and distribution. There cannot be a publication or a book if there is no publisher and producer, and the publication and book cannot reach a reader without distributors however much writers try hard in writing and compiling the reading materials. As those engaged in printing, publishing and distributing have a great influence on the literary world, they need to have a sense of serving the interest of the State and the people rather than their own interest. **They are required to strike a balance between the national interest and their own interest, for they are to do their bit in broadening the people's scope of knowledge. In other words, they need to be just and fair in doing their businesses. At present, it is safe to say that most of publishers are paying more attention to publishing the books only which definitely bring profits, and they take less interest in serving the national interest. Thus, those engaged in printing, publishing and distribution are still required to coordinate and cooperate with the writers and journalists of the literary field.**

(To be continued)

Translation: MS

As those engaged in printing, publishing and distributing have a great influence on the literary world, they need to have a sense of serving the interest of the State and the people rather than their own interest.

Russia to deliver two MiG-29 fighters to Lebanon by November

BEIRUT, 29 March—Russia will deliver two MiG-29 jetfighters, out of ten promised, to Lebanon on Lebanese independence day (Nov. 22), local An-Nahar daily reported Sunday.

Russia has promised to deliver 10 MiG-29 jet fighters to Lebanon during a visit by Lebanese Defense Minister Elias Murr to Moscow last December, to show "new military relationship" between he two countries.

However, The Lebanese government was advised in February to "wait" before accepting the fighters that are "possibly unsafe," according to a report by An-Nahar. A pilot was killed in a MiG-29 crash in southern Siberia of Russia on Dec. 5, and another MiG-29 crashed in October, the report said.

Lebanese military sources said the donated MiG-29s would be checked by Lebanese army before they are shipped to Lebanon.

Lebanese President Michel Suleiman announced earlier that Lebanon welcomes any arms donation on condition that no political concession is given to any country. The MiG-29 jet fighter was designed in 1970s to challenge the US F-15 fighter.—*Internet*

Supermodel Naomi Campbell takes part in the Mai Mumbai fashion show during the second day of the Lakme fashion week in Mumbai on 28 March, 2009. The charity show was organised to pay tribute to last year's Mumbai attack victims.
INTERNET

Israel says Hamas arms smuggling has resumed

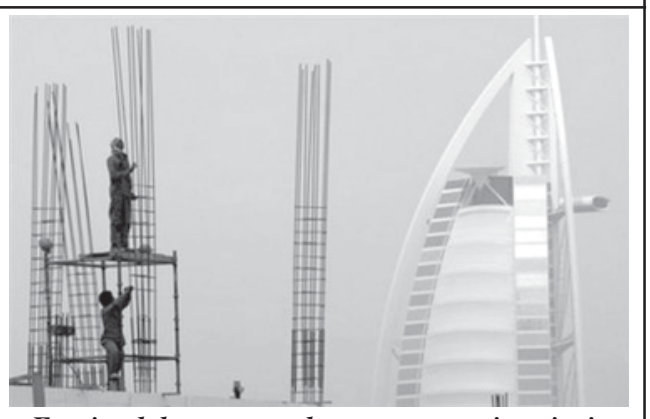
JERUSALEM, 29 March —A top Israeli security official says Hamas militants have smuggled nearly 70 tons of bomb-making material into Gaza since Israel ended its military offensive in January.

The assessment by Yuval Diskin, head of the Shin Bet security agency, is likely to add to a growing feeling among Israelis that the offensive ended too early. Diskin says Hamas has smuggled in 22 tons of explosives and 45 tons of other bomb-making materials since the operation ended.

He spoke to the Israeli Cabinet Sunday and meeting participants shared his assessment on condition of anonymity because the meeting was closed.

The aim of the offensive was to halt Palestinian rocket fire and end weapons smuggling. But Diskin's report was the latest sign the operation failed to meet its goals.

Internet



***Foreign labourers work at a construction site in front of Dubai's landmark Burj al-Arab hotel on on 22 March. Faced with a sudden economic slowdown, Dubai is trying to combat the fraud cases that surged during the past years of rapid economic growth in a bid to boost its status as a regional business hub.—*INTERNET**

Sinopec's net profit for 2008 down 47.3%

BEIJING, 29 March—China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation (Sinopec) reported Sunday its net profit for 2008 dropped by 47.3 percent from a year ago, due to fuel price caps, windfall taxes and decreased demand in the last quarter of the year.

Internet

***Two clowns perform during the 7th international clown festival in Brasilia, Brazil, on 28 March, 2009. The event which started on 24 March and ended on March 28 attracted clowns form France, Switzerland, Argentina, Spain and Brazil.—*INTERNET**

Tanzanian official: Train crash kills at least 15

ARUSHA (Tanzania), 29 March—A goods train hit a stationary passenger train in central Tanzania Sunday, killing at least 15 people, a government official said.

William Lukuvi, the regional commissioner of Dodoma town where the crash occurred, said the accident happened around midday Sunday.

"We are investigating the cause of the accident, which has already claimed at least 15 lives," Lukuvi said by phone. "Cranes have been ordered to help separate the crumpled wreckage and retrieve bodies."

The death toll may rise, he said. The line has been closed and an investigation has begun.

Tanzania's worst train accident was in 2002, when more than 200 people were killed and hundreds wounded just outside Dodoma after a passenger train's engine failed. It rolled back downhill and collided with a moving freight train, derailing all but one of the carriages.

Most of Africa's railways date back to colonial days and they are often poorly maintained.—*Internet*

Russian warships leave for Gulf of Aden

MOSCOW, 29 March—A group of the Russian Pacific Fleet warships heading for the ongoing anti-piracy operations left Vladivostok for the Gulf of Aden on Sunday.

The group comprised the Admiral Panteleyev destroyer, a salvage tugboat and two tankers, according to the fleet's public relations service.

The group will replace a task force led by the Admiral Vinogradov submarine chaser, which joined the anti-piracy operation off Somalia in early January and had escorted 54 vessels from 17 countries, the Itar-Tass reported.The Admiral Vinogradov and the Boris Butoma tanker have paid an official visit to Indonesia in late March on their return journey to Vladivostok.

According to UN International Maritime Organization, some 120 attacks by pirates have been registered in 2008, with 35 ships seized and more than 600 seafarers kidnapped.—*Internet*

India to purchase 56 advanced jet trainers from British Aerospace

NEW DELHI, 29 March—Even as the Indian Air Force canceled orders for Hawks, manufactured by British air company British Aerospace (BAE), it has issued fresh requests for proposal (RPF) for 56 more advanced jet trainers (AJTs) to the company, local newspaper Mail Today reported Sunday.

BAE systems is one of the six aviation majors which has been issued the RPF for its new hawks. The other contenders are Italy' s Alenia for its M346, South Korea's T-50s, the Czech Republic's L-159, and Russia's Yak-130 and MiG AT trainer.

IAF was reportedly not too keen on procuring additional Hawks, after facing the problem of spare parts supply from BAE for its assembly line production at the Indian Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, said the report.

However, despite being unhappy with the BAE for the delay in the arrival of critical components, the IAF has approached the company among others for the upgraded version of the AJTs. The paper quoted an unnamed Air Force source as saying that the new RPF was issued to fulfill procedural requirements for the Ministry of Defense.

When this comes through, India would be the only major country to have a lot of trainers, as most countries have one or two variants of AJTs, the paper said.—*Internet*

Fishermen sit on the ice of Imandra Lake in coloured tents in Murmansk region in Russia's North on 29 March, 2009. The Hibin mountains are seen in the background.
INTERNET

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
INVITATION TO QUOTATIONS

Sealed quotations/tender are invited by the Myanma Port Authority, for the supply of the following items;

(1) Mild steel Plates & Angle Iron
(2) Mooring Chain & Accessories
(3) Marine Diesel Engine & Gear Box for Pilot Cutter
(4) Marine Radar
(5) Welding Electrode
(6) Welding Transformer
(7) Arc Welding Accessories & Gas Cutting Equipment
(8) Ultrasonic Thickness Gauge

Quotation forms and documents are available at the Stores Department, Seik Kan Township, Myanma Port Authority, starting from 30-3-2009 during office hours.

	Currency	Closing date
For Item (1) to (4)	F.E	30-4-2009
For Item (5) to (8)	Kyats	5-5-2009

For further details, please contact telephone number 292334,292292 and 292301.

Controller of Stores
Myanma Port Authority

Boy found infected with EV71 in HK

HONG KONG, 29 March—The Centre for Health Protection of Hong Kong on Friday confirmed a case of Enterovirus-71 (EV71) infection involving a 2-year-old boy and urged the public to be vigilant against the disease.

A spokesman said the boy had presented on Wednesday with oral ulcers, rash over hands and feet, fever, cough and also a runny nose. He sought medical treatment from a private doctor and did not require hospitalization. He is in stable condition.

The boy's family contacts had no symptoms of Hand-Foot-Mouth Disease (HFMD).

Nine other children of the nursery the boy attended also developed HFMD symptoms. CHP had advised the institution to conduct thorough disinfection to prevent the spread of the disease.

This is the seventh case reported to the Center for Health Protection of Hong Kong this year. There were 16 cases of EV71 in 2006, 12 in 2007 and 98 in 2008 respectively.—*Internet*

4.2-magnitude quake jolts China city

BEIJING, 29 March—An earthquake measuring 4.2 on the Richter Scale jolted Yuanping City of northern Shanxi Province at 7:11 pm Saturday, according to China's seismological network.

The quake was detected at 38.9 degrees north latitude and 112.9degrees east longitude, at a depth of 5 km. No information on casualties or damages was available at press time.—*Internet*

TRADE MARK
CAUTION NOTICE

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Tin Ohnmar Tun
B.A(LAW) LL.B,LL.M (UK)P.O. Box 109,
Ph: 723043
(For. Domnern Somgiat & Boonma, Attorneys at Law,Thailand)
Dated. 30 March,2009.

Bangladesh's export grew by 26.80% in 1st 5 months

DHAKA, 29 March—Bangladesh's export in the first five months of the current fiscal year (July 2008 to June 2009) grew by 26.80 per cent compared to the corresponding period of previous fical year, official news agency *BSS* reported Saturday.

It earned a total of 6.551 billion US dollars during the period compared to its target of 6.372 billion US dollars. The country's total export target for the fiscal 2008-09 has been earmarked at 16.298 billion US dollars.

During the five months up to November last year, real export earnings stood above the target by 2.81 per cent or by 180 million US dollars, the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) said Saturday in a Press release.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Spain may open torture probe of 6 Bush officials

NEW YORK, 29 March —A top Spanish court has moved toward starting a probe of six former Bush administration officials including ex-Attorney General Alberto Gonzales in connection with alleged torture of prisoners at Guantanamo Bay, *The New York Times* said on Saturday. The criminal investigation would focus on whether they violated international law by providing a legalistic justification for torture at the US detention camp in Cuba, *the Times* said.

The paper said the National Court in Madrid had assigned the case to judge Baltasar Garzon, known for ordering the arrest of former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet. Garzon has accepted the case and sent it to the prosecutor's office for review, the newspaper said, citing an official close to the case. —*MNA/Reuters*

China sand factory explosion kills six, injures five

GUIYANG, 29 March—An explosion at a sand factory in southwest China's Guizhou Province has left six people dead, five injured and one missing Saturday afternoon, according to sources with the Provincial government on Sunday.

Preliminary investigation shows that the tragedy occurred at about 4:50 pm in a sand mine under construction in Zhenfeng County of Buyei and Miao Autonomous Prefecture of Qianxinan.

Officials of the Provincial Work Safety Supervision Bureau rushed to the site for rescue effort and an investigation has been launched for the cause of the accident.

Internet

Five abducted Kenyans released in Somalia

NAIROBI, 29 March—Kenyan authorities confirmed on Saturday that five Kenyan nationals hijacked four days ago by members of a Somali militia group, Al-Shabaab which said they arrested the five near the common frontier for crossing the border with no papers, have been freed.

Kenyan police spokesman Eric Kiraithe who confirmed the development said the four government officials and their driver were immediately taken to Mandera in north eastern Kenya after being released. They are said to be in good health.

"The five Kenyans were released this afternoon and all of them are safe. They have been taken to Mandera town," Kiraithe said by telephone.

The Kenyan delegation which secured the release of the hostages was led by North Eastern Provincial Commissioner Kiritu Wamae. The negotiations took place at Bula Hawo town in Somalia, one kilometer away from the border town of Mandera.

The militia which is battling the Somali government and African Union peacekeepers overran the provincial town of Baidoa, the former seat of parliament, earlier this year to tighten its grip on large swathes of the south.

The hostages are a district education officer from Wajir, three school inspectors from Garissa and Mandera, and a driver.

Earlier this month, four UN workers were released hours after they were abducted by armed group in Wajid, Bakool region. The Al-Shabaab denied that they were behind the kidnapping.

Internet

US launches major economies meeting on energy, climate change

WASHINGTON, 29 March—US President Barack Obama is launching a "Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate," with a meeting set in Washington in April followed by a summit in Italy in July, the White House said Saturday in a statement.

Leaders from 16 major economies have been invited to a "preparatory session" on 27-28 April in Washington, the statement said, adding that it "will facilitate a candid dialogue among key developed and developing countries, help generate the political leadership" for successful climate change negotiations in December in Copenhagen. —*Internet*

***Ganteng, a newly born elephant, plays with his mother Ramona at Elephant Safari Park Lodge in Ubud Gianyar, Bali on 29 March, 2009. The baby elephant was named "Ganteng" which means handsome.—*INTERNET**

Britain's Brown slips in poll before G-20 summit

LONDON, 29 March — British Prime Minister Gordon Brown has lost ground to the opposition Conservative Party ahead of the G-20 summit in London next week, according to a poll published in the *Sunday Telegraph* newspaper.

The ICM poll put the Conservatives on 44 per cent, up four percentage points on last month's survey, with Brown's ruling Labour Party up three points on 31 per cent. The biggest loser was the third placed Liberal Democrats, down four points on 18 per cent. If those figures were repeated in the next election, which Brown must hold by June 2010, the Conservatives would have an 83-seat majority, the paper said. Labour currently has a working majority of 63 in the Lower House of Parliament.

Other recent opinion polls have given the Conservatives a similar 10-12 point lead over Brown, who faces a key political test next Thursday when he hosts the G-20 summit in London. Leaders from the 20 biggest economies are due to discuss strategies to try to end the deepest recession since the 1930s. With Britain in recession and unemployment above two million, the economy is likely to remain the biggest political issue in the run up to the next election.

MNA/Reuters

A young kite enthusiast attempts to get his kite air born on the National Mall during the 43rd Annual Smithsonian Kite Festival in Washington on 28 March, 2009. —INTERNET

Critics call WTC tower name change unpatriotic

NEW YORK, 29 March—Even without the name, the symbolism of the Freedom Tower as an American response to the 11 Sept terror attacks was hard to miss.

The original architect designed a twisting form he wanted to imitate the Statue of Liberty, with a spire that rose to the deliberate height of 1,776 feet to recognize the year of American independence. Politicians called the tower proof of the country's triumph over terrorism.Former Gov. George Pataki said visitors to the iconic skyscraper "will know our determination to overcome evil" in a 2003 speech that first gave the Freedom Tower its name.

The tower — still under construction with a projected completion date of 2013 — no longer has the same architect, design or footprint on the 16-acre site. And this week, the owners of ground zero publicly parted ways with the Freedom Tower name, saying it would be more practical to market the tallest building in New York as the former north tower's name, One World Trade Center.

Critics called the name drop an unpatriotic shedding of symbolism by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Some newspaper editorials blasted the agency for years of missed deadlines and changing plans for the site.

Internet

Czech Govt crisis threatens EU expansion

HLUBOKA, 29 March —The Czech Republic's political crisis could threaten the European Union's long-term plan to offer membership to new countries, its foreign minister said on Saturday.

Last week's no-confidence vote in Czech coalition government has cast doubt on whether it will ratify a long-stalled EU treaty needed to reform decision-making structures in the bloc and allow it to take in new members. Asked whether a failure by the Czech Republic to ratify the Lisbon Treaty would jeopardize enlargement, Foreign Minister Karel Schwarzenberg said: "Of course it can. Therefore we must ratify it. It is in our highest national interest to ratify it as soon as possible."

The Lisbon Treaty needs to be ratified by all 27 EU states before it enters force as planned on January 1. Before the Czech crisis, the biggest potential obstacle was seen as an Irish referendum on it to be held later this year. Diplomats say candidate country Croatia could become the 28th member of the bloc even without the Lisbon Treaty. But after that some kind of institutional reform of EU structures would be needed to make room for Serbia and, ultimately, Turkey.

The collapse of Prime Minister Mirek Topolanek's government makes it uncertain whether the Czech Upper House of Parliament will give the treaty the final green light.

MNA/Reuters

Cholesterol drug not linked to cancer

NEW YORK, 29 March —Contrary to a recent report, findings from a large-scale study suggest that the cholesterol-lowering drug Zetia (also known by the generic name, ezetimibe) does not increase the risk of cancer. This also holds true for Vytorin, which combines ezetimibe with simvastatin, another cholesterol-lowering agent.

In a trial reported last year, use of Vytorin was associated with a cancer rate of 11 percent, significantly higher than the 8 percent rate seen in patients who were given an inactive "placebo." This finding caused widespread concern, but data from studies reflecting how the drug is used in the "real world," outside of strict controlled clinical trial, were lacking.

The current "real-world examination shows no increased risk to patients taking (Zetia or Vytorin) to lower their (cholesterol) levels — an issue that sparked many policy and healthy safety conversations," study co-author Dr. Richard H. Karas, from Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, said in a statement.

Internet

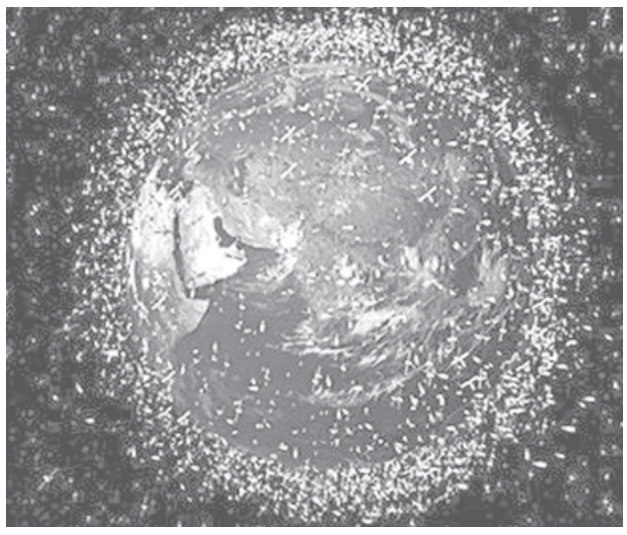
Red meat diet tied to early eye problems

NEW YORK, 29 March— People whose diet includes a lot of red meat are more likely to develop the early stages of an eye condition known as age-related macular degeneration (AMD), which is the leading cause of vision loss in older adults, according to an Australian study.

AMD arises from gradual damage to the macula, a structure on the retina of the eye that allows for seeing fine detail. Dr Elaine W-T Chong at the University of Melbourne and fellow researchers explain in the American Journal of Epidemiology that red meat contains compounds that "could result in oxidative damage and could be toxic to the retina."

To clarify the role of meat consumption in the development of AMD, Chong's group studied data on 5600 people who were aged 58-69 years in 1990-1994, when they completed food frequency questionnaires covering the previous year.

The presence of AMD was determined by retinal photography between 2003 and 2006, when the participants were 66-85 years old, and uncovered 1680 cases of early AMD.—*Internet*



A computer-generated image released by the European Space Agency (ESA) shows trackable objects in Low Earth Orbit (LOE). The seven-member Discovery crew carried out a five-hour series of safety checks overnight, including unfurling a long robotic arm mounted with a camera to scan the wings and nose of the shuttle for any damage sustained on its launch into orbit.—INTERNET

Namibia floods affect 350,000

JOHANNESBURG, 29 March—More than 350,000 people have been affected by floods and torrential rain in Namibia that could trigger a major food shortage, the South African Press Association quoted the United Nations as saying on Friday. The figure represented an increase of 150,000 over the previous estimate the UN's humanitarian coordination office (OCHA) gave a week ago."More than 350,000 people are currently affected in Namibia," said OCHA spokeswoman Elisabeth Byrs, warning that crops have been damaged since the flooding began in January.

"Some 544,000 people could be affected by food insecurity in 2009 to 2010," she said at a media briefing. Yields from harvests in the country are expected to fall by 63 per cent, according to OCHA, while more than half the roads in the flood-stricken northern regions have been damaged. About 13,000 people have fled their homes, including 9,000 who have been housed in camps set up by Namibian authorities. Namibian President Hifikepunye Pohamba declared a state of emergency in the north last week.

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Ballack-inspired Germany cruise to easy win

LEIPZIG, 29 March—Germany opened a four-point lead over Group Four rivals Russia with a convincing 4-0 win against Liechtenstein here in Saturday's World Cup qualifier as captain Michael Ballack led the charge.

The Chelsea star won his 91st cap and guided his country to a comfortable victory which leaves Germany top of the group with 13 points ahead of second-placed Russia who have nine points and face minnows Liechtenstein next Wednesday in Vaduz.

Internet

Germany's midfielder Michael Ballack controls the ball against Liechtenstein during their Football World Cup 2010 qualifying match in Leipzig, eastern Germany. —INTERNET

O'Hair survives tough day to keep lead at Bay Hill

ORLANDO, 29 March—Sean O'Hair survived a windy, rugged test Saturday at Bay Hill and wound up in the final group with Tiger Woods for the second straight year — with one big difference.

This time, the tournament is in his hands. Despite three bogeys in the last four holes, O'Hair had a 1-over 71 and a five-shot lead over Woods going into the final round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational." Sometimes, you have to hang on for dear life," O'Hair said. "Those three bogeys didn't reflect how I played."

Internet

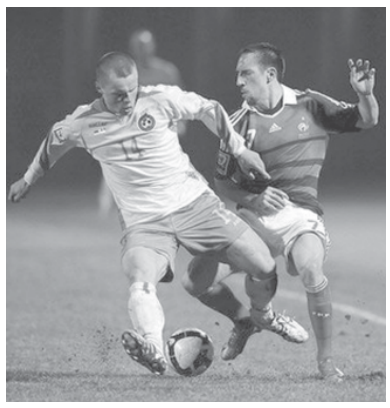
Sean O'Hair hits out of the bunker on the ninth green during the third round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament in Orlando, Fla, on 28 March, 2009.—INTERNET

Answers to yesterday's Crosswords Puzzle

1 U		2 F		3 B				4 R		5 U	6 G
7 T	E	R	R	O	R		8 F	I	R	M	E	R
I		A		O		9 M		V		B		A
10 L	E	G	A	T	E	E		11 I	N	E	R	T
I		I		Y		M		E		R		E
12 S	O	L	E		13 B	O	A	R	D			
E		E		14 F		R		A		15 S		16 B
			17 F	I	N	A	L		18 A	N	N	A
19 A		20 C		R		N		21 N		A		N
22 C	H	A	S	E		23 D	R	O	P	P	E	D
O		N		F		A		M		P		I
24 R	E	A	L	L	Y		25 P	A	R	E	N	T
N		L		Y				D		D		S

Ribery magic puts France back in business

KAUNAS, 29 March—France got their World Cup 2010 qualifying campaign back on track as Franck Ribery's superb strike secured a patient 1-0 win over Lithuania here on Saturday.



Lithuania's midfielder Darvydas Sernas (L) clashes with France's midfielder Franck Ribery during the World Cup 2010 qualifying football match at the Darius and Girenas stadium in Kaunas. France got their World Cup 2010 qualifying campaign back on track as Ribery's superb strike secured a patient 1-0 win over Lithuania.—INTERNET

The visitors were made to toil for long periods amidst obdurate defending from the home side, but with 25 minutes to play Bayern Munich midfielder Ribery rifled in from distance to earn his side a precious victory on the road to South Africa."It was very important for us tonight and everyone played a huge part," Ribery said."We worked hard, on a pitch that wasn't easy to play on. Together we've managed to do something. Now it's up to us to carry it on."

Internet

Beckham targets World Cup glory after cap record

LONDON, 29 March—David Beckham set his sights on a starring role at the World Cup after earning a record-breaking 109th cap in England's 4-0 friendly win against Slovakia.

Beckham came on for the second half at Wembley on Saturday to pass Bobby Moore's record for the most caps by an England out-field player.Now only goalkeeper Peter Shilton, with 125 caps, stands ahead of Beckham in England's all-time appearance list.

But the AC Milan star, currently on loan in Italy from American club LA Galaxy, isn't concerned by personal landmarks. Instead he is dreaming of playing for England in the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, having already featured in 1998, 2002 and 2006.

Internet

David Beckham of England is pictured during the match against Slovakia during their International friendly match at Wembley Stadium in London. Beckham set his sights on a starring role at the World Cup after earning a record-breaking 109th cap in England's 4-0 friendly win against Slovakia.—INTERNET

US draws, Mexico wins on way to World Cup

WASHINGTON, 29 March —Two late goals allowed the United States to swipe a 2-2 draw at El Salvador to seize the regional 2010 World Cup qualifying lead while Mexican chances were boosted by a key home triumph.

Salvadorean Rodolfo Zelaya (eft) vies the ball with US Carlos Bocanegra. —INTERNET

Trailing by two goals at San Salvador with the hosts poised to seize the top of the table, the Americans swiped a draw thanks to goals from Jozy Altidore in the 77th minute and Frankie Hejduk in the 88th minute.Mexico was a 2-0 loser at the US last month in a North and Central American and Caribbean zone qualifying opener, but bounced back with a 2-0 home triumph Saturday over Costa Rica, matching their victims for second in the table.—*Internet*

Nadal, Serena sparkle in opening wins

MIAMI, 29 March—World number ones Rafael Nadal and Serena Williams advanced to the third round of the ATP and WTA Miami hardcourt tournament but Serbian third seed Jelena Jankovic was ousted.

World number ones Rafael Nadal, seen here, and Serena Williams advanced to the third round of the ATP and WTA Miami hardcourt tournament. Nadal beat Teimuraz Gabshvili of Russia 6-2, 6-2.—INTERNET

Nadal dismissed 72nd-ranked Teimuraz Gabshvili of Russia 6-2, 6-2 while Williams, a two-time defending champion seeking her sixth title in eight years here, beat fellow American Alexa Glatch 6-2, 6-3."I'm very happy," Nadal said. "I think Gabashvili didn't really play a bad game. He played hard and I think I played well."

Internet

Batak hands Italy win on comfortable night

PODGORICA, 29 March —Radoslav Batak's howler helped grant world champions Italy a comfortable night as they beat Montenegro 2-0 here in World Cup qualifying Group Eight.

Italy's win was enough to keep them top of the group ahead of Wednesday's crunch clash against second placed Republic of Ireland in Bari.But Batak literally gave them a big helping hand early on in the match to ensure Marcello Lippi's men travelled home from the former Yugoslav republic with three points.

The uneven pitch took an early victim as Italy's Antonio Di Natale fell awkwardly on seven minutes trying to change direction and immediately signalled to the bench that he couldn't continue with what looked to be a twisted knee.But the world champions were in front just four minutes later after Batak's moment of madness.—*Internet*

Italian forward Vincenzo Iaquinta (R) challenges defender Radoslav Batak during their World Cup 2010 group 8 qualifying football match in Podgorica. Batak's howler helped grant world champions Italy a comfortable night as they beat Montenegro 2-0 here in World Cup qualifying Group Eight.—INTERNET

A Sukhoi SU-34 fighter-bomber with Russia's President Dmitry Medvedev on board is airborne over the Kubinka airbase outside Moscow, on 28 March, 2009. Picture taken on 28 March, 2009.
INTERNET

German-owned ship seized by Somali pirates is free

BERLIN, 29 March—The crew of a German-owned tanker that was hijacked by Somali pirates two months ago in the Gulf of Aden has regained command of the ship, its Hamburg-based operator said on Saturday.

Bernard Schulte Shipmanagement said in a statement that the crew of 12 Filipinos and one Indonesian were unharmed and that the Longchamp would now proceed towards its original destination of Vietnam.

The tanker, carrying liquefied petroleum gas, was seized on January 29 by pirates, who took it down the coast of Somalia and have held it captive for the past two months.

Somali gunmen hijacked dozens of ships last year, causing havoc in one of the world's busiest shipping lanes, but the number of attacks has declined in recent months after foreign navies rushed to the area.

MNA/Reuters

MRTV-3
Programme Schedule (30.3.2009) (Monday)

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
* Are they real or paper?
* Bamboo Paper
* Welcome to Ngwe Hsaung
* Enjoy our Shan Food
* Kayah Traditional Museum
* Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Europe/ North America 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 Fashion among Various Fashion
* Natural Beauty of Puta-O
* The Source of the River Ayeyawady
* Orchid Garden
* ASEAN Countries to boost economic cooperation
* The Art of Paper Folding "Origami"
* Are they real or paper?
* Welcome to Ngwe Hsaung
* Enjoy our Shan Food
* Kayah Traditional Museum
* Myanma Traditional Musical Instruments (Brass Instruments: Cymbal) (Kyay-Naung)
* Melodious Flute Tunes of the Villages
* Effigies: the super stars
* Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

TV Myanmar

Monday, 30 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. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:10 am
7. Cute little dancers

8:20 am
8. (၆၄)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

8:30 am
9. International news

8:40 am
10. စေတနာပန်းများဖူးပွင့်ဝေစည်ငွေတောင်ပြည်

8:50 am
11. Musical programme

4:00 pm
1. Martial song

4:10 pm
2. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

4:20 am
3. Dance variety

4:30 pm
4. တီးကွက်ညီညာညွှန့်သံသာ

4:40 pm
5. Musical programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)

4:50 pm
6. နွေအတွက်စိုက်ပျိုးမခက် အလင်းပါဆောင် (ခပေါင်းရေလှောင်တမံ)

5:00 pm
7. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ တတိယနှစ် (ရသစာပေအရေး အသားအထူးပြု) (ရသစာပေအရေးအသား)

5:15 pm
8. Songs to uphold National Spirit

5:25 pm
9. Musical programme

5:35 pm
10. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား

5:50 pm
11. (၆၄)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

6:00 pm
12. Evening news

6:30 pm
13. Weather report

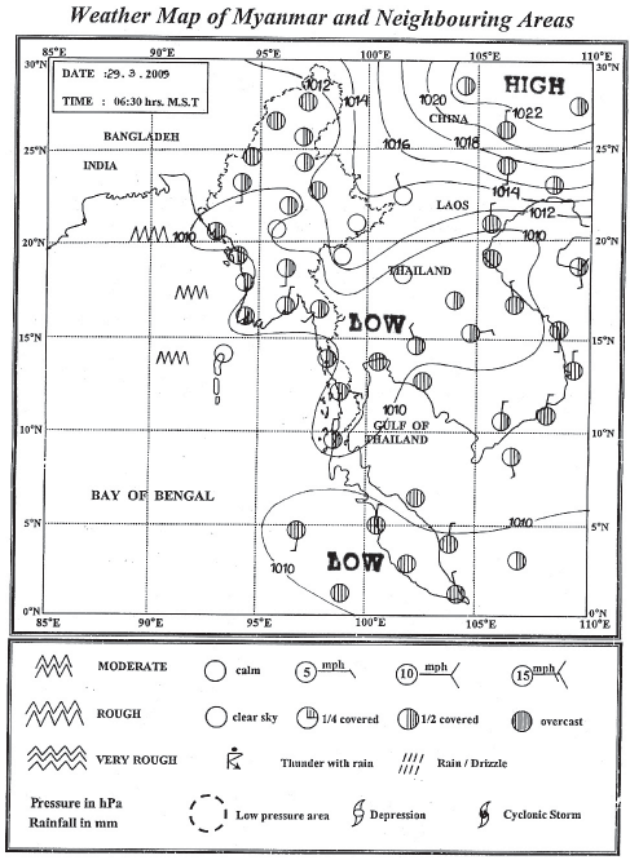
6:35 pm
14. Sing and enjoy

7:05 pm
15. Musical programme

7:15 pm
16. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "နွဲ့ဆိုးဆိုးသူကိုယ့်ချစ်သူ" (အပိုင်း–၂၂)

8:00 pm
17. News
18. International news
19. Weather report
20. ပြည်သူ့အတွက်တပ်မတော် (နယ်စပ်စည်ပင်၊ ဆက်သွယ်ရေး၊ ပြန်ကြားရေး၊ ယဉ်ကျေးမှု)
19. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်သူ့သံစဉ်" (အပိုင်း–၄)

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Sunday, 29 March, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain or thundershowers have been isolated in upper Sagaing and Bago Divisions,weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin and Shan States, lower Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (3˚C) to (4˚C) below March average temperatures in Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, (3˚C) to (4˚C) above March average temperatures in Kachin State and Bago Division and about March average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions.The significant Day temperatures were Thayawady (40˚C), Minbu, Aunglan and Pyay (39˚C) each.

Maximum temperature on 28-3-2009 was 99°F. Minimum temperature on 29-3-2009 was 72°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 29-3-2009 was 70%. Total sunshine hours on 28-3-2009 was (8.1) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 29-3-2009 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 (4) mph from Northwest at (16:30) hours MST on 28-3-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 30th March 2009: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Kachin, Shan, Chin and Rakhine States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Bago 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 isolated rain or thundershowers in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 30-3-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 30-3-2009: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 30-3-2009: Partly cloudy.

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Thriving rubber plantations in Kunlong District

Article: ***Htein Lin (Myanma Alin);*** **Photos:** ***Aung Than (Mingala Taungnyunt)***

Thriving one-year old rubber plantations as poppy-substitute crop seen in Kunlong Township.

Rubber requires a climate with heavy rainfall and it is thriving well in Thaton and Mudon townships in Mon State in lower Myanmar.

Today, rubber which is considered to be favourable to the weather of Taninthayi Division and Mon State has been planted commercial scale in Shan State (North).

We, a news team of Myanmar Alin Daily went to Kunlong District in Shan State (North) to study the commercial cultivation of rubber in the cold region.

We interviewed Chairman of the Kunlong District Peace and Development Council U Tin Maung Win about the rubber cultivation in the district.

Rubber has been grown in the district since 1995-1996 and there is a total of 6963 acres of rubber in the district — 3,200 acres in Kunlong and 3,763 acres in Hopan, U Tin Maung Win said.

Rubber trees on 1283 acres in total – 300 acres in Kunlong and 983 acres in Hopan—have been cut to collect latex, he added.

In an interview with U Kyar Win, Manager of Kunlong District Myanma Perennial Crop Enterprise, he said Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has helped grow the rubber strains which are suitable to the climate of Shan State (North) on vacant lands as poppy-substitute plants after the opium cultivation was eliminated. With the assistance of Myanma Perennial Crop Enterprise, the rubber cultivation has been extended in Kunlong District, he said.

One acre of rubber trees may yield from 600 pounds to 700 pounds of latex a year, said U Zaw Win Aung who is in-charge of a rubber farm of Way Hsar Co. in Hopan Township. Out of 380 acres of the farm, rubber trees on 130 acres have fully grown to produce latex, he said. The farm started work on growing rubber on 100 acres in 1995-1996.

He continued to say that tappers who collect the latex from the trees begin to tap rubber trees about five to seven years old. A tapper cuts a narrow groove in the bark of a tree about 4 feet (1.2 meters) above the ground. The groove slants diagonally downward about halfway around the trunk. At the bottom of the cut, the tapper attaches a U-shaped metal spout, and below the spout, a small cup.

Afterwards, the latex is to be produced dry rubber.

(See page 7)

Take Fire Preventive Measures

INSIDE

Here, just reading newspapers, journals and books for pleasure is not enough. Today being the age of media, people can keep in touch with what is happening in the world through daily, weekly and monthly publications, and the Internet within seconds. Doing so does not cover "reading". Just reading a news story is, indeed, a superficial study. It is needed to read the news story carefully and thoroughly to be able to make correct comments and gain correct concepts from it.

PAGE 10 KYAW OO SWE

Pathways to development 2 April

YANGON, 29 March — Lecturer Dr Wah Wah Maung (Applied Economics Department —Yangon Institute of Economics) will give talks on pathways to development at Yuzana Hotel on Shwegonedine Road, Bahan Township, at 4 pm on 2 April.

The lecture will jointly organized by Myanmar Hoteliers Association and Silver View Resort.

Executives, CEC members and members of the association and those interested may attend the talks. —*MNA*

Challenges of current economic recession 4 April

YANGON, 29 March — Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry will hold talks on challenges of current economic recession at UMFCCI office tower in Lanmadaw Township on 4 April.

It was sponsored by Myanmar Liwayway Food Industries Ltd. Chairman of First Myanmar Investment Co Ltd U Theim Wai (a) Serge Pun will give the talks on challenges of current economic recession. Every person of the UMFCCI and its brother associations may attend the talks.— *MNA*