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Wednesday, 1 April, 2009

Cooperation between nations, associations, businesses, needs much to overcome competition and challenges in highly competitive market

Manufacture high quality items in industrial sector in accord with standard set

Federation needs to lay down long-term plans to surmount with nationalistic fervour new challenges, sanctions intentionally put against nation

Prime Minister addresses 18th AGM of UMFCCI



Prime Minister General Thein Sein delivers address at 18th Annual General Meeting of UMFCCI.—MNA

Arrangements are under way to provide farmers with working capital to produce crops of high quality in cooperation with leading companies, member companies and local merchants.

NAY PYI TAW, 31 March—The 18th Annual General Meeting of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry took place at the Nay Pyi Taw City Hall here with an address by Prime Minister General Thein Sein.

Also present on the occasion were Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, the ministers,

the deputy ministers, diplomats of embassies, heads of departments, officials, the president of UMFCCI, the vice-presidents, advisors, central executives and executives, the chairmen of brother associations and executives, members and guests.

In his address, Prime Minister General Thein Sein said that the government is today making all-out efforts for

the nation to keep abreast of the international community. In this regard, it has laid down and is implementing the economic objectives to bring about a robust national economy. In an effort to bring about a strong national economy, the active participation of national entrepreneurs under the leadership of UMFCCI together with the government has contributed much to the

development of national economy, he said.

At present, one has to be highly competitive in economy. Therefore, cooperation between one nation and another or one association and another or one business and another is much needed in order to overcome such competitiveness and

challenges. The national entrepreneurs are to strive together with the government in the latter's efforts to bring about a robust national economy.

He said that in implementing the fourth five year (2006-2007 to 2010-2011) plan of the short-term plans for the development of national

economy, target has been set to achieve 12 per cent of economic development per year. Progress has been made in the production sectors such as agriculture, meat and fish and industry and in the service sectors such as transport and communications, he noted.

(See page 8)

Lectures, exam for B.Ed correspondence courses announced

NAY PYI TAW, 31 March — The lectures and exam for the trainee teachers of B.Ed correspondence course for 2008-2009 academic year will be held at Yangon Institute of Education. Lectures will be given for the first year of course No.27 and the second year of course No.26 from 24 April to 15 May. Trainees are to report not later than 23 April and will not be allowed to report three days beyond the target date. The examinations for the courses will be held from 18 to 22 May.—MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 1 April, 2009

Strive for turning out educated human resources

The ceremony for opening a new building of Technological University (Mawlamyine) was held on 21 March and it was attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council and Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo.

Now is the time when the entire nation is striving for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation. For this, each and every region is trying to turn out educated human resources who will be able to contribute not only to its own development but also to that of the nation as a whole. Moreover, science and technology is gaining greater momentum of development day after day and has come to have a strong influence on every sphere of human society. This being so, it is necessary to produce highly-qualified human resources, especially for the sector of science and technology.

In this regard, the Head of State has given guidance that two main national forces are required for building a peaceful, modern and developed nation and that they are a patriotic force that can safeguard independence, sovereignty and non-disintegration of the Union and human resources that can make the best use of natural resources.

Today is the age of knowledge and sustainable development of human society can be realized only through education. Therefore, the government is taking measures to turn out large numbers of educated human resources.

The government has been opening more and more universities for the national youths across the Union in order that pursuit of higher education is within their reach.

MOC Chairman's Cup National Hockey League 2009 goes on

YANGON, 31 March—Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman's Cup National Hockey League 2009 continued today. In the morning contest, Defending Champion Central Command team and No.11 LID team were held to a 1-1 draw, and Yangon Command team beat Myanmar Police Force 2-0.

A total of 12 teams including Yangon Youths Team comprising preliminary selected players who will take part in Boys U-18 Asia Cup are competing in the tournament.

No.11 LID team comprising Myanmar selected players led the tournament with 28 points.

The tournament will continue up to 5 April, and the prize presentation ceremony will be held that day.

MNA

People's Desire

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

7th prize presentation ceremony of Dr Tin Shwe Literary Award held

YANGON, 31 March—The prize presentation ceremony for 7th Dr Tin Shwe Literary Award was held at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road, here this afternoon, attended by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

First, U Tin Kha (Tekkatho Tin Kha), vice-chairman (1) of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, extended greetings on behalf of the chairman.

U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin) explained points on Dr Tin Shwe Literary Award Scrutiny Committee.

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presented Dr Tin Shwe Literary Awards to Dr Kyaw Myint (X-ray) for "Life Story of OG U Soe

Myint", Khin Mya Zin for "Myanmar women painters in three generations" and Ma

(X-ray), Khin Mya Zin and Ma Theingi expressed gratitude. Daw Aye Thant, wife of late author Dr Tin

Next, Daw Aye Thant presented K 300,000 for fund of Myanmar Writers and



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents prize to Dr Kyaw Myint (X-ray).—MNA

Theingi for "Shwedagon Mystique".

Afterwards, Dr Tin Shwe Literary Award winners Dr Kyaw Myint

Shwe, presented gift to Dr U Thaw Kaung on behalf of the Dr Tin Shwe Literary Award Scrutiny Committee.

Journalists Association through chairman U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung). Daw Aye Thant then spoke words of thanks and the ceremony came to an end.

After the ceremony, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan together with departmental heads, members of Dr Tin Shwe Literary Award Scrutiny Committee, and Dr Tin Shwe Literary Award winners posed for a documentary photo.—MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents prize to Khin Mya Zin. — MNA

U Thet Oo presents credentials to Nepali President

NAY PYI TAW, 1 April—U Thet Oo, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Dr Ram Baran Yadav, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, on 20 March 2009 in Kathmandu.—MNA

U Hla Myint presents credentials to Governor-General of New Zealand

NAY PYI TAW, 1 April—U Hla Myint, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to New Zealand, presented his Credentials to His Excellency The Honourable Anand Satyanand, PCNZM, QSO, Governor-General of New Zealand, on 5 March 2009 in Wellington.

MNA



People stand by a car damaged in a rocket attack in Baghdad, Iraq, on 31 March, 2009. A rocket struck a southern Baghdad neighborhood Tuesday, wounding 6 people, police said.—INTERNET

Suicide bomber kills seven, wounds 17 in Mosul

BAGHDAD, 31 March—Iraqi police say a suicide truck bomber killed at least seven people and wounded 17 in the northern city of Mosul.

A police officer in Mosul says the attacker was targeting a police station in the city's centre. Police Maj Jassim al-Jubouri says those killed include four policemen and three civilians.

Tuesday's bombing is the latest in a string of attacks in Iraq this month that has raised fears insurgents are trying to regroup as the US prepares to withdraw all its forces by the end of 2011.

Nobody has claimed responsibility for the attack. But vehicle bombings are the signature attacks of suspected Sunni militant who remain active in Mosul.

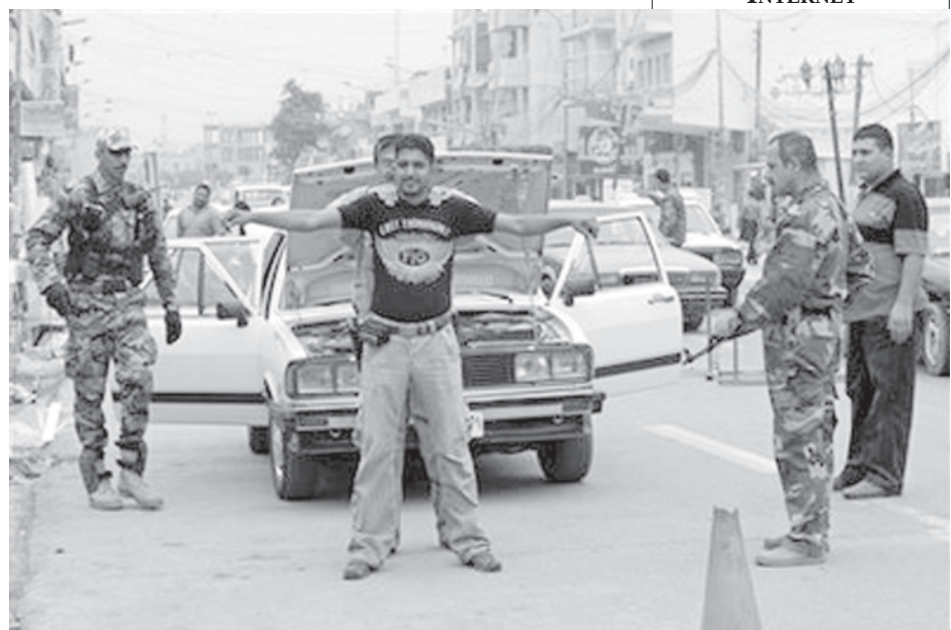
Internet

US military deaths in Iraq war at 4,262

WASHINGTON, 31 March—As of Monday, 30 March, 2009, at least 4,262 members of the US military had died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003.

The figure includes eight military civilians killed in action. At least 3,425 military personnel died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers. The British military has reported 179 deaths; Italy, 33; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 21; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Denmark, seven; El Salvador, five; Slovakia, four; Latvia and Georgia, three each; Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand and Romania, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan and South Korea, one death each.

Internet



Suicide bomber in police uniform kills nine Afghans

DUND, 31 March—A suicide bomber wearing a police uniform blew himself up inside a police headquarters in southern Afghanistan on Monday, killing nine people and wounding eight, an official said.

Five officers and four civilians died in the attack in Dund district, about 10 miles (15 kilometres) south of Kandahar city, the Interior Ministry said in a statement.

The attack comes as the United States prepares to send 21,000 additional troops to Afghanistan to

bolster the 38,000 American forces already in the country. President Barack Obama last week announced a new strategy for the Afghanistan-Pakistan region with a goal to "disrupt, dismantle and defeat" al-Qaeda.

In total, there are a record 70,000 international forces in Afghanistan.

The international Red Cross warned Monday that more Afghans and Pakistanis will be at risk in coming months as a result of worsening political instability and fighting. It

urged the United States and others to consider the plight of civilians as they step up their military presence in the volatile region.

Internet

In this image made available by the Greek Navy in Athens, on 30 March, 2009, seized assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenades are seen in a speedboat used by Somali pirates detained in the Gulf of Aden on 29 March, 2009, after a failed attack on a German tanker.—INTERNET



NATO chief accepts Netherlands' planned withdrawal from Afghanistan

BRUSSELS, 31 March—NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer said he would "understand" if the Netherlands reduces its military force in Afghanistan after 2010 in an interview with Dutch daily *NRC Handelsblad* which was published over the weekend.

"I can well imagine that there comes a point where the resources of the armed forces cannot be stretched any further," DeHoop Scheffer said just before the international conference on Afghanistan in The Hague on Tuesday.

"There comes a point where you have to give people and material a rest, even for the Netherlands," said the NATO chief, a Dutch national himself.

Internet

British forces to begin Iraq withdrawal

BASRA, 31 March—British forces were to launch their official withdrawal from Iraq, a months-long process ending a role that kicked off with the US-led invasion six years ago.

Senior American, British and Iraqi officers were expected to mark the occasion in recognition of the 179 British soldiers, airmen and sailors who have died in Iraq since the March 2003 invasion. The British-led coalition base in Basra will lower its flag and transfer to US control, in a key transitional step towards all foreign troops leaving the country and a full return to Iraqi sovereignty. "It is the beginning of the drawdown of coalition forces of which Britain has been an integral part," a senior British officer told *AFP*.

"Although this is the start of a withdrawal, there is still work to be done and that will continue until the last British soldier has left the country," the official said.—Internet

Medvedev charts path to better Russian-US ties

WASHINGTON, 31 March—Russia and the United States should rebuild their relations and work together on key global issues, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said in an article on Tuesday in the *Washington Post*.

Medvedev said neither Russia nor the United States can tolerate “drift and indifference” in their relationship.

Russian-US relations

came to a standstill last year amid disputes over US plans to deploy elements of its anti-missile system in central Europe and Russia’s war in ex-Soviet Georgia.

The United States remains suspicious of Russia’s ties with Iran, while Moscow opposes Washington’s drive to grant NATO membership to Ukraine and Georgia.

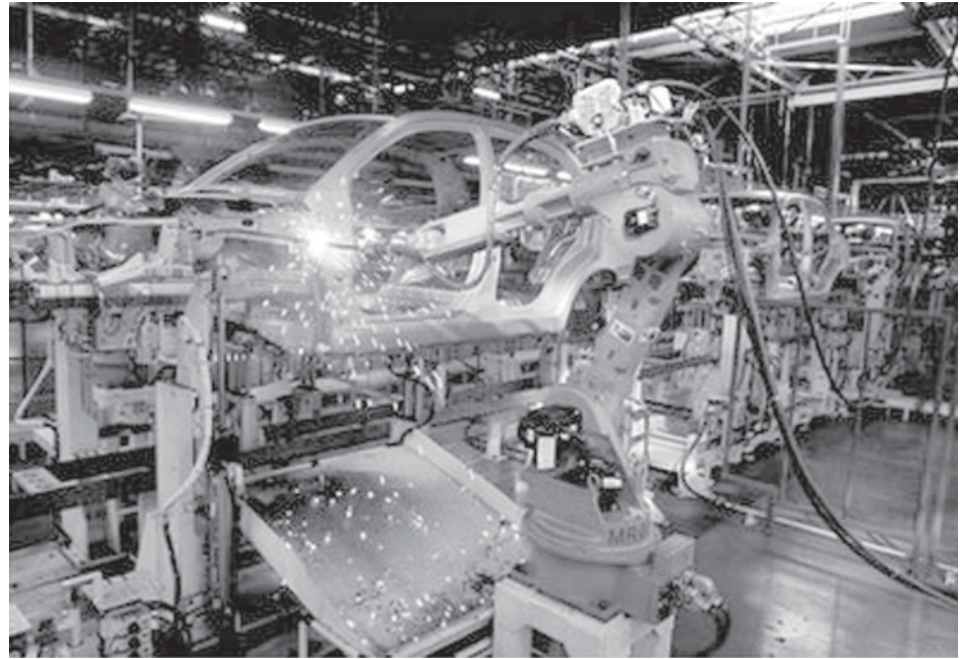
“I believe that removing such obstacles to good

relations would be beneficial to our countries — essentially removing ‘toxic assets’ to make good a negative balance sheet,” Medvedev wrote.

Medvedev is scheduled to meet US President Barack Obama in London on Wednesday at the G20 summit.

He said he was ready to begin rebuilding the relationship at their first meeting.

Internet



A Proton assembly line near Kuala Lumpur. Malaysian automaker Proton has said it will manufacture electric cars for eco-conscious markets in Europe and the United States, in a deal with Netherlands-based Detroit Electric.—INTERNET

Iran’s Foreign Ministry denies Iran, US meeting in Moscow

TEHRAN, 31 March—Iran’s Foreign Ministry denied on Monday the meeting between Iranian and the US officials in Moscow, the official *IRNA* news agency reported.

An informed source in the ministry said to *IRNA*’s political correspondent on Monday that *the Sunday’s news* of the *Weekly Sunday Times* concerning the meeting between Teheran and Washington’s representatives in Russia is baseless and its verity is denied, the report said.

“The Iranian delegation participating in Afghanistan conference in Moscow was not tasked on this subject and no meeting was held,” the source added.—Internet

Argentina, China sign tentative currency swap deal

BUENOS AIRES, 31 March—Argentina and China have tentatively agreed to swap \$10 billion worth of their currencies to enable South America’s second-largest economy to avoid using dollars in trade between the nations, banking officials said on Monday.

It is the first such swap between China and a Latin American country, and allows Argentine businesses to buy Chinese imports directly in yuans. The move aims to help Argentina by cutting trading costs, giving it access to hard currency and strengthening its financial position as it is battered by the global financial crisis, analysts say.

China — which has been pushing to end the dollar’s international dominance as a currency — has stuck similar deals to bypass the US currency with South Korea, Malaysia, Belarus and Indonesia, the *Xinhua News Agency* reported.

Internet

Maritime group seeks increased patrols in Somalia

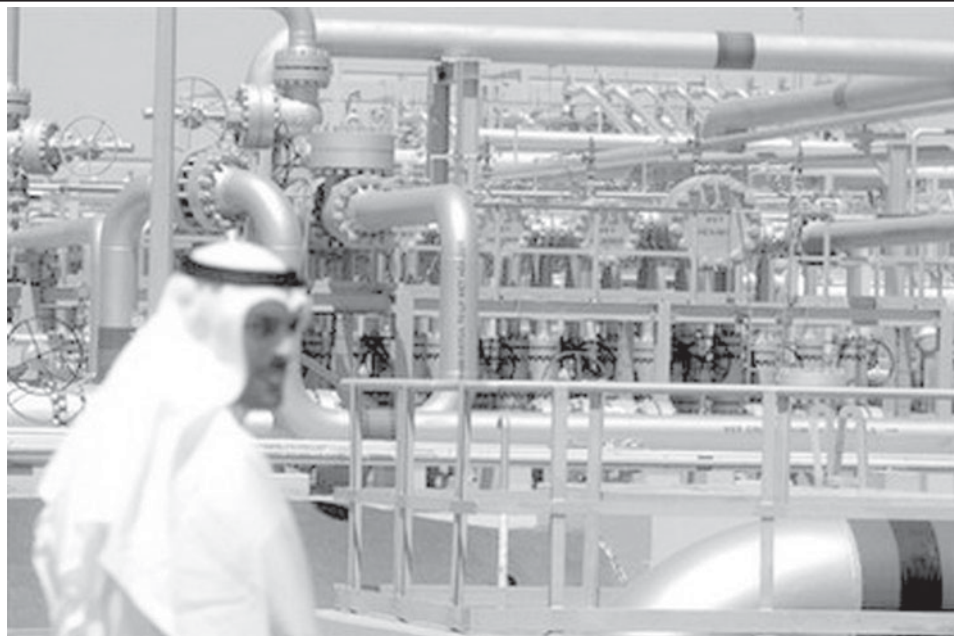
KUALA LUMPUR, 31 March —A maritime watchdog on Tuesday urged an international naval coalition patrolling the waters off northern Somalia to extend its watch to the country’s eastern and southern coasts.

The warning came amid a spike in attacks in the area. The latest attack

occurred late Monday, when pirates fired rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns at a South Korean bulk carrier off eastern Somalia. The vessel managed to escape after carrying out evasive maneuvers, the International Maritime Bureau’s piracy reporting centre said.

Since 22 March, pirates

have attacked 10 ships off eastern and southern Somalia, hijacking two of them, said Noel Choong of the piracy centre in Kuala Lumpur. In contrast, he said, there was only one reported attack in the Gulf of Aden, to the north of Somalia, because of the international anti-piracy task force protecting those waters.—Internet



A Kuwaiti worker walks at a gathering center in the northern Al-Rawdhatain oilfield, 2005. A top oil executive said that OPEC member Kuwait has boosted its oil production capacity to three million barrels per day and aims to raise it to four million by 2020.—INTERNET

Israelis, Palestinians clash on Gaza border

GAZA CITY, 31 March —A Gaza Health Ministry official says two Palestinians have been wounded by Israeli gunfire in a clash along the Gaza-Israel border.

Dr Moaiya Hassanain says it is not yet clear if the men are civilians or militants. Palestinian witnesses say they heard two explosions from the

border area on Tuesday morning, after which Israeli helicopters hovered over the fence and fired at targets inside Gaza.

Israeli security officials say troops saw armed

militants placing explosive devices along the fence. They spoke on condition of anonymity because the military had yet to release an official comment.—Internet

Fidel Castro criticizes Biden’s embargo remarks

HAVANA, 31 March — Cuban former leader Fidel Castro criticized US Vice President Joseph Biden for being against the lifting of the embargo on Cuba, in a column article published on Monday’s official daily “Granma.”

In the article, Castro said that Biden is “yearning” an internal political transition in Cuba, which “honestly would be counterrevolutionary.”

Castro also writes that the (US) empire faces “insuperable problems and contradictions with the peoples from Latin America.”

Biden said on Saturday that US has no plan to lift its trade embargo on Cuba at a political summit in Chile.

Internet

FAO says food security still problem as hunger rises

BANGKOK, 31 March — A fall in grain prices has led to the impression that food security is no longer a concern, but the number of people without enough to eat is still rising in a world facing recession, the United Nations said on Monday.

“The level of prices is still 19 per cent above the average of 2006...so we’re still in a period of high prices,” Jacques Diouf, director-general of the UN’s Food and Agricultural

Organization (FAO), told reporters at a conference in Bangkok. In addition, recent FAO studies showed that even though prices had fallen in international markets, retail prices in most developing countries had not.

“Not only is the crisis here, but it’s been worsened by the financial and economic crisis,” Diouf said. Stocks for cereals were at a 30-year low, and he described the situation as “very fragile”.

“We’re afraid that if there are any serious climate factors affecting production, we will be back to where we were in 2007. We’ve seen serious floods in north America and southern Africa,” he said. The FAO estimates that over one billion people in the world will go hungry this year because of the combined effects of the global economic crisis and high food prices.

MNA/Reuters



Students ride bicycle against snow on a street in Rushan City, east China's Shandong Province, on 30 March, 2009. A sleet hit the city on Monday, with precipitation at 4.7 millimetres by 8 am on Monday.—XINHUA

Australian dairy farmers less confident due to crisis

CANBERRA, 31 March—Confidence in the dairy industry was shaken over the past 12 months due to the global financial crisis, a survey showed on Tuesday.

"It is a very tough time for many of our dairy farmers," Dairy Australia managing director Mike Ginnivan said in a statement. The medium and long-term outlook for the industry has improved despite the current conditions, with commodity prices stabilizing in recent weeks, adding to early indications of a recovery in demand.

"It is expected that as developing markets begin to recover next year and beyond, and dairy becomes more incorporated into developing countries' diets, consumption should rise," Ginnivan said.

According to *Australian Associated Press*, a national survey of 1,000 dairy farmers has found the proportion of farmers feeling positive about the future has dropped by 12 percent in a year, reflecting concerns about the impact of the economic slowdown on milk prices.—Xinhua



Mani stones are seen on the Jiana Mani Stone Mound in Xinzhai Village, Yushu County, north-west China's Qinghai Province, on 24 March, 2009.—XINHUA

People of Dong ethnic group attend a celebration for the traditional festival "Sanyuesan" in Sanjiang Dong Autonomous County, south-west China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 29 March, 2009.

XINHUA



More rural short-term teachers wanted to boost employment, rural education

BEIJING, 31 March—The Ministry of Education (MOE) has lifted its recruitment target for short-term rural teachers by 300 percent in just two weeks, in a move to both raise standards and siphon off some of the vast army of graduate jobless.

The latest target is 150,000 more than the ministry announced two weeks ago, when it said 50,000 short-term teachers, to be paid by a special central budget fund, were wanted in the rural areas in 2009.

The newly added teaching posts would be paid by local authorities, the ministry said Monday in a report posted on its website. It said the job opportunities would be mainly open to fresh college graduates.

The move was aimed at improving the quality of rural teachers, and to resolve the paradox that colleges graduates were facing gloomy employment prospects, whereas primary and middle schools in rural areas were desperately in need of qualified talents, the ministry said.—Xinhua

Brazilian President expects housing package to generate jobs

RIO DE JANEIRO, 31 March—Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said on Monday that he wishes the construction sector to be the propeller of the job generation in the country amid the international financial crisis.

Brazil's unemployment rate hit 8.5 percent in February, which meant the unemployed population reached 1.9 million, the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) announced last Thursday. In his weekly radio show "Breakfast with the President," Lula said that the recently-launched housing package will reduce 14 percent of the housing deficit in the country and will help minimize the crisis effects.

The president announced a 34 billion reais (14.5 billion US dollars) housing sector package last week, which aims at building 1 million units of houses for the country's poor people in the coming two years. Besides improving the living conditions for the poor, the housing programme is designed to boost public spending, which will generate as many as 1.5 million job opportunities and increase the purchasing power of the poor as a measure to tackle the financial crisis, said Lula at the programme's launching ceremony last Wednesday.—Xinhua

Chinese satellites begin UN environment, natural disaster service

BEIJING, 31 March—Two environment and disaster monitoring satellites officially began operating Monday, China's State Administration of Science Technology and Industry for National Defence (SASTIND) said.

The two small optical land observation satellites, Huanjing-1A and Huanjing-1B, would play an important role in providing data as part of the

United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), a UN programme to provide such information universally, an unnamed SASTIND official told *Xinhua*. With advanced optical, thermal infrared and hyper-spectral remote sensing equipment, the satellites would greatly raise China's ability to

monitor the environment, Wu Xiaoping, Vice Minister of Environmental Protection, said at a ceremony to mark the event.

During their trial services since late 2008, the satellites provided images for members of Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation and helped with management of the Australian bushfires, which claimed 210 lives in February.

Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

GM to consider option of bankruptcy protection

CHICAGO, 31 March—General Motors (GM) said on Monday it does not rule out the possibility of filing for a bankruptcy protection. US President Barack Obama announced details of the auto industry rescue package at the White House Monday, giving the biggest US auto maker 60 days to restructure further. "Our strong preference is to complete this restructuring out of court. However, GM will take whatever steps are necessary to successfully restructure the company, which could include a court-supervised process," GM said in a statement. Obama said that company creditors, shareholders, workers, dealers and suppliers will be expected to make more sacrifices. His administration may use bankruptcy filings to purge the ailing companies of their biggest problems, including bondholder debt and retiree health-care costs. —Xinhua



In this image made available by the Greek navy in Athens, on 30 March , 2009, a speedboat with Greek commandos is seen, right, alongside a pirate vessel with detained Somali pirates in the Gulf of Aden, on 29 March, 2009, after a failed attack on a German tanker.—INTERNET

Crude oil tumbles below \$49 on stocks, dollar

NEW YORK, 31 March—Crude futures tumbled below 49 US dollars a barrel on Monday as plunging stocks market and strengthening dollar let off the steam of oil’s rally last week.

Light, sweet crude for May delivery fell 3.97 dollars, or more than 7.6 percent, to settle at 48.41 dollars a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Futures dropped to as low as 48.11 dollars earlier in the session.

Internet

China’s manned space flight team rewarded US Space Achievement Award

COLORADO SPRINGS, 31 March — The team of China’s Shenzhou-7 manned space flight mission, which marked a number of “firsts” for the Chinese space programme in a single mission, was rewarded Monday the 2009 Space Achievement Award from the US Space Foundation.

A delegation from China led by Dr Zhou Jianping, chief designer of

the China Manned Space Program, and Taikonaut Zhai Zhigang accepted the award at the opening ceremony of the 25th National Space Symposium, a Space Foundation-sponsored annual gathering of the global space community, in Colorado Springs.

Dr Zhou will also participate in the symposium’s panel discussion on

2 April where he will discuss China’s current and future plans for manned space flight.

“The Shenzhou-7 mission was a significant leap ahead for China’s space program,” said Elliot Pulham, chief executive officer of the Space Foundation.—*Internet*

Three killed, one injured in US shooting

WASHINGTON, 31 March—At least three were killed and one injured in a shooting incident in Largo, Florida, on Monday, said police.

According to the sheriff office in Pinellas County, police arrived in a house near Tampa Bay as response to a report and found a woman inside calling for help.

Police officers broke into the house from the back door and found three bodies whose identities remained undisclosed.

The woman, who suffered at least one bullet wound, has been transported to hospital, said police, without releasing other details.

However, police suspected that the shooting was a possible murder-suicide.

It was the third shooting incident since this week, following a shooting spree a nursing home in Carthage, North Carolina on Sunday morning, leaving eight dead and three others wounded, and another case in a townhouse in Santa Clara, California, on Sunday night killing six, including two children.—*Internet*

Internet

Six shot dead in murder-suicide in Silicon Valley city

SAN FRANCISCO, 31 March— Six people, including three children, were shot and killed with a seventh critically injured late Sunday evening in an apparent murder-suicide in Santa Clara, a city in the Silicon Valley, local media reported on Monday.

The identities of the victims have not been released although an Indian passport was found inside the home, the *San Jose Mercury News* said in latest reports on its website.

The suspected shooter, a man in his 40s, was found dead inside the house and there were two handguns used in the killings, Santa Clara Police Captain Mike Sellers was quoted as saying.

“It does appear as though they (the victims) were related,” Sellers said. “But don’t exactly know how. We’re trying to sort out who is who.”

Internet

Flammable water at Colo Home

A Colorado couple says they have so much natural gas in their water they can light it on fire, reports CBS4 Denver’s Shaun Boyd. Jesse and Aimee Ellsworth, of Ft Lupton, a tiny city north of Denver, say the gas has been leaking into their water well from a nearby gas well for the last six months.

Aimee Ellsworth says their only clue that something was wrong was the pressure of the water.

“It crashed, made noises. I thought this isn’t normal.” She says tests found explosive levels of the gas in her basement, bathroom and by her water well. “I’m jittery all the time” says



Ellsworth. Her home is located in a rural area within a half mile of eight natural gas wells.

The Colorado Oil and Gas Commission says it’s tried to find the origin of the leak. Director Dale Neslin says “We’ve looked at well compilation reports, taken gas samples to look for a match, done pressure testing and we’ve not been able to find the well that appears to be causing the problem.”



A mostly empty train runs in the tourism tunnel in Shanghai, China. Communist leaders worry about rising job losses amid a trade slump that saw Chinese exports fall 25.7 percent in February from a year earlier. They have promised to spend heavily to create jobs and boost exports.

View from the space shuttle Discovery as it closes in for docking with the international space station while orbiting Earth. Discovery is set to deliver one last set of solar wings to bring the orbiting outpost up to full power and will drop off badly needed equipment for the station’s water-recycling system and a fresh crew member.

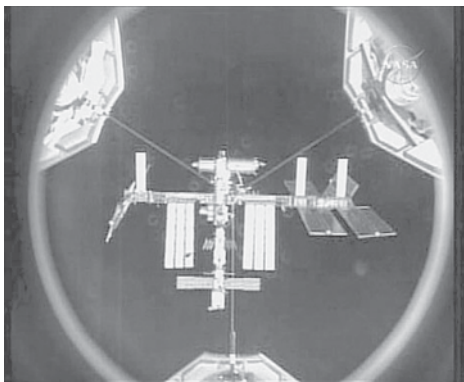
NEWS ALBUM

Wisconsin jewellery robbers fleeced as they flee

Two robbers leaving a Milwaukee jewellery store with cash and gems didn’t get far with the loot — another group of thieves robbed them as the pair left the crime scene. Police Lt Thomas Welch says a fight broke out in the street on Wednesday before the groups got in vehicles and a chase ensued.

Welch says officers pulled over both vehicles and arrested four people, including the original two robbers, ages 40 and 31, and two men from the second group, of ages 22 and 27. All four are from Illinois.

But he says police didn’t recover any cash or jewellery and are searching for more suspects.



Woman meets an “alien”

A woman from Norwich claimed to have met a man dressed in a flying suit-style outfit from another planet while she was walking her dog, according to the newly released Ministry of Defence files.

She claimed to have been “completely terrified” during the 10-minute encounter. According to the woman, she had been approached by a man with a “Scandinavian-type accent” dressed in a flying suit-style outfit while out walking on a sports field near Norwich, eastern England, in 1989.

She said she had then seen a large glowing object rising vertically from behind some nearby trees while she was running home.

The woman called up RAF Wattisham in Suffolk the following day and informed them about the man, who she said told her that aliens were behind crop circles. A cover note on the file notes describes it as “one of our more unusual UFO reports.”

The sighting is included in military UFO documents made available online on Sunday by the National Arch ADVERTISEMENT ives. The incident is just one of around 1,200 sightings recorded by investigators between 1987 and 1993.



Buthidaung Township enjoys economic growth

Article: Singu Soe Win; Photo: Kyaw Myint Tun (Buthidaung GAD)

Inspired by the information that Buthidaung Township's summer paddy sown acreage reached over 1200, accounting for one-third of that of the whole Rakhine State, we made a tour of the state recently.

It was considered previously that Buthidaung Township being surrounded by high

only about two inches thick. So, the Irrigation Department and NGOs in collaboration constructed 17 dams and 178 lakes in the township for the agricultural purpose. Now, the township can grow crops on a commercial scale all-year round.

We learnt that a farmer with a two-acre farmland could grow

were planning to buy a paddy thresher, and local farmers were doing well in their agricultural farming.

On our way to Sai-Tin Hydropower Project, we found thriving plantations of cold season crops and summer paddy along the Sai-Tin River. The chairman of Sittway District Peace and Development Council



Members of the media team observing potato in Dahbaing Saya village.

people in Kanyinchaung village-tract and Yaybu village will get job opportunities and will be able to enjoy better living conditions.

The manager of the township Myanmar

summer paddy per acre yield was 78 baskets the year before, and it would increase in 2009; that the per acre yield of 79,706 acres of monsoon paddy was 73.08 baskets; that the region grew various crops

18,942 acres of beans and pulses, 12,083 acres of edible oil crops, 7398 acres of kitchen crops, and 6572 acres of vegetables.

On our tour of Buthidaung Township, we witnessed a large



The thriving 600-acre summer paddy field in Buthidaung Township, Rakhine State.

and long Mayyu mountain range along with a salty river, cultivation of summer paddy, cold season crops and kitchen crops would

monsoon paddy, then cold season crops, and summer paddy on his farm, so it meant he had a six-acre farmland; and that 353 farmers grew crops in 680

explained that the project on completion would be able to generate 75.5 megawatt or 236 million kilowatt hours a year. Due to the project, many local



Potato grows well in Dahbaing Saya Village.

not prove successful in the region. Just as we arrived at the foot of the mountain range, we were greeted by the 200-acre summer paddy field, which was like a huge green carpet.

We also found green and lush plantations of edible oil crops, kitchen crops and hemp. Among the paddy and egg-plant pitches were live canals. Mayyu mountain range is a rocky one and its soil is

acres with the triple-cropping pattern in Letwe-det Byinshei village.

A local farmer said that he had 20 acres of farmlands and conducted a triple-cropping pattern; that the year before, the per acre yield of his summer paddy fields stood at 123 baskets; and that the per acre yield of his summer paddy yield was expected to meet at least 130 basket that year.

The 353 farmers



A thriving groundnut plantation in Letwe-det Byinshei Village-tract in Buthidaung Township.

Agriculture Service said that Buthidaung Township had cultivated 11,228 acres of summer paddy, exceeding the target of 11,178 acres; that some more fields would be put under paddy; that mostly, the farmers chose local species of Yadana Aung paddy strain; that the

through the triple-cropping pattern.

The potato and kitchen crop plantations in Dahbaing Saya village of Dahbaing village-tract were found thriving thanks to the river water pumping project.

Buthidaung Township so far has grown

number of basic foundations the government had built to improve the living standard of local people. And local people led a peaceful life and worked hard for boosting their agricultural production.

Translation: MS
Myanma Alin: 31-3-2009



Freshwater from the Kalapanzin Creek is supplied to summer paddy fields through a large aerial gutter.





Prime Minister General Thein Sein poses for documentary photo along with commander, ministers, deputy ministers, members of central executive committee of UMFCCL and advisers at 18th Annual General Meeting of UMFCCL. — MNA

Cooperation between nations, associations, businesses, ...

(from page 1)

Myanmar witnessed unprecedented natural disaster "Nargis cyclone" in May 2008. Moreover, it had to experience the financial crisis to a certain extent which caused a great impact on global nations since October 2008. Both the volume of export and prices have been on the decline as demand for the goods has become lower. Meantime, there has been a change in the currency exchanges in the nation, thereby resulting in destabilizations. Despite such difficulties and hardships, trade of the nation is making remarkable progress, he added.

Progress made in trade can be attributable to the concerted efforts of farmers and industrialists who are engaged in farming and productions sectors, he said.

Amidst the global financial crisis, the government has taken steps for traders to be able to do their business in a swift and smooth manner by issuing export and import licenses as early as possible and by relaxing procedures.

Relaxation was introduced in the border trade for traders to largely engage in border trade in addition to mercantile trade. And encouragement is being given partial export

in order not to harm goods to be exported, for the demand for goods has been on the decrease.

Memorandums were drawn systematically in the process of bringing about right commodity and right prices after setting up of the purchasing depots in the nation, he disclosed.

Efforts are also being made for the private sectors to widely engage

there is regular operation in cultivation, production and trading in the respective regions will the products be exported smoothly. He pointed out that there should be coordination and cooperation among producers, local merchants and major exporters. He said normally crops produced by farmers in their own ways are purchased from the market and they are exported. Arrangements are under way to provide the farmers with working capital to produce crops of

high quality in cooperation with leading companies, member companies and local merchants. **High quality crops and value-added products can be exported to the international market in the near future, he said.** He urged the entrepreneurs to take part in the efforts to launch the good programme that benefits all the people.

Organic crops grown naturally get high price in the international market. Therefore efforts are to be made for more and more

export of Myanmar organic crops. Most of the cultivable lands in Myanmar are normally organic and there is a better condition for production of organic crops. He spoke of the need to set targets for export of those crops in accord with the standard set accepted in the international market.

He urged the officials to make efforts for export of beans and pulses, rice, long staple cotton, rubber and physic nut as main export items. **The government is building a basic foundation on surplus of food and boosting production of foodstuff and agricultural produce plays an important role in export sector of the State.**

The Prime Minister spoke at length on:

- extended cultivation and production of good quality rice, beans and pulses and other crops,
- establishment of seed companies that will distribute marketable high quality crop seeds,
- building of new rice mills and measures undertaken for improved milling process,
- export of value-added beans and pulses and other crops and
- distribution of cultivation methods and post-harvesting technology.

He said the government has been

building economic infrastructures and giving encouragement to ensure participation of national entrepreneurs. Industrial zones have been established in important regions of the country. The government allows private industrialists to run the State-owned factories and workshops for development of the industrial sector, he continued.

He said Myanmar actively participates in international organizations such as ASEAN, BIMSTEC, GMS and ACMECS and promotes regional and international economic cooperation. Myanmar will join ASEAN Free Trade Area in 2015. Therefore it is necessary to manufacture high quality items in the industrial sector in accord with the standard set.

He urged the officials concerned to make endeavours for seeking new markets, boosting new export items and producing marketable products.

It is to avoid importing substandard goods and improper goods in the time of the global financial crisis, which can hurt public interest, he said, calling for boosting import of quality goods produced with advanced technologies apart from boosting production of import-substitute products for industrial development of the nation.

(See page 9)

The UMFCCL has to mobilize greater participation of its members in the economic activities the government is implementing in cooperation with its partners from the international community.

in export of rice which is an important item of agricultural produce. In the process, seeking of rice market and offering of foreign companies is being carried out through Myanmar embassies abroad while permission is being granted for export of rice to neighbouring though the border, he noted.

Therefore, traders should not be content with doing business with foreign companies and are to strive to be able to export Myanmar goods, deliver goods right down to end users and to actively take part in the task for boosting the export by sending the market seeking groups abroad.

He said only when



Prime Minister General Thein Sein browses documentary photos of UMFCCL displayed at 18th Annual General Meeting of UMFCCL. — MNA



Cooperation between nations, associations, businesses, ...

(from page 8)

The UMFCCI has to mobilize greater participation of its members in the economic activities the government is implementing in cooperation with its partners from the international community, and to get the members to keep in touch with international trade law, rules and regulations, code of conduct, and information about business and trade, he said.

The federation has been a strong one, as it has been able to mobilize 29 product-wise and category-wise associations, 16 state/division associations, and nine border merchants associations, totalling 54 brother associations and 18,333 members, he said, calling for sharpening the ability, business management skills and

innovative calibers of the members in order that they will be able to catch up with international economic changes.

In particular, in the time of the global financial crisis, the federation needs to lay down long-term plans to be able to surmount with nationalistic fervour new challenges, and sanctions intentionally put against the nation, and to safeguard the interest of the nation and the people and national entrepreneurs, he said.

He said that the government is implementing the democratic transition process step by step, as aspired by the people. The elections, the most important step for the future nation, will be held soon. He expressed his belief that the Road Map laid down for emergence of the Union of Myanmar will soon be brought to

fruition with harmonious participation of national entrepreneurs.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister urged the federation and members to preserve their integrity, to participate in the activities with a sense of nationalistic spirit for the economic growth of the nation, and strengthen the federation into a reliable organization with consolidated unity of the members with a natural aptitude for doing business.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein posed for a documentary photo together with the commander, the ministers, the deputy ministers, the president, CEC members, executives and advisers of the federation.

He cordially greeted the attendees.

The Prime Minister and party and guests observed the photos on activities of the federation and brother associations.

MNA



Yangon Command Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint and wife being welcomed by Ambassador of Bangladesh Major General Abu Roshde Rokonuddawla, ndc, psc, at the reception to mark the 38th Anniversary National and Independence Day of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in Yangon on 31st March, 2009.—MNA

Industry-2 Minister receives HMT officials



Minister Vice-Admiral Soe Thein receives Mr. P. Prakash and Mr. I. G Kandaraji of Hindustan Machine Tools (HMT) International Ltd.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 31 March—Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein received Mr. P. Prakash of Hindustan Machine Tools (HMT) International Ltd and Mr.

I.G Kandaraji at the hall of the ministry here this morning.

At the meeting, they discussed matters related to construction of Technical Training school

(Pakokku) to be sponsored by the Republic of India.

He urged them to ensure an advanced technical training school and complete the project by December, 2009.—MNA



Tatmadaw Park and Square in the Parade Ground in Nay Pyi Taw being crowded with visitors on 31 March, 2009.—MNA



U Nyan Lynn presents credentials to ASEAN Secretary-General

NAY PYI TAW, 31 March—Myanmar Permanent Representative to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) U Nyan Lynn, currently Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of

Myanmar to the Republic of Indonesia, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Dr Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary-General of the ASEAN, on 23 March 2009 at the ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta.—MNA

Technical Meeting on Mainstreaming Ageing begins

YANGON, 31 March—The Help Age International organized Technical Meeting on Mainstreaming Ageing at the Park Royal Hotel here this morning.

Deputy Director-General U Aung Tun Khaing of the Social Welfare Department, Resident Representative of the Help Age International Mr Eduardo Klein, Chairperson Professor Dr Myint Myint Khin of the group for supporting elderly physicians, Expert

Ms. Jo Wells, Policy and Programme Advisor on Ageing of UNHCR Ms Susan Erb, and representatives from 20 local and international social organizations on elder care attended the meeting.

Mr Eduardo Klein gave talks on elder care; Deputy Director-General U Aung Tun Khaing, on programmes on national elder care in Myanmar; and Ms Jo Wells, on elder care methods.

The meeting continues tomorrow.

MNA

Boom in trade in 105th Mile Border Trade Zone

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

(from page 16)
Chairman U Tun Min Zaw told the Myanma Alin daily, "Without mentioning Muse 105th Mile Border Trade Zone, I don't think I can tell you about the development of Muse. The zone generated a lot of job opportunities for local people, so they are getting along in their businesses with higher living standard."



**U Aung Thu,
Customs Officer,
Customs
Department, Muse
105th Mile Border
Trade Zone.**

Pansai, Namkham, and Muse were shifted to 105th Mile in Mongyu Village, a strategic place,



**U Than Win, Deputy
Director, Border
Trade Department.**

in 1998; in compliance with the guidance of the Head of State on boosting the volume of Myanmar-China border trade, it was upgraded to a border trade zone with car parks, checkpoints and warehouses; and that on 11 April 2006, it became Muse 105th Mile Border Trade Zone.

He added that the purpose of the zone was to establish a large market in the nation; to export goods

Myanma Economic Bank, and the Myanmar Police Force.

He said, "The annual turnover increased from over 500 million US dollars in 2005-2006 to over 800 million dollars in 2006-2007 and over 900 million dollars in 2007-2008."

He said that thanks to the assistance of the North-East Command and local administrative bodies, and the effective management of the Ministry of Commerce, the zone would meet the targeted



**U Tun Min Zaw,
Chairman of Muse
District Peace and
Development Council.**



Customs officials use special equipment to inspect goods with X-ray.

Deputy Director of the Border Trade Department U Than Win said that Myanmar-China border trade began at Kyugok, Pansai, Namkham, and Muse on 1 December 1988; that to boost trade volume and expedite the commodity flow, the government formed the Border Trade Department, and the border checkpoints in Kyugok,

at handsome prices; to boost foreign exchange income by exporting value-added products; and to systematically transform the border trade into regular trade.

The 105th Mile Border Trade Zone is constituted with the offices of the Border Trade Department, the Internal Revenue Department, the Ministry of Immigration and Population, the

turnover in 2008-2009 like previous years despite the global financial crisis; that the ministry was trying its best to comply with the instructions of the State leaders, and it managed to avoid much border trade deficit by exporting new items and value-added products.

National traders can now export rice through export license after seeking the government's



Trucks loaded with goods from the neighbouring country stand to have goods examined in Muse 105th Mile Border Trade Centre.

permission. So far, tens of thousands of tons of rice have been exported through the border trade. Export of corn has been doubled if compared with over 100,000 tons last year. The Myanmar-China border trade is making a good headway due to the management of the government. This financial year, the trade turnover has touched over 1000 million US dollars. As a result, there has been a large number of job opportunities; regional development tasks are gathering momentum; and local people are in a position to enjoy higher living standard. The taxes and duties on goods to the nation are on the increase. Border areas are now enjoying the taste of progress in the health, education, social and economic sectors in proportion to the development of the border trade.

In the zone, I found the fruit wholesale centre, and the marine products

wholesale centre on the Myanmar side. When 10-wheel and 12-wheel trucks loaded with goods got under the substantial steel stage, traders bought the goods through the competitive bidding.

In interview, Chairman U Sai Maung Nyunt of the Fruit Wholesale Centre said, "We sell our goods at auction. We open our centre at 8 o'clock in the morning. Local and Chinese merchants come and buy goods. This season, watermelon, grape and musk melon are plentiful. We are trying for the convenience of both the sellers and the merchants. On average, 30 to 40 trucks of goods are on trade a day."

Owner of Taw Win Fruit Wholesale Centre U Naing Tun said, "We sell our goods by the ton. Watermelon fetches about 1800 yuns if one ton amounts to about 3000 units, and it fetches only about 1400 to 1500 yuns if one ton amounts to about 4000 units. So, here, I

would like to remind the growers to choose quality species to get good prices. There are 27 fruit wholesale centres in Muse 105th Mile Border Trade Centre."

The development of



**U Sai Maung Nyunt,
Chairman of Muse
105th Mile Fruit
Wholesale Centre.**

the border trade is in fact the results of the government's management, close supervision of the North-East Command and local administrative organs, and stability and peace.

**Translation: MS
Myanma Alin:
30-3-2009**



Check point at the 105th-mile trade zone in Muse.



French workers hold bosses at Caterpillar plant

PARIS, 31 March—Angry French workers facing layoffs at a Caterpillar factory briefly detained four of their bosses Tuesday at the US manufacturer's plant in the Alps to protest job cuts, a regional official said.

It is the third time in the past few weeks that French workers have seized their bosses to protest job losses stemming from the global economic crisis.

Last week, workers at a 3M plant south of Paris held the company boss for two days, and earlier this month workers at a Sony plant held a similar protest.

In a new twist, the mayor of the

small town of Pont-Saint-Esprit in southern France was prevented from leaving city hall by townspeople angry over municipal management amid the economic downturn. Phone calls to the mayor's office went unanswered, but the local police confirmed there was a "crisis."

Workers occupied parts of the Caterpillar plant in Grenoble on Tuesday morning and detained the managers. Police later moved in to clear out the seized areas and the managers were freed, said Chrystele Aubert, chief of communication for the regional government.—Internet



Seven babies sit in tummy tubs filled with water to cool down after a baby massage class held for young mothers in IJmuiden on 24 March, 2009. The "cooling down" segment is to simulate a womb-like environment for the infants to experience the warmth and comfort.—INTERNET

G20 summit to see various proposals to tackle financial crisis

BEIJING, 31 March—On the eve of the G20 summit slated for Thursday in London, major developed and developing countries have come up with a host of proposals for tackling the current financial crisis and economic downturn.

At the summit, participating leaders are expected to seek agreement on what fiscal and monetary measures should be adopted to restore growth, what regulatory changes are needed to make to the financial system, and how to reform such international organizations as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. While the two major economies in the G20 bloc, the US and the European Union (EU) share consensus over the above issues, they differ over which goes first and how to implement the measures.—Internet

Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officer Alisa Boyack (Front) prepares to scan passenger Lynn Strate with a whole body scan machine, or millimeter wave machine as passengers wait in line at a security check point at the Salt Lake International Airport in Salt Lake City, Utah, on 10 March, 2009.—INTERNET



Britain, Mexico seek financial crisis coordination

LONDON, 31 March—Britain and Mexico committed themselves on Monday to coordinating a response with other countries to restore growth, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and Mexican President Felipe Calderon said in a joint statement.

"We commit to a continued effort to ensure a swift and strong recovery, stimulating our economies in the most effective ways possible in coordination with other key economies across the globe," they said after meeting in London. "We recognize that such interventions should promote job creation, protect the interests of taxpayers and savers, and avoid undermining the principles of free trade and open markets." Brown and Calderon said they wanted to see a commitment made by global policy-makers in Washington in November not to raise any new trade barriers reaffirmed and strengthened at the Group of 20 (G-20) summit in London this week.—Internet

Migrant boat sinks off Libya, hundreds feared dead

TRIPOLI (Libya), 31 March—An overcrowded boat packed with migrants capsized in stormy seas off the coast of Libya, killing at least 20 and leaving 200 missing and feared dead four days after the accident, officials said Tuesday.

The boat, which a Libyan police official said had a capacity of just 50, overturned Friday in high winds with about 250 on board. The bodies of six migrants pulled from the water on Sunday, at least three of them women, were laid out among piles of nets and frayed ropes on the deck of one of the fishing boats that took part in rescue efforts.

The boat capsized in 60-degree waters about 30 miles off the Libyan coast on the most heavily traveled route for illegal migrants trying to reach Italy, Laurence Hart, an official of The International Organization for Migration, told *The Associated Press*.—Internet



An Italian Coast Guard boat carrying some would-be immigrants, rescued at sea, reaches the port of the tiny Italian island of Lampedusa in this on 29 March, 2009 photo made available, on 31 March, 2009. Vessels carrying hundreds of migrants capsized off the coast of Libya in separate incidents over the last two days and more than 300 people were believed to have drowned, an international migration group said on Tuesday.—INTERNET



Honda Research Institute president Yasuhisa Arai (L) and Mitsuo Kawato, Japan's ATR computational Neuroscience Laboratories director, stand next to a brain-machine interface, equipped with special headgear to measure slight electrical current and blood flow change occurring in the brain, at Japanese auto giant Honda's headquarters in Tokyo.

INTERNET

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV KOTA RUKUN VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RUKUN VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 1.4.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

GM CEO Rick Wagoner to step down

NEW YORK, 31 March—General Motors Corp Chief Executive Rick Wagoner will resign from the top job at the struggling automaker, a person familiar with the matter said on Sunday, just a day before the US Government makes a key announcement on whether it will extend more aid.

The person, who declined to be identified because the decision has not been made public yet, did not provide further detail. Wagoner came under fire for his stewardship of GM late last year when US lawmakers debated a bailout for the automaker. He had repeatedly said that he intended to stay on, and GM's board has offered unanimous support for him.

A GM spokesman declined comment. GM, which has lost about 82 billion US dollars since 2005, has been kept afloat since the start of the year with 13.4 billion US dollars in emergency loans from the US Treasury. — *MNA/Reuters*

Italy's tunnels mostly dangerous

ROME, 31 March—Italy's tunnels are the most dangerous in Europe, a report released on Monday said.

According to the report by Automobile Club ACI and roads agency ANAS, the result of controls run on 22 Italian tunnels so far showed a "critical scenario", only one of three met safety standards, compared to eight out of ten in the rest of Europe.

The report said 78 percent of Italian tunnels are hazardous compared to 36 percent in other European countries.

Lack of security in the tunnels is mainly attributable to inefficient fire and ventilation systems, badly identified escape tunnels, poorly managed traffic flows, missing traffic lights and ineffective management in case of emergencies.—*Internet*

Yemeni doctor cleared for transfer from Guantanamo

WASHINGTON, 31 March—A Yemeni doctor held as a terrorism suspect at Guantanamo has been cleared for transfer to an unknown country under the Obama Administration's plan to close the prison, the US Justice Department said on Monday. Ayman Saeed Batarfi is the second Guantanamo inmate to be cleared under the case-by-case reviews set up by President Obama in January. About 240 detainees remain at Guantanamo, and some have been held as long as seven years without charges.

"The United States will initiate the appropriate diplomatic process, consistent with the national security and foreign policy interests of the United States, to facilitate (Batarfi's) prompt transfer from Guantanamo Bay to an appropriate destination country," the department said in a court filing. The prison at the US naval base on Guantanamo Bay, Cuba has become a symbol for US abuses in the war on terrorism, launched after the September 11 attacks.—*MNA/Reuters*

Austria adopts fingerprint passports

VIENNA, 31 March—The new version of Austrian passports with chips storing cardholder information including fingerprints will officially come into use on 30 March.

The validity of the new passports will be ten years with the fee of 69.9 euros unchanged and five-working-day issuing time. The issuing process remains the same with the ordinary passports before. According to regulations, Austrians over 12 years old should hold such passports.

When applying for the new passports, Austrians need to provide both index fingerprints, which then will be stored into the chips together with other related personal information. Austrians will need to apply for the new fingerprint passports only when their current passports expire, but no old version will be issued any more.

Austria's Interior Ministry explained that adopting the fingerprint complies with relevant regulations of the European Union. The new version can effectively prevent passport forgery, significantly enhancing the security and credibility of personal identity.—*Internet*

Moderate quake rocks easternmost Indonesia

JAKARTA, 31 March—An earthquake with magnitude of 5.4 struck easternmost of Indonesia on Tuesday, no report of damage or casualty, meteorology agency said here.

The quake jolted at 02:33 Jakarta time (1933 GMT) with epicenter at 141 km manokwari town of West Papua Province and at 40 km in depth, an official of the agency said.

Indonesia homed by over 230 million population is laid on a vulnerable quake-hit zone so called the Pacific Ring of Fire, where two continental plates, stretching from western hemisphere to Japan, meet that cause frequent seismic and volcanic movement. —*Internet*

Ten injured in US firetrucks collision

HOUSTON, 31 March—Ten people, including eight firefighter, were injured after two firetrucks collided and one of them flipped onto a car in Houston, Texas, local media reported on Monday.

The crash occurred at around 11 am when the trucks were on their way to the site of a possible fire, according to newspaper *Houston Chronicle*.

The pumper truck, which was northbound, struck the ladder truck, which was heading east, from the side and the ladder truck rolled onto the front half of a white Infiniti sedan, witnesses said.

A firefighter was thrown from one of the trucks and suffered serious injuries, and an occupant of the sedan also was seriously injured, said District Chief Tommy Dowdy.

All the injured were taken to hospitals, he said.—*MNA/Xinhua*

US report says Online crime surging in recession

BOSTON, 31 March—Fraud on the Internet reported to US authorities increased by 33 per cent last year, rising for the first time in three years, and is surging this year as the recession deepens, federal authorities said on Monday.

Internet fraud losses reported in the United States reached a record high 264.6 million US dollars in 2008, according to a report released on Monday from the Internet

Fraud Complaint Centre, run by the FBI and the National White Collar Crime Centre.

Online scams originating from across the globe—mostly from the United States, Canada, Britain, Nigeria and China—are gathering steam this year with a nearly 50-per-cent increase in complaints reported to US authorities in March alone. "2009 is shaping up to be a very busy year in terms of cyber-crime,"

the report's author, John Kane, told reporters in a telephone briefing.

—*MNA/Reuters*

GAO says Pentagon war spending hits \$685.7b

WASHINGTON, 31 March—Pentagon spending on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and to fight terrorism else-where has reached 685.7 billion US dollars since 2001, a US Government watchdog agency said on Monday.

The Government Accountability Office, or GAO, said the Iraq war accounted for 533.5 billion US dollars in Defence Department spending obligations through last December, while spending

on operations in Afghanistan, the Horn of Africa and the Philippines totalled 124.1 billion US dollars. The remaining 28.1 billion US dollars was for operations to defend the US mainland, the GAO said in a letter to Congress dated 30 March.

The spending total equals about 85 per cent of the 808 billion US dollars that Congress has appropriated for military operations in the global war on terrorism since

the September 11 attacks on New York and Washington, the GAO said. The 122.3-billion-US-dollar difference reflects multiyear contracts for procurement, military construction, research, development and other programmes, the watchdog agency said.

GAO figures show the rise in Pentagon obligations slowing from 40 per cent hikes between 2005 and 2007 to a 33-per-cent increase in 2008. Obligations for 2008 totalled 162.4 billion US dollars. Congress has appropriated 65.9 billion US dollars for 2009 so far and the Obama Administration is seeking another 75.5 billion US dollars, suggesting 141.4 billion US dollars in total appropriations for the year, down from 2008.

—*MNA/Reuters*

Bid to flee delayed flight may land Briton in jail

NEW YORK, 31 March—A British tourist's bid to flee a delayed flight by opening an emergency exit as the plane idled on the tarmac at a New York Airport could earn him a year behind bars on charges of reckless endangerment.

Queens District Attorney Richard Brown said in a statement on Monday that Robert McDonald, 60, of Crescent in Britain, is accused of opening the door on a Delta flight to Las Vegas after it was delayed several hours on Sunday by bad weather. "Apparently, the defendant wanted to get off the plane so he opened the emergency exit door. Fortunately, members of the flight crew were able to stop him before he could fully open the door and deploy the emergency chute," Brown said. McDonald has also been charged with criminal tampering.



Fish oil capsules “no remedy” for heart attack

BEIJING, 31 March—Fish oil pills don’t reduce the risk of heart attack! They don’t make any difference to heart patients, says a German study.

The study, released Monday at an American College of Cardiology conference, tested a 1-gramme daily dose of a prescription version of highly purified omega-3 fatty acid — the “good fat” contained in certain oily fish that is thought to help the heart.

Researchers led by Dr. Jochen Seneges of the University of Heidelberg gave fish oil or dummy

capsules to more than 3,800 people who had suffered a heart attack in the previous two weeks. About 90 percent were already receiving all the medicines recommended to prevent a second attack, including aspirin, anti-clotting and cholesterol drugs.

After a year, it made no difference whether these patients took fish oil or dummy capsules. In both groups, fewer than 2 percent had suffered sudden cardiac death, 4 percent had another heart attack, and fewer than 2 percent had suffered a stroke.

If recent heart attack patients are already getting good care, “there is almost nothing you can do better on top of this” to further lower risk, Seneges said.

The prescription version used in the study, sold as Omacor and Lovaza in the United States and as Zodin in Europe, is a highly purified and standardized form, different from what many consumers buy off the shelf.—*Internet*

China shines at world’s largest audiovisual market

CANNES, 31 March — China is taking a high profile at the 46th MIPTV which opened in this Riviera city Monday, with a delegation comprising more than 40 companies striving to break into the European and American market for television programmes.

MIPTV trade fair, the world’s largest audiovisual market, spotlights China, organizing industry panels, events and private receptions in a “Focus on China” programme on Tuesday, the China Day.

CCTV-CITVC, CTV-Media, Hunan Satellite TV and several excellent independent players including Jiang Toon Animation and Zhejiang

Huace Film and TV, have made up of a powerful Capital TV Drama Producers Association and are jointly participating in MIPTV. Many of these companies will launch new international catalogues at MIPTV, including TV drama “The Legend of Bruce Lee,” documentary “Dun Huang, The Pearl on the Silk Road” and animation “Monkey King.”

“Our major aim at MIPTV is to develop television program exchanges and cooperation with other countries,” Tian Jin, deputy director of the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television (SARFT) said in an interview with MIPTV News.

Internet



Zoo Atlanta’s seven-month old male giant panda cub Xi Lan chews on bamboo in his outdoor habitat for the first time on 30 March, 2009 in Atlanta, Georgia.
INTERNET

New snowstorm hammers northern Plains states

BISMARCK, 31 March—The second major snowstorm to hit the northern Plains in a week dropped more than a foot of snow on Monday, closing hundreds of miles of highway and shutting government offices and schools. At least five deaths were blamed on the storm.

High wind expected from the storm was the biggest worry for flood-weary Fargo on the eastern edge of North Dakota.

The National Weather Service posted blizzard warnings across sections of the Dakotas, Wyoming and Montana. It said more than 16 inches of snow had fallen by early Monday night in the Bismarck area, only about 2 inches away from tying the record 101.06 inches set during the winter of 1996-1997.

“It’s wrapping around. We’ll get a lot more,” weather service meteorologist Len Peterson said in Bismarck. “It’s not moving very fast in any direction.”

Bismarck closed nonessential city offices on Monday and schools were closed there and in nearby Mandan.

Internet



Dave Heinert clears snow that is higher than his snowblower in Dickinson, ND, on 30 March, as city residents dig out from under the second foot of snow the region has received in a week.

INTERNET

4,000 isolated in Australia by flood waters

CANBERRA, 31 March—Australian emergency services said on Tuesday almost 4,000 people are expected to be isolated by rising floodwaters following heavy rain on the New South Wales’s (NSW’s) mid-north coast.

“A band of torrential rain has hit the area now and is expected to clear later tonight, before returning again tomorrow,” Emergency Services Minister Steve Whan told parliament.

Up to 100 State Emergency Service (SES) volunteers were assisting, Whan was quoted by *Australian Associated Press* as said.

Whan said the Bellinger Valley communities of Kalang and Darkwood, both with populations of about 500, have already been cut off.

Bellingen and North Bellingen, which boast a combined population of just under 3,000, are expected to become isolated on Tuesday with rain continuing to fall. The same area was hit by floodwaters only six weeks ago.

Internet

Man killed in Puerto Rico tourist zone

SAN JUAN, 31 March—A 21-year-old man died after being beaten, tied up in public and choked with a belt in a tourist district of Puerto Rico, police said on Monday.

Three men were arrested but authorities were seeking “many more” who apparently either witnessed or took part in the attack, detective Angel Rivera Casillas said. The

other suspects fled before police arrived.

Rivera said several aggressors beat and tied Omar Rodriguez Almodovar in front of witnesses outside a bar, then dragged him into the restroom of the 101 Lounge and choked him with a belt. The motive behind the attack on the Puerto Rican man was unknown, Rivera said.

The killing took place about 2:30 am Saturday in Isla Verde, a beach-side strip in the San Juan suburb of Carolina that has some of Puerto Rico’s top hotels.

Police were called but authorities blamed security guards and bystanders for not doing more to halt the slaying or provide more information to investigators.

Internet

SPORTS

Terrific' Barcelona impress Ferguson

MANCHESTER, 31 March—Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson has highlighted Barcelona as the biggest threat to his side's chances of retaining their Champions League title.

Both sides have managed to avoid one another in the quarter-finals, with United up against Porto and Barcelona facing Bayern Munich, and cannot now meet until the May 27 final in Rome.

Also through to the last eight are United's English rivals Arsenal, Chelsea and Liverpool.

But although Liverpool thrashed United 4-1 in the

Premier League this month and saw off Real Madrid in the last 16 of the Champions League, Ferguson said Barcelona were the team to beat.

Internet



Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson

Van der Vaart denies Chelsea rumours



Real Madrid's Dutch midfielder Rafael Van der Vaart

MADRID, 31 March—Real Madrid's Dutch midfielder Rafael van der Vaart on Monday denied rumours linking him with Chelsea.

"I hear there are rumours

about me wanting to go to Chelsea. But I have never said that. I have not yet decided on my future. I don't know anything about it," he said on his official website.

"At Real Madrid a lot of things are going to happen in the summer. A new president and maybe a new coach. So I'll just wait and see." British press reports have linked the 26-year-old playmaker with a move to Stamford Bridge this summer.

Real signed the Dutch international from Bundesliga side Hamburg last summer in a deal reportedly worth 13 million euros (17 million dollars).—*Internet*

Harvick's pass gets him trucks win at Martinsville

MARTINSVILLE, 31 March—Kevin Harvick passed Kyle Busch with just over nine laps to go and held on through an abbreviated final restart to win the rain-delayed and caution-filled trucks race Monday before a very sparse crowd at Martinsville Speedway.

Busch had led for 139 laps in the Kroger 250 before Harvick got to the inside heading into the third turn and pulled ahead after dueling side-by-side to the flag stand. Harvick's pass came after several laps running his Chevrolet right on the bumper of Busch's Toyota.

After a crash brought out the 13th of 14 cautions, Harvick outran Ron Hornaday Jr. on the restart on lap 249 until another crash allowed him to coast to the victory under a caution. The victory was the fourth for Harvick in 97 starts in the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series.—*Internet*

Messi denies he is the leader of Argentine national team

BUENOS AIRES, 31 March—Lionel Messi said that after Juan Roman Riquelme had resigned to the Argentine soccer national team, he does not feel he is the "leader" of the team, local press said on Monday.

Messi said that he does not feel pressure when wearing No. 10 in this t-shirt, which has been the number used by the best players like Maradona and Riquelme and he said that "the number never can be more important than the way to represent the t-shirt (the team)."

"The important thing is to run and play thinking in the t-shirt more than in the number. I under-



Argentina's Lionel Messi looks at his shot during a World Cup 2010 qualifying soccer match against Venezuela in Buenos Aires on 28 March, 2009.—INTERNET

stand the game of the media, because it happens the same in Barcelona when Ronaldinho left and I was given the (t-shirt) 10," Messi said as quoted on Monday by local daily "La Nacion".—*Internet*

Kaka ready to return to Brazil's starting line-up

RIO DE JANEIRO, 31 March—In his six days with the physical trainers of Brazil's national soccer team, Kaka claimed on Monday that he recuperated faster than in the past five weeks with his Italian team of Milan.

Suffering from a left foot injury, the midfielder has been limited in play with pain and discomfort. However, after Monday's team practice, Kaka says that he is ready to return to the field.

"After today's scrimmage, I proved that I am ready to play. I just don't know how long I can play for. I would love to start the game. I always fight for a starting position. However, Dunga is the only one who will decide that," revealed Kaka.

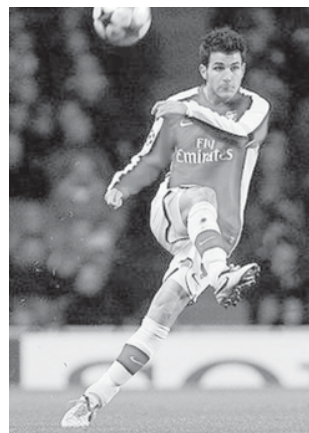
Kaka stayed behind in Brazil while the rest of the national team went to face Ecuador last Sunday.

Internet

Hull lodge Fabregas case with FA

LONDON, 31 March—Hull said Monday they had submitted their case to the Football Association regarding allegations that assistant manager Brian Horton was spat at by Arsenal club captain Cesc Fabregas.

Hull's case relates to



Arsenal club captain Cesc Fabregas

the aftermath of their 2-1 loss to Arsenal at the Emirates Stadium in an FA Cup quarter-final. Tigers manager Phil Brown is adamant he saw Spain midfielder Fabregas - who was out injured and did not play but came on after full-time to celebrate with his team-mates - spit towards Horton in the tunnel.

Brown told Monday's Hull Daily Mail that he had now sent in his evidence to the FA as had Horton and fitness conditioner Sean Rush. "My evidence has gone in, Brian Horton's evidence has gone in and Sean Rush's evidence has as well. That is all that has been necessary as regards to us up to now," Brown said.—*Internet*

Serena moves on, Dementieva out of Miami WTA tennis

WASHINGTON, 31 March—World number one Serena Williams fought to full sets to down China's Zheng Jie 7-5, 5-7 and 6-3 for a quarter-finals spot at the Miami WTA hard court tennis tournament on Monday.

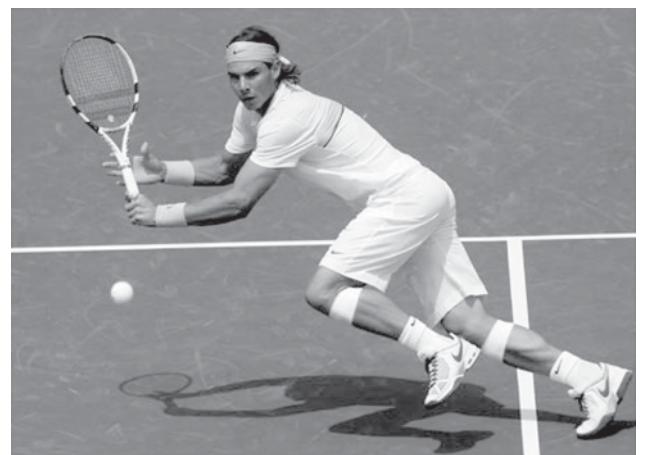
However, Russian fourth seed Elena Dementieva made a surprise exit at the hands of Danish teenager Caroline Wozniacki 7-5, 6-4.

Serena's sister Venus came from a set down to beat Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska 4-6, 6-1 and 6-4, keeping alive the chances of an all-Williams semi-final.

Serena broke Zheng's first two serves to take a 5-0 lead in the first set, but she lost control of the court since then and gave up two serves to level at 5-5, before she won the set with her powerful serve.

Both players again struggled to hold serve in the second set and it was level at 5-5 when Zheng produced another break and held serve to even up the match at one set all. Serena finally found form in the decider to finish off in style with three aces to win the final game to love and claim her place in the last eight.

The 18-year-old Wozniacki came back from a break down in each set to reach her sixth quarter-final of the season.—*Internet*



Rafael Nadal of Spain runs to return a shot to Frederico Gil of Portugal during their match at the Sony Ericsson Open tennis tournament in Key Biscayne, Florida on 30 March, 2009.—XINHUA

Europe's fight for 13 World Cup places heats up

PARIS, 31 March—Europe's fight for 13 World Cup places heats up on Wednesday with seven months to go before the end of qualifying for South Africa 2010.

Nine group winners and four runners up from a two-leg play-off slot into place at the momentous, 32-nation football jamboree from June 11 to July 11 next year, the first finals to be held in Africa.

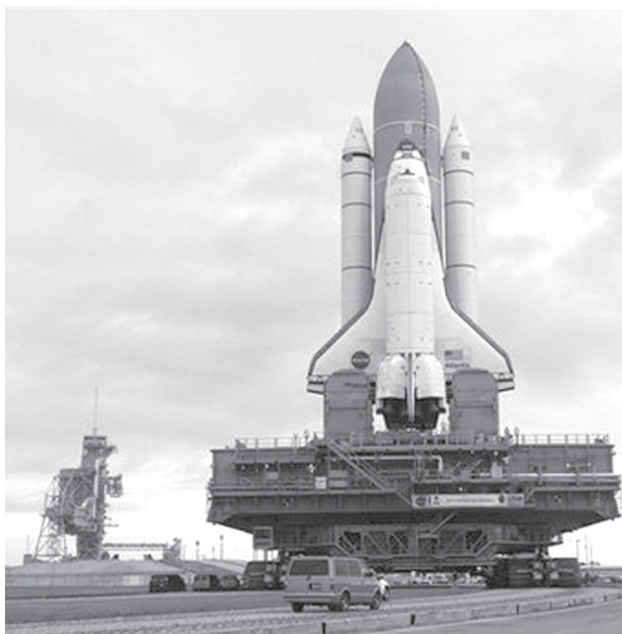
Reigning world champions Italy have a top-of-the-table clash with Republic of Ireland in Bari, 1998 winners France complete a double-header at home to Lithuania and European champions Spain meet Turkey in Istanbul.

England, fresh from their 4-0 friendly thrashing of Slovakia at the weekend, return to World Cup action with another Wembley date against Ukraine. Holland, who impressed on Saturday with a 3-0 win over Scotland in Amsterdam, host Macedonia.

Italian coaching legends Marcello Lippi and Giovanni Trapattoni will be on opposite benches as Italy host Ireland.

Italy lead group eight by two points from Ireland following Saturday's matches in which the world champions won 2-0 in Montenegro and a late own goal from Kevin Kilbane cost the Irish a home win against Bulgaria.

Internet



The space shuttle Atlantis approaches the launch pad after leaving the Vehicle Assembly Building at Kennedy Space Center in Canaveral, Fla on 31 March, 2009. Atlantis is scheduled for launch 12 May on a mission to service the Hubble Space Telescope.—INTERNET

Oil spill spotted in Finnish Baltic

HELSINKI, 31 March—A slick of light fuel oil dozens of miles (kilometres) long has been found in the Baltic archipelago in southwestern Finland, officials said on Monday.

Reijo Salminen, division head of the Finnish Rescue Services, said ship traffic was the likely source given the slick's location in shipping lanes stretching from the harbour of Naantali to the Åland Islands.

"The oil is in the ice, but it has not hit shore yet," Salminen said, adding that the lightness of the oil grade should help once a clean-up begins. He also said sunshine should help to make it evaporate. A spokesman for the coast guard said the service would make a surveillance flight later in the morning to assess the situation.—MNA/Reuters

MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (1.4.2009) (Wednesday)

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

Local Transmission

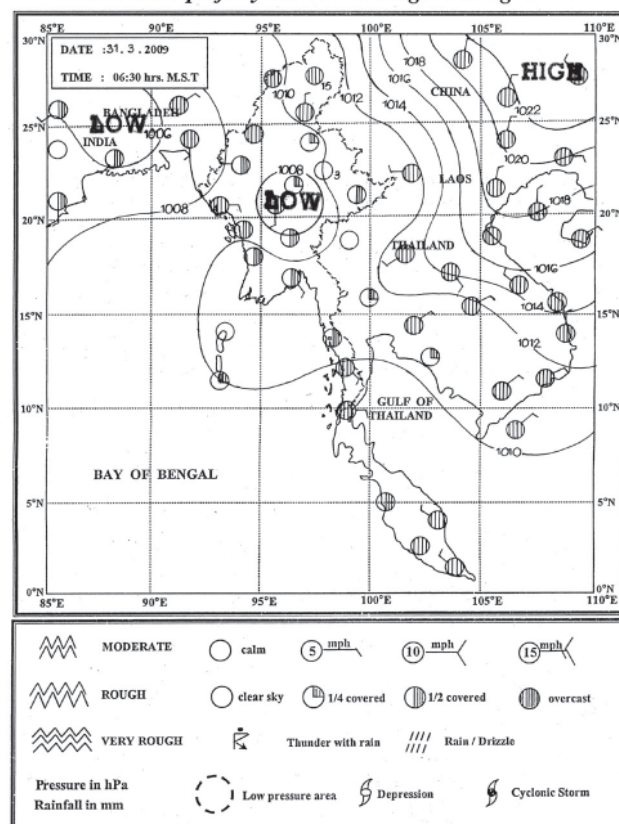
- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- * Blue sea
- * Thingyan Dance
- * Beach Resort of Chaung Tha
- * Fossilized Wood Picture
- * Travelogue (Taunggyi)
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Europe/ North America Transmission

- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- * Lacquer painting workmanship from Sandadaw Pyae Pagoda
- * Jade Art
- * Tea Industry
- * The Origin of Htainmathein
- * Myanma Traditional Musical Instruments (Brass gong) (Maung Saing)
- * Butterfly Garden In Yangon
- * Nipa Palm Forest
- * Seik Khun Hand Loom Industry
- * Myanmar Modern Song
- * Blue Sea
- * Thingyan Dance
- * Beach Resort of Chaung Tha
- * Fossilized Wood Picture
- * Travelogue (Taunggyi)
- * Myanmar's Medicinal Orchid
- * The Fortress City beside the Ayeyawaddy
- * Intricate Art of Silversmith
- * Myanma Paintings of Successive Periods
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Tuesday, 31 March, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin, Shan State, and upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions, weather has been partly cloudy in remaining areas. Day temperatures were (6°C) below March average temperatures in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) below March average temperatures in lower Sagaing Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above March average temperatures in Kayin, Mon States, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and about March average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant Day temperatures was Minbu (41°C). The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Putao (0.63) inch, Machanbaw (0.39) inch and Lashio (0.12) inch.

Maximum temperature on 30-3-2009 was 102°F. Minimum temperature on 31-3-2009 was 70°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 31-3-2009 was 68%. Total sunshine hours on 30-3-2009 was (10.2) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 31-3-2009 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 (5) mph from Southwest at (21:30) hours MST on 30-3-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 1st April 2009: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Kachin, Chin, Shan, Rakhine and Mon States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 1-4-2009: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 1-4-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 1-4-2009: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).



Wednesday, 1 April
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. တေးသရုပ်ဖော်အစီအစဉ်

7:50 am

5. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:00 am

6. Musical programme

8:10 am

7. စက်ဆင်းသစ်ယန္တရားအသစ်များ ဖြင့်မြန်မာ့မီးရထား

8:20 am

8. ခါသင်္ကြန်အဆိုအကများ

8:30 am

9. International news

8:45 am

10. Local talent

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:10 pm

2. Song of national races

4:20 pm

3. နိုင်ငံ့စီးပွားအလေးထားကျေးလက် ထုတ်ကုန်များ

4:30 pm

4. Classical song

4:40 pm

5. ခါသင်္ကြန်အဆိုအကများ

4:50 pm

6. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး

ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ

- ဒုတိယနှစ် (ဓာတုဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ဓါတုဗေဒ)

5:05 pm

7. Songs to uphold National Spirit

5:10 pm

8. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

5:15 pm

9. Musical programme

5:25 pm

10. “ကျန်းမာသန်ထွေးညာဏ်မြှင့်မား” (မင်းရာဇာ၊ မျိုးစန့်ကျော်၊ တက္ကသိုလ်ဝမ်းပုံ) [ဒါရိုက်တာ-ခင်စော် (ကုမုဒြာ)]

5:35 pm

11. ခါသင်္ကြန်အဆိုအကများ

5:45 pm

12. အလှမယ်များတွေ့ဆုံပွဲ

6:00 pm

13. Evening news

6:30 pm

14. Weather report

6:35 pm

15. မြန်မာ့လေ့ရှိရာလက်ဆွေ

6:50 pm

16. ထက်မြက်ပျော်ရွှင်အိမ်ထောင်ရှင်

7:20 pm

17. ရာသီလွင်သရုပ်ဆောင်လွင်ပြင်

7:44 pm

18. ခါသင်္ကြန်အဆိုအကများ

8:00 pm

19. News

20. International news

21. Weather report

22. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “မြူရီးဝေဝေချစ်သက်တည်” (အပိုင်း-၁၁)

23. မြန်မာ့ဗီဒီယိုဇာတ်လမ်း

- “အချစ်ရှိသည်ပွဲစားမလို” (လူမင်း၊ ထက်ထက်မိုးဦး၊ လှိုင်မြူထွန်း) [ဒါရိုက်တာ-စော်စက်]

Shwepyitha Industrial Zone-3 operating in high gear



Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence inspects production process of batteries at Toyo Battery Factory. — MNA

YANGON, 31 March — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence visited Shwepyitha Industrial Zone-3 in Insein Township yesterday and gave instructions to responsible personnel on development of

industrial zones, improvement of technology and boosting the manufacturing of import-substitute items.

During the visit to the factory of Fair Sun Industry Co Ltd in the industrial zone, the director of

the company reported to Lt-Gen Myint Swe on production of machines and pattern for foundry business. After hearing the report, Lt-Gen Myint Swe gave necessary instructions to officials concerned and inspected production

process of the factory.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Myint Swe went to the biscuit factory of Myanbisco Food Industries Co Ltd and gave instructions on production of quality biscuit meeting the set standard.

At Toyo Battery Factory of Provem Technology Industry Co Ltd, Lt-Gen Myint Swe heard reports presented by responsible personnel of the factory on manufacturing various kinds of batteries and export of the items,

and conducted Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party around the factory. On his tour of inspection, Lt-Gen Myint Swe discussed with responsible personnel matters related to boosting production of batteries. — MNA

Four political objectives

- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- * National reconsolidation
- * Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- * Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

- * Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- * Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- * Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- * The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives

- * Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- * Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- * Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- * Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Boom in trade in 105th Mile Border Trade Zone



Chinese merchants purchasing watermelons at auction in Muse 105th Mile Border Trade Zone.

Article:

**Htein Lin
(Myanma Alin);**

Photo:

**Aung Than
(Mingala Taungnyunt)**

On arrival at Muse, I gazed awestruck at the remarkable progress of Muse, a border town, with fine houses, buildings, large hotels, lodging houses, supermarkets, and shops on both sides of the road. The road was found very busy, coping with a heavy traffic the whole day. Muse night bazaar was bustling with shoppers.

When asked about the town, Muse District Peace and Development Council (See page 10)