

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Saturday, 15 March, 2008

### 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

## Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe receives Thai Prime Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe received the visiting Thai delegation led by Mr Samak Sundaravej, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, at Bayintnaung Yeiktha, here, this morning.

Together with Senior General Than Shwe were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Develop-

ment Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann, Prime Minister General Thein Sein, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Director-General of the SPDC Office Col Kyaw

Kyaw Win, Director-General of the Government Office Col Thant Shin and Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand Mr Samak Sundaravej and party were accompanied by Thai Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr Bonsarn Bunnag. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe receives Thai delegation led by Thai Prime Minister Mr Samak Sundaravej in Nay Pyi Taw. —MNA

### If you really favour transition to democratic nation ...

Internal and external anti-government groups, which are criticizing the government's endeavours with negative views, are instigating the people through the interview programmes, Myanmar and international affairs programme and live broadcast programmes of foreign radio stations of the colonialist bloc to oppose the draft of the State Constitution.

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KETU NILAR

**Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.**

## PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 15 March, 2008

### Take fire preventative measures in all seriousness

Outbreaks of fire are common in summer in which the weather is hot and dry. As such, people need to be mindful of the possible outbreaks of fire.

Reviewing the outbreaks of fire, it is found that over 82 per cent of the outbreaks of fire have been due to negligence. Fire causes the loss of property worth hundreds of millions yearly.

As fires usually break out in the months of January, February, March and April, people are to practise a constant vigilance against the possible outbreaks of fire in those periods.

In the meantime, people are to pay more attention to the use of fire as it can bring a great trouble to them.

The outbreaks of fire caused the great loss of lives and property of the people as well as the loss of property and assets of the state. Therefore, flammable materials are needed to be handled with care.

With the growing population and higher living standards the use of electricity and electronic equipment has become high. And great care is needed when using them.

In building such new major buildings as factories, mills, modern shopping centres, etc advice and suggestions should be sought from the Fire Services Department for emergencies.

Well aware of the loss of lives and property of the people caused by fires the entire people are to cooperate with the organizations concerned and property contractors in taking fire preventative measures.

All in all, preventative measures against outbreaks of fires are to be taken in all seriousness. Only then, will the people be free from the dangers of such natural disaster.

### Thazin Naing Trading Co distributes bio-fertilizers

YANGON, 14 March—Thazin Naing Trading Co Ltd as sole agent in Myanmar imports super JKA4, Petchkue, Crown and two diamonds brand bio-fertilizers from Petchnumfah Co Ltd of Thailand and distributes them to the local farmers.

The bio-fertilizers comprise nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, magnesium and sulphur that are essentials for development of the plants. Due to use of bio-fertilizers, the farmers can boost production of paddy on fertile lands.

Super J.K A4, Petchkue, Crown and two diamonds brand bio fertilisers are available at Thazin Naing Trading Co Ltd at Room No 1301, 13th level of Olympic Tower on Bo Aung Kyaw street, Kyauktada Township (Ph-256619, 392534, 245608 and Fax: 392534).—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

### 4th Meeting of 6th 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee commences

YANGON, 14 March — The Fourth Meeting of the Sixth 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee was held at Wizaya Mingala Dhamma



Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Kumara.—MNA

Thabin Hall on Kaba Aye Hill, here, this morning.

Chairman of the SSMNC Magway Maha Withutayama Taikthit Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Kumara presided over the meeting, and Joint-Secretary Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Manitasiribhivamsa acted as MC.

The Chairman Sayadaw delivered an address. Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung supplicated on the religious affairs.

Joint-Secretary Dvipitakadhara Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Nimala submitted the report of the SSMNC (Second Branch). Branch Member Sayadaws also supplicated on respective sectors.

In the afternoon, members of the SSMNC discussed Viniçchaya, religious and Pariyatti affairs.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Adviser U Arnt Maung and departmental heads.

Today, wellwishers U Shein Myint-Thiri Thudhamma Theingi Daw Khin Than Myint and family of No 98 in Saya San Ward of Bahan Township offered 'soon' to members of the Sangha. — MNA



The 4th meeting of the 6th 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee in progress.—MNA

### Sales promotion to be held at Blazon

YANGON, 14 March—Sales promotion for Pre-Water Festival and entertainment programmes will be held in Blazon Department Store from 15 March to 12 April.

In "Buy 3 Items" category, the buyer will receive Gift Voucher valued from K 1,000 to K 60,000 if she buys three designated items of fashion clothes.

The famous Branded Sunglasses will be sold on special discount under the title of "Be Summer Style-Elite".

Under the title of "Let Your Beauty Shine", sales will be held from 21 to 31 March and the famous cosmetics of Kanebo, Pupa, Shiseido, Za&Whitia, Revlon, L'oreal and Maybelline will be available on special discount.

Mr & Ms Thingyan Kids Model Contest for aged 4 to 9 will be held on 6 April. Children wishing to participate in the contest may register in Blazon from 15 March to 1 April.

For the Water Festival, "Lolane Hair Color Demonstration Workshop 2008, Korea Hair Style" Hair Show, organized by Blazon and sponsored by Lolane Hair Products, will be held at Blazon Department Store from 7 to 12 March.

Various items of food and goods will be sold with special price in the sales promotion during the Water Festival.

These programmes will be held at Blazons in Yangon and Mandalay. Blazon Department Store will remain open on 12 and 17 April.

MNA

# NATO allies undecided on missile shield plan

BRUSSELS, 14 March— NATO will delay a decision on whether to commission a missile shield to protect those parts of Europe not covered by a planned US system because major issues remain open, an alliance official said on Wednesday.

NATO allies Greece, Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey will not be fully covered by a proposed US shield in East Europe to counter missile threats from what Washington

calls “rogue states” such as Iran and North Korea.

The United States had originally sought a decision by an alliance summit in Bucharest next month on whether to go ahead with a NATO “bolt-on” shield to cover those countries, but a number of allies are sceptical about the plan. “I don’t think we are going to see a decision there. I don’t see any nation pushing for a decision on an actual procurement programme,” NATO Assistant Secre-

tary-General for Defence Investment Division Peter Flory told a news briefing.

“The questions tend to be: How much would this cost? How effective would it be? Where would it fit in with a broader concept of how you would deal with weapons of mass destruction?” While insisting that Russia—which opposes the US plan—had no say in the final decision on a NATO shield, Flory said: “It is clearly an element in our discussion.”

MNA/Reuters



Palestinians survey the damage in a house after an Israeli army raid in Seida village, near the West Bank town of Tulkarm, on 12 March, 2008.—INTERNET

## US voters say they are worse off than 2004

WASHINGTON, 14 March—A plurality of US voters heading into the November presidential election said they are worse off than they were four years ago, according to an NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll released on Wednesday.

NBC reported that this was the first time since 1992 that a majority of voters answered “no” when asked “Are you better off now than you were four years ago?” Forty-three per cent of respondents said they were worse off, compared with 34 per cent who said they were better

off and 21 per cent who said their status was the same, NBC reported.

By contrast, strong pluralities or majorities said that they were better off before entering the general elections in 1996, 2000 and 2004, NBC said.

But Democrats, who are trying to take back the White House after eight years of George W Bush’s presidency, remain divided over who they want to take on presumptive Republican nominee Senator John McCain in the 4 November general election, NBC said.

MNA/Reuters

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## Wounded East Timor President names gunman

CANBERRA, 14 March—East Timor President Jose Ramos-Horta, critically wounded in an assassination attempt in February, has named the gunman who shot and nearly killed him, an Australian newspaper reported on Thursday.

Ramos-Horta, 58, named Marcelo Caetano, one of 600 rebel soldiers sacked after going on strike in 2006, as the gunman who shot him outside the gates of his villa near the capital Dili, the *Age* newspaper said, quoting Ramos-Horta’s brother Arsenio.

“The President recognized him. This man must be brought to justice,” Arsenio Ramos-Horta told the paper. Rebels ambushed Ramos-Horta during an early morning walk on 11 February, and also mounted a separate failed attack on Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao. Ramos-Horta was shot several times in the attack in which rebel leader Alfredo Reinado was killed—MNA/Reuters

## Spokesman says US HR Report on Vietnam false

HANOI, 14 March — The US State Department’s Human Rights Report 2007 was based on false and prejudiced information about Vietnam, local newspaper *Vietnam News* Friday quoted a spokesman of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry as saying.

It was regrettable that it had again failed to make objective observations about the real situation in the country, spokesman of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry Le Dung said.

Vietnam has made great strides in ensuring and developing freedom of its citizens and the achievements have been recognized and highly appreciated by international community, he said.

Vietnam respects the rights of all citizens to freedom and democracy, he said, noting that like other countries, it is unacceptable to exploit the rights to violate the law. Dung said it is normal that Vietnam and the United States have differences on human rights issues. He has called for an increased exchange and dialogue based on equality between the two countries without interfering in internal affairs of each other.—MNA/Xinhua

## Cambodia rejects US human rights assessment

PHNOM PENH, 14 March — Cambodia has dismissed a US report on the country’s human rights record, saying that the annual report to the US Congress entirely contradicts the true reality in the country, the *Cambodia Daily* newspaper reported Friday.

The Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued a statement in response of the US report, saying “we have found that many of the accusations contained in this report do not even exist or are simply over exaggerated”.

“We certainly recognize that human rights in Cambodia are not perfect. But is there any perfect human rights situation anywhere in the world?” the statement said, adding that the report relied too heavily on the views of anti-government NGOs (Non-Government Organizations) and appeared timed to coincide with the national election.—MNA/Xinhua

## Armenian leader pledges to soften emergency rule

YEREVAN, 14 March—Armenian President Robert Kocharyan pledged on Wednesday to ease a state of emergency which he imposed earlier this month after opposition protests led

to violent clashes with police. Kocharyan also warned the opposition not to stage any new protests while political tension remained high. “Tonight or tomorrow morning I will

sign a decree which will change the interpretation (of emergency rule),” Kocharyan told reporters. He said he would ease some of the restrictions on media coverage.—MNA/Reuters

*An Iraqi boy reacts in pain after he was wounded in a roadside bomb blast that targeted an American military patrol, at a hospital in Baghdad, on 13 March, 2008.*

INTERNET



## France’s last WWI veteran dies at 110

PARIS, 14 March—France’s last surviving veteran of World War One, an Italian immigrant who fought in the trenches with the Foreign Legion, has died at the age of 110, the president’s office said on Wednesday.

MNA/Reuters

## US anti-war protesters chant "war criminal" at Rice

WASHINGTON, 13 March — Chanting "war criminal," anti-war protesters waved blood-coloured hands at US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on Wednesday, but police held them back as she left a Capitol Hill hearing room.

Earlier, Republicans had complained about the distraction from the group as they held up signs saying "Condi Kills Kids" during the hearing on the State Department budget.

But the chairman of the House of Representatives committee, a New York Democrat declined to eject the protesters.

"We're here in the United States of America. And as long as they don't disrupt this proceeding and as long as

they're silent, they will be welcome," said Representative Nita Lowey, who runs the subcommittee overseeing State Department appropriations.

"But they may not stand and they may not disrupt the proceedings."

They demonstrators, between 15 and 20 members of the Code Pink organization often seen at congressional hearings on Iraq, included one woman who was arrested last autumn for waving blood-coloured hands in Rice's face.

The protesters wore pink T-shirts splattered with red, as well as pink scarves and pink artificial flowers braided into their hair. There were occasional outbursts from the group.

MNA/Reuters



Protesters hold up their mock bloody hands as US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice (front) testifies about the International Affairs Budget in front of the House State, Foreign Operations and Related Programmes Subcommittee on Capitol Hill in Washington, on 12 March, 2008. —XINHUA

## ASEAN scholars say China not a threat

BEIJING, 14 March — Scholars from the Association of the South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) said on Thursday that China was not a threat to its 10-member countries and appreciated China's foreign and defence policies.

"China threat is not really a hard, physical, reality-based assessment," said Bernard Loo, Nanyang Technological University assistant professor, at a dialogue between senior defence scholars from China and ASEAN countries that opened here on Wednesday.

"China has been much involved in the world economy and world globalization. If there would be a war, the process will be jeopardized. In that respect, I don't really think China is a threat to the region," said the Singaporean.

He said China's diplomacy had been a success, and the country was now prepared to deal with ASEAN as a whole, and continued to deal with individual countries on a bilateral basis.

Loo noted China ranked first in a survey in terms of trustworthiness in Southeast Asia. The country was becoming more confident and more countries felt more comfortable in dealing with it. — MNA/Xinhua

## B'desh Govt terms US HR report disappointing

DHAKA, 14 March — Bangladesh Government Thursday termed the US State Department's human rights practices report-2007 on Bangladesh disappointing for its "lack of balance" in presenting the country's ground realities, private news agency UNB reported Thursday.

The state department report released in Washington Tuesday said the Bangladesh caretaker government's human rights record worsened, in part due to the state of emergency and postponement of elections.

Reacting to the report, Bangladeshi Foreign Ministry said Bangladesh is committed to upholding human rights of all its citizens in accordance with its constitutional obligations.

A spokesman for the ministry noted that all, including the international community, know the circumstances which led to the declaration of state of emergency early January 2007. "It is understood that during the State of Emergency, some fundamental rights remain suspended. However, the government is extremely careful in enforcing such provisions so that the fundamental rights are not infringed," the spokesman said.

The spokesman also said that the government is disappointed at the report's lack of balance as it failed to mention the significant reform measures taken by the caretaker government for consolidating and sustaining democracy.

MNA/Xinhua



A bulldozer removes a car wreck at the site where a car bomb exploded and killed at least 18 people in central Baghdad, Iraq, on 13 March, 2008. The car bomb exploded in a popular commercial area wounded at least 54 people. —INTERENT

## US soldiers accidentally kill Iraqi child

BAGHDAD, 14 March — US soldiers accidentally shot and killed a child on Wednesday in Iraq's Diyala Province, the US military said on Thursday.

The killing of Iraqi civilians has long put a strain on relations between Baghdad and Washington, who this week began talks on future relations and the presence of US troops after the current UN mandate expires at the end of this

year. The military said soldiers were operating in an area where roadside bombs had been found recently in ethnically and religiously mixed Diyala, one of four northern provinces where US and Iraqi have launched a series of operations this year.

The soldiers fired a warning shot into a sand berm after they found a "suspicious woman who appeared to be signalling to

someone".

The military said a young girl was found on the other side of the berm suffering from a gunshot wound. Soldiers treated the girl and called for emergency help but she died on the way to a military hospital. They said the incident was under investigation but no other details about the girl or the exact location were available.

MNA/Reuters

## Iraqis bury 10 after blast US says killed no one

BAGHDAD, 14 March — It was an incident that aptly summed up the fog of war in Iraq — relatives burying nine women and a child they said were victims of a bomb attack on a bus in which the US military said no one died.

In Iraq, acts of violence are almost always accompanied by multiple accounts from witnesses, police, health officials and US forces. But even by Iraqi

standards Tuesday's attack on a bus full of mourners was a puzzle.

The US military said in a statement on Wednesday the bus was hit by an explosively formed penetrator, a particularly deadly type of roadside bomb normally used against US armoured vehicles. A nearby US convoy was also caught in the blast.

"Operational reports

confirm one US soldier and one civilian were wounded in the convoy," the military said in a statement that came after a day of conflicting casualty reports.

A spokesman for British military forces in the nearby southern city of Basra, Major Tom Holloway, said he was still trying to work out the number of casualties after police initially reported 16 people being killed. —MNA/Reuters

# China, Russia to further enhance strategic cooperation

BEIJING, 13 March—China and Russia are ready to further enhance their strategic partnership of cooperation, Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi said here on Wednesday.

“China-Russia relations are in good shape,” Yang said in response to a question raised by a Russian journalist at a Press conference on the

sidelines of the annual parliamentary session. He voiced China’s “warm congratulations” for Russia’s President-elect Dmitry Medvedev, and the country’s high appreciation for outgoing President Vladimir Putin for his great contributions to Sino-Russian relations over the years.

The two countries, in

the second decade of their strategic partnership of cooperation, have agreed to push forward bilateral ties in the spirit of the Sino-Russian Good-Neighbourly Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation. “We’re confident of the prospects of our relations,” said Yang.

He said China and Russia will further boost high-level contacts and exchanges, enhance support for each other, particularly on issues concerning each other’s core interests, expand trade and economic cooperation, and enhance cooperation on international and regional affairs so as to further boost world peace and development.

Xinhua



**A Hong Kong student receives temperature check as authorities order primary and kindergarten students to stay home amid recent outbreaks of the flu.**  
INTERNET

## Jia Qinglin reelected chairman of China’s CPPCC

BEIJING, 14 March — Jia Qinglin was reelected chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), the top political advisory body, here on Thursday afternoon, starting a new term of five years.

A total of 25 vice-chairpersons, a secretary-general and 298 Standing Committee members of the 11th CPPCC National Committee were also elected at the fourth plenary meeting of the First Session of the 11th CPPCC National Committee.

The 11th CPPCC National Committee has 2,236 members, and 2,178 attended Thursday’s plenary meeting.

Fifty-four ballot examiners checked 23 ballot boxes before the voting, which started at 3:45 p.m. and lasted about half an hour.

Among the newly elected chairman and vice-chairpersons, 13 people are members of non-Communist parties and the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce, or personages without party affiliation, while five are from ethnic minorities and four are women. — Xinhua

### All items from Xinhua News Agency

## FM says China is one of safest places in world

BEIJING, 13 March—China is one of the safest places in the world, said Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi Wednesday morning at a Press conference

on the sidelines of the annual parliamentary session. “If you don’t believe it, you can ask your ambassador in China, or any ambassadors from Western countries. Do they feel safer in China or elsewhere?” Yang said when answering a question raised by a British journalist.

The question came following reports about a foiled attack on a passenger plane of the China Southern Airlines on 7 March. Some passengers were caught carrying “suspicious liquid” on board the CZ6901 flight, destined to Beijing from Urumqi, capital of the northwestern Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. —Xinhua

Xinhua

## Four killed in Mississippi shooting

WASHINGTON, 13 March—A man shot dead his ex-wife and two other people before committing suicide in McComb, Mississippi on Wednesday.

Witnesses said the man walked into the Regions Bank on Main Street where his ex-wife worked, and opened fire. He killed a customer and an employee there and then took his ex-wife away with him.

The woman’s body was later found on a highway a few kilometres from the bank. The shooter apparently shot himself and crashed his vehicle at another location. He finally died in a hospital.

McComb Police Chief Billie Hughes described the incident as a domestic dispute. None of victims nor the killer have been identified.—Xinhua

## French Army helicopter crashes in Ivory Coast

ABIDJAN (Ivory Coast), 13 March—A French Army helicopter crashed near the central city of Bouake in Ivory Coast, with both crew members escaping unhurt, the army said in a statement Monday.

“About 13:45 local time (GMT), a *Gazelle* helicopter belonging to the French Licorne Force crashed above a dam some kilometres south of Bouake,” the statement from the Licorne base in Ivory Coast said. An error of the pilot was indicated as the possible cause of the accident. —Xinhua

## Russians prefer Clinton to Obama to be US President

Moscow, 13 March—Who in the United States presidential race will get a vote from a Russian? Most probably Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York rather than Senator Barack Obama of Illinois, a latest poll shows.

Of the 1,600 respondents to the poll carried out in mid-February by the All-Russian Public Opinion Research Centre (VTsIOM), 19 per cent said they would vote for Clinton but only 4 per cent for Obama and 1 per cent would vote for a different candidate if they could.

In the poll conducted in 135 Russian regions, 19 per cent of respondents believe that it will be better for Russia’s national interests if a Democratic candidate wins the elections, while 4 per cent prefer a Republican candidate, *Interfax* news agency reported on Wednesday.—Xinhua

## Japan, Russia agree to talks over disputed territories

TOKYO, 13 March—Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda and Russian President-elect Dmitry Medvedev agreed on Tuesday over telephone to continue bilateral summit talks over a territorial dispute for the conclusion of a peace treaty. During the 10-minute talk later in the day, Fukuda expressed his willingness to cooperate with the Russian side to seek concrete progress in

resolving the territorial dispute and to lift the Japan-Russia relationship to a higher level, Japanese media reported.

For his part, Medvedev said Russia is ready to continue talks with Japan on the difficult territorial issue. He also pledged to fully cooperate with the Japanese government for the success of the Group

of Eight summit slated for July in northern Japan’s Hokkaido Prefecture.

Territorial dispute over the four islands off Hokkaido, namely, Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan and Habomai, has been a long-standing block in the development of ties between Japan and Russia.

Xinhua



**Photo taken on 13 March, 2008 shows a giant silk embroidery artwork in Suzhou of east China’s Jiangsu Province. —XINHUA**



Museum contractors prepare the artwork "Surrounding David", by Indonesian artist Titurabi, for display at the National Museum in Singapore on 12 March, 2008.—XINHUA

## Philippines Govt debt down 3.6% in 2007

MANILA, 14 March—The Philippines' Government debt fell to 3.712 trillion pesos (90.31 billion US dollars) at the end of December 2007, down 3.6 per cent from the previous year, the country's Bureau of Treasury said on Wednesday.

Total debt shrank 1.0 per cent from November, as the peso's appreciation against the greenback helped trim debt by 46 billion pesos (1.12 billion dollars), the Bureau of Treasury said in a Press release, adding that the gain of other currencies against the dollar also brought down government debt by 13 billion pesos (316 million dollars).

Of the total outstanding debt, 1.511 trillion pesos (36.76 billion dollars), or 41 per cent, is owed to foreign creditors and 2.201 trillion pesos (53.55 billion dollars), or 59 per cent, to domestic creditors.

The peso gained nearly 19 per cent against the US dollar in 2007 to become Asia's best performing currency, supported by strong foreign exchange inflows that included last year's record 14.4 billion dollars in remittances from overseas Filipino workers.

The Philippine Government is aiming for a balanced budget this year following a decade of deficits that had led to a bloated public debt. The Philippines registered a budget deficit of 9.4 billion peso (about 230 million dollars) in 2007, the lowest in 10 years.—MNA/Xinhua

## Google wins EU approval to buy DoubleClick

BRUSSELS, 13 March—The Internet search engine giant Google won Tuesday approval from the European Union (EU) to buy US online advertising firm DoubleClick for 3.1 billion US dollars.

"The transaction would be unlikely to have harmful effects on consumers, either in ad serving or in intermediation in online advertising markets," the European Commission, the EU's antitrust watchdog, said in a statement after concluding an in-depth investigation into the deal. Google operates an Internet search engine that offers search capabilities for end users free of charge and provides online advertising space on its own websites. It also provides intermediation services to publishers and advertisers for the sale of online advertising space on partner websites through its network "AdSense".

DoubleClick mainly sells ad serving, management and reporting technology worldwide to website publishers and to advertisers and agencies. Such technology allows Internet publishers and advertisers to ensure that advertisements are posted on the relevant websites and to report on the performance of such advertisements.

The Commission said its in-depth market investigation found that Google and DoubleClick were not exerting major competitive constraints on each other's activities and could, therefore, not be considered as competitors at the moment.—MNA/Xinhua

## EU calls for clarification of Gazprom-Ukraine ties

BRUSSELS, 13 March—European Union governments called on Tuesday for Ukraine and Russian natural gas monopoly Gazprom to clarify their relations after a recent spat over debts cut energy supplies to the former Soviet republics.

Gas experts from the EU's 27 nations also said the gas cuts to Ukraine—which threatened supplies to the EU—strengthened the case for the bloc to improve coordination of its energy policies.

"The group underlined the importance and the necessity of urgent clarification of relations between Gazprom and Ukraine as far as domestic Ukrainian gas consumption and gas transit towards the EU is concerned," it said.

MNA/Reuters

## Tourists say London is dirty and expensive

LONDON, 14 March — London is the most expensive and dirtiest European city to visit, but is the best for parks and parties, a traveller survey said on Wednesday. Despite the British capital's poor ranking for cleanliness and value for money, it is still the most favoured destination for travellers visiting Europe, TripAdvisor said.

Paris and Rome were also seen as costly and dirty.

London, though, had the best nightlife and was the second-most favoured place for shopping behind Paris, the survey said.

Paris, unsurprisingly, ranked as the most romantic with French cuisine regarded the best.

"It may be considered expensive but it seems that London's still the best for travellers and the canny ones will always find good value," said TripAdvisor spokesman Ian Rumgay.

MNA/Reuters

## UAE national airline to increase flights in summer

ABU DHABI, 14 March—Etihad Airways, the national carrier of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), will increase its weekly flights to 728 with a new summer flying programme starting from 30 March, local newspaper *Gulf News* reported on Tuesday.

With the new summer programme, Etihad's weekly flights will pose an increase of 47 per cent from 494 in the same period of 2007, according to the report. On 30 March, the airline will launch a new non-stop service linking its hub city Abu Dhabi and the Chinese capital Beijing, adding four flights a week to its summer schedule.

"In addition to the new Beijing service, Etihad will offer travellers from around the world significantly improved connection opportunities through our Abu Dhabi home base as we continue to add breadth, depth and additional frequency to the airline's expanding global route network," the airline's CEO James Hogan said.—MNA/Xinhua

## Singapore Airlines to fly "A380" to Tokyo from 20 May

SINGAPORE, 14 March—Singapore Airlines will fly Airbus A380 on Singapore-Tokyo route from 20 May, making Tokyo the third commercial destination for the world's largest passenger jet from the country, the carrier said on Wednesday.

The carrier will start with a specially scheduled first flight to coincide with Tokyo Narita Airport's 30th anniversary celebrations. Thereafter, it will commence daily return flights to Narita on the A380.

SIA, Singapore's flag airline, is the world's first airline to fly A380, which

launched commercial service between Singapore and Sydney on 25 October last year.

The carrier said earlier on Wednesday that it has taken delivery of its third

A380, which will start flying to London on 18 March.

The Airline said it has firm orders for another 16 A380s and options on six more.—MNA/Xinhua

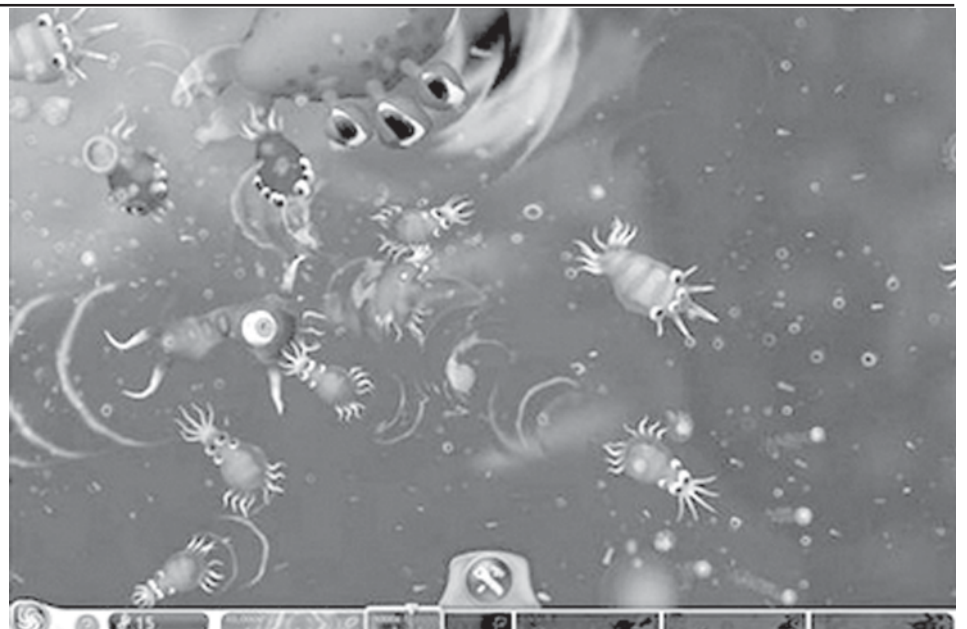
## Crude oil prices hit \$110

NEW YORK, 14 March—Crude oil prices reached a record high of over 110 US dollars Wednesday on the weakening dollar.

Light, sweet crude for April delivery rose 1.17 US dollars to 109.92 US dollars a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange after rising to a new trading high of 110.2 US dollars.

The dollar weakened throughout the day Wednesday, setting a number of new low marks against the euro and attracting new buyers to the oil market.

The Energy Department's Energy Information Administration said crude supplies jumped by 6.2 million barrels last week.—MNA/Reuters



This photo released by Electronic Arts shows 'Spore,' which is one of the first big games announced for Apple's iPhone. The video game maker EA said on 13 March that it has launched a hostile \$2 billion tender offer for rival Take-Two Interactive Software Inc.—INTERNET

# If you really favour transition to democratic nation ...

*Ketu Nilar*

**The government and the entire people are now working together to translate the State's seven-step Road Map into reality. In this regard, the Commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution has been formed to undergo transition to democracy. In addition, Referendum Holding Law has been issued. Now, sub-commissions are being formed at division, district, township, ward and village levels that will carry out the tasks in accordance with the law.**

However, internal and external anti-government groups, which are criticizing the government's endeavours with negative views, are instigating the people through the interview programmes, Myanmar and international affairs programme and live broadcast programmes of foreign radio stations of the colonialist bloc to oppose the draft of the State Constitution.

At the start of the National Convention, NLD representatives under the leadership of Chairman U Aung Shwe took part in the discussions. All the NLD representatives and representatives-elect attended the National Convention and participated in the proceedings till the 104 fundamental principles were laid down. The entire people warmly welcomed those good conditions. They were looking forward to the dawn of the nation's future democratic practice.

On 10 July 1995, the government lifted the restrictions on Daw Suu Kyi, who was said to have been expelled from NLD. The following day, Daw Suu Kyi held a press conference and asked which way the government would choose—a dialogue or utter devastation. She expressed her disagreement with the attendance of Chairman U Aung Shwe and party at the National Convention. On 22 November 1995, NLD with the negative attitude issued an announcement designed to attack the number of NC delegates and procedures laid down by the NC delegates including its representatives along with the discussions. Furthermore, it informed by letter that it would no longer attend the National Convention, thus diminishing the nation's democracy hopes.

Under the NLD Central Executive Committee's prior decisions and stances, the NLD representatives left the National Convention in compliance with the wish of Daw Suu Kyi, ex-General Secretary of NLD.

It became questionable whether NLD favoured democracy, and whether NLD was a pocket organization under the influence of a particular person.

Anyhow, the government resumed the National Convention, which had been adjourned temporarily, on 17 May 2007, giving priority to the interests of the nation, rather than that of a particular party. The government showed its magnanimity by inviting NLD to the National Convention. NLD accepted the invitation. Nevertheless, when the National Convention was drawing near, it replied that it would not attend the National Convention. The parties under the influence of NLD such as the Shan National League for Democracy and the Shan State Kokang Democratic Party also failed to attend the National Convention. In spite of NLD showing its unscrupulous motives, the government resumed the National Convention with 1086 delegates including representatives from other political parties, and representatives-elect. Now, the National Convention has been convened successfully, and the State Constitution has been drafted based on the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles the National Convention had adopted. The government has announced that the draft will be approved through a referendum due to be held in coming May, and multi-party democracy general elections, in 2010.

**All the political parties and politicians are under the national duty of helping the nation stand firmly on the democratic trend that can serve the national interests. Democratic foundations are to be built in line with the fine traditions in the nation's geographical, economic and cultural fields. Today, it has become apparent that the process of directly copying alien democracy has been followed by several undesirable consequences such as the collapse of the nation, racial conflicts, terrorist acts, loss of innocent civilians, and unavoidable reliance on the assistance of neo-colonialists with incapability of improving the State's economy despite rich natural resources. Now, the entire people have realized that it is imprudent to directly copy the democracy that is not in conformity with the traditions of the motherland.**

The draft of the State Constitution that is going to be approved with the unanimously by the entire people is intended to serve the interests of the

**Now, saboteurs at home and abroad are resorting to various means to disrupt the upcoming referendum, and provoking the people into voting against the draft constitution if the processes of holding the referendum go on. Here, they should visualize what will happen if the people vote against the draft. Whatever it may be, the government will keep on shouldering the national duty on the basis of forthcoming situations, while carrying out nation-building duties.**

State and national races, and it guarantees democratic rights of national races more than the previous ones.

Holding self-opinionated attitude, NLD indirectly failed to shoulder the national duty of drawing a constitution. Instead, it is putting all the blame on and making unjust accusations against the government. I do not think there are the acts of a prestigious party. Now, saboteurs at home and abroad inclusive of local members of NLD are resorting to various means to disrupt the upcoming referendum, and provoking the people into voting against the draft constitution if the processes of holding the referendum go on. Here, they should visualize what will happen if the people vote against the draft. Whatever it may be, the government will keep on shouldering the national duty on the basis of forthcoming situations, while carrying out nation-building duties.

An ex-anti-government group issued an announcement on 21 February 2008, saying that it welcomed Announcement No 1/2008 of the State Peace and Development Council; that through the announcement, the Tatmadaw government will appoint the public as the judge who will make decisions on the national affairs; that the groups in disguise of democracy forces that disregard the desire of the people, are unwilling to recognize the people's convictions, and that give major priorities to their self-interests are trying to devastate the referendum; and that it strongly denounced their attacks on Announcement No 1/2008 of the State Peace and Development Council as the attacks were tarnishing the role of the people.

**The forthcoming democratic trend is going to serve the public interests. I would like to say that if the entire people really favour the emergence of a democratic nation, they have no other choice, but to participate in the process of building a discipline-flourishing democratic nation by approving the draft of the State Constitution at the forthcoming referendum.**

Translation: MS

Myanma Alin, Kyemon: 14-3-2008

**All the political parties and politicians are under the national duty of helping the nation stand firmly on the democratic trend that can serve the national interests. Democratic foundations are to be built in line with the fine traditions in the nation's geographical, economic and cultural fields. Today, it has become apparent that the process of directly copying alien democracy has been followed by several undesirable consequences such as the collapse of the nation, racial conflicts, terrorist acts, loss of innocent civilians, and unavoidable reliance on the assistance of neo-colonialists with incapability of improving the State's economy despite rich natural resources.**

**Documentary photos on visit of Thai Prime Minister**

**Senior General Than Shwe receives Thai Prime Minister**

**Prime Minister General Thein Sein welcomes Thai counterpart**

*Senior General Than Shwe welcomes Thai Prime Minister Mr Samak Sundaravej in Nay Pyi Taw. (News on page 1)—MNA*



*Prime Minister General Thein Sein and Thai Prime Minister Mr Samak Sundaravej inspect the Guard of Honour at Nay Pyi Taw Airport. (News on page 16) — MNA*



*Prime Minister General Thein Sein and Thai Prime Minister Mr Samak Sundaravej take the salute of the Guard of Honour at Nay Pyi Taw Airport. (News on Page 16)— MNA*

**Prime Minister General Thein Sein hosts luncheon in honour of Thai delegation**



*Prime Minister General Thein Sein hosts luncheon in honour of Thai delegation led by Thai Prime Minister Mr Samak Sundaravej in Nay Pyi Taw. —MNA*

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein hosted luncheon in honour of the Thai delegation led by Mr Samak Sundaravej, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, at Nay Pyi Taw City Hall at 2 pm today.

Also present at the luncheon were ministers, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw City Development Committee Mayor Col Thein Nyunt, deputy ministers, directors-general of the State Peace and Development Council Office and the Government Office, departmental heads, Thai Ambassador Mr Bonsarn Bunnag and officials concerned.

The State Band played national anthems of the two countries before the luncheon.

Before and during the luncheon, the artistes of the Fine Arts Department under the Ministry of Culture entertained the guests with Myanmar traditional songs.

Afterwards, Thai Prime Minister Mr Samak Sundaravej presented a flower basket to the artistes.

MNA



# Prime Minister General Thein Sein bids farewell to Thai Prime Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein bade farewell to the Thai delegation led by Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand Mr Samak Sundaravej before their departure for Yangon at Nay Pyi Taw Airport, here, at 4 pm today.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein and the Thai Prime Minister and party arrived at the airport by car.

At the lounge of the airport, Prime Minister General Thein Sein presented the documentary photo album to the Thai Prime Minister.

Later, the delegation led by the Thai Prime Minister left for Yangon by special flight.

They were seen off at the airport by Prime Minister General Thein Sein, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, ministers, deputy ministers and departmental officials. — MNA



**Prime Minister General Thein Sein sees off Thai Prime Minister Mr Samak Sundaravej at Nay Pyi Taw Airport.**

MNA

## Thai Prime Minister plants tree to mark friendship between two nations

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March — Mr Samak Sundaravej, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, accompanied by Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu and Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, visited National Herbal Plant Garden of the Ministry of Health, here, at 1.45 pm today.

The Thai Prime Minister was welcomed by Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw

Development Committee Mayor Col Thein Nyunt and Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe.

To mark friendship between Myanmar and Thailand, the visiting Thai Prime Minister planted a star tree, fertilized and watered it.

Next, the Thai Prime Minister, the Mayor of Nay Pyi Taw and party posed for a documentary photo and the Thai Prime Minister left the Herbal Plant Garden.

MNA



**Prime Minister General Thein Sein and his counterpart Mr Samak Sundaravej attend a ceremony to sign agreement on promotion of investment sector and protection of economic interests between the two countries. (News on Page 16)— MNA**

**Thai Prime Minister Mr Samak Sundaravej plants a star tree in National Herbal Plant Garden of the Ministry of Health to mark friendship between Myanmar and Thailand.**

MNA



### All this needs to be known

- \* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- \* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- \* Do not be softened whenever appeased

## Information Minister receives Russia Today (RT) of Russian Federation

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received a three-member delegation of Russia Today (RT) television crew led by Producer Mr Andrey Fedorov of the Russian Federation at the ministry here yesterday afternoon. The guests were accompanied by Vice-Chairman of Society of Russia-Myanmar in Yangon Mr Alexander Ostrovskiy.



**Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan receives Russian delegation led by Producer Mr Andrey Fedorov of Russia Today (RT) of the Russian Federation.—MNA**

Also present at the call were directors-general and managing

directors of departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Information.—MNA

## Mon State Sub-commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution meets



**The meeting (1/2008) of Mon State Sub-commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution in progress.—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March — The coordination meeting 1/2008 of Mon State Sub-commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar took place at the office of Mon State Sub commission in Mawlamyine on 9 March

morning, attended by members of the Commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Aung Myo and U Khun Aung Nyein, the chairman, the secretary and members of Mon State Subcommission.

Commission U Aung Myo, who presided over the coordination meeting, delivered an opening speech. Those present took part in the discussion on general matters.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks by Commission member U Aung Myo.

Member of the

MNA

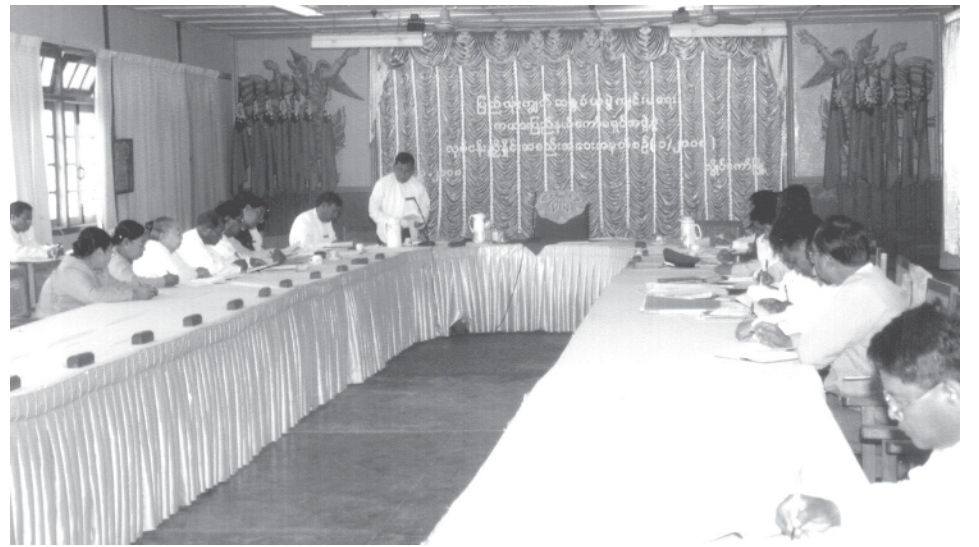
## Kayah State Sub-commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution holds meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March — Kayah State Sub-commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar organized the coordination meeting 1/2008 at the office of Kayah State General Administration Department in Loikaw on 8 March morning.

It was attended by the chairman and members of Kayah State Sub-commission, secretaries of Loikaw District and Township, Dimawhso and Pruhsa Township Sub-commissions.

The chairman of Kayah State Sub-commission delivered an opening address. The secretary and those present discussed general matters. The meeting ended with concluding remarks by the chairman of Kayah State Sub-commission.

MNA



**Kayah State Sub-commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution holds meeting (1/2008).—MNA**

## Third prize winner in ASEAN Youth Extemporaneous Speaking Competition honoured

YANGON, 14 March—A ceremony to honour Ma Hsu Win Htaik of Silver Star Youth Team (Yangon) under Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association who won

third prize in ASEAN Youth Extemporaneous Speaking Competition held in Brunei Darusalam took place at the head office of MANA in Mayangon Township,

here, today.

Ma Hsu Win Htaik handed over her trophy to U San Thein, chairman of MANA, and accepted gift presented by MANA.

MNA



**Ma Hsu Win Htaik, third prize winner in ASEAN Youth Extemporaneous Speaking Competition being honoured.—MNA**

### Significant day temperatures

Chauk	(41°C)
Nay Pyi Taw	(39°C)
Monywa	(39°C)
Yamethin	(39°C)
Pyinmana	(39°C)
Minbu and Magway	(39°C)

## Take Fire Preventive Measures



A visitor observes organs at the *Corpus* museum in Oegstgeest, 35 kilometres (21 miles) southeast of Amsterdam, Netherlands, on 14 March, 2008. The makers of '*Corpus*,' a new attraction in the Netherlands, are hoping that a combination amusement park and health education museum will encourage kids to take better care of their own bodies.—INTERNET

## Images of the Day



Tourists walk past a giant logo for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games and a sign displaying the theme of the games on display at a mountain near the Great Wall in Beijing, on 13 March, 2008.—INTERNET

### Study finds aspirin use may prevent asthma

WASHINGTON, 14 March— People who take aspirin regularly can reduce their risk of asthma, US researchers reported on Wednesday.

They found women who took a small dose of aspirin—100 milligrammers every other day—were 10 per cent less likely to develop asthma over 10 years than women given placebos.

Writing in the journal *Thorax*, the researchers said their findings reinforce studies that show men who took aspirin daily were less likely to develop asthma, too.

“Although aspirin can worsen symptoms in some patients with asthma,

our biologically plausible finding long with similar results from a large randomized trial in men and observational cohort studies in women suggests a small benefit of aspirin for the prevention of the development of asthma in adults,” wrote Dr. Tobias Kurth and colleagues of Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston.

“However, before public recommendations are provided, results from randomized trials are needed that are specifically designed to test whether low-dose aspirin reduces the risk of asthma,” they added.—MNA/Reuters



Photo taken on 13 March, 2008 shows the buds of a yulan magnolia tree in Wangshiyuan Garden in Suzhou of east China's Jiangsu Province. The 10-meter-high magnolia tree, believed to have an age of over 200 years, is about to bloom in recent days.—XINHUA



Over 30 contestants of the Miss Tourism Queen International competition pose for a photo in the ancient township of Xitang in Jiashan county, east China's Zhejiang Province, on 13 March, 2008. The China final of Miss Tourism Queen International will kick off there on 15 March.—XINHUA



Mahout sits on elephants take a rest during Thailand's National Elephant Day in the ancient Thai capital Ayutthaya, 80 km (50 miles) north of Bangkok, on 13 March, 2008. Thais honoured the elephant on Thursday with special fruit and Buddhist ceremonies across the country to pay homage to their national animal.—INTERNET

**ADVERTISEMENT**

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV KOTA TABAH VOYNO (TBH-215)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TABAH VOYNO (TBH-215) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.3.2008 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 PTE LTD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV GATI PRESTIGE VOYNO (30508)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GATI PRESTIGE VOYNO (30508) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.3.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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 GATI COAST TO COAST A  
DIVISION OF GATI LTD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**Many UK schools breaking rules over fair admissions**

LONDON, 13 March—Many state-funded schools are breaking the government's new code on fair admissions, with some asking parents to make a financial contribution before accepting an application, Schools Secretary Ed Balls said on Tuesday.

The code, which came into force in time for secondary school places granted last week, bans schools from selecting children on the basis of academic ability or social class.

Schools can no longer interview children or parents before admission and have to give priority to those in care.

But a survey of three local authorities in Northamptonshire, Manchester and Barnet in north London found a "significant minority" of

schools were not complying.

Balls said he would tighten up regulations, requiring local authorities to report each year on the legality and fairness of admissions policy at each school in their area.

The code is currently largely policed by parents making objections where they feel admissions are unfair.

But Balls said that across England there had only been 79 objections from parents to the Schools Adjudicator, who has the power to order changes in the ways pupils are admitted.

Balls said he would publish a guide for parents on admissions and appeals, and extend the period during which objections could be made to the adjudicator.

**TRADE MARK CAUTION**  
**TIBOTEC PHARMACEUTICALS LTD.**, a corporation incorporated in Ireland, of Eastgate Village, Eastgate, Little Island, County Cork, Ireland, is the Owner of the following Trade Marks:-

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Win Mu Tin  
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.,  
for **TIBOTEC PHARMACEUTICALS LTD.**  
P. O. Box 60, Yangon  
Dated: 15 March 2008

**Overseas fraud hitting British bank cards**

LONDON, 13 March—Losses on British plastic cards have surged 25 per cent, driven by a near doubling of fraud committed overseas, new figures show.

Total card fraud losses rose to 535.2 million pounds in the past year, reversing a two-year

decline, according to figures from APACS, the UK payments association.

That was driven by a 77-per-cent increase in fraud committed overseas by criminals using stolen UK card details. That rose to 207.6 million pounds in 2007 from 117.1 million pounds in 2006.

Fraud abroad, generally committed in countries that are yet to upgrade to chip and PIN technology, now accounts for 39 per cent of total British card fraud losses. Counterfeit fraud—driven by criminals stealing card details in the UK to make counterfeit magnetic stripe cards for use overseas—has increased 46 per cent in the past year. —MNA/Reuters

**China, ASEAN scholars discuss military modernization**

BEIJING, 13 March—Scholars from China and the Association of the South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) gathered at a dialogue on Wednesday to discuss how to promote military modernization and regional security and mutual trust.

The 10+1 dialogue, the first of its kind, focused on the causes, measures and trends of military modernization and measures to promote mutual security trust in the region.

MNA/Xinhua

**Pakistan court dismisses graft case against Zardari**

ISLAMABAD, 13 March — A Pakistani court dismissed one of two corruption cases against the widower of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto on Wednesday, his lawyer said, in a step towards clearing the way for him to hold government office. Bhutto's husband, Asif Ali Zardari, led her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) to election victory on February 18 and he is forming a coalition government with other parties.

Zardari's lawyer, Farooq Naik, said a court dismissed one of two outstanding cases against

his client as it fell within the ambit of an October presidential ordinance that wiped out graft charges against Bhutto, Zardari and others, introduced as part of a power-sharing deal with Bhutto. "The judge ordered he stand acquitted and the case stand terminated and withdrawn," Naik told reporters.

Naik said a court would rule on the the final case against Zardari on Friday. Zardari did not run

in the February 18 vote, in which his party rode a wave of sympathy after Bhutto's murder on December 27. The party finished with the most seats but not enough to rule alone.

Pakistanis convicted of a crime are barred from standing for election and while Zardari has never been convicted, corruption cases have been hanging over him, raising doubts about his future.

MNA/Reuters

**Newer air bags not linked to more driver deaths**

NEW YORK, 13 March—The use of second-generation air bags in motor vehicles does not appear to have increased fatalities among drivers involved in head-on crashes, study findings suggest.

"The point of second generation, or depowered, air bags was to reduce deaths among children, small adults, and vulnerable occupants who were previously killed by air bag deployment," Dr Elisa R Braver noted in an interview with Reuters Health.

In 1997, when US air bag testing regulations were changed, there were concerns that depowering air bags might place drivers at increased risk, said Braver, of the National Study Centre for Trauma and EMS, at the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore.

To determine whether newer air bags placed drivers at increased risk, Braver and colleagues looked at driver fatalities in 1,572 two-vehicle, head-on collisions between passenger vehicles. "A head-on collision is a very demanding test of how restraint systems work," Braver noted. —MNA/Reuters

**FBI arrests US surgeon wanted in Australia**

PORTLAND (Oregon), 13 March—A US surgeon wanted in Australia on charges of manslaughter, negligence and fraud was arrested in Oregon on Tuesday. Jayant Patel, who could face life in prison in Australia, appeared before a US federal magistrate who set the doctor's extradition hearing for 10 April. The FBI arrested Patel at his home in suburban Portland.

Patel was charged in Australia with three counts of manslaughter after an inquiry in late 2005 linked him to the deaths of at least 13 patients and the harm of at least 31 others while he was working as a surgeon at the Bundaberg Base Hospital in Queensland State.

Patel, a US citizen born in India, was also charged with three counts of causing grievous bodily harm, two counts of negligence and seven counts of fraud, according to court documents. Australian police began formal extradition proceedings in 2007.

According to court documents, Patel has a history of botched surgeries and negligent care going back two decades. Regulators in New York found Patel guilty of gross negligence in 1984 and then he moved to Oregon where he eventually had his surgical privileges restricted after a high number of complaints, the documents said. —MNA/Reuters

## Australian wins Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award

STOCKHOLM, 14 March — Australian author Sonya Hartnett was Wednesday declared the 2008 winner of the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award for Literature, the highest children's book award in the world. "Sonya Hartnett is one of the major forces for renewal in modern young adult fiction," a spokesman for the award jury said at a Press conference in the Swedish southern city of Vimmerby, where Astrid Lindgren lives.

"With psychological depth and a concealed yet palpable anger, she depicts

the circumstances of young people without avoiding the darker sides of life. She does so with linguistic virtuosity and a brilliant narrative technique; her works are a source of strength," the jury said in a statement.

Sonya Hartnett, born 1968 in Melbourne, made her publishing debut at the age of just 15. She has written 18 novels for children, young people and adults, although she generally prefers not to specify which age group she is writing for.

Her world famous works include *Sleeping*

*Dogs* (1995), *The Devil Latch* (1996), *All My Dangerous Friends* (1998) and *Surrender* (2005).

The award, which includes a cash prize of five million kronor (800,000 US dollars), was established by the Swedish Government in 2002 in memory of Astrid Lindgren, the beloved Swedish children's writer whose Pippi Longstocking, a strong-willed girl with braided hair, freckles and mismatched stockings, captivated generations of children around the world. Lindgren died in 2002.

MNA/Xinhua

## Study says drinking prevention needed in grade school

NEW YORK, 13 March — A significant number of children are already drinking by middle school, suggesting that prevention needs to start in the elementary grades, researchers conclude in a new report.

In their study of more than 4,000 sixth-graders at Chicago schools, 17 per cent of the children had used alcohol in the past year. Those students who had started drinking were also more likely than their peers to have a range of problems, such as getting into fights, shoplifting or

getting into trouble at school.

The findings, reported in the journal *Health Education and Behaviour*, suggest that alcohol prevention needs to start in grade school, researchers say.

And such prevention efforts should include parents, according to lead researcher Dr Keryn Pasch, of the University of Minnesota School of Public Health in

Minneapolis.

One way to do that, she told *Reuters Health*, would be for school-based programmes to include take-home assignments or other activities that involve parents.

The study included an ethnically diverse sample of sixth-graders at 61 Chicago schools; 713, or just over 17 per cent, said they had drunk alcohol in the past year.

MNA/Reuters

## Man arrested for running onto Heathrow runway

LONDON, 14 March — A man was arrested on Thursday after running onto a runway at London's Heathrow Airport carrying a bag, police said.

"I can confirm that at approximately 2:05 pm a man was seen airside at Heathrow Airport on the northern runway. He's been arrested by police and he's currently in custody," a police spokesman said. He declined to say whether the incident was considered terrorism-related. "A bag has been recovered and obviously it will be examined," he said.

BBC television pictures showed several emergency cars with flashing lights parked on the airport runway.

A spokesman for airport operator BAA, owned by Spanish company Ferrovial said he was aware of an incident and was checking details.

A spokesman for British Airways the largest user of the airport, said the incident would effect mostly short-haul flights.

"We expect to have to cancel a number of flights but at this stage we don't know how many," he said.

Heathrow, the world's busiest international airport, has been the object of protests in the past from environmentalists angered at plans to boost traffic with the addition of a third runway and a sixth terminal.

MNA/Reuters

## Cat carried woman's antibiotic-resistant infection

BOSTON, 14 March — Pets can harbour virulent antibiotic-resistant infections and spread them to humans, German researchers reported on Wednesday.

The warning is based on the case of a woman who had deep abscesses caused by methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* or MRSA. Her husband and two children showed evidence of infection, too, but it disappeared with treatment even as the woman's abscesses festered.

So Dr Andreas Sing of the Bavarian Food and Health Safety Authority and colleagues examined the woman's three apparently healthy cats.

MNA/Reuters

## Short-term stress can affect learning, memory

WASHINGTON, 13 March — Short-term stress lasting as little as a few hours can impair brain-cell communication in areas associated with learning and memory, University of California, Irvine researchers have found.

It has been known that severe stress lasting weeks or months can impair cell communication in the brain's learning and memory region,

but this study provides the first evidence that short-term stress has the same effect. The study appears in the 12 March edition of the *Journal of Neuroscience*.

"Stress is a constant in our lives and cannot be avoided," said Dr Tallie Z Baram, the study leader.

"Our findings can play an important role in the current development of drugs that might prevent these undesirable effects

and offer insights into why some people are forgetful or have difficulty retaining information during stressful situations."

In their study, Baram and her colleagues identified a novel process by which stress caused these effects. They found that rather than involving the widely known stress hormone cortisol, which circulates throughout the body, acute stress activated selective molecules called corticotropin releasing hormones (CRH), which disrupted the process by which the brain collects and stores memories.—MNA/Xinhua

## Britain's FMD blamed on "shabby" lab

LONDON, 13 March — Shabby facilities and substandard practices at a government research centre were in part to blame for last year's outbreak of foot and

mouth disease in southeast England, an independent review said on Tuesday.

Foot and mouth (FMD) disease was found at a farm in Surrey on 3 August and traced to the Pirbright research facility.

Pirbright houses a laboratory run by the Institute of Animal Health (IAH) and one by Merial, a private company owned by US pharmaceutical firm Merck and French firm Sanofi-Aventis SA.

The review released to parliament pointed to "a creeping degradation of standards at Pirbright, combined with a lowering of expectations in spite of the potential dangers".

MNA/Reuters

## Mother quizzed over cocaine-strapped children in London

LONDON, 14 March — A mother was questioned by Customs officers on Wednesday after cocaine with an estimated street value of 675,000 pounds was found strapped to the legs of her young children. The family was stopped at Heathrow after they arrived on a British Airways flight from Mexico City on Tuesday. Customs officials found 15 kilos of the drug strapped to the legs of the woman's daughter, aged 11, and son, 13, HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) said.

"We never cease to be amazed at the lengths to which some people will go to hide drugs from us when they pass through our controls," Bob Gaiger, HMRC spokesman at Heathrow said.

MNA/Reuters



Alligators can stealthily maneuver through the water leaving nary a ripple, despite having neither fins nor flippers like other adept swimmers. Instead, they use special muscles to shift the position of their lungs, US researchers said on Thursday.—INTERNET

# SPORTS



**Tao Wei (L) of China's Guoan breaks through during the Group F match against Vietnam's Nam Dinh at the AFC Champions League 2008, on 12 March, 2008. China's Guoan won the match 3-1.—XINHUA**

## FIFA approves \$17.6m Confederations Cup prize fund

JOHANNESBURG, 14 March — A 17.6-million-US-dollar prize fund will be divided among the eight countries in next year's Confederations Cup in South Africa, FIFA announced on Thursday.

The two-week tournament, featuring the world champions, six continental champions and hosts South Africa, is a test event for the 2010 World Cup.

"It is an ideal test run for the organizers of the 2010 World Cup in terms of infrastructure, logistics and services," FIFA President Sepp Blatter said in a statement on the governing body's website (www.fifa.com).

MNA/Reuters

## Lampard says still waiting for new Chelsea offer

LONDON, 14 March — Chelsea midfielder Frank Lampard has urged the club to sort out a new contract sooner rather than later.

The England player, whose deal ends in 2009, scored four goals in Chelsea's 6-1 rout of bottom club Derby County in the Premier League on Wednesday.

After the match at Stamford Bridge manager Avram Grant said he was sure Lampard would stay but the midfielder is still waiting to be offered a new contract.

"I've been approached a few times by the club saying they are going to come to me with something and they haven't,"

he told Thursday's London Evening Standard.

"That means they're saying they will have to wait until the summer and I don't really know what that means.—MNA/Reuters



**Bode Miller of the United States, speeds down the course during the men's super-G at the alpine ski World Cup finals in Bormio, Italy. — INTERNET**

## Top 36 German clubs earn record \$2.7b

BERLIN, 24 March — The 36 clubs in Germany's top two leagues earned a record total of 1.75 billion euros (2.73 billion US dollars) last season, up 15 per cent from the previous campaign.

The clubs benefited from a combined extra income of around 50 million euros from the 2006 World Cup in Germany, according to the DFL (Football League). Attendances also rose for the sixth successive season, up to a record 16.3 million, while the proportion of female fans increased from 21 to 23 per cent.

Borussia Dortmund, the only Bundesliga club listed on the stock exchange, said last month it posted a net loss in the first half of 2007-08. —MNA/Reuters

## Rangers, Sporting through to UEFA Cup last 8

LONDON, 14 March — Rangers and Sporting completed the UEFA Cup quarterfinal line up on Thursday, the Scottish league leaders knocking out Werder Bremen while the Lisbon side ended the run of Bolton Wanderers.

Werder, bidding to become the third German side into the last eight after Bayern Munich and Bayer Leverkusen qualified on Wednesday, could only win 1-0 at the Weserstadion and went out 2-1 on aggregate.

Sporting, beaten finalists in 2005, edged a weakened Bolton side 1-0 at home to secure the tie 2-1.

Bundesliga title challengers Werder forced 18 corners against Rangers, peppered their opponents's goal from all angles but found visiting keeper Allan McGregor in inspired form.

He pulled off a string of fine saves in both halves to keep the German side at bay. He was finally beaten just before the hour when Brazilian Diego struck with a sweet left-footed shot on the half volley.

But with the clock ticking down McGregor saved his best to last, get-



**Werder Bremen's Diego (C) scores the first goal during the round of sixteen second-leg UEFA Cup soccer against Rangers.—INTERNET**

ting the faintest of touches to push Boubacar Sanogo's close-range shot up onto the crossbar when the Ivorian seemed destined to send the game into extra time.

"It's massive for the club. We dug in and got the result when we needed it," McGregor told BBC Scotland.

"Werder Bremen must have been one of the (competition) favourites. We have put them out... now we have to take it one game at a time."

MNA/Reuters



**Sporting's Romagnoli (R) is tackled by Bolton's Joey O'Brien during their UEFA Cup round of 16 soccer match at Sporting's Alvalade stadium in Lisbon, Portugal. INTERNET**

## Salzburg hire Adriaanse to replace Trapattoni

VIENNA, 14 March — Austrian champions and league leaders Salzburg have hired Co Adriaanse to succeed Giovanni Trapattoni as coach next season, the club said on Thursday.

The Dutchman would be taking over from former Italy coach Trapattoni, who is leaving to become Ireland manager, for the 2008/2009 season, it said on its website.

Adriaanse, 60, has coached Ajax, Porto, PEC Zwolle, FC Den Haag, Ukrainian side Metalurg Donetsk and most recently, top Qatari side Al-Sadd.

MNA/Reuters

## Benzema extends Lyon contract until 2013

LYON (France), 14 March — France striker Karim Benzema has extended his Olympique Lyon contract until 2013, the six-times French champions said on Thursday.

Benzema, 20, has scored 27 goals in all competitions this season, including 17 in Ligue 1, and has been linked with several leading European clubs including Manchester United.

His new contract includes an option for an additional year "(Financially), we did what we had to do to keep him in Lyon," club president Jean-Michel Aulas told a news conference.

"We did our best so that he does not go abroad. He deserves it."

Benzema, who has scored three goals in nine matches for France since earning his first cap in a 1-0 defeat of Austria a year ago, said he wanted to stay at Lyon to improve.—MNA/Reuters

## Cuban team start with 10 men after defections

ORLANDO (Florida), 14 March — Cuba's Olympic soccer team took to the field with only 10 men on Thursday after up to seven players defected.

Five members of the Communist state's Under-23 team defected after their Olympic qualifier against the United States in Tampa on Tuesday and two others were absent from the line-up against Honduras on Thursday.

Both were reported to have defected.

With one player suspended following a red card, Cuba coach Raul Gonzalez could field only 10 men, with no substitutes.

Cuba held Honduras for 69 minutes before goals from Marvin Sanchez and Hendry Thomas condemned them to defeat.

"It was a great game for Cuba," said Gonzalez.

"It's hard to play with 10 players. It's something you have to accept." —MNA/Reuters

### Bomb scare forces evacuation of US City Hall

LOS ANGELES, 13 March — A suspicious suitcase prompted the evacuation of Maywood City Hall and the city's police department headquarters in the Los Angeles area, authorities said on Wednesday.

The evacuation took place Tuesday night, but the sheriff's bomb squad blew the suitcase up early this morning, said Maywood police Chief Frank Hauptmann.

Investigators determined that the suitcase contained only clothing, Hauptmann said.

The suitcase — a large, '70s vintage-type piece of luggage — was standing upright and off to the side at the bottom of the stairwell in the city hall, Hauptmann said. There were chalk-like inscriptions on the exterior that "appeared to be graffiti", he said. "Everyone who passed by noticed it just sitting there," Hauptmann said. — MNA/Xinhua

### Severe gales batter Britain for third day

CHELTEMHAM (England), 14 March — A third day of severe gales disrupted road and rail travel across the country and forced organizers to cancel day two of the Cheltenham horse racing festival on Wednesday.

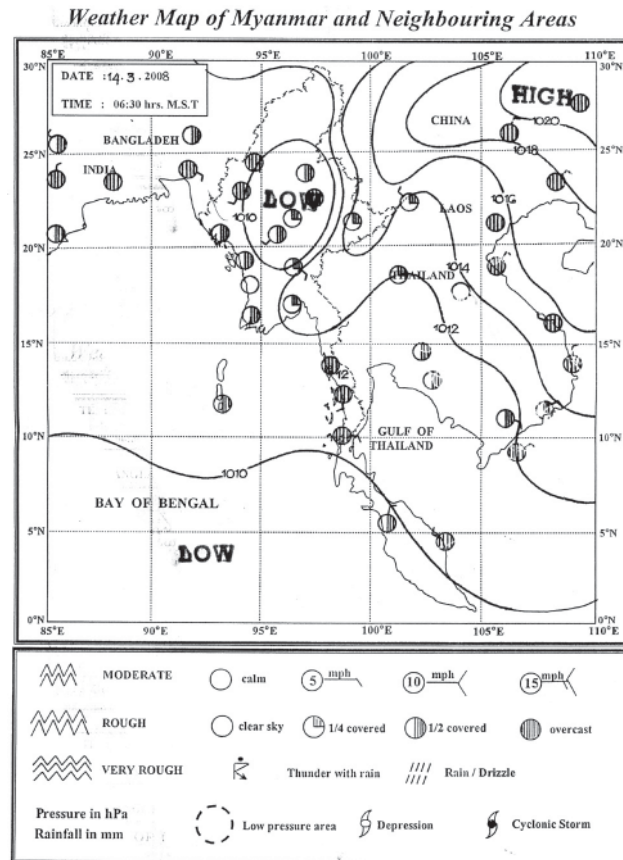
The Met Office issued severe weather warnings for much of central and northern England, north Wales and Northern Ireland and said conditions were "extremely hazardous".

Heavy rain, snow showers and wind gusting at up to 80 miles per hour swept across the country early on Wednesday.

The second day of racing at Cheltenham was called off after strong winds damaged temporary buildings, making the course unsafe for the 55,000 spectators due to watch the races.

"We cannot guarantee the safety of the customers but the good news is we can stage all the races now over the next two days," said Cheltenham Managing Director Edward Gillespie.

Several lorries overturned in the early hours on the Thelwall Viaduct on the M6 west of Manchester, police said. None of the drivers was injured. — MNA/Reuters



### WEATHER

Friday, 14 March, 2008

**Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division, weather has been partly cloudy in Rakhine and Shan States, upper Sagaing Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above March average temperatures in Shan State, lower Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay Divisions and about March average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Chauk (41°C), Nay Pyi Taw, Monywa, Yamethin, Pyinmana, Minbu and Magway (39°C) each. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Dawei (0.47) inch.

Maximum temperature on 13-3-2008 was 100°F. Minimum temperature on 14-3-2008 was 72°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 14-3-2008 was 77%. Total sunshine hours on 13-3-2008 was (8.5) hours approx.

Rainfall on 14-3-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (0.67) inch at Mingaladon, (0.47) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.35) inch at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from North at (15:30) hours MST on 13-3-2008.

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

**Forecast valid until evening of 15-3-2008:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine, Shan, Kayin and Mon States, Mandalay, Bago and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Likelihood of slight increase of day temperatures in the Central Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 15-3-2008:** Generally fair weather.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 15-3-2008:** Partly cloudy.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 15-3-2008:** Partly cloudy

**Weather Outlook For Third Weekend of March 2008:** During the coming weekend, weather will be partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.

### Iraq says to sue Halabja chemical weapons suppliers

BAGHDAD, 14 March — Iraq plans to take legal action against the suppliers of chemicals used in a poison gas attack on the town of Halabja in Iraq's Kurdish north, which killed 5,000 people in 1988, the government said on Wednesday.

Iraq's Cabinet also approved six million US dollars to finance construction in the town ahead of the 20th anniversary of the attack on March 16, it said in a statement.

to take legal measures to sue the companies who provided the ex-regime with the chemical weapons used in Halabja," the statement said, without naming the companies.

In 2005, a Dutch court sentenced a Dutch


businessman to 15 years in prison, later raised to 17 years, for supplying the raw materials for poison gas to Saddam Hussein's Iraq. The gas was used in Halabja, and also in Iraq's 1980-1988 war with Iran.

MNA/Reuters



**Saturday, 15 March**  
View on today

<p><b>7:00 am</b></p> <p>1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာမဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မမဟာရဋ္ဌဂုရု၊ အဘိဓမ္မအဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်</p> <p><b>7:25 am</b></p> <p>2. To be healthy exercise</p> <p><b>7:30 am</b></p> <p>3. Morning news</p> <p><b>7:40 am</b></p> <p>4. Nice and sweet song</p> <p><b>7:55 am</b></p> <p>5. Musical programme</p> <p><b>8:10 am</b></p> <p>6. သင်ပုန်းရေးလှောင်တံ</p> <p><b>8:20 am</b></p> <p>7. (၆၃)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်</p> <p><b>8:30 am</b></p> <p>8. International news</p> <p><b>8:45 am</b></p> <p>9. Grammar made easy</p>	<p><b>11:00 am</b></p> <p>1. Martial song</p> <p><b>11:15 am</b></p> <p>2. Musical programme</p> <p><b>11:30 am</b></p> <p>3. Games for children</p> <p><b>12:00 noon</b></p> <p>4. Round up of the week's TV local news</p> <p><b>12:35 pm</b></p> <p>5. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "စစ်သူကြီးဆွန်ကြီး" (အပိုင်း-၁၃)</p> <p><b>1:15 pm</b></p> <p>6. "ရှင်သန်ခြင်း" (မင်းဟိဏ်၊ ဆုပန်ထွားဖိုးဖြူ၊ ဝင်းမိုးပိုင်ကြည်စိုး၊ သန်းသန်းစိုး) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-အောင်မိုး-ပဲရစ်)</p> <p><b>1:35 pm</b></p> <p>7. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p><b>1:45 pm</b></p> <p>8. Dance of National Races</p> <p><b>2:00 pm</b></p> <p>9. Musical programme</p> <p><b>2:15 pm</b></p> <p>10. အတိုးပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p><b>2:30 pm</b></p> <p>11. အရာတော်ရေလှောင်တံ</p> <p><b>2:45 pm</b></p> <p>12. International news</p> <p><b>4:00 pm</b></p> <p>1. Martial song</p> <p><b>4:15 pm</b></p> <p>2. Song to uphold National Spirit</p> <p><b>4:30 pm</b></p> <p>3. English for Everyday Use</p>	<p><b>4:40 pm</b></p> <p>4. အဝေးသင်တန်းသို့လှည့်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ-ဒုတိယနှစ် (ဒဿနိကဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ဒဿနိကဗေဒ)</p> <p><b>4:55 pm</b></p> <p>5. တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုတေးသီချင်းပြိုင်ပွဲဆုရတေးများ(၂၀၀၇ခုနှစ်)</p> <p><b>5:05 pm</b></p> <p>6. တေးဂီတအစီအစဉ်</p> <p><b>5:15 pm</b></p> <p>7. မြန်မာ့ဓလေ့ရိုးရာလက်ဓ့</p> <p><b>5:30 pm</b></p> <p>8. ရသပေါ်လွင်သရုပ်ဆောင်လွင်ပြင်</p> <p><b>6:00 pm</b></p> <p>9. ညနေခင်းသတင်း</p> <p><b>6:10 am</b></p> <p>10. Weather report</p> <p><b>6:35 pm</b></p> <p>11. အလှရှာမယ် လှကမ္ဘာဝယ်</p> <p><b>7:00 pm</b></p> <p>12. (၆၃)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်</p> <p><b>7:15 pm</b></p> <p>13. "တစ်သက်စာ" (ထွန်းထွန်း(Examplez) သဇင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဝင်းထွန်းထွန်း)</p> <p><b>7:45 pm</b></p> <p>14. Musical programme</p> <p><b>8:00 pm</b></p> <p>15. ပြည်တွင်းသတင်း</p> <p>16. နိုင်ငံတကာသတင်းများ</p> <p>17. Weather report</p> <p>18. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "မာယာထောင်ချောက်" (အပိုင်း-၉)</p> <p>19. The next day's programme</p>
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**Saturday, 15 March**  
Tune in today

<p><b>8:30 am</b> Brief news</p> <p><b>8:35 am</b> Music -Hey you</p> <p><b>8:40 am</b> Perspectives</p> <p><b>8:45 am</b> Music -Me, myself &amp; I</p> <p><b>8:50 am</b> National news</p> <p><b>9:00 am</b> Music -Pray</p> <p><b>9:05 am</b> International news</p> <p><b>9:10 am</b> Music -Latin lover</p> <p><b>1:30 pm</b> News/ Slogan</p> <p><b>1:40 pm</b> Music at your request -Now &amp; forever</p> <p><b>9:00 pm</b> ASEAN news Exchange news from ASEAN member countries</p> <p><b>9:20pm</b> Myanma Culture... Dr Khin Maung Nyunt -Alaungpaya's striking personality</p> <p><b>9:30pm</b> Souvenirs -I met you</p> <p><b>9:45 pm</b> News/Slogan</p> <p><b>10:00 pm</b> PEL</p>
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## Prime Minister General Thein Sein welcomes Thai counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March — At the invitation of Prime Minister General Thein Sein, a goodwill delegation led by Thai Prime Minister Mr Samak Sundaravej arrived here by special flight this morning.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein welcomed the Thai goodwill delegation at Nay Pyi Taw Airport. Together with Prime Minister General Thein Sein were Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, ministers, deputy ministers, heads of department, the Thai Ambassador to

the Union of Myanmar and officials.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein and Thai Prime Minister Mr Samak Sundaravej went to the dais at the airport where they took the salute of the Guard of Honour. They then inspected the Guard of Honour.

Next, Prime Minister General Thein Sein cordially greeted the Thai delegation members who accompanied the Thai Prime Minister. The Thai Prime Minister also cordially greeted Myanmar welcoming party.

MNA

Prime  
Minister  
General  
Thein  
Sein  
welcomes  
Thai  
Prime  
Minister  
Mr Samak  
Sundaravej  
at Nay Pyi  
Taw  
Airport.  
MNA



## Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets Thai counterpart



Prime Minister General Thein Sein and Thai Prime Minister Mr Samak Sundaravej hold talks in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein met Thai Prime Minister Mr Samak Sundaravej at the meeting hall of the Government Office in Nay Pyi Taw at 12.15 pm today and they discussed mutual cooperation between the two countries.

Together with Prime Minister General Thein Sein at the meeting were Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office Col Kyaw Kyaw Win, Director-General of the Government Office Col Thant Shin, Director-General of Protocol Depart-

ment U Kyaw Kyaw, Director-General of the Political Department U Phae Thann Oo and Director-General of ASEAN Affairs Department U Than Tun. The Thai Prime Minister was accompanied by Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Noppadon Pattama, high-ranking officials and Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Bonsarn Bunnag. At the meeting they discussed matters related to mutual cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand and further cementing the friendship between the two countries and exchanged views.

After the meeting, Minister U Soe Tha and Thai Minister Mr Noppadon Pattama signed an agreement on promotion of investment sector between the two countries and protection of interests between the two countries and exchanged the documents.

MNA

### Weather Forecast for (15-3-2008)

**Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area:**

Generally fair weather.

**Yangon and neighbouring area:**

Partly cloudy.

**Mandalay and neighbouring area :**

Partly cloudy.