

Nabbanasacchikiriya ca, to realize the Nirvana; this is the way to auspiciousness

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Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Second Meeting of Sixth State Central Working Committee of Sangha concludes successfully



Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara delivers opening address at 2nd Meeting of Sixth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha. — MNA

YANGON, 19 March — The Second Meeting of Sammodaniya Saraniya Ovadakatha, the Sixth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha was held at Maha Pasana Cave on Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill from 17 to 19 March.

First, Ovadaçariya Sayadaws for the meeting were elected.

On 17 March, Chairman of the SCWCS Magway Maha Withutayama Taikthit Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Kumara presided over the meeting, and Joint-Secretary Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Manitasiribhivamsa acted as MC.

Chairman Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara gave

the following address:

The meeting put on record Ovadaçariya Sayadaws, State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaws and SCWCS Sayadaws who passed away this year.

Joint-Secretary Sayadaw Dwipitakadhara Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Nimala sought the approval of the meeting for Ovadaçariya Sayadaws, SSMNC Sayadaws and SCWCS Sayadaws elected.

Secretary Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa submitted the brief report of the SSMNC, and the Sayadaws discussed the report.

On 18 March, Vice-Chairman Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Tejosarabhivamsa presided over the meeting, and Joint-Secretary Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Kammathanaçariya Dwipitakakovida Bhaddanta Jagarabhivamsa acted as MC.

Joint-Secretary Sayadaws Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Manitasiribhivamsa and Agga Maha Pandita Nimala responded to the suggestions submitted by members of the SCWCS.

In the afternoon, the meeting discussed Vinichiya, religious and education affairs.

(See page 8)

INSIDE

Those who are like a certain person in the tale

National races will have the rights to establish region and state hluttaws, governing bodies, and region and state high courts.

Similarly, the self-administered division and self-administered zones will be vested with the right to form respective leading bodies and to exercise legislative and executive powers. The draft constitution also stipulates the rights for ethnic minorities who have not got a region, state or self-administered division or zone yet.

PAGE 7

AN OBSERVER

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 20 March, 2008

Protect endangered species

There are over one million species of birds and animals including insects in the world. Myanmar is one of the countries with the richest biodiversity in Asia. Out of 144 endangered species in the world, nine can be found only in Myanmar.

Golden deer that include in the nine species are being protected in Chatthin Sanctuary in Sagaing Division. Though three kinds of species of the golden deer are found in South East Asia, there are now only Myanmar golden deer left.

Moreover, the population of tigers worldwide gradually declines. Tiger species can be found only in 13 countries. That is why efforts are being made for establishment of 5,000-mile-long tiger protection corridor for endangered tigers in cooperation with eight Asian countries including Myanmar.

Geographical conditions in Hukaung Valley create a suitable place for survival of the tigers. There are only one hundred tigers in Myanmar. Tiger conservation is being undertaken in Hukaung Valley by Forest Department in cooperation with Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).

Too much extraction of wildlife, plants and fish, establishment of plantation after clearing the natural forests and pollution endanger the existence of biodiversity in the long run. Therefore all of us need to conserve the environment.

Protection of land and marine resources is our concern. Cutting down trees indiscriminately, hunting and trading of wildlife products are to be controlled systematically. All the people are to participate in the tasks for conservation of rare birds and wildlife.

As more species have been in danger, ecosystems have become unstable or collapsed. People all over the world have to exert greater efforts to protect endangered species.

Power stations under construction in Yedashe, Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana

NAY PYI TAW, 18 March—Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspected the control room and switch yard of 230/33 KV Thebyu Power Station under construction near Myohla in Yedashe Township, Bago Division, on 15 March.

He inspected the control room and switch yard of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Sub-power Station and fulfilled the requirements in response to the reports by the officials concerned.—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

Echo Cardiogram donated to Jivitadana Sangha Hospital



Sayadaw Ashin Shi Fa Zhao presents documents related to Echo Cardiogram to U Maung Tin. — H

YANGON, 19 March — Sayadaw Ashin Shi Fa Zhao of Buddha Tooth Relic Monastery in Singapore and Cardiac Surgeon Dato Dr Leslie Lam of Mt Elizabeth Hospital donated Echo Cardiogram worth 218,688 Singapore dollars to Jivitadana Sangha Hospital this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were the Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar, the Counsellor, the First Secretary, members of the administrative board of the hospital and guests.

Secretary U Maung Maung of the administrative board of the hospital acted as master of ceremonies. Next, Vice-Chairman-2 U Than Aung extended greetings. Afterwards, the Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar made a speech on the occasion.

Foreign Minister congratulates Chinese counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 19 March — U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr Yang Jiechi, who has been re-appointed as Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China on 17 March 2008.

MNA

Foreign Minister congratulates Malaysian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 20 March — U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Datuk Seri Utama Dr Rais Yatim, who has been appointed as Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia. —MNA

Cardiac Surgeon Dato Dr Leslie Lam of Mt Elizabeth Hospital explained the purpose of the donation. Next, Sayadaw Ashin Shi Fa Zhao of Buddha Tooth Relic Monastery in Singapore handed over documents of the donation to Chairman U Maung Tin of the administrative board of the hospital.

On behalf of the administrative board of the hospital, Adviser Dr Kyaw Win to Jivitadana Sangha Hospital and Punhlaing International Hospital spoke words of thanks.

After the donation ceremony, donors and guests visited the hospital. — H

Minister inspects durability of rails and bridges, upgrading tasks

NAY PYI TAW, 19 March — Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min together with Deputy Minister U Pe Than inspected durability of roads and bridges existing along Daik U-Mawlamyine-Ye railroad section and upgrading tasks on 15 March.

Upon arrival, the minister and deputy minister looked into durability of the bridge crossing Nagapauk creek, maintenance of embankment, durability of Sittoung bridge and progress in building Hsethwakon bridge.

Next, the minister oversaw durability of the railroad between Hsethwakon station and Mawlamyine station, the passenger lounge, security measures of the

station and greening tasks in the compound of the station.

The following day the minister inspected upgrading tasks of railroads and bridges, maintenance of the bridges and substitutions of concrete sleepers.

At the mile post No 238, the minister looked into substitutions of rails between Anin station and Kayin station, maintenance of the bridge crossing Ye creek and sanitation tasks in the compound of Ye station.

On arrival at Concrete Sleeper Factory (Mottama) on 17 March, the minister gave instructions on requirements for the test-run of the factory and oversaw forging shops and workshops in the factory.—MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min inspects laying rail tracks between Mawlamyine and Ye.—RAILWAYS

Iraqi FM says UK troops “doing nothing” in Basra

LONDON, 19 March—Iraq’s Foreign Minister poured scorn on British forces in southern Iraq on Monday, saying they were “doing nothing” and had allowed the city of Basra to be overrun by militants.

Hoshiyar Zebari, speaking in an interview with Britain’s Channel Four news, said foreign troops needed to stay engaged if Iraq was to be stabilized after five years of “rivers of blood”.

Zebari said British troops had “disengaged” in Basra, the country’s second largest city and major port, and that “the militia, the organized crime, is actually making havoc in the city”. Asked

if Britain needed to re-engage, he said:

“In my view they do. They should not just sit there and do nothing. There are certain responsibilities, especially at least until the end of this year,” he said.

Britain has around 4,500 troops based in southern Iraq, almost all of them hunkered down on a fortified encampment at Basra air base just outside the city. A garrison of

around 500 troops was stationed at a palace in the centre of the city until late last year and tried to maintain order, but came under daily attack from militants.

They were pulled back to the air base on the urging of Iraqi commanders who said their presence in the city was causing more problems than it was solving.

MNA/Reuters



A visitor reads a miniature book about “Friedrich the Great” presented by the Leipzig Miniature Book publishing house at the Book Fair in the eastern German city of Leipzig.—INTERNET

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Russia, US fail to agree on missile shield

MOSCOW, 19 March—Russia and the United States failed on Tuesday to agree on US plans to deploy parts of a missile defence shield in Eastern Europe, an issue that has helped drive their relations to a post-Cold War low.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said he had agreed with US Secretary of State

Condoleezza Rice at talks in Moscow to study further US proposals that are aimed at allaying Russian concerns about the shield.

But negotiations on those proposals have already been underway for almost six months and time is running out to reach a deal before US President George W Bush’s

Administration leaves office in under a year.

“On the matter of principle the positions of our two sides have not changed,” Russian Defence Minister Anatoly Serdyukov said after taking part in more than six hours of talks with Rice, Lavrov and US Defence Secretary Robert Gates.—MNA/Reuters

Armenian MPs

tighten law on rallies

YEREVAN, 19 March—Armenia’s Parliament imposed restrictions on holding rallies on Monday, fearing clashes between police and the opposition after a state of emergency expires on Friday.

President Robert Kocharyan declared the 20-day emergency rule in the capital Yerevan on 1 March following mass protests against a 19 February presidential election, which the

opposition says was rigged. Eight people were killed and more than 100 were injured in the clashes between police and protesters. “The events in Yerevan on 1 March demonstrated that the existing law (on rallies) has a number of drawbacks which need to be addressed. This is prompted by the lesson we learnt,” Deputy Rafik Petrosyan told Parliament.

MNA/Reuters

Two passengers walk past cars which are covered by snow in Changchun, northeast China’s Jilin Province, on 18 March, 2008. Snow hit Changchun after dust swept the northern city on Tuesday.—INTERNET



Spain police probed after African migrant drowns

MADRID, 19 March—Three Spanish police officers are under investigation for murder after a Senegalese man reportedly drowned after they punctured the inflatable mattress with which he was trying to reach the Spanish coast.

Laouling Sonko, together with three other Africans, was intercepted by a Civil Guard boat near a beach in Spain’s North African enclave Ceuta one day before dawn in September, *El Mundo* newspaper reported on Monday.

MNA/Reuters

A protestor dressed as U.S. President George W. Bush takes part in a demonstration marking the fifth anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq, in Washington, on 19 March, 2008. In the background is a float depicting Bush riding on top of a missile.

INTERNET

Russian demonstrators say US must pay crash victim

VLADIVOSTOK (Russia), 19 March—Members of a pro-Kremlin youth group demonstrated outside a US consulate in Russia’s far east on Monday to support Alexander Kashin, a local man paralyzed in an accident involving a US diplomat’s car.

Kashin, wheelchair-bound since his car was in collision with the vehicle

carrying former US consul general Douglas Kent in 1998, has asked for 10 million US dollars compensation for his injuries.

Kashin had previously declared a hunger strike to attract attention to his case, and has said a 100,000-US-dollar compensation offer from the US State Department was

“a miserly pittance”.

Holding signs saying ‘Democracy American style is all about money’, a small crowd from the Molodaya Gvardiya (Young Guards) youth group stood for about 30 minutes outside the Vladivostok consulate with Kashin until police ordered them to leave.

MNA/Reuters





Photo taken on March 17, 2008 shows a part of the Qiyi glacier in the Qilian Mountains in northwest China's Gansu Province. The Qiyi glacier, 116 kilometers from Jiayuguan City, is the nearest one to a city compared with other glaciers in Asia.—XINHUA

NATO airstrikes leave 50 dead in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 19 March — NATO's air raids against Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan's southern Helmand Province claimed the lives of 50 persons including 18 rebels, a parliamentarian from the restive province said Tuesday.

"It was Monday afternoon when villagers were busy in playing local game the stone throwing in Marmal Village of Sangin District, suddenly the aircraft of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) appeared and dropped bombs, killing 50 on the spot," Hajji Dad Mohammad told *Xinhua*.

He added that 18 of those killed in the raid were Taliban fighters.

However, Mohammad Hussain Andiwai, the police chief of Helmand Province, when reached by *Xinhua* expressed ignorance by saying, "I have no information."

Meantime, Carlose Branco, the spokesman of the NATO-led ISAF

forces, utterly rejected the claim as groundless, adding the military alliance did not carry out any operation in Sangin District on Monday.

"First of all, ISAF strongly deny the claim. There has been no ISAF operation in Marmal area of Sangin District yesterday," he told *Xinhua*.—*Xinhua*

Yellow flowers of rape bloom in front of the local traditional housing compounds in Yi County of East China's Anhui Province on 17 March, 2008.—XINHUA



Neglect, abuse of older people widespread in EU

BRUSSELS, 19 March — Older people in Europe are vulnerable to poor treatment, neglect and abuse, reveals a survey presented by the European Commission on Monday.

Almost half of people across the European Union

(EU) consider the phenomenon to be widespread in their country, according to the survey.

The results of the survey were released to coincide a high-level EU conference in Brussels on this issue.

"Each of us faces the possibility of becoming dependent on the help of others when we get older, and currently we cannot be sure that we will be treated with dignity," said EU Social Affairs Commissioner Vladimir Spidla. "Member states are starting to support the carers and relatives better through training and guidance."

Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Wen deeply worried about world economy

BEIJING, 19 March — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said Tuesday he was deeply worried about the world economy, vowing to take flexible and prompt measures amid the changing economic environment.

"I myself watch very closely the development in the world economy and the US economy, and I'm deeply worried," said Wen at a Press conference after the annual session of the National People's Con-

gress (NPC), the top legislature.

He attributed the recent fluctuations of world stock markets to the US sub-prime crisis, which led to the depreciation of the US dollar and interest rate cuts by the US Government, as well as high international oil prices.

"What concerns me now is that the US dollar is depreciating continuously, when the US dollar will reach the bottom in this depreciation process, what

kind of monetary policy the US Government will adopt and where the US economy is heading," said Wen.

He said China's monetary and fiscal policies were based on the country's own reality but the government would keep close eyes on latest world economic trends and make flexible, prompt reactions to future changes.

Xinhua



Dancers perform Chu Shui Ba Shan, an original drama displays a panorama of ancient people at the Three Gorges area of China, during a public show in Yichang City, central China's Hubei Province, on 17 March, 2008.—XINHUA

Vietnam to test local bird flu vaccines on humans

HANOI, 19 March — Vietnam's Health Ministry has allowed the use of locally-produced bird flu vaccines on humans on a trial basis, local newspaper *Young People* reported on Tuesday.

The Military Medical Institute will use vaccines produced by local company

Vabiotech for the eight-month trial vaccination starting this month. In 2007, the vaccines were tested on animals and proved effective.

To date, Vietnam has reported a total of 106 human cases of bird flu infections, including 52 fatalities, in 35 cities and provinces since bird flu started to hit the country in December 2003. However, the World Health Organization has yet to confirm the latest case.

Vietnam currently has 11 localities having poultry being hit by bird flu, according to the Department of Animal Health.

Bird flu outbreaks in Vietnam have killed and led to the forced culling of dozens of millions of fowls in the country.

Xinhua

DPRK vows to boost friendly cooperation with Russia

PYONGYANG, 19 March — Strengthening friendly cooperation between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and Russia would conform to the desire and interests of the two peoples and benefit world peace and security, the official *Rodong Sinmun* newspaper said Monday.

The agreement on economic and cultural cooperation signed 59 years ago between the DPRK and Russia has laid the foundation for the development of bilateral relations, the newspaper said in an article.

The exchanges and cooperation between the two countries in economic and cultural fields have been expanded and deepened in recent years, it said.—*Xinhua*

EU says made progress in Russia WTO bid talks

BRUSSELS, 19 March — The European Commission said it made progress with Russia over Moscow's decade-old bid to join the World Trade Organization but differences remained on the divisive issue of Moscow's export duties.

European Trade Commissioner Peter Mandel-

sonmet, Russian Finance Minister Alexei Kudrin on Tuesday to try to make headway on Russia's WTO accession push, to which Brussels has yet to give final clearance.

Approval has been stalled by a dispute over Russian export duties on timber that hurt paper and pulp producers in Nordic

EU states, especially Finland. "The meeting today was important as Mandelson and Kudrin were able to make their points clearly to one another in a frank and constructive way, which moved the negotiations forward," the Commission said in a statement.

MNA/Reuters



Malaysia is preparing to introduce Formula One night racing from next year following its debut in Singapore in September. —INTERNET

Venezuela wins asset freeze case against Exxon

LONDON, 19 March — A 12-billion-US-dollar freeze on Venezuelan assets awarded to US oil major Exxon Mobil should be lifted, a UK court ruled on Tuesday.

Exxon convinced a court in January to freeze the assets of Venezuela's state oil company so cash would be available if it won arbitration over an oil field which was lost in President Hugo Chavez' nationalization drive.

But after hearing Petroleos de Venezuela's arguments, the judge ruled against Exxon.

"The injunction granted against the defendant, Petroleos de Venezuela, should be discharged," Justice Paul Walker told the court.

The world's largest non-government controlled oil company by market value, Exxon has the right to appeal but its lawyers declined to

comment immediately on whether they would do so.

PDVSA's lawyers also declined immediate comment.

Venezuela's Ambassador to Britain, who arrived shortly after the ruling, answered with just one word when he heard the result: "Excelentissimo".

MNA/Reuters

SIA's "A380" kicks off first commercial flight to London

SINGAPORE, 19 March — The Singapore Airlines' A380, the world's biggest passenger plane, kicked off on Tuesday its first commercial flight to London, also the first one to Europe.

Flight SQ308 carrying 449 customers on board took off from Singapore's Changi Airport early

Tuesday, and is scheduled to land at London's Heathrow Airport on Tuesday afternoon, according to a statement issued by Singapore Airlines (SIA), the country's flag airline.

SIA is also the first to fly the A380 and is currently the only airline to operate the superjumbo.

MNA/Xinhua



A Singapore Airlines Airbus A380 flies over homes close to London's Heathrow Airport. The A380, the world's largest aircraft, touched down at Heathrow Airport on 18 March, 2008, completing the plane's first-ever commercial flight to Europe. INTERNET



A man walks past a fallen billboard after a wind storm in Monterrey, Mexico on 18 March, 2008. At least one person was confirmed killed after strong winds knocked down a wall. —INTERNET

ECONOMIC NEWS

China wants 40% of oil/gas imports from Africa

CAPE TOWN, 18 March — China wants up to 40 per cent of its oil and gas imports to come from Africa in the next 5-10 years, a Chinese industry official said on Monday.

"We wish to increase the imports, the oil and gas from Africa from 35 to 40 per cent in the next five to 10 years," Zhiming

Zhao, executive president of China Petroleum and Petro-Chemical Industry Association told reporters at an energy conference in Cape Town.

China has embarked on a relentless investment drive in Africa to feed its economy, particularly in mining, oil and gas.

China imported more

than 30 million tons of oil from Africa in 2005, about 30 per cent of its total oil imports.

"We have a very good relationship with Africa and in future we wish to find more places to put our investments," Zhao said of increased Chinese-African cooperation.

MNA/Reuters

Laos, S Korea to build northern transport link

HANOI, 19 March — Laos and South Korea are cooperating to implement the Northern Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) transport network improvement project to increase trade possibilities in Laos' northern provinces. The government signed last

week a loan agreement with South Korea to rebuild roads at a cost of about 22.5 million US dollars, Lao newspaper *Vientiane Times* reported Monday.

The funding for the transport project was provided by South Korea's Economic Development

Cooperation Fund, which is dedicated to strengthening regional cooperation and boosting economic growth in the GMS.

The agreement calls for the improvement of 367 kilometres of Route No 4 between Luang Prabang Province and Xayaboury Province. The project also includes an upgrade of 59 kilometres of roads in the two provinces.

MNA/Xinhua

Israel, Germany approve joint projects to boost ties

JERUSALEM, 18 March — Israel and Germany on Monday approved a host of joint projects and agreed to hold annual government consultations during German Chancellor Angela Merkel's visit to the Jewish state, in a clear sign to boost bilateral ties.

Merkel and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert chaired a joint session of members of their respective Cabinets, at which both governments signed off on a range of projects, including defence, education and environment, local daily *Ha'aretz* reported.

The two sides agreed to hold such meetings annually, alternating as hosts, the report said.

The security cooperation agreement signed between Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak and his German counterpart Franz Josef Jung includes joint military training projects.

"The two sides seek to strengthen and intensify their political, cultural, economic and social relations as a partnership of democratic and pluralistic nations," said a joint statement.

After Monday's joint

session of Cabinet ministers, Merkel was set to hold talks with Olmert, during which Iran's disputed nuclear programme was likely to be on the agenda.

On Tuesday, Merkel will become the first foreign head of government to address Israel's Knesset (Parliament).

In the past, the honour has been reserved only for heads of state and monarchs.

MNA/Xinhua



Germany will have a football league for blind and partially-sighted players when the Blindfootball-Bundesliga begins at the end of the month—INTERNET

Palestinians stab Israeli in Arab East Jerusalem

JERUSALEM, 19 March — Two Palestinians stabbed an Israeli man in Arab East Jerusalem on Tuesday, a police spokesman said, in an attack likely to raise already high tensions in the city.

The man was stabbed in the head but his wounds did not appear to be life-threatening, the spokesman and emergency services said.

The attack, at the Damascus Gate entrance to Jerusalem's walled Old City, was carried out by two Palestinians and appeared to have been politically motivated, the spokesman said.

MNA/Reuters

Japan, Peru put Fujimori spat behind them

TOKYO, 18 March — Japan and Peru held their first summit in nine years on Monday as the two countries began to defrost ties long chilled by recriminations over former Peruvian president Alberto Fujimori.

Tokyo offered Lima grant aid and loans to mark the meeting between Japan's Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda and visiting

President Alan Garcia, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

"I am confident that our relations with Japan, which grew cold in the past, will improve," Garcia told reporters via an interpreter in a joint news conference following the meeting.

He added that the two countries would cooperate on climate change and

other global issues.

Japan and Peru fell out over Fujimori, who fled to Japan in 2000 when he came under pressure over a corruption scandal.

He stayed in Tokyo for five years, despite Lima's frequent requests that he be extradited to face a range of charges, including murder and kidnapping, relating to his 10-year rule. —MNA/Reuters



Japan's Aiko Uemura competes in the women's freestyle Moguls race during the FIS Ski World Cup Grand Finals at Chiesa Valmalenco.

INTERNET

Rally calls for withdrawal of Australian troops

CANBERRA, 18 March — About 200 people took part in a peace rally in central Sydney on Sunday and urged the Australian Government to withdraw troops from Iraq and Afghanistan.

The rally was held in Belmore Park just ahead of the fifth anniversary of the start of the Iraq war. The speakers said Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's pledge to withdraw 500 combat troops from Iraq did not go far enough.

Stop the War Coalition spokesman Alex Bainbridge said one million people had been killed since the war began, and all troops needed to be withdrawn.

"This war is a crime and we need to end it," the *Australian Associated Press* quoted him as telling the rally. —MNA/Xinhua

Six died in blaze in Mumbai

NEW DELHI, 19 March — Six people died and over twenty persons were injured in a fire broke out in Mumbai on Monday, the *Press Trust of India* reported.

According to the report, the fire was reported in an industrial estate in south Mumbai, after which fire engines and tankers were sent to the spot.

All the victims were admitted to a hospital where six severely injured people died later.

The cause of the fire has not yet been ascertained, the report said. —MNA/Xinhua

UK's venture profit falls, good start to 2008 drilling

LONDON, 19 March — British oil producer Venture Production reported a good start to its 2008 drilling programme with Ensign and Chiswick wells ahead of expectations, as it posted a 43-per-cent fall in 2007 profit on Tuesday.

"Operationally, we have had a good start to 2008 with the majority of operational issues which impacted 2007 production performance now behind us," Venture said.

"We still continue to expect 2008 production to be within our guidance range of 50,000 boepd (barrels of oil equivalent per day) plus/minus 10 per cent."

MNA/Reuters



A second outbreak of typhoid has left about 150 people hospitalised in the central Philippines on 19 March 2008. —INTERNET

Those who are like a certain person in the tale

An Observer

Myanmar is now working step by step for ensuring smooth transition to democracy. The people will have an opportunity to approve the draft of the State constitution of the Union of Myanmar in a referendum due to be held in coming May.

In the past, Myanmar approved and exercised two constitutions—the 1947 constitution and the 1974 constitution. Now, the two constitutions no longer conform to the prevailing situations of the nation, and they have been defunct.

After taking up State duties on 18 September 1988, the Tatmadaw laid down the four primary tasks. With a view to accomplishing one of the four primary tasks: successfully holding multi-party democracy general elections, the Elections Holding Commission was formed on 21 September 1988.

On 27 September 1988, Political Parties Registration Law was promulgated. The government granted permission to form political parties in accordance with the law for holding elections on a grand scale. The number of registered parties stood at 235.

On 23 February 1990, the government promulgated an order on the rights to gather people and canvass for votes to enable the candidate political parties and independent candidates to canvass for votes by presenting their policies, stances and work programmes to the public.

Of the 235 parties, 102 dissolved themselves of their own accord, three were dissolved due to their contacts with the Burma Communist Party, six were dissolved due to their failure to stand for election in at least three constituencies, and 31 were prorogued for neither dissolving themselves nor standing for election, totalling 142.

The remaining 93 parties presented their policies and stances to the people in the electoral campaigns. According to a survey, of the remaining parties, seven said that they would exercise the 1947 constitution with some amendments, whereas 31 said that they

would draw a new constitution, and 44 were expected to favour drawing a new one.

The purpose of my recounting those past evidences is to point out some facts that Myanmar is now in need of a constitution, the people are willing to transform the nation from Socialism and planned economy into democracy and market economy. And in compliance with the wishes of the people, it was impossible to exercise the 1947 constitution or the 1974 constitution with amendments.

So, the National Convention was convened with representatives of national races, representatives of political parties, representatives-elect, representatives of the people from all strata of life, and representatives of national race peace groups, and the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles were adopted with one voice and then the State constitution (2008) was drafted.

Before laying down fundamental principles and detailed basic principles, the National Convention delegates studied the constitutions of over 100 countries and worked hard to ensure an international standard constitution in the interests of the nation and the people, taking lessons from the defects and loopholes of the previous constitutions.

The 1947 constitution is made up of 14 chapters and 234 sections, the 1974 constitution, 16 chapters and 209 articles, and the forthcoming constitution, 15 chapters and 457 sections.

The 1947 constitution carried 23 sections on citizenship, fundamental rights and duties of citizens, the 1974 constitution, 26 articles, and the draft constitution, 50 sections.

Regarding the rights of national races, the 1947 constitution prescribed only four states namely Kachin, Kayah, Kayin and Shan states. The 1974 constitution prescribed three more states—Chin, Mon and Rakhine states. The draft constitution enumerates one self-administered division and five self-administered zones in addition to seven states.

These are not all. National races will have the

rights to establish region and state hluttaws, governing bodies, and region and state high courts.

Similarly, the self-administered division and self-administered zones will be vested with the right to form respective leading bodies and to exercise legislative and executive powers. The draft constitution also stipulates the rights for ethnic minorities who have not got a region, state or self-administered division or zone yet.

Every national race which constitutes 0.1 percent of the population of the State, will have the rights to make law by representing respective national races at the region or state hluttaw concerned. The representatives will become ministers for national races affairs of the region or state governing body concerned. Every national race, which is upwards of at least 10,000, will have the right to represent the national race concerned as leading body member in the self-administered division or self-administered zone where they reside.

Studying what I have presented, a citizen can visualize the democracy essence of the draft constitution (2008), with which the people will be able to approve their rights themselves. Now, the experimental period has elapsed and a prosperous future is ahead of the nation and the people.

By the way, I would like to present a tale. One day, two travellers set out together. On the way, they found bundles of grass by chance, and took some of them just in case they would need them later. They proceeded and again found bundles of paddy ears unexpectedly. The first person left grass bundles and took some bundles of paddy ears, whereas the other continued to carry only grass bundles with the attachment that the grass bundles were the things he had carried for long.

At one place on their way, they again found gold blocks. Then, the first one gave up bundles of paddy ears and took gold bars, while the other also continued to carry grass bundles with the attachment to the things he had been carrying along the route. The tale gives the readers a lesson “to make a correct choice”.

I recently read an article “**BCP constantly committing acts posing danger to the nation**”, which says that Burma Communist Party UGs and leftist politicians are instigating the people not to vote for the draft of the State constitution.

I would say that in Myanmar, there are the sort of people who are like the second person in the tale.

Translation: MS

Myanma Alin, Kyemon: 18-3-2008

Before laying down fundamental principles and detailed basic principles, the National Convention delegates studied the constitutions of over 100 countries and worked hard to ensure an international standard constitution in the interests of the nation and the people, taking lessons from the defects and loopholes of the previous constitutions.

Second Meeting of Sixth State Central Working Committee of ...

(from page 1)

Today, the meeting continued at the same venue, presided over by Vice-Chairman Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Kundalajoti. Joint-Secretary Bhaddanta Manitasiribhivamsa responded to the discussions on the one-year performance for the religious and education affairs and sought the approval of the meeting.

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung supplicated on the religious affairs.

Chairman Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara presented certificates to members of Sangha Viniçchaya Committee. A total of 15 Sayadaws, the Chairman Sayadaw, the Secretary Sayadaw and representative Sayadaws of all Ganas signed in the records book.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks by the Chairman Sayadaw.

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



The 2nd Meeting of Sixth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha in progress. — MNA

Minister meets USDA members in Pazundaung, Mingala Taungnyunt Tsp



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents cash assistance to secretary of Pazundaung Township USDA. — MNA

YANGON, 19 March — Secretariat Member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan met secretaries, executives, organizers and members of Pazundaung Township and Mingala Taungnyunt Township USDAs today.

At the meeting held at No 3 Basic Education High School in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, organizers and secretaries of Pazundaung and Mingala Taungnyunt township USDAs reported to the minister on tasks being carried out for social welfare and on organizing tasks.

Afterwards, Secretariat Member of USDA Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw

Hsan gave instructions on implementing regional development tasks and organizational tasks.

At the meeting, the minister presented cash assistance to members of USDA through secretaries of the township USDAs.

MNA

Minister meets USDA members

NAY PYI TAW, 19 March — CEC Member of Union Solidarity and Development Association

Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min met executives of Ye Township USDA and social organizations at the meeting hall of Township USDA office on 16 March and presented cash assistance for rural development.

Yesterday, the USDA CEC member met with executives of Thaton Township USDA and social organizations at the meeting hall of Township USDA office and provided cash assistance for rural development. — MNA

Workshop on promotion of transport services continues

NAY PYI TAW, 19 March — The second day session of workshop on promotion of transport services supporting economic progress organized by Ministry of Transport was held at the ministry here yesterday.

At the workshop, 11 resource persons read papers on easing current conditions experienced in providing smooth transportation services and on rules and regulations for transportation services. Officials concerned also took part in the discussion sector-wise.

The second day session of the workshop ended with concluding remarks by Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe. — MNA



Workshop on promotion of transport services supporting economic progress being held in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

173 drug-related cases exposed in February

YANGON, 19 March — Tatmadaw members, Myanmar Police Force and the Customs Department exposed 173 drug-related cases in February.

They seized 70.5093 kilos of opium in 36 cases, 28.5366 ki-

los of heroin in 6 cases, 0.9783 kilo of opium oil in 6 cases, 2.4345 kilos of low-grade opium in 6 cases, 33.8803 kilos of marijuana in 11 cases, 50917 stimulant tablets in 50 cases, 0.859 kilo of opium speciosa in 6 cases, 0.13 liter of cough syrup

in one case, 463.96 kilos of ephedrine in two cases, 1372.32 kilos of caffeine and six other cases.

Action was taking against 268 persons—221 men and 47 women—in 173 cases in February 2008.

MNA

ကမ္ဘာတိုက်ရောဂါတိုက်ဖျက်ရေးနေ့

၂၀၀၈ ခုနှစ်၊ မတ်လ (၂၄) ရက်

“World TB DAY”

24-3-2008

တီဘီကင်းစင်ကမ္ဘာတစ်ဝှမ်း လူတိုင်းတာဝန်ပင်

“I AM STOPPING TB”

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Pre-sharing of merits for offering rice to Sayadaws held



Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win presents offertories to a Sayadaw.

MNA

YANGON, 19 March — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, accompanied by Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and departmental heads, attended the ceremony to share merits for offering rice to members of the Sangha to be held on Fullmoon Day of Tabaung at Maha Nayaka Hall on Kaba Aye Hill here this

morning. Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Kyaikpi Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Gunesana administered the Five Precepts. Members of the Sangha recited Metta Sutta. The commander supplicated on matters related to rice offering ceremony and donated alms to members of the Sangha.

Secretary Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Nyaungdon Sayadaw Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa delivered a sermon, and the congregation shared merits to be performed.

Later, they offered 'soon' to members of the Sangha.

MNA

Transport Minister receives Daewoo delegation

YANGON, 19 March — Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe received Executive Vice President Mr Choi Ki Hwa of Daewoo International Corp and Managing Director Jung-Han Kim of Myanmar Daewoo Ltd at the ministry here this afternoon. They discussed relations and port development between Myanmar and Korea.—MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe receives Mr Choi Ki Hwa of Daewoo International Corp and Mr Jung-Han Kim of Myanmar Daewoo Ltd.

MNA

Commander inspects development tasks in Panwa Region

NAY PYI TAW, 19 March— Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint inspected Sino-Myanmar boundary pillar No 16 near Phimaw Village in Panwa Township and border gate on 11 March.

On 12 March, the commander also inspected dispensary in Lupi village and presented cash assistance to the village dispensary and gifts to local people.

The commander went to Chipwe hydro-power station project in Chipwe Township and heard the report on data of the project by Project Engineer USai Ohn Myint. The commander gave necessary instructions.

The commander met township departmental heads, members of social organizations and townsenders at the meeting hall of the Township PDC and called for participation in successful implementation of the seven-step

Road Map and the development of the agricultural sector.

Next, the secretary of the township Union Solidarity and Development Association presented membership applications to the joint-secretary of Kachin State USDA and the joint-secretary presented membership cards and uniforms, dynamos and accessories to the township USDA. The commander also presented gifts to the teachers.—MNA

USDA Secretary-General supervises regional development tasks in Hinthada

NAY PYI TAW, 19 March— Secretary-General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association U Htay Oo visited Mahitayon Monastery in Hinthada on 15 March.

At the monastery, the Secretary-General paid homage to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Indiyasabha

and donated offertories to the Sayadaw. Next, he paid homage to Mahawihara Monastery presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tejinda in Talokhtaw village.

Afterwards, he met with the local people and members of social organizations at Mahasi Sasana Yeiktha

Dhammayon and made arrangements to fulfill the requirements.

Next, the Secretary-General and party inspected progress in building Talokhtaw village Affiliated Basic Education High School and classroom and attended to the needs.

MNA



USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo meeting with residents and members of USDA in Hinthada. — A & I

Mayor inspects upgrading of roads in Dagon Myothit (South)

YANGON, 19 March— CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association (Yangon Division in-charge) Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected placing of gravel on Otthaphaya Street in Ward 57 of Dagon Myothit (South) and installation of water compressor at the corner of Myathazin Street

and Okka-1 street in Ward 107.

Officials of the wards reported on supply of safe water to wards in the township and the mayor

fulfilled the requirements. The mayor inspected paving of Kaytumati Road linking Garuna Street and Bandoola Street in Ward 107.

MNA

Take Fire Preventive Measures

Iraqi crisis fuels rise in asylum seekers

GENEVA, 19 March — A five-year downward trend in asylum applications in industrialized countries reversed in 2007, largely due to an increase in the number of Iraqi asylum seekers, the UN refugee agency said Tuesday.

Some 338,000 new applications for refugee status were submitted last year in 43 industrialized countries, a 10-per-cent rise compared with 2006, which saw the fewest number of applications in 20 years, said the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) in a statement.

"The overall downward trend in asylum applications was offset last year by a large increase in the number of asylum seekers from

Iraq," the Geneva-based agency said.

According to the agency, Iraqis topped the list of asylum seekers in the world's industrialized countries for the second year running. The number of Iraqis applying for asylum almost doubled in one year, from 22,900 in 2006 to 45,200 last year.

However, the number represents only 1 per cent of the estimated 4.5 million Iraqis uprooted by the domestic conflict, the

UNHCR added.

Those include more than 2.5 million people displaced within Iraq and another two million in neighbouring countries such as Syria and Jordan.

The United States was the main destination for asylum seekers of all nationalities in 2007, with an estimated 49,200 new asylum claims, accounting for 15 per cent of all applications in industrialized countries.

MNA/Xinhua



A worker checks piles of copper plates at PT Smelting in Gresik, Indonesia's East Java Province, on 19 March, 2008. PT Smelting, Indonesia's only copper smelter, said on Wednesday its copper cathode output was set to drop 6 percent this year due to plans to shut down its smelter for routine maintenance for 25 days in May.—INTERNET

Two US soldiers killed in bomb attack in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 19 March — Two American soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb attack north of the Iraqi capital on Monday, the US military said on Tuesday.

The attack occurred at about 12:20 pm (0920 GMT) when a roadside bomb struck the soldiers' vehicle while they

were conducting a road clearing operation in an area north of Baghdad, a military statement said.

The latest deaths bring the number of US soldiers killed in Iraq to about 3,990 since the US-led invasion in 2003, according to media count based on Pentagon figures.—MNA/Xinhua

Misbehaving British teens to be hit with "baby ASBOs"

LONDON, 19 March — Troubled teenagers as young as 10 would be hit with anti-social behaviour orders under a government plan unveiled

on Tuesday to fight youth crime.

About 1,000 of the country's "most challenging" children will be forced to sign good

behaviour contracts under the 218-million-pound programme, Children's Secretary Ed Balls said.

Under the expansion of the Family Intervention Projects, failure to abide by the contract will lead to a criminal record, or a so-called "baby ASBO".

Critics have said such orders do not properly tackle anti-social behaviour, as many teenagers view them as a "badge of honour".

The announcement comes just days after a senior Scotland Yard officer called for a national child DNA database to stamp out youth crime.

MNA/Reuters

UK's Northern Rock to cut a third of its staff

LONDON, 19 March — Britain's trouble-ridden Northern Rock bank, which was nationalized on 21 February, said Tuesday that it will cut about 2,000 jobs and slash its home-loan book in half.

The job cuts, which account for about a third of its 6,500 staff, will be made by 2011 under plans to turn around the ailing bank's fortunes.

The Newcastle-based bank was nationalized in February after the credit crisis forced it to seek a Bank of England lifeline to fund its mortgage loan book.—MNA/Xinhua

Panamanian police arrest 3 suspected of money smuggling

PANAMA CITY, 19 March — Panamanian police said Monday that they had arrested three people suspected of trying to smuggle 11.9 million US dollars to the country.

The arrested were Enrique Silva from Nicaragua, Indian Ashock Ladhara and Panamanian Alcibiades Moreno, police said, adding they were chasing another Indian suspect who was still at large.

Mexican authorities seized the money during an inspection of a Liberia-flagged ship bound for

Panama and which was anchored in the northeast port of Mexico.

The arrests were made after an investigation launched by Mexican police showed that the cash could be connected to a money-laundering scheme involving a company based in Panama's Colon free-trade zone, police said.

MNA/Xinhua



Police arrest an anti-war protester outside of the Internal Revenue Building in Washington DC on 19 March, 2008. Protesters on Wednesday launched sit-ins and marches across the United States as they marked five years of war in Iraq, demanding an immediate withdrawal of US soldiers.—INTERNET

Man auctions his life in Australia

SYDNEY, 19 March — A man in Australia is auctioning his life — his house, his job, his clothes and his friends — on eBay, after his marriage broke up, saying he wants to start a new life.

"It's time to move. A completely fresh start. I want to see where life takes me," Ian Usher, 44, told Australian television on Tuesday from Perth in Western Australia state.

Usher said he was auctioning his life as "a package" with his house in Perth valued at around 420,000 Australian dollars

(385,000 US dollars).

"Hi there, my name is Ian Usher, and I have had enough of my life! I don't want it any more! You can have it if you like!" reads his website www.alife4sale.com, which has a link to eBay for bidders.

Usher said his life auction, which starts on 22 June, included not only his house, a car, a motorbike, a jet ski and a spa, but also an introduction to "great friends" and a job at a rug shop in Perth for a trial two-week period.

MNA/Reuters

Floods displace thousands in east Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, 19 March — Floods triggered by torrential rain have forced more than 7,000 people from their homes in eastern Sri Lanka, with some taking shelter in schools and mosques, officials said on Tuesday.

Flooding and ensuing mass displacement are common in Sri Lanka, often fuelled by monsoon rains.

The latest flood victims included families living in basic camps, who had already been displaced by renewed war between the state and

Tamil Tiger rebels.

"A total of 7,200 people have been displaced in Batticaloa due to the heavy rains," said Keerthi Ekanayake, national coordinator at the National Disaster Management Centre.

"Of those there are about 600-700 people who were in IDP (internally displaced) camps who were already displaced by battles," he added.

He said most of the displaced were living with friends and relatives.—MNA/Reuters



Caixaforum centre : Visitors climb the stairs at the new Caixaforum cultural centre in central Madrid designed by Swiss architects Herzog & De Meuron.—INTERNET

Images of the Day



View of the Roman bridge over the Guadalquivir river in Cordoba, southern Spain on 18 March, 2008. The 331-meter bridge was built by the Romans in the first century AD and remodeled last year. Records show Spain is experiencing one of its driest springs since records began 60 years ago according to rainfall figures published by the Environment Ministry on Tuesday.—

INTERNET



No, this is not the scene from “Honey I Shrunk the Kids”. Luckily it’s not a flesh and blood ant either. This wooden sculpture, dwarfing the person standing beside it, dominates the installation at a park in Schleswig, northern Germany. People were out in force to see the ant and its cousins as the north of Germany enjoyed some chilly but bright weather on 19 March, 2008.—INTERNET



Young visitors browse hard cover cartoon books at the annual Paris book fair on 14 March, 2008. Israel is the guest of honour of the Paris book fair.

INTERNET



A child lies on a huge shoe at a store in Chuzhou City, east China’s Anhui Province, on 19 March, 2008. The 130-centimeter-long and 48-centimeter-high leather shoe attracted many citizens. —INTERNET



A worker clears snow in downtown Toronto, on 1 February, 2008. Although Canada is one of the snowiest countries in the world, a series of violent ‘snow rage’ incidents reveal that even the locals have their limits.—INTERNET

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 MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
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1. Sealed Tender is invited by Myanma Railways, for supply of the following Stores which will be purchased in Myanmar Kyat;

Sr.No	Tender No.	Description	Quantity
i.	12(T)35/MR(MC)	AAR Coupler Knuckle (China)	200-Nos
	2007-2008	AAR Coupler Knuckle (Korea)	100-Nos
		AAR Coupler Knuckle (Yugo)	100-Nos

Closing Date/Time -30.4.2008 (Wednesday)(12:00) Hours
2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanma Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon starting from 20.3.2008 during the office hours.
3. For further details please call: 01-291982,291985 (201555Ext 601, 605).Deputy General Manager Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Botahtaung, Yangon .

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
 HOLIDAY NOTICE**

As the wharves, warehouses and Chellan offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 21st March 2008 (Full Moon Day of Tapaung) and on the 27th March 2008 (Tatmadaw Day) being the public Holidays. Goods will be received, shipped or delivered on payment of Holiday fees.

**Israeli, Palestinian negotiators
 meet to resume peace talks**

JERUSALEM, 18 March — Israeli and Palestinian negotiating teams met on Monday in an effort to resume peace talks, local daily *Jerusalem Post* reported on its website.

Ahmed Qurei, chief Palestinian negotiator, said he downgraded the meeting to unofficial as a protest against the Israeli construction plans.

Prior to the meeting, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said during a joint Press conference with visiting German Chancellor Angela Merkel that Israel would continue to build homes in the east Jerusalem neighbourhood of Har

Homa, calling Har Homa an “inseparable” part of Jerusalem.

“We completely reject the building, not only one room, but also one brick in any of the Israeli settlements in the West Bank and east Jerusalem,” Qurei was quoted as saying.

Only Qurei and Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni attended the two-hour meeting, Livni’s spokesman Arye Mekel said.

Earlier Monday, Livni had said that the war on terror would not put peace negotiations on hold, according to *Jerusalem Post*. — MNA/Xinhua

**Canadian
 man charged
 with aiding
 Tamil Tigers**

VANCOUVER (British Columbia), 18 March — A Vancouver-area man has been arrested for alleging raising funds for the Tamil Tigers, which has been declared a terrorist organization by Canada, police said on Monday.

Prapaharan Tham-bithurai was arrested Friday on charges of illegally raising money for “terrorist purposes” by getting Canadian residents of Tamil heritage to make cash donations to the separatist group, police said.

The rebel group has been fighting for an independent homeland in Sri Lanka since the early 1980s, and was added to Canada’s list of outlawed organizations in 2006.

MNA/Reuters

French police make arrests in Paris suburb raids

PARIS, 19 March — Hundreds of French police raided homes in a Paris suburb on Monday and arrested 16 people after an incident earlier this month in which four officers were injured, authorities said. Nine minors were among those arrested in the early morning raid, which involved up to 200 police in Grigny, south of Paris.

The four officers were

hurt on 2 March after being confronted by a group of people gathered near a baker’s shop that had been vandalized. Three officers were hit in the face by lead shot and a fourth was hit in the leg by shot and nails.

Interior Minister Michele Alliot-Marie stressed in a statement her “strong determination not to leave unpunished attacks on the forces of

order, particularly those committed with fire-arms”.

The police raid, which was accompanied by journalists and television cameras, followed a similar operation last month in which more than 30 people were arrested on suspicion of involvement in violent clashes with police in the suburb of Villers-le-Bel in November.

MNA/Reuters

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 Dated: 20 March 2008

**Venezuela’s Navy plans to
 build torpedos, mines**

CARACAS, 18 March — Venezuela plans to build its own torpedoes to arm submarines and frigates, the navy on Monday, the latest move by President Hugo Chavez to modernize the military.

Chavez, a relentless critic of the United States, rattled nerves earlier this month when he briefly ordered tank battalions to the border in a spat with Colombia during a diplomatic crisis.

The Venezuelan Navy said on its website it was developing a project to design and build heavy torpedoes for two submarines and lighter missiles for its frigates.

It also plans to build underwater mines, radar and sonar systems as part of a project to modernize its small fleet.

Venezuela has bought Russian-built fighter jets and other weaponry in recent years to strengthen its Armed Forces.

Chavez, an outspoken critic of the United States who accuses Washington of plotting to overthrow his government, says the arms purchases are needed to replace aging equipment. —MNA/Reuters

**French tumour sufferer fails
 to win “right to die”**

PARIS, 19 March — A woman suffering from an incurable and disfiguring cancer failed on Monday in her bid to set a legal

precedent in France for patients seeking medical help to end their own lives.

A court in the eastern city of Dijon ruled that Chantal Sebire, 52, could not have a doctor help her die because it would breach both the code of medical ethics and the law, under which assisted suicide is a crime.

“Ms Sebire’s request, which is understandable in human terms, cannot succeed in law,” the court said in its ruling.

“While Ms Sebire’s physical deterioration deserves compassion, under French law the judge must reject the request.”

MNA/Reuters

**44 New Zealand troops leave
 for Solomon Islands**

WELLINGTON, 19 March —Forty-four New Zealand Defence Force personnel departed for a four-month mission in the South Pacific island nation of Solomon Islands on Tuesday.

The 44-strong troops will carry out patrols, provide assistance to police and help with external security in the capital of Honiara, as part of the Regional

Assistance Mission in Solomon Islands (RAMSI).

The platoon replaces the fifth rotation of personnel who will return home on Easter Sunday.

Earlier this month, Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd said RAMSI was a great example of regional cooperation.

MNA/Xinhua



South Korean astronaut Yi So-yeon and Russian cosmonauts Sergey Volkov and Oleg Kononenko pose for a picture in Red Square of Moscow’s Kremlin, on 19 March, 2008. Yi will serve as a payload specialist with two Russian cosmonauts for a seven or eight day mission to the International Space Station, South Korea’s Science Ministry said.—INTERNET

New technique holds promise for rare eye cancer

CHICAGO, 19 March — An experimental technique for a rare eye cancer has saved some children from losing their eyes and even restored vision in a few cases, US researchers said on Monday.

After threading a catheter through the body to the eye, doctors delivered a drug directly to retinoblastoma tumours through an artery in the eye. This allowed them to administer a much larger dose of the chemotherapy

drug melphalan, made by GlaxoSmithKline under the brand name Alkeran, than is normally given intravenously, they said.

Dr Pierre Gobin of New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Centre in New York, said the technique offers a “tremendous advance” in treating retinoblastoma, which often involves removing the eyes to keep the cancer from spreading. “It allows many children to keep their eyes and—in some cases—restores vision,” Gobin said in a statement.

MNA/Reuters

Study sees more overlap in US news coverage

NEW YORK, 18 March — The US news media, whittled down after a year of extensive layoffs at newspapers and television outlets, focuses on a far narrower band of news despite audience demand for a variety of information, according to a study released on Monday.

In its fifth annual study titled the “State of the American News Media”, the Washington-based Project for Excellence in Journalism found US audiences still most interested in news from well-established outlets such as the *New York Times* or *Washington Post* as they read more on the Internet.

But as those organizations cut jobs to contend with declining advertising and circulation, the pattern that emerges is a stronger focus on a handful of headline topics.

“Even with the revolution of information, we may have no wider ... a news agenda than we used,” Tom Rosenstiel, the PEJ’s

director, told Reuters.

“Although it is fragmented across traditional media, the staff at any one of these news organizations tends to be shrinking,” he said. —MNA/Reuters

Brazil destroys 7,000 coca crops in Amazon region

RIO DE JANEIRO, 19 March — The Brazilian military has burned out 7,000 coca crops found last week in Tabatinga in the northern state of Amazonas state, the military said on Monday.

This was the first time that an Andean species of coca has been detected in Brazil’s territory, where only another species, the “epadu,” had been registered and has a smaller capacity to produce cocaine, according to the Eighth Jungle Infantry Regiment. The plantation where the destroyed coca plants grew was tracked by satellites in the forest, near the Peruvian border, and occupied an area of two hectares.

Previously, military authorities said the plantation had a total area of 100 to 150 hectares.

The plants were almost ready to be harvested. A laboratory equipped with all the necessary devices to produce cocaine was also discovered at the site.

Experts said that coca plantations in Brazil might be part of a plan designed by drug-trafficking cartels in Colombia to transfer coca-growing plantations to other areas in order to escape fumigations in their home country. So far coca plantations have mainly been found in countries neighbouring Brazil, such as Colombia and Bolivia.

MNA/Xinhua

WHO says TB killed 1.7 million globally in 2006

WASHINGTON, 19 March — The rate of tuberculosis incidence fell slightly worldwide for a second straight year in 2006, but there were still 9.2 million new cases and the disease killed 1.7 million people, the UN health agency said on Monday.

The rate decline of 0.6 percent in 2006 compared to 2005 was so modest that the increase in the world’s population meant there were actually more TB cases globally, the

World Health Organization said in its annual report on tuberculosis.

And WHO officials cited worrisome trends suggesting that recent progress was stalling, while saying more money is needed to fight TB, which trails only AIDS as the world’s leading killer among infectious diseases.

By region, Africa had the highest TB rates while Asia had the most cases. By nation, India had the

most cases, followed by China, Indonesia, South Africa and Nigeria, according to the report based on data from 202 countries and territories.

The data came out a month after another WHO report showed that TB cases that defy existing drugs were occurring globally at the highest rates ever, with nearly 490,000 cases in 2006. Parts of the former Soviet Union were particularly vulnerable.

MNA/Reuters



The image shows a limited edition 12-bottle box sets of Perrier-Jouet champagne that will be priced at 50,000 euros, according to French drink firm Pernod-Ricard. The world’s most expensive champagne goes on sale on Thursday targeting a “super-rich” global elite. —XINHUA

US denies Indonesia’s allegation on bird flu samples

JAKARTA, 18 March — The United States has flatly denied allegations it was producing biological weapons from bird

flu samples sent by Indonesia to the World Health Organization, the English daily *The Jakarta Post* reported Monday.

Michael H Anderson, counselor for Public Affairs at the US Embassy in Indonesia, has explained the US has undertaken “not to develop, produce, stockpile, or otherwise acquire or retain microbial or other biological agents or toxins of types and in quantities that have no justification for prophylactic, protective, and other peaceful purposes, as well as weapons and means of delivery”.

The US is a party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and

Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, which entered into force on 26 March, 1975.

However, Indonesian senior biodefense researcher Isro Samihardjo said the US could use bird flu virus samples from Indonesia to develop weapons at the Los Alamos Laboratory.

Isro was speaking at a meeting about Health Minister Siti Fadilah Supari’s newly released book here Saturday. In her book *It’s Time for the World to Change, Divine Hands behind Bird Flu*, Siti writes of her suspicions about a conspiracy between the US and the WHO.

MNA/Xinhua



Plenty of kids were on hand to unpack the first Lego creations that arrived at the new Legoland Discovery Centre in the western German city of Duisburg on 17 March. The 3,500-square-metre (37,673-square-foot) centre is slated to open to the public at the end of April at a total cost of about 10 million euros (\$15.7 million).

INTERNET

SPORTS

S Africa to spend over \$3.7b on World Cup

JOHANNESBURG, 19 March — South Africa will spend around 30 billion rand (3.7 billion US dollars) on hosting the 2010 World Cup, according to a report released on Tuesday.

"This report shows we have complied with literally every guarantee we have made, we even went beyond that," Sports Minister Mike Stofile told the SAPA news agency.

About 20 billion rand had already been made available for infrastructure investment, added Stofile at a ceremony to hand over the 2010 mid-term government report to the country's deputy president.

South Africa is spending billions to build new stadiums and upgrade others but there has been concern high levels of violent crime and construction

delays might cast a cloud over the finals.

There have also been fears South Africa's power crisis might black out the World Cup although officials have said all stadiums will have power for the tournament.

MNA/Reuters



Borussia Dortmund's team celebrates after their 3-0 win against second division club FC Carl Zeiss Jena in Dortmund, Germany. Dortmund goes into next month's German Cup final.—INTERNET

Dortmund beat Jena to reach German Cup final

BERLIN, 19 March — Bundesliga side Borussia Dortmund beat 10-man Carl Zeiss Jena of the Second Division 3-0 in a German Cup semifinal on Tuesday.

They will play the winners of Wednesday's semifinal between Bayern Munich and VfL Wolfsburg in next month's final in Berlin.

Brazil midfielder Tinga headed in a rebound in the 13th minute for Dortmund, who last won the Cup in 1989, after Jena's Belarus goalkeeper Vasili Khomutovski batted away a Mladen Petric shot.

Jena -- which had reached the semifinals by knocking out Bundesliga sides VfB Stuttgart, Nuremberg and Arminia Bielefeld -- put up a brave fight in the rain at Dortmund before a Cup record crowd of 80,708.

But Jena were reduced to 10 men when playmaker Jan Simak was sent off with two yellow cards for complaining about a foul in the 51st minute.

Diego Klimowicz tapped in a rebound off a Florian Krings shot in the 70th minute and Petric got the third goal three minutes from time.— MNA/Reuters



World number one Roger Federer of Switzerland serves to Nicolas Mahut of France during a fourth round match at the Pacific Life Open at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden in Indian Wells, California. Federer won 6-1, 6-1. INTERNET

Krankl says Austria need luck to progress at Euro '08

VIENNA, 19 March — Co-hosts Austria will be lucky to get past the group stages of Euro 2008, former coach Hans Krankl said on Tuesday.

"There is always the chance with a little bit of luck, and if they are successful in their first game, something which we believed would not have been possible might happen," he told reporters.

"But one should be realistic, if they survive the group stage this would be a great, great success," said Krankl, who coached the team from 2002-05.

MNA/Reuters



Vargas (L) of Caracas's Futbol Club fights for the balls with Jonathan of Brazil's Cruzeiro during their Copa Libertadores soccer match in Caracas, on 18 March, 2008.—INTERNET

Feyenoord beat NAC 2-0 to reach Dutch Cup final

ROTTERDAM (Netherlands), 19 March — Feyenoord reached their first Dutch Cup final in five years with a 2-0 win over NAC Breda thanks to second-half goals by Michael Mols and Denny Landzaat on Tuesday.

Feyenoord went ahead nine minutes after the interval when captain Giovanni Van Bronckhorst recovered the ball in midfield and set up 37-year-old Mols to open the scoring.

A brilliant piece of skill from Landzaat set-

led the match 15 minutes from time when he rounded a defender before beating NAC goalkeeper Ten Rouwelaar with a superb lob.

NAC, who are fourth in the league a place and a point behind Feyenoord, attacked after going be-

hind in a bid to reach their first final in 34 years but could not breach the home defence. Feyenoord will play Heracles Almelo or Roda JC Kerkrade, who meet on Wednesday, in the April 27 final at their own stadium.

MNA/Reuters

Paris St Germain reach French Cup quarters

PARIS, 19 March — Two goals by Loris Arnaud gave Paris St Germain a 2-1 win over Ligue 2 side Bastia on Tuesday and a place in the

French Cup quarterfinals. The 20-year-old Arnaud was the brightest player in a mostly inexperienced home team and opened the scoring after 18 minutes only for Pierre-Yves Andre to equalize for the Corsicans with a stunning 25-metre volley five minutes later.

However, the PSG striker netted the winner when he latched onto a Sylvain Armand cross from the left in the 67th minute. The win is a morale boost for PSG, who are 17th in Ligue 1, ahead of a tricky trip to leaders Olympique Lyon on Sunday. — MNA/Reuters



Serbia's Ana Ivanovic returns a shot against Italy's Francesca Schiavone during their match at the Pacific Life Open tennis tournament in Indian Wells, California on 18 March, 2008.—INTERNET

Aberdeen dump holders Celtic out of Scottish Cup

GLASGOW, 19 March — Aberdeen knocked holders Celtic out of the Scottish Cup 1-0 thanks to a second-half goal by Darren Mackie at Celtic Park on Tuesday.

Mackie latched onto a knockdown by substitute Lee Mair inside the penalty area after 69 minutes to fire a low shot under Celtic's Polish goalkeeper Artur Boruc.

Aberdeen will meet Second Division Queen of the South in the semifinals on the weekend of 12 and April 13.

Celtic's Australian striker Scott McDonald had come close in a scrappy first half when he fastened onto a fine back-heeled

pass by Dutchman Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink only to swerve his 10-metre low shot narrowly around the far post after 39 minutes.

Aberdeen hit back five minutes later when Celtic skipper Stephen McManus's poor back pass allowed Ricky Foster to charge in on goal but Boruc raced out to block. However, there was nothing the Pole could do to stop Mackie firing home the winner.

St Mirren suffered a 3-1 home defeat against Second Division St Johnstone in their quarter-final replay.

St Johnstone had the tie wrapped up inside the first half hour as Rocco Quinn

rifled a marvellous 18-metre volley into the top corner for the opener after 13 minutes.

Striker Andy Jackson cracked the second high into the net after 20 minutes and eight minutes later Peter MacDonald rifled a shot from 25 metres into the bottom corner.

St Johnstone's Paul Sheerin had a penalty saved by goalkeeper Chris Smith five minutes after the break before Billy Mehmet pulled a goal back for St Mirren 20 minutes later.

St Johnstone's semifinal opponenets will be Rangers or Second Division Partick Thistle, who play on Wednesday.

MNA/Reuters

Man killed in plane crash near Sydney

CANBERRA, 19 March — One man was killed and another injured in a light plane crash in south-western Sydney, local police said on Tuesday.

Police said the plane crashed about seven kilometres from Oran Park, just off the Northern Road, at about 11:15 am local time (0115 GMT).

Ambulance officers were called to the crash site, the ABC radio reported. No further details were available so far.

MNA/Xinhua

Spacewalk complete, Canadian robot tooled up

HOUSTON, 19 March — Dextre the handyman space robot now has the tools of his trade and is ready for work.

Astronauts from the shuttle *Endeavour* outfitted the *International Space Station's* newly installed robotic maintenance man with tools and cameras during a spacewalk that ended early on Tuesday.

Veteran spacewalker Richard Linnehan and rookie Robert Behnken were back in the station after an outing of almost seven hours.

"It's a pretty awesome view just looking down on everything," Linnehan commented at one point as the duo floated in space over 200 miles above the planet.

It was the third of five spacewalks scheduled for *Endeavour's* busy 12-day visit to the orbital outpost. It was not all smooth sailing.

The astronauts battled

to secure a science experiment outside of Europe's *Columbus* laboratory and in the end took it back to the shuttle's payload bay.

The Canadian-built robot, dubbed Dextre, was assembled during the mission's second spacewalk. It resembles a humanoid stick figure with gangly 11-foot (3.4 metre) arms.

NASA says it will save astronauts from much of the routine maintenance they currently do on arduous and potentially dangerous spacewalks, enabling them to devote more time to the experiments and other scientific activities.

MNA/Reuters

Tigers kill six Bangladeshis near Sundarbans

KHULNA (Bangladesh), 19 March — Tigers stalking into Bangladesh villages around Sundarbans mangrove forests have killed six people and mauled 12 others over the last two months, forest officials said on Tuesday.

In the latest incident a fisherman was killed on Monday at Satkhali Village near the vast swampy forest some 500 kilometres (312 miles) southwest of the capital Dhaka.

The Sundarbans is a UNESCO World Heritage site and home to the Royal Bengal tiger.

The victims were attacked while they were

either fishing or farming near the forests.

A tiger was trapped alive by people at Goripur Village and handed over to Forest Department to return it to the swampy forest.

In December a Royal Bengal tiger, an endangered species, was killed in a confrontation with villagers at a village. Four people were also injured in the confrontation.

Forest officials said tigers sneaking into villages mainly at night has increased following the deadly cyclone that hit Bangladesh coasts late last year.

"The straying of tigers

has increased in recent months. Maybe they are coming out of forests in search of food," a senior forest official said.

MNA/Reuters

Up to 43 killed in Karbala suicide bombing

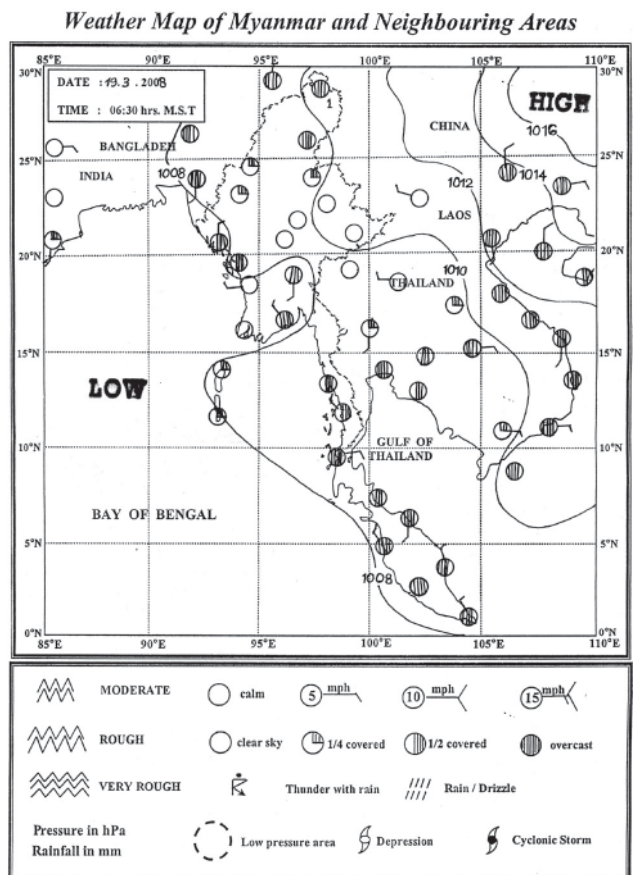
BAGHDAD, 19 March — The casualty toll from a suicide bombing in Iraq's Shiite holy city of Karbala on Monday rose to 43 killed and 70 people wounded, an Interior Ministry source said on Tuesday.

"The latest reports we have said that 43 people were killed and 70 others were wounded by the suicide bomb attack in Karbala on Monday," the

source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

Earlier, Alaa Humood, head of Karbala's health office, also put the toll at 43 killed and 73 others injured by the blast in which a female suicide bomber blew up explosive belt at a busy coffee shop in an area near the shrine of Imam Hussein in the city, some 110 kilometres south of Baghdad.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Wednesday, 19 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, weather has been partly cloudy in Rakhine State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (3°C) above March average temperatures in Chin State, Magway and Bago Divisions and about March average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures were Minbu (41°C), Magway (40°C), Chauk, Thayawady and Hinthada (39°C) each. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Putao and Machanbaw (0.16) inch each.

Maximum temperature on 18-3-2008 was 99°F. Minimum temperature on 19-3-2008 was 70°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 19-3-2008 was 76%. Total sunshine hours on 18-3-2008 was (7.6) hours approx.

Rainfall on 19-3-2008 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 (16:30) hours MST on 18-3-2008.

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 20-3-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin and Northern Shan States and Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Mon and Kayin States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Ayeyawady, 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 continuation of isolated rain or thundershowers in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 20-3-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 20-3-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 20-3-2008: Partly cloudy.



Thursday, 20 March
View on today

7:00 am
1. တောင်တန်းသာသနာပြု ဆရာတော်ကြီး ဦးဥတ္တမသာရ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am
3. Morning news

7:40 am
4. တန်ခိုးတော်အနန္တပြည့်ဝ မွမ်းထုံရွှေစည်းရုံး

7:50 am
5. "စက်မှုတပ်ဆင်လုပ်ငန်းတွင်" (မင်းမော်ကွန်း၊ ဇင်ဝိုင်း၊ ဦးစိုးမြင့်အောင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဝင်ထွန်းထွန်း)

8:05 am
6. ချစ်စရာအရွယ်ကကြီးသွယ်

8:14 am
7. Musical programme

8:30 am
8. International news

8:40 am
9. (၆၃)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

8:50 am
10. Musical programme

4:00 pm
1. စစ်ချီတေး၊ စစ်သည်တေး

4:10 pm
2. တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြု တေးသီချင်းပြိုင်ပွဲဆုရတေးများ

4:20 pm
3. မြူးမြူးကြွကြွယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက

4:30 pm
4. Musical programme

4:45 pm
5. Local talent

5:00 pm
6. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ-စတုတ္ထနှစ် (ဥပဒေပညာအထူးပြု) (အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ)

5:15 pm
7. Song to uphold National Spirit

5:25 pm
8. "လူကူးမျှော်ကြားမှကူးမယ်"

5:30 pm
9. ရုပ်မြင်ရသတေးစုကဏ္ဍ

5:40 pm
10. ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲ့ရင်ခုန်သံ

6:00 pm
11. Evening news

6:30 pm
12. Weather report

6:35 am
13. (၆၃)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

6:45 am
14. နိုင်ငံစီးပွားအလေးထား ကျေးလက်ထုတ်ကုန်များ (နာမည်ကျော်ကြား စစ်ကိုင်းမြို့မှ ကြိမ်ထည်လက်ရာများ)

7:00 pm
15. Musical programme

7:10 pm
16. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "လေဒီယာနှင့်ဆုစည်းခြင်း" (အပိုင်း-၁၇)

8:00 pm
17. News

8:00 pm
18. International news

8:00 pm
19. Weather report

8:00 pm
20. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ဘဝဆက်တိုင်း" (အပိုင်း-၁၀)

8:00 pm
21. သီတဂူဆရာတော် အရှင်ဥတဝိသာရ၏ နေ့ဦးဆောင်းနှောင်းလတပေါင်း (အပိုင်း-၁)

7:00 am
1. တောင်တန်းသာသနာပြု ဆရာတော်ကြီး ဦးဥတ္တမသာရ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am
3. Morning news

7:40 am
4. တန်ခိုးတော်အနန္တပြည့်ဝ မွမ်းထုံရွှေစည်းရုံး

7:50 am
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4:20 pm
3. မြူးမြူးကြွကြွယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက

4:30 pm
4. Musical programme

People's Desire

- ★ We favour stability.
- ★ We favour peace.
- ★ We oppose unrest and violence.

Information Minister meets staff of NPE



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan meeting with employees of News and Periodicals Enterprise. — MNA

YANGON, 19 March — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan met departmental staff of News and Periodicals Enterprise at the meeting hall of the Central Printing Press of Printing and Publishing Enterprise on Theinbyu Road here at 5.30 pm today.

Also present at the meeting were Managing Director U Soe Win of News and Periodicals Enterprise, Director-General U Chit Naing of Information and Public Relations Department, Managing Director U Aung Myo Myint of Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise, deputy directors-general, directors, chief editors, deputy directors, officers and staff.

At the meeting Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan delivered a speech. He said State-run newspapers are becoming popular among the people as they carry and feature various kinds of news in all sectors and they have been good in form as well as content these days. Actually, the success is due to the cooperative efforts of the staff of NPE. The minister said he recognized and praised the staff for their achievements and called for more efforts to ensure more success.

Later, the minister left necessary instructions and fulfilled the requirements.

MNA

Objectives of the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day

- * To work in concert with the people in building a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation
- * To realize the seven-step Road Map of the State joining hands with the people
- * Joining hands with the people and based on Union Spirit to crush internal and external destructive elements sabotaging stability and development of the State
- * To build a strong, capable and modern patriotic Tatmadaw to safeguard Our Three Main National Causes

MRTV-4 to use new frequency

NAY PYI TAW, 19 March — The Myanmar Radio and Television under the Ministry of Information is transmitting MRTV-4 and its related channels to major cities including Yangon through DVB-T system. From 20 to 24 March, MRTV will use frequency 3617 MHz instead of 3659 MHz.

Those who do not receive MRTV-4 and its related channels as usual may search the proper channel step by step. If any problem occurs, contact the sales centres concerned.

MNA

**Beware
of
Fire**

Significant Day Temperatures

Minbu	(41°C)
Magway	(40°C)
Chauk	(39°C)
Thayawady	(39°C)
Hinthada	(39°C)