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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

Proper flow of drainage inspected

YANGON, 15 March— Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council

Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint and Chairman of Yangon City Develop-

ment Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin arrived at Mingala Taungnyunt Township

Development Affairs Office this morning. At the meeting hall of the office, the Head of Yangon

Division Health Department and officials concerned briefed the commander and the mayor on outbreak and

control of dengue haemorrhagic fever and diarrhoea in the township, preventive measures against the diseases, proper flow of drainage and sanitation tasks.

(See page 8)

Summer paddy, sunflower thriving in Maungtaw Township

Article & Photos: Reporter Singu Soe Win

I had one more opportunity to recently visit Maungtaw and it was the ninth time. Under the arrangements of Chairman of Mawtaw District Peace and Development Council U Aung Swe Nyunt and Chairman of Buthidaung Township Peace and Development Council U Nyan Myo, I proceeded to Maungtaw from Buthidaung by car.

Chairman of Maungtaw Township PDC U Khin Maung Tun waited for me at the office of the District PDC, and then accommodated me at the Strand Yeiktha. He explained to me the programmes for the visit to thriving summer paddy and sunflower plantations in Aungsitpyin Village, 25 miles from Maungtaw.

The following day, I left together with Chairman of Township PDC U Khin Maung Tun and township level departmental officials for Kyeinchaung Village by car along Maungtaw-Kyeinchaung Road.

I saw thriving summer paddy and sunflower plantations on either side of Myothagyi Village of Maungtaw Township. Moreover, lush summer paddy plantations, cold season crops and kitchen crops plantations welcomed us along the road from 3rd-mile gate to Kyeinchaung Village.

(See page 7)



Thriving Yadana Aung strain summer paddy plantation seen on 27 acres of farmlands in Ngwetaung Village of Maungtaw Township.



Totti and Aquilani: underachievers?

Clueless Italian football hits rock bottom

ROME, 15 March — The sun is still shining and people are going about their daily business, but the world of Italian football has come to a grinding halt.

Not one team through to the last eight of the Champions League is nothing short

of an absolute disaster. And Jose Mourinho is totally off the mark: Italy is hurting and anyone who really cares for the state of the game is not crowing that Inter, Juventus and Roma are Euro also-rans.

It reflects badly on a country who for so long

were the masters of a continent, but now have been left behind by the new world order.

This is truly a country for old men and nothing brought that home more clearly than seeing those young, fresh-faced Arsenal pups dancing around the Stadio Olimpico after Max

Tonetto lost his nerve and attempted to launch the ball towards the Roman hills.

Francesco Totti cut a desolate figure in the centre of the pitch as he witnessed his dream of reaching the final in the same stadium die on the vine. —Internet

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 16 March, 2009

Raise momentum in control of narcotic drugs

There has been drug production and trafficking in the world resulting in social problems in the societies related to the drug addicts and drug traffickers.

The youths in the nations of the world abused stimulants in various forms and the danger of drug problem is still great in the world. In Myanmar, the government enacts Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. According to the law, deterrent actions have to be taken against drug addicts, those who are in possession of drugs and traffickers. The government launched anti-drug campaigns with greater momentum in law enforcement sector. In February, a total of 183 drug cases were exposed and action was taken against the culprits.

At the same time, the government in cooperation with local people destroys poppy plantations in illegal poppy growing regions. In February, poppy plantations were destroyed in some regions in northern, southern and eastern parts of Shan State and Kachin State. Over 7,000 acres of poppy plantations have been destroyed in the present poppy cultivation season in states and divisions. Stimulant tablets including chemical precursors used in production of opium, heroin and other narcotic drugs pose a threat to mankind and its social environment.

To overcome these problems, nations across the world have to promote cooperation at the regional, sub-regional and bilateral levels. The government and the entire national people are to strive vigorously through the national plan to eradicate narcotic drugs in the country.

Fire fighters of Mandalay demonstrate to put out fire with fire extinguisher in front of Myitnge Carriages Factory in Amarapura Township on 22 February.

NLM



People's Desire

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

Ambassador U Aung Khin Soe accredited to Philippines

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March—The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Aung Khin Soe, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of the Philippines.

MNA

Chindwin, Ayeyawady at low water levels

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March—According to the observation today, the water level of Chindwin river at Monywa is below its minimum alert water level (100) cm and it may remain below its minimum alert water level until the end of March, 2009.

According to the observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady river at NyaungU is below its minimum alert level (1020) cm and it may remain below its minimum alert water level until the end of March 2009.—MNA

Sanitation measures in North Okkalapa Township inspected

YANGON, 15 March—Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected work being carried out for proper drainage of Myitta Street and Uzana Street in Ta Ward at 9:00 a.m in North Okkalapa Township.

The mayor also inspected upgrading and tarring of Bomma 5th Street and Maydawi Road. Next, he

inspected upgrading of concrete Einda Dhamma Yon 12th Lane in Ta Ward. He looked into tasks for extension of Phyo Free Clinic in Yuzana Street in No.2 Ward and Yuzana 3rd and 4th Lanes and Thumala 8th Lane.

During his inspection, the mayor attended to the needs and met townsenders.

MNA

Latest models of air-conditioners introduced



New model of Sanyo and Daewoo brand air-cons at OK Myanmar Co Ltd.—MNA

YANGON, 15 March—OK Myanmar Co Ltd introduced latest models of Sanyo and Daewoo air-

conditioners. The ceremony was held in conjunction with a ceremony to award sales agents at Ball Room of Sedona Hotel, here yesterday.

Manager Director U Kyaw Kyaw Hlaing of OK Myanmar Co Ltd extended greetings on the occasion and member of board of directors U Win Myint Hlaing spoke words of thanks. Member of board of directors U Zaw Weik explained the quality of products, service and guarantee.

Next, senior general

manager Daw Thant Thant Zin explained the programme of presenting prizes to sales agents. Afterwards, sales agents were presented prizes by the managing director and members of board of directors. After that sales agents made observations on Sanyo and Daewoo brand Air-con models. Next, engineer in-charge U Nay Myo Aung explained facts about different models of air-conditioners.

The company is selling Sanyo and Daewoo brand air-conditioner models at special reasonable prices in

this summertime. Sanyo and Daewoo brand air-conditioner models are available at any electrical shops of states and divisions. For detailed information, anyone may contact the head office of the company and Daewoo Showroom (Tel-01-392986 and 392987), Pansodan HQ Electronic (Tel-241077 and 387644), Nay Pyi Taw Daewoo Showroom (Tel-067-420813), Mandalay Daewoo Showroom (Tel-02-31582) and Yangon Service Centre (Tel-01-299401 and 298491).—MNA



Afghan displaced women and children sit in the sun to warm themselves during aid distribution in Kabul in January. Recent weeks have seen a flurry of diplomatic activity on the Afghan front, but this should not disguise what Western envoys admit is a radical lowering of their ambitions for the war-torn land.—INTERNET

West lowers sights in Afghanistan

PARIS, 15 March—Recent weeks have seen a flurry of diplomatic activity on the Afghan front, but this should not disguise what Western envoys admit is a radical lowering of their ambitions for the war-torn land.

Where once Washington and its allies boasted that Afghanistan would serve as a democratic model in a difficult region,

Iraqi soldier killed in bomb attack northeast of Baghdad

BAQUBA, 15 March — An Iraqi soldier was killed and two others were wounded in a bomb explosion in the volatile province of Diyala on Saturday, a provincial police source said.

The blast hit an Iraqi Army foot patrol near a village, some 30km east of the provincial capital city of Baquba, the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

In separate incident, unknown gunmen stormed a sewage facility in southern Baquba and kidnapped three workers, the source said.

He said that the attackers on the facility believed to be al-Qaida militants and that the incident is under investigation.

Internet

officials now accept things are going badly and that NATO can't hope to win a clear military victory.

US Vice President Joe Biden admitted this week that "we are not now winning the war" and suggested including more moderate factions within the Taliban-led insurgency in a broader peace deal.

Canada and Britain also support this position, and this week French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner suggested that the West would have to accept it if what he called "moderate Taliban" made progress in upcoming elections.

Diplomats now hope, at best, that a settlement will be reached that will appease the least dangerous of the rebel elements

and allow development work.

Meanwhile, Western leaders have been quietly distancing themselves from President Hamid Karzai's Afghan government, once seen as the best hope for peace, now accused of inefficiency and ties to drug lords.

Internet

Four NATO soldiers killed in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 15 March — Four soldiers with the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) were killed in roadside bombing Sunday in eastern Afghan province of Nangarhar, an ISAF statement released here said.

"Two ISAF service members were killed and two more died of wounds

after an Improvised Explosive Device attack today in eastern Afghanistan," the statement said.

However, it did not disclose the nationality of victim by saying it is ISAF policy not to release the nationality of any casualty prior to the relevant national authority doing so.

International troops,

mostly from the United States, have been deployed in eastern Afghanistan for combating Taliban militants who are active in the bordering area with Pakistan.

Meanwhile, Zabihullah Mujahid, the purported Taliban spokesman, admitted the outfits carried out the attack.—*Internet*

A damaged vehicle is seen at the site of a blast in Kandahar province south of Kabul, Afghanistan, Sunday, 15 March, 2009. A roadside bomb hit a convoy carrying the mayor of a key southern city Sunday, killing a passer-by, while clashes and bombings around the rest of Afghanistan killed 13 others, officials said.

INTERNET



An Iraqi, is rushed into a hospital after he was wounded in a suicide bombing attack in Abu Ghraib, in Baghdad, Iraq, recently.—INTERNET

Foreign professionals find it harder to stay in US

LOS ANGELES, 15 March—At this time last year, many foreign students graduated from American universities were busy preparing documents to apply for H-1B visas to work for American companies, but as the US economy deteriorates, fewer American companies are hiring these graduates, and the "Hire American" call has greatly reduced the chance for even the most gifted foreign professionals to be hired.

Immigration attorney Taihe Wang in Los Angeles estimated that there was at least a one-third drop of applicants for H-1B visas than last year. Graduates from India in the United States meet with the same situation. US companies used to hire large amount of Chinese and Indian students graduated from American universities, especially in the high technology field, computer software and Internet businesses.

Internet



The Egyptian ship MV Blue Star is pictured moored at the Kenyan port of Mombasa following its release by Somali pirates. The captain of the ship, which was released last week after two months in the hands of Somali pirates, said Friday that a ransom of one million dollars (775,000 euros) was paid.—INTERNET

Beijing sends patrol ship to South China Sea

BEIJING, 15 March — China has dispatched its most modern patrol ship to the South China Sea, state press said Sunday, after an incident with a US naval vessel and a fresh claim by the Philippines to the disputed territory.

The Beijing News said the vessel would conduct patrols of what it called China's exclusive maritime zone in the disputed waters surrounding the Parcel and Spratly Islands.

It said the converted naval rescue ship would aid Chinese fishing boats and transport vessels.

The Philippines passed a law last week which lays claim to disputed is-

lands in the Spratly chain that are also claimed by China. Beijing has called the law "illegal and invalid."

Tensions in the area rose further when the United States sent destroyers to international waters off southern China to protect a naval surveillance patrol that was involved in a stand off with Chinese vessels.

China says the US patrol vessels were within its 200-kilometre (125-mile) economic exclusive zone, but the United States has insisted they were in international waters.

The Spratly and Parcel island chains have been flashpoints for years.—Internet

Israeli negotiators return to Egypt for kidnapped soldier

JERUSALEM, 15 March — Two high-ranking Israeli officials have been sent to Egypt in a fresh effort to bring back a kidnapped soldier from the Hamas movement, said the Prime Minister's Office on Saturday evening.

Yuval Diskin, head of the Shin Bet security agency, and Ofer Dekel, a senior negotiator, are expected to stay in Cairo till Sunday evening and meet with Egyptian mediators on a possible prisoners swap with Gaza Hamas rulers, said the office in a statement.

With Ehud Olmert nearing the end of his premiership, the Jewish state has intensified efforts for the return of Gilad Shalit, who was abducted by Palestinian militants nearly three years ago and is now believed to be hidden somewhere in the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip.—Internet

California grappling with overcrowded prisons

LOS ANGELES, 15 March — California are juggling 171,000 prisoners in a system built for fewer than half that many inmates, a newspaper report said on Saturday.

Grappling with such severe overcrowding, California prison officials are considering shifting more long-term inmates to the only state prison in Los Angeles County, according to the local newspaper *Antelope Valley Press*.

But that possibility has worried officials that additional permanent inmates living there would mean their relatives would flock to the area, bringing gang members and unsavoury people to an area hard-hit by the recession, the paper said.—Internet

Cuba, Venezuela could host Russian bombers

MOSCOW, 15 March — A Russian air force chief said Saturday that the country could base some strategic bombers in Cuba or on an island offered by Venezuela, the *Interfax* news agency reported, but a Kremlin official quickly said the military had been speaking only hypothetically.

The US and Russia have been trying to reset their relationship, severely strained over US plans to position missile defense elements in Poland and the Czech Republic and by Russia's invasion of US ally Georgia last year.

Russia has nothing to gain strategically from basing long-range craft within relatively short range of US shores, independent military analyst Alexander Golts said, calling the military statement a retaliatory gesture aimed at hitting back after US ships patrolled Black Sea waters near Georgia.

The chief of staff of Russia's long range aviation, Maj Gen Anatoly Zhikharev, was quoted by *Interfax* as saying Saturday that Venezuelan



In this photo released by the US Navy, one of two Russian Tupolev 95 Bear long range bomber aircraft is seen near the US Navy aircraft carrier USS Nimitz on 9 Feb, 2008, south of Japan.—INTERNET

President Hugo Chavez had offered "a whole island with an airdrome, which we can use as a temporary base for strategic bombers."

"If there is a corresponding political decision, then the use of the island ... by the Russian Air Force is possible," Zhikharev was quoted as saying.

Interfax reported he said earlier that Cuba has air bases with four or five runways long enough for the huge bombers and could be used to host the long-range planes.—Internet

Three killed in apartment fire in Brussels

BRUSSELS, 15 March — Two young children were killed and their father seriously injured in a fire at their apartment in Brussels on Friday night, Belgian broadcaster VRT reported Saturday.

The father died in hospital from his injuries on Saturday, it said.

The fire was started when a child who lived in an apartment on the first floor of the same building lit a teddy bear with a cigarette lighter. The blaze quickly spread to the second floor where the victims lived.

The victim children's father tried to rescue them without success and he was rushed to hospital with severe burns. A third child from the same family was rescued by the fire brigade.—Internet

At least nine injured in downtown Cairo blaze

CAIRO, 15 March — At least nine people have been injured in a huge fire which broke out Saturday afternoon engulfing an old building in the Egyptian capital of Cairo.

The nine people, including a fire fighter, have been rushed to a nearby hospital for medical treatment, reported local Nile TV news channel.

Some 11 others also suffered minor injuries due to inhaling smoke of the fire that erupted in the old building located in the Ramses street in downtown Cairo.

Xinhua correspondents at the scene said fire fighters are trying to control the flame, preventing the blaze from

spreading to nearby buildings.

Cairo Governor Abdel-Azim Wazir, who went to the spot of the fire to follow up the ongoing rescue efforts, said the cause of the mishap is still unknown, reported the Egyptian *MENA* news agency.

The Egyptian capital has been hit by several fires recently.

Last September, at least six people were injured in a fire that gutted the main hall of the Egyptian National Theater in downtown Cairo.

On 19 Aug, 2008, a fire broke out in the building of the Egyptian Shura Council (upper house of the parliament), also in downtown Cairo.—Internet



Firefighters try to put out a big fire Saturday which broke out at a building in the Ramses street in downtown Cairo, capital of Egypt, on 14 March, 2009.—INTERNET

China urges development of second-hand markets

BEIJING, 15 March — China's Ministry of Commerce (MOC) has urged local governments to promote development of second-hand commodity markets to stimulate economic growth and increase employment. The ministry said in a recent circular that local governments should strive to build a batch of big second-hand commodity markets in large and medium-size cities.

It said the development of second-hand markets meets the country's target of building a resource-saving and eco-friendly society, will help reinvigorate company inventories, meet consumers' demand, increase job opportunities and raise incomes of migrant workers and laid-off workers in cities.

The circular required local commerce administrations to take effective

measures to promote construction of a second-hand goods circulation network, in a bid to improve the country's consumption structure. It required local governments to standardize management of big second-hand markets and make them competitive globally. It also encouraged home appliance companies and large retailers to engage in second-hand commodity trade.—Xinhua

Brown says G20 to tackle "root causes" of recession

LONDON, 15 March — British Prime Minister Gordon Brown said here on Saturday that the upcoming G20 Summit in London must be used to tackle the "root causes" of the global recession and reshape financial regulation around the world.

Speaking at a joint press conference with visiting German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Downing Street on Saturday, Brown said the international community was building an agreement on "the biggest fiscal stimulus the world has ever seen" as well as on the shape of future fiscal and monetary policy.—Xinhua



Sudanese displaced from Muhajirya watch workers drill a new well for water at Zam Zam IDP camp in Al Fasher, northern Darfur, on 14 March, 2009.—INTERNET

Kidnapped foreign aid workers arrive in Khartoum

KHARTOUM, 15 March — Three foreign aid workers with the Belgian branch of the Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) who were kidnapped in Sudan's Darfur region arrived in Khartoum on Saturday evening.

Osman Mohammed Yousef Kiber, governor of North Darfur State, told reporters at the Khartoum Airport that the hostages — an Italian, a French and a Canadian — were released earlier Saturday after negotiations with local government officials.

The governor who accompanied the hostages said the armed men who kidnapped the three at a working site of MSF at the Saraf Umraarea in North Darfur on Wednesday night identified themselves as "al-Bashir's eagles."

The kidnapers also claimed that the abduction was aimed to protest against an arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC) against Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, the Sudanese official said.

Colombian policemen inspect the scene where a police helicopter crashed into a house in Bogota on 13 March, 2009. The crash left four people injured, authorities said.—XINHUA



Volunteers laugh during the foundation activity at the South Dock community of Shanghai, east China on 13 March, 2009. A volunteer team for 2010 Shanghai World Expo, including over 1,200 people from all walks of life, was founded at the community on Friday.—XINHUA

Australian concerts raise 5 mln AUD for bushfire, flood victims

SYDNEY, 15 March — The Sound Relief concerts held Saturday night in both Sydney and Melbourne have raised more than 5 million Australian dollars (3.2 million US dollars) for the victims of the Victorian bushfires and the Queensland floods, concerts organizers said on Sunday.

A spokeswoman for promoter Michael Gudinski said the 80,000 who braved the heavy rain to attend the show at the

Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) made history as being the single-biggest paying audience ever at an Australian concert event.

All the money raised at the MCG will go to helping those who survived the devastating on 7 Feb bushfires while the money raised at the Sydney Cricket Ground concert will be split 50-50 between the bushfire victims and those hit by the floods in Queensland.

"The twin Sound Relief charity concerts managed to surpass all the hype and anticipation to deliver a day and evening overflowing with unforgettable moments," *Australian Associated Press* quoted the spokeswoman as said.

During the concerts, a minute's silence was observed at both venues in memory of Victorian and Queensland communities devastated by the recent natural disasters.

Xinhua

Small plane crashes near Los Angeles, two killed

LOS ANGELES, 15 March — Authorities said they believe two people were killed in a small plane crash near Los Angeles on Saturday morning, when their plane slammed into a hillside minutes after takeoff.

A single-engine Piper Cherokee took off from Brackett Field en route to Mojave at 11:12 am local time and crashed about three minutes later in Pomona, about 40 kilometers east of Los Angeles, according to US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) spokesman Ian Gregor.—Xinhua

Bomb blasts in UCPN-M party office in western Nepal

KATHMANDU, 15 March — A bomb exploded in the party office of the Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) at Surkhet Road in Nepalgunj in western Nepal Saturday evening.

According to Sunday's myrepublica.com, the blast has slightly damaged the office's shutter, said Inspector of Police Pradip DC. The bomb is believed to be a socket bomb.

Earlier, a pressure cooker bomb had exploded in the party of the Nepali Congress at Surkhet Road in Nepalgunj in the morning. Jantanrik Tarai Mukti Morcha has claimed responsibility for the blast, some 365 km west of Kathmandu, according to the report.—Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Four questioned over N Ireland soldier killings

BELFAST, 15 March—Police in Northern Ireland were questioning four men on Sunday in connection with the murder of two soldiers, and warned that hundreds of dissidents were aiming to derail the province's peace process.

Earlier on Saturday, gangs of youths threw petrol bombs at police near Belfast after it was revealed that a prominent republican was among the group arrested.

Of the four being questioned over the shooting of the soldiers at Massereene Barracks in Antrim, northwest of Belfast, one man's age was not revealed, while the remaining three were 21, 32 and 41.

According to a police source, the 41-year-old was Colin Duffy, who has distanced himself from Republican party Sinn Fein since it agreed to share power with pro-London unionists.

In the aftermath of his arrest, gangs of masked



Men, some of them wearing masks, throw stones at police officers close to where a leading Irish Republican was arrested in connection with the recent murders of two British soldiers, in Lurgan, Northern Ireland, on 14 March, 2009.—INTERNET

youths threw stones at police near Duffy's home in Lurgan, southwest of Belfast, and petrol bombs were later thrown at ve-

hicles belonging to the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), a police spokesman said.

Internet

Air Force Chief says India's "MiG-29s" are safe

KOLKATA, 15 March—Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal Fali Homi Major, Saturday assured that the MiG-29 aircraft used by the Indian Air Force (IAF) were safe, amidst media reports that Russia had grounded a large number of its MiG-29 fleet because of structural defects.

"I have read the report. But you must understand that MiG-29s are of various series. I don't know the details of what series of aircraft the Russians are talking about. We had carried out checks with our aircraft and we

have no problem with them," Major told newsmen here.

He said the induction of new aircraft into the Air Force was going on "wonderfully well" as per schedule. "We are getting everything that we had asked for. There is government support and things are falling in place as per our plans."

Asked to comment on the crash of the indigenous Saras aircraft near Bangalore on March six, Major said an enquiry was on and only after its completion could it be ascertained what went wrong. "But you must understand that this is a development aircraft. Such things do happen."

MNA/PTI

Major flooding expected this spring in N Dakota

FARGO, 15 March—Emergency management officials in Fargo and Grand Forks are ordering pumps, topping off levees and planning dikes after forecasters predicted record flooding this spring along the Red River Basin. "The magnitude of the expected flooding has not been seen in several years," the National Weather Service said in a statement Friday. The region is still digging out from a blizzard earlier this week that dumped 10 inches of snow in Fargo.

Gov John Hoeven issued a statewide disaster declaration to help activate state resources and pave the way for federal aid. He said he has asked for help from the Army Corps of Engineers.

"This is not the March madness we had in mind," Fargo Mayor Dennis Walaker said Friday, referring to the possibility of record flooding as snow thaws in the basin that includes eastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota.—Internet

US autos task force hires bankruptcy lawyer

NEW YORK, 15 March—President Barack Obama's task force on the auto industry has hired a bankruptcy lawyer to advise it on its options.

The task force hired Matthew Feldman, a partner in the business reorganization and restructuring department at New York law firm Willkie

Farr & Gallagher LLP, the law firm said in a news release on Friday. Feldman will be advising US Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and Lawrence Summers, the director of the National Economic Council, on reorganization efforts by auto manufacturers and suppliers, Willkie said in a

statement. He will leave the firm by the end of March to start his position in Washington, according to Willkie.

A US Treasury official also confirmed Feldman's hiring, adding this would not change the task force's approach in restructuring the auto industry.

Interent

NEWS ALBUM

Whale shark saved in Philippines, may be smallest

Activists in the Philippines have rescued what they believe might be the smallest offspring of the world's biggest fish — a whale shark the size of a forearm, a conservation group said Tuesday.

The World Wide Fund for Nature said maritime officials and activists in Pilar town in the eastern Philippines rescued the 15-inch-long whale shark last week and released it in deep waters. Its tail was tied to a small rope on a beach.

The group called it "arguably the smallest living whale shark in recorded history."

WWF said the discovery is the first ever indication that this coastline may be their birthing ground. The group has encountered very few baby whale sharks and can only compare the size of its new discovery to embryos found in a dead female in 1996 — which measured 14.6 to 18.9 inches, according to Elson Aca, project manager for the WWF whale shark tracking project.



In this handout photo released by the World Wide Fund for Nature-Philippines a 15-inch (38 centimetre) baby whale shark swims in a basin Friday after it was found in the waters off Pilar in eastern Philippines. WWF-Philippines, maritime officials and activists rescued the baby whale shark whose tail was tied to a small rope on a beach. WWF says the discovery is the first ever indication that this coastline may be their birthing ground. It was released in deep waters.

Bull rider Austin Meier of Kinta, OK is rammed by his bull Rowdy Houdlum during the championship ride portion of day three of the Professional Bull Riders event at the Scottrade Center in St Louis.



Mobile phones banned from schools

The Central Asian state of Tajikistan on Tuesday banned mobile phones from all schools and universities in a bid to boost education.

"This measure has been taken in order to improve the quality of teaching at schools," deputy Dodikhudo Saimutdinov said after a vote in parliament.

Offenders, including those who carry phones without using them, will be fined. Although Tajikistan is considered Central Asia's poorest nation, 3.2 million out of 7 million Tajiks use mobiles.

President Imomali Rakhmon has earlier introduced uniforms at schools and universities and barred students from going to schools in their own cars.

US girl survives 23-hour, 6-organ-removal surgery

A seven-year-old US girl, who has six of her organs removed by doctors in order to take a cancerous tumor out of her abdomen, has been discharged from hospital, according to US media reports on Wednesday.

Heather McNamara, from Long Island, New York, underwent a 23-hour operation involving three different carefully coordinated surgical teams at New York Presbyterian Hospital four weeks ago.



Japanese job seeking students climb up 12,388 foot Mount Fuji in Fujinomiya, west of Tokyo on 23 August, 2005 to take part in a job interview. The interview was held atop Japan's highest mountain to make sure new employees have what it takes to scale the heights of business, the company said. 11 applicants out of 20 succeeded to reach the peak on Wednesday to try out for the interview to get one of the four jobs on offer.

"Her tumor had been called inoperable and surgery was thought to be impossible," Dr Herbert Pardes, the president of the hospital said at a news conference.

Lead surgeon Dr Tomoaki Kato said the tumor was in the abdomen and pancreas and tangled with two major blood vessels. "She was really sick, she had fluid in the belly," Kato said. "She was at risk of major bleeding."

Summer paddy, sunflower thriving in Maungtaw Township

Article & Photos: Reporter Singu Soe Win

(from page 1)

It is worthy of praise for the successful cultivation of summer paddy and cold season crops in Maungtaw region surrounded by seawater. On our way to Kyeinchaung Village, I took photographs on the lush and thriving Yadana Aung strain summer paddy plantation on 27 acres of land.

The chairman of Township PDC and members of the Agricultural Supervisory Committee said that they made field trips to the

At 12 noon, we arrived at Aungsitpyin Village. Chairman of Township PDC U Khin Maung Tun explained cultivation of sunflower to provide assistance for the staff of his office (General Administration Department) and for boosting production of edible oil.

“Our GAD grows 130 acres of sunflower for providing K 3,000 for one viss of sunflower oil to the staff. There are over 100 staff. The sunflower plants are grown on the lands in 109 villages with a view

After visiting 57 summer paddy plantations at Gyitchaung Village near Kyeinchaung Village, the Chairman of Township PDC and party explained to me cultivation of paddy plantation with the use of water pumped from the creek.

Head of Township Irrigation Department U Khin Zaw said, “Our Township grew 5,258 acres of summer paddy. By spending the funds of Township GAD, Gawrakhali, Meetaik, Myawtaung and Thechaung Dams were



“To get the correct cultivation methods, the farmers from Pyawbwe Township in Mandalay Division were invited to demonstrate the cultivation of sunflower as the practical work.”

U Khin Maung Tun, Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council.



Photo shows sweet water-melon at a shed.

villages four days a week and provided fertilizers and agricultural methods to the local farmers.

We saw thriving sunflower plantations at every village. The road from Kyeeganbyin to Kyeinchaung Village is a tarred road section plus gravel road section. I had visited Kyeinchaung Village five times from 1996 to 2001. Thanks to concerted efforts of the Township Development Affairs Committee, the Kyeinchaung-Maung-taw Road can be used in all seasons. Relying on the road, village-tracts and other villages are enjoying fruits of development in education, social and economic sectors.

to enabling the local people to understand sunflower cultivation methods. To get the correct cultivation methods, the farmers from Pyawbwe Township from Mandalay Division were invited to demonstrate the cultivation of sunflower as the practical work,” said the chairman of the Township PDC. Next, the chairman and the agricultural supervisory committee members conducted me round the thriving sunflower plantation.

Sunflower plants are thriving on 2,569 acres—130 acres cultivated by Maungtaw Township PDC, 1,629 acres by local growers and 800 acres under supervision of the Township PDC.

constructed, and the Irrigation Department built 17 dams including

Mawrawady and Tharaykonbaung Dams. Some of them are for the

purpose of supplying drinking water.”

“Our Township put 5,229 acres of summer paddy against the target of 5,000 acres in 2007-2008. The paddy yield was 76.91 baskets per acre. To boost paddy production, Rakhine State Peace and Development Council distributed fertilizers at the fair prices to the local farmers. Moreover, a total of 11,133 acres of edible oil crops, 23,589 acres of beans and pulses and 7,902 acres of kitchen crops were planted in the township,” Head of Township Settlement and Land Records Department

U Hla Tun Pru added.

Furthermore, Township Manager U Thein Wai of Myanma Agriculture Service explained the prices of vegetables and kitchen crops.

During the tour I visited villages one after another. Despite tiredness, I was really pleased with the concerted efforts of the staff to supply water for agricultural purpose and for boosting production of paddy and other crops.

Translation: TTA

Myanma Alin:

13-3-2009



Thriving 57-acre summer paddy plantation seen near Gyitchaung Village of Maungtaw Township.



Proper flow of drainage...

(from page 1)

Next, the commander and party gave instructions and viewed preventive measures for dengue fever and cholera being collectively carried out by departmental personnel, members of social organizations, educative talks on health care, proper flow of drainage and sanitation tasks in Mingala Taungnyunt Township.

Similarly, the commander and party viewed preventive measures for dengue fever and cholera being collectively carried out by departmental personnel, members of social organizations, educative talks on health care, proper flow of drainage and sanitation tasks in Ahlon Township.

MNA

Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspect sanitation works in Mingala Taungnyunt Township.

MNA

Staff urged to place special emphasis on timely completion of tasks

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March—The Ministry of Construction held a work coordination meeting at its office, here, on 12 and 13 March, attended by Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Deputy Ministers U Tint Swe and Brig-Gen Myint Thein, departmental heads and officials.

First, the minister delivered an address on the occasion.

Superintending engineers of States and

Divisions and engineers-in-charge of 16 road construction special groups, nine road project special groups, 16 bridge special groups, three airport special groups and six building special groups presented the reports on their respective sectors.

Managing Director U Khin Maung Hse of Public Works and Director-General U Aung Win of the Department for Human Settlement and

Housing Development submitted the reports on respective departments.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Myint Thein gave a supplementary report on office work, and Deputy Minister U Tint Swe, road works.

Before concluding the meeting, the minister instructed them to place special emphasis on timely completion of the tasks meeting set standards.

MNA

Sports Minister opens hockey tournament

YANGON, 15 March—The sixth Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman's Cup Hockey tournament for men was held at Theinbyu hockey

pitch here today.

Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint made a speech

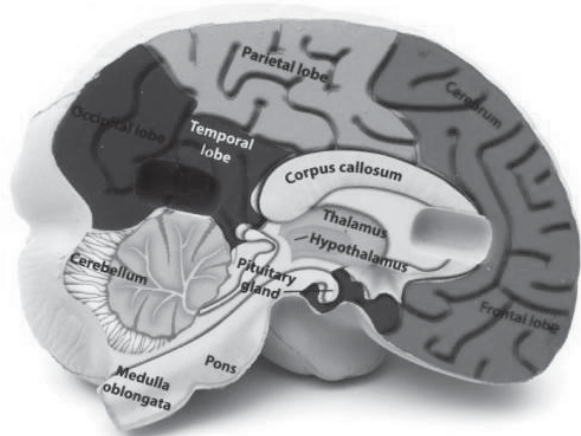
at the opening of the tournament.

A total of 12 teams are participating in the competition which will last till 4 April.—MNA



Franchise branch of Popular Bookstore at East Point Shopping Center.—MNA

Tiny brain region key to fear of rivals and predators



A piece of the brain's hypothalamus (shown in middle of the above model) is key to animals' fear of territorial rivals and predators, according to a new study. Without it, animals lose all sense of caution.

SACRAMENTO, 15 March — Mice lose their fear of territorial rivals when a tiny piece of their brain is neutralized, a new study reports.

The study adds to evidence that primal fear responses do not depend on

the amygdala – long a favored region of fear researchers – but on an obscure corner of the primitive brain.

A group of neuroscientists led by Larry Swanson of the University of Southern Cali-

fornia studied the brain activity of rats and mice exposed to cats, or to rival rodents defending their territory.

Both experiences activated neurons in the dorsal preammillary nucleus, part of an ancient brain region called the hypothalamus.

Swanson's group then made tiny lesions in the same area. Those rodents behaved far differently.

"These animals are not afraid of a predator," Swanson said. "It's almost like they go up and shake hands with a predator."

Lost fear of cats in rodents with such lesions has been observed before. More important for studies of social interaction, the study replicated the finding for male rats that wandered into another male's territory.—Internet

Shin Bwe Yan TV retransmission station starts daily programme

YANGON, 15 March — Under the extension of Myanma Radio and Television broadcasting programme, Shin Bwe Yan TV retransmission station of Kachin State has broadcast daily programme of MRTV at full capacity as from 12 March.—MNA

Franchise branch of Popular Bookstore opened

YANGON, 15 March—The Franchise branch of Popular Bookstore of Popular Holdings Ltd "Popular" of Singapore and City Mart Holdings Co Ltd was opened at East Point Shopping Center in Pazundaung Township today.

Various items of office and school stationery, books on English and teaching aid for syllabus of Singapore are available at Popular Bookstore. Moreover, textbooks for students of all grades, exercise books and other reference books can be bought at the store.

For further information contact Popular Bookstore, No. 210, East Point Shopping Center, Pazundaung Township, Tel: 01-394213 (extension-210 and 211).

MNA

Fire drill practised at MCDC



Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han views a fire drill practised by the staff at the committee office.— MCDC

YANGON, 15 March – Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han viewed a fire drill practised by the staff at the committee office on 20 February morning.

Fire hydrants have been installed at 14 offices such as the committee office, revenue department, the city hall, the information and public relations department in case of fire at the MCDC office. The fire

drill was practised together with officials of Mandalay Division Fire Brigade. Next, the mayor stressed the need for all the staff members to practise fire drills in times of emergency.

MCDC has kept two 25-horse-powered pumps and built two 9000-gallon tanks for fire emergency cases.

NLM

Objectives of the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

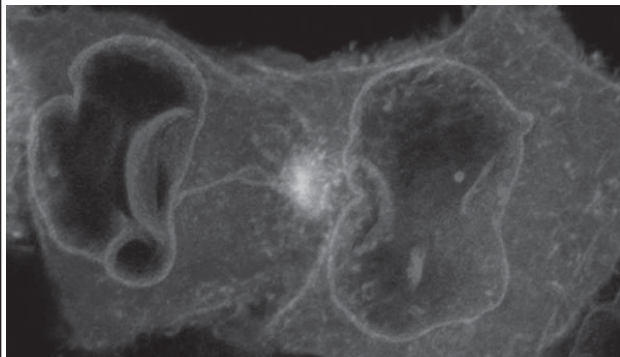
1. To work hard together with the people to accomplish the State's seven-step Road Map in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation
2. To uphold Our Three Main National Causes as the national policy at risk to life
3. To crush, in cooperation with the people, internal and external subversive elements that are disrupting stability, peace and development of the nation
4. To build a strong and patriotic modern Tatmadaw capable of safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the nation

Strong wind warning

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March—Daytime temperatures are going to be high significantly in all parts of the country from now to May. Frequent squalls can occur during the rain clouds in the afternoons and evenings. Surface wind speed in squall may reach 35 to 40 mph.

Due to storm winds, rain may be widespread in some places with isolated heavy rains.—MNA

Discovery of protection against cell division failures



This cell is having difficulties in cell division. A chromosome bridge remains between the newly formed cell nuclei.

ZURICH, 15 March — ETH researchers have described the causes for division errors of human tissue cells and how the cells protect themselves against these.

The human body is made up of billions of cells which constantly divide, even in adults. This is how tissues are renewed and any damages repaired. Normal cell division follows a fixed pattern: the chromosomes in a cell are duplicated and then redistributed so that two identical chromosome clusters are generated. A cleavage furrow then ingresses between the two chromosome clusters, which then form distinct cell nuclei. The cleavage furrow deepens and finally completely separates the original cell into two daughter cells. Both contain their own cell nucleus.

However, Daniel Gerlich, professor at the Institute for Biochemistry at ETH Zürich, and his group are interested in the cases when something goes wrong in the cell division process. Sometimes the cell begins to divide, forms two cell nuclei, but cannot complete the division process. In these cases, the cleavage furrow regresses and the cell does not divide. This creates a cell with two nuclei. —Internet

Ninth warmest February for globe

ASHEVILLE, 15 March — The combined global land and ocean surface average temperature for February 2009 was the ninth warmest since records began in 1880, according to an analysis by NOAA's National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, N.C.

The analyses in NCDC's global reports are based on preliminary data, which are subject to revision. Additional quality control is applied to the data when later reports are received several weeks after the end of the month and as increased scientific methods improve NCDC's processing algorithms.

The combined global land and ocean surface temperature for February was 54.80 degrees F, 0.90 degree F above the 20th century mean of 53.9 degrees F, ranking as the ninth warmest on record.

Separately, the global land surface temperature was 39.38 degrees F, 1.58 degrees F above the 20th

'The unexpected outcome' key to human learning

SCIENCE DAILY, 15 March — The human brain's sensitivity to unexpected outcomes plays a fundamental role in the ability to adapt and learn new behaviors, according to a new study by a team of psychologists and neuroscientists from the University of Pennsylvania.

Using a computer-based card game and microelectrodes to observe neuronal activity of the brain, the Penn study, published 13 March in the journal *Science*, suggests that neurons in the human substantia nigra, or SN, play a central role in reward-based learning, modulating learning based on the discrepancy between the expected and the realized outcome.

"This is the first study to directly record neural activity underlying this learning process in humans, confirming the hypothesized role of the basal ganglia, which includes the SN, in models of reinforcement including learning, addiction and other disorders involving reward-seeking behavior," said lead author



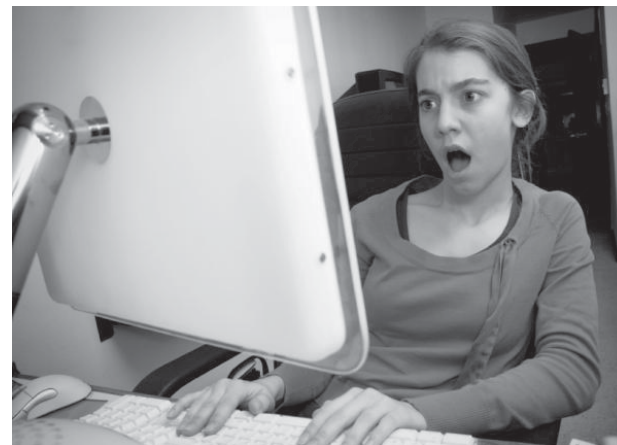
Melting snowman. The combined global land and ocean surface average temperature for February 2009 was the ninth warmest since records began in 1880.

century mean of 37.8 degrees F.

The global ocean surface temperature of 61.25 degrees F ranked as eighth warmest on record and was 0.65 degree F above the 20th century mean of 60.6 degrees F.

Internet

Kareem Zaghloul, postdoctoral fellow in neurosurgery at Penn's School of Medicine. "By responding to unexpected financial rewards, these cells encode information that seems to help participants maximize reward in the probabilistic learning task." —Internet



The human brain's sensitivity to unexpected outcomes plays a fundamental role in the ability to adapt and learn new behaviors.

Developing Kyonmange facilitated with better transportation

Article & Photos: Arkar Kyaw

(from page 16)
Local resident U Kyi Lwin told us, "The local people are convenient in travelling from Kyonmange to Yangon

by bus within five hours." We proceeded to Mauchaung Village to observe thriving summer paddy plantation. We took photos on pumping of



Ayeyawady Thar Express Bus seen on road from Kyonmange to Yangon.



"Due to facilitating better transportation, Kyonmange gains development momentum."

U Kyi Khin, Chairman of Kyonmange Village PDC.

water to summer paddy fields of farmer U Hla Tun, the signboard at the en-

trance to Kyonmange, the Kyonmange-Yangon Motor Road and Kyonmange microwave station.

We spent a night in Kyonmange. In early morning the following

day, we left there.

Kyonmange is a village-tract. As a result of better transportation facility, the region gains all-round development. The regional development is

uplifting the socio-economic standard of the local people.

Translation: TTA
Kyemon: 14-3-2009



Water being pumped into summer paddy plantation of farmer U Hla Tun in Mauchaung Village.

Your looks, creditworthiness may go hand in hand



New research suggests that a person's appearance may play a role in whether they are deemed trustworthy by financial lenders.

SCIENCE DAILY, 15 March — New research suggests that a person's appearance may play a role in whether they are deemed trustworthy by financial lenders. The study is summarized in a working paper by Jefferson Duarte at Rice University's Jones Graduate School of Management and Stephan Siegel and Lance Young, both of the University of Washington.

The paper, "Trust and Credit," found that borrowers on the peer-to-peer lending site Prosper.com who are perceived as trustworthy are more likely to have their loan requests granted.

The research revealed that a seemingly untrustworthy person must promise to pay an interest rate almost 2 percent higher than those deemed trustworthy to have the same chance of getting a loan.

"We found that people take into account someone's appearance when engaging in commercial transactions -- even in situations where a lot of information about the parties involved is available," said Duarte, visiting associate professor in management at Rice.

Using Prosper.com loan data

Duarte and his colleagues looked at 6,821 loan applications submitted to the popular online peer-to-peer lending site Prosper.com, where people seeking loans are matched up with people willing to lend money. —Internet

Silica algae reveal how ecosystems react to climate changes

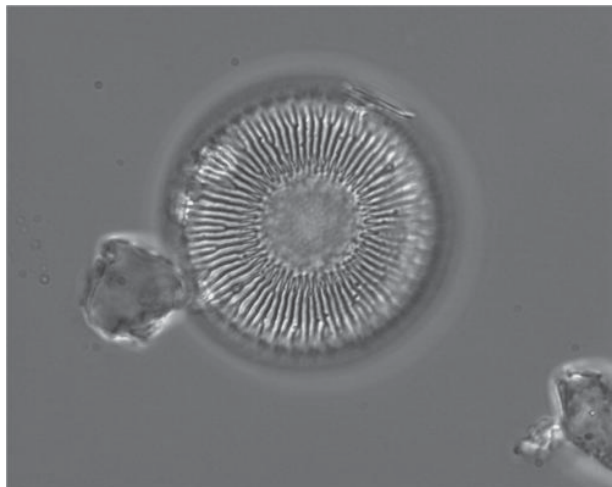
STOCKHOLM, 15 March — A newly published dissertation by Linda Ampel from the Department of Physical Geography and Quaternary Geology at Stockholm University in Sweden examined how rapid climate changes during the most recent ice age affected ecosystems in an area in continental Europe.

Rapid and extensive climate changes have taken place on several occasions in the past. For example, the latest ice age (lasting from about 115,000 to 11,500 years ago) is characterized by several rapid and dramatic climate swings. These swings recurred in cycles of roughly 1,500 years and were originally discovered through studies of ice cores from Greenland in the early 1990s.

These cycles started with an extremely rapid rise in temperatures, over just a few years or decades, of as much as 8-16°C over Greenland.

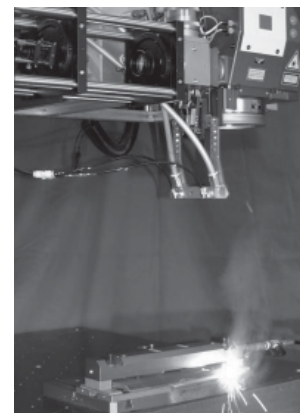
Linda Ampel studied how these rapid cycles in the climate affected ecosystems in an area in continental Europe. The study was based on analyses of sediment cores from an overgrown lake named Les Echets in eastern France and focuses on a time interval between 40,000 and 16,000 ago.

Internet



Cyclotella, a fossil silica alga.

Instant control for laser welding



An innovative control system adapts the laser output instantly to the welding situation.

BONN, 15 March — Car doors are usually assembled from several sections of sheet metal which are welded together by laser. The laser beam moves over the slightly overlapping sheets and melts them in a spot measuring several tenths of a millimeter, producing a so called full penetration hole that closes again when the laser beam moves on.

It is most important for the laser output power to be set correctly — if it is too low the strength of the welding connection is reduced because it does not extend over the full cross section of the metal sheets, if it is too high the laser cuts right through them.

Until now welders

have gauged the right laser output by trial and error and then kept it constant.

A complicating factor exists, however, in that the protective glass gets dirty after a while and lets less laser light through onto the metal. If this happens earlier than usual, hours can pass before it is noticed and the metal sheets may not be properly welded. Today, welding processes are only monitored without adjustment of the laser power because the achievable frame rate of about thousand evaluated images per second is not sufficient. For a closed loop control, frame rates of more than 10 kilohertz — equivalent to 10,000 images per second — are needed for a robust surveillance of the rapidly moving full penetration hole.

Researchers at the Fraunhofer Institute for Physical Measurement Techniques IPM in Freiburg have now developed a control system for laser welding processes which adapts the output to the given situation.

Internet

Sri Lankan govt slams UN human rights accusations

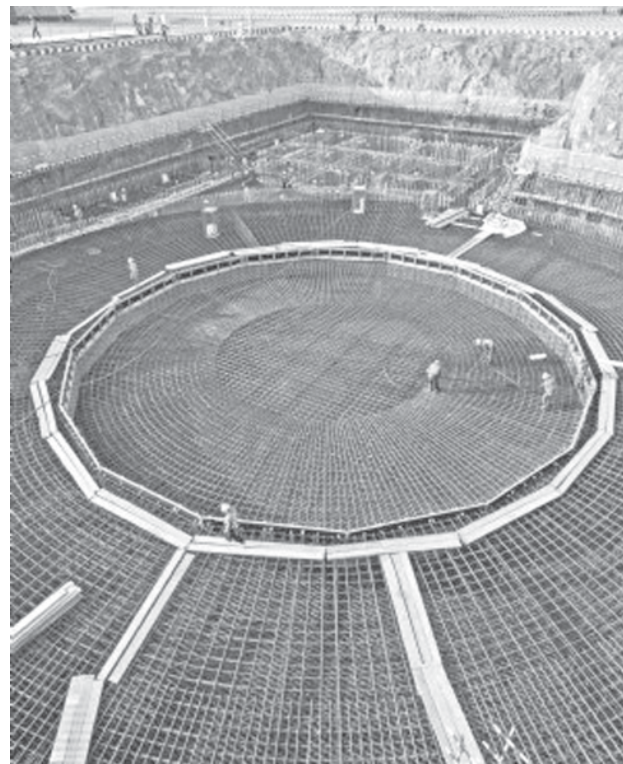
COLOMBO, 15 March — The Sri Lankan Government here Saturday slammed assertions by the chief of the UN Human Rights body that the government along with Tamil Tiger rebels may have committed war crimes in the present military clashes.

"We are disappointed and dismayed over the unprofessional statement," Minister of Human Rights Mahinda Samarasinghe told reporters. Navi Pillay, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on Friday called for suspension of fighting in Sri Lanka's north to let up to 180,000 civilians escape the battle zone in the Mullaitivu District.

"Her figures are based on so called

reliable claims based on substantiated claims," Samarasinghe stressed, adding that Pillay's statement tended to substantiated claims by pro-Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) websites. The government maintains some 40,000 out of 120,000 trapped civilians have already left the battle zone and arrived in government controlled areas.

Pillay had warned that loss of life may reach catastrophic levels and accused the government of repeatedly shelling the government designated "no-fire" zones for civilians and also cited reports that separatist guerillas were holding civilians as human shields and had shot some as they tried to flee.—MNA/Xinhua



Picture taken on 14 March, 2009 shows a construction site of the Sanmen Nuclear Power Project (NPP) in east China's Zhejiang Province. The first phase of the Sanmen NPP is now ready for startup.
INTERNET

Burkina Faso: 16 dead in canoe accident

OUAGADOUGOU, 15 March — Burkina Faso — An overloaded canoe capsized on a reservoir in Burkina Faso, killing 16 women and children, state radio reported Sunday.

The accident occurred Saturday in the village of Toesse, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) north of the capital, Ouagadougou.

Villagers were crossing the reservoir to attend a funeral, the radio said, blaming overcrowding on the boat.

The 16 bodies were recovered by authorities. Five people survived, the radio said.

Small wooden canoes are a common means of transport in Africa, and are frequently dangerously overloaded with passengers and goods.

Internet

HK Gov't House attracts thousands of visitors in blooming azalea

HONG KONG, 15 March — Thousands of Hong Kong citizens and tourists took a tour in the Government House of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) on Sunday, strolling around the blooming garden in the azalea season. The Government House was open to the public on Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm. Prominent among the lavish garden of lawns, trees and shrubs are the multi-colored azaleas, originally planted in 1919, that bloom every spring. Apart from taking a stroll in the blooming garden, visitors are also welcome to see the Drawing Room and Dining Room where the Chief Executive holds important official functions and receives dignitaries.

The Government House is open to the public twice a year, drawing thousands of visitors every time, a government spokesman said.—Internet



A Miami police crime scene investigator photographs the house where a man shot himself and set the house on fire after shooting four others at a family gathering at another location early on 15 March, 2009 in Miami.—INTERNET

Man kills four at gathering in Miami, then kills self

MIAMI, 15 March — A man shot four people to death at a family gathering early Sunday, then went home and killed himself, police said.

The man may have been upset because his wife had left him, according to a sergeant with the Miami Police Department's homicide division.

Officers got a call shortly after midnight that numerous shots had been fired and a red pickup truck had been spotted leaving the scene. They arrived and found four bodies.

Soon after, someone called 911 to say a building about three miles away was on fire and more shots had been heard. That's where they found the alleged gunman dead.

Janseen Almodovar, who lives across the street, rushed outside when he heard people screaming and honking. He said the entire building and a truck out front were in flames.—Internet

Brunei to multiply rice production for higher self-sufficiency

KUALA LUMPUR, 15 March — Brunei is expected to multiply its rice production in the coming years in a bid to increase its rice self-sufficiency, according to Brunei newspapers on Sunday.

The Brunei Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources has identified an additional 4,906 hectares of agricultural land in Belait and Brunei-Muara, two of the total four districts in the country, to meet the target of raising rice self-sufficiency rate. Brunei currently produced 982.9 tons of rice a year, merely 3.2 percent of the country's total rice consumption.

The ministry has been set to enhance the rate to 20 percent (about 6,000 tons a year) by 2010, and 60 percent (about 18,000 tons) at the end of 2015.

Brunei currently has 1,354 hectares of agricultural land in its 27 agricultural development areas, Brunei Industry and Primary Resources Minister Yahya Begawan Mudim said.

Brunei will achieve the targets mainly through improvements to infrastructure in the existing fields, use of high-yielding seeds that can be harvested biannually, and enforcement of training on farmers, Mudim said at the second day of the fifth session of Brunei's State Legislative Council.—Internet

Village official killed, 5 wounded in grenade attack in S Philippines

COTABATO (Philippines), 15 March — A grenade attack killed a village official and wounded five other civilians Sunday night in the restive southern Philippines, an Army official said.—Internet



A girl of the indigenous Limbu ethnic group from Nepal's far east Taplejung district attend a Taplejung cultural show in Kathmandu, Nepal, 14 March, 2009. Ethnic groups of the Taplejung district organized a two-day ethnic cultural show in Kathmandu to promote the cultural tourism in Taplejung and the preservation of their unique cultures.—INTERNET



A part of Yemen's second liquid natural gas plant is seen under construction in the coastal area of Balhaf, southeast of the capital Saana. Yemen, one of the poorest countries on Earth despite its proximity to oil powerhouse Saudi Arabia, hopes to join the international club of gas exporters this year — and reap a desperately needed multi-billion dollar windfall.—INTERNET

'Juliet' balcony to host weddings

ROME, 15 March—The balcony where, according to William Shakespeare, Romeo wooed Juliet, is to be made available for weddings. The authorities in the Italian city of Verona — setting for the tale of the two lovers — say they want to foster its image as a centre for romance. The Casa Di Giulietta (house of Juliet)

is in the heart of Verona.

Folklore suggests it was once the home of the Cappello family — possibly the model for the Capulets in Shakespeare's fictional play, Romeo and Juliet. Although some historians say there is scant evidence to back this up, the balcony on the 14th century building is still one of the city's most popular tourist destinations.

From next month, you will be able to hire it as a venue for weddings. But before you rush to this

most romantic of settings consider the price -- up to \$1,300 (£930) for non European Union residents. Officials say they want to enhance the city's image as the perfect place for love and marriage.

But remember two things: first, that Italian health and safety laws are likely to prevent modern day Romeos from climbing up the balcony to woo their brides; and second, that Shakespeare's immortal work ends in tragedy.—INTERNET

At least 22 killed or injured in road accident in Vietnam

HANOI, 15 March — A touring coach accident in the south-central coastal province Binh Thuan of Vietnam caused at least 22 people died or injured including some Russian tourists, the Vietnamese online newspaper *Vietnamnet* reported on Saturday.

There were eight tourists died on the spot and another three died on the way to hospital in the accident earlier Saturday. The victims have not been identified so far, said the report.

According to Nguyen Ba Hy, director of Lam Dong hospital in another Central Highlands Lam Dong Province, there were 15 people from the accident taken to his hospital. Of whom, only the driver was a Vietnamese and the rest were Russian tourists. □

MNA/Xinhua

Teen 'burglar' stabbed to death in break-in

NOTTINGHAM, 15 March —Police are piecing together the events that led to a 17-year-old burglar being stabbed to death after he was caught allegedly breaking into a house. The boy is believed to have been with two other teenagers when he reportedly forced his way in to the semi-detached house in Old Basford, Nottingham.

The exact circumstances of what happened next are not clear but it is understood the teenager was then confronted by a

man at the property. Detectives are questioning a man in his early 20s. A second man, also in his 20s, is under arrest in connection with the death, and two youths are also being quizzed.

Nottinghamshire Police said they were called to the house in Heathfield Road on Friday afternoon

after reports of a disturbance. Paramedics tried to save the teenager but he died later at the Queen's Medical Centre, police said. The glass patio door which leads on to the back garden of the house had been smashed. It is understood a Jamaican couple live at the property.

INTERNET

A quake reading on a seismograph. A moderate 5.0-magnitude earthquake struck off the coast of New Zealand on Sunday, geologists said, but there were no reports of casualties or damage.—INTERNET



China's advertising revenue reaches \$27.78 bln in 2008

BEIJING, 15 March—China's advertisement sector generated 189.96 billion yuan (27.78 billion US dollars) of revenue in 2008, up 9.11 percent over the previous year, China's State Administration for Industry and Commerce (SAIC) said Sunday.

The revenue from TV commercials reached 50.15 billion yuan, an increase of 13.22 percent over the previous year. It accounted for 26.4 percent of the total, the largest share of the market.

Income from newspaper advertisements rose 6.36 percent from a year ago to 34.27 billion yuan in 2008. The number of foreign-funded advertisement companies in China soared 27.73 percent from the previous year to 737 by the end of 2008, which accounted for 0.4 percent of the total advertisement firms across the country, according to the SAIC.—INTERNET

Six hurt at America's Next Top Model audition

NEW YORK, 15 March —Six women have been hurt in a "stampede" outside an audition for hit TV show America's Next Top Model. Chaos erupted in the street as thousands of hopefuls waited in line in New York.

Two women and a man have been arrested on charges of inciting to riot and disorderly conduct, a police official said. Panic spread after a car belching smoke pulled up alongside the queue and someone shouted "fire", according to local media reports.

A man then allegedly leapt from a car and began grabbing at the hopefuls'

bags. Some of the women had waited all night to audition for the show, which is presented by former supermodel Tyra Banks.

Six received medical treatment after feeling faint. It is believed two have been taken to hospital. Some of the women fled in the panic, leaving the street littered with clothes, shoes, sleeping

bags and chairs.

Police called a halt to the audition which was being held in a Manhattan hotel. But the rest were furious the audition had been axed and refused to leave. Further America's Next Top Model auditions are expected to be held in Chicago, Dallas and Los Angeles.—INTERNET



Hopefuls wait for answers at the America's Next Top Model audition in New York.—INTERNET

20th arson of the year in Pa town

COATES VILLE, 15 March—A Pennsylvania town west of Philadelphia was hit by its 20th arson fire of the year early Saturday, officials said.

The fire, which gutted

two houses, was the first in Coatesville since 22 Feb, when several buses were set afire, The Philadelphia Inquirer reported. Seven arson fires have been reported this year near Coatesville, but outside the city limits.

Roger Barlow, 20, of Downingtown — who was arrested in mid-February and charged with nine of the Coatesville arsons — was ordered held for trial Friday. Another five adults and one juvenile are suspected of being involved in arson. Arsons were also frequent last year. In the most serious fire, 25 Jan, a single fire swept through 15 houses.

INTERNET

NASA hopeful repairs will permit Sunday launch

CAPE CANAVERAL, 15 March—NASA is unsure what caused the hydrogen gas leak that prevented space shuttle Discovery from flying, but none-theless will attempt another launch on Sunday.

Shuttle managers are hopeful that repairs at the launch pad have solved the problem. There's "a potential risk" that the leak will recur, said Mike Moses, chairman of the mission management team.

That would mean yet another delay for the international space station construction mission, which already is running more than a month late.

"We did everything we could, which is to replace all the hardware," Moses



Workers repair the US Space Shuttle Discovery as it sits on the launch pad at Kennedy Space Center in Florida, on 13 March. NASA will break with protocol and try to launch the shuttle on Sunday even though it has yet to uncover the cause of a hydrogen leak that delayed its mission earlier in the week.—INTERNET

told reporters Saturday. "Yeah, we'd like to have that root cause, because now you'd feel comfortable. But I'm still going to sleep just as good tonight knowing that our chances tomorrow are really good that we did lick this problem."

NASA has until Tuesday to launch Discovery before having to wait for a Russian Soyuz rocket that is set to blast off to the space station 26 March.

The latest delay occurred Wednesday, just hours before liftoff, as NASA was almost finished loading Discovery's external fuel tank. Hydrogen gas began leaking where a vent line hooks up to the tank.

Internet



Council workers load bags of contaminated sand in Coolum, Queensland, after up to 100 tonnes of fuel were spilled from the Hong Kong-flagged ship Pacific Adventurer amid a storm early on 11 March. The operators of a ship that spilled oil along the popular tourist beaches of northeast Australia misled authorities about the extent of the disaster, the state government said Sunday.—INTERNET

'Kids' shampoo contains dangerous chemicals'



Popular children's bath products contain carcinogens, according to the tests.—INTERNET

NEW YORK, 15 March — Popular children's bath products contain cancer-causing chemicals, according to research carried out in the United States. An independent laboratory tested a range of top-selling brands and found many of them contained formaldehyde, which is used to embalm corpses.

Out of the 28 products tested for formaldehyde in the study, 23 contained it. Studies have linked the substance to

cancers of the brain, nasal sinuses and possibly leukaemia. Others had traces of 1,4-dioxane, a foaming agent which is also believed to be a cancer risk for humans.

Of the 48 items tested for 1,4-dioxane, 67% contained it. It is banned in Europe, and formaldehyde is restricted. However, the chemicals are apparently unregulated in the US. Both substances were apparently found in Johnson's Baby Shampoo, L'Oreal Kids Extra Gentle 2-in-1 shampoo and Pampers Kandoo foaming soap.

Stacy Malkan from the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics, who commissioned the tests, said: "If chemicals are causing cancer in animals, we really shouldn't be putting them on babies' heads." However the Personal Care Products Council accused the group of preying on parents' fears and described the results as "patently false".—*Internet*

Skeleton of Cleopatra's murdered sister identified

VIENNA, 15 March—Archeologists and forensic experts believe they have identified the skeleton of Cleopatra's younger sister, murdered more than 2,000 years ago on the orders of the Egyptian queen.

The remains of Princess Arsinoë, put to death in 41BC on the orders of Cleopatra and her Roman lover Mark Antony to eliminate her as a rival, are the first relics of the Ptolemaic dynasty to be identified.

The breakthrough, by an Austrian team, has provided pointers to Cleopatra's true ethnicity. Scholars have long debated whether she was Greek or Macedonian like her ancestor the original Ptolemy, a Mac-

edonian general who was made ruler of Egypt by Alexander the Great, or whether she was north African.

Evidence obtained by studying the dimensions of Arsinoë's skull shows she had some of the characteristics of white Europeans, ancient Egyptians and black Africans, indicating that Cleopatra was probably of mixed race, too. They were daughters of Ptolemy XII by different wives.

The results vindicate the theories of Hilke Thür of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, who has long claimed that the skeleton was Arsinoë.

She described the discovery of Arsinoë's ethnicity as "a real sensation

which leads to a new insight on Cleopatra's family".

Fellow experts are now convinced. Günther Hölbl, an authority on the Ptolemies, said the identification of the skeleton was "a great discovery".

Internet



Health Authority workers rest after taking part in a mass chicken slaughter operation at a wholesale market in Hong Kong in December. A probe into an outbreak of bird flu at a Hong Kong chicken farm and carcasses popping up in city waters have raised questions over whether the H5N1 virus is going undetected in southern China.—INTERNET

Spring coming early to Britain

LONDON, 15 March—Spring has arrived in Britain this year, the result of global climate change, a survey of nature watchers indicates.

The Daily Telegraph reported Saturday that naturalists say they have spotted birds nesting and plants already flowering across Britain despite one of the coldest winters in recent memory, the Woodland Trust says. "The timing of natural events is one of the most responsive aspects of the natural world to warming, so it is an important indicator of change," said Shaun Nixon, the survey's manager. "Even in a year like this, with an apparent return to the winters of old, things seem to be happening and we have already had confirmation of frogspawn seen as early as December." Spring does not officially begin until next week's vernal equinox.

Internet

More people delay or rush surgery

NEW YORK, 15 March—US doctors say the dismal economy is forcing some patients to defer crucial treatments while others try to hasten non-urgent procedures. Many who have lost their jobs and health insurance are delaying procedures such as a colonoscopy, which can result in an undetected polyp developing into a tumor, doctors told *The New York Times* in a story published on Saturday. Others are pressing for elective surgery, such as hip and knee replacements, before they really need it, the *Times* reported. "They're trying to get things done next week because they know they're going to be losing their insurance or going to COBRA," said Dr Jeffrie L Kamean of Atlanta, referring to the federal law that lets laid-off workers continue employer-sponsored insurance, though at costs that are often prohibitive, the *Times* reported.—*Internet*



Local peasants prone to purchase of a minivan read the notice of 10 percent subsidies on designated types of automobile promoted to countryside, in Linyi City, east China's Shandong Province, on 15 March, 2009. China implements new sets of tax cuts and subsidies to boost demand for cars, with the intention on encouraging purchases of cars and other vehicles, especially in the vast countryside. They are meant to help autos and auto parts makers upgrade to more modern, energy-efficient technology.—INTERNET

B'desh says to modernize fire brigade after devastating fire

DHAKA, 15 March—A day after a big fire at the country's largest shopping mall, Bangladesh Saturday said the Fire Brigade will be modernized soon to tackle any such terrible fire in the future, private news agency UNB reported.

After visiting some injured people in a hospital here on Saturday, Bangladesh's Home Minister Sahara Khatun told reporters that the Fire Brigade will be provided with high-tech equipments and training for fire fighters soon.

The minister made the remarks as the fire fighters were seen helpless in extinguishing the fire on top floors of the 19-storey shopping complex Bashundhara City in capital Dhaka on Friday afternoon, as they had no ladder or equipment to put out blaze beyond the 13th floor.—Internet

MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (16.3.2009) (Monday)

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

Local Transmission

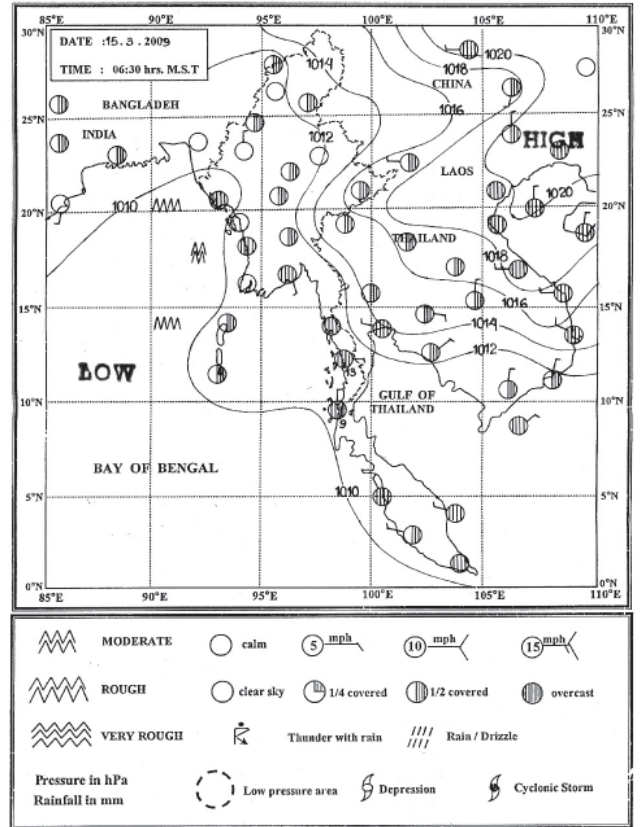
- Signature Tune
- Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- Travelogue (Kalaw)
- Mouzann Myawae
- Hundred Fruits from a Common Stem, our Union "Kayah State"
- Historical Shwe Inpin Monastery
- Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Europe/ North America Transmission

- Signature Tune
- Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- Where the Rhododendron Blooms
- Poem Garden "The Moon"
- Hundred Fruits from a Common Stem, our Union "Kachin State"
- Myanma Traditional Marionette Theatre (Part-4)
- Hot Springs in Lashio and Nam-Kham
- Welcome to Ngwe Hsaung Beach Resort
- Village Use Area Zoning Process (Hukaung Tiger Reserve)
- The Beauty of Tamoyel Region
- Discovering Imaw Bum Area (Part-III)
- Travelogue (Kalaw)
- Mouzann Myawae
- Hundred Fruits from a Common Stem, our Union "Kayah State"
- Historical Shwe Inpin Monastery
- Ancient Mural Paintings of Poe Will Hill
- The Royal Animal Weights of the Myanmar Empires
- Myanma Natural Spirulina (Part-III)
- Discovering Imaw Bum Area (Part-IV)
- Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Sunday, 15 March, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Shan State, Mandalay, Yangon, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (5°C)(6°C) below March average temperatures in Mandalay and Bago Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) above March average temperatures in Shan, Chin and Rakhie States, upper Sagaing and Ayeyawady Divisions, (5°C) above March average temperatures in Kachin State and about March average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures wereThayawady (39°C) and Patheingyi (38°C). The Noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Myeik (0.51) inch, Kawthong (0.35) inch, Pinlaung (0.20) inch and Central Yangon (0.04).

Maximum temperature on 14-3-2009 was 97°F. Minimum temperature on 15-3-2009 was 73°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 15-3-2009 was 70%. Total sunshine hours on 14-3-2009 was (1.4) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 15-3-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and (0.04) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and (0.04) inch at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southeast at (08:30) hours MST on 15-3-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 16th March 2009: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, Yangon, Ayeyawady, and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 16-3-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 16-3-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 16-3-2009: Partly cloudy.



Monday, 16 March
View on today

- 7:00 am
- 1. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော် ယောဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ဥပ္ပါတသန္တိပါဠိတော်
- 7:30 am
- 2. Morning news
- 7:40 am
- 3. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:00 am
- 4. Cute little dancers
- 8:15 am
- 5. "ပြည်ထောင်စုသားတို့အတွက် ခရီးဆက်ဦးမည့် မြန်မာ့"

- 8:25 am
- 6. "အနိုင်အရုံး" (ပိစိကောင်းမြတ်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ခင်နွဲ့နွဲ့မူ)
- 8:30 am
- 7. (၆၄)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 8:45 am
- 8. International news
- 8:55 am
- 9. မူဟန်သွယ်သွယ်ဆိုကြမယ်
- 4:00 pm
- 1. Martial song
- 4:10 pm
- 2. Dance of National Races
- 4:20 pm
- 3. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 4:25 pm
- 4. မြန်မာစာ မြန်မာစကား
- 4:35 pm
- 5. Musical Programme

- (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troup)
- 4:45 pm
- 6. "ဆေးလိပ်ကင်းကွာ အနုပညာကမ္ဘာ" (လွင်မိုး၊ မင်းမော်ကွန်း၊ဇောနည်ကင်းကောင်း၊ဇရာ၊စိုးမြတ်နန္ဒာ၊ကြည်လဲ့လဲ့ဦး၊လှအုလီတင့်၊ဝမ်းပုံ)
- 4:50 pm
- 7. တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုတေးသီချင်းပြိုင်ပွဲ ဆရာတေးများ
- 5:00 pm
- 8. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ ဒုတိယနှစ် (သတ္တဗေဒအထူးပြု) (သတ္တဗေဒ)
- 5:15 pm
- 9. Songs to Uphold National Spirit
- 5:20 pm
- 10. Dance Variety

- 5:35 pm
- 11. Musical Programme
- 5:50 am
- 12. (၆၄)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 6:00 pm
- 13. Evening news
- 6:30 pm
- 14. Weather report
- 6:35 pm
- 15. Sing & Enjoy
- 7:15 pm
- 16. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "နွဲ့ဆိုးဆိုးသူကိုယ့်ချစ်သူ" (အပိုင်း-၂၀)
- 8:00 pm
- 17. News
- 18. International news
- 19. Weather report
- 20. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်သူသံစဉ်" (အပိုင်း-၁)

Developing Kyonmange facilitated with better transportation

Article & Photos: Arkar Kyaw

Nowadays, better transportation contributes to smooth and speedy flow of commodities from one place to another. Consequently, the enhanced livelihoods of the people reflects the development of respective regions.

Kyonmange of Wakema Township, Ayeyawady Division, is one of the developing regions due to the fact that the transportation facilities have been provided in all the regions of the nation. To observe the improvement of Kyonmange region, we, members of the news team left Mawlamyinegyun for Kyonmange by boat under the arrangement of townselder U Kyi Lwin

Kyonmange has been installed with 500 auto-telephones and 150 CDMA telephones. Fifty more CDMA telephones to be installed soon.

from Kyonmange.

On the way to Kyonmange, we saw the scenes of thriving summer paddy plantations, pumping of water to summer paddy fields, thriving sunflower plants between beans and pluses plantations as mix-cropping, cocoanut, banana, arena nut and betel farms. At Nyaungwa and Aunghlaing villages, we witnessed fishermen at work.

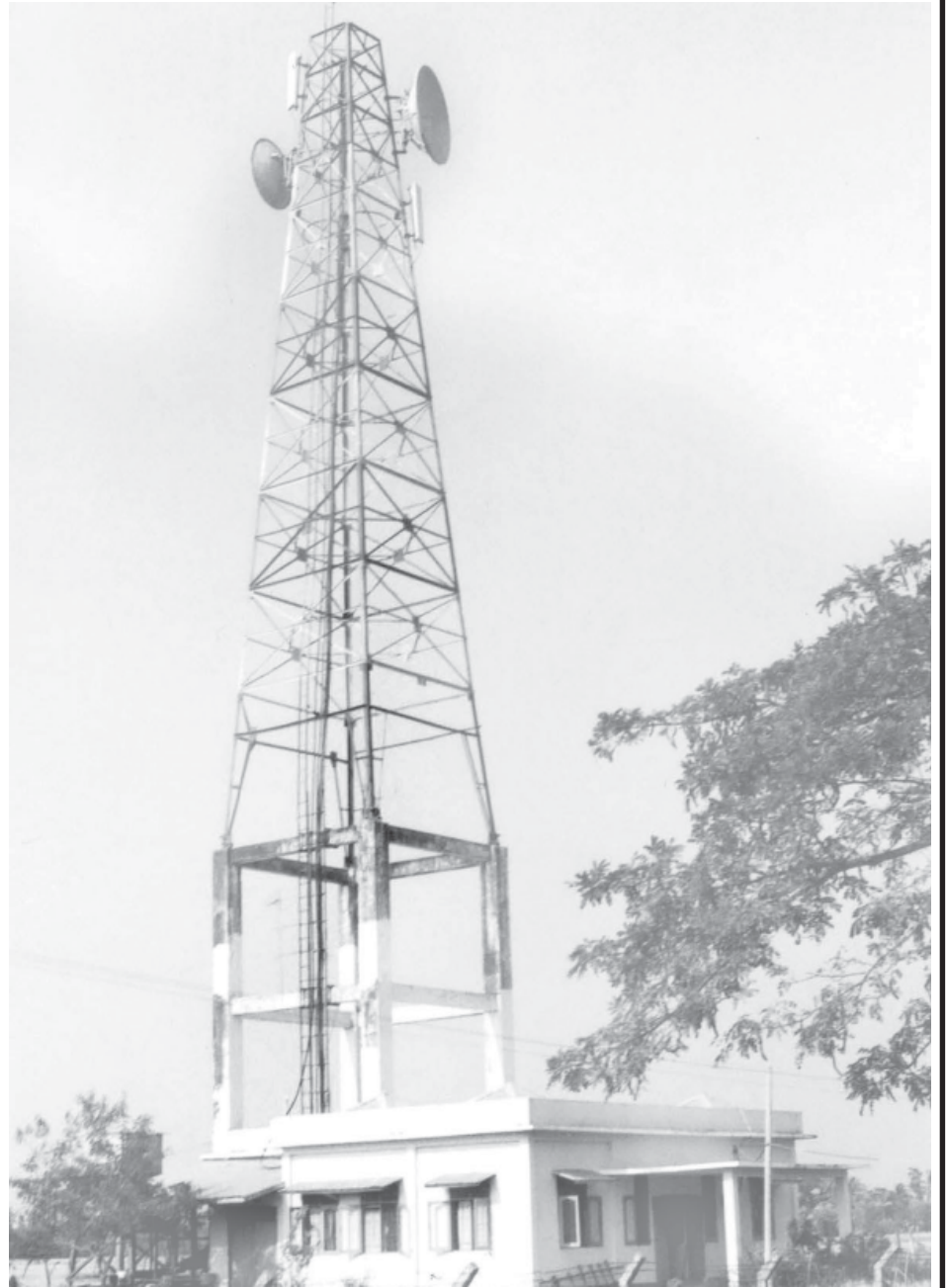
I had been away from Kyonmange for about 10 years. The scene I saw last ten years has changed. Today, Kyonmange has developed in all aspects. I remembered what a friend of mine said, "Kyonmange is developing much."

During the visit, I witnessed the houses and buildings of residents and construction of roads and streets in the urban area. All the structures of the town have changed remarkably. The town was neat and tidy. Everything in the town was new and beautiful. We saw trishaws, motorcycles and bicycles on the roads.

We had an interview with Chairman of Kyonmange Village-tract Peace and Development Council U Kyi Khin. He explained, "It can be said that Kyonmange is the second gateway to sea, apart from Labutta. Due to facilitating better transportation, Kyonmange gains development momentum. In the past, Myoma Road was the only tarred road in Kyonmange. Now, many tarred roads are put into service."

He added, "Moreover, Kyonmange has been installed with 500 auto-telephones and 150 CDMA telephones. I learned that 50 more CDMA telephones will be installed in the region soon. Kyonmange Village-tract cultivated 841 acres of monsoon paddy and now, a total of 797 acres of land are put under summer paddy. Kyonmange Village-tract is constituted with Kyonmange, Mauchaung, Kongyi and Kywechaung villages. Regarding the transport sector, ships are running at seaside villages regularly."

(See page 10)



The microwave station seen at entrance to Kyonmange near Kyonmange-Yangon Road.

Warning for untimely rain

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March —The Meteorology and Hydrology Department issued an announcement today that according to the satellite weather observation at 3.30 p.m. MST today, the isolated heavy rain will be scattered in Mon State and Taninthayi Division within 48 hours beginning this evening.

MNA

Beware of Fire

INSIDE

To overcome these problems, nations across the world have to promote cooperation at the regional, sub-regional and bilateral levels. The government and the entire national people are to strive vigorously through the national plan to eradicate narcotic drugs in the country.

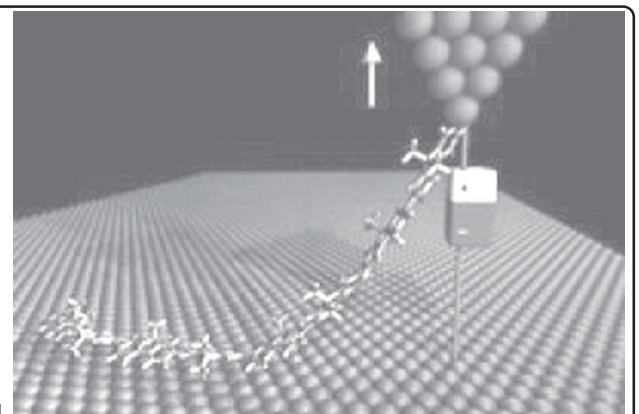
PAGE 2

PERSPECTIVES

First measurement of ability of very long molecular wire to conduct electric current

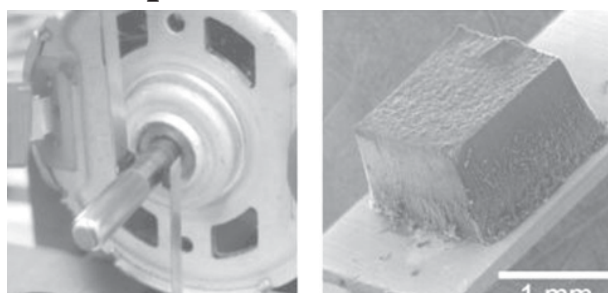
BERLIN, 15 March —For the first time, researchers from CNRS, the Free University of Berlin and Humboldt University (Berlin) have measured the ability of a single, very long molecular wire to carry electric current. Until now, there were only statistical measurements on a collection of wires a few nanometers long. Now, thanks to an ingenious experiment using a scanning tunneling microscope, the researchers have characterized individual polymer chains of known length, up to 20 nanometers long.

Internet



Single polymer chains as molecular wires.

Nanotube structures could improve electric motors



Pads of nanotube "forests" were tested as brush contacts.

OSLO, 15 March — New research from Rice University and the University of Oulu in Oulu, Finland, finds that carbon nanotubes could significantly improve the performance of electrical commutators that are common in electric motors and generators.

The research, which appeared online this month in the journal *Advanced Materials*, finds that "brush contact" pads made of carbon nanotubes had 10 times less resistance than did the carbon-copper composite brushes commonly used today. Brush contacts are an integral part of "commutators," or spinning electrical switches used in many battery-powered electrical devices, such as cordless drills.—Internet