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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

Minister inspects summer sports courses

YANGON, 17 March—Chairman of the Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint inspected summer swimming course (2009) at National Swimming Pool on U Wisara Road, here, this morning.

The minister inspected the training session of judo players for the XXVth SEA Games.

Next, he visited the summer training courses

at the Myanmar Tennis Federation.

After that, he inspected the training sessions of tentatively-selected players (Sanshou) at the Myanmar Wushu Federation, and tentatively-selected players of Sepak Takraw in Thuwunna Gymnasium, and the training session of tentatively-selected archers at the Myanmar Archery Federation and gave necessary instructions.—MNA

True patriotism

- * It is very important for everyone of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.
- * Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

International standard Yangon-Mandalay Highway Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw road section to be inaugurated soon

Article, photo: Tin Htwe (MNA)

The smoother the transport of the entire nation, the higher living standard the people of states and divisions can enjoy.

With this concept in view, the State Peace and Development Council has Yangon-Mandalay Highway Project on the go in compliance with the guidance of the Head of State for smooth transport to and from other

states and divisions with Nay Pyi Taw in the centre, and for greater effectiveness of administrative machinery.

The project was launched in October 2005, and the one-way two-lane road section linking Yangon No (3) Main Road and Nay Pyi Taw C Junction was completed in March 2008. Now, the section has upgraded to a two-way two-lane facility, and it will be inaugurated soon.

In 1959, a foreign engineering consultancy team submitted a project report as preliminary engineering work to the government to construct Yangon-Mandalay Highway. However, the project could not be put into action for 40 years due to various reasons.

(See page 8)



Photo shows progress in constructing the two-way / two-lane concrete road of Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw Road section near Pyu.

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 18 March, 2009

Conserve forest resources for long-term use

Myanmar is a water and land resources-rich nation. More than half areas of the nation are covered with forests that provide basic requirements of the human beings.

In the world teak naturally grows in four countries—Myanmar, India, Thailand and Laos. Myanma teak is the best and it has been a high consumer demand in the world for years. According to the data recorded by the Forests Department before 1990, there were 27.29 million hectares of teak in the world. In Myanmar there are 16.52 million hectares of teak, 60.5 percent of the world's teak growing acreage. Natural teak grows much in Bago Yoma.

The government implemented special teak plantation project in the forestry sector for national economy beginning 1998-99.

A total of 100,000 acres of teak have been grown throughout the country including Bago Yoma in five years from 1998-1999 to 2002-2003. Seven five-year projects will be implemented from 2003-2004 to 2037-2038 growing the same rate.

Now the government allows national entrepreneurs, companies and joint venture organizations to establish forest plantations in accord with the law. The government laid down policies on the forestry sector for national socio-economic development, sustainable environment and ecology equilibrium.

National people need to conserve the forests that provide socio-economic progress in the country and create the conditions to support their life.

Managing Director U Soe Tint of IWT gives talks on weather and measures taken for moving vessels to safer places.

TRANSPORT



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

Sooner implementation of Engine Transmission Project discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March — Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein received Mr Shou Jinsong, General Manager, and Mr Xue Jiangi, Chief Engineer, both from China New Era Co., Ltd at the minister's office, here, this morning.

They discussed cooperation sector on multi-purpose diesel engine Modification, and sooner implementation of Engine Transmission Project.

MNA



Minister Vice-Admiral Soe Thein receives Mr Shou Jinsong, General Manager, and Mr Xue Jiangi, Chief Engineer, from China New Era Co., Ltd.—MNA

Knowledge on weather, natural disaster preparedness plan disseminated

YANGON, 17 March — Inland Water Transport of the Ministry of Transport organized talks to disseminate facts about weather and explain a plan to move vessels to the safer places in case of natural disaster at Ayeya hall of Inland Water Transport in Ahlon Shipyard here this morning.

Also present were Managing Director U Soe Tint of IWT and heads of departments and officials and staff.

The managing director stressed the need to understand the preventive measures in case of natural disaster in the rainy season, to take lessons from the previous experiences and to inspect safer places.

Next, officials explained facts about weather and natural disaster preparedness plan.

MNA

Upgrading of roads in Hlinethaya, Shwepyitha Townships inspected

YANGON, 17 March — Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected preparations for upgrading of 2020-foot long and 18-foot wide Nawaday road in Ward-2, 2100-foot long and 40-foot wide Taungdwingyi road in Ward-10 and 3850-foot long and 20-foot wide Ngwe Lamin road in Ward-20 and works being carried out for upgrading of 2045-foot long and 10-foot wide Thakhin Mya road in Ward-11 of Hlinethaya Township this morning.

Next, the mayor looked into preparations for upgrading of 5400-foot long and 18-foot wide Yan Gyi Aung road in Ward-11 and 1460-foot long and 18-foot wide Ywale road in Ward-23 of Shwepyitha Township and attended to the needs.

MNA



**Beware
of
Fire**



Afghan policemen and locals at the site of a suicide attack outside the provincial police headquarters in Lashkar Gah, the capital of Helmand Province, on 16 March.—INTERNET

US soldier dies in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 17 March—An American soldier died of wounds sustained from attack in Baghdad, the US military said Monday.

A brief military statement said that a Multi-national Division Baghdad Soldier died on March 16 from combat related injuries while conducting a patrol in Baghdad.

The name of the deceased is being withheld pending notification of next of kin, the statement added that the incident is currently under investigation.—*Internet*

9th Australian soldier dies in Afghanistan

CANBERRA, 17 March—The death of a ninth Australian soldier in Afghanistan will not diminish Canberra's commitment to bringing stability to the Central Asian country, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd said on Tuesday.

The soldier in a joint Australian-Afghan army patrol was shot dead during a "very intense fire fight" with 20 Taliban insurgents in Uruzgan Province Monday morning, Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston said Tuesday. The soldier's name has not been released.

Rudd told Parliament the "government remains committed to confronting the ongoing threat from international terrorism and bringing greater stability to Afghanistan."—*Internet*

NATO soldier dies after attack in Afghan south

KABUL, 17 March—A NATO soldier died of wounds received in an insurgent attack in southern Afghanistan, the military alliance said on Tuesday.

The death followed a surge in violence in Afghanistan over the weekend that led to the deaths of eight other foreign troops — including four Americans.

A NATO statement said the soldier died of his wounds Monday in southern Afghanistan, but it did not provide the soldier's nationality, the day of the attack or its exact location.

Southern Afghanistan is the center of the Taliban insurgency. The US is sending thousands of new troops to the south this year to try to reverse Taliban gains. The militants have made a violent comeback the last three years following an apparent initial defeat after the 2001 US invasion.—*Internet*

60 percent in UK unconvinced about Afghan mission

LONDON, 17 March—Most Britons don't buy their government's argument for keeping a military presence in Afghanistan, a poll published Monday shows.

A BBC-commissioned ComRes poll showed that 60 percent of

Britons don't believe their leaders have made the case for keeping troops in the war-torn country. Just over a third of those polled said they were "fairly" or "very convinced" by their government's arguments for staying there.

At about 8,000 soldiers, Britain's NATO contingent is the second-largest in Afghanistan behind the United States. But NATO forces are fighting an uphill battle against resurgent Taliban rebels in the south of the country and government officials have complained that Britain shoulders a

disproportionate share of the alliance's fighting.

The British military has lost 152 personnel since US-led forces toppled the Taliban in 2001, including two who were killed Sunday by an explosion in Helmand Province, in southern Afghanistan.

Thousands of new US troops are due in Afghanistan this year, and Britain is also weighing whether and by how much to increase its presence in the country. British Defence Secretary John Hutton has not ruled out an increase in personnel.

Internet

US fighters shot down Iranian drone north of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 17 March—US jet fighters shot down an Iranian drone inside the Iraqi airspace in February, US military spokesman said on Monday.

"The Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) was in Iraqi airspace for nearly one hour and 10 minutes and well inside Iraqi territory before it was engaged on 25 February" The statement said.

A US military spokesman said that US jet fighters shot down the unmanned Iranian aircraft on 25 Feb approximately 60 miles (100 km) northeast of Baghdad, the statement added that "The drone was believed to be an Iranian Ababil 3 model UAV."

Internet

US military says Iraqi girl killed in US shooting

BAGHDAD, 17 March — The US military says a 12-year-old girl was killed when American soldiers fired at a vehicle speeding toward them and Iraqi police near the northern city of Mosul.

The military says Americans fired two warning shots when the vehicle ignored signals for it to stop near the Hurriyah Iraqi police station. The military says the girl was standing about 100 yards (metres) behind the vehicle and was struck by a round. The military confirmed the details in response to a query by *The Associated Press*.

It says Monday's shooting is under investigation. Iraqi police say the girl was shot while in a car with her father near an American base. Insurgents remain active in Mosul and surrounding areas despite numerous military operations.—*Internet*



Women grieve near the body of their relative, a neighborhood patrol member, outside the hospital morgue in Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) northeast of Baghdad on 17 March, 2009. The deceased was killed by gunmen in Buhriz on Tuesday, police said.—INTERNET



Security personnel at the site of a suicide attack in Kabul on 15 March, 2009. A string of bombs devastated different parts of Afghanistan on Sunday, killing four NATO soldiers and three Afghan civilians, officials said, in attacks linked to a Taliban-led insurgency.—INTERNET

US military deaths in Iraq war at 4,259

WASHINGTON, 17 March—As of Monday, 16 March, 2009, at least 4,259 members of the US military had died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003. The figure includes eight military civilians killed in action. At least 3,424 military personnel died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The British military has reported 179 deaths; Italy, 33; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 21; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Denmark, seven; El Salvador, five; Slovakia, four; Latvia and Georgia, three each; Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand and Romania, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan and South Korea, one death each.—*Internet*



Heavy smoke and fire engines are seen on campus of China Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing, China, on 16 March, 2009. A fire occurred in China Central Academy of Fine Arts on Monday.—XINHUA

Most Asian markets rise, lifted by financials

HONG KONG, 17 March—Most Asian stock markets extended their gains on Tuesday, with Tokyo's index up 1.5 percent, as investors poured into banking shares amid easing fears about the world's hard-hit financial system.

Investors were relieved after Britain's Barclays PLC revealed it was performing well so far in 2009. That echoed similar upbeat assess-

ments last week from US heavyweights Citigroup Inc and Bank of America Corp that have fueled the recent rally in world equity markets.

The move higher came despite a lackluster finish Monday on Wall Street, where stocks gave up early gains and ended marginally lower after a four-day advance.

Analysts were skeptical the turnaround in Asian markets would last,

saying the gains weren't justified given troubles still plaguing the region's economies and corporations amid the most severe global downturn in years.

Dariusz Kowalczyk, chief investment strategist for SJS Markets in Hong Kong, said he expected a correction this week. He said news expected this week from the US Treasury Department about its bank bailout plan might lead investors to reconsider their optimism about bank balance sheets.

"This would be a good opportunity to take some profits," said Dariusz Kowalczyk, chief investment strategist for SJS Markets in Hong Kong. "The gains we have seen so far fully take into account the positive news we've heard from Barclays and the US banks."—Internet

Egypt talks to Europe, US on Palestinian unity

CAIRO, 17 March—Egypt has dispatched two of its top officials to convince the Americans and the Europeans to accept a weaker commitment by the militant Hamas group to peace with Israel for the sake of forging a united Palestinian government, officials said on Monday.

Hamas and the more moderate Fatah group have been trying for nearly a week to reconcile and form a national unity government, but have been wrangling over the language of how to address past Palestinian agreements with Israel. The formation of a unity government is key to moving ahead with reconstruction in Gaza after Israel's recent offensive there.—Internet



Dance for culture : Dancers from India's Northeastern states perform during an Indo-Chile cultural programme, to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Chile in New Delhi.

INTERNET

UN warns of rising demand for clean water

ISTANBUL, 17 March—Worldwide demand for water is rising just as access to safe drinking water and sanitation remains inadequate in much of the developing world, the United Nations said on Monday, calling for better management to alleviate water shortages.

Population growth and mobility, as well as increased energy produc-

tion, especially of biofuels such as ethanol, are contributing to the high demand for water, UNESCO said on the first day of a global water forum in Istanbul, Turkey's largest city.

"With increasing shortages, good governance is more than ever essential for water management. Combating poverty also depends on our

ability to invest in this resource," said Koichiro Matsuura, director-general of the U.N. agency. He urged leaders who will gather for the G-8 summit in Italy in July to pledge investment in water resources to help prevent a "major water crisis."

Internet

German trade surplus shrinks around 10% in 2008

BERLIN, 17 March—Germany, the world's largest exporter, saw a year-on-year shrink of its foreign trade surplus of around 10 percent in 2008, the German Federal Statistics Office said on Monday.

The Wiesbaden-based office said Germany's trade surplus in 2008 stood at 176.2 billion euros (around 229 billion US dollars), dropping from 195.3 billion euros (around 253.8 billion dollars) in 2007—the highest surplus figure Germany has had since the beginning of the publication of foreign trade statistics for the Federal Republic of Germany in 1950.

Internet

Russia to allocate \$45 bln for anti-crisis package

MOSCOW, 17 March—The Russian government will allocate 1.5 trillion rubles (45 billion US dollars) this year to deal with the impact of the global financial and economic crisis, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said on Monday.

Of the 1.5 trillion rubles, 379 billion would be transferred to pension fund and extra-budgetary funds, 150 billion would be provided to the prov-

inces, and another 150 billion would be extended in loans, the RIA Novosti news agency quoted Putin as saying.

That would ensure the implementation of all social programs, Putin said.

He also noted that the government will submit the adjusted draft budget and the anti-crisis plan for 2009 together to the State Duma.

He hoped that experts

and public organizations would broadly discuss the adjusted draft budget and the anti-crisis plan, and come up with some "constructive proposals."

The Russian government in the future "will be making further adjustments and additions to the anti-crisis programs depending on the situation in the global and Russian economy," said the Prime Minister.—Internet



Red Cross paramedics remove an injured person from the site of a bus accident on the outskirts of Saltillo in the Mexican state of Coahuila on 16 March, 2009.—INTERNET



World loses 70 m hectares of forest in 15 years

ROME, 17 March—The world had lost more than 70 million hectares of forests from 1990 to 2005, the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization said in a report released on Monday.

According to the report on the State of the World's Forests, most of the deforestation has taken place in South America, Africa and the Caribbean. The FAO said the pace of deforestation in developing countries is unlikely to decline in the near future because high food and fuel prices will favor continued forest clearance for production of livestock and agricultural crops for food, feed and biofuel.

From 1990 to 2005 Latin America lost 64 million hectares of forests, some 7 percent of the world's total, the report said. "In Africa, forest loss is likely to continue at current rates," said the report, stressing that "increasing frequency of droughts, declining water supplies and floods" will undermine efforts to manage African forests sustainably. Africa lost 8 million hectares of forest land from 1990 to 2005.—Xinhua

Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency astronaut Koichi Wakata operates the shuttle's robot arm from the flight deck of the Space Shuttle Discovery as the crew prepares to dock with the International Space Station in this image from NASA TV on 16 March, 2009.—INTERNET

South Korean vehicles returning from the joint industrial estate of North Korea's border city of Kaesong through a cross-border highway are seen from a South Korean observatory in Paju.—INTERNET

Climate change conference vital for Asia

BEIJING, 17 March—Asian countries have an important stake in this year's climate change negotiations and, as a result, a critical part to play in the negotiations.

Climate change is hitting the Asian continent already and big global decisions will be made this year. An agreement to cut greenhouse gases emissions will hopefully exceed what the Kyoto agreement previously negotiated. The negotiations over the rest of the year will culminate

in the new Copenhagen Agreement in Denmark in December 2009 at the 15th conference of the parties (COP 15) on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The main focus, agreed just over a year ago at the 13th conference of the parties in Bali, Indonesia, consist of four building blocks, of which two - "Mitigation" and "Adaptation" - are considered major.

The former denotes ac-

tions by the major emitting countries to reduce their emissions and to prevent that future dangerous climate change. The latter seeks to ensure that countries vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change are duly assisted with technology and funding to cope. The other two building blocks include technology transfers for both mitigation and adaptation and innovative financing for mitigation and adaptation.

Xinhua



30 Argentine tourists taken hostages in Brazilian hostel

RIO DE JANEIRO, 17 March—A group of armed men attacked a hostel Monday by a well-known beach in the Brazilian state of Rio de Janeiro, taking some 30 Argentine tourists hostages for three hours, said police.

The criminal band consisted of seven masked men with weapons, took jewelry, money, cams and other stuffs from the tourists.

The event occurred on Monday early morning in Unicornio hostel on Ferradura Beach.—Xinhua

China to launch drill with Russia

BEIJING, 17 March—China and Russia will launch a joint anti-terror drill in Northeast China this year, a defence official has said. "The defence ministries of the two countries are currently discussing details of the drill," Qian Lihua, director of the Ministry of

Defence's foreign affairs office, said.

The drill, the second between the two troops, is aimed at promoting bilateral strategic partnership, Qian said.

It will also mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of Sino-Russian diplomatic ties, he added. The first such drill was held in Vladivostok in Russia and East China's Shandong in August 2005.

In 2007, the two countries joined a multi-national anti-terror drill that also brought together Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Qian said China will hold more exercises with its neighbors this year, as it is keen on promoting high-level military exchanges. He, however, did not elaborate.

Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Moderate quake hits E Indonesia

JAKARTA, 17 March—An earthquake measuring 5.0 on the Richter scale struck eastern parts of Indonesia on Tuesday, no report of damage or casualty, the local meteorology agency reported.

The quake jolted at 02:31 Jakarta time (1931 GMT) with the epicenter at 217 km northwest Saumlaki of Maluku province and at 97 km in depth, an official of the agency said.—Xinhua

5.3 degrees earthquake shakes centre of Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, 17 March—An earthquake of 5.3 degrees on Richter scale shocked on Monday the central region of Argentina without leaving victims and material damages.

The Argentine National Institute of Seismic Prevention (Inpres) said that the movement occurred at 6:15 am local time (0915 GMT), its epicenter was in the province of San Juan and it was felt in the provinces of Cordoba, Santiago del Estero, La Rioja and Catamarca.

In the localities near the epicenter the intensity of the earthquake was of f III grades in Mercalli scale.—Xinhua



Visitors look at the sculpture "Draped Reclining Figure" by English modern sculptor Henry Moore during the 22nd European Fine Art Fair TEFAF Maastricht 09, in Maastricht, Netherlands, on 15 March, 2009.—XINHUA

Children study at an open area in Sang Surakh, about 170 km (105 miles) north of Kabul on 11 March, 2009. About 300 young students study in Sang Surakh school which lacks a basic school building. —INTERNET



Airlines lose millions of bags

LONDON, 17 March—A British consumer air travel group says airlines across the world are losing more bags as passenger numbers rise.

Britain's Air Transport Users Council said on Tuesday that more than 40 million bags were misplaced by airlines in 2007.

Of those more than 1 million pieces of luggage were irretrievably lost.

The council said in a report that the annual number of mishandled bags was rising and could be as high as 70 million by 2019.

Internet

Auto delinquency rates rise nearly nine percent in 4Q

NEW YORK, 17 March—The percentage of auto loans past due 60 days or more rose 8.9 percent in the fourth quarter of 2008, compared with the prior-year period, according to credit reporting agency TransUnion.

And the numbers point to auto delinquencies shooting to their highest point in a decade by the end of the year.

The rate rose to 0.86 percent for the three months ended 31 Dec, compared with 0.79 per-

cent in the 2007 fourth quarter.

Auto-loan delinquencies tend to be cyclical, with the fourth quarter typically showing the fewest problematic payments.

But the recession appears to be changing those patterns.

"Certainly the overall economy, the weak labor markets, disposable income, are all affecting auto debts as well," said Peter Turek, automotive vice president in Trans-

Union's financial services group.

Delinquencies were highest in Mississippi, at 1.62 percent, followed by California, at 1.46 percent, and Louisiana, at 1.37 percent.

The states with the lowest auto-loan delinquency rates were Alaska, at 0.19 percent, North Dakota, at 0.34 percent and Wyoming, at 0.41 percent. In all, 10 states are above the national average and 30 are below it.

Internet

Two killed in latest wave of violence in Vancouver

OTTAWA, 17 March—Two women been killed in separate incidents in a weekend wave of violence in Canada's western port city Vancouver, police said Monday.

One woman was found dead Sunday night at a home in the suburb of Burnaby, and while police say she was killed it does not appear she died of shooting.

The other woman was shot dead in Langley early Saturday, who police know as having been involved in street-level drug trade.

Two men were also wounded in separate shootings in Burnaby and Surrey. One was wounded in the chest and other did not suffer from life-threatening injuries.

MNA/Xinhua

Mexico retaliates with tariffs on 90 US products

MEXICO CITY, 17 March—Mexico said on Monday it will increase tariffs on about 90 US products in retaliation for last week's decision to end a pilot programme that allowed some Mexican trucks to transport goods in the United States.

Economy Secretary Gerardo Ruiz Mateos said the US decision violates a provision of the North American Free Trade Agreement that was supposed to have opened cross-border trucking by January 2000.

"We consider this US action to be wrong, protectionist and a clear violation of the treaty," Ruiz Mateos told reporters. "By deciding to protect their trucking industry, they have decided to affect other countries and the region."

The measure will affect about \$2.4 billion in trade involving approximately 90 agricultural and industrial products from 40 US states.

Internet

NEWS ALBUM



Jiang Zhilong (L), researcher of the Yunnan Provincial Cultural Relics Archeology Research institute, and head of the archeology team, measures the length of a skeleton in a grave in the Jinlian Mountains of Dengjiang County, southwest China's Yunnan Province. The grave forest located in the Jinlian Mountains and covering an area of about 40,000 square metres, is confirmed as the largest scale grave forest in the bronze culture archeology history. Chinese archeologists had found more than 400 cultural relics including bronze wares, pottery, jade articles and ironwares since last October after the graves were found in 2006. The grave forest is considered as an important discovery with great values for researching the ancient culture in Yunnan Province.

Strange substance found in bathroom soap dispenser

The Alabama Department of Transportation is keeping the Interstate 10 welcome centre in Baldwin County closed until it gets test results on

a suspicious substance found in a soap dispenser. Department spokesman Tony Harris said Friday the department is waiting on tests as a

precaution.

The centre was closed on Monday because of an unusual odor in the men's restroom and because the liquid soap in a dispenser in that bathroom had an unusual colour.

The centre's attendants saw doctors as a precaution, but Harris said no problems were found.

Photo taken shows a newly-unearthed rectangular stone carvings with human faces on four sides, in Zoucheng, east China's Shandong Province. The quadrel-shaped stone carving, measuring 0.45 meters in height, 0.4 meters in length and 0.27 meters in width, bears the facial features believed to be the ancient nomadic tribe of the Huns inside this archaeological excavation dated back to the Han Dynasty (202 BC - 220 AD)



A student poses with a Xenesthis immanis tarantula on her face during an exhibition at a school in Bogota. Biologist Dario Gutierrez tours schools throughout Colombia teaching students the use of almost 300 species of arachnids in traditional medicine.

Man says spider bite helped him walk

Mike Dello with CBS13 in Sacramento tells the story of how a spider bite helped a man walk again after 20 years in a wheelchair.

David Blancarte, of Manteca, has been in a wheelchair since a motorcycle accident at age 21. Eight months ago he was bitten by a deadly Brown Recluse spider, which put him in the hospital for eight months. A nurse noticed David's leg spasm and ran a test on him. "When they zapped my legs, I felt the current, I was like whoa and I yelled," he says. He felt the current and the rush of a renewed sense of hope.

Malaysian mistakes woman for a monkey, shoots her

Police said a man in Malaysia shot his neighbour as she picked sapodilla fruit in his tree thinking she was a monkey. Police chief in eastern Pahang state Yahaya Othman said the woman was gathering fruit on Thursday when her neighbor shot her. Yahaya said the man came home and saw rustling in the tree and fired into it. "Then there was screaming ... and only then did he know it was his neighbour."

He said the woman was hospitalized with a wound to the abdomen but her condition was stable Friday.

SWRR Minister visits fire stations in Kawhmu, Kungyangon Townships



Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe inspects fire station under construction in Kawhmu Township, Yangon Division.—FSD

YANGON, 17 March —Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe heard reports on fire preventive measures and arrangements for water supply presented by the in-

charge of Kawhmu Township Fire Station this morning.

The minister gave instructions on preventive measures against fire and inspected progress in building two-storey fire station.

Next, the minister went to Kungyangon Township Fire Station and looked into construction of four-storey fire station.

The minister met with firemen and their families on his tour of Kawhmu and Kungyangon Townships and inspected Myanmar Kungyangon Garuna Housing being built by Tawwin Co for storm survivors. — MNA

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

Notice to mariners issued

YANGON, 17 March — Fisheries Department announced Notice to Mariner's today as Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise of the Ministry of Energy will conduct the pipeline route survey from about 12 to 15 April.

The locations that the survey will be carried out are at Point-Landfall from North Latitude 15 degrees, 54 minutes and 28.9 seconds to East Longitude 95 degree, 37 minutes and 47.2 seconds, at Point TP-1 from North Latitude 15 degrees, 51 minutes and 20 seconds to East Longitude 95 degrees, 38 minutes and 00 second, at Point TP-2 from North Latitude 15 degrees, 46 minutes and 30 seconds to East Longitude 95 degrees, 22 minutes and 20 seconds, at Point TP-4 from North Latitude 15 degrees, 25 minutes and 50 seconds to East Longitude 95 degrees, 13 minutes and 80 seconds and at Point-Yadana Platform from North Latitude 15 degrees, 07 minutes and 23.95 seconds to East Longitude 94 degrees, 46 minutes and 55.64 seconds.

Fisheries Department has issued an announcement that all vessels and fishing boats are not allowed to fish and pass through 4 square kilometers of the survey area.

MNA

EP-2 Ministry holds work coord meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March—Minister for Electric Power No. 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint attended the work coordination meeting of the Minister of Electric Power No. 2, making a speech on the occasion at the meeting hall of the ministry, here from 14 to 16 March.

Present on the occasion were Deputy

Minister Brig-Gen Win Myint, Managing Director of Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise Dr San Oo, Managing Director of Electric Power Distribution Enterprise U Tin Aung, Chairman of Yangon Electricity Supply Board Col Khin Maung Soe, deputy directors-general, chief engineers, electrical

engineers from states and divisions, project directors, project managers, power station managers and others.

Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint made an opening speech on the occasion. Next, officials concerned briefed the minister on sector-wise measures while heads of departments and the deputy minister gave

supplementary reports. After hearing the reports, the minister gave instructions on the requirements of the work.

After that the minister, deputy minister and heads of departments presented prizes to outstanding service personnel and the meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the minister.—MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun meets Chinese guests



Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun receives Mr Zhang Qiang of China EXIM Bank, Chengdu Branch of the PRC and party. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March—Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun received Chairman of China EXIM Bank, Chengdu Branch of the People's Republic of China Mr. Zhang Qiang and party at his office, here, this afternoon. They held discussions on financial and monetary matters.

It was also attended by Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein and officials.

MNA

CGA presents prizes

YANGON, 17 March —To commemorate Professor William Paw, a ceremony to present gold medal prizes to B.Com, B.Act and B.B.A graduate students of Institute of Economic 2004-2005 (Intake), organized by Commerce Graduate Association (CGA), was held at Seinlansopyay Garden on Inya Road here on 8 March. Chairman of CGA U Maw Than presented gold medal prize to Ma Phyu Khaing Soe of B.Com graduate.—NLM



International standard Yangon-Mandalay Highway...

(from page 1)

The ongoing Yangon-Mandalay Highway Project is 325 miles and six furlongs long from Yangon No (3) Main Road to Zaga-inn Roundabout in Mandalay and on either direction of the concrete road there are four lanes totalling eight lanes.

The most salient

wide, foundation concrete, six inches deep; and surface concrete, 12 inches high. It can withstand 80 tons of loads.

The project is being undertaken with the use of advanced methods by Public Works of the Ministry of Construction and the Directorate of Military Engineering under the Ministry of Defence.

in, by Public Works.

Of the staff of Public Works, U Tin Hsan serves as Project Engineer; chief engineers U Myint Kyi and U Kyi Zaw Myint, as engineers in charge of road sections; and Superintending Engineer U Han Soe and Chief Engineer (Civil) U Thein Aung, as engineers in charge of bridges.

Public Works is constructing the highway round the clock daily with 2432 white and blue collar workers and 1097 units of

for the road to meet international standard, we had to survey the lands repeatedly using level instruments, theodolite instruments and global positioning system in order that the route we had chosen met the imaginary route on the map. In the places the axis meets dams and hydropower projects, we had to make detours to avoid the irrigation facilities.

"In some sections in forests and on heights, we had to remove the humus,

cannot lay concrete in the rain, so we got only about five months a year to lay concrete. If necessary, we worked two shifts to complete huge tasks."

Regarding work progress, Chief Engineer (Civil) U Myint Kyi said, "We are now doing finishing touches to earthen embankments between No (3) Junction and Nay Pyi Taw C Junction. We have laid concrete for two-way two-lane roads. Now, we have built all the bridges.

miles and two furlongs. We started constructing 200 feet wide embankment in October 2005. We completed it as far as Nay Pyi Taw in January 2008. We started constructing concrete road in October 2006 and completed it as far as Nay Pyi Taw in March 2009.

"The difficulties we have faced are so many. The road goes along Bago Yoma mountain range that is far from towns and villages, so we find it



Road to Nay Pyi Taw and Underpass seen at Nay Pyi Taw C Junction of Yangon-Mandalay Highway.—MNA

point of the project is that unlike the highways of other countries, all the roads crossing the highway are under it, and the highway has no overpasses. At the junctions, underpasses are built for inter-township roads.

The road section (1) of the highway is 221 miles and one furlong long between Yangon No (3) Main Road and Nay Pyi Taw (Pantin); and the road section (2), 131 miles and five furlongs long between Nay Pyi Taw (Pantin) and Mandalay Zaga-inn Roundabout, totaling 352 miles and six furlongs long. The highway is 200 feet wide; traffic islands, 30 feet wide; the shoulder, 35 feet

Public Works undertakes 180 miles and three furlongs, and the section the Directorate of Military Engineering, 172 miles and three furlongs.

The 83 miles long section between No (3) Junction and Myochaung is undertaken by Public Works; the 89 miles and three furlongs long section between Myochaung and Thagara, by Directorate of Military Engineering; the 48 miles long section between Thagara and Pantin, by Public Works; the 83 miles long section between Pantin and Kukwe, by Directorate of Military Engineering; and the 48 miles and five furlongs long section between Kukwe and Zaga-

heavy machinery.

When asked about experiences in the project, Project Engineer U Tint Hsan said, "The road we are constructing is a highway, so we have to minimize the number of bends and uphill and downhill sections. In some sections, the road passes on high mountain ranges, and in some sections, we have to fill about 80 to 100 feet deep ravines and gorges with earth in a systematic way. In some sections, the road goes over large and small creeks that rise at the foot of Bago Yoma mountain range, and over lakes and silted-up lakes. So, it is more difficult than the roads on plains.

"In seeking the axis



A car running at the fixed mph on the two-way/two-lane concrete road of Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw road section.

MNA

decayed plants, and improper earth. Removing mud and silt in the places where the road meets rivers, creeks, lakes and silted-up lakes was very challenging, and we had to use huge manpower. The mud was replaced with fine earth, and in muddy areas and silted-up areas, we used geotextile.

In the area of Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw section, it gets rains about six months a year; it means we can take only about six months a year to work. So, we divided the workforce into day shift and night shift and worked hard with tenacity to complete the project on schedule. We

We are building three toll gates at No (3) Junction, in Pyu, and at Nay Pyi Taw C Junction. Groundwork has been completed by 40 per cent between Nay Pyi Taw C Junction to Pantin road section. Now, we are compressing earthen sections. We target to complete the section between Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Zagar-in Roundabout by 2010."

Chief Engineer (Civil) U Kyi Zaw Myint said, "So far, we have laid concrete for 57 miles and two furlongs between mile post 26/4 and 83/6, and 27 miles between mile post 173/1 and 200/1, totaling 84

difficult to manage the work. There will be no problem with supply of rations if the construction sites are not far from towns and villages. So, we faced many difficulties till the road was serviceable. Bago Yoma gets a lot of rain, so work period is very limited; only six months a year. We have to work very hard to complete the tasks on schedule within the period of six months.

"Another great difficulty we faced was the attack of wild elephants. In the rainy season, we had to leave our camps in the forest. In one case, (See page 9)



Progress in constructing the two-way / two-lane concrete road between mile post Nos 26/4 and 83/6 of Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw road section.—MNA

International standard Yangon-Mandalay Highway...

(from page 8)
there was loss of life plus injury. When wild elephants approached one of our camps at night, the camp gave wireless communication or fired firecrackers to give signals to other camps. The road crosses Bago Yomain Phaunggyi-Bago River section between

reconstruct them. The currents are so swift that water was gone in two hours after the rain. Sometimes, we had to wait till the torrents were no more to identify enough length of a bridge. However much difficult it was, we managed to complete the tasks in a short time due to the

"Normally, we build bridges according to the alignment at the bridge concerned. But, in Yangon-Mandalay Highway Project, we build the road according to its alignment. We constructed the road and bridges at the same time, and had to take care for parallel completion of construction of the road and bridges. We gave priority to alignment of the road to minimize the number of the bends of the



A two-way / two-lane concreted road under construction of Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw road section.



The 540 feet long Pyu Creek Bridge under construction between mile post No 114/0 of Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw road section.

mile post 20/4 and 38/6. The greatest difficulty was that we faced wild elephants while we were constructing the axis.

"From the engineering point of view, we made the route as straight and horizontal as possible. In the section I take responsibility, we took detours to avoid the dam clusters on Sittoung basin, and we took great care so that the route was straight. It was very difficult to estimate the catchment area of Bago Yoma. In some cases, the bridges were found not long enough in the rainy season, and we had to

supervision of road." Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and constant support of the Minister for Construction, the Deputy Minister and the managing director.

"Chief Engineer (Civil) U Thein Aung said, "Yangon-Mandalay Highway is an international standard facility, so we had to draw international standard design. Here, we took the conditions of the axis and the ground into consideration. Some rivers and creeks meet the road askew. So, we had to draw designs to build skewed angle bridges.

He said that they had to construct underpasses in order that all the local roads that meet the highway go under it; and that the road was installed with culvert bridges to avoid flooding and erosion.

He said that the highway had 570 bridges with a total length of over 48,000 feet; that Public Works had constructed 212 bridges with a total length of over 18,000 feet between Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw C Junction; that bridges in the section between Nay Pyi Taw C Junction and Pantin section and Kukwe-Zagar-in Roundabout were under

construction, and till that time bridges had been constructed by 20 per cent; and that the tasks were due to be completed cent per cent by the end of 2010.

He added that to match the highway, the bridges had an eight-lane motorway each on them; that as the first phase, each bridge would have four foundation lanes and two upper lanes, and then they would be upgraded to eight-lane ones; that in the first phase, a two-lane bridge would be 32 feet and six inches wide with a 28 feet wide motorway on it; that in the second phase, a four-lane bridge would be 54 feet and six inches wide with a 28 feet wide motorway on it; that based on the type of the earth, a bridge would have 16-inch reinforced concrete girder and plate girders, reinforced concreted floor.

He said that main parts of the bridges are constructed with locally-produced cement, iron rods, gravels and sand; that mostly local raw materials were used to save foreign exchange; that plate girders were produced by No (2)

Steel Factory under the Myanmar Economic Corporation; and that by using 90' plate girders, the bridges could be built in a shorter time with wider clearance area.

He said that at first they did not have any hydrological facts about the rivers and creeks that originate in Bago Yoma, so they had to collect facts for ensuring durability of the bridges; that due to advanced technologies and

completion of the road and bridges. We had to construct temporary bridges and temporary traffic islands so that we could work all day. It is difficult to estimate the speeds of the currents of the creeks, so sometimes the bridges were a little longer than they should be. The construction of bridges was based on the road" he said.

"The road is very long, so the types of the earth, and foundations of the



Project Engineer U Tint Hsan explains process of filling 80 to 100 feet deep ravines and gorges with earth.

modern chemicals, the concrete became mature in a short time meeting the set standards; and that they gained valuable experiences from the project.

"In order to complete the project sooner, we are working all day with effective use of heavy machinery. We get 135 units of bore-pile driving machines, cranes, and other machinery and trucks under the arrangements of Public Works (Headquarters). We transported machinery to the work sites by land and by water for simultaneous

bridges are various. And we had to draw different designs for the bridges. Here, a salient point is that we did not construct the bridges as eight-lane facilities at one stroke. We constructed a four-lane bridge, then another with a 30 feet wide traffic island in the middle of the bridge. The four-lane bridges are two-way facilities, so if a bridge is under repair, the other can be used and there will be no interruption.

Translation: MS
(To be continued)



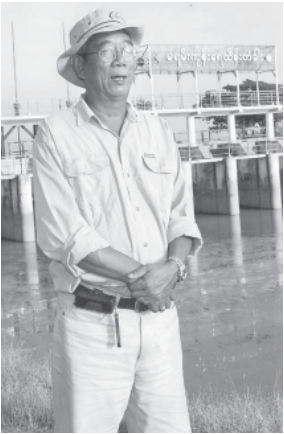
The 990 feet long Khabaung Bridge near mile post No. 144/6 of Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw road section.

Mayangon Sluice Gate in Thaton Township, Mon State

Article: *Kyaw Sein*; Photo: *Aung Than (Mingala Taungnyunt)*

(from page 16)

Q: Well, what's your name, please?



U San Thwin, Staff Officer (Civil Engineering)

A: I am Ko Win Tint.
Q: How many acres of paddy fields do you have?
A: I have 10 acres. Now, I am threshing paddy.
Q: What is the per acre yield?
A: I get 50 to 60 baskets an acre. I harvested my paddy the day after Tazaungmone Full Moon Day. The paddy I grow is Baygya Paw-

have never been flooded since the completion of sluice gate. So, now it is convenient for me to nurture paddy saplings and grow paddy.



U Aung Myint, farmer, Hseikkyun Village.

Paddy per acre yield is on the increase. Previously, I got 250 baskets of paddy from 13 acres. Sometimes, I had to transplant paddy two or three times due to floods. The sluice gate has been constructed for two years. I got about 1000 baskets of paddy last year. I expect



Staff Officer U Tin Tun.

Road were no longer flooded and the prices of paddy fields had gone up from 20,000 or 30,000 kyats to 200,000 or



U Ye Tun, farmer, Kataikkyi Village.

300,000 kyats an acre; that previously, the area was just a pasture, but then it had been paddy farm; that seawater could no longer enter the farmlands and

farmers could grow cold season crops; Hseikkyun had got 10,000 more acres to grow crops; and that summer paddy sown acreage of Pinlelaygwin had increased from over 200 to about 1000 acres due to the sluice gate.

Staff Officer U San Thwin said that another sluice gate would be built



U Myo Myint, farmer, Mayangon Village.

by damming the Naungkalar Creek in Naungkalar or Hseikkyun; that sometimes, the seawater entered the farmlands through the creek; and that on completion, the project would ensure smooth transport and double the paddy per acre yield.

Farmer U Myo Myint



Ko Win Tint, Kyaikkaw Village, Thaton Township.

of Mayangon Village said that he had 27 acres of paddy fields; in the past he sometimes had to transplant paddy two times due to flooding; that due to the sluice gate, the cost became less than previous years; that he grew lablab bean in addition to paddy; that he thanked the government for the facility; and that he would contribute towards maintenance of the facility.

Farmer U Aung Myint of Hseikkyun Village said that he got 10 acres of paddy fields; the government had constructed several bridges apart from the sluice gate, so transport had become smooth; that due to the facility, they could grow

crops in addition to paddy; that he also had the opportunity to get sufficient freshwater for his cattle and catch fish due to the sluice gate; and that he thanked the government and the Irrigation Department for the facility.

Farmer U Ye Tun of Kataikkyi Village said that he had 10 acres of paddy fields; that due to the sluice gate, no paddy seeds were wasted and paddy fields were successful at one stroke; he grew beans and pulses in the cold season; and he thanked the government and the workers.

Translation: MS
Myanma Alin:
 15-3-2009



A farmer on a power-tiller threshing paddy.

sanhmway (fragrant rice). After paddy, I grow beans and pulses. I cannot grow summer paddy because of no irrigation water. I think I will grow groundnut, green gram and soya bean in 10 acres.

Q: How about your paddy fields? Are they still flooded sometimes?

A: No, they aren't. They

about more than 1000 baskets this year. I no longer need to transplant paddy two or three times because flooding is no more. And I get a growing paddy per acre yield.

When asked about Mayangon Sluice Gate, Staff Officer U Tin Tun of Construction (6) told the Myanma Alin that the paddy fields, south of Kyaikkaw-Kadaikkyi



Torrents and rainwater can be stored at Mayangon Sluice Gate.

British universities consider tuition fee rise

LONDON, 17 March—British universities are considering raising tuition fees as lack of funding in the country's higher education has made universities vulnerable in competition with counterparts in the United States as well as some emerging economies. A report published on Tuesday by Universities UK, the major representative body and membership organization for Britain's higher education sector, looks at the likely impact that changes to the variable fees system might have on universities, students and government.

The report studied the implications of increasing tuition from current 3,000 pounds (4,200 US dollars) to 7,000 pounds (9,800 dollars).

If fees were raised to 7,000 pounds a year, said the report, a graduate in 2016 would have 32,400 pounds (4,5360 dollars) worth of debt after three years' study, which might discourage young people from going to universities.

Twelve university vice-chancellors suggested in the study an average of 6,500 pounds (9,100 dollars) for future tuition fee to cope with rising operation cost which is growing faster than the inflation rate.

Internet

Swiss spider-smuggler held on German border

BEIJING, 17 March—As many as 45 boxes of cockroaches and 164 large spiders were seized from a Swiss driver on German border, according to a spokesman. German customs officials inspecting a Swiss car discovered the trap-door spiders, most "as big as a fist" and cockroaches wriggling around in boxes and plastic bags Thursday. The Swiss driver was hoping to sell the specimens at a fair in Germany but his haul was seized when he failed to produce the proper license.

Markus Ueckert, a spokesman for the customs office in the south-western German city of Loerrach said: "of course, the officers didn't open anything. They knew immediately what was going on."

He has been charged with tax fraud and breaking nature protection laws.

Internet



A handout photo released by Spain's scientific research agency (CSIC) shows a tomb decorated with 3,500-year-old-paintings discovered in Luxor.

Spain's scientific research agency (CSIC) announced that a tomb decorated with 3,500-year-old paintings has been discovered in Luxor by a Spanish Egyptologist.—INTERNET

Majority of Britons want Iraq war inquiry

LONDON, 17 March—The vast majority of Britons want an inquiry into the 2003 invasion of Iraq and most are also unconvinced by the government's arguments for the conflict in Afghanistan, according to a survey on Monday.

A ComRes survey for the BBC found 72-per-cent thought there should be an official public inquiry into Britain's role in the Iraq war, as opposition parties have demanded.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown has ruled out holding an inquiry until all British troops have left the country. The remaining 4,000 or so soldiers, based near the southern city of Basra, are due to start pulling out at the end of May.—MNA/Reuters

Fire kills 4 in Japan's Oita Prefecture

TOKYO, 17 March—A big fire caused by burning fields swept through unintended areas in Yufu, Oita Prefecture Tuesday, killing four people and leaving two others injured, local media reported, citing police and firefighters. Some 70 people were burning fields to help maintain the fields and grow pasture grass when the accident happened. Four people were confirmed dead and the two injured were immediately taken to a local hospital.—Internet



This handout photograph released by Tourism New Zealand on 16 March, shows Indian cricketers (from left) Harbhajan Singh, Yuvraj Singh, Venkatsai Laxman, Sachin Tendulkar and Zaheer Khan walking on the edge of the Auckland Sky Tower in Auckland on 14 March. India regroup after outplaying New Zealand in the one-day series with an even more ominous line-up for the first Test starting on Wednesday.—INTERNET

Egyptian's 3,500-year-old tomb discovered

MADRID, 17 March—A tomb decorated with 3,500-year-old paintings has been discovered in Luxor by a Spanish Egyptologist, Spain's scientific research agency (CSIC) announced.

The tomb, part of the Dra Abu El-Naga necropolis, also includes drawings and hieroglyphics taken in part from the Book of the Dead, the ancient Egyptian funerary text, and could be that of a senior functionary named Djehuty, the CSIC said.

The person was in the service of the 18th dynasty Queen Hatshepsut, the most powerful female pharaoh and who ruled for 21 years from 1479 to 1458 BC.

The burial chamber of about 3.5 square metres (37.6 square feet) and 1.5 metres (five feet) high, is one of the first to have been entirely decorated with paintings from the era, said the Spanish Egyptologist who made the discovery, Jose Manuel Galan.—Internet



Photo taken on 17 March, 2009 shows buildings enveloped in the heavy fog in Taizhou, east China's Zhejiang Province.—INTERNET

Russia launches rocket with European satellite atop

MOSCOW, 17 March—Russia launched a carrier rocket with a European satellite on board Tuesday afternoon, a spokesman for the Russian Space Forces said. The rocket blasted off from the Plesetsk space center in northwest Russia at 17:21 Moscow time (1421 GMT), Lieut. Col. Alexei Zolotukhin was quoted by Interfax as saying.

The Gravity field and steady-state Ocean Circulation Explorer (GOCE) satellite was lifted off on top of the Rokot, a converted version of the Soviet RS-18 missile.

The GOCE satellite, developed by the European Space Agency (ESA) to measure earth's gravitational field with high accuracy, is the first in a series of new research projects within the framework of the ESA Living Planet Program, the Itar-Tass news agency reported.

It is ESA's most sophisticated Earth observation satellites to date. The 1,200 kg satellite will help scientists to understand how the earth's gravity field influences ocean circulation, sea-level change and climate change. It will also allow specialists to study earth's underground processes in areas of high volcanic and seismic activity. Initially scheduled for Monday, the launch of the satellite had been postponed because the doors of the launch service tower did not open, ESA said.—Internet

Police: Mexican bus crash kills 11, some Americans

MEXICO CITY, 17 March—A tractor-trailer slammed into a bus carrying Canadian and US tourists in northern Mexico, killing 11, officials said on Tuesday.

Coahuila state police commander Armando Santana said some Americans were among the dead but could not say how many. He said the bus was carrying a group of Texas retirees from McAllen, Texas, to the northern Mexican state of Zacatecas when it crashed Monday.—Internet



Photo shows dozens of hybrid brocade carp vie for milk from feeding-bottles at the Dongyanghengdian Film and TV City in Zhejiang province, China.—INTERNET

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV HELMUTH RAMBOW VOYNO (036)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HELMUTH RAMBOW VOYNO (036) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.3.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS
INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER

1. Sealed Tender is invited for supply of the following in Euro ;

Tender No	Description	Quantity
15(T)10/MR(E)	Raw Materials for Concrete Sleeper Production	
2008-2009	(i) Rail Clip	360000 Nos
	(ii) H.T Steel Strand	456.22 M.Tons
	(iii) Cast Iron Insert	360000 Nos
	(iv) Fibre Pad	180000 Nos
	(v) Nylon Liner	360000 Nos
	(vi) Steel Wedges	40000 Pairs

Closing Date/Time - 15.5.2009 (Friday) (12:00) Hours

2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 16.3.2009 during office hours and for further detail please call Deputy General Manager, Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of Theinbyu Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon. Phone: 95-1-291994, 95-1-291985.

**Three injured
in natural gas
blast in
Pasadena, Calif**

PASADENA, 17 March— Three people were hospitalized after a natural gas explosion destroyed a truck and sent a flaming tank hurtling into the air near a busy street.

No cars or people were hit by the tank, but one person was critically injured by the blast Monday and two others standing nearby were seriously hurt.

Pasadena Fire Department spokeswoman Lisa Derderian says the explosion occurred as a worker at the California Linen Services textile rental business was transferring natural gas.

Derderian says a tank was blasted 1,000 feet into the air before it landed 200 feet away across the street.

She says the truck belonged to Dy-Dee Diaper Service, part of California Linen, and that all three victims were company employees.—Internet

China's Gobi desert source of rare dinosaur find

BEIJING, 17 March— Left on their own by adults, the young dinosaurs sank into the mud beside a lake and died 90 million years ago in what would become the Gobi

Desert. The well-preserved fossils, excavated by a team of Chinese and American scientists, offer a rare bounty of clues about how this herd of ostrich-like

sinornithomimus lived—and died.

Two life-sized models of the sinornithomimus were put on public display for the first time Monday in Hohhot, capital of north China's Inner Mongolia region. "This is a very exciting discovery, because 99.9 percent of the time, we find a group of skeletons that died at different periods due to unknown causes," said Paul Sereno, a University of Chicago professor on the excavation team. "The other 0.1 percent of the time, scientists consider themselves lucky to find small herds that have been well-preserved after floods or volcanic eruptions, similar to that of Pompeii."

Internet



In this photo released by Project Exploration, Chinese dinosaur hunter Zhao Xijin, left, and University of Chicago Prof Paul Sereno, right, compare fossil bones at the site of a buried dinosaur herd in the Gobi Desert of Inner Mongolia, China, May 2001.—INTERNET

Report says three percent in DC have HIV or AIDS

WASHINGTON, 17 March— A new report by DC health officials says that at least 3 percent of residents in the nation's capital are living with HIV or AIDS and every mode of transmission is on the rise.

The findings in the 2008 epidemiology report by the DC HIV/AIDS Administration point to a severe epidemic that's impacting every race and sex across the population and neighbourhoods. Scheduled to be released Monday, the report says that the number of HIV and AIDS cases jumped 22 percent from the nearly 12,500 reported in 2006. Almost 1 in 10 residents between ages 40 and 49 are living with HIV, and black men had the highest infection rate at almost 7 percent.

The report says that the virus is most often transmitted by men having sex with men, followed by heterosexual transmission and injection drug use.—Internet

S Korea's KEPCO picked for Saudi power plant construction

SEOUL, 17 March—Korea Electric Power Corp (KEPCO), South Korea's state-run electricity company, said on Tuesday that it has been selected as the prime bidder for a power plant construction in western Saudi Arabia.

The company said that in a consortium with Saudi-Arabia's ACWA Power International, it has been chosen as a preferred bidder by Saudi Electricity Company (SEC), and plans to sign a formal deal with SEC in the near future.

The project to build the 1,200-megawatt thermal power plant, to be built in Rabigh, Saudi Arabia by April 2013, will cost the company around 2.5 billion US dollars, according to KEPCO.—Internet

More evidence links diabetes to Alzheimer's risk

WASHINGTON, 17 March— You've heard that diabetes hurts your heart, your eyes, your kidneys. New research indicates a more ominous link: That diabetes increases the risk of getting Alzheimer's disease and may speed dementia once it strikes.

Doctors long suspected diabetes damaged blood vessels that supply the brain. It now seems even more insidious, that the damage may start before someone is diagnosed with full-blown diabetes, back when the body is gradually losing its ability to regulate blood sugar. In fact, the lines are blurring between what specialists call "vascular dementia" and scarier classic Alzheimer's disease. Whatever it's labeled, there's reason enough to safeguard your brain by fighting diabetes and heart-related risks. "Right now we can't do much about the Alzheimer's disease pathology," those sticky plaques that clog patients' brains, says Dr Yaakov Stern, an Alzheimer's specialist at Columbia University Medical Center. But, "if you could control these vascular conditions, you might slow the course of the disease."—Internet

Singapore non-oil domestic exports drop 24% in February

SINGAPORE, 17 March—Singapore's key non-oil domestic exports (NODX) declined by 24 percent on year in February, following the 35 percent decrease in January, due to lower electronic and non-electronic exports, the government data showed on Tuesday.

On a month-on-month seasonally adjusted basis, NODX increased by 1.8 percent in February, following the previous month's 3.3 percent decrease, said International Enterprise Singapore (IE Singapore), the trade-promotion agency, in its monthly report.

Electronic NODX contracted by 32 percent in February, following the 38 percent decline in the previous month. The decrease was largely due to lower domestic exports of parts of PCs, disk drives and parts of integrated circuits.

Non-electronic NODX decreased by 18 percent in February, following the 32 percent decline in the previous month. The contraction in this sector was led by reduced domestic exports of petrochemicals, pharmaceuticals and electrical circuit apparatus.—Internet



A sculpture titled 'Raising the Bar', which is made of canned food, is on display at the Westroads Mall in Omaha, Neb, on 16 March, 2009.—INTERNET



Students of the kungfu school perform renowned shaolin kungfu (martial art) at the Shaolin Temple in Dengfeng, central China's Henan Province. The 1500-year-old Shaolin Temple is regarded as the birthplace of Chinese kungfu. Its rich history and culture and extraordinary kungfu performance attract numerous tourists from home and abroad every year. —XINHUA

iPhone may feature cut, copy, paste

BEIJING, 17 March — Apple will hold its iPhone OS 3.0 preview event Tuesday and show off the next generation of software, the main rumor being that the iPhone will finally be able to cut, copy, paste text.

Digg founder Kevin Rose, who told an audience at the SXSW festival over the weekend, said that users will be able to copy or cut a word by double-tapping on text.

A magnifier bubble

would then pop up with quote marks, and the user would drag these to select how many words he or she wants to select. The user is then given the option of cut, copy, or paste, according to Rose.

Apple's rival platforms, like Google's Android, Microsoft's Windows Mobile and Research In Motion's BlackBerry, have long been able to do this.

Forrester Research analyst Charles Golvin

also speculated that it might include multiple Bluetooth profiles, tethering to a laptop, video recording, and running applications in the background.

Computerworld's Seth Weintraub is making a prediction that Apple will use Tuesday's preview to show off a 10-inch (25.4 cm) tablet computer. No word if Apple CEO Steven Jobs will attend the preview.

Internet

Australian training troops face dangers as in Vietnam 30 years ago

CANBERRA, 17 March — Australian troops to train Afghan soldiers face the same sort of risks experienced by members of a similar team in Vietnam more than 30 years ago, the

Australia Defence Association (ADA) said on Tuesday.

"You do this so you can validate the training and so you can provide some tactical stiffening so you can better measure

their leadership," ADA executive director Neil James said.

According to James, the added danger of mentoring foreign troops was the requirement to accompany trainees into battle.

He also predicted an upsurge in fighting as Afghanistan moved towards the northern summer. "The war in Afghanistan is largely driven by the climate cycle," James said.

Internet

Yemen blames al-Qaeda for latest tourist bombing

SAN'A, 17 March — Yemeni authorities on Monday said that al-Qaeda was behind a suicide bombing that killed four South Korean tourists and their Yemeni driver at a historical site.

A security official, meanwhile, said 12 suspects were arrested in connection with Sunday's attack near the ancient fortress city of Shibam.

The official said those arrested are members of jihadi groups believed to have information about the actual masterminds of

the bombing. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to talk to the media.

Initially, there were discrepancies about the blast. Some Yemeni officials said it was a roadside bombing, but the Interior Ministry on Monday said in a statement that it was a suicide blast carried out by an al-Qaeda member.

"It was a deliberate act of terrorism by a suicide bomber belonging to al-Qaeda," said a ministry statement.—Internet

ISS safe from debris of "Kosmos 1275"

BEIJING, 17 March — NASA gave the all-clear to the international space station Monday, assuring its astronauts that they would not need to steer away from an orbiting satellite debris, media reported Tuesday.

Experts had been keeping close tabs on the debris all day, and ascertained that the shuttle Discovery would remain at a safe distance from a

debris of a Soviet Union-era satellite.

"We will not need to perform the debris avoidance manoeuvre," US mission control in Houston told the seven-member crew on board the space shuttle Discovery.

The piece of the Kosmos 1275 will pass about half a mile from the space station at 2:14 am CDT (7:14 am GMT) Tuesday, said Bill Jeffs,

a spokesman at Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

The Discovery with seven astronauts was en route to the space station and scheduled to dock Tuesday. A maneuver by the space station would have forced Discovery to adjust its docking time by seconds or minutes, according to LeRoy Cain, the shuttle program's deputy manager.

Internet

Egypt to open inner chambers of 'bent' pyramid



The ancient Dahshur Pyramid is silhouetted in Dahshur, Egypt, on 16 March, 2009.—INTERNET

CAIRO, 17 March — Travellers to Egypt will soon be able to explore the inner chambers of the 4,500-year-old "bent" pyramid, known for its oddly shaped profile, and other nearby ancient tombs, Egypt's antiquities chief announced Monday.

The increased access to the pyramids

south of Cairo is part of a new sustainable development campaign that Egypt hopes will attract more visitors but also to avoid some of the problems of the urban sprawl that have plagued the famed pyramids of Giza.

Egypt's chief archaeologist, Zahi Hawass, said the chambers of the 330-foot-pyramid outside the village of Dahshur, 50 miles south of Cairo, will be opened for the first time to tourists within the next "month or two." "This is going to be an adventure," he told reporters. Dahshur's bent pyramid is famous for its irregular profile. The massive tomb's sides rise at a steep angle but then abruptly tapers off at a more shallow approach to the pyramid's apex.

Internet

Four kidnapped UN aid workers released in Somalia

UNITED NATIONS, 17 March — Four United Nations aid workers kidnapped in southern Somalia on Monday have been released safely to the UN security, a UN spokesman announced here on Monday afternoon. "The four people who were abducted have now all been released safely and are now in the

hands of UN security," UN associate spokesman Farhan Haq announced here.

The four were released hours after they were abducted, including three foreigners and a Somali working for the United Nations, reports said.

The United Nations is working to secure the unconditional release of four UN aid workers, who were abducted on Monday morning by unknown armed men in southern Somalia, UN officials

said. The four were on their way to the airport when their convoy was stopped by gunmen in Wajid, a food aid center some 340 kilometres south of the Somali capital of Mogadishu, the officials said. A statement issued in Nairobi by the Office of the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia confirmed the kidnapping incident, but it did not give any details about the nationalities of the hostages.

Internet



A vendor selling deep-fried spiders poses with a spider as she waits for costumers at bus station at Skun, Kampong Cham Province, east of Phnom Penh on 14 March, 2009. It costs \$2 for 10 deep-fried spiders, which come seasoned with garlic. The fist-sized arachnids are crunchy on the outside and taste like cold, gooey chicken on the inside. Picture taken on 14 March, 2009.—XINHUA

SPORTS

Federer flies into fourth round at Indian Wells



Roger Federer (pictured) was more than a match for the firepower of Ivo Karlovic, beating the towering Croatian in straight sets, 7-6 (7/4), 6-3, to reach the fourth round of the Indian Wells hardcourt tennis tournament.—INTERNET

INDIAN WELLS, 17 March—Roger Federer was more than a match for the firepower of Ivo Karlovic Monday, beating the towering Croatian in straight sets to reach the fourth round of the Indian Wells hardcourt tennis tournament.

The Swiss world number two, seeded second in the first ATP Masters series of 2009 behind world number one Rafael Nadal, needed only 70 minutes to notch a 7-6 (7/4), 6-3 victory on Monday - his seventh over Karlovic in eight career meetings.

The Swiss, who calls Karlovic's first serve "untouchable," was nonetheless able to withstand 13 aces by the Croatian, breaking him in the seventh game of the second set to avoid another tiebreaker while never facing a break point himself.—Internet

Baggies endure West Ham stalemate



West Bromwich Albion's French player Marc-Antoine Fortune (L) is challenged by West Ham United's Matthew Upson during their Premier League football match at Upton Park in London.—INTERNET

LONDON, 17 March—West Bromwich Albion were left four points adrift at the bottom of the Premier League after an uninspiring goalless draw away to West Ham at Upton Park here on Monday.

The visitors had the best chances of the match. Shelton Martis hit the bar while ex-Manchester United midfielder Jonathan Greening shot over the top from six yards out and James Morrison saw his effort saved by West Ham goalkeeper Robert Green.

West Ham, who remained seventh in the table, rarely threatened to score against Tony Mowbray's basement club in a low-grade contest that seemingly did little for the Baggies' hopes of top-flight survival.

Internet

UEFA ready to heed Liverpool plea on date

GENEVA, 17 MARCH—UEFA said on Monday that it would do its utmost to ensure that Liverpool do not have to play their Champions League quarter-final tie on the 20th anniversary of the Hillsborough disaster.

"We are aware of the huge significance of the 15 April date for both Liverpool FC and their

fans, and that is why we will do our utmost to make sure that the club does not have to play its UEFA Champions League second leg quarter-final match on that day," said UEFA President Michel Platini.

"I have been in regular correspondence with Liverpool FC on this matter for some time now and

fully sympathise with the club's feelings as to the importance of respecting the date of 15 April for those who lost their lives at Hillsborough," Platini added in a statement.

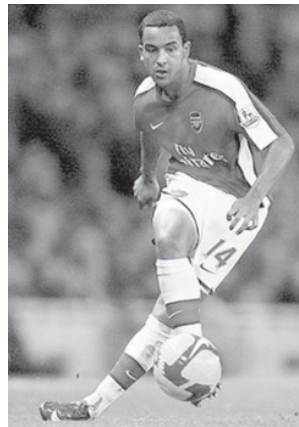
"This being the 20th anniversary of that tragic disaster in 1989 makes it even more relevant and we will take this into account."—Internet

Wenger says only way is up for Walcott

LONDON, 17 March—Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger marked the 20th birthday of Theo Walcott by predicting there was still more to come from the Gunners forward.

The former Southampton starlet returned to the Arsenal first team last weekend after a spell on the sidelines through injury and looked sharp as the London club put four goals past Premier League rivals Blackburn Rovers.

Thrust into the spotlight by then England manager Sven-Goran



Theo Walcott

Eriksson's shock decision to select him for the 2006 World Cup squad, Walcott has learned to live with high expectations.

Internet



Manchester United's Portuguese midfielder Cristiano Ronaldo (2nd right) appeals to referee Alan Wiley (right) after Serbian defender Nemanja Vidic (3rd right) was sent off against Liverpool during the Premier League game at Old Trafford in Manchester, northwest England, on 14 March.—INTERNET

FA confirm Vidic's two-game ban

LONDON, 17 March—Nemanja Vidic will miss Manchester United's next two games, the Football Association confirmed here on Monday, after being sent-off in last weekend's shock 4-1 loss to title rivals Liverpool.

The Serbian centre-back received a red card at Old Trafford on Saturday after denying Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard a clear goalscoring opportunity.

Vidic's second red card of the season—the other was also against Liverpool—in September means he will miss the Premier League leaders and reigning champions' match against Fulham on Saturday and the home fixture against Aston Villa at Old Trafford on 5 April.—Internet

Klose out for six to eight weeks, say Bayern

MUNICH, 17 March—Germany striker Miroslav Klose will be sidelined for "six to eight weeks" following an operation on his injured right ankle, his club Bayern Munich said on Monday.

After sustaining ligament damage at the weekend, Klose went under the knife in Switzerland. As he does not need to wear a plaster-cast, he can begin rehab immediately, said the German champions.

The German championship does not finish until May 23 but Klose will miss the lion's share of the race for the Bundesliga title, as well as Bayern's quarter-final clashes in the Champions League.

Internet



Germany striker Miroslav Klose, seen here in 2008, will be sidelined for "six to eight weeks" following an operation on his injured right ankle, his club Bayern Munich said on Monday.—INTERNET

New golf tour to offer more big money tournaments

MELBOURNE, 17 March—Australian golf officials support a new OneAsia Super Series, which has divided opinion in the region, because the schedule will likely involve about 20 tournaments by 2011, each offering at least \$1.5 million in prize money.

"This ... is just the first step in creating an elite platform of golf that runs from Delhi through to Auckland," commissioner Ben Sellenger of the Australian PGA Tour said Tuesday in a tour newsletter.

"It's a platform that will sit above and complement the regional tours ... and give the players from all the bodies involved the chance to compete on a tour that's a genuine alternative to the (US) PGA and European tours."—Internet

Fred has a fine first game for Fluminense

RIO DE JANEIRO, 17 March—Fluminense new recruit Fred admitted on Monday that he surprised himself with such a fine debut after scoring twice in Sunday's victory against Macae.

In front of their home crowd in the Maracana stadium, Fluminense beat Macae 3-1 in the third

round of the second half of the Rio de Janeiro state soccer championship.

"Despite a slight injury and the lack of rhythm with the other players, I had hoped to play well. However, I did not expect to play as well as I did," said Fred.

"I was definitely inspired by the cheers of support and love from the fans. They were the ones responsible for me being able to play the entire 90 minutes of the game. I thought I would only be able to play for 45 minutes. I am thankful for the fans. I hope that I can deliver them the happiness and success that they deserve. We are all in it together in the hunt for titles and trophies," he said.

Internet



Renault Formula One driver Fernando Alonso of Spain goes through a curve while driving his car during a training session at the Jerez racetrack in southern Spain on 15 March, 2009. The F1 season will begin March 29 in Australia.—XINHUA



Snow-covered Mount Fuji, Japan's highest peak at 3,776-meter (12,385 feet), is seen from an observation platform in Gotemba, west of Tokyo, Japan, on 17 March, 2009.—INTERNET

Clash leaves 5 Afghan police dead in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 17 March—Five police were killed as they came in contact with Taleban insurgents in Kandahar, south of Afghanistan, on Tuesday, a local officer said. "Taleban insurgents attacked a police patrol team in Panjwai district this morning, triggering return fire of police, during which five police and some rebels were killed," a police officer in the district Bismillah Khan told *Xinhua*.

However, he failed to give the number of casualties inflicted on the insurgents, saying some were killed in firefight.

Kandahar, a former stronghold of Taleban, has experienced increasing militancy over the past couple of years.

Conflicts and Taleban-linked insurgency had left over 5,000 people, with some 2,000 civilians, dead in 2008 while the violence is predicted to go up in 2009 as US government has announce reinforcement of troops for curbing the militancy in the post-Taleban central Asian state.

Internet

MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (18.3.2009) (Wednesday)

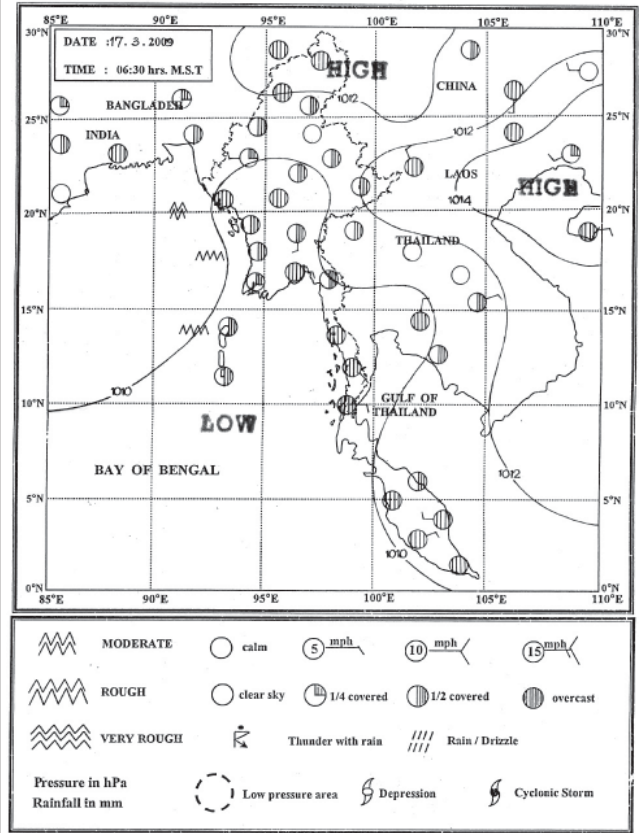
Transmissions	Times
Local	- (09:00am ~ 10:00am) MST
Europe	- (15:30pm ~ 23:30pm) MST
North America	- (23:30pm ~ 07:30am) MST

- Local Transmission**
- * Signature Tune
 - * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
 - * If you happen to visit Mrauk-U
 - * Mandalay and its popular Snack
 - * Hundred Fruits from a Common Stem, our Union "Chin State"
 - * A Picturesque Resort among Shan Mountain Ranges
 - * Mandalay General Hospital gets New Five-storey Building
 - * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

- Europe/ North America Transmission**
- * Signature Tune
 - * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
 - * Myaing Hay Wun Elephant Camp
 - * Ancient City, Pakhangyi
 - * Shwe Bo's Glazed Pots
 - * Hundred Fruits from a Common Stem, our Union "Kayin State"
 - * Smooth Transportation ... Basic Infrastructure for Regional Development
 - * Eiksiton Grape Orchard
 - * Tiger Population Counting (Part-I)
 - * National Landmarks Garden
 - * Myanmar Modern Song
 - * If you happen to visit Mrauk-U
 - * Mandalay and its popular Snack
 - * Hundred Fruits from a Common Stem, our Union "Chin State"
 - * A Picturesque Resort among Shan Mountain Ranges
 - * Mandalay General Hospital gets New Five-story Building
 - * Hninzigone, Home for the Aged
 - * Tiger Population Counting (Part-II)
 - * Traditional Weaving Art
 - * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Tuesday, 17 March, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Mon State, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below March average temperatures in Shan State, lower Sagaing and Bago Divisions, (5°C) below March average temperatures in upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) above March average temperatures in Taninthayi Division and about March average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures were Chauk and Aunglan (39°C) each. The Noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded was Kyaikkhami (0.12) inch.

Maximum temperature on 16-3-2009 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 17-3-2009 was 72°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 17-3-2009 was 79%. Total sunshine hours on 16-3-2009 was (3.8) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 17-3-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and 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 (6) mph from Southwest at (16:30) hours MST on 16-3-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 18th March 2009: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Shan, Rakhine, and Mon States, Ayeyawady, Yangon 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 18-3-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 18-3-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 18-3-2009: Partly cloudy.



Wednesday, 18 March
View on today

- 7:00 am
 - မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:25 am
 - To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
 - Morning news
- 7:40 am
 - မြူးမြူးကြွကြွယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက
- 7:50 am
 - Nice and sweet song
- 8:00 am
 - အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

- 8:15 am
 - (၆၄)နှစ်မြောက်တစ်မတော်နေ့, ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 8:20 am
 - International news
- 8:40 am
 - "နေ့အတွက် စိုက်ပျိုးမခက် အလင်းပါအောင်မည့် ဓပေါင်း ရေလှောင်တမံ"
- 4:00 pm
 - Martial song
- 4:10 pm
 - အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 4:20 pm
 - Dance of National Races
- 4:30 pm
 - Classical song
- 4:35 pm
 - တစ်မတော်နေ့, ဂုဏ်ပြု တေးသီချင်းပြိုင်ပွဲ ဆရာတေးများ
- 4:45 pm
 - အပေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး

- ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ (စတုတ္ထနှစ်) (ဥပဒေပညာ အထူးပြု) (ဥပဒေပညာ)
- 5:00 pm
 - Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 5:05 pm
 - "တစ်လောကလုံးလင်းပါစေ" (ပြေတိုဦး၊ မိုးပြည့်ပြည့်မောင်၊ မေသက္ကဦး၊ ဝါဝါအောင်၊ ဧကံဖူးပွင့်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-စင်ရော်မောင်မောင်)
- 5:25 pm
 - ရှုဖွယ်စုံလင်အာဆီယံအစီအစဉ်
- 5:30 pm
 - Musical programme
- 5:40 pm
 - (၆၄)နှစ်မြောက်တစ်မတော်နေ့, ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 6:00 pm
 - Evening news
- 6:30 pm
 - Weather report

- 6:35 pm
 - မြန်မာ့လေ့ရှိရာလက်ရာ
- 6:50 pm
 - ထက်မြက်ပျော်ရွှင်အိမ်ထောင်ရှင်
- 7:10 pm
 - ရသပေါ်လွင်သရုပ်ဆောင်လွင်ပြင်
- 7:40 am
 - "ရန်ကုန်-မန္တလေး အမြန် လမ်းမကြီး" (အပိုင်း-၁)
- 8:00 pm
 - News
- 19. International news
- 20. Weather report
- 21. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "မြူးမြူးဆေးချစ်သက်တည်" (အပိုင်း-၇)
- 22. "သူရဲကောင်းတို့, မွေ့လျော်ရာ" (သွားညို မင်းသူ၊ ဇာနည်၊ မင်းထက်ကျော်ဇင်၊ မြသက္ကလီ၊ နိုင်နင်းစေ၊ ဆရာပန်ထွာ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-သက်တင်)
- 23. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ အရပ်ဆယ်မျက်နှာ မေတ္တာ ဘာဝနာပွားများခြင်းတရားတော်

Mayangon Sluice Gate in Thaton Township, Mon State

Article: *Kyaw Sein*; Photo: *Aung Than (Mingala Taungnyunt)*

The State Peace and Development Council is putting the four economic objectives into effect for all-round wellbeing of the entire people. In order to help the government achieve the lofty goal sooner, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is implementing projects in the states and divisions for extensive cultivation of various crops such as paddy, cotton, sugarcane and beans and pulses.

Mon State gets a high rainfall and has many mountain ranges. So, many of its farmlands are flooded by the torrents flowing from the mountain ranges in the rainy season. However, sometimes, it faces a long period of low rainfall in the late rainy season. So, the

paddy fields need some more water on such occasions to prove successful.

In Mon State, Azin Dam was inaugurated in 1990; Wahpar Dam, in 1994; Shwe Nattaung Dam, in 1996; Win Phanon Dam, in 2001; Zaikkaye Sluice Gate in 2002; and Kyonhtaw Sluice Gate, in 2005.

Hseikkyun, Naungbo-Zayitchaung and Naungkalar Chaungthit canals were dug to protect the vast plain, west of Theinseik, Kyaikkaw-Naungbo, and Naungkalar villages in Thaton Township, Thaton District, Mon State, between Bago-Mottama Railroad and Mottama Gulf, from floods in the rainy season. However, it had no sluice gates, and the water in the plain

could not flow out while it rained heavily and the tide rose, and seawater flowed into the area. So, many paddy fields were often flooded by seawater in the rainy season.

Mayangon Sluice Gate was thus constructed near Mayangon Village, and Hseikkyun Sluice Gate, Hseikkyun Village.

Informed that the Irrigation Department was implementing projects to protect the farmlands from floods, we made a trip to Thaton District, Mon State, and conducted an interview with a farmer on 9 December 2008.

(See page 10)



Mayangon Sluice Gate near Mayangon Village, Thaton Township, Mon State.

Spinning carbon nanotubes spawns new wireless applications



Mast created a new antenna using a spun carbon nanotube thread and sticky tape.

CINCINNATI, 17 March — The University of Cincinnati has long been known for its world-

record-breaking carbon nanotubes. Now researchers at the University of Cincinnati have discov-

ered new uses by spinning carbon nanotubes (CNTs) into longer fibers with additional useful properties.

Taking technology that has already been proven to grow carbon nanotubes of world-record breaking lengths, researchers Vesselin Shanov and Mark Schulz in the UC College of Engineering NanoWorld Lab have now found new applications by spinning these fibers into strong threads. □

David Mast, from UC's McMicken College of Arts and Sciences, saw possibilities in the threads.

Mast, an associate professor of physics, took a 25-micron carbon nanotube thread and created a dipole antenna using double-sided transparent tape and silver paste.

He was immediately successful in transmitting radio signals.

"It transmitted almost as well as the copper did, but at about one ten-thousandth of the weight," says Mast.

Mast was able to transmit both AM and FM in his lab, broadcasting a local NPR station.

Internet

Lectures, Exam for B.Ed Correspondence Courses announced

YANGON, 17 March—The lectures and exams for the trainee teachers of B.Ed correspondence course for 2008-2009 academic year will be held at Yangon Institute of Education. Lectures will be given for the first year of course No-27 and the second year of course No-26 from 24 April to 15 May. Trainees are to report not later than 23 April and will not be allowed to report three days beyond the target date. The examinations for the courses will be held from 18 to 22 May.—MNA

New Generation Golf tournament slated on 6 April

YANGON, 17 March — Organized by Myanmar Golf Federation, 12th MGC Junior Golf Open Championship 2009 will be held at Myanmar Golf Club on Pyay Road here from 6 to 7 April.

The competitions are categorized as the aged 10-12, aged 13-15 and aged 16-20 level events and aged 10-18 level girls' event. The winners will be presented handsome prizes.

Prizes for the winners of the tournament will be sponsored by MGC and companies, organizations and wellwishers. Those who want to take part in the tournament may get registered at the club on Pyay Road not later than 2 p.m. on 4 April. For further information, contact MGC (Ph: 661702 and 665531). — MNA

Long lay-off for Deco

CHELSEA, 17 March —Chelsea coach Guus Hiddink has hinted that Deco will be out for the rest of the season. The midfielder suffered a recurrence of a hamstring problem in the 1-0 win over Manchester City on

Sunday. Deco has been troubled by the injury for the last two months and was substituted in the first-half against City.

"He was fit and worked hard, but after 20 or 25 minutes he had this problem again, so he will

be out again for a while," said Hiddink.

"I think Deco will not be recovered very shortly. He'll have to be very fit to come back this season. I have my doubts to be honest, but let's see what happens."—Internet

