

Myanmar enjoys not only food sufficiency but also surplus food

Prime Minister attends opening of Textile Factory (Pyawbwe) of Myanma Textile Industries

NAY PYI TAW, 20 March—A ceremony to open Textile Factory (Pyawbwe) of Myanma Textile Industries under the Ministry of Industry-1 was held at the factory in Pyawbwe Township this morning, attended by Prime Minister General Thein Sein.

First, Managing Director U Oo Thein Maung of MTI, Chairman of Yamethin District Peace and Development Council U Oo Khaing and Deputy Secretary-General Ms Wang Zhi Ming of Tianjin Province of the People's Republic of China cut the ribbon to open the factory.

The Prime Minister unveiled the signboard of the factory.

Next, the Prime Minister and party viewed functioning of sections at the factory and products of MTI displayed at the factory.

At the hall of the factory, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung reported on the location and history of the factory, the import of machines, construction of the factory, test-run of machines, aims for building the factory, supply of products, requirement of raw materials, quality of Ngwechi-6 long staple cotton, production capacity, items of products, investment and strength of workers.

(See page 8)



Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects running of machines at Textile Factory (Pyawbwe).—MNA



An aerial view of Textile Factory (Pyawbwe) of Myanma Textile Industries under the Ministry of Industry-1.—MNA

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 21 March, 2009

Further promote trade and investment between Myanmar and Singapore

Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein paid a goodwill visit to the Republic of Singapore on 17 March at the invitation of Singaporean Prime Minister Mr. Lee Hsien Loong.

A meeting between Myanmar goodwill delegation led by Prime Minister General Thein Sein and Singaporean delegation led by Prime Minister Mr. Lee Hsien Loong took place at the meeting hall of Istana Presidential Palace in Singapore on 17 March.

At the meeting, Prime Minister General Thein Sein said that know-how and investment of Singapore will surely benefit both countries as Myanmar is rich in natural resources; and that the experiences and cooperation of Singapore can be put into most beneficial use for the beautiful beaches and snow-capped mountain ranges of Myanmar in the tourism sector.

The Singaporean Prime Minister said that Myanmar and Singapore are joining hands under the ASEAN Cooperation Programme in addition to bilateral cooperation; that the governments of the two countries can cooperate in trade and tourism services, and if the ancient artifacts of Myanmar can be displayed in Singapore, the tourists will know more about Myanmar and will visit the country.

Being ASEAN member countries, Myanmar and Singapore have maintained friendly ties since yore. Among the trade partners of Myanmar, Singapore ranks in the third position, and it is included in the top list of Myanmar's aquatic product importing countries. As trade and investment between Myanmar and Singapore are on-going and improving, cooperation between the two countries is on the rise.

Therefore, we firmly believe that the goodwill visit of Prime Minister General Thein Sein to Singapore will surely further strengthen friendly ties and economic cooperation between the two countries.

Sixth Today book store branch opened

YANGON, 20 March—The sixth branch of Today Book Store has been opened at Room 202 on the first floor of East Point Shopping Center at No. 62 on Maha Bandoola Street recently.

As special sales for Maha Thingyan Festival period, all the Today book stores will sell books at 10 per cent discount from 3 to 11 April.

For further information, dial 397900 (extension-202).—MNA

People's Desire

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

Dhamma Beikman building of Mahasi Meditation Centre opened

YANGON, 20 March—The opening of Dhamma Beikman building of Mahasi Meditation Centre in Bahan Township here was held along with the sharing of merits at the building this morning.

Present on the occasion were members of the Sangha, Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, departmental officials, well-wishers and guests.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the commander, the minister and the well-wishers formally opened the building.

State Ovadacariya Abbot of Mahasi Meditation Centre Thayet Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Kammathanacariya Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Kesara invested the congregation with Eight Precepts.

The minister supplicated on religious affairs. Lt-Gen Myint Swe and wife, the minister and the donors offered alms to members of the Sayadaws.

The chairman of Buddha Sasana Nuggaha Association and the initial donor presented the purpose of the donation.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and wife the congregation listened to the religious sermon, and shared merits.

MNA

FM attends South Asia Regional Ministerial Meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 20 March — U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar arrived back here yesterday by air from Sri Lanka after attending the South Asia Regional Ministerial Meeting which was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 16th to 18th March.

Minister U Nyan Win attended the meeting at the invitation of Mr Rohitha Bogollagama, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and Mr Sha Zukang, the Under-Secretary-General, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations.

The meeting focused on the theme "Financing Strategies for Healthcare" in respect of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

During the visit, Foreign Minister U Nyan Win together with the



Minister U Nyan Win attends South Asia Regional Ministerial Meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka.—MNA

ministers attending the meeting, paid a courtesy call on Mr Minhinda Rajapaksa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka at his office on 17th March.

Foreign Minister U Nyan Win also attended the breakfast meeting hosted by Mr Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka on 17 March and discussed

bilateral matters.

Likewise, on 16th March 2009, Foreign Minister U Nyan Win called on his counterpart Mr Rohitha Bogollagama, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka, and discussed matters related to mutual interests.

The South Asia Ministerial Meeting was also attended by U Tin Oo Lwin, Ambassador of the

Union of Myanmar to Sri Lanka, U Thant Kyaw, Director-General, International Organizations and Economic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and U Aung Kyaing, Director-General, Health Planning Department of the Ministry of Health of the Union of Myanmar.

MNA

Coordination meeting for compilation of the fourth national level biodiversity report held

NAY PYI TAW, 20 March—Ministry of Forestry held the opening ceremony of the coordination meeting on compilation of the fourth national level biodiversity report, jointly organized by National Commission for Environmental Conservation under the Ministry of Forestry and ASEAN Center for Biodiversity, at Forest Research Department in Yezin this morning, with an opening address by Chairman of the Commission

Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung.

Afterwards, leader of the compilation of the biodiversity reports, Rector of University of Forestry U Khin Maung Zaw discussed report on compilation of report and secretary of the compilation of the biodiversity report, joint secretary of the Commission Dr San Win matters relating to report. Those who attended the meeting also discussed.—MNA

US anti-war protesters urge ending of occupation in Iraq, Afghanistan

NEW YORK, 20 March — More than 150 US anti-war protesters on Thursday called on the Obama administration to stop occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan, and withdraw all troops from these countries.

In the Union Square, where the protesters huddled together under the awning of a subway station, staying out of the rain, some said that (US President Barack) Obama, who had opposed the war as an Illinois state senator, continues some of the Bush administration's most controversial policies.

"He's not stopping anything that's been going on with Bush," said a student who only gave her first name as Putu. "When I went to visit Indonesia which is my mother's home country, people kind of looked down upon me and made fun of our government." Calling on the US government to remove its permanent military bases and advisers from Iraq, Debra Sweet, national director of the World Can't Wait, the organization which organized the protest, an annual event since the Iraqi war started six year ago, also urged the US government not to extend the occupation in Afghanistan. "Today, the occupation of Iraq must end," Sweet said.—Internet



A protestor (L) is led away by police after being arrested for blocking street car traffic on Market Street during a demonstration on the sixth anniversary of the war in Iraq, in San Francisco, California on 19 March, 2009.—INTERNET

34 militants killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, 20 March—The US military said on Friday that Afghan and international troops had killed 34 militants in Afghanistan's province of Helmand, a flashpoint region where the Taliban control several districts. The heavy clash on Thursday was in the Gereshk district where a prominent anti-Taliban parliamentarian was killed in a bomb planted by the insurgents the same day.

The Afghan army had led a patrol of soldiers into an area where militants were known to operate, the US military said in a statement.

"The patrol was attacked by numerous armed militants with heavy small-arms and rocket-propelled grenade fire," it said.

After ensuring there were no civilians present, "the combined element returned fire with small-arms and close air support, killing 34 militants," it said.

There was no way to independently verify the toll. "This engagement was yet another blow to the militants, who are quickly losing their ability to operate in Helmand Province," a coalition spokesman said in the statement.—Internet



Canadian soldiers from the NATO-led coalition run for cover after an IED (Improvised Explosive Device) explosion during a mission in the Taliban stronghold of Zhari district in Kandahar province, southern Afghanistan, on 20 March, 2009.—INTERNET

10th Australian soldier killed in Afghanistan

CANBERRA, 20 March—Prime Minister Kevin Rudd signaled Friday that Australia will not substantially boost troop numbers in Afghanistan after a 10th Australian soldier died in the prolonged war against insurgents.

Rudd has yet to respond to a recent request from NATO for more Australian troops to help secure elections in Afghanistan in August, and he will meet President Barack Obama in Washington for the first time on Tuesday.—Internet

Roadside bomb kills Afghan lawmaker

KANDAHAR, 20 March—A lawmaker who was a vocal Taliban critic in Afghanistan's insurgency-plagued south was killed Thursday by a roadside bomb, family and officials said. Four others died along with Dad Mohammad Khan in the explosion in southern Helmand Province, said his cousin, Aktar Mohammad Khan.

A parliamentarian, Khan also served as a prominent voice against the Taliban in a region where their insurgency is strongest. He fled the country during Taliban rule but returned to become Helmand's intelligence chief after the extremist regime fell in 2001, said Shir Mohammad Akhonzada, the former governor of Helmand.—Internet

NATO service member killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, 20 March—A roadside bomb killed a NATO service member in southern Afghanistan, while two days of clashes killed 33 militants, international forces said Friday.

The bombing happened Thursday in Helmand Province, NATO forces said in a statement that did not give further details on the incident or the service member's nationality. The international force typically waits for national authorities to announce casualties.—Internet

UN aid for Iraq on upswing amid US troops draw down

UNITED NATIONS, 20 March—Six years after the US-led invasion of Iraq, American troops are packing up for withdrawal, Iraqi forces are taking on more security responsibility and the United Nations bolsters its role in assisting the

Baghdad government transition from under occupation to strike out on its own.

US President Barack Obama said at Camp Lejuene, North Carolina on 27 Feb: "I intend to remove all US troops from Iraq by the end of 2011." However, advisors have said the end date is subject to "conditions on the ground."

While the number of US troops is expected to

drop from the present 146,000 troops to about 50,000 by the end of next year and to zero if all goes according to plan, there still will be a mammoth reminder of the American presence that remains in central Baghdad, the newly opened 700-million-US-dollar US Embassy compound that spread over a 104-acre riverfront site for a staff of 1,200 people.

Internet

Afghans protest against arrest of 16 villagers by Coalition troops

KABUL, 20 March—Hundreds of people gathered on Thursday in front of local administration building in Logar province, 60 km south of the Afghan capital Kabul, to demand the release of 16 villagers from the custody of international troops.

According to locals, the US-led Coalition troops took into custody 16 persons from Mohammad Agha district Wednesday night.

"The Coalition forces with three helicopters came to Surkhab village in Mohammad Agha district last night and arrested Hajji Katal and Hajji Shir Agha along with 14 members of their families," an elder from the area Asmatullah Ahmadzai told Xinhua.

Internet



In this image reviewed by the US Military, a Guantanamo detainee is escorted by guards at Camp 4 detention facility, at the US Naval Base, in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, on 18 Nov, 2008.

INTERNET

China Unicom may join undersea cable venture

BEIJING, 20 March—China Unicom, Taipei's Chunghwa Telecom and Japan's KDDI Corp are reportedly planning to spend 500 million US dollars to build a new submarine communications cable in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Commercial Times, citing unnamed Chunghwa Telecom sources, reported yesterday that the three companies were in talks with Singapore Tel-

ecomunications and its local rival Starhub to lay the Asia-Pacific Cable Network 3 (APCN3).

The Taipei newspaper said once the Singapore partner was selected, the four companies would sign a memorandum of understanding on the project as early as next month. The 1,000-km undersea cable, which stretches from Singapore to Japan through Taipei is

likely to be completed by 2013, according to the newspaper. It said the APCN3 would have a larger capacity than the 10-year-old APCN2, which breaks down frequently.

Yi Difei, a China Unicom spokesman, however refuted the report. "The discussions have been preliminary and there has been no plan yet," he said.

Xinhua



A police officer explains the cartoon posters of railway safety to pupils at a primary school in Hougang Town of Leping City, east China's Jiangxi Province, on 19 March, 2009. —XINHUA



Visitors view energy saving and emission reduction models of oil factories during the China International Energy Saving, Emission Reduction and New Energy Science and Technology Expo at the Beijing Exhibition Center in Beijing, capital of China, on 19 March, 2009.

XINHUA

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Cuba, EU discuss further cooperation

HAVANA, 20 March—Experts from Cuba and the European Union (EU) began a forum here on Thursday to discuss further cooperation.

The forum, organized by the Cuban Exterior Commerce and Foreign Investment Ministry, mainly focused on food security, researches, development, commerce, renewable energies, climate change and reduction of catastrophes.

EU commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid Louis Michel, who led the European delegation, praised possibilities of cooperation between the two sides after the political dialogue between the island state and the European bloc has been strengthened.—Xinhua

Fall of Italian exports in January worst since 1986

ROME, 20 March—Italy registered a record 25.8-percent year-on-year drop in its exports in January, national statistics bureau Istat said on Thursday.

The plunge is the biggest since 1986, Istat said in a report. However, the 24.1-percent tumble in imports resulted in improved trade deficit of 3.585 billion euros, compared with the deficit of 4.105 billion euros recorded in January 2008. In December last year, Italy's exports fell 5.9 percent and imports 1.5 percent.

Meanwhile, Italy's trade with its European Union partners in January this year saw a 22.9-percent drop in exports over the same period last year, and its imports were down 24.3 percent. This resulted in a trade surplus of 404 million euros.

Xinhua

Construction for climbing worlds underway in Qinghai

XINING, 20 March—The construction of the rock-climbing field has got under way in the preparation for the 2009 climbing world championship in China's Qinghai Province.

One of the contractors for the Bird's Nest, Chongqing Zhongti Company, is in charge of the designing and construction for the rock-climbing field.

The construction is expected to finish in early June, according to the organizing committee of the 2009 climbing world championship, kicking off on June 30th. "The design of the artificial climbing wall for this year's championship is unique, combining both ethnic characteristics and state-of-art design concepts," said Jidi Majia, vice governor of Qinghai Province, on Friday. Many ethnic groups including Tibetan, Hui, Mongolian, Tu, and Han inhabit in the province.

Xinhua

Dollar continues falling on Fed plans

NEW YORK, 20 March—The dollar fell against major currencies for a second session on Thursday, a day after the US Federal Reserve announced plans to pump another one trillion dollars into economy.

To provide greater support to mortgage lending and housing markets, the US central bank said on Thursday that it would purchase up to an additional 750 billion dollars of agency mortgage-backed securities, and to increase its purchases of agency debt this year by up to 100 billion dollars. Moreover, to help improve conditions in private credit markets, the Fed decided to purchase up to 300 billion dollars of longer-term Treasury securities over the next six months. The quantitative easing moves pushed the dollar significantly lower against the euro, the pound, the yen and other major currencies. The US currency was expected to fall further against the euro till the European Central Bank follows to increase money supply, which would not happen in short term according to some analysts.—Xinhua

AIG unit sues Countrywide for "huge losses"

LOS ANGELES, 20 March—A unit of US insurance giant AIG on Thursday sued Countrywide Financial in the Los Angeles federal court, alleging that the mortgage lender caused the insurer "huge losses" as a result of its lending policies.

AIG's United Guaranty Mortgage Indemnity Co. says in its complaint that Countrywide "abandoned its own underwriting guidelines to boost its market share and then misrepresented the quality of its loans so that United Guaranty would provide insurance coverage for them."

The lawsuit seeks unspecified punitive damages, cancellation of the insurance policies, United Guaranty's payments on the policies and losses and legal fees.

AIG has received more than 170 billion dollars in bailout money from the US government, which bought an 80 percent stake in the company last year in an effort to solve the country's subprime mortgage crisis. The US housing crisis is considered the direct reason for the current global economic recession.

Xinhua

Tourists visit the Summer Palace in Beijing, on 19 March, 2009.

XINHUA



Mt. Zwegabin bears witness

Saw Nay Myo

I had goose pimples out of joy and excitement when I arrived back at Myawady via Maesot. I felt extremely happy and excited with the thought I was getting to my home village at the foot of Mt. Zwegabin. At the time, I longed very much to see my father who was still at the refugee camp in the neighbouring country, my younger sister who was in a third country, and my elder brother who stuck to armed struggle line in the border areas. However, the feeling of longing to see them was under the overwhelming influence of the thought of eventual reunion with my mother and youngest sister in the village.

The refugee camps I had stayed in for about a couple of decades are in fact merely the camps in the neighbouring country where so many anti-government groups are resorting to all possible means to meddle in the internal affairs. Bluntly, **the refugee camps are just a modern lucrative business being jointly run by political expatriates deceiving and forcing artless local Kayin nationals like me through a variety of ways to get to border areas, KNU insurgents and anti-government groups under various names.** The greater the number of the refugees, the more money they can make. So, political opportunists in complicity with certain western media are levelling a wide range of groundless accusations such as human rights violation and forced relocation of many villages, with the ill intention of pushing local people of Kayin State, who lead a peaceful life, to border areas. Our whole life in the so-called refugee camps for Kayin nationals was a constant battle against poverty, fear and worries, with the dim hope of proceeding to a third country. Those who know our daily hardships best are none other than we refugees ourselves.

I must admit that on behalf of the entire Kayin nationals I feel bitterly ashamed of the

The majority of Kayin nationals want to live a peaceful life in their native places, instead of going to refugee camps.

conditions that a large number of Kayin nationals in refugee camps in the border areas are being exploited for international funds. It is common knowledge that KNU leaders, who are shouting very loud in their objective of creating a prosperous future of the entire Kayin nationals, lead a life of luxury in the neighbouring country, spending the funds meant for the refugee camps. Moreover, they used force to stop Kayin national refugees from returning home. **What is the most abhorrent is that many organizations under various names and political opportunists, like human traffickers, brazenly charge refugees to stay in refugee camps and go to the third country.**

Today, in the refugee camps, the number of bogus refugees with the hope of going to the US, Australia, Britain, Norway and Canada is growing, thus culminating in an apparent increase in sex trade and smuggling of narcotic drugs. The members of many families have to stay separately in the refugee camps due to the accommodation schedules. They do not know where and when they can meet each other, and are leading a miserable life with heavy heart in a new atmosphere in a foreign country.

They are now desperate to return to the motherland, and make contact with their family members in the refugee camps, but they are in no position to do so. They are in an absolute fix because of too many oppressions and restrictions. Everyone who has been to the refugee camps knows well that.

Who is to be held responsible for the condition that many local people leading a peaceful life in villages have been reduced to real refugees since

they arrived at the camps?

The West bloc and certain foreign media are inventing stories and accusing the government of violating human rights and that have made local people refugees. In reality, the issue of refugee camps has arisen because of KNU and political opportunists who seek international funds, not because of political affairs in Myanmar.

In other words, the refugee camps in border areas are merely the places where political opportunists, renegades and national traitors have been exploiting Kayin national people under the pretext of humanitarianism for their gains, not the places where Kayin people in need are being rescued and taken care of.

The nation that receives refugee camps in border areas continues to face problems one after another. And the refugee camps serve as the bases of criminals, human traffickers and terrorists.

Kayin nationals have stayed in the border areas of Thailand as refugees for long. So, in Thailand, Kayin nationals are called refugee people, and that makes me feel ashamed myself and provokes a blazing fury from me.

I wonder if there will arise a refugee people that has never existed in the world.

Mt. Zwegabin knows that Kayin State has Kayin national race, not refugee people.

The majority of Kayin nationals want to live a peaceful life in their native places, instead of going to refugee camps. If they plan to go abroad to seek jobs or to study, they want to leave the nation officially so that they will not be in disgrace. The hope of we ex-refugees is to establish an atmosphere where we can stand with dignity in border areas as in other peaceful areas.

I solemnly pledge in front of Mt. Zwegabin that when I get to my native village where peace has been restored, my mother, my younger sister and I will do our bit in the tasks for stability, peace and development of Kayin State and to put an end to the refugee camps.

Translation: MS

It is common knowledge that KNU leaders, who are shouting very loud in their objective of creating a prosperous future of the entire Kayin nationals, lead a life of luxury in the neighbouring country, spending the funds meant for the refugee camps.

Prime Minister and party visit Maritime Port Authority of Singapore

NAY PYI TAW, 20 March—Prime Minister General Thein Sein and goodwill delegation members, accompanied by Acting Minister of Labour Mr Gan Kim Yong of Singapore visited Maritime Port Authority of Singapore at Singapore Port on 17 March evening.

They were welcomed by Assistant Chief Executive Captain Khong Shen Ping and officials of Maritime Port Authority of Singapore.

At the Board Room on the 21st floor of the building, the Assistant Chief Executive introduced MPA members to the Prime Minister and party and explained the aims and objectives of the MPA, acceptance and inspection of containers, future plans, tasks of MPA and training courses.

This was followed by a question and answer session.

Next, Prime Minister General Thein Sein and party viewed placements of containers at the port, unloading of containers from the container carriers and functions of the heavy machinery.

MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets with officials concerned of Maritime Port Authority of Singapore at Singapore Port.—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein and delegation members tour Singapore

NAY PYI TAW, 20 March—The Myanmar delegation led by Prime Minister General Thein Sein visited Singapore National Orchid Garden, Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) and Center for Remote Imaging, Sensing and Processing in National University of Singapore on 18 March.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein and party together with Acting Minister of Labour Mr. Gan Kim Yong and Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Robert Chua Hian Kong arrived at National Orchid Garden in Singapore and the Prime Minister planted an orchid plant at the garden.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein signed the visitors' book and viewed various kinds of orchids and thriving orchid plants.

The Myanmar delegation led by Prime Minister General Thein Sein proceeded to Singapore Civil

Defence Force (SCDF). SCDF Commission James Tan presented emergency rescue missions of SCDF with the use of visual aids.

Director Mr. Yazid Abdullah of Training Department of SCDF presented emergency rescue works for vessels, aircraft and natural disasters, academic matters of Civil Defence Academy, rescue works for terrorist attacks, handling of suspicious explosive devices, use of protective gear against germs and measures being taken for security of the people with the use of visual aids.

Officials of SCDF answered the queries raised by the Prime Minister and Myanmar delegation members.

Next, the Prime Minister and party observed practical demonstrations of Harmat Control Vehicle, Light Fire Attack Vehicle, Station with Immediate First Aid Treatment, Personal Decontamination Vehicle and

equipments used in rescue missions.

In the afternoon, the Myanmar delegation led by Prime Minister General Thein Sein visited Centre for Remote Imaging, Sensing and Processing in National University of Singapore where Principal of NUS Tan Eng Chye extended greetings at Board Room.

Director Mr. Kwoh Leong Keong presented matters on sending data through satellite and conducting research on occurrence of Tsunami and Cyclone Nargis with the use of visual aids.

Next, the Prime Minister unveiled the photo of Yangon taken from Satellite and viewed it.

He also observed acquiring data through satellite at Satellite Control Room and greeted the principal and officials.

MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein observes acquiring data through satellite at Centre for Remote Imaging, Sensing and Processing in National University of Singapore.—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets Myanmar Ambassador to Singapore, embassy staff



Prime Minister General Thein Sein presents gifts to the ambassador and wife and staff families of Myanmar embassy in Singapore.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 20 March—Prime Minister General Thein Sein met with the ambassador and wife, and staff families of Myanmar embassy in Singapore, the Republic of Singapore on 18 March.

Myanmar ambassador U Win Myint and wife Daw Khin Win Myint and staff families welcomed the Prime Minister and party and paid respects to them.

In meeting with the embassy staff, the Prime Minister explained developments of Myanmar, living conditions of the Myanmar people enjoying adequate rice and high yields of crops despite the global financial crisis, continued implementation of the seven-step Road Map of the State till successful completion after the fourth step of writing the constitution and peace and stability and development of the State thanks to the cooperative efforts of the government, the people and the Tatmadaw. Next, he

stressed the need for the embassy staff to respect rules, regulations and laws of the host country, to shoulder their duties in accord with the diplomatic code of conduct and to work for further promotion of amicable and friendly relations between the two countries.

Next, the Prime Minister

greeted the staff and presented gifts to them.

The ambassador hosted a luncheon to the Prime Minister and party. After that, Prime Minister General Thein Sein and delegation members went to Changi Airport in a motorcade at 1 pm.

Acting Minister of Labour Mr Gan Kim

Yong, Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Robert Chua Hian Kong, Myanmar Ambassador to Singapore U Win Myint and staff families saw off the Myanmar delegation at the airport.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein and delegation members arrived back here at 4 pm.

Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, member of

the goodwill delegation, during the visit, received Indian origin merchants led by President of Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Mr Vijay Iyengar at Marina Mandarin Hotel at 8.30 pm on 17 March. Together with the minister were Deputy Director General U Myo Oo of Directorate of Trade. They discussed sale of beans and pulses and timber, monetary affairs and required amounts of beans and pulses and rice.

Similarly, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, member of the goodwill delegation, during the visit, received Deputy Minister for Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia Dr Boen M Purnama, Director General Dr Ir Tachrir Fathori, Adviser to the minister Dr Hadi S Pasaribu and Deputy Director Mr Mochammad Asari at Borobudur Hotel on 16 March.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to the forestry sector of Myanmar, export of teak and timber, technical know-how exchange for growing of teak, exchange of visits of governmental and private experts in

forestry, exchange of technique in producing finished wood products, implementation of the MoU signed between Indonesia and Myanmar in 1994 and cooperation in academic matters of universities and schools of forestry.

Likewise, member of the delegation President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint and 11 Myanmar entrepreneurs and Deputy Director-General U Myo Oo met Singaporean entrepreneurs led by Chief Executive Mr Phillip Overmyer of Singapore International Chambers of Commerce at the office of SICC on 17 March. They discussed matters related to investment opportunities and items of commodities to be traded.

UMFCCI President U Win Myint and party also met President of Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Mr Vijay Iyengar and Vice President of Singapore Chinese Chambers of Commerce Mr Tam Back Huat and business entrepreneurs at their respective offices. They discussed trade matters.

MNA

MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 20 March—The State Peace and Development Council has confirmed the appointment of Rector Professor Dr. Myo Win of University of Dental Medicine (Yangon) of the Medical Science Department under the Ministry of Health on expiry of the one-year probationary period.—MNA

Talks on software engineering 22 March

YANGON, 20 March—Organized by Myanmar Professionals Education Centre (MPEC), the talks on learning methods and opportunities for software engineering will be held at Myanmar Info-Tech in Hline Township from 9 am to 12 noon on 22 March.

U Zaw Moe Tun (Myanmar Information Technology), U Tun Khaing (Interga Systems) and U Ye Yint Win (Big Soft Business Information Systems) will give the talks.

Those wishing to attend the talks may contact Tel: 668779, 668259 and 650124.—MNA



UMFCCI President U Win Myint and President of Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mr Vijay Iyengar exchange gifts.

MNA

Myanmar enjoys not only food sufficiency...

(from page 1)

After hearing the reports, the Prime Minister said that as individual requirements of the people are food, clothing and shelter, Myanmar has achieved not only food sufficiency but also surplus food. Myanmar has favourable climate and natural resources such as wood and bamboo, he added. One should not worry about the shelter need because construction materials such as bricks, sand, granite and cement are available in the

country, he said. He noted that cotton yield was low in the past and the raw materials had to be imported. But quality species like Ngwe-chi-6 cotton is being grown now adequately. As a result textile factories have been built fulfilling the clothing need, earning more income and cutting costs thereby increasing income in the operating ratio. He called for practising thrifty measures, supervision for quality control, taking fire preventive measures and raising for security

As individual requirements of the people are food, clothing and shelter, Myanmar has achieved not only food sufficiency but also surplus food. Myanmar has favourable climate and natural resources such as wood and bamboo. One should not worry about the shelter need because construction materials such as bricks, sand, granite and cement are available in the country.



Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects products of Myanma Textile Industries on display.—MNA



Managing Director U Oo Thein Maung, Yamethin District PDC Chairman U Oo Khaing and Ms Wang Zhi Ming open Textile Factory (Pyawbwe).—MNA

awareness.

Advisor Mr Ding of Tianjin Universal Machinery Import & Export Corporation (TUMIEC) presented gifts to the Prime Minister.

Next, the Prime Minister gave the fruit basket to the technicians of the PRC.

The Prime Minister and party, together with Chinese technicians posed for a documentary photo.

Also present on the occasion were Maj-Gen Ohn Myint and Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of

the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe, ministers, deputy ministers, the director-general of the Government Office and departmental heads, local authorities, departmental officials, social organizations, staff of the factory and local people.

Textile Factory (Pyawbwe) was built at a cost of K 7,223.080 million and US\$ 9.8 million, totalling K 7,288.740 million.

The factory will produce 3.455 million pound of 1/32 type thread, 0.577 million pound of 1/21 type thread without spinning stick and 1.440 million pound of 1/32 combing type thread yearly. The machines are installed with auto levelers for better yarn evenness.

The factory is operating the running-test of 1/60 cotton thread by purchasing quality Ngwechi-6 long cotton. In the future, the factory will produce 1/80 and 1/100 cotton threads.

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



Prime Minister General Thein Sein presents fruit basket to Chinese technicians. (News on page-1)—MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe holds meeting with departmental heads of Yangon Division



Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence inspects Lanthit Jetty in Yangon. —MNA



Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint sees off Chief of General Staff General Chen Bingde of the People's Liberation Army of the PRC.— MNA

Chinese delegation concludes visit

YANGON, 20 March—The visiting Chinese delegation led by Chief of General Staff General Chen Bingde of the People's Liberation Army of the People's Republic of China this morning left Yangon by air.

The delegation members were seen off at Yangon International Airport by

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint, senior military officers, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Ye Dabo, Chinese Military Attaché Senior Colonel Gao Tiejun, Myanmar Military Attaché to China Col Tint Wai and officials.—MNA

YANGON, 20 March—Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence met with departmental heads and staff of Yangon Division at the hall of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council, here, yesterday afternoon.

Also present at the meeting were Chairman of Yangon Division PDC Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint, the Vice-Chairman

of Yangon City Development Committee the Vice-Mayor, the commander of Yangon Division Police Force and officials.

At 4 p.m., Lt-Gen Myint Swe, accompanied by the commander, the vice-mayor and officials, heard the reports on tasks of the Cleaning Port Area and Discipline Enforcement Work Committee reported by the managing director of

Myanma Port Authority. The commander and the vice-mayor gave supplementary reports. Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe gave necessary instructions.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspected Botahtaung Jetty, Lanmadaw Jetty (1) and (2), Phoneygi Road Jetty, Hledan Jetty, Lanthit Jetty and Wardan Jetty and left necessary instructions.

MNA

Managing Director of MADB inspects bank branches in Magway Div

YANGON, 20 March—Managing Director U Tin Lwan of Myanma Agricultural Development Bank, accompanied by Magway Division in-charge Deputy General Manager U Khin Maung Lwin and Magway Division Manager Daw Khin Aye Myint,

inspected Pauk and Gangaw bank branches on 16 March, Htilin and Pakokku bank branches on 17 March and Myaing bank branch on 18 March. In meeting with staff, the managing director gave instructions on banking services.—MNA

Eye patients regain eyesight due to cooperative efforts

People are to continue to cooperate with the government in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Soe and Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan greet local people at the ceremony to give free medical treatment to eye patients in Monywa District, Sagaing Division.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 20 March—A ceremony to mark the successful completion of the free medical treatment to eye patients in Monywa District was held in Pale, Monywa District, on 18 March.

It was attended by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Myint Soe, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, departmental officials, eye specialists, members of social organizations and local people totaling over 1500 from 61 villages in three village-tracts.

First, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Soe, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and officials concerned presented eyeglasses to patients who received eye surgery.

Afterwards, the commander and the minister delivered addresses. Next, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Soe donated K 1 million; Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and wife K 1 million and Shwe Taung Company K 2 million to the funds of the People's Hospital in Pale. Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and wife Daw Kyi Kyi Win donated K 500,000 to the funds for renovation of Hsinmyatshin Pagoda in Pale and K 200,000 to Buddha Vihara Sasana Beikman, K 500,000 to construction of a library in Kyaukpyakan Village in Mintaingpin Village-tract, Daw Nwe New Soe of Gano Excel Myanmar Co donated K 10 million to the funds of the station hospital in Watkya Village and K 1 million to the People's Hospital in Pale.

On behalf of local people in Watkya Village and eye patients, two townsenders spoke words of thanks.

After the ceremony, the commander and the minister cordially greeted the local people.

Speaking on the occasion, the commander said thanks to the cooperative efforts of officials concerned, government employees, social organizations and the

people, measures for bringing eyesight to eye patients in Monywa District met with success. The commander stressed the need for active cooperation of the entire people with the government in implementing the tasks for the regional development and the seven-step Road Map.

In his speech at the meeting, Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said it was the auspicious day for the local people as local eye patients regained eyesight. He thanked the eye specialists and staff of the Ministry of Health, townsenders, members of social organizations and local authority for their cooperation in providing free medical services to the eye patients. The government has been making efforts for all-round development of the State, and the people have enjoyed the fruits of development in the health sector. Besides, in accordance with the guidance of the Head of State, authorities concerned have been making arrangements for providing health care to the people across the country.

While the government has been implementing the seven-step Road Map step by step to build a peaceful, modern and developed nation, the entire national people are to continue to cooperate with the government.

At the same time, the entire people are to guard against the danger posed by the destructive elements and organizations within and without.

The minister also urged the local people to maintain the country's sustainable development which had been achieved due to the infrastructures built across the country.

Today's contribution to the funds of the People's Hospital in Pale amounted to K 5 million and K 10 million to the station hospital in Watkya Village.

MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Soe presents eyeglasses to patients who received eye surgeries.

MNA

Implementing Nancho Hydropower Project in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana

Article & Photos: Khin Maung Than (Sethmu)

(from page 16)

The implementation of Nancho Project is aimed at generating hydropower from Nancho Creek that flows into Paunglaung River for adding its electricity to the volume of annual power generation of Paunglaung Hydropower Plant and for fulfilling the power consumption of the

tion-1) and made a field trip to the project site together with Staff Officer U Thet Tun.

A power station was built on Hsaungtaung Creek installed with 60 kilowatts generating capacity to supply electricity to the project area and staff quarters. The dam to be constructed at the project is the reinforced

crete posts. The construction of the bridge is not to block the flow of water in Salu Creek and to conserve the natural beauty.

At present, the temporary dyke, the conduits and the water control lake are under construction. The target was set to complete the project by the year 2010 and to yearly generate 152 million kilo-



Heavy machinery being used in construction of a tunnel at Nancho Hydropower Project.



Engineers and skilled workers constructing water intake tunnel.

nation.

Nancho Creek that originates at the border of Kayin and Kayah states flows into Paunglaung River. Near the confluence, Salu Creek, Hsaungtaung Creek and Sayit Creek also flow into the river. I learned facts about Nancho Hydropower Project explained by Assistant Director U Lin Naing Aye (Construc-

concrete EVE (Overflow) type.

Salu Creek is flowing across the 7,330 feet long and 15.5 feet diameters water intake tunnel that links the intake structure and the water control lake. Two water intake tunnels will be connected with a 15.5 feet diameters and 384 feet long aqueduct laying along a bridge across Salu Creek. The bridge will be supported by two con-

watt hours.

Nancho Hydropower Plant will be 140 feet long, 89 feet wide and 98 feet high. The power plant will be equipped with two 20-megawatt vertical Francis brand turbines to generate 40 megawatts.

The power plant will supply electricity to the power grid of the nation through a power station that measures 248 feet

by 141 feet.

Staff Officer U Thet Tun explained that a total of 23 civil engineers, two mechanical engineers and two electrical engineers together with 35 civil workers, 10 mechanical

workers and 120 other skillful workers are striving for timely completion of the project.

Upon completion, Nancho Hydropower Project will add its hydropower to the annual

electricity volume of Paunglaung Hydropower Plant for fulfilling the power consumption of the State and the people.

Translation: TTA
Kyemon: 16-3-2009



A water intake tunnel seen at rocky mountain.

Liking sweets makes sense for kids

SCIENCE DAILY, 20 March — As any parent knows, children love sweet-tasting foods. Now, new research from the University of

Washington and the Monell Center indicates that this heightened liking for sweetness has a biological basis and is related to children's high growth rate.

"The relationship between sweet preference and growth makes intuitive sense because when growth is rapid, caloric demands increase. Children are programmed to like sweet taste because it fills a biological need by pushing them towards energy sources," said Monell geneticist Danielle Reed,

PhD, one of the study authors.

Across cultures, children prefer higher levels of sweetness in their foods as compared to adults, a pattern that declines during adolescence. To explore the biological underpinnings of this shift, Reed and University of Washington researcher Susan Coldwell, PhD, looked at sweet preference and biological measures of growth and physical maturation in 143 children between the ages of 11 and 15.

Internet

'Hangover chemical' may be overlooked risk factor for cancer

BERLIN, 20 March — New evidence by researchers at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) and researchers in Germany shows that drinking alcohol is the greatest risk factor for acetaldehyde-related cancer. Heavy drinkers may be at increased risk due to exposure from multiple sources.

Acetaldehyde is ubiquitous in daily life in Ontario. Widely present in the environment, it is inhaled from the air and tobacco smoke, ingested from alcohol and foods, and produced in the human body during the

metabolism of alcoholic beverages. Research indicates that this organic chemical plays a significant role in the development of certain types of cancers (especially of the upper digestive tract), and it is currently classified as possibly carcinogenic by the International Agency for Research on Cancer of the World Health Organization.

Internet



CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV SIRI BHUM VOY NO (-)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SIRI BHUM VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.3.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Thailand to host first Asian Martial Arts Games

BANGKOK, 20 March—Thailand will host the first "Asian Martial Arts Games" during 25 April to 3 May, 2009 in Bangkok.

The sporting event is set up by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), in which around 1,372 athletes from 41 nations throughout Asia will participate in, according to a news report by the website of the government's Public Relation.

There will be nine different kinds of martial arts namely Muai, Kickboxing, Kurash, Jujitsu, Judo, Karatedo, Wushu and Kungfu, Pencak Silat and Taekwondo for competing 112 gold medals.

The competition will be organized at three Bangkok's venues namely, Indoor Stadium Huamark of the Sports Authority of Thailand, Nimibutr Gymnasium Supachalasai National Stadium, Bangkok Youth Center (Thai-Japanese) Stadium, while another one will be held at Sports School in Suphan Buri Province.

The opening and closing ceremony will take place at Indoor Stadium Huamak on 25 April and 3 May, respectively. The motto of the 1st Asian Martial Arts Games 2009 is "The Game of Spirits-The Land of Smiles" and the mascot is Hanuman who is the legendary King Ape from Ramayana epic. —*Internet*

Yao tops forbes list again, but Ziyi catches up

BEIJING, 20 March—Forbes China unveiled its 2009 list of the Chinese celebrity rankings on Tuesday night, with NBA star Yao Ming on top for the sixth straight year.

Yao holds a safe lead with the most frequent media exposure and a pre-tax income of 357 million yuan (about 51 million US dollars), the highest among the 100 celebrities. Actress Zhang Ziyi leads the female front-runners and takes the second spot on the list. Coming up next are NBA player Yi Jianlian and Olympic champion diver Guo Jingjing.

The injury-plagued athlete Liu Xiang, who was placed second in 2007 and 2008, fell to the fifth place. Since its inception in 2004, the Forbes' Top 100 Chinese celebrity List has ranked actors, filmmakers, musicians, writers and athletes born on the Chinese mainland according to their press coverage, web hits and commercial value in the previous year. The list is updated in March every year.

Top Ten Chinese Celebrities on this year's Forbes list are as below:

- 1 Yao Ming, athlete
- 2 Zhang Ziyi, actress
- 3 Yi Jianlian, athlete
- 4 Guo Jingjing, athlete
- 5 Liu Xiang, athlete
- 6 Jet Li, actor
- 7 Zhao Wei, actress
- 8 Fan Bingbing, actress
- 9 Zhou Xun, actress
- 10 Li Bingbing, actress

—*Internet*



From left to right, Yao Ming, Zhang Ziyi, Yi Jianlian, Guo Jingjing and Liu Xiang.—INTERNET



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Invitation for Expression of Interest in the construction of small wooden boats

FAO intends to build large numbers of boats for distribution to selected households in cyclone affected areas of Delta. The boats will be of the traditional type, commonly called *Gault Chun*, with a length of 12 to 18 feet. FAO wishes to acquire the craft by contracting suitable suppliers to produce them at one boatyard or at several smaller ones or possibly produce kits in one place for assembly at smaller boatyards.

The contractor(s) will be selected through the process of competitive bidding in accordance with FAO rules and regulations. In order to qualify for participation in the bidding process the supplier must (i) be a registered company in Myanmar, (ii) have audited financial statement for at least three years, and (vi) not have pending actions against the company in any court.

Companies interested in participating in competitive bidding are requested to express their interest in writing to FAO together with information on (a) amount of capital assets or net worth, (b) experience of boatbuilding and other carpentry work during the past 5 years, (c) available facilities and equipment for boatbuilding and related storage and cutting of wood, (d) number of personnel and (d) technical staff with adequate training and experience in boatbuilding.

The deadline for receipt of Expressions of Interests is (28 March 2009) and they should be addressed to:

**The Senior Emergency and Rehabilitation Coordinator
FAO Representation in Myanmar
Insein Road, Yangon (P.O. Box 101)
Myanmar
Fax: +95 1 641561**

The publishing of this notice and the receipt of expressions of interests does not commit FAO in any way to any party.

Financial deregulation root of current crisis

GENEVA, 20 March—A sustained process of financial deregulation led to an expanding cycle of optimism and risk-taking that is at the root of the current global crisis, a new UN report said on Thursday.

History indicates that financial systems are intrinsically unstable and prone to boom and bust cycles, and need to be regulated, said the report, titled "The Global Economic Crisis: Systemic Failures and Multilateral Remedies" and released by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

According to the report, strongly needed reforms to national and international financial systems should be carefully designed so that they are not limited to specific investment instruments. Instead, regulations should focus on controlling the "mechanism" that leads to crises, the report pointed out. According to the report, resolving the current crisis and avoiding its recurrence has implications beyond the realm of banking and financial regulation, going to the heart of the question of how to revive and extend multilateralism in a globalizing world.—*Internet*

Expert warns Chinese society's demand for marriage may be helping the spread of AIDS

BEIJING, 20 March—Social expectations that men must get married is forcing homosexual males into heterosexual marriages and exposing married women to HIV infection, a Chinese expert warned on Thursday.

Zhang Beichuan, professor from the Qingdao University, said the fact that gay men are often forced into heterosexual marriages boosts the risk of HIV infection among other social groups in the country.

"The stigma and discrimination against homosexuals in Chinese society have prevented gay men from revealing their sexual orientation or taking HIV/AIDS tests and treatments, holding back the efforts to curb the disease," Zhang told *Xinhua* Thursday by phone.

Zhang and his team conducted a survey in nine major cities including Shanghai, Nanjing, Harbin, Chengdu, Zhengzhou, Shenyang, Xian, Wuhan

and Chongqing in 2006. It shows that about 94.8 percent of the 2,250 homosexual males polled have had sex with other men in the past six months, and 20.7 percent have already married women. The survey targeted what it perceived as the most sexually active group among homosexuals.

With the help of local gay communities, the survey organizers went to urban bars and public bath houses which gay men often visit. Before filling out the anonymous questionnaires, the respondents were asked to confirm that they had had sexual experience with other males. The median age of the respondents is 26.

"In western countries, only a fraction of homosexuals would get into heterosexual marriages. But in China, about 70 to 80 percent of gay men had the intention of marrying a woman sooner or later," Zhang added.

—*Internet*

Official survey: Beijingers spend 70 minutes daily on road

BEIJING, 20 March — Daily commuting takes Beijingers 70 minutes on average, which is 16 minutes more than 20 years ago, according to an official survey released on Thursday.

The Beijing Statistics Bureau surveyed 1,500 local residents to determine the commuting time.

The survey showed that travel time has extended, either because people live further from their workplace or because traffic is heavier.

Beijing's rush hour traffic is among the heaviest in the world's biggest cities, as the number of people who commute by car has increased.

—*Internet*

Russia voices hope for ending missile defence rift

MOSCOW, 20 March—Russia and the United States have a good chance to end their divisive dispute over missile defences in Europe, a Foreign Ministry official said on Thursday.

President Barack Obama's apparent willingness to reconsider plans to base elements of a missile defence system in Poland and the Czech Republic provides a "window of opportunity," spokesman Andrei Nesterenko said.

"Results of our first contacts with representatives of Obama's administration look encouraging," Nesterenko told reporters. "There is a shared understanding that we have a new chance in our relations that mustn't be missed."—*Internet*

Cuba agrees to restore diplomatic ties with Costa Rica

HAVANA, 20 March —The Cuban government on Thursday agreed to re-establish diplomatic ties with Costa Rica, after Costa Rican President Oscar Arias announced the decision on Wednesday.

Cuba's decision is "in accord with its call for integrity and unity with the brotherly people of Latin America and the Caribbean," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The restoration of the ties should be based on "the respect for international law and the principles of the United Nations Charter, such as sovereignty, equality, the peaceful settlement of disputes, the respect for territorial integrity and self-determination, and the non-interference into the internal affairs of other states," the statement said.

San Jose and Havana suspended ties on 9 Sept, 1961 after Costa Rica took a unilateral decision.

—*Internet*

Strong quake near Tonga prompts tsunami warning

NUKU'ALOFA, 20 March—A strong 7.9-magnitude earthquake struck Friday near Tonga, generating a tsunami with the potential of striking coastlines in the South Pacific, officials said. There were no immediate reports of damage.

The quake struck about 130 miles (200 kilometres) south-southeast of the Tongan capital of Nuku'Alofa at a depth of 6.2 miles (10 kilometers), the US Geological Survey said.

Police in the Tongan capital, Nuku'alofa, said there were no immediate reports of injury or damage.

The Hawaii-based Pacific Tsunami Warning Center issued a tsunami warning for Tonga and neighbouring islands, and reported that sea level readings confirmed that a potentially destructive tsunami wave was generated by the quake.—*Internet*



People look at an eruption of an underwater volcano in Hunga Ha'apai, Tonga on 18 March, 2009. The eruption is only 34 nautical miles off the coast of Tonga's capital Nuku'alofa. Picture taken on 18 March, 2009. —INTERNET

Light quake jolts N Philippines

MANILA, 20 March—An earthquake measuring 4.9 on the Richter scale jolted the northern Philippines Friday morning, the United States Geological Service reported.

The quake was recorded at 07:19 am local time (23:19 GMT Thursday), and the epicenter was 145 km east northeast of Laoag, Luzon, or 445 km north-northeast of Manila at a depth of 116.7 km, according to the report.

No casualty or damage has been reported.

The Philippines is regularly hit by earthquakes, and most of them are low in magnitude and cause little damage.

The Southeast Asian country is part of the so-called Pacific Ring of Fire, a string of islands on the Pacific Ocean rim that were formed by the eruptions of undersea volcanoes.—*Internet*

BAA ordered to sell three airports

LONDON, 20 March—BAA, one of the world's leading airport company groups, has been ordered by the British regulator to break up and sell off three of the seven airports it currently owns in the United Kingdom.

The Competition Commission confirmed the break-up of the airport operator BAA and ordered the sale of Gatwick and Stansted.

In a final report, published on Thursday, of a two-year investigation, the commission told BAA that it must also sell either Edinburgh or Glasgow airport, which means the group must sell three of the seven airports it manages.

The regulator ordered the airports to be sold within two years and in sequence, starting with Gatwick, followed by Stansted, and finally either Edinburgh or Glasgow to ensure what the regulator said was "an orderly sale process."—*Internet*

Top medic looks to take on "binge drinking"

Britain's chief doctor is expected to advise the government on Monday to sharply raise the price of alcohol to try to combat soaring levels of so-called "binge drinking," especially among young people.

In a report, chief medical officer Liam Donaldson is expected to recommend that the government set a minimum price of 50 pence per unit of alcohol sold, which would nearly double the price of some discount beer and wine.

The advice, which would be non-binding on



A customer poses for the camera with a pint of beer in a public house in Leeds, northern England.

the government, follows consistent evidence that Britain has a worsening problem with teenage drinking and with "binge drinking" in general — when vast quantities are consumed in a short space of time.

Cambodia to ask UN to list 1,400-year-old temple as world heritage site

Cambodia will ask UN to list the Sambo Prey Kuk temple, which was built from 615 AD to 650 AD, located in the Kompong Thom province, as a world heritage site, Khmer-language daily newspaper the Rasmei Kampuchea reported on Monday.

"We are preparing the proposal for UN to register the temple, which was built during the rule of Khmer King Isanverman I, with the Committee of World Heritage," the newspaper quoted Som Sokhun, secretary of state at the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, as saying.

The government has to organize a master plan for development and conservation of the temple, he said.

Traffic jams could increase risk of heart attack

People's risks of having a heart attack would be three times higher when they are caught by traffic jam for one hour, according to a German study published on the American Heart Association's website.

Females, elderly males, patients who were unemployed, and those with a history of angina were the most affected by traffic jams, said the study led by Annette Pe-

ters, from the Institute of Epidemiology, Helmholtz Zentrum Muenchen, Germany.

"One potential factor could be the exhaust air coming from other cars," Peters said. "But we can't exclude the synergy between stress and air pollution that could tip the balance."

The research was presented at the American Heart Association's 49th Annual Conference on Cardiovascular Disease in Florida.

Woman snatches back her purse

An elderly woman in Australia took her handbag back from a thief who had driven into a pillar after snatching it from her.

Police said the woman grabbed her bag from the passenger seat as the thief tried to restart his car after ramming it into a pillar, *The Sydney Daily Telegraph* reported on Sunday.

An elderly man who was with the woman suffered minor injuries from trying to hold open the car door. The incident occurred in the town of Narrabundah. Police were searching for the suspect.



A cow lookalike billy goat named 'Ushika' is on display at Yume Bokujyo, or Dream stock farm, in Narita, east of Tokyo, Japan. The name of the three-month old goat is translated from the Japanese "Are you a cow?"

NEWS ALBUM



The doctor looks at the conjoined twins waiting for a thorough examination in the intensive care unit at the Children's Hospital of Hunan Province in Changsha, capital of central-south China's Hunan Province. The twins born on March 16 in Xinhua County of the province weigh 4.8 kilograms and are connected by abdomen. Doctors of the Children's Hospital of Hunan Province would give them a thorough examination and find a way to do the separation surgery.

SPORTS

Shootout king Given saves City's European dream

PARIS, 20 March — Shay Given rescued Manchester City's faltering European dreams on Thursday when he pulled off two stunning penalty shootout saves to put his team into the UEFA Cup quarter-finals. Big-spending City surrendered a 2-0 first leg, last 16 lead against Danish outsiders Aalborg in the last six minutes of normal time in the return tie.

Given then held his nerve to save from Thomas Augustinussen and former Sheffield United striker Luton Shelton while Ched Evans, Elano, Shaun Wright-Phillips and Richard Dunne were all successful with their spotkicks for Mark Hughes's side. City could have wrapped the tie up with eight minutes of normal time remaining in Denmark when Robinho had a fierce drive come back off the crossbar.

Two minutes later, Shelton gave the Danes hope when he stabbed home a right-wing cross. Then, in the last minute, Evans was penalised for handball and Michael Jakobsen coolly stroked home the penalty. "It's a great relief," said Irish international Given. "The tie should have been dead and buried after the first leg, but we did it the hard way."—Internet



Manchester City's Robinho (R) challenges Aalborg BK's Kasper Risgaard (L) during their UEFA Cup round of 16 second leg soccer match in Aalborg, Denmark.—INTERNET

Gignac earns first France call-up

PARIS, 20 March — France coach Raymond Domenech on Thursday left out-of-form captain Patrick Vieira out of his squad for the crucial World Cup double header against Lithuania.

Domenech awarded a first call-up to the French league's top scorer, Andre-Pierre Gignac, who looks to be promised some action in either Les Bleus match in Kaunas on March 28 or the Stade de France encounter on April 1.

While Gignac's inclusion has won the Toulouse forward wide plaudits, the pre-selection questions on whether Vieira would be called up are now answered. Vieira only recently returned to action for Inter after a spell on the sidelines with an Achilles tendon problem.

But it appears the Frenchman's bitter Euro 2008 experience, which was said to prey heavily on the squad prior to their early exit from the tournament, has left its mark on Domenech. Asked whether Vieira's forced exit from last summer's tournament was a factor, Domenech said it had certainly proved helpful as an experience.

"We must learn from all experiences. And you have to go on and improve on them each time," said the French coach. "I've had a talk with Pat (Vieira). He knows he's not in top form, he hasn't played much." The day he comes back, he will regain the captain's armband from Thierry Henry."—Internet

Hull City manager Brown escapes ban

LONDON, 20 March — Hull boss Phil Brown escaped a touchline ban but was fined 2,500 pounds after admitting improper conduct in relation to a touchline row with Newcastle manager Joe Kinnear during the clubs' FA Cup clash in January.

Kinnear was also charged with improper conduct but his hearing with the FA's disciplinary committee has been postponed as he is currently recovering from heart surgery.—Internet



Hull boss Phil Brown, escaped a touchline ban but was fined 2,500 pounds.—INTERNET

Furyk takes his first lead in nearly 20 months

PALM HARBOR, 20 March — After a late start to the year, Jim Furyk might be getting up to speed.

Furyk made two long birdie putts and was equally thrilled with a 10-foot par save on his final hole Thursday, which gave him a 6-under 65 in the Transitions Championship. It was the first time he has held the outright lead since his last PGA Tour victory 20 months ago. "Something I can try to build on," Furyk said.

Stephen Ames was one shot behind after a 66 on a Copperhead Course that was demanding as ever, but one he enjoys far more than the Blue Monster last week at Doral that favors the big hitters. The group at 67 included Kenny Perry, who sandwiched birdies on the tough 16th and 18th holes around his only bogey on the round. The 48-year-old Perry is playing his eighth event of the year and is worn out. Innisbrook is not exactly a working vacation.—Internet

Federer books semi-final clash with Murray

INDIAN WELLS, 20 March — World number two Roger Federer battled past Fernando Verdasco 6-3, 7-6 (7/5) on Thursday to book a semi-final meeting with Andy Murray at the Indian Wells hardcourt tennis tournament.

World number four Murray spoiled Ivan Ljubicic's 30th birthday celebrations with a 7-5, 7-6 (8/6) victory over the Croatian. Federer, playing his first tournament since losing a five-set final to Rafael Nadal at the Australian Open, looked to be cruising when he took a 4-1 lead in the second set.

Internet



Switzerland's Roger Federer celebrates match point against opponent Fernando Gonzalez at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden in California on 18 March.

INTERNET

Pavlyuchenkova books semi-final date with Ivanovic

INDIAN WELLS, 20 March — Russian teenager Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova booked her first WTA Tour semi-final berth Thursday, ousting seventh-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska at the Indian Wells hardcourt tournament.

The 17-year-old from Samara, now based in France, beat Poland's Radwanska 7-6 (10/8), 6-4 to set up a meeting with defending champion Ana Ivanovic of Serbia.

Internet



Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova of Russia hits a return against Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland during the quarterfinals at the Indian Wells WTA tennis tournament in Indian Wells, California.—INTERNET

King Kahn set for Schalke manager role

BERLIN, 20 March — Former Germany goalkeeper and captain Oliver Kahn looks set to be named as the new team manager of Schalke 04 after a lengthy meeting with club officials on Thursday.

"Kahn is a good type with a huge capacity for work," said Schalke chairman Clemens Toennies after their three-hour meeting. "We knocked the details off quickly, a concept has been discussed and we have a total agreement." We will speak again in two to three weeks again by telephone," added Toennies, who will now consult Schalke's executive committee.—Internet



Former Germany goalkeeper and captain Oliver Kahn, looks set to be named as the new team manager of Schalke 04 after meeting with club officials.—INTERNET

We want to miss Liverpool and Man Utd, admit Lahm

MUNICH, 20 March — Both Bayern Munich boss Uli Hoeness and defender Philipp Lahm admit they would prefer to avoid English clubs Liverpool and Manchester United when the quarter-final draw of the Champions League is made on Friday.

"I would prefer it if we didn't get Liverpool, because at the moment they are very, very strong," said Bayern team manager Hoeness with all four English clubs through to the last eight. "I would also like it if we play our first match away and then come back to Munich for the second leg."

Internet



Both Bayern Munich boss Uli Hoeness and defender Philipp Lahm, admit they would prefer to avoid English clubs Liverpool and Manchester United when the quarter-final draw of the Champions League is made on Friday.

INTERNET

India ready to launch radar imaging satellite built with Israeli inputs

NEW DELHI, 20 March—India is likely to launch early next month a radar imaging satellite (RISAT), built with “substantial inputs” from the Israel aerospace industry, from Sriharikota spaceport in southern India, the semi-official Press Trust of India news agency reported Friday.

The report quoted an unnamed Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) official as saying Israel has supplied Synthetic Aperture Radar, which is in fact “heart” of the 1,780-kilogram remote sensing satellite.

The Israeli “inputs” are seen as a “return gesture” to New Delhi for launching an Israeli spacecraft Techar on board India’s Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle from Sriharikota spaceport last year, said the report.

“RISAT is likely to be launched in the first half of April. We are looking at April 5 or 6,” the report quoted the official as saying. Sriharikota is a barrier island off the coast of the southern state of Andhra Pradesh in India which houses India’s only satellite launch center.

The Satish Dhawan Space Center is used by the ISRO to launch satellites using multi-stage rockets such as the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle and the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle.—Internet



This handout photograph from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) shows the launch of an Israeli Techar satellite by an Indian-made rocket from the Sriharikota space station in January 2008. India has bought a spy satellite from Israel with day-and-night viewing capability to boost surveillance capabilities in the aftermath of the Mumbai militant attacks, a report said Friday. INTERNET

MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (21.3.2009) (Saturday)

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

Local Transmission

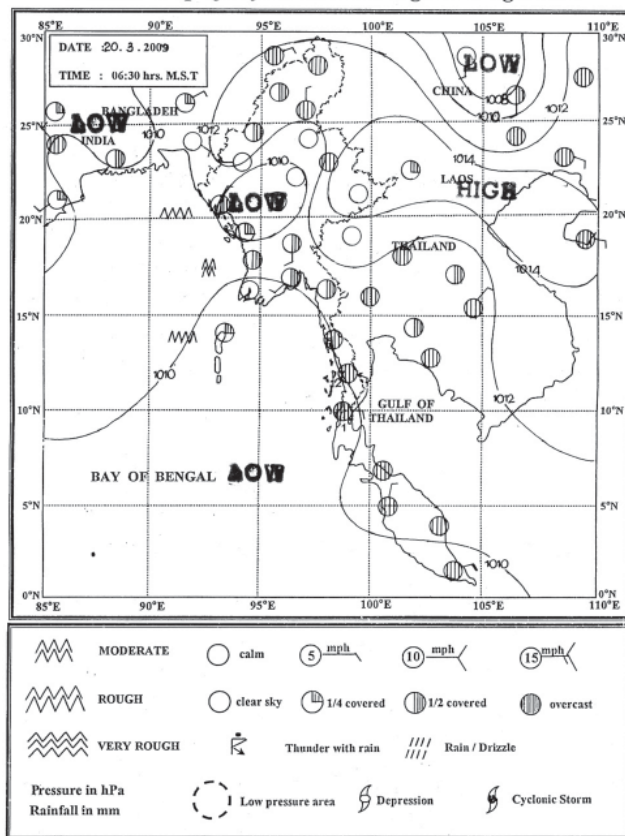
- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- * Let's Utilize waste products as Fuel
- * Dainty Hill resort of Loi-Mwe
- * Hundred Fruits from a common Stem, our Union “Shan State”
- * Progressive Images of Rakhine State
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Europe/ North America Transmission

- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- * Road to Mingun
- * King of all fruits
- * Hundred Fruits from a common Stem, our Union “Rakhine State”
- * Kanbawza Thardi Museum
- * A Brief Account of Bagan
- * Pleasant Taunggyi (Part-1)
- * Myanmar Modern Song
- * A Leisure Day in Ngapali
- * Hundred Fruits from a common Stem, our Union “Shan State”
- * Progressive Images of Rakhine State
- * Cruise along Yangon River...Feel Enchanting Scenes with Pleasure
- * Pleasant Taunggyi (Part-2)
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Friday, 20 March, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin, Chin, Mon and Kayin States, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions, weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above March average temperatures in Kachin State, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and about March average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperature was Thayawady (40°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfalls recorded were Nyaung Oo (0.91) inch and Myeik (0.47) inch.

Maximum temperature on 19-3-2009 was 97°F. Minimum temperature on 20-3-2009 was 72°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 20-3-2009 was 71%. Total sunshine hours on 19-3-2009 was (7.9) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 20-3-2009 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 (5) mph from Southwest at (16:30) hours MST on 19-3-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 21st March 2009: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Kachin, Mon and Kayin States, Taninthayi Division and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 21-3-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 21-3-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 21-3-2009: Partly cloudy.

Weather outlook for forth weekend of March 2009: During the coming weekend, possibility of isolated light rain in Yangon Division weather will be partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Division.



Saturday, 21 March
View on today

- 7:00 am
- 1. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:25 am
- 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
- 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am
- 4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am
- 5. ကဗျာပန်းညွှန်
- 8:05 am
- 6. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:15 am
- 7. (၆၄)နှစ်မြောက်တစ်မတော်နေ့ ရုက္ခပြုအစီအစဉ်

- 8:30 am
- 8. International news
- 8:40 am
- 9. “ကြားညှပ်သီးနှံဝဇ္ဇာ”
- 8:45 am
- 10. “ချောင်းကမ်းတေးကဏ္ဍကလေး” (ကြို့ကို၊ ထင်ပေါ်၊ နွဲ့နွဲ့စနိုး၊ မြင့်မြင့်ခိုင်၊ သဇင်) [ဒါရိုက်တာ-မြင့်စိုး(ဝ/သ)]
- 8:50 am
- 11. Musical programme
- 11:00 am
- 1. Martial Song
- 11:10 am
- 2. (၆၄)နှစ်မြောက်တစ်မတော်နေ့ ရုက္ခပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 11:25 am
- 3. Round up of the week’s TV Local News
- 1:10 pm
- 4. Yan Can Cook
- 1:35 pm
- 5. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “အားကိုးချစ်သူ ကျေးတောသူ” (အပိုင်း-၃၂)

- 2:25 pm
- 6. ဆန်းကြယ်ထူးခြားပြိုင်ပွဲများ (Telematch)
- 4:00 pm
- 1. Martial song
- 4:10 pm
- 2. Dance of national races
- 4:20 pm
- 3. မြူးမြူးကြွကြွယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက
- 4:30 pm
- 4. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 4:50 pm
- 5. တစ်မတော်နေ့ ရုက္ခပြု တေးသီချင်းပြိုင်ပွဲ ဆရာတေးများ
- 5:00 pm
- 6. အစေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ တတိယနှစ် (ဓာတုဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ဓာတုဗေဒ)
- 5:15 pm
- 7. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 5:30 pm
- 8. “အမျိုးနှင့်မျိုး” [နေမျိုးအောင်၊ မိုးပြည့်ပြည့်မောင်၊ ဇရာ၊ ဝင်းနိုင် (အနုပညာ)]

- (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဖုန်းမြင့်အောင်)
- 5:35 pm
- 9. Musical programme
- 5:45 pm
- 10. မြန်မာ့ဓလေ့ရိုးရာလက်ရာ
- 5:55 pm
- 11. (၆၄)နှစ်မြောက်တစ်မတော်နေ့ ရုက္ခပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 6:00 pm
- 12. Evening news
- 6:30 pm
- 13. Weather report
- 6:35 pm
- 14. “သားကောင်းမိခင်” (ဇာတ်သိမ်းပိုင်း) (လွင်မိုး၊ နေတိုး၊ ဇင်ပိုင်း ထွန်းထွန်း (Examplez), စိုးမြတ်သူဇာ၊ မေသဉ္ဇာဦး၊ ပန်းဖြူ၊ သက်မွန်မြင့်၊ ဖုလဲဝင်း) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ပန်းချီစိုး)
- 8:00 pm
- 15. News
- 16. International news
- 17. Weather report
- 18. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ကြွေးမုန်တိုင်း” (အပိုင်း-၂၀)



Implementing Nancho Hydropower Project in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana

Article & Photos: Khin Maung Than (Sethmu)

In building a new modern and developed nation, the government is implementing hydropower projects in all regions of the nation with the aim of generating hydropower through a lot of water sources. In doing so, Nancho Hydropower Project being implemented in east of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana is one of the facilities.

Together with Staff Officer U Thet Tun, I had an opportunity to visit the area of Nancho Hydropower Project along the mountain road at eastern Shan mountain range, and arrived at the project area next to the forests.

The project is located 16 miles east of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana and seven miles upstream of the confluence of Paunglaung River and Nancho Creek.

(See page 11)



Heavy machinery seen at worksite of Nancho Hydropower Project, east of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana.

Major losses for Caribbean reef fish in last 15 years

OTTAWA, 20 March — By combining data from 48 studies of coral reefs from around the Caribbean, researchers have found that fish densities that have been stable for decades have given way to



Coral reefs from around the Caribbean.

significant declines since 1995.

“We were most surprised to discover that this decrease is evident for both large-bodied species targeted by fisheries as well as small-bodied species that are not fished,” said Michelle Paddock of Simon Fraser University in Canada. “This suggests that overfishing is probably not the only cause.”

Rather, they suggest that the recent declines may be explained by drastic losses in coral cover and other changes in coral reef habitats that have occurred in the Caribbean over the past 30 years. Those changes are the result of many factors, including warming ocean temperatures, coral diseases, and a rise in sedimentation and pollution from coastal development. Overfishing has also led to declines of many fish species, and now seems to also be removing those that are important for keeping the reefs free of algae.—Internet

Two dying red supergiant stars produced supernovae

COPENHAGEN, 20 March — Where do supernovae come from? Astronomers have long believed they were exploding stars, but by analysing a series of images, researchers from the Dark Cosmology Centre at the Niels Bohr Institute, University of Copenhagen and from Queens University, Belfast have proven that two dying red supergiant stars produced supernovae. The results are published in the journal Science.

A star is a large ball of hot gas and in its incredibly hot interior hydrogen atoms combine to form helium, which subsequently forms carbon, other heavier elements and finally iron. When all the atoms in the centre have turned to iron the fuel is depleted and the star dies. When very large and massive stars, that are at least about eight times as massive as our sun, die, they explode as supernovae.

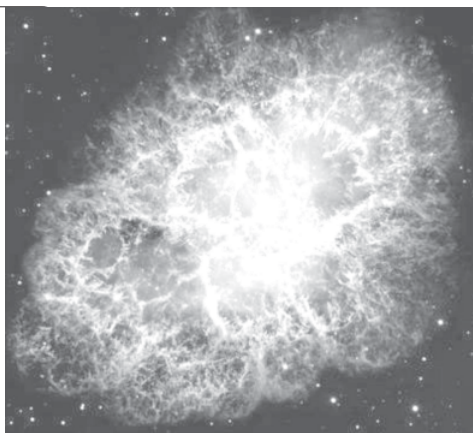
Enormous swollen stars

But some massive stars become red supergiant

stars first, which is an intermediate phase where, after the fuel in the centre is used up, energy is still produced in shells surrounding the now dead core. In this phase, the star swells up to an enormous size, approximately 1500 times larger than the sun, and emits as much light as a hundred thousand suns. But there has been doubt over whether red supergiants explode as supernovae.

Internet

The Crab nebula is the result of a type II supernova explosion observed by Chinese astronomers in 1054.



Very strong earthquake report

NAY PYI TAW, 20 March—A very strong earthquake of intensity 7.9 Richter Scale with its epicenter outside Myanmar about 6,700 miles southeast of Kaba Aye Seismological Observatory in South Pacific Ocean was recorded at 1 hour 00 minute 47 seconds Myanmar Standard Time today, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

MNA

BEWARE OF FIRE

Tarred roads inaugurated in Hmawby, Taikkyi

YANGON, 20 March — As a gesture of hailing the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, one tarred road was inaugurated in Hmawby today.

An executive officer of Hmawby Township Development Affairs Committee and the chairman of Hmawby Township Peace and Development Council formally opened Yadana Tarred Road which is 500 ft long and 12 ft wide.

Shanbat-1 Road in Taikkyi was formally opened by an executive officer of the township DAC and the chairman of the township PDC. The road is 690 ft long and 12 ft wide. In 2008-2009 fiscal year, Yangon Division Development Affairs Committee has constructed 5 miles and 4 furlongs of road in urban area and 25 miles and 5 furlongs in rural area.

MNA

