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Senior General Than Shwe receives Standing Committee member of Political Bureau of Central Committee of the Communist Party of China

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe received a goodwill delegation led by H.E. Mr. Li Changchun, member of the Standing Committee of Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China at Bayintnaung Yeiktha, here, at 10.30 a.m., today.

Also present at the call were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, SPDC member General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Prime Minister General Thein Sein, Secretary-1 of the SPDC General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for National Planning and

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

The Chinese delegation was accompanied by Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Union of Myanmar Mr. Ye Dabo.—MNA



Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe greets H.E. Mr. Li Changchun, member of the Standing Committee of Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China at Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA



Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe receives Chinese goodwill delegation led by H.E. Mr. Li Changchun, member of the Standing Committee of Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China at Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw.—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

Friday, 27 March, 2009

Strong and efficient Tatmadaw to defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity

Today, 27 March, 2009, is the 64th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day of the Union of Myanmar. It was on this day 64 years ago that Myanma Tatmadaw was born out of struggles against colonialists and fascists for national independence. Therefore, today is a red-letter day in the history of the Union of Myanmar.

On 27 March, 1945, the Tatmadaw, hand in hand with the national races, began to wage their anti-fascist fight, risking life and limb till they won victory and regained independence. Therefore, it was designated as Armed Forces Day in honour of the Tatmadaw.

Being made up of the siblings of the national races, the Tatmadaw has always risen to occasion at different times in history when the Union is faced with various kinds of hardships and in danger of collapse. It has worked for the interests of the people, always protecting their life and property.

Today also, the Tatmadaw is working in concert with the people to build a peaceful and developed nation. It is making all-out efforts, overcoming all sorts of hindrances, for the Union to be able to keep abreast of her neighbours and other countries in the region in the 21st Century.

In addition to a peaceful and developed nation, a modern patriotic Tatmadaw full of strength and efficiency is also being built. At such a time, every member of the Tatmadaw is equipping themselves with high morale, discipline, loyalty, unity and three skills.

The Tatmadaw that has always defended national sovereignty and territorial integrity throughout history has also set its sights on successful implementation of the seven-step roadmap and protection of people's life and property.



Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Tin Maung Ohn and Chairman of MMA (Central) and MMC Prof U Kyaw Myint Naing formally open the conference by cutting the ribbon.—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

Minister for Industry-2 receives delegation of TATA Motors Ltd

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein received a delegation led by Mr Manas Kumar Mishra of TATA Motors Limited at the meeting hall of the Ministry, here this morning.

Both sides discussed matters on rapid implementation of heavy turbo truck assembly & component parts production factory project being jointly carried out by Ministry of Industry-2 and TATA Motors Limited, and running the factory starting from December 2009.



Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw and officials.

MNA

Industry-2 Minister Vice-Admiral Soe Thein receives Mr Manas Kumar Mishra and party of TATA Motors Limited.

MNA

Fisheries Dept to sell fingerlings for release on Myanmar New Year Day

YANGON, 26 March—Fisheries Department has warned the people not to sell and buy African cat fish as there is a ban on releasing the cat fish into lakes and rivers on the New Year Day.

The release the carnivorous fish into rivers and lakes causes the depletion of fish, the Fisheries Department has banned the breeding and selling the African cat fish.

Those wishing to buy fingerlings to release them on the New Year Day contact the Fisheries Department and dial Ph 01-225586; 225553; 211382; 635196; 611120; 708519; 555613.

Fingerlings are available at Head Office of the Fisheries Department, Hlawga Fingerling Hatchery, Laydaukkan Fingerling Hatchery, Kandawgyi Fingerling Hatchery and fingerling hatcheries in townships.—MNA

Sale agents of Slenfig honoured

YANGON, 26 March—A ceremony to honour the sale agents who distributed Slenfig imported by Lifeline Co Ltd was held at Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, here, yesterday evening.

Managing Director Dr Sein Win, BOD members Dr Swe Hla and Dr Khin San Aye presented gifts to the sale agents.

The managing director spoke words of thanks, and those present were served with the dinner.

Lifeline Co Ltd distributes Slenfig produced by Torrent Pharmaceutical Co Ltd to the whole country. Those wishing to sell the product wholesales and retails may contact Room 5 at No. 39 of Bahosi Housing Estate in Lanmadaw Township, Tel: 223144, 226812 and 220165.—MNA



Managing Director Dr Sein Win presents gifts to a sale agent.

MNA

Sagaing Division Third Medical Conference opens

YANGON, 26 March—The opening ceremony of Sagaing Division Third Medical Conference was held at Thiha Tun Hall in Monywa on 14 March.

Deputy Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen Tin Maung Ohn and Chairman of Myanmar Medical Association (Central) and Myanmar Medical Council Prof U Kyaw Myint Naing formally opened the conference.

Next, Chairman of Sagaing Division Health

Committee Police Col Myint Wai and Chairman Prof U Kyaw Myint Naing made speeches on the occasion. Medical Superintendent of Monywa People's Hospital Dr Aung Kyaw Myint explained facts about the conference.

Afterwards, officials viewed booths on display. The conference was held for two days and a total of 215 doctors attended it.

MNA

Bomb kills 10 civilians in eastern Afghanistan

KABUL, 26 March — One roadside bomb killed 10 civilians Wednesday in a van along a route used by foreign troops in eastern Afghanistan while another wounded three Australian troops — highlighting a tactic increasingly favoured by Taliban militants.

The roadside bombings show the dangers that will be faced by the additional 17,000 US troops President Barack Obama has pledged to send to Afghanistan this year to battle Taliban militants in the country's south.

The US could end up sending even more troops to Afghanistan as part of an overhauled strategy the Obama administration is expected to announce later this week.

US troops first faced widespread roadside bomb attacks in Iraq, where they caused thousands of casualties and led the military to spend billions of dollars to build armored vehicles better equipped to keep soldiers safe.

The US military has transferred much of that technology to Afghanistan, but Afghan officials say well-trained militants have also migrated from Iraq, bringing with them the knowledge to carry out more deadly attacks. Also, the rural and often mountainous terrain in Afghanistan provides even more hiding places for roadside bombs than in Iraq, which is more developed.—Internet



An Afghan injured victim of a roadside bomb is attended at a hospital following a blast in Khost Province east of Kabul, Afghanistan on 25 March, 2009. A roadside bomb ripped through a van carrying civilians in eastern Afghanistan on Wednesday, killing ten people and wounding nine others, while three Australian soldiers were wounded in another blast in the south, officials said.—INTERNET



An Iraqi policeman searches a man in Diyala Province near Iraq's border with Iran, in January 2009.—INTERNET

US military deaths in Iraq war at 4,261

WASHINGTON, 26 March —As of Wednesday, 25 March, 2009, at least 4,261 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 3,425 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

It's fear that keeps Baghdad's peace

BAGHDAD, 26 March — The streets are calmer now. The fighting between Shiites and Sunnis has largely ceased. But this is not a sign of normalcy in the Iraqi capital. It's fear that keeps the peace.

Only an estimated 16 percent of the mainly Sunni families forced by Shiite militiamen and death squads to flee their homes have dared to return.

It takes two sides to have a fight, and there's really only one side left in Baghdad after violence and fear turned parts of neighbourhoods into ghost towns.

Internet

Internet

Four school children killed in bomb attack in Iraq's Mosul

MOSUL, 26 March — Four female school children were killed and seven others injured in a bomb explosion in Iraq's northern city of Mosul on Wednesday, a local police source said.

An explosive-charge hidden in a garbage container went off in the afternoon near a primary school in the al-Rashidiyah neighbourhood in northern Mosul, killing four female school children and wounding seven others, the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

The bomb apparently was targeted a passing US patrol, but the explosion missed its target, hitting the children who were leaving the school to their homes instead, the source said.

Anger and resentment rose among the residents of the neighbourhood as all the victims were under 12 years old, the source added.

Nineveh Province, with its capital city of Mosul, some 400 km north of Baghdad, is said to be one of the last strongholds of al-Qaeda fighters and other militant groups in the war-torn country.

Despite security gains in recent months in Iraq, there are still sporadic bombings targeting US troops, Iraqi security forces and civilians, which shape setback to the Iraqi government.—Internet

Car bomb kills 20 in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 26 March—A car bomb exploded near a crowded market in a mainly Shiite area of Baghdad on Thursday, killing as many as 20 people, Iraqi officials said, in the sixth major attack in Iraq this month.

The explosives-laden car was parked behind concrete barriers surrounding a private hospital near a bus stop and shops in the eastern Shaab district, the officials said.

The 20 killed included four children and four women, said police and hospital officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to release the information. The officials said 35 people also were wounded.

Internet



Medics at a central Baghdad, Iraq hospital tend to a woman injured by a car bomb, on 26 March, 2009. The bomb exploded near a crowded market in a mainly Shiite area, killing as many as 20 people, Iraqi officials said, in the sixth major attack in Iraq this month.—INTERNET

Ukrainians protest against US frigate's visit

KIEV, 26 March—Around 500 people on Wednesday gathered in Sevastopol, the Ukrainian southern naval port, to protest a US naval frigate's visit to the country.

According to the reports of local media, activists at the port shouted slogans like "NATO out" and "Yankee go home."

"We welcome all foreigners who come here as tourists, but we will not

bear the US frigate in our city," said Andrei Merkulov, one of the rally organizers.

The US frigate arrived in Sevastopol on Wednesday morning, kicking off its five-day friendly visit to the country as part of the Ukrainian Defence Ministry's international military cooperation plan.

The frigate will not take part in any military

exercises, a Ukrainian navy statement said.

Last November, a US warship cut short its visit to Sevastopol amid similar protests.

Russia signed a 20-year contract with Ukraine in 1997 to station its Black Sea Fleet. Ukrainian officials have repeatedly called for the fleet to leave Sevastopol when the lease expires in 2017.

Internet

France sells 24 military helicopters to Iraq

PARIS, 26 March—France on Wednesday sealed a contract for the sale of 24 military helicopters to Iraq, its first arms deal with Baghdad since 1990.

French Defence Minister Herve Morin signed the deal worth 360 million euros (488 million dollars) for the Eurocopter EC 635s during a meeting in Paris with his Iraqi counterpart Abdul Qader Obeidi.

France agreed to provide pilot training and provide maintenance as part of the contract.



A French Eurocopter helicopter is seen in 2006. France on Wednesday sealed a contract for the sale of 24 military helicopters to Iraq, its first arms deal with Baghdad since 1990.—INTERNET

The deal came a month after President Nicolas Sarkozy paid an historic first visit to Baghdad during which he vowed France would help Iraq's economic revival, and singled out defence as one area of cooperation.

A defence ministry official said the deal was the first contract signed between Paris and Baghdad since the 1990

Gulf War and the US invasion of Iraq in 2003.

Morin also announced that Paris was going to "re-open a military mission to Baghdad" at the French embassy in Baghdad "from this summer."

"We want to return to the relations that France had (with Iraq) up until the 1980s," he said.

Internet

S Korea says more talks needed on EU trade pact

SEOUL, 26 March—South Korea's trade minister said on Thursday that more talks are needed to narrow differences before forging a free trade pact with the European Union.

The two sides reached a tentative agreement on the pact Tuesday after almost two years of talks. They plan to settle two outstanding issues—duty drawback and rules of origin — at trade ministers' talks in London next week.

"More talks are necessary to narrow differences on the issue," Trade Minister Kim Jong-Hoon told a radio programme.

Internet



Soldiers escort alleged drug cartel Lieutenant Hector Huerta Rios after a press conference to show him to the media in Mexico City, on 25 March, 2009. Huerta Rios, who allegedly ran operations for the Beltran Leyva drug cartel, was detained Tuesday in Monterrey, northern Mexico.—INTERNET

Israel is Palestinians' peace partner

JERUSALEM, 26 March—Incoming Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Wednesday his government will be a "partner for peace with the Palestinians," the latest sign that the new Israeli leader is softening his stand as he prepares to take office next week.

Netanyahu, who has been skeptical of past peace efforts, delivered his pledge a day after President Barack Obama said the US will push for creation of a Palestinian state.

The prime minister-designate said he will seek parliamentary approval for his new government next week.

Then he would take over as head of a



Israel's Likud party leader Benjamin Netanyahu attends a party meeting at the Knesset, the Israeli parliament, in Jerusalem on 2 March, 2009.

INTERNET

government dominated by hawkish parties, but potentially moderated by the presence of the centrist Labor Party.

Labor has been at the forefront of Mideast peace efforts, while Netanyahu has a record of rebuffing peace moves that require Israeli concessions.

To entice a reluctant Labor into his coalition, Netanyahu had to promise to pursue peace with the Palestinians, but stopped short of pledging to work for creation of a Palestinian state — a cornerstone of peace plans for more than a decade.

In the campaign before the 10 Feb election that propelled him toward the premiership, Netanyahu disparaged talks on a peace treaty, saying the proper approach was to first build up the Palestinian economy.

Internet

US industrywide sales flat at best in March

TOKYO, 26 March—The head of Toyota Motor Corp (7203.T) said on Thursday that industrywide sales in the United States for this month looked set to be flat or worse than the weak results seen in February.

"Annualized sales in January and February were a little above 9 million, and we're hearing that March will be about the same if not worse than February," President Katsuaki Watanabe told a news conference to unveil the remodeled Crown Majesta sedan.

He said he could not tell



Toyota Motor Corp's chief engineer Akihiko Otsuka rides a new Prius prototype during reporters' test ride at the Fuji Speedway test-drive course in Oyama, Japan, on 13 March, 2009.—INTERNET

when cars sales would bottom out globally, adding that he hoped governments around the world would offer incentives to jump-start demand.

In Japan, Watanabe

said Toyota was not planning to have any factory holidays from May and beyond, when the company hopes to keep daily output above 10,000 units.—Internet

Mexico captures another 'most-wanted' trafficker

MEXICO CITY, 26 March—Soldiers captured one of Mexico's most-wanted smugglers, a man accused of controlling the flow of drugs through the northern city of Monterrey for the powerful Beltran-Leyva cartel, the Mexican army said on Wednesday.

Gen Luis Arturo Oliver said Hector Huerta was detained on Tuesday in a Monterrey suburb, along with four men identified as his bodyguards.

Soldiers also seized

assault rifles and four grenades. Huerta was arrested on an outstanding homicide warrant; the other four suspects were being held pending charges.

Huerta is the first most-wanted trafficker to be captured since the government on Monday published a list of top suspects.

The list identified him as a top Beltran-Leyva cartel lieutenant, with a \$1 million reward offered for information leading to his

capture.

It was not clear if a reward was paid in this case.

Two men on the list had already been captured by the time it was published.

The mustached, chubby-cheeked Huerta is nicknamed "La Burra," or female donkey. "Burro," or male donkey, is a common slang word for the people, usually poor and desperate, paid by the cartels to transport drugs across borders.

Internet



Folk artist Wang Zhenzhu displays her paper-cuttings of 108 generals of Chinese classic novel "Outlaws of the Marsh", in Yuncheng, north China's Shanxi Province, on 24 March, 2009. It took Wang Zhenzhu some three months to finish the vivid paper-cuttings of aesthetic value.—XINHUA

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Jordan's king calls on Obama to engage in Mideast peace process

AMMAN, 26 March—Jordan's King Abdullah II on Wednesday called on the US administration to engage in the peace process between Palestinians and Israelis, the Royal Hashemite Court said in a statement.

The king made the remarks in a phone call with US President Barack Obama, during which the two leaders discussed the current situation in the Middle East, particularly the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

King Abdullah said the US administration's full engagement is a main element for resuming the negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis, said the statement.

The king also said he is looking forward to working with the US president in order to achieve a just and comprehensive peace that meets the aspiration of the people in the region, the statement added.

During the telephone conversation, Obama invited the king to visit the United States.—Xinhua

US Continental Airlines inaugurates nonstop New York-Shanghai service

NEW YORK, 26 March—US Continental Airlines on Wednesday became the first US carrier to inaugurate scheduled service between New York and Shanghai, China, with daily nonstop flights from the airline's hub at Newark Liberty International Airport.

The new service will provide daily nonstop flights in the largest US-China market that today lacks daily service, linking the world's financial centre and top business and tourism destination with China's centre for finance and trade, according to a press release obtained by Xinhua. "China is a valued international market for Continental, and we expect great success from this new nonstop route to Shanghai," said Continental President and Chief Operating Officer Jeff Smisek at a ceremony specially held for the maiden flight on Wednesday.—Xinhua



A passenger receives a gift from an airhostess of the first nonstop New York to Shanghai flight of Continental Airlines at Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey, the United States, on 25 March, 2009.—XINHUA

Pilot killed in US F-22 fighter jet crash

LOS ANGELES, 26 March—A Lockheed Martin test pilot was killed when his F-22 fighter jet crashed on Wednesday on a flight near Edwards Air Force Base in Southern California.

The 49-years-old David Cooley was a 21-year Air Force veteran, Lockheed Martin said in a statement.

The accident occurred at 10 am local time in Kern County, about 50 kilometres northeast of the base, according to Kristina Constant of Edwards Air Force Base.

Constant said an investigation into the cause of the crash was under way.—Xinhua

Ecuadorian military plane crashes in border area, two killed in rescue efforts

QUITO, 26 March — A combat aircraft from the Ecuadorian Air Force (FAE) crashed on Wednesday in the district of La Joya de los Sachas in the province of Orellana, near the border with Colombia, and two persons were killed due to a broken rope in the following rescue efforts.

Both pilots of the plane survived the crash, which occurred at 10:40 am local time (1540 GMT) on a patrol flight near the Agrio Lake, according to the military authorities.

However, one of the pilots was killed during the rescue mission, along with an army lieutenant trying to rescue him, as the rope that was holding them both suddenly snapped, said General Fabian Narvaez of the FAE.—Xinhua

Helicopter crashes in Turkey

ANKARA, 26 March—A helicopter carrying Muhsin Yazicioglu, chairman of Turkey's Grand Unity Party (BBP), crashed on Wednesday near the village of Haci Omerli in southern Turkey, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

The helicopter was on its way from province of Kahramanmaraş to the central province of Yozgat with five passengers and the pilot on board, according to the report.

An ambulance helicopter and a search-and-rescue chopper were immediately sent to the scene of the crash. "We were informed that there were six people on board the helicopter. Besides the teams, local villagers are also participating in the search-and-rescue efforts. I hope that there is not any casualty. No one has been able to reach the crash site yet," Mehmet Niyazi Tanilir, governor of Kahramanmaraş, was quoted as saying.

Xinhua

EU countries asked to have "civilian surge" in Afghanistan

BRUSSELS, 26 March—European Union (EU) countries have been asked to commit additional civilian resources to Afghanistan to match US plans to send in 17,000 additional troops, said a policy report of a European think tank on Wednesday.

"If EU governments are serious about Afghanistan, they should complement the coming US military push with a civilian surge of their own. They must ensure the elections are secure, train the army and the police, and reach out to the Taleban," said Daniel Korski of the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR).

EU countries must acknowledge there can be no military solution to the insurgency, he argued.

The EU and the United States should encourage the next Afghan government to negotiate with those militant leaders, who are willing to lay down arms and integrate them into the political process, said Korski, a former adviser to the Afghan government in Kabul.—Xinhua



Members of the Qin Opera Art Troupe of Hami stage performance in Dahe Township of Barkol Kazak Autonomous County, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on 24 March, 2009. XINHUA

Yemen detains six al-Qaeda suspects over plotting attacks

SANAA, 26 March — Yemen's Interior Ministry said on Wednesday six suspected al-Qaeda militants have been detained on suspicion of plotting attacks against oil facilities and foreign targets and tourists.

Yemeni security forces have arrested the six suspects who have been held responsible for carrying out two recent attacks against South Koreans, a statement posted on the ministry's website said. Four South Korean tourists and their Yemeni guide were killed last week in a bombing during a visit to the historical city of Shibam, Hadramawt Province.

Then, a suicide bomber hit a convoy carrying a team sent to investigate the Shibam explosion, but no one was hurt. The suicide bomber, aged 18 years old, is said to have received training in Somalia, according to Yemen's official *Saba* news agency.—*Internet*

Woman gives birth on airliner, abandons baby in trash

BEIJING, 26 March — A newly born baby was saved by a cleaning lady from a blue trash bag in an airplane bathroom, media reports said on Thursday.

Were it not for a cleaning lady who chanced upon the newborn waving a feeble arm from a blue trash bag, Grace would have met the fate her mother apparently intended for her, authorities said.

On Wednesday, police in New Zealand charged the 29-year-old woman with abandonment and assault — for giving birth to the child on an international flight and then leaving her, without alerting anyone, in a toilet bin amid bloodied paper towels. The woman, whose name was not released, faces up to seven years in prison if convicted. The woman is a kiwi fruit picker who was returning from Samoa when she walked off a Pacific Blue flight in Auckland Thursday.—*Internet*



Emergency services work at the site of a deadly bus crash outside the town of Petushki in Vladimir region, some 100km (62 miles) east of Moscow, on 26 March, 2009. —INTERNET

20 killed, four injured in Russia's bus-truck collision

Moscow, 26 March — At least 20 people were killed and four seriously injured in a traffic accident in Russia's central Vladimir region, local media reported on Thursday.

A bus full of passengers collided with a truck on a highway some 124 km away from Moscow, Russian officials said.

The bus caught fire after the crash and the injured have been rushed to the local hospital, officials said.

An investigation is underway but the cause of the accident remains unclear.—*Internet*

Pharmaceuticals residues in Chicago fish

BEIJING, 26 March — A new study showed prescription drugs used to treat depression, high blood pressure, seizures and other ailments were found in fish caught near wastewater treatment plants in Chicago, according to researchers on Wednesday.

The project, the largest of its kind on human drugs in fish tissue, have prompted the Environmental Protection Agency to significantly expand similar ongoing research to

more than 150 different locations.

Researchers from Baylor University in Waco, Texas, found trace amounts of seven different pharmaceutical drugs in fish caught near the North Side Treatment Plant at Howard Street and McCormick Boulevard in Skokie. They recorded similar results near sewage plants in Dallas, Orlando, suburban Philadelphia and Phoenix.

"The average person hopefully will see this type

of a study and see the importance of us thinking about water that we use every day, where does it come from, where does it go to? We need to understand this is a limited resource and we need to learn a lot more about our impacts on it," said study co-author Bryan Brooks, a Baylor University researcher and professor who has published more than a dozen studies related to pharmaceuticals in the environment.—*Internet*

NEWS ALBUM



With facecloth on the head, male Baikal Seal Billy performs 'a dip in a hot spring' as he holds a sake bottle in a basin with forefoot at a pool of Hakone-en aquarium in Hakone, west of Tokyo. It took some three months for six-year-old Billy to master this performance, a traditional Japanese style of soaking in a hot spring.

Dead man gets television bill

A man received a letter for his long-overdue television license bill after his death 450 years ago, centuries before the invention of Television and radio.

Germany's GEZ broadcast fee collection office sent the bill to the last home address of Adam Ries, the German mathematician, who bought the house in 1525. Residents of the house said Wednesday. A club in his honor was set up at the property four centuries later.

"We received a letter saying 'To Mr Adam Ries' on it, with the request to pay his television and radio fees," said Annegret Muench, who now heads the club.

Muench returned the letter to the GEZ with a note explaining the request had come too late because Ries had died in 1559. She nonetheless received a reminder a few weeks later.

Ancient fish trap found in Wales

Archaeologists in Wales said they used Google Earth to identify an underwater rock formation as a fish trap made more than 1,000 years ago.

The nearly 1,000-foot-long contraption was initially spotted by an aircraft near Cardigan, Wales, and was subsequently found on Google Earth by archaeologists called in to investigate. *The Daily Mail* reported on Monday.

The trap is comprised of huge rocks on the riverbed arranged in a v-shape to snag fish with the outgoing tide so they could be easily removed with nets, the archaeologists said. Ziggy Otto, who is leading the effort to investigate the ancient trap, said divers are being sent down to study the object up close.

"It would have taken a number of fishermen to work on a structure of this size," Otto said. "The fish were herded into the trap and when the tide went out they would be scooped out with nets."

Green spaces keep children more active

Kids who live near green spaces seem to be more physically active and might be more unlikely to be obese, a new study has found. For every part within a half-mile (0.8-kilometer) of home, a girl's likelihood of walking to school doubled and a boy's odds of taking part in leisure walking increased by 60 percent, according to the study presented at an American Heart Association (AHA) conference in Palm Harbor, Florida last week. A copy of the study was made available.

Researchers from Sainte-Justine Hospital Research Center and University of Montreal in Canada collected data from 300 families and more than 600 children who took part in a study of weight and cardio metabolic risk in kids.



A sculpture of Nebraska mascot Lil Red, made entirely of canned and packaged food, is on display at the Westroads Mall in Omaha, Neb. All cans used in this and neighboring sculptures are donated to The Food Bank at the end of the display period.

Two penguins named South (L) and North are released to the open ocean by veterinarian Amy Twentyman of the Taronga Zoo at North Curl Curl beach in Sydney. The zoo released back into the ocean the two adults after they had rested and been cared for at Taronga's Wildlife hospital.



HONOURING THE 64TH ANNIVERSARY ARMED FORCES DAY

*Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College (Yangon)
established for broadening the horizons of national race youths of
border areas.*



No.	Subject	1988	2008	Progress
1.	Miles of earth road	-	3834/3	3834/3
2.	Miles of gravel road	-	2683/0	2683/0
3.	Miles of tarred road	-	448/1	448/1
4.	Large bridge	-	88	88
5.	Small bridge	-	1127	1127
6.	Suspension bridge	-	54	54
7.	Hospital	-	80	80
8.	Dispensary	-	102	102
9.	Rural health care centre	-	62	62
10.	Rural health care branch	-	139	139
11.	BEPS, BEMS, BEHS	-	855/90/92	855/90/92
12.	Agriculture office	-	31	31
13.	Agriculture camp	-	118	118
14.	Dam	-	60	60
15.	Canal	-	5	5
16.	Tractor station	-	11	11
17.	Forest reserve (designated/being arranged)	-	11/14	11/14
18.	Nursery	-	14	14
19.	Livestock breeding farm	-	20	20
20.	Veterinary office	-	41	41
21.	Generator	-	268	268
22.	TV retransmission station	-	112	112
23.	Post office	-	53	53
24.	Telephone office	-	85	85



Development of border areas and national races sector in the time of Tatmadaw Government

Manhsaung Bridge

*Manhsaung
Bridge built in
Chin State for
better
transportation.*

Technological University (Myitkyina)

*Technological
University
(Myitkyina)
opened in Kachin
State for uplift of
science and
technological
sector of the
region.*



Modern planetarium, a feather in the cap of Myanmar

Planetarium (Nay Pyi Taw) launched for public knowledge



Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo unveils the signboard to open the archway of the Planetarium (Nay Pyi Taw).—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—As a gesture of hailing the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, the Ministry of Forestry opened the Planetarium (Nay Pyi Taw) at the building near the Zoological Gardens (Nay Pyi Taw) here this morning.

Present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Lt-Gen Tha Aye, Lt-Gen Khin Zaw and Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thura Myint Aung of the Ministry of Defence, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen



Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo views the exhibits around the Planetarium (Nay Pyi Taw).—MNA

Wai Lwin, ministers, the attorney-general, the auditor-general, the chairman of the Civil Service Selection and

Training Board, deputy ministers, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the directors-general of the SPDC

Office and the Government Office, heads of department, ambassadors of foreign embassies, service

personnel, teachers and students from the University of Forestry and basic education schools, foreign experts and engineers of MRT Co who built the planetarium and guests.

The commander, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt and Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung formally opened the planetarium.

The Secretary-1 unveiled the signboard of the planetarium's archway. He sprinkled the scented water on the stone plaque of the planetarium, and so did Lt-Gen Tha Aye, Lt-Gen Khin Zaw, Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thura Myint Aung and Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung.

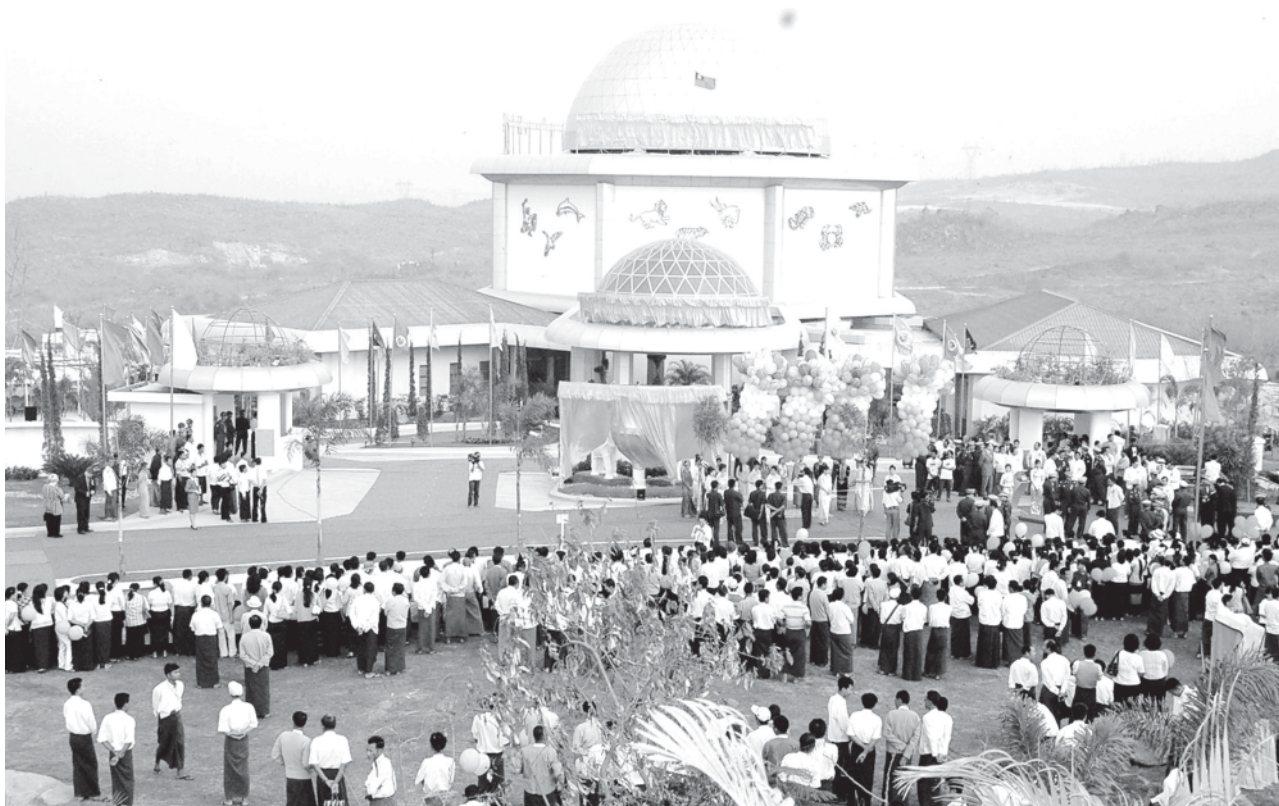
The Secretary-1 and party viewed the exhibits around the planetarium.

Vocalists Hay Mar Nay Win, Kawni and Chaw Su Khin entertained the audience with the song composed to mark the planetarium by Bogale Tint Aung.

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung in his speech said that the planetarium is to add to the image of Nay Pyi Taw, to serve as a public recreation centre, to enrich the public knowledge, and arouse the youth's curiosity about astronomy.

He said that in August 2008, the Head of State gave guidance on a planetarium project for younger generations enabling them to keep abreast of the youth of other countries in astronomy; and that to comply with the guidance, groundwork was carried out in line with Myanmar's geographical features,

(See page 9)



The opening ceremony of the Planetarium (Nay Pyi Taw).—MNA

Secretary-1 hosts luncheon to Standing Committee member of Political Bureau of the Central Committee of CPC and party

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo hosted a

luncheon to the goodwill delegation led by H.E. Mr. Li Changchun, member of the Standing Committee of Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of

China, at Myat Tawwin Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone at 3 p.m. today.

Also present at the luncheon were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for National

Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Minister for Electric Power No. 1 Col Zaw Min, Minister for

Electric Power No. 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun

Thi, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, Director-General of the SPDC Office Col Kyaw Kyaw Win, departmental heads and officials.

During the luncheon, the artistes entertained them with songs to the accompaniment of the Myanmar Athan modern music troupe.

After the luncheon, the Secretary-1 and the member of Standing Committee exchanged gifts. Mr. Li Changchun cordially greeted the artistes who presented variety songs during the luncheon.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 and the Chinese goodwill delegation led by Mr. Li Changchun posed for documentary photo together with the artistes.—MNA



Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo hosts a luncheon to the goodwill delegation led by H.E. Mr. Li Changchun, member of the Standing Committee of Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China at Myat Tawwin Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

Modern planetarium, a feather in the cap...

(from page 8)

climate, and characters, and the design of the planetarium was drawn for many times.

The design of the planetarium and all the construction process were undertaken by Myanmar engineers, which attracted the praise from the French and Singaporean experts. So far, there are only over

300 planetariums, only some of which had advanced methods and digital machines, all over the world. So, the modern planetarium is a feather in the nation's cap.

French expert Mr Jean-Francois presented some facts about the project, and donated a telescope to the planetarium through Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung.

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung presented gifts to foreign experts through Mr Jean-Francois, and to the engineers of MRT Co Ltd through Chief Engineer U Kyaw Kyaw.

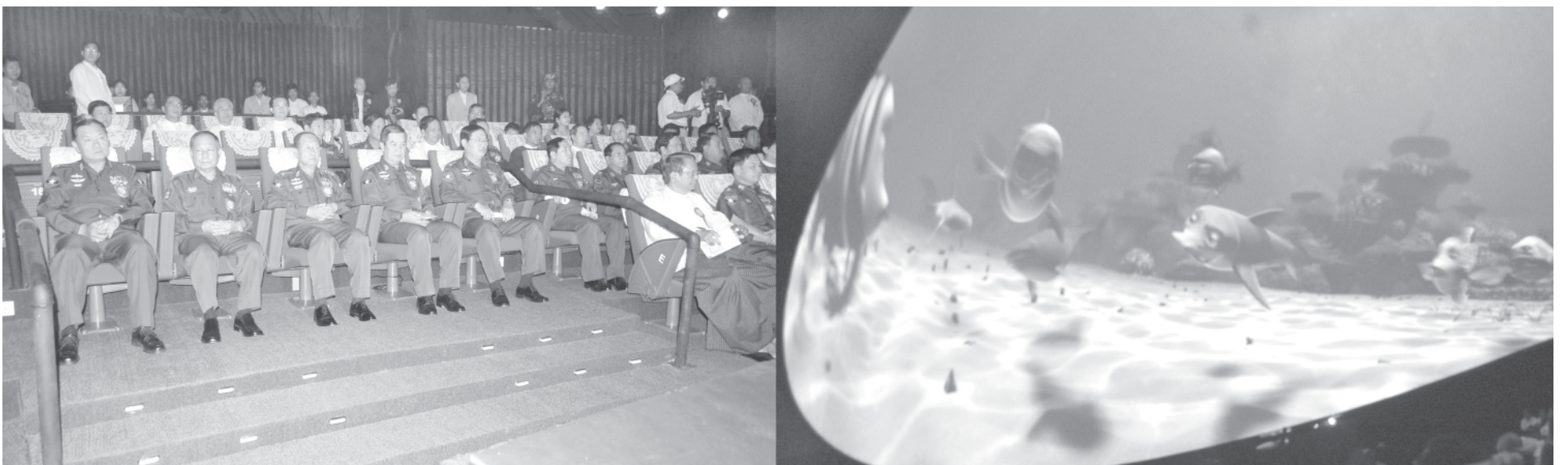
The Secretary-1 viewed a short film of Myanmar beauty, and Egyptian Faro dynasty and belief in stars and

watched a comic strip "Kalu' Kahina : Enchanted Reef".

Under the supervision of the Ministry of Forestry, service personnel and the MRT Co Ltd launched the project on 9 November 2008 and completed it on 20 March 2009.

The planetarium is constituted with the main hall, a lecture hall, and a briefing hall, and is equipped with modern equipment.

Beginning 1 April, the planetarium opens from 10 am to 4 pm every day except Monday. The exhibition programmes are conducted two times a day, at 11 am and 1 pm.—MNA



Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo views the presentation of digital projector system at opening ceremony of Planetarium(Nay Pyi Taw).—MNA

Myanmar, PRC sign agreements

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo met with Standing Committee member Mr. Li Changchun of Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China at the meeting hall of the SPDC Office, here, at 1 p.m. today and held a discussion on mutual cooperation between the two countries.

Also present at the meeting were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Electric Power No. 1 Col Zaw Min, Minister for Electric Power No. 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay and departmental heads.

The Standing Committee member of Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the CPC and party were accompanied by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Ye Dabo.

On arrival at the meeting hall of the SPDC Office, the Chinese goodwill delegation was greeted by the Secretary-1.

Next, the Secretary-1 and the Standing Committee member extended greetings.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 and the Standing Committee member cordially discussed further strengthening friendly ties and relations between the two countries and mutual cooperation in energy,



Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo meets with Standing Committee member Mr. Li Changchun of Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China at the meeting hall of the SPDC Office.—MNA

hydropower, communication, transport, information, culture and industrial sectors.

At 2.30 p.m., a ceremony to sign the agreements between the Union of Myanmar and the People's Republic of China was held at the hall of the SPDC Office.

First, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi and Head of China's National Energy Administration Mr. Zhang Guobao of the People's Republic of China

signed the Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the Myanmar-China Oil and Gas Pipelines and exchanged notes.

Minister for Electric Power No. 1 Col Zaw Min and Head of China's National Energy Administration Mr. Zhang Guobao of the People's (See page 11)



Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi and Head of China's National Energy Administration Mr. Zhang Guobao of the People's Republic of China sign the agreement on Myanmar-China Oil and Gas Pipelines.—MNA



Minister Col Zaw Min and Head of China's National Energy Administration Mr. Zhang Guobao of the PRC ink Agreement on Development of Hydropower Resources in Myanmar.—MNA



Deputy Minister Col Thurein Zaw and Chinese Ambassador Mr Ye Dabo sign the Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation.

MNA



Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe and Governor Mr Li Ruogu of Export-Import Bank of China sign MoU Regarding Buyer's Credit for Constructions Projects.—MNA

Secretary-1 bids farewell to Chinese goodwill delegation

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo bade farewell to the visiting Chinese goodwill delegation led by Standing Committee Member Mr. Li Changchun of Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China at Nay Pyi Taw Airport this evening.

The Secretary-1 welcomed the goodwill delegation when they arrived at the airport. The Secretary-1 presented the album of documentary photos on the visit of the delegation to Mr. Li

Changchun.

Afterwards, the delegation left here for Yangon by special flight. Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Electric Power No.1 Col Zaw Min, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, Director-General of the Office of the State Peace and Development Council Col Kyaw Kyaw Win and officials bade farewell to the delegation. — MNA



Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo bids farewell to the Chinese goodwill delegation at Nay Pyi Taw Airport.—MNA

Chinese goodwill delegation arrives in Yangon



Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint welcomes Mr Li Changchun, Member of the Standing Committee of Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China at Yangon International Airport.—MNA

YANGON, 26 March— A Chinese goodwill delegation led by H.E Mr. Li Changchun, Member of the Standing Committee of Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China arrived at Yangon International Airport by

special flight yesterday afternoon.

They were welcomed there by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint, Chairman of Yangon City Development

Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, senior military officers, Chinese Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr. Ye Dabo and officials.— MNA

Myanmar, PRC sign agreements...

(from page 10)

Republic of China signed the Framework Agreement on Development of Hydropower Resources in the Union of Myanmar between National Administration of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Electric Power No. (1) of the Union of Myanmar and exchanged the notes.

Deputy Minister for

Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe and Governor Mr Li Ruogu of Export-Import Bank of China inked the Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Buyer's Credit for Construction Projects between the Export-Import Bank of China and the Ministry of Finance and Revenue of the Union of Myanmar and exchanged the notes.

Next, Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Col Thurein Zaw and Chinese Ambassador Mr. Ye Dabo signed the Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation between the Government of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the People's Republic of China and exchanged the notes.—MNA

MCPA Software Developer Conference on 28 March

YANGON, 26 March— As part of the effort for development of information technology, Myanmar Computer Professional Association will conduct the MCPA Software Developer Conference at Conference Hall of Myanma Info-Tech in Hline Township on 28 March.

IT executives, project managers and software developers of ACE Data System, Bizsoft Business Information System Ltd, MCC Co Ltd and MIT Pte Ltd in Myanmar will share their experiences during the conference.

In the evening, the speakers and executives of MCPA will participate

in the open discussion on software technique and job opportunities at the conference.

Members of MCPA and those interested in software may participate in the conference. More information is available at the office of MCPA, Ph 652276.

MNA

Repaved street inaugurated in Hlegu

YANGON, 26 March—Hailing the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, Hlegu Township Development Affairs Committee opened the repaved Aungmingala 2nd Street in Aungmingala Ward of Hlegu this morning.

Executive Officer U Kyaw Myo

Latt of the committee explained the tarmacking of the road.

Col Hsan Myint Oo of the local station, Director of Yangon Division DAC U Aung Kyaw Nyein and local people U Kyaw Hsan formally opened the street and strolled along it.

MNA

Take Fire Preventive Measures

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BANGSAPHAN VOY NO (72)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGSAPHAN VOY NO (72) are hereby notified that the vessel arrived on 26.3.2009 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 WONGSAMUT OCEAN
SHIPPING CO., LTD**

Phone No: 256919/256916/256912



A panoramic view of central Athens which has one of the lowest ratios of green space per resident in Europe.
INTERNET

China to replace satellite made for Nigeria for free

BEIJING, 26 March—China has promised to replace a Nigerian telecommunications satellite free of charge after the last one, made and launched in China, failed after about 18 months in orbit, the *China Daily* said on Wednesday.

The 340-million-US-dollar Nigerian Communication Satellite, or *NIGCOMSAT-1*, was

launched to great fanfare in 2007, with Nigeria hoping it would offer advanced telecoms, broadcasting and broadband multimedia services for 15 years. Its solar-powered battery failed in November 2008.

The replacement *NIGCOMSAT-1R* will be launched from Sichuan Province in southwestern China in the fourth quarter

of 2011, Yin Liming, president of China Great Wall Industry Corp, said at a signing ceremony on Tuesday. The satellite was supposed to make Africa's most populous nation a technological hub, saving broadband users and phone users hundreds of millions of dollars a year and enabling Internet access to remote rural villages. —MNA/Reuters

Costa Rican President opposes oil exploitation

SAN JOSE, 26 March—Costa Rican President Oscar Arias expressed his objection to the exploitation of oil in his country, and stressed Costa Rica was making great efforts to develop renewable energy, the local Press said on Tuesday.

In an address to the congress on Monday, Arias said he was determined to fulfil a pledge not to allow oil exploitation in Costa Rica. According to the website *Nacion.com/el pais*, Arias said his government was making efforts to develop solar and wind power, and geothermal energy.

“No oil exploitation is a decision I made long ago,” Arias said. “If I had been asked the same question three years ago, I would have given the same answer.” Costa Rica is a net importer of oil. In January, Roberto Dobles, the former minister of Environment and Energy, said the country needed to exploit oil.

MNA/Xinhua

India signs defence deal with Israel

NEW DELHI, 26 March—The Indian Government has signed a massive two-billion-US-dollar defence deal with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), local news website *dnaindia.com* reported Wednesday.

The deal, which was signed into a contract this month, came at a time when India already possesses a more powerful missile in the same class—the advanced air defence

(AAD) missile, part of India's anti-ballistic missile shield, said the website.

The website said that the deal, being kept under wraps, could sound the death-knell of the indigenous surface-to-air *Akash* missile system, into which millions have been invested over the years.

More importantly, the deal ignores the success of the *AAD* missile, which could be deployed as a

surface-to-air missile and used exactly like the Israeli missile system *MRSAM*.

A senior Defence Ministry official, who defended the government on the contract, told the website that the *MRSAM* file was sent to the solicitor-general, who felt that the government could go ahead with the deal if it considered the missile essential.

MNA/Xinhua

French 3M manager released after deal with staff

PITHIVIERS, 26 March—Workers at a factory operated by the US firm 3M released the French manager they had held hostage for over 24 hours on Thursday after a deal on conditions for laid-off staff.

The industrial director of the group, Luc Rousselet, was barricaded in an office on Tuesday evening and workers had refused to let him out until he agreed to more favourable terms for the 110 employees who face the axe. “A framework of an agreement allowing for the end of the current crisis on the 3M site in Pithiviers was signed today,” a union representative said. Locking up managers is becoming a tradition in French labour disputes, with police unwilling to intervene to avoid violence.

MNA/Reuters

Two brides try to keep warm as they wait their turn to be photographed by a wedding photographer in Beijing, China, on 26 March, 2009.

INTERNET



Two babies killed, 4 hospitalized by hand, foot and mouth disease in east China

JINAN, 25 March—Hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) has killed two babies and hospitalized another four in Heze City of east China's Shandong Province in March, local authorities said on Wednesday.

A seven-month-old infant died at 8:23 pm Sunday 10 hours after he was rushed to the Heze Infectious Disease Hospital (HIDH). A 15-month-old boy died at noon on Monday in the People's Hospital of Juancheng County, Shandong Provincial Health Depart-

ment reported.

Four children being treated in HIDH were in critical condition, said Li Shixin, an official of Heze City Health Bureau.

The disease was found in all the nine counties and districts in the city, he said.

Besides the HFMD cases, another four babies died of cephalitis or suspected HFMD from 8 March to 23 March, Li said.

The Health Depart-

ment has dispatched expert teams to Heze to instruct emergency treatment as well as disease control and prevention. Medical equipments were also sent to Heze to assist the fight against the disease.

According to the Ministry of Health, HFMD can be caused by a host of intestinal viruses, but EV71 and the Coxsackievirus (Cox A16) were the most common.

Internet



Two Tianjin University representatives sit in the cockpit of an aircraft at the apron of China Civil Aviation University in Tianjin, north China, on 22 March, 2009.—INTERNET

An all-new 2009 BMW Z4 Roadster mounted with special paint dispensers behind its wheels to create a football-field size painting is shown in the Grand Central Terminal in New York, the United States, on 24 March, 2009.

XINHUA



China to celebrate the year of Russian language

BEIJING, 26 March — The year of Russian language will debut in China on Friday as a way to mark the 60th anniversary of good diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The event will be celebrated throughout 2009. Many major schools will partake in activities both inside universities and across the nation, according to China's Ministry of

Education (MOE).

Beijing Foreign Studies University for example, will hold a national online Russian essay writing competition, will show movies and host a cultural festival, said Li Yingnan, director of the university's Russian language centre.

"Russian language majors will work as a main force for the event's enhancement across the nation," said Li.

China has about 90 colleges offering Russian language majors. More than 12,000 students are currently studying it, MOE statistics show.

"The event will greatly promote college students' passion for Russian language and the whole society's attention to it", Li said.

Internet

Two teenagers die after suspected ecstasy overdose in western Canada

OTTAWA, 26 March — Two teenage girls have died after they were brought to a hospital in western Canada suffering from suspected ecstasy overdose, police in Alberta Province said on Wednesday.

The girls, at 15, were

from the Paul Band First Nation west of provincial capital Edmonton. They fell ill on Sunday probably after ingesting ecstasy, a spokesman from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) said.

Two other girls who were alongside also suf-

fered symptoms, but they are getting better.

Dennis Paul, a spokesman for the Paul Band First Nation, blamed individuals involved in the local drug trade for making the drug easily available to young people.

Internet

Tanzania to beat malaria in six years

DAR ES SALAAM, 26 March — The government of Tanzania has expressed high hope of rolling out malaria by 2015 after Monday's release of a new global map on the killer disease.

Local English broadsheet The Guardian on Thursday quoted Tanzanian Deputy Health Minister Aisha Kigoda as saying that Tanzania can kick out the disease now with more knowledge about it and its prevalence in the country.

Internet

US billionaire promises productive space trip

BAIKONUR, 26 March —The first time US billionaire Charles Simonyi peered out from the international space station he was awe-struck. He's vowing to be a little more productive on his second time trip.

The Hungarian-born software designer joined US flight engineer Michael Barratt and Russian commander Gen-nady Padalka for last-minute preparations on Wednesday as the three counted down the hours to blast

off from Russia's Baikonur cosmodrome.

On Thursday, the three men are scheduled to soar into the evening skies over northern Kazakh steppes on their way to the orbiting station, some 220 miles (350 kilometres) above the Earth.

Simonyi, who made his fortune developing software for Microsoft Corp, forked over \$35 million for the journey — a sharp increase from the \$25 million he paid for his first trip, two years ago.

The 60-year-old told reporters he is itching to relive the experience for many reasons, not the least of which is because he whittled away his first time in awe.

Peering out of the station is "like seeing the Earth in widescreen," he said.

He said this time around he plans on devoting more time to conducting radiation experiments as well as video conferencing with school children.—Internet



Iraqi kids sit outside their home in Hurriyah neighbourhood in Baghdad, Iraq, on 18 March, 2009. Eighteen months after the tide turned in Baghdad, only a small number of Iraqis who had been displaced by the sectarian violence of 2006 and 2007 are coming back to their homes. —INTERNET

SPORTS

Kahn and co point to lack of top-class keepers

BEDRLIN, 26 March – Germany does not currently have a world-class goalkeeper worthy of helping the national team win next year's World Cup, insists both ex-captain Oliver Kahn and national goalkeeping coach Andreas Koepke.

"We have very good goalkeepers in the Bundesliga, but from my point of view we have no absolute world-class goalkeepers at present," Koepke told Sport Bild on Wednesday ahead of Saturday's World Cup qualifier against Liechtenstein.

And Kahn — who led Germany to the 2002 World Cup final defeat against Brazil — said the national team is lacking consistency from any of the current crop of keepers. "This situation, which does not please me at all, is that all the current goalkeepers have all fallen into a rut and none of them have a high-level of consistency," said Kahn, who retired last May.—*Internet*



Germany does not currently have a world-class goalkeeper worthy of helping the national team win next year's World Cup, insists both ex-captain Oliver Kahn, and national goalkeeping coach Andreas Koepke.—*INTERNET*

Shilton tells Capello to give Foster his chance

LONDON, 26 March – Peter Shilton has urged Fabio Capello to hand Ben Foster the chance to prove he can be England's first-choice goalkeeper at next year's World Cup in South Africa.

Foster's status was bolstered by his match-winning performance for Manchester United in the League Cup final against Tottenham earlier this month, with his heroics earning him a call-up to Capello's squad for Saturday's friendly against Slovakia and Wednesday's qualifier against Ukraine.—*Internet*



Peter Shilton, seen here has urged Fabio Capello to hand Ben Foster the chance to prove he can be England's first-choice goalkeeper at next year's World Cup in South Africa.

INTERNET

Tennis wild card Hewitt rallies for win in Miami



Australia's Lleyton Hewitt, rallied from a first-set deficit to down Israeli lucky loser Dudi Sela 3-6, 6-4, 6-3 in the ATP Masters and WTA hardcourt tournament.—*INTERNET*

MIAMI, 26 March – Australia's Lleyton Hewitt rallied from a first-set deficit to down Israeli lucky loser Dudi Sela 3-6, 6-4, 6-3 in the ATP Masters and WTA hardcourt tournament here.

Hewitt, a former world number one who has fallen to 98 in the world as he battles to come back from left hip surgery, dropped his serve five times but capitalized on six of his own 11 break chances to notch the win in just under two hours.

Hewitt said the swirling winds made for a difficult match for both players.

"He's played matches in qualies, he was probably more acclimatized than I was," Hewitt said. "He mixes it up, and it's not easy out there in the wind. One minute you think it's coming straight down court, and then you get a couple of gusts from the side. It's tough to dictate play and tough to serve well."—*Internet*

Fresh-faced France turn to habitual hero Henry

PARIS, 26 March – Blighted by problems in the striking department prior to their World Cup qualifier in Lithuania on Saturday, France will once again be forced to look to the in-form Thierry Henry for inspiration.

Chelsea striker Nicolas Anelka was forced out of the squad with a toe injury on Monday and his departure leaves the 109-cap Barcelona forward as the only senior striker in



Blighted by problems in the striking department prior to their World Cup qualifier in Lithuania on Saturday, France will once again be forced to look to the in-form forward Thierry Henry, seen here during a training session.—*INTERNET*

Raymond Domenech's squad. Anelka was replaced by Paris St-Germain's uncapped frontman Guillaume Hoarau, who joins fellow novice Andre Pierre Gignac of Toulouse in a pool of forwards that makes 20-cap, 20-year-old Lyon striker Karim Benzema look like a veteran. Domenech has yet to reveal his tactics for the Lithuania clash, but that Henry will play a pivotal role is a certainty.—*Internet*

Internet

United will bounce back stronger: Fletcher

Luss, (Scotland), 26 March—Manchester United midfielder Darren Fletcher insists the English Premier League leaders will be desperate to prove their critics wrong when they return to domestic duty. The 25-year-old — who is currently ahead of World Cup qualifiers against Holland and Iceland — admits successive losses to Liverpool and Fulham have been hard to stomach.

United now only lead Liverpool by one point, although they have a game in hand, and cracks seem to be appearing in Sir Alex Ferguson's side, with Nemanja Vidic, Paul Scholes and Wayne Rooney having been red-carded in their last two matches. But Fletcher is confident they will get back to winning ways when they return from the international break against Aston Villa on 5 April.

He said: "We would have liked a match straight away to respond to a couple of difficult games. Hopefully it's just a setback but it's easy talking



Manchester United's Scottish midfielder Darren Fletcher.

INTERNET

about it, you have got to prove that on the pitch. We would have been desperate for another league game but unfortunately the international break has come along.

"But I'm sure Liverpool would have wanted the league campaign to continue so it's something we will just have to deal with it. It's easy saying it's only a blip, the hardest part is showing it's only a blip. We will all be desperate when we get back to prove that. And I'm sure we will get back to winning ways."—*Internet*

Internet

Riera warns Spanish teammates over Turkey

MADRID, 26 March – Liverpool's Albert Riera warned his Spanish teammates that Turkey, who face the Euro 2008 champions in a World Cup qualifying game on Saturday, are a "very aggressive" team which "plays as one."

"Turkey is a proud team, very patriotic," he said.



Liverpool's Albert Riera, warned his Spanish teammates that Turkey, who face the Euro 2008 champions in a World Cup qualifying game on Saturday, are a "very aggressive" team which "plays as one."—*INTERNET*

"They have a very aggressive game, hard... It's a team that plays as one," the midfielder said on Wednesday.

Valencia's Juan Mata, who replaces the injured Andres Iniesta in midfield, said Turkey - who reached the Euro 2008 semi-finals - is Spain's toughest opponent in the group.

Spain top their 2010 World Cup qualifying group, with four wins from four games, and have only conceded one goal in their last 10 matches.

Turkey are second in the group, which also includes Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Estonia and Armenia.—*Internet*



Visitors view flowers during a rhododendron festival held at the Humble Administrator's Garden in Suzhou, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 25 March, 2009.—XINHUA

Crunch year' for world's forests

LONDON, 26 March—Efforts to mitigate climate change could be hampered if nations do not agree to protect the world's forests by the end of the year, warn researchers.

Deforestation accounts for about 20% of the greenhouse gas emissions resulting from human activities, UN data shows.

The environmental charity will outline its concerns during a public lecture in central London on Thursday evening.

"This year is the crunch time for forests and climate change," Earthwatch's head of climate change research Dan Bebbler told *BBC News*.

"We are hoping for big things from the Copenhagen climate summit at the end of 2009," he added, referring to a much anticipated UN gathering.

"Unless we tackle the question of forests as a mitigation method for climate change, then we will really have lost the battle to keep greenhouse gas concentrations below levels that many people would consider to be dangerous."

Internet

MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (27.3.2009) (Friday)

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

Local Transmission

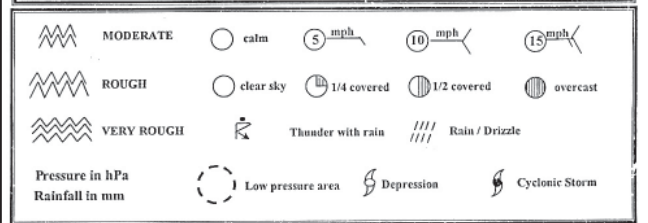
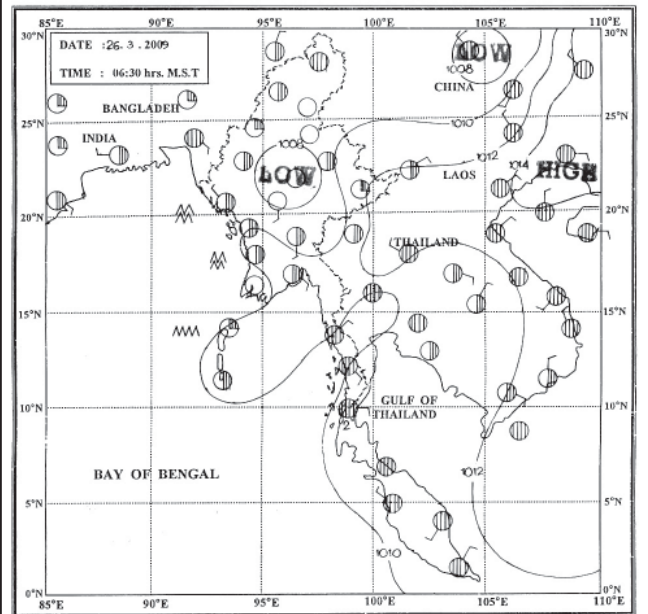
- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- * Bagan, Our Pride and Glory of the Past
- * The Exotic Land of Myanmar
- * Victories of the State, the People and the Tatmadaw (Main Programme)
- * Innovative Skills of Myanmar Handicrafts (Part-2)
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Europe/ North America Transmission

- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- * Innovative Skills of Myanmar Handicrafts (Part-1)
- * Pleasant Inkyin Park
- * Victories of the State, the People and the Tatmadaw (Rural and Border Areas Sector)
- * Around Bagan by Pony Cart (Ananda Temple)
- * Silk-ware from Amarapura
- * Encourage Rural Folks to use Biogas widely
- * Hukaung Valley Rattan Survey (Part-IV)
- * Thriving Prawn Farms of Myanma Coastal Region (Rakhine State)
- * Myanmar Modern Song
- * Bagan, Our Pride and Glory of the Past
- * The Exotic Land of Myanmar
- * Victories of the State, the People and the Tatmadaw (Main Programme)
- * Innovative Skills of Myanmar Handicrafts (Part-2)
- * Non-smoking Industry (Mandalay Zone)
- * Wonderful Tofu
- * Success of tea-growing call for concerted efforts
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Thursday, 26 March, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in Taninthayi Division, weather have been partly cloudy in Kachin and Northern Shan States, upper Sagaing and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above March average temperatures in Kachin and Shan States, Mandalay, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and about March average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures were Aungmyan (41°C), Nay Pyi Taw, Chauk and Thayawady (40°C) each. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Kouthoung (0.07) inch.

Maximum temperature on 25-3-2009 was 98°F. Minimum temperature on 26-3-2009 was 71°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 26-3-2009 was 79%. Total sunshine hours on 25-3-2009 was (9.6) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 26-3-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (Tr) at Mingaladon, (0.20) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.04) inch at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southeast at (09:30) hours MST on 25-3-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 27th March 2009: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States and 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 27-3-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 27-3-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 27-3-2009: Partly cloudy.



Friday, 27 March View on today

6:00 am

1. (၆၄) နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ စစ်ရေးပြအခမ်းအနားကျင်းပပုံ တိုက်ရိုက်ထုတ်လွှင့်မှုအစီအစဉ်

8:20 am

2. (၆၄) နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

8:50 am

3. International news

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:10 pm

2. Dance of national races

4:15 am

3. "စိုက်ပါ ဖျိုးပါ မြန်မာ့မြေလွှာ ဝင်ငွေလည်းရ ဝမ်းလည်းဝ"

4:25 pm

4. တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြု တေးသီချင်းပြိုင်ပွဲ ဆုရတေးများ

4:40 pm

5. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ (တတိယနှစ်) (စီးပွားရေးပညာ အထူးပြုများ) (စီးပွားရေးပညာ)

4:55 pm

6. Songs to uphold National Spirit

5:00 pm

7. "တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြု ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန နိုင်ငံတော်ဆိုင်းဘိုင်း ဖျော်ဖြေတင်ဆက်မှုအစီအစဉ်"

5:15 pm

8. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား

5:30 pm

9. "မီးမီးရဲ့ဆုံးဖြတ်ချက်" (နေအောင်၊ ထွန်းထွန်းဝင်း၊ မေသဉ္ဇာဦး၊ ပြည့်ဖူးခိုင်၊ ဇာဇာမင်းထက်) [ဒါရိုက်တာ-အောင်မိုး (ပဲရစ်)]

5:40 pm

10. Song of yesteryear

5:50 pm

11. (၆၄)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

6:00 pm

12. Evening news

6:30 pm

13. Weather report

6:35 pm

14. သုတစုံလင်ရွှေညွှန်ရှင်
15. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ကုန်သွယ်မှုနိဂုံး" (အပိုင်း-၆၂)

8:00 pm

16. News
17. International news
18. Weather report
19. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "မေတ္တာလမ်းဆုံ" (အပိုင်း-၁၁)

Prime Minister General Thein Sein receives Chinese goodwill delegation

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein received a Chinese goodwill delegation led by Mr. Li Changchun, Member of the Standing Committee of Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China at the hall of Government Office, here, this evening.

Also present at the call were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Electric Power No (1) Col Zaw Min, Minister for Electric Power (2) Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Director-General of State Peace and Development Council Office Col Kyaw Kyaw Win, Director-General of the Government Office Col Thant Shin, Director-General of Protocol Department U Kyaw Kyaw, Director-General U Min Lwin of Consular and Legal

Affairs Department and Director-General U Kyaw Tin of Political Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Member of the Standing Committee of Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China Mr. Li Changchun was accompanied by delegation members and Chinese Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr. Ye Dabo.—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein shakes hands with H.E Mr. Li Changchun, member of the Standing Committee of Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China at the hall of Government Office in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA



Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo welcomes Chinese goodwill delegation



Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo welcomes H.E Mr. Li Changchun, member of the Standing Committee of Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China at Nay Pyi Taw Airport.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—At the invitation of Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, a goodwill delegation led by H.E Mr. Li Changchun, member of the Standing Committee of Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, together with Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Ye Dabo arrived in Nay Pyi Taw by

special aircraft at 9.15 a.m. today.

They were welcomed at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for

Electric Power No (1) Col Zaw Min, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, Director-General Col Kyaw Kyaw Win of SPDC Office and officials.

MNA



As a gesture of hailing the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, a modern Planetarium is opened in Nay Pyi Taw.

MNA

**Modern planetarium,
a feather in the cap
of Myanmar
Planetarium
(Nay Pyi Taw)
launched for public
knowledge**

(News on page 8)