

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

Myanmar striving to keep pace with changes and developments and stand tall among the global nations

Central Committee for Preservation of Myanmar Cultural Heritage meets



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein addresses meeting 1/2007 of Central Committee for Preservation of Myanmar Cultural Heritage. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 9 March—Chairman of Central Committee for Preservation of Myanmar Cultural Heritage Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein this afternoon attended the meeting 1/2007 of the Central Committee held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Culture here and made a speech on the occasion.

The meeting was attended by members of Central Committee for Preservation of Myanmar Cultural Heritage ministers, the director-general of the State Peace and Development Council Office, the director-general of the Prime Minis-

ter's Office, directors-general of departments, officials and others.

In his address, Chairman of the Central Committee Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said that two of the four social objectives are uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character, and uplift of dynamism of patriotic

spirit. The two social objectives cover the characteristics of uplift, preservation, safeguarding and dynamism. Now is the time when the world is experiencing rapid development in science and technology in the process of globalization. At such a time, all are to preserve and safeguard their own culture and heritage from falling into degeneration.

At present, each

and every nation in the world is trying its utmost in political, economic and social spheres to serve its own national interest. Like others, the Union of Myanmar is striving in order to keep pace with changes and developments and stand tall among the global nations. In the meantime, it has been endeavouring for perpetuation of the Union, the heritage of ances-

tors. Based on nationalistic spirit, efforts are being made for the nation to keep abreast of countries of the world as an independent and sovereign one.

To be patriotic, one needs to know the historical trends of his own

nation and race. The primate fossils found in Pondaung-Ponnya Region stand witness that Myanmar are the origin of mankind which have been in existence for 40 million years.

(See page 8)

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INSIDE

The government knows what is happening in the nation. Despite the sanctions imposed by some Western nations and financial organizations, the government has been striving to serve the interest of the nation and people to the best of its ability.

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NGAR MIN SWE

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 10 March, 2007

Improving socio-economic life of rural people

The government is building village-to-village roads, village-to-town roads and bridges large and small to bring about better transport in rural areas.

Padaungpaing (Myopya Road) and Thayagon-Padaukpin gravel road in Kangyidaunt, Inma tarred road, Inma-Intakaw-Khayekan gravel road and Inma-Thayettaw road section in Nyaungdon Township were opened in February 2007.

No 2 District-to-District Earth Road linking Seikphyutaung Village and Bomathandaung Village in Pynmana Township is being upgraded to a 30 feet wide facility. As the road is a vital link between Patheingyi and Mottama in Mon State, crossing Kyaukse, Myittha, Wundwin, Yamethin, Tatkon, Pynmana, Lewe, Yedashe and Taungoo in Bago Division, it contributes a great deal to regional as well as national development.

In some regions there are model villages fully equipped with new tarred roads, affiliated high schools, rural health care centres, libraries and generators reflecting rural development.

Tawlati Model Village in Taikkyi Township, Yangon North District was put into commission on 8 March. The village was facilitated with a self-reliant library, a pre-primary school of the Village Maternal and Child Welfare Association and a station hospital. On the opening day, donors contributed K 2.3 million towards the funds of the hospital.

As the State, local authorities and donors are making concerted efforts for better transport and supply of clean water in rural areas including the needs of education, health and economy, they will develop along with the improvement of the socio-economic life of local people.

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်မသုံးစွဲရနေ

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Peoples' 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

International Conference of Theravada Buddhist Universities commences Chancellors, rectors and faculty members of 22 Theravada Buddhist Universities, Colleges of 13 countries participate in conference



Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung reads out greetings message at ceremony to open the International Conference of Theravada Buddhist Universities.—MNA

YANGON, 9 March — A ceremony to open the International Conference of Theravada Buddhist Universities, jointly organized by the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Sitagu International Buddhist Academy, was held at ITBMU in Mayangon Township this morning.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Magway Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Kumara and member Sayadaws, Chancellor of Sitagu International Buddhist Academy Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Dr Ñanissara, Rector of ITBMU Bhaddanta Dr Nandamalabhivamsa, chancellors and vice chancellors, rectors and pro-rectors, principals, faculty members and expert Sayadaws from 22 Buddhist Universities and Colleges in Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam and the US, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Director-General Dr Myo Myint of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana, Pro-Rector (Admin) Dr Myint Kyi of ITBMU, diplomats and officials of the foreign embassies, departmental officials of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, Buddhism researchers and experts from abroad, faculty members and students of ITBMU.

Professor of ITBMU Bhaddanta Dr Dhammassami acted as MC.

Chairman of SSMNC Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara delivered an Sammodaniya Sandesakatha.

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung read out a greetings message.

Chancellor of Sitagu International Buddhist Academy Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Dr Ñanissara delivered a keynote speech.

Rector Ven Phra Theppariyattiwimol of

Mahamakut Buddhist University and Rector Ven Prof Dr Phra Dharmakosajarn of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University of Bangkok in Thailand extended greetings.

After the opening ceremony, the Chairman Sayadaw of SSMNC together with the chancellors and vice-chancellors, rectors and expert Sayadaws from 22 Buddhist universities and colleges in 13 countries and Buddhism researchers from abroad posed for documentary photos.

Members of the Sangha attending the conference are from University of Chittagong of Bangladesh, Preach Sihamuni Raja Buddhist University and Preach Sihanouk Raja Buddhist University of Cambodia, Delhi University and Nalanda University of India, International Buddhist College Songkhala of Thailand, Mahachulalongkorn University and Mahamakut Buddhist University of Bangkok of Thailand, Tribhuvan University of Nepal, Buddhist & Pali College of Singapore and Burmese Buddhist Temple of Singapore, the Light of Buddhadharma Foundation of Los Angeles of the US, Vietnam Theravada Buddhist College, Buddhist & Pali University and Buddhasarvaka Bhikkhu University of Sri Lanka, Ketarjasa Buddhist College, Bodhidharma Buddhist College, Nalanda Buddhist College, Syailendra Buddhist College and Smaratungga Buddhist College and Finarakkhita Buddhist College of Indonesia, Samgha College of Lao PDR, and ITBMU, State Pariyatti Sasana University and Sitagu International Buddhist Academy of Myanmar.

The conference continues its agenda at Mount Popa Hotel in Magway Division on 10 and 11 March. Members of the Sangha will exchange views on practice and experiences of Theravada Buddhism, set up an organization of Theravada Buddhist Universities and sign MoUs on sharing and exchange of technologies, instructors and trainees in the conference.

MNA

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Vietnam regrets about US Human Rights Report

HANOI, 8 March — Vietnam regrets that the 2006 US State Department Report on Human Rights still has biased remarks on Vietnam's situation, a local spokesman said on Wednesday.

"It's our state consistent policy to promote and protect human rights, considering it an important element for sustainable development toward the goal of building a strong country with wealthy people in an equal, democratic and civilized society," Ministry of Foreign Affairs' spokesman Le Dung said while answering questions on Vietnam's reaction to the report.

Vietnam has also done its utmost to ensure the implementation of human rights through building and improving the legal system, undertaking concrete measures for economic, social and cultural development, he said, adding that the country has gained many significant achievements in improving the exercise and facilitation of its citizen's

rights and freedoms in all fields.

However, as in other countries in the world, the dissemination of information which violates moral principles, fine traditional values and customs and other laws is not allowed in Vietnam, Dung noted.

Given differences in political regime, development level, cultural values and historical background, various countries, inevitably hold different viewpoints and approaches to human rights, he said.

"In our opinion, the two sides should intensify contacts and dialogues to promote mutual understanding in the interest of the people of the two countries," the spokesman said.

MNA/Xinhua

Crash probe says front wheels snapped

YOGYAKARTA (Indonesia), 8 March — The front wheels snapped off an Indonesian jetliner as it crash-landed and skidded into a rice field where it burst into flames, investigators said as they probed Indonesia's second deadly plane crash this year.

Teams of forensic doctors struggled Thursday to identify the more than 20 people killed, most burned beyond recognition by the fire that tore through the Garuda Airlines Boeing 737-400.

"In everyday language, parts of their bodies turned into charcoal," police doctor Col Slamet Pornomo said, adding that jewelry and even some teeth had melted.

"The regulations are good, but the problem is in implementing them," said aviation analyst Dudi Sudibyo.

Nearly 120 people survived Wednesday's crash at Yogyakarta's international airport, jumping through emergency exits flames and smoke filled the cabin.

Survivors said the plane seemed to be going too fast as it approached the runway after a 50-minute journey from the capital, Jakarta.

Top investigator Mardjono Siswo Suwarno said that the plane's front wheels snapped off as it landed, and that fire spread from punctured fuel tanks in the right wing.

"We are trying to find out why the wheel broke," he told The Associated Press.

Authorities said there was no indication of sabotage or a mid-air explosion.

Internet



This photo provided on 3 March, 2007 by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History shows Dr Michael J Ryan with the holotype skull of the new horned dinosaur, *Albertaceratops nesmoi* at an unidentified location. Ryan, curator of vertebrate paleontology for the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, published his discovery in the March 2007 *Journal of Paleontology*. — XINHUA

The tale of Harry Potter and the super wealthy

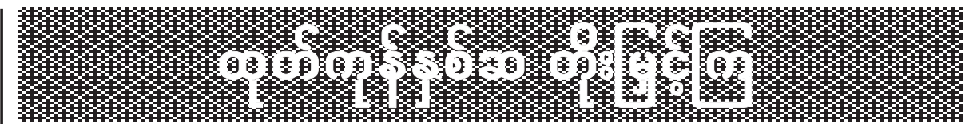
LONDON, 9 March—JK Rowling, the author of the Harry Potter series, has gained entry to the billionaires' club, becoming the only British woman in the Forbes 2007 list. Her books about the teenage wizard and the spin-off films have conjured up an estimated \$1 billion (£516.8 million) for the writer.

The Forbes 2007 list reveals that the number of

billionaires in the world has risen to nearly 1,000 - with 29 Britons now making it into the ultra-rich club.

It also revealed that the net worth of the 946 men and women who fall into the dollar billionaire camp is around \$3.5 trillion (£1.82 trillion), up \$900 billion (£467 billion) on the previous year, when only 793 names figured.

Bill Gates spends his



A Fujifilm representative uses IRsimple technology to wirelessly transfer a photo from one camera to another during a preview for the Photo Marketing Association International (PMAI) convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, on 7 March, 2007. The IR (infrared) system can also be used to send a photo to a IRsimple printer. —INTERNET

Los Angeles experiences driest rain season

LOS ANGELES, 9 March — Los Angeles has experienced the driest rain season until now since record-keeping began in 1877, the National Weather Service (NWS) said on Wednesday.

Downtown Los Angeles has received only 2.42 inches (61.468 mm) of rain since the season began July 1, the NWS said in a statement.

That's a "whopping" 9.13 inches below the normal level, which is 11.55 inches, or 21 per cent of what is customary, said the statement.

The previous driest July 1-March 6 period, when 4.02 inches of rain was recorded in downtown Los Angeles, came during the 2001-02 rainy season.

If downtown receives less than 2 inches of rain between now and June 30, when the rainy season ends, it will have been the area's driest season ever, according to the NWS. — MNA/Xinhua



Visitors take pictures of blooming cherry trees in Shinjuku park in Tokyo on 7 March, 2007. —INTERNET



President Mikheil Saakashvili of Georgia (L) meets Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (R) at the premier's official residence in Tokyo on 8 March, 2007. Saakashvili is on a five-day working visit to Japan.— INTERNET

စတီရှင်အား ခေတ်ကျဉ်း

Beijing holds reception to celebrate Int'l Women's Day

BEIJING, 8 March — Some 1,500 people gathered at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Tuesday to celebrate the 97th anniversary of International Women's Day.

Addressing the reception, Gu Xiulian, president of the All-China Women's

Federation, said the past year was the first year of China's 11th Five-Year Programme as well as a year that witnessed further developments in the cause of Chinese women.

According to the mid-term evaluation of the Programme for the Development of Chinese Women (2001-2010), considerable progress has been achieved in women's participation in politics, economy, and women's education, health and legal protection.

"Job opportunities for women were increased and women's legal rights and interests were effectively protected," she added. Gu, also vice-chairwoman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC),

said the year 2007 is an important year for Chinese people to fully implement the scientific outlook on development and to accelerate the building of a socialist harmonious society.

"The Chinese women are ready to join hands and work together with women of other countries for women's advancement and development, for the strengthening of mutual understanding, trust and cooperation of peoples around the world," Gu said.

Senior Chinese officials including Vice-Chairman Wang Zhaoguo of the NPC standing committee and Vice Premier Wu Yi also attended the reception.

MNA/Xinhua

Fraud costs Britain 13.9 bln pounds a year

LONDON, 8 March — Fraud costs Britain a minimum of 13.9 billion pounds a year, and the figure could be as high as 20 billion, according to a report on Wednesday.

Commissioned by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), the report recommended the setting up of a National Fraud Reporting Centre to encourage victims of fraud to come forward — something they are often reluctant to do.

"Once the average Briton dreaded being burgled or having their car broken into, now they're worried about identity fraud, mass marketing scams and other forms of

financial crime," said ACPO's spokesman on economic crime Mike Bowron. Analysing data from global and national surveys, the report was compiled by Morgan Harris Burrows LLP together with Professor Michael Levi of Cardiff

University and took a year to produce. "Professor Levi and his team have conservatively estimated that in 2005 fraud cost the UK 13.9 billion pounds," said Bowron, who is also commissioner of the City of London police.

"But this figure excludes

some major areas of criminality, such as income tax and EU fraud, where statistics are simply not available. "Adding those estimates into the mix, it's likely fraud represents a 20-billion-pound annual loss to the UK."—MNA/Reuters

Britain names MI5 veteran as new spy boss

LONDON, 8 March — Britain on Wednesday named veteran counter-terrorism officer Jonathan Evans to take charge of domestic spy agency MI5, as it grapples with what authorities call a severe

and unparalleled terrorist threat.

Evans, previously number two at MI5, will take over on 8 April from Eliza Manningham-Buller, who announced late last year that she was stepping down.

The 49-year-old classics graduate had been hot favourite to succeed her. He faces what officials consistently describe as a daunting, and growing, array of threats.

Britain suffered Western Europe's first Islamist suicide bombings on 7 July, 2005 when four young British Muslims blew themselves up on London underground trains and a bus, killing 52 people.

Since then, authorities say they have prevented half a dozen Islamist attacks, the most recent in January when police foiled an alleged plot to kidnap and kill a British Muslim soldier.

Security sources say their main focus now is on "homegrown" militants, mainly British nationals.

A series of recent investigations, including the 7 July probe, have highlighted connections between British Muslims and foreign-based radicals, particularly in Pakistan.

MI5 rates the terrorist threat to Britain as "severe", the second highest level on a five-point warning scale introduced last year, meaning that an attack is "highly likely". London's police chief has called the current threat "unparalleled".

MNA/Reuters

Turkish plane makes forced landing due to false bomb alarm

ANKARA, 8 March — A Turkish *Atlas* jet plane en route to Istanbul made a forced landing in southern Turkey on Tuesday due to a false bomb alarm, the semi-official *Anatolia* news agency reported.

The report said that the plane, taking off from the Ercan Airport in Northern Cyprus at 18:50 (1650 GMT), made the forced landing at Antalya Airport in southern Turkey after officials in Istanbul received a phone call claiming there is a bomb on the plane.

Search operation was carried out after the plane landed, but there was no sign of bomb on the plane, it said. — MNA/Xinhua

Musicians play classical Chinese music at China Xi'an (International) Travel Fair 2007 in West China's Shaanxi Province on 7 March. China Xi'an (International) Travel Fair 2007 opens in the capital city of Shaanxi on 7 March, 2007.

XINHUA



Members of the Military Policeman Corps of South Korea's Capital Defence Command rappel from a helicopter during an exercise in Seoul on 8 March, 2007. — INTERNET



ECONOMIC NEWS

Malaysia says will not sell out to US in trade talks

KUALA LUMPUR, 8 March—Malaysia declared on Wednesday it would not sell out its national interests in free-trade talks with the United States, laying the foundation for a face-saving exit from the negotiations.

Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said after an extended Cabinet debate on the faltering talks that he would not surrender to Washington on issues of national interest. “The government fully understands the thinking and concerns of the people on

this matter. I would like to assure that the nation’s interest will always be safeguarded and would not be sacrificed in any way,” he told state news agency *Bernama*.

Abdullah’s remarks match previous Malaysian statements on the talks with its largest trading partner, but there is some pessimism inside government circles that Malaysia can conclude a deal that is politically palatable to both countries. The Malaysian Cabinet met on Wednesday to review

the progress of the talks, during which Washington has pressed Malaysia to open up government contracts to US firms — a request that trespasses on politically sensitive affirmative-action policies.

These policies — which ensure that a certain amount of state contracts are handed out to majority ethnic Malays — are a political sacred cow but are unpopular with foreign investors who say they have bred cronyism and inefficiency.

MNA/Reuters



Many fishing boats stay in the Liangang Harbor in Lianyungang, a port city in east China’s Jiangsu Province on 5 March, 2007 as huge storm tides pounded the port. — INTERNET

Russia to cancel remaining \$160m Ethiopia debt

ADDIS ABABA, 8 March—Russia will write off the remaining 160-

million-US-dollar debt owed to it by Ethiopia, Moscow’s ambassador to

Addis Ababa said on Wednesday.

In 2005, Russia cancelled just over 1.1 billion US dollars owed to it by the Horn of Africa country, which was ruled from 1974 to 1991 by former Marxist leader Mengistu Haile Mariam and his Soviet-backed regime.

“Ethiopian and Russian officials have conducted discussions, and have agreed on how best to cancel the remaining 160-million-US-dollar debt which Ethiopia owed to the former Soviet Union,” Russian envoy Michael Afanasiev told reporters in the Ethiopian capital.

MNA/Reuters

Brazil calls on Japan to reduce agricultural tariffs

BRASILIA, 8 March—Japan should reduce agricultural protectionism to boost trade with Brazil, Luiz Fernando Furlan, Minister of Foreign Trade, Industry and Development, said on Tuesday.

The important change would mean that Japan would have more than just a “defensive vision of the domestic market”, Furlan said at a meeting on Brazil-Japan economic cooperation in the Brazilian city of Sao Paulo.

He said Japan was one of the coalition of protectionist nations that prevented agreement in the Doha Round of World Trade Organization talks, which deadlocked in mid-2006 as developed nations insisted on continuing to subsidize their farmers.

“The best path for increasing the flow of trade and investment between Brazil and Japan is to promote closer relations between the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR) and the Asian nation,” Furlan said. — MNA/Xinhua



Competitors in the Stiletto Run race over 350 metres in PC Hooftstraat in Amsterdam on 8 March, 2007. The winner receives a monetary reward of 10,000 euro from the organizers, a glossy magazine. — XINHUA

Elizabeth Hurley wears her wedding dress in a sketch provided by Italian design house Versace on 7 March, 2007. Hurley wore a low-cut, full-length white dress with an ocean of ruffles for the skirt when she married Indian businessman Arun Nayar on Saturday, according to a sketch from designer Versace. — XINHUA



Beijing, Shanghai, Mumbai to join world wealth league

LONDON, 8 March—Big cities like Beijing, Shanghai and Mumbai from such fast developing emerging markets like China and India will join the world rich city list by 2020, according to PricewaterhouseCoopers prediction on Wednesday.

The report predicts that by 2020 there will be five megacities with populations in excess of 20 million: Mumbai, Mexico City, Sao Paulo, New York and Tokyo, which will contain more than 35 million people. PwC said the world’s megacities are comparable in size to fully fledged national economies. Tokyo and New York currently both have GDPs in excess of 1.1 trillion US dollars — making them as big as Canada and Spain, the EU’s fifth biggest economy.

The prediction said that the capitals

of “old Europe” such as Vienna, Rome and Berlin, are likely to slide down the GDP rankings, but will benefit from revenues from tourists from cities in the emerging economies.

The richest city in the world by per capita income adjusted for variations in the cost of living around the world is San Francisco-Oakland at 71,400 US dollars. The next 10 wealthiest cities by average income are all American, with London the first non-US city on the list in 12th place. London currently has a GDP per capita of 53,200 US dollars.

Although London is expected to grow briskly over the next decade and a half, its rate of expansion is expected to be only half as fast as that in Shanghai (6.5 per cent) or Mumbai (6 per cent).

MNA/Xinhua

Iran says attack will not destroy atomic know-how

TEHERAN, 8 March — The head of the Iranian nuclear programme said any attack on the country's atomic facilities would not extinguish the knowledge gained by young Iranian scientists, Iran's ISNA news agency reported. It also quoted Gholamreza Aghazadeh, the Iran's Atomic Energy Organization chief, as saying Iran had produced

270 tons of uranium hexafluoride (UF6) gas feedstock for the enrichment process, 20 tons more than previously announced. The United States has accused Iran of seeking to master uranium enrichment technology so it can build bombs, a charge Iran denies saying it wants to make fuel for power plants. Washington insists it

wants diplomacy to end the standoff but has not ruled out military action if that fails. "Now even if we imagine that they (the enemies) attack our facilities, the science of this technology is now in our young peoples' brains. They cannot do anything in our young peoples' brains," Aghazadeh said.

He said Iran now had a "few thousand nuclear experts". "Even if they attack our facilities a chance would be provided for us to build our power plants more carefully and take more action to protect our power plants," he added. Iran is assembling new centrifuges to enrich uranium at an underground section of its Natanz site in the centre of the country.

It now operates about 350 centrifuges above ground at the site, which is surrounded by anti-aircraft guns. "In the past 1-1/2 years, we have produced about 270 tons of UF6," Aghazadeh said.



Maria Sharapova waves to the crowd as she's introduced for an exhibition tennis match during the Duel in the Desert to benefit the National Junior Tennis League and Save Doubles non-profit charity organization in La Quinta, California on 6 March, 2007. — XINHUA

Quake in western Iran injures 35

TEHERAN, 8 March — An earthquake measuring 4.8 on the Richter Scale hit an area in western Iran on Wednesday, injuring 35 people, the official news agency IRNA reported. The quake struck near the town of Doroud in Lorestan Province, said IRNA. It said some of the

injuries were light. "While fleeing during the earthquake and because of windows shattering, some people's bones were broken and some were slightly injured," Doroud Governor Nasrollah Res-hnou

was quoted as saying. He said the walls of some houses and shops in Doroud were damaged. IRNA said some people had set up tents to shelter in.

MNA/Reuters

Investigators of the National Commission on Transportation Safety carry a box containing the black box of the Garuda Indonesia's Boeing 737-400 jet that burst into flames after a hard landing, in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.
INTERNET



Mrs World 2007 contestants perform during the final of the contest in Russia's Black Sea resort of Sochi on 8 March, 2007. —INTERNET

Italian journalist missing in Afghanistan

ROME, 8 March — Italian newspaper La Repubblica said on Tuesday it had not been able to contact its journalist in Afghanistan since Sunday and had alerted the Foreign Ministry in Rome. The Taliban said earlier on Tuesday they had kidnapped a British journalist and two Afghans in the southern province of Helmand, giving no further details. La Repubblica said on its website that its journalist, Daniele Mastrogiacomo, was in the nearby area of Kandahar when the newspaper last spoke to him. Italian Foreign Minister Massimo D'Alema is personally following developments, his ministry said in a statement. — MNA/Reuters



Wired Iraqi man triggers scare at LA Airport

LOS ANGELES, 8 March — An Iraqi national wearing wires and concealing a magnet inside his rectum triggered a security scare at Los Angeles International Airport on Tuesday but officials said he posed no apparent threat. The man, identified by law enforcement officials as Fadhel al-Maliki, 35, set off an alarm during passenger screening at the airport early on Tuesday morning. A police bomb squad was called to examine what was deemed a suspicious item found during a body cavity search of the man. Local media reports said a magnet was found in his rectum. "He was secreting these items in a body cavity and that was a great concern because there were also some electric wires associated with that body cavity," Larry Fetters, security director for the Transportation Security Administration at the airport, told reporters. Maliki, 35, who lives in Atlantic City, New Jersey, was preparing to board a US Airways flight from Los Angeles to Philadelphia. The flight left without Maliki but with his luggage aboard.

MNA/Reuters

British animal rights activists jailed

LONDON, 8 March — Three British animal rights activist were jailed on Tuesday for a total of more than seven years for their part in a campaign of intimidation to stop companies dealing with a firm conducting animal experiments. Mark Taylor drove protesters around the country to companies which either supplied or dealt with Huntingdon Life Sciences, a company that conducts tens of thousands of tests on animals per year. During three months over the summer of 2005, workers were terrified as animal rights protesters, led by Taylor, invaded their offices shouting "murderers" and other insults, London's Old Bailey criminal court heard. Taylor, 39, his wife Suzanne, 34, both of Wakefield, West Yorkshire, and Teresa Portwine, 47, of New Addington, Surrey, all members of the Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty campaign, had pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy to interfere with a contractual relationship. The activists caused thousands of pounds worth of damage in their campaign to put Huntingdon Life Sciences out of business.

MNA/Reuters

Want commodity prices to come down, enjoy regular power supply?

Ngar Min Swe

A small demonstration took place on Maha Bandoola Street near Theingyi Market in Yangon on 22 February this year with calls to bring down commodity prices. Some foreign radio stations broadcast the news about it in detail. Their news programmes were followed by interviews with some politicians. And when the authorities called in Min Ko Naing for questioning, those radio stations also exaggerated the matter. As I was tired of hearing their voices, I had to write an article "From '75' Nga Min Swe to '88' Min Ko Naing".

RFA aired the small demonstration in its Sunday Talk programme on 25 February. In the programme, I heard a person, who called himself a nationalist, saying that because of flatterer media persons, a king in nature's garb thinking himself dressed toured the country naked. By saying so he disgraced and insulted the nation and the race with a cheap talk.

The country was hit hard by the internal strife that broke out soon after the regaining of independence, the wrong economic policy of Burma Socialist Programme Party and the ill effects of the four 8s unrest. The Tatmadaw government had to rebuild the nation together with the people through much hardship. During the time, a high level official of the State visited Nyaungdon Township, where my fish farm was located, unexpectedly to know the real situation. (Commanders of the military commands toured the areas under their command, met with grassroots and studied the regional situation.) Once, two ministers sailed on board a powered boat in the rough waters to pay a working visit to an island in the Bay of Bengal and held discussions. What I want to say here is that State-level officials are touring down to the grassroots to fulfill the requirements.

The government knows what is happening in the nation. Despite the sanctions imposed by some Western nations and financial organizations, the government has been striving to serve the interest of the nation and people to the best of its ability. The so-called nationalist should not brand me a government fawner for my such remarks. Frankly, I am close to the government, but I have never asked any privilege from the government. I have not a telephone yet. I value the rights of citizens and civil rights. There are many other people like me in Myanmar. Hence, I would like to demand the so-called nationalist to withdraw his words insulting the nation and the race from the RFA again as a gentleman.

About 30 persons staged a protest with calls for bringing down commodity prices and ensuring a running power supply. But their demonstration will not bring down prices nor ensure regular power supply. A widespread unrest will hit production and transport sectors hard, followed by rising commodity prices. The situation may worsen to the level of occurring starvation

The government is paying attention to extending rice and other crops cultivation. Now the nation's gross sown acreage has reached 29 million acres. It has built nearly 200 new dams and about 300 river water pumping stations to irrigate the lands of crops all year round, and is distributing more and more chemical fertilizers and farm equipment to peasants.

among the ordinary people. Politicians who like to see the nation in an abject misery will be happy if the nation reaches the said level.

At present, the nation is making all-out efforts to adopt a new constitution for the emergence of a new nation. In this regard, stability of the State is of vital importance. In our tradition, parents and the community have to give special care to a novice-to-be. Likewise, we too will have to safeguard our nation the way the parents and the community do.

Myanmar people including myself wish to see commodity prices falling and gross domestic product and per capita income rising. We will have to boost production to reach this end. Rice is the staple food of Myanmar. Myanmar's per capita rice consumption is three times that of China, Thailand and Malaysia. Hence, total rice consumption of the over 50 million people of Myanmar is equal to that of 150 million people of other countries. Hence, boosting rice production is Myanmar's first priority. We will have to increase per acre yield and reclaim more vacant, fallow and virgin lands for extensive rice cultivation.

The government is paying attention to extending rice and other crops cultivation. Now the nation's gross sown acreage has reached 29 million acres. It has built nearly 200 new dams and about 300 river water pumping stations to irrigate the lands of crops all year round, and is distributing more and more chemical fertilizers and farm equipment to peasants.

The government is also allotting large stretches of vacant, virgin and fallow lands to entrepreneurs who will actually grow crops. In addition, it is providing machinery, assistance and technology for land reclamation and enough fertilizers for cultivation. As the government and the entrepreneurs are going to cultivate more paddy, rice production will increase leading to stabilizing and bringing down the price of the nation's main food in the future also.

It is heartening to note that the Head of State is now making inspection tours of the hydropower projects at every opportunity. It will take three to four more years to complete ongoing giant hydel electric power projects.

Now, adequate supply of electricity has not covered the entire nation yet, so people should pay a careful attention to efficient use of electricity. An air-conditioner consumes 1,100 to 2,000 kilowatts, equivalent to electricity consumption of 40 to 50 four-foot florescent lamps. If the use of air-conditioners is banned in residences and offices, wards can consume more electricity. I like coolness, and I use an air-conditioner too. Priority should be given to the convenience of houses and students to study in this regard. So, houses and offices should no longer use air-conditioners. Those ward dwellers using air-conditioners should be liable to fines. If so, houses in the wards will be able to enjoy more electricity supply.

We people should do our bit in the drive for reduction of commodity prices and boosting commodity production. In the process, we should focus on extensive cultivation of paddy, edible oil crops, beans and pulses, chilli, onion and garlic on the vacant and fallow lands. And we should breed fish and produce salt on the lands where crop cultivation is not available. Today, a large number of Myanmar people are wasting invaluable time, doing nothing special

the whole day, such as talking at tea shops, keeping themselves busy for illegal two- and three-digit lotteries, visiting certain persons who they think to be able to foretell the winning numbers of these games. Some opportunists are always thinking of approaching authorized persons or joining specific social organizations in their circle to seek favours and opportunities. Myanmar will never boost its production of commodities so long as many of the people are indulging themselves with gambling and seeking self-interests. If so, the commodity prices will not fall.

Beside my fish breeding pond in Thaton are two paddy fields, which are of equal ground level with same quality of soil. The farmer of the first field has a taste of gambling on two- and three-digit lotteries, while the farmer of the other field does not take any interest in such games and is punctual in nurturing his paddy field. They grew same species of paddy. Both did not utilize fertilizers. When they harvested their crop, the first farmer got per acre yield of 25 baskets of paddy, whereas the other got per acre yield of 35 baskets.

Like manner, some agricultural staff still have weaknesses in making field trips to supervise tasks and reporting on data and figures.

Local authorities, departmental personnel, national entrepreneurs and farmers on their part are to extend a helpful hand to the tasks being implemented by the government for ensuring all-round development of the agricultural sector. The tasks include reclamation of virgin and fallow lands, adequate supply of irrigation water, extensive utilization of farm machinery and implements, use of high-yield crop strains and advanced agricultural methods and distribution of more fertilizers. Here, a notable point is that weaknesses of a specific side can harm the whole process to a certain degree.

Gambling on the two- and three-digit lotteries has adverse effects on the State's commodity production and services. So, those citizens who want to see commodity prices coming down and the nation enjoying development have to give up such illegal practices. And all are duty-bound to prevent such gambling with a national outlook. The government should give talks on evil consequences of gambling on two- and three-digit lotteries on an effective and wider scale in a fixed period. When the educative period is over, punitive action should be taken against wholesales stakeholders, sub-bookmakers and retail bookmakers and those who take bribes from the former.

I would like to urge certain persons from the National League for Democracy who are exaggerating the demonstration for bringing down consumer prices in collusion with certain foreign radio stations, members of "88" generation students group and certain persons in disguise of nationalists to dissuade the people from gambling on two- and three-digit lotteries. I would like to make a positive suggestion that if they really want to see price falls in the nation, they should participate in reclamation of virgin and vacant lands and to grow paddy on them. And if persons from the NLD, members of "88" generation students group and those in disguise of national politicians carry out agricultural tasks in the paddy fields, we people will give them our strong support.

Translation: TMT+MS

Myanma Alin, Kyemon: 9-3-2007



Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint explains measures taken for preservation of Myanma cultural heritage.

MNA

Myanmar striving to keep pace with changes and ...

(from page 1)

The fact has been recognized by experts of the world. Therefore, there has been a firm evidence that Myanmars have been living in the nation since yore. And utensils used by

Myanmars in successive eras were unearthed. This being so, for Myanmar people the fact is something to be proud of.

The preservation of cultural heritage amounts to uplift of na-

tional prestige and integrity, thereby contributing to perpetuation of the Union.

These days, there are incidents that alien culture is infiltrating into developing countries through undeclared wars. This proved to be a serious threat to developing nations. It is obvious that aliens are fabricating Myanma history with every intention of sowing discord and dissension among national brethren.

Actually, national brethren have been living in the Union through thick and thin for years countable by the thousand. Although they are different in mode of dress and dialects according to geographical condition, they are identical in loyalty, integrity, hospitality and generosity.

Research work is very crucial for the Myanmar national races and so is national cultural

heritage. Therefore, the State Law and Order Restoration Council formed the Central Committee for the Preservation of Myanma Cultural Heritage on 25 June 1993.

To keep pace with the developments of the State, the State Peace and Development Council reconstituted the Central Committee on 26-9-2006 with Order No (44/2006). The committee on its part is carrying out preservation work for maintaining the existing edifices, pagodas and stupas. It is also trying to maintain the antiques and explore more archaeological sites. The committee is doing its utmost for Myanmar culture to win the respect of the world. In doing so, the people are to value Myanmar culture and cultural heritage as a national task.

Next, Minister for

Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint explained measures being taken for preservation of Myanma cultural heritage.

After that, Director-General of Archaeology and National Museum and Library Department of U San Win reported on forming of the Central Committee, demarcation of zone boundary in 1998 under the Myanma Cultural Heritage Preservation Law, excavation of primate fossils, researches on bronze age, preservation of artifacts, rebuilding of Bagan Shwe Nan Daw (palace), renovation of ancient pagodas and stupas in Bagan Archaeological Zone, emergency measures against degeneration of cultural heritage due to elements and collection of museum entrance fees and zone fees.

Later, Deputy Director-General of Fine

Arts Department Daw Nanda Hmoon reported on holding of Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions, arrangements for conferring movie and drama degrees at University of Culture, Director-General of Historical Research Department Dr Ba Maung on works of the department to Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein who attended to the needs.

After hearing the reports, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein stressed the need for officials concerned to strive for uplift and preservation of cultural heritage as they are priceless, and made concluding remarks.

After the meeting, the Secretary-1 and party viewed documentary photos on preservation of cultural heritage displayed at the office of the Ministry of Culture.—MNA

Measures taken as to death of birds in Yangon Division

YANGON, 9 March — The death of 234 crows, pigeons, sparrows, quails and owls was found in townships of Yangon Division from 27 February to date.

The LBVD came to the conclusion that the death of birds in Yangon Division was due to temperature changes of the season and eating

poisonous foods, but not bird flu. Among them, 21 per cent of birds were found dead due to heat stroke, 17 per cent of birds chronic respiratory disease, 12 per cent of birds enteritis, 10 per cent of birds pigeon pox, 20 per cent of birds poison and eight per cent of birds suffering injury. A total of 12 per cent of birds

could not be detected as they had decomposed.

The department warned to guard the pet dogs and cats not to eat dead bodies of crows and other birds, to spray pesticide on the dead birds and bury them and the bodies of animal killed with poison should be buried systematically.

MNA

Gold chain snatcher arrested

YANGON, 9 March — A man was arrested by duty-conscious people and handed to Pabedan Township Police Force as he was running down a road after snatching a gold chain from a person at about 8 pm on 4 March.

As Ko George King (a) Khin Maung Ngwe of Kamayut Township was waiting

for the circular train at the Pagoda Road Railway Station in Ward-5, Pabedan Township, at about 8 pm, the man named Saw Mu Ray (Kyaban) approached him and grabbed the gold chain weighing about .5 tical after asking him where he was going, and ran to Shwedagon Pagoda Road. As Khin Maung Ngwe shouted for

help, Chairman of Yawmingyi Ward Peace and Development Council U Maung Htwe and member U Kyaw Win and Sergeant Yan Aung of Auxiliary Fire Brigade ran after and arrested the snatcher.

Pabedan Township Police Station is taking action against Saw Mu Ray (Kyaban), it is learnt. — MNA

Fires break out in Natmauk, Myitkyina

YANGON, 9 March — A fire broke out in Ale village, Natmauk Township, Magway Division at 11.30 am yesterday. A total of 42 houses were gutted by the fire that left 41 people homeless. A

makeshift relief camp was opened at a monastery in the village and necessary assistance is being provided to the fire victims.

Similarly, a fire that broke out in Tatkon

and Aung Nan wards in Myitkyina in Kachin State on the same day destroyed three houses and 23 people were left homeless. Authorities concerned have provided assistance to the fire victims.—MNA

Int'l organizations observe bird flu prevention in Yangon

YANGON, 9 March — A bird flu watchdog comprising regional coordinator Dr John Mac Arthur of USAID, Ms Manlowe Teresal, first secretary of US Embassy, Mr Steven Schonberger of World Bank, Mr Kwanpadh Suddhi Dhamakit and veterinarians of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department this afternoon made a field trip to chicken farms in Mayangon

Township and prevention of bird flu. observed tasks on MNA



Responsible persons of international organizations visit bird flu suspected chicken farms in Mayangon Township.—MNA





Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects tax-free market in Yankin Township.—MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects tax-free markets

YANGON, 9 March — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence inspected tax-free markets in Yangon City and progress of the road section leading to Dagon University this morning.

At the tax-free market in Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Lt-Gen Myint Swe was welcomed by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and officials.

Accompanied by the commander and the mayor, Lt-Gen Myint Swe

visited the tax-free market and left necessary instructions.

After inspecting construction of Tawwin Road and digging of drains in Dagon University in Dagon Myothit (East) Township, Lt-Gen Myint Swe heard reports on progress of tasks presented by Head of Engineering Department (Road and Bridge) U Bo Htay of YCDC.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party visited the tax-free market in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Shukhintha Tax-free Market in Thakayta Township and tax-free markets in Tamway and Yankin townships, and greeted shopkeepers and the people.—MNA

Myanmar Government exerting all-out...

(from page 16)

As usual, the report falsely made sweeping accusations of human rights abuses in Myanmar, such as extrajudicial killings, custodial deaths, disappearances, rape and torture, arbitrary arrests, forced relocations, forced recruitment of child soldiers, use of forced labour, increased military attacks on ethnic minority villagers, continued detention of political prisoners, as well as restrictions on freedom of press, religion, movement, etc.

Considering the tone and tenor of the report, the source of these fabricated allegations must have emanated from the remaining insurgent group and anti-government elements, which are launching a systematic disinformation campaign by exploiting every sensitive issue to smear and tarnish the image of the Myanmar Government.

Following its failed attempt to pass a resolution on Myanmar at the United Nations Security Council, the US Government has publicly declared that it would use all multilateral avenues, including the Human Rights Council, to press on Myanmar. The Report is also a part of the US strategy to exert more pressure on Myanmar in pursuit of its own political agenda.

Contrary to the accusations made in the report, the Myanmar Government is exerting all out efforts to promote the fundamental human rights, the right to development. In order to fulfill the basic needs of its entire population, the Government has been relentlessly striving for all-round development of the country, including the remote border areas where the majority of ethnic nationalities reside. As a result, significant improvements can be seen in the economic and social conditions as well as the living standards of the entire populace, including the national races.

Turning a blind eye to these positive developments and prevalence of peace and tranquility nation-wide, the report released by the US is devoid of factual correctness and does not reflect the realities in the country. Myanmar strongly opposes and condemns selectivity and double standards in the promotion and protection of human rights and exploitation of human rights as pretext for political purposes, making false accusations of internal affairs of other countries.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs therefore totally rejects the biased assessment on the human rights situation in Myanmar contained in the US Department of State's 2006 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices. — MOFA

Central Committee for Prevention...

(from page 16)

down tactics, promotion of cooperation of international community, and collective efforts in various sectors.

Chairman of the Group for Prevention of Trafficking in Persons and Protection of Victims Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe reported on work accomplishment.

Chairman of the Group of Legal Affairs and Taking Action Deputy Attorney-General U Myint Naing and Chairman of the Group for Receiving Victims, Reintegration and Rehabilitation Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Col Kyaw

Myint dealt with work progress.

Central Committee Secretary Director-General Brig-Gen Khin Yi presented success achieved in preventing human trade. Police Chief of Staff Police Brig-Gen Khin Maung Si gave an account of progress in drawing the five-year national level plan.

Next, responsible persons of the international organizations discussed matters on cooperation regarding the drive for prevention of trafficking in persons. Officials of the Central Committee assessed their discussions.

The minister gave concluding remarks.—MNA

Mines Minister inspects Gems Emporium



Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint visits 44th Myanmar Gems Emporium.—MNA

YANGON, 9 March — Patron of the Central Committee for Myanmar Gems Emporium Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint inspected sales of pearl and gem lots at the 44th Myanmar Gems Emporium at Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, here, this

morning. After inspecting 310 lots of pearl, the minister cordially greeted gem merchants.

Next, the minister inspected sales of gem lots on the top floor and greeted the gem merchants who were observing gem lots. — MNA

2775 gem merchants arrive

YANGON, 9 March — The 44th Myanmar Gems Emporium is in progress at Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road and Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township. A total of 2775 gem merchants — 1173 from local gem companies and 1602 from 536 gem companies from abroad — have so far arrived here this evening.

Pearl lots will be sold till 10

March and gem lots till 12 March through tender and competitive bidding system at the Myanmar Gems Mart.

Local and foreign gem merchants are permitted to observe 5858 lots of pearl at Myanmar Convention Centre till 12 March and these pearl lots will be sold from 13 to 20 March through tender and competitive bidding system.

More gem merchants from abroad will arrived here till 12 March. — MNA



Local and foreign gem merchants observe jade lots at 44th Myanmar Gems Emporium. — MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun speaks at meeting of Myanmar Economic Bank. — F&R

MEB holds coordination meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 9 March—The Myanmar Economic Bank of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue held a meeting at the ministry here this morning to review the previous year's work.

Managers of state/division and district branches reported on

accomplishments.

Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun called for combined efforts to achieve the objectives and regional development.

He also called for assessment of strengths and weaknesses of the functions and arran-

gements for the tasks to be implemented in the coming financial year. All the staff are to work hard in the interest of the nation and the banks, he said, calling for politeness in dealing with customers and effective performances.

Governor of the

Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, Managing Director of the MEB U Myat Maw and branch managers held discussions on functions of the MEC.

The meeting commenced on 6 March and concluded today.

MNA

New model of Canon digital cameras introduced, Canon Club opens



Managing Director Mr Alvin Law of Accel International Co Ltd extends greetings.—MNA

YANGON, 9 March—Accel International Co Ltd opened Canon Club Myanmar at No (7/11), the southern wing of Aung San Stadium in Mingala Taungnyunt Township here this afternoon.

First, Company Managing Director Mr Alvin Law and Marketing Manager of Singapore Pte

Ltd Mr Joe Matsumoto formally opened the Canon Club.

A ceremony to introduce and demonstrate a new model of Canon digital cameras also took place at the Traders Hotel.

Mr Alvin Law and Mr Joe Matsumoto extended greetings and Mr Roland Poon of

Canon Singapore demonstrated Canon Digital SLR camera ESO-1D Mark III.

Those having a digital SLR camera and a piece of lens can apply for the membership of the Canon Club.

Various models of Canon digital cameras are available at No

(7/11), the southern wing of Aung San Stadium in Mingala Taungnyunt Township (Ph: 243036 and 243038).

MNA

One wounded in mine blast

NAY PYI TAW, 9 March—The insurgents are resorting to various means with the intention of undermining the stability of the State, community peace, the rule of law and public security.

Min Min, 25, son of U Khaw Taw in Kyaukkyi Pauk village in Htantabin Township stepped on a mine planted by insurgents and the blast wounded his right leg. He was on his way to the forest

to collect wood together with his brother at 11.30 am on 6 March.

He was taken to hospital in the township. Officials and locals are making efforts to expose the insurgents.—MNA

Child Rights and Child Protection Course organized

YANGON, 9 March—The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Young Men's Buddhist Association (YMBA) co-organized the Courses on Child Rights and Child Protection at Mingala Taungnyut Union

Solidarity and Development Association on 7 March.

President of the YMBA U Bo Ni and officials gave speeches.

Twenty-five trainees are attending the three-day course.—MNA

Myanmar needs assistance from international communities to speed up tasks of controlling bird flu

YANGON, 9 March—The Donor Meeting for Avian Influenza, organized by FAO, was held at Sedona Hotel, here, today.

It was attended by UNDP Resident Representative Mr Charles James Petrie, FAP Resident Representative Mr Tang Zhengping, WHO Resident Representative Prof Ms Adik Wibowo, World Bank Senior Operation Officer Mr Steven M Schonberger, UNAID Regional Coordinator Dr John Mac Aurther, representatives of embassies of the US, France, Australia, Republic of Korea, the UK, Japan, Singapore, Italy, Thailand, Germany and People's Republic of China, IFRC, USAID, AusAID and international consultants of FAO, the director-general of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department and officials of Health Department.

Representatives of UNDP, FAO and WHO gave speeches and the representative of WB, the regional coordinator of USAID and the director-general of LBVD reported on prevention and control of bird flu and international

assistance.

SE Region Bird Flu Coordinator Dr Wantanee Kalpravidh discussed control of bird flu in Myanmar, requirements and challenges, the national strategic plan for prevention and control of avian influenza drawn by FAO and the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, and requirements of the fund.

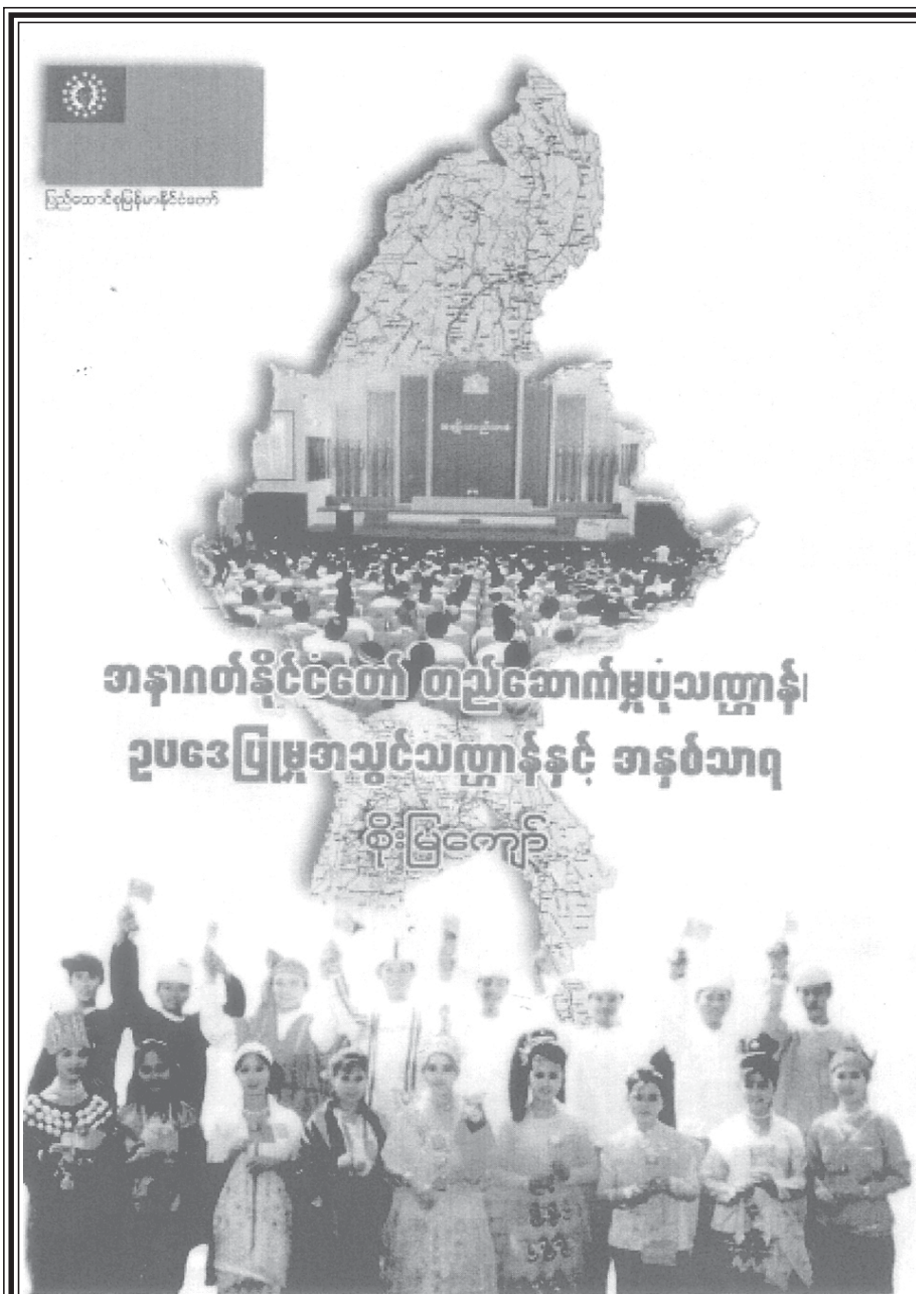
The representatives of WB said that Myanmar could perform inspection, reporting and taking preventive measures against bird flu. Breeders with high knowledge reported news on death of chicken to the authorities. The laboratory for animal disease in Yangon can test bird flu applying modern technologies. Due to the proper plan on control of disease, the LBVD and Health Department could cooperate with local authorities to control the disease.

Myanmar needs assistance from international communities to speed up tasks of controlling bird flu, they said.

MNA



Meeting for inviting international aid on bird flu control in progress in Sedona Hotel, Yangon.—MNA



အနာဂတ်နိုင်ငံတော် တည်ဆောက်မှုပုံသဏ္ဍာန်၊
ဥပဒေပြုမှုအသွင်သဏ္ဍာန်နှင့် အနှစ်သာရ

စိုးမြကျော်

- အမျိုးသားညီလာခံကို ကျင်းပကာ နိုင်ငံတော်ဖွဲ့စည်းပုံ အခြေခံဥပဒေ ရေးဆွဲရေးအတွက် အခြေခံရမည့်မူများနှင့် အသေးစိတ်အခြေခံရမည့်မူများကို အမျိုးသားညီလာခံကိုယ်စားလှယ်များက ညှိနှိုင်းဆွေးနွေး အတည်ပြုချက် ချမှတ်ပေးလျက်ရှိသည်။
- အမျိုးသားညီလာခံသတင်းများကို လေ့လာကြည့်သောအခါ အနာဂတ် နိုင်ငံတော်တည်ဆောက်မှု ပုံသဏ္ဍာန်နှင့် အနှစ်သာရကို ပုံဖော်မှန်းမျှော် ကြည့်ရှုရလာပြီ ဖြစ်သည်။
- အနာဂတ်နိုင်ငံတော်တွင် ပေါ်ပေါက်လာမည့် ဥပဒေပြုမှုနှင့်စပ်လျဉ်းသည့် အသွင်သဏ္ဍာန်နှင့် အနှစ်သာရကို ထင်လင်းစွာ ပုံဖော်လာရေးအတွက် စာရေး သူ၏တွေ့ရှိချက်များကို တိုင်းရင်းသားပြည်သူများအား အကိုးအထောက် မှန်ကန်စွာဖြင့် လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းဝေငှထားသည့် -

စိုးမြကျော် ၏

အနာဂတ်နိုင်ငံတော်တည်ဆောက်မှု ပုံသဏ္ဍာန် ဥပဒေပြုမှု အသွင်သဏ္ဍာန်နှင့် အနှစ်သာရ

- အနာဂတ်နိုင်ငံတော် တည်ဆောက်မှု ပုံသဏ္ဍာန်နှင့် အနှစ်သာရ အခန်း (၁) ခန်းနှင့် အနာဂတ်နိုင်ငံတော်၏ ဥပဒေပြုမှု အသွင်သဏ္ဍာန်နှင့် အနှစ်သာရ အပိုင်း (၁၃) ပိုင်းပါရှိသည်။
- ရောင်စုံ သရုပ်ဖော်ပုံများနှင့် စာမျက်နှာ (၁၅၀)၊ ရောင်းဈေး ၃၅၀/-

ထွက်ပြီ

- စာပေဗိမာန် စာအုပ်ဆိုင် ၅၂၉-၅၃၁၊ ကုန်သည်လမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။
ဖုန်း - ၃၈၁၄၄၈၊ ၂၄၉၀၃၁
- သတင်းနှင့် စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်းစာအုပ်ဆိုင်၊ ၂၁၂၊ သိမ်ဖြူလမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။
ဖုန်း - ၂၉၄၃၀၆

Legislator, adviser warn against superstition

BEIJING, 9 March — While some people are getting rich, they seem to be more superstitious, a phenomenon which deserves attention from the governments, according to a Chinese lawmaker and a political adviser.

“Fortune-telling, Chinese horoscope and Fengshui have become popular in some areas, casting a shadow on building a harmonious society,” said Peng Fuchun, a deputy to the National People’s Congress (NPC),

the national legislature. Peng is also a professor of philosophy with the Wuhan University in central China’s Hubei Province. The example Peng gave was a businessman in southwest China’s

Yunnan Province, who painted the hill rocks opposite to his gate red following the advice of a Fengshui master. In 2000, the Year of Dragon, more than 36 million babies were born in China, and the figure

was much higher than that in 1999 and 2001. This year is recognized as a year of Golden Pig and will also witness a baby boom. Animal signs of dragon and pig are deemed lucky and fortunate rather than others like goat and snake. In China, 12 kinds of animals are used to mark the years in turn.

“Superstition is not just a matter of personal preference. If not curbed, it would hamper social harmony and stability,” said Huang Wei, a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), the country’s political advisory body. Painting the rocks in Yunnan can damage local environment, and the birth rush will cause the shortage of social facilities when the babies grow up, go to school and look for jobs.

MNA/Xinhua

One out of 8 Americans living in poverty

BEIJING, 9 March — A rights report issued by China notes that one out of eight Americans lived in poverty in 2005, saying the impoverished Americans “constitute the ‘Third World’ of US society”.

There were 37 million people living in poverty in 2005, accounting for 12.6 per cent of total US population, says the Human Rights Record of the United States in 2006, released on Thursday by the Information Office of the State Council of China. Nearly 7.7 million US families were in poverty, the report says, citing figures released by the US Census Bureau in August 2006.

The poverty rates of Cleveland and Detroit were as high as 32.4 per cent and 31.4 per cent respectively and nearly one out of three was living under the poverty line, the rights report says.

Between 2000 and 2005, the US economy grew by 12 per cent in real

terms and productivity, measured by output per hour worked in the business sector, rose 17 per cent. Over the same period, the median hourly wage—the wage the average American takes home—rose only three per cent in real (inflation-adjusted) terms. That compared with a 12-per cent gain in the previous five years was lower than it was in 2000, it says.

The McClatchy Newspapers analysis found that almost 16 million Americans live in “deep or severe poverty”, growing by 26 per cent from 2000 to 2005, according to a recent AFP report.

“The number of extremely impoverished is at a three-decade high,” it said.

MNA/Xinhua



A girl explores a huge model of the brain displayed at the Shanghai Science and Technology Museum on 27 August, 2003. Stimulating the brain with implanted electrodes appears to help ease the pain of cluster headaches, two separate teams of researchers reported on Wednesday 7 March, 2007.

INTERNET

ADVERTISEMENT

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SEA MERCHANT VOYNO (725)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA MERCHANT VOYNO (725) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 10.3.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES PTE LTD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

FBI investigates counterfeit wine auctions

NEW YORK, 8 March— Federal prosecutors have launched a criminal investigation into counterfeit-wine sales and subpoenaed leading rare wine collectors and top auction houses including Christie's in London and Zachys in New York, according to a *Wall Street Journal* report on Tuesday. The paper said a grand jury in New York has begun hearing evidence in the case and the art-fraud unit of the Federal Bureau of Investigation has conducted interviews.

MNA/Reuters

TRADE MARK CAUTION

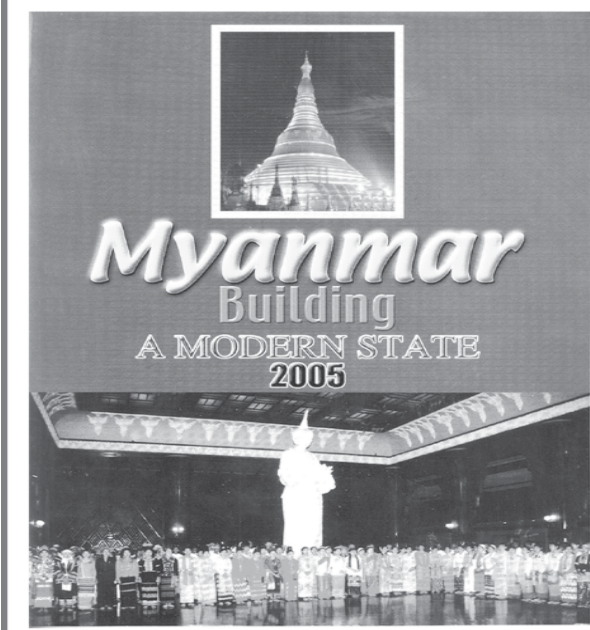
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Win Mu Tin
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.,
for **Suzuki Motor Corporation**
P. O. Box 60, Yangon
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**MYANMAR IVANHOE COPPER COMPANY LIMITED
(TENDER NOTICE)**

TENDER. IFB No. TRA07 (TRANSPORT SERVICES)

Supply of transport services for the transport of copper cathode, general cargoes, sulphuric acid and other hazardous chemicals from/to the port of Yangon, MICCL's main warehouse at mine site in Monywa, Myanmar.

CLOSING DATE & TIME 30th March 2007 at 4pm

Tender documents are available at the following address and queries can be done between 10 am to 4pm at MICCL Yangon office before the tender closing date.

Myanmar Ivanhoe Copper Company Limited
70 (I) Bo Chien Street, Pyay Road, Hlaing Township
Yangon, Myanmar (Tel: (95) 1514194 to 7/ Fax: (95) 1514208/ Email: miccl@miccl.com.mm)

CHANGE OF NAME

Declare that U NAN DA ME DHA, holder of Myanmar Passport No. 319633 have changed my name to ANAND SENG SAVANG.

ANAND SENG SAVANG

DRIVE WITH CARE

**United Nations
Development Programme**



Vacancy Announcement

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) seeks applications from qualified Myanmar nationals for the following post with UNDP Office in Yangon, Myanmar:

Post Title: Internal Oversight Specialist
Grade: ICS-8/ICS-9
Unit: Internal Oversight Unit
Duty Station: Yangon
Type of Contract: Fixed Term
Duration:

Responsibilities: Under the guidance and direct supervision of senior management, the Internal Oversight Specialist will be responsible for quality control, transparency and accountability of the CO activities, practices and outputs, to ensure adherence to corporate rules, regulations and guidelines.

Detailed terms of reference is posted on the bulletin board at UNDP office, No. 6 Natmauk Road, Yangon.

Requirements : Education: Masters degree in accounting, business administration, commerce, auditing or related fields, (or) first level degree with a relevant combination of academic qualifications plus 5 years of experience in programme and project management/auditing field.

Experience: Minimum of **5 to 7 years'** of experience in the relevant field, knowledge of web-based management systems an advantage; knowledge of general management practices and techniques, including management principles, governance and accountability, and quality assurance; special oversight and investigation practices and techniques; ability to plan work effectively, manage competing priorities in a complex and dynamic operation; knowledge of UNDP rules, procedures and practices an advantage; cultural sensitivity, ability to work in teams, and ability to communicate effectively.

Language requirements: Very good level of English, both written and spoken

Applications with full resume should be addressed to: The Resident Representative Attention: Human Resources Unit No. 6, Natmauk Road, Yangon

Closing Date: 24 March 2007

UNDP practice relating to recruitment prohibits hiring of persons currently engaged by Government services or who left Government service during the past 6 months.

Only those candidates in whose qualifications and experience the Organization has further interest will be contacted for subsequent interviews.

UNDP is an equal opportunity employer. UNDP regrets its inability to reply individually or attend to telephone queries on the advertised post.

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY**

MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE

IFB NO. 1(T) MCY-MOGE/PPT (2006-2007) CAP P.O BOX 1049, YANGON
FAX NO:095-01-222964/222965

INVITATION FOR BIDS

1. Sealed Bids are invited by the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, Yangon for the supply of:
NATURAL GAS PIPE LINE BOOSTER COMPRESSOR UNITS
2. Commencing from 7 MARCH 2007 a complete set of bidding document shall be available at the FINANCE DEPARTMENT, MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE, No. 604, Merchant street, Yangon, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, NO. 6 Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar during office hour by payment to the order of Myanma Foreign Trade Bank attesting remittance of US \$ 100.00 in favour of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (or) FEC 100.00 to the above office for each set of document.
3. Bids shall be accepted only from the Bidders who officially purchased the bidding document.
4. The **Bids** received shall be opened in the presence of Bidders or Representatives who choose to attend at 13:00 hours on 23 APRIL 2007 at the office of Ministry of Energy, No.6 Complex, NAYPYITAW, Myanmar.

**MANAGING DIRECTOR
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE**

သစ်တောသစ်ပင် ချစ်ခင်တဲ့လူမျိုး၊ သစ်ပင်ကို နှစ်စဉ်စိုက် ရွှေတိုက်ကိုစိုး။

ပန်းမန်သစ်ပင်လေသန့်စင်၍ ဥယျာဉ်တောတန်း စိတ်ရွှင်လန်း၏။

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖို့



United Nations Office for Project Services

(For Local Service Only)

The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) is a self-financing entity of the UN system providing management and implementation services throughout the world. UNOPS has been designated as the Fund Manager for the Three Diseases Fund in Myanmar. The Fund has been established by a donor consortium in order to provide a humanitarian response to three epidemics (HIV & AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria) within the context of the National Communicable Diseases Programme and through the engagement of all key stakeholders. The Fund Manager is responsible for the management of the Fund in an independent and transparent manner. In this context, UNOPS seeks highly qualified individuals for the following positions:

- National Officer - Monitoring & Evaluation (NOB)
- National Officer - Public Health HIV (NOB)
- National Officer - Public Health TB/ Malaria (NOB)
- Assistant to CEO (GS5)
- Procurement Assistant (GS5)
- Operations Assistant (GS5)
- Finance Assistant (GS5)
- Team Assistant (GS4)
- Team Assistant (GS4)
- Receptionist/Office Clerk (GS3)
- Messenger (GS1)
- Driver (GS2)

Closing date: 19 March 2007

For details on these positions please visit the UNOPS website: www.unops.org or UNOPS 3D Fund Office Notice Board at 137/1 Than Lwin Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon, Myanmar and other UN Agencies Notice Boards in Yangon.

Applications must include a copy of labour registration card, 2 photos, NRC copy and Educational Qualification

Sony's new service includes Windows Mobile

BEIJING, 8 March — Sony announced it is expanding its service to include a Windows Mobile platform via a gamma version of Yahoo! Go for Mobile 2.0 on Windows Mobile powered devices.

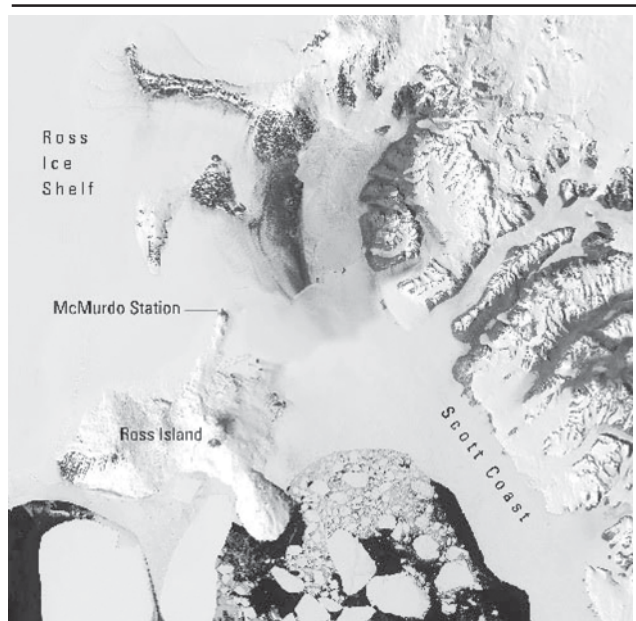
The service will enable consumers to use the platform on 75 Windows Mobile devices from major manufacturers, according to media reports Thursday.

The internet search company said the service will be supported by more than 175 different mobile

phone models, including more than 100 models currently listed on its go.yahoo.com website. The Yahoo! Go 2.0 is an application that gives consumers the ability to personalize with content from the entire Internet and a reinvention of mobile

search. "Consumers have been clamoring for us to bring Yahoo! Go 2.0 to Windows Mobile devices since we launched the service less than two months ago," said Marco Boerries, senior vice president of Yahoo's Connected Life.

"There are millions of mobile phones on the Windows Mobile platform in the market today and consumers with these devices want to use the most advanced, exciting services available.—Internet



This image released on 7 March, 2007 displays a portion of the natural color mosaic over McMurdo Station, the largest research base in Antarctica. Ross Island is roughly 45 miles across at its widest point. — XINHUA

Scientists identify 120 new cancer genes

LONDON, 8 March — An international research team has identified around 120 new genes that contain mutations promoting cancer growth.

The discovery by a team of more than 60 scientists led by Michael Stratton of the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute in Cambridge, Britain, made a significant addition to the 350 already known genes linked to cancer.

The researchers analyzed 210 samples of cancerous tissue, surveying a family of 500 genes, called kinase genes linked to cell growth and division and sequencing more than 250 million letters of the DNA code.

They identified 158 mutations in around 120 genes that they believe can be implicated in cancer development, the Nature magazine reported

in its latest issue published on Thursday.

The number of mutations that appear to be involved in driving the growth of cancerous tumors was larger than expected, but ultimately the technique will allow scientists to acquire a complete catalog of all the mutations involved in each class of cancer, according to Stratton.

"We have found a much larger number of mutated driver genes produced by a wider range of forces than we expected. It's important because the more cancer genes we find, the more targets we'll have in terms of potential new drugs," Stratton was quoted as

saying.

The researchers in the study compared the genetic sequence of the DNA derived from a patient's tumor cells with the DNA of healthy cells from the same patient in order to find the mutations that are present only in the tumor cells, and which could be implicated in their growth.

All cancers are thought to result from an accumulation of mutations in one or another of the 30,000 genes in the human genome. These mutations cause a cell to multiply uncontrollably to form a tumor that can then spread to other parts of the body.—Internet

Bae Yong Joon voted S Korea's most popular actor



South Korean actor Bae Yong Joon. INTERNET

BEIJING, 8 March — South Korean actor Bae Yong Joon has been chosen by Internet users as the most popular actor in his country in 2007, according to the results of an internet survey.

Bae Yong Joon got an overwhelming majority of votes, followed by Kwon Sang Woo, Kim Jeong Hoon, the lead actor of idol drama "Princess Hours," or "Goong," and Ju Ji Hoon. Rain, Song Seung Hun, and Jang Dong Gun are also included in the list of the top ten most popular South Korean actors.

Internet

Blue whale loves songs no longer secret

BEIJING, 8 March — Blue whale love songs are no longer a secret from the prying ears of researchers at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in San Diego, Californier.

Scientists used tags suctioned to the whales' bodies and tracked the whales. They discovered that as they feed, they broadcast calls to let each other know where they are, each group using a different sound, media reported Thursday.

The noises also play an important role during mating season when males sing long, low-pitched songs to indicate their reproductive fitness to females. Females select mates based on size and make a decision by evaluating males' songs. They know larger males can take in more air and hold notes longer.

These researchers say the dialect findings could

help guide conservation efforts for blue whales, whose numbers dwindled to dangerously low levels before whaling laws were enacted.

Scripps scientist John Hildebrand told LiveScience there were once an estimated 200,000 to 300,000 in the Southern Hemisphere, but today that number is closer to 1,000.

"By listening to the animals," he explained, "you can tell something about the areas in which they are interacting to breed and that's important to know for managing and conserving the animals."

Internet

SPORTS



Victor Zapata (R) of Argentina's River Plate prepares to kick the ball past Cesar Gonzalez of Venezuela's Caracas FC during their Copa Libertadores soccer match in Buenos Aires, on 8 March, 2007.—INTERNET

European exit leaves another Real project in tatters

MADRID, 9 March—Real Madrid's failure to overcome the first significant hurdle in the Champions League for a third season in a row appears to have ruined yet another of the club's expensive makeover projects.

Last season's exit at the hands of Arsenal signalled the death of Florentino Perez' "galactico" experiment and this week's defeat against Bayern Munich looks like spelling the end for Ramon Calderon's revival programme.

Calderon came to power last July promising to stop the club's barren run of form by recruiting Fabio Capello as coach and former player Predrag Mijatovic as sporting director. Results, Calderon said, would be guaranteed by the recruitment of a string of proven professionals including World Cup winning captain Fabio Cannavaro, Dutch striker Ruud van Nistelrooy and Brazil midfielder Emerson.

At the same time the club said it would lay the foundations of future success by signing a new generation of young players such as Jose Antonio Reyes and Mahamadou Diarra.—MNA/Reuters

Beijing Olympic tickets to go on sale in April

BEIJING, 9 March—Tickets for the 2008 Olympics will go on sale next month, but the buyers of tickets for some hot events will have to be decided by random draw, organizers said.

Chinese nationals and foreigners residing in China can now register to book tickets online after the Beijing Organizing Committee (BOCOG) launched the official ticketing website (www.tickets.beijing2008.cn/) on Thursday.

BOCOG released full details on ticket prices on the site and said ticket sales would be in three phases starting from April 2007.

The most expensive tickets will be for the opening ceremony on the evening of August 8, which will cost 5,000 yuan (646 US dollars). The cheapest tickets for that event will be 200 yuan (25.8 US dollars).

Ticket prices for the closing ceremony will range from 150 yuan (19.4 US dollars) to 3,000 yuan (388 US dollars).—MNA/Reuters

Liang, Fraser share one-shot lead in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 9 March—China's Liang Wen-chong and Australia's Marcus Fraser fired bogey-free eight-under-par 64s to share a one-stroke lead after the first round of the Singapore Masters on Thursday. Teeing off in one of the first groups on the less demanding Classic Course, the 28-year-old Liang reached the turn on three-under after a bogey-free 33, before storming ahead of the field with a run of five birdies over six holes.

Fraser started his round in the early afternoon and recorded four birdies on both front and back nines to join Liang at the top of the leaderboard towards the end of the day.

India's Jyoti Randhawa, Japan's Shingo Katayama and Briton Barry Hume are all one shot behind the leaders at the 1.1-million-US-dollar co-sanctioned European and Asian Tour event.

The opening two rounds are split over two layouts at the Laguna National Golf Club before the field is reduced on Friday and the final 36 holes are played on the tougher Masters Course.

The leading 14 players completed their rounds on the Classic Course with England's Graeme Storm, Ireland's Peter Lawrie, Filipino Angelo Que, New Zealand's Mark Brown and Germany's Martin Kaymer sharing sixth place with six-under-par 66s.—MNA/Reuters



Japan's Kotaro Kurata trains for men's aericals at the Freestyle ski World Championships in Madonna di Campiglio, Italy, on Thursday, 8 March, 2007.—INTERNET

Ziege named Gladbach director of sport

BERLIN, 9 March—Struggling Borussia Moenchengladbach named ex-AC Milan, Liverpool and Tottenham player Christian Ziege as director of sport on Thursday.

He replaces Peter Pander who quit earlier in the day after a string of poor results. Pander's departure follows that of coach Jupp Heynckes who left just over a month ago. Ziege, 35, has been an assistant trainer at Gladbach since June 2004. Pander, a trained banker who had held the post since April 2005, had come under increasing pressure at the club, which is bottom of the Bundesliga with 21 points from 24 matches.

"Borussia Moenchengladbach has severed ties with immediate effect with director of sport Peter Pander," the club said., adding Pander had tendered his resignation.

Dutchman Jos Luhukay, formerly the assistant coach, took over at the club after Heynckes left. He was the third coach to hold the position during Pander's tenure.—MNA/Reuters



Shingo Katayama of Japan tees off on the sixth hole of the Classic course during the Singapore Masters golf tournament in Singapore on 8 March, 2007.—INTERNET

Sticky mess for Reds after chocolate gaffe

TOKYO, 9 March—Japan's Urawa Reds apologized to fans after out-of-date chocolate sweets were sold at a J-League game last weekend, a Japanese newspaper reported on Thursday. Vendors at Saitama Stadium sold 16 cans of "Urawa Reds Crunch" on Saturday with a sell-by date of January 17, according to Japan's Sports Hochi.

The club may punish the suppliers of the confectionery, the daily added, quoting Reds chairman Mitsunori Fujiguchi as saying: "We apologize for the inconvenience caused."

MNA/Reuters



Nebraska center Aleks Maric (21) of Australia, passes the ball while guarded by Oklahoma State forward Mario Boggan (4) in the first half of their game at the Big 12 Conference Basketball Tournament in Oklahoma City, on 8 March, 2007.—INTERNET

First Wembley game to be Under-21 friendly with Italy

AMSTERDAM, 9 March—The first match to be played at the new Wembley Stadium will be England's Under-21 friendly against Italy on March 24, according to the Dutch Football Association (KNVB) who will be providing the referee.

Dutch referee Pieter Vink will officiate the game at the 90,000 seater stadium following an invitation from the English FA, the KNVB said on their official website on Thursday.

The game will be a test event for the stadium, which has cost more than 750 million pounds, and will be part of the planned 'ramp-up' preparations for hosting the FA Cup final on May 19, the KNVB said. An FA spokesman was unable to confirm that Wembley would be the venue for the game.

The stadium is due to host its first 'ramp-up' event with a local community day on March 17, with 60,000 people expected to attend.—MNA/Reuters

Hammam wins second term as AFC president

KUALA LUMPUR, 9 March—Qatar's Mohamed Bin Hammam won a second four-year term as Asian Football Confederation (AFC) president on Thursday.

Hammam was the only candidate for the post by Thursday's 1700 (local) deadline, which enabled him to retain the presidency unopposed. He will be sworn in on May 8 at the AFC Congress in Kuala Lumpur.

Hammam, 58, has previously hinted at standing for the FIFA presidency once Sepp Blatter steps down.

MNA/Reuters

NASA fires troubled US astronaut

HOUSTON, 9 March — Astronaut Lisa Nowak was fired by NASA on Wednesday, little more than a month after she was arrested on charges that she tried to kidnap a woman she regarded as romantic rival for the affections of a space shuttle pilot.

NASA said the decision to terminate Nowak from the astronaut corps was by "mutual agreement" between the space agency and the Navy, where she is still an active duty officer.

NASA said it "lacks the administrative means to deal appropriately with the criminal charges pending against Nowak" and that her next

assignment would come from the Navy, which had assigned her to the space agency.

Nowak, 43, a Navy captain who became an astronaut in 1996 and flew just one space shuttle mission in July, was placed on leave after she was arrested last month in Orlando, Florida. She was accused of assaulting and trying to kidnap Air Force Captain Colleen Shipman, whom she viewed as a rival for the affections of astronaut William Oefelein, a commander in the Navy.

Police said Nowak, a mother of three, drove from Houston to Orlando, wearing adult diapers to avoid a bathroom stop, to

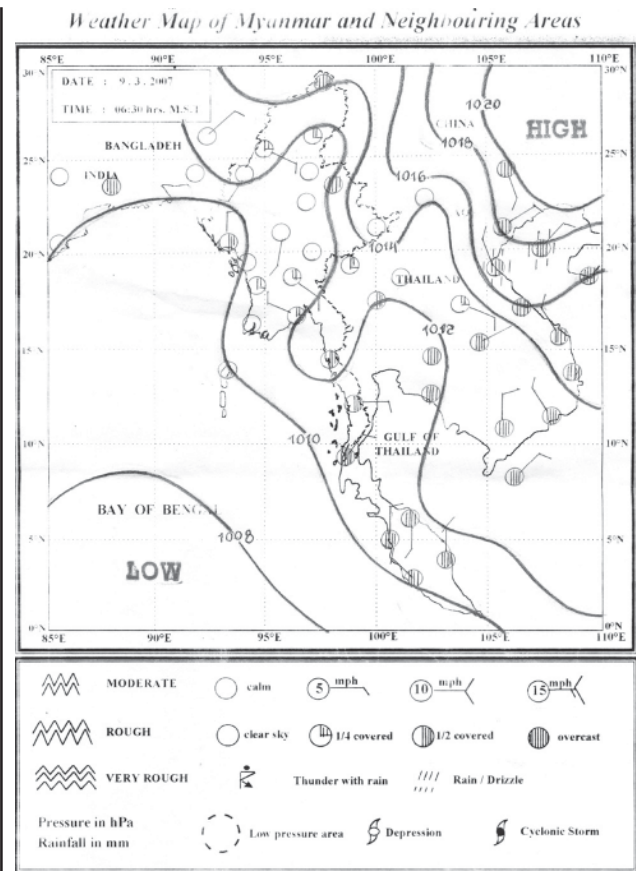
confront Shipman after she learned she was seeing Oefelein.

Nowak disguised herself in a wig and trench coat and allegedly followed Shipman to her parked car at Orlando airport. She carried a bag that contained a BB gun, knife and a rubber hose, police said.

According to Shipman, Nowak accosted her as she got into her car, tried to open the door and sprayed pepper spray through the partially open window.

Nowak was first charged with attempted murder, but that charge was reduced to attempted kidnapping last week.

MNA/Reuters



WEATHER

Friday, 9 March, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Day temperatures were (3°C) above normal in Kachin State, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Rakhine State, Mandalay, Ayeyarwady and Yangon Divisions and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperature was Tharrawady, Chauk (37°C).

Maximum temperature on 7-3-2007 was 94°F. Minimum temperature on 8-3-2007 was 63°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 8-3-2007 was 60%. Total sunshine hours on 7-3-2007 was (9.1) hours approx.

Rainfall on 9-3-2007 was (nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Northeast at (09:30) hours MST on 9-3-2007.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 10-3-2007: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin State, weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine and Mon States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight fall of day temperatures in the Lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 10-3-2007: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 10-3-2007: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 10-3-2007: Generally fair weather.

Weather outlook for third weekend of March 2007: During the coming weekend, weather will be generally fair in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Division and partly cloudy in Yangon.

Rest In Peace
George Alexander D'Cruz
 Managing Director, G.D. International Co, Ltd,
 Manager, Myanmar Hotel & Tourist Corporation
 (retired)
 Age (80)
 Beloved husband of Sheila (nee Bharatan),
 loving father of Barry @ U Moe Naing, Director (G.D.
 International Co., Ltd) - Daw Tin San Nwe (Petronas)
 and Suzanne @ Daw Mi Mi Thet (WHO), fell asleep
 in Jesus on 8th March 2007 at 11:45 pm at his residence
 No. 40A, Pyay Road, 6-1/2 Miles, Yangon. The funeral
 service will be held at St. Augustine's Church, 64 Inya
 Road, Yangon at 1 pm on Sunday 11th March 2007,
 after which the cortege will leave for Yay Way Christian
 Cemetery for entombment.
 The bereaved family.

Saturday, 10 March
View on today

7:00 am
1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ့မဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ချုပ်၊ အဘိဓမ္မမဟာရဋ္ဌဂုရု၊ အဘိဓမ္မအဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am
3. Morning news

7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song

7:55 am
5. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:10 am
6. Musical programme

8:30 am
7. International news

8:45 am
8. Grammar made easy

11:00 am
1. Martial song

11:15 am
2. Musical programme

11:30 am
3. News

11:45 am
4. Games for children

12:00 pm
5. Round up of the week's TV local news

12:40 pm
6. ကြားမြင်သုတပြည့်ဝစေရာစာပဒေသာ

12:50 pm
7. “နှစ်မြှားနတ်မိမယ်” (မင်းသူ၊ မိုးပြည့်၊ ပြည့်မောင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-အောင်ကျော်ကျော်)

1:10 pm
8. နိုင်ငံစီးပွားအလေးထားကျေးလက်ထုတ်ကုန်များ

1:25 pm
9. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

1:35 pm
10. Dance of national races

1:50 pm
11. ဆက်သွယ်ဆင့်ပွားကျွန်းတောတံတား

2:00 pm
12. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

2:15 pm
13. အံတော်ကျေးရွာ၏ ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်သန့်ရှင်းရေးလှုပ်ရှားမှုပုံရိပ်များ

2:25 pm
14. “သတိတစ်ချက် တစ်သက်အမှား” (ကျော်ရဲနောင်၊ ကြည်လှဲလှဲဦး၊ နန်းကလျာလှိုင်၊ သကြံနီအောင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-စောစန္ဒာလှိုင်)

2:35 pm
15. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

2:45 pm
13. International news

4:00 pm
1. Martial song

4:15 pm
2. Songs to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm
3. အစေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ - ဒုတိယနှစ်

(ရက္ခဗေဒအထူးပြု)
(ရက္ခဗေဒ)

4:45 pm
4. Musical programme

4:55 pm
5. မြင်းခြံစိန်ရဲနောင် ဆိုင်းအဖွဲ့ဖျော်ဖြေခန်း

5:15 pm
6. Musical programme

5:25 pm
7. ရာဇပေါ်လွင် သရုပ်ဆောင်လွင်ပြင်

5:50 pm
8. တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုတေးသီချင်းပြိုင်ပွဲ ဆုရတေးများ

6:00 pm
9. Evening news

6:30 pm
10. Weather report

6:35 pm
11. အလှူရှာမယ်လှူကမ္ဘာဝယ်

7:05 pm
12. နိုင်ငံစီးပွားအလေးထားကျေးလက်ထုတ်ကုန်များ

7:10 pm
13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “သမားတော်” (အပိုင်း-၈)

8:00 pm
14. News

8:00 pm
15. International news

8:00 pm
16. Weather report

8:00 pm
17. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ချစ်ပန်းနှင်းဆီ” (အပိုင်း-၁)

8:00 pm
18. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး ဦးဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ အရပ်ဆယ်မျက်နှာ မေတ္တာဘာဝနာပွားများခြင်း တရားတော်

8:00 pm
19. The next day's programme

Saturday, 10 March
Tune in today

8:30 am Brief news

8:35 am Music:
- Brother Louie

8:40 am Perspectives

8:45 am Music:
-How do you love

8:50 am National news/
Slogan

9:00 am Music:
- It's you

9:05 am International news

9:10 am Music:
- The reflex

1:30 pm News / Slogan

1:40 pm Music at you request/inch time music
-Every beat of my heart

9:00 pm ASEAN news

9:10 pm Article

9:25 pm Myanma culture ...
Dr Khin Maung Nyunt

9:30 pm Souventirs
-Love me tender

9:45 pm News / Slogan

10:00 pm PEL

Central Committee for Prevention of Trafficking in Persons meets

Work groups protecting, preventing vulnerable persons from being trafficked

NAY PYI TAW, 9 March — The Central Committee for Prevention of Trafficking in Persons held its first coordination meeting at the Myanmar Police Force Headquarters here this afternoon.

Chairman of the Central Committee Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo said that Myanmar joined UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children on 30 March 2004. It signed the MoU Against Trafficking in Persons of six member countries of Greater Mekong Sub-Region on 29 October 2004. Myanmar is strictly observing the UN resolutions and combating human trade.

The Law on Prevention of Trafficking in Persons is intended to protect people vulnerable to human trade. The work groups formed under the provisions of the law with deputy ministers and the deputy attorney-general as chairmen are performing to protect and prevent vulnerable persons from being trafficked in and take action against human traffickers under the law. Since the promulgation of the

law, success has been achieved in carrying out tasks for elimination and prevention of trafficking in persons. In 2006, 60 cases in human trade were exposed, 200 victims were rescued and punitive action was taken against 299 human traffickers. Central Committee members departmental personnel, internal NGOs, UN agencies and INGOs have made efforts in concert to implement the four tactics of the national plan—prevention, taking action under law, protection of the victims, and rehabilitation of the victims. Responsible officials will cope with problems on trafficking in persons with patriotic fervour as a national duty.

He said that now the fifth draft has been written for the national level five-year plan for elimination of human trade. The plan is made up of five sectors—cooperation through the policy, prevention, taking action, protection of the victims, and capacity building.

In conclusion, he called for more bilateral MoUs against trafficking in persons, national plans to lay
(See page 9)

Objectives of the 62nd Anniversary Armed Forces Day

- * To work in concert with the people in building a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation
- * To strive for successful realization of the seven-step Road Map of the State with genuine Union Spirit
- * To crush every danger posed to stability and development of the State hand in hand with the people
- * To build a strong, capable and modern patriotic Tatmadaw to safeguard Our Three Main National Causes

In 2006, 60 cases in human trade were exposed, 200 victims were rescued and punitive action was taken against 299 human traffickers.



Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo speaks at first coordination meeting of Central Committee for Prevention of Trafficking in Persons.—MNA

Myanmar Government exerting all-out efforts to promote fundamental human rights, the right to development

Myanmar strongly opposes, condemns selectivity and double standards in promotion and protection of human rights and exploitation of human rights as pretext for political purposes, making false accusations of internal affairs of other countries

NAY PYI TAW, 9 March— The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, today, issued a press release totally rejecting Country Reports on Human Rights Practices of over 190 countries including Myanmar released by the US Department of State on 7 March 2007 as the report carried a litany of unfounded and unsubstantiated allegations of human rights violations in Myanmar.

The following is the full text of the press release.
The US Department of State on 7 March 2007 released its 2006 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices of over 190 countries of the world, including Myanmar. As in the past, the report once again carried a litany of unfounded and unsubstantiated allegations of human rights violations in Myanmar.
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