

Lao PDR President to pay State Visit to Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 18 March— At the invitation of Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing, His Excellency Mr Choummaly Sayasone, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and wife Madame Keosaychay Sayasone, will pay a State Visit to the Union of Myanmar in the near future. — MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint on inspection tour of Shwegu Township in Kachin State

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Kachin State PDC Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, met with servicemen and family members of Shwegu Station at Myawady Hall in the station of Shwegu on 14 March.

He presented clothes, TV and VCD players to the servicemen.

In Seiktha Village-tract, Lt-Gen Ye Myint viewed thriving summer paddy plantation. Shwegu Township has put 5,081 acres of summer paddy against the target of 8,235 acres.

They paid homage to the Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Javana of Myoma Pariyatti

Monastery in Shwegu.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected Shwegu Township Hospital and gave necessary instructions.

At the office of Shwegu Township PDC, they met departmental personnel, social organization members and local people.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard reports on progress of the township in all sectors presented by departmental officials. Next, he presented uniforms to Township USDA Secretary U Aung Naing, exercise books to Township Education Officer U Sai Ohn Hlaing and uniforms to the chairpersons of Township WAO and MCWA.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions to them.

Later, they viewed progress of Shwegu in a motorcade. — MNA

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

SIGNIFICANT DAY

TEMPERATURES

(17 March, 2007)

Minbu and

Pyay (40°C)



Lt-Gen Ye Myint of Ministry of Defence inspects broadcasting of fertilizer in summer paddy plantation in Nyaunggon Village of Shwegu Township. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 18 March, 2007

Greater role of national entrepreneurs for economic development

The government has formulated and has been implementing short-term and long-term projects for economic growth and better economic foundations in the country. Moreover, it has extended commerce with foreign countries.

The government has also been giving encouragement to the development of the private sector for the emergence of market-oriented economic system. Wealthy national entrepreneurs with high efficiency have emerged in various economic fields.

Altogether 18 industrial zones have been established in all parts of the country and necessary assistance is being provided to the zones. Industrialists at the zones are striving step by step for upgrading conventional industries to small and medium ones and then to heavy industries.

The Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry was formed with the aim of developing the economic sector and it came into existence as a vital force.

The UMFCFI is making concerted efforts in the interests of the government and entrepreneurs in the long run in accord with the national economic policies.

It is the duty of the UMFCFI to make concerted efforts for promoting economic development while serving as a bridge between the government and national entrepreneurs.

D-G inspects road repairs in Bago



Director-General U Myo Myint inspects road repairs in Bago. — H

YANGON, 17 March — Director-General U Myo Myint of Development Affairs Department under the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races Development Affairs and officials inspected road repairs in Bago being done by Bago Township Development Affairs Committee on 15 March. The director-general urged them to carry out maintenance tasks systematically.

MNA

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

F&R Minister inspects tasks of departments in Toungoo



Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun addresses closing of General Banking Services Course No 9 for Officers.—F&R

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March — Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun inspected Myanma Economic Bank (district branch) in Toungoo yesterday afternoon.

Managing Director U Myat Maw and of-

officials of MEB reported on banking services.

In Toungoo, the minister inspected construction of the annexe to the District Internal Revenue Department and functions of Division, District and Township IRDs.

This morning, the minister attended the closing ceremony of General

Banking Services Course No 9 for Officers, conducted by Myanmar Bankers Association, and presented prizes to outstanding trainees.

A total of 40 trainee officers attended the nine-week course.

Next, the Customs Department clarified participation of the department in the tasks of

ASEAN customs harmonized system.

Director-General of the Customs Department U San Thaug and officials reported to the minister on tasks of the department for implementing the harmonized system and future tasks.

MNA

Talks on Update on Avian Influenza given

YANGON, 17 March — Talks on Update on Avian Influenza, organized by Myanmar Medical Association (Central), were given at the MMA on Theinbyu Road in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, here, this morning.

Dr Daw Mya Than Nwe of Yangon Division Health Department, Dr Daw Yadana Kyaw of Thingangyun Hospital and Dr Khin Maung Lwin gave talks on prevention of bird flu. Doctors present raised queries, and Dr U Ko Ko made concluding remarks.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of MMA Prof U Kyaw Myint Naing, executives and officials.

MNA

Basic Fire Fighting Refresher Course concludes in Pyinmana

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March — The Basic Fire Fighting Refresher Course No 1/2007 of Central Workshop of Engineering Division of Myanma Timber Enterprise concluded at the workshop in Pyinmana Township on 12 March morning.

Assistant General Manager (Engineer) U Myint Swe of the Central Workshop and Staff Officer U Aung Myint Swe of Pyinmana Township Fire Services Department gave speeches.

Deputy General Manager (Engineer) of MTE (Head Office) U Kyaw Thaug and



Assistant General Manager (Engineer) U Myint Swe presents prize to a trainee.—MTE

Pyinmana Township FSD Staff Officer U Aung Myint Swe presented prizes to out-

standing trainees. Later, the trainees demonstrated fire fighting drills. —MNA

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Sugar contamination blamed for killing fish

BANGKOK, 16 March — Residual dissolved sugar from a sunken molasses-laden barge was identified as the probable cause of pollution which conta-

minated the Chao Phraya River and led to the death of up to one million fish from fish farms along the river, according to the Industry Ministry.

However, the ministry did not rule out that a monosodium glutamate (MSG) factory in Ang Thong's Pa Mok district could also have been implicated in causing the disaster.

Parts of the central provinces of Ang Thong and Ayutthaya along the Chao Phraya riverbanks were earlier declared disaster zones after over 10 tonnes of fish raised in floating cages were found dead on Sunday night.

Deputy Industry Minister Piyabutr Cholvijarn said the ministry received a report from the Pollution Control Department which concluded that a sugar boat which capsized earlier this month, may have contaminated the river to the fish farming area, five kms away. Sugar pollution in the river could lead to the fish deaths at the farms, he said.—Internet

World's oldest man marks 116th birthday in Ukraine

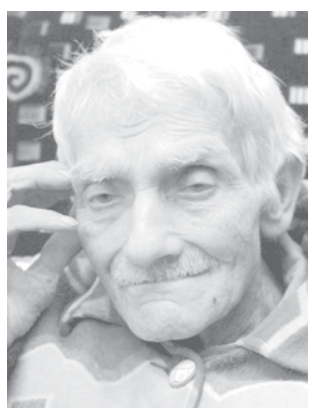
STARIY YARYCHIV (Ukraine), 16 March — A former shepherd presumed to be the world's oldest living person celebrated his 116th birthday on Thursday with a glass of champagne — diluted with water and fruit juice.

Hyrhory Nestor's passport — issued by authorities in post-Soviet Ukraine — shows he was born on 15 March, 1891.

At that time, his home region belonged to the Austro-Hungarian empire, only to become part of Poland after World War One. Later it was run by the Soviet Union after the Kremlin and Nazi Germany divided up eastern Europe in 1939.

Nestor's birthdate makes him nearly two years older than Yone Minagawa, a Japanese woman who turned 114 in January. She is currently listed by the International Committee

on Supercentenarians as the world's oldest person. MNA/Reuters



Hyrhory Nestor, a former shepherd, presumed to be the world's oldest living person, celebrates his 116th birthday in his house on 15 March, 2007.

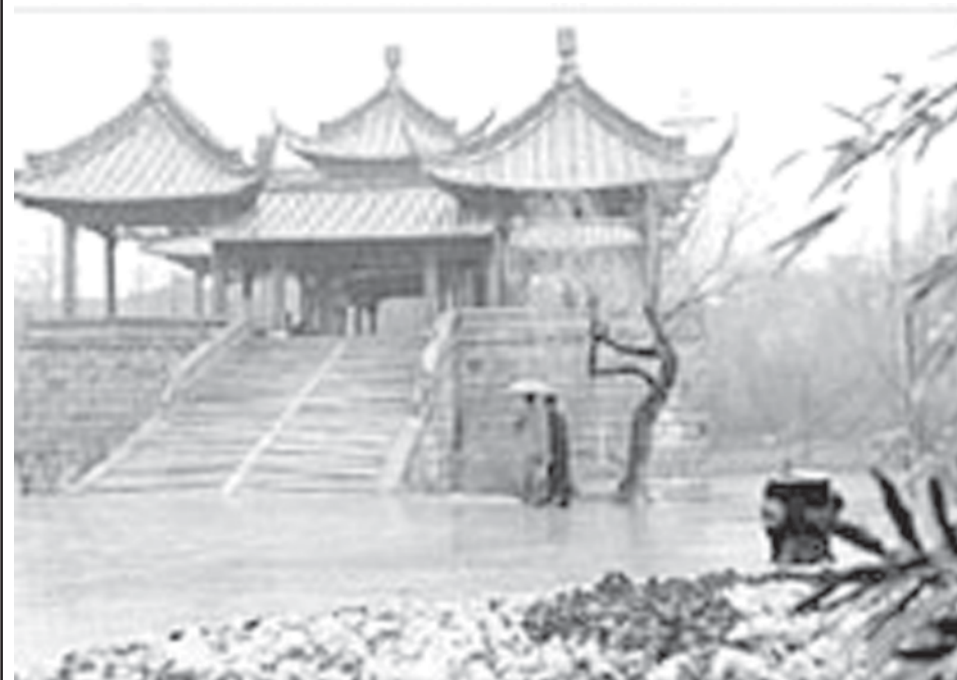
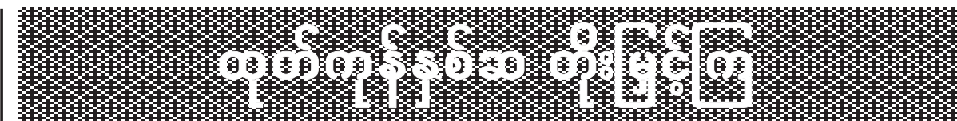
XINHUA

Royal Navy sailor jailed for raping colleague

LONDON, 16 March — A Royal Navy senior rating was jailed for five years on Wednesday for raping a female colleague on board a warship in the first case of its kind since women were allowed to

serve at sea, the Ministry of Defence said.

Chief Petty Officer Phillip Coates, 30, was convicted last week by a court martial of raping the 24-year-old junior rating on a ship last March.



Wuzhen, about 80 kilometers from Hangzhou, is one of many small towns where people still rely on the river network. —INTERNET

Most Japanese want to end Iraq war support

TOKYO, 16 March — More than two-thirds of Japanese want to end an air force mission backing up US-led military activities in Iraq this summer, when the mandate for the mission expires, a newspaper poll said on Thursday.

Sixty-nine per cent of those polled said they wanted the troops pulled out, while 75 per cent said the war had been a mistake, the daily *Asahi Shimbun* said. Japan withdrew its 600 ground troops from southern Iraq last year after a non-combat reconstruction mission lasting more than two years.

About 200 Air Force personnel remain in Kuwait, from where they airlift supplies to the US

military, but little is reported on their activities in domestic media.

Domestic media have said the government plans to extend Air Force backup for its most important security ally for two years from July. The initial dispatch stretched the boundaries of Japan's US-drafted pacifist Constitution and was opposed by much of the Japanese population.

MNA/Reuters



Mahouts rest as their elephants enjoy a "buffet" of fruit and vegetables at Mae Sa elephant camp to mark Thailand's National Elephant Day in Chiang Mai province, about 700 km (435 miles) north of Bangkok, on 13 March, 2007. About 70 elephants were present at the event. — INTERNET



A helicopter is used to transport snow to parts of the Holmenkollen cross country ski track in Oslo on 15 March, 2007. — INTERNET

Beijing Capital Airport ranked world's ninth passenger airport

BEIJING, 16 March — Beijing Capital Airport was ranked ninth biggest in the world in terms of passenger numbers last year according to the Airports Council International (ACI). Beijing Capital Airport became the first Chinese airport ranked among the top ten with a total of 48.5 million passengers in 2006. Atlanta International Airport in the US was first with 84.84 million passengers.

Hong Kong International Airport was ranked the 14th, up from 16th in 2005, Asia's third biggest after Tokyo Haneda and Beijing.

Shanghai Pudong Airport ranked sixth in cargo volume, handling

2.16 million tons, followed by Beijing, 21st at 1.03 million tons, and Guangzhou Baiyun Airport, 25th with 825,000 tons of cargo, in 2006.

Pudong Airport saw the world's fastest rise in cargo volume in 2006 with an annual growth of 16.3 per cent.

US-based express delivery giant UPS is to establish its Asia-Pacific transfer centre at Pudong

Airport, while another giant DHL is currently evaluating its project of locating the North Asia transfer centre there.

Hong Kong International Airport was ranked second in cargo volume after US Memphis International Airport, headquarters of FedEx, for the seventh consecutive year since 2000 by a small margin of 83,000 tons.

MNA/Xinhua



Students collect the donated books in Jijitai Village of Hami, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on 15 March, 2007. "Hand in Hand", an activity to donate books for children in the remote rural areas, was recently launched in Hami. — XINHUA

Four killed in New York's Greenwich Village shootout

NEW YORK, 16 March — A gunman wearing a fake beard shot a counterman 15 times at a pizzeria in Greenwich Village, New York on Wednesday night and then killed two unarmed volunteer police officers during a chase before being killed by police, local media reported on Thursday.

The two dead officers, identified as Eugene Marshalik, 19, a student at New York University, and Nicholas Pekearo, 28, are the first killed in the line of duty in New York City since 1993, according to police.

The shooter has been identified as David Gavin, 32. Police said Gavin walked into DeMarco's Pizzeria on West Houston Street in lower Manhattan at 9:26 pm (0126 GMT

Thursday) and, armed with a 9-millimetre handgun and wearing a fake beard, suddenly and without explanation pumped 15 bullets into the counterman, Alfredo Romaro, 35.

The gunman then fled northbound on MacDougal Street and eastbound onto Bleecker Street. On nearby

Sullivan Street, Gavin encountered the two auxiliary officers, who were unarmed volunteers.

MNA/Xinhua

2006 Miss Universe Japan Kurara Chibana (L) and winners of the 2007 Miss Universe Japan Finals in Tokyo on 15 March, 2007. INTERNET



တစ်ပွင့်အား ခေတ်တော်ပွား



Residents walk through a flooded residential area in Jakarta on 15 March, 2007. Some residential areas in Jakarta was flooded after an overnight rainstorm in the city. — INTERNET

Kidney disease hits record numbers

CANBERRA, 16 March — A new report shows a record number of Australians have kidney disease. Six Australians start treatment for kidney disease each day.

The Australian and New Zealand Dialysis and Treatment Registry shows

the number of people with kidney disease jumped by almost 12 percent in 2005.

By the end of that year, more than 15,000 Australians were on kidney dialysis or living with a kidney transplant.

Professor Graeme Russ from Adelaide's Queen

Elizabeth Hospital says kidney disease can be caused by diabetes, high blood pressure, smoking and obesity.

Doctors want patients to be offered regular kidney check-ups as part of preventative health care. — Internet

Aust soldiers injured in Afghan rocket attack

KANDAHAR (Afghan), 17 March — Three Australian soldiers have been injured during a rocket attack in Afghanistan.

The soldiers were in their accommodation area at the Kandahar air base in southern Afghanistan when it was hit by a rocket overnight. The Defence Department says they received immediate first aid and medical monitor-

ing by Australian medics at the base.

All three soldiers have suffered only minor injuries and will return to duty.

Their names have not been released for privacy reasons.

The Department says

the rocket strike did minor damage to some of the accommodation buildings at the air base.

But most of the impact was absorbed by a purpose-built barrier system.

Internet

US official announces aid to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 16 March — The United States will provide 750 million US dollars to Pakistan over the next five years to support development of the tribal areas, US Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher said here Thursday.

The US official told a news conference that the United States would also provide 75 million dollars to Pakistan to upgrade and transform the Frontier Constabulary.

Boucher said that the US would provide 110 million

dollars this year for tribal areas and 150 million dollars annually in the remaining period.

He said that the amount would be spent on a comprehensive strategy for the area including improvement of health, education and other opportunities for people of the border region.

Responding to a question, he said that the United States government was working on the plan for the establishment of Economic Opportunities Zones in Tribal Areas.

MNA/Xinhua

ECONOMIC NEWS

Vietnam wins rice tender in Japan

HANOI, 16 March — Vietnamese firms have recently won a bid to sell 17,050 tons of rice to Japan, according to a local trade agency on Thursday.

The commodity has been priced, on average, nearly 459.20 US dollars per ton, said the Trade Information Centre under the Trade Ministry.

Local companies have so far this year won bids of selling a total of 45,050 tons of rice to Japan, compared with 120,000 tons in 2006, and 80,000 tons in 2005, said the centre.

Vietnam exported 316,000 tons of rice worth 100 million dollars to the world market, mainly to the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Cuba and Japan, in the first two months of this year, posting respective year-on-year declines of 47.8 per cent and 39.9 per cent. The Vietnamese Government has recently decided that the rice export volume should be 4-4.5 million tons in 2007

to ensure food security.

Vietnam exported over 4.7 million tons of rice worth 1.3 billion dollars last year, seeing respective decreases of

4.5 per cent and 7.2 per cent against the previous year, according to the country's General Statistics Office.

MNA/Xinhua



An environment scientist inspects a coral reef formation in the Philippines. Environment ministers from 13 major nations agreed here on 16 March, 2007 to seek the economic value of biodiversity to help preserve Earth's depleted storeroom of life. — INTERNET



A Japanese model shows off Nintendo Co's dual screen handled video game console "Nintendo DS Lite" in Tokyo, last year. Training the brain with a computer workout programme may be better than classic computer games at staving off age-related mental decline, scientists reported on 16 March, 2007.

INTERNET

Russia set to build crucial oil pipeline

Moscow, 17 March — Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed a deal to build a crucial new oil pipeline to service the European Union (EU).

Russia has signed a deal with Greece and Bulgaria to build the new pipeline across the two Balkan countries.

It is expected to cost more than \$1 billion to build.

When completed, the pipeline will ship up to 50 million tonnes of Russian oil to the greek port of Alexandroupolis every year. It has been hailed as a vital alternative route that allows Russian

tankers to bypass the congested Bosphorus Straits.

Russia is one of the world's biggest oil exporters. The EU has become increasingly reliant on Russian oil and gas for its energy supplies.

Internet

Chinese consumers show less tolerance with shoddy goods, services

BEIJING, 16 March — Chinese consumers, increasingly aware of their rights, were awarded 783 million yuan (102 million US dollars) in com-

pensation for unqualified products and services in 2006.

The country's industrial and commercial departments handled

156,000 cases concerning consumer rights violations in the past year compared with just 8,041 cases in 1985 when most Chinese people were unaware of

the China Consumers' Association (CCA).

Fake commodities, misleading advertisements and over-priced housing have come to the spotlight of public concern on March 15, World Consumer Rights Day.

A survey carried out by the CCA earlier this year showed the majority of complaints concerned mobile phone quality and services, food safety, housing prices and poor services provided by emerging industries such as online services.

Chinese consumers showed more discernment toward durable products, such as cars which pollute the environment, but less tolerance with unsatisfactory services provided by monopoly industries such as China Telecom.

MNA/Xinhua



In this image from video made available by SKY TG24, lava pours down the slopes of a volcano on the tiny Sicilian island of Stromboli, on 16 March, 2007. The Stromboli volcano erupted in a shower of small stones and ash, but the island's few hundred residents were not in any danger, authorities said Friday. Experts were monitoring the activity of the volcano, which erupted late Thursday, Italy's Civil Protection agency said. — INTERNET

EU to forge energy partnership with Africa

BERLIN, 16 March — The European Union plans to forge an energy partnership with Africa later this year, according to a news release Wednesday.

German Development Minister Heidemarie Wiczorek-Zeul announced the plans at the end of an informal meeting of EU development ministers at Petersberg near Bonn later Tuesday. She said

that without sustainable access to energy, there can be no development.

"Rising costs for fossil energy are jeopardizing development achievements in Africa. We in the European Union therefore want to support Africa in expanding the use of renewable energy and improving energy efficiency," she was quoted as saying.

MNA/Xinhua

Earthquake jolts eastern Indonesia

JAKARTA, 17 March — A moderate earthquake with magnitude 5.3 rocked eastern part of Indonesia on Thursday, with no report of casualty or damages, the Indonesian Meteorology and Geophysics Agency said.

The quake struck at 13:08 Jakarta Time (0608 GMT) with epicentre at 531 kilometres northeast of Bitung Town of North Sulawesi Province and 52 kilometres under sea bed, an official of the agency told Xinhua.

The quake intensity was felt at 2 to 3 mmi (modified mercally intensity) at Naha Tahuna Town of the province. — MNA/Xinhua

Romania set to reduce troops by 100 in Iraq

BUCHREST, 16 March — Romania is likely to cut its troops in Iraq this year by around 100, from some 600 now, in line with British withdrawal plans, President Traian Basescu said on Wednesday.

“We will be probably reducing our presence there by 100 soldiers in accordance with our British allies,” Basescu told an annual gathering of senior politicians and Army officers.

Prime Minister Tony Blair said last month that Britain would withdraw 1,600 troops from Iraq over the coming months although some soldiers would stay into 2008 as long as they were wanted.

“We have a company in Basra which seems this

year to have approached an end of its mission there,” Basescu said.

Romania, a staunch Washington ally and a NATO member since 2004, withdrew some 130 soldiers from Iraq last year.

The ruling centrist coalition is split over the presence in Iraq, with Basescu saying the force should remain until Bucharest’s allies and Baghdad ask for a withdrawal.

However, Prime Minister Calin Tariceanu’s

Liberal party has said Romania should bring its forces home. The governing coalition party says it collected one million signatures from Romanians who back its proposal. Polls show about 60 per cent of the public want withdrawal.

MNA/Reuters



Deputies to the Fifth Session of the Tenth National People’s Congress (NPC) walk towards the Great Hall of the People prior to the closing meeting of the session in Beijing, capital of China, on 16 March, 2007. The Fifth Session of the Tenth NPC is scheduled to close in Beijing Friday. — XINHUA

Superstitious decorator paints mountain to change his “Feng Shui”

BEIJING, 16 March — Forestry authorities say they will not fine or punish the superstitious owner of a decorating company

who ordered the side of a mountain spray painted a garish green in a south-western Chinese village.

The story of the green-painted mountain first came to light on 13 February, sparking public condemnation. Many people blamed the forestry bureau of Fumin County in southwest Yunnan Province for wasting public money on the “face-saving project”.

It turns out that decorator Du Mucheng spent more than 10,000 yuan to paint the mountainside quarry to adjust the “feng shui” of his surroundings.

Du admitted he ordered the mountain painted last July in the belief that his fortunes would improve if he was able to change the area’s feng shui.

Du said he considered the silence of local forestry bureau as consent

for his project.

The mountain, with a good chunk of it removed during quarrying, towers over the town. More than 1,000 square metres of the

mountain face are now a not-quite natural green and stands in stark contrast to the brownish countryside.

MNA/Xinhua



Gates Foundation donates to Amanet in Africa

DAR ES SALAAM, 16 March — The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has offered a grant of 4.1 million US dollars to the African Malaria Network Trust (Amanet) to facilitate its research.

The donation was announced by Amanet Communications Officer Charles Wanga in Arusha, according to reports reaching here on Thursday.

The Gates donation will be used on health research ethics in sub-Saharan Africa.

Wanga said during the ongoing East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community Seminar that the worsening situation of malaria in Africa, new biomedical discoveries and the need to bridge up anti-malaria funding gap had led to growing demands to

develop new products for the treatment, prevention and control of the killer disease.

“More malaria research and trials involving African and non-African scientists and institutions will have to be undertaken in Africa,” said the communications officer who added that funds for malaria research in Africa must be increased because it is also needed for development of new tools against the disease.

Dar es Salaam-based Amanet started malaria-related activities in 1995 under the name of African Malaria Vaccine Testing Network. It later changed its name to Amanet in 2002 when it widened its research scope to add anti-malarial drugs and vector control to malaria vaccination.

MNA/Xinhua

McLaren Formula One driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain powers around the bends in the rain during the first day of practice in Melbourne on 16 March, 2007. The first race of the F1 Grand Prix season will be held on Sunday at the Melbourne Grand Prix circuit. — INTERNET



A person crosses Market Street as a mix of rain and ice falls in Philadelphia, on 16 March, 2007. — INTERNET

Eight children die in India slum collapse

RANCHI (India), 16 March — Ten people were killed, including eight children, when their huts collapsed into a coal mine in eastern India, a mining official and witnesses said.

Survivors said most people were asleep in the slum at Kusunda colliery in the eastern state of Jharkhand when their huts began trembling in the early hours of Thursday.

“Everything happened suddenly and we did not have time to run for safety with our children,” said Mukhtari Khatoon, who was injured along with her husband and three children. One man, a casual labourer, lost three children in the accident. — MNA/Reuters

Police probe seven deaths at British care home

LONDON, 16 March — Detectives have arrested a married couple in a probe into seven deaths at an old people’s home in Somerset, police and media reports said on Thursday.

An Avon and Somerset Police spokesman said officers were investigating whether any of the deaths were suspicious. Police arrested and bailed a 45-year-old woman and a 48-year-old man in January as part of the probe into the Parkfields Residential Care Home in Butleigh, near Glastonbury, the spokesman added. — MNA/Reuters

Suicide blast kills six near Afghan police post

KHOST (Afghanistan), 16 March — A suicide attack close to a police station killed at least six people in Afghanistan’s southeastern town of Khost on Wednesday, a provincial government spokesman said.

The attack by two men on foot against a senior police official in Khost, scene of a series of attacks by a resurgent Taliban in recent weeks, also wounded more than 30, spokesman Salim Karwan said. The officer was wounded. — MNA/Reuters

Aunty Suu go back where you came from

(An open letter to Aunty Suu)

Wathan

The article "From Ngar Min Swe to Daw Suu Kyi" reminded me of Aunty Suu. If my memory serves me correctly, it was around 1986. A series of articles about Daw Khin Kyi, Aunty Suu's mother, by former Brigadier-General Aung Gyi in Pay Phu Hlwa Magazine evoked my memories of the family of Bogyoke (Major-General) Aung San.

Soon after that, I read the sequels to those articles that stated Aunty Suu's family was granted permission to come back to Yangon, and novitiation of her sons. At that time, I was just 15 and strongly disliked her. And I thought: "It's ugly. It is said she is the daughter of our Bogyoke, then I wonder why she got married to a foreigner. How can I consider her children the descendants of Bogyoke Aung San?" I felt bitter with my thought that what made her do so. I assumed anyhow she should preserve her lineage. I could not console myself when I knew about her.

Myanmar people hold Bogyoke Aung San in high esteem. He would be heartbroken if he were still alive and witnessed his daughter's choice of her life partner. She may give an excuse that she has been put into such a situation. If she says so, her words will be like an insult to her father. It is because she is not an ordinary person, but the daughter of Bogyoke Aung San, who was equipped with strong concept, conviction and patriotic spirit.

You made your choice of your own volition. Is it because your life was too miserable to preserve the lineage of your own? Your father overcame a variety of hardships with daring spirit for his belief. Wasn't he a role model for you? You are a descendant of a heroic leader, but why did you fail to preserve your lineage by getting married to a foreigner in your circle of friends?

I could not imagine how others felt when they read the article about her family in Pay Phu Hlwa Magazine. Reading it, I felt sad, downhearted and depressed at the same time. As written by Ngar Min Swe, in the past Myanmar people were impoverished due to the mismanagement in economy of the Myanma Socialist Programme Party. People had to queue at the cooperative society concerned to get the quota of rice and edible oil. And they had to rely on the cooperative society to get even a reel of thread. At the time, Myanmar people were expecting that the generation of Bogyoke would return to Myanmar and save the country. The generation of Bogyoke did come to the nation, but at the time Aunty Suu was already married to an alien.

In fact, the "8-8-88" unrest stemmed from a series of articles by ex-Brigadier-General Aung Gyi featured in 1986-87 issues of Pay Phu Hlwa Magazine, not from the hardships of the people, the high price in rice of 25 kyats a pyi (small basket), and the hunger of the people. The articles aroused the public outrage that there was the generation of Bogyoke, and the people thought they could still have an opportunity to rely on the generation. They could object to the administrative machinery of the Myanma Socialist Programme Party if they did not like it any longer. And they thought that Bogyoke's family was neglected and had to live abroad in poverty.

We people were looking forward to the arrival of Aunty Suu. Many people and students sacrificed their lives for you, and supported you as a public figure. You were soon considered to be the public leader, but you were not well-versed with political essence and political intrigues. With the passage of time, Myanmar people have come to realize that they are wrong.

You were not capable enough to control the mob that was filled with emotional feelings and did anarchic acts in

front of the Trade Office in downtown Yangon during the unrest. As far as I remember, no one lost his life in that incident as it was handled with great care. What did you do at that time for preventing the people from losing their lives and property? But, all what you did in the unrest were giving anti-government talks to the people, arousing the public outrage, making the people scapegoats for seizing power, and masterminding destructive acts from a safe place. You were unable to solve the problem at all. Many of the people made many sacrifices in your interest but you were not clever enough to take advantage of the situations.

You were shouting politics at all times but were not able to create a good condition in the interests of the people. You claimed that if necessary you would have to associate with any forces for the sake of politics, and you were busy with political issues which the majority of the people did not understand. You said that you would have to cooperate with any forces — Burma Communist Party or war veterans. You focused all your efforts on your ultimate goal of seizing power.

The majority of the people were not interested in politics. And they did not understand it. All they wanted were secure and peaceful life, prevalence of law and order and their basic needs fulfilled. Then, they did not pay any attention to politics.

In the world, there cannot be a situation in which there is an absolute harmony between the rulers and the ruled in any country. In this regard, the rulers are like parents and the ruled or the people, like the children. Therefore, even though they want to fulfil all the wishes of the people, the rulers have to enforce rules and regulations to avert possible undesirable consequences. Surely, when they think the rules and regulations are rather strict, the people sometimes criticize and blame the government. That is common in the human society. It would be impossible if we are expecting a flawless administrative machinery.

Like the governments of other countries, the ruling government of Myanmar has strengths and weaknesses. Do you think you are a perfect one? So, it is not strange that a person has both positive and negative aspects.

You have shouted utter devastation many times. But it is beyond my reach that why you have not been able to practise win-win policy. The government has to attend to the requirements of the people and point out the mistakes with positive attitude. The government's goal is to serve the interests of the nation and so is yours. Then, why do you still refuse to join hands with the government to achieve your goal?

Even if one hundred, one thousand, ten thousand or even one-hundred thousand persons may be wicked, Aunty Suu, you should not be like them. Because you are the daughter of our Bogyoke Aung San. You must be good for the nation, yes you must be.

If you couldn't, please go back to the place where you came from. Please do not stay in the country you do not actually love and wish to do anything good for it. And if you cannot see our country as your home, please do not live here to give trouble to it. No one will set fire to his own house, only the insane persons will do.

But you are like deliberately pushing our country down to abject poverty. You should not place in the fore only your desires. We have a common reference in Myanmar "As you wish Su, as you wish" leading the nation to enslavement.

Actually, we did believe that you were a great hope. However, because of the deteriorating situation, you are

now a burden for us. We are tired of you. Please do not try to block everything. The people want to be relieved from sanctions and pressures. Please do not discredit only Myanmar in the world? We have a Myanmar saying, which goes, "The spirit we are relying on to save us from the danger of a tiger is worse than the animal". Here, you are like the spirit for us.

We can rebuild our country within a short span of time. But it will take much time to amend the deteriorating morale and morality of the people. Can you guarantee that your party is totally perfect? Are you sure that there are no power craze in your party? In reality, your party is constantly demanding for power. Your party cannot let others govern the nation because you cannot rule it. Will you not improve your 'tit for tat' position? How much more can you do for the country if you get power? At least you should give good advice and assistance to develop the country. I think you can do good for the nation as you have the ability to harm it.

Aunty Suu, please check your party again. How many good persons do you have? How many persons are using the party as a refuge for them? How many persons of your party have wider political knowledge and stronger conviction?

I have been to various places of the nation, witnessing the NLD members committing all kinds of evil acts. They are committing lawless acts, with the belief that police dare not arrest them as they are under protection of their party; that some foreign media will come to their assistance even if they are arrested; and that if fortunate they can become rich. They take money to send complaints to Western media. They are shameless enough to commit such acts for just a small amount of money. Government staff in every town abhor the NLD.

Is that your NLD Aunty Suu? The people did not rely on Aunty Suu for such evil acts of NLD. Do you consider all NLD members to be good and all pro-government people to be evil? Suppose Bogyoke Aung San were still alive, he would feel ashamed if the nation's future is entrusted to unemployed troublemakers and stupid persons? He would be more ashamed if he knew such evil things are committed by his own descendent. The so-called NLD members are always troublesome. They have gone so far as threatening the government that any act to ignore them will be aired from BBC, DVB and RFA.

How can you say those NLD members are not power crazy and doing good for the nation? They practise anarchy and are fond of violating the law to that degree taking cover of NLD. If power is entrusted to them the situation will be much worse than what you have been shouting now.

Instead of criticizing others, Aunty Suu, you should do something good for the nation. You should stop shouting your slogans — "the people are starving", "no foreign assistance please", "national economy is in abject condition" and "no tourists please". Please do something good for the nation in consideration of Bogyoke.

Please give priority to intra party unity and solving the problem of intra power struggles than your motto — national reconciliation. If you have a dream of governing the whole nation, please solve your party problems and teach your members democracy first.

Because of this article, your men will think that I am a pro-government USDA member praising the government to gain favour. Actually, I am an ordinary citizen. I am not a member of the NLD nor the USDA. I only express what I believe. I am not a government supporter, and I have no belief in NLD. I write this article of my own volition as I cannot accept the deteriorating NLD at all.

We have already lost a lot of time. We cannot do anything during the time. The nation has been striving on its own strength. The worse is that you are trying to block all assistance and investment to the nation. Please do have a little sympathy for the people. Please discard your sole aim of grabbing power and serve the interest of the nation. Strive for the best for national development. It is all right if you do not want to help us. But do not disturb and destroy our nation, please. You should not be a burden for the people. It is better for you to go back where you came from. We are tired of you.

(Translation: MS+TMT)

We people were looking forward to the arrival of Aunty Suu. Many people and students sacrificed their lives for you, and supported you as a public figure. You were soon considered to be the public leader, but you were not well-versed with political essence and political intrigues. With the passage of time, Myanmar people have come to realize that they are wrong.

Parade drill of Tatmadaw columns inspected



Commander Brig-Gen Wai Lwin inspects parade drill of Tatmadaw columns. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March — Chairman of the Management Committee for Observance of the 62nd Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Brig-Gen Wai Lwin, accompanied by Chairman of the Parade Working Committee Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Brig-Gen Zaw Win, Vice Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, Vice Quartermaster-General Maj-Gen Khin Maung Tun, Provost Marshal Maj-Gen Saw Hla and officials, this morning arrived at the parade ground in Nay Pyi Taw where the 62nd

Anniversary Armed Forces Day parade will be held. The commander and party inspected the parade drill of Tatmadawmen, police members, members of Myanmar Fire Brigade and members of Myanmar Red Cross Society of Anawrahta Column led by Column Commander Col Aung Gyi and Commanding Officer Lt-Col Kyaw Aung, Kyansittha Column led by Column Commander Col Thein Zaw and CO Lt-Col Aung Kyaw Moe, Bayintnaung Column led by Column Commander Captain Zaw Oo (Navy) and CO Cmdr Win Myint Aung (Navy), Aungzeya Column led by Column Commander

Col San Win and CO Lt-Col Zaw Win Aung, Hsinbyushin Column led by Column Commander Col Than Lwin and CO Lt-Col Thet Wai, Bandoola Column led by Column Commander Col Khin Maung Hsint and CO Lt-Col Thurein Kyaw and Myawady Column led by Column Commander Col Nay Win and CO Lt-Col Aung Kyaw Nyunt under the command of parade commander Brig-Gen Myint Naung.

After giving necessary instructions to officials, the commander attended to the needs.

MNA

Pyinmana (North) Timber Extraction Region inspected



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung inspects Nancho Reserved Forest. FORESTRY

YANGON, 17 March — Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung inspected Khawma raftjatty in Pyinmana (North) Timber Extraction Region in Pyinmana Township yesterday.

Assistant Director U Zaw Win of Forest Department in Pyinmana District, Director-General of Forest Department U Soe Win Hlaing and

officials reported on timber extraction in the region.

On arrival at Nancho Reserved Forest in the region, the minister heard reports on work being done by responsible persons of East Shweyoema Company. Later, the officials conducted the minister around the reserved forest.—MNA

Milk powder worth K 1.28 million donated

YANGON, 17 March — Milk powder worth K 1.28 million was donated by Dr Beauty Kyi and party of Mo Asia Co Ltd (Dumex) in Yangon to the children undergoing treatment at Defence Services Obstetric, Gynaecological and Children's Hospital No 1 (300-bed) on 14 March.

Commandant of the hospital Prof Col Kyaw Nyunt accepted the donation and presented certificate of honour to the donors.—MNA

Minister receives guests

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi received Mr Boris Chedyrov, Minister for Energy of Republic of Kalmykia of Russian Federation, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office

Mr Tatarkhan R Kubanov and Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr Mikhail M Mgeladze at the ministry, here yesterday.

They discussed matters related to bilateral energy sector.

Deputy Minister

Brig-Gen Than Htay, Director-General U Soe Myint of Energy Planning Department, Managing Director U Myint Kyi of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise and officials were present on the occasion.—MNA

Minister back from Indonesia

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March — A Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein this morning arrived here by air after attending 42nd SEAMEO Council Conference and 2nd ASEAN Education Ministers' Meeting held in Indonesia.

The delegation was welcomed back at Nay Pyi Taw airport by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung, Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt and officials.

Dr Myo Myint, rector of University of



Minister Dr Chan Nyein being welcomed back at Nay Pyi Taw airport. — MNA

Foreign Languages Dr Chan Nyein was also (Yangon), who back. accompanied Minister

MNA



Lt-Gen Myint Swe offers alms to a Sayadaw at the diamond jubilee birthday ceremony of State Ovadaçariya Tawtaik Dhamma Yeiktha Sayadaw Agga Maha Kammathanaçariya Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Dhammasara. (News on page 16)—MNA

Sewing machines provided for women

YANGON, 17 March — Yangon North District Women's Affairs Organization held a meeting at Kanaung hall in Hlinethaya Township on 8 March.

Chairperson Daw San San Htay of Yangon North District WAO and chairpersons

of Township WAOs discussed matters concerning work to be done in the year 2007.

Patron of Yangon Division WAO Daw Mar Mar Wai attended to the needs and made concluding remarks.

The patron and guests viewed photos on

activities of district and township WAOs there. Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai later presented 15 sewing machines for women working for embroidery business in Yoegy Village, Hmawby Township to the chairperson of Hmawby Township WAO.—MNA

Thingangyun Township USDA opens Basic Organizing Course

YANGON, 17 March — The opening ceremony of Basic Organizing Course No 44/45 organized by Thingangyun Township Union Solidarity and Development Association was held at the township USDA Office on Thanthuma Road in Thingangyun Township this morning.

CEC member (Yangon Division In-charge) Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin made an opening address. He accepted 1,512 USDA membership applications and presented membership cards to Organizer Daw Myint Myint Than.

The CEC member accepted cash donations from wellwishers.

Altogether 160



Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin accepts USDA membership applications from a responsible person of No 25 ward in Thingangyun Township. YCDC

trainees are attending the course that will last two weeks.

MNA

MWAF donates cash and kind to nunnery

YANGON, 17 March —The Information Department of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation donated cash and kind to Withakha nunnery on Yadana Street in Ward 81 of Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township this morning.

On behalf of the

head of department, Deputy Head of Department Daw Mya Mya explained the purpose of the donation. Next, the deputy head of department and party presented cash and donations to Head of the nunnery Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Nun Daw Kissaratheri and Nun Daw Jeyanandi.

Member of the Information Department Daw Yoe Yoe gave an educative talk to nuns and students.

Today's donation by Head of Information Department Daw Kyi Kyi Win, regional organizer Daw Wai Wai and members totalled K 121,200. — MNA



Deputy Head of Information Department of MWAF Daw Mya Mya and party offer provisions to Withakha Nunnery.

MNA

Deputy Minister inspects tasks of Insein Locomotive Shed

YANGON, 17 March — Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin instructed officials to make efforts for construction of the new locomotives at Insein Locomotive Shed in Insein yesterday afternoon.

The deputy minister together with

officers and workers discussed construction of locomotives and seeking methods to minimize construction cost.

Next, the deputy minister and party

explained construction of locomotives to technicians from the People's Republic of China and discussed matters related to technologies. — MNA

Deputy Minister Thura U Thaung Lwin gives instructions to staff of Locomotive Shed (Insein) of Myanma Railways.

MNA



Digital auto-exchange launched in Taze

YANGON, 17 March — Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye together with Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and CEC member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint attended the ceremony to put the 600-line digital auto-exchange in Taze yesterday.

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and President of Union of

Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint formally opened the auto-exchange.

The commander unveiled the signboard of the exchange. Next, the commander and the ministers gave speeches.

In Budalin, they inspected tasks of the communication and telegraph office. Next, they also inspected tasks of the communication station in Dabayin.

MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw addresses opening of new 600-digital line auto-exchange in Taze. — MNA

Information Minister attends opening of IPRD office building, TV retransmission station



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan graces opening of MRTV relay station in Htilin Township. — MNA

YANGON, 17 March — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan attended the opening of a new office building of ChaungU Township Information and Public Relations Department on 9 March afternoon.

After unveiling the signboard of the office, the minister inspected the reading room and e-library in the office and cordially greeted the

local people. In the evening, the minister together with North-West Command Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Tin Maung Ohn visited the Sankyaung of Maha Bawdi Tithaung Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhama Jotika Dhaja Bhaddanta Narada and offered alms to Presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sobhita.

Next, the minister visited the MRTV

retransmission station on Bawdi Tithaung hill in Monywa Township. He stressed the need for full-time broadcasting of TV programmes, regular maintenance of machinery and measures to be taken for fire prevention. He then paid homage to the Standing Laygyun Sakya Buddha Image.

The minister also visited Yinmabin Township IPRD in Sagaing Division where he viewed

wall papers and books in the e-library. He gave instructions to officials on striving for the successful realization of the ministry's aims and objectives. Afterwards, he visited Pale Township IPRD.

On 12 March morning, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan attended the opening of the TV retransmission station in Htilin, Gangaw District, Magway Divi-

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than attends...

(from page 16)

will provide health care services not only to the local people but also to the visitors from Ngwehsaung Beach. He urged all to maintain the hospital for its durability.

Deputy Minister Dr Paing Soe accepted four beds and one sucker donated by Plam Beach Hotel; eight kinds of hospital equipment by Yuzana Co; one oxygenation machine, one sucker and one Nevaliza by Sunny Paradise Hotel; one 20 kva generator by Shwe Family Co; one fungus pesticide spray container by Mya Pinle Co; and cash donations by Olympic Hotel, Yaunggyi Tun Tauk Co, Silver View Hotel, Shwe Khayu Hotel, Pale Ngwehsaung Hotel, Shwe Thazin Hotel, Shwe Hinthia Hotel and Plam Beach Hotel.

The wellwishers donated medical equipment worth K 10.05 million and hospital equipment worth K 6.8 million.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party left Ngwehsaung and arrived back here yesterday evening.

MNA

Officials urged to step up work for completion of Kyangin-Okshitpin railroad

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March — Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min and officials inspected building of Kyangin-Okshitpin railroad section of Kyangin-Pakokku railroad project in Padaung Township, Bago Division yesterday.

The minister urged the officials to redouble their efforts for completing the railroad section.

The minister also inspected bridges along the railroad section.

The 40-mile railroad section is nearing completion. A total of six railway stations will be built along the railroad section.

The minister looked into building of Phartashin bridge, which will be commissioned into service soon.

The 469-foot long bridge at Hinthada-Kyangin railroad section can withstand 30 tons of loads.

MNA

sion. The station was built at a cost of K 16.6 million and machinery was installed at a cost of K 30 million. The

people of 90 villages in Htilin Township can enjoy TV programmes thanks to the relay station. — MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan visits office of ChaungU Township IPRD. — MNA

First Indian space tourist gearing to take off

KOCHI, 17 March — Taking tourism to greater heights, Santosh George Kulangara, a Keralite, is all set to become the first Indian space tourist.

Santosh, the Managing Director of Labour India Publications, and producer of 'Sancharam', a popular weekly travel programme being aired on a Malayalam television channel, has travelled to nearly 50 countries in the past 10 years filming exciting new destinations for his viewers.

"This is a dream come true," Santosh told PTI over phone from Pala in Kottayam District.

He would be flying on board the Virgin Galactic's space ship, a venture of Sir Richard Branson of Virgin Atlantic. — MNA/PTI



Parachutists descend during a ceremony to mark 100 days before the first race of the 32nd America's Cup Match in the port of Valencia on 15 March, 2007. Xinhua

Nepal, UNDP sign agreement on wetlands conservation

KATHMADU, 17 March — The Nepali Government and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Thursday signed a 4-million-US-dollar project entitled "Conservation and Sustainable Use of Wetlands in Nepal" to be implemented in the Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve in eastern Nepal.

"We hope to develop this as a model for sustainable wetland management in Nepal to be replicated by the government. Moreover, the project will also indirectly contribute to the peace building process by improving the livelihood opportunities of the targeted communities

thus enhancing access to natural resources", UNDP Deputy Resident Representative Ghulam Isaczai told reporters.

MNA/Xinhua

ASEAN member countries to step up student exchange programme

JAKARTA, 17 March — ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) education ministers ended their three-day meeting in Bali, Indonesia, Friday with an agreement to step up implementation of ASEAN Student Exchange Programme (ASEP).

The programme which had run from 2000 until 2005, would be resumed in 2008. It would involve students from six ASEAN member countries, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippine and Brunei Darussalam.

The ministers also agreed to develop cooperation in the fields of mathematics and science instruction at secondary schools, Antara news agency reported.

"This network will help develop various experiences and talents in the fields of science and

technology among member nations," Indonesian Education Minister Bambang Sudibyo was quoted as saying at a Press conference.

Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono opened the 42nd ASEAN education ministers conference on Wednesday.

In his address, the president asked the Southeast Asian ministers to step up their activities in research and development and thereby help bring the quality of education in the region on a par with that in other regions of the world.

MNA/Xinhua

China to launch new satellite to replace "Sinosat-2"

BEIJING, 17 March — China will launch a new direct broadcast satellite later this year after its predecessor, Sinosat-2, suffered a fatal technical failure in space one month after its launch.

Chinasat-9, also the country's second direct-to-home satellite, was scheduled to be launched in September or October, said Du Baichuan, deputy director of the science and technology sector of the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television.

Du gave no specific timetable for the launch.

The France-made Chinasat-9 is capable of covering almost all of China, making it possible

for at least 98 per cent of the population to receive satellite television using small dishes.

Chinasat-9 was originally planned to complement Sinosat-2 as mutual back-up to form China's first-generation direct broadcast satellite system.

Sinosat-2, China's first direct-to-home satellite, was launched on October 29 last year. It was revealed a month later that it failed to deploy its solar

panels and communication antennae and was deemed inoperable.

China has 12.6 million digital TV subscribers and a total of 400 million television sets, suggesting a huge potential market for satellite TV.

MNA/Xinhua



A couple walk in snow on Troodos Mountain some 71 kilometers (44 miles) from the capital Nicosia, Cyprus, on Thursday, 15 March, 2007. A strong depression originating from Russia is causing bad weather and snow fall over Cyprus as temperatures reached 2 degrees Celsius (35 Fahrenheit).

INTERNET

NASA data says ISS is falling, but it's okay

BEIJING, 16 March — Recent NASA tracking data reveals the international space station has fallen to 207 miles (332) kilometers, the lowest average altitude in the nine-year history of the project.

The US space agency said the station's orbit has decayed because of air drag. A short rocket blast this week from a docked cargo ship will boost the orbit a bit, but since the orbit is continually dropping about 300 feet (90 meters) a day, the boost will be negated within several weeks.

A graph released by NASA shows the loss of the shuttle Columbia in early 2003 marks when a

gradual decline became more severe. Until that time, the altitude had been maintained at a fairly high level, thanks mainly to reboosts from visiting shuttles. Since the Columbia disaster, all reboosts have been the responsibility of Russian spacecraft.

"Our altitude is driven by shuttle rendezvous altitude limits," Mission Control expert Ainsley Collins explained

by telephone. Collins is head of the space station's Trajectory Operations Office (TOPO), which coordinates with corresponding specialists in the Moscow Mission Control Center.

The US and Russian teams specialize in calculating the future paths of the space station as well as all objects flying toward it or away from it, including orbital debris. They then plan the

occasional small propulsive maneuvers that line the station up with other vehicles — or, in the case of space debris, will dodge them.

NASA orbital trajectory experts insist the station's orbit is under control. They say the decline is part of a long-range plan for the current phase of orbital assembly that involves particularly heavy payloads for shuttle missions. — Internet



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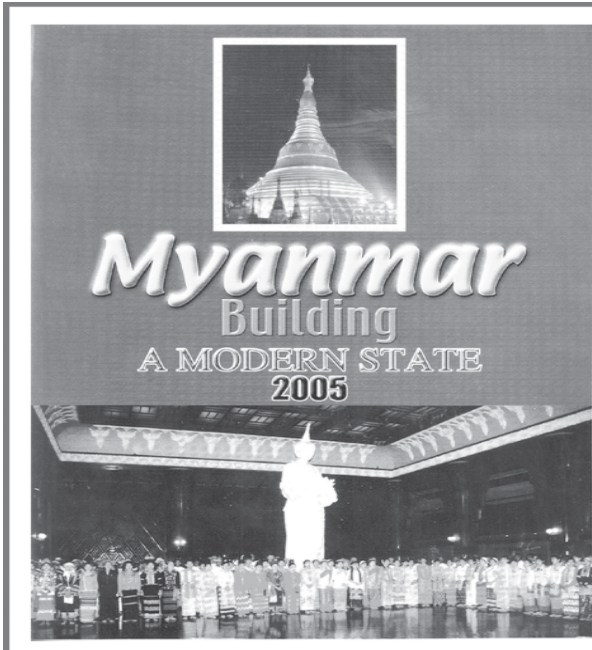
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FDA approves new advanced breast cancer drug

WASHINGTON, 14 March — The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Wednesday approved a new drug for patients with advanced, metastatic breast cancer. The newly approved drug Tykerb (lapatinib) is to be used in combination with another cancer drug capectabine (Xeloda) for patients with advanced breast cancer that is HER2

positive (tumors that exhibit HER2 protein). The combined treatment is designed for women who have received prior therapy with other cancer drugs, including anthracycline, taxane and trastuzumab (Herceptin). According to the American Cancer Society, about 180,000 new cases of breast cancer are diagnosed each year, and

approximately 8,000 to 10,000 women die from metastatic HER2 positive breast cancer annually. Tykerb, a new molecular entity (NME), is a kinase inhibitor that works on multiple targets to deprive tumor cells of the signals needed to grow. Unlike, for example, trastuzumab — a monoclonal antibody, which is a large protein molecule that targets the part of the HER2 protein

on the outside of the cell — Tykerb is a small molecule that enters the cell and blocks the function of this and other proteins. Because of this difference in action mechanism, Tykerb works in some HER2 positive breast cancers that have been treated with trastuzumab and are no longer benefiting from treatment.

Internet

German President urges release of Iraqi hostages

BERLIN, 16 March — German President Horst Koehler called on Wednesday for the immediate release of a German woman and her grown-up son who have been held hostage in Iraq for five weeks and threatened with death.

In a video message recorded during a visit by Koehler to Latin America, he appealed directly to the kidnappers, who said last week they would kill Hannelore Krause, 61 and her son Sinan in 10 days unless Berlin pulled its 3,000 soldiers out of Afghanistan.

"There is no political goal that justifies the

killing of innocent people," Koehler said in the message broadcast on Germany's ARD public television and the Arabic Al Jazeera satellite channel.

On Saturday the Arrows of Righteousness, a little-known Iraqi Islamist group, posted a video on a website used by militant groups,

including al-Qaeda, showing Krause, her son and two masked militants, one pointing a machine gun to their heads.

German newspapers have said the woman, married to an Iraqi physician, and her son are either Germans living in Iraq permanently or Iraqis with German nationality.

MNA/Reuters

Hostage of Taleban asks Italy to help free him

ROME, 16 March — An Italian reporter kidnapped by the Taleban in Afghanistan on 5 March appealed to Italy's government on Monday to secure his release in a video distributed on Wednesday that proved for the first time he was alive.

"I appeal to the Italian Government and to Prime

Minister Romano Prodi to do everything, work in every direction, to obtain our freedom," Daniele Mastrogiacomo said in the video, shown on Italian state television. He said he was well.

Mastrogiacomo was picked up in the lawless southern province of Helmand along with two Afghan colleagues and the Taleban said he had confessed to spying for British troops.

The Taleban, which often execute Afghans it accuses of spying, have called for Rome to withdraw its 1,900 troops from Afghanistan in order to free him — something Rome rules out.

La Repubblica has repeatedly denied the reporter was a spy and said the Karachi-born man had been writing for them since 1980 and had been reporting from Afghanistan since 28 February.

MNA/Reuters



သစ်တောသစ်ပင်
 ချစ်ခင်တဲ့လူမျိုး၊
 သစ်ပင်ကို
 နှစ်စဉ်စိုက်
 ရွှေတိုက်ကိုစိုး။

Sony introduces the XDV-100 pocket-size digital TV in Japan. The measurements of the Sony XDV-100 are 98.3x61x15.1mm and the sleek TV weighs only 110g. — XINHUA

ပညာရေးနှင့် ဆေးဝါးပညာတိုးတက်ရေး နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့



A panel of medical and nutritional professionals has rebuked an essay published in the 28 Feb issue of the JAMA (Journal of the American Medical Association), which claimed that taking vitamins increases the risk of death. — INTERNET

Experts rebuke “vitamins kill” theory

BEIJING, 16 March — A panel of medical and nutritional professionals has rebuked an essay published in the Feb 28 issue of the JAMA (Journal of the American Medical Association), which claimed that taking vitamins increases the risk of death.

Gathered at a recent symposium on vitamin C, the experts agreed that a balanced intake of vitamins and minerals is actually beneficial, not harmful, to one’s well-being. The group said that the study by Serbian doctor Goran Bjelakovicon was “biased and selective”.

Dr Hong Zhaoyi from Shanghai’s Xinhua Hospital said that many of the test subjects were

suffering from serious diseases, such as cancer and vascular disease, which invalidated the findings. He said the test would have produced very different results if it had used healthy people. In addition, he said that no systematic analysis was carried out to determine the causes of death.

Yin Shi’an, director of the Children’s and Women’s Nutrition Office,

part of the China Disease Control Centre, also expressed his concerns regarding the validity of the results: “Members of the test group were given higher than recommended doses of vitamin supplements,” he said.

Doctor Balz Frei of Oregon State University in the United States said that a person’s daily intake of vitamin C should not exceed 2 grams. — Internet

Report: warmest winter worldwide ever recorded

BEIJING, 16 March — Just more than a month after the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change said global warming is very likely caused by human actions, the US government Thursday said this winter was the warmest worldwide on record.

And if that report isn’t enough, another also reported Thursday by NASA in the journal Science revealed an important counter-balance to warming — sunlight blocked by volcanic gases, dust, pollution and other aerosol particles — seems to have become weaker.

In its study, NASA described the aerosol effect as a “sunscreen” for Earth.

“When more sunlight can get through the atmosphere and warm Earth’s surface, you’re going to have an effect on climate and temperature,” lead author Michael Mishchenko of NASA’s Goddard Institute for Space Studies said in a statement. “Knowing what aerosols are doing globally gives us an important missing piece of the big picture of the forces at work on climate.”

Scientists extracted an aerosol signal from satellite measurements originally designed to observe clouds and weather systems that date back to 1978.

“The resulting data show large, short-lived spikes in global aerosols caused by major volcanic eruptions in 1982 and 1991, but a gradual decline since about 1990,” NASA said in a statement. “By 2005, global aerosols had dropped as much as 20 percent from the relatively stable level between 1986 and 1991.”

Regarding this winter, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said the combined land and ocean temperatures for December through February were 1.3 degrees Fahrenheit above average for the period since record keeping began in 1880. — Internet



A model displays a creation by designer Mavin Y Quetzal during the 2007 Autumn/Winter fashion week in the Mexico City, capital of Mexico on 15 March, 2007. — XINHUA

Scientists say one of world’s supervolcanoes waking up

BEIJING, 16 March — US scientists say one of the largest supervolcanoes in the world is waking up, media reported on Friday.

The Yellowstone system, which lies beneath America’s western states, Wyoming, Montana and Idaho, is active and expected to eventually blow its top, but probably not in the near future. Supervolcanoes can sleep for centuries or millennia before producing incredibly massive eruptions that can drop ash across an entire continent.

The findings, reported this month in the Journal of Geophysical Research — Solid Earth, suggest that a slow and gradual

movement caused by a giant hotspot of molten rock beneath a volcano can shape a landscape more than sudden ground movements caused by the volcano’s frequent earthquakes.

“We think it’s a combination of magma being intruded under the caldera and hot water released from the magma being pressurized because it’s trapped,” said lead study author Robert Smith from the University of Utah.

“I don’t believe this is evidence for an impending volcanic eruption, but it would be prudent to keep monitoring the volcano.”

Internet

Vitamin C plays more important role in cells

WELLINGTON, 16 March — Research shows the vitamin has a far more important role in the body than previously thought, said New Zealand scientists on Friday. Dr Margret Visser from the Christchurch School of Medicine said Vitamin C is fundamental in controlling many cell activities, cell death and even the growth of cancer cells in tumors.

Visser’s group is working on whether something as simple as vitamin C can be used to limit the impact of cancer. She said the regulation of cell life and death is what underlies a lot of disease mechanisms and in particular the cancer disease.

Visser said this is not a cure for cancer but she and her team will now focus their research on the vitamin C levels within cancer cells to try to establish a connection. — Internet



Lance Mackey drives his dog team through the freezing wind on the Unalakleet River a few miles outside of the Unalakleet, Alaska checkpoint on the 1,100 mile sled dog race on 11 March, 2007. — INTERNET

SPORTS

Gunners to bag Baptista



Julio Baptista

REAL MADRID, 16 March—Arsenal are ready to finalise a deal with Real Madrid for striker Julio Baptista, according to reports in Spain. The Brazilian ace is currently on a season-long loan deal from the Spanish giants with Jose Antonio Reyes moving in the opposite direction. Following a slow start to life in England, Baptista

has impressed, particularly in cup competitions, and manager Arsene Wenger is now ready to retain the Samba star.

The North Londoners are believed to be in advanced talks with Real for Baptista, although the club's option of 20million euro (£13.6million) is likely to be negotiated.

However, The Gunners are unlikely to be able to use Reyes in the deal as Real are not looking to make his Bernabeu stay a permanent move.

UEFA Cup holders Sevilla have been linked with a move for their former star, although nothing official has come from the Liga's joint-leaders.

Internet

Lokomotiv Sofia thrash Rodopa 5-0 to go second

SOFIA, 17 March — Lokomotiv Sofia pressed their claims for a European place next season when a 5-0 rout of lowly Rodopa Smolyan on Friday helped them to climb to second place in the Bulgarian Premier League.

Champions Levski Sofia, unbeaten in the league, top the standings with 45 points from 17 matches, followed by Lokomotiv on 42 points from 18 matches. CSKA Sofia are third on 39.

The Railwaymen, who registered their fourth consecutive league win, took the lead after 15 minutes when central defender Georgi Markov powered in a header from veteran Hristo Koilov's cross.

Ivan Paskov doubled Lokomotiv's lead nine minutes after the interval

while substitute Hristo Markov put the issue beyond doubt when he made it 3-0 in the 64th minute as Koilov turned provider again.

Rodopa's misery was completed in the last quarter of an hour when league top scorer Tsvetan Genkov netted twice to take his tally to 14.

Rodopa moved a step closer to relegation after their sixth game in a row without winning. They are 15th on 11 points.

MNA/Reuters

Mourinho admits to Blues tensions

LONDON, 16 March—Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho admits there are "tensions" in his relationship with owner Roman Abramovich.



Jose Mourinho

Mourinho confirmed the problems came during the transfer window, when his plans were not backed by Abramovich.

He told a Portuguese magazine: "The team was on the limits, I was forced into constant adaptations."

"There were some problems to solve and if you see the owner of the club's money, you would expect those problems to be solved, but that didn't happen."

Internet

Ferguson brushes aside injury problems

MANCHESTER, 17 March — Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson believes his squad can cope with their crop of

injuries to maintain their grip on the title race and keep alive their hopes of the treble.

United go into Satur-

day's home match against sixth-placed Bolton without five senior players due to injury, while Paul Scholes is suspended and Henrik Larsson is no longer available after completing his loan spell from Helsingborgs.

Edwin van der Sar, Mikel Silvestre, Louis Saha, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and Darren Fletcher have all been ruled out.

But with Rio Ferdinand having shaken off a rib injury and Patrice Evra back after a two-match absence with a calf problem, Ferguson is confident in his resources for the Bolton game and Monday night's FA Cup replay against Middlesbrough.

Ferguson told reporters on Friday: "We started off the season with a back four without Gary Neville, Nemanja Vidic and Gabby Heinze. We coped with it then and we will cope with it again. —MNA/Reuters

United celebrate award double



Sir Alex Ferguson and Ryan Giggs

LONDON, 16 March—Sir Alex Ferguson has been named Premiership manager of the month for February and Ryan Giggs player of the month.

United played just three league games in February but won them all to continue their relentless march towards the title. Ryan Giggs scored in the 4-0 hammering of Tottenham and again in the 2-1

victory at Fulham.

It is the second time this season Giggs and Ferguson have picked up their respective awards, after both were honoured in August for United's flying start.

Not since Roy Evans and Robbie Fowler in 1995/96 have a player and manager from the same club collected both awards twice in a season.

Giggs' form has been a major factor in United's success this season and he insists his body is holding up to the strain.

"I feel fit and well," he said.

"The hardest thing for me is recovering when you have so many games in such a short space of time as we have at the moment.

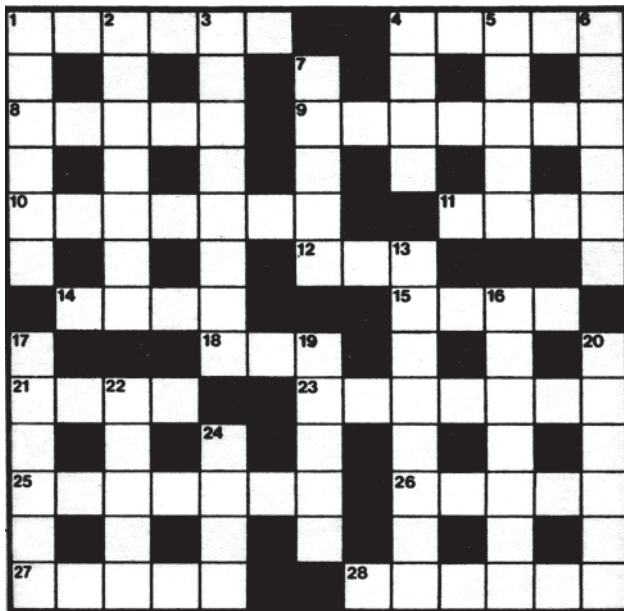
"But fitness-wise, during the games, I feel as good as I have ever done."

The 33-year-old is reluctant to say how long he will continue to play on for, adding: "I have tried to look after myself as well.

"We will just see where it takes me."

Internet

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Early Christian martyr
- 4 Herb
- 8 A drudge
- 9 Injured
- 10 Early machine wrecker
- 11 Smudge
- 12 Circus tent
- 14 Sidle
- 15 Leak
- 18 Excavated
- 21 An enthusiast
- 23 Atrocious act
- 25 Astounding
- 26 Dwelling
- 27 Happening
- 28 Black Sea port

DOWN

- 1 To elbow
- 2 Applied hot liquid
- 3 Enumerated details
- 4 Tightly drawn
- 5 Tyrolean call
- 6 Put up with
- 7 Dessert
- 13 Drops cat (anag.)
- 16 Very enthusiastic
- 17 Burning brightly
- 19 Ravine
- 20 Ballroom dance
- 22 Part of 17
- 24 To coin

Thai Chapchai continues assault on Chinese course

SANYA (China), 17 March — Thailand's Chapchai Nirat continued his astonishing assault on the Yalong Bay Golf Club on Friday, shooting a second-round 66 to go 17-under-par for the tournament and take an early seven-shot lead in the TCL Classic.

The 23-year-old, who shot a course record 11-under-par 61 to lead by three shots overnight, fi-

nally made a bogey on his 22nd hole of the European and Asian Tour event but already had two birdies in the bag.

Chapchai completed his round without any further mistakes and picked

up three more birdies and an eagle along the way to stay well clear of Spaniards Carl Suneson and Carlos Rodiles, who shared second place in the clubhouse on 10 under.

MNA/Reuters

Czech Republic's Nicole Vaidisova puts her racquet to her head while reacting after losing a point to Russia's Svetlana Kuznetsova during their match at the Pacific Life Open tennis tournament in Indian Wells, California on 15 March, 2007. Tiger Wood reacts to a missed putt on the seventh hole during first round of play at the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament in Orlando on 15 March, 2007. — XINHUA



Manchester United crush Bolton to go nine points clear



Manchester United's Ji-sung Park, left, scores his second goal against Bolton during their English Premier League soccer match at Old Trafford Stadium, Manchester, England, on Saturday 17 March, 2007. United's Ryan Giggs is at right.

INTERNET

LONDON, 17 MARCH — Manchester United extended their lead at the top of the English Premiership to nine points — for a few hours at least — as they crushed Bolton Wanderers 4-1 at Old Trafford on Saturday. Wayne Rooney and Park Ji-Sung scored twice as United ripped Bolton apart, taking them to 75 points, nine better than Chelsea, who play Sheffield United later on Saturday.

Gary Speed scored a late consolation for Bolton, netting from the penalty spot, but it was all they deserved as they were thoroughly outplayed.

United were ahead inside 14 minutes as Cristiano Ronaldo set up Park to score from six yards and the Portugal forward then set up Rooney to double the lead just three minutes later. — Internet

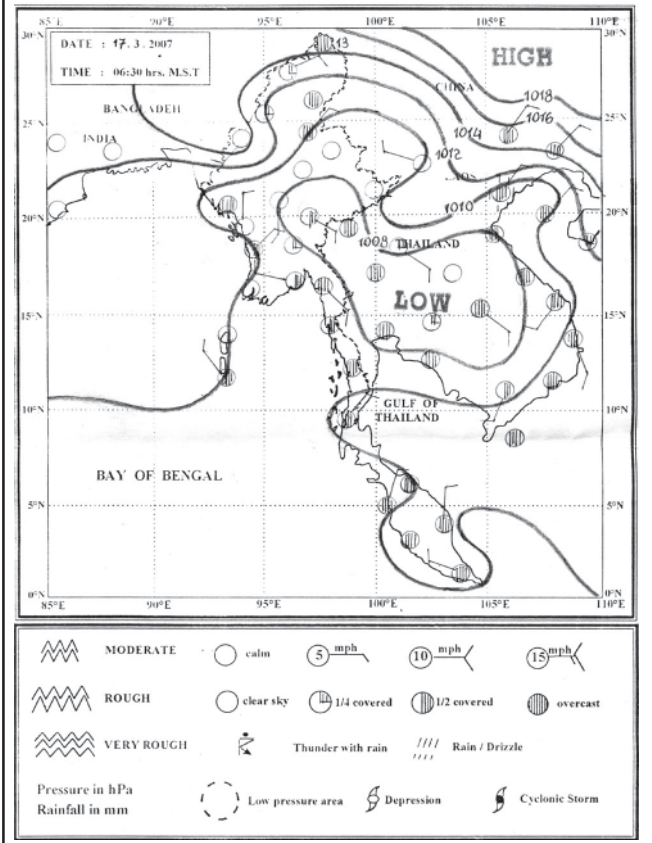
Premiership 17 March, 2007

Blackburn	1-2	West Ham
Chelsea	3-0	Sheff Utd
Man Utd	4-1	Bolton
Middlesbrough	0-2	Man City
Reading	0-0	Portsmouth
Tottenham	3-1	Watford
Wigan	0-0	Fulham — Internet



Chelsea's Michael Ballack, left, celebrates his goal against Sheffield United during their English Premiership soccer match at Stamford Bridge, London, on Saturday, 17 March, 2007. Chelsea won the match 3-0 — INTERNET

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighboring Areas



WEATHER

Saturday, 17 March, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thunder-showers have been scattered in Kachin State and weather has been partly cloudy in Rakhine and Kayin States, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin and Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Minbu and Pyay (40°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were PutaO (0.51) inch and Machanbaw (0.39) inch.

Maximum temperature on 16-3-2007 was 101°F. Minimum temperature on 17-3-2007 was 72°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 17-3-2007 was 64%. Total sunshine hours on 16-3-2007 was (9.0) hours approx.

Rainfall on 17-3-2007 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 (6) mph from Northeast at (16:15) hours MST on 16-3-2007.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 18-3-2007: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States, Ayeyawady and Yangon 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 decrease of Day temperatures in the Northwestern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 18-3-2007: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 18-3-2007: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 18-3-2007: Fair weather.



Sunday, 18 March View on today

- 7:00 am
 1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ့မဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ချုပ်၊ အဘိဓမ္မမဟာရဋ္ဌဂုရု၊ အဘိဓမ္မအဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မာဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:25 am
 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am
 4. “အမှန်ချစ်မှ အချစ်မှန်” (ပြီးငွေစိုး၊ ထက်ရှား၊ မေနန်းခေါင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကြည်စိုး)
- 7:50 am
 5. Nice and sweet song
- 8:05 am
 6. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ (၃၈) ဖြာမင်္ဂလာ
- 8:20 am
 7. (၆၂) နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

- 8:30 am
 8. International news
- 8:45 am
 9. Say it in English
- 11:00 am
 1. Martial song
- 11:10 am
 2. Musical programme
- 11:30 am
 3. Round up of the week's international news
- 11:35 am
 4. Yan Can Cook
- 11:55 am
 5. Myanmar movie: “နလုံးသားနှင့် စစ်တာဝန်” (ကျော်ဟိန်း၊ ခင်သန်းနု၊ ယဉ်ယဉ်အေး) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-စိန်ဖေတင်)
- 2:05 pm
 6. စွမ်းရည်တိုးမြှင့် Online Booking စနစ်
- 2:20 pm
 7. “မမြင်ကွယ်ရာ” (မောင်မောင်မျိုးသန့်၊ မောင်မောင်မြင့်၊ မတူး) (ဒါရိုက်တာ စိုးဟိန်း-မန်းတက္ကသိုလ်)
- 2:30 pm
 8. နိုင်ငံစီးပွား အလေးထား ကျေးလက်ထုတ်ကုန်များ
- 2:45 pm
 9. International news
- 4:00 pm
 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm
 2. Song to uphold National Spirit

- 4:30 pm
 3. အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -ပထမနှစ်(ရက္ခဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ရက္ခဗေဒ)
- 4:45 pm
 4. Dance of national races
- 4:55 pm
 5. တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြု တေးသီချင်းပြိုင်ပွဲ ဆုရတေးများ (၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ်)
- 5:05 pm
 6. (၆၂) နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 5:20 pm
 7. Sing and enjoy
- 6:00 pm
 8. Evening news
- 6:30 pm
 9. Weather report
- 6:35 pm
 10. သီရိဂေဟာ
- 7:10 pm
 11. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “သမားတော်”(အပိုင်း-၁၁)
- 8:00 pm
 12. News
- 8:05 pm
 13. International news
- 8:10 pm
 14. Weather report
- 8:15 pm
 15. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ချစ်ပန်းနှင့်ဆီ” (အပိုင်း-၃)
- 8:20 pm
 16. The next day's programme



Sunday, 18 March Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music: -Everthing I own
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music: -Get dancing
- 8:50 am National news
- 9:00 am Music: -Under my thumb
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Cultural images of Myanmar
- 9:20 am Music: -Can't leave you alone
- 1:30 pm News & Slogan
- 1:40 pm Children's delight (story) -The hero horse
- 1:50 pm Songs for children
- 9:00 pm Weekly news review
- 9:10 pm Article
- 9:20 pm Music/LIETS -Baby that about you -Without you
- 9:45 pm News & Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL

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Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than attends opening of new road and hospital, cash donation ceremony in Ngwehsaung

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March — Hailing the 62nd Anniversary Armed Forces Day, the ceremony to inaugurate the new road to the combined office and the hospital (Ngwehsaung) and donate cash and hospital equipment was held in Ngwehsaung of Patheingyi District on 15 March, attended by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu and departmental officials.

Director U Soe Tint, Patheingyi District PDC Chairman U Than Win and Ayeyawady Division Union Solidarity and Development Association Secretary U Than Tun formally opened the new

road to Combined Office of Ngwehsaung.

The road measuring 4,500 feet by 14 feet was constructed at a cost of K 18.8 million contributed by the State and the people.

Next, Chairman of Ayeyawady Division PDC Commander of South-West Command

Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe opened the People's Hospital (Ngwehsaung).

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than formally unveiled the signboard of the hospital.

The hospital is 142 feet long and 124 feet wide. The government

has spent K 159.84 million on construction of the hospital. At the cash and hospital equipment donation ceremony, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that the government has so far built 832 hospitals in the entire nation. Ngwehsaung Hospital (See page 10)



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than unveils the signboard of People's Hospital (Ngwehsaung) in Ngwehsaung. — MNA

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

75th birthday of Tawtaik Dhamma Yeiktha Sayadaw held

YANGON, 17 March — The diamond jubilee anniversary birthday of State Ovadaçariya Tawtaik Dhamma Yeiktha Sayadaw Agga Maha Kammathanaçariya Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Dhammasara was held at Dhamma Theikdi three-storey building of the Yeiktha in Tawtaik Ward of Mingaladon Township this morning.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and guests took the Nine Precepts from the Sayadaw. Members of the Sangha re-

cited Parittas.

Laypersons ushered Sayadaw Bhaddanta Dhammasara and Dvi Pitakadhara Bhaddanta Vepullankara to the designated places.

They offered alms to members of the Sangha.

Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abbot of Maha Aungmyebonsan Monastery Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Paññindabhivamsa delivered a sermon, and the congregation shared merits gained.

MNA

3,278 jade lots sold at Myanmar Gems Emporium

YANGON, 17 March — Patron of Central Committee for Myanmar Gems Emporium Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint viewed sales of jade lots through competitive bidding at the 44th Myanmar Gems Emporium at Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township this evening.

The minister cordially greeted the gem merchants.

A total of 42 jade lots were sold through competitive bidding yesterday.

Thirty seven lots of the remaining jade lots were sold through competitive bidding today. The remaining jade lots were to be sold in the evening.

From 13 March to date 3,278 lots of jade have been sold through tender and competitive bidding system. The sales of jade lots will continue for the sixth day tomorrow. —MNA



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

INSIDE

We people were looking forward to the arrival of Aunty Suu. Many people and students sacrificed their lives for you, and supported you as a public figure. You were soon considered to be the public leader, but you were not well-versed with political essence and political intrigues. With the passage of time, Myanmar people have come to realize that they are wrong.

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WATHAN