

## The Tatmadaw and the entire people have become one and indivisible



Our Tatmadaw is a patriotic Tatmadaw that arose out of national politics. During the time of anti-fascist movement, our Tatmadaw hand in hand with the entire people, practised the people's militia strategy. The Tatmadaw and the entire people have become one and indivisible.

**Senior General Than Shwe**  
**Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council**  
**Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services**

(From address delivered at the parade of the 58th Anniversary Armed Forces Day)

## Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Bangladesh

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March— On the occasion of the anniversary of the National and Independence Day of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, which falls on 26 March 2007, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Prof Dr Iajuddin Ahmed, President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

MNA

## True patriotism

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

## Lt-Gen Myint Swe looks into regional development works in Thanlyin, Kayan, Thongwa Tsps

YANGON, 25 March — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence went on an inspection tour of Thanlyin, Kayan and Thongwa Townships in Yangon South District this morning.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe together with Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win attended an opening ceremony of Kyaunggon-Seikkyi tarred road to

mark 62nd Anniversary Armed Forces Day in Thanlyin Township. First, executive officer U Soe Naing Oo of Thanlyin Township Development Affairs Committee (See page 8)



*Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence inspects paddy harvesting with combined harvester in Sitpin Village.— MNA*

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



## PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 26 March, 2007

### A modern developed nation to take shape in near future

The government is making efforts effectively in the implementation of special projects laid down by the Special Projects Implementation Committee with the aim of bringing about progress and development. These projects play a vital role in endeavouring for national development. They include short-term and long-term projects. The respective ministries are cooperating and coordinating for completing the tasks in time.

The Special Projects Implementation Committee held its (1/2007) coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw the other day. In his guidance, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe warned the officials concerned against discharging their duties perfunctorily. He noted that they are to strive for national development with genuine goodwill while performing the State duties.

The government is implementing special projects nationwide with seriousness. There have been much progress in every sector due to the active participation of the ministries concerned under the supervision and coordination of the central level.

The remaining projects are to be implemented through coordination, cooperation and active participation among the ministries concerned.

With the success of the projects and full utilization of land, water and natural resources and taking advantage of prevailing conditions, a modern developed nation will take shape in the near future.

### Ranbaxy Junior Tennis Tournament 5-10 April

YANGON, 25 March — The Ranbaxy Junior Tennis Tournament will be held at Theinbyu Tennis Court in Bahan Township from 5 to 10 April. The tennis tournament was organized by Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Tennis Federation.

The competition will include the U-10, U-12 and U-14 boys' and girls' singles and doubles events. The organizer will arrange accommodation for athletes during the competition.

Those wishing to participate in the competition may contact MTF not later than 4 April.

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

### Preventive measures against dengue haemorrhagic fever, diarrhoea launched

YANGON, 25 March — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win went on an inspection tour of Dagon Myothit (North) Township yesterday.

Upon his arrival, the commander inspected preventive measures against dengue haemorrhagic fever and diarrhoea and gave necessary instructions. Next, Head of Yangon Division Health Department Dr Hla Myint and officials briefed the commander on sanitation tasks and proper flow of drainage for preventive measures against the diseases at Win Thuza Shop on Panlong Street in Dagon Myothit (North) Town-



Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win inspects prevention against dengue haemorrhagic fever and diarrhoea in Dagon Myothit (North) Township. — MNA

ship.

Afterwards, the commander gave instructions on participation of the public in the sanitation tasks and proper flow

of drainage with full awareness of health and measures to be taken for keeping the wards clean and beautiful and cultivation of physic nut plants

as targeted.

Next, the commander and official viewed sanitation tasks and spraying pesticide and talks on health. — MNA

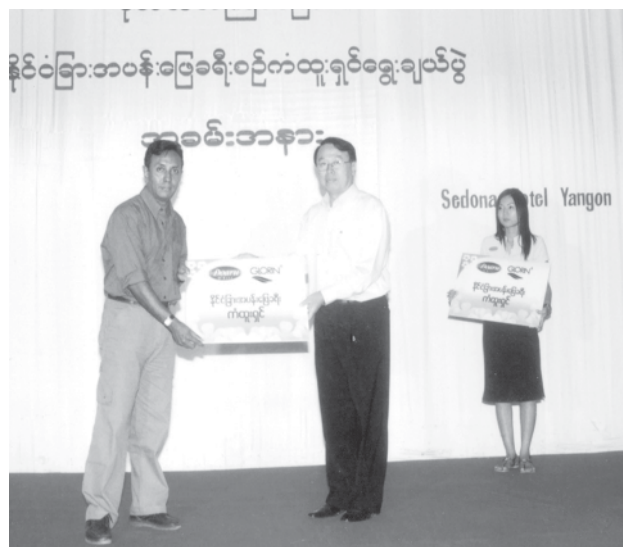
### Winners for foreign trip chosen

YANGON, 25 March — The second ceremony to choose lucky winners for foreign trip organized by Doaru Cosmetics and Glorin Hair Care Products took place at Sedona Hotel here yesterday afternoon.

Firstly, Director U Tin Aung of Shangri-la Leap Int'l Co Ltd extended greetings and Marketing Manager Daw Wint Wint Aung gave accounts on first package tour for 2006. Next, responsible persons and media persons chose lucky winners.

Later, Managing Director U Khin Maung Lay and members of the board of directors presented prizes to sale agents who are chosen as lucky winners for a foreign trip.

Doaru Cosmetics and Glorin Hair Care Products had been awarded ISO 9001:2000 certificate for its highly-qualified products. Doaru Cosmetics and Glorin Hair Care Products will distribute Roll on, facial cleanser for men and hair care products. — MNA



### Armed Forces Day Parade live on TV

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March — The ceremony on the 62nd Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade for 2007 will be broadcast live by Myanmar Radio and Television from Nay Pyi Taw Parade Ground starting 6 am on 27 March. — MNA

### Departmental and Tatmadaw vehicles checked on Dry Day

YANGON, 25 March — Leader of the No 1 Team of Dry Day Supervisory Committee Police Brig-Gen Than Han and

members together with departmental officials supervised the functions of the inspection teams at downtown Yangon this morning and evening.

Dry day inspection teams inspected dry day pass, driver's licence, wheel tax bill, wearing of respective uniforms and traffic rules violation of departmental and Tatmadaw vehicles at the main points of Yangon from 7 am to 5 pm.

Managing Director U Khin Maung Lay of Shangri-la Leap Int'l Co Ltd presents prize to an outstanding sale agent at second lucky draw programme. — MNA

MNA



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

# Juries not blind to ugliness, study finds

LONDON, 24 March — Justice is supposed to be blind, but new research suggests juries are not, with the result that ugly defendants are twice as likely to be found guilty as those deemed to be attractive.

Christchurch barrister and law lecturer James Rapley questioned whether the research, by Bath Spa University in Britain, would play out like that in the jury room, but says appearance counts in New Zealand courts.

“It doesn’t surprise me that juries are influenced by how people look, but my impression in practice is that once juries begin deliberating, they take their task incredibly seriously,” he said.

Rapley said he expected that the people who took part in the British study took their decision a lot less seriously, but he stressed to students of his trial advocacy lectures that juries often took in information visually rather than only aurally.

Canterbury Law Society president John Brandts-Giesen said the findings were not surprising, but the assessment would need to

be a lot more rigorous before it could be relied on. “From a human perspective, it would not surprise me if the way someone presents himself makes a difference,” he said.

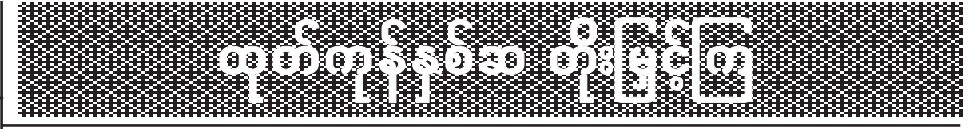
The British research was done by psychology senior lecturer Dr Sandie Taylor, who gave 96 student volunteers a fictitious account of an old woman being

mugged.

She then gave each volunteer a picture of one of four defendants – two very attractive and two regarded as “homely”.

A British Psychological Society conference this week heard that Taylor’s research showed that less attractive individuals were almost 50 per cent more likely to be considered guilty.

Internet



Wilfried Aulbur (2nd R), Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Daimler Chrysler India, and Indian car dealer Ashwin Sanghi (3rd R) and Suhas Kadlaskar (R), Director for corporate affairs and finance of Daimler Chrysler India, pose for photographers next to the newly launched Mercedes-Benz S320CDi L car in Mumbai, on 23 March, 2007.—INTERNET

## Sniffer dogs get own bodyguards

KUALA LUMPUR, 25 March—Two sniffer dogs which tracked down pirated optical discs worth RM10 million have been given extra protection and security.

Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry decided on this after receiving information that syndicates have put a price on the dogs’ heads.

The ministry’s deputy director-general, Iskandar Halim Sulaiman, said that at least RM10,000 each was offered for Lucky and Flo, the two sniffer dogs that began their hunt since last week. It is learnt that the bounty was first put on the dogs by a syndicate in Johor after four stores were raided with the help of the

sniffer dogs.

The busted syndicate is said to be one of the main pirated disc suppliers for Singapore, Britain, Hong Kong and Japan. “During the next operation, more enforcement officers will be

escorting the dogs when they are at the crime scene,” Iskandar Halim said.

He said two ministry vehicles would also be escorting the dogs throughout their journey.

Internet



Models in the traditional dress of India perform on the second day of the 6th Cultural Festival in Doha, on 23 March, 2007. INTERNET

## One killed, 150 injured as strong quake hits central Japan coast

TOKYO, 25 March — At least one person was killed and 150 others were injured when a strong earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 7.1 jolted Sea of Japan coast area of central Japan’s Hokuriku Region on Sunday morning, public broadcaster NHK reported.

The epicentre of the quake, which hit at 9:42 am (0042 GMT), was some 40 kilometers west-southwest of Wajima in the sea off Noto Peninsula and about 50 kilometres underground, said the Japan Meteorological Agency, which also issued on its website a tsunami warning for the area.

While West Japan Railway Co suspended all its train services in Ishikawa and Toyama prefectures, Tokyo Electric Power Co and Kansai Electric Power Co said nuclear power plants are operating normally in Niigata and Fukui prefectures, *Kyodo News* reported.

MNA/Xinhua



A damaged section of a road is seen in this video grab in Ishikawa prefecture in Japan, on 25 March, 2007.—INTERNET

## Joanne wins Miss Tourism Perak title

IPOH, 25 March— Malaysia Airlines stewardess Joanne Chan beat 14 other competitors to win the Miss Tourism Perak 2007 title on Friday night.

She won RM3,000, a crown, sash and other gifts.



Joanne Chan flanked by Audrey Ng (right) and Caren Goh after their crowning in Ipoh on Friday.—INTERNET

Chan, 25, said the title befitted her goal to promote Malaysia as a tourist destination.

First-runner-up was student Audrey Ng, 22, who was also crowned Miss ICC. She received RM2,000, a crown and gifts. Caren Goh, 23, an assistant manager, emerged as second-runner-up and was crowned Miss Beautiful Hair, winning RM1,000. Jessie Lim won the Miss Beautiful Eyes and Miss Photogenic titles.

The winner and first-runner-up will represent Perak at the national contest in Kuala Lumpur on 30 April.

The pageant on Friday at the Ipoh City & Country Club was organised by the club and Lions Club of Ipoh Host with the Perak Tourism Board and Ipoh City Council.

The event is also part of the Lions Club community project which raised RM35,000 for seven homes in the state. Past weeks saw the contestants in a vintage car procession, live charity photo contest and a talent show.—Internet





**Motorists drive past an Ariana Afghan Airlines Airbus-300 resting in the airport perimeter after the plane overran the runway during its landing at Ataturk Airport in Istanbul, on 23 March, 2007. Around 50 passengers and the crew were evacuated from the plane unharmed after the plane overran the runway in Istanbul on Friday, a news agency reported. —INTERNET**

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## Nepal to buy power from India

**KATHMANDU, 24 March** — The government has permitted the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) to purchase 23 megawatt electricity from the Power Trading Corporation of India (PTC), *The Himalayan Times*, a leading newspaper, reported on Saturday.

Talking to the daily here on Friday, executive director of the NEA Arjun Karki said the NEA will begin the process shortly.

“In the initial phase, an agreement has been reached to import power for four months. Power is expensive for the short term, but will be cheaper

in the long run,” he said.

“The PTC has proposed to provide over 50 megawatt electricity in the winter season. However, the NEA could not purchase power in line with the proposal due to the lack of extension lines,” he said.

After the extension of electric lines by next winter, Nepal will see a shortfall of only 10-15 megawatt

electricity, Karki added.

Purchase of electricity from the PTC was delayed due to technical reasons, he said, adding that talks between India and Nepal are underway for the construction of a 400 kilovolt line in Nepal jointly by the Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services Limited of India and NEA. —MNA/Xinhua

## Cyclone kills 69 in Madagascar, thousands homeless

**ANTANANARIVO, 24 March** — A cyclone that swept across Madagascar last week killed at least 69 people and made tens of thousands homeless in the north of the Indian Ocean island, officials said on Friday.

Mudslides have buried whole villages, rivers have burst their banks and roads have been cut off since cyclone “Indlala” struck on 15 March.

“I have never seen so much damage,” Jacky Randimbiarison, executive secretary of the government’s disaster management agency, told *Reuters*.

The agency said it had confirmed 69 deaths, two people missing, and nearly 78,000 people uprooted on the world’s fourth largest island that is home to 18.6 million people.

The storm wiped out more than 3,600 houses plus dozens of government buildings, schools and bridges, officials said. Some 8,280

hectares of paddy-fields were ruined.

In northern Ambanja District “a whole mountain has collapsed, burying two villages under thousands of tons of rock and killing 20 people including six children in a school”, Randimbiarison said.

The International Federation of Red Cross

and Red Crescent Societies appealed on Friday for 637,000 US dollars to help Madagascar.

“The situation has been made worse because “Indlala” is the fifth cyclone to hit Madagascar in the past three months and the region has already experienced heavy rains since December,” said Amna Al-Ahmar, the federation’s regional officer, in Geneva.

“According to government figures, about 80 per cent of the country’s vanilla production — Madagascar’s top foreign exchange earner — has been lost,” it said in a statement.

MNA/Reuters



**American singer and actress Jennifer Lopez smiles during a photo call to promote her latest album ‘Como ama una mujer’ in Paris, on 23 March, 2007. —INTERNET**

## Bird flu spreads to more farms in Bangladesh

**DHAKA, 24 March** — Bird flu has spread to six poultry farms near Bangladesh’s capital, the government said on Friday, sparking a nationwide alert.

The United Nations also expressed concern.

CS Karim, the government adviser for agriculture and livestock, said among more than 42,400 poultry on the six farms in Savar, over 12,000 had died and another 21,000 had been culled over the past few days.

The H5N1 avian flu virus has not spread to other areas of the country and there was no cause for panic, he told a news conference. Savar is 25 kilometres (14 miles) north of the capital.

Dr Duangvadee Sungkhobol, representative of UN’s World Health Organization in Dhaka, said: “We are very con-

cerned because this is a highly densely populated country where people, animals and poultry live very close.”

“The government has taken aggressive measures to stop the spread of the disease and that WHO has confidence it (the government) would be

able to limit the spread,” she told the same news conference.

The disease was confirmed through tests by laboratories in Bangladesh and Thailand, the government said late on Thursday. Another UN official also expressed concern. —MNA/Reuters

## Two US tourists wounded by robbers in Tanzania

**NAIROBI, 24 March** — Two US tourists and their Tanzanian guide were shot and wounded by robbers in northern Tanzania, police said on Thursday.

The shooting occurred on Wednesday at Lake Duluti, a tourist spot outside the city of Arusha, near the Kenyan border.

“The tourists were attacked, robbed and shot at. One tourist was shot in the stomach, and their guide was shot in the head and is in critical condition,” Basilio Matei, regional police commander for Arusha, told *Reuters* by phone.

Matei said the other American had been shot in his left leg, and both tourists had been transferred to a hospital in the Kenyan capital Nairobi. Two other Americans and a Briton in the party were not hurt.

MNA/Reuters



**Investigators check the bottom of a fire truck that was knocked on its side while responding to a call after a collision with a school bus on 23 March, 2007, in Chicago. One firefighter was killed and three others injured in the accident. The school bus had dropped off children at a school. The bus driver was injured. —INTERNET**



## ECONOMIC NEWS

## China becomes EU's largest exporter

LONDON, 24 March — China replaced the United States as the number one source of the European Union (EU) imports last year, according to official statistics carried in *Financial Times* on Friday.

According to Eurostat, the EU's statistical office, EU's imports from China rose by 21 percent to 1,916 billion euros last year, while those from the United States rose by 8 per cent to 176.2 billion euros.

EU's export to China also witnessed a strong growth last year, rising by 23 per cent to 63.3

billion euros.

The rising importance of trade links between China and EU was interpreted by experts as a good reason for the EU to grow despite the threat of US slowdown, the newspaper said.

The latest trade figures suggested that the strengthening euro had yet to cause significant damage to exports from eurozone, as Germany's economic recovery was initially powered by exports and the euro rise has sounded alarm bells to export competitiveness in France.

For the eurozone, imports from China have overtaken those from the United States by the middle of last year, but most of the imports from China were those of lower valued-added parts of chain like equipment and textiles, experts said.

MNA/Xinhua

**Rachel Renee Smith, Miss Tennessee USA 2007, poses after winning the Miss USA 2007 pageant on 23 March, 2007, in Los Angeles. INTERNET**



## Malaysian ICT industry believes currency fluctuation has minor impact

KUALA LUMPUR, 24 March — The fluctuation of the ringgit against the US dollar will have minimal impact on the

local information and communications technology (ICT) industry, the country's national ICT association said here on Friday.

"The fluctuation of the ringgit against the US dollar is minimal and gradual hence the impact on imports of ICT products and services is not significant," said the Association of the Computer and Multimedia Industry of Malaysia (PIKOM).

The fluctuation of the currency should not cause any alarm if it continues to fluctuate within several percentage points as long as it is gradual, said PIKOM Chairman Lee

Boon Kok.

As far as the pricing of imported products is concerned, currency is only one factor, he said.

Both manufacturers and importers may have some gains from the stronger ringgit when they buy from overseas suppliers but there are also other costs involved in their entire operations, Lee said.

Lee stressed that

stronger ringgit does not surely make foreign products cheaper, but it would make Malaysian products and services more expensive on the world market.

One way that exporters could mitigate the influence of the fluctuation of the currency is to make the contract in the targeted market currency rather than in the US dollar," Lee suggested.

MNA/Xinhua

## Vietnam, India to strengthen multi-faceted cooperation

HANOI, 24 March — Vietnam and India will promote their all-round cooperation, especially on economy, trade and investment, contributing to peace and development in the world, said top legislators of the two countries on Friday.

Chairman of the National Assembly of Vietnam Nguyen Van An and visiting Speaker of the House of the People (Lok Sabha) of the Indian Parliament Somnath Chatterjee held a meeting on Friday. During the talk, the two sides agreed to strengthen delegation exchanges, share experience in the legislatures' activities

and support each other in regional and international forums.

Vietnam wants to share experience with India in fields like biotechnology, information technology, and education and training,

An said.

Chatterjee, starting his six-day visit to Vietnam on Thursday, said the two sides should beef up their cooperation in the fields of trade, science and technology in the

framework of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and other multilateral forums for benefits and development of the two sides.

MNA/Xinhua

## Portugal to increase investment in renewable energy

LISBON, 24 March — Portugal will invest 8.1 billion euros (10.8 billion dollars) in coming six years to develop renewable energy projects, Antonio Castro Guerra, assistant secretary of state for Industry and Innovation, told a Press conference on Thursday.

The projects will

create around 10,000 jobs, and the wind power infrastructure, the largest single project among them, will cost 1.7 billion euros, Castro said at the opening of a biomass plant near the town of Castelo Branco, central Portugal on Thursday.

Portuguese Prime Minister Jose Socrates promised earlier that the

country was going to produce 45 per cent of its energy from renewable sources, up from 36 per cent in 2005, which will make it one of the largest users of renewable energy among the European Union's 27-member states, matching levels of Austria and Sweden.

MNA/Xinhua



An Oriental White-eye bird picks at a flower of a bottle-brush tree in Gurgaon, a suburb south of New Delhi, India, on 23 March, 2007. —INTERNET



The opening ceremony for Pakistan's Gwadar Port, which is being operated with Chinese assistance, was held in Gwadar, Baluchistan Province in Southeastern Pakistan on 20 March, 2007. Gwadar Port, located in the southwestern Pakistani province of Baluchistan, is a deep-water port that has been constructed with Chinese financial and technical support. Work began on Gwadar Port in March 2002 and has an all-purpose dock with three 20,000-ton berths. The port is China's biggest foreign aid project to date. —INTERNET



**HAILING THE 62ND ANNIVERSARY ARMED FORCES DAY:**

# Building of a modern Tatmadaw: the national task

*Kyai Phyu*

**Only when the Tatmadaw is strong, will the nation be strong**



The Tatmadaw launched the armed resistance against Fascists together with the people on 27 March 1945. Based on people's militia strategy, the Tatmadaw drove out the powerful Fascists from Myanmar soil. It then liberated Myanmar from the colonialist yoke and

regained independence and sovereignty.

The Tatmadaw solved all political and economic hardships the nation faced in 1949-50, 1959-60 and 1962-74. It safeguarded independence and sovereignty and saved the Union from fragmentation. It also carried out nation-building tasks

with might and main.

Those are the historic traditions of the Tatmadaw.

The fine traditions of the Tatmadaw are always flourishing. The Tatmadaw is always loyal to the national cause.

The Tatmadaw took over the State duties on 18 September, 1988 to restore the nation's situation that

was in disarray and save the Union from falling apart. Moreover, it safeguarded independence and sovereignty of the nation in time. During the 1988 unrest, anarchy ruled Myanmar that was like a nation existing without a government. The Tatmadaw, the sole national force, had to assume the State duties due to unavoidable circumstances as it is always loyal to the national cause.

The Tatmadaw has been systematically implementing nation-building tasks for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing State, which is the national goal. To realize the goal, the Tatmadaw always keeps in the fore Our Three Main National

Causes or the national policy and is implementing the 12 political, economic and social objectives in cooperation with the people. The nation has witnessed the emergence of a large number of bridges large and small, roads, dams, economic and urban infrastructures, schools and universities in all states and divisions as never before.

Now, I will present a brief account of the results of the Tatmadaw's endeavours.

The nation had 40,525 schools in 2005, up from 33,747 in 1988; 241,854 school teachers in 2005, up from 173,772 in 1988; 7,799,053 school students in 2005, up from 5,239,878 in 1988.

Likewise, the number of institutions of higher learning increased to 161 in 2006 from 32 in 1988; 10,254 faculty members in 2005 from 5,638 in 1988; 705,784 university students in 2005 from 134,325 in 1988; bachelor's degree, diploma, honours degree, master's degree, master's degree in research and doctorate courses to 192 in 2005 from 79 in 1988.

In the health sector, the number of hospitals,

dispensaries and health centres reached 2,611 in 2005 from 2,123 in 1988; physicians and health staff, 60,229 in 2005 from 33,830 in 1988; medical universities and training schools, 37 in 2005 from 10 in 1988; advanced courses and post-graduate courses including doctorate courses, 94 in 2005, from nil in 1988.

In addition to health and education sectors, the Tatmadaw government has been developing all other sectors in serving the national interest effectively.

The government has been tapping more land and water resources and successfully building political, economic and social infrastructures. At the same time, it is building a modern Tatmadaw as the nation will be powerful only if the Tatmadaw is strong. We need a modern Tatmadaw to safeguard sovereignty and territorial integrity.

So, a modern Tatmadaw has been built to safeguard the national interest well. The modern Tatmadaw's main aim is to keep in the fore Our Three Main National Causes.

*(See page 7)*

**The Tatmadaw is an essential political force for every nation to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity in accord with the demand of history. Myanmar was rich and peaceful during Bagan, Toungoo and Konboug eras when the Tatmadaw was powerful. During the pre-independence period, national leader Bogyoke Aung San asked composer Shwedaing Nyunt to write the song "Only when the Tatmadaw is strong, will the nation be strong" with the aim of ensuring a strong defence force for the future nation.**



## Building of a modern Tatmadaw: the ...

(from page 6)

Actually, every nation needs a powerful and modern Tatmadaw to safeguard its interest and that of the people and sovereignty and territorial integrity. The Tatmadaw is one of the characteristics of a nation. Tatmadaw is the power and wealth of a nation.

The Cold War had ended. But the superpower and some of its cohorts are still trying to put pressure on developing countries to make them their minions under the pretext of democracy and human

rights. They even ignore the UNSC in trying to invade and bully small nations to establish neo-colonialism. In this regard, the developing countries are in the process of modernizing their armed forces to ward off the danger of neo-colonialists.

Although the Cold War had ended, world powers still hold sophisticated weapons and nuclear arms and advanced sciences and technologies and some of them are interfering in the affairs of small nations. It is common knowledge that those powers sometimes lead the invading army by

themselves and in some cases they provide arms and other assistance to traitors including insurgents in interfering in the affairs of other nations.

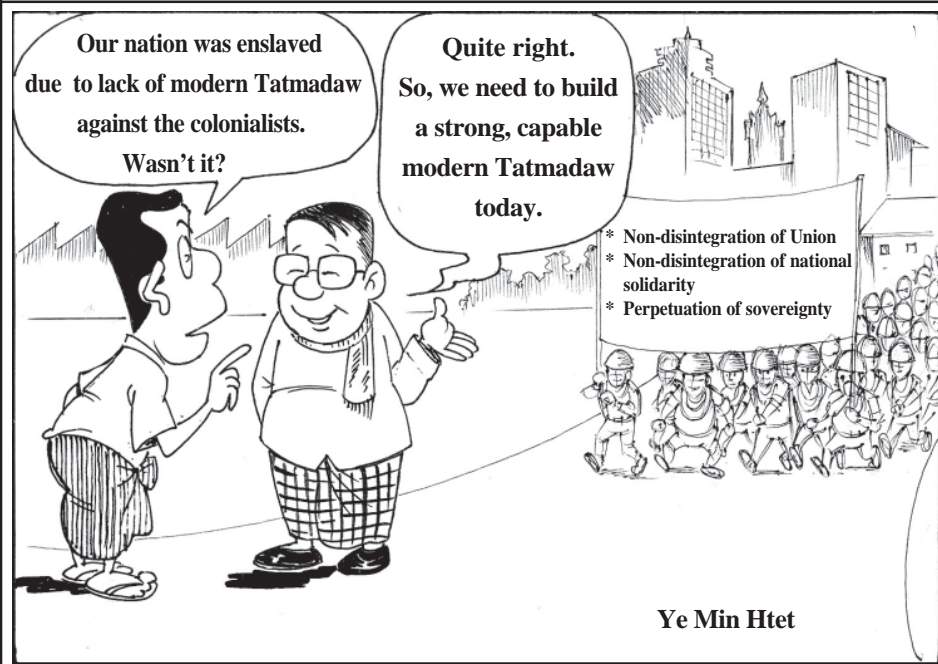
Democracy and human rights are noble causes. However, the act of hindering the democratization process of small nations with interferences to establish neo-colonialism is totally against the noble causes.

**The Tatmadaw is an essential political force for every nation to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity in accord with the**

**demand of history.** Myanmar was rich and peaceful during Bagan, Toungoo and Konboun eras when the Tatmadaw was powerful. During the pre-independence period, national leader Bogyoke Aung San asked composer Shwedaing Nyunt to write the song **"Only when the Tatmadaw is strong, will the nation be strong"** with the aim of ensuring a strong defence force for the future nation.

It is the national duty of the present-day Myanmar to ensure perpetuation of independence and sovereignty, safeguard territorial integrity, and build a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic State, the national goal. In hailing the 62nd Anniversary Armed Forces Day, I would like to make a vow that we all must be dutiful. So, we must build a modern, strong and capable patriotic Tatmadaw as the backbone of the nation.

(Translation: TMT)



Ye Min Htet

## 81 schoolgirls initiated into nunhood

YANGON, 25 March— A total of 81 schoolgirls were initiated into

the nunhood at Daw Nyanasayinunnery in North Kyundaw Ward, Sangyoung

Township this morning. It was organized by Cultural and Child/Girl Sub-working

Groups of Yangon Division Women's Affairs Organization and Sangyoung Basic Education High School No.2. Present on the occasion were Patron of Yangon Division WAO Daw Mar Mar Wai, Chairperson Daw Khin Myo Thu and executives and members of district/ township WAOs.

The congregation received the Five Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Khantimabhivamsa of Thukhitayama Pariyatti Monastery. Afterwards, they donated provisions to the Sayadaw and shared merits gained.

MNA



Daw Mar Mar Wai, Patron of Yangon Division WAO, and WAO members pay homage to nuns.— 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

## POEM:

### Good sons, thou art saluted

- \* Tatmadaw regained independence  
A prize, people desire
- \* Tatmadaw glorifies  
Independence  
A blossoming flower
- \* With sincerity, zeal, patriotism  
The Tatmadaw  
Develop, modernize nation  
For public sufficiency  
Winning others' respect  
And honouring Myanmar  
Throughout history till future
- \* Yo! True blood and national force  
Beloved sons, thou art honoured  
For always loving Union  
For always serving brethren  
For always building nation  
Recorded as peerless  
Is the Tatmadaw  
Its virtue eminent  
And shining brightly  
Good sons, thou art saluted

Myo Myat Myat Myint Maung (Trs)  
Hailing the 62nd Anniversary Armed  
Forces Day



## Lt-Gen Myint Swe looks into regional development...

(from page 1)  
explained about data of Kyaunggon-Seikkyi tarred road and a townselder U Thein Tan spoke words of thanks.

Next, director U Kyi Myint of Yangon Division DAC presented commemorative flags to Lt-Gen Myint Swe and Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and officials



Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence unveils signboard to distribute power at Daepauk Model Village. — MNA

concerned.

At the auspicious time, Thanlyin Station Commander Brig-Gen

Win Shein, director U Kyi Myint and Yangon South District PDC chairman U Zaw Win formally

opened the newly-built tarred road.

Next, the commander formally unveiled the signboard of the tarred road. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and party inspected the road which is 2 miles and 3 furlongs long and 12 feet wide.

Upon arrival at mile post No 49/1 in Thongwa Township, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party attended a ceremony to plant physic nut seedlings on 100 acres of Thongwa Township PDC and put physic nut seedlings and grafts into seedling bags.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe gave necessary instructions following the inspection of thriving physic nut plants. A total of 3,750 acres of physic nut plants have been targeted to be grown in Thongwa Township this year. Thongwa grew 775.22 acres of physic nut plants last year.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party attended a ceremony to open gas-run power supply task to mark 62nd Anniversary Armed Forces Day in Kayan Township. First, Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and Chairman Col Thaug Win of Yangon Division Renewable Energy Research and Development Technology Committee formally opened the ceremony. Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe formally unveiled the signboard of the natural gas-fired power supply.

Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win made a speech on the occasion, saying that implementation of

natural gas-fired power supply in Daepauk Model Village contributes to uplift of socio-economic life of rural people. Before the implementation tasks, the chairman of Yangon Division Renewable Energy Research and Development Technology Committee and party had made field trips down to Daepauk Model Village for two times with the intention of testing on natural gas wells there. The committee submitted reports that productivity of natural gas can be generated to supply power for rural area. Yangon Division PDC has spent over K 20 million on implementation of the power supply task. Now, people from over 1,000 houses in four villages are enjoying fruits of rural power supply. Later, the commander urged all to participate in rural power supply task.

Chairman of the Yangon Division Renewable Energy Research and Development Technology Committee Col Thaug Win reported on natural gas-fired power supply task.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe gave necessary instructions.

Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win presented K 30 million to Chairman of Kayan Township PDC U Hla Thaug. The chairman of Township PDC also accepted cash donations from wellwishers. The commander presented K 1 million for the rural health care centre to Head of Yangon Division Health Department Dr Hla Myint.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party inspected generating of natural gas-fired

power to the people, lamp posts and gas tanks.

A total of 526 2-foot fluorescent tubes at houses, 12 TVs and 147 2-foot fluorescent tubes at lamp posts in Daepauk Model Village are being supplied 36 kwh through 12 generators of 29 gas wells. A total of 84 fluorescent tubes and two TVs in Dawbonsu Village are being supplied 7.5 kwh through one generator of three gas wells. A total of 285 fluorescent tubes and five TVs in Gwaybinchaung Village are being supplied 15 kwh through five generators of 10 gas wells. A total of 22 fluorescent tubes and one TV set in Shwebosu Village are being supplied 3 kwh through one generator of two gas wells.

In line with the guidance of the Head of State on the One village, One Product system, arrangements are being made for supplying power to cottage industries in villages.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party paid homage to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kesarabhivamsa at Sasana Zawtika Masoeyein Taikthit in Kwammodein Model Village in Kayan Township.

At the site of Tarkaw Sluice Gate Project in Thongwa Township, Lt-Gen Myint Swe heard reports on progress of the project, and inspected construction tasks.

Afterwards, they viewed harvesting of summer paddy on three acres of farmer U Htay Hlaing in Sitpinkwin Village of Thanlyin Township.

MNA

## Eye specialists give free medical care in Yanangyoung



Eye specialists treat patients in Yanangyoung.

MNA

YANGON, 25 March — Under the arrangement of the Ministry of Health, an eye specialist team led by Prof Dr Tin Win and Prof Dr Kan Nyunt provided free medical treatment to 2507 patients with eye complaint and performed

minor surgeries to 316 patients in Yanangyoung from 19 to 22 March.

The team was assisted by Yanangyoung Township Union Solidarity and Development Association, health staff of Yanangyoung People's Hospital,

members of social organizations and wellwishers. Shwe Parami Tawya Sayadaw Ashin Chandhika and lay persons, Yanangyoung Township Association and wellwishers supplied medicines to the team. — MNA



Eye specialists treat patients in Yanangyoung Township. — MNA



## Phatashin Bridge between Myanaung and Kyangin stations opened

YANGON, 25 March— Hailing the 62nd Anniversary Armed Forces Day, Phatashin Bridge between Myanaung and Kyangin stations was opened this morning.

The bridge is on Patheingyi-Hinthada-Kyangin Railroad section and it was built by Myanma Railways of the Ministry of Rail Transportation.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint



**Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung delivers an address at the opening ceremony of Phatashin Bridge.— MNA**



Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung delivered an address. He quoted the Head of State as saying that roads and

of the flow of commodities in the division due to the transport difficulty. Now transport in the division has greatly improved, the

engineers of MR.

Next, CEC Member Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min made a speech. He said Phatashin bridge was built in 1923. It collapsed on 30 April, 2006 and It is opened today. Both cars and trains can run on the bridge. The bridge is a key link to contribute towards the smooth and secure transport which is the main requirement of the development of western parts of Ayeyawady river.

Afterwards, CEC Member Minister for

Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung made a speech on the occasion, saying that Mala storm hit in Ayeyawady division in April of 2006 and most of the townships including Myanaung and Kyangin were flooded due to torrential rains. The Government rendered relief supplies to the victims. Phatashin bridge is of great importance for the transport between Myanaung and Kyangin townships. Therefore, the Ministry of Rail Transportation managed to build the bridge to be

able to overcome the difficulty the local people faced in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. Now the local people have an easy access to transport between Myanaung and Kyangin townships.

Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Maj-Gen Aung Min and Brig-Gen Thein Aung and deputy ministers sprinkled scented water on a train that was going to pass the bridge, they formally opened the bridge and they together with the local people posed for a



**Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min and Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung cut the ribbon to open Phatashin Bridge.—MNA**

Aung, CEC members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min and Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung and Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Pe Than, senior military officers, departmental officials and local people.

bridges are being built as transport plays a vital role in national development. The government wants progress of all the regions in the Union. That is why more and more roads and railroads are being built for national and regional development. Only when there is prevalence of law and order, can development tasks be undertaken smoothly. There were delays

commander said.

Patheingyi-Monywa Road was built for development of the west regions of the Ayeyawady. The Myanma Railways is building Patheingyi-Kyangin-Pakokku-Kalay Railroad, the major railroad for development of the west regions of the Ayeyawady.

He said the bridge was built in eleven months and thanked the workers and



**Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min.—MNA**



**Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung.— MNA**

documentary photo.

Newly-built Phatashin bridge is of reinforced concrete. It is 469 feet long. It is 140 feet longer than the previous one. It is railroad-cum-motorway bridge. It is 13 feet wide. It can withstand 30-ton loads. The local people and passengers have got easy access to different areas through Myanaung-Kyangin-Pyay-Yangon-Mandalay route.

MNA



**Newly opened Phatashin Bridge.—MNA**



## Commander attends ceremony to mark World TB Day

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March — A ceremony to mark World TB Day for 2007 was held at Yadanamon Hall of Pyinmana No 1 Basic Education High School yesterday.

It was attended by Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Brig-Gen Wai Lwin and wife Daw Swe Swe Oo, Deputy

Director-General of Health Department Dr Kyaw Sein and directors, chairman of Pyinmana District Peace and Development Council U Khin Maung Zaw and district level departmental officials, head of district health department Dr Aye Ko Ko, local authorities, members of Women's Affairs Organizations,

Maternal and Child Welfare Association, township Union Solidarity and Development Associations and social organizations.

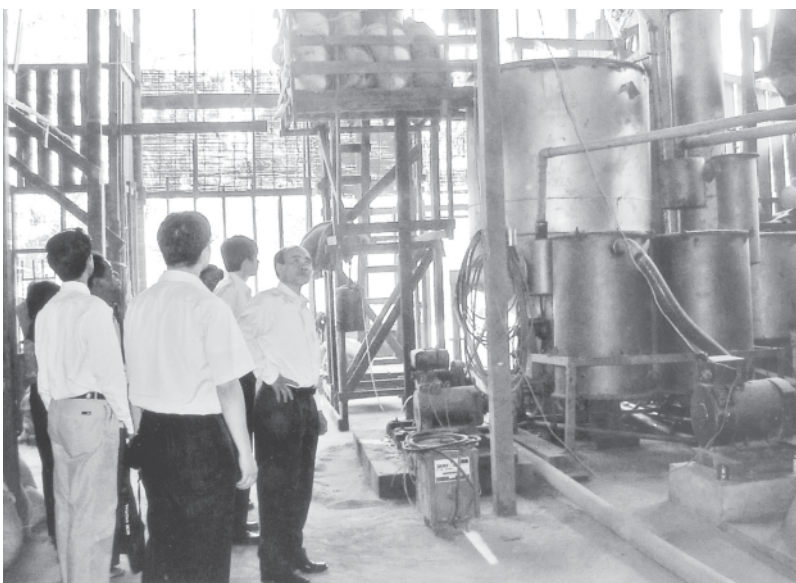
First, the commander made a speech on the occasion. Next, Dr Aye Ko Ko explained about the salient points of TB with audio-visual aid.

MNA



Commander Brig-Gen Wai Lwin addresses commemoration of World TB Day for 2007 in Pyinmana. — MNA

## Representatives of ASEAN+3 view production of paddy husk-fired gasifier



Representatives of ASEAN+3 visit production of paddy husk-fired gasifier. H

YANGON, 25 March — The opening ceremony for the third New and Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency & Conservation Forum of ASEAN + 3 meeting was held at Hline Campus here on 16 March, attended by officials of departments and enterprises, Executive Director Dr Weena Wat Chantanokome of ACE,

Ms Rabiah Al Adawiyah of ASEAN Secretariat, representatives of China, Japan, Republic of Korea and ASEAN member countries.

The meeting was organized by Ministry of Energy, ASEAN Centre for Energy-ACE, Institute of Energy Economic Japan-IEEJ and Myanmar Engineering Association-MEA.

After the opening ceremony, those present visited the paddy husk-fired gasifier factory of Myanmar Innovator Co-operative Syndicate who won the ASEAN Alternative Energy Award for 2006 at Hlinethaya Industrial Zone and viewed the production of paddy husk-fired gasifier.

H

## Teaching aids, machines donated to School for Deaf Children in Mandalay

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March — Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw delivered an address at the cash donation ceremony to School for the Deaf Children in Chanmyathazi Township yesterday morning.

Next, wellwisher President Mr Sadaaki

Tachiki and party of Kyoshin Co Ltd of Tokyo, Japan, presented cash donation to Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe.

The commander, the minister and wellwishers viewed students, learning of training courses such as computer, tailoring and knitting.

It was the ninth cash donation of the wellwisher — teaching aids and machines worth ¥ 2,038,618. The wellwishers had made nine consecutive cash donations totalling US\$ 227,945 to the fund of the school.

A total of 221 students are attending the vocational courses.

MNA

## Football Festival in Karaweik Park

YANGON, 25 March — Football Festival organized by Olympic Sports Journal was held at Hmyawsinkyun in Karaweik Park, Kandawgyi here at 10 am to 7 pm on 24 March.

The festival includes fun games, quizzes, other events related to football, fashion shows, HIV/AIDS and health educative programmes for youths.

The fans were presented gifts and other souvenirs.

Famous vocalists also presented entertainment programmes and outstanding Myanmar athletes took part in the festival.

The football festival was sponsored by UN agencies such as UNICEF, UNAIDS and UNFPA and social organizations such as Aus AID, Marie Stopes International, Save the Children and PIS, local cosmetics and soft drinks companies and book publishing houses and City FM. — MNA

Football Festival organized by Olympic Sports Journal in Kandawgyi. MNA



## Educative talks on Medical Advances in the field of Oncology held

YANGON, 25 March — The educative talks on Medical Advances in the field of Oncology was held at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road here today. It was organized by Bangkok Hospital (Myanmar branch) office.

Professor Dr Saw Naing presided over the talks. Associated Professor Dr Soe Aung of Yangon General Hospital gave talks on coping with cancer: Myanmar Perspective, Dr Prasert Lertsanguansinchai of Bangkok Hospital on innovations in cancer diagnosis and treatment and Dr Surachai Sitawarin on innovative systemic treatment of cancer today.

After the talks, they answered the queries

raised by those presents. Next, official of Bangkok Hospital donated K 500,000 each to the cancer ward and X-ray unit of Yangon General Hospital.

Dr Soe Aung of

YGH presided over the second session of the talks. Dr Prasert and Dr Surachai of Bangkok Hospital gave talks on cancer.

MNA



Official of Bangkok hospital (Myanmar branch) office donates cash for cancer ward and X-ray unit of Yangon General Hospital. — MNA



## China, Zimbabwe sign MoU on rural development

HARARE, 24 March — China and Zimbabwe on Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding in the areas of construction, rural housing and social amenities to enhance economic development and improve the living standards of the people.

Speaking at the signing ceremony in Harare, Zimbabwean Rural Housing and Social Amenities Minister Emerson Mnanagwa said the development would enable the two

countries to share experiences and assistance in rural development. The assistance, he said, would also help the ministry complete some of its rural development programmes.

“About 70 percent of our population live in the rural areas,” he said. Therefore the signing of this MoU marks a significant step in technical cooperation, technology, experience and knowledge sharing in rural development between the two countries, the minister said.

He said the cooperation demonstrated the deep solidarity, friendship and warm relations that exist between China and Zimbabwe.

Chinese Assistant Minister of Construction Liu Zhifeng urged the two countries to continue working together to improve the cordial relationships that bond them together. “What we have achieved today is just the beginning of greater things to come,” he said.

MNA/Xinhua



A Chinese man works at a steel market in Shenyang in northeast China's Liaoning Province, on 24 March, 2007. China's economic output last year accounted for 5.5 percent of the world total, while it accounted for 15 percent of total energy use and 30 percent of steel consumption, Xinhua reported.—XINHUA

## Hun Sen defends museum project in Siem Reap

PHNOM PENH, 24 March — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen has defended a memorandum of understanding the government has signed with a Thai firm to build a museum in Siem Reap Province, local media said on Friday.

This is an effort to help conserve Cambodia's artifacts and earn national revenues through sale of entrance tickets, Cambodian newspaper

the *Samleng Yuvechun Khmer* quoted him as saying.

“The Kingdom of Cambodia benefits from (the agreement) that is the

protection and storage of artifacts in the museum to serve national and international visitors so they can learn about the works of ancient Khmer artists, and (ticket sales) benefit national revenues,” Hun Sen said in a letter dated on Wednesday.

The letter is in response to suggestions from opposition law-maker Keo Remy that the government should not

have endorsed the agreement with the Thai company on the Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) principle to construct the Angkor National Museum in Siem Reap.

Keo Remy said that the floral designs beneath the name of the museum, which is currently under construction, demonstrate a purely Thai structure and style, reported another Cambodian newspaper the *Kampuchea Thmey*.

The museum should reflect Cambodian culture, according to the politician, who emphasized that “culture is the nation's soul and culture is the identification of a country's nationality and race”.

MNA/Xinhua

## Britain mulls to raise school leaving age to 18

LONDON, 24 March — The government will set out its plans on Thursday for raising the school leaving age to 18, against a backdrop of rising teenage unemployment and an expected decline in the number of unskilled jobs.

A consultation paper, known as a Green Paper, will examine the practicalities of raising the number of 16-18 year-olds in full-time education or vocational training from the current level of 75 per cent.

The paper will reveal whether the government is in favour of making attendance until 18 compulsory.

In January, newspapers reported that Education Secretary Alan Johnson wanted the mandatory age for leaving education or training to rise from 16 to 18 by 2013.

Chancellor Gordon Brown said during his

budget speech on Wednesday the government would “for the first time in our country's history, make education a right for every young person until 18”. John Brennan, chief executive of the Association of Colleges, welcomed Brown's announcement.

Colleges strongly support this ambition and will be the vital factor in ensuring it becomes a reality,” he said.

The National Union of Teachers has also supported the move, saying raising the school leaving age to 18 was “inevitable”.

MNA/Reuters



Protesters chant slogans at a rally against the joint military exercises between South Korea and US, scheduled from 25-31 March, near the headquarters of the US Army in Seoul, on 25 March, 2007. The placards read, “We oppose the United States.”—INTERNET

## Gunmen kidnap Dutch security manager in Nigeria

LAGOS, 24 March — Gunmen in speed boats kidnapped a Dutch security manager of a German construction company in Nigeria's oil city of Port Harcourt on Friday, security sources said.

The attackers invaded the construction yard of Bilfinger Berger on the waterfront at dawn, engaged guards in a three-hour shootout and abducted the security manager when he went to investigate what was happening.

“They attacked in three speed boats and fought their way into the camp. The security manager went out to see what was happening and got lifted,” a security source said.

The company has tried unsuccessfully to contact the group that kidnapped

him, he added.

Kidnappings of foreign oil workers have become an almost weekly occurrence this year in Port Harcourt, Nigeria's oil capital, and thousands of foreign workers have fled the Niger Delta since last year.—MNA/Reuters



A worker of Zurich airport de-ices a plane after heavy snowfalls, on 23 March, 2007. —INTERNET



**ADVERTISEMENT**

**Vietnam announces state monopoly fields**

HANOI, 24 March — Under Vietnam's new governmental decision on classifying state-owned enterprises (SOEs), the state holds 100 per cent of registered capital in firms operating in fields essential to the country's socioeconomic development and security, said local media on Friday.

The fields include transmission of electricity under the national power network; large electricity production significant to socioeconomic development, defence and security; management and exploitation of national and urban railways; airports; large seaports; flight control; control of national and urban railway transport; maritime safety guarantee; postal public utility; radio and television broadcasting; publishing and Press; lottery; money printing and casting; cigarette production; and policy credits to serve socioeconomic development.

The fields also include production and supply of explosives, toxic chemicals and radioactive substances; and production and repair of military weapons and equipment, according to newspaper *Young People*.

The Vietnamese Government has recently instructed the Finance Ministry and relevant agencies to speed up equitization of SOEs operating in different fields and create favourable conditions for equitized firms to list their shares in the effervescent local stock market.

MNA/Xinhua

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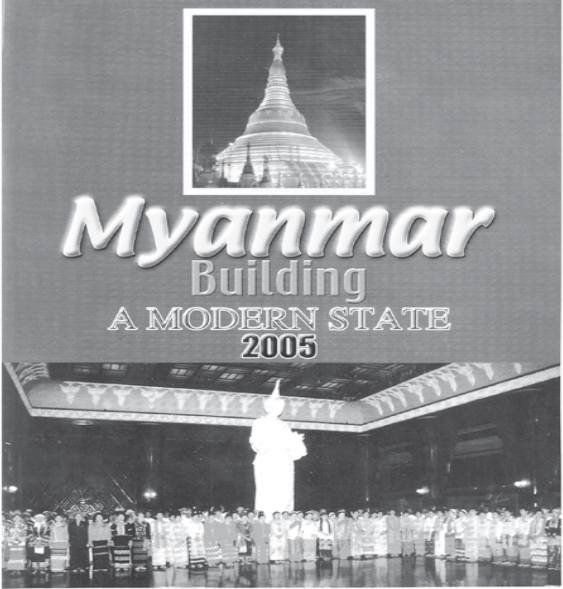
**Jailed Colombian drug kingpin receives death threats**

BOGOTA, 24 March — An imprisoned Colombian drug kingpin said on Thursday that he was receiving death threats since he intended to cooperate with the US side.

Luis Hernando Gomez Bustamante, an alleged boss of the Norte del Valle cartel known by his alias "Rasguno", is in the process of being extradited to the United States.

"My extradition ... is inconvenient for a great many people: politicians, guerillas who want to be politicians and enemies who believe I will name them," Gomez told media. "There is one person in Itagui Jail (where Colombia's demobilized paramilitary chiefs are being held) who has nearly all my money. That is why I am worried that the peace process will be damaged," he said.

Gomez was deported to Colombia from Cuba a month ago. He had been held in Cuba since his 2004 arrest at Havana's main airport. He fled Colombia after Washington offered a reward of five million US dollars for the capture of Colombia's top drug traffickers.—MNA/Xinhua



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**India, Japan to work for bilateral free trade pact by 2009**

**TOKYO, 24 March — India and Japan on Thursday agreed to work for a bilateral free trade agreement by early 2009, enhance cooperation between their navies to strengthen maritime security and hold their first ever policy dialogue in the energy sector.**

Issues relating to free trade, economic and maritime cooperation and Indo-US nuclear dialogue, he held talks with the Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Aso. Abe, during his 35-minute meeting with Mukherjee at his 'Kantei' office, said Japan desired closer cooperation with India citing the common values of freedom, democracy, rule of law and human rights that the two countries shared. Mukherjee is on a three-day visit to Tokyo for the first-ever strategic dialogue between India and Japan. As part of the

dialogue, he held talks with the Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Aso. Abe, during his 35-minute meeting with Mukherjee at his 'Kantei' office, said Japan desired closer cooperation with India citing the common values of freedom, democracy, rule of law and human rights that the two countries shared. Mukherjee told Abe it was important to enhance cooperation between navies of India and Japan

to realize maritime security from the viewpoints of energy supply and economic development.

The issue of the planned bilateral Free Trade Agreement came up during Mukherjee's talks with Energy Minister Akira Amari.

Amari was quoted by *Kyodo* news agency as telling Mukherjee that Japan is seeking to conclude a 'high quality' economic partnership

agreement, with an FTA at its core, at an early date.

The two ministers also agreed that energy ministers from the two countries will hold their first policy dialogue in the energy sector in Tokyo next month.

The Indo-US nuclear deal, for which Japan is yet to extend support, is understood to have figured in Mukherjee's talks with Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuhisa Shioza.

Shioza is reported to have told Mukherjee that Japan is still considering its position regarding the deal.

Referring to the importance of the bilateral strategic dialogue, Premier Abe said the strategic global partnership between Japan and India has made "steady progress".

Mukherjee welcomed Japan's presence as observer at the forthcoming SAARC summit. Discussions also covered other regional and international issues of mutual interest, official sources said.

Mukherjee and Energy Minister Akira Amari welcomed the agreement on modalities and time frame for bilateral consultation mechanism on facilitation of high-technology trade was welcomed.

MNA/PTI

**Iran gets 60% of oil income in non-dollar currencies**

**TEHERAN, 24 March — Iran, embroiled in a nuclear row with the United States, is asking more clients to pay for oil in currencies other than the dollar and 60 per cent of its crude income is in other units, an official said recently.**

Hojjatollah Ghanimifard, international affairs director of state-owned National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), told *Reuters* almost all of Iran's European clients and some of its Asian customers had accepted making payments in non-dollar currencies.

He said Iran was concerned about the weak state of the greenback and was not being prompted to act by politics.

"To the best of my knowledge, what we are doing at NIOC is purely something based on commercial reasons," he said. "Part (of this) has to do with the strength of the dollar."

Ghanimifard had said in December that about 57 per cent of Iran's income from crude exports was in euros.

Washington is leading efforts to isolate Iran over what it says is Teheran's bid to build atomic bombs. The United States has imposed sanctions on to two big state banks and has urged international firms to avoid doing business with Iran.

Iran, the world's fourth biggest oil exporter, insists its nuclear plans are aimed at producing electricity so that it can conserve its oil and gas resources for export and to prepare for the day when its huge energy reserves run out.

"We have asked our clients that whenever they are ready to exchange the dollar into any other currency, including the euro, we would be welcoming that. In Europe, almost — I can say — all have accepted, in Asian markets some," he said.

Asked how much of Iran's oil income was now being paid in currencies other than the dollar, he said: "It would be something close to 60 to 60 something per cent. Iran is expected to earn more than 50 billion US dollars from its energy exports in the Iranian year that ended on 20 March.

MNA/Reuters

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## Cuba willing to join tsunami early warning network

HAVANA, 24 March — Cuba is willing to join a Caribbean tsunami early-warning system, which would help protect millions in the region, an expert from Cuba's National Seismological Investigation Institute said on Thursday.

Speaking to experts from 20 countries at Geosciences 2007, the second session of the Cuban Earth Sciences Convention, Enrique Diego Arango said there was a need for an integrated social model to prepare the population for these devastating phenomena.

He said Cuba is

vulnerable to a tsunami triggered by underwater quakes. As hurricanes and more conventional earthquakes pose a greater risk to Cuba, it is important for Cuba to take part in international anti-tsunami networks, and collaborate in research and early warnings, Arango said.

He said that better

tsunami monitoring could prevent loss of human life in vulnerable nations, especially on islands and shoreline settlements.

The convention, which ends Friday in Havana's Palace of Conventions, began with a call for the ethical, egalitarian and sustainable use of the planet's resources.

MNA/Xinhua



Malaysia's King Mizan Zainal Abidin, centre, inspects the guard of honour upon his arrival for at the 200th Police Day parade at the Independent Square in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 25 March, 2007.—INTERNET

## Tests on human case on H9N2 show bird transmission likely

HONG KONG, 24 March — A series of test results indicated it was likely that the nine-month-old girl found earlier with H9N2 infection contracted the virus from birds, a spokesman for the Hong Kong Department of Health said Friday.

According to the spokesman, genetic sequencing studies of the virus isolated from the girl showed that all the genes from the virus were entirely of avian origin.

He explained that the test results indicated it was more likely that the virus was directly transmitted from bird to human and that there was no re-assortment with human influenza virus.

As regards the laboratory tests on the respiratory specimens taken from a healthcare worker and three children staying in the same cubicle in the United Christian Hospital with the baby girl in early March, all of them

yielded negative result to H9 virus. The four had shown mild upper respiratory infection symptoms and specimens were taken from them for testing on 22 March.

Hong Kong health officials confirmed on March 20 a human case of H9N2 infection, a mild form of avian influenza, the first of its kind during the past three years in Hong Kong. — MNA/Xinhua



A Thai Airways aircraft prepares to take off at Bangkok's Don Muang airport, on 25 March, 2007. Bangkok's Don Muang airport reopened for domestic flights on Sunday to ease congestion at the new \$4 billion Suvarnabhumi airport, six months after it was decommissioned. —INTERNET

## New Jersey thieves snatch \$12,000 in underwear

NEW YORK, 24 March — Three brazen New Jersey shoplifters made off with nearly 12,000 dollars in women's underwear by stuffing the goods into bags designed to foil anti-theft equipment at a Victoria's Secret store while the shop was open for business, police said.

Surveillance cameras captured two men and one woman jamming undergarments into large bags and walking past customers and staff into the Newport Centre Mall in Jersey City.

Police said the thieves took over 6,900 US dollars in panties and more than 4,900 dollars in bras. Victoria's Secret bras retail from 30 dollars to over 50 dollars. Panties cost between 5 US dollars and 20 dollars, according to the company's website.

No arrests have been made since the crime was reported Tuesday night, said Lieutenant Edgar Martinez, spokesman for the Jersey City Police Department. "This isn't something we've seen before. It's a lot of underwear to take," said Martinez.

MNA/Reuters

## India set to become aerospace power

SHILLONG, 24 March — India is set to become an aerospace power in the

next five to 10 years as part of efforts to ensure energy security, Indian Air Force (IAF) chief-designate Air Marshal FH Major said on Thursday.

"We are headed for that goal slowly but steadily. If you look at the speed our country is growing, we need eyes and sensors for the sake of energy security...We will be an aerospace power definitely, perhaps not tomorrow, but five to 10 years later," Major told a Press conference in this northeastern town.

He said the IAF, unlike the Army, had the inherent flexibility to tackle any situation within very short notice of four to four hours. "Mobility and versatility of the force are

not area-specific. If we need men and machines in the eastern theatre, we can fly them in from other regions," said Major, who will take over as IAF chief on 31 March.

Dismissing reports quoting two northeastern chief ministers as expressing concern over threats from neighbours, Major said: "We appreciate the threat perception more than civilians... Negating threats is our bread and butter."

On the shortage of personnel in the IAF, he said it was not as bad as that of the Army. "Our shortage is marginal — only 750 officers, unlike the Army where the shortage is a huge at 12,000 to 14,000."

MNA/PTI

*An Irrawaddy dolphin, also known as the Mekong dolphin, swims in the river at Kampi village in Kratie Province, 230 km (143 miles) northeast of Cambodia, on 25 March, 2007. Cambodia's rare Mekong dolphin is making a tentative comeback from the edge of extinction after net fishing was banned in its main habitat, Cambodian and World Wildlife Fund officials said earlier this month. —INTERNET*





# SPORTS

## Spain reignite campaign with 2-1 win over Denmark

MADRID, 25 March — Spain revived their Euro 2008 qualifying campaign after first-half goals from strike partners Fernando Morientes and David Villa earned them a 2-1 victory over 10-man Denmark at the Bernabeu on Saturday.

The win lifted Spain one spot to fourth in Group F with six points, one behind Denmark, four behind Northern Ireland, who have played a game more, and six adrift of leaders Sweden.

Denmark made a bright start but suffered a setback in the 19th minute when defender Niclas Jensen was sent off for two quick-fire bookings and Spain were quick to take advantage.

Morientes grabbed the first goal 11 minutes before the break with a low finish underneath goalkeeper Thomas Sorensen and his Valencia teammate Villa made it 2-0 on the stroke of halftime with a classy individual effort.

Denmark hit back at the start of the second period when Michael Gravgaard took advantage of some slack defending to head in at the near post, but although they gave Spain several scares the visitors were unable to find the net again.

The match got off to a high tempo start as both sides went in search of an early goal, but it was Denmark who looked more dangerous with Dennis Rommedahl and Thomas Kahlenberg going close in the opening 10 minutes.—MNA/Reuters



Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo, left, is tackled by Belgium's Gaby Mudinyayi during their Euro 2008 Group A qualifying soccer match on 24 March, 2007, at Alvalade stadium in Lisbon, Portugal. —INTERNET

## Answers to yesterday's Crossword Puzzle

1	S	T	A	N	Z	A	4	S	T	R	I	D	E	6		
	P			I		V		I		O			X			
	R		7	A	L	T	E	R	N	A	T	8	E	T		
9	O	N	C	E		R		G		10	A	G	U	E		
	U		Q		11	S	T	I	L	12	T		L	N		
13	T	A	U	N	T	S		14	E	R	R	A	N	D		
15	S	K	E	T	C	16	H		17	S	C	O	T	C	18	H
	O		S		19	K	A	P	O	K			I		A	
20	L	A	C	21	K		M		U		22	U	N	I	T	
	A		23	E	N	C	L	O	S	U	R	E		R		
	C			E		E				E	G			E		
24	E	X	P	E	R	T		25	D	E	E	M	E	D		

## Anelka on target as France labour to 1-0 win

KAUNAS (Lithuania), 25 March — Nicolas Anelka struck with a late goal to earn France a 1-0 victory away to Lithuania in a Euro 2008, Group B qualifier on Saturday.

The Bolton Wanderers striker, who had been left out of the squad for more than three years after snub-

bing a late call-up in 2002, decided a dull game in the 74th minute with a low shot from just outside the penalty area.

Victory kept France second in the standings with 12 points from five matches, level on points with leaders Scotland, who edged Georgia 2-1 earlier on Saturday.

Lithuania are fifth on four points from four games.

World Cup runners-up France were without captain Patrick Vieira and striker Thierry Henry, both injured, while coach Raymond Domenech left out defensive midfielder Alou Diarra and striker David Trezeguet.—MNA/Reuters



Maria Sharapova, of Russia, celebrates a point against Chan Yung-jan, of China (Taipei), on 24 March, 2007, during the Sony Ericsson Open tennis tournament in Key Biscayne, Fla. Sharapova won 6-3, 6-2.—INTERNET



Czech Jan Koller, centre, fights for the ball against Germany's Christoph Metzelder, up and Per Mertesacker, right, during the Euro 2008 Group D qualifying match between Czech Republic and Germany in Prague, Czech Republic, on 24 March, 2007. —INTERNET

## Israel, England disappoint in goalless draw

TEL AVIV, 25 March — Israel and England played out a disappointing 0-0 draw in their Euro 2008 Group E qualifying match on Saturday a result that dented the chances of both teams reaching the finals in Austria and Switzerland next year. England manager Steve McClaren said he was frustrated and disappointed by the result.

"There was poor quality and poor finishing. We made the chances ... but we weren't ruthless enough in front of goal. It was two points dropped. We should have won," he told Sky Sports immediately after the game ended. England have scored only one goal in their last five internationals — their worst run for 26 years.

The visitors went close when Jamie Carragher shaved the bar with a header in the 69th minute and Micah Richards and Jermain Defoe had the ball in the net three times late in the match -- but from offside positions.

England showed a little more intensity in the early parts of the second half after Israel had held their own in opening period when Toto Tamuz had two good chances within two minutes, the first a 17-metre low shot in the 27th minute which forced England goalkeeper Paul Robinson to stretch to collect, and the second a header in the 29th which went wide.—MNA/Reuters

## McLeish makes winning start with Scotland

GLASGOW, 25 March — Scotland made a winning start under new manager Alex McLeish after substitute Craig Beattie scored in the 89th minute of a 2-1 victory over Georgia in their Euro 2008 qualifier on Saturday.

Rangers striker Kris Boyd powered in the opening goal with a downward header in the 11th minute from Gary Teale's teasing cross from the right in the Group B game.

Former Rangers striker Shota Arveladze levelled just before halftime, latching onto a fine cross from Georgi Demetradze and sending his header flashing down beyond keeper Craig Gordon.

Beattie scrambled a close-range winner to put Scotland top of the group with 12 points from five games, before France's game in Lithuania. Georgia have three points from five games.

Scotland got the start they needed, with Boyd meeting Teale's cross with a header that flew into the net at keeper Georgi Lomaia's left post.

Teale then squandered a fine chance to score when he burst through the middle seven minutes later only to shoot tamely at Lomaia.—MNA/Reuters

England's Wayne Rooney (R) challenges Israel's Yuval Shpungin during their Euro 2008 Group E qualifying soccer match at the Ramat Gan Stadium near Tel Aviv, on 24 March, 2007.—INTERNET



## Disappointing Dutch held by Romania

ROTTERDAM, 25 March — The Netherlands were held to a disappointing 0-0 draw by Romania in a Euro 2008 Group G qualifier on Saturday.

With 11 points after five matches, the Dutch remain top of the group, followed by Romania and Bulgaria with eight each and a game in hand.

The Dutch chances came from long range. An attempt from Rafael van der Vaart went wide after a slight deflection and Wesley Sneijder just missed the target from 25 metres.

Romania twice came close in the first half but Ciprian Marica was foiled by goalkeeper Maarten Stekelenburg and later hit the side netting.

Netherlands travel Slovenia on Wednesday and Romania host Luxembourg.—MNA/Reuters



# WHO to launch large-scale anti-tobacco campaign in Bangkok

BANGKOK, 25 March — The World Health Organization (WHO) plans to launch an international anti-smoking public campaign in Bangkok to mark the World No-Tobacco Day, which falls

on 31 May, *Thai News Agency* reported on Saturday, quoting a senior public health official.

Dr Panya Sornkom, adviser to Thailand's Deputy Public Health Minister, said that WHO will launch the public relations campaign in Thailand from 30 May to 1 July this year to mark the World No-Tobacco Day on 31 May. WHO Director-General Margaret Chan and Thai Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont are scheduled to declare their joint intention to fight against tobacco consumption.

Thailand is regarded as the world's second ranked country in reducing tobacco use by implementing anti-smoking measures, following Canada, Panya said.

The Public Health Ministry plans to extend no smoking zones to cover 1,500 fresh markets nationwide before the end of this year. The ministry is

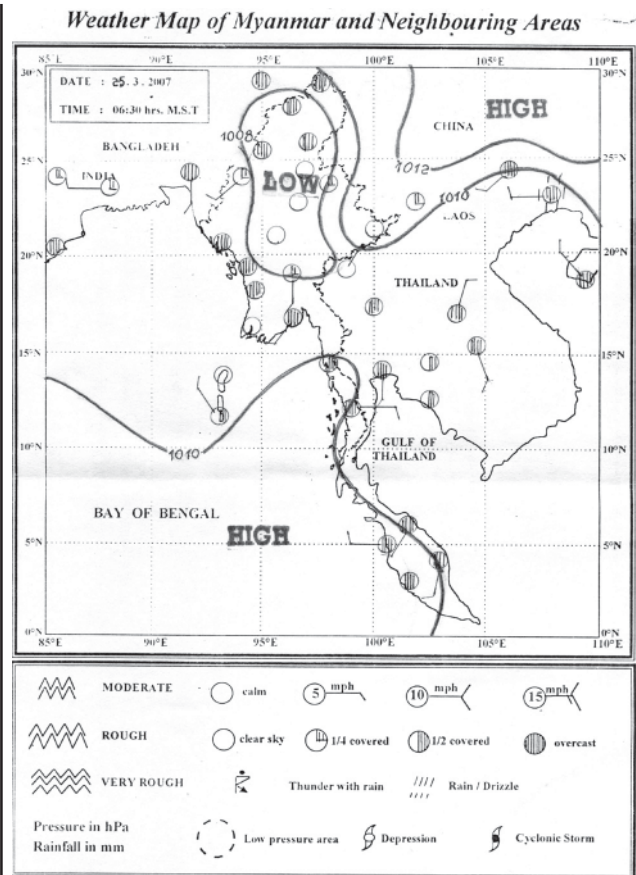
also conducting a feasibility study to see if no-smoking zones should be extended to entertainment venues like pubs and bars. Thailand already has some of the toughest anti-smoking laws in the world. In 2005, the government banned cigarette displays at points of sale, making Thailand the third country worldwide to do so. The law banning smoking in virtually all public places came into force on 29 December, 2006.

Other restrictions on the tobacco industry include bans on cigarette advertisements on media, bans on smoking in most public places and requirements that all cigarette packs put on graphic photos, such as death's heads and dark lungs, depicting the ill effects of tobacco on health.

MNA/Xinhua



Farung Yuthithum, 19, smiles after she was crowned Miss Thailand Universe 2007 in Bangkok, on 25 March, 2007. — INTERNET



## WEATHER

Sunday, 25 March, 2007

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures were Minbu (42°C), Magway (41°C), Monywa, Chauk, Aunglan and Pyay (40°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 24-3-2007 was 98°F. Minimum temperature on 25-3-2007 was 74°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 25-3-2007 was 60%. Total sunshine hours on 24-3-2007 was (9.2) hours approx.

Rainfall on 25-3-2007 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 (7) mph from West at (15:00) hours MST on 24-3-2007.

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

**Forecast valid until evening of 26-3-2007:** Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Kachin and Mon States, Taninthayi Division and weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine, Shan and Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Likelihood of slight increase of day temperatures in the Central Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 26-3-2007:** Partly cloudy.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 26-3-2007:** Partly cloudy.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 26-3-2007:** Partly cloudy.

### Earthquake report

(Issued at 10:30 hours MST today)  
A strong earthquake of intensity (7.2) Richter Scale with its epicentre outside Myanmar about (5,600) miles Southeast of Kaba-Aye Seismological observatory was recorded at (07)hrs (10)min (02) sec MST and a strong earthquake of intensity (7.1) Richter Scale with its epicentre outside Myanmar about (2,980) miles Northeast of Kaba-Aye Seismological observatory was recorded at (07) hrs (12) min (16) sec MST on 25th March 2007.



Monday, 26 March  
Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music: -May be baby
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music: -All that I need
- 8:50 am National news & Slogan
- 9:00 am Music: -Mano
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music: -The one
- 1:30 pm News & Slogan
- 1:40 pm Lunch time music: -My life -Evergreen
- 9:00 pm Discussion -Significance of Armed Forces Day
- 9:10 pm Article
- 9:35 pm Vocal Gems -On & on
- 9:45 pm News & Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL



Monday, 26 March  
View on today

- 7:00 am
- 1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
- 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. Song of national races
- 8:05 am
- 6. Cute little dancers
- 8:10 am
- 7. စစ်ကိုင်းတိုင်း ပုထိုးလုံးတံတား
- 8:20 am
- 8. (၆၂) နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 8:30 am
- 9. International news
- 8:45 am
- 10. Grammar Made Easy

- 4:00 pm
- 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm
- 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm
- 3. အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေးရပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -ဒုတိယနှစ်(စိတ်ပညာအထူးပြု) (စိတ်ပညာ)
- 4:45 pm
- 4. Dance variety
- 5:00 pm
- 5. မြန်မာရိုးရာတေးလေ့ကျေးလက်တေးသံများ
- 5:10 pm
- 6. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား
- 5:25 pm
- 7. Musical programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)
- 5:35 pm
- 8. “ချောင်းကမ်းဘေးက ရွာကလေး” (နွဲ့နွဲ့စနိုး၊ မြင့်မြင့်ခိုင်၊ ထင်ပေါ်၊ သဇင်) [ဒါရိုက်တာ-မြင့်ခိုင်(ဝ/သ ရန်ကုန်)]
- 5:45 pm
- 9. တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြု တေးသီချင်းပြိုင်ပွဲ ဆုရတေးများ (၂၀၀၆ ခုနှစ်)
- 6:00 pm
- 10. Evening news
- 6:30 pm
- 11. Weather report
- 6:35 pm
- 12. အလှရှာမယ် လှကမ္ဘာဝယ်
- 7:00 pm
- 13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ချစ်သစ္စာ ဘဝပင်ခြားသော်လည်း” (အပိုင်း-၆)
- 7:40 pm
- 14. (၆၂) နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 7:50 pm
- 15. ပြည်သူ့အတွက်တပ်မတော် (ကျန်းမာရေး၊ သိပ္ပံနည်းပညာ၊ ပညာရေး)
- 8:00 pm
- 16. News
- 8:00 pm
- 17. International news
- 8:00 pm
- 18. Weather report
- 9:00 pm
- 19. (၆၂) နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြု ရပ်မြင်သံကြား ဇာတ်လမ်း “အဖေတူသား” (ဇာတ်သိမ်းပိုင်း) (ဇင်ပိုင်၊ လူမင်း၊ မင်းမော်ကွန်း၊ နေမျိုးအောင်၊ ထွန်းထွန်း(Examplez), ပန်းဖြူ၊ နန္ဒာလှိုင်၊ သက်မွန်မြင့်၊ မေသဉ္ဇာဦး) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ပန်းချိုရိုးရိုး)
- 20. The next day's programme

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**Four political objectives**

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

**Four economic objectives**

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

**Four social objectives**

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

## Prime Minister sends felicitations to Bangladesh

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March— On the occasion of the anniversary of the National and Independence Day of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, which falls on 26 March 2007, General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Honourable Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed, Chief Adviser of Non-party Care Taker Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.—MNA

UNODC issues the annual report on success of control of drugs, human trafficking, HIV/AIDS in Myanmar.

# Myanmar sees opium cultivation decline in 2006 UNODC strengthens links with UN agencies and NGOs working on anti-human trafficking efforts of Myanmar In combating HIV/AIDS, UNODC and Myanmar Drug Control Agency meet success in law enforcement sector

NAY PYI TAW, 24 March—The UNODC this month issued the annual report 2007. The report covers measures taken in 2006 as to control of human trafficking and HIV/AIDS and drug-demand reduction in Myanmar.

The report states Myanmar continued to see opium cultivation decline in 2006. The UNODC ran community support projects, introduced drug-demand reduction initiatives and helped to provide treatment and rehabilitation for the country's opium addicts.

The UNODC's the 2006 Golden Triangle Opium Survey showed that poppy cultivation has decreased by 29 per cent in Myanmar, Laos and Thailand when compared to 2005. In Myanmar, poppy cultivation fell 34 per cent to 21,500 hectares, representing a dramatic 83 per cent drop from 130,300 hectares under cultivation in 1998. The Wa Special Region of Shan State (North) was declared as an opium-free zone. This resulted from an opium ban imposed by the local authorities in June 2005 as part of a five year government plan to make the country opium-free by 2014.

UNODC provided farmers with alternative livelihoods so that rapid opium eradication couldn't hit them. UNODC took measures to meet the humanitarian needs of thousands of farmers who quit poppy cultivation and their families. It provided comprehensive assistance to help them obtain foods, basic services and education. In

2006, it completed major irrigation schemes such as the Nantu canal in Ho Tao Township, which will irrigate 80 hectares of land. The project will contribute to helping farmers develop their land.

UNODC monitored progress in the Wa region and surveyed districts needing assistance. A survey conducted in early 2006 on the impact of project work in Mong Pawk region between 1999 and 2005 showed major achievements including 785 hectares of newly developed irrigated paddy field and a 21 per cent increase in paddy cultivation. Up to 42 per cent of households were using an improved low-land rice seed variety compared to virtually none in 1999, while 60 per cent had adopted at least one new crop.

An off-season opium survey was conducted by Myanmar's drug-control agency and UNODC in Shan State (South). The rapid survey confirmed that there was no evidence of poppy cultivation in the region. UNODC's Drug Demand Reduction programme in Wa region provided treatment and detoxification programmes for drug addicts in Mong Pawk and Wein Kao Townships. Between 2004 and July 2006, it treated more than a thousand addicts and provided counseling sessions to families.

**Anti-trafficking in persons**

In 2006, UNODC strengthened links with UN agencies and NGOs working on anti-human trafficking efforts of Myanmar. A national seminar

took place in Yangon, which recommended developing a National Plan of Action to include the protection of victims and assistance in the return of trafficked victims from abroad.

UNODC-supported Border Liaison Office was set up to increase cooperation on drug control between local authorities, the UNODC regional centre in Bangkok, UNODC Myanmar and the United Nations Inter-Agency Project in Human Trafficking in the Mekong sub-region.

**Anti-HIV/AIDS**

UNODC is the lead agency in the area of HIV/AIDS and drug use in Myanmar. It took part in the drawing and implementing the National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS recognized injecting drug use as a primary means of transmission of virus.

UNODC and the Myanmar drug control agency undertook a study to determine the role of the law-enforcement sector in the response to HIV/AIDS. Two new centres opened in Hsenwi and Tachilek provided comprehensive drug services, including treatment and detoxification, counseling and support, health care, education and training.

The HIV/AIDS prevention project for police force in Myanmar provided training at one police academy, three police training schools and two anti-narcotic task forces. Training was also given to the Armed Medical Services of Defence Services.—MNA