

Senior General Than Shwe addresses meeting 1/2007 of Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races

Thanks to extensive implementation of development tasks, there has been mutual understanding and trust between one national race and another along with stability and peace

Human society will enjoy civil rights fully only if the rule of law is firm

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March — The Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races held the meeting 1/2007 at the hall of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), here, at 2 pm today, with an address by Chairman of the Central Committee Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe.

Also present at the meeting were Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Member of the Central Committee member of the SPDC General Thura

Shwe Mann, Secretary of the Central Committee Secretary-1 of the SPDC Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Central Committee members SPDC members Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein and Military Affairs Security Chief Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Joint Secretary Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, invited guest Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence, ministers, deputy ministers and departmental heads.

(See page 16)



Senior General Than Shwe delivers an address at meeting No 1/2007 of Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races. — MNA



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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 29 March, 2007

Capable of crushing any danger that may befall the nation

The Tatmadaw was born of the beloved sons of the people during the independence struggle. The Tatmadaw has been safeguarding the nation for perpetuation of independence and sovereignty and sacrificing the lives of its members to protection the life and property of the people for 62 years.

The 62nd Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade was held at the parade ground in Nay Pyi Taw on 27 March. Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe delivered an address. He said the Tatmadaw has a fine tradition of taking the challenges to solve the problems without hesitation whenever the country is confronted by a threat to Our Three Main National Causes. As has been done in the past, the Tatmadaw is upholding Our Three Main National Causes and will continue to do so in the future as well. All destructive elements bending on the disintegration of the Union, national solidarity and the perpetuation of sovereignty constitute a threat and a danger to the country.

Judging from the lessons of the history, powerful countries wishing to impose their influence on the nation are still making any attempt in various ways and means to undermine national unity among the national races and to weaken the Tatmadaw. Despite the hindrances of internal and external destructive elements, the Tatmadaw and the people will crush every danger of internal and external enemies through national solidarity among the Tatmadaw and the people.

The Tatmadaw which safeguarded the nation in the successive periods, hand in hand with the people, is now building a peaceful modern discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

To defend the State is the duty of all citizens and the Tatmadaw and the people are united as one. The Tatmadaw formed with the beloved sons of the people, hand in hand with the entire people, is capable of crushing any danger that may befall the nation.

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(မည်သူမဆို အခမဲ့ဝင်ရောက် ကြည့်ရှုလေ့လာနိုင်ပါသည်)

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

Minister for Information meets trainees of Work Efficiency Enhancement Course



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan delivers an address at Work Efficiency Enhancement Course of Information and Public Relations Department. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan met trainees of the Work Efficiency Enhancement Course (Officer) 1/2007 organized by Information and Public Relations Department, at the Ministry of Information, here, this afternoon.

In his speech, the minister said that the training course was opened with three aims. The first of them is to enhance efficiency of service personnel. As today is information age, it is necessary to make efforts for improvement of media tasks with farsightedness. The service personnel are to try their best to be skillful in publication of papers, wall magazines and pamphlets. The personnel are to organize the local people through media to participate in development tasks of the government. Furthermore, the personnel are to guard against the dangers of the destructive elements through media, he added.

He asserted that the service personnel must have high quality in carrying out their tasks as the second aim, based on patriotic spirit. The minister stressed the need to organize the local people to pos-

sess Union Spirit.

The minister added that the successful implementation of the goals of the ministry and IPRD is the third aim of the training course. The minister said that staff are to discharge their respective duties conscientiously. The minister pointed out two important points out of eight future tasks of IPRD for 2007-08. The first point is to maintain durability of self-reliant village libraries. Opening the self-reliant libraries throughout the nation is the remarkable success of the nation. The personnel are to strive for ensuring durability of the libraries in collaboration with the local authorities, USDA, NGOs, the people and the mother department. Another point is to make efforts for ensuring uplift of dynamism of the tasks of the department, he said.

Next, the minister presented cash assistance to the trainees through the trainee leader. Also present on the occasion were the director-general of IPRD, deputy directors-general and officials. A total of 60 trainees from State and Division IPRDs are attending the training course. — MNA

Free medical treatment for workers in Mandalay Industrial Zones

YANGON, 28 March — A work coordination meeting to detect TB among workers using mobile X-ray vehicle in Mandalay Industrial Zone was held at Kanaung Hall of the industrial zone on 26 March.

Chairman of Mandalay District Peace and Development Council U Soe Mya, Director Dr Soe Tint of Department of Health, Mr Komomi of JICA, Dr Ko Myint of TB Combating Section (Upper Myanmar) made speeches at the meeting.

A total of 4000 workers from Mandalay industrial Zones No 1 and No 2 will be provided free medical treatment.

MNA

Armed Forces Day Exhibition continues

YANGON, 28 March — An exhibition to mark the 62nd Anniversary Armed Forces Day continued at the Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road here today.

A total of 1050 people visited the exhibition today. It will continue until 4 April. It covers the booths of ministries and commands.

The marching route of King Alaungphaya, the marching route of Burma Independence Army from Dawei to inland of the country, Myeik Battle, documentary photos, the brief history of Coastal Region Command, documentary photos on tasks for greening the region, palm oil and pearl production in Taninthayi Division are displayed at the booth of the Coastal Region Command. — MNA

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Rocket hits Baghdad Green Zone, shakes US Embassy

BAGHDAD, 27 March — A rocket landed in Baghdad's heavily fortified international Green Zone on Monday, rocking the US Embassy but causing no casualties, witnesses said.

US embassy spokesman Lou Fintor would not say exactly where the

rocket landed for security reasons but confirmed it had crashed into the sprawling international zone, which also houses the Iraqi Government and other foreign embassies.

"Preliminary reports indicate the source of the explosion was a rocket. There were no casualties

and minimal damage," he said.

A rocket landed close to a building where UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki were holding a news conference in the Green Zone last week.

MNA/Reuters

Veterans account for one third of homeless Americans

WASHINGTON, 27 March — Veterans now account for about one third of the estimated 200,000 homeless Americans, CBS News reported Monday.

Many of the homeless veterans served in Vietnam, but experts expect the number of homeless Iraq veterans to swell in coming years, according to the report.

On the other side, the Veterans Administration

can provide beds to only 14,000 veterans, though it said its shelters are not filled to capacity and that it offers what it called "very good" services to homeless veterans.

As US President George W Bush orders more troops to Iraq, the Senate Committee on Veteran's Affairs wants more focus on those coming home.

"The President did not

mention the word 'veteran' in his State of the Union address," said Daniel Akaka, chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs.

Akaka has asked the Congress to more than double the President's request for funding next year — 4.8 billion US dollars more to help not just the physically wounded but the emotionally scarred.

MNA/Xinhua

Russian mine blast killing 108 broke safety rules

MOSCOW, 27 March — A Russian Government safety agency said on Monday it had found serious safety breaches at a Siberian coalmine where an explosion last week killed at least 108 people.

"Preliminary investigations into the accident at the Ulyanovskaya mine in the Kemerovo region showed the most flagrant violations of rules on the safe use of equipment," the Rostekhnadzor agency said in a statement.

MNA/Reuters



Salvador Dali's and Edward James' 'Lobster Telephone', is seen at the exhibition 'Surreal Things', in central London's Victoria and Albert Museum, on 27 March, 2007. INTERNET



A member of Frog Watch (North) holds a large cane toad captured near Darwin in Australia's Northern Territory on 26 March, 2007. — XINHUA

US Senate aide arrested for carrying gun, ammo

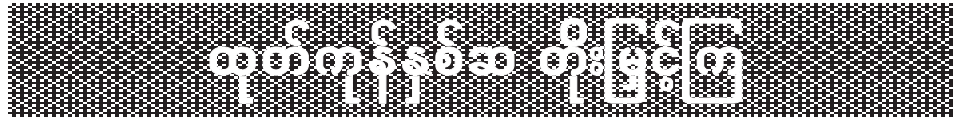
WASHINGTON, 27 March — An aide to US Senator Jim Webb, a Virginia Democrat, was arrested on Monday by Capitol Police for carrying a loaded gun and two full ammunition magazines into a Senate office building.

It was not immediately clear whose gun it was. Webb's victory in the Virginia race last year clinched Democrats' 51-49 takeover of the Senate and control

of Congress.

The aide, identified by the Senator's office as Phillip Thompson, was arrested and charged with carrying a pistol without a licence, unregistered firearm and unregistered ammunition, the police said in a statement.

The weapon was discovered during a routine X-ray. A spokeswoman for the police was not immediately available to provide more details.—MNA/Reuters



Visitors look at bicycle tires during the 20th Taipei International Cycle show, on 25 March, 2007, in Taipei. There are more than 38,000 visitors taking part in this Asia's largest cycle show and exhibit from 24-27 March.—INTERNET

'Think glocal, become billionaires'

KUALA LUMPUR, 28 March — Entrepreneurs who have gained some success must not rest easy but instead push themselves to become truly "glocal", Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said yesterday.

He said being truly glocal — local in mindset but thinking internationally — meant Malay entrepreneurs should not lose their focus when they had made profits in their businesses and succumb to what he called the "4 Bs"

— Bungalow, Boat, Benz and Beemer.

Some entrepreneurs, he said, "stepped on the brakes" when they had obtained these status symbols or paid more attention to their wives even though they could go

on to become the country's next billionaire.

"What I mean is entrepreneurs must not lose their way and stay focused for they can become more successful.

"If you are making a RM10 million profit, you should be trying to push it to RM100 million," he said after the launch of the Glocal Entrepreneurs Programme and exhibition at Putra World Trade Centre yesterday. The programme, to spur and support entrepreneurial activity, was set up by the Entrepreneur and Co-operative Development Ministry.

At the event yesterday, several memorandas of understanding were exchanged for three entrepreneurial-related projects under the ministry, namely Halmart, Malaysia Kitchen and Forest Secret.

Internet

8th Asian Banker Summit opens in Jakarta

JAKARTA, 27 March — The eight annual Asian Banker Summit was officially opened on Monday in Jakarta, participated by banking leaders from Asia, Europe, the United States and Australia.

Over 500 banking professionals from more than 24 countries exchange ideas on regional and global issues at the three-day summit, said the Indonesian Bank's Association chairman Sigit Pramono.

On Sunday, the bankers already discussed the models and strategies for commercial banks in micro banking and strategies for improving profitability from

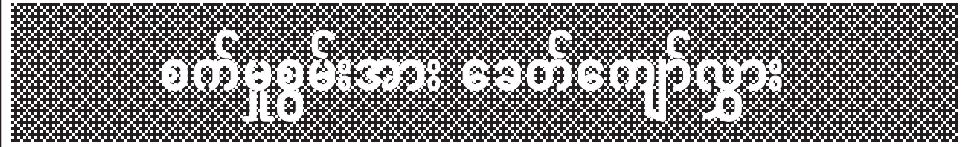
microfinance initiatives, said Sigit. It also looked at identifying markets and developing products for micro banking, and challenges in taking it to the next level of maturity, he said. "At this summit senior banking officials exchange ideas on regional and global issues," said Pramono.

"The Asian Banker Summit will bring together several key leaders in the financial

services industry who will convene to debate and examine transformational issues during dozens of seminal discussion at the summit," said Fiona Shaw, director of forums at The Asian Banker.

"Also featured will be about 60 prominent figures that have played pivotal roles in changing the world of banking," added Shaw.

MNA/Xinhua



Univision Building in Los Angeles. Regulators on Tuesday approved a private equity takeover of Univision, the biggest US Spanish-language broadcaster, but also fined the group 24 million dollars for a lack of educational programming. — INTERNET

Captain fined in sunken NY tourboat that killed 20

ALBANY(New York), 28 March — The captain of a New York tour boat that capsized in October 2005 and killed 20 elderly passengers pleaded guilty on Monday to a maritime offense. Richard Paris was fined 250 US dollars

and ordered to perform 210 hours of community service for failing to have a second crew member on board the *Ethan Allen* tour boat.

The vessel's owner, Shoreline Cruises Inc, also pleaded guilty and was

fined 250 US dollars.

The *Ethan Allen* was carrying 47 passengers on a fall foliage cruise on Lake George when it capsized and sank.

A National Transportation Safety Board investigation said a factor in the accident was excess weight on board.

MNA/Reuters

Smoking while driving banned in New Delhi

NEW DELHI, 27 March—Smoking while driving was banned in the Indian capital on Monday in an attempt to reduce the hundreds of deaths from road accidents in the city annually.

The Delhi High Court ruled that those caught smoking behind the wheel will be fined 500 rupees (10 US dollars).

Almost two thousand people are killed on the city's roads with over eight thousand accidents every year, according to the Delhi Traffic Police.

The court also ruled that public

transport drivers — including state-run buses and taxis — must have completed a minimum of 12 years of education at school, rather than just 10 years, and that they wear name badges at all times.

Extra-loud car horns and musical horns were also banned from the capital's noisy roads.

Road rules are routinely flouted in New Delhi, which has close to three million vehicles, with drivers often skipping red lights and swerving across lanes. — MNA/Xinhua

Building collapses in New York, one injured

NEW YORK, 28 March — A six-floor building under renovation partially collapsed in New York City's East Harlem District on Tuesday, causing one minor injury, fire officials said.

All 12 construction workers at the site were accounted for, a fire spokeswoman said.

MNA/Reuters



A member of staff examines a newborn Golden Coin Box turtle at the Chester Zoo in Chester, northern England, on 26 March, 2007. The baby, one of three to be born at the zoo, is the first of the critically endangered species ever to hatch in the United Kingdom. —INTERNET

Bangladesh culls more chickens as bird flu spreads

DHAKA, 26 March — Bangladesh has culled thousands more chickens amid an avian flu scare as the virus spread to additional areas of the country, officials said on

Sunday.

Bangladesh has already slaughtered some 40,000 birds since confirming the outbreak of the H5N1 flu virus in six farms near the capital Dhaka last week and plans to cull all poultry within one sq km (0.4 sq-mile) of infected farms.

Mohammad Abdul Motalib, a senior official at the government's Fisheries and Livestock Ministry, said some 9,000 chickens were killed on

Saturday on three farms north of Dhaka after laboratory tests showed traces of the virus in the areas. The Bangladeshi Government has banned transport of poultry from affected areas and imposed strict monitoring of poultry farms, including by the Army. Traders in Dhaka markets said on Saturday sales of chickens and eggs had dropped by about 10 per cent over the last few days. —MNA/Reuters

Bollywood actress Sonali Bendre smiles during the unveiling of a new jewellery collection in New Delhi on 27 March, 2007. —INTERNET

Road crash kills eight in N-W Bangladesh

DHAKA, 27 March — At least eight day labourers were killed and nine others injured when a truck plunged into a roadside ditch in northwestern Bangladesh on Sunday, local news agency UNB reported.

Witnesses said the tragic mishap took place when the cement-laden truck fell into the ditch on West Jamuna Bridge link road in northwestern Sirajganj District after it overturned at about 6:00 am (24:00 GMT, Saturday) on Sunday.

Seven of the workers who were along with 10 others on board the truck died on the spot.

MNA/Xinhua

ECONOMIC NEWS

Iran reduces US dollar exposure

TEHERAN, 27 March— Iran has significantly reduced the amount of US dollars it holds in its foreign reserves, the head of its central bank has revealed.

Dollars now make up 20% of reserves, in line with the policy of lower exposure to the currency,

Ebrahim Sheibany said.

Iran has, for some time, encouraged oil importers to pay for their crude in other currencies such as euros.

The UN recently agreed to impose fresh sanctions on Iran after it refused to stop its uranium enrichment programme.

The assets of individuals and institutions involved in Iran's nuclear industry, which Tehran says is purely focused on civil energy production, are to be frozen.

Loans and other forms of financial aid to the country will also be restricted.—*Internet*

Malaysia to host Asia Oil, Gas Conference

KUALA LUMPUR, 27 March— Malaysia will host the 12th Asia Oil and Gas Conference (AOGC 2007) in June, local Press reported on Monday.

Slated for 10-12 June, the annual conference will be held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre here.

Themed "A Shared Future", the conference seeks to discuss and address issues and challenges faced by all sectors within the oil and gas industry, the AOGC was quoted as saying in a statement by the *New Straits Times*.

The discussions will cover issues facing the biggest supplier, the Middle East, and Asia, the biggest buyer, said the statement.

Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi is expected to deliver a keynote address at the event that will attract 1,000 participants. ASEAN Secretary-General Ong Keng Yong is also among the speakers.

The conference is organized by Malaysian national oil company Petronas and co-managed by the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute, Conference Connection Incorporation and the Malaysian Institute of Economic Research.

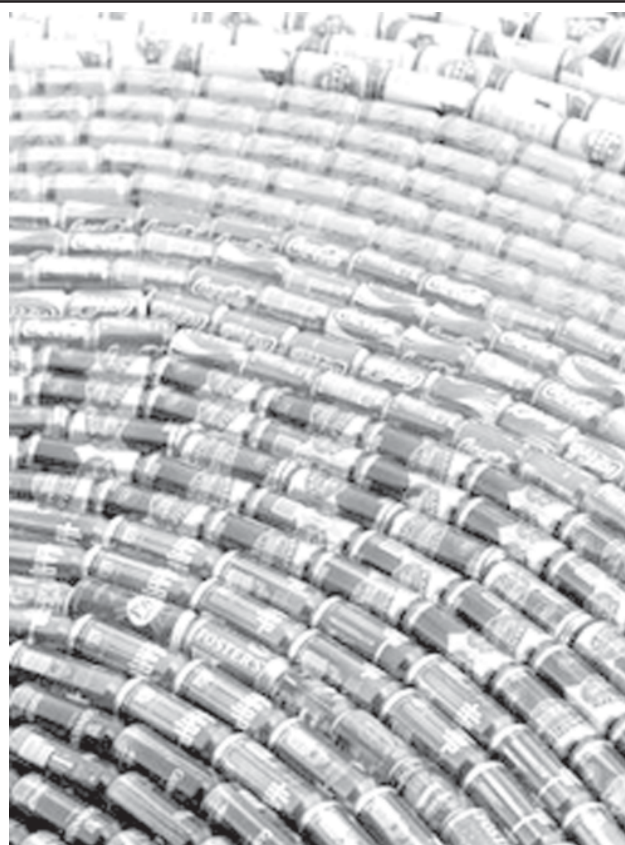
First held in 1996, the annual event has become Asia's premier oil and gas gathering.—*MNA/Xinhua*

China's Wu Minxia, left, and Guo Jingjing show off their gold medal during an award ceremony in the women's 3-metre synchro springboard final event at the World Swimming Championships in Melbourne, Australia, on Monday, 26 March, 2007. — INTERNET



BBC famous cartoon characters teletubbies visit America, on 26 March, 2007.

INTERNET



Part of a sculpture made up of nearly 8,000 recycled drinks cans is seen outside Chester Town Hall in Chester, northern England, on 26 March, 2007. —INTERNET

Highway shut for butterfly travel

LONDON, 27 March—China (Taipei) is to close one lane of a major highway to protect more than a million butterflies, which cross the road on their seasonal migration.

The purple milkweed butterfly, which winters in the south of the island, passes over some 600m of motorway to reach its breeding ground in the north.

Many of the 11,500 butterflies that attempt the journey each hour do not reach safety, experts say.

Protective nets and ultra-violet lights will also be used to aid the insects. Officials conceded that the decision to close one lane of the road would cause some traffic congestion, but said it was a price worth paying.

"Human beings need to coexist with the other species, even if they are tiny butterflies," Lee Thayming, of the National Freeway Bureau, told the AFP news agency.

Each year thousands of butterflies die when turbulence generated by fast-moving cars drags them into the traffic or under the wheels of oncoming vehicles.—*Internet*

China publishes guidelines on foreign investment for 2007

BEIJING, 27 March — China will encourage foreigners to invest more in service sector and high-tech companies this year while strictly restricting overseas investment in real estate projects, according to guidelines on foreign investment recently issued by the Ministry of Commerce for 2007.

The administrative rules for the current year say local governments and related departments should pay more attention to the quality of use of foreign investment.

According to the guidelines, foreign investment should be channelled into high-tech, modern service and high-end manufacturing sectors and into research and development, energy-efficient and environmental-friendly projects.

This year China will continue to channel foreign investment into

technical upgrading projects for traditional industries and encourage transnational companies to establish regional headquarters and launch procurement, distribution, operation and training centres on the Chinese Mainland.

The guidelines require that overseas resources should be utilized to expand domestic capital markets and foreigners' strategic investment in Chinese listed companies should be regulated. Foreign investors' cooperation with peers from China's non-state sector will be facilitated.

Meanwhile, the guidelines stress that foreign investment should be strictly restricted in real estate sector and low-standard projects with high energy consumption and serious pollution.

MNA/Xinhua

Intel announces \$2.5b project in China

BEIJING, 27 March — US chip giant Intel Corp said on Monday it will build a 2.5-billion-US-dollar semiconductor plant in Dalian, a port city in northeast China's Liaoning Province.

The plant, to be located in a high-tech zone north of Dalian's City proper, will be one of Intel's eight factories worldwide to produce 12-inch (300-

millimetre) integrated wafer after it becomes operational in the first half of 2010.

Construction of the plant will start before the end of this year, Intel said in a Press release.

The new project will make Intel "one of the largest foreign investors in China" with nearly four billion US dollars of investment, said Paul

Otellini, Intel's president and chief executive officer, at Monday's Press conference at the Great Hall of the People in central Beijing.

Intel has invested 1.3 billion US dollars in the past two decades in assembly, test and research and development facilities in China, he said.

The company has assembly and test operations in the eastern municipality of Shanghai and Chengdu in the southwest.

MNA/Xinhua



Ice calves from the north side of the Perito Moreno glacier into the "Lago Argentino" (Argentine Lake), in the Parque Nacional Los Glaciares, 80km west of the city El Calafate, in the Patagonian province of Santa Cruz, on 26 March, 2007. —INTERNET

Honda's trial bike rider Motoharu Honda performs a stunt over volunteers during an event of Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India (HMSI) in New Delhi recently. HMSI launched the new 150cc Sporty Unicorn motorcycle on 25 March 2007—INTERNET



453 housing developers blacklisted

KUALA LUMPUR, 27 March— A total of 453 errant housing developers have been blacklisted by the Housing and Local Government Ministry for various offences.

As of 31 Dec last year, 163 housing developers and 461 directors failed to comply with the awards

given out by the Homebuyers Claims Tribunal.

The remaining 290 developers were found to have failed to settle compound notices issued to them for failing to produce their respective progress reports (Laporan Kemajuan Projek).

At a press conference held yesterday, the ministry's director of monitoring and enforcement, Dr G Parameswaran, said the authorities were constantly monitoring the blacklisted companies to ensure they did not

assume other names.

"We will run a check to see if they have been previously blacklisted. The names of the directors involved will remain on our list and they are not allowed to operate under new development firms or undertake new projects until they have complied with the tribunal order or settle the compounds.

"We are taking a more aggressive approach which includes raiding developers' premises to ensure they obey the laws.—Internet

At least one killed, five injured in south of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 27 March — At least one civilian was killed and five others wounded, including two Iraqi soldiers, in separate attacks in south of Baghdad on Monday, a local police source told Xinhua.

A fierce clash broke out Monday morning when unknown gunmen attempted to storm the al-Mustafa mosque in Iskandariyah Town, some 45 kilometres south of Baghdad, killing at least one civilian and injuring three others, the source said on condition of anonymity.

Separately, unknown militants Monday morning cast a corpse filled with explosives near an Iraqi army checkpoint in the al-Haswa town, some 55 kilometres south of Baghdad, the source said.

The explosive-laden body detonated as soldiers approached, wounding two of them, the source added.

Meanwhile, Iraqi police recovered 17 unidentified bodies in different districts in Baghdad in the past 24 hours, an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua on Monday.

Some of the bullet-riddled bodies were banded and showing signs of torture, the source added.

Violence persists in Baghdad and other Iraqi cities despite the presence of tens of thousands of US and Iraqi soldiers across the country in a major security crackdown aimed at curbing insurgency and sectarian violence in the war-torn country. — MNA/Xinhua

China Southern Airlines opens new route to Dubai

GUANGZHOU, 27 March —China Southern Airlines, the nation's largest carrier by fleet size, on Monday launched a new service from the southern city of Guangzhou to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates.

The new Boeing 777B service, flight number CZ383, departs Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from Guangzhou at 8:10 pm Beijing Time, arriving in Dubai the next day at 01:10 am local time.

The return flight, CZ384, leaves Dubai at 2:50 am every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday and reaches Guangzhou at 2:50 pm Beijing Time, the company said.

It is the second international flight launched by China Southern this year, following the opening of

the Guangzhou-Katmandu service on 5 February. China Southern will open eight other direct international services this year, all departing from Guangzhou. The destinations will include Yangon, Delhi, Sendai and Sapporo.

MNA/Xinhua

With the eyes of the world on "Cute Knut" the polar bear cub, one of Berlin zoo's other main attractions, a 22-year-old female panda named Yan Yan, pictured in 2004, died unexpectedly on 26 March, 2007, the zoo said.—INTERNET



Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

NAY PYI TAW, 29 March — The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr Park Key-Chong as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Korea to the Union of Myanmar in succession to Mr Lee Ju-heum.

Mr Park Key-Chong was born on 12 February 1953. He graduated from Seoul National University with Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics in 1976 and studied at the Graduate School of Public Administration, Seoul National University in 1978. He obtained Master Degree in Public Policy from Harvard University, USA in 1986, and PhD Degree in Politics

from University of Sheffield, England in 1994. Since joining the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea as Deputy Director of Telecommunications Policy and Planning and Coordination in May 1980, Mr Park Key-Chong had served in various capacities at the Office of the Prime Minister. In February 2002, Mr Park Key-Chong served as Deputy Minister for Regulatory Reform at the Office of the Prime Minister and since April 2005, he has been serving as Deputy Minister for Policy Planning & Management at the Office of the Prime Minister.

Mr Park Key-Chong is married and has two children. — MNA

Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein welcomes Mr Qin Guangrong, Governor of Yunnan Province at the State Peace and Development Council Office in Nay Pyi Taw.

(News on page 16)

MNA



Minister receives Governor of Yunnan Province



Foreign Affairs Minister U Nyan Win receives Mr Qin Guangrong, Governor of Yunnan Province. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March— Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win received Mr Qin Guangrong, Governor of Yunnan Province of the People's Republic of China, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here today.

Also present at the call were

Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department, Director-General U Pe Than Oo of Consular and Legal Affairs Department, Deputy Director-General Daw Than Than Htay of Political Department and Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Guan Mu. — MNA



Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint welcomes Mr Qin Guangrong, Governor of Yunnan Province. — MNA

Yunnan Governor calls on Mines Minister



Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint receives Mr Qin Guangrong, Governor of Yunnan Province. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March— Mr Qin Guangrong, Governor of Yunnan Province of the People's Republic of China, called on Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Mines, at the minister's office, here this evening.

Also present at the call were

Director-General of Mining Department U Than Myint, Managing Director of No 2 Mining Enterprise U Hla Thein, Managing Director of No 3 Mining Enterprise U Hsan Tun and Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Guan Mu.

MNA

Chinese goodwill delegation arrives at Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March — Visiting Chinese goodwill delegation led by Yunnan Province Governor Mr Qin Guangrong of the People's Republic of China together with officials concerned of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar left Bagan-NyaungU for Nay Pyi Taw by air this morning.

The Chinese delegation was seen off at Bagan-NyaungU Airport by Chairman of Magway Division

Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe and responsible persons.

Upon arrival at Nay Pyi Taw Airport, the Chinese goodwill delegation was welcomed by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Director-General of Protocol Department U Kyaw Kyaw and heads of department and Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Guan Mu.

MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents a report on development tasks in border areas. — MNA

Thanks to extensive implementation of development tasks,...

(from page 16)
 a careful attention could not be paid to national development tasks, and the nation saw bloodshed and armed conflicts.

The government is the most responsible body for ensuring perpetuation and sustainable progress of the Union, and it has played

tween border areas and interior regions.

Consequently, national race armed groups began returning to the legal fold one after another, and they are now carrying out development tasks hand in hand with the government.

Thanks to extensive implementation of development tasks, there has been mutual understanding and trust between one national race and another along with stability and peace. So, development tasks have been implemented more effectively.

Realizing the government's benevolent attitude and efforts, more branches of national race armed groups entered the legal fold and they are joining hands with the government.

Due to armed conflicts, border areas lagged behind in development, especially in the education, health,

earnest efforts to tackle the issue.

We have to form the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races and the Work Committee as it is not possible to assign the task to the respective departments alone.

A separate ministry has also been formed to practically carry out the tasks with the supervision, coordination and cooperation of the Central Committee and the Work Committee.

Border areas are enjoying unprecedented development in all aspects at present, thanks to the correct duty sharing and organizational programmes and strategy and tactic.

We have witnessed some border areas achieving greater progress and prosperity than the central regions.

Due to the aim — to

Excerpts from speech of Senior General Than Shwe

- ❑ The government is the most responsible body for ensuring perpetuation and sustainable progress of the Union, and it has played a leading role in building national reconsolidation
- ❑ Realizing the government's benevolent attitude and acts, more branches of national race armed groups entered the legal fold and they are joining hands with the government
- ❑ We have witnessed some border areas achieving greater progress and prosperity than the central regions.
- ❑ It is required to strengthen the rule of law and peace and stability in border areas, while further developing their health, education, transport and economic sectors.

ground and national solidarity has been consolidated to some extent.

The government has already laid down the seven-step Road Map to build a new nation. Actually, the energetic implementation of bor-

der areas, while further developing their health, education, transport and economic sectors.

Throughout the past successive years, border areas were not able to fully enjoy the fruits of



Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo. MNA

Owing to the situation, steps for reducing development gap among national races could not be taken, and it fueled suspicions among the national races and jeopardized national unity.

a leading role in building national reconsolidation.

It has placed emphasis on construction projects so as to bridge the development gap as much as possible be-



Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun. MNA

transport and economic sectors fundamental for regional development and raising the living standard of local people, if compared with inner parts of the nation. The government is making

narrow the gap between all the regions of the Union including border areas and to ensure unity and harmonious development of the Union — border areas development tasks are gaining more



Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo. MNA

der areas development tasks in all seriousness will effectively contribute to realizing the Road Map.

It is required to strengthen the rule of law and peace and stability in

the rule of law.

We should not lose sight of the fact that a human society will enjoy human rights fully only if the rule of law is firm or in other words (See page 9)



Government Technological College (Panglong) to develop human resources.



Minister Col Thein Nyunt.
MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein. — MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung.
MNA



Minister Col Zaw Min.
MNA

Thanks to extensive implementation of development tasks,...

(from page 8)
only if there is a firm administrative machinery that runs in accord with the law.

I would like to urge all to strive with might and main to achieve success in building a

the implementation of development tasks have met with success within a short period.

In accordance with the guidance of the chairman of the central committee, socio-economic infrastructures have been built

bridges and 41 suspension bridges and has maintained 3,396 miles of road. Residents in rural areas and hilly regions, which are not easily accessible due to their geographical location, can now travel from one region to another within a short time and can trade local

national races and boosting of trade in the areas. Tasks are being carried out to upgrade the major tarred roads and bridges, and to construct roads wherever necessary in the country.

Regarding the human resource development in border areas, the government has built 852 primary schools, 90 middle schools and 92 high schools in rural areas. Besides, the government has worked together with UNDP for the development project for far-flung areas, and a total of 507 schools have been built and 598 have been renovated in Kachin, Chin, Kayin, Mon and Rakhine States.

A total of 27 schools for development of national races were established in border areas so that needy residents can study at the schools, and the distribution of text books to students was carried out in the areas joining

hands with UNICEF.

Under the Food for Education programme, United Nations Food Programme (UNFP), joining hands with the government, has distributed rice to families of farmers who abandoned the poppy cultivation in the golden triangle region, and therefore, school enrolment rate in the region has increased.

The number of students in border areas has increased from over 1,500 in the past to 185,552, accounting for 120 times.

As people in border areas have been educated, they have realized consequences of the poppy plantation, and local people have cooperated with the government for elimination of narcotic drugs in the region.

Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree Colleges were established in Yangon

and Mandalay in 2000. Now, 574 who graduated from the two colleges are participating in the administration and development of their regions as government employees. Some are now studying for master's degree.

There are 727 higher education students at the schools this academic year.

Arrangements are being made for national race youths from border areas to study at University for Development of National Races, the University of Nursing and nursing training schools.

Altogether 34 vocational training schools were opened and 20,844 women were trained at the schools. Moreover, technical training schools for national youths of border areas were opened in Sittway, Laukkai, Pansang and Mongla regions.

(See page 10)



Thriving tea plantations seen in Haka Township, Chin State.

peaceful, modern and developed Union, while paying special attention to cementing the rule of law, community peace and stability and national solidarity.

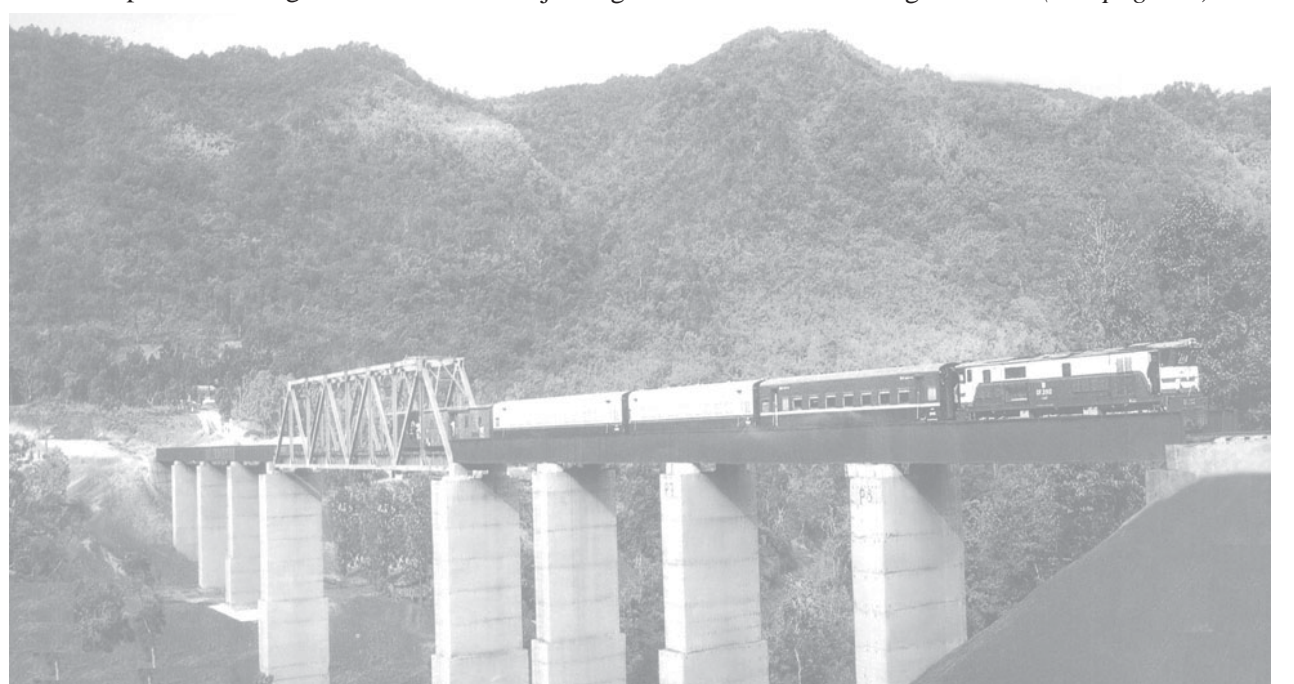
Secretary of the central committee for development of border areas and national races Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein reported on tasks of the committee. He said that working sub-committees and local work committees under the central committee and national races in border areas have made cooperative efforts for the development of border areas under the supervision of the central committee, and therefore,

for the human resource development and plans for the elimination of narcotic drugs have been implemented in border areas which lagged behind in development. Therefore, the results exceeded the expectations. The production of narcotic drugs has drastically decreased.

The government has given, priority to construction of roads and bridges in border areas and has spent over K 51,994 million in constructing roads and bridges since 1989.

So far, the government has constructed 3,436 miles of earth road, 2,301 miles of gravel road, 394 miles of tarred road, 76 large bridges, 995 small

products. All-weather roads have been built to link border areas and inland areas, and it could lead to strengthening of friendship among



A train passes over Pon Creek Bridge on Taunggyi-Saikkhaung-Namhsan Railroad.

Thanks to extensive implementation of development tasks,...

(from page 9)

Under the national health policy, priority is being given to health care services in the border areas. There 73 health staff working in six hospitals and eight dispensaries in 1988. Altogether 1,323 staff are appointed at 79 hospitals, 105 dispensaries 58 rural health care centres and 140 health care branches. The 200-bed specialist hospitals were built in every special development region.

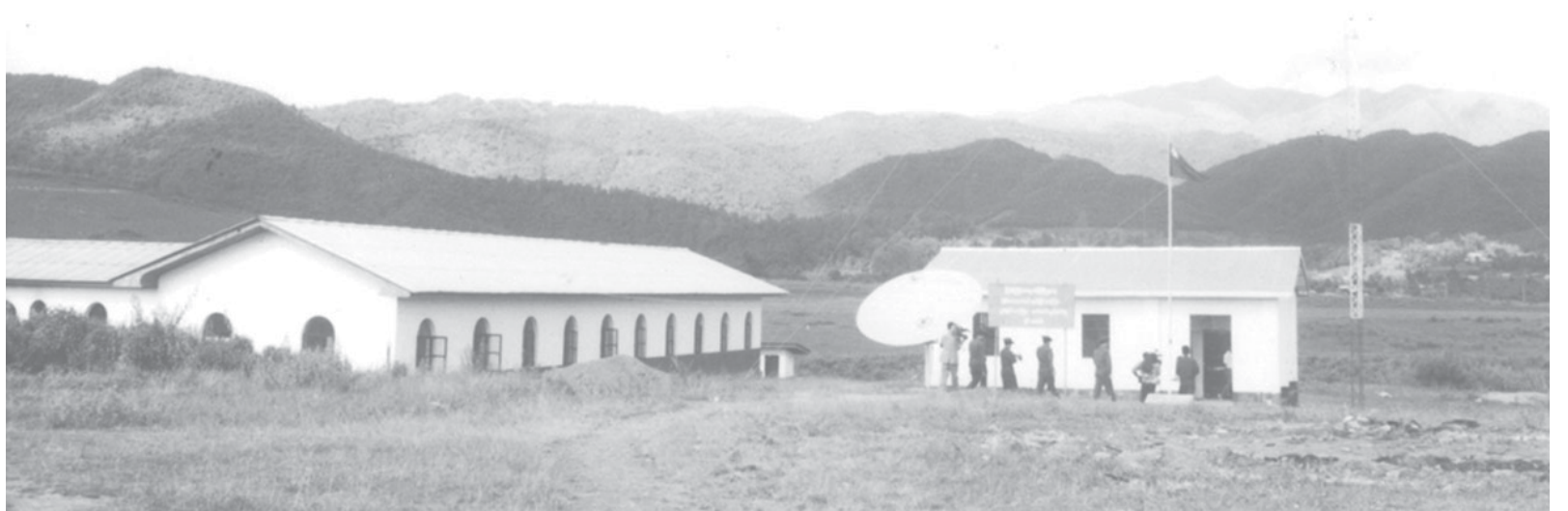
In agricultural sector, priority is being given to cultivation of crops in the border areas. Markets were established for trading of surplus agricultural products. Forty eight dams were being built or under construction and five canals were dug. Arrangements are made for construction of 17 dams.

In livestock breeding sector, 20 breeding farms and 41 livestock breeding and veterinary offices were opened and 111 cows and donkeys were distributed.

Highland cultivation was carried out for environmental protection according to the guidance of the central committee. The 10-year highland reclamation project was undertaken in 2003-2004. Altogether 21,450 acres of land have been reclaimed in Shan and Chin States and Magway Division.

Local people extended the cultivation of crops and fruit for food sufficiency. This is why most of the national races have given up poppy cultivation. It is a great victory for the country. Local work committees and sub-committees are making arrangements for extended cultivation of opium substitute crops and for export.

In the electric power sector, 17 border towns are being supplied electricity from small and medium-scale hydel power stations. A total of 199 towns and villages have been facilitated with 265 generators. Under the arrangements of the regional work committees, small-scale hydel



TV retransmission station in Mongpauk, Shan State (East).

power generation contributes to uplift of living standard of the local people. In addition, the Ministry of Industry-2 is carrying out the tasks to build the factory to manufacture small-scale hydel power turbines and generators.

Furthermore, 52 post offices, 45 telegraph offices and 85 telephone stations were constructed in the communications sector for development of the social, economic and administrative sectors in the border area.

With regard to the public relations task, the government had built 111 TV retransmission stations for broadcasting of TV programmes with a view to enabling the national races in border areas to have knowledge on peace and stability of the nation, progress of the State and policies of the government and contributing much to the flourishing of national unity and development of the regions.

Departmental officials are placing emphasis on covering local media on far-flung areas and broadcasting programmes of both MRTV and Myawady TV to some areas where newspapers not reached. In the forestry sector, 14 forest nurseries, 11 reserved forests, 14 arranging reserved forests and four saw mills have been established for extraction of forest products and prevention against deforestation.

In the mining sector, assistance is being provided for mineral exploration in border areas, carrying out of systematic mining tasks and creation of job opportunities for the national races in border areas. Hence, exploration of

mineral resources on commercial scale is being undertaken in some regions.

Remarkable progress can be witnessed in border areas, based on socio-economic infrastructures. In this regard, K 101 billion — K 62,335 million from the border area development funds and K 38,730 million from the funds of ministries concerned — have been spent on development of the border areas from 1989 to date.

The 15-year drug elimination plan is being implemented from 1999 to 2014. As the border areas development plan commenced in 1989, the drug elimination plan can be implemented successfully.

In carrying out development of border areas, 75 per cent of the total expenditure accounting for K 101,066 million have been spent on development of the regions where the drug elimination plan is being implemented. As a result, poppy growers have the opportunities to do other businesses. Therefore, poppy cultivation declined.

It can be seen that poppy cultivation and opium production declined remarkably in the period of implementing the border area development plan. According to the facts and figures of opium field survey conducted by the government in cooperation with Counter Narcotic and Crime (CNC) of the US, 81 per cent of poppy cultivation and 88 per cent of opium production decreased in 2004 compared with that of 1996. The CCDAC and UNODC jointly conducted opium field survey in 2006. Hence, the poppy cultivation in the entire nation

declined by 34 per cent in 2006 in comparison with that of 2005.

Although poppy plantations were destroyed by airplanes through military operations, poppy cultivation and opium production did not decline in the past. At present, regional development tasks, poppy-substitute farming tasks, other economic opportunities

farmers who had surrendered cultivation of poppy in Kokang region, Wa region, Kutkai, Kaungkha, Monekoe, Phaunghsai, Tarmoenye, Mantung, Mangpan regions, Phekhon, Pinlaung, Hsihseng townships in Shan State (South) from 2003 to 2006. The food providing project for needy families is being

tries concerned, regional work committees and sub-committees, local national race leaders and people under the supervision of the Work Committee in accord with the policies of the Central Committee. The development of the infrastructures reflects cementing relations and promoting trust and faith among the people in all

- * **It can be seen that poppy cultivation and opium production declined remarkably in the period of implementing the border area development plan.**
- * **The CCDAC and UNODC are jointly implementing the Wa Alternative Development Project (WADP) in Mongpauk Township of Wa region (south) from 1988 to 2007, spending US\$ 14.899 million contributed by UNODC.**
- * **These two organizations undertook talks on drug and AIDS, construction of infrastructures and observation and evaluation of poppy cultivation in the region.**

and educative talks on disadvantages of narcotic drugs reflect the remarkable decrease of poppy cultivation and opium production. In addition, measures are being taken to combat raw materials and chemical precursors imported from neighbouring countries. Efforts are being made for taking preventive measures against narcotic drugs in Tachilek, Myawady and Kawthoung.

The CCDAC and UNODC are jointly implementing the Wa Alternative Development Project (WADP) in Mongpauk Township of Wa region (south) from 1988 to 2007, spending US\$ 14.899 million contributed by UNODC. These two organizations undertook talks on drug and AIDS, construction of infrastructures and observation and evaluation of poppy cultivation in the region.

WFP provided 30,576 tons of rice worth US\$ 11.793 million to the local

implemented from 2007 to 2009 by providing 114,315 tons of food worth US\$ 51.739 million to needy families in Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Kachin States and Magway Division.

In addition, 1,000 tons of rice donated by the Thai Government was distributed to Wa region in 2005. In September 2006, 10,000 tons of rice donated by the People's Republic of China were handed over to the farmers who had surrendered poppy cultivation in the border areas of Myanmar.

Furthermore, substitute cultivation, livestock breeding and other production tasks are being undertaken for uplift of living standard of the people for the long term by utilizing infrastructures and natural resources.

The Secretary-1 said that remarkable progress of socio-economic infrastructures can be seen in border areas due to harmonious efforts of the minis-

regions of the country. In conclusion, the Secretary-1 said that the Work Committee will implement the directives and policies adopted by the Central Committee in the previous meetings and the present meeting.

The Minister for PBANRDA presented a report, saying that 27 youth development training schools have been opened in Putao, Myitkyina, Bhamo, Kunlong, Tangyan, Kengtung, Loimwe, Panglong, Loikaw, Hpa-an, Sittway, Mindat, Matupi, Kanpetlet, Pakokku, Kale, Falam, Haka, Thantalan, Tiddim, Tonzang, Hkamti, Leshi and Lahe to strengthen the Union Spirit of youths and to nurture them to become the ones who will safeguard Our Three Main National Causes. A total of 2552 nationality youths — 303 in primary level, 1620 in middle school level, and

(See page 11)

Thanks to extensive implementation of ...

(from page 10)

629 in high school level — are attending classes at the schools. The government has opened vocational training schools in Mongla in Shan State (East), Pangsang and Laukkai in Shan State (North) for the nationality youths of border areas. Mechanical, electrical and other courses are being conducted for those who are not able to continue their studies. The courses have trained 449 nationality youths to this date.

Yangon and Mandalay now have one Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College each. A total of 193 students have completed diploma courses and 381 graduate courses at the two colleges. A total of 727 are attending arts, science, BTEch, BE and master's degree courses there. A total of 381 graduates of the colleges are working at the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Immigration and Population, Ministry for PBANRDA and Ministry of Information. Another 193 who hold diploma in engineering have been assigned duties at their own regions under the Ministry for PBANRDA, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Ministry of Construction, Ministry of Electric Power, Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs and MOI.

Women's vocational training schools have been opened in Putao, Bhamo, Dawphonyan, Donban, Lashio, Muse, Kengtung, Tachilek, Monghsat, Loikaw, Hpa-an, Myawady, Mudon, Ye, Myeik, Kawthoung, Maungtaw, Haka, Falam, Tiddim, Mindat, Matupi, Kanpetlet, Nanyun, Leshi and Lahe for nationality girls to earn their own liv-

ing. Such schools in border areas are conducting special courses.

Vocational training schools are being conducted at towns in Magway and Sagaing Divisions to reduce rural poverty. Up to now, 20,844 trainees have completed courses at the schools. According to the guidance given by the Chairman of Central Committee, rattan and bamboo ware courses will introduce to the courses in 2007-2008 academic year.

Tarkaw-ek-Weinkaung-Pansang road, 81 miles and three furlongs long, was built in 1991 under the supervision of regional work committee and Wa special region-2.

Tarkaw-ek-Mongpat road section was tarred in 1999. The road was widened and upgraded to all-weather one.

The minister spoke at length on construction of Mongpat-Pansang road section and number of miles of roads built, road sections built. The north-west command was responsible for construction of Kalewa-Mawleik road.

He said there are 148 bridges which are 100 feet long and under and nine bridges which are 100 feet long and above were built.

Strategic trail (district to district roads) in states and divisions had been built under the resolution of 1/2002 meeting of Central Committee since the beginning 2002-2003 fiscal year.

In April 1999, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on implementation of 10-year clean drinking water project in villages in three divisions in arid zone and other states and divisions.

There were 23,225 villages that need clean drinking water in states and divisions. Altogether

17,097 villages out of 23,225 have now access to clean water.

The rural housing project launched in 2003-2004 under the guidance of the Head of State has covered Sagaing, Magway, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady divisions. So far, 3145 low-cost houses have been built across the nation.

Regarding cooperation with international organizations in the anti-narcotics drives and regional development tasks, Kokang region abandoned poppy cultivation in 2003, and Wa region, in 2005. Since 2003 Myanmar has cooperated with the World Food Programme to ensure food security of the former poppy growers. During 2003 and 2006, the WFP provided 30,576 tons of rice worth 11.793 US dollars for them.

Now, the rescue and rehabilitation programme is being implemented to provide 114,315 tons of food worth 51.739 US dollars for needy families in Shan, Rakhine and Kachin states and Magway Division during 2007 and 2009.

In March 2005, 1000 tons of rice donated by Thailand to the WFP were distributed to Wa region. Ten thousand tons of rice donated by the People's Republic of China are now distributed to former poppy growers living along the border of the two countries.

The UNODC and the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control are co-implementing Wa Alternative Development Project (WADP) with the contribution of 14.899 million US dollars by the UNODC in Mongpauk Township in southern Wa region from 1998 to 2007.

With the contribution of 38 million US dollars by the UNDP, Myanmar has



An aerial view of 34 miles long Thitsa road linking Hpa-an and Myainggyingyu region in Kayin State.

implemented the Human Resources Development Project in cooperation with the UNDP at Kachin, Chin and Rakhine states since 1994.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo reported on highland reclamation; Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, on work progress for elimination of slash-and-burn system; Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, on progress of livestock farming in border areas; Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, on progress in implementing road and bridge projects; Minister for Electric Power No 1 Col Zaw Min, on construction of small-scale hydro-electric power stations; and Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo, on progress of townships.

Senior General Than Shwe said that the government is investing heavily with goodwill in border areas development projects. It is required to raise the living standard of national races in border areas, as scheduled by the government with benevolent attitude, he added.

In conclusion, he highlighted the importance of pursuing the goal of serving the interests of border areas and the majority of the national races that lagged behind in development in successive periods.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is now implementing the highland reclamation project in compliance with the Head of State. Under the 10-year plan (2003-2004 to 2012-2013), it is pursuing the target of reclaiming 111,900 acres of

highlands. To date, 21,450 acres of highlands have been reclaimed in Chin State, Magway Division, Shan State (North), Shan State (South) and Shan State (East).

The Ministry of Forestry is implementing tasks to eliminate slash-and-burn practice in highland farming with setting of the four aims.

The ministry is carrying out the tasks in Myitkyina and Bhamo districts in Kachin State, Hpalun in Chin State, Kyaukpyu district in Rakhine State, Taunggyi and Loilem districts in Shan State (South), Lashio, Kyaukme and Muse districts in Shan State (North), Kengtung, Mongphyat and Tachilek districts in Shan State (East).

Data collection for slash-and-burn has already finished cent per cent at the end of February 2007 since the project tasks were started. Altogether 12,064.5 acres of crops out of 10,175 were grown accounting for 119 per cent.

The local people and private institutions carried out 64 per cent of establishment of forests. The ministry fulfilled 388 per cent in making of land preparation, 123 per cent in natural fertilizer, 98 per cent in conducting courses in the demonstration on agricultural methods. The ministry targeted to distribute 1.6 million sapplings and 99 per cent have been accomplished.

The Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries is implementing breeding tasks in the border areas with four aims starting from 1989. It carried out establishment of poultry farms, appointment of doctors, opening of animal medical treatment-based offices, distribution

of good strains of animals and conducting of courses. The ministry is providing assistance in the tasks of fish breeding and bee keeping farms and distributed 48,768 chickens, 3,756 pigs and 10 goats for 33 townships in the border areas free of charge up to 2007 February. The ministry will implement breeding tasks in Kachin State, Shan State (East), (South) and (North), Kayah State, Kayin State, Chin State, Mon State, Taninthayi Division, Rakhine State and Sagaing Division from 2007-2008 to 2009-2010.

The Ministry of Construction laid down long-term and short-term projects and is building rural roads, roads in border areas, earth roads, gravel roads and tarred roads in all parts of the country. The ministry built a total length of 10,704 miles—4,305 miles and one forlong of earth road, 882 miles and 6 furlongs of earth road, 3,221 miles and 6 furlongs in gravel road and 2,295 miles of tarred road—in rural and border areas from 1989-90 to 2007 February. The ministry built a total of 1,234 bridges.

The Ministry of Electric Power No 1 is implementing hydro-electric power projects and making efforts in the drive for generation of electricity in the rural areas. The ministry is carrying out a total of 24 electric power projects in the states and divisions.

These projects will generate 190 megawatt. The ministry will further implement 18 small-scale hydel power projects in Kachin, Kayin States, Sagaing Division, Shan State (East) and (North) and Mon State. These projects will produce 30 megawatt. —MNA



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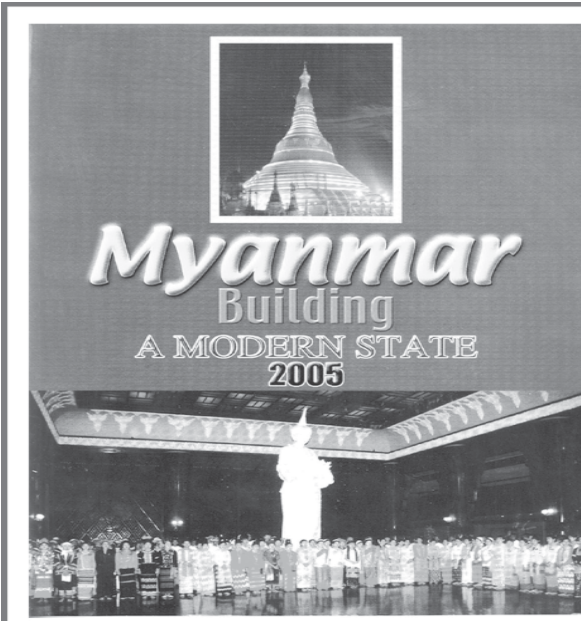
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Wen's visit to give new direction to Sino-Japan ties

TOKYO, 27 March — Sino-Japanese ties, still marred by events linked to World War II, is expected to take a "new direction" in ensuring a mutually-beneficial relationship during the upcoming visit of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Aso has said.

Japan-China relations have been improving after Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to China last October, Aso told PTI in an interview here.

"Japan will have dialogues and exchanges with China at all possible

levels, including at the summit-level, and work together to establish a "mutually beneficial relationship based on common strategic interests" in order to tackle several challenges in the region and international society," the Japanese Foreign Minister said.

"When we had the summit meeting between Japanese and Chinese Prime Ministers on the occasion of the East Asian Summit last January, Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao expressed his intention to visit Japan in early April, and Japan

welcomed his proposal," Aso said.

"Prime Minister Wen Jiabao's visit to Japan in April will reconfirm the achievement of Japanese Prime Minister Abe's visit to China, and provide an excellent opportunity to demonstrate the new direction of Japan-China relations, such as the establishment of a 'mutually beneficial relationship based on common strategic interests', to the people of both countries as well as the international community," he said.

MNA/PTI

Chinese workers earn 14.1% more in 2006

BEIJING, 27 March— Urban Chinese workers earned an average of 21,001 yuan in 2006, up from 18,405 yuan in 2005, an increase of 14.1 per

cent, according to the National Bureau of Statistics.

The disposable per capita income of urban Chinese rose 12.1 per

year on year to 11,759 yuan in 2006, an increase of 10.4 per cent after inflation, for a growth rate that was 0.8 percentage point higher than the previous year.

The increases were partly due to pay raises in some government departments and non-profit institutions, experts said. Per capita annual net income of rural households rose by 10.2 per cent year on year to 3,587 yuan in 2006, up 7.4 per cent after inflation and growing at a rate that was 1.2 percentage point higher than the previous year, it said.

Experts attribute the growth of rural incomes to the abolishment of agricultural taxes and state subsidies on rural education.

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia's Indosat plans to invest \$1b

JAKARTA, 27 March— Indonesia's second largest telecommunication company PT Indosat has set aside a minimum of one billion US dollars in capital expenditure this year to bounce back from slower growth last year.

Indosat, whose 42 per cent stake is owned by Singapore Technologies Telemedia, suffered a 13-per-cent decline in net profit to 1.41 trillion rupiah (approximately 154 million US dollars last year), major national newspaper *The Jakarta Post* reported on Monday.

"This year's net profit

growth will be somewhat equal to income growth which is around 20 per cent," Indosat Finance Director Wong Heang Tuck was quoted as saying. Half of the one billion dollars capital expenditure is expected to come from loans.

"In the initial stage, we will issue bonds. After that, we will look for loans from bank syndications, dollar bonds or through other mechanisms," Wong said.

Indosat marketing director Wahyudi Wijayadi said the company planned to use the fund to

expand its telecommunications network, including building another 3,500 to 4,000 base transceiver stations across the archipelago.

"Through that, we aim to attract about five to six million new customers," Wahyudi said. As of 2006, the company had a total of 16.7 million cellular phone subscribers.

According to research conducted by Credit Suisse, Indonesia's cellular market, including fixed wireless phones, could grow by 24.8 million new subscribers in 2007.

ပညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြုစိုးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

WHO draws up formula on means of AI virus distribution

JAKARTA, 27 March — The World Health Organization (WHO) kicked off a high-level technical meeting of officials from 16 countries here on Monday to draw up a formula on the means of distribution and dispatch of the Avian Influenza (AI) virus.

The two-day meeting was opened by Indonesian Coordinating Minister for People's Welfare Aburizal Bakrie and also attended by Minister of Health Siti Fadilah Supari and Assistant to WHO Director General Dr David Heymann.

David said that among matters relating to the free distribution of the virus, and the equal access to the vaccine, would be the main theme of the meeting which is attended by WHO-collaborated laboratory staffers and representatives from Australia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, China, Egypt, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, the

Philippines, Turkey and the United States.

He added that on the one hand, each of the developing nations should have access to the vaccine in anticipation of a pandemic, but on the other hand, the distribution of the virus was also necessary to measure the risk of change of the virus' genetics, the signal of mutation which relates to the risk of resistance to the anti-virus medicine, the development of equipment for diagnosis and the study of the epidemiology of the disease as well as the development for the vaccine.

And thus, he added, the mechanism of the shipment of the vaccine that would secure the needs, should be formulated soon as part of

the readiness in facing a pandemic of the disease.

In the meeting, he said, WHO would ask for inputs from the delegates on the mechanism for the distribution of the virus and the benefit of the correct distribution of the vaccine, by focusing on the need of the developing nations, the vaccine producers and related institutions.

MNA/Xinhua



In this photo released by Miraflores Press Office, Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez, left, gives a present to China's political bureau member Li Changchun during a meeting at Miraflores presidential palace in Caracas, on 26 March 2006. Changchun is in Venezuela to sign economic agreements between both countries.—INTERNET

Israel successfully tests anti-missile defence system

JERUSALEM, 27 March — Israel successfully tested its Arrow anti-missile defence system on Monday, Israel's

local daily *Jerusalem Post* reported. An improved Arrow missile, with modifications to its hardware and elec-

tronics, was successfully test-fired Monday afternoon at Israel's Palmahim Air Force Base, the daily reported

on its website.

The purpose of the test, the report said, was to launch the missile in a fly-out (where a missile is fired without intercepting a target) and then gather information on its flight and performance.

Yoav Turgeman, head of the Arrow programme at Israel's aerospace industries was quoted by the *Post* as saying that improvements made to the missile's hardware and electronics not only reduced manufacturing costs but also improved its ability to intercept incoming ballistic threats.

MNA/Xinhua



General view of Palestinian houses flooded by raw sewage that erupted from holding pools and swept through a village in the northern Gaza Strip on 27 March, 2007. At least three people died and 15 were injured, Palestinian hospital officials said.—INTERNET

India test fires "Astra" missile

BALASORE, 27 March — India's indigenously developed Astra air-to-air missile was launched from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur near here on Sunday.

The sleek beyond visual range missile was fired from the launch complex-II of ITR, 15 kilometres from here, at 11.56 am local time, defence sources said. The missile has a range of 80 kilometres and its launch speed was estimated to be 0.6 to 2.2 mach, the sources said. Astra has a length of 3570 millimetres and a diameter of 178 millimetres.— MNA/PTI



Hundreds of life size statues made of debris, by artist HA Schult of Germany, are displayed at Piazza del Popolo in Rome recently. Schult's "Trash People" has occupied some of the world's most high profile locations in recent years. It was erected in Moscow's Red Square in 1999, on the Great Wall of China in 2001 and in front of the pyramids in Giza, Egypt in 2002.— INTERNET

British-made aircraft sold to Iran, first since '79

LONDON, 27 March — A British company has sold the first new Western-made aircraft to Iran since the 1979 Islamic revolution, an adviser to the deal said on Monday.

The 10-seater *Britten Norman Islander* aircraft was delivered to Iran's Civil Aviation Organization last week, said Dean Ghobadi commercial director of PAAviation, which represents *Britten Norman* in Iran.

US sanctions against Iran have made it virtually impossible for Western manufacturers to supply new aircraft or spare parts to Iran which turned to Russia and former Soviet Union countries to renew its ageing fleet.

Aviation experts say the US restrictions have contributed to Iran's poor air safety record. As part of efforts to encourage Teheran to halt its nuclear programme, Washington agreed in 2005 to allow European companies on a case-by-case basis to sell Iran new aircraft and spare parts containing US components.

In addition to the two-million-US-dollar *Britten Norman* aircraft, Iran also ordered two million US dollars in spare parts for at least 10 others, currently grounded, which it bought before the revolution.

"This hasn't happened since 1979," said Ghobadi. "The Iranians are delighted and have expressed interest in a further five aircraft."— MNA/Reuters

SPORTS

Spain coach goes on offensive against Press

MADRID, 28 March — Spain coach Luis Aragonés has attacked journalists saying they made up stories about discord in the squad, ahead of the side's Euro 2008 qualifier against Iceland in Mallorca.

"Have a go at me but don't tell lies," Aragonés told a tense news conference on Tuesday. The Spanish media have claimed players were critical of his substitutions during Saturday's 2-1 win over Denmark in the Bernabeu and upset by criticisms of particular players.

Although Spain won, the manner in which they nervously scraped past Denmark, who had been reduced to 10 men early in the first half, has left doubts hanging over the team's unity and confidence. "My door is always open and no one has come to talk to me after (Sunday's) team meeting. I don't think they are confused. Everyone knows what our objectives are and that we cannot afford to lose," he added.

Earlier, the players appeared to brush off the significance of Sunday's gathering.

"It would have been easier to say we were happy with our performance but we are convinced at a personal level we can all contribute much more," said midfielder David Albelda.

Aragonés is not expected to make changes to the side who beat Denmark, with the exception of defenders Carles Puyol and Sergio Ramos who return after being suspended for Saturday.

Spain are fourth in Group F and will overtake third-placed Denmark if they can beat Iceland on Wednesday. The visitors are sixth with one win from four matches. — MNA/Reuters

Scotland's Taylor confirmed as UEFA general secretary

LONDON, 28 March — David Taylor, chief executive of the Scottish FA, will become UEFA's new general secretary on 1 June European soccer's governing body has confirmed.

He will replace Lars-Christer Olsson as the highest administrative officer in UEFA following Olsson's departure as chief executive in the wake of Michel Platini's election as president.

In other decisions, it was agreed the UEFA executive committee will be increased from 13 to 15 members, plus the president, in 2009.

The committee also agreed on the voting procedure to decide which candidate will host the 2012 European Championship.

Poland-Ukraine, Croatia-Hungary and Italy are the three candidates attempting to host the tournament.

MNA/Reuters



Gold medalist USA's Kate Ziegler, centre, silver medalist Switzerland's Flavia Rigamonti, left, and bronze medalist Japan's Ai Shibata display their medals during a medal ceremony for the women's 1500m Freestyle final at the World Swimming Championships in Melbourne, Australia, on Tuesday, 27 March, 2007.—INTERNET



Memphis Grizzlies' Pau Gasol (16), from Spain, is fouled by Los Angeles Lakers' Ronny Turiaf, from Martinique, during the first quarter of the basketball game at the Staples Centre in Los Angeles on Tuesday, 27 March, 2007.—INTERNET

FA confirm Cup final to be staged at Wembley

LONDON, 28 March — The FA Cup final will return to Wembley on May 19 after the new stadium was granted its safety certificate on Tuesday.

The certificate was handed out by Brent Council after two successful test events, the second of which was England's 3-3 draw with Italy on Saturday in an Under-21 friendly international.

That match was restricted to around 60,000 spectators but the award of the certificate means the stadium can be used to its

full capacity of 90,000.

"I'm happy to confirm that the 2007 FA Cup Final will be played at Wembley Stadium," FA chief executive Brian Barwick said on the FA's website (www.thefa.com).

"It's the announcement that a lot of people have been waiting for and is great news for football fans in this country and indeed the world over.

"The Cup Final and Wembley Stadium go hand in hand and everybody at the FA is looking forward to a great day."—MNA/Reuters



Michael Phelps of the US competes in the men's 200m individual medley swimming heats at the World Aquatics Championship in Melbourne on 28 March, 2007.—INTERNET

Denmark coach criticizes German team selection

BERLIN, 28 March — Denmark coach Morten Olsen has criticized Germany's decision to field a severely weakened team for Wednesday's friendly international in Duisburg.

Germany coach Joachim Loew released eight players from international duty, including captain Michael Ballack, after the 2-1 win over the Czech Republic in Prague on Saturday.

"This is very disrespectful," Olsen was quoted as saying by German media on Tuesday. "We had a clear agreement to field our strongest teams.

"I wasn't told about it by the DFB (German Football Association). I read about it in the newspapers and you don't do that."—MNA/Reuters

Arsenal, Chelsea fined, reprimanded for brawl in final

LONDON, 28 March — Arsenal and Chelsea have both been fined 100,000 pounds (196,100 US dollars) and reprimanded after a mass confrontation in the closing minutes of last month's League Cup final in Cardiff, the FA said on Tuesday.

Arsenal became the first team in the history of English soccer to have two players sent off in a major final when captain Kolo Toure and Emmanuel Adebayor were red carded.

Chelsea's John Obi Mikel was also sent off following the stoppage time fracas that marred Chelsea's 2-1 victory.

The clubs were charged with failing to ensure that their players conducted themselves in an orderly fashion and refrained from provocative or violent behaviour. — MNA/Reuters



Juan Martin Del Potro of Argentina returns a shot to Rafael Nadal of Spain at the Sony Ericsson Open tennis tournament in Key Biscayne, Miami on 27 March, 2007.—INTERNET

England players back embattled McClaren

BARCELONA, 28 March — England players gave beleaguered coach Steve McClaren their full backing on Tuesday as they prepare for their Euro 2008 qualifier against Andorra.

England captain John Terry and vice-captain Steven Gerrard both gave strong endorsements of McClaren, who has been savaged by the British media and a large section of the fans since Saturday's 0-0 qualifying draw in Israel.

"I think the players have got to take a lot of responsibility for the manager taking it in the neck," Gerrard told a news conference before Wednesday's game with Andorra.

"It's us who are going out there and under-performing, under-achieving if you like.

"We do feel partly responsible for the criticism he's taking and it's down to myself and the other boys to stand up and try and take some heat off him and turn these results around.

"We definitely believe in him. Definitely. All the players are behind him. He's preparing us right, he's coaching us right. He's telling us the right things. It's us players who are not getting results for him and the fans.

"This game is all about results and our results haven't been acceptable of late. So we take the criticism on the chin and move on."

Terry shared those views about a

manager who has faced calls for the sack since the draw in Tel Aviv, which left England three points behind Russia and five adrift of group leaders Croatia.

England are also without a win in their last five international matches.

"We've underperformed a little bit in the last few games — but as a group we are fully behind the manager," Terry said.

"It's not nice what we are hearing, but he is the right man for the job, 100 per cent. Tomorrow is a must-win game and as a bunch we feel we owe it to the manager.

"We are all in it together. It's us against everybody and we need to stand up and be counted."

MNA/Reuters



Roger Federer of Switzerland serves to Guillermo Canas of Argentina at the Sony Ericsson Open tennis tournament in Key Biscayne, Miami on 27 March, 2007.—INTERNET

Ukrainian mine catches fire, over 600 miners safe

KIEV, 28 March — Rescue teams safely evacuated more than 600 miners from a Ukrainian coal mine on Monday, shortly after the mine-shaft caught fire, the Emergencies Ministry said.

Last week at least 108 people died in an underground explosion at a Siberian mine in neighbouring Russia in what became the nation's worst mining accident since the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union.

"A total of 608 miners were evacuated. Twenty-six stayed underground to help rescuers and do maintenance works in the pit," a Ukrainian Emergencies Ministry official told Reuters.

He said the accident

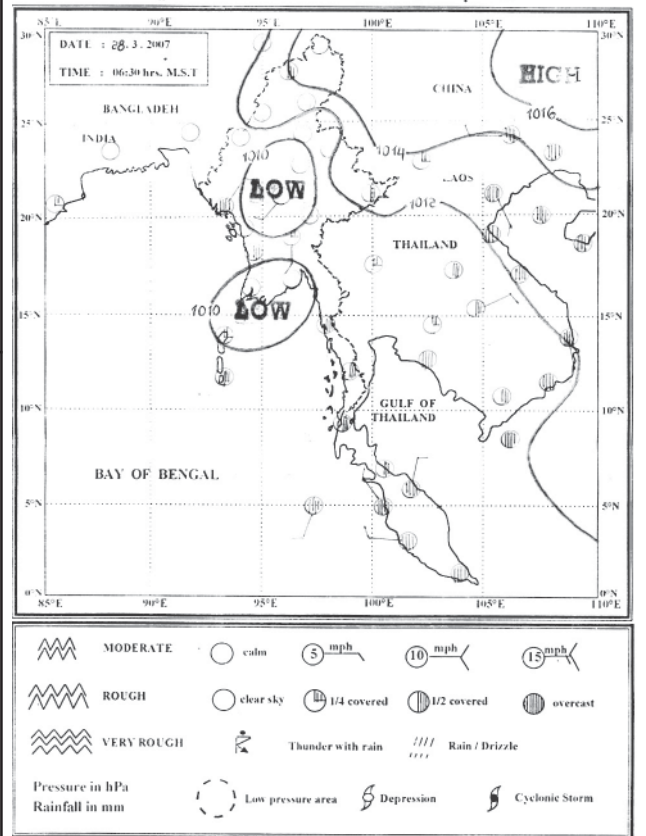
in the eastern Luhansk Region had been caused by "unauthorized works with open fire" in the pit. He did not elaborate.

Hundreds die in mining accidents each year

in the former Soviet Union where coal mines are deep and often all but depleted, with by poor maintenance and breaches of safety standards.

MNA/Reuters

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Wednesday, 28 March, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin State, weather has been partly cloudy in Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Shan State, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, (5°C) above normal in Kachin State and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Nay Pyi Taw, Chauk, Minbu and Aungmye (40°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Putao and Machanbaw (0.04) inch each.

Maximum temperature on 27-3-2007 was 99°F. Minimum temperature on 28-3-2007 was 74°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 28-3-2007 was 79%. Total sunshine hours on 27-3-2007 was (9.3) hours approx.

Rainfall on 28-3-2007 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 (11:50) hours MST on 27-3-2007.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 29-3-2007: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin State, Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. 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 light rain or thundershowers in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 29-3-2007: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 29-3-2007: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 29-3-2007: Fair weather.



Heather Mills, former wife of ex-Beatle Paul McCartney, performs with her dance partner Jonathan Roberts for the second episode of "Dancing with the Stars" in this handout picture released by ABC on 26 March, 2007. — INTERNET

ခရစ်တော်၌ အိပ်ပျော်ခြင်း

စောသယ်မြူရယ်စေး

အသက်(၈၆)နှစ် (လယ်/စိုက်/ရှင်း)

အမှတ်(၂၄၀)၊ နံ့သာမြိုင်လမ်း၊ နံ့သာကုန်းရပ်ကွက်၊ အင်းစိန်မြို့နယ် (ဦးစောဆေး+နော်မုဒါး) တို့၏သား၊ နော်ဘက်စတာဒွန်း၏ ချစ်လှစွာသော ခင်ပွန်း၊ နော်ဒီအဲနာ(ငြိမ်း) (မြန်မာ့ကြယ်ငါးပွင့်)+စောနုလီစင်ဖေ (ဆည်မြောင်းဦးစီး)၊ စောဟတ်ဖယ်+နော်လုံးချို၊ နော်စတားရီစေး+အရာခံဗိုလ်တင်ထွဋ်၊ စောဖလဲချာ+ဒေါ်ပြုံး၊ နော်ဂျွန်ကုန်+ဦးတင်ထွန်းနိုင်၊ နော်ထူးပလော်ဖေါ(ဒဂုံတက္ကသိုလ်) တို့၏ ကျေးဇူးရှင်ဖခင်၊ မြေး(၁၄)ယောက် တို့၏ အဖိုးဖြစ်သူ စောသယ်မြူရယ်စေးသည် (၂၇-၃-၂၀၀၇) (အင်္ဂါနေ့) ည (၈:၀၀)နာရီတွင် ခရစ်တော်၌ အိပ်ပျော်သွားပါ၍ (၂၉-၃-၂၀၀၇) (ကြာသပတေးနေ့)နံနက်(၉:၀၀)နာရီတွင် အင်းစိန် မီးအုံကုန်း ကရင်နှစ်ခြင်း ဘုရားကျောင်းတွင် ဈာနဝတ်ပြု အစီအစဉ်ကိုပြုလုပ်ပြီး ရေဝေး ကရင်နှစ်ခြင်းခရစ်ယာန်သုသာန်တွင်လည်း သင်္ဂြိုဟ်မည်ဖြစ်ပါကြောင်း။

ကျန်ရစ်သူမိသားစု

Asleep in Jesus

U Aung Min (a) Noel

56 Years

Son of Dr. H. Ah Keong (Deceased) and Daw Tin May, brother of Dr. Khin Hla Kyi and U Saw Tun (Deceased), John Hla Tin (Uniteam) & Camille, U Kyaw Lwin (a) Hilary (Deceased), U Aung Toe (Uniteam) & Khin Than Yee, fell asleep in Jesus at his home at # 42, Bo Aung Kyaw Street, Botataung Township Yangong, at 11:00 p.m on 27th March.

Funeral Service and burial will be held at Yay Way Christian Cemetery at 09:00 hours on 29th March 2007.

Buses will leave the residence at 08:00 hours.

Bereaved Family.



Thursday, 29 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
- 7:50 am
- 5. Dance of national races
- 8:05 am
- 6. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:10 am
- 7. Dance variety

- 8:20 am
- 8. တံတားမြစ်ငယ်အသစ်သွယ် လူမှုစီးပွားကြွယ်
- 8:30 am
- 9. International news
- 8:45 am
- 10. Let's Go
- 4:00 pm
- 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm
- 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm
- 3. Musical programme
- 4:45 pm
- 4. အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -ဒုတိယနှစ်(ဓာတုဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ဓာတုဗေဒ)
- 5:00 pm
- 5. Cute little dancers
- 5:10 pm
- 6. "သုငယ်ချင်းမရှိတဲ့ဥပဒေ" (မင်းဝေ၊ ခင်ဇာခြည်ကျော်၊ ဧကရီကျော်ကျော်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်ယဉ်ကျော်)
- 5:15 pm
- 7. Musical programme

- 5:30 pm
- 8. Discovery
- 5:40 pm
- 9. ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲရင့်ခုန်သံ
- 6:00 pm
- 10. Evening news
- 6:30 pm
- 11. Weather report
- 6:35 pm
- 12. သီရိဓေဟာ
- 7:00 pm
- 13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ
- 7:45 pm
- "သစ်ရွက်ကလေး၏ရင်ခုန်သံ" (အပိုင်း-၁၀)
- 7:45 pm
- 14. ပြည်သူ့အတွက် တပ်မတော် (နိုင်ငံ့အင်အား၊ လမ်းနှင့်တံတား)
- 8:00 pm
- 15. News
- 8:00 pm
- 16. International news
- 8:00 pm
- 17. Weather report
- 8:00 pm
- 18. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "အကြင်နာဇွဲဦး" (အပိုင်း-၂၃)
- 8:00 pm
- 19. The next day's programme



Thursday, 29 March
Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music:
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music:
- 8:50 am National news & Slogan
- 9:00 am Music
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music
- 1:30 pm News & Slogan
- 1:40 pm Lunch time music
- 9:00 pm Aspects of Myanmar
- 9:10 pm Article
- 9:20 pm Pourri
- 9:30 pm Favourite songs chosen by music lovers
- 9:45 pm News & Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL

Four political objectives

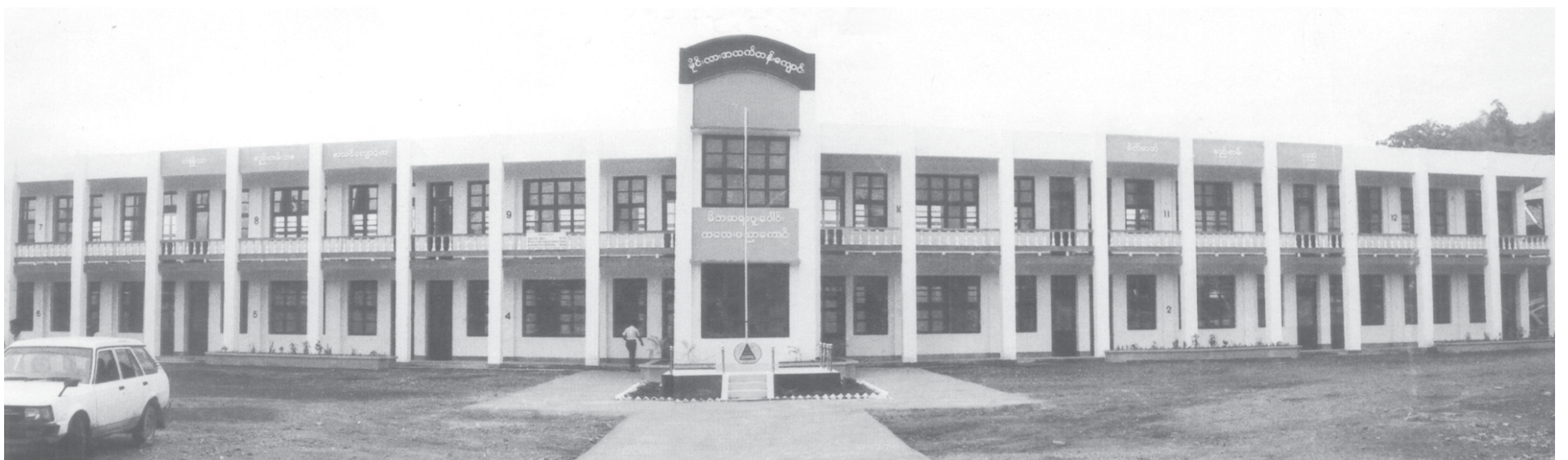
- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- * National reconsolidation
- * Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- * Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

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



Mongla Basic Education High School in Shan State (East).

Thanks to extensive implementation of development tasks,...

(from page 1)

Director-General Col Kyaw Kyaw Win of the SPDC Office acted as MC.

The Senior General said that the Central Committee with him as the chairman is taking measures

effectively for the development of border areas and national races.

Myanmar, home to more than 100 national races, fell under alien subjugation for over 100 years due to various reasons. And under the di-

vide-and-rule policy exercised by the colonialists, there was disunity among national races.

When Myanmar was liberated from colonial occupation, the regaining of independence was followed by the armed conflicts. As a result,

(See page 8)

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein receives Yunnan Province Governor Mr Qin Guangrong

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein received the visiting Chinese goodwill delegation led by Yunnan Province Governor Mr Qin Guangrong of the People's Republic of China at the SPDC Office, here this evening.

Also present at the call were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, Deputy Min-

ister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Director-General of the SPDC Office Col Kyaw Kyaw Win, Director-General of Govern-

ment Office Col Thant Shin, Director-General of Protocol Department U Kyaw Kyaw and officials concerned and Chinese Ambassador to

Myanmar Mr Guan Mu. During the meeting, they focussed on bilateral ties in transport and communication and investment sectors.

Next, the Governor of Yunnan Province said China would like to grant 4.75 million yuan to Myanmar.

After the meeting,

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and Mr Qin Guangrong exchanged souvenirs and posed for documentary photos. —MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein receives Governor of Yunnan Province Mr Qin Guangrong in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA