

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

Central Command Commander attends opening of road, bridge in Myingyan

YANGON, 30 March — As a gesture of hailing the 62nd Anniversary Armed Forces Day, Myingyan-Thabaung tarred road near Goungkwe village in Myingyan township was inaugurated yesterday afternoon. Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw attended the opening of the road that was built with the funds of Myingyan Township Development Affairs Committee.

Also present were departmental heads, the Myingyan District PDC chairman, township level departmental officials, members of social organizations, Red Cross Society and Fire Brigade and local people.

Assistant Director of Myingyan Township DAC U Thein Aung reported on construction of the road and U Htay Win, on behalf of the villagers, expressed thanks. Next, Myingyan District PDC Chairman U Hla Moe, District Union Solidarity and Development Association Secretary U Aung Zan and U Thein Aung cut a ribbon to open the road. The commander then cordially greeted those present.

The tarred road with 1450 feet in length and 12 feet in breadth was built at a cost of K 9.4 million.

Afterwards, the commander visited the physic nut plantation in Goungkwe village-tract and inspected the cultivation of 8000 physic nut plants. After viewing physic nut seeds, the commander urged responsible persons to extend the cultivation.

The commander and party inspected the tarred road by car and attended the opening of Thabaung Bridge built by Myingyan Township DAC near

(See page 8)



Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw inspects newly opened Thabaung Bridge built by Myingyan Township Development Affairs Committee in Myingyan . — MNA

City Hall in Bago, station hospital in Kawa Township put into service

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March — A ceremony to open the City Hall hailing the 62nd Anniversary Armed Forces Day was held at the hall in Hanthawady Ward in Bago on 23 March morning.

Secretary of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commissioner U Pe Thein and Director of Division Development Affairs Committee U Hsan Maw Khin formally opened the building. Chairman of Bago Division PDC Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko unveiled the signboard of the hall.

Chairman of the construction committee U

Aung Kyaw handed over documents related to the hall to Secretary U Pe Thein. The commander and party visited the City Hall. It is a one-storey reinforced concrete building measuring 180 feet by 80 feet.

Next, the commander viewed the maintenance of bridges along Bago-Thanatpin-Kawa Road and thriving summer paddy fields on either side of the road.

They attended the opening ceremony of Station Hospital (16-bed) in Thayetgon Model Village of Kawa Township. The commander unveiled the signboard of the hospital.

(See page 10)

The Thabaung bridge, 80 feet long, 16 feet wide and 16 feet high, was built by the State at a cost of K 17.2 million. The emergence of the bridge ensures transport facilitation round the year.

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 31 March, 2007

Strive for drug elimination as a national concern

The UNODC's 2007 annual report stated that progress has been made in drug elimination and control of HIV/AIDS in Myanmar. The 2006 Golden Triangle Opium Survey of the UNODC showed that poppy cultivation has decreased by 29 per cent in Myanmar, Laos and Thailand when compared to 2005. In Myanmar, poppy cultivation fell to 21,500 hectares, a dramatic drop from 130,300 hectares under cultivation in 1988.

Wa Special Region of Shan State (North) was declared as an opium free zone. The UNODC in cooperation with Myanmar Drug Control Agency took measures to meet humanitarian needs of thousands of farmers who quit poppy cultivation and their families. It also provided comprehensive assistance to help them obtain foods, basic services and education.

Myanmar has laid down and is implementing the 15-year drug elimination plan from 1999 to 2014 through strategies and tactics with the aim of controlling production, use and prevention of drugs. Since 2002, Myanmar has been implementing the New Destiny Project along with the project for development of border areas and national races.

As part of drug elimination, task for sharing of information and extraditing of sculprits between Myanmar and neighbouring countries and those in the region have been carried out with added momentum.

This being so, we firmly believe that Myanmar in cooperation with the international community, neighbours and countries in the region will be able to make more progress than ever in its drug elimination drive to become a drug-free country in the very near future.

Notice to mariners issued

YANGON, 30 March — The Fisheries Department issued a reminder that Petronas Chartkari Myanma Oil Co undertaking joint venture tasks with Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise in gas and oil exploration will carry out 2D seismic survey tasks by MV Pacific Sword in M-12, M-13 and M-15 blocks offshore Taninthayi from 4 April to 20 May.

Seismic survey tasks will be carried out from north latitude 14°00' and east longitude 96°52' at point A, north latitude 14°00' and east longitude 97°28' at point B, north latitude 13°00' and east longitude 97°28' at point C and north latitude 13°00' and east longitude 96°52' at point D in the block M-13; north latitude 13°30' and east longitude 96°15' at point E, north latitude 13°30' and east longitude 96°52' at point F, north latitude 13°00' and east longitude 96°52' at point G and north latitude 13°00' and east longitude 96°15' at point H in the block M-12; and north latitude 12°19' and east longitude 96°19' at point I, north latitude 12°19' and east longitude 98°00' at point J, north latitude 11°40' and east longitude 98°00' at point K and north latitude 11°40' and east longitude 96°19' at point L in the block M-15. The notice to mariners has been issued that various kinds of vessels and boats are not allowed to pass through the four-square-kilometre survey area for anchoring, fishing and laying fishing equipment. — 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

Development tasks inspected in Thazi, Meiktila townships

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March — Secretary-General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association U Htay Oo offered gold foils to Shweyinhmyaw Pagoda in Thazi Township on 25 March.

He inspected thriving summer paddy plantations in Tawma Village of Meiktila Township. This year, Meiktila Township has put over 2,000 acres of land under summer paddy irrigated by Meiktila Lake, Mondaing, Nyaunggon, Lekkhokpin and Chaunggaik Dams and Kantaung Lake.

While in Meiktila, the secretary-general at-

tended the opening ceremony of new building at No 178 Basic Education Primary School of Lekpangaung Village. The secretary-general donated exercise books for students to Headmistress Daw Khin Khin Win.

The secretary-general viewed pumping out of water from the tube-well sunk by USDA members and wellwishers in Tawma Village. In Magyeepinpu Village, he presented school textbooks for primary students to Headmistress Daw Kyi Thein.

Later, the secretary-general inspected renovation of pagodas in the villages. — MNA

Prevention against DHF inspected in Mayangon Township

YANGON, 30 March — Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected public activities for prevention against dengue haemorrhagic fever in Mayangon Township on 28 March.

Local people participated in the prevention against DHF on Bo Nya Na Road and Weikza Street in Ward 5 of Mayangon Township.

Similar activities on preventive measures against DHF were taken in Lanmadaw, Bahan, Kamayut, North Okkalapa and Botahtaung Townships.

The mayor inspected repaving of Thiri Mingala Road in Insein Township and renovation of the RC seven-storey building at the corner of Kyaikwaing

Pagoda Road and Insein Road in Mayangon Township. — MNA

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin meeting with residents in Mayangon Township after inspecting preventive measures against DHF.
YCDC



MEPE, Angelique International sign contract

YANGON, 30 March — The contract signing ceremony between Myanma Electric Power Enterprise and Angelique International Ltd was held at the Ministry of Electric Power No 2 in Nay Pyi Taw on 28 March, with an address by Minister for

Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint. Managing Director Dr San Oo of MEPE and Vice President Mr Pradeep Arya of Angelique International Ltd signed the contract to purchase electrical equipment to be used in installation of

132kv power line and construction of power stations. Next, they exchanged notes. Also present on the occasion were Director-General Dr Thein Tun of Electric Power Department, Managing Director U Tin Aung of Electric Power Supply Enterprise and officials. — MNA

Fire prevention is compulsory

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

San Francisco becomes first US city to ban plastic grocery bags

NEW YORK, 29 March—San Francisco's Board of Supervisors has approved a ban on petroleum-based plastic grocery bags, making it the first city in the United States to bring in such a rule to protect the environment.

Under the legislation passed by a 10-1 vote on Tuesday, large markets and drug stores are required to give customers a choice of paper bags, plastic bags made from corn by-products, or

canvas shopping bags, instead of plastic bags made from petroleum products.

The city's Department of the Environment said San Francisco uses 181 million plastic grocery bags annually, so the ban would save some 450,000 gallons (some 1.7 million litres) of oil a year and reduce the 1,400 tons of debris currently sent to landfills annually.

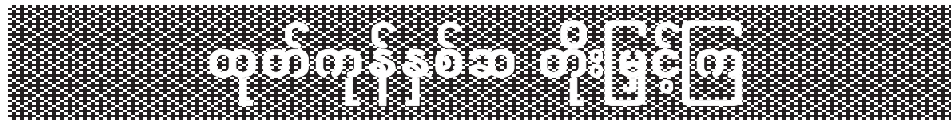
The 50 grocery stores that would be most affected by the law argued

that the ban was not reasonable because plastic bags made from corn by-products are relatively expensive. Some said they might offer only paper bags at their checkouts.

The retailers' threats to reject biodegradable plastic bags and use more paper bags prompted fears that more trees would be cut down.

The law will take effect in six months for grocery stores and in one year for pharmacies.

MNA/Xinhua



Passengers arrive on United Airlines' inaugural nonstop flight from Washington to Beijing, at Beijing airport on 29 March, 2007. One month after winning US government approval for the coveted nonstop route to China, United Airlines completed its inaugural flight on Thursday from Washington's Dulles International Airport to Beijing. — INTERNET

Death toll rises to 50 killed in northern Iraq town

MOSUL (Iraq), 29 March—The casualty toll rose to 50 people killed and dozens wounded in fierce overnight clashes in the town of Tal Afar in apparent retaliation attacks for Tuesday's

double truck bombings, local police, medics and witnesses said on Wednesday.

"The town hospital received up to 50 bodies and dozens of injured people after the overnight

fierce clashes," a medical source in Tal Afar Hospital told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Earlier, a police source said that 36 people were killed in the clashes erupted in the town after gunmen stormed a Sunni district following Tuesday's double truck bombings. "Gunmen dragged the victims from their homes and shot them in the head," the police source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity by telephone.

The attacks followed a double truck bombing at a market in a Shiite district in the town, killing up to 50 people and wounding 130 others, the source said.—MNA/Xinhua

New public holiday in Vietnam

HANOI, 30 March — Vietnamese lawmakers have agreed with an amendment to the Labour Code which will make the Kings Hung's anniversary a new public holiday, local newspaper Saigon Liberation reported Thursday.

Under the amended Labour Code, expected to be passed on the last day of the 11th session of the 11th National Assembly of Vietnam, the country's top legislature, slated for 20 March to 6 April, a total of 13 million people on the state payroll will enjoy the 9th public holiday, which falls on the 10th of the third lunar month, from this year.

MNA/Xinhua

Home is where the heart is for world's tallest man



Bao Xishun, a 7-foot-9-inch herdsman, married 5-foot-6-inch saleswoman Xia Shujian in China's Inner Mongolia region. — XINHUA

BEIJING, 29 March—The world's tallest man, whose search for a bride covered the world, ended up marrying a woman about half his age and half his height from his hometown, Chinese media reported on Wednesday. Bao Xishun, 56, a 2.36-metre (7-foot-9-inch) herdsman listed by Guinness Book of World Records as the tallest living man, married a 29-year-old Chinese saleswoman, the Beijing News said.

"After sending out marriage advertisements across the world and going through a long selection process, the efforts have finally paid off," the newspaper said.—MNA/Reuters

Accident-free, virtually

BANG (Malaysia), 30 March—Driving lessons may soon go electronic with learner drivers being taught basic motoring

use a video race car game-like programme to teach learner drivers how to drive.

It will also record their

vanced countries to teach learner drivers.

The UKM-developed simulator, almost the size of a Perodua Kenari, is expected to be ready by September.

UKM is proposing that the government approve the use of such simulators, adapted to local conditions, in driving schools to enhance driving modules.

Its mechanical and materials engineering department head, Prof Dr Mohd Jailani Mohd Nor, said anyone using the simulator would feel like they were driving a real car in actual road conditions.

Internet



Driving institutes can use the simulators to test the learner drivers before letting them practise driving on the roads.—INTERNET

skills — off the road.

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia is coming up with a simulator that will

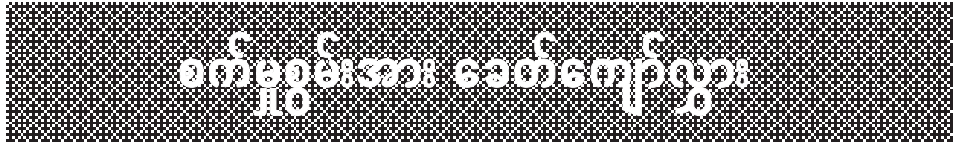
mistakes to help driving instructors "repair" their errors. Simulators are at present also used in ad-



South Korean protesters participate in an anti-war rally during a South Korea and US joint military exercise, dubbed RSOI, 'Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration' on the beach at Taean, west of Seoul, on 29 March, 2007. — INTERNET



Visitors walk under blooming cherry trees at Ueno park in Tokyo on 29 March, 2007. — INTERNET



Two FAO offices relocated to Budapest

BUDAPEST, 29 March— Hungary's Government on Tuesday signed an agreement with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to relocate two of the body's offices from Rome to Budapest.

The FAO Regional

Office for Europe and Central Asia and the FAO Shared Services Centre will join the Organization's Sub-regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe, which has operated in Budapest since 1996.

The agreement was signed by Hungary's Farm Minister Jozsef Graf and FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf.

The relocation of the two offices is expected to increase efficiency and save the FAO some costs.

The new location would help intensify contact with targeted countries, Diouf said. Graf said the move was a major diplomatic achievement for Hungary.

MNA/Xinhua

All-women's hospital opened in New Delhi

NEW DELHI, 30 March — Northern India's first-ever all-women's hospital that will provide entire medical facilities under one roof was inaugurated in the capital Wednesday.

The "Fortis La Femme", that was inaugurated Wednesday by Minister of State for Women and Child Development Renuka Chowdhury, will provide OPD, diagnostic and preventive health check ups, cosmetic surgery, a special MedSpa facility besides having obstetrics, gynaecology and neonatology.

"It is a unique way to draw the attention of the health-care industry towards women. Moreover, we need many more such hospitals in the country," she said.

Chowdhury also emphasized on the need for creating a database on the women's health.

"We don't even have accurate data for women suffering from diseases like anaemia and breast cancer in the country. The healthcare industry should look into the matter," she said.

Fortis Chairman Harpal Singh said the ambience and facilities at the hospital were world-class.

"The hospital will showcase our services to mothers globally and would help in developing the country as a health-care hub," he said.

MNA/PTI

Two US soldiers killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 29 March— Two US soldiers were killed and a third was injured in separate incidents in Iraq on Tuesday, the US military said on Wednesday.

A soldier assigned to Multi-National Force was killed and another wounded by "indirect fire" in Baghdad's Green Zone, which houses US Embassy and Iraqi Government offices, the military said in a statement.

"Indirect fire" in the statement refers to mortar or rocket attacks.

In a separate incident, a Marine assigned to Multi-National Force-West, died while conducting combat operations in the volatile Anbar Province in western Iraq, another statement said.

About 3,245 US soldiers have been killed in Iraq since the US-led invasion in March 2003, according to media count based on Pentagon figures.

MNA/Xinhua



A model wears a pair of gold earrings, which weigh 247.54 grams and designed by Chinese designer He Weihong, during a gold jewellery design competition in Beijing on 28 March, 2007. —XINHUA

Death toll of bird flu hits 70 in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 29 March — As the second test result of a 14-year-old boy who died of suspected bird flu shows positive, the death toll of bird flu in Indonesia has reached 70 out of 91 cases, an official of the Health Ministry said Thursday.

The boy who begun sick on 13 March, died on last Saturday in west Sumatra Province, one day after he was admitted in a hospital, a director of the ministry Nyoman Kandun told Xinhua by telephone.

The number of bird flu cases in Indonesia has increased recently after months of absence of new cases, putting the country as the hardest hit by the disease.

Indonesia has agreed to cooperate by sharing its bird flu virus sample with the World Health Organization for scientific purpose. — MNA/Xinhua

Green tea 'may keep HIV at bay'

LONDON, 29 March—Drinking green tea could help in the fight against HIV, research suggests.

Scientists found a component called epigallocatechin gallate (EGCG) prevents HIV from binding to immune system cells by getting there first.

Once EGCG has bound to immune system cells there is no room for HIV to take hold in its usual fashion.

However, experts said the joint UK and US work, which appears in the *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*, was at a very preliminary stage.

Researcher Professor Mike Williamson, of the University of Sheffield, said: "Our research shows that drinking green tea could reduce the risk of becoming infected by HIV, and could also slow down the spread of HIV.

"It is not a cure, and nor is it a safe way to avoid infection, however, we suggest that it should be used in combination with conventional medicines to improve quality of life for those infected.

"Future research is also currently under way in order to determine how much effect can be expected from different amounts of tea."

Internet



Switzerland's Paul von Kaenel (L) and Franz von Arx pose behind a 300 kg quartz piece two days before the opening of an exhibition of crystals they discovered in the region of the Saint-Gotthard mount, in Fluelen, near Lucerne, on 29 March, 2007. — INTERNET

ECONOMIC NEWS

ADB expects Philippines to maintain modest growth this year

MANILA, 29 March—The Philippines is expected to maintain modest economic growth with its GDP rising 5.3 per cent this year and 5.7 per cent next year, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said in a semi-annual report Tuesday.

The report, Asian Development Outlook 2007, said due to higher public expenditure and low interest rates, investment in the Philip-

pines is expected to rise by 4 to 6 per cent this year, compared with 2 per cent last year. Meanwhile, government spending is expected to increase for the first time in five years.

The report said service sector will remain the major growth contributor to the Philippine economy by expanding 6.3 per cent this year.

Agriculture is expected to grow by 3.9 per cent, as

a biofuel act promoting the use of biofuel will boost production of sugarcane and cassava for ethanol production, said the report.

But an anticipated slowdown in the global electronics market will dampen manufacturing to hold industrial growth at 4.8 per cent, said the report. Inflation is likely to remain within 4 to 5 per cent, it said.

MNA/Xinhua

Cuba, China sign trade, economic cooperation agreement

HAVANA, 29 March—Cuba and China wrapped up their 19th Inter-governmental Commission meeting on Tuesday in the Cuban capital, with an agreement signed on furthering bilateral trade and technological cooperation.

The two-day session, attended by delegations from both countries, reviewed bilateral trade and economic relations during 2006 and adopted cooperation plans for 2007, *Cuban News Agency* reported.

Under their agreement, in 2007, Cuba will supply sugar to China while China will continue its

technical assistance to Cuba's agricultural sector.

In addition, both countries will also carry out economic and technical collaboration on oil and food.

Cuban Interior Minister

Ricardo Cabrisas said that China is the Caribbean nation's second largest trade partner only after Venezuela, with a trade volume of 2 billion US dollars a year.

MNA/Xinhua

Cambodia still needs \$36m for TB elimination project

PHNOM PENH, 30 March—Cambodia is negotiating with donors for 36 million US dollars to support a five-year national project to eliminate tuberculosis, local media reported on Thursday.

Between 11 and 20 per

cent of the budget, not including financial assistance for food rations from the World Food Programme (WFP) and spending for technical experts and community tuberculosis project expansion, is needed for the provision of medicines and salaries respectively, said Mao Tan Eng, Director of the National Centre for Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control (NCTLC).

"The need of budget for food and other supplementary is very important for the national tuberculosis elimination project," he said, noting that the project is being funded by the Global Fund, the World Bank, the Japanese Government, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the World Health Organization and other NGOs.

MNA/Xinhua



A Virgin Mobile handset is seen in this undated handout photo. Virgin Mobile USA said on 28 March, 2007 it has agreed to make Yahoo Inc's mobile services available to more than 4.6 million wireless customers. — INTERNET



Parisians walk in front of the Georges Pompidou Center in Paris on 28 Jan, 1997. British architect Lord Richard Rogers, acclaimed for his urban, socially minded and open designs including the airy center, is the winner of the 2007 Pritzker Architecture Prize, it was announced on 28 March, 2007. — INTERNET

Vietnam coffee exports soar in first quarter

HANOI, 29 March — Vietnam is estimated to gain 695 million US dollars from exporting coffee in the first quarter of this year, posting a year-on-year surge of 133.6 per cent, partly due to higher world prices, according to a local industry agency on Wednesday.

Between January and March, the country is set to ship abroad 482,000 tons of coffee, mainly to the European Union, the United States, Japan and

Singapore, up 83 per cent, said the Vietnam Coffee and Cocoa Association.

Vietnam, the world's second biggest coffee exporter after Brazil, is diversifying coffee products for export, paraking more actively in international coffee trading floors, and applying more advanced farming and processing techniques, according to the agency.

"Local farmers and enterprises should join hands to grow and process

coffee on larger scale by employing more advanced equipment and technologies," the association said, noting "many coffee exporters in Vietnam are weak in terms of finance, trade expertise, and information analysis capability". Vietnam exported 897,000 tons of coffee valued totalling 1.1 billion US dollars in 2006, seeing respective increases of 0.5 per cent and 49.9 per cent compared with 2005. — MNA/Xinhua



Models display creations by Francis Cheong at the Singapore Fashion Festival in Singapore, on 29 March, 2007. — INTERNET

India to run passenger train to Bangladesh

NEW DELHI, 29 March—The Indian Railways is planning to run a passenger train between Kolkata, the capital of east Indian state West Bengal, and the Bangladeshi capital Dhaka in next two months, *Indo-Asian News Service*

reported on Tuesday.

"We have decided to run a passenger train to Bangladesh which will ply between Sealdah railway station in Kolkata and Joydebpur station in Dhaka. We are trying to run this train service within the next couple of

months," India's Eastern Railways (ER) General Manager NK Goyal said on Tuesday.

The new train will cover a total of 330 kilometres with 170 kilometres in the India territory, he said.

MNA/Xinhua



A visitor views a sculpture "The Horse Saddled by Time" by Salvador Dali during an exhibition of his creations at a museum centre of the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk, on 29 March, 2007. — INTERNET

Leading Chinese TV maker kicks off production facility in Czech

BEIJING, 29 March — The domestically-listed Sichuan Changhong Electric Co, Ltd, a leading TV manufacturer in China, started a production facility in Czech Wednesday, company sources confirmed on Thursday.

The project is the first overseas production base wholly owned by a Chinese home electrical appliance enterprise.

The project cost 10 million US dollars, involving a total workshop space of 10,000 square metres and a designed annual production capacity of one million sets. Most of the products will be flat-panel and high-

definition TV sets.

The company sources revealed when conditions are ready, the project would be expanded to produce air conditioners, refrigerators, cell phones and set-top boxes, so as to localize all Changhong products in Europe. Changhong has launched production projects in Indonesia,

Australia, Czech and the Republic of Korea, and business outlets in more than one dozen countries and regions, including the United States, France and Russia. Changhong is striving to make overseas sales account for 30-50 per cent of its total sales income by 2010.

MNA/Xinhua

Study: non-drug treatment improves asthma control

BEIJING, 29 March — A study led by two Canadian doctors reveals patients treated with bronchial thermoplasty, the first non-drug treatment for asthma, showed an overall improvement in asthma control.

Co-Principal Investigators, Dr Gerard Cox, respirologist at St Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton's Firestone Institute for Respiratory Health, and Professor at McMaster University, and Dr John Miller, Division Head of Thoracic Surgery at St Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton and McMaster University authored the study reported in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Bronchial thermoplasty is a minimally invasive procedure that reduces the amount of airway smooth muscle that is responsible for the constriction of airways in asthma patients. Using a flexible bronchoscope through the nose or the mouth, physicians treat small to medium sized airways with a device that



A study led by two Canadian doctors reveals patients treated with bronchial thermoplasty, the first non-drug treatment for asthma, showed an overall improvement in asthma control. —INTERNET

generates radio frequency/thermal energy and reduces areas of underlying smooth muscle in the airways.

"These findings are very encouraging and are consistent with earlier trial results on bronchial thermoplasty," explains Cox. "These results make us hopeful that bronchial thermoplasty may be a new option for asthma

patients who have asthma symptoms despite use of current drug therapies."

The study titled "Asthma Control during the Year after Bronchial Thermoplasty" showed improved asthma control at one year following the

bronchial thermoplasty procedure.

Patients treated with bronchial thermoplasty, compared to another group that did not receive the procedure, showed significant positive changes such as: decreases in asthma attacks, increases in days with no asthma symptoms, improvement in quality of life, reduction in using medication, and an improvement in asthma control. The randomized controlled trial included 112 patients between the ages of 18-65 at 11 centres in four countries, and followed these patients for one year after treatment.

Internet

China confirms human death from bird flu

HEFEL, 29 March — China's Ministry of Health has confirmed a 16-year-old boy had died from the bird flu in eastern Anhui Province, bringing the number of people who have been killed by the virus to 15.

The student, surnamed Wu from Bengbu City of Anhui, died on Tuesday in hospital after being treated there for ten days, a spokesman for the Anhui provincial health department said.

The boy developed symptoms of pneumonia, fever and muscle aches on 17 March. He was admitted to hospital on 18 March, the spokesman said.

Tests by the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention on Tuesday confirmed that he had been infected with the H5N1 strain of the bird flu virus.

Local health authorities said they are monitoring those who had close contact with the patient. So far they have not shown symptoms of the disease, and there has been no reported outbreak of the disease among local fowl. — MNA/Xinhua

Tornadoes kill two, injure eight in US Midwest

WASHINGTON, 29 March—Overnight tornadoes killed at least two people and injured eight in Midwestern US states, Fox News reported on Thursday.

In Oklahoma, a woman died when a tornado hit her home at about 8 pm Wednesday, while a man injured in that storm died later, according to the report.

In Colorado, officials said a tornado hit the town of Holly at about 8:10 pm, damaging homes and injuring at least eight people.

Tornadoes were also reported across Colorado, Texas, Kansas and Nebraska Wednesday night.

Weather forecasters expected more severe weather in Midwest states Thursday.

Internet



An artist's conception of a fossil of a mammal the size of a chipmunk that skittered around during the dinosaur age, with a key feature in the evolution of mammals — the middle ear bones — fabulously preserved, is seen in this handout. — INTERNET



"Darth Vader" (L) and "Princess Leia" characters pose in front of the newly unveiled designs of the 15 US postage stamps honoring the 30th anniversary of "Star Wars" characters and films during ceremonies in Hollywood on 28 March, 2007. The 15 stamps featuring characters such as Luke Skywalker, Princess Leia and R2D2 will be released May 25 at a Star Wars fan convention in Los Angeles. — XINHUA

Smokers, vendors beware of the Tobacco Law

U Min Thu (Advocate)

The control of smoking and consumption of Tobacco product Law is promulgated on the 4th May 2006 and it will come into force on the 3rd May 2007. The Law should be realized by all, for Ignorantia Juris non excusat or Ignorance of Law is no excuse.

Cigar means any cigarette, cheroot, cigar, smoking pipe and any other similar material prepared by any means for inhalation of smoke emitted from the burning of tobacco product. Tobacco is deadly in any form.

Smoking means developing heart disease at own's risk. Smoking can damage your heart and cause premature death. Now the government has adopted the Tobacco Law, it is an important milestone in the history of public health of Myanmar. The following are some of the important points of the Tobacco Law.

Non-smoking Areas

The following are non-smoking areas.

1. Hospital buildings, offices, compounds and other buildings in the compound except staff houses and apartments in the hospital compound.
2. Medical treatment centres and clinics.
3. Stadium and indoor playing fields.
4. Children's drill shed and playgrounds.
5. Teaching buildings, classrooms, offices, compounds and other buildings in the compound except staff houses and apartments in the school compound.
6. Teaching buildings of universities, degree col-

leges, colleges and institutes, classrooms and offices.

7. Opera houses, cinema halls, video halls and other buildings of entertainment.
8. Marts, department stores, stores and market sheds.
9. Museums, archives; public Libraries and reading rooms.
10. Elevators, escalators.
11. Motor vehicles and aircrafts for passenger transport.
12. Air-conditioned public rooms.
13. Public auditoriums.
14. Teaching buildings and classrooms of private tuition classes and training schools.
15. Other public compounds, buildings and places prescribed through notification by the Ministry of Health.
16. Places to which the public have access in the following buildings, vehicles and crafts are non-smoking areas except the private offices and rooms.
 - (a) buildings of offices and departments.
 - (b) buildings of factories and workshops.
 - (c) buildings of hotels, motels, guest houses and lodging houses.
 - (d) buildings of railway stations, airports, ports and highway bus terminals.
 - (e) restaurants.
 - (f) trains and vessels for passenger transport.
 - (g) Other public buildings, rooms and places prescribed through notification by the Ministry of Health.

Tobacco advertisements are banned

The Ministry of Information prohibited advertisements of tobacco on radio, television and from all electronic media. Tobacco advertisements are banned from newspapers, journals and magazines. Tobacco advertising billboards are banned from the vicinity of schools, hospitals; health facilities, sport stadiums and maternity homes.

One year imprisonment

Whoever commits any of the following acts shall, on conviction be punished with a fine from a minimum of kyats 10,000 to a maximum of kyats 30,000 for the first offence and be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year and shall also be liable to a fine from a minimum of kyats 30,000 to a maximum of kyats 100,000 for second and subsequent offences.

- (1) selling cigar within the compound and within 100 yards from the compound of a school.
- (2) giving in addition, giving as present or jointly giving directly or indirectly any cigar and tobacco products in distributing or selling any goods, or any article in distributing or selling cigar and tobacco products.
- (3) selling the cigar by vending machine.
- (4) selling or giving cigar to a person who has not attained the age of eighteen.
- (5) Employing a person who has not attained the age of eighteen in distributing or selling cigar.
- (6) Exchanging the cigar with any goods from a person who has not attained the age of eighteen.
- (7) Destroying the caption and mark showing the place where smoking is not allowed or where smoking is allowed.

The law also prohibits sale of tobacco to and by minors, sale of cigarettes singly or in a package containing less than 20 to enable easy purchase and smoking. The law also states that it is an offence to produce, distribute or sell cigarette and other smoking tobacco products without a health warning in Myanmar Language.

The law also prohibits sale of tobacco to and by minors, sale of cigarettes singly or in a package containing less than 20 to enable easy purchase and smoking. The law also states that it is an offence to produce, distribute or sell cigarette and other smoking tobacco products without a health warning in Myanmar Language.

Russia to continue strategic partnership with India

Moscow, 30 March — Russia will continue to develop its strategic partnership with India in all spheres keeping in mind the long-term interests of both nations, a Kremlin foreign policy review published here said.

“Development and deepening of strategic partnership with India in all directions—political, trade and economy, scientific-technological, cultural and defence will remain one of

the priorities of the Russian foreign policy,” the review approved Tuesday by President Vladimir Putin said.

Russia will specially focus on advancing those spheres of interaction, where long-term interests of the two countries are similar or identical, it said.

“With this aim there is need to ensure consistent, timely and wholesome implementation of priority tasks agreed at the summit

level,” it said.

Boosting Indo-Russian trade and economic ties to the level of USD 10 billion US dollars by year 2010 has been identified as the current priority task by Kremlin.

Putin has also recommended his Foreign Ministry to continue the development of dialogue and expansion of interaction in the trilateral India-Russia-China format.

MNA/PTI



The last tripod is discharged from the truck recently. With the settlement of all nine tripods which symbolize unification of the Chinese, the project of Yan Huang Plaza is to complete. — INTERNET

Central Command Commander attends...

(from page 1)

Thabaung Village to hail the Armed Forces Day. Assistant Director U Thein Aung briefed on the bridge construction and Thabaung Village PDC Chairman U Maung Than spoke words of thanks. Next, U Hla Moe, U Aung Zan and U Thein Aung opened the bridge by cutting a ribbon

The commander, after inspecting the wooden bridge, urged officials to maintain the bridge for its durability. Then, he greeted those present. The bridge, 80 feet long, 16 feet wide and 16 feet high, was built by the State at a cost of K 17.2 million. With the emergence of the bridge, local people can travel in any season.

MNA

Thingyan Days for 1368-69 ME

YANGON, 30 March — Auspicious time of Akyat Day of Thingyan for 2007 falls at 2:50:23 pm on 14 April (Saturday), 2007; 13th Waning of Hnau Tagu, 1368 (Myanmar Era); 13th Waning of 1st Tagu, 1368 (Rakhine Era).

Auspicious time of Akyat Day of Thingyan falls on 15 April, (Sunday); 14th Waning of Hnau Tagu, 1368 ME; 14th Waning of 1st Tagu, 1368 RE, Atat Day at 6:55:04 pm on 16 April (Monday); 1st Waxing of Kason, 1368 ME; 1st Waxing of 2nd Tagu, 1369 RE.

New Year Day falls on 17 April (Tuesday), 1st Waxing of Kason 1369 ME; 2nd Waxing of 2nd Tagu, 1369 RE. — MNA

Sports equipment for summer courses presented

NAY PYI TAW, 29 March — Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint addressed sports equipment presentation ceremonies for 2007 held at Basic Education High School No 5, Basic Education High School No 6, Basic Education High School No 3 and Basic Education Middle School No 3 in Nay Pyi Taw this morning.

The minister presented sports equipment to headmasters and headmistresses.

A total of 1165 trainees are now attending various kinds of sports courses till 10 April.

MNA

Refresher courses for basic education high school teachers opened



Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein making a speech at refresher course for basic education high school teachers. — EDUCATION

YANGON, 30 March — A ceremony to open the refresher course for teachers of chemistry, biology and economics subjects at basic education high school level was held at the Convocation Hall of Yangon University, here, this afternoon.

Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein delivered an address.

Likewise, the refresher course for teachers of chemistry and biology subjects was opened at Yangon East University and Yangon West University this morning, attended by Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt.

Altogether teachers of 961 trainees are attending the refresher course for chemistry, biology and economics subjects; 141 trainees at the course opened at Yangon East University and 90 at Yangon West University. In line with the guidance of the Head of State, refresher courses are being conducted to 2,205 trainee teachers for chemistry subject, 1,787 for biology subject, 1,511 for economics subjects, totalling 5,503 at 34 universities and degree colleges throughout the nation from 28 to 25 May. Last summer, refresher course on English, mathematics and physics subjects were provided to 6,857 trainee teachers. — MNA

Basic Management Course (1/2007) for new graduate doctors held

YANGON, 30 March — The Basic Management Course (1/2007) for new graduate doctors sponsored by the Ministry of Health was held at the hall of Institute of Nursing (Yangon) on Bogyoke Aung San Street here this morning with an address by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.

Also present on the occasion were directors-general of departments under the ministry, deputy directors-general, rectors, directors, medical superintendents, guests, course instructors and trainee new graduate doctors.

In his address, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint said that there are altogether 500 new graduate doctors from the respective medical universities, adding that the government has spent a large amount of funds on the project for producing graduate doctors. Therefore, they in turn are to serve the interest of the State.

He said that the course is aimed at ensuring new graduate doctors to handle possible problems at work and to draw lessons and experiences after completing the course.

The course covers activities on health, treatment, public health, disease prevention, forensic medicine, rules and regulations for staff, financial procedures and ICT, he stressed.

The course is being attended by altogether 500 new graduate doctors—153 graduated from University of Medicine-1 (Yangon), 149 graduated from University of Medicine-2 (Yangon), 162 graduated from University of Medicine (Mandalay) and 36 (repeater) newly-graduated doctors.

MNA

AGM of MTMPA held

YANGON, 29 March — The annual general meeting of Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Association was held at the hall of Traditional Medicine Hospital on Ngarhtatgyi Pagoda Road in Bahan Township this morning.

Chairman of MTMPA U Nyan Lwin presided over the meeting and Chairman of the committee for organizing the meeting Director-General Dr Tin Nyunt of Traditional Medicine Department extended greetings.

Next, the meeting chairman delivered an address. Secretary of the association U Soe Win read out the annual report and Finance Manager Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin, on annual financial report. Later, those present elected new CEC members for the association. The meeting will continue tomorrow. — MNA



Minister Dr Kyaw Myint addresses Basic Management Course. — HEALTH

Minister accepts credentials of UNIDO official

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March — Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar U Nyan Win accepted the Credentials of Mrs Ayumi Fujino, Representative and Country Director of

Bangkok-based United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, here, this afternoon.

Also present on

the occasion was Director of Economic Division U Kyaw Win of International Organizations and Economic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA

Basic Computer Course (Officer) concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March — The Basic Computer Course (Officer) No 1, jointly organized by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the Ministry of Immigration and Population, concluded at the hall of the

Ministry of Immigration and Population, here, this morning.

First, Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe delivered an address and presented prizes to outstanding trainees.

A total of 20 trainee officers attended

the four-week course.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for SWRR Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population Brig-Gen Win Sein and departmental heads.

MNA



Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo inspects Lahe Police Station in Lahe Township. — HOME AFFAIRS

Minister inspects Lahe police station

YANGON, 29 March — Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo together with officials inspected Lahe

Township, Sagaing Division on 19 March.

The minister met with members of the police station and instructed them to conscientiously perform

duties in the tasks for rule of law and community peace and tranquility. He also called for becoming reliable police force for the public. — MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe addresses concluding ceremony of Basic Computer Course (Officer) No 1. — MNA

Self-reliant school buildings handed over in Taunggyi Township

YANGON, 30 March — A ceremony to hand over two self-reliant school buildings worth K 12.5 million to the Ministry of Education was held in Naunglay Village of Taunggyi Township on 26 March morning.

Shan State Education Officer U Aung Swe, Taunggyi Township Peace and Development Council U Kyaw Swa and Pa-O national U Khun Maung Tok formally opened the buildings.

Chairman of the construction committee U Hla Khe handed over documents related to the school buildings to Taunggyi Township Education Officer U Hla Thein. Next, officials presented prizes to outstanding students.

The school buildings are 70 feet long and 24 feet wide each.

MNA

PyinOoLwin Thingyan Gold Cup golf tournament 12-15 April

YANGON, 30 March — The 49th PyinOoLwin Thingyan Gold Cup 2007 and the PyinOoLwin KM Golf Open Championship, jointly organized by Myanmar Golf Federation and PyinOoLwin Golf Club with the sponsorship of KM Golf Centre, will be held at PyinOoLwin Golf Course in PyinOoLwin from 12 to 15 April. Both the competitions will include professional golfer, amateur, singles and team and senior divisions and women's event. Cash reward over K 10 million will be awarded to the winners.

Those wishing to take part in the competitions may enlist at PyinOoLwin Golf Club, Tel: 085-22382, not later than 11 April. For

further information, dial U Chit Htoo (Secretary), Tel: 085-21741, the Manager of the PyinOoLwin Golf Club, Tel: 085-22382 and U Kyaw Htay, Tel: 09-2044075. — MNA

Talks on MWAF held in Hkamti

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March — Head of Organizing Department Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation and Chairperson Daw Mya Myint Thu of Sagaing Division Women's Affairs Organization held talks at Basic Education Primary School No 4 in Hkamti on 19 March evening.

The Head of Department gave talks on the federation and its tasks, the chairperson on matters related to HIV/AIDS and member of Sagaing Division WAO Daw Tin Tin Nyunt on trafficking in persons.

Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo presented cash assistance, medicines and milk powder to Ma Yan Taik who has already given birth triplet in Nanmyitta Ward of Hkamti, and uniforms and traditional medicines donated by MWAF to Hkamti Township WAO.

The Sagaing Division WAO chairperson accepted membership applications from the chairperson of Hkamti District WAO. Next, they presented traditional medicines to mothers, older persons and expectant mothers. Afterwards, they exchanged views with local women at the round table discussions. The head of department and party donated cash and kind to the nunnery in Hkamti on 20 March. — MNA



Head of Organizing Department of MWAF Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo and Sagaing Division WAO Chairperson Daw Mya Myint Thu give talks at Hkamti BEPS No 4. — MNA

All this needs to be known

- * Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- * Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- * Do not be softened whenever appeased

City Hall in Bago, station hospital...

(from page 1)

The commander and officials accepted cash donations from wellwishers for setting up the medical fund.

The station hospital measuring 126 feet by 91 feet was built at a cost of K 1 million contributed by Bago Division PDC, K 30 million by wellwisher Thiha Thudhamma Manijotadhara U Ngwe Shein-Daw Tin Myint and family and K 5 million by the people.

Afterwards, the commander inspected Basic Education High School Branch in Thayetgon Model Village and the 16-bed station hospital in Thakkala Model Village.

MNA

Industry-2 Minister receives Chinese guests

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March — Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin received Vice President Mr Wang Bo and party of China CAMC Engineering Co Ltd at his office, here, on 28 March afternoon.

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

MNA

Yunnan Governor concludes visit



Governor of Yunnan Province Mr Qin Guangrong of the People's Republic of China being seen off by Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and officials.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March — The goodwill delegation led by Governor of Yunnan Province Mr Qin Guangrong of the People's Republic of China left Yangon by air yesterday evening after paying a goodwill visit to Myanmar.

The Yunnan Province Governor and party were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Secretary U Tin Soe and Chinese Ambassador Mr Guan Mu. — MNA

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. Second best time is now.

Tasks being supervised for prohibition of forced labour Responses made to complaints of duty-conscious public members

Action being taken against wrongdoers

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March—Myanmar is cooperating with international organizations to exercise international norms on forced labour. The Ministry of Home Affairs has released orders and directives to prohibit forced labour and has provided opportunities to make complaints if a case on forced labour appears.

In addition, doors have been opened for those with grievances to systematically complain so that service personnel cannot unjustly treat the people. And punitive action is taken against the wrongdoers when the complaint is exposed correct.

There was a complaint that on 26 February this year the chairman of the village-tract Peace and Development Council and party forced some villagers to contribute their labour to the repairs of the old road linking the forest tower by Aunglan-Thambula Road in Aunglan Township with Seinso Tetaik. Investigation was thus made into the case.

The Aunglan Township Court heard the case at 9.30 am on 28 February and found the accused — UNyo Tok and U Mya Hlaing guilty. It sentenced six months' imprisonment each to the two under Section 374 of Criminal Law and acquitted Ko Latt under Section 257 (1). The two culprits were transferred to Thayet jail the

same day.

In another case, the complaint that some service personnel from the township Forest Department forced some villagers from Sangalay Village in Aunglan Township to cut down trees for firewood and build a road, and the complaint in connection with land made by five villagers from Sangalay Village in Aunglan Township were forwarded by the Ministry of Labour to the Ministry of Forestry. The Ministry of Forestry then formed an investigation board to handle the case.

According to the investigation, the complaint was found correct to an extent, so the ministry dismissed a staff officer of the township Forest Department, two foresters and two forest rangers from the government service.

Similarly, a duty-conscious citizen complained to the Ministry of Forestry in writing about the corruption of some service personnel of Myawady District and Township Forest Department. After making investigation into the case, the ministry forced an assistant director from the district Forest Department to retire from work, and dismissed 14 staff including a staff officer from the township Forest Department from the service.

MNA

People can make complaints about malpractices of personnel of Ministry of Home Affairs

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March— In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, "Remove the practices of colonial period and safeguard the interest of the State and the people", the Ministry of Home Affairs has been serving the interest of the State and the people after forming the Ministry of Home Affairs, General Administration Department, Myanmar Police Force, Bureau of Special Investigation and Prisons Department. The ministry is responsible for undertaking the tasks for security of the State, prevalence of law and order, community peace and tranquillity and community welfare services.

If any service personnel of any rank of the Ministry of Home Affairs commit malpractices involving money, property and opportunity and

oppress the people in administrative and economic and social affairs, making improper use of the rights which are not in conformity with the existing laws and procedures, those who suffer personally can complain to the minister (phone 067-412040, fax 067-412016), the deputy minister (phone 067-412072) and the deputy director-general (phone 067-412069, fax 067-412439), the Ministry of Home Affairs, Office No 10, Nay Pyi Taw and e-mail: ddd.gad@gad.gov.mm.

Investigation will be made by the inspection team legally formed by the Ministry. The people are urged to make true complaints and the ministry guarantees not to cause people's grievance.

MNA

Ministry of Forestry strives to offer correct and efficient services to the public, welcomes complaints about malpractice

YANGON, 30 March— As the Government has been striving to serve the interests of the State and the people for giving genuine services in accord with the instructions of the State leaders, the Ministry of Forestry is also trying to offer correct and efficient services to the public through various ways and means.

The Ministry of Forestry issued a statement that the public if they face any of personnel misconduct such as malpractice of bribery and corruption, breaking of rules and regulations or abuse of power and position for self-interest and official harassment

may file complaints about them to the ministry on telephone or in person, that official inquiry concerning the cases will be swift and effective.

For any complaint the public may dial 067-405005 (the Minister), 067-405004 (the Head of Office), (fax) 067-405071 (the Ministry of Forestry) at No 28, Nay Pyi Taw, or emails to mofofficepm@mptmail.net.mm.

Quick and punitive action will be taken against staff at all levels, and public cooperation through correct ways is required in combating misconduct.

MNA



Japan's Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko smiles as they are greeted by employees upon their arrival at the imperial farm in Takanezawa, north of Tokyo, on 29 March, 2007. They will stay at the farm with the family of their second son Prince Akishino.— INTERNET

Major solar power plant opens in Portugal's South

SERPA (Portugal), 30 March — One of the world's largest solar energy plants, covering the hills of a valley dotted with olive groves in southern Portugal, started delivering electricity to about 8,000 homes on Wednesday.

The solar panels, which are raised around two metres off the ground, cover an area of 60 hectares (150 acres) and produce 11 megawatts of electricity in one of Europe's sunniest spots — Portugal's poor agricultural Alentejo Region.

managing director for Renewable Energy GE, which built the project, said the plant was expected to have the highest capacity of any solar energy project in the world but a plant in Germany had overtaken it.

“But as far as we know — thanks to great

Portuguese sunshine and high technology — this plant right here in Serpa is expected to produce the most power — more than 20 gigawatt-hours per year,” Walsh said.

MNA/Reuters

city of Ho Chi Minh, is necessary so that “Chilean exporters can... take advantage of the opportunities created by the new trade agreements signed by the two sides and the growth potential that is shown by such countries as Vietnam”.

Frohmann added that Vietnam is the world's third fastest-growing economy with an annual growth rate of 7.6 per cent in the 1991-2006 period.

A number of Chilean exports to Vietnam, including salmon portions, wine and fresh fruits, have shown sharp increases in recent years. Frozen oysters, seafood preserves and nuts are among the products that Chile is seeking to export next.

MNA/Xinhua



Southern California Edison workers repair power lines in Commerce, Calif, on 28 March, 2007, damaged in Tuesday's wind storm. Workers said it could take up to four days to repair the 12 power poles and four transmission towers effected by the weather. — INTERNET

Bangladesh seeks better bird flu testing

DHAKA, 30 March — Bangladesh has called for international help to upgrade bird flu testing, an official said on Wednesday, as the country battles a large outbreak of the disease in poultry.

“We have invited donor representatives to a meeting today to discuss the situation and formally ask their assistance,” CS Karim, head of the Fisheries and Livestock Ministry, said on Wednesday.

Samples are sent to the Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute but the laboratory cannot do the full range of testing needed to confirm the presence of the H5N1 bird flu virus. Samples have to be sent to Bangkok for confirmation, a costly and time-consuming step. “If we had the appropriate technology we could confirm the outbreak of the virus at least two-weeks earlier,” a veterinary expert said, asking not to be identified.

About 55,000 chickens have been culled since the outbreak of avian flu was confirmed in nine farms near the capital Dhaka and northern Jamalpur District last week. No humans have been confirmed infected.

MNA/Reuters

Gene defect linked to increased risk of stroke

BEIJING, 29 March — A common genetic defect can significantly increase one's risk for stroke two to three times than people without the defect, a new study in the 27 March issue of *Neurology* suggested.

This study spanned 24 years included almost 9,200 people, 393 of whom had a stroke and 504 of whom developed cerebrovascular disease during the study period.

“This type of gene has previously been associated with brain diseases such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, ALS, multiple sclerosis and cerebrovascular disease, but this is the first time we've been able to determine this gene predicts such a signifi-

cant increased risk of stroke,” study author Dr Borge G Nordestgaard, of Herlev University Hospital in Copenhagen, said in a prepared statement.

The genetic defect was not associated with carotid atherosclerosis (hardening of the arteries in the neck and head), the researchers said.

Further research is needed to determine why this genetic defect appears to cause such a significant increase in stroke, they added. — *Internet*

Chile opens first trade office in Vietnam

SANTIAGO, 30 March — Chile on Thursday opened its first trade office in Vietnam to promote Chilean exporters' access to the Asian nation, a Chilean Foreign Ministry official said.

Alicia Frohmann, director of the ministry's export promotion office, said the trade office, located in the southern

At least 3 dead in Sydney harbour ferry crash

SYDNEY, 30 March — Three people were killed and a 14-year-old girl was missing after a Sydney harbour ferry ploughed into a private motor boat filled with late-night partygoers under the Australian city's iconic harbour bridge.

Police said eight people were injured in the collision at about 11 pm (1300 GMT) on Wednesday, which caused the wooden motor boat to roll over and then disintegrate. One woman lost part of a leg and a six-year-old boy suffered minor injuries.

The 30-metre (98-foot) ferry, which has a capacity of 150 passengers, a displacement of 3-5 tons and can travel at up to 22 knots (25 miles per hour), was returning to dock and was not carrying passengers. It suffered only minor damage.

The 10-metre (33-foot) wooden motor cruiser was carrying 12 people who were in Sydney to attend a week-long ice-skating event.

Local media said the missing teenager was a promising skater, while a former Australian Olympic figure skater, Liz Cain, was badly injured.

MNA/Reuters

Earthquake jolts Bengkulu of western Indonesia

JAKARTA, 30 March — An earthquake with magnitude of 5.3 on the Richter Scale took place under the sea near Bengkulu Province on Sumatra Island of Indonesia on late night of Wednesday.

According to local Meteorology and Geophysics Agency (BMG) Thursday, the quake occurred at 23.08.45 Jakarta Time (1608 GMT) with the epicentre of 87 kilometres southwest of Bintuha, Bengkulu Province, under the sea.

No injury or damage to property was reported as of Press Time. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Gas explosion kills one, injures 10 at Turkish hotel

ISTANBUL, 30 March — A gas tank exploded in the kitchen of a live-star hotel in a popular Turkish holiday resort in Tuesday, killing one person and injuring 10 others, the state *Anatolian* news agency reported.

The dead person was a hotel kitchen employee. The injured, who included hotel staff and tourists, were being treated in nearby hospitals, the agency and Turkish television said.

The blast ripped through the hotel kitchen at around 7.30 am (0430 GMT) in the resprt of relek in antalya province, a popular holiday destination especially for German, British and Russian tourists.

No other details were immediately available.

MNA/Reuters

ADVERTISEMENTS

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV CARNATION VOYNO (127)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CARNATION VOYNO (127) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived 31.3.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S PREMIER SPECTRUM SDN
BHD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV VASCO DA GAMA VOYNO (039)

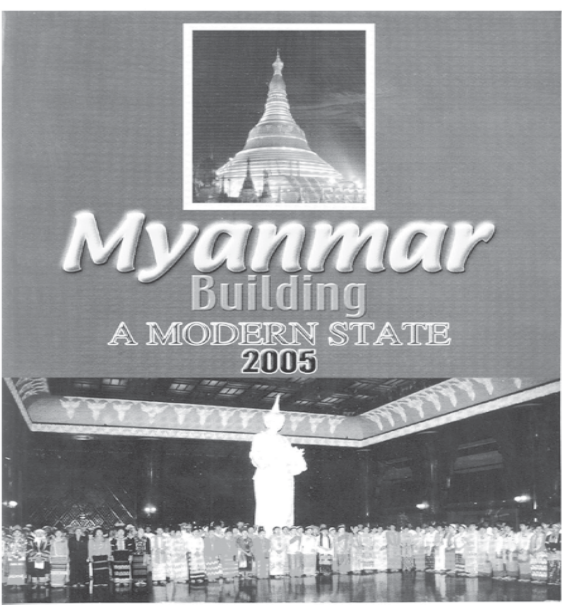
Consignees of cargo carried on MV VASCO DA GAMA VOYNO (039) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived 31.3.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797



MYANMAR
Building A Modern State
2005

- ▣ This facts studied book provides a reliable and valuable reference for scholars, researchers and the public for general reading.
- ▣ Illustrated with colourful photographs.
- ▣ Published by the Ministry of Information presenting five chapters: The Beautiful Land, Economy, Infrastructure, Social Setting, International Cooperation.

On sale US\$ 5.00 per copy

Available at

- ▣ Sarpay Beikman Book Shop, No. 529-531, Merchant Street, Yangon ☎: 381448, 249031
- ▣ News and Periodicals Enterprise Book Shop, No. 212, Theinpyu Street, Yangon ☎: 294306
- ▣ Hotels, Shopping Malls and other Book Shops in Yangon

Colombian poverty down, countryside still poorest

BOGOTA, 29 March —The number of Colombians who are poor dropped by two million in the past four years but people living in the countryside saw little of that improvement, the government said on Tuesday.

Helped by a strong economic expansion, the percentage of poor Colombians fell to 45 per cent in June 2006 from 56 per cent in 2002, said Colombia's Planning Department.

A family of four is considered poor in Colombia if it lives on less than 450 US dollars a month.

Economic growth was a healthy 6.8 per cent last year, the best since 1978, fuelled by foreign investors who viewed positively President Alvaro Uribe's US-backed crackdown on left-wing rebels fighting a four-decade-old insurgency.

Uribe also struck a peace deal with right-wing paramilitaries under which more than 31,000 fighters have turned in their arms since he took power in 2002.—MNA/Reuters

Chinese, Russian enterprises sign contracts worth \$ 4.3b

MOSCOW, 29 March — Chinese and Russian enterprises signed 21 agreements and contracts worth 4.3 billion US dollars after the opening ceremony of China's national exhibition here Tuesday.

Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Yi and Russian Economic Development and Trade Minister German Gref took part in the signing ceremony.

Among those agreements and contracts, 17

trade deals valued at about 3.7 billion dollars were signed. These include exports of Chinese cars, home appliances and farm products to Russia, as well as imports of Russian machine tools and silicic steel plates to China. Four economic cooperation projects worth 586 million dollars in timber processing, shipbuilding and mining were also inked. Double-digit growth has been registered in two-way trade for the past eight years. Trade volume hit a record 33.4 billion US dollars in 2006, up 15 per cent from the previous year, according to Chinese Commerce Ministry figures. The two countries have decided to raise the volume of bilateral trade to 60-80 billion dollars by 2010, and the investment of China in Russia to 12 billion dollars by 2020.

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

New effort to tap technology to aid service economy

WASHINGTON, 29 March—A group of large technology companies, universities and professional associations are creating a new organization to support and promote research into ways that technology can increase productivity and innovation in the economy's service sector, *The New York Times* reported on Wednesday.

The creation of the organization, the Service Research and Innovation Initiative, will be officially announced on Wednesday. It represents the latest step by technology companies and some universities to promote an emerging field that is being called "service science", said the report. The early academic programmes are a blend of computing, social

sciences, engineering and management.

The aim of service science is to try to improve productivity and accelerate the development of new offerings in services, which account for about 80 per cent of the United States economy and similarly large shares of other Western economies, the report said.

In the last couple of years, more than three dozen universities in several countries have added service science courses, and the National Science Foundation in the United States has begun financing a few service research projects, according to the report.

The new organization will provide a forum for collaboration to help set research priorities, pool corporate funds to support academic

programmes, and advise the government on preferred targets of basic research, Thomas W Pridham, executive director of the new organization, was quoted as saying.

MNA/Xinhua

Sewage tanks collapse kill at least five in Gaza

GAZA, 29 March—At least five Palestinians were killed in northern Gaza Strip when water flowed out from some 15 sewage tanks which collapsed Tuesday morning, rescue workers said.

The victims include a mother and her two children, paramedics said, adding that dozens of residents went missing after the accident occurred in the Bedouin Village, which has a population of about 5,000.

Three houses were completely destroyed and the water poured into some 250 other makeshift homes of the village near the Gaza-Israel border, the sources added.

Kamel Abu Qaida, a member of the local municipal council, told reporters that "an environmental disaster has hit the area because of the collapse of the 15 sewage tanks".

MNA/Xinhua



Snow plowed from the highway is piled up in front of a sign warning of continuing fire danger after a storm dropped about nine inches of snow near the San Bernardino Mountain resort town of Big Bear Lake, Calif, on 28 March, 2007. — INTERNET

ပညာရေးနှင့် သစ်တောရေးရာများကို တိုးတက်စေရန် နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

France launches plant biology research network

PARIS, 29 March—CA total of research bodies which are part of PLAN-Tnet PARIS network are holding a two-day symposium in a Parisian suburb on Wednesday to launch an international research and education network for plant biology.

The symposium, which has been taking place since Tuesday, discuss five themes, namely, plasticity of plant genomes, development,

evolution and cellular biology, plant physiology and metabolism, adaptation of plants to biotic and abiotic environment factors, plant biotechnologies and sustainable agricultural productions.

PLANTnetPARIS is a network comprising of 13 research bodies under the supervision of the International Research Centre on Agronomy (INRA), the National

Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), Paris-Sud 11 University and AgroParisTech, with a membership of more than 900 people.

The network's key objective is to encourage multi-disciplinary and integrated approaches, as well as the optimization of French research and education system with a better national and European focus.

MNA/Xinhua



Verizon customers can watch programs such as boxing through the V Cast Mobile TV service, on the palm size VX 9400 from LG Electronics, that was shown at the CTIA Wireless 2007 conference in Orlando, Fla, on 27 March, 2007. The TV offers 24-hour broadcasts of eight channels from major networks.

INTERNET

Yahoo! offers unlimited e-mail storage in May



BEIJING , 29 March — Internet media company Yahoo Inc launched its free e-mail service in 1997 with four megabytes of storage and now says it will remove storage limits on its free web-based e-mail service beginning in May.

Yahoo will not remove the current one-gigabyte cap on its webmail all at once, John Kremer, vice president of Yahoo Mail, said in a written statement on Tuesday.

Internet media company Yahoo Inc launched its free e-mail service in 1997 with four megabytes of storage and now says it will remove storage limits on its free web-based e-mail service beginning in May.

INTERNET

"As much as we'd like to just flip a switch and 'unlimit' everyone on the same day, we'll be rolling this out over a few months to facilitate a smooth transition," he said.

The latest barrage in the battle for users will give Yahoo's ad-supported service the greatest storage capacity among webmail offerings.

Lycos Inc gives users three gigabytes of storage and Google Inc's Gmail offers about 2.8 GB. Microsoft Corp grants two gigabytes of space on its Windows Live Mail while its Hotmail offering gives users one gigabyte.

Internet

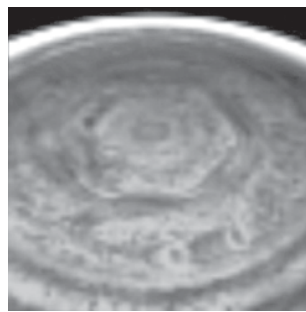
Marsh gas poisons eight sewerage workers in N-W China

YINCHUAN, 29 March — Eight sewerage workers were poisoned by marsh gas Tuesday afternoon when they were connecting an underground drainage pipe in northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region.

Currently, they are being treated at a local hospital in the regional capital of Yinchuan, and two are described as critical, said Tian Fengnian, director of the Health Bureau of Yinchuan..

MNA/Xinhua

Cassini images bizarre hexagon on Saturn



This image provided by NASA on 27 March, 2007 shows a nighttime view of Saturn's north pole by the visual and infrared mapping spectrometer onboard NASA's Cassini orbiter.

INTERNET

WASHINGTON, 28 March — An odd, six-sided, honeycomb-shaped feature circling the entire north pole of Saturn has captured the interest of scientists with Cassini mission, NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory reported on Wednesday.

NASA's Voyager 1 and 2 spacecraft imaged the feature over two decades ago.

The fact that it has appeared in Cassini images indicates that it is a long-lived feature.

A second hexagon, significantly darker than the brighter historical feature, is also visible in the Cassini pictures.

The spacecraft's visual and infrared mapping spectrometer is the first instrument to capture the entire hexagon feature in

one image.

"This is a very strange feature, lying in a precise geometric fashion with six nearly equally straight sides," said Kevin Baines, atmospheric expert and member of Cassini's spectrometer team at JPL.

"We've never seen anything like this on any other planet."

The hexagon is nearly 25,000 kilometers across. Nearly four Earths could fit inside it.

"It's amazing to see such striking differences on opposite ends of Saturn's poles," said Bob Brown, team leader of the Cassini spectrometer.

Internet

Study shows one in 10 at risk from rising seas, storms

OSLO, 29 March — One in 10 people in the world, mostly in Asia, live in coastal areas at risk from rising seas and more powerful storms that may be caused by global warming, an international study showed on Wednesday.

The researchers urged governments to make billion-dollar policy shifts to encourage more settlements inland rather than in coastal regions from China to Florida that may suffer ever more storm surges and erosion.

A zone less than 10 metres (33 feet) above sea level "contains some 2 per cent of the world's land and 10 per cent of its population", according to the study to be published in the April edition of the journal *Environment and Urbanization*.

"Settlements in coastal lowlands are especially vulnerable to risks resulting from climate change, yet these lowlands are densely settled and growing rapidly," the researchers in the United States and Britain said in

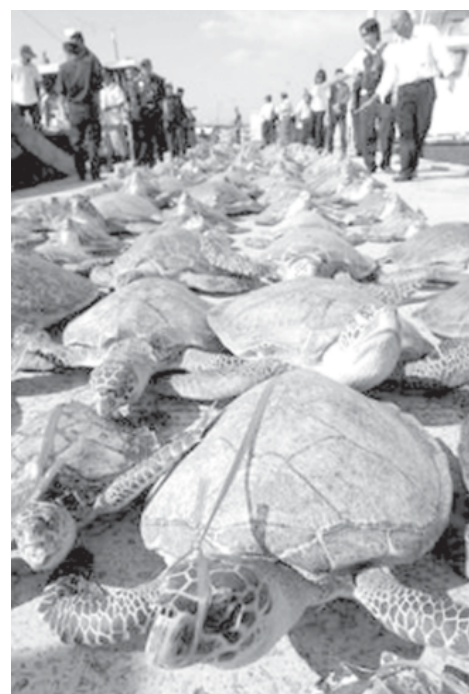
the article.

Based on new computer population models and NASA satellite data, it estimated that 634 million people lived in the coastal zone in 2000, including 360 million in towns and cities.

More than 75 per cent were in Asia.

Globalization is promoting a shift towards coasts in countries including China and India by fostering a world trade largely dependent on shipping.

MNA/Reuters



Sea turtles are counted after a seizure by Malaysia's marine police in Kota Kinabalu, in Malaysia's Borneo state of Sabah, on 28 March, 2007.

INTERNET

SPORTS



Wang Zhizhi (R2) of Bayi holds the trophy at the awarding ceremony after the fifth match of Chinese Basketball Association (CBA) Finals against Guangdong Hongyuan in Dongguan, a city in south China's Guangdong Province, on 28 March, 2007. Bayi beat Guangdong Hongyuan with 88-83 and won the champion with a total score of 4-1 — XINHUA

SADC tourism players map out strategies on 2010 World Cup

HARARE, 30 March — Tourism players in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) gathered in Harare on Thursday to map out strategies on how the group can reap maximum benefits from the 2010 soccer World Cup to be held in South Africa.

Zimbabwe Tourism Authority (ZTA) Chief Executive Karikoga Kaseke said the workshop would be part of preparations for the soccer showcase and afford them an opportunity to deliberate on a number of issues.

MNA/Xinhua

Beckham wins sport industry award

LONDON, 30 March — Former England captain David Beckham won the Outstanding Contribution to British Sport accolade at the 2007 Sport Industry Awards on Thursday.

The Real Madrid midfielder, who will join Los Angeles Galaxy at the end of the European season, received his award from Arsenal's French striker Thierry Henry and 2012 London Olympics chairman Sebastian Coe at a ceremony in central London. Tributes flowed for Beckham's contribution to British sport. "In a world where celebrity comes too easily, David deserves his fame," said Prime Minister Tony Blair.

"He's been a huge cultural icon for our country but most of all he plays football brilliantly and whenever he wore the England shirt, he wore it with pride." —MNA/Reuters



David Beckham holds his award at the 2007 Sport Industry Awards in London March 29, 2007. Beckham won the Outstanding Contribution to British Sport accolade on Thursday. —INTERNET

Indonesia deals third loss in olympic qualifier

JAKARTA, 30 March — The Indonesian soccer team suffered the third consecutive loss after being outplayed by visiting Lebanon 2-1 in the qualifying for the 2008 Beijing Olympic, sparking attacks from local media Thursday.

"Goodbye Beijing," most influential newspaper *Kompas* said after the match at the Jakarta's Lebak Bulus Stadium Wednesday evening.

The Indonesian youngsters entered the pitch with two previous losses from Oman and group leader Vietnam, giving no choice but to beat Lebanon to keep their chance alive.

Defence now becomes

the centre of criticism, despite few chances created by the forwarders.

"It's true two goals from Lebanon were attributed to our poor defence," coach Bambang Nurdiansyah said.

Lebanon took the lead in the 22nd minute after Hassan Maatouk brilliantly finished one-two short passes with the right winger.

Jajang Mulyana led the host team back to the game in the second half but Lebanon retook the lead in just a minute when a header from defender Hussein Amine turned a corner kick cross past goalkeeper Ronny Tri.

MNA/Xinhua

Shanghai to get Masters Series tournament in 2009

LONDON, 30 March — The Chinese city of Shanghai will host an ATP Masters Series tournament starting in 2009, the ATP have confirmed.

Shanghai hosted the season-ending Masters Cup in 2002, 2005 and 2006, but this will be the first time a top tier Masters Series event has been staged in Asia.

"We are delighted to confirm that the ATP will expand its relationship with the city, its tennis fans and our partners in Shanghai in their world class tennis facility and stadium," ATP executive chairman and president Etienne de Villiers said in a statement.

"China is a major growth market for tennis and it is vital for the sport to have premium events in its major cities, ideally on a continuing basis."

MNA/Reuters



Sweden's Annika Sorenstam points as she talks with her caddie on the 11th fairway at the LPGA Kraft Nabisco Championship golf tournament in Rancho Mirage, California, on 29 March, 2007. INTERNET

Wasteful River held at home by LDU

BUENOS AIRES, 30 March — River Plate squandered a hatful of second-half chances as they were held to a goalless draw at home by LDU in the Libertadores Cup on Thursday.

River forward Ernesto Farias produced one of the misses of the tournament when he sidefooted the ball over the crossbar from an unmarked position three metres in front of goal in the second half.

The stalemate left Group Six wide open with Caracas FC of Venezuela top (6 points from 3 games) followed by LDU and River (both 5 points from 4 games) and Chilean champions Colo Colo last (3 from 3 games).

Daniel Passarella's team have taken only one point from two games at home, where they have failed to score.

The Argentines dominated the second half as Victor Zapata headed wide from close range and Fernando Belluschi fired over the crossbar.

After Farias' astonishing miss, Augusto Fernandez had a shot deflected agonizingly wide of the post and Zapata had another effort tipped over the crossbar by Cristian Mora. —MNA/Reuters

Platini to give fans a say in running the game

BRUSSELS, 30 March — UEFA president Michel Platini expects to unveil plans to give soccer fans an official say in running the game by the end of the year, a senior official at European soccer's governing body said on Thursday.

Platini, who was elected UEFA president in January, will hold meetings with supporters' clubs and associations from around Europe in the coming months with a view to giving them a seat on UEFA's new Strategic Board.

The highly influential sub-committee -- due to be endorsed at a special UEFA congress in May -- will comprise of representatives from the national associations, the leagues and the clubs and players, each with four members.

This strategic board will then make direct recommendations on how the game should be run to UEFA's executive committee which makes the body's day-to-day decisions.

"The idea is to give fans observer status at the beginning and then to eventually give them the same say (as the others). We hope to have a plan by the end of the year," William Gaillard, special adviser to Platini, told Reuters.

"Platini is a firm believer that there is no soccer without the fans. We are the producers and they are our consumers. He wants to make this happen sooner rather than later."

Gaillard pointed out that the main problem facing UEFA is the "lack of Europe-wide coordination" by those representing the interest of fans. —MNA/Reuters

Henin crushes Chakvetadze to reach Miami final

MIAMI, 30 March — World number one Justine Henin stormed into the finals of the Sony Ericsson Open on Thursday with a crushing 6-2, 6-3 win over Russian Anna Chakvetadze.

After missing the early part of the season following her split with husband Pierre-Yves Hardenne, Henin has been almost unbeatable and has now reached her third consecutive final after collecting back-to-back titles in Dubai and Doha. "I still emotionally have to find a balance," she told reporters. "The beginning of the season has been fantastic I hope I can keep it going until the end."

"What happened in 2006 is far away, now I just want to focus on another season."

"I just live for the moment now, not in the past anymore. I just try to enjoy my life and not try to project too far in the future and not look at the past," she added. —MNA/Reuters



Shahar Peer of Israel returns a shot to Serena Williams of US at the Sony Ericsson Open semifinal tennis match in Key Biscayne, Miami on 29 March, 2007. —INTERNET

Assembling of moon mission spacecraft begins in India

MUMBAL, 30 March — India has begun assembling the spacecraft for *Chandrayaan-I*, its first unmanned mission to the moon scheduled for 2008, a top space agency official said Wednesday.

"We have begun the integration process for the spacecraft structure and are putting in place the antennae required for tracking data from this month," S. Krishnamurthy, director of publicity for the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), told PTI from Bangalore.

The spacecraft structure has arrived at the ISRO Satellite Centre (ISAC) from Hindustan

Aeronautics Limited and the integration work has begun, he said.

ISRO's deep space tracking network system is being established for the moon mission at Byalalu Village, 40 kilometres from Bangalore, and its first 18-metre antenna has been erected, he said.

A 32-metre antenna built by the Electronic Corporation of India and Bhabha Atomic Research

Centre is currently being erected at the site.

Krishnamurthy said instruments from various collaborators, including the European Space Agency (ESA) and NASA of the US, have also started coming in.

Though scientists first conceived India's moon

mission in 1999, it was officially announced by former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on August 15, 2003 and finally approved in November 2003.

The mission is scheduled for launch in March-April 2008.

MNA/PTI

Russian cargo space ferry lands in Pacific

Moscow, 30 March — The remains of a Russian *Progress* supply vehicle fell to Earth as planned early on Wednesday after it undocked from the orbiting *International Space Station*, Russia's Mission Control said.

Most of the *Progress M-58* ferry, which undocked from the station late on Tuesday after five months in orbit, burnt up as it reentered the atmosphere. The rest of it sank in the

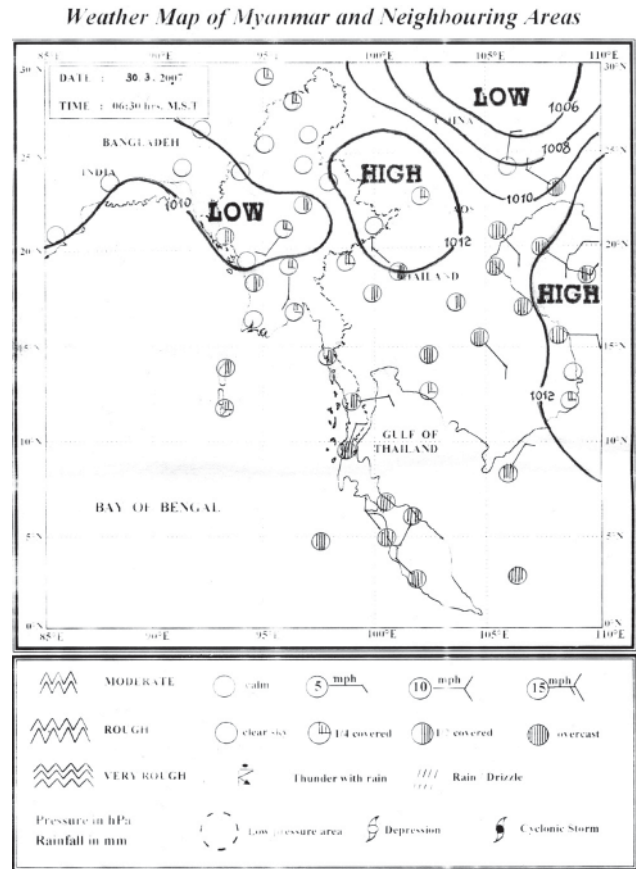
Pacific waters.

"Everything went according to schedule," Vsevolod Latyshev said by telephone from Mission Control in the city of Korolyov near Moscow.

The vessel had delivered more than two tons of food, water, fuel, clothes and equipment for the crew aboard the station.

The *Progress* ship, filled with litter, undocked from the station's *Zvezda* module to make way for a *Soyuz* capsule which will be moved there from the *Zarya* module on Friday.

MNA/Reuters



WEATHER

Friday, 30 March, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in Taninthayi Division and weather has been partly cloudy in Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (7°C) above normal in Kachin State, (5°C) above normal in Ayeyawady Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Shan State, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Bago Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were NyaungU, Minbu, Magway and Aunglan (41°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 29-3-2007 was 101°F. Minimum temperature on 30-3-2007 was 77°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 30-3-2007 was 88%. Total sunshine hours on 29-3-2007 was (9.4) hours approx.

Rainfall on 30-3-2007 was (nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from South at (17:30) hours MST on 29-3-2007.

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 31-3-2007: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States, Mandalay Division 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: Possibility of isolated light rain in the extreme Southern Myanmar areas.

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 31-3-2007: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 30-3-2007: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 30-3-2007: Partly cloudy.



Actress Halle Berry poses during a photocall to promote her latest film "Perfect Stranger" in central Madrid on 28 March, 2007. — INTERNET

Saturday, 31 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. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:00 am
6. တံတားအလှပန်းလောင်

8:05 am
7. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:15 am
8. Musical programme

8:30 am
9. International news

8:45 am
10. Grammar made easy

11:00 am
1. Martial song

11:15 am
2. Musical programme

11:30 am
3. Games for children

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

1:05 pm
5. "ခံစားရင်းခံစားပါ" (ကျော်ရဲအောင်၊ ပန်းဖြူကုသိုလ်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မြင့်မိုးရဲဆွေ)

1:35 pm
6. နိုင်ငံစီးပွားအလေးထား ကျေးလက်ထုတ်ကုန်များ

1:45 pm
7. Dance of national races

2:00 pm
8. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

2:10 pm
9. ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း မဟာရာဇရေလောင်တစ်

2:20 pm
10. လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းပေးဂီတတေး (ဆိုင်း)

2:35 pm
11. "ပြေးပြေးလွှားလွှား သွားသွားလာလာ" (မောင်မောင်မြင့်၊ မအေးမြင့်၊ စိန်ဂွက်ထော်၊ မောင်မောင်မျိုးသန့်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်မောင်မြင့်)

2:40 pm
12. စံပြုဆောင် နောင်ကားကျေးရွာ

2:45 pm
13. International news

4:00 pm
1. Martial song

4:15 pm
2. Songs to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm
3. အစားသင့်တော်သို့လ် ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -စတုတ္ထနှစ် (ဥပဒေပညာ အထူးပြု) (ဥပဒေပညာ)

4:45 pm
4. မြူးမြူးကြွကြွ ယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက

5:00 pm
5. Games for children

5:30 pm
6. ရသပေါ်လွင် သရုပ်ဆောင်လွင်ပြင်

6:00 pm
7. Evening news

6:30 pm
8. Weather report

6:35 pm
9. အလှူရှာမယ်လှူကမ္ဘာဝယ်

7:00 pm
10. နိုင်ငံစီးပွားလေးထား ကျေးလက်ထုတ်ကုန်များ (မဲခရဲတိုက်နယ်ဧရာဝတီတိုင်းမှ ဆားလုပ်ငန်းအကြောင်း)

7:10 pm
11. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "သမားတော်" (အပိုင်း-၁၄)

8:00 pm
12. News

13. International news

14. Weather report

15. လပတ်စီးလေဝသနှင့် လေပေးခန့်မှန်းချက်

16. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ရုတ်ပန်းနှင်းဆီ" (အပိုင်း-၅)

17. The next day's programme

Saturday, 31 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 Music at your request/Lunch time music:

9:00 pm ASEAN news

9:10 pm Article

9:20 pm Myanma culture ... Dr Khin Maung Nyunt

9:30 pm Souvenirs

9:45 pm News / Slogan

10:00 pm PEL

Commander attends opening of Thayaung model village, inspects Htamanti hydropower station project in Homalin Township

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March — Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, accompanied by Kalay Station Commander Brig-Gen Kyaw Oo Lwin and departmental officials, attended the opening ceremony of Thayaung Model Village in Phaungpyin Township, Mawleik District, this morning. The director of Sagaing Division Development Affairs Committee, the manager of Division Transport Department and the chairman of District Peace and Development Council formally opened the village.

The commander pressed the button to unveil the archway and signboard of the village.

The commander also attended the opening ceremonies of the rural development centre and Thayaung Station Hospital, and inspected academic tasks of the village basic education middle school. Next, the commander met with local people at the village basic education high school. He heard the reports on village development tasks and attended to the needs.

Later, officials accepted the membership applications presented by a member of village Union Solidarity and Development Association.

The commander presented 100 bags of cement, a set of computer and a video cassette player for the construction of the new building of village BEHS

to the headmaster and responsible persons also presented 100 bags of cement, a set of computer, a set of TV and K 12.5 million for the school education funds of village BEHS donated by wellwishers.

The chairman of the committee for the construction of the station hospital handed over the documents to the head of Division Health Department.

Next, the commander paid homage to members of the Sangha of the village monastery and offered alms and cash to them.

Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye inspected the construction site of Htamanti (Tazone) hydropower station project being undertaken in Homalin Township and gave necessary instructions. — MNA

Commander calls for cooperative efforts for success of work in Shan State

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March — Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Brig-Gen Thaug Aye urged departmental officials of Shan State (South) to work together for successful completion of departmental work in the state.

At the coordination meeting held at Shan State (South) Peace and Development Council Office in Taunggyi on 23 March for implementing of the depart-

mental tasks, Commander Brig-Gen Thaug Aye gave instructions on implementing of regional development tasks in the state.

The commander discussed tasks being implemented in the state with departmental officials. Those present at the meeting also reported to the commander on requirements to complete the departmental tasks.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks by Commander Brig-Gen Thaug Aye. — MNA

Armed Forces Day Exhibition goes on

YANGON, 30 March — The exhibition to mark the 62nd Anniversary Armed Forces Day for 2007 continued at the Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road, here, today.

A total of 727 people including monks and students visited the booths staged at the museum.

In the Central Command booth, a scale model of old Tagaung City, unearthed artifacts, a model of Bagan Palace, show on inspection tours of the Head of the State and documentary photos are displayed.

In addition, the booths of ministries, of the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and the Commander-in-Chief (Air), and the Yangon City Development Committee and the Mandalay City Development Committee are displayed.

The exhibition is kept open daily till 4 April, and admission is free. — MNA



People visit booths of Armed Forces Day Commemorative Exhibition at Defence Services Museum. — MNA

Culture Course concludes in Pyawbwe

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March — The Culture Course concluded at the city hall in Pyawbwe, Mandalay Division, on 25 March afternoon.

Secretary-General U Htay Oo of the Union Solidarity and Development Association delivered an address. He said that the training course was conducted for new generation youths to ensure uplift of national culture and their morality. In other words, the government fulfilled the requirements of turning out more outstanding new generation youths. In conclusion, the Secretary-General urged the trainees to serve the inter-

est of respective regions hand in hand with local people.

Afterwards, the secretary-general presented first, second, and third prizes to the prizewinners, and officials, prizes to the outstanding trainees.

Over 10,000 students completed the courses conducted at 191 basic education schools in the township from 10 to 25 March.

The course was jointly organized by Pyawbwe Township Peace and Development Council and Township USDA. — MNA

INSIDE

Smoking means developing heart disease at own's risk. Smoking can damage you heart and cause premature death. Now the government had adopted the Tobacco Law, it is an important milestone in the history of public health of Myanmar.

PAGE 7

U MIN THU (ADVOCATE)