

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

Pyaingchaung Dam commissioned into service in Kyauktaw Township

Government striving for development of political, economic, social and other sectors to enable the country to keep abreast of global nations

YANGON, 31 March — A ceremony to inaugurate Pyaingchaung Dam built by Irrigation Department was held at the pandal near the dam in Kyauktaw on 30 March.

In his address, Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Brig-Gen Maung Shein said that the State Peace and Development Council is implementing the 12 objectives for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation. "Development of agricul-



Commander Brig-Gen Maung Shein speaks at opening of Pyaingchaung Dam in Kyauktaw Township. — A&I

ture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well" is one of the four economic objectives. The 24 special development regions project is being imple-

mented for ensuring equitable development of all parts of the country and uplift of living standard of the entire national people. Likewise, five rural development tasks are being undertaken for narrowing the gap between urban and rural areas, he said.

The commander added that Rakhine State is an agro-based region. The state increased up to 1.205 million acres of monsoon paddy from 0.79 million acres in 1988. Efforts are to be made for cultivation of monsoon

(See page 8)



The scenic view of the newly-commissioned Pyaingchaung Dam. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 1 April, 2007

Myanmar-China trade will improve bilateral cooperation

Sharing the same border, the Union of Myanmar and the People's Republic of China have stood as good neighbours through fraternal relations in the course of the history.

Yunnan Province has more trade relations with Myanmar than any other province of China, and the relations between the entrepreneurs of the two sides are improving.

Myanmar and China (Yunnan) Trade & Investment Cooperation meeting held at the Traders Hotel in Yangon the other day will promote the bilateral trade. And discussions held there by the entrepreneurs of the two countries will contribute to further cooperation. So, that will serve as a giant step forward trans-border normal trade.

The government is now organizing meetings for national entrepreneurs to cultivate a good habit of running normal trade so as to further practise normal trade. In future, the route of trans-border trade will be extended to the third country through the common border, so it is needed to effectively exercise normal trade to achieve the goal.

Building mutual trust will help the traders of the two sides to enjoy mutual benefits and will promote bilateral trade.

Myanmar and China have a fine tradition of maintaining bilateral friendship from time immemorial. Now, the two countries are dealing with each other extensively in various sectors. Therefore, the bilateral trade relations will fortify the cooperation between the two countries.

Final round of Grand Royal Special Reserve Golf Championship 2007 on 6-8 April



YANGON, 31 March — The final round of Grand Royal Special Reserve Golf Championship 2007 organized by Myanmar Golf Federation with the sponsorship of International Beverages Trading Co Ltd will be held at City Golf Club (Myakantha) in Insein Township from 6 to 8 April.

Five amateurs

each who are winners of the qualify rounds at Mandalay, Taunggyi, Mawlamyine and Yangon will compete in final qualify round through system 36.

Pro-AM contest will be held as a special programme of the Grand Royal Special Reserve Golf Championship at the same venue on 8 April morning. International Beverages Trading Co Ltd is the main sponsor of the tournament and cosponsors are Air Mandalay, Hotel Nikko, Sirixon and Alpine. Han Event Management will organize the final round.

MNA

People's 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

Concert of Early Childhood Development Centre held



CEC member of MMCWA Daw Thazin Nwe speaking at the concert to mark the conclusion ceremony of Early Childhood Development Centre for 2006-07 academic year. — MNA

YANGON, 30 March — A concert to mark the conclusion ceremony of Early Childhood Development Centre for 2006-07 academic year of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association was held at the multi-functional building of the association at the corner of Thanthuma and Parami Roads in South Okkalapa Township this morning.

On behalf of the president, CEC member Daw

Thazin Nwe gave a speech.

Executive Director Professor Dr Tun Yi, CEC members Dr Khin Mya Win and Dr Than Oo presented gifts and completion certificates to teachers and students of the centre.

Later, students entertained those present with variety dances.

MNA

Myanmar delegation to attend Fighting Corruption and Safeguarding Integrity Forum

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March — Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin left here yesterday for South Africa to participate in the Global Forum Five on Fighting Corruption and Safeguarding Integrity.

The forum is scheduled to be held in Johannesburg from 2 to 5 April.

Deputy Director-General of the Bureau of Special Investigation U Ye Myint and Myanmar Ambassador to South Africa will also participate in the forum along with Dr Tun Shin.

The Myanmar delegation was seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Deputy Attorney-Generals U Myint Naing and U Tun Tun Oo, Director-General of the Attorney-General's Office U Tin Myint and officials. — MNA

Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin being seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by officials. — MNA



Myanmar, Japanese businessmen eye on cooperation

YANGON, 31 March — President U Win Myint and General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing of Union

of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry received a four-member Japanese delegation led by Managing Executive Officer Mr Masahiro Nakagawa of Itochu Corporation at the office of the federation here on 19 March. They discussed boosting trade and investment, to reconvene Myanmar-Japan CCI Business Cooperation Committee (MJBCC) joint-meeting, to exchange visits of entrepreneurs, to share business information and import/export matters.

Similarly, a two-member Japanese delegation led by CEO and Managing Director Mr Isao Takatori called on Vice-President U Thaug Tin of the federation and responsible persons of Myanmar Computer Entrepreneurs Association at the same venue under the arrangement of ASEAN-Japan Trade, Investment and Tourism Promotion Centre and held discussions on information technology and use of Internet.

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President of UMFCCI U Win Myint meets Japanese delegation led by Mr Masahiro Nakagawa of Itochu Corporation. — UMFCCI

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Direct Berlin train to roll further into Siberia

BERLIN, 30 March—European rail enthusiasts may soon be able to travel even further into the depths of Siberia without having to switch trains as a Russian rail operator plans a direct, roughly five-day journey between Berlin and Irkutsk.

At present, the longest direct train journey from Western Europe leaves Berlin on Saturdays and arrives in the Siberian capital Novosibirsk on Wednesdays, German rail

operator Deutsche Bahn said. The trip takes almost four days and covers around 5,000 km (3,100 miles).

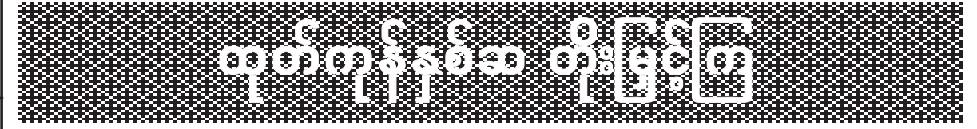
JSC Russian Railways is planning a new route from the German capital to Irkutsk, one of the largest cities in Siberia, situated near Lake Baikal. It is about 1,800 km (1,200 miles) east of Novosibirsk by rail.

The journey could take up to 30 hours longer than the Berlin-Novosibirsk route, a spokesman for the Russian operator said.

About 2.7 million people live in the region of Irkutsk, where the climate is characterised by long and cold winters and humid and warm summers.

Travellers can also reach the city with the Trans-Siberian Railway. Its route in Russia runs from Moscow in the west to the eastern coastal city of Vladivostok and is the longest rail line in the world, spanning almost 9,300 km (5,700 miles).

Internet



Kiki Bannai, one-year-old, sits on Kawasaki's "KSR110" at the Tokyo Motorcycle Show 2007 in Tokyo on 30 March, 2007. — INTERNET

Police bust drug-processing laboratory

KUALA LUMPUR, 31 March—Police busted a drug processing laboratory run by a Singaporean in a pre-dawn raid yesterday.

The raiding party seized 8,000 amphetamine-type

stimulant pills with a street value of more than RM320,000, making it the biggest seizure in the state this year.

The police team raided an apartment in Taman Nusa Bestari Jaya, Skudai, here at about 2am.

The 47-year-old Singaporean, believed to be the mastermind behind the syndicate, was arrested.

State police chief Datuk Hussin Ismail said the pills bore various logos, including Butterfly, Rolex, AK 47, Blue Sky and Taichi.

He said they also found

containers of colourful powders believed to be the raw materials for making the pills and an assortment of equipment.

Police seized RM118,500 and S\$370 (RM837) from the suspect.

"We believe the pills were for the local and foreign markets," Hussin said.

Hussin said the suspect would be charged under Section 39B of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952, which carries the mandatory death penalty upon conviction.

Internet



Children dance during an occasion to mark Prophet Mohammed's birthday, which celebrated on Saturday, in Beirut on 30 March, 2007. INTERNET

Death toll rises to 60 in suicide attack in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 30 March — Death toll rose to 60 from the suicide bomber attack in a popular market in northeastern Baghdad on Thursday, an Interior Ministry source told *Xinhua*.

A further 25 others are also injured in the blast while the bomber wearing an explosive vest blew himself up in Shalal market in al-Shaab neighbourhood, the source said on condition of anonymity.—MNA/Xinhua

British kids buying bullet-proof vests for security

LONDON, 30 March — British parents concerned over a string of fatal stabbings in the country have been buying stab-and bullet-proof vests to provide security to their children.

VestGuard UK, which supplies stab-and bullet-proof vests to agencies around the world, said it received hundreds of enquiries and orders for 60 vests, each of them costing between 200 pounds and 425 pounds (395-835 US dollars).

"They (parents) are concerned by what is happening on the streets — the level of violence," Shaun Ward, VestGuard UK's sales director, was quoted as saying in the media here.

"We have a factory in Bolton and since Christmas we have been making really small vests that have a 28 inches chest and weigh 800 grammes. The children have been mostly boys, but there are a few girls," Ward said.

MNA/PTI



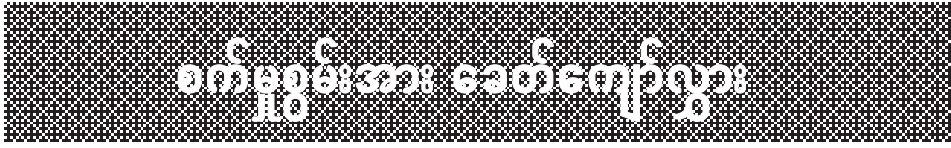
A policeman stands guard during an anti-narcotics operation in the Santo Domingo Coyoacan district of Mexico City on 29 March, 2007. The operation is part of an ongoing campaign aimed at reducing Mexico City's crime problem. — INTERNET



Artists of the Chinese National Circus stage a guest performance at the Tempodrom theatre in the German capital Berlin on 29 March, 2007. —INTERNET



Visitors look at the concept car from Mercedes-benz CLK-GTR displayed at the 28th Bangkok International Motor Show, on 29 March, 2007. The Bangkok International Motor Show is the biggest annual auto show in southeast Asia, and is held from 30 March to 8 April, 2007. — INTERNET



China to expand friendly relations with Sudan

BEIJING, 30 March — Chinese top legislator Wu Bangguo Thursday reaffirmed that China will work to expand friendly relations with Sudan.

“Strengthening this relationship is in the interests of the two peoples, and will help promote cooperation between China and Africa and contribute to peace and stability of the region and the world at large,” said Wu, chairman of the Standing Committee of

the National People’s Congress (NPC).

During a meeting with Deputy President of the Sudanese National Congress Nafi’a Ali Nafi’a, Wu said President Hu Jintao’s Sudan tour in February had greatly advanced bilateral relations.

Noting that party-to-party exchanges had promoted mutual understanding and friendship, Wu said the Communist Party of China (CPC)

would like to expand exchanges and cooperation with the Sudanese National Congress to develop the relations between the two countries.

Nafi’a Ali Nafi’a said Sudan values its relations with China, and will make joint effort to upgrade the reciprocal cooperation and friendly exchanges to a new height. The Sudan guest is visiting China from March 28 to 31 at the invitation of the CPC. — MNA/Xinhua

Japan begins deployment of own ballistic missile defence system

TOKYO, 30 March — Japan deployed its first ground-based Patriot Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) interceptor system at an Air Force base in Saitama prefecture on Friday, *Kyodo News* said.

The installation of two PAC-3 launchers at the Air Self-Defence Force’s Iruma base north of Tokyo, marks the launch of Japan’s own ballistic missile defence initiative, it said.

Each PAC-3 launcher can load up to 16 missiles and covers a radius of several dozen kilometres. The launcher is mobile and may be relocated to other SDF facilities, the report said.

The deployment at the Iruma base, around one year ahead of schedule, will enable Japan’s Self-Defence Forces to intercept ballistic missiles in areas centring on Tokyo. In October 2006, the United States have deployed the PAC-3 system at the US Kadena Air Base in

southern Japan’s Okinawa. The missile defence system is two-phased, in which an incoming ballistic missile is dealt with by first firing *Standard Missile-3*

interceptors from *Aegis* ships at sea when the missile is still outside the atmosphere, and if that fails, firing a PAC-3 from the ground.

Tokyo also plans to install its first *Standard Missile-3* interceptors on one *Aegis* ship by the end of 2007.

MNA/Xinhua



Japanese people photograph the cherry blossoms along the Imperial moat in Tokyo on Friday 30 March, 2007. — INTERNET

Coal mine explosion kills 26 in north China

LINFEN, (Shanxi), 30 March — Rescuers recovered seven more bodies after a Wednesday coal mine blast in north China’s coal-rich province of Shanxi, bringing the total deaths to 26, local authorities said Thursday.

The gas explosion occurred at around 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Yujialing Coal Mine located at the Yipingyuan Township, Yaodu District of Linfen City, about 300 kilometres southwest of Taiyuan, the provincial capital.

106 miners were working underground, and only 80 managed to escape and survive,

including one who was injured severely and is being treated in hospital, according to the local rescue team led by deputy governor of Shanxi Jin Shanzhong.

The rest 26 who were trapped in the mine have all been confirmed dead, rescuers said.

Zhou Xiaogen, the mine owner, Li Mingshun, the manager and several others have been held in custody, local police said. Preliminary investigation showed working conditions in the mine were very unsafe and chaotic before the accident occurred, the police said.

MNA/Xinhua

Study says patients dying prematurely due to sedatives

LONDON, 30 March—Many Alzheimer’s patients are dying earlier because of sedatives they are being prescribed, according to new research.

Results from a five-year project, funded by the Alzheimer’s Research Trust, found that the drugs were linked with a significant increase in long-term mortality, with patients dying on average six months earlier.

The investigation by King’s College London found that the sedatives, known as neuroleptics, were associated with a significant deterioration in verbal fluency and cognitive function, and that

neuroleptic treatment had no benefit to patients with the mildest symptoms.

Professor Clive Ballard, of the university, said: “It is very clear that even over a six-month period of treatment, there is no benefit of neuroleptics in treating the behaviour in people with Alzheimer’s disease when the symptoms are mild.”

Rebecca Wood, the chief executive of the Alzheimer’s Research Trust, said: “These results are deeply troubling.”

The study examined 165 people with Alzheimer’s in nursing homes in Oxfordshire, Newcastle, Edinburgh and London. — Internet



A piece of carpet is shown wrapped around a tree near the destroyed home of Vance and Barbara Woodbury, near Elmwood, Okla, on 29 March, 2007. The Woodburys were killed by a tornado on Wednesday. — INTERNET

ECONOMIC NEWS

Russia can join planned missile defence system in Europe

WASHINGTON, 30 March — Russia is welcomed to join a planned US missile defence system in Europe senior US official said Wednesday.

Henry A. Obering, director of the Pentagon's Missile Defence Agency, said at a Press briefing that the United States is "very open to Russian participation and invitation into collaboration on missile defence in the broader sense and on any level, all the way down to specifics in terms of potentially sharing

data and radar data information".

Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Fried, who recently accompanied Obering during a trip to Europe to woo support for plans to install 10 interceptor missiles in Poland and a radar site in the Czech Republic, said the notion that the missile defense system

will trigger arms race between the United States and Russia is "odd" and unrealistic.

According to its plan, the United States hopes to have all 10 interceptors installed by 2013, if given a green light from the Polish and Czech governments within a year.

MNA/Xinhua



Airbus employees work on an Airbus airplane at the Single Aisle production line at the Airbus facility in Finkenwerder near Hamburg on 27 March, 2007. — INTERNET

Inquiry launched after biggest ever credit card heist

LONDON, 31 March — British authorities yesterday launched an inquiry into how computer hackers who targeted the cut-price fashion retailer TK Maxx were able to steal information from more than 45 million credit and debit card holders on both sides of the Atlantic.

As the extraordinary scale of the biggest credit card heist unravelled, internet security experts urged all businesses and banks to tighten up their computer security systems to protect their customers.

TK Maxx shoppers were advised to check their credit and debit transactions for irregularities.

regularities.

TK Maxx's US parent company, TJX, revealed the extent of the "unauthorised intrusion" in its annual report on Thursday, claiming that someone had used sophisticated software to access its data centres in Watford, Hertfordshire, and in Framingham, near Boston, Massachusetts.

Names, card numbers and personal data were stolen — and in the US, social security numbers — over a 17-month period and covering transactions dating as far back as December 2002. The firm said it did not know how many of the cardholders affected were shoppers

at TK Maxx's 210 stores in Britain and Ireland, although more of them were likely to be American. — Internet

Malaysia seizes trawler with 220 rare turtles

KUALA LUMPUR, 30 March — Malaysian marine police have seized a trawler carrying about 220 rare sea turtles and arrested 17 Chinese men for poaching, their second

such seizure this week, a police chief said on Thursday.

In the two seizures, both involving chases through Malaysian waters, almost 300 turtles

were recovered. Most were dead, caught for use in making Chinese medicines. Their shells and skins are also used to make fashion accessories.

Armed police, acting on tip-offs, intercepted both trawlers in waters off Sabah, Borneo Island, Mohd Sueb said by phone. The turtles were mostly green turtles and hawksbills, both listed as endangered by the Swiss-based World Conservation Union. Only 20 of the roughly 220 seized on Wednesday were still alive, Mohd Sueb said. Of the 78 turtles recovered in the first seizure on Monday, only five were alive, a local newspaper said. All the turtles were handed over to Malaysia's fisheries department.

MNA/Reuters



A model has her hair done backstage before the Topshop Spring/Summer 2007 collection during the Singapore Fashion Festival in Singapore, on 30 March, 2007. — INTERNET



Deer run through the ranch that deerchannel.com monitors as part of its live video feed of deer in Dublin, Texas on 28 March, 2007. Welcome to deerchannel.com — the world from a white-tailed deer's point of view, streamed to you live on the Internet via a camera attached to the head or side of the animal.

XINHUA

Britain gives \$98m to protect Congo forests

BRAZZAVILLE, 30 March — The British Government has donated 50 million pounds (98 million US dollars) to protect the fragile ecosystem of the Congo Basin, the world's second largest rainforest, a British diplomat said on Wednesday.

The Congo Basin, which spans 10 countries at the heart of Africa, loses 3.7 million acres a year to agriculture, logging, road development, oil exploitation and mining, environmentalists say.

The British aid was intended to protect the fragile region.

"The first stage is 50 million pounds sterling to

sustain projects in 10 African countries to protect the tropical forests of the Congo Basin," Mark Bensberg, deputy British Ambassador to Democratic Republic of Congo, told a news conference.

The money will be deposited in the African Development Bank, which will start an African

environment fund as ordered by an African Union summit in January in Addis Ababa.

Congo Republic Finance Minister Henri Djombo said the fund would be strictly managed and would include representatives of foreign development partners on its board.

MNA/Reuters



Two handsets by Haier, The Elegance, left, and the Sterling mobile phones were displayed at the CTIA Wireless 2007 convention in Orlando, Fla, on 29 March, 2007. Two Chinese cell phone makers are looking to crack the US market, both stressing fashion to make their statement but pursuing divergent strategies to make their mark. —INTERNET

Australia calls for Asia-Pacific cooperation on road toll

CANBERRA, 30 March — Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Transport Minister Mark Vaile on Wednesday called for greater international cooperation to reduce the road toll across the Asia-Pacific Region.

He was speaking on the opening day of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum's transport ministers' conference in Adelaide, the capital of the state of South Australia.

His remarks came as the World Health Organization estimates the number of road traffic fatalities will nearly double by 2020.

Vaile said with more than 1,000 people killed every day in Asia-Pacific nations, countries have to

work together in areas such as developing better road infrastructure and safer vehicles.

"Deaths and injuries in road crashes are also a major health problem throughout the world," he was quoted by Australian Broadcasting Corporation radio as saying.

"Apart from the human loss and suffering, there are other massive economic costs like the direct health care costs," he said.

The conference has also

called for greater action to stop the world's road toll reaching nearly two million annually by 2020. The three-day meeting is expected to discuss transport's role in trade liberalization and facilitation, transport safety and transport security.

Vaile has said the meeting would examine ways to strengthen transport security across the region against the risk of terrorist attacks.

MNA/Xinhua

Mahathir slams foreign investment in South

KUALA LUMPUR, 30 March — Malaysia's incentives for private investors to transform its drab south could end up enslaving the country's ethnic Malays to foreigners, ex-premier Mahathir Mohamad said on Thursday.

Last week Malaysia said investors in Iskandar, a region about three times the size of neighbouring Singapore, would be free to raise capital globally and hire foreign workers, among steps it hopes will draw investment of 105 billion US dollars over 20 years.

But Mahathir, speaking at a meeting in Johor State where Iskandar is located, said he feared that ethnic Malays, who make up a slim majority of the population, would prove unable to compete with the foreigners and would end up being enslaved.

"We became slaves in our own country because we gave it to foreigners," he told a gathering of about 300 people, evoking the period of British colonial rule in Malaysia to demonstrate his unease over the new measures.

"Malays will be enslaved again by foreigners," said Mahathir, who in retirement has become a sharp critic of government policy, feuding with his successor, Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, and accusing him of selling out Malaysian

interests, nepotism and betrayal.

He said ethnic Malays would not be able to compete with the outsiders if affirmative action measures favouring them were removed as part of efforts to develop Iskandar. —MNA/Reuters

Scientists claim breakthrough in fight against cancer

CANBERRA, 30 March — Australian scientists from Sydney, Australia's largest city, are claiming they have made a breakthrough in the fight against cancer

which will help with the development of more effective drugs.

Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) radio on Friday reported that researchers from the Children's Medical Research Institute in Sydney have identified the structure of an enzyme known as telomerase. It is believed to prevent cancer cells dying in the same way normal cells do as they age.

Head researcher Scott Cohen said it was previously thought there were 30 proteins inside the enzyme, but his team has discovered that only two are present.

He said this will provide scientists working on anti-cancer therapies a much tighter focus for their work. —Xinhua



A man flies over the stadium before the opening match between the Yomiuri Giants and the Yokohama BayStars in Yokohama, south of Tokyo, on 30 March, 2007. —INTERNET

Intel invests semiconductor plant in Vietnam

HANOI, 31 March — Intel, the world's biggest chipmaker, started Wednesday construction of a chipset assembly and test facility with total in-

vestment of one billion US dollars in southern Ho Chi Minh City, the first of its kind in Vietnam, according to local media on Thursday.

When completed (scheduled in mid-2009), the facility will be the seventh assembly site of Intel's global network, and is projected to eventually employ some 4,000 local people, and generate annual revenues of five

billion dollars, said Youth newspaper.

Assembly and test facilities package chips that come from semiconductor fabrication plants. The assembly and test process can be broken down into three stages: packaging, testing and shipping.

Vietnam is fostering high technologies, including information technology, in a move to

realize the target of basically becoming an industrial country by 2020.

Vietnam plans to have 38 million phone subscribers by the end of this year, or 43 units per 100 residents, up from 27.5 million subscribers by the end of last year. It also eyes six million Internet subscribers, by late 2007, up from over four million by late 2006.

MNA/Xinhua



Fans dressed as penguins shout during a match at the Hong Kong Sevens rugby tournament in Hong Kong on 30 March, 2007. INTERNET

Flower state in the flower country of Myanmar

Yadanasi Sayadaw (Loilem)

If national races are compared to flowers, the land of national races can be said as a flower country. Then, the Union of Myanmar can be considered to be a flower country.

The name "Myanmar" represents more than 100 national races. By nature, Myanmar people are fully equipped with nationalistic spirit.

Based on this nationalistic fervour, Myanmar people are desirous of witnessing stability and peace of the State and progress of the nation and the people, and being free from alien interferences. That desire can be described patriotic spirit. The Myanmar flower becomes bright and beautiful, as supported by flourishing nationalistic spirit.

Myanmar people hold in high esteem the Three Gems, parents and teachers along with the head of the village, ward or region concerned, and State leaders. They have a fine tradition of avoiding the evil and being friendly towards the good, refraining from evil deeds and doing good deeds, and working hard.

The smiles of Myanmar people welcome foreign visitors. Myanmar people never yield to enemies at any time. They face and brave hindrances with tenacity. They do not fear destructive acts. They are always on the side of truth with courage.

So, in the course of the history, Myanmar and its people have been standing tall. And, in the time of

the Tatmadaw Government, Myanmar's prospect for development has reached its peak.

The map of Myanmar is in the shape of a flower. In this regard, Taninthayi Division and Mon and Kayin States are in the shape of the stalk, the border of Rakhine and Chin states, and the eastern part of Shan State, petals, and Sagaing Division (upper) and Kachin State, the bud of the flower.

Shan State, which represents the right petal of the flower of Myanmar, has an area of 60,155 square miles and is located in the eastern part of Myanmar. It is like a small union, a home to many national races living in harmony.

It is blessed with impressive geographical features. Its capital Taunggyi has earned a good reputation of being the most beautiful, cleanest and most pleasant city. In addition, Lashio, the capital city of Shan State (North), and Kengtung, the capital city of Shan State (East), have developed significantly in the time of the Tatmadaw Government.

Shan State is constituted with 12 districts, 54 townships, 54 towns, 336 wards, 1626 village-tracts, and 15,513 villages with a population of about 5,263,000, at the population density of 88 persons a square mile.

Local people of Shan State are well-known for making donation. They have preserved a fine tradition of offering four requisites to members of the Sangha, visiting pagodas and monasteries on days of religious significance, and doing meritorious deeds collectively.

They are united in the religious and social affairs. In the time of independence struggles, Union Spirit was conceived in Panglong Region. So, they are to carry out the bounden duty of handing down the fine tradition of enhancing Union Spirit.

The entire national people are to be free from localism and racism and to be fully imbued with Union Spirit, with which more than 100 national races live in the Union in cohesion.

Now, the Tatmadaw Government is speeding up its construction tasks in various sectors across the nation to narrow the development gap between one region and another and to ensure equitable development of all parts of the nation. In the process, it has been implementing the border areas and national races development project, the 24 special regions development project, and the five rural development programmes harmoniously. Thus, Union Spirit is now flourishing among local people and national races.

Up to 2005, the government had established 10 border development regions and spent 26,347 million kyats on the drive for progress of border areas.

It designated Taunggyi, Lashio, Kengtung and Panglong as four of the 24 special development regions, and built a university, a technological university and a 200-bed specialist hospital each in these four regions, as part of the five rural development project. In consequence, today Shan State has enjoyed the taste of all-round development considerably if compared with that some 20 years ago. And local people have been armed fully with Union Spirit, with which they give priority to the interest of the Union.

Therefore, it is fair to say that Shan State has become a flower state in the flower country of Myanmar.

Translation: MS

Myanma Alin: 30-3-2007

The government designated Taunggyi, Lashio, Kengtung and Panglong as four of the 24 special development regions, and built a university, a technological university and a 200-bed specialist hospital each in these four regions, as part of the five rural development project. In consequence, today Shan State has enjoyed the taste of all-round development considerably if compared with that some 20 years ago. And local people have been armed fully with Union Spirit, with which they give priority to the interest of the Union.

EU mobile phone users outnumber population for first time

BRUSSELS, 31 March — Mobile phone subscriptions in the European Union (EU) for the first time outnumbered the whole population last year, the European Commission said in a report on Thursday.

"With 478.4 million mobile phones in use, penetration in Europe is now at 103 per cent of population," the

Commission said in its 12th annual report on the EU's telecom markets. The penetration rate was 95 per cent in 2005. But the level of penetration varies widely among its previous 25 member states. Luxembourg recorded the highest penetration of 171 per cent, followed by Italy's 134 per cent and Lithuania's 133 per cent. It was lowest in France, standing at 82 per cent.

With the subscription climbing, the communications cost is falling. According to the report, prices for a three-minute national fixed telephone call have gone down from around 0.418 euro in 2000 to 0.25 euro today. The prices of domestic mobile services have decreased by up to 13.9 per cent in the past year. — MNA/Xinhua

UN system-wide coherence opens in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 31 March — The regional level consultation on the United Nations System-Wide Coherence opened here Thursday.

Over 150 participants, grouping representatives of governments in the Asia-Pacific Region, the United Nations and academics, are attending the two-day meeting, according to a

Press release from the Indonesian Foreign Ministry.

The consultation followed up a report of the UN Secretary General's high level panel on the United Nations System-Wide Coherence in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and environment, it said.

The high level

panel was established in February last year, aimed at identifying the comparative superiority, overlapping sectors, duplication of products and activities among the UN institutions, said the release.

Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono opened the meeting on Thursday.

MNA/Xinhua

Pyaingchaung Dam commissioned into service...

(from page 1)

paddy meeting the target of 1.21 million acres next year and 100 baskets per-acre yield. In addition, cultivation of pepper and rubber on vacant and virgin lands will contribute to economic development of Rakhine State. To meet fuel demand, Rakhine State made arrangements to grow physic nut plants on 100,000 acres of land in 2006, 200,000 acres in 2007 and 200,000 acres in 2008.

He noted that the government has been building dams and embankments in all states and

better transport. As about 200 dams and embankments have been built throughout the nation, the service personnel have capabilities not only to construct various kinds of dams but also implement hydropower projects. Especially, they are to build small-scale hydropower plants on self-reliant basis. The simultaneous completion of dams and hydropower projects will contribute a lot to the people. In addition, it is necessary to maintain the dams and embankments for durability. Furthermore, encouragement is to be given



Commander Brig-Gen Maung Shein unveils the stone plaque of Pyaingchaung Dam.— A&I

local people will also reach a new high. The State has been striving for development of economic sector. Myanmar is rich in arable lands and natural

are being made for boosting crop production. Meanwhile, dams and water pumping projects have been implemented throughout the nation to irrigate the farm lands. As a result, the sown acreage has been increased. In 1988-89, there were 23.8 million cultivated acres and now the figure has risen to 46.34 million acres.

Physic nut plant is an invaluable crop and

Pyaingchaung dam is a medium-sized one and it is the 197th dam built in the time of Tatmadaw Government. It can store 24,290 acre feet of water. The height of the main dam is 106 feet with the four earth embankments. The length of the main dam is 860 feet and the length of the earth embankment is 925 feet. The dam was built at a cost of K 4,460 million.

It can benefit

Also present on the occasion were local authorities, departmental officials, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigades and local people.

A local expressed gratitude for construction of the dam. The commander unveiled the stone plaque and the minister formally opened the dam.

Next, they viewed the main embankment, conduit, spillway and main canal.

At the briefing hall, Director U Tun Aung Lwin of Construction-3 of Irrigation Department reported on construction of the dam.

Pyaingchaung Dam was built on Pyaing Creek near Mindan Village of Kyauktaw Township. The embankment is 38 feet high and 925 feet long. The reinforced conduit, four feet wide, six feet high and 630 feet long, is installed with a pipeline to generate hydelpower. The spillway is 30 feet wide and 550 feet high.

(See page 10)



Commander Brig-Gen Maung Shein and Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo cut the ribbon to open Pyaingchaung Dam.— A&I

divisions. Of them, Pyaingchaung Dam is the 197th facility of its kind. He quoted the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe as saying that the present government is striving for development of political, economic, social and other sectors to enable the country to keep abreast of global nations and to ensure uplift of living standard of the people. As the government is focusing only on serving the long-term interests of the nation, efforts are being made for equitable development of all regions of the country and narrowing the development gap of the regions. The government, the people and the Tatmadaw need to join hands in actively taking part in national and economic development, uplift of social standard and

to farmers to extend cultivation of new item crops in the irrigated areas.

The commander continued to say that although Kyauktaw Township has an average annual rainfall of 190 inches, double cropping could not be undertaken in the region. With the emergence of Pyaingchaung Dam, 4,000 acres of summer paddy or 5,000 acres of farmland can be irrigated, while the surrounding areas of the dam can be supplied with electricity.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo made a speech saying that Pyaingchaung dam was opened successfully and it will contribute to boosting the agricultural production and greening tasks in the area. In addition, socio-economic life of the

recourses. Over 70 per cent of the nation's population reside in rural areas and their livelihood is agricultural production.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has given guidance on boosting agricultural production. As part of the ministry, arrangements



Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo. A&I

it can be grown in every region of the country. Therefore, all are to make efforts for growing more physic nut plants.

The newly opened

5,000 acres of farmland. The ministry will provide necessary assistance for boosting of agricultural production of the local farmers.



The new Pyaingchaung Dam in Kyauktaw Township.—A&I

Seinbudaw (Diamond orb) hoisted atop Thettha Pantaung Shwe Yin Aye Pagoda in Hlinethaya

YANGON, 31 March — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win attended the ceremony to consecrate the historic Thettha Pantaung Shwe Yin Aye Pagoda, to hoist Seinbudaw (Diamond orb) and to open the newly-built east stairway of the Pagoda at Kyonsu village of Shwelinban village-tract in Hlinethaya Township, Yangon North District this morning.

Firstly, the com-

mander, the chairman of Yangon North District PDC and the chairman of the Board of Trustees formally opened the east stairway.

Those present received the Nine Precepts from the Presiding Sayadaw Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Siri of Kwatthit Monastery. Next, the commander presented Seinbudaw and Hngetmyatnada (Jewelled vane) to the Sayadaw and offered provisions to the members of the Sangha.

Later, the

commander and responsible persons accepted K 16,720,000 donated by wellwishers for the construction of the Pagoda. Tutor Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññananda of State Pariyatti Sasana University delivered a sermon and the congregation shared the merits gained.

The commander and party hoisted Seinbudaw and Hngetmyatnada atop the Pagoda. The consecration ceremony of the Pagoda followed.

MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win fixes Hngetmyatnada (Jewelled vane) to Thettha Pantaung Shwe Yin Aye Pagoda .

MNA

Fifth Myanmar-Thai Health Cooperation Ministerial Meeting held

YANGON, 31 March — The Fifth Myanmar-Thai Health Cooperation Ministerial Meeting was held at Sedona Hotel here this evening, attended by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint and Thai Minister for Public Health Dr Mongkol Na Songkhla.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Ministers for Health Dr Mya Oo and Dr Paing Soe, directors-general, deputy directors-general, project managers, Resident Representative of WHO Professor Adik Wibowo and members of Thai delegation and Charge d'Affaires of the Thai Embassy Mr Prasasvinitchai.

At the meeting, they discussed drawing of the plan for cooperation in bird flu and prevention against infectious diseases at the border regions between Myanmar and Thailand.



Minister Dr Kyaw Myint meets Minister for Public Health Dr Mongkol Na Songkhla of Thailand.— HEALTH

The first Myanmar-Thai Health Ministerial Meeting was held in Tachilek of Myanmar and Meisai of Thailand in September 2001, the second in Kawthoung of Myanmar and Ranong of Thailand in February 2002, the third in Kengtung of Myanmar and Chiangrai of Thailand in 2003, the fourth in Yangon of Myanmar in September 2004 and the fifth and current meeting in Yangon in 2007.

MNA

MMA's specialists provide free medical care in Htantabin

YANGON, 31 March — A specialist team led by Dr Daw Khin Lay Gyi, chairperson of Myanmar Medical Association's Women Chapter, provided free medical care at Htantabin Township here this morning.

The team provided medical treatment to 334 patients. The chairman of Township PDC, health staff and members of social organizations assisted the team. The team supplied medicine

and pairs of glasses to the patients. — MNA



A specialist treats a patient in Htantabin Township.—MNA

Minister attends Diamond orb hoisting ceremony in Pyawbwe

NAY PYI TAW, 31 March — CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung together with officials attended the Seinbudaw hoisting ceremony of 42 encircling pagodas in conjunction with the opening ceremony of newly-built Shwelamin building at Phetaw village in Pyawbwe Township yesterday. The minister and wellwishers formally opened the ceremony and donated offertories to Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Paññasiri and members of the Sangha of Tatkon Ngwetaung Tawya Monastery.

Next, the minister and party attended the opening ceremony of earth road linking Thazi village, Htantabin village and Kyathonkhin village.

Later, the minister and party paid homage to the historic Minyama Pagoda in Pyawbwe and inspected progress of the renovation of the Pagoda and construction of Dhammayon. — MNA

Myanmar pilgrims leave for Pakistan

YANGON, 31 March — A 52-pilgrim

led by Sitagu Sayadaw Dr Ashin Ñanissara left here by air for Pakistan to visit Pagodas and religious buildings yesterday. They were seen off at the airport by Director-General Dr Myo Myint of Department for Propagation and Promotion of the Sasana, officials of Pakistani Embassy and laypersons.

MNA

Symposium on Conservation Methods and Techniques of Historical Buildings and Cultural Properties commences



Minister Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint addresses symposium on conservation methods and techniques of historical buildings and other cultural properties in ASEAN.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 31 March—The Symposium on Conservation Methods and Techniques of Historical Buildings and Other Cultural Properties in ASEAN, hosted by the Union of Myanmar, was opened at Bagan Hotel in Bagan Archaeological Region this morning.

ASEAN cultural heritage. Myanmar, an ASEAN nation, has a lot of cultural heritage. Hence, cooperation is to be promoted in the tasks of cultural exchange. Experts, researchers and observers of ASEAN countries may view preservation of cultural heritage in Bagan

countries posed for documentary photo.

Also present on the occasion were officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, deputy directors-general and rectors of departments and universities.

The first-day paper-reading session

commenced at the hotel at 11 am. Director-General U San Win of Archaeology, National Museum and Library Department and Secretary of Myanmar Historical Commission U Tun Aung Chein presided over the session.

Ms Loh Heng Nol of National Heritage Board of Heritage Conservation Centre of Singapore presented the paper on Conservation of Moveable Cultural Properties the ASEAN and replied to the queries raised by those present.

Senior Conservationist and Trainer Mr Hubertus Sadirin of Indonesia read the paper on Conservation of Archaeological and Historical Monuments in ASEAN and Director-General Dr Ba Maung of Historical Research Department on Preservation and Conservation of Archival Manuscripts in Myanmar, and answered the queries.

MNA

Pyaingchaung Dam commissioned into service...

(from page 8)

Afterwards, the commander and the minister inspected thriving summer paddy plantations near Sabarseik Village and fulfilled the requirements of the farmers.

Next, they viewed broadcasting of fertilizers and weeding at summer paddy plantations. Due to construction of Pyaingchaung Dam, over 1,000 acres of summer paddy can be supplied with irrigated facilities in three village-tracts of the township. In addition, local authorities and service personnel provide assistance for cultivation tasks to meet the target. — MNA

Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee meets

NAY PYI TAW, 31 March —The meeting (9/2007) of Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee took place at the office of Nay Pyi Taw Command yesterday afternoon with an address by Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander Brig-Gen Wai Lwin.

In his speech, the commander said measures will be taken for ensuring smooth and secure transport in Nay Pyi Taw region. Bus fares are to be collected in accord with the prescribed rules and regulations and action shall be taken against those who overcharge the passengers. He also stressed the need for free distribution of pamphlets and launch of video show on traffic rules at the video houses. The chairman of the committee explained matters related to taking action against those violating traffic rules and regulations and accidents. Later, the commander gave a concluding remark. — MNA

Myanmar Molecular and Diagnostic Centre launched

YANGON, 31 March —The Myanmar Molecular and Diagnostic Centre was opened at IHBC Centre on Bo Aung Kyaw Street, here, yesterday morning.

Dr Htin Lin extended greetings and Deputy Director Dr Win Thein of National Health Laboratory Division gave a speech.

General Manager Ms Sue Yap of Research Biolabs of Singapore and Principal Investigator Mr Masafumi Inoue of Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology of Singapore gave talks on advances in molecular technology and accurate diagnosis of flu A/B viral respiratory infection with H5N1 confirmation using X-map beads hybridization.

Viral load of hepatitis-B and C and HIV can be examined through real-time PCR technology at the centre within seven days. For further information, dial 374676 and 392919 (extension: 301). —MNA



In his address, Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint said that the symposium was held as part of implementing the conservation network of

region and enjoy the prevailing peace and tranquillity of Myanmar.

After the opening ceremony, the minister, heads of department and representatives of ASEAN

Minister Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, departmental heads and representatives of ASEAN pose for documentary photo.

MNA

Suction machine donation ceremony held in Tatkon

NAY PYI TAW, 31 March — Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (Central) presented suction machine for the labor room of Tatkon Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association to Township MCWA Chairperson Daw Khin Myo Myo Kyaw yesterday.

M M C W A (Central) Secretary Dr Daw Wai Wai Tha addressed

suction machine presentation ceremony. Daw Swe Swe Oo, wife of Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander, and MMCWA (Central) Executive Daw Htwe Htwe Nyunt explained the purpose of donation.

Chairperson Daw Khin Myo Myo Kyaw spoke words of thanks and the ceremony came to an end.

MNA



General Manager Ms Sue Yap of Research Biolabs, Singapore.—MNA

Sino-Russian rail freight up 11% in 2006

BEIJING, 31 March — The railway freight volume between China and Russia totalled 33.8 million tons in 2006, an increase of 11 per cent year on year, China's Ministry of Railways said here on Friday.

Manzhouli, the main crossing on the Sino-Russian border, put through 21 million tons of freight last year, including 32,683 containers, up 42 per cent year on year, the ministry said.

Trains from the two countries carried 6.2

million tons of freight in the first two months of 2007, up 17.5 per cent year on year, the ministry said without elaborating.

The surge is partly due to oil shipments, experts explained.

In 2006, railways carried 10.3 million tons

of crude oil between China and Russia, an increase of almost 30 per cent, according to the ministry.

MNA/Xinhua

People in masks dance during the start of the mask festival in Barva de Heredia, 30km (18 miles) from the capital San Jose, on 29 March, 2007. — INTERNET



Ash and steam rising from the Mount Etna volcano. Mount Etna, Europe's most active volcano, spouted a "fountain of lava" early Thursday before slipping back into its fitful slumber, a spokeswoman of Italy's vulcanology institute said. — INTERNET

Small screens easier to read with "Deepfish"

BEIJING, 30 March — Microsoft Corp unveiled a prototype web browser Wednesday that zooms into a page to make it easier to read and navigate on cellphone and other devices with limited screen space at the ETech conference in San Diego, Calif.

The browser is named Deepfish. It displays an image of the page as a point of reference, then users can highlight a section of the page to which they can then zoom in and out of quickly to view in detail.

"Think about your mobile browsing experience today," Gary William Flake, director of Microsoft Live Labs, said

in a written statement. "It's often less than intuitive, the pages don't look like what you've come to expect on the desktop and it takes a long time for a page to load. Deepfish aims to solve that problem."

Deepfish maintains the page layout, rather than reformatting it to fit a small screen, which can sometimes interfere with the context that information on those pages may require for proper understanding or ease of use. For example, menus and other navigation elements are sometimes rendered unusable when a web page is reformatted to fit a smaller screen.

The software also makes it faster to browse

the web on a mobile device, Flake said.

"On current mobile browsers, it can typically take up to a minute or more for a web page to render," he said, explaining that because Deepfish only loads the part of the page a user is interested in, it can make page-load times much faster. "Detailed information is only retrieved as needed or in the background."

The early version of the software, which Microsoft is calling a "technology preview," is available for download on a restricted basis through the company's Live Labs website. The software is compatible with Windows Mobile version 5 and higher. — Internet

At least 60 killed in boat capsized off Guinea

CONAKRY, 31 March — At least 60 people have been killed after a boat carrying around 120 passengers capsized off the coast of Guinea, state television in the West African country said on Thursday.

"It was a pirogue (open fishing boat) with 120 people on board which capsized. Thirty-six people survived," the television station said, broadcasting images of survivors being brought ashore.

A senior police official, who asked not to be named, said the accident happened late on Wednesday off the capital Conakry.

"When we were alerted we sent a rescue team to try to recover bodies. As of this morning, we had counted 57 bodies," the police officer told Reuters. — MNA/Reuters

As large sharks go away, scallops, clams follow

BEIJING, 30 March — A tremendous loss in the number of large predator sharks in the Atlantic Ocean during the past 10 years has left smaller species free to pig out on lower organisms in the food chain according to a study published in the journal *Science*.

With the large predators gone, smaller sharks and rays feast on lower organisms like scallops and clams, depleting valuable commercial stocks.

Ecologists worry this "trickle down" effect will seriously damage, if not destroy, the ocean ecosystem.

"Large sharks have been functionally eliminated from the East Coast of the US, meaning that they can no longer perform their ecosystem role as top predators," said study team member Julia Baum of Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Shark populations worldwide have plunged because of intentional fishing for their fins, which are eaten and used for medicines in Asia, and "bycatch," in which sharks are accidentally caught when fisherman go after other species.

The researchers looked at surveys of populations of 11 great shark species, conducted between 1970 and 2005. Every species had substantially declined in just those few decades. The smallest observed decline was in sandbar shark populations, which had decreased by 87 percent. Other species, including the bull, dusky and

smooth hammerhead sharks, may have declined by more than 99 per cent.

"They're all down dramatically," said study co-leader Charles Peterson of the University of North Carolina.

Two of the shark species studied have been Endangered Species Act candidates since 1997, but have yet to be added to the list, Baum said.

When one predator disappears from an ecosystem, others that eat the same prey usually take over and keep the balance of the ecosystem in check. But in this case, where not one, but all, of the top predators are rapidly disappearing, "you lose the resiliency and buffering capacity of one species to step in for another," Peterson told LiveScience.

The loss of top predators has a domino effect on the rest of the ecosystem; populations of lower-level predators, such as rays, skates and smaller sharks, aren't kept in check, allowing them to overeat and wipe out their own prey. The study looked in particular at cownose rays, which feed on bay scallops along the east coast as they migrate in the autumn. — Internet



Overfishing of powerful sharks — a top predator in the ocean — may endanger bay scallops, a gourmet delicacy. With fewer sharks to devour them, skates and rays have increased sharply along the East Coast and they are gobbling up shellfish, particularly bay scallops, researchers report in Friday's issue of the journal Science. — INTERNET

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Two Indonesians die of bird flu

JAKARTA, 30 March — Two more Indonesians have died of bird flu, a Health Ministry official said on Thursday, taking the country's confirmed human death toll from the H5N1 virus to 71, the highest in the world.

A 14-year-old boy from West Sumatra died on March 24 soon after being admitted to hospital in the city of Padang, Joko Suyono of the ministry's bird flu centre said by telephone.

"He was suffering from fever and respiratory problems," the official said. "Two weeks before, at least 10 of his neighbour's chickens died suddenly."

Suyono said the second victim was a 28-year-old woman from Jakarta who died on Wednesday at a hospital in the capital.

"We are still investigating whether she had had any contact with fowl before."

Indonesia agreed on Tuesday to resume sharing bird flu virus samples for research in exchange for a World Health Organization (WHO) pledge to restrict drug company access to them. — *MNA/Reuters*

Indonesia to continue to dominate Asian coal market

JAKARTA, 30 March — Indonesia will likely continue to dominate the Asian coal market at least until 2020, despite the government's policy of directing more coal supplies to the domestic market, an international coal business company has said.

In a report issued at an Asian coal conference held Tuesday in Jakarta, British-based trade publisher and consultant to the international coal business, McCloskey, said that with its massive coal reserves, Indonesia would be the only coal producer that could fulfil the expected surge in future coal demand in the region.

Coal demand in Asia

would continue to increase over the 13 years up to 2020 due to an increase in coal usage in most Asian countries, including India, China, and South Korea, McCloskey was quoted Wednesday by the *Jakarta Post* as saying.

India's coal imports were projected to increase by almost sixfold to 29 million tons this year from five million tons in 2006.

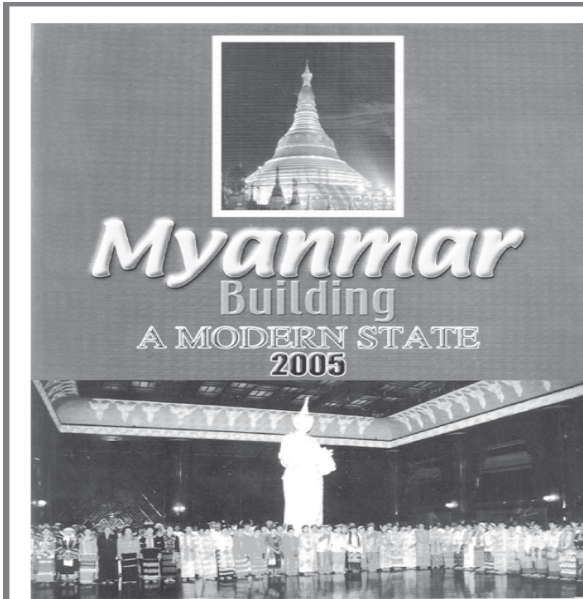
The opening of new power stations in South Korea would also drive demand, which is expected to increase to 64 million tons this year from only five million tons in 2006. Malaysia will also increase its imports to 14 million tons in 2007 from 1.5

million tons the year before.

McCloskey said that another important factor that would strengthen Indonesia's position as Asia's largest coal exporter, and which is believed to have estimated coal deposits of around 63 billion tons, was the fact that China, also one of world's major coal producers, would further cut its coal exports.

In order to be able to benefit from the opportunities, the Indonesian Government should strive to increase production by offering investors a more attractive mining policy, the company said.

MNA/Xinhua



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Studies: Smokers sick more often

BEIJING, 30 March — Two studies of more than 14,000 Swedish workers suggests employers who hire smokers should expect poorer-than-average performance and above-average sick leave time.

The researchers found that smokers took an average of 25 sick leave days a year, about 11 more than nonsmokers, according to a report in the April issue of *Tobacco Control*.

The unexpected factor was sickness is only one of the reasons smokers ask for more time off, its author said.

"I found that health problems accounted for about two days and something," said researcher Dr Petter Lundborg, assistant professor of economics at the Free University in Amsterdam, the

Netherlands. "The remaining eight days are probably explained by something other than health."

There are a number of possible explanations for the difference, he said. "Smokers tend to have lower income and be less educated," Lundborg said. "Then, there might be personal characteristics that we can't observe."

Studies have shown smokers tend to have riskier jobs than nonsmokers, he added. "And they might simply take more leisure days through the sick leave system," Lundborg said.

The Swedish data covered the years from 1988 to 1991. But Lundborg stressed what's true in Sweden might not necessarily be true in the United States.

"In Sweden, the state was paying for all sick leave, giving 80 percent of income," Lundborg said. "I'm not sure about the American system. But the basic point is probably the same, since smokers are different from nonsmokers in many ways."

Another report in the same journal found

significantly worse on-the-job performance by female smokers enlisting in the US Navy compared to nonsmokers.

The study by Terry Conway, professor of psychology at San Diego State University, looked at the records of almost 5,500 women who entered the Navy in 1996 and 1997. — *Internet*



Pieces of ice, broken off from the Perito Moreno glacier, float in the Lago Argentino, in Patagonia, near the city of El Calafate, southern Argentina, on 29 March, 2007. — INTERNET

Singapore, Indonesia conclude third round of boundary talks

SINGAPORE, 30 March — Singapore and Indonesia concluded the third round of technical discussions on maritime boundaries here Thursday by making "further progress", a joint statement said.

In the two-day talks, the two delegations had friendly and fruitful discussions and further progress was made in the on-going work, said the statement. The two sides reached agreement on a number of technical matters

for the delimitation exercise, and also presented their views on the principles of delimitation to be used in territorial sea boundary delimitation, the statement said.

The Singapore delegation reiterated the position that Singapore's reclamation would not be a factor in the boundary negotiation with Indonesia.

Some Indonesian officials recently ascribed Indonesia's ban on sand export to unfavourable

negotiations with Singapore on extradition treaty, the defence cooperation and boundary demarcation, but the Indonesian Government denied.

In mid of this month, Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said he accepted the official explanations from Indonesia that banning the sale of sand was out of consideration for the environment and that it had nothing to do with other issues.

MNA/Xinhua

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WHO says health threats related to international security

MANILA, 30 March — Rising threats to public health such as bird flu could place international security in peril, the World Health Organization (WHO) said here on Friday, one week before the World Health Day on 7 April.

The international community has yet to adopt a global health response to disease outbreaks and other health-related concerns, WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific Shigeru Omi said in a press statement.

“Health and international security are closely intertwined. A

danger in one country can present a risk to communities on the other side of the world,” said Shigeru Omi.

All countries should continue building up their common capacity to prevent, detect, report and respond to these threats, the WHO official said as he added that this year’s theme for World Health Day is international health security with the message “invest in health, build a safer future”.

He said rich nations have to do more to help poor nations address health risks, particularly of the Western Pacific, which has been the most

affected by disease outbreaks and natural disasters among the six WHO regions.

In recent years, the Western Pacific Region has endured challenges from SARS and bird flu to volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, landslides, floods and typhoons, according to Shigeru-Omi.

Xinhua



Kosuke Kitajima (C) of Japan swims to win the men’s 200m breaststroke swimming final at the World Aquatics Championship in Melbourne on 30 March, 2007. — INTERNET

FDA approves new treatment for prostate cancer

BEIJING, 30 March — Although the evidence of prolonged longevity is slight, the US Food and Drug Administration on Thursday ruled a new immune system treatment for advanced prostate cancer is safe and effective enough to be sold.



Although the evidence of prolonged longevity is slight, the US Food and Drug Administration on Thursday ruled a new immune system treatment for advanced prostate cancer is safe and effective enough to be sold. — INTERNET

Many experts said they were uneasy about backing Provenge, a vaccine-like treatment, because it showed only slight evidence it prolongs the lives of men with the disease. But most agreed to recommend approval anyway because of the scant options available to patients, many of whom are facing a terminal illness.

“I wish we all could have voted ‘maybe’ on this, but I don’t think we can,” said Farshid Guilak, Ph.D., a professor of surgery at Duke University who was a

member of the panel.

Biotech firm Dendreon Corp makes Provenge and claims the treatment is the first cellular therapy against cancer. To undergo treatment, patients have immune cells removed and treated with immune agents.

The cells are then reintroduced into the body with chemical programming that, in theory, allows them to mount an immune response against cancer cells.

Men with advanced prostate cancer often undergo hormone treatment used to block the action of testosterone and related hormones. The treatment can cause disturbing side effects, including breast enlargement and sexual dysfunction.

A pair of studies suggested Provenge may slow by one to two weeks the progression of prostate cancer in men who have cancer that does not respond to hormone treatment. Men who used the treatment also showed some evidence of living longer than those who took a placebo. In one trial, men who got active treatment lived an average of 3.3 months longer. In another, they lived four and a half months longer.

Experts criticized the studies for enrolling only roughly 100 to 130 patients, a relatively small number that can limit scientists’ ability to interpret results.

Internet

UN recommends male circumcision to prevent HIV

GENEVA, 30 March — The United Nations on Wednesday endorsed male circumcision as a way to prevent HIV infections in heterosexual men and said it should be made more easily available in African countries.

Two UN agencies, the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNAIDS, backed recent research showing that removing the foreskin of the penis can more than halve men’s vulnerability to the virus causing AIDS from having sex with HIV-infected women.

They said that countries with high rates of heterosexual HIV should urgently improve access to male circumcision, giving priority to sexually active young men, while continuing to promote condom use and encourage regular testing.

“These recommendations represent a significant step forward in HIV prevention,” said Kevin de Cock, the WHO’s director for HIV/AIDS programmes, pointing to big potential gains in places where male

circumcision is rarely practised.

“Scaling up male circumcision in such countries will result in immediate benefit to individuals. However, it will be a number of years before we can expect to see an impact on the epidemic,” he said.

Of the 40 million people worldwide infected with the human immunodeficiency virus, 25 million live in sub-Saharan Africa, where the disease is spread mostly through heterosexual sex.

The WHO and UNAIDS said increasing male circumcisions could prevent 5.7 million sub-Saharan African men from contracting HIV over the next two decades, and save 3 million lives.

MNA/Reuters

Research shows arthritis pain processed in brain

LONDON, 30 March — British researchers have discovered that arthritis pain, unlike that induced as part of an experiment, is processed in the parts of the brain concerned with emotions and fear.

A research team at The University of Manchester led by Bhavna Kulkarni has captured the first images of how the brain processes arthritis pain, using positron emission tomography (PET) scanners, science news website AlphaGalileo reported on Friday.

Previous neuro-imaging studies show that experimentally-induced pain is processed in at least two brain networks, collectively known as the



British researchers have discovered that arthritis pain, unlike that induced as part of an experiment, is processed in the parts of the brain concerned with emotions and fear. — INTERNET

‘pain matrix’, with the ‘medial pain system’ processing the emotional aspects such as pain’s unpleasantness and the ‘lateral pain system’ processing the pain’s intensity, location and duration.

This suggests that arthritic pain has more emotional salience than experimental pain for these patients, which is consistent with the unpleasantness scores they themselves gave, Kulkarni said. The finding that both

experimental and arthritic pains activate the medial and lateral pain systems suggests that there isn’t a unique brain network for processing arthritic pain, according to project supervisor Anthony Jones.

The study has demonstrated the importance of the medial pain system during the experience of arthritic pain, suggesting it would be a good target for both new analgesics and non-pharmacological interventions. — Internet

SPORTS

Scot Gallacher hits front in Portugal

CASCAIS (Portugal), 31 March — Britain's Stephen Gallacher showed he was over his back problems by taking a one-shot lead over Japan's Taichi Teshima early in the Portuguese Open second round on Friday.

The 32-year-old Scot, nephew of former Ryder Cup captain Bernard Gallacher, birdied two of the last three holes to finish on three-under 139 at Oitavos.

Even though the strong winds of the previous day abated and European Tour officials risked cutting the greens for the first time since Tuesday, scoring stayed high and Gallacher's 71 was one of the better early returns. After winning the 2004 Dunhill Links Championship and finishing 15th on the European money list, his results slumped because of his back injury.

However, sessions with Australian Institute of Sport physio Ramsey McMaster, a fellow Scot, and fitness programmes have helped salvage Gallacher's career.

MNA/Reuters



Diego Armando Maradona, 46, the Argentine soccer star of the 1980s, was tranquilized on Thursday 29 March, 2007 in the clinic where he was interned on Wednesday, in Buenos Aires, his personal doctor, Alfredo Cahe, told local radio. — XINHUA

Maradona tries to leave hospital

BUENOS AIRES, 31 March — Argentine soccer great Diego Maradona tried to check himself out of a Buenos Aires hospital just hours after he fell ill from excessive eating, drinking and smoking, his doctor said on Thursday.

The 46-year-old has battled cocaine addiction in the past and he had a stomach-stapling operation in 2005. That helped him shed about 66 pounds (30-kilo), but he has appeared overweight in recent pictures.

Maradona's personal physician Dr. Alfredo Cahe said family problems had triggered his patient's latest health crisis, and that the soccer star had tried to check himself out of hospital in the early morning.

"He woke up at 2.30 am and he

insulted me, he didn't want to be there. They sedated him again and he fell asleep," Cahe told a local radio station.

"Diego was feeling pretty down because of family problems, which I'm not going to go into. He had some serious things that he couldn't deal with and that had got him depressed," the doctor added.

Journalists and television cameras gathered outside the Guemes Hospital after Maradona was admitted late on Wednesday.

A hospital statement said his condition was not due to drug addiction, but his return to a hospital was a reminder of the repeated health problems — many of them drug-related — he has faced since retiring from the game in 1997.

MNA/Reuters



Ryuji Imada of Japan hits a shot from the number two tee box during the second round of the Houston Open golf tournament on 30 March, 2007. — INTERNET

Lane falls foul of Oitavos again

CASCAIS (Portugal), 31 March — Barry Lane's hopes of taking his revenge on the Oitavos course suffered a setback on Friday when his lead in the Estoril Portuguese Open disappeared in a flurry of late dropped shots.

The 46-year-old Briton was hauled back to two-over-par 144 at the halfway stage, three strokes behind clubhouse leaders Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano of Spain and Martin Kaymer of Germany. Lane did not quite descend to a five-over par nine as he had at the Cascais course in 2005 to lose the tournament on the 72nd hole, but the Englishman crashed six-over for his last six holes to card a four-over 75.

He had taken the lead just before his late slump but then included a double-bogey and four bogeys as he tangled with the dense heathland. — MNA/Reuters



David Beckham (L) holds his award as Arsenal's French striker Thierry Henry watches at the 2007 Sport Industry Awards in London on 29 March, 2007. — XINHUA

Loeb takes lead in Portuguese rally

LISBON, 31 March — Citroen's triple champion Sebastien Loeb edged ahead in the Portuguese Rally after winning the last two stages of the first day on Friday.

The Frenchman overtook early leader Marcus Gronholm of Finland, who had lost time with a shock absorber problem in the third stage.

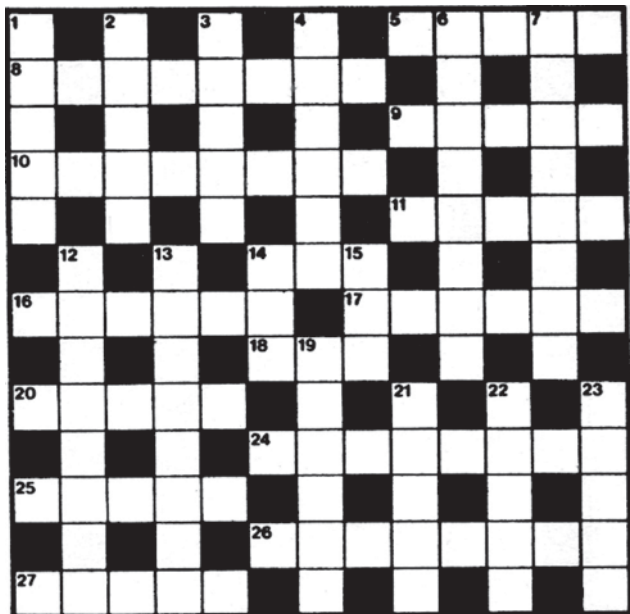
At the end of the day, Loeb, winner of the previous rally in Mexico earlier this month, was 3.1 seconds ahead of the Finn who leads the championship.

Gronholm's Ford teammate and compatriot Mikko Hirvonen is third, 25.3 seconds off the lead.

The Portuguese Rally is back on the world championship stage after a six-year absence.

MNA/Reuters

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 5 Past tense of "will"
- 8 Residue of planing
- 9 Happen
- 10 Attractive
- 11 Decree
- 14 River at Tintern
- 16 Pontius —
- 17 Sex
- 18 Entreat
- 20 Convenient
- 24 Alienate
- 25 Flower
- 26 Determined
- 27 Stage-whisper

DOWN

- 1 Awry
- 2 Canal-boat
- 3 Lament
- 4 Employment bureau
- 6 West
- 7 Set going
- 12 Wonders
- 13 Innkeeper
- 14 Fine network of threads
- 15 Incite
- 19 Christian festival
- 21 Mistake
- 22 Cancel
- 23 Cut

Beckham backs England to qualify for Euro 2008

LONDON, 31 March — Former captain David Beckham has backed England to qualify for Euro 2008 despite slipping to fourth in their group amid a wave of criticism for coach Steve McClaren. Beckham, currently injured but axed by England since McClaren took charge after the World Cup, also made it clear he would jump at the chance to return to a side who trail Israel, Russia and leaders Croatia in Group E.

"Qualification is going to be very difficult, but I'm 100 per cent behind these players and this team — and I believe they will go all the way and they will

qualify," he told the BBC.

"With the quality we've got in the team, we'll do it."

Booed loudly by the travelling fans at halftime, England laboured to a 3-0 win over Andorra in Barcelona on Wednesday after two-goal Steven Gerrard broke the deadlock in the second half.

"It was an important win, we needed to get three points and we did that," Beckham told Reuters after picking up an award for Outstanding Contribution to British Sport late on Thursday. "I was proud to see the way the players were fighting...it wasn't an easy

game, it wasn't an easy atmosphere. When you need a win, you need big players to come out and do it for you and we had that." — MNA/Reuters

South Korea's Kim Mi-hyun tees off on the 11th hole at the LPGA Kraft Nabisco Championship golf tournament in Rancho Mirage, California on 29 March, 2007. INTERNET



Peter Crouch grabbed a hat-trick to give Liverpool revenge

LONDON, 31 March — After missing England's Euro 2008 qualifying double-header over the past week, Peter Crouch grabbed a hat-trick to give Liverpool revenge for the three defeats Arsenal had inflicted on them this season.

The 4-1 victory sends the Reds above the Gunners into third spot in the Premiership and Crouch did his England cause no harm with a fine trio — two in the first half and a quality finish for his third after the break.

His recovery from a broken nose kept him out of Steve McClaren's plans against Israel and Andorra. How the England boss could have done with Crouch in Tel Aviv and Barcelona.

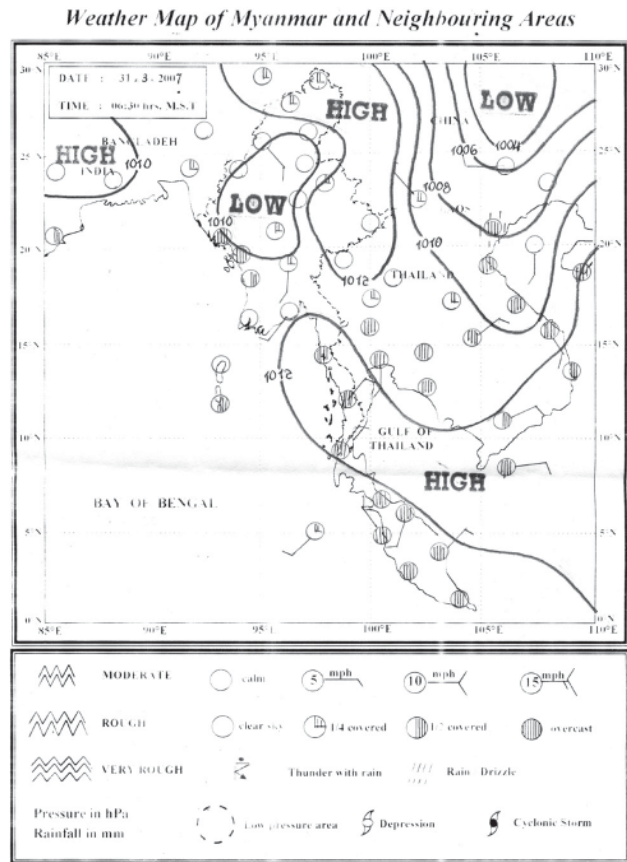
Daniel Agger scored Liverpool's other goal, but a William Gallas effort for Arsenal failed to destroy the feelgood factor at Anfield as new American owners Tom Hicks and George Gillett watched from the directors' box.

Boss Rafael Benitez made five changes from the side who drew at Aston Villa a fortnight ago, with Craig Bellamy out with an injured side sustained while playing for Wales in midweek.

And as the debate still rages over Steven Gerrard's best position, he found himself playing an attacking midfield role behind Crouch. — Internet



Liverpool's Daniel Agger, centre left, jumps to score his side's third goal against Arsenal during their English Premier League soccer match at Anfield Stadium, Liverpool, England, on Saturday 31 March, 2007. Liverpool won the match 4-1. — INTERNET



WEATHER

Saturday, 31 March, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Day temperatures were (5°C) above normal in Kachin State, Ayeyawady Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Shan, Chin and Kayin States, lower Sagaing, Magway, Bago and Yangon Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Minbu (43°C), Nay Pyi Taw, Monywa, Mandalay, NyaungU and Magway (42°C) each, Pakokku and Sagaing (41°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 30-3-2007 was 104°F. Minimum temperature on 31-3-2007 was 77°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 31-3-2007 was 71%. Total sunshine hours on 30-3-2007 was (8.7) hours approx.

Rainfall on 31-3-2007 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 (5) mph from Southwest at (16:30) hours MST on 30-3-2007.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 1-4-2007: Possible of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Mon State and Taninthayi Division and weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Possibility of isolated light rain or thundershowers in the Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 1-4-2007: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 1-4-2007: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 1-4-2007: Fair weather.

Premiership

31 March, 2007

- Liverpool 4-1 Arsenal
- Bolton 1-0 Sheff Utd
- Charlton 1-0 Wigan
- Fulham 1-1 Portsmouth
- Man Utd 4-1 Blackburn
- Newcastle 0-1 Man City
- Watford 0-1 Chelsea
- West Ham 2-0 Middlesbrough

Internet

Asleep in Jesus
Rev. Lahpai Zau Yaw (91)
 Son of the late Pangmu Duwa Rev Lahpai Zau Tu and Sarama Nanzing Hka Jan, beloved husband of the late Sarama Maran Nang Hseng, father of Rev L Hkun Gam-Daw Ah Nang, L Hkun Nawng-Daw Khin Pyone Khaing, L Zau La-(Daw Nang Koi), L Zau Shan-Daw Hkawng Nan, L Zau Goone-Daw Nang Hkam, Rev L Zau Ya-Daw Ja Seng, Sarama L Seng Bu-(U Ayen Mai), (Dr L Zau Ba)-Daw Lu Ja, grand and great-grand-father of 38 grand-children and 15 great-grand-children fell asleep in Jesus at 5 pm on 29th March 2007 at his residence at Kutkai. Funeral Service will be held at Sword Memorial Baptist Church, Kutkai on Monday 2nd April 2007.
Bereaved family

Sunday, 1 April
View on today

7:00 am

- ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်း ဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ့မဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်ပုံ၊ အဘိဓမ္မဟာရဋ္ဌဂုဏ်၊ အဘိဓမ္မဟာရသဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော်ဘုရားတော်
- တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ အဂ္ဂမဟာပဏ္ဍိတ၊ ဘဒ္ဒန္တသီရိဇ္ဇာဘိဝံသ (ယောဆရာတော်) ဟောကြားတော်မူအပ်သော ဥပ္ပါတသန္တိပါဠိတော်

7:25 am

- To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

- Morning news

7:40 am

- Nice and sweet song

7:55 am

- ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ (၃၈)ဖြာ မင်္ဂလာ

8:15 am

- အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:30 am

- International news

8:45 am

- Say it in English

11:00 am

- Martial song

11:15 am

- Musical programme

11:25 am

- Round up of the week's international news

11:40 am

- Yan Can Cook

11:55 am

- Myanmar Movie: "ကညာပျိုနဲ့ဇရာအို" (ကောလိပ်ဂျင်နေဝင်း၊ ကျော်ဟိန်း၊ ခင်သန်းနု၊ စံရှားတင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဘိတ်ကလာတိုင်ပြာရည်)

2:00 pm

- နိုင်ငံစီးပွားအလေးထား ကျေးလက်ထုတ်ကုန်များ (ကျောက်ကလပ်မှ မျှင်ငပိနှင့် ငပြာရည်လုပ်ငန်း)

2:10 pm

- အရေးပြိုင်ပွဲ

2:20 pm

- "အန္တရာယ်ဆိုတာ လက်တစ်ကမ်းမှာ" (စိုးသူ၊ နန်းကလျာလှိုင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-စောစန္ဒာလှိုင်)

2:25 pm

- တိပိဋကသာသနာ့အာဇာနည်ပေါ်ထွန်းစေဖို့ရည်

2:45 pm

- International news

4:00 pm

- Martial song

4:15 pm

- Song to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

- English for everyday use

4:45 pm

- သာယာချိုအေး (၃၈)ဖြာ မင်္ဂလာ

5:00 pm

- အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေးရပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ -ပထမနှစ် (သတ္တဗေဒအထူးပြု) (သတ္တဗေဒ)

5:15 pm

- Dance of national races

5:30 pm

- Sing and enjoy

6:00 pm

- Evening news

6:30 pm

- Weather report

6:35 pm

- သီရိဇောဟာ

7:00 pm

- သာဓုခေါ်ဆိုဖွယ်ရာ အလင်းအလှူတော်မင်္ဂလာ

7:15 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "သမားတော်" (အပိုင်း-၁၅)

8:00 pm

- News

8:30 pm

- International news

8:45 pm

- Weather report

9:00 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်ပန်းနင်းဆီ" (အပိုင်း-၆)

9:15 pm

- မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး ဦးပိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ အရပ် ဆယ်မျက်နှာ မေတ္တာဘာဝနာ ပွားများခြင်း တရားတော်

9:30 pm

- The next day's programme

Sunday, 1 April
Tune in today

8:30 am Brief news

8:35 am Music: -Simple thing ...Amy Grant

8:40 am Perspectives

8:45 am Music: -Handing on a string ...C21

8:50 am National news & Slogan

9:00 am Music: -Words to me ... Sugar Ray

9:05 am International news

9:10 am Cultural images of Myanmar -Loaded ...Riky Martin

9:20 am Music: -Road tripping... Red hot chili peppers

1:30 pm News & Slogan

1:40 pm Children's Delight (Story)

1:50 pm Songs for children

9:00 pm Weekly news review

9:10 pm Article

9:20 pm Music/LIETS -April love ... Pat Boone -Come early morning... Don Williams

9:45 pm News & Slogan

10:00 pm PEL

*R 489 Published by the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information, Union of Myanmar. Edited and printed at The New Light of Myanmar Press, No 22/30 Strand Road at 43rd Street, Yangon. Cable Newlight, PO Box No. 43, Telephones: Editors 392308, Manager 392226, Circulation 392304, Advertisement 392223, Accounts 392224, Administration 392225, Production/Press 297028

Industry-1 Minister visits factories in Bago Division

YANGON, 31 March — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung together with officials arrived at 80-ton brown paper factory and 50-ton pulp factory project (Yeni) of Myanmar Paper and Chemical Industries near Yeni No 2 Paper Factory in Yedashe Township, Bago Division, this morning.

At the briefing hall, the minister heard reports on progress of construction and arrival of machines presented by Managing Director U Nyunt Aung of Myanmar

Paper and Chemical Industries and inspected machines to be installed in the factory.

The minister also inspected construction tasks at the work site and called for completion of the project in time.

Later, the minister accompanied by Myanma Foodstuff Industries Managing Director U Thaik Tun visited DaikU Tapioca Powder Factory in Bago Division. The factory manager reported on cultivation of tapioca, reclamation of land and production of

glucose. The minister then gave necessary instructions.

In the morning, a ceremony to choose lucky draw winners and give a feast in charity was held at the ministry, Nay Pyi Taw.

Minister U Aung Thaung, wife and guests chose winners. Next, the minister and departmental heads visited the feast.

The minister and party inspected sales of foodstuff, textiles, steelware and medicines. Later, the minister and party viewed entertainment. — MNA



Minister U Aung Thaung inspects products being sold at ceremony to choose lucky draw winners. — INDUSTRY-1

Those from US embassy and British embassy visit NLD (HQ) daily They visited NLD (HQ) 29 times in March 2007

NLD (HQ) pushing the entire national people into foreign subjugation or under yoke of colonialists without taking part in nation-building endeavours

YANGON, 31 March — The acts of National League for Democracy (Headquarters) stood witness that they are pushing the entire national people into foreign subjugation or under the yoke of colonialists relying too much on foreign nations especially western powers, instead of participating in the process of

building a peaceful, modern and developed nation doing their bit hand in hand with the government putting in the fore the attitudes of the party members and the Myanmar people.

There has been a widespread criticism that the NLD (Headquarters) has been making an attempt to harm the interest of the State and the

people, making contact with the US embassy and British embassy in Yangon and following the instructions of the two embassies. In this regard, the people are exercising a constant vigil against the activities of the NLD (Headquarters).

It has already been stated that those from the two embassies visited

the NLD (Headquarters) on West Shwegondine Road 34 times in January and 18 times in February.

In March, those from the two embassies visited the NLD (Headquarters) 29 times, holding discussions with the NLD's CEC members and sending parcels and letters to them.

MNA

Tatmadaw Park to open until 5 April

NAY PYI TAW, 31 March — The Tatmadaw Park in Nay Pyi Taw Parade Ground where the 62nd Anniversary Armed Forces Day parade took place will be kept open for public until 5 April from 7 am to 9 pm daily. — MNA

INSIDE

Shan State, which represents the right petal of the flower of Myanmar, has an area of 60,155 square miles and is located in the eastern part of Myanmar. It is like a small union, a home to many national races living in harmony.

PAGE 7

YADANASI SAYADAW (LOILEM)

WEATHER

Forecast for (1-4-2007)

Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas

Fair weather.

Yangon and neighbouring areas

Fair weather.

Mandalay and neighbouring areas

Fair weather.