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Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Peasantry have to elect representatives capable of building peaceful, modern, developed nation and exercising democracy correctly

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March—*The following is a translation of the message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe on the occasion of the Peasants Day (2010).*

Esteemed peasantry,

The Union of Myanmar has been traditionally engaged in agricultural farming since the times of our forefathers to fulfil the basic needs of food and clothing of its people. As a gesture of honouring the role of the peasantry, the Peasants Day is designated in the Union of Myanmar. On this auspicious occasion of the Peasants Day (2010), I wish you the peasantry physical and mental well-being and greater success in the agricultural farming.

In its bid to shape the nation into a peaceful, modern and developed one, the State Peace and De-

velopment Council is well convinced that only when the living conditions of the peasantry have improved, will it be possible for the whole nation to enjoy economic growth. Therefore, "Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well" is the highest in the economic objectives of the State.

In addition, the council has been working hard for ensuring better transport, supply of adequate irrigation water and potable water, improvement of education standard, better health care, and rural economic development in pursuance of the Rural De-

velopment Project designed for greater development of rural areas, home to the peasantry.

In order to scale up the development momentum of the agricultural sector, the government has given assistance in various sectors and taken measures such as reclamation of vacant lands, providing advanced agricultural methods and fertilizers for boosting per acre yields of crops, supply of irrigation water to launch mixed- and multiple-cropping patterns, and designating the 10 major crops of the nation.

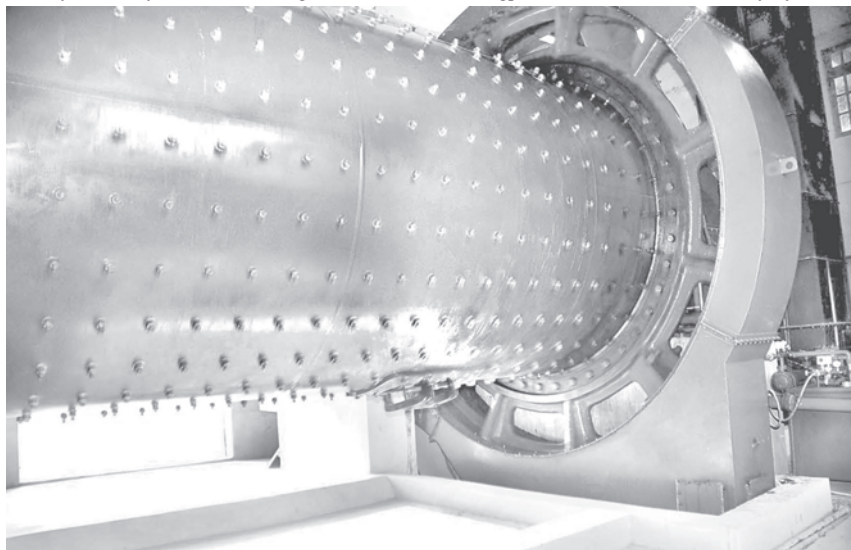
(See page 8)

Cement Plant (Nay Pyi Taw) inaugurated

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March—In its bid to fulfill domestic cement demand, Myanma Ceramic Industries of Ministry of Industry-1 has been working to establish more

Cement plants in the country. Today, it inaugurated Cement Plant (Nay Pyi Taw) which is located near Taungphila limestone mountain in Nay Pyi Taw Lewe

Township. Prime Minister General Thein Sein attended the opening of the plant. The Prime Minister together with (See page 8)



Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects Cement Plant (Nay Pyi Taw).—MNA

HONOURING THE PEASANTS DAY



PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 2 March 2010

Peasantry to boost agricultural production

The Peasants Day (2010) falls on the 2nd of March 2010 (today).

In pursuit of the goal of building a peaceful, modern and developed nation, the government focuses special attention on the drive for improving the living status of the people.

In the process, the government is trying its best for extensive reclamation of fallow lands and speeding up utilization of farmlands by harnessing the natural resources in the most efficient way. Furthermore, it has placed greater emphasis on boosting agricultural production for food security, one of the basic needs of the people.

From 1988 to 2008-2009, the nation's total sown acreage rose from 19.9 million to 29.32 million; utilization of farmlands, to 56.9 million acres; and the output of paddy, the staple food, from 631 million to 1561 million baskets.

The dams, river pumping stations and underground water tapping stations the government has constructed across the nation for supply of irrigation water benefit more than 3.6 million acres of farmlands.

With development in the agricultural sector, the government is boosting production of agricultural machinery and tools to transform the nation from conventional to mechanized farming. In order to expedite the drive, it not only manufactures tractors, combine harvesters, and winnowers but also provides agricultural equipment that can be used in combination with tractors, along with ploughs, harrows, paddy reapers and trailers.

Therefore, agricultural machinery should be operated at full capacity in order that farmers can save time and energy and boost agricultural production all the more.

MANA's annual meeting on 19 March

YANGON, 1 March — Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association will hold its 11th annual meeting at its head office on Kyundaw Street in Kamayut Township here at 8 a.m. on 19 March.

Chairmen of state/division MANAs are invited to attend the meeting in person.—MNA

Strong wind warning

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March — From now on till May, day temperatures will rise significantly. So, cloudy skies will be formed in the afternoon and in the evening, causing occasional strong winds. While strong winds blow, ground winds can be at 35 to 40 mph. Heavy rain with hailstones are likely to be isolated in some areas, Hydrology and Meteorology Department announced.

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

Sayawun Tin Shwe Literary Award winners awarded

YANGON, 1 March—A ceremony to award winners of Sayawun Tin Shwe Literary Contest organized by Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association was held at Traders Hotel here today. Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan graced the prize presentation ceremony.

Winners of this year also the eighth year Sayawun Tin Shwe Literary Award are U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin), Chit Oo Nyo, Dr Aung Gyi and Maung Yint Mar (Kyaunggon).

After the ceremony, the minister posed for documentary photos with literary award winners.

MNA

Minister
Brig-
Gen
Kyaw
Hsan
presents
prize to a
winner
of
Sayawun
Tin
Shwe
Literary
Award.

MNA



MWJA Chairman U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) accepts cash donation of Daw Aye Thant, wife of Sayawun Tin Shwe.—MNA



Six special appeal cases heard

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March—The Special Appellate Bench comprising Deputy Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (Mandalay) U Khin Maung Latt, Supreme Court Judges of the Supreme Court (Mandalay) U Myint Aung and U Sein Hlaing sitting at court room No.1 of the Supreme Court (Nay Pyi Taw) delivered judgment of one special criminal appeal case. And then heard six special civil appeal cases under section 7 of the Judiciary Law, 2000, on 1 March 2010.—MNA

Chess masters congratulated

YANGON, 1 March—Prizes were presented to winners of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman's Trophy Inter-Division Chess Tournament 2010 at Aung San Gymnasium on 27 February.

General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik, General Secretary of Myanmar Women's Sports Federation Central Work Committee Daw L Khun Yi and officials awarded the winners in individual and team competitions.

In the tournament, Zaw Win Lay emerged champion in the singles event, and Dagon Myothit (North) Township stood first in the team event.

MNA

Pyuntaza Association (Yangon) meets

YANGON, 1 March—Pyuntaza Association (Yangon) held the 52nd Annual General Meeting, the respect-paying ceremony and the prize presentation for outstanding students at the Dhammayon of the Ministry of Transport in Dagon Township, here, on 21 February. The patron and the chairman of the association made speeches.

Next, the report of the executive committee and the financial statement were submitted to the meeting. Those present paid respects to elder persons. Responsible persons presented prizes to outstanding students for 2009 matriculation examination.

A new executive committee was elected for 2010-2011. Later, the new chairman of the association extended greetings.—MNA

Beware of Fire



Chileans gather belongings at destroyed buildings in Santiago, Chile, on 28 Feb, 2010. More than 300 people have been killed in Chile after a 8.8-magnitude megaquake hit the country on Saturday, the national emergency office said. — XINHUA

Chile President steps up quake rescue

SANTIAGO, 1 March — Chilean President Michelle Bachelet has announced emergency measures to deal with the destruction caused by Saturday's massive earthquake.

The 8.8 magnitude quake — one of the most powerful recorded — devastated central parts of the country, killing more than 700 people.

Troops are being deployed to help with rescue efforts and prevent looting.

A curfew is in force in

some areas. Basic supplies are to be distributed as rescuers reach worst-hit areas.

"We face a catastrophe of such unthinkable magnitude that it will require a giant effort," Ms Bachelet told reporters on Sunday in the capital, Santiago.

The curfew, which began at 2100 local time (2400 GMT), applies in the region of Maule — where more than 541 are confirmed dead — and in Concepcion, Chile's sec-

ond city. Both areas are being placed under special rules to speed up the delivery of aid.

The army has been sent to support police to prevent unrest in Concepcion, south of Santiago.

The mayor has said food is running out and the situation in the city is getting out of control. Supermarkets and chemists have been looted and thousands of people remain homeless.

Internet

11 civilians killed as roadside bomb struck minibus in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 1 March — Nearly a dozen non-combatants were killed in Taliban hotbed Helmand Province in south Afghanistan as roadside bomb struck a civilian vehicle on Sunday afternoon, spokesman for provincial administration

Daud Ahmadi said.

"It occurred at 2:30 pm when a mini-bus ran over a mine planted by militants on a road in Nawzad District. As a result, 11 innocent civilians, including two children and two women, were killed," Ahmadi told *Xinhua*.

He put the attack on the "enemies of peace," a term used against Taliban militants, but the

outfit has yet to make comment.

The bloody incident occurred while a military offensive has been going on against Taliban bastion in the neighbouring Marja district since 13 Feb.

To slow down the military onslaught, Taliban fighters rely on roadside bombings which often claim civilians' lives.

Xinhua

Suicide attack against NATO convoy kills four Afghan civilians

KANDAHAR, 1 March — A suicide bomber attacked a convoy of NATO-led troops in Taliban birthplace Kandahar, south of Afghanistan killing four passersby on Monday, Interior Ministry said in a Press release.

"The attack occurred at 07:30 am local time today on a road in Daman District when a convoy of NATO-led forces was passing but it claimed the lives of four innocent citizens and injured another," the Press release added.

It also said that the suicide bomber exploded his explosive-laden car against the troops, harming civilians.

The Press release did not say if there were any casualties on the troops.

NATO-led troops have yet to make comment.

Xinhua

Two killed in car bombing in western Iraq

RAMADI, 1 March — Two people were killed and three others injured in a car bomb explosion near a convoy of vehicles carrying out election campaign in a town in western Iraqi province of Anbar on Sunday, a provincial police source said.

The blast targeted the elections campaign of Ashur al-Karbouli, a Sunni candidate for the al-Iraqia List, in the town of Khadiyah, some 80 km west of Baghdad, the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

Karbouli, who is also a member of Anbar provincial council, was not at the convoy when the attack occurred, the source said.

The Iraqia List is a mixed Sunni and Shiite secular bloc, headed by the former Prime Minister Ayad Allawi. The bloc is scheduled to run in the country's crucial parliamentary election slated for 7 March. — *Xinhua*



Jacques Rogge (C), President of International Olympic Committee (IOC), shows the IOC flag during the closing ceremony of the 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver's BC Place, Canada on 28 Feb, 2010. — XINHUA



US family killed in Belize plane crash

BELIZE CITY, 1 March — Authorities in Belize have identified the victims of a small-plane crash as a family from Albany, New York, and a prominent Belizean businessman.

Police Sgt Leslie Logan says Michael and Jill Casey and their two young children died in the accident on the island of San Pedro along with former senator and bottling magnate Sir Barry Bowen. Logan says Bowen was piloting the single-engine aircraft as the group headed to a fundraising event he was hosting in San Pedro when the plane crashed near the town's runway on Friday night. — *Internet*

Israel begins distributing gas masks to citizens

JERUSALEM, 1 March — Israel has begun distributing new gas masks to its 7 million citizens to offer protection against a possible chemical attack.

Israel's postal service is handing out the equipment. It says the process will take about three years.

An Israeli man tries on a gas mask at a distribution centre in a post office in the town of Or Yehuda, near Tel Aviv, on 28 Feb, 2010. — INTERNET

Distribution began Sunday. The Israeli military says it is routine and not in response to a specific threat. Israel believes a chemical attack could potentially come from Syria or Iran.

Israel has distributed gas masks and kits with antidotes in the past, beginning with the first Gulf War in 1991. Three years ago, Israel recalled masks after some components passed their expiration date. — *Internet*

Peru's free trade pact with China to boost exports

LIMA, 1 March — Peru's Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with China will create "immense opportunities" for Peru's export and external investment, Peru's Exterior Commerce and Tourism Minister Martin Perez said on Sunday.

"China is the second biggest commercial partner of Peru and the FTA between both countries will serve not only to consolidate the commercial

ties with China but also the investments which already are very important for the country," Perez said.

Currently China's investment in Peru has exceeded 1.2 billion US dollars, the largest among Asian countries, he added.

The FTA, to be valid on 1 March, will enable many Peruvian products to enter the Chinese market duty-free, Perez said.

Peruvian entrepreneurs are ready to take this opportunity to expand business with their Chinese counterparts, he said.

Currently more than 1,000 Peruvian companies export goods to China, the number is expected to increase after the implementation of the FTA, he said.

Besides the traditional exports such as fish and minerals, the FTA will open door to new products, like farm produce.

Xinhua

Blaming the weather for high unemployment



A woman goes cross-country skiing in Central Park a day after a heavy snow fall in New York on 27 Feb, 2010.—INTERNET

WASHINGTON, 1 March —Snowstorms have repeatedly battered parts of the United States this winter, making it more difficult to discern returning weakness in the economy from seasonal distortions.

That means key US data on jobs and manufacturing for February, which hold big implications for global financial markets, could lead to a befuddled reaction from investors.

Confusion will also likely reign in Europe where fears about Greece's financial situation, potentially exacerbated by speculative activity in bond markets, have kept the euro zone's single currency under pressure.

China, a growing contributor to the global economic outlook, will release a business sentiment survey, which analysts expect to slip for a second

month as the country tightens credit.

But the major indicator to watch is employment since it has a direct effect on the consumer spending that powers two-thirds of the world's largest economy.

The forecasting range is unusually wide, but median projections point to a loss of 50,000 jobs in February. The jobless rate is seen ticking back up to 9.8 percent after a January decline.

"Everybody who's thinking the economy is heading for a double dip (recession) is going to say this is evidence of that, and every one saying the economy is doing fine will dismiss it because of the weather," said Bob Barbera, chief economist at the Investment Technology Group in New York.

Internet

A general view shows the 79th Geneva Car Show in Geneva in 2009. Car makers will emerge from the gloom of 2009 by presenting about 100 new models at the Geneva motor show over the coming week, hoping to counter uncertainty by wooing drivers with dreams, "downsizing" and discounts.

INTERNET



GM Daewoo vehicles are loaded onto an auto-transport ship at Incheon port in South Korea. The country has reported a trade surplus of 2.33 billion dollars in February, helped by improving overseas demand for semiconductors and other key export items.—INTERNET

Oil rises above \$80 as regional stocks gain

SINGAPORE, 1 March— Oil prices rose above \$80 a barrel Monday in Asia as crude traders followed regional stock markets higher.

Benchmark crude for April delivery was up 56 cents to \$80.22 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

The contract added \$1.49 to settle at \$79.66.

Oil traders, who often look to equities as a measure of overall investor sentiment, were cheered by a jump in all the major Asian stock indexes Monday

amid recent signs that Asian manufacturing is recovering from last year's slump.

This week, investors will be eyeing US jobs data to get a better sense of the recovery in the world's largest economy.

The Labour Department is scheduled to announce February's unemployment rate on Friday. Joblessness was 9.7 percent in January.

Oil prices have touched the low \$80 level several times in the last six months, but fallen back into the \$70s when US crude inventory data failed to justify investor optimism.—Internet

Car makers emerge from gloom into Geneva glitz

GENEVA, 1 March —

Car makers will emerge from the gloom of 2009 by presenting about 100 new models at the Geneva motor show over the coming week, hoping to counter uncertainty by wooing drivers with dreams,

"downsizing" and discounts. "The mood is much better than last year; in 2009 it was the end of the world," explained Frank Schwöpe, an analyst at German bank

NordLB.

"Now there's hope of a recovery in the industry, not in Europe but in China and the United States," he told AFP.

Despite this, the European market risks a slump particularly in the second half of the year, when trade-in schemes which propped up the market in 2009, end or are cut back.

This year's show is taking place in the backdrop of the troubles en-

gulfing the world's biggest auto maker Toyota, which was forced to recall some nine million cars world-wide.

In this uncertainty, car makers are churning out new models and concepts in a bid to entice buyers.

Some 250 exhibitors representing 700 brands from 30 countries will bring their latest creations to the Geneva show, organizers said.

Internet



Japan's auto sales increase on year in February

TOKYO, 1 March— Sales of vehicles in Japan increased in February despite a safety crisis involving the vehicles of the nation's biggest automaker, Toyota, data released by the Japan Automobile Dealers Association showed on Monday. Sales of all vehicles were up by 35.1 percent compared with the previous year, with 294,887 units sold in February.

Sales of cars stood at 131,548 for the month, an increase of 72.2 percent on the same month in 2009. Compact cars also saw sales grow by 17.8 percent, selling 138,841 vehicles over the course of the month.

Industrial vehicle sales also grew by 1.3 percent, with 22,994 units bought in February.

Some 1,504 buses were bought in February, a 17.2 percent increase on the same month in 2009.

Japan's auto industry has been hit by a global crisis involving the safety of Toyota's cars. Over the last few months millions have been recalled due to faults with brakes and accelerators, and in late February, Toyota company President Akio Toyoda testified before the US Congress in Washington, DC, on the safety of his company's cars.

Xinhua

Indian PM eyes further energy cooperation with "reliable" Saudi

RIYADH, 1 March—Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Sunday said his country seeks further energy cooperation with Saudi Arabia, terming the Gulf kingdom as "reliable partner" in meeting his country's energy needs.

"We believe that conditions are ripe for moving beyond a traditional buyer-seller relationship to a comprehensive energy

partnership," Singh said during a meeting with the Saudi Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Riyadh.

Singh, who is on the second day of a historic visit to the Saudi capital, said the Indian companies were well-equipped to participate in upstream and downstream oil and gas sector projects in the oil-rich Arab country.

"We should also estab-

lish new partnerships in the area of new and renewable energy through sharing of clean technologies and joint collaborations," he said.

Singh's visit is the first by an Indian premier in 28 years to the Gulf kingdom, which is India's top crude oil supplier, amounting to 20 percent of the South Asian country's total needs. "We deeply value Saudi Arabia's role as a reliable partner in meeting our energy needs," he said.—Xinhua

Russia, Georgia reopen mountain border crossing

MOSCOW, 1 March—A mountain border crossing between Georgia and Russia was reopened early Monday morning, in a rare sign of easing tensions between the two former Soviet republics, Russian media reported.

The Verkhny Lars border crossing on the Caucasus mountains had been closed since mid-2006 by Russia as the relations between the two countries got strained. The Georgian Foreign Ministry said earlier the Verkhny Lars checkpoint would open to vehicle traffic on Monday.—Xinhua

Children holding Haibao, the mascot of 2010 Shanghai Expo, pose for photo on a folk custom festival to celebrate the Lantern Festival on Sujiatun Road in Shanghai, east China, on 27 Feb, 2010, the day before Chinese traditional Lantern Festival.—XINHUA



Somali pirates release Greek-owned cargo vessel

NAIROBI, 1 March—Somali pirates have released a Greek-owned Panama-registered cargo ship which was hijacked in December last year, a regional maritime official confirmed on Sunday.

Andrew Mwangura, East Africa Coordinator of Seafarers' Assistance Programme (SAP), said the Navios Apollon which was seized about 650 km off the Somali coast north of the Seychelles was freed late Saturday.

"The Greek ship was released on Saturday evening. The vessel has

19 crew members (18 Filipinos and one Greek) and was seized while sailing from Florida, the United States, to India with a cargo of fertilizer," Mwangura told Xinhua by telephone from Mombasa. Unknown amount of money was air-dropped on to the vessel, maritime officials said on Sunday.

It was the second ransom drop to the pirates in two days, demonstrating the difficulties merchants and governments face in their efforts to avert rampant piracy in the world's most dangerous waters of

Somalia.

Piracy has become rampant off the coast of Africa, especially in the waters near Somalia, which has been without an effective government since 1991.—Xinhua



Contestants play flower drums on the first Linfen Gong and Drum Competition in Linfen City of north China's Shanxi Province, on 28 Feb, 2010. The gong and drum competition was held in Linfen on Sunday among 12 representative troupes to the observe the Lantern Festival.—XINHUA

All Items From Xinhua News Agency

Indian Air Force launched large scale exercise

MUMBAI, 1 March—Indian Air Force launched a large scale exercise to show its power in a western state on Sunday, the Indian newspaper Hindustan Times reported on its website on Sunday evening.

The exercise, code-named Vayu Shakti 2010, conducted at the Pokharan range of the western Indian state of Rajasthan by the Air Force to demonstrate its "day and night operational ability of air power," the newspaper quoted the defence officials as saying.

Nearly 100 aircraft participated in the exercise, including fighters like Su-30MKI, Mirage-2000 and MiG-29, Air-

borne Early Warning and Control System (AWCS), Jaguar attackers, transport aircraft like IL-76, AN-32 and rotary aircraft like Mi-17 transporters and Mi-35 armed helicopters, according to the report.

Indian fighters at-

tacked the mocked ground targets at night by firing the precision guided weapons. It was the first time for the Air Force to display its large scale night precision striking capability, reported the newspaper.—Xinhua

Top ETA leader arrested in France

MADRID, 1 Mach—A top leader of the Basque separatist group ETA was arrested on Sunday in a joint operation in northern France, Spanish police said.

Ibon Gogiascoechea, who had been on the run since 1997, was arrested in a French-Spanish joint raid in the northern province of Normandy, according to police. Two other senior ETA members were also arrested in the operation.

So far, a total of 26 ETA suspects had been detained this year in Spain, France and Portugal. ETA is blamed for the deaths of more than 800 people in its 40-year campaign to carve a Basque homeland out of northern Spain and southwestern France.—Xinhua

Violent winter storm whips Europe, killing over 50

PARIS, 1 March—The violent winter storm, dubbed as "Xynthia," has lashed most eastern European countries as of Sunday with heavy rain and strong gust, leaving over 50 deaths and massive

devastation on its routes.

Developed in the Atlantic off the Portuguese island Madeira, storm Xynthia landed on France's western coast late Saturday after causing three deaths in Spain, and

went on to Germany via Belgium on Sunday afternoon. France, the worst hit country, recorded at least 45 victims and several disappearances, mainly in Vandee and Charente-Maritime, the two western coastal departments which registered the biggest toll.—Xinhua

Firemen remove a tree brought down by heavy storm in Frankfurt on 28 February, 2010. The severe storm "Xynthia" that swept through much of France brought about damage in parts of Germany.—XINHUA

Music museum expands reach with archive, library

CLEVELAND, 1 March—The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland has fascinating relics like Michael Jackson's "Thriller" mask. Soon it'll have space to showcase its interesting but less flashy artifacts.

The museum will open its library and archives later this year in a \$12 million high-tech building it shares with Cuyahoga (ky-uh-HOH'-guh) Community College's creative arts programmes.

Jim Morrison's first poem will be there as well as and letters from the Grateful Dead, Whitney Houston, Patti Smith and others.

There will also be old audio and video recordings, contracts, album covers, posters and scrap books.—Internet

Europeans introduce avalanche air bags in Utah

ALTA, 1 March—Europeans are bringing expertise on avalanche safety to Utah.

A Swiss engineer and leading avalanche-safety expert Manuel Genswein was at a Wasatch ski resort east of Salt Lake City this weekend to show off a device meant for surviving a deadly snow slide—a set of air bags designed into a backpack for floating atop avalanche debris.

Skiers hit a rip cord to activate the air bags.

Genswein said the \$1,000 air bag system is making its introduction in North America after years of use around Europe, where he says it has proven 98 percent effective.

"It's about being a bigger particle" in piles of moving snow, said Genswein, who held a demonstration at

Snowbird resort for members of Wasatch Backcountry Rescue.

Snow-safety experts credit the concept to a German hunter and forestry official who in the 1970s found himself held aloft in an avalanche by the carcass of a deer he was carrying around his shoulders. By 1985, European-based manufacturers including Snowpulse SA were developing variations on a skier's air bag system.—Internet



In this photo provided by Dean Cardinale on 28 Feb, 2010, two unidentified skiers model deployed avalanche air bags at Snowbird Ski Resort in Alta, Utah. The \$1,000 air bag system is making its introduction in North America after years of use around Europe.—INTERNET

Thousands of dead fish raise stink at Rio lagoon

RIO DE JANEIRO, 1 March—Thousands of dead fish washed up on the shores of a popular beachside lagoon in Rio over the weekend, offending joggers' olfactory senses and leading the city to fight the stench with disinfectant.

The official state news service Agencia Brasil said about 100 city employees working full-time cleared nearly 80 tons of fish as of Sunday. There was no immediate estimate of how many died, but several species were involved. Rio's environmental secretary speculated that increased levels of a harmful algae may be the immediate cause of the sudden die-off on Friday. She told Globo's G1 Web site that authorities were still investigating, but the problem was not affecting the fish anymore.

The smell of rotting fish dampened runners' and cyclists' usual enthusiasm for leisurely jaunts along the Rodrigo de Freitas lagoon's paths.—Internet

Greek police arrest two with valuable antiquities

THESSALONIKI, 1 March—Greek police arrested two men trying to sell several artifacts, including a bronze sculpture of emperor Alexander the Great from the 4th century BC, for which the asking price was euro7 million (\$9.5 million), authorities said on Sunday.

Police identified the suspects as a 48-year-old Thessaloniki businessman and a 51-year-old farmer,

but did not provide their names. The men were arrested on Saturday morning near the town of Kavala, east of Thessaloniki, police said. Police searched their car and found a treasure trove that included a 65-centimeter (2-foot) statue of Alexander, two bronze heads of a boy and a young man and other artifacts, including two rare Qurans.

"According to our information, the (suspects) have been trying to sell the sculptures for about a year," senior Thessaloniki police official Dimitris Tsaknakis told The Associated Press. "They have been asking euro7 million for the Alexander sculpture and between euro4-6 million (\$5.43 million-\$8.14 million) for the boy's bronze head."—Internet

World's largest dinner party held for Lantern Festival

More than 50,000 people dined together to celebrate the annual Lantern Festival in Yayang Town of Taishun County in Wenzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province on 28th February.

According to the *Times* News, it took a whole year to prepare the large banquet and more than 1,000 local villagers served as temporary chefs and waiters for the event, which used a total of 5,000 tables. Ji Xiaobin, the chief organizer, said the turnout exceeded their expectations — they had only planned to use 2,500 tables. It's estimated that guests from the neighbouring cities of Hangzhou, Shanghai and Wenzhou reached 6,000.

Taishun's "Hundred-Family Banquet" began in the Song Dynasty (960-1279) and has over 1,000 years of history.



People take part in the super banquet of Lantern Festival in Yayang Town in Taishun County of east China's Zhejiang Province, on 28 Feb 2010. A super banquet was held in Taishun on Sunday to celebrate Lantern Festival catering over 55,000 guests with 5,456 tables.

Banquets have historically been known as a time to ask for blessings during the Lantern Festival.

Locals regard the event as a time for family reunions, and they discuss family affairs, ask for blessings from Gods and pray for long-term peace.

In 2007, the "Hundred-Family Banquet" was listed as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Massive head of pharaoh unearthed in Egypt

Archaeologists have unearthed a massive red granite head of one Egypt's most famous pharaohs who ruled nearly 3,400 years ago, the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities announced on Sunday. The head of Amenhotep III, which alone is about the height of a person, was dug out of the ruins of the pharaoh's mortuary temple in the southern city of Luxor.

The leader of the expedition that



This undated photo released by the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities in Cairo, Egypt, on 28 Feb, 2010, shows the newly unearthed 3,400-year old red granite head, part of a huge statue of the ancient pharaoh Amenhotep III, at the pharaoh's mortuary temple in the city of Luxor. Egypt's Culture Ministry says a team of Egyptian and European archaeologists has unearthed a large head made of red granite of an ancient pharaoh who ruled Egypt some 3,400 years ago.

discovered the head described it as the best preserved sculpture of Amenhotep III's face found to date.

"Other statues have always had something broken: the tip of the nose, the face is eroded," said Dr Hourig Sourouzian, who has led the led the Egyptian-European expedition at the site since 1999.

"But here, from the tip of the crown to the chin, it is so beautifully carved and polished, nothing is broken."

Following ancient copper trade routes in Yunnan Province

Once caravan routes, and copper merchants from throughout China converged in remote but bustling Nagu Town in Yunnan Province near misted mountains of rich copper mines.

Nagu means "black earth" in the language of the Yi ethnic group, indicating the richness of the Dongchuan (today's Huize County) mines and the town itself that stands at more than 1,900 meters.

Today it is called Baiwu Village, or White Fog Village, because the village is always shrouded in mist and fog in the early morning.

It is one of China's 40 "newly discovered" towns featured in an International Channel Shanghai (ICS) programme to promote tourism in little-known, unspoiled places with great development potential.

In 2005 the town was recognized as a National Cultural and Historic Village, known for its ore transport network and gorgeous assembly halls built by copper merchants from different Provinces. The halls display distinctive regional architecture. They were used for business, socializing and stage performances.



San Sheng Gong (Three Saints Palace), in the centre of Baiwu Village, is a well-preserved Taoist temple honoring Guan Yu, Guan Ping and Zhou Cang—all heroes in classic novel "Romance of the Three Kingdoms."



A wild bison and her eight-day-old calf are seen at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge outside Denver on 6 August, 2009. —INTERNET

Atom smasher restarts to prepare for new science

GENEVA, 1 March — Operators of the world's largest atom smasher restarted their massive machine on Sunday in a run up to experiments probing secrets of the universe, a spokeswoman said.

The European Organization for Nuclear Research, or CERN, sent low energy beams of protons in both directions around the 17-mile tunnel housing the Large Hadron Collider under the Swiss-French border at Geneva, said Christine Sutton.

After a cautious trial period, CERN plans to ramp up the energy of the beams to unprecedented levels and start record-setting collisions of protons by late March, Sutton said.

The restart follows a 2 1/2 month winter shutdown during which scientists made improvements and checked out the smasher's ability to collide protons at energies three times greater than has ever been achieved previously.

The new collisions are expected to shatter the

subatomic particles and reveal still smaller fragments and forces than previously achieved on any collider, including the previous record-holder — the Tevatron at Fermilab outside Chicago. The Large Hadron Collider was built to examine suspected phenomena such as dark matter, antimatter and ultimately the creation of the universe billions of years ago, which many theorize occurred as an explosion known as the Big Bang. "We've started up again," said Sutton.

Internet

Australia homes project rejected over sea level risk

SYDNEY, 1 March — Fears over rising sea levels have prompted planning authorities in Victoria, southern Australia to reject a coastal development. It is a decision that could affect other parts of the country. Officials say the residential scheme at Port Fairy, 300 km (186 miles) west of Melbourne, will not go ahead because of safety concerns.

There is growing fear in Australian coastal areas

about storm surges and possible inundation from rising oceans.

The Victoria state government's decision was based on a projection that sea levels will rise by 80cm (11.8 inches) over the next century. Officials have insisted the area is also at risk from erosion and storm surges.

State authorities have set up a multi-million dollar fund to help coastal regions adapt to the challenges that could lie ahead

Suspected CIA suicide bomber calls American team 'gift from God'

KABUL, 1 March — The man believed to be the suicide bomber who killed seven CIA employees and contractors last year appears in a newly released video, claiming to have tricked Jordanian intelligence officers as a double agent.

The 43-minute video, posted on various Islamic radical Web sites on Saturday, shows Humam Khalil Abu-Mulal al-

Balawi, whom a former US intelligence official identified as the suicide bomber.

Family members have said that the man in the video, who uses the alias Abu Dajana Al-Khorasani, is al-Balawi.

A much shorter version of the video was posted online in January.

The December 30 bombing at a US base in Khost, in southeastern Af-

ghanistan, killed seven CIA operatives and a Jordanian army captain.

The video posted on Saturday is dated "Safar 1431" on the lunar calendar, which includes any day between 16 Jan, 2010 and 13 Feb, 2010.

Internet

Mother makes tearful plea to missing suspect

LONDON, 1 March — The mother of a missing man suspected of murdering his girlfriend and baby daughter collapsed in tears yesterday as she made an appeal for him to come forward. Anthony Marsh (21) has not been seen since Saturday morning, when the bodies of Stephanie Bellinger and eight-month-old Lily were found at their home in Totton, near Southampton in the UK.

A relative of Ms Bellinger (24) made the grim discovery just before 9am. It is thought the mother and her child were stabbed to death. Detective Constable John Woodward addressed Mr Marsh on behalf of his mother Wendy Marsh, who was visibly trembling, saying: "Anthony, if you are watching or if you read or hear this please understand that all your family are very concerned about you.—Internet

An injured man is escorted away from the site of a blast in Afghan capital Kabul on 26 Feb, 2010.

XINHUA

Seawater moves upward (from left to right) in the mouth of the Kamo River that flows into the Pacific Ocean at Kamogawa in Chiba prefecture, near Tokyo, on 28 Feb, 2010.

INTERNET



TV, Internet top US news choices

WASHINGTON, 1 March — US respondents to a Pew Research Centre poll on media usage indicate they are more likely to get daily news from television or the Internet.

The Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism asked more than 2,200 people

where they get their news. Nearly all — 92 percent — of the respondents said they use multiple platforms but television topped the list.

The data indicate 7 percent of those asked got news from a single platform, which was typically the *Internet* or local TV news.

About 80 percent said they heard and saw news from a local TV station's newscast while 73 percent cited a national network, such as *CBS*, or cable news outlet such as *CNN* or Fox News, as a source of news.

And 61 percent told pollsters they read some kind of news online.

Internet

Peasantry have...

(from page 1)

So far, the government has constructed 200 dams, 31 sluice gates, 322 river water pumping stations, 8001 tube-wells, and 658 small-scale rural dams, and the agricultural sector has made significant progress, as a result. Every year, the nation has put over 20 million acres of land under monsoon and summer paddy, producing over 1500 million baskets of paddy annually. Now, the nation's rice supply has far exceeded the demand of the growing population. And regions concerned have achieved great success in growing such major crops as corn, black gram, green gram, pigeon pea, groundnut, sesame, sun-

flower, long staple cotton and sugarcane, thus increasing the nation's total sown acreage to 33.33 million, and utilization of farmlands, to 171.1 per cent.

The rapid development in the agricultural sector suggests that it is highly required to transform the nation from conventional into mechanized farming. Many new plans are now ongoing for the State-owned and private-owned industries to boosting production of farming machinery and tools. Therefore, I would like to urge you the peasantry to work harder than ever for your better socio-economic life.

Esteemed peasantry,

Now, the government, the people and the Tatmadaw are implementing the State's seven-step Road Map in

concert. This year, elections will be held to elect members of parliament in accordance with the State Constitution of the Union of Myanmar, which has been approved with the massive support of the public. The role you the peasantry have played in the Myanmar politics is very important. So, you have to elect representatives capable of building a peaceful, modern and developed nation and exercising the democracy correctly. You also have to ward off potential dangers of those who will disrupt State stability and community peace with assistance of aliens in the background.

In conclusion, I would like to call on you the peasantry to do your bit in the drive for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation.—MNA

Cement Plant (Nay Pyi Taw)...

(from page 1)

Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint looked round the plant and left

necessary instructions.

Managing Director Mr Wang Jian of Jiangsu Pengfei Group Co Ltd of the People's Republic of China gave away commemorative gift to the Prime Minister who presented him back with fruit basket.

Construction of the cement plant began in July, 2008 and was completed in October, 2009. The plant with the capacity of 500 tons of cement per day is now in full operation.—MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein views sample raw materials, cement and coal at Cement Plant (Nay Pyi Taw).

MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein presents fruit basket to Managing Director Mr. Wang Jian of Jiangsu Pengfei Group Co Ltd at Cement Plant (Nay Pyi Taw).

MNA



Cement Plant (Nay Pyi Taw) of Myanma Ceramic Industries of Ministry of Industry-1.—MNA

Officials seek means to enhance road safety

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March—Patron of Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Enforcement Committee Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin addressed the meeting of the committee at Nay Pyi Taw Command on 26 February.

Present were Chairman of the committee Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Min Zaw, members of the committee and sub-committees and departmental personnel.

MNA

Industry-1 Minister inspects Wundwin Textile Factory

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March—Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung on 25 February inspected production process of Wundwin Textile Factory of Myanmar Textile Industries.

The minister also looked into Betalactam and Non-Betalactam in-

jection department and injection production department in Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory (Inyaung) of Myanmar Pharmaceutical Indus-

tries. He urged the officials to produce the products in line with GMP system and to make efforts for achieving the production objectives.

MNA



Minister U Aung Thaung inspects production line of Wundwin Textile Factory. —MNA

Sasana flourishing in Laukkai hoisting umbrella atop pagoda

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March—A new Htadaw (umbrella) was hoisted atop Lawka Manisula Mahamuni Pagoda in Laukkai of Shan State (North) on 27 February.

Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint conveyed Seinbudaw (diamond orb), Brig-Gen Aung

Kyaw Zaw Hnget-myatnaw (pennant-shaped vane), Col Than Htaik three tiers of zoon, U Pei Sauk Chein of Kokang Region Provisional Leading Committee the cone, U Lu Kwe Chi the seventh, the sixth and the fifth tiers of umbrella and departmental officials, the remaining

tiers of umbrella round the pagoda.

Next, the minister and Brig-Gen Aung Kyaw Zaw hoisted the diamond orb, the pennant-shaped vane and tiers of umbrella atop the pagoda.

Later, the minister and party offered meals to members of the Sangha.

MNA

Capacity enhancement for civil service

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March—A Myanmar delegation comprising mid-level officers from the State organizations and ministries led by Rector of Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) U Win Maung arrived back from Kuala Lumpur of Malaysia after taking part in the study tour from 22 to 28 February.

The delegation left Yangon for Kuala Lumpur on 22 February. While in Malaysia, members of the Myanmar delegation visited the Public Service Commission (PSC), Public Service Department (PSD), Education Service Commission and Malaysian Administrative Modernization and Management Planning Unit (MAMMPU) in Putrajaya and Malaysia Institute of Economic Research (MIER) and Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) in Kuala Lumpur. They exchanged views on ca-

capacity enhancement trainings for public service, business management and other related matters with responsible personnel. The Myanmar delegation also visited sites in Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya and left for Yangon on 28 February.

As a Human Resource Development Programme, a workshop on Capacity Enhancement of Myanmar Civil Service organized by the CSSTB of Myanmar with support of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation was held in Nay Pyi Taw from 18 to 22 January and participated by 60 mid-level officials from various State organizations and ministries. The study tour to Malaysia was a part of the programme and was participated by Rector U Win Maung of CICS (Phaunggyi) and 28 mid-level officers of the Office of the State Peace and Development Council, various ministries and Mandalay City Development Committee.—MNA

Objectives of 65th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

1. To uphold Our Three Main National Causes at risk to life as the national policy
2. To work hard with national people for successful completion of elections due to be held in accordance with the new constitution
3. To crush internal and external subversive elements through the strength and consolidated unity of the people
4. To build a strong, patriotic modern Tatmadaw capable of safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the nation

Myanmar, India fortify friendship tie

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March—Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win received Foreign Secretary of the Republic of India Ms. Nirupama Rao

and party at the ministry here today.

The Indian delegation led by the foreign secretary is arriving here to participate in Myanmar-

India Foreign Office Consultations.

At the call, the both sides discussed concerns over promoting mutual interests.—MNA



Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win receives Foreign Secretary of the Republic of India Ms. Nirupama Rao.—MNA

More practice to show capability of performing drill

YANGON, 1 March — Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe called for more practice to show the capability of performing drill and singing marching songs accompanied by good discipline in the 65th Anniversary Armed Forces Day parade in meeting with members of work committees and firemen of Myawady column representing Myanmar Fire Brigade who will take part in the parade at Thida hall of Fire Services Department (Head Office) in Mayangon Township

here this morning.

The minister stressed that, members of fire brigade, being the reserves of the State, are to do more practice not to lag behind in skill and ability compared with servicemen. The minister pointed out that members who are going to participate in the parade are required to be in high spirits and in good health while adhering the code of conducts.

Officials received cash donations and presented certificates of honour to wellwishers.—MNA

Take Fire Preventive Measures

Information Minister attends 5th prize presentation ceremony of Thuta Swesone Literary Award

YANGON, 1 March—Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan attended the 5th prize presentation ceremony of Thuta Swesone Literary Award organized by Thuta Swesone Book House of Swesone Media Group under the supervision of Myanmar Writers and

Journalists Association took place at Traders Hotel, here, today.

It was also attended by departmental heads and officials of the Information Ministry, CEC members of MWJA, members of award selecting committee and responsible persons.

Managing Director Dr. Khin Moe Moe of Swesone Media Group and Secretary Dr Tin Tun Oo of MWJA spoke on the occasion.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presented the Lifetime Achievement Literary Award to U Chit San (Chit San Win) and Thuta Swesone Literary Award (Socio-economic) to Dr Chit and Thuta Swesone Literary Award (Arts) to Tekkatho Sein Tin.

Chairman U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) presented Thuta Swesone Literary Award (Foreign Affairs) to Ye Htut and Thuta Swesone Literary Award (Translation) to Kyi Min.

U Tin Kha (Tekkatho Tin Kha), Dr Tin Tun Oo and Dr Khin Moe Moe presented Thuta Swesone Literary Award (Youth Literature) to Dr Tin Soe, Thuta Swesone Literary Award

MD Dr. Khin Moe Moe of Swesone Media Group presents prize to Dr. Soe Lwin.
MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents prize to Tekkatho Sein Tin.
MNA



(Reference Literature) to Kyaw Win, Thuta Swesone Literary Award (Belles-lettres) to Ko Ko (Sethmu Tekkatho) and Thuta Swesone Literary Award (Applied Science) to Dr. Soe Lwin spoke words of thanks.

Dr Tin Tun Oo and

Managing Director Dr. Khin Moe Moe presented K 800,000 for respecting ceremony to mark Sarsodaw Day for 2010 and gifts for award selecting committee through responsible persons.

The ceremony came to an end after winners U

Chit San (Chit San Win) and Dr Soe Lwin spoke words of thanks.

Afterwards, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan together with members of the award selecting committee and winners had documentary photo taken.—MNA

Wunyu Dam helps facilitate cultivation of summer paddy, chickpea in Seikpyu Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March—As part of drive for greening the region and supplying more irrigation water to the farmlands, Wunyu Dam was inaugurated on 28 February.

Chairman of Magway Division PDC Col Phone Maw Shwe and Deputy

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint opened the dam and inspected it.

The 2,300 feet long and 28 feet high Wunyu Dam with the water storage capacity of 2,400 acre feet was the 47th facility for the division. It was built on Wunyu Creek

near Kazunma Village in Seikpyu Township of Pakokku District, Magway Division. The dam can contribute to keeping the region lush and green and irrigating 345 acres of farmland, thereby increasing sown acreages of summer paddy and chickpea.—MNA



Chairman Col Phone Maw Shwe and Deputy Minister U Ohn Myint open Wunyu Dam in Seikpyu Township.—MNA



Wunyu Dam in Seikpyu Township of Pakokku District, Magway Division.

MNA

Labutta residents gain practical knowledge for occupation

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March—Carpentry, Mason and Steel Work Course No. 3 for Labutta residents, organized by Education and Training Department of Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, concluded on 26 February, with an address by Deputy Director-General Dr. Soe Thein of the department.

The five-week course was attended by 50 trainees from urban wards and villages in Labutta Township, Ayeyawady Division. During the course, trainees were provided with teaching aides, meals and accommodation. The deputy director-general also encouraged female trainees attending Advanced Tailoring Course No. 1 and Special Domestic Science Course No. 3.—MNA



A worker cleans a poster showing the new 3D glasses "Cinemizer Plus" at the Carl Zeiss stand during preparations for the world's biggest high-tech fair, the CeBIT in the northern German city of Hanover. The world's biggest high-tech fair kicks off Tuesday with a focus on "smart" gadgets as well as "Avatar"-inspired 3D products to make consumers' lives easier — and more fun.—INTERNET

Giant tech fair goes 3D to pull in the punters

HANOVER, 1 March—The world's biggest high-tech fair kicks off Tuesday with a focus on "smart" gadgets as well as "Avatar"-inspired 3D products to make consumers' lives easier — and more fun.

Germany's CeBIT, traditionally a showcase for computing and software firms to unveil their latest flagship designs, is evolving into more of a consumer-driven event, organizers said, as crisis-hit

IT companies stay away.

"We're trying to attract more consumers," said Hartwig von Sass, a spokesman for Deutsche Messe, that organises the event. Exhibitor numbers dropped by three percent this year with 4,157 firms from 68 countries due to erect stands at the vast centre in northern Germany. At the height of the dot-com boom, more than 8,000 companies set up shop at the CeBIT.

"Given the economic and financial climate, we consider it a success that our exhibitor numbers are approximately stable," said Sass.

And he pointed to some giants of the tech world that are visiting the CeBIT for the first time, such as Google and online book-seller Amazon, as well as regulars such as IBM, Microsoft, SAP, Vodafone, Fujitsu or Ericsson.

Internet

Merck KGaA to acquire Millipore for 7.2 billion dollars

WASHINGTON, 1 March—German pharmaceutical giant Merck KGaA announced late Sunday its acquisition of Millipore Corporation, a Billerica, Massachusetts-based biotechnology firm for 7.2 billion dollars (5.3 billion euros).

Under an agreement reached by the two sides, Merck KGaA will acquire all outstanding shares of common stock of Millipore for 107 dollars per share in cash.

"This transaction is very attractive to shareholders, customers and employees of both companies," said Karl-Ludwig Kley, chairman of the executive board of Merck.

"This is a combination with an ex-

cellent strategic fit, which will allow us to cover the entire value chain for our pharma and biopharma customers, offering integrated solutions beyond chemicals."

Last year, Millipore generated 1.7 billion dollars in sales. It has around 6,000 employees in more than 30 countries of the world.

Merck expects that the combined business will generate annual cost savings of around 100 million dollars (75 million euros).

The acquisition still requires approval by Millipore shareholders at a special shareholder meeting to be called at a later date, officials said.—Internet



File photo shows an employee of the German pharmaceutical giant Merck carrying medicine at a laboratory in Lyon. German pharmaceutical giant Merck KGaA announced late Sunday its acquisition of Millipore Corporation, a Billerica, Massachusetts-based biotechnology firm for 7.2 billion dollars (5.3 billion euros).—INTERNET

Prudential to buy AIG's Asian arm for 35 bln dollars

LONDON, 1 March—US insurance giant AIG has agreed to sell its Asian arm, AIA, to British insurer Prudential for around 35 billion dollars (26 billion euros, 23 billion pounds), a source close to the deal said.

American International Group (AIG), which received a huge taxpayer bailout to stave off collapse during the financial crisis, had been persuaded to let Prudential take over its Asian businesses, said the source late Sunday.

The deal will transform Prudential into the world's top non-Chinese insurer by market capitalisation, ahead of major competitors Allianz and AXA.

It is understood the sale will be unveiled in the coming days, perhaps as early as Monday.

The purchase will be financed in cash, through a rights issue by Prudential, and through AIG taking a minority part of the British insurer, said the source.

Tidjane Thiam, who took up the job of Prudential chief executive in October, had never hidden

his desire to expand the business in Asia.

The business chief, who has French nationality but was born in Ivory Coast, went to New York at the end of last week to persuade AIG's board to sell American International Assurance (AIA) to his company.—Internet

A man walks by the American International Group (AIG) building in New York City. AIG has agreed to sell its Asian arm, AIA, to British insurer Prudential for around 35 billion dollars (26 billion euros, 23 billion pounds), a source close to the deal said.

INTERNET



6.2-magnitude aftershock hits Chile

WASHINGTON, 1 March—A new 6.2-magnitude aftershock hit central Chile late Sunday, the latest after a massive 8.8-degree earthquake early Saturday morning, according to the US Geological Survey (USGS).—Xinhua

Moderate quake hit western Indonesia

JAKARTA, 1 March—An earthquake measuring 5.2 on the Richter scale hit North Sumatra Province of western Indonesia at 7:13 pm (1213 GMT) on Sunday, the Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency said. The epicentre was at 9 kilometres of northwestern of province's Tarutung City at a depth of 10 kilometres under seabed.

The agency did not issue tsunami warning.

No casualties has been reported so far.—Xinhua

44 trapped in north China coal mine flood

BEIJING, 1 March—A coal mine flood in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region early on Monday trapped 44 people in the pit, safety authorities confirmed.

The accident happened at 7:29 am at Luotuoshan Coal Mine in Wuhai City, the State Administration of Work Safety said on its website. The place is about 600 kilometres from the regional capital Hohhot.—Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MILLENNIUM VOY NO (03/0)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MILLENNIUM VOY NO (03/0) are here by notified that the vessels will be arriving on 1.3.2010 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W.5 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 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 KM INTERTRANS**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PINE EXPRESS VOY NO (1002)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PINE EXPRESS VOY NO (1002) are here by notified that the vessels will be arriving on 2.3.2010 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 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 Claim Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: FAIRWIND INT'L SHIPPING
CO., LTD**

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV DAI DUONG SUNRISE VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DAI DUONG SUNRISE VOY NO (-) are here by notified that the vessels will be arriving on 28.2.2010 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 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: NOBLE PACIFIC WORLD WIDE
LTD**

Phone No: 256924/256914

TRADE MARK CAUTION

OTSUKA PHARMACEUTICAL FACTORY, INC., a company incorporated in Japan, of 115, Aza Kuguhara Tateiwa, Muya-cho, Narutoshi, Tokushima-ken, Japan, is the Owner of the following Trade Marks:-

AMINOLEBAN

Reg. No. 6168/2003
Reg. No. 7878/2006
Reg. No. 7951/2009

AMIPAREN

Reg. No. 6169/2003
Reg. No. 7879/2006
Reg. No. 7952/2009

KIDMIN

Reg. No. 6170/2003
Reg. No. 7880/2006
Reg. No. 7953/2009

in respect of "Pharmaceutical preparations and substances".

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Marks will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin

M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.
for OTSUKA PHARMACEUTICAL FACTORY, INC.
P.O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 2 March 2010

Buyers line up for Derbyshire nuclear bunker

LONDON, 1 March — A Cold War-era nuclear bunker in Britain has been put up for sale on online auction site eBay, and by yesterday bidders had pushed the price up to more than £19,300 (\$32,647). "A rare opportunity to acquire a piece of Cold War history," read the sale advert on the website. "Set in a stunning location with glorious views. Your own nuclear bunker within a plot of land and much original equipment."

After being advertised at a starting price of £500 (\$845) late on Thursday, a bidding war saw the price of the underground shelter rocket, increasing more than 50 times in less than three days. As of 9am (AEDT) today the price stood at £19,300 after 39 bids. The bunker came into service in 1959 and

was used by the Royal Observer Corps, a civilian defence organisation composed mainly of volunteers who had the task of reporting nuclear attack and fallout.

The shelter, in the Peak District National Park in central England, was fully operational until 1991 when it was decommissioned as the Soviet Union collapsed.

Cop dies after robber accidentally explodes

PORT MORESBY, 1 March — A Papua New Guinea policewoman died when a fugitive accidentally blew himself up with a hand grenade while trying to escape from police custody. Pawa Moni, 35, had been on the run since 2008 but was arrested in the notorious Western Highlands Province on Friday night for a string of offences, including bank robberies and murder.

Measuring 15m by 15m, the bunker is on farmland and in an "elevated position with panoramic views".

The bunker, which is "accessed via a metal hatch and shaft", lies 4.57m underground and has two rooms — a chemical toilet and monitoring room — and two ventilation shafts.

Internet

Moni tried to escape from the police vehicle in Mt Hagen but accidentally detonated a hidden hand grenade, killing himself and 25-year-old police-woman Selly Mol. Police commander Simon Kauba told PNG's The National newspaper that this type of incident was the first of its kind in PNG.

Moni was wanted for robbing a Bank South Pacific teller machine in 2006 and killing a security

Philippine troops kill two gunmen linked to massacre

MANILA, 1 March — Philippine troops clashed Monday with armed followers of a political warlord who was arrested in connection with the country's worst election-related massacre, killing two gunmen, the military said.

Troops on combat patrol confronted about 30 men in the outskirts

of southern Maguindanao province on Monday, triggering a gunfight that killed two, said military spokesman Maj Randolph Cabangbang.

Prosecutors have charged Andal Ampatuan Sr., a former three-term Maguindanao governor, and his son, Andal Ampatuan Jr, with murder in connection with the killings of 57 people on 23 Nov.

Among the massacre victims were supporters and relatives of Esmel Mangudadatu, who is running for governor of the province. They were headed to an election office to file Mangudadatu's candidacy papers when they were killed, along with at least 30 journalists and staff members who were providing news coverage of the event.

Internet

Stroke study finds neck stents safe, effective

SAN ANTONIO, 1 March — People at risk of a stroke because of narrowed neck arteries can be safely treated with a less drastic option than the surgery done now, the largest study ever done on these treatments concludes. If Medicare agrees to cover it, hundreds of thousands of Americans a year might be able to have an artery-opening procedure and a stent instead of surgery to remove built-up plaque, doctors say. A stent is a wire-mesh tube that props the blood vessel open.

Stents have long been used to fix heart arteries but are approved for use in the neck only for people too sick for surgery. The new study, in people with less severe disease, suggests stents may find much wider use. "The sea of peo-

ple is gigantic" who could benefit, said Dr Walter Koroshetz, deputy director of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, the study's main sponsor.

"We now have two safe and effective methods" to treat neck vessels, said Dr Thomas Brott of the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Fla. He led the study and gave results on Friday at an American Stroke Association conference.

However, the treatments have different complications, and not all doctors are convinced stents are as safe. Three previous studies found they were not, including one published online Thursday by the British journal *The Lancet*.

Internet



Persian leopard cubs. Iran has promised to donate two wild leopards to Russia, officials said on Sunday, bringing closer the aim of settling the rare animals near the 2014 Winter Olympics host city of Sochi.—INTERNET

The Risk of BPA in Pregnant Moms

TEXAS, 1 March—Studies done at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston show that Bisphenol A (BPA), a chemical often found in baby bottles and the lining of aluminum cans, may lead to allergy related asthma. Production of the chemical started about 40 years ago, a timing that scientists note coincides with increasing asthma rates.

Tests on BPA have been done on lab mice. The researchers found the mice born to mothers exposed to 10 micrograms

of BPA developed airway problems while mice born to mothers exposed to low or no BPA did not develop the problem. These tests show a significant enough increase in allergy related asthma that some states have begun banning the chemical in containers that could be used by children under the age of four. Scientist believe that this study is a good example of what could happen to humans, but they admit that mice studies are not always accurate in people.

The next step in this

study will be to determine how much BPA and how often it is given before these problems are prevalent. Since there are other contributing factors in what causes asthma, scientist are planning on extracting cord blood in humans for their research. These subjects will be watched for a period of time to see if they develop Asthma. Groups will be based on their level of BPA exposure. This type of study will take years, but will certainly be more conclusive than the mice experiment.—Internet



The Adam Opel house can be seen in Ruesselsheim, western Germany in 2009. Ailing carmaker Opel is considering launching an electric car for inner-city use to tap what it sees as a high-potential market, the firm's boss said in an interview on Sunday.—INTERNET



A crowd of people watch Oahu's southern shore in anticipation of a possible tsunami in Honolulu, Hawaii. Waves pummelled Chile and rolled through into Hawaii, French Polynesia and the South Pacific as the tsunami triggered by the huge earthquake in Chile moved at jetspeed across the vast ocean.

INTERNET

1 in 4 parents buys unproven vaccine-autism link

CHICAGO, 1 March—One in four US parents believes some vaccines cause autism in healthy children, but even many of those worried about vaccine risks think their children should be vaccinated. Most parents continue to follow the advice of their children's doctors, according to a study based on a survey of 1,552 parents. Extensive research has found no connection between autism and vaccines.

"Nine out of 10 parents believe that vaccination is a good way to prevent diseases for their children," said lead author Dr. Gary Freed of the University of Michigan. "Luckily their concerns

don't outweigh their decision to get vaccines so their children can be protected from life-threatening illnesses."

In 2008, unvaccinated school-age children contributed to measles outbreaks in California, Illinois, Washington, Arizona and New York, said Dr Melinda Wharton of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Thirteen percent of the 140 who got sick that year were hospitalized. "It's fortunate that everybody recovered," Wharton said, noting that measles can be deadly. "If we don't vaccinate, these diseases will come back."

Internet

Striking number of obesity risks hit minority kids

CHICAGO, 1 March—The odds of obesity appear stacked against black and Hispanic children starting even before birth, provocative new research suggests. The findings help explain disproportionately high obesity rates in minority children. Family income is often a factor, but so are cultural customs and beliefs, the study authors

said. They examined more than a dozen circumstances that can increase chances of obesity, and almost every one was more common in black and Hispanic children than in whites. Factors included eating and sleeping habits in infancy and early childhood and mothers smoking during pregnancy. In a separate, equally

troubling study, researchers found signs of inflammation in obese children as young as 3 years old. High levels were more common in blacks and Hispanics. These inflammatory markers have been linked with obesity in adults and are thought to increase chances for developing heart disease.

Internet

Gene test aid to cancer treatment

LONDON, 1 March —Developed a gene test which predicts how well chemotherapy will work in cancer patients. Starting with 829 genes in breast cancer cells, the team whittled down the possibilities to six genes which had an impact on whether a drug worked. They then showed that these genes could be used to predict the effectiveness of a drug called paclitaxel in patients.

It is hoped the approach, reported in *The Lancet Oncology*, can be replicated for other cancers and treatments. The international project, including researchers from Cancer Research UK's London Research Institute, opens the way for breast cancer treatment to be targeted to those who will benefit the most.—Internet

A combined harvester cuts sugarcane in a field near the village of Riquelme in the Province of Villa Clara in central Cuba on 28 Feb, 2010.

INTERNET



Obese children show signs of heart disease

LONDON, 1 March —Young as three years old show signs of future heart disease, say US researchers. study of 16,000 children and teenagers showed the most obese had signs of an inflammatory marker which can predict future heart disease. 40% of obese three-to-five-year olds had raised levels of C-reactive protein compared with 17% of healthy weight children, Pediatrics reported.

But more work is needed to prove the link with heart disease in later life. The study, carried out by a team at the University of North Carolina (UNC), looked at children aged one to 17. Overall, nearly 70% were a healthy weight, 15% were overweight, 11% were obese and 3.5% were very obese. In the older age groups, the proportion of those in the very obese category with high levels of C-reactive protein (CRP) increased even further. By age 15-17, 83% of the very obese had increased CRP compared with 18% of the healthy weight children. CRP is found in the blood, and high levels are a sign of inflammation in the body. Because the damage seen in heart disease is caused by inflammation in artery walls, CRP can be used as a general marker for the risk of heart disease.—Internet



A SeaWorld trainer performs with a killer whale during the first show after an orca killed a trainer at theme park three days earlier in Orlando, Fla., on 27 Feb 2010. More than 2,000 people watched killer whales perform Saturday at SeaWorld for the first time since one of the orcas dragged a trainer to her death underwater in front of horrified spectators.

INTERNET

MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (2-3-2010) (Tuesday)

Transmissions	Times
Local	- (09:00am~11:00am)MST
Europe	- (15:30pm~23:30pm)MST
North America	- (23:30pm~07:30am)MST
Oversea Transmission	- (2-3-10 11:30 am ~ 3-3-10 11:30 am) MST

Local Transmission

- * Signature Tune
- * Welcome to Bagan
- * Sightseeing Around Taunggyi, Inlay (Part-I)
- * Offering Oil-lamps (Rakhine Traditional Dance)
- * Ngwe Hsaung Welcomes You
- * Safari In Style
- * Where the Rhododendron Blooms
- * Music Gallery
- * Aesthetic Jade Wares
- * 100 Shuttle Traditional Weaving Industry
- * Poem Garden "My body"
- * Thihathana Throne
- * Invaluable heritage of the Pyu

Oversea Transmission

- * Signature Tune
- * Welcome to Bagan

- * Sightseeing Around Taunggyi, Inlay (Part-I)
- * Offering Oil-lamps (Rakhine Traditional Dance)
- * Ngwe Hsaung Welcomes You
- * Safari In Style
- * Where the Rhododendron Blooms
- * Music Gallery
- * Aesthetic Jade Wares
- * 100 Shuttle Traditional Weaving Industry
- * Poem Garden "My body"
- * Thihathana Throne
- * Invaluable heritage of the Pyu
- * Myanmar Jade Wonderland
- * Usefulness of Nipa Palm
- * Culture Stage
- * Extend railroad networks for trade and transport development
- * Ananda Pagoda Festival... Relllecting Rural Customs
- * Oxen Brothers
- * Myanma Culture & Banana
- * The Hilly Town (Namhsan)
- * Monywa... Picturesque City
- * Music Gallery
- * UPPATASANTI PAGODA (The pagoda that can ward off any danger)

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm



WEATHER

Monday, 1st March, 2010

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30hr. M.S.T.

During the past 24 hours, rain have been isolated in Taninthayi Division, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin, Rakhine and Mon States, upper Sagaing and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above March average temperatures in Southern Shan State. Upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, (5°C) above March average temperatures in Magway and Taninthayi Divisions and about March average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant Day temperature was Magway (40°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded was Kawthoung (1.89) inches.

Maximum temperature on 28-2-2010 was 97°F. Minimum temperature on 1-3-2010 was 70°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 1-3-2010 was 92%. Total sun shine hours on 28-2-2010 was (8.0) hours approx.

Rainfall on 1-3-2010 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total Since 1-1-2010 was (Tr) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and (Nil) at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) m.p.h from South at (17:30) hours MST on 28-2-2010.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 2nd March 2010: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining states and divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).


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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated light rain in the extreme Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 2-3-2010: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 2-3-2010: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 2-3-2010: Fair weather.



Tuesday, 2 March
View on today

7:00 am

- မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ပရိတ်တရားတော်ယောဆရာတော်ဟောကြားတော်မူသောပွဲတသန္တိပဋိတော်

7:25 am

- To Be Healthy Exercise

7:30 am

- Morning News

7:40 am

- အရှင်ဇယမင်္ဂလ် (ယဉ်ဝေယံထွန်းတေးရေး-ဂီတစာဆိုမျိုးနွယ်ဆွေ)

7:50 am

- Nice & Sweet Song

8:00 am

- အာပျိုလွဲ

8:10 am

- Songs Of Yester Years

8:20 am

- နိုင်ငံစီးပွားအလေးထားကျေးလက်ထုတ်ကုန်များ

8:30 am

- (၆၅)နှစ်မြောက်တစ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

8:40 am

10. International News

8:45 am

- Local Talent

4:00 pm

- Martial Song

4:10 pm

- Dance Of National Races

4:20 pm

- The Mirror Image Of The Musical Oldies

4:30 pm

- အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

4:40 pm

- တစ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုတေးသီချင်းပြိုင်ပွဲဆုရတေးများ

4:50 pm

- အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ (ပထမနှစ်)(ရုက္ခဗေဒသတ္တဗေဒအထူးများ) (ရုက္ခဗေဒ)

5:00 pm

- Songs For Uphold National Spirit

5:10 pm

- Musical Programme

5:20 pm

- “ဆီးချိုဆွေးချိုတာကွယ်ပါ”

5:40 pm

- ရင်မှာရုံထင်တေးအလွယ်စဉ်

5:50 pm

- (၆၅)နှစ်မြောက်တစ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

6:00 pm

- Evening News

6:15 pm

- Weather Report

6:20 pm

- ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲ့ရင်ခုန်သံ

6:35 pm

- ဆိုလိုက်ကြစို့

7:00 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “တို့အတူရှိစဉ်တုန်းက” (အပိုင်း-၂)

8:00 pm

- News

18. International News

19. Weather Report

20. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ဆွေးလွမ်းသောချစ်နှင်းဆီ” (အပိုင်း-၃၀)

21. “ရုပ်ရှင်ပရိသေ့”

- ★ Only with stability and peace will the nation develop
- ★ Only with stability and peace will democratization process be successful

- ★ Anarchy begets anarchy, not democracy
- ★ Riots beget riots, not democracy
- ★ Democracy can be introduced only through constitution

People's Desire

- We favour peace and stability
- We favour development
- We oppose unrest and violence
- Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence

- ★ VOA, BBC-sowing hatred among the people
- ★ RFA, DVB-generating public outrage
- ★ Do not allow ourselves to be swayed by killer broadcasts designed to cause troubles

Secretary-1 receives Indian Foreign Secretary

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March—Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo received a delegation led by Foreign Secretary Ms. Nirupama Rao of India at the meeting hall of SPDC Office here at 4 pm today. Also present at the call together with General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo were Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint and departmental heads. Foreign Secretary Ms. Nirupama Rao was accompanied by Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Aloke Sen. MNA



Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo receives a delegation led by Foreign Secretary Ms. Nirupama Rao of India at SPDC Office in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA