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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

Government, people and Tatmadaw joining hands in nation-building tasks

Taking advantage of technological and development gap, media outside the nation inventing fabricated news

USDA is to rebut the slanders of those media

YANGON, 1 Feb —

The Basic Journalism Course No 3, organized by the Union Solidarity and Development Association, concluded at the USDA Headquarters on University Avenue in Bahan Township this morning.

Secretary-General of USDA U Htay Oo made a speech. He said that the USDA was set up with five objectives, five basic principles, four oaths of allegiance, 11 codes of conduct, and 14 duties and responsibilities, based on the strength of new generation youth who will discharge the national duties. USDA members are participating in peace and stability and development tasks of the government, by upholding Our Three Main National Causes.

While taking management, organization and training measures, the association is carrying out regional development and public welfare affairs. Hence, the youth with full confidence in objectives and functions of the association are joining hands with the association in undertaking its tasks. The increasing



USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo addresses the concluding ceremony of Basic Journalism Course No 3. — MNA

number of association members from all walks of life stand as a national strength to take up the national duties.

The purpose of the course is to enhance ideas, concepts and morale alongside journalism of the potential members who took interest in media industry, to counter alien media with meding, to pay attention to the public voices, to organize the people from all strata to be able to rebut fabricated news, and to have knowledge on propaganda, news reporting and news security. The trainees have studied all the lessons of the course practically and theoretically.

The trainees are to apply their experiences from the training course in their works, to disseminate the experiences and knowledge to other USDA members and the people, and to continue their studies for uplift of their efficiency.

All the national races should forge the Union Spirit forever as

the genuine patriotic spirit. Our Three Main National Causes is the base of the Union Spirit. Therefore, efforts are to be made for flourishing of the Union Spirit.

The delegates of the National Convention represent all strata of the people and national races. At the National Convention, they held group discussions and participated

in the plenary sessions. Discussions were held to lay down and adopt basic principles to be included in drafting the State Constitution. Only when the National Convention achieves success, will the Constitution be drawn successfully. The country is to be built as a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic

nation according to the new Constitution. As such, the country will enjoy peace and stability, tranquillity, freedom, equality, fairness, unity, development and strength in the future also. All are to actively take part in the tasks to achieve success in convening the National Convention.

(See page 8)

- * **At the National Convention, discussions were made to lay down and adopt basic principles to be included in the State Constitution.**
- * **Only when the National Convention achieves success, will the Constitution be drawn successfully.**

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 2 February, 2006

Increase crop production with double cropping development

Agriculture is the main source of national economic development. As for the regions, agriculture serves as an engine of growth for ensuring food sufficiency and economic progress, and a sound foundation for improvement of social standard in rural areas.

In this regard, responsible personnel of the State are busy making arrangements for agricultural development, while providing every assistance to agricultural reforms covering the task of increasing crop per acre yield with the use of pedigree strains and advanced equipment and technology.

During his inspection tour of Ayeyawady Division on 30 January, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance to local authorities and officials at different levels for progress of crop cultivation, saying, "We will have to strive for utilizing the abundant land resources of our country as much as we can. And we are going to raise crop production more and more every year by extending sown acreage, increasing crop per acre yield and multiplying mixed-cropping."

The Senior General's inspection of the division, the nation's main agricultural region, included a bridge over Pammawady River at Myinkaseik and development undertakings.

Prospects are bright for the division's economic development as it has been putting land under ten major crops including paddy that is being grown in rainy season as well as summer according to targets. In addition the division has begun to grow 500,000 acres of physic nut plants, while plans are well under way to extend fish, prawn and poultry farming.

Now, the division is reclaiming land to set up large-scale physic nut farms to produce bio-diesel from physic nut. The bio-diesel will run farm machinery that will help extend its double and mixed cropping.

Officials at different levels and farmers of the division on their part will surely strive to raise crop production by extending sown acreage, increasing crop per acre yield and multiplying mixed-cropping.



Daw Mya Kyi and family of 31-A, 11th street, Lanmadaw Township, recently present K 100,000 to Joint-Treasurer U Maung Maung Gyi of Hninzigon Home for the Aged Administrative Board. — H

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

Banks Supervisory Committee and Myanmar Banks Association meets

YANGON, 1 Feb — The 78th meeting of Banks Supervisory Committee and Executive Committee of Myanmar Banks Association was held at the Ministry of Finance and Revenue on Sethmu-1 Road, here this morning.

Present were Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe, Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, directors-general and managing directors of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue, chairmen of State-run and private banks, managing directors and executives.

The minister said all the banks are to make



Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun speaking at 78th meeting of Banks Supervisory Committee and Executive Committee of Myanmar Banks Association. — F&R

efforts for development of banking services based on the previous experiences and to precisely abide by the prescribed laws and rules and regulations and orders and directives on

money laundering. He spoke of the need to establish research and development section in the banks and study banking information from home and abroad and re-

lated subjects.

Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe and Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung took part in the discussions.—MNA

Construction of Yangon Cooperative Degree College inspected



Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min meets faculty members of Yangon Cooperative Degree College. — COOPERATIVE

YANGON, 1 Feb — Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min, accompanied by Director-General U Soe Win and officials, met with faculty members of Yangon Cooperative Degree College in Thanlyin on 30 January.

The principal reported on the brief history of the degree college

and academic matters. The chairman of Naga Min Construction Cooperative Society reported to the minister on construction of the theatre of Utara Hall.

The minister gave necessary instructions and inspected progress of construction tasks.

MNA

Mayor inspects upgrading of streets, sanitation work

YANGON, 1 Feb — Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and officials inspected tasks for making Yangon City clean and ensuring better roads and streets in cooperation with the members of respective district and township Peace and Development Councils, Engineering Department (Roads and Bridges) of YCDC and social associations yesterday.

The mayor inspected measures undertaken for proper drainage and sanitation works in Bahan Township, laying of concrete slabs on pavement in Tamway Township, extension of Myayagon Road in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, upgrading Bogoyoke Aung San Street between Theinbyu Street and Bo Aung Kyaw Street in Botahtaung Township, upgrading Anawrahta Street between Latha Street and Lanmadaw Street in Lanmadaw Township and laying of concrete slabs on pavement in front of Yangon General Hospital.—MNA

All this needs to be known

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



US Air Force Senior Airman examines the damage caused by a laser guided airstrike in Ramadi, 115 kilometres (70 miles) west of Baghdad, Iraq, on 30 Jan, 2006. —INTERNET

Oil execs refuse to testify at US Senate hearing

WASHINGTON, 31 Jan—Officials from six major oil companies have refused to testify this week at a Senate hearing looking into whether oil industry mergers in recent years have made gasoline more expensive at the pump.

With oil companies reporting record profits from higher energy prices, consumer groups have complained that mergers in the industry have stifled competition.

Exxon Mobil said on Monday it earned 10.7 billion US dollars in the fourth quarter of last year and 36.1 billion US dollars

for all of 2005 — bigger than the economies of 125 countries.

The Senate Judiciary Committee, which is holding the hearing on Wednesday morning, said it asked representatives from Exxon Mobil, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, Valero Energy and the US units of BP and Royal Dutch Shell to tell their side of the story.

"All declined the invitation to testify," the committee said in a statement on Monday, without providing details.

The companies, with

the exception of Valero, took a beating at a Senate hearing last November on the industry's soaring profits at the time and high energy prices.

Bill Kovacic, a member of the Federal Trade Commission, is scheduled to testify at Wednesday's hearing.

The FTC is investigating whether oil companies manipulated gasoline prices and oil refining production levels. The agency plans to finish its probe and send its findings to Congress this May.—MNA/Reuters

US Capitol police arrest activist Sheehan

WASHINGTON, 1 Feb—Police at the US Capitol arrested US anti-war activist Cindy Sheehan on Tuesday, shortly before President George W Bush was to give his annual State of the Union speech, a police spokeswoman said.

The spokeswoman, Capitol Police Sergeant Kimberly Schneider, said she had no immediate details.

Sheehan had been invited to be a guest at the address to a joint session of Congress by US Representative Lynn Woolsey, a California Democrat.

Sheehan, who became a central figure for the US anti-war movement after her soldier son Casey was killed in the Iraq war, won wide attention with an

anti-war vigil outside Bush's Texas ranch.

CNN said Sheehan was arrested after unveiling a banner and was being held on Capitol Hill for about an hour, which would keep her away from the address, which was set to start at 9 pm EST (0200 GMT on Wednesday).

Sheehan and other activists were arrested in September for protesting outside the White House without a permit, a misdemeanor that carries a 50-US-dollar fine.

MNA/Reuters

Number of people infected with leprosy down in Tanzania

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 31 Jan—Tanzania has managed to reduce the number of people infected with leprosy from 30,000 in 2004 to 5,000 in 2005, according to a statement marking the 53rd World Leprosy Day.

The statement was issued on Sunday by the Tanzanian Ministry of Health and Social Welfare at Songea of the Ruvuma region in southernmost Tanzania and was available here on Monday.

The statement said that though Tanzania had managed to reduce the new cases of leprosy disease, the country had still not reached the set international target of reducing new cases of leprosy to one in every 10,000 people. Tanzania has a target of 3,500 new cases a year to meet. Ruvuma Regional Commissioner (provincial governor) Said Kalembo said that 10 per cent of the new leprosy cases had developed permanent disability.

Tanzania is estimated to have 20,000 leprosy-disabled people.

The provincial governor explained that people tend to develop permanent disability if they fail to get early treatment of their leprosy disease. —MNA/Xinhua

Iraq kidnappers set deadline for German hostages

DUBAI, 31 Jan—The kidnappers of two German hostages held in Iraq said they would kill their captives within 72 hours unless Germany ended cooperation with Iraq and closed its Baghdad Embassy, Al Jazeera television said on Tuesday.

A new tape of the hostages showed them next to masked individuals who pointed automatic rifles at them. It was dated 29 January.

The hostage takers were from the Ansar al-Tawhid Wa-Sunna militant group, Jazeera said, adding that the group also demanded that all German companies leave Iraq.

The two engineers, identified in German media reports as Rene Braeunlich and Thomas Nitzschke, were abducted last Tuesday outside their workplace in the Iraqi industrial town of Baiji, 110 miles north of Baghdad. They appeared in a video on Friday urging their government to help secure their release and at the time German Chancellor Angela Merkel vowed to do all she could to free them.—Internet



This photo taken and released on 31 Jan, 2006, by China's official Xinhua news agency, shows the remains of a firecracker explosion in Linzi town, Linzhou City of central China's Henan Province.

INTERNET

British soldier shot dead in southern Iraq

LONDON, 31 Jan—A British soldier was killed in southern Iraq on Monday after coming under gunfire, British Ministry of Defence said.

The soldier from the 1st Battalion The Highlanders died of injuries sustained when his patrol came under small arms fire in Maysan Province, the ministry said in a statement.

"There were no other injuries to British service personnel," the ministry added. "I was very saddened to hear this morning that a British soldier had died whilst performing his duty in Iraq.

My thoughts are with his family and friend," British Defence Secretary John Reid said in the statement.

MNA/Xinhua

Chavez warns US envoy against spying

CARACAS (Venezuela), 31 Jan—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez warned the US Ambassador against spying on Monday and said his agents had infiltrated the US embassy, which he has accused of links to espionage.

Venezuela last week accused US Embassy

officials of contacting military officers to get access to state secrets for the Pentagon, the latest test of relations between Washington and Chavez, a fierce US critic who wants to bring socialist revolution to the world's fifth-largest oil exporter.

"I recommend to the

US Embassy that they stop spying, we have you infiltrated, ambassador. Don't move around too much because we are watching you," Chavez said at a business event.

"The US military officials in the Embassy are spying and we've got them infiltrated. We even know where they eat their 'arepas reina pepeada' that those gringos love," Chavez said referring to a traditional Venezuelan fried cornmeal cake. US Embassy representatives say they have not been contacted on the issue and have no details on any charges.

Military authorities have so far not confirmed any arrests in the alleged passing of secrets, or said how many military officers are involved in the case.

Chavez on Friday threatened to arrest US Embassy staff caught spying.

MNA/Reuters

Iranian President to meet Malaysian PM over nuke disputes

KUALA LUMPUR, 31 Jan— Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad will visit Malaysia to brief leaders in this Southeast Asian country over Iran's nuke disputes, local media reported on Tuesday.

Ahmadinejad is expected to meet Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi within the next two months, and officials from the two countries are now working out a date for his visit, according to the reports of *The Star*.

This will be the first meeting between Ahmadinejad, who was elected President last June, and Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Iran dispatched its Deputy Foreign Minister Mehdi Mostafavi here last week to explain the nuclear issue to Malaysia, ahead of the International Atomic Energy Agency's emergency meeting to decide whether to refer Iran to the United Nations Security Council over the dispute.—MNA/Xinhua

London police chief admits fatal shooting errors

LONDON, 31 Jan — London's police chief Ian Blair told a newspaper on Monday his force made errors in the aftermath of the fatal shooting of an innocent Brazilian man whom officers mistook for a suicide bomber.

Blair, who is facing an investigation by an independent watchdog over comments he made after Jean Charles de Menezes was shot dead by police last July, said in an interview with the *Guardian* that false reports in the media should have been immediately corrected.

De Menezes, a 27-year-old electrician, was shot seven times in the head as he boarded a train at Stockwell underground station in south London on 22 July.

He was mistaken for one of four men who were suspected of trying to bomb London's transport system the day before. Police were already on high alert after suicide bombers had killed 52

people in similar attacks just two weeks earlier.

Immediate reports from witnesses suggested de Menezes had been wearing a bulky jacket, had vaulted a ticket barrier and had run when challenged by officers.

However, leaked reports of evidence submitted to the Independent Police Complaints Commission, which is probing the shooting, cast doubt on the claims and showed there had been major blunders by police.

Earlier this month, the IPCC submitted its full report to prosecutors to consider whether any officers involved should face criminal action, but details have not been made public.

"Clearly the Met

(London's Metropolitan Police) could have taken the decision on the Saturday when we recognized that we had killed an innocent man, we could have put the record straight," Blair told the *Guardian*.

"Although we did put the record straight by saying he wasn't connected, we didn't put the record straight about all the other issues around him, jumping over barriers and heavy coats and so on."

MNA/Reuters

ဝက်မွန်အား ခေါက်ကျော်လွှား



Workers remove snow from a building next to the exhibition hall where the roof collapsed in the southern city of Chorzow near Katowice in Poland on 30 Jan, 2006. —INTERNET

Japan to complete Iraq troop pullout by May

TOKYO, 31 Jan — Japan will begin withdrawing its non-combat ground troops in March from Iraq, where they have been engaged in their riskiest mission since World War II, and complete the pullout by May, Japanese media said on Tuesday.

Japan decided last month to keep its troops in southern Iraq for up to a year from 14 December, but government officials had left open the possibility they could be withdrawn sooner.

Japan's dispatch of troops to Iraq has won praise from close ally Washington, but most Japanese voters have opposed the move.

According to government sources quoted by Japanese media including *Kyodo* news agency, a basic agreement on the pullout of the troops was reached between officials from Japan, Britain and Australia on 23 January at a meeting in London.

Britain, citing estimates that Iraq will establish its new government as early as next month, proposed to withdraw around half its troops in southern Iraq by May, including those around Samawa, where Japan's

troops are based, *Kyodo* quoted the officials as saying.

Japan and Australia decided to withdraw their troops at the same time, it said. Japanese Defence Agency officials, however, said that nothing has been decided.

Since the activities of Japan's roughly 550 ground troops are strictly limited by Japan's pacifist Constitution, they have relied on British and Australian forces to maintain security.

The sources quoted by *Kyodo* said Washington has basically agreed to the British plan as long as there are no significant upheavals in Iraq prior to May.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has repeatedly said that Japan will have to carefully consider the situation in Iraq before deciding on a troop pullout, and that coordination with the British and Australian governments is needed to decide the timing. —MNA/Reuters

Iraq Health Minister says dead girl had bird flu

SULAIMANIYA (Iraq), 31 Jan — An Iraqi girl who died on 17 January in the Kurdish city of Sulaimaniya, had bird flu, Iraq's Health Minister said on Monday, despite the World Health Organization having initially ruled that out.

"The test of Tijan's blood emphasized that she had bird flu from the kind that kills humans," Health Minister Abdul Muttalib Mohammed Ali told a news briefing in Sulaimaniya, referring to the teenager, Tijan Abdel-Qader.

Dr Shirko Abdullah, manager of health department in Sulaimaniya, told *Reuters*: "The (Iraqi) Health Minister based his remarks on a report he received from a Cairo laboratory that indicated that the blood samples had H5N1."

WHO said on Saturday it was also carrying out tests on the girl's uncle, who died last Friday. A WHO spokeswoman said the initial tests on the girl had been carried out in Iraq.

MNA/Reuters

Saudi King says India, China visits successful

DUBAI, 31 Jan — Describing his recent visit to India and China as successful, Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah has said strengthening

relations with the two nations was in the interest of the Kingdom.

"The leaders of the two countries have expressed their desire to strengthen their relations with Saudi Arabia," the King said.

Expressing satisfaction over the outcome of his visits to the two Asian economic giants, China and India, he said "I wished to start my tour with these two countries because I believe that strengthening relations with them will be in the interest of the Kingdom".

"The agreements reached with China and India reflect the right stand taken by the Kingdom toward the two countries, he was quoted as saying by *Arab News*.

MNA/PTI

Italian soldier injured in roadside bomb blast in Iraq

ROME, 31 Jan — An Italian soldier was slightly injured on Monday morning in a roadside bomb blast near Nassiriya, where the headquarters of the Italian contingent in Iraq is located, Italian media here reported.

Italian Defence Ministry sources said the soldier was riding in a three-vehicle convoy and the blast involved only the vehicle the injured soldier was riding in. The soldier was said to have received a minor shrapnel wound in his left arm.

The convoy was hit in eastern Nassiriya while it was on its way to a nearby village where a reconstruction is in progress. It returned to base after the attack.

MNA/Xinhua

Guatemala to replace soldiers killed in Congo

MEXICO CITY, 31 Jan — Guatemala's Government announced on Monday it will replace the soldiers who died on UN peace keeping mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), according to reports from Guatemala.

Guatemalan Army spokesman Jorge Ortega said that the reinforcements would reach the African country on 8 February, replacing eight soldiers killed during a gun fight in Garamba national park.

The replacements were chosen from soldiers who volunteered to reinforce the Guatemalan group of 105 soldiers in the DRC, the spokesman said. —MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi government workers collect dozens of ducks and chickens in plastic bags destined to be buried in a nearby muddy grave, on 31 Jan, 2006, in Bingird, 65 kms north of Sulaimaniyah, northern Iraq. —INTERNET



A Chinese woman performs Peking style opera at a temple fair on the third day of the Chinese New Year in Beijing, on 31 Jan, 2006. —INTERNET

Kuwaiti emir accepts Cabinet resignation

KUWAIT CITY, 31 Jan — Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah accepted the Cabinet's resignation on Monday, the *Kuwait News Agency* reported.

Accompanied by other ministers of the Cabinet, Kuwaiti First Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah presented the resignation letter to the new emir.

Following the death of late Emir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Cabinet also finished its current tenure, therefore, the resignation was submitted to the new Emir Sheikh Sabah, who is also the former prime minister.

After accepting the resignation, Sheikh Sabah issued a decree, effective immediately, asking the ministers to stay in a caretaker role till a new Cabinet is sworn in.

Sheikh Sabah took the oath of office before Kuwaiti National Assembly (Parliament) on Sunday.

He is the successor of the ailing Sheikh Saad Al-Abdulla Al-Sabah, who was removed by the Parliament due to health reasons last Tuesday.

MNA/Xinhua

Laptop computer export tops \$10b in East China city

SUZHOU (Jiangsu), 31 Jan— Suzhou, a scenic city in East China's Jiangsu Province, exported 15.97 million laptop computers valued at 10.9 billion US dollars in 2005, the local Customs said.

The figures were up 70 per cent and 65 per cent respectively over the previous year.

The European Union and the United States are the top two destination markets, which bought 7.32 million and 4.8 million laptops respectively from Suzhou manufacturers last year, Suzhou Customs said.

Insiders attribute the export rise to the city's long-term development of export-oriented industries, which have drawn an increasing number of laptop manufacturers with mature technology, high output, low production cost and advanced marketing expertise.

MNA/Xinhua

Suicide bomber kills two policemen in southern Iraq

KERBALA (Iraq), 31 Jan — Two policemen were killed and 20 people were wounded when a suicide bomber in a car attacked a barracks in the southern city of Nassiriya on Monday, police said.

They said the wounded included soldiers and civilians. Nassiriya, a mostly Shiite city 235 miles south of Baghdad, has been relatively free of the attacks plaguing central Iraq.

Sunni Arab guerillas are waging a campaign of suicide and car bombings and shootings that have killed thousands of police officers, soldiers and civilians in an effort to undermine the Shiite-led government.

MNA/Reuters

Explosion at Florida plant releases krypton gas

MIAMI, 31 Jan — An explosion on Monday at a Florida plant that makes ignition systems for aircraft engines exposed at least 100 people to krypton gas and sent 12 to hospital for treatment, a fire department official said.

The Unison Industries plant, a unit of General Electric, was quickly evacuated, Jacksonville fire-rescue spokeswoman Bennie Seth said. She said there was no health effect from the krypton gas.

Several hours after the explosion, gas levels in the plant were found to be very

low, she added.

Company spokeswoman Angela Milligan said she could not confirm that any employees at the plant had been exposed to any sort of gas or other potentially harmful material.

Unison employees about 500 people in the

100th British military death in Iraq

LONDON, 31 Jan—A British soldier was killed in southern Iraq today, taking the total death toll of UK military personnel in the country to 100 since the US-led invasion in March 2003.

Corporal Gordon Alexander Pritchard, 31, served with the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. He died from injuries sustained in an explosion in Um Qasr in British-patrolled Basra Province.

The blast at 8.34am local time (0534 GMT) also injured three other soldiers, one seriously, the Ministry of Defence said.

Corporal Pritchard was

commanding the lead Land Rover in a three-vehicle rations and water run when the explosion went off.

Tony Blair, who ordered British troops to join the invasion, was "deeply saddened" by the death, as he was by all fatalities of service personnel, his official spokesman said.

The spokesman said British forces in Iraq—

which currently amount to around 8,000 troops — would stay in the country for "as long as necessary".

Critics of the war blamed the government for the soldiers' deaths. Reg Keys, whose son Thomas was one of six military policemen killed in an ambush in Iraq more than two years ago, said the milestone figure was "absolutely dreadful". —Internet

Pentagon to spend millions to fund foreign militaries

WASHINGTON, 31 Jan — The United States Congress has decided to allow the Pentagon to spend as much as 200 million US dollars of its own budgetary allocation to fund foreign militaries.

This permission came in the 2006 Defence Authorization Act that was passed last month and is a break with the tradition of having the State Department handling foreign military assistance.

The Defence Department's high profile lobbying had some unusual supporters to the idea — Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice who apparently overruled some of her junior level officials,

reports said.

The defence authorization allows the Pentagon to provide training equipment and supplies to foreign militaries "to build the capacity" to conduct counter-terrorism operations or join with American forces in "stability

operations". But Congress has also said that the orders for such assistance must originate in the White House with the Pentagon working closely with the State Department in the realms of formulation and implementation.

MNA/PTI

MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi soldiers patrol the riverbanks outside the western town of Bidimnah, Iraq, 80 kilometres (50 miles) west of Baghdad, on 29 Jan, 2006.

INTERNET

MNA/Reuters

Concern grows over "Kama Sutra" computer virus

SAN FRANCISCO, 1 Feb — A destructive worm posing as a pornographic e-mail may already have infected hundreds of thousands of computers and could erase many everyday files on 3 February, security experts warned on Tuesday.

The "Kama Sutra" worm, which targets popular Microsoft Corp, Adobe Systems Inc and ZIP files, is a threat because many users will not know the virus has infected their computers until it is too late, security experts said.

They also estimate that the worm—which spreads by e-mailing itself to addresses in an infected computer's mailbox—may already have slipped onto 275,000 to 500,000 machines and is now simply waiting to obliterate files on Friday.

The virus, also known as Grew.A or MyWife, tricks users by appearing as an e-mail attachment with subject lines such as "Hot Movie", "give me a kiss" and "Miss Lebanon

2006". Some variations refer to the ancient Kama Sutra guide to elaborate sexual positions in order to attract attention and convince victims to open.

"It claims to be a movie or picture with some sort of sexual content," said Johannes Ullrich, chief research officer at the nonprofit SANS Institute research group. "That is how it tricks you."

The virus causes a keyboard and mouse to freeze up and then disables anti-virus programmes when the computer is restarted, leaving a machine vulnerable, said Ken Dunham, rapid response director at VeriSign Corp's security unit Defence. The attack is scheduled to begin at

midnight on 3 February.

The virus mainly has infected computers of vulnerable consumers and small businesses, which are far less likely to have up-to-date security software, he said.

The Kama Sutra worm also stands out because its primary purpose is to destroy files rather than to seek financial gain or to take control of a computer, security experts said.

MNA/Reuters



British soldiers secure the scene of a roadside bomb attack targeting British patrol in Um Qasr, an Iraqi port city near Basra, about 600 km (372 miles) south of Baghdad, on 31 Jan, 2006.

INTERNET

Dozens of flights delayed in Guangzhou for bad weather in north

BELING, 1 Feb— Dozens of flights were delayed or even cancelled in Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong Province, on Monday because of bad weather in the northern regions of the country.

According to a report on Tuesday's *Nanfeng Daily*, Flight 9312 from Guangzhou to the eastern municipality of Shanghai and Flight 1328 from Guangzhou to Beijing were cancelled on Monday.

Other delayed flights included Flight 3519 from Guangzhou to Huangshan, Flight 3539 from Guangzhou to Nanchang, Flight 3521 from Guangzhou to Hangzhou, Flight 303 from Guang-

zhou to Hong Kong and Flight 5238 from Guangzhou to Ningbo.

Strong winds have caused dropping temperatures, rain and snow in the northern regions of China in the past couple of days, when the country of 1.3 billion people is celebrating its most important holidays in a year, the Spring Festival or the Chinese Lunar New Year, according to the national meteorological bureau. — MNA/Xinhua

Carpet export dips in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 1 Feb— Nepal's export of hand-knitted woolen carpet, the second largest foreign currency earner, declined by 9 per cent in terms of quantity during the first six months of 2005/06 fiscal year.

In value terms, the decline is just over 3 per cent, a government report reaching here Tuesday said. Nepal exported 759,033 square metres of woolen carpet during the first half of the current fiscal year, as against 834,485 square metres recorded during the same period of the last fiscal year. In value terms, the export totalled 40.04 million US dollars during the period, according to

statistics of Carpet and Wool Development Board (CWDB). Its export for the same period of the last fiscal year was recorded at 41.31 million dollars.

The decline was attributed by concerned officials to the continued slump recorded in the key European markets including Germany, which is the largest consumer of Nepali hand-knitted woolen carpet. — MNA/Xinhua

Three Iraqi soldiers killed in clash with guerillas

BAQUBA, (Iraq), 1 Feb— Three Iraqi soldiers were killed on Tuesday in a fierce clash with guerillas in northern Iraq.

"Iraqi soldiers fought guerillas in the Buhruz area, south of Baquba, some 65 kilometres northeast of Baghdad.

Three soldiers were killed and three others wounded," a source from the Iraqi-US Joint Coordination Center in Diyala told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

In a separate incident, unidentified gunmen stormed the house of Sheikh Qassim al-Hamdani, a Muslim cleric, in the Muqadiyah Town east of Baquba at about 7:00 pm (1500

GMT) on Monday, the source said.

"The gunmen killed Hamdani's wife and two of his children," he said.

Hamdani has been held in the US-run Bocca detention camp in southern Iraq for alleged links with guerillas who fight the US occupation forces, the source added.

Guerillas frequently mount attacks on the fledging Iraqi security forces, accusing them of collaborating with the US occupation forces.

MNA/Xinhua

Ugandans urged to make tremendous efforts to win AIDS war

KAMPALA, 1 Feb— Tremendous efforts must be put in place if Uganda is to win the war over HIV/AIDS, an official from the Uganda AIDS Commission has said.

David Kihumuro Apuuli, Director General of the Uganda AIDS Commission, made the remarks on Monday when releasing the national HIV/AIDS sero-status survey report 2005 at the fourth annual partnership forum near Kampala, local Press reported on Tuesday.

He said, the survey carried out last year indicates that there still remains a big challenge against the pandemic.

"The prevalence is very high among females and in urban centres, with Kampala registering 12 per cent of the prevalence among women. It is unfortunate because we are not making any headway," he said.

Apuuli said, "we thought we were doing well in the fight against HIV/AIDS but instead HIV/AIDS is getting on us and we are not getting on top of it".

MNA/Xinhua

Bangladesh PM calls for exchange of weather information

DHAKA, 1 Feb— Bangladeshi Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia called for international cooperation on the exchange of weather information for worldwide disaster mitigation.

"Meteorological activities do not obey any political or geographical boundaries," Khaleda said while inaugurating the 33rd Session of World Meteorological Organization (WMO)/ Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) Panel on Tropical Cyclones for the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea here on Monday.

The Prime Minister stressed the need for proper application of the latest technology for upgrading the existing early warning and mitigation arrangements for natural disasters. "Mitigation of natural disasters is possible through accurate and timely

forecasts and warnings, and adequate preparedness," she said.

The WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclone was formed in 1972 at the joint initiative of WMO and ESCAP to reduce losses of tropical cyclones in the countries of Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea regions. The eight-member panel is comprised of Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Oman, the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Myanmar.

Some 30 overseas delegates from the member countries and observers from international agencies such like WMO, ESCAP, United Nations.

MNA/Xinhua



Turkish officials stand in front of the building housing a Turkish-US association in the southern Turkish city of Adana, on 30 Jan, 2006. A bomb ripped through a building housing a Turkish-US association in the southern Turkish city of Adana on Monday. —INTERNET

Extend growing of physic nut for rural development

Article and photos by *Thaung Win Bo*



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and wife Daw Khin Thant Sin and Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan planting Physic nut grafts.

Bio-diesel, extracted from physic nut, can be directly used in place of diesel. Using bio-diesel does not call for any changes in engine parts.

grafts as a gesture of hailing the National Convention held at highland (3) in Lashio on 15 January this year, Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing delivered a speech, saying, "We're now implementing a spe-



Women nurturing grafts of physic nut in Lashio District.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe with visionary has given guidance on growing physic nut plants in all the states and divisions of the nation so as to effectively use bio-diesel in place of diesel.

The Myanmar Agriculture Service and the Agricultural Mechanization Department are jointly undertaking the projects to achieve the target of growing seven million acres of physic nut in states and divisions all over the nation in three years.

At the ceremony to grow physic nut



Seeds of physic nut.

cial plan to grow physic nut in Shan State (North) in accordance with the directives of the government to meet the target of fifty hundred thousand

Physic nut reproduction farms and high-yield physic nut growing zones are being established in Lashio, Kyaukme, Muse, Kunlong

Leya-16 power-tillers will be operated with bio-diesel. It takes eight months for a physic nut plant to bear fruits if the seed is sowed, and it



Physic nut plants in Lashio.

acres of physic nut".

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan took part in the growing of physic nut grafts.

Then, those present observed lighting of lamps and lanterns, burning of diesel stoves, running of farm machin-

and Laukkai districts of Shan State (North) under the supervision of the chairmen of respective District Peace and Development Councils.

Plans are under way to allot lands of 880,000 acres in Shan State (North) to national entrepreneurs after reclaiming vacant lands.

takes six months, if graft is planted. Now, one can see physic nut plantations everywhere in Shan State (North). Not only local regiments and units, social organizations but also national entrepreneurs take interest in such a promising industry. And Shan State Myanmar Police



The 1000-acre model field of physic nut of highland (3).

ery and milling of physic nut with the use of oil obtained from physic nut seeds.

The commander added, "In addition to conventional methods, Shan State (North) is doing research to work out better ways to boost per acre yield of physic nut. Now, we're growing the crop with the use of irrigated water to ensure that it can be grown all-year round".

"Now, measures are being taken for the drive for generation of electric power with the use of bio-diesel to supply power to the villages of Shan State (North) commencing 2007. Bio-diesel will make considerable contribution towards the rural development tasks. In the near future, all the Trawler-Gs, generators, combine harvesters, water pumps and

Force is expanding the growing of physic nut plants", said the secretary of Shan State (North) PDC.

Physic nut thrives well at any regions at any time in Myanmar and it contributes towards rural development. So, I would say growing physic nut is a lucrative business.

Translation: MS

Government, people and Tatmadaw joining hands in nation-building tasks...

(from page 1)

The Government, the people and the Tatmadaw are joining hands in nation-building tasks. Hence, progress has been made in all aspects. Taking advantage of technological and development gap, the media inside and outside the nation are trying to penetrate the political, social, economic and cultural sectors of the nation. To present correct news to the public, the USDA media is to rebut the slanders of those media,

while supporting the information pillar of the State.

Next, Secretary-General U Htay Oo presented first, second and third prizes to U Nyunt Win of Magway Division USDA, U Lwin Moe of Mon State USDA and Dr Soe Thein of Ayeyawady Division USDA respectively.

The Secretary-General also gave completion certificates to the trainees through trainee leader U Tin Myint and gifts for the instructors to

course instructor U Tin Kha (Tekkatho Tin Kha).

After the ceremony, the Secretary-General cordially greeted the trainees.

Also present on the occasion were Joint Secretary-General U Zaw Min, members of Secretariat, CEC members, course instructors and officials.

A total of 52 USDA trainees from States and Divisions attended the 9-week course.

MNA

Minister inspects construction tasks

YANGON, 1 Feb—Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun and Deputy Minister U Tint Swe inspected the construction of Myaungmya-Einme Road at the section of mile post No 50 yesterday.

Next, they inspected the axis chosen for build-

ing of Kyungon Bridge on Wakema-Einme Road across Pyanmalawt River near the jetty in Kyungon Village. The minister gave instructions on survey tasks. On completion, the facility will link Wakema and Einme townships, and there will be no need to get across

the river, and Wakema, Kyungon, Ywathit, Myinkasesik and Pathein can be reached in a short time.

They also viewed the tasks for maintenance of Wakema-Shawlaung-Pantanaw Road and Yangon-Pathein Road.

MNA

Minister U Nyan Win signs Book of Condolences



Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win signs in the Book of Condolences for the demise of former President of the Federal Republic of Germany Dr Johannes Rau. — MNA

YANGON, 1 Feb — Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win signed the Book of Condolences, that was opened for the

demise of former president of the Federal Republic of Germany Dr Johannes Rau, at the Embassy of the Federal Re-

public of Germany on Bogyoke Aung San Museum Road in Bahan Township at 11.45 am today. — MNA

Dagon Township WJA holds annual meeting

YANGON, 1 Feb — The annual meeting of Dagon Township Writers and Journalists Association was held at the town hall on 29 January morning.

Chairperson Daw Nu Nu (Nu Nu-Sarpay Beikman) gave an opening speech. Secretary U

Maung Maung San (San Nilar Win) and Treasurer Daw Khin Myint Than (Asaw Htwe) read out the executive committee report and financial statement.

In the election ceremony, the executive committee including Daw Nu Nu (Nu Nu-Sarpay

Beikman) as Chairperson, U Hla Maung (Aung Chein Bwa) as Vice-Chairperson, Daw Ni Ni Aye (Shin Ni) as Treasurer were elected. Later, the chairperson and the secretary of the township association were selected as representatives to the MWJA Conference.

MNA

Religious courses conclude



Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung presents a certificate to a member of the Sangha. — MNA

YANGON, 1 Feb—The conclusion of Theravada Buddhist Missionary Course No 16 along with Basic Course No 7/2006 on Health Care with Traditional Medicines conducted by the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana under the Ministry of Religious Affairs took place at the convocation hall of the State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) on Kaba Aye Hill here this afternoon.

Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha

Nayaka Committee Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Acinnabhivamsa and member Sayadaws graced the occasion by their presence. Also present were Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, departmental heads, officials, trainees and guests.

Chairman of Theravada Buddhist Ovacariya Board Sayadaw Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Kundala Bhivamsa deliv-

ered a sermon.

The minister supplied on religious affairs. The minister and officials offered alms to the Sayadaws.

Next, completion certificates were presented to the trainees, and awards, to the outstanding trainees.

Joint-Secretary of the SSMNC Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Canda Siri gave a sermon for the sharing of merits gained.

MNA

Deputy Minister inspects dockyard, extension of runway



Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung inspects extended construction of runway of Mawlamyine Airport. — MNA

YANGON, 1 Feb—Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung on 27 January inspected the ships being docked at Thanlwin Dockyard in Mottama, Mon State, and fulfilled the requirements.

The deputy minister went to Mawlamyine Airport the next day to assist the extension of runway of Mawlamyine Airport. After hearing reports on construction, he inspected the runway and

gave instructions.

Deputy Minister Col Nyan Tun Aung and wife on 29 January donated cash amounting to K 1.5 million for maintenance of over 100-year-old Yadanabon Myint Monas-

tery through the presiding Sayadaw of the monastery.

During his tour of inspection, the deputy minister met with staff of the branch of Inland Water Transport in Mawlamyine. — MNA

ကမ္ဘာ့ကင်ဆာရောဂါ ကာကွယ်ထိန်းသိမ်းရေးနေ့

(၄-၂-၂၀၀၆)

“ကင်ဆာကင်းဝေးတိုရှင်သွေး၊ ဆောလျှင်မေးကုသလေး”
“My Child Matters”

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Medical course, language course open in PyinOoLwin



Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa speaking at opening ceremony of Medical Platoon Course No 6 at Central Fire Services Training School in PyinOoLwin. — FSD

YANGON, 1 Feb— Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa addressed the opening of the medical platoon course No 6 on 30 January and the language training course No 17 of the Immigration and National Registration Department today at the central training school of the Fire Services Department in PyinOoLwin.

On 30 January, the minister inspected cultivation of physic nut plants on 50 acres of land in the

compound of the training school. He also inspected the training course of the vocational training school of the ministry in PyinOoLwin.

On 29 January, the minister met with staff of the Meiktila District Immigration and National Registration Department and Fire Services Department and called for the discharge of their duties in accord with rules and regulations.

MNA

Sports gear worth US\$ 580 handed over to Institute of Nursing (Yangon)



Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presents sports gear to Rector Dr Daw Khin May Ohn of Institute of Nursing (Yangon). — SPED

YANGON, 1 Feb — Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee and Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint delivered an address at the ceremony to hand over sports gear to Institute of Nursing (Yangon) at the hall of the institute, here, yesterday morning.

Also present on the occasion were officials of the Ministry of Sports, Chairperson Daw Aye Aye of Central Work Committee for Myanmar Women's Sports Federation and members of the panel of patrons, the director-general of Medical Science Department, the rector of Institute of Nursing (Yangon), employees and trainees.

First, the minister explained the purpose of the handover ceremony. Next, he presented 11 items of sports equipment for table tennis, badminton, basketball, football and Sepak Takraw sports events worth US\$ 580. Rector of the institute Dr Daw Khin May Ohn accepted the sports gear and presented a souvenir to the minister.

Later, the rector expressed gratitude. — MNA

Township Judges Refresher Course opened

YANGON, 1 Feb— The opening of Township Judges Refresher Course No 4 conducted by the Supreme Court took place at the Supreme Court this morning, with an address by Chief Justice U Aung Toe.

Also present were Deputy Chief Justice U Thein Soe, Supreme Court judges, Director-General of the Supreme Court U Soe Nyunt, officials, and invited persons. Altogether 56 trainees are attending the 10-week course.

MNA



Chief Justice U Aung Toe makes a speech at opening of Township Judges Refresher Course No 4. — MNA

Religious titles to be conferred

YANGON, 1 Feb— A work coordination meeting for holding a ceremony to confer religious titles on members of the Sangha and to donate provisions was held this morning at Ministry of Religious Affairs here.

At the meeting, Chairman of the leading committee for holding the ceremony Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung addressed the meeting, and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura

Aung Ko and those present reported on tasks being carried out for the ceremony.

Those wishing to donate cash and kind may contact Ph 241125, 660441.

MNA

Deputy Minister for Industry-1 Brig-Gen Thein Tun unveils the signboard of Market Festival hailing 59th Anniversary Union Day.

INDUSTRY-1

Industry-1 market festival launched

YANGON, 1 Feb—As a gesture of hailing the 59th Anniversary Union Day, the Ministry of Industry-1 opened the Industry-1 market festival in the compound of the ministry on Sethmu Road in Bahan Township, here, this morning.

Director-General of the Directorate of Industries U Thein Aung formally opened the festival held on the road around the compound of the ministry.

Deputy Minister for Industry-1 Brig-Gen Thein Tun unveiled the signboard of the festival, and viewed

the pavilions of Myanma Ceramics Industries, Myanma Paper and Chemical Industries, Myanma Foodstuff Industries, Myanma General and Maintenance Industries, and Myanma Textile Industries. The festival was packed with visitors.

At the festival, a wide range of goods manufactured by the ministry are on sale at reasonable prices retail and wholesale. For the recreation of the visitors, a music show is staged from 6 pm to 8 pm daily at the festival, that continues till 5 February. — MNA





A Romanian man moves snow on the roof of an ice hotel at Balea Lac, Romania, at an altitude of 2,034 meters, (6,700 feet) 300 kilometers (186 miles) north-west of Bucharest, on 31 Jan, 2006. — INTERNET

Malaysia, Saudi Arabia eye closer economic ties

KUALA LUMPUR, 1 Feb — Malaysia and Saudi Arabia on Tuesday expressed their wishes to further strengthen bilateral economic and trade ties, urging business communities in the two countries to explore untapped potentials in various fields.

Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and visiting Saudi King Abdullah Aziz Al-Saud delivered speeches at a business luncheon hosted by the Malaysia-

Saudi Arabia Business Council.

“Malaysia places great emphasis on strengthening bilateral trade ties with Saudi Arabia. The current state of bilateral relations is excellent. The volume of trade and investment between the two countries is growing in significance,” said Badawi in the Mandarin Oriental Hotel here.

Stressing that there remains much untapped potential in trade and investment between the two countries, Badawi called on Malaysian businessmen to enter into more joint ventures with their Saudi counterparts.

Badawi added that, in Saudi Arabia, Malaysian entrepreneurs will be especially looking for business opportunities in the area of infrastructure, including construction, electricity,

shipyard building and maintenance as well as water desalination.

For his part, the Saudi King encouraged businessmen and investors in the two countries to take more initiatives to deepen business ties and cooperation. The two governments have made their due efforts in laying the framework to facilitate bilateral cooperation and investment, and what remains is for the businessmen to take the initiative, said King Abdullah.

Abdullah arrived here Monday for a three-day visit to Malaysia, his first visit to this Southeast Asian nation after his ascending the throne last August. He paid a visit to Malaysia in October 2003 as Crown Prince to attend the 10th Organization of Islamic Conference (ICO) Leaders’ Summit.

MNA/Xinhua

Nepal mulls downward revision of landing fees in int’l airport

KATHMANDU, 1 Feb — The Nepali Government is mulling a plan to reduce landing fees at the country’s only international airport in Kathmandu, a senior government official said here on Tuesday. “The government is mulling to revise landing fees at Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) in a bid to lure more foreign airlines in Nepal,” Yankila Sherpa, Nepali State Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, said at 37th annual general body meeting of Hotel Association of Nepal, a non-governmental organization.

“The government is working towards downward revision of the landing fees at TIA as we deem the current fee structure would be discouraging to airline operators to Nepal,” Sherpa added.

A number of airlines had stopped flights to Nepal in the past, citing expensive landing and navigation fees charged in TIA.

“We should retain airlines currently flying to Nepal by revising the landing fees as the airlines are crucial for tourism promotion,” she added. — MNA/Xinhua

Mexican FM says border conflict with US resolved

MEXICO CITY, 1 Feb — The Mexican Government sees its recent border conflict with the United States resolved, though a full investigation is underway, Foreign Minister Luis Ernesto Derbez said Monday, according to reports from Madrid.

“The case of the alleged intervention of Mexican Army members, involved in helping drug traffickers, has been resolved and clarified by the Mexican Government,” Derbez told journalists during a visit to the Spanish capital Madrid.

No Mexican soldiers had crossed into US territory during last Monday’s

incident, Derbez said.

On Tuesday last week, a day after the incident, Mexico and the US began a heated discussion on the identity of the men who, dressed as Mexican soldiers, helped drug traffickers fleeing into Mexico in hot pursuit from US police.

The US Government asked Mexico for a thorough investigation and a swift response, while the Mexican authorities immediately rejected any possibility of Mexican soldiers assisting in drug dealers. Derbez suggested the uniformed men could be US troops or US criminals disguised as Mexican troops. The tension increased when US Ambassador to Mexico, Antonio Garza, made public a diplomatic note demanding the Mexican Government take border violence seriously.

MNA/Xinhua

Planned bomb attack foiled in Kabul

KABUL, 1 Feb — A planned bomb attack was foiled by Afghan forces on Monday in Afghan capital Kabul, local officials said. “This morning at about 11 am (0630 GMT) we got the report about the suspected bomb in police district 10, on the way between US Embassy and the airport.

Afghan rapid reaction force department reported this to the foreign troops who afterwards went there, found and defused the bomb,” General Mahbob Amiri, commander of rapid reaction force told Xinhua.

“The explosives include two mines and one wireless controller,” he added while declining to tell the nationality of the foreign troops.

Afghan forces have for several times foiled suspected attacks. Afghan National Police (ANP) and Afghan National Army (ANA) foiled a suicide attack Wednesday with fast speed in the southern Kandahar Province, a local official said.

MNA/Xinhua

River erosion in Bangladesh leaves 1m homeless

DHAKA, 1 Feb — Around one million people have been rendered homeless due to river erosion in Bangladesh over the last three decades as the mighty river Brahmaputra-Jamuna continues to widen.

The Daily Star quoted official statistics as saying on Tuesday that the Brahmaputra-Jamuna, a major river system in Bangladesh, has widened to 11.8 kilometres now from 8.3 kilometres in the early 1970s, eroding about 87,790 hectares of land.

The Centre for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS), an independent analysis wing of the Water Resources Ministry, said in a recent study that the widening process of the Brahmaputra-Jamuna still continues owing to long-term effects of the 1950 Assam (India) earthquake of 8.6 magnitude on the Richter Scale.

Experts said nearly 800 square km of valuable floodplains have been lost due to erosion along the Brahmaputra-Jamuna’s total length of 240 kilometres in Bangladesh.

“Around 1 million people have become homeless and infrastructure destroyed due to riverbank erosion in the Brahmaputra-Jamuna,” Knut Oberhagemann, team leader of the Jamuna-Meghna River Erosion Mitigation Project (JMREMP), was quoted by the daily as saying.

The rate of erosion becomes high

and the flow of water strongly hits the river banks when huge quantities of sediment are mixed with water, experts said.

“Assam earthquake delivered approximately 45 billion cubic metres of sediment to the Brahmaputra-Jamuna River and its tributaries in the Assam valley, raising the riverbed by three metres,” CEGIS Morphologist Maminul Haque Sarker was quoted as saying.

Around 60 to 70-square-kilometre land is being devoured by the Brahmaputra-Jamuna, leaving 60,000 to 75,000 people landless every year, according to a research report of Water Resources Engineering Department of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.

“Depth of the Brahmaputra-Jamuna continues to decrease and its width increases.

At present, from 100 to 500 metres of land is being eroded from both banks of the river,” said Professor M Monowar Hossain, who conducted the research identifying three causes of expanding width of the Brahmaputra-Jamuna.

MNA/Xinhua

တတိယအကြိမ်မြောက်
အနာကြီးရောဂါကင်းရေးအထိမ်းအမှတ်နေ့
(၆-၂-၂၀၀၆)
“အနာကြီးရောဂါကင်းရေးအထိမ်းအမှတ်နေ့”

အနာကြီးရောဂါဟု မသင်္ကာဖွယ်ရာ ကနဦးလက္ခဏာများမှာ

- အရေပြားပေါ်တွင် အရောင်ပျော့သော၊ နီသော၊ ကြေးနီရောင်ပေါက်နေသော အကွက်များရှိပြီး ၎င်းတို့သည် -
- ယားယံမှုမရှိခြင်း
- နာကျင်မှုမရှိခြင်း
- ပူခြင်း၊ အေးခြင်း၊ နာခြင်း၊ ထိခြင်းကို မသိခြင်း
- အရေပြား၏ မည်သည့်နေရာတွင်မှ ချိတ်ပေါက်ခြင်းမရှိခြင်း
- အသက်အရွယ်၊ ကျား၊မ မရွေး၊ အတန်းအစားမရွေး၊ နေရာဒေသမရွေး ဖြစ်နိုင်သည်။

- သင့်ရပ်ရွာတွင် အနာကြီးရောဂါကင်းရေးလိုပါသလား။
- အနာကြီးရောဂါအကြောင်းကို လုံတိုင်းသိအောင်ပြောပြပေးပါ။
- အနာကြီးရောဂါသည်ဟု မသင်္ကာသူတိုင်းကို ရှာဖွေပေးပါ။
- ဆေးကုသမှုခံယူနိုင်အောင် စည်းရုံးပေးပါ။
- MDT (အမ်ဒီတီ)ဆေးကိုကျန်းမာရေးဌာနတိုင်းတွင်အလွယ်တကူနှင့်အခမဲ့ရရှိနိုင်ပါသည်။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

S Korea-Singapore FTA to take effect in March

SEOUL, 1 Feb — South Korea and Singapore agreed to begin implementation of a bilateral free trade agreement (FTA) on March 2, according to South Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade on Tuesday.

The accord, which was ratified by South Korean National Assembly last December, calls for South Korea to remove tariffs on 91.6 per cent of its 10,315 trade items with Singapore within 10 years.

In return, Singapore will scrap tariffs on all trade items with South Korea once the deal becomes effective, the ministry said in a statement.

Moreover, Singapore agreed to grant preferential tariff to the products produced at Kaesong Industrial Complex in North Korea in future, the statement added.

The Kaesong Industrial Complex is under construction jointly by South Korea and North Korea.

About 15 South Ko-

rean small- and medium-size enterprises have entered the pilot zone of the complex and started production.

South Korea signed the free trade accord with Singapore in August 2004.

The statement also said the "implementation of the South Korea-Singapore FTA will help

South Korean companies to exploit the Southeast Asian market and enhance trade with Singapore."

South Korea has signed free trade deals with Chile, Singapore and the European Free Trade Association, comprising Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.—MNA/Xinhua



A Filipino woman clenches her fist while shouting anti-US slogans during a protest to demand custody of four US Marines outside the US Embassy in Manila on 30 Jan, 2006.—INTERNET

Iran unveiled "nothing new" at EU3 talks

BRUSSELS, 1 Feb — Iran presented no major new proposals at talks with European Union countries on Monday over Western concerns about its nuclear ambitions, a British official said after the discussions ended.

The talks in Brussels against Iran over its nuclear programme. "We didn't hear anything new that we hadn't heard already," British diplomat John Sawers told reporters after two hours of talks with Javad Vaedi,

deputy head of Iran's Supreme National Security Council. "We will pass on the information to our foreign ministers. They will make the final decision on whether the matter will go to the UN Security Council," he added.

Emerging from the talks with the so-called EU3 of Britain, France and Germany, Vaedi said the discussions had been "very positive" and raised the prospect of further meetings.

"As far as we are concerned, it has been a positive outcome," he said. Neither he nor Sawers referred to a new set of proposals Iran was expected to present at the talks aimed at halting a transfer of Iran's case to the UN Security Council.

MNA/Reuters

Former postal worker kills 5, commits suicide in California

LOS ANGELES, 1 Feb — A former postal worker in California went on a shooting spree overnight, killing five people before she committed suicide, authorities said Tuesday.

Local police and federal agencies were investigating the scene of the carnage, a mail processing plant in a usually peaceful town of the coastal Santa Barbara county about 150 kilometres northwest of Los Angeles.

Officials said the shooter was a former employee who had been removed from the facility in 2003 by law enforcement officials after complaints from other employees, according to a website report of the Los Angeles Times newspaper.

The 44-year-old woman, whose name was not released, received a psychological medical

disability, said Randy Degasperin, a postal inspector, who represented the US Postal Inspection Service, the post office's police arm.

No physical threats were involved but her coworkers wanted the woman to receive help, he said, adding that the woman, who was a part-time distribution clerk, took another job.

The incident was the deadliest shooting in the workplace in the United States since 2003, when a 48-year-old man gunned down 14 coworkers, killing six, at a Lockheed Martin aircraft parts plant in Mississippi before killing himself.

MNA/Xinhua

Scientists say global warming demands urgent solutions

LONDON, 1 Feb — The world must halt greenhouse gas emissions and reverse them within two decades or watch the planet spiralling towards destruction, scientists said on Monday.

Saying that evidence of catastrophic global warming from burning fossil fuels was now incontrovertible, the experts from oceanographers to economists, climatologists and politicians stressed that inaction was unacceptable.

"Climate change is worse than was previously thought and we need to act now," Henry Derwent, special climate change adviser to British Prime Minister Tony Blair, said at the launch of a book of

scientific papers on the global climate crisis.

Researcher Rachel Warren from the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, who contributed to the book "Avoiding Dangerous Climate Change", said carbon dioxide emissions had to peak no later than 2025, and painted a picture of rapidly approaching catastrophe.

Global average temperatures were already 0.6 Celsius above pre-industrial levels, and a rise of

just 0.4C more would see coral reefs wiped out, flooding in the Himalayas and millions more people facing hunger, she said.

A rise of 3C — just half of what scientists have warned is possible this century — would see 400 million people going hungry, entire species being wiped out and killer diseases such as dengue fever reaching pandemic proportions.

"To prevent all of this needs global emissions to peak in 2025 and then come down by 2.6 per cent a year," Warren said.

"But even then we would probably face a rise of 2 degrees because of the delay built into the climate system. So we have to start to plan to adapt," she added.

Already the effects of the change are becoming visible, with more extreme weather events and people in coastal areas put at risk from rising sea levels due to melting ice caps.

The first phase of the global Kyoto protocol on cutting greenhouse gas emissions runs until 2012, and negotiations have only just started on finding a way of taking it beyond that.—MNA/Reuters

Study shows nearly eight million children born with defects

WASHINGTON, 1 Feb — Nearly eight million children are born with birth defects around the world every year and most of them either die or are disabled for life as a result, according to a report released on Monday.

With proper medical care up to 70 per cent of these defects could be prevented, or at least treated, the report from the March of Dimes said.

"An estimated 7.9 million children are born annually with a serious birth defect of genetic or partially genetic origin," the report said.

"More than 90 per cent of all infants with a serious birth defect are born in middle- and low-income countries," the report added.

"Because most of these countries do not have adequate services to care for infants and children with birth defects, many of them will die young."

The March of Dimes, a charity whose goal is to eliminate birth defects, said 3.3 million deaths every year are associated with birth defects and another 3.2 million children born with defects become disabled.

Proper medical care and nutrition could prevent many of these, the report said.

"For example, structural birth defects including congenital heart defects, congenital cataracts, cleft lip and palate and clubfoot, can be corrected with pediatric surgery," it said.

Treatments are also available for sickle cell disease, which causes misshapen red blood cells, thyroid disease and other problems.

"In the United States alone, fortification of the grain supply with folic acid has produced a one-third decline in neural tube defects each year, with an overall cost savings calculated at 400 million US dollars annually," the report said.

In the United States, the infant mortality rate from birth defects fell 46 per cent between 1980 and 2001, the March of Dimes said.—MNA/Reuters



Smoke rises following the explosion of a car bomb in front of a building in Baghdad on 29 Jan, 2006.

INTERNET

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 Ph: 248108/723043
 (For. Eccles & Lee, Patent and Trademark Attorneys, Hong Kong)
 Dated. 2 February 2006

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV SELATAN MEGAH VOYNO (YMA-203)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SELATAN MEGAH VOY NO (YMA-203) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.2.2006 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 upto 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER**
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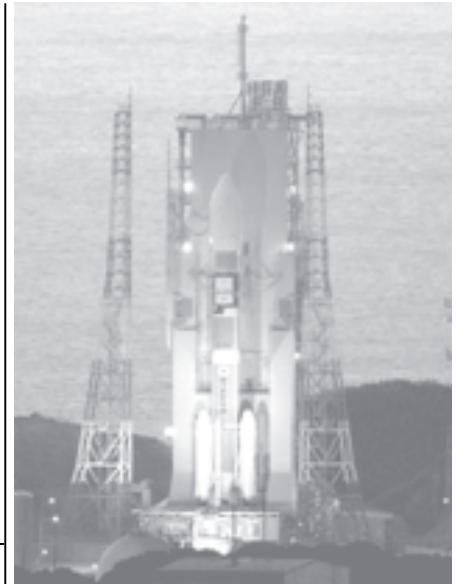
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 M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.
 for KAPMAN AB
 P.O. Box 60, Yangon
 Dated: 2 February 2006



The Japanese-developed H-2A rocket, carrying a 4-ton observation satellite, sits on the launching pad at Tanegashima Space Center recently.

INTERNET

Baby who had heart surgery in womb goes home

NEW YORK, 31 Jan— An infant, named Grace, who underwent the world's first heart "stent" procedure in the womb was discharged to go home on Friday, according to a Press release from Children's Hospital Boston, the centre where the landmark operation took place.

The stent was placed in the developing fetus at 30 weeks of pregnancy on 7 November, 2005 to treat a heart defect called hypoplastic left heart syndrome (HLHS). She was born 10 January and underwent the first part of a definitive three-stage corrective operation on 13 January.

The physicians credit the earlier stent placement with protecting her lungs and making her recent operation run more smoothly than usual for these types of cases.

With HLHS, the most common heart disease-related cause of death during the first week of life, the left side of the heart is underdeveloped and can accept very little blood. Frequently, there is a hole

that lets blood from the left side flow to the right before leaving the heart.

In Grace's case, however, there was not a hole, so blood accumulated on the left side and backed up into her lungs, which overtime can cause serious damage.

To prevent the lung damage that would occur as the pregnancy went on, Dr James Lock, from Children's Hospital Boston, and colleagues decided to create a connection between the left and right sides of Grace's heart using a stent, which acted like a tiny channel for the blood.

Under ultrasound guidance, the doctors inserted a small catheter into the mother's abdomen and uterus and then into

the fetal heart. After two holes were created in the wall between the left and right sides of the heart, the stent was placed.

After several uneventful weeks, the mother returned to the hospital in January for delivery.

An ultrasound performed just before birth suggested that the stent procedure had worked: Grace looked like a typical HLHS baby, instead of one in the highest risk category as would have been expected without treatment.

At birth, Grace was breathing without major difficulty and did not need to be put on a mechanical ventilator.

MNA/Reuters

Flying "Little Bird" bull injures seven Mexicans

MEXICO CITY, 31 Jan— A half-tonne bull named "Little Bird" has flown into Mexico's history books by leaping into a packed crowd of bullfight fans and injuring seven in a panicked frenzy.

Television images from a bullfight on Sunday showed terrified spectators scattering as the 1,107-pound (503-kilo) beast jumped over the heads of stunned journalists and crashed into the most expensive seats at the vast Mexico City ring.

The rampaging bull — whose name "Pajarito," means "Little Bird" in English — gored one woman, who is hospitalized with a 6-inch (15-centimetres) gash in her chest.

Several other people

were also injured before a bullfighter stabbed the animal to death with his sword.

Bullfighting remains a popular sport in Mexico, although it does not draw the same crowds as during its heyday in the middle of last century.

Mexico City's bullring was built 60 years ago and is one of the biggest in the world, holding 48,000 spectators. Little Bird was the first bull in the ring's history to jump into the crowd.

MNA/Reuters

UN agency invited to oversee destruction of cocaine in Kenya

NAIROBI, 31 Jan— The Kenyan Government has invited United Nations drug agency to witness the destruction of the 92 million US dollars cocaine haul, government spokesman Alfred Mutua Mutua said in a statement on Monday.

"The government has invited the United Nations Commission on Narcotics Drug to inspect, verify and oversee the destruction of the six-billion-shilling (about 92-million-dollar) cocaine haul that was confiscated by the Kenyan police," he said.

Mutua said the Colombian cocaine was

seized by police in the Kenyan coastal town of Malindi about two years ago.

The seizure was the largest haul ever in Africa and the drugs have elicited sharp reactions from law-makers and legal experts on how investigations have been carried out and its authenticity.

"It is important that the destruction is in accordance with the law and court procedures," Mutua noted.

However, the government spokesman did not indicate when the UN drugs experts would be arrived in the East African country.

Six suspects charged in connection with the haul have been acquitted by a Kenyan court for lack of tangible evidence to warrant prosecution.

MNA/Xinhua

China's mobile phone subscribers to reach 440 m in 2006

BELING, 31 Jan— Number of mobile phone subscribers in China is expected to reach 440 million in 2006 with 48 million expected to be newly added this year, according to a prediction by the Information Industry Ministry.

The constant expansion of mobile phone subscribers has always been the major income source of the communication business,

which is expected to reach 700 billion yuan (87.5 billion US dollars) in 2006, up 10 per cent over 2005, according to the ministry.

China increased 58.604 million new mobile phone subscribers in 2005, with monthly growth approaching five million.

More and more Chinese people begin to use mobile phones. The Information Industry Ministry predicted that 33 per cent of the total population will possess mobile phones in 2006.

China will firmly hold its first position in the world in terms of its scale of mobile phone subscribers.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese Customs cracks over 60,000 smuggling cases in past five years

BELING, 31 Jan— Chinese Customs cracked down on a total of 60,059 smuggling cases in the past five years, involving 35.57 billion yuan (4.4 billion US dollars) worth of goods, according to the General Administration of Customs.

The administration said from 2001 to 2005, a total of 15,725 suspects were prosecuted for smuggling, with 7,687 arrested.

The Customs enhanced enforcement over smuggling in recent years, especially smuggling of important goods such as oil, cigarettes, vehicles,

steel products and telecommunications equipment. In the past five years the Customs also seized 15,242 kilogrammes of drugs. —MNA/Xinhua

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပို့ပြစီးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

ADB provides Uganda with fund for education, water sectors

KAMPALA, 31 Jan—The African Development Bank (ADB) has agreed to provide Uganda with 85.75 million US dollars to support its education, water and sanitation sectors.

Two grant protocols on providing the funds were signed in Tunis by ADB acting Vice-President Mohammed Gharbi and Ugandan Finance Minister Ezra Suruma last week, state-owned newspaper *The New Vision* reported on Monday.

"The grant earmarked for the rural water supply and sanitation programme will contribute to

the development of over 3,500 boreholes, 4,000 protected springs, 500 ecological toilets and provide gender-balanced support to domestic and school hygiene promotion throughout rural districts", Gharbi said. Suruma commended ADB for the successful tenth replenishment of the African Development Fund, the concessional window of

the bank group, which has made it possible for poor countries to benefit from financing of certain activities at 100 per cent grant.

"This was a milestone in ADB's development and a big step in placing highly concessional resources at the disposal of its well performing but highly indebted and poor lot of its members", the Minister added. — *MNA/Xinhua*



A Chinese soldier trains a dog by skipping rope at a military base in Nanjing, east China's Jiangsu Province on 28 Jan, 2006. —INTERNET

Blast injures five in southern Turkey

ANKARA, 31 Jan— Five were injured on Monday when an explosion occurred in the Turkish-US Friendship Association building in southern Turkey, reported the semi-official *Anatolia* news agency.

Cahit Kirac, governor of southeastern Turkish city of Adana, was quoted as saying that the bomb was planted in a waiting room on the ground floor of the Turkish-US Association building in downtown Adana.

"Four English language teaching course students and a janitor were wounded in the blast. They were not seriously injured," he added.

According to him, "efforts continue to capture an unidentified person who fled just after the explosion. Also bomb experts are working to determine the type of the bomb." Police evacuated the building and cordoned off the scene of the blast. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Two people frozen to death in Turkey

ANKARA, 31 Jan— Two persons were frozen to death in central Turkey, the semi-official *Anatolia* news agency reported on Monday.

The report said a person was frozen to death when he was hunting in Emirdag Town of Afyon

Province, and another woman died of cold in Yahyali Town of Kayseri Province.

Heavy snowfalls, icy roads and freezing temperatures have also caused some deadly traffic accidents throughout Turkey these days. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Floods, drought boost global disasters in 2005

GENEVA, 31 Jan— More frequent floods and drought, blamed by some scientists on global warming, brought a near 20 per cent rise in natural disasters in 2005, researchers said on Monday.

But the death toll fell to 91,963 from 244,577 in 2004 when the figures were swollen by the impact of the Asian tsunami, the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) and Belgium's Louvain Research Centre said in a report.

Over 80 per cent of the fatalities in 2005 came from a single disaster — October's devastating earthquake in Kashmir and Pakistan's North West Frontier Province — just as the tsunami caused over 90 per cent of deaths a year earlier.

Without the earthquake and the tsunami, the death toll in both years was under 20,000, confirming a trend for more frequent, but less lethal disasters.

"That is the goods news," said professor Debarati Guha Sapor, of the Louvain Centre for Research on the

Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED).

The bad news was that rising urbanization, with people in developing countries often crowding into environmentally dangerous areas around big cities, meant the risk of disasters was growing, said ISDR director Salvano Briceno.

"These figures reaffirm trends we have been observing for the past decade," he said. "Less people are dying from disasters, but there are many more long-term, negative implications for sustainable human development," he said. In 2005, there were 360 natural disasters, ranging from hurricane Katrina, which killed 1,322 people in New Orleans, to a measles epidemic in Nigeria in which more than 500 died.

MNA/Reuters

Senegal, Mauritania to strengthen cooperation

DAKAR, 31 Jan— Senegal and Mauritania announced on Monday they will strengthen cooperation in all spheres and bring their bilateral relations to a new stage, reports reaching here said.

The governments of the

two Western African countries will discuss the details of cooperation at joint committee meetings, which are to be held regularly as from the first half of this year, according to a communique published on Monday after Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade concluded his one-day working visit to Mauritania. Wade and Mauritanian leader Ely Ould Mohamed Vall announced they will coordinate on agricultural policies and take necessary measures to protect the ecological environment and the biodiversity of the Senegal valley. The two countries will also cooperate in other spheres including education, public health, democracy construction, and fight against terrorism and transnational crimes, the communique said.

MNA/Xinhua

AIDS cases drop in Switzerland in 2005

GENEVA, 31 Jan — A total of 234 cases of AIDS were reported in Switzerland in 2005, a drop of 20 per cent compared with the previous year, the Swiss Federal Health Office said on Monday.

"In total, 234 cases of AIDS were reported to the authorities in 2005, compared with 298 cases in 2004," said the office in a statement.

It added that 702 people were tested positive for HIV in 2005, 41 fewer than in 2004.

However, officials warned that it was too early to draw any conclusions since only 111 new cases were diagnosed last year — the rest were from previous years but first reported in 2005. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Iran detain suspects of blast which kills eight

TEHERAN, 31 Jan—Iran said on Monday that it has detained dozens of suspects of a blast which killed eight people in southern Iranian city of Ahvaz last Tuesday, the official news agency *IRNA* reported.

The detainees were suspected of involvement in two huge blasts which rocked Ahvaz on Tuesday, killing eight people and wounding over 40 others.

Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki accused Britain of being responsible for the explosions.

He said British troops deployed in northern Iraq along the border might assist those who launched the two bomb attacks in Ahvaz, demanding London to respond seriously to Iran's doubts.

MNA/Xinhua



A snow sculpture of two figures under an umbrella sit on a bench at a park in Milan, Italy, on 28 Jan, 2006. Heavy snowfall has been hitting northern Italy during the last two days. —INTERNET

SPORTS



Mexico's Chivas team player Omar Bravo, left, fights for the ball against Chile's Colo Colo's goalie Claudio Bravo during the second leg of their Pre-Libertadores match on 31 Jan, 2006, at the Jalisco Stadium in Guadalajara City, Mexico. Chivas won their ticket to the Libertadores Cup after defeating Colo Colo, 8-4 on the aggregate. —INTERNET

Spurs sunk by late goal from Fulham's Bocanegra

LONDON, 1 Feb — A last-gasp goal by American defender Carlos Bocanegra gave Fulham a 1-0 win over London rivals Tottenham Hotspur in the Premier League on Tuesday.

Elsewhere, Duncan Ferguson of Everton and Wigan Athletic's Jason Roberts were sent off in a 1-1 draw at the JJB Stadium. Middlesbrough avenged their shock home defeat earlier this season when they swept past bottom-of-the-table Sunderland 3-0 while Charlton Athletic shared a 0-0 draw with West Bromwich Albion at the Valley.

Things started to go wrong at Craven Cottage for Spurs when defender Michael Dawson was dismissed in the 72nd minute for a second bookable offence.

Bocanegra then grabbed the only goal of the game in the 90th minute, heading his first goal of the season from six metres following a free

kick by Simon Elliott.

Spurs remained fourth on 41 points, three adrift of third-placed Liverpool. Fulham climbed to 13th with 29 points.

Tempers became frayed at Wigan when Everton striker Ferguson was dismissed for violent conduct with 10 minutes to go.

Wigan forward Roberts also received the red card for a foul on David Weir three minutes later.

Everton, now unbeaten in nine matches, had gone in front after a ninth-minute centre from Leon Osman was deflected into his own net by Wigan's recent signing David Thompson.

The home team equalized 36 minutes later thanks to a close-range volley by Paul Scharner.



Tampa Bay Lightning Dan Boyles (22) upsets Toronto Maple Leafs Jason Allison (41) in the third period during their NHL game as Lightning player Vincent Lecavalier (4) looks on in Tampa, Florida on 31 Jan, 2006. —INTERNET

Wigan, on 38 points, moved up one place in the table to fifth while Everton stayed 12th.

Middlesbrough, beaten 2-0 by Sunderland in September, went ahead against their north-east rivals when Emanuel Pogatzetz headed in a free kick from Stewart Downing on 19 minutes.

Stuart Parnaby added a second goal 12 minutes later, picking up a pass from Mark Viduka before drilling in a right-foot drive from 20 metres.

Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink made certain of victory with a 20-metre shot in the 71st minute.

MNA/Reuters

Zimbabwe knock Ghana out of Cup

ISMAILIA (Egypt), 1 Feb — Zimbabwe rounded off their African Nations Cup campaign with a surprise 2-1 victory over Ghana which knocked their World Cup-bound opponents out of the competition on Tuesday.

Midfielder Cephas Chimedza put Zimbabwe in front on the hour mark and striker Benjani Mwaruware galloped through to add the second, before Baba Adamu pulled one back for Ghana in stoppage time.

The result meant neither team qualified from Group D, where Nigeria's 2-1 win over Senegal left the Senegalese to squeeze through on goal difference.

AC Milan tumble out of Italian Cup against Palermo

ROME, 1 Feb — AC Milan tumbled out of the Italian Cup when they were beaten 3-0 by quarterfinal opponents Palermo on Tuesday.

Milan's 3-1 elimination on aggregate was their second disappointment in four days following a 1-1 draw with Sampdoria at the weekend that left them 12 points behind leaders Juventus in Serie A. "We're going through a bad patch," Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti told reporters. "We need to concentrate harder, especially at the back. We let them have far too much of the ball at the beginning, you just can't afford to do that against a quality team."

The result represented a dream start for Palermo coach Giuseppe Papado-

pulo. The former head of Lazio took charge of the Sicilian side on Sunday after his predecessor, Luigi Del Neri, was sacked following five defeats in seven Serie A matches.

Milan, fielding a strong side fronted by Alberto Gilardino with Kaka in support, had an early chance to take the lead when the ball broke loose on the edge of the area to Kaka but the Brazilian playmaker failed to get any power on his shot.

There was nothing wrong, however, with the shot unleashed by Mariano Gonzalez from 20 metres

out that curled into the top of Milan's net in the 10th minute. Palermo striker Andrea Caracciolo grabbed the home side's second goal eight minutes later, running on to Eugenio Corini's through ball before finishing coolly into the bottom corner of the net.

At 2-0 down, Milan belatedly began to press forward, but five minutes into the second half Palermo struck again, this time on the break, when Gonzalez raced into the area, rounded Kalac and slotted home his second goal of the night. —MNA/

Martins sets up late win for Nigeria

PORT SAID (Egypt), 1 Feb — Obafemi Martins scored two late goals to give Nigeria a third successive victory at the Af-

rican Nations Cup finals on Tuesday with a 2-1 win over Senegal.

Senegal still qualified for the quarterfinals in

second place on goal difference after World Cup finalists Ghana were beaten 2-1 by Zimbabwe in the other Group D game in Ismailia.

Senegal advance to the last eight despite losing two successive matches in the group while Ghana are the third World Cup finalist eliminated after just three matches.

Martins got the 88th minute winner for the Super Eagles after equalizing just nine minutes earlier. Both were close range efforts set up by substitute Nwankwo Kanu.

It was the first goals of the tournament for the Inter Milan striker, who had been tipped as one of the key players before the start of the tournament in Egypt.

Kanu set up Nigeria's sensational comeback with a cross that Senegal's usually reliable goalkeeper Tony Sylva spilt to allow Martins to head home virtually on the goal line.

A quick free kick saw Martins net the winner from a similar position nine minutes later but this time after Kanu at the back post had headed the ball back into this path.

Senegal had been the better side over the first 45 minutes but Pape Bouba Diop and Henri Camara both squandered chances.

In the 59th minute Senegal finally broke the deadlock when Henri Camara's shot was parried by Nigeria goalkeeper Vincent Enyeama and substitute Souleymane Camara followed up to drive in from close range.

MNA/Reuters



Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant soars to the basket for a dunk against the New York Knicks during the second quarter in NBA basketball action on 31 Jan 2006 at Madison Square Garden in New York. Bryant scored 40 points in the Lakers' 130-97 win. —INTERNET

MNA/Reuters

Iran says no legal basis for UN referral

TEHRAN, 1 Feb — Iran said on Tuesday moves to send its nuclear case to the United Nations Security Council were not legally justified and that it would not bow to demands it halt atomic research and development.

"There is no legal basis to refer Iran's case to the Security Council and the Europeans will face difficulties doing so," Gholamreza Aghazadeh, head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, said in an interview with the semi-official ISNA students news agency.

He was speaking after the five permanent members of the Security Council agreed on Tuesday that the UN nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), should report to the Council this week on what Iran must do to cooperate with the agency.

The agreement stopped short of recommending a formal referral of Iran to the Security Council, where

it could face economic sanctions.

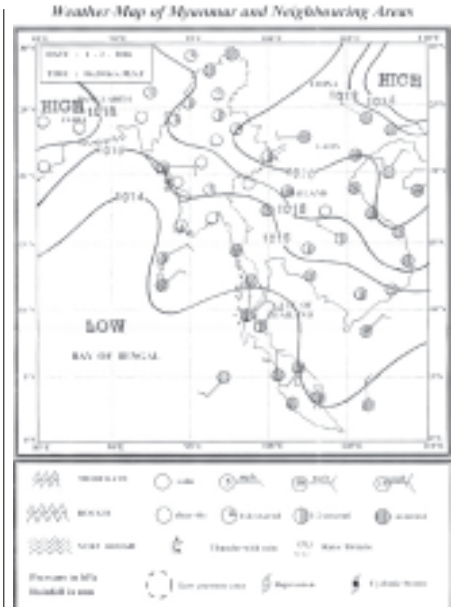
But Iranian officials have previously said any move to inform or report its case to the Council would lead it to scale back cooperation with UN inspectors and resume uranium enrichment — the most sensitive phase of the atomic fuel cycle.

The Foreign Ministers of China, Russia, the United States, France and Britain, plus Germany and the European Union, said after a dinner in London that the IAEA must decide to bring Iran's case before the Council when the agency holds an emergency meeting on Thursday.

The tough action against Teheran — the culmination of more than three years of failed efforts to find a diplomatic solution — follows Iran's decision last month to resume atomic research and development after a break of more than two years.

The London meeting statement again called on Iran to halt atomic research, which has led to Iran removing UN seals at a uranium enrichment facility which could be used to make bomb-grade material.

MNA/Reuters



WEATHER

Wednesday, 1 February, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Kachin, and Chin States and upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Mon State, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (2°C) and Pinlaung (4°C).

Maximum temperature on 31-1-2006 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 1-2-2006 was 60°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 1-2-2006 was (75%). Total sunshine hours on 31-1-2006 was (8.2) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 1-2-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from East at (15:30) hours MST on 31-1-2006.

Bay inference: Weather is generally fair in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 2-2-2006: Weather will be generally fair in the whole country.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight increase of night temperatures in the lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 2-2-2006: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 2-2-2006: Fair weather.

U Saw Hlaing

(Age, 88 years)

Advocate (Rtd)

Son of (U Hoke Sein) and (Daw Mya May), husband of (Daw Nyunt Nyunt), (Daw Khin Myint), residing at No 17 B, Pyay Road, 6th mile, Hline Township, beloved father of Dr U Aung Mon (Rector, University of Pharmacy, Yangon) and Dr Than Than Tin (Professor, Head, Dept. of OB/GYN, Yangon Central Women's Hospital, University of Medicine-1), grandfather of Dr. Saw Win Myint (Lat War Co. Ltd.), Dr San Yu Mon and Mg Phy Than Htoo (final part II, IM-1) passed away on 29-1-2006, Sunday at 11:42 pm. Funeral service will be held at the Yayway Cemetery on 2-2-2006 at 11:00 am.

Buses will leave the above-mentioned residence at 9:00 am on 2-2-2006.

Bereaved family

Around six hurt in N Carolina chemical plant blast

RALEIGH (North Carolina), 1 Feb — Around six people were injured on Tuesday in an explosion at a chemical plant in North Carolina, an official said.

Two of the injured were taken by air ambulance to hospitals further away in North Carolina, said Lisa Propst, 911 communications manager for

Burke County. The explosion at the Synthron Inc plant in Morganton occurred shortly before 11:30 am EST (1630 GMT), said Propst.

The extent of the injuries was not known, nor was the cause of the blast.

No one was answering telephone calls at the plant.

According to chemical industry websites, Synthron is a subsidiary of French independent specialty chemicals company Protex International group.

MNA/Reuters



Thursday, 2 February
View on today

7:00 am

1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. Nice and sweet song

7:55 am

5. Dance of national races

8:05 am

6. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:10 am

7. Dance variety

8:25 am

8. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:30 am

9. International news

8:45 am

10. Let's Go

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Songs to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. English for Everyday Use

4:45 pm

4. အပေးသင်တန်းသို့လိုပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ - တတိယနှစ် (သရုပ်အထူးပြု) (သရုပ်)

4:55 pm

5. Cute little dancers

5:10 pm

6. အရေးပြိုင်ပွဲ

5:20 am

7. မြန်မာစာ မြန်မာတေး

5:35 pm

8. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

5:40 pm

9. "အရှုရယ်ဆိုတာ လက်တစ်တန်းမှာ" (မိုးသူ၊ ခုနဲးကလျာလှိုင်၊ ကျော်မင်းဓမ္မာင်၊ ကောင်းစုရာန် သစ်၊ ယင်းမာ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-စောစန္ဒာလှိုင်)

5:50 pm

10. နိုင်ငံအဝန်း သစ်တောစွမ်းမြင့် စိမ်းလန်းရေးမည်

6:00 pm

11. Evening news

6:30 pm

12. Weather report

6:35 pm

13. ရုပ်မြင်ရသ တေးစုကဏ္ဍ

6:45 pm

14. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ရှောင်စဉ်မေတ္တာ" (အပိုင်း-၁)

7:15 pm

15. ဝင်ပွဲတွဲ၍ ဒေသပွဲပြိုင်ပွဲဆိုင်ရာ ဆင်းစွေလီ

7:45 pm

16. အကုတ် နိုင်ငံတော်၏ ဥပဒေ ပြုမှု အသွင်သဏ္ဍာန်နှင့် အနှစ်သာရ (အပိုင်း-၉)

8:00 pm

17. News

18. International news

19. Weather report

20. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "နှင်းဆီဆီပီပီ" (အပိုင်း-၃)

21. The next day's programme



Thursday, 2 February

Tune in today

8:30 am Brief news

8:35 am Music:

- Impressive instant (Madonna)

8:40 am Perspectives

8:45 am Music:

- Yeh (Melanic C)

8:50 am National news & slogan	(W Houston)
9:00 am Music:	- Butterfly (Mariah Carey)
- Show me your love (Mike Peterson)	9:00 pm Aspects of Myanmar
9:05 am International news	9:10 pm Article
9:10 am Music	9:20 pm Pouri
1:30 pm News & slogan	9:30 pm Favourite songs chosen by music lovers
1:40 pm Lunchtime music	9:45 pm News/Slogan
- Listen to my heart	10:00 pm PEL
- Oh... Yes	

59th Anniversary Union Day objectives

- For all national races to safeguard the national policy — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty.
- To keep the Union spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people.
- For all national people to defend and safeguard the Union for its perpetual existence.
- To prevent, through national solidarity, the danger of internal and external destructive elements undermining peace and stability of the State and national development.
- For all national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-point future policy programme of the State.

Delegates to the National Convention return home



NCC Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung bidding farewell to NC delegates. — MNA

YANGON, 1 Feb — Chairman of the National Convention Convening Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung, Secretary Lt-Col Than Htay and Chairman of the Sub-committee for Accommodation and Reception Col Htain Linn this morning went to Nyaungnapin Camp in

Hmawby and warmly greeted the delegates to the National Convention who are going back home as the convention was adjourned yesterday morning.

Some delegates returned home yesterday afternoon.

MNA

Market festival of Ministry of Industry-1 commences

YANGON, 1 Feb —Hailing the 59th Anniversary Union Day 2006, the market festival of the Ministry of Industry-1 commenced in the compound of the Ministry of Industry-1 in Bahan Township today.

This afternoon, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung

Thaung visited the festival.

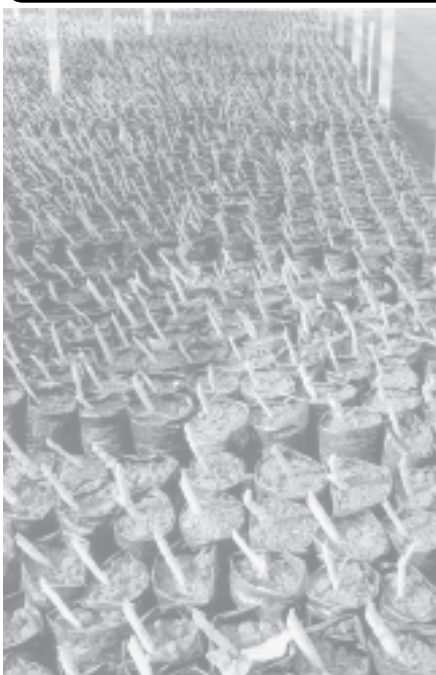
A total of 333 items of products manufactured by the Ministry of Industry-1 are being sold at the festival.

The market festival will last up to 5 February from 10 am to 8 pm daily. — MNA

Significant night temperatures

Haka	(2°C)
Pinlaung	(4°C)

INSIDE



Grafts of Physic nut are nurtured to be planted.

- * *Head of State Senior General Than Shwe with visionary has given guidance on growing physic nut plants in all the states and divisions of the nation so as to effectively use bio-diesel in place of diesel.*
- * *Physic nut reproduction farms and high-yield physic nut growing zones are being established in Lashio, Kyaukme, Muse, Kunlong and Laukkai districts of Shan State (North) under the supervision of the chairmen of respective District Peace and Development Councils.*
- * *Plans are under way to allot lands of 880,000 acres in Shan State (North) to national entrepreneurs after reclaiming vacant lands.*