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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

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects Training School (Mandalay) of MWVO, Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon)



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects construction of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon). — MNA

YANGON, 5 Feb — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, accompanied by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, the ministers, the deputy ministers, Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han, senior military officers and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, arrived at Training School (Mandalay) of Myanmar War Veterans Organization in Patheingyi Township,

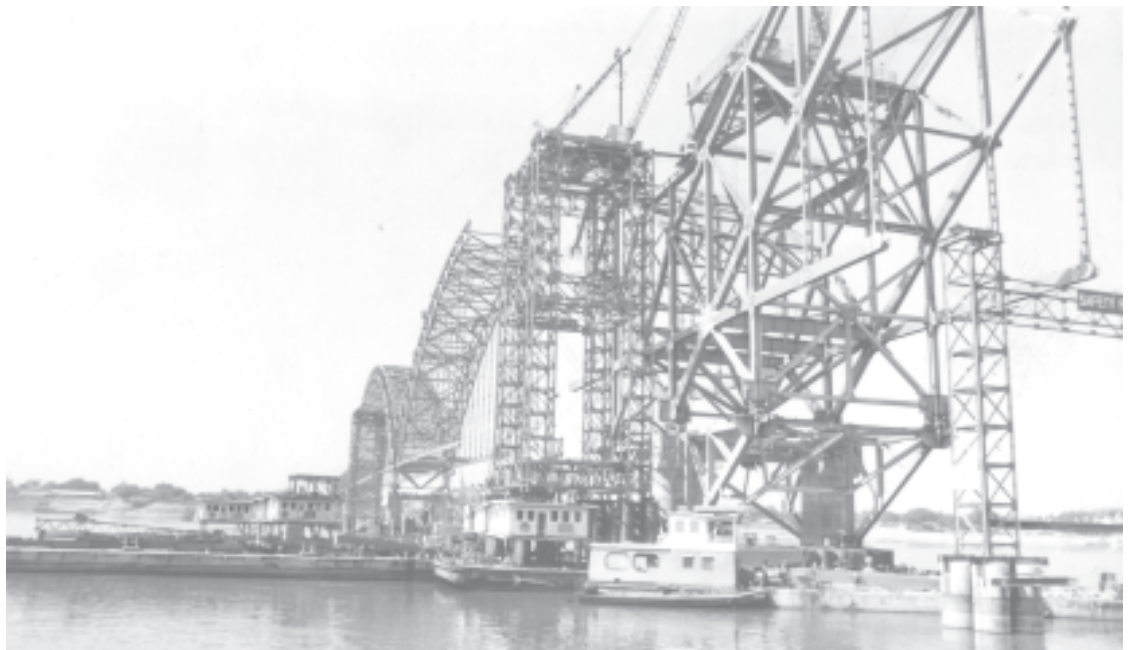
Mandalay Division, this afternoon.

Chairman of the MWVO Central Organizing Committee Secretary-1 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein heard reports on matters related to the training school, water and power supply facilities, growing of seasonal and per-

ennial crops in the compound of the school, breeding goats and cows, tasks being carried out for cultivation of 12.28 acres of physic nut saplings for the first phase and five acres for the second phase, and requirements by Principal Lt-Col Aung Soe (Retd).

(See page 8)

Engineers of Public Works are building 5,614 foot long Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) that will have four-lane motorway, on both sides of Mandalay and Sagaing at the same time.



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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 6 February, 2006

Maintain development infrastructures for posterity

As Myanmar is rich in natural resources, efforts are being made for extensive utilization of virgin and fallow lands.

Systematic steps are being taken for enhancement of socio-economic life of rural people and boosting the production of the agricultural sector while striving for economic development, making better use of land and water resources.

In accordance with the guidance of the Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, the nine-district greening project for greening arid zones, where water was scarce, in Upper Myanmar was launched in Sagaing Division, Magway Division and Mandalay Division. The project has been extended to 13 districts.

In the meantime, a large number of dams and reservoirs are being constructed in the Central Myanmar where agricultural produce including cotton, edible oil crops and pulses and beans are produced most for boosting the production of the agricultural sector.

It is fair to say that there emerged Taungtha Dam, Kyauktalon Dam, Sunlun Dam, South Pinle Dam, North Pinle Dam, Thamekku Dam, Sun Lake, Welaung Dam, Pinchaung Dam, Zidaw Dam, Myotha Dam, Phaungkataw Dam and Natthadaw Dam in Myingyan District. Furthermore, nine Ayeyawady river water pumping stations—Kyauktalon, Ywathit, Nganhmya, Simeekhon-1, Simeekhon-2, Simeekhon-2 Extension, Thabaung, Seiknyan and Kyawzi are under implementation.

In the same way, greening project is being launched in the mountain ranges such as Taungtha, Nanmyint, Kokke, Myinsaing, Kyauktalon and Minson. As a result, those regions are now green and pleasant.

To ensure better transport in Myingyan region, Myingyan-Natogyi-Paleik railroad, new Myingyan-Bagan-NyaungU railroad and Myingyan-NyaungU motor road were built while mills and factories, dams and reservoirs, river water pumping stations are being built in the region. At the same time, Myingyan Industrial Zone has been established for development of private industries.

Being a highly populated and strategic area, Myingyan has been facilitated with a degree college and a technical institute.

It is incumbent upon local people to strive for development of the agricultural sector and conservation of forests, making the most of the irrigated facilities created by the government.

Such being so, the entire national people are to maintain those development infrastructures created by the government for posterity while striving for regional development and enhancing the living standard of the people.



Daw Tin Nu and daughter Daw Thi Thi Maung of Pazundaung Township present FEC 100 for hospital of the Home for the Aged to Joint Treasurer U Maung Maung Gyi of the Hninzigon Home for the Aged recently.— 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

Chanmyathazi Township USDA opens organizational training course 1/2006

YANGON, 5 Feb— An organizational training course 1/2006 of Chanmyathazi Township Union Solidarity and Development Association was opened at its office in Mandalay yesterday.

Member of the Secretariat of USDA Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thuang delivered a speech. The one-week course is being attended by 47 trainees.

Next, cash donation ceremony was held. U Win Pe Myint, a proprietor of Myadagun Aung Than Hsu Lottery Shop, presented K 50,000, executive U Ko Ko Oo of Chanmyathazi Township USDA K 30,000 and Secretary of Township Peace and Development Council U Saw Tun Oo K 30,000.

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After the ceremony, Minister U Aung Thuang inspected 1,000 cuttings and 2,300 physic nut saplings. In the afternoon, U Aung Thuang met secretaries and executives of Mandalay Division, Districts and 31 Township USDAs.—MNA



Minister U Aung Thuang meets USDA members in Mandalay.—INDUSTRY-1

Khattiya rural gravel road inaugurated in Pantanaw Township

YANGON, 5 Feb — USDA CEC member Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt this morning attended the inauguration of Khattiya rural gravel road in Pantanaw Township that was built by the Township Development Affairs Department as a gesture of hailing the 59th Anniversary Union Day. Township DAD Executive Officer U Aung Than Lwin and Township USDA Joint-Secretary U Myint Shwe Oo reported on construction of the road. Maubin District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Sein Maung, Ayeyawady Division DAD Director U Soe Tint and officials formally opened the road. Next, the minister and party inspected the road.

Khattiya road linking Khattiya village and Wakema was first built in 2004-2005 as an earth

road at a cost of K 15.873 million. It was upgraded into the gravel road in 2005-2006 at a cost of K 15.95 million funded by the Development Affairs Department. With the emergence of the road, over 30,000 population of local residents from 20 villages of Khanwe-kabo, Khattiya and Paybin (North) village-tracts and

33 villages of Pedauung, Paybin (South), Pyalin and Kyondinegalay village-tracts can travel among villages and to Pantanaw and Shwelaung easily by road, resulting in the improvement of health, education and social affairs of the local people.

Later, the minister met with local people, fulfilled the requirements

for regional development, and presented K 100,000 for renovation of Khattiya village primary school donated by Daw Nyunt Nyunt (Thazin) and family of Yangon. The minister stressed the need for maintaining the existing roads and bridges and inspected development of Khanwe-kabo village. — MNA



Minister Col Thein Nyunt attends the opening of Khattiya rural gravel road in Pantanaw Township.—PBANRDA

Rafsanjani terms referral of Iran's nuclear case mistake

TEHERAN, 4 Feb— Former Iranian president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani warned Europe on Friday that referring Iran's nuclear case to the UN Security Council would be a "big mistake", the official IRNA news agency reported.

"The Europeans will commit a big mistake if they send Iran's nuclear case to the UN Security Council...I recommend them not to commit such a mistake," Rafsanjani was quoted as speaking at a religious gathering.

Rafsanjani, chairman of the powerful arbitration body Expediency Council, said Iran was seeking "nothing beyond legal international rights and making use of nuclear energy for a better life".

"Under current circumstances, we cause no trouble for anybody," stressed Rafsanjani.

"If you (the Europeans)

are really honest and worried that Iran may obtain nuclear weapons, there are better ways to gain confidence," Rafsanjani said. "Iran has had a good cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) even beyond its duties. I think there might be wise individuals in this atmosphere who could have a better look at the future and will not be willing to record such a black page in history," he added.

Earlier, Iran's hardline President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad restated in the southern province of Bushehr that the Islamic Republic would adopt retaliating measures if its nuclear case is hauled to the UN Security Council.

"If the logical proposals of the independent states for eventual solution of Iran's peaceful nuclear activities

are not heeded within framework of the IAEA, the Islamic Republic will, while suspending all voluntary activities, study and consider other means for restoration of its legal rights," Ahmadinejad said.— MNA/Xinhua

Chile sends aid to Bolivian storm victims

SANTIAGO, 5 Feb — Chile has sent a 15-tonne consignment of aid to help some 50,000 people hit by severe storms in neighbouring Bolivia, said a government statement on Friday.

The Chilean aid, sent on Friday morning in a Hercules transport, includes tinned food, mattresses and blankets. The delivery was organized by the Interior Ministry and the Foreign Ministry. Chilean Interior Minister Francisco Vidal said his country had always shown solidarity to other nations, as was the case when the United States was badly hit in the recent hurricane season, and that Bolivia could not be an exception.

MNA/Xinhua



An American soldier searches a house during a raid in Ramadi, 115 kilometers (70 miles) west of Baghdad, Iraq, on 4 Feb, 2006. Men from the US Army's 101st Airborne Division detained ten Iraqis during a series of raids. INTERNET

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"Guardian" reports Blair "solidly" backed US invasion on Iraq

LONDON, 4 Feb — British Prime Minister Tony Blair is alleged to have told US President George W. Bush that he was "solidly" behind America's plans to invade Iraq, despite the absence of a second UN resolution, a British newspaper quoted

a memo as saying on Friday.

According to the memo published on Thursday, Blair said that he was "solidly with the (US) president and ready to do whatever it took to disarm Saddam," and Bush told him that "the diplomatic

strategy had to be arranged around the military planning". The memo, quoted by the Guardian, records a two-hour meeting between the two leaders at the White House on 31 January, 2003, nearly two months before the invasion.

In the memo, US President George W Bush made it clear that his country intended to launch the war against Iraq whether or not there was a second UN resolution and even if UN inspectors found no evidence of a banned Iraqi weapons programme.

The disclosures come in a new edition of *Lawless World* by Phillipe Sands, a Queen's Counsel (QC) and professor of international law at University College, London. It is to be published on Friday.

The first edition of the book, published in February 2005, exposed the doubts shared by Foreign Office lawyers about the legality of the invasion, which eventually forced Blair to publish the full legal advice given to him by the attorney general, Lord Goldsmith. According to the memo, Bush also said that the US was so worried about the possible failure of finding hard evidence against Saddam that thought of "flying U2 reconnaissance aircraft, planes with fighter cover over Iraq, painted in UN colours".

MNA/Xinhua



Investors study shares prices during the morning trading at RHB private stock market gallery in Kuala Lumpur, on 3 Feb, 2006.

INTERNET

US contractor pleads guilty to Iraq bribe scheme

WASHINGTON, 4 Feb — A former official with the US governing administration in Iraq pleaded guilty on Thursday and admitted he and others took more than one million US dollars in bribes and stole more than two million US dollars in reconstruction money.

Robert Stein, comptroller and funding officer for the Coalition Provisional Authority — South Central Region in 2003 and 2004, pleaded guilty to conspiracy, bribery, money laundering and other charges, Justice Department officials said.

Stein, 50, of Fayetteville, North Carolina, and a former Defense Department contractor, entered the

guilty plea in federal court in Washington, they said.

He admitted that he conspired, along with other public officials, including several US Army officers, to rig bids to steer contracts to a certain contractor.

According to a document filed in court and agreed to by Stein, the total value of the contracts awarded to Stein's co-conspirator in the Iraqi city of Hilla exceeded eight

million US dollars, the officials said.

Stein admitted that he and others received bribes exceeding one million US dollars in money, cars, jewellery and other items of value from the contractor, who was not identified.

Stein said he and others stole more than two million US dollars that had been designated for the reconstruction of Iraq and smuggled a portion of that stolen currency into the United States aboard commercial aircraft, the officials said.

He also pleaded guilty to the unlawful possession of various weapons, including machine guns, silencers and grenade launchers, and as a convicted felon, he pleaded guilty to a charge of being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Stein faces a maximum penalty of 30 years in prison and a fine of 250,000 US dollars. A sentencing date has yet to be scheduled.

Also facing charges in the investigation is Philip Bloom, the owner of

numerous construction and service companies that did business in Iraq, and Michael Wheeler and Debra Harrison, both lieutenant colonels in the US Army Reserves. The three defendants were arrested in November or December.

MNA/Reuters

2,249 US soldiers killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 5 Jan — As of Saturday, 4 Feb, 2006, at least 2,249 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. The figure includes six military civilians. At least 1,759 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The AP count is one higher than the Defence Department's tally, last updated Friday at 10 am EST.

The British military has reported 100 deaths; Italy, 27; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Slovakia, three; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand, two each; Hungary, Kazakhstan, Latvia, one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 2,110 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,645 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.— Internet



Russia's Elena Dementieva raises her winner's plate after the Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament final match against former world number one Martina Hingis of Switzerland in Tokyo, on 5 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

Official says 314 survivors in Egypt's ferry disaster

CAIRO, 4 Feb— An Egyptian official said Saturday that naval forces have rescued 314 people of *Al-Salaam 98* ferryboat which sank in the Red Sea overnight on Friday.

Major-General Mahfouz Taha, director of the Authority of Red Sea ports, said some of the survivors were taken from the ferry's lifeboats, others from inflatable rescue craft dropped into the sea by helicopters, and others were pulled from the water wearing life jackets.

Four Egyptian rescue ships reached the scene Friday afternoon, about 10 hours after the 35-year-old ferry likely went down some 95 kilometres off the Egyptian port of Hurghada.

The ship, *Al Salaam 98*, with 1,310 passengers and 104 crew members, 22 cars, 16 trucks aboard, disappeared from the radar screen shortly after it left the Saudi port of Dubah at 7:30 pm local time (1630 GMT) on Thursday.

The ship should have arrived at its destination

of Safaga, an Egyptian Red Sea port some 600 kilometres southeast of the

capital Cairo, at 2:30 am (0030 GMT) on Friday. *MNA/Xinhua*

Indonesian hostages released in Somalia

JAKARTA, 4 Feb— Fourteen Indonesians working for Taiwanese fishing boats have been released more than five months after they were taken hostages by a Somali armed group, a spokesman of the Indonesian Foreign Affairs Ministry said on Friday.

The Indonesian hostages were now on their way to Nairobi, Kenya, spokesman Yuri O Thamrin said. "Indonesian officials in Nairobi said the 14 Indonesian fishermen were released and leaving (for Nairobi)," *Antara* news agency quoted Yuri as saying. — *MNA/Xinhua*

19 killed as Taliban launch attacks in Helmand

KANDAHAR (Afghanistan), 4 Feb — Taliban insurgents launched four attacks in the southern Afghan province of Helmand on Friday and three policemen and 16 Taliban were killed, the province's deputy governor said.

"The fighting is continuing between police and the Taliban," said deputy governor Mullah Mir, who was in a police convoy that came under attack.

Mir said about 200 insurgents had been involved in the fighting, and some of them had ambushed police reinforcements going to the scene of the initial clash.

Aircraft from a US-led force battling insurgents in the Afghan south and east were over the site of the fighting but had yet to attack the insurgents, Mir said.

A US military spokesman said he had received no information about any fighting in the province.

Helmand has been plagued by insurgents since US forces and their Afghan allies ousted the Taliban in late 2001. It is also a major opium-poppy growing and drug-smuggling region.

Several thousand British troops are due to be deployed there later this year under a plan to expand Afghanistan's NATO-led



China's auto sales expected to climb 12%

BEIJING, 4 Feb — Car sales in China will reach a record high of 6.4 million to 6.6 million this year, a 12-per-cent rise year-on-year, the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers (CAAM) has forecast.

Fueled by the central government policy to encourage the use of smaller and more energy-efficient models, passenger cars will lead the growth to place China as the world's second-largest auto market after the United States, *China Daily* reported Saturday.

In a Press release, CAAM, one of the most important sources of industry information, reported that in 2005, 5.9 million auto units were sold in China, higher than Japan's 5.8 million and Germany's 5.2 million.

However, opinions in Chinese language Press argued, after taking away China's export and the factor of double counting, the number of units actually sold in China was around 5.7 million.

Chinese car dealers are reportedly already seeing a promising trend, especially during their heated sales campaigns before and during Spring Festival.

Even before the

festival, a Tianjin dealership for Geely, a domestic brand, reported 70 buyers were still waiting for the delivery of their new cars, said Zhao Jian, the dealership's general manager.

Strong sales were reported in Beijing and Guangzhou, capital of South China's Guangdong Province as well.

Braving sub-zero

weather on Friday, in Beijing's Yayuncun (Asian Games Village) auto market a man surnamed Wu said: "I began to think about having a car a long time ago."

"And in this festival season, and seeing such tempting festival sales, I really can no longer wait to let my dream come true," he added. *MNA/Xinhua*

US troops to leave Pakistan in March

ISLAMBAD, 4 Feb — American troops, engaged in operation in Pakistan's earthquake-hit areas, will leave Pakistan in March, the country's relief commissioner said here on Friday.

"The US troops will start leaving this month and the departure process will complete in March," Federal Relief Commissioner Major-General Farooq Ahmad Khan told a news conference. He said the United States had given control of the Muzaffarabad Hospital to Pakistan and they were also closing another field

hospital in the town of Shinkiar in North-West Frontier Province.

"The decision about the return of the US helicopters has yet been taken and such a decision will be taken with Pakistan's consent," Farooq said.

He said that the United States would hand over refilling stations and engineering equipment to Pakistan after the return of American soldiers.

Around 1,200 US troops have been engaged in quake relief mission.

The announcement of US soldiers' withdrawal coincides with the end of NATO's relief mission in Pakistan. Around 1,000 NATO troops stationed in the Bagh District of Pakistan-controlled Kashmir for three months. *MNA/Xinhua*

MNA/Reuters

MNA/Xinhua

Royal Navy seizes 350 m pounds cocaine haul

LONDON, 4 Feb — Britain's Royal Navy has seized cocaine with a street value of up to 350 million pounds (620 million US dollars) after intercepting a cargo ship in the Caribbean, the Ministry of Defence said on Friday.

The operation, which happened on Wednesday, was one of the largest drug hauls on record.

It was carried out by *HMS Southampton* and the Royal Fleet Auxiliary tanker *RFA Grey Rover*. Some 3-1/2 tons of cocaine was found aboard the ship.

No details were given of where the ship had come from or its destination. The ministry said the two British ships had been working with the US Coast Guard and the Dutch Navy. "This was a particularly well coordinated operation," said the Commanding Officer of *HMS Southampton*, Rob Vitali. "The success of this seizure will send a clear message of determination to stop the smuggling of illegal drugs — and we are good at it." — *MNA/Reuters*



A US military patrol inspects the damage from a car bomb, on 3 Feb, 2006, in eastern Baghdad, Iraq. —INTERNET

Vietnam's big power plant becomes operational

THAI NGUYEN (Vietnam), 4 Feb— The first turbine of a 110-megawatts thermoelectric plant in Vietnam's northern Thai Nguyen Province was connected to the country's national electricity grid on Friday.

With construction cost of 123 million US dollars provided by the Chinese Government as a preferential loan, the Cao Ngan plant is expected to start supplying 600 million kilowatt hours annually to the national electricity grid after its second turbine becomes operational in the second quarter of this year.

The two-turbine plant, whose general contractor was China's Harbin Power Engineering Company and subcontractors were two Vietnamese partners, namely the Vietnam Machinery Installation Corporation and the Vietnam Industrial

Construction Corporation, use low-quality coal from the province's two coal mines with total capacity of 360,000 tons per year.

To cope with potential power shortage in the next few years, Vietnam will expand some existing thermoelectric plants in northern Quang Ninh Province and southern Can Tho City, accelerate construction of half-done power works, and import more electricity from China, according to the state-owned Vietnam Electricity (EVN), the country's biggest electricity producer and sole distributor.

Vietnam is spending nearly 37.56 trillion Vietnamese dong (over 2.36 US billion dollars) on developing power projects in 2006 in a bid to meet its increasing demand for electricity. Power demand has annually increased 13-15 per cent in recent years in Vietnam, where 60 per

cent of the electricity output comes from hydroelectricity.

Vietnam's demand for electricity is estimated at 53 billion kilowatt hours this year, up around 17 per cent against last year. Now, 96 per cent of communes in Vietnam have access to the national power grid, the EVN said.—MNA/Xinhua



Visitors from China's eastern Zhejiang Province leave Hong Kong Disneyland on 4 Feb, 2006, after a tour of the entertainment theme park.—INTERNET

Georgia foils terrorist plot to down plane

TBILISI, 4 Feb — Georgian police said on Friday they had foiled a terrorist plot to down a plane, after finding a ground-to-air missile set up beneath a busy flight path.

Interior Minister Vano Merabishvili gave no indication of the precise target of the shoulder-launched Iгла, Russian-made equivalent of the US Stinger missile, but said it had been ready for firing.

"Most aircraft fly by this route from the east to the west of the country," he told reporters. "We have once again avoided a serious terrorist act."

He linked the missile to rebels in South Ossetia, a region of Georgia that has been outside central government control since a brief war in 1992, in the immediate aftermath of the Soviet Union's collapse.

Georgia frequently blames the Ossetians for

attacks on its territory, and said Ossetian security services aided by Russia were behind a bomb that killed three people in the town of Gori a year ago.

MNA/Reuters

Seychelles mobilizes Army to fight crippling virus

VICTORIA, 4 Feb — Seychelles said on Thursday it had mobilized its Army to control an incurable crippling mosquito-borne disease that has affected thousands of people on the idyllic Indian ocean archipelago.

Over the last four weeks, 2,000 of the island's 80,000 people have been afflicted with "chikungunya" fever, named after a Swahili word meaning "that which bends up" and referring to the stooped posture of those afflicted.

The disease, first

recognized in epidemic form in East Africa in 1952, is marked by high fever and severe rashes, and while health officials say most people eventually recover, it is extremely painful and there is no known cure or vaccine.

It also leaves immune systems weak, providing

opportunities for other diseases to set in.

"Cases of the disease have been doubling every week, with 200 having been reported during the first week of January, 300 during the second, while 513 were occurred in the third week of January", Dr Jude Gedeon, director for community health, told Reuters.

"We are still counting but the number is quickly approaching 1,000 for this week." Gedeon blamed the rise in the number of cases on heavier than normal rainfall over the last three months and said a task force has been set up to help control the spread of the epidemic which can transfer from person to person.

The Seychelles military has been called in to provide personnel and transport and help authorities clear areas prone to mosquito-breeding such as stagnant pools of water and to spray areas where cases of the viral infection have been found.—MNA/Reuters



An Iraqi family waits outside for US Marines from the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) and Iraqi soldiers to search their home during an operation in the village of Abu Rayat, 25 km (16 miles) southeast of the western Iraq town of Hit, on 4 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

WW II bomb discovered in Budapest

BUDAPEST, 4 Feb— Road workers discovered an unexploded Second World War bomb under the pavement on a busy road in Budapest, Hungarian police reported on Friday. Traffic, including bus traffic, along a section of Pasareti Ave has been detoured and a bomb squad was called in to remove the explosive, the local media said.

The Hungarian Armed Forces professional team unearthed the 149-millimetre fragmentation bomb on Friday night as well as a hand grenade.

They exploded the grenade under controlled conditions on site, and took the bomb to a central repository for later dismantling.—MNA/Xinhua

Portuguese police seize four tons of cocaine

LISBON, 4 Feb— Portugal's Judicial Police announced on Friday they had seized nearly four tons of high grade cocaine after dismantling an international drug trafficking ring operating in Portugal, Spain and Britain.

The drug arrived in Viana do Castelo, northern Portugal, from where it was sent to Spain across the border into Galicia, and also to Britain, the police told local media. The police said they had arrested four Spaniards aged between 30 and 56, and one Briton who was arrested at a farmhouse where he was guarding 114 parcels of high-grade cocaine which together weighed 2.8 tons.—MNA/Xinhua

At least 14 burnt to death in Nigerian auto accident

LAGOS, 4 Feb— At least 14 passengers were burnt to death as a commercial bus they were aboard collided with a van head-on and later caught fire in the northern Nigerian state of Yobe, a road official said on Friday.

Yobe Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission, Zakaniya Mamman, identified the cause of the accident, which occurred along the Potiskum-Bauchi Road on Tuesday, as a burst tyre, saying the bus lost control before the collision.

Mamman told the official News Agency of Nigeria that the victims, who were mainly men, had been evacuated to a hospital at Potiskum and that one of the three seriously injured had been discharged.

MNA/Xinhua

Over 3.3 tons of drugs seized in Spain

MADRID, 4 Feb— Spain's Civil Guard officers seized 3.3 tons of hashish on Garrucha beach, in Almeria municipality, on the southern coast of Spain, and arrested three people who were unloading the drugs, said the police on Friday.

Almeria authorities sent a Guard detachment to the beach after noticing a suspicious raft there. The raft turned out to be carrying 3.3 tons of the drug, whose street value could be more than four million euros (about 4.8 million US dollars).

The officers also seized a van, in which the smugglers had planned to carry the hashish, and a gun that had been reported stolen more than a year ago in Valencia.—MNA/Xinhua

Panic stampede kills 66 in Manila

MANILA, 4 Feb— Sixty-six people were trampled to death and many others injured on Saturday morning when a stampede broke out at a stadium in Pasig City, Metro Manila, local TV News Patrol reported. Pasig City Mayor Vicente Eusebio said the latest count on the fatality as of posting time stood at 66 but the figure could increase.

Dozens of dead bodies of the victims lay on the ground at the scene, the TV live report showed, the police tried to maintain order amid crowd of standers-by.

Police said that thousands of people lining up at the stadium's entrance heard someone shouted "bomb", before they came into chaos. It was in the anniversary celebration of local TV ABS-CBN's game show Wowowie, which would be held at noon, when the stampede happened.—MNA/Xinhua



In this photo released by China's Xinhua news agency, babies have the swimming training at a Maternal and Infantile Health Care Center in Suzhou, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 3 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Putin proposes nuclear fuel network

Moscow, 5 Feb — President Vladimir Putin said on Friday that Russia's initiative to set up an international network of nuclear fuel cycle services is aimed at helping settle acute issues of world politics.

"In resolving any, even the most acute issues of world politics, we invariably and consistently adhere to the line of settlement by political and diplomatic methods

and means," Putin said when receiving credentials from ambassadors of foreign countries, quoted by the ITAR-TASS news agency. The Russian initiative

to create an international network of nuclear fuel cycle services is aimed at helping settle acute issues, Putin said.

The goal of the initiative is to provide

"equal and non-discriminatory access" to joint work for developing nuclear energy for all interested states and the regime of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons must be strictly observed, he said.

The Russian leader put forward the proposal late last month, saying the network must be supervised by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The deputy chief of the Russian atomic energy agency Rosatom, Sergei Antipov, said on Thursday an international centre for uranium enrichment and the handling of fissile materials may be created in Siberia.

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

UN chief mourns loss of life from sinking of Egyptian ferry

UNITED NATIONS, 5 Feb — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan mourned the loss of life from sinking of Egyptian ferry, UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said Friday.

In a statement released by the spokesman, Annan said he was deeply saddened to learn of the

sinking of the Egyptian ferry, *Al Salam Boccaccio* 98, in the Red Sea Thursday night.

The Secretary-General sincerely regretted the loss of life due to this tragedy and extended his condolences to the victims and their families, Dujarric observed.

According to the spokesman, Annan has urged all who are able, to extend their assistance to the Egyptian Government in the search for survivors.

The Egyptian cruiser with over 1,400 people aboard sank in the Red Sea shortly after it left the Saudi port of Dubah at 7:30 pm local time (1630 GMT) on Thursday.

MNA/Xinhua

Holiday travellers across China on their way back

SHANGHAI, 5 Feb — More and more people who had hurried home for family reunion to observe the Spring Festival, or the Chinese Lunar New Year, began to return to their work places as the week-long holiday is drawing to the end.

According to the Shanghai railway bureau, it will probably sell out 15.3 million tickets for return journeys between 3 and 22 February, when the current 40-day hot transport season concludes. The figure will be 389,000 tickets, or 2.6 per cent, more than the same period of last year.

Most of the travellers to be returned to work places will be migrant workers, the bureau said.

Meanwhile, civil aviation services in Shanghai will see a peak of return passengers Saturday.

On Friday, travellers also thronged to three major railway stations, namely Hefei, Fuyang and Bengbu, in east China's Anhui Province. Local railway authorities estimated the three stations will see off more

than 70,000 passengers Friday.

In Hefei, more passengers took trains destined to Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou; and in Fuyang, which is one of the four major sources of migrant workers in China, sent out nearly 50,000 passengers on Friday, much higher than the 37,000 on Thursday.

Local railway authorities said Fuyang would sell out a total of 1.16 million tickets in the coming 25 days, a year-on-year growth of more than 60,000.

The Nanchang railway bureau in the capital city of east China's Jiangxi Province, on Friday sent out an estimated number of 300,000 passengers and added 70 temporary passenger trains to its train fleet.

As a major destination for returned migrant workers, Guangzhou, capital city of the booming Guangdong Province in south China, saw approximately 100,000 passenger arrivals at its railway station Friday. Most of them were migrant workers returning from Henan, Sichuan and

Hunan provinces.

On Thursday, the city's Baiyun Airport recorded 650 arrivals and departures of aircrafts, involving 75,000 tickets. The same day also witnessed arrivals of more than 100,000 travellers aboard buses in Guangzhou.

MNA/Xinhua

Hopes fade for missing French climber in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 5 Feb — Rescuers all but gave up hope on Saturday of finding a well-known French mountaineer alive after a week's search for him on the world's fifth-highest peak in the Himalayas.

Jean-Christophe Lafaille, 40, was attempting to climb the 8463-metre (27,765-foot) Mt Makalu peak in

northern Nepal on his own but lost contact with the base camp on 28 January.

"There was no sign of him," said Veikka Gustafsson, a Finnish mountaineer after a helicopter search along Lafaille's climbing route on Saturday. "There is very little hope that he is alive. It is extremely cold up there."

But the search team left a tent, a sleeping bag, a

stove and rations for Lafaille at the base camp in case he managed to get back.

The missing climber's tent had been sighted by rescuers at an altitude of 6,700 metres.

If successful, Lafaille would have been the first climber ever to successfully climb Makalu solo in winter.

MNA/Reuters

Over 1,000 paramilitaries disarm in Colombia

BOGOTA, 5 Feb — As many as 1,166 soldiers of the Colombia's right-wing Self-Defence Forces of Colombia (AUC), members of the Tayrona Resistance Bloc, disarmed in a ceremony in the north of the country, local media reported on Friday.

Luis Carlos Restrepo Ramirez, the country's high commissioner for peace, presided over the ceremony, his second massive demobilization this week. It took place close to the El Sol ravine, in Guachaca Municipality, 70 kilometres from Santa Marta, in Magdalena department. Some 21,300 AUC paramilitaries have demobilized to date, thanks to the peace process initiated by the Colombian Government in 2002.

On Friday, the demobilized troops handed in 351 grenades, seven vehicles and 582 guns, six 60mm mortars, 14 40mm grenade launchers, a rocket propelled grenade launcher and a rocket.

MNA/Xinhua

Industrial added value up in N-E China province

HARBIN, 4 Feb — The overall industrial added value of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province reached 269.63 billion yuan (33.7 billion US dollars) last year, a rise of 12.9 per cent year on year, according to local government statistics. The industrial added value accounted for 57.5 per cent of the overall economic growth of the province last year, according to the provincial statistics bureau. — MNA/Xinhua

Mild quake jolts Palu, Indonesia

JAKARTA, 5 Feb — A mild earthquake measuring 5.1 on the Richter Scale jolted Palu, capital of Central Sulawesi Province, at 7:38 am on Saturday, a spokesman said.

The epicentre of the quake was located at 1.77 degrees Southern Latitude and 120.10 degrees Eastern Longitude, or some 100 kilometres south-east of Palu, at a depth of 30 kilometres, Antara news agency quoted the head of the local meteorology and geophysics office, Robert Owen Wahyu, as saying.

The tremor was caused by the lithosphere's friction, he said, adding that it was not dangerous for people as it was not powerful. — MNA/Xinhua



A US Marine with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) kicks down a door as they search houses near the western Iraq town of Hit, on 3 Feb, 2006.

INTERNET

WHO sends tamiflu to Iraq after bird flu confirmed

GENEVA, 5 Feb— The World Health Organisation (WHO) said on Friday that it was sending several thousand courses of influenza drug Tamiflu to Iraq to help treat any further cases of deadly bird flu in humans.

The United Nations' health agency has already announced that a team, including veterinary experts, is on the way to investigate the situation in the north after a teenager died last month from the virus.

"The WHO is helping

the government of Iraq to get a supply of Tamiflu and it is on its way," said Margaret Chan, WHO assistant director-general for communicable diseases. The 7,000-10,000 courses of the drug, made by Swiss firm Roche, would arrive in the next few days, she told journalists. A course is a packet of 10 pills which are to be taken two times a day for five days. Tamiflu is regarded as the best available treatment against bird flu.

MNA/Reuters

Micro credit fair held in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 5 Feb— Two-day micro credit fair is being held in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, to celebrate the successful enforcement of micro credit in the country.

The United Nations set 2005 as the "Year of micro credit". Bangladesh is the model of micro credit which helped a lot of people alleviate poverty.

Hundreds of organizations in Bangladesh have joined the micro credit system, among them Grameen Bank is the biggest and the most successful one.

While inaugurating the fair Saturday, Mohammed Yunus, the founder of Grameen Bank, said micro credit has changed the rural economy a great deal. The rural people, especially the rural women's life has improved a lot.

Yunus said micro credit is a big financial sector which cannot be ignored.

About 60 organizations which are enforcing micro credit showcased their achievements in the fair.

Grameen Bank started micro credit programme in one village in Bangladesh back in 1976, lending 27 US dollars to 52 people. Over years it has grown into a big bank, serving nearly 5 million clients, 96 per cent of them are women.

Grameen Bank lends out half a billion dollars each year, average loan is just 120 dollars, some loans are even under 10 dollars.

In Bangladesh, about 15 million people have got micro credit from different organizations, and the beneficiaries from this programme are even more.

MNA/Xinhua

Experts skeptical of experimental birdflu vaccines

WASHINGTON, 5 Feb— Two teams working on better vaccines for use against a potential bird flu pandemic have announced progress in the past week, but influenza experts are skeptical.

The two labs both used a human cold virus, called an adenovirus, to carry pieces of DNA from H5N1 flu in a vaccine. Both labs — one at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and one at the University of Pittsburgh Medical

Centre — were able to protect mice against fatal H5N1 infections.

But neither study was even mentioned at a meeting of top US flu experts in Washington this week.

"It's just not that new," Dr. John Treanor, a flu vaccine expert at the University of Rochester in New York, said in an interview. "There are a zillion vaccines that protect in mice. On the grand scale of things, it's nowhere near to being a vac-

cine you would see in humans."

The H5N1 avian influenza virus has killed or forced the culling of at least 200 million birds and has spread from East Asia across to parts of Europe. It mostly affects birds but it has infected 161 people and killed 86 of them since 2003, according to the World Health Organization.

Experts worry it could mutate into a form easily transmitted between people, causing a pandemic

that could kill millions.

If that happens, a vaccine is the best protection. Ideal would be a vaccine that could be produced immediately, or even ahead of time.

But developing new vaccines is a time-consuming and tricky business, and for the next few years the world is stuck with 40-year-old technology, no matter what happens in the lab, the experts, including manufacturers, said.

MNA/Reuters

Children more prone to cancer in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 5 Feb— Children are more prone to cancer and have been placed in the high-risk group because of genetic factors in Nepal, an official at Nepal Cancer Relief Society (NCRS) said here Saturday.

"Newly born infants are also at risk of cancer disease in Nepal," Diwakar Raj Rajkarnikar, president of NCRS, a non-government organization, said here to mark the World Cancer Day. There has been increasing number of blood cancer, called Leukemia, in children and other risk factors are brain tumour, kidney and eye cancer, Rajkarnikar added.

About 55,000 people are estimated to be affected by cancer while, 14,000 to 15,000 new cases have been surfacing every year in the country. Over 50 per cent among the cancer patients are affected by lung cancer and it was due to smoking and by the use of tobacco related things.

MNA/Xinhua



Protesters display their placards as they shout slogans during a rally commemorating the Filipino-American war on 3 Feb, 2006 in front of the US Embassy in Manila, Philippines. —INTERNET

Egypt prevents George Galloway entering country

CAIRO, 5 Feb— Egyptian immigration officials prevented British member of Parliament George Galloway from entering the country on Friday night because he is on a blacklist, airport sources said on Saturday.

Galloway had flown to Cairo to take part in a mock trial of US President George W. Bush, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and British Prime Minister Tony Blair for their activities in Iraq and the Palestinian territories.

A prominent opponent of the invasion of Iraq and advocate of Palestinian rights, Galloway has spent more than 12 hours at Cairo Airport after arriving on an EgyptAir flight from London, the airport sources said.

"He'll probably have to go to London on the next plane, unless attempts to get him through succeed, which is most unlikely," said one airport official, who asked not to be named.

Galloway phoned or-

ganizers of the "trial" for help and spent much of the night in a chair, they added.

The two-day "trial", which ends on Saturday, has been organized by the Union of Arab Lawyers, which said former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad was taking part. The sources gave no immediate reason why Galloway should be on the list of people not permitted to enter Egypt.

MNA/Reuters

Death toll in Indonesian sunken ferry jumps to 55

JAKARTA, 5 Feb— The death toll from a ferry accident between Kupang and Rote in East Nusa Tenggara Province, Indonesia, jumped to 55 on Friday, *The Jakarta Post* daily reported on Saturday. Rescuers have found 45 bodies three days after a ferry carrying more than

160 people sank in a narrow strait between the East Nusa Tenggara capital of Kupang and nearby Rote Island, said the report. The evacuation process, which involved a police helicopter and Navy warships, have found 126 survivors. Minister of Transportation Hatta Radjasa said Thurs-

day the accident was caused by tidal waves on the strait, some 2,000 kilometres east of Jakarta.

The ferry can carry up to 400 people and a number of vehicles, Hatta said, ruling out possibility that the accident was caused by over-capacity.

MNA/Xinhua



Rescuers escort a ferry accident survivor in Kupang, the capital of the western half of Timor island recently. —INTERNET



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein hears report on training school of MWVO in Mandalay by Principal Lt-Col Aung Soe (Retd).— MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects underpass under construction.— MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects Training School ...

(from page 1)

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein instructed officials to extend cultivation of perennial crops including physic nut plants without harming other perennial, seasonal crops and kitchen crop plantations.

On arrival at the site of Ayeayawady Bridge (Mandalay) Project on Mandalay bank, the Secretary-1 and party were welcomed by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye and officials.

Deputy Superintend-

ing Engineer U Hsan Win of Sagaing site and Deputy Superintending Engineer U Htay Myint of Mandalay site briefed the Secretary-1 on matters related to the bridge, installation of iron frames at the bridge, completion of approach bridges, and installation of the iron frames at the main section of the bridge. The commanders gave supplementary reports.

Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min reported that the approach road to the bridge on Mandalay bank will pass across Mandalay-Myitkyina railroad. Hence, the twin tunnel

(underpass) measuring 75 feet by 115 feet are being built at mile post 390/7 on Mandalay-Myitkyina railroad, and the construction tasks

have been completed by 90 per cent.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions. Next, they inspected progress in construction of the bridge, and the twin tunnel (underpass) being built by Myanmar Railways.

Engineers of Public Works are building 5,614 foot long Aye-yawady Bridge (Yadanabon) with four-lane motorway. Construction tasks are being carried out simultaneously on both Mandalay and Sagaing banks. At present, approach

roads on both sides have been completed by cent per cent.

The arch iron frames have been installed between RP5 and RP6. The main section of the bridge has been installed with iron frames in length of 886 metres out of 1,126 metres in total. So far, the construction of the bridge has completed by 85 per cent.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 and party oversaw greening tasks at Mandalay Kandawgyi Lake and Taungthaman Lake, and extension of repaving 62nd Street.

MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects demonstration of test run of a bulldozer with the use of physic nut oil at the farm of MCDC on 3-2-2006. (News Reported) — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects demonstration of test run of an excavator with the use of physic nut oil at No 1 farm of MCDC on 3-2-2006.(News reported)—MNA



The Htidaw hoisting of Aung Min Aung Pagoda in progress.
MNA



Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence fixes Seinbudaw atop Aung Min Aung Pagoda. — MNA

Ceremonies to hoist Shwehtidaw ...

(from page 16)
Lt-Gen Myint Swe, Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, officials and wellwisher Maung Weik and family company offered provisions to the Sayadaws.

Secretary of the SSMNC Nyaungdon Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa delivered a sermon, and the congregation led by Lt-Gen

Myint Swe shared merits gained. Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Wai Lwin and wellwisher U Maung Weik formally opened the Lake.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe unveiled the stone plaque of the lake and sprinkled scented water on it. Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party viewed round renovation tasks at the lake.

Maung Weik and Family Co spent over K 270 million on renovation of the Shin Upagutta Lake.

MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence offers alms to a Sayadaw.

MNA



Newly-renovated Shin Upagutta Mingala Lake. — MNA



Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung. — MNA

Union Day delegates and cultural troupes arrives Yangon

YANGON, 5 Feb — Union Day delegates and cultural troupes from Taninthayi Division, Shan State (North) and (South) and Chin State

arrived here by air today to attend the 59th Anniversary Union Day Ceremony 2006. They were welcomed at the airport by the 59th Anniversary

Union Day Reception and Accommodation Subcommittee Secretary Lt-Col Tin Kyaing and Subcommittee members and officials. — MNA



Union Day delegates from States and Divisions arrive at Yangon Airport. — MNA

Pro-Golfer Zaw Zaw Latt sets aim to claim champion



YANGON, 5 Feb — Zaw Zaw Latt was still standing in the first position by firing a five-under-par 211 in total on the third round in professional golfers division of the Air Bagan Myanmar Golf Tour at Kawthoung Golf Club in Kawthoung this morning.

Likewise, veteran Myint Thaung (KM Golf Centre) shot a third round four-under-par 68 today for a four-under-

par 212 total. Zaw Zin Win (Srixon) shared third place on 70 with Yin Aung Latt (Taunggyi) for a two-under-par 214 each. Former champion Soe Kyaw Naing (Srixon) stood in the fourth position by scoring 220.

In the amateur golfers division, Aung Win (Ministry of Forestry) who is favorite to secure champion was leading his division by shooting 222 in total on third round. Bo Bo and Ngwe Tun shared the second place, tying at 230. Naing Naing Lin shot 231 in the third position.

The fourth and final round of the tour continues tomorrow.

The Sixth Leg of Air Bagan Myanmar Golf Tour is being sponsored by Air Bagan Ltd together with co-sponsors KBZ Bank, Myanmar Brewery Ltd, Myanmar Treasure Resort Hotel, Aureum Palace Hotel Resort, Kawthoung Golf Club, Srixon, Kachin Golfers Group, Jade Land Myanmar Co Ltd, Max Myanmar Co Ltd, London, Viking Marine Product Trading Co Ltd. Han Event Management organizes the functions of the golf tour. — MNA

Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) Construction Project and extended tasks of Yangon International Airport inspected

YANGON, 5 Feb — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun together with officials of Public Works arrived at Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) Construction Project and heard reports on completion of the tasks of constructing the approach bridges on Sagaing and Mandalay banks, fixing the main steel frames and future plans.

After hearing reports, the minister gave

instructions on timely completion of the tasks and worksite safety and attended to the needs. Next, the minister and party inspected construction tasks of approach bridges and fixing the main bridge steel frame. At present, the 85 per cent of constructing the approach bridges of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) was completed.

On arrival at the project of extending the

runway of Yangon International Airport, the minister heard reports on the progress of the tasks and future plan. Regarding the reports, the minister gave instructions on timely completion of the tasks and meeting the set standard of the tasks.

Later the minister inspected the worksite. Yangon International Airport is being extended up to 11,200 feet to enable the Boeing 747-400s to land. — MNA

Home Affairs Minister meets staff and families of departments

YANGON, 5 Feb — Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo attended the ceremony to conclude SIP Course No 54 at Myanmar Police Force Central Training Depot in PyinOoLwin on 3 February morning.

At the meeting hall, the minister heard reports on matters related to the training courses by Principal Police Brig-Gen Khin Maung. Next, the minister inspected units of the training school.

In the afternoon, the minister met with depart-

mental officials under the Ministry of Home Affairs and family members of the training school. Next, he inspected physic nut plantations and fish ponds.

In the evening, the minister called on staff and family members of Man-

dalay Myanmar Police Force, General Administration Department, Bureau of Special Operation and Prisons Department at Aung San Hall of Mandalay Division Police Force.

MNA

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.



Progress in construction of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon). (News on page 1) — MNA

New items of SANYO air-conditioners introduced

YANGON, 5 Feb — The new items of SANYO air-conditioners of OK Myanmar Co Ltd of Myanmar Marketing Representative of SANYO Electric Corporation in Japan were introduced at Dusit Inya Lake Hotel yesterday evening.

Present on the occasion were agents of electric equipment stores, entrepreneurs and invited guests. First, Managing Director of OK Myanmar Co Ltd U Kyaw Kyaw Hlaing reported on extended tasks of the company and Member of Board of Company Directors Lt-Col Zaw Weik (Retd) clarified the arrangements for providing the services closely to the customers at SANYO showrooms and service centres opened at Mandalay and Pyinmana. Next, company

engineers clarified the new items of SANYO air-conditioners.

SANYO (GTC) air-conditioners are produced for use in the businesses at reasonable price and they are of good quality with one year guarantee. Before the end of guarantee, the repair will be made for the damage free of charge.

Relating to these air-conditioners, the further information can be inquired through electrical goods shops and OK Myanmar Co Ltd Showroom in Shwegondine, Tel: 544463, 544464, 544465, Pansoden Showroom Tel: 241-077384-077, Bo Aung Kyaw Showroom Tel: 377 627 and Pyinmana Showroom Tel: 067-22953. — MNA



OK Myanmar Co Ltd Managing Director U Kyaw Kyaw Hlaing explains new products of SANYO brand air-conditioner. — MNA

Yangon Mayor inspects land reclamation for growing physic nut

YANGON, 5 Feb — Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and officials inspected land reclamation and sowing of physic nut seeds near Yaynetkyi and Gwaytauk-aiing villages for growing physic nut carried out by YCDC in Hlegu Township, Yangon Division this morning.

On arrival at Gwaytauk-aiing village, the mayor heard reports on 300 acres reclamation and sowing of physic nut seeds by an official and planted physic nut.

The Yangon mayor also inspected land reclamation for growing physic nut near Yaynetkyi village and attended to the needs.

MNA

Mandalay Mayor oversees sanitation, upgrading tasks

YANGON, 5 Feb — Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han inspected dredging of drains and sanitation tasks in Maha Aungmye Township on 1 February.

He also oversaw preparations for the fourth Mayor's Cup Horticultural Show at Mandalay Kandawgyi Lake. The mayor inspected repaving and upgrading roads on 62nd Street and 89th street.

Afterwards, the mayor attended the ceremony to serve children with nutritious refreshments at the nursery of Social Welfare Department in Chanaye Thazan Township. The mayor and party also looked into the Myittasanyay Nursery of Maternal and Child Welfare Association Branch of MCDC.

MNA

Chavez says Bush worse than Hitler

CARACAS (Venezuela), 6 Feb — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez told a rally of thousands of supporters on Saturday that US President George W Bush was worse than Hitler and vowed to buy more arms to defend his nation as their diplomatic relations deteriorated.

“The imperialist, genocidal, fascist attitude of the US president has no limits. I think Hitler would be like a suckling baby next to George W Bush,” Chavez said from a stage decorated with a huge red image of himself as a young soldier.

Already frayed ties between the United States and the socialist leader worsened further this week after Chavez expelled a US military attache accused of espionage and the White House responded by ordering out a Venezuelan diplomat.

Chavez, a retired Army paratrooper who often accuses Washington of trying to overthrow him, warned he could shut Venezuelan oil refineries in the United States and sell oil for the US market elsewhere if Washington cuts off ties.

US officials have made no suggestion they plan to break relations. Washington has repeatedly dismissed Chavez’ threats and charges as inflammatory rhetoric aimed at stirring up nationalist sentiment among his poor supporters.

Washington and Caracas recently locked horns over a US block on sales of Spanish military equipment to Venezuela. The Spanish aircraft contained US-made technology, which requires countries to get Washington’s clearance for the sale.

Chavez, who last year bought helicopters and 100,000 rifles from Russia, said he would seek to buy more arms to defend Venezuela against any attempt to topple his government. US officials say the purchases could destabilize the region as Chavez moves to create a huge military reservist movement.

“I ask for permission ... to buy another cargo of arms because the gringos want us unarmed. We have to defend our fatherland,” he said. “Venezuela needs 1 million well-equipped men and women, and well-armed.”

The Venezuelan leader has put himself at the centre of regional opposition to Bush, who he calls “Mr Danger”, while Washington brands Chavez a worrying threat to regional stability and criticizes his alliance with Cuba. — MNA/Reuters

Twelve hurt in guerillas’ blast in E Nepal

KATHMANDU, 5 Feb— At least 10 civilians and two security men were injured in a guerillas’ blast in eastern Nepal on Friday morning, local police office said Saturday.

The civilians and the security men were hurt when a bomb planted by guerillas went off on Luhandra bridge in Biratnagar City of Morang District, some 400 kilometres east of Kathmandu, on Friday, local police office said in a statement.

The guerillas had blocked the Hulaki Highway for over 10 hours after planting 14 powerful bombs on the bridge, the

police noted. A troop of Royal Nepalese Army from Itahari defused 13 bombs while the one went off. Two Royal Nepalese Army personnel were injured while trying to defuse the bombs.

Meanwhile, guerrillas also detonated a bomb on a rural road at Pidarmani of Sidraha Village on Friday morning, the police said, adding, “The security forces managed to defuse that bomb as well.”

MNA/Xinhua

Over 60 vehicles pile up in Japan, injuring 31

TOKYO, 5 Feb— Over 60 vehicles piled up on the Hokuriku expressway in central Japan late Friday, causing injuries of 31 people, *Kyodo News* reported Saturday.

Four people were seriously injured in the accident, which happened at about 9:40 pm (1240 GMT), in Izumi, Toyama Prefecture. The section of the highway was icy, which might have caused the cars and trucks to skid.

Some of the vehicles in the serial collisions were severely damaged, and six people were trapped in their cars. However, all of them were rescued early Saturday, police and firefighters said.

MNA/Xinhua

Bulgaria reports first case of H5 avian flu

SOFIA, 5 Feb — Bulgaria has discovered its first case of H5 bird flu in a swan found in the waters of the Danube River, authorities said on Friday, and samples will be sent to Britain to test whether it is the strain that can kill people.

Sandwiched between Romania and Turkey, both of which have been hit by outbreaks of the deadly H5N1 strain, Bulgaria has been seen as a possible destination for the virus.

“Our teams found a wild swan in the Danube River near the town of Vidin. The tests on the swan showed it was infected with the H5 virus,” Agriculture Minister Nihat Kabil told a news conference.

He said he had put his

veterinary offices on high alert but the discovery of one infected swan did not mean there was a danger of wider outbreaks.

“This was a single bird,” he said. “There is no sign of any strange behaviour or massive deaths by wild birds.”

The swan was found alive on January 31 at an industrial site near the border with Romania and Serbia. It died after showing symptoms of shaking and partial paralysis.

MNA/Reuters



A night view of the Olympic ski alpine slalom course for the upcoming Torino 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Sestriere, Italy, on 3 Feb, 2006. The Games will be held from 10-26 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

Iran vows not to give in under pressure on nuclear issue

TEHERAN, 5 Feb— Iranian Majlis (Parliament) Speaker Gholam-Ali Haddad-Adel here Saturday vowed that Iran would not give in under pressure over its nuclear programme, the official IRNA news agency reported.

Adel was also quoted as saying that “the Iranian nation will not surrender to pressures imposed on the country by certain powers on its nuclear programmes”.

He complained that Iran’s progress in nuclear technology “has been turned into a pretext for certain powers to impose pressures on the Iranian nation”.

The hardline speaker reiterated that the Iranian Government was obliged to implement a law passed late last year to cease voluntary cooperative measures on the nuclear issue in case the file was referred to the UN Security Council.

“The Majlis believes the law mandating implementation of the country’s nuclear programmes should be enforced. We will review it after the IAEA decision. But we should (first) see what decisions the agency will take,” he said.

The Speaker’s comments came shortly before the emergency meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) board of governors in Vienna adopted a resolution to report Iran’s nuclear issue to the UN Security Council over concerns that Teheran is

developing nuclear weapons.

Javad Vaeidi, deputy secretary of Supreme National Security Council of Iran, warned in Vienna soon after the IAEA’s vote that Teheran would resume “full-scale” of uranium enrichment.

Former Iranian president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on Friday also warned that referring Iran’s nuclear case to the UN Security Council would be a “big mistake”.

The Iranian Majlis in December 2005 ratified a law demanding the government to cease all voluntary measures on the nuclear programme if hauled to the UN, including the implementation of the additional protocol of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and voluntary suspension of some nuclear work.

On 10 January, Teheran resumed nuclear research work regardless of the warnings of the European Union (EU) and virtually rejected a Russian proposal to transfer uranium enrichment work to Russia, which prompted the EU to call for the IAEA emergency meeting.

MNA/Xinhua

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- ပူခြင်း၊ အေးခြင်း၊ နာခြင်း၊ ထိခြင်းကို မသိခြင်း
- အရေပြား၏ မည်သည့်နေရာတွင်မဆိုဖြစ်ပေါ်နိုင်သည်။
အသက်အရွယ်၊ ကျား၊ မ၊ မိန်းမ၊ အတန်းအစားမရွေး၊
နေရာအသေမရွေး ဖြစ်နိုင်သည်။

- သင့်ရပ်ရွာတွင် အနာကြီးရောဂါကင်းရေးလုပ်ပါသလား။
- အနာကြီးရောဂါအကြောင်းကို လူတိုင်းသိအောင်ပြောပြပေးပါ။
- အနာကြီးရောဂါသည်ဟု မသင်္ကာသူတိုင်းကို ရှာဖွေပေးပါ။
- ဆေးကုသမှုခံယူနိုင်အောင် စည်းရုံးပေးပါ။
- MDT (အမိစိတ်)ဆေးကိုကျန်းမာရေးဌာနတိုင်းတွင်အလွယ်တကူနှင့်အခမဲ့ရရှိနိုင်ပါသည်။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

ADVERTISEMENTS

ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်
ရန်ကင်းမြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ
ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့

ရက်စွဲ ၂၀၀၆ ခုနှစ် ဇန်နဝါရီလ ၂၄ ရက်

ချိပ်ပိတ်စေချေးနှုန်းလွှာခေါ်ယူခြင်း

ရန်ကင်းမြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ၏ လုပ်ငန်းသုံး အတွက် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါပစ္စည်းများကို ဌာနအရောက် ကျပ်ငွေဖြင့် ဝယ်ယူရန် ချိပ်ပိတ်စေချေးနှုန်းလွှာများ စီတင်အပ်ပါသည်။

စဉ် ပစ္စည်းအမျိုးအမည် အရေအတွက်
(က) ၈၀/၁၀၀ အမျိုးအစား လမ်းခင်းကတ္တရာ (၅၀၀၀) တန်း
(ခ) ၂၄"၀ ကွန်ကရစ်ပိုက်ထုတ်လုပ်ငန်းသုံး

စက်အရန်ပစ္စည်းများ 1 Lot

ချေးနှုန်းလွှာပိတ်ရက်မှာ ၁၅-၂-၂၀၀၆ ရက်နေ့ (၁၆:၀၀)မှာရှိ ဖြစ်ပြီး ချေးနှုန်းတင်သွင်းလွှာပုံစံတစ်စုံလျှင် ကျပ် ၁၀၀၀/- (ကျပ်တစ်ထောင်တိတိ)နှုန်း ဖြင့်ဘတ်ဂျက်နှင့် ငွေစာရင်းဌာန၊ ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူ ရောင်းချရေးဌာနမှတစ်ဆင့် ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။ အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက် များကိုနံနက် ၈:၀၀-၁၂:၀၀ နှစ်ချိန်အတွင်းဆက်သွယ်မေးမြန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

၂၀၀၆
ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့

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(For: Domern Songiat & Boonma, Attorneys at Law, Thailand)
Dated: 6 February 2006

Vietnam's first satellite to be built in April

HANOI, 4 Feb — Vietnam will open a tender this month for satellite production and relevant activities, so that the manufacture of its first communication satellite will start in April, according to the Vietnamese Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications on Friday.

The Vietnamese Government has recently decided to invest 2,885 billion Vietnamese dong (nearly 182.6 million US dollars) in manufacturing and launching the medium-sized satellite named Vinasat, which will span its coverage over Vietnam, other Southeast Asian countries, Japan, the Korean Peninsula, part of China, eastern Oceania and the South China Sea, said Tran Duc Lai, Deputy Minister of posts and telecommunications.

Of the investment, 20 per cent will come from the satellite's investor, the state-owned Vietnam Posts and Telecommunications Corporation, and the rest from loans. A satellite control station will be established in Hoai Duc District, northern Ha Tay Province and a standby one in Ben Cat District, southern Binh

Duong Province. Foreign companies from the United States, France, Japan and Russia are expected to partake in the tender.

Vinasat, planned to have 20 transceivers with lifespan of around 15 years, will be launched in 2008. After coming into operation, the satellite will help the country's telecommunications network not depend on topography and all of its communes have phone, TV and radio coverage.

Now, Vietnam has to use satellite services provided by foreign companies from Thailand, Indonesia and Russia. Vinasat will be Vietnam's second space item since the country's first astronaut took part in a Soviet space mission in 1985.

MNA/Xinhua

Global warming boosting Greenland glacier flow

LONDON, 4 Feb — Two major glaciers in Greenland have recently begun to flow and break up more quickly under the onslaught of global warming, a new study said on Friday, raising the spectre of millions drowning from rising sea levels.

The report from the University of Swansea's School of the Environment and Society said the Kangerdlugssuaq and Helheim glaciers had doubled their rate of flow to the ocean over the past two years after steady movement during the 1990s.

This spurt meant that current environmental models of the rate of retreat of Greenland's giant ice sheet — which could add seven metres to the height of the world's oceans if it disappears — had underestimated the problem.

"It seems likely that other Greenland outlets will undergo similar changes,

which would impact the mass balance of the ice sheet more rapidly than predicted," the study said.

It said the fact that the two major outflow glaciers had shown the same sudden acceleration despite being more than 300 kilometres apart suggested the cause was not local but more likely climatic or oceanic in origin. "In both of these glaciers the acceleration and retreat has been sudden, despite the progressive nature of warming and thinning over some years," the report said.

"The longevity of this flux increase is unknown but could be substantial," it added.

The report followed a

warning earlier this week from Britain's Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction and Research — a branch of the Meteorological Office — that the Greenland ice sheet could be disappearing faster than previously thought.

The ice sheet contains one-tenth of the world's freshwater reserves.

Scientists predict that global average temperatures will rise by between one and six degrees Celsius this century unless urgent action is taken now to cap and reduce carbon emissions.

Even a rise of three degrees could result in cataclysmic species loss, melting polar icecaps raising sea levels by many metres and wholesale famine and disease.

Greenland is only part of the picture, and there is also evidence of local warming and melting on the giant Western Antarctic ice sheet. — MNA/Reuters

Ancient stone sculptures on display in North China city

SHIJIAZHUANG, 4 Feb — An exhibition featuring ancient stone sculptures opened recently in Handan, a historically famous city in North China's Hebei Province, to mark the ongoing Spring Festival.

It comprises a total of 70 stone Buddhist sculptures, rubbings and tablets carved in a 900-year period from the Northern Dynasties (386-581) to the Song Dynasty (960-1279).

Some 86 photographs of Buddhist sculptures, unearthed from grottos and tombs in Handan and its surrounding areas, are also on display in the 600-square-metre exhibition hall at the city's museum.

After the holiday display period, the cultural relics will be on permanent show at the museum to provide local residents with a chance to appreciate the art of stone carving in ancient times.

Handan has a history of 8,000 years in stone carving. The technique of ancient artists in the region exerted a strong influence on the creation of Buddhist sculpture during the Northern Dynasties.

MNA/Xinhua

Indian scientists ready for ballistic missile launch

NEW DELHI, 4 Feb — Preparations are complete for the first launch of nuclear-capable ballistic missile *Agni-III* but a decision on its testing would have to be taken by the government, *Indo-Asian News Service* (IANS) quoted the country's top defence scientist M. Natarajan as saying here on Friday.

"We have done all the technical tasks for a project of this nature. But when it will be fired, how it will be fired, and where it will be fired is a decision that has to be taken at a higher level," IANS quoted Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) chief Natarajan as saying.

"Two other versions of the indigenously developed *Agni* missile, one with a range of 700 kilometres and the other with a range of 2,500 kilometres, have already entered service with the Indian Armed Forces," Natarajan disclosed.

MNA/Xinhua

German FM appeals to Iraqi kidnappers

BERLIN, 4 Feb — German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier made an appeal broadcast on the Al Jazeera television station on Friday calling on Iraqi kidnappers to free two German engineers threatened with death.

"Chancellor (Angela) Merkel and I are appealing to you — also in the name of all Germans — to release Thomas Nitzschke and Rene Braeunlich unharmed," Steinmeier said. A deadline set by the kidnappers expires on Friday and Steinmeier said the government had been unable to contact them.

"I appeal to the kidnappers: take into account the families' distress. Thomas Nitzschke and Rene Braeunlich were in Iraq to contribute to the improvement of the lifestyles of people in Iraq," the minister said. Steinmeier said earlier on Friday he had no news to report and declined to give any details of Germany's efforts to free the two men or of its assessment of a film in which the kidnappers said they would kill the men in 72 hours if their demands were not met. — MNA/Reuters

Venezuela describes US expelling of diplomat as retaliation

CARACAS, 4 Feb — Venezuelan Deputy Foreign Minister Mari Hernandez said that Friday's US decision to expel a Venezuelan diplomat was a "political retaliation", local media reported.

Hernandez told Venezuelan state television that there was no reason to expel Jenny Figueredo Frias, but that the Venezuelan Government had been

expecting such a move, after Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez declared John Correa, a US naval attaché at the US Embassy in Venezuela, persona non grata, expelling him from the country.

Hernandez added that Figueredo had conducted herself in an "exemplary and unobjectionable" manner at the Venezuelan Embassy in Washington. Meanwhile,

another Venezuelan official, Pavel Rondon, who is on a diplomatic mission in Cuba, told the Cuban Press that Figueredo's expulsion was inappropriate because Correa had been charged with a crime that is clearly defined under Venezuelan law.

Figueredo "is not at the same level as Correa and he is accused of a crime", he said. — MNA/Xinhua

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပို့ဆက်ရေးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖို့

South Africa to restrict foreign purchase of land

CAPE TOWN, 4 Feb— South African President Thabo Mbeki said here on Friday that his government will regulate conditions for foreigners to buy land in the country.

In his annual State-of-the-Nation address to the Parliament, the President said, "(The minister will) regulate conditions under which foreigners buy land."

"This will be done in line with international norms and practices," he added. However, he did not specify what conditions will be posed on foreigners to buy land in

the country. Foreigners can now buy South African land without any conditions so long buyers can afford. The demand from foreigners has pushed price hike in poverty and triggered complaint from ordinary citizens.

The Black government promised millions of South Africans to give them land before they came to power in 1994. But about 70 per cent of land in the country is still held by small number of

Whites.

So, the government comes under tremendous pressure to take actions to restrict foreigners to buy South African land.

Mbeki said that the government is to review its willing-buyer, willing-seller policy this year in a bid to boost land reform. He said the state would play a more central role in land reform to accelerate restitution and help empower the poor.

MNA/Xinhua

Vehicles from GM

Daewoo Automotive

Technology are parked

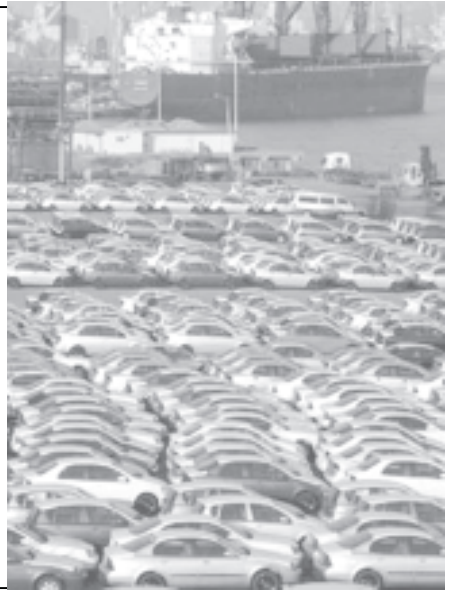
at a port before being

loaded onto a cargo ship

for export, in Incheon,

west of Seoul, on 3

Feb.—INTERNET



Two astronauts leave station for spacewalk

Moscow, 5 Feb—The two astronauts that were living on the International Space Station left the station and went on a spacewalk at 2244 GMT on Friday, the Russian Mission Control Centre (TsUP) said.

The spacewalk took about six hours, and the astronauts released a special kind of "satellite" known as *SuitSat*, which was stuffed with a donated radio, a transmitter, electronics boxes, batteries and old clothes to hold the gear in place.

The transmitter will send recorded messages in six languages to amateur radio operators for several days before eventually re-entering Earth's atmosphere and burning up, NASA officials said. Besides, the two astronauts also performed maintenance and photography tasks, including locking a cable cutter on the station's mobile transporter rail car, creating storage space, retrieving a Russian science experiment and photographing handrails, antennas and sensors. US space station commander Bill McArthur, and Russian flight engineer Valery Tokarev are the 12th term of observation members working on the station. They arrived in the International Space Station on 3 October, 2005, and launched a spacewalk successfully on 7 November, during which they installed a video camera outward the US part of the station and removed some other equipment outside the station.—MNA/Xinhua

Earthwork enters peak time for Three Gorges power station

YICHANG (Hubei), 4 Feb — Earthwork entered peak time for construction of a new underground power workshop in the world's largest hydropower station at the Three Gorges, Yichang City of central China's Hubei Province.

Over 1,000 workers spared the week-long vacation of China's Lunar New Year drilling and excavating a cellar in the mountain on the southern bank of the Yangtze River, which is expected to accommodate six generators, each with an installed capacity of 700,000 kilowatts.

The China Yangtze River Three Gorges Project Development Corporation started the construction project in March, 2005. The drilling work is expected to be completed in July this year, and the concrete molding to begin in August, according to schedule. The underground power workshop with the

Three Gorges Project will cost more than six billion yuan (some 720 million US dollars). When the project becomes operational by 2010, 90 per cent of the water in the Three Gorges Reservoir will be

used for generating hydro-electricity.

Launched in 1993, the Three Gorges Project is being built in three phases on the middle reaches of the Yangtze River. Based on an original plan, the

gigantic reservoir, with an estimated cost of 180 billion yuan, will all be erected on the river's southern bank.

MNA/Xinhua

Deaths push rare Asia dolphins nearer extinction

JOHANNESBURG, 4 Feb— Ten dead Irrawaddy dolphins have been found in Cambodia's Mekong River, eight of them calves, pushing one of the rarest cetaceans nearer extinction, the environmental group WWF International said on Friday.

The deaths mean a 10-per-cent drop in the number of Irrawaddy dolphins living in the Mekong, previously thought to be between 80 and 100. They are restricted to a 190-kilome-

ter (115-mile) stretch of news, making a serious situation even more critical," said Robert Mather, Senior Conservation Policy Manager of WWF's Greater Mekong Programme.

"This time of year commonly sees a peak in dolphin deaths, but 10 in the last two months is particularly high and ... none have been reported since May 2005," he said.

The WWF said that at least one of the dolphins drowned after becoming entangled in fishing gillnets, the biggest threat to the Mekong population.

But other factors such as pollution may be responsible as eight of the 10 dead dolphins were calves, it said.

"This trend (calves dying) has been seen for a number of years and is suspected to be due to some form of environmental pollution. However, ongoing tissue samples and chemical analysis have yet to reveal the cause," the WWF said.

MNA/Xinhua



Astronauts Bill McArthur of the US and Valery Tokarev of Russia are seen during their spacewalk from the International Space Station on 3 Feb, 2006.

INTERNET

S Africa, China agree deal on clothes imports

CAPE TOWN, 4 Feb— South Africa has reached agreement with China to regulate the import of cheap Chinese clothes and textiles which analysts say threaten the industry in the country, President Thabo Mbeki said on Friday.

"We have already reached agreement with... China to protect our clothing and textile sector," Mbeki told Parliament in his annual state of the nation address. No further details were immediately available.

South African trade officials said on Friday they had been in talks with China on some regulatory arrangement involving import quotas as part of a strategy of accelerating South Africa's economic growth to at least 6 per cent per year from the current 4 per cent.

African countries and China had a difficult relationship because while they gained from China's increased appetite for commodities, an influx of cheap Chinese manufactured goods had been destructive to local industries, negotiators said.

MNA/Reuters

Don't Smoke

SPORTS

Real run riot to sink Espanyol 4-0

MADRID, 5 Feb— Real Madrid ran riot against a poor Espanyol in the Bernabeu on Saturday, winning 4-0 to move up to second in the Primera Liga.

Real hardly broke sweat against fellow King's Cup semifinalists with Guti, Zinedine Zidane and Ronaldo on his return from injury, striking before the break.

Zidane added a second five minutes after the restart to extend Real's winning run to seven games in all competitions.

Real have 42 points from 22 games and are 10 points behind leaders Barcelona who play Atletico Madrid at home on Sunday. Third-placed Valencia, with 40 points, can move back above Real if they beat Deportivo Coruna away later on Saturday.

Earlier a Salva Ballesta header dragged Malaga off the foot of the table and earned new coach Manuel Herreria a 2-1 debut home win over Athletic Bilbao.

Malaga's Portuguese defender Litos headed the home side in front from an Antonio Hidalgo free kick after 30 minutes, but fellow strugglers Bilbao levelled the scores through Aritz Aduriz just before the break. —MNA/Reuters



Ivan Ljubicic of Croatia eyes the ball during the quarter final match with Mikhail Youzhny of Russia at the ATP Zagreb Tennis Tournament in Zagreb, Croatia, on 3 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

Shearer sets Newcastle record, 200 for Henry

LONDON, 5 Feb— Former England captain Alan Shearer broke Newcastle United's goal-scoring record in a 2-0 home win over fellow strugglers Portsmouth on Saturday.

The 35-year-old, who took on the role of assistant to caretaker boss Glenn Roeder following the midweek sacking of Graeme Souness, scored in the second half to eclipse Jackie Milburn's record of 200 goals.

It was Newcastle's first victory in seven league games and lifted them to 15th in the table, having picked up 29 points from 24 games.

France striker Thierry Henry also reached a significant milestone, grabbing his 200th goal for injury-hit Arsenal in their 2-0 triumph at Birmingham City.

Arsenal, on 40 points, moved up one place to fifth, one point behind neighbours Tottenham Hotspur who host Charlton Athletic in a London derby on Sunday.

Leaders Chelsea entertain third-placed Liverpool on Sunday. Second-placed Manchester United host Fulham later on Saturday. Luke Moore's hat-trick inspired Aston Villa to a 4-0 rout of Middlesbrough while new signing Dean Ashton marked his first start for West Ham United with a goal in the 2-0 home win over bottom of the table Sunderland, who had Stephen Wright sent off.

West Bromwich Albion defeated Blackburn Rovers 2-0 and Bolton Wanderers shared a 1-1 draw with Wigan Athletic.

David Weir's goal gave Everton a 1-0 win at home to Manchester City, who had Stephen Jordan sent off with one minute to go. — MNA/Reuters

Ivory Coast beat Cameroon on penalties

CAIRO, 5 Feb— Ivory Coast beat Cameroon 12-11 on penalties after extra time finished 1-1 on Saturday to line up an African Nations Cup semi-final against Nigeria.

Ivorian captain Didier Drogba rifled home the winning spot kick after Cameroon's Samuel Eto'o, the tournament's top scorer, missed his penalty following a poor display all night.

After 90 minutes of scrappy football, the game burst into life when Ivorian Bakary Kone rifled home in the second minute of extra time and Cameroon lev-

elled three minutes later through fellow substitute Albert Meyong Ze. But extra time yielded no more goals and the game went to the roulette of penalties.

Having also drawn 1-1 after extra time, Nigeria beat Tunisia 6-5 in a penalty shootout in the earlier quarterfinal in Port Said to reach their semifinal berth in Alexandria on Tuesday. —MNA/Reuters

Ex-FIFA referee appointed FUFA's CEO

KAMPALA, 5 Feb— Former FIFA referee Charles Masembe Friday was appointed Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Federation of Uganda Football Associations (FUFA), local Press reported on Saturday. FUFA media committee chairman Rogers Mulindwa announced the appointment and said the new CEO will begin work on February 10 under a five-year contract.

Masembe, who has held various positions in football, was until his new role an administrative secretary at Uganda National Council of Sports (NCS).

MNA/Xinhua

Hingis beats Sharapova for final at Pan Pacific Open

TOKYO, 5 Feb— Swiss Martina Hingis defeated top-seeded Maria Sharapova of Russia 6-3, 6-1 to advance to the final of the Pan Pacific Open here on Saturday.

Hingis, a wild carder, resorted to her solid groundstrokes and strong serves to a win over the defending champion in one hour and six minutes.

"I played well," said Hingis. "I didn't miss much on key points and I put a lot of pressure on her."

Leading 4-3 in the first set, Hingis broke Sharapova for 5-3 and had two aces in the final game to take the opening set.

Hingis, who was playing Sharapova for the first time, won the capacity crowd behind her, surged ahead 5-1 in the second set and broke her opponent in the final game to seal off the match. Hingis, who retired three years ago because of foot, heel and ankle injuries, is a four-time winner in Tokyo. She last played in the tournament in 2002. — MNA/Xinhua

Answers to yesterday's Crossword Puzzle

A	S	S	C	S	G	S	T	A	R	T		
S	A	P	P	H	I	R	E	S	A	S	E	S
I	S	I	S	A	S	E	S	S	P	A	T	E
D	E	T	A	I	N	E	D	S	E	S	A	S
E	S	E	S	R	S	D	S	A	S	T	I	R
S	M	S	P	S	A	Y	E	S	T	S	N	S
H	A	R	A	S	S	S	B	A	R	R	E	N
S	C	S	R	S	O	B	S	Y	S	R	S	
S	K	A	T	E	S	B	S	S	F	S	A	
S	E	S	I	S	C	L	A	P	P	I	N	G
G	R	A	C	E	S	I	S	O	S	N	S	A
S	E	S	L	S	I	G	N	O	R	A	N	T
F	L	E	E	T	S	E	S	K	S	L	S	E

Roma beat Parma to continue Champions League charge

ROME, 5 Feb— AS Roma's charge for one of Italy's four Champions League berths maintained its momentum when they beat Parma 3-0 in Serie A on Saturday.

Roma's seventh consecutive league win leaves them fifth with 42 points, just two behind fourth-placed Fiorentina who play Lecce on Saturday.

The 2001 champions, who knocked Juventus out of the Italian Cup in midweek, dominated the first half and went close when Francesco Totti's volley was tipped over by Matteo Guardalben.

They finally scored two minutes after the break, Brazilian winger Mancini firing in the rebound after Totti's header and close-range shot were cleared off the line in quick succession. Parma striker Domenico Morfeo headed against the post midway through the half but in the 72nd minute Mancini grabbed his second goal,

running on to Totti's neat chip over the defence before lobbing Guardalben.

Totti conjured up another defence-splitting pass five minutes later for Simone Perrotta to lob Guardalben again — this time from a tight angle — and seal the win.

The result left Parma 16th in Serie A on 21 points, two points above the relegation zone.

In Saturday's earlier match Siena and Ascoli drew 1-1, a result that left them 12th and 13th respectively.

Ascoli were on course for their first away win this season when Gianluca Commotto turned home Michele Fini's low cross to put them ahead in the 40th minute.

MNA/Reuters

Vieri double lifts Monaco spirits

PARIS, 5 Feb— Italy striker Christian Vieri scored his first two Ligue 1 goals on Saturday to help Monaco secure a welcome 3-1 win at Stade Rennes.

The victory lifted spirits at Monaco after a dull start to the year featuring an embarrassing elimination by Fifth Division Colmar in the second round of the French Cup on Wednesday.

Vieri, 32, joined Monaco last month from AC Milan in an effort to boost his chances of making Italy's World Cup squad.

Rennes led at halftime with a 25th minute goal by midfielder Arnold Mvuemba Makengo but Monaco woke up after the break, Vieri equalizing with a powerful header in the 55th before putting the visitors in front with a superb volley 12 minutes later.

Substitute defender Olivier Veigneau wrapped up the win for

the principality team in added time.

Thanks to Vieri, Monaco climb two places to seventh and can still hope to qualify for Europe with more of the same from a player who was one of the world's top marksmen for years.

Paris St. Germain missed out on precious points in the race for Europe as they were held to a 2-2 home draw by St Etienne earlier on Saturday.

Substitute striker Fabrice Pancrati salvaged a share of the points for the Parisians with a spectacular bicycle kick eight minutes from time after the visitors had twice gone ahead.

MNA/Reuters



Cypriot tennis player Marcos Baghdatis holds his trophy from the Australian Open during a press conference at Larnaca international airport 45 kilometers (28 miles) south of capital Nicosia, Cyprus, on 4 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

WHO calls for global efforts to combat cancer

GENEVA, 5 Feb — The World Health Organization (WHO) called here on Friday for global efforts to combat cancer, which caused some 7.6 million deaths in 2005.

Cancer is a leading cause of death globally, and 84 million people will die in the next 10 years if action is not taken, Dr Catherine Le Gales-Camus, WHO assistant director-general for non-communicable diseases and mental health, told reporters at a Press conference.

She said the WHO has proposed a global goal of reducing chronic disease death rates by 2 per cent per annum from 2006 to 2015.

Achievement of this goal would avert over eight million of the projected 84 million deaths due to cancer in the next decade, she said.

According to the official, more than 70 per cent of all cancer deaths occur

in low and middle income countries, where resources available for prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer are limited or non-existent.

"We must, first and foremost, address the tremendous inequalities between developed and de-

veloping countries in terms of cancer prevention, treatment and care," Le Gales-Camus said.

It is estimated that over 40 per cent of all cancer can be prevented. However, dramatic increases in risk factors such as tobacco use and

obesity are contributing to the rise in cancer rates, particularly in low and middle income countries.

Tobacco use alone accounts for some 1.5 million cancer deaths per year, WHO figures show.

MNA/Xinhua

Albanians become largest ethnic minority group in Italy

TIRANA, 5 Feb— Albanian immigrants have overtaken the Moroccans to become the largest ethnic minority group in Italy, the *Albanian Daily News* reported on Friday, citing data from the Italian Institute of Statistics.

The new statistics

showed that the number of Albanian immigrants in Italy has reached 316,000, topping the list of ethnic minorities residing in that country.

Romanians come next with a population of 248,000, followed by Chinese in fourth place with 111,000, and Ukrainians

the fifth with 93,000.

Around 63 per cent of the Albanian immigrants live in the northern part of Italy, while 24 per cent in the central part and 12.5 per cent in the south, according to the statistics.

Albania has a population of 3.4 million. About one-third of its people have emigrated abroad, mostly to Greece and Italy.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Sunday, 5 February, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Division and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (4°C) below normal in Chin State, (5°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Rakhine and Kayah States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Bago Divisions. (5°C) above normal in Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Hakha and Namsam (2°C) each and Lashio and Pinlaung (4°C) each. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Machanbaw (0.20) inch and Putao (0.08 C) inch.

Maximum temperature on 4-2-2006 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 5-2-2006 was 62°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 5-2-2006 was (80%). Total sunshine hours on 4-2-2006 was (8.8) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 5-2-2006 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 (9) mph from West at (15:15) hours MST on 4-2-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 6-2-2006: Isolated light rain are possible in Kachin State. Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions. Weather will be partly cloudy in Mon State and Yangon Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%)

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Slight increase of night temperatures in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 6-2-2006: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 6-2-2006: Fair weather.



Monday, 6 February
View on today

7:00 am

1. နေ့စဉ်: ရုပ်ရှင်: ကွန်းဆရာတော်
ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ
မဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်
ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာမဟာရဋ္ဌ
ဂုဗျ၊ အဘိဓမ္မာအဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မ
ဓောတိက၊ တီပီဇုကဓမ္မ၊
ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော်
ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိမ္ဗိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏
ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

2. To be healthy
exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. Nice and sweet song

7:50 am

5. Song of national
races

8:00 am

6. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:05 am

7. Cute little of dancers

8:15 am

8. (၅၉) နှစ်မြောက် ပြည်ထောင်
စုနေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

8:25 am

9. ရုပ်ရှင်: တန်းတံတား

8:30 am

10. International news

8:45 am

11. Grammar made easy

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Songs to uphold
National Spirit

4:30 am

3. (၅၉) နှစ်မြောက် ပြည်ထောင်
စုနေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

4:45 pm

4. အဆေးသင်တန်းသို့လှည့်ပညာရေး
ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား: သင်ခန်းစာ
-ပထမနှစ်(ရူပဗေဒ၊ ဓါတုဗေဒ၊
သင်္ချာအထူးပြုများ) (ရူပဗေဒ)

4:55 pm

5. Musical programme
(The radio Myanmar
modern music
Troupe)

5:05 pm

6. Song and dance of
National Races

5:10 pm

7. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား

5:25 pm

8. Industrial
achievement

5:30 am

9. အနာကြီး ရောဂါဆက်လက်
ကင်းစေးဖို့ ဒီဇင်းဝန်းကူညီ
ဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့

5:45 am

10. (၅၉) နှစ်မြောက် ပြည်ထောင်
စုနေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

5:50 pm

11. အနာဂတ် နိုင်ငံတော်၏
ဥပမေပြုမှု အသွင်သဏ္ဍာန်နှင့်
အနှစ်သာရ (အပိုင်း-၁၃)

6:00 pm

12. Evening news

6:30 pm

13. Weather report

6:35 pm

14. နိုင်ငံခြားတက္ကသိုလ်လမ်းတွဲ
"ရယ်ရွှင်ဆွယ်ခြင်း"
ပုဂ္ဂိုလ်ဆိတ်လေး" (အပိုင်း-၆၀)

6:50 pm

15. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ
"အချစ်လှကားတစ်လေးများ"
(အပိုင်း-၃၆)

7:40 pm

16. ပြည်ထောင်စုစိတ်ဓါတ်မြေမြတ်
ရင်သန် နိုင်ငံစာရန်မှာ ဒီဝန်တာ
(ပြည်ထောင်စုတိုင်းရင်းသား
လူမျိုးများဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးတက္ကသိုလ်၊
တစ်နေ့တာ)

8:00 pm

17. News

18. International news

19. Weather report

20. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ
"ဇော်ရွှင်ရွယ်ရာနေ့ကလေးများ"
(အပိုင်း-၇)

21. The next day's
programme



Monday, 6 February
Tune in today

8:30 am Brief news

8:35 am Music:
-Where you're

8:40 am Perspectives

8:45 am Music:
-You got it

8:50 am National news
& slogan

9:00 am Music:
So magical

9:05 am International
news

1:30 pm News & slogan

1:40 pm Lunch Time
music
-Till I can make
it on my own
-Right here
waiting
-A thousand
miles
-Don't know
why
-Endless love

9:00 pm Sportlight on
the star

9:10 pm Article

9:20 pm Drug Elimination

9:30 pm Vocal Gems

9:45 pm News & Slogan

10:00 pm PEL

Ceremonies to hoist Shwehtidaw atop Aung Min Aung Pagoda, share merits for Shin Upagutta Lake held at Shwedagon Pagoda

YANGON, 5 Feb — A ceremony to hoist Shwehtidaw atop Aung Min Aung Pagoda and the ceremony to share merits for completion of Shin Upagutta Mingala Lake were held in the precinct of Shwedagon Pagoda, here, this morning, attended by Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence.

Also present on the occasion were Ovadaçariya of Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees, Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha S a d d h a m m a j o t i k a

Bhaddanta Paññinda-bhivamsa and member Sayadaws, and members of the Sangha, Chairman of the Leading Committee for All-round Perpetual Renovation of Shwedagon Pagoda Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Chairman of the Work Committee Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Wai Lwin, departmental officials and guests.

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung supplicated on the purpose of holding the ceremonies.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and the congregation re-



Lt-Gen Myint Swe presents Seinbudaw to the Sayadaw.—MNA



ceived the Five Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññindabhivamsa. The

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Wai Lwin and wellwisher Maung Weik formally open Shin Upagutta Mingala Kandaw Garden.—MNA

Sayadaws recited Metta Sutta.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and officials offered parts of Shwehtidaw to the Sayadaws.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence and Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung hoisted the Htidaw

atop Aung Min Aung Pagoda, and sprinkled scented water on the Htidaw.

The merit-sharing ceremony for Shin Upagutta Mingala Lake followed at the north-west corner of Shwedagon Pagoda. The Vice-Chairman Sayadaw administered the Nine Precepts.

(See page 9)

Full dress rehearsal for conveying Union Flag held

YANGON, 5 Feb — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Com-

mander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin

inspected the full dress rehearsal for conveying Union Flag to townships in four districts in Yangon

Division held under the 59th Anniversary Union Day Flag Conveying and Full Dress Rehearsal ar-

rangements this morning.

The Union Flag was conveyed from the City Hall to the dais in

Thihadipa Sports Ground in Thanlyin representing Yangon South District, the sports ground in Dagon Myothit (South) Township representing Yangon East District, Gyobyu Sports Ground in Taikkyi Township representing Yangon North District, and Salin Sports Ground in Kyimyindine Township representing Yangon West District, then to the dais in the People's Square on Pyay Road, here.

After that, the Union Flag was conveyed back to the City Hall. Chairman of the Sub-committee for Conveying Union Flag and Setting up Billboards Secretary of Yangon City Development Committee U Tin Soe and members and flag relay teams conveyed the Union Flag on board the Union Boat. — MNA



Full dress rehearsal of conveying the Union Flag to townships in four districts this morning. — CITY NEWS