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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

Union Spirit—oneness and unity of nationals

Union Spirit is the spirit that binds all citizens in unity no matter in which section, which region they may reside. Union Spirit is built on the spirit of nationalism that engenders nationals to love, cherish and value a single motherland, our mother nation, and work for its prosperity. In a way, Union Spirit is that oneness and unity of nationals who have descended from kin who have lived together with affection, in weal or woe on the same land, drinking water from the same source for a very long time.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

(From the address delivered at the graduation parade of 40th Intake of Defence Services Academy)



Physic nut saplings planted in Thanlyin Station

YANGON, 7 Feb—"Physic nut oil can be used to meet the fuel needs of the nation to some extent and it will be useful for the people in the long run and it is necessary to grow the plant widely throughout country," said Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win at the physic nut cultivation in Thanlyin station of Yangon Command this morning.

Tatmadaw members of units and regiments, departmental personnel, members of social organizations and local people took part in the cultivation of physic nut.

Yangon Division is making arrangements for collection of grafts and cultivation of 500,000 acres of physic nut in three years beginning 2006. Physic nut oil can be used as medicine and directly as bio-diesel. Crushed physic nut or the cake can also be utilized as fertilizer and the branches as firewood and it can be used for maintenance of soil.

The commander called for cultivation of physic nut in cooperation with local people and Tatmadaw members of units and regiments under the command.

Col Tin Oo of Thanlyin Station reported on purpose of cultivation of physic nut and U Aung San, Yangon Division Manager of Myanmar Agri-

culture Service, explained cultivation methods and use. The commander and officials planted physic

nut saplings and observed physic nut saplings plantation.—MNA



Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win planting physic nut cuttings. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 8 February, 2006

Strive for all-round development of students

Now is the time when the entire nation, under the correct leadership of the government, is working in concert for peace, development and perpetual existence of the nation. Only with the united strength of national people, strong national economy and defence and higher national education standard will the perpetual existence of the nation be possible. Moreover, it is necessary to train new generations in order that they will become intellectuals and intelligentsia and can shoulder the responsibilities of the future nation. This is the main duty of teachers.

The special refresher course No 24 for basic education teachers concluded at the Yadana Hall of the Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) in PynOoLwin Township on 6 February and it was attended by Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein. In his address on the occasion, the Secretary-1 urged the teachers to train students in such a way that they would possess high morale and morality, cherish social and cultural values and become patriotic and public-spirited.

For all-round development of the Union, the government is building all the necessary infrastructures such as river-crossing bridges, dams and airports and implementing energy and electric power projects. Moreover, schools, colleges, universities and hospitals are being built in various regions for social development. Due to the concerted efforts of the government, the people and the Tatmadaw, the nation is now on the right path to development. Meanwhile destructive elements within and without the nation are attempting, out of envy, to undermine all-round development of the nation and jeopardize peace and stability and national unity.

Wherever they are assigned, teachers are in close touch with people and therefore they are in a position to warn the people against the danger of unscrupulous acts of destructive elements. We believe that the teachers will nurture students and train them in such a way that they will become good citizens who possess high morale and morality, cherish social and cultural values and are patriotic and public-spirited.

Diplomatic course trainees invited to golf tournament

YANGON, 7 Feb — The 2nd golf tournament of trainees of basic and advanced diplomatic courses will be held on 11 February at Dagon Tatmadaw Golf Course here.

Those wishing to take part in the tournament may contact U Winn Thant, Ph 095100955, U Tin Ko Ko, Ph 099923825, U Aung Zaw Ph 01-227743, U Min Naing Ph 099926126, U Zaw Min, Ph 095000686, U Hla Oo, Ph 01-544570 and U Hla Myint, Ph 095001123. — MNA

People's Desire

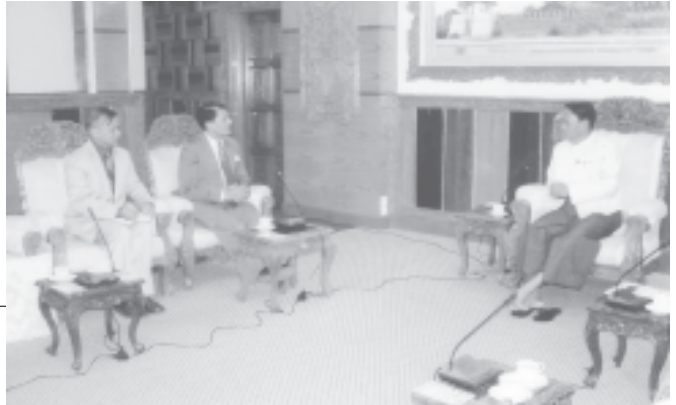
- * Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- * Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- * Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- * Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Bangladeshi Ambassador calls on Industry-1 Minister

YANGON, 7 Feb — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung received Bangladeshi Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Mohamed Khariuzzaman at his office this morning. Also present on the occasion were directors-general of the industries and departments under the ministry.

MNA

Minister U Aung Thaung receives Bangladeshi Ambassador. INDUSTRY-1



Zaw Zaw Latt claims champion in Air Bagan Myanmar Golf Tour



YANGON, 7 Feb — A ceremony to present prizes to winners in the Sixth Leg of Air Bagan Myanmar Golf Tour was held at Kawthoung Golf club in Kawthoung yesterday evening after completion of the fourth round.

Myanmar Professional Golfers Association and Myanmar Golf Federation Executive U Ko Ko Lay gave away prize to Aung Win (Ministry of Forestry) who stood first in the Tiger Putting Challenge Contest. Likewise, Director of Air Bagan Ltd and Tournament Director of Air Bagan Myanmar Golf Tour U Min Thein and Air Bagan Ltd Vice-President U Zaw Min presented prizes to daily best scorers in the amateur and professional golfers divisions.

Tactical Operations Commander of Coastal Region Command Col Myint Htay awarded the first prizes to Aung Win (Ministry of Forestry) who shot 297 on aggregate in the amateur golfers division, the second prize to Naing Naing Lin who, 301 on aggregate and the third prize to Bo Bo, 303 on aggregate.

MPGA and MGF President Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd) presented first, second and third prizes to Zaw Zaw Latt



Winners of Sixth leg of Air Bagan Myanmar Golf Tour seen together with the President of MPGA and MGF. —MGF

(Srixon) who shot a 10-under-par 278 in total in the amateur golfers division, Zaw Zin Win who fired a five-under-par 283 on aggregate, and Soe Kyaw Naing (Srixon) who scored a two-under-par 286 in total.

On behalf of Srixon, Professional Golfer U Chan Han presented a cheque of US\$ 300 as special prize to first-prize winner Zaw Zaw Latt (Srixon). Similarly, U Tin Sein of Viking Marine Product Trading Co Ltd, U Win Kyi for Kachin Golfers Group and Kawthoung KBZ Bank Branch Manager Daw Kaythi Oo for KBZ Bank gave K 500,000 each to the first prize winner. Furthermore, Air Bagan Ltd Vice-President U Zaw Min gave a cheque worth K 1.2 million to Zaw Zaw Latt.

Tournament Director U Min Thein presented the souvenir for Kawthoung Golf Club to Col Myint Tun.

The Sixth Leg of Air Bagan Myanmar Golf Tour was 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, and Viking Marine Product Trading Co Ltd. Han Event Management organized all functions of the golf tour.

MNA

National races' dance show to be staged

YANGON, 7 Feb — As a gesture of hailing the 59th Anniversary Union Day, traditional cultural dances of national races will be staged on 13 and 14 February at the National Theatre here.

Moreover, there will also be drama, comedy and a concert of music by movie stars and singers in the performance.

Tickets are available at the National Theatre, Padomma Theatre, Myanmar Floriculturists Association (Bogyoke Market) and Yuzana Plaza (Tamwe) as of 9 February.

MNA



A poster advertising national races' dance. —MNA



Chinese elderly women dance in a Beijing park as the city experiences it's heaviest snowfall this year on 6 Feb, 2006.—INTERNET

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India, France to sign nuclear energy, defence pacts

NEW DELHI, 6 Feb— India and France are likely to sign defining pacts on civil nuclear energy and defence cooperation when French President Jacques Chirac begins visit here on 19 February, Indo-Asian News Service reported on Sunday.

The news agency quoted French envoy Dominique Girard as saying that Chirac will discuss the nuclear deal and other strategic issues with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

The would-be India-France nuclear energy agreement will ask nuclear suppliers to make an exception in the case of India to facilitate nuclear business but only after India separates its civilian and military nuclear facilities, the Press reported.

It might be very similar to the India-US civil nuclear energy cooperation pact but details might differ, it quoted an anonymous Indian source as saying.

The framework defence cooperation agreement is likely to cover the joint exercises between the Armed Forces, the joint pro-duction of armaments and other aspects of defence ties between the two countries in a broad framework.

MNA/Xinhua

Three killed in crush to see pop stars in Brazil

BRASILIA, 6 Feb—At least three people were killed and dozens more wounded on Saturday when fans surged to get the autograph of a Mexican band in a shopping mall in Brazil's largest city of Sao Paulo.

About 5,000 fans had been gathering outside the Fiesta mall in southern Sao Paulo since Friday night for an autograph session by the Mexican teen group RBD, but organizers only prepared for 100 autograph opportunities, local media said.

A barrier collapsed as fans surged toward a van in which they believed the band was arriving.

Police identified the dead as a 47-year-old woman and two girls aged 15 and 16. Most of the other casualties were teenagers, a San Paulo state health department official said.

MNA/Xinhua

India, Russia form joint study group to boost trade

NEW DELHI, 7 Feb— India has given its consent to Russia's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO), Indian Ministry of Commerce said here Monday.

Besides, both sides set up a Joint Study Group (JSG) Monday to finalize a roadmap for increasing the bilateral trade turnover to 10 billion US dollars by 2010, according to the Indian Ministry of Commerce.

The protocol on completion of bilateral negotiations on the accession of Russia to the WTO and the memorandum of understanding (MOU) on cooperation between the two sides were

signed by Indian Minister of Commerce and Industry Kamal Nath and Russian Minister for Economic Development and Trade German Gref.

Kamal Nath said that India was looking forward to Russia's early accession to the WTO for further cooperation in the multilateral trade forum on the basis of mutual benefit.

The MoU provides for the setting up of a Joint Study Group (JSG) with a

view to examining the feasibility of signing a comprehensive economic cooperation agreement (CECA) between India and Russia, besides envisaging increase in bilateral trade turnover to 10 billion US dollars by 2010.

The JSG is expected to prepare by the end of 2006 a roadmap for achieving a significant increase in mutual trade turnover by diversifying bilateral relations.

MNA/Xinhua

Snow, wind leaves 100,000 without power in Canada

OTTAWA, 6 Feb—As many as 100,000 people in Canada's Ontario were left without power Sunday after high winds and heavy, wet snow brought down power lines in the south-west and central regions of the province.

Some of the people have been left without electricity since Saturday evening, amid temperatures that dropped to about 4 degrees Celsius in many areas, Canadian

Broadcasting Corporation reported.

The province's electricity distribution utility, Hydro One, said its teams were racing to restore power. "We've got our restoration process in full gear," Hydro One official Al Manchee said.

Hydro One blamed the outages on high winds and wet snow on Saturday that knocked down trees and felled power lines in

western, southern and central areas of the province.

More than 50,000 people in southwestern British Columbia Province lost power on Saturday after a windstorm knocked down lines and sent sea water pouring into homes.

MNA/Xinhua

Passenger aircraft skids off runway in Thailand

BANGKOK, 6 Feb— A Thai passenger aircraft skidded off the runway while making an emergency landing at Bangkok International Airport on Sunday, the Thai News Agency reported.

The Boeing 737-400 of Nok Air departed from Bangkok to the southern resort island of Phuket Sunday afternoon, but was forced to make an emergency landing due to the engine trouble shortly after taking off. The problem caused the plane to skid off the runway, said Somchainuk Engtrakul, acting president of Thai Airways International, Nok Air's parent company.

Some 109 passengers were aboard the flight when the accident occurred, he added.—MNA/Xinhua

Six killed in Bolivian plane crash

LIMA, 6 Feb—A military plane of the Bolivian Air Force crashed on Sunday in central Bolivia, killing all six people aboard, according to reports from the Bolivian capital of La Paz. The aircraft was completely destroyed when it crashed in the Palca Pampa mountain range, some 40 kilometres north of Cochabamba, the capital city of the Cochabamba Province. Among the dead were two pilots as well as a woman and her three daughters.

MNA/Xinhua

Policeman killed in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 6 Feb—Drive-by gunmen killed one policeman and wounded another in northern Iraq on Monday, while police uncovered the bullet-riddled bodies of two men in Baghdad, police said.

The slain and wounded policemen, both brothers, were attacked by armed men firing from a speeding car in the northern city of Kirkuk at 9:15 am, said police Capt. Firhad Talabani.

In Baghdad's southern Abu Dashir neighbourhood, police found the bodies of two brothers seized from their home late on Sunday by men claiming to be Interior Ministry commandos, said Lt Maitham Abdul-Razzaq.—INTERNET



Iraqi soldiers search Iraqis on their way in Baghdad's Kazimiyah northern suburb, on 6 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Iran to continue talks with Russia over nuclear proposal

TEHERAN, 6 Feb— Iran said on Sunday that it would continue talks with Russia this month on a nuclear proposal put forward by Moscow to ease the current tension over Iran's nuclear programme.

"The next round of negotiations will be held, but the Russians should adapt their plan to the new situation," Foreign Ministry Spokesman Hamid-Reza Asefi told reporters at his weekly news briefing.

Asefi made the statements one day after an emergency meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) board of governors in Vienna adopted a resolution to report Iran's nuclear programme to the UN Security Council.

The situation of Iran's nuclear issue had been changed after the IAEA decision, said Asefi.

Sunday's announcement also came following

Iran's deputy head of the Supreme National Security Council of Iran Javad Vaeedi said on Saturday soon after the IAEA's vote that Iran had no adequate reason to consider the Russian proposal under the current circumstances.

Iran and Russia had been scheduled to hold talks on 16 February over the proposal that the two countries establish a joint venture on the Russian soil to enrich uranium for Iran so as to secure Iran's legitimate rights on peaceful nuclear energy under the guarantee that the technology will not be used for military purposes.

Meanwhile, Asefi said

that Iran was still willing to solve its nuclear issue through negotiations with the international community and would continue cooperation with the IAEA under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the Safeguard Agreement.

Shortly after the IAEA vote on Saturday, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad ordered to end voluntary cooperative measures beyond the NPT as of Sunday.

MNA/Xinhua



A tourist takes a photograph of fish and a crab encased in ice at the 57th Sapporo Snow Festival held in Sapporo, northern Japan, on the opening day of the festival, on 6 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Over 42% children have problems

NEW DELHI, 7 Feb — If you thought that young children were the lucky ones to enjoy peaceful sleep, you may be wrong.

A new study has revealed that as many as 42 per cent little ones, many of them being from nuclear families, have sleep related problems.

This is the result of change in lifestyle parameters such as watching television, sedentary habits, junk food, working parents and school pressure, say psychologists.

There are concerns that Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), a condition in which children are notable

to concentrate and stay quiet, may also be related to sleep problems, Dr. Manveer Bhatia, a paediatrician with well-known Indian hospital, Gangaram Hospital said.

Besides affecting scholastic performance of children and causing mood swings, sleep problems may even get worse with age, he said.

Sleep-related problems in children include teeth clenching or grinding, bed wetting, sleep talking, nightmares, night terrors, snoring and

sleep walking, according to the new study published in the journal *Indian Pediatrics*.

Another study in the *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology* among 1000 individuals had supported a link between persistent sleep problems in childhood and diagnosed anxiety in adulthood. It provided an evidence of the association between childhood sleep problems and psychiatric disorders in adulthood.

MNA/PTI

Population exceeds 62 million in Thailand

BANGKOK, 6 Feb — Thailand's population had reached 62.4 million by the end of 2005, an increase of some 440,000 or nearly 1 per cent from a year earlier, according to the governmental figures.

Citing the latest government census, Interior Minister Air Chief Marshal Kongsak Wantana said the population in Thailand topped 62,418,054 on 31 December, 2005, with women outnumbering men by 31,599,425 to 30,818,629.

Nineteen out of the total 76 provinces have more than one million population, including the capital, the figure showed.

Thailand has successfully lowered its birth rate to less than 1 per cent after the implementation of an aggressive family planning programme two decades ago, reported *The Nation* newspaper on Monday. —MNA/Xinhua

Internet

Shanghai tourism revenue hits \$236m in Spring Festival holiday

SHANGHAI, 6 Feb — Shanghai, China's economic powerhouse, received nearly 2.5 million tourists, with its tourism revenue reaching 1.89 billion yuan (about 236 million US dollars), up 3.8 per cent and 7.4 per cent respectively year-on-year during the Spring Festival holiday.

According to an official with the municipal tourism bureau, theme parks, resorts in the suburbs of Shanghai, and traditional folk activities lured lots of people during the 7-day holiday from 29 January to 4 February.

Since the year 2006 is the "Year of the Dog" according to the Chinese lunar calendar, a series of activities focusing on "dog" were held in many parks.

Besides holding door activities and concerts, the Oriental Art Centre, Shanghai Theatre, and Shanghai music hall also gave "festive banquets" for tourists.

Many tourists from neighbouring provinces and cities drove to Shanghai to spend the Spring Festival holiday, a new choice for more tourists.

MNA/Xinhua

Poland's death by freezing toll rises to 230

WARSAW, 6 Feb — The number of Poles found frozen to death this winter has risen to 230, police said on Sunday, as the country braced for more

Arctic weather.

A 35-year-old man was believed to have been returning home from a drinking party near Brzozowka in the central province on Lodz when he succumbed to the cold, police said.

Many of the deaths by freezing have been people under the influence of alcohol as well as the homeless, sick or elderly

living alone and too poor or weak to secure fuel.

Last winter's cold-weather death total did not exceed 190.

Poland has been experiencing an unusually harsh winter this year with temperatures plunging down to 36 below zero Celsius (33 below zero Fahrenheit) late last month.

MNA/Reuters



Iraqi soldiers hold their weapons at a checkpoint near a shrine in Kerbala, 110 km (70 miles) south of Baghdad on 6 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Louisiana soldier killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 7 Feb — A 23-year-old soldier from Louisiana was killed in Iraq from what the Department of Defence described as a "non-combat" related injury.

Specialist William S Hayes the third, of Saint Tammany, died yesterday while in the Middle East supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. Details of how he was injured were not provided.

Hayes was assigned to the First Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, First Brigade Combat Team, Fourth Infantry Division at Fort Hood, Texas.

The D-O-D says Hayes' death is under investigation.

Chavez sees US plotting election sabotage

CARACAS (Venezuela), 6 Feb—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez warned supporters on Sunday that the United States could try to sabotage his upcoming re-election bid, his latest salvo in a new row with Washington over alleged US spying.

Chavez, who frequently accuses the Bush Administration of seeking to overthrow him, has presented what he calls the US "empire" as his principal adversary in the December election.

Washington believes Chavez's self-styled socialist revolution risks destabilizing the region, but it has dismissed as propaganda charges that it wants to oust him.

"They're going to call for the government to be rejected, and they're going to try to push us toward a

situation of ungovernability and chaos," said Chavez. "This is the empire's plan... they'll try to do anything, so we need to be alert."

Venezuela's presidential election is set for December.

The accusation comes days after Chavez ordered the expulsion of US Naval Attache John Correa for allegedly trying to convince Venezuelan military officials to pass state secrets to the Pentagon.

The US State

Department denied the accusations, and on Friday expelled the Venezuelan embassy chief of staff in a tit-for-tat response.

Chavez told a rally of tens of thousands of supporters on Saturday that he could shut down Venezuelan-owned refineries in the United States if Washington severed ties with the oil-rich South American nation.

He added that he would seek to arm one million Venezuelans to protect the nation from a possible US invasion.

Chavez has won over many poor Venezuelans with a multibillion dollar

social development programme and harsh rhetoric condemning US foreign policy and free market policies.

Last week Chavez announced a minimum wage hike, a tax cut and new state spending initiatives, opening his campaign for an election he is widely expected to sweep.

Under his leadership Venezuela, the fourth largest supplier of oil to the United States, has worked to reduce US influence in the region and built alliances with US foes like Iran and Cuba.

MNA/Reuters



16-year-old African elephant Drumbo, rear, and her 2-day-old baby are presented for the public in the zoological garden in Dresden, Germany, on 6 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

UNICEF devises strategy to combat polio

LUSAKA, 6 Feb—The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has come up with another strategy of eradicating polio through the use of next-generation vaccines targeted at the two surviving strains of virus.

The UN agency was cited by local media as saying monovalent vaccines aimed at individual virus strains would be the primary platform for eradication in all remaining polio viruses.

The agency said this is the first time in three years that the number of polio-endemic countries has fallen to four, leaving Nigeria, India, Pakistan and Afghanistan as the only countries that have never stopped indigenous polio transmission.—MNA/Xinhua

Guangdong achieves doubled GDP in past five years

GUANGZHOU, 6 Feb—South China's Guangdong Province reported a doubled GDP (gross domestic product) during the past five years, according to a report of the provincial statistical bureau.

Guangdong achieved a GDP of 2.17 trillion yuan (264.8 billion US dollars) in 2005, up by 12.5 per cent on a year-on-year base.

The bureau source said it was the first time that Guangdong's GDP exceeded 2 trillion yuan (250 billion US dollars), just five years after the province reported 1 trillion yuan of GDP.—MNA/Xinhua

Three Gorges Dam project to finish by May

BEIJING, 6 Feb—China's Three Gorges Dam, the world's largest hydroelectricity project, is expected to be completed by May, nine months ahead of schedule, state media reported on Monday. The project, launched in 1993, will have 26 generators easing a power crunch in energy-starved China, the *China Daily* reported.

It has already generated more than 80 billion kilowatt hours of electricity since its first generator started production in 2003. The project will have cost a total \$21.7 billion by the time it is completed, using 16 million cubic metres of concrete, the report said.—MNA/Reuters

Turkey, Georgia to modernize border crossings to boost trade

ANKARA, 6 Feb — Visiting Georgian Prime Minister Zurab Noghaideli said on Saturday that Georgia and Turkey will modernize two border crossings in order to boost bilateral trade.

Noghaideli made the statement at a joint Press conference in Turkey's largest city of Istanbul with Rifat Hisarciklioglu, chairman of Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey, according to the semi-official *Anatolia* news agency.

The modernization project, designed to better

facilitate the flow of goods and people, will be launched in June 2006 and completed in April 2007, Noghaideli was quoted as saying.

Under the project, the Sarpborder crossing will be modernized at a cost of 12 million US dollars, while the Sarpi border crossing, 10 million dollars. Hisarciklioglu

told reporters that visa procedures between Turkey and Georgia will be scrapped on 10 February, another move aimed at enhancing economic cooperation.

Noghaideli arrived in Istanbul on Saturday on a two-day working trip and he is scheduled to meet Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan later.

MNA/Xinhua

France joins Egyptian search for missing people in Red Sea

PARIS, 6 Feb — The French Defence Ministry announced on Saturday that at the request of the Egyptian authorities France's Navy forces had joined search effort for missing people in the Red Sea.

French Navy *Atlantique 2* maritime patrol aircraft and a French *Twinotter* aircraft have been sent to the area where the *Al-Salam Boccaccio 98* sank in the Red Sea, leaving 1,000 feared dead, the ministry said in a statement.

As search and rescue operations continued, only 378 out of the more than 1,400 people on board the ship have been rescued.

MNA/Xinhua

Computer viruses to hit China next week

TIANJIN, 6 Feb—The computer viruses known as "Kompu" and "Happytime" will attack China next week, but damage will be limited, predicted the Tianjin-based National Computer Virus Emergency Response Centre on Sunday.

The centre—the only anti-virus products testing and certification centre authorized by the Chinese Ministry of Public Security—raised the alert about the two viruses, which are expected to hit the country from 6 to 12 February.

The experts explained that the Wm_Kumpu virus originated in Estonia and appears on the computer screens with the messages "Mul on paha tuju!" and "Tahan kommi", which mean "I am in bad mood" and "Give me some candy".

The Vbs-Happytime, a virus in e-mail attachments, can eliminate .exe and .dll files in the computer hard disks. Experts warned computer users who may log on to the Internet to receive mail or visit Internet chat rooms when they finish the week-long Spring Festival vacation and return to work on Monday.

The centre advised computer system maintenance technicians to scrutinize their systems and upgrade anti-viral software as precautions against the viruses, before the routine working week starts on Monday.—MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi health workers test a rooster for signs of the deadly bird flu virus H5N1 near the city of Baquba, 60 kms northeast of Baghdad recently. Seven people in Iraq are suffering suspected bird flu, officials said.—INTERNET

US soldier killed in firefight in Afghanistan

KABUL, 7 Feb — One US soldier was killed Monday when Taliban militants attacked the military vehicle belonging to a US patrol in eastern Afghan province of Laghman, the US military said in a Press release.

“One US service member was killed today when enemy forces northwest of Methar Lam in Laghman Province

opened fire on a US patrol,” the Press release said.

“The patrol quickly pursued the enemy, returning fire and requesting close-air support. The enemy fled the area. No battle-damage assessment was available,” it added.

In a separate incident at a place south of Khost, Afghan and US forces

engaged two enemy fighters near a boarder-control point, killing one and wounding the other. Two border policemen were also wounded in the incident. The wounded policemen were flown to a nearby forward operating base for treatment and were listed in stable condition.

MNA/Xinhua

Kathmandu faces shortage of fresh blood

KATHMANDU, 7 Feb — The Nepali blood bank has reported that it fears shortage of blood in the capital of Kathmandu Valley if the on-going strike is not called off shortly.

Public relations officer of the bank, Sabita Singh, told reporters on Monday that they have stock of around 400 pints of blood at present.

“We fear that the capital will have shortage of blood as we have not received any invitations to blood donation programmes before 9 February,” she said.

She said that they have been requesting the consumers for the replacement of blood taken out from the bank to prevent scarcity during the strike.

However, the rate of replacement is very low.

According to the official, only around 20 pints have been replaced daily.

If the situation continues, Kathmandu Valley will have shortage of blood in the next two days.

MNA/Xinhua

India promises to help Philippines with various programmes

MANILA, 7 Feb — Visiting Indian President APJ Abdul Kalam on Monday promised to help the Philippines in numerous development programmes ranging from providing cheap pharmaceutical products to developing solar energy.

Addressing a joint session of the Philippine Congress on the last day of

his four-day state visit to the country, Kalam said that apart from the three government agreements signed with the Philippines on defence, tourism and agriculture, India will immediately implement “mission mode co-operation” programmes with the host country.

He said that both countries must hurdle

challenging tasks in their nation-building and expressed his belief that the Filipino people can achieve their goal of development.

“With the virtues of imagination, resilience and toughness, you can achieve the goal. I, on behalf of India and its one billion people, wish you the best in your mission,” he said.

Kalam said India would make available pharmaceutical products affordable to ordinary Filipino people through market development and joint ventures by the Indian Pharmaceutical Industry, while helping the Philippines develop and sell its innovative software products in international markets.

He said the India will also help set up small- and medium-sized enterprises in the Philippines for processing agricultural products, in order to help increase the country's agricultural production and improve the life of rural population.—MNA/Xinhua

India test-flies home-grown pilotless aircraft

NEW DELHI, 7 Feb — India on Monday successfully test-flew an home-grown drone from a defence base in East India's Orissa area, *Indo-Asian News Service* (IANS) reported here.

Scientists of the Defence Research and Development Organization who have developed the pilotless aircraft Lakshya, sent it aloft from the Integrated Test Range in East Indian Balasore region.

Describing the test as routine, the sources said it was undertaken as part of an air defence exercise underway at the range and was meant to judge the drone's accuracy in different parameters.

Lakshya is a sub-sonic reusable aerial target system that is remote-controlled from the ground and is designed to impart training to both pilots and air defence personnel in engaging targets.—MNA/Xinhua



The Malaysian team's Raduan Bin Ahmad (L) and Justin Lee Kok Jin check details on their snow sculpture of Malaysia's eight species of hornbills for the International Snow Sculpture Contest at the 57th Sapporo Snow Festival in Sapporo, northern Japan on 6 Feb, 2006, the opening day of the festival. —INTERNET

Gunmen kill one policeman in N-E Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 7 Feb — Gunmen killed one policeman northeast of Baghdad on Monday, police said.

“Gunmen attacked a police patrol in the al-Ghalbiyah area in Baquba City, killing a policeman,” said a statement by the Joint Coordination Centre of Diyala, obtained by *Xinhua*.

Separately, a roadside bomb went off as an Iraqi patrol was passing by in the al-Hadid area

near Baquba, some 60 kilometres northeast of Baghdad, wounding four soldiers and damaging an Army vehicle, the statement added.

Another bomb detonated in Ishbiliyah District in central Baquba, wounding a civilian and damaging several nearby houses, it added.—MNA/Xinhua

Venezuela accuses US of attempting to dominate nuclear fuel production

CARACAS, 7 Feb — Venezuela attributed on Monday the United States' pressure on Iranian nuclear issue to its intention to dominate nuclear fuel production for fear of an exhaustion of the world's oil supplies.

The intention to dominate nuclear fuel production was the reason for the US pressure on Iran to halt its nuclear energy programmes, said Gustavo Marquez, Venezuelan State Minister for Integration and Foreign Trade.

The Minister said that all countries have the right to develop nuclear technology for peaceful use, and that apart from weapons and energy, nuclear technology can be used for medicine, agricultural and industrial purposes including oil exploration.

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia to build railway for high-speed trains

JAKARTA, 7 Feb — The Indonesian Government is planning to build a railway system for high-speed trains in the most-densely populated island of Java, a report said on Monday.

The government claimed investors from China, France and Germany had submitted proposals on the railway construction to the Ministry of Transportation, said *Bisnis Indonesia* daily, quoting officials with the ministry. The planned railway will link Jakarta and the West Java capital of Bandung and the East Java capital of Surabaya.

“Super-speed train in Java is a priority and has been included in the ministry's railway strategic planning for 2005-2006,” said Soemino Eko Saputro, director of the ministry's

railway system. Java is home to about 60 per cent of the country's more than 220 million population.

But the government also said it needs to revise the existing law on railway system to allow the private sector to take part in railway business.

Minister of Transportation Hatta Radjasa has said Chinese investors are keen to build a 150-kilometres railway between Jakarta and Bandung for high-speed trains, which could reduce travel time from the current 3 hours to 1.5.

MNA/Xinhua



British Warrior armoured vehicles patrol near Basra, 550 kilometres (340 miles) southeast of Baghdad, on 6 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Teachers should foster Union Spirit, patriotism in...

(from page 16)
 advancing time are what
 teachers will have to
 render for developing

public livelihood.
 They will have to
 lead in changing the ru-
 ral lifestyle while helping

narrow the rich and poor
 gap between the rural and
 urban areas.

As teachers are influ-
 ential figures in local
 communities, they should
 integrate their public
 spirit and influence to
 educate and organize lo-
 cals to take part in the
 task of developing their
 own regions.

To catch up with
 the advancing interna-
 tional community, the
 country needs educated
 persons who know the
 knowledge of arts and
 science subjects of inter-
 national standard.

Moreover, the citizens
 can defend their nation
 only if they are equipped
 with high level of educa-
 tion and good knowledge.

You as teachers
 are to train and nurture
 your students to become
 educated so as to defend
 and develop their nation
 on their own.

At the same time,
 when it comes to dis-
 charging your duties in
 whatever region you are
 assigned, you are urged
 to organize the people of
 that region including the
 students to cultivate the
 sense of national unity,



Minister U Thauang presents prize to Headmaster U Myint Soe of Ayeyeknyein Basic Education Primary School.—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.

As teachers are influential figures in local communities, they should integrate their public spirit and influence to educate and organize locals to have them take part in the task of developing their own regions.

State, PAT Daw Devi Sein of Kyokya BEPS in Paukkaung Township, Bago Division (West) and PAT Daw Khin Khin Thein of No-9 BEPS in Kyimyindine Township, Yangon Division.

He also presented other prizes and completion certificates for the trainees to the training course leaders.

Later, the trainees of the special refresher course No 58 for basic education teachers donated K 448040 to funds of Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image for renovation of Koenawin Pagoda in CICS and Bagan ancient pagodas and for the Union Solidarity and Development Association, the National Convention, Post Primary School of CICS and Basic Education High School of Paunggyi and Pre-Primary School of CICS.

The minister accepted the donation and presented the certificates of honour and cordially greeted the trainees.

MNA

MMCWA donates medicines, stretchers to Waibargi Hospital



Members of MMCWA present hospital equipment to Medical Superintendent Dr Daw Nilar.—MNA

YANGON, 7 Feb — Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association today donated medicines and two wheeled stretchers worth K 2 mil-

lion to Waibargi Specialist Hospital in North Okkalapa Township.

At the donation ceremony held at the hospital, members of the cen-

tral executives committee of MMCWA presented the medicines and hospital equipment to Medical Superintendent Dr Daw Nilar. — MNA

equality and patriotism and Union Spirit.

Next, Minister U Thauang presented prizes to Junior Assistant Teacher U Hla Wai of Pawutkon BEMS of Palaw Township,

Taninthayi Division, JAT Daw Myo Myo Oo of Aung Thukha BEPS in Letpadan Township, Bago Division (West), Headmaster U Myint Soe of Ayeyeknyein BEPS in Kyaikto Township, Mon

၂၀၀၆ ခုနှစ်၊ (၅၉) နှစ်မြောက်
 ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့ပြည့်
 နေ့ရက် - ၈-၂-၂၀၀၆ မှ ၁၆-၂-၂၀၀၆
 အချိန် - နံနက် ၀၉:၀၀ နာရီမှ ညနေ ၁၇:၀၀ နာရီ
 နေရာ - တပ်မတော်ခန်းမ၊ ဦးပီစာဂုလမ်း၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့။
 (မည်သူမဆို အခွဲလာရောက်ကြည့်ရှုနိုင်ပါသည်။)

New model Panasonic air-conditioners introduced

YANGON, 7 Feb — A Ceremony to introduce new model Panasonic air-conditioners took place at the Grand Plaza Park Royal Hotel this morning.

U Kyaw Kyaw of Panasonic Branch Office

in Myanmar explained facts about new model AC Robot and Puritee R2 air-conditioners and their advantages. Panasonic air conditioners are available at every air-conditioner shops in Yangon and

other towns of Myanmar. The sole agent is Pyae Sone Win Naing Co and contact address is No 77, Pansodan Street, Kyauktada township, Yangon. (Ph: 377576 and 723888).—MNA



U Kyaw Kyaw of Panasonic Branch Office in Myanmar explains new model air-conditioners.—MNA

Hailing the 59th Anniversary Union Day:**For sustainable progress of the Union***Maung Nyein Chan***Hundred fruits
from a common
stem—Our Union**

The Union of Myanmar is home to more than one hundred national races such as Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan. For that reason, national solidarity is the most fundamental to perpetual existence of the Union.

With respect to the affairs of national races, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe in the 46th Anniversary Union Day message said, **“In the Union of Myanmar where national races have been residing, the culture, traditions and customs, languages and social systems may appear to be different but in essence they are all based on the common blood of Union kinship and Union Spirit like a hundred fruits from a common stem”**.

The Union Spirit is the lifeblood of the Union of Myanmar, where various national races make their home in harmony. As the Union is blessed with all the favourable conditions for its inhabitants, it may be likened to a large tree that provides shelter to ten thousand birds.

National people have the rights to enjoy the fruits from the Union and are duty-bound to safeguard the Union in concert from any dangers for its perpetual existence.

Myanmar fell under the subjugation of the colonialists for more than one hundred years due to aggressive wars. It withstood trials and tribulations of the colonialism. The colonialists resorted to all possible means to break up the Union during the time of their rule on the nation.

The Union in a state of general deterioration was therefore rebuilt collectively with the might of unity of the national races. On 12 February 1947, the important milestone of the Union was erected as a

result of consolidated unity of all national races.

After independence was regained in 1948, national races lost mutual understanding due to the wedge driven among the brethren by the colonialists. The Tatmadaw Government, after taking up State's duties, extended a warm welcome to national race armed groups for ensuring perpetuation of the Union in the interests of the national people. The national race armed groups that have returned to the legal fold are joining hands firmly with the Tatmadaw Government in the tasks for national development.

Now, the Union has been able to enjoy fruitful results of peace and development. The government has given the priority to the development of border areas and national races, and has been implementing the 24-special development regions project, thereby enhancing Union Spirit among the national people.

Thanks to the network of transport facilities, one can travel from one region to any other region in the Union in a short time. In 1988, the total length of roads in the entire nation stood at over 21,400 miles. The tireless efforts of the government has added the length of the roads to nearly 60,000 miles.

The government is accelerating the construction of transport facilities such as railroads, airports, auto exchanges and jetties, while establishing dams, sluice gates, river water pumping stations, factories, mills and industrial zones essential for national economic development.

In parallel, it has been opening universities, colleges and institutes to create better opportunities for the youths to pursue education, and upgrading and building hospitals and health care centres to provide better health care. In particular, it is extending the development areas to raise the education and health standards. Moreover, it has been implementing the rural development project and border areas development project.

All the endeavours of the government focus on equitable development of all regions, reduction of development gap between one region and another and raising the standard of living of national people.

In building infrastructures for the development in the economic, education, health and transport spheres, the government has been exerting self-reliant efforts and mobilizing the strength of the people and service personnel. In other words, the entire nation has witnessed all necessary infrastructures needed for development, resulting from collaborated efforts of the government, the people and the Tatmadaw in the undertakings for regional and national development.

In the past, national races were disunited due to discord and suspicions sowed by the colonialists. In contrast, the Tatmadaw, national people and those who have returned to the legal fold are now devoting themselves with goodwill and loving-kindness to regional and national development tasks and public welfare services with the aim of ensuring sustainable progress of the Union.

Building mutual understanding, mutual trust and unity, the government showed benevolent attitude

**Brave patriot, pride of
Myanmar**

- * Myanmar is one, willing to
Sacrifice life, with love and respect
And tenacity, for the country
Willing to fight on till only the hull is left
Not letting the flag go down
To fight the enemy with strength and integrity
And full of patriotism.
- * Myanmar is one, straight-forward
Not scheming, not hurting honour of others
And even without incitement
If there's a verbal attack
Will retaliate, with strength
With a sword, for a word
With use of strength,
With full of patriotism.
- * O, know you, my friend
Our land it belongs to us
We rest in its shade
We yearn not for other's shade, we do not interfere
And if it does, we shall hit back
We shall repulse
If need be from Myanmar land
Unitedly, with involvement of all blood
The Shwebo horse, with heavy hoofs
Will come alive, and come down
From history, it will come to life
Will arrive in front of Myanmar,
immediately
Unafraid, and history will be
Relived anew, in our hearts
Brave patriot, pride of Myanmar
The painting that's in our hearts
Will appear anew.

(Hailing the 59th Anniversary Union Day)

Khun Ye Thway (Aye Tha Ya) (Trs)

and genuine goodwill to the national race armed groups to return to the legal fold and then to throw themselves to the development tasks in the interests of the nation and the people.

Our Three Main National Causes laid down by the State to serve national interests is the national policy that will work at all times. And the 12 political, economic and social objectives are appropriate work programmes.

It is incumbent upon all the national people to make combined efforts based on these policies to ensure sustainable affluence of the Union and to enable the Union to stand tall among the countries.

For democratic transition, political work programmes that conform to the historic background, cultures, customs and traditions have been laid down, based on the four political objectives. In the process, the government and the people are to join hands, according to the historical necessity, in carrying out the tasks in adherence to the correct political work programmes. Only then will it be possible to accomplish the building of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation in the pragmatic world.

The onus is therefore put on all the national brethren to continue to strive with Union Spirit for sustainable development of the Union.

Translation: MS

Kyemon: 7-2-2006

In the past, national races were disunited due to discord and suspicions sowed by the colonialists. In contrast, the Tatmadaw, national people and those who have returned to the legal fold are now devoting themselves with goodwill and loving-kindness to regional and national development tasks and public welfare services with the aim of ensuring sustainable progress of the Union.

Kachin State witnesses sustained progress in the time of the Tatmadaw government

With an area of 34379 square miles, Kachin State is located in the northernmost part of Myanmar. It is like a mini-union because such national races as Kachin, Chin, Bamar, Shan and Naga etc. are residing there. The population of the State stands at about 1,433,000 and so, average population density of the state is 42 people per square mile.

Kachin State is located in mountainous region. Mount Khakaborazi with 19296 feet altitude and Mount Ganlanyazi with 19142 feet are snow-capped mountains. Its largest plains are Hukawng valley in Tanaikha river basin at the top of Chindwin river, Putao plain in Malikha river basin, the surrounding areas of Myitkyina and Bhamo,

*Mogaung
Bridge
built to
develop
the trans-
portation
sector of
Kachin
State.*



Indawgyi Lake, Mogaung creek and Kaukway creek.

In the time of the Tatmadaw government, Kachin State is developing in parallel with other states and divisions. This is the result of encouragement given by the gov-

ernment and cooperative and collaborative efforts made by local national races.

After 1988 Kachin State has been enjoying fruitful results of development and the table shows progress in Kachin State.

Chronicle of development of Kachin State

Subject	1988	2006	Progress	Remarks
Agriculture/Livestock breeding				
Sown acreage	379512	798985	419473	
River water pumping project	-	2	2	
Sown acreage of monsoon paddy	273543	412241	138698	
Sown acreage of summer paddy	-	315	315	
Sown acreage of edible oil crops	40325	127911	87586	
Acres of fish breeding ponds	58	868	810	



Government Technical Institute in Mohnyin Township built to produce highly qualified human resources.

Subject	1988	2006	Progress	Remarks
Forest conservation				
Reserved forest (square mile)	2008	2218	210	
Natural forest (square mile)	269	2785	2516	
Forest plantation (acre)	211	15415	15204	
Transport				
Motor road (mile)	1471	1644	173	
Tarred road (mile)	160	315	155	
Gravelled road (mile)	156	408	252	
Rail road (mile)	115	122	7	
Rail track (mile)	124	131	7	
Station	21	33	12	
180 feet and above bridge	6	13	7	
Under 180 feet bridge	63	289	226	
Electric power				
Hydel power plant	1	4	3	
Electricity consumption (unit in million)	1.371	30.978	29.607	
Education				
Basic Education				
Primary school	1080	1151	71	
Middle school	68	87	19	
High school	30	77	47	
Number of teacher	4873	7793	2920	
Number of student	142248	264343	122095	
Higher Education				
University	-	1	1	
Degree college	1	2	1	
College	-	1	1	
Government Computer College	-	2	2	
Government Technological College	-	2	2	
Government Technical Institute	-	1	1	
Health				
Hospital	35	44	9	
Health centre	69	72	3	
Traditional Medicine Hospital	-	1	1	
Communication				
Post office	64	80	16	
Telegraph office	20	28	8	
Telephone office	12	56	44	
Information and Public Relations				
TV Retransmission station	2	27	25	
Self reliant library	-	788	788	
Sub-printing house	-	1	1	

Roads upgraded in three townships

YANGON, 7 Feb — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Bri-Gen Aung Thein Linn inspected greening and upgrading tasks in Yangon City this morning.

First, they arrived

at Natmauk Street in Tarmway Township and oversaw the repaving of pedestrian road. Next, they inspected widening of Myayagon Street in Mingalar Taung Nyunt township, arrangements being made for tarring of road near Theinbyu junction and tarmacking of Anawratha Road in Latha township and Bogyoke Aung San Street in

Pabedan township with the aid of machinery running with physic nut oil.

During their inspections, the commander and the mayor gave instructions to officials stressing the need for cooperation of responsible officials, social organizations and the public on tasks for beautifying and upgrading the city.

MNA



Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win views growing of physic nut plants at physic nut planting ceremony of Thanlyin Station.

MNA

USDA Secretary-General inspects renovation of Myothugyi (Pylonchantha) Pagoda

YANGON, 7 Feb — Secretary-General of Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Htay Oo on 3 February paid homage to Presiding Sayadaw of Mahitayon Sarthintak in Hinthada Bhaddanta Indriya and presented offerings. After paying obeisance to Myothugyi (Pylonchantha) Pagoda, Lawka Manaung Aung Chantha Pagoda, Lawkamuni Hsu-

taungpyar Pagoda, Lawka Marazein Pyidawaye Pagoda, the secretary-general inspected renovation of Myothugyi (Pylonchantha) Pagoda, where officials concerned reported on work being carried out. In response to the reports, the secretary-general attended to the needs.

On arrival at Kayin Baptist Bible School in Hinthada, the secretary-general met with clergyman and teachers and gave

instructions on national development tasks. Before greeting teachers and trainees, he donated bags of rice to the school.

Next, the general secretary proceeded to No 4 BEPS where he made cash donations towards the trust fund.

Afterwards, he paid homage to presiding saydaws of Bo Theindan Monastery and Paddamy Monastery and presented offerings to them.

MNA

CSSTB Chairman inspects parade grounds of CICS (Upper Myanmar)

YANGON, 7 Feb — Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board Dr Than Nyun, together with member of CSSTB U Hla Myint Oo, Director-General of Civil Service Selection and Training Department U Hla Kyi, Director-General of Civil Service Af-

fairs Department U Kyaw Zan Hla and Rector of Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) U Aung San Win inspected construction of parade grounds of CICS (Upper Myanmar), work being carried out for tarring of the entrance road to the institute and

growing of physic nut plants and gave instructions.

The CICS (Upper Myanmar) had already grown 10,030 grafts of physic nut plants and arrangements are being made for growing more physic nut plants.

MNA

Narkhan village enjoys cumulative...



Village PDC Chairman U Yanna presents documents related to the new school building of Narkhan model Village BEHS (Branch) to Township Education Officer U Kyaw Moe. —MNA

(from page 16)

Child Welfare Association Daw Nan Kyi Kyi Thin donated 100 publications each to the self-reliant library of the model village.

A demonstration of milling oil and producing bio-diesel from physic nut seeds was held in the sports ground of the village. Altogether 3500 villagers put 15 acres under physic nut plants near the village.

Now, the village is pursuing the target of producing bio-diesel for 98 pieces of farm machinery of its own.

Six specialists from Loilem general hospital (200-bed) gave free treatments to 151 patients at the

medication centre of the village. District WAO and MCWA Supervisory Committee held education talks and organized a round-table discussions on health with 180 members of village WAO and MCWA.

The model village raises cattle, pigs and fowls on a small scale and has tree plantations for firewood along the village road.

Kyudaw Dam of the village supplies water to 350 acres of farmland. It runs 18 small hydropower plants with the use of nearby canals to produce electric power for its electricity needs.

It is located on

Taunggyi-Loilem-Namhsan-Mongnai Union Highway. The bridge linking the village and Kengtawng has been constructed. The train that runs between Mongnai and Namhsan arrives at the halt station near the village at 8.30 am daily. So, the village enjoys better transport.

In the village are three monasteries, ancient pagodas, and Narkhan meditation centre with 28 lodging houses for those being camped in a meditation course. With facilities in various sectors, Narkhan model village has now possessed characteristics of a model village.

MNA

Ayeyawady Team wins shield of Inter-state/division football league

YANGON, 7 Feb — Ayeyawady Division Team beat Shan State (South) Team and became the champion of the 51st Inter-State/Division Football League for 2006.

The final match of the league took place this afternoon at the sports

ground of the Youth Training Camp (Thuwunna) here.

At prize presentation which followed after the final match, Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Thura Aye Myint presented the shield and cash award to

the team representing Ayeyawady Division.

After the final match, Aung Zaw Lin of Ayeyawady Division Team emerged as the man of the match. Mandalay Division Team stood at the third place of the league for 2006.

MNA

Delegates to Union Day celebration arrive

YANGON, 7 Feb — The 59th Anniversary Union Day delegates and members of cultural groups from states and divisions arrived here today to participate in the celebration of the Union

Day which falls on 12 February.

Forty-eight from Kayin State, 43 from Mon State, eight from Mandalay Division, 54 from Kachin State and 64 from Shan State (South) arrived

today by train and Secretary of Reception and Accommodation Sub-committee for Union Day celebration Lt-Col Tin Kyaing and officials welcomed them at Yangon Railway Station. —MNA



Union Day delegates from states and divisions on arrival at Yangon Railway Station. — MNA

Venezuelan diplomat "proud" of expulsion from US

CARACAS (Venezuela), 7 Feb—A Venezuelan diplomat expelled from Washington last week said on Monday her removal was aimed at preventing leftist President Hugo Chavez from continuing to cultivate the support of poor Americans.

Jeny Figueredo, former chief of staff of the Venezuelan Embassy in Washington, was expelled on Friday in a tit-for-tat exchange that followed the ouster of a US Navy attache from Venezuela for suspected espionage.

"Why did they get rid of me? Because the embassy works to spread the policies ... of our president (Chavez)," she said. "The White House doesn't want us, but the (North American) people do."

Chavez has promised a socialist revolution to end poverty in Venezuela, the world's No 5 oil exporter. He frequently accuses the Bush Administration of attempting to overthrow him, and has drawn State Department ire by consorting with US foes like Saddam Hussein and Fidel Castro.

But his government has made inroads among poor Americans by offering subsidized heating oil to American homes at a time of skyrocketing energy prices.

Figueredo was given a hero's welcome at a news conference in downtown Caracas, where hundreds of demonstrators shouted

praise and chanted "Don't mess with Jeny, Respect Venezuela."

"I don't feel like a victim, I feel proud," Figueredo said.

US officials deny the espionage charges, and say they have not been provided with corroborating evidence.

MNA/Reuters



A Chinese men stand on a balcony of the snow covered Forbidden City as Beijing experiences its heaviest snowfall this year on 6 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Cuban Govt accuses US of violating Mexico's sovereignty

HAVANA, 7 Feb— The United States has violated Mexico's sovereignty when it expelled a Cuban delegation from a hotel in Mexico City, the Cuban Government said on Monday.

According to Cuba's official newspaper *Granma*, a Cuban official delegation on Friday held a meeting with US energy companies interested in

doing business with Cuba in the US-owned Maria Isabel Sheraton in Mexico City.

But the Cuban delegation was ordered to leave by the hotel's management. The venue had to be moved to another hotel, the paper added.

In an editorial in *Granma*, the Cuban Government said Friday's in-

cident showed the extra-territorial and interfering nature of US laws.

It noted that Washington's policies towards Cuba also "undermine the sovereignty and laws of other countries."

Mexico's foreign ministry said on Monday that it will investigate possible law-breaking. Foreign Minister Luis Ernesto Derbez said the hotel could be fined and rebuked if it is proven that the incident was caused by an application of the US Helms-Burton Law, which strengthens sanctions against Cuba.

MNA/Xinhua

Bulgaria closes off lakes after H5 bird flu found

SOFIA, 7 Feb— Bulgaria shut off wetland areas on Monday and investigated the deaths of scores of birds after announcing its first case of H5 avian flu in a dead swan last week, officials said.

Veterinarians also prepared to send samples from the infected swan — found partially paralysed in the Danube River — to Britain to test whether it had the deadly H5N1 strain of the virus.

"The samples from the swan will be sent to the United Kingdom on Monday. We expect the results in a week's time," said Margarita Kozuharova, spokeswoman of the agriculture ministry.

With its Black Sea neighbours Turkey and Romania battling outbreaks of the deadly H5N1 since October, Bulgaria has long been considered a potential destination for the disease.

Since the first H5 case was announced on Friday, vets have tested dozens of waterfowl found dead in wetland areas, including 30 ducks which died at a farm on Sunday. — MNA/Reuters

French face transplant woman glad to start new life

AMIENS (France), 7 Feb — A French woman who had the world's first partial face transplant spoke on Monday for the first time to reporters since her operation, saying she was thankful to have the opportunity for a new start in life.

Isabelle Dinoire, 38, spoke with difficulty and her words were hard to understand. She had fine scar lines running from her nose over her cheekbones down to her jaw and seemed to have difficulty closing her mouth.

"I want to resume a normal life," Dinoire told reporters at Amiens hos-

pital in northeastern France, where she received a new nose, lips and chin in November.

In a 15-hour operation surgeons used tissues, muscles, arteries and veins from a brain-dead woman to rebuild Dinoire's face.

Dinoire, who was mauled by a dog last May,

is from the Lille area in northeastern France.

Doctors said she had initially been having trouble eating and speaking because of her injuries.

Unlike heart, liver and kidney transplants, it was not life-saving surgery, but the operation posed considerable risk for Dinoire. — MNA/Reuters



The photos of Isabelle Dinoire, the woman who received the world's first partial face transplant with part of a nose, chin and lips on 27 Nov, is seen on a screen during her first appearance at a press conference since the November surgery at the Amiens Hospital, northern France, on 6 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

Experts say "Kaveri" will be world class

NEW DELHI, 7 Feb— India's maiden bid to develop a fighter engine has been caught in various hurdles, but American experts are holding out a promise that Kaveri can be developed into a contemporary world class engine.

"We are ready to join in partnership with the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) to make Kaveri work," General William J Begert of the world's leading aircraft engine manufacturers, Pratt and Whitney, told PTI.

DRDO scientists had kept the development of the Kaveri engine under wraps, exuding confidence that India had developed the technological edge to develop its own aircraft engine, so far confined to handful of developed countries.

But after considerable in-house progress, with scientists even going in for a number of high-altitude proving tests in sites in Russia, the development almost came to a dead end forcing the DRDO to look for technology partner.

American engine manufacturers had to pull out and fly in retired gas turbine experts as they too were initially foxed by the Indian Kaveri engine. But, now the US experts say that Kaveri is "truly a world class engine".

But, like the DRDO officials, they refuse to say where the Indian engineers

had got stuck merely commenting that the DRDO gas turbine technology is "truly Indian and a very responsive effort".

India's top defence scientist, M Natarajan, says that though DRDO had agreed to go in for international collaboration to make Kaveri airborne, "the partners will have to work to our terms".

Besides Pratt and Whitney there are two more major manufacturers who have responded to Indian Request For Proposals (RFP) for the Kaveri collaboration project including French Snecma of the Safran group.

Confirming that Safran had responded to Indian RFP, Francois Courtot, Vice-President international affairs said that company's subsidiary Snecma had helped in the Kaveri project during previous hitches and had a better understanding of the engine.

DRDO secretary Natarajan said a committee in which Indian Air Force experts would be included would evaluate the bids to decide on "how much to take and from whom". But Kaveri is and would remain an Indian project. — MNA/PTI

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2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanma Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 9.2.2006 during the office hours.

3. For further details please call: 291982,291985, 201555(Ext-602,605,612)
Deputy General Manager
Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Botataung Yangon

**INVITATION TO TENDER
AMENDMENT OF TENDER NO. 26(T)
MPE-CONDENSATE (1)/ 2005-2006.**

1. Tender closing date 17-2-2006 12:00 noon instead of 9-2-2006. Tender will be opened at 14:00 pm Head Office of Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise Pinyinman.

2. The bidding document shall be available at the Finance Department of M.P.E. (Yangon) during office hour by payment of FEC (100) for each set of document.

3. Tender Bid receiving and opening will be taking at M.P.E. Head Office, Ministry of Energy at Pinyinman.
Managing Director
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV RATI SUVIDHA VOY NO (72806)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV RATI SUVIDHA VOY NO (72806) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.2.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S GATI COAST TO COAST**
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**First US-Cuba energy summit
declared success**

MEXICO CITY, 6 Feb— The first US-Cuba Energy Summit in Mexico City was a complete success despite pressure from Washington, the organizer told *Xinhua* on Sunday.

"The door to Cuba is now open" for US companies to invest in Cuban energy companies, declared Kirby Jones, president of the US-Cuba Trade Association.

The event, which took place on Thursday and Friday, was a complete success even though it was shortened from an original plan for three days due to US Government pressure, Jones said.

On Saturday, Jones told a Press conference that the sessions had allowed Cuba and the US business community to make contact and exchange information.

Raul Perez, deputy minister for basic industries in Cuba, told the same gathering that the conference had communicated Cuba's message to a wide range of US energy companies, including Exxon Mobil and refining company Valero Energy.

Jones said that US companies could participate in the growth of the Cuban energy sector, which had already received 1.7 billion US dollars' worth of investment from the Cuban Government and

Construction of museums peaks in Beijing

BEIJING, 6 Feb— Beijing has entered a new period of extensive construction of museums, the municipal bureau of cultural relics said Saturday in a report.

With the construction of the world-class Beijing Museum and China National Film Museum, the year of 2005 was a milestone for the development of museums in the Chinese capital, said the report. In 2005, the Memorial Hall of the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression was also expanded to hold exhibitions marking the 60th anniversary of the victory of the war. The Palace Museum added two exhibition halls and celebrated its 80th anniversary.—*MNA/Xinhua*

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Tin Ohnmar Tun
B.A(LAW) LL.B, LL.M (UK)
P.O.Box 109,
Ph: 248108/723043
(For. Domern Somgiat & Boonma, Attorneys at Law, Thailand)
Dated. 8 February 2006

Bulgaria finds more dead swans, tests for bird flu

SOFIA, 6 Feb— Bulgaria tested dozens of waterfowl found dead in its wet zones on Saturday, a day after it detected its first case of bird flu in a sick swan that could be dangerous to humans.

"We received some 26 dead wild birds today and we took samples for testing. The tests take four days," Bulgaria's chief veterinarian Zheko Baichev said.

Bulgaria stepped up surveillance on its wet zones along the Danube River and Black Sea and called for people to report any dead birds after it detected its first case of H5 avian flu on Friday.

Bulgaria will send a sample from the infected dead swan, found on the Danube River banks in northwestern Bulgaria, to a lab in Britain on Monday to investigate whether it is the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain,

Baichev said. Results are due in a week.

Seven swans and a white-headed goose were found dead at Shabla Lake, while another eight dead swans were found at the Durankulak Lake, the Environment Ministry said.

The two lakes near the Black Sea coast close to the border with Romania lie along the Pontic migratory route, on which birds travel south from northern Russia and Scandinavia to northern Africa.

Other birds were found dead along lakes and rivers across the country, state news agency *BTA* reported.

MNA/Reuters

Elephants damage food crops in Zambia

LUSAKA, 6 Feb— Sixty elephants believed to have come from neighbouring Zimbabwe have allegedly damaged maize and sorghum fields in Zambia's Chiawa area bordering Zimbabwe.

Chiawa Community Resource Board (CCRB) Chairman Jackson Vidonga confirmed the development to *Zambia News and Information Services* in Lusaka Sunday, saying the elephants have eaten up the crops, leaving the villagers with no food to eat.

"Elephants have damaged maize and sorghum fields in Chieftainess Chiawa's area and the mammals have eaten up all the food which could have sustained the people," Vidonga said, adding that over 100 families are now threatened with hunger.

He said the elephants trickled down from Zimbabwe to Chiawa area last Friday.

He said human/animal conflict in Chiawa is a source of concern and the villagers do not know where to seek help from.

The CCRB chairman said officers from the Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) were earlier informed about the problem but no action was being taken.

"The human/animal conflict has worsened because ZAWA officials have failed to contain the problem," Vidonga said.

MNA/Xinhua

Manufacturing sector in Bangladesh records 12% growth

DHAKA, 6 Feb— Bangladesh marked a broad based robust growth of 12.4 per cent in the manufacturing sector during the first quarter of fiscal 2005-06 (July 2005-June 2006), according to the central bank.

During the quarter (July-September 2005), food beverage and tobacco, jute, cotton, ready-made garments (RMG), leather, chemical, petroleum and rubber were the major sub sectors which grew by 16.3 per cent, 11.5 per cent and 11.7 per cent respectively over the same quarter of last fiscal, daily *The Independent* reported on Sunday, quoting data of Bangladesh Bank.

Despite the fall of unit price index of export, the export earnings increased during the quarter due to robust growth of export volume index of the RMG sector as well as other minor exportables.

On the other hand, the growth of products, which are not exported, reflected high domestic demand.

MNA/Xinhua

စည်သူရေးမြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲ ပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

S Korea scientist unaware of stem cell fraud

SEOUL, 6 Feb— South Korea's disgraced stem-cell scientist Hwang Woo-suk was probably unaware his team had failed to make a single tailor-made stem cell as it reported in a landmark research paper last year, a media report said on Monday.

A Seoul National University investigation panel said in January a team led by the once-heralded Hwang had deliberately faked two landmark papers on embryonic stem cells. Hwang resigned from his post at the university in December.

Prosecutors are investigating Hwang for fraud, misuse of state research funds and breach of bioethics law.

A government audit agency is also probing misappropriation of state funds.

There is evidence Hwang undertook some activities he probably would not have engaged in last year had he not believed in the existence of the tailor-made stem cells, South Korea's Dong-A Ilbo newspaper said quoting an unnamed prosecution official.

In one such instance, Hwang shipped stem-cell samples to the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre in New York last year as part of a joint study and \$150,000 to support the research, Dong-A said.

Hwang also injected

stem cells into more than 100 mice last year in a project that suggested Hwang had believed he was working with patient-specific stem cells.

Prosecution officials could not be reached for comment on the report, which said the latest evidence did not appear to alter earlier findings that Hwang had exaggerated data in research papers.

Hwang's research had raised hopes because it seemed to hasten the day when genetically specific tissue could be grown

from embryonic stem cells to repair damaged organs or treat diseases such as Parkinson's.

The Seoul National University panel said Hwang's team faked data for a 2004 paper on producing the first cloned human embryos for research and a 2005 report on producing the first embryonic tailored stem cells, both published in the US journal Science.

About 2,000 people demonstrated in Seoul on Saturday in support of Hwang. —MNA/Reuters



An employee of Japan's camera giant Nikon displays the new 'Coolpix P1' digital camera with Wi-Fi LAN support, at the company's showroom in Tokyo recently. —INTERNET

Bus bomb explosion in southern Pakistan kills 12

ISLAMABAD, 6 Feb—At least 12 people were killed and 13 others injured when a powerful bomb exploded on a passenger bus on Sunday in Pakistan's southwestern province of Baluchistan, officials said.

"Twelve people were killed and 13 injured in the explosion on the passenger bus," Interior Minister Aftab Sherpao told the Geo TV.

Meanwhile, other reports said that up to 20 people were injured and five of them were in critical condition.

The bus, with 50 passengers on board, was travelling through the Bolan Pass region on a regular run from the provincial capital of Quetta to the eastern border city of Lahore in the neighbouring Punjab Province when a bomb exploded in the back portion of the vehicle.

"It was a timing device planted inside the bus," said Baluchistan police chief Chaudhry Yaqoob.

Yaqoob said the injured had been taken to a hospital in Quetta. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack. The Interior Ministry said detailed investigation was under way at the site of the explosion.

MNA/Xinhua



Pakistani volunteers move a wounded passenger of a bus after a bomb explosion in the western city of Quetta, on 5 Feb, 2006. —INTERNET

China's first cartoon library opens in S China city

GUANGZHOU, 6 Feb—The first cartoon library on China's Mainland has been opened in Dongguan City in South China's Guangdong Province, catering for thousands of young cartoon fans.

The newly established library covering 600 square metres of floor space houses 20,000 cartoon books, over 30 varieties of cartoon periodicals and more than 2,000 disks of cartoon stories and clips.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese tourists prefer trips to warm or icy places during Festival

BEIJING, 6 Feb— During the Spring Festival, or China's Lunar New Year, northern residents travelled southwards to enjoy the sunshine, while the southern residents went northwards for skiing and skating. Some even chose warm or icy nations with their families.

According to China National Tourism Administration, the number of migrant travellers from north or south were distinctive, with northern cities such as Harbin and Changchun, as well as southern cities such as Hainan and Yunnan gaining popularity.

Normally the number of visitors dropped on the

fifth day of the Lunar New Year in the past. During this New Year festival holiday, however, the travellers continued to rise in the warm or icy provinces in China. Visitors to the skiing resort in Jilin grew 15 per cent year-on-year, and the Hainan seashore saw a 93 per cent rise.

In the meantime, more and more Chinese people

crossed the border to enjoy the traditional New Year's holiday in north Asian, Africa and Oceania.

South Korea, Australia, South Africa, Maldives and Sri Lanka all saw the increasing number of Chinese travellers during the holiday due to their attractive sunshine in the cold winter.

MNA/Xinhua

Open University in Malaysia to relax entry requirements

KUALA LUMPUR, 6 Feb— The Malaysian Higher Education Ministry has decided to relax entry requirements for admission to the Open University to allow more adults to obtain a degree, local media reported on Monday.

Higher Education Minister Shafie Salleh announced the decision on Sunday, adding there would be no compromise on the standards set by the university to obtain a degree. Shafie said his ministry decided to take the new measure after visiting some countries and regions, including China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, where open university was working well.

As many adults, especially teachers, had shown a keen interest in furthering their studies to obtain a degree for

career advancement, the ministry decided that open university could relax its entry requirement and pay more attention to applicants' working experience, Shafie said.

Open University,

established in 2002, would assess the working experience of the applicant and the course chosen before deciding whether to accept the person or not, Shafie said.

MNA/Xinhua

Bolivia urges growers not to sell coca leaves to traffickers

LIMA, 6 Feb— Bolivian President Evo Morales on Sunday urged coca leaf growers to state the final destination of their crop to avoid cocaine traffickers getting hold of harvests, said reports from Bolivia.

The move will be part of a policy called "Coca Yes, Cocaine No," promoted by the ruling Movement for Socialism (MAS) Party to maintain international cooperation, and to study the possibility of industrializing coca leaf production.

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS



Morelia's striker Luis Rey from Colombia (L) controls the ball over America's defender Ricardo Rojas from Chile during second half of their Mexican league championship soccer match at the Azteca stadium in Mexico City on 5 Feb, 2006. America won 3-0. —INTERNET

Kenya names athletes for Commonwealth Games

NAIROBI, 7 Feb— Kenya's athletics officials have named a team of over 30 runners for the Commonwealth Games to be held in Melbourne, Australia in March this year.

Athletics Kenya (AK) Secretary General David Okeyo confirmed on Monday the squad comprising 35 runners include former Olympic and World 3,000m steeplechase champion Reuben Kosgei who has returned to serious competition after missing the last three years through injury.

Apart from Kosgei, other top names in the competition include world 5,000m champion, Benjamin Limo and Olympics 3,000m steeplechase champion Ezekiel Kemboi. Both Kemboi and Limo did not feature in the weekend trial and were included in the squad.

Kosgei, back to back champion in 2000 Sydney Olympics and the world title in Edmonton, Canada the following year, was very much his former self over the weekend devoid of all top ranked Kenyans who will give the club games a miss as they are unseasonably early.

The highly talented runner who has been kept out of action by an Achilles Tendon injury since 2003 made it in the Kenyan team during the national trials here on Saturday when he finished second behind Wesley Kiprotich.

He managed to stay behind early pace setter David Chemweno and Bisluke Kipkorir until the last three laps when he moved to the lead with Kiprotich not far behind in Nairobi on Saturday. "I came to test my form and confirm that I was fully healed. I am happy I feel okay and ready to do national duty in Melbourne after being out for a long time," he said.

World Cross Country junior champion Augustine Choge found the 5,000m field too easy to handle and beat second placed Joseph Ebuya, 18, by more than 20 meters en route to his 13:28.77 victory.

His only misgiving was lacking anybody to push him for a better time, making him remark that the race was like a training session.

"Today's race was simple and I felt like I was training because I was not burdened mentally by the presence of big names like Eliud Kipchoge or Benjamin Limo," said Choge who was a member of the Kenyan team (1500m) in at the World Championships in Helsinki last year but failed to live up to expectation due to inexperience in his own admission. — MNA/Xinhua

Late goal pegs back leaders Porto

LISBON, 7 Feb — Braga striker Joao Tomas converted a penalty two minutes from time to secure his side a 1-1 draw against Portuguese league leaders Porto on Monday.

Tomas scored from the spot after a foul by substitute Bruno Alves on Braga's South Korean winger Kim. Porto extended their lead at the top to five points. Co Adriaense's side are on 45 points from 21 matches. Sporting, Braga and Benfica all have 40.

Argentine midfielder Luis "Lucho" Gonzalez had put Porto ahead on 55 minutes by tucking away a rebound. South Africa striker Benni McCarthy, returning from African Nations Cup duty, went close to adding a second but hit the bar. — MNA/Reuters

Angry Benitez accuses Robben of theatrics

LONDON, 7 Feb — Indignant Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez accused Chelsea winger Arjen Robben of histrionics and said he would appeal against keeper Pepe Reina's dismissal for shoving the Dutchman during their league clash on Sunday.

Reina clumsily challenged forward Eidur Gudjohnsen in the closing minutes of the game, with Chelsea 2-0 up. During the melee that followed he pushed Robben in the face and the winger slumped dramatically to the ground.

Referee Alan Wiley showed the Spanish goalkeeper a red card.

With heavy sarcasm Benitez said: "I'm in a hurry now because I think I should get down to the hospital. Maybe Robben will be three weeks in hospital. Maybe he has his neck broken, I don't know."

Benitez said Reina had done wrong in raising a hand to the winger but added: "What kind of professional can you be if against another professional you leave the other

player not able to play for three games?"

The clash, the ninth between the teams since Benitez and Chelsea counterpart Jose Mourinho took over a season and a half ago, was always likely to be tense with third-placed Liverpool desperate to close the gap on the champions.

The result effectively killed off their bid, dropping them 21 points behind Chelsea, who have lost only once this season. Manchester United in second are 15 points adrift.

Benitez could not be

induced by reporters to admit Chelsea, who added a second through Hernan Crespo in the second half, were now out of reach.

"If you watched the first half, maybe you would not know who was top of the league," he countered.

Liverpool, whose one win in the nine came in the semi-final of the Champions League last May, a fact that still haunts Chelsea, looked strong until Chelsea's first goal poached by defender William Gallas against the run of play.

MNA/Reuters

World Cup organizers cancel meeting with stadium critics

BERLIN, 7 Feb — German World Cup organizers said on Monday it saw no need for talks or contact with a watchdog criticizing safety precautions at four stadia.

Consumer watchdog Stiftung Warentest had said earlier there could be problems in some stadia if fire or panic broke out. Organizers have refuted the criticism, saying all of the 12 new or modernised stadia had passed safety tests more stringent than in many other countries, yet initially said they planned to meet with the watchdog.

"We have looked at the whole procedure very carefully and we have come to the clear result that it would not serve the purpose if we would continue to talk to Stiftung Warentest," said German Interior Minister and head of the organizing committee's supervisory board Wolfgang Schauble.

"There is no doubt to the extremely high safety standards of our World Cup venues," he added in a statement.

The group said the stadiums at Gelsenkirchen, Leipzig and final venue Berlin were unprepared for evacuation as there were no exits onto the pitch and Kaiserslautern, where cracks were found in a stand last month, was a fire hazard. — MNA/Reuters



Germany's Mens Biathlon team practice on the shooting range of the Biathlon stadium in Cesana San Sicario, northern Italy, on 6 Feb, 2006.

INTERNET

Marseille keep European hopes alive with away win

PARIS, 7 Feb — Olympique Marseille kept alive their hopes of playing in Europe next season with a 1-0 win at lowly Troyes on Sunday.

An early goal from Sabri Lamouchi gave Marseille the points and lifted them up to fifth in the Ligue 1 standings, 15 points off the pace.

Leaders Olympique Lyon will take a big step towards a record fifth consecutive title if they can beat second-placed Girondins Bordeaux later on Sunday.

MNA/Reuters

Feyenoord beat arch-rivals Ajax 3-2

ROTTERDAM (Netherlands), 6 Feb — Feyenoord beat arch-rivals Ajax Amsterdam 3-2 in the Dutch first division on Sunday.

Champions PSV Eindhoven, after a 3-2 win over Roda JC Kerkrade on Saturday, are top with

54 points, three above Feyenoord. Ajax are seventh, 17 points below Feyenoord.

Ajax dominated the first 20 minutes in Rotterdam but after the unmarked Wesley Sneijder failed to open the scoring Feyenoord midfielder

Nicky Hofstede struck at the other end.

Jonathan de Guzman found Salomon Kalou who set up Hofstede through the centre of the Amsterdam defence.

Seconds later Markus Rosenberg equalized when he appeared in front of defender Andre Bahia and tapped in a cross from Urby Emanuelson.

On the stroke of halftime Feyenoord restored their lead. Dirk Kuijter broke through on the right flank and Romeo Castelen netted at the near post. In the second half the home side grabbed the initiative and built a two-goal advantage when Kuijter gave goalkeeper Maarten Stekelenburg no chance with a fierce shot.

MNA/Reuters



Italian cheerleaders who will perform at the Turin 2006 Winter Olympics Games practice at the Ice Hockey venue in Turin, Italy, on 5 Feb, 2006. The Winter Olympic Games open in Turin on Friday 10 Feb. —INTERNET

French FM says seek no confrontation with Iraq

PARIS, 7 Feb—The international community is not seeking a confrontation with Iran over its nuclear programme, French Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy said on Monday, noting that talks with Teheran were still possible.

Iran on Sunday ended snap UN checks of its nuclear sites and said it was resuming uranium enrichment, a day after being reported to the Security Council over suspicions it is building nuclear weapons.

Douste-Blazy urged Teheran to cooperate with the international community.

“We tell them: There is still time to negotiate. But suspend sensitive nuclear activities,” he told France Inter radio.

“We must make people understand that the international community’s goal is not punitive, it is only political. We are not looking for any confrontation, to the contrary, it’s negotiations we are looking for,” he said.

The International Atomic Energy Agency voted on Saturday to report Iran to the Security Council but the top UN body will take no action until an IAEA report is delivered in March.

The Security Council has the power to impose political and economic sanctions but there are divisions among its five permanent members — the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China — about how to deal with Teheran.

“It is time (for Iran) to come back to reason, because if not, it’s obviously the Security Council and a possible escalation,” Douste-Blazy said.

Iran says it wants nuclear technology to generate electricity, not make bombs as some Western countries allege.

MNA/Reuters

Large shark zeroes in on Sydney ocean race swimmers

SYDNEY, 7Feb—Swimmers in an ocean race off Sydney faced their worst nightmare when a 3.5 metre (10 feet) shark was spotted heading straight for them, forcing race officials to quickly pluck competitors from the water.

Swimmers in the Cole Classic ocean swim, a 10-kilometres (six-mile) race out through the heads of Sydney Harbour to the city’s northern Manly Beach, were around the halfway mark on Sunday

when the shark was spotted, local newspapers reported on Monday.

Safety boats following the swimmers out of the harbour quickly pulled competitors onboard, while officials on jet skis chased the shark out to sea.

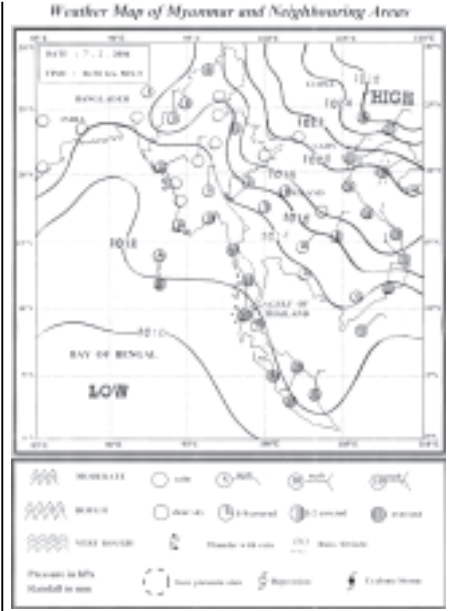
The race was immediately called off, but a shorter race for amateur swimmers off Manly Beach went ahead.

Australia has had a spate of shark attacks in recent months.

A scuba diver off the Western Australian city of Perth survived an attack by a great white shark in January after fighting it off with his speargun and then his hands.

A 21-year-old woman died in January after she was attacked by three sharks while swimming off an island on Australia’s northeast coast. She lost both forearms and suffered wounds to the legs and torso.

MNA/Reuters



WEATHER

Tuesday, 7 February, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (5°C) below normal in Bago Division, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Shan, Chin and Rakhine States, Magway and Yangon Divisions, (5°C) above normal in Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (2°C), Lashio (3°C), Pinlaung and Mogok (4°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 6-2-2006 was 94°F. Minimum temperature on 7-2-2006 was 59°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 7-2-2006 was (74%). Total sunshine hours on 6-2-2006 was (8.2) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 7-2-2006 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 Southeast at (12:15) hours MST on 6-2-2006.

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


Forecast valid until evening of 8-2-2006: Isolated light rain are possible in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division. Weather will be partly cloudy in Mon, Kayin and Kayah States and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair in the whole country.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 8-2-2006: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 8-2-2006: Fair weather.



Wednesday, 8 February
View on today

7:00 am

- ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ့ ဗောဓိပညာသင်တန်းအကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာပဏ္ဍိတ ဝဇီရိန္ဒာ၊ အဘိဓမ္မာပဏ္ဍိတ ဝဇီရိန္ဒာ၊ အဘိဓမ္မာပဏ္ဍိတ ဝဇီရိန္ဒာ၊ အဘိဓမ္မာပဏ္ဍိတ ဝဇီရိန္ဒာ

7:25 am

- To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

- Morning news

7:40 am

- Nice and sweet song

7:55 am

- Sing and enjoy

8:05 am

- Strong and healthy Myanmar

8:15 am

- အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:20 am

- ၅၀၀နှစ်မြောက် ဗြိတိသျှတော်လှန်ရေး ဝတ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

8:30 am

- International news

8:45 am

- Let's go

4:00 pm

- Martial song

4:15 pm

- Songs to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

- ၅၀၀နှစ်မြောက် ဗြိတိသျှတော်လှန်ရေး ဝတ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

4:45 pm

- အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ - တတိယပုဒ် (သတ္တဗေဒ အကျုံးပြု) (သတ္တဗေဒ)

5:00 pm

- ရွှေယံရောင် အာဆီယံအစီအစဉ်

5:10 pm

- Sing and enjoy

7:50 pm

- Strong and healthy Myanmar

6:00 pm

- Evening news

6:30 pm

- Weather report

6:35 pm

- သုတေသနနှင့် ဓမ္မဉာဏ်ရှင်

7:00 pm

- Musical programme

7:15 pm

- အာရှတိုက်နိုင်ငံတော်၏ ဥပဒေ ဖြည့်ဆည်းပေးရန်နှင့် အနှစ်သာရ (အပိုင်း-၁၄)

7:25 pm

- ၅၀၀နှစ်မြောက်ဗြိတိသျှတော်လှန်ရေး ဝတ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

7:35 pm

- ဗြိတိသျှတော်လှန်ရေး ဝတ်ပြုအစီအစဉ် ရုပ်သိမ်းပုံစံများ တိုဝန်တာ (အသီးတစ်ခုစီအတွက် နိုင်ငံတော်အဖွဲ့)

8:00 pm

- News

15:00 pm

- International news

17:00 pm

- Weather report

18:00 pm

- ၂၀၀၅ခုနှစ် တောရသမအကြိမ် (၁၃ကြိမ်)မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာယဉ်ကျေးမှု အဆိုအကအရေးအတော်ပြိုင်ပွဲ “ဝိဇ္ဇာတော်ကြီး” (ပထမဆုံး) (ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း) (ပထမပိုင်း)

19:00 pm

- The next day's programme



Wednesday, 8 February

Tune in today

8:30 am Brief news

8:35 am Music: -Play that funky music

8:40 am Perspectives

8:45 am Music: -If I can't have you

8:50 am National news & slogan

9:00 am Music: -Boogie (Oogie)2

9:05 am International news

9:10 am Music: -Best of my love

1:30 pm News & slogan

1:40 pm Lunch Time music -Stick on you -Stay the same -Miss you like crazy

9:00 pm Variations on -My heart will go on

9:15 pm Article/Music

9:25 pm Music at your request Special Feature (Songs)

9:45 pm News & Slogan

10:00 pm PEL

Teachers should foster Union Spirit, patriotism in the minds of youths to cherish traditions and culture and human values

Special Refresher Course No 58 for basic education teachers concludes

YANGON, 7 Feb — The special refresher course No 58 for basic education teachers concluded at Nawarat Hall of the Central Institute of Civil Service (Paunggyi) in Hlegu Township, Yangon Division, yesterday morning.

On behalf of Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung delivered a speech.

Present on the occasion were the ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor of Yangon, the deputy ministers, the Deputy Auditor-General, members of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the rector of CICS (Paunggyi) and trainee teachers.

On behalf of Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung said that the govern-

ment has laid down the plans in education sector systematically and it is now implementing the tasks to turn out intellectuals and intelligentsia who have ability to make efforts for keeping abreast of development of international community and for enabling the Union of Myanmar to stand tall as an independent, sovereign nation.

The education promotion projects involve the work of nurturing students to cherish and preserve traditions and culture and human values in addition to giving youths the knowledge they need to overcome any challenge the nation is facing at present and will face in future also.

Teachers should foster Union Spirit and patriotism in the minds of youths to cherish traditions and culture and human values and strive for development of the whole Union.

Knowledge dissemination for kids and local adults and assistance for improved farming according to the (See page 7)



Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung addresses the conclusion of Special Refresher Course No 58 for basic education teachers. —MNA



Narkhan village enjoys cumulative development

YANGON, 7 Feb — A new building of basic education high school (branch) was handed over to Narkhan Model Village, Mongnai Township, Langkho District, Shan State, on 24 January.

Chairman of Langkho District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Aung Maung, Mongnai Township Education Officer U Kyaw Moe and member of

the school board or trustees U Daw Na formally opened the facility.

The 80 feet by 30 feet one-storey building was built with the contribution of K 2.5 million by the people, and K 2.853 million by the Education Depart-

ment. Executive of Township Union Solidarity and Development Association U Sai Kham Khaung, member of Township Women's Affairs Organization Daw Nan Mya Thin and member of Township Maternal and

(See page 10)

INSIDE



Hailing the 59th Anniversary Union Day:

All the endeavours of the government focus on equitable development of all regions, reduction of development gap between one region and another and raising the standard of living of national people.



People participating in growing physic nut plants in Narkhan village in Mongnai Township, Langkho Township, Shan State. — MNA