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Minister inspects No 1 Automobile Factory

YANGON, 8 Jan—Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin together with Director-General U Khin Maung of the Directorate of Myanmar Industrial Planning and departmental officials visited No 1 Automobile Factory on Inya Lake Hotel Road in Mayangon Township, here yesterday afternoon.

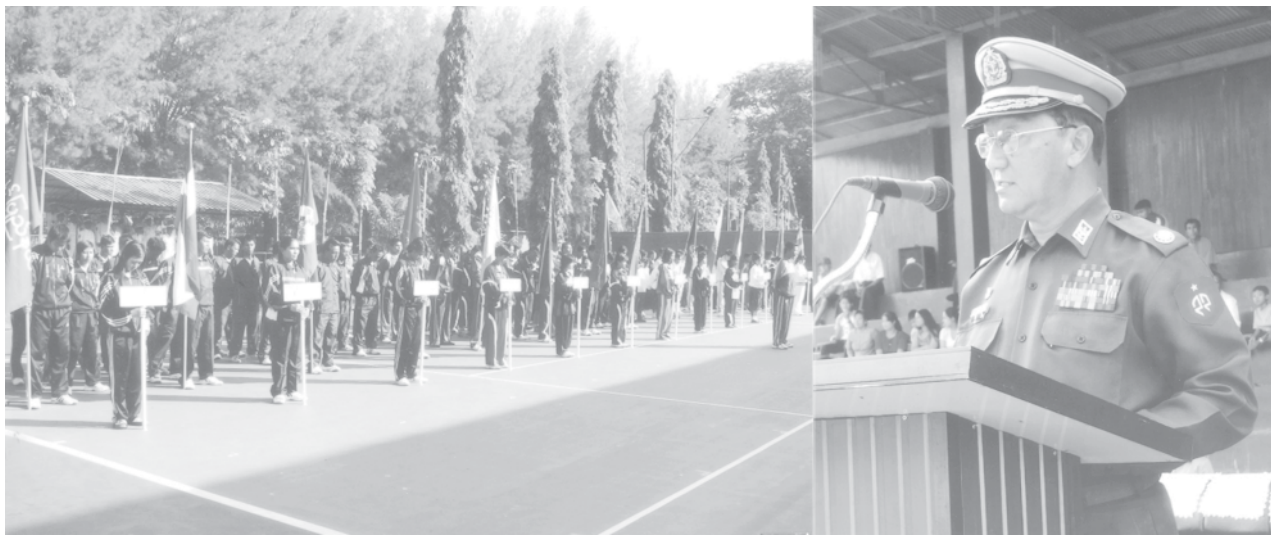
At the workshop, the minister inspected production of frames and bodies of 6.5-ton TE trucks and TE water tankers, assembling process of vehicles and assembled ones. On arrival at the forging shop, he

looked into the production of body for Mazda Jeeps.

The minister was conducted round the factory by Managing Director of Myanmar Automobile and Diesel Engine Industries U Hla Myint Thein and Factory General Manager U Hlaing Thein.

The minister called for efforts to meet the targeted number of automobiles, quality control, meeting the set standards, minimizing the costs, and operation of the machines at full capacity.

MNA



Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint delivers an address at opening of 45th State and Division Tennis Tournament. — SPED

45th State/Division Tennis Tournament held

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Jan—The 45th State and Division Tennis Tournament for 2008 was held at Theinbyu Tennis Grounds yesterday.

The participating teams took designated places and the previous-year champion teams Yangon Division Women's Team and Yangon Division Men's Team presented Championship Shields to Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint.

The minister made an opening speech.

Then, he met with the players of the teams which would take part in the tournament.

The first day events were played.

The tournament continues till 12 January and

altogether seven women's teams and 16 men's teams will compete in the tournament. —MNA

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

Significant night temperatures

Haka	(0°C)
Heho	(3°C)
Namhsam and Mogok	(4°C)

Panasonic unveils world's largest plasma television

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, 8 Jan—Japanese electronics titan Panasonic unveiled the world's largest plasma television on Monday at the opening of the world's biggest consumer electronics trade show.

The Viera brand high-definition television called "Life Screen" measures 150 inches, or some 12.5 feet (381 centimetres) diagonally.

"This stunning display allows you to display the elephant in the room in all its glory," Panasonic AVC Networks Company president Toshihiro Sakamoto quipped while

showing it off during an opening speech at the Consumer Electronics Show.

"This gives new meaning to reality televi-

sion. Can you imagine watching the Olympics on this baby?"

Panasonic crafted the colossal creation for dig-

ital theatres and other businesses, but expects it to "make its way into some luxury homes."

Internet

Panasonic's 150-inch plasma television at the Panasonic booth at the Consumer Electronic Show in Las Vegas. INTERNET



INSIDE

Nursing is indispensable in the health sector. It is such a demanding duty that only those who possess a noble heart, strong compassion and sympathy, keen goodwill, resilience in the face of hardship and selflessness can carry out.

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PERSPECTIVES

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

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 9 January, 2008

Provide health care to servicemen and the people

The Graduation Parade of the 5th Intake of Defence Services Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Science took place at the parade ground of the Defence Services Medical Academy in Yangon the other day.

Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye in his speech said, "Living up to the motto, 'Competent and helpful members of the Medical Corps', you comrades should also provide health care to the people while playing a role in fulfilling the national defence duty through your professional knowledge and expertise. Wherever you are assigned duties, you should care for the local population as if they were your own parents".

The Defence Services Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Science conducts courses of Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy, diagnosis, radiology and physiotherapy. Furthermore, it prescribes military training and training in military leadership at the platoon commander level.

The graduates have studied advanced nursing and paramedical science and undergone military training. So, they will soon take charge of military duties and paramedical science duties in the Defence Services Medical Corps.

Nursing is indispensable in the health sector. It is such a demanding duty that only those who possess a noble heart, strong compassion and sympathy, keen goodwill, resilience in the face of hardship and selflessness can carry out.

The cadets possess physical and mental prowess and are competent and helpful members of the Medical Corps. So, they will be able to preserve the fine traditions of the Tatmadaw, while devoting themselves to health care service for servicemen and the people.



Director-General of No 2 Basic Education Department U Aye Lwin awards an outstanding student of No 1 BEHS of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township. — 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

Research seminar on health in Myanmar opens



Deputy Minister Dr Paing Soe delivers an address at the research seminar on health. — HEALTH

YANGON, 7 Jan — The research seminar on health in Myanmar was opened at Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) on Ziwaka Road in Dagon Township this morning.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe delivered

a speech. The deputy minister and guests viewed research posters on health and medicine and medical equipment at the booth.

Research paper-reading session on health in Myanmar was held and it continues until 11 January. — MNA

Pastry-making course opens

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Jan — Pastry-making course organized by Social Welfare Department of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and Reintegration Group of the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation was opened at Yinthway-yadana pre-primary school, here, yesterday.

Present were Head of Information Department of MWAFF Daw Kyi Kyi Win, Head of Organizing Department Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo, the director-general and officials of SWD, members of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana district and



Daw Kyi Kyi Win, Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo and Daw Tin Tin Nwe meet with trainees of the pastry-making course. — SWRR

township women's affairs organizations, instructors and trainees.

Leader of Rehabilitation and Reintegration Group of

MWAFF Daw Tin Tin Nwe spoke. Assistant Director of SWD Daw Thin Thin Nwe explained matters relating to the course. After the opening ceremony,

Heads of Department and members cordially met the trainees.

The four-week course is being attended by 20 trainees. — MNA

New tarred road opens in Loilem

YANGON, 8 Jan — The Pinseintarred road was opened to mark the 60th anniversary Independence Day in Shan State (South)

on 31 December, which was built by Loilem Township Development Affairs Committee in 2007-2008 financial year.

Chairman U Aung Htay of District Peace and Development Council made inaugural speech and Deputy Director U Van

Kywan, Executive Officer of Township Development Affairs Committee, explained matters on the road and presented the commemorative pennants

School Family Day observed

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Jan — Director-General U Aye Lwin of No 2 Basic Education Department attended School Family Day in conjunction with prize-presentation for 2007-2008 academic year held at No 1 BEHS in Nay

Pyi Taw Pyinmana on 1 January. Schoolboys and schoolgirls of No 1 BEHS presented songs and township education officer U Hla Htoo made an opening speech.

Prizes were presented to outstanding

students. Present on the occasion were the township education officer, schoolheads and teachers of basic education high schools, prize-winning students, school board of trustees and parents. — MNA

to the officials. Next, the chairman of the District Peace and Development Council and the executive officer of the Township DAD opened the newly-tarred road. The road — 1,200 foot long and 12 foot wide — was built at a cost of K 3.9 million. — MNA

Egypt reiterates rejecting US aid with conditions

CAIRO, 7 Jan — Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit on Saturday reiterated Egypt's stance rejecting any preconditions being attached to extending assistance to Egypt, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry said.

Abul Gheit made the remarks during his meeting with visiting US Democrat Congressman Steve Israel, which tackled on efforts for maintaining stability in the Middle East and assisting all parties concerned to achieve peace and development, as well as the issue of US assistance to Egypt, Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesman Hossam Zaki said in a statement.

The Egyptian top

diplomat noted that Egypt refuses any foreign dictations that would affect its decisions, visions or its way of dealing with external and internal developments, Zaki added.

The US Congress recently approved to hold back 100 million US dollars in aid to Egypt, the second largest recipient of US aid in the Middle East, behind Israel.

Abul Gheit said earlier that Israel and some pro-Israel US Congressmen are behind the aid issue, warning that Egypt could use its diplomatic influence against those who seek to harm its interests and relations with the United States.

MNA/Xinhua



A 29-ton crane is seen on China's expedition ship "Xuelong", or Snow Dragon, before arriving at the Changcheng Station in western Antarctic.—INTERNET

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Iran says US failing in Middle East

TEHERAN, 7 Jan — Iran accused the United States on Sunday of interfering in the Middle East after President George W Bush said he would press allies to help keep Iran's "aggressive ambitions" in

check during a regional trip this week.

"The aim of these repeated trips is to compensate for the failed policies of America in the region," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Ali Hosseini told a news conference.

He said Washington, which is leading efforts to isolate the Islamic Republic over its disputed nuclear ambitions, was "interfering in the relations of countries in the region" but that Iran had nevertheless boosted ties with its neighbours.

"America has not been successful in isolating Iran," he said. "We are witnessing the expansion of Iran's relations with different countries."

Bush will travel to Israel and the Palestinian West Bank as he tries to help the two sides reach a

peace agreement. But he will focus on Iran when he visits five regional allies — Kuwait, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad last month became the first president from non-Arab Shiite Iran to attend a summit of Gulf Arab states, which worry that Teheran might one day use nuclear arms to dominate the region.

MNA/Reuters



A photograph shows the Three Gorges Dam area brimming with tourists. On 5 January, the Yangtze River Three Gorges Tourism Development Co Ltd announced that in 2007 the Three Gorges Dam tourist area received a total of 1.25 million tourists from home and abroad (excluding the Jiuwanxi and the Sixi scenic areas). This is a growth of 6% over 2006: a record high in the number of tourists.—INTERNET

Israeli strike on central Gaza kills two women

GAZA, 7 Jan—Two Palestinian women were killed and eight civilians wounded in an Israeli shelling on a house east of al-Bureij refugee camp in central Gaza Strip on Sunday afternoon, medics and witnesses said.

The witnesses said it was hard to determine what hit the house, adding that an Israeli helicopter fired a missile while a tank fired a shell. Medics at al-Aqsa Hospital said that two women were killed and eight others wounded as they were in the house, adding that Palestinian ambulances had hardly managed to take the casualties out. Witnesses said that intensive gun-battle erupted since early morning between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian militants, noting that several Israeli Army tanks and armoured vehicles rolled to east of the refugee camp. — MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia, India to step up defence cooperation

KUALA LUMPUR, 8 Jan—Malaysia and India agreed on Monday to step up defence cooperation, including training of Air Force pilots and submarine personnel, defence ministers from both sides said. Keeping pace with its new economic powerhouse image, India's military, the world's fourth largest, is fostering closer ties with Southeast Asian allies. "Both sides will enhance defence exchanges at various levels, promote cooperation in training, in strategic and security studies," Indian Defence Minister AK Anthony said after talks with his Malaysian counterpart, Najib Razak.

Najib said they did not discuss the issue of ethnic Indians, who staged an unprecedented protest in November to complain of racial discrimination.

MNA/Reuters

Two NATO soldiers killed in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 8 Jan— Two soldiers of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) lost their lives as their vehicle met road accident in Afghanistan's southern Kandahar Province, a Press release of the alliance said Monday.

"Two ISAF soldiers died on Sunday when their vehicle rolled over during a move across difficult terrain in Zhari District, Kandahar Province," the Press release added. However, it did not identify the nationality of the deceased soldiers.

In accordance with ISAF policy, ISAF does not release the casualty's nationality prior to the relevant national authority doing so.

More than 2,000 Canadian soldiers have been stationed in Kandahar under NATO command to stabilize security there. —MNA/Xinhua



A view of the Syncrude facility in the northern Alberta oil sand fields. A report commissioned by the Canadian government states that Canada must introduce a carbon tax, or a cap and trade system for greenhouse gas emissions, or both, if there is any hope of the country deeply cutting its CO2 emissions by mid-century.—INTERNET



Children play at an igloo during the Seoul ice festival in front of a city hall on 7 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET

Iran confirms expulsion of German diplomat

TEHERAN, 7 Jan — Iran has expelled a German diplomat for “non-diplomatic activities”, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said on Sunday, in what may be retaliation for the expulsion of an Iranian diplomat from Germany in July.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Ali Hosseini confirmed a German news agency report that a German diplomat had been ordered

to leave Iran.

Berlin said only that a diplomat had left Teheran.

“Those in charge recognized that non-diplomatic activities are being undertaken and announced that this diplomat should leave the soil of the Islamic Republic of Iran,” Hosseini told a news conference.

Hosseini gave no further details and did not make clear if it was the diplomat who was responsible for the “non-diplomatic activities”.

The German Embassy in Teheran referred all

queries to the Foreign Ministry in Berlin.

The Hamburg-based weekly *Der Spiegel* reported in December that an Iranian official was forced to leave Germany last summer after he tried to acquire components for Teheran’s disputed nuclear programme.

German news agency DPA reported on Saturday that a German diplomat had had to leave Teheran and it was thought this was a result of the expulsion of the Iranian official from Germany.

MNA/Reuters

Quake jolts panic in Indonesia’s West Papua

JAKARTA, 7 Jan — A 6.2 magnitude undersea quake jolted eastern Indonesia on Monday, damaging some houses and sparking panic among residents but causing no deaths, a meteorology agency official said.

The US Geological Survey placed the strong quake, shallow at only 35 kilometres (21.7 miles) deep, at an epicentre at 8 kilometres (5 miles) north of the coastal town of Manokwari in Indonesia’s West Papua Province.

“There are several houses on fire but we don’t know yet how many exactly,” Fauzi, head of the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency’s earthquake centre told Reuters. —MNA/Reuters

Bhutto bears responsibility for her death

WASHINGTON, 7 Jan—Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf conceded that a gunman may have shot Benazir Bhutto but said the opposition leader exposed herself to danger and bore responsibility for her death, CBS News said on Saturday.

Musharraf was also quoted as telling the CBS “60 Minutes” programme to be broadcast on Sunday that his government did everything it could to provide security for Bhutto, who was killed last week in a gun and suicide-bomb attack after a political rally.

“For standing up outside the car, I think it was she to blame alone. Nobody else. Responsibility is hers,” Musharraf said in the interview taped

on Saturday morning.

Pakistan’s Government has said Bhutto died when she struck her head on a handle on her vehicle’s sunroof — a contention widely derided in Pakistan where many people suspect Musharraf’s Government of

complicity. The government has also blamed al-Qaeda for the attack.

Musharraf was asked by CBS, which provided excerpts of the interview, whether a gunshot could have caused Bhutto’s head injury. He replied, “Yes, yes”. —MNA/Reuters

Kenyan leader ready to form unity govt

NAIROBI, 7 Jan — Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki said Saturday he was ready to form a unity government in order to unite Kenyans who have been affected by post-election violence.

A statement issued after a meeting between President Kibaki and visiting US Assistant Secretary for African Affairs Dr Jendayi Frazer said the Kenyan leader said such a government would also help in the healing and reconciliation process. “The President said he was ready to form a Government of National Unity that would not only unite Kenyans but would also help in the healing and reconciliation process,” the statement said. —MNA/Xinhua



Gregory French of Process Solutions poses with his latest product, made by a Chinese toy manufacturer, which features a CMOS camera linked to an RC radio with integrated head tracking, at the annual Toys and Games Fair in Hong Kong on 7 Jan, 2008. —INTERNET

Horse flu spreads in Mongolia

ULAN BATOR, 8 Jan—Horse flu continues to spread in Mongolia and more than 60,000 horses in 11 provinces in southern Mongolia have been infected since October, 2007.

Mongolian General Authority for Emergency Management said on Monday that 21 horses had gone down with the equine influenza virus through Mongolia.

MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi Army soldiers block the road at the site of a roadside bomb on 7 Jan, 2008. Up to 14 people were killed, including an anti-Qaida leader, in a twin suicide bombing in a northern Baghdad neighbourhood on 7 Jan, 2008.—

XINHUA

Two US soldiers killed in bomb attacks in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 7 Jan—Two US soldiers were killed in separate bomb attacks in Iraq this weekend, the US military said on Sunday.

One soldier was killed on Sunday when his vehicle was hit by a bomb explosion in southern Baghdad, the military said in a statement. Three others were wounded in the attack.

The US soldiers were on patrols along with the Iraqi Army and police “in order to disrupt terrorist and extremist elements operating in this section of the Iraqi capital”, the statement said.

On Saturday, a US soldier succumbed to his wounds in a roadside bomb blast in the volatile province of Diyala, the military said in a statement.

MNA/Xinhua

Japan, US, EU eye new energy-saving body

TOKYO, 7 Jan—Japan, the United States and the European Union will jointly propose the creation of a new body to act as an international command centre in efforts to counter global warming, a leading Japanese daily said on Sunday.

The proposal would be formally unveiled at a Group of Eight summit on the Japanese island of Hokkaido in July, the *Yomiuri* newspaper said without quoting specific sources.

The new organization would make suggestions on energy conservation

measures for countries such as the G-8 leading industrialized nations and members of the International Energy Agency, as well as China and India, the newspaper said. The aim was to transfer developed countries' knowledge of energy conservation to other large energy consumers and to study their effectiveness, *Yomiuri* said.

The body would create indicators for conservation related to the amount of fuel or energy used by cars, home appliances and the industrial sector, and use

the data as the basis for its policy suggestions, *Yomiuri* said.

The idea of joint funding by Japan, the United States and the European Union was being discussed, as well as the possibility of setting up the new body within the International Energy Agency in Paris, *Yomiuri* said.

The new organization would be discussed at a preparatory meeting of G-8 energy ministers on 22-23 January, and at another ministerial gathering in Japan in June, the report said.

MNA/Reuters



Models pose with Hyundai Motor's new sedan "Genesis" at a photo call ahead of its unveiling ceremony in Seoul on 8 Jan, 2008. —INTERNET

187 nations, organizations to join Shanghai World Expo

KUNMING, 7 Jan—A total of 187 countries and international organizations have confirmed their participation at the Shanghai World Expo in 2010, organizers said here on Sunday.

The number has already set a record in the World Expo history, surpassing the previous record held by Hanover, Germany, in

2000, said Zhu Yonglei, deputy director of the Bureau of Shanghai World Expo Coordination.

"Shanghai will strive to get confirmation from 200 countries or international organizations by the end of 2008," said Zhu.

The city has just started to organize domestic participants. On 2 January, Hong Kong SAR

Government submitted its theme statement, an official document to confirm the theme of its pavilion to the Bureau of Shanghai World Expo Coordination.

Currently, four major permanent buildings of the Expo, including the China National Pavilion, have all started construction.

Shanghai unveiled its mascot for the Expo last month. The mascot is named Haibao, literally means "treasure of the world". The blue smiling cartoon figure has curly hair and is in the shape of Chinese character REN, or human beings.

The expo, which runs 1 May to 31 October, 2010, was expected to draw 70 million visitors, an average of 400,000 a day.

MNA/Xinhua

ECONOMIC NEWS



Philips' heart-shaped 1GB USB drives are shown at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, on 7 Jan, 2008.

INTERNET

Gazprom targets Nigerian gas reserves

LAGOS, 7 Jan—Russia's gas export monopoly Gazprom is in talks with Nigeria to spend up to 2.5 billion US dollars on developing its vast natural gas reserves, a senior Nigerian gas official said on Saturday.

The Russian company is on a global hunt for new reserves and has emerged as one of the leading suitors to Africa's top energy producer as it reforms its gas sector.

"Gazprom has come twice to visit the federal government. They want to invest in Nigeria in gas exploitation, gathering and processing," a senior Nigerian Government official working on gas policy told *Reuters*.

Gazprom has offered to invest between one billion US dollars and 2.5 billion US dollars to begin with, he added. A Gazprom spokesman was not immediately available to comment.

Nigeria is the world's eighth-biggest exporter of crude oil but even though it has the seventh-largest proven gas reserves in the world it has not developed its gas industry to anywhere near full potential.

Investors say the lack of a stable fiscal framework and market pricing for gas means that most investment ideas in the sector are uneconomic.

The seven-month-old government of President Umaru Yar'Adua has begun a root-and-branch reform of the energy sector.—MNA/Reuters

PM says Britain faces test in "dangerous" eco times

LONDON, 7 Jan—Britain faces a testing time with the world economy in a "difficult and dangerous situation", Prime Minister Gordon Brown said, promising not to shirk unpopular, long-term decisions to ensure stability. In an interview with Sunday newspaper *The Observer*, Brown said 2008 was a "decisive" year for his government, with tough choices to be made on infrastructure, transport and nuclear power.

Brown, six months into his premiership after succeeding Tony Blair, is trailing the opposition Conservative Party in polls following a string of setbacks late last year. Brown does not have to call an election until 2010.

"This is the year when we will make and implement all the major long-term decisions that are going to safeguard and

equip Britain properly for the future," Brown told *The Observer* in the interview published late on Saturday.

MNA/Reuters



Palestinians hold flags and a banner as they march during a protest ahead of US President Bush visiting the region, in Gaza City, on Tuesday on 7 Jan, 2008. —INTERNET



Students balance books on their heads during an etiquette training class at a vocational school in Beijing on 7 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET

China constructs railway linking special eco zones

SHENZHEN, 7 Jan — China began building a railway linking China's two economic zones, the Xiamen Economic Zone in Fujian Province and Shenzhen Economic Zone in Guangdong Province.

The railway starts from Xiamen, a port city facing Taiwan, and runs 502.4 kilometres southwest along the coast to Shenzhen, a booming city bordering Hong Kong.

Upon its completion in 2011, the railway will allow

trains to travel at a speed of 200 kilometres per hour, and a journey between the two cities will take about three hours compared with current 11 hours.

The rail link is designed to transport 12 million tons of cargo a year and accommodate 120 pairs of trains per day.

The 41.7-billion-yuan (5.6-billion-US-dollar) project will be co-funded by the Ministry of Railways, and the Fujian and Guangdong provincial

governments.

The new line will be another important section of China's coastal railway artery.

Currently, two railway lines, one links Wenzhou of Zhejiang Province with Fuzhou, capital of Fujian, and the other links Fuzhou and Xiamen, are under construction.

MNA/Xinhua



Firefighters work at a storehouse in Icheon city, South Korea, on 7 Jan, 2008. At least seven people were killed and 28 others were reported missing in a massive explosion taking place at the storehouse on 7 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET

Zambia awards Kuwait's IPG 1.4 m tons of oil deal

LUSAKA, 7 Jan—Zambia has awarded a 1.2-billion-US-dollar two-year oil supply contract to Kuwait's International Petroleum Group (IPG), a senior energy official said on Saturday.

Energy and water development permanent secretary Peter Mumba said IPG had been selected ahead of four other international firms, including Russia's Lukoil.

"IPG has been awarded (a contract) for supply of 1,440,000 metric tonnes of crude oil over a period of two years and the first batch of 90,000 tonnes will arrive on or before 9 February," Mumba told Reuters in an interview.

Mumba said IPG would supply 16 shipments of 90,000 tons of crude oil to the mineral-rich southern

African country, which has recently faced serious fuel shortages. "The cost of this crude oil will tentatively be 1.2 billion US dollars and it may go up or come down depending on the prices on the international market and our hope is that the prices will begin to come down," Mumba said.—MNA/Reuters

1,000 Ecuadoreans evacuated due to active volcano

QUITO, 7 Jan — At least 1,000 local residents have been evacuated due to the intensified activity of the Tungurahua Volcano in Ecuador, said the authorities on Sunday.

The evacuation was a precautionary measure as the volcano has been more active in these days, and those evacuated people are allowed to return at daytime to tend to their crops and animals, an emergency operation

official was quoted as saying by local media.

However, local mayor Juan Salazar said those evacuated families have asked the government to resettle them in other places instead of the endangered zone.

Ecuador's Geophysics Institute said the volcano has spewed ash and could be more intense in the coming days, but noting there have been no lava flows. — MNA/Xinhua

Hamas dismisses Bush Mideast visit as "photo op"

GAZA, 7 Jan — Palestinian Islamist group Hamas on Saturday dismissed US President George W Bush's upcoming visit to the Middle East as a "photo opportunity" and said he was not welcome in the region.

Hamas, which seized control of the Gaza Strip in June and opposes Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' bid to make peace with Israel, said Bush's visit was aimed at shoring up support for the Jewish state and its occupation of Palestinian land.

"Bush's visit is

unwelcome because it aims to serve the occupation and provide it with political and psychological support," Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri said in a statement.

"The visit is nothing but a farewell visit to get some photo opportunities as Bush prepares to leave the White House.

"Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Abbas agreed at a conference in Annapolis, Maryland, in November to try to forge a deal on Palestinian statehood before Bush steps down.

MNA/Reuters



Photo taken on 7 Jan, 2008 shows National Aquatics Center (NAC). National Aquatics Centre (NAC) is going into operation soon as "Good Luck Beijing" Swimming Open will be held here from 31 Jan, to 5 Feb.—INTERNET



Chinese President Hu Jintao (R) hands over the award certificate to outstanding Chinese petrochemical scientist Min Enze at the awarding ceremony to grant the State Scientific and Technological Award for 2007 in Beijing, capital of China, on 8 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET

Pakistan says will not let foreign troops on its soil

ISLAMABAD, 8 Jan— Pakistan will not allow any country to conduct military operations on its territory, officials said on Monday, rejecting a report that said the United States was considering authorizing its forces to act in Pakistan.

The New York Times newspaper said. Pakistani government and military officials dismissed the report and said Pakistan would not permit any such action.

The US officials considering the move were concerned over intelligence reports that al-Qaeda and the Taliban were more intent on destabilizing Pakistan, the

newspaper said.

Pakistani government and military officials dismissed the report and said Pakistan would not permit any such action.

“Pakistan’s position in the war on terror has been very clear — that any action on Pakistani soil will be taken only by Pakistani forces and Pakistani security agencies,” said Foreign Ministry spokesman

Mohammad Sadiq.

“No other country will be allowed to carry out operations in Pakistan. This has been conveyed at the highest level,” he said.

Military spokesman Major-General Waheed Arshad rejected the report as baseless, saying no US military operations, overt or covert, were allowed.

MNA/Reuters

Two US ‘F/A-18s’ crash in Gulf

MANAMA, 8 Jan— The US Navy’s Fifth Fleet said two F/A-18 fighter aircraft crashed during operations in the Gulf on Monday, but there were no fatalities.

“Teams from USS *Harry S Truman* (CVN 75) rescued all three aviators after two F/A-18 *Super Hornets* crashed during operations in the Arabian Gulf January 7,” it said in a statement. “The cause of the accident is under investigation.”

The Bahrain-based Fifth Fleet said the planes’ crews were back aboard the aircraft carrier, and

were reported in good physical condition after ejecting.

The aircraft were providing close air support from Iraq when they crashed, it said. The aircraft were part of the strike group of the nuclear aircraft carrier, which is in the region as part of a routine presence of US warships in the Gulf, it said.

The Pentagon said

earlier on Monday that five Iranian boats made aggressive manoeuvres and showed hostile intent towards three US Navy ships at the weekend in the Strait of Hormuz, a major oil shipping route in the Gulf.

The Pentagon said the incident was serious but the Iranian Foreign Ministry described the incident as ordinary.

MNA/Reuters



Photo taken on 3 Jan, shows a US F-18 fighter jet takes off the aircraft carrier USS *Harry S Truman*. Two US F-18 fighter jets collided in flight on Monday and crashed into the waters of the Gulf.—INTERNET

UAE’s non-oil sectors to contribute to 70% of GDP by ‘10

ABU DHABI, 8 Jan— Revenues from non-oil sectors of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are projected to contribute to 70 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) by 2010, local newspaper *Khaleej Times* reported on Monday.

The forecast was made by the latest report by NCB Capital, the asset management and investment arm of Saudi Arabia-based National Commercial Bank, according to *Khaleej Times*.

“Economic prospects in the UAE look bright, with the pace of growth likely to remain strong supported by sustained high energy prices, a strong investment momentum and an improved domestic business climate,” the

NCB Capital report titled “Investment Strategy: Capitalizing on the Petrodollar Windfall” said. MNA/Xinhua

Anti-al-Qaeda leader killed in northern Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 8 Jan— Gunmen killed a leader of Awakening Council group in a northern Baghdad neighbourhood on

Sunday, a well-informed police source said.

“Ismael Abbas, one of the leaders of Awakening Council groups of the

Sha’ab neighbourhood was killed when unknown gunmen in a civilian car showered him with bullets,” the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

The Awakening Councils are groups of local neighbourhood fighters, including some powerful anti-US Sunni insurgent groups, who have turned their rifles toward the al-Qaeda network to provide security to their neighbourhoods.

Rifts emerged between the Awakening Council groups and the al-Qaeda militants after the later adopted a hardline Islam and exercised indiscriminate killings against both Shiite and Sunni Muslim communities.—MNA/Xinhua

Three killed in Baghdad bombings

BAGHDAD, 8 Jan — Three Iraqis were killed and 19 others wounded in two bomb attacks in Baghdad on Monday, a well-informed police source said.

“An explosive-charge detonated in a stall in a crowded marketplace near the University of Technology in eastern Baghdad, killing three people and wounding 16 others,” the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

The blast damaged several nearby stalls and shops in the market, the source said.

MNA/Xinhua



Four young Lipizzaner stallions are controlled by horse keepers at the Spanish Riding School of Vienna during a photocall on 8 Jan, 2008. The stallions arrived in Vienna on Monday to begin their six-year training at the Riding School.—INTERNET

Electric Power-2 Minister inspects testing of meters

YANGON, 7 Jan—Minister for Electric Power-2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspected the testing of meters at power system safeguarding and testing division-1 on Strand Road in Ahlon Township here

today. At the briefing hall, Yangon Superintending Engineer U Nyunt Than of the division-1 reported to the minister on the testing of meters, high voltage apparatus of power stations, sub-

power stations, installation of nine testing boards and testing works in states and divisions.

Next, the minister gave necessary instructions and inspected the division.—MNA

Vice-Mayor oversees development tasks in Seikkyi Khanaungto, Dalla townships

YANGON, 8 Jan—Central Executive Committee Member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa met with townselders in Seikkyi Khanaungto Township today.

After hearing reports on development tasks in the township at the meeting, the deputy mayor attended to the need and handed over cash provided by Yangon Division USDA to be spent on development tasks in the township to the chairman of the township Peace and Development Council.

Afterwards, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and party visited Phyto Cettana Free Clinic and Phyto Cettana Free Traditional Medicine Clinic at the office of township USDA.

During his tour of inspection, the vice-mayor also inspected lakes, upgrading of sports ground and bridges in the township.

The vice-mayor and party also visited the township hospital and provided cash assistance to patients. The vice-mayor and wife made cash donation at the hospital to install air-conditioner in the operation theatre of the hospital.

During the tour to Dalla yesterday, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and party visited Thuriya Muni Bronze Buddha statue and Maha Thingyan Pagoda. They donated of-fertories to the Sayadaw of Phayagyi Monastery and the Sayadaw of Nyaunggon Thahtay Monastery in Dalla.

At a meeting with local people in Dalla Township, the vice-mayor fulfilled the requirements for development of the township.

He also inspected Pyawwegyi Station Hospital and the People's Hospital in Dalla township.—MNA

Deputy Minister visits extensive health care services in Bago Div

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Jan—Secretary of National Health Committee Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, accompanied by officials concerned, met with health staff, members of township health committee and social organizations at the office of General Administration Department in Paungde, Bago Division (West), on 1 January.

At the meeting, the deputy minister gave in-

structions on focusing on health care services, priority to be given for health care services to rural people and their children, measures to be taken to fight against malaria, TB, HIV/AIDS and infectious diseases as a national concern and not to use narcotic drugs.

After the instructions, the deputy minister inspected Paungde People's Hospital and attended to the need.

Upon arrival at Nattalin People's Hospital, he looked into it and fulfilled the requirements.

On arrival at Zegon, he met with health staff, members of township health committee and social organizations at the office of Township Peace and Development Council and called them for participation in health care services and oversaw the hospital.

MNA

Stolen money returned to the owner

YANGON, 8 Jan—The money stolen from Cyber City computer shop on Theinbyu Road in Kan/Taung Ward, Mingala Taungnyunt Township, here, was handed over to the owner at the township police station on 6 January.

On 5 December 2007, the owner of Cyber City computer shop filed a lawsuit at Mingala Taungnyunt Police Station, claiming that the shop was burgled and US\$ 36,000, 1000 FEC, and K 8 million were stolen. Police Inspector Myint Thaung and members of the

Yangon Division Police Force Office conducted investigation into the case, and seized Aung Kyaw Htet (a) Aung Thu (a) Baw Seit, 14, on 22 December, Taw Thar Lay (a) Naing Min Aung, 15, on 27 December, and Taw Thar Gyi (a) Zaw Htet (a) Gadon, 15, on 28 December.

According to their confession, they met at Paywetsaikgon station at about 3 pm on a day (they did not remember) in December 2007. They then went by train to Pazundaung station and observed the shop and surrounding areas. At that

time, it was too early to get into the shop, so they slept in the nearby monastery and on the trees. At 3 pm the following day, they burgled the shop. They found the rare wooden door of the shop unlocked, so they could get into it easily. The three pulled open the inner wooden doors. Then, they opened the drawers with the use of a screw driver and stole the money.

Head of East District Police Force Police Lt-Col Kyaw Aye returned the money recovered from the three culprits to Manager of the shop U Aung Thura.

MNA

Raw opium, morphine seized in Phekon Township

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Jan—A combined team comprising members of Taunggyi Anti-drug Squad and Pinlaung Police Force searched the house of Tun Shwe, 39, son of U Tet Toe, of Bawyan Village, Phekon Township at 5 am on 6 January 2008.

In the raid, the members found Tun Shwe and Maung Pi, 29, son of U Laung, of Hsaungdan Village, Pinlaung Township, and seized 3.92 kilos of raw opium worth K 2.94 million hidden in a bamboo basket near the bed of Maung Pi, and a package containing nine kilos of morphine worth K 88.2 million, 100 kilos of ammonia chloride worth K 150,000, a jack and a large pan hidden in

the wooden cupboard in the beb-room of Tun Shwe.

Another search of the house of Tun Shwe's father U Tet Toe led to the seizure of 80.6 kilos of raw opium worth K 60.45 million hidden in the box in the bed-room, 17.15 kilos of raw opium worth K 12.86 million hidden in the wooden box, and 8.15 kilos of raw opium worth K 6.11 million hidden in a green plastic container, totalling 109.82 kilos of raw opium with a street value of about K 82.36 million.

Pinlaung Police Force filed a lawsuit against Tun Shwe and Maung Pi under Section 15/19 (A)/20 of Narcotic Drugs Psychotropic Substances Law.—MNA



A first train service on Kyeeni-Chauk Railroad Section after the inauguration of the railroad section on 2 September 2007.—MR

Home Affairs Ministry honours outstanding students, athletes

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Jan — Ministry of Home Affairs honoured outstanding students of the staffs and athletes of the ministry here today.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo and wife Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, directors-general, deputy directors-general and their wives, officials concerned and prize winners.

First, the minister delivered an address and

presented prizes to an outstanding student and two students who won six distinctions in the matriculation examination of the 2006-2007 academic year.

Next, Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo awarded prizes three students who won six distinctions in the matriculation examination of the 2006-2007 academic year. Directors-General and officials also awarded prizes to outstanding students who passed the examinations at universities and

matriculation examinations.

Afterwards, the minister presented the prizes to three male athletes who won gold medals in international games and Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo to four female athletes.

Directors-General and officials concerned presented the prizes to athletes who won gold medals in local games.

Later, an outstanding student and athlete spoke words of thanks.

MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo presents prize to an outstanding student. — MNA

Respects paid to Tatmadaw referees

YANGON, 8 Jan — The 11th respect paying ceremony to referees who participated in football matches of Tatmadaw took place at Yangon Command Sports Ground (Mingaladon) here today.

Chairman of Tatmadaw Football Committee Principal of Defence Services Self-defence and Sports Institute Col Htin Zaw Win, former Myanmar selected footballer Capt Tin Aung (Retd) and Secretary General of Myanmar Football

Federation U Bunny Tin Aung delivered addresses on the occasion.

Respects were paid to senior referees of Tatmadaw and gifts were presented to them.

Prizes were presented to former old international referees who were recognized by FIFA, Sgt Win Cho who was selected as elite referee for three straight years by AFC, L/Cpl Khin Maung Htwe who was selected as the most developed referee during 2007 season and Cpl Tin Tun who was selected

as the most developed assistant referee.

It was attended by Chairman of Tatmadaw Football Committee Principal of Defence Services Self-defence and Sports Institute Col Htin Zaw Win, Secretary Maj Tint Zaw and committee members, General Secretary of Myanmar Football Federation U Bunny Tin Aung, In-Charge Capt Tin Aung (Retd) of Football Tournaments of Myanmar Football Federation, and referees. — MNA

YCDC Secretary inspects repaving of roads

YANGON, 8 Jan — Secretary of Yangon City Development Committee U Aung Than Win inspected repaving of asphalt on Nawarat and Ayeyawon roads in Tharkayta Township and

Hlawga and Thanlwin Roads in Dagon Myothit (South) and No 2 Road in Dagon Myothit (East) this morning.

He then looked into construction of sluice gate of Ngamoeyeik Creek on

Myitta Road in Ward 14 of South Okkalapa Township and setting up of two-storey new building at No 6 BEHS South Okkalapa township, and fulfilled the needs. — MNA

Youths receive skills for raising awareness of HIV, VD, drugs

YANGON, 8 Jan — Myanmar Anti-narcotics Association and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) jointly conducted a multiplier course on raising awareness of HIV and narcotic drugs at the association in Kamayut Township yesterday.

Altogether 36 trainees from Muse, Taunggyi, Kengtung, Tachilek and Yangon are

attending the 10-day course which is designed to help youths solve daily problems and raise their awareness of HIV, venereal disease (VD) and the danger of narcotic drugs.

After completing the course, the trainees will also raise awareness of HIV, VD and narcotic drugs among youths. The course will end on 16 January.

Also present at the opening ceremony were responsible persons of UNICEF, lecturers from Myanmar Red Cross Society and members of the executive committee of Myanmar Anti-narcotics Association.

The ceremony was opened with an address by Chairman of Myanmar Anti-narcotics Association U San Thein. — MNA

Myanmar Correctional Department holds Independence Day Ceremony

YANGON, 8 Jan — A ceremony to observe the 60th Anniversary Independence Day of Director-General's Head Office of Myanmar Correctional Department and Insein Central Jail was held at play grounds of Correctional Department

in Insein on 4 January.

Director-General U Zaw Win of the Myanmar Correctional Department read out the message sent by Head of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary

Independence Day.

Prizes were awarded to those who won Good Service Medals for 2007 and outstanding prizes at internal and external departmental training, and sports games were held.

MNA



Director-General of Myanmar Correctional Department U Zaw Win formally opens a ceremony to celebrate the 60th Anniversary Independence Day. — MCD

New tarred road opened in PyinOoLwin

YANGON, 7 Jan — To hail the 60th anniversary Independence Day 2008, an opening ceremony of new Yadana tarred road in Padaythar Myothit, built by PyinOo Lwin Township development committee during 2007-2008 financial year, was held at its archway on 3 January.

It was attended by PyinOoLwin Station Commander Brig-Gen Zay Yar Aung, senior military

officers, chairmen and members of districts and townships Peace and Development Council, departmental officials, members of women's affairs organization and maternal and child welfare association guests and local residents.

Chairman of PyinOo Lwin District Peace and Development Council U Min Lwin and township development committee

executive officer U Aung Ko Lat cut the ribbon to open the new tarred road. Afterward, PyinOoLwin Station Commander Brig-Gen Zay Yar Aung unveiled the signboard.

The new tarred road is main road which links the south and the north of Padaythar Myothit across Cherry Road. Opening this road, it can contribute to smooth transportation for local residents. — MNA

Cash donated to Santi Sukha Monastery

YANGON, 8 Jan—Wellwishers on 6 January donated cash for building an ordination hall in the precinct of Santi Sukha Monastery at the foot of the mountain of Daysunpar Pagoda in Wanbe Inn Village, Bago Township, Bago Division.

Seventy wellwishers donated K 13 million including K 10 million by Daw Hla Myint and family and sisters and brothers of Yangon; K 1 million by Araham Saya Aung-Daw Hnin Yi Kyaw and family of Thanlyin; K 250,000 by U Khin Maung Win-Daw Khin Thauang Aye (Pale Hsu Paing Brokerage) of Aunglan; K 200,000 by U Zaw Min Hein-Daw Hla Hla Khaing and family of Wakema; and K 100,000 each by U Tin Ohn (Forest Department)-Daw Naing Naing Zaw and family of Yangon, U Win Soe-Ma Than Than Mar and family of Khayan Township, U Aphi-Daw Khin Yee and family, U Kan Nyunt-Daw Kyu Kyu ad family, U Win Swe-Daw Aye Thit and family and Ma Khin San Wai and family of Waw Township.—MNA

Portugal finds 9.4 tons of cocaine in octopus cargo

LISBON, 8 Jan—Portuguese police have seized 9.4 tons of cocaine hidden in a octopus shipment from Venezuela as it entered the port of Lisbon, authorities said on Monday.

The seizure, last month, led to the arrest of seven people including a Colombian in Spain who was part of an international drug smuggling ring, Portuguese police said in a statement. The cocaine was frozen and mixed inside crates of octopus, police said. The majority of cocaine that is smuggled to Europe comes through Iberia on its way from South America.

MNA/Reuters

On-job Training Course for Judges opened



Deputy Chief Justice U Thein Soe delivers an address at On-job Training Course for Deputy Township Judges. — MNA

Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Championship Shield Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Swimming and Water Polo Contest opened

YANGON, 8 Jan—The Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Championship Shield Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Swimming and Water Polo Contest for 2007 was opened in conjunction with the prize-distribution ceremony at the Tatmadaw (Navy) Swimming Pool of Ayeyawady Navel Region Command yesterday morning with an address

by Commander of Ayeyawady Navel Region Command Commodore Win Shein.

After the contest, the Central Command emerged champion in swimming (senior division) and water polo contest while the Yangon Command emerged champion in swimming (novice division) contest.

This was followed by the prize-presentation

ceremony.

Officials presented prizes to those who stood first, second and third in the respective events and Commander of Ayeyawady Navel Region Command Commodore Win Shein presented the championship shield to the Central Command that emerged champion in swimming (senior division) and water polo contest.—MNA

Chairman of MANA inspects anti-narcotic drugs courses in three townships

YANGON, 8 Jan—Chairman of Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association U San Thein, Central Executive member of International committee Relation In-charge Daw Tin Tin and departmental officials made arrangements for opening of courses on Facts for Life to prevent

AIDS among the youths in cooperation with authorities concerned in Muse Township on 28 January.

The Chairman of MANA inspected AIDS preventive measures for drug addicts in No 9 Ward in Lashio, Naungmon and Nantpaung Villages being undertaken in cooperation

with 3 D Fund.

Chairman of MANA U San Thein looked into the tasks of prevention for AIDS in Pyigyidagon Township in Mandalay. He accepted K 550,000 donated by wellwishers for construction of MANA Head Office on Kyundaw Road in Kamayut Township.—MNA

Death toll rises to 40 in S Korea warehouse fire

SEOUL, 8 Jan — The death toll from a fire that ripped through a warehouse under construction outside of Seoul has risen to 40, officials said on Tuesday, with most of the victims overcome by toxic fumes.

The fire in Icheon, about 60 kilometres (40 miles) southeast of the South Korean capital, started on Monday and triggered several explosions.

Fire officials said most of the victims were construction workers trapped inside the basement of the refrigerated goods facility who could not escape a toxic cloud of gas that came from burning insulation material.

The exact cause is not yet known but local media said authorities were investigating whether gas caught fire in a basement engine room at the warehouse, starting the blaze.

Ten workers were taken to hospital and another seven escaped without major injuries, fire officials said. More than 600 fire fighters and police were dispatched to the scene.

The fire is the deadliest in South Korea since a blaze in the subway system of Daegu, 250 kilometres southeast of Seoul, killed nearly 200 people in 2003.

MNA/Reuters

YANGON, 8 Jan—The On-job Training Course No 18 for Deputy Township Judges organized by the Supreme Court was opened yesterday morning at the Supreme Court's training centre in Hlinethaya Township, Yangon Division.

It was attended by Deputy Chief Justice U Thein Soe, SC Justices U Khin Myint, Dr Tin Aung Aye, U Myint Thein, U Chit Lwin, U Thet Tun and U Han Shein, Director-General U Mya Thein and directors, the Yangon Division Judge, the District Judges and officials, instructors and trainees.

Deputy Chief Justice U Thein Soe made an opening speech on the occasion.

The 18-week course is being attended by 60 trainees.

MNA

Myanma traditional medicine course opened

YANGON, 8 Jan—The Traditional Medicine Department under the Ministry of Health opened Myanma traditional medicine resource development course No 4 at the Traditional Medicine Institute in Mandalay on 1 January.

Chairman of the course supervisory work committee Rector of Traditional Medicine University Dr Lwin Ko delivered a speech. Secretary of the committee Principal of the Institute U Aung Htat explained the purpose of the course.

Thirty traditional health assistant trainees from states and divisions are attending the four-week course.

MNA

Expressway accident kills 10, injures 50 in Guangdong

GUANGZHOU, 8 Jan — Ten people died instantly and about 50 others were injured when a speeding bus hit a tanker truck, then another bus on an expressway in the southern province of Guangdong early on Monday, the local government said.

The speeding bus, en route from Shenzhen to Nanning in the neighbouring Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, rear-ended the truck at around 1:00 a.m. on an expressway in the coastal city of Zhanjiang, traffic police there said.

The bus then veered across the median of the expressway and crashed into an oncoming bus that was en route from Nanning to Zhuhai.

Police said the injured passengers were being treated at several hospitals.

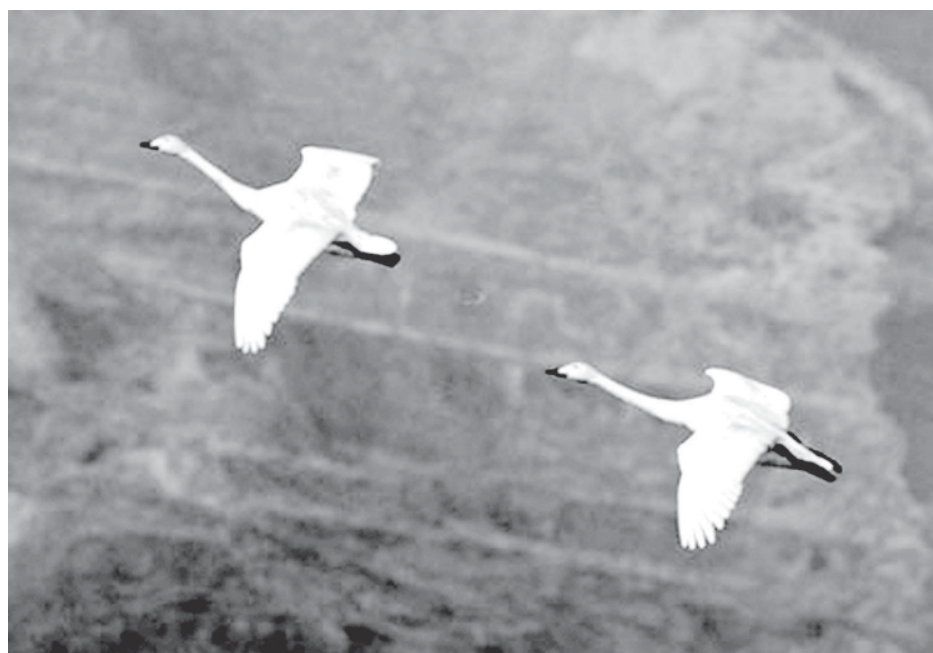
Authorities have yet to identify the dead.

MNA/Xinhua



Visitors look around at ice pagodas at the ice and snow world in Shenyang, capital of northeast China's Liaoning Province, Jan. 6, 2008. Pagodas with different appearance opened on Sunday attracted many visitors.—INTERNET

Images of the Day

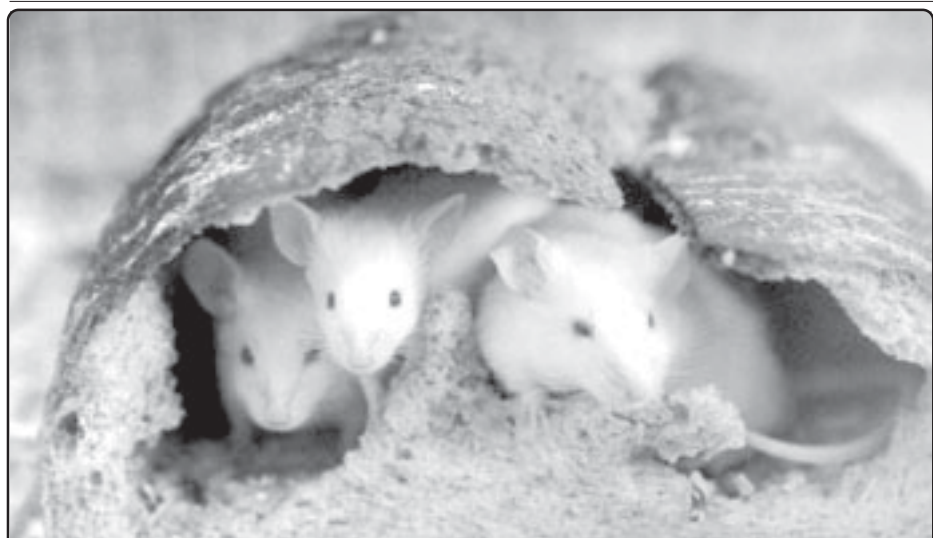


Two swans fly over Shengtian Lake in a provincial wet land reserve of North China's Shanxi Province January 3, 2007. Thousands of swans fly to the reserve to live through the winter, making the lake a "swan lake".
INTERNET

A woman dresses up as a cello joins the "Three Wise Men" parade in Madrid, capital of Spain, January 5, 2008.
INTERNET



An Edelweiss flower in the wild. Swiss botanists said Monday they have created a longer-stemmed version of the famous Edelweiss flower that can be grown in soil or a household pot.
INTERNET



Mice peer out from a loaf of bread which they hollow out and use the crust to live in, during an attraction for New Year visitors at the Inokashira Park Zoo in suburban Tokyo, on the last day of Japan's largest holiday. This year is the Year of the Rat, according to the Chinese zodiac.—INTERNET



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ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရေးအဖွဲ့

Nepal to host micro-finance world summit in February

KATHMANDU, 7 Jan—Nepal is set to host a world summit on micro-finance next month as the country continues its long battle to expand and consolidate the service delivery institutions, The Himalayan Times reported on Saturday.

According to the daily, the three-day conference, the first of its kind and themed Reaching the Poorest of the Poor for Sustainable Income, kicks off in Kathmandu on 14 February.

The summit is intended to facilitate a broad dialogue and create a common understanding among the stakeholders, including policymakers and politicians to make micro-finance a priority issue in the national development strategy, according to the organizers.

Some 300 participants—policy makers, practitioners, rural development, micro-finance development and commercial banks, and cooperatives and representatives from non-governmental organizations from around the world are expected to attend the summit, organizers said.

The stakeholders will discuss their experiences and jointly decide on the future of micro-finance in Nepal, they said. — MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam to import more consumers goods in 2008

HANOI, 7 Jan— Vietnam is estimated to make consumer goods import turnovers of 5.7 billion US dollars in 2008, up from two billion dollars in 2007, local newspaper Labour reported on Monday.

According to the Vietnamese Ministry of Industry and Trade, among the country's all import items in 2008, up to 66.2 per cent will be materials and fuels, 26.3 per cent machine, equipment and components, and

7.5 per cent consumer goods. Its total import turnovers are estimated at 76 billion dollars this year, up 25 per cent against last year.

Vietnam is expected to make total export turnovers of more than 59 billion dollars in 2008, up 22 per cent over 2007. It is strengthening export and production of materials, accessories and goods for domestic consumption to reduce trade surplus.

MNA/Xinhua

Floods kill six in central Mozambique

MAPUTO, 7 Jan—Floods in central Mozambique have killed six people, driven thousands from their homes and forced others to seek refuge in trees and on rooftops, a senior official said on Sunday.

The head of Mozambique's national relief agency INGC, Paulo Zucula, said the flooding caused by torrential rains had cut major transport links to neighbouring countries. "So far six people drowned and 5,000 others have been evacuated from rooftops and

trees and a potential 60,000 could be driven away from their homes in the next few days, three towns... are under water", he told Reuters in an interview.

"The government met two days ago and declared the red alert."

The flooding had started on Wednesday, he said. Waters had reached a depth of six metres (18 feet) and were not expected to subside any time soon.

Main roads to Zimbabwe, Malawi and Zambia have been cut in five places. Trucks carrying goods destined for the landlocked countries have formed long queues.

Zucula said flooding was posing dangers to some people who refuse to leave affected areas.

MNA/Reuters



Technicians set up a booth promoting the Blu-ray format at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, Nevada on 6 Jan, 2008. XINHUA

Pakistan, Iran to finalize gas pipeline project by 25 January

ISLAMABAD, 7 Jan— Iranian ambassador to Islamabad Mash Allah Shakeri has said that Pakistan and Iran are set to finalize an agreement

on the multi-billion-dollar gas pipeline project by 25 January this year, according to a report by the private NNI news agency Sunday.

The Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) gas pipeline project is one of the most important economic projects of the region, which would bring extensive benefits for the three countries, said Shakeri.

He said that the project did not merely carry the economic importance but its social and security achievements were also noteworthy.

The Iranian envoy described the measures taken by Pakistan and Iran as indicative of their firm will for the execution of the project..

MNA/Xinhua

Tourist arrivals to Three Gorges Dam hits record high in '07

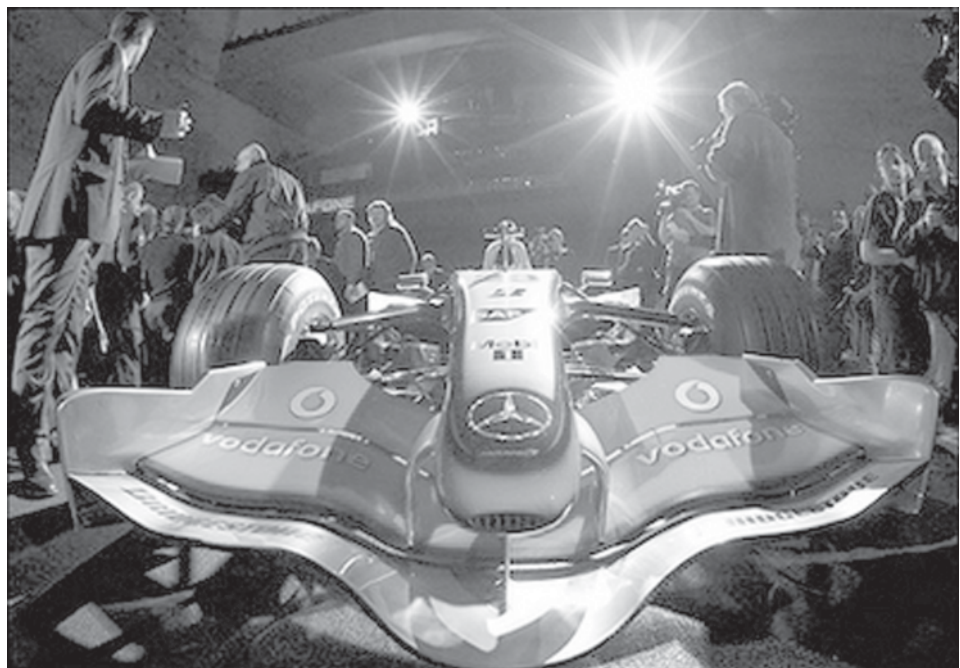
YICHANG, 7 Jan— China's Three Gorges Dam attracted a record high of 1.25 million tourist arrivals last year, a year-on-year increase of 6 per cent, according to tourism developers.

The dam received 310,000 foreign tourists in 2007, up 35 per cent from 2006, said Xu Ting, a marketing clerk with the Yangtze River Three Gorges Tourism Development Co, Ltd. 2007 was also the third consecutive year for the dam to host more than one million tourists, according to Xu.

The dam area will see more tourists this year thanks to the great national events of the basic completion of the Three Gorges Project within the year and the Olympic Games in August, Xu added.

The company launched chartered flight business in May last year in cooperation with travel agencies in Hong Kong and Taiwan to develop the market in these areas.

The Three Gorges Airport was approved in November to open to overseas passengers, making it possible for foreign tourists to fly directly to Yichang, Hubei Province where the dam is located, on international or region lines. The 22.5-billion-US-dollar Three Gorges hydropower project was launched in 1993 in the mid-section of the Yangtze River, China's longest. Its 26 turbo-generators are designed to eventually produce 84.7 billion kilowatts hour of electricity a year after its scheduled completion in 2008. — MNA/Xinhua



The new McLaren-Mercedes MP4-23 formula one car is unveiled at the Mercedes-Benz-Museum in Stuttgart, southern Germany.

INTERNET

Vitamin D deficiency doubles heart disease risk

BEIJING, 8 Jan— Moderate vitamin D deficiency nearly doubles the risk of myocardial infarction, stroke and heart failure over a mean of 5.4 years in patients with high blood pressure, according to media reports Tuesday quoting Harvard researchers.

Researchers led by Dr Thomas Wang of Harvard Medical School in Boston followed 1,739 people, average age 59, for 5 years.

The people in this study were offspring of original participants in the long-running Framingham Heart Study centred in Massachusetts, and had no prior history of cardiovascular disease.

Wang and colleagues

wanted to know whether vitamin D levels in the Framingham offspring from the 1996-2001 exams were correlated with the rate of first cardiovascular events occurring later.

Research indicated that those with low vitamin D levels had about a 60 percent higher risk of a cardiovascular event like heart attack, heart failure or stroke compared to

those with higher levels, even with well-known cardiovascular risk factors such as diabetes, high cholesterol and high blood pressure taken into account. The risk for heart attack, heart failure or stroke was double in people with both high blood pressure, also known as hypertension, and vitamin D deficiency, the researchers said.

Internet

Japanese pop singer Ayumi Hamasaki has revealed she has gone deaf in her left ear, but has vowed to continue her career and go ahead with an upcoming tour of Asia. The 29-year old, who is Japan's top-selling singer with 28 number-one hits and nearly 50 million albums sold, wrote on her blog that her left ear "doesn't work anymore" and that it was inoperable.

INTERNET



Traffic moves at a busy intersection in New Delhi on 7 January, 2008. Tata Motors, India's third-biggest auto maker will showcase its \$2,500 car at the Auto Expo in New Delhi on 10 Jan, with a commercial launch planned for later in 2008. —INTERNET

91 killed in natural disasters in Indonesia's Java

JAKARTA, 8 Jan — The recent spate of natural disasters hitting the Indonesian province of Central Java have left 91 people dead and 74 others seriously injured. A total

of 67 houses collapsed, 661 seriously damaged, and 2,663 others lightly damaged in the natural disasters between 17 December, 2007 and 7 January 2008, Antara news

agency Tuesday quoted chief of the Central Java Mitigation Task Force Achmad Rofai as saying.

The natural disasters included floods, landslides and whirlwinds, Achmad Rofai said on Monday.

Meanwhile, at least 29,048.75 hectares of paddies in 17 districts in Central Java have been under flood waters since late December 2007, causing farmers to suffer enormous losses, a provincial legislator said. It was reported that as per 2 January, 2008 some 288.29 hectares of paddy fields in the province will fail to yield due to floods.

MNA/Xinhua

Internet

Philippines boat accident injures 40, two missing

MANILA, 8 Jan— At least 40 people in the Philippines were injured many of them sustaining electric shocks, and two were missing after a boat participating in a local festival hit an overhead electric cable, radio said.

The boat, in the shape of a pagoda, was one of several in a river parade to celebrate a feast in the province of Pampanga, north of Manila, on Sunday. "When the floating pagoda crossed the Pampanga River, its metal arch hit a cable of the local electric company," Bajun Lacap, vice-mayor of the nearby town of Masantol, told radio. —MNA/Reuters

California on flood watch after powerful storms

LOS ANGELES, 7 Jan — California, where more than 100,000 homes remained without power on Sunday after powerful storms, could still face flooding and mudslides in some areas through Monday, according to weather officials.

The US National Weather Service said flood watches were in effect through early Monday for Southern California and the central coast, particularly in areas hit last year by wildfires.

"The hillsides are so saturated in the burn areas, that even if we don't see as much rain, it could cause mudslides and flooding," said Carol Singleton, a spokeswoman for the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

Singleton said more than 100,000 Northern California homes remained without power one day after nearly three million people experienced power disruptions statewide due to powerful storms that battered three Western states. "Certainly the storm has wound down for the Sierra Nevada (Mountains) and the focus has now shifted to Southern California," said US National Weather Service spokeswoman Jane Hollingsworth. —MNA/Reuters

Underwater quakes occur off Canada's Pacific coast

OTTAWA, 8 Jan — A series of underwater earthquakes occurred off the coast of Canada's British Columbia Province Saturday, with the strongest registering a magnitude of 6.7 on the open-ended Richter Scale, according to the local media.

The first quake measuring 5.3 on the Richter Scale took place at 3:45 am local time (1145 GMT) about 135 miles (217 kilometres) southwest of Sandspit, which is located on Moreby Island, north of Vancouver Island, said Guy Urban, an official from the West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Centre (ATWC).

MNA/Xinhua



In this photo released by the Wildlife Conservation Society, 'King' an adult male marmoset carries the offspring he fathered with his mate, 'Squirt,' on his back at the Bronx Zoo in New York, His primary responsibility being child rearing, King will guide the twins into adulthood. — INTERNET

SPORTS

Dokic victory creates Open dilemma

HOBART (Tasmania), 8 Jan — Former world number four Jelena Dokic won her first competitive match on the WTA tour in almost three years when she beat Germany's Martina Mueller 6-4, 0-6, 6-2 in the first round of the Hobart International on Monday.

The victory, however, has created a dilemma for

the 24-year-old, who was not given a wildcard for next week's Australian Open by organizers.

The wildcard qualifying tournament for the season-opening grand slam begins in Melbourne on Thursday and if Dokic continues her winning form in Hobart, the Australian must decide whether or not to abandon the Tasmanian event or head to Melbourne Park.

Dokic, who beat two players in the world's top-100 in qualifying for the Hobart tournament and was impressive in her victory against the 54th-ranked Mueller, said she would not make a decision on the rest of the week until after her second round match against Italy's Flavia Penetta.

MNA/Reuters

Tired Nadal routed by Youzhny in Chennai final

CHENNAI (India), 8 Jan — Exhausted world number two Rafael Nadal suffered a setback before this month's Australian Open after he was thrashed 6-0, 6-1 by Mikhail Youzhny in the Chennai Open final on Sunday.

The Spaniard looked stiff from the start against fourth seed Youzhny, clearly showing the effect of his marathon four-hour semifinal win over compatriot Carlos Moya the previous day.

Nadal called for medical attention trailing 4-1 in the second set and then went through the motions as Youzhny completed his fourth career title win with ease, disappointing a large holiday crowd cheering the Spaniard.

MNA/Reuters



Peru's players celebrate after scoring against Venezuela during the women's Olympics qualifying volleyball game in Lima on 7 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET

Defoe wants to stay at Spurs

LONDON, 8 Jan — England striker Jermain Defoe wants to remain at Tottenham Hotspur despite being told by manager Juande Ramos he can quit the English Premier League club.

"The manager has said I can leave if I want but I want to prove him wrong," Defoe told the Sun newspaper on Tuesday. "I want to stay here. 'He (Ramos) just said, 'You can leave if you want to'. Yet I have no intentions of leaving this club because I love it here."

The 25-year-old Defoe, one of four top strikers at Spurs including Robbie Keane, Dimitar Berbatov and Darren Bent, has been unable to claim a regular place in the starting lineup in the last year and a half.

The former West Ham United forward said he could not sign a new, long-term contract with the club unless Ramos started playing him regularly. —MNA/Reuters



Qatar's Mohammad Salem (L) fights for the ball with Talal Al Anzi of Kuwait during their Gulf Cup Olympic Team under-23 soccer match in Riyadh on 7 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET



Inter Milan's Javier Zanetti (R) challenges Guinaza Pablo (L) of Internacional de Porto Alegre of Brazil during the soccer final of the Mohammad Bin Rashid International Football Championship in Dubai, on 7 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET

Swede Chopra seals playoff victory at Kapalua

KAPALUA (Hawaii), 8 Jan — Swede Daniel Chopra held his nerve in fading light to beat American Steve Stricker in a playoff for the PGA Tour's season-opening Mercedes-Benz Championship on Sunday.

The Stockholm native birdied the fourth extra hole at Kapalua Resort's Plantation Course to earn

the winner's cheque for 1.1 million US dollars and his second Tour title.

Both players missed birdie opportunities from around six feet at the first playoff hole before Chopra sealed victory with a two-putt birdie at the par-five ninth, his eagle attempt having come to rest on the edge of the cup.

Everton admit defeat in Pienaar affair

LONDON, 8 Jan — Everton have criticized the South African Football Association (SAFA) and world governing body FIFA after being told midfielder Steven Pienaar must report for international duty immediately.

The Premier League club had hoped that Pienaar would be allowed to play in their League Cup semifinal first leg against Chelsea on Tuesday before joining up with South Africa for the African Nations Cup in Ghana. Everton had argued that they did not need to release the player until after Tuesday's match as his country's first game in the tournament against Angola was not until 23 January.

However, FIFA confirmed on Monday that the SAFA were within their rights to demand Pienaar's release as the 14-day rule for international players related to the tournament's opening game on January 20 between hosts Ghana and Guinea.

MNA/Reuters

It was the seventh playoff in the last 14 years at the event which brings together the title-holders from the previous Tour season.

The pair had completed the 72 regulation holes in 18-under-par 274 on a sun-kissed day on the Hawaiian island of Maui, Chopra carding a 66 and Stricker finishing birdie-birdie-par-birdie for a 64.

"It was unbelievable," a beaming Chopra told reporters after delivering a master class with his putter to book his place at the Masters for the first time. —MNA/Reuters



Denver Nuggets guard Allen Iverson (3) drives the baseline past Phoenix Suns forward Shawn Marion (31) during the first quarter of NBA basketball game on 7 Jan, 2008 in Phoenix.—INTERNET

Olympiakos lead at halfway mark as AEK lose

ATHENS, 8 Jan — Olympiakos Piraeus are top of the Greek Super League at the halfway stage of the championship after AEK Athens lost 2-1 at Asteras Tripolis on Sunday. Olympiakos have 34 points after beating Iraklis 2-1 on Saturday, one more than AEK and Panathinaikos who began their centenary celebrations with a 1-0 win over Apollon Kalamaria.

Asteras Tripolis, who have beaten the top three in their first season in the Super League, lie fourth with 28 points.

The Peloponnese club, who have lost just once at home this season, were never going to be a pushover but the way they took the lead four minutes into the second half owed more to good fortune and poor goalkeeping than anything else.

MNA/Reuters

Chelsea make offer for Bolton's Anelka

LONDON, 8 Jan — Chelsea have made a bid to sign France striker Nicolas Anelka from Premier League rivals Bolton Wanderers. "Chelsea can confirm we have made an official offer for the transfer of Nicolas Anelka which is being discussed with Bolton Wanderers," the London club said on their Web site (www.chelseafc.co.uk) on Monday.

Manager Avram Grant is keen to find a replacement for Didier Drogba while the Chelsea striker is on duty for Ivory Coast at the African Nations Cup in Ghana which starts on 20 January.—MNA/Reuters



Ana Ivanovic of Serbia makes a backhand return during her match against France's Virginie Razzano at the Sydney International tennis tournament in Sydney, Australia, on 8 Jan, 2008. Ivanovic won in three sets 6-1, 2-6, 7-5.—INTERNET

Thai policeman charged with killing Canadian

BANGKOK, 8 Jan — A Thai police sergeant was charged on Monday with killing a Canadian and attempting to kill the man's pregnant ex-wife during an argument between the tourists in the northern tourist town of Pai, the local police chief said.

Sergeant Uthai Dechawiwat was allowed to walk free during the investigation because he turned himself in after what he said was an accident and promised not to tamper with witnesses, Pai police chief Wanchai Suwanrikatesaid.

Wanchai quoted witnesses as saying Uthai, who had just finished his shift, was asked to stop a fight between John Leo Del Pinto, 25, and his ex-wife Carly Reisig, 24, on

Saturday night.

But the man, 1.8 metres (5 feet 11 inches) tall, and his ex-wife turned on the 5 feet 3 inches policeman, who pulled out his pistol when they started beating him, they were quoted as saying.

"The policeman, who is about 1.6 metres, was beaten to the ground by the man, a bodybuilder 1.8-metre tall, and the hippy woman," Wanchai said.

Del Pinto tried to snatch the pistol, shots were

fired and the couple fell, according to witnesses, Wanchai added.

Del Pinto, a frequent visitor to Pai, died at the scene. Reisig was being treated in a hospital in nearby province of Chiang Mai and her wounds were not life threatening, Wanchai said.

Police and Canadian consular officials would interview Reisig, who was pregnant by a Thai man, Wanchai said.

MNA/Reuters

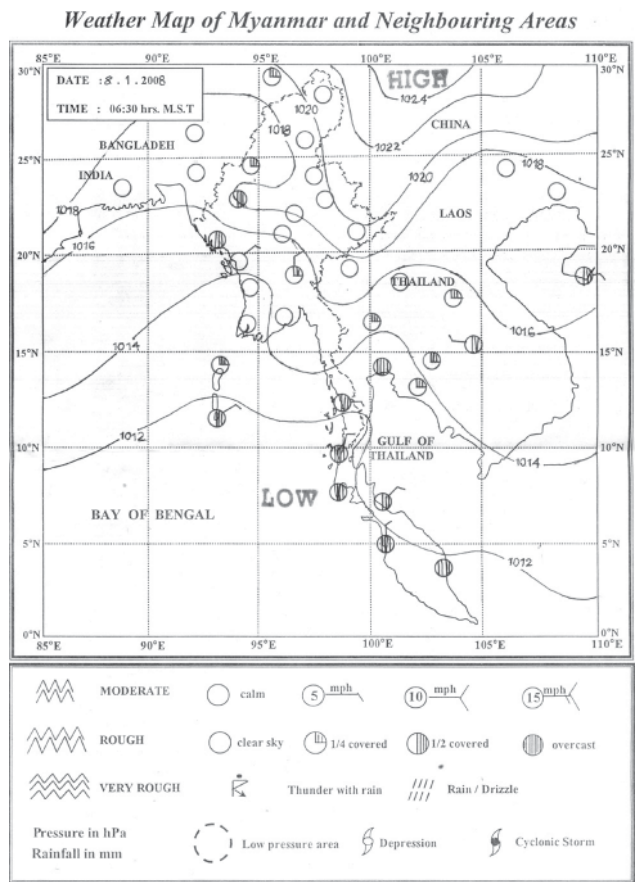
Two Jordanian air force pilots killed in plane crash

AMMAN, 8 Jan — A Jordanian Royal Air Force plane crashed Sunday afternoon during a routine training mission, killing its two pilots, official news agency Petra reported.

The report quoted an official military source from the Jordan Armed Forces as saying that the pilots were identified as Ridwan Salim Mahmoud Ababneh and Yazan Bassam Hanna Arnaki.

The fighter jet crashed in the town of Ein al-Basha, 20 kilometres north of Amman, said the report, adding that authorities were investigating the cause of the crash.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Tuesday, 8 January, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (5°C) below January average temperatures in upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) below January average temperatures in Chin State, Magway and Yangon Divisions and about January average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (0°C), Heho (3°C), Namhsam and Mogok (4°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 7-1-2008 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 8-1-2008 was 62°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 8-1-2008 was 91%. Total sunshine hours on 7-1-2008 was (8.3) hours approx.

Rainfall on 8-1-2008 was nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from North at (15:30) hours MST on 7-1-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 9-1-2008: Weather will be partly cloudy in Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions.

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 9-1-2008: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 9-1-2008: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 9-1-2008: Fair weather.

McDonalds bomber escapes from Indonesian prison

JAKARTA, 8 Jan — An Islamic militant serving 19 years for his role in the bombing of a McDonald's restaurant has escaped from a prison on Indonesia's Sulawesi Island, a prison official said on Monday.

Wirahadi, 25, fled the Gunung Sari prison in Makassar, South Sulawesi Province, with a fellow inmate during busy

visiting hours on Sunday morning by climbing over a barbed wired wall, prison chief Bambang Yudotomo told Reuters.

The Indonesian was sentenced to 19 years in prison for his role in a 2002 blast at a McDonald's fast food outlet in Makassar in which three people were killed.

Fellow escaper Marcus Valyuwae was

visiting hours on Sunday morning by climbing over a barbed wired wall, prison chief Bambang Yudotomo told Reuters.

It was crowded that day, many visitors came to see the prisoners," said Yudotomo, "We didn't have enough guards. There were only 13 people on duty, whereas there are 511 inmates. This incident is (a result of) our carelessness.

MNA/Reuters



Wednesday, 9 January
View on today

- 7:00 am**
- 1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
- 7:25 am**
- 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am**
- 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am**
- 4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am**
- 5. မြူးမြူးကြွကြွယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက
- 8:00 am**
- 6. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

- 8:05 am**
- 7. ဆွာချောင်းရေလှောင်တံခံ
- 8:30 am**
- 8. International news
- 8:45 am**
- 9. Let's Go
- 4:00 pm**
- 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm**
- 2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm**
- 3. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ-ဒုတိယနှစ် (ဓာတုဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ဓာတုဗေဒ)
- 4:45 pm**
- 4. Song of national races
- 5:00 pm**
- 5. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား
- 5:15 pm**
- 6. Classical song
- 5:25 pm**
- 7. ရှုဖွယ်စုံလင်အာဆီယံအစီအစဉ်
- 5:35 pm**
- 8. ရသပေါ်လွင်သရုပ်ဆောင်လွင်ပြင်

- 6:00 pm**
- 9. Evening news
- 6:30 pm**
- 10. Weather report
- 6:35 pm**
- 11. မြန်မာ့ဓလေ့ရိုးရာလက်ရာ
- 7:00 pm**
- 12. "တစ်သက်စာ" (ထွန်းထွန်း(Examplez)သခင်) (ဒေါရိုက်တာ-ဝင်းထွန်းထွန်း)
- 7:25 pm**
- 13. တက်မြက်ပျော်ရွှင်အိမ်ထောင်ရှင်
- 7:50 pm**
- 14. The mirror images of the musical oldies
- 8:00 pm**
- 15. News
- 16. International news
- 17. Weather report
- 18. Franz hararay's magic planet
- 19. Myanmar video feature: "မာန်" (နိုင်နိုင်း၊မေသန်းနု၊စိုးမြတ်နန္ဒာ)(ဒေါရိုက်တာ-မောင်မောင်ဦး(စန်းရှိုက်))
- 20. The next day's programme



Wednesday, 9 January
Tune in today

- 8:30 am** Brief news
- 8:35 am** Music -Kids wanna rock
- 8:40 am** Perspectives
- 8:45 am** Music -Eenie Meenie
- 8:50 am** National news/Slogan
- 9:00 am** Music -Let your love go
- 9:05 am** International news
- 9:10 am** Music -You'll be mine
- 1:30 pm** News/ Slogan
- 1:40 pm** Lunch time music -Little wing -Sleeping child
- 9:00pm** Variations on a tune "Take me home country road"
- 9:10pm** Article
- 9:30pm** Music at your request -Over and over again -Cherry pink and apple blossom
- 9:45 pm** News /Slogan
- 10:00 pm** PEL

People's Desire

- ★ **We favour stability.**
- ★ **We favour peace.**
- ★ **We oppose unrest and violence.**

Minister looks into forest reserves in states and divisions

YANGON, 8 Jan — Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung looked into thriving 300 acres of teak plantations established in 2004, 800 acres of teak plantations established in 2005 and 50 acres of hard wood (Yinma) plantations grown in 2007 at Bago Yoma Greening Project in Kinmontaung forest reserve on 5 January.

At the briefing hall, officers of the Township Forest Department and Deputy Director U Kyi Soe briefed the minister on conservation of forest reserves and thriving plantations. After hearing the reports, the minister gave necessary instructions. The following day the minister and officials concerned inspected 500 acres of teak plantation started in 2004 in Thuyetan forest reserve of Padaung Township. Next, the minister and

party oversaw 33 acres of teak plantation established in 1974 in Yankhaw forest reserve in Taungup.

At the office of Taungup Forest Department, Staff Officer U Soe Than and Director U Than Myint briefed the minister and party on conser-

vation of forest reserves and the establishment of forest plantations.

Upon arrival at No 99 Saw Mill in Taungup, the minister inspected sawn timber, running of the saw mill and Moat timber jetty. The next day the minister and party held a meeting with service per-

sonnel of Myanmar Timber Enterprise and Forest Department at the office of the Deputy General Manager in Thandwe and discussed matters relating to the realization of the aims of the departments concerned.

Next, they looked into No 68 Saw Mill, 50

acres of teak plantation established in 1969, 50 acres in 1970 and 45 acres in 1971 in Thandwe model forest reserve. Afterwards, they inspected No 85 Saw Mill, Daungchaug Station on Yekyi-Ngathaingchaung-Gwa road, the forest plantation station

in Gwa and made cash donations to Thittaw Village Basic Education Primary School.

After that, the minister and party oversaw 10 acres of different kinds of wood (mahogany) established in 2007 and Malarkwin timber jetty in Yekyi Township.—MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung inspects teak plantation in a model forest reserve in Thandwe. — MNA

- ★ **RFA, VOA and BBC airing skyful of lies**
- ★ **RFA, VOA and BBC saboteurs, watch your step!**
- ★ **The public be warned of
killers in the air waves —
RFA, VOA and BBC**