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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

Visit will bring benefits to both countries, promote bilateral friendly relations

Myanmar PM

Two countries have cooperated with regional organizations for over 10 years

Brunei King

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Jan — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein paid a courtesy call on Brunei King Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah at Istana Nurul Iman Palace in Bandar Seri Begawan at 8.30 pm on 16 January.

At the call, they held a frank and cordial discussion on promoting friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries.

The Brunei King hosted a dinner in honour of the Myanmar goodwill delegation led by Prime Minister General Thein Sein at Green Room of

Istana Nurul Iman Palace at 8.45 pm.

Present at the dinner were Prime Minister General Thein Sein and party, the Brunei King and royal family members, Brunei Foreign Affairs Minister HRH Prince Mohammad Bolkiah and ministers, heads of the foreign embassies in Brunei, the Brunei ambassador to Myanmar, the Charge de Affaires ai of the Myanmar Embassy to Brunei and senior officials of Brunei.

Brunei King Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah extended greetings and

said prayers. He said that he was very pleased to meet his ASEAN friends; that the occasion to receive the Myanmar delegation was of utmost importance for Brunei; and that the Brunei government and the people warmly welcomed the Myanmar Prime Minister because it was the first visit of the Myanmar Prime Minister to Brunei.

He expressed his belief that the visit to Bandar Seri Begawan would make Myanmar Prime Minister become more friendly with Brunei and its people and (See page 9)



Prime Minister General Thein Sein shakes hands with Brunei King Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah.—MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets Brunei King Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah.—MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 19 January, 2008

Prime Minister's visit to Brunei further promotes ties between the two nations

Myanmar is dealing with the international community in friendship and amity. It is paying more attention to friendship and amity in dealing with neighbouring nations and fellow ASEAN nations. Leaders of Myanmar and nations in the region as well as ASEAN nations often exchange visits for development of various sectors including the economic sector.

Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein paid an official visit to Brunei Darussalam on 15 January at the invitation of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

Brunei is a nation that has friendly ties with Myanmar. As such, it always stands by Myanmar in times of emergency in the international arenas. As Brunei is the 7th highest trade partner of Myanmar among ASEAN nations the trade volume between the two nations is growing all the more.

The visit of Prime Minister General Thein Sein to Brunei is part of his frequent tours of ASEAN nations, and it will be able to further strengthen ties and promote economic cooperation between the two nations.

Being a member of ASEAN, Myanmar is actively participating in the drive for economic, social and cultural development of countries in the region through cooperation programme, which is an objective of ASEAN. It is sure that the exchange of visits between leaders of the two nations will further cement the existing friendly ties and promote economic cooperation.



Camera sales of Digital Vision 2008 at Blazon Department Store.—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

Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects sanitation, water supply facilities



Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects construction of waterworks in Ward 107 of Dagon Myothit (South) Township.—MNA

YANGON, 18 Jan —Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence together with Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and officials inspected dredging of Inya Lake on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, here, this morning.

After hearing reports on more storage of water in the lake in the rainy season, prevention against overflow of the lake and progress of dredging task presented by Head of Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation) Dr Tun Than Tun, Lt-Gen Myint Swe gave instructions on completion of tasks prior to the rainy season and beautifying of Inya lake, and looked into sanitation tasks.

On completion, a total of 578 million gallons of water will be stored in the lake.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party inspected pumping water to Kokkine water tank and construction of new waterworks with a capacity of one million

gallons being built in Yayku Waterworks in Mayangon Township, and gave instructions on timely completion of tasks in order to supply water to the townships.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe viewed production process of chlorine with the use of electro chlorinator.

Upon completion, it can supply 52 million gallons of water to the townships in Yangon including surrounding areas of University Avenue, Sangyoung, Kyimyindine, Dagon, Lanmadaw, Latha, Pabedan and Kyauktada Townships.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party inspected construction of the water supply station with a capacity of 100,000 gallons being implemented by Yangon Division Union Solidarity and Development Association at Ward 107 in Dagon Myothit (South) Township. Lt-Gen Myint Swe heard a report on supply of water in the township and gave necessary instructions.

On completion, the station will provide drinking water to the people of seven wards in the township.

MNA

Camera sales at Blazon Department Store

YANGON, 18 Jan—The Digital Vision 2008 camera sales, organized by Blazon Department Store, was launched at Blazon Department Store at the corner of U Wisara Road and Chindwin Road in Kamayut Township here this afternoon.

It was attended by those from Myanmar Photographic Society, mediamen, those from

Accel International Co Ltd, Advanced Vision Ltd, Blazon Department Store, Special Style Photo & Electronics, TMW Enterprise Ltd and guests.

The sale that kicked off today runs to 27 January. Items put on sale are Canon, Nikon, Sony and Panasonic brand digital cameras which can be purchased at a single place at reasonable price.

MNA

Funds raised for Phyto Cetana free clinic

YANGON, 18 Jan — A fund-raising ceremony of Phyto Cetana free clinic established by Thakayta Township Union Solidarity and Development Association took place in conjunction with a membership application submission ceremony at the office of the township USDA this morning.

First, USDA CEC

member Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin explained establishment of Phyto Cetana free clinics in the townships of Yangon and plans to, open more. K 3,820,000 was donated by 39 wellwishers and 52 USDA membership applications were presented to the CEC, who then presented the donors with certificates of honour. — MNA



Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, and Bulgaria's President Georgi Parvanov are seen during a ceremony of the opening of 'The Year of Russia' in Bulgaria in Sofia, Bulgaria, on 17 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET

Uganda returns favour by taking Kenya's refugees

MALABA (Uganda), 18 Jan— Two weeks after violence erupted in Kenya over a disputed election, refugees are still trickling over the border into Uganda to reverse a tide of thousands that have fled bloodshed in the other direction.

Looking tired and fearful as they crossed the grassy, invisible frontier between the two nations, the Kenyans joined those waiting for food aid in makeshift camps near the hilly town of Malaba.

Officials say around 6,000 refugees have so far crossed into Uganda, from where tens of thousands fled civil war and brutal dictatorship in the 1970s and 80s into Kenya, once regarded as a beacon of stability in the region.

MNA/Reuters

BA plane crash-lands at London's Heathrow Airport

LONDON 18 Jan— A British Airways plane crash-landed at London's Heathrow Airport on Thursday, slightly injuring 18 passengers and triggering an inquiry into why the *Boeing 777* flying in from Beijing landed short of the runway.

Fire engines smothered the aircraft in foam after the landing at the world's busiest international airport extensively damaged its wings and ripped off its undercarriage.

Aviation commentators said the fact that the plane only just cleared the perimeter fence, hit the ground well short of the runway and then slid to a halt

pointed to a massive loss of power in the final stages of landing.

The wheels of the plane, which had a routine maintenance check in December, were still in the field where it crashed, several hundred metres (yards) from the runway.

"I win the lottery today," Fernando Prado, one of the passengers, said after being safely evacuated by emergency chute from the wreckage.

BA declined to comment on reports of a loss of power. But it praised the pilot and crew for the way they handled the crisis.

MNA/Reuters



Emergency chutes are seen deployed from the British Airways Boeing 777 plane, seen in foreground, flying from China that landed short of the runway at London's Heathrow Airport, on 17 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET

Iran says Western nuclear pressure failing

TEHERAN, 18 Jan — Iran's chief nuclear negotiator said on Thursday the West had failed in efforts to put pressure on the Islamic Republic over its atomic activities.

The West fears Teheran is seeking an atom bomb and has imposed two sets of United Nations sanctions. Iran says it aims only to generate electricity.

"Those countries who so far have been after imposing sanctions and putting pressure on Iran have not achieved any success," chief nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili told the official *IRNA* news agency at the start of a visit to Beijing.

"Today, global developments and Iran's logical behaviour do not allow anybody to do this."

A US intelligence report last month said Iran stopped an active nuclear arms drive in 2003,

compounding international disagreement over the next steps regarding Iran. China and Russia, veto-wielding UN Security Council members, have balked at more sanctions resolutions on Teheran.

Jalili said Iran and China, which imports large amounts of oil from the Islamic state, enjoyed good relations.

Iran's OPEC governor, Hossein Kazempour Ardebili, said he did not believe the UN Security Council would be able to agree on new sanctions against Teheran.

"In my opinion it is unlikely that the Chinese and Russians would join a third resolution," he told the *Iran daily*. Any sanctions on investments in Iran's energy sector could endanger security of supply and hit consumer countries, he said. —*MNA/Reuters*

Insurgents kill three US soldiers, policeman in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 18 Jan— Three American soldiers were killed and two others wounded by insurgents' small arms fire in north of Baghdad, the US military said on Thursday.

The attack occurred when the soldiers were conducting operations in Salahudin Province on Wednesday, a military statement said.

Both wounded soldiers were transported to a military medical facility for treatment, the statement said.

In another incident a policeman was killed and seven people were injured in two insurgent attacks in the city of Tikrit, capital of Salahudin Province, a police officer in the province said on Thursday. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Five Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes on Gaza

GAZA CITY, 18 Jan—Five Palestinians were killed in Israeli air strikes on the Gaza Strip on Thursday, as Prime Minister Ehud Olmert vowed to keep up raids against gunmen in the Hamas-run territory.

In the first attack, Raad Abu Foull, 43, a commander in the Popular Resistance Committees militant group, was killed with his wife as they drove in the northern town of Beit Lahiya, medics said.

The military confirmed hitting a car transporting a "rocket-manufacturing cell".

A second strike on Thursday night targeted a car in the northern Gaza Strip that was carrying members of the radical Islamic Jihad movement, killing two of them, medical sources said.

However, the blast also hit a cart travelling behind the car, killing the woman who was driving it and seriously wounding her passenger, a child.

Two pedestrians were also hurt. —*Internet*

International News

Palestinians gather

around a damaged car

hit by an Israeli missile

strike.—INTERNET



Israeli troops kill West Bank militant leader

JENIN (West Bank), 18 Jan — Israeli troops shot dead a leader of the Islamic Jihad militant group in the occupied West Bank on Wednesday, Palestinian hospital officials and the Israeli Army said.

Israeli forces operating in the West Bank town of Qabatiya, near the city of Jenin, killed Walid Obeidi in a gunfight, Palestinian witnesses said.

Two other Islamic Jihad militants were wounded and arrested by the Israeli troops, they said.

An Israeli Army spokesman said Obeidi was killed during an exchange of fire with troops who came to arrest him.

Overnight in the West Bank city of Nablus and the Balata refugee camp, about 20 members of the Hamas Islamist group were arrested by Israeli troops, Palestinian security forces said.

Israeli forces frequently raid West Bank towns in search of militants suspected of involvement in attacks against Israelis. — *MNA/Reuters*

Chavez says US, Colombia plot to kill him

MANAGUA, 18 Jan—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez escalated a spat between Caracas and Bogota on Wednesday by accusing Colombia and its US allies of plotting to kill him as the nations sparred over his ties with leftist rebels.

Colombia swiftly responded demanding the self-styled socialist show respect and halt his verbal attacks on the government of President Alvaro Uribe, who is Washington’s closest ally in South America.

“In Bogota, there are American officials and Colombian military officials conspiring against Venezuela, conspiring to kill me, conspiring to start an armed conflict between Colombia and Venezuela,” Chavez said during a visit to Nicaragua.

Chavez has repeatedly accused his arch-enemy Washington of plotting to assassinate him, an accusation it denies. The Venezuelan leader said Colombian officials were now cooperating with US efforts against him.

MNA/Reuters

Blair visit to Canada draws protesters

OTTAWA, 18 Jan — About 30 demonstrators gathered outside a hotel in Canada’s Toronto on Thursday to protest a visit by former British prime minister Tony Blair.

Protesters rallied against the wars and occupations in Iraq, Afghanistan and Palestine. The demonstrators also denounced Blair’s decision to support US President George W Bush’s invasion of Iraq in 2003.

They said Blair misled the British public and world opinion by falsely claiming along with Bush that former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction. The demonstration was organized by the Toronto Coalition to Stop the War, a group of more than 50 labour, faith and community organizations.—MNA/Reuters

Firefighters and soldiers look for survivors among the rubble of a collapsed building in Khenitra, Morocco on 17 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET



New York City reports spike in flu

NEW YORK, 18 Jan — Emergency department visits for influenza-related symptoms jumped 19 per cent in New York since November, the city’s Department of Health announced Wednesday, urging people to get flu shots.

“Influenza is here, but it is not too late to protect yourself and your family,” said City Health Commissioner Thomas R Frieden. “Influenza can be deadly for older people and young children.”

He urged those who get influenza to cover their cough and stay home if they have a fever.

The Health Department calls for vaccination for adults age 50 and over, especially those over 65, children between six months and five years and people with chronic medical conditions, health care workers, and pregnant women, because they are at especially high risk of complications and death.

MNA/Xinhua

China’s longest river at lowest in 142 years

BEIJING, 18 Jan — China’s longest river, the Yangtze, is suffering from a severe drought this year with water levels in some areas falling to the lowest in 142 years, state media said on Thursday.

China is suffering its worst drought in a decade, which has left millions of people short of drinking water and has shrunk reservoirs and rivers.

Hardest hit are large swathes of the usually humid south, where water levels on several major rivers have plunged to historic lows in recent months.

On 8 January, the Yangtze water level at Hankou plunged to 13.98 metres (46 feet), the lowest since records began in 1866, the *China Daily* said.

MNA/Reuters

At least eight dead in Kenya election protests

NAIROBI, 18 Jan — At least eight people were killed on Friday in violence during opposition protests in Kenya over a disputed presidential election, witnesses and a senior official said.

Reuters journalists in Nairobi’s Kibera slum, an opposition stronghold, said they saw four dead bodies after battles between protesters and police. Authorities in Narok, in southwest Kenya, said four died in ethnic clashes over the election.—INTERNET

People flee from tear gas fired by police during clashes in Nairobi, Kenya, on 18 Jan, 2008.

INTERNET



Search for Pakistani troops missing after attack

ISLAMABAD, 18 Jan—Pakistani security forces were searching on Thursday for 15 paramilitary soldiers who went missing when hundreds of militants stormed a fort in the northwest of the country, a military spokesman said.

Militants have been blamed for a string of attacks on security forces in recent months, compounding a sense of crisis in the nuclear-armed country as President Pervez Musharraf has struggled to hold power in the face of protests from opponents.

In the latest incident, unidentified attackers fired three rockets near a Pakistani Air Force engineering base 75 kilometres (45 miles) northwest of the capital, Islamabad, on Thursday but no one was hurt, military officials said.

Early on Wednesday, about 200 militants attacked the Sara Rogha fort in South Waziristan on the Afghan border. They captured it after blowing up one of its walls, the military said.

The military initially said 40 militants and seven soldiers were killed and 20 soldiers were missing, but five of the missing men were later reported to have reached villages in the area, said military spokesman Major-General Athar Abbas.

MNA/Reuters

Canada puts US, Israel on torture watch list

OTTAWA, 18 Jan — Canada’s Foreign Ministry has put the United States and Israel on a watch list of countries where prisoners risk being tortured and also classifies some US interrogation techniques as torture, according to a document obtained by Reuters on Thursday.

The revelation is likely to embarrass the minority Conservative government, which is a staunch ally of both the United States and Israel.

The document—part of a training course on torture awareness given to diplomats—mentions the US detention facility at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba where a Canadian man is being held.

The man, Omar Khadr, is the only Canadian in Guantanamo. His defenders said the document made a mockery of Ottawa’s claims that Khadr was not being mistreated.

Under “definition of torture” the document lists US interrogation techniques such as forced nudity, isolation, sleep deprivation and blindfolding prisoners.

A spokesman for Foreign Minister Maxime Bernier tried to distance Ottawa from the document.

“The training manual is not a policy document and does not reflect the views or policies of this government,” he said.

The document was provided to Amnesty International as part of a court case it has launched against Ottawa over the treatment of detainees in Afghanistan.

Khadr has been in Guantanamo Bay for five years. He is accused of killing a US soldier during a clash in Afghanistan in 2002, when he was 15.

Right groups say Khadr should be repatriated to Canada, an idea that Prime Minister Stephen Harper rejects on the grounds that the man faces serious charges.

MNA/Reuters

World Bank anti-corruption chief resigns

WASHINGTON, 18 Jan — The head of the World Bank's anti-corruption unit, Suzanne Rich Folsom, resigned on Wednesday to rejoin the private sector, a Bank spokesman said.

Folsom, a US ethics lawyer, had been dogged by controversy since her appointment in 2005 by former Bank president Paul Wolfowitz, who resigned in June amid an ethics scandal involving his companion.

World Bank spokesman Marwan Muasher emphasized that Folsom had not been forced from her position.

Questions within the World Bank arose over whether Folsom's appointment was tied to her political connections with the Republican Party and escalated as her department became more aggressive in response to a controversial anti-corruption campaign by Wolfowitz, a former US deputy defence secretary and an architect of the Iraq war.

"I want to make it clear that she was not fired, she was not forced out. She has a very good offer from the private sector and she chose to take it," Muasher told Reuters.— MNA/Reuters

OPEC hopes oil drops below \$91 on recession fears

SINGAPORE, 18 Jan—Oil slid below 91 US dollars on Wednesday to the lowest in over three weeks, ahead of a slate of oil industry data that could show more signs of possible weakening demand and as OPEC repeated its pledge to lift output if needed.

US light crude for February delivery fell to a low of 90.85 US dollars and was down 91 cents at 90.99 US dollars barrel by 0849 GMT. It had tumbled by 2.30 US dollars on Tuesday on a surprise fall in US retail sales in December and a record quarterly loss at the largest US bank Citigroup Inc London Brent crude for February, which expires later on Wednesday, was down 85 cents to 90.13 US dollars a barrel, after falling to a low of 89.75 US dollars earlier.— MNA/Reuters



This undated picture provided by US Postal Service shows a stamp with images of Chinese lanterns and rat. To celebrate the Year of Rat of the Chinese lunar calendar which falls on 7 Feb, 2008, US Postal Service issued the stamp on 9 Jan, 2008.—XINHUA

Vietnam faces aviation staff shortage

HANOI, 17 Jan—Vietnamese airlines encounter a serious shortage of pilots, stewardesses and engineers, local newspaper *Transport* reported on Wednesday.

The national flag carrier Vietnam Airlines has over 1,500 stewards and stewardesses, but it needs additional 500. The state-run carrier, currently employing 300 Vietnamese pilots and 150 foreign ones, needs additional 40-50 pilots each year to meet its growth.

Joint stock carrier Pacific Airlines, with almost 100 per cent of its pilots being foreigners, will annually send 52 Vietnamese pilots abroad for training, starting in 2008. Vietjet Air, the country's first

private airline, finds it very difficult to recruit staff because it takes at least 3.5 years for a trainee to become an assistant pilot, and some 10 years an experienced pilot.

MNA/Xinhua

Tourist arrivals in Indonesia below target

JAKARTA, 17 Jan—The Indonesian Government said on Wednesday the number of tourist arrivals in the country was below the target of six million in 2007 but it remains satisfied with the result.

Indonesia was visited by 5.5 million tourists last year and the figure hit the 10-year high, according to Minister of Culture and Tourism Jero Wacik.

The 2007 figure beats the previous record high of 5.3 million in 2004, he said during the opening of a national conference on tourism here.

"For 2008, we expect to receive seven million foreign tourists and with hard work and positive thinking, we are confident that we can achieve that," the minister said.

MNA/Xinhua

Trade grows 40% between ASEAN, S-W China

KUNMING, 18 Jan — The trade between southwest China's border province of Yunnan and ASEAN countries reached 3.03 billion US dollars last year, indicating an annual growth of nearly 40 percent, local Customs statistics show.

The Chinese province, bordering Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam, exported 2.17 billion dollars worth

products — mostly machinery and electronic products and fertilizers — to ASEAN or the Association of South-East Asian Nations, in 2007, up 32.9 percent year-on-year, statistics with the Kunming Customs show.

Vietnam is the largest trading partner of Yunnan among 10 ASEAN countries last year, with the bilateral trade rising drastically by

90.9 percent to reach 970 million dollars, statistics show.

The trade with ASEAN took up the biggest share of the province's total trade with other countries and regions in 2007, or 34.5 percent.

"ASEAN has become the most dynamic market for Yunnan," a Customs spokesman said.

MAN/Xinhua

ECONOMIC NEWS

Survey shows S'pore workers can expect 5% salary increase this year



Office workers in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 18 Jan—According to ECA International's Salary Trends Survey 2007-2008, workers in Asia can expect the highest

salary increases this year. ECA International is the world's largest membership organisation for human resources, serving a network of over 4,000 HR

professionals in 71 countries. Its survey contains information collected from multinational companies about actual salary increases for last year and predicted increases for this year. The results have indicated that Singapore workers could expect salary increases of 5 percent.

While this is below the regional average of 7.3 percent, it is still up from last year's 4.5 percent.

It is also a reflection of the longstanding trend of rising salary increases in Singapore.—Internet



A vendor sells traditional Korean food at a restaurant at tourist spot Namdaemun Market in Seoul on 17 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET

Israel test-fires long-range missile for propulsion system test

JERUSALEM, 17 Jan— Israel’s security establishment on Thursday successfully fired a long-range ballistic missile, testing a rocket propulsion system as part of its missile development program, local media reported.

According to a Jerusalem Post report, the missile was test fired Thursday morning from the Palmahim Air Force Base in the centre of the

country. “A successful missile launch was carried out within the framework of examining rocket propulsion,” the Defence Ministry later said in a brief statement to the media.

However, it refused to provide details concerning the type of missile and the purpose it served.

The Palmahim base is the launch pad for a wide-range of Israel’s missiles,

including the Arrow Missile Defence System and the Shavit satellite launcher, which is an offshoot of the long-range Jericho surface-to-surface missile.

In light of the satisfactory results, the military will review the new system’s incorporation in its various missiles, according to the Jerusalem Post report.

Internet



Policemen look at the wreckage of two buses that collided near Dhaka, on 17 Jan, 2008. At least 20 people were killed and 60 others were injured when two buses collided head-on at a Bangladesh highway on Thursday, police and doctors said.—INTERNET

Militants capture Pakistani fort, 47 dead

WANA (Pakistan), 17 Jan — Hundreds of militants in northwest Pakistan attacked and captured a paramilitary fort early on Wednesday, and 40 militants and seven soldiers were killed and 20 soldiers missing, the military said.

The militants attacked the fort in the South Waziristan Region on the Afghan border at about mid-

night on Tuesday and fighting went on for hours, military spokesman Major-General Athar Abbas said. “About 200 miscreants attacked from different directions,” Abbas said. “They were able to breach one of the walls of the fort. In the process, there were about 40 militants dead and seven FC personnel were reported killed,” he said,

referring to the Frontier Corps paramilitary force.

Fifteen soldiers escaped and 20 were missing, he said. A spokesman for the militants, Maulvi Omar, said they had killed 16 soldiers and captured 12 in the attack.

MNA/Reuters

Syria rejects Saudi criticism over Lebanon role

DAMASCUS, 18 Jan— Syria hit back at Saudi Arabia on Wednesday for criticizing its role in Lebanon, saying it could not force its Lebanese allies to accept a solution to the

political crisis there.

“Dealing with Syria as if it was still in Lebanon or as if its allies are a tool represents an insult to a large proportion of the Lebanese,” Information Minister Mohasen Bilal told reporters.

“Reaching consensus in Lebanon is a joint Arab responsibility.

Saudi Arabia plays a big role in Lebanon.

It has allies who boast about their alliance with Saudi Arabia,” Bilal said.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal said this week that Damascus should use its influence with its allies in the

Lebanese opposition to pass an Arab League plan to fill a vacuum in the presidency and form a functioning government.

The exchange is the latest in a series of disagreements between the two countries relating to Lebanon ahead of an Arab summit in Damascus in March. Egypt, another US Arab ally, has also criticized Syria over Lebanon. Saudi Arabia backs Lebanon’s pro-Western political majority headed by Saad al-Hariri. He is the son of former premier Rafik al-Hariri, who was assassinated in Beirut in 2005.—MNA/Reuters

Gaza patients to receive medical treatment in Jordan

AMMAN, 17 Jan — A group of Gaza patients will soon arrive in Amman to have medical treatment in Jordanian hospitals, head of Jordan’s Diplomatic Bureau at the Palestinian Authority Yehya Qarraleh said on Wednesday.

The group includes 21 patients suffering from dangerous diseases such as cancer, cardiac diseases and kidney failure, Qarraleh said in a statement, without disclosing when patients will arrive in Amman.

This will be the second group of Gaza patients whom Jordan’s King Abdullah has decided to receive and have treated in Jordan.

On 4 January, the first group of 21 Gaza patients arrived in Jordan for medical treatment, which was paid for by the Jordanian monarch.

MNA/Xinhua



People gathered in the building where a suicide attacker detonated a bomb in Peshawar, Pakistan on 17 Jan, 2008.

INTERNET



A glacier seen from the ice fjord on the Norwegian Arctic archipelago of Svalbard.

INTERNET

Cars in road grow record 9% in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 17 Jan — The number of cars on Singapore roads sharply rose to almost 515,000 last year, a record increase of 9 per cent, as far fewer vehicles were scrapped or exported, local media reported on Wednesday.

The increase was three times the rate prescribed by the country’s Certificate of Entitlement (COE) system, which aims to control increase of car numbers to counteract the issue of congestion, said the English daily *The Straits Times*.

While new car sales fell by almost 9 per cent, far fewer vehicles were either scrapped or exported, leading to the record increase, *The Straits Times* cited the latest figures from the Land Transport Authority.

Just over 64,000 cars were taken off the road last year, 23 per cent fewer than in 2006.

The report said last year’s unusually high growth in the number of cars on the road is expected to have a profound impact on future supplies of COEs.

As a result, the car industry is bracing itself for a contraction. New car buyers in Singapore are required to spend several thousand Singapore dollars to buy a COE, which permits vehicle to be driven on the road for a period of ten years. — MNA/Xinhua

Increasing supply of fish and prawn in Central Sanpya Fish Market

Tin Win Lay (Kyimyindine)

Myanmar is a land of natural lakes, rivers and creeks. About 200,000 viss of various species of freshwater and sea fish and prawn are marketed daily to Central Sanpya Fish Market and company sale centres in Kyimyindine Township,

company sale centres for public knowledge about daily distribution of fish and prawn to the markets in various townships.

Freshwater prawn and various species of fish from the fish farms in Maubin, Bogale, Kyaiklat, Nyaungdon, Pantanaw,

Division are marketed daily by boat and by land to Central Sanpya Fish Market.

In addition, fish from the fish farms in Htantabin, Kawhmu, Thongwa, Kayan, Kyauktan and Kungyangon townships in Yangon

three trawlers carrying about 100,000 viss of sea fish were approaching the port. We learnt that the prices of fish would fall that day.

When interviewed, Secretary of Central Sanpya Market Administrative Com-



On average, a fish weighs five viss.



"More fish and prawn are marketed this dry season, and the fish prices are cheaper than last year." (U Soe Thein, Secretary of Central Sanpya Market Administrative Committee)

Fish is plentiful in Central Sanpya Fish Market.

Yangon Division.

Kyimyindine Fish Market is made up of Central Sanpya Fish Market sale centres under the Markets Department of Yangon City Development Committee along with MMG, Sanpya Shwe Ngar, Myanmar Mann and Wah Wah Win sale centres and other company sale centres. The markets are busy with trade every day.

A media group from the Kyemon Daily on 14 January interviewed the personnel of the Central Sanpya Fish Market and



Pathein, Labutta, Kyaunggon, Mawlamyinegyun and Ngathainggyaung townships in Ayeyawady Division and from the fish farms in Waw, Thanatpin, Nyaunglebin and DaikU townships in Bago

Division is transported by land to the market every day.

Sea prawn and various species of fish from Myeik, Dawei and Kawthoung townships are transported to Yangon. During the trip, we saw

mittee U Soe Thein said, "More fish and prawn are marketed this dry season, and the fish prices are cheaper than last year."

Translation: MS
Kyemon: 16-1-2008

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MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Jan — The State Peace and Development Council has appointed Professor/Head of Department (Child Health and Dental Care Department) Professor Dr Myo Win of University of Dental Medicine (Yangon) of the Medical Science Department of the Ministry of Health as Rector of the same university on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties. — MNA

Minister inspects development tasks in Kayah State

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Jan—The opening ceremony of new office building of Meisei Township Union Solidarity and Development Association was held there in Kaya State on 17 January, attended by USDA CEC member (Kayah State in-charge) Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, departmental officials and local people.

First, CEC member of USDA Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung gave a speech on the occasion.

U Tun Kyaw of local ethnic group handed over related documents of office building to secretary of Kayah State USDA U Kyaw Swe and the secretary expressed gratitude.

Afterwards, U Tun Kyaw of local ethnic group, chairman of Meisei Township Peace and Development Council U Aung Lwin and secretary of Kayah State USDA formally opened the new office building by cutting a ribbon.

Next, the minister met members of Meisei Township USDA and presented K 7 million to an executive of township USDA for undertaking development tasks.

Afterwards, the minister met executives and members of Pasawng Township USDA at Pasawng Township and presented K 1.5 million to chairman of Pasawng Township SPDC for generating electric power, renovation of Dhamma Thiddhi monastery and carrying out development tasks.

Next, the minister looked into construction of Basic Education High School and presented K 2.2 million to headmaster U Khin Maung Htwe.

The minister met executives and members at the office of Bawlake district USDA and gave instructions. Then, he presented K 2.5 million for development tasks and K 25 million for Bawlake basic education high school to responsible persons.

Next, he proceeded to the office of Shadaw Township USDA where he met with executives and members there. He gave instructions to carry out development tasks and presented K 1.8 million for undertaking them.—MNA

Shwe Naing Ngan Journal in circulation

YANGON, 18 Jan — Volume VI No 7 of Shwe Naing Ngan Journal came out today.

Included in the journal are informative and educative works of literati including Saya Zaw Gyi, current local and foreign news, articles on nation-building endeavours, religious edifices, nuclear plants and sale and production of automobiles. The journal also carries a wide array of colourful photos.

Copies of the journal are available at Sarpay Beikman Book Shop on Merchant Street, Printing and Press Enterprise Book Shop on Theinbyu Road and Pan Shwe Pyi Book Shop. And contact is to be made to No 228, Theinbyu Street in Botahtaung Township (Tel 01-382070) for sending manuscripts.—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein and party visit Shell Petroleum oil field in Brunei

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Jan — The Myanmar delegation led by Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein visited Shell Petroleum oil field in Seria region of Brunei Darussalam at 9 am on 16 January.

At the hall of Oil and Gas Discovery Centre (OGDC), Deputy Managing Director Mr Haji Zainal Abidin Hj Md Ali reported on exploration of oil in Seria region of Brunei beginning 1915, and replied to the queries raised by the Prime Minister and ministers.

At the OGDC Exhibition Hall, the Prime Minister and party viewed the documentary photos on exploration of oil, booths on geographical structure of the oil field, the drilling



Myanmar delegation led by Prime Minister General Thein Sein and responsible personnel of Seria Crude Oil Terminal (SCOT) pose for a documentary photo. — MNA

platform and equipment and electricity exhibition.

The Prime Minister and party posed for documentary photo together with responsible persons of OGDC and

staff.

At Seria Crude Oil Terminal (SCOT), Asset Manager Haji Mohammad bin Haji Jaya and Head of Operations (SCOT) Mr Henry Reerink of Brunei

Shell Petroleum Co Sdn Bhd explained crude oil production and refining process, storage of oil and future tasks. Next, Mr Henry Reerink replied to the queries raised by the Prime Minister and the ministers. Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party visited the Computer Control Room.

They also visited the Oil Refinery at Seria Crude Oil Terminal and oil tanks in a motorcade.

Next, the Prime Minister presented gifts to the Asset Manager. The Prime Minister and party posed for documentary photo together with officials of SCOT.

At the Cendra-wasih Ballroom of Brunei Shell Recreation Club, Brunei Shell Petroleum hosted a luncheon to the Prime Minister and party.

After the luncheon, Deputy Managing Director Mr Haji Zainal Abidin Hj Md Ali presented gifts to the Prime Minister.

In the afternoon, the Prime Minister and party went back to Empire Hotel & Country Club.

At 3.30 pm, they held discussion with Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB) at the fifth floor of Empire Hotel & Country Club.

Also present on the occasion were Myanmar delegation member ministers, Brunei Minister of Health Honourable Pehin Haji Suyai, BEDB Acting Chairman Dato Paduka Timothy Ong, Sungai Liang Authority Chairman Yam Pengiran Kerma Jaya Pengiran

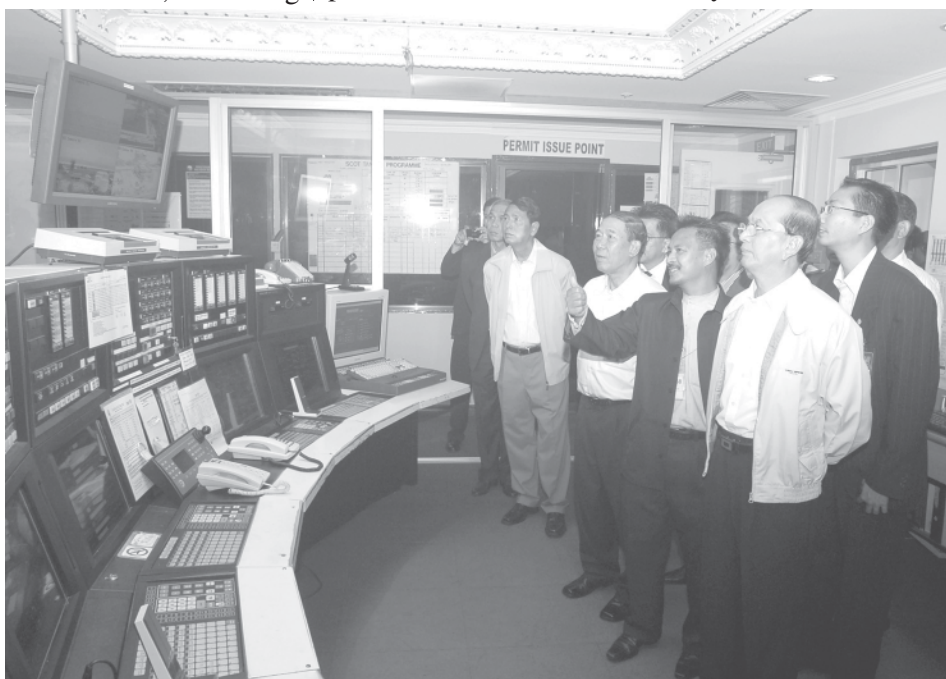
Kamareu Zaman and members, Myanmar entrepreneurs and officials.

First, BEDB Acting Chairman Dato Paduka Timothy Ong explained economic development of Brunei Darussalam, progress of joint venture tasks carried out in cooperation with foreign countries and future tasks.

Next, the Acting Chairman replied to the questions raised by the Prime Minister and party.

Later, Prime Minister General Thein Sein presented gifts to the Acting Chairman.

MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein and party visit OGDC Exhibition Hall of Shell Petroleum Oil Field in Brunei. — MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein hears presentation of Mr Haji Zainal Abidin Hj Md Ali, Deputy Managing Director of Oil and Gas Discovery Centre (OGDC). — MNA

MDA Conference on 23 Jan

YANGON, 18 Jan — The 28th Myanmar Dental Association Conference and 9th FDI-MDA Joint Educational Meeting will be organized at Traders Hotel, here, from 23 to 26 January.

Health professionals who will attend the conference are to register at the hotel from 9 am to 3 pm on 21 and 22 January. Papers reading session, ceremony to pay respects to older persons, sports events, election of new executive members, and opening of booths of medical companies will also take place.—MNA

Visit will bring benefits to both countries, promote bilateral friendly...

(from page 1)

would be happy with it; that he also hoped that the delegation would witness the ongoing steps for progress of the nation; and that it was an opportunity to repay gratitude for Myanmar people's hospitality to all Bruneian people who had been on a visit to Myanmar.

He said that it had been about 15 years since Myanmar and Brunei established diplomatic ties; that throughout the period, the bilateral relations have been promoted through personal friendship and bilateral cooperation; and that at first the cooperation was initiated in the health, education and technological sectors.

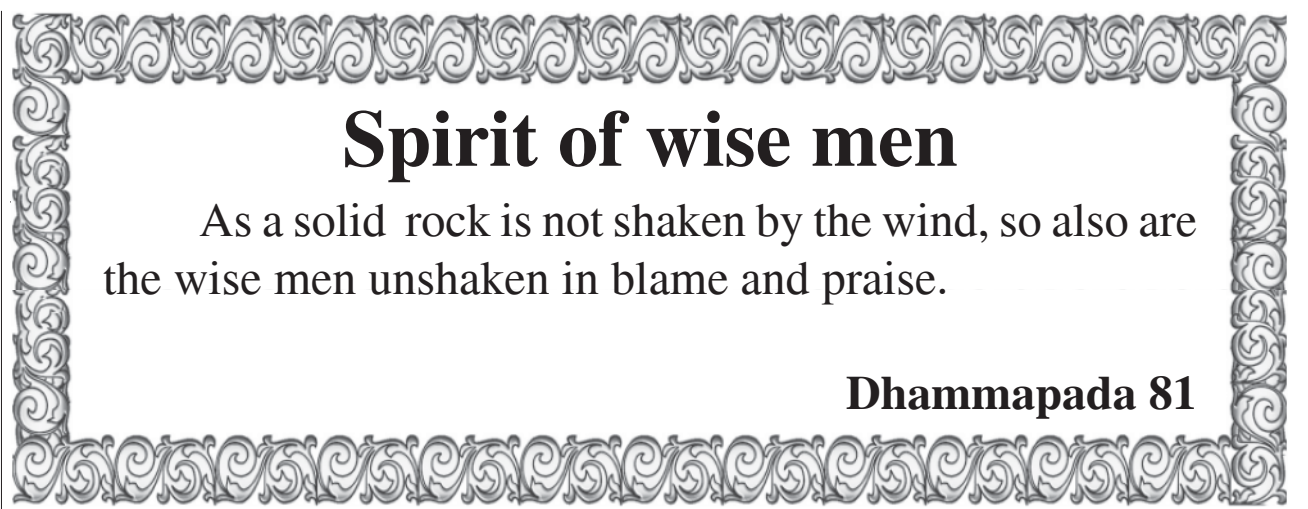
He said that he was glad with such bilateral cooperation; that he believed that those basic foundations would contribute towards all-round development of the bilateral cooperation; that in particular, bilateral cooperation for improving the abilities of the peoples was important; that according to the ASEAN regional cooperation programme, Brunei pledged that it would provide assistance under the programmes laid down with friendly nations and bi-

lateral programmes; and that the nation would continue those programmes in future.

He expressed thanks for the participation of Myanmar people, who are working in Brunei, in the tasks for development of Brunei, he said.

He said that the two countries had cooperated with regional organizations for more than 10 years; and that he was proud of the fact that ASEAN Charter had been signed in Singapore the previous year.

He said that he hoped there were two of the points to be implemented regarding the ASEAN Charter; that the first point was to fulfil the commitments of the member countries for promotion of regional cooperation; that it was more important for ASEAN to deal with the challenges; that the second point was that the Charter encouraged the cooperation not only for the economic sector but also for the improvement of the political, cultural and social sectors; and that the Charter provided better opportunities not only for practical cooperation between member countries but for exchanging views and experiences on the concerns



Spirit of wise men

As a solid rock is not shaken by the wind, so also are the wise men unshaken in blame and praise.

Dhammapada 81



Prime Minister General Thein Sein speaks words of thanks at the dinner.—MNA

of all member countries.

If so, ASEAN would make significant contribution towards the objectives of the UN for peace, prosperity and development in the international affairs in future, he said.

He said that at the same time it was required to seek opportunities to improve the bilateral cooperation that had existed for 15 years.

He said that he was pleased with the opportunity to receive the Myanmar Prime Minister in the nation because the visit opened the door to these opportunities; and that he thanked for the visit and wished the Myanmar Prime Minister a good time in Brunei.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein said that he thanked the Brunei

King for the warm welcome and hospitality to the Myanmar delegation; that he was very glad to have an opportunity to pay a visit to Brunei, a pleasant nation; that in addition he believed the visit would bring benefits to the two countries and contribute much to promotion of bilateral friendly relations; and that he thanked the

dinner.

The Brunei King hosted the dinner in honour of the Myanmar Prime Minister and party.

During the dinner, a Brunei modern music band presented entertainment programmes.

Next, Prime Minister General Thein Sein and party returned to the Empire Hotel & Country Club.—MNA



Brunei King Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah extends greetings at the dinner hosted in honour of Myanmar delegation.

MNA

Maj-Gen Khin Zaw supervises development tasks in Magway Division, Chin State

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Jan — Maj-Gen Khin Zaw of the Ministry of Defence and Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe inspected searching of the axis for construction of Natmauk-Ywataw road by Public Works of Magway Division on 15 January.

They also inspected regional developments and maintenance of Pyawbwe-Natmauk road. At the briefing hall of Ywamon in Natmauk Township, he heard reports of officials on steps taken for district-to-district road project No 1 and measures carried out on 132 miles and 6 furlongs long Pyawbwe-Ywamon-



Maj-Gen Khin Zaw inspects roadworks on Pathein-Monywa Highway.—MNA

Natmauk road section.

Maj-Gen Khin Zaw looked into construction of the embankment of Dagun (Chaungshay) Dam Project in Seikpyu

Township. At the briefing hall of Pathein-Monywa Road (Kazunma-Monywa road section), he heard a report on construction of the new road.

In Saw, Maj-Gen

Khin Zaw and Chin State Peace and Development Council Chairman Brig-Gen Hone Ngai heard feasibility study conducted for construction of the district-to-district road section.

Maj-Gen Khin

Zaw and party met departmental personnel, members of social organizations and townsenders at the office of Kanpetlet Township PDC and heard a report on development of the township presented by

officials.

Later, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw urged them to exert the efforts for cultivation of tea and other crops, monsoon and summer paddy and raising of mythuns in the region.

MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and wife being welcomed by Thai Defence and Army Attache Colonel Ekachai Harnpoonvittaya, Naval Attache Capt Choomsak Nakwijit and Air Attache Group Capt Cherdpong Iamsamut at ceremony to mark Thai Royal Army Day on 18 January.—MNA

Sein Le Shwe Pyi comes out

YANGON, 18 Jan—Sein Le Shwe Pyi News Journal has come out today.

It carries articles about reduction of greenhouse gas by producing electric power from garbage, Myanmar stands fifth in groundnut cultivation, construction of vegetable market in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana, public limited company to be established for export of agricultural produce.

The journal also covers local news, international economic news,

cultivation methods of mushroom and rape seed for farmers, *Good Habit* article and criminal news.

The journal is available at Sar Pay Beikman bookshop on Merchant Street, Printing and Publishing Enterprise bookshop on Theinbyu Street, Pan Shwe Pyi bookshop and manuscripts can be sent to Sein Le Shwe Pyi Journal Printing and Publishing Enterprise office No 228 Theinbyu Street, Botahtaung Township, Yangon (Tel: 01-382070).—MNA

Horizon League Basketball Tournament continues

YANGON, 18 Jan—The Myanmar Basketball Federation and Horizon Int'l Education Center jointly organized the second round of Horizon League Basketball Tournament at Kyaikkasan Basketball Gymnasium, here, today.

At the matches, Cow Boy team hammered WHO team 100-36 points; Red

Star team beat Last Vampire team 74-47 points; KSS edged out the Guyts 63-54 points; Shadows team crashed GB team 77-36 points; and Furious team won over CCY 82-72.

The tournament continues tomorrow noon at the same venue.

NLM

Gems and Jade Sales of UMEHL

YANGON, 18 Jan—The Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited started its 24th Gems and Jade Sales for 2008 at Myanma Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here this morning.

Present on the occasion were Managing Director Maj-Gen Win Than of UMEHL, members of the Board of Director and local and foreign merchants.

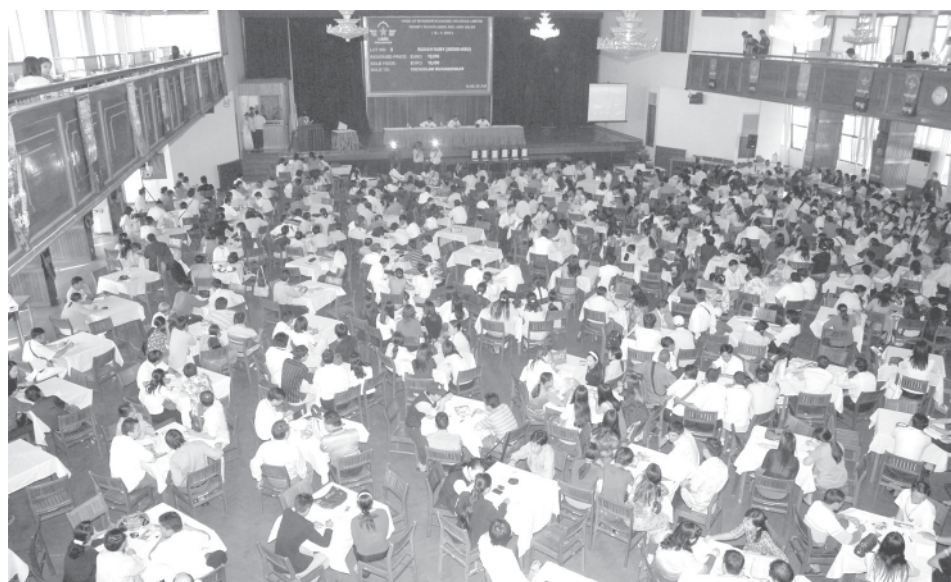
Merchants viewed gems and jade from 15 to 17 January. And officials examined bargain forms this morning.

After giving a speech, UMEHL

Managing Director Maj-Gen Win Than formally opened the sales.

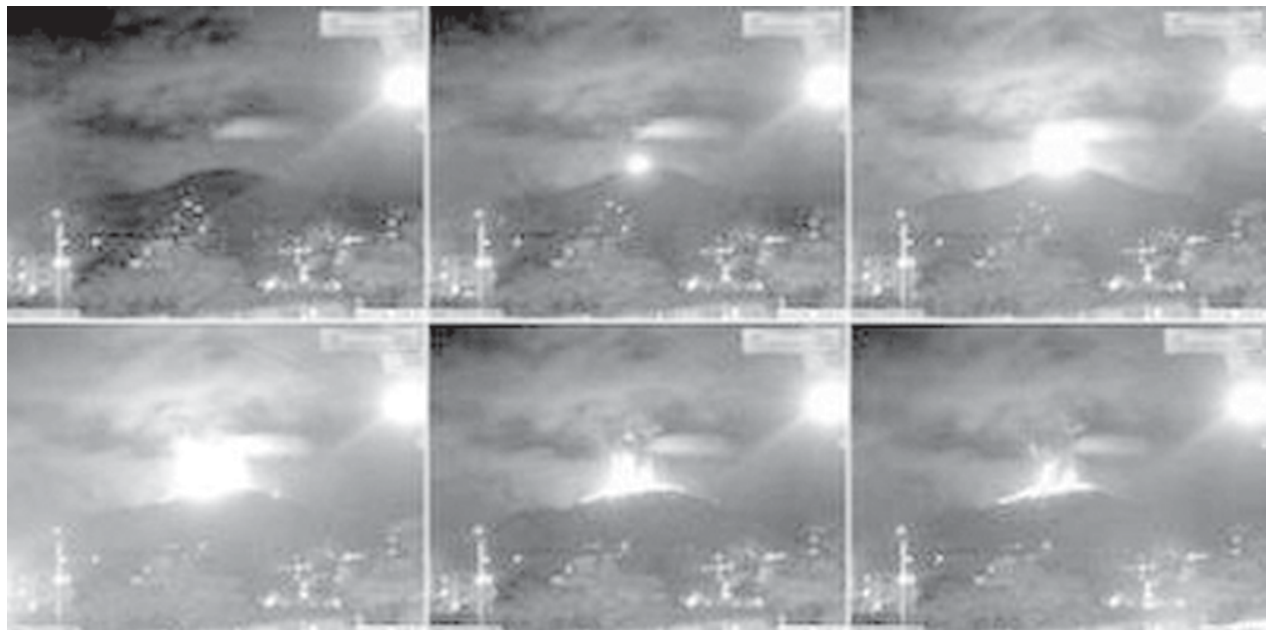
Altogether 247 gem lots have been sold through bargain and auction systems. The sale of jade through bargain system continues.

Managing Director Maj-Gen Win Than and members of the Board of Directors presented gifts to the merchants who offered the highest prices. Jade lots will be sold through bargain system tomorrow. A total of 737 local and 281 foreign merchants attended the sales.—MNA



24th Gems and Jade Sales 2008 of UMEHL in progress.—MNA

Images of the Day



A combination picture shows the Galeras volcano erupting in front of Pasto city on 17 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET



Ren Xiaolei (R), who has won the 23rd China Drama Plum Blossom Award, spits fire during a performance in Changle, Fujian Province, on 15 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET



A dermatologist examines a patients leg. US researchers have discovered a new virus they believe may be linked to a rare but extremely lethal type of skin cancer, a study released on Thursday said.—INTERNET

Berlin burglar finds corpse calls police

BERLIN, 18 Jan—A Berlin burglar' break-in took an unexpected turn when he stumbled upon a corpse and felt compelled to call the police.

“He called to say he’d just broken into a flat and found a dead body,” said a spokeswoman for Berlin police on Thursday. “He gave the address of the place and then hung up.”

Officers discovered the 64-years-old resident of the dead in his bderoom. The man had passed away about two weekds age, and authorities are not treating the death as suspicious.

The burglar has not been haeard of since. Local media said he fled the flat empty-handed, but police cloud not confirm this.

MAN/Reuters

Internet boosts organized crime in Australia

CANBERRA, 18 Jan—The Australian Crime Commission (ACC) said on Thursday that Internet technology has given organized criminals unprecedented powers to operate “at arm’s length” from their victims and across national borders.

A new publication issued by the ACC said crime groups are easily linked with terrorist groups, exchanging information and skills, and professional agents and organizations are increasingly being implicated in crime.

However, the Australian community was largely unaware of the widespread of organized crime, ACC chief Alastair Milroy said.

In launching a declassified publication in Australia for distribution to businesses and the wider public, Milroy said drug trafficking and money laundering were common

activities among organized crime groups, but cyber crime including identity theft and fraud were on the rise.

“It’s very important to remember that what we are really talking about here is substantial planning and organization at a very sophisticated level,” the *Australian Associated Press* quoted Milroy as said.

The private security, pharmaceutical and motor vehicle industries were among those typically targeted by crime gangs, with financial and insurance institutions now more vulnerable thanks to the internet, Milroy said.

Organized crimes is estimated to cost the Australian economy around 10 billion Australian dollars (8.9 billion US dollars) every years.

MNA/Xinhua



Ace Bayou’s new fiber optic X Rocker 4.1 True Surround Sound chair, debuting at CES, provides gamers a true surround sound experience. Designed to provide players with a better sense of direction through specific audio clues, the X Rocker 4.1 transforms games like Halo when players can hear their enemies approaching from behind or from the side. The X Rocker 4.1 also has removable speakers and can be daisy chained for a full interactive, gaming experience.— INTERNET

ADVERTISEMENT

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV XIANG FENG VOY NO (8003)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XIANG FENG VOY NO (8003) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 19.1.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING
(MALAYSIA) AGENCY ADN BHD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797



POSTPONEMENT OF 13th SINGAPORE ASSOCIATION OF MYANMAR (SAM) ANNUAL CHARITY BAZAAR

Dear VIPs, Sponsors, Ticket Holders, Volunteers, Friends & Family:

We deeply regret to inform you that the 13th SAM Charity Bazaar will be postponed to Sunday, 9th March, 2008 at the same venue, Inya Lake Hotel.

All tickets bought for this event shall be honored on the new date.

Your understanding is very much appreciated.

13th SAM Charity Bazaar Organizing Committee

TRADE MARK CAUTION
ACCANTIA TOILETRIES LIMITED, a company incorporated in United Kingdom, of 4th Floor, Chadwick House, Blenheim Court, Solihull, West Midlands, is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-

SIMPLE

Reg. No. 4292/1997

in respect of "soaps; cosmetics; toiletries; talcum powder; creams for skin care; hair preparations".

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

Win Mu Tin

M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.,

for ACCANTIA

TOILETRIES LIMITED

P. O. Box 60, Yangon

Dated: 19 January 2008

Chinese drunk trucker gets 6.5 years jail for accident

WUHAN, 17 Jan— A central China court sentenced a man to 6.5 years in prison for an accident that killed 24 people and injured 21 in August.

Hu Feng, a Wuhan Changhang Container Transport Co Ltd truck driver, was convicted of drunk driving and directly causing a serious accident, according to the Dongxihu District People's Court in Wuhan, capital of Hubei Province.

The accident occurred around 2 pm on August 25 when the truck veered

out of control and collided head-on with a bus on the No. 107 National Highway in the Dongxihu District of Wuhan. Both vehicles plunged into a pond. Hu confessed he had consumed liquor and beer in the morning and at noon. He was suddenly overcome by an unconscious spell while driving in the afternoon. He also recalled the truck was moving at a speed of 70 kilometres per hour, well above the posted 40 kilometres limit.

The bus was carrying 47 passengers, despite

having a capacity for only 33. The court said the bus driver, Huang Haibing, should have assumed some responsibility for the accident.

Huang died at the accident scene while Hu was slightly injured.

The court said the accident was directly triggered by drunk driving.

The Wuhan Changhang Container Transport Co. Ltd. had paid the victims' families more than six million yuan (820,000 US dollars) in compensation.

MNA/Xinhua

Britain confirms positive H5N1 for another swan

LONDON, 18 Jan— Britain confirmed on Wednesday that another mute swan has tested positive for highly pathogenic H5N1 Avian Influenza following confirmation on 10 January of bird flu virus in three swans in Dorset, southern England.

The swan was collected on 11 January as part of wild bird surveillance from the same area, and has tested H5N1 positive, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs said in a statement.

There is currently no evidence to suggest widespread disease in the wild bird population, but enhanced surveillance is taking place and poultry

keepers in the area are reminded to remain vigilant and report any signs of disease immediately, the department said. There is no evidence of disease in domestic birds, it said.

The Control Area and the Monitoring Area have been established since the first confirmation of the disease. Within the zones, bird movements are restricted.

Avian Influenza is a disease of birds. While it can pass very rarely and with difficulty to humans, this usually requires extremely close contact with infected birds, particularly faces.

Advice from the Food Standards Agency remains that properly cooked poultry and poultry products, including eggs, are safe to eat.

MNA/Xinhua

Over 21,000 fowls culled in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 18 Jan — Over 21,000 fowls were culled at Dhalua Village in Sadar sub-district in Bangladesh's Barguna District Wednesday evening after detection of avian influenza.

The fowls were killed after 404 chickens of a poultry farm died in the last two days, private news agency reported Wednesday.

A team of the district administration and local Livestock Department culled 20,157 chickens, 590 ducks, 515 pigeons and a parrot.

The district

administration and local Livestock Department, earlier in the afternoon, held a meeting to aware the people about bird flu.

More than 10,000 chickens were culled on Monday and Tuesday in the country's southern city Barisal following avian influenza was detected in two indigenous varieties of hens.

The avian influenza virus was first detected in a poultry farm in Savar, about 30 kilometres northwest of Dhaka early in 2006.

MNA/Xinhua

Drive with Care

Costa Rican police seize 366 kilos of cocaine

SAN JOSE, 18 Jan—Costa Rican police seized 366 kilos of cocaine from a stranded speedboat on the southern beach of the Caribbean Sea, the Ministry of Public Security said in a report released Wednesday.

The Coastal Guard of Limon Province received a call, saying that a ship in danger in the south of Limon needed help. When the police arrived at the scene, they found an empty speedboat stranded not far from the beach, with several large packages covered with canvas floating on the sea. The police retrieved the packages, only to find them containing 366 kilos of high-purity cocaine, according to the report.

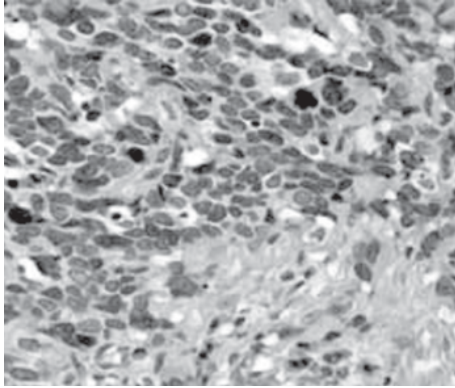
This is the second time that the country's drug control authorities seized drug in a week. The police found 100 kilos of cocaine hidden inside a van's wheels when they intercepted the van near the country's northern border last Saturday.

MNA/Xinhua



A model presents the creation of Indonesia designer Ali Charisma in the Fall/Winter 2008 collection during the Hong Kong Fashion Week in Hong Kong on 17 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET

New virus linked to rare but lethal skin cancer



Merkel cell carcinoma

WASHINGTON, 18 Jan—US researchers have discovered a new virus they believe may be linked to a rare but extremely lethal type of skin cancer, a study released Thursday said.

Merkel cell carcinoma mostly afflicts the elderly and people with weaker immune systems, including AIDS and transplant patients.

In a study published in the journal *Science*, a research team from the

University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute said it found a strong link between the rare cancer and a new virus they called Merkel cell polyomavirus (MCV).

“This is the first polyomavirus to be strongly associated with a particular type of human tumour,” said Patrick Moore, a member of the research team.

While the researchers emphasised that more study was needed to confirm the link, they said the discovery could lead to new cancer treatments.

The scientists identified the virus’s DNA sequence in 80 per cent of Merkel cell tumours. The virus penetrates tumour cells in a pattern indicating that the infection precedes the cells’ growth into a cancer, they said.

Merkel cancer cases have tripled over the past 20 years to about 1,500 a year, and about half the patients with advanced stages of the cancer live only nine months. Two-thirds die within five years.

Internet

Seven injured in explosion at Israeli naval base

JERUSALEM, 18 Jan—An artillery shell inadvertently exploded onboard an Israel Navy missile ship at the northern Haifa naval base on Wednesday, wounding seven, local newspaper *Ha’aretz* reported.

The accident occurred during routine maintenance on one of the ship’s cannons and two of those injured are civilians employed by the Army and the rest are soldiers, *Ha’aretz* said.

Magen David Adom emergency medical services have evacuated the injured to Rambam Medical Centre in Haifa for treatment.

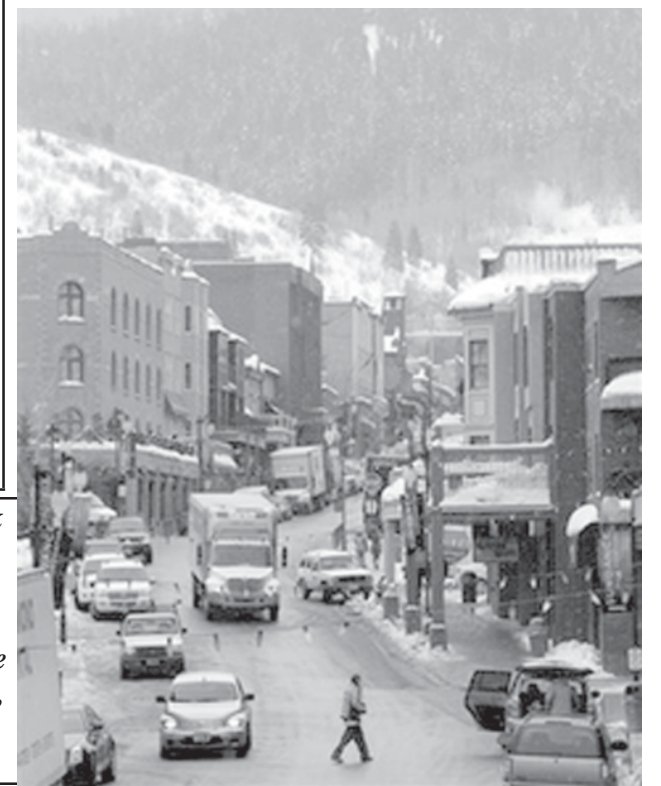
The Israel Navy has

launched an investigation into the accident. The Israeli Army has suffered a series of training and operational accidents recently. The year began with the death of a 19-year-old Bedouin soldier, who fell 50 feet to his death during a navigating

exercise in southern Israel.

In late November, one soldier was killed and five others wounded in a military drill in the Golan Heights. Separately, another died in a tank accident in late November.

MNA/Xinhua



The Main Street of Park City, Utah comes alive with activity in preparation for the opening of the Sundance Film Festival on 17 Jan, 2008.

INTERNET

Scientist says Amazon deforestation surging again

WASHINGTON, 18 Jan—Deforestation of the Amazon has surged in recent months and is likely to rise in 2008 for the first time in four years, a senior Brazilian Government scientist said on Wednesday.

The rise raises questions over Brazil’s assertion that its environmental policies are effectively protecting the world’s biggest rain forest, whose destruction is a major source of carbon

emissions that drive global warming.

“I think the last four months is a big concern for the government and now they are sending people to do more law enforcement,” Carlos Nobre, a scientist with Brazil’s National Institute for Space Research, told a seminar in Washington.

“But I can tell you that it (deforestation) is going to be much higher than 2007.”

Nobre, whose

government agency monitors the Amazon and gathers data, said that 2,300 square miles (6,000 square kilometres) of forest had been lost in the past four months.

That compares with an estimated 3,700 square miles (9,600 square kilometres) in the 12 months ended July 31, which Brazil officials hailed as the lowest deforestation rate since the 1970s.

MNA/Reuters

Cambodia uses dogs to detect unexploded mines

PHNOM PENH, 18 Jan—The Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) has trained 16 dogs to smell and discover the mines and unexploded ordnances (UXO) installed deep under the soil during the civil war, a senior official said here on Thursday.

They have been working with high effectiveness, Khem Sophoan from CMAC told *Xinhua*.

The dogs from Kosovo were provided to CMAC through Swedish assistance and trained for about a year here, he said.

Compared to

mechanical mine detectors, the dog can find mines and UXO much deeper in the soil, he said.

They are highly valued by the international community and each can get four dollars of daily

food, he added.

About 400 people were victimized by mines and UXO each year in Cambodia. Millions of them are unearthed yet nationwide.

MNA/Xinhua



In this photo released by China’s Xinhua news agency, the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests, the landmark building of the Temple of Heaven, is seen after a snowfall in Beijing, capital of China.—INTERNET

First mature cloned human embryos created

BEIJING, 18 Jan—Scientists at a small California company claimed they have created the first mature cloned human embryos from single skin cells taken from adults, according to a report in the journal *Stem Cells* as quoted by media on Friday.

Stemagen, a private company set up by an unnamed investor and a top fertility doctor, said its scientists used cloning technology to make five early-stage embryos from donated human eggs and



Human embryos

skin cells from two men.

No one knew if those embryos were healthy enough to grow into babies. But the study leader, who is also the medical director of a fertility clinic, said they looked robust, even as he emphasized that he has no interest in cloning people.

Dr Samuel Wood of the research team said stem cells are his business plan. “We believe that this is the future—to create patient-specific stem cells,” Wood said.

They used a technique called somatic cell nuclear transfer, or SCNT, which involves hollowing out an egg cell and injecting the nucleus of a cell from the donor to be copied. It is the same technique used to make Dolly the sheep in 1996.

Internet

Flu epidemic widespread in Hungary

BUDAPEST, 18 Jan—Hungary is contending with a widespread influenza epidemic, which is just medium in intensity and is not triggering too many complications, the chief of the national medical officer’s service said here on Wednesday, *MTI* news agency reported.

Ferenc Falus told the media that the number of new cases reported in the second week of January was 30,000, twice as many as in the first week of the month. He called on hospitals throughout Hungary to ban visitors, especially from obstetric and neonatal wards.

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Chelsea complete Ivanovic signing

LONDON, 17 Jan — Chelsea completed the signing of Serbia defender Branislav Ivanovic from Lokomotiv Moscow on a three-and-a-half year deal, the club said on Wednesday.

The 23-year-old, capped nine times, is a versatile defender whose displays for club and country over the last two years have attracted interest from some of Europe's top clubs.

He has been outstanding in his time in Moscow and featured in the later stages of Serbia's unsuccessful qualifying campaign for Euro 2008.

Ivanovic, playing as an over-age player, also captained the Serbia side that finished runners-up to Netherlands in last year's European Under-21 championship.

"It is the dream of every footballer to want to move on and improve yourself and the ultimate is to play for such a big team as this," he told Chelsea's website (www.Chelseafc.com).

MNA/Reuters



France's Aravane Rezaï hits a shot to Hsieh Su-Wei Chinese Taipei at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on 18 Jan, 2008.

INTERNET

Roddick eases through to third round in Melbourne

MELBOURNE, 17 Jan — Sixth seed Andy Roddick survived a minor third-set hiccup and romped to a 6-2, 6-2, 6-4 victory over Germany's Michael Berrer in the Australian Open second round on Wednesday.

Roddick raced away with the first two sets with two breaks in each while his own overpowering service game was again to the fore with the German not given a single opportunity to break.

The third set, however, was a different story with the 54th-ranked lefthander racing out a 3-0 lead.

Roddick clawed his way back into the set, however, and reeled off the next five games with the opportunity to seal victory on Berrer's serve.

Roddick, down 40-15, then produced a series of audacious chips and lobs to get to deuce where he held three match points — none of which he could convert.

The 2003 US Open champion made no mistake in the next game, though, and served out.

"It's a little bit cold and I knew the ball wouldn't go through the court so much," Roddick said in a courtside interview.

"I was content to hit it around and let him try and bully the ball."

He will meet Germany's Philipp Kohlschreiber in the next round. — MNA/Reuters

England coach Capello probed for tax fraud

TURIN (Italy), 17 Jan — England soccer coach Fabio Capello is being investigated for tax fraud by prosecutors in the northern Italian city of Turin, a legal source said on Wednesday.

The source said the investigation had been going on for around a year and involved whether Capello should have been paying Italian taxes on money, earned from sponsors, which the coach was holding abroad.

A company called Lussemburghese Sport 3000, controlled by the Capello Family Trust and based in the island of Guernsey, is being probed but the exact amount of taxes the authorities are querying will not be known for some weeks.

The source could only say that investigators are checking to see if "millions" of euros have gone undeclared. — MNA/Reuters

Hosts named for Challenge Cup qualifiers

BANGKOK, 17 Jan — Nepal, Taiwan, Kyrgyzstan and the Philippines will host qualifiers for this year's Challenge Cup tournament, the winners of which earn a place at the 2011 Asian Cup, the Asian Football Confederation said.

The four countries will each host a group of four teams, with the group winners progressing to the Challenge Cup finals, where they will meet seeds North Korea, Myanmar, Turkmenistan and hosts India.

The Challenge Cup serves as an Asian Cup qualifier for the region's lowest-ranked countries, with the 2008 and 2010 champions awarded places in Qatar in 2011.

This year's Challenge Cup finals will be held in New Delhi and Hyderabad from July 30 to August 10. Draw: — MNA/Reuters

Henin, Nadal advance at Australian Open

MELBOURNE, 17 Jan — Women's world number one Justine Henin and three-time French Open winner Rafael Nadal cruised into the third round at the Australian Open here on Wednesday.

Top seed Henin defeated Russia's Olga Poutchkova 6-1, 7-5 on Rod Laver Arena.

It took the Belgian only 22 minutes to seal the first set but the Russian challenger broke Henin at 1-1 and 5-3 in the second set.

Henin fought her way back to break at 6-5 for the match.

"I played a good first set, well into the match and played very aggressive and I did a good job in the first," said Henin. — MNA/Reuters



Japan's Miki Saiki plays a bunker shot on the 15th green during a pro-amateur tournament ahead of the Women's World Cup of Golf at Sun City, on 17 Jan, 2008. — INTERNET



Denmark's Lars Paaske (L) returns a shot from Malaysia's Koo Kien Keat and Tan Boon Heong as his teammate Jonas Rasmussen looks on during Malaysia Open badminton tournament in Kuala Lumpur on 17 Jan, 2008. — INTERNET

Keegan back as manager of Newcastle

LONDON, 17 Jan — Newcastle United dramatically turned the clock back more than a decade on Wednesday by naming Kevin Keegan as manager.

Keegan, 56, who played for the Geordies in the 1980s and managed them for five years in the 1990s, was chosen as the club's fifth boss in three and a half years. He succeeds Sam Allardyce who left last week after eight months in the job.

"sGeordie messiah to be unveiled as new manager," read a headline on the club's official website (www.nufc.co.uk) ahead of Wednesday night's 4-1 win over Championship (Second Division) side Stoke City in an FA Cup third-round replay.

"Kevin Keegan is returning to Newcastle United as manager," the club added in a move certain to be hugely popular with their loyal fans.

Keegan, who has signed a 3-1/2-year contract according to British media reports, attended the Stoke match and was given a rapturous welcome by Newcastle's fans when they saw him enter the directors' box soon after kickoff. — MNA/Reuters

Coleman quits as Real Sociedad coach

MADRID, 17 Jan — Coach Chris Coleman and his assistant Steve Kean quit Spanish Second Division Real Sociedad on Wednesday.

"We are quitting as coaches of Real Sociedad and we are leaving the posts with much sadness as it is a fantastic club," former Wales defender Coleman told a news conference.

"Things have changed with the arrival of (new president Inaki) Badiola because there are now two different ways of seeing the club and of working."

Coleman's decision came a day after sports director and former Wales assistant manager Salva Iriarte was dismissed. Former Fulham manager Coleman took over in June after Sociedad had been relegated from the Primera Liga.

He has led them to fifth in the table, one point off the promotion places. Coleman's position was thrown into doubt when president Maria de la Pena, who brought him to San Sebastian, stepped down in November to pave the way for a new election. He had said he would go if she left. Badiola won the January 3 election and a week ago Coleman said he would stay having been convinced by the players, in particular, to continue. — MNA/Reuters

Most Sri Lankan bus ambush victims were shot

COLOMBO, 18 Jan — Sri Lanka's military said on Thursday most of the 27 people killed in a bus ambush were shot by rebels as the passengers tried to flee rather than in the blast that struck the vehicle.

Wednesday's attack came as a six-year truce between the state and rebels formally ended, paving the way for what analysts forecast will be a military push for the Tigers' northern stronghold and a bloody escalation in a 25-year civil war.

The Tigers were not immediately available for comment on the ambush, but routinely deny involvement.

"There are now 27 people killed," said military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara. "There are

now 49 people in hospital as others have been released after treatment."

The death toll was 26 late on Wednesday.

He said nine children were among the wounded, including a one-month-old baby, in the attack around 150 miles (240 kilometres) east of the capital Colombo.

"The terrorists opened fire at people getting down from the bus," Nanayakkara added. "Most were killed and injured due to gunfire, not the bomb."

MNA/Reuters

Afghans warned to keep away from Army vehicles

KABUL, 18 Jan — NATO-led forces in Afghanistan urged civilians to keep away from Army vehicles, saying that since August alliance troops had killed 19 civilians who strayed too close to their military convoys.

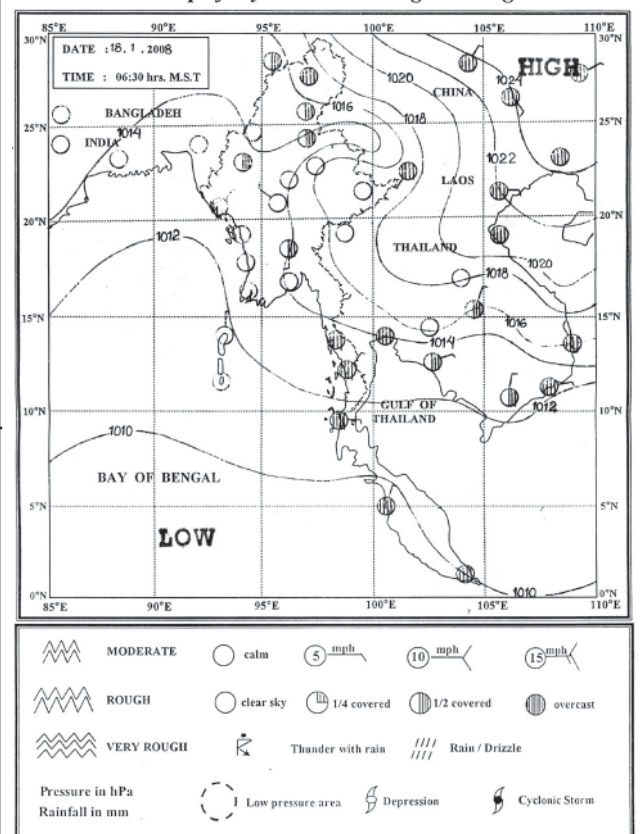
Troops in armoured vehicles from the 39 nations in the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) currently warn drivers to keep their distance for fear of suicide car bombers.

MNA/Reuters



A man collects sea salt from a field in Thailand's Samut Songkhram Province, about 80 km (50 miles) south of Bangkok on 17 Jan, 2008. The salt, which is collected after sea water is evaporated, is used for human consumption. —INTERNET

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Friday, 18 January, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin, Rakhine States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below January average temperatures in Rakhine State and Magway Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above January average temperatures in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, and about January average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Loilin (1°C), Pinlaung and Heho (3°C) each, Namhsam and Haka (4°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 17-1-2008 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 18-1-2008 was 63°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 18-1-2008 was 74%. Total sunshine hours on 17-1-2008 was (8.3) hours approx.

Rainfall on 18-1-2008 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 (4) mph from Northeast at (14:30) hours MST on 17-1-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 19-1-2008: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Mon State and upper Sagaing Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in the extreme Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 19-1-2008: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 19-1-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 19-1-2008: Fair weather.

Weather outlook for third weekend of January 2008: During the coming weekend, weather will be generally fair in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.



Saturday, 19 January
View on today

7:00 am

1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကုန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီးနိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ့ မဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော် ဆောင်ရွက်အားပေးမဟာ ရွှေဂူရုအဘိဓမ္မအဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မ ဇောတိကတိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိကဆရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. Nice and sweet song

7:50 am

5. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:10 am

6. Musical programme

8:20 am

7. ထပ်ဆင့်အောင်ပွဲ ဧရာဝတီ တံတား(ဒေးဒရ)

8:30 am

8. International news

8:45 am

9. Grammar made easy

11:00 am

1. Martial song

11:15 am

2. Musical programme

11:30 am

3. News

11:40 am

4. Games for children

12:00 am

5. Round up of the Week's TV local news

12:30 pm

6. ကြားမြင်သုတပြည့်ဝစေရာ စာပဒေသာ

12:35 pm

7. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "စစ်သူကြီးဆွန်ကြီး" (အပိုင်း-၅)

1:00 pm

8. ပညာရေးအတွက် ICT

1:20 pm

9. "စက်မှုဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်ပြည် အကျိုး" ဖြိုးငွေစိုး၊ မိုးဒီ၊ စောနိုင်(ရှမ်းပြည်၊ သခင်၊ နင်းဆီ၊ ခင်မိုး၊ မိုးအေး) (ဒါရိုက်တာ- တင်အောင်ရွှေ (သုတေသီ))

1:40 pm

10. Dance of national races

1:55 pm

11. မြန်မာ့ရေထွက်ပစ္စည်း ရွေးပွဲတော်၂၀၀၇-၂၀၀၈ (အပိုင်း-၂)

2:10 pm

12. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

2:25 pm

13. "သတိနဲ့ယှဉ်အသိနဲ့ပြင်" (အပိုင်း-၁) (ဝါးခယ်မရဲမောင်၊ ဘုန်းလုံ၊ မြတ်ကောသီအောင်၊ ဟန်နီထွန်း၊ ရတနာခင်၊ ပြည့်ဖူးခိုင်၊ နီနီရွှေ၊ ဆောင်းနင်းဝေ၊ ဝိုင်းစုခိုင်သိန်း၊ အိုင်းရစ်လေးပြည့်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မင်းအုပ်စိုး)

2:35 pm

14. ကူးလူးဆက်သွယ်ချစ်ကြွေးနွယ် (ကရင်ပြည်နယ်၊ မွန်ပြည်နယ်)

2:45 pm

15. International news

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Song to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. English for everyday use

4:45 pm

4. အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ-ဒုတိယနှစ် (သမိုင်းအထူးပြု)(သမိုင်း)

4:55 pm

5. မြူးမြူးကြွကြွယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက

5:15 pm

6. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

5:20 pm

7. မြန်မာ့ဓလေ့ရိုးရာလက်ရာ

5:35 pm

8. ရသပေါ်လွင် သရုပ်ဆောင်လွင်ပြင်

6:00 pm

9. Evening news

6:30 pm

10. Weather report

6:35 pm

11. အလှူရှာမယ်လှူကမ္ဘာဝယ်

7:00 pm

12. ထွက်နှုန်းများလွန်တိုးပွား လွန်ကျော်ခြင်းမရှိရမည် (၆) စွမ်းအား

7:15 pm

13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်သူအားမာန်" (အပိုင်း-၅)

8:00 pm

14. News

15. International news

16. Weather report

17. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်သူအားမာန်"

(အပိုင်း-၁၃)

18. The next day's programme



Saturday, 19 January
Tune in today

8:30 am Brief news

8:35 am Music

-I feel so fine

8:40 am Perspectives

8:45 am Music

-Sha la la long

8:50 am National news/ Slogan

9:00 am Music

-Obsession

9:05 am International news

9:10 am Music

-Good thing

1:30 pm News/ Slogan

1:40 pm Music at your request

-Don't wanna lose you now

-Higher than heaven

9:00pm ASEAN news

Exchange news from ASEAN member countries

9:20 pm Myanmar culture...Dr Khin Maung Nyunt

"Pyar Tho Equestrian Festival"

9:30 pmSouvenirs

-Moody river

-Blue boy

9:45 pm News /Slogan

10:00 pm PEL

People's Desire

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

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects regional development work in Kayah State

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Jan — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Shan State PDC Chairman Eastern Command Commander Maj-Gen Thaung Aye, CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Kayah State In-Charge Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Chairman of Kayah State PDC Brig-Gen Nyunt Tin, arrived in Meisei yesterday morning. They were welcomed there by the township chairman and responsible persons.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party visited Meisei Basic Education High School where he stressed the need for students to have knowledge of English and donated K 800,000 for computers. On arrival at Meisei People's Hospital, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspected the medical store, operation theatre and

X-ray room and made cash donations to the patients. In meeting with departmental staff at the hall of Meisei Township, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win urged them to do more in cooperation with the local people for agricultural and regional development as peace has prevailed in border areas. The CEC member reported on USDA's participation in the effort for the development of Meisei.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party proceeded to Pasawng, met with Tatmadawmen and their families at the hall of Pasawng Station and presented gifts to them. At the hall of Pasawng, he also met departmental personnel and urged them to work for the successful implementation of the seven-step Road Map. Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win met Tatmadawmen and departmental staff in Bawlake. Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung explained activities of the USDA.



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence visits Basic Education High School in Meisei.
MNA

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party then visited Shataw BEHS and the office of Shadaw Township PDC. He later urged the officials to strive for the regional developments in collaboration with local people. — MNA

Ministry of Education to open first year courses for 2008 academic year

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Jan — The courses on various subjects of universities and degree colleges under the Ministry of Education will be opened on 21 January 2008, and the entrance list for the first year students who passed the 2007 matriculation examination was announced at the respective universities and degree colleges for 2008 academic year. — MNA

- ★ **Skyful liars attempting to destroy nation**
- ★ **BBC lying**
- ★ **VOA deceiving**
- ★ **RFA setting up hostilities**
- ★ **Beware! Don't be bought by those ill-wishers**