

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

Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects progress of runway of Yangon International Airport



Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence inspects extension of the runway of Yangon International Airport. — MNA

YANGON, 15 Feb — Accompanied by 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, Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence inspected measures being taken for extension of the runway of Yangon International Airport, this morning.

At the briefing hall, Deputy Superintending Engineer (Civil) U Kyaw Hlaing of Airport Construction Project Special Group-2 of Public Works and officials reported on progress in construction of the 3,100 feet long and 200 feet wide extended runway

section to be connected with the original runway measuring 8,100 feet by 200 feet, extension of the taxiway section measuring 3,345 feet by 100 feet to be connected with the original taxiway measuring 8,100 feet by 100 feet, facts about the project and future tasks.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe spoke of the need for officials to construct the runway and taxiway meeting the set standards.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party viewed tarmacking of 5 inches thick asphalt concrete on the extended runway, placing of 12 inches thick concrete on the extended taxiway and progress of earth work.

Upon completion of the project, the runway will be 11,200 feet long and 200 feet wide while the taxiway, 11,200 feet by 100 feet. As a result, the air way transport facilities will contribute to smooth transportation of passengers by air and speedier flow of commodities at home and abroad.

So far, the earth road for the extended taxiway has completed by 84 per cent, the placing of 12 inches thick concrete on the extended taxi way by 4 per cent, construction of the concrete drains under the extended taxiway by 75 per cent, and construction of the concrete drains between the extended runway and the taxiway by 12 per cent. — MNA

INSIDE

Sacred Mount Popa

Sacred Mt Popa, though still shrouded in mysteries and legends has come out into the limelight of globalization. Reachable by land vehicles — 63 miles from Meikhtila, 36 miles from Chauk, 48 miles from Myingyan and only less than 30 miles from Bagan—sacred Mt Popa lures you to tell all its mysteries and tales.

PAGES 6+7

DR KHIN MAUNG NYUNT

Weather Forecast for (16-2-2008)

Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area:

Partly cloudy.

Yangon and neighbouring area:

Partly cloudy.

Mandalay and neighbouring area:

Generally fair weather.

Significant Night

Temperatures

Haka (5°C)

Namhsan (0°C)

An (2°C)

Lashio (2°C)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 16 February, 2008

Produce more marine products for export

Myanmar with a long coastline is blessed with marine species. A variety of fish and prawns are in abundant in Myanmar waters.

Offshore fisheries is being carried out most in Taninthayi Division while breeding of fresh water fish is being carried out most in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions.

Those from the fisheries sector are engaged in the breeding of fresh water fish and prawns on a commercial scale while producing the species from rivers and creeks in the region. In the meantime, some are engaged in the breeding of various kinds of sea water fish, crabs and prawns.

Fisheries is being carried out extensively in different parts of the nation. This has enabled the nation to enjoy self-sufficiency in fish and export the surplus.

Offshore fisheries and onshore fisheries can be carried out in Myanmar waters and sea water fishing can be done in rivers, creeks and lakes across the nation.

Myanmar is making progress in export of fish, prawns and crabs. At present, extended breeding of soft-shell crabs is being carried out in Taninthayi Division and Kyauktan Township, Yangon Division as achievements have been made in the breeding of the species. And packaged soft-shell crabs are being exported to China, Singapore, Malaysia and Vietnam through normal trade and border trade. The export of soft-shell crabs through the border gate is more profitable than that of live crabs.

Those from the fisheries sector are to extensively produce marine products such as fish, prawns, crabs etc. meeting the international standard. Only then, will the nation be able to enjoy self-sufficiency in fish and export the surplus.

One injured in mine blast in Mone

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb — Insurgent destructionists are undermining the stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order. They are also committing destructive acts with the intention of killing and injuring innocent people using various ways and means.

On 12 February, U Myint Swe, 39, son of U Thaug Shwe of Bonbaw Village in Mone Township of Bago Division, was wounded in his right leg and left heel after stepping on a mine planted by the insurgents near Kywegaung-in Village on the way to go fishing.

The injured was rushed to Mone People's Hospital where he received medical treatment and necessary assistance. The authorities concerned and local people are in hot pursuit of the insurgents.

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

Nationalities Affairs Working Group gives talks



Professor Dr Labang Hkawn of Nationalities Affairs Working Group gives talks on Anatomy of Female Body & Common Problems. —MNA

YANGON, 15 Feb — The Nationalities Affairs Working Group of the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation organized educative talks at Central Training School of Education and Training Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs on Myawady Mingyi Road, No 51 Ward of Dagon Myothit (North) Township, here, yesterday. It was attended by officials of MAAF, 186 trainees of training courses at the school and staff families.

Leader of the working group Daw Kyin Khine made an opening speech on the occasion.

Afterwards, Member of the working group Professor Daw Tin Ye gave talks on the facts about national races and Professor Dr Labang Hkawn on the Anatomy of Female Body and Common Problems.

Officials of MAAF viewed the practical works of the trainees at the Advanced Domestic Training Course, the Tailoring Course and the Advanced Wickerwork Course. — MNA

IWT to run watercraft for Mawtinsun Pagoda Pujaniya

YANGON, 15 Feb — Inland Water Transports is making plans to run watercraft, namely Bala Kyaw Thu, Bala Kyaw Swa, Bala Ye Kyaw, Bala Kyaw Khaung and Bala Yaza, for the pilgrimage to Myat Mawtinsun Pagoda Pujaniya in Ngaputaw Township, Ayeyawady Division.

During the pagoda Pujaniya, the watercraft will set off from the jetty of Delta Region Division of IWT on Lanthit Street in Seikkan Township, here, at 3 pm from 6 to 21 March and will moor at Maubin, Wakema, Myaungmya, Pathein, Ngaputaw and Hainggyikyun ports. The designation of the route is Khamaukmaw port.

The fare is K 8,000 per head for the upper class and K 2,500 per head for ordinary class. The watercraft will leave Pathein for Khamaukmaw at 10 am. The tickets are available at Delta Region Division of IWT on Lanthit Street in Seikkan Township. — MNA

Spring Art Exhibition on 21 Feb

YANGON, 15 Feb — To mark the opening ceremony of the Snowflake Art Gallery, the Spring Art Exhibition of 15 artists will be conducted at No 2/B, Building 2/4 (second floor), at the corner of East Sangyoung Road and Shin Saw Pu Road in Sangyoung Township, on 21 February.

The water and oil colour works of artists U Thaug Han, U Saw Hlaing, U Lun Pe, U Hla Tin Tun, U Kyi Win, U Zaw Win, Win Myint Moe, Mon Thet, Myo Thant Aung, Sangyoung Ko Ko Aung, Nay Win Aung, Win Thein, Hla Phone Aung, Nay Tint Wai and Min Hein Aung will be put on display.

For further information, everybody may contact Daw Hnin Hnin Oo, Tel: 099061597 and 095043082. — H

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Entries invited to World Health Day story, poem, article, cartoon contests

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb — World Health Organization designated a motto entitled "Protecting Health from Climate Change" for World Health Day which falls on 7 April, 2008. Everyone may send short stories, poems, articles and cartoons to Director, Health Education, Ministry of Health, Nay Pyi Taw not later than 10 March. — MNA

Ukraine says will not allow NATO bases

Moscow, 15 Feb—Aspiring NATO member Ukraine is prepared to adopt legislation banning the alliance's bases from its soil, Russia's RIA news agency quoted Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko as saying on Wednesday.

"If the Russian side is worried about military bases then Ukraine will never go for that... We are ready to underpin that constitutionally," he said at a meeting with members of the Ukrainian com-

munity in Moscow.

Russian President Vladimir Putin warned at a meeting with Yushchenko on Tuesday that Moscow could be obliged to aim its missiles at Ukraine, its neighbour and former Soviet satellite, if it joined NATO.

Ukraine's Constitution already bans it from hosting foreign military bases, with the exception of the Ukrainian port of Sevastopol, where Russia leases a base for its Black Sea fleet. —MNA/Reuters



Israeli soldiers are seen near the border with Lebanon on the outskirts of the divided village of Ghajar, part of which was occupied by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war. —INTERNET

Thai Army Chief sees martial law still necessary

BANGKOK, 15 Feb—Thailand's Army Chief General Anupong Pao-chinda said Wednesday the martial laws should be maintained to provide safety for the people, and they are necessary to prevent threats, including narcotics, from entering the Kingdom.

"From security officers' points of view, the laws are needed to enable officials concerned to work for the sake of national security," he said.

However, the Army chief said the government has the right to decide if the laws should be lifted.

The Army boss was responding to reports that Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej's government is considering lifting the martial laws issued after the coup two years ago in some northern provinces.

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia to hold general election on 8 March

KUALA LUMPUR, 15 Feb—Malaysia will hold its general election on 8 March, said the country's Election Commission on Thursday. Candidates will be nominated on 24 February, said Election Commission Chairman Abdul Rashid Abdul Rahman in Putrajaya, the administrative centre of Malaysia.

The election would involve 222 parliamentary and 505 state seats in 12 states except for eastern Sarawak state which held its state election in 2006, Abdul Rashid said.

He said 10,922,139 were eligible to cast their votes based on the electoral roll gazetted on 5 February.

Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi will lead the Barisan Nasional into the election for a second time. On Wednesday, Badawi announced to dissolve the Parliament to pave the way for general elections.

MNA/Xinhua

CHAKWAL (Pakistan), 15 Feb — Electioneering in his home province of Punjab on Wednesday, former Pakistani prime minister Nawaz Sharif derided his old foe President Pervez Musharraf as a lackey of the United States.

"He does not care about Pakistan, he cares about America," Sharif told a rally of about 5,000 people in Chakwal District, around 65 kilometres (40

miles) southeast of the capital Islamabad.

Sharif was allowed to return from exile in November thanks to pressure on Musharraf from Saudi King Abdullah.

But he is barred from running in next Monday's parliamentary election because of criminal convictions handed down after he was ousted by the military takeover that brought Musharraf to

power in 1999. The United States had supported the more pro-Western Benazir Bhutto's return, while ignoring Sharif. In the past, Sharif used his position in the middle ground to cultivate appeal among religious conservatives and has not spoken out as strongly as Bhutto against Islamist militants. —MNA/Reuters

Troops in Manila on red alert ahead of protest

MANILA, 15 Feb — Military forces in the Philippines' capital of Manila were placed on red alert on Wednesday night, two days ahead of an opposition-backed street protest.

The rally, likely to be held in Manila's Makati financial district or streets

nearby the Presidential Places is to push for the resignation of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo after her husband was linked to alleged bribery in a government project.

Arroyo cancels visit:

Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo will skip an official visit

to the main military academy this weekend due to an assassination threat by Islamic militants, her chief bodyguard said on Thursday. Brigadier-General Romeo Prestoza, head of the Presidential Security Group, denied Arroyo had cancelled the trip so she could stay in Manila and monitor anti-government rallies planned on Friday and Sunday. —MNA/Reuters



Photo released by New England Aquarium, a school of brass striped barracuda swims in the waters of the Phoenix Islands, Kiribati. —INTERNET



A displaced woman walk between tents with a rose given to people by Kenyan charity workers at a camp for displaced people in the Mathare slum in Nairobi. —INTERNET

Police arrest politicians in Mumbai over migrant row

MUMBAI, 15 Feb—Police arrested a political leader in Mumbai on Wednesday for inciting violence after his party's workers attacked north Indians who migrated to the financial capital.

Extra police officers and paramilitary forces were posted around the city before Raj Thackeray, head of the local party Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS), was arrested.

He was later released on bail. Police also arrested Abu Azmi, a local leader of the Samajwadi Party, which is based in Uttar Pradesh in northern India. He is accused of encouraging north Indians in Mumbai to retaliate and has also been released on bail.

Shops closed in parts of the city, either as a precaution against trouble or because they were

forced to by party workers. Media reports said a 55-year-old was killed after workers threw stones and damaged buses in Nasik in Maharashtra State, of which Mumbai is the capital.

There were also reports of protesters throwing stones and attacking vehicles in other parts of Maharashtra, as well as on the outskirts of Mumbai. —MNA/Reuters

Palestinian faction launches makeshift rocket at Israel

GAZA, 15 Feb — Saraya al-Quds, the armed wing of Islamic Jihad (Holy War) movement, claimed responsibility on Wednesday for launching a homemade rocket from Gaza at southern Israel.

The group said in a leaflet that its militants fired one homemade *Quds* (Jerusalem) rocket from Gaza at Israel's coastal town of Ashkelon, adding that the militants fired the rocket and returned to Gaza safely.

"This rocket attack is a response to the daily Israeli crimes carried out against our people, and to prove that resistance against the occupation would never stop," the group said.

Meanwhile, the group mourned Imad Moughniyah, a top militant leader of Lebanon's Shiite group Hizbollah who was killed in a car bombing in the Syrian capital Damascus on Tuesday. —MNA/Xinhua

Hun Sen declares Cambodia as terrorism-free

PHNOM PENH, 15 Feb — Cambodia is terrorism-free and must stay this way if the tourism industry is to continue growing, national English-Khmer newspaper the *Cambodian Daily* quoted Prime Minister Hun Sen as saying Thursday. Hun Sen made these remarks while opening a four-day ASEAN (the Association of South-East Asian Nations) anti-terrorism conference on Wednesday in Siem Reap. "If Cambodia is a target of a terrorist attack like what the Hambali group was trying to stage in 2002, the prosperity and development that we have achieved would definitely and severely be destroyed," he told some 100 delegates from the US and ASEAN countries. —MNA/Xinhua



Newcastle-Upon-Tyne skyline. A Staffordshire town is refusing to pay back over a million pounds in grants on after embarrassed civil servants confused them with the northern city.—INTERNET

Bill Clinton's former campaign manager backs Obama

WASHINGTON, 14 Feb —The man who managed Bill Clinton's winning 1992 presidential campaign endorsed Senator Barack Obama Democrat-Illinois for US president Wednesday, snubbing Clinton's wife, Senator Hillary Clinton Democrat-New York in the process. David Wilhelm, a former Democratic Nati-

onal Committee chairman, was quoted by ABC News as saying that Obama has tapped into "a sense of energy, a sense of idealism, that I'd like to think we were able to tap into in 1992" on the Bill Clinton campaign.

Wilhelm's support brings benefits for Obama.

He is a superdelegate to the Democratic Natio-

nal Convention, which means Obama is now one vote closer to the party nomination. Wilhelm is well-known in Democratic circles, and will lobby other super-delegates, who are the party insiders and elected officials not chosen by state primaries or caucuses, to support Obama.

MNA/Xinhua

Italian police free kindergarten hostages

REGGIO CALABRIA (Italy), 15 Feb — Italian police stormed a kindergarten on Wednesday to free 11 children and their teacher taken hostage by a man demanding money, police said.

The 32-year-old man was arrested after a six-hour stand-off at the pre-school in Reggio Calabria, southern Italy.

Armed with a knife, he had barricaded himself into the classroom in the early morning, demanding 500,000 euros (728,200 US dollars).

He released some of the 11 children in the class throughout the day while negotiating with the local mayor.

Police sources said he had no children of his own. He had initially tried to enter a different kindergarten but had been turned away by staff.

MNA/Reuters



A car passes by Malaysian ruling party Barisan Nasional flags put up along a road in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Malaysians will vote on March 8 in the next general election. —INTERNET

Sri Lanka accuses int'l rights groups of bias

COLOMBO, 15 Feb — The Sri Lankan Government on Wednesday accused international rights groups of bias for their alleged failure to condemn the killings of students by Tamil Tiger rebels.

Keheliya Rambukwella, the Minister of Foreign Employment and the government's defence spokesman told reporters

that some 14 school children had been killed as a result of recent bomb explosions blamed on Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels.

"These groups who are very quick to blame the government have remained silent on the LTTE's killing of students," Rambukwella said.

An LTTE female

suicide bomber killed 14 civilians including six students at the Colombo's busy Fort railway station on 3 February.

The students from a leading Colombo school were members of the baseball team and were returning to Colombo from the central town of Kandy when caught in the explosion.

MNA/Xinhua

Pakistan election campaign convoy bombed, two dead

ISLAMABAD, 14 Feb — A roadside bomb blast hit an election campaign convoy killing two people and wounding three on Wednesday in Pakistan's northwestern Swat Valley, police said, as security fears deepen ahead of a 18 February general election.

Mufti Hussain Ahmed, an independent candidate contesting a provincial assembly seat, was among the wounded in the blast in

the restive valley where hundreds of pro-Taleban militants have been killed in clashes with troops in recent months. "Ahmed was going in a convoy of 8-10 vehicles on a campaign when the blast occurred, killing two people," said Swat's senior police official Waqif Khan.

Violence has intensified in Pakistan in the run-up to an election that was

due to be held on 8 January, but was delayed until Monday after the assassination of opposition leader Benazir Bhutto in a gun and bomb suicide attack on 27 December.

Nine people, including four journalists, were wounded on Tuesday in southwestern Baluchistan in an explosion outside an election office of another independent candidate.

MNA/Reuters



Pakistan's former prime minister Nawaz Sharif (4th L) holds hands with his party candidates election rally in Abbotabad on 14 Feb, 2008. Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf issued a warning to opposition parties to accept the result of Monday's election and not resort to agitation if it goes against them, while guaranteeing it will be free and fair.—INTERNET

India, Russia aim at more trade, investment

NEW DELHI, 14 Feb— India and Russia on Wednesday announced the setting up of a joint task force to ensure greater and smoother flow of trade and investment between the two countries.

The task force, which will be headed by the trade ministers of both countries, will also seek to solve issues in bilateral trade.

“The joint task force

set up by both governments will ensure greater business take place between the countries,” India’s Commerce and Industry Minister Kamal Nath said. Russian Prime Minister Victor Zubkov, who arrived here on Tuesday morning on a two-day official visit, held talks with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh Tuesday.

The two countries pledged to double trade to 10 billion US dollars by 2010 from the current five billion US dollars. The two sides, represented by Kamal Nath and Russian Minister of Economic Development and Trade Elvira Nabiullina, also signed a protocol agreement to cooperate in areas of mutual interest Wednesday. —MNA/Xinhua



Supporters of Venezuela’s President Hugo Chavez protest against Exxon Mobil Corp outside the National Assembly in Caracas on 14 Feb, 2008. —INTERNET



Commuters take the subway train in downtown Singapore. Singapore, Southeast Asia’s most advanced economy, on 14 Feb, downgraded its economic growth outlook for this year, citing increasing downside risks spawned by a slowdown in the United States.
INTERNET

Indonesia to see growth in non-oil, gas exports in 2008

JAKARTA, 14 Feb — Indonesia is expected to see non-oil and gas exports grow by 14.5 per cent to 133.26 billion US dollars this year after calculating the impact of the global economic slowdown, a senior official said here Wednesday.

Trade Minister Mari

Elka Pangestu told reporters after a meeting attended by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Vice President Jusuf Kalla and ministers that “Our export target in 2008 is 14.5 per cent”.

“We have calculated the impact of the global slowdown where the demands will be lower than last year,” said Pangestu.

To maintain the country’s export growth,

she said that the government of the biggest South-east Asian economy would diversify market destination and boost the promotion of products.

“We will find markets that are not affected by the recession, the markets which their growths are high, including Asia, the Middle East, and non-traditional markets such as Eastern Europe and Russia,” she said.

MNA/Xinhua

producer and exporter on Wednesday.

HANOI, 14 Feb — Export prices of Vietnamese natural rubber will average 2,250 US dollars per ton this year, up from 1,947 dollars last year due to higher world demand for the product and unstable supplies in some countries, according to Vietnam’s biggest rubber

producer and exporter on Wednesday.

With an average export price of 2,114 dollars per ton, Vietnam gained 148 million dollars from exporting 70,000 tons of natural rubber last month, seeing respective year-on-year increases of 39 per cent and 7 per cent, the state-owned Vietnam Rubber Group said, noting that its major markets included China’s Mainland, South Korea, Russia, China’s Taiwan, the United States, Japan and Germany.

Vietnam plans to

establish a natural rubber trading floor in the coming time, while organizing some seminars on developing the domestic rubber industry, the group said, adding that the country should attract more foreign-invested investors to the industry, and intensify export of processed latex as well as rubber products.

This year, Vietnam is estimated to export 780,000 tons of natural rubber worth some 1.5 billion dollars to 40 countries and regions.

MNA/Xinhua

Philippine exports up 21.4% in December

MANILA, 15 Feb— Philippine exports grew by 21.4 per cent in December 2007, the fastest pace in 16 months, as shipments to China went up, the Philippine Government said in a statement released on Wednesday.

Export earnings in December 2007 went up by 21.4 per cent to 4.478 billion US dollars from 3.690 billion dollars in December 2006, the Philippines National Statistics Office said in the statement.

Compared with the previous month’s level, an increase of 13.5 per cent from 3.948 billion dollars had recorded, which is the fastest pace since August 2006, it added. The total export receipts actually hit 50.276 billion dollars last year, a 6.1-per-cent increase, but they fell short of the 11-per-cent target and were significantly lower than the 2006 growth of 15 per cent, said Augusto Santos, Philippine Acting Economic Planning Secretary. —MNA/Xinhua

Japan GDP grows more than expected in quarter of ’07

TOKYO, 14 Feb— Japan’s economy grew 0.9 per cent in the last quarter of 2007, double the expected rate, but a likely slowdown this year meant analysts still saw the Bank of Japan keeping interest rates on hold in 2008, or possibly cutting them. The quarterly growth was much stronger than the expected 0.4 Per cent rise, due to strong capital expenditure and exports, government data showed. The bullish growth — an annual pace of 3.7 per cent compared with an annual growth rate of just 0.6 per cent in the United States in the October-December quarter — pushed Japanese stocks up 3 percent and sent bonds lower amid hopes that Japan might avoid a recession. —MNA/Reuters



A man tests glasses made by a Danish company Mobintech that connect to the phone, which when worn by a viewer give the impression of watching a 30-inch television at a distance of seven feet at the Mobile world congress in Barcelona.—INTERNET

Sacred Mount Popa

Dr Khin Maung Nyunt

Situated isolatedly in the central part of Myanmar to the south-eastern tip of Myingyan District is a mountain by the name "Popa" deep in mysteries, legends and history backed by geology and geography. Its physical features and fossils prove that Popa is an extinct volcano of old age. To the most northerly direction of Bago Yoma hill range rising 4981 feet above sea level Mount Popa stands majestically. There is no other mountain near it. It is the only mountain sprouting out, with a volcanic crater on its top. In clement weather, Mt Popa is clearly visible from the Ayeyawady River about 40 miles' distance from it. The northern section of its crater slightly slopes to the west and the eastern, southern and western sections are higher. Some people, perhaps with special vision, say that they can see the image of Popa from Myelat area and southern Shan state.

The mystery of Mt Popa is that it gives four different visions if viewed from four different quarters. Two summits appear in the view from the western direction. But the northern view gives you the illusion of Fuji Yama of Japan, only one summit. Depending upon weather and your position in the other two directions Mt Popa appears in different shapes in your vision.

In fact Mt Popa has more than one summit. No less than nine summits crop up on it, and they are given names befitting their shapes, the minerals they produce and flora and herbal plants that grow wild on them. Thus (1) Zaba Pon Taung Hteik summit is shaped like a heap of paddy, (2) Yey Kwin Taung Hteik Summit is the one around which water flows, (3) Maung Taung Ngot Toe Taung Hteik Summit is shaped like a stump paddy pounder, (4) Labo Taung Hteik Summit looks like the hump of a bull, (5) Hman Taung Hteik Summit has minerals that reflect like glass, (6) Sey Pwint Taung Hteik Summit has herbal flowers growing wild, (7) Sein Taung Hteik Summit produces industrial diamond, (8) Marlar Taung Hteik Summit has wild flowers growing and (9) Kinpun Taung Hteik Summit has Kinpun vegetable bushes. Many summits were formed by water flows through millions of years.

On the main summit is a crater of extraordinary size — about a mile and a half wide and 2000 to 3000 feet deep depression which local people call "chone ma twin chauk is found there —several million years ago when Mt Popa was an active volcano it had erupted and from this depression spewed up fire, flames, gas, smoke, ashes and streams of burning melted lava cascaded form the mountain. It seems that Popa had erupted only once and it cooled down to become an extinct volcano. Till today lavas of different sizes are found sprayed around Mt Popa and to a far distance. The lovely verdant Popa Myo (Popa Town) itself was founded on the lava land.

To the southwest of main Mt Popa is an outcrop hill rising above sea level to the height of about 3000 feet. It is commonly known as Popa Taung Kalat (a hill in the shape of a tray with a stem). This grotesque formation stretches the imagination of the people to the other worldly realm. If Olympus is the sacred Mountain in Greece where ancient Greek gods and goddesses are believed to live, Mt Popa and its outcrop are the dwelling places of four



Mt Popa.

nat spirits who belong to the Myanmar Pantheon of thirty seven nat spirits. But here the point of differences between these non-humans of the two cultures should be noted. In the case of the dwellers of Mt Olympus they were gods and goddesses, not human. In the case of the dwellers of Mt Popa and the remaining members of Myanmar Pantheon they were formerly humans who had really lived a human life. Because of their untimely violent deaths, their spirits lingered until they got dwelling places where they were venerated by the people as nat spirits. The Taung Kalat was formed by the natural cause of volcanic eruption and its age is very much older than those of nat spirit dwellers on it.

Scholars opine that the name Popa was derived from a Pali word "popa" meaning flower. Because Mt Popa abounds in flowering trees, plants and creepers it is called "Popa" or Flower Mountain. There is another meaning. Popa was derived from another Pali word "Pubba" meaning "east". Because the Mountain lies to the east of Bagan, so it was called "Pubba Mt". Pubba Mt corrupted to Popa Mt.

Two other names of this sacred Mountain are (1) Wizadaya Taung because alchemists, necromancers, magicians and herbalists hunted this Mountain to look for the minerals and herbal plants and experimented their occult sciences and concocted panacea, (2) Nagayit Taung, because Mt Popa looks like the shape of a Naga serpent coiling around it.

The cult of nat spirits of Mt Popa began in the reign of King Thinligyaung (AD 344-387). He was the 5th king in the Bagan dynasty of 55 rulers. He had a dream in which the two nat spirits — older brother Maung Tintde and younger sister Myat Hla on a timber tree Saga (Champac) stranded at the harbour of Bagan on the bank of River Ayeyawady. They told the king that their abode the Saga Tree was uprooted and floated down the river by the order of Tagaung King and explained their tragic story. Maung Tint de, son of a blacksmith U Tint Daw of Tagaung kingdom was a strong mighty blacksmith who with his apprentices

could make many iron weapons. So the king of Tagaung feared he might raise a rebellion against him when the king's men were sent to arrest the mighty blacksmith, the latter escaped and remained in hiding. The king raised his beautiful sister Myat Hla to queen and told her that he would appoint her brother Minister of Interior. Believing the king she sent a message to her brother in hiding to come to the Palace. When Maung Tintde appeared at the court he was made Minister of Interior. Soon after that the king ordered executioners to tie Maung Tintde to the trunk of a Saga tree and burn him alive to death. On hearing this cruelty the sister rushed to the scene and jumped into the fire to die with her brother. The king hurriedly pulled her hair knot to save her. Only her face escaped the flames. Because of their violent death by fire their spirits lived at the Saga Tree, giving harm to any creature that came under its shade. The Tagaung King ordered to uproot the tree and float it down the river. If King Thinligyaung would offer them a place to dwell, they would guard his capital city.

In the morning when the king sent his men to the harbour they found the Saga Tree stranded there. The tree was cut into two—the taller representing the brother and the shorter the sister—were taken to the summit of the main Mt Popa where they were enshrined. They were entitled "Ein Twin Min Maha Giri." Ein Twin Min means Minister of Interior, Maha Giri means Great Mountain. Annual feast was held at this shrine in honour of them. The court and the people paid homage to them with offerings and ritual dances and music were performed. On either side of the Tharapa Gate of the palace city of Bagan are the shrines built into the brick walls Tintde on the right and Myat Hla on the left as guardian spirits. Thus began the first arrival of nat spirit dwellers on Mt Popa which therefore acquired another name "Maha Giri". Saga Tree becomes the dominant tree in the forest that covers Mt Popa.

(See page 7)

Sacred Mount Popa

Dr Khin Maung Nyunt

(from page 6)

Next came another nat spirit family to Mt Popa. It was in the time of King Anawrahta [AD 1044-1077] the 42nd king of the Bagan dynasty. Among his five brave knights-errant, Byatta was a speedy equestrian soldier who brought to the Palace ten times daily, flowers from Mt Popa — a long distance of over 30 miles. He fell in love with the resident of Mt Popa Mei Wunna. Her name meant a beautiful girl who had to be a flower gatherer or seller of the locality. But she was presented in the legend as a flower-eater ogress. They had two sons, Shwe Hpyingyi the older and Shwe Hpyinngge the younger. One day when King Anawrahta found out their secret married life, he was very angry. He would rather marry his knight-errant to a court lady. So the King put Byatta to death and Byatta became nat spirit. The King then sent his men to bring to court the two sons of Byatta who he adopted as his grandsons. Mei Wunna died of broken heart and she became nat spirit. Byatta and Mei Wunna the two spirits lived in Popa Taung Kalat. Their two sons who also became nat spirits after being executed by Anawrahta for negligence of duty were given them dwelling place at Taungpyone village near Mandalay. They did not live on Mt Popa and Taung Kalat. Only the Black Smith and his sister and Byatta and Mei Wunna lived on main Mt Popa and Popa Taung Kalat respectively. The remaining 33 nat spirits of the 37 Pantheon had their respective dwelling places and shrines in different parts of the country. But because nat festivals are frequently held at Mt Popa and Taung Kalat, the believers worship all 37 idols of 37 nat spirits enshrined in the pavilion at the time of the festivals it has become a common belief that all 37 nat spirits dwell in Mt Popa.

Sacred Mt Popa and Taung Kalat were often mentioned in old Bagan stone inscriptions, tragic stories of the four nat spirit dwellers were told in history and literature, depicted in visual arts, and re-enacted in performing arts.

On the summit of Taung Kalat are many nat spirit shrines and Buddhist monuments. The late Hermit U Khanti had built a flight of covered steps leading to the summit from where you can enjoy a breathtaking view of a verdant panorama of the far and near distances around. Quite a sizable population of wild monkeys is at Taung Kalat, now so tamed that they would trick and tease you till you give them food. Only residing monks can control them. Folk



Popa Taung Kalat.

tales and folk songs about Mt Popa say that there were 99 springs, falls and streams and nine stone bulls at Mt Popa. The Forest Department compiled an inventory of nearly 200 springs at Mt Popa in normal climate.

Mt Popa is a sort of oasis in the mid of dry zone of the country. Now the entire area is forest reserve and sanctuary under the management of the Forest Department. Greening of the Nine Arid Zones project launched over two decades ago resulted fruitfully and the project has been extended to other arid areas. Along with the conservation and preservation of wild flora and fauna, there are now cultivation of fruit trees plants such as mango, jackfruit, banana, papaya, coffee as well as flowering tress and plants Saga, Tharaphi, gantgaw, pon-nyet and vegetables. With sufficient water supply from natural sources and dams like Kyet Mauk Taung Reservoir, and fertility of lava soil, green fields and farms of paddy and other crops around Mt Popa stretch out to the far distance.

Nat spirit believers, nature lovers and summer vacationers find Mt Popa one of the most fascinating spots in the country. The Forest Department has its training school, park and museum up there. Myanmar Ecotourism provides all services for the visitors. There is a mountain resort — Mt Popa Forest Resort of world

class facilities and services well known to the world with a year long queue for reservation especially in summer. Individual family houses of wood, bamboo cane and thatch but equipped with up-to-date facilities are nestled separately and isolatedly at the sides, on the slopes, in the valleys and on the summits of Popa with wild vegetation all around your house. A view point just opposite to Taung Kalat in the near distance gives you an extraordinary eye feed at any time of day and night. Especially night scenes are eerie and other worldly. In complete stillness, agreeably disturbed only by a cacophony of insects, flashed by glow worms, scented by fragrance of world flora wafted by a soothing breeze to your nostrils, and lullabyed with a faint nat music and occasional late night gangs, one feels as if one were momentarily transported into the realms of the 37 nat spirits.

Sacred Mt Popa, though still shrouded in mysteries and legends has come out into the limelight of globalization. Reachable by land vehicles, — 63 miles from Meikhtila, 36 miles from Chauk, 48 miles from Myingyan and only less than 30 miles from Bagan—sacred Mt Popa lures you to tell all its mysteries and tales.

Vietnam to invest more abroad in 2008-10

HANOI, 15 Feb— Vietnam's investment in foreign countries is likely to increase to over 500 million US dollars each year in the 2008-2010 period from 391.2 million dollars in 2007, local newspaper Vietnam News reported Wednesday.

Earlier this year, the state-owned Vietnam Motors Industry Corporation announced a plan to invest some 200

million dollars in four projects in Venezuela and the Dominican Republic. The projects involve in production of cement mixers, light trucks and motorbikes.

The state-run Vietnam National Oil and Gas Group has established a representative office in Laos in preparation for exploring oil and gas there. Some other Vietnamese enterprises operating in the fields of food and wood

processing, and telecommunications are also preparing to make investment abroad.

Vietnamese firms last year invested a total of 391.2 million dollars overseas in 64 projects, bringing their combined investment abroad in the 1988-2007 period to roughly 1.4 billion dollars, according to Vietnam's Ministry of Planning and Investment.

MNA/Xinhua

Britain cuts visa price for Chinese tourists

BEIJING, 15 Feb— Britain will cut the price of its group tourists visas for Chinese travellers by almost a third for three months from March 3, said the British Ambassador to China Sir William Ehrman on Wednesday.

The price would fall from 63 pounds (980 yuan) to 44 pounds (660 yuan) and a final decision on whether the reduction should be permanent would be made at the end

of the trial period, said Ehrman.

China was the first country to carry out the trial reduction, said Ehrman, adding it was aimed at promoting tourism.

“The UK's relationship with China is crucial and growing and mobility between the two countries is essential to underpin it. The visa system needs to facilitate that mobility,” Ehrman

said.

He said Chinese tourists were visiting Europe in increasing numbers, and Britain wanted to welcome as many as possible.

China and Britain signed the UK-China Approved Destination Status (ADS) Memorandum of Understanding in July 2005 to facilitate the visit of Chinese tourist groups to Britain.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Yangon Division Secure and Smooth Transport Supervisory Committee meets

YANGON, 15 Feb — Supervisory Committee for Yangon Division Secure and Smooth Transport held a coordination meeting at the hall of Yangon Command this afternoon.

Chairman of the supervisory committee Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win delivered an address. Departmental officials and the chairmen of the bus lines reported on matters related to Universities ferries, traffic rules enforcement and requirements for road safety. The meeting came to an end with the concluding remarks by the commander. —MNA

Right thinking do arrive at the essential

Having known the essential as the essential and the non-essential as the non-essential, they, nourished on right thinking, do arrive at the essential.

Dhammapada-12

Coord meeting of Myanmar Economic Bank held



Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun addresses coordination meeting of Myanmar Economic Bank.—MNA

Union Day delegates back home

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb — Delegates and national race cultural troupes who had attended the 61st Anniversary Union Day ceremony left here by train, car and air for their respective towns in States and Divisions this morning. They were seen off at Ywadow station, Nay Pyi Taw Airport and No 7 Transit Centre by officials of Union Day Invitation and Accommodation Subcommittee. — MNA

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint and wife being welcomed by Charge d' Affaires ai Mr Dragan Janekovic of the Republic of Serbia and wife at the reception to mark the National Day of the Republic of Serbia, on 15 February.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—Myanmar Economic Bank under Ministry of Finance and Revenue held an annual work coordination meeting for the 2007-08 Fiscal Year at the ministry here today. Minister for

Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun delivered an address.

At the meeting, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein, Managing Director of Myanmar Economic Bank U Myat

Maw and managers of state/division/district bank branches of Myanmar Economic Bank discussed matters related to services of MEB.

The meeting continue until 17 February. — MNA



Construction Minister inspects bridges

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun inspected maintenance of Phaunggu Bridge across

Nayrinsara river on Kalay-Kalewa Road on 13 February.

The minister also inspected construction project of

Myaukyama Creek bridge on Patheinyon highway and gave instructions on construction work.

MNA

Experts discuss systems for Coastal Community Resilience Issues in Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb — A National Consultation Workshop on Coastal Community Resilience Issues in

Myanmar was held at the Ministry of Transport, here today.

Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung addressed the workshop and Social Scientist Mr Atiq Kainan Ahmed of Aisan Disaster Preparedness Center explained facts about the workshop.

At the workshop, the scholars of ADPC will focus on matters related to development of

technologies and systems for rehabilitating coastal communities after natural disasters including rising sea level, storm and tide and tsunami in the areas.

The workshop was organized by Meteorology and Hydrology Department of the Ministry of Transport and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

MNA

National Consultation Workshop on Coastal Community Resilience Issues in Myanmar in progress.

MNA



Commander enjoys performances of national race cultural troupes

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb — National race cultural troupes gave performances at the open air theatre in the compound of Nay Pyi Taw City Hall yesterday for the final day.

Chairman of Management Committee for Organizing the 61st Anniversary Union Day Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin and wife Daw Swe Swe Oo, departmental heads,



Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin and wife Daw Swe Swe Oo enjoy performance of cultural troupes of Union Day delegates.

MNA

personnel of the ministries, Supreme Court, Attorney-General's Office, Civil

Service Selection and Training Board and Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee viewed the

entertainment of artists of Fine Arts Department and cultural troupes from Kayah, Kayin, Chin,

Mon, Rakhine, Shan States and Taninthayi Division.

MNA

Notice to mariners

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb — The 1st Drilling Campaign CNOOC Myanmar Ltd will drill oil-wells at No M 10 block offshore Taninthayi coast with drilling machine Nan Hai-2 from 26 February to 18 May.

The areas where the oil-wells will be drilled are at well No 1-1 from North Latitude 14° 16'34.955" to East Longitude 96°32'18.417", at well

No 2-1 from North Latitude 14°9'34.847" to East Longitude 96°45'55.379" and at well No 3-1 from North Latitude 14°4'51.466" to East Longitude 96°30'52.241".

In this regard, Fisheries Department has already issued an announcement that all vessels large and small are not to enter the 4 km radius area of the working area.

MNA

Developed countries urged to lead emissions cuts

UNITED NATIONS, 15 Feb — Delegates at a UN high-level debate on climate change Wednesday urged developed countries to take the lead in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the major contributor to global warming.

The thematic debate, which started Monday and was originally planned for two days, dragged on into a third day because of the vast number of intended speakers from more than 100 countries and international organizations.

Addressing the event, Iran's UN Ambassador Mohammad Khazaei said that developed countries are historically responsible for the release of greenhouse gas emissions.

"Therefore, the developed countries must take the lead and make

significant contributions in achieving the present and future global policies on mitigation and adaptation," said Khazaei, adding that it was important to adhere to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. — MNA/Xinhua

Objectives of the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day

- * To work in concert with the people in building a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation
- * To realize the seven-step Road Map of the State joining hands with the people
- * Joining hands with the people and based on Union Spirit to crush internal and external destructive elements sabotaging stability and development of the State
- * To build a strong, capable and modern patriotic Tatmadaw to safeguard Our Three Main National Causes

Stakes driven for construction of MICC

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb — A ceremony to drive stakes for construction of Myanmar International Convention Centre (MICC) was held at the site for the building, here, this morning.

A representative of the People's Republic of China explained the construction of the MICC.

Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Guan Mu drove the stakes at the designated places.

They sprinkled scented water on the stakes.

The MICC building will be built by Anhui Foreign Economic Construction (Group) Co Ltd (AFECC). — MNA

Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Guan Mu drives a stake for construction of Myanmar International Convention Center (MICC) in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA



All this needs to be known

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

Syria vows to retaliate against expanded US sanctions

DAMASCUS, 15 Feb — Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Muallem said Thursday Damascus would respond to the financial sanctions announced by Washington against senior Syrian officials.

“This is not the first time the United States has taken measures against Syria. But this time we will impose our own sanctions on the United States,” Muallem told a joint news conference with visiting Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki.

He did not elaborate on the measures to be

taken against the United States, which has decided to freeze US assets of those believed responsible for actions that “undermine efforts to stabilize Iraq”.

Referring to the Israeli attacks on Hizbollah forces in 2006, Muallem said “dozens of Syrians who became victims in the Israeli aggression against

Lebanon will start proceedings against the United States as Israel used American arms” against them.

US President George W Bush Wednesday announced measures to freeze the US assets of the senior Syrian officials and their associates.

MNA/Xinhua

Thai police nab US “Ponytail Bandit” bankrobber

BANGKOK, 15 Feb — Thai police have arrested an American woman, dubbed the “Ponytail Bandit” for her alleged role in a string of bank robberies in the United States, and will hand her

over to US custody on Friday, a police spokesman said.

Morgan Michelle Hoke, the 21-year-old suspect, was caught by immigration police in an area of Bangkok popular

ASEAN, India to improve trade

HANOI, 15 Feb — Laos is hosting the 19th ASEAN-India Trade Negotiation Meeting as a forum for officials from both sides to reach solutions to trade barriers that exist between the two major trading partners, Lao newspaper *Vientiane Times* reported Thursday.

During the three-day meeting starting on 13

February, the officials from India and the 10 members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) are expected to reach an agreement on possible models of trade between member countries.

The completed draft of a new trade model agreement will be reviewed and signed by

both the ASEAN and Indian economic ministers at their informal meeting to be held in May.

The officials are also to discuss the draft of a treaty on trade in goods, and an agreement that addresses problems associated with the validation of certificates of product origin.

MNA/Xinhua

Chad imposes state of emergency to combat rebels

N'DJAMENA, 15 Feb — Chadian President Idriss Deby on Thursday decreed a state of emergency across the central African state to tighten security after a rebel attack on the capital N'Djamena this month.

In an address on state television and radio, Deby said his government would take on exceptional powers for 15 days from Friday, as set forth under the Constitution of the former French colony.

“These are exceptional measures which I must take to assure the normal functioning of the state,” the President said.

A lighting assault by a convoy of 3,000 rebel fighters reached the outskirts of Deby’s presidential palace on 2 February before being turned back in two days of confused street fighting in which more than 160 people were killed.— MNA/Reuters

MNA/Reuters

Kenya rivals sign deal to end post-election pol deadlock

NAIROBI, 15 Feb — Kenya’s feuding political parties have signed a deal to end the country’s political impasse which has persisted since the disputed on 27 December presidential elections.

The deal was signed at a secret location believed to be an animal park in Tsavo Game Reserve, about 300

kilometres outside the capital Nairobi, where intensive talks to end the impasse kicked off about 48 hours with an aim of reaching a political settlement.

The exact details of the deal signed the secret location has not been established but former UN chief Kofi Annan said he would unveil the details at

a news conference in Nairobi on Friday evening before the talks kick-off in Nairobi Monday.

“Kofi Annan will return to Nairobi tomorrow (Friday), 15 February. He will speak to the press to outline what was agreed in 48 hours of discussions at a location outside Nairobi.

MNA/Xinhua



US Department of Defence handout photo shows an aerial view of the River Entrance of the Pentagon. A US defence official said on Thursday that the Pentagon plans to shoot down a malfunctioning US spy satellite before it re-enters the Earth’s atmosphere next month. —INTERNET

Five reported dead in Illinois college shooting

DEKALB (Illinois), 15 Feb — A man opened fire in a crowded lecture hall at Northern Illinois University on Thursday, killing four people and wounding a number of others before killing himself, media reports and authorities said.

Police on the 25,000-student college 65 miles (104 kilometres) west of Chicago said the gunman was a student from another college but they did not publicly identify him.

They said he killed himself on the same classroom stage from where he began shooting near the end of a mid-afternoon lecture on ocean science and that he had three guns.

The Chicago Tribune and other media reported that four of the 18 or more people wounded had died but the university did not confirm that.

A local hospital said on its Web site that one person, who was not identified as the gunman,

had died, and that six were in critical condition after the latest in a series of shootings at US colleges and high schools in recent years.

It said it had admitted 17 people wounded in the shooting.

Officials at the campus said they did not know the motive of the black-clad gunman, who they and witnesses said appeared suddenly at the front of the lecture hall and opened fire.

MNA/Reuters



Rescue workers evacuate a victim of a shooting at a lecture hall at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Ill, on 14 Feb, 2008. A man dressed in black opened fire with a shotgun from a stage of a lecture hall at Northern Illinois University on Thursday before he killed himself, the school’s president said.—INTERNET

Images of the Day



A couple place candles in the shape of a heart at a promotional event for Valentine's Day at Yokohama Red Brick Warehouse in Yokohama, south of Tokyo on 14 Feb, 2008. About 1,000 candles were used in this event.

INTERNET



This undated picture shows a woman smelling concentrated oxygen inside the first oxygen bar in Paris. As oxygen bars begin to pop up across France, health authorities are beginning to question the merits or otherwise of sniffing O₂.—INTERNET



D-REX Dinosaur from Mattel is displayed at the American International Toy Fair on 14 Feb, 2008 in New York. D-REX combines robotics, proprietary software and reptilian skin to create a life-like appearance and behavior.—INTERNET



Sporting's Simon Vukcevic (R), jumps to kick the ball during their UEFA Cup first leg round of 32 football match against Basel at Alvalade XXI Stadium in Lisbon.

INTERNET



In this image released by Lucasfilm Ltd, Warner Bros Pictures, a scene from the animated film 'Star Wars: The Clone Wars,' is shown. Lucasfilm Ltd, Warner Bros Pictures and Turner Broadcasting System Inc announced, on 12 Feb, 2008, that the film, will open on 15 Aug in theaters throughout North America, followed by the debut of a television series this fall.—INTERNET



A bird (L) flies over a crane sculpture with icicles hanging on its wings, at Tokyo's Hibiya park.

INTERNET

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CORRECT NAME

My name was written 'RAJA' as one word in my p/p No. 514420. Actually, my name is two words 'RA JA'.

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310,000 illegal immigrants captured in Turkey

ANKARA, 14 Feb— Nearly 310,000 illegal immigrants were intercepted in Turkey over the past five years, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported on Tuesday.

"Turkish security forces captured nearly 310,000 illegal immigrants over the past five years and 167,000 of them were involved in several crimes," Turkish Coast Guard Commander Admiral Can Erenoglu was quoted as saying.

Human trafficking was a global problem which was also linked to terrorism and other crimes such as drug trafficking, as human traffickers charge money for border crossings and immigrants are often involved in crimes in order to pay this money. Thousands of immigrants from Asia and Africa have entered Turkey illegally on their way to European countries in search of jobs and a better life.

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia eyes more investment from Arab world

JAKARTA, 14 Feb— Indonesia expects a downpour of investments from the Middle East following the creation of a massive fund by oil kingpins in the Islamic region, local Press said on Wednesday. The Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Kadin), considered to be a powerful lobby group in the country, estimated around one billion US dollars of windfall oil proceeds from the Middle East would be invested in Indonesia this year.

Confronted with an unfavourable business climate in the United States and Europe— countries suspicious of

funds from the Middle East as associated with terrorist networks, many Arab businessmen feel more secure investing their money in Asia.

With oil prices hovering above 83 dollars per barrel, Middle Eastern countries have been enjoying windfall profits as their main business activities are primarily related with the production of oil and petrol. Jakarta's special envoy to the Middle East, Alwi Shihab, has said the government expected to secure as much as five billion dollars in investment from the region, reported *The Jakarta Post*.

MNA/Xinhua

Arrests made in Denmark in cartoonist murder plot

COPENHAGEN, 14 Feb— Several people were arrested in Denmark on Tuesday in connection with a plot to murder one of the 12 cartoonists whose drawings of the Prophet Mohammad caused worldwide uproar in 2006, Danish media said. According to Jyllands-Posten, the newspaper that originally published the cartoons in September 2005, the suspects are accused of planning to kill 73-year-old Kurt Westergaard. He drew the cartoon that caused the most controversy, depicting Mohammad with a bomb in his turban.

Danish news agency *Ritzau* said police would not give details of the case before the Security and Intelligence Service holds a news conference later in the day to announce the arrests. The cartoons initially went largely unnoticed, but were later reprinted outside Denmark and eventually provoked outrage among Muslims, most of whom deem any depiction of Mohammad as offensive.

MNA/Reuters

Cars drive through flooded roads in downtown Concord, NH, on 13 Feb, 2008. More than eight inches of snow fell overnight followed by heavy rains in the morning.

INTERNET



Vietnam's catfish export to rise this year

HANOI, 15 Feb— Vietnam will gain over 1.2 billion US dollars from exporting "tra" fish, a kind of catfish, in 2008 and 1.5 billion dollars in 2010, up from more than one billion dollars in 2007, according to local newspaper *Youth* on Wednesday.

The world demand for "tra" fish will be higher this year due to thinner supplies in China and Eastern Europe, resulting in higher prices of the local product, the newspaper quoted some leading Vietnamese catfish enterprises as reporting.

MNA/Xinhua

Four killed, 22 more feared dead in Uganda boat wreck

KAMPALA, 14 Feb— Four people were killed and another 22 missing feared drowned after two boats collided and sank in Lake Victoria in eastern

Uganda, police said on Tuesday. Police said they had given up for searching for survivors after a cargo ship and passenger boat carrying a total of 42

people struck each other on Monday. Sixteen people survived and four bodies had been recovered, police said.

MNA/Reuters

Iraqi security adviser wants no troop withdrawal pause

LONDON, 15 Feb — US forces should keep withdrawing from Iraq this year without a pause. Iraq's national security adviser said on Wednesday, disagreeing with US Defence Secretary Robert Gates.

Mowaffaq al-Rubale, whose post gives him as senior security role in the Iraqi Government, said he would like to see US forces draw down steadily to below 100,000 by the end of 2008.

He also said he thought it was unlikely American Democratic Party candidates for President would be able to keep pledges to repidly pull out US forces if they are elected this year to successd President George W Bush.

Gates, who visited Iraq on Monday, baked a "pause" in withdrawing American forces after 30,000 sent last year in a "surge" are withdrawn in the next few months.

"The notion of a brief period of consolidation and evaluation probably does make sence," Gates told reporters in Baghdad on Monday.

Rubale told a small group of journalists at Iraq's Embassy in London that he understood the arguments for a pause "to consolidate the gains" made over past months.

"I understand. But i believe phasing out and making it a continuous but slow withdrawawal is better than pausing, as it gives continuity to the process," he said.

MNA/Reuters

Kidnapped German aid worker freed in Somalia

HARGEISA (Somalia), 15 Feb — A German aid worker kidnapped in northwestern Somalia was freed after local security forces fought off the gunmen who seized him, his employer and a Somali official said on Wednesday. Deutsche Welthungerhilfe, also known as the German Agro Action, said its employee, Daniel

Bronkal, was freed on Tuesday evening. Shots were fired during the release operation, but Bronkal was not hurt, and the kidnappers fled.

"I was treated very well by the kidnappers. There was enough to eat and to drink, and they did neither threaten me, nor beat me," the organization quoted Bronkal as saying.

MNA/Reuters

UNICEF says Africa floods threaten 150,000 children

JOHANNESBURG, 15 Feb — Close to 150,000 children in southern Africa are in need of humanitarian assistance because of deadly floods that have engulfed the region, the UN Children's Fund said on Wednesday.

Afshan Kahn, UNICEF's associate director for eastern and southern Africa, said children accounted for about a third of those in dire need after severe flooding in Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia and other countries.

At least 45 people have died since torrential rains swept through the region in December and January. The subsequent floods have swept away livestock and crops, prompting fears of food shortages and outbreaks of disease.

MNA/Reuters

East Timor PM seeks state of emergency extension

DILI, 14 Feb—East Timor Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao on Wednesday proposed extending a state of emergency until 23 February and called for calm following an assassination attempt on President Jose Ramos-Horta.

Ramos-Horta was critically wounded by

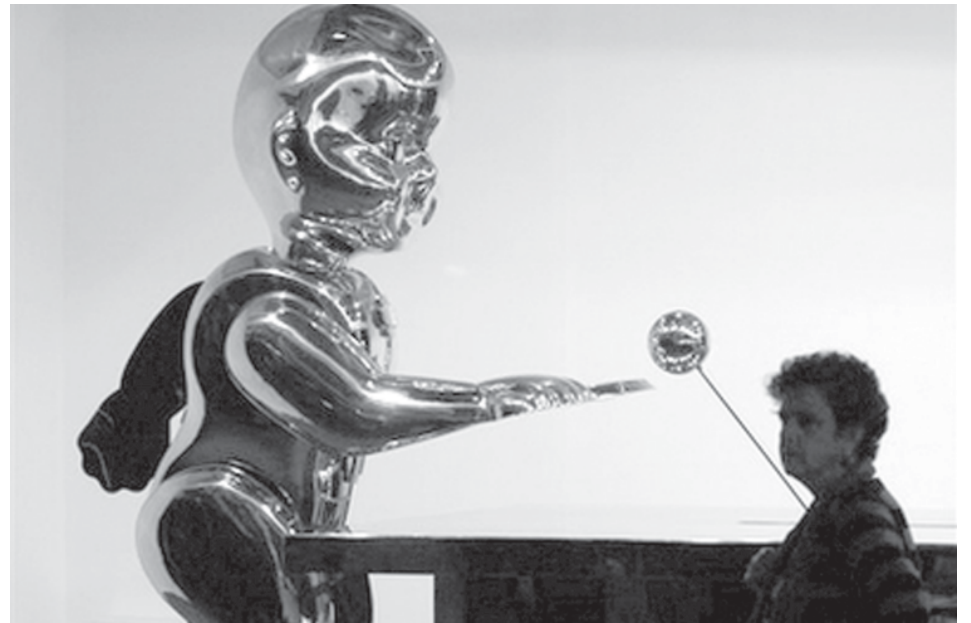
gunfire from rebel soldiers early on Monday, while Gusmao escaped unhurt in a separate attack on his motorcade.

Some analysts had said East Timor could suffer further violence and political chaos after rebel leader Alfredo Reinado died in the attack on Ramos-Horta. Australia sent troops to Dili this

week to enforce a state of emergency and help with security.

East Timor's prosecutor-general said earlier on Wednesday that he would issue arrest warrants for 18 people believed to be involved in assassination attempts on the president and Prime Minister.

MNA/Reuters



A woman looks at a robot playing table tennis during the international contemporary Arco Art fair in Madrid, Spain, on 14 Feb, 2008. The fair will run until 18 Feb.—INTERNET



Two Chinese police officers keep watch near the Beijing Olympic countdown clock near Tiananmen Square in Beijing, on 13 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Coop between Turkey, Israel contributes to M-E peace

ANKARA, 14 Feb—Turkish Defence Minister Vecdi Gonul said on Tuesday that growing cooperation between Turkey and Israel contributes to peace and stability in the Middle East. Gonul made the remarks at a joint Press conference with visiting Israeli Minister of Defence

Ehud Barak after their official talks in the Turkish capital of Ankara.

Hailing the two countries' cooperation, Gonul said that his country has signed 15 agreements with Israeli military authorities and are conducting joint military acts. He also said that Turkish and Israeli defence officials have revived talks on purchasing spy satellites developed and constructed by Israel.

Gonul said that Turkey

used Israeli-manufactured unmanned aircraft in its south-east and cross-border operations against the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which he said have been very helpful.

"We thank Israel for its support to Turkey in the defence industry. We thank Mr Barak for sending equipment and devices that Turkey use in the south-east and in cross border operations," Gonul stressed.

MNA/Xinhua

Schiphol Airport's security upped after fake bomb on plane

AMSTERDAM, 14 Feb—The Dutch Government announced plans on Tuesday to tighten security at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport after a journalist smuggled a fake bomb and drugs into planes at Europe's fourth-busiest air travel hub.

Three staff entrances will be closed immediately and body searches introduced for all personnel and their belongings within days, Justice Minister Ernst Hirsch Ballin said in a letter to Parliament, which had demanded answers after the breach.

Investigative journalist Alberto Stegeman managed to smuggle a fake bomb and drugs onto planes using the uniform and identity badge of an associate who secured a job as a baggage handler. He said gate personnel always let uniformed workers into planes.

The minister said iris scans would be introduced to staff entrances to the secure parts of the airport by 1 July and two security guards instead of one would conduct identity checks until then.

The number of random checks on personnel leaving the airport will also be increased.

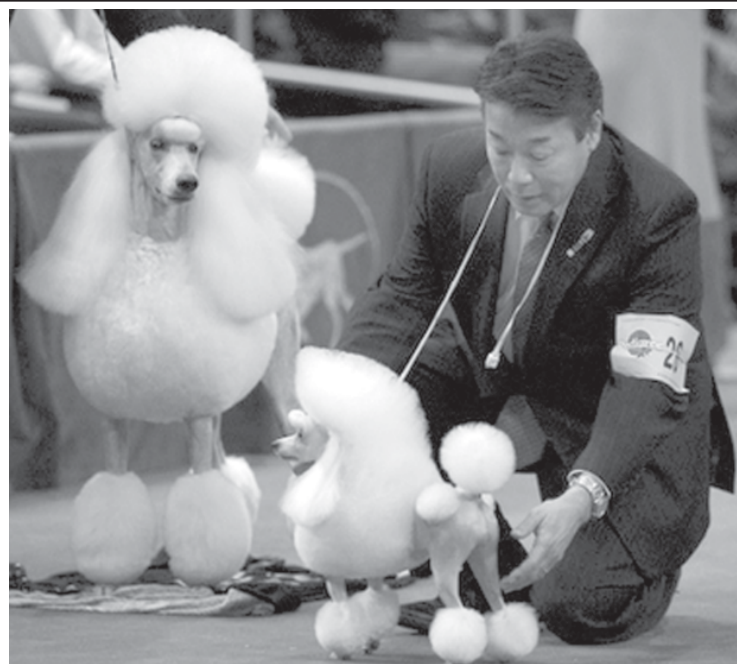
MNA/Reuters

Cold spell longest in Hong Kong since 1968

HONG KONG, 15 Feb — Up to Wednesday, the minimum temperatures of Hong Kong recorded at the Hong Kong Observatory has been below 12 degrees Celsius for 21 consecutive days. This is the longest cold spell in Hong Kong since 1968.

During this period, the mean minimum temperature recorded at the Hong Kong Observatory was 9.9 degrees, the second lowest during the same period (24 January- 13 February) since records began in 1885.

This exceptionally long cold spell is a result of the cold air from Siberia moving south to reach central and southern China incessantly, while moist air is transported from the South China Sea and even as far as the Indian Ocean. — MNA/Xinhua



Vikki the Toy Poodle and her handler Kaz Hosaka wait to get judged during the Best in Show category at the 132nd Westminster Kennel Club Annual Dog Show at Madison Square Garden, on 12 Feb, New York City. INTERNET

Angry Okinawa wants smaller US military presence

TOKYO, 15 Feb — Angry lawmakers on Japan's southern island of Okinawa called for progress on shrinking the US military presence and tighter discipline among US troops after the arrest of a US Marine on suspicion of raping a local schoolgirl.

The 38-year-old Marine, Tyrone Hadnott, based at Camp Courtney on the island, was arrested on Monday on suspicion of raping the 14-year-old girl when the two were in a car on Sunday. He has denied raping the girl but acknowledged forcing her to kiss him, an Okinawa police spokesman said.

"Considering the fact that such vicious, atrocious incidents have never ceased to occur, we must question the way the US military enforces discipline and educates its soldiers," the Okinawa assembly said in a resolution protesting the incident. The lawmakers called for an apology and compensation for the girl and her family, more concrete steps to prevent similar crimes in the future, and a reduction of US forces on the island, host to the bulk of the nearly 50,000 US troops in Japan.

Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda has denounced the incident, which has triggered memories of the 1995 rape of a 12-year-old girl by three US servicemen that ignited huge protests on Okinawa.

Tokyo has been trying to persuade residents of Okinawa to accept a plan to move the Marines' Futenma air base from the crowded city of Ginowan to the coastal city of Nago. — MNA/Reuters

SPORTS

Sheffield United manager Robson quits

LONDON, 15 Feb — Sheffield United manager Bryan Robson has left the English Championship (second Division) club and will be replaced by his number two Kevin Blackwell until the end of the season, the club said on Thursday.

A statement on the club's website (www.sufc.premiumtv.co.uk) said United plc chairman Kevin McCabe had discussed a new role for the former England captain during lengthy talks.

"However Robson elected to leave along with number two, Brian Kidd," the statement said. "Replacing the pair until the end of the season will be former number two Kevin Blackwell, assisted by Sam Ellis." — MNA/Reuters

Surgeon says no problems after Ronaldo operation

MILAN, 15 Feb — A knee operation undertaken on AC Milan and Brazil striker Ronaldo went smoothly on Thursday, according to his medical specialist in Paris.

The three-times World Player of the Year, who ruptured a ligament in his left knee on Wednesday, was treated at the Pitie-Salpetriere hospital in the French capital.

Knee specialist Gerard Saillant, who oversaw the operation and performed surgery on Ronaldo's right knee eight years ago, told *La Gazzetta dello Sport's* website (www.gazzetta.it): "The operation lasted around two hours and took place without any particular problems."

"It was the same injury as the previous time and for this reason the operation was of the same type."

"Now Ronaldo will have to go through nine months of rehabilitation."

Asked if the Brazilian would play again, Saillant replied: "It will depend on him." The 31-year-old was carried off in tears after going down heavily during Wednesday's 1-1 Serie A draw at home to Livorno.

Ronaldo, who has hardly featured this season because of a series of injuries, had only come on as a substitute three minutes earlier. — MNA/Reuters



AC Milan striker Ronaldo calls for help during the Serie A match against Livorno at the San Siro stadium on 13 February. Ronaldo has flown to Paris for surgery after rupturing a tendon in his right knee during AC Milan's 1-1 draw with Livorno.—INTERNET

Casillas, Raul commit to Real Madrid for life

MADRID, 15 Feb — Real Madrid striker Raul and goalkeeper Iker Casillas have signed contract extensions that will keep them at the Primera Liga club for the rest of their playing careers.

Spain's first-choice goalkeeper Casillas, 26, has tied himself to Real until 2017 while club captain Raul, 30, extended his deal by one year to 2011.

Both agreements will automatically roll over beyond the contracted periods if the players complete 30 official matches in the previous season. A similar deal is also on the table for Real midfielder Guti.

"Iker Casillas and Raul have both agreed to stay with the club for the rest of their sporting lives," Real president Ramon Calderon told a news conference on Thursday.

"On this day, which is Valentine's day, Iker, Raul and Real can say they love each other, they need each other, and complement each other and will commit for life."

MNA/Reuters



Mark Green (70) spins as Carl Edwards (60) tries to drive past during practice for the Camping World 300 NASCAR Nationwide Series race at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla., on 14 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Romario doping ban gets lifted on appeal

RIO DE JANEIRO, 15 Feb — Former Brazil striker Romario overturned a 120-day ban on Thursday when an appeal tribunal accepted his case that he failed a dope test because of a hair loss treatment.

The 1994 World Cup winner, who was given the ban on December 18, tested positive for the banned masking agent finasteride after playing for Vasco da Gama against Palmeiras in October.

The ban came just weeks from his scheduled retirement as a player and on the eve of his appointment as Vasco coach.

Romario carried out his coaching duties from behind the scenes but resigned after just five games of the Rio state championship, alleging that Vasco president Eurico Miranda was interfering in team

selection.

Romario told a sports disciplinary appeal tribunal he had used hair treatments containing finasteride for more than a decade, but had never failed a dope test.

He also stressed that he had kept club doctors informed about his use of the treatment.

Romario was overcome by emotion at one point during his testimony, prompting tribunal president Rubens Approbato to call an adjournment.

The seven tribunal members ruled unanimously in Romario's favour, earning a speech of gratitude from the player. "I came here to clear my name and I managed to salvage my honour. The Tribunal was sensible," he said.

MNA/Reuters



Norway's Solveig Rogstad (L-R), Sweden's Anna Maria Nilsson, Norway's Ann Kristin Flatland, Switzerland's Selina Gasparin and Estonia's Eveli Saue compete during the Biathlon World Championships competition in Ostersund on 14 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

FIFA opposes Premier League expansion abroad

LONDON, 15 Feb — FIFA president Sepp Blatter has opposed plans by the Premier League to play matches abroad and warned that the proposal could harm England's bid to host the 2018 World Cup.

"This is abuse. The rich Premier League is trying to get richer and wants to expand the importance of that league," the head of world soccer's governing body told the BBC on Thursday.

"This does not take into consideration the fans of the clubs and it gives the impression that they just want to go on tour to make some money."

England's top 20 clubs have agreed to play league matches overseas from the 2010-11 season under a proposal unveiled by the Premier League last week.

The fixtures, planned to be staged over one weekend in January in cities which had bid for the hosting rights, would extend the league season to 39 matches per club from 38.

"When it comes to a decision of the executive committee concerning this matter of the 39th round, and I am sure they will be against it, then it will not have a positive impact on the bid from England for the World Cup in 2018," Blatter added.

Blatter rejected claims by Premier League chief executive Peter Scudamore that FIFA could not stop the plan if the clubs received the go-ahead from England's Football Association (FA). —MNA/Reuters

Bayern held to 2-2 draw by Aberdeen in UEFA Cup

LONDON, 15 Feb — UEFA Cup heavyweights Bayern Munich twice had to come from behind to secure a 2-2 draw at Aberdeen in the first leg of their last 32 clash on Thursday.

Aberdeen, who famously beat Bayern 3-2 at home in the quarterfinals on their way to their triumph in the 1983 Cup Winners' Cup, stunned the Bundesliga leaders with an opening goal on 24 minutes from Josh Walker.

Some neat passing inside Bayern's penalty area saw Omatsone Aluko lay the ball back for midfielder Walker who curled a 25-metre shot past stand-in keeper Michael Rensing.

Four-times European champions Bayern equalized soon after when Miroslav Klose lashed in after Lucio's long ball forward was knocked down by Luca Toni.

But a capacity crowd at Pittodrie were celebrating again when Aluko, on-loan from Birmingham City, volleyed in from the edge of the box four minutes before halftime.

Bayern, without a host of regulars including Franck Ribery and number one goalkeeper Oliver Kahn, salvaged a draw when Hamit Altintop scored from the rebound after Jamie Langfield had parried his 55th-minute penalty.

MNA/Reuters

Russia warns Iran on missiles, uranium enrichment

Moscow, 15 Feb — Russia warned Iran on Wednesday that its development of rockets and continued uranium enrichment was creating the impression Teheran was intentionally ignoring the concerns of the international community.

“We do not approve of Iran’s actions in constantly demonstrating its intentions to develop its rocket sector and continue enriching uranium,” Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told Russian news agencies.

“From the point of view of international law these actions are not

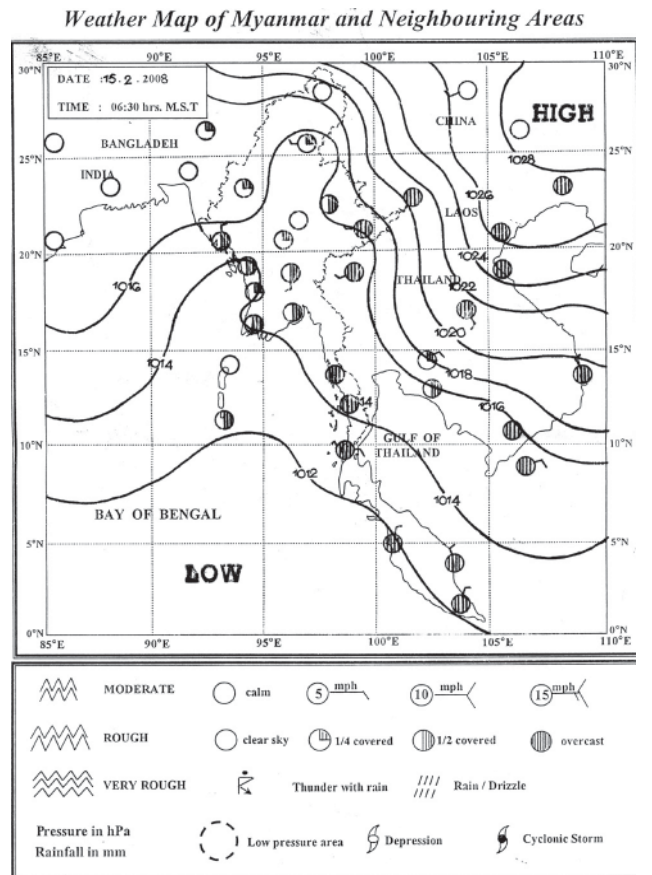
forbidden, but you can also not ignore that in previous years a whole host of problems were uncovered in Iran’s nuclear programme,” Lavrov said, Interfax news agency reported.

“Until these problems can be removed I think it is advisable to refrain from steps, and especially from statements, that merely heat up the atmosphere and create the impression that Iran really has made up its mind to ignore the international community, the United Nations Security Council and the IAEA,” he said.

MNA/Reuters



Mount Kilimanjaro rises above the clouds as a Gazelle graze at the foot of the mountain in the Amboseli national park 250 km south of Nairobi, Kenya, in this file photo.—INTERNET



WEATHER

Friday, 15 February, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Taninthayi Division, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin, Rakhine, and Mon States, Bago and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (11°C) below February average temperatures in Chin State, (5°C) to (6°C) below February average temperatures in upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) below February average temperatures in Kachin, Northern Shan and Rakhine States, (3°C) to (4°C) above February average temperatures in Mon and Kayin States. Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and about February average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (-5°C), Namhsan (0°C) An and Lashio (2°C) each. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Myeik (0.55) inch.

Maximum temperature on 14-2-2008 was 96°F. Minimum temperature on 15-2-2008 was 63°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 15-2-2008 was 60%. Total sunshine hours on 14-2-2008 was (9.1) hours approx.

Rainfall on 15-2-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (0.67) inch at Mingaladon, (0.47) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.35) inch at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from South at (16:30) hours MST on 14-2-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 16-2-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Strong easterly wind with moderate to rough sea are likely at time off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Surface wind speed in strong wind may reach (35) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 16-2-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 16-2-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 16-2-2008: Generally fair weather.

Weather outlook for third weeken of February 2008: During the coming weekend, weather will be partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.

Sarkozy attacks Iran for its stance on Israel

PARIS, 15 Feb — French President Nicolas Sarkozy said on Wednesday he would refuse to greet any world leader who refused to recognize Israel — a remark apparently ruling out any face-to-face meetings with Iran’s Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Sarkozy made the off-the-cuff remark in a speech to the French-Jewish

community in which he reaffirmed his strong support for international sanctions against Teheran over its nuclear programme.

“I won’t shake hands with people who refuse to recognise Israel,” Sarkozy declared.

Ahmadinejad, Iran’s hardline President, has in the past called for the Jewish state to be “wiped off the map”.

France has led the way in pressing for sanctions at the UN Security Council and in the European Union to get Iran to halt atomic work which Western powers fear is aimed at making bombs.

It recently urged energy companies Total and Gaz de France to refrain from investing in the OPEC country.

MNA/Reuters



Saturday, 16 February
Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music
- 8:50 am National news
- 9:00 am Music
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music
- 1:30 pm News/ Slogan
- 1:40 pm Music at your request
- 9:00 pm ASEAN news
- 9:20 pm Myanmar Culture... Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt
- 9:30 pm Souvenirs
- 9:45 pm News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL



Saturday, 16 February
View on today

- 7:00 am
- 7:25 am
- 7:30 am
- 7:40 am
- 7:50 am
- 8:00 am
- 8:15 am
- 8:20 am

- 8:30 am
- 8:45 am
- 11:00 am
- 11:15 am
- 11:30 am
- 11:45 am
- 12:05 am
- 12:50 pm
- 2:30 pm
- 2:40 pm
- 2:45 pm
- 4:00 pm
- 4:15 pm

- 4:30 pm
- 5:10 pm
- 5:15 pm
- 5:30 pm
- 6:00 pm
- 6:30 pm
- 6:35 pm
- 7:00 pm
- 7:10 pm
- 8:00 pm
- 8:00 pm
- 13. News
- 14. International news
- 15. Weather report
- 16. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ
- 17. The next day's programme

People's Desire

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

Agreement signed for exploration of gold and associated minerals

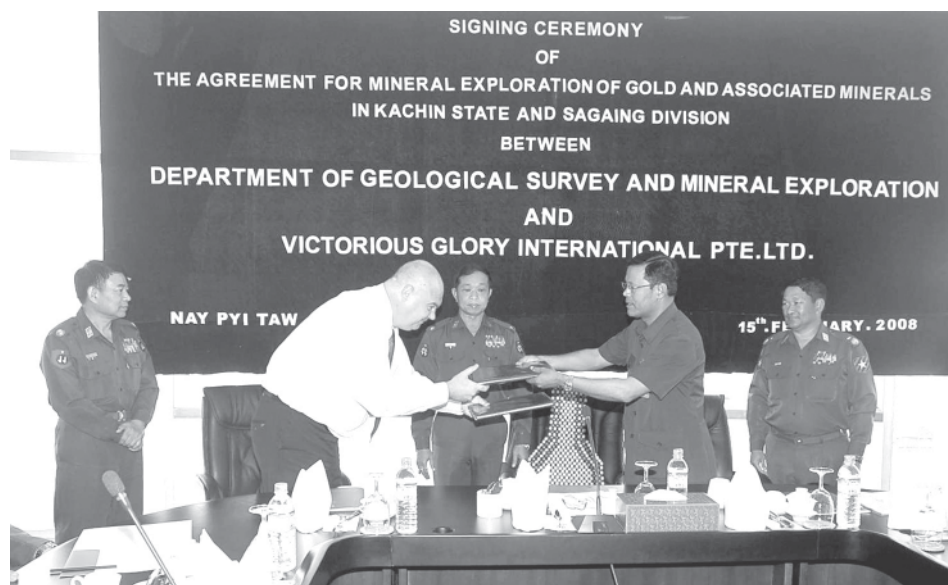
NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb — The Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration Department under the Ministry of Mines and Victorious Glory International Pte Ltd of the Russian Federation signed the Agreement for Mineral Exploration of Gold and Associated Minerals along Uru River between Phakant of Kachin State and

Homalin of Sagaing Division, at the ministry, here, this morning.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Myanmar Mr

Mikhail M Mgeladze, officials of the Myanmar Investment Commission, the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, directors-general and managing directors under the Ministry of Mines and Chairman Mr Krivoshey Pavel of Victorious Glory International Pte Ltd and guests.

Director-General



Director-General U Win Ti and Mr Krivoshey Pavel exchange notes on Agreement for Mineral Exploration of Gold and Associated Minerals in Kachin State and Sagaing Division. —MNA

U Win Ti of the Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration Department

and Chairman Mr Krivoshey Pavel of Victorious Glory International

Pte Ltd signed the agreement. The ceremony ended at 11 am. — MNA

Clandestine schemes being plotted to commit destructive acts in the nation

People urged to join hands with authorities concerned to expose conspiracies

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—Subversive elements inside and outside the nation are plotting to commit destructive acts in the nation with the intention of undermining stability of the State, community peace, and prevalence of law and order, killing the innocent people and creating a public panic in the nation.

At about 4.30 am on 11 January, a bomb went off in a public toilet in the compound of the staff quarters near Nay Pyi Taw Pinyinman Station, while Naw Gae Lar of Laythit Village in Htantabin Township was making preparations to plant the bomb. The explosion cost her life. At about 7.30 pm the same day, corporal Saw Di Thaw Mu of Battalion (8) of KNU Brigade (3) also in charge of collecting extor-

tion money was killed and four innocent people wounded in the bomb blast that took place near U Maung Maung circus show being staged to mark the Independence Day in the football ground in Nyaungbintha Village, Pyu Township, Bago Division. The bomb exploded while Saw Di Thaw Mu was trying to plant the bomb.

Similarly, a bomb explosion occurred between the public toilet and the brick wall of Yangon Railway Station near the upper class train ticket booth in the compound of the station on Bogyoke Aung San Street in Mingala Taungnyunt Township. An innocent person was injured in the incident. The above-mentioned news stories have been reported for public

information.

According to the information received recently, internal and external destructive elements are scheming together to detonate bombs again in some important places and busy places in the nation, and they are sending trained destructionists into the nation.

Accordingly, authorities concerned are taking measures to be able to expose the saboteurs and explosives.

The people are thus reminded to inform the authorities concerned as soon as possible if they notice any persons and acts suspicious in their societies.

MNA

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