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Wednesday, 4 February, 2009

Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of Ambassador of Cambodia

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Feb—H.E Mr Chhong Toeun, newly-accredited Ambassador of Cambodia to the Union of Myanmar presented his credentials to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the

State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, at Bayintnaung Yeiktha, here at 10 a.m. today.

Present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council

Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint and Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department.

MNA



Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of Mr Chhong Toeun, newly-accredited Ambassador of Cambodia to the Union of Myanmar at Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw.

MNA

Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam



Senior General Than Shwe receives Mr Chu Cong Phung, newly-accredited Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the Union of Myanmar at Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Feb—H.E Mr Chu Cong Phung, newly-accredited Ambassador of the Socialist

Republic of Vietnam to the Union of Myanmar presented his credentials to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman

of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, at Bayintnaung Yeiktha,

here at 10.30 a.m. today.

Present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace

and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U

Maung Myint and Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department.

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PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 4 February, 2009

Use high-yield strains of crops to achieve mechanized farming

Today, science and technology dominate other sectors. In relation to the agricultural sector, agricultural researchers focus on production of hybrid strains of crops, improving agricultural methods, and use of proportionate ration of fertilizers.

Myanmar is trying to introduce modern farming or model farming system in its bid to transform conventional into mechanized farming, which calls for broader use of high-yield quality strains.

Now, farmers across the nation are encouraged to replace usual strains of crops with high-yield ones. The Agricultural Research (Yezin) in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana is producing high-yield strains to meet the demand.

The new paddy strains the Agricultural Research (Yezin) has produced through research are Thukhayin, Hsinthweyin, Hsinnweyin, Hsinthukha, Yadanatone and Yehsinya (9). The per acre yield of those paddy strains is over 100 baskets. Here, farmers have to choose suitable strains of paddy.

Other crops under research are groundnut, sesame, beans and pulses, sugarcane, cotton, jute and physic nut. So, farmers have to use high-yield strains in order to boost agricultural production.

Therefore, farmers should use the strains of crops produced by the Agricultural Research (Yezin) to be able to boost their incomes and agricultural production of the nation.

Reflections on transforming economy and developing market force on 7 Feb

YANGON, 3 Feb— With the sponsorship of Dynamic Engineering & General Trading Co Ltd, the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry is holding the subject-wise educative talks every month.

At 2 pm on 7 February, the UMFCCI will conduct the educative talks on the first floor of UMFCCI tower in Lanmadaw Township, here.

Professor Daw Yi Yi Myint will give lecture on "Reflections on the transforming economy and the developing market force" at the talks.

Executives and members of UMFCCI and other associations and interested persons may attend the talks.—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

Factories under Ministry of Industry-1 inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Feb—Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung viewed ginning of cotton and warehouses at Cotton Ginning Factory (Sagaing) of Myanmar Textile Industries on 1 February morning.

Next, the minister inspected production process of Sagaing Textile Factory of Myanmar Textile Industries, Instant Noodle Factory (Sagaing) and No. 1 Wheat and Flour Factory (Sagaing) of Myanmar Foodstuff Industries.

The minister also looked into functions of Ngwechi-6 cotton purchase centre opened at Sagaing Cotton Farm, and Sagaing Textile Factory of Myanmar Textile Industries and left instructions on efforts to be made for meeting the target production.—MNA

Foreign Affairs Minister sends message of felicitations to Sri Lankan counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb—On the occasion of the 61st Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka which falls on 4th February 2009, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Rohitha Bogollagama, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

MNA

Electric Power No. 2 Minister inspects national power grid projects



Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspects construction of Kamanat-Thanyin power grid. — MNA

YANGON, 3 Feb— Minister for Electric Power No. 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint accompanied by officials, went to 230/33/11 KV (60 MVA) Kamanat (Bago) main power station yesterday morning, storage of construction materials, installation of Control Panel Boxes, and maintenance of batteries and stressed the need concerning the reports.

The minister inspected construction of towers and connection of power grids of 230 KV Kamanat-Thanyin national grid (61) miles. The minister looked into connection of power lines between No. 247 tower and No. 248 tower and installation of conductor spencers for ensuring the same distance between one tower and another.

The minister then proceeded to Thanlyin main power station at which he heard reports on construction projects of 230 KV Kamanat (Bago) Thanlyin national power grid (61) miles and 230

KV Thanlyin-Thakayta national power grid (7.7) miles and arrival of construction materials and left necessary instructions.

MNA

Applied Paddy Production Development Course commences

YANGON, 3 Feb—Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading opened the Applied Paddy Production Development Course No. 2/2009 at the hall of Yangon Division MAPT this morning.

It was attended by Managing Director U Kyaw Htoo of MAPT, officials, responsible persons of associations and trainees.

Altogether 59 trainees are attending the two-week course.—MNA



An Afghan man takes a photo of mangled wreckage at the site of a suicide bomb attack in the outskirts of Kabul on 1 Feb. The Pentagon said that insurgent violence was on the rise across Afghanistan and that international forces lacked the troops and resources to control the country's south. —INTERNET

Dutch PM sets up committee to investigate decision-making on Iraq

BRUSSELS, 3 Feb—Dutch Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende announced Monday that a committee will be set up to investigate the decision making process which led to the Dutch government's support for the invasion of Iraq by the United States and Britain in 2003.

The committee will be chaired by former Dutch Supreme Court president W J M Davids, who can choose the other members. The committee may

include one or more cabinet ministers, Balkenende said.

The committee will have access to all information it requires, including those of the intelligence, security and defence departments. Hearing of persons, but not under oath, will also be possible. The committee should present its report by 1 November, Balkenende said.

The prime minister's announcement followed a string of revelations last month by the Dutch me-

dia, which embarrassed the government and rekindled the debate about a possible parliamentary inquiry into the Dutch government's decision making on the Iraq war.

According to documents obtained by Dutch media, the Dutch government in 2003, under the then prime minister Balkenende, had planned to give military support to the invasion of Iraq but dropped the plan in the face of opposition from the Labor Party.—*Internet*

Iraq tribes threaten to take up arms over poll

RAMADI, 3 Feb — Tribal sheikhs who helped drive al Qaeda militants out of Western Iraq threatened on Monday to take up arms against the provincial government because of what they said was fraud in on Saturday's provincial polls.

The election was the most peaceful in Iraq since the fall of Saddam Hussein, but the west of the country has seen tension between Sunni Arab groups, many of whom boycotted the last provincial ballot in 2005.

Anbar Province, Iraq's vast western third, was once the heartland of the Sunni Arab insurgency against US troops but is now largely quiet, thanks to tribal guard units known as Awakening councils that helped drive out al Qaeda militants.

In one of the toughest-fought contests of the election, the tribes have challenged the Iraqi Islamic Party (IIP), a Sunni religious party which has run the province since 2005.

With the IIP claiming the results will keep it in power, Awakening leaders alleged fraud in the voting.—*Internet*



Afghan demonstrators gather at a demonstration as black smoke billows from burning tires in the background, following a US operation on their village in Qarabagh district of Ghazni, west of Kabul, Afghanistan, on 2 Feb, 2009. The US military said that its overnight raid in southeastern Ghazni province targeted a militant who coordinates attacks using roadside bombs and other weapons.—INTERNET

Iraqi military puts Anbar Province under curfew

BAGHDAD, 3 Feb—Iraq's military clamped a vehicle ban Monday on the Sunni-dominated province of Anbar after tribal sheikhs sent gunmen into the streets claiming Sunni rivals linked to the Shiite-led government stole votes in last weekend's elections.

The brewing crisis threatens to trigger new violence in Anbar, the vast, mostly desert territory that had been centre-stage in the Sunni insurgency until tribes there turned against al-Qaida in Iraq two years ago.—*Internet*

Gaza rocket hits Israeli city; no injuries

JERUSALEM, 3 Feb—A long-range rocket from Gaza landed in the Israeli city of Ashkelon on Tuesday as delegates from the territory's militant Islamic Hamas rulers met in Cairo for talks with Egyptian officials striving to mediate a long-term truce with Israel.

The Grad rocket was the first of its kind to be fired at the city of 122,000 since informal cease-fires were declared separately by Israel and Hamas two weeks ago at the end of Israel's bruising three-week-long offensive in Gaza. No one was injured in the attack, police said.

—*Internet*

Bomber in police uniform kills 25 Afghan policemen

KANDAHAR, 3 Feb—A suicide bomber in a police uniform detonated his explosives inside a police training centre in southern Afghanistan on Monday, killing 25 officers and wounding at least 20, officials said. The Taliban claimed responsibility.

The bomber entered the training facility in Tirin Kot, the capital of Uruzgan Province, as the police reservists were exercising, said Juma Gul Himat, the provincial police chief.

The Interior Ministry said the attacker was disguised in a police uniform, a tactic Taliban militants have used in several high-profile attacks.

The Taliban has made a comeback in the last three years after their initial defeat following a US invasion in 2001. Southern Afghanistan is the centre of their fight against the government and international military forces, and militants control wide swaths of territory.

—*Internet*



Map of Afghanistan locating a suicide attack in Tirin Kot, Uruzgan Province. The bomber dressed in a police uniform killed 25 policemen and wounded several others Monday after infiltrating their morning exercises in southern Afghanistan, authorities said.—INTERNET

US military deaths in Afghanistan region at 573

WASHINGTON, 3 Feb —As of on Monday, 2 Feb, 2009, at least 573 members of the US military had died in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan as a result of the US invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001, according to the Defence Department.

The department last updated its figures on Monday at 10 am EST.

Of those, the military reports 418 were killed by hostile action.

Outside the Afghan region, the Defence Department reports 67 more members of the US military died in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Of those, three were the result of hostile action. The military lists these other locations as Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba; Djibouti; Eritrea; Ethiopia; Jordan; Kenya; Kyrgyzstan; Philippines; Seychelles; Sudan; Tajikistan; Turkey; and Yemen. There were also four CIA officer deaths and one military civilian death.

—*Internet*

Taleban violence spreads in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON, 3 Feb—The Pentagon said that militant violence was on the rise across Afghanistan and that international forces lacked the troops and resources to control the country's south.

In a report to Congress, the US Defence Department described a dramatic increase in militant attacks in the spring and summer of 2008, saying the period marked the worst violence since the Taleban's ouster in 2001.

A resurgent Taleban was challenging the Kabul government for control of the south and east of the country, "and increasingly in the west," the report said.

India and IAEA sign nuclear inspections deal

VIENNA, 3 Feb—The International Atomic Energy Agency says it has signed a nuclear inspections deal with India.

The so-called safeguards agreement is meant to give UN monitors access to 14 additional Indian civilian nuclear reactors by 2014. Six of these reactors already fall under existing agreements.

The IAEA's 35-member board of governors approved the agreement by consensus on 1 Aug. Approval came despite criticism from some countries that ambiguous wording could limit international oversight of India's reactors and undermine the international nonproliferation treaty.—*Internet*

In the south, "where resources are not sufficiently concentrated, security cannot be established or maintained," it added.

"In such areas, the full military, governance and economic spectrum of the COIN (counterinsurgency) strategy cannot be implemented and the insurgents retain their hold on the local Afghan population."

The report, delayed for months pending the outcome of various strategy reviews, came as President

Barack Obama weighed urgent military requests for up to 30,000 more US troops in Afghanistan, nearly doubling the US force there. "The Taleban re-grouped after its fall from power and has coalesced into a resilient and evolving insurgency," the report said.

Militant attacks rose 33 percent last year and assaults along the country's major highway increased by 37 percent compared to 2007, it added.—*Internet*



An Indian employee of the Swedish truck and bus maker Volvo works on the assembly line at the Volvo Factory in Hoskote, some 40 kms south of Bangalore. —INTERNET



Riot police disperse protesters during a 'lightning rally' near the US Embassy in Manila, Philippines, on 3 Feb, 2009 to protest alleged US intervention in Philippine affairs. The protesters denounced alleged US role in the current global economic crisis that officials predict would cut jobs in the country to about 1.7 million.—INTERNET

US manufacturing sector shrinks for 12th straight month

WASHINGTON, 3 Feb—Economic activity in the US manufacturing sector failed to grow in January for the 12 consecutive month, and the overall economy contracted for the fourth straight month, the Institute for Supply Management (ISM) reported on Monday.

The Tempe, an Arizona-based trade group, said its manufacturing index, which reflects the opinions of purchasing managers at factories, plants and utilities, registered 35.6 last month, representing an improvement from a nearly three-decade low of 32.9 in December 2008.

A reading above 50 indicates growth while a reading below 50 indicates contraction. For January, the ISM's production index registered 32.1, up from December's 26.3. The index for new orders, meanwhile, rose to 33.2 from a reading of 23.1 the previous month. *Internet*

Argentina upset at Prince William's deployment to Falklands

BUENOS AIRES, 3 Feb—Prince William's military deployment to the Falkland Islands has reignited the festering issue of the archipelago's sovereignty, Argentina said on Monday.

"This circumstance only serves to once again highlight Britain's ongoing military presence in land and sea areas that are part of the Argentine Republic's national territo-

ries," an aide to Foreign Minister Jorge Taina said.

Argentina claims ownership of the islands it calls the Malvinas.

Prince William, second in line to the throne, will be sent to the Falklands by the Royal Air Force to serve as a search and rescue pilot for a period of three months, after he completes his 18-month RAF course in

2009, Britain's *Daily Telegraph* said on Sunday, quoting RAF News.

Britain and Argentina fought over the Falkland islands in 1982, when Argentine forces invaded the islands, prompting then-British prime minister Margaret Thatcher to deploy naval forces to retake the territory.—*Internet*

Iran sends domestic satellite to orbit

TEHRAN, 3 Feb — Iran's state radio says the country has successfully sent its first domestically made satellite into orbit.

The Tuesday report says the satellite was launched late Monday after President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad gave the final approval.

Teheran unveiled the satellite and inaugurated its first space center in 2008.

State radio says the satellite was sent into orbit by a Safir-2, or ambassador-2 rocket. Iran has long held the goal of developing a space programme, generating unease among world leaders already concerned about its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes.—*Internet*

Snow brings deaths and travel chaos to Europe

LONDON, 3 Feb—Snow storms brought travel chaos to western Europe, grounding most flights at London-Heathrow airport after one jet slid off a taxiway and killing at least five people in storm incidents.

Two climbers died on Mount Snowdon in Wales and three people were killed in accidents and from the cold in Italy.

London lay under 10 centimetres (four inches)

of snow, the most recorded in the British capital in 18 years. The storms also hit France and Spain, closing roads and rail tracks, and spread as far south as Morocco.

A Cyprus Airways plane with 104 passengers came off the icy taxiway at Heathrow, the world's busiest international airport, airport operator BAA said. No injuries were reported.

Both runways were

temporarily closed, however, and Heathrow halted all flights for several hours.

British Airways called off all short-haul flights for the day. A number of other British airports were closed or had cancellations and severe delays.

Eurostar advised passengers against travelling between London and Paris on high-speed trains because of snow delays. *Internet*



Snow covers the Trocadero garden in front of the Eiffel tower on 2 February, 2009 in Paris. —INTERNET



Members of armed police take part in an anti-terrorism drill for the 24th Winter Universiade 2009 in Harbin, capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, on 2 Feb, 2009. An anti-terrorism drill was held on Monday to test the policemen's capabilities of dealing with emergencies during the 24th Winter Universiade. Over 500 special equipment have been prepared to secure the universiade. —XINHUA

Unemployment appeals pile up in California

LOS ANGELES, 3 Feb—California state officials are overwhelmed by a massive backlog of unemployment appeals filed by tens of thousands of jobless Californians, it was reported on Monday.

Rejected for unemployment benefits of up to 450 dollars a week, more and more jobless Californians are awaiting action by a state appeals board, the *Los Angeles Times*

said.

In all, a record number of 68,135 jobless people have filed unemployment appeals and the Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board (UIAB) is supposed to decide within 30 days whether the state wrongly denied an individual's jobless benefits, the paper said.

About nine out of 10 appeals come from the newly unemployed who

are denied benefits by the California Employment Development Department, according to the paper.

The number of those appeals has increased steadily since last summer as California's unemployment rate climbed to 9.3 percent in December, when 1.7 million Californians were without jobs, the paper said.

Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

China's shipbuilders see profits up 50 percent in 2008, outlook gloomy

BEIJING, 3 Feb—Profits of China's shipbuilders rose 50 percent in 2008 from the same period a year ago, despite rising material costs and the appreciation of Renminbi, according to data released Monday by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT). Profits jumped 50.5 percent to 28.34 billion yuan (4.05 billion US dollars). The industry value totaled 118.3 billion yuan, up 61.2 percent year on year.

The nation's shipbuilders completed a production capacity of 28.81 million deadweight tons (DWT), or 29.5 percent of the world's total, up from 22.9 percent in 2007, according to MIIT figures.

New orders comprised 37.7 percent of the world's total, with a production capacity of 58.18 DWT. Current orders accounted for 35.5 percent of the total, with a capacity of 204.6 million DWT.

An official with the MIIT said China's shipbuilders had remarkably strengthened their capabilities in innovation and had improved their techniques notably in making bulk cargo ship, oil carrier and container ships.

They also had the world's leading techniques in making ships that could meet the standards of the international classification society, according to the MIIT official.—Xinhua

A welder works on the roof of a new house in Karratha in Western Australia. The Australian government has launched a 42 billion dollar (US\$26 billion) stimulus package which will focus on - in part - schools, housing and road-building programmes.—XINHUA



Russian space agency plans to build new space station

MOSCOW, 3 Feb—The Russian Space Agency Roscosmos is considering a plan to build a new space station as the current one approaches its retirement, officials said recently.

The new orbital station will not only inherit the role of the International Space Station (ISS) as a base for scientific experiments, but will also serve as a foundation for lunar programmes and space tours, Alexei Krasnov, director of the manned space programme at Roscosmos, said. The first module of the new station could be finished in 2020, Krasnov said.

The plan is still under discussion, and concerned parties will engage in the construction of the new orbital station before they make their final decision to terminate the service of ISS, which is designed to work until 2015, he said.—Xinhua

South Korea declares bid for 2018 or 2022 World Cup

SEOUL, 3 Feb—South Korea has declared its bid to host the World Cup finals in 2018 or 2022, the Korea Football Association (KFA) said at a statement on Tuesday. "South Korea has notified FIFA of its intention to host the 2018 or 2022 World Cup finals," the KFA said.

The sport's world governing body, FIFA, has asked all aspiring bidders for the two football tournaments to present their bid by 2 Feb.

Japan, the United States, Mexico, Australia, England, Russia, Indonesia and Qatar have reportedly expressed interests in hosting the World Cup finals in 2018 or 2022.

FIFA will simultaneously determine the hosts of the 2018 and 2022 World Cup at a FIFA meeting in December 2010.—Xinhua



A boy looks upon a parking lot damaged by a tornado in Malaga, southern Spain on 2 Feb, 2009.—XINHUA

Cambodia to reform commune-level policing, border security in 2009

PHNOM PENH, 3 Feb—Cambodian National Police Commissioner Neth Savoeun has pledged to reform commune-level policing and border security in 2009, said English-Khmer language newspaper the *Cambodia Daily* on Tuesday.

One such reform would be establishing telephone hotlines to take complaints at municipal and provincial police headquarters and "national police will check up on the situation of the network and system of administrative police across the country," he told the annual national assembly of Cambodian police here on Monday.

In addition, boxes have been set up at all 76 commune police stations in Phnom Penh to accept comments and criticism from local residents, he said.

The system is still in trial phase, but will expand to all 24 provinces in 2009, he added.

Villagers must provide more feedback to both commune police and border police about illegal activities to help improve security, he said.

Xinhua

Prime Minister General Thein Sein receives...

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Also present at the meeting were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, the director-general of the government office, the director-general of the International Organizations and Economic Department and the deputy director-general of the Protocol Department.

At the meeting, Prime Minister General Thein Sein said Mr Gambari was taken to Cyclone Nargis-affected areas. Though he should visit Pyinsalu, he was not conveyed to Pyinsalu due to time limit. Pyinsalu was devastated by the storm as it is located five ft above the sea level. The whole storm-affected areas have returned to normal thanks to the assistance of the government, the UN and international communities. Agricultural sector, fishery sector and salt businesses in the storm-affected areas have returned to normal. Not only the government but also WHO and UNICEF provided assistance and the reconstruction and repairing of hospitals and clinics under the Ministry of Health and the hospitals and clinics have been nearing completion.

Schools were destroyed and out of them, two-thirds of the damaged schools have been reconstructed, and the government has funded the reconstruction of the remaining schools and UNICEF has also provided assistance to the reconstruction of the schools.

Eighteen cyclone shelters are under construction in the storm-affected areas. The cyclone shelters have a seating capacity of 500 and 1000 and are being constructed at the cost of US\$ 800,000 per shelter.

Money donated by Nigeria was spent on construction of the cyclone shelters and schools, he said. The Prime Minister also told Mr Gambari to discuss frankly with him.

Mr Gambari expressed thanks to the Prime Minister for the meeting. He said he witnessed the reconstruction and rehabilitation in Cyclone Nargis-affected areas. The UN Secretary-General also praised the government of Myanmar for the achievements in reconstruction and rehabilitation in the storm-affected areas. He also took pride in cooperation of the Tripartite Core Group with the UN.

Out of his visits to Myanmar, the current visit is best one, he said. Therefore, he expected to get tangible results from the visit. He said more political prisoners should be released on humanitarian grounds. Despite different views between the government and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, there should be dialogue between them. As the TCG is achieving success, its term should be extended. He said the UN Secretary-General wished to visit Myanmar. He himself had an opportunity to visit Myanmar in the aftermath of storm Nargis. The UN Chief wants to visit Myanmar again.

The Prime Minister said he learnt what Mr Gambari discussed in meeting with the Spokes Authoritative Team of the State Peace and Development Council and the ministers. The Prime Minister said he



Senior General Than Shwe receives Mr Chhong Toeun, newly-accredited Ambassador of Cambodia to Myanmar at Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw. (News on page 1)—MNA

would note Mr Gambari's statements and assured that the government would carry out the tasks as much as it could.

It was the seventh trip for Mr Gambari. Arrangements were made for him to visit the country on 26 January. Despite the tight schedule, work, the fixed date was changed according to his desire. The government welcomed Mr Gambari and party. The government has frequently met Mr Gambari so it regards him as an intimate friend of Myanmar.

He said he learnt that on his visit to Myanmar Mr Gambari had explained his wish and purpose regarding his meeting with Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win.

During his stay in Myanmar, Mr Gambari met the ministers, Spokes Authoritative Team of the State Peace and Development Council, NGOs, party leaders including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, independent representatives, national race groups, representatives of UN Agencies and others.

The Prime Minister said he believes Mr Gambari learnt the prevailing conditions of the country, atti-



Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of newly-accredited Ambassador Mr Chu Cong Phung of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to Myanmar at Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw. (News on page 1)—MNA

tudes and the path leading to the destination as he had frequently met these organizations.

Therefore, he said, he thinks Mr Gambari will realize that the government is implementing the best way for the country according to the prevailing conditions. He said the government will place emphasis on the desire of the majority of the people who approved the constitution. When the law on political parties is prescribed, political doors will be open according to law to the minority who oppose the government. If they want to work with the government in unity, they are

to come to the doors that are kept open. We want Mr Gambari to urge them to do so.

In connection with the statements during his previous visit, the government had done what it could do and it will continue to do everything that should be done without any suggestions of others. In meeting with the ministers possible issues were discussed.

Instead of demanding what they want, it is necessary for them to do the things that should be done first. The UN should make efforts to lift economic sanctions imposed on Myanmar if the organi-

zation wants to see prosperous Myanmar with political stability.

The Prime Minister said the economic sanctions has damaged human rights and caused unemployment, damaged the economy, social affairs, education, health and living standard of the people. It also has hindered the efforts for building a democratic nation as well as neglected the humanitarian concerns. Besides, the economic sanction has also hindered the efforts for achieving the poverty alleviation which is a goal of the UN.

(See page 7)

Eighteen cyclone shelters are under construction in the storm-affected areas. The cyclone shelters have a seating capacity of 500 and 1000 and are being constructed at the cost of US\$ 800,000 per shelter.

Senior General Than Shwe receives newly-accredited Ambassador Mr Ye Dabo of the People's Republic of China to the Union of Myanmar at Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw (News on page 16).—MNA



Prime Minister ...
(from page 6)

Therefore, the UN should start to lift the economic sanction and restrictions on granting visas. For example, it looks like a person who is forced to run quickly while his legs are tied together. However, Myanmar has taken measures which should be taken as part of efforts for cooperation with the UN.

The UN Secretary-General's visit to Myanmar depends on time and circumstances of the country and the visit would be taken into consideration according to time and circumstances. The issue of extending the life of Tripartite Core Group will be taken into consideration, the Prime

The UN should make efforts to lift economic sanctions imposed on Myanmar if the organization wants to see prosperity, political stability.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein felicitates Sri Lankan counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb—On the occasion of the 61st Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka which falls on 4th February 2009, General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Mr Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka, Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.—MNA

Minister added. There were talks with the Foreign Affairs Minister and the issue will be kept open till June, 2009. Measures will be taken as necessary after June, 2009.

Next, Mr Gambari said the UN Chief and he will act as partners of Myanmar and assistance will be provided for Myanmar's political and economic progress. Myanmar should be peaceful, prosperous, united and democratic one. This is the requirement of the nation and its people.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein said as Mr Gambari saw the past political achievements of Myanmar one after

another, he will see such achievements in the future.

He said **politics and economy are interrelated. If there is economic stability, there will be political stability. Despite many difficulties, the government is trying its best.**

If one's legs are tied by ropes, it is impossible for him to run. His legs need to be untied. Being a member of the UN, Myanmar will cooperate with the UN.

The Prime Minister wished Mr Gambari well in the new year and nice trip back home.—MNA

Prime Minister receives UNSG's Special Advisor

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Feb—Prime Minister General Thein Sein of the Union of Myanmar received Special

Advisor to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Mr Ibrahim Agboola Gambari at Zeyathiri Beikman

on Konmyinthta in Yangon at 3.p.m. today.

Also present at the meeting together with Prime Minister General Thein Sein were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, the Director-General of the Government Office, the Director-General of International Organizations and Economic Department and the Deputy Director-General of Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Spokes Authoritative Team of the State Peace and Development Council met with Special Advisor to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Mr Ibrahim Agboola Gambari at the five-storey guest house in Yangon at 1.p.m. today for the second time.

Also present on the occasion were Leader of the Spokes Authoritative Team of the SPDC Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, members Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint.

In the morning, Mr Gambari met with independent representatives-elect and responsible person of other organizations at Seinle Kantha State House separately.

Mr Gambari left Yangon by air in the evening.

MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein shakes hands with Special Advisor to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Mr Ibrahim Agboola Gambari at Zeyathiri Beikman in Yangon.—MNA

Prime Minister inspects modern agriculture (Model farming system) in special zone in Yangon East District

YANGON, 3 Feb—Prime Minister General Thein Sein, accompanied by Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, the director-general of the Government Office, departmental heads and officials, inspected modern agriculture (Model farming system) in special zone in Yangon East District this morning.

At the block No 1 the special zone-1, the Prime Minister was briefed on progress of work in the modern agriculture special zone by the chairmen of Dagon International Co Ltd, Htoo Trading Co Ltd and Golden Dragon Co Ltd, entrepreneurs and departmental officials.

The commander, the mayor and officials reported on assistance



Prime Minister General Thein Sein views thriving summer paddy plantation of Htoo Trading Ltd in Block No. 3 of modern agriculture (Model farming system) in special zone (1). —MNA

provided in each sector regarding modern agriculture.

The Prime Minister gave instructions on cultivation of high quality paddy such as Hsinthweyin and Hsinthwelatt, breeding of fish, growing of vegetables, producing seeds, conducting research and courses on modern cultivation techniques for

farmers and making efforts for turning out major model farm.

They viewed construction of canals and irrigation system in block No 3 of special zone, cultivation of summer paddy through irrigation and land preparation.

The Prime Minister and party inspected cultivation of 125 acres of

summer paddy and 350 acres of ploughed farmland in block No 3 of special zone by Htoo Trading Co Ltd.

The Prime Minister went to special zone-2 in Dagon Myothit (South) Township where Chairman of Golden Dragon Co Ltd U Win Myint reported on work being undertaken.

The Prime Minister inspected erecting lamp-posts and power supply, construction of pump houses and arrangements for river water pumping stations, construction of canals and cultivation of summer paddy.

The Prime Minister inspected cultivation of summer paddy, construction of roads and

canals in block 6 of special zone-2 in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township by Green Asia Co Ltd, construction of roads and canals and land preparations in block 9 by Linle Koethwe Co Ltd.

The Prime Minister fulfilled the requirements and gave necessary instructions.

MNA

State affairs are the internal affairs to be handled by the people themselves SPDC Spokes Authoritative Team holds first meeting with UNSG's Special Advisor Mr Gambari

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Feb—The Spokes Authoritative Team of the State Peace and Development Council and Special Advisor of the United Nations Secretary-General Mr Ibrahim Agboola Gambari held the first meeting at the five-storey guest house in Yangon at 8.45 a.m. on 1 February.

Present at the meeting were Leader of the team Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and members Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint.

Discussions of Mr Gambari

Mr Gambari said that the UN Secretary-General wished Myanmar a success in building a peaceful developed democratic nation at a time when the international community was seeing changes around the world; that the cooperation of the UN, Myanmar and international community in the post-Nargis brought about development of the storm-hit areas; that similarly he hoped they would continue to cooperate in future programmes; that he had three purposes in his trip: to review the points he had proposed in the previous trip, to hold a dialogue between the government, NLD and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and to make arrangements for the UN Secretary-General's trip to Myanmar; that he would like to call for dialogues as progress could be made through dialogues; that political prisoners were among the 9002 prisoners the government had released, so the UN Secretary-General welcomed that; that so he hoped the

government would continue to release political prisoners; that moreover he suggested to review long prison terms; that the seven-step Road Map was going to be completed, so all the persons concerned at home should have opportunities to participate in the process and the international community needed to accept it widely; that so he would like to know the programmes to form a committee for holding elections and prescribe laws; that previous trip he had suggested to set up a regular

We are now implementing railroad, motor road, hydropower and long-term natural disaster preparedness projects in Rakhine coastal region.

communication system between the government and the office of the UN Secretary-General and him; that he proposed that the government accept regular visits of his staff; and that both the UN Secretary-General and he were ready to work together with the government in the democratic transition.

Clarification of Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said: At the outset, we are pleased to extend a warm welcome to Your Excellency and members. Moreover, we would like to express our great pleasure to have this opportunity to meet with Your Excellency again. This is Your Excellency's seventh visit to Myanmar and the fifth meeting with the Spokes Authoritative Team of the State Peace and Development Council. In this regard, we assume that Your Excellency now has a broad range of knowledge on political, economic and social conditions of our nation, accomplishments in the national reconsolidation, and the aspirations of the people today.

Our country has been practising the independent and active foreign policy and also extending relations with neighbouring countries, regional countries and global countries in accord with the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-Existence. In addition, being a member of United Nations, we are continuously cooperating with the global body and it is the main point of our foreign policy. We are cooperating with the UN at present in all seriousness, and we will continue to do so in the future also.

Similarly, we highly regard the role of the UN Secretary-General and Your Excellency's efforts. We hope that Your Excellency, who has understood well the real conditions of Myanmar, will play a constructive role. So, we on our part will render cooperation for the greater

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Ovadaçariya Sayadaws give advice on construction of Uppatasanti Pagoda

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Feb

— A ceremony to seek advice from Ovadaçariya Sayadaws on construction of Uppatasanti Pagoda was held at a religious building in the compound of the pagoda today.

Chairman of the leading committee for construction of Uppatasanti Pagoda Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo attended the ceremony and presented offertories to the Sayadaws.

Present were Member of the Central Working Committee of the Sangha Presiding Sayadaw of Ngwetaung Monastery in Tatkon Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Paññasiri and Members of the Sangha, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, members of the leading committee and sub-committees for construction of the pagoda, invited guests and donors.

The ceremony was



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo supplicates on religious objects to be enshrined at Uppatasanti Pagoda to Ovadaçariya Sayadaws. —MNA

opened with three times recitation of *Namo Tassa* and the congregation led by Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo took the Five Precepts from Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Paññasiri. Afterwards, the Secretary-1 and wellwishers presented offertories to the Sayadaw and Members of

the Sangha. Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo supplicated on matters related to construction of the pagoda to the Sayadaws.

Afterwards, Brig-Gen Nyan Tun of Ministry of Defence supplicated on matters related to progress of construction of the pagoda; Minister for Religious

Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung on religious matters related to the pagoda and Maj-Gen Than Htay of Ministry of Defence on matters related to arrangement for religious ceremonies.

O v a d a ç a r i y a Sayadaw of the construction of the pagoda Member of the Central

Working Committee of the Sangha Presiding Sayadaw of Maha Withuta Rama Zegon Monastery Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Kavisara gave advice to the congregation led by Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo.

The ceremony concluded with three times

recitation of *Buddha Sasanam Ciram Titthatu*.

After the ceremony, the Sayadaws viewed the diamond bud and the pennant-shape vane which will be fixed atop the pagoda and relics which will be enshrined in the pagoda. They also visited the construction site inside the pagoda. — MNA

SPDC Spokes Authoritative Team sits down with UNSG's Special Advisor for second time

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Feb—The Spokes Authoritative Team of the State Peace and Development Council and Special Advisor to the United Nations Secretary-General Mr Ibrahim Agboola Gambari held the second meeting at the five-storey house in Yangon at 1 p.m. today.

Present at the meeting were Leader of the team Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and members Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint. At the meeting, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan made clarification first.

Clarification made by Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan

The following is the full text of the clarification made by Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan: —

The present one is Your Excellency's seventh visit to Myanmar. As you have the opportunity to study our nation, hold discussions and exchange views during the visits, we believe that Your Excellency now have a wider knowledge of our country's political, economic and social situations and the aspiration of the people. In this regard, I would say that if you wish to achieve success you should lend a helping hand based on the people's aspiration and prevailing conditions.

During this visit, Your Excellency has already met with all the persons of various sectors whom you should meet in addition to our Spokes Authoritative Team of the State Peace and Development Council. As you as well as

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi have proposed, we have arranged a meeting in which you, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and NLD CEC discussed together. Moreover, we also made arrangements for Your Excellency to hold discussion with SNLD. What's more, we also changed the meeting schedule in accord with your wish.

Now, I will present a brief clarification of the matters concerning your proposals during our meeting on 1 February 2009.

Concerning the matter of holding a dialogue between the government and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi we, on our part, would like to reiterate that we always keep the door open to her. At our previous meetings, we explained to Your Excellency our endeavours for national reconsolidation. After your last visit, for two times, we proposed her to hold a dialogue. But she declined our proposal. Moreover, the government issued the Announcement No 1/2007 on 4 October 2007, stating that if Daw Aung San Suu Kyi declares to give up her policy of Confrontation, Utter Devastation, and Imposing All Kinds of Sanctions including Economic Sanctions, the Head of State will personally meet her. With this Announcement, the government has officially invited her to hold a dialogue. However, she has never given any reply officially concerning the Announcement.

Reality

It may be true that the government can take the initiative in holding a dialogue. But in reality it is the work of two parties and a single party alone cannot hold a dialogue. Moreover, **a dialogue will be practical and successful only if the discussions are based on the reality of the prevailing conditions. I would like to emphasize that there will be no success if it is based on idealism and unrealistic conditions.**

Your Excellency expressed appreciation for granting amnesty to over 9,000 prisoners and also urged us to occasionally grant amnesties in the future also. Concerning the prisoners serving prison terms for their crimes, we would like to explain that although the government has been taking actions against law-breakers for their crimes in accord with the respective laws, it is always considering the reduction of their prison terms with magnanimity and goodwill.

Your Excellency has also proposed to review the long-term sentences given to certain prisoners. Actually, the courts concerned have passed the long-term sentences only in accord with the law. Those persons have the right to appeal in accord with the law. And if they file their appeals in the courts, the courts will hear their appeal.

At the previous meeting, Your Excellency with keen interest asked us the latest developments and timeframe of the 2010 election. We have already been taking all necessary measures concerning the formation of the 2010 Election Commission and enacting of the election laws and political parties laws. We will issue announcements concerning the matters at the right time. The laws will offer a broad range of rights to set up political parties, conduct canvassing campaigns and stand for the election.

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According to democracy practice, the minority will have to accept the majority's wish. It will be undemocratic if the constitution approved by the majority is to be reviewed and amended because of the minority's wish.

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facilitation of your work during the visit. Your Excellency has already known our efforts to cooperate with the international community including the UN to the most possible degree in carrying out relief and rehabilitation tasks in Cyclone Nargis-hit areas in May previous year. In all seriousness, we recognize the role of the UN Secretary-General and the UN in providing assistance to the Nargis relief and rehabilitation task. We also appreciate the Secretary-General and the UN for their support for the people in storm-hit areas.

Now, I would like to present a brief account of the Nargis to Your Excellency. It is true that, Nargis brought a lot of death and destruction. But thanks to the harmonious efforts of the Government, the people and the Tatmadaw in carrying out the relief and reconstruction tasks, the storm-hit areas are back to normal at present in a short period. **All the emergency relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction tasks were smooth and successful, due to the government-aided funds, donations of the people in the country, cooperation of the local companies and international relief aids.** What's more, in accord with the guidance of the Head of State, long-term disaster preparedness programmes are being implemented and those programmes have helped further improve the living conditions of the people of the storm-hit areas to the level higher than that of the pre-Nargis.

K 319 billion

The amount of cash spent on the relief, rehabilitation, development and long-term disaster preparedness tasks in the storm-hit areas is very large. The total amount of cash assistance of the government, the ministries, NGOs and States and Divisions is over 319 billion kyats. Wellwishers from all over the nation have rendered voluntary assistance at their own expense. I would like to inform you that the said amount of 319 billion kyats does not include the costs of services to render assistance to the storm-hit areas.

Moreover, foreign and local-foreign-joint donations have reached over K 44.957 billion and over US\$ 9.69 million. Of the said amounts there were expenditures not only for relief and reconstruction and developments but also for logistic expenses and salaries of international agencies and INGOs.

Now, everything from accommodation to occupation has become normal in storm-hit areas. Agricultural sector and fishery and salt industries are now running as usual. Today, efforts are being made with greater momentum in building a network of roads, cyclone shelters, refuge hillocks and sluice gates and regenerating and conserving mangrove forests. In this regard, it is required to provide cyclone shelters, farm machinery, fertilizers and diesel for storm victims. Continuous efforts are being made to fulfil those requirements with the strength of the State and the people and international aids. Here, I would like to say that the task of fulfilling those requirements will become more effective and smoother if the international community lends a helping hand.

Moreover, I would like to present that Ayeyawady Division faced such a severe natural disaster for the first time. As for Rakhine coastal region, it has suffered from storms for several times. Hence, **we are now implementing railroad, motor road, hydropower and long-term natural disaster preparedness projects in Rakhine coastal region.** Thus, cash and kind requirement for natural disaster prevention will still be high. Anyhow, it is obvious that the success in the Nargis relief and reconstruction task is due to support and cooperation provided by the people of

the entire nation, with trust and in all seriousness, under the leadership of the government. International cooperation also plays a role in this matter. At the same time, as the Government has been putting all its energy into serving the interest of the people, the people on their part, have been cooperating with the Government with full understanding. What I have explained is just a brief account for Your



Leader of SPDC's Spokes Authoritative Team Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and party meet for the second time with UNSG's Special Advisor Mr. Gambari at five-storey building in Yangon.— MNA

Excellency's information. I would like to brief Your Excellency measures taken by the State for the success of the Road Map in accord with the people's desire.

Actual desire

The first point is that the people aspire peace and stability. They do not want instable environment and riots and violent acts that will undermine the stability at all. According to the past experience, there was no political stability in the time of parliamentary democracy period from 1948 to 1962. Moreover, the people had to live in constant fear amidst the flames of the internal strife. In the times of the Revolutionary Council and Burma Socialist Programme Party also, insurgency could not be rooted out, people had to face numerous hardships resulting from major and minor battles of the internal strife breaking out during the time around 1967 to 1990. Therefore, the people today never even want to dream of returning to such a desperate life. They are worried about losing their present stable and tranquil society. Similarly, based on the already achieved stability of the State, the people want the government to scale up the development momentum. The actual desire of the people is a peaceful and stable transition to democracy. I hope Your Excellency understands well this point.

Therefore, the Government has been striving for restoring national reconsolidation to guarantee lasting peace and stability. Thanks to the Government's efforts, up to this date, 17 national race armed groups and most of the small groups have made peace with the Government and returned to the legal fold. So, unprecedented development can be witnessed in almost every part of the nation. Moreover, the national race groups have been participating in development drives in their respective regions and as a result, people throughout the country are now in a position to enjoy fruits of development. I would say that we, on our part, keep the peace door open to the remaining armed groups.

While we are trying to build peace with national race armed groups for national reconsolidation, we are also paying serious attention to discussions with

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. After your previous visit, we proposed to hold talks between Minister for Relations U Aung Kyi and her for two times. But, she declined our proposals. I think you still remember her refusal of your proposal to meet her in your last visit. Anyhow, the State, in earnest, always offers her to build national reconsolidation.

Similarly, 9002 prisoners were granted amnesty to

contribute towards national reconsolidation, enabling them to take part in nation-building tasks with might and main and in response to Your Excellency's request.

During the previous visit, Your Excellency offered us technical assistance from the UN for the general election to be held in 2010. We have replied that the General Election Commission will be formed when the time is ripe and the commission will take necessary measures to ensure that elections will be free and fair. Concerning the matter, we would like to know what specific technical assistance will be provided.

Concerning the second desire of the people, they want to see the development of their country as well as individual socio-economic development. Therefore, the Government is paying serious attention to national development in all sectors and socio-economic development of the people.

In retrospect, the people had to face various difficulties. Due to instability for nearly 40 years, the national development could not even be dreamed.

During the present period after 1988, all-round development has been brought about in various sectors such as political, economic, social, education, health, transportation, etc. Hence, the people have enjoyed the fruits of stability and development. In as much as stability and development are ensured, the people can enjoy progressive life individually. So, the people support and rely on the endeavours of the existing Government.

The people are worried about harming or causing hindrance to the prevailing development due to instability and lack of peace in the country. Therefore, they are willingly supporting the peaceful transition to democracy to maintain the national development. Therefore, the existing Government is carrying out the tasks of democracy transition in accordance with the seven-step Road Map to fulfil the aspiration of the people.

Your Excellency knows well that the world today is facing financial crisis. In the process of globalization, there may be more or less effects on the respective countries. As for Myanmar she is a developing country and she has hardly any relations with Western countries including the United States of America in terms of finance and commerce. Thus, it is assumed that there maybe less direct effect of the crisis on the country. But, as regards such matters as foreign exchange remittances and transfers and export and import, the country has relations with regional countries such as Singapore. We have already taken into consideration that the financial effects of those countries can have repercussions for

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The people are worried about harming or causing hindrance to the prevailing development due to instability and lack of peace in the country. Therefore, they are willingly supporting the peaceful transition to democracy to maintain the national development.

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Myanmar. Therefore, the Government, seeking advice from economic experts, has been taking pre-emptive measures.

Now, I am going to explain the third desire of the people. Every person has the wish to earn his living freely in accord with the law and to reach the goal of democracy smoothly and with stability and peace. In this regard, the Government has laid down the seven-step Road Map and is implementing it. The seven-step Road Map has been adopted and declared internationally since 2003. The implementation of the seven-step Road Map has been recognized and supported by ASEAN countries, neighbouring and regional countries and Non-Aligned Movement members as well as the UN.

According to the prevailing objective situations and conditions of our country, the seven-step Road Map is the most suitable and appropriate to bring about democracy. We firmly believe that the way to bring about democracy peacefully and harmlessly is the seven-step Road Map.

Equal Rights

The people have already ratified the constitution with 92.48 yes votes. Hence, the existing Government is performing its duties on behalf of the people in accord with the constitution approved by the people. In this regard, we will never accept any attempt to jeopardize or harm the process. In addition, we will also oppose and wipe out all attempts to jeopardize or harm the Constitution.

As announced the multi-party democracy general elections, the fifth step of the seven-step Road Map, will be held in 2010. Necessary arrangements will be made to ensure all inclusiveness in the general elections to be held democratically. At the suitable time prior to the elections, the political parties law and by-law will be promulgated

under which the rights to set up political parties to carry out organizing work and to stand for election will be permitted. All the persons who oppose the government or who support the government and those who are against or in favour of the Constitution will have the rights equally. Furthermore, plans will be made for the formation of the election commission and different levels of sub-commissions systematically as necessary. Arrangements will be made to hold elections according to the international standards.

After getting elected, those representatives-elect can participate as Hluttaw representatives at various Hluttaws as the sixth step of the Road Map. They can take part in discussing, coordinating and finding solutions in legislative matters including political, economic and social affairs of the State in democratic way at the Hluttaws. Likewise, administrative, judicial and legislative bodies will be formed at respective Hluttaws to build up a new peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation as the seventh step of the Road Map. All will realize the fact that the way is paved for all inclusiveness in implementing the seven-step Road Map. Efforts for bringing about democracy, developing the nation and the people, flourishing human rights, etc are the processes favoured and supported by neighbouring countries, regional countries, international community and the United Nations including Your Excellency. So, we believe that all will render cooperative hands to the process of our seven-step Road Map.

The evolutions of our country are actual and cannot be ignored. So, if we review with right sense and clear outlook, it can be said that the image of the future State is seen vividly. The State affairs are the internal affairs to be handled by the people themselves. Through the collective efforts by the combined force of the Government, the people and the Tatmadaw with own strength, we have achieved many accomplishments nowadays.

SPDC Spokes Authoritative...

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Your Excellency have explained a principle saying that the country concerned has to present its requirements first. Hence, we would like to inform Your Excellency that after the formation of the Election Commission, it will make contacts if there are any requirements for technical assistance.

Your Excellency has requested to establish a regular contact system or to allow Your Excellency or one of your staffs to make regular visits to Myanmar for the effectiveness and success of the role of the good office of Secretary-General. In connection with this matter, we have learned that Your Excellency can use other means in addition to the method of sending a staff to the respective country. For example, work can be carried out through the UN agencies in Myanmar or through the Myanmar permanent representatives at the UN. Moreover, you or your assistant can make contact with us as necessary to visit Myanmar.

We have known that the UN Secretary-General wishes to visit Myanmar. Concerning the matter, we should say that it depends on time and situation. As you have been already working on behalf of the Secretary-General, we believe that the work is going well.

Democracy practice

The approval of the State Constitution with 92.48 percent public support amounted not only to ratification of the constitution but also to giving mandate to carry out the democratization process in accordance with the constitution. It also means an approval to go ahead with the process according to the seven-step Road Map. At the referendum, the constitution was ratified with the 92.48 percent yes votes against the 6.1 percent no votes. **According to democracy practice, the minority will have to accept the majority's wish. It will be undemocratic if the**

constitution approved by the majority is to be reviewed and amended because of the minority's wish. All who cherish and favour democracy will have to accept the essence of democracy. In all seriousness, I would like to say that **we will carry on the democratization process through the seven-step Road Map in accord with the mandate of the majority of the people.**

Within our reach

Our democratization process is the process favoured by the Myanmar people as well as the UN and the international community. The seven-step Road Map is the most suitable, appropriate and harmless to carry out the democratization process in a peaceful and stable manner.

Democracy reform must be based on the prevailing condition. It will be mature step by step. We will get less advantage and much disadvantage if the democratization process is based on the wishes and dreams rather than on the prevailing conditions. As regards the matter, there are many international examples from which we can take lessons.

We believe that we are on the right path and democracy is within our reach. Trying to reverse the process will bring no benefits, and this cannot be done at all. I would like to emphasize that it is time the UN and international community and those who oppose the Road Map joined hands for soonest completion of our democracy transition.

For the democracy to become mature and flourishing we should nurture it from its foundation. And according to prevailing condition, it is the most appropriate method.

Thank you.

Speech of Mr Gambari

Mr Gambari said that Myanmar was pursuing constant cooperation with the United Nations as her main foreign policy, and he thanked Myanmar for its

All the persons who oppose the government or who support the government and those who are against or in favour of the Constitution will have the rights equally.

In conclusion, I would like to say that we have been successfully implementing the process of democracy transition, with the support of the people and reaffirm that we will continue to strive till reaching the democracy goal. We totally believe that we will be able to realize a democracy system that is in conformity with the objective conditions of the nation and the people. And we also hope that Your Excellency who have understood the subtleness of Myanmar politics to a certain extent will render a helping hand to us for achieving more and more successes in our democratization process.

In his discussions, Mr Gambari said that implementation of relief and rehabilitation tasks in the aftermath of storm Nargis are acknowledged as Myanmar government's efforts. In fact, cooperation and assistance of the UN and international communities only supported the Myanmar government's measures. He said he acknowledged the government's measures to address the effects of the world economic crisis. According to the previous procedures, the host government proposed first that technical assistance should be provided for the 2010 election. The UN can cooperate with officials concerned. He said he believes his cooperation will help Myanmar become democratic one. He expected his trip to Myanmar is fair and positive one.

The meeting came to an end at 10.a.m.—MNA

acceptance of the proposal for his seventh visit and arrangements for his convenience.

He also thanked Myanmar for her hospitality and cooperation, and said that moreover he valued the personal friendship; and that he thanked the nation for the arrangements for him to meet all the persons he should have met in the trip.

He again thanked the government for its amenable attitude and arrangements for him to meet with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and party including NLD executives, and with Shan Nationalities League for Democracy.

He said that the meetings could make significant contribution to understanding the prevailing conditions of Myanmar; that he would report that when he met the UN Secretary-General; that he was under constant pressure to achieve tangible results in the trip; that he expected the meetings would be tangible results; that local and foreign organizations including the UN Secretary-General welcomed the release of prisoners by the Myanmar government; that he requested the government to continue to release prisoners from the humanitarian point of view; that he recognized the efforts the government was making to hold a dialogue with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and he would like the government to continue to do what should be done; that he thanked for the explanations about preparations for formation of the commission for holding elections and promulgation of Election Law; that he would like to call for emergence of a process that was acceptable to all in the carrying out those tasks; that he was given permission to meet respective ministers regarding Economic Forum; that he would bring counter proposals in the next trip; that he honoured the Myanmar government's cooperation with the UN and progress in the post-Nargis; that it was required to value the experiences of the Tripartite Core Group; that so he would like to suggest to extend the term of the Tripartite Core Group; that he expected that the cooperation could be boosted to long-term cooperation; that furthermore he was in a mood to visit Myanmar for the next time for his role; that he would like to reiterate that the UN Secretary-General was willing to work together with the government; and that he would like to visit Myanmar again together with the UN Secretary-General.

The meeting ended at 2 p.m.

MNA

We will carry on the democratization process through the seven-step Road Map in accord with the mandate of the majority of the people.

ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်
ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့
Civil Service Selection and Training Board
လျှောက်လွှာခေါ်ယူခြင်း
ကြော်ငြာစာအမှတ်၊ ၂ / ၂၀၀၉
၁၃၇၀ ပြည့်နှစ်၊ တပို့တွဲလဆန်း ၂ ရက်
(၂၀၀၉ ခုနှစ်၊ ဇန်နဝါရီလ ၂၇ ရက်)

၁။ စီးပွားရေးနှင့်ကူးသန်းရောင်းဝယ်ရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ နယ်စပ်ကုန်သွယ်ရေးဦးစီးဌာနတွင် လစ်လပ်လျက်ရှိသော အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ရာထူးအတွက် လျှောက်လွှာများ တင်သွင်းနိုင်ပါသည်။ -

ရာထူး	လစ်လပ်	ပညာအရည်အချင်း
ဦးစီးအရာရှိ	၃ နေရာ	မဟာဝိဇ္ဇာဘွဲ့(အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ) [M.A(English)] (သို့မဟုတ်)မဟာဝိဇ္ဇာဘွဲ့(အင်္ဂလိပ်ဘာသာ) [M.A(English as a Foreign Languages)]

၂။ လျှောက်ထားသူသည်-
 (က)ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံသားဖြစ်ရမည်။
 (ခ)၂၄-၂-၂၀၀၉ နေ့တွင်အသက်၃၅နှစ်(ဝန်ထမ်းဖြစ်ပါကအသက်၄၀နှစ်)ထက်မကျော်လွန်သူဖြစ်ရမည်။

၃။ လျှောက်လွှာကို ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့မှ နံပါတ် (၁၇) နေပြည်တော်သို့ ၂၄-၂-၂၀၀၉ နေ့အရောက်ပေးပို့ရမည်။ လျှောက်လွှာပေးပို့ရာတွင် လူကိုယ်တိုင်ဖြစ်စေ၊ မြန်မာ့ဆက်သွယ်ရေးလုပ်ငန်း၊ အမြန်ဆောင်ရွက် (သို့မဟုတ်) မှတ်ပုံတင်စာဖြင့် ဖြစ်စေ ပေးပို့နိုင်ပါသည်။

၄။ လျှောက်လွှာတွင် ဖော်ပြရမည့်အချက်များ၊ ပူးတွဲပါရှိရမည့် စာရွက်စာတမ်းများ၊ ဝင်ကြေးငွေ ၅၀၀/- ပေးသွင်းရမည့် နည်းလမ်း၊ ရေးဖြေ၊ နှုတ်ဖြေ စစ်ဆေးမှုအတွက် လေ့လာရန် လိုအပ်ချက်များနှင့် စပ်လျဉ်း၍ ဤအဖွဲ့၏ ၈ - ၁၀ - ၂၀၀၈ ရက်စွဲပါ စာအမှတ်၊ ၃၄၂/ရွေးချယ်ရေး(အဓိက)/၂၀၀၈ ဖြင့် ထုတ်ပြန်ထားသော ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့၏ ကြော်ငြာခေါ်ယူသော ရာထူးများအတွက် လျှောက်လွှာ တင်သွင်း သူများ လိုက်နာရန် လမ်းညွှန်ချက်စာစောင်ပါ သတ်မှတ်ချက် များနှင့် အညီ လိုက်နာ ဆောင်ရွက်ရန်ဖြစ်သည်။

၅။ ရေးဖြေစာမေးပွဲကို နေပြည်တော် တွင် ကျင်းပမည်။

၆။ ဝန်ထမ်းများသည် မူရင်း လျှောက်လွှာတစ်စောင်ကို မိမိ တာဝန်ထမ်းဆောင်သည့် ဌာနအကြီးအကဲ မှတစ်ဆင့် ဝန်ကြီးဌာနသို့ ပြန်လည်ပို့ပေးရမည်။ ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့မှ နံပါတ် (၁၇) နေပြည်တော်သို့ ၂၄-၂-၂၀၀၉ နေ့ အရောက်ပေးပို့ရမည်။ လျှောက်လွှာ တစ်စောင်ကို ဓါတ်ပုံအပို တစ်ပုံ နှင့် အတူ ဤအဖွဲ့မှ နေပြည်တော်သို့ တိုက်ရိုက်ပေးပို့ရမည်။

၇။ ၂၀ - ၃ - ၂၀၀၉ နေ့နှင့် ၂၂ - ၃ - ၂၀၀၉ နေ့များတွင် အရည်အချင်းစစ် ရေးဖြေစာမေးပွဲကျင်းပမည်။

၈။ ၃ - ၃ - ၂၀၀၉ နေ့မှ စ၍ ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့မှ နံပါတ် (၁၇) နေပြည်တော်တွင် ဖြေဆိုခွင့် ကတ်ပြားများကို ထုတ်ပေးမည်။

၉။ အခြားစုံစမ်းမေးမြန်းလိုချက်ရှိပါက ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့မှ နံပါတ် (၁၇) နေပြည်တော် (တယ်လီဖုန်းအမှတ် ၀၆၇ - ၄၀၉၀၅၂ နှင့် ၀၆၇ - ၄၀၉၄၃၀) သို့ လူကိုယ်တိုင်ဖြစ်စေ၊ တယ်လီဖုန်းဖြင့်ဖြစ်စေ ဆက်သွယ် စုံစမ်းမေးမြန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

၉။ ဤကြော်ငြာနှင့် လျှောက်လွှာတင်သွင်းသူများ လိုက်နာရန် လမ်းညွှန်ချက်စာစောင်ကို ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ် လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့၏ Website များဖြစ်သော csstb.imis.com.mm နှင့် www.csstb.gov.mm တွင်လည်း ဖော်ပြထားပါသည်။

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV GATI MAJESTIC VOYNO (-)
 Consignees of cargo carried on MV GATI MAJESTIC VOYNO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.2.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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 GATI COAST TO COAST
 Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

TRADE MARK CAUTION
GENENTECH, INC., a Company incorporated in the United States of America, of 1 DNA Way, South San Francisco, California 94080, U.S.A., is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-
AVASTIN
 Reg. No. 5284/2003
 in respect of "Pharmaceuticals for the treatment of proliferative disorders".
 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 GENENTECH, INC.
 P. O. Box 60, Yangon
 Dated: 4 February 2009

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA TEGAP VOYNO (429)
 Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TEGAP VOYNO (429) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.2.2009 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES
 Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.

မြန်မာ့ရေနံနှင့်သဘာဝဓာတ်ငွေ့လုပ်ငန်း
ရေနံအစမ်းတွင်းသစ် (၄) တွင်း၏ ဆက်သွယ်ရေးလမ်းများအား
ကျောက်ကြီးလမ်းခင်းခြင်း လုပ်ငန်းအတွက်
၆" x ၉" ကျောက်ကြီးများ ပေးသွင်းရန်
ချိပ်ပိတ်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း
 တင်ဒါအမှတ်-၃/(၂၀၀၈-၂၀၀၉)

၁။ ပေးသွင်းရမည့်ပစ္စည်း - ၆" x ၉" ကျောက်ကြီး
 ၂။ ပေးသွင်းရမည့်အရေအတွက် - ၇၈၈၃ ကျင်း
 ပေးသွင်းရမည့်နေရာနှင့် အရေအတွက်ကို တင်ဒါစည်းကမ်းများတွင် ဖော်ပြထားပါသည်။

၃။ တင်ဒါများပေးသွင်းရမည့်နေရာ- စွမ်းအားဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာ့ရေနံနှင့် သဘာဝဓာတ်ငွေ့လုပ်ငန်း
 - ရုံးအဆောက်အအုံအမှတ်(၄၄)နေပြည်တော်
 - ရုံးအဆောက်အအုံအမှတ်(၄၄)နေပြည်တော်

၄။ တင်ဒါ ဖွင့်မည့်နေရာ - (၆.၂.၂၀၀၉) နေ့ (၁၂:၀၀) နာရီ
 ၅။ တင်ဒါများပိတ်မည့်နေရက်/အချိန် - (၆.၂.၂၀၀၉) နေ့ (၁၂:၀၀) နာရီ
 ၆။ တင်ဒါများဖွင့်မည့်နေရက်/အချိန် - (၆.၂.၂၀၀၉) နေ့ (၁၃:၃၀) နာရီ

တင်ဒါပုံစံနှင့်စည်းကမ်းများကို ဘဏ္ဍာရေးဌာန မြန်မာ့ ရေနံနှင့် သဘာဝဓာတ်ငွေ့လုပ်ငန်းအဆောက်အအုံအမှတ် (၄၄) နေပြည်တော်နှင့် ရန်ကုန်တို့ တွင် တစ်စုံလျှင် (၁၀၀၀/-) နှုန်းဖြင့် ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပြီး အသေးစိတ် အချက် အလက် များကို တယ်လီဖုန်း နံပါတ် (၀၆၇-၄၁၁၃၄၀၀/၀၆၇-၄၁၁၂၀၅) တို့တွင် မေးမြန်းစုံစမ်းနိုင်ပါသည်။
 တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူရေးအဖွဲ့
 မြန်မာ့ရေနံနှင့်သဘာဝဓာတ်ငွေ့လုပ်ငန်း။

ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်
ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ
ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့
ချိပ်ပိတ်ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာခေါ်ယူခြင်း
 ရက်စွဲ၊ ၂၀၀၉ ခုနှစ် ဖေဖော်ဝါရီလ ၃ ရက်

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ၏ လုပ်ငန်းသုံး အတွက် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါပစ္စည်းများကို CIF US\$ (သို့မဟုတ်) ဌာနအရောက်ကျပ်ငွေဖြင့် ဝယ်ယူရန် ချိပ်ပိတ်ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာများ ဖိတ်ခေါ်ပါသည်။

စဉ် **ပစ္စည်းအမျိုးအစား** **အရေအတွက်**

(က) တိလပ်မြေအိတ်သွပ်စက် (တစ်နေ့အိတ် ၁၀၀၀၀) 1 Set
 Packing Machine (Complete Set)

(ခ) ဣတ္ထရာလမ်းသားပြုပြင်စက် (Small milling machine) 1 Set

ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာပိတ်ရက်မှာ (၁၈-၂-၂၀၀၉)နေ့ (၁၆:၀၀)နာရီဖြစ်ပြီး ဈေးနှုန်း တင်သွင်းလွှာပုံစံ တစ်စုံလျှင် ကျပ် ၂၀၀၀/- (ကျပ်နှစ်ထောင်တိတိ) နှုန်းဖြင့် ဘတ်ဂျက်နှင့်ငွေစာရင်းဌာန၊ ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးဌာနမှ တွင် ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။ အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များကို ဖုန်းအမှတ်- ၃၈၈၇၃၂ သို့ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း ဆက်သွယ် မေးမြန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

ဥက္ကဋ္ဌ
ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV VASCO DA GAMA VOYNO (145)
 Consignees of cargo carried on MV VASCO DA GAMA VOYNO (145) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.2.2009 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 INTERASIA LINES
 Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Macy's to cut 7,000 jobs, slash dividend
 NEW YORK, 3 Feb—Macy's Inc. announced Monday that it will eliminate 7,000 jobs, almost 4 percent of its work force, and cut capital spending, reduce its contributions to its employees' retirement funds and slash its dividend to preserve cash amid a severe pullback in consumer spending.
 The Cincinnati-based department store chain also announced the national rollout of a plan to localize merchandising to specific markets, which it began in some regions last year.
Internet

Japan's Hitachi posts 4.0 billion dollar nine-month loss

TOKYO, 3 Feb—Japanese high-tech giant Hitachi reported Tuesday a 4.0-billion-dollar net loss for the nine months to December and maintained its forecast to end the year deep in the red. Hitachi Ltd reported a loss of 356.9 billion yen for the first three quarters of the fiscal year, against a year-earlier loss of 559 million yen.
 The electronics and engineering giant, which is slashing up to 7,000 jobs, is bracing for a 700-billion-yen loss for the full financial year to March as the global economic slowdown crushes demand for electronic goods.
 Japan's export-dependent companies have also been hit hard by a strong yen, which reduces the value of their overseas earnings.
 Hitachi said it made a net loss of 371 billion yen in the fiscal third quarter to December, more than wiping out profits made earlier in the year.—Internet

South Korean company bus plunges into Philippine ravine, 19 hurt

MANILA, 3 Feb—A bus carrying at least 50 workers of South Korean construction firm Hanjin Heavy Industries, Inc plunged into a ravine in northern Philippines, wounding at least 19, local media reported on Tuesday.

Police said the bus, owned by a local contractor of the South Korean firm, was racing with two other buses when its driver lost control of the wheels near Hanjin's facilities in Subic town of Zambales Province.

The injured, whose nationalities are not immediately clear, were brought to two hospitals, local TV network GMA News said.

The report quoted hospital staff saying at least two are in critical conditions while most of the others suffered only bruises.—*Internet*



Teams play the video game "counter-strike" in Cologne, Germany. Spending more hours watching television or playing video games as a teenager may lead to depression in young adults, according to a study published on 2 Feb, 2009.

INTERNET

Somali officials say AU force kills 18 civilians

MOGADISHU, 3 Feb—African Union peacekeepers opened fire on Monday on civilian vehicles and fatally shot 18 people after an AU vehicle was hit by a land mine, officials and a witness said.

The peacekeepers fired at three minibus taxis carrying civilians after the land mine damaged an AU vehicle in the Somali capital, Mogadishu, said the city's deputy mayor, Abdifitah Ibrahim Shawey.

AU peacekeeping force spokesman Bahoku Barigye said the Ugandan contingent of the AU force was responding to gunfire and he does not know whom they hit.

"A land mine hit one of

our vehicles and then we came under small arms fire. We did not intentionally kill civilians," Barigye told *The Associated Press*, adding that one Ugandan soldier was wounded.

The incident happened on a road in southern Mogadishu linking the presidential palace and the airport. Both are among the government installations the AU force guards as part of its mandate in Mogadishu.

"There was a huge explosion, which blew up one of the Ugandan military vehicles, lifting it off the road," said Mohamud Abdisamad, a resident of the Waberi district where the violence happened. "Afterwards, Ugandan

soldiers started shooting at people in the three buses wildly."

Ali Muse, one of the coordinators of Mogadishu's ambulance service, said the service transported 18 dead and 11 people wounded from the scene of the violence. Muse said the dead and wounded had gunshot wounds.—*Internet*

Air raids strike near Darfur war-zone town

KHARTOUM, 3 Feb—Air raids struck near Muhajaria in Sudan's troubled Darfur region, an official said as peacekeepers scrambled to protect 5,000 civilians holed up at a UN base in the flashpoint town.

"According to our reports, there were air raids near the town of Muhajaria" in South Darfur, an official of the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) told *AFP*.

The official, who asked not to be named, said the aircraft which did the bombing were not identified.

The raids follow a warning to UNAMID from the Sudanese government on Sunday to withdraw its 190 peacekeepers from Muhajaria ahead of an offensive to recapture it from rebels of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM).

The head of the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), Rodolphe Adada, held talks with Sudanese defence, foreign ministry and intelligence officials on Monday on "practical ways of securing the protection of the civilians," the mission's spokesman Nouredine Mezni told *AFP*.

The talks were confirmed by Sudan's undersecretary of foreign affairs, Mutrif Siddiq.

Internet

Gunmen fire on Peru attorney general's car

LIMA, 3 Feb—A top prosecutor says gunmen tried to kill Peru's attorney general, who is heading a high-profile corruption investigation.

Prosecutor Jose Pelaez says on Saturday's attack on Attorney General Gladys Echaiz was an as-

sassination attempt—not a robbery, as officials earlier suggested.

He said on Monday that many prosecutors are being threatened for doing their jobs.

Officials say nobody was hurt in the shooting in central Lima and police

are hunting for the two attackers.

Echaiz heads investigations into a bribery scandal involving state oil executives and an illegal wiretapping ring allegedly run by Peruvian navy officers.

Internet

Goat detained over armed robbery

Police in Nigeria are holding a goat on suspicion of attempted armed robbery.

Vigilantes took the black and white beast to the police saying it was an armed robber who had used black magic to transform himself into a goat to escape arrest after trying to steal a Mazda 323.

"The group of vigilante men came to report that while they were on patrol they saw some hoodlums attempting to rob a car.

They pursued them. However one of them escaped while the other turned into a goat," Kwara

state police spokesman Tunde Mohammed told Reuters by telephone.

"We cannot confirm the story, but the goat is in our custody. We cannot base our information on something mystical. It is something that has to be proved scientifically, that a human being turned into a goat," he said.

Belief in witchcraft is widespread in parts of Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation. Residents came to the police station to see the goat, photographed in one national newspaper on its knees next to a pile of straw.

Mobile 'bird flu' from Russia found in Indonesia



A mobile virus that had only previously been seen in Russia, has now been found on an Indonesian cell phone, the leading Russian antivirus programmer, Kaspersky Lab reports. Experts say the spread of the virus will increase.

The as yet unnamed virus is a Trojan and takes control of the victim's mobile account, and

steals money from it.

Those at risk are phones which run the Symbian file system for mobile devices and have SMS money transfer enabled. After infecting the system, the virus operates by sending unauthorised SMS texts to a service number requesting a money transfer from the victims account.

As wireless phone and PDA networks become more numerous and more complex, it has become increasingly difficult to secure them against viruses. Though a major mobile epidemic is still to come, a few viruses have already been released.

NEWS ALBUM



Performers from the Tourism Authority of Thailand's Thai dance group pose before a rehearsal at the People's Association headquarters in Singapore ahead of on Friday's Chingay Street and Floats Parade. About 4,000 local and international performers will participate in the annual parade on Friday and on Saturday according to the organizer.

Tortoise thieves make quick getaway

Ten rare and expensive tortoises have been stolen from a private museum in Singapore, its third theft in two years, local media reported on Monday. The thieves struck on Saturday, escaping with tortoises worth S\$75,000 (\$49,730) that were on display at the Live Turtle and Tortoise Museum. Three endangered radiated tortoises, one of the rarest tortoises in the world, and seven Indian star tortoises were stolen, owner Danny Tan told local media.

"I opened the tortoise museum to educate the public about tortoises, yet thefts happen. Of course I feel disappointed," Tan said. Trade in radiated tortoises is illegal due to their endangered status, while Indian star tortoises are banned as pets in Singapore. Police said they were investigating.



Star-patterned tortoises swim at a zoological park in the southern Indian city of Hyderabad.

SPORTS

Bosingwa escapes FA action

LONDON, 3 Feb—Chelsea defender Jose Bosingwa escaped any disciplinary action Monday for deliberately kicking Yossi Benayoun in the back during the Blues' 2-0 Premier League loss to Liverpool at Anfield on Sunday.

Bosingwa's reckless act late in the match looked a far more blatant foul than the challenge which saw Chelsea and England midfielder Frank Lampard sent-off on the hour mark.



Chelsea's Portuguese player Jose Bosingwa

However, although Mike Riley did not see the incident himself, the referee confirmed it had been witnessed by his linesman Mo Matadar.

Because the officials deliberately decided not to take action against Bosingwa, the Football Association said that, under football rules laid down by world governing body FIFA, they were barred from imposing any disciplinary sanctions upon the Portugal defender.

After the match, Chelsea manager Luiz Felipe Scolari said he would have had no complaints if Bosingwa had been sent-off for his wild challenge on Israeli playmaker Benayoun.

Congo-born Bosingwa, 26, was in contrite mood Monday after a defeat which left Chelsea five points behind leaders Manchester United.

Internet

Arshavin joins Arsenal till 2012



Russia international midfielder Andrei Arshavin

LONDON, 3 Feb—Russia international midfielder Andrei Arshavin of Zenit St Petersburg has joined Arsenal till June 2012 for 12 million pounds (13.3 million euros), sources at the Premiership club said on Monday.

The Gunners are now merely waiting on the Premier League to sign all the necessary paperwork for the deal to be made official.

The fee was far from the initial asking price the reigning UEFA Cup winners wanted of 20 million pounds, but included a substantial performance-linked bonus.

Conflicting signals had been emerging from Arsenal's Emirates stadium and Russia throughout the day as the 1700GMT deadline came and went and a Zenit club spokesman had even said the deal had fallen through.

The deal apparently hit a last minute snag when Zenit demanded a portion of Arshavin's signing on fee.

But other Russia news agencies were reporting that a deal had been struck on a three-and-a-half year contract.

Gazeta.ru site announced that Arshavin, one of the stars at Euro 2008, had passed his medical and was now an Arsenal player, inheriting the Gunners' number 13 shirt.

He will probably not make his debut for the Gunners for a few weeks because he will have to work on physical conditioning to adapt to the rigours of the English game.

Internet

Quaresma joins Chelsea on loan

LONDON, 3 Feb—Ricardo Quaresma has joined Chelsea on-loan from Italy's Inter Milan for the rest of the season, the English Premier League side said on Monday.

The London club added on their official website that the Premier League had ratified the deal, which was announced some two hours after Monday's 1700GMT transfer window deadline had passed.

Quaresma, 25, a winger who can play on either flank, became the sixth Portuguese player at Stamford Bridge following the pre-season arrivals of Deco and Jose Bosingwa. He has also worked under Blues boss Luiz Felipe Scolari at international level, including during Euro 2008.

However he fell out of favour with former Chelsea manager Jose

Mourinho at Inter, whom he joined before the start of this season.

The former Porto and Barcelona forward was booed by Inter's own fans during the recent 1-1 draw with Torino where he shot over the bar after coming on as a second-half substitute.

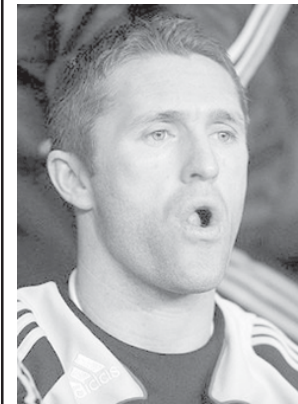
Chelsea were left five points behind league leaders Manchester United after losing 2-0 to title rivals Liverpool on Sunday.

Internet



Portuguese midfielder Ricardo Quaresma

Keane rejoins Tottenham from Liverpool



Robbie Keane

LONDON, 3 Feb—Robbie Keane rejoined Tottenham Hotspur from Liverpool on Monday's transfer deadline day barely six months after leaving the London club for their Premier League rivals.

"It was a difficult decision to make to leave Tottenham in the summer," Republic of Ireland striker Keane told Tottenham's

official website, who has rejoined on a four-year deal, with the fee starting at a reported 12 million pounds before rising with add-ons.

That would see Tottenham making a tidy profit after selling Keane to Liverpool for 20 million pounds in July.

However Keane, speaking ahead of what could be his second debut for the club, against their arch rivals Arsenal, on Sunday, said: "It proved not to be the right move for me.

"I know some Spurs fans will feel I let them down by leaving but I can assure them I shall be giving my all for this club.

"We've got to get on and fight our way up that league table," added Keane, who returns to White Hart Lane with Spurs just a point above the drop zone.

Tottenham, criticised by Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez for the way in which they made their interest in Keane public this month, were delighted to have the 28-year-old forward back in their ranks.

"We never wanted Robbie to leave in the summer, we acknowledged the six years dedicated service he gave this club and reluctantly let him go," said Spurs chairman Daniel Levy.—Internet

Mediate withdraws from Buick Invitational

SAN DIEGO, 3 Feb—Already missing Tiger Woods as he recovers from knee surgery, Torrey Pines lost the other half of its US Open memory when Rocco Mediate withdrew Monday from the Buick Invitational.

The Buick Invitational starts Thursday at Torrey Pines, the public course that staged a riveting US Open last June when Woods birdied the final hole to force a playoff against Mediate, then rallied the next day to beat him in 19 holes.

Woods is the four-time defending champion at the Buick Invitational, but he is not expected to return to competition until the end of the month at the earliest. Mediate, whose appeal increased because of his everyman qualities, cited personal reasons for pulling out.

Internet

South Africans go 'wild' as Open returns

JOHANNESBURG, 3 Feb—Local 'wildcards' Rik de Voest and Raven Klaasen upset Spanish opponents Monday as the SA Tennis Open returned to the ATP scene after a 14-year absence.

De Voest always had the edge over sixth seed Ivan Navarro en route to a 6-3, 6-4 win while Raven Klaasen overcame early nerves to oust Ruben Ramirez Hidalgo 6-3, 7-5 at the Tuscan-style Montecasino entertainment centre.

The tournament began with Leonardo Mayer outplaying Sergio Roitman 6-2, 6-4 in an all-Argentina duel and German Simon Gruel was another straight-set winner, eliminating Romanian Victor Crivoi 6-2, 6-4 on the second court.

Warm, overcast weather greeted competitors at a venue transformed from a car park to four courts within a few months and South Africans did not have to wait long for something to celebrate.

Internet

Buoyant Ben Haim says Black Cats can be lucky

LONDON, 3 Feb—Tal Ben Haim was eager to play his part in helping Sunderland climb away from the English Premier League relegation zone after joining the Black Cats on loan from top-flight rivals Manchester City.

His deadline day move on Monday saw the 26-year-old Israel international defender linking up again with Sunderland manager Ricky Sbragia, who was a member of the coaching staff when Ben Haim played for Bolton Wanderers.

Ben Haim arrived too late to be registered in time for Wednesday's FA Cup fourth round replay with Blackburn, which means he could now make his Sunderland debut in this Saturday's league match at home to Stoke.

The Black Cats are currently four points above the bottom three following Sunday's 1-1 derby draw with Newcastle and Ben Haim told Sunderland's official website: "I'm happy to come here, play some football and help Sunderland achieve their targets.

"I know Ricky from Bolton and it will be good to work with him again," he added. "Sunderland should be higher up in the table and I hope that will be the case over the next four months."

Internet



Tal Ben Haim

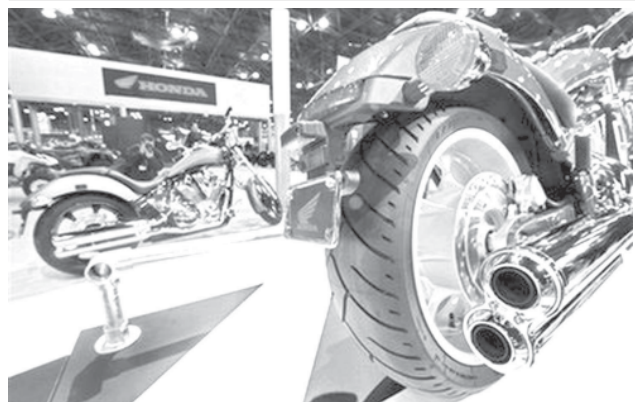
Four plead guilty to US election night violence

NEW YORK, 3 Feb—Four New York men have pleaded guilty to a string of racially motivated assaults on the night Barack Obama was elected as the first Black US President, a court spokesman said on Monday.

The three assaults in the New York City borough of Staten Island on 4 November targeted Black men, court documents said. The accused ringleader, Ralph Nicoletti, 18, pleaded guilty in US District Court in Brooklyn to taking part in assaults that included striking a teenager with a metal pipe, pushing another man to the ground and driving a car into a third man.

The third victim was seriously injured and remained in a coma for several weeks after the attack, court papers said. As a condition of his plea, Nicoletti agreed to a sentence of 12 years in prison, although the length is subject to a judge's approval, said court spokesman Robert Nardoza.

Three other men—Brian Carranza, 21, and Michael Contreras and Bryan Garaventa, both 18—pleaded guilty to conspiring to commit hate crime assaults, Nardoza said. Each faces up to 10 years in prison.—MNA/Reuters



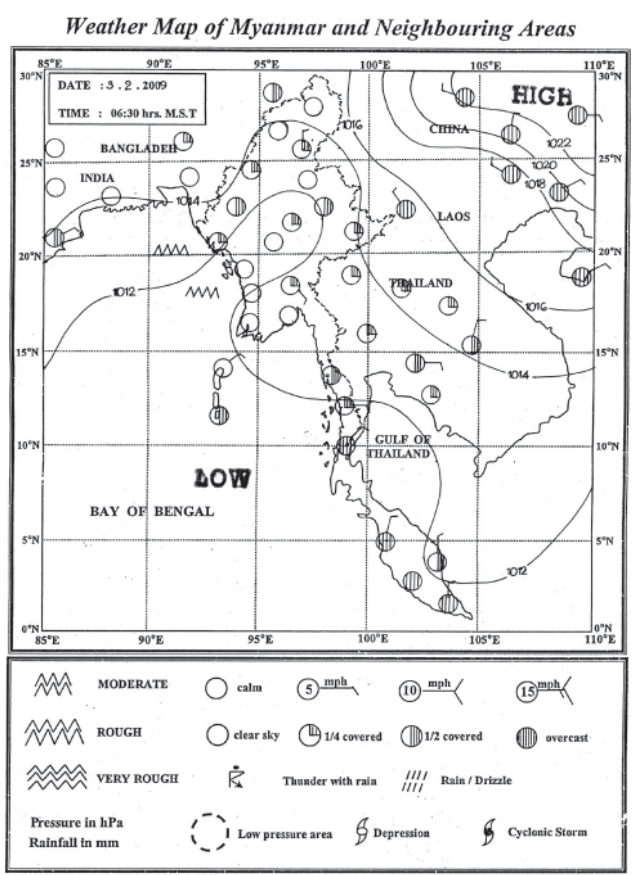
People look at 2010 Honda Fury's after its introduction at the 28th annual International Motorcycle Show, in New York recently. The Fury, with a lower riding position, has a single-shock rear suspension with a hard-tail look, and a 1,312 cc V-twin engine. The Fury's 71-inch wheelbase makes it the longest bike in the Japanese auto giant's lineup.—INTERNET

MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (4.2.2009) (Wednesday)

Transmissions	Times
Local	- (09:00am ~ 10:00am) MST
Europe	- (15:30pm ~ 23:30pm) MST
North America	- (23:30pm ~ 07:30am) MST

- Local Transmission**
- Signature Tune
 - Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
 - Myanma Traditional Gold Leaf Works
 - Myanma Roasted Bean
 - Let's grow High-Yielding Varieties for Surplus in Rice
 - Myanmar Modern Song
 - Discovering Imaw Bum Area (Part-II)
 - Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

- Europe/ North America Transmission**
- Signature Tune
 - Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
 - Myanmar Elephants from Myanma Forest
 - Ancient Han-Lin
 - Free of Charge Art Trainees' Exhibition
 - Discovering Imaw Bum Area (Part-I)
 - Poem Garden "Join Hands together"
 - National Progress through All-round Development
 - A Picturesque Resort Among Shan Mountain Ranges
 - Myanmar Modern Song
 - Myanma Traditional Gold Leaf Works
 - The Hilly Town (Namhsan)
 - Let's Grow High-Yielding Varieties for Surplus in Rice
 - Discovering Imaw Bum Area (Part-II)
 - The Beauty of Tamonyel Region
 - Planting of Mulberry tree and Breeding of Silkworms
 - Bio-diesel from Energy Field
 - Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm



WEATHER

Tuesday, 3 February, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin and Shan States, Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (7°C) to (8°C) below February average temperatures in Chin State and Bago Division, (3°C) to (4°C) below February average temperatures in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Magway Divisions, (3°C) above February average temperatures in Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions and about February average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (-3°C), Loilem (2°C), Namhsan, Pinlaung and Ann (3°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 2-2-2009 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 3-2-2009 was 60°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 3-2-2009 was 59%. Total sunshine hours on 2-2-2009 was (8.7) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 3-2-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southwest at (16:30) hours MST on 2-2-2009.

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 4th February 2009: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin and Shan States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas.

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 4-2-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 4-2-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 4-2-2009: Generally fair weather.



Wednesday, 4 February
View on today

- 7:00 am**
1. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:25 am**
2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am**
3. Morning news
- 7:40 am**
4. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 7:55 am**
5. Dance of national races

- 8:00 am**
6. “မြို့ကြီးသားယဉ်ကျေးမှု” (လျှမ်းထက်၊ ဖိုးချစ်၊ ပုလဲဝင်း၊ နန်းဆုရတီစိုး၊ စုချစ်စော်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-စော်လူထက်)
- 8:10 am**
7. မြူးမြူးကြွကြွယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက
- 8:20 am**
8. (၆၂)နှစ်မြောက်ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 8:30 am**
9. International news
- 8:45 am**
10. Musical programme
- 4:00 pm**
1. Martial song
- 4:10 pm**
2. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 4:20 pm**
3. “စီးဆင်းပါစေမေတ္တာရည်”

- (မေကဗျာ၊ ဖူးဖူး)
[ဒါရိုက်တာ-ခင်စော်(ကုမုဒြာ)]
- 4:30 pm**
4. Classical song
- 4:40 pm**
5. Musical programme
- 4:50 pm**
6. (၆၂)နှစ်မြောက်ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 5:00 pm**
7. ၂၀၀၉ခုနှစ်၊ တက္ကသိုလ်ဝင်စာမေးပွဲ ဘာသာရပ်ဆိုင်ရာသင်ခန်းစာ (သမိုင်းဘာသာရပ်)
- 5:25 pm**
8. Songs to uphold national spirit
- 5:35 pm**
9. (၆၂)နှစ်မြောက်ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 5:45 pm**
10. “ပြည်ထောင်စုစိတ်ဓာတ်မပြတ်”

- ရင့်သန်ခိုင်မာရန်မှာအိုဝန်တာ” (အသီးတစ်ရာအညှာတစ်ရ ခိုပြည်ထောင်စု)
- 6:00 pm**
11. Evening news
- 6:30 pm**
12. Weather report
- 6:35 pm**
13. မြန်မာ့လေ့ရိုးရာလက်ရာ
- 6:50 pm**
14. ထက်မြက်ပျော်ရွှင်အိမ်ထောင်ရှင်
- 7:20 pm**
15. ရာသီလွင်သရွပ်ဆောင်လွင်ပြင်
- 8:00 pm**
16. News
- 8:00 pm**
17. International news
- 8:00 pm**
18. Weather report
- 8:00 pm**
19. မြန်မာ့ရုပ်ရှင် “သိပ်ချစ်နေပြီ” (ရဲအောင်၊ တင့်တင့်ထွန်း) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်ရှိန်)

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

Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of Ambassador of the People's Republic of China

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Feb—Mr Ye Dabo, newly-accredited Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Union of Myanmar presented his credentials to Senior General Than Shwe,

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, at Bayintnaung Yeiktha, here at 11 a.m. today.

Present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and

Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint and Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department.

MNA



Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials presented by Mr Ye Dabo, newly-accredited Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Union of Myanmar at Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw.— MNA

Senior General Than Shwe felicitates Sri Lankan President

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb—On the occasion of the 61st Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka which falls on 4th February 2009, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.—MNA

Economic sanctions have damaged human rights and caused unemployment.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein receives Special Advisor to Secretary-General of UN

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Feb — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein received Mr Ibrahim Agboola Gambari, Special Advisor to the

Secretary-General of the United Nations, at Zeyathiri Beikman in Yangon today.

(See page 6)

Prime Minister General Thein Sein receives Mr Ibrahim Agboola Gambari, Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General. — MNA

