

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

Foreign Heads of State/Government send felicitations

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Jan— *The following are messages sent from foreign heads of State/Government to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, on the occasion of the 59th Anniversary Independence Day.*

From His Majesty M.R. Bhumibol R., King of Thailand Excellency,

On the occasion of the Independence Day of

the Union of Myanmar, I wish to extend to Your Excellency cordial congratulations and best wishes for your health and happiness as well as for the progress and prosperity of your country and its people.

From Mr SR Nathan, President of Republic of Singapore

Excellency,

On behalf of the people of the Republic of Singapore, I would like to congratulate Your Excellency and the people of the Union of Myanmar on the

occasion of the 59th Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

Singapore and Myanmar enjoy friendly ties. I am confident that our two countries will continue to work together to strengthen our cooperation for the benefit of our peoples and the wider ASEAN community.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(See page 8)

Education Ministry observes School Family Day, honours outstanding students

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Jan — Ministry of Education observed School Family Day for 2006-2007 Academic Year and honoured outstanding students at Basic Education High School No 1 here today.

Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Brig-Gen Wai Lwin, ministers, deputy ministers and senior military officers attended the ceremony to mark the school family day and presented prizes to the outstanding students.

Speaking on the occasion, Education Minister Dr Chan Nyein said since 2001-2002 fiscal year, the Government has been implementing the 30-year long term education promotion plan with the aim of developing human resources which plays a leading role in building a democratic nation.

While implementing the tasks of the plan in the basic education level and higher education level, new generation youths are being nurtured so that they can overcome the challenges of the advanced technology in the future, he added.

He continued to say that concerning the education promotion plan, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance to focus on efficiency of teachers, upgrading the curriculum meeting the international standard, effective use of teaching aids, observance of rules and regulations and flourishing of the patriotic spirit and Union Spirit.

Basic education schools have observed the school family day since 1998-1999 academic year and honoured the outstanding students.

The school family day of the 2006-2007 academic year was observed with the aim of developing human resources which can build the peaceful, mod-

ern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation, can preserve the traditional culture and can uplift the patriotic spirit and Union Spirit, the minister said. The School Family Day (Central Level) for 2006-2007 Academic Year was held from 6 to 8 January here.

In his concluding remarks, Education Minister Dr Chan Nyein called on teachers to make more efforts for promotion of the qualifications of students

in accordance with the education promotion plan.

At the ceremony, Commander Brig-Gen Wai Lwin, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Commander of Camp Commandant's Office Maj-Gen Hla Aung Thein, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Education Minister Dr Chan Nyein and Education Deputy Ministers U Myo Nyunt and Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min presented prizes to outstanding students. — MNA



Commander Brig-Gen Wai Lwin and ministers greet attendees at the School Family Day. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 9 January, 2007

Make better use of natural resources for national development

Myanmar is rich in natural resources. According to geographical condition, the nation is blessed with terrestrial and aquatic resources. And oil and gas is one of the most valuable natural resources on which the nation has to rely.

The Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy is exploring natural resources, applying manpower and machinery. It is also collaborating with foreign companies on a mutually beneficial basis in tapping and exploiting natural resources offshore and onshore on commercial scale.

According to the initial findings at Zawtika-1 (A) Test Well of Block M-9 off Mottama Coast on 23 December 2006, the gas deposit of the test well is estimated to hold 2.5 TCE. And it is also estimated that Block M-9 would hold 8 TCE and above.

The Zawtika-1 (A) Test Well is a commercial gas deposit of the nation like Yadana Project, Yetagun Project and Shwe Gas Deposit off Rakhine coast.

The findings of such a vast gas deposit will contribute a great deal to the State.

Such being the case, steps are to be taken to obtain much more capital and human resources for national development, making better use of natural resources.

Special civil and criminal appeal cases delivered, special civil appeal cases heard

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Jan— The Special Appellate Bench comprising Deputy Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (Mandalay) U Khin Maung Latt, Supreme Court Judges U Myint Aung and U Thet Tun sitting at Court Room No 1 of the Supreme Court (Nay Pyi Taw) delivered judgment of six special civil appeal cases and six special criminal appeal cases, also heard nine special civil appeal cases under section 7 of the Judiciary law 2000.

MNA

All this needs to be known

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

Peoples' 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

USDA S-G U Htay Oo meets secretaries of townships in Meiktila District

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Jan — Secretary-General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association U Htay Oo together with heads of department inspected thriving Ngwechi-6 strain long staple cotton in the special plantation zone, Tawma Village, Meiktila Township on 1 January.

Next, managers of district and townships briefed the Secretary-General and party on the yield of over 600 viss of cotton per acre and its quality. Afterwards, the Secretary-General gave instructions on extended cultivation of long staple cotton.

So far, a total of 650 acres were put under long staple cotton across the country. The Secretary-General and party oversaw the renovation of Latpankhaung Village BEPS No 178 in Meiktila Township, completion of sinking tubewells and construction of lakes and attended to the needs.

Next, the Secretary-General looked into sinking tubewell collectively carried out by the rural people. In the evening, he met with townelders, departmental personnel, and executives and members of township and district USDAs.

During the meeting, secretaries of Meiktila District USDA and Meiktila, Wundwin and Mahlaing Township USDAs briefed the Secretary-General on public welfare services. Next, he called on all the members to join hands with the local people to actively participate in the process of building a peaceful modern developed and democratic nation.

Afterwards the Secretary-General paid homage to Thanlyintawya Minkyawng Sayadaw Hitaythinaylashin Nipuna in Pyawbwe, offered alms to the Sayadaw and inspected all-round renovation of Yan Myo Aung Pagoda. — MNA

MEB Branch No 2 in Mandalay opened



Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun speaks at opening of new office of Myanmar Economic Bank (Branch-2). — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Jan — A ceremony to open a new building of Myanmar Economic Bank (Branch-2) was held at the building in Mandalay this morning.

Managing Director of MEB U Myat Maw and Chairman of Mandalay District Peace and Development Council U Soe Mya formally opened the building.

Chairman of Mandalay Division PDC Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw

unveiled the signboard of the bank branch.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun delivered speeches.

Also present on the occasion were departmental officials, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, social organizations and others.

MNA

Cash donation ceremony for World Vipassana Pagoda

YANGON, 7 Jan — The 7th cash donation ceremony for the building of World Vipassana Pagoda in Mumbai, India was held at Dhamma Joti Vipassana Yeiktha this morning, attended by Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko.

Firstly, Advisor U Arnt Maung explained building tasks and the deputy minister delivered an address.

Next, the deputy minister, the advisor, Director-General U Myo Kyaw of Religious Affairs Department and officials accepted K 33,127,430, US\$ 8,051, FEC 130, Ringgit 416 and Rupee 500 donated by wellwishers. — MNA



Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko accepts cash donated by wellwisher. — MNA

Cambodian PM to attend ASEAN summits in Philippines

PHNOM PENH, 7 Jan— Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen will attend the series of ASEAN meetings, which is delayed to be held on 12-15 January in Cebu, Philippines, according to a Press release from Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation here Saturday.

At the invitation of the Philippine President Gloria Arroyo, Hun Sen will lead a high-level delegation to participate in the 12th ASEAN (the

Association of South-East Asia Nations) Summit, the 10th ASEAN+3 Summit, the 10th ASEAN+1 Summit with China, Japan and South Korea, the 5th ASEAN+India Summit and the 2nd East Asia Summit, it said.

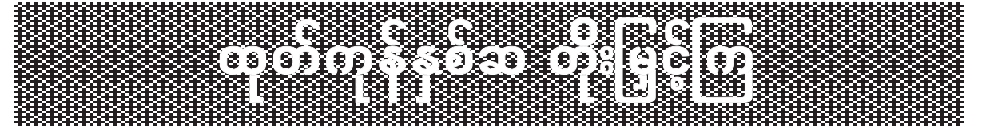
On the sidelines of the above summits, Hun Sen will also attend the 3rd CLMV Summit with the leaders of Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam, it said.

Hun Sen will be accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and

Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Hor Nam Hong, Minister of Commerce Cham Prasidh and other senior government officials, it added.

The summits were originally scheduled in December 2006 but delayed by the host country for fear of storm attacks.

ASEAN comprises Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.—MNA/Xinhua



Kuala Lumpur. After one-year-long intensive preparations, Malaysia officially launched the Visit Malaysia Year (VMY) 2007 on Saturday night, the third and also the largest tourism promotion year drive in the country. —XINHUA

Death toll from cold wave in Bangladesh rises to 113

DHAKA, 7 Jan— The sweeping cold wave claimed around 18 lives in seven districts of Bangladesh while scores of others fell sick across the country in the last 24 hours till 8:00 pm

Saturday, raising the death toll from the chilly weather to 113.

According to private news agency UNB reports, six people died of cold and cold-related diseases in Jessore District, 140

kilometres southwest of capital Dhaka in the past 24 hours till 6:00 pm Saturday. In Thakurgaon District, 330 kilometres northwest of Dhaka, four people died in the last 24 hours.

Meanwhile, local hospitals and clinics have been swamped with patients affected with cold-related diseases.

In Jhalakati District, 130 kilometres south of Dhaka, three people died of cold Saturday morning.

Two more people died of cold Saturday morning

in Panchagarh District, 360 kilometres northwest of Dhaka, raising the death figures in the district from cold to 25 in the past one week. One person died of cold Saturday morning in Sirajganj District, 110 kilometres northwest of Dhaka. In Kishoreganj, a middle-aged man died of cold and many more were affected by cold-related diseases Saturday.

An old man of Faridpur District, 60 kilometres southwest of Dhaka, died of cold early Saturday.

MNA/Xinhua



A fisherman measures a shark fin at a beach in Manta, Ecuador, on 6 Jan, 2007. Shark fins sell for as much as \$700 per kilogramme in Asia and with the waters off Asia largely depleted, fishermen are focusing on regions that still swarm with sharks, according to the New York Times.

INTERNET

Helicopter hits French restaurant

LONDON, 7 Jan—Two of the dead were parents of a young daughter who was nearby.

A helicopter has crashed into the garden of a restaurant in southern France, killing three people and severely injuring a fourth.

The Alouette 2 helicopter crashed at the Chez Bob restaurant on a road between Salin-de-Giraud and Arles in the Camargue region.

Two of the dead were decapitated while the injured woman had her leg severed, rescuers said.

The four people on board the helicopter were unhurt.

Police sources told Reuters news agency the helicopter was carrying guests who had been at a lunch at the restaurant. Their dining companions had walked up the garden to bid them farewell when the helicopter came down, the sources said. —Internet

Joke between friends leads to bomb scare at Bangkok Airport

BANGKOK, 7 Jan— A joke between friends led to a bomb scare at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi International Airport Saturday, according to the web edition of local newspaper the Nation.

Police and soldiers rushed to arrest a man at the Gate 7 on the fourth floor of the outbound passengers building at 8:30 am (0130 GMT) after receiving reports from a security officer on radio that the man might be carrying bombs in his bag.

But police failed to find any explosive on the man who declined to be identified.

The man said the scare was apparently caused by a misunderstanding. He said he earlier joked with a friend, who is a security officer, that he was carrying two bombs.

The man said other security officers might overhear the joke and thought that he was making a bomb threat.

MNA/Xinhua

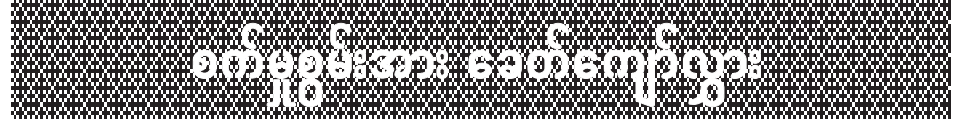


A US armoured vehicle burns after a roadside bomb attack in Falluja, 50 km (30 miles) west of Baghdad, on 5 Jan, 2007. A roadside bomb hit what appeared to be a US tank or armoured vehicle in Falluja, residents said, and television footage showed it burning and billowing black smoke.

INTERNET



South Korean dancers dressed in traditional costumes perform during 'Korea Fantasy,' a special event to celebrate the New Year at the Everland Amusement Park in Yongin, south of Seoul, on 3 Jan, 2007.—INTERNET



Chadian President meets Chinese FM for talks on cooperation, ties

YAOUNDE, 7 Jan — Chadian President Idriss Deby and visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said Thursday that bilateral cooperation had improved since the two countries resumed diplomatic ties, reports reaching here said.

President Deby first conveyed his best wishes for the New Year to the Chinese people via the

visiting minister.

He said resuming diplomatic relations was in the best interests of the people of both countries.

Chad, which is rich in natural resources, is facing a huge task of infrastructure construction and is willing to cooperate with Chinese enterprises, said the President.

The Chinese minister said that bilateral cooperation in the economy, education, agriculture and health care has been underway since the ties were resumed.

"China is willing to

work together with the Chadian side to let our two peoples enjoy the fruits of the resumption of ties as soon as possible," Li said, adding that China had sent teams of agriculture experts and medical workers to Chad.

Li is on a seven-nation tour of Africa to Benin, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Chad, the Central African Republic, Eritrea and Botswana.

On Friday, the Foreign Minister presided over the opening ceremony for the Chinese Embassy in Chad.

MNA/Xinhua

Cars buried in Colorado avalanche

LONDON, 7 Jan—A massive avalanche has hit a major highway in the western US state of Colorado, pushing cars off the road.

The avalanche, described by local rescue crews as the largest they had ever seen, struck at the Berthoud Pass, 60 miles (100km) west of Denver. The mass of snow pushed at least two cars off the road, burying them with their occupants still inside.

Eight people were pulled from the buried vehicles and taken to hospital by helicopter.

Bob Wilson, a spokesman for the Colorado Department of Transportation, said one person had been injured.

"As far as we know, everyone has been pulled out," he added.

The avalanche was 200ft (62m) wide and 15ft deep, and buried at least two cars along US Highway 40. Most traffic heading to the Winter Park ski area had already passed the site, reports say.

"Our preliminary

reports indicate that the slide covered all three lanes of the roadway, and two cars were covered and pushed off the road," Mr Wilson said.

"Our crews are saying it is the largest slide they have ever seen."

Colorado has been hit with three major snow storms in the last few weeks, and Winter Park, one of the largest ski areas in the state, reported 10in (25cm) of fresh snow in 48 hours.

Internet



Front end loaders remove snow from US 40 where a huge avalanche swept two cars off the road in the Arapaho National Forest, Colo, on , 6 Jan, 2007, about 50 miles west of Denver.—INTERNET

Death toll from Rift Valley fever outbreak hits 62 in Kenya

NAIROBI, 7 Jan — Five more people have died in the past two days in northern and coastal regions of Kenya, bringing the death toll to 62 as the killer disease spreads, health authorities confirmed recently.

Dr Omar Ahmed, the medical services chief in the country's worst-hit North Eastern Province, said three herdsmen died of the viral disease in Wajir District.

"Two other herdsmen succumbed to the disease in the isolation unit at the Garissa provincial hospital where they had been admitted for three days," Omar said.

The disease has infected nearly 200 people since an outbreak was first diagnosed in mid-December last year.

The Health Ministry said the disease has already spread to the Coast and Rift Valley provinces, threatening a nationwide outbreak.

MNA/Xinhua

Dozens injured as boat capsizes in central Thai river

BANGKOK, 7 Jan— A ferry boat carrying as many as over 100 passengers capsized in the Chao Phraya River in central province of Ayutthaya Friday morning, and rescue officials went on searching for possible missing victims, *Thai News Agency* reported.

Initial reports said some 30 passengers were rescued and rushed to hospitals, with 26 suffering minor injuries while

two female passengers were in critical condition.

Passengers on the boat, mostly Muslims, were en route to a Muslim religious ceremony at a mosque in Ayutthaya, an ancient capital and popular tourist destination 70 kilometres north to Bangkok.

The report said the boat capsized after most passengers moved to one side of the stern to avoid bright sunlight, which unbalanced the boat, the report said. Some pas-

sengers panicked and even jumped into the river as the boat began to sink.

Boat owner Nopporn Kittithummakul reportedly told police that his boat was not overloaded and that he would be willing to shoulder medical fees for injured passengers.

However, the English-language newspaper *Bangkok Post* said on its website that the two-deck boat had carried more than 150 people.

MNA/Xinhua



A Proton automobile on display at the Proton headquarters showroom in Shah Alam, on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Malaysia will set aside bids by local auto firms to acquire stakes in ailing national carmaker Proton, instead first choosing German Volkswagen AG or French PSA Peugeot Citroen as a partner, according to a report.—INTERNET

Shanghai uses \$7b in FDI in 2006

SHANGHAI, 7 Jan—Shanghai, China's financial and business centre, used 7 billion US dollars in foreign direct investment (FDI) last year, according to the municipal foreign investment working committee.

The city approved 4,061 foreign-funded projects last year, involving a little over 14.57 billion US dollars, up 5.4 per cent from 2005, according to the latest statistics from the committee.

It said over 9.76 billion dollars, or 67 per cent of

the total contractual foreign capital, went into the service sector, mainly commerce and real estate.

Like Shanghai, some other Chinese cities and provinces have reported slight increase or decline in FDI over the past few years.

Experts say China is facing increasingly fierce international competition for foreign investment as production costs in the

country are rising due to stricter environmental requirements, higher salaries and more expensive land.

The Ministry of Commerce said earlier that the figure for actually-used FDI in China last year would probably be the same as 2005 at around 60.3 billion US dollars after recording a 0.5 per cent decline in 2005.

MNA/Xinhua



Recruits have their hair cut at a training base in Shenyang, northeast China's Liaoning Province on 7 Jan, 2007.—INTERNET

An Axion iPTV monitor and base station are displayed at a media preview in Las Vegas, Nevada on 6 Jan, 2007. The wireless monitor allows the user to access and control any TV attached to the base unit. —INTERNET



Japanese instant noodle inventor Ando dies at 96

TOKYO, 6 Jan — Momofuku Ando, inventor of instant noodles in Japan and the founder-chairman of Nissin Food Products Co, died of a heart failure on Friday in Osaka prefecture at the age of 96, Kyodo News reported early Saturday.

Ando set up the precursor of Nissin, before introducing "Chicken

Ramen," the first instant noodle product in Japan, in 1958.

His inspiration came after seeing people queuing up on a cold night waiting to buy freshly made noodles at market food stall, shortly after World War II, according to Nissin.

In 1971, Nissin introduced the Cup Noodle, instant noodles in a waterproof styrofoam container that could be used to cook the noodles, ahead of his competitors.

Ando retired from chairman's post in June 2005 to serve as founder-chairman.

According to reports, Nissin produces some 10 billion packages of instant noodles annually and stands as the No 1 producer in the industry.—Xinhua

A girl enjoys the warm weather with bare feet in New York, the United States, on 6 Jan, 2007.—XINHUA



12 die of cold in Morocco last December

RABAT, 7 Jan—Twelve people died of cold at Amesgou in the district of Tounfite, about 150 kilometres north of Khenifra," local disaster and emergency services announced recently.

Temperatures fell to exceptional levels varying between 10 and 16 below zero in this area which lacks enough health care centres within

close proximity, indicated a medical source.

Local authorities mobilized resources in order to give the necessary relief to the people of Amesgou, where by more than 250 benefitted from consultations, medicine as well as food-stuffs.

MNA/Xinhua

Hibernating animals hurt by warm winter

OTTAWA, 7 Jan—Frogs and other animals that do not hibernate because of the warm winter may get very weak by spring and may even lose reproduction abilities, a Canadian scientist warned on Friday.

The current spring-like

winter in eastern Canada is fooling frogs into hopping around and singing for mates when they should be frozen in the mud, conserving energy, said Carleton University Professor Ken Storey, who studies hibernation.

In winter, many creatures go into a very energy-efficient state where their heart rate, the activity of their other organs and the chemical processes in their bodies slow dramatically. That way, they can conserve energy while their food sources are not available, scientists say.

In mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians, this is called hibernation.

In insects and snails, it is called winter estivation

or diapause. Such animals store just enough fuel to make it through the year's coldest months in an energy-efficient state of suspended animation, said Storey.

At this time of year there is no food to replace the stores they quickly burn up when they are out and about, which will probably leave them skinny and weak come spring, he pointed out.

MNA/Xinhua



Yoshimasa Sugawara of Japan drives his Hino on the first special stage of the Lisbon-Dakar rally, near the village of Grandola, southern Portugal on 6 Jan, 2007.—INTERNET

Uganda to launch free Universal Secondary Education

KAMPALA, 7 Jan — The Ugandan Government is to start implementing free Universal Secondary Education (USE) next month, ten years after launching universal primary education, an official said here on Friday.

Minister of Education and Sports Namirembe Bitamazire told the Press that the 30-billion-shilling (16-million-US-dollar) programme will be implemented starting with only senior one.

“We have spent a whole year planning for this programme and we are now sure it can start at the beginning of the new term in February,” the Minister said. Uganda is among the few countries in Africa that are adopting free

universal secondary education, Bitamazire said, adding that “this is a big breakthrough for Ugandans”. She said the programme, which was President Yoweri Museveni’s pledge during the 2006 presidential election campaign, is targeting about 350,000 pupils who completed primary education last year.

The programme is targeting some 700 government-aided and private secondary schools

across the country.

According to the implementation guidelines, USE will cover non-boarding expenses for students enrolling in schools that do not charge more than 75,000 shillings a term. Bitamazire said the government will pay a fixed grant of seven million shillings to every participating school a term and a variable tuition fee of 29,420 shillings per student a term.

MNA/Xinhua



Vehicles experience traffic congestion at a junction on a highway in Xiamen, south China’s Fujian Province on 4 Jan, 2007. Individual purchases will account for 77 percent of China’s sedan sales in 2006, spurring the booming market, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers, XINHUA NEWS AGENCY reported. —XINHUA

ADB funds studies of urban transport systems for Asian cities

MANILA, 7 Jan — The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is beginning a set of field studies of select cities around Asia to help develop blueprints for sustainable urban transport systems in the region, said ADB in a news release Friday.

Backed by an ADB technical assistance grant of one million US dollars, the studies will identify effective investment programmes to support efficient transport systems and innovative financing options that can meet future needs, said ADB.

The studies will be undertaken by a team of international specialists in Bangladesh, China, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri

Lanka and the project is being conducted against the background of a region whose cities are increasingly under strain from the fast pace of urbanization, said ADB.

“Efficient transport systems contribute to urban economic growth, boosting incomes and decreasing urban poverty,” says Eunkyung Kwon, an ADB Principal Transport Specialist.

“However, most urban transport systems around Asia do not take the poor into account. This is actually worsening the

situation for many of the region’s urban poor, who have to travel longer distances on clogged roads.

As a result, they find it even harder to break out of the cycle of poverty and are exposed to dangers on the road and air pollution,” he added.

Among the biggest issues facing Asia’s cities are poor traffic management, unregulated operation of private buses, unplanned road networks, weak coordination, and inefficient institutional frameworks, according to ADB. —MNA/Xinhua



Members of a string band dance their way through a street in Philadelphia during the Mummers Parade on 6 Jan, 2007. —INTERNET

Two bodies of interpreters found in Basra

BAGHDAD, 7 Jan — The bodies of two Iraqi interpreters kidnapped with a US civil contractor were found in the centre of the Iraqi southern city of Basra on Saturday, local police source said.

Their bodies were found near a stadium in the city with bullet holes in the back of their heads, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

A spokesman of the US Embassy confirmed earlier that a US private security contractor has been kidnapped Friday near Basra.

On Friday, local police said that unknown gunmen in three cars intercepted the victims’

car in the al-Haritha area while they were

travelling from Misan Province to Basra, and

kidnapped them.

MNA/Xinhua



An Indonesian soldier looks at a map of Sulawesi Island during a search and rescue operation in Karre forest in the district of Tana Toraja on Indonesia’s Sulawesi Island on 6 Jan, 2007. —INTERNET

Philippine official dismisses terror warning by Britain, Canada

MANILA, 7 Jan — A Philippine Government official Friday dismissed renewed terror warning by Britain and Canada on the eve of the 12th Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit to be held in Cebu next week.

The Department of Foreign Affairs Assistant Secretary for ASEAN Affairs, Louie Cruz, said in a Press briefing that he has full confidence in the capability of security people of the country in addressing security issues.

Citing intelligence reports, the British Embassy maintained its warning that terrorists are in the final stages of planning attacks against civilians, government installations and places frequented by foreigners. The Canadian Government also warned of a terrorist threat in Cebu Province.

MNA/Xinhua

King of hell and Nga Min Swe

Nga Min Swe

According to a foreign broadcasting station, the People's Republic of China has become the fourth largest economic power in the world, with the US, Japan and Germany ranked above it in serial order. That night, I was struck by a thought that the neighbouring giant China has enjoyed a splendid economic development, becoming a developed one. The standard of living of its people is getting higher and higher with cohesion strongly built among them. They have been working very hard, emulating the success of its neighbours Japan and the Republic of Korea. Their consolidated unity is defending their nation from instigation and intervention of big countries. And it is enjoying economic opportunities offered by other world economic powers. It is followed by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, whose people are also harmonious and work hard, reaping the rewards of their diligence. However, in contrast to them, Myanmar people have not yet built unity among them. And lack of unity is attracting economic sanctions against the motherland. So, it has been a long time they should make collaborative efforts to ensure greater development of the nation. Instead of doing so, if they continue such an unnecessary waste of invaluable time, I do not think my life-span will be long enough to see the development of my nation and people. How disappointing it is! The thought raised the blood pressure of Nga Min Swe who already had hypertension, and then he felt dizzy. After that, he lied down in bed. The same night, he ran across the king of hell.

King of hell: Hello, my boy Nga Min Swe. You have not turned 50 yet, so yours is an untimely death. You could have led a comfortable life. I feel a great pity on you!

Nga Min Swe: I also have pity on myself. Your Majesty, it is because I did not see any national unity and development in Myanmar.

King of hell: No way! Myanmar are not united yet. Your neighbouring paukphaw country has enjoyed development because its citizens are united. Like a greedy merchant in the Jataka of coloured glass balls merchants, you Myanmar people are asking for the old golden cup twice

a day—in the morning and in the evening. You have yet to understand that you can buy all the jewellery of Golden Palace Jewellery Shop if you are rich. Let it be. I have sent for you to judge your sins.

Nga Min Swe: Your Majesty, you can judge my sins as they are.

King of hell: In your life record, you had run a salt enterprise since you were 20. Before your death, you wrote several articles. These two deeds are good. But, you committed a sin that you were a bookmaker of two-digit and three-digit lotteries to swindle others. Moreover, you also ran a fish breeding farm. So, you have to serve your term here for the two sins you committed when you were in the human abode. Is there any grievance against my sentence?

Nga Min Swe: All right! But, I have an argument that in the salt enterprise You Majesty has judged a good deed, sea water is dried to produce salt. So, that kills a lot of fingerlings and shrimps getting along with sea water. Many fingerlings and shrimps are killed in the hollows filled with saltwater with salt concentration rate of 50 ppt.

King of hell: Is that so? But, no one has reported on that to me. If so, salt producers also deserve punishments.

Nga Min Swe: Fingerlings and shrimps are killed in my business, but it is for the sake of people. And I bred fish for public consumption. It is for the development of the meat and fish sector, isn't it, Your Majesty?

King of hell: Hey, Nga Min Swe, stop patronizing me. You have to serve the terms for your killing fish.

Nga Min Swe: If so, may I ask a question? Do you punish the people who kill worms by taking anti-septic medicine. I would like to know how you make a decision on such a case.

King of hell: I also took anti-worm medicine provided by the UNICEF as I got it free of charge. You make me remember this. Killing worms means killing life. You killed animals just to earn your living and to produce food for others. I killed worms just for my benefit, but

my acts did not produce any food for others. If so, I could become an ordinary demon. Hey! Issue the order to grant amnesty for all the breeders in hell.

Nga Min Swe: What a joy Great King! Please allow me to send this news to journals in human abode via your Fax machine, Sir.

King of hell: Do it right now. But you must give me a copy of a journal as a present, ha...ha...ha. You still want to write news reports even though you are in Hell. How are you going to give an explanation for your sin of running an illegal gambling business.

Nga Min Swe: Yes Sir! I ran a gambling business to take other's money through illegal means. But the money I got through unjust means were gone, when the winning number was 916. In addition, I had to sell my car. I stopped running the illegal business when I came to realize that the game of gambling numbers did not serve the interest of both the bettors and the bookies. Only the foxes benefited from the game without participating in it. Anyhow, I am guilty of running the illegal business for six rounds. I deserve punishment.

King of hell: Listen! I am going to return a verdict. For your sin of running an illegal gambling business, I punish you, Nga Min Swe, to serve in hell for three consecutive years. During the three years, you serve as the news reporter of the Hell Weekly.

Nga Min Swe: Yes Sir! But I am afraid Sir, I would like to take the job only if there is press freedom in Hell. If not, please let me return and work at the journals in the human abode.

King of hell: OK. Because of the information I receive from you, I come to know the sectors which need remedial measures, and I can make amendments in time. True, there must be press freedom in accord with time and situation. But journalists must do their work with consideration and in accord with the rules.

Nga Min Swe: Thank you Great King. You permit us (the journalists) press freedom, but we will not write news recklessly.

King of hell: I am happy to hear your words. What the title of the news report you are going to write just now.

Nga Min Swe: It's "Unity ensures prosperity, disagreements brings poverty".

King of hell: Very good! You go back to your human abode to feature this news report, and urge others to do so. Tell media persons that I ask them not to write sinful news reports. Media persons will suffer more if they go to Hell for writing sinful news reports.

Fortunately, Nga Min Swe escapes death. As soon as he comes back to life, he writes this article to urge fellow journalists to write news report that call for striving in unity for the progress and prosperity of the nation and the people.

(Translation: MS+TMT)

Myanmar people have not yet built unity among them. And lack of unity is attracting economic sanctions against the motherland. So, it has been a long time they should make collaborative efforts to ensure greater development of the nation. Instead of doing so, if they continue such an unnecessary waste of invaluable time, I do not think my life-span will be long enough to see the development of my nation and people. How disappointing it is!

Foreign Heads of State/ Government send...

(from page 1)

From Mr Roh Moo Hyun, President of the Republic of Korea

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Korea, I have the great pleasure to extend my warmest congratulations to you and the people of the Union of Myanmar on the occasion of your Independence Day.

Noting with satisfaction that the Republic of Korea and the Union of Myanmar have strengthened our bilateral relation in various fields, I am confident that friendly and cooperative relations between our two countries will be further strengthened to mutual benefit in the years to come.

Please accept, Your Excellency, my best wishes for your continued good health and every success as well as for the prosperity of your great country.

From General Pervez Musharraf, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Excellency,

It gives me great pleasure to extend to Your

Excellency, our warmest felicitations on the happy occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, falling on January 04, 2007.

Pakistan and Myanmar enjoy close and friendly relations. I am confident that the mutually beneficial ties between our two countries will be further strengthened in the years ahead.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express my best wishes for Your Excellency's personal health and happiness, and for the continued progress and prosperity of the people of Myanmar.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration. — MNA

Foreign Heads of State/Government send felicitations

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Jan— The following are messages sent from foreign heads of State/Government to General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, on the occasion of the 59th Anniversary Independence Day.

From Mr Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of Singapore

Excellency,

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Singapore, I would like to extend my warm greetings to Your Excellency and the Government of the Union of Myanmar on the auspicious occasion of the 59th Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

Singapore-Myanmar relations are warm and friendly. I am confident that we will continue to work closely to strengthen the bonds of friendship between our two countries and to accelerate our efforts to forge an ASEAN Community.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Mr Shaukat Aziz, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Excellency,

It gives me great pleasure to extend to Your Excellency, on behalf of the Government and the people of Pakistan and on my own behalf our sincere greetings and warm felicitations to the Government

and the people of Myanmar, on the auspicious occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, falling on January 04, 2007.

Pakistan and Myanmar enjoy cordial and cooperative relations. I am confident that the friendly ties between our two countries would be further strengthened in the years to come.

I avail this opportunity to convey our best wishes for Your Excellency's well-being, health and happiness and for the continued progress and prosperity of the people of Myanmar.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

MNA



Commander Brig-Gen Wai Lwin gives prize to Maung Saw Pyi Htoo of No-1BEHS in Bago.

MNA



Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe presents prize to Ma May Myat Noe Win of No-16 BEHS in Chanayethazan.

MNA



Maj-Gen Hla Aung Thein gives prize to an outstanding student.

MNA

Minister receives British Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Jan— British Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Mark Canning called on Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Minister for Immigration and Population at the his office here on 5 January.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population Brig-Gen Win Sein, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Director-General of Immigration and National Registration Department U Maung Maung Than, Director-General of Population Department U Tin Yi and officials concerned.

MNA



Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint awards to an outstanding student who won gold medal in SEA Games.— MNA



Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein presents prize to a Headmistress.

MNA

Commander inspects regional development tasks

YANGON, 8 Jan — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win went to Shwepyitha Township yesterday and inspected regional development tasks.

On his tour, the commander inspected road works in the township and fulfilled the requirements.

He also inspected Wataya Jetty and called for preventive measures against the erosion.

Arrangements have been made to lay rocks along the bank of Hline River to prevent erosion, an official said.



Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win visits Wataya Jetty in Shwepyitha Township.—MNA

Basic Course on Value-Added Fruit opens



Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein addresses opening of Basic Course on Value-Added Fruit.— MNA

YANGON, 8 Jan — The course No 1 of Basic Applied Value-Added Fruit, organized by the Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading, Myanmar Agriculture Service and Myanmar Fruit and Vegetables Cultivation and Production Entrepreneurs Association was opened at the hall of Post-harvest Technology Application Centre (PTAC), Hlegu Township this morning,

attended by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein.

Also present on the occasion were responsible personnel of the MAS, President of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint, the Vice-Presidents and members, President of MFVCPEA U Win Aung and the members, presidents of the association partners

and members and trainees.

First, the minister made an opening speech on the occasion, saying that the Head of State gave guidance on concerted efforts to be made for producing of agricultural crops not only to be sufficient for the entire people but also to export them. Extended cultivation of rubber, oil palm, cashew, mango, water melon and cucumber would increase income of

peasants. In this regard, the newly-established association was to try hard to produce agricultural crops with added momentum. The association was to make all-out efforts for cultivation and production of marketable quality crops. Exporting of value-added products should be extended, added the minister. The trainees were to effectively apply knowledge gained from the course theoretically and practically in their respective fields.

Next, President of UMFCFI U Win Myint and President of MFVCPEA extended greetings on the occasion.

A total of 50 trainees from the states and divisions are attending the one-week course. The instructors are giving lectures on basic subjects concerning Post-Harvest Technology based on work experiences. — MNA



Ma Thin Mar Tun, daughter of U Aung Tha Tun of South Okkalapa Township, donates exercise books to No-16 Basic Education Primary School of the township through Principal Monday.

H

Villager loses left instep in mine blast

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Jan — Maung Zaw Win, 24, son of U Hsan Hlaing of Kawpyin Village, Kyaukkyi Township, stepped on a mine planted by insurgents in a jungle as he went fishing together with his elder brother at about 10 am on 2 January. He lost his left instep in the mine blast.

Maung Zaw Win was rushed to Mone Station Hospital by authorities concerned and he is now undergoing medical treatment and being provided necessary assistance. Authorities are in hot pursuit of the insurgents in cooperation with local people, it is learnt. — MNA

Cash donated to MWJA



Chairman of MWJA U Hla Myaing and Vice-Chairman U Tin Kha accept cash donation by U Khin Maung Thein and wife Susan Thein. — WJA

YANGON, 7 Jan — U Khin Maung Thein and wife Susan Thein (Sagaing Sein Sein) who were recently in the United State of America donated K 1 million towards Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association at Sarpay Beikman Publishing House on 4 January.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of MWJA U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung), vice-chairmen, secretary Dr Tin Tun Oo (Dr Tin Tun Oo) and joint-secretaries, executives and guests.

After wellwisher writer Sagaing Sein Sein explained about the purpose of the donation, Chairman U Hla Myaing and Vice-Chairman U Tin Kha (Tekkatho Tin Kha) accepted the donations.

Next, Chairman U Hla Myaing spoke words of thanks. — MNA

The Manau Festival of Kachin State

U Min Thu (Advocate)

10th January is the Kachin State Day. Every year Kachin State Day is celebrated with colourful Manau festivals. Jinghpaw, Nung Rawang, Loh Vo, Lachik, Zai Wa and Lisu are called the Kachin. But they called themselves as Jinghpaw-Wunpawng. The Kachin may well be satisfied with the name "Jinghpaw" and its present meaning "a man". This is the word that should be used in addressing the Kachins, it is recognized by all.

The Manau Festival

The greatest of all festivals among Kachins is known as "the Manau". It involves considerable expenditure and is usually organized by a Duwa (a hereditary chief) or a wealthy commoner. It is held to trace back and commemorate their ancestral origin and past glory.

Usually the prospective host of a Manau festival prepared beef curry and small packets of meat are sent to friends and neighbours. On the ap-

The greatest of all festivals among Kachins is known as "the Manau". It involves considerable expenditure and is usually organized by a Duwa (a hereditary chief) or a wealthy commoner. It is held to trace back and commemorate their ancestral origin and past glory.

pointed day guests stream in from all directions in their best clothes and if they can afford it, with small contributions of money or food. On the day before the festival a circular space is cleared in front of the host's house, levelled and enclosed by a low bamboo or mud wall. In the centre are erected ten giant rectangular-shaped wooden columns on which various designs symbolizing Jinghpaw national origin and history, actual life etc are either sculptured or painted.

A large cylindrical drum (chying gaba) suspended between two heavy posts is in use. It has a drum-head at either end and it sends forth a strong deep note that re-echoes among the hills, letting people far and near know the glories of the individual giving the dance. It is never used on any other occasion. Gongs, oboes, double-barrelled bamboo flutes and other musical instruments are in use. The melodious sound of the orchestra, thundering into the sky, signals the start of the Manau dance.

The Manau is such a large celebration and dance, in which hundreds even thousand may take part. The dance is led by two persons. The men leading the dance are fantastically dressed a kind of befeathered mitres (gup du ru) made of peacock feathers being chief attraction of their uniforms. The step follow a pattern displayed on the wooden columns or pillars set above a wooden stand. The pattern symbolizes the route the ancestors of Jinghpaw people took 1786 years ago when they migrated from Qinhai Tibet plateau Dehong in China and Myitkyina in Myanmar.

After formal evolutions to the strains of the band the main body of the villagers joins in and the dance continues till nightfall, to be repeated everyday for four days never more. The male dancers brandish long knives and female dancers wear straight red

skirts and black frocks studded with silver baubles. Throughout the festival the Jaiwa (a kind of high priest) tells stories and the Dumsas (regular priests) call down blessings on the host. A great number of cattle, pigs and fowls are sacrificed in the festival. Liquor flows freely. Rice beer called "Tsa phri" a tasteful refreshment is served together with delicious meal wrapped in "Makui Phaw" leaves.

After the dance there is a shooting contest. The women put handkerchiefs, necklaces and money in cloth haversacks and attach them to the top of a bamboo pole by thin threads. Then the men try to sever the threads with their hunting guns, and those who succeeded are rewarded with gifts and cheers.

The 59th anniversary of Kachin State Day

In accordance with the guidelines of the State Peace and Development Council and under the guidance of the Kachin State Peace and Development Council; Kachin State Day and Manau festival organizing committee is to hold grand Manau festival from 8th January to 11th January 2007 at the Manau compound in Myitkyina the capital of Kachin State. More than one hundred thousand people are expected to participate.

During the festival there will be exhibitions portraying Kachin culture and heritage, poster sessions, traditional sports, fashion shows etc.

The Manau pillars are the symbol of unity, peace and prosperity. The Manau festival organizing committee is extending sincere invitation to all Kachins and non-Kachins alike to participate in the 59th anniversary of Kachin State Day Manau festival for "Anhte gaw Kaphu Kanau rai nga ai" brothers we are. So all may come and enjoy the Manau festival without fail.

* * *

Paper reading session on health research opens

YANGON, 8 Jan— Ministry of Health opened a paper reading session on Myanmar health research at the Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) this morning.

Also present on the occasion were directors-general, deputy directors-general and directors of the departments under the ministry, professors, medical superintendents, the resident representative of UNICEF, responsible persons of WHO and members of JICA of Japan.

Director-General of Medical Research Department (lower Myanmar) Dr Kyaw Min read out the address delivered by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.

After opening ceremony, the directors-general and guests viewed the posters and booths of private pharmacies. The paper reading session lasts until 12 January and 86 papers will be submitted. —MNA

General Banking Course No 9 (Officer Level) opens

YANGON, 8 Jan — General Banking Course No 9 (Officer Level) conducted by Banks Supervisory Committee was opened at Myanma Banks Association this afternoon.

Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe gave opening speech. He said banking service courses are being conducted with the aims to develop banking services that mainly contribute towards the improvement of economy, to catch up with the changing

banking systems in the world and to upgrade the qualifications of bank personnel.

The 10-week course is

being attended by 40 officers from State-owned and private banks.

Present were Secretary of Banks Supervisory

Committee Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein and officials.

MNA



Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe addresses General Banking Course No 9. — MNA

China congratulates Asian counterparts on 15th anniversary of ties

BEIJING, 8 Jan — Chinese President Hu Jintao has sent congratulatory messages to his counterparts in Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan to mark the 15th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and these countries.

In the messages, sent separately between 2 January and 6 January, President Hu spoke highly of the achievements in bilateral relations since China established diplomatic ties with these countries.

He said China is willing to further

strengthen bilateral friendship with them, deepen mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields, and make joint efforts to promote regional peace, stability and development.

The heads of state of the nations mentioned above, including Acting

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, have also sent reciprocal messages of congratulation to President Hu, saying that their countries are willing to take the opportunity to seek an all-round development of friendly and cooperative relations with China.

MNA/Xinhua



Someboys are playing in a park in New York, the United States, on 6 Jan, 2007. Temperatures in New York have hovered around 10 Celsius degrees this week and soared to 21.7 degrees on Saturday, breaking the previous record high of 17.2 degrees set in 1950.—XINHUA

Moderate earthquake jolts Samar, Philippines

HONG KONG, 8 Jan — A moderate earthquake measuring 5.2 on the Richter Scale struck Samar of the Philippines at about 1101 GMT Saturday, the Hong Kong Observatory said in a bulletin.

The epicentre was initially determined by the Hong Kong Observatory to be at 11.7 degrees North Latitude and 125.9 degrees East Longitude, or near Samar, about 150 kilometres east-southeast of Calbayog.

There has been no casualty reported so far.

MNA/Xinhua

Temperature in New York breaks 1950 record

NEW YORK, 8 Jan — Cherry trees are already in full blossom. Meadows are ever green. People in T-shirts, pants and sandals do more outdoor activities. Is it January or April?

Temperatures in New York soared to 21.7 degrees on Saturday, breaking the previous record high of 17.2 degrees set in 1950.

An employee working with Baskin 31 Robbins said the ice-cream sales went up 15 per cent year-on-year this winter.

Skiing resorts have not enough snow, but golf centres have attracted two to three times as many people as they usually do.

New York City saw a November and December without snow for the first time since 1877.

Crude oil prices are

dipping to new lows because of the warm weather.

Meteorologists say the warm spell is due to a combination of factors — El Nino, a cyclical warming trend now under way in the Pacific Ocean, and the jet stream, the high-altitude air current that works like a barricade to hold back warm southern air, is running farther north than usual over the East

Coast.

But meteorologists say it is still too soon to see if it will become the city's warmest winter in history.

Doctors warn that the weird weather could bring a very early allergy season since trees might begin to bud early.

The most common allergy symptoms are itchy eyes, noses and throats, and possibly runny or stuffy noses.—MNA/Xinhua



A flock of Canada Geese stroll in a park in New York, the United States, on 6 Jan, 2007.—XINHUA

“Xinhua” adjusts China, Asia-Pacific News Service

BEIJING, 8 Jan — The Xinhua news agency is to adjust its China and Asia-Pacific News Service (CANS) beginning January 1, 2007, to enhance the English-language coverage of news in the region and provide subscribers with better products and services.

The new CANS is to comprise all items of the Xinhua News Bulletin and offer more news of interest to Xinhua subscribers in the Asia-

Pacific Region.

From 1 to 31 January, 2007, Xinhua will continue to provide the Xinhua News Bulletin to current subscribers in the Asia-Pacific Region, and offer a trial subscription to the new CANS. From 1 February, 2007, Xinhua will cease to provide the Xinhua News Bulletin to subscribers of the wire service in the Asia-Pacific Region, and will formally supply the new CANS instead.

So far, Xinhua has helped set up CANS login names and passwords for subscribers of the Xinhua News Bulletin in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Xinhua will, for the

time being, charge the same rates for the new CANS as the Xinhua News Bulletin.

Subscribers can contact the local branches, the Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau of Xinhua in Hong Kong and the Xinhua Headquarters in Beijing with their opinions and suggestions on the product restructuring and CANS adjustment.

To contact the Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau of Xinhua in Hong Kong, please dial 852-28313525. To contact the News and Information Centre of the Xinhua Headquarters in Beijing, please dial 8610-63076273.

MNA/Xinhua

Bad landing kills Irish tourist in central Tanzania

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 8 Jan — A misjudged landing by a light plane has killed one Irish tourist and injured two others in the Selous Game Reserve in central Tanzania, local media reported on Saturday.

English broadsheet *The Guardian* quoted Mtesigwa Maugo, director in charge of air space and security with the Tanzania Aviation Authority, as confirming the death of the Irish tourist.

The light plane with a registration number of TA31-310 DJB, missed the runway and hit trees at the Matabwe Airdrome inside the Selous Game Reserve on Friday. It was carrying nine tourists and a pilot.

The aviation official did not identify the deceased nor the nationality of others on board.—MNA/Xinhua



Japan's Akira Sasaki clears a gate during the first run of the men's Alpine skiing World Cup slalom in Adelboden, Switzerland on 7 Jan, 2007.—INTERNET

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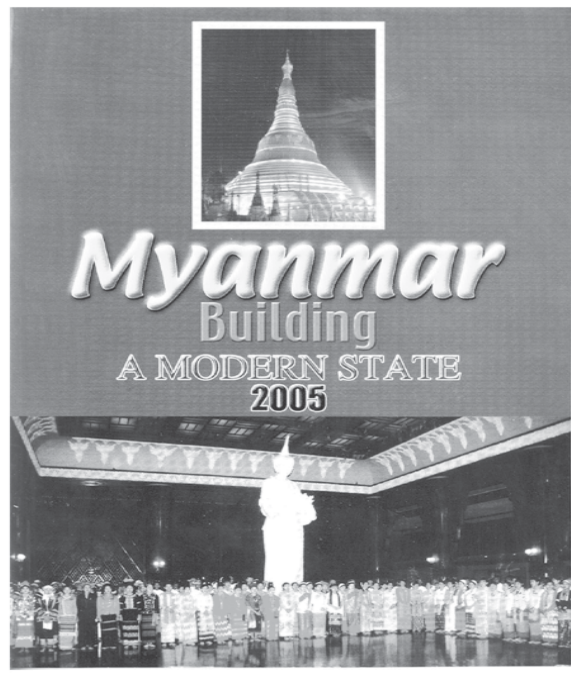
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Dated 9 January 2007

kelvin.chia.ygn@mptmail.net.mm

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TERAJU VOYNO (193)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TERAJU VOYNO (193) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 9.1.2007 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 PTE LTD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV XUAN CHENG VOYNO (103)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XUAN CHENG VOYNO (103) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 8.1.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W/ S.P.W 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 COSCO SHIPPING CO., LTD
CHINA**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

**MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY(1)
MYANMA FOODSTUFF INDUSTRIES
INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER.**

1. Sealed Tender is invited by Myanma Foodstuff Industries, for Supply of the following. Plant which will be purchased in US Dollar/Euro;

Sr No	Tender No	Description	Quantity
1.	154 (T)	Animal Feed Plant for Poultry	1 Set

Closing Date& Time : (22.1.2007) (16:00) Hours

2. Tender document is available at the office of the General Manager (Marketing), Myanma Foodstuff Industries, office No 37, Nay Pyi Taw and 192, Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, starting from 9.1.2007 during the office hours.

3. For further details Please Call-067.408067, 01-561054

**MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY(1)
MYANMA FOODSTUFF INDUSTRIES
INVITATION TO SEALED TENDERS.**

1. Sealed Tenders are invited by Myanma Foodstuff Industries, for Supply of the following. Plant which will be purchased in US Dollar/Euro;

Sr No	Tender No	Description	Quantity
1.	160 (T)	Wrapping Machine	1 Set
2.	166 (T)	Centrifuge for Glucose Separation	1 Set

Closing Date& Time : (22.1.2007) (16:00) Hours

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the General Manager (Marketing), Myanma Foodstuff Industries, office No 37, Nay Pyi Taw and 192, Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, starting from 9.1.2007 during the office hours.

3. For further details Please Call-067.408067, 01-561054

China's refined oil price still lower than int'l market

BEIJING, 7 Jan—Despite the recent slump in oil prices in the international market, the price of refined oil is still lower in China than elsewhere in the world.

Jiang Jiemin, general manager of the China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), made the remark here Friday at a gathering of leaders of giant state-owned enterprises.

In December 2006, the domestic prices of gasoline and diesel oil were 5,200 yuan (667 US dollars) per ton and 4,570 yuan per ton, while in Singapore prices were 5,509 yuan and 5,352 yuan respectively, Jiang said.

MNA/Xinhua

Chilean President asks politicians to work to earn peoples' trust

SANTIAGO, 7 Jan— Chilean President Michelle Bachelet on Friday urged Chile's politicians to work hard to regain ordinary citizens' trust, a day after a survey showed that 52 per cent of Chileans approved of her, up from 46 per cent a month earlier.

"I want to ask everyone in politics to focus on the needs of the people," she said, rejecting allegations by Jorge Schaulsohn, the former president of Chilean legislature, the Chamber of Deputies, that the ruling coalition had used public funds for campaigning.

MNA/Xinhua

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပို့ဒ်တိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Pieces of "Soyuz-II" could have fallen on US territory

Moscow, 7 Jan—The Russian Federal Space Agency (Roscosmos) allows for a possible drop of Soyuz rocket fragments in the US state of Wyoming, Roscosmos spokesman Igor Panarin said on Russia's Vesti television channel on Friday.

"We do not rule out that pieces of the upper stage of the Soyuz II launch vehicle might have been registered in the atmosphere over US territory. We are analyzing the information available to us more thoroughly

now," Panarin said.

There is nothing extraordinary about space junk, including spent rocket stages and spent satellites, falling on Earth, Panarin said.

"Dozens of thousands of space junk objects remain in orbit around Earth. Specialists are monitoring them. Some of them burn up in the atmosphere or fall on Earth every day," he said.

The media buzz surrounding the situation with the Soyuz-II rocket is unjustified, he added.

A Soyuz II rocket carrying a French astronomical research satellite designed to search for Earth-like planets outside the solar system lifted off from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on 27 December. The object, which is believed to be a part of the Soyuz rocket, fell down in the Riverton area on Thursday. No damages occurred. NORAD based in Colorado Springs watches space launches all over the globe and monitors space litter. —MNA/Xinhua



Technicians install an "Inno" car kit into a Honda S2000 at the XM Satellite Radio booth as exhibitors prepare for 2007 International CES (Consumer Electronics Show) in Las Vegas, Nevada on 6 Jan, 2007. —INTERNET

Two Parkinson's drugs linked to heart diseases

LOS ANGELES, 7 Jan—Heart valve defects are linked with two drugs once commonly used to treat Parkinson's disease, according to a scientific study. The drugs — pergolide and cabergoline — cause the defects in as

many as a quarter of the patients who use them, said the study published by the Los Angeles Times on Friday. The risk is much higher than suspected in previous smaller studies, said the study conducted by Italian and German

scientists.

"This is not a rare side effect," said Dr Bryan L Roth of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. "That's an extraordinarily high incidence. That makes this a serious problem."

The drugs cause the heart valves to develop fibrous deposits that produce leakage of blood back into the heart. That causes the heart to overwork, which can lead to heart failure and death.

Many US physicians have stopped prescribing pergolide in light of the earlier reports, and cabergoline is not approved in this country for treatment of Parkinson's, said Robin A Elliott, executive director of the Parkinson's Disease Foundation.

MNA/Xinhua

Heavy rains to continue till mid-January in Uganda

KAMPALA, 7 Jan—Ugandan Meteorology Department has warned that more heavy rains are expected in the coming weeks before a normal dry spell comes in mid January.

The heavy rains that started late last year appeared to have stopped in some parts of the East African country but the weather experts believed it was just due to some disruption. "The rains were disrupted by a series of tropical cyclones near Madagascar but as they die out, we expect the rains to continue until mid-January after which it will be followed by a normal dry spell expected to go on till March," Meteorologist Aloysius Kagooro was quoted by Daily Monitor on Saturday as saying. —MNA/Xinhua



A man moves with his cattle in the morning fog in Agartala, capital of India's northeastern state Tripura, on 7 Jan, 2007. People continued to reel under extreme cold wave conditions at most places across Northern India. —INTERNET

Lilly settles 18,000 suits over psychiatric drug

WASHINGTON, 7 Jan—The drugmaker Eli Lilly and Co agreed to pay up to 500 million US dollars to settle 18,000 lawsuits from people who claimed they developed diabetes or other diseases after taking Zyprexa, its drug for schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, The New York Times reported Friday.

The agreement brings the total of Zyprexa settlements to at least 1.2 billion dollars, to 28,500 people who said they were injured by the drug. About 20 million people worldwide have taken Zyprexa since its introduction in 1996.

Lilly said the settlement covers cases filed in state and federal courts by law firms or

groups of firms for 18,000 clients. This will not affect continuing civil or criminal investigations of Zyprexa by state attorneys general and federal prosecutors.

However, in its statement, Lilly said the settlement did not change its view that Zyprexa is a safe and effective treatment for mental illness.

MNA/Xinhua



Siberian tigers relax at a Nature park in Harbin, China, on 7 Jan, 2007. More than 100 Siberian tigers, one of the rarest animals, are expected to be born this year at a breeding centre in China's northeast. —INTERNET

Paralyzed subsea cable not to affect TOEFL iBT test in China

BEIJING, 7 Jan—The Internet-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL iBT) will be held as scheduled on 13 and 14 January, as its online registration and exam communication system has been repaired from last December's earthquake damage, according to China's Ministry of Education.

The TOEFL iBT, jointly organized by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) of the United States and China's National Education Examination Authority (NEEA), resumed its online registration service on Friday, according to an announcement on the ministry's official website. China Education and Research Network, which offers digital technological support for the TOEFL iBT, has launched a standby communication cable to ensure the normal operation of the upcoming exam. —MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Henry admits injury struggle

LONDON, 6 Jan— Thierry Henry hopes he has learnt from the injury troubles which curtailed his contribution at Arsenal towards the end of 2006.



Thierry Henry

The French superstar suffered from a sciatic nerve problem which caused him to miss seven games and also saw his form in the early part of the season suffer due to his World Cup exertions.

Henry returned to help the London side record a 4-0 win over Charlton on 2nd January, and the Gunners skipper now admits he should have listened to his body and taken a rest before his fitness problems accelerated.

"When you physically can't go on, the wise thing to do is not to go out there. It doesn't help you and it doesn't help the team," he told *The Sun*.

"It's like when you are watching a bad movie with your wife and you are both falling asleep. You will say 'I'm not falling asleep' and you won't admit the film is rubbish. You keep on watching it.

"My brain was like that. When

people asked if I was okay I would say 'Yes' even though I knew I wasn't.

"You have to read the right signals in your body. One thing I have found difficult to do is to listen to my body. I need to do that.

"I hope all my problems are over but when you average over 60 games a season you pay the price."

Gunners boss Arsene Wenger is now confident that his leader will recapture his best form in the second half of the season after overcoming his injury problems.

Internet

Egypt's Zamalek beat Saudi club in Arab League

CAIRO, 8 Jan— Egypt's soccer club Zamalek defeated visitors Ahly Jeddah of Saudi Arabia 1-0 on Sunday in the quarterfinals of the Arab Champions League, *MENA* news agency reported.

Mostafa Gaafar scored the winner in the 18th minute. Zamalek newly-hired coach Henri Michel said after the match that winning the match revives hopes to the Arab title.

Group A also includes Algeria's Ahli Bordj and Kuwait's Qadsia. Zamalek and Ahly Bordj top the group with four points each. Yet the Algerians have played only two matches while Zamalek played three. The top two teams from each group will qualify to the semifinals.

The Arab Champions League is composed of 32 football clubs from the Arab world. They are chosen based on their local league standings. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Bale exit talk quashed



Gareth Bale

LONDON, 6 Jan— Gareth Bale's agent has quashed fresh speculation the Southampton defender could be nearing a St Mary's exit.

The talented 17-year-old stopper had been linked with Manchester United earlier this week,

prompting talk a bid could be in the offing.

Southampton fans had feared the Wales international could leave, but Bale's agent David Manasseh has moved to play down the speculation.

"I don't know what all the fuss is about," he told the *Southern Daily Echo*. "Gareth has got 18 months left on his contract.

"George Burley said he's going nowhere and Gareth wants to stay at Southampton, he's happy there."—*Internet*

Fergie praise for strike pair

LONDON, 7 Jan— Sir Alex Ferguson praised veteran Scandinavian duo Henrik Larsson and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer for taking Manchester United into the fourth round of the FA Cup. Larsson marked his debut for the club by scoring the opening goal in Sunday's 2-1 success over Aston Villa at Old Trafford.

After Milan Baros equalised, substitute Solskjaer scored an injury-time winner after Gabor Kiraly let the Norwegian's shot slip through his grasp. Ferguson was keen to assess Larsson's fitness on his bow and was delighted with the response from the Swedish loan signing.

"We had to find out about his fitness and sharpness," Ferguson told *Sky Sports News*. "He has been looking terrific in training, so I had no fears about that.



Henrik Larsson and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer

"I did want to find about him, and I have found out about him, so I'm very, very pleased. "He's so quick and bright round about the last third of the field and he could have scored three or four goals."—*Internet*

SADC set to relax visa requirements before 2010

HARARE, 8 Jan— The Southern African Development Community (SADC) region is set to relax visa requirements before 2010 World Cup soccer showcase to allow travellers to freely visit other countries in the region, a Zimbabwean minister has said.

SADC ministers of tourism were optimistic to introduce the system as a way of boosting tourism in the region, Minister of Environment and Tourism Francis Nhema was quoted by *The Herald* as saying on Friday.

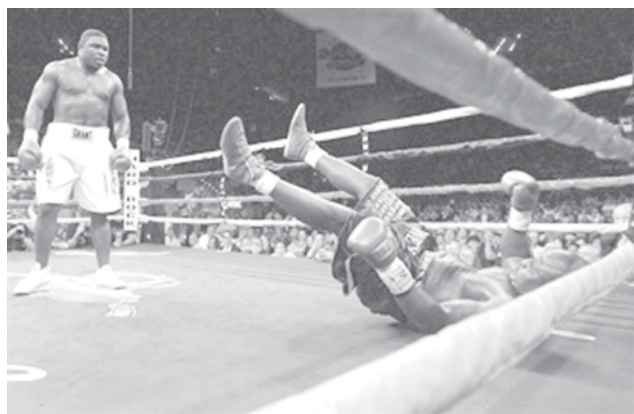
"This event is for southern Africa and for the region to show its culture. As ministers responsible for tourism, we met in

Congo Brazzaville and there was a sense of togetherness and we deliberated on the introduction of a uni-visa system in 2008," Nhema said.

He said if all member

states agreed, the system would see those visiting South Africa during the World Cup being able to move within SADC without any visa requirements.

MNA/Xinhua



Samuel Peter of Nigeria (L) watches as James Toney falls to the ground during the second round of their 12-round WBC Heavyweight Boxing Championship elimination bout at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Hollywood, Florida on 6 Jan, 2007.—*INTERNET*

Venezuela to ban alcohol in Copa America

CARACAS, 8 Jan— Copa America organizers announced on Friday that they will ban the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages in and around the nine stadiums where the soccer matches will be played in Venezuela.

Defence Minister Raul Isaias Baduel, also in charge of the tournament's security, said authorities will expel anybody under the influence of alcohol or any other substances that impair their abilities.

MNA/Xinhua

Canas, Hartfield face off in Brazil tennis final

RIO DE JANEIRO, 8 Jan— Argentine tennis players Guillermo Canas and Diego Hartfield will play the final of the Sao Paulo Open on Sunday, after beating Brazil's Rogerio Dutra Silva and Paraguay's Ramon Delgado, respectively.

The semifinals of the Challenger Cup were delayed by rain on Saturday. Canas is seeking his fifth title, as part of a comeback campaign that began when his 15-month suspension ended in September. The former world number eight has so far won major tournaments in Asuncion, Buenos Aires, Montevideo and Brazilian town Belen.

On his way to the final Canas beat Germany's Matthias Bachinger 6-4 and 6-2, and Dutra 6-3 and 6-1. Hartfield reached the final by beating Brazil's Ricardo Hocevar 4-6, 6-4 and 7-5 and Delgado 7-6 (8-6) and 6-3.— *MNA/Xinhua*



Brighton and Hove Albion's Joel Lynch (R) challenges West Ham United's Luis Boa Morte during their FA Cup third round soccer match at Upton Park in London on 6 Jan, 2007.—*INTERNET*

Egypt's Al-Ahly lose 30-month unbeaten domestic run

CAIRO, 8 Jan— Egypt's Al-Ahly, one of the best soccer clubs in Africa, was surprisingly defeated 3-0 at home on Sunday night by Ismaili in the Egyptian League, which marked an end to its 30-month unbeaten domestic record.

Ismaili's midfielder Abdullah Al-Saied stunned the home crowd in the ninth minute after they capitalized on terrible defending by Ahly's players. Forward Mohamed Fadl helped Ismaili secure the victory by scoring twice against his former club.

It was Ismaili's first league win over Ahly in Cairo in 15 years, local soccer news website filgoal.com reported.— *MNA/Xinhua*

Expert says heat wave to hit Los Angeles this year

LOS ANGELES, 8 Jan— Los Angeles, struck by record-breaking high temperatures last summer, will be hit again by heat waves this summer, an expert predicted.

Temperatures in Los Angeles will be even higher this year than over the torrid summer of 2006, climatologist Bill Patzert said.

“We are going to suffer,” said Patzert, who works at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, near Los Angeles.

Last summer’s sizzling heat was only “a preview of coming attractions”, he said in remarks published by Friday’s *Daily News*.

“There’s definitely a disturbance in the force on global temperatures. Between hot days and heat waves on the rise, we’re looking at hotter tem-

peratures this summer in Los Angeles,” he said.

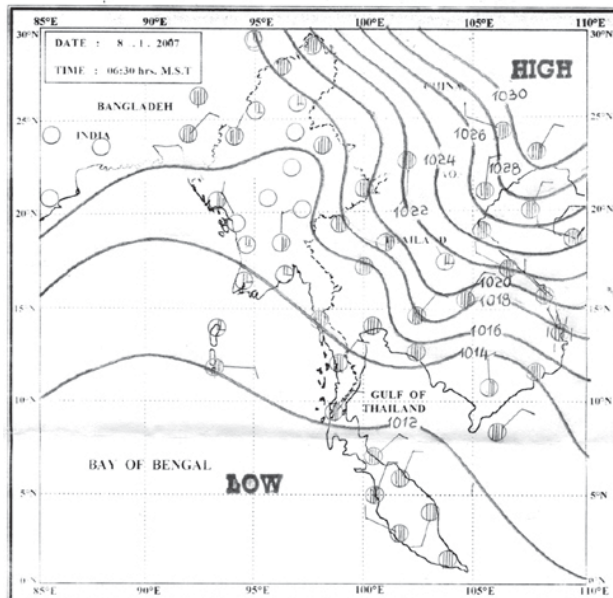
The nation’s leading climatologists endorsed a prediction made Thursday by British scientists that a resurgent El Nino, coupled with persistently high levels of greenhouse gases, will likely make this year the

hottest on record, the *Daily News* reported.

Britain’s Meteorological Office forecast a 60-per-cent chance that 2007 would surpass the global record set in 1998 of 1.20 degrees over the long-term average.

MNA/Xinhua

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Conductor Nader Mashayekhi conducts the Iran Symphonic Orchestra at the 22nd Fajr International Music Festival in Vahdat Hall in Tehran on 6 Jan, 2007. — INTERNET

EARTHQUAKE REPORT
(Issued at 21:00 hours MST Today)

A moderate earthquake of intensity (5.7) Richter Scale with its epicentre (outside Myanmar) about (655) miles South of Kaba-Aye Seismological observatory was recorded at (19hrs (21) min (02) sec MST on 8th January 2007.

Radio Myanmar

Tuesday, 9 January
Tune in today

8:30 am Brief news
8:35 am Music:
-Hello!How are you
8:40 am Perspectives
8:45 am Music:
-Sweet kisses
8:50 am National news/Slogan
9:00 am Music:
-Love you more
9:05 am International news
9:10 am Music:
-Love fool
1:30 pm News /Slogan
1:40 pm Lunch time music:
-Here in my heart
-Stay with me
9:00 pm English Speaking Course Level (Unit)
9:10 pm Article
9:20 pm Weekly sport reel
9:30 pm Music at your listening pleasure:
-True colour
-Radio heart
9:45 pm News /Slogan
10:00 pm PEL

WEATHER

Monday, 8 January, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, except for isolated light rain in Taninthayi Division, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (5°C) below normal in Chin State, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (-2°C), Mogok (3°C) and Namhsan (4°C).

Maximum temperature on 7-1-2007 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 8-1-2007 was 65°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 8-1-2007 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 7-1-2007 was (4.6) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 8-1-2007 were (nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2007 were (nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from Northeast at (12:40) hours MST on 7-1-2007.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 9-1-2007: Isolated light rain are likely in Taninthayi Division and weather will be partly cloudy in Mon State and Yangon Division and generally fair in the remaining states and divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Strong easterly wind with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Surface wind speed in strong wind may reach (35) to (40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 9-1-2007: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 9-1-2007: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 9-1-2007: Fair weather.

TV Myanmar

Tuesday, 9 January
View on today

<p>7:00 am</p> <p>1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃမဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့ အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ချုပ်၊ အဘိဓမ္မမဟာရဋ္ဌဂုရု၊ အဘိဓမ္မမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဇာတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တ ဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်</p> <p>7:15 am</p> <p>2. တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ အဂ္ဂမဟာပဏ္ဍိတ၊ ဘဒ္ဒန္တသိရိန္ဒာဘိဝံသ (ယောဆရာတော်) မဟာကြားတော်မူအပ်သော ဥပ္ပါတသန္တီပါဠိတော်</p> <p>7:25 am</p> <p>3. To be healthy exercise</p>	<p>7:30 am</p> <p>4. Morning news</p> <p>7:40 am</p> <p>5. Nice and sweet song</p> <p>7:55 am</p> <p>6. ကဗျာပန်းဥယျာဉ်</p> <p>8:10 am</p> <p>7. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>8:20 am</p> <p>8. Song of yesteryears</p> <p>8:30 am</p> <p>9. International news</p> <p>8:45 am</p> <p>10. Let's Go</p> <p>4:00 pm</p> <p>1. Martial song</p> <p>4:15 pm</p> <p>2. Song to uphold National Spirit</p> <p>4:30 pm</p> <p>3. English for Everyday Use</p> <p>4:45 pm</p> <p>4. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ - ဒုတိယနှစ်(ဓာတုဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ဓာတုဗေဒ)</p> <p>5:00 pm</p> <p>5. Dance of national races</p> <p>5:15 pm</p> <p>6. “အရေးကြီးလို့ပါ” (ခင်လှိုင်၊ ခင်နွဲ့နွဲ့မူ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ခင်နွဲ့နွဲ့မူ)</p>	<p>5:20 pm</p> <p>7. Sing and Enjoy</p> <p>6:00 pm</p> <p>8. Evening news</p> <p>6:30 pm</p> <p>9. Weather report</p> <p>6:35 pm</p> <p>10. နိုင်ငံခြားကာတွန်းဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “တောတွင်းသားငယ်လေး” (အပိုင်း-၄၁)</p> <p>6:50 pm</p> <p>11. ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲ့ ရင်ခုန်သံ</p> <p>7:05 pm</p> <p>12. နိုင်ငံခြား ဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ချစ်ညီမငယ်ပါသေး” (အပိုင်း-၆)</p> <p>8:00 pm</p> <p>13. News</p> <p>14. International news</p> <p>15. Weather report</p> <p>16. နိုင်ငံခြား ဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “တကယ်သဘောကျတယ်” (အပိုင်း-၁၄)</p> <p>17. The next day's programme</p>
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Upper Paunglong Hydel Power Project to generate 411 million kilowatt hours per year

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Jan — Minister for Electric Power No 1 Col Zaw Min together with Director-General of Hydel Power Implementation Department U Aung Koe Shwe and responsible personnel went on an inspection tour of Upper Paunglong Hydel Power Project being implemented on Paunglong river, 26 miles of east of Pyinmana, Mandalay Division on 6 January.

Upon arrival at the project site, the minister and party inspected progress in building of diversion canal and earth works on each side of the dam.

At the briefing hall of the project, Director

U Tint Lwin of Construction Group-1 of Hydel Power Implementation Department briefed the minister on the place chosen to build the main dam, progress in building of the diversion canal, earth works and future tasks.

The minister gave instructions on timely completion of construction of the diversion canal and the main dam.

Upper Paunglong Project installed with two 70-megawatt generators will produce 411 million kilowatt hours every year.

MNA

Minister assists in running of power stations at full capacity

YANGON, 8 Jan — Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspected power stations here on 6 January and gave instructions on running the stations at full capacity.

At the meeting with officials at Hlawga Power Station, he heard reports on maintenance of the gas-fired generator of the station and laying of gas pipes. During his tour, he called for sufficient supply of power to people and inspected maintenance of gas pipes linking gas fields and the station.

Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint also inspected the power station in Thakayta Township and Ahlon Power Station.

Maintenance of Ahlon Power Station is being carried out and it is expected to run at full

capacity and to generate power sufficiently in the near future, an official said in his report to the minister. After hearing reports, the minister called for work site safety and timely completion of maintenance tasks.

At the meetings with officials concerned, Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint attended to the needs of the factories and urged officials to make greater efforts for full supply of electricity.

During his tour of inspection, Electric Power No 2 Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint also inspected natural gas supply stations of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise in Thakayta Township and Dagon Myothit (East) Township.

MNA



Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspects Hlawga Power Station.

MNA

60th Anniversary Union Day Objectives

- For all national races to safeguard the national policy — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty;
- For all the national races to keep Union Spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people;
- For all the national races to defend and safeguard the Union for its perpetual existence;
- For all the national races to prevent, through national solidarity, the danger of internal and external destructive elements undermining peace and stability of the State and national development; and
- For all national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-step Road Map.

Livestock & Fisheries Minister inspects fish ponds in Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 8 Jan — Union Solidarity and Development Association CEC member Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein arrived at Kunmoedain Model Village in Kayan Township on 6 January and inspected construction of Sasana Jotika Masoeyein Monastery (Branch of Mandalay Masoeyein Monastery). He next paid homage to the Kunmoedain Sayadaw and inspected the site chosen for construction an ordination hall.

The minister went to Kunmoedain Model Village BEHS (Branch), discussed matters related to educational aid with the schoolhead and teachers and visited Ziwapala dispensary.

Yesterday evening, the CEC member visited Phyo Ayeya No 1 fish breeding camp (Thazin Yekyaw) owned by USDA (Central) and gave necessary instructions. Next, he inspected arrangements being made for fish breeding on 1,000-acre of Thazin Yekyaw wetland area. He proceeded to the briefing hall of the 1,000-acre fish breeding camp of Myanmar War Veterans Organization (Headquarters) in Kyimegyi wetland area in Maubin Township and heard reports by officials on the location of the camp, digging of fish ponds and breeding tasks.

Later, the CEC member visited Phyo Ayeya No 2 fish breeding camp in Maubin owned by USDA (Central) and inspected digging of more fish ponds in 1,000-acre wet land area. — MNA

WEATHER

Significant night temperatures

Haka	(-2°C)
Mogok	(3°C)
Namhsam	(4°C)