

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Jan — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye received Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Boonsrang Niumpradit and delegation members at Bayintnaung Yeiktha of the Ministry of Defence, here, at 6 pm yesterday.

Also present at the call were Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Secretary-1 of the SPDC Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Members of the SPDC Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence, Military Affairs Security Chief Maj-Gen Ye Myint and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint.

The visiting Thai delegation was accompanied by Thai Ambassador Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal and Military Attaché Col Prissapa Suvanatat. — MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Boonsrang Niumpradit at Bayintnaung Yeiktha of Ministry of Defence in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye bids farewell to Thai Supreme Commander, wife and party



NAY PYI TAW, 27 Jan — The visiting Thai goodwill delegation led by Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Boonsrang Niumpradit and wife at the invitation of Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Deputy Commander-in-Chief of

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye bids farewell to Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Boonsrang Niumpradit at Nay Pyi Taw Airport.

MNA

Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye left Nay Pyi Taw by special aircraft at 8.45 am this morning for Yangon.

The Thai Supreme Commander, wife and party arrived at Nay Pyi Taw Airport in a motorcade from Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone. They were welcomed by Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presented the album on the goodwill visit to the Thai General.

Afterwards, the Thai General, wife and party left here for Yangon

by special flight. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Military Affairs Security Chief Maj-Gen Ye Myint and their wives, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Brig-Gen Wai Lwin, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence and officials saw off the Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces, wife and party. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 28 January, 2007

Newly-upgraded technological universities for human resource development

A new building of the Technological University (Monywa) under the Technical and Vocational Education Department of the Ministry of Science and Technology was opened the other day.

The government is implementing the plans for promotion of national education and the development of human resources in its bid to shape a brighter future of the nation. It is nurturing the youth to achieve greater success in step-by-step implementation of the plans for producing qualified human resources in the education sector such as the education promotion programmes and the national education promotion plans for the development of the nation and the people.

It has also upgraded the education sector and made reforms in the higher education sector to keep abreast of the educational progress of other nations.

Now, access to the higher education is available not only in the cities in the states and divisions but also in the special development regions that are located in strategic places of the Union.

The number of the nation's reliable intellectuals will be on the increase if the students of the newly-upgraded Technological University (Monywa) and other technological universities systematically weld together the knowledge they have gained from the classrooms and practices and make a life-long study.

In addition, the students are to catch up with the technological advances and work hard in their studies in the interest of the nation.

At a time when the government is focusing on the national education promotion plans, the students of the technological universities one to strive to become qualified human resources.

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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

Outstanding students of Dagon BEHS No 2 honoured

YANGON, 27 Jan — A ceremony to award the outstanding students who passed the 2005-2006 matriculation examination and other outstanding students of Basic Education High School No 2 on Myoma Kyaung Street, Dagon Township, took place this morning at the school.

Present at the ceremony were Patron of Parent-Teacher Association Daw Khin Than Nwe and members of the panel of patrons, executives, Chairman Headmaster U Tin Maung Tun and teachers, old students and parents of the outstanding students.

The ceremony was opened with a song titled 'Myanma Kyaung', then Headmaster U Tin Maung Tun extended greetings.

Daw Khin Than Nwe and responsible persons awarded seven six-distinction winners, four five-distinction winners, 10 four-distinction winners and other outstanding students ranging from kindergarten to grade-10.

MNA



Patron of Parent-Teacher Association Daw Khin Than Nwe awards prize to an outstanding student. — MNA

Minister for Industry-1 inspects factories, mills

YANGON 27 Jan — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, Managing Director of Myanmar Foodstuff Industries U Soe Hlaing and officials visited Zeyawady Sugar Mill yesterday.

The minister inspected repair of machines and assembly lines at the mill and carrying of sugarcane through conveyors.

The minister and party went to Naungyoe sugarcane plantation in Bilin Township where Managing Director U Soe Hlaing reported on cultivation of

500 acres of sugarcane and land preparation.

They also visited Spirit Factory (Bilin) and Tanaw Dam Project site near Sittoung Paper Mill and inspected construction of the dam. The minister also inspected production of caustic soda.

This morning, the minister inspected Win Thuza Shops of the Ministry of Industry-1 in Bago and Hepatitis-B Vaccine Factory in Hlegu Township.

MNA

Yangon Division USDA donates desks to schools in South Okkalapa

YANGON, 27 Jan — Ministry of Industry and Development Central Executive Committee of the Union Soli-

darity and Development Association in-charge of Yangon Division Chair-

man of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung

Thein Lin this morning delivered an address at the ceremony to present desks donated by Yangon Division USDA to South Okkalapa Basic Education Primary School No 25 in Ward 5 of the township this morning.

The CEC member handed over 15 desks each to BEPS No 25, No 18 and No 17 in South Okkalapa Township. Respective school heads accepted the desks.

Next, the CEC member accepted 214 USDA membership applications presented by Township Education Officer Daw Yi Yi Sein. — MNA



Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin presents desks to BEPSs in South Okkalapa Township. — YCDC

Russia says Japan ties must improve for treaty

Moscow, 26 Jan — Russia's relations with Japan must improve for a peace treaty to be reached that would end their World War II territorial dispute, Russia's first Deputy Foreign Minister said on Wednesday. Speaking after a meeting in Moscow with senior Japanese Foreign Ministry officials, First Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei Denisov said cautiously that both sides had expressed a wish to work for a peace treaty.

Diplomatic relations between Japan and Russia have long been overshadowed by a dispute over four sparsely populated islands, known in Russia as the Southern Kuriles and to Japan as the Northern Territories.

Soviet forces seized the islands in the dying days of World War II, and the land

dispute has prevented the two nations from signing a peace treaty. "In the most general terms, we touched on the problem of a peace treaty, confirming our mutual interest in finding a way to make one (a peace treaty)," Denisov said in comments posted on the Foreign Ministry's website.

MNA/Reuters

A magnifying glass shows the signature on a painting which is believed by Russian and Ukrainian art experts to have been painted by Rembrandt in Dnepropetrovsk on 25 Jan, 2007. —INTERNET



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe makes a policy speech at the start of a parliament session in Tokyo on 26 Jan, 2007. —XINHUA

US soldier gets 18 years prison in Iraq slayings

CHICAGO, 26 Jan — A third US soldier on Thursday was sentenced to 18 years in prison after pleading guilty in the deaths of three Iraqi detainees, officials at Fort Campbell in Kentucky said.

Private First Class Corey Claggett, 22, had entered into a plea agreement at the start of

his court-martial on the military base.

The slayings occurred in May 2006 during a raid on a suspected insurgent camp near Thar Thar Lake, southwest of Tikrit.

Claggett, of Moncks Corner, South Carolina, pleaded guilty to attempted premeditated murder, conspiracy to commit premeditated murder, premeditated murder, conspiracy to obstruct justice and obstruction of justice.

He was also ordered to forfeit all pay and allowances and will be dishonourably discharged.

His prison sentence was identical to one handed down earlier this month to Specialist William Hunsaker, 24, who pleaded guilty to murder, attempted murder and obstruction of justice, also under a plea arrangement.

Also earlier this month, Specialist Justin Graber, 21, pleaded guilty to one charge of aggravated assault with a dangerous weapon in

the same case under a plea agreement and was sentenced to nine months in prison. Prosecutors said he did not take part in the initial

shooting but killed one of the severely wounded Iraqis because he was suffering and his life could not be saved.

MNA/Reuters



Villagers hold a python in Kampung Pagoh, in Malaysia's southern state of Johor on 25 Jan, 2007. Guard dogs protecting a fruit orchard in Malaysia have met their match — the 7.1-metre-long (23-ft-long) python swallowed at least 11 hounds before it was finally discovered by villagers according to local media. —INTERNET

Indonesia to deport three Britons, one Australian

JAKARTA, 26 Jan — Indonesia is to deport three Britons and one Australian, who have been working in Southeast Sulawesi Province, for immigration violation, head of the provincial immigration office Ade Endang Dahlan said Thursday.

The three British instructors of Marine conservation, who entered the province since 1999, have breached from the immigration rules since January last year, said Dahlan. The three Britons, who have only got work permit in one environmental foundation, have worked with other foundations, he said.

"They worked in other companies, getting fee, it is not allowed," Dahlan told Xinhua over telephone from the province. "They must be deported because of this violation. Hopefully this week they can be sent

home." Dahlan said the violation was found in December last year and has been under investigation since.

He said another target of his office was an Australian citizen who remained in the province after his sponsorship expired. The Australian is

currently staying overseas and will be investigated after his return and sent home, he said.

Indonesia implements firm rules of immigration. In last September, five Australian journalists were deported from the easternmost province of Papua for misuse of visa facilities. —MNA/Xinhua

Medium caffeine intake "does not affect pregnancy"

LONDON, 27 Jan — Drinking moderate amounts of caffeine during pregnancy does not lead to premature births or underweight babies, Danish scientists said on Friday.

Up to three cups of coffee a day does not seem to have any negative impact on the baby or the pregnancy.

Earlier studies that looked at the impact of moderate caffeine consumption during pregnancy have produced mixed results. Some showed no difference while others suggested too much caffeine could lower average birth weight by 100-200 grammes (3.5-7 ounces).

"In our study we found no effect from caffeine," said Dr Bodil Hammer Bech, of the Institute of Public Health in Aarhus, Denmark.

MNA/Reuters

Chief US military doctor among crash dead in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 26 Jan — The US military's chief medical officer for Iraq was among a group of 12 high-ranking soldiers killed on Saturday in a helicopter crash outside Baghdad, the Pentagon said on Wednesday. Colonel Brian Allgood, 46, was an orthopedic surgeon serving as command surgeon in Iraq.

He and 11 other officers, mostly combat support personnel, were on what defence officials said was likely an "orientation flight" ahead of the arrival of other soldiers. Defence officials, however, declined discuss the group's specific mission at the time of the crash. Army officials also declined to say why a dozen high-ranking soldiers were travelling together. The group included two colonels — the highest rank before the four-step class of generals in the US Army — as well as a lieutenant-colonel, a major and a captain. — MNA/Reuters

India, Russia sign nuclear cooperation, other agreements

NEW DELHI, 26 Jan— India and Russia on Thursday signed nine agreements, including one which will see Russia help India build nuclear plants in Tamil Nadu and other places in the country.

The nine agreements, signed by visiting Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Man-

mohan Singh here after their talks, also cover the fields such as oil and gas, space, defence and high technology.

The two leaders also signed a memorandum of intent of civil nuclear cooperation.

After the signing ceremony, Prime Minister Singh said energy security is the most important dimension of the strategic relationship between India and Russia.

“We appreciate Russia's help in lifting international restrictions in civil nuclear cooperation,” said the Indian Prime Minister.

MNA/Xinhua

Giant lions, kangaroos once roamed Australia

CANBERRA, 26 Jan— Marsupial lions, kangaroos as tall as trucks and wombats the size of a rhinoceros roamed Australia's outback before being killed off by fires lit by arriving humans, scientists said on Thursday.

The giant animals lived in the arid Nullarbor Desert around 400,000 years ago, but died out around 50,000 years ago, relatively shortly after the arrival of human settlers, according to new fossil skeletons found in caves.

Fossilized remains were uncovered almost intact in a series of three deep caves in the centre of the Nullarbor Desert — east of the west coast city of Perth — in October 2002. Three subsequent expeditions produced hundreds of fossils so well-preserved that they constitute a veritable “Rosetta Stone for Ice-Age Australia”, expedition leader Gavin Prideaux said of the find, detailed in the latest edition of the journal *Nature*.

The team discovered 69 species of mammals, birds and reptiles, including eight new species of kangaroo, some standing up to three metres (nine feet) tall.

MNA/Reuters

Robbery, drug crimes on the rise in Britain

LONDON, 26 Jan— Muggings, vandalism and drug offences are on the rise in England and Wales, despite a clampdown on street crime and anti-social behaviour, according to figures published on Thursday.

The Home Office said the total number of crimes recorded by police in the third quarter last year fell by 3 per cent, with fewer serious violent attacks, burglaries and car thefts.

There were 24,200 robberies between July and September — 200 more than the same period the year before.

Home Office Minister Tony McNulty said a police

and government campaign had cut the number of muggings over the last five years. “We have made concerted efforts with police to further tackle the problems,” he said. “We are not complacent and there is still much more work to be done.”

Prime Minister Tony Blair, who has pledged to address public concern over

crime and disruptive behaviour, welcomed the overall fall in offences.

“Tough laws ... are bearing fruit,” he said in a statement.

Blair announced plans earlier this month to set up 40 “respect zones” to tackle anti-social behaviour. Opposition parties dismissed the idea as a gimmick.— MNA/Reuters

UN sounds high alert to check bird flu cases

NEW YORK, 26 Jan — The UN has asked its member states to be on high alert and advised enhanced cooperation after eight countries reported fresh cases of bird flu this year.

The new cases were reported from China, Egypt, Indonesia, Japan, Nigeria, South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam.

Recent outbreaks are

following a seasonal pattern and do not come as a great surprise, Juan Lubroth, senior officer of the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Animal Health

Service, told media persons here Tuesday.

But we need to remain on alert as the recent outbreaks show, he added.

It is crucial that countries

themselves step up surveillance, detection and rapid response measures.

There is a lower instance of wild birds spreading the H5N1 virus while migrating from Asia to Europe and Africa this winter season as opposed to last year. However, the poultry trade and transport of live birds, especially during upcoming holidays, could result in further epidemics.—MNA/PTI



A dog and a pig are displayed during a promotional event at a Hong Kong shopping mall to celebrate the upcoming change of the year from the Year of the Dog to the Year of the Pig as the Chinese Lunar New Year begins on 18 February in Hong Kong on Thursday, 25 Jan, 2007.—INTERNET

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ရုရှားနိုင်ငံတို့
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India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh (L) escorts Russia's President Vladimir Putin before their meeting in New Delhi on 25 Jan, 2007. Putin arrived in India on Thursday hoping to move Moscow closer to its long-term Asian partner and to seal lucrative new contracts.

INTERNET

A model gets ready for the Tenth Moscow Championship of Hairdressers and Nail Art Designers in central Moscow, on 26 Jan, 2007. Over 300 artists are competing in the show, till the finals on Saturday.—INTERNET



India sees increasing number of foreign tourists

NEW DELHI, 26 Jan— India received 4.43 million foreign tourists last year, up 14.2 per cent from the year of 2005 which saw 3.92 million visitors' arrival, according to Press release of the Tourism Ministry of India Wednesday.

Meanwhile, foreign exchange earnings from tourism reached 6.569 billion US dollars last year, up from 5.73 billion US dollars in 2005 .

The ministry attributed the increase of tourists to the Incredible India campaign to attract more foreign tourists.

The country has been awarded as Asia's leading destination by the World Travel Awards. — MNA/Xinhua



Snow falls on the 12th-century Leeds Castle near Maidstone in Kent, southeast England on 25 Jan, 2007.—INTERNET

Three killed as snow brings travel chaos across Europe

LONDON, 26 Jan— Three people were killed as snow and ice caused travel chaos across Europe on Wednesday, halting trains and planes and cutting off electricity to thousands of homes.

In Germany, icy roads caused multiple accidents, killing three people and injuring dozens, police said. In the southern city of Stuttgart, about a thousand airline passengers were stranded overnight as 70 flights were cancelled due to heavy snowfall, the airport said.

In Britain, the first snow of winter disrupted road

and rail travel across the southeast.

Commuters faced severe delays on many routes into London. Southeastern, a train company serving the region, said it expected delays to continue into the afternoon and said its website crashed from a flood of passenger queries.

Britain's Met office said heavier snowfalls were expected in parts of the southeast on Thursday and Friday.

Temperatures dipped to minus 10 Celsius (14 Fahrenheit) in parts of France.

About 5,000 vehicles

were stranded when the A6 motorway that runs through eastern France was cut off by snow and 200 police and firefighters were sent to help stranded motorists.

Power was cut off to about 85,000 homes in central France and train travel was disrupted.

MNA/Reuters

Kashmiri girls wearing traditional dress perform a song during India's Republic Day celebrations in Srinagar on 26 Jan, 2007.
INTERNET

NATO troops kill Afghan civilian accidentally

KABUL, 26 Jan— NATO soldiers accidentally shot dead a civilian in southern Afghanistan on Wednesday morning, the military said in a statement.

Some NATO troops were conducting a routine patrol in Gereshk District of Helmand Province, the

statement said, adding traffic was stopped, but a vehicle continued to approach the roadblock at high speed.

Despite hand signals, the vehicle failed to stop and warning shots were fired at the ground, it said.

"Unfortunately, the shots ricocheted and hit a

local passer-by" the statement said, adding the casualty was treated by a NATO military medic, but died at the scene.

NATO troops killed Afghan civilians from time to time who drove at speed toward them and were suspected of being suicide bombers. — MNA/Xinhua



A woman checks a digital camera of China's first Best Buy outlet in Shanghai on 26 Jan, 2007. US home electronics retailer Best Buy Co Inc , which last month opened its first store outside North America, in Shanghai, plans a foray into other markets this year, the head of its overseas business said on Thursday.—INTERNET

New anti-smoking drug improves chances of quitting study

New York, 26 Jan— Smokers who use the prescription — only anti-smoking agent varenicline triple their likelihood of successfully kicking the habit, compared with trying to quit without medication, a new review concludes.

Pfizer's varenicline was approved in 2006 by the US FDA under the trade name Chantix and by European regulators under the trade name Champix.

The drug partially

stimulates nicotine receptors in the brain, which helps reduce nicotine withdrawal symptoms. It also partially blocks nicotine from attaching to these receptors, making smoking less satisfying and so curbing a person's desire to smoke.

Dr Kate Cahill, from Oxford University, Britain and colleagues analyzed data from six Pfizer-sponsored studies that compared the effects of varenicline with placebo.

Three of these also included a comparison with bupropion, an anti-depressant that is also used for smoking cessation. The six trials included 4,924 smokers, 2,451 of whom used varenicline.

The results are reported in the latest issue of *The Cochrane Library*, a publication of The Cochrane Collaboration, an international organization that evaluates medical research.

MNA/Reuters



Seven Chinese oil workers missing after Nigeria raid

LAGOS, 26 Jan— Seven Chinese oil workers are still missing after armed attackers kidnapped three of their colleagues in Nigeria on Thursday, a spokesman for oil company Shell said.

The staff of China National Petroleum Corp were doing seismic work on an oilfield in Bayelsa State under contract to Royal Dutch Shell.

MNA/Reuters



Chinese paramilitary officers during training exercises in Nanjing, China's Jiangsu Province on 25 Jan, 2007. —INTERNET

Chinese, Estonian FM's hold talks

BEIJING, 26 Jan — Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing held talks with his Estonian counterpart Urmas Paet on Wednesday. The two sides exchanged views on international and regional issues of common concern.

Li said Chinese and Estonian people have long-term friendship and the two countries have kept frequent exchange of high-level visits in recent years, with ever deepening cooperation in economy, education, science and technology.

The two countries also maintained close coordination in international affairs, Li said, adding that China appreciates Estonia's adherence to the

one-China policy. Paet said that the Estonian Government attaches importance to developing relations with China. — MNA/Xinhua

Aircraft hits power lines in S Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 26 Jan — Two people were injured when a light aircraft flew into power lines near the Hartbeespoort Dam in South Africa's North-West Province on Thursday.

Netcare 911 spokesman Mark Stokoe said that an instructor and his student had been attempting an emergency landing for training purposes when the accident happened.

"They were aiming to land on an open field but flew into power lines which could not be seen from the air. The aircraft broke all the power lines and nose-dived into the ground," said Stokoe.

A helicopter was called to attend to the scene. The pilot was taken by the helicopter to Milpark Hospital in Johannesburg while the student was taken by an ambulance to the Pardekraal Hospital in Krugersdorp. — MNA/Xinhua

Bus crash kills 29 in Mexico

OAXACA (Mexico), 26 Jan — A bus fell down a ravine in southern Mexico on Wednesday, killing at least 29 people and injuring 25, the local attorney general's office said.

The bus, carrying more than the 40 passengers it was built for, was on its way to Mexico City from the town of Huautla de Jimenez in Oaxaca State when the driver lost control and it careened off the road and down a ravine dozens of metres deep, said local transport chief Ruben Castillo. It was the second serious bus crash this month in the largely indigenous state of Oaxaca. — MNA/Reuters

Seven killed in expressway pileup in east China

NANJING, 26 Jan — Seven people were killed on Thursday and another five injured by a pileup involving eight vehicles on an expressway in east China's Jiangsu Province, police said.

The accident took place at about 7 am on the Xingtai section of Ningjingyan expressway in a dense fog, local police said. The eight vehicles including trucks and cars collided in the fog, killing seven people on the spot. The five injured have been sent to hospital. Investigation into the accident is under way. — MNA/Xinhua

Oil spillage after Russian train slips off rails

MOSCOW, 26 Jan — A cargo train loaded with fuel oil rolled off its rails in southern Russia and spilled oil over a 1.5-square-kilometre (0.6-square-mile) area, wrecking tracks and power lines, an Emergencies Ministry spokesman said on Wednesday.

"Around 500 metres of railway and 500 metres of power lines were damaged," Viktor Beltsov said. "Rail traffic has been suspended and all trains, including passenger trains, are going along a bypass." — MNA/Reuters

Japan to seek UNSC seat instead of Mongolia

TOKYO, 26 Jan — Japan will seek another two-year term as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council by running in place of Mongolia, which will withdraw its candidacy, the top government spokesman said on Thursday.

Japan has long been keen to become a permanent member of the Security Council, and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has made obtaining a permanent seat a key policy goal. Mongolian President Nambariin Enkhbayar agreed in a phone conversation with Abe that his country would pull out of the race for a seat from 2009. Chief Cabinet secretary Council reflect the global balance of power at the end of World war II— MNA/Reuters

Hans Blix says Iran will not be second Iraq

CAIRO, 26 Jan — Former UN chief weapons inspector Hans Blix ruled out on Thursday that the possibility of a US military action against Iran, saying the Iraq scenario will not recur in the case of Iran because of the US public's anti-war sentiment.

Responding to a question by Egypt's official MENA news

agency at a Press conference he held at the Diplomatic Club here on Thursday, Blix said the public opinion in the United States is totally against military interference after the Iraqi "quagmire experience". Blix, who was also the former Swedish foreign minister, had led the UN inspectors searching for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq before the US-led invasion in 2003. However, the former inspector defended Iran's rights to develop nuclear capacity for peaceful usage, but warned of a nuclear race in the Middle East region.

"It's not illegal what they are doing unless you could prove that there is intention to go for weapons. But it's not illegal to plan to go for fuel," Blix said.

MNA/Xinhua



Local residents queue up to get "Laba Porridge" doled out by Pilu Temple in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province on 26 Jan, 2007. —XINHUA

The Roulettes, the Royal Australian Air Force's elite formation aerobatic display team, performs over the city of Melbourne during the Australia Day celebration on 26 Jan, 2007. —INTERNET



Shan State (East) Kengtung Home for the Aged

Sai Thein (Kengtung)

The opening of Shan State (East) Kengtung Home for the Aged was held along with the cash donations presentation (second time) ceremony at the home on 13 December 2006. Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and member of the executive committee of the home U Kyaw Tint formally opened it. Two of the aged U Lon Hsan and Daw Pah Lon Kyan unveiled the signboard of the facility.

On the occasion, the commander in his address said that the emergence of the home was largely due to the noble aim and goodwill of the departments and wellwishers. The purpose of the home for the aged was to enable needy elderly persons without children or relatives lead a peaceful and meaningful life. The home was designed to accommodate needy old people from Kengtung and Mongphyat districts.

Plans were then under way to open Tachilek Home for the Aged for accommodating old people in need from Tachilek and Monghsat districts, he said.

He expressed thanks to the wellwishers who had made cash donations for building the home for the aged. He called on members of the executive committee and staff of the home to receive senior citizens in need of help from the hilly regions.

At the ceremony, the commander and wife and members of the administration committee of the home for the aged accepted donations of 34.1 million kyats from wellwishers.

Wellwishers donated 31.2 million kyats at the first donations presentation ceremony, and 34.1 million kyats at the second ceremony, totalling K 65.3 million and 145 wellwishers made cash donation of 5.1 million kyats to the funds to provide food daily for the elderly persons.

The home for the aged made up of two hostels for 25 female and 25 male elderly persons, a dining hall, an administrative office and a Dhammayon (prayer hall) was built at a cost of more than 150 million kyats contributed by departments and the public.

With the economic progress, the State had to take responsibility for providing better health care to the people. To fulfil the requirement, the government facilitated the region with Kengtung General Hospital (300-bed). It has also established township level hospitals in Mongyawng, Mongphyat, Tachilek, Mongkhat, Mongyan, Mongpyin, Monghsat, Mongyu, Mongla and Mawpha Phetman areas. In addition, it has upgraded many general hospitals in the townships in the area.

The government has also improved the region's transport sector. Now, Shan State (East) has enjoyed fruitful results particularly in the agricultural, livestock and commercial sectors.

Due to the economic development and better health care, local people are enjoying longevity, and so the region's aging population is on the increase. The situation calls for more homes for the aged for the elderly persons who are in need of care and proper dwelling. Therefore, the commander, on behalf of the State, initiated the project in the interests of local people. And his dream came true within a year.

Indeed, the establishment of Shan State (East) Kengtung Home for the Aged is a noble task fulfilled as the national duty.

Translation: MS

Myanma Alin: 26-1-2007

With the economic progress, the State had to take responsibility for providing better health care to the people. To fulfil the requirement, the government facilitated the region with Kengtung General Hospital (300-bed). It has also established township level hospitals in Mongyawng, Mongphyat, Tachilek, Mongkhat, Mongyan, Mongpyin, Monghsat, Mongyu, Mongla and Mawpha Phetman areas. In addition, it has upgraded many general hospitals in the townships in the area.

China imposes stricter quality checks on 170,000 medicines

BEIJING, 27 Jan — The production licenses for nearly 170,000 medicines will be reviewed under strict quality examination procedures before they expire at the end of the year, according to the State Food and Drug Administration (SFDA).

The campaign will begin in the second half of the year to re-examine drug companies who acquired a Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) certificate for registering new medicines in 2004 and 2005.

Drugs that fail the tests will be removed from the market.

The GMP certificate's credibility has been repeatedly called into question by a number of health scares caused by poor-quality pharmaceu-

ticals. The most notorious case came to light last July when "Xinfu" antibiotic injections, manufactured by Anhui Huayuan Worldbest Biology Pharmacy Company, caused the deaths of at least six patients and severe reactions in more than 80 others.

The SFDA carried out 35 unannounced inspections of drug manufacturers last September and stripped 15 companies of their GMP certificates.

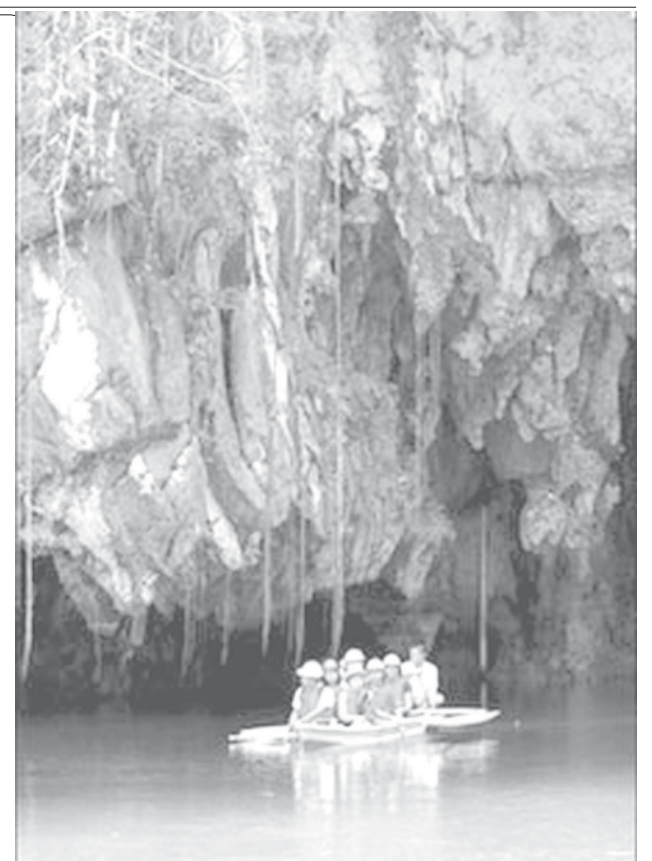
Due to the lax registration system, many Chinese pharmaceutical companies have copied existing products, registered them as new ones and sold them at much higher prices.

By last August, the SFDA had issued licenses for 168,740 new drugs and established a special data base for the license numbers and the ingredients of all new drugs.

MNA/Xinhua

Tourists navigate under stalactites at the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park in Palawan Island, Philippines. UNESCO had declared the park as a natural World Heritage Site for its globally significant ecosystem and biodiversity.

INTERNET



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye hosts dinner in honour of Thai Supreme Commander

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Jan — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San hosted a dinner in honour of the Thai goodwill delegation led by Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Boonsrang Niumpradit and wife at Bayintnaung Yeiktha of the Ministry of Defence, here, at 7 pm yesterday.

Also present at the dinner were Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Secretary-1 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, SPDC members Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Lt-Gen Tin Aye and their wives, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein and wife, Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence and wife, Military Affairs Security Chief Maj-Gen Ye Myint and wife, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Brig-Gen Wai Lwin and wife, senior military officers and Myanmar Military Attaché to Thailand Col Tin Soe and their wives, Thai Ambassador Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal and Military Attaché Col Prissapa Suvanatat and their wives.

Before and during the dinner, artistes presented variety songs to the accompaniment of the Myanmar



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San hosts a dinner in honour of Thai goodwill delegation led by Supreme Commander General Boonsrang Niumpradit and wife at Bayintnaung Yeiktha of the Ministry of Defence.—MNA

Athian modern music troupe.

exchanged souvenirs.

After the dinner, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife and the Thai Supreme Commander and wife

Later, General Boonsrang Niumpradit greeted the artistes. — MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presents a documentary album on goodwill visit to Supreme Commander General Boonsrang Niumpradit of Royal Thai Armed Forces. (News on Page 1)—MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San see off Supreme Commander General Boonsrang Niumpradit of Royal Thai Armed Forces and party at Nay Pyi Taw Airport. (News on Page 1)—MNA

Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces and wife conclude visit

YANGON, 27 Jan — Visiting Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Boonsrang Niumpradit and wife and party arrived here from Nay Pyi Taw by special aircraft this morning.

The visiting Thai Supreme Commander, wife and party were welcomed at the Yangon International Airport by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and wife Daw Mar Mar Wai and senior military officers.

Accompanied by Maj-Gen Than Htay of the Ministry of Defence and wife, Thai Ambassador Mr Suphot Dhirakasol and Military Attaché Col Prissapa Suvanatat, the Thai General and wife and party paid homage to

Shwedagon Pagoda. The visiting General signed in the visitors' book and donated cash to the funds of the pagoda. Members of the pagoda board of trustees present a picture of the Shwedagon Pagoda to him.

The Thai General and wife visited Myanmar Gems Emporium in Kaba Aye Pagoda Road. At 11.45 am, the Thai delegation left here by special aircraft. Before their departure, the commander presented a VCD on documentary of the goodwill visit to the Thai General at the lounge of the airport.

Later, the Commander and wife, Maj-Gen Than Htay and wife, senior military officers and their wives, the Thai Ambassador and Military Attaché and officials saw off the Thai goodwill



Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and wife see off Supreme Commander General Boonsrang Niumpradit of Royal Thai Armed Forces and wife at Yangon International Airport.—MNA

Htamanthi Dam and...

(from page 16)

Minister for Electric Power No 1 U Myo Myint on geological conditions, change of design for main embankment as well as earth and concrete work.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint clarified construction of separation wall, collection of quality stones and tasks being carried out in cooperation with Colenco Company.

After hearing the reports, the Prime Minister

supplementary report.

Prime Minister General Soe Win fulfilled the requirements of the tasks. The Prime Minister presented the fruit baskets to the Project Director of Colenco Power Engineering Ltd and engineers.

Htamanthi Dam and Hydroelectric Power Multipurpose Project will generate 1,200 megawatt and irrigate over 1 million acres of farmland.

It will be a heavy multipurpose project of the State to produce the largest amount of electricity among the hydel power projects.



Prime Minister General Soe Win views construction of Laykyun Sekkya Standing Buddha Statue. — MNA

They paid homage to Laykyun Sekkya Standing Buddha Image built by Maha Bawdi Tahtaung Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Narada.

Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye reported on progress in construction of the Buddha image.

The Prime Minister and party viewed construction tasks of the Buddha Image.

Laykyun Sekkya Standing Buddha Image is 380 feet high and the image's throne, 44 feet high. The construction task of the image has been completed by 86 per cent. — MNA

and party viewed construction of concrete separation wall, preparations for construction of the main embankment and other engineering work.

Next, the Prime Minister inspected Test Cell 2 site, completion of fuel tank and concrete mixture.

The ministers and the deputy ministers reported on requirements and tasks to be coordinated between the two ministries. The commander gave a

Mawlaik Hydel Multipurpose Project that can generate 520 megawatt and Shwesayay Hydel Power Project will be implemented in Chindwin Valley in addition to Htamanthi Dam and Hydel Power Project.

In the morning, the Prime Minister and party paid homage to members of the Sangha at Maha Bawdi Tahtaung Monastery in Khatagantaung Village of Monywa and donated alms to them.



Prime Minister General Soe Win hears reports on Htamanthi Dam and Hydroelectric Power Multipurpose Project by Minister Col Zaw Min. — MNA

မြန်မာနိုင်ငံကြက်ခြေနီအသင်း

**အကြိမ်(၆၀)မြောက်
ဗဟိုကောင်စီအစည်းအဝေး**

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Commander meets trainees of BEd Course No 38 of UDNR

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Jan — Chairman of Management Committee for study tour of trainees of four-year BEd Course No 38 of the University for Development of National Races Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Brig-Gen Wai Lwin met trainees at the hostel here on 24

January. Trainees of the study group led by Pro-Rector (Academic) of UDNR U Htay Lwin, group leader Professor Daw Aye Aye Kyaing and members arrived at the hostels by car in the evening. The commander, Chairman of Civil

Service Selection and Training Board Dr Than Nyun, members of CSSTB U Aung Myint, U Hla Myint Oo, U Win Aung, U Soe Oo, U Nyi Tun and U Kyaw Aung, Col Yan Naing Oo and senior military officers greeted the trainees individually.

MNA

Trainees of UDNR No 38 Course (BEd) on excursion tour of Bagan Archaeological Zone

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Jan— Trainees of No 38 Course (BEd) of the University for Development of National Races led by Pro-Rector (Academic) U Htay Lwin and group leader Professor Daw Aye Aye Kyaing left Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) in Pyin Oo Lwin Township on 23 January morning and arrived at the Central Transport and Communication School in Meiktila where they heard a report presented by Lecturer U Myint Thein on the background history of the school, organizational set-up, tasks and courses conducted.

Principal U Thein Swe of CTCs and two national race students, on behalf of the students, exchanged souvenirs.

Next, the trainees viewed into the thriving grape plantations and orchid gardens in the compound of the school.

At 5.30 pm, the excursion group arrived at Bagan Archaeological Zone and they were

welcomed there by Chairman of Nyaung U District Peace and Development Council U Aung Kyaw Soe, members of Nyaung U District Union Solidarity and Development Association and members of the Shwesigon Pagoda Board of Trustees.

At the prayer hall of the pagoda, Chairman of Nyaung U District Peace and Development Council U Aung Kyaw Soe extended greetings.

Next, Secretary of Nyaung U District USDA U Htay Lwin and two national race students, on behalf of the students, exchanged souvenirs.

After that, Director of Archaeological Department U Myo Nyunt briefed on the background history of the Archaeological Zone to the excursion group.

Next, members of the excursion group made cash donations and paid homage to the pagoda.

After paying homage to Alodawpyae Pagoda, Ananda Pagoda and Lawka Nanda Tooth Relic

Pagoda, they stopped over for the night at Archaeological Zone.

On 24 January morning, they paid homage to Boo Pagoda and proceeded to Lacquerware College where they were welcomed by the Deputy Principal and officials.

Next, they were briefed on the background history of the collage and courses conducted.

After that, they inspected the Lacquerware Museum and handicraft shops.

On arrival at the Bagan Archaeological Museum, they were welcomed by Director U Myo Nyunt Aung and officials and conducted round the museum.

Afterwards, members of the excursion group left for Nay Pyi Taw and arrived there in the evening.

At the Nay Pyi Taw hostel where they were going to stop for the night, they viewed documentary films and a film titled "Chit Chin Nge Pyaing".

MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye greets Supreme Commander General Boonsrang Niumpradit of Royal Thai Armed Forces at Bayintnaung Yeiktha of the Ministry of Defence. (News on page 1). — MNA

Science Fair 2007 staged

YANGON, 27 Jan— The ILBC Science Fair 2007 was staged at the ILBC's stadium on Laydaungkan Street in Tamway Township here this afternoon.

It was attended by Managing Director of ILBC U Tin Maung Win, Principal of ILBC U Lay Maung and teachers, staff, students and guests.

Wind turbines, paddle power electric generators, electric vehicles, amphibious vehicles were shown at the fair.

A two-seater electric vehicle with batteries can run up to 60 kilometres non-stopped.



Science Fair 2007.—MNA

Those electric made-parts. And the devices were made by making of those electric teachers and students of devices started in 1997. ILBC with mostly local MNA



Trainees of UDNR No 38 Course (BEd) visit Bagan Archaeological Zone.—MNA

Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)...

(from page 16)

members of the UNSC altogether 15 nations have right to vote at the UNSC for the decision making, and only five permanent members have veto power.

Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) on 19 January also opposed the lopsided action of the US and Britain who submitted the draft resolution to the UNSC to meddle in Myanmar's internal affairs.

NAM comprises nations from Asia, Africa and Latin America which achieved the indepen-

dence from colonial rule. NAM has carried out its functions based on Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence laid down at Bandung Conference initiated by five nations including Myanmar in 1955, and has made contributions to the maintenance of international peace and security.

United Nations includes 192 nations while NAM comprises 118, and 117 members of NAM are members of the UN. Myanmar and its neighbouring countries India and Bangladesh, and ASEAN members Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Brunei and the

Philippines are also members of NAM, and the People's Republic of China stands in NAM as an observer.

Therefore, it is learnt that international affairs analysts considered that the move of NAM members to oppose the double-veto against the lopsided action of the US and Britain which use UNSC to interfere in internal affairs of Myanmar, and the double-veto against the resolution show that NAM treasures the international peace and security and contributes to the maintenance of the international peace and security. — MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe attends consecration of ground for Ordination Hall in Hmawby Township

YANGON, 27 Jan — A ceremony to consecrate the ground for Dhammaduta ordination hall was held in conjunction with the merit sharing ceremony in the precinct of Dhammaduta Zaytawun Tawya Hsekeindayama Monastery in Lower Wanetchaung Village of Hmawby Township this morning.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Magway Maha Withutayama Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Kumara,

State Ovadaçariya Joint Sangharaja of Shwegyin Gana Bago Kyakhatwaing Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Jotipala and members of the Sangha.

Rector of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Dr Nandamalabhivamsa and members of the Sangha also attended the merit sharing ceremony.

Also present at the merit sharing ceremony held at the monastery were Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry

of Defence, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, senior military officers, Director-General Dr Myo Myint of the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana, Pro-Rector (Admin) Dr Myint Kyi of the IBTMU and officials together with wellwishers.

Rector Sayadaw Bhaddanta Dr Nandamalabhivamsa administered the Five Precepts.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe offered alms to the Rector Sayadaw. Likewise, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and officials donated provisions to members of



Lt-Gen Myint Swe donates alms to a Sayadaw.

MNA

the Sangha.

Later, the Rector Sayadaw delivered a

sermon and the congregation shared merits gained. After that, members of the Sangha consecrated ground the ordination hall. — MNA

Commander inspects construction of Ngamoeyeik Bridge (Kamakyi)



Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win inspects construction of Ngamoeyeik Bridge (Kamakyi).—MNA

YANGON, 27 Jan — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and officials this morning inspected construction of Ngamoeyeik Bridge (Kamakyi) that will link Thingangyun and Thakayta Townships in Yangon East District.

At the project briefing hall, Yangon Division Superintending Engineer U Soe Tint and Senior Engineer U Han Soe reported on completion of the bridge

and construction of approach roads to the bridge.

Later, the commander called on the officials concerned to expedite the work for completion of the bridge and attended to the needs.

The commander inspected the bridge construction work and installation of 970-foot length and 16-inch diameter water pipes on the either side of the bridge.

The length of the bridge linking Thingangyun and Thakayta townships is 970

feet and the width of the motor road is 48 feet. The bridge will be flanked by 6-foot footpaths and its clearance is 11 feet high and 65 feet wide. And being built by the Public Works it can withstand 60 tons of loads.

Subsequently, the commander inspected sanitation tasks, dredging of drains carried out by staff of Yangon City Development Committee and social organizations in Thakayta Township and visited health educative talks in No (4/North) Ward in the township.

MNA

Myanmar Hoteliers Association holds executive committee meeting 1/2007

YANGON, 27 Jan — Myanmar Hoteliers Association held its coordination meeting 1/2007 at the hall of Zay Gabar Co in Mingaladon Garden City this morning.

Chairman of the association Dr Khin Shwe delivered an address. General Secretary U Yan Win submitted the report for 2006, financial statement, directives of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, amendment for the fundamental rules of the association in line with the order and rules and regulations of the Myanma Hotels and Tourism Law, construction of the association's website, organizing hotels of foreigners to join the

Chairman Dr Khin Shwe of MHA speaks at the meeting (1/2007) of executives of the association.

MNA



association, and implementation of the ASEAN tourism agreement.

Executives took part in the discussions.

Later, the chairman of the

association gave concluding remarks.

Also present at the meeting were departmental heads of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and guests.

MNA

Cholera death toll hits 2,799 in Angola

LUANDA, 27 Jan — The World Health Organization (WHO) announced on Thursday that a total number of 70,396 cumulative cases and 2,799 deaths have been reported in 16 of Angola's 18 provinces since the

beginning of the outbreak on February 13, 2006.

According to a Press notice published by the WHO on Thursday here, a total of 6,861 new cases and 169 deaths have occurred in Angola since the last report on

December 7 last year. The five most affected provinces in this period were Huila with 1708 cases, Cunene with 838 ones, Benguela with 766 ones, Luanda with 523 ones, and Huambo with 457 ones. — MNA/Xinhua

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 CLUB COUNCIL
 YANGON GOLF CLUB

Floods wash away 20 villages in northern Malawi

LILONGWE, 26 Jan— Thousands of people have been left homeless and fields of crops were washed away by floods that have hit Malawi’s northern border district of Karonga, located about 300 kilometres north of the capital Lilongwe.

District Commissioner Ted Gondwe told *Xinhua* on Wednesday that the floods had adversely affected people in at least 20 villages but added that the exact number of victims could not be known immediately.

“Thousands have been affected but we don’t have the exact extent of the damage as we are still making assessments,” Gondwe said.

Gondwe added that assessment work of the damage was very slow because some areas could not be accessed since roads had been washed away.

He said the flooding had been caused by the swelling of the district’s three major rivers following persistent heavy rains that hit the district since Sunday.

Gondwe said the affected people had sought refuge in the classrooms before government provided them with temporary shelter.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Official says Thai man dies of human flu instead of H5N1

BANGKOK, 26 Jan — A northern resident, feared to have been the latest victim of bird flu virus, died of a strain of human influenza instead, the Thai Public Health Ministry said Thursday.

Apichart Phrombutr, a 41-year-old resident of Si Chiang Mai District of Nong Khai Province — where the latest outbreak of bird flu was confirmed last week — died from the H3N2 strain of human flu, not the H5N1 strain of bird flu, the head of the Department of Medical Science, Pajit Warachit, was quoted by local news group *The Nation* as saying.

Apichart died on Monday, just two days after falling ill with bird-flu-like symptoms. His death sparked public fears and a wide spread rumour that bird flu had claimed another Thai. Seventeen people have died of the

disease in Thailand since it was first detected here in 2003.

But Pajit said Apichart’s home was a long way from the poultry farm where the latest bird flu outbreak was detected.

MNA/Xinhua

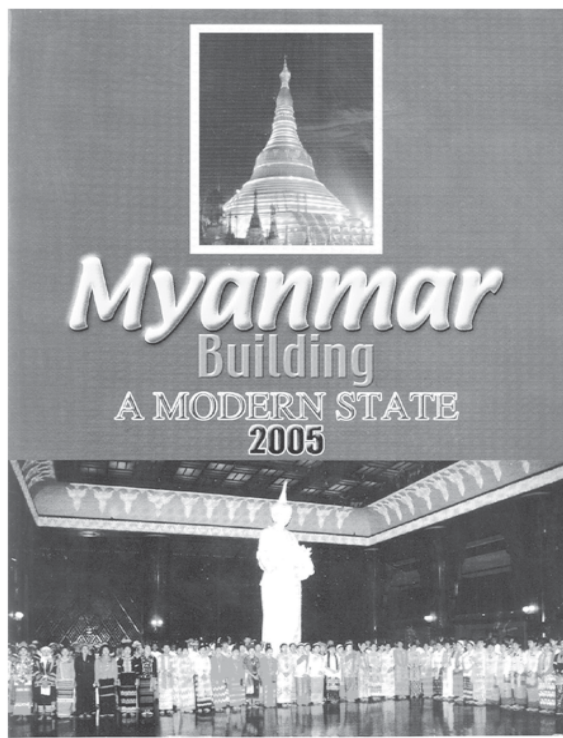
Kenya’s death toll from Rift Valley Fever rises to 114

NAIROBI, 26 Jan— The death toll from an outbreak of Rift Valley Fever in Kenya has risen to 114, the health authorities confirmed on Thursday.

Officials in the Health Ministry said two cases of Rift Valley Fever which broke out in northeast Kenya in mid last month have been reported in the capital of Nairobi.

“A man died at the Kenyatta Hospital in Nairobi. The patient was admitted at the hospital from Kerugoya District (central Kenya) bringing the death toll so far to 114,” Shanaaz Shariff, senior deputy director of medical services said by telephone. The infectious virus hit remote areas of Kenya’s northeastern and coastal provinces in mid last December and has since spread to central Kenya and neighbouring Somalia. The officials have dispatched dozens of veterinary officers to the flood-hit districts and Nairobi to supplement government efforts following a sharp increase of deaths from the fever that has killed dozens of people in the country.

MNA/Xinhua



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Germany criticizes EU panel on Guantanamo detainee

BERLIN, 26 Jan — German Foreign Office slashed out here on Wednesday at allegations that former German Government deflected a US offer to release a German-born Turk from the US military detention centre at Guantanamo.

A spokesman for the Foreign Office criticized the findings of a European Union parliamentary panel that Berlin must accept part of the responsibility for Murat Kurnaz’ extended detention at Guantanamo as “far fetched” and based on hear say.

The EU parliamentary committee probing into alleged CIA activities in Europe said on Tuesday that “according to confidential institutional information, the (former) German Government did

not accept the US offer, made in 2002, to release Murat Kurnaz from Guantanamo”.

The government of former chancellor Gerhard Schroeder was accused of refusing Kurnaz’ entry into Germany after “US and German intelligence concluded, as early as 2002, that Murat Kurnaz had no connection to al-Qaeda or the Taleban and that he posed no terrorist threat.”

Kurnaz was captured in Pakistan by US forces soon after the September

11, 2001 terror attacks in the United States and later imprisoned at Guantanamo Bay in 2002.

He was released in August 2006 after repeated appeals by current Chancellor Angela Merkel to the United States.

But German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, who served in the Schroeder government as chief of staff and was responsible for secret service activities, said Tuesday in Brussels that he was not aware of an offer to release Kurnaz.

He described the EU accusations against him as “first of all false and also simply disgraceful”.

A German parliamentary committee, which is also investigating the former government’s alleged role in Kurnaz’ imprisonment, made similar allegations against the Schroeder government last Thursday. Steinmeier said he would testify in Germany on Monday when called on by the German inquiry into the matter.

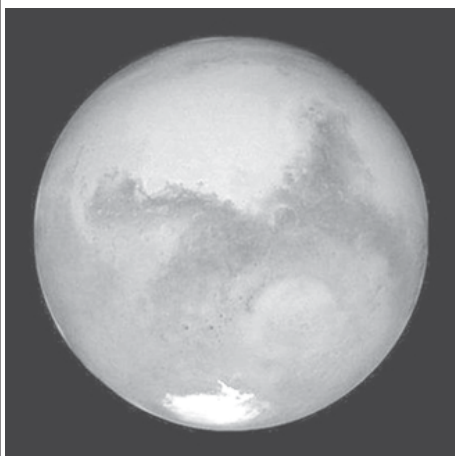
MNA/Xinhua

Japan’s Matsuda Tomomi (R) returns a shot as her partner Akaio Aki looks on during their women’s doubles quarter-final match against China’s Zhang Yawen and Wei Yili at the Korea Open Badminton in Seoul on 26 Jan, 2007.
 INTERNET



ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွံ့ပိုးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Study finds sun did not blow water off Mars



Mars is seen in a 2003 image taken by the Hubble Space Telescope. Scientists trying to find out where all the water on Mars went ruled out one culprit on Thursday — new measurements show the Sun did not blow it away.—INTERNET

WASHINGTON, 26 Jan — Scientists trying to find out where all the water on Mars went ruled out one culprit on Thursday — new measurements show the Sun did not blow it away.

They measured ions — charged particles — being blown off the planet by the solar wind, itself a stream of

charged particles.

Very little oxygen or carbon dioxide was blown off the planet during the year they measured it, the team at the Swedish Institute of Space Physics and Centre d'Etude Spatiale des Rayonnements in Toulouse, France, reported.

“Mars was once wet but is now dry, and the fate of its ancient carbon dioxide atmosphere is one of the biggest puzzles in martian planetology,” they wrote in their report, published in the journal *Science*.

Several missions to Mars have found indirect evidence that water flowed relatively recently on its surface, and it seems fairly clear to experts that the dusty red planet was once covered with lakes, oceans and perhaps rivers.

There is also carbon dioxide ice, but very little — much less than there must have been in the warm atmosphere that would have been needed to hold the water in place millions of years ago.

“What happened to the martian water and carbon dioxide?” the researchers wrote.—MNA/Reuters

Men with breast cancer risk second cancer, too

WASHINGTON, 26 Jan — Men who have survived breast cancer have a higher risk of a second cancer than most other men, US researchers reported on Thursday.

They said men who have had breast cancer need to be closely watched for new cancers, particularly of the breast, stomach and skin.

Breast cancer will be diagnosed in 2,030 men in the United States alone this year and kill 450 of them, according to the American Cancer Society.

Sacha Satram-Hoang and colleagues at the University of California at Irvine looked at California cancer statistics from 1988 to 2003.

Of the 1,926 diagnosed with breast cancer for the first time, 221 or 11.5 per cent were diagnosed with a second new cancer — not a

spread of the original tumour — after their breast cancer diagnosis.

They were especially prone to breast, colorectal, bladder and stomach cancers and melanoma, Satram-Hoang and colleagues wrote in the journal *Breast Cancer Research*.

MNA/Reuters

Foreign tourists in Beijing spend \$4b in 2006

BEIJING, 26 Jan — Foreign tourists in Beijing spent a record 1,033 US dollars each last year, involving a total of four

billion US dollars, local authorities said on Thursday.

The Chinese capital received 3.9 million foreign tourists last year, 7.5 per cent more than last year, who spent a total of four billion dollars, according of Fang Zehua, a spokesman of the municipal tourism administration. “The boom can be attributed to our promotion of Beijing in major source countries,” he said.

Tourists from Japan, the United States and the Republic of Korea accounted for about 40 per cent of the total number.

MNA/Xinhua



A bird flies through the polluted sky of Tehran on 25 Jan, 2007.—INTERNET



Child abuse increases in Australia

CANBERRA, 26 Jan — Reports of child abuse have almost doubled in Australia in the past four years, a new report shows.

The report, entitled Child Protection Australia 2005-06, said there were 107,134 reports to authorities about the welfare of children in 1999-2000, while the figure increased to 266,745 in 2005-06.

In 1999-2000, 24,732 reports were substantiated by authorities, and that number doubled to 55,921 in 2005-06, said the report released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare on Thursday.

MNA/Xinhua

Visitors at the Sony Building in downtown Tokyo play Sony's next-generation video game Playstation 3 as its two-week-long free trial service goes on in this 9 Nov, 2006 file photo. PlayStation 3 video game machines will go on sale in Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Australia on 23 March, company officials said on 26 Jan, 2007.

INTERNET

Actress Nicole Kidman, seven others hurt on movie set

LOS ANGELES, 26 Jan — Oscar-winning actress Nicole Kidman and seven other people suffered minor injuries on a Los Angeles movie set on Thursday when her car crashed into a light pole during filming, police said.

Kidman, who was behind the wheel of a Jaguar rigged for filming when it struck the pole, was examined at a local hospital after the incident, Los Angeles Police spokeswoman Karen Smith said.

Smith said seven other people on the set of the alien thriller “The Invasion” went to local hospitals complaining of injuries after the 1 am (0900 GMT) crash but that none was seriously hurt.

Warner Bros Pictures, the studio behind “The Invasion”, confirmed that Kidman was taken to the hospital after the crash but said she was quickly released and would be back on set when filming resumed later on Thursday.

“No other actors were involved in the scene at the time of the incident,” Warner Bros said in a written statement.

“Two additional crew members sustained minor injuries as a result of the

collision,” Warner Bros said. “The production took the appropriate steps following the incident to ensure the safety of cast and crew.” There was no immediate explanation for the discrepancy in the number of injured listed by the police and the studio.

MNA/Reuters



Australian actress Nicole Kidman was taken to a Los Angeles hospital for examination after a stunt car she was riding in crashed early Thursday during the shooting of her latest film “The Invasion,” police said.—XINHUA

SPORTS

Fergie fumes at 'petty' Wenger



Sir Alex Ferguson

LONDON, 26 Jan— Sir Alex Ferguson has bristled at suggestions from Arsene Wenger that Manchester United lack stamina, branding the Frenchman's reputed comments as 'petty'.

Following Arsenal's late 2-1 win over United on Sunday, Gunners midfielder Mathieu Flamini claimed that Wenger had told his troops that their great rivals would tire in the final stages.

The implicit indication that his team cannot last the

course has angered Ferguson, and the Scot has now reignited a war of words with Wenger which has largely lain dormant since the arrival of Jose Mourinho in England.

The United boss has accused his Arsenal rival of being 'petty', and making the comments in order to inflate his own sense of self-worth.

"In the game against Arsenal, (was it) a lack of concentration? 'Yes'," said Ferguson. "From a winning position, we were all gutted. It was disappointing, but in terms of the stamina side of it, it's absolute nonsense.

"I thought it was a bit petty, coming out with that nonsense."

"There's absolutely no evidence. In terms of endurance and that kind of thing, we are well in control of that." —Internet

Tottenham handed bye into UEFA Cup last 16

BERNE (Switzerland), 27 Jan— Tottenham Hotspur have been handed a bye into the last 16 of the UEFA Cup after last week's expulsion of their opponents Feyenoord.

European soccer's governing body announced the decision on its official website (www.uefa.com) on Thursday.

Spurs, who are twice UEFA Cup winners, are due to face the winners of the match between struggling Serie A side Parma and Portugal's Braga in March for a place in the quarterfinals.

However, Feyenoord said on their official website (www.feyenoord.com) they are likely to appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport against their expulsion.

The Dutch club, who have lifted the trophy twice, were thrown out of the competition by UEFA on Friday after crowd disturbances during a group stage match away to Nancy.—MNA/Reuter



Zhang Tong of China, right, and Katie Chapman of England, left, fight for the ball during the Four Nations women's soccer match at Guangdong Olympic Stadium in Guangzhou, China. China won over England 2-0. The Four Nations women's soccer tournament is a mini-preview of China's upcoming World Cup. The four-team event is comprised of the US, Germany, England and China.—INTERNET

Platini wants changes

BERLIN, 26 Jan— New UEFA president Michel Platini is determined to push ahead with his controversial changes for the UEFA Champions League.

The former Juventus and France star succeeded the incumbent Lennart Johansson after winning election to the post at UEFA'S Congress in Dusseldorf, Germany on Friday.

Platini campaigned on the promise to amend the limit of Champions League places for each member country to three clubs each. The proposals are expected to meet stiff resistance from the likes of the Football Association and the Premier League in England, who are sure to be keen to have the status quo of four places available for their top clubs.

Platini, however, is keen to move forward with his ideas, despite the opposition he is likely to face.

"The new format of the Champions League is for 2009," Platini said.

"I talked about finding a better equilibrium for the number of clubs and that's for (season) 2009/10.

"The final decision will be (by UEFA'S executive committee) in April, so we have a few months still to see which way we will go, but I would like a better equilibrium, it is very close to my heart."

Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger thinks Platini will struggle to fulfil his task of making changes to the current Champions League format.—Internet



New UEFA president Michel Platini

Italian club Parma sold to consortium

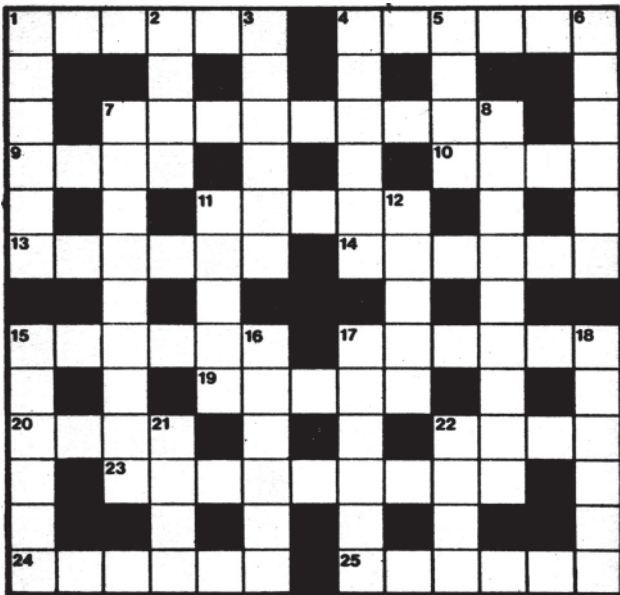
ROMA, 27 Jan— Serie A club Parma was sold to a consortium led by Italian businessman Tommaso Ghirardi on Thursday.

Financial details of the deal were not disclosed by former owner Parmalat SpA. Parma, a two-time UEFA Cup winner, has been run by a temporary administration since dairy giant Parmalat went bankrupt in December 2003.

Since then, there have been several failed bids, including one last year by former Real Madrid chairman Lorenzo Sanz.

Ghirardi, whose business interests include engineering and steelworks, already owns Fourth-Division soccer team Carpenedolo.—MNA/Xinhua

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Quarter
- 4 Craftsman
- 7 Army unit
- 9 Hairless
- 10 Small recess
- 11 Leaven
- 13 Stooped suddenly
- 14 Seize
- 15 Ball
- 17 Teacher
- 19 Lowest point
- 20 Repast
- 22 Stride
- 23 Heinous
- 24 Great fear
- 25 Small wave

DOWN

- 1 Ban
- 2 Thoroughfare
- 3 Detestation
- 4 Solidarity leader
- 5 Metal
- 6 Label
- 7 Dunce
- 8 Insignificant person
- 11 Long for
- 12 One who does his best
- 15 Pinnacle
- 16 Church festival
- 17 Looking-glass
- 18 Rest
- 21 Den
- 22 Light hit

Serena routs Sharapova to win Australian Open

MELBOURNE, 27 Jan — Don't ever tell Serena Williams she can't do something. Her response will be devastating for her opponents. Just ask top-ranked Maria Sharapova.

Sharp and intensely focused from the start,

Maria Sharapova of Russia delivers a speech, holding the runner-up plate after her women's singles final loss to Serena Williams of the US at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne, Australia, on Saturday, 27 Jan, 2007. Williams won the final, 6-1 6-2.—INTERNET



Williams simply overwhelmed Sharapova 6-1, 6-2 Saturday to win the Australian Open and her eighth Grand Slam title.

"It was an awesome win, because I had so many critics. So many people ... saying negative things," Williams said. "Saying I wasn't fit, when I felt that I was really fit, and I could last three sets.

"She came out today and she really played flawless tennis," said a downcast Sharapova, the reigning US Open champion who had a 13-match Grand Slam winning streak snapped. "It was my mom's birthday today and I couldn't win for her."

Internet

Chavez threatens to eject US envoy if he meddles

CARACAS, 27 Jan — President Hugo Chavez threatened to eject the US ambassador if he meddled in Venezuela's affairs after the diplomat reportedly said on Thursday the government must compensate companies it plans to nationalize.

The leftist President has pledged a wave of takeovers, including of US companies' holdings in Venezuela, further straining frayed relations with the United States this month.

interfering in Venezuelan matters that do not concern him, showing Venezuelans disrespect, then he could be declared persona non grata and would have to leave the country," Chavez said

during a speech about socialism.

Last year, diplomatic ties between the two countries reached a low point when they each ejected an official in a dispute involving Chavez' accusations of US espionage.

Although the United States is Venezuela's top customer for its vital oil sales, Chavez also angered many Americans by calling President George W Bush the devil at the United Nations in September.

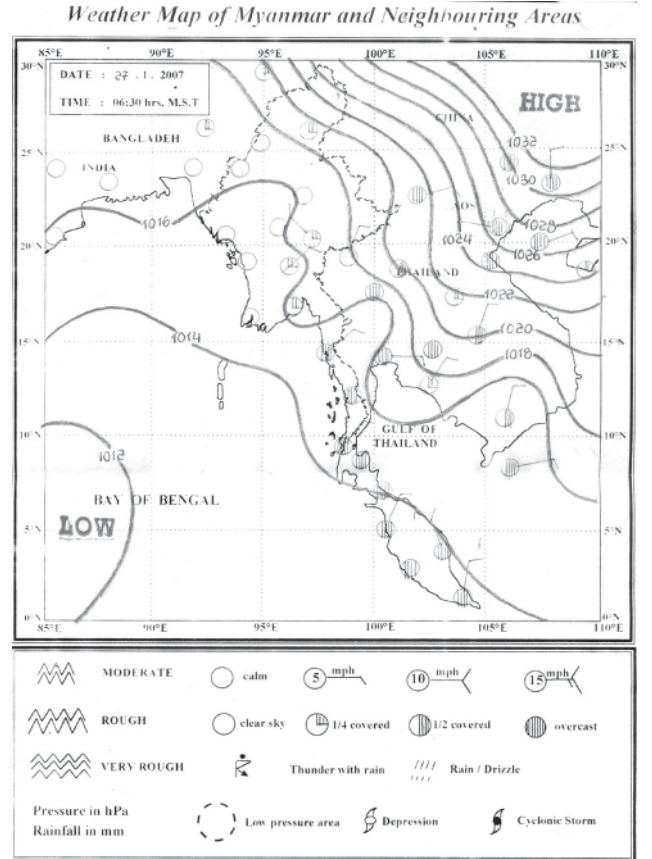
Despite overtures from both sides to improve ties since Chavez' landslide re-election last month, the Venezuelan leader has maintained his anti-US harangues and pushed policies, such as nationalizing utilities, that worry Washington.

On Thursday, Ambassador William Brownfield was quoted

by Venezuelan media as saying, "Every government in the world is obliged to carry out nationalizations in a legal and transparent way and offer fair and prompt compensation."

That appeared to be a response to Chavez, who said on Sunday he would not give any compensation for taking over the main telecommunications company until after its nationalization and even then would not pay a price based on foreign estimates of its value.

US-based Verizon has a leading stake in the Venezuelan utility CANTV.—MNA/Reuters



သစ်တောရေးရာဝန်ကြီးဌာန
သစ်တောဦးစီးဌာန

တိရစ္ဆာန်ဥယျာဉ် (ရန်ကုန်)

(၁၀၁) နှစ်မြောက်မွေးနေ့

(၆-၂-၂၀၀၇) ရက်နေ့မှ
(၁၀-၂-၂၀၀၇) ထိ
ကျင်းပမည်။

WEATHER

Saturday, 27 January, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Kachin and Chin States, upper Sagaing and Magway Divisions, (5°C) below normal in Shan and Rakhine States. (3°C) above normal in Mon State and Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Lashio (0°C), Haka and Ann (2°C) each and Heho (3°C).

Maximum temperature on 25-1-2007 was 96°F. Minimum temperature on 26-1-2007 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 26-1-2007 was 71%. Total sunshine hours on 25-1-2007 was (8.5) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 26-1-2007 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 Northwest at (13:00) hours MST on 26-1-2007.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 28-1-2007: Weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine, Shan, Mon and Kayin States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions.

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 28-1-2007: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 28-1-2007: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 28-1-2007: Fair weather.

Radio Myanmar

Sunday, 28 January
Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music: -Hanging on to your love
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music: -Blooming 18
- 8:50 am National news/Slogan
- 9:00 am Music: -Feel for your love
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Cultural images of Myanmar
- 9:20 am Music: -Too much of a good thing
- 1:30 pm News / Slogan
- 1:40 pm Children's delight (story) -Little mise frog
- 1:50 pm Songs for children
- 9:00 pm Weekly news review
- 9:10 pm Article
- 9:20 pm LIETS -If we hold on together -Lost in your eyes
- 9:45 pm News / Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL

TV Myanmar

Sunday, 28 January
View on today

- 7:00 am
 1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
- 7:25 am
 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am
 4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am
 5. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ(၃၈)ဖြာမင်္ဂလာ
- 8:15 am
 6. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:25 am
 7. ဓရမ်းချောင်းတံတား
- 8:30 am
 8. International news
- 8:45 am
 9. Say it in English
- 11:00 am
 1. Martial song
- 11:10 am
 2. Musical programme
- 11:25 am
 3. Round up of the week's international news
- 11:35 am
 4. Yan Can Cook
- 11:50 pm
 5. Myanmar movie: "ရွှေပင်နားတော့ ရွှေကျေး" (ညွန့်ဝင်း၊ ခင်သန်းနု) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကြည်စိုးထွန်း)
- 1:40 pm
 6. ပိုင်ကျဲရေထိန်းတံခါး
- 1:55 pm
 7. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 2:15 pm
 8. "စည်းကမ်းလိုက်နာ ဆေးကင်းမှာ" (ကျော်ရဲအောင်၊ ချစ်သူ၊ ဇော်ဝင်းမောင်၊ မော့စ်၊ လင်းစာနည်ဇော်၊ ပွင့်) [ဒါရိုက်တာ-ခင်ဇော်၊ မြင့်စိုး (ဝ/သရန်ကုန်)]
- 2:30 pm
 9. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 2:45 pm
 10. International news
- 4:00 pm
 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm
 2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm
 3. အပေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး
- 4:45 pm
 4. Song of national races
- 5:00 pm
 5. မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတွင် ပယောဂကင်းကင်း ဖြူစင်သော စိတ်ရင်းမြင့် လူသားချင်း စာနာထောက်ထားမှု လုပ်ငန်းများ လွတ်လပ်စွာဆောင်ရွက်လျက် ရှိသည် (အပိုင်း-၂)
- 5:15 pm
 6. Sing and enjoy
- 6:00 pm
 7. Evening news
- 6:30 pm
 8. Weather report
- 6:35 pm
 9. သီရိဂေဟာ
- 7:05 pm
 10. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ကြယ်ကြွေရင်ခုန်သံ" (အပိုင်း-၁၆)
- 8:00 pm
 11. News
- 12. International news
- 13. Weather report
- 14. နိုင်ငံခြား ဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "လှပသောနေ့ရက်များ" (အပိုင်း-၂၀)
- 15. The next day's programme

*R 489 Published by the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information, Union of Myanmar. Edited and printed at The New Light of Myanmar Press, No 22/30 Strand Road at 43rd Street, Yangon. Cable Newlight, PO Box No. 43, Telephones: Editors 392308, Manager 392226, Circulation 392304, Advertisement 392223, Accounts 392224, Administration 392225, Production/Press 297028

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

Htamanthi Dam and Hydroelectric Power Multipurpose Project will generate 1,200 megawatt and irrigate over 1 million acres of farmland

Prime Minister General Soe Win inspects progress of Htamanthi Dam and Hydroelectric Power Multipurpose Project

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Jan — Prime Minister General Soe Win, accompanied by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, the ministers, the deputy ministers, officials of the SPDC Office went to Monywa, Sagaing Division by air yesterday. They were welcomed there by Chairman of Sagaing Division PDC Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Tin Maung Ohn and departmental

officials at Monywa airport.

The Prime Minister and party attended the inauguration ceremony of Technological University (Monywa).

After that, the Prime Minister and party proceeded to Homalin. And they went on to Htamanthi Dam and Hydroelectric Power Multipurpose Project to be built on Chindwin River near Tazone Village about 30 miles north of Homalin.

At the project briefing hall, Minister for Electric Power No 1 Col Zaw Min reported on construction of power intake, steel pipelines, power station, canal, spillway and switch yard to the Prime Minister.

Next, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo reported on preliminary engineering work, arrival of heavy machinery and Deputy (See page 9)



Prime Minister General Soe Win views construction work of Htamanthi Dam and Hydroelectric Power Multipurpose Project.—MNA

Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) opposes lopsided action of the US and Britain

Move of NAM contributes to maintenance of international peace and security

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Jan — The United States and Britain submitted the draft resolution to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on 12 January to interfere in Myanmar's internal affairs,

and the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation rejected the resolution with double veto. The South Africa also voted against the US-sponsored resolution and three nations abstained.

Nine nations including the US and Britain voted for the resolution. Five permanent members and 10 alternate (See page 10)