

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

Considering transport sector needs priority, government has poured huge investments into roads and bridges projects until they form themselves into transportation network

Kyaw-Yaymyetni Railroad Section, Ponnyataung Tunnel opened

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Jan—The opening of Kyaw-Yaymyetni Railroad Section and Ponnyataung Tunnel of Pakokku-Gangaw-Kalay Railroad Project took place at the pavilion of Kyaw Station at Kyaw Village in Gangaw Township, Magway Division, yesterday, with an address by Prime Minister General Soe Win.

Also present were Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Sagaing Division PDC Commander of North-West Command

Maj-Gen Tha Aye, the ministers, the deputy ministers, Chairman of Magway Division PDC Col Phone Maw Shwe, officials of the SPDC Office, heads of department, senior military officers, departmental officials, engineers, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, and local people.

The Prime Minister in his address said that the 27-mile Kyaw-Yaymyetni Railroad Section together with the 5,610-foot Ponnyataung tunnel is the last part of the 277-mile ChaungU-

Pakokku-Gangaw-Kalay Railroad, and the employees of the Myanma Railways had to exert a great deal of tenacity to complete the section.

The railroad that rises from Monywa Region in Sagaing Division to Kalay in Kabaw valley region, the entrance to Northern Chin State, passing Pakokku, Myaing, Myosoe, Zeebya, Kyaw and Ponnyataung through Gangaw and Myittha valleys region is constructed to enhance friendship among national races.

The railroad passes
(See page 8)



Prime Minister General Soe Win speaks at the inauguration of Kyaw-Yaymyetni Railroad Section and Ponnyataung Tunnel.

MNA



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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 29 January, 2007

Major projects for supply of sufficient electric power in the country

Nowadays the government is making endeavours for development of all regions in the Union. With the nationwide development and peace and tranquillity in the country the living standard of the people has gradually improved. Much efforts have been made for progress of all sectors including electric power sector which plays a vital role in uplift of living standard of the national people.

In order to implement the electric power sector effectively and widely, major projects have been laid down and are being undertaken.

Htamanthi Dam and Hydroelectric Power Multi-Purpose Project, one of the major ones, is being implemented on the Chindwin River near Tazone Village, 30 miles north of Homalin.

The Multi-Purpose Project will generate 1,200 megawatts and irrigate over one million acres of farmland. Of the hydroelectric power projects under construction, it is a heavy multi-purpose project of the State to generate the largest amount of electricity.

The 520-megawatt Mawlaik Hydroelectric Power Project and the 600-megawatt Shwesayay Hydroelectric Power Project that include in Chindwin Valley Hydroelectric Power Projects will be implemented for more electricity.

The government is continuously undertaking the power projects for supply of sufficient electric power essential not only for uplift of economy and social life of the entire people but also for national development.



To mark the 6th birthday of Maung Kyaw Kaung Sat, son of U Kyaw Naing Oo, Daw Moe Thuza of No 403 (A/3) on Banyadala Street in Tamway Township, the family donated K 100,000 to the Hninzigon Home for the Aged through a responsible person of the Home.—H

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

Prevention against DHF, dysentery inspected in Ahlon, Thingangyun

YANGON, 27 Jan — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected sanitation task, proper flow of water at drains, prevention against dengue hemorrhagic fever and dysentery in Yangon City this morning.

They looked into sanitation tasks and prevention against DHF in Ahlon and Thingangyun Townships.

While in Ahlon Township, they heard reports on prevention



Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspect the sanitation tasks in Ahlon Township. — MNA

against DHF and dysentery in division, districts and townships and sanitation for proper flow of water at drains by offi-

cials.

In Thingangyun Township, they viewed sanitation and prevention of DHF and dysentery

being carried out by YCDC workers and local people along Kamakyi Road.

MNA

Commander, Minister look into regional development tasks in Taninthayi Div

YANGON, 28 Jan — Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Khin Zaw Oo and Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein arrived at 350-ton Cold Storage and Fish Meat Plant of Kyaw Kyaw Phyo Co Ltd in Kyunsu Township, Myeik District in Taninthayi Division on 27 January.

First, the commander and the minister inspected production process of fish meat, packing and preparedness of fish and prawn. At the briefing hall of the plant, chairman of Kyaw Kyaw Phyo Co Ltd U Kyaw Maung briefed the commander and the minister on capacity of the plant and production. Next, the commander and the minister gave supplementary instructions.

Afterwards, the commander, the minister and party met with fishing entrepreneurs and cold storage owners and department officials at Taninthayi Division Fisheries Department. During the meeting, discussions were held for the preservation of water resources, hunting for foreign markets to export quality marine products. Next, Head of Taninthayi Division Fisheries Department U Myo Aung and Director-General of Fisheries Department U Than Tun gave supplementary reports. After awards, the commander and the minister made arrangements to fulfill the requirements.

Upon arrival at giant sea perch breeding camp of United Myeik Company, chairman of the company U Khin Maung Kyaw briefed the commander and party on breeding of the giant sea perch in Kyaukphyar River.

During the meeting with executives of division,

district and township Union Solidarity and Development Associations, Patron of Taninthayi Division USDA Commander Brig-Gen Khin Zaw Oo and CEC Member of USDA Taninthayi Division In-Charge Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein called on them to beef up rural development tasks, education and health care services.

In connection with the reports, the commander and party attended to the needs.

The following day, the commander and party met with members of Taninthayi Division War Veterans Organization and organizers of division and district WVOs. They held discussions on participation in the rural development tasks and assistance to be provided for family members of war veterans in the health, education and economic fields. — MNA

Dry Day inspection teams supervised

YANGON, 28 Jan — Chairman of Dry Day Supervisory Committee Commander Yangon Station Brig-Gen Myint Soe and members together with departmental heads supervised dry day inspection teams checking vehicles of Tatmadaw and departments at the main points of Yangon in the morning and in the evening.

The dry day inspection teams checked dry day pass, driver's license, wheel tax and wearing of uniforms at the main points of Yangon from 7 am to 5 pm. They took actions against those who violated the traffic rules. — MNA

Russia slams US sanctions against arms firms

Moscow, 27 Jan — Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Friday that US sanctions against Russian arms firms for weapons sales to Iran were unfounded, *Interfax* news agency reported.

Lavrov, speaking in the Far Eastern city of Vladivostok, said Russia's delivery of TOR-M1 anti-aircraft

missile systems to Iran had breached no international laws and that Moscow had asked for an explanation from Washington.

"These are defensive, normal weapons not nuclear (weapons)," *Interfax* reported Lavrov as saying. "We expressed bewilderment at the sanctions that were imposed as they were unfounded and we have asked for an explanation."

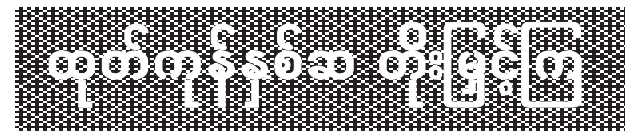
Senior Russian officials said this month that Russia had delivered the missile systems to Iran, drawing criticism from Washington, which said it was disappointed that Moscow

had gone ahead with the deal.

Under President Vladimir Putin, Russian arms firms have aggressively pushed arms sales abroad as the Kremlin seeks to reassert its role as a global power in the Middle East, Asia and Latin America.

Washington imposed sanctions last year on Russian arms companies — including Russia's state weapons seller Rosoboronexport — because of sales to Iran and Syria.

MNA/Reuters



A job seeker checks information at a job fair in Beijing on 27 Jan, 2007. —INTERNET



Thousands of anti-war protesters rally in front of the US Capitol building (rear) during a large peace protest in Washington, on 27 Jan, 2007. INTERNET

US Army describes Iraq abductions

BAGHDAD, 27 Jan — The US military in Iraq has given new details of an attack last week in which five US soldiers were killed.

Four of them were abducted by militants posing as an American security team.

They travelled in the kind of vehicles often used for US government convoys, wore US-style uniforms and carried US-style weapons. Initially the military said all five soldiers were killed repelling an attack on an Iraqi government compound in the Shia holy city of Karbala.

According to the new account, US military officers were attending a meeting in the compound when the convoy of at least five sport utility vehicles impersonating Americans

entered and killed one US soldier. There was a series of explosions and in the melee, the attackers then set off again with four captured US soldiers.

They drove into a neighbouring province and then abandoned the SUVs.

Iraqi police, by now in pursuit, found the vehicles.

Two US soldiers were found handcuffed together in one of the SUVs, shot dead. A third American soldier lay dead on the

ground. The fourth was still alive despite a gunshot wound to the head but died shortly afterwards.

Such a brazen attack is believed to be unprecedented, and the US military say the militants bypassed Iraqi police to reach their goal. The Americans say they are not only trying to determine who carried out the attack but also the reason for the breakdown in security at the government compound. —INTERNET

Demonstrators wave signs during an anti-war demonstration on the National Mall in Washington, DC, on 27 Jan, 2007. Actress Jane Fonda took the stage at her first anti-war demonstration since Vietnam as tens of thousands demanded that Congress cut off funds for the Iraq war. —INTERNET

At least seven US soldiers killed

BAGHDAD, 28 Jan — At least seven US soldiers were killed in separate combat incidents, the US military said Saturday, amid a steady swirl of violence against American troops and Iraqi civilians.

Nationwide, at least 60 more Iraqis were killed or found dead Saturday as US and Iraqi officials struggle to calm sectarian passions and reduce the American troop presence. Three US soldiers were killed north of Baghdad on Saturday when an improvised explosive device detonated near an Army vehicle conducting a security escort mission. One other soldier was wounded in the attack.

The US military disclosed no further details about the attack, but a farmer in

the Tarmiya region north of Baghdad described an incident in which a roadside bomb struck a U.S. Humvee, destroying the vehicle and setting it ablaze.

Two of the soldiers were killed Friday in separate bomb attacks northeast of the capital in Diyala province. One was assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division. Another was killed in an attack that injured three others, the military said.

Another two were killed in eastern Baghdad on Thursday in a bomb attack on a combat patrol that also left two soldiers wounded. The deaths brought the total number of US military personnel killed in Iraq to 3,075, according to the Web site icasualties.org.

INTERNET

Mass US protest against Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 27 Jan — Tens of thousands of protesters have demonstrated in Washington to demand the withdrawal of US troops from Iraq. The rally comes days before Congress is to discuss President George W Bush's new strategy for Iraq — including the despatch of 21,500 additional troops.

The protesters, chanting "Bring the troops home", were joined by Vietnam War-era protester, actress Jane Fonda. Violence continued in Iraq on Saturday, with at least 15 killed in a suicide bomb attack in a Baghdad market. The BBC's James Coomarasamy in Washington says this anti-war rally at the foot of the US Capitol was a marked shift away from the White House and on to Congress. The protesters want Congress, now run by the Democrats, to block funding for the president's new strategy, our correspondent says. —INTERNET



China, Japan start 7th round of strategic dialogue in Beijing

BEIJING, 27 Jan — The vice-foreign ministers for China and Japan smiled and traded jokes prior to the start on Thursday of

the 7th round of strategic dialogue — a sure sign of warming relations between the two countries. Chinese Vice-Foreign

Minister Dai Bingguo and Japanese Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Yachi Shotaro head the two delegations at the three-day meeting. “As participants in the dialogue, both of us are happy about the positive changes in bilateral ties,” Dai told Shotaro before their closed door meetings began.

Echoing Dai’s views, Shotaro joked that it was the first time that he smiled while talking with Chinese officials at the strategic dialogue. The first round of the strategic dialogue was held in Beijing in May 2005.—MNA/Xinhua



A family enjoys a picnic under plum blossoms in Odawara Castle Park in Odawara, Kanagawa Prefecture, southwest of Tokyo, on Saturday, 27 Jan, 2007. —INTERNET

Afghanistan’s Karzai becomes first-time dad

KABUL, 27 Jan—Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai has become a father for the first time at the age of 49, palace officials said on Friday.

Karzai’s wife, Zeenat, who he married in 1999 in

exile in Pakistan, gave birth to their son on Thursday night in a Kabul hospital.

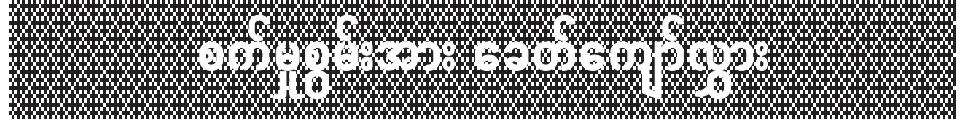
“The baby is named as Mirwais, after an old hero of Afghanistan,” Karzai spokesman Karim Rahimi

said. “The President is very happy.” Officials said mother and son were healthy. Zeenat Karzai was working as a doctor with Afghan refugees in Pakistan when the couple married. She rarely appears in public or at official functions because of conservative Afghan Islamic tradition.

MNA/Reuters

Thousands march and rally against the Iraq war in downtown Los Angeles on 27 Jan, 2007. The march was one of several held around the United States, with protesters demanding that the government bring home US troops in Iraq.

INTERNET



The 31 March 1835 issue is opened with the last printed one of the world’s oldest newspaper, Sweden’s Post och Inrikes Tidningar, founded in 1645 by Queen Christina, are displayed in Stockholm. The paper has now entered the digital age by ending its run as a print publication and opting to be published exclusively on the Internet.—XINHUA

Two Americans slain in Nairobi

NAIROBI, 27 Jan —Two Americans, including an elderly woman, were shot to death Saturday by heavily armed carjackers in Nairobi, Kenya’s capital, according to US and Kenyan officials.

The two victims were relatives of a US Embassy employee and were traveling in an embassy car along with three other Americans when a truck suddenly swerved in front of them and cut off the road, Kenyan police officials said.

Four men jumped out with Kalashnikov assault rifles and ordered all the passengers out of their car.

“Apparently, the driver and an elderly woman sitting in front did not move fast enough,” said Gideon Kibunjah, a police spokesman. “So the bandits shot them.”

The attack happened around 3 pm on a busy highway, and police officials said one by stander was injured.

The gunmen escaped in their truck along with the

US Embassy car, a Toyota Landcruiser marked with diplomatic plates.

US diplomats in Kenya said the two victims, both women, were dependents of an embassy employee. Nairobi has been plagued by violent crime, and US officials said Saturday that they did not believe the attack was related to terrorism or otherwise targeted.—Internet

First Thai observation satellite to be orbited in October

BANGKOK, 27 Jan — Thailand is doing the final preparations for the launch of its first earth observation satellite called THEOS into orbit in October, Thai Science and Technology Minister Yongyuth Yuthavong said Friday.

The THEOS project is expected to be completed in August or September and be launched into orbit in October as scheduled, the minister was quoted by Thai News Agency as saying.

The French company EADS Astrium, a leading European satellite producer, was contracted by the Geo-Informatics and

Space Technology Development Agency (GISTDA) under Thai Ministry of Science and Technology in 2004 to build

and deliver THEOS. Thai engineers working for the project have been trained in France.

MNA/Xinhua



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.—XINHUA



A maritime boat patrols as Sutong Bridge is under construction in east China's Jiangsu Province on 26 Jan, 2007. Sutong Bridge links Suzhou and Nantong in Jiangsu Province, with a main span of 1,088 metres (3,570 ft). —INTERNET

Indonesia seeks to enhance economic ties with Laos

JAKARTA, 27 Jan— The Indonesian Government said Friday concrete actions were needed to enhance economic cooperation with South-east Asian neighbour Laos, to which the bilateral trade volume averages a mere 12 million US dollars a year.

“By contrast, the bilateral volume between Laos and other countries in ASEAN (the Association of South-East Asian Nations) reaches

550 million dollars a year,” presidential spokesman Dino Patti Djalal told reporters here.

Dino made the remarks after a meeting between President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and visiting Laotian Prime Minister Bouasone Bouphavanh.

“The President called on

the joint commission between Indonesia and Laos to define concrete programmes to enhance cooperation in the areas of economics, investment and trade,” he said. Dino said both countries marked the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relationship in 2007. — MNA/Xinhua

Japan confirms fresh H5 bird flu outbreak

TOKYO, 27 Jan—Japan on Thursday confirmed another case of H5 bird flu at a poultry farm in the southwestern prefecture of Miyazaki, a farm ministry official said.

Further tests were needed to confirm if the virus was H5N1, she added.

Tests had so far confirmed the presence of H5 subtype influenza at the farm, where more than 1,300 birds had died as of Wednesday.

Earlier this month, Japan suffered its first outbreak of H5N1 bird flu in poultry in more than three years.

No cases of human infection have been reported.

The Agriculture Ministry said in a statement that it had ordered poultry at the farm to be killed and the site to be disinfected. Movement of people and goods within a 10-kilometre (six-mile) radius of the farm was to be restricted, it added. — MNA/Reuters

Over 1 b mobile phones sold globally in 2006

PARIS, 27 Jan— More than one billion mobile phone handsets were sold around the world in 2006, an increase of 25

per cent on sales recorded a year earlier, according to a study published on Thursday in Paris by research company

Strategic Analytics.

The Finnish manufacturer Nokia maintained its leading position with a 34.1 per cent market share compared to 32.4 in 2005.

The second position is held by the American company Motorola which also improved its performance with 21.3 per cent market share in 2006

compared to 17.9 per cent in 2005.

These two companies sold 347.5 million and 217.4 million handsets respectively in 2006.

The study forecasts a growth of 12 per cent in sales for 2007 thus establishing a new record of 1.14 billion units in mobile handsets sales.

MNA/Xinhua

Navy copter crash in Pacific kills at least one

SAN DIEGO, 26 Jan— A US Navy helicopter crashed Friday near San Clemente Island in the Pacific Ocean, killing at least one of the four people aboard, a Navy spokesman told CNN.

Cmdr Jack Hanzlik said the MH60 Sierra Seahawk helicopter was conducting a routine training mission off the USS Bonhomme Richard with four aboard. It crashed at 2:30 pm (5:30 ET).

Search and rescue efforts are under way for the other three, he said.

He said the cruiser USS Chosin and destroyer USS Chung-Hoon were participating in the exercise and the rescue effort. The Coast Guard is also assisting in the rescue effort.

No other aircraft were involved in the mishap, Hanzlik said.

The Bonhomme Richard is a multipurpose amphibious assault ship whose primary purpose is to deploy Marine landing forces, according to a Navy Web site.

Hanzlik said the names of the crew members are being withheld pending notification of next of kin. The incident is under investigation.—Internet



An MH 60 Sierra Seahawk helicopter similar to it crashed off southern California on Friday with four aboard.—INTERNET

Eighteen hurt in psychiatric ward fire in Finland

HELSINKI, 27 Jan— Eighteen people were hurt, four seriously, when a fire broke out in a psychiatric ward in southwestern Finland on Thursday night, officials said on Friday.

The fire started in a clothing rack in the hospital in Nokia, 190 kilometres (120 miles) northwest of Helsinki, but its cause was still unknown, officials said.

“The hospital staff evacuated more than 10 patients, but conditions soon became unbearable,” fire chief Seppo Mannikko told Reuters, adding that rescue workers had to

save the others.

Seventeen patients and a member of staff were treated in nearby hospitals. Four suffered lung damage from inhaling smoke.

Hospital spokeswoman Leena Kuupakko there were 18 patients and three staff in the ward when the fire broke out.

MNA/Reuters



Actor Leonardo DiCaprio of the US poses for photographers during the premiere of his movie "Blood Diamond" in Madrid on 26 Jan, 2007.—XINHUA

Models display jewellery of Cartier High Jewellery during a private gala dinner in Shanghai on 26 Jan, 2007.

INTERNET



At 114, US woman becomes world's oldest person

BOSTON, 27 Jan — A Connecticut woman born to former slaves in the decades following the US Civil War has become the world's oldest person, at 114, according to *GuinnessWorld Records*.

Emma Faust Tillman, born near Greensboro, North Carolina, on November 22, 1892, became the world's oldest person on Wednesday, following the death of Emiliano Mercado del Toro, of Puerto Rico, *Guinness* said on its website.

Longevity is common in Tillman's family. Though none of her 23 siblings have matched her 114 years, three sisters and a brother lived past 100, her great-nephew John Stewart Jr, said on Thursday. — *MNA/Reuters*



Jia Qinglin (R), member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, awards a prize to one of the representatives of advanced individuals and collectives during a work conference on aid on Tibetan education, in Beijing, capital of China, on 26 Jan, 2007.—XINHUA



Thousands of anti-war protesters march up Constitution Avenue during a large peace protest in Washington, on 27 Jan, 2007.—INTERNET

Plane crashes into truck in France, killing driver

PARIS, 27 Jan — A passenger plane carrying 54 people crashed into a small truck in the south of France on Thursday, killing the driver, the transport ministry said.

The incident happened at the Pau-Pyrenees Airport after a bird flew into the

Regional Airlines plane's engine as it was taking off, forcing it to make an emergency landing.

The 50 passengers and four cabin staff on the *Fokker 100* were not injured and were evacuated from the plane, which was flying for Air France between Pau and Paris' Roissy Airport.

"The aircraft, which was taking off, had to carry out an emergency landing next to the runway after a

bird flew into one of the engines," a statement from the ministry said.

The plane then hit the public works truck travelling on a road around the airport and the driver died in the accident, it said. In a separate statement, Regional Airlines said a second person was in the vehicle and was injured.

The plane came to a stop several hundred metres later.

MNA/Reuters

Americans drive less because of rising gasoline prices

LOS ANGELES, 27 Jan — Auto-crazed Americans drive less these days as a result of record-high gasoline prices in the past two years, it was reported Thursday.

It was the first time that Americans cut miles driven since 1980, said the *Los Angeles Times*.

"Two years of record-high gasoline prices have forced auto-crazed Americans to do something they haven't done in more than two decades: drive less," said the report.

To the surprise of many economists, US motorists changed their ways enough to cut the nation's per-driver mileage by 0.4 per cent in 2005, ending a

string of increases dating back to 1980, the paper quoted government data as saying.

Other reports over the last year on mass transit ridership, total miles driven nationwide, gasoline demand, vehicle sales and retail and restaurant spending reinforce the notion that US drivers made significant — and in some cases, lasting — adjustments to offset steadily rising gasoline prices, said the paper.

"It's a small but important shift for a nation that many believed was impervious to rising gas prices because drivers were unable or unwilling to rein in their gas-guzzling ways," said the paper.

Lofty energy costs have generated such concern that President George W Bush devoted a significant chunk of his last two State of the Union speeches to addressing the nation's oil addiction.

MNA/Xinhua

Health Dept warns of water borne illness

SYDNEY, 26 Jan — With hot weather forecast for the long weekend, the Department of Health

warns there is an increased risk of catching amoebic meningitis.

The department's Llew Withers says amoeba grow in pools, lakes and dams when temperatures reach 27 degrees for three days.

He says it is a rare and potentially fatal disease, but it can be prevented.

"You should be testing your pool twice a day, if you're using a wading pool you should tip that out after every use as it's the only really sure way to ensure that you're not going to attract it and if you're using a spa you should ensure your pool is properly chlorinated ... at all times," he said.

Internet

Huge python makes a meal of 11 Malaysian guard dogs

KUALA LUMPUR, 27 Jan — Guard dogs protecting a fruit orchard in Malaysia have met their match — a 7.1-metre-long (23-foot-long) python that swallowed at least 11 hounds before it was finally discovered by villagers.

"I was shocked to see such a huge python," orchard-keeper Ali Yusof told the *New Straits Times* in an article published beneath a picture of the captured snake, which was almost long enough to span the width of a tennis court and as thick as a tree trunk.

MNA/Reuters



Three destroyed buses are seen in front of the government palace as part of a performance by the street theatre company "Royal de Luxe" in Santiago, on 25 Jan, 2007.—XINHUA

Global immunization initiative avoids 2.3 m deaths

DAVOS (Switzerland), 28 Jan — A global immunization initiative has saved the lives of nearly 2.3 million children in poor countries in the past seven years, according to new data released by the World Health Organization (WHO) on Friday.

The GAVI Alliance initiative, launched in 2000, is a global partnership aimed at increasing access to children's vaccines. It includes the WHO, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Bank, certain research and technical agencies, as well as NGOs.

In 2006 alone, some 600,000 children's lives in developing countries may have been saved due to immunization programmes funded by GAVI, according to the

WHO data, which were released at the ongoing World Economic Forum annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland.

Bill and Melinda Gates, who co-chair the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation that funds the initiative, called the new data a highly encouraging sign of progress in global health. "GAVI has demonstrated that with the right resources and leadership, it is possible to make dramatic health gains in poor countries," Bill Gates, also chairman and founder of Microsoft

Corporation, told reporters at a Press conference.

"We need to build on this success. No child should be denied access to lifesaving immunizations," said Gates, a frequent guest at the World Economic Forum meeting in Davos. The Gates Foundation has up to now committed a total of 1.5 billion US dollars to support GAVI's immunization programmes. GAVI has also received funding from 17 donor governments.

MNA/Xinhua



A car heads along the road covered with snow during a snowfall, 400 km (249 miles) south-east from the capital Kiev, on 26 Jan, 2007.—INTERNET

Queen of Jordan named UNICEF's eminent advocate for children

DAVOS (Switzerland), 28 Jan— Queen of Jordan, Rania al-Abdullah, was named on Friday by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) as its first eminent advocate for children, said the fund.

"Her Majesty Queen Rania has been a tireless champion for children," said UNICEF Executive Director Ann M Veneman, who signed an agreement with the Queen at Davos on the sidelines of the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum.

Queen Rania will work together with UNICEF and other

partners to mobilize resources and develop policy to improve the lives of children, said UNICEF in a statement.

"For the millions of children whose voices are not being heard, let us commit to take a stand, and take a step, and make real strides for child survival and education," said Queen Rania.

"I am convinced

that transformational change is just the sum of many small steps — footprints marking a path ahead where none existed before."

Queen Rania is an active supporter of UNICEF and its programmes in Jordan, in the Arab world and globally, said UNICEF.

MNA/Xinhua



Passengers line up as they wait to board a train at a railway station in Nanjing, east China's Jiangsu Province on 27 Jan, 2007. The country's railway system is expected to carry more than 150 million passengers around the Lunar New Year's Day, which falls on 18 February this year, Xinhua News Agency reported.—INTERNET

Rocket blast shakes US Embassy in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 28 Jan— A rocket was fired into the international Green Zone in Baghdad on Saturday and a witness said it appeared to have landed in the US Embassy grounds.

US Embassy spokesman Lou Fintor said a rocket landed in a sparsely populated area of the Green Zone and that

two people were slightly wounded. He said he could not confirm that it landed within the US Embassy compound.

"The Embassy is functioning normally," he said, adding that the two injured were not embassy staff.

Loudspeaker warnings urged people to take cover. "This is not a drill," the witness said.

The witness who was inside the US Embassy, a large complex within the Green Zone centred around one of Saddam Hussein's former palaces, had no details on whether there were casualties.

The US military had no immediate information.

Several people in the Green Zone said they had heard what may have been a mortar or rocket go past, but could not say where it landed.

MNA/Reuters

American Air jet makes emergency Caracas landing

CARACAS, 28 Jan —An American Airlines plane made an emergency landing in Caracas on Friday after an electrical fire during a flight from Miami to Brazil, an official at the Venezuelan National Institute of Civil Aviation said.

None of the 245 passengers on board the Boeing 777 was injured, said American Airlines spokesman John Hotard.

The passengers are being flown back to Miami, where they will board another plane that will take them to Sao Paulo, the flight's destination.

"All things considered, it was faster to get them back to Miami and then down," said Hotard, citing regulations that place limits on flight crews' working hours.

The diversion to Caracas was likely caused by an electrical short in the captain's audio panel, said Hotard. The plane will later return to Miami. — MNA/Reuters



More than 20 babies of one to three months old participate in a baby swimming contest in the Fourth Hospital of Xi'an, capital of northwest China's Shaanxi Province, on 26 Jan, 2007. The amusing contest has attracted lots of audiences.—XINHUA

Considering transport sector needs priority, ...

(from page 1)

through many plains, valleys, hills, mountain ranges and slopes alongside the Chindwin River, the Myittha River, the Manipura River and many creeks and streams. So, the employees had to grapple with many technological challenges in order to complete the project.

For ensuring completion of the project, the technological performances were reinforced by the labour of Tatmadaw members and participation of local people.

Owing to the combined efforts, Pakokku-Monywa, Pakokku-Myaing-Myosoe, Myosoe-Zeebya, Kalay-Natchaung and Natchaung-Gangaw sections have been inaugurated from 1993 to 1997.

Thanks to the completion of the tunnel in Ponnyataung Section, Kyaw and Yaymyetni Railroad Sections with a mountain range between them have been linked. With the length of more than one mile, Ponnyataung Railroad Tunnel is the longest of its kind in Myanmar. Fault line made it difficult to complete the construction of the tunnel, but humans conquer the nature after all.

The successful completion of the project has depicted the victory of the



Prime Minister General Soe Win unveils the stone inscription of Ponnyataung Tunnel.—MNA

people as well as skills and hard work of the employees of the Myanmar Railways.

Considering that the transport sector needs priority, the government has poured huge investments into the construction of roads and bridges until they form themselves into a transportation network for helping build socio-economic infrastructures and social infrastructure to enhance friendship among national brethren.

Roads and bridges serve as the most fundamental infrastructure, so the entire nation has seen a large number of road and bridge projects in more than a decade. The government placed emphasis on smooth transportation for improvement of trade, boosting production of commodities, and socio-economic development.

Now, Union highways, roads for development affairs, roads linking states and divisions, town-to-town roads, town-to-village roads, village-to-village roads and

roads for border areas development have been constructed everywhere necessary. **The total length of the nation's roads has increased from over 21,000 miles in 1988 to over 64,000 miles now.**

the bridges crossing on the Ayeyawady River, the Chindwin River and the Thanlwin River stood at five in 1988, and 15 more such bridges have been built so far.

The drive for socio-

cum-bridges, 180 feet or above long, including 20 river-crossing bridges and 34 rail-cum-bridges.

Simultaneously, it is constructing more railroads in the states and divisions where there has

NyaungU, Myingyan and Mandalay through Pyay-Aunglan-Taungwingyi Railroad that passes Ale Yoma mountain range; to Yangon-Mawlamyine-Ye-Dawei Railroad that links four states and divi-



Prime Minister General Soe Win and staff of Myanmar Railway pose for a documentary photo in front of Ponnyataung Tunnel.—MNA

A number of river or creek-spanning bridges had to be constructed to complete roads and railroads. The number of

economic development rests on smooth transportation. **Up to now, the government has constructed 220 motorway-**

not been a single railroad. So, in the nation, there have emerged several railroads that lead to Yangon and Bagan-

sions; to Shwenyaung-Taunggyi-Namhsan Railroad that passes Shan Yoma mountain range; (See page 9)



Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min cut the ribbon to open Kyaw-Yaymyetni Railroad Section.—MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min cut the ribbon to open Ponnyataung Tunnel.—MNA

Considering transport sector needs priority, ...

(from page 8)

and to Gangaw-Kalay that passes Pondaung Ponnya mountain range through ChaungU-Pakokku-Kyaw.

Now, Pathein-Hinthada-Kyangin Railroad is being extended to

banks of these rivers.

He said the ChaungU-Pakokku-Gangaw-Kalay Railroad links both Chin State, Kabaw Valley and border areas. It can be called border areas development road or rural development road that

built. The transport can uplift economic progress and living standard of the people, he said.

In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, new railroads were built and the old ones were upgraded and coaches and



Prime Minister General Soe Win converses with the local people. —MNA

Padaung on the west bank of the Ayeyawady River in Pyay and then to Pakokku. Therefore, a railroad that links the southern part and the northern part of Myanmar along the west bank of the Ayeyawady River.

contributes towards the all-round development of the regions.

He said the railroad leading to Kalay from Pathein is a significant one if it links the 300-mile Kyangin-Pakokku Railroad under con-

wagons were repaired for better rail transportation.

In 1988 there were 1976 miles of railroads. Now there are over 3,100 miles of railroads.

He said the main objective of the government is to ensure

Non-Aligned Movement with 118 member countries opposes peculiar acts of US, Britain trying to use UN as tool

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Jan— Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), on 19 January 2007, opposed the peculiar action of the United States of America and Britain who submitted the draft resolution to the United Nations Security Council in order to meddle in Myanmar's internal affairs. NAM comprises 118 member countries. — MNA

foundations are needed for building a new nation. It is important that high education foundation can promote one's character and reasoning power, he said.

He spoke at length on opening of colleges and universities, priority given on boosting production of agriculture sector and livestock breeding and industrial sector.

He urged the local people to grow physic nut from which bio-diesel can be extracted. Cultivation of physic nut can create mechanized farming in agricultural sector and contribute

toward the rural welfare service, he said.

He pointed out that the government is making efforts for development based on the strength of the people on its own way.

If a country depends on only foreign countries without its own policy, way and strength, it will surely become a satellite country of others, he warned.

In conclusion, he said it is the noble duty of the citizens to make efforts to enable Myanmar to stand tall in the world. It is a patriotic duty that safeguards the nation and its people. Every citizen

must perform his or her own duty and build the nation to be peaceful, modern developed discipline-flourishing democratic one.

He thanked those who participated in the construction of the railroad. Chairman of Sagaing Division PDC Com-mander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye spoke on the occasion.

He said that local people will have easy access to Kalay of Sagaing from Pakokku of Magway thanks to opening of Kyaw-Yaymyetnirailroad (See page 10)



Prime Minister General Soe Win waves at the passengers. — MNA

The railroad lies along the west bank of the Ayeyawady River and the Chindwin River in the northwestern part of the nation. The regions on the western banks of the rivers have a lot of rivers and creeks and mountain ranges and difficult access. So, the region lagged behind in development if compared with the regions on the east banks of the rivers.

That is why the Tatmadaw Government is building many railroads and roads on the west

struction.

It will also become a strategic road not only for the State but for the development of the west bank of the Ayeyawady River, he added.

He said the Head of State stressed the importance of transport. The Prime Minister quoted the Head of State as saying that the west bank of the Ayeyawady River and the east bank are to be linked. Roads and railroads, the basic infrastructures for national and regional development, are being

better transport in the Union, to narrow the development gap among the regions, to develop all the regions equally, to strengthen understanding among the national races and to gain economic progress.

He said positive results have been achieved due to the improved transport, stability, prevalence of law and order and consolidation of national solidarity in the country.

Better political, economic and social



Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min.—MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye.
MNA

Considering transport sector needs priority, ...

(from page 9)
 section. The railroad will contribute much to better transport and smooth flow of commodities and uplift of living standard of the local people. The Ministry of Rail Transportation had constructed ChaungU-Pakokku-Kyaw-Kalay railroad, Budalin-YeU-KhinU railroad and Mu River Bridge, Chindwin River Bridge (Hsinbyushin) and Myittha River Bridge. At present, Kyangin-Pakokku railroad is under construction. On completion, local people can travel to Pathein, Kyangin, Pakokku and Kalay by train. Later, the commander thanked employees of Myanmar Railways for their efforts in building the railroad and Ponnya Hill Tunnel.

accord with the guidance of the Head of State. Ponnya Hill is a barrier on the Pakokku-Gangaw-Kalay route. To be able to overcome the hurdles, construction of 5,610 feet long and 15 feet and four inches wide Ponnya Hill Tunnel commenced on 16 October 1996 and it was completed on 25 July 2006. The 19 feet and four inches high tunnel was built with RCC lining type. Due to completion of Kyaw-Yaymyetni railroad section, local people will have access to their destinations through Pakokku-Gangaw-Kalay Railroad.

He added that Myanmar Railways is providing better rail transportation facilities and building passenger and wagon coaches. **There were**



Prime Minister General Soe Win, staff of Myanmar Railway and guests pose for a documentary photo. —MNA

were 487 stations and 5,650 bridges before 1988. So far, the government constructed 311 more stations and 4,011 more bridges.

western part of Ayeyawady River lagged behind in development due to transport difficulties though there was no difference of

completion, local people can travel to Pathein, Kyangin, Pakokku and Kalay by train. The minister said that at present,

and party cordially greeted members of social organizations and local people.

Afterwards, Com-



Ponnyataung Tunnel. — MNA



Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min said that Kyaw-Yaymyetni railroad section was built for all-round development of western part of Chindwin River, Pon Hill, Ponnya Hill region and Myittha valley region in

1,976.35 miles of railroad before 1988. In the time of the Tatmadaw government, 1,142.44 miles of railroad including Kyaw-Yaymyetni railroad section have been extended. Likewise, there

Hence, a total of 9,661 small and major bridges have been constructed in the entire nation. **In addition, 229 trains ran daily in 1988. Today, the number of trains reaches up to 409.**

The Head of State had given guidance that the

natural resources between the western and the eastern parts of the river. To have equitable development of economic and social status of both banks of Ayeyawady River, it is necessary to build Kyangin-Pakokku Railroad. On

Kyangin-Okshinpin railroad section stretching 40.5 miles is under construction.

Next, U Than Win of Kyaw Village, on behalf of the locals, expressed gratitude.

The Prime Minister

mander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min formally opened the railroad section.

The Prime Minister and party posed for documentary photo with departmental heads and service personnel of Myanmar Railways.

Next, the commander and the minister cut the ribbon to put the Ponnya Hill Tunnel into service. Prime Minister General Soe Win unveiled the stone plaque.

In front of the tunnel, they had photo taken together with workers of Myanmar Railways.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party passed through the tunnel from Ponnya Hill Tunnel (East) Station to the (West) Station.

The special train left the Ponnya Hill Tunnel (West) Station for Yaymyetni Station. — MNA



Kyaw-Yaymyetni railroad section. —MNA

Perpetuation of the Union mainly...

(from page 16)

In his speech Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said preparations are being made after the formation of the management committee and related subcommittees to hold the 60th Anniversary Union Day on a grand scale. It has been about one month since preparations have been made to celebrate the Union Day in Nay Pyi Taw, which is a new place this year. Therefore, the management committee and subcommittees are required to present and discuss their preparations being made and future work and their requirements at the meeting. All national brethren have been residing together in the Union in unity and amity through thick and thin since yore. The perpetuation of the Union mainly rests on the Union Spirit. Therefore, national consolidation needs to be forged for ever so as to maintain the flourishing Union Spirit.

All the members of the management committee and subcommittees are to try to hold the Union Day

celebrations on a grand scale with a view to realizing the goal of maintaining the ever-flourishing Union Spirit.

Chairman of the Management Committee Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Brig-Gen Wai Lwin reported on matters related to the message for the 60th Anniversary Union Day, preparations for Union Day Flag Hoisting Ceremony and Parade, invitation to delegates, holding of dinner, and putting up of billboards.

Chairmen and responsible persons of subcommittees reported on preparations of their tasks.

Member of the Central Committee Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan submitted reports on broadcasting of songs honouring the Union Day and presentation of poems and articles, preparations for live telecast of the 60th Anniversary Union Day on MRTV and matters related to entertainment of cultural dances to the people after the Union Day ceremony.

Com-
mander
Brig-Gen
Wai
Lwin.
MNA



The commander and Secretary of the Management Committee U Myint Thein discussed financial matter.

After fulfilling the requirements, the Secretary-1 gave instructions on health, security, reception and expenditure, and the meeting came to an end.

MNA

UDNR trainees continue visit in Nay Pyi Taw, Meiktila Industrial Zone

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Jan — Trainees of BEd course No 38 of the University for Development of National Races led by Excursion Tour Management Committee Secretary Director-General U Hla Kyi of Civil Service Selection and Training Department, accompanied by Rector of UDNR U Zaw Min Thein and party, on 25 January viewed development of Nay Pyi Taw including buildings of ministries and other facilities.

On 26 January, they visited University of Agriculture, University of Forestry and Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam Project on Paunglaung Creek.

At the City Hall of Nay Pyi Taw, Joint-Secretary of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee U Than Shein explained matters related to organizational set up of the committee and Director Daw Le Le Lwin briefed them on construction of the City Hall and other buildings.

On 27 January, the trainees led by Pro-Rector (Academic) U Htay Lwin left Nay Pyi Taw for Meiktila Industrial Zone and went back to UDNR in Ywathitgyi of Sagaing.

While in Meiktila, the trainees were welcomed by Meiktila District Peace and Development Council U Myint Than. At Meiktila Industrial Zone, they viewed production process of factories.

The trainees arrived back at the university at 5:30 pm. They were welcomed back by Pro-Rector (Admin)



Chairman of CSSTB Dr Than Nyun extends greetings to the trainees of UDNR Course No 38 (BEd). — MNA

U Nyi Nyi San, faculty members and other trainees.

On 26 January afternoon, Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board Dr Than Nyun extended greetings to the trainees at the office of CSSTB in Nay Pyi Taw, and presented cash assistance to them.

Also present on the occasion were CSSTB members U Hla Myint Oo, U Win Aung, U Soe Oo and U

Kyaw Aung, Director-General U Hla Kyi of CSSTB, Rector of UNDR U Zaw Min Thein and officials.

The trainees presented a commemorative pennant to the CSSTB Chairman.

Later, the CSSTB Chairman and party posed for documentary photo with the faculty members of UDNR and the trainees. — MNA



Trainees of UDNR Course No 38 (BEd) visit Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam Project — MNA



Trainees of UDNR Course No 38 (BEd) visit Meiktila Industrial Zone.—MNA

ADVERTISEMENT

Malaysia to offer \$1m aid for Lebanon

KUALA LUMPUR, 27 Jan— Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said his country will provide one million US dollars in aid to help Lebanon in its reconstruction, the *Bernama* news agency reported on Friday.

Badawi said he would ask Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar to arrange for one million US dollars in Malaysia to help the war-torn country, according to the news agency.

The Prime Minister made the remarks on Thursday at a Press conference after delivering his speech at the plenary session of the World Economic Forum themed "Rules For A Global Neighbourhood in a Multicultural World" in Davos, Switzerland.

MNA/Xinhua

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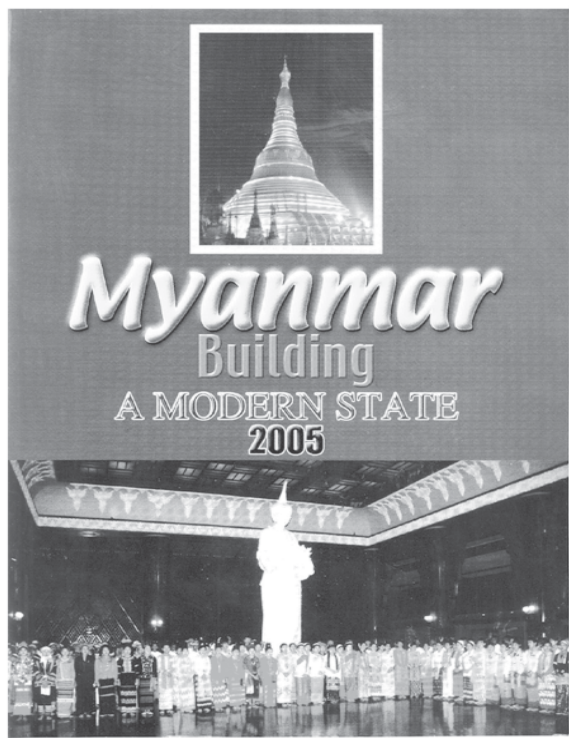
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Models wear creations by Belgian fashion designer Kris Van Assche for his autumn-winter 2007-2008 men's fashion collection presented in Paris, on 27 Jan, 2007.—INTERNET



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Top legislator says China needs harmonious world

DAVOS (Switzerland), 27 Jan— China needs a harmonious world so that it can have a favourable environment for development and at the same time bring benefits to people all over the world, said a top Chinese legislator on Thursday.

"My answer is simple: China needs a harmonious world... It means we want to make friends with all countries," Cheng Siwei, vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress, told a panel of the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum.

He said a harmonious world can be achieved if China and other countries try to seek common ground while shelving differences. Another panelist, a Singaporean academic, said China's international ambition is moderate.

"China, in a very profound way, is a 'status quo' power," said Kishore Mahbubani, Dean of Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. "It does not want to shake the world. It wants to work with the

world as it is." He explained that China has intentionally avoided playing a leading role in world affairs as its greater role is easily interpreted as a threat by the outside world.

"If China tries to exercise greater leadership in the world order, it will be seen as threatening (others)." Former US trade representative Robert Zoellick said China faces "staggering internal challenges" despite its tremendous achievements.

Therefore, the primary interest of the Chinese leadership is a benign

external environment so that they can focus on internal challenges, he explained.

"At the same time, China expects some additional respect and recognition of its interests." He said there is recognition in China that it needs a strategy for international integration.

China's goal is security stability, energy stability, and access to raw materials, markets, technology and know-how, argued Zoellick, who is now vice chairman of Goldman Sachs International.

Cheng said the outside world is getting incrementally less negative about China's rapid growth.

Five to 10 years ago, some people talked about China's collapse because they did not believe China could sustain its development; three to five years ago, some people talked about China threat because they were fearful of China's development; today people are talking about China's responsibility. This is progress in people's perspectives of China, he said.

MNA/Xinhua



Animal sculptures made of straws are displayed in a zoo in Moscow, on 19 Jan, 2007, attracting many tourists to appreciate their vivid figures.—INTERNET

Cambodia, Japan hold talks on investment treaty

PHNOM PENH, 27 Jan — Cambodian and Japanese government officials here on Friday held their first round of talks to hammer out a bilateral investment agreement which aims to pick up the latter's investment speed in the kingdom.

"We want Japanese investors to invest in the sectors of copy machines, television sets, spare parts for cars and others, which they have already invested in other Southeast Asia countries," said Sok Chenda, Secretary-General of the Council for Development of Cambodia.

Cambodia needs the investment from Japan to increase its employment and speed up the economic growth, said Chenda, adding that both prime ministers have been pushing the technical officials to reach the agreement as soon as possible. Currently, Japanese investors have over 20 projects like bank, hotel resort, mansion construction, trade company and island development in Cambodia, Chenda told reporters after Friday's talks were wrapped up in the Council of Ministers.—MNA/Xinhua

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွံ့ပြားတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဆွံ့



People watch a laser show illuminating the Alexandriyskaya column at Dvortsovaya square in central St Petersburg, on 27 Jan, 2007, commemorating the 63rd anniversary of the lifting of the Leningrad siege in World War Two. During the war, Leningrad suffered an 872-day siege by invading German armies where starvation killed 640,000 people and bombs killed 17,000.—INTERNET

Folic acid supplements “cut risk of cleft lip”

LONDON, 27 Jan — Women who take folic acid supplements in early pregnancy can reduce the risk of cleft lip in their baby by up to 40 per cent, researchers said on Friday.

Folic acid, a synthetic compound of a B vitamin found in green leafy vegetables, has been recommended to prevent neural tube disorders such as spina bifida. But its impact on cleft lip has been less clear.

“Folic acid supplements during early pregnancy seem to reduce the risk of isolated cleft lip (with or without cleft palate) by about a third,” said Allen Wilcox of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences in Durham, North Carolina.

Cleft lip or palate occurs when the tissues that form the palate, or roof of the mouth, and the upper lip do not join correctly.

Boys are more affected than girls and the disorder is also more common in

Asians. Surgery is often carried out to repair the condition.

In a study published online by the *British Medical Journal*, the scientists studied the effect of taking folic acid supplements in Norway, which has the highest rate of facial clefts in Europe.

They questioned the mothers of 573 children born in Norway with cleft lip or palate from 1996 to 2000 and 763 women with healthy children.

The mothers were asked whether they took folic acid supplements early in their pregnancy and how much. After adjusting for smoking

and other confounding factors, the researchers found that folic acid supplements reduced the risk of cleft lip by 40 per cent. Eating a diet rich in fruits and vegetables without taking folic acid supplements cut the risk by 25 per cent in the women. — MNA/Reuters



Astronaut Sheikh Muszaphar Shukor (R) and astronaut candidate Faiz Khaleed (L) of Malaysia take part in an emergency landing survival training near Star City outside Moscow on 27 Jan, 2007. —INTERNET

Exercise may relieve chronic prostatitis symptoms

NEW YORK, 27 Jan — Men who have chronic prostatitis or pelvic pain syndrome may derive significant relief from aerobic exercise, Italian researchers report.

Chronic inflammation of the prostate can lead to constant pain that is hard to treat. While it affects millions of men, the cause of so-called chronic prostatitis/chronic pelvic

pain syndrome is unclear. It is most common among men between the ages of 36 and 50. Symptoms include pelvic, testicular, penile, or rectal pain and inflammation. Frequent urination and sexual difficulties are also common symptoms.

Dr. Gianluca Giubilei, of Careggi Hospital in Florence, and colleagues note in *The Journal of*

Urology that these patients have a poor quality of life and most do not get significant long-term benefit from treatment.

To investigate the impact of aerobic exercise on patients with chronic prostatitis or pelvic pain syndrome, the researchers recruited 231 men between 20 and 50 years of age who were unresponsive to conventional treatment and able to take part in moderate-intensity physical exercise.

MNA/Reuters

Thai officials observe virus mutation in pigs

BANGKOK, 27 Jan — Thailand’s provincial public health officials have been alerted to keep a close watch on the possibility of the mutation of viruses in pigs following the deaths of two people from H3N2 human influenza.

Thawat Sunthrajarn, director-general of Disease Control Department, said on Friday that pigs have been proven to be capable of contracting bird flu virus known as H5N1 and H3N2 human flu virus without showing any symptoms. “This provides an ideal place for the two strains of virus to mix and mutate,” Thawat was quoted by the *Bangkok Post’s* website as saying.

The director-general noted that the most scary thing is that the mutation of the two strains of virus occurs in human bodies or other mammals. He said that in the past whenever there was a bird flu outbreak, health officials would take blood samples from mammals to test for bird flu virus.— MNA/Xinhua

Warming will raise seas for 1,000 years

OSLO, 27 Jan — World sea levels will keep rising for more than 1,000 years even if governments manage to slow a projected surge in temperatures this century blamed on greenhouse gases, a draft UN climate report says.

The study, by a panel of 2,500 scientists who advise the United Nations, also says that dust from volcanic eruptions and air pollution seems to have braked warming in recent decades by reflecting sunlight back into space,

scientific sources said.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) will publish its report, the most complete overview of climate change science, in Paris on 2 February after a final review. It will guide policy

makers combating global warming.

The draft projects more droughts, rains, shrinking Arctic ice and glaciers and rising sea levels to 2100 and cautions that the effects of a build-up of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere will last far longer. Still, the report has good news by quoting six models with central projections of sea level rises this century of between 28 and 43 centimetres (11 and 16.9 inches) — compared to a far wider band of 9 to 88 centimetres (3.5 to 34.6 inches) in a 2001 report, they said. Sea levels rose by 17 centimetres (6.7 inches) in the 20th century. Rising seas would threaten low-lying Pacific islands, coasts from Bangladesh to Florida and cities from Shanghai to Buenos Aires.— MNA/Reuters



Corn is the most often used to produce ethanol. Chemical Engineers of Carnegie Mellon University have devised a new process that can improve the efficiency of ethanol production, a major component in making biofuels, a significant part of the energy supply, the university announced on 26 Jan, 2007.—XINHUA

SPORTS



Tottenham Hotspurs' Lee Youg-Pyo (R) is challenged by Southend United's Jamal Campbell-Ryce during their FA Cup fourth round soccer match at White Hart Lane Stadium in London, on 27 Jan, 2007. —INTERNET

Real slip to first defeat against Villarreal

MADRID, 28 Jan— Real Madrid slumped to their third defeat in five games when they went down 1-0 at Villarreal in the Primera Liga on Saturday.

Villarreal, who had won once in their previous six outings, notched up their first ever victory against Real when 19-year-old midfielder Marcos clipped the ball home after a slick passing move midway through the second half.

Real, missing AC Milan-bound Ronaldo, David Beckham, the injured Raul and the out-of-favour Antonio Cassano, barely managed to threaten the Villarreal goal in a toothless performance at the Madrigal.

The result meant Fabio Capello's side remain in third place in the table, a point behind leaders Barcelona who host Celta Vigo on Sunday.

Despite the absence of out-of-favour playmaker Juan Roman Riquelme, who was looking on from the stands, Villarreal dominated against Real as they clipped the ball around the midfield and hit the visitors on the break.

They would have taken the lead on the half hour had it not been for some superb goalkeeping from Iker Casillas, who got a hand to a Diego Forlan shot, blocked a follow-up effort and closed down Matias Fernandez as he tried to blast the ball into the net.

MNA/Reuters

Answers to yesterday's Crossword Puzzle

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Rooney wins it for United, Bristol hold Boro

LONDON, 28 Jan— Wayne Rooney came off the bench to give Manchester United a 2-1 win over Portsmouth while Third Division Bristol City stormed back to draw 2-2 with Premier League Middlesbrough in the FA Cup fourth round on Saturday.

Rooney, who replaced Ole Gunnar Solskjaer on the hour mark, finished off a neat Ryan Giggs pass in the 77th minute and then chipped a spectacular second in the 83rd.

Portsmouth got an 87th minute consolation goal when a shot by Portuguese midfielder Pedro Mendes, who had earlier sparked controversy with a goalmouth clearance, took a deflection off substitute

striker Nwankwo Kanu and hit the net. Boro's draw, after leading 2-0 at halftime, was a rare surprise in Saturday's action.

Tottenham Hotspur, Blackburn Rovers, Fulham and Reading eased through after top-flight class proved too much for Second Division opponents, while Watford beat West Ham United 1-0 in the all-Premier League clash at Upton Park.

Spurs beat Southend 3-1, Matt Derbyshire scored two and made another as Blackburn Rovers trounced Luton Town 4-0, on-loan striker Vincenzo Montella engineered Fulham's 3-0 win over Stoke City and Read-

ing were 3-2 winners at Birmingham City.

The controversy was sparked at Old Trafford in the 12th minute when a header by United's Serbian defender Nemanja

Vidic seemed to cross the line before being hooked back out by Mendes.

The irony of the clearance will not have been lost on United fans.

MNA/Reuters



Manchester United's Wayne Rooney (2nd R) scores his second goal during their FA Cup fourth round soccer match against Portsmouth in Manchester, northern England, on 27 Jan, 2007. —INTERNET

Rocchi packs a punch as Lazio floor Palermo

ROME, 28 Jan— Lazio climbed to fourth in Serie A after striker Tommaso Rocchi scored twice in a 3-0 victory at Palermo on Saturday. Rocchi was on target in the first half and with a 79th-minute penalty as Lazio took their tally to 30 points from 21 games, 24 behind leaders Inter Milan who visit Sampdoria on Sunday.

Defender Sebastiano Siviglia also netted early in the second half.

Palermo, third on 39 points, had only let in three league goals at the Barbera Stadium since mid-October but both sides went close to conceding in a lively opening half hour.

Home keeper Alberto Fontana denied Rocchi while, at the other end, former Italy international Angelo Peruzzi tipped David Michele's shot over the bar at full stretch.

Rocchi put the visitors ahead after 44 minutes, running on to Gabby Mudingayi's cut-back and rolling the ball over the line at the second attempt after Fontana parried his initial shot.

Mark Bresciano almost pulled the Sicilians level at the restart when he nodded narrowly wide.

Lazio, however, took control when Siviglia headed in a 52nd-minute free kick.

MNA/Reuters



Watford's Anthony McNamee scores against West Ham during the English FA Cup fourth round soccer match at Upton Park, London, on 27 Jan, 2007. —INTERNET

Jol rules out Mido sale

LONDON, 27 Jan— Tottenham boss Martin Jol has ruled out the possibility of selling Mido during the January transfer window. The powerful Egyptian has found first team openings difficult to come by this term and reports suggested Manchester City were readying a bid to test Tottenham's resolve to retain the services of the striker.

However, Dimitar Berbatov, the man who has dislodged Mido in the pecking order at Spurs, has picked up a groin injury and Jol has no intention of limiting his striking options yet further.



Hossam Ahmed Mido

"Mido is important because Berbatov is out," said Jol. "We are a club that keeps our best players." It is not yet clear how long Berbatov will be sidelined for, but it would appear that Mido, who scored during Saturday's win over Southend, has a role to play at White Hart Lane. —Internet

Beckham takes prince character in Disney role

WASHINGTON, 28 Jan— David Beckham plays a prince in a new Disney campaign, his first showpiece endorsement since announcing his move to Los Angeles.

Beckham was among the celebrities photographed in roles of Disney movie characters last month during a "Year of a Million Dreams" promotion for Walt Disney theme parks.

The international soccer star, marketing giant and fashion icon was photographed as the prince from "Sleeping Beauty", astride a white horse and fighting a fire-breathing dragon.

"There were many Disney characters I liked as a kid," Beckham said in a statement released by Disney on Friday. So to be part of that is an honour and very exciting." The photo, shot at a lake near Madrid by photographer Annie Leibovitz, will appear in magazines such as *Vanity Fair* and *Vogue* in March.

The 31-year-old midfielder with Real Madrid signed a recent five-year deal with the Los Angeles Galaxy of the MLS and will join the club this summer.

MNA/Xinhua

Tens of thousands demand US get out of Iraq

WASHINGTON, 28 Jan — Chanting “bring our troops home,” tens of thousands of anti-war protesters rallied in front of the US Capitol on Saturday to pressure the government to get out of Iraq.

Veterans and military families joined some lawmakers, peace groups and actors including Vietnam war protester Jane Fonda to urge Congress and President George W Bush to stop funding the war and pull troops from Iraq.

“When I served in the war, I thought I was serving honourably. Instead, I was sent to war ... for causes that have proved fraudulent,” said

Iraq war veteran Garrett Reppenhagen.

“We need to put pressure on our elected government and force them to ... bring the troops home,” the former sniper said to cheers from a sign-waving crowd.

Tens of thousands of people attended the rally on the National Mall, according to a park police officer.

For more than two hours, speakers atop a

stage that also held a flag-draped coffin criticized Bush and the US presence in Iraq before protesters marched around the Capitol.

In the crowd, a group of families of soldiers killed in Iraq held pictures of their loved ones, including one photo of a soldier in full dress uniform lying in a coffin.

More than 3,000 US troops and tens of thousands of Iraqis have been killed since the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

The protest was one of several held around the United States.

Protesters also planned coordinated efforts in Washington and across the country over the next week to lobby lawmakers to take action against the war.

Bush’s approval ratings have dropped to some of the weakest of his presidency and polls show a majority of Americans disapprove of his plan to send another 21,500 troops to Iraq.

But Bush said he has no intention of backing off his plan.

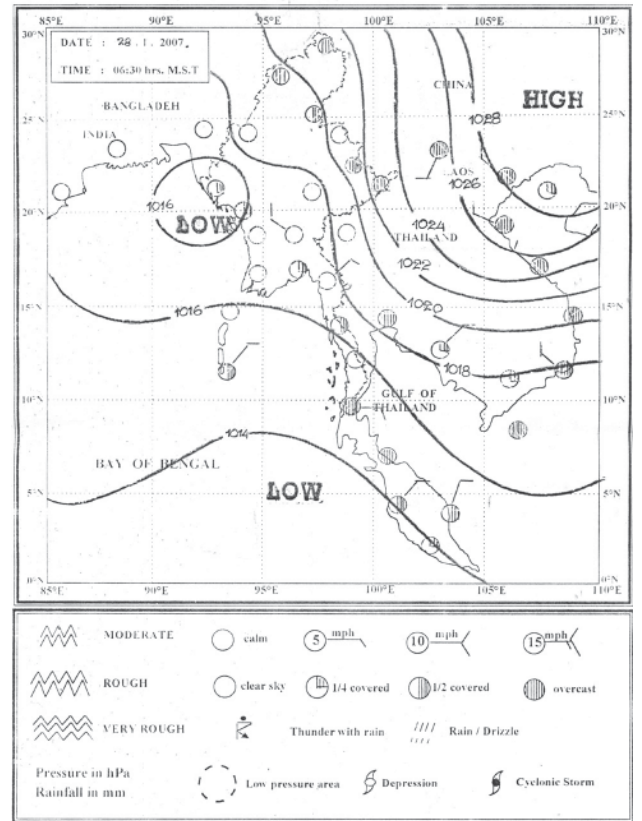
Asked about the

protests, White House national security adviser spokesman Gordon Johndroe said Bush “understands that Americans want to see a conclusion to the war in Iraq and the new strategy is designed to do just that.”

The demonstrations come amid growing efforts by lawmakers to protest Bush’s plans in Iraq. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee passed a resolution on Wednesday opposing the plan to send more troops.

MNA/Reuters

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Sunday, 28 January, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain has been isolated in Shan State and weather has been generally fair in the remaining states and divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing and Magway Divisions, (3°C) above normal in Mon State, (5°C) above normal in Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (3°C), Pinlaung and Heho (4°C) each. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Kengtung (0.16) inch.

Maximum temperature on 27-1-2007 was 96°F. Minimum temperature on 28-1-2007 was 66°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 28-1-2007 was 70%. Total sunshine hours on 27-1-2007 was (8.5) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 28-1-2007 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 (4) mph from West at (16:30) hours MST on 27-1-2007.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 29-1-2007: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, Chin and Shan States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas.

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 29-1-2007: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 29-1-2007: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 29-1-2007: Fair weather.

သစ်တောရေးရာဝန်ကြီးဌာန

သစ်တောဦးစီးဌာန

တိရစ္ဆာန်ဥယျာဉ် (ရန်ကုန်)

(၁၀၁) နှစ်မြောက်မွေးနေ့

(၆-၂-၂၀၀၇) ရက်နေ့မှ

(၁၀-၂-၂၀၀၇) ထိ

ကျင်းပမည်။



Monday, 29 January

Tune in today

8:30 am Brief news

8:35 am Music:

-Good feeling

8:40 am Perspectives

8:45 am Music:

-Tell me how to make you smile

8:50 am National news/Slogan

9:00 am Music:

-La di di la di da

9:05 am International news

9:10 am Music:

-Come on come on

1:30 pm News / Slogan

1:40 pm Lunch time music:

-Angle of your heart

-Come into my life

-I specialize in love

-Life time affair

9:00 pm Spotlight on the star: A Teen

-Falling in love

-Cross my heart

-Let your heart do all the talking

9:10 pm Article

9:20 pm Drug/Women Affairs

9:35 pm Vocal gems

-With you I'm born again,

Walking in the air, Sara

9:45 pm News / Slogan

10:00 pm PEL



Monday, 29 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. Song of national races

8:15 am

6. Cute little dancers

8:30 am

7. International news

8:45 am

8. Grammar Made Easy

2:50 pm

1. ၂၀၀၇ ခုနှစ် (၅၂) ကြိမ်မြောက် ပြည်ထောင်စုခိုင်း၊ ပြည်နယ်နှင့်တိုင်း၊ အမျိုးသား (အလွတ်တန်း) ဘာလုံးပြိုင်ပွဲ တိုက်ရိုက်ထုတ်လွှင့်မှု အစီအစဉ် (ဒီလီလုပွဲ) (မကွေးတိုင်းနှင့် ရှမ်းပြည်နယ် (တောင်ပိုင်း))

4:45 pm

2. Song to uphold National Spirit

5:00 pm

3. အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ ပထမနှစ် (အထူးပြုအားလုံး) (အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ)

5:15 pm

4. Song and dance of national races

5:30 pm

5. “အလံလေးတော့ ကိုဥပြပါ” (နွဲ့နိုင်ဝင်း၊ ရတနာခင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မင်းအုပ်စိုး)

5:45 pm

6. Musical programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)

6:00 pm

7. Evening news

6:30 pm

8. Weather report

6:45 pm

9. နိုင်ငံခြားကာတွန်းဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “တောတွင်းသားငယ်လေး” (အပိုင်း-၄၆)

6:55 pm

10. အလှူရှာမယ် လှကမ္ဘာဝယ်

7:10 pm

11. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ချစ်ညီမငယ်ပါသေး” (အပိုင်း-၁၁)

8:00 pm

12. News

13. International news

14. Weather report

15. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “တကယ်သဘောကျတယ်” (အပိုင်း-၁၉)

16. The next day's programme

Perpetuation of the Union mainly rests on Union Spirit

Secretary-1 addresses coord meeting of Central Committee for Organizing 60th Anniversary Union Day 2007



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein makes a speech at Second Coordination Meeting of Central Committee for Organizing 60th Anniversary Union Day 2007. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Jan — Chairman of the Central Committee for Organizing the 60th Anniversary Union Day 2007 Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered an address at the Second Coordination Meeting of the Central Committee at the hall of the SPDC Office, here, this afternoon.

Present at the meeting were Chairman of the Management Committee for Organizing the 60th

Anniversary Union Day Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Brig-Gen Wai Lwin, ministers, deputy ministers, members of the management committee and subcommittees.

Secretary of the management committee Director-General of the Pyithu Hluttaw Office U Myint Thein acted as master of ceremonies.

(See page 11)

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.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects local battalions in Hmawby Station

YANGON, 28 Jan — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence together with senior military officers inspected local battalions in Hmawby Station yesterday.

After inspecting breeding of chicken, pig, goat, duck and cultivation of kitchen crops, physic nut plants, pepper and rubber, Lt-Gen Myint Swe gave instructions on carrying out of extended breeding of animals.

During the meeting with officers, other ranks and their families, Lt-Gen Myint Swe called on them to actively participate in the drive for implementation of 12 objectives of the State upholding Our Three Main National Causes, successful realization of State's seven-step Road Map, to extend farming in vacant and virgin and cultivate rubber and physic nut plants to exceed the target.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe cordially greeted military personnel and their families. — MNA



Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects physic nut plantation at local battalion in Hmawby Station.

MNA