

Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to Sri Lanka

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb— On the occasion of the Anniversary of the Independence of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka which falls on 4 February 2007, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. — MNA

Prime Minister felicitates Sri Lankan counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb— On the occasion of the Anniversary of the Independence of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka which falls on 4 February 2007, General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka, Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. — MNA

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

Progress of Yeywa Hydel Power Project, Htonbo-Myitnge Road inspected

Lt-Gen Ye Myint meets local authorities, departmental officials of Mandalay Division

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Feb — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Mandalay Division PDC Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, yesterday morning inspected preparations for construction of

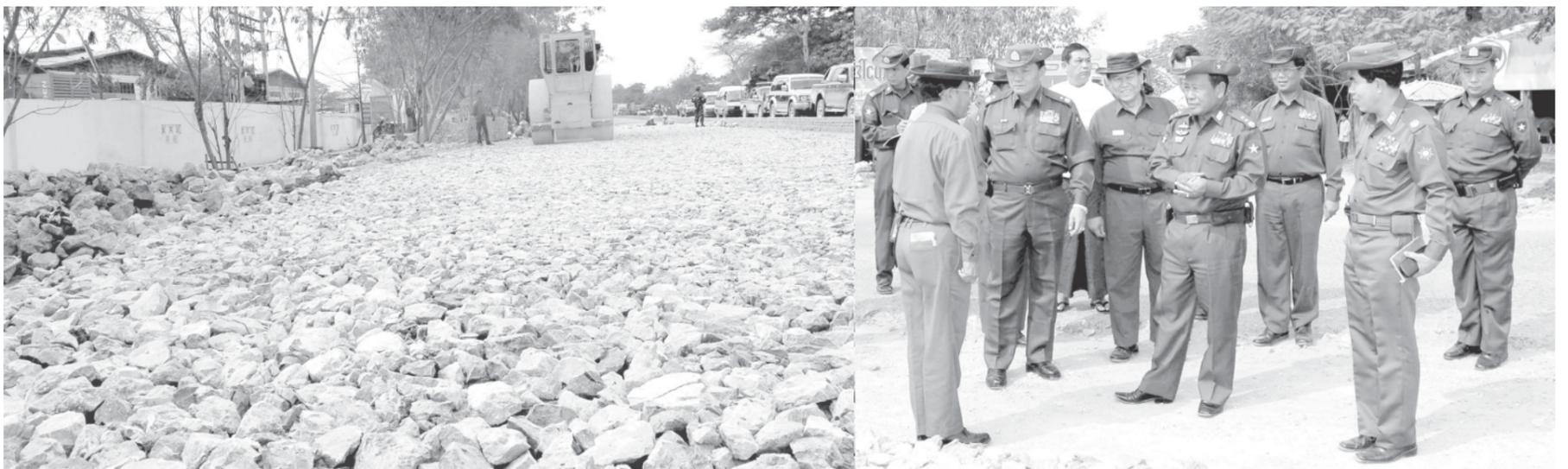
433 feet high main embankment with CVC and RCC concrete, building of the retaining walls and the power intake at Yeywa Hydel Power Project.

The project is being implemented by Construction-2 of Hydel Power Implementation Department of the Ministry of Electric Power No 1 on

Myitnge River near Yeyaman Village, 31 miles from Mandalay.

The embankment of the dam will be 2,264 feet long and 433 feet high. The power station will be installed with four 197.4 megawatt generators.

(See page 8)



Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects progress of road section from Tagundaing Bridge to Kanaung Minthagyi Road in Pyigyidagun Township. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 4 February, 2007

Greater role of media in combating AIDS

The government has formed the National Health Committee for uplift of health and fitness of the entire nation and is now providing better health care for the people.

TB, malaria and AIDS are hindering the socio-economic development of the people. So, the Ministry of Health is implementing several projects to combat such deadly diseases as part of national duty for ensuring good health and fitness of the entire people.

Since 1985, the government has paid a serious attention to AIDS. Under the leadership of the National Health Committee, the Central Committee for Control of AIDS was formed in September 1989, and workshops on HIV control have been held and educative talks have been conducted since then.

The workshop on HIV infection and estimation of results held in September 2005 estimated that the prevalence rate of HIV in Myanmar decreased from 1.5 per cent in 2000 to 1.3 per cent in 2005.

HIV control tasks can be carried out more effectively through the concerted efforts of the Department of Health, international humanitarian organizations and media. In the drive to prevent and control AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases, more health education programmes on preventive measures should be disseminated through media to raise public awareness.

Myanmar is implementing the National Strategic Plan (2006-2010) for prevention and control of HIV and AIDS in cooperation with the United Nations agencies and INGOs.

Thus, greater role of the media is vital to achieve greater success in mobilizing active participation of the people in the fight against TB, malaria and AIDS.

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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

Myanmar private travel & tour companies to open booths at ITB-Berlin

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Feb — A briefing on opening booths on tour programmes of Myanmar travel and tours companies at International Tourism Exchange (ITB-Berlin) to be held in Federal Republic of Germany took place at Hotel Nikko Royal Lake yesterday evening. It was attended by Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing, departmental heads, Myanmar Travels Association and officials.

At the briefing, the minister stressed the need for improving advertising for the development of tourism industry. He noted promoting the sale of Discover Yangon Directory and arranging the opening of tour programmes at ITB-Berlin will help develop Myanmar tourism industry. Therefore, cooperation between the government in-

Foreign Minister felicitates Sri Lankan counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb — On the occasion of the Anniversary of the Independence of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, which falls on 4 February 2007, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Rohitha Bogollagama, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.—MNA

stitutions and private entrepreneurs is needed.

Next, an official reported on facts about ITB-Berlin. A ceremony to introduce Discover Yangon Directory and a sale promotion programme were also held on the occasion. — MNA



Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing makes a speech at a briefing on opening booths at International Tourism Exchange (ITB-Berlin). — MNA

Health Ministry holds meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Feb — The work coordination meeting of the Ministry of Health was held at the ministry, here, this morning.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint attended the meeting and delivered an address. He said the 300-bed hospital is equipped with cutting-edge technology to provide health care for the people. In addition, the staff of the ministry must be able to use the advanced machines and maintain them.

He commended the officials and staff on carrying out the measures to combat the three main diseases- AIDS, TB and Malaria.

National Herbal Plant Garden is being es-

tablished in Nay Pyi Taw and steps are being taken to meet international standard. The health experts are required to nurture well-qualified health staff.

The heads of health departments of states and divisions are to submit the reports on grass root level work in their areas to the ministry, he added.

Later, the director-general reported on work being done in their departments. Next, the minister made concluding remarks.

MNA



Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint addresses coordination meeting of Ministry of Health. — MNA

Russia says not using economy for political aims

Moscow, 2 Feb — Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday Russia was not using its growing economic clout, particularly its vast energy resources, for political purposes.

“We are always told that Russia is using its... economic resources to achieve foreign policy aims. That is not the case,” he told an annual news conference in the Kremlin.

Russia has angered its former Soviet neighbours over the last year by insisting they pay a market rate for its gas and oil. It has twice infuriated Europe by cutting off major pipelines to win pricing disputes with



Russian President Vladimir Putin

countries through which the pipelines pass. Russia blamed last year's gas disruption on Ukraine and this year's 60-hour stoppage of the main

oil pipeline to Europe on Belarus, but the two episodes tarnished its image in Europe, which expects to rely increasingly on Russian energy in future.

Some European analysts and politicians worried that Kiev and Minsk were being punished for distancing themselves from Moscow.

Putin insisted Russia had done nothing wrong and its aim was to ensure it kept its promises to its energy customers.

MNA/Reuters



The Jian-8 formation takes off. The Jian-8 is a type of fighter plane, and its development reflects a transition in China's high-powered battle aviation equipment from introduced and “copied” planes to locally-designed and locally-produced planes. —XINHUA



Residents use a makeshift raft to help a motorist to cross a flooded street in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 3 Feb, 2007.

INTERNET

US farm bill proposals come under attack in Europe

BRUSSELS, 2 Feb — US Government proposals for a new farm bill came under attack in Europe on Thursday for not offering enough cuts to domestic support payments to ensure success at a crucial stage in stalled world trade talks.

US domestic farm supports have been a sticking point in the World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations — known as the Doha Round — for developing nations, which say they preclude true global competition.

The talks broke down in July in an impasse over agriculture. Critics believe the subsidies drove down prices and lock out poor farmers in the developing world. But Washington says it can only cut so much until other nations roll back their own duties.

On Wednesday, US officials unveiled a plan to shield farm subsidies from legal battles, shuffling some of the 87 billion US dollars they want to spend over the next decade into programmes that they hope will not run foul of WTO rules.

The European

Commission, the EU's executive arm, was quick to point out what it saw as a series of shortcomings in the US Administration's proposal for the 2007 farm bill — the umbrella law that sets subsidy, environment and nutrition spending.

MNA/Reuters

Two US soldiers killed in attack in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 2 Feb — Two US soldiers were killed and another was injured in two attacks in Iraq, the US military said on Thursday.

A soldier assigned to Multinational Force -- West died Thursday of wounds sustained in combat action in the western Anbar Province on Tuesday, the military said in a statement.

In a separate incident, a soldier was killed and another injured while conducting operations in Salahudin Province north of Baghdad, the military said. — MNA/Xinhua

Suicide rate remains high among US soldiers in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 2 Feb — Suicide rate remained high among US soldiers in Iraq last year and could reach record levels for the war, according to Pentagon records.

Citing Pentagon figures, Thursday's Hartford Courant reported that 22 US military deaths last year were ruled as self-inflicted and more than a dozen other cases are still

under review.

In 2006, suicide accounted for more than one in four of all non-combat US Army deaths in Iraq.

The number of confirmed suicides in 2006 matches the number in 2005, when the US military suicide rate in Iraq reached 19.9 deaths per 100,000, the highest rate since the war began.

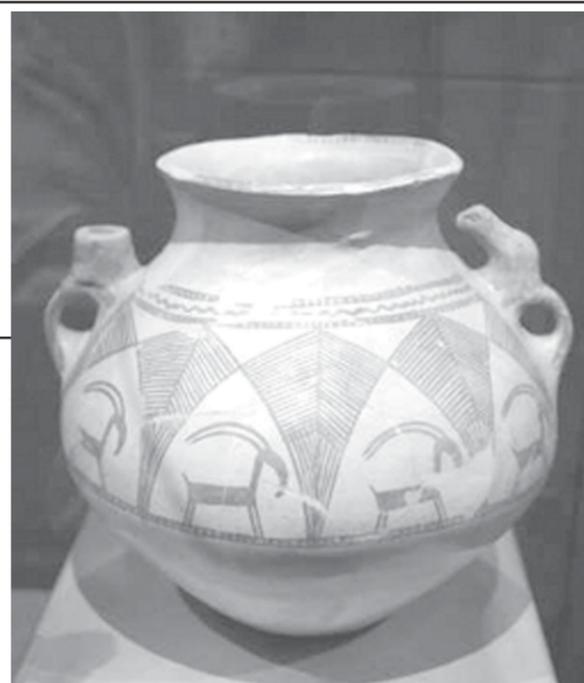
However, with as many as 17 other US military deaths still pending a final cause, the 2006 rate is likely to exceed the 2005 level.

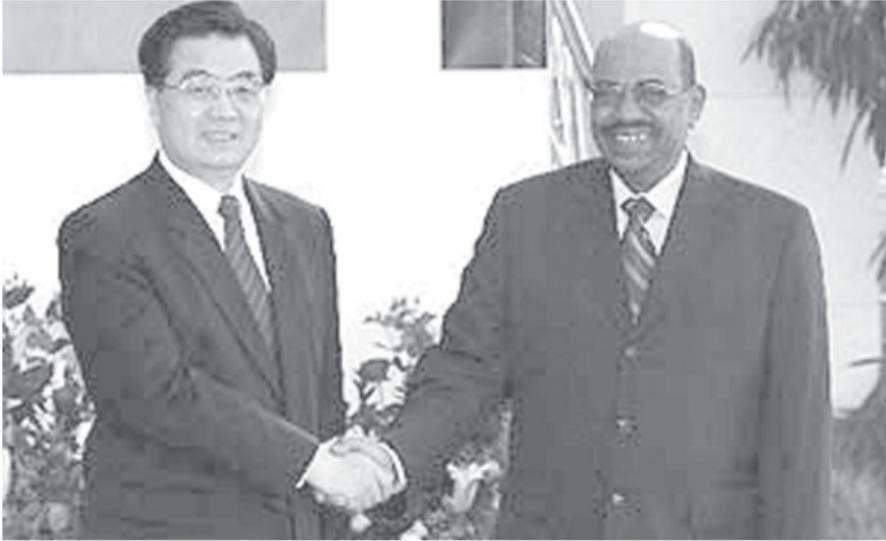
Veterans' advocates said the continued increase in suicides was troubling, given that the military has made safeguarding soldiers' mental health a priority.

MNA/Xinhua

Terracotta jugs from the first millennium BC are seen on 2 Jan, 2007 at the Persia, Fragments of Paradise exhibition on loan from Iran's national Museum to Mexico City's Museum of Anthropology.

INTERNET





Chinese President Hu Jintao (L) shakes hands with his Sudanese counterpart Omar Hassan Ahmed Al-Bashir during their talks in Khartoum, capital of Sudan, on 2 Feb, 2007. The two leaders had frank, in-depth and fruitful discussions on bilateral ties and major regional and international issues and reached consensus.—XINHUA

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Paulson says US benefits significantly from trade with China

WASHINGTON, 2 Feb — US Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson told Congress on Wednesday that America's economy and workers benefit significantly from the trade with China.

"China is our fourth-largest export market. Our exports to China have increased more than 350 per cent over the last decade, six times the growth of our exports to the rest of the world," Paulson said in his prepared remarks to the Senate Banking Committee.

"And nearly half of our exports to China are capital goods, including high-value-added goods such as civilian aircraft, electrical machinery, and medical devices," he added. He told the lawmakers that the successful management of the economic relationship with China will

benefit the United States, and China greatly. "The United States and China share many strategic interests. These range from national security, to economic growth and trade, to the health of our environment," said the US minister. MNA/Xinhua

Wild eagles attack British paraglider in Australia

CANBERRA, 2 Feb — Britain's top female paraglider has cheated death after being attacked by a pair of "screeching" wild eagles while competition flying in Australia. Nicky Moss, 38, watched terrified as two huge birds began tearing into her parachute canopy, one becoming tangled in her lines and clawing at her head 2,500 metres (8,200 feet) in the air. "I heard

screeching behind me and a eagle flew down and attacked me, swooping down and bouncing into the side of my wing with its claws," Moss told Reuters on Friday. "Then another one appeared and together they launched a sustained attack on my glider, tearing at the wing." The encounter happened on Monday while Moss — a member of the British paragliding team —

was preparing for world titles this month at Manila in northern New South Wales state. — MNA/Reuters

Christie's employee Laetitia Catoir views Roy Lichtenstein's work 'Purist Painting with Bottles' at a public preview of the Post War and Contemporary art sale at Christie's auction showroom in west London on 2 Feb, 2007. — INTERNET



Cambodia weathers coldest days in 27 years

PHNOM PENH, 2 Feb — Temperatures in Cambodia hit the lowest record in the last 27 years on Thursday and the cold weather will extend until Sunday, officials said. People in Phnom Penh endured a weather of 16 degrees Celsius, while those in the northeast of the kingdom seven degrees on Thursday, the *Cambodian Daily* on Friday quoted Seth Vannareth, director of

meteorology at Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology, as saying. The cold snap began on Tuesday and is expected to last through Sunday, thanks to a high pressure front from Siberia that has put a chill on Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and northern Thailand, he said. "Please take a coat with you. It is also windy," he added. MNA/Xinhua

Tornado kills 14 in Florida

WASHINGTON, 2 Feb — A tornado killed at least 14 people in central Florida Friday morning, causing massive destruction in the region, CNN reported. There is no details on how these people died, but local officials described the aftermath of the tornado attack as "breathtaking", according to the report. The tornado, together with some storms, also destroyed hundreds of homes and about 20,000 homes were left without power. The hardest-hit area is in Lady Lake in Lake County, 80 km northwest of Orlando. Dozens of mobile homes near Lady Lake were destroyed and a church was demolished. The 31-year-old church was designed to withstand 241 kph winds. The Florida Department of Emergency Management said the state Emergency Operations Center was activated. Internet

A row of apartments lie destroyed by an early morning tornado near Paisley, Florida, on 2 Feb, 2007. — INTERNET

of Orlando. Dozens of mobile homes near Lady Lake were destroyed and a church was demolished. The 31-year-old church was designed to

withstand 241 kph winds. At least five auto-mobile crashes took place due to the tornado and a nearby highway was closed for about three hours.

The Florida Department of Emergency Management said the state Emergency Operations Center was activated. Internet



Three die in Fiji plane crash

WELLINGTON, 2 Feb — Police in Fiji confirmed Friday three people, including two Canadian tourists, had been killed in a plane crash. The crash happened on a mountain near Lautoka Thursday afternoon. The police spokesperson, Inspector Ranga Gounders, said the four-seater *Cessna* lost contact with air traffic control shortly before it crashed. Ganders said due to bad weather and fog, it was impossible to remove the bodies Thursday night. He said a police investigation will continue Friday. MNA/Xinhua

ECONOMIC NEWS

Jordan, Kuwait to strengthen economic ties

AMMAN, 2 Feb — Jordan and Kuwait are about to build stronger economic ties through encouraging both countries' investors and launching joint ventures, Jordan's official *Petra* news agency reported on Wednesday.

The report, coming ahead of Kuwaiti Industry and Trade Minister Falah al-Hajiri's visit to Jordan, said that the two countries would further strengthen economic

and trade ties in light of bilateral agreements, especially in such vital sectors as telecommunications, tourism and agriculture.

Falah al-Hajiri would hold talks with his Jordanian counterpart on ways to increase trade volume, which the minister said is "still at a moderate level", the report said.

Jordan's exports to Kuwait stood at 59 million Jordan dinars (about 83.3 millions US dollars) in the first ten months of 2006 and

imports from the country amounted to 23 million Jordan dinars (32.43 million dollars) in the same period.

The leaders would also discuss means to increase Kuwaiti investment in Jordan, which was over 4.25 billion Jordan dinars (5.99 billion dollars) in the first ten months of 2006. (1 Jordan dinar=1.41 US dollars).

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese businessmen invited to invest in Portugal

BEIJING, 2 Feb — Visiting Portuguese Prime Minister Jose Socrates said Wednesday he hopes more Chinese businessmen invest in Portugal and believes his country can be a bridge for Chinese companies looking to enter markets in the European Union (EU) and in Africa.

Addressing a "China-Portugal Trade Forum", Socrates said Portugal-China trade ties are entering a "golden era". The two countries have not only enjoyed sound political ties but also expanded trade cooperation, he said.

Developing a comprehensive Portugal-China strategic partnership is a priority of Portugal's foreign policy, Socrates said.

Portugal will assume the rotating presidency of the EU in the second half of 2007. Socrates said his country can serve as a door for Chinese companies looking to enter the EU market.

Portugal's close ties with Portuguese-speaking African countries can be of assistance to Chinese companies in their business in Africa, he said.—MNA/Xinhua

A container ship passes down the American bridge at the Pacific side of Panama Canal in Panama City, on 2 Feb, 2007. Panama Canal Authority has begun a review of tolls charged on ships navigating through the Panama Canal on their way to both Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

XINHUA



Vietnam's computers, electronics exports rise 8.6% in January

HANOI, 2 Feb — Vietnam earned over 50 million US dollars from exporting computers and electronics appliances last month, up 8.6 per cent over last January.

Many of the products were exported to Thailand, Japan, the United States and the Philippines, according to the Vietnam Electronic Industries Association on Thursday.

To gain bigger export revenues and maintain domestic

market shares under pressure of regional tariff reduction roadmaps, electronics producers in Vietnam, many of them are making electronics appliances under outsourcing contracts with foreign firms, should increase the added value in their products, which

currently stands at only 10-15 per cent, said the association's general secretary Tran Quang Hung.

The producers should either design their own product models, instead of relying on models supplied by the foreign firms, or strengthen production of components and spare parts for export, he said, noting that foreign-invested enterprises in Vietnam are doing that very well.

Vietnam gained nearly 1.8 billion dollars from exporting computers and electronics appliances in 2006, up 24 per cent over 2005, said the association.

MNA/Xinhua



Los Angeles City Fire Department personnel rescue a crane operator from a crane that toppled over onto a major freeway, in Los Angeles, Calif, on 2 Feb, 2007. Firefighters managed to pull the operator out of the crane cab where he was trapped for more than an hour, said Fire Department spokesman Brian Humphrey.—XINHUA

India's Tata Steel outbids Brazilian rival to buy Corus

NEW DELHI, 2 Feb — India's Tata Steel managed to outbid a Brazilian rival to buy British-Dutch steel maker Corus at 12 billion US dollars, 4.4 billion more than its original offer, *Indo-Asian News Service* reported Wednesday.

The news agency quoted Britain's watchdog for mergers and acquisitions, the Takeover Panel, as saying that Tata Steel agreed to pay 608 pence for a Corus share at an auction against 603 pence offered by Brazil's Companhia Siderurgica Nacional (CSN).

"It's a moment of great fulfillment for India," Tata group chairperson Ratan Tata told a video-conference with reporters from his office in Indian economic hub Mumbai.

"This will prove to be a visionary move. When we launched the bid, many thought it was an audacious move because an Indian company taking over a European company much larger in size had not

happened before," he said.

With the deal Tata Steel, ranked 56th among steel makers in the world, will become the world's fifth largest with its steel production up from 5 million tons to around 25 million tons.

But the deal cost 4.4 billion US dollars more than the offer that Tata

Steel had agreed with Corus in October last year.

Tata decided to raise the offer as CSN entered the fray in November last year with a higher bid.

The Takeover Panel set on 31 January the deadline for naming the winner by way of an auction.—MNA/Xinhua



India's tennis player Sania Mirza attends a promotional event in the southern Indian city of Hyderabad, on 2 Feb, 2007. —REUTERS

Senior Cuban, Chinese party officials applaud friendship

HAVANA, 2 Feb — Senior officials of the Communist parties of Cuba and China on Wednesday highly praised the friendship between their two parties.

Cuban Vice-President of the Council of State Esteban Lazo Hernandez said at a meeting with Chen Fengxiang, deputy head of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, that Cuba appreciated the massive support of the Chinese Government and the Chinese people.

The two Communist parties have a deep, traditional friendship, said Lazo, also a member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee Political Bureau.

More recently, the two nations have strengthened political trust, economic cooperation and coordination in international affairs, he added.

Chen, who is leading a goodwill delegation of

the CPC for a visit here, said the friendship between the Cuban and Chinese Communist parties had laid a sound basis for the development of good relations between the two countries.

He said he believed the ties between the two parties and the two nations would enjoy further development as a result of both sides' joint efforts.

MNA/Xinhua

Afghan man lives with scorpions and snakes

KABUL, 2 Feb — A man in Afghanistan's central Parwan Province, 75 kilometres from capital Kabul, has been living with scorpions and snakes, a local newspaper reported Thursday.

Mohammad Shirzad, 51, has so far caught more than 10,000 scorpions and 3,000 poisonous snakes, daily newspaper *Arman-e-Millie* reported.

Shirzad, according to

the newspaper, is still holding 80 scorpions and five snakes with himself at home.

He got this dangerous art from his father in childhood and biting

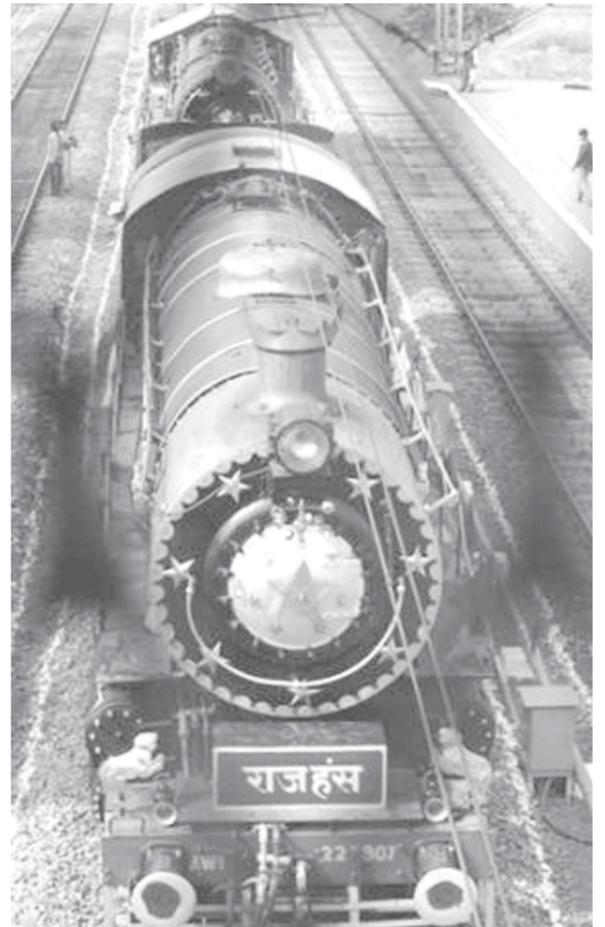
poisonous sects and reptiles cannot affect him, he claimed.

Shirzad who used to live as refugee in Iran in the past said that once he spent 35 days with 6,500 scorpions in a room and set world record.

Works as homeopathic, Shirzad said that he makes medicines from venom of snakes and scorpions.

Shirzad is the first Afghan living in friendly relations with poisonous animals and the local authorities want to arrange an exhibition for him in Parwan's provincial capital Charikar in the near future, the report said.

MNA/Xinhua



The Rajhans, or Royal Swan, steam engine rolls into a platform during a parade of steam engines in New Delhi, India, on 2 Feb, 2007. —INTERNET

China to test world's first deep submergence vehicle

BEIJING, 2, Feb — China will test the world's first ever Deep Submergence Vehicle (DSV) capable of plunging depths of 7,000 metres in the second half of 2007.

"The development of the manned deep sea diving machine, which can cover 99.8 per cent of the world's sea bed, will help enlarge the range of China's deep sea research," said Jia Yu, a researcher with the State Oceanic Administration (SOA).

The United States, Japan, France and Russia are the only countries that currently own DSVs, but their maximum range is 6,500 metres.

The process to select the personnel to man the DSV is underway in the eastern coastal city of Qingdao.

Fifteen candidates have passed the first round of assessment and six of them will be chosen to receive special training.

MNA/Xinhua



A snow sculpture of a man enjoying a break on his lawn chair with headphone and drink in hand is one of the snow sculptures highlighting the St Paul Winter Carnival on 2 Feb, 2007, in St Paul, Minn. Carnival organizers of outdoor events were changing their schedules due to the frigid cold weather with even colder temperatures expected on the weekend. —INTERNET

Five killed in highway pileup in Canada

OTTAWA, 2 Feb — Five people were killed in a massive pileup that happened on Thursday on a highway near Canada's biggest city Toronto.

The accident, involving at least 15 vehicles and a burning tanker truck, occurred on Highway 401 near Cobourg in Ontario province, local media reported.

Dozens of provincial police officers and other emergency crews, including an air ambulance, are currently on the scene.

The highway is closed in both directions.

The wreck occurred at about 12:30 pm local time in the eastbound lanes of the highway.

The tanker truck

(carrying gasoline) was engulfed in flames and numerous other vehicles were on fire. Flames shot upwards of 60 feet or more, a local reporter told CTV.

Firefighters are spraying foam onto the tanker truck and nearby vehicles to contain the flames.

Heavy snow was falling and visibility was poor at the time of the crash, reports said. Cobourg is located about one hour east of Toronto. —MNA/Xinhua

'American Idol' runner-up Katharine McPhee, arrives for the Red Dress Heart Truth show during Fashion Week, on 2 Feb, 2007 in New York. INTERNET



Over 400 stricken with food poisoning in Chile

SANTIAGO, 2 Feb — More than 400 people have been stricken with food poisoning after eating raw or undercooked sea food in Chile's fifth region since 20 November, the region's Health Ministry said on Thursday.

About 73 per cent of the cases were in the Valparaiso Province, while the rest were in San Antonio, both around 105 kilometres from the Chilean capital Santiago, the ministry said.

Most of the infected people ate seafood prepared at home without due care. And about 260 people suffered from severe food poisoning after eating clams and shellfish.

The ministry put in place a Control and Vigilance Plan to inspect shellfish sales and transport points.

The ministry has called on all citizens to take adequate measures to ensure hygiene.

MNA/Xinhua



Chinese actress performs Beijing Opera during the "North America Spring Festival Gala" held in Los Angeles, on 28 Jan, 2007.

INTERNET

Letter bomb explodes at Hungary police station

BUDAPEST, 3 Feb — A letter bomb exploded at a police station in Pecs, south Hungary, on Thursday, causing injuries to a police officer, county police chief Ferenc Sarkozi told the Press.

The explosive was hidden in a matchbox. It went off after a police officer removed it from the premises and placed it on the ground of the courtyard, Sarkozi said.

The policeman suffered surface injuries on his face and hands. The bomb's strength was equivalent to two firecrackers, Sarkozi said.

Online new portal Index.hu, quoting police official Agnes Murai, said this morning a local businessman came to the station to report a case of blackmail. The bomb was an attachment to a letter he had received. He claimed to have been blackmailed for the sum of 3 million forints (about 15,000 US dollars).

MNA/Xinhua

China's Jan temperature 1.4 degrees higher than normal years

BEIJING, 3 Feb — after the dry winter months. The average national temperature in January this year was minus 4.5 degrees Celsius, 1.4 degrees higher than normal years, according to the China Meteorological Administration (CMA) on Thursday.

High temperatures make it easier for worm eggs and bugs to survive the winter, so plant diseases and insect pests are a real possibility in the spring, said Song Lianchun, head of the disaster reduction forecast department of the CMA.

Song warned of a possible spring drought in some parts of north China

Influenced by global warming, temperatures in northeast China and the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau were also higher this winter, said Song Yanling, an engineer with the National Climate Centre under the CMA.

The temperature in northeast China was 4.1 degrees higher and the temperature on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau was 2.7 degrees higher than normal years, Song said.

Carbon dioxide emissions are influencing the global climate and exacerbating global warming, according to experts.

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia defends stand on Iran energy deal

KUALA LUMPUR, 3 Feb — Malaysia vowed on Friday not to buckle to any pressure from its biggest trading partner, the United States, to break a deal with Iran or risk losing a free trade pact.

US trade officials said on Thursday they were reviewing a lawmaker's request for the United States to cut off free trade talks with Kuala Lumpur in protest over Malaysia's 16-billion-US-dollar energy development deal with Iran.

House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Tom Lantos, a California Democrat, raised concerns over the deal signed last month between Malaysia's SKS Group and state-owned

National Iranian Oil Company to develop Iran's southern Golshan and Ferdos gas fields and build plants to produce liquefied natural gas.

On Friday, Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Malaysia would not bow to pressure from the United States over the deal in negotiations for the free trade agreement.

"We reject the pressure being inflicted upon us. We are a sovereign country and have our own stand," state news agency Bernama quoted Abdullah as telling reporters.

The United States and Malaysia began talks in June last year and have scheduled a fifth round on the proposed free trade pact this month. US negotiators

have been under pressure to reach a deal by the end of March, but difficult issues remain.

Abdullah said Washington had no right to stop Malaysia from forging trade ties with any country, even after it had concluded a free trade agreement with the United States.

"This is a question of business. Do not insert politically-related matters into the talks. For this agreement, no political matter is needed to be brought to the negotiating table," he said.

Asked whether Malaysia-US relations would be strained by the latest developments, Abdullah said: "We maintain our stand. Political matters should not be brought into business."

The two countries had two-way trade in 2005 of 44 billion US dollars. The United States is Malaysia's biggest trading partner and foreign investor, while the southeast Asian country is the United States' 10th-largest trading partner.

MNA/Reuters

Britain to increase troops in southern Afghanistan

LONDON, 3 Feb — Britain will increase its troops in the southern Afghanistan province of Helmand by about 800, Defence Minister Des Browne said on Thursday.

"By the late summer, personnel numbers in southern Afghanistan should settle at around 5,800," Browne said in a statement.

Britain has around

6,000 troops in Afghanistan, of which 5,000 are stationed in Helmand and 1,000 in Kabul.

Britain hands over command of NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to the United States on 4 February and will reduce the British presence in Kabul by around 500 troops.—MNA/Reuters



A model walks the runway at the presentation of the 'Miss Sixty' Fall/Winter 2007 collection during Fashion Week, on 1 Feb, 2007, in New York.—INTERNET

More charity programmes launched to help the poor

BEIJING, 3 Feb — The Chinese Ministry of Civil Affairs (MCA) and 44 charity organizations on Friday launched 130 charity programmes aimed at helping poor people.

A total of 2.8 billion yuan (359 million US dollars) will be spent on the programmes, which cover assistance for the elderly, the disabled and orphans, as well as education, medical care and disaster relief.

Some programmes target diseases such as leukaemia, breast cancer, cleft lips and cataract, about which poor people are often ignorant, according to the ministry.

The ministry also established an information centre on Friday to gather and analyze charity activity information, which will improve supervision and evaluation of charity groups. — MNA/Xinhua

Russia to analyze yellow-orange snow in Siberia

MOSCOW, 3 Feb — Russia's Emergency Ministry planned to fly a chemical laboratory on Thursday to the Omsk Region in southern Siberia to analyze oily yellow and orange snow which has covered an area home to 27,000 people.

"A special mobile chemical laboratory will enable us to carry out express analysis of the snow at the site," Viktor Beltsov, a spokesman for the ministry, said.

The snow covered a 1,500-square-kilometre area with 7,280 homes, Beltsov said.

Omsk is a heavily industrial city with a number of oil and gas refineries.—MNA/Reuters



Para-sailor in the sky: A foreign tourist para-sails at the Tanjung Benoa beach in Denpasar, on Bali island recently.

INTERNET

Newspapers urged to publish scoops of national and people's interest

Minister for Information meets NPE personnel

YANGON, 3 Feb — Newspapers are to give priority to reveal policies of the government and endeavours for development of the nation to the people and international community, and it is necessary to collect and publish scoops, breaking news and valuable news that benefit the nation and the people, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said at the meeting with officials of News and Periodicals Enterprise at the hall of the New Light of Myanmar Daily on

Strand Road here this morning.

At the meeting, chief editors of NPE reported on respective sectors of the newspapers and requirements of the tasks. General Manager U Win Tin and Managing Director U Soe Win gave supplementary reports.

After reviewing the reports of officials, the minister stressed the need to strive for gaining more development in form and content of the dailies

issued by NPE. He noted that the newspapers are to place emphasis on turning out more and more new generation human resources that will discharge duties of the State in the future.

The minister added that the form of the newspapers are to be created with prestige and integrity while making efforts for improvement of newspapers' contents by presenting news items attracting readers. To do

so, the ministry will fulfil requirements of the tasks. In conclusion, the minister urged officials to take initiative and innovative measures for development of the dailies.

Also present at the meeting were directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises, the general manager of NPE, chief editors and officials.

MNA

Progress of Yeywa Hydel Power...

(from page 1)

The construction of the dam has been completed by 35.87 per cent. On completion, the station can generate 3,550 million kwh.

They also inspected construction of earth work for Htonbo-Myitnge Road section with the use of heavy machinery.

The road is nine miles and three furlongs long. Along the road, 13 box culverts and five bridges have been built, and one box culvert and one bridge are under construction. Work is under way to complete the earth work in April 2007.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected placing of gravel on 8,500 feet long road section from Tagundaing Bridge to Kanaung Minthagyi Road in Pyigyidagun Township.

Next, he met with departmental officials and local authorities at the hall of Central Command Headquarters.

After hearing the reports presented by local authorities and officials, Lt-Gen Ye Myint instructed officials to join hands with local authorities to undertake the five rural development tasks with patriotic spirit and Union Spirit.

MNA

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan discusses functions of NPE in meeting with staff.

MNA



Myanmar delegation attends ASEAN Ministerial Meeting

YANGON, 3 Feb — A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Race and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe attended the Fifth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation held in Bangkok, Thailand on 31 January.

The delegation first called on Thai Prime Minister General Surayud Chulanont at 9 am. The Thai Prime Minister delivered an opening address.

Next, the ASEAN ministers submitted measures being taken by the respective countries for rural development and poverty alleviation.

The Myanmar Deputy Minister also

submitted the country's implementing the five rural development tasks and realizing the Union development goals.

Together with the deputy minister, Director General of Development Affairs Department U Myo Myint and Director U Aye Lwin also attended the meeting.

MNA



22nd Gems and Jade Sales (2007) continues

YANGON, 3 Feb—The 22nd Gems and Jade Sales (2007) of Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited continued for the second day today at the Gems Mark on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here this morning, attended by members of UMEHL Board of Directors, domestic and foreign merchants and others.

The gem merchants looked into gems and jade from 30 January to 2 February. And the inspection team at 7.30 am opened the remaining bargain forms of gem merchants that were put in the tender box.

Altogether 250 lots of jade more were sold, and the gems and jade sales ended at 12.10 pm.

After the sales, members of UMEHL Board of Directors presented gifts to the merchants who offered the highest prices. — MNA



Managing Director U Soe Win of NPE makes presentation.

MNA

22nd Gems and Jade Sales of Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited in progress. — MNA

Kengtung Degree College in Shan State (East) upgraded to university

YANGON, 3 Feb — Kengtung Degree College in Shan State (East) was upgraded to Kengtung University at a ceremony held at the university on 25 January morning, attended by Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, senior military officers, the deputy director-general of Higher Education Department (Upper Myanmar), the deputy principal of the university, heads of department, principals of Kengtung University for Computer Studies and Kengtung Technological University, local authorities, members of social organizations, teachers, students and guests.

Secretary of Shan State (East) PDC U Mya Aung and Deputy Director-General of HED (Upper Myanmar) U Soe Myint formally opened the ceremony.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing unveiled the signboard of the university.

After that, the commander made a speech on the occasion.

Later, the commander presented an RO water purifier worth K 1.25 million donated by Shan State (East) PDC to the deputy director-general.

Next, the deputy principal accepted the cash donations—K 275,000 by Shan State (East) PDC,

K 200,000 by All Private Bus Lines Control Committee, K 200,000 by Fuel Marketing Entrepreneurs Association, K 200,000 by Rental Motorcycles Association, K 100,000 by Hoteliers Association and others totalling K 1.275 million—and presented certificates of honour to the wellwishers.

After that, the deputy principal presented the commemorative pennants to the commander and officials.

After the ceremony, the commander and officials looked into classrooms and construction of a two-storey lecture hall for the university. — MNA

Ministry of NPED holds coord meeting



Minister U Soe Tha addresses coordination meeting of Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Feb — The coordination meeting of Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development was held at the ministry here yesterday, attended by Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister Col Thurein Zaw, directors-general, deputy

directors-general and officials.

The minister delivered an address. Directors-General and heads of state and division Planning Departments reported on work progress in their respective sectors and future tasks.

Next, the Deputy Minister gave a supplementary report.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the minister. — MNA

Top democrats back Republican's resolution against troop surge

WASHINGTON, 3 Feb — Top US Democrats have pledged support to a Senate resolution against President George W Bush's Iraq plan drafted by Republican Senator John Warner, CNN reported on Thursday. In doing so, they abandoned a rival measure which is harsher in words to criticize Bush's decision to send 21,500 more troops to Iraq, according to the report.

After Warner offered to make changes to his proposal, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, a top Democrat, said the Senate should begin debating Warner's resolution next week. Richard Durbin, the Senate's No. 2 Democrat, also pledged support for Warner's resolution. "We believe he has now attracted enough bipartisan support for his version that we can use it as the starting point for our debate," he said.

The support from top Democrats for Warner's measure makes it more likely the Senate will approve a resolution that is politically damaging to the President. Carl Levin, a sponsor for a rival resolution, said he changed his mind and now favours Warner's resolution.

On the other side, Senate Republicans who back the President's Iraq policy have stepped up their opposition to any non-binding resolution against Bush's plan during the past two days. — MNA/Xinhua

Minister for Forestry leaves for Kenya

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Feb — Chairman of National Commission for Environmental Conservation Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung yesterday afternoon left here by air for Nairobi, Kenya to attend the 24th meeting of UNEP Administrative Council and the Global Forum of Environment Ministers to be held from 5 to 9 February.

The minister was seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and officials. The minister was accompanied by Director-General of



Planning and Statistics Department U Than Swe and Secretary of NCEC Dr San Win. — MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung being seen off by Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo and Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint at the airport before his departure for Kenya. — FORESTRY

Information Minister receives EU Ambassador



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan receives Ambassador of EU to Myanmar Dr Freidrich Hamburger.—MNA

YANGON, 3 Feb — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received Ambassador of Bangkok-based EU to Myanmar Dr Freidrich Hamburger at the hall of Myanma Radio and Television

on Pyay Road, here, this afternoon.

Also present at the call were directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Information. — MNA

SWRR Ministry holds work coordination meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Feb — The staff of the ministry should carry out community welfare services in cooperation with the social organizations to earn praise and trust of the people, said Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe at the work coordination meeting of the ministry today.

It was attended by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, the directors-general and officials of the ministry.

The minister urged the officials and staff to actively take part in rural area development tasks. And departmental heads and officials concerned are to supervise their respective tasks, he added.

The officials of Social Welfare Department, Fire Services Department and Relief and Resettlement Department reported on work being done.

Subsequently, the deputy minister reported on undertakings being carried out by the ministry. The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the minister.—MNA

Health Minister receives EU Ambassador and party

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Feb — Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint received Bangkok-based EU Ambassador to Myanmar Dr Freidrich Hamburger and party at the Ministry of Health here yesterday afternoon.

Also present at the call were Deputy Ministers Dr Mya Oo and Dr Paing Soe, Director-General Dr Tin Win Maung of Health Department, projects managers and officials.—MNA

Fuji electrical appliances introduced

YANGON, 3 Feb — Fuji Electric Holding Co and Khin Maung Nyunt Trading Co introduced Fuji electrical goods at the Traders Hotel here this evening. Present on the occasion were international sales managers Mr Yoshihisa Hayashitani, Mr Willion Soh and Mr Nicky of Fuji Electric Holding Co and members of the board of directors of Khin Maung Nyunt Trading Co, members of Yangon City Power Supply Committee, construction companies and electrical goods factories and electrical shop owners.

Assistant Manager U Ye Htut of Khin Maung Nyunt Trading Co extended greetings and Mr Yoshihisa Hayashitani introduced Fuji electric goods. Then those present were served with dinner.

Fuji electrical goods are available at No 43 Shwe Tharaphi Yeikmon on Bayintnaung Road (Ph: 538230, 513987) and at the shops on Shwedagon Pagoda Road and in South Dagon Industrial Zones. Low voltage to high voltage electric products are imported from England, France, Italy, Japan, China (Taipei) and India and some electric goods are manufactured from the factories of South Dagon Industrial Zone. — MNA

People from Kyauktalngyi of Shan State (South) enjoy fruitful results of development

YANGON, 3 Feb — The Government is undertaking five rural development tasks to uplift living standard of the rural people.

For ensuring better transport that plays an important role in regional development, village-to-village roads, village-to-urban roads and bridges are being constructed one after another.

At present, Naungkar Model Village is being kept with the rapid pace of development in Kyauktalngyi of Taunggyi Township.

On 21 January morning, Naungkar-Nyaungkham-Lwekhaw gravel road was put into service. It is one mile and six furlongs long.

With regard to the

education sector, a total of 614 students are learning education at Lonkar Basic Education High School in the village. As a result, not only those who passed the matriculation examination but also graduate youth could be turned out yearly.

At an educative talk, Secretary of Kyauktalngyi USDA U Khun Kyaw Hsan, Secretary of District Women's Affairs Organization Daw San Yi and Chairperson of Taunggyi Township MCWA Daw Kay Thi Maw gave lectures on their respective sectors.

Next, local women presented WAO and MCWA membership applications to respon-

Sales Manager Mr Yoshihisa Hayashitani presents facts about production and distribution of Fuji electric goods of new brands. — MNA



Secretary of District Women's Affairs Organization Daw San Yi hands over publications to U Peter Tun Naing of Nay Chi U library.—MNA

sible persons. They fed refreshments to children at the pre-primary school.

Afterwards, they donated books to the village libraries of Kyauktalngyi, and village-elder U Phyu presented K 100,000 for the library building.

At the village dispensary, specialists from Taunggyi District Hospital provided health care services to over 100 local people.

Today, Naungkar Model Village has been equipped with electricity. In the village-tract, local people enjoy TV programmes at the libraries.

The post and telegraph office of the village has been installed one auto-telephone to enable the local people to have easy access to other regions in the communications sector.

Furthermore, local people can easily travel to Phamon, Lwekaung, Panthakhwa and Taunggyi by train daily.

For development of the agriculture sector, a two-storey agricultural training school was built in the village, spending K 54 million.

In the village, Pa-O National Organization Chairman's Cup Soccer Tournament has been organized yearly.

Due to restoration of peace and stability in Kyauktalngyi region, pilgrims from various regions pay homage to ancient pagoda namely Mwedaw Katku.

At present, progress has been witnessed in Kyauktalngyi while Naungkar and surrounding villages have possessed development infrastructures. — MNA



Japan, Malaysia, Thailand stage maiden piracy drill

ON BOARD JCG YASHIMA IN THE ANDAMAN SEA, 3 Feb — Coast Guard officials from Japan, Malaysia and Thailand on Friday staged their first joint exercise to fight piracy in the Malacca Strait, one of the world's busiest waterways and key to Asian trade.

The three-hour drill in calm waters between Thailand's island of Phuket and Malaysia's Langkawi Island began with "pirates" hijacking a Japanese supertanker and kidnapping some of its crew. Malaysia's police commandos later stormed the tanker before arresting the "kidnappers".

Japanese officials said the exercise, which involved 154 men, two helicopters, a Japanese

Coast Guard ship and Thai and Malaysian patrolboats, underlined the need for better regional coordination to fight piracy and other cross-border crimes.

"We hope to expand the membership to include other countries," said Captain Nobuharu Kagami, director of the piracy countermeasures office of Japan's Coast Guard. "The safety of the Malacca Strait is very important to Japan."

The anti-piracy office was launched this month to expand Japan's co-operation with other Asian Coast Guard agencies and raise Tokyo's regional profile.

Piracy has dropped since Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Singapore began joint air patrols as well as coordinated sea patrols in the Strait, once known as the Spice Route, two years ago. But the threat remained. — MNA/Reuters



Spanish-born craftsman Armando Valles holds up masks of Brazilian soccer stars Ronaldo (R) and Ronaldinho at a costume factory in a suburb of Rio de Janeiro on 1 Feb, 2007. Valles rushed to fill orders for 200,000 of his popular masks, ahead of carnival festivities. — XINHUA

Storms, tornado kill 19 in central Florida

ORLANDO (Florida), 3 Feb — Severe thunderstorms and at least one tornado killed 19 people on Friday when they ripped through Florida in the dead of night, tearing homes to shreds, toppling heavy trucks and leaving a trail of rubble.

More than 500 homes, buildings and churches were damaged or destroyed across a wide area of central Florida north of the key tourism region around Orlando. But two of the area's biggest attractions, Walt Disney Co's Disney World and Universal Studios Florida, were not affected.

Rescue teams fanned out in the morning to search for survivors and victims who might still be trapped under flattened homes.

Crunched cars were flung onto porches, and battered sofas and fridges stood in piles of debris scattered over the exposed

concrete foundations of houses.

The storm hit at 3:15 am (0815 GMT) and a spokesman for the Lake County sheriff's office said at least one and perhaps two tornadoes touched down in a state that ranks only behind the infamous "Tornado Alley" in the US Midwest for the number of tornado strikes. Most, such as a twister on Christmas Day last year, cause no fatalities.

"The death toll is up

to 19 now," said Kevin Lenhart, spokesman for the Lake County emergency operations centre.

Christopher Patton, another official at the emergency centre, said three were killed in Lady Lake, about 40 miles (64 kilometres) northwest of Orlando, and 11 in nearby Paisley, on the edge of the Ocala National Forest. It was not immediately clear where the other five people died.

MNA/Reuters



Workers put finishing touches on the fashion tents in Bryant Park in preparation for the Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week, on 1 Feb, 2007. More than 200 big names and young hopefuls converge on New York for fashion week to present their fall and winter 2007 collections, with the field becoming ever more crowded each season. — INTERNET

Chinese Army urged to continue service to the people

BEIJING, 3 Feb — Vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC) and Minister of Defence Cao Gangchuan has urged the People's Liberation Army of China to continue its traditions of valour and service to the people, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

Cao, who is also member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and a state councillor, made the call while inspecting Chengdu Military Command.

He inspected the training facilities and dormitories, talked with enlisted personnel and officers and was briefed on grassroots military development.

Cao said officers and enlisted staff should fortify their belief in Marxism and socialism with Chinese characteristics, strengthen their confidence in the country's reform, opening-up and modernization and resolutely adhere to the CPC leadership.

He required soldiers and officers to strengthen their basic training, raise their professional and training standards, strictly implement all the statutes and regulations and improve their self-defence and emergency capabilities. — MNA/Xinhua

WHO chief urges fight against "neglected" diseases

BANGKOK, 3 Feb — The head of the World Health Organization (WHO) called on Thursday for a stepped up fight against "neglected" diseases afflicting one billion people, mainly in poor countries.

Margaret Chan, who took over as head of the UN agency last month, said "ancient and entrenched" diseases in the developing world caused far greater human suffering than emerging threats such as SARS and bird flu.

"But here is the difference: the neglected tropical diseases do not threaten international health and security," Chan told a health conference in Bangkok.

"They do not flare up in outbreaks with high mortality. They do not grab media headlines. They do not travel abroad or threaten international security," she said.

Chan named six diseases that maim, blind, disfigure and kill millions of the world's poor but are rarely seen in wealthier countries with higher living standards and better health care. They included "snail fever", or schistosomiasis, which is caused by a parasite and leaves people so weak they cannot work.

MNA/Reuters



Actress Camilla Belle, arrives at the Red Dress Heart Truth show during Fashion Week, on Friday, 2 Feb, 2007 in New York. — INTERNET

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GATI ZIPP VOY NO (81007)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GATI ZIPP VOY NO (81007) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.2.07 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV VASCO DA GAMA (031) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.2.07 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

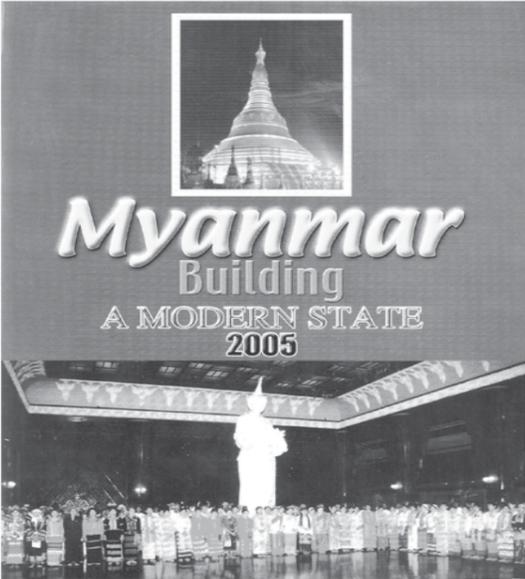
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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Four killed, 18 injured in oil refinery fire in W India

NEW DELHI, 2 Feb — Four people died and 18 others were injured in a fire breaking out at Essar Refinery in west Indian state of Gujarat early Thursday, NDTV reported.

The fire broke out at about 00:30 am in the pig launching station at Vadinar Town of Jamnagar District in Gujarat.

MNA/Xinhua

Bullet trains begin regular service on Guangzhou-Shenzhen line

GUANGZHOU, 2 Feb — **Businessman Huang often travels between Shenzhen and Guangzhou but Thursday's ride in a bullet train was a novel experience.**

"The new train was more stable than a traditional train, I could hardly feel any bumps," said Huang. "It was less noisy too, more like travelling in a plane."

Huang took the 7:05 am train from boomtown Shenzhen to Guangzhou, the provincial capital of Guangdong. He and 260 other passengers on the

bullet train arrived in Guangzhou just over an hour later. "It was a really comfortable journey," said Huang, who noted that the train fare had not been increased.

A pair of bullet trains went into regular service on Thursday on the 139-kilometre-long Guangzhou-Shenzhen line, one of the busiest rail routes on the Chinese Mainland.

As bullet trains take

over, conventional trains will be decommissioned, according to local officials.

A white train bearing the English letters CRH (China Railway High-speed) left downtown Guangzhou's Eastern Railway Station at 6:54 am for Shenzhen, with 111 passengers aboard, and arrived in Shenzhen an hour and ten minutes later, said Wu Wei, deputy station head.

MNA/Xinhua

Winter storm grounds 500 flights in S-E US

WASHINGTON, 2 Feb — More than 500 flights were cancelled on Thursday as a winter storm brought rain, sleet and freezing rain across the US southeast, CNN reported. In Georgia,

Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport cancelled 450 incoming and outgoing flights, according to the report. A few planes in Atlanta were de-iced earlier in the day, but most

did not need it as temperatures stayed above freezing.

In North Carolina, Charlotte's Douglas International Airport, 75 flights were also cancelled.

The National Weather Service issued a winter storm warning for portions of Georgia and the Carolinas until midnight Thursday.

The warning said snow

will become mixed with sleet and freezing rain during the afternoon, and that could down trees and power lines. Schools and businesses in the area were closed on Thursday or opened late, and more than 2,000 homes and businesses in western North Carolina were without electricity.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi civilian deaths hit new high in January

BAGHDAD, 2 Feb — Iraqi civilian deaths in political violence reached a new high in January, data from an Interior Ministry official showed on Thursday.

The statistics, widely viewed as an indicative but only partial record of violent deaths, showed 1,971 people died from "terrorism" in January, slightly up from the previous high of 1,930 deaths recorded in December 2006.

The figures from the Interior Ministry source are collated from various ministries and while not

comprehensive, are a guide to trends that are consistent with data from other sources.

The United Nations, which gathers data from the Health Ministry and Baghdad's morgue, put the number of civilian deaths in December at 2,914, down from 3,462 in November.

All such statistics are controversial in Iraq. The latest tally given by the United Nations was branded exaggerated by the Iraqi Government. The US military gives no such figures. —MNA/Reuters

Flights postponed as snowflakes fall in Kunming

KUNMING, 2 Feb — Some 22 flights were postponed on Thursday in Kunming, capital city of southwestern Yunnan Province, due to continuous snow since Wednesday.

The 22 flights at Kunming International Airport, scheduled before 10:00 am, were postponed because of ice formed on bodies of the planes. The planes took off later after the ice were removed by airport staff.

By 3:00 pm, flights at the airport returned to normal.

The snow also affected urban and long-distance highway traffic, forcing people to take trains for business trips or for weekend tours outside Kunming.

Snow is piled 15 centimetres deep in downtown Kunming, and up to 20 centimetres on the outskirts. The snow is said to be the heaviest since 1983.

MNA/Xinhua



A 40-foot tall Brachiosaurus statue wears a replica jersey of Chicago Bears' player Brian Urlacher in front of the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago on 2 Feb, 2007. The Bears will play the Indianapolis Colts in the NFL's Super Bowl XLI on Sunday. —INTERNET

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A new type of screen showing electronic map was recently installed on the streets of Beijing. The electronic map displays the colours red, yellow and green, reflecting the different road conditions in different directions: road congestion, heavy traffic and unblocked road. —XINHUA

UAE to build world-class cultural destination on island

ABU DHABI, 2 Feb — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is set to build iconic museums and a performing arts centre on Saadiyat Island, as is shown on an exhibition opened in Emirates Palace Hotel here on Wednesday.

Four renowned architects — Frank Gehry, Jean Nouvel, Tadao Ando and Zaha Hadid — presented their concept designs for those projects on the exhibition.

In addition to the museums and a performing arts centre, Saadiyat Island's Cultural District will also be featured with the Sheikh Zayed National Museum, which will be devoted to the history and traditions of Abu Dhabi and the legacy of the country's late president Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu

Dhabi, said that the Cultural District on Saadiyat Island, which means "island of happiness" in Arabic, demonstrates the vision of Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE's incumbent president.

The president hopes that the project can "further establish Abu Dhabi's position as a destination of international standing," said Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed.

"The aim of Saadiyat Island must be to create a cultural asset for the world, a gateway and beacon for cultural experience and exchange,"

he added. Saadiyat

Island, also a community of more than 150,000 people, is scheduled to be completed in 2018.

MNA/Xinhua

Ancient Chinese procelain salvaged from shipwreck auctioned

AMSTERDAM, 2 Feb — About 76,000 pieces of 18th Century Chinese porcelain, salvaged from a ship that sank 280 years ago during its journey to Europe, were auctioned here on Wednesday for more than 3 million euros (about 3.9 million US dollars).

The Chinese porcelain, salvaged from the wreck near Ca Mau, in Vietnamese waters, sold at auction for 3,046,716 euros (3,899,888 dollars), including the buyer's premium, said US auctioneers Sotheby's.

"We are absolutely delighted with the results of this sale. The buyers appreciated the quality of the porcelain that was produced in Jingdezhen,"

said Mark Grol, director of Sotheby's Amsterdam.

"The wonderful opportunity to be the first owner of this 18th Century Chinese porcelain had a strong appeal," he said, adding that "the story of the shipwreck near the Vietnamese Ca Mau Peninsula captured the imagination of thousands of collectors".

The porcelain pieces, most of them blue and

white, believed to be European-market-oriented, attracted nearly 200 collectors and dealers from Europe, America and Asia—MNA/Xinhua

Italian police detain 35 archaeological smugglers

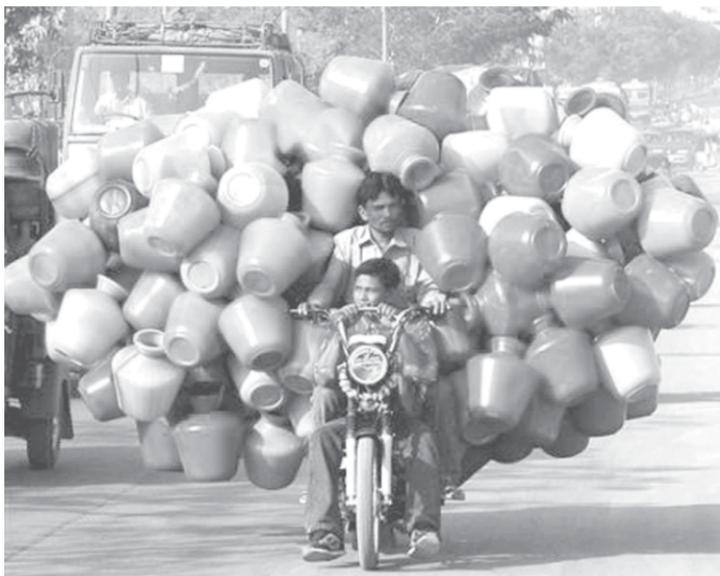
ROME, 2 Feb — The Italian police arrested 35 people suspected of smuggling or receiving archaeological goods in raids in eight regions on Wednesday.

A further 42 people are being investigated on the same suspicion and the goods include coins, statues and vases, some even dating back to pre-Roman times, local media said.

During the raids in the suspects' apartments on Wednesday, police also discovered equipments, which were used to make fake coins and vases.

The investigators said the artifacts were dug up illegally by teams of tomb-raiders in Sicily who, through a middle-man in Gela, passed them on to receivers in Germany, Britain, Switzerland, Spain and the United States.—MNA/Xinhua

Antonio Cruz (top) who was born on 28 Jan, 2007 weighing 6.4kg (about 14 lbs) and 55cm long (21.7 inches) is seen on 31 January alongside an unidentified more averaged sized baby at a hospital in Mexico's resort city of Cancun. Antonio's mother, Teresa Alejandra Cruz, 23, and father, Luis Vasconcelos, 38, said they were proud of the boy, and noted that Cruz had given birth to a baby girl seven years ago who weighed 5.2 kilogrammes. —XINHUA



A motorbike rider carries plastic pots, used to store water, for sale in Hyderabad, India, on 2 Feb, 2007. INTERNET

US helicopter 'shot down' in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 2 Feb — A helicopter has gone down north of the Iraqi capital Baghdad killing two US troops, the US military has confirmed.

The US did not say what caused the crash but witnesses said the helicopter was shot down, near a US air base at Taji, shortly after dawn.

Another helicopter was hit by gunfire but managed to fly away, they said.

Last month, 12 US soldiers died when a Black Hawk military helicopter crashed. The US has lost more than 50 military helicopters in Iraq since May 2003. Officially the Pentagon did not say what sort of helicopter had crashed or how, but a US defence official anonymously told the AFP news agency that it was a US Army AH-64 Apache and that "the initial report is that it was a shoot-down".

Iraqi police and witnesses told the Associated Press that the crash occurred about 0730 (0430 GMT) as two Apaches were flying near Taji, a major US base about 20km (12 miles) north of Baghdad.

While one escaped the other flew back to attack the source of the gunfire, but was hit, exploded and fell to earth.—Internet

SPORTS

Inter beat Sampdoria to book Cup final date with Roma

ROME, 3 Feb— Inter Milan and AS Roma will play each other in the Italian Cup final for the third year running after Inter drew 0-0 with Sampdoria to complete a 3-0 win on aggregate on Thursday.

Inter are aiming for their third successive Cup title after beating Roma in 2005 and 2006.

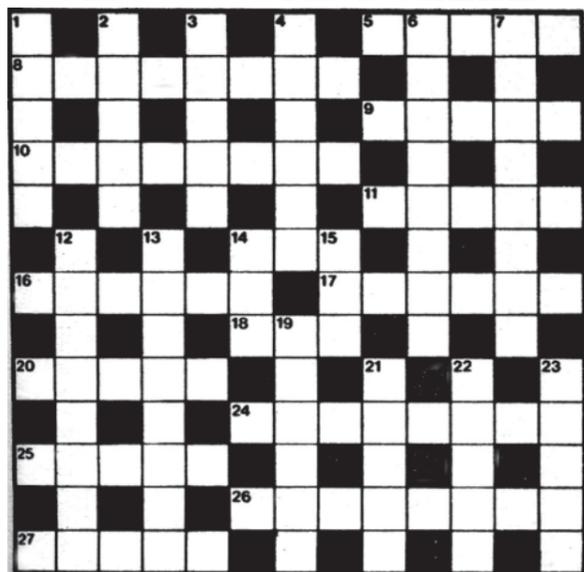
Roma progressed to the final on Wednesday by beating AC Milan 3-1 for a 5-3 aggregate win. Sampdoria never looked like overturning Inter's first leg lead in a game in which both sides lacked urgency.

Inter created the best chances of the match in the first half, when winger Mariano Gonzalez angled a shot wide, and striker Julio Cruz got a foot to a Santiago Solari cross at the near post, but the ball flew narrowly over the bar.—MNA/Reuters



Byron Wells, 14, of New Zealand, gets some air as he competes in the superpipe portion of the NextSnow All-Star event in Steamboat Springs, Colo, on 2 Feb, 2007. Competition continues for the 75 athletes tomorrow with skier/boarder cross and big air events.—INTERNET

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 5 Sober
- 8 As far as possible(2,3,3)
- 9 relief
- 10 Card game
- 11 Burglar's tool
- 14 Cook in fat
- 16 Termagant
- 17 Lead astray
- 18 Handle coarsely
- 20 Soak
- 24 An explosive
- 25 Flock of flying geese
- 26 Edible fungus
- 27 Hidden obstacles

DOWN

- 1 Jammed
- 2 Tear off
- 3 Kind of procelain
- 4 Wild ass of Asia
- 6 Burlesque
- 7 Familiarity
- 12 Understood wrongly
- 13 Boer War siege town
- 14 Affected dandy
- 15 A wood
- 19 Place of refuge
- 21 Racing vessel
- 22 Guide
- 23 Sporting sides

Bayern suffer 3-0 defeat on Hitzfeld's return

BERLIN, 3 Feb— Ottmar Hitzfeld's second spell in charge of Bayern Munich began in miserable fashion on Friday as the faltering champions suffered a 3-0 defeat at Nuremberg.

Bayern fired Felix Magath and reappointed Hitzfeld as coach on Wednesday, after a goalless draw left the club eight points behind the Bundesliga leaders in fourth place. Hitzfeld's return saw matters go from bad to worse as Nuremberg sealed an easy victory over their Bavarian rivals with goals from Ivan Saenko, Markus Schroth and Robert Vittek.

The result means Bayern, champions for the past two seasons, have taken just a point from their first three matches since the long mid-season break.

They are certain to fall even further off the title pace as Werder Bremen and Schalke 04, who lead the standings with 42 points apiece, meet at the Weserstadion on Sunday.

VfB Stuttgart, in third place with 35 points, are at Borussia Dortmund on Sunday.

Bayern remain in fourth place with 34 points after their sixth defeat of the league season.—MNA/Reuters



FC Barcelona player Lionel Messi, from Argentina, exercises during his first training session in Spain at the Camp Nou Stadium in Barcelona, Spain, on 2 Feb, 2007. Messi was injured on 12 Nov, when he broke the fifth metatarsal of his left foot, and doctors' initial diagnosis was a three-month absence from the pitch. —INTERNET

Sharapova, Hingis sweep into Tokyo semis

TOKYO, 3 Feb— World number one Maria Sharapova battled her way into the semifinals of the Pan Pacific Open with a 4-6, 6-0, 6-1 victory over Japan's Ai Sugiyama on Friday. The Russian, who won the Tokyo title in 2005, moved a step closer to a potential showdown with Martina Hingis in Sunday's final despite struggling mightily with her serve.

Former world number one Hingis, chasing a record fifth Pan Pacific crown, reached the last four by pulverizing Australia's Samantha Stosur 6-0, 6-1.

Sharapova squandered a 3-1 lead to drop the first set but quickly recovered after a calming head-to-head with coach Michael Joyce to whitewash Sugiyama in the second.—MNA/Reuters

Premiership! 3 February 2007

Goal Scores

Watford	0 - 1	Bolton
Fulham	2 - 1	Newcastle
Liverpool	0 - 0	Everton
Aston Villa	1 - 0	West Ham
Blackburn	2 - 1	Sheff Utd
Man City	0 - 2	Reading
Middlesbrough	1 - 1	Arsenal

Lampard's goal enough to secure three points for Chelsea

LONDON, 3 Feb — Frank Lampard's first-half strike ensured Chelsea closed the gap on Manchester United to three points.

Lampard scored with a long-range strike and was later denied by Scott Carson, who also saved from Didier Drogba and Shaun Wright-Phillips.

Salomon Kalou clipped the post for the Blues, while Michael Ballack and Andrei Shevchenko both headed wide.

Charlton's two best chances fell to Amady Faye - and he hit the target both times but could not beat Petr Cech.

The victory was Chelsea's fourth in succession in all competitions - and with John Terry returning from injury as a late substitute, the winter blip seems well and truly over.

Chelsea started superbly - Shevchenko forced a good save with a vicious strike from a tight angle and Ballack missed the target with a header before Lampard struck with 18 minutes gone.

But Charlton rallied late on and Chelsea were hanging on at the end as the home team threw everything forward.

Lampard's goal came after Faye lost possession in midfield.

The ball found its way to Lampard, who shifted to his right to create the opening before shooting beyond Carson.

Wayne Bridge - in for Ashley Cole - delivered a series of telling crosses, one of which was met by Shevchenko, but the Ukrainian could not keep his header on target.

Carson saved a low strike from Drogba as the visiting team threatened to take the game away from Charlton.

Internet



Wigan Athletic's Emerson Boyce, right, and Portsmouth's Nwankwo Kanu fight for the ball during the English Premiership League soccer match at the JJB Stadium, Wigan, England, on Saturday, 3 Feb, 2007. Wigan won the match 1-0. — INTERNET

Pentagon lacks knowledge about Iraqi militias

WASHINGTON, 3 Feb— It is almost four years into the war in Iraq, and many Americans do not even know who the enemy is.

But the Pentagon does not know much about it either, according to a report from Thursday's *Boston Globe*.

In an interview with the newspaper, Paul Pillar, a Pentagon official, said the US military is tracking at least 28 Iraqi militias, but knows little about their

leadership or command structure.

"It is very difficult to get a handle on all of the contours of the current situation in Iraq," he said.

"This is a civil war on top of an insurgency on top of other conflicts. There is no one simple

split between side A and side B. There are numerous subgroups and splinter groups that make it difficult to say any one leader is in charge of those who come under one label."

Last weekend's battle against the heavily armed Soldiers of Heaven killed at least 200 people in Iraq, and the intensity of the battle, and the sophistication of the group's weapons, surprised US and Iraqi forces.

However, US military and diplomatic officials said they had never heard of the group.

Meanwhile, US intelligence officials are drafting a new National Intelligence Estimate assessing all the known militia groups that could threaten Iraq's security.

The officials said they hoped to deliver the report to the White House and Congress in the coming weeks.

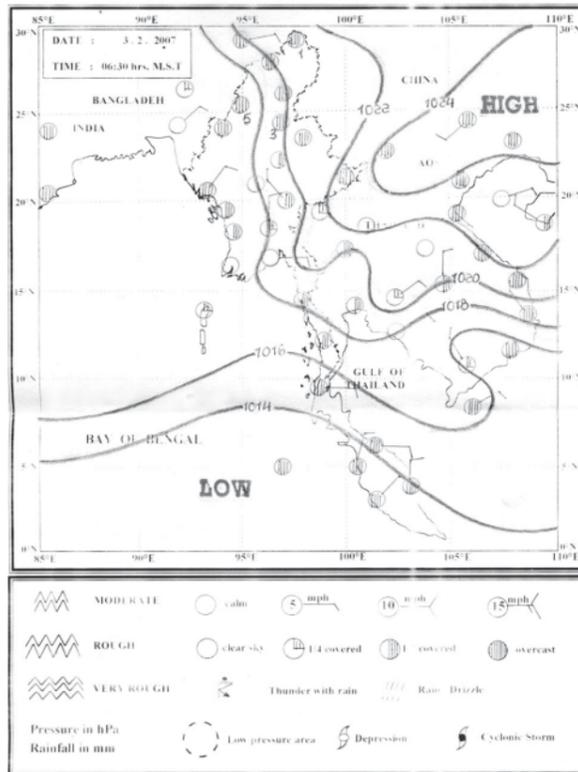
MNA/Xinhua



A military helicopter hovers above Baghdad. Two crew members were killed when a US Army helicopter crashed and burned north of Baghdad, apparently brought down by enemy fire, the US Department of Defence said.

INTERNET

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Saturday, 3 February, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been fairly widespread in Kachin State, scattered in Shan State, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and isolated in Kayah State and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (5°C) to (6°C) below normal in Chin and Kayin States, (4°C) below normal in Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, (3°C) above normal in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (0.43) inch, Heho (0.83) inch, Pinlaung (0.71) inch, Taunggyi (0.24) inch, Yamethin (0.23) inch. Maximum temperature on 2-2-2007 was 88°F. Minimum temperature on 3-2-2007 was 60°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 3-2-2007 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 2-2-2007 was (8.3) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 3-2-2007 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 Southeast at (15:30) hours MST on 2-2-2007.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 4-2-2007: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Kachin, Shan States and upper Sagaing Division, isolated in Kayah State, Mandalay and Bago Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine and Mon States, lower Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 4-2-2007: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 4-2-2007: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 4-2-2007: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Obituary Thein Sway Toe (Gwan) 1962-2007

Son of Dr Myint Toe (deceased) and Daw Khin Khin Latt, brother of Col: May Thein Toe-U Min Sein, Daw Mymar Toe-U Maw Maw Oo passed away peacefully on Friday, 2nd Feb. His remains will be conveyed from Ye Way mortuary to the Ye Way crematorium on 4-2-07 at 4:00 pm.



Sunday, 4 February
View on today

- 7:00 am
 1. ကျေးဇူးရှင် မင်းကုန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာမဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မမဟာရာဋ္ဌဂုရု၊ အဘိဓမ္မအဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
 - 7:15 am
 2. တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ အဂ္ဂမဟာပဏ္ဍိတ၊ ဘဒ္ဒန္တသိရိန္ဒာဘိဝံသ (ယောဆရာတော်) ဟောကြားတော်မူအပ်သော ဥပ္ပါတသန္တိပါဠိတော်
 - 7:25 am
 3. To be healthy exercise
 - 7:30 am
 4. Morning news
 - 7:40 am
 5. Nice and sweet song
 - 7:55 am
 6. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ(၃၈)ဖြာမင်္ဂလာ
 - 8:10 am
 7. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
 - 8:20 am
 8. ဖောင်းကတောရေလှောင်တစ်
 - 8:30 am
 9. International news

- 8:45 am
 10. 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 pm
 4. Yan can cook.
 - 11:50 pm
 5. Myanmar movie "နေခြည်ဖြာမှနွေးသောကြောင့်" (အောင်လွင်၊ နွဲ့၊ နွဲ့၊ မှ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-စံရွှေမောင်)
 - 2:55 pm
 6. ကြက်ငှက်တုပ်ကွေး ရောဂါကာကွယ်ပါ
 - 2:00 pm
 7. "ကောင်းခြင်းပေးဖြာ" (ထွန်းထွန်းနိုင်၊ ရန်ပိုင်စိုး၊ ပိုင်စောရဲထွန်း၊ ခင်မိုးမိုး၊ အေး၊ ရှစ်စန်းဦး) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-အောင်မိုး-ပဲရစ်)
 - 2:25 pm
 8. ပေါက်တံတား (ရေပြာ) နှင့် ပေါက်တံတား (အုန်းတော)
 - 2:35 pm
 9. "သတိနဲ့ယှဉ် အသိနဲ့ပြင်" (အပိုင်း-၂) (ဝါးမယ်မရဲမောင်၊ ဘုန်းလှ၊ မြတ်ကောသီအောင်၊ ရတနာခင်၊ ဟန်နီထွန်း၊ ပြည့်ဖူးခိုင်၊ နီနီရွှေရည်၊ ဆောင်းနင်းဝေ၊ ရိုင်းစုခိုင်သိန်း၊ အိုင်းရစ်လေပြေဦး) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မင်းအုပ်စိုး)
 - 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. English for Everyday Use
 - 4:45 pm
 4. လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းပေးဂီတတေးပထမနှစ် (ရုပ်ဗေဒ၊ ဓာတုဗေဒ၊ သရုပ်အထူးပြုများ) (ရုပ်ဗေဒ)
 - 5:10 pm
 6. Dance of national races
 - 5:25 pm
 7. Sing and Enjoy.
 - 6:00 pm
 8. Evening news
 - 6:30 pm
 9. Weather report
 - 6:35 pm
 10. သိရိဂေဟာ
 - 7:00 pm
 11. နယ်ချဲ့လက်သစ်၏ အသုံးတော်ခံဘဝ ရောက်နေရသည့် နိဘယ်လ်ဆု (အပိုင်း-၃)
 - 7:10 pm
 12. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ကြယ်ကြွေရင်ခုန်သံ" (အပိုင်း-၁၈)
 - 8:00 pm
 13. News
 14. International news
 15. Weather report
 16. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "လှပသော နေ့ရက်များ" (အပိုင်း-၂၂)
 17. The next day's programme



Sunday, 4 February
Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music: -It's your life
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music: -Angel ... Cliff Richard
- 8:50 am National news/Slogan
- 9:00 am Music: -Hope you're feeling
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Cultural images of Myanmar: - What am I gonna do?
- 9:20 am Music
- 1:30 pm News / Slogan
- 1:40 pm Children's delight (story)
- 1:50 pm Songs for children
- 9:00 pm Weekly news review
- 9:10 pm Article
- 9:20pm Music / LIETS -Look what you're done... Bread - A man without love... Englebet Humpardinck
- 9:45 pm News / Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL

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Commander supervises development tasks of Cocogyun Township

YANGON, 3 Feb — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, accompanied by Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo and Central Executive Committee member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, inspected regional development tasks of Cocogyun Township this morning.

They offered alms to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kovidaçara of Sasana Mandaing Monastery, Chairman of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee. Next, they attended the merit sharing ceremony to mark the completion of the prayer hall of Zinamarazein Pagoda.

While in Cocogyun Township, they inspected township police station, Basic Education High School, township hospital, pre-primary school and communication station and gave necessary instructions to officials.

Afterwards, they met departmental personnel, members of social organizations and local people.

The commander explained progress of political, economic and social conditions of the State, development tasks for the township and future plan. Next, he gave instructions on carrying out of agricultural and livestock breeding tasks and boosting production of local industries.

Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo and USDA CEC member Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin explained tasks of departmental personnel, members of social organizations and local people for regional development.

Next, the commander handed over various kinds of books for the township library and BEHS and K 1.5 million for the township hospital, donated by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and family to officials. Likewise, Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo presented uniforms and gifts to departmental personnel, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin gifts for USDA members and MCC Company Chairman U Tin Win Aung one set of computer worth K 600,000 to officials.

Later, the commander gave concluding remarks. — MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win inspects No 2 Concrete Bridge built on the circular road of Cocogyun Township.

MNA

Member of Patheingyi Township NLD quits

YANGON, 3 Feb — U Nay Oo, member of Patheingyi Township National League for Democracy in Mandalay Division, resigned from the party of his own accord on 23 January sending copies of his resignation letter to NLD Headquarters and local authorities concerned.

In the copy of the resignation sent to Patheingyi Township Multi-party Democracy General Election Subcommittee, U Nay Oo said he quit the NLD of his own volition as he had lost interest and faith in the party and its functions. — MNA

60th Anniversary Union Day Objectives

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

WEATHER

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| Nay Pyi Taw | (0.43) inch |
| Heho | (0.83) inch |
| Pinlaung | (0.71) inch |
| Taunggyi | (0.24) inch |
| Yemethin | (0.23) inch |

INSIDE

HIV control tasks can be carried out more effectively through the concerted efforts of the Department of Health, international humanitarian organizations and media. In the drive to prevent and control AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases, more health education programmes on preventive measures should be disseminated through the media to raise public awareness.

PAGE 2

PERSPECTIVES