

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

Secretary-1 addresses opening of 15th Myanmar Tatmadaw Medical Conference

Medical Services needs to improve the standards of treatment, training and disease prevention to keep pace with changes and developments

Medical research will make remarkable progress as researchers of Ministry of Health and Medical Services are striving together in presenting papers



Chairman of National Health Committee Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein addresses 15th Myanmar Tatmadaw Medical Conference. — MNA

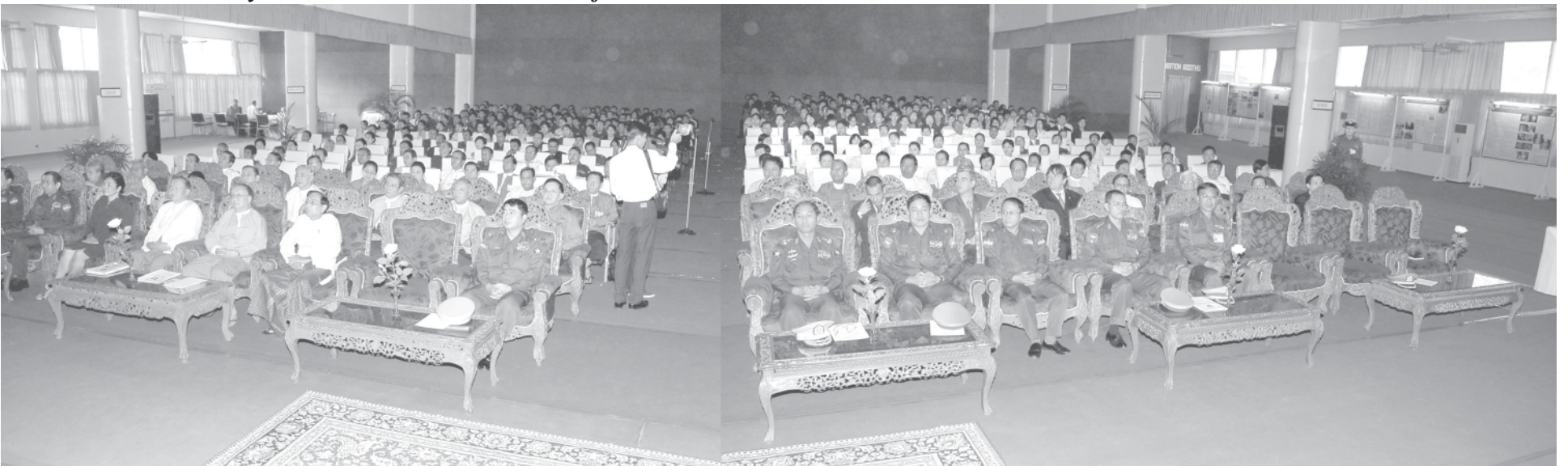
YANGON, 6 Feb—Chairman of National Health Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein attended the opening of the 15th Myanmar Tatmadaw Medical Conference held at Defence Services Orthopedic Hospital (500-bed) in Mingaladon Township here this morning and made a speech on the occasion.

Also present on the occasion were Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, Director of Medical Services Maj-Gen Than Aung, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, senior military officers of Mingaladon Station, commandants of military hospi-

tals and medical depots, specialists, candidates of doctorate courses and post graduate courses, heads of department under the Ministry of Health, rectors and professors, those from WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, ICRC, representatives of social organizations, resource persons, researchers and guests.

In his address, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said that the Myanmar Tatmadaw Medical Conference has been held since 1990 and it is now the 15th. The participants have presented papers at the conference held annually despite their heavy schedule. The results gained from the conference are fruitful.

(See page 8)



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

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 7 February, 2007

To ensure uprightness, fairness and justice of judicial pillar

Now, the nation is taking all the necessary measures for reforms in various sectors to ensure a smooth transition to a new system. So, the judicial sector too should adapt itself to the changing conditions.

The courts, being the eye and mirror of the nation, are to correctly assess the life of the people and to judge the cases free from practices of bribery and corruption. Only then will the courts, judges and judicial staff win the trust and reliance of the people.

Judges, law staff, police officers, lawyers, and officials, whose duties are related to judicial affairs, must preserve their moral conduct and are to be equipped with broader outlook to become ones trusted by the people.

In addition, the courts need to enlist the cooperation of local administrative organs in discharging the duties for community peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order with political and judicial views.

A judicial system that is in conformity with the genuine democratic social life of the people is to be established in the process of transition to democracy. Therefore, the judges are to be competent in their functions and law officers, to be well-versed in law and to safeguard the people.

It is believed that if judicial personnel weld the State's policies with present laws, the judicial pillar will be more upright and fairer, and the people will abide by the law and in return the law will protect the people. If so, there will be a judicial system that reflects the democratic social life of the people.

WAO members go on excursion to historic places

YANGON, 5 Feb— The youth members of Yangon Division Women's Affairs Organization (WAO) visited the Memorial to Fallen Heroes near Shwedagon Pagoda today as part of efforts to promote patriotic spirit among youths. The 70-member excursion group was led by Head of Organizational Department of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo and Writer Dr Ma Tin Win.

Yangon Station Commander Lt-Col Soe Min Swe explained facts about the Memorial to Fallen Heroes. They laid a wreath at the memorial and paid tribute to fallen heroes. Writer Dr Ma Tin Win briefed them on historic places during the struggle for the independence, and the group visited there.

Afterwards, they visited Shwedagon Pagoda where they observed the bells donated by King Singu and King Thayawady, circling pagodas and other religious edifices.

MNA

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

Special Refresher Course No 5 on Regional Development opens



Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo addresses opening of the Special Refresher Course No 5 on Regional Development.— MNA

YANGON, 5 Feb —Special Refresher Course No 5 on Regional Development was opened today at Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) in Hlegu Township with an opening address by Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo.

The opening ceremony was attended by members of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, departmental heads, the rector of CICS (Phaunggyi) and officials concerned.

In his opening speech, Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo said the course is aimed at training those who would be assigned to townships to carry out development tasks in border areas in accordance with changes and developments in political, economic and social sectors. The course is also designed to help

trainees improve their leadership and administration skills, further foster patriotic spirit among them and uphold Our Three Main Causes, he added.

He also urged the trainees to study dialects and customs of local people in border areas while implementing development tasks in the regions.

Trainees are also urged to carry out regional development tasks, to abide by the rules and regulations and to work hard during the training to broaden their horizon.

A total of 361 trainees are attending the course, which is organized by the supervisory committee for establishing the administration system in border areas.

MNA

Naungtaya in Shan State (South) makes economic progress

YANGON, 6 Feb — Thanks to the efforts of the State and people for development of social, education, economic, health, agriculture, livestock breeding and transportation sectors in rural areas, Naungtaya in Taunggyi District has enjoyed the fruits of development.

The gravel road linking Tikyit, Hsakaung and Naungmon in Taunggyi District, Shan State (South) was opened on 17 January.

It is 5,280 ft long and 18 ft wide. It was constructed at a cost of K 6 million contributed by wellwishers.

The 2-mile long Tikyit-Pinhmigon gravel road connecting Tikyit Model Village and Pinhmigon Village and the 2-mile and 3-furlong long Tikyit-Lonapo gravel road linking Tikyit and Lonapo Villages were opened on the same day. Both were constructed on self-reliance basis.

As water tanks have been built at Tikyit Model Village by Naungtaya Township Development Affairs Department, residents have now access to safe drinking water.

Wellwishers also donated cash and books to the library of Tikyit Model Village on 17 January.

On the auspicious day, local women presented membership applications for Women's Affairs Organization to Secretary of Taunggyi District WAO Daw San Yi and officials concerned.

Moreover, residents in nine villages in Tikyit Village-tract also contributed over K 1.9 million to the fund of Tikyit Station Hospital.

Naungtaya region produces potato, ginger, carrot, beans and pulses, maize and sunflowers.

In Naungtaya Township, there are 85 basic education schools and 256 self-reliant libraries. Communication facilities such as telephone station and post offices are set up in the region.

A coal-fuelled power station and a cement factory have been established in Tikyit Model Village.

As there are 19,085 acres of paddy fields in Naungtaya Region, it enjoys surplus of food.

Naungtaya Township is in a good economic state and residents are enjoying the urban life.

MNA

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Brazil says global warming demands global effort

RIO DE JANEIRO, 5 Feb — To avert the catastrophic effects of continued global warming, such as desertification of the Amazon rainforest, all countries both rich and poor must do a part, Brazilian Environment Minister Marina Silva said.

The United Nation's panel on climate change released its latest report on Friday strengthening its view that rising temperatures on Earth in the past 50 years are very likely, or 90 per cent probable, the result of humans.

With the rise in average global temperatures come rising sea levels, more devastating hurricanes and flooding as well as

the expansion of deserts and droughts, the report said.

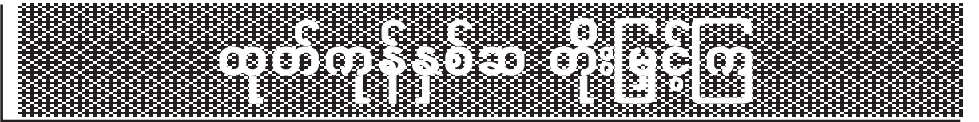
Brazil's Amazon forest, the largest rainforest that has been called the lungs of the world, could face more and stronger droughts, which has in the past coincided with higher rates of deforestation.

"Humanity should make every effort to prevent this, not only in the Amazon forest but in

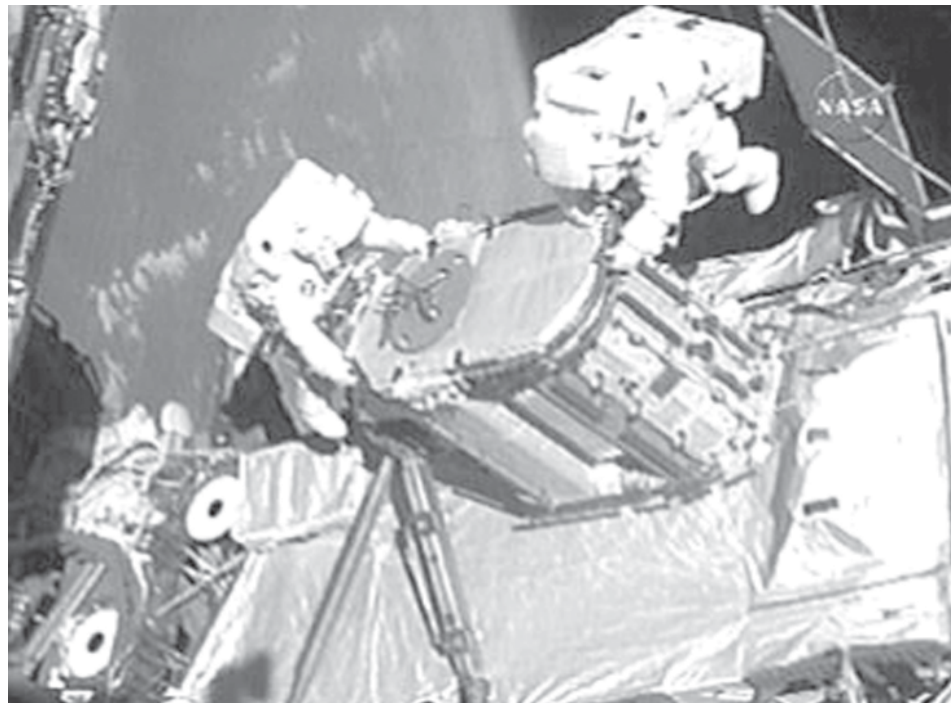
all of the planet's forests that are threatened," Silva, the daughter of former rubber tappers, told *Reuters* in a telephone interview on Friday night.

Forty-six nations called for the creation of a more powerful UN environment agency on Saturday, saying the survival of humanity was at risk, but the United States, China and Russia did not sign up.

MNA/Reuters



Clouds of moisture form on Lake Michigan at sunrise in Kenosha, Wisconsin on 5 Feb, 2007. A cold wave blanketing the Midwest and northern plains States has left much of the United States with below freezing temperatures for the last three days.—INTERNET



Astronauts Sunita Williams (L) and Michael Lopez-Algeria are shown during a space walk on the International Space Station, on 31 Jan, 2007.—XINHUA

Nine kidnapped Chinese workers safely released in Nigeria

BEIJING, 5 Feb—Nine Chinese oil workers who were kidnapped last week by an armed group in Nigeria, were released safely on Sunday morning, according to the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

The nine were set free at 6:35 am (Beijing time) following 11 days of tough diplomatic efforts, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu said in a statement. The released workers will return to China soon, she added.

A Chinese oil company compound was attacked by an unidentified armed group in southern Nigeria on 25 January. Nine workers were kidnapped and the others moved to a safe place.

The Chinese Government showed deep concern about the workers and demanded relevant departments investigate the case and go all out to rescue the kidnapped workers, said Jiang.

MNA/Xinhua

Spacewalkers upgrade station's coolant system

CAPE CANAVERAL, (Fla), 5 Feb — Two NASA astronauts left the *International Space Station* on Sunday to hook up a new cooling system that will pave the way for installation of European and Japanese modules beginning this year.

Station commander Michael Lopez-Alegria and flight engineer Sunita Williams, who began their slightly longer-than-planned seven-hour spacewalk at 8:38 am EST (1338 GMT), also photographed a solar panel that is scheduled to be folded up during a station assembly mission next month.

Problems retracting an identical panel during the last shuttle mission in December prompted NASA to extend that crew's stay at the station for an unplanned spacewalk to help fold up the balky wing. The extra day in orbit ate into supplies normally reserved for weather-related landing delays.

Engineers are tweaking plans for folding up the second panel in hopes of avoiding similar problems.

The spacewalk was the second of three

planned over nine days, the most ambitious station assembly work ever attempted without a US space shuttle crew present.

Lopez-Alegria and Williams, both US astronauts, breezed through their main goal — attaching a second pair of ammonia cooling lines to the station. The first pair was hooked up during a spacewalk on Wednesday.

The third outing is planned for Thursday to remove and discard shrouds no longer needed to keep equipment warm.—MNA/Reuters



A policeman stands guard in front of a building in Victoria Street in central London, on 5 Feb, 2007.—INTERNET

Letter bomb injures female employee in London

BEIJING, 5 Feb — A female employee at a London office was injured Monday when a letter bomb exploded, police said.

Police said the area in Victoria Street in central London was cordoned off after they received reports of a suspicious package.

"A female employee was taken to hospital. There was an explosion and she was taken to hospital as a result," a Scotland Yard spokeswoman told *Reuters*. "Our crews treated a female patient for minor injuries and conveyed her to hospital," a London ambulance spokesman said.

"Fire crews have implemented a 50-metre exclusion zone and we're standing by," a Fire Brigade official said. — Internet

Vietnamese soldiers help clean beach after oil spill

HANOI, 5 Feb— Hundreds of Vietnamese including soldiers are working against the clock to clean up oil pollution soiling a popular tourist beach, but the source of the spill remains a mystery, an official said on Saturday.

“We are using all forces including the Army, youth, students and militia to work on the beach,” said Nguyen Su, a senior official in the ancient town of Hoi An, a UNESCO

heritage site.

The spill blackened part of Danang Beach and all 125 kilometres (78 miles) of coastline of Quang Nam Province including Hoi An, spurring residents to start picking up the oil-soaked sand by hand.

“We have to do it quickly, the oil can melt in the sun while waves are bringing more oil to the beach,” said Su, who heads Hoi An’s municipal Communist Party office.

“Tourists cannot go swimming now, the water’s dirty and sticky,” he said by telephone.

The National Committee for Search and Rescue, which is investigating the spill, has ruled out a barge that stuck in waters off Hoi An as the source, the *Lao Dong* (Labour) newspaper said on Saturday. More oil had been spotted drifting towards shore, the paper said.

MNA/Reuters

Men say Gong Li more desirable than Zhang Ziyi

BEIJING, 5 Feb— Who is more desirable to men, Gong Li or Zhang Ziyi?

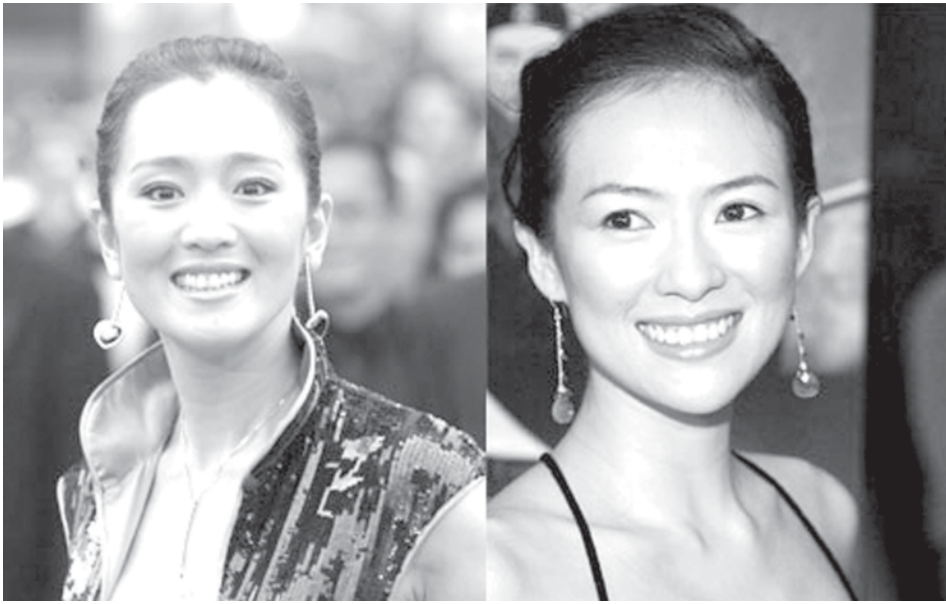
Those who took part in an Internet poll by popular men’s website AskMen.com chose 41-year-old Gong Li.

Gong Li, who is making headways in

Hollywood with her latest film “Hannibal Rising,” lands at 34 on the Top 99 Most Desirable Women of 2007, while 27-year-old Zhang Ziyi, also internationally acknowledged for her appearances in several Hollywood films, ranks far behind at 83.

American singer Beyonce tops the list, with actress Angelina Jolie and Latin American singer Shakira also making it to the top ten.

More than 8.5 million people are reported to have taken part in the global vote.—*Internet*



Chinese actress Gong Li (left) lands at 34 on the Top 99 Most Desirable Women of 2007, while Zhang Ziyi (right) ranks at 83. —XINHUA

Thai bird flu prevention measures meet int’l standard

BANGKOK, 5 Feb — Thailand’s bird flu prevention measures meet international standard and the public need not worry about the situation, said Thai Public Health Minister Mongkol Na Songkhla.

In the government’s weekly radio program on Saturday, Mongkol reaffirmed that bird flu virus had only been found in poultry and no human cases had been reported so far, according to *Thai News Agency*.

Thailand’s Department of Livestock Development confirmed Thursday that it found the H5N1 virus in samples of

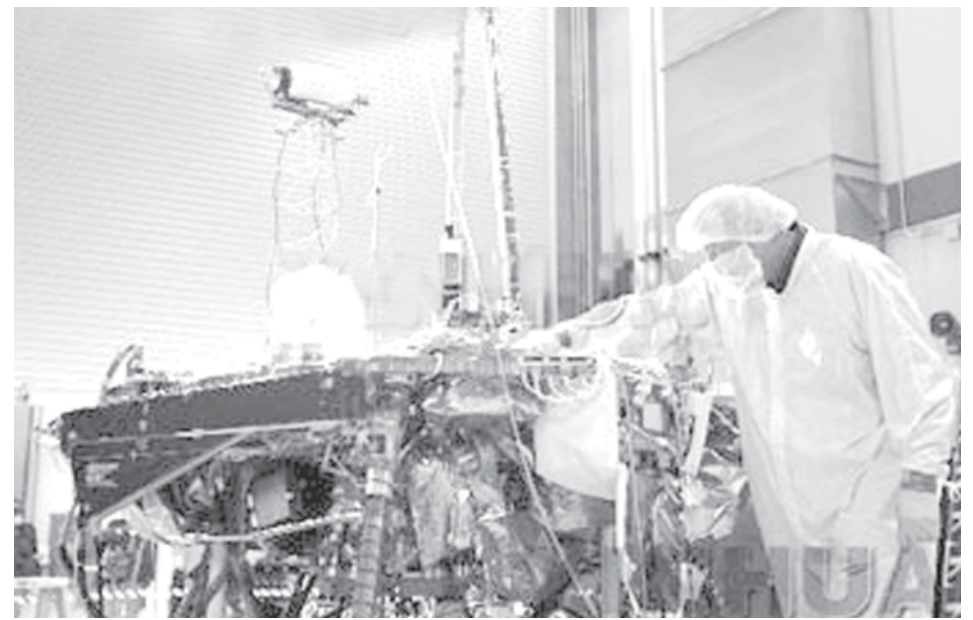
fighting cocks and native chickens in the central province of Ang Thong, the third case of bird flu outbreak detected this year after Phitsanulok Province in the northern and northeastern border province of Nong Khai.

Mongkol said that the situation was not worrisome, as the government was on high alert and kept tight monitoring.

“There are more than 800,000 public health volunteers as well as ministry officials who are on duty nationwide. If there are any patients whose symptoms raise suspicions, they can respond properly and promptly to find out whether the patient is a bird flu virus victim or not,” Mongkol said.

The minister urged the

ခက်ခဲစွမ်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား



Jack Farmerie, a Lockheed Martin space technician, looks over the Phoenix Mars lander in a Lockheed cleanroom in Denver, Colorado, on 1 Feb, 2007.—XINHUA

Mortars kill 15 in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 5 Feb— Mortar bombs killed 15 people in a Sunni neighbourhood in Baghdad on Sunday in fresh violence after a truck bomb killed 135 people in a Shiite area in the worst single bombing since the US-led 2003 invasion.

The spiralling sectarian bloodshed threw the spotlight on Shi’ite Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki’s planned crackdown in Baghdad, but a US general warned it would not produce results overnight and said reinforcements were still being deployed.

MNA/Reuters

Nestle to produce pet food in China

TIANJIN, 5 Feb— Swiss-based Nestle SA’s pet food plant in Tianjin Municipality in north China began operating on Friday.

Nestle invested 80 million yuan (10.26 million US dollars) in the plant and it has an annual production ability of 20,000 tons.

It is the company’s first pet food plant in China. The plant will use local-purchased raw materials including bean, corn and wheat.

Its products will be sold in supermarkets, pet clinics and pet shops. — MNA/Xinhua

Store fire leaves 17 dead in East China

HANGZHOU, 5 Feb— At least 17 people were killed in a fire that occurred early on Sunday in Huangyan District of Taizhou City, east China’s Zhejiang Province.

The fire broke out at 1:40 am at a two-storey store on Luting Road in eastern Huangyan District; the second floor of the store is used as living quarters.

The fire was put out later by local fire fighters, said a source with the publicity department of Huangyan District.

No other details, such as the cause of the fire, and the number of the injured, are available at the moment.

MNA/Xinhua

Trains collide in Indonesia’s Sumatra, injuring 35

JAKARTA, 5 Feb— A passenger train collided head-on with a cargo train in Indonesia’s North Sumatra Province Friday, leaving at least 35 people injured, local Press said Saturday.

The passenger train just left a small station in Rantauprapat when it collided with the cargo train carrying cooking oil from the opposite direction, reported leading news website Detikcom.

Nine of the injured passengers were reportedly in critical condition. Provincial railway company spokesman Suhendro said the cause of the accident remains unclear.

“Investigation is under way,” he said.

MNA/Xinhua

ECONOMIC NEWS

ASEAN making concerted efforts to draw tourists

SINGAPORE, 5 Feb— From fully open skies to Caribbean-style cruises, the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) is making concerted efforts to brand this region as a single destination for tourism.

Integration was the word at the 26th ASEAN Tourism Forum, which closed down on Friday. Tourism ministers and industry organizations from the ten ASEAN nations, with their dialogue partners from China, Republic of Korea (ROK) and Japan, outlined plans to jointly promote the region as a seamless destination and strengthen connectivity between countries.

The tourism ministers said they were urging their transport counterparts to work towards freer skies

within ASEAN.

ASEAN has earlier agreed to implement open skies for capital-to-capital flights by the end of 2008, and the tourism ministers stressed to make efforts to implement the "Air Services Liberalization Road Map" by 2010 to extend unlimited flights to all cities beyond capitals.

While Singapore's Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong called for full open skies for 40-year-old ASEAN before 2017 when it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

During the meetings,

members also improved common understanding on liberalizing travel barriers to facilitate easy cross-border intra-ASEAN travel and making it convenient for visitors to travel into and within ASEAN.

MNA/Xinhua



Tourists take photos in front of Grand Lisboa (L) and Hotel Lisboa Macau, both owned by Stanley Ho, in Macau on 4 Feb, 2007. Grand Lisboa will be opened on 11 Feb, 2007.—INTERNET

Beijing unveils rules on foreigners buying homes

BEIJING, 5 Feb — Foreigners in Beijing must prove they have worked or studied in China for more than a year before they are allowed to buy homes for their own use in the city, according to new regulations.

The rules, jointly issued by the construction committee, foreign affairs office, public security bureau, industry and commerce bureau and commerce bureau of Beijing, said they can obtain the certificate from the exit and entry office of the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau.

The rules forbid foreigners to buy houses not for their own use unless they establish a business in China.

According to the rules, branches or offices of foreign organizations are allowed to buy property for their own use after submitting certificates of their identities to relevant

authorities.

Foreign embassies in China, representative offices of international organizations and people who enjoy diplomatic privileges need to obtain approval from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to buy a property.

Many foreigners have bought property in China hoping to profit from both escalating housing prices and the appreciation of China's currency, the yuan, the *Beijing Morning Post* reported on Saturday. However, they have driven property prices to exorbitant levels the ordinary Chinese people cannot afford.

MNA/Xinhua

Ecuador probes oil companies over pollution

QUITO, 5 Feb—Ecuador's President Rafael Correa said on Saturday the government would suspend contracts with any foreign oil company found to have needlessly damaged the environment.

"Any company ... state-run or private, that unnecessarily (damages) Ecuador's environment, or does not fulfil its contract, will face sanctions," Correa said in his weekly radio address.

Correa, a 43-year-old former economy minister, has made investors nervous by pledging to limit debt payments and rework foreign oil contracts to raise the government's share of booming oil revenues.

He said the government is investigating suspected irregularities committed by companies involving pollution in the country's Amazon jungle region.

The probe could be focused on Brazil's Petrobras, which is developing oil block 31, located at the heart of one of the world's biggest protected natural reserves.

MNA/Reuters



Horror flick "The Messengers" was the big winner at the North American box office this Super Bowl weekend, raking in an estimated 14.5 million dollars to clinch the top spot, according to preliminary figures released on 4 Feb, 2007.

XINHUA



Tiger Woods (R), Arsenal football player Thierry Henry (C), and tennis player Roger Federer have during the launch of the new Gillette champions programme in Dubai on 4 Feb, 2007. —INTERNET

Indonesia to boost security to enforce sand export ban

JAKARTA, 5 Feb— The Indonesian Government will beef up sea security on the borders with Singapore to enforce a ministerial decree banning the export of sand, according to local media on Saturday.

The security measures will involve the Navy, the Customs office and the police. The trade ministerial ban was issued on 22 January and will come into effect on 6 February,

reported English daily *The Jakarta Post*.

"The Navy, Customs and police will tighten security in sea border areas between Indonesia and Singapore once the decree is in effect, preventing sand being smuggled out of the country," Chief Executive of the Maritime Security Coordinating Board, Vice-Admiral Djoko Sumaryono, was quoted as saying.

Most of the sand export

from Riau Province has been delivered to the neighbouring Singapore.

Djoko said the government would take strong action against those smuggling Indonesian sand overseas, and ordered security personnel to be on high alert. "The serious environmental damage caused by sand mining is the main reason why Indonesia is stopping sand exports," said Djoko.—MNA/Xinhua

Under the pretext of dialogue (2)

Soe Mya Kyaw

The next day, I arrived at the house of Bagyi Soe and Kye Kye Mya early in the morning, as I was so anxious to know more about the conspiracies of the US, Daw Suu Kyi, NLD and their cohorts to meddle in the affairs of Myanmar. I had to wait for about half an hour in the living room as Bagyi Soe and Kye Kye Mya were saying prayers in the alter room.

I was reviewing yesterday's discussions based on my knowledge. "The Tatmadaw government has been holding peace talks in view of national reconsolidation beginning 1989. It held the talks not only with a specific group of persons, but with all the aboveground and underground groups.

"In every peace talk, the government has striven to win the trust of those groups, frankly exchanging views with them in a cordial atmosphere, with national interest as the vision. The joining of hands with the government by 17 major groups and numerous small groups in oneness stands witness to the fact.

"In accord with the Myanmar teaching, which says that as all are related to one another, they always remain united even if there are disputes big or small, the Tatmadaw government and the national race groups held the talks with mutual family spirit and Union Spirit", I drew a conclusion. At that time, Bagyi Soe and Kye Kye Mya came into the room. So, we continued our discussions as follows:

Bagyi Soe: You arrived here so early.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Well, I'm here early as I wish to know many things from you.

Kye Kye Mya: As you have told him all about those evil things, Soe Mya Kyaw would be feeling sad.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Yes, aunty, we would be able to relieve our bitterness with forgiveness if the story of the US, Daw Suu Kyi and the NLD may have memorable parts.

Kye Kye Mya: How could a story of such evil things have memorable parts?

Bagyi Soe: Thanks to Maung Kyaw, I have noticed the memorable parts. There are no memorable parts in the sector of the US and Daw Suu Kyi and their tangled strings, but the sector of the Tatmadaw and the NLD, without the participation of Daw Suu Kyi, does have.

Kye Kye Mya: Oh, Really? I am confused.

Bagyi Soe: Not only you, there are many others too. Certain length of time has already passed. Only if we study the historical events concerning the matter in detail, will we be free from confusion.

Soe Mya Kyaw: You make the story more interesting. Please, elaborate.

Bagyi Soe: Yesterday, we discussed the expulsion of Daw Suu Kyi from the NLD by the party central executive committee on 26-3-1990.

Soe Mya Kyaw: During the time, the NLD distanced itself from Daw Suu Kyi. There was a situation in which the NLD and Daw Suu Kyi were separated from each other.

Bagyi Soe: Only in that time the NLD was free from Daw Suu Kyi's influence throughout its existence.

Kye Kye Mya: I now see the whole picture. We were happy with the correct decisions made by the CEC of the Daw Suu Kyi-free NLD during the time.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Me too! I am slow to understand everything. The government issued Announcement No 11/92 on 24 April 1992 and released all prisoners who were not harmful to State security.

Bagyi Soe: Yes. The Announcement also included the holding of talks within two months with representatives-elect of legal political parties and independent representatives-elect concerning the convening of the National Convention.

Kye Kye Mya: It also issued an announcement to convene the National Convention within six months to lay down fundamental principles to be included in a new constitution.

Bagyi Soe: Our government took the initiative to hold the dialogue, the US and its cohorts and the NLD were demanding once more.

Kye Kye Mya: Nobody talked about the dialogue then. Confrontation was given priority over dialogue.

Soe Mya Kyaw: During the time, the government opened wider opportunities for holding the talks on national scale. To the extent of my memory, over 1200 were released. A large number of leaders of political parties who were imprisoned for various offences were also included in the released prisoners.

Bagyi Soe: That was aimed to create an opportunity for respective members to be able to attend the intra-party meetings of political parties regarding the steps to convene the National Convention.

Kye Kye Mya: Four days later on 28 April 1992, the Tatmadaw unilaterally declared to cease its offensive in Kayin State. It also ceased offensives in the whole nation.

Bagyi Soe: The cessation of offensives was to open greater opportunities not only for aboveground groups, but also for the underground groups. The whole nation unanimously supported the government's decision.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Thanks to the noble objective of the Tatmadaw, Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) of Kachin State returned to the legal fold on 1-10-1993; Kayinni Nationalities People's Liberation Front on 9-5-1994, and Shan Nationalities People's Liberation Organization (SSNPLO) on 26-7-1994.

Kye Kye Mya: Underground groups came back to the legal fold, and at the same time, all the legal political parties including the NLD that had freed itself from Daw Suu Kyi's domination welcomed the Tatmadaw's invitation to the dialogue. They all took part in the National Convention without fail.

Soe Mya Kyaw: The government made a firm resolve to join hands with all the forces.

Kye Kye Mya: The NLD would have aggressively rejected the government's offer, if it was still under Daw Suu Kyi's domination then.

Bagyi Soe: During the time, political climate in Myanmar was free from dark clouds and was seeing the rays of hope.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Please tell me about the nation's development during the time.

Bagyi Soe: On 23 June 1992, the government held the first coordination meeting on convening the National Convention. Representatives of the political parties including 15 from NLD and six from SNLD attended the meeting.

Kye Kye Mya: At the third meeting held on 10 July 1992, they agreed to designate eight delegate groups to the National Convention.

Bagyi Soe: Head of State Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe recognized the success of the meeting between the government and political parties, and cordially met with and encouraged the attendees of the meeting.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Then, the Tatmadaw Government managed to make peace with underground political groups and achieve national reconsolidation with aboveground political groups through talks.

Bagyi Soe: Right, here I noticed a point that all the talks were successful because they were held without any instigation of foreign countries and Daw Suu Kyi.

Kye Kye Mya: Certainly, national races tackled the internal affairs through talks at home, and so the National Convention was launched on 9 January 1993.

Soe Mya Kyaw: I learnt that former Prime Minister U Nu as well as Red Flag Thakin Soe proposed motions to cease armed insurgency and political disputes that were smouldering for more than 40 years. The National Convention could be launched only after 1988, so no one can deny that the Tatmadaw Government achieved great success in the peace talks.

Bagyi Soe: I would say the National Convention is the highest level talks for national concern that resulted from various meetings the Tatmadaw government had held constantly.

Kye Kye Mya: **The delegates to the National Convention are representing the entire people, the entire nation, all national races and people from all walks of life.**

Soe Mya Kyaw: **I wrote down the facts and figures about the National Convention in my note-book. I would like to read out the number of the delegates for you—five representatives each from ten political parties totalling 50, 99 representatives from six parties of representatives-elect, eight independent representatives-elect, 215 representatives of national races, 93 representatives of farmers, 48 representatives of workers, 92 representatives of State service personnel, and 57 other invited persons totalling 702 National Convention delegates.**

Kye Kye Mya: **The National Convention delegates include representatives from the peace groups who returned to the legal fold, Ko Soe, don't they?**

Bagyi Soe: **Yes, they do. Forty-two of the 57 other invited persons are the representatives of national race peace groups. The number of NLD representatives was highest among those of the political parties, altogether 86 representatives led by chairman U Aung Shwe.**

Soe Mya Kyaw: Then, it means that the National Convention delegates represent the entire nation except some armed groups that have not returned to the legal fold, and some persons who are against the law.

(See page 7)

- The Tatmadaw Government managed to make peace with underground political groups and achieve national reconsolidation with aboveground political groups through talks.**
- All the talks were successful because they were held without any instigation of foreign countries and Daw Suu Kyi.**

(from page 6)

Bagyi Soe: Due to the correct proportion of delegates, the National Convention was convened from 1993 to 1995 smoothly.

Soe Mya Kyaw: What progress did the National Convention make, uncle?

Bagyi Soe: At the National Convention, 104 basic principles and 15 chapters that should be included in the State constitution necessary for our nation were laid down with one voice. Moreover, some detailed basic principles were also laid down.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Oh, the National Convention was held in an effective way. Why was it adjourned temporarily in 1996, then, uncle?

Kyee Kyee Mya: It was due to the instigation of Michael Aris and Daw Suu Kyi.

Soe Mya Kyaw: I think it was an evil consequence of the combination of the political tricks of the US and Britain and those of Daw Suu Kyi. Could you tell me more about their political tricks?

Bagyi Soe: At that time, the National Convention was gaining speed and yielding good returns. I attended the National Convention as a representative for long, to say exactly two years, 10 months and 16 days. So, I dealt cordially with the representatives of the NLD and SNLD. I noticed that they took the National Convention seriously because the NLD and Daw Suu Kyi stood separately at the time. The National Convention was held with noble goals, and due to its correct activities, the people did not think that someone would hinder the National Convention.

Kyee Kyee Mya: It was beyond our reach that what promises she made in meeting with the Head of State in September 1994 and with State level dignitaries in October.

Bagyi Soe: I assure you that the Head of State and State leaders never speak irresponsibly and are men of their words.

Kyee Kyee Mya: Yes, they are. So, they placed trust in Daw Suu Kyi and on 10 July 1995 lifted the restrictions put on her.

Bagyi Soe: Here I would like to share with you the news I heard for the knowledge of the international community and the people. However, it was not the news I heard firsthand and it might be a hearsay. So, I am not very sure whether it was a true story.

Kyee Kyee Mya: What is it, Ko Soe? You never told it even to me.

Soe Mya Kyaw: I did not tell anyone about it because it might harm the persons concerned. It was already known to some delegates who have attended the National Convention since 1993.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Do not tell it to me, if you consider you have to keep it secret. I know you keep such cases.

Bagyi Soe: Now, I have to tell about it to you because it is the concern of the nation and the people. I would say it was an echo that surfaced when the news about the talks between the government and Daw Suu Kyi was carried in the newspapers and aired on TV. It was that some NLD members attending the National Convention then were worried about the fact that the government would release Daw Suu Kyi.

Kyee Kyee Mya: Why, Ko Soe?

Bagyi Soe: Because they thought as soon as she was released, she would dominate the NLD again and disrupt the National Convention relying on external elements.

Soe Mya Kyaw: I think it might be a true story. All the NLD delegates had dealt closely with her since 1989. So, they had a lot of knowledge about her temperament and nature.

Kyee Kyee Mya: Of course, once the restrictions on her were lifted, she made a roar. She was released on 10 July 1995, and the following day or within 24 hours of her release, she expressed a storm of threat.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Certainly, she did it. At the press

- **The delegates to the National Convention are representing the entire people, the entire nation, all national races and people from all walks of life.**
- **The number of the delegates to the National Convention—five representatives each from ten political parties totalling 50, 99 representatives from six parties of representatives-elect, eight independent representatives-elect, 215 representatives of national races, 93 representatives of farmers, 48 representatives of workers, 92 representatives of State service personnel, and 57 other invited persons totalling 702 National Convention delegates.**
- **The National Convention delegates include representatives from the peace groups who returned to the legal fold.**
- **Forty-two of the 57 other invited persons are the representatives of national race peace groups. The number of NLD representatives was highest among those of the political parties, altogether 86 representatives led by chairman U Aung Shwe.**

conference held that day, the foreign correspondents raised a leading question. They asked what her attitude towards the government was. Then, **Daw Suu Kyi made a threat that the government would have to choose either of the two ways—a dialogue or utter devastation. It was known globally.**

Kyee Kyee Mya: How dare she said so! It might be because her husband Michael Aris told her that the US and British governments were behind her.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Sure. It happened like that as soon as that guy had visited her. Michael Aris' announcement at Bangkok Airport on his way to England on 21-1-1990 was exactly the same as that of Daw Suu Kyi mentioning that she would continue her political campaign.

Bagyi Soe: While talking about this, both of you are losing your patience, I think.

Kyee Kyee Mya: How can anyone try in order not to lose their patience to hear such a remark. What do you think she said about at the press conferences later?

Soe Mya Kyaw: She came to speak out more daringly at those press conferences. She said the National Convention was just window dressing; she disliked it; it needed reforms; and she disagreed with U Aung Shwe and NLD members attending the NC. How dare she said so!

Kyee Kyee Mya: She dared say because at that time, diplomats from the US and British embassies frequented her. They encouraged her very much. Daw Suu Kyi even knew a thing in advance that a US citizen would visit Myanmar to encourage her.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Like John Bolton, that American citizen was none other than Madeleine Albright who was US Ambassador to UN. Am I right? Unexpectedly she arrived in Myanmar and made a demand for the formation of an interim government. She was also like another instigator, Stephen Solarz.

Bagyi Soe: You two are now being out of control. Be patient.

Kyee Kyee Mya: We are just intolerant of their interference. Madeleine Albright not only held a private meeting with Daw Suu Kyi but also expressed her view at Yangon Airport that she wished to see a dialogue between Daw Suu Kyi and the government.

Soe Mya Kyaw: The US senator, Solarz, demanded the formation of an interim government in 1988; Ambassador Madeleine Albright asked for a dialogue in 1995. Americans' interference in Myanmar's internal affairs has been too much.

Bagyi Soe: Well, I'll continue to explain to you. In September 1995, the US administration restored the NLD leadership to Daw Suu Kyi, who was publicly expelled from the party. That was why NLD walked out of the National Convention under her orders. It was a pity.

Soe Mya Kyaw: It was she who intentionally disrupted our National Convention, the heart of the whole country, by demanding the government to choose either a dialogue or utter devastation.

Bagyi Soe: In this regard, I'll continue to explain the ulterior motive and ill attempts of the US and Daw Suu Kyi.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Please continue so that we could prevent their acts next time as they were full of tricks.

Bagyi Soe: Indeed, Daw Suu Kyi's demand for a dialogue

in 1995 and the US and Britain's demand for a dialogue in 2007 were shams.

Kyee Kyee Mya: When she made such a demand in 1995, the National Convention was in progress. Likewise, the demand of the US and Britain this time also coincided with the holding of NC. Am I right?

Soe Mya Kyaw: Oh, I see. Daw Suu Kyi attempted to wreck the NC in 1995. Again, that two foreign countries tried to do so. Why are they resorting to various ways to disrupt the NC.

Bagyi Soe: This is because some basic principles the NC has laid down are against the interests of the US and Daw Suu Kyi.

Soe Mya Kyaw: This has nothing to do with them, Bagyi. We have the right to adopt our own principles that serve the interest of our national people. This is sovereign power of our citizens.

Bagyi Soe: That's right. Actually, they are trying to exclude the principles they dislike from our constitution under the pretext of a dialogue.

Kyee Kyee Mya: How dangerous their attempt was! Have you ever heard that our country was on the point of collapse in the AFPFL era. But this time their ploy was to cause a total break-up of the country.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Really! Go on, please.

Bagyi Soe: There are some principles laid down by the National Convention that the US government dislike. They are concerned with foreign affairs. I'll read them out.

- The State practises independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy, aims at world peace and friendly relations with nations, and upholds the principles of peaceful co-existence among nations;

- The State never starts aggression against any nation;

- No foreign troops are permitted to deploy within the borders of the Union.

Soe Mya Kyaw: All these three basic principles are found to have no adverse effects on the regional countries as well as the international community. Every nation that wants global peace and security must accept them.

Kyee Kyee Mya: How stupid you are, Maung Kyaw. That's why the US and Britain cannot accept such principles.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Oh really? But when did they (the US and Britain) ask for permission to deploy their troops in our country?

Kyee Kyee Mya: You are stupid again. Just ask your uncle whether they have asked for permission or not.

Bagyi Soe: Please stop arguing.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Well, talking about the conspiracy of the US and Daw Suu Kyi will never end. That's why I am asking my aunty in order to arouse her nationalist fervour.

Kyee Kyee Mya: I know. I am even worried about your not coming to us tomorrow.

Soe Mya Kyaw: Oh, no! Rest assured I will continue to visit here without fail.

Bagyi Soe: As aunty and nephew, you two really have everything in common.

Translation: TMT+MS+ST

Secretary-1 addresses opening of 15th Myanmar Tatmadaw ...

(from page 1)

It is believed that the medical research will make remarkable progress thanks to individual and group-wise efforts of MS researchers and cooperation between MS and Health Ministry in giving talks and presenting papers on medical field's development.

The 15th Medical Conference includes 38 papers, 12 posters, three symposia, one forum, one clinco-pathological conference, nine academic talks to be given by specialists of medical services and prominent hospitals in South East Asian region.

The 38 papers include eight papers on medicines, three papers on surgery, six papers on obstetrics and gynecology, one paper on child health, three papers on public health, three papers on orthopedics, four papers on microbiology, two papers on pathology, one paper on medicinal law and seven papers on nursing.

The 12 posters include four posters on obstetrics and gynecology, one poster on traditional medicines, one poster on nursing, two posters on child health, one poster on microbiology, one poster on orthopedics, one poster on public health and one poster on hospital management.

The three symposia include one symposium on prevention of HIV/AIDS, one symposium on treatment with the use of stem cell and one symposium on talks on biosafety. The forum is on control of malaria, TB and AIDS the major health problems in Myanmar.

To keep pace with advancing era, medical services is required to harmoniously develop multiple sectors including treatment, training, disease prevention and health promotion.

In the medical treatment, advanced diagnosis, modern surgical operations, renal transplant, treatment of GI tracts and bile duct with the use of endoscope, advanced eye operations, obstetrics with the use of laparoscope, maxillo-facial treatment are being carried out.

In the training sector, there have emerged a



Chairman of National Health Committee Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects booth staged at 15th Myanmar Tatmadaw Medical Conference. — MNA

large number of MRCS, MRCP degree holders and courses on advanced medical science are being conducted.

Efforts are being made with added momentum to control malaria, TB and AIDS. As a result, there has been a significant decrease in malaria-related deaths.

In the treatment, training and disease control sectors, research is being conducted extensively in order that the findings can effectively be used in improving the health standards.

As modern medical equipment and medicines are displayed at the exhibition, one can widen his scope of knowledge on medical equipment and medicines.

In conclusion, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein acknowledged the researchers of medical services who presented papers on respective medical subjects at the conference, and invited outstanding

surgeons and physicians abroad to the coming medical conferences. He also urged surgeons and physicians at home and abroad to do research on each subject so that the standard of medical services can be lifted up.

After the opening ceremony, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein greeted those present on the occasion and viewed posters on research activities displayed at the hall.

Next, Chairman of National Health Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein attended the medicine and medical equipment exhibition of the conference which was formally opened by Director of Medical Services Maj-Gen Than Aung.

After that, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party viewed round the medicine and medical equipment exhibition.

Afterwards, the medical conference continued at 11 am and resource persons presented papers on respective medical subjects.

The conference continues until 9 February and it covers three symposia, one forum, one clinco-pathological conference, nine academic talks, 38 papers and 12 posters.

MNA

Yangon Zoological Gardens marks 101th Anniversary Celebration

YANGON, 6 Feb — The 101th Anniversary Celebration of Yangon Zoological Garden was held at the zoological gardens today.

Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and Director-General U Soe Hlaing of the Forest Department formally opened the 101th anniversary

celebration.

Shops and booths are staged in the gardens.

Next, the commander, Mayor of Yangon Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and party visited animal show and booths after the opening ceremony. The celebration will last until 10 February. — MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win speaks at opening of the ceremony to mark 101th Anniversary Celebration of Yangon Zoological Gardens. — MNA

Home Affairs Minister inspects Hlayhlaw-in breeding camp

YANGON, 5 Feb — Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo, accompanied by Director-General U Zaw Win of Prisons Department, Deputy Director-General U Ye Myint of Bureau of Special Investigation and officials, inspected Hlayhlaw-in breeding camp of Prisons Department in Hlegu Township this morning.

The minister inspected raising of pigs, poultry and fish and urged the camp in-charge to extend breeding of milch cows, reduction of loss and wastes and growing of physic nuts and pepper plantation.

He also inspected power supply with the use of bio-gas, Shwe Gone Myint natural fertilizer products and dairy products.

MNA

Cash and kind donated to MMCWA

YANGON, 6 Feb— A ceremony to donate cash to Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association was held at the association at the junction of Thanthuma and Parami Streets this afternoon.

President of MMCWA Daw Khin Khin Win accepted lab related equipment worth US\$ 67,930 toward the association donated by Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Nobutake Odano; K 3 million and 200 dozens of exercise books by U Htay Myint and Daw Aye Aye Maw (Yuzana Company); two Floor Standing Type Aircons worth K 2.3



Japanese Ambassador Mr Nobutake Odano presents medical equipment to Daw Khin Khin Win, President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association. — MNA

million by Daw Mya Aung (Sunday Mart); stationery worth K 1,004,750 by

Shwemintha Company; one Water Cooler and one Microwave Oven worth K

281,000 by U Myat Thin Aung and Daw Khin Myint Myint (Aung Enterprise Ltd); nutritious items worth K 1 million by Mo Asia Co Ltd Dumex and lab related equipment worth FEC 200 and US\$ 6,000 by Europe Continents Myanmar.

Next, President Daw Khin Khin Win presented certificates of honour to the donors. Afterwards, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Nobutake Odano spoke words of thanks. President Daw Khin Khin Win also thanked the donors.

MNA



Medical equipment donated to Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association. — MNA

MWAF General-Secretary receives EMM

YANGON, 6 Feb — External Monitoring Mission-EMM of World Health Organization (WHO) called on General-Secretary of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Prof Dr Daw Khin Mar Tun and party at the office of MWAF here on 1 February.

At the meeting, the two sides discussed matters related to MWAF's activities for development of women and health services including TB elimination tasks in Myanmar.

Officials of EMM said they were glad to see that activities of MWAF reached grass-roots level with the participation of policy makers and intellectuals and intelligentsia. They also expressed thanks to social organizations for their participation in TB elimination tasks.

EMM comprises Programme Manager Dr Md Akramul of BRAC Health Programme, Chief of TB Cluster of Ministry of Public Health of Thailand Dr Sriprapa Nateniyon, National Consultant of JICA Dr Aye Tun and Dr Daw Thandar Lwin of National TB elimination project.

Also present were Joint-General-Secretary of MWAF Prof Dr Daw Khin Htar May, Secretariat Members Dr Daw Thet Thet Zin and Secretary of Health Group of MWAF Dr Daw Khin Mar Aye.

MNA

Industry-1 to hold special market festival

YANGON, 6 Feb— As a gesture of haling the 60th Anniversary of Union Day, the Ministry of Industry-1 will hold the special market festival at Thirimingala sports ground in Ahlon Township. The sale is scheduled to start on 11 February and is expected to last until 21 February .

Consumer goods produced by the ministry will be put on sale at reasonable prices.

MNA

Fund-raising music concert for MEF on 10 Feb

YANGON, 6 Feb— A fund-raising music concert will be held for Myanmar Equestrian Federation on 10 February at the hall of Myanmar Convention Centre. Tickets are available at Dagon Centre, La Pyae Wun Plaza, Sein Gayhar Super Market (Pyay Road), Ko Ko Beauty Saloon and Innwa Book House.

MNA

Chief Justice briefs on detailed basic principles

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Feb — Chief Justice U Aung Toe, who is also Vice-Chairman of National Convention Convening Commission and Chairman of National Convention Convening Work Committee, met with state/division judges and law officers today at

Attorney-General's Office here and briefed on detailed basic principles to be included in the constitution.

It was also attended by deputy chief justices, deputy attorney-general, judges of the Supreme Court, directors-general and officials of Supreme

Court and the Attorney-General's Office. National Convention Convening Commission Member and Vice-Chairman of National Convention Convening Work Committee Attorney-General U Aye Maung also briefed on the detailed basic principles. The basic principles and

detailed basic principles were laid down at the National Convention.

MNA

Myanmar Red Cross Society holds its 60th Central Council meeting

YANGON, 5 Feb— The 60th Central Council meeting of Myanmar Red Cross Society was held at the University of Nursing (Yangon) on Bogyoke Aung San Street here this

afternoon.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint delivered an address.

Present were the president, executives and members of Central

Council, the chairman of supervisory committee of State and Division Red Cross Society, delegates and officials. The meeting will be held up to 7 February.—MNA



Delegates from Chin State arrive at Nay Pyi Taw Airport on 6 February 2007. They are to participate in the 60th Anniversary Union Day Celebration to be held on 12 February 2007. — MNA

Special Refresher Course No 11 for Faculty Members of Universities and Colleges opens

All-round development of nation depends on higher education standard

YANGON, 6 Feb—A ceremony to open the Special Refresher Course No 11 for Faculty Members of Universities and Colleges conducted by Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) was held at the Nawarat Hall of the Institute in Hlegu Township, Yangon Division yesterday morning. On behalf of Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein made a speech.

Also present on the occasion were the ministers, the Mayor of Yangon, deputy ministers, members of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, departmental officials, the Rector of CICS (Phaunggyi), heads of department, faculty members, course instructors and trainees.

On behalf of the Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee, Minister Dr Chan Nyein said that development of human resources plays a pivotal role in creating the strong



Education Minister Dr Chan Nyein delivers an address at Special Refresher Course No 11 for Faculty Members. — MNA

national economy.

Therefore, the government has laid down the national education promotion plans and is implementing them for the emergence of an educated nation.

He said as there was no peace and tranquillity in border areas, local national races lost their learning opportunities.

The education standard and regional development were low and there were no national solidarity and peace and tranquillity.

He said under the Tatmadaw government,

schools, colleges and universities were built in the various regions of the Union to possess education foundations.

Arts and Science University, Government Technological College and Government Computer College were built in the 24 social development regions based on focal points of states and divisions.

In January, the three remaining arts and science colleges and all technological colleges and government computer colleges were upgraded to universities.

In health sector, a 200-

bed specialist hospital was built in every development region and arrangements are being made for equal development of education and health sectors in every region.

He spoke at length on construction of hospitals in the nation and provision of hospital equipment and specialists and health technology for high performance, opening of medical universities, conducting medical seminars and producing doctors, physicians and medical scientists.

He also said that arrangements are being made

for use of high technology in forestry, mining, agriculture and livestock breeding sectors. In other words, universities and colleges, workshops and laboratory and electronics-based infrastructures were opened for development of every sector in every region, he said.

The nation will own large and qualified human resources only if it strives for progress and propagation of modern sciences and technologies in all strata of people of various sectors, and for emergence of intellectuals and intelligentsia.

It has been building infrastructures to open education opportunities for

every region, race and class and to pursue further studies.

The entire nation will develop only if all educational institutions from schools to universities meet their set standards.

All educators including faculties, should effectively use the infrastructures in striving to accelerate the development of regions and the nation with the help of advanced sciences and technologies.

After the ceremony, the minister cordially greeted the trainees.

A total of 618 trainees from universities and colleges are attending the four-week course.

MNA

Jotun paint retailers honoured

YANGON, 6 Feb—Unique Innovative Trading Co Ltd, which has distributed Jotun paints in Myanmar, on 4 February honoured its retail outlets who could boost the sales of Jotun paints in 2006.

Managing Director of Unique Innovative Trading Co Ltd U Zaw Hein and Director U Ko Ko Lay presented TVs and refrigerators to five retailers who could increase the sales figures in 2006.

Unique Innovative Trading Co Ltd has imported Jotun brand paints from Norway and distributes in Myanmar.

Three kinds of Jotun brand paints — home decorative paints, marine paints for ships and protective coating paints for gas pipes, oil pipes, metal and steel structure — and other high quality paints are on the market in Myanmar.

Those wishing to distribute Jotun Paints may contact Unique Innovative Trading Co Ltd, No 95, Bayintnaung Market Road, Ward-1, Bayintnaung, Ph 683690, 0950 20422 and No 88, 68th Road, between 33th and 34th Streets, Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay, Ph 095016023. — MNA



Managing Director U Zaw Hein of Unique Innovative Trading Co Ltd presents award to U Aung Kyaw Khin of Mawlamyine.

MNA

Golden Umbrella to be hoisted atop Upatasanti Pagoda

YANGON, 6 Feb—Under the aegis of Sayadaw Mahasaddhama Jotikadaja Agga Maha Saddhamajotikadaja Bhaddanta Kumara, a ceremony to hoist Shwehtidaw atop Upatasanti Pagoda in the compound of Zeyatheidi Monastery in Insein Township, consecration ceremony and ceremony to offer alms to 45 members of the Sangha will be held on 12 February at the monastery. Wellwishers are invited to attend the ceremony at 8.30 am.

Under the supervision of Pantapwinttaung Sayadaw Saddhamajotikadaja Bhaddanta Pannasara, 27 pagodas will be built before the full moon day of Tabauung. Those wishing to make donation may contact Pantapwinttaung Sayadaw phone numbers 055-20259, 20533; U Kyaw Win (01642625); U Shwe Than (01699833); Daw Tin Tin Win (01643581); Daw Kyin Thauung (01245488); and Daw Htet Htet Aye (01579105). —H

All faiths in Myanmar enjoy freedom...

(from page 16)

The following are the declaration of the Catholic Bishop's Conference of Myanmar and the Myanmar Council of Churches and that of the Young Men's Christian Association.—MNA

Statement of the Catholic Bishop's Conference of Myanmar and the Myanmar Council of Churches

Following the Teachings of Christ our Lord and obedient to the Will of God, the Churches of Myanmar have been working together for the propagation of Peace, Justice and Loyalty based on His Divine Compassion and Love.

When issues arise affecting Peace, Justice and Unity, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Myanmar and the Myanmar Council of Churches work together and in consultation with the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Government of the Union of Myanmar.

It has come to our notice that recently some outside organizations have been active ostensibly in the interest of the citizens of Myanmar and of Christians. We declare that these organizations have no connection at all either with the Catholic Bishop's Conference of Myanmar or with the Myanmar Council of Churches.

The Yangon Young Men's Christian Association

No.263, Maha Bandoola Street, Botahtaung Township.
PO 11161 Yangon, Myanmar

1-2-2007

Yangon YMCA's Reflection on "Carrying the Cross" Report

1. Yangon Young Men's Christian Association (Yangon YMCA) has noted that a new report on the persecution of Christians in Myanmar, called "Carrying the Cross", has been launched on 23-1-07 by Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW), based in England. This report claims that there are severe restrictions, discriminations and persecutions towards the Christians in Myanmar, and that Myanmar State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) is very much hostile towards the ethnic and religious minorities in Myanmar.

2. We also noted with regret that some members of the British Parliament has tabled, on the same day, an Early Day Motion, calling the United Nations to investigate the violations of religious freedom in Myanmar, and the UN Security Council to pass a binding resolution to cease the widespread violation of human rights in Myanmar.

3. Yangon YMCA would like to state that the Buddhists, Christians, Muslims, Hindus and other religious minorities in Myanmar have lived for many centuries in peace and harmony, hand in hand, irrespective of their religious beliefs. It is evident that all the religious and the ethnic minority groups in Myanmar have experienced the freedom of worship and the right to express their faiths.

4. It is regretful that CSW has launched this so called "Carrying the Cross" report just to obstruct our religious harmony in Myanmar. We would like to urge the CSW to cease its attempts to create misunderstanding and mistrust among our people of different faiths.

Complaints invited if Supreme Court staff malpractise

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Feb — By setting aims and objectives in conducting judicial affairs, courts under the supervision of Supreme Court are trying to shape a fair judicial system that can win the trust and reliance of the people upholding such good deeds as impartiality, justice, equality and goodwill.

If any staff member of the Supreme Court or courts at various levels in performing his or her duty commits bribery and malpractice, seeks self-interest or breaches existing rules and regulations and procedures, complaints can be made to the following addressees in person, by phone or by fax.

Chief Justice	Ph: 067-404080
Deputy Chief Justice	Ph: 067-404071
	Ph: 01-372145
Deputy Chief Justice	Ph: 02-32154
Director General	Ph: 067-404078
Head of Office	Ph: 067-404067 Fax: 067-404059
Supreme Court, No 24, Nay Pyi Taw.	

If there is any complaint, the Supreme Court will investigate and take prompt action. The people are urged to cooperate with authorities concerned by making authentic complaints. — MNA

People can complain if there is any malpractice of Attorney-General's Office personnel

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Feb—The Attorney-General's Office is now effectively supervising legal functions for ensuring uprightness of the judicial pillar to enable the courts to win trust and reliance of the people and to provide legal services to the people.

Therefore, if an employee of any of the courts at all levels misusing his authority receives any form of bribe, seeks self-interests, perpetrates unfair acts, or makes improper practice of existing laws and procedures, anyone who suffers personally can complain by post, on telephone or by fax to the attorney-general (tel: 067-404088), deputy attorneys-general (tel: 067-404090, 067-404092, 067-404094), the director-general (tel: 067-404097), Fax 067-404046, 067-404047, Fax 067-404086, and the head of office of the Attorney-General's Office at Office No 25, Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

Complaints invited if Myanmar Advocates Council staff malpractise

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Feb —The State is taking all necessary measures to ensure the emergence of a fair judicial system that can win the trust and reliance of the people. Likewise, Myanmar Advocates Council is also striving its utmost to provide good services for the people.

If any advocate of Supreme Court breaches the code of ethics and shirks duties, complaints can be made to the following addressees in person, by phone or by fax.

Chairman	Ph: 067-404088
Secretary	Ph: 067-404097 Fax: 067-404146

MNA

A & I Minister receives Special Advisor



Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo receives U Wai Lin, Special Advisor to the Executive Secretary of UNESCAP. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Feb— Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo received U Wai Lin, Special Advisor to the Executive Secretary of

United Nations Economic and Social Commission For Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) based in Bangkok, Thailand, at the ministry today.

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

Minister receives Chinese guest

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Feb — Mr Ding Jianxin, Managing Director of Tianjin Machinery Imp & Exp Corporation Group of the People's Republic of

China, called on U Aung Thaung, Minister for Industry-1, at his office here yesterday.

Also present at the call were directors-

general, managing directors and general managers of the departments and enterprises under the ministry.— MNA

ADVERTISEMENTS

Slovakian PM starts China visit

BEIJING, 6 Feb—Slovakian Prime Minister Robert Fico arrived here Monday noon, starting his five-day official China visit aimed at boosting cooperation with China in various fields.

It is Fico's first China visit since he assumed the post of prime minister in July 2006.

In an interview with *Xinhua* prior to his departure, he said he would push forward the friendly and constructive relations between Slovakia and China, as well as the smooth bilateral economic ties.

During the current visit, Fico will meet with China's top legislator Wu Bangguo and Premier Wen Jiabao on separate occasions.

MNA/Xinhua

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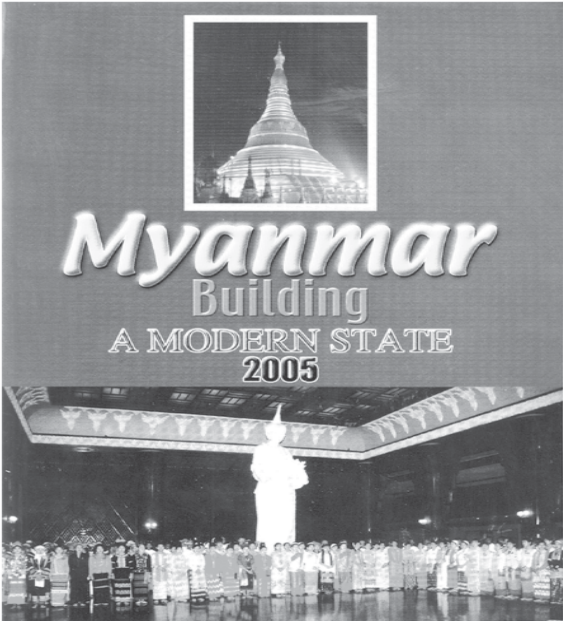
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Yangon. 7 February 2007



MYANMAR
Building A Modern State
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RMB climbs to new high against US dollar

BEIJING, 5 Feb—The exchange rate of the Renminbi against the US dollar climbed a further two basis points to a new high of 7.7613 yuan to one dollar on Friday, according to the Shanghai based China Foreign Exchange Trading System.

The yuan also gained 82 basis points against the euro and seven basis points against the Japanese yen. But it lost a little ground on the HK dollar, falling 13 basis points.

On Thursday, the RMB broke the 7.77-yuan mark for the first time,

ending the day's trading at 7.7615 yuan to the dollar. The rise of 161 basis points was the largest appreciation in a single day since China reformed its exchange rate system in July 2005 to allow the yuan to float against the US dollar within a daily 0.3-per-cent band from the official central parity rate.

"The sharp increase could have been due to the fact that the Federal Reserve announced it would continue to freeze interest rates and Wednesday's comments by the US Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson that the appreciation of the yuan should be accelerated," said a forex trade dealer with the Bank

of China on condition of anonymity.

However, Liu Yuhui, head of the economic evaluation centre of the Research Institute of Finance under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, disagreed. He believed the proximity of the rapid appreciation to Paulson's comments was mere coincidence.

"The upward trend of the value of the RMB has already taken shape. What happens in the outside world will not affect the overall movement of the local currency," Liu said.

"Since the RMB broke the 8-yuan mark, it has been appreciating in a more active way," Liu added.—MNA/Xinhua

Los Angeles-bound flight catches fire in mid-air

LOS ANGELES, 5 Feb—A Los Angeles-bound flight carrying more than 270 passengers caught fire in mid-air recently and returned to Australia, airport authorities said.

Flames trailed from the jumbo jet after an engine failed, said officials at the Los Angeles International Airport.

Passengers endured 90 traumatic minutes in the skies over Sydney and reported hearing a loud

bang, said the officials, who refused to be named.

The plane left Sydney at 11:35 am (Australian Time) with 274 passengers and developed problems within about 15 minutes.

A loud noise was heard as flames trailed from one of the *Boeing 747's* engines. The plane landed at 1.20 pm and it was expected that the passengers would be kept at the airport until a replacement aircraft was

ready at about 9 pm.

Passengers were told that while the aircraft could fly with three of four engines functioning, the pilot was going to make an early landing.

Airport officials said

the problem was like an engine surge, similar to a car backfiring. The pilot shut down the faulty engine and dumped the plane's fuel load so it could land, they said.

MNA/Xinhua

First African elephant baby born in captivity in Thailand

BANGKOK, 6 Feb—Thailand has seen the first ever birth of an African elephant in captivity on the

soil of the kingdom at a state-owned zoo in northeastern province of Nakhon Ratchasima, news network *The Nation* reported on Monday.

The male elephant baby is only the third African elephant in Thailand born exactly at 4:09 am Sunday morning (2109 GMT, Saturday), he is fathered by Ap and mothered by Jaew, both 17 years old, who were the first pair of African elephants brought to Thailand from Kruger National Park in South Africa in 1998, said the report. Director of Nakhon Ratchasima Zoo, Banyat Insuwan said the baby elephant was healthy and measured 40 kilo-grammes in weight, 70 centimetres in height and 100 centimetres in length.

MNA/Xinhua

Loneliness link with Alzheimer's

LONDON, 6 Feb—People who are lonely are twice as likely to develop Alzheimer's disease, a large US study has suggested.

The findings come from a study of more than 800 elderly patients, who were followed over a four-year period.

Social isolation has already been shown to be linked to dementia but this is the first time researchers have looked at how alone people actually felt.

Writing in *Archives of General Psychiatry*, the researchers said the reason for the link was not yet clear.

Study leader Professor Robert Wilson and colleagues assessed participants loneliness by asking people to rate from

one to five whether they agreed with certain statements related to loneliness on an annual basis.

We need to be aware that loneliness doesn't just have an emotional impact but a physical impact

Questions posed to those being studied included "I experience a general sense of emptiness" and "I often feel abandoned".

People in the study were also assessed for signs of dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

Internet



Panda cubs drink milk at the Research and Conservation Centre for Giant Panda in Wolong Nature Reserve, southwest China's Sichuan Province on 25 Dec, 2006. The Centre, where 11 residential giant pandas gave birth to 18 cubs from July to September 2006, is soliciting names from the public for all 18 cubs, local media reported on 24 Jan, 2007. —INTERNET

ပညာရေးနှင့် ဆေးကုသမှုများတိုးတက်လာ နိုင်စေရန် ကြိုးစားဆောင်ရွက်မည်

Chinese NGOs increase to 346,000

BEIJING, 5 Feb — China saw the number of non-governmental organizations (NGO) increase to 346,000 by the end of last year, 8 per cent more than the previous year, according to the Ministry of Civil Affairs.

Last year, civil affairs departments at various levels worked out a set of rules regulating NGOs according to local situations, The departments provided special guidance to NGOs that are dedicated to the development of particular industries, the rural economy and charity activities, said Zhang Weilin, an official with the ministry.

Since September last year, NGOs had participated in 211 projects supporting the rural development, involving a total investment of 5.5 billion yuan (688 million US dollars), Zhang said.

Since 1978 when China initiated the policy of reform and opening-up, the country has witnessed a steady increase in the number of the NGOs, which are called "civilian organizations" in Chinese officialese.

MNA/Xinhua

Nader leaves '08 door open, slams Hillary Clinton

WASHINGTON, 5 Feb — Former presidential candidate Ralph Nader on Sunday left the door open for another possible White House bid in 2008 and criticized Democratic front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton as "a panderer and a flatterer."

Asked on CNN's Late Edition news programme if he would run in 2008, the lawyer and consumer activist said, "It's really too early to say. ... I'll consider it later in the year." Nader, 72, said he did not plan to vote for Clinton, a Democratic senator from New York and former first lady.

"I don't think she has the fortitude. Actually she's really a panderer and a flatterer. As she goes around the country, you'll see more of that," Nader said. On whether he would be encouraged to run if

Clinton gets the Democratic nomination, Nader said, "It would make it more important that that be the case."

He added that Clinton may face a challenge in her own state from wealthy Republican New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

"I think her main problem may well be right in New York City, Michael Bloomberg. They're talking in the Bloomberg camp of a possible run. I'm saying he'll give more diversity, for sure, and he'll focus on urban problems.

But I might say, he's got the money to do it," Nader said.

Democratic candidates Nader likes include former Alaska Senator Mike Gravel and Ohio Representative Dennis

Kucinich, he said.

"These people have records, not just rhetoric," he said. He also criticized focusing on campaign fund-raising to judge candidates' prospects.

MNA/Reuters

First ice hotel officially inaugurated in Romania

BUCHAREST, 5 Feb — The only ice hotel in southeastern Europe and the first in Romania, Ice Hotel Balea Lac, located in Fagaras central mountains at 2000 metres altitude, was officially inaugurated on Saturday in the presence of tourists and head of Consumer's Protection Office Ilie Mitea.

Inspectors will take care of the tourists' safety, who get accommodation on their own account, according to Mitea. — MNA/Xinhua

China to control infectious diseases in bathhouses

BEIJING, 5 Feb — China is drafting a new regulation to curb the spread of infectious diseases in tens of thousands of bathhouses that still operate in the country, *Beijing Times* reported here on Sunday.

The new regulation will be issued by Ministry of Health and Ministry of Commerce. The two ministries will solicit comments from local health departments before the regulation comes into effect.

MNA/Xinhua

Strong earthquake hits eastern Caribbean

MIAMI, 5 Feb — A strong earthquake struck the eastern Caribbean on Sunday afternoon, according to the US Geological Survey's National Earthquake Information Center.

The 6.1 magnitude earthquake occurred 74 miles (119 kilometres) north-northwest of Montego Bay, Jamaica, and 98 miles (157 kilometres) southwest of Manzanillo, Cuba, the US agency said.

The quake was felt in Jamaica and in Cuba, on the southern coast of the eastern provinces of Granma and Santiago, but there were no reports of damage or injuries. — MNA/Reuters

Seven held over London ice rink shooting

LONDON, 5 Feb — Seven people have been arrested after a 16-year-old boy was shot dead at a London ice rink crowded with hundreds of skaters, police said on Sunday.

Police said around 300 people were at the rink in Streatham, south London, when the shooting took place on Saturday. The victim was not skating when he was shot. "We're still carrying out of searches of the rink," a Scotland Yard spokeswoman said.

MNA/Reuters

A neighborhood in Jakarta, the capital city of Indonesia was immersed in water after the flood on 4 Feb, 2007. Floods in the Indonesian capital have killed at least nine people and made nearly 200,000 people homeless, with the deluge of muddy brown water up to 4 metres (13 feet) deep in some areas of Jakarta, officials said on Sunday. — XINHUA



Floods in Jakarta kill 20, leaves 200,000 homeless

JAKARTA, 5 Feb — Flooding in Indonesian capital Jakarta and its surroundings has killed at least 20 people and forced about 200,000 flee their homes as overflowing rivers sent muddy water into homes and shops, local police spokesman said Sunday.

A total of 20 people were killed after they were carried away by water flows, affected by electricity shortcut, and hit by damage properties, Jakarta police spokesman Untung Yoga Ana told *Xinhua* by telephone.

Meanwhile, Rustam Pakaya, from the Health Ministry's crisis centre, said the flooding in the Greater Jakarta have made about 200,000 people homeless.

On Sunday, the flooding began inundating areas near

Presidential Office, after Jakarta Governor Sutiyoso ordered the opening of water sluice heading to the areas because West Flood Canal could no longer accommodate runoffs from Ciliwung River. The governor opened the sluice after he asked for permission from President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and he declared the highest alert status of the natural disaster as the flood was continuously worsening.

MNA/Xinhua



Residents walk in front of a destroyed building after a car bomb attack in Baghdad on 5 Feb, 2007. — XINHUA

SPORTS

Rainy Delray Beach final to be completed soon

MIAMI, 6 Feb— American top seed James Blake was a set up on third-seeded Belgian Xavier Malisse when the Delray Beach International final was suspended due to rain on Sunday.

Blake won the first set 7-5 and it was 3-3 in the second when officials called the players off.

The match, already interrupted twice by rain, was due to resume at 1000 local time on Monday.

Blake said the delay would affect his plans for travelling to the Czech Republic for a Davis Cup match next week. — MNA/Reuters



Werder Bremen's defender Per Mertesacker (top) fights for the ball with Schalke 04's forward Kevin Kuranyi during their German Bundesliga first division soccer match in Bremen on 4 Feb, 2007.—INTERNET

AFF to decide Thailand's fate on Tuesday

BANGKOK, 5 Feb— The ASEAN Football Federation (AFF) will hold a meeting on Tuesday to decide whether to punish Thailand for walking off the pitch for 15 minutes against Singapore in the Tiger Cup final.

The AFF held a scheduled meeting in Bangkok ahead of the second leg of the final here on Sunday and opted to meet again in Kuala Lumpur to discuss the scenes that marred the first leg.

"After studying all the relevant reports from the Match Commissioner and the Referee Assessor, it is felt that we need to study

the issue further," Ibrahim Saad, who was AFF head of delegation in Singapore, said on the AFF website.

"We will decide then if there had been a breach of discipline in the game."

The Thai team stormed off the pitch last Wednesday in the first leg in Singapore after a controversial refereeing decision gave the hosts a penalty eight minutes from time.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore celebrates ASEAN heroics

SINGAPORE, 5 Feb— Singapore slowly woke on Monday morning after a night of celebration fol-

Ten-man Olympiakos draw 6-goal derby thriller with AEK

ATHENS, 5 Feb— Ten-man Olympiakos Piraeus held title rivals AEK Athens to a 3-3 draw in the Athens derby to preserved an eight-point lead in the Super League on Sunday.

In one of the most memorable derbies played in the Greek capital, AEK went ahead after 29 minutes with an own goal by Greece keeper Antonis Nikopolidis after a Julio Cesar freekick.

Olympiakos responded with goals by Predrag Djordjevic and Brazilian playmaker Rivaldo just before the break to lead 2-1 at the Olympic Stadium.

Another Olympiakos own goal, this time by Michalis Konstantinou again from a freekick by AEK's Julio Cesar freekick, brought the sides level two minutes after halftime.

Olympiakos' own Julio Cesar

restored their lead from close range but Leonidas Kabadais made it 3-3 with 20 minutes left.

Olympiakos held out for the draw despite playing for 35 minutes with 10 men after Michal Zewlakow was sent off for a second bookable offence.

Third-placed Panathinaikos saw their title dreams effectively end on Saturday, losing 2-1 to PAOK in Thessaloniki and falling nine points behind the leaders.

Giorgos Georgiades and Sotiris Balafas were on target for PAOK either side of Dimitris Papadopoulos' equalizer from the penalty spot.

Aris stretched their winning run to three games with a 1-0 home victory over Xanthi on Sunday while cross-town rivals Iraklis succumbed to a late Atromitos comeback and lost 3-2 at home on Saturday.

MNA/Reuters



An unidentified coach leaves the course following the postponing of the women's super-G race at the Alpine Skiing World Championships in Are, Sweden on 4 Feb, 2007. The women's super-G race scheduled for Sunday has been postponed until Tuesday because of bad weather, organisers said.—INTERNET

Argentina to play friendly with France on Wednesday

BUENOS AIRES, 6 Feb— Argentina and France's national soccer teams are set to play a friendly on Wednesday in the French city of Saint-Denis, where

Argentina will seek revenge for their loss two decades ago.

The two teams last met on March 23, 1986, in Parque des Princes in Paris.

The hosts easily beat the Argentines then led by Diego Armando Maradona.

Ahead of Wednesday's match, Argentina is rated number three worldwide by FIFA, with France in fourth place.

The two teams have played nine times overall. The first time was in the 1930 World Cup in Uru-

guay, which Argentina won by one goal. The second, a 1965 friendly in Paris, ended in a draw.

The team's played twice in 1971 - in Buenos Aires where France won 3-4 and in Mar del Plata where Argentina won. In 1978, Argentina playing at home, beat France 2-1.

MNA/Xinhua



Skiers are pulled by horses in a skijoring White Turf horse racing event in St Moritz, on 4 Feb, 2007. Skijoring competitions over the frozen lake of St Moritz, the posh mountain resort in eastern Switzerland, go back one hundred years.

INTERNET

Injured van der Sar pulls out of Netherlands squad

AMSTERDAM, 6 Feb— Netherlands goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar has pulled out of the squad for the friendly against Russia on Wednesday after breaking his nose.

The Dutch soccer federation, KNVB, confirmed the Manchester United keeper had suffered a broken nose and concussion near the end of Sunday's Premier League match at Tottenham Hotspur.

Van der Sar was accidentally caught by the trailing boot of Spurs' Ireland striker Robbie Keane as he jumped over the Dutch keeper during leaders United's 4-0 win.

Netherlands coach Marco van Basten has added Feyenoord's Henk Timmer to the squad to replace Van der Sar, who holds the Dutch record for internationals with 118 caps. — MNA/Reuters

Injured Ronaldinho out of Brazil friendly

RIO DE JANEIRO, 5 Feb— Forward Ronaldinho has been ruled out of Brazil's friendly against Portugal because of injury, the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) said on Sunday.

The Barcelona player, who has started only once in five internationals since Dunga replaced Carlos Alberto Parreira as Brazil coach in August, is suffering from a calf muscle problem, the CBF said on its official website. Brazil face Portugal in London on Tuesday, their first meeting since Portugal's 2-1 win in a friendly in March 2003.— MNA/Reuters

lowing the city state's soccer team's dramatic triumph in the final of the ASEAN soccer championships on Sunday evening.

A late sucker-punch wonder strike by Khairul Amri gave Singapore a 1-1 draw in Bangkok's ageing Supachalasai Stadium and a 3-2 aggregate win over Thailand for the Singaporeans' third title in the regional tournament.

Fans clad in supporters' T-shirts celebrated in bars and clubs deep into

the night while Singapore's media trumpeted their triumph in unrestrained fashion.

"Singapore are kings of Southeast Asia" bellowed a headline in Monday's edition of the tabloid Today. "In a tense cauldron with 35,000-odd screaming Thailand fans, Singapore stood tall to emerge as ASEAN football champions," the newspaper said.

The broadsheet Straits Times mirrored Today's sentiments.

MNA/Reuters

Real Madrid's Ruud van Nistelrooy falls during their Spanish First Division soccer match against Levante at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on 4 Feb, 2007. INTERNET



Bush, Blair in dock at ‘house of horrors’ summit

KUALA LUMPUR, 6 Feb — About 2,000 peace activists applauded on Monday as the leaders of the United States and Britain were branded “fascist war criminals” at a conference featuring gruesome exhibits of their alleged crimes.

Outspoken former Malaysian premier Mahathir Mohamad, who hosted the conference in Kuala Lumpur, won a standing ovation after opening it with a call for George W. Bush and Tony Blair to be tried by an unofficial tribunal for war crimes in Iraq.

“We shouldn’t hang Blair if the tribunal finds him guilty,” said Mahathir, who seemed to save his strongest venom for the British Prime

Minister in an hour-long speech illustrated by pictures of wounded children, deformed babies and tortured men.

“He should always carry the label war criminal, killer of children and liar.”

Mahathir, has been leading a campaign to highlight what he calls the human-rights abuses and hypocrisy of US-led forces fighting for democracy in the Middle East.

That campaign reached new heights of graphic intensity on Monday, with an exhibit of alleged war crimes by US forces and their allies over the decades, from Hiroshima to Iraq.

As Mahathir spoke in the main conference room, packed with students and legions of his supporters, tape-recorded screams of tortured men and orphaned babies echoed around the War Crimes Exhibition, a house of horrors on the floor below.

Visitors to the exhibition start by walking through a mock spray of white phosphorus, a chemical agent that burns flesh, before entering a torture chamber labelled “Torture methods used here were used on prisoners of Guantanamo Bay and Abu Ghraib”.

Here, figures of naked men were gagged and strapped upside down to a metal-framed bed. Another was strapped to a

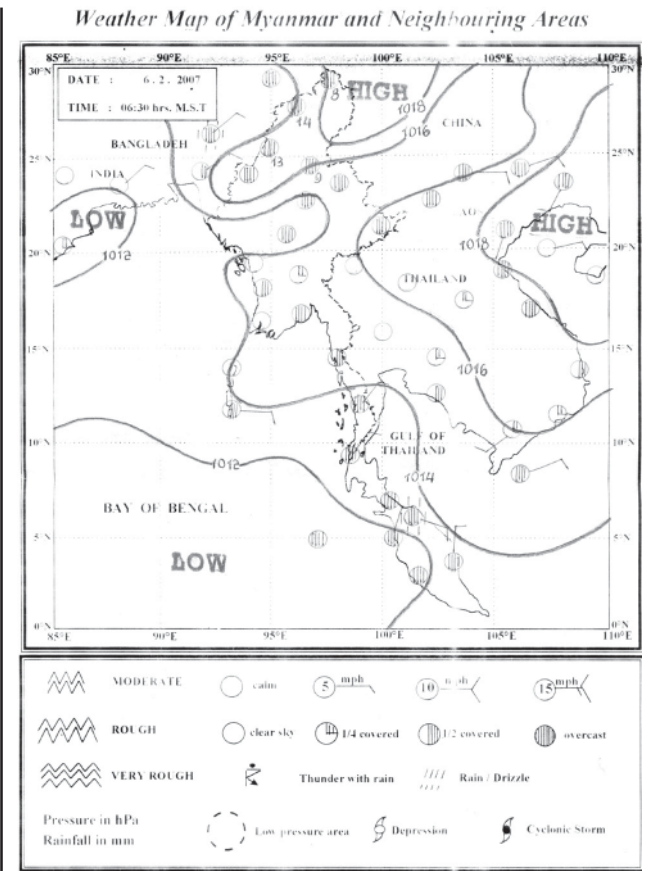
chair, his legs and arms bristling with nails driven into his flesh, while another was bombarded with loud, incessant disco music.

Speakers at the conference include former US lawmaker Cynthia McKinney, a Democrat who has branded the US-led war in Iraq as illegal, and former UN assistant secretary-general Hans von Sponeck, who took part in a similar attempt to set up an unofficial war-crimes tribunal at a conference in Turkey in 2005.

MNA/Reuters



Sae-eun Park of South Korea, Korea’s National University of Arts, performs during the ‘Prix de Lausanne’ dance competition to win the first prize in the scholarship category, in Lausanne on 4 Feb, 2007. —INTERNET



WEATHER

Tuesday, 6 February, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain has been widespread in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division, isolated in Shan and Chin States, lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and weather has been generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (5°C) to (6°C) below normal in Kayin State, Bago and Taninthayi Division, (3°C) above normal in Kachin State, (5°C) above normal in Shan State and Mandalay Division and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperature was Pinlaung (5°C) and Namhsan (6°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Hkamti (0.55) inch, Homalin and Machanbaw (0.51) inch each, Myitkyina and Bhamo (0.35) inch each and Putao (0.32) inch.

Maximum temperature on 5-2-2007 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 6-2-2007 was 64°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 6-2-2007 was 74%. Total sunshine hours on 5-2-2007 was (8.3) hours approx.

Rainfall on 6-2-2007 was (nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Southeast at (10:15) hours MST on 5-2-2007.

Bay inference: Weather is generally fair in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 7-2-2007: Rain is likely to be isolated to scatter in Kachin, Chin, Shan, Northern Rakhine States, Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in Magway, Bago Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of isolated rain is likely in upper Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 7-2-2007: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 7-2-2007: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 7-2-2007: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).



Wednesday, 7 February
Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music:
-The answer to our life..BSB
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music:
-If only you were
- 8:50 am National news/Slogan
- 9:00 am Music:
-Sweet kissess ... Jessica Simpson
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music:
-Brighter day
- 1:30 pm News / Slogan,
- 1:40 pm Lunch time music:
-Hello how are you
-She is my girl
-I'm gonna miss you forever
-Just the two of us
- 9:00 pm Variations on a tune
-Do I love you
- 9:15pm Article
- 9:25pm Music at your request
-I'll always love you
-Real love
- 9:45 pm News / Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL



Wednesday, 7 February
View on today

- 7:00 am
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Oattamathara
- 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
- 7:50 am
6. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:00 am
7. မြူးမြူးကြွကြွ ယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက
- 8:10 am
8. နှစ်(၆၀)ပြည့် ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့၊ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 8:20 am
9. အစဉ်အလာကောင်းသည့် လှိုင်းရောင်းတစ်
- 8:30 am
10. International news
- 8:45 am
11. Let's go
- 3:50 pm
1. ၂၀၀၈ခုနှစ်(၂၄)ကြိမ်မြောက် အိုလံပစ်အားကစားပြိုင်ပွဲ၊ ဘောလုံးအိုလံပစ်အမျိုးသား ဘောလုံးပြိုင်ပွဲ၊ ပထမအဆင့် ခြေစစ်ပြိုင်ပွဲတိုက်ရိုက်ထုတ်လွှင့်မှုအစီအစဉ် (ပထမကျော့) (မြန်မာနှင့်အိန္ဒိယ)
- 5:45 pm
2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 6:00 pm
3. Evening news
- 6:30 pm
4. Weather report
- 6:35 pm
5. သုတစုံလင်ရွှေညောင်ရှင်
- 7:05 pm
6. Discovery
- 7:15 pm
7. နိုင်ငံစီးပွား အလေးထား ကျော်လက် ထုတ်ကုန်များ
- 7:25 pm
8. နှစ်(၆၀)ပြည့် ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့၊ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 7:40 pm
9. ပြည်ထောင်စုစိတ်ဓာတ် မပြတ်ရင့်သန်နိုင်မာရန်မှာ ဒို.ဝန်တာ (အသီးတစ်ရာအညှာတစ်ရာ ဒို.ပြည်ထောင်စု)
- 8:00 pm
10. News
- 11. International news
- 12. Weather report
- 13. Myanmar movie: “နေ့ရင်မွှေး” (စိုးသူ၊ နေအောင်၊ ဇင်ဝိုင်း၊ စိုးမြတ်သူ၊ စာမင်၊ ဇာခြည်ကျော်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-အောင်စိုးဦး)
- 14. The next day's programme

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All faiths in Myanmar enjoy freedom of worship

Myanmar has the right to express faiths

Some outside organizations active ostensibly in the interest of citizens of Myanmar and Christians have no connection at all either with Catholic Bishop's Conference of Myanmar or with Myanmar Council of Churches. It is regrettable CSW's report that is totally wrong is just to obstruct religious harmony in Myanmar.

CSW urged to cease attempts to create misunderstanding, mistrust among people of different faiths

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Feb — Some powers of the West and their allies have been inventing and distributing slanderous and groundless accusations against Myanmar with the intention of interfering in and manipulating her affairs.

Annually, the US designates Myanmar as a Country of Particular Concern (CPC) for alleged severe violations of religious freedom. In addition,

the US has been making accusations against Myanmar, while allowing its follower organizations and stooges to distribute wrong data and facts concerning Myanmar's religious affairs.

Britain-based Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) issued a 23-1-2007-dated report, saying that Christians in Myanmar were under suppression in its conspiracy to tarnish the image of Myanmar interna-

tionally.

Christian, Islam and Hindu associations in Myanmar that are contributing to and also witnessing the flourishing of sound results of freedom of worship of all faiths in the country issued their own declarations expressing their stance in connection with the CSW report.

(See page 11)

US, British embassies contact NLD daily

Embassy staff visited NLD HQ 34 times in Jan 2007

People believe NLD's days are numbered

YANGON, 6 Feb — National League for Democracy (Central) is constantly committing wrong acts such as relying too much on foreign nations (especially big western nations) in disregard of the attitudes of party members in the country, pushing the entire people into servitude and condition of a lackey of colonialists instead of upholding the national interest, and ignoring the basic democratic practice. Therefore, a lot of NLD members resigned.

In response to the acts of NLD that continuously undermines the national interest, those who resigned from NLD have formed Wunthanu NLD (The Union of Myanmar) in the national interest.

The public watch the acts of NLD and they take notice of the visit of staff of British and American embassies in Yangon to NLD Headquarters on West Shwegondine Road. In January 2007, staff of the US Embassy visited the NLD Headquarters 29 times and those of the British Embassy five times—totalling 34. Diplomats and embassy staff met CEC members of NLD many times. The NLD headquarters accepted post bags sent by those embassies.

On 11 January 2007, the US and Britain submitted a draft resolution on Myanmar issue to the UN Security Council. On 9 January, staff of the US Embassy visited the headquarters four times and the British

Embassy once. On 11 January, those of the US Embassy came to the headquarters three times. On 11 January, the NLD headquarters issued a special announcement and urged the UNSC members to support Myanmar issue on the agenda of the UNSC.

It is obvious that the NLD (Central) follows the instructions and manipulation of the US and British governments through their embassies. The NLD (Central) has been in contact with the two embassies for ten years. The NLD is like a puppet that dances to the tune of alien countries. People believe that the days of NLD that relies too much on big western nations are numbered.—MNA