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7th Waning of Tabodwe 1368 ME

Thursday, 8 February, 2007

The Union of Myanmar The State Peace and Development Council

The Law Amending the Myanmar Merchant Shipping Act, 2007

The State Peace and Development Council Law No. 1/2007

The 6th Waning Day of Tabodwe 1368 ME (7th Feberuary, 2007)

The State Peace and Development Council hereby enacts the following | be substituted as follows:

Law:

- This Law shall be called the Law Amending the Myanmar Merchant 1. Shipping Act, 2007.
- The expression "home-trade ship" contained in the Myanmar Merchant Shipping Act shall be substituted respectively by the expression "near coastal voyage ship".
- Sub-section (3) of section 2 of the Myanmar Merchant Shipping Act shall

"(3)**near coastal voyage ship** means a ship employed in trading between any ports in the Union of Myanmar or between any port in the Union of Myanmar and any port or place in India or Pakistan or in the Straits Settlements, or in the Island of Sri Lanka or countries as stated in the notification published by the Department of Marine Administration with the approval of the Ministry of Transport;"

(See page 7)

Secretary-1 briefs foreign diplomats on activities of **Committee for Prevention of Recruiting Child Soldiers**

All Myanmar armed forces including army are formed with those who join them of their own volition

YANGON, 7 Feb — Chairman of the Committee for Prevention of Recruiting Child Soldiers Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein had a meeting with diplomats of foreign embassies to Myanmar at the Tatmadaw Guest House on Inya Road here at noon yesterday to make clarification to the steps being taken by the committee.

Also present on the occasion were Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, Committee members Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Brig-Gen Zaw Win and Maj-Gen Ngwe Thein of the Ministry of Defence, senior military officers, officials of the SPDC Office, heads of department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Acting Dean of Diplomatic Corps to Myanmar French Ambassador Mr Jean Michel LACOMBE and diplomats, and resident representatives of UNDP, UNICEF and ICRC.

The committee chairman in his speech said

that he would explain the committee's goals, objectives and performances and work progress. With a view to preventing minors being recruited into armed forces, protecting their interests, and ensuring enforcement of the orders and directives on protection of under-age children, the committee with him as chairman was formed on 5 January 2004.

In order to achieve the objectives of the committee, the committee laid down a Plan of Action to (See page 8)



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein clarifies tasks of the Committee for Prevention of Recruiting Child Soldiers. — MNA

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

2/8/07, 3:52 AM 8-2-07NL

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 8 February, 2007

All faiths enjoy freedom of worship in Myanmar

The people in Myanmar enjoy freedom of worship and have the rights to express their faiths. Buddhists, Christians, Muslims, Hindus and other religious groups have been living in the country in unity for centuries.

However, some big western nations and their allies with the intention of interfering in Myanmar's internal affairs make false accusations that there is no freedom of religion in Myanmar.

England-based Christian Solidarity World-wide (CSW) issued a report on 23 January, saying that Christians in Myanmar were under suppression. Some British Members of Parliament announced that they called on the United Nations Security Council to pass a resolution as there were severe violations of freedom of religion in Myanmar.

The above-mentioned report and draft resolution harmed Myanmar's condition of unity in religion. Their attempts are conspiracies to mislead international communities into misunderstanding Myanmar and mistrust the people of different faiths.

The Catholic Bishop's Conference of Myanmar, the Myanmar Council of Churches and the Yangon Young Men's Christian Association issued their correct attitudes, stating that the activities of some outside organizations had no connection at all with them.

There has been the flourishing of sound results of freedom of worship of all faiths and the rights to express faiths in Myanmar.

Interference of some big western nations and cohort organizations in Myanmar affairs through false accusations are the usual acts of neo-colonialists.

Myanmar Engineering Society to hold paper reading session

Yangon, 7 Feb —The paper-reading session entitled Engineering Profession to be organized by Myanmar Engineering Society will be held at the building of MES on the Universities (Hline Campus) in Hline Township on 10 February.

Professor Irandoust of Asian Institute of Technology and Vice-President Dr Daw Khin Ni Ni Thein will give talks on the papers. Interested persons may attend it. — *MNA*

People's 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

Final part-I students of UM-1 visit MMCWA multi-functional building

YANGON, 7 Feb—Accompanied by faculty members of University of Medicine-1 (Yangon), students of final part-I of the university visited the multi-functional building of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (Central), here, this morning.

Vice-President of MMCWA Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint extended greetings to them.

Secretary Dr Daw Wai Wai Tha explained organizational set-up of the association at different levels and CEC member Daw Thazin Nwe, on education,



Vice-President of MMCWA Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint extends greetings to final year students of University of Medicine-1. — MMCWA

viewed the clinic and the

economic and social tasks of the association.

ssociation. pre-primary school of the The students Early Childhood Devel-

opment Centre at the building.

MNA

More Union Day delegates arrive

Nay Pyi Taw, 7 Feb — Delegates from states and divisions arrived here by air and train today to participate in the 60th Anniversary Union Day Celebration to be held at the City Hall, here, on 12 February.

Officials of the accommodation sub-committees welcomed them at the railway station and Nay Pyi Taw Airport and conveyed them to hostels.

Those who arrived here today are delegates from Shan, Mon, Kayin, Rakhine and Kachin states and Yangon, Taninthayi, Magway, Ayeyawady, Bago, Mandalay and Sagaing divisions. — MNA



Union Day delegates from Shan State arrive Nay Pyi Taw. MNA

13th annual general meeting of MFPTMA on 16 Feb

Yangon, 7 Feb — The 13th annual general meeting of Myanmar Forest Products and Timber Marchants Association will be held at International Business Centre, here, on Pyay Road at 5 pm on 16 February. Members of the association are to attend the meeting without fail. —*MNA*

Cooperation in trade and investment to be discussed between Myanmar, China

Yangon, 7 Feb — A delegation comprising over 70 entrepreneurs of Yunnan Province of the People's Republic of China will arrive here last week of March to meet with Myanmar entrepreneurs in Yangon. They will discuss bilateral coopration in trade and investment.

They will also discuss timber, bamboo, furniture, rubber, hydel power, construction, mining, transport, agriculture, textile, electronic, livestock breeding and machinery sectors.

The entrepreneurs wishing to attend the meeting may enlist at the UMFCCI, not later than 20 February. — MNA

INTERNATIONAL

China vows to boost ties with Japan amid warming relations

Beijing, 6 Feb— Chinese Vice-President Zeng Qinghong on Monday pledged to further advance China-Japan ties.

"China would like to step up exchanges and cooperation with Japanese parties and friendship organizations," Zeng said in a meeting with Liberal Democratic Party lawmaker Noda Takeshi.

China-Japan relations

have "clearly improved and developed" since Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to China in Octoberlast year, Zeng said.

Abe's landmark visit was widely seen as a "turning point" in China-Japan relations.

This year marks the 35th anniversary of the normalization of China-Japan relations and will be a year of sports and cultural exchanges for the two countries. "This is a golden opportunity to develop relations," Zeng said.

"It is the common responsibility and historic mission of governments, parties and statesmen in the two countries to improve China-Japan ties," the Vice President said.

Echoing Zeng's views, Takeshi ascribed the improving tie to the continuous efforts of leaders in the two countries.

MNA/Xinhua



Chinese President Hu Jintao and his Namibian counterpart Hifikepunye Pohamba shake handsbefore holding talks in Namibia's capital Windoek on 5 Feb , 2007.—XINHUA



Two foreigners buy a pair of palace lanterns at a folk commodities bazaar in Beijing, capital of China, on 4 Feb, 2007.—XINHUA

US military in Iraq admit airstrike error

Mahmudiya (Iraq), 6 Feb—US military officers offered their condolences on Monday to an Iraqi family south of Baghdad in a rare admission of error after killing two innocent Iraqis in an airstrike last Tuesday.

A US military statement released on 31 January said two "insurgents" out of a fourman team were killed as they were trying to plant a roadside bomb in the town of Mahmudiya.

Calling the incident a "tragic accident," the officers on Monday handed out 2,500 US dollars to the family for each man killed.

A small group of US officers, accompanied by an Iraqi officer and

Anti-Iraq war protester is led away after being arrested

for sitting inside Sen

John McCain's

(R-Az) office to

protest funding for

the war on Capitol

Hill in Washington,

on 5 Feb, 2007.

Mahmudiya's mayor, entered a tent with their weapons where mourners gathered to pay respect to the victims, shaking hands with tribesman and drinking hot coffee.

After one of the tribesmen lectured the Americans on their "many mistakes", Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Morschauser apologized to the

gathering.

"I wish I could roll the clock back five or six days and start again," he said.

US military admissions of error are rare in Iraq.

Many Iraqis believe wrongful killings of Iraqis at the hands of Americans are frequent and generally go unnoticed.

MNA/Reuters

Two hurt by second UK letter bomb

London, 6 Feb—A suspected letter bomb exploded Tuesday, injuring two people at a business centre southwest of London, police said.

were dealing with a small explosion about 9 am at a company in Oaklands Business Centre, Wokingham, Thames Valley police said in a statement.

Police said it was "likely" that an item of mail had ignited and caused the "small explosion."

It was too soon to say whether the explosion was linked to a letter bomb that detonated in central London Monday, injuring one person, police said.

Sky News television reported that the company targeted in Tuesday's explosion was involved in processing speeding fines.

On Monday, a padded Emergency services envelope exploded at an office belonging to Capita Group, which administers the \$16 daily fee meant to cut down on traffic in central London and also collects television licensing fees.—Internet



Critics chew out writers of new food guide

OTTAWA, 6 Feb—Canada has a new food guide for the first time in nearly 15 years, and for the first time it includes an explicit call to include healthy fats in the diet.

But the food bible ignores just how many extra calories people would consume by eating a recommended two to three tablespoons of unsaturated fat each day, critics say.

The new food guide, four years and \$1.5 million in the making, is the first in the guide's 65-year history to provide recommendations on the amount and types of food according to age and gender.

It recommends limiting foods with artery-plugging trans fats and food and beverages high in calories, saturated fats, sugar and sodium — cakes, pastries, cookies and granola bars, doughnuts and muffins, french fries, nachos, and sports and energy drinks.

As well, fruits and vegetables now make up the largest arc in the food rainbow and, for the first time, Canadians are being urged to take a vitamin supplement — 400 international units (IU) of vitamin D daily for men and women over the age of 50 to protect bones and muscles.—Internet

Hackers hit key Internet traffic computers

Washington, 6 Feb— Hackers briefly overwhelmed at least three of the 13 computers that help manage global computer traffic Tuesday in one of the most significant attacks against the Internet since 2002.

Experts said the unusually powerful attacks lasted for hours but passed largely unnoticed by most computer users, a testament to the resiliency of the Internet.

Behind the scenes, computer scientists worldwide raced to cope with enormous volumes of data that threatened to saturate some of the Internet's most vital pipelines.

Experts said the hackers appeared to disguise their origin, but vast amounts of rogue data in the attacks were traced to South Korea.

The attacks appeared to target UltraDNS, the company that operates servers managing traffic for Web sites ending in "org" and some other suffixes, experts said.

Among the targeted "root" servers that manage global Internet traffic were ones operated by the Defence Department and the Internet's primary oversight body.

"There was what appears to be some form of attack during the night hours here in California and into the morning," said John Crain, chief technical officer for the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers.

He said the attack was continuing and so was the hunt for its origin.

Internet



A person wearing a protective suit and mask mounts a bicycle carrying a bag at the avian-flu affected poultry farm at Holton near Halesworth in eastern England on 5 Feb, 2007. —Internet

Missing Miss Brazil surfaces in UK

Sao Paulo, 6 Feb — The former Miss Brazil, who disappeared five months ago, has contacted Brazilian police from London to say she is well and does not want to be bothered, authorities said earlier this week.

Taiza Thomsen, 24, had not talked to her family since September, prompting her parents to request help from authorities last month. In her last conversation with her family, she said she was | it did not appear she

in London.

The Brazilian federal police said on Monday that Thomsen called investigators on Saturday to say she was in England and nothing had happened to her.

"Thomsen informed that she was doing well in London and that she didn't want to be found, not even by her parents," the police said in a statement.

The investigators said



Thomsen poses for the Miss Brazil contest on 8 April, *2002*. Internet

Taiza

was being pressured or coerced by anybody, and that they would close the case. "She has the right to stay isolated," the state-

ment said. — Internet

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Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao(R) shakes hands with visiting Slovakian Prime Minister Robert Fico in Beijing, on 5 Feb, 2007.—XINHUA

100th British soldier killed in action in Iraq

London, 6 Feb — A British soldier was killed on Monday by a roadside bomb in Basra, taking to 100 the number killed in action in Iraq since the US-led invasion in March 2003, the Ministry of Defence said.

The attack on the routine Warrior patrol took place early on Monday in the Al Ashshar District of the southern Iraqi city. There had also been several civilian casualties.

The name of the dead

soldier was not being released until next of kin had been informed.

The death brings to 131 the total number of British armed forces personnel who have been killed in Iraq since the invasion.

MNA/Reuters

US soldier killed in bomb attack in Iraq

Baghdad, 6 Feb — A US soldier was killed and two others wounded in a roadside bomb attack in north of Baghdad, the US military said on Monday.

The attack took place on Sunday when the bomb detonated on their "M-1117 Armoured Security Vehicle while they were conducting a combat logistics patrol north of Baghdad," the military said in a statement.

Earlier, the military said another soldier died Sunday of wounds sustained during fight with insurgents in Diyala

Province, northeast of Baghdad.

Since the US-led war in Iraq broke out in March 2003, about 3,090 US soldiers have been killed in Iraq, according to media count based on Pentagon figures.

MNA/Xinhua

Australia's flood-hit towns warned of crocodiles

SYDNEY, 6 Feb — Australians in flood-hit tropical towns and motorists stranded on the side of flooded roads have been warned to watch out for crocodiles being flushed out of rivers and creeks.

One crocodile was spotted swimming past a police roadblock near Ingham in far northeast Queensland State on Sunday and another was seen in a flooded street, police said on Monday.

"They probably wouldn't see the crocodile for a start, they can hide themselves in 12 inches of water," Townsville police sergeant Dave Finaly told local

"They can see you out of muddy water and they can move fast and a lot of those people sitting on the sides of roads —would be unsuspecting of this."

Police said more crocodiles could be flushed out of swollen creeks and into streets as heavy rains continue, worsening floods caused by a tropical cyclone that crossed the Queensland coast last week.

MNA/Reuters



Actor Eddie Murphy (R), nominated for best supporting actor for 'Dreamgirls', and Tracey Edmonds, pose at the 79th annual Academy Awards nominees luncheon in Beverly Hills, California on 5 Feb, 2007. The Academy Awards will be given out in Hollywood on 25 Feb. INTERNET

ECONOMIC NEWS

China reports sales of 120m mobile phones in 2006

Beijing, 6 Feb — Sales of mobile phones in China increased 40 per cent year on year to 120 million units in 2006, said Xie Linzhen, deputy chief of the China Mobile Communications Association.

Xie said China has become one of the world's largest handset markets, adding sales will likely surge 25 per cent to 150 million units this year.

In 2006 China produced a total of 450 million mobile phones, of which 350 million were exported, he noted.

According to the Ministry of Information, foreign mobile phone giants including Nokia and Motorala hold the lion's share of the market, while local mobile phone makers sold only 50 million units on both the domestic and

overseas markets.

Xie added global mobile phone sales climbed 25 per cent last year with total shipments reaching one billion units. Worldwide sales are expected to grow 20 per cent this year, said Xie.

He said the rapid increase in mobile phone sales was a result of a booming world economy which is allowing people to upgrade to a newer mobile phone more often.

Last year the number of mobile users in China reached 461 million, up 68 million from 2005.

"Chinese phone users on average buy new mobile phones every 21 months," he said.

MNA/Xinhua



A couple look into the mouth of a tiger-shaped snow sculpture at the Sapporo Snow Festival in Sapporo, northern Japan on 6 Feb, 2007. The event, which draws up to two million visitors to Hokkaido each year, started on Tuesday and will run till 12 February. —Internet

Russia bans British poultry imports

Moscow, 6 Feb-Russia has banned poultry imports from Britain following an avian influenza outbreak there, the country's animal and plant health

watchdog agency said on Monday, while experts confirmed cases of bird flu in southern Russia.

The ban, effective Tuesday, applies to live chickens, incubator eggs, poultry, all types of poultry products without thermal treatment, fodder and used poultry farm equipment, the Federal Veterinarian and Phytosanitary Control Service said, quoted by the *Interfax* news agency.

In Russia, the bird flu virus was confirmed in domestic birds that died last month at small farms in the Black Sea region of Krasnodar, news agencies ITAR-TASS and Interfax reported.

Tissue samples "showed that the H5N1 virus killed domestic birds," Irina Voronkova, advisor to the head of the regional consumer rights protection watchdog, told ITAR-TASS.

No new deadly cases among birds were registered for the past week. The cases are the first in Krasnodar this year.

In 2006, more than 300,000 birds died of bird flu at one poultry farm.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam not to import sugar in 2007

Hanoi, 6Feb—Vietnam is expected not have to import sugar this year, due to its higher sugar production, according to a local industry agency on Monday.

Vietnam is expected to produce nearly 1.3 million tons of sugar in the 2006-2007 sugarcane crop ending in July, up from 970,000 tons in the previous crop, said the Vietnam Sugarcane Association.

Besides, the country currently has more than 100,000 tons of the product in inventory, the association said, noting that its sugar demand is estimated at 1.37 million tons in the 2006-2007 crop.

Vietnam imported nearly 80,000 tons of sugar

in the first five months of 2006, increasing 15 times over the same period of the previous year, said the association.

MNA/Xinhua



Workers and volunteers clean up engine fuel as a ship extracts remaining fuel from the grounded ship "Sierra Nava" near Algeciras in southern Spain on 5 Feb, 2007. The ship ran aground on a Spanish beach in stormy seas on 28 Jan, 2007, breaching the hull and spilling engine fuel over protected coasts near Gibraltar, Spanish media reported environmental groups as saying.—Internet

China Sonangol orders three Airbus Corporate Jetliners

Sonangol Monday disclosed that it had placed a firm order for three Airbus Corporate Jetliners (ACJs), becoming the first named Chinese customer for the aircraft.

The announcement highlights the growth of corporate jets in China, as large companies increasingly recognize their benefits as business tools for executives.

Beijing, 6 Feb—China | China Sonangol's first Airbus ACJ is currently undergoing cabin outfitting at Associated Air Centre in Dallas, Texas, and will be delivered soon. It is powered by CFM International CF-M56-5 engines.

> Asian sales of the Airbus ACJ Family, which includes the smaller A318 and larger A320, run into double-digit figures.

> > MNA/Xinhua



Photo taken on 5 Feb, 2007 shows a grand red lantern, 11 metres in diameter and 8.5 metres in height, on Nanjing street of Shanghai, east China, to welcome the coming traditional Chinese Spring Festival, which will fall on 17 Feb

this year.—XINHUA

Olympic champion Liu's shoes fetch \$25,000 in charity auction

Beijing, 6 Feb—A pair of Olympic champion Liu Xiang's running spikes fetched 200,000 yuan (25,770 US dollars) at a charity auction for the children of migrant workers in Beijing at the weekend, Xinhua news agency reported on Monday.

The shoes signed by the 110 metres hurdles world record holder — China's biggest track gold medal hope for next year's Beijing Olympics — were bought by Air China and fetched 50,000 yuan more than a simliar pair at another charity auction last month.

A world championship gold medal donated by triple Olympic champion diver Xiong Ni went for 1.28 million yuan and a total of 3.39 million yuan was raised in the 17-hour televised auction.

MNA/Reuters



City firefighters pour water on an early-morning, downtown Los Angeles two-storey commercial building fire on 5 Feb, 2007. —Internet

HK suspends poultry import from **Britain**

Hong Kong, 6 Feb-The Centre for Food Safety of Hong Kong said Monday that it has suspended processing applications for importing poultry and poultry products from Britain, following confirmation of an outbreak of the H5N1 avian influenza on a poultry farm. The centre will seek more information about the case from the relevant authorities.

Hong Kong imported about 11,400 tons of frozen poultry meat and offal from Britain from January to October last year, the centre said.

MNA/Xinhua

Anti-NATO protest draws thousands in southwestern Spain

MADRID, 6 Feb-About 4,000 to 5,000 Spaniards demonstrated on Sunday in the southwestern city of Seville in protest of an upcoming meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), police told local media.

protesters, organized by the Seville Social Forum, marched

around the historic centre of the city and rallied outside the Andalucia Parliament.

They demanded the removal of US military bases from Spain and the withdrawal of Spanish forces from such countries as Afghanistan, where NATO is engaging in military operations, said Jesus Lara, a

spokesman for the Forum.

The slogan of the march was "NATO no, they will not pass," he said.

A second march with the same aim is scheduled for 8 February, the same day of the opening of the NATO meeting which will gather 26 ministers from NATO member states in Seville.

MNA/Xinhua

Latest must-have for babay—a pram with aircon?

TEL AVIV, 6 Feb-Most parents worried about their baby getting too hot in a pram will adjust blankets or head for shade, but one dad wanted a more high tech solution for his young daughter — a portable air conditioner.

"At first I was trying to cool her off with a handheld fan. Then I thought of a much simpler idea – a little air conditioner," Israeli Ofir Ben Aharon told Reuters.

The device, which weighs less than two kilos (4.4 pounds) looks like a motorized fan attached to the end of about a halfmetre long pipe that can be fitted under a typical

An air vent connected to the other side of the pipe is fitted with a puppet | toys.— MNA/Reuters

so it can be propped inside, looking like just another of baby's stuffed



Vietnam, Laos to strengthen comprehensive cooperation

Hanoi, 6 Feb — Vietnam and Laos agreed to beef up their friendly relations, special solidarity and all-round cooperation, their top leaders said Monday, Laos' news agency KPL reported.

During their talks on Monday, Choummaly Sayasone. General Secretary of the Lao

People's Revolutionary Party and President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and visiting Vietnamese State President Nguyen Minh Triet agreed that the special solidarity and the comprehensive cooperation, in the context of the rapid regional and international development, are of importance

in ensuring the victory of the national defence and construction in each country.

The two sides affirmed their determination in implementing high-level agreements, aiming to bring their all-round cooperation to a new height.

MNA/Xinhua

Roadside bomb damages US vehicle in western Iraq

Baghdad, 6 Feb— A roadside bomb went off on Monday near a US patrol in a neighbourhood in Ramadi City, some 100 kilometres west of Baghdad, killing and wounding all the soldiers aboard a Humvee, local residents said.

"A roadside bomb detonated at about 08:30 am (0530 GMT), near a passing US forces patrol in al-Khaldvia neighbourhood, in eastern

Ramadi, damaging a Humvee, killing and wounding all the soldiers aboard," the residents told Xinhua on condition of anonymity, without giving the exact number of the casualties.—MNA/Xinhua



Visitors row a boat inside a park in Jinan, east China's Shandong Province on 4 Feb, 2007. —Internet

Temperature hit record high in Beijing

Beijing, 6 Feb — The thermometer hit a record 16 degrees Centigrade in Beijing on Monday, the highest February temperature in 30 years, after hitting 12.8 degrees on

The baby elephant Thabo-Umasai (happy warrior) enjoys his birthday cake with his Dresden, eastern Germany recently.

family at the zoo in

XINHUA

Saturday, according to the Beijing Observatory.

The ice has begun melting in Beijing's lakes and skating is forbidden. Yulan trees along Chang'an boulevard have begun to sprout.

Girls wearing silk stockings and young guys holding ice creams can be seen in the street.

These phenomena do not normally appear until April.

The temperature in Beijing in December and January was markedly higher than in former years, according to the observatory.

MNA/Xinhua

The Union of Myanmar The State Peace and Development Council The Law Amending the Myanmar Merchant Shipping Act, 2007

The State Peace and Development Council Law No. 1/2007

The 6th Waning Day of Tabodwe 1368 ME

(7th Feberuary, 2007)

(from page 1)

- In the Myanmar Merchant Shipping Act: 4.
 - (a) the expression "Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council may" contained in sub-section (1) of section 21, section 37 J, section 84, sub-section (1) of section 145, section 145 A, section 191, sub-section (1) of section 213, section 216 A, section 219, section 224 C, sub-section (1) of section 224 M, sub-section (1) of section 245, section 245 J, section 245 Q, section 270 and section 294 A shall be substituted respectively by the expression "Ministry of Transport may, with the approval of the Government";
 - (b) the expression "Chairman of the State Peace and Development **Council**" contained in the other sections except sections mentioned in the aforesaid sub-section (a) shall be substituted respectively by the expression "Ministry of Transport".
- 5. In the Myanmar Merchant Shipping Act:
 - (a) sub-section (3) of section 8 shall be substituted as follows:
 - "(iii) to give to all persons desirous of apprenticing boys to the sea service and duly authorized so to do by the rules relating to the apprentices made under this Act, and also to owners and masters of Myanmar flagged ships requiring apprentices, such assistance as may be in their power for facilitating the making of such apprenticeships;"
 - (b) sub-section (1) of section 14 shall be substituted as follows:

"Grades of (1) Certificates of competency shall be granted in accordance with Certificates of this Act for each of the following grades, namely: competency

Master (foreign-going) -Deck Officer Class I, First mate (foreign-going) -Deck Officer Class II, Second mate (foreign-going) Master (Near Coastal Voyage) Mate (Near Coastal Voyage)

-Deck Officer Class III, -Deck Officer Class IV, -Deck Officer Class V,

First class enggineer

-Marine Engineer Officer Class

Second class engineer

-Marine Engineer Officer Class

II,

Third class engineer III,

-Marine Engineer Officer Class

First class engineer

Officer Class IV,

-Marine Engineer

(Near Coastal Voyage).

Second class engineer -Marine Engineer Officer Class

V,

(Near Coastal Voyage),

Engine driver

(c) the expression "as master or mate" contained in sub-section (2) of

- section 14 shall be substituted by the expression "as master, mate or engineer "
- (d) section 17 shall be substituted as follows:

"Equivalent certificate for naval officers

- 17.(1) A naval officer who has attained the rank of lieutenant in the Myanmar Navy may be issued with an equivalent certificate to serve as master or first mate of a sea going vessel.
- (2) A naval officer who has attained the rank of engineer or assistant engineer in the Myanmar Navy may be issued an equivalent certificate to serve as first class engineer or second class engineer of a sea going vessel.
- (3) The equivalent certificate shall differ in form from a certificate of competency, and shall contain the name and rank of the person to whom it is delivered.
- (4) The provisions of this Act including the penal provisions shall apply in the case of an equivalent certificate as they apply in the case of a certificate of competency.

- (5) The Ministry of Transport may, with the approval of the Government make rules relating to the issue of the equivalent certificate for naval officers";
- (e) the expression "every home-trade ship of more than three hundred tons burden" contained in sub-section (2) of section 22 shall be substituted by the expression "every near coastal voyage ship of more than five hundred gross tonnage";
- sub-section (1) of section 23 shall be substituted as follows";
 - (1) Any boy not under sixteen years of age may be bound as an apperntice in the see service to the owner of any ship registered in the Union of Myanmar to be employed in any such ship, being the property of such person, and while so employed to be taught the craft and duty of a seaman, and the provisions of the rules relating to apprentices made under this Act shall, subject to the provisions of this Act, apply accordingly";
- (g) the expression "except home-trade ships of a burden not exceeding three hundred tons" contained in sub-section (1) of section 27 shall be substituted by the expression "except near coastal voyage ships of gross tonnage not exceeding five hundred";
- section 37 B shall be substituted as follows;

"Employment of children

- 37 B. No young person under sixteen years of age shall be engaged or carried to sea to work in any capacity in any ship registered in the Union of Myanmar, and no young seaman under sixteen years of age shall be engaged or carried to sea to work in any capacity in any foreign ship,
- (a) in a school-ship, or training-ship, in accordance with the prescribed conditions; or
- (b) in a ship in which all persons employed are members of one family;
- (c) in a near coastal voyage ship of gross tonnage not exceeding five hundred; or
- (d) where such young person is to be employed on nominal wages and will be in the charge of his father or other adult near male relative";
- (i) clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 251 shall be substituted as follows: "(b) if the master, mate or engineer holds a certificate under any of the Merchant Shipping Acts, in the following cases:
 - (i) where the incompetency or misconduct has occurred on a Myanmar flagged ship on or near the coasts of the Union of Myanmar or on board a Myanmar flagged ship in the course of a voyage to a port outside of Myanmar waters;
 - (ii) where the incompetency or misconduct has occurred on board a ship registered in the Union of Myanmar;
 - (iii) where the master, mate or engineer of a ship, who is charged with incompetency or misconduct on board that ship, is found in the Union of Myanmar";
- (j) clauses (a) and (b) of sub-section (1) of section 260 shall be substituted as follows:
 - "(a) if, on any investigation made under the Merchant Shipping Acts, or on any investigation made by any Court or tribunal for the time being authorized by the legislative authority in the Union of Myanmar to make inquiry into charges of incompetency or misconduct on the part of masters, mates or engineers of ships, or as to shipwrecks or other casualties affecting ships, the Court or tribunal reports that the master, mate or engineer is incompetent or has been guilty, of any gross act or misconduct, drunkenness or tyranny, or that the loss, stranding or abandonment of, or damage to, any ship, or loss of life has been caused by his wrongful act or default;
 - (b) if he is proved to have been convicted of any offence which, if committed in the Union of Myanmar, would be non-bailable."
- 6. In the Myanmar Merchant Shipping Act:
 - (a) the amount of money contained in sections 122, 124 and 224 A shall be substituted respectively by the experssion "kyats 10,000."
 - the amount of money contained in sections 40, 71, 113, 114, 115, subsection (2) of section 116, sections 220, 221, 222, 224 B, 229, 245 H, 245 P, 274 and 284 shall be substituted respectively by the experssion "kyats" 100,000."
 - the amount of money contained in section 224 M shall be substituted by the experssion "kyats 500,000."

(Sd.) Than Shwe Senior General Chairman The State Peace and Development Council

Secretary-1 briefs foreign diplomats on activities...

(from page 1) strictly scrutinize the procedures to prevent recruitment of minors into armed forces. The Plan of Action includes procedures on mobilizing raw recruits and discharge from military service, reintegration into the society, raising public awareness, taking action against transgressors, reporting, submission of suggestions and recommendations, and coordination and cooperation with international organiincluding zations UNICEF, the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office and the ICRC.

forced conscription is prohibited. The committee also erected a new directorate that would enforce the orders, rules and directives on recruitment.

committee The promulgated necessary procedures on scrutiny and inspection. Those who got registered but did not meet minimum age or designated qualifications were discharged from the armed forces. Between 2004 and 2006. those who were not allowed to join the armed forces due to their failure to meet all qualifications amounted to 567.

He denied that The committee also | Myanmar is a country concerned. The committee conducted responsible persons of the UN agencies to the recruitment units in Yangon and Mandalay so that they could see recruitment procedures firsthand. He said he would also like to reaffirm the willingness to continue to cooperate with them through frank views.

He said that after his speech, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs would brief the attendees on cooperation with the UN agencies. In addition, some military officers would clarify the procedures on recruitment, rules and regulations and directives, and activities



Diplomats and resident representatives of UN agencies visit No 1 Basic Military Training Depot (Phaunggyi). — MNA

set up a task force consisting of relevant ministries such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement to supervise systematically the implementation of the Plan of Action.

The Myanmar armed forces including army are the forces formed with those who join the force concerned of their own volition. In the process, they make up their minds of their own accord. Under Directive No 13/73 (1974) of the Myanmar Defence Services and War Office Council, under-eighteen children are not recruited into armed forces. Any form of

that is seeing armed conflicts. Due to the return of 17 armed groups to the legal fold, Myanmar is enjoying fruitful results of peace and stability at unprecedented level along with remarkable economic development. The government is now implementing the State's seven-step Road Map for transition to democracy. Representatives of the people from all walks of life including those of the 17 armed groups are attending the National Convention.

Myanmar has already taken a solemn vow to take measures for protection of children including tackling the issue of child soldiers. In this regard, Myanmar is cooperating with the UN agencies

of the committee. Arrangements have been made for the diplomats to visit a recruitment unit and military training centre after the meeting.

Committee member Minister U Nyan Win gave an account of close cooperation with the UN agencies.

Committee member Maj-Gen Ngwe Thein explained the enforcement of rules and regulations and directives and functions of the committee, and committee member Brig-Gen Zaw Win, on rules and directives of the Tatmadaw on training recruits.

After the meeting, the Secretary-1 cordially greeted the diplomats and responsible persons of the UN agencies.



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein shakes hands with a diplomat. — MNA

Next, Acting Dean of Diplomatic Corps to Myanmar French Ambassador Mr Jean Michel LACOMBE and foreign diplomats, and resident representatives UNDP, UNICEF and ICRC, accompanied by committee members Brig-Gen Zaw Win and Maj-Gen Ngwe Thein and officials, visited No 1 Defence Services Recruiting Unit in Insein Township (Danyingon). Commandant Lt-Col Than Htoo extended greetings to the visitors and procedures being carried out in accordance with the directives of the committee.

The diplomats, and resident representatives of UNDP, UNICEF and ICRC observed the functions around the unit and had a cordial meeting with the recruits and raised questions to them.

They also visited No 1 Basic Military Training Depot (Phaunggyi). Brig-Gen Zaw Win extended greetings to and briefed them on rules and directives on military training of recruits. They viewed the functions of the depot and raised questions to them.—MNA

Myanmar has already taken a solemn vow to take measures for protection of children including tackling the issue of child soldiers. In this regard, Myanmar is cooperating with the UN agencies concerned. The committee conducted responsible persons of the UN agencies to the recruitment units in Yangon and Mandalay so that they could see recruitment procedures firsthand. The Secretary-1 said he would also like to reaffirm the willingness to continue to cooperate with them through frank views.



Diplomats and resident representatives of UN agencies visit No 1 Defence Services Recruiting Unit. — MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint on inspection tour of Mandalay, Kyaukse and Meiktila

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Feb — Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence together with Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and departmental heads arrived in Kyaukse yesterday.

At the district office of Arid Zones Greening Department in Kyaukse, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected sample of physic nut oil produced by the departments in Kyaukse District and nurturing of physic nut plants.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Maj-Gen Khin Zaw put physic nut seeds into seeding packets.

A total of 26,112 acres of physic nut has so far been cultivated in Kyaukse District. Further 22,211 acres of physic nut plants will be extended in 2007-2008.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party arrived at the briefing hall of No 2 district-to-district road construction site. The district-to-district road links Patheingyi in Mandalay Division and Paung in Mon State. It is 440 miles and six furlongs long.

First, Director U Kan Hla of Mandalay Division Development Affairs Committee briefed Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party on progress in building of bridges and conduits on road sections included in Mandalay Division.

Now, Mandalay Division DAC has already built 117 miles and one furlong long earth road, eight miles and seven furlongs long gravel road, three miles long tarred road, 12 wooden bridges, one concrete bridge and 242 conduits.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party looked into paving the earth road in Kyaukse District and paving the gravel road between mile post No 28/0 and No 27/0.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected completion of 180 feet long and 24 feet wide Thanywa Bridge (Naunghkam) crossing Zawgyi River.



Lt-Gen Ye Myint of Ministry of Defence inspects Thanywa Bridge (Naunghkam) crossing Zawgyi River. — MNA

Upon arrival at Myogyi Multi-purpose Dam Project being implemented by Construction Group-4 of Irrigation Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, construction group-4 In-Charge U Myo Tun briefed Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party on progress in building of the dam. Next, Deputy Director-General U Khin Zaw of Irrigation Department gave a supplementary report. In response to the reports, Lt-Gen Ye Myint made arrangements to fulfill the requirements.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party oversaw building of diagram wall and digging of diversion tunnel with the use of TMW machines.

The diversion tunnel is 1,575 feet long and 18 feet diameter. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party then inspected building of hydropower tunnel which is 1,698 feet long and 19.7 feet diameter.

Myogyi Multi-purpose Dam is 2,461 feet long and 258 feet high. It can store 359,550 acre feet of water. It will have two 15 megawatt generators and produce 13,570 kilowatt hours every year.

Upon arrival at Meiktila plain water pumping project in Wundwin, the project in-charge briefed Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party on progress of work. Next, Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and officials gave supplementary reports.

Upon completion, Meiktila plain water pumping project will supply water to 30,000 acres of farmlands.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party looked into progress in construction of No 2 district-todistrict road in Wundwin, Meiktila District and thriving sunflowers in Thazi.

At the briefing hall, Director U Kan Hla briefed Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party on arrangements to be made for construction of 60 miles gravel road and future tasks in this fiscal year. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected paving Hlaingtat-Kintha earth road section on district-to-district road.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party looked into old Kyaukse diversion weir and met with local peasants in Thazi and then arrived back Meiktila.

MNA

Commander meets Union Day delegates of Yangon Division

YANGON, 6 Feb — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win met with delegates of Yangon Division to attend the Union Day Ceremony at Yangon Division PDC

office this afternoon.

The Commander spoke on the occasion and presented K 1,191,900 for 61 delegates to leader U Nu. Next, the delegate leader explained the Union Day Ceremony. —MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win meeting with Union Day delegates from Yangon Division. MNA

28th Work **Coordination meeting** of judges continues

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Feb — The 28th Work Coordination meeting of state/division judges continued for the third day here today.

Judges from Mon, Rakhine, Shan, Shan (East) and Shan (North) States and Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions reported on judicial affairs.

Also present at the meeting were Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Deputy Chief Justices U Thein Soe and U Khin Maung Latt, judges of the Supreme Court, directors-general of the Supreme Court (Nay Pyi Taw) and (Mandalay) and state/ division judges.

Those present at the meeting also discussed judicial affairs in states and divisions. At the meeting, Chief Justice U Aung Toe presented certificates to Directors U Mya Thein and U Soe Thein who were awarded the Excellence Performance in Administration Field (Second Class) by the government.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks by Chief Justice U Aung Toe. — MNA

All religions in Myanmar live side by side in peace and harmony ...

(from page 16)

Christians in Myanmar were under suppression in its conspiracy to tarnish the image of Myanmar internationally.

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.

The following are the declarations of the Jamiat Ulama El-Islam Union of Myanmar (HQ) and the Islamic Religious Affairs Council of Union of Myanmar (HQ). — MNA

The Union of Myanmar Jamiat Ulama El-Islam (Headquarters)

Declaration issued concerning attempts of big foreign states to interfere in internal affairs of Myanmar by way of freedom of religion

- A draft resolution on the situation in Myanmar, co-sponsored by the United States and Britain, in order to interfere in the internal affairs of Myanmar, was defeated by the double veto of the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation, on the 12th January 2007 in the Security Council of the United Nations, thus defeating their plot to interfere in the internal affairs of the Union of Myanmar.
- It has again come to our attention, that the United States and Britain, are continuing to interfere in the internal affairs of Myanmar, citing lack of freedom of religion in the Union of Myanmar.
- Members of the four main religious denominations, namely, the Buddhists, Muslim, Christians and Hindus have, since pre-Independence days, lived side by side in peace and harmony, and have mutual understanding and affection for each other's faith. There exist, throughout the Union of Myanmar, numerous mosques, churches, pagodas, temples and monasteries, in order to freely practise their religious beliefs.
- We, the Jamiat-Ulama El-Islam (Headquarters), Myanmar, therefore make our position clear that we disagree with the plot by the United States and Britain, in order to interfere in the internal affairs of the Union of Myanmar, by way of freedom of religion, as improper and unacceptable acts.

Jamiat Ulama-El-Islam (HQ)

Announcement (2/2007) of Islamic Religious Affairs Council (HQ) (Declaration relating to report of **Christian Solidarity Worldwide** (CSW) issued)

- In Myanmar Naing Ngan, Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity and Islam various religious have been influenced for very long time and those people of religions have been living peacefully and in solidarity.
- As there is the condition of peacefulness; in the statement of Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) on (23-1-2007), in Myanmar Naing Ngan the freedom of religions is widely under pressured; the minorities are separated, Christians and Muslims are tortured, Buddhist monks & nuns are detained imprison, Myanmar government destroyed the churches and cross pillars, made difficulties for rebuilding and furnishing of the churches, are accused. And United Nations Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Religion and Belief offered to enquire the widely destruction of freedom of religions in Myanmar.
- The Statements of CSW are quite different from the real situation of Myanmar Naing Ngan. The government of the Union of Myanmar have formed the Ministry of Religious Affairs and contributes religious affairs contacting with organizations of Hindu, Buddhist, Christian and Muslim religions. The government provides religious stipends, necessary recommendations for rebuilding and furnishing of religious buildings necessary management for holding of religious ceremonies providing necessary arrangements to attend international religious conference, and at the courts of Union of Myanmar there make customary laws of respective religions etc, it is significantly seen contributing of necessary. Therefore the identifications of CSW are seen falsely mentioned.
- 4. Because of the identifications of CSW mentioned reversely with the real condition of Myanmar Naing Ngan, making to disturb the peace of various religions of Myanmar Naing Ngan, aiming to misuse the "religion" for "political" purpose, the Islamic Religious Affairs Council of Union of Myanmar announce totally not accept the above identifications and denies.

Central Executive Committee Islamic Religious Affairs Council (HQ) Union of Myanmar

Dated-30th, January, 2007

MOGE inks PSCs with two private firms

Nay Pyi Taw, 7 Feb — Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise signed Production Contracts with Rimbunan Petrogas Limited based in

British Virgin Islands and IGE Pte Ltd of Singapore for exploration of oil and natural gas in Block-A off Rakhine Coast.

The contracts were

signed at the ministry here yesterday by Managing Director of MOGE U Myint Kyi, Tan Sri Datuk Tiong Hiew King, Executive Chairman of

Petrogas Rimbunan Limited and U Win Kyaing, Managing Director of IGE Pte Ltd in the presence of Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun



Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi speaks at signing ceremony of Production Sharing Contract. — MNA

Thi. At the signing ceremony, Energy Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi and Chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung presented permits to Tan Sri Datuk Tiong Hiew King. Also present at the signing were Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Minister Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Attorney-General U Aye Maung, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin and officials concerned.—MNA

Coord meeting on four-nation car rally held

YANGON, 7 Feb -Officials of Ministry of Sports held a coordination meeting here today and discussed matters related to preparations for China-Myanmar-India-Bangladesh car rally for 2007. First, General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of the Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik delivered an address. Participants of the meeting discussed preparatory tasks for the fournation car rally and the meeting concluded with remarks by the directorgeneral of the Sports and Physical Education Department.— MNA



အမျိုးသားညီလာခံကို ကျင်းပကာ နိုင်ငံတော်ဖွဲ့စည်းပုံ အခြေခံဥပဒေ ရေးဆွဲရေးအတွက် အခြေခံရမည့်မှုများနှင့် အသေးစိတ်အခြေခံရမည့်မှုများကို အမျိုးသားညီလာခံကိုယ်စားလှယ်များက ညှိနှိုင်းဆွေးနွေး အတည်ပြုချက် ချမှတ်ပေးလျှက်ရှိသည်။

အမျိုးသားညီလာခံသတင်းများကို လေ့လာကြည့်သောအခါ အနာဂတ် နိုင်ငံတော်တည်ဆောက်မှု ပုံသဏ္ဌာန်နှင့် အနှစ်သာရကို ပုံဖော်မှန်းမျှော်

ကြည့်ရှုရလာပြီ ဖြစ်သည်။

အနာဂတ်နိုင်ငံတော်တွင် ပေါ် ပေါက်လာမည့် ဥပဒေပြုမှုနှင့်စပ်လျဉ်းသည့် အသွင်သဏ္ဌာန်နှင့် အနှစ်သာရကို ထင်လင်းစွာ ပုံဖော်လာရေးအတွက် စာရေး သူ၏တွေ့ရှိချက်များကို တိုင်းရင်းသားပြည်သူများအား အကိုးအထောက် မှန်ကန်စွာဖြင့် လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းဝေငုထားသည့် 🗕

စိုးမြကျော် ၏

အနာဂတ်နိုင်ငံတော်တည်ဆောက်မှု ပုံသဏ္ဌာန် ဥပဒေပြုမှ အသွင်သဏ္ဌာန်နှင့် အနှစ်သာရ

- အနာဂတ်နိုင်ငံတော် တည်ဆောက်မှု ပုံသဏ္ဌာန်နှင့် အနှစ်သာရ အခန်း (၁) ခန်းနှင့် အနာဂတ်နိုင်ငံတော်၏ ဥပဒေပြုမှု အသွင်သဏ္ဌာန်နှင့် အနှစ်သာရ အပိုင်း (၁၃) ပိုင်းပါရှိသည်။
- ရောင်စုံ သရုပ်ဖော်ပုံများနှင့် စာမျက်နှာ (၁၅၀)၊ ရောင်းဈေး ၃၅၀ိ/ –



စာပေဗိမာန် စာအုပ်ဆိုင် ၅၂၉-၅၃၁၊ ကုန်သည်လမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။ ဖုန်း - ၃၈၁၄၄၈၊ ၂၄၉၀၃၁

သတင်းနှင့် စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်းစာအုပ်ဆိုင်၊ ၂၁၂၊ သိမ်ဖြူလမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။ ဖုန်း - ၂၉၄၃၀၆

New UN Deputy Secretary-General takes oath of office

United Nations, 7 Feb — Asha-Rose Migiro of Tanzania was sworn in Monday as UN Deputy Secretary-General, pledging to bring about a more integrated United Nations.

Migiro signed a declaration in a brief swearing-in ceremony, pledging to exercise in all loyalty, discretion and conscience, the functions entrusted to her, with the interest of the United Nations only in view.

"In all I do I will strive to bring about a more integrated United Nations, which delivers as one," the former Tanzanian Foreign and Development Minister said after being introduced to the Press by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon following the ceremony.

"I am also fully committed to supporting the priorities set by the

Secretary-General," she said, adding these priorities include "strengthening the work of the United Nations, enhancing trust between member states and the Secretariat, and bolstering the working culture of the Organization to ensure it is equipped to meet the mandates our membership has given us".

Migiro, 50, the third ever and the second woman to fill the post, is now the highest ranking woman at the world body and the second highest among all of its officials, also stated that UN reform will be high on her agenda.

"I look forward to the task ahead with excitement and enthusiasm, but equally with profound humility, and above all I look forward to working with the Secretary-General implement his vision," she said. — MNA/Xinhua

Italy protests to US, allies over Afghan letter

ROME, 7 Feb — Italy protested to the United States and five other allies on Tuesday for publishing a letter in an Italian newspaper calling for greater support for the NATO mission in Afghanistan, of which Italy is a member.

lobbying member countries to increase troop numbers in Afghanistan,

While NATO is | Italy's Government faces political infighting about maintaining its commit-



Foreign Minister Massimo D'Alema wrote to his peers in the United States, Britain, Canada, Australia, Netherlands and Romania expressing "surprise and disapproval" at the letter.

"The public comment by six ambassadors to Rome lends itself to being interpreted as an unfortunate outside interference," a foreign

Actor Will Smith (L), nominated for best actor in a leading role for 'The Pursuit of Happyness' and his wife Jada Pinkett-Smith attend the 79th annual Academy Awards nominees luncheon in Beverly Hills, California on 5 Feb, 2007. The Academy Awards will be given out in Hollywood on 25 February.—Internet ministry statement quoted D'Alema as saying.

However, it said D'Alema believed the ambassadors had the best intentions and he considered the matter closed.

The letter by the ambassadors applauded Italy's support for the NATO mission, whose top commander wants more troops to crush an expected Taleban offensive following the bloodiest year there since US-led forces toppled the government in 2001.

It called on allies to "increase in our contribution for reconstruction and civil development".

Italy's fragile centreleft ruling coalition faces problems over the refinancing of the military mission in Afghanistan, where it has 1,900 troops under NATO.

MNA/Reuters

2/8/07, 3:53 AM 8-2-07NL 11

ADUERTISEMENTS

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ဆပ်ပြာကုန်ကြမ်း Chemical (၄)မျိုးအဝယ်တင်ဒါ

၁။ ဝယ်ယူမည့်ပစ္စည်းများ – ဆပ်ပြာကုန်ကြမ်း**Chemical** (၄)မျိုး

၂။ တင်ဒါပိတ်ရက် – (၁၉–၂–၂၀၀၇) ရက်နေ့ ၃။ အချိန် (၁၄:၀၀)နာရီ

တင်ဒါပုံစံနှင့်တင်ဒါစည်းကမ်းအသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များကို အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ဌာနများတွင်စုံစမ်းမေးမြန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

မြန်မာ့ဆေးဝါးနှင့်အိမ်သုံးပစ္စည်းလုပ်ငန်း(ရုံးချုပ်) (၁၉၂)၊ကမ္ဘာအေးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ဗဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊

တယ်လီဖုန်းအမှတ် ၅၆၁၃၉၁ กิธิธิกว၅

Sea turtles dying along **Bangladesh coast**

ladesh), 6 Feb— More than 200 turtles, some weighing 20 kilos (44 pounds) or more, have died in the Bay of Bengal along the Bangladesh coast over the past week, government officials and witnesses said on Mon-

"Around 140 turtles were found dead along a 4-kilometre (2.5 miles) stretch of the beach," Mohammad Aminul Islam, deputy commissioner of Cox's Bazar District, said.

He said more turtles were dying on the shores of St Martin island, 35 kilometres off the country's southeastern tip, Teknaf. Fishermen have

Cox's BAZAR (Bang- | reported that some dolphins have also died.

> No one seems to know why the sea creatures are dying. Islam said he believed the turtles died after being caught in fishing nets. But fishermen said they did not catch that many turtles to begin with, and when they do, they throw them back into the water.

> Marine officials said the deaths could be caused by increased pollution in the bay, from waste disposal of ships or perhaps other unknown natural causes.

MNA/Reuters

Sea may swallow Maldives if global warming unchecked

Соломво, 6 Feb— His Indian Ocean island cluster is a magnet for Hollywood stars such as Tom Cruise, but the Maldives may disappear within generations unless world leaders urgently combat climate change, President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom warns.

With a United Nations climate panel forecasting world sea levels likely to rise by up to 59 centimetres (23.2 inches) by 2100 due to global warming, the risks to the low-lying island chain dotted across 500 miles (800 kilometres) off the toe of India are glaring.

"The average height of the Maldives is 1.5 metres above mean sea level. Therefore, if the rate of sea level rise per century is 59 centimetres, it would take a couple of

centuries at the most to totally inundate the entire Maldives," an alarmed Gayoom told Reuters in an email interview.

"That of course will happen only if there is no concrete action to address the issue at a global stage," he added. It is further evidence that our country is in peril, and that timely action is needed to ensure our future survival.

Renowned for its luxury resorts — accommodation in pavilions on stilts over turquoise lagoons can run to over 1,000 US dollars a night — white sand beaches and world class snorkelling and scuba. tourism is the lynchpin Maldives' the 800 million US dollars economy.

MNA/Reuters

Britain culls 160,000 turkeys in bird flu outbreak

HOLTON (England), 6 Feb—Britain aimed to complete the cull of 160,000 turkeys on Monday as a government crisis team met to tackle the nation's first exposure to the latest deadly strain of the bird flu virus in farmed poultry.

The birds were being gassed and incinerated after the discovery of the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain of

avian flu on a farm at Holton in eastern England run by Europe's largest turkey producer, Bernard Matthews.

The slaughter of turkeys at the farm started late on Saturday with the dead birds being transported in sealed trucks to be incinerated. The cull is expected to end later on Monday.

The government's

emergency committee, Cobra, was due to meet on Monday to coordinate the response.

About 2,500 turkeys died in the initial outbreak of the virus. The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) said the virus had been confined to the farm near Lowestoft.

MNA/Reuters



Spa owner Ada Barak gives a snake massage treatment, where she lets loose the reptiles on the body of customer Liz Cohen, at her spa in the northern communal village of Talmey El'Azar on 1 Feb, 2007. Barak uses California and Florida King snakes, corn snakes and milk snakes in her treatments, which she said were inspired by her belief that once people get over any initial misgivings, they find physical contact with the creatures to be soothing. —XINHUA

ပညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်ခ်မှု ဖြို့စားတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်

World's oldest newspaper forsakes paper

Beijing, 6 Feb _ Call it a price of progress. The world's oldest newspaper still in circulation has dropped its paper edition and now exists only in cyberspace.

Inrikes Tidningar news-

Sweden's Post-och | editor of Post-och Inrikes | by courier and posted | Tidningar for 20 years. "It paper, founded in 1645 | is sad when you have | and towns through-

on note boards in cities

current editor.

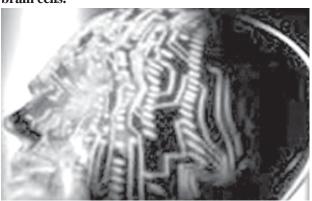
The paper edition was certainly not some mass-market tabloid. It had a meager circulation of only 1,000 or so, although the website is expected to attract more readers, Vikstrom said.

The newspaper is owned by the Swedish Academy, known for awarding the annual Nobel Prize in Literature. But it recently sold the publishing rights to the Swedish Companies Registration Office, a government agency. Despite its online transformation, Post-och Inrikes Tidningar remains No 1 on a ranking of the oldest newspapers still in circulation compiled by the Paris-based World Association of Newspapers. "An online news paper is still a newspaper, so we'll leave it on the list,' WAN spokesman Larry

Kilman said. Internet

Research shows new brain cells love to learn

London, 5 Feb _ Researchers have found that wisdom in old age depends on a fresh supply of new brain cells.



Researchers have found that wisdom in old age depends on a fresh supply of new brain cells. —XINHUA

Canadian researchers found that when mature mice learn a new task, their newly generated brain cells are three times more active than their old ones, the New Scientist reported on Monday on its website.

A team of researchers led by Paul Frankland at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Canada, injected a group of mice with a chemical agent that stains only those cells born in the animals' brains at the time of

injection, the report said.

The team taught some of the mice one week later how to navigate through a maze, before using them to analyze the cells in a region of the brain called the hippocampus, which is the key to learning and memory, and in stages, the rest of the mice also underwent this paired process of learning, and hippocampal examination at increasing time intervals from the initial injection

Internet

The 31 March 1835 issue is opened with the last printed one (bottom) of the world's oldest newspaper, Sweden's Post och Inrikes Tidningar, in Stockholm.—XINHUA

VIKTIGT MEDDELANDS

Stockholm. Eigbagen ben 31 fft trs 1835.

by Queen Kristina, became worked with it for so long a Web-only publication on 1 Jan. It's a fate, many inkstained writers and readers fear, that may await many of the world's most venerable journals. "We think it's a cultural disaster," said Hans Holm, who served as the chief

sources said on Monday.

and Quarantine.

and it has been around for so long."

Queen Kristina used the publication to keep her subjects informed of the affairs of state, Holm said, and the first editions, which were more like pamphlets, were carried

Guangdong finds

cancer-causing dye in

lipsticks

Sudan has been detected in six kinds of lipsticks on

sale at the biggest wholesale market in Guangzhou

in south China's Guangdong Province, local official

rabbits, was found in lipsticks produced by two different

companies from Shantou City in Guuangdong

Province, according to a recent survey by the General

Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection

made by Heng Fang Cosmetic Co and Sudan—was

found in lipsticks from Shilulan Cosmetic Co, said

officials from the Guangdong provincial Bureau of

Production at the two companies has been suspended. Shilulan had in fact stopped its lipstick production a

Quality and Technical Supervision.

Sudan, a red dye which causes cancer in mice and

Guangzhou, 6 Feb — The cancer-causing dye

out the kingdom.

Today, Post-och Inrikes Tidningar, which means mail and domestic tidings, runs legal announcements by corporations, courts and certain government agencies _ about 1,500 a day according to Olov Vikstrom, the

Speed dating popular in Hong Kong

Beling, 6 Feb _ With Valentine's Day approaching, singles in Hong Kong can't stand the idea of celebrating the festival alone. So, many are now turning to speed dating activities to find that special someone.

Upuntiltoday, over 2400 single people in Hong Kong have singed up to speed dating parties, to be held this Valentine's Day. Entering the Hong Kong market in 2002,

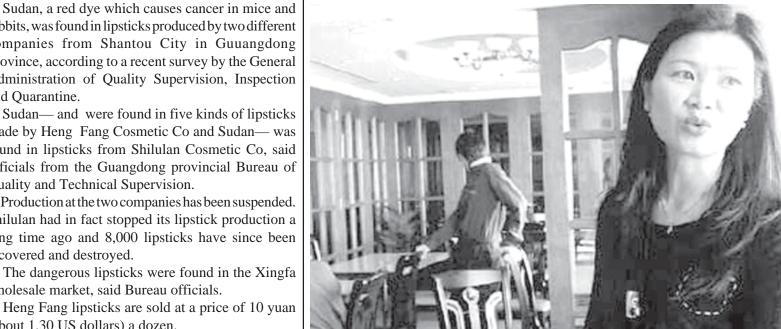
speed dating services have become the first choice for local singles who want to multiply their chances of meeting their Mr or Mrs Right. Source from the local newspaper Ming Pao says that every year, there are 65,000 young people taking part in the speed dating parties held by 30 agencies, bringing the industry a yearly income of 20

million Hong Kong dollars.

Speed dating com panies organize parties, dancing classes and many other activities in romantic cafes or clubs to help single young people pair off. In addition, they also provide such services as helping the clients to improve their personal style and dress sense, to increase their chance of finding love.

Statistics from the government of the Hong Kong SAR show that there are 2.6 million single people aged between 20 and 44 in Hong Kong. Many professional workers like engineers, teachers and healthcare workers are forced to stay single because of their long working hours and humdrum lifestyle.

Internet



The owner of a speed dating company says that they had helped many people find their special someone in the past five years. She also felt very happy whenever she saw her clients get married.—XINHUA

long time ago and 8,000 lipsticks have since been recovered and destroyed.

The dangerous lipsticks were found in the Xingfa wholesale market, said Bureau officials.

Heng Fang lipsticks are sold at a price of 10 yuan (about 1.30 US dollars) a dozen.

The suspect articles have been taken off shelves by local officials.

8-2-07NL 13 2/8/07, 3:53 AM

MNA/Xinhua

Srebotnik powers into Paris Open second round

Paris, 7 Feb—Slovenian Katarina Srebotnik thrashed French qualifier Stephanie Cohen-Aloro 6-1, 6-4 to reach the second round of the Paris Open on Tuesday.

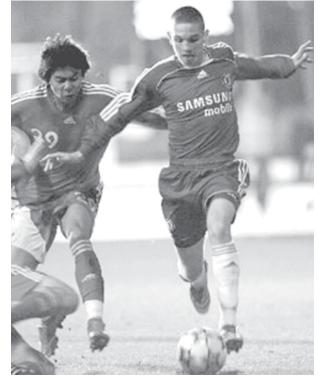
World number 23 Srebotnik will face Russian third seed Svetlana Kuznetsova for a place in the quarter-

Later on Tuesday, fifth seed Nicole Vaidisova takes on Frenchwoman Aravane Rezai in a rematch of their 2006 French Open second round, which the Czech

Swiss sixth seed Patty Schnyder starts her challenge against Russian qualifier Ekaterina Bychkova.

The four top seeds, Belgian Justine Henin, France's Amelie Mauresmo and Russians Kuznetsova and Nadia Petrova, have been granted a bye for the first round and will start playing on Wednesday or Thursday.

MNA/Reuters



Chinese Olympic soccer team played a training game with Chelsea's reserve team on 5 Feb,

2007.—XINHUA

US pair agree Liverpool takeover



Gillett and Hicks will be co-chairmen of Liverpool

London, 6 Feb—American tycoons George Gillett and Tom Hicks have reached an agreement to take over Liverpool.

Hicks and Gillett will be co-chairmen but will leave existing chief executive Rick Parry to run the club.

Liverpool chairman David Moores, who will become an honorary life president, said: "This is a great step forward for its shareholders and its fans."

The pair, who each own NHL ice hockey teams, beat off competition from Dubai International Capital.

Their offer is worth £5,000 per share, valuing the club at £174.1m, and along with the club's £44.8m debt it values the club at £218.9m.

But the pair are also believed to have guaranteed to invest over £200m in the club, but they refused to discuss figures.

They confirmed they will make funds available, both for team strengthening and the building of the club's new stadium in Stanley Park and denied they had secured the club on borrowed money.

"We have purchased the club with no debt on the club," said Gillett. "We believe in the future of the club, the future of the league, the new TV contracts are outstanding and we are proud to be a part of it.

Internet

McBeth vote FIFA vice-president from Britain

London, 7 Feb— John McBeth was elected as a FIFA vice-president from Britain on Monday.

The Scottish Football Association president beat out the representatives from the governing bodies of soccer in England, North Ireland and Wales.

McBeth succeeds David Will, another Scotsman, who will retire in May after 17 years.

The other candidates were Football Association chairman Geoff Thompson, Irish FA president Jim Boyce and Football Association of Wales president Peter Rees.

MNA/Xinhua

Rosicky voted Czech Footballer of the Year

PRAGUE, 7 Feb—Czech midfielder Tomas Rosicky, who plays with English Premiership side Arsenal, became Czech Footballer of the Year for the third time on Monday.

Rosicky won the balloting of a 104-member panel of players, coaches and soccer association officials.

Rosicky, who already won the honour in 2001 and 2002, was followed by last year's winner Petr Cech, goalie of Chelsea, and Pavel Nedved, midfielder of

Rosicky had already won the Golden Ball Award for the best Czech soccer player last season, which was organized by Sports Journalists Association of Czech Republic.— MNA/Xinhua

Staudacher wins world championship super-G

Are (Sweden), 7 Feb-Patrick Staudacher of Italy sprung a major surprise on Tuesday when he won gold in the men's super-G at the Alpine skiing world cham-

Competing at his first world championships the 26-year-old left a host of favourites in the shade as he clocked an unbeatable time of one minute 14.30 seconds.

Former Olympic downhill champion Fritz Strobl of Austria was second, 0.32 seconds behind with Swiss veteran Bruno Kernen 0.62 seconds back in bronze medal position.

"It's a dream, an unforgettable day," Staudacher told Italy's RAI television.

After three days of weather delays the twice-postponed super-G proved a massive disappointment for pre-race favourite Bode Miller who produced a ragged run down the slick Olympia course to finish outside the top 20.— MNA/Reuters

Guti wants Beck's return

REAL Madrid (Spain), 6 Feb Real Madrid midfielder Guti believes team-mate David Beckham deserves to be playing for the Spanish giants.

The former England captain has not appeared for Los Merengues since early January, hav-



Guti

ing since announced that he will make a lucrative move to American Major League Soccer side Los Angeles Galaxy come the end of the season.

Beckham's decision has prompted Real boss Fabio Capello to leave the former Manchester United star out of his side ever since, but Guti would like to see Beckham more involved at present.

"First, I would say David is a friend of mine and that he is a great player," Guti told a news confer-

"He has chosen a change in his career and he deserves the utmost respect from everyone.

"We would all like to see him not only training with us but playing as well, but it is a club decision that is out of our hands.

"We want every player to participate, especially ones as important as David."

Internet

Paper reports Hamburg goals too small

Berlin, 7 Feb—Hamburg SV have scored fewer goals than are correct, we will make sure any Bundesliga club this sea- | we have a new goal in place son and the *Hamburger* that conforms with the rules Abendblatt newspaper has discovered one possible cause the goals in their home stadium could be too small.

The newspaper reported that the goals in the Hamburg Arena stand 2.39 metres high, with the crossbar five centimetres lower than the prescribed 2.44 metres.

"Obviously we're going to measure that again," HSV spokesman Joern Wolf told Germany's SID sports news agency.

"If those numbers reported by the next match against Borussia Dortmund. It's a good thing no one hit the crossbar last week in the Energie Cottbus match."

If confirmed, it would be another embarrassing setback for Hamburg, who started the season hoping to win the championship after finishing third last season.

They are bottom of the standings and last week sacked coach Thomas Doll.

MNA/Reuters



Yoshihiro Sato of Japan celebrates winning the K-1 World Max 2007 Japan Tournament in Tokyo on 5 Feb, 2007.—INTERNET

French PM says US failed in Iraq, Iran a worry

Paris, 7 Feb — French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin believes the United States has failed in Iraq and the international community lacks the imagination to solve the Iran crisis, according to an interview released on Tuesday.

Villepin told The Financial Times the United States had to fix a date for withdrawing its troops if it was to address the underlying cause of instability in Iraq, which he pinpointed as a feeling the foreign presence was illegitimate.

"The US has failed in

Iraq. More than 3,000 US soldiers have been killed since 2003, 12,000 Iraqi civilians in 2006. We have seen very bloody attacks in recent days, with hundreds of civilian deaths. The question now is how do we stop the spiral," Villepin said in an interview to be published

on Wednesday.

"We need a clear horizon for the departure of foreign troops and the return of full sovereignty to Iraq. Until this is clearly stated, with the stages and the objective of a total withdrawal, things will not improve."

Villepin described as

"absurd" the idea that troops would withdraw when Iraq was democratic and calm.

"When you want to solve a crisis in the world, you will not advance without fixing a schedule. The international community is lacking ambition and solidarity, but most of all it is lacking a fixed and dated objective," he said.

He said he was very worried about Iran, which is under pressure from France, Britain, Germany, Russia and China to abandon technology that could be used to make nuclear bombs.

"I think that the international community is also lacking imagination on Iran," he said. Villepin said Teheran had to respect its international commitments, particularly the non-proliferation treaty which it had signed.

MNA/Reuters



A British soldier secures the area where a roadside bomb exploded near the US consulate in the Iraqi city of Basra on 5 Feb, 2007. —XINHUA



Thursday, 8 February View on today

7:00 am

1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃ မဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော် ဆောင်ချုပ်၊ အဘိဓဇမဟာရဌ ဂုရ၊ အဘိဓဇအဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မ စောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တ ဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. Nice and sweet song 7:55 am 5. Dance of national

races 8:10 am

6. Dance variety

8:20 am 7. နှစ်(၆၀)ပြည့် ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့

ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

8:30 am

8. International news 8:45 am

9. Let's Go

4:00 pm 1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Song to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. English for Everyday Use

4:40 pm

4. Musical programme

4:55 pm

5. အလေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ –ဒုတိယနှစ်(သမိုင်းအထူးပြု)

(သမိုင်း) 5:10 pm

6. Cute little dancers

5:20 pm 7. နှစ်(၆၀)ပြည့် ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့

ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ် 5:30 pm

8. စည်းကမ်းလိုက်နာဘေကင်း ကွာ(လူကူးမျဉ်းကျားမှကူးမယ်)

5:35 pm

9. ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲ့ရင်ခုန်သံ 5:40 pm

10. နှစ်(၆၀)ပြည့် ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

5:50 pm

11. လူသတ်၊မီးရှို့၊မိုင်းထောင် နေသောအကြမ်းဖက်သောင်းကျန်း မှုအန္တရာယ်စက်ကွင်းမှပြည်သူ လူထုလွှတ်ကင်းအောင်ကာကွယ် စောင့်ရောက်လျက်ရှိသည်။ (အပိုင်း–၂)

6:00 pm

12. Evening news

6:30 pm

13. Weather report

6:35 pm 14. သီရိဂေဟာ

7:00 pm

15. Discovery

7:10 pm

16. နိုင်ငံခြားဧာတ်လမ်းတွဲ 'အချစ်ဆိုသည်မှာ" (အပိုင်း–၂၀)

7:50 pm

17. ပြည်ထောင်စုစိတ်ဓာတ် မပြတ်ရင့်သန်ခိုင်မာရန်မှာ (အသီးတစ်ရာအညှာတစ်ခု <u>ဒို့ပြည်ထောင်စု)</u>

8:00 pm

18. News

19. International news

20. Weather report

21. နိုင်ငံခြားဧာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

"အကြင်နာနွေဦး" (အပိုင်း-၁၀)

22. The next day's programme

Thursday, 8 February Tune in today

8:30 am Brief news 8:35 am Music:

-Tell me how to

make me smile 8:40 am Perspectives

8:45 am Music:

-Mr Big 8:50 am National news/

Slogan

9:00 am Music:

-Girl on film

9:05 am International

news **9:10 am** Music:

other -Every time

1:30 pm News / Slogan, 1:40 pm Lunch time

music -Heart beat of

hope -OL'55

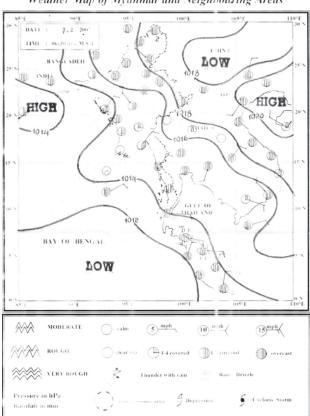
-Mawlamyine 9:00 pm Aspects of

Myanmar 9:10pm Article

9:20pm Pourri **9:30pm**Favourite songs chosen by music

lovers 9:45 pm News / Slogan **10:00 pm** PEL

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Wednesday, 7 February, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thunndershowers have been isolated in Kachin State, Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, weather has been generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Kayin and Mon States, (6°C) below normal in Bago Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Shan States and Sagaing Division, (5°C) above normal in Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperature was Pinlaung (5°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Putao, Myitkyina and Kanbalu (0.08) inch each.

Maximum temperature on 6-2-2007 was 92°F. Minimum temperature on 7-2-2007 was 64°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 7-2-2007 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 6-2-2007 was (7.5) hours approx.

Rainfall on 7-2-2007 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 Northwest at (15:30) hours MST on 6-2-2007.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 8-2-2007: Rain are likely to be isolated to scattered in Kachin, Chin, Shan, northern Rakhine States, Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in Magway, Bago, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 8-2-2007: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 8-2-2007: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 8-2-2007: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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Four political objectives Four econ

- * 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

All religions in Myanmar live side by side in peace and harmony and they have mutual understanding and affection for each other's faith

There exist numerous mosques, churches, pagodas, temples and monasteries

Government provides religious stipends, necessary recommendations for all religions significantly Ministry of Religious Affairs contacting with religious organizations

Identifications of Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) seen falsely mentioned It is improper and unacceptable act plotted by the United States and Britain, in order to interfere in internal affairs of Myanmar on pretext of freedom of religion Islamic organizations totally oppose CSW's report disturbing peace of various religions of Myanmar

Nay Pyi Taw, 7 Feb — Certain 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. Furthermore, it 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 (from page 10)

INSIDE

The Catholic Bishop's Conference of Myanmar, the Myanmar Council of Churches and the Yangon Young Men's Christian Association issued their correct attitudes, stating that the activities of some outside organizations had no connection at all with them.

There has been the flourishing of sound results of freedom of worship of all faiths and the rights to express faiths in Myanmar. Interference of some big western nations and cohort organizations in Myanmar affairs through false accusations are the usual acts of neo-colonialists.

Page 2 Perspectives

65 members quit Bogale Township NLD

Yangon, 7 Feb—A total of 65 members of Bogale Township National League for Democracy of Ayeyawady Division sent their resignation letters to the NLD and local authorities of their own volition on 22 September 2006.

In the letters sent to Ayeyawady Division Multi-party Democracy General Election Sub-Commission, they said they no longer took interest in the acts of NLD leaders and had lost faith and trust in the party.

They are U Aung Toe of Tamangyi Village, U Than Gyaung of Kwin Chaung Villagek, five including U Myint Aung of Akaw Vilalge, four including U Sein Tun of Ngayoknauk Village, four including U Pauk Sa of Byusakhan Village, U Hla Myint of Wegyi Village and U Than Myaing of Asheikwin Village, seven including U Tauk Tun of Aye Village, Daw Than Than Nyo of Thanlaik Village, Daw Cho Cho Min of Hantha Village, Daw Hla Tin of Appanan Village, two including U Tun Khin of Kansu Village, eight including U Myat Soe of Kayinsu Village and U Khin Maung Kyaw of Nyandawinn Village, two including U Tun Naung of Hlwadaungsu Village, U Maung Gyi of Thabyaygon Village, U Win Naing of Kazaunglay Village, two including Daw Shwe of Kansu (West) Village, U Nay Lin of Satsan No 2 Region, U Soe Myint of Ngapitonehle Village, U Aye Hlaing of Dahchaung Village, U Htay Aung Kyi of Nyinaung Village, two including U Kyaw Shein of Thonedat Village, U Thaung Han of Sankin Village, U Tun Lin of Satsan-4 Region, U Aung Chin of Ngayoke East Village, three incluing U Myint Soe of Myingakon Region-3, six including U Soe Win of Myinkagon Region-2, U Lay Naing of Myinkagon Village, U Kyi Myint of Myinkagon Kyonchin Village and U Soe Aung of Myinkagon Region-1. — MNA