

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing host Union Day reception and dinner

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing held the 60th Anniversary Union Day reception and dinner at the square of the City Hall this evening.

On their arrival at the square Senior General Than Shwe and wife were welcomed by SPDC Vice-Chairman Vice-Senior General Maung Aye,

SPDC member General Thura Shwe Mann, Prime Minister General Soe Win, Chairman of the Central Committee for Observance of the 60th Anniversary Union Day Secretary-1 of the SPDC Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of the Management Committee Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Brig-Gen Wai Lwin and officials.

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing cordially greeted Union Day del-

egates of states and divisions, members of traditional cultural troupes, Union Solidarity and Development Association member Union Day delegates from states and divisions, members of social organizations and guests. Next, the Senior General and wife hosted dinner to those present.

Also present on the occasion were SPDC members and their wives, the Commander-in-Chief *(See page 8)*



Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing cordially greet delegates of state/division, cultural troupes, USDA members and townselders at the dinner to mark the 60th Anniversary Union Day. — MNA

Four political objectives

- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- * National reconsolidation
- * Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- * Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

- * Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- * Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- * Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- * The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives

- * Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- * Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- * Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- * Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 13 February, 2007

Serve interest of the State and the people by building perpetual peace

Today, there have been good foundations for national development and a democratic state. Unprecedented progress has been made in fostering unity among national brethren.

At such a time, realizing the goodwill of the State, the Tatmadaw and the people and efforts for national reconsolidation, peace and national development, 309 members led by Chairman of Kayin National Union (KNU)/Kayin National Liberation Army (KNLA) Peace Council Commander of Brigade No 7 Maj-Gen Htay Maung and 11 family members made peace.

A ceremony to mark the victory of peace of KNU/KNLA Peace Council was held in Htokkawoe Village, Kawkareik Township, Kayin State on 11 February.

Assessing the latest political developments at home and abroad, it is obvious that only when there is peace and stability will the socio-economic life of local people improve.

Since its assumption of the State responsibilities, the Tatmadaw has had the ardent desire to improve the regions that lagged behind in development. But it has been able to fulfil the requirements of the regions of peace groups only.

At present, Kachin State, Kayah State, Shan State (North), Shan State (South) and regions of other states where the peace groups reside have turned into special development regions. And local people including families of the peace groups are enjoying the fruits of peace with health, education and economic development.

Therefore, KNLA put aside ism, racism, localism and sectarianism and made peace to set up peaceful regions that are free from armed conflicts.

KNU/KNLA Peace Council's joining hands with the Tatmadaw government is a move to integrate history of KNU/KNLA into historical needs of the State.

This being so, we firmly believe that peace will prevail across the nation including Kayin State and the living standard of local people will further improve only if those left behind for various reasons follow the example of KNU/KNLA Peace Council and build perpetual peace.

Three ancient coffins unearthed in Egypt

CAIRO, 12 Feb — Three ancient wooden coffins, dating back to the middle and modern pharaonic dynasties in the 20th century B.C., were discovered in central Egypt, the official news agency MENA reported on Saturday. The three coffins were unearthed by a Japanese archaeological mission in Saqara District in Giza governorate, some 30 kilometres south of downtown Cairo.

Secretary-General of the Egyptian Supreme Council for Antiquities Zahi Hawwas said one of the coffins was cut in the shape of a human being and coloured with black. It dates back to the modern dynasty, about 1,600 B.C.-1,000 B.C.

MNA/Xinhua

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

Measures for prevention against dengue hemorrhagic fever and diarrhoea inspected

YANGON, 11 Feb— Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win yesterday morning inspected measures for prevention against dengue hemorrhagic fever and diarrhoea being taken in Lanmadaw Township, Yangon West District and gave necessary instructions. Accompanied by Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and officials, the commander at 6.30 am briefed the activities on prevention against dengue haemorrhagic fever and diarrhoea at No 1 Basic Education Primary School, and stressed the need for the people to participate in the drive for prevention

against those infectious diseases.

Next, Head of Yangon Division Health Department Dr Hla Myint and officials reported on reducing prevalence rate of DHF and diarrhoea in the division, measures being taken for prevention against den-

gue hemorrhagic fever and diarrhoea in Lanmadaw Township and work under way for proper drainage and sanitation to the commander.

After hearing the reports, the commander and the mayor attended to the needs and made conclud-

ing remarks.

Afterwards, the commander and mayor looked into measures being taken for prevention against dengue hemorrhagic fever and diarrhoea by staff of YCDC, social organizations, health staff and local people.—MNA



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

Ye Yan Aung seals trophy in Grand Royal Special Reserve Golf Championship



YANGON, 12 Feb—The second round of the Grand Royal Special Reserve Golf Championship Second Qualify Round, jointly organized by Myanmar Golf Federation and International Beverages Trading Co Ltd, took place at Ayethaya Golf Course in Taunggyi yesterday.

A prize presentation ceremony was held after the second round, attended by Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Brig-Gen Thaung Aye. He presented a trophy and a gold medal to leader Ye Yan Aung with 141 total strokes and a prize to run-



Commander Brig-Gen Thaung Aye presents trophy to Ye Yan Aung, who won first in the Grand Royal Special Reserve Golf Championship 2007. MGF

ner-up Thura Kyaw with 141 strokes whereas Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint awarded third placed Kan Chun with 141, fourth placed Myint Soe Aung with 142 and fifth placed Nyan Win with 142.

Next, Design and Development Director U Tint

Oo of IBTC presented prizes to Tin Aung Naing and Han Win Aung, Production Director U Zaw Htaik of IBTC to Thura Kyaw and Myint Soe Aung and Executive U Ko Ko Lay of MPGA and MGF and Secretary of Shan State PDC U Khin Maung Kyi to consolation prizes to

amateur golfers.

The main sponsor is International Beverages Trading Co Ltd and co-sponsors, Air Mandalay, Hotel Nikko, Srixon and Alpine. Han Event Management participated in the drive for realization of the championship.

MNA

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Iran's UN Ambassador challenges US Iraq assertion

WASHINGTON, 11 Feb—The United States is trying to fabricate Iran's involvement in attacks on US troops in Iraq, Iran's Ambassador to the United Nations said in a radio interview aired on Friday.

Javad Zarif told National Public Radio's "All Things Considered" programme that Iran has "no interest" in providing weapons to any insurgent group in Iraq.

"But the problem is that the United States has decided on a policy and is trying to find or fabricate evidence if it cannot find one — and I believe it

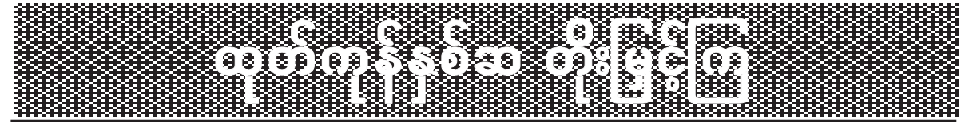
hasn't been able to find an evidence — in order to substantiate and corroborate that policy," Zarif said.

American officials say Iran is fanning violence in Iraq by giving technology and other support to Shiite groups. US Defence Secretary Robert Gates said there was some evidence Iran was the

source of technology for a type of sophisticated roadside bomb.

"I'm just frankly not specifically certain myself of the details but I understand there is pretty good evidence tying (the bomb technology) to the Iranians," Gates said at a NATO meeting on Friday in Spain.

MNA/Reuters



Pentagon faults ex-official's report with "dubious" intelligence

WASHINGTON, 11 Feb— Intelligence provided by US former

undersecretary of defence Douglas J Feith to buttress the White House case for invading Iraq included "reporting of dubious quality or reliability" that supported the political views of senior administration officials rather than the conclusions of the intelligence community, according to a report by the Pentagon's inspector general.

Feith's office "was predisposed to finding a significant relationship between Iraq and al-Qaeda," *The Washington Post* reported Friday, citing portions of the

report released Thursday.

An unclassified summary of the full document is scheduled for release Friday in a hearing of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

The inspector general concluded that Feith's assessment in 2002 that Iraq and al-Qaeda had a "mature symbiotic relationship" was not fully supported by available intelligence but was nonetheless used by policymakers, the *Post* reported.

At the time of Feith's reporting, the Central Intelligence Agency

(CIA) had concluded only that there was an "evolving" association, "based on sources of varying reliability", the newspaper said.

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia's Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi (R) talks with Thailand's Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont in Phuket, about 862 km (536 miles) south of Bangkok, on 11 Feb, 2007. Badawi is in Thailand for a three-day official visit.

INTERNET

Beijing has record-high temperatures on three of past seven days

BEIJING, 11 Feb— Beijingers are experiencing an unusually warm winter with the capital's temperatures breaking half-century records on three of the past seven days, the *Beijing Morning Post* reported on Saturday. The mercury reached 14.5 degrees Celsius on Friday, the warmest 9 February since at least 1949, the newspaper said.

Saturday's 12.8 degrees was also a post-1949 record. The temperature rose to 16 degrees on Monday, topping all records for that date since 1840, said the report.

Experts say the current mild temperatures are a rare event in the city's meteorological history and attribute them to global warming.

"It is turning out to be a warm winter for Beijing," the newspaper quoted an unnamed weather expert as saying. "Temperatures, especially in January, have been higher than in previous years."— MNA/Xinhua

Marching bands perform during their parade to celebrate Japan's National Foundation Day, on 11 Feb, 2007, at Meiji Jingu shinto shrine in Tokyo.—INTERNET



Indonesian officers clean up mud on the street which was hit by the floods in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 11 Feb, 2007. —INTERNET

Blast at ICRC Pakistan office damages vehicles

ISLAMABAD, 11 Feb— An explosive device thrown into a compound damaged four vehicles belonging to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in northwest Pakistan on Saturday, but there were no casualties.

"Early in the morning something was thrown inside the ICRC compound in Peshawar and damaged

four vehicles and some property, but caused no injuries or fatalities," ICRC spokesman Raza Hamdani told *Reuters*. The ICRC has suspended field operations in Peshawar pending a security review while police investigate.

This is the second attack on a foreign aid agency in North-West Frontier Province this week.

On Monday, a grenade

was thrown at a compound of the US Save the Children aid group in Battagram, wounding two Pakistani employees.

Foreign aid groups, helping communities recovering from a devastating earthquake in late 2005, say they have been threatened by hardline Islamist groups opposed to their work with women.—MNA/Reuters

Snow breaks no-show record in Tokyo

TOKYO, 12 Feb — Tokyo has broken a record marking the longest snowless winter, Japan's weather agency said, with much of the country having had unseasonably high temperatures this season.

Central Tokyo had no snow on Saturday, the first time since records began in 1876 that the city has had no snow so far into the winter, a Meteorological Agency official said.

Snow in Tokyo usually falls several times a year, although lightly.

Temperatures in many parts of Japan this winter have been unusually warm, shutting down ski resorts and dampening sales of winter clothing.

An annual snow sculpture festival in the northern city of Sapporo started earlier this week with sculptures

discoloured and melting. In Tokyo, temperatures in January averaged 7.6 degrees Celsius (45.68F), the third warmest on record, while nationwide temperatures were at their fourth warmest, the Meteorological Agency said.

MNA/Reuters



Folk-custom performers play dance at Shijia Hutong in Beijing, on 10 Feb, 2007. People celebrated the traditional Chinese "Little New Year" a week ahead of the Spring Festival in various traditional forms on Saturday. "Little New Year", which is called "Xiaonian" in Chinese, falls on the 23rd day of the 12th lunar month, 10 Feb this year. Traditionally Chinese people offer sacrifices to the "Kitchen God" who looks after the family's fortunes on the day. —XINHUA

Jackie Chan, Jet Li unite to remake classic characters

BEIJING, 10 Feb — Chinese action stars Jackie Chan and Jet Li will team up for the first time to star a new film inspired by legendary classical Chinese novel "Journey to the West" written during the Ming Dynasty.

According to investor Huayi Brothers Company, Jet Li and Jackie Chan will play two famous roles respectively: Monkey King and Monk Sandy, derived from "Journey to the West." However, the movie's plot is totally different from the original novel.

The two action stars will take on the challenge to play these two classical roles with brand new characteristics under a totally different plot.

The official name for the movie has not yet been decided. Chinanews.com reported on Friday that the lead actress might be Liu Yifei and Disney animation "Lion King" director Rob Minkoff will be invited to direct the movie. The story of "Journey to the West" is so popular in China that it has become part of the repertoire of Chinese operas, TV series and comic books. —Internet



Chinese action star Jet Li's Monkey King look.

INTERNET

French planet-seeking satellite gets to work

PARIS, 10 Feb — A French satellite designed to hunt out new planets has started work after a series of successful tests, the European Space Agency said on Friday.

Dubbed COROT, the satellite carries a telescope capable of detecting small, rocky planets by

measuring the light emitted by a star and detecting the drop in brightness caused when a planet passes in front of it.

"The performance of the instruments and of the spacecraft is simply excellent. It is actually exceeding our expectations," said Malcolm

Fridlund, ESA project scientist for COROT.

Scientists have deduced there are planets orbiting stars other than the sun by measuring their "wobble", or gravitational pull, but have never before been able to see them.

MNA/Reuters

Carnival revellers dance in the streets of the Galician village of Cobres, northwestern Spain, on 10 Feb, 2007. During Carnival celebrations in Cobres, people in brightly coloured costumes perform in the streets and collect donations from the audience. —INTERNET



Human dumping continues on LA skid row

LOS ANGELES, 11 Feb — Human dumping continued on Los Angeles skid row despite efforts to stop the practice, it was reported Friday.

In the latest case, a paraplegic man was allegedly seen being dumped in the street by a Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Centre van, said the Los Angeles Times.

The man wearing a soiled hospital gown and a broken colostomy bag was found crawling in a gutter in skid row in Los Angeles on Thursday after allegedly being dumped, said the report.

The incident, witnessed by more than two dozen people, was described by police as a particularly outrageous case of "homeless dumping" that has plagued the downtown area.

Los Angeles Police Department detectives said they connected the van to Hollywood Presbyterian after witnesses wrote down a phone number on the van and took down its licence-plate number.

The medical centre had been accused of being involved in an earlier dumping case that is now under investigation. — MNA/Xinhua

Brazilian frees grandson from anaconda death grip

SAO PAULO, 11 Feb — A 66-year-old Brazilian man wrestled with a 15-foot (5-metre) anaconda for nearly half an hour to free his grandson from the snake's crushing death grip, a newspaper reported on Friday.

Matheus Pereira de Araujo, 8, would likely to be dead inside the belly of

the 80-pound (35-kilo) anaconda if his grandfather had not heard his screams for help, zoologists said.

Anacondas, the biggest snakes in the world, are non-venomous and kill prey by asphyxiation.

Araujo was playing with friends near a creek on his grandfather's farm

in Cosmorama, 310 miles (500 kilometres) west of Sao Paulo, on Wednesday when the snake attacked him. "It was very fast. I didn't have time to do anything," the Folha de S Paulo newspaper quoted Araujo as saying by. "My grandfather is a hero — I was so afraid of dying."

MNA/Reuters

ECONOMIC NEWS

Argentina rejects US fund bid for Transener stake

BUENOS AIRES, 11 Feb — Argentina's anti-monopoly agency rejected US investment fund Eton's bid to buy 50 per cent of the company that controls Argentina's biggest power transmission company, Transener, a government official said on Saturday.

The official, who asked not to be identified, said the National Competition Defence Commission issued the decree on Friday, citing Eton Park Capital Management's lack of experience in the power industry and lack of long-term commitment.

With Eton out of the picture, Argentine state energy company Enarsa could pursue the stake in

Transener.

Eton's interest in Transener caused a minor diplomatic squabble when President Nestor Kirchner on Thursday lashed out at the United States for meddling after the US ambassador sent a letter to Argentine authorities supporting Eton's bid.

The incident was smoothed over on Friday when US State Department official Nicholas Burns, who was visiting Buenos Aires, said both sides agreed there had been a misunderstanding.

He said Argentine officials now understood that the US was not putting on undue pressure, but just wanted to defend the interests of a US company.

"(Eton) is an investment fund whose shareholders have no experience in the activity or definite expectations to stay in the business for a length of time compatible with the nature of a public utility," the anti-trust commission said in the decree, as published in *Clarín* newspaper.

MNA/Reuters



People gather around a Bombardier CRJ900 passenger aircraft displayed on the last day of 'Aero India 2007' in the outskirts of Bangalore, India, on 11 Feb, 2007. —INTERNET

Millionaires fly to Thailand for R180,000 dinner

BAGHDAD, 11 Feb—It was an evening of utter decadence — a 10-course gourmet dinner concocted by world-renowned chefs at \$25,000 (about R180,000) a head.

Many of those who

attended Saturday night's culinary extravaganza in Bangkok hailed it as the meal of a lifetime. But it's no easy task to eat plate after plate of Beluga caviar, Perigord truffles, Kobe beef and Brittany lobster

—each paired with a rare and robust vintage wine. "It's really amazing," said one diner, Sophiane Foster, a wealthy Cambodian who lives in Malaysia, as she eyed the dinner's eighth course — a "pigeon en croute with

cepes mushrooms". "But I can't finish it. Your senses can only appreciate so much."

High-rolling food lovers flew in from the United States, Europe, the Middle East and other parts of Asia for the 40-seat dinner organized by the Lebuja luxury hotel in Bangkok, grandly titled "Epicurean Masters of the World".

Cooked by six three-star Michelin chefs — four from France and one each from Germany and Italy — the menu featured complicated creations such as "tartar of Kobe beef with Imperial Beluga caviar and Belon oysters" and "mousseline of 'pattes rouges' crayfish with morel mushroom infusion".

Among the talented chefs, some said they found it challenging to give diners their money's worth.—Internet

China to launch Clean Development Mechanism Fund

BEIJING, 11 Feb — China will launch a Clean Development Mechanism Fund (CD-MF) in March to help finance climate change projects, according to sources with the Ministry of Finance.

Ju Kuilin, a senior official with the Ministry of Finance, said the fund has been approved by the State Council, or China's Cabinet.

A group formed by seven authorities including the National Development and Reform Commission and ministries of Finance, and Science and Technology will be responsible for managing the fund.

The fund will collect some carbon credit transaction income, donations from inter-

national financial organizations and individuals as well as other sources approved by the State Council.

According to Ju, the fund has got a 6.4-million-US-dollar loan from the World Bank, and Europe will pour in loans worth a further 500 million euros.

MNA/Xinhua



A visitor looks at cell phone models at a SoftBank mobile phone shop in Tokyo on 8 Feb, 2007. SoftBank Corp said on Thursday its net profit fell 65.94 percent for the most recent quarter due to hefty sales promotion costs. —INTERNET



Deers walk through the Kushiro marsh in Shibecha town in the eastern part of Hokkaido, northern Japan on 10 Feb, 2007.—INTERNET

Property industry considers green initiatives

SYDNEY, 11 Feb—Property industry leaders will meet at a conference in Sydney today to discuss environmental property issues and initiatives.

Today's Green Cities conference is expected to bring together major players from the property industry to consider the impact of the built environment on greenhouse

gas emissions and discuss ways of reducing those emissions.

The chief executive of the Green Building Council of Australia, Romilly Madew, says a new environmental rating system for buildings has already helped reduce emissions from office buildings.

She says the conference

will look at ways to expand that initiative.

"The Green Building Council is now working with shopping centres, health care, education, industrial and all other sectors of the market to ensure that a new building or a refurbished building always considers green issues within that building," she said.—Internet

100,000 Beijing residents clean streets to greet ‘Little New Year’

BEIJING, 11 Feb — About 100,000 Beijing residents took their brooms outdoors on Saturday for a ‘Clean City’ drive to mark traditional Chinese ‘Little New Year’ — a week before ‘New Year,’ or Spring Festival.

Volunteer environmental inspectors could also be seen in the streets, dissuading citizens from uncivil behaviour such as spitting and littering.

The 23rd day of the 12th lunar month is called ‘xiao nian’ in Chinese, which literally means ‘Little New Year.’ Traditionally it is an important occasion when people offer sacrifices to the ‘Kitchen God’ who looks after the

family’s fortunes.

According to traditional Chinese beliefs, the ‘Kitchen God’ goes up to heaven to give his annual report to the ‘Jade Emperor’, the supreme leader, about the family’s activities over the past year. The God returns to his freshly cleaned shrine on New Year’s Eve.

‘Little New Year’ is also a day for families to carefully and thoroughly

clean their houses so that they are bright and clean — polishing the furniture, cleaning walls and sweeping floors.

The city will launch a ‘Clean City’ drive every three months, mobilizing all walks of life to protect the environment, said a spokesman with the Municipal Environment Protection Office on Saturday.

MNA/Xinhua



Beijingers take an oath not cut into the queue at a ceremony in one of China’s commercial streets in Beijing, China on 11 Feb, 2007. Beijing holds its first ‘voluntary queuing day’ on Sunday. Ahead of the 2008 Olympics Beijing’s government hopes to persuade its citizens to stand in line and stop spitting to create an orderly atmosphere. —INTERNET

Peru doctors perform lung transplant

LIMA, 11 Feb — A team of doctors has successfully transplanted the lung of a 56-year-old woman in Peru, in a five-hour operation that took place last Friday, Jose Achat, the head of the surgery team at Edgardo Rebagliatti Social Security Hospital, told media on Friday.

The woman swiftly recovered her oxygenation levels and began some physical activity the day after the operation, he said.

‘It was a repeat surgery,’ said the surgeon, ‘We had to tackle the thorax and take out one lung, and then implant a healthy one.’

The patient, Hilda Lazo, had lived on an oxygen tank since 2003. This hospital has operated transplantations of heart, liver, kidney, cornea, living lungs (from mother to child) and bone marrow.

MNA/Xinhua



Surveyors take down measurements of the Great Wall out in the field. INTERNET

Vitamin D may cut risk of colorectal cancer

NEW YORK, 11 Feb — Taking 1,000 to 2,000 international units (IU) of Vitamin D each day may safely reduce the risk of colorectal cancer, according to pooled data from published studies.

The current findings contradict some prior individual studies that found that Vitamin D

intake did not seem to protect against colorectal cancer. However, it is possible that the dose may simply have been too low to provide a benefit, researchers say.

The present analysis, reported in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, included data from five studies that

looked at the association between blood levels of 25-hydroxy-Vitamin D, which provides a good estimate of Vitamin D levels in the body, and colorectal cancer risk.

Dr Edward D Gorham, from the Naval Health Research Centre in San Diego, California, and colleagues found that as blood levels of Vitamin D rose, the risk of colorectal cancer fell. Risk was reduced by 54 per cent in groups with the highest Vitamin D levels relative to those with the lowest levels.

MNA/Reuters

Cyclists stop to look at a monkey near a residential estate bordering a nature reserve in Singapore on 10 Feb, 2007.

INTERNET



Light aircraft crashes at sea in northern Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 11 Feb — A light aircraft crashed into the sea waters near the Aman Island in Malaysia’s northern state of Pinang on Friday, but the pilot ejected safely, local media said.

The accident happened at about 6 pm when the *Diamond DA40* light aircraft plane, which was owned by a private company, hit the water after going into a spin. The pilot was said to eject safely and was rescued by fishermen in the area. — MNA/Xinhua

Dengue fever kills 252 in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 11 Feb — As many as 252 people have died of dengue fever in Indonesia since early this year while the number of dengue cases in the country has reached 15,005, Health Ministry spokesperson Lily S Sulistyowati said at a Press conference here on Friday. 27 people died in 1,807 cases recorded across the country this month, the Antara news agency quoted the spokesperson as saying.

She said West Java saw the largest number of dengue cases, followed by Jakarta, East Java and Central Java. — MNA/Xinhua

Four people killed in small plane crash in US

WASHINGTON, 11 Feb — Four people aboard a small plane were killed Friday night when the plane crashed in the southeastern US state of Georgia, authorities said Saturday.

The *Beechcraft Bonanz* plane crashed when it was flying from Titusville of Florida to Anderson, South Carolina, news reports quoted a spokeswoman for the Federal Aviation Administration in Atlanta as saying. —Internet

Boat sinks in S Japan, three missing

TOKYO, 11 Feb — A tuna fishing boat was found sunk in the sea off southern Japan’s Miyazaki Prefecture on Sunday morning, leaving three people missing, Kyodo News reported.

The vessel was found sunk by another fishing boat at around 6:40 am about 130 kilometers southeast off the coast of the city of Kushima. The witness said only the stern of the sunk boat was above the surface of the water, local coast guard officials were quoted as saying. —Internet

Syria, Tajikistan sign bilateral agreements in various fields

DAMASCUS, 12 Feb — Syria and Tajikistan signed on Saturday a number of agreements in various fields which culminated the four-day official visit of Tajik President Imamoli Rakhmonov here.

According to the official SANA newsagency, the agreements involves the economic, scientific, technical, tourism and investment fields, which also included two memos on scientific research and the other is on holding bilateral consultations of the two countries' foreign ministries.

Rakhmonov, who arrived here Wednesday evening, held talks with his

Syrian counterpart Bashar al-Assad and other senior officials during the visit.

In a joint statement, the two presidents underscored their keenness to increase cooperation between the two countries in all fields, and the need to work for bringing about peace and stability in the region.

They voiced support to the political process in Iraq and the need to preserve its territorial unity and

reiterated support to the establishment of a national unity government by the Palestinians.

They also called for reactivating the role of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in realizing interests and common needs of member states.—MNA/Xinhua



A VeriSign authentication device is seen in an undated publicity photo. VeriSign Inc said on Thursday 8 Feb, 2007 it plans to spend more than \$100 million over three years to expand the infrastructure that helps direct most of the world's Internet traffic. —INTERNET

Afghan Govt to register death and birth cases

KABUL, 12 Feb — The Afghan Government, in conjunction with UNESCO, will register death, birth and divorce in this post-Taliban country, a local newspaper reported Saturday.

An agreement signed recently between Afghan Interior Ministry and UNESCO will enable the Afghan Government to register all death, birth and divorce in order to provide a reliable population database, daily newspaper *Outlook* quoted Deputy Interior Ministry Abdul Malik Sidiqi as saying.

Once statistics is provided, the government will be able to offer appropriate health, education and medical services to children and needy people, Sidiqi added.

MNA/Xinhua

Mexico's President vows no respite in drug gang war

MEXICO CITY, 12 Feb s— Mexican President Felipe Calderon on Saturday vowed no respite in his crackdown on drug gangs after brazen attacks on police stations this week killed seven. Gunmen disguised as soldiers assaulted two police stations in the resort of Acapulco on Tuesday and killed seven in broad daylight. They left the message: "We don't give a damn about the federal government and this is proof." Calderon, who won a razor-thin victory in Mexico's presidential election last year, was unbowed.

"We are not going to give up, not because of provocations or attacks against the security of Mexicans," Calderon said in a speech to the military. "There will be no truce ... against the enemies of Mexico."

Calderon, who took office on December 1, has sent thousands of troops to violent regions of Mexico to tackle drug gangs that killed 2,000 people in feuds last year.

MNA/Reuters

Third bird flu case confirmed in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 12 Feb—Pakistan confirmed Saturday the deadly H5N1 bird flu virus has been found in samples obtained from a home in the capital Islamabad.

This was the country's third bird flu case since early February, when the virus was found in samples received from two households in Rawalpindi and in northwestern city of Mansehra.

However, no case of the virus has been reported from commercial birds in the country, Mohammed Afzal, spokesman for the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, was quoted by the state-run *Associated Press of Pakistan* as saying.

"An effective monitoring system has been evolved to check any report of bird flu in the country," Afzal said. — MNA/Xinhua

6 killed, 31 injured as bus overturns in eastern Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 12 Feb — Six persons were killed and 31 others injured when a bus overturned near eastern Pakistani town of Sahiwal on Saturday, the state-run *Associated Press of Pakistan* reported.

Sahiwal is some 155 kilometres southwest of Lahore, the capital city of east province Punjab.

The passenger bus overturned on its way to Lahore from Burewala, and six passengers died on the spot and 31 others received injures, said the report.

MNA/Xinhua

UAE bans British poultry imports, citing bird flu

DUBAI, 12 Feb — The United Arab Emirates has banned British poultry imports to prevent the spread of bird flu, the country's official news agency WAM said on Saturday quoting the environment minister.

"The Minister of Environment and Water Mohammed Saeed al-Kindi has issued instructions to ban imports of poultry...from the United Kingdom after discovering cases of bird flu there," WAM said. Adding, the decision was effective from the day of publication and would remain in force until further notice.

No figures were immediately available for the value or quantity of British poultry imports into the UAE.

The highly infectious H5N1 strain of bird flu was discovered last week at a turkey farm in eastern England. Authorities have culled more than 150,000 turkeys there to stop the spread of the virus.— MNA/Reuters

Bush's plan of more troops for Iraq "ignores" generals advice

WASHINGTON, 12 Feb — US President George W Bush's plan to send 21,500 additional troops to Iraq "ignores the best advice from our own generals", Democratic Senator John Kerry said Saturday.

"Another 21,000 troops sent into Iraq, with no visible end or strategy, ignores the best advice from our own generals and isn't the best way to keep faith with the courage and commitment of our soldiers," Kerry said in the Democratic weekly radio address.

Kerry, a Democrat from Massachusetts, was the Democratic Party's presidential nominee in 2004.

"Today, they have grown disillusioned," he said of US soldiers serving in Iraq.

He said the war fought by American soldiers "to protect the world from Iraq's imagined weapons of mass destruction" ended a long time ago, and Iraq "is immersed in a bloody civil war".

The "surge", or more

troops for Iraq, "is nothing more than the escalation of a misguided war", he said.

If there was a yes or no vote this week on whether the United States should keep up an indefinite presence in Iraq,

it would be voted down, Kerry said.

Bush unveiled his new Iraq strategy last month, which included sending over 20,000 more troops to Iraq.

The plan, however, has met strong resistance from

Democrats as well as some Republicans.

Senate Republicans blocked a full-floor debate this week on a non-binding resolution opposing Bush's plan to increase American troop levels in Iraq.

MNA/Xinhua



US soldiers engage in a sustained gunfight with unidentified gunmen in Baghdad, on 10 Feb, 2007. —INTERNET

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing host Union Day...

(from page 1)

(Navy) and the Commander-in-Chief (Air), ministers, the chief justice, the attorney-general, the auditor-general and their wives, the chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, members of the Central Committee and Management Committee for Observance of the 60th Anniversary Union Day, deputy ministers, the deputy auditor-general, senior military officers, the director-general of the SPDC Office and departmental heads, members of Foreign Correspondents Club and construction and banking entrepreneurs and hoteliers.

Before and during the reception and dinner, national races and vocalists sang songs to the accompaniment of Myanma Athan modern band. After dinner, gold medalists of Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions, traditional cultural troupes of states and divisions and artistes of Fine Arts Department presented their dances.

MNA



Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe greets delegates to 60th Anniversary Union Day State Flag Hoisting and Saluting Ceremony.— MNA

Over 10,000 attend 60th Anniversary Union Day Celebrations



stability of the State and national development; and For all national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-step Road Map.

Members of Union Solidarity and Development Association representing districts and townships in Yangon Division, members of Women's Affairs Organizations, Maternal and Child Welfare

of Yangon Division and Districts Peace and Development Councils and the Organizing Committee for holding the 60th Anniversary Union Day Celebrations, Yangon City Development Committee, departmental officials, representatives of NGOs and national races from University of Culture totalling over 500.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council

Department U Kyi Myint, Secretary of Yangon Division USDA U Aye Myint and U L Zaw Roi, Kachin national.

Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win read out the message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe.

Those present saluted the Union Flag and the State Military Band



Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win reads out the message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe.— MNA

YANGON, 12 Feb — The 60th Anniversary Union Day Celebrations were held at the People's Square here today.

The celebrations were held in accordance with the objectives of the 60th Anniversary Union Day — For all national

races to safeguard the national policy — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty; For all the national races to keep Union Spirit ever alive and dynamic among the

national people; For all the national races to defend and safeguard the Union for its perpetual existence; For all the national races to prevent, through national solidarity, the danger of internal and external destructive elements undermining peace and

Associations, War Veterans Organizations, Red Cross Society and Fire Brigade, nurses, teachers and students totalling over 9,500 attended the ceremony.

Also present were senior military officers in Yangon Station, members

Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win presided over the celebration together with Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor of Yangon Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Director of Yangon Division Development Affairs

played the national anthem.

Afterwards, flanked by national races from University of Culture, Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and members of panel of chairmen left the People's Square and the celebration concluded.

MNA

60th Anniversary Union Day State Flag Hoisting and Saluting Ceremony held in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb — The 60th Anniversary Union Day State Flag Hoisting and Saluting Ceremony was held on a grand scale at the square in front of the Nay Pyi Taw City Hall, here this morning with political essence in accord with the objectives — for all national races to safeguard the national policy-non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of

undermining peace and stability of the State and national development; and for all the national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-step Road Map. Present on the occasion were the ministers, the chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the deputy ministers, members of CSSTB, senior military officers, members of Central Committee for Observance of the 60th

Development Council Office, the Prime Minister's Office, the Government Office, the ministries, Chief Justice's Office, Attorney-General's Office, Auditor-General's Office and CSSTB, members of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, rectors, school heads, chairmen of Pyinmana District, Pyinmana, Lewe and Tatkon Township Peace and Development Councils, township

people totalling over 9,000.

Departmental officials, members of social organizations and the people took place at the designated places at the square of the city hall beginning 5 am.

At 5.30 am, the 60th Anniversary Union Day State Flag Hoisting Ceremony was held. The flag-hoisting platoon hoisted the State Flag. At 7.30 am, Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Guard of Honour marched to the square and took position. Next, Chairman of Management Committee for Observance of the 60th Anniversary Union Day Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Brig-Gen Wai Lwin took position on the stage.

Afterwards, the commander took the salute of the Guard of Honour and those present saluted the State Flag and the Guard of Honour played the National Anthem.

The commander read out the message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development



The 60th Anniversary Union Day State Flag Hoisting and Saluting Ceremony at square of Nay Pyi Taw City Hall in progress. — MNA



Commander Brig-Gen Wai Lwin reads out the message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe. — MNA

Council Senior General Than Shwe on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary Union Day.

The commander and those present at the

ceremony left the square.

At night, government offices, the city hall, roundabouts, schools and staff quarters were illuminated. — MNA



Those present at the 60th Anniversary Union Day State Flag Hoisting and Saluting Ceremony. — MNA

sovereignty; for all the national races to keep Union Spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people; for all the national races to defend and safeguard the Union for its perpetual existence; for all the national races to prevent, through national solidarity, the danger of internal and external destructive elements

Anniversary Union Day, members of management committee, members of sub-committees, Secretary-General and Joint Secretary-General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, members of the Secretariat and CEC members, heads of departments, heads of offices, service personnel of the State Peace and

education officers, regional coordinators of the USDA, Union Day delegates and members of cultural troupes, district and township USDAs, Women's Affairs Organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, War Veterans Organization, members of Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigades and local

107 cyclists take part in 1,000-mile cycling race

YANGON, 12 Feb — Altogether 107 cyclists took part in the 1,000-mile cycling race organized by Myanmar Cycling Federation under the aegis of Myanmar Olympic Committee and Ministry of Sports this morning.

The race started in front of Thuwunna Stadium of Youth Training Centre

here. First, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and officials met the cyclists.

Next, the Commander and Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General U Taung Htike of Sports

and Physical Education Department cut the ribbon the race.

The race started by firing the gun into the air by the commander.

The route is Yangon-Letpadan-Pyay-Magway-Myingyan-Mandalay-Meiktila-Pyinmana-Nay Pyi Taw-Toungoo-Nyaunglebin-Yangon. — MNA

Ver Bridge opens in Falam, Chin State

Regional trade will be boosted, residents will enjoy the good results in social, economic sectors

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb — Ver Bridge spanning Manipura River in Falam, Chin State, was opened today.

Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye unveiled the stone inscription of the bridge.

The bridge across Manipura River is located at mile post No 68 miles and five furlongs on the road linking Kalay, Falam and Haka in Chin State. It was constructed by Bridge Construction Special Group-13 of the public works of the Ministry of Construction.

The bridge is 340 ft long and 24 ft wide. It is the 223th one out of 180-foot and above long bridges constructed during the time of Tatmadaw Government. It is the 203th bridge constructed by Public Works.

Speaking on the occasion, the commander said that thanks to the opening of the bridge, residents can travel to Kalay Township, Falam and Haka by road within a short time. Trade in the region will be good and residents will enjoy the good results in social, economic sectors.

As the iron reinforced bridge replaced the Balley-type one, regional products

would be transported to other regions within a short time and the opening of the bridge would result in economic and social progress in the region, he added.

Construction Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun said the State Peace and Development Council has carried out development tasks in states and divisions. The smooth transportation stood witness to the mushrooming of transport facilities, basic infrastructure for development, constructed by the Government, he added.

Ministry of Construction has already constructed 202 bridges which are 180 ft and above long. Besides, the Tatmadaw members constructed 11 bridges; Ministry of Rail Transportation seven bridges and Ministry of Electric Power two bridges.

Dun Ban and Kaunghmulon bridges in Kachin State, Htisekha Bridge in Kayah State, Sittaung Bridge (Moppalin) in Mon State, Shweli and Lainli bridges in Shan State, Pyapon, Myokwin and

Kyunkon bridges in Ayeyawady Division and Yadanabon Bridge in Mandalay Division are under construction.

The old Ver bridge was commissioned into service in March, 1998, as a Balley-type Bridge. As traffic

State and will boost the border trade between India and Myanmar.

The government has constructed the transportation facilities across the country to become a road network and has made efforts for development of

Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun sprinkled scented water on the stone inscription of the bridge.

The iron reinforced bridge is 340 ft long and 24 ft wide and it is flanked by 3-foot wide walkways.

Due to the bridge, the

opening of the residents in the region can travel from Haka to Tiddim and Reed, and to Mandalay Division and Magway Division through Kalay, Sagaing Division, in all weathers.

MNA



Nay Pyi Taw City Hall is illuminated to mark the 60th Anniversary Union Day. (News on page 9)—MNA

passing on the road increased, the bridge was upgraded to the iron reinforced one which can withstand up to 60 tons, he added. Construction Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun said that the opening of the bridge will be of benefits to residents in northern Chin

economic, education, health and social sectors, he said.

In his concluding remarks, the minister urged local people to maintain the transportation facilities and to participate in regional development tasks.

Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Minister for

As the iron reinforced bridge replaced the Balley-type one, regional products would be transported to other regions within a short time and the opening of the bridge would result in economic and social progress in the region.

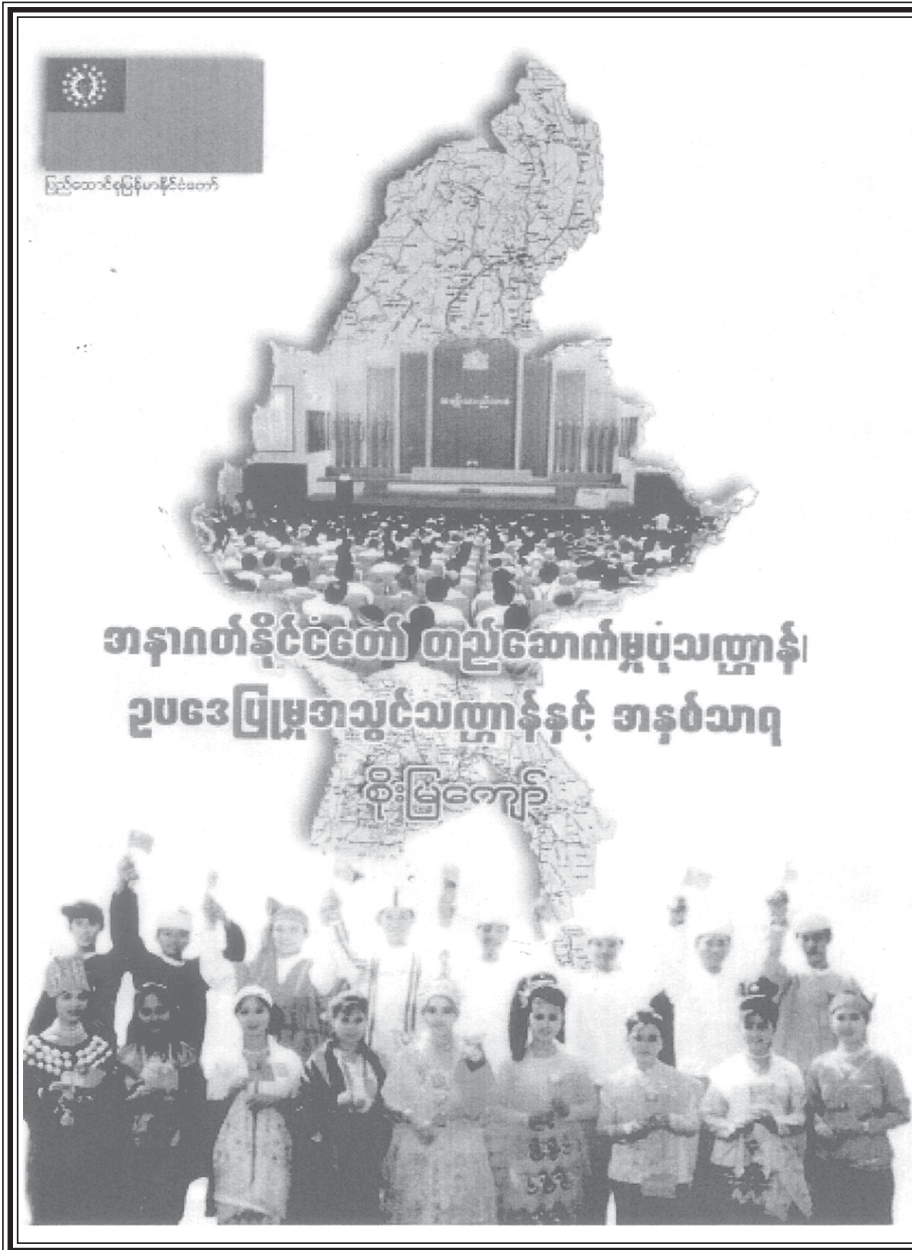
Sixtieth Union Day

- * **The mist blows and then falls
In the cold season, North Wind's at play
The thazin and khwa-nyo bloom
Beautifying the Myanmar land
How peaceful the country.**
- * **The pauk, crimson, brave
Distinctly portrays Myanmar's heart
True blood brothers, indivisible
Unitedly meet at Panglong
How strong the Union as an entity.**
- * **Strongly bonded Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin
Bamar, Mon, Rakhine, Shan, blood blossom
With true patriotism, we celebrate victory
How wondrously the nation's
regained independence.**
- * **Colonialist mien rudely astir
If they can't expand, they chip away
National brother, carefully discern
Neo-colonialists still flex muscle
How brazenly they wield their wiles.**
- * **Union Spirit, lofty and strong
No matter who divides we're unbroken
We own our land, we love our nation
Our national heritage is strong
How unitedly shall we strive better.**
- * **Patriotic fervour, warm and sparkling
True Union nationals, evinced by history
For policies and plans to be successful
through strength
Destructionists left and right shall be removed
How earnestly we shall keep guard.
Love shall not diminish among mass of Brothers.
'Tis the 60th Union Day victory celebrated.**

Myinmu Maung Naing Moe (Trs)



Nay Pyi Taw City Hall is illuminated to mark the 60th Anniversary Union Day. (News on page 9)—MNA



- အမျိုးသားညီလာခံကို ကျင်းပကာ နိုင်ငံတော်ဖွဲ့စည်းပုံ အခြေခံဥပဒေ ရေးဆွဲရေးအတွက် အခြေခံရမည့်မူများနှင့် အသေးစိတ်အခြေခံရမည့်မူများကို အမျိုးသားညီလာခံကိုယ်စားလှယ်များက ညှိနှိုင်းဆွေးနွေး အတည်ပြုချက် ချမှတ်ပေးလျက်ရှိသည်။
- အမျိုးသားညီလာခံသတင်းများကို လေ့လာကြည့်သောအခါ အနာဂတ် နိုင်ငံတော်တည်ဆောက်မှု ပုံသဏ္ဍာန်နှင့် အနှစ်သာရကို ပုံဖော်မှန်းမျှော် ကြည့်ရှုရလာပြီ ဖြစ်သည်။
- အနာဂတ်နိုင်ငံတော်တွင် ပေါ်ပေါက်လာမည့် ဥပဒေပြုမှုနှင့်စပ်လျဉ်းသည့် အသွင်သဏ္ဍာန်နှင့် အနှစ်သာရကို ထင်လင်းစွာ ပုံဖော်လာရေးအတွက် စာရေး သူ၏တွေ့ရှိချက်များကို တိုင်းရင်းသားပြည်သူများအား အကိုးအထောက် မှန်ကန်စွာဖြင့် လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းဝေငှထားသည့် -

စိုးမြဲကျော် ၏

အနာဂတ်နိုင်ငံတော်တည်ဆောက်မှု ပုံသဏ္ဍာန် ဥပဒေပြုမှု အသွင်သဏ္ဍာန်နှင့် အနှစ်သာရ

- အနာဂတ်နိုင်ငံတော် တည်ဆောက်မှု ပုံသဏ္ဍာန်နှင့် အနှစ်သာရ အခန်း (၁) ခန်းနှင့် အနာဂတ်နိုင်ငံတော်၏ ဥပဒေပြုမှု အသွင်သဏ္ဍာန်နှင့် အနှစ်သာရ အပိုင်း (၁၃) ပိုင်းပါရှိသည်။
- ရောင်းစုံ သရုပ်ဖော်ပုံများနှင့် စာမျက်နှာ (၁၅၀)၊ ရောင်းဈေး ၃၅၀/-
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ဖုန်း - ၃၈၁၄၄၈၊ ၂၄၉၀၃၁
- သတင်းနှင့် စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်းစာအုပ်ဆိုင်၊ ၂၁၂၊ သိမ်ဖြူလမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။
ဖုန်း - ၂၉၄၃၀၆

G-7 upbeat on global growth, says risks diminished

ESSEN (Germany), 12 Feb — Finance ministers and central bankers from the G-7 industrial nations sounded an upbeat note on world economic prospects on Saturday, saying growth had become more balanced and could be around 5 per cent this year.

“We are enjoying one of the strongest and most prolonged global expansions in memory,” US Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson said in a statement after the meeting.

In a joint communique the G-7 said activity in the US economy was solid, though slowing to a more sustainable growth path.

Growth in Canada

and Britain was strong and balanced, the upswing in the euro area had an ever larger base and Japan’s recovery was on track and would continue, the statement said.

“Amid lower energy prices and moderating inflationary pressures risks have abated, but we will remain vigilant,” the G-7 central bank

governors and finance ministers said, adding they welcomed China’s plans to boost domestic demand.

But while global inflation risks may have lessened, they were still serious in the now 13 countries using the euro, European Central Bank Governing Council member Mario Draghi said. Markets expect the

ECB to rise interest rates in March.

Germany, which holds the rotating G-7 presidency and where a rise in value-added tax this year was expected significantly to slow growth, also took an upbeat stance.

MNA/Reuters

Nine die in South Korean immigration fire

SEOUL, 12 Feb — Nine foreigners died after fire broke out on Sunday in a South Korean immigration detention centre where they were being held for deportation, a local official said.

The dead included five Chinese and an Uzbek. The nationalities of the others was not immediately known.

Another 18 people were injured. “The death toll could rise as some are seriously injured,” the official, who asked not to be identified, said by

phone.

The fire broke out at the jail in Yosu, around 300 kilometres (190 miles) south of the capital Seoul where some 50 illegal immigrants were waiting to be deported.

The cause of the fire was being investigated.

MNA/Reuters

Ban has right to choose his own team

UNITED NATIONS, 12 Feb — UN UnderSecretary-General Shashi Tharoor, who had unsuccessfully contested for the top post of the world body, said after resigning that Secretary-General Ban Ki moon had the right to choose his own team.

He said he now looked forward to “new challenges” in his professional life.

“Speaking personally, I look forward to new challenges in my professional life. To live is to embrace change,” Tharoor said Friday.

Ban, the former South Korean foreign

minister, has accepted his resignation.

Tharoor’s contract as UnderSecretary-General was also expiring at the end of February.

He was among several top officials whose resignations have been accepted and his Chef de Cabinet Vijay Nambiar said they would go when

their contract expires.

Ban had sought resignation from all UnderSecretaries-General and Assistant Secretaries-General to give himself the flexibility of choosing his own team.

Tharoor is being replaced by Kiyotaka Akasaka of Japan

MNA/PTI



Huiyuan juice products for sale at a supermarket in Yichang, Central China’s Hubei Province, on 9 Feb, 2007. China Huiyuan Juice Group, the Mainland’s largest fruit juice maker, now aims to sell 400 million shares in its initial public offering in Hong Kong. It is expected to start trading its shares on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange on 23 Feb, 2007. —INTERNET

Thai projected spend one bln baht for Valentine's Day

BANGKOK, 11 Feb— City residents in Thailand are expected to spend about one billion baht (27.8 million US dollars) during the Valentine's Day festival this year, according to a recent survey by a Thai leading economic think tank.

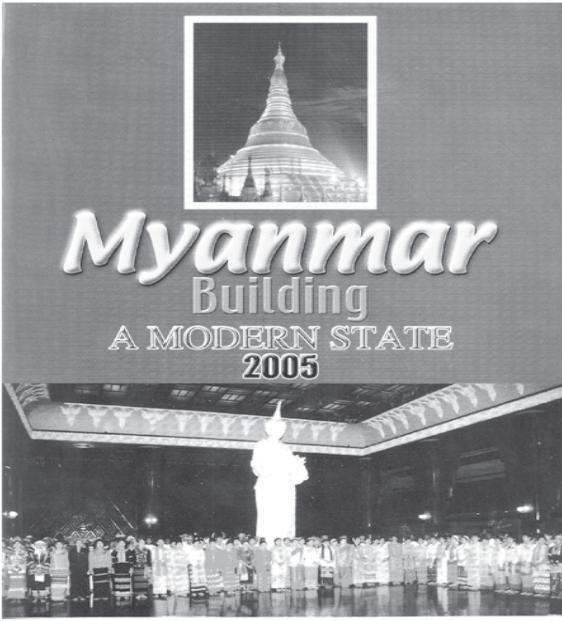
The Kasikorn Research Centre (KRC), after surveying anticipated spending behaviour for this year's Valentine's Day, among young people from age 13 to 25 years between 1-5 February, projected that the amount of money spent in the festival would reach around one billion baht, up 4.2 per cent from last year's 960 million baht (26.7 million dollars), *Thai News Agency* reported Friday.

However, spending is seen as growing at a slower pace than last year, which saw a healthy growth of 20 per cent.

The KRC said Valentine's Day is another red-letter day many business owners in Thailand are eagerly anticipating as they hope the sales during the festival for lovers would make up losses for the unsatisfying performance during the Christmas and New Year season due to the New Year's Eve series bombings in the capital Bangkok and its suburban, which led to the cancelling of many festivities.

According to KRC, good sales is expected during 11-14 February as many people would go shopping in advance.

MNA/Xinhua



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Snowfall tops 100 inches in New York village

PARISH, 10 Feb— With more than 8 feet of snow already coating the ground, it wasn't good news for this winter-weary region when the blue sky turned gray Saturday, signaling another intense snow squall was about to dump some more.

"This is bad," said 67-year-old Dave DeGrau, who has operated an auto repair shop on Main Street

for 45 years. "We had a very easy winter until now. Last fall during hunting season it rained every time I went out. I kept saying 'I'm glad this isn't snow.' Now, it's snow."

Persistent bands of lake-effect snow squalls fed by moisture from Lake Ontario have been swinging up and down this part of central New York along the lake's eastern shore since last Sunday.

The National Weather Service said Parish — about 25 miles northeast of Syracuse — reached a milestone early Saturday with 100 inches of snow during the past seven days.

Late Saturday, the total had risen to 110 inches. Unofficial reports pegged totals at 123 inches in Orwell and 131 in Redfield, but those measurements include snow from another storm a couple of days before the

current weather system. All three towns are in Oswego County.

A warning in effect until Monday morning said 2 to 4 more feet of snow was possible with wind gusting up to 24 mph.

Internet



Turkish security forces seize 565 kilos of heroin

ANKARA, 11 Feb— Turkish security forces seized 565 kilos of heroin at Kapikule border gate in the northwestern province of Edirne, the semi-official *Anatolia* news agency reported Saturday.

The report quoted Turkish State Minister Kursad Tuzmen as saying

that security forces found the drug stashed in 42 packages in a truck which was on its way from Turkey to the Netherlands on 8 February.

"It was the largest amount of heroin seized in a single bust in the history of Turkey," Tuzmen said, adding that market value of the drug

is about 28 million US dollars.

He added that 14 people were detained for the illicit drug trafficking, the report said.

Turkey is located on an important drug smuggling route linking Asia, the Middle East and Europe.

MNA/Xinhua

Asian Security Conference opens in India

NEW DELHI, 11 Feb— The 9th Asian Security Conference with the theme of "Evolving Security Dynamics in Southeast Asia — Emerging Threats and Responses" opened here Friday morning with the attendance of more than 200 participants from 17 countries.

Indian Vice-President Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, Defence Minister Shri Ak Antony and External Affairs Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee delivered speeches at the opening ceremony of the two-day conference.

The aim of the conference under the aegis of the India's Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis is to further the understanding of the changing dynamics of Southeast Asia, said Shri NS Sisodia, director of the institute. The conference features six sessions which will seek to address the strategic security, political and economic facets influencing the region.—MNA/Xinhua

25 injured as bus crashes into commercial building in Bangkok

BANGKOK, 11 Feb— Twenty-five people were injured after a city bus crashed into a roadside building during the morning rush hour on Friday in southern Bangkok, Thai media reported here.

According to the report by news network *The Nation*, the number 163 bus, with nearly 100 passengers on board, was going downhill from the Rama III Bridge when it

failed to brake and thus crashed into a small restaurant and a tailor shop roadside on Charoenkrung Road, Bang Kho Laem District, Bangkok.

Bus driver Somporn Pharichai, 41, told police that he released water from the brake system's air pump, which he had forgot to do in earlier check, before going onto the bridge, and the brake was still working alright then.—MNA/Xinhua

Pakistan, EU to strengthen cooperation in counter terrorism

ISLAMABAD, 11 Feb— Pakistan and the European Union (EU) Friday pledged

to strengthen cooperation in counter-terrorism and to continue their global campaign against terrorism.

In a statement issued at the end of three-day talks between Pakistani and the EU officials, the Pakistan Foreign Ministry said "in order to counter extremist tendencies, it was vital to improve socio-economic conditions, and in this respect, the EU can and should play its role in increasing trade access for Pakistan, particularly since the EU was the major trade partner of Pakistan".

Pakistan also urged the EU to take actions against terrorists and their supporters who were residing in EU countries, the ministry said.

According to the

statement, EU Counter Terrorism Coordinator Gijs M de Vries held talks with senior Pakistan's Foreign Ministry officials in Islamabad, and both sides agreed to continue and strengthen the EU-Pakistan dialogue and cooperation in the field of counter-terrorism. "The Pakistan side emphasized that in the context of potential radicalization within the EU countries, the EU needed to look within itself to counter discrimination, Islamophobia and xenophobia, mounting examples of which had been documented in the recent comprehensive report of the European Union Monitoring Centre (EUMC)," the statement said.

MNA/Xinhua

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပို့ဒုံးတိုးတက်လာ နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Oil dumping in Malacca Strait threatens environment

JAKARTA, 11 Feb — The repeated dumping of oil in the waters near the Indonesia's Riau Islands is causing serious environmental damage, the head of a waste management group says.

Tankers in the Malacca Strait are believed to dispose of the oil when cleaning their tanks.

The chairman of the Association of Batam

Toxic and Hazardous Waste Management Companies (Aspel B3) named only Kurniawan said on Friday that waste from illegal tank cleaning

activities in the waters between Indonesia and Singapore ended up polluting the province almost every year.

Foreign tankers usually dump the waste in Indonesian waters, he explained. It eventually winds up on Batam, Bintan and Karimun Islands.

MNA/Xinhua



A sales clerk adjusts used liquid crystal (LCD) displays for computers at a store in Tokyo on 8 Feb, 2007. Indium is used to make indium tin oxide (ITO), a thin film applied to the glass used in LCD televisions and computer flat screens. —INTERNET

Lockheed Martin pitches aircraft, helicopters to Indian Navy

BANGALORE, 11 Feb — US defence major Lockheed Martin Friday said it was awaiting word from the Indian Navy on its proposals to sell it the P-3C Orion maritime surveillance aircraft and MH-60R multi-role helicopter.

Lockheed has submitted proposals in this regard to Indian authorities and has also offered to sell its F-16 fighters, C-130J Hercules transport aircraft and a missile defence system, the firm's top executives said here.

The P-3C Orion is a "proven low-risk solution" for the Indian Navy's long-range maritime reconnaissance and anti-submarine warfare programme, Michael Meyer, Lockheed's business development director for maritime surveillance, said.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the Aero India show here, he said a Request For Proposal (RFP) was issued by the Navy in April 2006 and Lockheed "submitted its proposals last year".

"We had discussions with the Indian Navy.

They are evaluating various offers. We are waiting for their decision," Meyer said.

On the MH-60R helicopter, Business Development Manager Cathy Hrustich said the firm submitted proposals last year after receiving an RFP in 2005.

"Since then, the Indian Navy is evaluating our proposal.

We are awaiting their formal word."

MNA/PTI



Undated picture handed out by the Egyptian Antiquities Department recently shows a sarcophagus dated from the Egyptian Middle Kingdom. A Japanese archeological team has discovered three painted wooden coffins in Egypt, including two from the little-known Middle Kingdom period dating back more than 4,000 years. —INTERNET

Peru confirms two cases of anthrax

LIMA, 11 Feb — Peru's National Agricultural Health Service on Friday confirmed that two people were affected with skin anthrax in Huarmey, a town in the Ancash Province, 300 kilometres northeast of the Peruvian capital.

Service official Jose Cabrer said that the patients, one adult and one child, were infected by live goats suffering anthrax, rejecting

reports that they had eaten contaminated mutton.

Cabrera said that the patients had received medical care, while the

Service has begun to look for sick goats in order to slaughter them, and planned to vaccinate healthy goats in the area.

Anthrax is an infectious disease caused by the bacillus anthracis, which usually spreads among herbivorous lower vertebrates like cattle, sheep, goats, camels and antelopes.

It can infect humans who come in contact with sick animals or their dead tissues.

Symptoms of the disease include nausea, loss of appetite, high fever, abdominal pain, vomiting blood and diarrhoea.

MNA/Xinhua

Pakistan to have high speed train by 2010

ISLAMABAD, 11 Feb — Pakistan will introduce high speed train to be used between its eastern cities of Rawalpindi and Lahore before 2010 that is estimated to run at a pace of 250 to 300 kilometres per hour, Minister for Railways Sheikh Rashid Ahmad said Friday.

"Pakistan Railways will sign an agreement with a consortium of Spanish and Austrian firms in this regard on Saturday," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Thai rose sellers warned not to raise prices for Valentine's Day

BANGKOK, 11 Feb — As the Valentine's Day draws near, Thailand's Department of Internal Trade (DIT) under the Commerce Ministry has put rose prices under special watch, threatening to punish any vendors who attempt to over-inflate prices with up to seven years' imprisonment and 170,000 baht (4,722 US dollars) in fine, Thai media reported Saturday.

"Although flowers are not goods under government control, selling them at a price too high is legally wrong," said Siripol Yodmuangcharoen, director-general of the DIT, after touring a Bangkok flower market Saturday morning, according to the Bangkok Post website.

On Saturday, three days before the 14 February Valentine's Day, which falls on Wednesday, a bundle of 50 red or white roses at Bangkok flower markets costs about 200 baht (5.56 dollars), while the pink ones are priced at around 170 baht (4.72 dollars). — MNA/Xinhua



A group of young children wears outfits by Caroline Charles during her catwalk show at London Fashion week in London, on 11 Feb, 2007. INTERNET

SPORTS



Winner of stage 10 of Malaysia's Le Tour de Langkawi 2007, Italian Alberto Loddo (R) of Serramenti PVC Diquigiovanni, is congratulated by second place winner, Russian Nikolai Trusov of Tinkoff Credit Systems, after crossing the finish line in Kuala Lumpur on 11 Feb, 2007. —INTERNET

Bolton go fourth with win over Fulham

LONDON, 12 Feb— Bolton Wanderers moved up to fourth in the Premier League after midfielder Kevin Nolan struck the winner in a 2-1 victory over Fulham at the Reebok Stadium on Sunday.

Gary Speed converted a 23rd-minute penalty and Nolan pounced on a rebound to make it 2-0 five minutes after the restart. Defender Zat Knight pulled one back for Fulham in the 66th minute.

Victory moved Bolton on to 47 points and turned up the pressure on Arsenal, who were a point behind before their 1600 GMT kickoff at home to Wigan Athletic.

Bolton had been struggling to match Fulham before Speed converted his spot-kick after Bolton's France striker Nicolas Anelka was tripped by midfielder Michael Brown.

MNA/Reuters

Arsenal leave it late again to beat Wigan

LONDON, 12 Feb— Arsenal had to come from behind to snatch a 2-1 win over Wigan Athletic and reclaim fourth place in the Premier League from Bolton Wanderers on Sunday.

Arsenal looked set for a first defeat at the Emirates Stadium after a stunning 35th-minute strike by Wigan's Dutch midfielder Denny Landzaat.

But Wigan defender Fitz Hall's own goal in the 81st minute and an 84th minute winner from Czech midfielder Tomas Rosicky turned the game— soon after Wigan were

denied a penalty.

Arsenal are fourth on 49 points and back in front of Bolton, who had reached 47 points with an earlier 2-1 win over Fulham.

Manchester United, who beat Charlton Athletic 2-0 on Saturday, are top with 66, six ahead of Chelsea who beat Middlesbrough 3-0.

Liverpool are third on 50 points, with Arsenal holding a game in hand on all three.

Wigan will consider themselves very unlucky after leading through Landzaat's stunning 30-metre shot.

They threatened to score more

but were floored at the end when Hall turned a cross into his own net and Rosicky headed his first league goal from Julio Baptista's cross.

Wigan manager Paul Jewell, whose side are one place above the drop zone, was fuming about the lack of a spot-kick for Mathieu Flamini's challenge on Emile Heskey.

"It was a penalty. He puts his hand on his shoulder. Why would Emile want to go down when he's through on goal? The problems with some officials is they don't understand the game." — MNA/Reuters

Venables backing for McClaren



LONDON, 11 Feb— Terry Venables has backed Steve McClaren to get England back on track in their next two Euro 2008 qualifiers.

McClaren came in for fresh criticism this week following England's disappointing 1-0 defeat to Spain, a result which extended the side's run without a win to four games. Assistant boss Venables knows the pressure is building ahead of next month's qualifiers against Israel and Andorra, but he insists the mood in the camp is still positive.

"Despite everything that is being said and written, Steve and I are supremely confident - we're ready for these matches and we believe we will win them," he told the News of the World.

"We understand the consequences if we fail against Israel, but failure isn't something weighing us down right now because we know, given a full squad, we are strong enough and good enough to deal with that game, and the next one against Andorra."

England's performance against Spain was greeted with boos at the final whistle and Venables admits it was a painful experience for McClaren.

But he claims McClaren is strong enough to bounce back and lead England to the Euro 2008 finals in Austria and Switzerland.

"This isn't the first time England have lost a friendly, nor the first time we have been booed off the pitch," said Venables.

Internet



Sybille Bammer of Austria celebrates her win over Gisela Dulko of Argentina at the Pattaya Women's Open tennis tournament final in Pattaya, Thailand on 11 Feb, 2007. —INTERNET

Ronaldinho strikes twice as Barca pull clear

MADRID, 12 Feb— Barcelona forward Ronaldinho recaptured his form on Sunday when he struck twice to lead his side to a 2-0 win at home to Racing Santander that put them three points clear at the top of the Primera Liga.

The Brazilian, who has been criticized for his poor showings in recent games, opened the scoring with a magnificent free kick six minutes after halftime and took his tally for the season to 15 goals when he netted with a fine header 16 minutes later.

The biggest cheer of the night, though, was reserved for Argentine teenager Lionel Messi who came on as a second half substitute after over three months out with a broken bone in his left foot.

Barca lead the standings on 46 points from 22 games, three clear of Sevilla, who were held 0-0 by city rivals Real Betis on Saturday, and five ahead of Real Madrid who won 2-1 at relegation-threatened Real Sociedad. Despite missing their strike duo Pedro Munitis and Nikola Zigic, Racing held their own in the opening exchanges at the Nou Camp and were awarded a penalty after Juliano Belletti leant on Juanjo in the area in the 25th minute. —MNA/Reuters

Bayern beat Bielefeld 1-0 in Hitzfeld home debut

BERLIN, 12 Feb — Ottmar Hitzfeld marked the home debut of his second spell in charge of faltering Bundesliga champions Bayern Munich with a comfortable 1-0 win over Arminia Bielefeld on Sunday.

Bayern, who remain in fourth on 37 points, 11 behind leaders Schalke 04, took the lead through Roy Makaay in the eighth minute after Bielefeld defender Heiko Westermann failed to clear Lucio's long ball.

The Dutch striker stole in, rounded goalkeeper Mathias Hain

and sidefooted the ball into the empty net.

Mark van Bommel had the ball in the Bielefeld goal again three minutes later but midfielder Ali

Karimi was wrongly adjudged offside when sent through earlier in the move by a deft Lukas Podolski pass.

MNA/Reuters

Haas crushes Ljubicic to seal German victory

KREFELD (Germany), 12 Feb— Tommy Haas sealed Germany's place in the Davis Cup quarterfinals when his crushing 6-2,7-6,6-4 victory over Croatia's Ivan Ljubicic gave the three-times champions a 3-1 winning lead on Sunday.

Haas returned superbly to break world number eight Ljubicic twice in the first set.

The German, who was never in trouble on his own serve, took the second set 9-7 on the tiebreak and wrapped up the third with a break in game three to complete victory in two hours 20 minutes on the indoor hardcourt. —MNA/Reuters



Sweden's Peter Hedblom reacts at the 18th hole after winning the Malaysia Golf Open Tournament in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 11 Feb, 2007. Peter Hedblom finished with 8-under par with total score of 280. —INTERNET

Hillary says Bush "incompetent" in Iraq

BERLIN, 12 Feb— Democratic presidential contender Hillary Rodham Clinton on Saturday called US President George W Bush's policy in Iraq incompetent but came under pressure to explain her own vote to authorize the war.

"If you had been so obsessed with doing this, why were you so incompetent in carrying it out?" the New York senator said of Bush on her first political visit in a decade to New Hampshire, the state that helps kick off the White House race.

"I gave him the authority to send inspectors back in to determine the truth. I said this is not a vote to

authorize preemptive war," she said in answer to a question from one of about 250 voters crammed into Berlin's city hall in New Hampshire's frozen north.

Clinton, an opponent of Bush's plan to send 21,500 more US troops to Iraq, has been criticized by some Democrats for being slow to turn against the conflict and for her hesitance to renounce her 2002 vote to authorize the

Iraq war.

At the start of a two-day weekend swing across the state, Clinton said the United States needed a new diplomatic touch to fight terrorism and deal with the Middle East.

"As president I know I can't kill, jail or occupy every nation we don't agree with and I cannot just wish that all the terrorists be wiped off the face of the Earth," said Clinton, who aims to

become the first female US president.

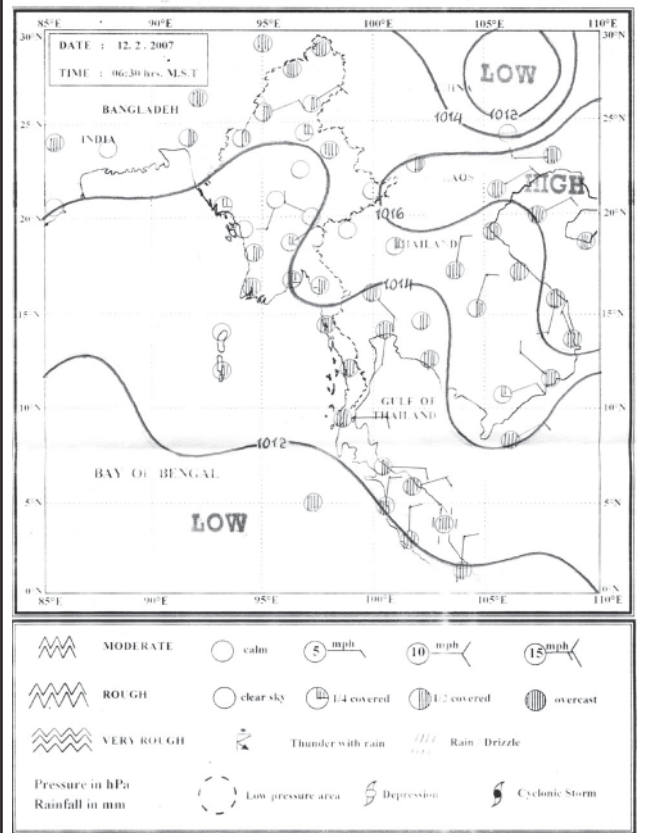
The wife of former US president Bill Clinton is running first among New Hampshire Democratic primary voters with 35 per cent support in a University of New Hampshire survey released last week.

Democrat Barack Obama, who launched his 2008 White House run on Saturday with a pledge to end the Iraq war, is second with 21 per cent, and 2004 vice-presidential nominee John Edwards third with 16 per cent, the survey showed.

New Hampshire law requires its primary to be held at least one week before any other primary.

MNA/Reuters

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Monday, 12 February, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) below normal in Chin State, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Mon State, upper Sagaing and Bago Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Lashio (4°C) and Pinlaung (5°C).

Maximum temperature on 11-2-2007 was 98°F. Minimum temperature on 12-2-2007 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 12-2-2007 was 64%. Total sunshine hours on 11-2-2007 was (8.1) hours approx.

Rainfall on 12-2-2007 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 North at (15:30) hours MST on 11-2-2007.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 13-2-2007: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin and Chin States and upper Sagaing Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine State and Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated rain in Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 13-2-2007: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 13-2-2007: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 13-2-2007: Generally fair weather.



Guests transfer giant panda cubs to the "kindergarten" at the Wolong Giant Panda Protection and Research Center in southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 10 Feb, 2007. —XINHUA



Tuesday, 13 February
Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music
-Bidi Bidi Bom
Bom ... Sleena
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music
-Where is the love
- 8:50 am National news/
Slogan
- 9:00 am Music
-Taxi
- 9:05 am International
news
- 9:10 am Music
-Take me to your
heart
- 1:30 pm News / Slogan,
- 1:40pm Lunch time music
-Until I find you
again
-Love will conquer
all
-Miss me blind
- 9:00pm English speaking
course level ()
unit ()
- 9:10pm Article
- 9:20pm Weekly sport reel
- 9:30pm Music at your
request listening
pleasure
-Be a man
-So much in love
-You got what you
give
- 9:45 pm News / Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL



Tuesday, 13 February
View on today

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 am 1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayar-daw U Ottamathara 7:25 am 2. To be healthy exercise 7:30 am 3. Morning news 7:40 am 4. Nice and sweet song 7:50 am 5. ကဗျာပန်းဥယျာဉ် 8:00 am 6. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ 8:05 am 7. Song of yester year | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:15 am 8. နမ္မတိုးတံတား (ကံလှ) 8:20 am 9. Musical programme 8:30 am 10. International news 8:45 am 11. Let's go 4:00 pm 1. Martial song 4:15 pm 2. Song to uphold National Spirit 4:30 pm 3. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -ပထမနှစ်(သတ္တမအထူးပြု) (သတ္တမအ) 4:40 pm 4. Dance of national races 4:55 pm 5. နှစ်(၆၀)ပြည့် ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ် 5:10 pm 6. "ဆွေမျိုးတော်ပေးမယ့်" (ဒုရုမ္မာတင်လင်း၊ ဆောင်းအိန္ဒြေထွန်း၊ ဗေဒါ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ- သက်တင်) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:15 pm 7. Musical programme 5:25 pm 8. Song and enjoy 6:00 pm 9. Evening news 6:30 pm 10. Weather report 6:35 pm 11. ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲ့ရင်ခုန်သံ 6:50 pm 12. နိုင်ငံခြား ဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်ညီမ ငယ်ပါသေး" (အပိုင်း-၁၆) 7:45 pm 13. ပြည်ထောင်စု စိတ်ဓာတ် မပြတ် ရင့်သန်ခိုင်မာရန်မှာ ဒို့တာဝန်တာ (အသီးတစ်ရာ အညာတစ်ခု ဒို့ပြည်ထောင်စု) 8:00 pm 14. News 15. International news 16. Weather report 17. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "တကယ်သဘောကျတယ်" (အပိုင်း-၂၄) 18. The next day's programme |
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After removing minions and lackeys of foreign countries profiting at expense of politics Victory of peace achieved integrating history of KNU/KNLA into historical needs of State Warmly welcome comrades left behind for various reasons



Local people warmly welcome Chairman of KNU/KNLA Peace Council Commander of No 7 Brigade Maj-Gen Htay Maung and members.— MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb — After realizing and accepting the endeavours of the Government, the people and the Tatmadaw for national reconsolidation, peace and prosperity and modernization and development of the nation, 309 members of KNU/KNLA and 11 family members totalling 320 led by Chairman of KNU/KNLA Peace Council Commander of No 7 Brigade Maj-Gen Htay Maung decided to cooperate with the government and celebrated the victory of peace with the government.

The victory of peace welcoming ceremony of Kayin National Union (KNU)/Kayin National Liberation Army (KNLA) Peace Council was held on a grand scale in Htotkawko Village of Kawkareik Township, Kayin State, with hearty welcome of local people who have been longing for peace for many years.

Meanwhile, national people throughout the country shared the joy with brethren of Kayin State wishing peace and prosperity for them.

The State also warmly welcomes the peace group and family members led by KNU/KNLA Peace Council Chairman Brigade 7 Commander Maj-Gen Htay Maung and fulfills the requirements of basic regions of peace of KNU/KNLA Peace Council.

As aims and objectives clarified by KNU/KNLA Peace Council Commander of No 7 Brigade Maj-Gen Htay Maung deserve honour, excerpts from his clarifications are published.

MNA

- * Those who have fought battles and experienced the scourge of wars know the value of peace most.
- * When assessing the latest political developments at home and abroad, firm decision was made that the living standard of local Kayin people will not improve in the absence of peace and tranquillity.
- * As I have been loyal to the Kayin national movement in the course of history, I pay serious attention to the ardent desire of Kayin people who always long for peace.
- * As a matter of fact, we often missed peace even when it was within our reach as lackeys of foreign organizations to their masters' liking made demands which are not directly concerned with Kayin national cause.
- * Therefore, the Kayin State and local Kayin people missed opportunities of development and became war victims and have been subject to the scourge of wars for over 58 years.
- * Those exploiting politics and local people in

the sea of troubles, using KNLA as a tool and those who made use of the KNU's power, living in Maesot in luxury were removed.

- * We have made peace to set up peaceful regions that are free from armed conflicts.
- * Putting aside ism, racism, localism and sectarianism, we will make constant efforts for stamping out evil consequences of armed conflicts experienced by local people.
- * KNU/KNLA Peace Council's joining hands with the Tatmadaw government is a move to integrate history of KNU/KNLA into historical needs of the State.
- * This amounts to the launching of Kayin national movement that is pragmatic.
- * I am pleased to materialize the Kayin national objectives laid down by Kayin national leader Saw Ba U Gyi and peace programmes adopted by General Saw Bo Mya.
- * We offer our warm welcome to our comrades left behind for various reasons to participate in building peace in Kayin State and improving the living standard of the local people.