

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

Prime Minister General Soe Win inspects hydel power projects, Khabaung Multi-purpose Dam Project

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Feb — Chairman of the Working Committee for Development of Electric Power Project of the State Prime Minister General Soe Win inspected Shwegyin Hydel Power Plant in Shwegyin Township, Kunchaung Hydel Power Project in Pyu Township and Khabaung Hydel Power Plant in Oktwin Township on 10 February.

Accompanied by Member of the State Peace and Development Council

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Chairman of Bago Division PDC Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko, the ministers, the deputy ministers, the director-general of the SPDC Office and officials, Prime Minister General Soe Win arrived at the site for construction of Shwegyin Hydel Power Plant being implemented by Construction-4 of Hydel Power Implementation Department in Shwegyin Township.

At the briefing hall,



Prime Minister General Soe Win inspects Kunchaung Hydel Power Project. — MNA

On completion, the Shwegyin Hydel Power Plant will generate 75 megawatt through the dam.



Minister for Electric Power No 1 Col Zaw Min reported on progress of the project and availability of fuel. Deputy Minister U Myo Myint also reported on matters related to the project.

Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay submitted reports on fulfillment of fuel to the projects.

After hearing the reports, the Prime Minister viewed construction of the main spillway and power intake building, sites for installation of the conduit and pre-stressed steel pipeline.

(See page 8)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 14 February, 2007

Bolster national unity for national progress

More than 100 national races have been living in the Union of Myanmar in unity through reciprocal help, and mutual understanding and reliance. Fine traditions of having lived together sharing joys and sorrows from time immemorial and the spirit of loving the motherland and the people are, flourishing among national races.

National brethren have been equipped with Union Spirit and anti-colonialist sentiment, with which they collectively repulsed alien intrusion and instigation. These spirits and fine traditions are indeed nationalistic vigour necessary for the nation to be able to stand tall among the global nations.

In the near future, there will emerge a new State Constitution that guarantees peace, harmony and cohesion among the national races and enables the entire national people to enjoy fruitful results of progress based on the principle of equality.

Now, the government is implementing economic projects for enabling the Union to stand shoulder to shoulder with other nations. Therefore, national people are to make efforts with might and main for accomplishment of the ongoing projects.

Peace and stability, progress and perpetual existence of the Union of various national races absolutely rest on the strength of national solidarity and dynamism of nationalistic spirit.

The entire national people are, thus, exhorted to make increased efforts to ensure national development, while fostering the national solidarity gained at unprecedented level.

Tiger Myanmar Amateur Open 2007 kicks off



YANGON, 13 Feb — Jointly Organized by Myanmar Golf Federation and Han Event Management, the opening ceremony of Tiger Myanmar Amateur Open 2007 was held at Yangon Golf Club this morning. Nay Bala Win Myint led the opening match of the tournament followed by Yan Myo Aye, Htay Aung Htay and Aung Win.

President of MPGA and MGF Maj-

Gen Win Hlaing (Retd), General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General U Thaung Htike of Sports and Physical Education Department and Mr Peter Ong, General Manager of Myanmar Brewery Ltd, opened the tournament.

Myanmar Brewery Ltd is the main sponsor of the contest and cosponsors are Alpine Purified Drinking Water, Srixon, Point Golf Gear Factory, Air Mandalay, Osim and Accel International Co Ltd (Canon). The second match of the tournament will continue tomorrow.

MNA

Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd) tees off Tiger-Myanmar Amateur Open 2007. — MGF

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

Union Day commemorative essay, poem, painting, article competitions winners honoured

YANGON, 12 Feb — A ceremony to award prizes to students who achieved success in the 60th Anniversary Union Day commemorative essay, poem, painting and article competitions was held at No 2 Basic Education High School in Dagon Township this morning, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win.

First, the students opened the ceremony by singing a song titled "Perpetual Union". Next, the commander made a speech.

Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, Chairman



Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win awards an essay winner. — MNA

of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Patron of Yangon Division Women's Affairs Organization Chairperson of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory

Committee Daw Mar Mar Wai and Deputy Director-General U Myo Myint of No 3 Basic Education Department of the Ministry of Education presented prizes to winners in the respective competitions.

Next, the students

closed the ceremony by singing a song.

After the ceremony, the commander, the mayor and party viewed the works of the prize-winning students on display in the hall.

MNA

Mine goes off in Thandaung Township

YANGON, 13 Feb — Terrorist insurgents are undermining the stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order and security of the people, applying various ways.

A mine planted by insurgents went off in Thandaung Township, Kayin State on 12 February, leaving one innocent person injured.

Pho Tha Htoo, 32, of Thabyenyunt Village, Thandaung Township, Kayin State, at 2 pm on 11 February, while collecting bamboo in the jungles, stepped on the mine planted by insurgents near Zintaing Village, Thandaung Township and his left feet was blown off. He was rushed to Taungoo People's Hospital for medical treatment. Officials concerned in cooperation with the local people are making efforts to seize those insurgents who planted the mine. —MNA



Energy Ministry welcomes complaints about malpractice

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Feb — Quick and punitive action will be taken against staff at all levels for any malpractice including the practice of bribery and corruption, breaking of rules and regulations or abuse of power and position for self-interest and official harassment, said the Ministry of Energy today.

People if they face any of those misconduct may file complaints about them to the ministry by post, phone or e-mail, it said, adding, official inquiry concerning the cases will be swift and effective.

For any complaint the public may dial 067-411049 (the Minister), 067-411054 (the Deputy Minister), 067-411060 (the Head of Office) or 067-411012 (Fax) or contact the ministry at No 6, Nay Pyi Taw or e-mail to myanenergy@mptmail.net.mm.

The ministry has formed the Office of the Minister, the Energy Planning Department, the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, the Myanma Petrochemicals Enterprise and the Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise in serving the public interest.

As the government has been in the drive to ensure a clean administrative machinery through effective supervision of its functions from all angles, the Ministry of Energy is also striving to offer smooth and efficient services to the public.

Public cooperation is required in combating misconduct, the ministry said. —MNA

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Felap awards medal to Castro

HAVANA, 12 Feb—The Latin American Journalists Foundation (Felap) has awarded Cuban leader Fidel Castro a special one-off medal, recognizing his attempts to fight misinformation, Cuba's Press reported on Sunday.

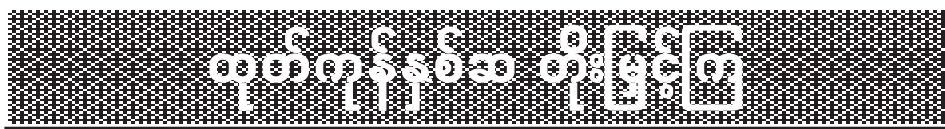
organization, presented the medal to Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, president of Cuba's National Assembly of People's Power, who accepted it on behalf of the leader.

Camano said that Castro had sustained the ideas of the struggle by

the means of journalism and foreign policy.

Alarcon said that Castro had always valued journalism and journalists. And from the start of the revolution, Fidel had always fought for truth, he added.

Based in Mexico City, Felap was founded on 7 June, 1976 and has representatives from 20 countries.—MNA/Xinhua



Russia's President Vladimir Putin (C) attends a meeting with Saudi businessmen in Riyadh on 12 Feb, 2007. —INTERNET

Iran dismisses US allegations the country supplied Iraq bombs

TEHERAN, 12 Feb—Iran's government dismissed US allegations that the Iranian Revolutionary Guards provided bombs to Shiite Muslim militias in neighbouring Iraq.

"These charges, on the basis of which a lot of campaigning has been done, are not acceptable to anyone," Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Ali Hosseini told reporters today in Teheran. "US allegations about Iran's interference in Iraq's unrest are without foundation." He added that "the accusations cannot be proved."

Officials at the "highest levels" in Iran ordered bombs made there to be delivered to Iraq, the *Associated Press* reported from Baghdad, citing a senior US intelligence officer who briefed reporters yesterday on condition he not be further identified. The "explosively formed projectiles" are capable of destroying an Abrams tank and have killed more than 170 coalition soldiers since June 2004, *AP* said, citing the officer.

While US officials have long said such explosives originated in Iran, they hadn't previously said top Iranian leaders were involved, *AP* reported. President George W Bush's administration accuses Iran, which is run by Shiite clerics, of fuelling violence and political unrest by supporting Shiite militias in Iraq. "This is not a solution to the problem," Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said of the allegations during an interview aired today on ABC's "Good Morning, America" programme. The US is "trying to hide its defeats and failures and that's why it's pointing fingers to others," he told ABC. —Internet

MUNICH (Germany), 12 Feb—US policy in the Middle East has brought only instability and insecurity to the region, a top Iranian official said on Saturday in echoes of similar criticism by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"The (US) policy of denial, isolation, adventurism, sanctions can only serve instability in our region," Iran's chief nuclear negotiator and secretary of the Supreme National Security Council Ali Larijani said in a speech.

"The terrorists are justifying their presence in Iraq because of the occupation and so the Americans announce they will send more troops ... I don't know how we can

US policy causes instability in Middle East

break this vicious circle," he told an annual gathering of top security and defence officials in southern Germany. A US official dismissed Larijani's comments, which came at the same conference where Putin also blasted Washington for exacerbating tensions with a policy of world domination.

"The speech was typical Iran. This speech

was an example of why Iran is so isolated in the region," the official, who declined to be named, said. The United States accuses Iran of supporting insurgents in Iraq, a charge Teheran denies.

Larijani also said insecurity caused by the United States had an economic impact as well.

"Any insecurity in our region is ... an impediment

to economic growth," Larijani said in response to a question.

Larijani chided the United States for the CIA-sponsored coup that toppled Iranian nationalist president Mohammed Mossadegh in 1953 and ushered the US-backed Shah into power until the 1979 Islamic Revolution exactly 28 years ago.

MNA/Reuters



Dancers wearing ancient Okinawan Ryukyu court costume perform during a Ryukyuan dance appearance in Naha on the southern Japanese island of Okinawa on 12 Feb, 2007. INTERNET



US Airways Group Inc, unsuccessful in a hostile bid for Delta Air Lines Inc last month, will seek United States authorization to begin flights to China in 2008. —INTERNET

Three US soldiers killed in explosion near Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 12 Feb—Three US soldiers were killed and four others injured in an explosion in a building in a volatile area in Diyala Province, the US military said on Saturday.

The blast took place on Friday when soldiers from Task Force Lightning were searching for a weapon cache and clearing a building in the province, the military said in a statement. At least 3,120 US soldiers have been killed in Iraq since the US-led war on Iraq broke out in March 2003, according to media count. MNA/Xinhua



Citizens appreciate a large lantern "dragon boat" at a lantern festival in a community of Jinan, capital of east China's Shandong Province, on 11 Feb, 2007. — XINHUA

Zambia's woman believed to be oldest dies

LUSAKA, 12 Feb— A Zambian woman believed to be the oldest in the country has died in Petauke, Eastern Province, at the age of 138.

Abelesi Zulu died in the early hours of Friday in her home village in the province, local newspaper *Zambia Daily Mail* reported on Sunday.

Zulu has three children, one of whom is over 80, and more than 150 grandchildren, but she had no birth certificate or other form of documentation to authenticate her age.

Zulu's grandson Jasab Changa said it was unfortunate that her

grandmother had died without the *Guinness World Book of Records* recognizing her as the oldest woman.

The Guinness World

Book of Records until recently recognized Julie Winnefred Bertrand of Canada as the world's oldest woman. She died last month at age 115.—MNA/Xinhua



US helicopter down north of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 12 Feb— A US *Apache* helicopter went down north of Baghdad on Sunday, local residents said, but the US military said it was not aware of any such incident.

Residents reported seeing a missile hit the attack helicopter, which carries two crew, bringing it down in the Timayma area, near Taji, site of a major US air base 20 kilometres (12 miles) north of Baghdad.

US military spokeswoman Lieutenant-Colonel Josslyn Aberle said she had no information on a helicopter crashing in the area.

If confirmed it would be the seventh US helicopter to have come down in Iraq in the last three weeks. The US military has confirmed that at least four of those were shot down after being struck by ground fire and says it has adjusted its tactics accordingly.—MNA/Reuters

A worker clears snow from the top of a cable car gondola at the top of the mountain near the courses for the World Alpine Ski Championships in Are, Sweden, on Sunday, 11 Feb, 2007.

INTERNET

Afternoon nap may lower heart disease risk

NEW YORK, 12 Feb—Taking midday naps often may significantly reduce the risk of death from coronary heart disease, according to a new study by researchers from the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) and the University of Athens Medical School (UAMS) in Greece.

Subjects who took a nap regardless of the frequency and duration were one third less likely to die from heart attack or stroke than those who did not, the researchers reported in the 12 February, 2007 issue of *The Archives of Internal Medicine*.

But some experts quickly warned that people should not rely on taking a nap to reduce their risk of heart disease.

The results of the current study did not suggest that napping caused reduction of death risk from coronary events. Other factors may be involved.

Earlier studies were inconsistent. Some studies found afternoon napping was linked with reduced risk of heart disease, but some suggested otherwise.

The current study meant to establish an association between taking a nap and coronary mortality based on data from "a sizable cohort with a high frequency of

napping and information on potentially confounding variables including reported comorbidity, physical activity, and diet."

The study involved 23,681 men and women living in Greece from the Greek European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition [EPIC] cohort, who had no history of coronary heart disease, stroke or cancer at enrolment or at the start of the study.

Androniki Naska, lead author of the study, lecturer of hygiene and epidemiology in UAMS, and senior author Dimitrios Trichopoulos, professor of cancer prevention and epidemiology at HSPH followed the participants for an average of 6.3 years for their napping habit and coronary mortality.

They found that nappers regardless of how often and or how long they took naps were 34 percent less likely to die from heart disease and stroke than those who did not.

Those who regularly took naps, defined as three times a week for an average of at least 30 minute each time, had a 37% lower coronary mortality than those who did not take siestas.—Internet



A model shows a creation from the Autumn/Winter 2007 collection of British designer Caroline Charles at the opening of London Fashion Week, London, on 11 Feb, 2007.—XINHUA

ECONOMIC NEWS

Venezuela cuts taxes to control soaring prices

CARACAS, 12 Feb — The Venezuelan Government on Sunday announced tax exemptions and subsidies for some key food products in a bid to control soaring prices.

A shortage of some key food products has been hitting the Venezuelan markets of late, pushing prices well above the government fixed levels, a scenario, which the government blames on speculators.

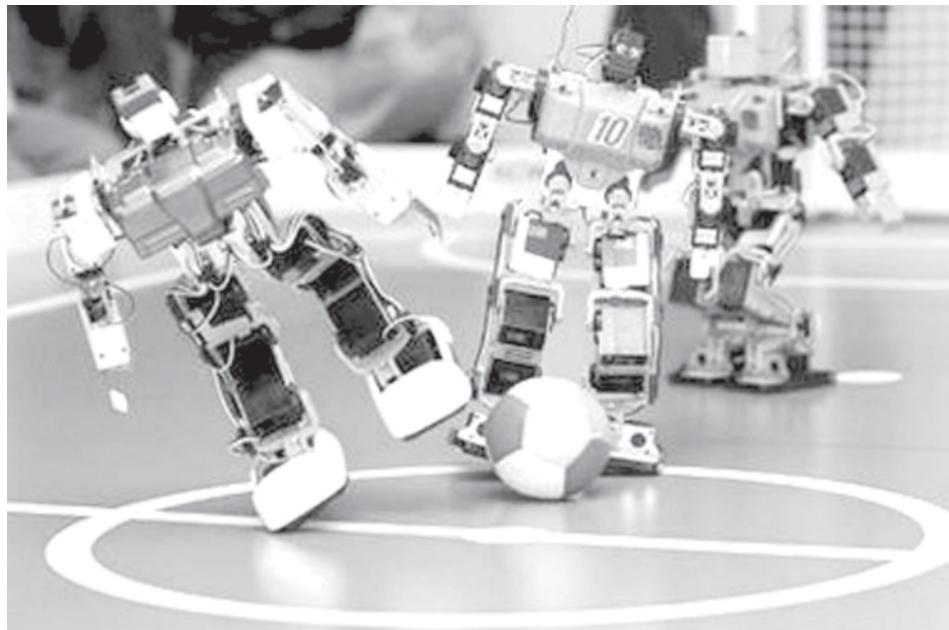
Beef, turkey, pork, mayonnaise, porridge, cheese and food transport services will be exempted from value added tax. Sugar, corn, sorghum and rice will enjoy a 183-million-US dollar subsidy, among which 70 million will be paid in February and the rest—113 million—in September.

The announcement was made by Vice-President Jorge Rodriguez, Minister of Finance Rodrigo

Cabezas and Minister of Light Industry and Trade Maria Cristina Iglesias in Maracaibo, capital city of the northwestern state of Zulia, at the opening of a market in Libertador Avenue, where many of the products are sold.

Since early 2003, President Hugo Chavez has been regulating prices for some basic products in a bid to control inflation and protect the poor.

MNA/Xinhua



Humanoid robots fight for the ball during a soccer tournament in Tokyo on 12 Feb, 2007. —INTERNET

Sino-Japanese Honda produces one millionth car

BEIJING, 12 Feb — Guangzhou Honda Automobile Co has become China's fourth carmaker — after Shanghai Volkswagen, FAW Volkswagen and Shanghai General Motors — to produce one million cars, the company's Beijing office announced on

Sunday.

The Sino-Japanese carmaker, established in 1998, increased its annual output from 10,000 cars in 1999 to 260,000 in 2006.

Despite being a latecomer to manufacturing in China, Japanese auto giant Honda has

increased its market share by leaps and bounds by introducing a series of new models to the country, taking an aggressive pricing approach, and tuning in to the needs of local buyers, said analysts.

Guangzhou Honda brought out the hugely popular Accord in 1999 to fill a gap in the Chinese market for high-end private cars.

In 2003, when the older model was still selling well, Honda pulled it from the production line and introduced a new, relatively inexpensive successor, forcing down the prices of similar vehicles.

The Sino-German carmaker Shanghai Volkswagen, established in 1985 as China's first joint venture carmaker, produced its 3 millionth car in 2005. —MNA/Xinhua



At a temple fair in Yichang, Hubei Province on 10 Feb, 2007, a restaurant put some delicate cuisines carved out of pumpkins, which attracted many visitors. —INTERNET

Chinese COs raise more money overseas than at home

BEIJING, 12 Feb — Chinese companies are able to raise far more money through initial public offerings (IPOs) abroad than through domestic IPOs, sources with the China Securities Regulatory Commission

(CSRC) said on Friday.

The sources warned that domestic bourses should become more competitive in order to prevent quality domestic firms from being seduced by overseas bourses.

According to a report by the CSRC research centre, 48 Chinese companies went public overseas in 2003, raising approximately 7 billion US dollars. The following year, the number of Chinese companies listing abroad nearly doubled to 84 and they raised 11.2 billion US dollars, three times more than they were able to raise on domestic equity markets.

In 2005, 81 companies from the Chinese Mainland listed in Hong Kong, Singapore, the United States and Canada, this time garnering around 20 billion US dollars through IPOs, much more than the 10 billion US dollars raised on domestic stock markets in 2003 and 2004.

MNA/Xinhua



Aki Sawada of Japan performs during the ladies free skating programme at the Four Continents Figure Skating Championships in Colorado Springs, Colo, on Saturday, 10 Feb, 2007. —INTERNET



A Tibetan farmer sells homemade handicrafts in a market in Lhasa, Tibet Autonomous Region on 11 Feb, 2007. —XINHUA

India replaces Canada as China's 10th largest trading partner

BEIJING, 13 Feb — India overtook Canada to become China's tenth largest trading partner in January as monthly trade between China and India soared 63.3 per cent to 2.63 billion US dollars, latest Customs statistics show.

The European Union, the United States and Japan remained China's

top three trading partners during the period, with bilateral trade volume of 26.46 billion dollars, 23.43 billion dollars and 17.51 billion dollars respectively, up 37.9 per cent, 27.8 per cent and 26.5 per cent each, according to the General Administration of Customs.

Sino-Canadian trade

volume stood at 2.23 billion dollars last month.

South China's Guangdong Province reported 44.96 billion dollars of foreign trade in January, accounting for 28.6 per cent of the national total. It was followed by east China's Jiangsu and Shanghai provinces.

MNA/Xinhua

Writer attracts widespread criticism, may be killed

Ngar Min Swe

Forty years ago Mother was seriously ill, so, we, sisters and brothers reunited in Kyaikkhami. My elder brother Ko Saw Ohn said, "You're quite a stranger. What are you doing?" I said, "I'm writing." He said, "Great! What sort of work are you writing?" I said that I was compiling a book titled 'Before our demise' that featured the political, economic and social affairs of Myanmar. He said, "Hey, Min Swe, take a great care to write. As a matter of fact, many hate writers." My elder sister Ma Saw Myint said, "Yes, that's right. Personally, I would kill the writer I hate if an opportune favoured me." Her word made me smile. Brother said, "I'd say Min Swe, a writer might even be killed. There have been many writers who were killed in the world and in Myanmar, too. Writer Thein Pe Myint was under death threat for his work 'Tet Phone Gyi (modern monk)'. Another writer was lost, and he would never come back." "Yes, he lived on 46th Street. One day in 1949, he went out to buy cheroots and would never come back", I said. He said, "Be aware of possible dangers. I am worried Min Swe living on 49th Street went out to buy some beer and would be lost on his way."

I submitted my manuscript to the literary scrutinizing committee in 2003 to get permission for publishing my work 'Before our demise'. A deputy director of the literary scrutinizing department told me that the decision to grant permission for my manuscript was beyond the authority of the department and my work was thus forwarded to the central literary and registration board. He added that under the prevailing situation, he did not think I would get permission; and that he liked the way I presented; and suggested I should continue my writing even if I did not get permission for that one. Unfortunately, I was not given permission for publishing that manuscript. Considering that permission might be granted to publish my work after my demise, I gave it to my elder daughter The Paing Oo.

I got an opportunity to compile some literary works when Kyaikkhami basic education high school planned to publish its Golden Jubilee commemorative magazine in 2005. It was the school where I pursued education, so I tried my best to compile some manuscripts for the

magazine. Among them, two poems "Return from cemetery" and "Visiting a paradise" and an article "Life and knowledge" were chosen.

Several articles I had written were featured in Yangon Times Journal commencing the early 2006. Among them, the article "My unforgettable old flame" was about Kawpuntaung massacre committed by insurgents. In the incident, more than 60 civilians were slaughtered, two of them were Mon national female worker Daw Ngwe of my salt mining block and her daughter teenager Mi Aye Thein. About 20 years later, I asked Daw Ngwe's another daughter Uwe for her stance on the past massacre. With tears, she said that she would never forgive those who had killed her mother.

Before I sent my work "My unforgettable old flame", I was struck by an expression my brother said to me that many of the writers might be killed. I admired the Yangon Times Journal that chose my article. Therefore, Kawpuntaung massacre was known to the people.

In the late 2006, I wrote an article "From '75' Min Swe to '88' Min Ko Naing" which was inserted in the newspapers. Then, I took a taxi, and without introducing myself to the driver, I asked him for his opinion about the article. All the taxi drivers whom I asked for their opinions supported my article. A taxi driver said, "That article is the first one I have ever seen that is mentioned in the newspapers, but I think the writer might be arrested one day." Another taxi driver gave me a comment saying, "That writer must have written that article for his own-interest. He said he was an entrepreneur, but he had no private car. Now, a private car costs from 50 million to 100 million kyats. His purpose must be to get a car permit from the government." His comment saddened me. My writing articles is to serve the interest of the nation and the people, not to seek mine.

I am writing, but not to win favour of the government, nor to the liking of opposition party and international organizations. And I am not looking forward to anything from the government in return of my articles. One who seeks self-interest under the pretext of serving the interests of the nation and the people is an opportunist. We should value the fundamental rights bestowed upon every citizen.

The role of a self-seeker under the excuse of serving the interests of the nation and the people is even lower than that of a beggar.

Today, there are a lot of people who seek self-interest shouting the interests of the nation and the people. Among them, some got millions of US dollars. In the period of independence struggles in 1946, an old Shan man presented gold bars to Major-General Aung San, saying that the present was for the latter's family during the period of independence struggles. However, Major-General Aung San did not accept the gold bars. Today, the nation sees many opportunists who are receiving a lot of cash assistance from various international organizations on the pretext of serving the interests of the nation and the people. It is public knowledge that some persons have won medals ranging from one to nearly 90, acting to the liking of international anti-government organizations.

In December 2006, I wrote "King of the hell and Ngar Min Swe" and "From Ngar Min Swe to Daw Suu Kyi", which were stated in the newspapers published on 9 and 10 January 2007. The RFA in the evening news programme on 10 January said that that day's Myanmar newspapers carried an article designed to attack Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. U Myint Thein of the NLD said that the writer of the article insulted the public by writing such an article. The RFA also said that the majority of the readers were dissatisfied with me, who was just a matriculation schoolboy in 1974, for my calling Daw Suu Kyi, Ma Suu. I was not attacking Daw Suu Kyi, just presenting my opinions. I wrote that article not to insult the readers, but just to serve the interest of the people.

I think RFA staff can guess that I was a matriculation schoolboy in 1974, so, I must be in my late forties now, and Daw Suu Kyi is now 61. My eldest sister is one year older than Daw Suu Kyi. I call her Ma Nyo. I consider Daw Suu Kyi who is daughter of Maj-Gen Aung San and who is more than 10 years older than me, to be my elder sister. So, I mentioned her "Ma Suu" in accordance with Myanmar tradition, and every Myanmar citizen understands well it.

So, it was clear that the expression of the RFA was just a sinister accusation designed to incite violent acts following a conflict among Myanmar people.

That was not all the RFA aired about the event. It also said that that day's writers of the newspaper articles were just Red Flag members. And the government was using such Red Flag members with the intention of misleading the people into considering me (Ngar Min Swe) to be a Red Flag member. Mon State where I was born has not seen any movements of the Red Flag communists. In the time when I was 16, Red Flag members met their end in Myanmar. And I have never seen a Red Flag member. I want to ask the RFA a question—Who is a Red Flag member like?

(See page 7)

The RFA should have known that writers are not biased. They have favours to none. In the article "From '75' Min Swe to '88' Min Ko Naing", I said that Min Ko Naing was a person who sacrificed his interest. And he was a righteous man. However, he served more than 15 years for his term in jail, and he lacked sufficient experience and he would realize the prevailing conditions only when he had been mature enough. I pointed out that he should widen his horizon so that he would be able to exercise a correct policy.

Writer attracts widespread criticism,...

(from page 6)

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Jimmy of the group of Min Ko Naing welcomed the article, said the RFA. I was happy to hear the news that officials concerned sent back Min Ko Naing and members to their homes. I would like to urge "88" generation group members to join hands with the government and the people so that the nation will be able to tackle the economic crisis the majority of the people are suffering from. Now, it is about time to work together, not to waste valuable time by arguing.

As Maj-Gen Aung San said to the country, now Myanmar people have to make efforts about four or five times other countries do. Now, other countries are working hard to establish paradises. So, "88" generation group members should not hinder Myanmar people striving for keeping abreast of other nations. Here, I would like to put you a question "Which country do you want Myanmar to be like—Iraq or the People's Republic of China? And I would also like you to answer this question with reasonable points of views.

In the article "King of the hell and Nga Min Swe", I said due to the supplication of Nga Min Swe, the King of the hell realized the prevailing situation and granted amnesty to the livestock breeders. And I pointed out the need of freedom of news expression to make authentic situations to the people.

In the article "From '75' Min Swe to '88' Min Ko Naing", I said that Daw Suu Kyi had not done anything in the interests of the nation and the people till 1988 when she was over 40; that she ignored Myanmar that was getting into economic crisis in the time of the Myanma Socialist Programme Party; that she came to Myanmar only

when she knew well that she would secure a place in the Myanmar politics arena when the 8-8-88 unrest broke out; and that so it was doubtful if she was a politician who made sacrifices in the interest of the people. In addition, Myanmar people were facing a variety of difficulties due to the economic sanctions imposed at her instigation. And I pointed out that Daw Suu Kyi should mend her ways to exercise a correct policy. The article "From Ngar Min Swe to Daw Suu Kyi" was aimed to enable the people to know whether Daw Suu Kyi was an opportunist who took a seat in the Myanmar politics when the 8-8-88 unrest broke out in Myanmar.

Our ancestors sacrificed their lives to repel the colonialists who established the Empire where the Sun never set. It has been nearly 60 years since Myanmar has regained independence. Nevertheless, Myanmar not been a developed country yet. Myanmar is blessed with rich natural resources with favourable climate, but it still lags behind in development due to the fact that Myanmar people have not been equipped with a strong spirit.

In the post-independence period when the nation was being rebuilt, many of Myanmar people were opportunists and self-seekers. They gave priority to their coming to power, their promotion, and their welfare. When the AFPFL Party came into power, many joined it. When, the Myanma Socialist Programme Party came to power, they joined it again. When the Tatmadaw was in office, such persons wanted to become chairmen of ward Peace and Development Councils. Some joined the NLD when that party was likely to win the election. So long as Myanmar people are seeking self-interests by joining hopeful parties and organizations, the nation will be far from development in various sectors.

Today's party members should make self-criticism to know why they joined the party concerned—in the interest of the nation and the people or their own, and whether they are opportunists or not.

In addition, they should be able to distinguish who are self-seekers and who make sacrifices in the interests of the people. We people are to make self-criticism so that

we will not become opportunists and to make efforts to transform the nation into a modern and developed one under the correct policy hand in hand with those who make sacrifices in the interests of the people. Our country will develop rapidly if the nation is built by righteous persons with correct policies.

Now, we people still have to make efforts to build a modern and developed nation. However, we have been able to prevent the Union from collapse, and losing sovereignty and independence. In the process, many people had to sacrifice their lives and limbs and self-interests.

There have been a large number of Myanmar people who have sacrificed their lives to safeguard the independence before their children have grown up. We will always honour such noble persons. I would like to urge the youth to always honour the goodwill of their forefathers who sacrificed their lives and limbs to regain and safeguard independence, and to make harmonious efforts with might and main to build a modern and developed nation.

I have transformed a lot of experiences and knowledge I gained many years ago into news articles. Here, I have to express my heartfelt thanks to Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, officials of the News and Periodicals Enterprise, the Yangon Times Journal and the 7 Day News Journal who helped me present my opinions to the people.

Frankly, I do not know personally with them, and I have never held discussions with them. And none of my friends is a writer. I have written many articles freely and of my own volition in the interests of the nation and the people.

Through my experiences, I have realized that a true writer is content with what he has even if he lives in a hut, has his meal with fish paste, and goes to his destination on a trishaw. I emulate the success of such writers.

My elder brother warned me that many of the people hate writers, and writers even may be killed.

Whatever it may be, I will not give up my hobby "writing".

Translation: MS

Myanma Alin, Kyemon: 13-2-2007



People visit the "Sairinka" light festival in Obihiro in Japan's northern island of Hokkaido on 11 Feb, 2007. The illumination event will be held until 4th March. — XINHUA

Majority of Poles against US anti-missile system

Moscow, 13 Feb — The majority of the Polish population opposes the US plans to deploy anti-ballistic missile (ABM) systems in Poland, visiting Polish Deputy Prime Minister Andrzej Lepper said here on Monday.

Also as a leader of the Poland's Self-Defence Party, Lepper said the party initiates the creation of a public movement, to be called "Stop Shield", which would aim at holding a referendum on the deployment of ABM

systems in Poland, Russian news agencies reported.

Lepper said some 70 per cent of the population of Poland opposes the deployment of ABM systems on its territory when meeting with Deputy Chairman of Russia's Upper House of Parliament Alexander Torshin.

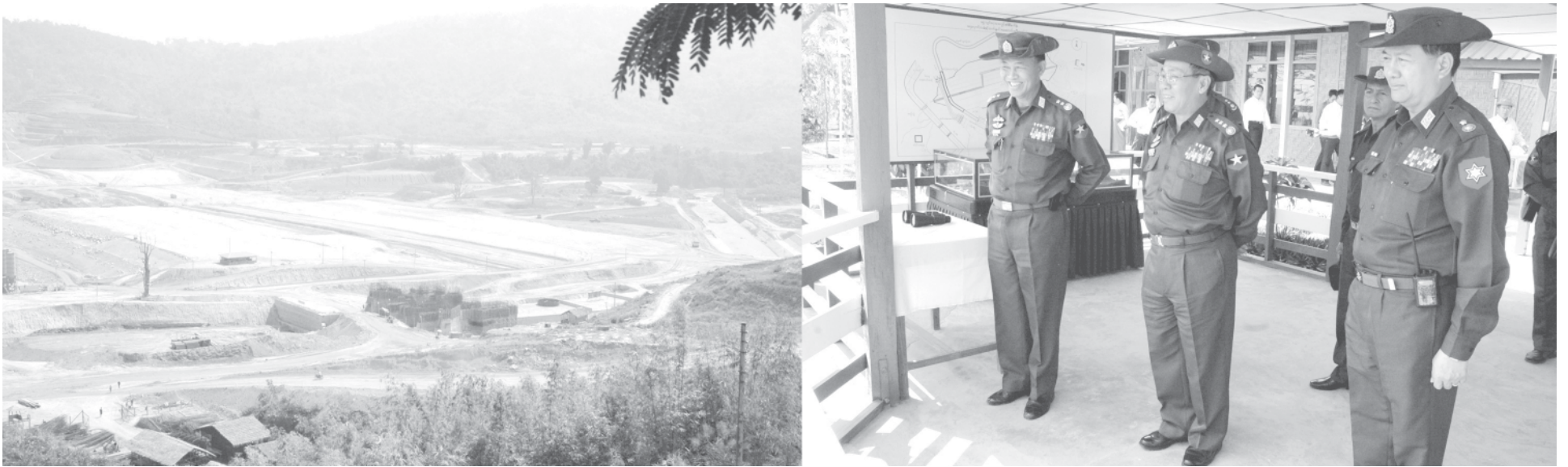
Imports of Polish agricultural products to Russia were also discussed, he said. Lepper proposed setting up a bilateral working group of agricultural deputy

ministers to overcome the differences in the field.

"This issue would be solved more efficiently and promptly without participation of third parties," Torshin said.

Washington wanted to install up to 10 ground-based interceptors in Poland and an advanced radar station in the Czech Republic, Henry A Obering, head of the US Defence Department's Missile Defence Agency, told reporters last month.

MNA/Xinhua



Prime Minister General Soe Win inspects Shwegyin Hydel Power Project. — MNA

Prime Minister General Soe Win inspects...

(from page 1)

They also inspected the site for construction of the power plant and progress of the supporting spillway.

Shwegyin Hydel Power Project is being implemented on Shwegyin Creek near Kyauknaga Village, six miles from Shwegyin. It is one of the projects in Sittoung Basin. An embankment measuring 3,610 feet long and 185 feet high is under construction. On completion, the Shwegyin Hydel Power Plant will generate 75 megawatt through the dam.

In the afternoon, the Prime Minister and party arrived at Kunchaung Hydel Power Project site in Pyu Township.

In his report, Minister Col Zaw Min said that the project is being implemented on Kunchaung, nine miles from Pyu. The 60-megawatt hydel power plant will generate 190 million kwh yearly. Construction-3 of the HPID in cooperation with Irrigation Department is carrying out tasks of the project not only to generate electricity but also to supply water for agricultural purpose.

Deputy Minister for Electric Power No 1 U Myo Myint briefed the Prime Minister on construction tasks, and Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay on fulfillment of fuel.

Next, the Prime Minister and party viewed construction tasks and digging the long pre-stressed tunnel. At present, 149 feet out of 335 feet long tunnel has been dug.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party inspected

dredging of up-stream tunnel and down-stream tunnel at the approach tunnel No 1, construction of 18 feet diameter and 5,756 feet long tunnel, the power intake building, the water control tower and spillway.

The Ministry of Electric Power No 1 and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation will undertake the project. **On completion, the project installed with three 20 megawatt turbines will produce 60 megawatt and contribute to supply of water to 110,000 acres of farmlands.**

At Khabaung Hydel Power Project in Oktwin Township, Minister Col Zaw Min reported on 80 per

cent completion of the project. Director-General U Kyaw San Win of ID also presented reports on progress of the dam.

In his instructions, the Prime Minister said that the government has been building hydel power projects attached to the dams in Sittoung Basin. It is necessary to complete the dams and hydel power plants as well as irrigation facilities and function of power supply.

He continued to say that Yenwe Multi-purpose Dam Project has already been completed. On completion of Khabaung and Kunchaung hydel power projects,



Khabaung Dam Project. — MNA

irrigation and power supply tasks will contribute to development of the region to a certain degree. If the projects complete earlier than scheduled, local people can enjoy fruitful results of the projects.

He stressed the need for departments concerned to actively take part in the tasks on prevention against floods in Sittoung and Myitmakha Basins and reclamation of farmland being supervised by the commander. The Prime Minister urged all to seek the better way to carry out the tasks of the projects to meet the target as soon as possible.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister viewed progress of the embankment and spillway. They also looked into construction of the water tunnel and the power plant.

Khabaung Hydel Power Project is being implemented on Khabaung Creek, 15 miles west of Oktwin. The project will generate 30 megawatt and irrigate about 100,000 acres of farmland.

After inspecting tasks of the project, the Prime Minister and party arrived back here in the evening.

MNA



Kunchaung Hydel Power Project. — MNA



Phado Aung San welcomes Chairman of KNU/KNLA Peace Council Commander of No 7 Brigade Maj-Gen Htay Maung. — MNA

(from page 16)

On the occasion, the State and the Tatmadaw presented gifts and provided construction materials, foodstuff, household goods and farm implements for 309 members of KNU/KNLA and 11 family members led by Chairman of KNU/KNLA Peace Council Brigade-7 Commander Maj-Gen Htay Maung.

Commander of South East Command Brig-Gen Thet Naing Win extended greetings to peace group led by Chairman of KNU/KNLA Peace Council Brigade-7 Commander Maj-Gen Htay Maung.

As the speech clearly highlighted the goodwill and attitude of the Government and the Tatmadaw towards national people and national race armed groups, excerpts from the speech are published. — MNA

- * National people have been residing peacefully in the Union of Myanmar since time immemorial.
- * Due to the divide-and-rule policy of the colonialists, there were armed struggles in the country soon after regaining the independence and the country lagged behind in development.
- * The long history shows, the country was strong when there was national solidarity. It is obvious that the country became weak when there was no unity.
- * After taking the State duties, Tatmadaw government, upholding Our Three Main National Causes, has been putting all its energy into endeavours for national reconsolidation.
- * After realizing the genuine goodwill and sincere attitude of the Tatmadaw, 17 national race armed groups and various small groups made peace with the government.
- * Tatmadaw members have witnessed the life of the people who had to live under dire poverty due to lack of peace and stability and thus have sympathy for them.
- * The government is desirous of improving the living standard of local people. However, it has been able to carry out the development tasks

- only in the regions of peace groups.
- * The special regions which cooperate with the Tatmadaw have developed rapidly and improved considerably in all sectors.
- * Leaders of various peace groups are now attending the National Convention and discussing the drafting of the future constitution of the Union.
- * Therefore, the Tatmadaw continued to welcome all the organizations that had not made peace with it.
- * Despite hindrances and interferences, members of Kayin National Union (KNU)/Kayin National Liberation Army (KNLA) Peace Council and their families led by Maj-Gen Htay Maung made peace with the government as desired by peace-loving Kayin nationals. The Tatmadaw, the government and the people welcomed them with open arms and he honoured Maj-Gen Htay Maung for his worthy decision.
- * KNLA led by Maj-Gen Htay Maung has now become a strength of the State and a force on which local people can rely.
- * The Tatmadaw government and all the people will provide assistance not only for members of KNLA and their families but for regional development.
- * Members of remaining armed groups are invited to make peace.

Union Day delegates leave

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Feb — Union Day delegates of states and divisions returned to their respective regions this morning and evening after attending the 60th

Anniversary of Union Day reception and dinner. They were seen off at the hostels by Chairman of accommodation subcommittee Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U

Thaung Lwin and members, and officials of respective subcommittees. MNA

Union Day delegates from Mon State leave Nay Pyi Taw after attending the 60th Anniversary Union Day Celebration.

MNA



**The best time to plant a tree was
20 years ago.
Second best time is now.**

Forestry Minister arrives back from Kenya

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Feb — Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung arrived back here from Kenya, on 11 February after attending the 24th Meeting and ministerial level environmental conservation forum of United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) at Nairobi, Kenya, from 5 to 9 February.

Representatives of 138 nations, 17 UN agencies and 125 international organizations attended in the meeting and discussed environmental impacts of globalization and how to deal with environmental problems in reforming the United Nations.

During his stay in Nairobi, Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung held talks with his counterparts from Brazil, Nigeria and Ghana, deputy ministers from Cuba, Mexico and Venezuela.

On 9 February, Forestry Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung also met with Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Moses Wetangula and discussed bilateral relations between the two countries.

MNA



Forestry Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung being welcomed back by Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint at Nay Pyi Taw Airport. — MNA

77 reach destination in second leg of 1,000-mile cycling race

YANGON, 13 Feb — Second leg of the 1,000-mile cycling race was launched this morning at Letpadan, and 77 athletes reached Pyay, the destination of the second-leg.

The first leg of the race started at Youth Training Camp (Thuwunna) in Yangon yesterday. A total of 106 cycling athletes participated in the first leg and 78 reached Letpadan, the destination of the first leg.

The third leg, stretching a distance from Pyay to Taungdwingyi, will start at Pyay at 6 am tomorrow.

The 1,000-mile cycling race is organized by Myanmar Cycling Federation with the assistance of Myanmar Olympic Committee and Ministry of Sports.

MNA

Minister receives Vice-President of Shin Satellite Public Company Ltd

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Feb — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received Mr Makin Petplai, Vice-President of Shin Satellite Public Company Limited of Thailand at the minister's office here yesterday.

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

MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan receives Mr Makin Petplai of Shin Satellite Public Company Ltd. — MNA

People can make complaints about malpractices of personnel of Ministry of Home Affairs

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Feb — In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, "Remove the practices of colonial period and safeguard the interest of the State and the people", the Ministry of Home Affairs has been serving the interest of the State and the people after forming the Ministry of Home Affairs, General Administration Department, Myanmar Police Force, Bureau of Special Investigation and Prisons Department. The ministry is responsible for undertaking the tasks for security of the State, prevalence of law and order, community peace and tranquillity and community welfare services.

If any service personnel of any rank of the Ministry of Home Affairs commit malpractices involving money, property and opportunity and

oppress the people in administrative and economic and social affairs, making improper use of the rights which are not in conformity with the existing laws and procedures, those who suffer personally can complain to the minister (phone 067-412040, fax 067-412016), the deputy minister (phone 067-412072) and the deputy director-general (phone 067-412069, fax 067-412439), the Ministry of Home Affairs, Office No 10, Nay Pyi Taw and e-mail: ddg.gad@gad.gov.mm.

Investigation will be made by the inspection team legally formed by the Ministry. The people are urged to make true complaints and the ministry guarantees not to cause people's grievance.

MNA

Coord Meeting on Public-based Home Care Service held

YANGON, 13 Feb — Myanmar Nurses and Midwives Association organized a coordination meeting on Public-based Home Care Service from 8 to 10 February at Aye Yeik Nyein Meeting Hall of Industrial Zone at Ward 64 in Dagon Myothit (South) here. Present were Project Manager Professor Dr Daw Khin Nyo, members of Central Project Committee, coordinators and deputy coordinators.

They discussed facts on giving treatment and care to AIDS and other diseases affected patients and providing their family members with help in health and social sectors. Then, they discussed advantages and disadvantages of the plans being carried out and laid down future plans. — MNA

Myanmar friendship association in Japan...

(from page 16)

officials accepted the letters.

Myanmar friendship association in Japan staged the demonstration in support of justice and Myanmar. The demonstrators carried the placards of slogans expressing "We love Myanmar", "Let Myanmar decide their fate", "Democracy is not an export commodity", "Don't make UNSC your puppet" and "Myanmar needs not pressure but understanding". — MNA



Standing by the side of justice, Myanmar friendship association in Japan, who can't bear to see the unreasonable acts of US and Britain that submitted a draft resolution against Myanmar to the UNSC, carrying placards stage demonstration in front of Embassy of Britain in Tokyo, Japan.

China to standardize transfer of domestic bad loans to foreigners

BEIJING, 12 Feb — China will adopt strict measures to standardize the transfer of bad loans of domestic financial institutions to foreign investors, so as to protect the legitimate rights and interests of investors and enhance smooth treatment of domestic bad loans.

The National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) and the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE) have jointly issued a notice saying that the bad loan transfer will be included in the management of China's foreign debts. The notice says

measures aimed for the transfer of bad loans of domestic financial institutions to foreign investors will become effective on 1 April this year.

Any domestic financial institutions which want to transfer their bad loans to foreign investors should first report to the NDRC and SAFE.

MNA/Xinhua



A curious child points at a traditional sugar painting at the Spring Festival Folk Culture Fair in Nanjing, capital of Jiangsu Province, in eastern China on 11 Feb. Folk performances and decorative handicrafts attracted many citizens and visitors to come and visit.—XINHUA

Two Italian women murdered in Cape Verde

ROME, 12 Feb — Two young Italian women have been murdered in the tropical Atlantic island state of Cape Verde, the Italian Foreign Ministry said on Saturday.

Two bodies were found by local police on Friday on information given by a third Italian woman who said she escaped the attack in which her friends were killed.

The third woman, a 17-year-old identified as Agnese, told Italian TV by telephone that the three of them had gone to dinner on the island of Sal on Thursday with two local men who took them to a wood and beat the two girls to death with rocks.

Agnese said she was knocked unconscious but later recovered and went

for help.

Cape Verde, a former Portuguese colony, is an archipelago about 500 kilometres (310 miles) off the coast of Senegal where tourism is a vital part of the economy.

MNA/Reuters

Forest Whitaker poses with the Actor in a Leading Role award for "The Last King of Scotland" at the BAFTA (British Academy of Film and Television Arts) awards at the Royal Opera House in London on 11 Feb, 2007.—INTERNET



Algeria seizes Sahara artefacts from visitors

ALGIERS, 12 Feb — Algerian authorities seized 250 archaeological artefacts about to be smuggled abroad by foreigners visiting the Sahara Desert last month, a government newspaper said on Saturday.

El Moudjahid daily did not identify the nationalities of the foreigners but said Customs services recovered the pieces at an airport in the southern province of Tamanrasset, 1,700 kilometres (1,060 miles) south of the capital Algiers. — MNA/Reuters

Four crashed to death by train in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 12 Feb — Four people sleeping on rail tracks were killed by a speeding train in a town in the Brazilian state of Sao Paulo on Sunday morning, local police said.

The accident occurred in the early hours of the morning when a 50-wagon train was speeding along the tracks in Brotas, a town about 245 kilometres from the city of Sao Paulo, while four people including two teenage brothers were sleeping there, police said. The cause of the accident was being investigated, police said. — MNA/Xinhua

Lightning kills two in north India

NEW DELHI, 12 Feb — Lightning killed two teenagers and injured many others when a hailstorm hit Agra in north India's Uttar Pradesh, *Indo-Asian News Service* reported Sunday.

"The two were fatally hit by a lightning Saturday night in a village near Agra," the local police said Sunday. The hail accompanying lightning also caused serious damage to crops, especially potatoes, said a local government official. — MNA/Xinhua

Death toll rises to 90 due to cold weather in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 12 Feb — The deaths of some 90 people have been linked to cold weather which began on 18 October, Mexico's Health Ministry said in a statement on Sunday. The main causes were carbon monoxide poisoning, burns and hypothermia, and many of the dead were shantytown residents — whose homes were made from wood, cardboard and corrugated iron.— MNA/Xinhua

US soldier dies of gunshot wound in Afghanistan

KABUL, 12 Feb — A US soldier died of a gunshot wound on Sunday in the normally safe northern Afghan province of Balkh, which borders Uzbekistan, the US military said in a statement.

No details were released other than to say the death was being investigated by the US military authorities. Combat deaths are rare in the province, the capital of which is the relatively prosperous city of Mazar-i-Sharif, near the Uzbek border.

Afghanistan is bracing for a major bout of spring fighting when the snows melt in a few months. Last year was the bloodiest since a US-led invasion ousted the Taliban in 2001.— MNA/Reuters



Photo taken on 11 Feb, 2007 shows the beautiful rime scene in Aweitan town of Altay, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. — XINHUA

Eight killed in south China's factory fire

SHENZHEN, 12 Feb — Eight people died following a factory fire on Sunday in the booming Shenzhen City of south China's Guangdong Province, confirmed local authorities.

The fire broke out at about 2:15 p.m. in a four-storey building of the Yanghua High-tech Factory that produces electronic components.

Rescuers put off the fire an hour later, recovering eight bodies in the debris, who died from suffocation.

A total of 235 workers were evacuated and another ten were rescued.

MNA/Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GATI SUVIDHA VOY NO (72307)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GATI SUVIDHA VOY NO (72307) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 12.2.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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**Suicide bomber attacks
NATO forces in S Afghanistan**

KABUL, 12 Feb— A suicide car bomber targeted NATO forces, but only killed himself in Kandahar Province of southern Afghanistan on Saturday, provincial police chief Asmatullah Alizai said.

The attacker drove an explosive-laden car toward NATO forces outside Kandahar City, the provincial capital, at around 10:00 am local time, Alizai told *Xinhua*. The car blew up prematurely, and the explosion only killed the bomber, he added.

No one has claimed responsibility, but Taleban militants have usually carried out similar incidents before.

Eleven Taleban militants were killed by Afghan and NATO troops in the neighbouring Helmand Province on Friday. Kandahar and Helmand have been hotbeds of Taleban militants, who clash with foreign and Afghan forces frequently.

More than 300 people, mostly militants, have been killed in Taleban-related violence in Afghanistan this year.—MNA/Xinhua

**Singapore projects population
leap, reviews land use**

SINGAPORE, 12 Feb— Singapore is projecting a 40-per-cent rise in its population to 6.5 million, and is reviewing how best to use the city-state's limited land space to handle the explosive change, local mediareported on Saturday.

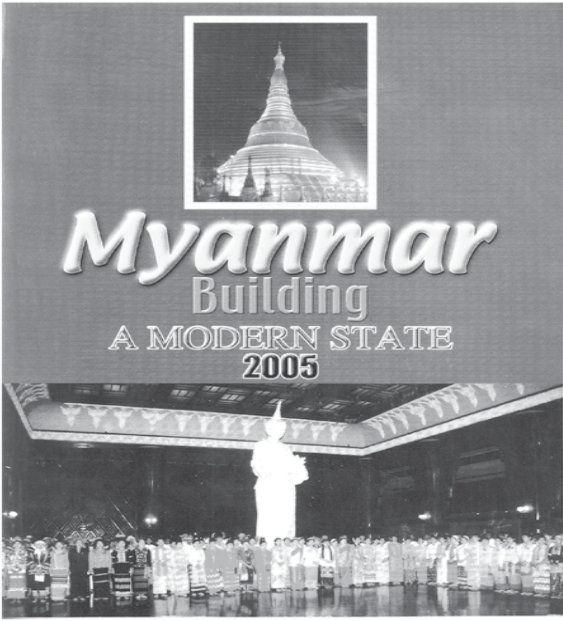
National Development Minister Mah Bow Tan said the Concept Plan of 2001, a 10-year blueprint for land use, had been

overtaken by events, suggesting that the population—which now stands at 4.5 million—had grown faster than expected.

The Straits Times newspaper quoted Mah as saying that without planning and investment potential investors could be deterred by insufficient land and infrastructure.

MNA/Reuters





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At least 34 killed, 140 wounded in bomb attacks in downtown Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 12 Feb—The death toll rose to at least 34 and 140 people wounded in double car bombings and a homemade bomb blasts in downtown Baghdad



An Iraqi gestures as he shouts at the site where a car bomb exploded in central Baghdad. The death toll rose to at least 34 and 140 people wounded in double car bombings and a homemade bomb blasts in downtown Baghdad markets on Monday. — XINHUA

markets on Monday, an Interior Ministry source said.

“Our latest report said that at least 34 people were killed and more than 140 other wounded by the two attacks,” the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

A simultaneous car bomb blasts went off around midday in the Shorjah market, the main commercial centre in Baghdad, the source said.

“One car bomb was parking in front of the Kinani building and the other one was parking some 100 metres away,” the source said.

Earlier, the source said there was one car bomb detonated in the busy market. Two columns of black smoke rose over the area.

Meanwhile, a homemade bomb exploded in the Haraj market in Baghdad's al-Sharji area, the source added.

Internet

**Shipping giants eye
China's largest bonded
harbour area**

TIANJIN, 12 Feb—Three shipping giants are planning to move containers via northern Tianjin City's Dongjiang Bonded Harbour Area, which aims to become an international free trade zone, local authorities have revealed.

Sweden's Mediterranean Shipping Company, French Compagnie

Maritime d' Affretement, and Korean Hanjin Shipping, three of the top ten, signed an agreement with Tianjin Port on Wednesday, hoping to take advantage of free economic policies granted to the Mainland's largest bonded harbour area.

The 10-square-kilometre area of Tianjin Port is expected to be operational by the end of this year. It will enjoy preferential taxation and foreign exchange policies and focus on international distribution, global procurement and export processing, said Yu Rumin, president of the Tianjin Port (Group) Co Ltd.

MNA/Xinhua

**NATO chief calls for
partnership with Russia**

MUNICH, 12 Feb—NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer said here Saturday that a strategic partnership between NATO and Russia is in the interest of both sides.

NATO “needs to find partners” in order to deal with the current and upcoming global challenges, and Russia remains an important one, said Scheffer at a high-profile security conference in southern German city of Munich.

“NATO cannot afford not to do this” if the alliance is to meet global challenges such as terrorism in the future, he said.

However, the NATO chief saw a “disconnect” and “disappointment” as he sought cooperation with Russia.

Earlier in the day at the same meeting, Russian President Vladimir Putin accused the United States of “almost uncontained” use of force which has led other countries to seek for weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons.

“The legitimate use of force can only done by the United Nations, which cannot be replaced by EU or NATO,” he said.

Some 250 top officials from over 40 countries, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel, and EU chief diplomat Javier Solana and US Defence Secretary Robert Gates participated in the 43th Munich security conference which will run from late Friday until Sunday.—MNA/Xinhua

A shop assistant sells Valentine's Day dolls on 11 Feb, 2007 in a store in Yinchuan in the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region. The store is among the wave of Chinese retailers cashing in on the growing popularity of the holiday for lovers.—XINHUA

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A vender sells a shirt with Chinese patterns and characters in a Chinatown in Jakarta, capital of Indonesia, on 11 Feb, 2007. —XINHUA

Chinese V-P says life must be improved for people

YICHANG(Hubei Province), 12 Feb — Chinese Vice-Premier Zeng Peiyan has instructed local authorities to improve the lives of people relocated to make way for the gigantic Three Gorges Project.

Zeng called for more attention to relocation work in Three Gorges areas, to ensure local residents move out as planned, are able to live a stable life and have the opportunity to gradually get rich. Local governments should strengthen employment training for relocated people and try to lift their

incomes, Zeng said at a work conference held here, in central China's Hubei Province, from 10 to 11 February.

Currently, more than 1.2 million people, or over 85 per cent of those covered by the original plan, have been relocated, involving an investment of 54.4 billion yuan (6.98 billion US dollars). The rest will be resettled before the water level in the reservoir reaches 175 metres in 2008, one year earlier than scheduled. Zeng also stressed quality and security issues during the construction of the project. — MNA/Xinhua

Blige, Chili Peppers win three Grammys each

LOS ANGELES, 12 Feb — R&B singer Mary J Blige and California rock band the Red Hot Chili Peppers each won three Grammy Awards on Sunday, while pop veterans Stevie Wonder and Tony Bennett added to their bulging collections during early proceedings.

Blige headed into Sunday's ceremony with a leading eight nominations, ahead of six for the Red Hot Chili Peppers. She also lost three races, but remains a contender

for record and song of the year.

Blige won the statuettes for best R&B album, "The Breakthrough," as well as R&B song and female R&B vocal performance, both for "Be Without You."

An emotional Blige said she was gratified at the positive attention she was now receiving after years of negative publicity surrounding the hard-living ways she has now renounced.

The Red Hot Chili Peppers, who had won just

two previous Grammys to date, were honoured for best rock song and best vocal performance, both for the hit single "Dani California." Their CD, "Stadium Arcadium," which is up for the coveted album of the year award, also won for the boxed/limited-edition package Grammy. The band lost the short-form video race.

MNA/Reuters



Members of the Soweto Gospel Choir accept the award for Best Traditional World Music Album, for "Blessed," at the 49th Annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles on 11 Feb, 2007. — XINHUA

Survey says IT technology promotes dating abuse among teens

BEIJING, 12 Feb — The newly developed information technology products, such as cell phone, e-mail and Internet messaging, put teenagers at a high risk for abusive behavior and violence in dating, media reported Monday quoted a new survey as saying.

The survey, carried out by Teenage Research Unlimited at the request of Liz Claiborne Inc, found nearly 25 percent of teens in a relationship had received hourly text messages or phone calls to check up on them between midnight and 5 am. One out of six said they had received messages 10 or more times an hour

overnight. "According to our experts, contacting that frequently with those kinds of questions is simply about control and intimidation. It's not a casual conversation," said Jane Randel, vice president for Liz Claiborne Inc.

According to the survey, more than a third of the teens surveyed said boyfriends or girlfriends had harassed them with text messages, and a quarter said their partner had used a cell phone, e-mail, blog or Web chat to insult them.

One in five said their boyfriends or girlfriends had used cell phones, e-mail or Instant Messaging to press them for sex, and one in 10 said they had been threatened with violence, the survey found.

Kendrick Sledge, a survivor of dating violence, told students about the importance of speaking out about such abuse. "I didn't end it because of the physical abuse."

"I was tired of not being able to do anything without being berated," said Sledge. "I'm one of the lucky ones, and I have made something good out of a terrible situation."

The survey was released at the launch of the loveisrespect.org, The National Teen Dating Abuse Hotline, an Internet and telephone service to help teenagers involved in abusive relationships. It is sponsored by Liz Claiborne and the National Domestic Violence Hotline. — Internet

Six feared dead in cavern on Tenerife

MADRID, 12 Feb — Rescue workers were struggling to reach six people, whom they feared may have suffocated, deep in an underground cavern on the Spanish island of Tenerife on Sunday, a spokeswoman said.

The six were part of a group of 30, including scientists and members of a nature organization, who entered the caves on Saturday. Most had managed to get out of the caves unaided, but eight were rescued in the early hours of the morning with acute breathing difficulties and were taken to hospital.

"The chances are not good. They have been in there many hours and oxygen is short," a spokeswoman for the emergency services said. "The tunnels are very narrow. There is not much air and this was a big group."

The underground labyrinths on the volcanic island of Tenerife, off the coast of Morocco, are known to some locals. Newspaper *El Pais* said some were tunnels excavated in the 19th Century in the search for water and that they were often filled with volcanic gases.

Those missing were 1,500 to 2,000 metres (5,000 to 6,500 feet) underground and access for rescue workers was very difficult, the spokeswoman said.

MNA/Reuters



Ten thousand Nanjing citizens in eastern China's Jiangsu Province sign their names on a petition to support the proposal of listing the Spring Festival as a World Cultural Heritage, on 11 Feb, 2007. — XINHUA

SPORTS

Bammer beats Dulko to land first tour title

PATTAYA (Thailand), 13 Feb—Unseeded Austrian Sybille Bammer launched a late fightback to win her first tour title on Sunday with a 7-5, 3-6, 7-5 victory over Gisela Dulko at the Pattaya Open.

With Dulko dictating the play in the final two sets, the 26-year-old survived three match points to climb back into contention for her first title after 11 years on the WTA tour.

"It was a very tough match," Bammer said. "I was very lucky to win today." "I just tried to keep fighting and tried to play more aggressively," she told a news conference. "She was playing really well and making it difficult to play my game."

The Austrian took the first set after a nervy start from both players, with sixth seed Dulko dropping four service games and Bammer losing three.

Bammer made the early headway in the second set with a 2-0 lead before the tenacious Argentine

pulled back three games, chasing every ball and forcing her opponent into a string of errors.

Dulko continued to pile on the pressure in the deciding set with delicate drop shots and powerful forehand returns but Bammer held firm.

MNA/Reuters



Barcelona's player Ronaldinho (R) is tackled by Racing Santander's captain Pablo Pinillos during their Spanish first division soccer league match at Nou Camp Stadium in Barcelona on 11 Feb, 2007. — XINHUA

FA welcome backing over 2018 World Cup bid

LONDON, 13 Feb— A government study suggesting England are in a good position to bid for the 2018 World Cup finals was welcomed by the Football Association on Monday.

The study, which came as British chancellor Gordon Brown reiterated his support for a bid, said England was well-placed in terms of stadiums and general public support — should the FA decide to press ahead.

The FA is waiting until FIFA, the game's ruling body, indicates which continent will be chosen for

2018 under its rotation policy. South Africa will host 2010 and the 2014 tournament will be held in South America.

FA chief executive Brian Barwick said in a statement: "FIFA have not yet announced which continent will be awarded the 2018 World Cup, but if it does come to Europe the FA will give very serious consideration to a bid.

"We have the stadiums, the infrastructure, a multicultural society and a passion for the game that few countries can match.

"In addition, every major European football na-

tion has hosted the World Cup since 1966."

As for politicians, Barwick said: "Government backing is a central part of any successful World Cup bid and this study underlines this government's commitment to bringing the world's biggest sports events to these shores.—MNA/Reuters

Mickelson forges one ahead after 9 holes at Pebble Beach

PEBBLE BEACH (California), 13 Feb— Phil Mickelson survived a lost ball to move one shot clear midway through the final round of the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am on Sunday.

The Masters champion, tied for the overnight lead with fellow American Kevin Sutherland, mixed four birdies with a double-bogey five to reach the turn at 16 under overall.

That left him a stroke in front of PGA Tour rookie John Mallinger, who was two under for the day after 10 holes, and two ahead of playing partner Sutherland, who double-bogeyed the ninth after hitting his approach out-of-bounds.

Britain's Greg Owen, boosted by an eagle-three at the sixth, was a further two shots adrift at 12 under in a tie for fourth after completing 12 holes in the best weather of the week at the Pebble Beach Golf Links.

Level with Owen was American world number two Jim Furyk, after four birdies in the first 11 holes.

Bidding for his third title at Pebble Beach, Mickelson made a fast start in morning sunshine with birdies at the par-five second and the par-four fourth, where he rolled in a 12-footer.

Two strokes clear playing the par-three fifth, he then overshot the green with his tee shot and had to declare a lost ball after a fruitless five-minute search.

After trudging back to the tee to hit his third shot, Mickelson boldly attacked the pin for a second time but was unable to sink a 12-foot putt there to escape with a bogey-four.—MNA/Reuters

Soderling sends Sweden into last eight

MINSK, 13 Feb— Robin Soderling outlasted Max Mirnyi 6-7, 7-5, 6-7, 7-6, 6-3 in the first reverse singles on Sunday to clinch victory for Sweden in their Davis Cup first-round tie against Belarus.

Soderling's epic victory after four hours of high-octane tennis gave the visitors an unassailable 3-1 lead over the Belarussians in the three-day encounter at Minsk's indoor soccer arena, sending the Swedes into the quarterfinals.

In the last eight, the seven-times Davis Cup champions will face the winners of the first-round clash between Austria and last year's runners-up Argentina.

Belarus number two Vladimir Voltchkov was scheduled to take on Thomas Johansson in the fifth rubber later on Sunday.—MNA/Reuters



Japan's Inoue Kossei, top, and Belarus' Yury Rybak take part in the men's over 100-kg final during the Paris Judo tournament, on Sunday, 11 Feb, 2007 at the Palais Omnisports de Paris-Bercy venue. Kossei won the match.—INTERNET

Milan coach delighted by Ronaldo's debut

ROME, 13 Feb— AC Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti said he was delighted with Ronaldo's debut in a 2-1 win over Livorno on Sunday.

The three-times FIFA World Player of the Year, who Milan signed from Real Madrid for 7.5 million euros (9.7 million US dollars) last month, gave a lively performance after coming on for the final 30 minutes of the Serie A match at the San Siro stadium.



AC Milan's Ronaldo runs during their Serie A soccer match between AC Milan and Livorno in Milan, northern Italy, on 11 Feb, 2007.— XINHUA

"He played for half an hour, created three chances, looked dangerous from long range and did very well to free himself from his markers," Ancelotti told Italy's Sky television.

"He must improve his physical condition, but I believe he will be very important to us."

Ronaldo, who played for Milan's city rivals Inter from 1997 to 2002, received an ovation when he replaced fellow Brazilian Ricardo Oliveira.

Ronaldo, whose last competitive appearance dated back to Real's 2-0 defeat to Deportivo Coruna on January 7, agreed there was plenty of room for improvement.

"It went really well," he said. "I've still got a lot to learn from this group of players, but I'm pleased with the start I've made. Sooner or later the goals will come."

MNA/Reuters

DFB says German region should halt matches after violence

BERLIN, 13 Feb— The head of the German soccer federation (DFB) said on Monday all matches in the eastern state of Saxony should be postponed this weekend after hooligans attacked police in Leipzig on Saturday.

Around 800 Lokomotive Leipzig supporters assaulted some 300 police after a regional cup

match in the Saxon city, causing dozens of injuries in what was the latest outbreak of violence involving lower league clubs in Germany. "I would stop all matches in Saxony this weekend as a gesture of solidarity toward the police," DFB President Theo Zwanziger told a news conference in Frankfurt.

No current Bundesliga clubs are from the state.

Saxony's soccer association (SFV) said it supported Zwanziger's proposal and said it would instruct its three affiliated local associations to give their backing. "We want to send a signal," SFV head Klaus Reichenbach said in a statement.

MNA/Reuters

Putin says Hamas victory marks failure of US ME diplomacy

MOSCOW, 13 Feb — Russian President Vladimir Putin has continued his attack on US foreign policy, calling Hamas' victory in Palestinian parliamentary elections early last year a defeat for US Mideast diplomacy.

"Of course, this was a severe blow to American diplomacy," Putin told the pan-Arab al-Jazeera TV channel on Sunday, ahead of his visit to Saudi Arabia.

Hamas, or the Islamic Resistance Movement, defeated the long-dominant Fatah group of President Mahmoud

Abbas in the poll in January 2006. The United States, Israel and the EU severed ties with the Hamas-led government subsequently.

"Hamas carried the elections. It is the power of people," Putin said. "It is necessary to respect the choice of people." Hamas calls for Israel's destruc-

tion. Acknowledging that powerful countries could wield significant influence, Putin said, "We would really like our American partners as well to act more cooperatively and listen more to all those involved in this process."

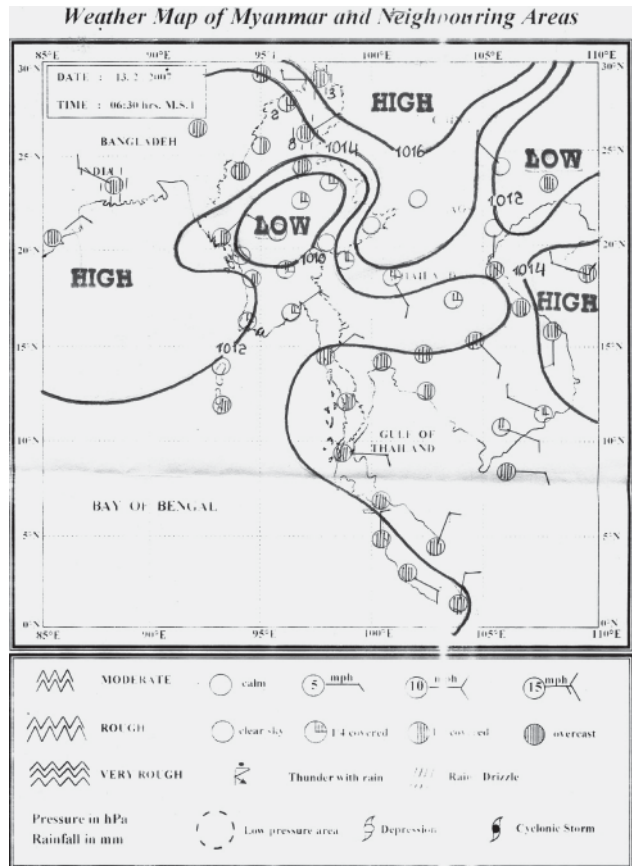
Russia acted correctly by establishing

contacts with the Hamas movement after its victory, he said.

The Russian leader, however, softened his tongue by saying that the United States should not bear full responsibility for everything that is going on in the Middle East.

"There is a lot we do not like and we disagree with US policy, but it would also be wrong to demonize it," Putin said.

"First of all, it is those who live in those territories, the Arab states, Israel, and Palestine itself, who bear responsibility for all that is going on there," he said, adding that the United States, Russia, and Europe also bear responsibility for the situation.—MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Tuesday, 13 February, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been fairly widespread in Kachin State, isolated in upper Sagaing Division and weather has been partly cloudy in Chin State and lower Sagaing Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) above normal in Mon State and Bago Division, (5°C) above normal in Kachin States and Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Namhsan, Pinlaung and Heho (5°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Myitkyina (0.3) inch, Putao and Machanbaw (0.12) inch each.

Maximum temperature on 12-2-2007 was 98°F. Minimum temperature on 13-2-2007 was 68°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 13-2-2007 was 64%. Total sunshine hours on 12-2-2007 was (8.7) hours approx.

Rainfall on 13-2-2007 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 (11:15) hours MST on 12-2-2007.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 14-2-2007: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated to scattered in Kachin, Chin, Northern Rakhine and Shan States and Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in Bago, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in the Upper Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 14-2-2007: Partly cloudy to cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 14-2-2007: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 14-2-2007: Partly cloudy to cloudy.

Untimely Rainfall Warning

(Issued at 11:00 hours MST on 13th February, 2007)

According to the observation at (06:30) hrs MST today, due to the influence of the western disturbance from the west, rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated to scattered in Kachin, Chin, North Rakhine, Shan States and Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions within next (48) hrs commencing noon today.



A visitor observes an ice sculpture during the international ice sculpture festival 'Modern Ice Era' in Jelgava, about 48 km (30 miles) from the capital Riga, Latvia on 10 Feb, 2007. —INTERNET

<p>Wednesday, 14 February View on today</p>	<p>8:45 am 10. Let's Go</p>	<p>6:35 pm 12. သုတစုံလင် ရွှေညောင်ရင်</p>
	<p>4:00 pm 1. Martial song</p>	<p>7:00 pm 13. Discovery</p>
<p>7:00 am 1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara</p>	<p>4:15 pm 2. Song to uphold National Spirit</p>	<p>7:10 pm 14. "အသက်လေးရယ်တဲ့ ရှည်စေလို" (ဦးအောင်လွင်၊ ဦးကြည်စိုး၊ မေထွဋ်ခေါင်) ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကြည်စိုး</p>
<p>7:25 am 2. To be healthy exercise</p>	<p>4:30 pm 3. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ -တတိယနှစ် (သင်္ချာအထူးပြု) (သင်္ချာ)</p>	<p>7:25 pm 15. Musical programme</p>
<p>7:30 am 3. Morning news</p>	<p>4:45 pm 4. Song of national races</p>	<p>7:35 pm 16. ကြားမြင်သုတပြည့်ဝစေရာ စာပဒေသာ</p>
<p>7:40 am 4. Nice and sweet song</p>	<p>4:55 pm 5. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား</p>	<p>7:45 pm 17. ဘာသာစကား သင်ကြား လေ့လာ တက္ကသိုလ်မှာ (အပိုင်း-၂)</p>
<p>7:50 am 5. မြူးမြူးကြွကြွ ယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက</p>	<p>5:10 pm 6. "အနိုင်အရှုံး" (ပီစီ၊ ကောင်းမြတ်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ခင်နွဲ့နွဲ့မူ)</p>	<p>8:00 pm 18. News</p>
<p>8:00 am 6. အရေးပြိုင်ပွဲ</p>	<p>5:15 pm 7. Classical song</p>	<p>8:00 pm 19. International news</p>
<p>8:10 am 7. ဂမုန်းရေလှောင်တစ်</p>	<p>5:25 pm 8. ရွှေယံစုံလင် အာဆီယံအစီအစဉ်</p>	<p>8:00 pm 20. Weather report</p>
<p>8:20 am 8. Musical programme</p>	<p>5:35 pm 9. ရသပေါ်လွင် သရုပ်ဆောင်လွင်ပြင်</p>	<p>8:00 pm 21. ရသစုံလင် ပြုံးပျော်ရွှင် မြန်မာ့ ရုပ်မြင်အစီအစဉ် (ခန့်စည်သူ၊ ချောရတနာ၊ ရတနာ၊ ဖြိုးဖြိုး၊ လှလှ၊ ကျော်ထူး၊ ဟန်နီထွန်း၊ မင်းခ၊ ဇေယျာ၊ ရှက်တယ်၊ နေယံ)</p>
<p>8:30 am 9. International news</p>	<p>6:00 pm 10. Evening news</p>	<p>8:00 pm 22. The next day's programme</p>

<p>Wednesday, 14 February Tune in today</p>
<p>8:30 am Brief news</p>
<p>8:35 am Music -Everyday...5</p>
<p>8:40 am Perspectives</p>
<p>8:45 am Music -Anyway you want me</p>
<p>8:50 am National news/Slogan</p>
<p>9:00 am Music -Romeo & Juliet</p>
<p>9:05 am International news</p>
<p>9:10 am Music -Do you wanna dance</p>
<p>1:30 pm News / Slogan,</p>
<p>1:40pm Lunch time music -Music music -My love sweet love -Kissing you -Love'll be waiting for</p>
<p>9:00pm Variations on a tune The end of the world</p>
<p>9:15pm Article</p>
<p>9:25pm Music at your request -Still a little bit of love</p>
<p>9:45 pm News / Slogan</p>
<p>10:00 pm PEL</p>

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Despite hindrances and interferences, peace restored as desired by Kayin nationals

Tatmadaw government and the entire national people warmly welcome peace group and family members led by KNU/KNLA Peace Council Chairman Maj-Gen Htay Maung

Members of remaining groups are invited to make peace

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Feb — The victory of peace welcoming ceremony of Kayin National Union (KNU)/Kayin National Liberation Army (KNLA) Peace Council, who arrived to cooperate 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, was held on a grand scale in Htotkawcoe Village of Kawkareik Township, Kayin State, on 11 February.

Also present on the occasion were Military Affairs Security Chief Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman

of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Brig-Gen Thet Naing Win, senior military officers, Chairman of Kayin State PDC Col Khin Kyu and officials, invited guests and other peace groups.

(See page 9)

Myanmar friendship association in Japan protests attempt of governments of US and Britain to interfere in Myanmar's internal affairs

Demonstrators carry placards of slogans expressing "Democracy is not an export commodity", "Don't make UNSC your puppet" in front of US and British embassies in Tokyo

Letters that demanded US and Britain not to submit draft resolution on Myanmar to UNSC again given to embassies



Protestors stage demonstration carrying placards in front of US Embassy in Tokyo.

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Feb — Standing on the truth, Myanmar friendship association in Japan demonstrated against incorrect and intolerable acts of the US and Britain that submitted a draft resolution to take action against Myanmar by the UN Security Council.

The protest took place in front of the British Embassy in Tokyo at 2.30 pm and a similar protest took place in front of the US Embassy in Tokyo at 3.30 pm on 13 February.

With the permission of Japanese police force, 25 members of Myanmar friendship association in group carried placards opposing the attempt of the governments of the US and Britain to interfere in Myanmar's internal affairs.

The letters that demanded the US and Britain not to submit the draft resolution on Myanmar to the UNSC again were given to the embassies. Embassy

(See page 10)

Joint-statement of All Myanmar Hindu Central Council, Sanatan Dharma Swayamsfvak Sangh (HQ) on Freedom of worship fully allowed in Myanmar

Slanderous report of CSW aiming at jeopardizing peace and stability totally unacceptable

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Feb—Certain powers of the West and their cohorts have been inventing slanderous accusations against Myanmar with the intention of interfering in and manipulating her affairs.

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

Regarding the report, All Myanmar Hindu Central Council and Sanatan Dharma Swayamfvak Sangh (HQ) issued a joint-statement opposing the slanderous accusations. —MNA

The following is the translation of the joint-statement.

1. The government of the Union of Myanmar has granted followers of Hinduism freedom of worship like those of Buddhism, Christianity and Islam. It has allowed Hindus to freely hold religious ceremonies, practise their religious beliefs and renovate temples in all parts of the nation. The Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Union of Myanmar has been providing stipends to the Hindu Central Council. Moreover, the ministry granted free pass to missionaries for promotion and propagation of Hinduism while families of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) donated rice, edible oil, salt, medicines and cash for perpetuation of Hinduism. There is no such generous donations and grants in other countries except Myanmar. The opening of religious ceremonies of Hindus in Myanmar by the ministerial level and above officials is something to be proud of for Hindus.

2. However, at the instigation of some powers, the CSW issued a statement, saying that there has been persecution on Christians in Myanmar. The statement also said that Islam believers were tortured, Rohinja Islam oppressed while Buddhist monks and nuns were detained in prisons. The attempt was aimed at creating an internal problem through religious conflicts between the government and the people and among individuals.

3. CSW's report was aimed at causing intra-religious conflicts. Civil war happening in Iraq is due to the ill attempt of some big countries to cause dissension among Muslims, for example, a religious conflict between Palestinians and Israelis. Likewise, Sanatan Dharma Swayamsfvak Sangh HQ under all Myanmar Hindu Central Council opposes the attempt to harm peace and tranquillity of the State by fabricating religious issues with the intention of threatening sovereignty.

4. The instigation of some big powers by using CSW as a tool with intent to interfere in Myanmar's internal affairs was unjust. They are mere fabrications and slanders. All in all, we strongly denounce any ploy to hamper peace and prosperity of the State and the people. — MNA