

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein receives Home Affairs Secretary of India

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb— Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein received Home Affairs Secretary of India Mr V K Duggal at the SPDC Office here at 8 am today.

Also present at the call were Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Director General of the State Peace and Development Council Office Col Kyaw Kyaw Win, Director-General of the Prime Minister's Office Col Thant Shin, Director-General U Myat Ko of General Administration Department and Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra. — MNA

Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein welcomes Home Affairs Secretary of India Mr V K Duggal in Nay Pyi Taw.

MNA



Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein receives Home Affairs Secretary of India Mr V K Duggal in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

WEATHER FORECAST FOR 16-2-2007

Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas
Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers.
Degree of certainty is (60%).

Yangon and neighbouring areas

Partly cloudy.

Mandalay and neighbouring areas
Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers.
Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 16 February, 2007

All possible water sources to be tapped for national progress

The government is implementing 16 hydel power projects across the nation, based on the sources blessed by nature.

Sittoung River Basin in Bago Division is seeing nine hydropower station projects including Yenwe Hydel Power Project, while Yweywa, Shweli, Thaphanseik and Mon Creek hydel power station projects are being implemented in the regions upstream the Ayeyawady River. In addition, Htamanthi, Manipura and Myittha hydel power projects are being implemented and Mawlaik and Shwesayay hydel power projects will be launched in the Chindwin River Basin.

Now, plans are under way to set up Kengtawng and Thanlwin Tahsan hydel power projects in the Thanlwin River Basin. And the government is making self-reliant efforts to carry out feasibility study on water sources in Ayeyawady, Chindwin, Thanlwin and Sittoung river basins to set up more hydel power projects.

Good experiences and knowledge have been gained from huge hydel power projects such as Zaungtu, Zawgyi, Thaphanseik and Yenwe, and that are helping shape a brighter future of the nation.

Now, Myanmar is focusing on the industrial development and transforming from manual farming to mechanized farming in the agricultural sector. So, all the water sources throughout the nation are to be harnessed effectively by establishing hydel power projects for distribution of more electricity to make considerable contribution towards the drive for boosting production of commodities and socio-economic development of the people.

UMFCCI holds meeting with Bangladeshi, Russian delegations

YANGON, 13 Feb — Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry-UMFCCI and Bangladeshi delegation held talks on boosting bilateral trade and investment between the two countries on 8 February here.

The two sides also discussed matters related to transit trade and banking services, holding trade fairs, holding a meeting to discuss bilateral cooperation and exchange information for trade.

Similarly, Mr Nikolay A Barabanov, First Secretary of the Embassy of the Russian Federation, and Mr

Yurchenko Vitaly, Director of TVA International Pte Ltd, called on officials of UMFCCI and discussed matters on cooperation in the energy, industry and mining sectors in Myanmar. At the meeting officials of UMFCCI were invited to participate in gems emporium in Russia. The two sides also discussed matters on investment in building infrastructures in Myanmar. — MNA

UMFCCI and delegation of the international and strategic study department of Bangladesh meet. — MNA

Peoples' Desire

- * Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- * Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- * Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- * Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Ambassador of Serbia Mr Dragan Janekovic welcomes Foreign Affairs Deputy Minister U Maung Myint at reception to mark the Anniversary National Day of Serbia on 15 Feb, 2007.

MNA



Coord meeting for medical analysis held

YANGON, 15 Feb — The Health Department of the Ministry of Health, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Hlinethaya Industrial City Management Committee held a coordination meeting on medical analysis using mobile X-ray vehicle this morning.

Chairman of Hlinethaya Industrial City Management Committee U Myat Thin Aung, Director Dr U Soe Tint of the Department of Health, specialist Dr U Myo Zaw of TB Combating Department, ad-



Coordination Meeting on medical analysis in progress. — NLM

viser Dr U Aye Tun of JICA, manager U Thaung Myint of Hlinethaya Township Board of Social Welfare made opening speeches.

Next, owners of

factories, managers and members of a team of mobile X-ray vehicle held discussions on giving medical treatment to the patients.

NLM

Cyclists of 1000-mile race reach Magway

MAGWAY, 15 Feb — Taungdwingyi-Magway leg of the 1000-mile cycling race was held at Taungdwingyi today and 80 athletes participated in it.

Seventy-eight athletes reached the destination. Myint Aye (Finance and Revenue), Win Hlaing (Agriculture and Irrigation) and Thet Naing Oo (Finance and Revenue) stood first, second and third respectively at Taungdwingyi-Magway leg. Magway-Kyaukpadaung leg will start at Magway at 6.30 am tomorrow.

The 1000-mile cycling race is organized by Myanmar Cycling Federation with the assistance of Myanmar Olympic Committee and Ministry of Sports. — MNA

Myanmar-Thai Technical Cooperation Consultation ends

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb — Thai delegation led by Mr Piemsak Milintachinda of Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Thailand left here today after attending the 9th Myanmar-Thai Consultation on Tech-

nical Cooperation. They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Embassy of Thailand.

At the consultation between the two coun-

tries, Myanmar side was led by Director-General U Win Mra of International Organizations and Economic Department.

The two sides signed the minutes of the meeting today. — MNA



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Two-thirds of Germans back Putin's US criticisms

BERLIN, 14 Feb—Around two in three Germans support Russian President Vladimir Putin's view that the United States is on a mission to become the world's "one single master", according to a poll released on Tuesday.

A survey of 1,000 Germans showed 68 per cent supported the attack made by Putin on Washington at a high-

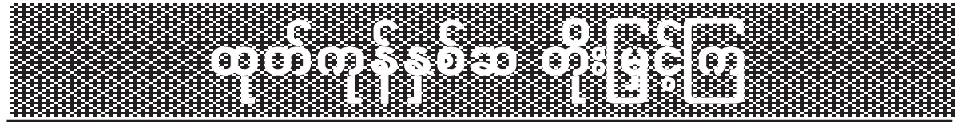
profile Munich security conference over the weekend, the poll by Emnid for N24 television showed.

Twenty-two per cent of those surveyed disagreed with Putin's accusation that the United States was making the world a more dangerous place by pursuing policies aimed at making it the sole superpower.

A large majority of Germans opposed the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003 and view President George W Bush with deep suspicion, despite efforts by Chancellor Angela Merkel to bolster bilateral ties.

The Emnid poll also showed 62 per cent of Germans were not concerned about stronger Russian military might.

MNA/Reuters



India's Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee (C), his Chinese counterpart Li Zhaoxing (L) and Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov gesture before their meeting in New Delhi on 14 Feb, 2007.—INTERNET

British hacker fights extradition

LONDON, 14 Feb—A Scot has launched a High Court fight against extradition to the US for allegedly carrying out the "biggest military computer hack of all time".

Glasgow-born Gary McKinnon, 41, is accused of gaining access to 97 US military and Nasa computers.

Home Secretary John Reid granted the US request to extradite him for trial.

At the High Court in London, his lawyers argued he had been subjected to "improper threats" and the move would breach his human rights.

Edmund Lawson QC, told two judges that, if extradited, Mr McKinnon would face the prospect of an unknown length of time in pre-trial detention, with no likelihood of bail.

If found guilty, he would then face a very long prison sentence "in the region of 45 years, if not more", said Mr Lawson. There was also the prospect that he would not be allowed to be repatriated to serve part of that sentence at home in the UK.—Internet

Why are Dutch children so happy?

LONDON, 14 Feb—Dutch children have been rated the most fortunate children in Europe. Their parents go out of their way to please them, and teachers expect less of them than some of their European counterparts.

The Netherlands has come top of a league table for child well-being across 21 industrialised countries.

The study by the UN children's organisation, Unicef, looked at relative poverty, educational and health standards, sexual behaviour and the children's relationship with friends and parents.

"The Netherlands has always been a very child-centred society," says Paul Vangeert, professor of developmental psychology at the University of

Groningen. "In particular, there is a lot of focus on young children."

He says he is not surprised by the report. "On the one hand you have objective indicators in the report like, health, income and education. The Netherlands is a very rich country. On the other hand, and perhaps more importantly, are the subjective indicators,

young people's own subjective sense of well-being." Much of this, he says, comes from the relationship that Dutch parents have with their children. And from the fact that less pressure is put on them at school.

"If you take the percentage of young mothers in the labour force, it's not very high in comparison to comparable countries," Mr Vangeert told the BBC News Website. "There is a strong tendency for mothers to raise children or take a long time off work after children are born."

He says children are used to a "highly protective, highly positive caring environment."

One of the strong points of the Dutch family, he says, is that it is very open and communicative. Relations are generally good between parents and children and they can talk about almost anything.—Internet



People wait outside the main train station during a heavy snow storm in Russia's far-eastern city of Vladivostok on 14 Feb, 2007.—INTERNET

A protester holds a placard during protest against free trade agreement talks between South Korea and the US, in Seoul on 14 Feb, 2007. The seventh round of South Korea and the US free trade agreement talks is being held in Washington on 11-14 Feb, 2007.—INTERNET

300 houses in Bangkok burnt down

BANGKOK, 14 Feb—Some 300 families were made homeless when a huge fire swept through a squatter community in Bangkok's Klong Toey District, destroying their houses early Tuesday morning.

The fire started at 1:15 am (1815 GMT, Monday) and burnt down some 300 houses in Klong Toey community on At Narong Road before being contained.

A resident was slightly injured, local news group *The Nation* said.

Police has detained a male resident since the fire started from his house and his neighbours alleged that he set fire to his house following a quarrel with his wife. The Klong Toey District office has put up temporary shelters for the homeless to stay.—MNA/Xinhua

Putin's Munich speech expresses shared view of many countries

AMMAN, 14 Feb— Russian President Vladimir Putin, who stunned the West with a stinging verbal attack on the United States at the weekend, said on Tuesday he only expressed views about US policies that were shared in many other countries.

In a keynote speech to an international security conference in Munich on Saturday, Putin accused

the United States of seeking to dominate the world.

"Everything I said, I believe in this, is pure truth," he told Russian journalists during a visit to Jordan.

"They talk about this—in the whole world," he said. "But in some countries they talk about this arrogantly and in a confrontational manner, which I believe is coun-

terproductive and unacceptable, and in others they whisper about this."

Suspensions that Putin is backsliding on democracy and is trying to revive Russian imperialism on the back of economic growth fuelled by high oil and gas prices, have soured Moscow's relations with the West.

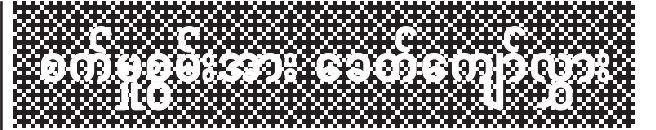
A resurgent Russia has found itself at odds with

the United States on key international issues, including Iraq, Iran and Washington's plans to defend itself from possible attacks by rogue states with a new missile defence system.

"I personally come to the conclusion that no matter what we say... there will be people who will find something new to attack Russia with," Putin said. "The best thing for us is to say openly and sincerely what we think."

Putin has accused Washington and other Western nations of exercising double standards in relations with Russia.

MNA/Reuters



Crystal rose becomes a new choice for the Valentine's market in Yinchuan, capital city of northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region on 13 Feb, 2007. — XINHUA



Secondhand smoking poses heart disease risk

BEIJING, 14 Feb — Secondhand smoking appears to increase levels of warning signs for heart disease, fibrinogen and homocysteine.

The findings appear in Tuesday's edition of *Circulation: Journal of the American Heart Association*.

Study participants had their blood levels of cotinine, an indicator of nicotine, measured. They also had their levels of fibrinogen, homocysteine and C-reactive protein measured, all markers of potential heart disease.

The researchers found that 18 percent of the participants had no detectable levels of cotinine. The rest had either low or high levels. Eighteen percent of those with low levels of cotinine and 56 percent of those with high levels said they lived with a smoker or

were exposed to tobacco smoke at work.

The researchers also found that the low- and high-cotinine groups had significantly higher levels of fibrinogen and homocysteine, compared with those who had no detectable levels of cotinine. The increased fibrinogen and homocysteine levels were equivalent to about 30 percent to 45 percent of levels seen in active smokers.

The findings suggest that secondhand smoking has a significant effect on susceptibility to cardiovascular disease, even at relatively low levels of exposure, said lead researcher Andrea Venn.—*Internet*

A couple wearing masks walks in Saint Mark's square poses for tourists during the carnival in Venice, on 13 Feb, 2007.

XINHUA

Ukrainian authorities seize 125 kilos of heroin

KIEV, 14 Feb — The Ukrainian security agency seized 125 kilos of heroin in the southern part of the country, it announced on Monday.

The drug bust was part of a joint operation with Turkey, Germany and the United States, according to the announcement. Security personnel found the heroin at a lab in the Kherson Region following months of

investigation. Several suspects were arrested in the crackdown, the agency said.

Ukraine is among the

Washington, 14 Feb— Ten people were killed in two separate shooting incidents in the United States Monday night, CBS News reported on Tuesday.

The first incident took place in Utah, when a man in a trench coat pulled a shotgun and opened fire at Salt Lake City's Trolley Square Monday evening,

killling five people and injuring several more, according to the report. The gunman also died in the shooting and at least four other people were hospitalized.

Witnesses said that as many as 20 shots were fired inside the shopping centre, which houses many stores and restau-

rants that are popular with families. Police has not unveiled other details of the incident.

In the second incident, a gunman entered an office building in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in the same night, and started shooting at people, killing at least three.

The gunman then shot himself to death and at least one people was sent to a local hospital.

The cause of the second shooting seemed to be business dispute, but other details are not available for the moment.

MNA/Xinhua

Two young women look at ducks sitting in snow in downtown Washington on 13 Feb, 2007. A powerful snowstorm killed three people and grounded hundreds of flights across the United States, officials said.

XINHUA



ECONOMIC NEWS

China becomes world's largest stainless steel producer

BEIJING, 14 Feb—China's stainless steel output jumped 68 per cent year on year to 5.3 million tons, ranking the first in the world, according to figures released by the Chinese Special Steel Association.

In 2006, China altogether imported 2.5 million tons of stainless steel products, down 20.13 per cent, and exported 904,000 tons, surging 122.64 per cent year on year.

The growth of China's stainless steel output and export will not constitute big threat to foreign industries, said Li Cheng, president of the stainless steel branch of the Chinese Special Steel Association.

China's huge domestic demand for stainless steel is still on the rise,

absorbing most of its own supply, Li said.

In 2006, China's per capita consumption of stainless steel exceeded 4.6 kilogrammes, higher than that of Britain.

Last year, 60 per cent of China's stainless steel

consumption was depended upon domestic supply, the Chinese Special Steel Association said.

It is impossible for China to become a net exporter of stainless steel in the short run, said Li.

MNA/Xinhua



Jamelia arrives for the Brit Awards at the Earls Court Arena in London on 14 Feb, 2007.

INTERNET

AMD launches new chips for mobile devices

BEIJING, 14 Feb—Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) unveiled three new discrete media chips for mobile devices focused on video, audio, and high-resolution photos.



Advanced Micro Devices unveils new chips for mobile devices. — INTERNET

The new media chips will support full DVD resolutions or "five times what was available in earlier generations," said AMD product manager Philippe Decotignie. "Consumers can turn their phones into camcoders and mobile TVs with a very high, very fast resolution," he said.

The AMD Imageon 2298, 2294 and 2192 processors, unveiled Monday at the 3GSM World Congress in Barcelona, are designed

with a number of media-rich features, including processing of images up to 12 megapixels, image stabilization and multi-channel audio playback.

The media processor is separate from the phone's core processor, enabling manufacturers to introduce new multimedia functions more quickly, according to AMD marketing director Andy Thompson. The separate architecture also helps

reduce power consumption for longer device battery life.

AMD hopes the move will allow it to tap growing demand for mobile devices and mobile applications that require better graphics.

AMD will be licensing the technology to other chip manufacturers, including STMicroelectronics NV, according to AMD marketing director Andy Thompson. — Internet

Researchers have found evidence that West African chimpanzees used stone tools to crack nuts 4,300 years ago, pushing chimpanzee tool use back thousands of years and indicating Chimpanzees also have their own Stone Age.

XINHUA



American Airlines passengers wait at the check-in counter during weather related delays and cancellations at LaGuardia Airport in New York, on 14 Feb, 2007. Inclement weather conditions from a winter snow and ice storm have caused many cancellations and delays throughout the New York metropolitan area and the Northeast of the United States.—INTERNET

CEC to take over Philips' mobile phone business

BEIJING, 14 Feb—China Electronics Corporation (CEC), one of the state-owned conglomerates, has signed an agreement with Royal Philips Electronic (Philips) to take over Philips's mobile phone business.

CEC will receive an exclusive licence to

market and sell mobile phones under the Philips brand in the coming five years. Certain mobile phone-related patents will be transferred and licenced to CEC.

The "Xenium" brand, which is concerned with long-battery life, will be transferred to CEC according to the agreement.

In addition, Philips will transfer to CEC its existing international marketing network for the mobile phone business, as well as its 25-per-cent equity stake in Shenzhen Sangfei Consumer Communications Co Ltd, which is an affiliated company of CEC. The deal is expected to be closed by the end of the first quarter. CEC will be fully responsible for the designing and research, production and marketing of the Philips mobiles and Philips will continue to provide product quality control and brand support, said Chen Zhaoxiong, general manager of CEC on the signing ceremony on Monday.

Philips is a leading company in the global electronics and information industry with a sales revenue of 27 billion euros in 2006, 12 per cent of which comes from its mobile phone business.

MNA/Xinhua

Iran arrests economic "spies"

TEHERAN, 14 Feb—Iran has uncovered a network of what were described as spies providing economic information to European firms and has arrested the main members of the group, the official news agency reported on Tuesday. IRNA quoted an unnamed Intelligence

Ministry official as saying the "spy network" had gathered sensitive information about projects from the Telecommunications Ministry and sold it to "big European communication companies".

"The main members of the network were arrested and taken into custody by judiciary officials on (13 January)," IRNA said, adding that the group's aim was "destroying the economy". It said the main suspect, who like others allegedly involved in the network was not named, had confessed during initial interrogation to selling information to foreigners and receiving 3.5 million US dollars.

The report did not give details about how many people were identified and arrested. — MNA/Reuters

New cancer drug to save a thousand lives a year

BEIJING, 14 Feb — More than a thousand women a year will survive breast cancer thanks to a

type of drug that improves survival rates by 17 per cent, new research shows Monday.

A study of 4,742 postmenopausal women found that switching from the present gold-standard

breast cancer treatment tamoxifen to the new drug exemestane after two or three years resulted in the dramatic fall in death rates.

The study followed the progress of women who were treated for a total of five years and monitored for a further three. Women were assigned randomly to a full five years of tamoxifen, or treatment with tamoxifen followed by exemestane.

Giving women tamoxifen after surgery already reduced the risk of dying by 33 per cent. After another two to three years of exemestane, plus a further three years of posttreatment follow-up, survival was found to be significantly improved.

Internet



Motorists drive on the snow and ice covered Washington beltway in McLean, Virginia, on 14 Feb, 2007, after an overnight ice storm that left most of the Washington area with school closures and a delay in the opening of the federal government. —INTERNET

Uganda expected to get 33 mw power from waste

KAMPALA, 14 Feb— Uganda is on high hope to obtain a power plant which can generate 33 megawatts from waste amid a rampant power crisis across the East African country.

Taylor Biomass Energy LLC, a US-based company, with its local partner Sesam Energetics were planning to invest 88 million US dollars in generating 33 megawatts from solid waste in Kampala.

“The project will comprise a modern high-tech waste handling and disposal plant. It will process over 710 tons of waste into dry matter,” Beatrice Nagawa, the company secretary of Sesam Energetics, was quoted by *New Vision* on Tuesday as saying. She said the joint-venture company will employ 400 people and the plant will provide over 30,000 homes with power.

According to Nagawa, Sesam had sourced patented technology from Taylor Biomass, which has experience in using gasification to turn waste into power, during which waste is put into heated sand to produce gas that is burned to produce electricity.

MNA/Xinhua

Nigerian kidnappers release 24 Filipino hostages

ABUJA, 14 Feb— Nigerian kidnappers have released all 24 Filipino seamen they had been holding captive in the creeks of the oil-producing Niger Delta since 20 January, the men’s employer, German shipping firm Baco-Liner, said on Tuesday.

“All 24 hostages are on board our vessel, Baco-Liner 2, and they’re on their way to Warri now where they will be handed over directly to our agent,” a spokesman for the company said, referring to the main city in the western delta. He said the men were tired but in good health.

Another seven foreign hostages seized by different armed groups are still in captivity in the delta, where violence against expatriates and against the oil industry is on the rise.

The kidnappers said they had freed the Filipino hostages “on humanitarian grounds” without receiving any ransom. Most abductions in the anarchic Niger Delta are resolved after money changes hands. — MNA/Reuters



A poodle and its handler compete during the 131st Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show at Madison Square Garden in New York on 13 Feb, 2007. XINHUA

Malaysian national news agency opens Dubai bureau

KUALA LUMPUR, 15 Feb— Malaysian national news agency *Bernama* on Wednesday opened its Dubai bureau in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), its first overseas bureau in the Arab world.

Malaysian Information Minister Zainuddin Maidin, who attended the opening ceremony in Dubai, said Malaysia attached great importance to its relations with Islamic nations.

“It is because of this that the government has decided that *Bernama* set up a bureau in Dubai, which is strategically located and is a financial, business and distribution hub,” Zainuddin was quoted as saying by the news agency.

He also thanked the authorities in the UAE for assisting *Bernama* to open its Dubai bureau, which is part of the agency’s efforts to set up bureaus in key locations around the world.

Dubai is *Bernama*’s sixth overseas bureau staffed by its own full-time correspondents after Singapore, Jakarta, Bangkok, Beijing and New Delhi.

MNA/Xinhua

New Orleans tornado kills one, injures 19

NEW ORLEANS, 14 Feb— One person was killed and at least 19 people were injured on Tuesday when a tornado swept through New Orleans neighbourhoods still recovering from Hurricane Katrina.

The lone death was an 86-year-old woman living in a government-provided trailer in the Gentilly section, which was badly flooded by the August 2005 storm, New Orleans police superintendent Warren Riley said.

The New Orleans Emergency Operations Centre said 19 people were taken to local hospitals with tornado-related injuries.

Riley said police and firefighters were searching for other victims.

The storm damaged numerous buildings, pushed over trees and, according to electric utility Entergy Corp, knocked out power to as many as 29,000 customers.

Electricity was ex-

pected to be fully restored by mid-afternoon, the emergency center said.

Mayor Ray Nagin, after touring the newly-damaged areas, declared an emergency and told *Reuters* the tornado was another setback for New Orleans, which has less than half its pre-storm population of 500,000.

“For the city, it’s a bad thing, because it further unnerves everybody that’s trying to recover from Katrina,” he said.

MNA/Reuters



A man runs down a street warning people to flee shortly after a twin car bomb attack at Shorja market in Baghdad, on 12 Feb, 2007. Double car bombings and a homemade bomb ripped through popular Baghdad markets killed a total of 66 people and wounded 155 others on Monday, a well-informed police source said. —XINHUA

Thriving traditional gold and silver jewellery industry of Inlay

The Inlay Lake, named with reference to four villages surrounding it, in Nyaungshwe Township, Taunggyi District, has a good reputation not only locally but also globally for its traditions and traditional handicrafts.

Local people living around the Inlay Lake are honest and hardworking by nature. They do businesses village-wise such as weaving fabric, making ironware, silverware and gold jewellery, carpentry, tailoring, and agriculture so on and so forth.

Views of fishermen who are rowing their boats with their legs to catch fish in the lake



One of the purposes of my running this enterprise is to preserve traditional gold and silver jewellery industry in our country. (U San Lin, owner of Sein Thamadi Silver and Gold Jewellery Enterprise in Heya Ywama)

Year, he started his silverware enterprise with three or four workers without having much knowledge about the favourite designs of tourists; and that about six months later, the enterprise made gradual progress through advice and suggestions of the observers and tourists.

He said that he taught young men and women for flourishing of silver and gold jewellery industry in the nation; that the apprentices had to learn the art of silver jewellery first; that the apprentices who had learnt the art of making silver jewellery were

Article by Kyaw Sein; photos by Aung Than (Mingala Taungnyunt)



Employees making gold and silver jewellery.

One village, one product

Some items of mosaic gold and silver jewellery decorated with pieces of low-price gem stones.



attract the tourists and professional photographers to take pictures for pleasure or photo contests.

In an interview, owner U San Lin of Sein

Thamadi Silver and Gold Jewellery Enterprise in Heya Ywama, Inlay Lake, Nyaungshwe Township, said that the enterprise was his family business; that in 1996 Visit Myanmar

allowed to make gold jewellery.

In the in-service training period, he provided the apprentices stipends to live on; that based on the skills, the employees

enjoyed daily and monthly wages; that up to the time he had nurtured 12 youths from many regions such as Bagan where handicraft industry thrived in addition

to do so; and that in Heya Ywama Village there were four or five houses that ran silver and gold jewellery enterprise as a family business like him, and many

the objects made with machines, he said.

He said that he used low-price gem stones in making mosaic gold and silver jewellery, so they were not much expensive; and that before selling the mosaic objects to the customers,



Some tourists observing silverware.



Artistic silverware baskets.

to the youths from nearby villages; that after learning the art of making silver and gold jewellery, the employees could carry on working in the enterprise or could join other enterprises or departments they were interested in; that he did not place restriction on his employees to work in his enterprise for long; that so far he had nurtured about fifty young men and women and he was pleased

houses did that business individually, he added.

He said that he made new designs of gold and silver jewellery and innovated many designs from other enterprises.

He also made gold and silver mosaic with small pieces of precious stones; foreign tourists visited his enterprise and bought his works as souvenirs; and they preferred handicrafts to

he explained to them first what kind of precious stones he had used. Applying one village, one product system will help rural people enjoy economic development with a higher standard of living, and that is now part of the drive for all-round development of the nation.

Translation: MS
Myanma Alin: 15-2-2007

Lt-Gen Myint Swe cleanses Seinbudaw (Diamond Bud), Hnetmyatnadaw (Sacred Vane) at Naungdawgyi Pagoda

YANGON, 15 Feb — A ceremony to cleanse Seinbudaw (Diamond Bud) and Hnetmyatnadaw (Sacred Vane) of Naungdawgyi Pagoda was held at the pagoda, here this morning.

During the ceremony, Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence cleansed Seinbudaw and Hnetmyatnadaw (Sacred Vane).

Present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Ovadacariya of Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees Bahan Township Maha Aungmyaybongsa Nyaungtaik Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga

Maha Saddammajotika Bhaddanta Paññindabhivamsa and members of the Sangha, Patron of Leading Committee for All-round Perpetual Renovation of Shwedagon Pagoda Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, Chairman of Work Committee Deputy Commander Col Kyaw Kyaw Tun and members, members of Yangon West District PDC, Bahan and Dagon Townships PDCs, members of board of trustees of the pagoda, donors, guests and pilgrims.

First, members of the Sangha and the congregation opened the ceremony with three-time

recitation of *Namo Tassa*.

Next, the congregation received the Five Precepts from Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddammajotika Bhaddanta Paññindabhivamsa.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Myint Swe offered gems donated by the public to Sayadaw Panabhivamsa.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and members, members of board of trustees and donors offered robes and provisions to members of the Sangha.

Next, the congregation shared merits gained. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party went round Naungdawgyi



Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence sprinkles scented water on Seinbudaw (Diamond Bud). — MNA

Pagoda clockwise conveying gems donated by the public. Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party reached upper terrace of the pagoda and paid homage to it.

Afterwards, members of board of trustees and responsible persons conveyed gems to the top of the pagoda.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party took positions on the scaffolding of Seinbudaw and cleansed Seinbudaw

Seinbudaw.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party took positions on the scaffolding of Hnetmyatnadaw and cleansed Hnetmyatnadaw (Sacred Vane).

And Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party

sprinkled scented water on Hnetmyatnadaw (Sacred Vane). — MNA



Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence presents jewels to Aungmyaybongsa Sayadaw. — MNA

I&P Minister meets Country Director, Representative of WFP

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb — Country Director and Representative Mr Christopher Kaye of World Food Program (WFP) called on Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Minister for Immigration and Population, at his office here on 13 February.

Also present at the call were Director-General U Maung Maung Than of Immigration and National Registration Department, Director-General U Tin Yi of Population Department and officials.

MNA

Public-based eye care service launched in Thongwa

YANGON, 15 Feb — A ceremony to launch the public-based eye health care service under the supervision of the Ministry of Health, organized by the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, was held at the hall of Thongwa Township Hospital this morning.

Vice-President of MWAFF Daw Khin Thet Htay gave a speech.

Next, Vice-President Daw Khin Thet

Htay, Head of Administration Department Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe, Head of Disciplinary Concerns Department Daw Mya Theingi, Leader of Social and Cultural Working Group Dr Daw Sanda Aung, Leader of Rehabilitation and Reintegration Working Group Daw Tin Tin Nwe, CEC member Daw Khin Mi Mi and Daw Khin Mar Swe, wife of Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe, ac-

cepted cash donations from the donors.

Chairman of Thongwa Township Peace and Development Council U San Hlaing expressed gratitude.

Vice-President Daw Khin Thet Htay and party viewed health care services being given by eye specialist Prof Dr Kan Nyunt and specialist team to the patients with eye complaints.

The eye care service will be carried out up

to 17 February.

Today's cash donation totalled K 14 million. — MNA

Vice-President of MWAFF Daw Khin Thet Htay helps an aged man put on glasses.

MNA



Minister receives Indian Secretary of Home Affairs



Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo receives Home Affairs Secretary of India Mr V K Duggal. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb— Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo received Home Affairs Secretary of the Republic of India Mr V K Duggal at the minister's office here yesterday.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Director-General of Myanmar

Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, Director-General U Myat Ko of General Administration Department, Director-General U Aung Saw Win of Bureau of Special Investigation, Director-General U Zaw Win of Prisons Department and officials concerned.

MNA

16th Oto-rhino-laryngologists Conference held



Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo visits an exhibition staged by pharmaceutical companies. — MNA

YANGON, 15 Feb — The opening of the 16th Oto-rhino-laryngologists Conference of Myanmar Medical Association took place at the association on Theinbyu Road this morning.

Present at the conference were the director-general and deputy director-general of the Ministry of Health, medical super-intendents, the chairman and executives of MMA and Oto-rhino-laryngologists of Singapore.

Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo of the Ministry of Health made an opening speech at the conference.

After the opening ceremony,

the deputy minister and guests viewed the documentary photos on Oto-rhino-laryngology.

The second session of the conference continued at Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital in Tamway Township. The deputy minister also opened pharmaceutical booths in the hospital compound.

A paper reading session on Oto-rhino-laryngology was held at the hospital and the Oto-rhino-laryngologists at home and abroad read out 17 papers. It will run till 17 February.

MNA

Myanmar, China ink deal for textile factory projects

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb — Myanma Textile Industries and Tianjin Universal Machinery Import & Export Corporation of the People's Republic of China signed a deal for the textile factory projects of the Ministry of Industry-1 in Pyawbwe and Myittha at the ministry here yesterday.

Managing Director U Oo Thein Maung of MTI and Managing Director Mr Yu Xian Feng explained matters related to the deal.

Subsequently, they inked the contracts and exchanged the documents. And Managing Director Mr Yu Xian Feng expressed his thanks.

Present on the occasion were heads of



Managing Director of MTI U Oo Thein Maung and Managing Director Mr Yu Xian Feng exchange notes. — INDUSTRY-1

departments and enterprises and Chinese delegation of Tianjin Universal Machinery Import & Export Corporation.

The contract is for

the construction of two textile factories of Myanmar Textile Industries in Pyawbwe and Myittha in Mandalay Division. — MNA

Nay Bala Win Myint leading Tiger Myanmar Amateur Open



YANGON, 15 Feb — The Tiger Myanmar Amateur Open 2007 continued for the third round at Yangon Golf Club this morning.

Nay Bala Win Myint enlarged his leading role after the third round by firing a two-over-par 74 for 220 in total.

Aung Win became the runner-up by shooting 223. Yan Naing Phyoo and Bo Bo tied at the third position with 226 each. Yan Myo Aye and Htay Aung stood at the fourth position with 227 each.

The golf tournament is being organized by Myanmar Golf Federation. Myanmar



Aung Win tees off in the third round of Tiger Myanmar Amateur Open. — MGF

Brewery Co Ltd tour together with Alpine Purified Drinking Water, Srixon, Point Golf Gear Factory, Air Mandalay, Osim and Accel International Co Ltd sponsored the tournament.

The tour is under the management of Han Event Management.

The fourth and final round of the competition continues tomorrow.

MNA

**Donate
Blood**

NLD, CRPP persist in demand for dialogue, convening Hluttaw session

CRPP, illegal organization, warned against issuing its demands for dialogue and convening Hluttaw session

(from page 16)

However, religious organizations of various faiths, which are participating in the process for ensuring coexistence of all religions harmoniously in Myanmar, are announcing their stances saying that the CSW's report is groundless and is designed to get political gains under the pretext of religious affairs. So, these organizations are denouncing the report, and their stances on the report are carried in the newspapers.

In addition, the Human Rights Watchdog based in London made an accusation that the Tatmadaw is recruiting child soldiers.

On 7 February 2007, Chairman of the Committee for Prevention of Recruiting Child Soldiers Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein explained to the diplomats of foreign embassies that the accusations were groundless. The same day, the foreign diplomats were

conducted around No 1 Defence Services Recruiting Unit and No 1 Basic Military Training Depot (Phaunggyi) and they had a cordial meeting with the recruits and they raised questions to the latter.

The government is refuting the accusations of the destructive groups at home and abroad with profound evidences. However, national anti-government elements in the other country are rearing their ugly head again.

The NLD and the CRPP co-organized the 60th Anniversary Union Day commemorative celebration and issued an announcement, which read that they expected that the government's announcement would include reforms consistent with Myanmar's political necessities, but that was the same as the previous ones.

Their demands are release of Daw Suu Kyi, U Tin Oo and U Khun Tun Oo, a dialogue between the government and them, and convening of a Pyithu Hluttaw (parliamentary) session. In that regard, they

are serving their terms for the crimes they committed, so action will be taken in accordance with the law. Their demand for dialogue is unacceptable since the National Convention that is broader and higher than a dialogue is being held. And the government has made clarification repeatedly that the demand for convening of a Hluttaw session is unreasonable.

The CRPP's demands are unlikely to bring good results to the nation and the people. Moreover, it is not a legally formed organization, so it has no rights to make such a demand.

Therefore, Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi met with responsible persons of the CRPP U Aung Shwe and U Aye Tha Aung at the MPF office in Yangon at 5 pm on 15 February. He said that the CRPP is not an organization formed in accordance with the law, warning it against the release of announcements and demands.

MNA

Various national races live in Myanmar in...

(from page 16)

Declaration of Young Men Buddhist Association (YMBA)

We heard that the Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) issued a report entitled Carrying the Cross on slanderous facts about Myanmar, saying that Christians in Myanmar were oppressed.

Furthermore, MP John Bercow of the House of Commons sponsored a report on restriction, discrimination and persecution of Christians in Myanmar and submitted it on 23 January 2007 in the Wilson Room, Portcullis House, House of Commons, England.

The YMBA condemns the above-mentioned reports with fabricated information and slanderous accusations against Myanmar.

The reports included false accusations that restrictions were imposed on renovation of churches, a preacher was killed in Chin State, Christians and

Muslims were persecuted in some places, a rule was adopted that there shall be no home where the Christian religion is practised and churches and the Crosses were destroyed. The above-mentioned incidents did not happen in Myanmar.

The YMBA objects to the attempts of CSW and MP John Bercow urging the UNSC to handle the Myanmar issue.

Various national races live in Myanmar in amity, and they enjoy equal rights on freedom of religion and worship. Those who believe in Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and animism are living in the country. Of them, Buddhism is professed by the majority of population.

As such, we would say that the Carrying the Cross Report issued by the Christian Solidarity Worldwide was just a conspiracy of those who want to undermine Myanmar.

Young Men Buddhist Association

POEM

Victory of Peace

- * Value of peace, its benefit
Can only be known
By people who have
Undergone ravages of war.
- * Without peace
Even if rich by the millions
There's no peace because of worrier.
- * Without peace
Even if you're deemed well-to-do
The road will be rough, the going tough.
- * In Myanmar,
Brethren who depend on it, be united
Because of stigma on faith, race, affiliation,
There's been repeated destruction
There's physical and moral disturbance
There's been much suffering.
- * Today's time when nationals
Self-reliant, for own benefit
People and nation, with own strength
Trying hard variously, like bees
Should exert their strength unitedly.

Min Yin Su (Trs)

(Hailing the KNU/KNLA Peace Council's Victory of Peace Welcoming Ceremony)

Mo Asia donates milk powder to YCH

YANGON, 15 Feb — today donated milk 1,550,000 to children treatment at Yangon
Mo Asia Co Ltd Dumex powder worth K who are undergoing Children Hospital.



Medical Superintendent Dr U Chit Ko Tin accepts milk powder donated by Mo Asia Co Ltd.
NLM

The donation ceremony was held at the hospital and Medical Superintendent of YCH Dr U Chit Ko Tin accepted the milk powder presented by Daw Beauty Kyi, Managing Director of the Mo Asia Co Ltd Dumex. The donation included Dumex brand instant full cream and Mamex lactose free milk powder. — NLM

WHO calls for more international efforts to combat bird flu

CAIRO, 15 Feb — The World Health Organization (WHO) called on Tuesday for more effort, especially from the media, to combat bird flu as a conference on coordinating communication regarding the disease opened here.

At the start of the three-day WHO conference on Global Pandemic Influenza Communications in Cairo, Ibrahim el-Kerdany, a WHO regional media adviser, said the organization called on the media to raise people's awareness of bird flu with correct information.

"We need awareness, not panic," the official said.

Meanwhile, Hussein A Gezairy, the WHO Regional Director for Eastern Mediterranean, said communications would be one of the most important tools available to contain the spread of the disease.

The conference brought together officials

from governments and international organizations to discuss coordinating efforts to combat bird flu, including how to inform people about the disease in case of a possible pandemic.

At the opening of the conference, Egyptian Minister of Health Hatem el-Gabali called for international coordination to deal with any potential bird flu pandemic.

Gabali said he hoped that more funds used for combating the disease will be channelled to Africa,

which was facing the same threat of the disease as Asia.

MNA/Xinhua

A girl displays a bouquet made of candies in Yinchuan, capital city of northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region on 13 Feb, 2007. Candies and chocolate were sweet gifts for the Valentine's Day among youths. — XINHUA



Kyrgyzstan's former PM vows to rally opposition

BISHKEK, 15 Feb — Kyrgyzstan's former prime minister Felix Kulov, who lost his post in a bitter row with Parliament this year, said on Wednesday he had agreed to join forces with the Central Asian nation's opposition instead.

Kulov resigned in December in a technical move to introduce a new Constitution but failed to regain his post after Parliament elected President Kurmanbek Bakiyev's long-serving aide Azim Isabekov as the new Prime Minister.

On Wednesday, he accused Bakiyev's regime of corruption and called for change in the country.

"In this situation I cannot and will not just stay an observer," he told reporters, diplomats and his political allies in a speech.

"I have decided to... unite and head all the fragmented but friendly political forces — all

those who want radical and positive change."

Kyrgyzstan, which hosts both US and Russian air bases, has lurched through one political crisis after another since former president Askar Akayev fled violent protests against a flawed election in March 2005.

MNA/Reuters

Health officials wearing protective suits prepare to slaughter poultry at a poultry farm where the bird flu virus was found in Anseong, about 77 kilometres (48 miles) south of Seoul, South Korea, on Sunday, 11 Feb, 2007. — INTERNET



Ex-CIA official indicted over agency contracts

WASHINGTON, 15 Feb — The CIA's former No 3 official was indicted on Tuesday on charges stemming from a federal contracts investigation that landed former Republican congressman Randy Cunningham in jail, officials said.

Kyle "Dusty" Foggo, who had been appointed executive director of the agency in 2004 by former CIA Director Porter Goss, was charged with improper conduct involving CIA contracts following a wide-ranging probe that involved five agencies including the FBI and the CIA's inspector-general.

Foggo, who spent 25 years with the CIA, last year denied any wrongdoing and said all contracts he oversaw were properly handled.

The indictment was handed up on Tuesday by a federal grand jury in San Diego.

"At every step of the process, CIA—through the offices of inspector-

general and general counsel — has cooperated closely with other investigative agencies and the Department of Justice," CIA Director Air Force General Michael Hayden said in announcing the Foggo indictment to agency employees.

MNA/Reuters

Hong Kong confirms 2 dead birds with H5N1 virus

HONG KONG, 15 Feb—Hong Kong confirmed on Tuesday that two birds found in the city last week carried the H5N1 avian influenza virus, bringing the total number of birds officially declared to be infected this year to 10.

The dead silver-eared mesias were discovered in Mong Kok area on 7 February and taken for tests, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department said.

The H5N1 virus made its first known jump to humans in Hong Kong in 1997, killing six people. So far, it cannot be passed easily from human to human, but experts fear the virus could mutate and cause a pandemic, killing millions.—MNA/Reuters



Smoke billows out from the demolition site of the Wulihe Stadium in Shenyang, Northeast China's Liaoning Province, on 12 Feb, 2007. The dated stadium, where China got its first ticket to men's World Cup finals after defeating Oman in 2001, will be replaced with shopping centres. A new stadium is scheduled to be built at another site in the city for soccer matches of the upcoming Beijing Olympics. — XINHUA

ADVERTISEMENT

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV YANGON STAR VOYNO (423)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGON STAR VOYNO (423) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.2.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S EAGLE SHIPPING CO., LTD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV CARNATION VOYNO (124)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CARNATION VOYNO (124) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.2.2007 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.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S PREMIER SPECTRUM SDN BHD

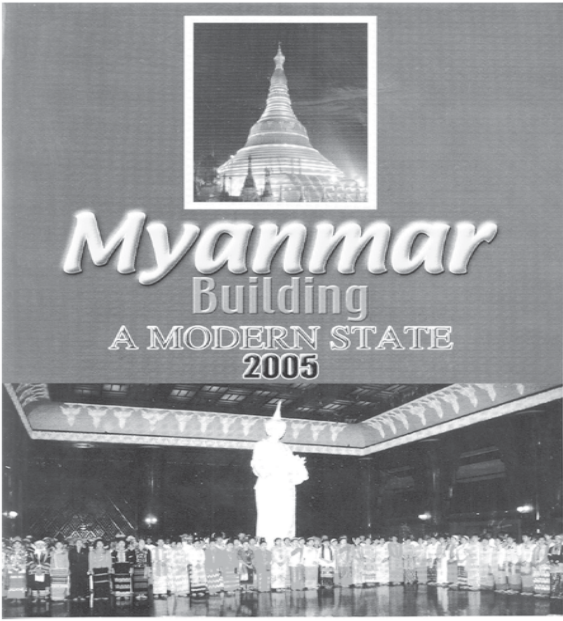
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

တင်ဒါပိတ်ရက် ပြောင်းလဲပြင်ဆင်ခြင်း

၁။ ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ပုံနှိပ်ရေးနှင့် စာအုပ်ထုတ်ဝေရေး လုပ်ငန်းနှင့်သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်းတွင် အသုံးပြုရန်လိုအပ်သော စက္ကူ၊ မင်နှင့်ပုံနှိပ်လုပ်ငန်းသုံး ပစ္စည်းများအတွက် တင်ဒါပေးသွင်းမှုကို ၁၉-၂-၂၀၀၇ ရက် (၁၆:၃၀) နာရီတွင် ပိတ်မည်ဖြစ်ကြောင်း၊ ၉-၂-၂၀၀၇ ရက်မှ ၁၁-၂-၂၀၀၇ ရက် နေ့အထိ နေ့စဉ်ထုတ်ဝေသည့် သတင်းစာများတွင် ကြော်ငြာခဲ့ပါသည်။

၂။ အဆိုပါ စက္ကူ၊ မင်နှင့် ပုံနှိပ်လုပ်ငန်းသုံးပစ္စည်းများအတွက် တင်ဒါပိတ်ရက်ကို ၁၉-၂-၂၀၀၇ ရက် (၁၆:၃၀) နာရီအစား ၂၆-၂-၂၀၀၇ ရက်(၁၆:၃၀) နာရီသို့ ပြောင်းလဲပြင်ဆင်သတ်မှတ်ပါကြောင်း အကြောင်းကြားပါသည်။

ပြည်တွင်း/ပြည်ပ ပစ္စည်းများဝယ်ယူရေးနှင့်ထုတ်ရောင်းချရေးကော်မတီ
ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
ဖုန်း-၀၁-၅၃၇၆၅၅
၀၆၇-၄၀၂၃၇၇



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P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 16 February 2007

South Africa to build second nuclear power station

JOHANNESBURG, 14 Feb—South Africa said on Monday that the government had approved the construction of a second nuclear power station in the southern part of the country.

The statement was made by State Enterprises Minister Alec Erwin while speaking at the Economic Cluster briefing in Parliament meeting held

in Cape Town. Erwin said the new nuclear reactor was approved by the Eskom board last year. The project was still in a pre-tender stage but once technical aspects had been evaluated, a decision on the preferred bidder would be made in the first quarter of this year.

He said it would be located in the southern part of the national grid in the

Cape provinces where more baseload supply was required.

Regarding the capacity of the reactor, he said this would be decided after it had been configured into the existing grid. However he said the baseload demand in southern parts of the country would suggest a capacity of more than 1,000 megawatts.

MNA/Xinhua

Pakistan, India to resume cross-border train service

ISLAMABAD, 14 Feb—Pakistan and India will resume a train service after suspension of six months, a senior Railways official said on Tuesday.

Thar Express, between

the Indian city of

Munabao and the Pakistani town of Khokhrapar was suspended on 19 August, 2006 as rail track on the Indian side was washed

away by heavy rains.

The Indian Railways has informed the Pakistan that the train service would re-start its operation on 17 February, Pakistani Minister for Railways Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said on Tuesday.

Ahmed was talking to the Indian High Commissioner Satya Brata Pal here, according to an official statement issued here.

The minister has said that Pakistan Railways was upgrading boarding and lodging facilities at Zero Point near Khokhrapar to meet with the needs of ever rising number of passengers.

The uplifting and renovation of Wagah Station was also underway that included provision of air-conditioned waiting rooms, additional immigration counters and sanitary facilities, he added.

MNA/Xinhua

Brazil requests end of barriers to exports to Argentina

RIO DE JANEIRO, 14 Feb—Brazil asked on Monday for an end to the barriers to refrigerator and stoves exports to Argentina, the Ministry of Development, Industry and Foreign Trade said.

"Brazil does not agree with that barrier or with voluntary restrictions because we believe that Brazilian exporters have already given their

contribution to the recovery of the Argentine industry," said the ministry's Secretary Executive Ivan Ramalho.

Ramalho said the issue will be discussed in a meeting with Argentine officials on Monday and Tuesday at the World Trade Organizations Trade Policy Review in Switzerland.

In March 2006, Brazilian industries offered to place voluntary restrictions on their exports to Argentina. However, the Argentine Government set up barriers on imports of

refrigerators and stoves at the end of December.

The decision led Brazil to request an exception for exports of those products to its neighbouring country. According to the system implemented in Argentina, imports can take up to 60 days to get a licence to be traded in the country.

"As the measure has already taken effect, we want our exports to receive urgent treatment. Thus, they would take only seven days to get in Argentina," said Ramalho.

MNA/Xinhua

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

ပညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြုစဉ် တစ်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

FDA curbs use of controversial antibiotic

BEIJING, 14 Feb — The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Monday announced labeling changes for the antibiotic Ketek, stripping it of two previously approved indications and adding a black-box warning, the agency's strongest.

FDA officials said the changes include the removal of two of the three previously approved indications — acute bacterial sinusitis and acute bacterial

approval of the drug for those indications.

This is the second time that Ketek's label has changed in the last 12 months. In June last year the label was strengthened to point out the danger of hepatic toxicity (a rare but severe symptom of liver disease).

Ketek will remain on the market for the treatment of community acquired pneumonia of mild to moderate severity.

In addition, the FDA ordered Ketek's manufacturer, Sanofi Aventis, to update the product's labeling with a "boxed warning" — FDA's strongest form of warning — stating Ketek should not be used by patients with myasthenia gravis, a disease that causes muscle weakness.— *Internet*



Ketek.

exacerbations of chronic bronchitis. The agency says it determined the balance of benefits and risks no longer support

China detains six over "panda" computer virus

BEIJING, 14 Feb — China has detained six men in their 20s for writing or profiting from a computer virus dubbed the "joss-stick burning panda" which has infected over a million PCs in the country, local media said on Wednesday.

The worm wreaked havoc among individual and corporate users in China in a late 2006 outbreak, deleting files, damaging programmes and attacking web portals.

It got its name from changing icons on desktops into cute cartoon pandas, the most famous of which holds three burning joss-sticks in his

paws. Chinese media have said that the worm was able to steal account names of online gamers and instant messengers, which are hotly traded with real money in China's cyberspace.

Police held Li Jun, 25 a native of Wuhan City in central China, who wrote the virus in October and had earned more than

100,000 yuan (12,890 US dollars) by selling it to about 120 people, the *Beijing News* said.

The other five, from three different provinces, were detained for updating and spreading the virus or for profiting from the stolen account names, the *Beijing News* said.

MNA/Reuters

Chinese "Super Girl" showcases voice in LA

BEIJING, 14 Feb — Chinese "Super Girl" Ji Minjia had an American appearance, performing at

reported the young star won rave reviews from local media with her performance covering

Ji Minjia became a role model for many Chinese girls after participating in the 2005 "Super Girl" singing competition, a show known as China's version of "American Idol."

She told the *Beijing Times* during a telephone interview that her American trip is goal-oriented, as she is trying to get to know some producers for her new album. She is reportedly to meet with composer Daniel Walker in Los Angeles for the possibility of further collaboration.

The two worked together last year to produce the title song for the Japanese anime series "Galaxy Railways."

Internet



Chinese "Super Girl" Ji Minjia . — XINHUA

the Asian-American Food Expo in Los Angeles, media reported on Wednesday.

The Beijing Times

songs well-known to Chinese-Americans, including the classic tune "Mo Li Hua" or "Jasmine Flowers" on Sunday.

Philippine women to climb Mt Everest

MANILA, 14 Feb — Three Philippine women are preparing for their climb to reach the peak of Mt Everest in May, a local report said on Tuesday.

The three women are Philippine Coast Guard officers, whose names are Noelle Wenceslao, Carina Dayondon and Janet Belarmino, a GMA TV report quoted

Coast Guard chief Vice Admiral Carlos Damian as saying in a press briefing.

All three have the rank of seawoman first class, said Carlos, adding that they will be the first women from the Southeast Asian region to try to reach the world's highest peak.

MNA/Xinhua

Japanese woman arrested in sign-language swindle

TOKYO, 14 Feb — A woman suspected of using her sign-language skills to swindle hearing-impaired people out of 2.2 billion yen (18 million US dollars) in a bogus investment scheme was arrested on Wednesday, Tokyo police said.

Police said they arrested 55-year-old Yoko Kobayashi along with two others. The three are suspected of targeting 250 hearing-impaired people between 2000 and 2005, *Kyodo News* agency said.

Kobayashi is suspected of using much of the money to repay her debts, media said.

The swindlers told their victims in sign

language that they would receive higher rates of interest on their money than they would get from

banks, and that they could get their principal back at any time, *Kyodo* said.

MNA/Reuters



An Iraqi buys red roses for Valentine's Day at a flower shop in central Baghdad on 13 Feb, 2007. People all around the world buy gifts for their lovers for the Valentine's Day.— XINHUA

African Labour Administration forum opens in Zimbabwe

HARARE, 14 Feb — The 33rd African Labour Administration Centre (ALAC) high level forum opened at the Victoria Falls City in Zimbabwe on Monday, with member countries resolving to recognize the informal sector as the biggest employer of labour, *The Herald* reported on Tuesday.

Delegates from more than 20 English-speaking African countries would discuss the role of labour administration in promoting productivity and the informal economy in Africa for sustainable development at the week-long meeting.

The ministers said there was need for African governments to recognize the significant contribution made towards the development of countries by the informal sector. The ministers also committed themselves to the support of the ALAC, endeavouring to strengthen organization in member countries.

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Arsenal make hard work of overcoming bogey team

LONDON, 15 Feb — Arsenal won 3-1 after extra time at Bolton Wanderers on Wednesday to reach the FA Cup fifth round, with the cool head of Swede Fredrik Ljungberg finally laying the ghost of their bogey team after three glaring misses.

Two goals by Togo striker Emmanuel Adebayor and one by substitute Ljungberg in the fourth-round replay earned Arsenal a home tie with Blackburn Rovers on Saturday.

The Londoners, who had lost four of their five previous matches at Bolton, went in front in the 13th minute.

Tomas Rosicky's pass to Julio Baptista on the left was blocked but Adebayor, having helped in the build-up, hit the loose ball into the roof of

the net thanks to a slight deflection.

Bolton, who managed to stop the visitors adding to their tally in a first half dominated by Arsenal, snatched a 90th-minute equalizer through defender Abdoulaye Meite to take the game into extra time.

Ljungberg, a veteran of three FA Cup final victories with Arsenal, struck the all-important second goal early in the second period of extra time, placing a low shot inside the far post after a good run by fellow substitute Jeremie Aliadiere.

Adebayor, who should have wrapped up the tie in normal time, finally put away his second in the closing seconds when he and Baptista broke away and the Brazilian set him up.

MNA/Reuters

Maccabi Haifa hold CSKA Moscow to 0-0 draw

VLADIKAVKAZ (Russia), 15 Feb — Israeli champions Maccabi Haifa held 2005 winners CSKA Moscow to a 0-0 draw in the first leg of their UEFA Cup first knockout round tie on Wednesday.

The Russian champions, who were missing Brazilian striker Vagner Love though injury, controlled the tempo for much of the game but it was Maccabi who had the best chances early on.

Yaniv Katan hit the post from close range and Argentina-born Israeli international Roberto Colautti just missed the far post in the opening 20 minutes.

At the other end, Brazilian striker Jo, CSKA's top scorer last year, failed with his best chance in the first half.

After the break CSKA substitute Daniel Carhalho missed the target with a 20-metre free kick while fellow Brazil international Dudu headed over the bar.

"It was not one of our best matches to say the least," lamented CSKA coach Valery Gazzayev.

MNA/Reuters



McLaren's Formula One driver Fernando Alonso (left) and test driver Pedro De La Rosa take a curve during a training session at Catalunya's racetrack in Montmelo, near Barcelona, on Monday. — INTERNET

Italy top of the world

ROME, 15 Feb — Italy World Cup winners Italy have ended Brazil's four-and-a-half year reign as the number one team in FIFA's world rankings.

Brazil have been at the top of the world rankings for 55 months in all, but lost that honour after their 2-0 friendly defeat against Portugal at Emirates Stadium last week.

Now Italy, who succeeded Brazil as world champions with their success over France in Germany last summer, have climbed to the top of the rankings.

The Italians last topped the standings back in November 1993, only three months after the ranking system was introduced by FIFA.

Behind Italy and Brazil come Argentina, France,

Germany, while England remain in sixth and Holland and Portugal sit in seventh and eighth.

Elsewhere, Scotland have risen to equal their highest ever position in the world rankings, as they climbed six places into 20th.

Despite not playing in the last month, Scotland have benefited from the complicated points system used by FIFA to hoist themselves up the rankings.

Scotland have had a dramatic rise in recent times, as they were in 88th spot two years ago and 62nd just 12 months ago.

Republic of Ireland climbed three places to 46th, overtaking Northern Ireland after they fell two places to 49th, while Wales dropped one place to 75th. — Internet

Beckham to play at Old Trafford for charity game



David Beckham will return to Old Trafford to play a charity game between Manchester United and a Europe team next month.

XINHUA

MADRID, 13 Feb — David Beckham will return to Old Trafford to play a charity game between Manchester United and a Europe team next month.

Beckham, who scored on his unexpected comeback for Real Mad-

rid last Saturday, has been confirmed as a member of the European All-Star team which will play United in a jubilee match being staged to mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of the European Common Market, the forerunner of the European Union, and United's 50 years of European competition.

Beckham, Gerrard and Carragher have all been selected for the lineup and the former England captain, who has been dropped by national team coach Steve McClaren, will be returning to the ground where he had 11 successful seasons with Manchester United. — Internet

Egypt's Al-Ahly to launch satellite channel in June

CAIRO, 15 Feb — Al-Ahly, a Cairo-based powerful soccer club which was founded in 1907, announced on Wednesday that their satellite channel will officially start broadcasting on 15 June, while the tentative airing will begin within days, local soccer news website filgoal.com reported.

In a Press conference, Ahly chairman Hassan Hamdi said the Egyptian champions, and five-time African champions, will have the exclusive satellite rights of airing the team's domestic games but they will be broadcasted terrestrially as usual. — MNA/Xinhua



Vietnam's Chau Phong Hoa (front) fights for the ball with Afghanistan's Ajmal Abedi during their Beijing Olympic 2008 qualifying football match at the Thien Truong stadium in Nam Dinh city, 90 km south of Hanoi on 14 Feb, 2007. —INTERNET

Altintop to join Bayern



Hamit Altintop.

INTERNET

MUNICH, 15 Feb — Schalke midfielder Hamit Altintop has confirmed that he will join Bayern Munich in the summer.

The 24-year-old Turkish international rejected a contract extension with the Royal Blues to move to the Allianz Arena, where he has accepted a three-year deal.

"The move to Munich will provide me with the stepping stone to the next stage of my career," Altintop told Sport Bild.

"Whether we're talking about speed, shooting

skills or strength in the tackle - I know that I've got what it takes to succeed at the highest level. I want to become a leading player at Bayern."

Altintop added that one of the main reasons for his decision to leave Schalke was his lack of playing time under coach Mirko Slomka this season.

"I wasn't able to get regular football even though I always performed well," he added.

"In my first season I played a total of 30 games and was only brought on as a substitute three times. This season things have been quite different."

Altintop looks set to slot into the right hand side of midfield at Bayern to fill a gap left by Sebastian Deisler (retirement) and Hasan Salihamidzic, who is joining Juventus at the end of the season. —INTERNET

Clijsters claims quarterfinal spot in Antwerp

ANTWERP (Belgium), 15 Feb — Second seed Kim Clijsters booked a quarterfinal spot at the Diamond Games with a convincing 6-0, 6-2 second round victory over Olga Poutchkova of Russia on Wednesday.

The Belgian world number four, returning to action after missing last week's Paris Open through injury, showed no signs of her hip problem as she cruised past her opponent in just over an hour.

She will now face either Russia's Ana Ivanovic or Nathalie Dechy of France on Friday. Ivanovic defeated Belarussian Anastasiya Yakimova 6-3, 6-2 in their first round tie earlier on Wednesday.

The tournament is Clijsters' last on home soil following her decision to retire at the end of the season.

Fifth seed Patty Schnyder was dumped out in the second round by Tatiana Golovin of France who fought back from a set down to win 6-7, 7-6, 6-2. Unseeded Golovin faces a quarterfinal against the winner of an all-Russian second round clash between Elena Dementieva, seeded fourth, and Elena Likhovtseva. — MNA/Reuters

France convinces diplomacy not war will resolve Iran crisis

PARIS, 15 Feb — France is convinced diplomacy can still resolve the Iranian nuclear crisis and does not believe the United States is planning to attack Iran, French Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy said on Wednesday.

Douste-Blazy told reporters that leaders in the Tehran were divided over the way Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was handling the nuclear dossier, raising hope that negotiations could eventually bear fruit.

"In France we believe a diplomatic solution is possible... Our conviction is that there is no military solution to the Iranian nuclear crisis," he said.

Asked if he thought the United States might launch a military strike to try to destroy Iran's

nuclear programme, Douste-Blazy said: "The US tells us that a military option is not on the agenda. We have absolutely no reason to doubt them on that."

The United States has denied that is planning for war, but some defence analysts have pointed to the recent dispatch of a second US Navy carrier group in the Gulf as an indication that tensions were rising.

The United Nations in December imposed sanctions on Iran after it

refused to stop enriching uranium. Teheran says its nuclear programme is purely for civilian purposes, while the West thinks it is trying to build a bomb.

Ahmadinejad said last Sunday Iran was ready for talks, but ruled out suspending its uranium enrichment.

Douste-Blazy said the speech was "unacceptable," but held out hope that Iran might shift its stance.

"For the first time there is a real debate in the

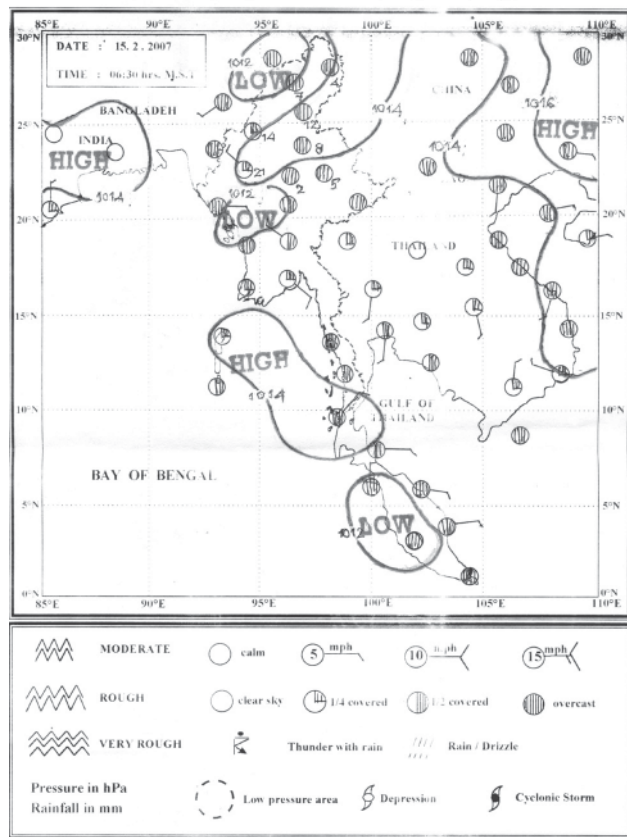
heart of Iran to see if Ahmadinejad is following the right strategy."

Adding to the tensions, officials of US-led forces in Iraq said at the weekend that the "highest elements" of Teheran's government was involved in arming Iraqi militants.

Asked about this, the French Foreign Minister said: "I don't believe any neighbouring country has any interest in chaos in Iraq, because they would be the first to suffer."

MNA/Reuters

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Thursday, 15 February, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Kachin and Chin States and Sagaing Division, fairly widespread in Shan State and Mandalay Division, isolated in Rakhine State and Magway Division and weather has been generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (4°C) below normal in Chin State, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Southern Shan, Rakhine and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, (7°C) above normal in Kayah and Northern Shan States and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperature was Mindat (8°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Mingin (1.02) inches, Kalay (0.90) inch, Kalewa (0.83) inch, Haka (0.70) inch, Hkamti (0.67) inch, Mawlaik (0.62) inch, Homalin (0.55) inch, Myitkyina and Mindat (0.47) inch each.

Maximum temperature on 14-2-2007 was 99°F. Minimum temperature on 15-2-2007 was 68°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 15-2-2007 was 67%. Total sunshine hours on 14-2-2007 was (8.7) hours approx.

Rainfall on 15-2-2007 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 (8) mph from Northwest at (19:30) hours MST on 14-2-2007.

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 16-2-2007: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated to scattered in Kachin, Chin, Rakhine and Shan States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Bago Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 16-2-2007: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 16-2-2007: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 16-2-2007: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Earthquake Report

(Issued at 04:30 hours MST today)

A moderate earthquake of intensity (5.5) Richter Scale with epicentre outside of Myanmar (NIAS REGION, INDONESIA) about (1,130) miles South of Kaba-Aye Seismological observatory, was recorded at (02) hrs (23) min (46) sec MST on 15th February 2007.



Snow envelops the hill station town of Shimla, in the northern Indian state of Himachal Pradesh, on Sunday, 11 Feb, 2007. Snowfall brought down temperatures on Sunday.—INTERNET

"Untimely Rainfall Warning"

Issued at (11:00) hours MST on 15th February, 2007

According to the observation at (09:30) hrs MST today, under the influence of the Western Disturbance, rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated to scattered in Kachin, Chin, Rakhine and Shan States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Bago Divisions within next (48)hrs commencing noon today.



Friday, 16 February
Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music -It's all coming back to me
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music -Moving on up
- 8:50 am National news/Slogan
- 9:00 am Music -You'll be mine
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music -Love power
- 1:30 pm News / Slogan,
- 1:40pm Lunch time music -Take a bow -All by my self -I don't want to talk about it wind beaten my winds
- 9:00pm WOM
- 9:15pm Article
- 9:25pm Music at your request
- 9:45 pm News / Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL



Friday, 16 February
View on today

- 7:00 am 1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw 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. လျှပ်စီးပုံပြင်စိတ်ပျော်ရွှင်
- 8:05 am 6. The mirror images of the musical oldies
- 8:15 am 7. အကဖြင့်ပွဲ

- 8:20 am 8. Musical programme
- 8:30 am 9. International news
- 8:45 am 10. English for Everyday Use
- 4:00 pm 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm 2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm 3. အဆေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -ပထမနှစ် (သင်္ချာ၊ ဓာတုဗေဒ၊ ရူပဗေဒ အထူးပြုများ) (ရူပဗေဒ)
- 4:45 pm 4. Song of national races
- 5:00 pm 5. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား
- 5:15 pm 6. လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းလေးဂီတတေး
- 5:20 pm 7. Song of yesteryears
- 5:35 pm 8. "အဲဒီမှာစတွေ့တာပဲ" (မင်းအုပ်စိုး၊ ငွေကြေးကြော်၊ မြတ်ကေသီအောင်၊ နှင်းဝတ်ရည်သောင်း၊ ဒါရိုက်တာ-မင်းအုပ်စိုး)
- 5:45 pm 9. Musical programme
- 6:00 pm 10. Evening news
- 6:30 pm 11. Weather report
- 6:35 pm 12. သုတစုံလင်ရွှေညွှတ်ရှင်
- 7:05 pm 13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "အချစ်ဆိုသည်မှာ" (အပိုင်း-၂၃)
- 8:00 pm 14. News
- 15. International news
- 16. Weather report
- 17. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "အကြင်နာရွှေဦး" (အပိုင်း-၁၃)
- 18. The next day's programme

**Various national races live in Myanmar in amity enjoying equal rights on freedom of religion and worship
CSW report, conspiracy of those who want to undermine Myanmar
YMBA condemns the report based on false accusations against Myanmar**

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Feb — Certain powers of the West and their cohorts have been levelling slanderous accusations against Myanmar with the intention of interfering in and manipulating her domestic affairs.

Britain-based Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) issued a 23-1-2007 dated report, saying

that Christians in Myanmar were oppressed in its conspiracy to mislead the global community into misunderstanding.

Regarding the report, the Young Men Buddhist Association issued a statement condemning the slanderous accusations. — MNA
(See page 10)

One village, one product



The Inlay Lake, named with reference to four villages surrounding it, in Nyaungshwe Township, Taunggyi District, has a good reputation not only locally but also globally for its traditions and traditional handicrafts.

PAGE 7

**Anti-government groups at home and abroad conspiring to mislead international community into misunderstanding Myanmar to put pressure on and take action against the nation
So-called KWO copies conspiracy of SWAN which issued report "Licensed to Rape" in 2002, calling on UN to take action against Myanmar
Various organizations protest at CSW's report intended to get political gains
With profound evidences, officials explained to foreign diplomats to rebut accusation of child soldier recruitment**

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb — *The US and Britain submitted a draft resolution to the United Nations Security Council on 12 January 2007 with the intention of interfering in the Myanmar's internal affairs. But, it was defeated by a double veto.*

There is widespread criticism among the public that despite founding their one-sided resolution abortive, the US and Britain and their cohorts are conspiring their synchronized attempts inside and outside Myanmar to mislead the international community into misunderstanding the nation in their scheme to put pressure on and take action against the nation.

Facts about the widespread criticism are as follows:-

One of the present attempts of internal and external destructive elements is that the so-called Kayin Women's Organization (KWO) based in the neighbouring country made a slanderous accusation by issuing a report dated 12 February this year saying that the Tatmadaw is committing sexual violence against Kayin women, and massacre and torture of Kayin national people, and resorting to various means for ethnic cleansing.

The accusation of the KWO is, indeed, a copy of the report "Licensed to Rape" the group named SWAN of Shan women issued in May 2002 so

that the UN would take action against Myanmar.

The SWAN's report replete with invented accusations was funded by the Shan State Army-South (SSA-S) Ywet Sit group and other anti-government groups. The accusations were found totally groundless when responsible personnel and social organizations made field tours of the allegedly affected areas for investigation into the case. Then, the case was made known to the world by refuting the accusations.

The report of the KWO, like that of the SWAN, is intended for giving another reason to put pressure on the nation.

It is also designed to blemish the victory of peace of the Kayin National Union (KNU) and the Kayin National Liberation Army (KNLA) Peace Council of the troops led by Brigade 7 Commander Maj-Gen Htay Maung.

The authentic desire of Kayin State and Kayin nationals is to be free from armed conflicts and to restore peace in their region. That has been fulfilled by peace victory achieved due to the mutual understanding and cooperation between the Tatmadaw and KNU/KNLA Peace Council. Moreover, it has made clear that the KWO's accusations are baseless.

At the KNU/KNLA Peace Council's Victory of Peace Welcoming Ceremony held at Htokawkoe Village in Kawkaik Township, Kayin State, on 11

February 2007, Col Saw Htaw Lay of No 7 Brigade of KNU/KNLA Peace Council said, "From now on, there will be no hiding or fleeing villages in fear of armed conflicts nor refugees in our region. The people of Kayin State can enjoy the taste of freedom. I thank all organizations for their efforts to make peace with the government." His speech indicated fruitful results of building the regions based on peace.

However, ignoring the efforts Myanmar is making to restore peace, internal and external destructive elements are attempting to get political gains through religious affairs.

Recently, the Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) based in Britain in its report made an accusation that the Christians in Myanmar were oppressed. It was just a combined effort to mislead international community into misunderstanding Myanmar.

On 23 January 2007, a meeting was held at the British Parliament to discuss that report. And on 10 February 2007, the Commission for Human Rights of the US House of Commons held a meeting in support of the report. At the meeting, Cherry Zar Haung of Chin State Women's Federation and L Dwe Lin of Kachin State Women's Federation levelled accusations against the nation.

(See page 10)