

State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of newly-accredited Ambassador of LPDR

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Feb — Mr Kouily A Souphakhet, newly-accredited Ambassador of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the Union of Myanmar, presented his credentials to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, at Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw at 11 am today.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace

and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint and Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials from Mr Kouily A Souphakhet, newly-accredited Ambassador of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

MNA



Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

New Year holidays designated

Union of Myanmar State Peace and Development Council

(Notification No 1/2007)

1st Waxing of Tabaung, 1368 ME

(16th February 2007)

New Year holidays designated

The Thingyan Festival is the new year occasion held in esteem by Myanmar people. To enable Myanmar people to take part in the traditional water-throwing festival, go to pagodas and stupas to perform meritorious deeds and keep Precepts, pay respects to elderly persons and do charity and for the State service personnel to be able to take a vacation for rest and recreation after a long work of the whole year, a period of 10 days beginning from the day before Thingyan Akyo Day is designated as the Myanmar New Year holidays of the Union of Myanmar.

By order,

Sd/ Thein Sein
Lieutenant-General
Secretary-1
State Peace and Development Council

INSIDE

Myanmar's tourism industry is based on its national scenic beauties and archaeological sites of cultural heritage with fine traditions. Myanmar has no artificial tourist destinations intended to lure tourists that are seen in some countries, nor Disney Land, Casino and night life. Myanmar does not have any methods and deceitful investments to get the money of the tourists.

AUNG NAING Oo (KYEMON)

PAGE 7

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 17 February, 2007

Ver Bridge, contributing factor for regional development

Peace and stability, better transport and swift commodity flow contribute a lot to socio-economic development of a region. The emergence of a network of new roads and bridges highlights the national development.

The upgrading of Haka-Gangaw road, Haka-Matupi road, Kalay-Falam-Haka road and Mindat-Matupi road enables local people to have access to different parts of the nation.

Manipura River crossing Ver Bridge on Kalay-Falam-Haka road in Falam Township, Chin State was opened on 12 February. The bridge was of bailey type in the past. As traffic on the road became heavy, it was upgraded into an iron reinforced one. The two-lane iron reinforced bridge is 340 feet long and 24 feet wide. And it can withstand 60-ton loads. Through the bridge, one can easily travel from Haka of Chin State to Tiddim Reed and from Kalay of Sagaing Division to Magway Division.

With the opening of the new Ver Bridge in Falam Township, Chin State, one can easily travel from one place to another, thereby contributing to further fostering friendship among national people. Moreover, it can also contribute to development of economic, social and education sectors of local people.

Cyclists continue Magway-Kyaukpadaung leg

YANGON, 16 Feb — Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe launched the Magway-Kyaukpadaung leg of Yangon-Pyay-Mandalay-Yangon 1000-mile cycling race in Magway at 6.30 am today.

The cyclists left Magway and arrived at Kyaukpadaung at 10 am through Daungthaychaung, Nyaungdo oil field, Yenangyoung, Pin Creek Bridge, Gwaybin and Gwaygyo.

Local people cheered up the cyclists along the route.

Out of 75 cyclists, 62 athletes arrived at the finishing line in Kyaukpadaung. Of them, Kyaw Myo Hlaing (Finance and Revenue) stood first, Thet Naing Oo (Finance and Revenue) second and Win Hlaing (A&I) third. — MNA

People's Desire

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

Construction Minister inspects Haka-Gangaw Road

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Feb — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun inspected roadworks on Haka-Gangaw Road in Chin State on 14 February and attended to the needs.

At the road construction site, In-charge of Haka-Gangaw Road Construction U Soe Aung and Superintending Engineer of Chin State U Ngun San Aung reported to the minister on the extended construction and tarring of the road and future plans.

Haka-Gangaw Road links the northern Chin State and the mainland. The road is being upgraded by the Public Works. The road is 77 miles and 2 furlongs long, and so far, 15 miles and 3 furlongs of it have been tarred and 61 miles and 7 furlongs have been gravelled.

On his way to Gangaw, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun also inspected bridges along the road.

MNA

Myanmar, Indian authorities sign agreements

YANGON, 16 Feb — A signing ceremony of the agreed minutes of the 13th National Level Meeting between Myanmar and India was held at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road, here, this evening.

Leader of the Myanmar delegation Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe and Leader of the Indian delegation Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs Mr VK Duggal signed the agreements on security matters between Myanmar and India, combating drug smuggling, border management, border trade and transnational development project.

Also present on the



occasion were directors-general and departmental officials of the Myanmar delegation, Indian Ambassador Mr Bhaskar K Mitra and officials of the Indian delegation. — MNA

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Phone Swe and Secretary of Ministry of Home Affairs Mr VK Duggal sign the agreement on the 13th National Level Meeting between Myanmar and India. — MNA

New Noritsu brand QSS digital photo printer processor introduced

YANGON, 16 Feb — A ceremony to introduce new Noritsu brand QSS digital photo printer processor,

imported by Noritsu Singapore Pte Ltd and Accel International Co Ltd, was held at Trad-

ers Hotel, here, this morning.

Managing Director Mr Katsuhiko Higashi of

Noritsu Singapore Pte Ltd extended greetings. Manager U Thiha Zaw of Accel International Co Ltd explained matters related to the digital photo printer processor.

The machine can enlarge the work measuring 8 inches by 24 inches in a short time. Accel International Co Ltd sells Noritsu digital photo printer processor and other printer processors.

Customers may contact 422-426, Sixth floor, Forest Product Joint Venture Commercial Centre, Botahtaung Pagoda Road, Yangon, Tel: 202092 and 202096.

MNA



Noritsu Brand QSS Digital Machine Product being launched at Traders Hotel. — MNA

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

China on Putin's criticism on US

BEIJING, 15 Feb — Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu said on Tuesday that all countries should make efforts for a harmonious world.

"As the international situation is filled with opportunities and challenges, all countries should make efforts to create a harmonious world featuring lasting peace and common prosperity," Jiang told a regular Press conference on Tuesday. Her remarks came when asked to comment on Russian President Vladimir Putin's recent speech concerning the United States.

Putin told a Munich security conference on Saturday that the United States "almost uncontained" use of force has led other countries developing weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons. "All countries should step up cooperation, seize opportunities and cope with challenges," Jiang said. — MNA/Xinhua



A broker looks at a monitor on the floor of the Philippine Stock Exchange in Makati City, Manila, on 16 Feb, 2007.—INTERNET

Canada approves legislation enforcing Kyoto

OTTAWA, 15 Feb—The Canadian Parliament has passed a remarkable private member's bill that will force the minority Government to see through its commitments under the Kyoto environmental protocol.

Unlike Australia, Canada did sign the Kyoto protocol, but has made virtually no progress toward meeting its sub-

stantial commitments.

The current Conservative Party Government has said that Canada has no chance of meeting those commitments.

But the private member's Bill approved today says that the Government must meet those commitments. Under the protocol, Canada agreed to reduce carbon emissions to 6 per cent below 1990 levels, but

a government audit found that emissions have actually increased by 27 per cent.

A non-government bill almost never passes in Canada. Prime Minister Stephen Harper has introduced a raft of pro-environmental legislation in recent months, much like Prime Minister John Howard, but Kyoto seems to remain a step too far.

Mr Harper says the Kyoto targets are unattainable, while Environment Minister John Baird has warned his government might ignore the Bill. "It's really a toothless tiger," he said.

"All it is talking about [is] more plans and more studies and more blah, blah, blah. We need real action."—Internet

Police says Mauritanian plane hijacked to W Sahara

NOUAKCHOTT, 15 Feb—An Air Mauritania Boeing 737 passenger plane on an internal flight from the capital Nouakchott to the northern port of Nouadhibou was hijacked on Thursday to Western Sahara, Mauritanian police said.

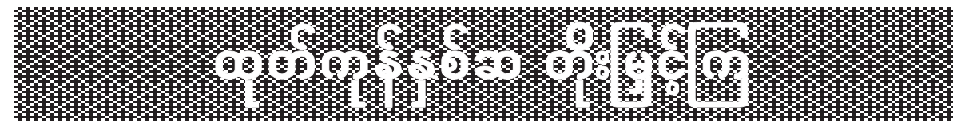
"The plane was hijacked. Now it is at Dakhla (Western Sahara) to take on fuel," a police officer at Nouakchott airport told Reuters by telephone.

The police officer did not say how many passengers were on board or how many hijackers were involved, but said they wanted the plane to travel to Paris.

The plane had been scheduled to fly on from Nouadhibou to the Spanish Canary Islands.—Internet



Spanish security forces surround a hijacked Air Mauritania Boeing 737 passenger plane after it landed at Gando airport in Las Palmas on the island of Gran Canaria in Spain's Canary Islands, on 15 Feb, 2007. —XINHUA



Visitors look at a lantern made in the shape of a dragon during a lantern fair to celebrate the upcoming Spring Festival at a park in Shenyang, Northeast China's Liaoning Province, on 15 Feb, 2007. About 13,000 lanterns are displayed during the fair that begins on 15 Feb and runs through 5 March. —XINHUA

US military admits crashed helicopter shot down

BAGHDAD, 15 Feb — A US helicopter that crashed a week ago northwest of Baghdad was shot down, the US military said on Wednesday.

"Initial evidence indicated that the CH-46

Sea Knight helicopter went down as a result of mechanical failure," Major Jeff Pool, a spokesman for the Multi National Force-West, said in a statement.

"After further investigation using all available means, the cause of the incident has been confirmed to be hostile fire," Pool said.

On 7 February, a

Marine CH-46 helicopter, also known *Chinook*, went down northwest of Baghdad, killing seven people aboard, including the crew.

Witnesses in the area west of the US airbase of Taji, 20 kilometres north of Baghdad, said that they saw a helicopter crashed after it was hit by ground gunfire.

MNA/Xinhua

Passengers evacuated as train catches fire in HK tunnel

HONG KONG, 15 Feb — Fire broke out on a train when it was running in a tunnel in the west of Hong Kong on Wednes-

day morning, and more than 1,000 passengers were evacuated.

The incident occurred inside the Tai Lam Tunnel in the New Territories shortly after 9 am as the train was heading from Tin Shui Wai to Mei Foo Station in the west of the New Territories.

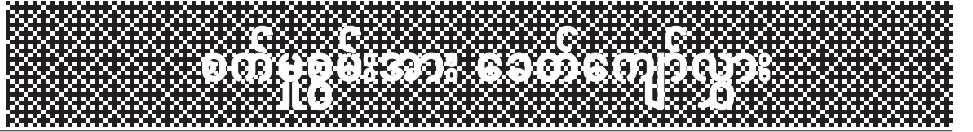
Some passengers said they heard a loud bang and saw smoke pouring out of one of the carriages.

More than 1,000 passengers were evacuated from the train. Because it was dark in the tunnel, it took almost 30 minutes for people to walk out. Ten people had been sent to hospital, local police said.

MNA/Xinhua



A raging gale batters the sea off Yantai, East China's Shandong Province on 14 Feb, 2007. The comber brought by the strong wind continually lashes out the beach and bank along the waterfront area in the city. —XINHUA



Fish in pregnancy 'benefits baby'

LONDON, 15 Feb— Eating fish and seafood during pregnancy has long-lasting benefits for the child, a UK study has suggested.

Children of mothers who had eaten lots of fish during pregnancy had better communication and social skills at seven years old, the *Lancet* paper says.

The results appear to

dispel fears surrounding the possible toxic damage from eating fish during pregnancy.

The Food Standards Agency advise that pregnant women should eat one or two portions of oily fish a week.

But they warn against eating certain types of fish, such as shark and marlin — or lots of tuna —

because of the risks to the developing foetus associated with mercury.

We have very convincing findings up to the age of seven or eight

Previous research from the Avon Longitudinal Study Group has shown that omega-3 fatty acids contained in fish — particularly oily fish — are associated with boosting children's future brain power and social skills.

However, the team had only looked at the effects up until the age of three or four.

Internet



Anne V, 20, from Novgorod, Russia, one of the models featured in the 2007 'Sports Illustrated' swimsuit issue, poses at a media event in Los Angeles, California, on 14 Feb, 2007.

INTERNET

S Africa against US involvement in Somalia

JOHANNESBURG, 15 Feb— The South African Government opposed any United States involvement in Somalia, Defence Minister Mosiuoa Lekota said on Wednesday.

Lekota made the statement at a media briefing at Parliament in Cape Town.

The Defence Minister said that the United States had an unfortunate history in Somalia and it would be unwise for it to play a part in new efforts at resolving conflict there.

He said government

had made its concerns clear to the United States, but it had not yet informed it officially of its position.

Lekota described the United States as having "historical baggage" in the African country.

"It would be preferable to have fresh players untainted by the past," he said of any new efforts at resolving the conflict in Somalia.

Lekota said South Africa would play a supportive role in the peace initiative in Somalia by training personnel but

he ruled out any physical presence in the country.

The United States has not had a presence in Somalia since 1994 after a failed UN intervention which began as a military food-aid effort in 1992.

Withdrawal came after 18 US soldiers and at least 300 Somalis were killed in a battle occurred in October, 1993 in the capital Mogadishu, which was depicted in the movie "Black Hawk Down".

MNA/Xinhua

US citizens attacked in Johannesburg

JOHANNESBURG, 15 Feb— Six employees of the US Embassy in South Africa were overpowered at their house in Pretoria by five armed robbers and robbed of goods worth thousands of rand, local daily *Beeld* reported on Wednesday.

The report quoted Mark Schlachter, spokesperson for the embassy, as saying that the employees were overpowered at about 11 pm local time (2100 GMT) on Sunday.

"The robbers ordered them to lie down on the floor and ransacked the house. Some of them suffered light injuries." Schlachter said the robbers took, among other things, laptop computers, cellphones and cash.

However, he did not want to say in which suburb the robbery took place for fear of the employees' lives.

The report said the employees were all US citizens and the incident happened in Brooklyn in the city.

Police spokesperson Captain Lucas Sithole could not confirm the incident by Tuesday.

MNA/Xinhua

Watercress 'may cut cancer risk'

LONDON, 15 Feb— Eating watercress regularly could help cut the chances of developing cancer, research suggests.

The University of Ulster work suggests it cuts DNA damage to white blood cells — considered to be an important trigger in the development of cancer.

Watercress appears to

raise levels of beneficial compounds, and cut levels of harmful compounds in the blood.

The study is funded by the Watercress Alliance, but is published in the *American Journal of*

Clinical Nutrition.

Papers published in this journal are checked by other scientists before they are published.

The results support the theory that consumption of watercress is linked to an overall reduced risk of cancer at various sites in the body

During the study 60 healthy volunteers, including 30 smokers, ate an 85g bag of fresh watercress every day for eight weeks.

The researchers carried out tests before and after this change in diet.

They found that DNA damage to white blood cells was cut by 22.9%.

The cells were also

more able to protect themselves from the damaging effects of particles called free radicals.

When cell samples were exposed to hydrogen peroxide, which generates large numbers of free radicals, damage levels were 9.4% lower than would normally be expected.

Blood levels of antioxidant compounds, such as lutein and betacarotene, which can combat the effect of free radicals were raised.

In contrast, levels of potentially harmful triglycerides were cut, by an average of 10%.

Internet



Watercress boosts beneficial antioxidants.

INTERNET

ECONOMIC NEWS

China bans British poultry imports following bird flu outbreak

BEIJING, 15 Feb—China is to ban poultry imports from Britain following the recent bird flu outbreak in the country, the Ministry of Agriculture said in a circular on Wednesday.

The circular, jointly issued by the ministry and the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, called on quarantine authorities to intensify inspections to prevent the entry of the virus into China.

According to the

A Government vet disinfects his boots outside a contaminated shed at the Bernard Matthews' factory farm in Holton, Suffolk. —INTERNET

circular, poultry and poultry products imported from Britain from 13 January onwards will be returned or destroyed, while illegal imports will be destroyed under the supervision of quarantine authorities. Poultry and poultry products found to have originated from

Britain will be sealed up once discovered on ships, planes or trains.

Earlier this month, Britain reported a bird flu outbreak at a Suffolk farm, killing 2,600 turkeys. It was the first time the deadly H5N1 strain had been found on a British farm.—MNA/Xinhua



An Indian Stock broker trades on a phone as he watches his monitor at a stock brokerage firm in Mumbai, on 14 Feb, 2007. India's inflation jumped to a two-year high of 6.73 percent, prompting the government to slash diesel and petrol prices and raise expectations of more rate hikes to stabilize prices.—INTERNET

Olympic mascots to star in own cartoon series

BEIJING, 15 Feb—The Beijing Olympics mascots, the Fuwas, will star in two cartoon series on Chinese television in 2008. A 100-episode animation series named Fuwas Journey to the Olympics by a Beijing television station has attracted investment of 50 million yuan (about 6.5 US dollars) and famous cartoonists from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Macao and also from Disney.

The other one is designed by CCTV but the details are secret, said officials at a preliminary ceremony of the International Investment and Trade Fair for Animations, which will be held in Zhengzhou, capital of central China's Henan Province, from 26 to 28 April this year.—MNA/Xinhua

Colombian police find \$10m in drug cash

BOGOTA, 16 Feb — Colombian authorities found more than 10 million US dollars stashed behind a closet in a Cali apartment, bringing to nearly 90 million US dollars the sum of cash and gold seized this year from the city's drug lords, police said on Thursday.

The region around the western city of Cali is home to the infamously violent Norte del Valle cocaine cartel, which is accused of exporting about 500 tons of the white powder since 1999, worth about 10 billion US dollars.

The packets of 100-US-dollar bills were found on Wednesday in a luxury apartment building near the spot where drug boss Miguel Rodriguez Orejuela was captured, police told reporters. He was sentenced last year to 30 years in US federal prison.—MNA/Reuters



A woman looks at CD's and DVD's in a shop selling counterfeit merchandise in Beijing. Waving fake DVDs and pirated books, officials from Hollywood and the American publishing industry have complained to US lawmakers that the rampant counterfeiting problem in China was wreaking havoc to their businesses.—INTERNET

Vietnam plans heavy investment in paper industry

HANOI, 15 Feb—Vietnam will pour 95.5 trillion Vietnamese dong (VND) (nearly 6 billion US dollars) into developing its paper and pulp industry from now to 2020 as part of an Industry Ministry plan, local newspaper Vietnam News reported Wednesday.

Of the amount, 87 trillion VND (over 5.4 billion dollars) will be used to build more paper and pulp plants, 7.9 trillion VND (nearly 494 million dollars) to plant forests, and the remainder to do other relevant works.

With the planned investment, Vietnam will turn out 600,000 tons of pulp, key material for paper production, in 2010 and 1.8 million tons in 2020, meeting 70 per cent of the domestic demand for the material in 2020.

The country currently has some 300 paper makers, and a few pulp producers whose pro-

duction meets only 37 per cent of the domestic demand for pulp, the Vietnam Pulp and Paper Association said, noting that it has to import 130,000-150,000 tons of the material each year.

This year, Vietnam is predicted to manufacture

1.13 million tons of paper of different kinds, including letter, printing and packaging paper, and import of 914,500 tons of paper, mainly complicated kinds of the product, according to the Vietnamese Trade Ministry.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore's economy grows 7.9% in 2006

SINGAPORE, 15 Feb—Singapore's economy expanded by 7.9 per cent year-on-year in the fourth quarter of 2006, bringing full-year real gross domestic product (GDP) growth to 7.9 per cent, higher than the 6.6 per cent growth in 2005, the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) said on Wednesday.

The whole year growth of 7.9 per cent is higher than the previous estimate of 7.7 per cent, which was announced by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong in his New Year message. The MTI has also upgraded the 2007 economic growth forecast from 4-6 per cent to 4.5-6.5 per cent. "The global economic conditions have improved over the last few months," the MTI said in a statement, adding that "on the domestic front, forward-looking indicators point towards continued growth in the next few quarters".—MNA/Xinhua

China, India, Russia FMs meet for trilateral cooperation

NEW DELHI, 15 Feb— Chinese, Indian and Russian Foreign Ministers met here Wednesday, reaffirming their trilateral cooperation was not directed against any other country but intended to promote international harmony and understanding.

The three ministers emphasized the strong commitment of India, Russia and China to multilateral diplomacy, according to the Joint

Communique issued after the trilateral meeting.

They agreed that China, India and Russia, as countries with growing international influence, can make substantive positive contribution to global peace, security and stability.

“China, India and Russia have developed friendly and frequent cooperation on international and regional issues,” said Chinese

Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing at a Press conference after the meeting, “The trilateral cooperation will include cooperation in the regional organizations like Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and in the United Nations.”

China and Russia welcomed India to join the SCO as an observer country, according to the joint communique.

MNA/Xinhua



An organic farm worker tends to a newly planted crop during the early morning hours in Rancho Santa Fe, California, on 14 Feb, 2007. Organic farmers use plastic tenting covers to keep insects away from young plants and water with drip irrigation. —INTERNET

First snowfall in Kathmandu valley in the past 63 years

KATHMANDU, 15 Feb— It snowed on Wednesday in some parts of Kathmandu valley for the first time in the past 63 years.

It snowed in Bhaktapur, Baneshwor, Teenkune and some other places in Nepal’s capital valley.

The snow only lasted about five minutes at around 14:00 (08:15 GMT). In the last 63 years, there is no snow record in Kathmandu valley cities’ downtown areas, not to say in this peach flower withering season.

Local meteorology expert KB Malla said that the present rainfall and snow, which was a result of the westerly winds’ low pressure line, was a normal phenomenon.

MNA/Xinhua



A Brazilian beauty (M) waves to the audience after winning champion at 14th World Top Supermodel Contest in Kunming, southwest China’s Yunnan Province, on 14 Feb, 2007. —XINHUA

Turkmen acting leader sworn in as new President

ASHGABAT, 15 Feb— Turkmenistan’s acting leader, Kurbanguly Berdymukhamedov, was on Wednesday declared the winner of a 11 February election and immediately sworn in as the gas-rich nation’s new President.

“According to the result of 89.23 per cent of all votes cast for him, Kurbanguly Berdymukhamedov is elected President of Turkmenistan,” Central Election Commission head Murad Karriyev told a session of the Central Asian state’s People’s Assembly.

Straight after the announcement, Berdymukhamedov was sworn in, his hand on Turkmenistan’s Constitution and flanked by soldiers with green flags and drawn swords.

The People’s Assembly — the nation’s highest representative body bringing together hundreds of parliamentarians, ministers, regional heads and elders — greeted the new leader with rapturous applause.

Ruled for two decades by Saparmurat Niyazov, who died in December, the country had sought to maintain a sense of mystery around who won the election, though it was almost certain to be acting leader Berdymukhamedov. — MNA/Reuters

Mexican man finds 40 dinosaur prints in desert

MEXICO CITY, 15 Feb — A Mexican man has discovered dozens of dinosaur footprints dating back up to 110 million years along the banks of a dried river, scientists said

on Tuesday. Biologist Oscar Polaco said the footprints, found by a local resident in a desert region in central Mexico, belonged to three prehistoric species that

came to drink water in the area, once a swampy zone close to the sea.

Polaco said more studies needed to be done to determine what species of dinosaur the fossilized prints, each one up to 60 centimetres (24 inches) across, belonged to.

“At the moment we can confirm these are footprints that belong to dinosaurs that lived during the early Cretaceous (period),” the scientist said.

The early Cretaceous period began about 144 million years ago and followed on from the late Jurassic period.

The Cretaceous period is considered the last period before dinosaurs disappeared from earth about 65 million years ago.

MNA/Reuters

CNN shows video of missing US soldier in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 15 Feb— CNN broadcast on Wednesday what it said was a video showing a US-Iraqi soldier who was kidnapped in Baghdad nearly five months ago.

The undated video, posted on a militant website, showed Ahmed al-Taie, a 41-year-old linguist, reading a statement.

“Proof of life was a condition for continuing dialogue,” with the kidnappers, his uncle, Entifadh al-Taie, told CNN from Washington.

“There is no date on this. We don’t know if he is in good shape now.”

Taie was kidnapped on 23 October while visiting relatives after leaving the security of the heavily fortified Green Zone that houses the Iraqi Government, US Embassy and other missions. His family said he had been taken by Shiite militiamen.

The US military initially set up checkpoints around Sadr City, the stronghold of Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr’s Mehdi Army militia, as part of a huge security sweep to find him.

MNA/Reuters



Indian commuters make their way along a water-logged street after a heavy downpour flooded parts of Amritsar on 12 Feb, 2007. At least 40 people have died in northern India in a week of unseasonal heavy rains. —INTERNET

Innate nature of Myanmar people

Aung Naing Oo (Kyemon)

I learnt from the hotel and tourism community a good news that the arrival of foreign tourists in Myanmar this year is more than that in previous years.

Myanmar's tourism industry is based on its national scenic beauties and archaeological sites of cultural heritage with fine traditions. Myanmar has no artificial tourist destinations intended to lure tourists that are seen in some countries, nor Disney Land, Casino and night life. Myanmar does not have any methods and deceitful investments to get the money of the tourists.

However, distorted, made-up and malicious news stories about Myanmar the media of certain big countries have stated and broadcast are spreading to many countries around the world. Being misled into believing the slanderous news stories broadcast with negative attitude to tarnish the image of Myanmar, a large number of tourists are not eager enough to visit the nation although they want to.

Soon after their arrival in Myanmar, foreigners realize that what they have learnt about Myanmar is far from what they are witnessing in the nation. Then, they recognize the natural

beauty of the golden land with stability and peace, and the innate nature of Myanmar people that the latter give priority to their guests, and are hospitable and helpful to others. There is a motto relating to the nature of Myanmar people "Helpful to others is Myanmar's innate nature". It is not an exaggeration designed to boost the tourism industry of Myanmar. I would like to present one of the true stories that give evidence to the

motto. And such events are found very often in the nation.

It was in the evening of 6 February. A Myanmar gentleman and two foreigner young men came to the Kyemon daily to put an advertisement in the newspaper for loss of the passport. The young man, who had lost his passport, seemed very downhearted.

He was Enrique. He paid a visit to Myanmar together with Daniel, Alfonso,

pagoda board of trustees and then to Dagon Township Police Force. All responsible persons gave wholehearted help to them, he said.

Thanks to the help of the chief editor and staff of the Advertising Section of the Kyemon daily, the following day issue carried Enrique's advertisement.

U Zaw Win phoned the Kyemon, "I believed there would be a response to the advertisement by the time when many people had read the newspaper, and was looking forward to a call to me beginning at noon. As I expected, there was a call to me at about 1.30 pm. A taxi driver who was holding Enrique's passport and belongings contacted me. Where Enrique left his bag was in a taxi. No sooner did they hear the good news than they jumped out of joy."

He added that the young Spanish tourists did not expect to get back the things they lost; that they were surprised by a quick and good result from a newspaper advertisement; that to get back the lost things was virtually impossible in their country; that the people of their country did not pay much heed to newspapers; and they acknowledged warm relations, help and honesty of Myanmar people.

Later in the afternoon, the driver came to May Fair Inn and handed over the bag. He said to the Spanish tourists that the majority of Myanmar people professed Buddhism; that they practised the Teachings of the Buddha to reduce their greed and observed the Five Precepts; and that he was poor but he had no covetousness to get others' belongings.

The foreign guests said that they planned to stay in Myanmar till 25 February. During their stay, they would visit Bagan-NyaungU, Mandalay, Inlay and Chaungtha Beach. Theirs was the first-ever visit to Myanmar. They got hospitality and help of Myanmar people, so they wanted to visit Myanmar many more times, they said.

Translation: MS
Kyemon: 16-2-2007



Enrique (top right) who lost his passport and cameras, U Zaw Win (May Fair Inn) (second top right) and young Spanish tourists.

Soon after their arrival in Myanmar, foreigners realize that what they have learnt about Myanmar is far from what they are witnessing in the nation. Then, they recognize the natural beauty of the golden land with stability and peace, and the innate nature of Myanmar people that the latter give priority to their guests, and are hospitable and helpful to others. There is a motto relating to the nature of Myanmar people "Helpful to others is Myanmar's innate nature". It is not an exaggeration designed to boost the tourism industry of Myanmar.

Ricardo and Jarier. They worked for IBERIA Airline in Madrid, Spain. Their ages range from 29 to 37. They were putting up at May Fair Inn on 38th Street.

Owner of May Fair Inn U Zaw Win said that on the day they arrived, they visited the Shwedagon Pagoda at about 5 pm. They enjoyed a pleasant sunset from the platform of the pagoda and took a rest there. They said that they felt very pleased to see other pilgrims paying homage at the pagoda and saying prayers. Then, they took a taxi to downtown Yangon to do a sightseeing. They got off the taxi near the Sule Pagoda. After that, Enrique noticed that his bag was missing. They thought his bag was left at the pagoda and returned there to look for the bag, but in vain. The bag held a Sony video camera, a digital camera, a Spanish national registration card, a passport and 70 US dollars. Then, they reported to the



Senior General Than Shwe receives newly-accredited ambassador Mr Kouily A Souphakhet of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. (News on page 1) — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein calls for sustainable...

(from page 16)

Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint reported on earnings per year from gems emporium, booming of gems and jade market, joint-venture of jade and gems mining between the State and private

Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint.

MNA

companies and the mining in accordance with rules and regulations of the Myanmar gems law.

Next, those present at the meeting discussed matters related to development of the gems industry in Myanmar.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present at the meeting were members of the committee, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council's office and officials concerned.

MNA

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win ...

(from page 16)

Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party visited Pruhs BEHS and inspected classrooms, the multi-media classroom and learning of the students. He then fulfilled the requirements. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party proceeded to Pruhs Township Hospital where they viewed the X-ray room, operation theatre, medical store and wards and presented gifts to the patients. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win presented K 300,000 for the funds towards the hospital to medical superintendent Dr Aye Aung.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win met with officials and other ranks and their families at the local battalion. He gave instructions on making efforts for the improvement of agricultural, livestock breeding and health sectors and regional development and gave away gifts.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party went to the town hall of Dimawhso and met with departmental staff, social organizations and townspeople. The Dimawhso Township PDC chairman and departmental officials reported on the development of the township and improving sectors of agriculture, health and education. Col Nyunt Tin gave a supplementary report. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win stressed the need for continued efforts to develop the agricultural sector. He said the socio-economic growth of the local people is to be put on record. It is heartening to learn that the township's pass rate of the matriculation examination stood first in Kayah State. He then greeted those present.

After that, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win visited Dimawhso BEHS and looked into the classrooms, science lab, multi-media classroom and students' learning. Later, Lt-Gen

Central Committee for Extension of Nay Pyi Taw Herbal Garden meets

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Feb — The Central Committee for Extension of Nay Pyi Taw Herbal Garden held a meeting at the Ministry of Health, here this afternoon.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint made a speech.

Minister Col Thein Nyunt of the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and

Development Affairs, Deputy Ministers for Health Dr Mya Oo and Dr Paing Soe, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein and others were present.

Minister Col Thein Nyunt, Deputy Minister Dr Paing Soe and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Myint Thein held discussions.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by Minister Dr Kyaw Myint. — MNA



Kyaw Win and party proceeded to Dimawhso Township Hospital where they inspected the operation theatre, medical store and wards and presented gifts to the patients. They also inspected Ngwedaung dam and left necessary instructions to officials. — MNA

Minister Dr Kyaw Myint speaks at the meeting of Central Committee for Extension of Nay Pyi Taw Herbal Garden.

MNA

USDA Executives Advanced Management (Special) Course No 4 concludes

Training courses conducted at all levels to enable USDA members to better serve national and regional interests

YANGON, 16 Feb — The Union Solidarity and Development Association Executives' Advanced Management (Special) Course No 4 concluded at the USDA Training School in Hmawby Township this morning, with an address by Secretary-General of USDA U Htay Oo.

Also present on the occasion were USDA CEC members, Course in-charge Lt-Col Khin Win and officials.

In his address, Secretary-General U Htay Oo said that the goal of all the people is the emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation. To realize this, priority is being given to achieving the best result while implementing the long-term plan. The present task to build the nation is to strive for shaping the better future. Hence, the task is to be handed down to one generation to another.

The government and the people have to adopt the authentic and enduring national policy in serving the national interest. In line with the prescribed policy, appropriate tasks for the present situation are to be undertaken. Non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of soverei-



USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo addresses the conclusion of Advanced Management (Special) Course No 4 of USDA Executives.—MNA

gnty are national duties. These are lofty principles for building the nation. Furthermore, 12 Political, Economic and Social Objectives are also systematic tasks.

At present, under the correct leadership of the Head of State, local strengths such as the Government, the Tatmadaw and the people are making concerted efforts for building the new nation by setting the genuine goal, the lofty principle and the systematic task. While taking part in the tasks to build the nation, the USDA members are to organize the entire people to join hands with the constructive force.

The members are to build the nation with Union Spirit. It was the fine traditions that various national races have been living in the Union of

Myanmar through thick and thin since time immemorial. National brethren have been living in hilly and plain regions of the country with mutual understanding based on flourishing Union Spirit. It is obvious that all regions of the nation are located as mini-unions within the State. All the national people wherever they live had overcome various kinds of hindrances and difficulties through Union Spirit. Therefore, all are to emphasize perpetual existence of the genuine Union Spirit.

The USDA was formed with patriotic youth with the aim of joining hands with the people in carrying out stability and development tasks of the nation. At present, the number of the association already reached 24 million.

Training courses for the increasing members are being opened at township, State/Division and central levels. Qualified members will have the ability to better serve the interest of the respective regions.

The trainees are leading the different associations of respective regions and they have experiences to a certain degree. They have studied various subjects of the training course and participated in the discussions.

The trainees will be able to effectively apply the experiences and knowledge they have gained from the course in the interest of local people of their regions. They have to expedite the tasks through the association's united strength for regional development and practise and understand the principles of leadership and obedience in different levels.

Now is an opportune time for them to take part

in the smooth transition to a new nation. The government is building good foundations to ensure peace and stability and perpetual existence of the forthcoming discipline-flourishing democratic nation. Consequently, the nation is enjoying unprecedented progress.

In the drive for the emergence of a new nation, priority is to be given to prudent projects to be implemented through unremitting efforts.

The association is taking part in the tasks for equitable development of all parts of the nation. The members are to join hands with local people in the State's seven-step Road Map laid down for achieving the national goal — emergence of a democratic nation.

The fruitful results of progress the people are now enjoying are due to the correct leadership, genuine goodwill and unremitting self-reliant

efforts to accomplish the development tasks. In serving the national interest, tasks are to be carried out with Union Spirit for the development of the Union.

The nation's tangible development is, indeed, the prevailing condition of the nation. That is achieved due to the endeavours made with genuine goodwill without egotism, personality cult, ideology and sectarianism.

Every nation gives priority to the interests of the people concerned. In that regard, it is required of the national people to be aware of alien instigation and wedge driven in the interests of the alien nation concerned.

In conclusion, he urged the member trainees to make concerted efforts with patriotic spirit for ensuring perpetual existence and development of the new nation, to cooperate with the entire people for successful completion of the seven-step Road Map, to discharge community welfare services in accordance with the future programmes laid down by the association, and to overcome all possible obstacles through the morale and unity of the members and the people in a bid to build a new nation.

Altogether 200 trainees completed the four-week course.—MNA

Int'l Organizations to provide aid for control of animal diseases in Myanmar

YANGON, 16 Feb — Director-General U Maung Maung Nyunt of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department met with Director Mr Hiroaki Okuchi of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and officials at LBVD office in Mandalay Division on 6 February.

They discussed matters on control of Foot and Mouth disease, bird flu and hog cholera disease and second-phase provision of ¥ 102 million for control of the diseases.

Similarly, FAO Regional Coordinator Dr Wantanee, Dr Machida

of Japan and Nancy R Morgan of FAO Regional Office called on Director-General U Maung Maung Nyunt of LBVD and the officials at the same venue yesterday. Their discussion focused on the findings of the surveillance on bird flu.

Dr Mac Arthur of United States Agency for International Development and party also met with the director-general of LBVD and the officials at the latter's office yesterday.

They discussed measures being taken for controlling bird flu and matters on the FAO's aid for prevention of bird flu. —MNA

Minister receives Singaporean guests

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Feb — Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint received a Singaporean delegation led by Mr Frank Wong of Watana Trading Ltd Managing and party at the ministry, here on 13 February.

Also present on the occasion were Director-General Dr Thein Tun of Electric Power Department, Managing Director Dr San Oo of Myanma Electric Power Enterprise, Managing Director U Tin Aung of Electric Power Supply Enterprise and the officials.—MNA

Iranian official hints at halting atomic work

TEHERAN, 16 Feb — An adviser to Iran's top authority, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, suggested in remarks published on Wednesday that Teheran might consider suspending sensitive atomic work.

The comments are the latest in a series of conflicting signals from Iranian officials on whether Iran would halt uranium enrichment, which the West fears Teheran is using to build nuclear bombs. Iran insists its plans are peaceful.

In previous rounds of nuclear talks that collapsed, Iran said it was open to discussing suspension but would explain that it was an "illogical" step for Iran. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad ruled out suspension in a speech on Sunday.

Ali Akbar Velayati, quoted by French daily *Liberation*, said Iran had accepted suspension in the past but the move had not helped to end the dispute.

"But if we continue to be in favour of a peaceful resolution of this problem, no idea should be unacceptable, not for us or for anyone else," he said.

"We have only got one red line: respecting our right to nuclear energy, which is guaranteed in the (nuclear) Non-Proliferation Treaty."

The NPT gives signatories the right to enrich fuel for atomic power plants provided their plans are verified as peaceful.

Velayati was Iran's Foreign Minister under influential former president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani. He now serves as an adviser on international affairs to Khamenei. — *MNA/Reuters*

Thailand plans to break patents on 14 drugs

BANGKOK, 16 Feb — Thailand is planning to break the foreign patents of 14 HIV/AIDS, cancer and heart drugs, a move that may prompt companies to withhold new drugs from the Thai market, pharmaceutical firms said on Wednesday.

"This action is completely unprecedented anywhere in the world," said Teera Chakajnarodom, president of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers' Association of Thailand, which has 43 member drug firms.

The 14 drugs targeted by the Health Ministry also included antibiotics, Teera said in a statement.

The ministry has announced compulsory licences for three of the 14 drugs, allowing it to buy or make generic versions of the two HIV/AIDS drugs and a heart disease medicine.

Ministry officials were not immediately available to comment.

On Monday, Health Minister Mongkol na Songkhla told *Reuters* a ministry panel was studying drugs Thailand needed and could make or buy copies while haggling for best prices of patented versions. He did not name the drugs being studied.

Foreign drug makers say Thailand's military-appointed government gave no notice to the affected companies before issuing the compulsory licences.

"When governments resolve to take away the property of the private sector, they need to begin with consultation and end with the consent of the property owner," Teera said. — *MNA/Reuters*



Italy's Mara Santangelo plays a shot to Japan's Yurika Sema during their match at the Women's Open tennis tournament in the southern Indian city of Bangalore on 16 Feb, 2007. — INTERNET

Japanese gang head found dead, suicide suspected

TOKYO, 16 Feb — The head of a Japanese gang appeared to have committed suicide on Thursday, a week after the fatal shooting of a rival group's member triggered fears of an all-out turf war between the country's two largest Yakuza clans.

Kazuyoshi Kudo, head of a gang associated with Japan's largest organized crime group, the Yamaguchi-gumi, is believed to have killed himself with a gun in his home in Tokyo, *Kyodo* news agency reported.

Tokyo police said Kudo, 70, was found dead at home. They did not give details. Membership in a gang is not in itself illegal in Japan. Although police keep close tabs on gang members, they are often criticized for avoiding confrontations. — *MNA/Reuters*



Egyptian holiday makers enjoy a ride on a traditional Nile wind boat in front of the Giza Pyramids in Cairo, Egypt, on 16 Feb, 2007. — INTERNET

Japanese whaling ship on fire off coast of Antarctica

CANBERRA, 16 Feb — A Japanese whaling ship is on fire and one crew member is missing off the coast of Antarctica after a blaze broke out below decks, New Zealand maritime authorities said on Thursday.

The fire broke out around 1600 GMT (5 am New Zealand Time) on the black-hulled *Nisshin Maru*, the 8,000-ton flagship and factory vessel of the Japan whaling fleet in the Southern Ocean.

"Three other whaling ships have come to their assistance and taken 142 crew off, while 20 remain on the ship fighting the fire and one is unaccounted for at this

stage," Maritime New Zealand spokesman Steve Corbett told *Reuters*.

Corbett said he could not confirm reports of an explosion and the cause of the fire was unknown, as sea conditions in the area had been calm with no wind.

The blaze, he said, had nothing to do with environmental activists who had been harassing the fleet for the past two

days, at one stage colliding with another Japanese vessel.

No assistance had been requested or sent to the area — 265 nautical miles north of the American McMurdo Base in Antarctica and near the so-called Bay of Whales — by New Zealand's Government. "The master advises he has the situation under control," Corbett said. — *MNA/Reuters*

Beijing Customs seize around 70 kilos of ivory products

BEIJING, 16 Feb — A total of 67.45 kilos of ivory products was seized from the luggage of a female passenger from the Democratic Republic of Congo at Beijing Capital International Airport on Tuesday.

The female passenger, flying from Addis Abba to Beijing, chose to go through the nothing-to-declare lane of the Customs upon her arrival in Beijing.

She was found to be carrying half-finished mahjong sets, bracelets, necklaces and other ornaments made of ivory when Customs officers examined her luggage.

Anti-smuggling officers are currently investigating the case.

China put into effect a set of regulation on the trade of endangered wild fauna and flora on 1 September last year.

The rules cover wildlife listed by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

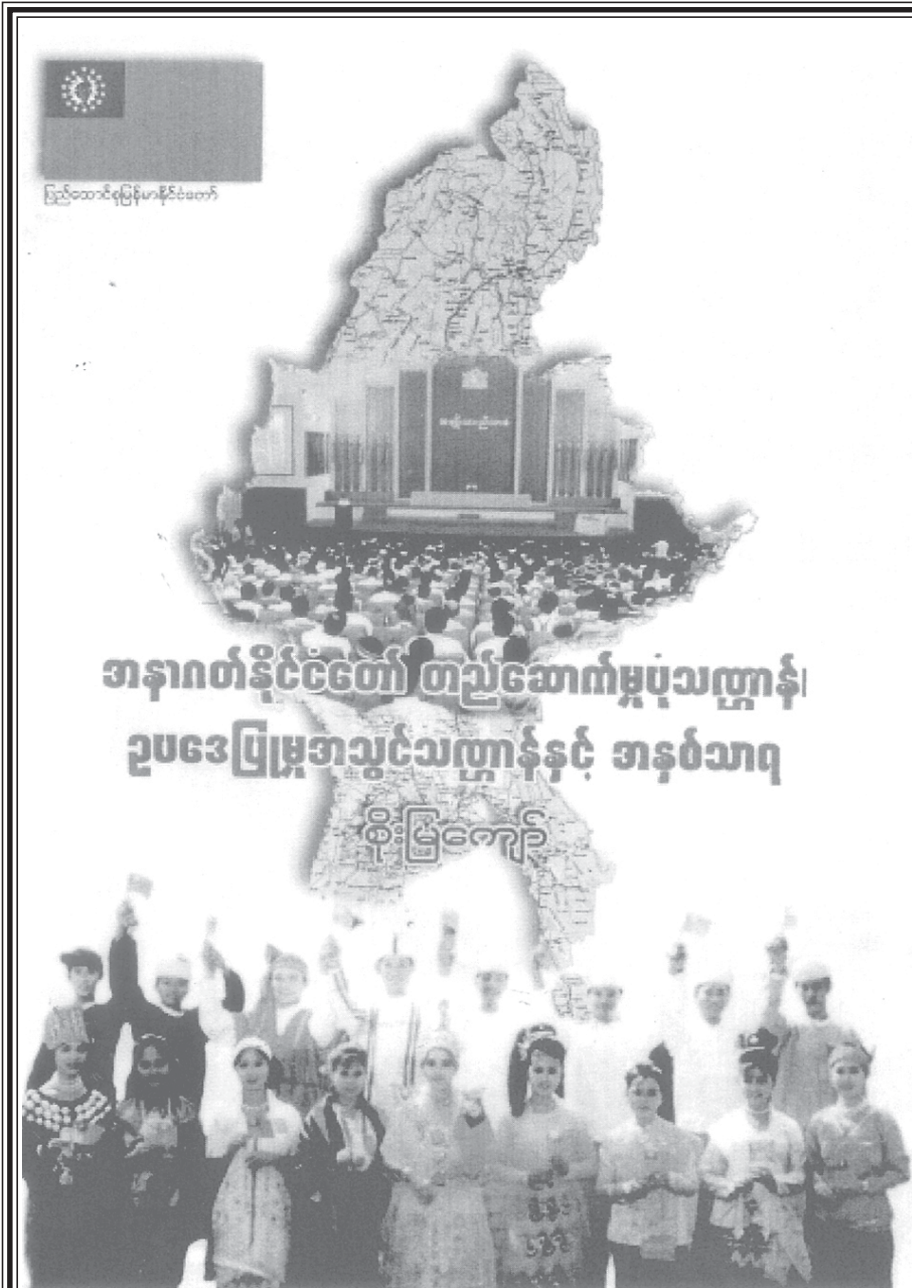
(CITES). China joined the international convention in 1980.

Under the rules, approval from the Chinese Government is required for exporting and importing wildlife or wildlife products for non-commercial purposes, such as scientific research, breeding or exchanges.

MNA/Xinhua



Villagers travel in a 'nory', a small train made from bamboo, at Bak Doeung village in Kampong Speu Province, 40 km (25 miles) northwest of Phnom Penh, on 16 Feb, 2007. — INTERNET



**အနာဂတ်နိုင်ငံတော် တည်ဆောက်မှုပုံသဏ္ဍာန်၊
ဥပဒေပြုမှုအသွင်သဏ္ဍာန်နှင့် အနှစ်သာရ**

စိုးမြကျော်

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

စိုးမြကျော် ၏

အနာဂတ်နိုင်ငံတော်တည်ဆောက်မှု ပုံသဏ္ဍာန် ဥပဒေပြုမှု အသွင်သဏ္ဍာန်နှင့် အနှစ်သာရ

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

ထွက်ပြီ

- စာပေဗိမာန် စာအုပ်ဆိုင် ၅၂၉-၅၃၁၊ ကုန်သည်လမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။
ဖုန်း - ၃၈၁၄၄၈၊ ၂၄၉၀၃၁
- သတင်းနှင့် စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်းစာအုပ်ဆိုင်၊ ၂၁၂၊ သိမ်ဖြူလမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။
ဖုန်း - ၂၉၄၃၀၆

Olmert says Israel wants peace with Syria

ANKARA, 16 Feb — Visiting Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert told reporters here on Thursday that he is “happy” to make peace with Syria, but Damascus must stop supporting what he called “terrorism”.

Olmert made the remarks in a joint news conference with his Turkish counterpart

Recep Tayyip Erdogan. If there is a peace with Syria, “we will be satisfied and be happy”, Olmert said, urging for Syria’s abiding by the rules set up by the international community to stop supporting terrorism.

Olmert arrived in Turkish capital Ankara on Wednesday on a two-day official visit, during which

bilateral ties and regional issues will be high on agenda. On Tuesday, a day before the arrival of Olmert, Erdogan criticized Israel for allowing excavation near Islam’s third holiest shrine al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, saying the objections of the Muslim world were justified. — MNA/Xinhua

ASEAN launches 40th anniversary logo

JAKARTA, 16 Feb — The Secretariat of Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) has launched a logo for its 40th anniversary here on Thursday.

After a logo design contest around the ASEAN member countries, logo designed by Haji Othman bin Haji Salleh from Brunei

Darussalam was chosen as the final winner. The number “40” incorporated into the logo design gives a clear representation of ASEAN’s 40th anniversary. The two sharp points of the “4” meet in a manner to symbolize ASEAN’s harmonious and key role in the progress and development of a dynamic

Asia. It also alludes to the “heart” of a resilient caring and sharing ASEAN community. Through using the official ASEAN colours of blue, red, white and yellow, and the ASEAN emblem, the logo reflects the goals and values of ASEAN and ambition of becoming one community. — MNA/Xinhua



A staff member uses lotus-shaped candles to form the Chinese character for ‘Good Fortune’ at a temple on the outskirts of Beijing, on 16 Feb, 2007. Chinese around the world are preparing to welcome the Lunar New Year on 18 Feb. — INTERNET

Six die in cavern on Spain’s Tenerife Island

MADRID, 16 Feb — Rescue workers found the bodies of six people who suffocated deep in an underground cavern on Spain’s Canary Islands on Sunday, a spokeswoman said.

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

were taken to a hospital. Rescuers found the last six in the afternoon. A spokeswoman for the emergency services said the missing were 1,500 to 2,000 metres (5,000 to 6,500 feet) underground and access for rescue workers was very difficult. The official cause of death would not be confirmed until there was an autopsy, but initially it looked like lack of oxygen rather than toxic gas, she said. “The tunnels are very

narrow. There is not much air and this was a big group,” she earlier said. 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. The Teide Mountain on Tenerife is one of Europe’s few active volcanoes. — MNA/Reuters

ADVERTISEMENT

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV VASCO DA GAMA VOY NO (033)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV VASCO DA GAMA VOY NO (033) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.2.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.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 INTERASIA LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

တင်ဒါပိတ်ရက် ပြောင်းလဲပြင်ဆင်ခြင်း

၁။ ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ပုံနှိပ်ရေးနှင့်စာအုပ် ထုတ်ဝေရေး လုပ်ငန်းနှင့် သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်းတွင် အသုံးပြုရန်လိုအပ်သော စက္ကူ၊ မင်နှင့် ပုံနှိပ်လုပ်ငန်းသုံး ပစ္စည်းများအတွက် တင်ဒါပေးသွင်းမှုကို ၁၉-၂-၂၀၀၇ ရက် (၁၆:၃၀) နာရီတွင် ပိတ်မည်ဖြစ်ကြောင်း၊ ၉-၂-၂၀၀၇ ရက်မှ ၁၁-၂-၂၀၀၇ ရက် နေ့အထိ နေ့စဉ် ထုတ်ဝေသည့် သတင်းစာများတွင် ကြော်ငြာခဲ့ပါသည်။

၂။ အဆိုပါ စက္ကူ၊ မင်နှင့် ပုံနှိပ်လုပ်ငန်းသုံးပစ္စည်းများ အတွက် တင်ဒါပိတ်ရက်ကို ၁၉-၂-၂၀၀၇ ရက် (၁၆:၃၀) နာရီ အစား ၂၆-၂-၂၀၀၇ ရက်(၁၆:၃၀) နာရီသို့ ပြောင်းလဲပြင်ဆင် သတ်မှတ်ပါကြောင်း အကြောင်း ကြားပါသည်။

ပြည်တွင်း/ပြည်ပ

ပစ္စည်းများဝယ်ယူရေးနှင့်ထုခွဲရောင်းချရေးကော်မတီ

ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

ဖုန်း-၀၁-၅၃၇၆၅၅

၀၆၇-၄၁၂၃၂၇

NATO bombing kills 30 in S Afghan

KABUL, 15 Feb—NATO Air Forces killed 30 people including 18 civilians early Wednesday in a bombardment against a compound near Musa Qala District centre in Helmand Province of southern Afghanistan, a local elder Haji Ibrahim told *Xinhua*.

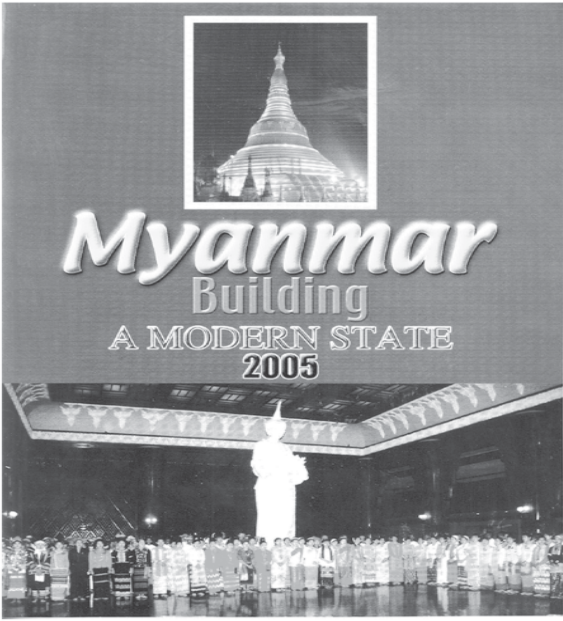
Ibrahim said the 18 civilians were all family members of the compound's owner Haji Qasim, and the other 12 persons killed were Taliban militants.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese Mainland will need 3,000 aircraft over next 20 years

BEIJING, 15 Feb—The Chinese Mainland will need 3,000 aircraft over the next 20 years, according to John Leahy, Airbus chief operating officer.

The figure includes 2,650 passenger planes, worth a total of 289 billion US dollars, as the number of passenger planes in service will increase from 760 in 2005 to 2,700 in 2025, he predicted. Meanwhile, the Mainland's air cargo transport will increase six times by 2025, creating the demand for 400 new cargo planes.— MNA/Xinhua



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ဒိုင်ပိတ်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ အမှတ်(၁) စက်မှုဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာ့ဆေးဝါးနှင့် အိမ်သုံးပစ္စည်းလုပ်ငန်း လက်အောက်ရှိ ပလတ်စတစ်စက်ရုံ အမှတ်(၂) အတွက် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ စက်ပစ္စည်းနှစ်မျိုးအား မြန်မာ ကျပ်ငွေ (သို့မဟုတ်) နိုင်ငံခြားငွေဖြင့်ဝယ်ယူလိုကြောင်းကြော်ငြာအပ် ပါသည်။

ပြည်တွင်းအဝယ်ဈေးနှုန်းအဆိုပြုလွှာ (၂၀၀၆-၀၇)

တင်ဒါပေးသွင်းရက် ၁၉/၂/၀၇

တင်ဒါပိတ်ရက် ၁၃/၂/၀၇

ပစ္စည်းအမည်	ရေတွက်ပုံ	အရေအတွက်
-SME High Speed Plastic Blow Moulding Machine (Vertical Type)	Set	1-Set
-Injection Blow Hollow Moulding Machine (Rotary Type)	Set	1-Set

၂။ ဒိုင်ပိတ်တင်ဒါပေးသွင်းမှုကို အမှတ်(၁) စက်မှုဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ စက်မှုညွှန်ကြားရေးဦးစီးဌာန၊ နေပြည်တော်သို့ (၁-၃-၀၇)ရက် (၁၆:၀၀) နာရီတွင် နောက်ဆုံးပေးသွင်းရမည်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

၃။ တင်ဒါပုံစံနှင့် အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များကို (၁၉-၂-၀၇) နေ့မှစတင်၍ အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ လိပ်စာတွင်လာရောက် စုံစမ်းဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။

အမှတ်(၁) စက်မှုဝန်ကြီးဌာန
 မြန်မာ့ဆေးဝါးနှင့် အိမ်သုံးပစ္စည်းလုပ်ငန်း
 စီမံကိန်းဌာန
 နေပြည်တော်-ဖုန်းနံပါတ်-၀၆၇-၄၀၈၁၄၄

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 for Soremartec S.A.
 P. O. Box 60, Yangon
 Dated: 17 February 2007

UN report says Britain worst place for children

LONDON, 15 Feb—Britain is the worst country in the industrialized world in which to be a child, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said on Wednesday.

The charity looked at 40 indicators to gauge the lives of children in 21 economically advanced nations — the first study of its kind — and found Britain's children were among the poorest and most neglected.

Children's charities and opposition politicians described the findings as

"shameful" and accused Prime Minister Tony Blair's government of failing a generation of children.

Britain lagged behind on key measures of poverty and deprivation, happiness, relationships, and risky or bad behaviour, the study showed.

It scored a little better for education but languished in the bottom third for all other measures, giving it the lowest overall placing, along with the United States.

Children's happiness

was rated highest in northern Europe, with the Netherlands, Sweden and Denmark leading the list.

"All countries have weaknesses that need to be addressed and no country features in the top third of the rankings for all six dimensions," said David Bull, UNICEF Britain's executive director. The study found there was no consistent relationship between a country's wealth, as measured in gross domestic product per capita, and a child's quality of life.— MNA/Reuters

Vietnam to send first guest workers to US

HANOI, 15 Feb—Vietnamese guest labourers will be able to work in the United States for the first time on a trial basis, the government said in a statement on Wednesday.

The Labour Ministry has identified the United States, Australia and Canada as new major markets for Vietnamese guest workers this year. It has projected to send 80,000 people to work overseas in 2007, from 78,800 people sent last year.— MNA/Reuters

Two dead, 11 injured in snowslide in Japan

TOKYO, 15 Feb—Two tourists were killed, and eleven injured on Wednesday when they encountered a snowslide on a mountain in northern Japan's Aomori Prefecture, local reports said. A missing tourist has been found and rushed to hospital in the afternoon. He was conscious though injured, *Kyodo News* said. The snowslide occurred at around 11:00 am local

time (0200 GMT). A tourist group comprising some 24 people started climbing the mountain at Aomori City, Aomori Prefecture at around 9:00 am (0000 GMT). A guide contacted their hotel around two and a half hours later, saying that snowslide occurred. Some 40 firefighters were then sent to rescue.

MNA/Xinhua

Beijing police seizes fake "Viagra" pills

BEIJING, 15 Feb—Beijing police Tuesday cracked down an underground factory which manufactured the fake blue pill, "Viagra", involving 2.5 million yuan (about 320,000 US dollars), according to sources with the municipal drug and food supervision bureau.

Police found 1,949 pieces of the fake blue pills in the underground factory, located in a two-storey building in Tongzhou District in eastern Beijing, together with machines, packing materials, trade marks and even anti-counterfeiting tags, *Beijing Daily* reports on Wednesday. The Tongzhou branch of the Beijing drug and food supervision bureau last December got letters complaining that noises and fake medicines were produced in a certain building.— MNA/Xinhua

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပို့ဆက်ရေးတိုးတက်လာ နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့



Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's (JAXA) H-2A rocket is set up at the launching pad tower at Tanegashima Space Centre in Kagoshima Prefecture, southern Japan, on 16 Feb, 2007. The 12th H-2A rocket, carrying the intelligence-gathering satellite, will be launched in this afternoon.
INTERNET

Ancient Chinese paintings on show in Brussels

BRUSSELS, 15 Feb— Belgian art lovers get a rare chance of watching some of the most precious collections of China's top museum when they were put on display in a Brussels art centre on Wednesday.

Eighty-five paintings by Chinese masters from the 15th to the 20th Century, drawn from the collection of the Palace Museum in Beijing, stood side by side with 92 works by Belgian painters during the same period, such as Pieter Brueghel and Peter Paul Rubens, in a unique exhibition in the Brussels Centre for Fine Arts.

Forbidden Empire, was designed so that visitors can observe both the relationships and the differences between the two groups' painters in terms of themes, techniques, and visions, said Yu Hui, the Chinese curator of the show.

He said that although Chinese ancient art works had been exhibited in many countries, such parallel presentation was

unprecedented. As oil painting on canvas came into an interesting confrontation with works on paper and silk from the Ming and Qing dynasties and from the early days of the Chinese Republic, viewers can get a better understanding of the two nations and their civilizations by comparing their distinct cultures and their conceptions of the world.

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia sees record-high FDI in manufacturing in 2006

KUALA LUMPUR, 15 Feb — Foreign investment in approved manufacturing projects in Malaysia reached 20.2 billion ringgit (5.46 billion US dollars) in 2006, the highest level chalked up to date, local Press reported Wednesday.

The figure is a big improvement compared with 17.9 billion ringgit (4.84 billion US dollars) in 2005 and 13.1 billion ringgit (3.54 billion US dollars) in 2004.

International Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah Aziz announced the figures Tuesday when releasing the Malaysian Industrial Development Authority's annual report on the performance of the manufacturing and services sectors.

"Despite the increasing global competition, Malaysia continues to attract global foreign investment, reflecting the country's cost-competitiveness as a manufacturing and export base,"

Rafidah was quoted as saying by the *New Straits Times*. Taking into account both local and foreign investments, a total of 1,077 projects involving investments of 46 billion ringgit (12.43 billion US dollars) were approved last year compared with 31 billion ringgit (8.38 billion US dollars) in 1,027 projects in 2005.

The figures exceeded Malaysia's Third Industrial Master Plan (2006-2020) target. Projects approved during the period are expected to create 88,952 jobs, of which 66 per cent will be in the managerial, technical, supervisory and skilled manpower categories. — MNA/Xinhua

Bizzard pulls the umbrella of a passerby in New York, the United States, on 14 Feb, 2007. New York City faced the first heavy snow of this winter which led to traffic jams and stoppage of electric powers.
XINHUA



Man with "elephantine face" leaves hospital

GUANGZHOU, 15 Feb— A Chinese man with "elephantine face" has left Guangzhou Nanfang Hospital for the Spring Festival after 2.8-kilo tumours on his face was removed. Chen Shipping, 40, had his face covered with tumours developed from a small tumour on his head when he was seven. He went to the hospital in September last year.

"Chen suffered the unwonted neurofibroma, a usually benign tumour originating in peripheral nerve fibres," said Gao Jianhua, the plastic surgeon in charge of the surgery.

About ten such cases had been reported in China but Chen was the worst one. The operation was a challenge to the

contemporary plastic surgery, said Gao.

The first surgery in June and second surgery in December had removed a

total of 2.8-kilo tumours on his face, eyelids, lips, forehead, neck and left ear.

MNA/Xinhua



Traffic comes to a halt due to snowfall in Kufri, about 25 kilometres (16 miles) from Shimla, India, on 15 Feb, 2007.
INTERNET

Beijing Unicom offers free incoming mobile phone calls

BEIJING, 15 Feb— Beijing Unicom, a local branch of China's second largest mobile phone operator China Unicom Ltd, has announced subscribers can enjoy free incoming calls from Wednesday.

According to a Beijing Unicom spokesman, the free calls are only available to users in Beijing at present due to "complicated charging policies". Beijing Unicom's rival Beijing Mobile, local branch of China's largest mobile operator China Mobile Ltd, started providing free incoming calls packages for a monthly prepaid fee on 8 February. — MNA/Xinhua

WHO urges developing countries to negotiate with drugs companies

BANGKOK, 15 Feb— Developing nations should try to negotiate with drug companies before overriding patents to make copycat medicines, the head of the World Health Organization said.

Margaret Chan said the Thai Government was fully within its rights under world trade rules to issue compulsory licences allowing it to buy or make generic versions of two HIV/AIDS drugs and a heart disease medicine.

But in a letter to Thai Health Minister Mongkol NaSongkhla made available to Reuters on Tuesday, Chan said: "I firmly believe that the pharmaceutical industry — generic manufacturers and R&D companies — are part of the solution."

The Thai licences, expected to save the country

up to 800 million baht (24 million US dollars) a year, drew praise from AIDS activists, but flak from the drug industry, which received no warning from the military-appointed government.

Chan said countries were not required to negotiate with patent holders before issuing a licence, but "prior negotiations with industry is a pragmatic approach that may ensure countries have access to high quality medicines and at affordable prices".

MNA/Reuters

SPORTS

Three more Reds for Necaxa in home defeat

MEXICO CITY, 16 Feb — Necaxa took their tally of red cards to five in the last two games after having three players sent off in a 2-0 home defeat by Cruz Azul in the Mexican championship.

Necaxa, whose coach Jose Luis Trejo has also been suspended after being sent off against Pachuca on Sunday, finished the first half of Wednesday night's Clausura championship game with nine men and trailing by two goals.

Miguel Sabah scored both goals for the visitors while Mario Perez was dismissed for a second bookable offence in the 25th minute and Omar Hernandez followed in the 44th for a tackle from behind.

Substitute Victor Gutierrez followed in the 73rd minute but Necaxa enjoyed one slice of good fortune when Israel Lopez missed a penalty for the visitors shortly afterwards.

Referee Marco Antonio Rodriguez produced one more red card when he dismissed Cruz Azul veteran Salvador Carmona in the 87th minute for a second bookable offence.

The win took Cruz Azul second in Group One with nine points from five games, one behind Atlas who lost their unbeaten record in a 1-0 defeat at San Luis.

Pachuca's goalless draw at Queretaro kept them top of Group Two while Morelia stayed top of Group Three with a 5-0 thrashing of Veracruz.

Francisco Arce scored a hat-trick for the Monarchs, while Alejandro Leyva and Edgar Solano shared the other goals. Colombian international Tressor Moreno completed a miserable evening for the Red Sharks when he was sent off in the 48th minute.—MNA/Reuters

Calderon's rival opts against further legal action at Real

MADRID, 16 Feb — Real Madrid presidential candidate Juan Miguel Villar Mir has decided not to appeal a judge's ruling that the postal votes in last July's election were null and void.

Spanish media reported a large number of the 10,511 votes that were excluded had been for Villar Mir, who lagged winner Ramon Calderon by 1,642 in the poll. He was considered the candidate most likely to contest the ruling.

Chinese rookies train with Chelsea

BEIJING, 15 Feb.— Two players from the Chinese Olympic football team have been invited to train with the first-string squad of English Premiership powerhouse Chelsea.

Yu Hai and Yuan Weiwei were the lucky player who temporarily wore No. 28 and 44 blue jerseys during Chelsea's training session on Valentine's Day.

As part of a cooperation scheme between the Blues and the Chinese Football Association, the Chinese Olympic team was accommodated at Chelsea's base and arranged to train there during the England training tour.

The arrangement allowed the Chinese lads to mingle with the club's big names such as Andriy Shevchenko and Michael Ballack on and off the pitch.

The decision of the Chinese players' participation came after Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho suf-



Chinese players Yu Hai (R) and Yuan Weiwei pose for a photo with an official with the Chinese Olympic football team.—XINHUA

ferred a shorthanded plight in the team's left wing due to a shortfall caused by injuries in ace left players, including Ashley Cole and Arjen Robben.—Internet



Shigeki Maruyama, of Japan, follows through on a tee shot on the ninth hole during the first round of the Nissan Open golf tournament at the Riviera Country Club in Los Angeles, on 15 Feb, 2007.—INTERNET

Schedule clash tops first meeting of Blatter, Platini

ZURICH, 16 Feb — FIFA president Sepp Blatter has held his first official meeting with Michel Platini since the Frenchman's election to the UEFA presidency last month.

According to a joint statement released on Thursday, the meeting concentrated on perceived problems concerning players' agents, insurance for clubs and the players they release for international duty and the international match calendar.

In particular, Blatter and Platini were said to have discussed an upcoming schedule clash in December 2007 when FIFA's Club World Cup is set to coincide with the final group stage matches in the UEFA Champions League.

Two proposals have been put forward with the aim of resolving the clash, but no further details were given. For the longer term, the statement said FIFA and UEFA had agreed to set up a joint committee to try and harmonize the international calendar up to 2014.—MNA/Reuters

Kewell likely to leave Liverpool

LONDON, 16 Feb — Australia's Harry Kewell will possibly leave English soccer club Liverpool next season. Kewell has not played for the former European champions since getting injured during their FA Cup final win over West Ham last May.

The 28-year-old, who struggles to overcome foot and groin injuries, has been linked with Barcelona and Tottenham coach Martin Jol has respect for the player though getting back to fitness would of course be a prerequisite before any new move in his career.

MNA/Xinhua

Benneteau downs Ferrer to advance in Marseille

MARSEILLE, 16 Feb — France's Julien Benneteau recovered from a terrible start to beat Spaniard fifth seed David Ferrer 4-6, 6-0, 6-1 and reach the quarter-finals of the Marseille Open on Thursday.

Unseeded Benneteau, who reached the French Open last eight last year, won seven out of eight break points to wrap up the win in one hour and 39 minutes.

Benneteau, 43rd in the ATP rankings, now meets Finn Jarkko Nieminen, who beat France's Nicolas Mahut 6-4, 3-6, 6-3. Big serving Robin Soederling won an all-Swedish clash when he beat Thomas Johansson 6-4, 7-5 to set up a possible quarterfinal clash with France's Richard Gasquet.—MNA/Reuters

Lippi delighted by Italy's return to top spot

ROME, 15 Feb — World Cup-winning coach Marcello Lippi said he was delighted after Italy returned to the top of FIFA's world rankings for the first time in 14 years.

Italy replaced Brazil at the top of the rankings, announced by FIFA on Wednesday. "It's right that Italy is among the very top positions. It was absurd when, before the World Cup, the United States were ranked third, the Czech Republic fourth," Lippi was quoted as saying in *La Gazzetta dello Sport* on Thursday.

"Now Italy is justifiably first and it will stay like that for a while."

Italy last topped the rankings in November 1993. That side, coached by Arrigo Sacchi, finished runners-up to Brazil in the

World Cup the following year.

"The national team of 1993, the one that Sacchi put together, was a spectacular side," continued Lippi, who stepped down as Italy coach a few days after they beat France in the World Cup final in Berlin.

"Only that (Italian) team, before now, managed to occupy first place. That's very satisfying for us."

Italy's team manager at the World Cup, former international striker Gigi Riva, said the new rankings were overshadowed by the death of a policeman during rioting at a Serie A match this month.

"Obviously the statistical recognition is a great pleasure, even if there's not much to choose between the first, second, or third places," he said.—MNA/Reuters



Russia's Elena Likhovtseva returns a ball to compatriot Elena Dementieva during the second round of the Proximus Diamond Games tennis tournament in Antwerp on 15 Feb, 2007.

INTERNET

US Army grants more waivers to recruits with criminal pasts

WASHINGTON, 16 Feb— The number of waivers granted to US Army recruits with criminal backgrounds has grown about 65 per cent in the last three years, *The New York Times* reported Wednesday.

In numbers, the figure increased to 8,129 in 2006 from 4,918 in 2003, the report quoted Pentagon records as saying.

The sharpest increase was in waivers for serious

misdemeanors, which make up the bulk of all the Army's moral waivers.

These include aggravated assault, burglary, robbery and vehicular homicide.

The number of

wavers for felony convictions also increased, to 11 per cent of the 8,129 moral waivers granted in 2006, from 8 per cent.

While soldiers with criminal histories made up only 11.7 per cent of the

Army recruits in 2006, the spike in waivers raises concerns about whether the military is making too many exceptions to try to meet its recruitment demands in a time of war.

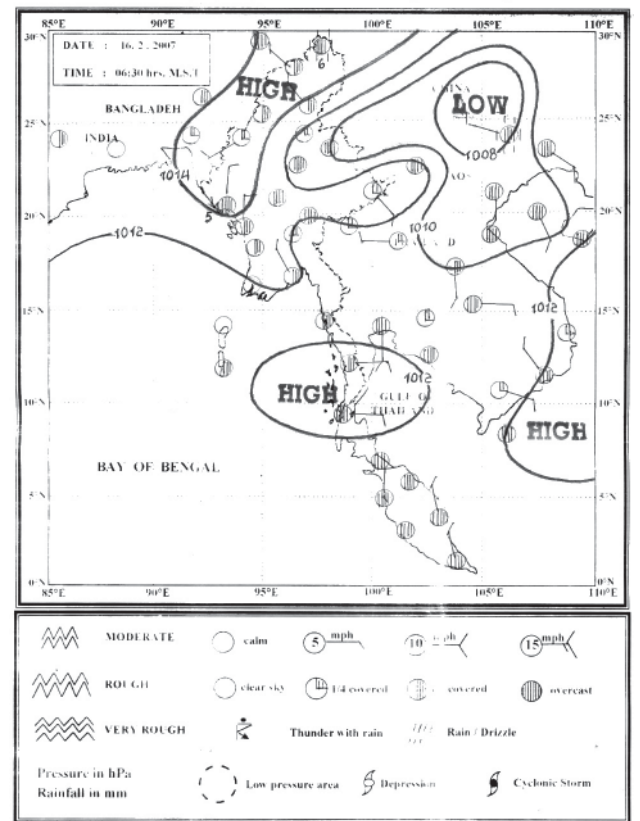
Most felons, for example, are not permitted to carry firearms, and many criminals have at some point exhibited serious lapses in discipline and judgment, traits that are far from ideal on the battlefield.

The military automatically excludes people who have committed certain crimes. They include drug traffickers, recruits who have more than one felony on their record or people who have committed sexually violent crimes.

A felony is defined as a crime that carries a sentence of a year or more in prison.

MNA/Xinhua

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Friday, 16 February, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Kachin State, isolated in Shan and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin and Rakhine States, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, (3°C) below normal in Chin State, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperature was Pinlaung (5°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Machanbaw (0.28) inch, Putao (0.23) inch, Sittway (0.20) inch and Kyaukse (0.16) inch.

Maximum temperature on 15-2-2007 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 16-2-2007 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 16-2-2007 was 73%. Total sunshine hours on 15-2-2007 was (9.0) hours approx.

Rainfall on 16-2-2007 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 (15:30) hours MST on 15-2-2007.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 17-2-2007: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated 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: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 17-2-2007: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 17-2-2007: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 17-2-2007: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Weather outlook for fourth weekend of February 2007: During the coming weekend, rain or thundershowers are possible to be isolated in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Division and weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon Division.



Russia's Anna Chakvetadze, left, shakes hands with compatriot Nadia Petrova after the quarter finals at the Diamond games in Antwerp, Belgium, on Friday 16 Feb, 2007. Chakvetadze won 6-3, 6-4. — INTERNET



Saturday, 17 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
- 7:55 am
5. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:10 am
6. Musical programme
- 8:30 am
7. International news
- 8:45 am
8. Grammar Made Easy
- 11:00 am
1. Martial song
- 11:15 am
2. News
- 11:25 am
3. Round up of the week's TV local news

- 11:55 am
4. “မြေပြန်တောင်ပေါ်ပင်လယ် တောင်တန်း” (ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားဝန်ထမ်းများ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မျိုးအေး)
- 12:50 pm
5. ဘာသာစကားသင်ကြား လေ့လာတက္ကသိုလ်မှာ
- 1:05 pm
6. မြန်မာ့အသံနှင့်ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား နှစ်ပတ်လည်ဂုဏ်ပြုအငြိမ့် (မင်းသမီး- စုလေးညို၊ နိုင်သင်္ဃန်းသင်) လူရွှင်တော်-ဝင်းနိုင်(အနုပညာ)၊ ဧရာပေဒါထင်ပေါ်အုန်းသီး၊ ငွေတောင်)
- 2:45 pm
7. International news
- 4:00 pm
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm
2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm
3. မြူးမြူးကြွကြွ ယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက
- 4:40 pm
4. အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ -တတိယနှစ်(သင်္ချာအထူးပြု) (သင်္ချာ)
- 4:50 pm
5. Games for children
- 5:00 pm
6. “ရိုးသားစွာကြိုးစားပါ” (ထွန်းထွန်းဝင်း၊ ဦးစောနိုင်(ရှမ်းပြည်)ဦးရဲစိန်၊ ကြည်စိုး(IC)မြင့်မြင့်နိုင်၊ ဟိန်းထက်စော်ဝိယ၊ မောင်သူရဦး (ဒါရိုက်တာ- မြင့်စိုး (ဝ/သ ရန်ကုန်))
- 5:30 pm
7. ရသပေါ်လွင် သရုပ်ဆောင်လွင်ပြင်
- 6:00 pm
8. Evening news
- 6:30 pm
9. Weather report
- 6:35 pm
10. အလှူရှာမယ် လှူကမ္ဘာဝယ်
- 7:00 pm
11. တွေ့ဆုံဆွေးနွေးရေး၊ တွေ့ဆုံဆွေးနွေးရေးဟုဆိုကာ (အပိုင်း-၂)
- 7:10 pm
12. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “သမားတော်” (အပိုင်း-၂)
- 8:00 pm
13. News
- 14. International news
- 15. Weather report
- 16. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “လှပသောနေ့ရက်များ” (အပိုင်း-၂၅)
- 17. The next day's programme



Saturday, 17 February
Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music -Space invaders
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music -Keep on growing
- 8:50 am National news/Slogan
- 9:00 am Music -I wanna be with you
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music -Charline
- 1:30 pm News / Slogan,
- 1:40pm Music at your request/Lunch time music -Right here waiting still -The one you love
- 9:00pm ASEAN news
- 9:10pm Article
- 9:20pm Myanma culture..Dr Khin Maung Nyunt
- 9:30pm Souvenirs
- 9:45 pm News / Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL

*R 489 Published by the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information, Union of Myanmar. Edited and printed at The New Light of Myanmar Press, No 22/30 Strand Road at 43rd Street, Yangon. Cable Newlight, PO Box No. 43, Telephones: Editors 392308, Manager 392226, Circulation 392304, Advertisement 392223, Accounts 392224, Administration 392225, Production/Press 297028

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein calls for sustainable mining, urges supervision of work not to cause damage to environment

Meeting No 1/2007 of Myanmar Gems Industry Development Committee held

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Feb — Meeting No 1/2007 of Leading Committee for Development of Myanmar Gems Industry was held at Ministry of Mines here today.

Chairman of the Leading Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered an address at the meeting. In his speech, he said the gems industry is booming and increasing demand of gems from abroad benefit the government and private entrepreneurs, he added.

He also urged the Ministry of Mines and local authorities to supervise the mining work not to cause damage to the environment. As gems are the natural resources of the State, those engaged in mining should not concentrate only on their own interest. They should take fair share of the business with the State. As oil, minerals and gem stones are exhaustible resources, officials are to supervise sustainable mining. In accordance with one of the four economic objectives of the State, officials are

to supervise the gem business so as to keep it in the hands of the national people who want to carry out the business.

He also urged officials concerned to encourage the businessmen so that they can make value-added items or materials and to work together for emergence of a firmly-established market for jade and gems at home in accordance with rules and regulations.

(See page 8)



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivers an address at meeting of Leading Committee for Development of Myanmar Gems Industry.—MNA

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win on tour of Loikaw District

Service personnel, locals urged to make efforts for regional development

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Feb — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by officials, arrived at Loikaw Airport in Kayah State yesterday morning to inspect development in Kayah State and Shan State (South). He was welcomed there by Shan State (East) PDC Chairman Commander of Eastern Command Brig-Gen Thaung Aye, Kayah State PDC Chairman Col Nyunt Tin, senior military officers and departmental officials.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party first inspected road conditions and development tasks in Loikaw, Dimawhso and Pruhsu. At Pruhsu Township PDC office, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win heard reports by the township PDC chairman and officials on improving agricultural, health, education and social affairs sectors. Col Nyunt Tin gave a supplementary report. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win called for efforts for regional development through cooperation of service personnel, social organizations and local people, growing of rubber and conducting research, growing of physic nut and improvement of national youth's education. He also met with members of Pruhsu Township Union Solidarity and Development Association and gave necessary instructions.

(See page 8)



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win presents gifts to a patient at Pruhsu Township Hospital.

MNA