

New jetty will contribute to swift commodity flow and development of socio-economic life of Rakhine State

Phaungdawgyi Concrete Jetty of Sittway Port in Rakhine State opened



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of Ministry of Defence delivers an address at opening of Phaungdawgyi Concrete Jetty of Sittway Port .— MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb—A ceremony to open Phaungdawgyi Concrete Jetty of Sittway Port in Rakhine State was held at the pandal in front of the jetty this morning with an address by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Brig-Gen Maung Shein, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, directors-general and managing directors general of departments and enterprises under the Ministry of

Transport, members of social organizations, staff of Myanma Port Authority, owners of private trawlers, teachers, students and local people.

In his address, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that the State Peace and Development Council upholding Our Three Main National Causes is making all-out efforts in accordance with the 12 political, economic and social objectives for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation. With a view to fostering national solidarity, the government has been giving priority to development of border areas and national races while building infrastructures for transport, education, health and agricultural sectors.

At the same time, measures for industrial development, generating more electricity, applying modern communication techniques, exploring oil and

(See page 8)

Phaungdawgyi Concrete Jetty is 240 feet long and 48 feet wide attached to an approach bridge measuring 444 feet by 24 feet.



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of Ministry of Defence inspects Phaungdawgyi Concrete Jetty. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 19 February, 2007

Development of socio-economic life of people through better transport

The transport sector plays an important role in making efforts to develop national economy. Special projects on roads and bridges are being undertaken with added momentum for infrastructural improvement.

Nowadays new major roads and bridges have been built nationwide. Moreover, new railroads such as Bagan-NyaungU-Myingyan-Mandalay Railroad linking Pyay-Aunglan-Taungwingyi, Pakokku-Kyaw-Gangaw-Kalay passing through Potaung Ponnya mountain ranges and Shwenyaung-Taunggyi-Namhsan through Shan Yoma ranges have been built.

In air transport sector, new international airports were built for promotion of communication, trade and tourism industry. Airfields with 5,000-foot runway and above have increased from 21 to 38 in the country. There are 28 airfields where jet planes can take off and land. New private airlines have joined air transport.

In the water transport sector, modern container yards with modern facilities are being built and systematic arrangements are being made for sea-going ships to go in the major rivers in the country.

With the development of the transport sector, trading and socio-economic life of the people will surely improve.



Patron U Ba Saw of DaikU Township Association (Yangon) presents K 100,000 to an outstanding student at 26th annual meeting of the association held at Maha Theindawgyi Dhammayon near Theingyi Market on Sunday.—H

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

New Year holidays designated

Union of Myanmar

State Peace and Development Council

(Notification No 1/2007)

1st Waxing of Taboung, 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

Preventive measures against DHF, dysentery inspected in Sangyoung, Yankin Townships



Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win inspects sanitation tasks being carried out in Sangyoung Township.—MNA

YANGON, 17 Feb — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win explained tasks to prevent dengue hemorrhage fever and dysentery diseases at Sangyoung Township Development Affairs Committee Office this morning.

The commander inspected participation of YCDC workers, social organization members and local people in carrying out sanitation and dredging of drains for proper flow of water.

At Yankin Township DAC Office, the commander heard reports on prevention against DHF and dysentery, medical treatment, sanitation and proper flow of water at drains presented by officials.

The commander viewed tasks being undertaken for prevention of DHF and dysentery in Ward 13 of Yankin Township.

MNA

Annual General Meeting of MTEA held

YANGON, 17 Feb—The Myanmar Timber Entrepreneurs Association held its 13th Annual General Meeting at International Business Centre here yesterday, attended by Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung and heads of department, the President of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and executives, Chairman of MTEA U Aung Lwin and CEC members, members of the association and guests.

Chairman of MTEA U Aung Lwin made an opening speech and the Minister for Forestry and Vice-President of UMFCCI U Zaw Min Win spoke on the occasion. General Secretary of MTEA U Aye Lwin presented the CEC's report and financial statement and sought approval of the meeting.

After that, General Secretary of UMFCCI U Sein Win Hlaing submitted the list of new executives of MTEA. The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by Meeting Chairman U Aung Lwin.—MNA

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Stores pull peanut butter off shelves

CHICAGO, 16 Feb—Local stores and health officials are taking no chances after a federal warning that certain jars of Peter Pan and Great Value peanut butter might be behind a salmonella outbreak.

The McHenry County Department of Health spent Thursday warning schools, stores, and senior-care facilities after 288 salmonella cases in 39 states since August that might be linked to the brands. Five of the cases were in Illinois, health officials said.

“We’ve done at least 500 phone calls and faxes today, so it’s been a pretty busy day getting that information out,” department spokeswoman Debra Quackenbush said.

The Food and Drug Administration is warning

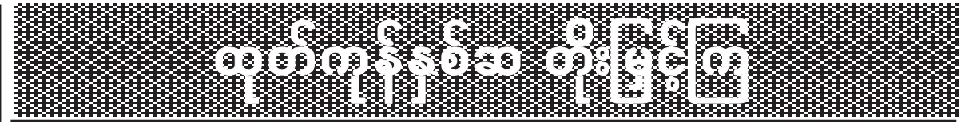
people not to eat any jars of Peter Pan or Great Value with a product code that begins with the number “2111” on the lid. Consumers with such a jar bought since May 2006 should throw it away.

The salmonella outbreak was linked to tainted peanut butter produced by ConAgra Foods Inc. at a plant in Sylvester, Ga. How salmonella got into peanut butter still is under investigation, said Dr Mike Lynch, an epidemiologist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Managers at area Jewel-

Osco stores have been ordered to remove all 10 varieties of Peter Pan as a safety precaution until further notice. The Great Value brand, which also is made by other companies besides ConAgra, is a Wal-Mart brand.

“Given that our primary concern is the safety of our customers, that’s what we’re doing,” Jewel spokeswoman Lauri Sanders said.—Internet



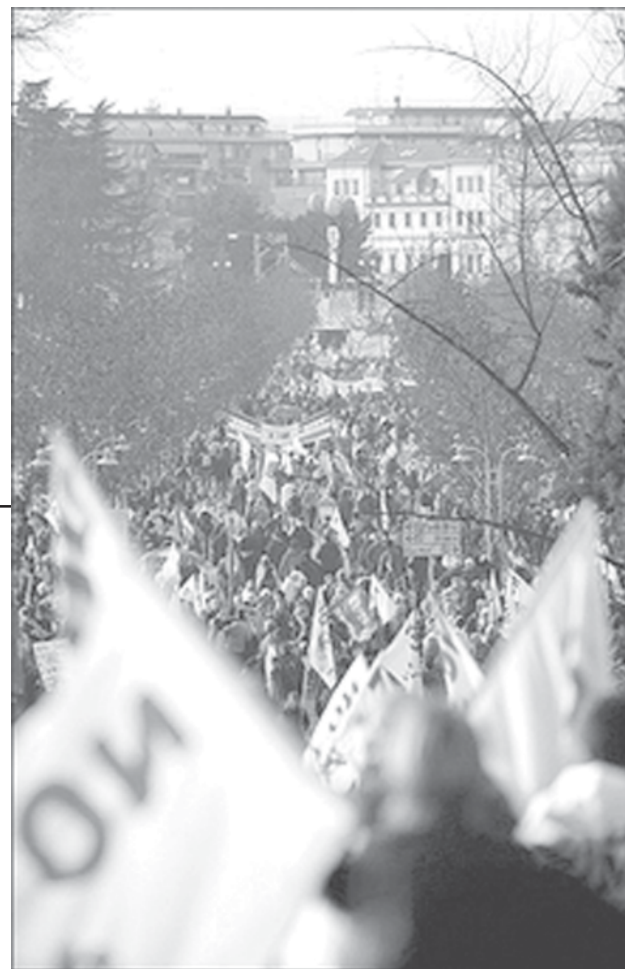
Performers play a Chinese “dragon” during the opening day of Lumeinaliye in Beijing, capital of China, on 16 Feb, 2007. Light art works, cuisines and performance from Korea will show up during the fair held in Haidian Park of Beijing.—XINHUA

Thousands protest US base expansion in N Italy

VICENZA (Italy), 18 Feb —Tens of thousands of people marched peacefully through the northeastern Italian city of Vicenza under a heavy police presence to protest a planned US military base expansion that has strained relations within the governing center-left coalition.

Despite fears that violent demonstrators would be drawn to Saturday’s protest,

People demonstrate against the planned expansion of the US military base near the Dal Molin airport, in Vicenza. Tens of thousands of protesters demonstrated in Vicenza, Italy, against the planned expansion of a US military base, an issue which has split Italy’s centre-left government.—INTERNET



the march took place without incident, finishing outside the main train station where it started as hundred of police officers stood guard and helicopters hovered overhead. The route did not pass the airfield where the expanded base is to be built, where critics keep a permanent picket.

Trains and buses brought in leftist activists and anti-globalization protesters from across Italy to support residents concerned that the expansion would increase traffic and noise and air pollution, deplete local resources including water and gas, and raise the risk of terrorist attacks.

Police estimated the crowd at 50,000 to 80,000, while organizers put the numbers at 120,000.

Internet

London man shot dead in latest gun violence

LONDON, 18 Feb —A man in his mid-20s has been shot dead in London, the latest in a series of fatal shootings that has fuelled public concern over gun crime and youth gangs.

The latest victim was attacked by two men in Hackney, east London. In Manchester, an 18-year-old was shot in the back late on Friday. He was taken to hospital and his injuries were not said to be life-threatening.

Two more men, aged 19 and 27, were shot and wounded as they sat in a car at traffic lights in the Longsight area of the northern city. Chief Superintendent Dave Keller, of Greater Manchester Police, said overall levels of gun crime in the city have been falling, although there has been a rise in recent months.

“Clearly there are tensions in the area,” he said.

“This problem is only caused by a small number of individuals. We are actively targeting those individuals.”

The two Manchester shootings were not thought to be linked, he said.—Internet

Workers load newly manufactured Chrysler 300’s and Magnums onto trucks at the DaimlerChrysler Assembly plant in Brampton, on 14 Feb, 2007.—INTERNET



Russia finds two cases of H5N1 bird flu

Moscow, 18 Feb — Two cases of H5N1 bird flu have been discovered near Russia’s capital Moscow.

Poultry farms near the area have come under tight control after the deadly strain was found.

Russia’s animal and plant health watchdog, Rosselkhoz nadzor, said the positive tests came from dead birds found in two villages near

Moscow. Alexei Alexeyenko, press secretary for Rosselkhoz nadzor said: “It was confirmed as H5N1. Tomorrow we will do more tests and be able to determine how dangerous the virus is.”

No human cases of bird flu have been recorded in Russia.

The outbreak is Russia’s second this year

and the first ever recorded close to the capital. The highly pathogenic H5N1 strain killed poultry in three settlements in the southern region of Krasnodar last month.

Mr Alexeyenko said people who had been in contact with the more than 30 dead birds were taken to hospital as a precautionary measure but showed no signs of any illness.—Internet



A lion dancer performs on the eve of the Lunar New Year in front of Beijing's ancient Bell Tower, one of Chinese capital's few remaining ancient buildings, as China celebrates the Spring Festival starting 18 February with the "Year of the Pig".—INTERNET

Zanzibar attracts more foreign tourists

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 17 Feb — More than 14,000 foreign tourists have visited the Indian Ocean archipelago of Zanzibar in the past month to register an all-time record of the highest monthly influx of foreign visitors, according to reports reaching here on Thursday.

The figure was revealed by the Secretary-General of the Zanzibar Commission for Tourism,

Vuai Mwinyi, said the reports.

The tourism industry has been prospering in Zanzibar where 125,443 foreign tourists visited the isles in 2006, compared with 92,160 in the previous 12 months.

The tourism sector posted a 36-per-cent growth in the 18 months between June 2005 and December 2006.

The Zanzibar tourism

official attributed the increase of numbers of foreign tourists to the white sandy beaches, the aroma of spices and outlandish architectures in the Stone Town.

According to the same official, the majority of last year's foreign tourists came from Italy, Britain, South Africa, the United States, Canada and the Scandinavian countries.

MNA/Xinhua



A labourer works at a palm plantation on the outskirts of Medan, North Sumatra. Indonesia is embarking on an ambitious biofuel programme which has already attracted more than 17 billion dollars in foreign and domestic investment and criticism from conservationists worried about the country's forests. While rich in oil and gas supplies, demand in Southeast Asia's biggest economy is outpacing production and it is seeking alternative energy sources to secure its future.—INTERNET

Earthquake jolts northern Japan

TOKYO, 17 Feb— An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.6 shook part of Japan's northern Hokkaido on Saturday morning, the Japan Meteorological Agency reported.

No tsunami warning was issued as of the 9:03 a.m. (0003 GMT) quake, which the agency said may cause small sea-level changes. There were no reports of injuries or damage.

The epicentre of the quake was about 50 kilometres below the surface of the sea off the Tokachi area of eastern Hokkaido, it said.

MNA/Xinhua



Abe meets Chinese FM on bilateral ties

TOKYO, 17 Feb — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe met with visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing on Friday to discuss bilateral ties and the planned visit to Japan by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao.

Li conveyed greetings from Chinese leaders to Abe and said China appreciates Abe's decision and efforts for

mending ties with China, according to diplomatic sources.

A stable Chinese-Japanese relationship, which benefits not only both countries, but also Asia and the world, is broadly welcomed by the international community, Li said.

Li said his tour is to pave the way for Wen's upcoming visit in April,

adding that the Premier's visit provides an important opportunity for the two countries to enhance mutual trust, to maintain the momentum for bilateral ties' improvement and development and to build a strategic and mutually beneficial relationship.

Noting that China attaches great importance to the relationship with Japan, Li said the two governments and their politicians should view the ties from a strategic and long-term perspective to build a strategic and mutually beneficial relationship, attaining the goal of "peaceful co-existence, friendship for generations, cooperation for mutual benefit and joint development".

For his part, Abe said the Japanese Government, the Japanese people and himself warmly welcome and look forward to Wen's visit.

MNA/Xinhua



Chinese film "Tuya's Marriage" on 17 Feb, 2007 won the Golden Bear for best film, the top prize of the Berlin International Film festival.

INTERNET

Macedonian customs seizes over 33 kilos of heroin

TIRANA, 17 Feb — Macedonian Customs officials seized 33.5 kilos of heroin at a border crossing with Bulgaria, news reaching here from Skopje reported on Friday.

Vancho Kargov, director of Macedonian Customs Administration, told local media that police

at the border crossing of Deve Bair found the drugs, stashed in a Turkish truck, on Thursday afternoon.

The drugs, intended for the Macedonian market, are valued at 400,000 euros. Macedonian police detained the truck driver, a Turkish citizen, on suspicion of drug smuggling.

Macedonia is located in western Balkans. It is a conduit for people smuggling and drugs trafficking. In January this year, Macedonian police busted cases of drugs trafficking within a week, involving 483 kilos of cocaine and 135.7 kilos of marijuana respectively.

MNA/Xinhua

Double car bombing kills 10 in Kirkuk

KIRKUK (Iraq), 18 Feb— A double car bombing killed at least 10 people and wounded 60 in a crowded market in the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk on Saturday, police sources said.

The explosions occurred in Kirkuk's Rahim Awa District, a predominantly Kurdish area of the ethnically mixed city. Several cars and shops were burnt out.

Hospital officials said the condition of many of the wounded was considered life-threatening.

Iraqi officials fear violence may increase outside the capital Baghdad as US and Iraqi forces step up a crackdown on insurgents and militias in the city.

Some officials say militants are avoiding confrontation in Baghdad or may have left the city.

MNA/Reuters

ECONOMIC NEWS

Brazil, Bolivia agree on natural gas price

RIO DE JANEIRO, 17 Feb — Brazil announced on Thursday it has agreed to pay 100 million US dollars more to Bolivia for natural gas.

An agreement to the effect, signed on Thursday, was announced by

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and his Bolivian counterpart Evo Morales.

The two presidents and members of both governments have been discussing cooperation agreements since Wednesday.

The price for the natural gas destined to a thermoelectric power plant in the mid-west of Brazil was raised to 4.20 US dollars per million BTUs (British thermal units), up 252.9 per cent from 1.09 US dollars.

Additionally, it was agreed that Brazil will donate three million shots of vaccine to treat foot-and-mouth disease in Bolivia.—MNA/Xinhua

UAE launches first manpower supply company

ABU DHABI, 17 Feb — The first manpower supply company has been launched in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to bring workers on its sponsorship and hire them out to the government and private companies, local daily *Gulf News* reported on Friday.

The company, Sawaeed Employment, will cover all sectors in the UAE including construction, oil and gas, aviation, marine, healthcare and so on, the report said.

It is "different from other recruitment agencies as it is responsible for its workers' rights and benefits throughout their stay in the country," Obaid Saif Obaid Al Khamiri, Chief Executive Officer of Sawaeed Employment, was quoted as saying.

Sawaeed will take responsibility for the employment visa, medical insurance, air ticket, accommodation, meals, transportation, salaries, end of service benefits and annual leave, before all authorities, Al Khamiri elaborated.

It will also be responsible for salaries for workers who remain idle for reasons beyond their control, he added.

There are around 170 licensed recruitment agencies in the UAE, many of which pressure workers to take illegal loans to pay for their own visa, the report said. —MNA/Xinhua



Chinese staff prepare to hit the streets on their bicycles to advertise the French retail giant Carrefour's Tongzhou store in Beijing, October 2006. As Wal-Mart, Carrefour and other foreign retailers crowd into China, they are greeted with open arms by a government which, in this industry at least, shows few protectionist proclivities.—INTERNET

US jobless claims up after winter storms

WASHINGTON, 17 Feb — Winter storms across key parts of the United States helped bring on a surge in new applications for jobless benefits, the government said on Thursday, while other data showed some strength in the manufacturing sector.

US jobless claims surged by a bigger-than-expected 44,000 last week to a seasonally adjusted 357,000, the Labour Department

reported. Much of that rise came from winter storms in the Midwest and Northeast that put more workers in unemploy-

ment lines, a department official said. Economists were expecting little movement in the weekly jobless claims data.

"These data are hugely volatile and we need to see what happens over the next few weeks. If a sustained increase really is underway, everything will change," said Ian Shepherdson, chief US economist at High Frequency Economics.

Rising claims signal slower payrolls and rising unemployment, which would greatly increase the chance of the Federal Reserve easing, Shepherdson added.

According to a separate Labour Department report, US import prices in January fell 1.2 per cent on a 7.3-per-cent tumble in petroleum. —MNA/Reuters

Queen Mary project in long beach put for sale

LOS ANGELES, 17 Feb — The leasehold rights to the legendary *Queen Mary* ocean liner and the surrounding bay front area in Long Beach, California, have been put for sale, a report said Thursday.

The property is expected to fetch in excess of 40 million dollars for a 54-year lease and the right to develop a large mixed-use development in the Queen's Seaport Development area, according to the *Los Angeles Business Journal*.

The leasehold rights include the famed 72-year-old ship, which contains a hotel and tourist attractions, and 76 acres of land and water rights. Parking lots, oil pumpers and a dome that once housed Howard Hughes' *Spruce Goose* aircraft currently occupy the site.

It is unclear what role the *Queen Mary* would play in the development.

The city of Long Beach owns the historic ship and the 55 acres around it, while Queen's Seaport Development Inc. holds the lease and the development rights for the property.

The company filed for

bankruptcy in 2005, after becoming embroiled in a dispute with the city over rent credits.

According to Coldwell Banker Commercial, which is representing the sale of the property, the city of Long Beach is optimistic about the potential for a new mixed-use project at the site. —MNA/Xinhua



Pakistani passengers line-up at the immigration counter before departing for India at Zero point railway station located at the Pakistan and India border near Chhore, 400 km (250 miles) from Karachi, on 17 Feb, 2007. The cross border Thar Express resumed service between the two countries after being suspended for six months after railway tracks in the Indian state of Gujarat were damaged by heavy rains and floods last year. —INTERNET



A woman walks past a market index display board outside a securities firm in Tokyo, on 15 Feb, 2007. The Nikkei share average rose to its highest in nearly seven years on Thursday. —INTERNET

Thai PM says Don Muang Airport to reopen in two or three weeks

BANGKOK, 17 Feb — Bangkok's former international airport, known as Don Muang Airport, will be reopened in two or three weeks, while the new Suvarnabhumi Airport will remain open as repairs are carried out, Thai Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont said on Friday.

"Don Muang Airport is being renovated," Surayud was quoted by *Bangkok Post's* website as saying. "It should be ready for domestic and international flights no later than the next two to three weeks."

He added that airlines could decide for themselves whether they wanted to move back to the old airport, which had been in service for some 90 years as the country's aviation hub before it was dismissed to give place to the new Suvarnabhumi Airport, which officially

opened in last September. According to the report, Surayud also confirmed that Suvarnabhumi Airport would not be closed for repairs to its taxi ways and runway.

However, domestic flights would have to move to Don Muang in the initial stage to free some taxiways and runways at the new airport for fixing.

Meanwhile, Transport Minister Thira Haocharoen confirmed that Don Muang Airport would be primarily used for non-connecting domestic flights only while repairs to the taxiways and

the runway of the new Suvarnabhumi Airport are carried out, since most of the international airlines did not want to move back there. He expected that there would be about 70 flights a day, or about 17 per cent of all the flights, that would go back to the old airport.

MNA/Xinhua



A boy gives a red packet to a lion dancer while performing at a temple during the first day of Chinese Lunar New Year Celebration in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 18 Feb 2007.—INTERNET

CIA agents to stand trial for Italy kidnapping

MILAN, 17 Feb — A Milan judge on Friday ordered 26 Americans, most of them thought to be CIA agents, to stand trial with Italian spies for the kidnapping in 2003 of a terrorism suspect, who was flown to Egypt where he says he was tortured.

Among those indicted are the former heads

of the US Central Intelligence Agency in Rome and Milan, Jeff Castelli and Robert Lady, and the former head of Italy's SISMI military intelligence agency, Nicolo Pollari, court sources said.

The trial, set to begin on 8 June, will be the first criminal trial over "renditions"—one of the most controversial aspects of US President George W Bush's war on terrorism.

Washington acknowledges secret transfers of terrorism suspects to third countries but denies using or sanctioning torture, and is not expected to hand over the Americans for trial.

Prosecutors say a CIA-

led team, with SISMI's help, grabbed Muslim cleric Hassan Mustafa Osama Nasr, also known as Abu Omar, off a Milan street in February 2003, bundled him into a van and drove him to a military base in northern Italy.

From there, prosecutors allege the CIA flew him via Germany to Egypt where he says he was tortured with electric shocks, beatings, rape threats and genital abuse. He was released from

prison on Sunday and says he would like to return to Italy — where a judge has issued a warrant for his arrest over suspicion of terrorist activity.

"I have been reduced to a wreck of a human being," he told ANSA news agency after his release. In another interview this week he said he could hardly walk: "They burst my kidneys." The case is being closely watched in Europe.—MNA/Reuters



Vietnamese president calls for national unity for development

HANOI, 17 Feb — Vietnamese State President Nguyen Minh Triet, at a speech on Central Vietnam Te-levision on Saturday, the first day of the Lunar New Year, appealed for all Vietnamese people to bring into full play the national unity, and accelerate reform for stronger socioeconomic development in 2007 and coming years.

Triet also called for Vietnamese citizens and overseas Vietnamese to "resolutely push back corruption and wastefulness, and practice thrift" to make Vietnam have wealthy

people, and a fair, democratic and civilized society.

With recent achievements in all political, economic and social fields, including the accession to the World Trade Organization and the successful hosting of the 14th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit, Vietnam has had new status and strength, he said, adding that the country will gain more triumphs this year, including the election for the 12th tenure National Assembly, the country's top legislature.

MNA/Xinhua

Couples take to the floor for the opening dance in the opera house at the traditional opera ball in Vienna, on 15 Feb, 2007.

INTERNET

Internet warning over stolen bikes

LONDON, 17 Feb — Thieves steal 1,200 bicycles each day in Britain and are using Internet shopping

sites to resell them, an insurance company said on Friday.

Bikes are a "thief's dream" because they are easy to steal, high-value and can be quickly resold through Internet auction sites, Direct Line said.

"We are asking consumers buying second hand bikes to be vigilant and check out the origin of the bike," said Andrew Lowe, Direct Line's head of home insurance. "Inadvertently buying a stolen bike will only fuel the market." The company left 10 locked bikes in cities across Britain as part of research designed to give a snapshot of the risks.

MNA/Reuters



Fire flames rise from a vehicle at the site where two car bombs exploded in quick succession at a garage in the oil rich city of Kirkuk, north of Baghdad, on 18 Feb, 2007. Allies of US President George W Bush again blocked a bid by the Democrat-controlled Senate to open a long-awaited debate on his unpopular Iraq strategy.—INTERNET

What a shame!

May Thitsar

Today, visual compact discs (VCDs) become very fashionable. It is convenient for anyone, young or old, to watch and listen to the teachings of well-known monks and different sorts of songs, classical or modern, anywhere through a VCD.

One holiday I happened to listen to a modern musical VCD by a popular vocalist. It featured young model girls acting to the tunes of the songs. In the meantime, I was inspired to present my personal opinions about Myanmar classical songs recorded on the disc to the people.

The classical songs by Myanmar well-known composers Myoma Nyein and Mandalay U Ba Thein are still in vogue and pleasant to the ear.

The first song I listened to was "Yin Ta Ko Mei" (elegant damsel) by Myoma Nyein. It means that on average, Myanmar women are healthy, strong, active and graceful with courtesy. Every time I listen to that song, I am proud of being a Myanmar woman and it arouses my wish of preserving the attributes of Myanmar women.

The classical song on the Karaoke VCD is sung by a music star to the accompaniment of acting by some pretty young girls. However, the girls act lively wearing trousers. Their acting reduces the essence of

the song.

Another song I listened to then was "Yin Te Thazin" (graceful flower orchid) composed by Mandalay U Ba Thein. It represents the beauty and fragrance of the flower. It also says that flower Thazin is fragrant, and so is the virtue of Myanmar women. The song is accompanied by the acting of young women with tight trousers, shaking their whole bodies. Their acting does not go along with the song. The composer would be heartbroken if he saw the improper acting that accompanies his song. Surely, classical song lovers wish to see acting that blends with such a classical song. I happened to visualize a style of acting that was compatible with the song.

How fantastic it would be if in the programme the girls with tight pants were replaced with young women with traditional costumes and a single-knot-hair-do embellished with a lot of flower Thazin. If some Myanmar damsels with traditional costumes and a traditional hair-do act to portray that classical song, the essence of the song will be in conformity with the acting.

I also listened to another song "Sein Le` Kan Thar" (greenish lake) by Mandalay U Ba Thein. The song represents pleasant scenery of Anya (arid) region, a

monastery of a village, a greenish lake with five species of lotus flower in bloom, villager damsels with lotus flowers paying reverence and offering lights to the pagoda of the village. It is a classical song depicting the elegance and courtesy of Myanmar damsels of Anya region and their maritorious deeds for the Three Gems. Nonetheless, the girls wore tight pants with very lively performances to the tunes of the song. The performances of the girls are totally incompatible with the essence of the song.

Composers of Myanmar classical songs cherish and admire the Myanmar culture. So, performing improperly, the girls are somewhat likely to show their total disregard for the composers' purposes of the songs. Moreover, their acting tarnishes the literary image and goodwill of the classical song composers to a certain degree. How disappointed the composers would feel if they were still alive? I wish the girls would realize the point.

Today's Karaoke VCDs play an important role in preserving the national character. Thus, actors should take a great care in playing their roles in the entertainment programmes so that the youth do not pick up wrong opinions and views of the former. They should also avoid such acts and performances that are against the Myanmar's culture.

Only then will it be possible to accomplish one of the four social objectives "Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character".

In short, I wonder why they did not wear traditional costumes in accordance with the culture of Myanmar to play their roles for these three classical songs. I would say they are to take blame for their misbehaviors, as supported by the expression "How shameful it is!" carried in the song "Yin Ta Ko Mei".

Translation: MS

Kyemon: 18-2-2007

Composers of Myanmar classical songs cherish and admire the Myanmar culture. So, performing improperly, the girls are somewhat likely to show their total disregard for the composers' purposes of the songs. Moreover, their acting tarnishes the literary image and goodwill of the classical song composers to a certain degree. How disappointed the composers would feel if they were still alive? I wish the girls would realize the point.

Belgian police detain 9 in anti-terrorism probe

BRUSSELS, 18 Feb — Belgian police briefly detained nine men on Friday in a joint operation with France against suspected terrorist cells linked to Islamist militants, the federal prosecutor's office said.

Police held the men, whose identity was not revealed, for questioning after raiding their homes in Brussels and the towns of Verviers and Nivelles, seizing computers, books and other papers.

"They were released in the evening as for now there is not enough evidence

for arrests. But this does not mean there is no case," said Lieve Pellens, the federal prosecutor's spokeswoman.

Pellens said there was no direct link with a Belgian woman who was recruited in 2005 by radical Islamists to carry out a suicide attack in Iraq in 2005.

She declined to give further details other than that the Belgian operation was carried out in cooperation with French police investigating networks recruiting fighters for Iraq, including to become suicide bombers.

MNA/Reuters



A Chinese dragon dances through a shop in London's China town district during the Chinese Lunar New Year celebrations on 18 Feb, 2007.

INTERNET

New jetty will contribute to swift commodity flow...

(from page 1)
gas and health care services are being taken. Progress has been made in this regard. As the transport sector plays a greater role in national development, emphasis is being placed on development of the sector. Only when transport sector develops will commodity flow and trade at home and abroad be swift, and will socio-economic life of the people improve.

Therefore, under the guidance of the Head of State and the supervision of local authorities, the



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of Ministry of Defence unveils stone plaque of Phaungdawgyi Concrete Jetty at Sittway Port.— MNA

economic life of Rakhine State.

At present, the government is making relentless efforts in all spheres in the process of transition to a new era. As a result, re-

The government has laid down and is implementing the three major projects to bring about harmonious development across the nation. They are the 24 special develop-

stock breeding. As all the necessary measures are being taken for development of the agricultural sector of Rakhine State, the sown acreage of paddy in Rakhine State has increased to over 1.2 million from over 700,000 and so has pulses and beans and edible oil crops. In the livestock breeding sector, there were over 50,000 acres of prawn breeding ponds before 1988.

At present, there are over 150,000 acres of prawn breeding ponds. And the economic sector of Rakhine State is making progress significantly.

In the past, Rakhine State had to rely on waterway. Nowadays, with the emergence of a string of roads and bridges, the length of roads in Rakhine State has increased to 970.5 miles from 448 miles in 1988. And the number of the 180-foot-and-above major bridges has increased to 35 from 11 in 1988.

With those transport facilities, all towns ex-

cept Manaung, Pauktaw, Myebon and Rathedaung in Rakhine State can be accessible by car. Moreover, one can travel from one place to another through Yangon-Sittway

So rail, water and road transport sectors are fundamental in the national transportation system.

Thanks to the State's noble aims to ensure smooth and secure trans-



Commander Brig-Gen Maung Shein and Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe formally open Phaungdawgyi Concrete Jetty at Sittway Port.—MNA

Myanma Ports Authority built a new jetty in place of the old one which was damaged due to a storm. With the emergence of the new jetty, there will be swift commodity flow, thereby contributing to development of socio-e-

conomic life of Rakhine State. markable progress has been made in political, economic, education, health and transport sectors. Those achievements can be attributed to concerted efforts of the State, the Tatmadaw and the people.

ment project, the five rural development project and project for development of border areas and national races.

The three major projects cover Rakhine State which mainly relies on agriculture and live-



Commander Brig-Gen Maung Shein.

MNA

Road and Yangon-Kyaukpyu Road.

In the past, there were airfields in Sittway, Thandwe and Kyaukpyu. Now, there has emerged a new airport in An and the old ones have been upgraded.

A total of seven jetties including the newly-opened Phaungdawgyi concrete jetty have been built in Rakhine State. The government built Phaungdawgyi concrete jetty to serve the interest of the people in Rakhine State spending a huge amount of money.

In giving guidance, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe said transportation plays a crucial role in the development of the nation and smooth transport contributes to the improvement of socio-economy.

port, bridge a gap between the regions of the Union, ensure equal development of all the regions, cement friendship among national brethren and improve national economy, the regions across the country have seen more significant progress than there had been in the past, and thus contributing to peace and stability of the State, the rule of law and consolidated national unity.

That is why all the people need to realize the importance of Our Three Main National Causes — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty — so as to ensure the perpetual existence of the State. Therefore, all are urged to maintain the jetty.

(See page 9)



Newly opened Phaungdawgyi Concrete Jetty at Sittway Port.— MNA

New jetty will contribute to...

(from page 8)

Commander Brig-Gen Maung Shein delivered an address. He said that the State Peace and Development Council is implementing 12 State objectives for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation in accord with the national policy — Our Three Main National Causes such as non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty. All the people are to safeguard the union for its perpetual existence.

He continued to say that with a view to berthing of coastal liners and vessels, a new jetty was built in the place of the old one that was destroyed due to a storm in 2004. The new jetty becomes one of the transport facilities to contribute much to progress of Rakhine State.



A local speaks words of thanks.

MNA

At present, he said that Rakhine State enjoys fruits of prevailing stability and peace and developing economic and so-

cial sectors. As the government has built roads, bridges, hospitals and schools, spending a large sum of money, officials and local people are to maintain these structures

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe.
MNA



for their durability.

Next, Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe reported on matters related to the new jetty. He said that the old Phaungdawgyi Jetty was built by an English company namely Martin Co Ltd in 1876, and it had been used for 129 years. Due to decaying of steel piles, the jetty was destroyed in a storm in 2004. Hence, local people faced difficulty in commodity flow and transportation. The State Peace and Development Council built a new reinforced concrete jetty where coastal and ocean going liners can berth. In addition, the vessels with deeper draught than the past can berth at the new jetty. Furthermore, the new jetty where 4,000-ton-capacity vessels of Myanma Five Star Line

can berth will contribute to smooth transport of passenger and commodity. From now on, the new jetty is the prestige of Sittway for ever.

Afterwards, a local expressed gratitude for construction of the new

jetty.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than unveiled the stone plaque of the jetty and sprinkled scented water on it.

The commander and the minister formally opened the new jetty.

At the briefing hall, the minister and Managing Director U Thein Htay of Myanma Port Authority reported on progress of the new jetty.

Phaungdawgyi Concrete Jetty is 240 feet long and 48 feet wide attached to an approach bridge measuring 444 feet by 24 feet. — MNA

Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint speaks at the first coordination meeting of Central Committee for Organizing the 44th Myanma Gems Emporium.—MNA



MNA

Foreign Minister back from Indonesia

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb — At the invitation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia Dr N Hassan Wirajuda, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win visited Indonesia to participate in the first Ministerial Level Meeting of the Joint Commission held in Jakarta, Indonesia from 13 to 16 February.

During the meeting, the two sides agreed on many areas of cooperation such as defence and security, economic, trade and investment, mining and energy, forestry, agriculture, livestock and fishery, transportation, education and training and tourism.

On 15 February, before the ministerial meeting,



Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win calls on President of the Republic of Indonesia Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono at Presidential Palace in Jakarta.— MOFA

the two foreign ministers exchanged views on regional and international issues including the latest developments in each other's countries.

Minister U Nyan Win called on the President of

the Republic of Indonesia Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono at the Presidential Palace in Jakarta.

Minister U Nyan Win arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw today.— MNA

Minister inspects construction of Nay Pyi Taw General Post Office

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb — Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw together with officials went to the General Post Office in Nay Pyi Taw on 16 February. He inspected the construction tasks of the post office.

The minister proceeded to Nay

Pyi Taw Auto Exchange and inspected the tasks in the exchange.

On his inspection tour, Brig-Gen Thein Zaw also visited the Complaint Centre.

The minister inspected Tatkon, Yamethin and Pyawbwe Auto Exchanges yesterday. — MNA

Display of 44th Myanma Gems Emporium discussed

YANGON, 18 Feb — The Central Committee for Organizing the 44th Myanmar Gems Emporium held the first coordination meeting at Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindhamma Road, Mayangon Township, this afternoon, attended by Patron of the Central Committee Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint.

Also present were Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung and Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Col Kyaw Kyaw Tun, Secretary Managing Director U

Thein Swe of Myanma Gems Enterprise and members, members of the organizing committee for establishment of Myanmar Gems Entrepreneurs Association, secretaries of subcommittees and officials.

Chairmen and secretaries of subcommittees reported on display of jade, gems and pearls, finance, management, security and information matters, invitation to gem merchants from abroad and rules and regulations for jewellery to be sold. The minister urged all to make concerted efforts for organizing the gems emporium. — MNA

Myawady TV retransmitting stations run in Khaunglanphu, Pannandin

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb — Under the arrangements of the Work Committee for Progress of Border Areas and National Races, Myawady TV retransmitting stations were built in Khaunglanphu and Pannandin regions of Kachin State. The stations in Pannandin and Khaunglanphu commenced operating of the functions to retransmit programmes of Myawady TV on 23 January and 5 February evening.

At present, local people can enjoy programmes from both MRTV and Myawady TV.

18th Annual Meeting of MFCC held

YANGON, 18 Feb — The 18th Annual Meeting of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club was held at Summit Parkview Hotel here this evening.

U Khin Maung Thwin (AFP) spoke on the occasion. President of MFCC U Sao Kai Hpa (Mainichi) submitted the annual report to the meeting. Secretary of MFCC U Thitsar Hla Htway reported on financial statement for approval.

New executive committee members for 2007-08 were elected. Next, U Hla Htway (Nihon Keizai Shimbun) was elected as Patron, U Sao Kai Hpa (Mainichi) as President, Mr Zhang Yunfei (Xinhua) as Vice-President, U Thitsar Hla



The 18th Annual Meeting of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club being held at Summit Parkview Hotel.— MNA

Htway (TBS) as Secretary, U Myat Thura (Kyodo News) as Joint-Secretary, U Han Htwe Aung (TV Asahi) as Treasurer and U Min Zaw (Tokyo Shinbum) as Auditor.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the Patron U Hla Htway.

MFCC hosted a dinner in honour of the guests. Director-General of MRTV U Khin Maung

Htway, officials of the Ministry of Information, honorary member U Thein Tun (Tun Foundation Bank) and MFCC members attended the dinner.—MNA

33 human traffickers sentenced life imprisonment

YANGON, 18 Feb — Altogether 33 persons from human trafficking gang were sentenced to life imprisonment for human trafficking between December 2006 and February 2007.

Life imprisonment was meted out by a Yamethin District special court in Mandalay Division.

On 20 July 2006, it was learnt that two young Myanmar women were clocked in a guesthouse in a border

town in other country.

Acting on tip-off of a duty-conscious Myanmar citizen, Muse District Police Force, Muse Anti-Human trafficking special squad in cooperation with the police force of the other country, saved the two women. The culprits Kyaw Myint (a) Aung Aung and Soe Soe Mar were arrested.

Under the information exchange programme between the police forces of the two countries, 64 human traffickers— 51

locals and 13 foreigners were arrested. Action was taken against 33 culprits out of 51 according to the law on trafficking in persons.

The human traffickers deceived 49 young women from townships in Yangon and Mandalay telling them they would get well-paid jobs and took them to the other country. They contacted with Kyaw Myint (a) Aung Aung, Ye Myo (a) Fatty, Soe Soe Mar and Baydar Win (a) Ma Win in other country and

trafficked in persons to get married with men from the other country by force.

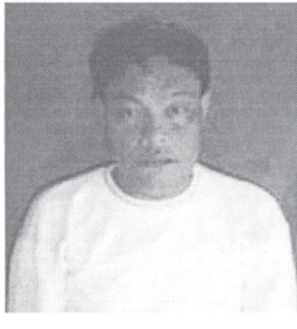
The arrested human traffickers were four from Muse, three from Yamethin, six from Yangon, seven from Thanlyin, 11 from Pyawbwe and two based in the other country.

They were on trial for human trafficking in a special court in Yamethin District and were given severe punishment.

MNA



**Kyaw Myint (a)
Aung Aung. — MPF**



**Ye Myo (a)
Fatty. — MPF**



**Soe Soe Mar.
MPF**



**Baydar Win (a) Ma
Win. — MPF**

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

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win looks...

(from page 16)

The highest level of water at the dam was 2,897.70 feet above sea level and the lowest water level was 2,874.42 feet. Its normal water level is 2,897 feet above sea level. During 30-year period from 1971 to 2000, the water level of the dam had been at 2,893 feet above sea level.

Member of the Panel of Patrons of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and the commander met with the Secretary of Phekhon Township USDA and executives at the hall of the local station in Phekhon.

They also met with officers, other ranks and family members of the local battalion.

Next, they viewed thriving onion and other crop plantations along Loikaw-Pinlaung-Taunggyi Road.

At the site of Dragon Cement Plant Project (Tikyit) in Naungtaya, Dragon Cement Co Ltd Chairman U Nay Win Tun reported on investment of the project, construction of buildings, arrival of machinery and availability of raw materials. The commander gave a supplementary report on assistance being provided for development of private industries.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspected construction of buildings at the project site.

The cement plant will produce 600 tons of cement per a day.

Later, they viewed thriving onion, sunflower, pigeon pea plantations along both sides of Pinlaung-Kalaw-Aungban-Nyaungshwe-Taunggyi Road and condition of roads and bridges. — MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe visits...

(from page 16)

Project Director U Thein Hlaing and Chief Engineer U Tun Aye of Yangon City Power Supply Committee on electric power supplied by Myaungdaga sub-power station; Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint on laying of cables connecting Shwetaung sub-power station and Myaungdaga sub-power station and then to other towns; Water Resource Utilization Department Director-General U Hla Myint Maung on supply of water from Myaungdaga Kankalay river-water pumping station; and Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay on implementation of No 4 Fertilizer Plant.

Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win made a speech. Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe said in accord with the guideline of the Myanmar Industrial Development Committee Chairman the Prime Minister, responsible officials are providing necessary assistance for the industrial zones. State industrial sector contributed 17.5 per cent of GDP in 2005-2006. But it has been estimated that it is to contribute 18.9 per cent in 2006-2007. So, Myaungdaga industrial zone being built now will help improve the industrial sector more. There has been a good demand for industrial zones-produced goods in foreign markets and import-substitute items are being produced. Therefore, all responsible officials are to render assistance for the development of the industrial sector.

Myaungdaga Steel Industrial Zone has an area of 632.96 acres. After inspecting the zone and No 4 Highway and Nwegway-Hlawga railroad section, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party visited Khine Khine Group in Thadukan Industrial Zone in Shwepyitha Township where Director-General U Aung Win reported on sale of plots in the zone and power supply tasks. Later, Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspected the zone and left there in the evening. — MNA

ပြည်ထောင်စုမြေပုံနိင်တော်

အနာဂတ်နိုင်ငံတော် တည်ဆောက်မှုပုံသဏ္ဍာန်၊ ဥပဒေပြုမှုအသွင်သဏ္ဍာန်နှင့် အနှစ်သာရ

စိုးမြကျော် ၏

အနာဂတ်နိုင်ငံတော်တည်ဆောက်မှု ပုံသဏ္ဍာန် ဥပဒေပြုမှု အသွင်သဏ္ဍာန်နှင့် အနှစ်သာရ

- အမျိုးသားညီလာခံကို ကျင်းပကာ နိုင်ငံတော်ဖွဲ့စည်းပုံ အခြေခံဥပဒေ ရေးဆွဲရေးအတွက် အခြေခံရမည့်မူများနှင့် အသေးစိတ်အခြေခံရမည့်မူများကို အမျိုးသားညီလာခံကိုယ်စားလှယ်များက ညှိနှိုင်းဆွေးနွေး အတည်ပြုချက် ချမှတ်ပေးလျက်ရှိသည်။
- အမျိုးသားညီလာခံသတင်းများကို လေ့လာကြည့်သောအခါ အနာဂတ် နိုင်ငံတော်တည်ဆောက်မှု ပုံသဏ္ဍာန်နှင့် အနှစ်သာရကို ပုံဖော်မှန်းမျှော် ကြည့်ရှုရလာပြီ ဖြစ်သည်။
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စိုးမြကျော် ၏

အနာဂတ်နိုင်ငံတော်တည်ဆောက်မှု ပုံသဏ္ဍာန် ဥပဒေပြုမှု အသွင်သဏ္ဍာန်နှင့် အနှစ်သာရ

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ထွက်ပြီ

UN says Europe not doing enough to fight climate change

BERLIN, 18 Feb — European nations are not doing enough to fight climate change and should show more leadership before they criticize the United States and Asia, the head of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) said on Saturday.

Achim Steiner said in an interview with *Bild am Sonntag* newspaper that climate change has been caused primarily by carbon dioxide emissions from Western industrialized nations and it was thus their responsibility to lead the fight against it.

He said the United States and Asia were now moving faster in the fight against climate change than Europe, which he said has grown complacent.

“The Americans and Asians are catching up quickly and are becoming strong business competitors (with green technologies),” Steiner said, in excerpts of the interview released ahead of Sunday’s publication.

“But in Europe we’ve cherished the illusion in recent years that ‘we’ve

done enough’,” he added.

He praised Germany, which holds the European Union presidency, for “showing initiative” but said it was not enough.

“It’s important that Germany move forward,” he said, referring to Europe’s biggest emitter of greenhouse gases.

The European Union’s environment commissioner earlier this month said Germany’s lack of progress in cutting greenhouse gas emissions was holding back international efforts to combat global warming.

Chancellor Angela Merkel has vowed to make fighting climate change a centrepiece of Germany’s twin EU and G-8 presidencies.

But Germany’s recent track record on cutting carbon dioxide

emissions is poor. It vowed to cut these by 21 per cent from 1990 to 2012 under the Kyoto Protocol but has slipped away from the target.

MNA/Reuters

Iraq says borders with Iran and Syria to reopen

BAGHDAD, 18 Feb — Iraq will reopen its borders with Iran and Syria, closed earlier this week in the initial stages of a security crackdown, a spokesman for the officer overseeing the plan said on Saturday.

“Seventy-two hours have passed and the borders will gradually reopen, but it will take 60 days for the border crossings to return to normal,” Brigadier Qassim Moussawi said,

without specifying exactly when they would be reopened.

Moussawi said the borders would be open for a limited number of hours each day, under close scrutiny. They were closed

on Wednesday.

He said the closure was mainly to allow for the smooth deployment of additional security forces in Baghdad, where US and Iraqi troops have stepped up an operation to try to stabilize the violent capital.

The US military had said the border checkpoints would be revamped, partly to establish “transfer points” to search vehicles coming in.

US officials accuse Syria of allowing foreign fighters to cross its long, porous border with Iraq, and last weekend presented evidence of what they said was Iranian-manufactured weapons being smuggled into Iraq.

MNA/Reuters



Dancers from Guizhou in China dance as they parade through the street of London in a celebration of Chinese New Year, the ‘Year of the Pig’, on Sunday, 18 Feb, 2007. — INTERNET

ADVERTISEMENT

Quake jolts off Australia's west coast

CANBERRA, 17 Feb—An earthquake measuring 5.2 on the Richter Scale at Shark Bay off the mid coast of Australia's state of western Australia jolted the nearby town of Denham early Friday morning. Australian Broadcasting Corporation radio reported Friday that authorities believe the quake's epicentre was in the waters of Shark Bay, 800 kilometres north of Perth, capital of western Australia.
MNA/Xinhua

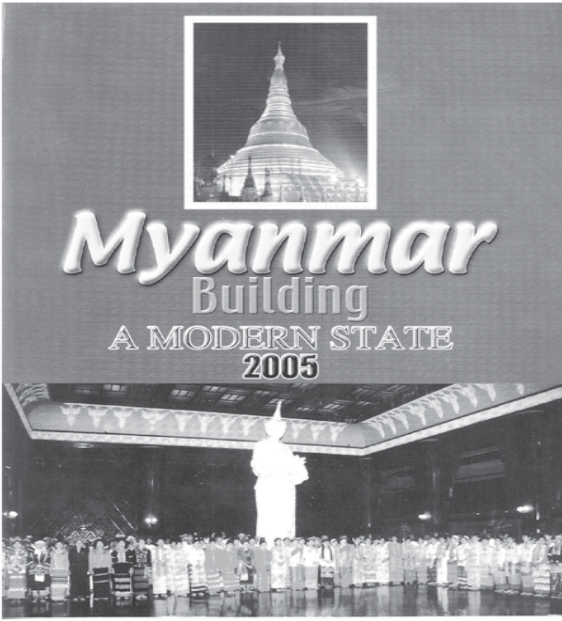
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France calls US cotton subsidies "Scandalous"

CANNES (France), 17 Feb — French President Jacques Chirac on Friday said US cotton subsidies were scandalous and immoral because they hurt African farmers.

"Europe — has corrected its problem. The United States hasn't done so and I strongly encourage them, in the name of morality, to take the necessary measures, that is to put an end to this scandalous aid," Chirac told reporters at a news conference after a French-African summit.

In 2004 the European Union reformed its annual 800 million euros (1.05 billion US dollars) in subsidies to the cotton sector to remove any trade-distorting link with production.

"The price of cotton, an essential resource which allows many people to live, is totally disrupted by scandalous and totally unjustified — I should say totally immoral —

subsidies, given to a certain number of growers in rich countries," the French President said.

Cotton accounts for just a fraction of world farm trade, but the crop has become a lightning rod for a growing campaign against rich countries' subsidies, which many people believe squeeze out farmers in the developing world. Cotton represents up to 70 per cent of farm exports for some the 35 African countries that produce it.

MNA/Reuters

BERLIN, 17 Feb — Germany and India signed an agreement for co-operation between producers of the two countries on Friday, allowing co-produced films to have the same national treatment.

"With today's agreement on German-Indian co-production, we have fulfilled an important prerequisite for greater exchange in both the cultural and economic fields," German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said at the signing ceremony.

The agreement provides a legal frame-

Germany, India sign cooperation agreement on film

work for cooperation between producers from Germany and India. Films co-produced by German and Indian film-makers in accordance with the agreement will receive the same treatment as national films.

Under the agreement, German and Indian co-producers will enjoy all of the privileges available to the film industries in their respective countries.

This is subject to both sides contributing between 20 per cent and 80 per cent of the total cost of the film.

Germany has con-

cluded agreements of this kind with 18 countries. The new agreement is the seventh to be signed between the Federal Republic of Germany and a non-European country.

Steinmeier stressed that cultural and education policy has been a central component of German foreign policy.

"Germany and India are in many respects linked through common visions and values," he said. "But our strategic partnership is not limited to the

economic or political field alone."

"Language, culture and education also play a major role. For just as culturally-fuelled conflicts are highly dangerous, culturally-rooted friendships are lasting and reliable," Steinmeier said.

Germany has tried to strengthen its relations with India, eyeing its big markets with a population of more than one billion.

MNA/Xinhua

Athens builders discover ancient Greek theatre

ATHENS, 18 Feb—Builders in Athens have stumbled across a 2,500-year-old Greek amphitheatre which archaeologists say may have been a stage for ancient plays.

Archaeologists supervising the digging of foundations for a building

in the area of Menidi — known in ancient times as Acharnes — discovered 13 rows of limestone seats which probably formed part of an open air theatre.

"Most likely, it is an ancient theatre from the 4th century BC. If we are lucky, we may find

artefacts that will help us understand exactly what it was," said Vivi Vasilopoulou, the Culture Ministry's general director of antiquities who inspected the site on Friday. Archaeologists said the theatre may date from the golden age of ancient Greek drama, when the works of Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides were performed before thousands of people.

Now a working class district about 10 kilometres (6 miles) north of central Athens, ancient playwright Aristophanes told of Acharnes and its many charcoal peddlers in his comedy "The Acharnians" *MNA/Reuters*

Merck cuts price on "AIDS" drug Efavirenz

BANGKOK, 17 Feb—Merck & Co. announced on Thursday price cuts for its HIV-AIDS drug, Efavirenz, in poor countries and those hard hit by the disease, including Thailand which plans to make copycat versions of the medicine.

Thailand, which shocked Merck in November when it announced plans to break the company's patent for Efavirenz, would see its price drop to 700 baht (19.59 US dollars) per patient per month.

Merck had previously sold Efavirenz at a non-profit price of 1,300 baht per treatment per month in Thailand, which plans to import Indian-made versions of the drug for 800 baht per month until it is available from

Thailand's state-owned drug maker.

"Merck is lowering the price of the 600 milligrammes formulation of Efavirenz due to efficiencies resulting from improved manufacturing processes," the company said.

A spokesman for Merck's Thai subsidiary also attributed the lower Thai price to a more favourable exchange rate.

Last month, the Health Ministry issued compulsory licences for the heart disease drug Plavix, made by Bristol-Myers Squibb and Sanofi-Aventis and Abbott Laboratories' Kaletra to treat HIV/AIDS after a similar move on another AIDS drug last year.

MNA/Reuters

Neteller sheds 250 jobs in Canada, Britain

LONDON, 17 Feb—British online payment processor NETeller said it would shed 250 jobs, mostly in Calgary, Canada, following its withdrawal from the US market.

"Staff reductions will total around 220 em-

ployees across all levels, from the group's contact centre and security teams as well as related support functions in marketing, processing and IT," NETeller said on Friday of its Calgary-based operations.

The company is cutting

30 jobs in Britain.

NETeller quit the United States last month after US authorities arrested its two founders and charged them with handling billions of dollars in illegal gambling proceeds.

MNA/Reuters

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပို့ဒုံးတိုးတက်လာ နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Oil jumps above \$59 per barrel US warning on Nigeria

NEW YORK, 17 Feb — Oil jumped more than 2 per cent on Friday to above 59 US dollars a barrel after the United States warned that Nigerian militants are planning to expand attacks in Africa's top oil producer.

US crude settled 1.40 US dollars higher at 59.39 US dollars a barrel, reversing earlier losses caused by milder US weather. London Brent crude for April rose 1.35 US dollars to 58.95 US dollars a barrel.

The warning from the US consulate gave no details on where the next attacks could occur, but said they could include expatriate workers.

"The recent strength may be related to Nigeria, but prices could weaken by the close in view of the likely warmer weather," said Christopher Bellew, a

broker at Bache Financial in London.

Violence by militants and criminal groups has escalated in the Niger Delta over the past year, and kidnappings of foreign workers have become an almost weekly occurrence in the main delta city of Port Harcourt.

Seven foreign nationals are being held and Nigerian oil production is still down by a fifth since a series of militant attacks on Western oil facilities last February.

Besides the warning on Nigeria, support for prices also came from outages at refineries in North America and covering of short positions before the three-day US weekend.

A fire at the crude distillation unit at Imperial Oil Ltd's 118,000 barrel per day (bpd) refinery in Nanticoke, cut output, although the amount of lost output was not known yet.

MNA/Reuters

Two killed as 2nd helicopter crashes into Iran lake

TEHRAN, 18 Feb — Two people were killed on Saturday when their helicopter crashed into a lake in southern Iran while they were trying to recover the wreckage of another helicopter that crashed there two days before.

Both aircraft crashed into Maharlou Lake, south of Shiraz, with Saturday's crash happening minutes after take-off, state news agencies said.

"This helicopter had two people on board. Both have been killed," Hamid Taghizadeh, a spokesman for emergency services in Fars province, told IRNA.

"It crashed while trying to pull out the wreckage of the first crashed helicopter in the lake," Taghizadeh said.

Iran's Oil Ministry owned both of the helicopters, IRNA said.

Three people were killed in Thursday's crash. — MNA/Reuters

Russia makes strong pitch for aircraft deal with India

NEW DELHI, 17 Feb — Russia Friday made a strong pitch for a six billion aircraft deal with India with its MiG-35 jets and indicated that implementation of the expansion of civilian nuclear co-operation with India may have to await New Delhi

sorting out problems with Washington and Nuclear Suppliers' Group (NSG).

"After the Aero India show in Bangalore recently my view is that MiG-35 and US' F-18 are in the fray and the French (Mirage) Rafale are nowhere in today's Air

Force," Russian Ambassador Vyacheslave T Trubnikov told a Press conference here, acknowledging a stiff competition from the American manufacturer Boeing.

He said the 126 jet deal with India was a big challenge for Russia and

discussions were on with the Indian side to know more of their requirements.

The envoy said Russia was prepared to fulfil all the Indian requirements including the 30 per cent offset in the deal. He also spoke of Russian's interest in selling additional 349 T-90 tanks, Sukhoi-30MKi aircraft that will be manufactured in India and light helicopters.

Replying to questions on civilian nuclear cooperation with India, he said Russia had been an old partner in this area and had supplied technology and fuel and helped in the construction of the plant in Koodankulam even before sanctions were lifted on New Delhi.

MNA/PTI



Japan's Naoki Yuasa negotiates a pole during the first run of the Men's Slalom, at the World Alpine Ski Championships in Are, Sweden, on 17 Feb, 2007. —INTERNET

Study shows first peck of peppers picked 6,100 years ago

CALGARY (Alberta), 17 Feb — Here is a hot, new discovery: archaeologists have traced what they believe is evidence of the first home-grown chili peppers, used in South America 6,100 years ago.

And it was people in tropical, lowland areas of what is now western Ecuador who first spiced up their cuisine, not those from higher, drier Mexico and Peru as was previously assumed, said Scott Raymond, a University of Calgary archaeologist.

Raymond and his team made the finding by analyzing starch microfossils from grinding stones and charred ceramic cookware recovered from seven sites in the Americas. Their report is published in the journal Science.

"What's very satisfying about this evidence

is that it comes from residues on pottery, so the association of these crops with food, with the pots and with the dates is all very tight," he said. "We can, without any kind of reasonable doubt, argue that these plants were there at that time."

The pepper species cultivated in the villages — the earliest known settlements in the Western Hemisphere—grew naturally only to the east of the Andes. That means that the people in the villages of the tropical region transported them across the

mountains to grow them, Raymond said.

Results from the Canadian-US-Venezuelan project yielded evidence that peppers were farmed in the region more than 1,000 years before the plants were cultivated in Peru or Mexico, Raymond said.

MNA/Reuters

Cypriots offered cash lure to have three children

NICOSIA, 17 Feb — Cyprus may offer parents 20,000 Cyprus pounds (45,500 US dollars) to have a third child in an effort to counter a falling birth rate.

Many Cypriot families stop at two children for which they are granted a tax allowance of 500 pounds a year. "It's part of a broad package of measures we are proposing to deal with the low birth rate," Labour Minister Antonis Vassiliou, who is a gynaecologist, said on Thursday.

Cyprus' birth rate is 1.4 per cent, well below the 2.10-per-cent replenishment rate.

One mother said, cash or no cash, her nappy-changing days were over. "Children cost money and I don't think the amount they are offering equals the cost," said 35-year-old office worker Eleni Stylianou, a mother of two. — MNA/Xinhua

An Air Jordan XX2 shoe is displayed during a launch party for the new line at the MGM Grand Resort in Las Vegas, Nevada on 16 Feb, 2007.

INTERNET



SPORTS



Chelsea's Michael Essien, right, scores against Norwich City during their English FA Cup 5th round soccer match at Stamford Bridge Stadium, London, on 17 Feb 2007.—INTERNET

Chelsea win, Rovers hold Arsenal in FA Cup

LONDON, 18 Feb— Ivory Coast striker Didier Drogba steered Chelsea into the FA Cup quarterfinals in a 4-0 win over Second Division Norwich City as Arsenal were held 0-0 by Blackburn Rovers on Saturday.

Chelsea's England winger Shaun Wright-Phillips opened the scoring in the 39th minute and Drogba rifled home in the 51st before stoppage-time goals from Ghana's Michael Essien and Ukraine's Andriy Shevchenko made it a rout at Stamford Bridge.

Watford beat Second Division Ipswich Town 1-0, while Arsenal's trip to Ewood Park will be one of two fifth round replays after Middlesbrough were held 2-2 by Second Division West Bromwich Albion.

Plymouth Argyle reached Monday's draw with a 2-0 win over leaders

Derby County in their all-Second Division tie, while the action was continuing with Manchester United at home to Reading.

England midfielder Frank Lampard engineered Chelsea's opening goals, with his shot being blocked and Wright-Phillips lifting home the rebound from 10 metres off Andy Hughes.

Lampard also swung over a corner soon after the restart, triggering a goalmouth scramble and allowing Drogba to pounce from point-blank range for his 26th goal of the season.

Shevchenko was behind the late flurry, squaring the ball for Essien to slot home and then nodding Chelsea's fourth off a cross from the left by Salomon Kalou.

Asked if the scale of Norwich's defeat was a fair reflection of the tie, Chelsea coach Jose Mourinho

Beckham sent off as Real Madrid held at home

MADRID, 18 Feb— David Beckham was sent off in the final minute of Real Madrid's 0-0 home draw with lowly Real Betis in the Primera Liga on Saturday.

The former England captain, making his 150th appearance for the club, was shown a straight red card for a late challenge on Isidro. It was his fifth dismissal with Madrid and the eighth of his career.

Once again Madrid left the field to whistles from an angry crowd who have seen only one goal in four home league matches. Madrid remain third with 42 points, one behind second-placed Sevilla who host Atletico Madrid on Sunday.

Leaders Barcelona, on 46 points, visit fourth-placed Valencia on Sunday. Later on Saturday, sixth-placed Real Zaragoza look to close on the top four when they host Villarreal.—MNA/Reuters



Manchester United's Louis Saha, center, controls the ball through the Reading defence during their English FA Cup fifth round soccer match at Old Trafford Stadium, Manchester, England, on 17 Feb, 2007.—INTERNET

Ronaldo strikes twice as Milan beat Siena 4-3

ROME, 18 Feb— Ronaldo scored two goals and set up another as AC Milan beat Siena 4-3 to climb to fifth in Serie A on Saturday.

Milan only claimed the points in the final minute of stoppage time when Massimo Ambrosini headed in from a corner but the dominant figure was three-times FIFA World Player of the Year Ronaldo, making his first appearance in Milan's starting line-up since signing from Real Madrid last month.

Milan have 33 points after 23 matches, taking into account their eight-point penalty for match-fixing, and are 30 points behind leaders Inter Milan, who racked up their 16th successive Serie A win by beating Cagliari 1-0. Second-placed AS Roma slipped 14 points behind Inter after losing 1-0 at Empoli.

Ronaldo inspired Milan to a dramatic victory after Siena had pulled themselves level each time they fell behind only to succumb to Ambrosini's header in the final seconds.—MNA/Reuters

Careless Schalke miss chance to go 7 clear

BERLIN, 18 Feb — Leaders Schalke 04 had to settle for a 2-2 draw at VfL Wolfsburg while Werder Bremen and Bayern Munich suffered further defeats on a day of missed opportunities in the Bundesliga on Saturday.

Schalke were 2-0 up by the 29th minute and on course for a seventh straight win — a result that would have taken them seven points clear — thanks to two goals from Kevin Kuranyi.

Diego Klimowicz pulled one back early in the second half, though, and Wolfsburg grabbed a point a minute from time when Marcelinho sent in a free kick that may just have brushed the head of Klimowicz on its way in at the far post. A draw for Schalke was enough to take them five points ahead of VfB Stuttgart, who climbed to second thanks to a 4-0 win at Eintracht Frankfurt on Friday.—MNA/Reuters

told the BBC: "No, it was too heavy. They played with a good attitude and came here to give us a game. "Our first goal was very important because it came just before halftime and our second was too much for them psychologically. And it made it very comfortable for us."

Arsenal, who beat Bolton Wanderers 3-1 after extra time in Wednesday's fourth round replay, had virtually all the possession

at the Emirates Stadium but lacked the bite to really trouble a well-organized Blackburn side.

Blackburn, who played in the UEFA Cup on Wednesday, losing 3-2 at Bayer Leverkusen, survived a penalty appeal after French forward Jeremie Aliadiere went down under a challenge by Blackburn defender Stephen Warnock.

MNA/Reuters

Blackburn Rovers' David Bentley, right, and Arsenal's Fredrik Ljungberg battle for the ball during the English FA Cup fifth round soccer match at the Emirates Stadium, London, on 17 Feb, 2007.—INTERNET



Answers to yesterday's Crossword Puzzle

1	A	2	S	3	P	4	I	5	A	6	S			
7	S	U	N	D	A	C	8	K	N	I	G	H	T	
	P	I	R		9	P		S	A	O				
10	I	M	P	E	T	U	S	11	T	H	I	N	K	
	R	P	Y	C		A	N	E						
12	E	Y	E	D		13	F	U	N	N	Y			
	D	T		14	P	D	T		15	P		16	S	
			17	M	E	D	O	C		18	F	L	A	T
19	S		20	W	R		N		21	B	A		A	
22	P	R	O	O	F		23	Y	A	R	N	I	N	G
	I	R	U		M		O		N		G			
24	C	O	L	U	M	N		25	C	O	O	L	I	E
	E	D	E					K	Y		R			

Improving PSG collect third win in a week

PARIS, 18 Feb— Three second-half goals gave improving Paris St. Germain a 3-0 victory at AS Nancy on Saturday, their third win in a week.

Pauleta's weak 70th-minute penalty was saved by Damien Gregorini before the Portuguese player converted the rebound.

Pierre-Alain Frau made it 2-0 in the 86th minute and new recruit Marcelo Gallardo added a third goal for PSG, who followed up last week's 4-2 win over Monaco by defeating AEK Athens 2-0 in the UEFA Cup on Wednesday. "There is still a long way to go but it's good to win," striker Peguy Luyindula told reporters after the Parisians climbed to 15th in the table.

"If we carry on like this we will have a great second part of the season." Elsewhere, striker John Utaka scored twice to lead Stade Rennes to a 3-1 victory at St Etienne.—MNA/Reuters



British boxer, Amir Khan, right, throws a punch to knock down French fighter, Mohammed Medjadji, and finish the fight in the first-round, during their lightweight fight at Wembley Arena, London, England, on 17 Feb, 2007.—INTERNET

In memoriam

Family shares merits gained

Lt-Gen Tin Oo

In memory of benefactor Phay Phay Gyi Lt-Gen Tin Oo who suddenly left us six years ago, we family members have made donations and offered 'soon' and provisions to members of the Sangha today (19-2-2007). We family members share with you the merits gained.

Wife Daw Khin Than Nwe

Sons and daughters -

- Major Maung Maung Kyaw (Retd) (BSI)-Daw Cho Leh Oo
- Phyu Phyu Tin Oo
- Dr Myat Noe- Yin Mar Oo
- Zaw Tun Oo- Khin Thida
- Nay Tun Oo

Grandchildren

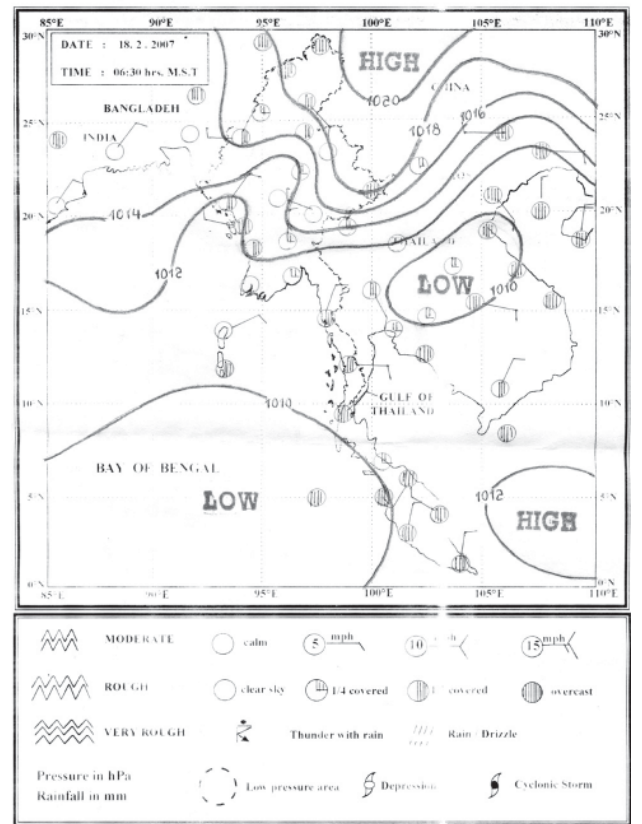
- Maung Hein Htet, Yin Myat Noe, Phu Ngon Kyaw,
- Maung Thant Thihan Zaw (Po Thila)



Monday, 19 February
Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music: -Wanna be where you're
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music: -What about me
- 8:50 am National news/ Slogan
- 9:00 am Music -Take on me
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music: -Take a chance on me
- 1:30 pm News / Slogan
- 1:40 pm Lunch time music: -I know you too well -Candy -Miss you all over
- 9:00 pm Spotlight on the star: -Selena
- 9:10 pm Article
- 9:20 pm Durg/ Women affairs
- 9:35 pm -Golden land melody/ Vocal gems Beautiful
- 9:45 pm News / Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Sunday, 18 February, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin, Chin, Shan and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (4°C) above normal in Rakhine State, (5°C) above normal in Taninthayi Division, about normal in Kayin, Kayah and Mon States, Ayeyawady and upper Sagaing Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (2°C), Pinlaung, Heho and Mogok (3°C) each, Lashio, Namhsan and An (4°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 17-2-2007 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 18-2-2007 was 65°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 18-2-2007 was 50%. Total sunshine hours on 17-2-2007 was (8.0) hours approx.

Rainfall on 18-2-2007 was (nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Northeast at (11:30) hours MST on 17-2-2007.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 19-2-2007: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine, Shan, Mon and Kayin States, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 19-2-2007: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 19-2-2007: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 19-2-2007: Partly cloudy.

MNA/Reuters

Russia bans 9 carriers from EU charter flights

Moscow, 18 Feb — Russia has banned nine carriers from flying charters to the European Union, including Utair and units of oil major LUKOIL and gas giant Gazprom, Russia's Transport Ministry said on Friday.

The ministry said in a statement it had learned that EU authorities were considering blacklisting the companies on safety grounds.

The ministry decided to take preemptive steps to avoid damage to Russia's reputation,

Deputy Transport Minister Alexander Misharin told Reuters.

"Nobody has asked us. We simply decided to fully exclude the possibility (of Russian firms appearing on the blacklist)," Misharin said. He said the EU dealt differently in each case with firms it adds to its blacklist, which comprises carriers not permitted to fly in the 27-nation bloc.

A Utair official said he was unaware of the development.

"We are really surprised because we haven't received any reproaches or acts. Our specialists are trying to figure out what's going on," the official, Yuri Mishukhin, said.

Other companies under the ban are Atlant-Soyuz, Russkoye Nebo, Tatarstan, Aviakon Tsitotrans, Aero Rent and Tsentra Avia.

Smt Phulidevi Agarwal (Dinodiya) age (81) years

With utmost grief we inform the demise of our beloved

mother **Smt hulidevi Agarwal (Dinodiya)** wife of Late Shri Piyarelall Agarwal (Dinodiya) on 13-2-07 at Kolkata (India).

Condolence meeting at

No 2A-1, Highland Mansion

Than Lwin Orchid Lane, Kone Myint Yeik Thar Road 7th Mile, Pyay Road, Yangon

on 20-2-07 (Tuesday) between 3 pm to 5 pm.

Deeply mourned by:

Sons:

Remesh Kumar Agarwal

Suresh Kumar Agarwal

Naresh Kumar Agarwal (Dinodiya)

Grand Sons:

Siddharth, Varun, Karan, Rishi, Vivek

& Entire Dinodiya Family

R Piyarelall Group

Ph: 651 597 (R)



Monday, 19 February

View on today

7:00 am

1. ကျေးဇူးရှင် မင်းကုန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာမဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့ အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ချုပ်၊ အဘိဓမ္မမဟာရဋ္ဌဂူရု၊ အဘိဓမ္မမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. Nice and sweet song

7:55 am

5. Song of national races

8:10 am

6. Cute little dancers

8:20 am

7. အရေးကြိမ်ပွဲ

8:30 am

8. International news

8:45 am

9. Grammar Made Easy

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Song to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. Practice in Reading

4:45 pm

4. အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ

5:00 pm

5. Dance variety

5:15 pm

6. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား

5:30 pm

7. မြန်မာရိုးရာတောဓလေ့ကျေးလက်တေးသံများ

5:40 pm

8. "စည်းကမ်းလိုက်နာ ဘေးကင်းကွာ" (လူကူးမျဉ်းကူးမှကူးမယ်)

5:45 pm

9. Musical programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)

6:00 pm

10. Evening news

6:30 pm

11. Weather report

6:35 pm

12. အလှူရှာမယ်လှူကမ္ဘာဝယ်

7:00 pm

13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ရုစိသီမငယ်ပါသေး" (အပိုင်း-၁၇)

8:00 pm

14. News

15. International news

8:00 pm

16. Weather report

17. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "တကယ်သဘောကျတယ်" (အပိုင်း-၂၅)

8:00 pm

18. The next day's programme

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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

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win looks into Moebye Dam in Loikaw



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of Ministry of Defence inspects Moebye Dam in Loikaw. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Shan State PDC Commander of Eastern Command Brig-Gen Thuang Aye and Chairman of Kayah State PDC Col Nyunt Tin, inspected prepa-

rations for irrigating summer paddy fields near Bawku Village of Loikaw yesterday morning.

At Moebye Dam, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win instructed officials to maintain the dam for its durability.

Moebye Dam was built with the aims of supplying water to be able to generate electricity at

Baluchaung Hydro-electric Power Stations No 1 and No 2, irrigating 2,000 acres of farmland and ensuring better waterway transport between Inlay Lake of Shan State and Loikaw of Kayah State. The earthen dam is 8,100 feet long and 60 feet high.

(See page 10)

INSIDE

The classical song on the Karaoke VCD is sung by a music star to the accompaniment of acting by some pretty young girls. However, the girls act lively wearing trousers. Their acting reduces the essence of the song.

PAGE 7

MAY THITSAR

Lt-Gen Myint Swe visits industrial zones

YANGON, 18 Feb — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence this afternoon visited the site for construction of Myaungdaga steel indus-

trial zone being undertaken by the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development in Hmawby Township and Thadukan Industrial Zone

in Shwepyitha Township. First, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, accompanied by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Com-

mander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and officials, arrived at the briefing hall of Myaungdaga steel industrial zone project and heard reports by DHSHD Director-General U Aung Win on earth work, construction of earth and concrete roads plus two bridges, arrangements for power supply, construction of sluice gates, sale of plots at the zone.

Next, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thuang Lwin reported on availability of raw materials; *(See page 10)*



Lt-Gen Myint Swe visits Thadukan Industrial Zone in Shwepyitha Township. — MNA