

Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Brunei

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb— On the occasion of the 23rd Anniversary of the National Day of Brunei Darussalam which falls on 23 February 2007, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. — MNA

Prime Minister sends felicitations to Brunei

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb— On the occasion of the 23rd Anniversary of the National Day of Brunei Darussalam which falls on 23 February 2007, General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. — MNA

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win on inspection tour of Mongnaung, Loilem

Physic nut to be cultivated for exceeding the target to supply fuel demand of the region as soon as possible

NAY PYI TAW, 22 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 departmental officials, met with servicemen and family members at Mongnaung Station Hall on 20 February.

He gave instructions on participation in five rural development tasks and carrying out of agriculture and livestock breeding tasks, and presented gifts for the families to Col Hsan Oo of the station.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win also gave foodstuff to local battalions in Wamhsin-Kholan and Namsang.

They viewed development tasks along Mongshu-Mongnaung-Kholan-Namsang Road.

At the hall of Loilem District General Administration Department, they heard reports on progress of roads and bridges presented by Superintending Engineer U Myint Aung. In his instruction, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win said that as Laikha-Mongshu section, Mongnaung-Wamhsin section, and Kholan-Namsang-Mongnaung section are important communication roads in the region, arrangements are to be made for maintaining and upgrading these road sections for ensuring better transport.

(See page 8)

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

So far, Shan State (South) has put 150,000 acres of land under physic nut plant for the first year and another 150,000 acres for the second year against the target of 500,000 acres.



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of Ministry of Defence gives instructions to officers, other ranks and family members at the hall in Mongnaung Station, Shan State (South). — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 23 February, 2007

Job opportunities on the increase

The government is implementing development and construction projects on a wider scale, so there has been a rise in job opportunities in the nation. At the same time, it is taking measures systematically in accordance with the procedures for those national people wishing to work abroad.

So far, the nation's sown acreage has increased to more than 29 million acres and cultivation capacity of crops and grains, to more than 46 million. Monsoon and summer paddy, beans and pulses, and edible oil crops are grown extensively in the agricultural sector, in which over 22 million people are engaged.

Owing to the establishment of new factories, workshops and industrial zones and emergence of import-substitute product factories, the number of factories has reached more than 6,000 where more than four million employees work.

In 2005-2006, over 34 million people worked in the agricultural and industrial sectors and services across the country. It has licensed 70 overseas job hunting agencies, which are contacting 14 countries and created over 30,000 jobs for national people.

It is also coordinating with neighbouring Thailand for enabling national people to go to the country legally through border gates, and issuing temporary passports to legalize illegal national migrant workers in the neighbouring country.

Now, Myanmar is scaling up cooperation with its neighbours based on mutual-interest, and promoting trade, commerce and tourism industry in border areas. At a time when the nation sees increasing local and overseas job opportunities, those wishing to work abroad should systematically follow the procedures to avert falling victim to possible trafficking in persons, tortures and labour exploitation.

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်မသုံးစွဲရနေ

လစဉ် လ၏ဒုတိယပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေ သွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည့် ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရနေ ဖြစ်သည်။

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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

Foreign Minister sends felicitations to Brunei

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb— On the occasion of the 23rd Anniversary of the National Day of Brunei Darussalam which falls on 23 February 2007, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Royal Highness Prince Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam. —MNA

MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb — The State Peace and Development Council has appointed Col Htein Lin of the Ministry of Defence as Managing Director of Myanma Small Loans Enterprise under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties. — MNA

Desks, cash donated to BEPSs in Insein Township

YANGON, 20 Feb — Yangon Division Union Solidarity and Development Association donated desks and cash to Basic Education Primary schools in Insein Township on 19 February.

First, CEC member of USDA Minister for Electric Power No 2 U Khin Maung Myint made a speech at the ceremony.

Next, USDA CEC member Yangon Division In-charge U Maung Pa explained the purpose of the donation. Afterwards, township education officer U Myo Swe presented 350 membership applications through secretary U Kyi Maung of District USDA.

Next, secretary U Tint Lwin of Insein Town-

ship USDA accepted K 1 million to be used at BEPSs presented by Insein Township In-charge U Khin Maung Myint, K 1 million by Soe Electrical, K 1 million by Yangon Transformer, K 1 million by Yangon Crown Company and K 500,000 by Electrical Engineer's Office of Yangon North District.

Afterwards, schoolhead U Kyaw Swe of No 26 BEPS, headmistress Daw San San Yin of No 36 BEPS and headmistress Daw Yin Yin Hla of No 4 BEPS accepted desks donated by USDA CEC member Yangon Division In-charge U Maung Pa.

Township education officer U Myo Swe then spoke words of thanks. — MNA

Workshop on basic techniques of forest research opens



Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung addresses workshop on basic techniques of forest research.— FOREST

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb — Jointly-organized by the Ministry of Forestry and FAO, with the purpose of placing emphasis on carrying out forest research works, a workshop on basic techniques of forest research was opened at the hall of the forest research in Nay Pyi Taw this morning.

Present on the occasion were directors-general of the Ministry of Forestry, the rector of University of Forestry, the deputy directors-general and

the resident representative of FAO.

First, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung made an opening speech on the occasion.

Next, technician Dr Simmathari Appanah of FAO made a speech on the occasion.

A total of 10 trainees from the Ministry of Forestry are attending the workshop which continues up to 24 February.

MNA

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Italian Prime Minister Prodi resigns

ROME, 22 Feb — Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi on Wednesday offered his resignation to President Giorgio Napolitano.

Prodi took the action after losing, by two votes, a major foreign policy vote in the upper house of Parliament.

Prodi's coalition allies rebelled over keeping Italian troops in Afghanistan and allowing the expansion of a US military base in Vicenza, Italy. Napolitano reserved the right to decide whether to accept the resignation and has asked the current government to remain in charge as caretaker.

Napolitano is set to begin consultations Thursday with Italian political leaders, after which he will decide whether to call for new

elections or give the mandate to a new prime minister or to Prodi



Italy's Prime Minister Romano Prodi.—XINHUA

himself.

Prodi's term began nine months ago.

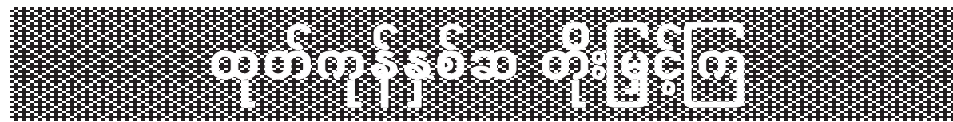
A key issue separating

the men was the Iraq war. Berlusconi supported the US invasion, despite overwhelming opposition at home. Prodi vowed to withdraw Italy's nearly 3,000 troops from Iraq by the end of 2006.

But leftists, who last year voted for Prodi, turned out by the thousands Saturday to decry his approval for US plans to expand the military base in the city of Vicenza, home to the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

Another political complication for Prodi is the first criminal trial in the CIA's extraordinary rendition programme.

Internet



Pakistani Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri(L) talks with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh during a meeting at Singh's residence in New Delhi recently. India and Pakistan signed on Wednesday a deal to reduce the risk of a nuclear arms accident in a show of cooperation and defiance against terror attacks that killed 68 people from both countries.—INTERNET

Involvement in Iraq has increased terrorism threat, professor says

SYDNEY, 22 Feb—An authority on terrorism says withdrawing troops from Iraq would reduce the risk of attacks on Australia and its interests.

Professor Clive Williams from Macquarie University has told a

public safety conference on the Gold Coast in south-east Queensland that Australia's involvement in Iraq has made it more of a terrorist target.

Prime Minister John Howard this week announced 70 more Australian soldiers would be sent to Iraq and Professor Williams says that will not lessen the terrorism threat.

"It's not as bad as combat troops because obviously trainers are not involved ... with combat with the Iraqi insurgents,

so they wouldn't be seen as being in a position to kill civilians inadvertently or whatever," he said.

"But just generally our involvement in Iraq is not perceived particularly favourably."

Professor Williams also says the nature of the world terrorism threat has changed and the Federal Government's assessment of the threat is about right.

He says the medium rating means an attack is possible, but not imminent.—Internet

Two more bombs hit Thai south

BANGKOK, 21 Feb—Two more bomb attacks were launched in Thai southernmost province of Narathiwat Tuesday morning but no one was killed or injured.

The first bomb, which was hidden at the entrance to two schools in Tambon Yi-ngo in Yi-ngo District, exploded at 7:30 am (0130 GMT). The second bomb exploded at 8:10 am (0110 GMT) at an intersection in Chanae District.—MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Reuters

Report finds US terrorism statistics inaccurate

WASHINGTON, 21 Feb — Nearly all of the terrorism-related statistics reported by the US

Justice Department and the FBI from the 11 September attacks until early 2005 had some inaccuracies, the department's inspector general said on Tuesday.

The findings drew immediate criticism from US senators, who said it raised serious doubts over how effectively the administration was fighting the terrorism threat.

"If the Department of

Justice can't even get their own books in order, how are we supposed to have any confidence they are doing the job they should be?," said Senator Charles Schumer, a New York Democrat.

"Whether this is just an accounting error or an attempt to pad terror prosecution statistics for some other reason, the Department of Justice of all places should be

classifying cases for what they are, not what they want us to think them to be," Schumer said.

The report found that only two out of 26 statistics were accurate after reviewing the number of terrorism convictions in the 2003 and 2004 financial years, the number of convictions or guilty pleas from 11 September, 2001, through 3 February, 2005, and the number of terrorist threats tracked by the FBI in 2003 and 2004.

MNA/Reuters

A police car is seen at the fog-covered Tian'anmen Square in Beijing, capital of China, on 21 Feb, 2007. Sections of seven Beijing and ten Tianjin highways closed due to the thick fog that smothered north China on Wednesday morning.—XINHUA



Suicide blast wounds three US soldiers in Afghanistan

KHOST (Afghanistan), 21 Feb — An Afghan suicide bomber disguised as a doctor blew himself up and injured three US soldiers during a function at a hospital in Khost on Tuesday, officials said.

Khost Governor Arsala Jamal told Reuters that a US soldier had seen the bomber acting suspiciously at a gathering of provincial officials and troops under NATO's command.

"The bomber wore a gown and looked suspicious," Jamal told Reuters by phone from the hospital. "An American soldier saw him, fired at him and then the bomber blew up his explosives in which three American soldiers were wounded."

He had no more details. — MNA/Reuters

Group warns planned cesareans not risk-free

NEW YORK, 21 Feb — Pregnant women considering a cesarean section, with no clear medical reason for it, should know that the procedure is not without risk, Canadian doctors caution in a report published this week.

On the contrary, Dr Shiliang Liu from the Public Health Agency of Canada, Ottawa, and colleagues have evidence that the rate of severe complications, such as major bleeding, infection and blood clots, is three-fold higher overall in women having a planned cesarean section compared with women who planned a natural birth.

The researchers used a Canadian data-base to look at the outcomes of 46,766 women who underwent what doctors deemed to be a low-risk cesarean delivery and

nearly 2.3 million women who underwent planned vaginal delivery between April 1991 and March 2005.

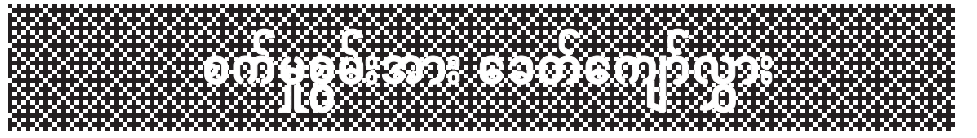
Because the database did not show if c-sections were performed solely because the mother requested it, the researchers explain, "we used cesarean delivery for breech presentation as a surrogate for planned elective low-risk cesarean delivery."

Liu's team found that the rate of severe complications in the planned cesarean group was 27.3 cases per 1,000 deliveries, compared

with 9.0 per 1,000 deliveries in the planned vaginal delivery group.

"Although the absolute difference is small," the risks should be considered by women thinking of asking for a cesarean delivery, the investigators conclude in their article in the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*.

MNA/Reuters



Julio Rodriguez works on the red carpet at the entrance of the Kodak Theatre as preparations are made for the 79th Academy Awards in Hollywood, California, on 21 Feb, 2007. The Oscars will be presented on 25 Feb, 2007. —INTERNET

US soldier pleads guilty in Iraq rape, murders

FORT CAMPBELL (Kentucky), 21 Feb — A second US soldier pleaded guilty on Tuesday to the rape and murder of a 14-year-old Iraqi girl and the killing of her family, a crime for which three others still face charges.

Sergeant Paul Cortez, 24, chewed gum and responded with the occasional "yes, sir," as a military judge read his plea

agreement in a courtroom inside a Kentucky military base.

Cortez could face life in prison without

possibility of parole for the rape and four counts of murder committed in Mahmudiya, south of Baghdad, in March 2006.

In all, four current and one former soldiers were charged in the gang rape of Abeer Qassim al-Janabi and the murders of her and her family, a crime that outraged Iraqis and ratcheted up tension in the war zone. Specialist James Barker pleaded guilty in November and was sentenced to 90 years in a military prison.

In the plea agreement, Cortez said he held the girl's hands while Barker raped her, then he raped her himself.

Meanwhile, the suspected ringleader, Steven Green, shot to death the girl's father, mother and 6-year-old sister. He then raped the girl while Cortez acted as a lookout. Green finally shot the girl dead.

The soldiers then attempted to burn the bodies in the culmination of the 12 March, 2006, attack.

Green was discharged from the Army for a "personality disorder" and is in a Kentucky prison awaiting civilian trial.

Though Green did all the killing, Cortez, of Barstow, California, and the others were also charged in the murders.

MNA/Reuters

MNA/Reuters

US soldier killed in Afghan fighting

KABUL, 21 Feb — An American soldier has been killed in fighting in Afghanistan, the US military said on Tuesday, as the Taliban step up attacks at the start of a spring offensive.

The soldier was killed on Monday in the eastern province of Kunar, bordering Pakistan, the US military said in a statement.

It gave no further details of the incident in a province which is a bastion for the Taliban and their Islamic allies.

After several months of a lull in fighting due to the harsh Afghan winter, the Taliban have resumed attacks against government forces and Western troops in the south and east.

More than 4,000 people, a quarter of them civilians, were killed in violence in Afghanistan last year, the bloodiest period since a US-led coalition overthrew the Taliban in 2001.

The Taliban say they are gearing up for a spring offensive while the coalition and NATO troops are readying for their own offensive in what analysts say will be a crunch year in the war to quell a strengthening insurgency. — MNA/Reuters



Young women disguised as tomatoes walk along a street, in a carnival procession on the closing carnival night, late on 20 Feb, 2007, in southeastern Macedonia's town of Strumica. — INTERNET

Exercise may boost flu shot protection

NEW YORK, 21 Feb — Exercising the muscle where a flu shot is injected may improve the immune system's response to the vaccine, British researchers report.

"We're trying to find something that could be very simple to do, which would benefit your vaccine response," Dr Kate Edwards, from the University of Birmingham, said in a statement.

In an earlier study, Edwards' team had shown that exercise can enhance

the body's production of antibodies. In their latest work, reported in the medical journal *Brain, Behaviour, and Immunity*, the researchers studied the impact that exercise had on immune responses to influenza vaccination in 60 young, healthy adults.

Six hours prior to

influenza vaccination, the participants either rested quietly or performed eccentric contractions of the deltoid and biceps muscles.

The researchers explain that eccentric exercise involves resisting the force of gravity while lowering a weight.

MNA/Reuters



Sydney's Taronga Zoo keeper Gary Miller entices Asian Elephant Tang Mo into a waterfall in her enclosure, on 22 Feb, 2007. Taronga's five Asian Elephants who arrived in Sydney in November 2006, are part of the first ever Australian Cooperative Conservation programme designed to help arrest the rapid decline of wild Asian Elephant across their 13 range states in Asia from India to Vietnam. — INTERNET

ECONOMIC NEWS

India not to subsidize sugar exports

NEW DELHI, 22 Feb— The Indian Government has refused to subsidize sugar exports but considers building a buffer stock to help mills facing a price crunch.

Indian Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar told *Xinhua* Tuesday that “the government feels the benefits of export subsidy will not come to the benefit of the domestic industry

as international prices will come down”.

Pawar said his ministry is also examining proposals from the industry that wants the government to maintain a buffer and release stocks when required, or have mills to hold the stocks with funds from the government.

“We are giving serious thoughts to create a buffer. This will go to the Cabinet

for approval in the next 15 days,” he said.

In fact, sugar prices have fallen in the last six months to about 300 US dollars per ton from 400 US dollars, making exports unprofitable.

India banned sugar exports last August when global prices were high and lifted the restriction in January when prices fell sharply. — *MNA/Xinhua*



Lanterns are hung along a street during the lunar new year season in Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia, on 21 Feb, 2007.

INTERNET



Trading specialists work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, on 10 Jan, 2007. US blue-chip stocks fell on Wednesday after stronger-than-expected inflation data stirred interest-rate worries. —INTERNET

China to produce 1,300 tons of gold in 2006-2010 period

BEIJING, 21 Feb— China plans to produce 1,300 tons of gold and verify gold mine reserves of 3,000 to 5,000 tons in the five-year period between 2006 and 2010, according to the State Development and Reform Commission.

In this period, efforts will be made to readjust distribution of the gold

industry, intensify gold mine prospecting, promote industrial restructuring and upgrade mining and production technology and equipment.

Meanwhile, domestic gold enterprises will be encouraged to participate in international competition, said sources with the top economic plan-

ning agency.

Last year, China produced a record 240 tons of gold, a growth of 7.15 per cent year-on-year, and its gold mine reserves increased by more than 650 tons. In 2007, the gold output is projected to hit 260 tons and the gold mine reserves to rise 700 tons, the sources added. — *MNA/Xinhua*

ICBC, China Aluminum to start long-term strategic cooperation

BEIJING, 21 Feb— The Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) and the China Aluminum have signed an agreement on long-term strategic cooperation.

Under the agreement, ICBC, China’s largest lender, will provide comprehensive financial services to the latter including loans, assets management, financing, cash management and debt risks control.

But the ICBC did not reveal credit line available to China Aluminum, the world’s second largest alumina maker and the country’s top electrolytic aluminum manufacturer which posted 105.5 billion yuan (about 13.88 billion US dollars) in annual sales revenue and 152.6 billion

yuan (about 20.07 billion US dollars) in assets.

With an asset of more than seven trillion yuan, the ICBC boasts 2.5 million corporate clients and 150 million individual clients and holds the largest Mainland market share. — *MNA/Xinhua*



A passenger jet operated by Indonesia’s Adam Air sits on the tarmac after making a hard landing at Juanda Airport in Surabaya, on 21 Feb, 2007. The state Antara news agency said the plane’s body bent and cracked.

INTERNET

Actress Denise Richards smiles as she arrives at GM Ten, General Motors’ annual fashion show, at Paramount studios in Hollywood, California on 20 Feb, 2007.

INTERNET

Italy, Spain vow to protect food in trade talks

IBIZA (Spain), 22 Feb — Mozzarella and manchego were on the menu of a bilateral meeting between Italy and Spain on Tuesday as the two countries pledged to protect the Mediterranean diet from more open global trade.

As the Doha Round of World Trade Organization talks restarts, France has already insisted that the European Union

should not give away any more ground in the politically-sensitive area of farming.

Italy and Spain said they were the two European countries with most foods stamped with labels like DOC and PGI, which prevent other places using the names of hams, wines and even nougat that have often centuries-old traditions at home.

While they said they

hoped for a new WTO deal, they added that changes the EU had offered to make to its agricultural policy should be recognized and matched by other trade partners.

WTO countries agreed last month to restart the Doha Round, which was suspended last year mainly over differences over agriculture.

MNA/Reuters

New US intelligence chief sworn in

WASHINGTON, 21 Feb— US Vice-Admiral Mike McConnell was sworn in as the new director of national intelligence on Tuesday, replacing John Negroponte, the country's first person to hold that post created more than two years ago.

McDonnell, 63, was sworn in as the top US intelligence official at a swearing-in ceremony at Bolling Air Force Base outside Washington.

McConnell was

director of the National Security Agency from 1992 to 1996, during the administrations of George W Bush and Bill Clinton, and was the intelligence officer for then chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Colin Powell during the Gulf War. He was first commissioned as a Navy line officer in 1967 and served in Vietnam.

Speaking at the ceremony, President George W Bush said McDonnell "has the

experience and the character and the talent to meet" enormous challenges. The director of national intelligence, who serves as the President's principal intelligence adviser and the leader of the entire US intelligence community, holds "one of the most difficult and important positions in our government", he said.

MNA/Xinhua



A firefighter douses the flames at a rubber plant in the southern province of Yala, 1,200 km from Bangkok on 21 Feb, 2007. Militants lobbed fire bombs overnight into the export-oriented warehouse and smoking plant, the largest one in the three southernmost provinces. — INTERNET

Insurgents burn rubber warehouse in Thai south

BANGKOK, 21 Feb— Insurgents set fire to a rubber warehouse early Wednesday morning in Thailand's Yala Province, and the largest rubber warehouse in the southernmost provinces was still burning after the firemen struggled for eight hours.

Local police were quoted by *Bangkok Post* as saying that the South Land Rubber Co Ltd in Muang District was set on fire at 1: 10 am (1810 GMT Tuesday). The fire stormed the building where a large number of rubber sheets were kept rapidly. About 10 workers who were staying inside the building fled for their lives. It took firemen about half an hour to reach the warehouse, as insurgents put spikes on roads to the plant to slow down authorities.

Police said two insurgents threw fire bombs into the building, starting the big flame.

Damage cost is initially estimated at 400 million baht (about 11.4 million US dollars).

According to an official statistic, about 2,000 people have been killed since the violence reemerged in January 2004 in Thailand's southernmost provinces. Over the weekend, more than 30 bombs rocked Yala, Pattani, Narathiwat and Songkhla, killing at least nine people and injuring more than 60 others. — MNA/Xinhua

Two US soldiers killed in Baghdad suicide attack

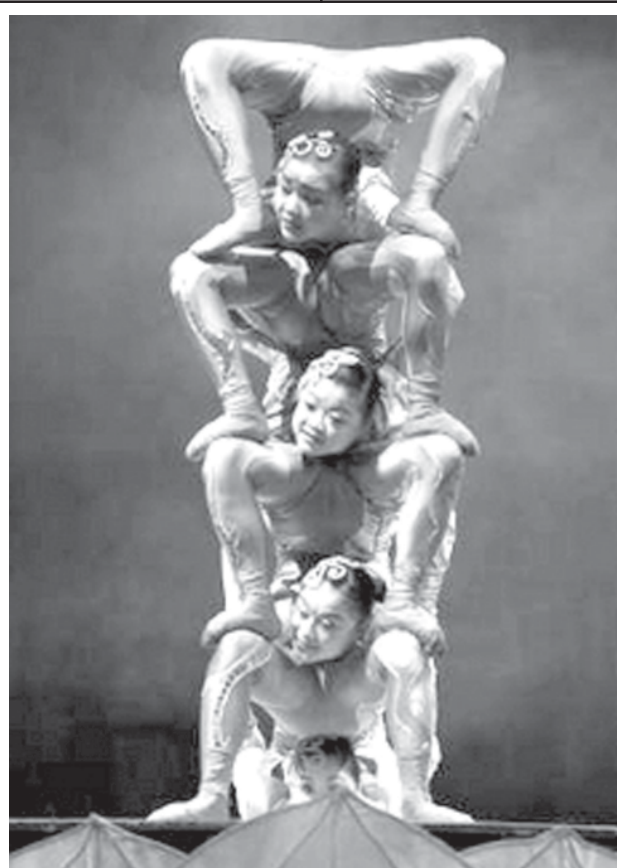
BAGHDAD, 21 Feb— Two US soldiers were killed and 17 others wounded in a suicide car bomb attack outside a military base in north of Baghdad on Monday, the US military said.

"Insurgents initiated the attack on the outpost with a suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonation," the US statement said. "The attack site has been secured and wounded soldiers have been evacuated," the statement added.

Witnesses from Tarmiyah area, 30 kilometres north of Baghdad where a US and Iraqi military base located, said that insurgents clashed with US troops after a suicide bomber apparently tried to break through barriers around the base. Earlier, the US military said that a Marine was killed in combat operations on Saturday in the volatile Anbar Province.

About 3,140 US soldiers have been killed in Iraq since the US-led war on Iraq broke out in March 2003, according to media count based on Pentagon figures.

MNA/Xinhua



Contortionists perform during an acrobatics show in Beijing on 21 Feb, 2007. Acrobatics, dating back more than 2,000 years, is one of China's oldest art forms. — INTERNET

US study finds clues to mystery dizziness

CHICAGO, 21 Feb— Chronic dizziness that is not due to vertigo, a problem that has puzzled doctors for years, may have a variety of causes including anxiety disorders and brain injury, according to a study published on Monday.

Vertigo, a feeling of turning or whirling usually involving inner ear problems, is well recognized, according to the report from the University of Pennsylvania Health System in Philadelphia.

But so-called chronic nonspecific dizziness where victims also suffer imbalance and are super-

sensitive to some motions such as walking in a busy store or driving in the rain is more complex, it added.

MNA/Reuters

Lightning kills Chinese paraglider

SYDNEY, 21 Feb — A Chinese paraglider sucked into a tornado-like thunderstorm in Australia last week was killed by lightning during the

freak ordeal which a fellow flyer survived, Australian police said on Tuesday.

They said preliminary post-mortem examination

results showed He Zhongpin, 42, had been struck by lightning after being sucked into the storm cell last Wednesday. His body was found the next day 75 kilometres (45 miles) from where he had taken off. German paraglider Ewa Wisnierska

survived the ordeal despite being encased in ice as she was carried up to 30,000 feet (9,144 metres) — higher than Mount Everest — while flying her parachute-like canopy.

Wisnierska was hit by hail stones the size of oranges and blacked out for almost an hour due to lack of oxygen in the freezing temperatures.

She suffered severe frost bite and blistering to her face and ears, but was released from hospital saying she still hoped to compete in the world championships which begin on Saturday.

MNA/Reuters



Iraquis gather at the site of a suicide bombing in Baghdad's impoverished district of Sadr City. A US helicopter was brought down by ground fire and 23 people killed as Britain and Denmark said they would begin withdrawing their troops. — INTERNET

A Decade of Success in Sanitation

Dr Khin Maung Lwin

People love to talk about wonders. “The Seven Wonders of the World” brought me to the dream – world during my childhood. They pushed me to adopt the life of a traveller and urged me to write travelogues. I wrote articles on my visits to Borobudhur Pagoda in Java, Taj Mahal in Agra and Kremlin in Moscow. However, those wonderful things never replaced my love of Beikthano, Thirikhitaya, Bagan, Ahlon, Sedoktara and many old cities all over the country. I have travelled only two hundred thousand miles in Myanmar and have plans for more. Though food and shelter are necessities, safe food, clean water and clean toilets help travellers to carry on their mission.

Building toilets is no wonder. But how about building seven million toilets?

We did it during the decade of National Sanitation Weeks movements. We aimed for a million toilets on the very first NSW movement in 1998 and could achieve 932,000 toilets in practice. It was a surprise for neighbouring countries that shared the same situation like us. Some visited and observed our campaign in the latter years. With UNICEF’s arrangement, delegates from Laos, Vietnam, China, Pakistan and Nepal have had experiential learning on building latrines in a national scale.

Without having a national policy, building millions of latrines is impossible. We have a policy for universal sanitation but it took us three years to formulate the campaign. To build a million latrines in one year was a huge figure. Since we have more than sixty thousand villages, assignment to build fifteen latrines per village was a challenging and rewarding task for every innovator. NSW movement reached every possible corner of the country and could double the number of household latrines in four years. Myanmar was recorded in UNICEF-WHO

joint study report (2003), as the fastest and highest increased in latrines among the developing countries.

After the ninth NSW, we have covered (84%) of the country with fly-proof latrines. The term, fly-proof latrine fits the optimum quality of latrine that our people could afford. If we could block the flies’ fecal-transport-business, we would stop the fecal-oral route of diarrhea disease transmission. There was a significant drop of diarrhea diseases during the following years. Because of difficulties in sustaining the quality of latrines; we faced sporadic outbreaks of diarrhea later on.

In 2003, we adopted another strategy to upgrade the unsanitary latrines and mobilize Myanmar community to be integrated in NSW movement. Amid progress in number of new latrines, quality of latrines decreased due to many reasons. Bamboo, cheap wood and other locally available materials utilized as an appropriate technology last for about three years only. Longevity of the pits is another issue in addition to seepage of sewage into nearby water sources. Though we could correct those weaknesses, we were helpless in facing the floods and rains. We also need appropriate designs for the coastal areas and water logged areas.

Basing on the above issues, data on latrine coverage fluctuates, but studies done by third parties (Multiple Cluster Indicator Surveys and Myanmar Media Research and Development Agency surveys) indicated a (10%) difference in number of coverage and number of sanitary latrines. That means, we have at least (70%) sanitary latrines all over the country. Now, we are going to complete the decade by topping more than one million latrines this time to reach a decent (90%) coverage. In addition, we need to upgrade at least a million unsanitary latrines. **If we can fulfill our duty as responsible citizens, we will get our target of universal access to sanitary latrines in year**

2010. That means 5 years ahead of the Millennium Development Goals set by the global community on sanitary coverage.

There are many reasons for the global community to wait that long. Many countries lagged behind in this sanitation coverage especially for the poor. Many mega cities failed to handle this issue in urban slums. Many developing countries cannot sustain the quality of toilets and proper utilization behaviours. Some said that economic development could solve those problems automatically. According to my experience, developing healthy behaviours needs more inputs than providing hardware. Understanding people, giving enough time to adopt the innovation, creating enabling environments to practice learned healthy behaviours, legal and administrative support, etc, should be the needy inputs in addition to mainstreaming 4 Cleans in the formal education curriculum.

Here, we are addressing 4 Cleans. Clean Food, Clean Water, Clean Hands added to Clean Toilets to get impact on both health and sustainable development. With least investment, we can get large gains in this area. Hygiene is in the core for all 4 Cleans. Hygienic handling of provided facilities (toilets, water sources) and washing hands properly with soap and clean water before handling of food and after handling any soiled material are the key behaviours that subjected to be developed among children and youth. We also organize community-based health promotion on 4 Cleans to be able to change the behaviours of adults in community and corporate settings.

By the end of this year, after the tenth National Sanitation Week movement, we will get closer to the universal sanitation and related MDG targets. National policy, Government Mobilization and Community Mobilization make it happen. Without international support (i.e UN agencies like UNICEF, WHO, UNDP, WSSCC and INGOs), local support (i.e NGOs, Private Sector and wellwishers) and media support we cannot cover that much.

Global community is campaigning for WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) and we are going for 4 Cleans. Clean food promotion is a step ahead.

In conclusion, I would like to present the fact that National Sanitation Week movement serves as model in transforming a National Policy on Health into action.

In 2003, we adopted another strategy to upgrade the unsanitary latrines and mobilize Myanmar community to be integrated in NSW movement. Amid progress in number of new latrines, quality of latrines decreased due to many reasons. Bamboo, cheap wood and other locally available materials utilized as an appropriate technology last for about three years only. Longevity of the pits is another issue in addition to seepage of sewage into nearby water sources. Though we could correct those weaknesses, we were helpless in facing the floods and rains. We also need appropriate designs for the coastal areas and water logged areas.

Group of so-called ex-NLD members including Htin Kyaw (a) Kyaw Htin stirs up riot and gathers crowd on Maha Bandoola Street in Yangon

Walking in procession and shouting rowdily along busy road incite riot, action may be taken according to law

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb — A group of so-called ex-NLD members including Htin Kyaw (a) Kyaw Htin from the Myanmar Progress Committee, an illegal association, carrying placards chanted rowdily and walked along Maha Bandoola Street from Rahanta Ordination Hall on Maha Bandoola Street in Pabedan Township, here, at about 3.30 pm today.

Many bystanders then flocked to the group, thus gathering a crowd of people there.

It was followed by a panic of nearby vendors, buyers and passers-by and then a riot. Members of Yangon City Development Committee Police Force rushed to the site and stopped the group verbally. Then, the group dispersed at the top of 32nd Street in Kyauktada Township about 3.55 pm.

Regarding the incident, there was a widespread criticism among the people that members of the group, which incited a gathering crowd through a protest violated the existing law, illegally formed a group with the intention of rising against the government, got involved in an act of lawlessness and walked in procession shouting along a busy road, and their purposeful movement stirred up a riot; that their shouting and carrying placards designed to incite a public demonstration made the public dislike and disrespect the government; and that action might be taken against the group according to law.

Similarly, some people made a comment that they got involved in the willful campaign with the intention that if they were arrested under the existing law, they would be well-known locally and internationally; their attempt was aimed at instigating external anti-government groups and foreign media to fabricate news about Myanmar, and thus expecting medals or cash awards from abroad.

Similar incidents happened in the past, and there are still some persons who are trying to incite such incidents.

There has also been a widespread public criticism that the attempt of the protesters, whose motive was only to win popularity among the people and seek self-interest, caused public annoyance and panic harming the desire of the people to lead a peaceful life in the land and that such a deliberate attempt was totally against the law and action might be taken against the protesters.

MNA

Agreement on education cooperation between Japan and Myanmar inked

YANGON, 20 Feb — An agreement on education cooperation between the Medical Science Department and the Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) under the Ministry of Health and Nagasaki University of Japan was signed at MRD (Lower Myanmar) in Dagon Township here this afternoon.

The signing ceremony was attended by Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe, Director-General of Medical Science Department Dr Than Myint, Acting Director-General of the

Medical Research Department Dr Kyaw Min, rectors, deputy directors-general, pro-rectors, directors and President of Japan Nagasaki University Prof Hiroshi Saito and Japanese delegation members.

First, Dr Kyaw Min and Prof Hiroshi Saito made speeches. Next, the directors-general and Prof Hiroshi Saito signed the agreement and exchanged the documents. They then posed together for a documentary photo. — MNA

Prevent outbreaks of fire

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win on...

(from page 1)

Loilem District PDC Chairman U Aung Htay reported on learning of students at local universities. After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win fulfilled the requirements of the tasks.

At the 1,000-acre physic nut farm of Eastern Command at the entrance to Hopong, the commander reported on land preparations for cultivation of physic nut. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win instructed officials to grow physic nut for exceeding the target to supply fuel demand of the region as soon as possible.

So far, Shan State (South) has put 150,000 acres of land under physic nut plant for the first year and another 150,000 acres for the second year against the target of 500,000 acres.



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win presents cash assistance for servicemen of local battalion to Col Hsan Oo of Mongnaung Station. — MNA

Furthermore, the state has grown physic nut on 152,448 acres in 2006 against the target of 200,000 acres for third year. In addition, over 2.4 million physic nut saplings are being nurtured in the state.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party left Hopong for Taunggyi.— MNA

Cooperatives Minister meets staff of small loans services



Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Tin Htut inspects production of bamboo hats in Thayetkon Village of Pindaya Township.

COOPERATIVE

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb— Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Tin

Htut and officials met the staff of small loans services jointly implemented

by United Nations Development Programme and Cottage Industries Department in Kalaw Township in Shan State on 16 February.

The minister also met borrowers, cottage industrialists from Thayetkon village in Pindaya Township on 17 February and the borrowers from Kawla, Lwelyeint villages in Inlay Region in Nyaungshwe Township on 18 February.

He then met the borrowers from Wahyonpin village in Kalaw Township on 19 February and attended to their needs. — MNA

Fires break out in Yangon Division, Mon State

YANGON, 22 Feb — An over heated regulator in a restaurant in Inya Lake Park in 9 ward, Kamayut Township in Yangon Division caused fire that destroyed four shops on 17 February.

A fire broke out while the patrol was being filled at a tea shop in Highway Bus Terminal in Zaygyo ward in Mawlamyine, Mon State at 6 pm on 17 February. The fire burnt down four shops and one was slightly

injured. A candle light on the altar Image caused fire that burnt down two houses and left 31 people homeless on Myawady street in Thingangyun Township, Yangon Division at 8 pm on 18 February. — MNA

USDA S-G U Htay Oo meets with members in Mandalay Division

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb—Secretary-General of Union Solidarity and Development Association U Htay Oo met with USDA members in Mandalay Division at the division's USDA Office on 18 February and urged them to promote the interests of local people by implementing the future tasks of the association.

Speaking on the

occasion, Secretary-General of USDA U Htay Oo said the association has nurtured its members to become qualified ones so that they can participate in building a democratic state joining hands with people. Therefore, USDA members are to put their energies into building a democratic state that is the desire of the people.

Members of

Mandalay Division USDA and district/township USDAs attended the meeting.

Secretary of Mandalay Division USDA U Tin Maung Oo reported to Secretary-General U Htay Oo on social welfare activities of Mandalay Division USDA. — MNA



Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo of the Ministry of Defence and wife being welcomed by Military Attaché Colonel Vladimir I Konchakov of the Russian Federation at the reception to mark the 89th Anniversary Armed Forces Day of the Russian Federation. — MNA

Cleanliness and beautifying tasks in rural areas



Director of Ayeyawady Division Development Affairs Department U Soe Tint inspected the nursery of Pyapon Township DAD on 5 February, 2007. On his tour, he called on officials concerned to grow shady trees and plants to meet the targets.

KYEMON



Auxiliary Fire Brigade and employees of the Kawthoung Township Development Affairs Department sprayed insecticide at a market of the township DAD on 5 January. In an attempt to fight mosquitoes, Kawthoung Township DAD sprayed insecticide in markets of the township DAD.

KYEMON

Drive safely

Cycling Race continues for 10th leg (Pyinmana-Nay Pyi Taw-Toungoo)

YANGON, 22 Feb—The 95-mile 10th leg route Pyinmana-Nay Pyi Taw-Toungoo of the Yangon-Pyay-Mandalay-Yangon 1,000-mile Men's Cycling Race continued for the tenth day this morning.

Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Brig-Gen Wai Lwin launched the cycling race. Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint greeted the cyclists before their departure. The cyclists started the race at 6 am and arrived at the finishing line in Toungoo at 9.30 am. Among 72 cyclists, 71 contestants crossed the finishing line.

Secretary of Toungoo District Peace and Development Council U Thein Swe presented K 20,000 to Aung Myo Naing (Maxxis) who stood second in the 10th leg and K 10,000 to Win Hlaing (A&I), third. Director (Competition/Training) of Sports and Physical Education Department U Naw Taung presented K 30,000 and a yellow suit to Kyaw Myo Hlaing (Finance and Revenue) who stood first in the 10th leg.

The 11th leg as Toungoo-Nyaunglebin will be launched in front of the sports ground in Toungoo tomorrow morning. —MNA

Yangon East District WAO holds coord meeting

YANGON, 22 Feb — Yangon East District Women's Affairs Organization held its coordination meeting at the city hall of Thingangyun Township today. Patron of Yangon Division WAO Daw Mar Mar Wai made an address on the occasion.

Chairperson of Yangon East District Daw Thauang Mya and chairpersons of township's WAO reported on tasks carried by district and townships WAOs and future plans for 2007.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks by Patron Daw Mar Mar Wai. — MNA

Workshop on banking services held

YANGON, 22 Feb—Jointly-organized by Client Focus Technology Group and Epson (Thailand), a workshop on banking services was held at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road this morning.

Present on the occasion were responsible personnel of Computer Software Services and ICT departments of local banks.

First, general manager U Aung Kyaw Moe of Client Focus Technology Group extended greetings and explained the purpose of the workshop. Next, Manager Mr Phairote Y of Epson briefed on Passbook

Printer, Cheque Reader and Wireless Projectors with the use of projection slides. Next, those present participated in beefing up banking services with interest and the workshop ended in the evening.

Client Focus Technology Group exhibits products manufactured by Epson at its showroom at No 7 (D), Pyay Road, Hline Township, Yangon — (Tel-525860 and 513419) and No 130, Seikkantha Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon— (Tel-249344 and 249345).

MNA



Manager Mr Phairote Y of Epson (Thailand) explains banking equipment at workshop on banking technology. — MNA

Pathein parasol industry in Ayeyawady Division

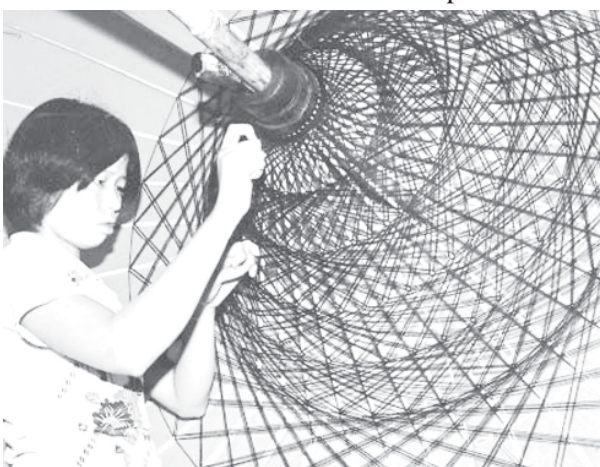
*Article by Than Than Nu & Tin Mar Win;
photos by Tin Soe (Myanma Alin)*



I have been engaged in parasol enterprise as family business since I was 12. (U Saw, owner of Shwe Sar Parasol Enterprise)

In Myanmar, many regions have produced their specific handicrafts for long. Pathein parasol is a symbol or cultural heritage of Pathein Town. We media group of the Myanma Alin Daily made a study tour of Shwe Sar Pathein Parasol Enterprise in Pathein on 20 February.

The proprietor of the traditional enterprise is U Saw, 76. His son U Aung Naing is now managing the family business. In an interview, U Aung Naing explained the process of making a parasol, saying that the main raw materials for a parasol were



A girl decorating a parasol with the use of embroidery.

bamboo, canvas, wood and thread. Major parts of a parasol were the head, supporting sticks, the shaft, branches, the frame and the handle, he said.

Among the species of bamboo — Htiyo, Tharaphu and Khayin — used in making a parasol, Tharaphu species was common because of its resistance to insects and weather. Common species of wood used for making the head of a parasol

were Ma-U, Padauk (gum-kino), Thayet and Dedu. Bamboo was cut down in the rainy season and soaked in a lake or river, he said.

He added that in the process, bamboo was soaked together with mud to make the bamboo stronger. After keeping it in the water for four or five months, it was taken out from the lake or river and then kept under the sun. Then it was used for making branch sticks of a parasol. Sticks to be used as branches were to be kept under the sun for about one and a half months. Juice of big Te fruits was to be boiled and then applied on the canvases (sheet) so that the latter became resistant to air and rain. Only canvas produced by the Ministry of Industry-1 and that produced in Mandalay Division were used as sheets of parasols. Cane was



A male worker embellishes a parasol with the use of Bagan period style.



A female worker painting a parasol with the use of Mandalay period style.

parasol. If its goal was achieved, the traditional parasol industry of Pathein, Ayeyawady Division, would make greater progress. It attracted tourists and helped the nation earn foreign exchange. He quoted the interview with tourists by Thai TV, saying that Chiangmai in Thailand saw a parasol village; and that tourists took interest in Myanmar's parasols more than Thailand's.

He said that Pathein parasols were in demand in the nation especially in Chaungtha, Ngwehsaung and Ngapali beach resorts.

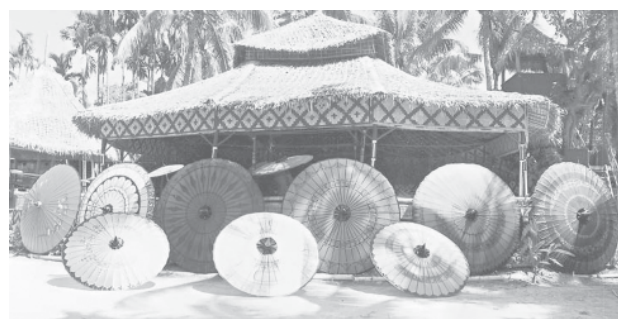
In conclusion, he said that it was encouraging to note that a traditional handicraft product of Pathein, Ayeyawady Division, Myanmar, had a

One village, one product

used for making the ring of a parasol.

Then, Pathein parasols secured a foothold in the international market, and were exported to Germany, France, Italy and Austria. His father U Saw, owner of the enterprise, had been engaged in parasol enterprise since he was 12 years old, he said.

Shwe Sar Parasol Enterprise was pursuing its goal of making the whole village a community of



Shwe Sar Parasol Enterprise and its coloured parasols.

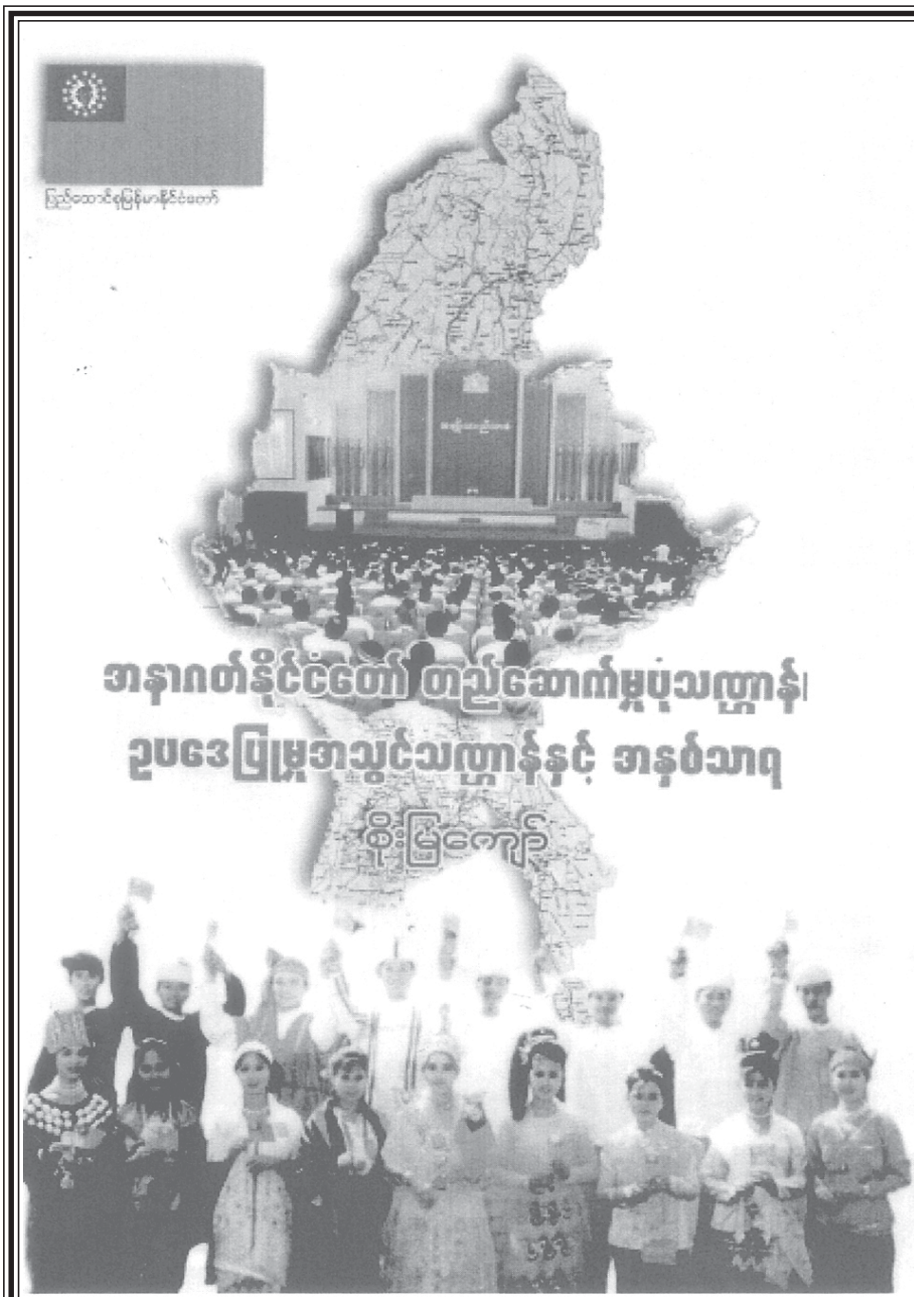


Lovely Pathein parasols.

foothold not only in local market but also in international market, so he would do his best to ensure sustainable development of Shwe Sar Parasol Enterprise.

Translation: MS

Myanma Alin: 22-2-2007



- အမျိုးသားညီလာခံကို ကျင်းပကာ နိုင်ငံတော်ဖွဲ့စည်းပုံ အခြေခံဥပဒေ ရေးဆွဲရေးအတွက် အခြေခံရမည့်မူများနှင့် အသေးစိတ်အခြေခံရမည့်မူများကို အမျိုးသားညီလာခံကိုယ်စားလှယ်များက ညှိနှိုင်းဆွေးနွေး အတည်ပြုချက် ချမှတ်ပေးလျက်ရှိသည်။
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ဖိုးမြကျော် ၏

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ထွက်ပြီ

- စာပေဗိမာန် စာအုပ်ဆိုင် ၅၂၉-၅၃၁၊ ကုန်သည်လမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။
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15 killed, over 300 survive in Indonesian ferry fire

JAKARTA, 22 Feb. — Fifteen people were killed and 325 others survived a ferry fire in the waters off Jakarta, Indonesia, the country's Navy said here Thursday.

Spokesman of the Indonesian western territory Leut Colonel Hendra Pakan said that a rescue team has found 63 more survivors and seven bodies on an island about 25 miles from the site of the accident.

"The rescue team with two ships is heading to rescue the 63 survivors ... on Kelapa Island near the site of the accident, he told Xinhua.

The accident site was about 50 miles off Jakarta port of Tanjung Periuk, the spokesman said. A total of 350 passengers were on board the ferry when the accident occurred at 5:20 Jakarta time (1220 GMT).

"(The figure) made the death toll to 15 and survivors to 325," said Pakan.

The rescue team has deployed five Navy war ships, two planes and two

helicopters to search the rest of the passengers, he said.

The spokesman said

that most of the people on board jumped to the sea after the fire engulfed the ferry. — MNA/Xinhua



Construction continues on the Freedom Tower with the first planted beams of the left southern edge of the tower visible, on Tuesday, 20 Feb, 2007, in New York. New York Gov Eliot Spitzer visited the site following a news conference in which he announced his support of the under construction tower at the site of the 2001 World Trade Centre. — INTERNET

Britain to cut troops in Iraq within months

LONDON, 22 Feb — British Prime Minister Tony Blair on Wednesday announced a plan to withdraw 1,600 British troops from Iraq in the next few months.

In a speech to the House of Commons, Blair said that the

current 7,100 troops would be cut to 5,500 shortly, with the hope that 500 could leave by the end of summer.

The deployment of British troops in Iraq had been a success and had removed Saddam Hussein from power, Blair said.

He said that the situation in Basra now is very different from the one in Baghdad, and Iraqi authorities were now able to take over responsibility for security.

"It does mean that the next chapter in Basra's history can be written by the Iraqis," he added.

Although he ac-

knowledged that Basra was still "difficult and sometimes dangerous", levels of murder and kidnapping had dropped and reconstruction was under way.

It was important to show the Iraqis that Britain — and the other members of multi-national force — did not intend to keep their forces stay longer than necessary, the Prime Minister said.

Some British soldiers would remain in Iraq into 2008 "as long as we are wanted and have a job to do". helping secure supply routes and borders and to support Iraqis, he added.

MNA/Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV XIANG FENG VOY NO (7013)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XIANG FENG VOY NO (7013) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 23.2.2007 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 CHINA SHIPPING
(MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MARINA STAR 2 VOY NO (701)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MARINA STAR 2 VOY NO (701) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 23.2.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EAGLE SHIPPING CO., LTD**
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

TRADE MARK CAUTION

Johnson & Johnson, a corporation incorporated in the United States of America, of One Johnson & Johnson Plaza, New Brunswick, New Jersey, U.S.A., is the Owner of the following Trade Marks:-



Reg. No. 1183/2004
in respect of "Pharmaceutical, namely, a neurological preparation".

NEXDURIC

Reg. No. 3661/2004
in respect of "Analgesic preparations administered transdermally".
Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Marks will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.,
for Johnson & Johnson
P. O. Box 60, Yangon.
Dated: 23 February 2007

DONATE BLOOD

TRADE MARK CAUTION

Madam Jeanne CHANTEREAU, épouse GOBET of 9 Boulevard de la Tour Maubourg, 75007 Paris, France is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademark -

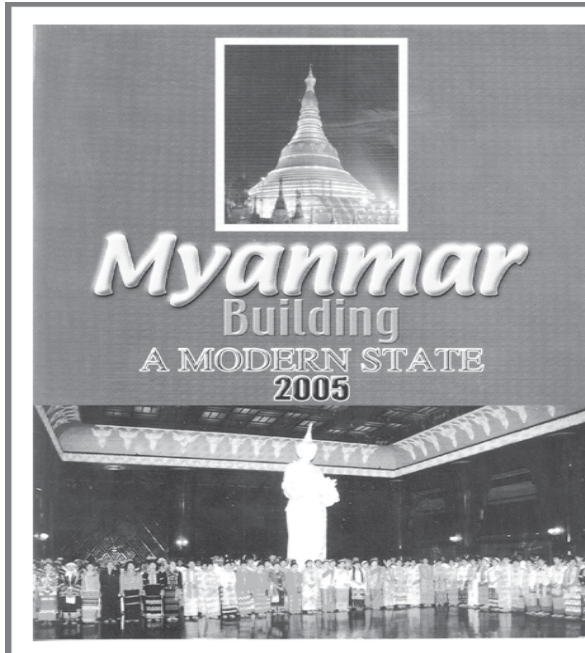
POLYGYNAX

(Reg. No. IV/5925/2003)
in respect of - "Pharmaceutical preparations; sanitary preparations for medical purposes; dietetic substances adapted for medical use; disinfectants".

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use or any other infringement whatsoever of this trademark will be dealt with according to law.

Htain Lin Oo (LL.B) Advocate
MYANMAR TRADE MARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM
E-mail: mtpip@mptmail.net.mm
Tel: 254037 G.P.O Box: 666
Yangon. 23 February 2007

သစ်တောသစ်ပင်
ချစ်ခင်တဲ့လူမျိုး၊
သစ်ပင်ကို
နှစ်စဉ်စိုက်
ရွှေတိုက်ကိုစိုး။



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We shall be shifting our office from No.119/121, (2nd and 3rd Floor), Latha Street, Latha Township, Yangon to the new office address given below as from 1-3-2007 and our clients are requested to contact us at the new address effective from that date.

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လေသန့်စင်၍
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စိတ်ရွှင်လန်း၏။

Laos confirms first bird flu case in seven months

BANGKOK, 21 Feb—Landlocked Laos has reported its first case of the H5N1 bird flu virus in seven months, found on a chicken farm near Vientiane, a senior official said on Tuesday.

More than 1,000 fowl in Non-Sawang village, 5 kilometres (3 miles) from the capital, were culled in a bid to stop the virus spreading following the unusual deaths of 17 chickens last week, government spokesman Yong Chanhthalansy told Reuters by telephone.

"The lab results in both Vientiane and Vietnam have confirmed that the chickens died of H5N1," he said. There had been no reports of human cases and an area within a 5-kilometre-radius around the outbreak had been disinfected and remained under tight surveillance, he said.

Communist Laos, where most of its 5.6 million people live in villages, was hit by the H5N1 virus in early 2004 as it first swept through parts of Asia.

The virus has killed up to 167 people worldwide since it re-emerged in Asia in 2003, among them 17 people in neighbouring Thailand and six in Cambodia.—MNA/Reuters

Algeria to order more Russian "MIG 29" fighter planes

ALGIERS, 21 Feb—Russia is expecting to receive a new order of MIG-29 fighter planes by Algeria, "as stipulated in the initial contract", the Algerian daily *Le Jeune Independant* reported on Monday. Discussions between Russia and Algeria are scheduled to start at the expiry of the initial contract, a Russian source was quoted as saying by the daily.

The initial contract was officially announced in March, 2006 after several months of negotiations concerning the delivery of

34 MIG-29 SMT fighters to Algeria, eight of which were delivered in December, 2006.

The MIG-29 SMT is a single-sit fighter and interceptor plane considered to be superior to the United State's F-15, notably regarding the range of action and endurance.

According to the initial contract, Russia committed to cancel Algeria's debt currently estimated to be 4.7 billion US dollars. In return, Algeria undertook to order Russian goods and services worth 7.5 billion dollars including military equipment.

MNA/Xinhua



A train speeds past mud seeping from a "mud volcano" in Sidoarjo, Indonesia. Hundreds of concrete balls will be dropped into a "mud volcano" on 21 Feb, although experts warned it is unlikely to stop a massive mud flow which has swallowed villages and left 15,000 people homeless.—INTERNET

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲများတိုးတက်လာ နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့



American actor Nicolas Cage, left, and director Mark Steven Johnson display 'Ghost Rider' cartoon figures they were presented during a Press conference in Tokyo on 21 Feb, 2007. They are in Tokyo to promote his latest film, comic-book adaptation 'Ghost Rider,' that has just led a rush of new movies with \$52 million box-office debut over the four-day President's Day weekend in the United States.—INTERNET

Surgeons who play video games more skilled

CHICAGO, 21 Feb— Playing video games appears to help surgeons with skills that truly count: how well they operate using a precise technique, a study said on Monday.

There was a strong correlation between video game skills and a surgeon's capabilities performing laparoscopic surgery in the study published in the February issue of *Archives of Surgery*.

Laparoscopy and related surgeries involve manipulating instruments through a small incision or body opening where the surgeon's movements are guided by watching a television screen.

Video game skills translated into higher scores on a day-and-half-long surgical skills test, and the correlation was much higher than the surgeon's length of training or prior experience in laparoscopic surgery, the study said.

Out of 33 surgeons from Beth Israel Medical Centre in New York that

participated in the study, the nine doctors who had at some point played video games at least three hours per week made 37 per cent fewer errors, performed 27 per cent faster, and scored 42 per cent better in the test of surgical skills than the 15 surgeons who had never played video games before.—MNA/Reuters



Former Seoul Mayor Lee Myung-bak (L) walks with a stick as he shuts his eyes during an exhibition 'Dialogue in the dark' to experience blind's life, in Seoul on 20 Feb, 2007. — INTERNET

Report says Japanese nursing home kept man in cage

TOKYO, 21 Feb — A Japanese nursing home is being investigated over a claim that staff tied residents to their beds and kept a disabled man in a cage, officials said on Tuesday.

The residents, many suffering from dementia, were regularly tied to their beds with ropes and handcuffs by caregivers, *The Mainichi* newspaper said in the latest case of abuse towards the elderly in a rapidly greying society. Quoting a former employee at the nursing home, the paper said a disabled man in his 30s was locked in a cage designed for pets and kept there for at least three months. The man was physically and mentally impaired as a result of a traffic accident, it said.

The nursing home, where 26 people live, was unlicensed, and authorities were unaware of the conditions until being told by the former employee who left it in January, the paper said.

No one at the facility, located in Urayasu City, east of Tokyo, could be reached for comment.

City officials said they were investigating the report. They said they had searched the nursing home recently, and NHK public television said they had not spotted a cage but had found that one person was tied to a bed.

The Mainichi quoted the nursing home manager as saying residents were physically restrained to prevent them from falling out of bed, and it was with the consent of their families.

The manager was quoted as saying the man "happily" went into the cage after caregivers put a blanket and toilet inside.— MNA/Reuters



A monkey plays a handstand on the horns of a goat as the goat keeps balance on a rope at a zoo in Nanning, capital of China's Guangxi Province, on 21 Feb, 2007. The zoo has arranged a series of animal shows to amuse tourists during the Spring Festival holidays. —XINHUA

Prosecutors say Libby lied as trial winds down

WASHINGTON, 21 Feb — A former aide to Vice-President Dick Cheney lied to the FBI because he was worried he might face criminal charges for blowing a CIA employee's cover, the prosecution said on Tuesday as the trial neared its close.

Lewis "Scooter" Libby also feared he would lose his job as Cheney's Chief of Staff after he enlisted the Vice-President to clear his name, prosecutor Peter Zeidenberg told the jury in his closing argument.

"He had a choice to make — he could tell the truth and take his chances with the investigation, or he could lie. Ladies and gentlemen, he took the second choice," Zeidenberg said. Libby is on trial for lying to investigators trying to find out who leaked a CIA analyst's identity after her husband accused the White House of twisting intelligence to bolster the case for invading Iraq.

Libby's defence team said the government's entire case rested on two phone calls with reporters — not enough to prove him guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. — MNA/Reuters

Stallone's hotel, plane searched in Sydney

CANBERRA, 21 Feb — Sylvester Stallone's hotel room, private plane and limousine were searched, Australian media reported on Tuesday, just days after prohibited items were seized from his luggage at Sydney Airport.

The searches in Sydney, a few hours before he left the country, came as Australian Customs investigates prohibited items seized from the 60-year-old movie star's luggage when he flew into the city on Friday to promote his latest Rocky movie.

"To (Customs) it's major, but it's really minor stuff. I just made a mistake," the *Daily Telegraph* quoted Stallone as

saying. Customs has not given details of the seized items and a spokeswoman refused to comment on reports of further searches, as did the hotel the muscle-bound actor was staying at. Stallone left Australia on Monday night, after a three-hour delay, to begin filming the fourth film in his Rambo series, "Pearl of the Cobra", the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported. — MNA/Reuters

SPORTS

Alonso ready for Barca return



Xabi Alonso.—INTERNET

BARCELONA, 22 Feb —Xabi Alonso admits Liverpool are relishing the second leg of their tie with Barcelona after a stunning 2-1 victory at Camp Nou.

The 2005 winners of the UEFA Champions League came from a goal down to beat the holders in the first leg of their last 16 encounter.

In-the-news duo Craig Bellamy and John Arne Riise scored the goals to put The Reds in a strong position to qualify for the quarter-finals.

Spanish midfielder Alonso was beaming at the result and revealed confidence is high ahead

of the return meeting at Anfield in a fortnight.

“We are delighted with the result,” Alonso told Sky Sports News.

“I think we have performed in the way we wanted to before the game.

“We are really happy and are looking forward to the second leg at Anfield.

“Of course, it is a massive success for us. It is always a hard game here, so to win in a Champions League tie against Barcelona in the Nou Camp is always great.”

Liverpool’s former Barcelona keeper Jose Reina praised his team’s resilience for coming back from Deco’s early header.

Reina said: “It was brilliant. I think we have worked really hard from the beginning, and also with the goal against us in the first minutes, it was a little bit difficult.

“At the end, we are so happy because the result is great.”—Internet

San Lorenzo win completes Argentina’s 2006 season

BUENOS AIRES, 22 Feb — Argentina’s troubled 2006 Apertura championship finally ended two months late on Wednesday when San Lorenzo beat Racing Club 1-0 in a meaningless mid-table game.

The match was due to be played on 19 November but was one of several fixtures which fell victim to the violence and intimidation that plagued the tournament.

The game was called off three hours before the start when the two sets of fans blocked the team buses and prevented them from reaching the stadium.

The fans were protesting an order to play the game behind closed doors. The decision was made after a crowd riot forced Racing Club’s previous game against neighbours Independiente to be abandoned in the second half.

San Lorenzo finished ninth in the table with 28 points from 19 games, one place above Racing.

Estudiantes won the championship on 13 December, beating Boca Juniors 2-1 in a playoff after the teams finished level on 44 points from 19 games.

Although the dramatic finale took attention away from the hooligan problem, the 2007 season has begun with more trouble.

River Plate were given a five-match home ban last week after rival factions of their supporters clashed in the club’s social area hours before a league match.

Rioting fans forced River’s match away to Newell’s Old Boys on Saturday to be abandoned with four minutes to play.

MNA/Reuters

UEFA to discuss Lille crowd problems on 22 March

BERNE, 22 Feb— UEFA is to hold separate investigations into the crowd problems and on-pitch controversies that marred Tuesday’s Champions League first knockout round first leg between Lille and Manchester United.

European soccer’s governing authority said on Wednesday its control and disciplinary body would discuss the fan incidents, where several United supporters were almost crushed, at its next ordinary meeting on 22 March.

UEFA has yet to receive a protest from Lille against Ryan Giggs’ controversial winner for United but said the matter would be dealt with on Friday, along with the interruption to the match caused by some Lille players leaving the pitch after the goal.

“The reason for the two dates is because a protest against a technical error could mean the match being replayed, if the protest was upheld,” said a UEFA spokesman, who asked not to be named.

“So the question over the goal would have to be decided way earlier than 22 March, since the (return leg) is due to take place in two weeks’ time.”

United fans were pushed towards a high perimeter fence early in the game, played at Len’s Felix-Bollaert Stadium, with some having to be lifted over the barriers to safety. Riot police sprayed tear gas as supporters tried to climb the fence.

Lille were then angered by Giggs’ goal, scored from a quickly-taken free kick while goalkeeper Tony Sylva was still arranging his wall. The game was then held up as some players looked set to walk off to complain to a UEFA delegate.

The match soon resumed but United captain Gary Neville was then hit by missiles as he took a throw-in.

In a statement, UEFA said would look into “possible violations of binding UEFA safety and security instructions by the host club, as well as the alleged improper conduct of both sets of supporters”.

Manchester United said on Wednesday that they would be carrying out their own investigations into the crowd disturbances, including a survey of fans who attended the match.

MNA/Reuters



Barcelona’s Deco (C) shoots at goal as Liverpool’s Jamie Carragher (L) and Pepe Reina (R) look on during their Champions League first knockout stage, first leg soccer match against Liverpool at Camp Nou in Barcelona, Spain, on 21 Feb, 2007.—INTERNET

Arsenal half year turnover up to 100 mln pounds

LONDON, 22 Feb — Arsenal’s turnover soared in the half-year to November 30, rising from 57 million pounds (111.1 million US dollars) to 100.8 million pounds.

The Premier League club said the increase was due to higher gate and match-day revenues at their new Emirates Stadium, plus the sale of a property development site at Drayton Park.

“The Emirates Stadium project had an objective of providing Arsenal with the financial strength and resources to compete at the very highest level in all competitions,” chairman Peter Hill-Wood told the club’s website (www.arsenal.com) on Wednesday.

“I believe the results for the group’s first period in its new home demonstrate that we have already achieved this milestone.”

Profits, before taxation and exceptional costs of 21.4 million pounds associated with the refinancing of the club’s stadium-related debt, were 12.8 million pounds against 14.6 million at the same stage in 2005.

Arsenal said demolition work had been completed at Highbury, with redevelopment underway on turning their historic old ground into more than 700 residential units.

MNA/Reuters

Kuznetsova too strong for Shaughnessy in Dubai

DUBAI, 22 Feb — Third seed Svetlana Kuznetsova claimed a place in the Dubai Open quarterfinals with a 6-1, 7-6 victory over American Meghann Shaughnessy on Wednesday.

The Russian played a blistering opening set but was held up early in the second when she failed to take advantage of a number of break points.

“I missed some second serve returns because I was trying to be aggressive,” Kuznetsova told reporters.

“She then started to serve very well and it was hard to read it but I played very well in the tiebreak.”

MNA/Reuters

Injured Terry will miss Cup final

LONDON, 21 Feb—Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho says John Terry will miss Sunday’s Carling Cup final against Arsenal after his captain limped out of the draw at Porto.

The defender was stretchered off after just seven minutes of the Champions League tie in Portugal, and Mourinho said: “All we know now is it is bad.

“He has injured his ankle ligaments and was not happy when he came off.”



Terry left the ground on crutches after injuring his right ankle.

INTERNET

The injury looked to have aggravated the problem he sustained in training on Tuesday ahead of the last 16 match.

And it leaves Chelsea with just one recognised centre-half for the Millennium Stadium clash in Ricardo Carvalho.

It is unbelievable because of the injuries we keep getting

Mourinho said: “We are not in an easy situation. I do not know when John will be back, but I am cool about it.

“It is unbelievable because of the injuries we keep getting. We don’t have Khalid Boulahrouz and we don’t have John Terry. We have one central defender — Ricardo Carvalho.”

Michael Essien deputised for Terry in defence during the skipper’s recent absence, and slotted in again when he left the field against Porto, so is the most likely candidate to replace him.

Internet

Italian doctors mistakenly transplant HIV-infected organs

FLORENCE, 22 Feb — Italian doctors mistakenly transplanted organs from an HIV-positive donor into three recipients, the head of a Florence hospital said on Tuesday.

Doctors at Careggi hospital told reporters that an infected woman's liver and kidneys were transplanted after a laboratory biologist incorrectly wrote on her medical records that she had tested negative for HIV.

"This was a tragic human error," said Careggi's chief Edoardo Majno.

Doctors said the 41-year old woman, who died of a brain haemorrhage, was probably unaware that she was HIV-positive and that her relatives had agreed to donate the organs.

The likelihood that the three recipients would now become infected with HIV/AIDS was very high, Majno said.

"Fuelling an alarmist reaction after this case of human error, which luckily is extremely rare, could have negative consequences for many people who are on a waiting list for a transplant," said

Franco Filipponi, director of transplants for Florence's Tuscany Region.

Media reports of widespread "malasanita" — malpractice, poor hygiene and low safety standards in Italy's national health system — prompted a nationwide police inspection of the country's public hospitals last month.

The inspections highlighted serious violations at one in six hospitals, such as rat droppings on the premises and expired medicine stocks.

Hardly a week goes by without new media reports of "malasanita".

In a case that shocked Italy a month ago, a 16-year-old girl died having her appendix removed when the power failed in the operating theatre and her ventilator was not plugged into a generator.

MNA/Reuters

British robbery suspect jailed in Morocco

RABAT, 22 Feb — A kick boxer suspected of involvement in Britain's biggest cash robbery was jailed for eight months by a Moroccan court on Wednesday for possessing drugs and assaulting police officers.

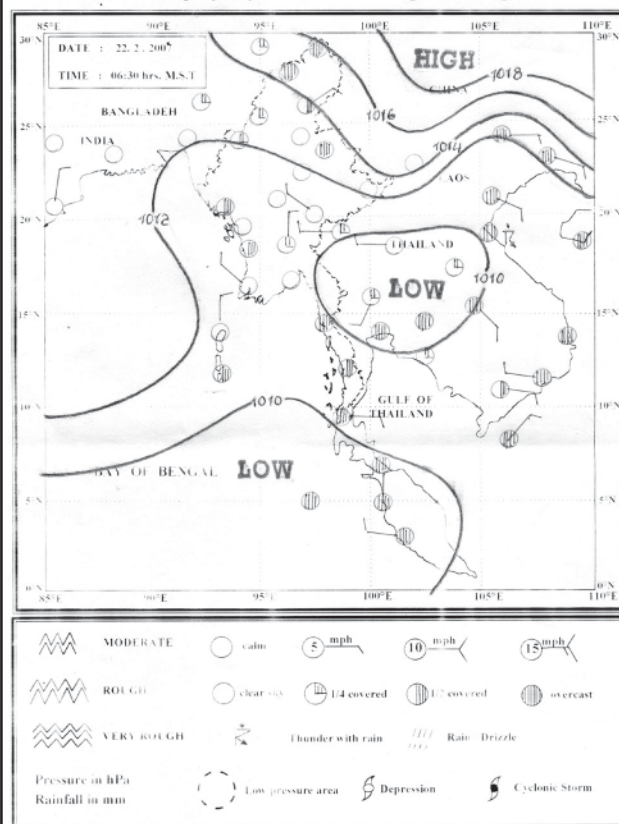
Britons Lee Murray and Paul Allen, who were arrested in a shopping mall in Rabat in June, were also fined 10,000 dirhams (1,180 US dollars).

The court ordered them to pay 303,100 dirhams to Moroccan Customs related to drug possession. They must remain behind bars until the fine is paid, even though they have already served the jail terms.

Murray arrived in Morocco shortly after a 53-million-pound (105-million-US-dollar) armed hold-up of a Securitas cash depot in Kent, England, and was arrested by Moroccan security forces with Allen and two other Britons in June.

The two other Britons were given four-month jail terms and fines of 5,000 dirhams. — MNA/Reuters

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Thursday, 22 February, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were about normal in Mon State, lower Sagaing, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, (7°C) below normal in Chin State, (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (0°C), Pinlaung (1°C) and Lashio (3°C).

Maximum temperature on 21-2-2007 was 98°F. Minimum temperature on 22-2-2007 was 66°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 22-2-2007 was 56%. Total sunshine hours on 21-2-2007 was (9.0) hours approx.

Rainfall on 22-2-2007 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 (5) mph from Southeast at (11:15) hours MST on 21-2-2007.

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 23-2-2007: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions.

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 23-2-2007: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 23-2-2007: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 23-2-2007: Fair weather.

Earthquake Report

(Issued at 12:30 hours MST today)
A slight earthquake of intensity (4.4) Richter Scale with its epicentre inside of Myanmar about (40) miles North-Northwest of Kaba-Aye Seismological observatory, was recorded at (03) hrs (20) min (31) sec MST on 22nd February 2007.



Friday, 23 February
View on today

7:00 am

- ကျေးဇူးရှင် မင်းကုန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ့မဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ချုပ်၊ အဘိဓမ္မမဟာရဋ္ဌဂူ၊ အဘိဓမ္မအဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

- To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

- Morning news

7:40 am

- Nice and sweet song

7:50 am

- ရိုးရာကျေးလက်ကစားနည်း

8:00 am

- အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:05 am

- လယ်ယာစီးပွားမြှင့်တင်ရေးရန် ပဲခူးရေလျှော်တံ

8:10 am

- အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:20 am

- The mirror images of the musical oldies

8:30 am

- International news

8:45 am

- English for Everyday

Use

4:00 pm

- Martial song

4:15 pm

- Song to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

- Practice in Reading

4:45 pm

- အဆေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ စတုတ္ထနှစ် (ဥပဒေပညာ အထူးပြု) (ဥပဒေပညာ)

5:00 pm

- Song of national races

5:15 pm

- "စက်မှုတပ်ဆင် လုပ်ငန်းတွင်" (အကယ်ဒမီ ဇင်ပိုင်၊ အကယ်ဒမီ မင်းမော်ကွန်း၊ အကယ်ဒမီ မိုးမိုးမြင့်အောင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဝင်းထွန်းထွန်း)

5:30 pm

- မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား

5:35 pm

- "သူငယ်ချင်းမရှိတဲ့ဥပဒေ" (မင်းမေ၊ ခင်စာခြည်ကျော်၊ ဧကရီကျော်ကျော်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်ယဉ်ကျော်)

5:45 pm

- Song of yesteryears

6:00 pm

- Evening news

6:30 pm

- Weather report

6:35 pm

- သူတစ်စုံလင်ရွှေညာဏ်ရှင်
- "တို့တစ်ရွာလုံးချမ်းသာပြီ" (ဆန်းထွဋ်၊ သူသူဟံသာ၊ အကယ်ဒမီဇော်ဦး၊ မိုးဒီ၊ ငွေတောင်၊ တက္ကသိုလ်ဝမ်းပုံ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-တင်အောင်ရွှေ-သူတေသီ)

8:00 pm

- News
- International news
- Weather report
- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "အကြင်နာနေဦး" (အပိုင်း-၁၅)

8:05 pm

- မင်းကုန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး ဦးဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ အရပ်ဆယ်မျက်နှာမေတ္တာ ဘာဝနာပွားများခြင်းတရားတော်

8:10 pm

- The next day's programme



Friday, 23 February

Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music:
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music:
- 8:50 am National news/Slogan
- 9:00 am Music
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:15 am Music:
- 1:30 pm News / Slogan
- 1:40 pm Lunch time music:
 - I'm a rock
 - Looking for a reason
 - It's so easy
 - Blowing in the wind
- 9:00 pm WOM
- 9:15 pm Article
- 9:25 pm Musci at your request
- 9:45 pm News / Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL

Functions of hospitals, universities under inspection

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb — Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint inspected construction of buildings at the township hospital in Kyaukpa-daung Township on 19 February morning.

The minister and officials also inspected Gwegyo rural health care centre and Gwebin health care centre in Chauk Township.

At Yenangyoung District Hospital, the minister met with health staff and instructed them to place emphasis on dissemination of health knowledge to the local people.

On arrival at University of Medicine (Magway), the minister met with faculty members and attended to the needs. While in Magway, the minister called on stu-



Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint inspects rural health care centre in Gwegyo Village of Chauk Township. — HEALTH

dents and faculty members of University of Community Health.

At Minbu District Hospital, the minister inspected the new patient ward.

On 20 February, the minister looked into progress in construction

of the 200-bed academic hospital and the units of Magway General Hospital. Afterwards, the minister inspected Taungdwingyi Township Hospital and Taungnyo Station Hospital in Pyinmana Township.

MNA

Objectives of the 62nd Anniversary Armed Forces Day

- * To work in concert with the people in building a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation
- * To strive for successful realization of the seven-step Road Map of the State with genuine Union Spirit
- * To crush every danger posed to stability and development of the State hand in hand with the people
- * To build a strong, capable and modern patriotic Tatmadaw to safeguard Our Three Main National Causes

Myanmar Pearl Auction-2007 begins



Pearl merchants from foreign companies observe pearl lots at Myanmar Pearl Auction-2007. — MNA

YANGON, 22 Feb — With the intention of earning more foreign exchange, the Myanmar Pearl Enterprise of the Ministry of Mines held Myanmar Pearl Auction-2007 at Dusit Inya Lake Hotel in Mayangon this morning.

A total of 515

pearl lots and 94,319 pearls weighing 56188.55 momme will be sold. A total of over 30 foreign merchants will buy pearls.

Foreign pearl merchants observed pearl lots from 9 am to 4 pm today and Chairman of Pearl Sale Central Committee Managing Direc-

tor of MPE U Maung Toe and members cordially greeted them. The pearl merchants bought 40 pearl lots today.

Myanmar Pearl Auction-2007 continues up to 24 February. The pearl lots will be sold through tender system.

MNA

One member resigns from NLD Party of Madaya Tsp

He no longer trusts in the party

YANGON, 22 Feb — Member U Thaug Myint of NLD Party of Madaya Township in Mandalay Division resigned from NLD of his own accord on 16 January. His resignation letter was sent to the NLD Headquarters and authorities concerned.

In his resignation letter sent to Madaya Township Multi-party Democracy General Election Sub-Commission, he said that he had no trust in the party any more because it had not served the interest of the State and the people. — MNA

ONE VILLAGE, ONE PRODUCT



In conclusion, he said that it was encouraging to note that a traditional handicraft product of Pathein, Ayeyawady Division, Myanmar, had a foothold not only in local market but also in international market, so he would do his best to ensure sustainable development of Shwe Sar Parasol Enterprise.

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Without having a national policy, building millions of latrines is impossible. We have a policy for universal sanitation but it took us three years to formulate the campaign. To build a million latrines in one year was a huge figure. Since we have more than sixty thousand villages, assignment to build fifteen latrines per village was a challenging and rewarding task for every innovator. NSW movement reached every possible corner of the country and could double the number of household latrines in four years. Myanmar was recorded in UNICEF-WHO joint study report (2003), as the fastest and highest increased in latrines among the developing countries.

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DR KHIN MAUNG LWIN