

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

IT to be applied widely in building modern developed nation

General Soe Win addresses coordination meeting on development of IT

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Jan — A coordination meeting on development of Information Technology (IT) was held at the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs here yesterday, with an address by Prime Minister General Soe Win.

In his address, the Prime Minister said that information technology is to be applied widely in building a modern developed nation. Concerted efforts are to be made for effective application of information technology in

national development, enhancing work efficiency and raising living standard.

Next, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw reported on arrangements for installation of broadband system in information technology and public access centres, establishment of e-government and e-library.

U Thein Oo and U Aung Zaw Myint of Myanmar Info Tech reported on establishment of public access centres, ru-

ral development information system and industrial development information system, Professor Daw Nwe Nwe Win of Yangon University on prospects and development after the wider use of e-library, Managing Director U Shein Thu Aung of Global Technology Co Ltd on information technology needed for wider use of e-library and Director U Tun Tun Naing of e-Trade Myanmar Co Ltd on establishment of website based on information.

(See page 8)



Prime Minister General Soe Win addresses coordination meeting on development of Information Technology (IT). — MNA



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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 23 January, 2007

Social organizations strongly condemn US draft resolution

The Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon, Myanmar Music Asiayon, Myanmar Traditional Artists and Artisans Asiayon and Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association issued declarations condemning the draft resolution submitted by the United States and Britain to the United Nations Security Council in order to interfere in Myanmar's internal affairs.

The United States made an attempt to put the Myanmar issue on the agenda of the UNSC accusing the country of posing a threat to regional and international peace and security.

Placing its interest in the fore, the US made such accusations with every intention of interfering in Myanmar's internal affairs using the UN as a tool. Thanks to the unity of friendly nations and regional and neighbouring nations the evil scheme of the US has met with failure.

As the submission of the draft resolution by the US and Britain was contrary to the wishes of the Myanmar people and ignored the truth, the MWJA together with the people strongly denounced it.

Likewise, the Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon, Myanmar Music Asiayon and Myanmar Traditional Artists and Artisans Asiayon condemned the draft resolution co-sponsored by the US and Britain. They also condemned national traitors at home and abroad who colluded with the external elements.

Therefore, the draft resolution of the US and Britain to interfere in Myanmar's internal affairs, ignoring the nation's prevailing situation was just an attempt to install a puppet government under their influence.

2,848 drug-related cases exposed in December

YANGON, 22 Jan — A combined team comprising the Tatmadaw members, Myanmar Police Force and the Customs Department exposed 2,848 drug-related cases in December 2006.

They seized 2,311.3486 of opium in 431 cases, 192.3329 kilos of heroin in 1,050 cases, 1,370.835 kilos of brown opium in four cases, 28.9636 kilos of opium oil in 103 cases, 6,153 kilos of low grade opium in 134 cases, 72.7398 kilos of marijuana in 161 cases, 19,065,520 stimulant tablets in 586 cases, 1,287.45 kilos of ephedrine in two cases, 136.2875 kilos of stimulant powder in eight cases, 338.1467 kilos of opium speciosa in 119 cases, 0.225 litre of cough syrup, 3.2268 kilos of stimulant solid (ice) in three cases, 67 tablets of Ecstasy in three cases, 5,372 tablets of diazepam in two cases, 17.001 kilos of ephedrine powder in two cases, 395 bottles of ephedrine injection in two cases, 129 bottles of morphine injection in two cases, 2,246.3 kilos of caffeine in one case, 230,240 tablets of lorazepam in five cases, 6,790 tablets of alprazolam two cases, 10,900 tablets of buprenorphine, 1,403.32 litres of acetic anhydride, 15,418.225 litres of chemical liquid in four cases, 4,180.33 kilos of chemical powder in two cases, 76 cases in failure to register and 146 other cases.

Action was taken against 4,360 persons— 3,559 men and 801 women— in 2848 cases.— MNA

People's Desire

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

Htamathi Multipurpose Dam Project inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Jan — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo together with responsible personnel went on an inspection tour of Htamathi Multipurpose Dam Project near Tazone Village, Homalin Township in Sagaing Division on 13 January.

At the briefing hall, Director of Construction Group-4 of Irrigation Department U Victor briefed the minister and party on progress in building of the dam while Director-General of Irrigation Department U Kyaw San Win gave a supplementary report. Next, Assistant Director U Aung Hlaing of Construction



Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects Htamathi Multipurpose Dam Project in Homalin.— A&I

Group-5 of Hydropower Implementation Department presented reports on plans for generation of hy-

droelectric power.

Next, the minister fulfilled the requirements and inspected the dam from

the observation tower. Afterwards, the minister oversaw progress of building of the dam. — MNA

Minister attends work coordination meeting, prize presentation ceremony

YANGON, 21 Jan — A work coordination meeting of the Ministry of Construction was held at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Deputy Ministers U Tint Swe and Brig-Gen Myint Thein, heads of departments, superintending engineers from states and divisions and roads, bridges, and runway projects, deputy superintending engineers, senior engineers and engineers in-charge.

The minister fulfilled the requirements and made concluding remarks. Next, the prize presentation ceremony was held and the minister made a speech on the occasion.

Afterwards, Chairman of Track and Field Subcommittee Chief Engineer U Ye Myint Swe entrusted the championship shield to the minister. The minister then presented prizes to distinction winners of 2006 matriculation examination and the chief engineer to the victorious football team that won the international tournament.



Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun accepts Championship Shield presented by Chief Engineer U Ye Myint Swe.— CONSTRUCTION

Next, prizes were awarded for the judo team and yachting team by Deputy Ministers U Tint Swe and Brig-Gen Myint Thein. — MNA

UMFCCI officials meets Russian Ambassador

YANGON, 22 Jan — President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint and General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing met Ambassador of the Russian Federation Dr Mikhail M Mgelladze at the UMFCCI Office on 17 January.

They discussed, promotion of bilateral goodwill relations and trade, cooperation in economic undertakings, sending of delegations of the Russian Federation Chambers of Commerce and UMFCCI, mining, prospects for cooperation in production of trucks, banking, payment on accounts and trade fairs.—MNA



U Sein Min and Daw Khin Cho Cho Tun of Pazundaung Township donate K 100,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged through members of Administrative board U Chit Myaing.— H

Russia to cancel \$750m debt owed by African countries

LUSAKA, 21 Jan—The Russian Government will this year write off 750 million US dollars debt accumulated by African countries to improve their capacity to effectively participate in international trade, a Russian diplomat said here on Friday.

Russia has so far written

off 13 billion dollars debt owed by African countries, said Russian Ambassador to Zambia Anvar Azimor, who was appointed as new Russian special representative to the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (CO-MESA) based in Lusaka, Zambia.

Russia has cancelled Zambia's one billion dollars debt to help the Zambian Government spend more money on poverty reduction, improvement of the economy, education and health facilities, the envoy said.

Russia is the eighth country to appoint a special representative to COMESA after Britain, China, Cuba, France, Germany, India and Italy.

MNA/Xinhua



A tube containing biofuel made with soy oil is displayed over soybeans at a biodiesel plant in Chacabuco, some 145 miles west of Buenos Aires, in this file photo. Biofuels are set to be the major theme in global agricultural markets in 2007, driving more investment money into these underweighted commodity sectors.— INTERNET

Roadside bomb damages US armoured vehicle north of Baghdad

TIKRIT, (Iraq), 12 Jan—A roadside bomb went off near a US Bradley armoured vehicle outside the town of Duluiyah, some 90 kilometres north of Baghdad late Friday, a police source from Salahudin Province which the town belongs to said on Saturday.

“A roadside bomb detonated near a US patrol passing on a bridge west of the Duluiyah Town late last night, setting a Bradley armoured vehicle ablaze,” the police source from Salahudin Province told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

MNA/Xinhua



Song Xinian (C), Lu Yixuan (L) and Chen Shuang pose for after being crowned during Miss Chinese International Pageant 2007 held in Foshan in south China's Guangdong Province, on 20 Jan, 2007.—INTERNET

Hillary Clinton enters 2008 US presidential race

NEW YORK, 21 Jan—Democratic Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton entered the 2008 US presidential race on Saturday with a swipe at President George W Bush as she capped years of speculation about her White House ambitions. “I’m in. And I’m in to win,” said the former first lady who is aiming to become the first woman elected US president.

The second-term US senator from New York leads a pool of five Democratic hopefuls including Illinois

Senator Barack Obama, who is expected to be her main competitor within the party and whose bid could make him the first Black president. Clinton promptly took aim at the unpopular Republican she wants to replace in the White House when his second, and final, four-year term expires. “After six years of George Bush it is time to

renew the promise of America,” she said in a videotaped message on her website. The wife of former president Bill Clinton made history with her bid for US Senate in New York in 2000, becoming the first former first lady to win one of the most powerful political jobs in the United States.

MNA/Reuters

A Softbank mobile phone is seen in Tokyo in this 28 Sept, 2006 file photo. Softbank Corp chief executive Masayoshi Son said recently the company planned to unveil new mobile phones this month to challenge digital TV and ultra-thin handsets offered by bigger rivals.

INTERNET

24 US troops killed in Iraq in one day

BAGHDAD, 21 Jan—Four American soldiers and one Marine have been killed in separate incidents in the volatile al-Anbar province, the US military said in a statement on Sunday. The deaths bring to 24 the death toll of US forces on Saturday, the bloodiest day in two years.

The five assigned to Regimental Combat Team 5 died Saturday from wounds sustained due to “enemy action” while operating in al-Anbar, it said. The names of the dead are being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

Al-Anbar is believed to be a stronghold of Sunni militants. At least

3,051 US soldiers have been killed in Iraq since the US-led invasion in March 2003, according to media count based on Pentagon figures.—Internet



A US soldier patrols in Iraq, on 21 Jan, 2007. —XINHUA

Guantanamo fails to meet basic British standards

LONDON, 21 Jan—The US detention centre in Guantanamo fails to meet even basic British standards for prisoner, British lawmakers who visited the base said on Sunday.

A cross-party parliamentary committee also said a new US military commission system,

expected to start trying terrorism suspects this year, gave cause for concern and London should raise any human rights misgivings with Washington.

Guantanamo “fails to achieve minimum United Kingdom standards on access to exercise and recreation, to

lawyers, and to the outside world through educational facilities and the media,” the Foreign Affairs Committee said in the report.

Lawmakers on the committee visited the US military base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba in September last year.

MNA/Reuters

Nepali PM says HR bodies not to disturb communal harmony

KATHMANDU, 21 Jan—Nepali Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala Saturday morning said that human rights organizations should be especially careful not to incite communal or ethnical violence or disrupt the national sovereignty while taking up human

rights issues, as local leading media group's website eKantipu.com reported on Saturday.

Koirala made the remark when meeting with UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Louise Arbour at his Baluwatar

residence in Kathmandu.

According to Koirala's foreign affairs adviser Suresh Chalise, the Premier had assured Arbour that the present government was extremely "sensitive and committed" towards the protection and promotion of human rights and bringing an end to impunity.

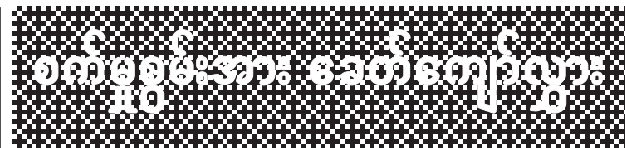
Underscoring the need to end the "culture of impunity" prevalent in Nepal, the UN High Commissioner demanded that anyone involved in the incidences of human rights violations in the past should be brought to justice.

Stating that there had been "important" improvements in the human rights situation at present compared to that during the King's direct rule, Arbour had thanked the PM in this regards, Chalise said.

Arbour, however, added that a lot was yet to be done to further improve the situation.

The visiting UN Human Rights Commissioner had arrived in Kathmandu on Friday on a six-day visit to assess the human rights situation in Nepal. She will return to Geneva on Wednesday.

MNA/Xinhua



Russia's President Vladimir Putin (L) and German Chancellor Angela Merkel drink tea after they address a news conference following their talks at the presidential residence near the Black Sea resort of Sochi on 21 Jan, 2007.—INTERNET

A sunken cargo ship floats on the Yangtze River in Shanghai on 20 Jan, 2007. Two cargo ships collided with each other during the night on 18 Jan due to low visibility caused by heavy fog. One of the two cargo ships sunk with all crew members saved, Xinhua News Agency reported.

INTERNET



US commander relieved after deaths of two sailors

WASHINGTON, 21 Jan—The US nuclear-powered submarine commander who sent sailors outside the vessel while at sea, leading to the deaths of two who were swept overboard, was removed from command, the Navy said on Friday.

Commander Edwin Ruff was relieved after the December incident near the southern English port of Plymouth due to a "loss in confidence in (his) ability to command," the Navy said.

Four sailors were swept overboard from the USS

Minneapolis-St Paul. Two died and two were injured.

According to a Navy official, Ruff was responsible for sending the four to the top of the submarine in questionable weather. It was unclear why Ruff had sent the men outside.—MNA/Reuters

Six British soldiers hurt in Basra rocket attacks

LONDON, 21 Jan—Six British soldiers were injured in rocket and mortar attacks on their base in the southern Iraqi city of Basra on Thursday night, the Ministry of Defence said on Friday.

"There were three separate attacks from indirect and direct fire on Basra palace and as a result one soldier sustained serious injuries and five others minor injuries," a ministry spokeswoman

said.

Four of the soldiers were evacuated to a field hospital for treatment while two were treated at their base, the spokeswoman said.

MNA/Reuters

Iran writes to UNSG complaining US attack on consulate

TEHERAN, 21 Jan—Iran has written a letter to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon complaining that the United States has illegally attacked its consulate in northern Iraqi city of Arbil and detained its five staff members, the official IRNA news agency reported on Saturday.

The letter, signed by Iran's Deputy Representative to the United Nations in New York Mehdi Danesh-Yazdi, accused the United States of violating international laws.

"Washington has once again openly violated international conventions granting immunity to diplomatic officials from search, arrest and detention with its abduction and consequent detention of the five Iranian consular staff in Arbil," Danesh-Yazdi was quoted as saying.

"This illegal act, as well as the unlawful arrest and detention of two Iranian diplomats a few weeks earlier by US forces as they were about to enter

Iraq on the invitation of the Iraqi president, once again shows the contempt with which the United States of America regards international law and the basic principles on which international relations are based and practiced," he said. Danesh-Yazdi called for the immediate release of the five Iranian consular officials, return of all consulate property seized by the US forces and compensation for damage to the Iranian government.

MNA/Xinhua



The wreckage of a vehicle used in a car bomb attack lies on a road in Baghdad on 21 Jan, 2007.—INTERNET

Chinese, Belarusian presidents exchange congratulations on dip ties

BEIJING, 21 Jan—Chinese President Hu Jintao and his Belarusian counterpart Alexander Lukashenko on Saturday exchanged congratulations on the 15th anniversary of the estab-

lishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

In their messages, the two presidents expressed satisfaction over the achievements made in the development of the China-

Belarus relations.

The two leaders also pledged continued efforts in pushing forward the all-around friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries.—MNA/Xinhua

Cambodia to hold meeting with Laos, Vietnam to contain bird flu

PHNOM PENH, 21 Jan—Officials from Cambodian Ministry of Health will soon hold a tri-party meeting with their Lao-tian and Vietnamese counterparts in order to co-contain the spread of bird flu, *Jian Hua Daily* reported on Saturday.

In the meeting to be held in Vietnam, the three sides will exchange anti-bird flu experiences, especially their solutions for management of human mobility and poultry trade across their borders, the newspaper quoted ministry officials as saying.

The three countries used to carry out sporadic anti-bird flu cooperation

along their borders, but the principle of cooperation has not been set yet, it said. According to local reports, there are more crossings along Cambodia's border with Vietnam than that with Laos, which means that the kingdom will face

more difficulty in handling the border issues with Vietnam.

Currently, Thailand is the only neighbour country, with which Cambodia holds formal cooperation to counter the epidemic.

MNA/Xinhua

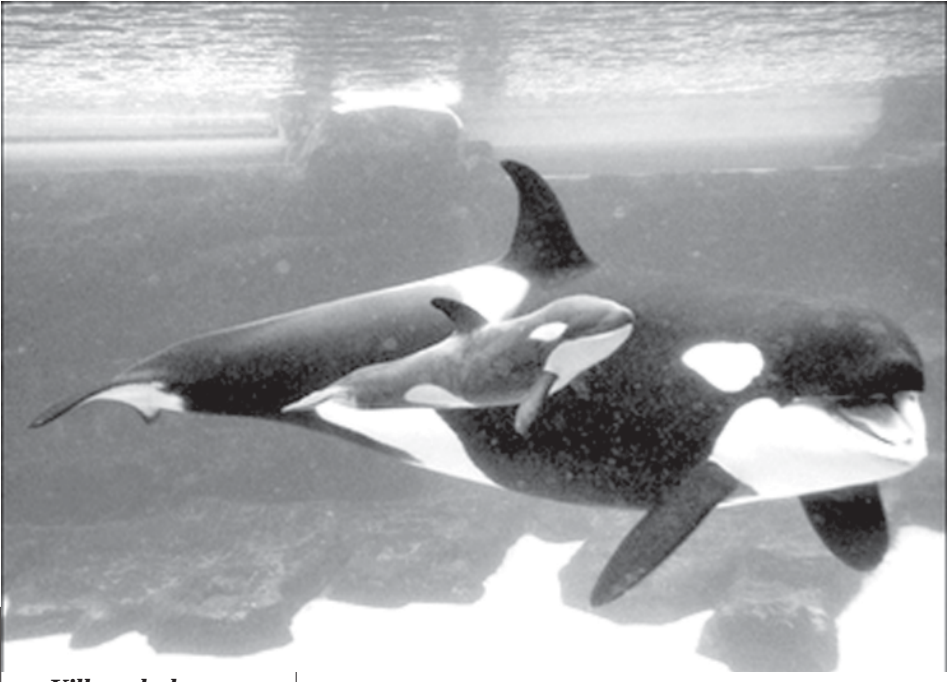
Burst of vapour pipe kills one, injures two in Romania

BUCHAREST, 21 Jan—One person was killed and two others were injured on Saturday morning due to the burst of a vapour pipe in a wood factory in southwestern Romania.

According to the Realitatea TV, the

accident occurred when many people were at work in the factory, which is located in Mehedinti County.

The two seriously injured have been hospitalized and local officials have also been



Killer whales are migrating farther north as the Arctic Ocean's ice cover melts, threatening the livelihood of the native Inuit who traditionally depend on fishing for their food, according to Canadian researchers.—INTERNET

Global warming speeds up thawing of Ecuadorean volcano

QUITO, 21 Jan—Global warming has accelerated the thawing of Cotopaxi Volcano, whose glaciers have been diminishing in the last 10 months, Ecuador's Geophysics Institute said on Friday.

Hugo Yepez, head of the institute, said the thawing "has to do greatly with global warming, although there is a small heat factor related to magma convection" inside the volcano, which occurred in 2001.

The thawing "is a process that has been going on for some time and which has increased and accelerated", he said.

The 5,897-metre high volcano, which is located about 70 kilometres

south of Quito, is an almost perfect cone and its glaciers can be seen from the capital.

Yepez said the Cotopaxi has a low-intensity magma activity, but "as global warming increases, one of the most serious consequences will be the glacier's thawing".

The most serious damage to the volcano is on the western side where a large hole stretches from the crater to a few metres above the lower edge of the ice.

An eruption of the Cotopaxi could damage the densely populated area around Quito and also the city of Latacunga, about 100 kilometres south of Quito.—MNA/Xinhua

Moderate quake jolts off Indonesia's Moluccas

JAKARTA, 12 Jan—A moderate earthquake of 5.9 magnitude hit deep in waters off Indonesia's Molucca Islands on

Saturday, the US Geological Survey (USGS) said, but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage.

An Indonesian official put the quake's strength at 6.2 on the Richter Scale.

"(The quake) was in the Banda Sea at 9.45 am (0245 GMT)," Hendrik Leopatty, an analyst at the meteorology and geophysic agency in Jakarta, told *Reuters*. "Its depth was 170 kilometres (106 miles) below sea level."

He said there was little danger of a tsunami.

The USGS website

said the quake was 320 kilometres southeast of Ambon, the major city in the Moluccas, 2,300 kilometres east of Jakarta.

There were no reports of damage or casualties more than an hour after the quake, an official in the Moluccas told *Reuters*.

He added, however, that there were many remote islands in the area and communications could be difficult.

MNA/Reuters



Tessa Virtue, right, from Canada, and Scott Moir, from Ilderton, Canada, skate to silver in the senior dance event at the 2007 BMO Canadian Championships in Halifax on 21 Jan, 2007.—INTERNET

China's Gao Ling, left, and Huang Sui, holding their winning prize, acknowledge the crowds after they beat Indonesia's Gresya Polii and Vita Marissa at the women's doubles final of Malaysia Badminton Open in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 21 Jan, 2007. Gao and Huang won the match 19-21, 21-12, 21-11.—INTERNET





Mozambique's President Armando Emilio Guebuza (L) and his wife Maria da Luz Dai Guebuza are welcomed by Japan's Emperor Akihito (R) at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, on 22 Jan, 2007.—INTERNET

Algeria, Russia to reinforce energy cooperation

ALGIERS, 21 Jan — Algeria and Russia are seeking to reinforce their cooperation in the field of energy during Russian Industry and Energy Minister Victor Khristenko's visit to Algeria.

Khristenko would arrive on Friday for his first visit to Algeria.

He would be accompanied by Vice-President of Gazprom, Alexandre Medvedev and high-ranking officials

from petroleum and gas giants Loukoil and Rosneft.

Khristenko is expected to sign a memorandum of understanding in the field of energy with his

Algerian counterpart.

He will also meet Algerian Prime Minister Abdelaziz Belkhadem and Finance Minister Mourad Medelci.

MNA/Xinhua

Computers with home-grown CPU debut on Chinese market

BEIJING, 21 Jan— The first batch of 80 computers powered by home-grown Chinese CPUs are undergoing user tests, Wu Shaogang, a manager from manufacturer Lemote Technology Co told Xinhua on Thursday.

This means the home-made chip Godson II E has finished lab tests and moved into pilot commercial operation.

Lemote, based in Changshu, in east China's Jiangsu Province, will put a total of 1,000 computers on the market before the Chinese Lunar New Year.

The computer, which uses a Linux operating system, comes with a 40-gigabyte hard drive and 256 megabytes of memory. It costs 1,599 yuan (about 200 US dollars), and users have to buy the monitor, keyboard and mouse separately, the company said on its website.

Godson II E was developed by the Institute of Computing Technology (ICT) under the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

China started CPU research and development in 2001, and the first chip, Godson I, came out in September 2002, bringing the country's microprocessor industry a step closer to the world leading manufacturers in the United States and Japan.

The ICT has since developed three more generations of the Godson — Godson II B, Godson II C and Godson II E. The latter models triple the computing speed of the previous ones, said Li

Guojie, director of the ICT.

Godson II E is a significant achievement for China's 863 Programme and Knowledge Innovation Project, which started in March 1986, aiming to boost the development of

science and technology in the country, Li said.

China needed to update its own science and technology so that they could keep pace with the country's rapid economic expansion.—MNA/Xinhua



Members of Russia's Akhe Russian Engineering Theatre stage an arm wrestling contest during a media call for 'White Cabin', as part of the Sydney Festival, at the Sydney Opera House, on 22 Jan, 2007. Record-breaking ticket sales for the Sydney Festival, now in its 31st year, have been realised. —INTERNET

Mexico launches anti-drug action in Pacific resort

MEXICO CITY, 21 Jan— Mexican President Felipe Calderon said on Friday that Mexico has dispatched troops to contain drug-related crimes and violence around the Pacific resort of Acapulco.

The 7,600-strong troops, including Navy, Army, Air Force and federal police forces, will destroy drug plantations and search for drug-

trafficking gangs in the area.

The action came against the backdrop of a surge of drug-related violence in Acapulco, a major mari-juana and opium poppy growing area, where two rival drug gangs are jostling for control over the plantations and drug smuggling routes.

MNA/Xinhua.

New oil fields discovered in Egypt

CAIRO, 21 Jan— New oil fields have been detected in Egypt by international oil companies as the country was seen as a land rich in black gold, the official MENA news agency reported on Friday.

The oil fields were detected in the Gulf of Suez, eastern and western deserts and the Mediterranean in the past six months, MENA said, quoting a report presented to Minister of Petroleum Sameh Fahmi.

Petroleum from those areas is expected to secure an additional 140 million barrels of crude and condensed oil, and volume of gas promises a robust increase of 1.5 trillion cubic feet (42.48 billion cubic metres), the report said. Discoveries in the western desert are the most important, particularly in

the areas of Karam 1 and Karam 2, the report added.

The thickness of oil and gas layers there ranges from 200 feet (about 61 metres) to 240 feet (about 73.15 metres). The Karam discoveries were made by a Greek oil company, while Shell and Khalda, another two oil companies, have also discovered gas in the western desert.

In the Mediterranean area of Matrouh, "Gad 1", which was discovered by Khalda, is reported to contain oil layers as thick as 336 feet (about 102.41 metres).— MNA/Xinhua



Wrestling camels are encouraged by their owners in an arena near Selcuk in western Turkey, on 21 Jan, 2007. Around a hundred specially bred bull camels wrestled in this traditional event, attracting more than ten thousand local people and tourists.—INTERNET

Successful opening of self-reliant rural libraries invaluable contribution to nation's future

IPRD observes its anniversary

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Jan — Success in opening self-reliant libraries in rural areas has been an invaluable contribution to the nation's future, said Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan today at the 16th anniversary of Information and Public Relations Department.

The first objective of holding the anniversary day of the institutions under the Ministry of Information, he said, is to measure the success in realizing the previous year's targets and to lay down work programmes to achieve greater success this year after weighing up the pros and cons; and the second objective is to present awards to outstanding staff.

Of the eight work programmes laid down at the previous annual meeting, the IPRD was able to substantially accomplish the task of opening and running self-reliant rural libraries thanks to the conviction, goodwill and unity of staff at all levels, the minister said, adding that the government's assistance and the contributions of wellwishers all over the nation, local people, local authorities and social organizations have enhanced the success of the work.

In general, IPRD's implementation of previous work programmes is satisfactory, he noted. In addition to the eight work programmes, state/division, district and township IPRD offices will have to discharge the duty of collecting and distributing in time the news on the developments and changes in the political, economic and social sectors of their respective regions, he pointed out.

IPRD personnel should be dutiful and should understand the national development endeavours, he stressed. Through the information and public relations machinery, they should organize the people to participate more in the nation-building tasks, he said.

At the IPRD anniversary held at the ministry, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, IPRD Director-General U Chit Naing and directors



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents outstanding award to U Kyaw Than Tun, Assistant Director of IPRD.—MNA



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents bonus for staff to U Chit Naing, Director-General of IPRD.—MNA

presented 48 outstanding awards to personnel and 42 stipends to children of the staff.

The minister also presented bonus for the outstanding personnel through the director-general.

Also present were directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the ministry, the head of office of the ministry, general managers and other officials.

MNA

Another Airbus A 310-200 aircraft arrives to add domestic and international flights

YANGON, 22 Jan—The XY-AGE aircraft, the second Airbus A 310-200 purchased by Air Bagan Ltd, arrived at Yangon International Airport this afternoon.

Director-General of Civil Aviation Department U Tun Hlaing, Chairman of Air Bagan Ltd U Tay Za, correspondents from Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club and local newsmen observed the aircraft.

Air Bagan Ltd operates domestic flights with the use of six aircraft— one Fokker F-100, two ATR 42 and three ATR 72.

Airbus A 310-200 arrived last October. Foreign pilots and engineers have been hired for flights from Yangon to Bangkok, Singapore and Kunming routes. Training was also given to local pilots and flight attendants and air hostesses.

The plane will fly on Yangon-Bangkok-Yangon and Yangon-Singapore-Yangon routes daily and Yangon-Mandalay-Kunming-Mandalay-Yangon route three times a week.

Another Fokker F-100 will arrive soon and it will be added to domestic and international flights.—MNA



Airbus A 310- 200 purchased by Air Bagan Ltd arrives at Yangon International Airport.— MNA

MWAF holds work coordination meeting

YANGON, 22 Jan —Annual preliminary work coordination meeting of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation was held at the federation today.

At the meeting, participants of the meeting were divided into four groups and discussed future tasks for the organizing, development work, life security and socioeconomic sectors group-wise.

General-Secretary of MWAF Prof Daw Khin Mar Tun, deputy heads of the departments and leaders of the working groups under the MWAF and representatives of state/division WAOs attended the meeting.

MNA

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

IT to be applied widely in building modern...

(from page 1)

Next, Ministers Dr Chan Nyein, Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein and Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and Deputy Minister Thura U Thaung Lwin reported on interrelation between IT sector and commerce, measures undertaken of ministries concerned for IT development and cooperation with IT technicians for development of IT and other economic sectors.

Chief Engineer U Tint Lwin of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications reported on linking of broadband network for e-Government, U Ngwe Tun of Myanmar Info-Tech on Myanmar Uni Code and Dr Tin Myat Htwe of Yangon University of Computer Studies on attempts to invent translation machine from English to Myanmar.

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and Deputy Minister for Science and Technology U Kyaw Soe took part in the discussions.

Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein said IT is a major requirement for e-Trade through online and means and ways are to be sought from IT technicians.

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw reported on e-Trade sector, commerce through online and drafting of communications laws for systematic control of IT sector.

U Thein Oo and U Aung Zaw Myint of Myanmar Info-Tech reported on issue of certificate authority (CA) and arrangements for e-Procurement.

The Prime Minister fulfilled the requirements and called for cooperation for development of IT.

After the meeting, the Prime Minister inspected e-Learning Centres and e-Library of the Ministry of



Prime Minister General Soe Win visits e-Learning Center and e-Library of Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs.— MNA

Communications, Posts and Telegraphs.

He also observed use of TV, Internet and phone on cable television (CATV).

Present were the ministers, the deputy ministers, heads of departments, members of e-National Task Force, Chairman of Myanmar Computer Federation, managing directors of IT companies and IT technicians. — MNA



Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw briefs on future tasks.—MNA

Indian delegation concludes three-day visit

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Jan — A delegation led by Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India Mr Shri Pranab Mukherjee visited Bagan and Mandalay and left here today.

The delegation left Nay Pyi Taw Airport this morning to pay visit to Bagan and Mandalay, and they were seen off at the airport by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

They visited Ananda Pagoda and Bagan Archaeological Museum in Bagan and Maha Muni Bud-

dha Image and Myanansankyaw Palace and Kuthodaw Pagoda in Mandalay.

The delegation left Mandalay International Airport by special aircraft this evening after conclusion of the three-day visit to Myanmar. Minister Pranab Mukherjee and party were seen off at Mandalay International Airport by the Secretary of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council, Ambassador of India to Myanmar Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra and officials.

MNA

China helps Myanmar upgrade seismic work

YANGON, 22 Jan— Chinese delegation led by Mr Li Ke, Director of Earthquake Monitoring and Predication, China Earthquake Administration (CEA) met with Director-General U Tun Lwin of Meteorology and Hydrology Department and officials its office this morning.

They discussed the installation of two Digital Seismographs during the period of August 2007 and an establishment of satellite based Central Data Hub at a station in Upper Myanmar region. Moreover, a discussion on the provision of maintenance works for two digital seismographs

was held.

The delegation will stay in Myanmar till on 28

January, 2007 during which they will pay maintenance works for two seismographs at Yangon and Mandalay.

MNA



Director-General U Tun Lwin meeting with Mr Li Ke, Director of Earthquake Monitoring and Predication of PRC. — M&H

Children of inmates vaccinated against measles

YANGON, 22 Jan — Prisons Department today launched the mass vaccination against measles that covers children of ages from nine months to five years at its director-general's office.

The Ministry of Health has been sponsoring the mass vaccination project.

Dr Daw Myint Myint Than of Insein Township Health Department and health staff gave vaccine to 261 children of the staff families and children of 40 women inmates totalling 301 children today.

Director-General of the department U Zaw Win, Chairperson of the PD Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Nwe Ni San, wife of the director-general, and members of the association, also rendered assistance.

MNA

Secretary-1 receives Chinese guests,...

(from page 16)

Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China Mr Li Tieying was accompanied by Vice-Chairman of the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee (NPC) Mr Yang Zhengwu, Vice-Chairman of the Environmental Protection and Resources Conservation Committee (NPC) Mr Can

Bochun, Vice-Chairman of the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee (NPC) Mr Shi Xiushi, Chinese Ambassador Mr Guan Mu and senior officers.

At the meeting, they exchanged views on mutual beneficial cooperation and further strengthening of friendly relations between the two countries. — MNA

Second Meeting of Management Committee for Observance of 60th Anniversary Union Day held

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Jan — The Second Meeting of Management Committee for the Observance of the 60th Anniversary Union Day was held at Paunglong Avenue of Nay Pyi Taw Command Headquarters this afternoon, with an address by Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Brig-Gen Wai Lwin.

Also present on the occasion were members of Management Committee for the Observance of the 60th Anniversary Union Day, the chairmen of sub-committees, senior military officers, heads of department and responsible personnel.

First, the commander made a speech on the occasion, saying that the present meeting was the second one of Management Committee for the Observance of the 60th Anniversary Union Day. The various sub-committees reported on progress of work and the remaining tasks to be carried out. The commander stressed the need for spending money to

be thrifty. The functions of the various sub-committees would help to realize the observance of the 60th Anniversary Union Day and five national objectives. The responsible personnel were to thoroughly carry out the tasks for accommodation of Union Day delegates, health, transport and reception. Management were to be taken for the Union Day Flag hosting ceremony and hosting the dinner in accord with the procedures, added the commander.

Next, the sub-committees presented reports on sector-wise measures for holding the 60th Anniversary Union Day and Secretary of Management Committee for the Observance of the 60th Anniversary Union Day Director-General of Hluttaw Office U Myint Thein gave a supplementary report.

After fulfilling the requirements for holding the 60th Anniversary Union Day, the commander made concluding remarks. — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein greets Mr Li Tieying, Vice-Chairman of Standing Committee of National People's Congress, PRC, at the State Peace and Development Council Office. — MNA

Dekhinayarma Monastic School in Mandalay Division gets Assistance

YANGON, 19 Jan — The Government of Japan, under the Japan's Grassroots Grant Assistance Scheme (GGA), will provide a grant aid of US\$ 46,306 to "Dekhinayarma Monastic School Construction Committee" for construction of a School building in Oung Kone Village in Lewe Township, Mandalay Division.

The Government of Japan will provide funding through its GGA Programme for construction of a two-storied reinforced concrete school building comprising 6 classrooms, school furniture and water and sanitation facilities. It is expected that the improved learning environment will benefit the students in their pursuit of formal studies.

The Grant Contract to this effect was signed on 19 January 2007 at the Embassy of Japan in Yangon, between Mr Tetsuro Amano, Minister/Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan to the Union of Myanmar, and U Kyi Aung, Chairman of "Dekhinayarma Monastic School Construction Committee". — H



Commander Brig-Gen Wai Lwin speaks at the second meeting of Management Committee for Observance of 60th Anniversary Union Day. — MNA



STI Education presents completion certificates

YANGON, 22 Jan — A ceremony to present completion certificates of the annual course of STI Education was held at Park Royal Hotel on 20 January.

First, Associate Administrator Ms Kellie Keenan of STI Education made an introductory speech on salient points of Diploma in Logistics Management (DLM) to be conducted soon and then Associate TESOL Advisor Dr Alan Richardson of London Teacher Training College extended greetings on the occasion.

Next, each trainee of English Teachership Diploma Course, Reception Service and Tourism Management Diploma Course,

Economic Management Diploma Course and English Communicative Skills Course recounted the experiences gained from the courses.

Afterwards, course instructors presented completion certificates to altogether 60 trainees. The STI Education in collaboration with schools in England is conducting the courses namely English Teachership Diploma, Reception Service and Tourism Management Diploma, Economic Management Diploma and English Communicative Skills.

Those interested may contact Myanmar Info-Tech, building No 4, apartment No 7 (Tel-01507046 and 507048). — MNA



Dr Alan Richardson extends greetings on completion of annual course of STI Education.

MNA

Shan State North Special Region-2 issues declaration condemning US draft resolution

YANGON, 22 Jan — *Shan State North Special Region-2 issued a declaration on 18 January condemning the draft resolution submitted by the United States and Britain to the UNSC in order to interfere in Myanmar's internal affairs. The declaration is as follow:—*

1. Since she gained the independence, Myanmar has faced internal conflicts. As there were armed struggles between national races for over forty years, peace and tranquillity did not prevail in the country.
2. At the time of the present government, peace and tranquillity has prevailed across the country and the development of economy was achieved and national solidarity was forged in the country. These are aspirations of the people.
3. On 26 September 2006, we opposed the decision of UN proposed by the then US Ambassador to UN made on 15 September 2006, to put Myanmar issue on the agenda of UNSC. As the decision was made turning a blind eye to the genuine situation in Myanmar, People's Republic of China and Russian Federation also opposed the decision and the people of Myanmar also denounced it.
4. In an attempt to meddle in internal affairs of Myanmar, the US and Britain accused Myanmar of detaining political prisoners, violations of human rights, uncontrollable spread of HIV, TB and malaria, and the failure to address the drug problem and put the draft resolution on the UNSC's agenda. However, China, Russia and South Africa objected the resolution and three nations abstained. It has become the first double-veto since 1972. We want to express thanks to the People's Republic of China and Russian Federation that supported the Myanmar at UNSC, and we denounce the US and its allies.
5. We don't accept the outside interference as the issue of Myanmar should be addressed by the national races. We believe that it is the right way to discuss the issues of national races and the State at the National Convention in accordance with the seven-step Road Map.

U Kyauk Nyi Hlaing

Shan State North Special Region-2

MNA

Palaung National Race Group opposes draft resolution of US, Britain

YANGON, 22 Jan — *Palaung National Race Group of Shan State North issued a declaration on 18 January condemning the draft resolution the US and Britain jointly submitted to the UN Security Council to interfere in Myanmar's affairs. The declaration is as follows:-*

1. We issued a declaration condemning the proposal of American Ambassador to UN to put the Myanmar issue on the UNSC agenda on 15 September 2006. Now we again denounce the US-led attempt to put the draft resolution to the UNSC.
2. The Myanmar issue is being discussed at the National Convention by the people of all backgrounds in accord with the seven-step Road Map and significant success has been achieved.
3. We strongly oppose the interference of the US and Britain which are resorting to various ways to harm peace and stability and development of the State and national unity. Our special thanks go to the People's Republic of China, Russian Federation and South African that firmly stood by Myanmar understanding her objective conditions.

U AikMone

Palaung National Race Group

MNA

Mon Peace Group against draft resolution of US, Britain

YANGON, 22 Jan — *Mon Peace Group (Myeik Region) issued a declaration on 18 January condemning the draft resolution the US and Britain jointly submitted to the UN Security Council to interfere in Myanmar's affairs. The declaration is as follows: -*

1. The entire people as well as our organization have opposed the proposal to put Myanmar issue on the UNSC agenda.
2. Accusing Myanmar of continued detention of political inmates, violation of human rights, incapability to control the spread of HIV, TV and malaria, the US and Britain submitted a draft resolution again to the UNSC. But the resolution was rejected when it was decided through voting on 12-1-2007.
3. As their accusations that Myanmar posed a threat to international and regional peace and security were totally wrong, the People's Republic of China, Russian Federation and South Africa objected the resolution. So, on behalf of the entire people, our organization expressed thanks to those nations for their full support.
4. We believe that the Myanmar issue should be dealt with only by its national brethren and we strongly oppose the outside interference.

U Aung Thaik Hin

Mon Peace Group (Myeik Region)

MNA

Myanmar Hotelier Association opposes draft resolution of US, Britain

YANGON, 22 Jan — *Myanmar Hotelier Association issued a declaration today condemning the draft resolution the US and Britain jointly submitted to the UN Security Council to interfere in Myanmar's affairs. The declaration is as follows: -*

America made an attempt to put the Myanmar issue on the UNSC agenda by accusing her of posing a threat to international and regional security. Their draft resolution submitted to the UNSC was vetoed by the People' Republic of China and Russian Federation. Therefore, it was the victory of the people of our country as well as of the international community.

We denounce the acts of internal politicians, national traitors and internal and external elements who are supporting the ill attempt of the US and Britain to meddle in Myanmar's internal affairs by using the UN as a tool. However, we support the government's endeavours for peace and stability and development of the State.

On behalf of the Myanmar people, we are very grateful to China and Russia that cast double veto on the resolution and South Africa that voted against it.

Dr Khin Shwe

Chairman

Myanmar Hotelier Association

MNA

MPPA opposes draft resolution of US, Britain

YANGON, 22 Jan — *Myanmar Printers and Publishers Association issued a declaration on 19 January condemning the draft resolution the US and Britain jointly submitted to the UN Security Council to interfere in Myanmar's affairs. The declaration is as follows:-*

America and Britain submitted a draft resolution on the Myanmar issue to the UNSC by levelling slanderous accusations against her. However, when the resolution was decided through voting, it was vetoed by our friendly nations and their ill attempt was abortive. This was the victory of the entire people, and we are deeply indebted to the nations supporting our country.

Chairman

Myanmar Printers and Publishers Association

MNA

U Lasan Aung Wah Peace Group condemns US, Britain draft resolution

YANGON, 22 Jan — *A peace group led by U Lasan Aung Wah issued a declaration on 16 January condemning the draft resolution submitted by the US and Britain to the UNSC with the aim of interfering in Myanmar's internal affairs.*

At present, peace and stability is prevailing in the entire Union of Myanmar. All the national races of the Union are harmoniously striving for the emergence of a modern and developed multiparty democracy nation in accord with the seven-step Road Map.

Our group and the entire people protested against the draft resolution submitted by the US and Britain to the UNSC at a time when the nation has been convening the National Convention to adop a new constitution. The People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation also objected the draft resolution.

Despite the objections, the two nations submitted the draft resolution, with false accusations including the continued detention of political prisoners, human rights violations in the minority areas in the eastern part of Myanmar, uncontrollable spread of HIV, TB and malaria, and the failure to address the drug problem.

Our internal affairs concerned only with us. No outsider can safeguard Our Three Main National Causes — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty. We pledge to safeguard Our Three Main National Causes hand in hand with the Tatmadaw and the entire people at the risk of our lives.

We strongly condemn the continuous acts of the so-called democracy activists from inside and outside the country, who in reality are national traitors in demanding the UNSC and the powers to interfere in Myanmar's internal affairs, the acts of US and Britain that amount to encroacing on our independence and sovereignty and harming peace, stability, national security and national solidarity of Myanmar. We also condemn the UNSC member nations that supported the draft resolution.

We believe that the Myanmar affairs should be addressed by the national races, and we do not accept foreign interference. We also believe that the best way to solve internal problems is through discussions at the National Convention. We make a firm pledge to continue to take part in implementing the seven-step Road Map.

U Lasan Aung Wah

Peace Group

KIO splinter group

MNA

Terrorist acts delay development of State, disrupt peace and stability

Advanced Management (Special) Course No 4 for USDA Executives opens

YANGON, 22 Jan — The opening ceremony of Advanced Management (Special) Course No 4 for Executives of the Union Solidarity and Development Association took place at USDA Training School, Hmawby Township this morning, with an address by Secretary-General of USDA U Htay Oo.

Also present on the occasion were CEC members of USDA, invited guests, course in-charge Lt-Col Khin Win and course supervisors and trainees.

First, Secretary-General of USDA U Htay Oo made a speech on the occasion. He said the current age is the smooth transition period from the old system to the new one all the entire people longed for. Now is the turning point of an age. It is also the period to constantly implement the tasks for building a new modern nation all the nationals wanted. We have already had the right destination. With the correct, pragmatic policy and farsighted



Secretary-General of USDA U Htay Oo makes a speech at Advanced Management (Special) Course No 4 for USDA Executives. — MNA

leadership, all the entire people are witnessing unprecedented development in all parts of the country because the State, Tatmadaw and the people have made concerted efforts in implementing the tasks for building a new nation. We are seeing an image of the peaceful modern developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation soon.

The USDA is formed with the patriotic youths aiming at participation in nation-building endeavors in collaboration with the

public. The course will conduct discussions on confidence, quality of a good citizen, national politics, leadership, good habits of obedience, building of united forces with the correct leadership, stability and development of the State and seeking ways to solve current problems. The trainees are to try hard during the course so that they can apply their experiences gained from the course in their practical fields, urged the Secretary-General.

The new nation is being built with correct

objectives and pragmatic implementations. It is very important for a smooth transition from the old system to the new one. If a change in systems is not through a gentle transition, it will produce a situation that is uncontrollable because some events in the world are not smooth and these have led to shootings, explosions and civil wars. Therefore, the smooth transition is the better way in the interests of the State and the people. At the moment, we are witnessing a series of internal and external

destructive acts. The terrorist acts delay the development of State, disrupt peace and stability and have negative impact on the State and the people. The USDA members joining hands with the people are to fight against the destructive acts.

Next, the Secretary-General called on USDA members to carry out the tasks for improving sound foundations of already-achieved peace, tranquillity and development. They were to apply knowledge and

experiences gained from the course in their respective fields, try to implement the future tasks designated by the association in the interests of the commuters, vitalize the genuine patriotic spirit, overcome any obstacles in building the new nation with the united strength of the members and the people and join hands with the people to realize seven-step Road Map of the State.

Afterwards, Secretary-General U Htay Oo cordially greeted the trainees.

MNA

25 members of armed group exchange arms for peace

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Jan—The State Peace and Development Council upholding Our Three Main National Causes is making all-out efforts for national reconsolidation and bringing about equitable development the length and breadth of the nation. Realizing the endeavours and goodwill of the government and their misdeeds, the armed groups have been exchanging arms for peace at the respective Tatmadaw battalions and regiments individually or in group.

During the period of September, October, November and December in 2006, in the area of Triangle Region Command, private Aik Kun of SSA (Ywet Sit) armed group, privates Aik Ngut and Aik Phan of Battalion-670 exchanged arms for peace bringing along with two hand grenades, Sai Aung Mein with the rank of Cpl of Battalion-45 of Brigade-727 bringing in him with one pistol and four rounds of ammunition;

In the area of Eastern Command, private Sai Ta of SSA (Ywet Sit) armed group bringing

along with him with three M-22s, four magazines, 190 rounds of ammunition, one hand grenade and one mine, privates Sai Maung and Sai Zawtika of Headquarters, private Dah Rai of KNPP armed group bringing in one AK-3, one magazine and 49 rounds of ammunition, Saw Htoo with the rank of WOI bringing in one carbine, two magazines and 30 rounds of ammunition, private Taw Ret bringing in him one AK-47, one magazine, 49 rounds of ammunition, one hand grenade and one mine;

In the area of South-East Command, private Min San of Battalion-3 of ABSDF armed group bringing in one grenade and organizer Ni Ye Htut Khaung of Battalion-206;

In the area of Yangon Command, private Saw Tamalar Wai of KNU armed group;

In the area of Coastal Region Command, Ba Khet with the rank of Sergeant of Battalion-203 of KNU armed group bringing in one pistol, one magazine, five rounds of ammunition, one hand grenade and one mine, Saw Nu and U Noe Yi in charge of

ration and extortion money of Brigade-4 bringing in one M-1 and 25 rounds of ammunition, Htel Khin with the rank of clerk bringing in one pistol, one magazine and five rounds of ammunition, Saw Lin Thein with the rank of L/Cpl of Battalion-10 of Brigade-4, privates Saw Ba Chaw, Saw Naing Naing and Saw Ba Tun bringing in one carbine, one M-16, two magazines and 22 rounds of ammunition, private Armed of Muslim armed group bringing in one pistol, one magazine and seven rounds of ammunition, privates Me Ta Le, Saw Kaw Hse and Saw Mar De of God Army armed group bringing in one M-16, one revolver, one magazine and 16 rounds of ammunition exchanged arms for peace.

Altogether 25 persons who exchanged arms for peace were welcomed by officials of the respective battalions and regiments provided all the necessary assistance.

More members of armed group will follow suit, it is learnt.

MNA

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Dated: 23 January 2007

Trial opens in Kazakhstan over child HIV infections

ALMATY, 21 Jan—Twenty-one Kazakh doctors and officials went on trial on Friday over their suspected role in the accidental infection of dozens of children with HIV in the south of the Central Asian country.

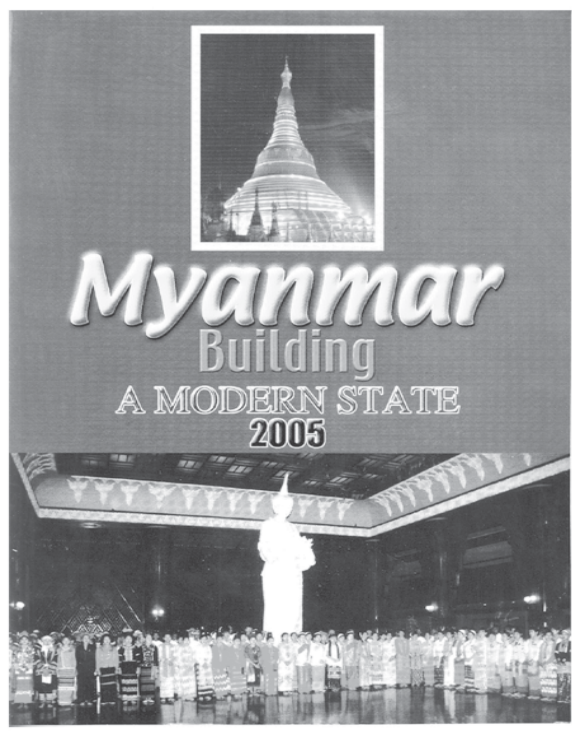
At least eight children died last year in the Kazakh region of Shymkent after receiving transfusions of blood suspected of containing the virus. More than 80 other children, including some of their mothers, were infected.

An investigation into the incident gave no clear explanation why the blood transfusions affected only children.

The 21 officials are accused of negligence, embezzlement, receiving bribes and other crimes not directly linked to the cause of children's deaths.

The trial, which is closed to the media and general public, is expected to last at least a month, a Shymkent court spokesman said.

MNA/Reuters



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Romania to develop cooperation with Asian countries

BUCHAREST, 21 Jan—Romanian President Traian Basescu said on Friday that his country wants to develop energetically cooperation with Asian countries.

"We want to use more imaginatively the huge cooperation potential with states such as China, India, Japan, South Korea," Basescu said in his speech on foreign policy for 2007 before the diplomats accredited in Bucharest.

"We are interested in such options as we have a market of 22 million consumers and offer an ever more attractive investment potential," stressed Basescu, adding that Romania represents, for many non-European states, an interesting entry point in the European single market.

Basescu underlined that in Romania's view, Central Asia "has to become an area of convergence and construction, and not of competition". "We see as necessary the creation of Europe-Black Sea-Caspian Sea-Central Asia cooperation bridges," Basescu said.

Romania's goals this year, in its relations with the Central Asian states, are the progress of peace and democracy, joining the effort of increasing trust and consolidating regional security.

MNA/Xinhua

China, Vietnam hold 13th government-level border negotiations

NANNING, 21 Jan—The 13th round of border negotiations between China and Vietnam was held in Nanning, capital city of China's southern Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, from Thursday to Saturday. Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Wu Dawei and his Vietnamese counterpart Vu Dung co-chaired the border negotiations. The two sides reviewed the progress achieved since the last round and made further arrangements for the next phase of work.

The two sides agreed to speed up the process on the demarcation and erection of border markers along their land boundaries in order to complete the task before 2008. The two sides will carefully investigate joint exploitation of the South China Sea. They also agreed to push forward negotiations on the demarcation and joint exploitation of the maritime space at the entrance to the Beibu Gulf.— MNA/Xinhua

Ukraine halts some Europe oil supplies after storms

KIEV/MOSCOW, 12 Jan—Ukraine has suspended Russian crude oil deliveries on the main export pipeline to Central Europe due to storms, the Emergencies Ministry in the Lvov Region said on Friday.

However, Ukraine's pipeline monopoly UkrTransNafta and Russia's pipeline monopoly Transneft both said that supplies via Druzhba might resume on Friday.

High winds have disrupted electricity supplies which caused an emergency halt to the deliveries via the Druzhba (Friendship) pipeline running from Russia through the territory of Ukraine to Central Europe, the Emergencies Ministry said.

"It happened at 22:00 local time on Thursday (20:00 GMT)... A power line has been broken," a ministry spokesman said.

He said the accident happened at the Karpaty pumping station near the town of Brody. Oil shipments via the smaller Brody-Odessa pipeline were not affected and were continuing as normal.

An UkrTransNafta spokesman said oil supplies to Slovakia, Hungary and the Czech republic were cut by 10,000 tons (73,300 barrels) because of the accident, but would be compensated as soon as the problem was solved.

"These volumes will be fully compensated on 19-20 January after the supplies resume," he said.

Transneft said Russian oil exports to Europe would not be affected by the suspension.

MNA/Reuters

Bird flu claims 62nd human life in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 22 Jan—Bird flu has killed a woman in Indonesia, the 62nd death from the virus in the country with the highest human fatality rate, a Health Ministry official said on Saturday.

The 19-year-old woman from West Java died on Friday, Dr Muhammad Nadirin at the ministry's bird flu centre, told Reuters.

"She was sick since 11 January, got a high temperature and cough and then entered Garut Hospital on 17 January," he said.

"Six days before she got sick she had contact with a sick chicken that, according to the agriculture department's rapid test, was also positive for bird flu." Most human bird flu cases have resulted from contact with infected fowl.

MNA/Reuters

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Cargo vessel docks safely with ISS

MOSCOW, 21 Jan— An unmanned Russian *Progress* supply vehicle docked with the orbiting *International Space Station* (ISS) early on Saturday to deliver a 2.5-ton cargo of fuel, oxygen supplies, food and equipment.

“(There was) a smooth docking by the *Progress* vechicle,” an official at NASA’s mission control said in a live video feed on the website www.nasa.gov/ntv.

“The approach was uneventful.”

The supply vehicle

was launched from the Russian-operated Baikonur launch-pad in Kazakhstan on 18 January.

Russian cosmonaut Mikhail Tyurin and US astronaut Michael Lopez-Alegria are to return to earth this northern hemisphere spring after a six-month mission on board the space station. The third crew member, Sunita Williams, will return later.

MNA/Reuters



Pop star Rain of South Korea performs in Singapore on 21 Jan, 2007. Rain performed in Singapore on Sunday as part of his ‘Rain’s coming’ tour.

INTERNET

Brain study finds stuff of daydreams

WASHINGTON, 21 Jan — Daydreaming seems to be the default setting of the human mind and certain brain regions are devoted to it, US researchers reported on Friday.

When people are given a specific task to do, they focus on that task but then other brain regions get busy during down time, the researchers report in Friday’s issue of the journal *Science*.

“There is this network of regions that always seems to be active when you don’t give people something to do,” psychologist Malia Mason of Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital said in a telephone interview.

When Mason asked people what was happening during this down time, the answer was clear.

“It’s daydreaming,” she said. “But I find that the vast majority of time, people aren’t having fanciful thoughts. People are thinking about what they have to do later today.”

Her team has chosen to call it stimulus-independent thought or mind wandering.

Neurologists and psychologists have debated what goes on when people are not specifically thinking about or doing something, and there had been general agreement that the mind does not simply go blank.

Mason’s team set up an experiment using the relatively new technology of functional magnetic resonance imaging or fMRI to see what is going on.

MNA/Reuters



South Korean actress and pop singer U-Nee was found dead in her home in Seo-gu Incheon, on 21 Jan, 2007. — INTERNET

Motorola to cut 3,500 jobs

WASHINGTON, 21 Jan — Motorola Inc, the world’s second-largest mobile phone maker, announced on Friday that it will cut 3,500 jobs after fourth-quarter profit slid 48 per cent.

Motorola Inc CEO Ed Zander, said the move will save the company about 400 million dollars over two years.

The cuts of 3,500 jobs, representing about 5 per cent of the workforce, are to be spread across the company globally and completed in the first half of 2007, according to the company.

The reductions are the biggest by Motorola since 2002 and may help the company absorb price declines that reduced profit for the past two quarters.

“As I said earlier this month, we are disappointed with our fourth-quarter operating earnings performance,” Zander said in a statement.

Motorola said its fourth-quarter profits dropped by 48 per cent from a year earlier. Sales in the quarter gained 17 per cent to 11.8 billion dollars, in line with the company’s preliminary results released 4 January. — MNA/Xinhua



View of a rainforest in Indonesia on 17 Jan, 2007. Researchers have said that nitrogen release by decomposing plants is surprisingly similar across the planet and could help shed light on the evolution of climate change.—INTERNET

NASA spacecraft prepares for Jupiter encounter

WASHINGTON, 21 Jan — NASA’s *New Horizons* spacecraft, on the doorstep of Jupiter, will make its closest pass to the solar system’s largest planet on 28 February, NASA reported on Friday.

Jupiter’s gravity will accelerate *New Horizons*, the fastest spacecraft ever launched, away from the sun by an additional 14,500 kilometres per hour, pushing it past 84,000 kilometres per hour and hurling it toward

a pass through the Pluto system in July 2015.

“Our highest priority is to get the spacecraft safely through the gravity assist and on its way to Pluto,” said *New Horizons* Principal Investigator Alan Stern, of the Southwest Research Institute, Boulder, Colorado.

“We also have an incredible opportunity to conduct a real-world encounter stress test to wring out our procedures and techniques, and to

collect some valuable science data,” he added.

The *New Horizons* mission team will use the flyby to put the probe’s systems and scientific instruments through their paces, conducting more than 700 observations of Jupiter and its four largest moons.

They plan to scan Jupiter’s turbulent, stormy atmosphere and conduct a detailed survey of its ring system and a detailed study of Jupiter’s moons. — MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Barcelona reclaim top spot after 3-0 win

MADRID, 22 Jan— Barcelona reclaimed top spot in the Primera Liga on Sunday after a 3-0 win at home to basement side Gimnastic Tarragona.

An early strike from the inform Javier Saviola, who took his tally to seven goals in four games, and second half goals from French winger Ludovic Giuly and midfielder Andres Iniesta ended Gimnastic's stubborn resistance.

The win meant that Barca, who have a game in hand, are level on 38 points with Sevilla, but lead the standings thanks to their superior goal difference.

A draw in Wednesday's rescheduled league match against struggling Real Betis will ensure the Catalans of the symbolic title of winter champions at the halfway point in the Spanish season.

Real Madrid could join Barca and Sevilla on 38 points if they win away at Real Mallorca in Sunday's late match.

Earlier Valencia chalked up their sixth

Primera Liga win on the trot after a superbly struck free kick from David Villa earned them a 1-0 victory at Real Sociedad that had lifted them into provisional second place.

Sociedad keeper Victor Bravo was left rooted to the spot when the Spain striker whipped a 25-metre shot over the wall and into the top corner shortly before the half-hour mark.

MNA/Reuters



Arsenal's Emmanuel Adebayor and Manchester United's Rio Ferdinand jump for an aerial ball during their English Premier League soccer match at Arsenal's Emirates Stadium, London, on 21 Jan, 2007.—INTERNET

Henry strikes late as Arsenal beat United

LONDON, 22 Jan— Late goals by Robin van Persie and Thierry Henry gave Arsenal a thrilling 2-1 win over Manchester United on Sunday, shattering the visitors' bid to open a nine-point lead in the Premier League.

A day after second-placed Chelsea lost 2-0 at Liverpool, England striker Wayne Rooney headed United into a 53rd-minute lead that could potentially have decided the title race.

But van Persie came off the substitutes' bench to score an 83rd-minute equalizer and captain Henry headed a stoppage-time winner. Victory completed a league double over United after Arsenal's 1-0 win at Old Trafford in September.

United, chasing their first league title since 2003, have 57 points after 24 games. Chelsea, champions for the last two seasons, have 51 points, Liverpool 46 and Arsenal 45.

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said his team's victory had thrown open the title race and that determination and team spirit had turned the game around.

"It was a test of character, resilience and togetherness," he told a news conference. —MNA/Reuters

Everton hand Wigan seventh successive defeat

LONDON, 22 Jan— Wigan Athletic's relegation fears deepened on Sunday when a 2-0 home defeat by Everton made it seven successive Premier League losses.

Wigan have tumbled from a comfortable mid-table position to 17th and are two points above the drop zone with West Ham United and Charlton Athletic breathing down their necks.

Everton took the lead after 64 minutes when David Unsworth's reckless tackle on Victor Anichebe conceded a penalty which was coolly converted by Mikel Arteta.

Anichebe had only just come on as a substitute for England striker Andy Johnson who was carried off on a stretcher with what looked like a serious ankle injury.

Wigan were unlucky not to level eight minutes from time when Josip Skoko's long-range drive cannoned off the crossbar before Arteta sealed victory from close range in stoppage time.—MNA/Reuters



George Washington's Jessica Adair (1) shoots over Deanna Mason (42) of Xavier during their college basketball game on 21 Jan, 2007 in Cincinnati.—INTERNET

PSV beat Heerenveen 3-1 to go 12 points clear

AMSTERDAM, 22 Jan— PSV Eindhoven beat 10-man Heerenveen 3-1 thanks to three first half goals, including two penalties, in the Dutch league on Saturday.

PSV are top with 56 points from 21 matches ahead of AZ Alkmaar, who beat ADO Den Haag 3-1 on Friday. Ajax Amsterdam are third on 42 points before they host Utrecht on Sunday.

PSV's Timmy Simons scored their first penalty after 13 minutes following a professional foul by Heerenveen defender Calvin Jong-A-Pin, who was sent off.

Afonso Alves equalized seven minutes later with his 19th goal of the season but seconds later Arouna Kone restored PSV's lead before Jefferson Farfan converted a second penalty in the 35th to seal the win.—MNA/Reuters



Switzerland's Martina Hingis in action during her fourth round win over China's Li Na at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne, on 22 Jan, 2007. Hingis won in three sets 4-6, 6-3, 6-0. INTERNET

Inter beat Fiorentina to extend lead in Serie A

ROME, 22 Jan— Inter Milan marched 11 points clear at the top of Serie A when they beat Fiorentina 3-1 at the San Siro on Sunday. Trailing to an early header by visiting striker Luca Toni, Inter hit back with goals from Dejan Stankovic, Adriano and Zlatan Ibrahimovic to move up to 54 points from 20 matches and rack up a record-breaking 13th successive win in the division.

Second-placed AS Roma lost more ground on Inter as captain Francesco Totti was sent off in a 1-1 draw at Livorno Palermo, in third place on 39 points, also drew 0-0 with Reggina on Saturday.

Empoli climbed to fourth on 28 points after beating Sampdoria 2-0.

Inter, who are unbeaten in Serie A this season, were caught cold in the fifth minute when Fabio

Liverani swung a free kick in from the left and Toni muscled in front of his marker to head in from close range.

MNA/Reuters

Federer cruises into Australian Open quarterfinals

MELBOURNE, 22 Jan— World No 1 Roger Federer on Sunday cruised into the quarterfinals of the Australian Open men's singles after defeating his opponent in straight sets.

The top seed and nine-time Grand Slam title winner ousted Serbian teenager Novak Djokovic, the 14th seed, 6-2, 7-5, 6-3 in their fourth round clash.

Federer's victory, which took less than two hours, means he has yet to drop a set in the tournament.

He easily cruised through the opening set before Djokovic was able to stay on serve until the final game in a more competitive second set, but gave up the set with a netted forehand.—MNA/Reuters



AS Roma's Francesco Totti (R) challenges Livorno's Fabio Galante during their Italian Serie A soccer match at the Armando Picchi stadium in Livorno on 21 Jan, 2007.—INTERNET

Panathinaikos go second after goalless draw at Xanthi

ATHEN, 22 Jan— Panathinaikos climbed into second place in the Super League even though they were held to a goalless draw at Xanthi on Saturday.

The draw puts Panathinaikos on 38 points after 18 games, five behind leaders Olympiakos Piraeus and one ahead of AEK Athens, both of whom play on Sunday.

MNA/Reuters

Japan's Mumoko Ueda plays a bunker shot on the fifth hole during the final round of the Women's World Cup of Golf at Sun City on 21 Jan, 2007. INTERNET



26 suspected human bird-flu cases detected in N Thailand

BANGKOK, 22 Jan —A total of 26 suspected human bird-flu cases were being closely watched in Thailand’s northern province of Phitsanulok since they fell sick after contacting with dead birds, the chief public health officer of the province said Friday.

Thawatchai Kamoltham, chief Phitsanulok public health officer, said 15 of the 26 people whose symptoms are similar to those of the deadly H5N1 bird flu virus were officials taking part in culling infected fowls.

The rest were villagers from three districts of

Muang, Wat Bote and Bang Rakam, Thawatchai was quoted by Thai news group *The Nation* as saying.

However, only three of the 26 have been admitted to hospitals while the rest were being closely monitored at their home, the report said.

Local health authorities had declared

a duck farm in Tortae sub-district of Phitsanulok off-limits for two weeks as a precaution. About 600 ducks in the farm have been slaughtered. It is also reported that there are also about 30 pigs in the province which may have contracted bird flu.

MNA/Xinhua



Croatia’s Jelena Kostanic Tosic returns to Russia’s Anna Chakvetadze during their third round match at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne, on 21 Jan, 2007. — INTERNET

Windstorm in Belarus causes widespread damage

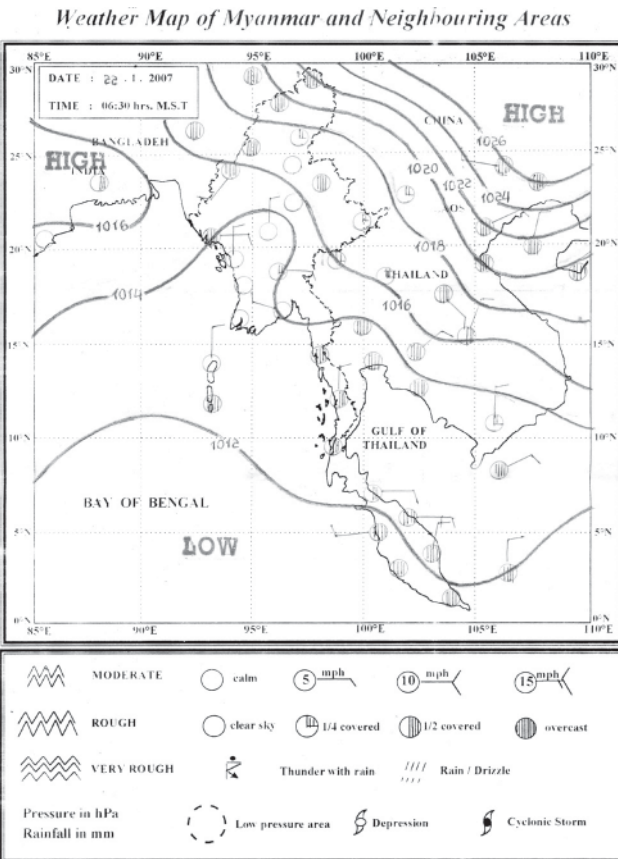
Moscow, 22 Jan—The windstorm raging in Belarus Friday caused serious damage to more than 2,000 populated areas, a spokesman for the Belarussian Emergencies Ministry said on Saturday.

Almost 1,900 populated areas were left without electricity in the country, Belarussian Emergencies Ministry’s Press secretary Vitaly Novitsky was quoted by the *ITAR-TASS* news agency as saying.

There have been no reports about casualties in the storm.

About 75 per cent of the electricity system damage had been repaired by Saturday morning, Novitsky said.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Monday, 22 January, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, except for the isolated light rain in Kachin State, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Shan, Chin, Rakhine States, upper Sagaing, Magway, Bago and Yangon Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) below normal in Mon and Kayin States, (5°C) above normal in Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (0°C), Namhsan (1°C), Pinlaung, Heho and Mogok (2°C) each and Lashio (3°C).

Maximum temperature on 21-1-2007 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 22-1-2007 was 58°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 22-1-2007 was 78%. Total sunshine hours on 21-1-2007 was (8.6) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 22-1-2007 were (nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2007 were (nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from West at (15:30) hours MST on 22-1-2007.

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 23-1-2007: Possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin State, weather will be partly cloudy in upper Sagaing 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 decrease of night temperatures in the Eastern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 23-1-2007: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 23-1-2007: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 23-1-2007: Fair weather.



Tuesday, 23 January
Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music: -Good thing
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music: -Take is easy
- 8:50 am National news/ Slogan
- 9:00 am Music: -You’re my heart you’re my soul
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music: -Be yourself
- 1:30 pm News / Slogan
- 1:40 pm Lunch time music: -Baby come-back -Put a little love in your life -My destiny
- 9:00 pm English speaking course level (2) unit (14)
- 9:10 pm Article
- 9:20 pm Weekly sport reel
- 9:30 pm Music at your listening pleasure -Circle in the sand -My love is your love
- 9:45 pm News / Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL

Tuesday, 23 January

View on today

7:00 am

1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ့ မဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော် ဆောင်ချုပ်၊အဘိဓဇမဟာရဋ္ဌ ဂုရု၊အဘိဓဇအဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာ ဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. Nice and sweet song

7:50 am

5. ကဗျာပန်းဥယျာဉ်

8:00 am

6. Song of yester year

8:10 am

7. အကဖြိုင်ပွဲ

8:20 am

8. ရဲနွယ်ရေလှောင်တံခံ

8:30 am

9. International news

8:45 am

10. Let’s go

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Song to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. English for everyday use

4:45 pm

4. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ ပထမနှစ် (သတ္တဗေဒအထူးပြု) (သတ္တဗေဒ)

4:55 pm

5. Dance of national races

5:10 pm

6. ခံစားနားဆင် တေးဇာတ်ဝင်

5:20 pm

7. “တန်ဖိုး” (ညီညီနေနိုင်၊ လှိုင်ဖြူဖြူထွက်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-သက်တင်)

5:25 pm

8. Sing and enjoy

6:00 pm

9. Evening news

6:30 pm

10. Weather report

6:35 pm

11. နိုင်ငံခြားကာတွန်းဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “တောတွင်းသားငယ်လေး” (အပိုင်း-၄၅)

6:50 pm

12. ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲ့ ရင်ခုန်သံ

7:05 pm

13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ချစ်ညီမငယ်ပါသေး” (အပိုင်း-၁၀)

8:00 pm

14. News

15. International news

16. Weather report

17. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “တကယ်သဘောကျတယ်” (အပိုင်း-၁၈)

18. The next day’s programme

Secretary-1 welcomes Vice-Chairman of Standing Committee of National People's Congress of PRC

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Jan— At the invitation of Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, a goodwill delegation led by Mr Li Tieying, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China, arrived here this evening.

The goodwill delegation was welcomed at the Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Director-General of Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Kyaw, and departmental officials.—MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein shakes hands with Mr Li Tieying, Vice-Chairman of Standing Committee of National People's Congress of PRC, at Nay Pyi Taw Airport.

MNA



Secretary-1 receives Chinese guests, discusses bilateral cooperation

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Jan—Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein received a goodwill delegation led by Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China Mr Li Tieying at the State Peace and Development Council Office, here, at 5.20 pm today. They discussed cooperation between the two

countries.

Also present at the call were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Finance

and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Director-General of SPDC Col Kyaw Kyaw Win, Director-General of the Government Office Col Thant Shin, Director-General of Protocol Department U Kyaw Kyaw and Director-General of International Organizations and Economic Department U Win Mra.

(See page 9)



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and Mr Li Tieying, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of National People's Congress of PRC, discuss bilateral cooperation.— MNA