

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

Senior General Than Shwe congratulates Turkmenistan President

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Feb— Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr Kurbanguly Berdymukhamedov, who was sworn in on 14 February 2007 as the President of the Republic of Turkmenistan. — MNA

A total of 5,008 acres of land have been put under summer paddy against the target of 74,602 acres for 2006-07 in Kyaukse, Singaing, Myittha and TadaU townships.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects cultivation of summer paddy, nurturing of physic nut in Meiktila, Kyaukse districts

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Mandalay Division PDC Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, inspected cultivation of summer paddy in Kantha Village of Meiktila Township yesterday morning.

The paddy plantations are thriving on 200 acres with the use of water from Meiktila Lake. Meiktila Township has cultivated 2,346 acres of summer paddy

meeting the target.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on use of quality paddy strains and broadcasting of fertilizers to meet the target production.

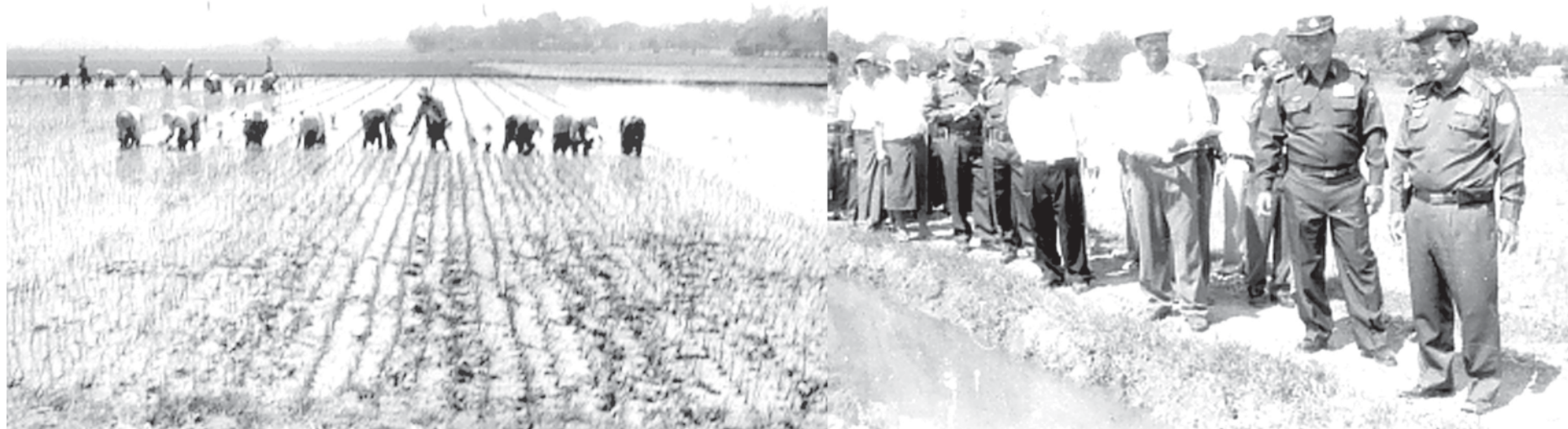
They also viewed cultivation of summer paddy in Wundwin and Myittha townships. Chairman of Kyaukse District PDC U Khin Maung Myint reported on cultivation of summer paddy in irrigated areas of Myittha Township and Kyaukse District.

A total of 5,008 acres of land have been put under summer paddy against the target of 74,602 acres for 2006-07 in Kyaukse, Singaing, Myittha and TadaU townships.

At Central Agricultural Farm in Kyaukse, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party viewed thriving summer paddy, gram and sunflower on 61 acres of land.

They inspected physic nut nurseries of Kyaukse District and Singaing Township.

(See page 8)



Lt-Gen Ye Myint of Ministry of Defence inspects cultivation of summer paddy in Kanthaya Village of Meiktila Township. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 24 February, 2007

Towards improved sanitation

The government is placing emphasis on uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire people. Regarding this, it has been fulfilling the requirements of health infrastructures across the nation including far-flung border areas while carrying out health care services of the people.

In implementing health care services of the people, prevention is all the more important. Therefore, the National Sanitation Week activities were carried out with the extensive dissemination of knowledge on health.

The tenth National Sanitation Week to be launched this year was designated from 24 February (today) to 2 March with a motto “Let’s use clean toilets for life”.

As health is a national concern, the entire people need not only to actively participate in health activities but also to abide by rules and regulations on health. Especially, one is to concentrate on the four aspects of sanitation—partaking clean foods, using clean water, ensuring personal hygiene and living in clean environment (clean toilet).

Myanmar has been carrying out the National Sanitation Week activities since 1998. And environmental sanitation works are carried out yearly. As a result, the prevalence of infectious diseases in the nation has been reduced significantly.

Therefore, the entire people are to actively participate in the sanitation campaign covering clean foods, clean water, personal hygiene and clean toilets. Only then, will each and every citizen be able to enjoy health and longevity.

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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

Health Minister honours outstanding staff, inspects hospitals in upper Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb — Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint met with outstanding health staff and volunteers at Anawrahta Hall in NyaungU Township on 19 February and presented certificates of honour to them.

A total of 124 health staff and volunteers from nine divisions and states in upper Myanmar were honoured at the ceremony to honour the outstanding health staff for 2007.

Minister Dr Kyaw Myint went to the national TB elimination and AIDS control department at Mandalay People’s Hospital on 17 February, and gave instruction on fighting TB and AIDS. He also inspected the outpatient unit of the Paediatric Hospital, Mandalay.

On his tour of Mandalay, Health Minister Dr Kyaw Myint also went to the University of Medicine and met with faculty members.

During the inspection tour of Natogyi Township on 18 February, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint inspected Pyinsi Rural Health Department and Natogyi Township Hospital in Natogyi.

In the afternoon, the minister and party went to Taungtha Township Hospital, Welaung Station Hospital and Popa Rural Health Centre, Popa Sangha Hospital in Kyaukpadaung Township and Taungzin Station Hospital in NyaungU Township, and fulfilled the requirements of the hospitals. — MNA

No 2 District-to-District Road under construction

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb —Director-General U Myo Myint of Development Affairs Department inspected progress in construction of No 2 district-to-district road being undertaken by Mandalay Division DAD on 20 February.

The road will be 113 miles and two furlongs long from Kintha of Tatkon Township to Shwesaryan of

Patheingyi Township plus a seven-mile section linking Koekway of Pinlaung Township-Paunglaung Creek, totalling 120 miles and two furlongs. Three-mile tarred road section, three-mile gravel road section and 95 miles and three furlong long earth road section have been constructed in 2005-06 financial year. At present, 26 miles and three furlongs long earth road section and 25 miles and six furlongs long gravel section are under construction in 2006-07 financial year.

MNA



67 cyclists reach destination of 11th leg race

YANGON, 23 Feb — The 11th leg (Toungoo-Nyaunglebin) of the Yangon-Pyay-Mandalay-Yangon 1,000-mile Men’s Cycling Race was launched in front of the sports ground in Toungoo at 6 am today.

67 cyclists out of 72 participated in the 77-mile cycling race and crossed the finishing line in front of Irrigation Department in Nyaunglebin at 10 am.

Officials presented K 30,000 and a yellow suit to Zaw Min Tun (Shan State-South) who stood first in the 11th leg, K 20,000 to Myo Thu (Mandalay Division), second, and K 10,000 to Aung Naing Lin (Shan State-South), third. The 12th and final leg of the cycling race from Nyaunglebin to Yangon will continue tomorrow. — MNA

Japan Education Seminar to be held in Mandalay

YANGON, 23 Feb — For the benefit of students, the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO), the Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni (MAJA) and the Embassy of Japan, co-hosted the Japan Education Seminar in Yangon at Nikko Hotel Royal Lake on 17 February, giving wide opportunity to

those students to enquire on details of study in Japan. The Embassy will also be holding a similar Education Seminar in Mandalay on 9 March 2007, from 9:00 am to 11:30 am at the Mingalar Hall of the Mandalay Swan Hotel for Japanese language students of Mandalay and Upper Myanmar who wish to

study in Japan.

All interested persons are welcome to attend the Japan Education Seminar, Mandalay. Further details can be enquired by contacting the Information & Culture ection of the Embassy at 100 Natmawk Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, Ph 549 644-8. Participation is free of charge.—H

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Chavez sends Brazil sulfur for 'devil' Bush visit

AYACUCHO BLOCK 6, 22 Feb—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, who mocked George W Bush as the devil in a UN speech, said on Wednesday he was sending sulfur to Brazil for the US President's visit there next month.

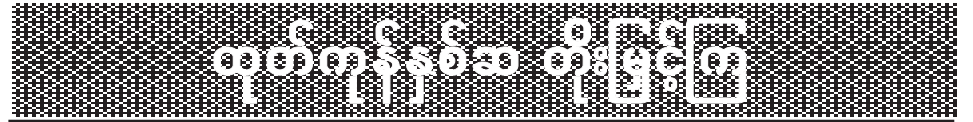
During a tour of an oil reserve with his Argentine counterpart Nestor Kirchner, Chavez held up a small vial of the pale-yellow element and said he would send to their fellow leftist ally and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

Echoing his mock complaint last year at the UN General Assembly that the podium reeked of the substance after a Bush speech, Chavez said, "It smells of sulfur here, comrade."

"I am going to send this vial to Lula for when the little gentleman comes so that he can place it out there in Brasilia," Chavez said with a laugh.

Venezuela says Bush hopes to divide the region and try to turn allies against Chavez during a tour next month of several Latin American countries, including economic and diplomatic powerhouse Brazil.

Despite the antagonism, Venezuela is the No 4 supplier of crude to the United States, which in turn is the OPEC nation's top customer.—MNA/Reuters



Russian President Vladimir Putin decorates Russian opera singer Galina Vishnevskaya with a state award during an awards handing ceremony in Moscow's Kremlin on 22 Feb, 2007.—INTERNET



South Korean actress Song Hye-kyo (L) and actor Rain wave at a promotional party of their TV play "Full House" in Changsha, capital of central China's Hunan Province, last week.—XINHUA

Global campaign launched to ban use, production and stockpiling of cluster bombs

OSLO, (Norway) 22 Feb—Representatives from 48 nations launched on Thursday a global effort to ban the use, production and stockpiling of cluster bombs by the end of next year despite the opposition of several major military powers. A draft declaration

obtained by *The Associated Press* said the weapons—which can linger on former battlefields for years—cause "unacceptable harm." It calls for a treaty banning them by 2008, despite concerns that some countries would not agree to act that quickly.

Norway hopes the treaty would be similar to one outlawing anti-personnel mines, negotiated in Oslo in 1997.

"Our hope is to get as many countries as possible to join, and it will remain open," Norwegian Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Støre told *The Associated Press* in an interview.

(The US, China and Russia oppose the ban and did not send representatives to the two-day conference. Australia, Israel, India and Pakistan

also did not attend.

Cluster bombs are small devices packed with high explosives and loaded into artillery shells, bombs or missiles. When the larger munition explodes, it scatters hundreds of the mini-explosives—called bomblets—over large areas. A percentage of these bomblets typically fail to explode immediately, but may still detonate if they are picked up or struck—endangering civilians, often children, years after conflicts end.—Internet

US urged to reassess claim against N Korea

WASHINGTON, 22 Feb—The United States should reexamine a questionable charge that North Korea has a covert uranium enrichment programme, a key American complaint against Pyongyang that could complicate the new nuclear weapons deal, experts said on Wednesday.

Physicist David Albright, who recently visited the isolated Communist state, likened the enrichment programme charge to the "fiasco" of flawed US intelligence that mistakenly concluded Iraq had a secret nuclear weapons programme in the runup to war.

The CIA in 2002 said North Korea began purchasing large quantities of centrifuge-related equipment in 2001 and was building a plant that could produce enough weapons-grade uranium

for two or more nuclear weapons annually, perhaps by 2005.

MNA/Reuters

"Black Hawk" shot down north of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 22 Feb—Guerillas shot down a US military helicopter with nine people on board north of Baghdad on Wednesday but no one was killed, the military said. It was the eighth downing of a helicopter in Iraq in a month.

A military spokeswoman said it appeared the *Black Hawk* helicopter had been brought down by small arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades.

The US military said in an earlier statement that all nine people on board were evacuated and there

were no serious injuries.

Iraqi police captain Mahmoud al-Mashhadani said he saw some type of projectile hitting the helicopter before it came down in a rural area known as the Line, 30 kilometres

(18 miles) north of Baghdad. "I saw a ball of fire hitting the aircraft and smoke coming out of the helicopter as it came down," Mashhadani told *Reuters*.

MNA/Reuters



A US helicopter crashed in an area north of Baquba City, 65 km northeast of Baghdad, on 22 Feb, 2007, the Qatar-based al-Jazeera satellite TV channel reported.—XINHUA

An Italian government falls again

ROME, 22 Feb—Italian Senator Ferdinando Rossi was shunned by coalition comrades in the Senate lunch room after casting one of the two votes on 21 Feb that brought down the nine-month-old government of Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi. Rossi, a member of one of two communist parties included in Prodi's nine-party coalition government, voted against the government's foreign policy program, including its plan to keep Italian troops in Afghanistan. The embarrassing parliamentary defeat forced Prodi to resign.

But Prodi's government, with its wafer-thin majority in the Senate, was fated to fall sooner rather than later. And the political crisis may ultimately prove salutary to Italy's faction-plagued political landscape, since it has underscored the urgent need to reform Italy's electoral law. "Italy will not have stable governments until the electoral law is changed," says Franco Pavoncello, political scientist and president of John Cabot University in Rome.

Internet

Men seek prostate treatment

KISSIMMEE, 22 Feb— Even if there is a very low risk that prostate cancer could be fatal, the vast majority of men would rather undergo surgery than chance the disease might spread.

In fact, among men who were diagnosed with slow-growing, non-aggressive prostate cancer, less than 10 percent were willing to accept ‘active surveillance’ as a treatment option, researchers said

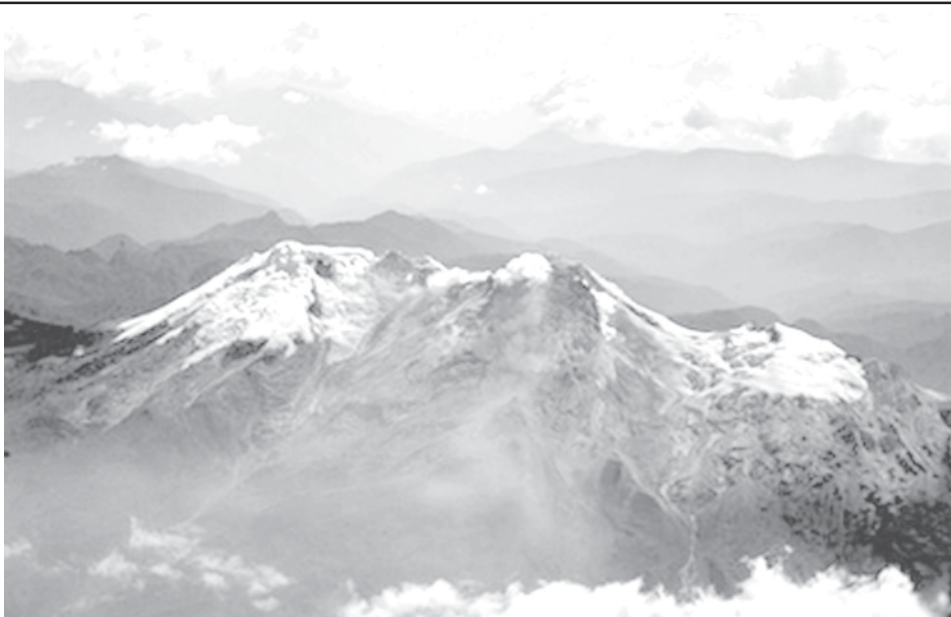
Thursday at the 3rd Prostrate Cancer Symposium in Kissimmee, Fla. ‘Active surveillance appears to be an under-utilized strategy for managing patients with very low risk disease,’

said Dr Daniel Barocas, chief resident in urology at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital-Weill Cornell Medical Center in New York. ‘It suggests that a number of these patients are receiving over-treatment.’

In an analysis of the CaPSURE (Cancer of the Prostate Strategic Urologic Research Endeavor) database, Barocas identified 310 men out of 1,886 patients who had criteria for low-risk prostate cancer.

These men had several characteristics that indicate low risk of cancer growth, including low prostate specific antigen (PSA) levels — less than 10 nanograms per millimeter of blood; an early stage of cancer; a low grade of cancer; and finding cancer in less than one-third of biopsy samples.

Internet



The Nevado del Huila volcano is seen in this aerial view, in the southwestern state of Huila, Colombia, on 22 Feb, 2007. —INTERNET

Bird flu clean-up continues in Moscow

Moscow, 22 Feb — Veterinary workers wearing masks and white protective suits carted off refuse and burned it Tuesday inside the quarantined section of the popular Bird Market as guards patrolled the perimeter.

But other parts of the market, which has been linked to an outbreak of the deadly H5N1 strain of avian flu, remained open

for business, with sellers hawking dogs, cats and fish.

“Of course it doesn’t affect the dogs,” saleswoman Maria Ivanova said, sitting in front of a cage of playful Alsatian puppies selling for \$200 each.

“They’ve said the quarantine of the bird section will last 21 days, and I’m not at all worried about it. It’s the poor birds I feel sorry for,” she said.

All 1,924 birds found in the market had been culled by Tuesday morning, city veterinary official Sergei Filatov said.

All of the infected birds that were found in five villages in the Moscow region were bought at the bird section of the Sadovod complex, located just southeast of the Moscow Ring Road.

Internet

Three NATO soldiers killed in Afghan

KABUL, 22 Feb— Three soldiers of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) were killed across Afghanistan on Wednesday, according to ISAF statements and media reports.

One British soldier was killed by a mine in Sangin district of the southern Helmand Province when he was on a routine patrol.

In western Afghanistan, an ISAF convoy was attacked apparently by a powerful mine in Shindand District of Herat Province. One female Spanish soldier was killed and other Spanish soldiers were injured.

An ISAF soldier was killed in a non-combat incident in eastern Afghanistan, said ISAF, which did not mention the soldier’s nationality. The incident is under investigation by military authorities.

MNA/Xinhua

စက်မှုရေးသား ခေါ်စစ်တပ်မှူး



Charles Simonyi, a former software developer at Microsoft, is seen through the window of a pressure chamber during a training session in Star City near Moscow on 22 Feb, 2007. —INTERNET

Deep sea discovery: The monsters from the deep

LONDON, 23 Feb—It is one of the most mysterious creatures of the deep ocean, and one of the most elusive. Only half a dozen colossal squid have been caught. The specimen hauled out of the inky waters of Antarctica is believed to be the biggest, weighing half a ton, with eyes as big as dinner plates.

The gigantic sea creature, about 39ft long, with a large beak and razor-sharp hooks on the end of its tentacles, was feasting on a Patagonian

toothfish - itself one of the more sizeable members of the marine population when it was caught by New Zealand fishermen this month.

Experts described it yesterday as a “phenomenal” find. One said that if calamari rings were made from it, they would be the size of tractor tyres.

Colossal squid, or *Mesonychoteuthis hamiltoni*, are not related to giant squid, which grow to a maximum of “only” 39ft and are somewhat lighter. The biggest

colossal squid are believed to reach 46ft in length. They are active and aggressive killers that have been known to attack sperm whales, and they live at depths of up to 6,500ft.

The New Zealand Fisheries Minister, Jim Anderton, who announced the discovery of the new specimen, said it took fishermen two hours to land it. They had been fishing with long lines for Patagonian toothfish, also known as Chilean sea bass, in the Southern Ocean. Mr Anderton said “the squid was eating a hooked toothfish when it was hauled from the deep”.

The crew stopped long lining and manoeuvred the squid into a cargo net to haul it on board their ship, San Aspiring. It was then frozen in the ship’s hull and brought back to New Zealand for scientific analysis. Experts have yet to examine it, but they believe it to be the first intact adult male ever landed. — Internet



A boat sprays water into the burning ferry Levina 150 miles from Jakarta's Tanjung Priok Port, on 22 Feb, 2007. —XINHUA

ECONOMIC NEWS

Congressman says US should scrap Cold War trade law

Moscow, 22 Feb— A senior US lawmaker, striking a conciliatory note on a visit to Russia, called for Washington to scrap a Cold War law linking trade relations with Moscow to human rights and emigration concerns.

"I believe the time is ripe to move ahead and put behind us this relic of the Cold War," Congressman Tom Lantos, the chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, told a news conference. He gave no timeline.

The law, known as the Jackson-Vanik Amendment, links normal US trade relations with Communist and former Communist countries to their citizens' rights to emigrate freely.

Many US leaders, including President George W Bush, have failed to keep promises to scrap Jackson-Vanik, blaming strong bipartisan

opposition in Congress. The law's continued presence has irked Moscow.

Lantos was visiting Russia amid a souring of relations between Moscow and Washington over issues such as Moscow's opposition to NATO's expansion closer to its borders and US plans to

deploy a missile defence system in Central Europe.

President Vladimir Putin blasted the United States in a keynote speech at a conference in Munich earlier this month, accusing it of fuelling a new arms race by attempting to impose its will unilaterally on the world—MNA/Reuters



Cartoon characters Hello Kitty dance with children in Sanrio Puroland theme park in Tokyo, capital of Japan on 21 Feb, 2007. —XINHUA



Saudi Princes perform a traditional dance during the Janadriya Heritage and Culture Festival on the outskirts of Riyadh on 21 Feb, 2007. —INTERNET

Surayud accepts and respects resignation from economy panel chief

BANGKOK, 22 Feb — Thailand's Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont said he accepted Somkid Jatusripitak's resignation as chief of economy panel because he respected his decision.

"Somkid informed me on Tuesday that he would resign as he did not want to cause troubles. I told him that I respect his decision," Surayud said.

Somkid announced his resignation on Wednesday as chairman of a special committee in charge of preaching sufficiency economy to the international communities. He just accepted the post appointed by Surayud last week.

Somkid's appointment drew outcry and criticism from several sector as he was a right hand man of ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

Criticism emphasized that Somkid could not convey the sufficiency economy the international communities as he was architect of Thaksinomic used during Thaksin regime.

"I told Somkid that I respect his decision to resign. There could have chance that we could work together again," Surayud said.

The government will not appoint new chief for the panel, Surayud said, as the panel will be abolished now that Somkid resigned, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

US baby food removed from market in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 22 Feb — Singapore's Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) on Wednesday ordered a recall on one baby food product by US Earth's Best following an alert from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that the baby food may be contaminated with Clostridium botulinum, which can cause botulism, a life-threatening illness.

According to a joint statement by the Agri-Food and Veterinary

Authority (AVA) and the Ministry of National Development, the product recall in the city state is a precautionary measure as there has been no illnesses reported to the FDA or the manufacturer to date.

Consumers who have bought Earth's Best Organic 2 Apple Peach Barley Wholesome Breakfast Baby Food should not use the products, said the AVA, adding that consumers should discard the

products or return them to shops from which they were bought.

The affected products intended for babies of 6 months and older is sold in single individual jars and in variety packs containing four jars which may include Apple Peach Barley along with other varieties.

Botulism is a potentially fatal form of food poisoning and causes illness within 18-36 hours of exposure, with early

symptoms of a decreased frequency or absence of stools, poor feeding, lethargy, weak cry and difficulty with swallowing with drooling from the mouth. — MNA/Xinhua

BOJ raises rates by 1/4 point of decade-high 0.5%

Tokyo, 22 Feb— The Bank of Japan raised its key interest rate on Wednesday by a quarter percentage point to 0.50 per cent, placing more emphasis on signs of a strengthening economy than a lack of inflationary

pressure.

Financial markets had been divided on whether the central bank would keep rates steady, as many politicians hoped it would, or whether it would move to head off the economic risks that

arise from having ultra-low money rates for too long.

The BOJ voted 8-1 in favour of the rate rise. Benchmark rates are now the highest in more than a decade.

MNA/Reuters



An employee of Canon poses with Canon EOS-1D Mark IIIs at the unveiling ceremony in Tokyo, on 22 Feb, 2007.—INTERNET



Honda Motor Co President and Chief Executive Officer Takeo Fukui talks to reporters next to the new Crossroad at its unveiling ceremony in Tokyo on 22 Feb, 2007. The new Crossroad will go on sale throughout Japan on 23 Feb, the company said.—INTERNET

Two killed, nine injured in explosion in South Korea

SEOUL, 22 Feb—Two South Korean workers were killed and nine others were injured on Wednesday by a blast at an explosives factory in southeastern South Korea, the police said.

According to the police, the blast occurred at 10:02 am (0102 GMT) in a factory in Taebaek City, 2711 kilometres southeast of Seoul, while workers were burning the waste of defective explosives at a spent gunpower processing facility.

The wounded were taken to nearby hospitals after the accident, the police said, adding that some of the wounded remain in critical condition.

Firefighters are investigating into the exact cause of the explosion, as factory officials said that the waste does not easily explode under normal conditions, local media reported.

MNA/Xinhua

Thick fog shrouds Beijing, cuts flights

BEIJING, 22 Feb—A dense fog covering Beijing cut visibility to a few dozen metres and paralyzed flights in and out of the national capital on Wednesday, disrupting China's week-long Lunar New Year celebrations. The fog that has descended over large parts of China in the past two days made it impossible to see buildings more than a short distance away, hid traffic lights in a dim shroud, and forced flight delays at Beijing's capital airport. "Outgoing

flights have all been delayed. None have left this morning. Incoming flights are also delayed until the weather improves," a staff member on the airport's flight inquiries desk told Reuters.

Chinese television news reported at midday that over 150 flights had been delayed in Beijing.

China is in the middle of its traditional Lunar New Year holiday. The holiday has cleared the traffic that usually snarl Beijing's roads, but it has also brought an influx of tourists.—MNA/Reuters

rounding areas, Zainuddin told reporters in Sarawak State in eastern Malaysia.

"In line with the objective of raising the service standard of the radio channel owned by the Ministry of Information, we need a station which is more

focused on news," Zainuddin was quoted by the national news agency Bernama as saying.

Currently, Malaysia has no local around-the-clock news TV station or radio channel.

MNA/Xinhua



Pedestrians make their way through streets piled with snow on 22 Feb, 2007 at City Hall Square in Copenhagen, Denmark. A snow storm swept across Denmark and southern Sweden on Thursday, causing major traffic disruptions and forcing Copenhagen's international airport to cancel dozens of flights.—INTERNET

Cyprus likely to establish embassy in UAE

ABU DHABI, 23 Feb—Cypriot Ambassador to Qatar George C. Kasoulides said that his country may establish an embassy in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) soon, the Khaleej Times reported on Thursday.

Speaking at a media briefing at the Cyprus Trade Centre (CTC) in Dubai, Kasoulides said that the proposal to set up an embassy in the UAE reflected the growing importance of the Gulf region in trade and tourism.

"If the proposal materializes, the UAE will be the second diplomatic post of Cyprus in the Gulf" besides the one

based in Doha, Qatar, he said.

But Kasoulides provided no schedule for the establishment of the diplomatic post for technical reasons such as budgetary and legal issues.

Trade and tourism-related transactions in the UAE are coursed through the CTC or a regional office of the Cyprus Tourism Organization in Dubai. —MNA/Xinhua

Winnie Mandela hit by crime in S Johannesburg

JOHANNESBURG, 22 Feb—Winnie Madikizela-Mandela has become the latest high-profile South African to be hit by crime, with thieves making off with jewellery worth 4 million rand (about 560,000 US dollars) from her Orlando West home in Soweto, south of Johannesburg, according to a report on Wednesday.

Local newspaper, *The Star*, frontpaged that the former ANC Women's League president is said to be "distressed" after the burglary at her fortress-like home in Mtipa Street, with suspicions being raised that the theft was an inside job.

Madikizela-Mandela returned from Chicago on Monday night, where she had addressed the St Sabena Faith Community in celebration of Black History Month in the United States, only to discover that thieves had made off with two of her safes and tampered with a third. Soweto police spokesperson Captain Jacqueline Mbatha said several of Madikizela-Mandela's relatives had stayed in the house during her trip to Chicago.

A spokesperson for Madikizela-Mandela said there was no sign of forced entry, and other than the contents of the safes, nothing else seemed to

have been taken from the house.

It's a mystery, however, as to just how the robbers gained entry to her home, which is protected by on-site security personnel, closed-circuit television cameras, high walls and dogs. The house is surrounded by a wall about 2.5 metres high.

Minibus taxis loaded with sightseeing tourists drove past the house but didn't stop for them to take photographs. While married to Nelson Mandela, Madikizela-Mandela lived in the nearby Vilakazi Street, the road in which Desmond Tutu also once stayed.

MNA/Xinhua



A duck lands on ice of the Moskva river in downtown Moscow, on 22 Feb, 2007. Temperatures at this time of year drop as low as -25C (-13F) at night and to -20C (-4F) during the day with strong winds.—INTERNET

Donations for eyesight

Khin Oo

It was in the pandal in front of Thongwa Township Hospital in Yangon Division that elderly men and women were waiting for their turn to receive eye treatment on 15 February 2007. At that time, Vice-President of the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Daw Khin Thet Htay and party arrived at the pandal and warmly greeted grandpas and grandmas.

Nearly 2000 patients with eye complaints in the whole township had registered themselves for treatment. Among them was an 83-year-old grandma with very poor eyesight. "I am patiently waiting for my turn", she told us.

"In addition to ensuring security and development for every woman in the nation, the MWAF has been cooperating with related government institutions and NGOs to run public health care services", said MWAF Vice-President Daw Khin Thet Htay at the opening of a new ward of the hospital, that was held the same day.

The 1998 survey indicated that in every one million people about 600 were suffering from eye disorder, she said.

According to records, the number of patients still suffering from gradual loss of eyesight was 250,000, and the number was increasing at about 50,000 a year, she said, adding, "It is the duty of social organizations to find eye patients and help them to undergo surgery."

As MWAF members were close to the public, they would have to cooperate with health staff in that matter and disseminate health care education, she pointed out.

Thirty-four wellwishers collectively presented

K 14 million for eye patients.

Thongwa Township comprising 12 wards and 64 villages depends on agriculture as its main business. The township grows monsoon and summer paddy, and beans and pulses, especially green gram in the cold season.

Thongwa Township Association was the sponsor of the eye operation campaign. Donors were the natives of the town who have become prosperous entrepreneurs.

"There are over 1000 members in the association. At the association meeting the natives who have become successful business persons sought means and ways to serve the township's interest. Then we all got an idea to treat eye patients free of charge. Thirty-four persons including green gram merchants presented K 14 million for the campaign", said an entrepreneur of the association.

"Before making the field tour, we provided an air-condition for the operation theatre, three beds, surgery equipment and necessary facilities", said a doctor.

The leader of the medical team was Dr Kan Nyunt, an experienced eye specialist. With the participation of other eye specialists, the team performed medical check up and treatment on 1,960 persons. The team operated 258 patients and transferred 309 others to Yangon General Hospital for intensive care and treatment.

Dr Kan Nyunt said, "Sometimes, patients have difficulties to go see an eye doctor. Difficulties include poverty, dependency and other social problems." "Wellwishers and persons who wish to serve the interest of the natives organize the medical team and the campaign, enabling doctors to treat patients at their native place free of charge", he added. Officials concerned were rendering assistance to doctors who are conducting medical check

A doctor of the team explained that male or female at all any age might suffer from cataract; that people of the places which got a lot of sunshine were more prone to cataract; that loss of eyesight might happen due to problems such as cataract, trachoma, injuries, diabetes, and old age; that there was no other way than the surgical operation to remove the cataract; and that intra ocular lens may help patients to regain cent per cent eyesight after operation.

up on patients, and treating and operating them.

Wellwishers also donated 16 bags of rice, and 100 viss of dried fish to serve food to patients and their relatives at town's gymnasium. Members of the medical team and guests were served meals at Mogok Vipassana Yeiktha.

Doctors of the team also presented K 155,000 to the campaign. They also gave talks on eye health to local people.

A doctor of the team explained that male or female at all any age might suffer from cataract; that people of the places which got a lot of sunshine were more prone to cataract; that loss of eyesight might happen due to problems such as cataract, trachoma, injuries, diabetes, and old age; that there was no other way than the surgical operation to remove the cataract; and that intra ocular lens may help patients to regain cent per cent eyesight after operation.

The campaign achieved success due to the goodwill and efforts of physicians of the team, contributions of the wellwishers, kind assistance of social organizations and proper management of the local authorities.

The aged said Sadu (well done) and made a wish for the team, donors and volunteers who took part in the campaign.

And when people saw the aged returning home after undergoing the successful surgical operations, a wish came into their mind to make more donations to launch another such campaign.

(Translation: TMT)

Kyemon (23-2-2007)



Local people with eye complaints wait for their turn to receive treatment.



Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara delivers an address at 19th Plenary Meeting of fifth 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Meeting.
MNA

19th Plenary Meeting of fifth...

(from page 16)

The 19th plenary meeting will continue tomorrow.

Today, Daw Khin Win Myint and sisters of Kanbawza Road in Bahan Township offered 'soon' to the Sayadaws. Likewise, U Kyaw Win of Shwe Tharaphu Co-Thiri Thudhamma Theingi Daw Khin

Swe Oo and family of 165th Street in Tamway Township donated dawn 'soon' and U Min Thein-Daw Moe Moe and family of Pyidaungsu Road in Bahan Township, 'soon' on 20 February; U Myint Oo-Daw Boke and family of South Okkalapa Township, dawn 'soon' and U Aye Tin-Daw Kyu Kyu and family of Tamway Township, 'soon' on 21 February; and U Aung Moe-Daw Aye Shin, U Sein Win-Daw Myinzu Tun and family, and U Aung Naing Tun (a) Aung Aung-Ma Soe Soe Aye, 'soon' on 22 February. — MNA



Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko.
MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects ...

(from page 1)

So far, Kyaukse District has grown 31,302 acres of physic nut in 2007, and the plan is under way to extend 22,211 acres of physic nut in 2007-08.

They inspected nurturing and cultivation of Manawthukha paddy strain on 250 acres of land in Theinnigon Village-tract of Singaing Township. Chairman of the Township PDC U Mya Ngwe reported on cultivation of summer paddy and land preparations in 2006-07 in the township. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on sufficient use of water and utilization of quality paddy strains.

A total of 1,950 acres of land have been put under summer paddy against the target of 19,050 acres for 2006-07 in Singaing Township.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party proceeded to Mandalay. — MNA

Deputy Foreign Minister winds up four-nation tour

Foreign Affairs Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu being welcomed by Prime Minister of Congo Mr Isidore Mvoumba.
FOREIGN AFFAIRS



NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb — Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu arrived back here today after paying a visits to the South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana and Congo from 1st to 18th February.

The Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu met with Ambassador Mr Jerry Matjila, Chief of the Asia and Middle East Division, in Pretoria, the Republic of South Africa, on 5 February, and they discussed further enhancing of bilateral relations between the two countries.

The delegation arrived at Accra, Republic of Ghana, on 8 February. Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu held talks with his counterpart of Ghana Akwasi Osei Adjei on 9 February.

The Myanmar delegation arrived at Brazzaville, the capital of the Republic of Congo, on 12 February and called on Minister of Foreign Affairs of Congo Mr Rodolphe the next day. During the meeting, the two sides reiterated the desire of further expanding ties of friendship and cooperation.

The Myanmar delegation also called on Prime Minister of the Republic of Congo Mr Isidore Mvoumba and Minister of Cooperation of the Republic of Congo separately.

On 14 February, the goodwill delegation left the Republic of Congo for the Republic of South Africa and arrived at Johannesburg in the evening.

Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu was accompanied by the delegation members U Aung Latt, Deputy Director and U Kyaw Soe, Assistant Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA

DISTRICT NEWS IN BRIEF

Tube-well sunk for supplying drinking water to rural areas

GYOBINGAUK, 16 Feb — Gyobingauk Township Development Affairs Committee has carried out the tasks for supplying safe drinking water to rural areas. Executive Officer U Tun Tun explained completion of sinking tube-well, water pumping station and tank in Kyisu Village for 2006-2007 fiscal year to Director U Tin Hlaing of Head Office of Development Affairs Department.

The depth of the tube well that cost K 1.3 million is 290 feet and it



Executive Officer U Tun Tun explains progress of sinking tube-well in Kyisu Village, Gyobingauk Township.

can pump a thousand gallons per hour.

Township DAC

Fire preventive measures demonstrated in No 1 Oil Refinery (Thanlyin)

THANLYIN, 12 Feb — A demonstration of fire preventive measures was held at No 1 Oil Refinery (Thanlyin) of Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy on 9 February.

Factory Manager Lt Col Phe Thet Nyunt, officials, head of office Ye Thura Thawda of Yangon South District Fire Services Department and others were present on the occasion.

Firefighters demonstrated the fire preventive measures. Similarly, talks on fire prevention were given in factories and workshops in the district, and inspection and demonstration were also made.

District IPRD



Deputy Director U Tin Win and Senior Engineer U Naing Lin of Kyaukme Township Development Affairs Committee supervised dredging of drains along Pyidaungsu Road for proper flow of water on 26 January.

TOWNSHIP DAC

Course on Production of Value-added Vegetable and Fruit opens



Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo view vegetables and fruits displayed at opening ceremony of Basic Technological Course on production of value-added vegetable and fruit. —A & I

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb — A ceremony to open the Basic Technological Course on Production of Value-added Vegetable and Fruit, jointly organized by Myanma Agricultural Produce Trading of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and Myanmar Vegetable Cultivation and Production Entrepreneurs Association, was held at Institute of Agriculture (Patheingyi) in Mandalay on 19 February.

Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo gave speeches.

Chairman of the association U Win Aung extended greetings to the trainees.

The commander and the minister viewed value-added vegetables and fruits and books on agricultural technology.

A total of 52 trainees are attending the one-month course.— MNA

Anti-bird flu equipment distributed

YANGON, 23 Feb — With the assistance of Japanese government, UNICEF handed over posters and pamphlets on bird flu and anti-bird flu equipment to the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department at the meeting hall of the department this morning. LBVD Deputy Director-General Dr Than Daing and Chief of Programme Communication & Information of UNICEF Ms Susan Aitkin made speeches.

Also present on the occasion were officials of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, Livestock, Feedstuff and Dairy Products Enterprise, Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation and Yangon City Development Committee.

The aim of distributing the posters, pamphlets and anti-bird flu equipment is to raise the public awareness on avian flu and promote preventive measures. The posters, pamphlets and anti-bird flu equipment will be distributed to farms, offices, hospitals, schools and markets in various townships through LBVD and the Health Department.

MNA

EDMS and Myanmar unicode training course concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb — A ceremony to conclude the EDMS and Myanmar unicode training course conducted by Myanma Posts and Telecommunications under the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs took place at the ministry here this morning.

The ceremony was attended by Minister

for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Vice-Chairman of e-National Task Force U Aung Myint and guests, the director-general of Directorate of Telecommunications and the managing director of

MPT. The minister spoke on the occasion. During the training course, EDMS (Electronics Document Management System), Myanmar unicode system and information technology for various ministries were conducted. — MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw delivers an address at concluding ceremony of EDMS and Myanmar Unicode Training Course. — CPT



MMCWA provides medicines, cash to members in Sagaing Div, Chin State

YANGON, 23 Feb — Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (MMCWA) provided cash and kind to Sagaing Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee on 18 February to be spent on building Maternity Waiting Home which is a part of the project being implemented by the Health Department, MMCWA and UNFPA.

At the meeting with officials of the committee on 18 February at the office of Kalay District Peace and Development Council, CEC member of MMCWA Dr Than Oo first explained the Maternity Waiting Home project and discussed tasks of the association. Next, Dr Than Oo handed over K 5 million, medicines and medical equipment worth K 2.5 million and two bicycles to the secretary of the supervisory committee. Afterwards, they inspected the site chosen to build Maternity Waiting Home.

On 19 February Dr Than Oo and the executive director of MMCWA, accompanied by Chairperson of Chin State MCWSC Dr Daw Khin Saw Mu and Secretary Dr Maung Maung Aung Kyaw, went to Haka Township MCWA Office and met with members of the association. At the meeting, the CEC member and executive director of MMCWA explained the duty of the members and discussed decreasing the maternal and child mortality rates. After the meeting, Dr Than Oo presented toys and medical equipment worth K 2.5 million to the nursery and delivery room of Haka Township MCWA.

During the tour of Haka, CEC Member Dr Than Oo and party visited Theravada Myoma Missionary Monastery, Khwayon Monastery and Sasana Rakkhita Monastery and donated robes and

alms to Sayadaws of the monasteries. They also visited five churches in Haka. On the visit to churches, they donated cash to the funds of churches.

On 20 February, CEC Member Dr Than Oo and party met with members of the association at Falam District PDC office in Falam and donated medicines, medical equipment and toys worth K 2.5 million.

On their visit to Falam, the CEC member and party also visited monasteries, churches and made cash donations.

MNA



CEC member of MMCWA Dr Than Oo hands over K 5 million to Secretary of Sagaing Division MCWSC Dr Kyaw Shein. — MMCWA



Foreign Affairs Minister U Nyan Win and wife being welcomed by Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam HE Pehin Datu Inderasugara Brig-Gen (B) Dato Paduka Haji Mohd Yusuf bin Abu Bakar at the reception for 23rd National Day of Brunei on 23 February 2007.

MNA

Myanmar’s first-ever artificial turf to be launched

YANGON, 23 Feb— President of the Myanmar Hockey Federation Commandant of Yangon Station Brig-Gen Myint Soe inspected progress of construction of an artificial turf in Theinbyu Hockey Pitch here this afternoon.

Vice-President U Kyaw Naing and officials, experts Mr Choutas of Polytan Co in Germany, and resident representative Mr Ahmed Hashim Munnee of Modern Builders Co in Bangladesh presented latest developments about the project.

The MHF under the Ministry of Sports and MMM Construction Co

are jointly constructing the artificial turf. The project will be completed in a few days.

The under-15 students from Bahan Township Basic Education High School (2), Tamway Township BEHS (1), Hmawby Township BEHS (Thandaybin),

North Okkalapa Township BEHS (2), Hlegu and Inndaing BEHSs, and Mingala Taungnyunt Township BEHS (1), who have been enlisted to attend 2007 summer hockey course (basic), will undergo training twice a week.

MNA



Experts of Polytan Company participate in construction of artificial turf. — MHF

Protect Irrawaddy dolphin

**Article by Zaw Win (Kyemon);
photos by WCS**

An aquatic mammal Irrawaddy Dolphin (*Orcella brevirostris*) lives in coastal waters, edges of freshwater and saltwater, and freshwater in tropical and semitropical regions in the Indo Pacific Region. It also inhabits in the waters of the Philippines to the northern part of Australian Continent and to the east of New Guinea, in the Bay of Bengal to the west and in the north-eastern part of India. It is also found in the Ayeyawady River of Myanmar, the Maha Kham River of Indonesia, the Ganges River in India, the Byamaputtara River in Bangladesh, and along

the Mekong River in Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.

Irrawaddy dolphin in Myanmar was documented in the historical records (800 AD) of T’an Dynasty of the People’s Republic of China. It was called “River Pig” in Pyu Period. The statement (19th Century) of environmental conservationist John Anderson said that Irrawaddy dolphins were found along the Ayeyawady River from Bhamo to Pyay; that Myanmar people called it “Labaing”; that it was not found in the area 30 miles upstream Bhamo; and that (due to many rock masses in water) it was also found

in the Tarpein River and the Shweli River.

Irrawaddy dolphins help the fishermen (with cast fishnet) catch fish along the Ayeyawady River in Bhamo, Katha, Htigyaing, Tagaung and Mandalay. According to some local fishermen, Irrawaddy dolphins helped only fishermen with cast fishnet catch fish; some fishermen were friendly with dolphins; when they arrived at the fishing area, they called dolphins by making sound of the lead pieces attached to the fringes of the fishnet, knocking the side of the boat repeatedly with the oar, and hitting one of the



A dolphin makes a signal to the fishermen to cast the fishnet.

sides of the boat with the sharp point part of a long wooden stick; if the dolphin agreed with the fisherman, it expressed its agreement by striking the surface of the water with its tail; then the fisherman had to get ready to cast his fishnet; when a group of fish came near the boat, the dolphin made a signal by getting its tail out of the water surface and shaking it; in that opportune time, the fisherman caught the fish; the dolphin ate the fishes that had their heads outside and their bodies inside the fishnet and the fishes that were bogged in the mud; and in that

way, they helped fishermen catch fish.

The population of Irrawaddy dolphins is now on the decrease.

It was because of their pasture area getting small and increasing use of drift fishnets in catching fish. The major cause of dolphins’ accidental death is that they got attached to the drift fishnets. In addition, mercury used in panning for gold poses danger to sustainable life of dolphins.

Therefore, it is required to seek ways for making well-known the fish catching method with the help of dolphins and to establish many drift

fishnet-free zones so as to increase the population of rare Irrawaddy dolphins.

The Fisheries Department and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) signed a memorandum of understanding in the early February 2007 for protecting Irrawaddy dolphins.

All are thus to work together in the drive for ensuring non-extinction of Irrawaddy species dolphins, which are friendly towards and helpful to human beings.

Translation: MS
Kyemon: 21-2-2007



An Irrawaddy dolphin swimming in the Ayeyawady River.

Vietnam to upgrade Mekong Delta transport

HANOI, 23 Feb — The Vietnamese Government has recently approved a local project worth 312 million US dollars to upgrade road and waterway networks in southern Mekong Delta between 2007 and 2013.

The project, to be conducted in 13 cities and provinces by the Transport Ministry, aims to improve the transport network, minimize congestion in main road and waterway routes, lower transport fees, and contribute to socioeconomic development in the delta, local newspaper Saigon Liberation reported Thursday.

The project's investment comes from loans of the World Bank and non-refundable aid of the Australian Government.

MNA/Xinhua

Renault, Nissan not interested in Chrysler

WASHINGTON, 21 Feb — Both Renault SA and Nissan Motor Co. aren't interested in buying or linking up with Daimler Chrysler AG's Chrysler Group, The Wall Street Journal reported on Wednesday.

Renault and Nissan had been seen as potential partners for Chrysler since Daimler Chrysler said last week that it is considering selling its ailing US arm or putting the division into

aren't interested in expanding their alliance to include Chrysler in any manner, either by acquiring a stake or by buying it outright.

Carlos Ghosn, who



partnerships with other auto makers.

But the report quoted people familiar with the matter as saying that Renault and Nissan

serves as chief executive of both Renault and Nissan, held unsuccessful talks about an alliance with General Motors Corp.

Internet

Tanzania to produce ethanol fuel with Sweden

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 23 Feb — Tanzania is planning to produce ethanol fuel in September this year, with the technical assistance of Sweden.

The plan was revealed during the ongoing visit by Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete to the Scandinavian country, local media reported on Thursday.

Per Carstedt, executive director of the Swedish SEKAB company, told the Tanzanian President that trials on ethanol fuel production were expected to start in Bagamoyo in Tanzania's Coast Region

later this year.

Ethanol fuel is produced from sugarcane. Mass ethanol production is expected to move southward to Tanzania's Rufiji River Valley.

The production of ethanol fuel will not only provide Tanzania with some combustible fuels but also provide the East African country with job creation opportunities by hundreds of thousands.

Survey shows 77% of S Korean women favour cosmetic surgery

SEOUL, 22 Feb — A survey shows that more than 77 per cent of South Korean women think they need plastic surgery, the Korea Times reported on Thursday.

According to a thesis by Um Hyun-shin at South Korea's Kyung Hee University's clothing

and textiles department, 77.5 per cent of a total of 810 female respondents over the age of 18 said



during a survey conducted last September that they wanted cosmetic surgery. While 62 per cent of women in their late 20s have already undergone cosmetic surgery, the survey shows.

About 70 per cent of the respondents said they have suffered stress due to their appearance, the survey said.

However, about 20.4 per cent of the respondents said people should avoid cosmetic

surgery if possible, while only 2.1 per cent said people should never have cosmetic surgery.

When asked whether they had undergone plastic surgery, 47.3 per cent said yes, while 52.7 per cent said no.

Um said cosmetic surgery includes not only big changes such as nose, double eyelid and facelifting operations, but also minor ones such as mole removal and face peeling. — Internet

Malaysia's auto sales drop in January

KUALA LUMPUR, 23 Feb — Malaysia's total vehicle sales last month stood at 35,047 units, down 14.9 per cent from the same period last year, according to the Malaysian Automotive Association (MAA) on Thursday.

The decline was due to a major decrease in sales of commercial vehicles, which slumped to 3,060 units from 12,368 units in January last year.

However, passenger car sales rose nearly 11 per cent to 31,987 units compared with the same period last year.

MAA attributed January's weak performance to the lack of consumer confidence.

Meanwhile, MAA

said that the country's vehicle production volume last month was 29,180 units, also far more lower than 40,857 units in January 2005.

MNA/Xinhua

Plans afoot to move US Embassy in London

LONDON, 23 Feb — The American Embassy in London, which has been considered a prime target for militants since the 11 September, 2001 attacks, could be moved to a new location, US officials said on Thursday.

The embassy, one of the largest US diplomatic buildings in the world housing about 750 staff in over 600 rooms on nine floors, has been situated in Grosvenor Square in the upmarket Mayfair area of the capital since 1938.

But concerns over its protection has led officials to ponder a move.

MNA/Reuters

Armed bandits rob tourists in N Tanzania

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 23 Feb — Four suspected Somali bandits ambushed a tourist vehicle and robbed five foreign tourists of cash and valuables, according to police sources on Thursday.

The tourists, four from the Czech Republic and one from Hong Kong, were not harmed by the bandits armed with AK-47 assault rifles.

The incident occurred on Tuesday afternoon in northern Tanzania between the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and the Serengeti National Park.

Arusha Deputy Regional Police Commander Wencelaus Magoha said that the ambush had occurred near the village of Malanja in the Ngorongoro District.

MNA/Xinhua

Bird flu detected in Afghanistan

KABUL, 23 Feb — The Afghan Government on Thursday confirmed the reemergence of the deadly bird influenza in the war-ravaged country.

So far two cases of bird flu have been found in Nangar and Kunar provinces in east Afghanistan, spokesman of the Health Ministry Abdullah Fahim told Xinhua.

Identifying the virus as H5N1 type, the official termed it as deadly and said only in birds it had been found and not in humans.

Over a dozen cases of bird flu had been detected in several provinces of Afghanistan including the capital Kabul early 2006 but all in birds. — MNA/Xinhua

2 killed, 37 injured in road accident in S-E Nepal

KATHMANDU, 23 Feb — Two died and 37 others were injured in a road accident in southeastern Nepal, Nepali national news agency RSS reported on Wednesday afternoon.

The accident occurred on Tuesday night at Belsot of Udayapur District, which is some 130 kilometres southeast of capital Kathmandu. The bus carrying cadres and supporters of the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) from a mass meeting overturned due to high speed of driving.

One died on the spot while another died on the way to hospital. A CPN official said that the two dead were their cadres. — MNA/Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT

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MV SEA MERCHANT VOY NO (723)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA MERCHANT VOY NO (723) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 24.2.2007 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.

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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
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India, Pakistan reaffirm
peace vows after train attack

NEW DELHI, 22 Feb—India and Pakistan vowed on Wednesday to stay committed to their peace process despite attempts to derail it and agreed to cooperate in investigating the bombing of a cross-border train that killed 68 people.

Foreign ministers of the two countries, who met days after the attack on the train from Delhi to the Pakistani city of Lahore, also signed an accord to reduce risks of accidents linked to their nuclear arsenals.

Analysts said the fact the two leaders met and signed the agreement despite the blasts was a departure from the past—when they have often indulged in mutual fingerpointing and acrimony—and signalled a new diplomatic maturity.

Otherwise, there was

little progress in resolving the disputes that have plagued relations between the historic rivals.

“The holding of the... meeting as scheduled is a reaffirmation of the commitment of both India and Pakistan to the dialogue process,” Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee told a joint news conference.

New Delhi would share leads from its investigations into the bombings with Islamabad when a joint panel set up to fight terrorism holds its first meeting in the Pakistani capital next month, he said.

His Pakistani counterpart, Khursheed Mehmood Kasuri, reiterated that the attack on the train highlighted the need for the two countries to work more closely.

MNA/Reuters

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Dated: 24 February 2007

Indonesia asks developed
nations to reduce subsidies
on agri sectors

JAKARTA, 22 Feb—Indonesia demanded developed countries to decrease their subsidies on agriculture sector, which can lead to distortion on the international trade and hamper products from developing countries to get market access there, Indonesian Trade Minister Mari Elka Pangestu said here on Wednesday.

Minister Pangestu said that the settlement on the issue of agriculture should be put on priority if the member countries of the World Trade Organization (WTO) insisted to reach a breakthrough for the resuming of the Doha Development Agenda round that has been stalled since 24 July last year.

The stall was due to a dispute among all the WTO member countries in the field of agriculture and non-agriculture market access, she said.

“The agenda now is to get market access in developed countries, because the countries provided various subsidies that lead to distortion on the trade of agriculture products, that cause our product difficult to enter their market,” Pangestu told a joint Press conference with the visiting Director-General of the WTO Pascal Lamy at her office here after a meeting.

MNA/Xinhua

China becomes major buyer,
seller of stone slabs

BEIJING, 22 Feb—China's import and export volume of stone slabs amounted to more than 3.7 billion US dollars last year, a growth of 23.3 per cent from the previous year, according to the China Chamber of Commerce of Metals, Minerals & Chemicals Importers & Exporters.

The rise is attributed to China's abundant stone resources and the fast-growing real estate sector.

Xiamen Port, in east China's Fujian Province, handled 9.3 million tons of stone slab imports and

exports, valued at 2.3 billion US dollars, more than 60 per cent of the country's total, the local chamber of commerce said. The exports stood at 1.67 billion US dollars and imports at 630 million US dollars.

Most of the imports came from India, Brazil and Spain. Xiamen has become China's largest stone trading centre. There are now more than 600 stone importers and exporters in the city, the

chamber of commerce added.

Sponsored by the China Chamber of Commerce of Metals, Minerals & Chemicals Importers & Exporters, the 7th Xiamen International Stone Slab Exhibition is due to be held from March 8 to 11 this year in the eastern coastal city. Around 850 enterprises from 30-plus countries and regions will participate in the four-day event. — MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia urged to plant
more pineapples

KUALA LUMPUR, 23 Feb — Malaysia needs to expand its pineapple plantation and raise pineapple production so as to stop imports of the fruit, a Malaysian official said on Thursday.

Currently, Malaysia has 15a,000 hectares of pineapple plantation land and 30,000 hectares more are needed by 2010 to raise the country's pineapple production to one million tons a year, Deputy Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Minister Mohd Shariff Omar said.

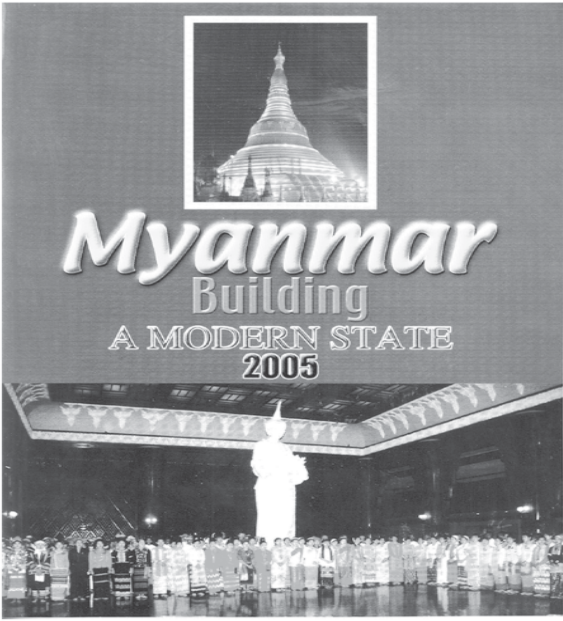
Meanwhile, Malaysia will be able to stop imports of pineapple by that time, he told reporters in the northern state of Perak. — Internet

12 Indonesia fishermen feared
dead in boat accident

JAKARTA, 22 Feb—A fishing boat with 13 fishermen onboard capsized off Indonesia's East Kalimantan Province Monday and only one survivor has been found so far, police said Wednesday.

The sole survivor identified as Amiruddin was rescued Tuesday afternoon and authorities learned that the accident occurred on Monday, said Rahardjo Siswanto, spokesman for the port security police in the provincial capital of Samarinda.

Amiruddin, who is now being treated at a local hospital, said that the boat encountered an engine problem and was swept trough by a giant wave just after midnight Monday.— MNA/Xinhua



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Air purifiers emitting ozone can cause health problems

LOS ANGELES, 21 Feb — Ozonolysis purifiers emit ozone at higher levels with the goal of oxidizing volatile organic compounds in the air, but that consequently can cause health problems as well, US researchers said Wednesday.

High levels of airborne particles can aggravate asthma and cardiovascular problems, and have been linked to high death and lung cancer rates, said the researchers at the University of California in Irvine (UCI).



Ozone Air Purifiers — INTERNET

Excess ozone can damage the lungs, causing chest pain, coughing, shortness of breath and throat irritation, according to the researchers.

They claimed that cleaning products containing chemicals that produce a lemon smell can dirty the air when used with indoor air purifiers that produce even a small amount of ozone. Ozone from the purifiers react in the air with unsaturated volatile organic compounds such as limonene — a chemical added to cleaning supplies that give them a lemon fragrance — to create additional microscopic particles, they said.

"The public needs to be aware that every air purification approach has its limitation, and ionization air purifiers are no exception," said Sergey Nizkorodov,

an assistant professor of chemistry at UCI and a co-author of the study.

"These air purifiers can not only elevate the level of ozone, a formidable air pollutant in itself, but also increase the amount of harmful particulate matter in indoor air," Nizkorodov said.

The research appeared online on Wednesday in Environmental Science and Technology.

According to Nizkorodov, certain ionic purifiers emit ozone as a byproduct of ionization that is used for charging airborne particles and electrostatically attracting them to metal electrodes.

Nizkorodov and two of his students placed an ozone-emitting air purifier in the middle of a sparsely furnished office, along with a large fan to better mix the air. At timed intervals, limonene vapor was injected in the room, and samples were taken and analyzed for ozone and particulate matter levels, Nizkorodov said.

The researchers tested two types of air purifiers, a commercial ionic purifier that emits about 2 milligrams of ozone per hour, and an ozonolysis purifier that emits about 100 milligrams of ozone per hour.

Continuous operation of the ionic purifier without limonene resulted in a slight reduction in the average particle concentration, while operation of the ozonolysis purifier resulted in no detectable effect on the particle level.

However, when limonene was added, the particle concentration shot up in both cases, on some occasions up to 100 times the original level.

Adding limonene to the room when a purifier was not operating made little change in the overall particle level, Nizkorodov said. —Internet

Kim Clijsters to get married on 14 July

BRUSSELS, 22 Feb — Kim Clijsters will get married on 14 July to her American fiancée Brian Lynch, the Belgian tennis star said on her Web site on Thursday.

Clijsters, the 2005 US Open winner, will resume training for the Sony final on Sunday. "After that, I'll focus on Eastbourne and



Belgian tennis star Kim Clijsters . —INTERNET

Ericsson tournament in Miami slated for 21 March after losing to Amelie Mauresmo of France in Antwerp Diamond Games Wimbledon," said the 23-year-old, "And right after Wimbledon, on 14 July , we are getting married."

Internet

Dead Italian dad earns pension from freezer

MILAN, 22 Feb— An Italian is suspected of hiding his dead father in a freezer for two years so he

could keep collecting the old man's pension.

Gaetano Sivieri confessed to police this week he had stashed his father's body in an underground garage near the Alpine town of Aosta, media reports said.

"I needed the money," the 63-year-old was quoted as saying by *Corriere della Sera* newspaper. News agency ANSA said he had drawn nearly 80,000 euros (105,000 US dollars) of pension.

Sivieri, who faces charges of fraud and concealing a body, said he was driving his 91-year-old father home from a health clinic in January 2005 when he got the idea of hiding the body.

"The problem is that my dad died during the trip, in the car," he was quoted as saying in *La Repubblica* newspaper.

There was a moment of panic.—MNA/Reuters

Internet

Researchers discover protein key to organ growth

WASHINGTON, 21 Feb — When amounts of a small protein called TCTP (translationally controlled tumor protein) are reduced in the cells of fruit flies, cells are smaller than normal, indicating that the protein plays a major role in the growth and proliferation of cells, said US researchers.

Baylor College of Medicine said in a report in the current issue of the journal *Nature* that work shows that TCTP plays a role in regulating Rheb (Ras homologue enriched in brain), a protein controlling growth and differentiation, and may give clues to treatment of a particular benign disease called tuberous sclerosis that is associated with the

control exerted through the same pathway. The views was given by Dr

When flies completely lack the protein, they do not live very long.

concentrated on the effect of the protein on the eyes and wings, Researchers



Kwang-Wook Choi, associate professor of molecular and cellular biology at BCM and his colleagues.

However, when flies have only a little TCTP in their cells, they are very small, said Choi. Through a series of studies that

elucidated the role of TCTP in the cell. "The studies show genetically and biochemically that TCTP is directly involved

in regulating Rheb function so that it regulates cell size as well as cell numbers. We found that in the case of dysfunction, the eyes and wings get smaller," said Choi. "If you completely knock out this function in the eye, they have no eyes."

TCTP was of interest because it is over-expressed or overabundant in cancer cells. "If you reduce the levels of TCTP, tumor cells revert to normal in the laboratory," said Choi. However, in their studies of fruit flies, Choi and his colleagues found when the protein is lacking, it has a profound effect on flies. However, too much does not cause tumor growth.

Internet

SPORTS

Holders Sevilla cruise through in UEFA Cup

MADRID, 23 Feb — Holders Sevilla disposed of Steaua Bucharest with a minimal amount of fuss winning 1-0 at home to progress to the last 16 of the UEFA Cup on Thursday.

Having secured a 2-0 lead in the away leg last week, Sevilla fielded a weakened side in the Sanchez Pizjuan and took the lead just before the break when Russian striker Alexander Kerzhakov scored with a header.

Sevilla will meet Ukraine’s Shakhtar Donetsk in the next round.

Steaua, who won the European Cup in the same stadium in 1986 beating Barcelona on penalties, dropped into the tournament after having finished third in Champions League Group E.

Visiting striker Banel Nicolita tested Andres Palop in a one-on-one midway through the first half but the Spaniards took control thereafter, and were rarely troubled.

German fullback Andreas Hinkel was busy down the right and provided the deep cross for Kerzhakov’s goal with the last move before halftime.

MNA/Reuters

12 more stadiums reopened in Italy

ROME, 23 Feb — Italy’s Interior Ministry has reopened to the public 12 more stadiums closed after a policeman was killed by rioting fans earlier this month.

In a statement on Thursday, the ministry said the grounds at Messina and Modena would be fully reopened.

Only season ticket holders will be allowed at Bergamo, Empoli, Florence, Lecce, Livorno, Perugia, Pescara, Trieste, Udine and Verona if the required safety measures are implemented.

The decision brings to 23 the number of stadiums that to varying degrees meet tougher regulations introduced by the government to stop hooliganism at matches after the policeman’s death occurred during the Serie A match between Palermo and Catania on 2 February.— MNA/Reuters



Ai Sugiyama of Japan plays a shot to Janette Husarova from Slovakia and Kveta Peschke from the Czech Republic during their doubles match at the Dubai Open tennis tournament on 22 Feb, 2007.—INTERNET

Late Diego goal secures Braga last 16 place in UEFA Cup

ROME, 23 Feb — Portugal’s Braga sent twice winners Parma tumbling out of the UEFA Cup on Thursday, a late goal by Brazilian striker Diego securing a 1-0 win to complete a 2-0 first knockout round victory.

Parma created more chances at the Tardini Stadium, but struggled to exert any sustained pressure until the 75th minute, when visiting midfielder Frechaut was sent off for a second bookable offence.

As the clock ticked down, the Italian side threw men forward, including goalkeeper Alfonso De Lucia.

But their chances of reaching the last 16 were killed off a minute from time when Diego fired in a corner from close range. Braga now meet England’s Tottenham Hotspur. — MNA/Reuters



Reigning WBO World Super Flyweight Champion Fernando Montiel (R) of Los Mochis, Mexico and Z Gorres, a Filipino boxer and his challenger, pose for photographers during a news conference in Cebu city, central Philippines on 22 Feb, 2007, two days before their world title fight dubbed as the ‘Moment of Truth’. The fight will be held at the island resort of Cebu on Saturday.—INTERNET

Haifa stun CSKA to go through in UEFA Cup

TEL AVIV. 23 Feb — Former winners CSKA Moscow bowed out of the UEFA Cup on Thursday as a 1-0 defeat in Israel sent Maccabi Haifa through to the last 16.

Haifa, who held 2005 winners CSKA to a 0-0 draw in the first leg played in Vladikavkaz last week, netted the only goal of the tie through Argentine-born Israel international Roberto Colautti in the 14th minute.

Werder subdue Ajax to secure UEFA Cup passage

AMSTERDAM, 23 Feb— Werder Bremen withstood a determined fightback from Ajax Amsterdam to move through to the last 16 of the UEFA Cup on Thursday.

Despite a 3-1 defeat in Amsterdam, the Bundesliga side progressed 4-3 on aggregate after their comprehensive first-leg win.

Four-times European champions Ajax, without the suspended Gabri and Olaf Lindembergh and a trio of injured defenders, started well and opened the scoring after two minutes when Brazilian Leonardo beat goalkeeper Tim Wiese.

But 10 minutes later unmarked Portuguese striker Hugo Almeida headed home to leave Ajax with a mountain to climb.

Almeida wasted two good chances to put Bremen in front while a deflected shot from Wesley Sneijder just missed the target for Ajax.

On the hour Klaas-Jan Huntelaar restored Ajax’s lead from Ryan Babel’s cross, and Babel made it 3-1 with a fierce shot with 16 minutes remaining.

MNA/Reuters

Top seed Peer through to last 8 in Memphis

MEMPHIS (Tennessee,) 23Feb—Topseed Shahar Peer cruised into the Memphis International quarterfinals with a 6-0, 6-3 win over American Bethanie Mattek on Thursday.

Peer, who did not

drop a game in the previous round, made it three love sets in a row before having to come back from 3-1 down in the second.

The world number 17 next plays American Meilen Tu, who beat holder Sofia Arvidsson of Sweden 6-0, 6-2.

Romanian qualifier Ioana Raluca Olaru, 16, advanced when fourth-seeded Australian Samantha Stosur retired at 5-1 down due to a virus.

Olaru next plays former world number one Venus Williams or Laura Granville.

MNA/Reuters

Henin finds form in Dubai as Mauresmo toils

DUBAI, 23 Feb — Top seed Justine Henin crushed Greece’s Eleni Daniilidou 6-0, 6-2 while number two Amelie Mauresmo struggled to a 6-3, 3-6 6-4 victory over Slovak Daniela Hantuchova in the Dubai Open quarterfinals on Thursday.

Serbia’s Jelena Jankovic put out fourth seed Martina Hingis 7-6, 6-2 and third-seeded Russian Svetlana Kuznetsova eased past Swiss Patty Schnyder 6-3, 6-4.

Henin took only 64 minutes to set up a semifinal clash with Kuznetsova, Daniilidou offering the Belgian all the encouragement she needed by dropping her first two service games.

Henin needed two hours 28 minutes to beat 16-year-old Austrian qualifier Tamira Paszek 4-6, 7-5, 6-1 on Wednesday.

MNA/Reuters

Rose keeps Mickelson victory in perspective

MARANA (Arizona), 23 Feb — Britain’s Justin Rose took great care not to make too much of just one win after upsetting Masters champion Phil Mickelson in the second round of the WGC-Accenture Match Play Championship on Thursday.

One down after nine holes at Dove Mountain’s Gallery Golf Club, Rose found form with his putter after the turn before beating the three-times major winner 3&1.

Rose, who made an unlikely par at the 15th before clinching victory on the 17th, was relieved to come out on the right side of a tight match. Rose, who ended a victory drought of more than four years on the European Tour by winning the Australian Masters in November, conceded he had been lucky not to lose the par-four 15th to Mickelson.

MNA/Reuters



Norway’s Astrid Jacobsen screams after she won the women’s sprint classical competition of the Nordic World Championships at the Sapporo dome in Japan on 22 Feb, 2007.—INTERNET

Indonesia, Malaysia vow to boost cooperation

JAKARTA, 23 Feb — Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi held talks here on Thursday, stressing to strengthen and extend

bilateral ties in the fields of trade, eliminating smoke, forest conservation in Borneo Island and labours. In a joint Press conference after the meeting at the State Palace here, Malaysian Prime

Minister Badawi said, "We agree to beef up cooperation between Indonesia and Malaysia and we hope that the cooperation and our friendship will develop."

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysian university produces paper from banana trunk

KUALA LUMPUR, 23 Feb — University of Science Malaysia (USM) has produced a versatile type of paper from banana tree trunk, local Press reported Thursday.

The paper could be used for many purposes from absorbing oil spills at sea to making lampshades, ceiling panels and table cloth, said the *New Straits Times*.

Mohamed Najib Ahmad Dawa, researcher and dean of the USM School of Arts, said the paper is 30 to 40 times stronger than normal paper.

Mohamed Najib and fellow researchers began their research in 2001 and in 2004 they got the cooperation from the Japan Foundation.

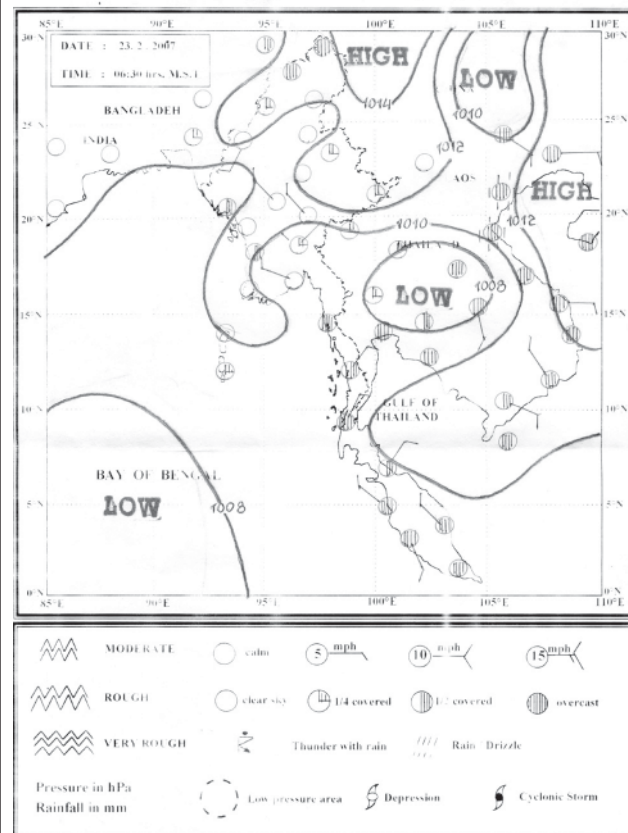
He said the paper production process is very simple and does not require any machinery. A tree trunk can produce 11 sheets of A4 paper.

Producing banana tree trunk paper has the potential to become a viable small or medium-sized industry, Mohamed Najib said, adding that local packaging industry has already shown interest in the paper. — MNA/Xinhua



Models walk on the catwalk showing a design by Thai designer Ong-Art Niramom during the Elle Fashion Week 2007 in Bangkok, Thailand, on Thursday, 22 Feb, 2007. The Fashion show was held to promote Thai textile industry.—INTERNET

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Friday, 23 February, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were about normal in Mon State and Sagaing Division, (4°C) above normal in Taninthayi Division, (7°C) below normal in Chin State, (5°C) to (6°C) below normal in Mandalay and Magway Divisions and (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Haka (0°C), Pinlaung (1°C), Heho and An (2°C) each and Lashio (3°C).

Maximum temperature on 22-2-2007 was 100°F. Minimum temperature on 23-2-2007 was 68°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 23-2-2007 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 22-2-2007 was (9.0) hours approx.

Rainfall on 23-2-2007 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 (4) mph from West at (6:30) hours MST on 23-2-2007.

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 24-2-2007: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, Mon and Rakhine States, Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas.

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 24-2-2007: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 24-2-2007: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 24-2-2007: Fair weather.



Saturday, 24 February
View on today

7:00 am

1. ကျေးဇူးရှင် မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ့မဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အစည်းတော်ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မမဟာရဋ္ဌဂူ၊ အဘိဓမ္မအဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise
3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. Nice and sweet song
5. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:05 am

6. ရွှေလင်ပန်းတံတား
7. တေးဂီတအစီအစဉ်

8:30 am

8. International news
9. Grammar made easy

8:45 am

1. Martial songs
2. Musical programme

11:30 am

3. News

11:40 am

4. Games for children

12:05 pm

5. Round up of the week's TV local news

12:15 pm

6. ကြားမြင်သုတ ပြည်ဝေရာစာပဒေသာ

12:25 pm

7. "ရိုးသားစွာကြိုးစားပါ" (ထွန်းထွန်းဝင်း၊ ဦးစောနိုင်(ရှမ်းပြည်)၊ ဦးရဲစိန်၊ ဦးကြည်စိုး(အိုင်စီ)၊ မြင့်မြင့်ခိုင်၊ ဟိန်းထက်ဇော်၊ ဝိယ၊ မောင်သူရဦး) [ဒါရိုက်တာ-မြင့်ဦး (ဝ/သ-ရန်ကုန်)]

1:00 pm

8. Dance of national races

1:20 pm

9. ဂိုဏ်းတန်းတံတား
10. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

1:45 pm

11. "မျှော်သူမမောစေချင်" (စိုးသီဟ၊ ဆုပန်ထွာ၊ နန်းကလျာလှိုင်) [ဒါရိုက်တာ-စောစန္ဒာလှိုင်]

2:00 pm

12. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
13. သက်တံ့ရောင်သံစဉ်

2:30 pm

14. ငါ့သရောက် ရေလှောင်တံ
15. International news

4:00 pm

1. Martial songs
2. Songs to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. English for everyday use

4:40 pm

4. မြူးမြူးကြွကြွ ယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက

4:50 pm

5. အဆေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ -တတိယနှစ် (စီးပွားစီမံအထူးပြု) (စီးပွားရေးပညာ)

5:05 pm

6. မြင်းခြံစိန်စိုလ်သင်းဆိုင်းအဖွဲ့ ဖျော်ဖြေခန်း

5:20 pm

7. Musical programme

5:30 pm

8. ရသပေါ်လွင် သရုပ်ဆောင်လွင်ပြင်

6:00 pm

9. Evening news
10. အလှူရှာမယ်လှူကမ္ဘာဝယ်

6:30 pm

11. Weather report
12. တွေ့ဆုံဆွေးနွေးရေး တွေ့ဆုံဆွေးနွေးရေးဟုဆိုကာ (အပိုင်း-၅)

7:10 pm

13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "သမားတော်" (အပိုင်း-၄)

8:00 pm

14. News
15. International news

8:45 pm

16. Weather report
17. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "လှပသောနေ့ရက်များ" (အပိုင်း-၂၇)

9:00 pm

18. The next day's programme



Saturday, 24 February
Tune in today

8:30 am Brief news

8:35 am Music: -Get real

8:40 am Perspectives

8:45 am Music: -Mysterious girl

8:50 am National news / Slogan

9:00 am Music: -Venus

9:05 am International news

9:10 am Music: -It's in his kissess

1:30 pm News / Slogan

1:40pm Music at your request/Lanch time music: -Always on my mind

9:00pm ASEAN news

9:10 pm Article

9:20 pm Myanma culture ... Dr Khin Maung Nyunt

9:30 pm Souvenirs

9:45 pm News / Slogan

10:00 pm PEL

19th Plenary Meeting of fifth 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee commences

YANGON, 23 Feb — The 19th Plenary Meeting of fifth 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee was held at the Convocation Hall of State Pariyatti Sasana University on Kaba Aye Hill, here, this morning.

Present at the meeting were Chairman Magway Maha Withoktayama Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Kumara and member Sayadaws, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Adviser U Arnt Maung, Director-General U Myo Kyaw of Religious Affairs Department, Director-General Dr Myo Myint of Department

for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana and officials.

The Chairman Magway Sayadaw, who presided over the meeting, delivered a Saraniya Ovadakatha.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko supplemented on the religious affairs.

Joint-Secretary Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Viçara and member Sayadaws submitted reports on undertakings of the branch of SSMNC during its assignment period.

Next, members of the SSMNC discussed Viniçchaya, religious and education sectors.

(See page 8)

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



The 19th Plenary Meeting of Fifth 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee in progress at State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon). — MNA

Pearl auction sees spiral upward sales

YANGON, 23 Feb — A total of 95 lots were sold today and 40 pearl lots yesterday at Myanmar Pearl Auction-2007 organized by Myanmar Pearl Enterprise of the Ministry

of Mines.

The auction at Dusit Inya Lake Hotel in Mayangon Township is expected to attract over 30 foreign merchants. A total of 515 pearl lots and

94,319 piece of pearls weighing 56,188.55 momme will be auctioned.

The Myanmar Pearl Auction-2007 continues tomorrow from 8 am to 4 pm. — MNA



Merchants from abroad seen at Myanmar Pearl Auction-2007. — MNA

ARTICLE

“There are over 1,000 members in the association. At the association meeting the natives who have become successful business persons sought means and ways to serve the township’s interest. Then we all got an idea to treat eye patients free of charge. Thirty-four persons including green gram merchants presented K 14 million for the campaign”, said an entrepreneur of the association.

PAGE 7

KHIN Oo

Protect Irrawaddy dolphin



ARTICLE BY ZAW WIN (KYEMON); PHOTOS BY WCS

PAGE 10