

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

**Vice-Senior General Maung Aye addresses
Graduation Parade of 5th Intake of DSINPS
Only Union Spirit is true patriotic spirit that
entire national people must uphold forever
Tatmadaw, with its primary duty to defend and protect
the country, cannot tolerate disintegration of the Union**



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye addresses the Graduation Parade of the 5th Intake of Defence Services Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Science.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Jan— *The following is the full text of the speech delivered by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye at the Graduation Parade of the 5th Intake of Defence Services Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Science.*

Comrades,

On the occasion of the Graduation Ceremony of the 5th Intake of Defence Services Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Science, I shall speak a few words of note on matters of importance.

Comrades,

The aims of the Defence Services Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Science is to produce nursing, pharmaceutical and paramedical professionals with the physical and

intellectual prowess to serve in the National Tatmadaw and safeguard Our Three Main National Causes.

Ours is the patriotic Tatmadaw that will forever safeguard Our Three Main National

Causes—Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity and Perpetuation of Sovereignty. Our Three Main National Causes constitute the vital national interest of over

(See page 8)

With the large number of nationalities in our country, the disintegration of the Union would mean splintering and general weakness, which may even lead to the loss of nationhood.



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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 8 January, 2008

Actively take part in national and regional development tasks

In an effort to enhance the socio-economic life of the people the government is implementing tasks for development of border areas and national races. In this regard, it has built roads and bridges, infrastructures for development of energy, communications, education and health sectors, spending a large amount of funds.

As better transport plays a pivotal role in regional development, priority is being given to construction of roads and bridges. As a result, the length of tarred roads, concrete roads, gravel road and earth roads has increased to over 70,000 miles from over 20,000 miles in 1988. With better transport the national brethren in different regions are able to deal with one another in various sectors, thereby contributing to improvement of the socio-economic life of local people.

With a view to boosting efficiency of national race youths more basic education schools have been opened, and altogether over 180,000 students are now pursuing education at these facilities. In the meantime, 27 national race youth development training schools which provide free education have also been opened.

Likewise, remarkable progress has been made in agriculture, economic and public relations sectors of border areas. And hospitals, dispensaries, rural health care services as well as 200-bed specialist hospitals have been opened to provide health care for national brethren.

The emergence of a string of socio-economic infrastructures in border regions is attributable to peace and stability in the region and friendship, unity and mutual respect of national races.

At a time when steps are being taken in all aspects for development of border regions the entire national people are to actively take part in national development tasks. Only then, will the development of border areas be possible.



U Aung Maw Thein of MDG Co Ltd and Actor Lwin Moe exchange documents of Royal Myanmar Teamix.—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

Foreign Minister arrives back from India

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Jan — Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win arrived back here by air yesterday morning after paying a goodwill visit to the Republic of India from 1 to 4 January 2008 at the invitation of Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India Shri Pranab Mukharjee.

During his visit, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, accompanied by Ambassador of Myanmar to India U Kyi Thein and members of the Myanmar delegation, paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister of the Republic of India Dr Manmohan Singh on 2 January at the latter's office in New Delhi.

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India Shri Pranab Mukharjee cordially discussed issues of mutual interest to further strengthen the existing friendly relations and bilateral cooperation between the two countries at the Hyderabad House on 2 January.



Minister U Nyan Win calls on Prime Minister of India Dr Manmohan Singh.—MNA

Also present were the cabinet ministers, secretaries of the departments concerned of India and former Indian Ambassadors to Myanmar.

Minister U Nyan Win, accompanied by Ambassador U Kyi Thein and members of Myanmar delegation, paid a courtesy call on Vice-President of the Republic of India Shri Mohammed Hamid Ansari at the latter's Office in New Delhi on 2 January.

On 1 January, Minister U Nyan Win

visited the Embassy of the Union of Myanmar in New Delhi where he met with the staff of the Myanmar Embassy and the Office of the Military Attache and inspected the functions of the Embassy.

On 3 January, the Minister and party left New Delhi for Gaya by Special Indian Air Force Aircraft and paid homage to Mahabodhi Mahavihara Temple and visited Myanmar Buddhist Monastery in Budha Gaya.

On 4 January, Minister U Nyan Win and party left Gaya for

Kolkata by Special IAF Aircraft and visited the Consulate-General of the Union of Myanmar in Kolkata where he met with staff and inspected the functions of the Consulate-General.

Members of the Myanmar delegation, Director-General U Pe Thann Oo, Deputy Director-General U Kyaw Tin and Assistant Director Daw Cho Cho Soe of the Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also arrived back on the same flight.

MNA

Agreement inked for filming "Trip to Myeik archipelagos" episodes

YANGON, 7 Jan — An agreement was reached regarding the assistance of Royal Myanmar Teamix for filming 'Lwin Moe making a trip to Myeik archipelagos' episodes. The agreement signing ceremony took place at the office of Myanmar Distribution Group Co Ltd at Myittamon Housing in Natchaung Ward, Tamway Township this morning and attended by MDG Managing Director U Aung Maw Thein, Actor Lwin Moe and company staff.

Sale & Marketing Consultant U Min Tala Nyan extended greetings and U Aung Maw Thein and Lwin Moe signed the agreement and exchanged the documents. The cast members are altogether 24 and it will take about one month to make the trip.

Royal Myanmar Teamix has been produced since 2001 by using advanced technology to ensure a whole some product. — MNA



Minister U Nyan Win meets Minister of External Affairs of India Mr Shri Pranab Mukharjee.

MNA

Bhutto's party to seek UN probe if wins power

KARACHI, 7 Jan—The party of slain Pakistan opposition leader Benazir Bhutto will call on the United Nations for an inquiry into her assassination if it forms a government after elections next month, a party spokesman said on Sunday.

The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has aired deep suspicions over the motives and identities of Bhutto's assassins, who launched a gun and bomb attack against her at the end of a campaign rally in the garrison city

of Rawalpindi on 27 December. "If the PPP comes to power, we will ask the UN to hold an inquiry," said Farhatullah Babar, a senior official in Bhutto's party, who accuses the government of shielding the culprits.

Musharraf: Scotland Yard to be provided information

The detectives from Scotland Yard, now in Pakistan to assist with the probe into the recent assassination of Benazir Bhutto, would be provided

maximum support and information, Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf said on Saturday.

"Maximum support and information would be provided to the Scotland Yard team for them to carry out the investigation independently," local TV Dawn News quoted Musharraf as saying.

The six-member Scotland Yard team arrived in Islamabad on Friday upon the request of Pakistan to help local investigation authorities facilitate the probe.

MNA/Reuters/Xinhua

A newly-built ten-storey flagship store of the Italian jeweller Bulgari called "Bulgari Ginza Tower" is seen at Tokyo's Ginza shopping and amusement district on 30 Dec, 2007.

INTERNET



DPRK blames other countries' delay in fulfilling commitments

PYONGYANG, 6 Jan—The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) said on Friday the delay in the implementation of the agreement stemming from the six-party talks was caused by other countries' delay in fulfilling their commitments under the accord.

Targets set in the 3 October agreement had not been met, except on the disablement of nuclear facilities, when the 31 December deadline set in the accord expired, a spokesman of the DPRK's Foreign Ministry said, quoted by the official *Korean Central News Agency*. "The unloading of spent fuel rods, scheduled to be completed in about 100 days, is underway as the last process," said the spokesman.

Regarding the nuclear declaration and alleged nuclear cooperation between the DPRK and Syria, the spokesman said the DPRK had sent the United States a report on the nuclear declaration in November and denied any links with Syria on nuclear cooperation.

MNA/Xinhua



India's Defence Minister A K Antony inspects a guard of honour at the Malaysian Ministry of Defence in Kuala Lumpur on 7 Jan, 2008. —INTERNET

Iran to test fly third generation of home-built "Saeqeh"

TEHERAN, 7 Jan—A senior Iranian commander said on Saturday that the country will test fly the third generation of its home-built *Saeqeh* (Thunder) fighter jet in less than three months, local *Fars* news agency reported.

"The third generation of *Saeqeh* fighter jets were produced this year and will be tested this year as well," Brigadier-General Amir Ahmad Mighani, commander of the Air Force, was quoted as saying.

He was referring to the current Iranian year,

which ends on 19 March, 2008. Mighani said that the Iranian Air Force has gained the technology to produce the fourth and fifth generation of *Saeqeh* fighter jets that are able to evade radars.

"Iran will launch production of the fourth and fifth generation of *Saeqeh* fighter jets in the near future and these planes which will be radar-evading will start their flights next year," Mighani said. —MNA/Xinhua

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Two slain US soldiers were killed by Iraqi soldier

BAGHDAD, 6 Jan—An Iraqi soldier opened fire on US troops during a joint patrol in the northern city of Mosul on 26 December, killing two and wounding three others along with a civilian interpreter, Iraqi and US officials said on Saturday.

US military spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel James Hutton said it was not

clear why the Iraqi soldier had opened fire, but two Iraqi generals told *Reuters* the attacker had links to Sunni Arab insurgent groups and had been detained.

"The incident occurred as US and Iraqi Army soldiers were conducting operations to establish a combat outpost," he said.

It is believed to be the first reported incident in

which an Iraqi soldier has deliberately killed US servicemen since the US-led invasion in 2003.

In response, the Iraqi Army has tightened screening of new recruits in the 2nd Division, which controls the Mosul region, and is carrying out more thorough background checks on serving soldiers, the generals said.

MNA/Xinhua

Alaska State Troopers and US Coast Guard look over partially submerged wreckage of an aircraft on 5 Jan, 2008 near the Kodiak, Alaska Airport that crashed on 4 Jan, 2008, killing at least five of the 10 people on board.

INTERNET



Bomb blasts marking Iraq Army Day holiday

BAGHDAD, 7 Jan—A suicide bomber killed nine people when he blew himself up near a ceremony marking Iraq's national Army Day holiday in central Baghdad on Sunday, the latest in an upsurge of suicide attacks.

The attack was the worst in a series of bombings in the capital. Police said three people were killed in the northern district of Qahira when a car bomb blew up outside a restaurant. One person was killed in three blasts in central Nahda.

While overall levels of violence in Iraq are down, US military figures show that suicide bomb attacks have increased slightly since reaching a low in October. —MNA/Reuters

French newspaper says Sarkozy could wed on 9 Feb

PARIS, 7 Jan — French President Nicolas Sarkozy could marry Italian singer and former model Carla Bruni early next month, a French newspaper reported on Sunday, quoting unidentified sources.

In a report widely picked up on French radio and television, the *Journal du Dimanche* said Sarkozy had given Bruni a diamond engagement ring and received a watch from the exclusive Swiss watch maker Patek Philippe in exchange.

“They are getting married! February 9?” the newspaper said in a front-page headline over a photograph of Sarkozy

and Bruni, both in sunglasses, visiting the ancient site of Petra in Jordan at the weekend.

It said a wedding date had been set for Friday, 8 February or more probably Saturday, 9 February.

Sarkozy’s office declined to comment.

The report coincided with the release of an opinion poll in the daily *Le Parisien*, showing a seven-point

drop in Sarkozy’s approval ratings, mainly because of concern over the economy but in part also because his private life.

Stephane Rozes, head of the CSA polling institute which carried out the survey, told *Le Parisien* that older voters in particular appeared to have been turned off by coverage of Sarkozy’s private life.

MNA/Reuters



Students register for college entrance examination on network under the instruction of their teachers at No 55 Middle School in Beijing, capital of China, on 4 Jan, 2008. The register kicked off on Friday runs to 10 Jan, in Beijing. The 2008 College entrance examination in Beijing is scheduled on 7 June and 8 June.—INTERNET

Storm buffets California, millions lose power

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE (California), 6 Jan— A fierce storm swept through central and northern California on Friday, cutting power to more than one million homes and businesses, closing major roads and cancelling flights at several airports.

The storm may dump as much as six to eight feet (1.8 to 2.5 metres) of snow through the weekend in the higher elevations of the Sierra Nevada, and up to two feet (0.6 metre) at the popular tourist spot of Lake Tahoe, forecasters with the US National Weather Service said.

Southern California braced for possible flash floods and mudslides in areas that burned in the October wildfires. Total rainfall could reach five inches (12.5 centimetres) in Los Angeles and 10 inches (25 centimetres) in the mountains of Southern California — the most significant rainfall in the region since January 2005, and on the heels of the driest year on record.

“It is very important, since there is so much land that has burned, that we are prepared for mudslides,” Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger said after being briefed by the Office of Emergency Services.

There have been no reports of deaths or serious injuries, the office said. —MNA/Reuters

A large flock of gray cranes is found resting on the wetland of Yellow River in Zhengzhou, central China’s Henan Province on 4 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET



US Democratic fundraiser gets three years in jail

SAN FRANCISCO, 6 Jan — Democratic fundraiser and political donor Norman Hsu was sentenced on Friday to three years in prison after a

California judge rejected his bid to dismiss a 16-year-old fraud conviction. Hsu, who has been in custody since his arrest in Colorado in September

after he failed to appear at an earlier hearing in the case.

He will be transferred to a state prison to serve his sentence.

Hsu was charged with stealing about one million US dollars from investors in a business fraud.

He also faces federal charges in New York alleging he swindled investors in a 60-million-US-dollar fraud and made illegal donations to US political campaigns.

His arrest prompted Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton’s campaign to return 850,000 US dollars in contributions last year.

MNA/Reuters



A motorist drives through the snow in the grounds of Parliament Buildings, during a heavy snow fall in East Belfast, Northern Ireland, on 4 Jan, 2008. Snow and bitter freezing winds have swept across large parts of the UK and Ireland.—INTERNET

Two strong quakes strike off Canada’s west coast

WASHINGTON, 7 Jan — Two strong 6.5-magnitude earthquakes struck off Canada’s west coast early on Saturday, the US Geological Survey said.

The quakes were both at a depth of 6.2 miles (10 kilometres) in the Queen Charlotte Islands region, and followed a smaller earlier 5.3-magnitude temblor in the area. The larger quakes were 137 (221 kilometres) and 146 miles (235 kilometres) west north-west of Port Hardy, British Columbia, the USGS said on its Website. There were no immediate reports of damage, or warnings from the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre in Hawaii. — MNA/Reuters

Five injured in supermarket roof collapse in Uruguay

MONTEVIDEO, 7 Jan—Roof of a supermarket in the downtown of this Uruguayan capital collapsed on Saturday morning, leaving five people injured, said the city’s firemen.

A concrete girder of the roof 121 metre long and two metres wide, collapsed suddenly, with fallen stones damaging facilities and injuring staffs and customers.

The firemen have helped the stranded people out and started to probe the cause of the accident.—MNA/Xinhua

UAE mulls issuing government bonds

ABU DHABI, 6 Jan—The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is mulling issuing its first government bonds, local newspaper *Khaleej Times* reported on Saturday.

The bonds are aimed “to develop tools for the stability of the financial markets and an additional tool for monetary policy”, the UAE Central Bank Governor Sultan bin

Nasser Al Suweidi said.

The bonds that the UAE government plans to issue include both conventional and Islamic ones with maturities of up to 30 years, he added.

The issuance of government bonds will help the Central Bank to compete with bank deposits to “take liquidity straight from the general public,” the official said.

With a record high inflation rate of 9.8 per cent in 2007, the UAE government is seeking additional ways of fighting inflation.

Suweidi ruled out the possibility of raising banks’ reserve requirements, saying that the UAE’s current levels are already higher than most of other Gulf countries.

MNA/Xinhua



A Schoolboy slides down the hill on a homemade sled after a heavy snowfall in Tbilisi on 5 Jan, 2008.

INTERNET

US dollar dragged down by soft job data

NEW YORK, 6 Jan—The US dollar dropped against most major currencies Friday after a government report showed weaker-than-expected job growth and a rise in the unemployment rate in December.

The Labour Department reported that employers raised payrolls by only 18,000 and that the nation’s unemployment rate rose to its highest level since November 2005.

The report deepened recession fears and increased investors’ sentiment that another Federal Reserve interest cut was forthcoming.

The dollar sank against the Japanese yen and the Swiss franc as investors wary of global fallout from

US economic troubles cut back on risky carry trades.

The euro was worth 1.4773 dollars in late New York trading, up from 1.4744 dollars Thursday. The pound edged down to 1.9723 dollars from 1.9732 dollars.

The dollar fell to 108.45 yen from 109.33 yen late Thursday, and dipped to 1.1056 Swiss francs from 1.1114 Swiss francs. It rose to 1.0018 Canadian dollars Friday from 99.04 Canadian cents.

MNA/Xinhua

Vehicle sales to rise at slower pace in Brazil this year

RIO DE JANEIRO, 6 Jan—Sales of vehicles in Brazil are expected to increase at a slower pace in 2008, the National Motor Vehicle Distribution Federation (Fenabrave) announced Friday.

The group said it expects 2,811,159 lightweight automobiles to be sold this year, up 20.3 per cent from the total amount in 2007. Last year, car sales rose by 27.8 per cent, to 2,349,059 units, compared to 2006. Fenabrave foresaw the same tendency in the sales of other types of vehicles, estimating a rise of 18.55 per cent in truck sales in 2008, against a 30.32-per cent rise in 2007.—MNA/Xinhua

China’s toy exports grow in first 10 months of ’07

BEIJING, 7 Jan — China exported 7.07 billion US dollars worth of toys in the first 10 months of 2007, representing a growth of 20.1 per cent over the same period of the previous year.

Customs sources said the growth was 13.9 percentage points higher than the year-earlier level, despite the fact that Chinese-made products had been smeared more or less by some product recalls.

Sales in processing trade made up 4.05 billion US dollars, or 57.3 per cent of the total toy export value. The amount was 18.9 per cent higher than a year earlier.

The 10-month period saw China’s toy export to European and North American markets recover and that to emerging markets grow rapidly.—MNA/Xinhua



Pakistan power shortage hits steel, textile mills

ISLAMABAD, 6 Jan—Pakistan has shut all steel melting units across the country for two weeks and ordered hundreds of textile mills to reduce operations to cope with an acute power shortage, a government official said on Saturday.

All business and shopping centres have also been told to close early.

Pakistan is suffering a power deficit of up to 3,600 Megawatts due to low water levels at major reservoirs and damage to two main power lines inflicted during the violence that erupted after opposition leader Benazir Bhutto was killed on 27 December.

“All steel melting units will remain closed for two weeks,” said Tahir Bas-harat Cheema, a senior official at state-owned Pakistan Electric Power

Company. “The government has also told textile mills to close operations for five hours in the evening.”

MNA/Reuters

A Chuan opera actress performs at a theatre in Suining, Sichuan Province on 5 Jan, 2008. Picture taken on 5 Jan, 2008.

INTERNET

ECONOMIC NEWS



Workers prepare for the opening of the Consumer Electronics Show at the Intel booth at the Las Vegas Convention Centre in Las Vegas, on 6 Jan, 2008. The CES, the world’s largest consumer technology trade show, starts on Monday. —INTERNET



Street performers dance in commemoration of Three Kings Day in Havana, on 6 Jan, 2008.— INTERNET

Teenager stabbed to death in London

LONDON, 7 Jan — A teenager was stabbed to death and two others were injured in an attack in southeast London in the early hours, police said on Saturday.

The victim, who has not been named, was pronounced dead at a block of flats in Erith, while the others were taken to the Royal London Hospital. One of the youths is in a serious but stable condition and the second has been dis-

charged. All three are in their mid- to late-teens.

“We are investigating the circumstances of the incident,” the Metropolitan Police said.

No more details of the attack or the victims were released. An 18-year-old boy was fatally stabbed in north London on New Year’s Day. His death came days after Nassirudeen Osawe, 16, was killed in a knife attack at a bus stop in Islington.

MNA/Reuters

Fire damages Mormon church in Finland

HELSINKI, 7 Jan — A blaze broke out at a Mormon church in Tempere city, southwest of Finland Saturday morning, the Finnish Broadcasting Company YLE reported.

No one was injured in the blaze, but the church was mostly destroyed. Damages are expected to reach 3 million to 4 million euros (4.5 million to 6 million US dollars), said local police.

The fire was suspected to be caused by arson.

A total of 17 fire units and more than 70 fire-fighters have been working to put out the blaze, said police.

About 86 per cent of Finns are Christians.

MNA/Xinhua

Italian Air Force grounds 70 fighter jets

ROME, 7 Jan — The Italian Air Force has grounded 70 AMX fighter jets indefinitely for a safety investigation, Air Force spokesman Colonel Amedeo Magnani said Saturday. He said the AMX has had 12 accidents since going into service in late 1989 and has caused

five deaths.

The grounding order followed an investigation by Sardinian prosecutors into the 2005 crash of an AMX in a field of artichokes on the island, the Italian news agency ANSA said.

“There are elements to contend that the AMX

fighter jets are dangerous, therefore not suitable for flight,” ANSA quoted Cagliari Chief Prosecutor Mauro Mura as saying.

The fighter jets, manufactured jointly by Alenia Aermacchi and Embraer, can carry a weapon payload of 3,800 kilos. — MNA/Xinhua

UNSG lays out challenging agenda for 2008

NEW YORK, 6 Jan — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Friday put peacekeeping, pre-emptive diplomacy, climate change, improving the lot of poor countries and internal reform on top of the body’s priorities in 2008.

Addressing staff in a meeting held at the UN Headquarters, Ban called all UN colleagues to remember the great expectations the world placed on the organization.

“The world recognizes the indispensable nature of the United Nations.

Let us take heart from the

fact that multilateralism is alive and well and in greater demand than ever,” Ban said.

He said he would strengthen the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in 2008 in order to “deliver more results on the ground”.

MNA/Xinhua

Large amount of drugs seized in Turkey

ANKARA, 7 Jan — Turkish police seized a large amount of drugs in Turkey’s biggest city of Istanbul and the northwest of the country, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported on Saturday.

The report said that the Turkish police stopped a truck at Kapikule Border Post in Edirne Province linking Greece and found 66.31 kilos of heroin in 129 packets in the truck, adding that the police detained 16 suspected people.

In another operation, the Turkish police searched a small truck at Kucukcemece District in Istanbul and confiscated about 250 kilos of hashish, said Anatolia, adding two suspected people were detained. Turkey is a key transit route for smuggling drugs from Asia and the Middle East to markets in western Europe.

MNA/Xinhua

Somali gunmen kidnap 2 Libyan diplomats

MOGADISHU, 7 Jan — Somali gunmen kidnapped the acting Libyan ambassador and a colleague as they shopped in Mogadishu’s busy Bakara market on Saturday, embassy staff said.

At the same time, Parliament swore in 15 new ministers and five deputies in the south-central town of Baidoa, members of a new Cabinet designed to help the interim government build solid institutions before elections due in late 2009.

Kidnapping was already common in Somalia before a year-long insurgency pitting Islamist militants against the government and its Ethiopian military backers broke out, resulting in fighting in which at least 6,500 people have been killed.

The kidnappers grabbed acting Ambassador Naji Ahmed Subeyr and his chief of staff Fatahi Mohamed Mustafa as they shopped in the market, according to embassy officials.

MNA/Reuters



A man walks along a snow-clad path in Batal area of northern Pakistan, 200 km (125 miles) from Islamabad, on 6 Jan, 2008. INTERNET



People look at a road damaged as a result of a mudslide in Oakland, California on 5 Jan, 2008. Storms battered the western United States on Saturday with strong winds, heavy rains and a blanket of snow that caused widespread power outages, a levee break in Nevada and two deaths in California.—INTERNET

Minister inspects construction of roads and bridges

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Jan— Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun and officials of Public Works inspected the maintenance of Phalanyon Bridge on Minbu-Minhla road, completion of 252-foot Ywathaya bridge and maintenance of Mann Creek Bridge, Mone Creek Bridge and Salin Creek Bridge (Nwetamai) on Minbu-Salin-Seikphyu road on 5 January.

On 6 January, the minister and party arrived at the site of Yin Creek Bridge on Magway-Taungdwingyi-Myothit-Natmauk road. He instructed the personnel to choose the axis of bridge after careful survey of the waterway.

The minister and party inspected construction of roads and bridges along Pyinmana-Taungnyo-Taungdwingyi road. On arrival at the briefing hall at Gwaygyo, deputy superintending engineer U San Wai of road construction special project group-5 reported on progress of work and future plans. The minister called for completion of the works as soon as possible in the open season.

The minister also heard the report by superintending engineer U Tint San at the briefing hall of Yangon-Mandalay highway road project and he fulfilled the requirements. —MNA

Deputy Health Minister inspects township, station hospitals in Bago Division (West)

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Jan — National Health Committee Secretary Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo held a meeting with doctors, nurses and health staff, members of Township Health Committee and members of social organizations at Paukhaung People's Hospital in Bago Division (West) on 31 December.

He inspected patient wards, operation theatre, drugstore and delivery room of the hospital.

He proceeded to Sinhmeswe Station Hospital, Thegon People's Hospital and Padigon Station Hospital in Thegon Township and met with doctors, nurses and health staff, members of Township Health Committee and members of social organizations. He also looked into patient wards, operation theatre, drugstore and delivery room of the hospital. — MNA

Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe speaks at a ceremony to open general banking services(officer level) training course.

F & R



Belarus President felicitates Senior General Than Shwe

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Jan— The following is the message sent by Mr Alexander Lukashenko, President of the Republic of Belarus, to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the people of the Republic of Belarus and on my own behalf, I wish to extend to Your Excellency our sincere congratulations on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

On this happy occasion, I would like to express our firm conviction to make joint efforts for the establishment of multi-sectoral cooperation between our two countries.

Please accept, Excellency, my best wishes for your personal good health and for the peace, progress and prosperity of the people of Myanmar.

Education Minister inspects universities, schools

YANGON, 7 Jan — Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein met officials of Yangon University of Distance Education yesterday and discussed the reports of the officials concerned.

The minister and party went to Yangon Institute of Education and discussed conducting research for promotion of national education.

They proceeded to Yangon University of Foreign Languages and met faculty members. The minister stressed the importance of teaching aids in teaching languages. He observed teaching aids of different languages on display.



Minister Dr Chan Nyein visits No 2 Basic Education High School in Mayangon Township.—EDUCATION

The minister also visited No 4 Basic Education High School and No 6 Basic Education Middle School in Hline

Township, No 5 BEMS and No 2 BEHS in Mayangon Township and No 1 BEHS in Insein Township. He met the

respective school heads and inspected learning of matriculation students at the schools.

MNA

General Banking Services (officer level) Training Course opened

YANGON, 7 Jan— Banks Supervisory Committee opened General Banking Services (officer level) Training Course No 11 at Myanmar Banks Association here today with an address by Chairman of Banks

Supervisory Committee Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe.

The deputy minister said the course is being opened with the aim of boosting efficiency and widening the scope of banking knowledge of bank officers, adding that bank staff are to keep pace with changes and developments in order that they can realize international banking services that are experiencing rapid development in addition to abiding by the law, disciplines, rules and regulations of banking services. And the deputy

minister urged the trainees to maintain the good results of previous courses opened by BSC and to try their best for further development.

A total of 40 trainees from State-owned and private banks are attending the 10-week course.

The opening ceremony was also attended by Vice-Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Maung Maung Win, Banks Supervisory Committee members and directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises of the ministry and instructors.—MNA

Results-Based Leadership Talks 12 Jan

YANGON, 6 Jan— Under the arrangements of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation and the Myanmar Shrimp Association and sponsorship of the Ayeyawady Fingerling Enterprise, Professor Dr Aung Tun Thet will give talks on Results-Based Leadership at Thiri Annawa hall of MFF on Bayintnaung Road, West Gyogon Ward in Insein Township here at 2:30 pm on 12 January. Those interested may attend the talks.

MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presents Excellent in Study Award to trainee Phyothiha Lwin.—MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presents Excellent in Training Award to trainee WaiPhyo Aung.—MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presents Best Trainee Award to trainee NyiNyi Aung.— MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye addresses...

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a hundred national races that reside in our country together.

Our national people are spread all over the country in every region and live in harmony.

In the period immediately following the gaining of Independence, several minorities with strong racial and geographical prejudices engaged in advocacy action that seemed to have been motivated by a desire for racial boundaries, with the result that the Union faced frequent threats of disintegration. With the large number of nationalities in our country, the disintegration of the Union would mean splintering and general weakness, which may even lead to the loss of nationhood. Our national people now possess a mature political outlook and are greatly concerned about threats of national disintegration, recognizing that only the Union Spirit is the true patriotic spirit that the entire national people must uphold forever. The Tatmadaw, with its primary duty to defend and protect the country, cannot tolerate disintegration of the Union and has the tradition of upholding Our Three Main National Causes. You comrades are to carry on the fine traditions of the Tatmadaw.

Comrades,

In addition to being nursing and paramedical professionals, you must also be the combat Tatmadawmen defending and protecting the lives and property of the people. You must have the command capability to lead your unit in combat. For this reason, you have received military training and training in military leadership at the platoon commander level. Later, you will also receive infantry platoon commander training, infantry company commander training and infantry battalion commander training, as appropriate to your rank.

Moreover, in serving the national defence duty, you comrades must have the Five Basic Attributes: morale, discipline, loyalty, unity and the possession of the Three Capabilities.

As hardship and adversity are unavoidable in the course of military duty, good morale is the most basic requirement. With good morale comes courage and bravery as well as the willingness to make sacrifices and be daring. You will also be industrious, preserving and resilient in the face of hardship. As for discipline, it is the cornerstone of the armed forces. As

you comrades must conduct yourselves to maintain the dignity of the Medical Corps, you need to be exemplary in matters of discipline. Moreover, your allegiance to the State and the people have to be unswerving so that your resolve will be unshakable. If you have the sense of comradeship based on mutual goodwill and attachment, as you take your daily oaths, you

will have strong unity and be prepared to give up your own lives for one another on the battlefield. With pessimists who wish to see the disintegration of the Union constantly scheming to dismember the Tatmadaw, you comrades need attentive awareness in matters of unity. Unrelenting efforts must also be made to fulfil the last of the five Basic Attributes, which is the possession of the Three Capabilities—The Military

Capability, the Administrative Capability and the Organizational Capability—through the combination of thorough training and accumulated experience.

Comrades,

Your role in the building of the strong and capable modern patriotic Tatmadaw will be to promote health care. For this reason, the Defence Services Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Science

(See page 9)

In addition to being nursing and paramedical professionals, you must also be the combat Tatmadawmen defending and protecting the lives and property of the people.



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects graduate companies of the 5th Intake of Defence Services Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Science.—MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye addresses...

(from page 8)

offers programmes leading to Bachelor of Science in Nursing, and Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy degrees as well as specialized programmes in diagnosis, radiology, physiotherapy and so on, leading to the degree of Bachelor of Science in Paramedical Science. A Master's Degree Programme in Nursing has



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye meets with the three outstanding trainees and their parents.— MNA



also been established and the qualified graduates will have an opportunity to continue studying for their Doctorates in Nurs-

ing.

Nursing is indispensable in the health sector. It is the kind of duty that only those with a noble

heart can fulfil, who possess strong compassion and sympathy, keen goodwill, resilience in the face of hardship and selflessness.

As hardship and adversity are unavoidable in the course of military duty, good morale is the most basic requirement. With good morale comes courage and bravery as well as the willingness to make sacrifices and be daring.

Nursing is indispensable in the health sector. It is the kind of duty that only those with a noble heart can fulfil, who possess strong compassion and sympathy, keen goodwill, resilience in the face of hardship and selflessness.

Living up to the motto, "Competent and helpful members of the Medical Corps", you comrades should also provide health care to the people while playing a role in fulfilling the national defence duty through your professional knowledge and expertise. Wherever you are assigned duties, you should care for the local population as if they were your own parents.

In line with the policy of Tatmadaw for the People, you must serve the people. You must engage in public service by participating in the Rural Areas Development Plan.

Just as you comrades who are the People's offspring provide care to the people, the people are to join in the nation-building and national defence activities, with the Tatmadaw as the cornerstone. This is the strategy of People's Warfare that the Tatmadaw is practising.

Comrades,

To sum up, I urge you to

- * defend Our Three Main National Causes even with your lives;

- * strive to become Tatmadawmen members of the Medical Corps with

physical and intellectual prowess;

- * acquire the Five Basic Attributes that every unit and every comrade should possess; and

- * realize the strategy of People's Warfare by providing and promoting health care not only for Tatmadawmen but also for the people, living up to your motto, "Competent and helpful members of the Medical Corps".

With this, I conclude my speech.

MNA



Dignitaries at the graduation parade of the 5th Intake of Defence Services Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Science.—MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye attends graduation dinner of 5th Intake of Defence Services Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Science

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Jan — The graduation dinner to honour graduates of 5th Intake of Defence Services Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Science was held at the hall of DSMA, Yangon this evening, attended by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye.

Also present at the dinner were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Members of SPDC Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence,

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Chairman of Yangon Division PDC Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and their wives, Ministers, the Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, Senior Military Officers, the Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee the Mayor, deputy ministers, heads of departments, senior military officers of Mingaladon Station, the Rector of Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Science and advisers, faculty members, trainees and their parents and relatives.

After the dinner, artistes of Myawady Music Band and Anyeint and Myanmar Music Asiayon presented songs and dances to those present.—MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye attends dinner of graduation parade of the 5th Intake of Defence Services Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Science.—MNA

Ministry of Religious Affairs holds coord meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Jan — Ministry of Religious Affairs conducted its work coordination meeting at the ministry here yesterday.

First, Minister for

Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung delivered an address at the meeting.

The officials of state and division offices reported to the minister

on their respective tasks and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura U Aung Ko gave supplementary reports.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks

by the minister.

Also present at the meeting were Adviser U Arnt Maung and departmental officials of the ministry.

MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung delivers an address at the meeting.—MNA

Religious treatises available

YANGON, 7 Jan — Religious Affairs Department under the Ministry of Religious Affairs has put on sale its publications such as Tipitaka Pali-Myanmar dictionaries (2008-2010), various kinds of treatises and other books on religious and Sasana Yaungchi monthly at the book shop of the department on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road. For more information, dial 660843 and 661302.—MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint gives cash award to an outstanding athlete.—SPORTS

XXIV SEA Games medallists honoured

YANGON, 7 Jan — A ceremony to honour XXIV SEA Games medallists was held at Karaweik Palace yesterday, attended by Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint.

The minister presented cash award K 70.5 million for all medallists who had won in canoe/kayak, traditional rowing, shooting, judo, wushu,

taekwondo, billiards and snooker, physical culture, soccer, track and field, western rowing, muaythai, sepak takraw, pencak silat, boxing, karate-do, archery and yacht staged in XXIV SEA Games. A gold medalist won K 500,000, a silver medalist K 300,000 and a bronze medalist K 200,000. Eleven coaches received K 3.3 million.

Next, Chairman of Yangon City Development

Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin presented K 11.5 million for medallists and Chairperson of Central Work Committee for Myanmar Women's Sports Federation Daw Aye Aye, K 940,000 for

them.

Wellwishers handed K 14.45 million and US\$ 2600 for victorious athletes through officials concerned. One of the athletes, Naw Ah Lela Shee spoke words of thanks.

MNA

MMA Conference 15 Jan

YANGON, 7 Jan — The 54th Conference of Myanmar Medical Association will be held at the MMA (Centre)'s Auditorium on Theinbyu Road in Mingalar Taungnyunt Township here at 8:00 am on 15 January.

Guests, delegates and MMA members are reminded to arrive the venue at 7.30 am, it is learnt.—MNA

News in Brief

Tibet to restore damaged “revolutionary” tourist sites

LHASA, 7 Jan—Tibetan authorities are beginning restoration work on former residences and office buildings of some of the first Communist Party members to be sent to Tibet in the early 1950s, which have been turned into “revolutionary” tourist attractions.

“The government has worked out a list of the revolutionary sites which need restoring and the second list is soon to be submitted,” said an official with the Tibetan Regional CPC Committee.

MNA/Xinhua

South Africa’s Zuma takes fourth wife

JOHANNESBURG, 7 Jan— Jacob Zuma, the newly elected leader of South Africa’s ANC, took a fourth wife on Saturday in a low-key ceremony in his KwaZulu-Natal homeland.

Zuma, who is well placed to become his country’s next president in 2009, married 33-year-old Nompumelelo Ntuli, the mother of two of his children, his personal assistant said.

The 65-year-old Zuma has previously married five times and is believed to have 14 children. Traditional Zulu culture allows him to take more than one wife.—MNA/Reuters

Tourist arrivals in Cambodia to increase by 20%

PHNOM PENH, 7 Jan— Foreign tourist arrivals in Cambodia will increase by 20 per cent on annual basis in the upcoming decade, local Chinese-language newspaper the *Commercial News* on Monday quoted an industry report as saying.

Cambodia saw some two million foreign tourist arrivals in 2007 a 20-per-cent rise over 2006, and the expansion rate is expected to maintain, said the report from the Cambodian Association of Travel Agencies.—MNA/Xinhua

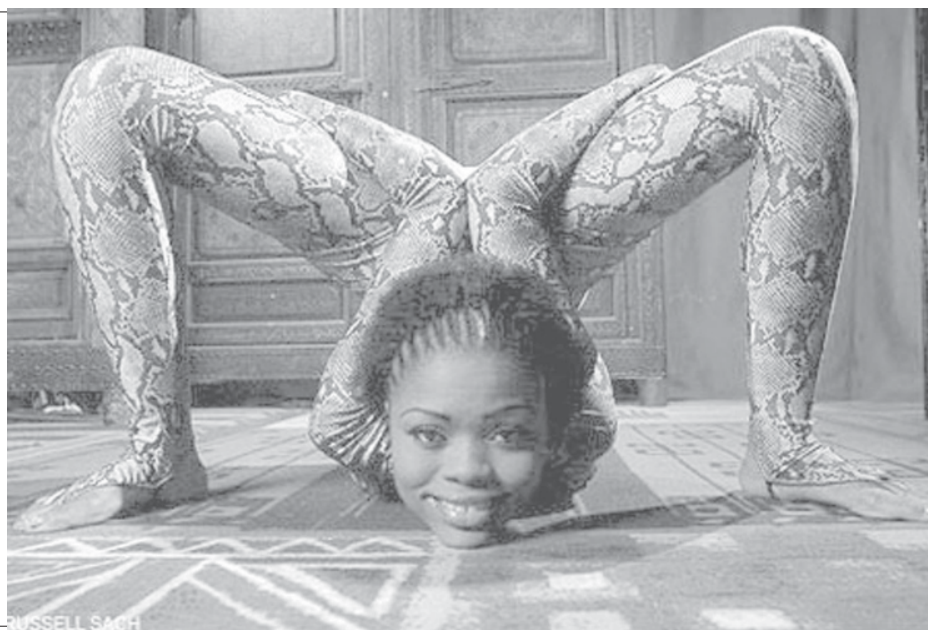


A traditional Japanese firefighter displays his balancing skills atop bamboo ladders during a New Year demonstration by the fire brigade in Tokyo on 6 Jan, 2008. — XINHUA

Images of the Day

Nokulunga Buthelezi, an 18 year old contortionist from Africa, is called “Snakegirl,” because she can achieve seemingly impossible positions with ease.

INTERNET



This file photo shows monkeys at Bukit Nanas Forest Reserve in Malaysia. Malaysia’s monkeys are being forced out of their forest habitat into cities, carrying diseases that could infect humans, according to veterinary experts.—INTERNET



People watch the QE2 in Southampton, before the 40 year-old liner departs on her last trans-Atlantic voyage. One of the world’s most famous cruise ships — the Queen Elizabeth 2 — set sail Sunday on its final global voyage before being turned into a floating hotel.

INTERNET

ADVERTISEMENT

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BANG SA PHAN VOY NO (59)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANG SA PHAN VOY NO (59) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 6.1.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WONGSAMUT OCEAN
SHIPPING CO, LTD

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SHAN HAI GUAN VOY NO (058)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SHAN HAI GUAN VOY NO (058) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 5.1.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING CO, LTD
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GEE HONG VOY NO (723)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GEE HONG VOY NO (723) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.1.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Turkish security forces seize 60 kilos of explosives

ANKARA, 6 Jan— Turkish security forces confiscated almost 60 kilos of explosives in two operations across the country, the semi-official *Anatolia* news agency reported on Friday.

The report said that the security forces seized almost 50 kilos of explosives in an aban-

doned minibus in eastern Turkish province of Van on Thursday.

In another operation, the security forces seized 10 kilos of C-4 and some other explosives in a vehicle in Inegol town of Bursa Province in western Turkey, said the report, adding that Turkish police detained one suspected

person.

In addition, the security forces also impounded hand grenades and hand-made mines in an operation they staged after the bomb attack in south-eastern city of Diyarbakir which killed five people and wounded some 110 others.

MNA/Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV XIANG FENG VOY NO (8001)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XIANG FENG VOY NO (8001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.1.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING
(MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (163)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (163) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 6.1.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES PTE LTD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Two Pakistani provincial governors replaced

ISLAMABAD, 6 Jan—The governor of North West Frontier Province (NWFP) Ali Jan Muhammad resigned and Owais Ahmad Ghani, incumbent Balochistan governor, has been appointed as NWFP governor in place of him, state-run PTV reported Saturday.

Ali Jan Muhammad has resigned due to his personal reasons, said the PTV report. However, some other local media said he quit because of differences over military operations in

the troubled tribal regions.

President Pervez Musharraf has accepted the resignation of Ali Jan Muhammad, according to PTV. Owais Ahmad Ghani, as the governor of south-western Balochistan Province, was removed on Friday while Balochistan High Court Chief Justice Amanullah Khan Yasinzai will take oath as acting governor on Saturday, local media reported.

MNA/Xinhua

Heavy fog strands over 10,000 air passengers in S-W China

CHENGDU, 6 Jan— More than 10,000 air passengers were stranded and 108 flights delayed due to a heavy fog that blanketed Sichuan's provincial capital of Chengdu on Saturday morning.

The fog cut visibility at Chengdu's Shuangliu International Airport to less than 10 metres, far less than the 550 metres

US unemployment rate rises to 5% in Dec

WASHINGTON, 6 Jan—The US unemployment rate rose to 5 per cent in December, the highest level since November 2005, the Labour Department reported Friday.

The December rate was up from 4.7 per cent in November and higher than the 4.8 percent expected by analysts.

The rise in the unemployment rate comes as the US economy added only 18,000 new jobs last month, the worst showing since August 2003. — MNA/Xinhua



Sony's next generation DVD recorder with Blu-ray format on display in Tokyo. The Blu-ray format has gained the upper hand in the battle for next-generation DVD supremacy. — INTERNET

Moderate earthquake jolts W-Guatemala

MEXICO CITY, 6 Jan— A moderate earthquake registering 5.6 on the Richter Scale hit western Guatemala Friday night, causing only minor damage, according to reports from Guatemala City.

There were no immediate reports of casualties. Local radio said the quake caused power outages in the cities of Mazatenango, Quetzaltenango, Coatepeque and parts of Guatemala City.

Some houses suffered minor damage and small landslides blocked roads near Colomba Costa Cuca in the southwest, the radio station said.

The US Geological Survey put the tremor at a magnitude of 5.6, saying it took place around 8 pm local time (0200 GMT), with its epicentre in the Pacific Ocean about 39 kilometres from Mazatenango.

MNA/Xinhua

to airports in neighbouring cities, including Kunming, Chongqing and Guiyang, affecting more than 10,000 passengers.

The first flight heading for northern Tianjin municipality began to take off as soon as the airport reopened at 11:32 am and the airport was open for landing at 11:44 am, said Lu. — MNA/Xinhua



A staff member onboard China's expedition ship Xue Long, or Snow Dragon, takes pictures as the icebreaker makes its way through ice floe from Zhongshan Station to the Great Wall Station for the country's 24th scientific expedition to Antarctica, recently. — XINHUA

Lions devour S African man at game farm

JOHANNESBURG, 6 Jan — A South African man was killed and eaten by lions at a game farm in the country's North West province, police said here.

Samuel Boosen, a 36-year-old caretaker at the Aloe Ridge Lodge at Swartuggens, about 150 kilometres (90 miles) west of Johannesburg, went into the lion enclosure to feed the animals before being attacked on Tuesday.

"He went into the cage ... (about) nine lions then attacked and ate him up until the only parts that remained were the skull and spine," police spokesman superintendent Lesego Metsi said.

MNA/Reuters



This file photo shows scientists observing a great white shark. A New Zealand man risked life and limb by dangling upside-down in the sea to take close-up pictures of a circling great white shark, reports said on Monday. —INTERNET

Missing Venezuelan plane reports engine trouble

CARACAS, 7 Jan — Engine failure was reported before the small plane with 14 people aboard disappeared off Venezuelan coast Friday, Venezuelan emergency officials said on Saturday.

The pilot had

reported that his plane was having engine problems, before the plane lost contact with the control tower, authorities said.

Rescue teams resumed the search Saturday, with helicopters and boats scanning the

Caribbean Sea. But rain and strong waves were making the search more difficult, said Venezuelan emergency management Director General Antonio Rivero in an interview with local television.

MNA/Xinhua

Red Cross sends more aid to Kenya

GENEVA, 6 Jan— The Swiss-run International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said on Friday it will send additional staff and relief supplies to Kenya, hit by post- electoral violence.

About 15 staff are on their way to Kenya to assess the situation and determine what food, medicine and other essentials are needed to help those affected by the violence, ICRC spokeswoman Anna Schaaf was quoted as saying by the Swissinfo website.

The Geneva-based organization said it would seek to give the Kenyan

Red Cross enough supplies to meet the basic needs of at least 100,000 people for several weeks.

"The ICRC's main priority is to work with the Kenya Red Cross to assist families that have been displaced by the events or dare not leave their villages," said Pierre Krahenbuhl, the organization's director of operations, in a statement.

According to UN estimates, some 250,000

people have been displaced in Kenya, mostly in western regions, fleeing fighting sparked by the official result of last week's presidential election.

The majority of displaced people are staying in makeshift camps while others have sought refuge in police stations or churches, fleeing violence that has claimed 350 lives.

MNA/Xinhua

China's high-tech industry boosted

BEIJING, 6 Jan— China's high-tech industry has grown an average of 27 per cent each year for the last five years, according to a senior Chinese official.

Wu Zhongze, Vice Minister of Science and Technology, said the total production value of the industry accounted for 16 per cent of China's manufacturing. "Chinese manufacturing has made great progress in upgrading itself by applying more high-tech technologies," said Liu Yong, a researcher with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Chinese companies have become more

interested in controlling core technologies by developing major equipment manufacturing industries, such as automobile and ship building in which home-grown or innovative high-tech technologies have allowed domestic products to substitute imports. Domestic car makers enjoyed a 17-per cent share of China's total auto sales in 2007 and some key breakthroughs in shipbuilding have narrowed the technological gap between the Chinese and its east Asian competitors Japan and the Republic of Korea.

MNA/Xinhua

All Nippon Airways (ANA) jetliners are parked at the Haneda airport, in Tokyo. ANA said Monday it will start daily round-trip flights between Haneda airport and Hong Kong, the latest destination to be served from the Japanese's capital's central hub. —INTERNET



British journalist forced to stop working in Iran

TEHERAN, 7 Jan— Iran has refused to renew the visa of a British journalist based in Teheran, forcing him to leave the Islamic Republic, and has asked the Guardian to propose a new correspondent, an Iranian official said on Saturday.

The Guardian newspaper reported that Robert Tait had been

"expelled" from Iran without explanation after his visa and residence permit were not renewed. The Iranian official said the Iranian authorities did not view the move as an expulsion.

"We don't like to use that word for this case," the official from the foreign media department at the Culture and Islamic

Guidance Ministry told Reuters.

"His visa was not extended. (The ministry) welcomes the Guardian continuing its activity in Iran. We have sent a letter to the Guardian and asked them to introduce a new correspondent," the official, who asked not to be named, said.

MNA/Reuters

SPORTS

Porto stretch lead as Benfica, Sporting slip up

LISBON, 7 Jan — Porto took advantage of slip ups by title rivals Benfica and Sporting as they stretched their lead at the top of the table to nine points with a 1-0 home win over Naval on Sunday.

Porto midfielder Raul Meireles grabbed the winner from close range after Naval goalkeeper Taborda failed to deal with an effort from Argentine striker Lisandro Lopez on 59 minutes. Benfica consolidated second place in the Portuguese Premier League despite a 1-1 draw at Vitoria Setubal after Sporting were beaten 2-0 at Boavista on Saturday. — MNA/Reuters

Lyon advance in Cup with Benzema hat-trick

PARIS, 7 Jan — Karim Benzema scored a hat-trick as Olympique Lyon celebrated the return to action of keeper Gregory Coupet with a 4-0 win over Creteil in the French Cup on Sunday.

France international Coupet, playing his first official game since he tore a left knee ligament in training just before the opening match of the season, had a quiet evening as his team mates mastered their third division opponents.

The six-times champions, keen to lift a trophy that has been eluding Lyon since 1973, were leading 3-0 at halftime after Benzema's first two goals in the 15th and 38th minutes and a Juninho strike in the 44th.

Benzema completed his treble with a penalty 10 minutes from time. — MNA/Reuters



Finland's ski jumper Janne Ahonen celebrates with the trophy during the winner ceremony of the four hills ski jumping tournament in Bischofshofen, Austria, on 6 Jan, 2008. Ahonen won the tournament overall standings for fifth time. —INTERNET

Arsenal through, Liverpool, Newcastle held

LONDON, 7 Jan — A second-string Arsenal side proved strong enough to secure a 2-0 victory at Championship (second division) club Burnley on Sunday and with it a place in Monday's FA Cup fourth-round draw.

The Premier League leaders won with goals by Eduardo da Silva and Nicklas Bendtner but four other top-flight sides were held by lower league opposition to follow the four others who were upset on Saturday.

Liverpool drew 1-1 at third division Luton Town and Newcastle United were goalless at Stoke City while Derby County and Fulham both had to come from behind to draw 2-2 with Sheffield Wednesday and Bristol Rovers respectively.

At Turf Moor, Arsenal's unfamiliar lineup had an early scare when Kyle Lafferty hit the bar with a header after five minutes.

MNA/Reuters



Real Madrid player Robinho, from Brazil, duels for the ball against Zaragoza player Alberto Zapater, left, during their Spanish League soccer match in Madrid, on 6 Jan 2008. —INTERNET

Valencia agree to sign Argentine midfielder Banega

MADRID, 6 Jan — Valencia have agreed to sign Argentine midfielder Ever Banega on a five and a half year deal from Boca Juniors, the Primera Liga team said on Saturday.

Boca announced on Thursday they had agreed to sell the highly-rated 19-year-old to Valencia for a fee of 18 million euros (26.50 million US dollars).

Banega, who had a medical on Saturday, is expected to fill the gap left by former Valencia captain David Albelda and out-of-favour Portugal international Manuel Fernandes. — MNA/Reuters



Valencia's Javier Arizmendi (R) and Levante's Matthieu Berson fight for the ball during their Spanish First Division soccer match in Valencia on 6 Jan, 2008. —INTERNET

Chelsea's Cech, Cudicini may be fit to return on Tuesday

LONDON, 6 Jan — Chelsea goalkeepers Petr Cech and Carlo Cudicini are the closest among a long list of injured players to being fit for Tuesday's League Cup semi-final first leg at home to Everton.

After Chelsea began the defence of their FA Cup trophy with a 1-0 win over Championship (second division) side Queens Park Rangers on Saturday, man-

ager Avram Grant said it was too early to tell if any of his injured outfield players would be fit for Tuesday.

"We will have (Portugal defender) Ricardo Carvalho back from suspension...but for the others we will know tomorrow," the Israeli coach told reporters.

"The goalkeepers are closest to being fit." — MNA/Reuters

Benfica consolidate second spot despite draw

LISBON, 6 Jan — Benfica consolidated second place in the Portuguese Premier League despite a 1-1 draw at Vitoria Setubal on Saturday after third-placed Sporting failed to close the three-point gap when they were beaten 2-0 at Boavista.

Leaders Porto, who host struggling Naval on Sunday, top the standings with

35 points from 14 matches followed by Benfica on 29. Sporting are in third place with 26 points.

Angola striker Mantorras came off the bench to put Benfica in front with a shot from inside the box after 72 minutes.

But Setubal preserved their unbeaten home record this season when Edinho equalized two minutes from time with a glancing header after a cross from the right by Brazilian Claudio Pitbull.

MNA/Reuters

Triumphant Murray tunes up for Australian Open

DOHA, 6 Jan — Briton Andy Murray enjoyed the perfect start to his season when he tamed Switzerland's Stanislas Wawrinka 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 to win the Qatar Open trophy on Saturday.

Third seed Murray captured the fourth title of his career after edging out Wawrinka with his more aggressive baseline tactics in a error-riddled contest.

The result handed Murray a timely boost ahead of the Australian Open which starts on January 14. Wawrinka set the tone for the match when he dropped his serve in the opening game. In total, the first set featured five breaks before the 20-year-old Murray bagged the set. — MNA/Reuters

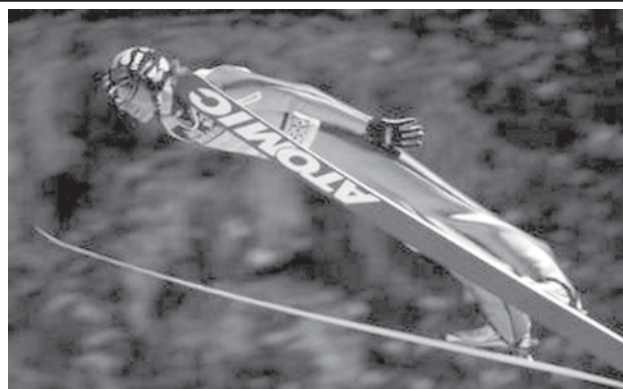
Casillas denies Zaragoza as Real snatch 2-0 win

MADRID, 7 Jan — Real Madrid restored their seven-point lead at the top of the Primera Liga and maintained their 100 per cent record at the Bernabeu with a ruthlessly efficient 2-0 win over Real Zaragoza on Sunday.

Zaragoza completely dominated for over an hour but were frustrated by a succession of top-class saves by Real keeper Iker Casillas and some profligate finishing by their strikers.

Real made off with the points thanks to a sharp header from leading striker Ruud van Nistelrooy and a cool breakaway finish from Robinho. With one game to go before the halfway mark in the season, Real lead the table on 44 points, seven clear of Barcelona who ground out a 2-0 win away to Real Mallorca on Saturday.

Espanyol are a point behind Barca in third after their classy 3-0 win over Villarreal on Saturday, while Atletico Madrid are two further back in fourth after a rare 3-0 win away to struggling Deportivo Coruna. — MNA/Reuters



Finland's Janne Ahonen soars through the air during his first jump of the fourth event of the Four-Hills ski jumping tournament in Bischofshofen, on 6 Jan, 2008. —INTERNET

Flights cancelled as heavy snowfalls hit Iran

TEHERAN, 7 Jan— Some of the heaviest snowfalls in years caused severe transport disruptions in Iran on Sunday, forcing the cancellation of most flights and the closure of many roads, Iranian media said. All international and domestic flights to and from Teheran were cancelled and some northwestern cities saw their first snow in 20 years. State radio said many roads to and from Teheran were also closed.

“All international flights ... to and from Imam Khomeini International Airport have been cancelled,” aviation authority spokesman Reza Jafarzadeh told Reuters, referring to Teheran’s international airport.

Flights at 15 other airports in the Middle Eastern country were also cancelled, state radio said.

The authorities closed all schools in Teheran and children were told to stay at home also in other cities, with snow falling in northern, eastern and central regions.

MNA/Reuters

A black spiny-tailed iguana in Miami in 2006. An unexpected cold snap this week sent rheemometers plummeting in Florida and heart-hungry iguanas dropping from tree branches like autumn leaves

INTERNET



Iran protests against Norwegian official's comments

TEHERAN, 7 Jan — Iran on Saturday protested against Norwegian Foreign Ministry official's comments on its recent execution of a young Iranian mother, the official IRNA news agency reported.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Ali Hosseini strongly rejected recent remarks by Norway’s State Secretary Raymond Johansen as “not conforming to diplomatic norms” and “unacceptable.”

Johansen told Norwegian newspaper Aftenposten on Wednesday that the Norwegian Government was adamantly opposed to the execution of Rahele Zamani, the 27-year-old Iranian mother of two young children.

Zamani had been convicted of murdering her husband. She claimed he had abused her for years.

The couple had two children, a three-year-old boy and a five-year-old girl.

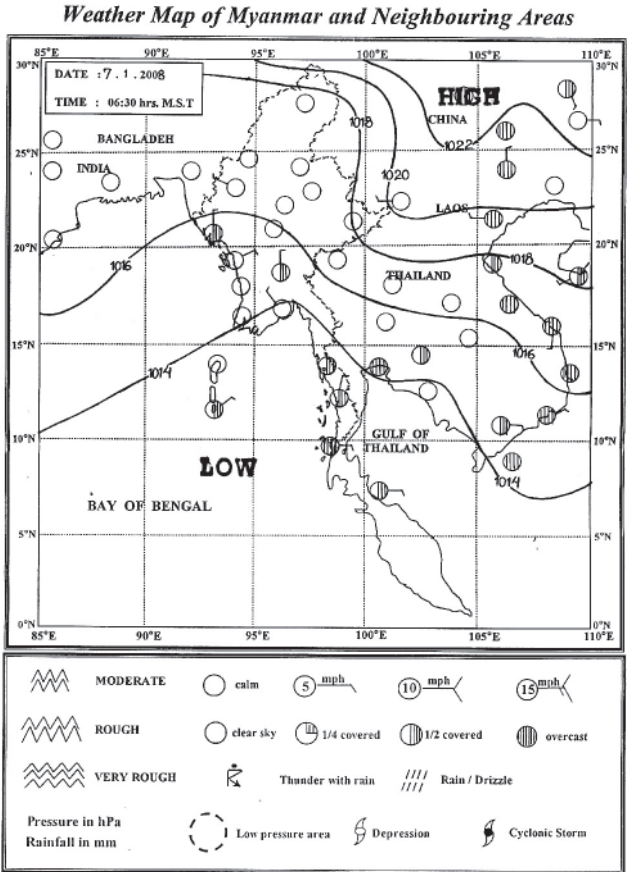
“We will now contact Iran’s ambassador (to Norway) and protest this barbaric act,” Johansen was quoted as saying.

According to the Information and Press Bureau of the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hosseini described Johansen’s remarks as “blatant double standard policies of some Western countries in dealing with Islamic values and principles which run counter to the norms of human rights in Iran.”

“Hasty remarks by Norwegian Foreign

Ministry official in lambasting punitive actions by Iran’s judiciary system which has condemned a murderer are regarded as politically motivated,” he said.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Monday, 7 January, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Rakhine State and Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below January average temperatures in Chin State and Yangon Division, (5°C) above January temperatures in Taninthayi Division and about January average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (-2°C), Loilem (2°C), Pinlaung and Mogoke (4°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 6-1-2008 was 92°F. Minimum temperature on 7-1-2008 was 63°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 7-1-2008 was 74%. Total sunshine hours on 6-1-2008 was (8.4) hours approx.

Rainfall on 7-1-2008 was nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from North at (16:30) hours MST on 6-1-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 8-1-2008: Weather will be partly cloudy in Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions.

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 8-1-2008: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 8-1-2008: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 8-1-2008: Fair weather.

TV Myanmar

Tuesday, 8 January

View on today

7:00 am

1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. Nice and sweet song

7:55 am

5. ကဗျာပန်းဥယျာဉ်

8:05 am

6. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:10 am

7. ခရမ်းချောင်းတံတား

8:15 am

8. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:20 am

9. Song of yesteryears

8:30 am

10. International news

8:45 am

11. 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. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ-ပထမနှစ် ပထဝီဝင်အထူးပြု (ပထဝီဝင်)

5:00 pm

5. Dance of national races

5:15 pm

6. ခံစားနားဆင်တေးဇာတ်ဝင်

5:25 pm

7. Sing and Enjoy

6:00 pm

8. Evening news

6:30 pm

9. Weather report

6:35 pm

10. ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲရင့်စုန်သံ

6:55 pm

11. သုတစုံလင်ရွှေညက်ရှင်

7:15 pm

12. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “မြူနိုင်းစေ့ချစ်သက်တည်” (အပိုင်း-၁၃)

8:00 pm

13. News

14. International news

15. Weather report

16. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “အချစ်စေ့မန်” (အပိုင်း-၁၅)

17. The next day's programme

Radio Myanmar

Tuesday, 8 January

Tune in today

8:30 am Brief news

8:35 am Music -Angle

8:40 am Perspectives

8:45 am Music -Falling in love

8:50 am National news/Slogan

9:00 am Music -All or nothing

9:05 am International news

9:10 am Music -Do something

1:30 pm News/ Slogan

1:40 pm Lunch time music -Heaven in your eyes -Love to love

9:00pm English Speaking Course

9:10pm Article

9:20 pm Weekly sports reel

9:30pm Listening pleasure -The day we find love -Tonight

9:45 pm News /Slogan

10:00 pm PEL

People's Desire

- ★ We favour stability.
- ★ We favour peace.
- ★ We oppose unrest and violence.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye addresses graduation parade of the 5th Intake of Defence Services Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Science



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye takes the salute of graduate companies of the 5th Intake of DSINPS.— MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Jan — The Graduation Parade of the 5th Intake of Defence Services Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Science was held at the parade ground of Defence Services Medical Academy in Yangon this morning, with an address by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye.

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

Development Council Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Members of SPDC Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Maj-Gen Khin Zaw of the Ministry of Defence, Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, Ministers, Military Appointment-General Maj-Gen Hsan Hsint, Judge Advocate-General Maj-Gen Soe Maung, Defence

Services Inspector-General Maj-Gen Thein Htaik, Senior Military Officers and Directors of the Ministry of Defence, Rector of DSMA Brig-Gen Ya Pyae, Rector of Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Science Brig-Gen Thoe Htain, senior military officers, guests and parents and relatives of graduates.

On the occasion, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye took the salute of graduating companies and inspected them.

Next, the graduate companies marched to salute the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of De-

fence Services. Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presented Best Trainee Award to trainee No 1036 Nyi Nyi Aung, Best Performance in Training Award to trainee No 1049 Wai Phyo Aung and Excellent in Study Award to trainee No 1075 Phyo Thiha Lwin.

Later, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye delivered an address on the occasion.

(The full text of the

speech of Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye is reported separately.)

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye left the parade ground. After the graduation parade, he cordially met with three outstanding graduates and their parents and gave advice to them at the hall of DSMA.— MNA

Significant night temperatures

Haka	(-2°C)
Loilem	(2°C)
Pinlaung	(4°C)
Mogok	(4°C)

