Established 1914

The New Light of Myanmar

Volume XV, Number 272 | 6th Waxing of Pyatho 1369 ME | Sunday, 13 January, 2008

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 attends opening of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Golf Tournament

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Jan—The opening ceremony of the Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Trophy Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Golf Tournament for 2007-08 was held at Nay Pyi Taw Golf Course, here, this morning, attended by Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye.

Also present on the occasion were Member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Prime Minister General Thein Sein, Secretary-1 of the SPDC Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, the SPDC members, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, ministers, the Auditor-General, members of the organizing committee for the tournament and golfers from 16 teams.

Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, teed off the Tracer ball to formally open the tournament.

Next, players of 16 golf teams took part in the first round of the tournament. — *MNA*

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye participates in Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Trophy Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Golf Tournament. MNA

General Thura Shwe Mann, Prime Minister General Thein Sein and Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo attend the opening ceremony of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Trophy Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Golf Tournament.—MNA

INSIDE

Adoring and preserving national culture is the concern of the nation and the entire people including younger generations. So, the people should wear their costumes and behave in accordance with Myanmar traditions and culture to promote national prestige and integrity.

PAGE 2 PERSPECTIVES

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 13 January, 2008

Preserve and promote national prestige and integrity

Valuing and preserving own culture is indispensable for a nation and its people. All should be aware of the danger that failure to preserve and safeguard own culture can lead to a decline in national prestige and integrity, and the nation and the people will vanish, in consequence.

Now, world nations are facing globalization effects due to rapid advances in science and technology. Some big countries are resorting to various means for political hegemony over developing countries.

In addition, some big nations that have gained upper hand in economy and technology are trying with the use of modern media and state-of-the-art technology to make their culture and lifestyle penetrate deep into other nations. In particular, young people are under the influence of their music, arts, costumes, ideas and way of life.

Improvement of science and technology, knowledge and views is a positive sign. However, it is required to innovate them in accordance with the changes.

Here, it is a notable point that the people should not copy alien music and costumes. Especially, the people should stay away from decadent costumes, words incompatible with Myanmar custom, and behaviours that lack modesty.

Adoring and preserving national culture is the concern of the nation and the entire people including younger generations. So, the people should wear their costumes and behave in accordance with Myanmar traditions and culture to promote national prestige and integrity.

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်မသုံးစွဲရန့်

လစဉ် လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေ) နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေ) တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေသွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည့်ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရန့် ဖြစ်သည်။

၂၀၀၈–ခုနှစ် ဇန်နဝါရီလအတွက်

(၁၃–၁–၂၀၀၈) ရက်နေ့
နှင့်
(၂၇–၁–၂၀၀၈) ရက်နေ့

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**

14th Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Industry Association organized

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence views showrooms of companies at14th AGM of the Myanmar Industry Association.—MNA

YANGON, 12 Jan — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence attended the 14th Annual General Meeting of the Myanmar Industry Association at the hall of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry on Min Ye Kyawswa Road in Lanmadaw Township this afternoon.

First, Lt-Gen Myint Swe viewed showrooms of companies.

Chairman of the association U Paw Hein extended greetings.

In his address, Lt-Gen Myint Swe stressed the need to lay down the plans for enhancement of production capacity to develop the industries and to export value-added products. He said that small and medium enterprises (SMEs) contribute much to development of the economic sector. Therefore, priority is to be given to laying down of policies, rules and regulations and procedures for development of the SMEs, he added. He praised them for manufacturing value-added products with the use of agricultural products, meat and fish products, forest products and minerals. He cited that accomplishments of the association within 14 years are to be put on record. In conclusion, Lt-Gen Myint Swe urged them to implement programmes of the association and emphasis is to be placed on raising the funds of the association.

Next, UMFCCI President U Win Myint made a speech.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe, UMFCCI President U Win Myint and Chairman of the association U Paw Hein accepted K 18,600,000 and FEC 1,000 donated by 51 wellwishers and presented certificates of honour to them.

Afterwards, the Annual General Meeting of the association followed in accord with the procedures. Later, the meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the chairman.

MNA

Basic Administrative and Management Course No 1/2008 for Newly-graduated Doctors opened

YANGON, 12 Jan — The Basic Administrative and Management Course No 1/2008 for Newly-graduated Doctors of the Ministry of Health was opened at the University of Nursing (Yangon) on Bogyoke Aung San Street here today.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint made an opening speech on the occasion.

The course is being attended by 466 newly-graduated doctors from the Health Department, 86 from the Medical Science Department, seven from Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar), two from MRD (Central Myanmar) and five from Traditional Medicine Department.

The course that kicked off today runs up to 16 January.

MNA

Pakistan warns against unilateral action on rebels

SINGAPORE, 12 Jan — Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf has said any unilateral action by US-led coalition forces against militants in the border region with Afghanistan will be regarded as an invasion, a newspaper reported on Friday.

Musharraf told Singapore's *The Straits Times* that Islamabad will resist any entry by coalition forces in the tribal areas to hunt down Islamic militants, regarding that as a breach of Pakistan's sovereignty.

"I challenge anybody coming into our mountains. They would regret the day," he told the newspaper in an interview conducted in the garrison city of Rawalpindi.

Musharraf also told the newspaper he would resign if a government that emerged from elections, now scheduled for next month, sought his impeachment.

Pakistan has been under pressure from Washington to stamp out al-Qaeda and pro-Taleban militants US officials believe are hiding in remote regions along the border with Afghanistan and fomenting violence there. —*MNA/Reuters*

Residents evacuate with their belongings on a rooftop while a fire engulfs around 100 houses in a slum area leaving hundreds homeless in Manila on 11 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET

Romney attacks McCain at US Republican debate

MYRTLE BEACH (South Carolina), 12 Jan — US Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney on Thursday accused rival John McCain of giving up on people who have lost jobs in the economically depressed state of Michigan as the Republicans' wide-open campaign turned to the faltering economy.

Romney, in danger of losing Michigan to McCain in next Tuesday's vote, quickly went on the attack against the Arizona senator at a debate, noting McCain had said in Michigan on Wednesday that the people there should realize some lost jobs will never return.

"I know that there are some people who think, as Senator McCain did, he said, you know, some jobs are leaving Michigan and they're not coming back. I disagree. I'm going to fight for every single job, Michigan, South Carolina, every state in this country, we're going to fight for jobs and make sure our future is bright," said Romney, a former governor of Massachusetts whose family has deep ties to Michigan.

McCain, who has some momentum based on his victory in New Hampshire on Tuesday, hopes to score a knock-out punch against Romney in Michigan. He leads Romney in the polls there.

MNA/Reuters

Passengers, scientists, government officials and ground crew gather for a group photo on the purpose-built Wilkins glacial blue ice runway in front of the Airbus A319 jet, to carry passengers on the world's first commercial air service from Hobart to Antarctica, some 65km (40 miles) from the Australian Antarctic research station of Casey, on 11 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET

Iran releases own video of US Gulf incident

TEHERAN, 11 Jan — Iran released a video on Thursday which it said showed its boats did not threaten US Navy vessels in the Gulf, countering Washington's account of the event which President George W Bush called "a provocative act".

The video, aired by Iran's Press TV satellite station, gave a completely different version of Sunday's incident in the Strait of Hormuz compared with one released earlier this week by the US Department of Defence.

The incident was the latest sign of tension between Washington and Teheran, at odds over Iran's nuclear programme and who is to blame for the violence in Iraq. It coincides with Bush's visit to the Middle East this week. Press TV said the video, released by Iran's Revolutionary Guards a day after the force dismissed the Pentagon video as fake, included a recording of what it said was the exchange between the two sides. —*MNA/Xinhua*

Thai EC disqualifies poll winner candidate

BANGKOK, 12 Jan— The Election Commission (EC) of Thailand on Thursday issued another red card to a member of the People Power Party (PPP), annulling his qualification as a winner during the general election of 23 December, 2007.

Prasop Busarakham, the PPP candidate who successfully contested the race for the parliamentary seat in Udon Thani Province's Constituency 3, had earlier been given a yellow card due to election frauds. However, the EC issued a red card Thursday, denying him the chance to run again in the by-election.

The polling agency had found him more deeply connected with alleged electoral wrongdoings than was initially seen, the staterun Thai News Agency reported. Prasop is a six-time MP (member of Parliament) of the northeastern province and a former deputy agriculture minister.

MNA/Xinhua

Turkish warplanes bomb N Iraq

BAGHDAD, 12 Jan — Turkish warplanes bombed border villages in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq on Friday morning, Iraqi Kurdish television said.

Kurdistan TV, controlled by supporters of Kurdish regional President Masoud Barzani, gave no details of any injuries or damage to property.

There was no immediate comment from Kurdish government officials and *Reuters* reporters in southeastern Turkey said they had not seen any warplanes take off from Turkish airbases.

It was the first cross-border airstrike since a bomb attack in the Turkish town of Diyarbakir on 3 January, which killed six people. Turkish auth-orities blamed that attack on Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) guerillas.

MNA/Reuters

Demonstrators against continued detention of prisoners at Guantanamo Bay kneel on the steps of the Supreme Court in Washington on 11 Jan, 2008.
INTERNET

Phone company cuts off FBI wiretap for unpaid bill

WASHINGTON, 11 Jan — A telephone company cut off an FBI international wiretap after the agency failed to pay its bill on time, according to a US Government audit released onThursday. The audit by the Justice Department's inspector general faulted the FBI for poor handling of money used in undercover investigations, which it said made the agency vulnerable to theft and mishandled invoices.

It cited the case in which a wiretap under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, which governs electronic spying in terrorism and intelligence cases, was disrupted due to an overdue bill.

"Late payments have resulted in telecommunications carriers actually disconnecting phone lines established to deliver surveillance results to the FBI, resulting in lost evidence, including an instance where delivery of intercept information required by a ... FISA order was halted due to untimely payment," the audit said.

MNA/Reuters

An Airbus A380 approaches for landing at the Singapore Changi Airport, on 17 Oct, 2007, in Singapore. Singapore Airlines' A380 superjumbo jet sustained superficial damage when it rolled onto grass as it left an airport terminal in the first glitch for the world's biggest passenger plane since going into service in October, the airline said on 11 Jan, 2008. —INTERNET

25 rebels killed in Sri Lanka fighting

COLOMBO. 12 Jan — Some 25 Tamil Tiger rebels have been killed in clashes with government troops in Sri Lanka's northern province, defence officials said Friday.

Fifteen of them were killed in Thursday's fighting while 10 were killed on Friday. The fighting took place in the northern Jaffna Peninsula's Muhamalai areas and Mannar District. Meanwhile the Air Force said that fighter bombers carried out air raids on a Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) sea Tiger wing facility at Alampil in the northern Mullaithivu District Friday morning around 8.45 am local time (0315 GMT).—*MNA/Xinhua*

Suicide bomb "mastermind" arrested in Pakistan

LAHORE (Pakistan), 11 Jan — Pakistani security forces have arrested a retired Army major suspected of being the mastermind behind a suicide attack on an Air Force bus which killed eight people, an intelligence official said on Wednesday.

The suspect, Ahsan-ul-Haq, was arrested in the outskirts of the eastern city of Lahore on 17 December, the official said.

"We recovered explosives and jackets used for suicide bombings at his house next to a madrassa (Islamic school)," said the intelligence official, who declined to be identified.

Authorities later arrested five of Haq's associates in the city of Sargodha, based on information provided by Haq, the official said.

MNA/Reuters

Pakistani investigators collect evidence from the deadly suicide bomb attack site in Lahore. Pakistani investigators on Friday said "tribal" elements were behind a suicide attack which killed 22 policemen.

INTERNET

Undercooked kidney beans suffer 300 illness in S China

SHENZHEN, 11 Jan — More than 300 workers fell ill on Wednesday in Shenzhen after eating at their factory canteen in the southern Chinese boom city, company sources confirmed on Thrsday.

They all ate Chinese cabbage and kidney beans for lunch and suffered nausea and vomiting in the afternoon, said a manager at the factory that produced hardware and plastic in the outer Longgang District.

The workers were sent to five hospitals for treatment. Sources with Shenlian Hospital said 36 were under intensive care but none were critical.

Investigators suspented undercooked kidney beans as the cause of the illness.— *MNA/Reuters*

Fifteen feared killed in Indian Kashmir avalanches

SRINAGAR (India), 11 Jan — Seven Indian soldiers and eight Army porters were feared killed after avalanches, triggered by heavy snow, hit Army posts near the border with Pakistan in Kashmir, an Army spokesman said on Thursday.

He said troops had launched rescue operations in Uri and Machil sectors in north Kashmir near the Line of Control (LoC), a military line dividing the disputed Himalayan region between India and Pakistan.

"Two bodies have been recovered so far, five soldiers and eight porters are still missing," Colonel Manjinder Singh said.

The snow and landslides also blocked the 300-kilometres (185-mile) mountain highway that links the Kashmir Valley to the rest of India, authorities said.—*MNA/Reuters*

A model displays a creation of Santa Ephigenia during the Fashion Rio 2008 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 10 Jan, 2008.

INTERNET

S Korea terminates first multipurpose satellite

SEOUL, 12 Jan— South Korea is ending the mission of its first multipurpose satellite, launched in 1999, after losing contact with it at the end of December, its space agency said on Friday.

The Arirang satellite had an original mission of three years, mapping the Earth's surface. It continued in operation for several more years after that, the Korea Aerospace Research Institute said.

The satellite is programmed to use emergency power if it loses contact with controllers. That power source is expected to be depleted at the end of this month, it said.

In July 2006, South Korea launched its *Arirang-2* satellite from a facility in Russia. It produces images with 40 times the resolution quality of the first Arirang satellite.—*MNA/Reuters*

Report details US cough, cold medicine abuse

WASHINGTON, 11 Jan — About 3.1 million Americans ages 12 to 25 — about 5 per cent of that age group — have at some time used an over-the-counter cough and cold medication to get high, a US Government survey released on Thursday found.

These young people are using cough syrups and cold pills in large doses to induce hallucinations, "out-of-body" experiences or other effects, officials said. — *MNA/Reuters*

UN says World eco faces serious challenges in 2008

UNITED NATIONS, 11 Jan — The World economy faces serious challenges in sustaining the strong economic growth of the last few years in 2008, the United Nations said in World Economic Situation and Prospects 2008 released Wednesday in New York.

The baseline forecast of the United Nations is for world economic growth to moderate to 3.4 per cent this year, following the trend line down from 3.9 per cent in 2006 and 3.7 per cent in 2007.

But there is a clear and present danger of the world economy coming to a near standstill, the annual report warned.

In the second half of 2007, the bursting of the housing market bubble in the United States and the unfolding credit crisis have induced uncertainty across global financial markets.

This together with the decline of the US dollar and the unresolved problem of the large global imbalances could combine to further drag world output down.

To prevent this from happening, the United Nations advised concerted international policy action to address the global imbalances and calm currency markets.

MNA/Xinhua

ECONOMIC NEWS

Sony Rollys, egg-shaped MP3 players, dance to the music at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, on 10 Jan, 2008. INTERNET

*A report by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) predicted that housing prices in China would keep on rising this year and the increase rate would roughly equal that of 2007.—*INTERNET

Brazil to invest in Cuba, Castro-Lula meet unsure

BRASILIA, 11 Jan — Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva will visit Cuba next week offering investments, but Fidel Castro's health makes a meeting between the two uncertain, Lula's spokesman said on Thursday.

Castro has only appeared in videos and photographs since undergoing emergency stomach surgery in July 2006, when he handed power to his brother, Raul.

With Fidel Castro's full condition a state secret, it is unclear whether the 81-year-old will resume office.

Both leaders intend to meet, but because of Castro's health the encounter could not be confirmed, Marcelo Baumbach, presidential spokesman, told a news conference.

"It is very likely that the meeting will happen, everybody wants it to happen ... but at this moment it's necessary to hear the opinion of the physicians," Baumbach said. He described Lula is a close friend of Castro.

MNA/Reuters

Britain holds interest rates at 5.5%

LONDON, 12 Jan — The Bank of England decided on Thursday to keep interest rates unchanged at 5.5 per cent.

Some British retail and business leaders had earlier called for a rate cut after poor Christmas sales figures.

But many analysts expected the cost of borrowing to be lowered in February.

Along with the slowdown of the retail industry, pressure has accumulated on a rate cut after the British energy firm NPower increased both its gas and electricity prices last week and warned that its rival energy providers are likely to do the same.

The bank is also confronted with the threat of higher inflation caused by soaring oil prices.

Inflation is running at 2.1 per cent, just above the government's target of 2 per cent or less.

Crude oil prices remain near a record high of above 95 US dollars per barrel after skyrocketing to 100 US dollars on 2 January.

The last time rates were cut by the central bank was in December 2007, with a reduction of 0.25 per cent from 5.75 per cent.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Iran will not discuss Turkmen gas price talks

TEHERAN, 11 Jan — Iran will not discuss any increase in the price of gas supplied from Turkmenistan until flows to the Islamic Republic resume, Iran's Oil Minister was quoted by the ministry's website SHANA as saying on Wednesday.

Iranian officials said last week Turkmenistan had halted daily deliveries of up to 23 million cubic metres to Iran, blaming it on technical problems. But some Iranian media have suggested it might be linked to a pricing dispute.

"We have said that until the flow of gas from Turkmenistan resumes, we will not have any talks about a review on increasing the price of Turkmenistan's natural gas," Oil Minster Gholamhossein Nozari said.

The head of Iran's state gas company last week said Turkmenistan had cited emergency repairs as the reason for the cut in supplies. But he also said Turkmenistan wanted to increase the price of gas it sells to Iran. In November, Turkmenistan reached an agreement to increase the price of gas it delivers to Russia's gas export monopoly Gazprom by 30 per cent.

MNA/Reuters

*An Audi TT car is displayed during the 9th Auto Expo in New Delhi, India on 10 Jan, 2008.—*XINHUA

Tourist arrival in Sri Lanka slumped by 11% in 2007

COLOMBO, 12 Jan — Sri Lanka's overall tourism arrival figures in 2007 slumped by 11 per cent over 2006, the tourism authority said here Friday.

494,008 tourists arrived in Sri Lanka in 2007 compared with to the arrival of 559,603 tourists in 2006, Sri Lanka Tourism said in a Press release.

MNA/Xinhua

Syria degrades Bush's Mideast tour

DAMASCUS, 11 Jan— Syrian Information Minister Mohsen Bilal on Wednesday degraded the ongoing tour of US President George W Bush to the Middle East as a "public relations campaign" rather than serious endeavour to solve problems in the region.

"The timing of the visit is linked to Israel's celebration of the 60th anniversary of its foundation as an occupying entity," Bilal told a Press conference. "The timing itself arouses big question marks on the Bush Administration's understanding of the complexities of the historical struggle in the region and the importance of the American commitment to the honest mediator status," the minister added.

"What we see allow us to conclude that the visit will only be a public relations campaign totally away from serious endeavour or commitment to the required conditions from the party which is supposed to play the role of the honest sponsor of the peace process," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Two outrigger canoes make their way down the southern coast of Oahu in Honolulu, Hawaii, on 11 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET

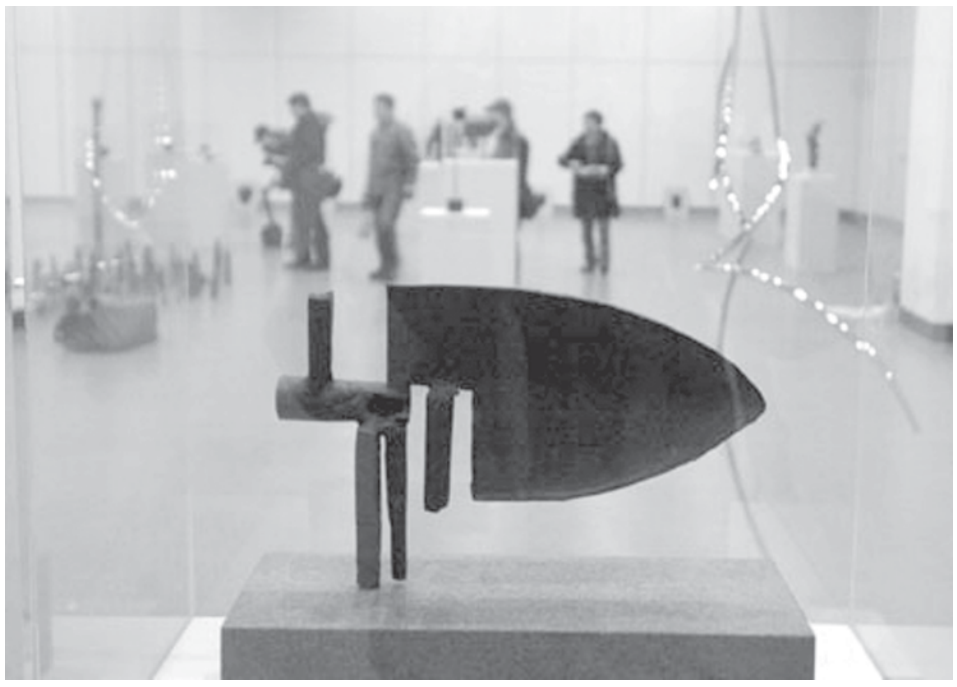


Photo taken on 11 Jan, 2008 shows a sculpture at the Tianjin Museum in Tianjin, north China. The Sculpture Exhibition by Spanish Modern Artists will be held at the museum from 12 Jan to 5 Feb.—XINHUA

Malaysia's crime cases up 7.2% in 2007

KUALA LUMPUR, 11 Jan—Malaysia saw a total of 244,717 crime cases last year, up 7.2 per cent compared with the previous year, local newspapers reported on Thursday.

The main reason for the increase was the rising number of property crimes, especially motorcycle thefts,

The Star quoted the police authorities as saying.

The country saw a total of 35,158 violent crimes last year, up 11.9 per cent compared with the previous year, police said.

However, only 588 murder cases were recorded last year, down a little bit from the previous year, police said.

The country registered 3,177 rape cases in 2007, up 29,4 per cent from the previous year.

Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi had expressed concern over the crime situation and instructed local authorities to install closed-circuit television cameras at crime-prone locations as one of the measures to check the crimes.

MNA/Xinhua

School bomb attack injures two soldiers in Thai South

BANGKOK, 11 Jan— Insurgents detonated a bomb inside a school in Southern Thailand's province of Narathiwat Thursday morning, injuring two soldiers and terrifying about 140 students there.

Local police were quoted by local newspaper *The Nation's* website as saying that the explosion occurred at 9:45 am (0245 GMT) inside the Ban Pase School in Rangae District.

Police said the insurgents hid a home made bomb at a tree near a school building and detonated it while two soldiers were near the spot. Fortunately, all students were studying in classes so none of them were injured.

MNA/Xinhua

Two burned to death in S Los Angeles vehicle crash

LOS ANGELES, 11 Jan— Three vehicles crashed early Wednesday in South Los Angeles, killing two persons and injuring another, authorities said. The accident involved a mid-size coupe, a large sport utility vehicle and a small minivan, said Los Angeles Fire Department spokesman Brian Humphrey. The coupe was engulfed in flames when authorities reached the crash site about 2 am local time, said Humphrey. The two people inside the blazing vehicle died at the scene, he said.

The injured male driver was taken to California Hospital Medical Centre for minor injuries, Humphrey said. The cause of the accident was still under investi-gation, and the coroner's office has yet to identify the victims, he said.— *MNA/Xinhua*

UN says nearly 500,000 need help in Kenya

GENEVA, 12 Jan — Nearly half a million Kenyans will need assistance in the coming weeks and months as their country is still being plagued by political unrest and violence, the United Nations said on Friday.

So far 250,000 people have been displaced in Kenya and UN agencies are preparing to launch a joint appeal for humanitarian operations in the country, Elizabeth Byrs, spokeswoman of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, told a news briefing in Geneva.

Byrs said the UN Central Emergency Response Fund had given approval for an initial allocation of seven million US dollars for aid operations in Kenya.

The bulk of that amount will go to traditional areas such as food, health, water, shelter and sanitation, she added.

Meanwhile, the World Food Programme (WFP) said on Friday that it had started for the first time food distributions in the slum areas of Nairobi, in collaboration with the Kenyan Government and the Kenyan Red Cross.

MNA/Xinhua

A picture taken in 2007 shows a soldier shouting as a rocket is launched towards rebel positions near Goma, where the current peace conference is taking place. A dozen people, including children, were injured on Friday in clashes among demonstrators in Lubumbashi in southeastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).—INTERNET

Czech PM says Poland aims to boost ties with Russia

PRAGUE, 12 Jan— The recently sworn-in Polish Government will try to improve relations with Russia, which perceives a US plan to build an anti-missile defence system in Poland and the Czech Republic as a threat, Czech Prime Minister Mirek Topolanek said Thursday.

After his meeting with visiting Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk, Topolanek said the Polish Government headed by the liberal Tusk wants to improve relations with Germany as well. The new Polish Government was sworn-in on November 16.

The United States initiated a plan to deploy an anti-missile radar base in the Czech Republic and missile interceptors in Poland earlier last year. Negotiations between the Czech Republic and the United States are still underway.

A recent opinion poll showed the planned US radar base is rejected by 70 per cent of Czechs, the highest rate of rejection since polls on the issue took place.

Russia has also expressed strong objections to the US missile defence program-me in Poland and the Czech Republic.

MNA/Xinhua

Newly nominated President of the Swiss People's Party (SVP) Toni Brunner (R) and outgoing President Ueli Maurer react during a party meeting in Herrliberg near Zurich on 11 Jan, 2008. — INTERNET

Snow falls on Baghdad for first time in memory

BAGHDAD, 12 Jan—Snow fell on Baghdad on Friday for the first time in memory, and delighted residents declared it an omen of peace.

"It is the first time we've seen snow in Baghdad," said 60-year-old Hassan Zahar. "We've seen sleet before, but never snow. I looked at the faces of all the people, they were astonished," he said.

"A few minutes ago, I was covered with snowflakes. In my hair, on my shoulders. I invite all the people to enjoy peace, because the snow means peace," he said.

Traffic policeman Murtadha Fadhil, huddling under a balcony to keep dry, declared the snow "a new sign of the new Iraq".

"It's a sign of hope. We hope Iraqis will purify their hearts and politicians will work for the prosperity of all Iraqis."

The streets of the capital were largely empty as big, thick, wet flakes fell on Friday morning, a weekend day in Iraq. The temperature hovered around freezing and the snow mostly melted into grey puddles when it hit the ground.

MNA/Reuters

Iraqi girls play in the snow in Sulaimaniyah, 260 kilometers (160 miles) northeast of Baghdad, Iraq on 11 Jan, 2008. Futher south, Baghdad residents saw snow for the first time in memory on Friday. — INTERNET

Soeharto in critical condition

JAKARTA, 12 Jan — The health of former president Soeharto, Indonesia's strongman ruler for more than three decades, deteriorated further on Friday evening, a doctor said, and more family members rushed to the hospital where he is being treated.

Suharto, 86, was taken to Jakarta's Pertamina Hospital a week ago suffering from anaemia and low blood pressure due to heart, lung and kidney problems. His health worsened on Friday as doctors said he appeared to have a lung infection.—*MNA/Reuters*

IAEA to re-inspect quake-hit Japan nuclear plant

VIENNA, 12 Jan— International Atomic Energy Agency experts will revisit an earthquake-hit Japanese nuclear plant, the world's largest, to check safety standards as part of efforts to restart the complex, the IAEA said on Friday.

The Kashiwazaki-Kariwa plant leaked low amounts of radiation — below the maximum permitted under safety rules — when a 6.8 magnitude quake struck on July 16, exceeding the worst seismic impact the plant had been designed to withstand.

IAEA experts visited the plant in August and would now return on 28 January and stay through February 1 at the invitation of Japan's nuclear watchdog NISA, the Vienna-based agency said.

"The 12 members of the follow-up mission will hold discussions with Japanese experts and conduct an examination at the site in relation to the seismic safety of its seven units," it said in a statement.

MNA/Reuters

Vietnam seizes 23 air-guns transported by airway

HANOI, 12 Jan— Vietnamese Customs authorities have confiscated 23 air-guns hidden in hand-luggage of three Vietnamese passengers of a flight coded VN544 from Germany to Vietnam, local newspaper *Pioneer* reported Friday.

The officers at Noi Bai International Airport in capital Hanoi on Wednesday found 23 disassembled air-guns in the luggage of two women named Vuong Ngoc Bich, 31, and Hoang Thi Ly, 44, and a 47- year-old man named Duong Van Tuan. The three people did not have goods import permits. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Lost Japanese survives one week by eating snow

TOKYO, 12 Jan— A Japanese climber lost in the mountains for more than a week in frigid conditions survived by eating snow before making his way down to a ski resort on Friday, Japanese media said.

Masayuki Nakamura headed into the Azuma mountain range about 240 kilometres (150 miles) north of Tokyo on December 30, saying he planned to be back on January 2.

But he became disoriented in the snow and wandered the area for more than a week, reports said. — *MNA/Reuters*

Blair says Middle East peace deal possible

LONDON, 12 Jan— Middle East peace envoy Tony Blair said on Friday he believed a peace deal could be clinched between the Israelis and the Palestinians before US President George W Bush leaves office in January 2009.

His comments came after Bush, in his first visit to Israel and the West Bank in seven years as president, on Thursday pushed the two sides for a treaty to be signed within a year to create a Palestinian state.

MNA/Reuters

More US women need folic acid supplements

WASHINGTON, 12 Jan— More US women are taking daily supplements of folic acid, a B vitamin crucial to prevent some major birth defects, but the number remains too low, federal health officials said on Thursday.

Forty per cent of women ages 18 to 45 said in a survey last year that they took the supplements each day, the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention said in a report.

That compares to 28 per cent in 1995, the CDC said.

"A lot of women are not getting enough folic acid," said CDC epidemiologist Heather Hamner, who worked on the report.

MNA/Reuters

Prime Minister General Thein Sein receives ministers, deputy ministers from ASEAN+3 nations, the ASEAN Secretary-General, high-ranking officials

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Jan—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein received ministers and deputy ministers from ASEAN+3 nations, the ASEAN Secretary-General and high-ranking officials, who will attend the Third Meeting of the ASEAN and ASEAN+3 Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts (AMCA) to be held in Myanmar, at the Prime Minister's Office here at 3 pm today.

Also present at the call were Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Director-General Col Kyaw Kyaw Win of the State Peace and Development Council Office, Director-General Col Thant Shin of the Government Office, Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department and officials from the Ministry of Culture of Myanmar, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports of Brunei Darussalam Hon Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Awang Mohammad bin Haji Daud, Minister of Information and Culture of Lao People's Democratic Republic Mr Mounkeo Oraboun, Minister of Culture, Arts and Heritage of Malaysia YB Datuk Seri Utama Dr Rais Yatim, Minister of Information, Communication and Arts of Singapore Dr Lee Boon Yang, Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Vietnam Mr Tran Chien Thang, Assistant Minister of Culture of the People's Republic of China Mr Ding Wei, ASEAN Secretary-General Dr Surin Pitsuwan and high-ranking officials from Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand Japan and the Republic of Korea.—*MNA*

***Prime Minister General Thein Sein receives ministers, deputy ministers from ASEAN+3, the ASEAN Secretary-General and high-ranking officials.*—MNA**

***Prime Minister General Thein Sein cordially greets ministers, deputy ministers from ASEAN+3, the ASEAN Secretary-General and high-ranking officials.*—MNA**

Shopkeepers of Bayintnaung Market donate blood collectively

YANGON, 12 Jan — The seventh collective blood donation ceremony of Bayintnaung Market took place at the market in Mayangon Township here this morning. It was attended by Deputy Head U Tun Naing of Markets Department of Yangon North District, doctor in charge of the National Blood Centre of Yangon General Hospital Dr Thida Aung, Chairman of Market Development Affairs Committee U Myint Tun and shopkeepers.

Secretary of Market Development Affairs Committee U Khin Maung Lwin explained the purpose of the blood donation, and well-wishers donated K 1,717,280 to Dr Thida Aung. Next, 425 shopkeepers donated blood.

The family members of Bayintnaung Market have doanted 1,837 bottles of blood and over K 7.2 million to NBC for the seventh time.

MNA

Efforts made to successfully organize Celebration of 61st Anniversary Union Day 2008 in accord with fine traditions

Secretary-1 attends coord meeting on organizing 61st Anniversary Union Day 2008

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Jan — The coordination meeting on organizing the 61st Anniversary Union Day 2008 was held at the hall of the State Peace and Development Council Office, here, at 2 pm today, attended by Chairman of the Central Committee for Organizing the 61st Anniversary Union Day 2008 Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo.

Also present at the meeting were members of the Central Committee ministers, deputy ministers, the deputy auditor-general and senior military officers, members of the Management Committee and officials.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo making an address at the coord meeting on organizing 61st Anniversary Union Day 2008.—MNA

In his address, the Secretary-1 stressed the need to make efforts for successfully organizing the 61st Anniversary Union Day 2008 celebration, which falls on 12 February 2008, in accord with the fine traditions.

Members of the Central Committee and the Management Com-mittee reported on formation of the sub-committees for holding the 61st Anniversary Union Day celebration successfully, the objec-tives of the 61st Anniversary Union Day, the programmes of the ceremony, arrangements for inviting Union Day delegates, the hosting of the dinner and reception, the entertainment programme, the welcoming and accommodating the Union Day delegates and the arrangements for excursion tour.

Chairmen and officials of the sub-committees reported their respective sectors.

After hearing the reports, the Secretary-1 gave necessary instructions.— *MNA*

Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung tees off a tracer ball to open the Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Trophy Tatmadaw (Army, Navy, Air) Golf Tournament. **(News on Page 1)**—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee meets

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Jan — Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Enforce-ment Supervisory Committee held its 1/2008 meeting at the Nay Pyi Taw Command yesterday.

Patron of Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Enforce-ment Supervisory Committee Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin delivered a speech. He called on committee members to speed up traffic rules enforcement and reduction of crime and number of accidents and deaths in cooperation with local people.

The commander also presented prizes and certificates of honour to police members who made arrest of the abscondee in a car accident in Nay Pyi Taw Lewe Township.

Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee reported on the minutes of the previous meeting and inspection on traffic rules and observing the traffic rules. The meeting came to a close with the concluding remarks by the commander.—*MNA*

USDA CEC member welcomes Chinese delegation

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Jan —CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Nay Pyi Taw Mayor Col Thein Nyunt welcomed Vice-Chairperson of Standing Committee of National People's Congress and President of Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament Madame He Luli and party at the Nay Pyi Taw Airport yesterday.

The mayor conducted them round the ongoing construction tasks and progress of construction of hotels zone, shopping complex, Nay Pyi Taw Myoma and Thabyaegon Markets and staff quarters.

Next, the mayor hosted a luncheon in honour of the Chinese delegation at Thingaha Hotel. —*MNA*

Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin presents a certificate of honour to a police member. —MNA

Minister meets CHMC President

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Jan—Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint received Mr Lu Wenjun and party of China National Heavy Machinery Corporation from the People's Republic of China at the ministry, here, on 10 January.

They discussed matters related to construction of national grid of Yeywa Hydro Electric Power Project and materials for the main power station.—*MNA*

Export-import course 21 Jan

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Jan—The export and import procedure course No 32 organized by Directorate of Trade under the Minisry of Commerce will be opened from 21 to 29 January at Yangon branch of Directorate of Trade at No 228-240, Strand Road, Yangon.

The opening ceremony will be held at the office of DT at 8:00 am on 21 January.

MNA

***4-year-old Min Htaik Tha. (not in critical condition)*—MNA**

***Ma Nwe Nwe Win. (not in critical condition)*—MNA**

Ma Tin Yu Maw. (not in critical condition)
MNA

Ma San Yu Maw. (not in critical condition)
MNA

KNU insurgent killed while preparing …

(from page 16)

The man who tried to run away was Saw Ra Makee, 28, of Tatkon Village, Kyaukkyi Township. According to his confession, the man who was killed in the incident was Saw Di Thaw Mu with the rank of corporal in charge of collecting extortion money of battalion (8), brigade (3) of KNU; that in January 2006 when Saw Di Thaw Mu visited the village to collect extortion money, he made friends with him; that at 6 am on 11 January, the two left Kyeebin Village and arrived at Nyaungbintha Village through Kanyutkwin at about 5 pm; that then they got to the football ground of Nyaungbintha Village where Independence Day commemorative ceremony was being held, and they had crisps at the food stalls; that at about 6 pm, Saw Di Thaw Mu with the bag he had brought went to a well near the food stalls taking the shelter of the darkness, he prepared the bomb and then the bomb prematurely exploded. He said that he was afraid and tried to run away and was captured by the people.

A major group from abroad that is desirous of practising hegemony over Myanmar provided terrorist insurgent saboteurs with cash and related equipment with the intention of harming the public, causing panic among the people and undermining peace and stability.

Likewise, a bomb exploded in a public toilet in the compound of the staff quarters near Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Railway Station at 4.30 am yesterday. Further investigation revealed that traces of explosives were found on the clothes in the luggage of Naw Gay Lar who was killed in the blast. And it is learnt that the women was killed by the blast like the incident in Nyaungbintha Village while she was preparing to detonate the bomb.

In today's incident also, Saw Di Thaw Mu was at the village to harm the people enjoying the show and he lost his life while he was preparing to detonate the bomb. It can be assessed that the same major organization masterminded those atrocities, for explosives used in both incidents are the US-made powerful explosives and they are identical.

It is learnt that the entire people loathed such atrocities that harm the innocent people.

The authorities are striving to expose the insurgent destructionists and explosives and have urged the people to practise a constant vigilance against the saboteurs and to come forward with information.

MNA

District News in Brief

42nd Vinayadhika Mon literature examination on 18 Jan

The 42nd Vinayadhika Mon literature examination organized by Ramanya Nikaya will be held at Mon Dhammayon, southern stairway of Shwedagon Pagoda, from 18 to 20 January. A total of 150 members of Sangha will sit for the examination under the supervision of Ovadacariya Sayadaws, supervisor sayadaws and sayadaws who will prompt or cue candidates reciting Buddhist Scriptures in the examination. Those who wish to donate cash and kind may contact Ph: 375590.—***Myanma Alin***

Coord meeting on information tasks held in PyinOoLwin

A coordination meeting of PyinOoLwin District Information and Public Relations Department was held at the office of head of district IPRD in PyinOoLwin, Mandalay on 5 January. It was attended by the Head of PyinOoLwin District IPRD, heads of township IPRDs in the district and staff, and they held discussions on information tasks.—***Myanma Alin***

Winners of Baby Show awarded

The ceremony to present the prizes to the winners of Baby Show organized by Mindat Maternal and Child Welfare Association to mark the 60th Anniversary Independence Day was held at the office of the association on 4 January.

Daw Khin Win, chairperson of Mindat District MCW Supervisory Committee, and members presented awards to the winners.—***Myanma Alin***

Work Efficiency Course opens in Ywangan

The opening ceremony of work efficiency course for ward/village PDCs organized by Ywangan Township Peace and Development Council was held at the office of township PDC on 26 December in the township, Shan State (South), with an address by Chairman of Ywangan Township PDC U Aung Lwin.—***Myanma Alin***

First Aid Course No 3 and 4 concluded in Momauk

The ceremony to conclude the First Aid Course (Multiplier) No 3 and 4 organized by Momauk Red Cross Society was held at the hall of Man Naung Village Basic Education High School (Affiliated) in the township, Kachin State on 8 January. Police Captain Myint Kyu, head of township RCS, made a speech and presented certificates to the trainees.

Myanma Alin

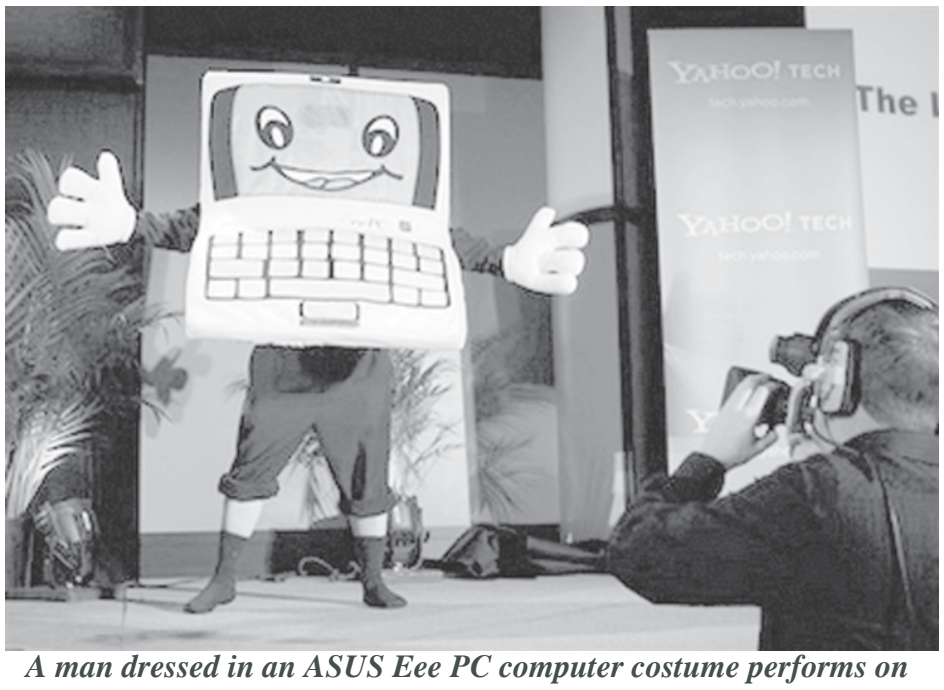
***Headmistress Daw Lay Khet presents prize to outstanding student Ma Thit Thit San at School Family Day and prize presentation ceremony of Basic Education High School No 1 (Sayaygon) in Maubin.* —H**

Images of the Day

Members of the "Soojin Dance" cheerleaders' squad, dressed in Chinese traditional costumes, practise a dance before a performance during the Good Luck Beijing 2008 Handball Tournament at the National Indoor Stadium in Beijing on 11 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET

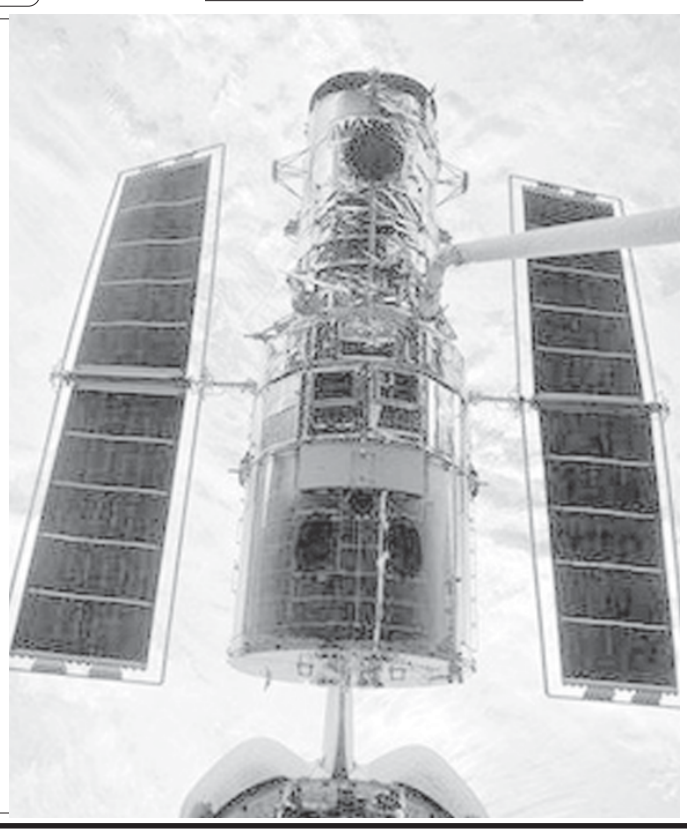
A ray swims in the salt water aquarium of Sea Life in Dresden, eastern Germany on 11 Jan, 2008, during the yearly inventory.
INTERNET

People watch a 12 meter long (39 foot) kite called 'space dummy' of France as various competitors fly kites during the International Kite Festival in Ahmadabad, India, on 12 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET



A man dressed in an ASUS Eee PC computer costume performs on stage at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas. The Eee PC is one of 10 finalists in 'The Last Gadget Standing' competition at this year's show.—INTERNET

Hubble Space Telescope is seen with ground view. A long-delayed and nearly canceled upgrade to the Hubble Space Telescope will have to wait until NASA completes delivery of three modules to the International Space Station, officials said on Tuesday.
INTERNET



TRADE MARK CAUTION

Novo Nordisk FemCare AG, a Company incorporated in Switzerland, of Andreasstrasse 15, 8050 Zurich, Switzerland, is the Owner of the following Trade Marks:-

EVIANA
Reg. No. 6504/2007

NOVIANA
Reg. No. 6505/2007

in respect of "**International Class 5:** Hormone preparations for treatment of women, namely hormone reparations for the treatment of oestrogen deficiency symptoms".

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Marks will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.
for **Novo Nordisk FemCare AG**
P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 13 January 2008

B'desh starts selling cut-price rice to poor people

DHAKA, 11 Jan — Bangladesh started selling cut-price rice across the country on Wednesday to help millions of poor people hit by exceptionally high commodity prices.

The initiative came after food prices rocketed because of several natural disasters last year that destroyed around 1.8 million tons of rice, the country's main staple food. The government is trying to step up imports to cover the shortfall.

The Army-backed interim government headed by former central bank chief Fakhruddin Ahmed has initially allocated 45,000 tons of rice for sale to the poor.

"The rice will be distributed in January through nearly 2,000 'fair price' retail shops, managed by private sector dealers initially," a Food Ministry official said.

Each family will be able to buy 3 kilos (6.6 pound) of rice a day at 25 taka (0.36 US dollar) per kilo. In the open market, rice sells at 40 taka per kilo, double the price of a year ago.

MNA/Reuters

Crude falls on recession concerns in US

NEW YORK, 11 Jan — Crude-oil futures ended a volatile session Wednesday modestly lower as concerns about possible US recession outweighed an eighth week drop of US crude inventories.

Crude for February delivery closed down 66 cents at 95.67 dollars a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Earlier it rallied to an intraday high of 97.97 dollars but also fell to an intraday low of 95.42 dollars.

The US Government reported on Wednesday crude inventories dropped by 6.8 million barrels in the week ending 4 January, much more than expected by analysts.

MNA/Xinhua

Egypt denies permanent US presence on Gaza border

CAIRO, 12 Jan— Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit has ruled out a permanent US presence on borders between Egypt and the Gaza Strip, the official MENA news agency reported on Friday.

The United States would sell advanced technical equipment to Egypt to detect tunnels along the Egyptian-Gaza border, Abul Gheit was quoted as saying.

However, the Egyptian Foreign Minister dismissed as groundless a permanent US presence along the Egyptian-Gaza border area.

"I could not imagine a permanent US presence in the land adjacent to the Egyptian borderline, taking into account the US participation in the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) in Sinai since 1981," Abul Gheit told media.

MNA/Xinhua

British troops tested for blood infection risk

LONDON, 11 Jan — Eighteen British troops are being tested for blood diseases after receiving emergency transfusions from American service personnel, Defence Minister Derek Twigg said on Thursday.

The British soldiers had been given life-saving treatment at American medical facilities after being wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Ministry of Defence said it offered the tests when it learned that the American donors had not been screened for infection after giving the blood, as should have happened. It said the British soldiers would almost certainly have died without the battlefield transfusions.

The soldiers will be checked for a range of infections including hepatitis B and C, syphillis, HIV, HTLV, which is suspected of causing leukaemia, and Chagas disease, a deadly parasite-borne condition found mainly in Latin America. "We have now informed the 18 service personnel and their next of kin and testing is ongoing at the moment," Twigg told BBC television.

MNA/Reuters

China says US plane mice disease-free

BEIJING, 11 Jan — China's quarantine authority said on Thursday it had found no diseases in eight mice discovered on an United Airlines flight from Washington.

Chinese inspectors found the mice after the airline reported the stowaways to local quarantine officials upon landing on Sunday afternoon, *Xinhua* news agency reported.

The incident prompted an emergency team to rush to the aircraft to lay poison and traps, and send captured mice for testing at a laboratory, the agency said.

The mice posted negative results in several categories of testing including "parasites" and "bubonic plague antigens", the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) said on its website (www.aqsiq.gov.cn).

AQSIQ said United Airlines staff were present during the "entire process" of the mice hunt, which had "not harmed the plane's equipment and would not affect (its) security".—*MNA/Reuters*

Australia to end plastic bags in supermarkets

SYDNEY, 12 Jan — Australia has followed China in announcing it plans to end plastic bag use in supermarkets, with its new Environment Minister saying on Thursday he wants a phase-out to start by the end of 2008.

"There are some four billion of these plastic bags floating around the place, getting into landfill, ending up affecting our wildlife, and showing up on our beaches while we are on holidays," Environment Minister Peter Garrett said on Thursday.

"I think most Australians would like to see them rid. We think it's absolutely critical that we get cracking on it," Garrett, once president of the Australian Conservation Foundation, told local media. — *MNA/Reuters*

Cars are seen on a flooded street in Mecca on 11 Jan, 2008. Heavy rain and snow have affected the northern region of Saudi Arabia since Thursday.
INTERNET

Indonesia records 117 bird flu patients

JAKARTA, 12 Jan — A 16-year-old Indonesian girl from an outskirts city of Jakarta has been infected by avian influenza, putting the total number of cases in the hardest-hit country to 117 with 94 fatalities, the Health Ministry said here Friday.

The girl from Bekasi City has been treated at the bird flu-designed hospital of Persahabatan in East Jakarta since Wednesday after receiving treatment at a hospital in Bekasi since 4 January, an official of bird flu centre of the ministry Joko Suyono said.

All lab tests indicated that the girl was positively contracted by the H5N1 virus, he said.

"Both laboratories tests of her blood samples are positive," he told Xinhua.

MNA/Xinhua

Deep sea probe to track Australia climate change

SYDNEY, 12 Jan — Australian and US scientists will send an unmanned submersible 2.5-kilometre (1.5-mile) deep into the ocean off Australia next week to track climate change by studying coral at unprecedented depths.

The joint project will film live and fossilized deep-sea coral off the coast of Australia's southern island state of Tasmania, studying coral growth rings which like tree rings can store centuries of information about the environment.

"Like tree rings, growth rings in corals indicate age. They also reflect changes over centuries and millennia in ocean chemistry and the ocean environment," Ron Thresher from the Australian Government's Commonwealth Scientific & Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) said on Thursday.

"Deep ocean corals are a litmus test of the deep ocean when it comes to identifying how temperature and salinity have changed over decades and centuries," Thresher, who will set sail on Friday, said in a statement announcing the project.

MNA/Reuters

Chewing too much gum may cause severe weight loss

BEIJING, 12 Jan. — Chewing too much gum containing sorbitol, a sugar substitute that is also a laxative, may cause chronic diarrhea leading to potentially dangerous weight loss, German doctors warn.

In an unusual case study reported by Saturday's issue of the British Medical Journal, German gastro-entorologists describe how they investigated two patients who had persistent diarrhea.

One was a 21-year-old woman who had been experiencing diarrhea and diffuse abdominal pain for eight months and had lost 11 kilos (24.2 pounds) of her 51.8-kilo (114-pound) body weight.

The other was a 46-year-old man with flatulence, abdominal bloating and diarrhea so bad that he had lost 22 kilos (48 pounds), or a fifth of his body weight, over the past year.

A woman chewing gum.

Their cases remain mysteries until the doctors asked about their chewing habits. Both were found to be consuming a lot of sorbitol, primarily from chewing gum, said Dr Herbert Lochs, professor of internal medicine at Humboldt University in Berlin, and one author of the report.

After both patients started a sorbitol-free diet normal bowel movements resumed and weight gain was achieved. Sorbitol consumption in large amounts can cause functional bowel complaints and con-siderable unintended weight loss, so the investigation of unexplained weight loss should include detailed dietary history with regard to foods containing sorbitol, the authors say in a statement.

Internet

Everest conqueror Edmund Hillary dies

WELLINGTON, 12 Jan— New Zealand's Sir Edmund Hillary, who along with Nepal's Tenzing Norgay Sherpa became the first to conquer Mount Everest, died in hospital on Friday. He was 88.

New Zealand flags flew at half mast at Scott Base in Antarctica on Friday, mourning the loss of one of the greatest adventurers of the 20th Century.

"The legendary mountaineer, adventurer, and philanthropist is the best-known New Zealander ever to have lived. But most of all he was a quintessential Kiwi," New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark said on Friday in announcing Hillary's death. Hillary scaled the world's highest mountain in 1953, telling companions after the climb: "We knocked the bastard off".

The cause of Hillary's death was not announced, but he had been ill for some time and local media reported he had been suffering pneumonia. Radio New Zealand said he died at Auckland City Hospital on Friday morning.

"He was a colossus. He was an heroic figure who not only knocked off Everest but lived a life of determination, humility, and generosity," said Clark.

MNA/Reuters

Building a team through Hubei physical education

BEIJING, 12 Jan — Central China's Hubei Province recently introduced team-building games into its college-level physical education programmes, the *Chutian Metropolis Daily* reported.

The programmes, which include "broken bridge in the air," "mountaineering," and "an escape from drowning," aim to cultivate bravery, unity and independence in problem-solving among university students.

Teamwork training games are now prevalent in many Chinese cities.

Internet

A student spans a 2-metre wide broken suspension bridge with a climbing rope on 10 Jan, 2008 during physical education. **INTERNET**

Missing molecules are key to breast cancer spread

CHICAGO, 12 Jan— By restoring tiny bits of genetic material missing from breast tumors in mice, US researchers said on Wednesday they were able to block the cancer's ability to spread.

The finding will help doctors make better treatment decisions and may give rise to a new way of halting the advance of breast cancer, said Dr. Sohail Tavazoie, an oncologist at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre in New York.

"What's most important to us as cancer doctors is the concern that the cancer is going to come back," said Tavazoie, whose study appears in the journal *Nature*.

Tavazoie said the research will give doctors a better way to determine if a particular breast cancer tumor will spread and also add to the list of possible targets that could be used to make drugs that block genes that make cancers spread.

MNA/Reuters

China to limit use of plastic bags from one June

BEIJING, 11 Jan — The government will impose limits on the use of plastic bags starting on June 1, as part of its dual campaign to protect the environment and save energy.

In a circular posted on the central government's website (www.gov.cn) on Tuesday, the General Office of the State Council ordered a ban on the production, sale and use of ultra-thin bags (defined as less than 0.025 mm thick) as of 1 June.

Further, supermarkets and shops will be banned from giving free plastic bags to customers as of that date.

China thus joins many governments that have moved to limit the manufacture, sale and use of plastic bags, according to the circular. "Our country consumes a large amount of plastic bags.

While convenient for consumers, the bags also lead to a severe waste of resources and environmental pollution because of their excessive use and low rate of recycling," said the circular.

"The ultra-thin bags are the main source of 'white' pollution as they can easily get broken and end up as litter."

MNA/Xinhua

A flock of wild pigeons fly over the Potala Palace in Lhasa, capital of southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, on 10 Jan, 2008. Lhasa, which is entitled "the City of the Sun", has met the target of more than 345 days, or more than 95 percent of a year, with fairly good air quality every year since 2000. **– XINHUA**

SPORTS

Sao Paulo coach heaps praise on Adriano

RIO DE JANEIRO, 12 Jan — Sao Paulo coach Muricy Ramalho heaped praise on troubled striker Adriano on Friday, saying he was fit and ready for the start of the new Brazilian season next week.

Adriano joined the Brazilian champions on loan last month from Inter Milan where he has barely played in the last two years because of fitness and alcohol problems.

"As long as he's fit, he's going to play in our first game," Ramalho told reporters after training on Friday. —*MNA/Reuters*

***The former Olympic track gold medalist Marion Jones was sentenced to six months in prison Friday for lying to investigators about using performance-enhancing drugs and her role in a check-fraud scam.—*INTERNET**

US Olympian Marion Jones gets six months in prison

WHITE PLAINS (New York), 12 Jan — Disgraced US sprinter Marion Jones was sentenced to six months in prison on Friday for lying to federal prosecutors about her steroid use, a stunning downfall for the five-time Olympic medalist.

US District Court Judge Kenneth Karas imposed the sentence after Jones, 32, pleaded guilty to two charges last October, when she retired from athletics and tearfully confessed to betraying the trust of her fans after years of denying she used performance-enhancing drugs.

"Your honour, I absolutely realize the gravity of these offenses and I am deeply sorry," Jones told the judge, crying as she begged not to be separated from her two young sons.

"I pray that you be as merciful as a human being can be."

Karas gave Jones six months for lying about steroid use and two months ó to run concurrently ó for misleading federal investigators about a check fraud case involving her ex-boyfriend, former 100-metre world record holder Tim Montgomery.

MNA/Reuters

***Hozumi Hasegawa of Japan (R) celebrates after defeating Simone Maludrottu (L) of Italy during their World Boxing Council (WBC) bantamweight title bout in Osaka, western Japan, on 10 Jan, 2008.—*INTERNET**

Coaches say govt cooperation needed in doping fight

SALVO (North Carolina), 12 Jan — Marion Jones's prison sentence for lying about steroid use proves how effective cooperation between government and anti-doping agencies can be in the fight against drugs in sport, officials and coaches say.

"Federal investigators got Marion," International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) spokesman Nick Davies told Reuters after Jones, once the world's leading female athlete, was sentenced to six months in prison on Friday.

"There needs to be a coordinated approach," Davies said in a telephone interview from IAAF headquarters in Monte Carlo.

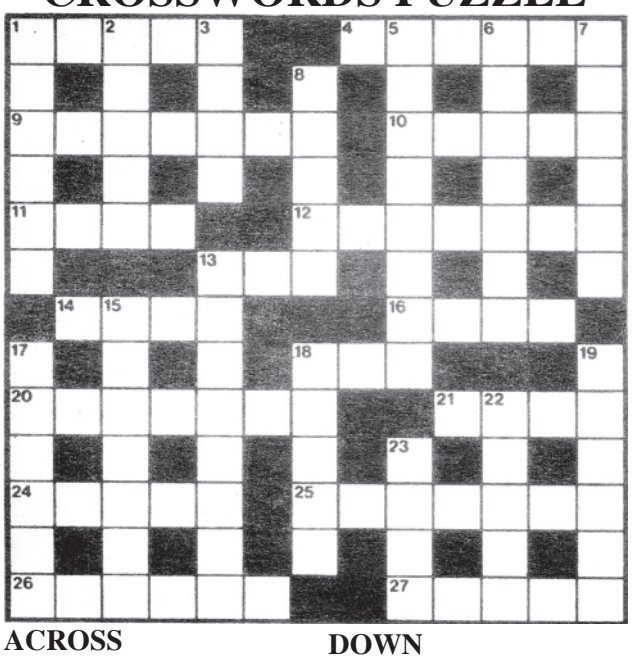
"The only way to win this war is to have collaboration between sport bodies and government authorities."

Jones passed 160 doping tests before finally admitting in a US court last year she had taken the banned substance tetrahydrogestrinone (THG), known as "the clear," before the 2000 Olympics.

MNA/Reuters

***Shigeki Maruyama of Japan hits a fairway drive on the ninth hole during the second round of the Sony Open golf tournament in Honolulu, Hawaii on 11 Jan, 2008.* INTERNET**

CROSSWORDS PUZZLE



ACROSS

1 Change
4 Aborigine
9 Female forbear
10 Indian prince
11 Otherwise
12 Computer instructions
13 Health resort
14 Needle case
16 Moslem magistrate
18 Alcoholic beverage
20 Rags
21 Rip
24 Frantic fear
25 Language
26 Agreement
27 Dissuade

DOWN

1 Fisherman
2 Snares
3 Communists
5 Flying service
6 Wounded
7 Dig up body
8 South American plain
13 Exhaust component
15 Gigantic
17 Cloud-cuckoo land
18 Twisted
19 Bowman
22 Force from home
23 Old

Anelka completes transfer to Chelsea

LONDON, 12 Jan — France striker Nicolas Anelka completed his 15 million pounds (29.35 million US dollars) transfer to Chelsea from Bolton Wanderers on Friday.

Anelka signed a 3-1/2 year contract after passing a medical, the west London club said on their Web site (www.chelseafc.com).

The much-travelled 28-year-old was registered in time to make his debut against Tottenham Hotspur in Saturday's Premier League derby at Stamford Bridge.

"Chelsea are a big club. I have proved that I can score goals at the top level and I can do the same for Chelsea," Anelka was quoted as saying on the website.

"I want to tell the Chelsea fans that I see this as a great opportunity and an honour to play for Chelsea and I will not disappoint them. "Chelsea is the team I really wanted to join and I hope this will be the last club that I play for," added Anelka, who is keen also to play Champions League football.

"I am really looking forward to working with Avram (Grant) and Chelsea's style of football really suits my game."

MNA/Reuters

***Andy Roddick of the US returns a shot to Marcos Baghdatis of Cyprus at the final of the Kooyong Classic tennis tournament in Melbourne on 12 Jan, 2008.—*INTERNET**

Ukraine appoint Mikhaylichenko as coach

KIEV, 12 Jan — Former Dynamo Kiev midfielder and trainer Olexiy Mikhaylichenko was named as Ukraine's national team coach on Friday. "I consider it an honour and great responsibility to take on this job," said Mikhaylichenko, promoted from the Under-21 team.

"Our main aim is to qualify for the World Cup 2010. To tell the truth, we do have some potential to fulfil this task", Mikhaylichenko told reporters. Oleh Blokhin, Ukraine's previous coach, quit in December after the side failed to qualify for Euro 2008. He had succeeded however in steering them to their first major finals at the 2006 World Cup in Germany where they reached the last eight.

Former Soviet Union international Mikhaylichenko, 44, was coach of Dynamo Kiev from 2002 to 2004, winning two Ukrainian league titles and the national cup twice. —*MNA/Reuters*

France, WHO sign cooperation agreement for 5-yr period

PARIS, 12 Jan — France signed here Wednesday a cooperation agreement with the World Health Organization (WHO) for the 2008/2013 period for the provision of financial and technical support.

French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner said besides its mandatory contribution of nearly 30 million US dollars per year, France will commit an additional voluntary contribution of 29 million US dollars over the next two years, and assign 31 technical assistants to WHO. "These are considerable efforts we have been working hard to maintain during the past years," he said.

"Today marks an important date in our long cooperation," said Dr. Margaret Chan, WHO Director General, adding that France was not only committing itself financially but also "providing us with professional talent in various sectors".

On her part, the French Health Minister Roselyne Bachelot said priorities defined by WHO "are in tandem with international priorities of the French Ministry of Health, namely, health security, improvement of health systems, environmental health and chronic diseases".

MNA/Xinhua

Voltaic Systems, backpack with waterproof solar panels is shown at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas,on 9 Jan, 2008. The backpack can charge NP3 players, cell phones and most digital cameras.—INTERNET

Mine blast kills NATO soldier in Afghanistan

KABUL, 11 Jan— A soldier from the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) was killed and another was wounded in a mine blast in southern Afghanistan on Wednesday, a military statement said.

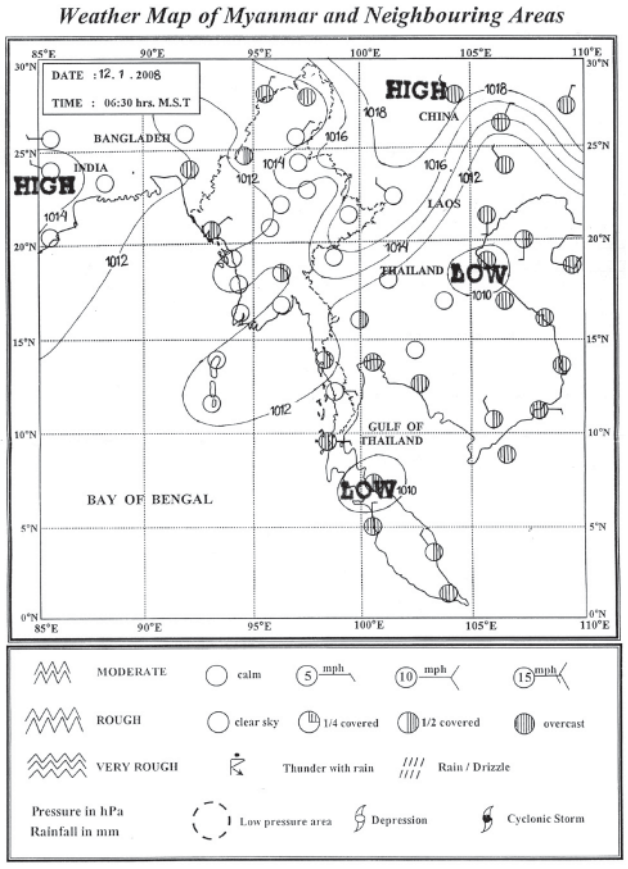
Taleban's suicide attacks and roadside bombs have been a major problem for Afghanistan and its Western backers in the last few years with hundreds of people killed or injured.

On Monday two coalition soldiers died when their vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb in the east.

In accordance with policy, ISAF does not release the nationality of casualties.

MNA/Reuters

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Saturday, 12 January, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (4ºC) below January average temperatures in Shan State, (3ºC) above January average temperatures in Chin State, (5ºC) above January average temperatures in Taninthayi Division and about January average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Loilin(0ºC), Pinlaung (1ºC), Heho (4ºC) and Mogok (5ºC).

Maximum temperature on 11-1-2008 was 93ºF. Minimum temperature on 12-1-2008 was 61ºF. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 12-1-2008 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 11-1-2008 was (8.1) hours approx.

Rainfall on 12-1-2008 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 (4) mph from North at (13:30) hours MST on 11-1-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 13-1-2008: Possibility of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Kachin State,weather will be partly cloudy in Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers in the extreme Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 13-1-2008: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 13-1-2008: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 13-1-2008: Fair weather.

TV Myanmar

Sunday, 13 January
View on today

7:00 am
1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီးနိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ့မဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ချုပ်၊အဘိဓေမဟာရဋ္ဌဂုရု၊အဘိဓေအဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိက၊တိပိဋကဓရ၊ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am
3. Morning news

7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song

7:50 am
5. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ(၃၈)ဖြာမင်္ဂလာ

8:05 am
6. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:10 am
7. နဂါးရေလှောင်တမံ

8:30 am
8. International news

8:45 am
9. Say it in English

11:00 am
1. Martial song

11:10 am
2. Musical programme

11:25 am
3. Round up of the week's International news

11:40 am
4. ထက်မြက်ပျော်ရွှင်အိမ်ထောင်ရှင်

12:05 pm
5. Myanmar movie: "ရင်ထဲကဆောင်းရာသီ" (လွင်မိုး၊ထွန်းအိန္ဒြာဇို၊မြတ်ကေသီအောင်)(ဒါရိုက်တာ–မောင်ဝဏ္ဏ)

2:30 pm
6. ပူဇော်မပြတ်အစဉ်မြတ်ရင်ခွင်

2:40 pm
7. သစ်လွင်ခံ့ညားဖားသစ်ရှင်းတံတား

2:45 pm
8. International news

4:00 pm
1. Martial song

4:15 pm
2. Song to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm
3. English for everyday use

4:40 pm
4. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေးရပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ–ဒုတိယနှစ်(ရူပဗေဒအထူးပြု)(ရူပဗေဒ)

4:55 pm
5. Song of national races

5:10 pm
6. Musical programme

5:30 pm
7. Sing and enjoy

6:00 pm
8. Evening news

6:30 pm
9. Weather report

6:35 pm
10. "ညောင်မယ်ဗျို့" (ခန့်စည်သူ၊ဌက်ပျောကြော်၊မိုးပြည့်ပြည့်မောင်၊တက္ကသိုလ်ဂွမ်းပုံ)(ဒါရိုက်တာ–ဖုန်းမြင့်အောင်)

6:45 pm
12. ပညာရေးအတွက် ICT

7:05 pm
11. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်သူအားမာန်" (အပိုင်း–၄)

8:00 pm
13. News
14. International news
15. Weather report
16. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချိုမြိန်သောအချစ်နေ့" (အပိုင်း–၁၁)
17. The next day's programme

Radio Myanmar

Sunday, 13 January
Tune in today

8:30 am Brief news
8:35 am Music -Pray
8:40 am Perspectives
8:45 am Music -Latin lover
8:50 am National news/ Slogan
9:00 am Music -Witch doctor
9:05 am International news
9:10 am Cultural images of Myanmar -"Myanmar and lotus"
9:20 am Music -Dr Jones
1:30 pm News/ Slogan
1:40 pm Children's delight (story) -The 4 young men
1:50 pm Songs for children
9:00 pm Weekly news review
9:10 pm Article
9:20 pm Music/LIETS -Miss you like crazy -Eternal flame
9:45 pm News /Slogan
10:00 pm PEL

R 489 Published by the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information, Union of Myanmar. Editedn printed at The New Light of Myanmar Press, No 22/30 Strand Road at 43rd Street, Yangon. Cable Newlight, PO Box No. 43, Telephones: Editors 392308, Manager 392226, Circulation 392304, Advertisement 392223, Accounts 392224, Administration 392225, Production/Press 392369

People's Desire

☆ We favour stability.

☆ We favour peace.

☆ We oppose unrest and violence.

KNU insurgent killed while preparing to plant bomb in Pyu Township

Hard-core insurgent captured

Four innocent people wounded

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Jan—A bomb exploded yesterday in the football ground in Nyaungbintha Village, Pyu Township, Bago Division, killing one who was making preparations to plant the bomb, and wounding four innocent people.

At about 7:30 pm yesterday, a KNU insurgent, about 25, was killed when the bomb he was planting to detonate exploded prematurely near U Maung Maung circus show being staged in the football ground to mark the Independence Day. People nearby seized a US-made 0.22 revolver in a holster, 20 rounds of ammunition, and a bomb made of two explosive blocks from the body.

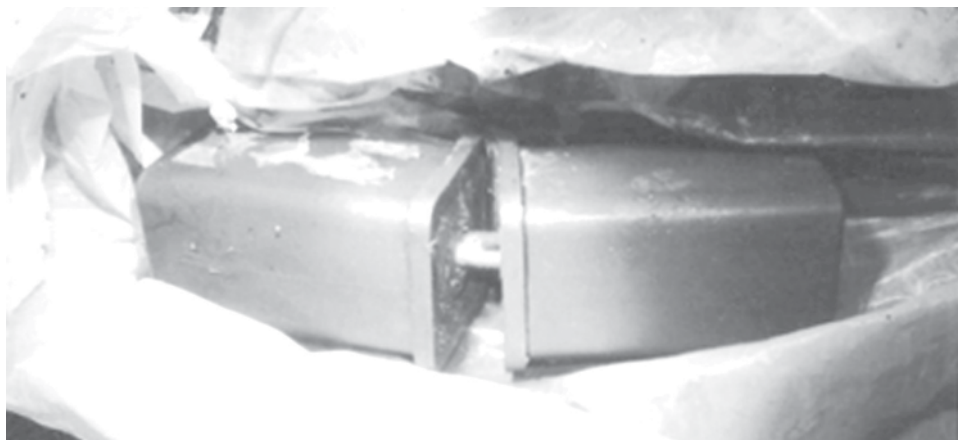
As soon as the bomb exploded, a suspect among the crowd tried to run away, so the people captured him.

The explosion wounded Ma San Yu Maw, 30, of Nyaungbintha Village, Maung Min Htaik Tha, 4, and Ma Nwe Nwe Win, 26, of Yay Oh Zin Village, and Ma Tin Yu Maw, 22, of Kyeemanoe village.

(See page 10)

Saw Ra Makee of Tatkon Village in Kyaukgyi Township, who was arrested by the people after bomb blast.
MNA

***Body of KNU insurgent Saw Di Thaw Mu of brigade (3) of KNU.*—MNA**



Arms and ammunition seized from KNU insurgent Saw Di Thaw Mu killed in bomb blast.
MNA

☆ RFA, VOA and BBC airing skyful of lies

☆ RFA, VOA and BBC saboteurs, watch your step!

☆ The public be warned of killers in the air waves — RFA, VOA and BBC