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Friday, 18 January, 2008

Senior General Than Shwe welcomes back PM General Thein Sein on his return from Brunei

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe welcomed back Prime Minister General Thein Sein who arrived back here by special flight after paying an official visit to Brunei Darussalam at the invitation of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at Nay Pyi Taw Airport at 2 pm today.

Present also at the airport were 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, Member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Secretary-1 of the SPDC Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, members of the SPDC Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Maj-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and senior military officers, departmental heads, Charge d' Affaires ai of the Brunei Embassy to the Union of Myanmar Mr Noorazmi Haji Sulaiman and officials.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu,



Director-General of SPDC Office Col Kyaw Kyaw Win, Director-General of Protocol Department U Kyaw Kyaw, departmental heads and officials also arrived back on the same flight.

MNA

Senior General Than Shwe welcomes back Prime Minister General Thein Sein at Nay Pyi Taw Airport. — MNA



*Professor
Dr Paing Soe*

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National Development and the Role of Health Sector—II

While the health authorities are combating normally occurring disease it has made contingency plans for highly infectious diseases occurring worldwide. Rapid response teams for severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and Avian Influenza (AI) are stationed at the port of entries to Myanmar to check and to respond if found. Health personnel and facilities are at ready to face the emergency health care situations.

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

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 18 January, 2008

Establishment of self-reliant libraries broadens the horizons of rural people

Knowledge has become dominant over any other field and can boost prosperity of a nation. So, people try to widen their horizons.

Myanmar is pursuing a wide range of programmes of “education for all” — formal education, non-formal education and informal education.

Since 1988, the government has been implementing the follow-up literacy programme and three ‘Rs’ courses for adults. As a result, the literacy rate of the nation has risen to more than 94 per cent.

Now, more and more community learning centres and self-reliant libraries are being opened to encourage literate people to cultivate a good habit of reading, do post-literacy activities and continue to study.

Since 2004, the Ministry of Information has opened self-reliant libraries in rural areas. Up to now, 55,755 out of more than 60,000 villages throughout the nation have got a library each.

When a person becomes literate, he has gained reasoning power to a certain degree to distinguish right and wrong and between advantage and disadvantage. Extensive opening of libraries contributes towards post-literacy activities and widening the horizons of rural people. Therefore, regional organizations, social organizations and the entire people have to make earnest efforts to ensure sustainable development of libraries and to furnish them with a growing number of beneficial publications.



U Kyi Lwin of Pinya Manufacturing Co Ltd and Actor Lwin Moe sign a contract for tour to Myeik islands. — 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

Minister goes on inspection tour of Kengtawng Hydropower Project

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan — Minister for Electric Power No 1 Col Zaw Min and party visited Kengtawng Hydropower Project site on Nanhtein creek, 30 miles north east of Mongnai on 13 January.

Upon his arrival, the minister looked into progress of construction tasks of Kengtawng Hydropower Project and installation of machines at the power plant and then left necessary instructions.

Along with the officials concerned, the minister inspected digging of Tailrace Channel, concrete laying tasks and earth works to build Switch Yard. The following day the minister and party heard reports on project functions presented by officials concerned at

the briefing hall. After giving instructions, the minister oversaw laying of pipe lines, progress in building water intake structure and future plans.

During the inspections, the minister gave instructions on timely completion of project tasks, supervision and test on quality of construction materials, plans to be laid down for fire fighting drills, measures for minimizing waste and loss, greening tasks, conservation of forests and trees and worksite safety measures.

Eighty-six per cent of the whole project has been completed so far. If completed, the 54-megawatt power plant will generate 472 million kilowatt hours.

MNA

24th Gems and Jade Sales 2008 continues for third day

YANGON, 17 Jan — The 24th Gems and Jade Sales 2008 of the Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited continued for the third day at Myanma Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here this morning.

It was attended by Managing Director Maj-Gen Win Than of the Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited, members of board of directors and officials.

So far, 725 local gem merchants and 281 foreign merchants have arrived here and they observed gems and jade.

The opening ceremony of the sales will be held at 9 am tomorrow, and the sales lasts up to 19 January.



Bargain forms of the gem merchants will be examined at 7 am tomorrow. So, bargain forms are to be put into tender boxes, not later than 7.30 am tomorrow.

MNA

Local and foreign merchants examine jade lots at 24th Gems and Jade Sales for 2008 of UMEHL. — MNA

One injured in mine blast in Htantabin

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan — Insurgent destructionists are undermining the stability of the State, community peace and tranquility and prevalence of law and order. They are also committing destructive acts with the intention of killing and injuring innocent people using various ways and means.

On 14 January, Mg Nay Linn Aung, 26, son of U Kyi Aung of Meechaung village, Htantabin township of Bago division, lost his left ankle after stepping on a mine planted by insurgents near north Kanasoepin village while he was cutting down some bamboo.

The injured was rushed to Township Hospital where he received medical treatment and necessary assistance. The authorities concerned and local people are investigating the case.

MNA

Algeria says “unilateral” UN bomb probe unwelcome

ALGIERS, 17 Jan — Algeria does not welcome a United Nations investigation into a bombing that killed 17 UN staff because the move was decided without consulting Algerian authorities, the Prime Minister said.

The UN said on Monday that Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon had appointed an independent panel to probe the 11 December bombing in Algiers.

The government daily, *El Moudjahid*, quoted Prime Minister Abdelaziz Belkhadem on Wednesday as saying the Algerian Ambassador at the UN had not been consulted and “Algeria’s view on this issue has not been taken into consideration”.

MNA/Reuters

New US audit questions efficacy of Iran sanctions

WASHINGTON, 17 Jan — The economic impact of US sanctions against Iran is unclear and Iran has signed about 20 billion in energy contracts with foreign firms since 2003, said a US audit

report. “US officials and experts report that US sanctions have specific impacts on Iran; however, the extent of such impacts is difficult to determine,” said the report by the

nonpartisan Government Accountability Office, which was obtained by *Reuters* late on Tuesday. “Other evidence raises questions about the extent of reported economic impacts,” it added.

The report by the investigative arm of Congress comes as the Bush Administration is pushing for a third round of UN Security Council sanctions against Iran and planned talks with major powers in Berlin next week to iron out differences on those punitive measures.

MNA/Reuters

Poll shows Obama, Clinton tied in 2008 Democratic race

WASHINGTON, 17 Jan — Barack Obama has erased a once substantial deficit to climb into a virtual tie with Hillary Clinton in the US Democratic presidential race, according to a *Reuters/Zogby* poll released on Wednesday.

Among Republicans, John McCain charged to the front of a shifting presidential field, shooting past Mike Huckabee and a fading Rudy Giuliani as the opening contests of the 2008 White House campaign dramatically

reshaped the races in both parties.

Wins in Iowa by Obama, an Illinois Senator, and Huckabee, a former Arkansas governor, gave both candidates jolts of momentum in the race. — MNA/Reuters

Kenya faces 2nd day of opposition protests

NAIROBI, 17 Jan — Kenyans faced a second day of protests on Thursday as the opposition called for more rallies against President Mwai Kibaki’s

disputed re-election.

Police fired teargas and live rounds to scatter hundreds of supporters of Kibaki’s rival Raila Odinga who tried to march on Wednesday in the western towns of Kisumu and Eldoret, the slums of the capital Nairobi and the coastal resort of Mombasa. But calls for mass action by Odinga, who says Kibaki stole victory at the December 27 polls, appeared to have gone unheeded by many Kenyans weary from more than two weeks of unrest. Security forces shot dead three men in the opposition stronghold of Kisumu, angering human rights activists.

MNA/Reuters

Musharraf says troops to shoot rioters in Pakistan polls

ISLAMABAD, 17 Jan — Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf has said troops will be ordered to shoot anyone trying to disrupt general elections due on 18 February.

The elections are meant to complete a transition to civilian rule and allies of nuclear-armed Pakistan hope they will promote stability after months of political turmoil and rising militant violence.

The elections for the Lower House National Assembly and assemblies in Pakistan’s four provinces were postponed from 8 January after the assassination of Benazir Bhutto on 17 December.

Nearly 50 people were killed in rioting after the opposition leader’s murder, most in her home province of Sindh in the south, and many millions of dollars in damage was caused.

MNA/Reuters

Palestine blames world community for Israeli raids

RAMALLAH, 17 Jan — The Palestinian Government led by Salam Fayyad blamed the international community on Wednesday for bloodily Israeli raids in the Palestinian territories.

“We can’t exempt the international community from its responsibilities in any way,” said Information Minister Riyadh al-Maliki.

“The Palestinian territories lay under the occupation and, according to the international law, the international community shoulders the responsibility,” he added.

Al-Maliki said the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has asked the Middle East peace Quartet, comprising the United States, the European Union, Russia and the UN, to intervene and urge Israel to calm down.

Some 19 Palestinians, including 13 Hamas fighters, were killed and 25 others wounded in the Israeli Army offensive in eastern Gaza City on Tuesday, the bloodiest day since Gaza in the grip of Hamas.

MNA/Xinhua

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



Demonstrators march along a road in the western town of Kisumu, Kenya—INTERNET

Bus explosion kills 23, injures 67 in S Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, 17 Jan — At least 23 people were killed and 67 others injured when a civilian bus was hit by an explosion in Sri Lanka’s southern Monaragala District Wednesday morning, said the military. Officials from the Media Centre for National Security said the incident happened at about 7:45 am (0215

GMT) in Okkampitiya, about 240 kilometres southeast of Colombo, adding that many of the casualties were school children.

The rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has been blamed for the explosion by the government.

The blast occurred as the government’s decision to withdraw

from the ceasefire agreement with the LTTE would take effect on Wednesday.

Claiming discrimination at the hands of the Sinhala majority, the LTTE has been fighting the government since the mid-1980s to establish a separate homeland for the minority Tamils in the north and east.

MNA/Xinhua



A policeman stands guard near the bus damaged by a roadside explosion in Monaragala on 16 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET

Brazilian President meets Castro, offers credits

HAVANA, 16 Jan—Cuban leader Fidel Castro on Tuesday held talks with visiting Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, whose country offered Cuba millions of US dollars in credit.

“The meeting is being held as we speak,” which began at 5:00 pm local time (2200 GMT), said Favio Rocha, a Brazilian Foreign Ministry spokesman.

Castro, 81, has been recovering from a serious stomach complaint since July 2006, when he temporarily ceded power to Defence Minister Raul

Castro.

The talks came at the end of Lula’s 24-hour visit to Cuba. He also met earlier with Raul Castro at the Palace of the Revolution.

This is the Brazilian President’s second visit to Cuba since he took office in 2003.

During Lula’s visit, the two countries signed 10 deals, ranging from oil exploration, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals to agriculture, in efforts to boost bilateral cooperation, said *Cuba’s Latin American News Agency*.

MNA/Xinhua



Brazil’s President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva (L) and Cuba’s leader Fidel Castro talk during a meeting in Havana on 15 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET

200 babies born per hour in Philippines

MANILA, 17 Jan—The population in the Philippines will be increasing at the rate of 200 babies for every hour this year, making the archipelago the most populated in Southeast Asia, local media said

on Tuesday.

Filipinos now number around 84 million, the Manila Time reported, citing the Philippine National Statistical Coordination Board.

MNA/Xinhua

Suicide truck bomb hits US patrol in N Iraq

MOSUL (Iraq), 17 Jan—A suicide truck bomber struck a US patrol in the city of Mosul, capital of Nineveh Province, on Wednesday, wounding five people, a provincial police source said.

“A suicide bomber rammed his booby-trapped KIA truck into a US patrol in Mosul’s southern neighbourhood of al-Malliyah, wounding five bystanders,” Brigadier Abdul Kareem al-Jubouri, head of Nineveh’s police operations office, told *Xinhua*.

It was unclear whether the US patrol sustained any casualties as the troops immediately cordoned off the area, preventing the Iraqi police from approaching the scene, Jubouri said.

The US military did not confirm the incident yet. Mosul, some 400 kilometres north of Baghdad, has been the hotbed of insurgency and sectarian violence since the US-led invasion in 2003. — MNA/Xinhua

Nearly 2,200 druggers arrested in Singapore last year

SINGAPORE, 17 Jan—Nearly 2,200 drug abusers were arrested in 2007, a 78-per-cent increase from 2006 when 1,218 were arrested, the TV Channel NewsAsia reported on Tuesday. The TV channel NewsAsia quoted the Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) as saying that most of those arrested were subutex abusers, followed by heroin abusers, said the report.

The Bureau also pointed out that most of the druggers, or 77 per cent, were repeat abusers, while the proportion of first time drug abusers arrested decreased from 39 per cent of the total abusers in 2006 to 23 per cent in 2007.

MNA/Xinhua

Norwegian journalist killed in Afghanistan

STOCKHOLM, 16 Jan —Norwegian journalist Carsten Thomassen was killed in a terrorist attack on Monday in Afghan capital Kabul, according to a statement posted on the Norwegian Foreign Ministry website.

Thomassen was one of journalists who were accompanying Norwegian Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Stoere on his visit to Afghanistan, the Norwegian Foreign Ministry said.

“I was deeply saddened to learn that Carsten’s life could not be saved following the terrorist attack on Hotel Serena,” the Norwegian foreign minister said in the statement.

“Carsten was dedicated to his work as a journalist. All of us who



South Korean environmental activists, wearing oxygen masks in patient suits with an earth- and fish-shaped hats perform during a rally claiming the earth is dying because of an oil spill in South Korea, at downtown Seoul, on 17 Jan, 2008. —INTERNET

Japan tests missile-defence capability in Tokyo

TOKYO, 16 Jan—Japan sent military trucks into a park in central Tokyo this week to see whether high-tech PAC-3 missile

interceptors would be capable of shooting down missiles headed for the city. Japan has two PAC-3 interceptors at military bases around Tokyo, but given their relatively limited range, they would need to be deployed closer to the centre of the city for optimal protection if a missile attack was believed to be likely.

The Defence Ministry said it had tested com-

munication equipment on Monday and Tuesday at a park in Shinjuku, central Tokyo, to see if *Patriot Advanced Capability-3* interceptors could be moved to the area from outside Tokyo in an emergency.

A spokesman said the ministry was unlikely to disclose the results of the tests, in which it used four trucks with antennas and radio relay equipment.

MNA/Reuters

Southern Africa floods kill three in Zambia

LUSAKA, 17 Jan —Floods in southern Africa have killed three people in Zambia and put a major power generation dam at

risk of collapse as UN agencies said on Tuesday they expected more rains in the region.

Zambia has been one of the worst hit countries by floods that have displaced thousands of people, destroyed infra-structure and increased the risk of disease. “We have picked three bodies of victims of floods in the Maramba stream. These people were swept away by floods in the stream ... as they tried to cross using a foot-bridge,” Lemmy Kajoba, the police chief for Zambia’s southern province, told *Reuters* by telephone.

Heavy downpours are common in southern Africa during the annual rainy season, which runs generally from November to April, but the relentless rain has caught officials off guard. —MNA/Reuters



Tourists visit Kinkaku-ji, a famous temple in Kyoto, western Japan on 17 Jan, 2008. The temple was lightly covered with snow for the first time in this year

INTERNET



A craftsman makes flour figurines of mascots for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province on 16 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET

Brazil suspends exports of yellow fever vaccine

RIODE JANEIRO, 17 Jan—The Brazilian Government has suspended exports of the yellow fever vaccine to satisfy domestic demand after two patients were reported to have died of the disease in the country this year, local media reported on Tuesday.

The report was confirmed by the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz), the world’s largest producer of the vaccine, which exported 15.5 million doses to over 30 countries in 2007. According to Fiocruz’s laboratory Bio-Manguinhos, the exports were suspended at the end of last year in order to “better satisfy the internal demand” for the vaccines. The lab stressed in a statement that demand for the vaccine has intensified, especially by “people who do not need it”, such as those who do not live in the endangered areas and those who have already taken it less than 10 years ago.

The announcement of alleged deaths linked to yellow fever in Brazil has generated a rush to public health units where the vaccines are offered, leading supplies of the medicine to become scarce in some places.—MNA/Xinhua

Dutch bought record number of books in 2007

BRUSSELS, 17 Jan—More than 45 million books were sold in the Netherlands last year, an all-time high in the country, the Dutch newspaper *De Volkskrant* reported Tuesday.

That represented a 4.6-per-cent increase from the previous year, the newspaper said, quoting figures from the Collective Propaganda for the Dutch Book Foundation (CPNB).

Dutch consumers also spent more money on buying books.

MNA/Xinhua

India offers nuclear energy cooperation with China

BEIJING, 17 Jan—Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh offered on Tuesday to cooperate with China on nuclear energy during a trip to Beijing in which the booming Asian neighbours are seeking to overcome distrust and deepen trade. The comments come as India tries to advance a deal on civilian nuclear energy with the United States over opposition from Singh’s Communist allies and

amid discomfort in China over growing closeness between Washington and New Delhi.

“We can do much more to jointly develop clean and energy-efficient technologies through collaborating research and development,” Singh said in a speech.

“India seeks international cooperation in the field of civilian nuclear energy, including with China.”

As the world’s two

fastest-growing major economies, the rise of China and India requires new strategies on energy sources and security, Singh said.

Indian officials had said the country would be seeking China’s support for New Delhi’s nuclear energy ambitions. Analysts say that while China is unhappy with the US deal it would not want to be seen using its weight to stymie the accord.

MNA/Reuters



In this image released in London on 16 Jan, 2008, by the Royal Society, an artist’s illustration shows the skull of a Josephoartigasia monesi, a newly discovered extinct species of rodent, compared to a smaller rodent. —INTERNET

Business confidence remains depressed in New Zealand

WELLINGTON, 16 Jan—Business confidence remains depressed, according to the New Zealand Institute of Economic Research’s latest quarterly survey of business opinion. The well-regarded survey, published on Tuesday, showed a net 26 per cent of firms expect the general business situation to deteriorate in the next six months.

That is little changed from the 27-per-cent figure in the September survey. On a seasonally adjusted basis, the picture is grimmer, with a net 38-per-cent expecting deterioration against 30 per cent in September.

“Pessimism about the outlook for the general business situation in the next six months is more widespread among firms,” institute chief executive Brent Layton said. —MNA/Xinhua

Italian car maker Ferrari sold up 14% last year

ROME, 17 Jan—Italian luxury car maker Ferrari, which is part of the Fiat group, sold 6,400 cars in 2007, 14 per cent more than in 2006, Italian news agency ANSA said on Tuesday.

Operating profit accounted for 15 per cent of Ferrari’s turnover last year, according to figures released as the car maker presented its new prototype F430 Spider.

Ferrari has more than 1,850 orders for its Scuderia model, 500 of them in the United States. The orders for Ferrari 599 GTB Fiorano currently total 430.

The sales of the luxury car maker in the Asia Pacific and the Middle East jumped by 50 per cent and 32 per cent, respectively in 2007.

MNA/Xinhua

ECONOMIC NEWS

Canada likely to see deficit in 2008

OTTAWA, 16 Jan—Recently announced tax cuts and possible economic slowdown could end Canada’s decade-long surpluses in 2008, according to a new report Monday.

The 2-per-cent cut to the Goods and Services Tax (GST), and other tax reductions implemented by the current Conservative government have “greatly eroded the fiscal capacity of the federal government”, the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives said in its report.

As US economy remains slump, reducing imports from Canada, many people see a downturn in the Canadian

economy in 2008 as inevitable, the report noted. It would take much less than a recession, registered at two consecutive quarters of economic reduction, to result in a budgetary deficit, it warned.

Canada’s GDP will grow just over 2 per cent this year, down from original estimates of 2.4 per cent, according to recent estimates. Some economists even estimate the growth at 1.4 per cent or less. — MNA/Xinhua



A Cambodian woman works on a corn harvest at Battambang Province in northwestern Cambodia, on 16 Jan, 2008. Corn is the main crop in Pailin, where residents are among the country’s vast poor majority. INTERNET

Singh says room enough for China, India

BEIJING, 16 Jan—India is not seeking to contain China and peace and stability in Asia are in the common interest of both the world's fastest-growing major economies, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said on Tuesday.

There was room enough for the rise of both countries, which together comprise more than 20 per cent of the world's population, he said.

"The primary task of our foreign policy is to create an external environment that is conducive to our rapid development," he

said in a speech at Beijing's Chinese Academy of Social Science.

"Our policy seeks to widen our development choices and give us strategic autonomy in the world."

Beijing has been wary of New Delhi's burgeoning friendship with the United States, and India's Navy was involved in war games last year with those of the United States, Australia, Japan and Singapore, in what some analysts saw as an emerging alliance of democracies ranged against China's military

might.

But Singh, on his first visit to China as Prime Minister, made a point of stressing that there was room for India to develop ties around the globe.

"The independence of our foreign policy enables us to pursue mutually beneficial cooperation with all major countries of the world," he said.

MNA/Reuters



This photo released by the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society shows the Yushin Maru whaling boat in the Southern Ocean, January 2008.—INTERNET

Sarkozy's popularity drops again in France

17 Jan—President Nicolas Sarkozy's popularity has fallen sharply for a second successive month, a survey released on Tuesday showed, with French voters apparently unhappy about his economic policies and flamboyant lifestyle.

The BVA-Orange-Express opinion poll for January said only 45 per cent of those questioned had a positive opinion of Sarkozy, down six points from the December poll, while 48 per cent had a

negative opinion.

It was the first time the negative views had overtaken the positive since Sarkozy took office last May.

The January drop followed a four point fall in his popularity rating in December, indicating that the French are increasingly disenchanted with their hyperactive president.

The head of BVA pollsters, Jerome Sainte-Marie, said voters were especially concerned about their purchasing

power and did not believe Sarkozy had lived up to his pre-election promise to be "the president of purchasing power".

"Two thirds of French people do not think the measures announced by Nicolas Sarkozy on purchasing power are the right ones," Sainte-Marie said. Sarkozy's support fell particularly sharply among voters aged over 65, his popularity rating plunging 11 percentage points in that group to 48 per cent, Sainte-Marie added.—MNA/Reuters

Weekend storm in Sao Paulo leaves four dead

RIO DE JANEIRO, 16 Jan—Last week's storm in Brazil's Sao Paulo state has left four people dead and thousands of others homeless, local media reported Monday.

Authorities have estimated that 15,000 people were displaced by the storm on the southern coast of Sao Paulo and in the valley of the Ribeira River.

The body of fisherman Jose Aparecido Rodrigues, 44, was found Monday. He was out fishing when heavy rains began in the municipality of Peruibe, on the southern coast of the state.

In Peruibe, which suffered its worst storm in 47 years, the civil defence department said seven other people are still missing and the main transportation available are boats.

MNA/Xinhua



A Indian Army soldier performs motorcycle stunts during an exhibition show at Binnaguri cantonment, about 120 km (75 miles) north of the northeastern Indian city of Siliguri on 16 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET

Japan, S Korea vow to boost bilateral ties

TOKYO, 16 Jan—Japanese Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura and visiting special envoy sent by South Korean President-elect Lee Myung Bak agreed here Tuesday that the two neighbours will enhance their relations and resume top-level visits.

The special envoy, Lee Sang Duk, deputy speaker of South Korea's National Assembly and Komura agreed that further developing bilateral friendly cooperative relations is important to the stability and prosperity in northeast Asia as well as to the international community, a release from Japan's Foreign Ministry said.

The two diplomats also agreed that it is important for Japanese and South Korean leaders to resume reciprocal visits. According to *Kyodo News*, Lee said that the president-elect Lee Myung Bak said he hopes to visit Japan soon. —MNA/Xinhua

Egyptian opposition finds common ground against Bush

CAIRO, 16 Jan—Egyptian opposition groups — Islamists, liberals and leftists — found common ground on Tuesday in criticism of US President George W Bush's imminent visit to the most populous Arabic country.

Bush will spend less than four hours in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh on Wednesday on his way between Saudi Arabia and Washington. He will see Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak but is not expected to answer any questions.

The brevity of the visit and the choice of venue, hundreds of kilometres (miles) from large population centres, suggested that the US and Egyptian governments are

wary of putting Bush into contact with many ordinary Egyptians.

The newspaper of one opposition party, a faction of the liberal Ghad Party, said in a headline: "The state of Sharm el-Sheikh

receives the American butcher."

"Egypt chants 'He who destroyed Iraq will tomorrow destroy Warraq'," it added. Warraq is a north Cairo suburb. — MNA/Reuters



Visitors to the Johnston Ridge Observatory watch as steam rises from the crater of Mount St Helens in this 9 March, 2005 file photo in Mount St Helens, Wash. —INTERNET

National Development and the Role of Health Sector—II

Professor Dr Paing Soe

(Continued from 15-1-2008)

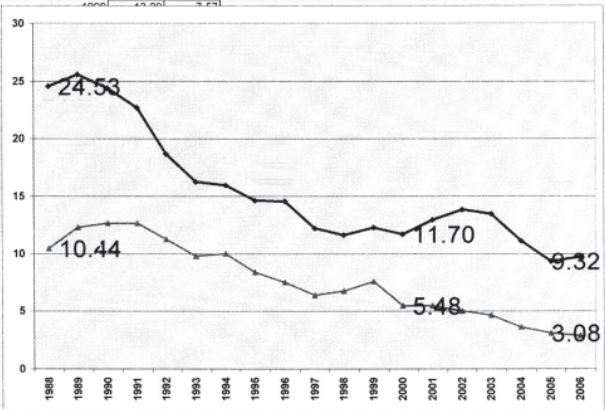
While the government is undertaking the health resources development it also conducts and emphasizes on health promotion and diseases prevention and control in parallel.

Prevention and control of diseases

To the basic health care services, concept of prevention is better than cure, the Ministry of Health has been carrying out preventive measures as a focal in health care delivery.

Myanmar is still facing the health problem of Malaria which is the most prevalent disease locally. Malaria control is carried out by using the strategies and techniques of health education, distribution of impregnated bed-nets, personal hygiene, vector (mosquito) control, early diagnosis and effective treatment, capacity building, prevention of epidemics and collaboration with related organizations and communities. **The effective application of these strategies resulted in declining of malaria mortality rate since 1990.** Incidence rate dropped from (2400) per 100,000 in 1988 to (900) per 100,000 in 2005. At the same period Mortality rate also dropped from (10) to (3) per 100,000. Impregnated bed-nets were introduced in 2000 to far flung malaria endemic areas and distributed 50,000 nets yearly. It also made available moquitocides for net impregnation to villages amounting to 3-400,000 yearly. Starting from 2000, microscopic confirmation of malaria can be done in (700) rural health centres whereas only at the Township hospitals available in 1988. According to the new treatment regimen rapid diagnosis test kits and artemisinin based combination therapy were made available to all rural health centres in 2006. Tuberculosis is also one of the major health problems in Myanmar. It is estimated that there are 120,000 TB patients in Myanmar and about half of them are transmittable sputum positive cases. Since 1997, Myanmar started introducing WHO recommended DOTS programme to townships and gradually increasing coverage so that it covered all 325 townships at the end of 2003.

Myanmar had constructed 5 years national strategic plan for TB control according to the guidelines of new stop TB initiative and International Standard for TB care. The success of this can be seen by the falling rate of case detecting rate (32%) and cured rate (78%) in 1994 to (86%) and (85%) respectively in 2006.



Malaria Morbidity & Mortality Rate in Myanmar [1988-2006]

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Indicators	1994	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
DOTS Covered Population (%)	8	65	85	90	95	95	95	95
DOTS Covered Township (%)	6	52	71	80	95	100	100	100
Case Detection Rate (%)	32	43	56	61	70	73	81	95
Cure Rate (%)	61	74	70	73	74	72	75	75.2
Treatment Success Rate (%)	78	82	81	82	82	81	84	84

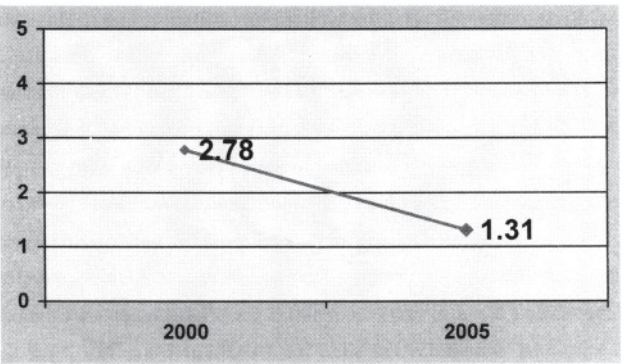
DOTS strategies for TB

The objectives of AIDS control programme are to reduce HIV transmission, socio-economic consequences and burdens and the morbidity and mortality rates. To fulfill these objectives, AIDS control programs and basic health staff has been carrying out the following 10 activities.

- counseling
- health education for prevention and control
- reducing sexually transmitted HIV
- reducing HIV transmission among IVDU
- reducing HIV transmission from mother to child.
- safe blood availability
- medical care to AIDS patients.
- multi-sectoral partnership.
- special programme and projects
- work review and evaluation

Using the advance statistical methods of UNAIDS it is estimated in August 2007 that adult infectivity rate of HIV has fallen from (0.95%) in 2000 to (0.67%) in 2007. According to this estimation Myanmar has 240,000 HIV positive cases including AIDS patients and among them 14,000 are newly infected cases.

To Achieve MDG Goal 6, Target 7, indicator 18 (HIV/AIDS)



HIV prevalence among pregnant women aged 15-24 years
2.78% in 2000 to 1.31% in 2005

National level HIV/AIDS prevention and control exhibitions, one of its own kind in the region, were held in Yangon and Mandalay in 2003 and 2004 respectively. Since 2004, blood safety programme of the blood banks and hospitals covered the whole country and 200,000 blood bottles were screened yearly for HIV infection. According to “access for ace” policy, counseling of AIDS patients and their families, treating with ART and domiciliary care have been implemented.

In 2006, 6500 AIDS patients have received drug therapy that control HIV. Ministry of health, in collaboration with other related ministries, national and international organizations, social organizations have been implementing the community based effective domiciliary care of chronic diseases including HIV and TB. Community based National Social Organizations such as Union Solidarity and Development Association, Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, Myanmar

Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Red Cross Society, Myanmar Medical Association, Myanmar Nurses Association, Myanmar Health Assistants Association and other societies are collaborating and actively participating in this programme.

In Myanmar, Leprosy has been an infectious disease for years. Among the consequences of leprosy, deformities and disabilities are the cause of socio-economic burdens for the families. Therefore the government is taking a great effort to lessen these burdens by treating the patients with multidrug regimen MDT resulting in great reduction of the new case detection rate from 54.4 per 100,000 in 1987 to (1.40) per 100,000 in 2004 and further reduction to (0.48) in 2005 and (0.47) in 2006. It can be assumed that Leprosy is removed from the list of immediate health problems. **At present, the WHO had recognized Myanmar for eradicating the Leprosy since 2003.**

In developing countries, there are **high rates of child mortalities due to infectious diseases most of which are preventable with immunization.** To prevent the infections, the government laid down the expended programme of immunization making all children to take Diphtheria, Chickenpox, Tetanus, Polio, Measles, Tuberculosis and Hepatitis vaccinations covering all townships of the country.

For polio eradication, the ministry of health hosted national polio immunization days (8) times, regional polio eradication days (4) times since 1996. There was no reporting of new polio cases between 2000 and early 2006 and thus Myanmar is free from polio during that period and WHO recognizes Myanmar as polio free country. But there were isolated cases of polio in 2006 May at Pyin-Oo-Lwin and in 2007 May at Kayan, Hpa-an and Pyu townships resulting from mutated strains of polio vaccine virus. Observing these situation and to control the spread of diseases and to promote immunity, national immunization days (additional) was observed in 2007 to vaccinate new born and to fortify the under 5 children.

One of the commonest causes of under 5 children mortality is due to **diarrhoeal infections resulting from contaminated food, unclean drinking water, poor environmental sanitation and poor personal hygiene.** To prevent this it will be effective only if there is participation by the community. Starting from 1998 the **national sanitation week was held yearly on every month of May.** From this activity the community realizes the importance of environmental sanitation and the health personnel were able to impart the technique of constructing fly proof latrines with the locally available materials.

Diseases can occur not only from infection of the pathogenic organisms but also due to nutritional deficiencies. **These deficiency diseases are prevented by fortifications of the deficient nutrients in food** such as by legislation of the compulsory iodination of household common salt for Iodine deficient goitre and low IQ condition, Vitamin A administration at National immunization days for prevention of Vitamin A deficient night blindness and acute respiratory tract infections. “These measures resulted in dropping of visible goitre rate from 14.5% in 1990 to 1% in 2007, night blindness from (0.6%) to (0.03%) and significant reduction of acute respiratory tract infections.

While the health authorities are combating normally occurring disease **it has made contingency plans for highly infectious diseases occurring worldwide. Rapid response teams for severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and Avian Influenza (AI) are stationed at the port of entries to Myanmar to check and to respond if found. Health personnel and facilities are at ready to face the emergency health care situations.**

(To be continued)

Prime Minister General Thein Sein attends dinner hosted by Charge d'Affaires ai of Myanmar Embassy

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein was hosted a dinner in his honour by the Charge d'Affaires ai and staff of the Myanmar Embassy at the residence of the Myanmar Ambassador in Bandar Seri Begawan on 15 January evening.

At 7 pm, the Prime Minister and party arrived at the residence of the Myanmar Ambassador. They were welcomed by Charge d'Affaires ai of the Myanmar Embassy U Moe Kyaw Aung, wife Daw Nilar Aung, staff and families.

The Charge d'Affaires ai of the Myanmar Embassy and families hosted a dinner in honour of Prime Minister General Thein Sein and Myanmar delegation members.

After the dinner, the Prime Minister gave instructions, saying that

Brunei Darussalam always supports Myanmar at the international community including the United Nations. As Brunei maintains friendly relations with Myanmar, he arrived there to pay a goodwill visit.

Although some unrest occurred in Myanmar in previous September, at present in the country there prevails peace and stability. Indeed, every country has some internal problems.

The implementation of the seven-step Road Map is in progress, and the tasks to drafting the State Constitution, the third step of the Road Map, is being undertaken. In addition, efforts are being made to carry out the tasks step by step.

While striving for development of the State's economy to fulfill the basic needs of the people, the government is placing emphasis on the



Prime Minister General Thein Sein meeting with the charge d'affaires ai and staff of Myanmar Embassy in Brunei. — MNA

emergence of the educated human society. Therefore, all the people are to cherish the nation at any place. Staff of the embassy and

family members are to be united among them, abide by respective laws and disciplines of their duty-assigned countries and

strive for strengthening friendly relations between Myanmar and Brunei.

Next, the Prime Minister presented gifts

to the Charge d'Affaires and wife, staff and families and left the embassy for Empire Hotel & Country Club. —MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein presents gifts to the charge d'affaires ai and staff of Myanmar Embassy in Brunei. — MNA

YURCS holds blood donation ceremony

YANGON, 17 Jan — The 49th blood donation ceremony of Yangon University Red Cross Society was held at Universities Hospital (Yangon) on 15 January. Chairman of YURCS Associate Professor of Myanmar Department U

Myo Thant delivered an address and In-charge of National Blood Centre Dr Daw Thida Aung and Medical Superintendent (Retd) Dr Daw Mya Than gave speeches of praises.

Next, the chairman presented a certificate of

honour to U Aung Moe Oo of Electrical Engineering Department, second class winner of excellent performance in social field 2008, who donated blood 65 times. Altogether 33 blood donors donated blood at the ceremony. —MNA

Vice-Mayor looks into preventive measures against DHF

YANGON, 17 Jan — Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa went on an inspection tour of Dawbon Township yesterday morning and gave encouragement to those who were participating in the mass activities carried out for taking preventive measures against dengue

haemorrhagic fever.

At the office of Dawbon Township Development Affairs Committee, the vice-mayor and party heard reports on outbreak, control and treatment of DHF presented by officials. Next, the vice-mayor made arrangements to fulfill the needs.

Afterwards, the vice-

mayor and party inspected preventive measures against DHF and educational talks on DHF held at No 6 Basic Education Primary School.

Similar mass activities were carried out at the same time in Kyauktada, Sanchaung, South Okkalapa and Pazundaung Townships.

MNA

Notice to mariners issued

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan — MV Setouchi Surveyor of Petronas-Myanmar oil company will conduct survey starting from the third week of January to the end of February.

The areas that the survey will be carried out are at Point-A Yetagun Platform from North Latitude 13 degree, 02 minute and 57.41 second to East Longitude 96 degree, 52 minute and 07.78 second; at Point-B Yetagun FSO from North Latitude 13 degree, 03 minute and 50.2 second

to East Longitude 96 degree, 51 minute and 08.2 second and at Point-C Yetagun Landfall Area (Daminseik) from North Latitude 14 degree, 43 minute and 00 second to East Longitude 97 degree, 52 minute and 00 second.

In this regards, Fisheries Department has already issued an announcement today that all vessels large and small must stay away from 4 km radius of the above working areas. — MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein...

(from page 16)

played the national anthems of the two countries.

The Brunei Prince introduced Brunei ministers and high-ranking officials to Prime Minister General Thein Sein. Likewise, the Prime Minister presented Myanmar delegation members to the Brunei Prince.

Later, the Myanmar delegation led by the Prime Minister left for Empire Hotel & Country Club in a motorcade.

MNA

Wise men subjugate themselves

Irrigators guide the water; arrow-makers fashion the shaft; carpenters bend the wood; wise men subjugate themselves.

Dhammapada 80



Prime Minister General Thein Sein being welcomed by ministers and high-ranking officials of Brunei Darussalam at Bandar Seri Begawan Airport. —MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects the Guard of Honour of Brunei Darussalam at Bandar Seri Begawan Airport. —MNA

Pathein-Monywa, Magway-Kanpya-Myothit-Taungnyo-Nay Pyi Taw road projects inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun viewed Pathein-Monywa (Okshitpin-Phetye) road section on 15 January and inspected Heavy Machinery Workshop (Pyintha).

Then, he inspected maintenance of the road section between mile post 81/1 and 21/2 on Pathein-Monywa Road.

He proceeded to Magway District and looked into building of earth road on Magway-Kanpya-Myothit-Taungnyo-Nay Pyi Taw Road (Kanpya-Myothit Section) and instructed officials to place emphasis on making efforts for construction of the earth road in open season and construct Myothit-Taungnyo road section. — MNA

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects progress of hydropower projects, regional development in Loikaw

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Shan State PDC Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Thauang Aye and Chairman of Kayah State PDC Brig-Gen Nyunt Tin and officials concerned met servicemen and family members of Loikaw Station at Nyeinchanyay Hall in Loikaw on 15 January.

They presented gifts to servicemen and family members.

The following day morning, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party arrived at Biluchaung No 3 Hydropower Project and heard reports on the arrangements for implementation of the project, construction of the power intake tunnel and the power plant and generating of power presented by Project Coordinator U Tin Maung Win of Hydropower Implementation Department.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspected current of water at the confluence of Bilu Creek and Pun Creek.

Hydropower Implementation Department and High Tech Concrete Technology Co Ltd will jointly construct the diversion dam and the power intake tunnel of Biluchaung No 3 Hydropower Project. On completion, the power plant of the project will generate 344 million kwh yearly.

At Biluchaung No 2 Hydropower Plant, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspected the operation of the machines and tasks of the control room.

At Malikha Hall, Plant Manager Superintending Engineer U Hoke Shein reported on progress of the plant. After giving necessary instructions, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win presented cash assistance to staff families.

Biluchaung No 2 Hydropower Plant installed with six 28-megawatt generators is producing 1,200 million kwh yearly.

Next, they viewed thriving sunflower and pigeon pea plantations and maintenance of Lawpita-Loikaw road.

Accompanied by Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung and Chairman of Kayah State PDC Brig-Gen Nyunt Tin, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win met departmental personnel at the hall of Kayah State PDC.

They heard reports on regional development, conservation of forests and extraction of timbers presented by officials. The minister gave a supplementary report.

After attending to the needs, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win gave necessary instructions. —MNA

Tasks of Myanaung Oil Field, No 3 Fertilizer Plant (Kyawswa) inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan—Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay met staff of Myanaung oil field of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise on 13 January and called for boosting production of oil and gas.

On 15 January, the Deputy Minister met trainees of the on-job training course of No 3 Fertilizer Plant (Kyawswa) of Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise in Aunglan Township.

He also fulfilled the requirements of the officials of the plant.

At the Maintenance Workshop of the plant, the Deputy Minister inspected production of machine parts. After viewing the urea factory and warehouses, he urged officials to distribute fertilizers rapidly.

On 13 January, CEC member of the Union



Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Htay meeting with local people in Myanaung Township. — ENERGY

Solidarity and Development Association Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Htay met departmental officials, town selders, social organizations members, USDA members and local people in Inbin Village-tract of Myanaung Township.

He discussed the reports of the local people on regional development and attended to the needs.

The CEC member paid homage to Sayadaws at monasteries in villages of the townships and donated provisions.

At Post-Primary

School in Myepyathayetkon Village, the CEC member met with local people and explained education, health and rural development tasks being undertaken by the association and fulfilled the requirements of the local people. —MNA

Myanmar hosts ASEAN-Japan Human Resources Development meeting

YANGON, 17 Jan — The opening ceremony of ASEAN-Japan Human Resources Development meeting was held at Traders Hotel, here, yesterday with an opening address by Deputy Minister for Labour Brig-Gen Tin Tun Aung.

It was also attended by representatives from the ministries, responsible persons of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Industry Association,

Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association, Myanmar Garment Entrepreneurs Association, Myanmar Economic Cooperation Myanmar Timber Entrepreneurs Association, Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association and representatives of Industrial Zones, observers, officials of Japanese Embassy in Myanmar and delegates of Overseas Vocational Training Association.

MNA

80 fires broke out in December 2007

YANGON, 17 Jan—Eighty fires broke out place across the country in December 2007 — 71 fires due to negligence, five due to circuit shocks, one arson, two natural fires and one forest fire.

The fires claimed 129 houses and buildings and two factories, leaving 681 homeless, seven dead and three injured.

Seventy-one fires or 88.75 per cent out of the 80 fires were owing to negligence. In the period, Yangon Division saw more fires than any other state or division, followed by Mandalay Division and Sagaing Division.

In December 2007 alone, Yangon Division witnessed 30 fires, 26 of which occurred due to negligence.—MNA

Special Appellate Bench sits

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan — The Special Appellate Bench comprising Deputy Chief Justice of Supreme Court (Mandalay) U Khin Maung Latt, Supreme Court Judges of Supreme Court (Mandalay) U Myint Aung and U Sein Hlaing sitting at court room No 1 of the Supreme Court (Nay Pyi Taw), delivered judgment of 5 special criminal appeal cases and 10 special civil appeal cases. And then heard 16 special criminal appeal cases under Section 8 of the Judiciary Law, 2000. — MNA

S'pore sets up immunology network to intensify research

SINGAPORE, 17 Jan—Singapore set up Tuesday an Immunology Network to intensify research on the human immune system which is a field strategic to Singapore's biomedical sciences initiative.

The network, set up by ASTAR, Singapore's Agency for Science, Technology and Research, will strengthen and expand the country's capabilities in immunology at ASTAR laboratories, the universities, national health centres and hospitals, said the agency in a statement.

It will also foster

collaboration and coordination across basic, translational and clinical activities related to immunology for better translation of scientific research into medical application.

In the longer term, the network aims to establish partnerships and collaborations with local and international biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies in areas of antibody platforms, cancer immunotherapies, vaccine development and diagnostic kits for infectious diseases.

MNA/Xinhua

District News in Brief

Centennial Buddha Pujaniya of Pylon Chantha Pagoda held in Mawlamyinegyun



Chairman of Mawlamyinegyun Township Peace and Development Council U Aung Kyaw Khaing and Chairman of Pagoda Board of Trustees U Sein Maung formally open Centennial Buddha Pujaniya of Pylon Chantha Pagoda.

MAWLAMYINEGYUN, 16 Jan — Mawlamyinegyun Township Peace and Development Council organized the centennial Buddha Pujaniya of Pylon Chantha Pagoda, the 28th Hnakeik Shithsu Buddha Pujaniya and the 6th Maha Pathana recitation ceremony at the prayer hall of the pagoda on 10 January afternoon.

In commemoration of the centennial Buddha Pujaniya of the pagoda, the Maha Pathana recitation ceremony, the procession of Hnakeik Shithsu (28) Buddha images, the rice offering ceremony, the demonstration on playing of traditional cane ball sport, the performance of elephant dance troupe and the special sales were held up to 16 January.

Township IPRD



MASS WALK ACTIVITY: The mass walk activity for December sports month, organized by Waw Township Sports and Physical Education Committee, was held on 29 December. The photo shows Chairman of Waw Township Peace and Development Council U Tin Nu, Technical Officer U Aung Lin of Township Sports and Physical Education Department, the Chairperson of Township Women's Affairs Organization, Chairperson of Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Thida Kyaw and officials holding the banner bearing the Waw Township Mass Walk Activity 29-12-2007 before the start of their walk activity together with members of social organizations and local people. —Township IPRD

Sarsodaw Day observed in Amarapura

Amarapura Township Writers and Journalists Association observed the 63rd Sarsodaw Day at the hall of Township Information and Public Relations Department on 10 December. Chairman of the Township WJA U Kyee Sein (Shwe Nyar Maung Gyi-Myitnge) read the message sent by MWJA (Central).

Australian wild party teenager arrested

MELBOURNE, 17Jan—Australian police on Wednesday arrested and charged a teenager who became a controversial media star after a wild party at his parents' house became a near riot, forcing police to call in a helicopter and the dog squad.

Corey Delaney, 16, decided to throw a party while his parents were on holidays. He posted a notice on his MySpace site about the party and 500 people turned up to his suburban home in the southern city of Melbourne on Saturday.

The party turned sour after revellers clashed with police called in by frightened neighbours. Party goers threw bottles at police cars until the arrival of reinforcements including a helicopter and the police dog squad.

Police arrested and laid several charges against Delaney over "matters arising from the party", but refused to give details because he was underage and would appear in a children's court, under strict privacy laws. Images of the widely-photographed teen were pixilated after his charging on Wednesday under court rules for minors. —MNA/Reuters



Macworld attendee gets to touch and look at the new MacBook Air ultra thin laptop, at the MacWorld Conference & Expo, in San Francisco, on 15 January. MacBook Air measures 0.16 inches (0.4cm) at its thinnest point while its maximum height of 0.76 (1.93cm) inches is less than the thinnest point on competing notebooks.— INTERNET



A member of the Beijing Xueming Art Group prepares her make-up ahead of the opening ceremony of the Daxing Farmers Arts Festival on the outskirts of Beijing on 17 Jan, 2008. —INTERNET

Scientist says computer can help your dog communicate

BUDAPEST, 17 Jan— Hungarian scientists are working on computer software analysing dog barks that could allow people to better recognize dogs' basic emotions, Hungarian ethologist Csaba Molnar said.

Molnar and his colleagues at Budapest's ELTE University have tested software which distinguishes the emotional reaction of 14 dogs of the Hungarian Mudi herding breed to six situations: When the dog is alone, when it sees a ball, it fights, it plays, it encounters a stranger or it goes for a walk.

"A possible commercial application could be a device for dog-human communication," the scientist told *Reuters*.

The computer correctly recognized the emotional reaction of the dogs based on their barks and yelps in 43 per cent of the cases. People had judged correctly in 40 per cent of cases.

Scientists said the software could be improved.

Molnar said the Hungarian scientists' research provided further proof that different types of dog barks convey messages humans can understand even if they had no experience with dogs.

MNA/Ruters



A two week old baby elephant, which was born in an elephant orphanage, where both his parents were living, is seen with his mother in Pinnawala, about 70 Kilometers (44 miles) north east of Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 16 Jan, 2008.— INTERNET



Villagers try to hold down a bull during a bull-taming festival on the outskirts of Madurai town, about 500 km (311 miles) from the southern Indian city of Chennai on 17 Jan, 2008. — INTERNET

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS
INVITATION TO SEALED TENDERS

1. Sealed Tenders are invited by Myanma Railways, for supply of the following Stores which will be purchased in Myanmar Kyat;

Sr.No	Tender No.	Description	Quantity
i.	12(T)29/MR(ML) 2007-2008	Spare Parts for Diesel Electric Locomotive & Diesel Hydraulic Locomotive (Filters, RACOR Turbine Assembly SACM Spares, Bosch, MTU Spares & Electrical Switches)	(20-Items)
(ii)	12(T)31/MR(ML) 2007-2008	Spare Parts for New Construction of Locomotives (Spares for Pneumatic, Wheel & Axle, Bogie Frame, Brake Equipments, Cooling Group and Electrical Parts)	(243-Items)
(iii)	12(T)32/MR(ML) 2007-2008	Steel Wire Rope for 60 Ton Rail Mobile Crane	(8-Items) (1-Lot)

Closing Date/Time - 29.2.2008 (Friday) (12:00) Hours

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanma Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon starting from 16.1.2008 during the office hours.

3. For further details please call: 01-291982, 291985 (201555 Ext 601, 605)

Deputy General Manager
Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Botahtaung, Yangon

TRADE MARK CAUTION NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that BELCO PHARMA, a Company existing under the Indian Law, located at 515 Modern Industrial Estate Bahadurgarh, Haryana-124507, INDIA are the Owners and Sole Proprietors of the following Trade Mark:-



Reg: No. IV - 7499 / 2007

I say that the said Trade Mark has been used by the said company in respect of the following goods :-

" Cipron-500, Cipron-250, Chloramphenicol, Panagesic Injection, Vitabion, Isoln 40, Hyoscine Butyl Bromide Injection, Multivita, Amoxywin, Ampiwil Capsule, Ampiwil Powder, Perstamine, Garacin, Dexol, Dextoptic, Oxytetracycline, Dexamethasone Sodium Phosphate, Leocaine 4%, Neurion Tablet, Neurion 12 Injection, Hyoscine Butyl Bromide Tablet, Bontrol, Mono-D, Lincowin, Ampicol Capsule, Paracetamol 500, Hydrocortisone Sodium Succinate, Panagesic Tablet, Fotime 1000, Norcin, Famo-D 20, Pental, Lutin Depot-250, Lutin Depot-500, Ampicol Injection, Gentamicin, Ampicillin Sodium, Cloxacillin Sodium, Tolnaftate Topical, Miconazole Cream BP 15, Terracin Egg Formula, Terracin Poultry Formula, Hexacycline Water Soluble, Cipron E/E, Chloramphenicol Ear, Famo-D 40 Tab, Canezole Cream, Hydrocortisone Cream, Betanorm Inj, Frusemide Inj, Hydrocortisone Ointment, Lignocaine & Adrenatine Inj, Chloramphenicol Ophthalmic Solution, Lomit Cap, Tetracycline 250, Pee-La-12 Inj, Betocin, Prolar 10 Tab, Prolar 40 Tab, Ranidone Inj, Fortified Procaine Penicillin For Inj, Amowin-5 Tab, Amowin-10 Tab, Betanol-50 Tab, Metozole Tab, Triprim Tab, B-Tam Tab, Norethisterone Tab, Frusemide Tab, Benzypencillin for Inj, Indocin Cap, Parnicol-1 g Inj, Glynamide Tab, Ceforox Inj."

Any imitation or fraudulent use of the aforesaid trade marks in Myanmar will be dealt with according to law.

U OHN MAUNG B.sc., B.L.
Advocate & Notary Public
No.3, 34th Street,
Yangon, Myanmar.

TRADE MARK CAUTION

CNH AMERICA LLC, of 700 State Street, Racine, Wisconsin 53404, U.S.A., is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:



Reg. No. 1498/1996

in respect of "construction equipment, material handling, earth moving and forestry equipment-namely, backhoes, dozers, cable layers, trenchers, fork lifts, excavators, loaders, diesel engines, transmissions for machinery and parts thereof; tractors and parts thereof; agricultural equipment-namely, combines, balers, harvesters, windrowers, plows, tillers, grain drills, mower conditioners, mowers, rakes, balers, planters, cultivators, harrows, loaders, distributors and spreaders, for manure and fertilizer, grinder-mixers, diesel engines, transmissions for motor vehicles and parts thereof".

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

Win Mu Tin
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.,
for CNH AMERICA LLC
P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 18 January 2008

Chinese, Colombian
Cos to establish
joint bamboo plant

BOGOTA, 16 Jan — One Chinese bamboo company and two Colombian companies signed an agreement here Monday to establish a joint factory to make bamboo products.

Yapu company from central China's Anhui Province would hold 55 per cent shares of the joint factory, while Colombia's GIRAM company and GBA company would hold the rest 45 per cent.

With an investment of about 10 million US dollars, the bamboo plant would be set up in Quindio Province of central-west Colombia, which is abundant in bamboo.

It would use equipment and technology from Yapu and local bamboo resources to make bamboo products, which are to be sold to local and US markets.—MNA/Xinhua

Indonesian teenage girl
dies of bird flu

JAKARTA, 17 Jan—A 16-year-old Indonesian girl has died of bird flu, taking the country's confirmed human death toll from the virus to 96, a Health Ministry official said on Tuesday.

The girl from Bekasi area east of Jakarta tested positive for bird flu last week, said the official at the Health Ministry's bird flu centre.

"One of the girl's neighbours owns a chicken farm. Tests by the Agriculture Ministry's bird flu centre show the chickens had bird flu," said the official, who declined to be identified.—MNA/Reuters



ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်
ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့
Civil Service Selection and Training Board

လျှောက်လွှာခေါ်ယူခြင်း
ကြော်ငြာစာအမှတ်၊ ၃/၂၀၀၈
၁၃၆၉ ခုနှစ်၊ ပြာသိုလဆန်း ၇ ရက်
(၂၀၀၈ ခုနှစ်၊ ဇန်နဝါရီလ ၁၄ ရက်)

၁။ ရထားပို့ဆောင်ရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာ့မီးရထားတွင် လစ်လပ်လျက်ရှိသော အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ရာထူးအတွက် လျှောက်လွှာများ တင်သွင်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

ရာထူး	လစ်လပ်	ပညာအရည်အချင်း
လက်ထောက်မန်နေဂျာ (ဘဏ္ဍာရေး)	၂ နေရာ	လက်မှတ်ရပြည့်သူ့စာရင်းကိုင်အောင်လက်မှတ် [C.P.A] ရရှိသူ

၂။ လျှောက်ထားသူသည်—
(က) ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံသားဖြစ်ရမည်။
(ခ) ၇-၂-၂၀၀၈ နေ့တွင် အသက် ၃၅ နှစ် (ဝန်ထမ်းဖြစ်ပါက အသက် ၄၀ နှစ်) ထက် မကျော်လွန်သူဖြစ်ရမည်။

၃။ လျှောက်လွှာကို ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့ရုံး၊ ရုံးအမှတ် (၁၇) နေပြည်တော်သို့ ၇-၂-၂၀၀၈ နေ့အရောက် ပေးပို့ရမည်။ လျှောက်လွှာပေးပို့ရာတွင် လူကိုယ်တိုင်ဖြစ်စေ၊ မြန်မာ့ဆက်သွယ်ရေးလုပ်ငန်း၊ အမြန်ချော့ပို့ (သို့မဟုတ်) မှတ်ပုံတင်စာဖြင့်ဖြစ်စေ ပေးပို့နိုင်ပါသည်။

၄။ လျှောက်လွှာတွင်ဖော်ပြရမည့်အချက်များ၊ ပူးတွဲပါရှိရမည့် စာရွက်စာတမ်းများ၊ ဝင်ကြေးငွေ ၂၀၀/- ပေးသွင်းရမည့်နည်းလမ်း၊ ရေးဖြေ၊ နှုတ်ဖြေစစ်ဆေးမှုအတွက် လေ့လာရန် လိုအပ်ချက်များနှင့်စပ်လျဉ်း၍ ဤအဖွဲ့၏ ၁၈-၅-၂၀၀၇ ရက်စွဲပါ စာအမှတ်၊ ၆၉၆/ရွေးချယ်ရေး (အဓိက)/ ၂၀၀၇ ဖြင့် ထုတ်ပြန် ထားသော ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့က ကြော်ငြာခေါ်ယူသော ရာထူးများအတွက် လျှောက်လွှာ တင်သွင်းသူများ လိုက်နာရန် လမ်းညွှန်ချက်စာစောင်ပါ သတ်မှတ်ချက်များနှင့်အညီ လိုက်နာ ဆောင်ရွက်ရန်ဖြစ်သည်။

၅။ ရေးဖြေစာမေးပွဲကို နေပြည်တော်တွင် ကျင်းပမည်။

၆။ ဝန်ထမ်းများသည် မူရင်းလျှောက်လွှာတစ်စောင်ကို မိမိတာဝန်ထမ်းဆောင်သည့် ဌာနအကြီးအကဲမှ တစ်ဆင့် ဝန်ကြီးဌာန၏ ခွင့်ပြုချက်ရယူပြီး ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့ရုံး၊ ရုံးအမှတ် (၁၇)နေပြည်တော်သို့ ၇-၂-၂၀၀၈ နေ့အရောက်ပေးပို့ရမည်။ လျှောက်လွှာတစ်စောင်ကို ဓါတ်ပုံအပိုတစ်ပုံနှင့်အတူ ဤအဖွဲ့ရုံး နေပြည်တော်သို့ တိုက်ရိုက်ပေးပို့ရမည်။

၇။ ၈-၃-၂၀၀၈ နေ့နှင့် ၉-၃-၂၀၀၈ နေ့များတွင် အရည်အချင်းစစ် ရေးဖြေစာမေးပွဲကျင်းပမည်။

၈။ ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့ရုံး၊ ရုံးအမှတ် (၁၇) နေပြည်တော်တွင် ဖြေဆိုခွင့်ကတ်ပြားများကို ထုတ်ပေးမည်။

၉။ အခြားစုံစမ်းမေးမြန်းလိုချက်ရှိပါက ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့ရုံး၊ ရုံးအမှတ် (၁၇)နေပြည်တော် (တယ်လီဖုန်းအမှတ် ၀၆၇-၄၀၉၀၅၂ နှင့် ၀၆၇-၄၀၉၄၃၀) သို့ လူကိုယ်တိုင်ဖြစ်စေ၊ တယ်လီဖုန်းဖြင့်ဖြစ်စေ ဆက်သွယ်စုံစမ်းမေးမြန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

၁၀။ ဤကြော်ငြာနှင့် လျှောက်လွှာတင်သွင်းသူများ လိုက်နာရန် လမ်းညွှန်ချက်စာစောင်ကို ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့၏ Website များဖြစ်သော csstb.imis.com.mm နှင့် www.csstb.gov.mm တွင်လည်း ဖော်ပြထားပါသည်။

Emergency waits
get dangerously
long in US

WASHINGTON, 17 Jan —Patients seeking urgent care in US emergency rooms are waiting longer than in the 1990s, especially people with heart attacks, US researchers reported on Tuesday.

They found a quarter of heart attack victims waited 50 minutes or more before seeing a doctor in 2004. Waits for all types of emergency department visits became 36 per cent longer between 1997 and 2004, the team at Harvard Medical School reported.

Especially unsettling, people who had seen a triage nurse and been designated as needing immediate attention waited 40 per cent longer—from an average of 10 minutes in 1997 to an average 14 minutes in 2004, the researchers report in the journal Health Affairs.—MNA/Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV OCEAN DOMINANCE VOYNO (15)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV OCEAN DOMINANCE VOYNO (15) are hereby notified that the vessel has will be arriving on 18.1.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of Myanma Port Authority where it will lie at the consig-nee'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 EASTERN CAR LINER LTD
Phone No: 256924/256914



Cambodian peasants ride an ox cart loaded with rice harvest in Battambang Province, about 325 kilometres (200 miles) northwest of Phnom Penh on 17 Jan, 2008. —INTERNET

UAE, France sign nuclear cooperation agreement

ABU DHABI, 16 Jan — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and France signed on Tuesday a bilateral nuclear cooperation agreement.

According to reports by the official *Emirates News Agency*, the landmark agreement was signed by the UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan and his French counterpart Bernard Kouchner.

It provides a framework for cooperation between the two countries in the evaluation and potential use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Under the agreement, the UAE and France will set up a high-level joint committee to oversee cooperation in the areas of nuclear power generation, water desalination, basic and applied research agronomy, earth sciences,

medicine and industry.

The signing of the agreement is one of two major deals to be reached during the state visit to the Gulf country by French President Nicholas Sarkozy, who arrived in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday. It is reported that France and the UAE would also sign an agreement which would grant the French navy a permanent military base in the UAE. —MNA/Xinhua



A performer spins coloured bowls during a press preview of the *Afrika Afrika* show at the O2 Arena, London.—INTERNET



Rebekah Markham holds 6-month-old Noah and poses for a photograph at her home in Covington, La, on 11 July, 2007. Noah was born from a frozen embryo that was rescued from the floodwaters of Hurricane Katrina. He turned 1 year old on 16 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET

Big cut in Afghan TB cases shows aid works

OTTAWA, 16 Jan — The number of Afghans dying from tuberculosis has fallen by half in recent months, a statistic that shows Canada's efforts to help fight the disease are working, officials said on Tuesday.

Ottawa is keen to show signs of progress in Afghanistan, particularly since critics accuse Canada of focusing too much effort on fighting the Taliban and not enough on development and reconstruction.

The World Health Organization and Afghanistan's Public Health Ministry said last week that people were dying from tuberculosis at the rate of 10,000 a year, down from 20,000 a year a few months earlier.

Canada is working with the WHO and the World Food Programme on a campaign to combat the disease.

"You are starting to see far more people now benefiting from treatment early on," a government official told a news conference.

The full course of treatment to fight tuberculosis lasts eight months and the WFP is offering patients food and heating oil in a bid to ensure they do not back out.

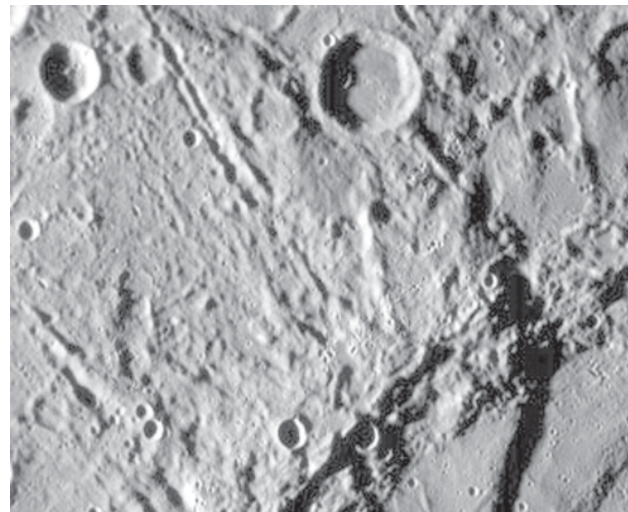
MNA/Xinhua

Messenger unveils hidden side of Mercury

BEIJING, 17 Jan—NASA's Messenger spacecraft sent back to Earth new images of Mercury, unveiling a side of the planet never seen before, media reported Thursday.

The car-sized spacecraft zipped past Mercury in a Monday flyby and is relaying more than 1,200 new images and other data back to eager scientists on Earth.

The pictures of the planet — pockmarked by craters, baked by the sun — have finally filled massive holes in the map of Mercury that persisted since the last space probe visited the sun-blasted



Detailed close-up of Mercury's previously unseen surface.—INTERNET

planet in the early 1970s.

"We're looking at the last terra incognita in the inner solar system," said Ralph L McNutt, Jr of the Johns Hopkins University

Applied Physics Laboratory, the project scientist for the mission. "And it is beautiful."

The first look, taken from a distance of 27,000

kilometres (17,000 miles) and released Tuesday, reveals one of the prime targets for the imaging team: the 1,300 kilometres-wide (800-mile-wide) Caloris impact basin that had been only partially visible in the past. It is one of the biggest and youngest craters in the solar system.

Wednesday's picture, the second in Messenger's series, shows the 200-kilometres-wide (125-mile-wide) Vivaldi crater, which boasts a double ring and was glimpsed by Mariner 10, which flew by the planet in 1974 and 1975.

Internet



Actress Katie Holmes holds a fake Golden Globe award during a segment on BET's '106 and Park' countdown show on 16 Jan, 2008 in New York. Holmes is promoting her new film 'Mad Money.' —INTERNET

Fake gun dealers detained in downtown Beijing

BEIJING, 16 Jan— Four men have been detained by Beijing police for illegally selling fake guns, local police said here Tuesday.

Eight policemen stormed an apartment in downtown Xuanwu District on 10 January and confiscated 12 of the imitation guns, which are popular among players of the on-line game, Counter Strike (CS), said a police officer surnamed Yang, who is attached to the Guangwai Police Station.

Four men were detained while another was released, since he was found to have lesser involvement in the case.

The five men, averaging 22 years, had turned the apartment into a workshop for converting CS equipment and a base for selling the items on line. The products ranged from M14s and AK47s to heavy machine guns.

These items were initially sent to them from outside Beijing as models that shot plastic beads. These were refitted to fire laser beams. Their prices averaged from 1,200 yuan to 4,600 yuan (a minimum of about 634 US dollars). The guns, which looked almost exactly like real ones, could pose a threat to people, Yang said.

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

AC Milan knocked out of Italian Cup, Roma crush Torino

ROME, 17 Jan — European champions AC Milan went out of the Italian Cup on Wednesday after being held 1-1 at Catania, while holders AS Roma crushed Torino 4-0 to reach the quarterfinals.

Peruvian full back Juan Manuel Vargas drilled home from 30 metres out to put Catania ahead in the 11th minute.

Teenage striker Alberto Paloschi levelled the score in the 68th for Milan, who rested several regulars.

Catania managed to hang on to the advantage they carried from their 2-1 first-leg triumph at the San Siro.

Both sides finished with 10 men after Catania defender Andrea Sottil was sent off in the 76th for a foul as last man and Milan midfielder Gennaro Gattuso went three minutes later for a second yellow.

Roma started to rally from their 3-1 first-leg defeat in the 59th minute, when French midfielder Ludovic Giuly sprinted from just beyond the halfway line and served Mancini, who slotted in from a central position.

MNA/Reuters

British Govt denies billion pound shortfall

LONDON, 16 Jan — The 2012 London Olympics faced fresh financial concerns on Tuesday after reports that a slump in land prices could leave a one billion-pounds (2 billion-US-dollar) "black hole" in the budget.

A report in *The Times* said Olympic Minister Tessa Jowell's prediction that at least 1.8 billion pounds would be raised in land sales after the Games was vastly over-estimated as it was based on a 16-per-cent per annum rise in land values.

The sale of land on the Olympic Park in east London was factored in to repay the National Lottery for money lent to the Games and the London Development Agency (LDA), who acquired the sites that will host the main venues. The LDA now expected to raise only 800 million pounds from the sale of land after estimates of land price inflation were scaled back in the light of a slowdown in London property prices, according to *The Times*. — MNA/Reuters



The Milwaukee Bucks' Charlie Villanueva dunks the ball over the Atlanta Hawks' Josh Childress in the second half of an NBA basketball game on 16 Jan, 2008, in Milwaukee. Milwaukee beat Atlanta 87-80.—INTERNET



Carli Lloyd, left, of the United States fights for the ball with Canada's goalkeeper Erin McLeod during their match for the Four Nations Women's Soccer Tournament in Guangzhou, southern China's Guangdong Province, on 16 Jan, 2008. The US defeated Canada 4-0.—INTERNET

Holders Ajax knocked out of Dutch Cup

AMSTERDAM, 17 Jan — Holders Ajax Amsterdam went out of the Dutch Cup on Wednesday, losing 4-2 after NAC Breda hit three goals in 10 second-half minutes.

Kurt Elshot's drive put Breda in front after 21 minutes but Luis Suarez equalized for the visitors from close range in the 66th.

Ahmed Ammi restored the home team's lead a minute later after good work by Anthony Lurling.

Patrick Zwaanswijk headed the third goal before Lurling made sure of Breda's place in the quarterfinals with the fourth. Suarez then grabbed his second goal of the game with four minutes to go.

Quick Boys Katwijk beat Heerenveen's reserves 3-1 on penalties, after the tie ended 1-1 following extra-time, to become the first amateurs to reach the last eight since 1989.

Gonzalo Garcia-Garcia netted seven minutes from time to earn Heracles Almelo a 1-0 victory over second division Den Bosch. — MNA/Reuters

CAF says no plans to change timing of tournaments

ACCRA, 16 Jan — Future African Nations Cups may start earlier in January to accommodate the complaints of European clubs but the Confederation of African Football (CAF) says it will not change the frequency or timing of the event.

"It is not even a matter for discussion," CAF general secretary Mustapha Fahmy told *Reuters* on Tuesday. "The tournament will stay as is it is."

"Even coaches from big European clubs, like Arsene Wenger and Laurent Blanc, have made it clear they understand that when they sign an African player there is a chance that every two years he will have to go to the Nations Cup," Fahmy added.

However, CAF may start the next finals in Angola in 2010 one week earlier, officials suggested.

CAF have already designated their next three tournaments in 2010, 2012 and 2014 and late last year signed an eight-year extension to their marketing contract with French company Sport Five. — MNA/Reuters

Mallorca send Real Madrid out of King's Cup

MADRID, 17 Jan — Primera Liga leaders Real Madrid lost 1-0 at home to Real Mallorca in the King's Cup last-16 on Wednesday and went out of the tournament 3-1 on aggregate.

Argentine midfielder Ariel Ibagaza scored the only goal seven minutes from time at the Bernabeu, controlling a long freekick in the area and lobbing Jerzy Dudek to seal his side's passage. Mallorca won the first leg 2-1 last week.

Real dominated the match but missed a host of chances after starting with a second-string side.

The introduction of Ruud van Nistelrooy and Robinho in the second half failed to improve their luck and an inspired Miguel Angel Moya in the visitors' goal kept them at bay.

"I don't think you can play any better than we did at times, especially in the first half, but you cannot afford to miss your chances," said Real coach Bernd Schuster.

Mallorca will meet last season's finalists and Schuster's former club Getafe in the quarterfinals. Getafe beat the league's bottom club Levante 4-0 on aggregate. Villarreal needed an extra-time goal from Italian striker Giuseppe Rossi to get past Recreativo Huelva with a 2-0 home win giving them a 2-1 aggregate victory. — MNA/Reuters



Alisa Kleybanova hits a shot to her compatriot Russia's Anna Chakvetadze at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on 17 Jan, 2008. INTERNET

Le Mans knock Lyon out of League Cup

PARIS, 17 Jan — A first-half goal by Japan's Daisuke Matsui gave Le Mans a 1-0 home win over Olympique Lyon on Wednesday and a place in the French League Cup semifinals.

The midfielder struck from the edge of the box on 28 minutes to send the Ligue 1 leaders tumbling to defeat.

Lyon, chasing a seventh successive league title, looked sluggish at first but then woke up and were denied by a string of fine saves from Yohann Pele.

"We thought we would have an easy match and did not treat it seriously enough," said Lyon coach Alain Perrin.

"The way we played tonight we would have struggled even against a Ligue 2 side," he told his club's website (www.olweb.fr). "We must use this defeat as a lesson for the matches to come."

Le Mans, seventh in Ligue 1, next meet Racing Lens who defeated Nancy 3-0.

Yohan Demont opened the scoring for Lens with an acrobatic volley on 15 minutes and forward Toifilou Maoulida doubled the advantage with an astute lob before halftime. Demont's fellow midfielder Olivier Monterrubio wrapped it up with a second-half penalty.

MNA/Reuters

Suicide bomber kills eight in Pakistan

Peshawar, 18 Jan — A teenage suicide attacker blew himself up Thursday at in the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar, killing at least eight people and wounding 20, officials said.

"It was a suicide attack," interior ministry spokesman Brigadier Javed Cheema told AFP. "The bomber was 15 or 16 years old and he blew himself up after entering the gate leading to the prayer hall."

Peshawar police Deputy Superintendent Zafarullah Khan said eight

people were killed in the bombing. Three bodies were taken to hospital and five were still at the scene, he said.

Witnesses said the attacker opened fire with an assault rifle before detonating himself just inside the mosque in the mainly Sunni city near the Afghan border while more

than 100 people were worshipping there.

More than 800 people have been killed in attacks — mainly suicide bombings targeting the security forces — in Pakistan over the past year, making 2007 the deadliest for militant violence in the country's history.

Internet



A Pakistani boy who was injured in a blast is treated at a local hospital in Peshawar, Pakistan, on 17 Jan, 2008.

INTERNET

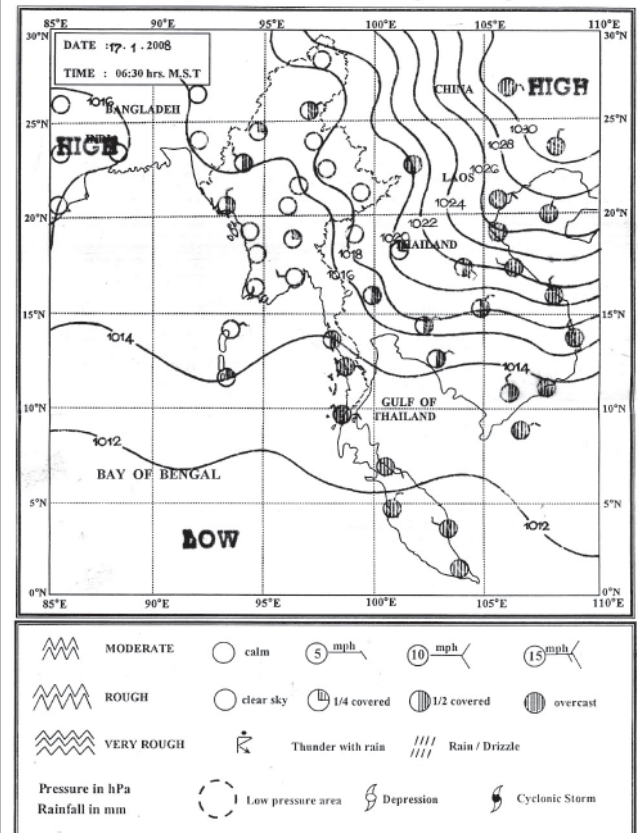
Mexican rebel group will issue warning

MEXICO CITY, 17 Jan — A Mexican rebel group that bombed energy pipelines last year and disrupted production at dozens of industrial plants said on Tuesday it will issue warnings of any future attacks to avoid killing civilians.

The Marxist-inspired Popular Revolutionary Army, or EPR, began bombing natural gas and oil ducts in mid-2007 to demand the release of two leftist activists it says were seized by the government in May in the volatile southern city of Oaxaca.

MNA/Reuters

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Thursday, 17 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 (3°C) below January average temperatures in Yangon Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above January average temperatures in Mon State and Taninthayi Division and about January average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Lailin (1°C), Ann (2°C), Lashio and Haka (4°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 16-1-2008 was 94°F. Minimum temperature on 17-1-2008 was 61°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 17-1-2008 was 78%. Total sunshine hours on 16-1-2008 was (8.1) hours approx.

Rainfall on 17-1-2008 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 (6) mph from Southeast at (09:30) hours MST on 17-1-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 18-1-2008: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (40%).

State of the sea: Easterly strong wind with moderate to rough sea are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in strong wind may reach (35) mph. Seas will be slight elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 18-1-2008: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 18-1-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 18-1-2008: Fair weather.



Friday, 18 January
View on today

7:00 am

1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီးနိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ့ မဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော် ဆောင်ရွက်အဘိဓမ္မမဟာ ရဋ္ဌဂုရုအဘိဓမ္မအဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မ ဇောတိကတိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိကဆရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ 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. လုပ်ရားပုံပြင် စိတ်ပျော်ရွှင်

8:00 am

6. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:05 am

7. The mirror images of the musical oldies

8:15 am

8. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:25 am

9. ကျင်းသောရေလှောင်တံ

8:30 am

10. International news

8:45 am

11. English for everyday use

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Song to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. Practice in Reading

4:40 pm

4. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ-ပထမနှစ် (သချာ၊ ဓါတုဗေဒ၊ ရူပဗေဒအထူးပြုများ) (ရူပဗေဒ)

4:55 pm

5. Song of national races

5:10 pm

6. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား

5:25 pm

7. "ဆေးလိပ်ကင်းကွာ အနုပညာကမ္ဘာ" (လွင်မိုးမင်းမော်ကွန်း ဇာနည်ကင်းကောင်၊ စိုးမြတ်နန္ဒာ၊ လှအိန္ဒာလီတင့်၊ ဝမ်းပုံ)

5:35 pm

8. Song of yesteryears

5:45 pm

9. ကြားမြင်သုတပြည့်ဝစေရာ စာပဒေသာ

6:00 pm

10. Evening news

6:30 pm

11. Weather report

6:35 pm

12. သုတစုံလင်ရွှေညက်ရှင်

7:10 pm

13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "လေဒီယာနှင့်ဆုံစည်းခြင်း" (အပိုင်း-၁)

8:00 pm

14. News

15. International news

16. Weather report

17. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

"ချစ်သူများ" (အပိုင်း-၂၀)

18. The next day's programme

People's Desire

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

Prime Minister General Thein Sein arrives in Brunei Darussalam

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein, accompanied by Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Director-General Col Kyaw Kyaw Win of the State Peace and Development Council Office, Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and departmental officials, left Nay Pyi Taw Airport at 11.40 am on 15 January to pay a goodwill visit to Brunei Darussalam at the invitation of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah and arrived at Bandar Seri Begawan Airport of Brunei Darussalam at 4.45 pm Brunei Standard Time.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein and party were welcomed by Brunei Deputy Permanent Secretary Haji Mohammad Nor Bin Haji Jeludin of the Protocol Department and Charge d'Affaires of the Myanmar Embassy U Moe Kyaw Aung onboard the aircraft.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein and party were welcomed by Brunei Minister of Foreign Affairs His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad Bolkiah and ministers, high-ranking officials, Brunei Ambassador to Myanmar Pehin Datu Inderasugara Brig-Gen (Rtd) Dato Paduka Haji Mohammad Yusof bin Abu Bakar, staff and families of the Myanmar Embassy. Two girls of the Myanmar Embassy presented a bouquet to the visiting Prime Minister.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein and Brunei Minister for Foreign Affairs HRH Prince Mohammad Bolkiah took the salute of the Guard of Honour. Meanwhile, the State Band played the national

anthems of the two countries. Next, they inspected the Guard of Honour.

The Prime Minister and the Brunei Prince on the dais took the salute of

the Guard of Honour again. The State Band (See page 9)



Prime Minister General Thein Sein being welcomed by HRH Prince Mohammad Bolkiah of Brunei Darussalam at Bandar Seri Begawan Airport. —MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein and HRH Prince Mohammad Bolkiah of Brunei Darussalam take the salute of the Guard of Honour at Bandar Seri Begawan Airport. — MNA