

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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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

Prime Minister General Thein Sein visits Royal Regalia Museum in Bandar Seri Begawan

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan — The Myanmar delegation led by Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein visited downtown Bandar Seri Begawan of Brunei Darussalam and the Royal Regalia Museum on 17 January morning.

At the museum, Brunei Minister for Development Affairs the Honourable Peinn Dato Haji Abdullah Mudin Haji Bakar and officials welcomed the Prime Minister and party and explained facts about Royal Regalia Museum.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein signed in the visitors' book. Mu-

seum Director Mr Pudarno Binchin presented gifts to the Prime Minister.

The General and party posed for documentary photos together with officials of the museum.

Next, they viewed development of Bandar Seri Begawan and Jerudong Park and went back to Empire Hotel & Country Club.

At 11.35 am, the Prime Minister and party left for Bandar Seri Begawan Airport where they were seen off by Brunei Minister for Health Honourable Pehin Haji Suyoi and high-ranking officials, Charge d'Affaires ai of the Myanmar Em-

bassy to Brunei U Moe Kyaw Aung and wife Daw Nilar Aung, embassy staff and families. The Prime Minister took the salute of the Guard of Honour.

At 12 noon Brunei Standard Time, the Prime Minister and party left Bandar Seri Begawan Airport and arrived back at Nay Pyi Taw Airport at 2 pm Myanmar Standard Time. — MNA

Brunei Minister for Health Honourable Pehin Haji Suyoi bids farewell to Prime Minister General Thein Sein at Bandar Seri Begawan Airport in Brunei Darussalam. —MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein visits Royal Regalia Museum in Bandar Seri Begawan in Brunei Darussalam. —MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 20 January, 2008

Further promote Myanmar-Brunei friendly relations and cooperation

Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein paid a goodwill visit to Brunei from 15 to 17 January at the invitation of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah.

During the visit, Prime Minister General Thein Sein paid a courtesy call on His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah at Istana Nurul Iman Palace in Bandar Seri Begawan on 16 January.

At the call, Prime Minister General Thein Sein said that he was very glad to have an opportunity to pay a visit to Brunei; and that he believed the visit would bring benefits to the two countries and contribute much to promotion of bilateral friendly relations.

Brunei King Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah said that throughout the period of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and Brunei, the bilateral relations had been promoted through personal friendship and bilateral cooperation; that at first the cooperation was initiated in the health, education and technological sectors; and that he believed that those basic foundations would contribute towards all-round development of the bilateral cooperation.

The Myanmar delegation led by Prime Minister General Thein Sein also visited the Shell Petroleum oil field and held discussions with the Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB).

It is sure that the goodwill visit of Prime Minister General Thein Sein will strengthen bilateral friendly relations and cooperation in various sectors.



Advisor to Myanmar Library Association U Cho Aye presents K 230,000 donated by members of the association to Librarian (Retd) Daw Nyunt Myint at the 10th ceremony to pay respects to old librarians organized by MLA at the Universities Dhammayon on 19 January.—H

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

SWRR Minister attends ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on compiling CEDAW Report

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan — Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe attended the First ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on compilation of the report on Convention of Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and exchange of experiences for additional tasks held at Vientiane of Lao People's Democratic Republic on 14 and 15 January.

On 14 January morning, the meeting was attended by ministers, deputy ministers and chairmen of women's organizations from 10 ASEAN countries and observer Timor Leste, the vice secretary-general and officials of the ASEAN Secretariat, the regional director of UNIFEM and experts.

Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe recounted experiences in compiling the reports.

In the evening, the Myanmar delegation attended the dinner hosted



Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe hands over documents related to donation of 200 tons of salt to the Lao PDR Minister.—MNA

by the Lao Women's Union Chairperson at Lao Plaza Hotel.

On 15 January, the meeting approved its Joint Statement. Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe delivered an address.

On 16 January, the minister, Myanmar Ambassador to Lao PDR U Nyunt Hlaing, Military Attaché Brig-Gen Than Win and officials, Director-General U Sit Myaing of Social Welfare Department and

delegation members attended the ceremony to donate 200 tons of salt by the Myanmar Government to the Lao PDR Government.

The Laotian Minister for Labour and Social Welfare spoke words of thanks.

Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe handed over documents related to the donation to the Lao PDR Minister.

The Myanmar delegation left Vientiane

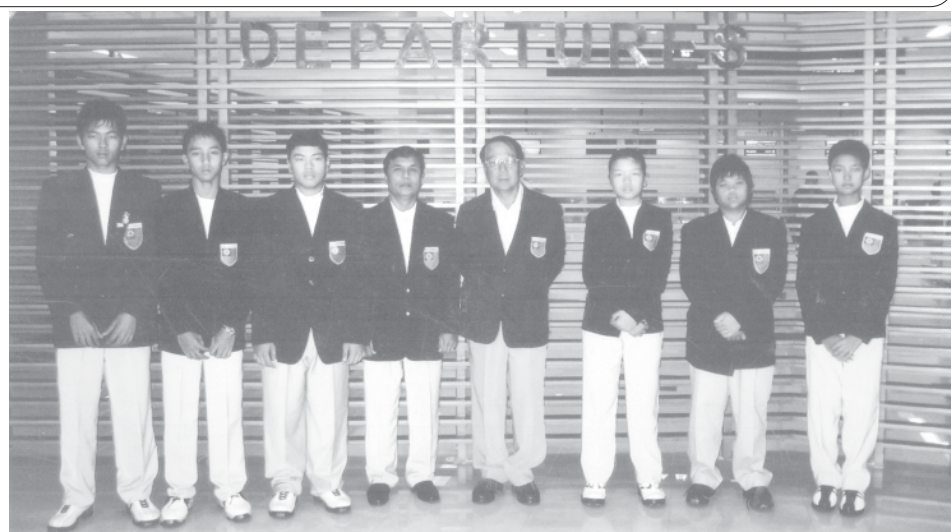
of Lao PDR by air and arrived back at Nay Pyi Taw Airport today. Members of the delegation were welcomed back at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population Brig-Gen Win Sein and officials.

MNA

Myanmar selected golfers leave for Malaysia

YANGON, 19 Jan — Myanmar youth selected golfers led by general secretary of Myanmar Golf Federation U Aung Kyi left for Malaysia, yesterday morning, to participate in the first ASEAN youth golf tournament which will be held at Glenmarie Golf and Country Club in Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia from 22 to 24 January.

They were seen off at the Yangon International Airport by officials of Ministry of Sports, executives of Myanmar Golf Federation



Members of Myanmar Selected Golf team seen at Yangon International Airport before their departure for Malaysia.—MGF

U Ko Ko Lay and officials. Myanmar youth selected golf team consists

of coach U Myo Tun, golfers Nay Bala Win Myint, Swan Thiha Aung,

Ye Htet Aung, Yin May Myo, Kay Thantsin and May Oo Khine.—MNA

French ex-president opposes Blair becoming EU president

PARIS, 19 Jan—Former French president Valéry Giscard d'Estaing has expressed opposition to the idea of former British prime minister Tony Blair becoming the first-ever president of the European Union (EU), France's *Le Figaro* daily reported Thursday.

Speaking during an

interview with the newspaper, the former president, who was responsible for directing the preparation of the draft European Constitutional Treaty, said he was opposed to the idea of the former British premier applying for the job of EU president.

Valéry Giscard

d'Estaing said that it was critical that the future president of the EU "be someone from a member state that respects and upholds all European commitments," a factor that excludes Blair, whose name has routinely been put forward as an ideal candidate for the position.

MNA/Xinhua



Austrian Pilots fly gliders over the famous downhill ski course of Hahnenkamm prior to men's super-G FIS Ski World cup in Kitzbuehel.—INTERNET



A man who lives in the streets of the Kibera slum walks near a barricade that was set on fire by sympathizers of Kenya's opposition leader Raila Odinga in Nairobi. The death toll for three days of opposition rallies against Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki's re-election soared to 25 on Friday when police killed five protestors and found several bodies across the country.—INTERNET

Kenyan opposition accuses police of killing seven

NAIROBI, 19 Jan — Kenya's opposition accused police of killing seven people on Thursday during a second day of clashes with demonstrators protesting against President Mwai Kibaki's disputed re-election.

In the capital Nairobi, and the western towns of Kisumu and Eldoret, police fired teargas and bullets during rallies called by opposition leader Raila Odinga's Orange Democratic Movement (ODM), but banned by police. More protests are planned on Friday.

Odinga, who accuses Kibaki of stealing victory in the December 27 ballot, said police shot dead seven people in the capital.

"Police are shooting innocent civilians at will ... the government has turned this country into a killing field of innocents," he told reporters.

Police had no immediate comment. ODM member of Parliament Elizabeth Ongoro Masha said her driver was among those killed by officers who surrounded part of the Mathare slum overnight. "They were targeting people perceived as being group leaders," she told Reuters. —MNA/Reuters

22 killed as bridge collapses in N-E India

NEW DELHI, 19 Jan—At least 22 people were killed and 25 injured when a bridge collapsed in India's northeastern state Manipur, authorities said on Friday. The incident took place as an overloaded truck was passing by on Thursday, around 180 kilometres south of state capital Imphal, according to the Indo-Asian News Service.

"Troops reached the spot soon after receiving the news and fished out 19 bodies from the river besides rescuing 28 others," an Army spokesman said. The injured were rushed to the hospital while one of the injured succumbed to injuries on the way to hospital, two others died there later. —MNA/Xinhua

Thai Govt admits ties between southern insurgency, int'l terrorism

BANGKOK, 19 Jan—The Thai Government on Friday admitted the connection between the ongoing southern insurgency and some international terrorist organizations, including the al-Qaeda led by Osama Bin Laden.

Chaiya Yimvilai, a government spokesman, said during a Press briefing that the violence in southernmost provinces of

Narathiwat, Yala and Pattani are getting worse.

Through the case in which all the eight soldiers of an Army patrol team were killed by insurgents on Monday, the authorities found foreign extremists were behind the terrorist incident, he said.

He said some foreign terrorist organizations, including the al-Qaeda, were funding the southern

insurgents during the past four years.

However, the spokesman refused to elaborate on the details.

Thailand's three southernmost provinces — Yala, Narathiwat and Pattani have been troubled with insurgency-related violence which has claimed more than 2,800 lives since it resumed in early 2004.

MNA/Xinhua

Manila arrests five in fresh coup plot

MANILA, 19 Jan — Philippine security forces have arrested five former soldiers plotting a fresh attempt to unseat President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, officials said on Wednesday. Army and police units in the capital had been on alert this week to guard against a possible attempt by disgruntled

soldiers to grab power during street marches by left-wing groups to mark a violent farmers' rally in 1987 that killed 11 protesters.

Police said four of the five ex-servicemen belonging to the Army's elite Scout Rangers unit while one was a former marine. They were arrested

on Tuesday and charged with illegal possession of firearms and ammunition.

"They were believed to be part of a larger group plotting fresh destabilization activities against the government," said Superintendent Michel Filart of the national police's criminal investigation and detection office. —MNA/Xinhua

300,000 displaced by conflict in Central African Republic

UNITED NATIONS, 19 Jan — Nearly 300,000 people have been driven from their homes since last month amid clashes between government and rebel forces in the Central African Republic (CAR), said the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

"Many villagers have fled in terror. Attacks on humanitarian workers are also becoming disturbingly common," said the agency.

Violence has paralyzed public infrastructure across the north, it said, adding that many schools and hospitals remain closed and thousands of families have lost their homes and possessions. —MNA/Xinhua

13 arrested in Thai south for killing security personnel

BANGKOK, 19 Jan — Thirteen suspects were arrested Friday morning in Thailand's violence-torn far southern province Narathiwat for allegedly taking part in Monday's insurgent ambush that killed eight government security personnel.

About 500 soldiers, police and Interior Ministry officials raided and searched three villages in the Dusongyor sub-district in Chanae District, Narathiwat at 5 am (2200 GMT), according to news network *The Nation*. The searches lasted about four hours and the 13 suspects were arrested, who were taken to the army base in nearby province Pattani for interrogations.

MNA/Xinhua

US movie executive charged over Thai festival bribes

LOS ANGELES, 19 Jan— A Los Angeles movie executive and his wife have been indicted on charges of paying 900,000 US dollars in bribes to a senior Thai tourism official to secure lucrative contracts to run a film festival in Bangkok.

The US Department of Justice said on Thursday that Gerald Green, 75, and his wife

Patricia, 52, were indicted late on Wednesday by a federal grand jury for making a series of payments over five years to the then governor of the Tourism Authority of Thailand, Juthamas Siriwan.

According to the indictment, the Greens paid 900,000 US dollars to Siriwan to win contracts worth more than 7 million US dollars for

running the annual Bangkok International Film Festival from 2002-2007.

The festival was controlled by the Thai Tourist Authority. The Greens are accused of seven counts of violating the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and could face a maximum of five years in prison on each charge if they are convicted.

MNA/Reuters



People check decoration for Tet, the Vietnamese New Year, in front of a shop at Hang Ma Street in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 18 Jan, 2008. In 2008, the Tet will fall on 7 February.—INTERNET

British pupil arrested after girl, 13, stabbed

LONDON, 19 Jan — A 14-year-old boy has been arrested following the stabbing of a girl, 13, outside a south London school, police said on Thursday.

The girl, who has not been named, suffered minor wounds to her chest and thigh in the latest of a spate of stabbings among young people over the past year which have led to widespread calls for action on knife crime.

Police received a call at about 4 pm on Wednesday saying she was being stabbed outside the Sacred Heart School in Southwark.—MNA/Reuters



An electric heater is used to help panda “Tao Tao” keep warm as local temperature dropped sharply at the zoo of Jinan, capital of east China’s Shandong Province, on 14 Jan, 2008.—XINHUA

Seven Canadian soldiers injured in Afghanistan

OTTAWA, 19 Jan — Seven Canadian soldiers were injured in two separate roadside bomb explosions Wednesday night in southern Afghanistan, Canadian Television (CTV)

reported Thursday.

Both incidents took place during a patrol in the Panjwai District, about 35 kilometres southwest of Kandahar.

Most of the soldiers suffered minor injuries.

Six of them have been released from hospital, the CTV said.

The incidents followed the death of a Canadian soldier Tuesday in a roadside bomb attack.

MNA/Xinhua

Palestinians stand in front of a destroyed building of Hamas’s Interior Ministry after it was targeted by an Israeli missile in Gaza on 18 Jan, 2008.—XINHUA

Hamas launches 21 makeshift rockets on Israel

GAZA, 18 Jan — The military wing of Hamas launched 21 home-made rockets on Israeli targets outside Gaza Strip early

Wednesday in response to an Israeli offensive in Gaza which left at least 17 dead.

In successive

statements sent to the Press, Hamas claimed responsibility on the rocket salvos which mostly targeted Sderot Town, one kilometre to the northeast of Gaza Strip, and several settlements in the same range.

According to Hamas’ Ezz el-Deen al-Qassam Brigades, 65 rockets and 75 mortar shells were fired from Gaza Strip since Tuesday. “Our shelling against the Israeli settlement is a message to the enemy that we can create the same level of fear,” one of the statements said.

MNA/Xinhua



Three killed in US Navy chopper crash

WASHINGTON, 19 Jan — Three people were killed in a Navy copter crash Wednesday night in Texas, and a fourth was rescued, CNN reported Thursday.

The Navy MH-53 Sea Dragon helicopter crashed in a field about seven kilometres south of Corpus Christi Wednesday night, Ed Mackley, spokesman of the Naval Mine and Anti-Submarine Warfare Command, was quoted as saying.

A witness reported a huge fireball and booming noise shortly after the crash. Rescuers later found bodies of three crew members earlier Thursday, Mackley said. MNA/Xinhua

Traffic accident leaves nine dead, three injured in Bolivia

LIMA, 19 Jan — At least nine people were killed and three seriously injured in a traffic accident on a Bolivian Andean highway Thursday, according to news reaching here. The deceased include two minors, and the three injured are currently in intensive care, the Bolivian police in La Paz reported.

A minibus and a dump truck crashed at 14:00 local time (1800 GMT) on the La Paz-Copacabana highway, some 25 kilometres from La Paz, according to the police.

The police are investigating the cause of the accident, but it has already been determined that the dump truck, whose driver fled the scene, invaded the opposite lane and slammed head-on into the minibus. —MNA/Xinhua

Cold related diseases claim nine lives in N Bangladesh

DHAKA, 19 Jan — Nine children died of pneumonia and other cold related diseases in last two weeks till Thursday in Bangladesh’s northern district of Kurigram, 260 kilometres northwest of capital Dhaka.

The nine children died in local hospitals. Besides, on an average, at least 50 children affected by cold related diseases are being treated at local hospital everyday.

Deputy Commissioner AR Mollah said so far 7,421 pieces of blankets, 9,758 sweaters, 1600 pieces used clothes were distributed among the affected people in the district. —MNA/Xinhua

China intervenes in commodity prices to ease inflation

BEIJING, 18 Jan — China's top economic planner has announced price controls on a package of products, including grain, edible oil, meat, milk, eggs and liquefied petroleum gas, *Xinhua* learned Wednesday from a work conference of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC).

"Major enterprises are required to submit the

price-raising scheme to the government for official approval 10 working days before they intend to raise the prices, said the NDRC in a circular on interim price intervention. The move is believed to be a bid to tackle inflation.

Surges in prices of staples such as grain, pork and cooking oil since May 2007 lifted the consumer price index (CPI) to 4.6

per cent in the first 11 months of 2007, and an 11-year high of 6.9 per cent in November, well above the government's 3-per cent target.

Official statistics revealed that edible oil, pork and beef prices in early January in 36 large and medium-sized cities nationwide surged 58 per cent, 43 per cent and 46 per cent respectively year on year. — MNA/Xinhua



Indian investors outside the Bombay Stock Exchange in Mumbai recently. Wipro Ltd, India's third-largest software maker, on 18 Jan, 2008, posted a lower-than-expected third-quarter net profit as an appreciating rupee and a higher wage bill offset business growth.—INTERNET



Protesters shout slogans during a rally against South Korea-US free trade agreement (FTA) talks in front of the headquarters of the Federation of Korean Industries in Seoul on 18, 2008. The letters read, "Block the FTA talks between the US and South Korea".—INTERNET

ECONOMIC NEWS

EU launches investigation into pharmaceutical industry

BRUSSELS, 18 Jan— The European Union (EU) antitrust regulator said Wednesday it had launched an investigation into the pharmaceutical industry for an alleged lack of competition.

Inspectors from the European Commission raided a number of innovative and generic pharmaceutical companies as part of the sector inquiry, which is a response to indications that competition in pharmaceutical markets in Europe may not be working well.

The Commission said fewer new pharmaceuticals are being brought to market and the entry of generic pharmaceuticals sometimes seems to be delayed, which could result from agreements between pharmaceutical companies restricting competition or unilateral abuses of dominant position. "From 1995-1999 an average of 40 novel molecular entities were launched per year. From 2000-2004 the figure was only 28," it said.

The Commission said it would also look into whether companies may have created artificial barriers to entry through the misuse of patent rights, vexatious litigation or other means, and whether such practices may violate EU antitrust rules.— MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam seizes ratsnakes from Bangkok flight

HANOI, 19 Jan — Vietnam has seized more than a ton of ratsnakes found aboard a Vietnam Airlines flight from Bangkok, the second time in about a month such snakes were found in air cargo to Vietnam, state media said on Friday.

The snakes — scien-

tific name *Ptyas Mucosus* and a protected species— were found in more than 60 boxes that arrived in Hanoi's Noi Bai Airport on Thursday, the *Vietnam News Agency* quoted officials as saying.

"There is a great possibility that Vietnam is only a transit point of

the cargo," it said, adding that the snakes were transferred to an animal caring station nearby.

Last month, the airport authorities also seized 700 kilogrammes (1,550 pounds) of snakes aboard a Thai Airways flight to Hanoi, it said.

MNA/Reuters

Australia says Doha success hard but deal can be done

MUMBAI, 18 Jan— Clinching a deal at global trade talks will be a hard task but is possible, Australia's Trade Minister said on Wednesday, adding that India and Australia could play a role in reaching a consensus.

Australia was also

interested in pursuing a free trade agreement with India as long as it was comprehensive, Simon Crean said at a business lunch in Mumbai, India's financial capital.

"Given that the Doha Round now involves in excess of 150 nations,

success is only going to come if we forge alliances," he said. Australia as chairman of the Cairns Group of agricultural exporters and India as a key player in the industrialized and emerging Group of 20 economies had roles to play, Crean added.

MNA/Reuters

World Bank closes offices after bomb threat

WASHINGTON, 19 Jan — The World Bank said on Thursday its security staff was investigating a bomb threat made by telephone and told employees of its Washington headquarters to stay home on Friday.

"The bank is working with law enforcement officials to determine the validity of the threat," the bank said in a statement.

"As a precautionary measure, bank group management has decided to close all World Bank group leased and owned buildings in Washington on Friday," it added.

The financial institution, which provides loans to poor countries to fight poverty, is located about a block from White House and employs about 8,000 in at least seven buildings in downtown Washington.—MNA/Reuters



Workers remove plastic balls which were released by an artist down the Spanish Steps, in Rome on 16 Jan, 2008. Graziano Cecchini, who calls himself an artistic activist, claimed to Italy's ANSA news agency that he released the balls from the top of Rome's Spanish Steps to highlight the nation's problems.—INTERNET

Vietnam eyes closer security cooperation with Laos

HANOI, 18 Jan — Vietnam wants to strengthen security cooperation with Laos in exchanging information about criminal activities which threaten national security, local newspaper *Vietnam News* reported Thursday.

Vietnamese State President Nguyen Minh Triet made the statement Wednesday when receiving

Lao Minister of Public Security Thongbanh Sengaphone, who was on a working visit to Vietnam at the invitation of Vietnamese Minister of Public Security Le Hong Anh.

The public security forces of the two countries should work out cooperation programmes to combat hostile forces and criminal activities,

ensuring stability, cooperation and development, the Vietnamese President said.

The Lao minister said he was happy to see firm and effective cooperation between the two ministries, and expressed thanks on behalf of the Lao ministry for staff training and professional facilities provided by the Vietnamese ministry.

MNA/Xinhua



A gaming fan, dressed as the character Master Chief from the Xbox 360 video game 'Halo 3', carries his copy of the game after purchasing it during a midnight sales event in New York.—INTERNET

Syrian man gets 6 months prison for NY attack hoax

NEW YORK, 18 Jan—A Syrian man convicted of giving a false tip to a New York City anti-terrorism hotline, leading to five innocent men being investigated on suspicion of terrorism, was sentenced on Wednesday to six months in prison.

Rimon Alkatri, 35, was convicted in November of calling a hotline to offer a tip about five fellow Syrians whom he accused of planning a suicide attack on New York City subways over the July 4 holiday weekend. City officials dispatched dozens of police, conducted round-the-clock surveillance and sought help from Israeli law enforcement, prosecutors told a jury at the New York

State Supreme Court.

The public was not informed until after Alkatri's arrest. Police later learned four of the five men he implicated were former business associates with whom he had disputes.

"I'm sorry about what I did," Alkatri told Judge Raymond Wiley on Wednesday.

But Wiley said that Alkatri had to take responsibility for the suffering of the men he named, who were interrogated and whose homes were searched. A less professional police force "would have locked these gentlemen up and asked questions later", the judge said.

Speaking outside the

courthouse, Fares Almari, one of the victims, said he was disappointed.

MNA/Reuters

Philippines searches for eleven crew of sunken ship

MANILA, 18 Jan—Philippine authorities are searching for 11 sailors missing after their cargo

ship sank in stormy weather off the northern coast, an official said on Thursday. A spokesman

for the Coast Guard said eight people had been plucked from choppy waters off Batanes island near Taiwan a few hours after the ship, which was carrying steel from China, sank on Wednesday.

"I spoke with the pilots helping our search and rescue ships in the area and they were having difficulty because of near zero visibility due to bad weather," Lieutenant Armand Balilo said, adding they were not giving up the search. The ship, m/v Hofeng No. 7, was on its way to Malaysia and carrying 19 crew from the Philippines when huge waves, strong winds and rain caused it to list and sink.—MNA/Reuters



Football memorabilia featuring African colours sits for sale at a vendor's stall in Ghana's capital Accra on 18 Jan, 2008. While political protests tarnish Kenya, Ghana will polish its image as a tourism and investment destination when it hosts Africa's most prestigious sporting event, the 2008 African Nations Cup soccer finals, starting on Sunday.—INTERNET

Clashes occur in New Caledonia as police break up strike

WELLINGTON, 18 Jan—Clashes occurred in New Caledonia as riot police dislodged a strike picket at a Noumea bus depot, causing a dozen of people injured and 50 arrests, Radio New Zealand International reported on Thursday.

Police tried to disperse members of the USTKE union early Thursday for illegally occupying land that belongs to the southern province next to the Carsud bus company. USTKE leader Gerard Jodar said police used tear gas to chase away unionists, with about a dozen of them suffering injuries.

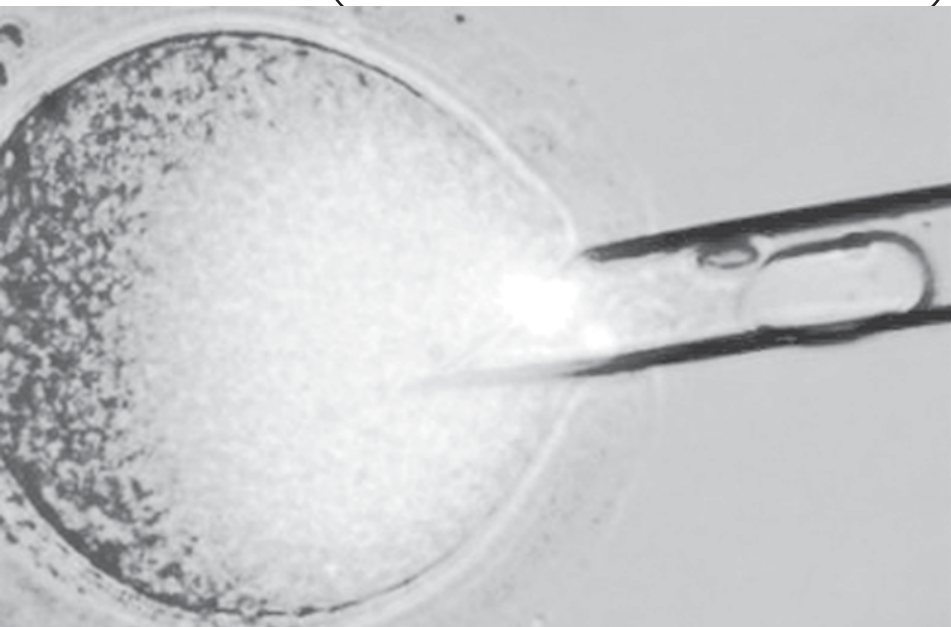
Local radio said police made 50 arrests. Clashes

have continued and reports said several vehicles, including some belonging to police, have been burnt.

MNA/Xinhua

An image released by Stemagen Corp shows the removal of an egg's nucleus. The California company said on Thursday it used cloning technology to make five human embryos, with the eventual hope of making matched stem cells for patients.

INTERNET



Paraplegic man dumped in LA gutter sues hospital

LOS ANGELES, 19 Jan — A mentally ill paraplegic man filed a lawsuit on Thursday against a hospital that dumped him in a gutter on Los Angeles' "Skid Row" — a case that highlighted the plight of the city's vast homeless population.

Gabino Olvera, 42, sued the Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Centre for negligence after it discharged him in February 2007, took him across town in a van and left him in a soiled hospital gown without a wheelchair in the heart of the city's homeless area.

Witnesses who came to Olvera's aid said they saw him dragging himself on the ground with hospital papers and documents clenched in his teeth while the driver sat in her van and applied makeup before driving off.

The incident was captured by security cameras at a nearby homeless shelter.

Hernan Vera, a lawyer with Public Counsel, which helped bring the lawsuit on behalf of Olvera, called it "the most obscene and callous example of this practice that we have seen". —MNA/Reuters

Foreign Minister arrives back from Japan



Minister U Nyan Win attends Japan-Mekong Foreign Ministers' Meeting.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan— A delegation led by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win yesterday arrived back here by air, after attending the Japan-Mekong Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Tokyo, Japan on 16 and 17 January.

It was attended by Foreign Ministers of the five Mekong Region countries which are Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. Japanese Foreign Minister Mr Masahiko Koumura chaired the meeting. The Ministers discussed promoting of cooperation between Japan and the Mekong Region countries in various fields including politics, economy, economic cooperation and cultures and also discussed wide-ranging issues under the themes of trust, development and stability, as well as regional and global issues.

They shared the views that enduring stability and growing prosperity of the region is important to a resilient ASEAN Community and a dynamic East Asia and the vision of a "Region

of Hope and Development", and stressed the importance of inter-and intra-regional cooperation in seizing common opportunities and in addressing common challenges. Moreover, they decided to celebrate the year 2009 as Mekong-Japan Exchange Year.

The leader of Myanmar delegation and Ambassador of Myanmar to Japan U Hla Myint attended a welcoming luncheon hosted by Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Mr Osamu Uno on 16 January. The Minister and the Ambassador paid a group courtesy call on Prime Minister Mr Yasuo Fukuda together with the other ministers. In the evening, the Minister attended a dinner hosted by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.

On 17 January, the Minister attended a breakfast hosted by the Japan - Mekong Parliamentary Friendship Association. The Minister also attended the Mekong Regional Investment Promotion Seminar and explained the opportunity of investment and invited

the Japanese businessmen to invest in Myanmar.

Foreign Minister U Nyan Win met separately with Mr Masahiko Koumura, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan and cordially discussed issues of mutual interest. The minister visited the Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo where he met the staff of the Myanmar Embassy and the Office of the Military Attaché and inspected the functions of the Embassy on 16 January. The Minister attended a dinner hosted by the Ambassador of Myanmar at his residence on 17 January.

The members of delegation, Director-General U Phae Thann Oo, Head of Branch-1 U Thein Zaw and Head of Branch-2 Daw T Kham Seng from the Political Department of Ministry of Foreign Affairs arrived back on the same flight. Myanmar Ambassador to Japan U Hla Myint also participated as a member of the delegation in the Japan-Mekong Foreign Ministers' Meeting and other related meetings.

MNA

Job Proficiency Course concludes

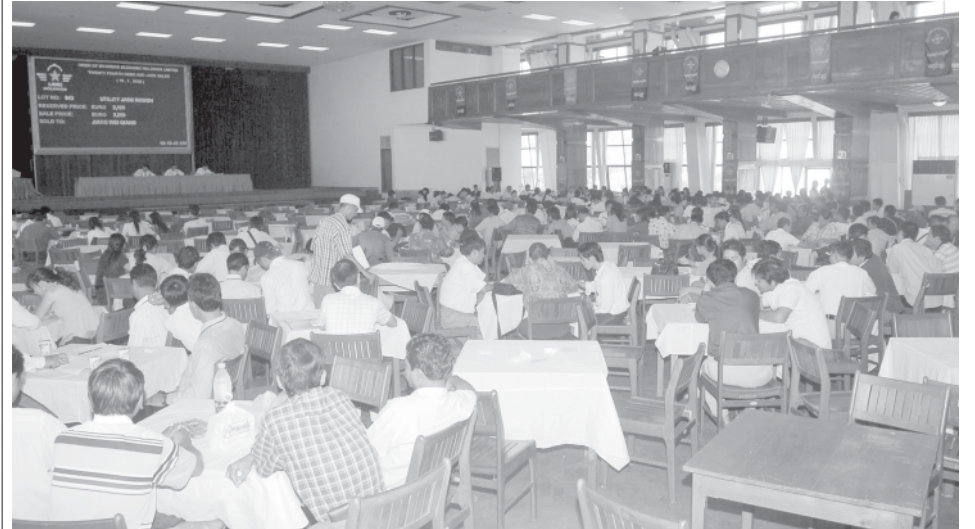
NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan — The concluding ceremony of Job Proficiency Course No 1/ 2008 for Engineers and Financial Officers under Electric Power Supply Enterprise was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Electric Power No 2 yesterday morning.

The ceremony was attended by Minister for

Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Win Myint, Director-General of Electric Power Department Dr Thein Tun, Managing Director U Tin Aung of Electric Power Supply Enterprise, deputy directors-general, chief engineers, deputy chief engineers, departmental officials and 101 trainees.

Firstly, Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint gave remarks.

Next, the Minister, the Deputy Minister, the Director-General and the Managing Director presented prizes to nine staff who secured outstanding awards in the training course at Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi).—MNA



Final day of 24th Gems and Jade Sales 2008 in progress. —MNA

24th Gems and Jade Sales of UMEHL conclude

YANGON, 19 Jan—The 24th Gems and Jade Sales 2008 of the Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited continued at 9 am today, the final day, at the Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here.

It was attended by Managing Director of UMEHL Maj-Gen Win Than, local and foreign merchants.

Merchants examined gems and jade lots from 15 to 18 January. At 7.30 am, the inspection teams checked the bargain forms from the tender boxes at

7.30 am.

Altogether 357 jade lots were sold at the sales that commenced at 9 am and finished successfully at 11:40 am.

Managing Director of the Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited and members of Board of Directors presented gifts to the merchants who offered the highest prices in the sales.

The sales of gems and jade attracted 737 local and 281 foreign merchants.

MNA

Science Fair of ILBC (2008) held

YANGON, 19 Jan — The Science Fair 2008 of Interanational Language and Business Centre (ILBC) was held at the gymnasium of ILBC on Laydaunkan Road, Tamway Township here this afternoon.

At the Science Fair, 59 varieties of practical applications of physics,

general science, chemistry, mathematics and biology were displayed. Students explained their applications to parents and guests.

Electric-powered vehicles and single-pilot aircraft of the science research department are the new creations of the science fair.—MNA



Students and their parents view the displays at Science Fair of ILBC.

MNA

Myanmar delegation members hold discussions with Brunei ministers

NAYPYITAW, 19 Jan.— Brunei Minister-2 of Foreign Affairs and Trade Dato Seri Setia Lim Jook Seng hosted an informal dinner in honour of Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu at the Empire Hotel and Country Club at 7 pm on 15 January.

At the dinner, the two sides exchanged views on cooperation in mutual interest. The Brunei minister said that Brunei was striving for the development of other sectors as it had to rely much on oil production. The 30-year plan was in the process of being

implemented, he said. He also discussed measures to launch more airlines in the region, promotion of eco tourism industry, and gaining dominant position in the meat and fish sector in the region.

The Myanmar ministers discussed matters on export of rice and agricultural produce, launch of more airlines related to hotel and tourism industry and exchange of trade delegations between the two countries.

They also held discussions on work progress of respective countries to approve AEC, ASEAN Charter signed by ASEAN leaders at the ASEAN Summit held in Singapore and exchanged views on the Free Trade Area of ASEAN and its

partner nations.

Similarly, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt called on Minister for Home Affairs of Brunei Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya John Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Adanan bin Begawan Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Mohd Yusof at the minister's office in Bandar Seri Begawan at 2 pm on 16 January.

Minister Col Thein Nyunt explained border region development tasks, rural development works, the projects for 24 special development regions and drug eradication tasks in Myanmar for national development.

Minister for Transport



Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo meets Brunei Minister for Natural Resources and Industry Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Palalawan Dato Seri Setia Dr Haji Ahmad bin Haji Jumat. —MNA



PBANRDA Minister Col Thein Nyunt meets the Brunei Minister for Home Affairs. —MNA



Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe holds discussions with Brunei Minister for Communications YB Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Setia Hj Awg Abu Bakar Haji Apon. —MNA



Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi meets Brunei Deputy Permanent Secretary Haji Ismail Dato Hashim of Prime Minister's Office. — MNA

Maj-Gen Thein Swe met Minister of Communications YB Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Setia Hj Awg Abu Bakar Haji Apon at the ministry in Bandar Seri Begawan at 2:30 pm on 16 January. The meeting focused on matters for cooperation in the transport sector based on mutual interest.

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi paid a call on Brunei Deputy Permanent Secretary of Prime Minister's Office Haji Ismail Dato Hashim at the hall on the seventh floor of Empire Hotel & Country Club at 2.30 pm on 16 January and held discussions on cooperation in the energy sector.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo called on Minister for Natural Resources and Industry Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Palalawan Dato Seri Setia Dr Haji Ahmad bin Haji Jumat at the minister's office in Jalan Menteri Sesar at 9.30 pm on 17

January.

Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo explained efforts being made in Myanmar for the development of the agriculture sector, conditions of production and export of crops and agricultural undertakings for the production of bio-diesel and held frank discussions on prospects for further cooperation in bio-diesel production and the agriculture sector. It was also attended by Deputy Minister Dato Hamdillah H A Wahab and officials.

Myanmar entrepreneurs who accompanied the Myanmar delegation held a meeting with Brunei entrepreneurs at the office of National Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Bandar Seri Begawan at 10 am on 16 January.

It was attended by the 10-member Myanmar delegation led by President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint and 20-member

Brunei entrepreneurs group led by President of National Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Brunei Darussalam Mr Rajali Johari.

President U Win Myint explained facts about the federation and made suggestions on trade cooperation between the UMFCCI and NCCIBD and drawing of MoU on promotion of cooperation in trade, investment and technology between the two federations.

Mr Ragali Johari said that Brunei had a small population and relied mainly on earnings of oil; that the nation was smaller than Myanmar; that unlike Myanmar, it was not rich in natural resources; that it was interested in Myanmar gems; and that the nation wanted to cooperate with Myanmar for bilateral trade improvement.

Next, officials of UMFCCI and NCCIBD signed MoU and exchanged the gifts.

MNA

The virtuous man, the wise man, the righteous man

Who, for his sake or for the sake of others, would not long for a son or wealth or a country and who would not wish for his own prosperity by unrighteous means — he is the virtuous man, the wise man and the righteous man.

Dhammapada 84

Minister for Religious Affairs pays respects to candidates to Tipitakadhara Kovida (Written) Selection Examination

YANGON, 19 Jan—The 60th Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida (Written) Selection Examination organized by the Ministry of Religious Affairs continued at the Maha Pasana Cave on Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill in Mayangon Township this afternoon.

It was attended by Ovadacariya Sayadaws of Tipitakadhara Selection Board Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Agga Vamsabhivamsa of Mandalay Paukmyaing Monastery, Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Aggissariya Bhivamsa of Pakokku Mahawizaya Rama Monastery, Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Cintasara of Magway Sanghayama Monastery, Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Panissara-Bhivamsa of Hlinethaya Sasana Gonyi Monastery, Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Khemindasami of Chaukhtatkyi Phayagyi-taik Sasana Nuggaha Monastery in Bahan Township, Agga Maha



Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung pays respects to the monks at the 60th Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida (written) selection examination.— MNA

Pandita Bhaddanta Ingisa of Palikayi Monastery in Thakayta Township, Sayadaw Sa-Ah-Dhammacariya Agga Maha Ganthavasaka Pandita Bhaddanta Neyabhivamsa of Masoyein Argamanyupadesa Monastery in Maha Aungmye Township, Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Odasiribhivamsa of Mandalay Awaipayama Yankin Monastery, Sayadaw Tipitakadhara Dhamma

Bhandagarika Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Wayaminda-bhivamsa of Pitakamaha Gandawin Monastery of Dagon Myothit (East) Township, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and officials of the ministry.

The minister arrived at the cave in the afternoon and paid respects to the candidates.

The minister offered robes to the Ovadacariya

Sayadaws.

U Kyaw Hsan Myint-Daw Thin Thin Oo and family of Yangon donated robes to the candidates.

The 60th Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida Selection Examination has been held since 1948.

Altogether 113 monks sat for the oral examination that was held from 23 December 2007 to 15



Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung offers robes to a monk,— MNA

Buddhist missionary course opened

YANGON, 19 Jan—The opening of course No 18 for Theravada Buddhist monks and basic course No (10) on health care with traditional medicine took place at the State Pariyatti University on Kaba Aye Hill in Mayangon Township here this afternoon.

Chairman of the Theravada Buddhist Missionary Ovadacariya Venerable Monk Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Kundalabhivamsa gave ovada (doctrine) to the congregation.

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung supplicated on religious affairs. The minister and officials offered robes to the monks.

Joint-Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abbot of Mandalay Maha Visuddhayon Tha-htay-dan Monastery Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Manita Siribhivamsa delivered a sermon.

Forty monks are attending course No 18 that continues till 4 February. Course No (10) will be conducted from 5 to 29 February.—MNA

January, and 119 monks, in the written examination that is held from 18 to 24 January.

The Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida Selection Examination has been held since 1948.

Altogether 11 monks passed the oral and written tests of treatises of tri Pitaka; five monks, two-and-half Pitaka; 13 monks, dvi Pitaka; 114 monks, one Pitaka; one monk, one Pitaka and Majjhima Nikaya; one monk, Anguttara Nikaya; and 462 monks, the first part of Vinaya.

Three monks passed the oral test of treatises of tri Pitaka; 12 monks, two and a half Pitaka; 42 monks,

dvi Pitaka; 359 monks, one Pitaka; one monk, one Pitaka and Majjhima Nikaya; one monk, Samyutta Nikaya; one monk, Anguttara Nikaya; and 462 monks, the first part of Vinaya.

The Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination is held successively for 33 days, and it is the most difficult and longest writing and oral examination in the world.

The 60th Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination was opened at Wizaya Mingala Dhamma Thabin Hall on Kaba Aye Hill in Mayangon Township on 23 December 2007. Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung attended the opening ceremony and supplicated on the religious affairs.

MNA



Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida (written) selection examination in progress. —MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects...

(from page 16)

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, wellwisher Daw Myint Myint Aye, wife of Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and family, social organizations and local people.

The commander and the ministers formally opened the monastery. Lt-Gen Myint Swe unveiled the archway of the monastery. Next, they donated alms to members of the Sangha.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the commander, Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and Col Maung Pa accepted K 21,250,000 donated by wellwishers including K 5 million by Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein-Daw Myint Myint Aye and family.

Wellwisher Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein supplicated on the purpose of constructing the building and Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung on the religious affairs.

After receiving a



Prime Minister General Thein Sein and party together with officials of Royal Regalia Museum pose for a documentary photo. (News on page 1)—MNA



Lt-Gen Myint Swe looks into thriving Hsinshwekyar 2 sunflower plantation of farmer U Myint Thaung in Thongwa Township.—MNA

Maj-Gen Khin Zaw on inspection tour of Chin State, Magway Division

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan — Maj-Gen Khin Zaw of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Chin State Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Hong Ngai, Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe and departmental officials visited the two-acre plantation of tea of U Kimana in Kanpetlet Township on 16 January.

Township Manager U Khin Maung Swe of Myanma Agriculture Service reported on cultivation of tea.

Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and party inspected thriving cultivation of tea of Township Cooperative Department. Maj-Gen Khin Zaw gave instructions on use of quality tea and providing assistance by MAS.

Altogether 1,509 acres are grown and the per acre yield is 231 viss for wet tea

and 46 viss for dried tea.

They also visited Township Basic Education High School and inspected tea plantation, computer room, classrooms and language lab.

Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and party toured the township and inspected the Township Hospital and domestic and vocational training school for women of the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs.

Principal Daw Hla Hla Yi explained the objectives of the training school and kinds of courses. Maj-Gen Khin Zaw presented cash for the school.

Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and party paid respects to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Uttama of Kanpetlet Therava Buddhist Missionary Central Monastery and presented offertories to him.

They visited border

sermon from the Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Masoeyein monasteries, the congregation shared merits

gained. Afterwards, the ceremony to hoist umbrellas atop Maha Wizaya Pagoda and the monastery followed.

After the ceremony, they offered rice and alms to members of the Sangha.

MNA

Township and Gangaw PDCs reported on regional work and Magway Division PDC Chairman Col Phone Maw Shwe gave a supplementary report. Maj-Gen Khin Zaw said Saw Township has self-sufficiency in food and it only needs to further develop the social affairs, economic, education and health sectors in cooperation with the local people.

Afterwards, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and party visited Win Thuza Shop and inspected Saw creek bridge. They also visited the physic nut plantation in Anyakatin village-tract.

While on a visit to Kagi Village in Kyauktu, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw heard reports by

officials on implementation of a diversion weir project. He then gave necessary instructions. Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and party went to the mythun breeding camp-1 in Mindat Township where they inspected breed 33457 heads of mythun. Brig-Gen Hong Ngai gave a supplementary report. After that, they met departmental personnel, social organizations and local people at the office of Mindat District PDC. Responsible persons reported on education, health and economic affairs and regional development work. Lt-Col Zaw Min Oo reported on raising of mythun in Chin

State. Delivering his speech, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw said paddy cultivation is to be boosted as there are still a lot of vacant land in the state. In addition, it is necessary to extend tea cultivation to realize the aim of enabling Chin State to be a state of tea. Local people also need to extend growing of physic nut plants and other crops and breeding of mythun.

Later, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and party paid homage to Sayadaw of Pariyatti Sarthintaik Bhaddanta Kosalla in Mindat and offered alms. Then they visited No 2 Youth Training School and made cash donations.

MNA



Maj-Gen Khin Zaw of the Ministry of Defence inspects national race youth training school in Kanpetlet Township.—MNA

China's net population to become world's largest

BEIJING, 19 Jan — China had 210 million Internet users at the end of 2007 and its online population is on course to become the world's largest at the beginning of this year.

There was only a gap of five million between the Chinese and US Internet populations, according to a survey released on Thursday on the web site of the China Internet Network Information Centre (CINIC).

China's Internet penetration ratio has risen to 16 per cent, although it is still below the world average of 19.1 percent. —MNA/Xinhua

Singapore changes to improve public transport

SINGAPORE, 19 Jan — The Singapore Government Friday announced a series of major changes to improve the bus network after a more than year-long review of the land transport.

Speaking at the opening of the Land Transport Authority (LTA) gallery, Transport Minister Raymond Lim shared the results of the review, aiming to put commuters at the centre of the land transport system.

He stressed that making public transport the centerpiece of the country's land transport system will be crucial, to keep congestion in check and help protect the environment. —MNA/Xinhua

News in Brief

NASA's satellites to monitor climate change

GENEVA, 19 Jan — Space agencies including NASA have agreed to use their next generation of satellites to help monitor climate change, the United Nations weather agency said.

The consensus came at a high-level meeting this week in New Orleans, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said.

"High-tech efforts to better understand global warming have been strengthened after the world's space and meteorological agencies gave their support to a WMO strategy for the enhanced use of satellites to monitor climate change and weather," the WMO said in a statement issued late on Thursday.

The aim is to ensure that satellites launched over the next 20 years constantly record parameters such as sea levels and greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. —MNA/Xinhua

Paris slowly becoming drug trafficking hub

PARIS, 19 Jan — Paris is slowly being turned into a drug trafficking hub, France's Le Figaro newspaper reported Friday, citing a confidential report from the police.

Police in the capital have launched an operation against drug traffickers within the city, where dealers now come from all over France to obtain supplies, according to the report.

According to the confidential report, the police reported the emergence of youth gangs organizing their trafficking in poor neighbourhoods such as Seine-Saint-Denis and Hauts-de-Seine.

On average, one out of ten young people in the French capital smokes more than 10 marijuana "joints" per month, which lately has become "readily available and very accessible". — MNA/Xinhua



A Chinese worker stands near ice sculpture of sporting figures displayed as part of the 22nd Yanqing Ice and Snow Tourism Festival held in Yanqing county, Beijing, China on 18 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET



A video game enthusiast sits in a D-BOX GP-100 Motion Gaming Platform chair which enables him to feel the sensations of either driving a race car or piloting a plane. — INTERNET

Images
of
the
Day

Balloons of all shapes and sizes take off at the start of the International Hot Air Balloon Week in Chateau-d'Oex, Switzerland on 19 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET



ADVERTISEMENT

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EAGLE PRIDE VOY NO (801)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EAGLE PRIDE VOY NO (801) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.1.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
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Bhutan announces
general election
on 24 March

GUWAHATI (India), 18 Jan — Bhutan will hold its first ever general election on 24 March, the Election Commission said on Thursday.

Bhutanese will vote to elect 47 members to the National Assembly, the Lower House of Parliament.

The tiny Himalayan Buddhist kingdom has been preparing for democracy since former monarch Jigme Singye

Wangchuck decided to hand power to an elected government.

Parties must submit their letter of intent, list of candidates, copies of their manifestos and audited financial reports to the Election Commission by 22 January.

Candidates must be college graduates, which means only a tiny minority of this nation of monks and farmers is eligible to run.

Bhutanese elected members to the Upper House of Parliament, known as the National Council, in December.

MNA/Reuters

China generates
over 62b kwh
of N-power in 2007

BEIJING, 17 Jan — China generated 62.6 billion kilowatts hour of nuclear power in 2007, up 14.1 per cent year-on-year, the China Electricity Council, an industry association, said on Wednesday.

China has 11 nuclear generating units with a combined installed capacity of 9.08 million kilowatts. Three use domestic technology, two are based on Russian technology, four use French technology and two are Canadian-designed. All use second-generation nuclear technologies.

Nuclear plants provide

2.3 per cent of China's power and the proportion is planned to rise to 16 per cent by 2030.

The two Russian-designed units are in Tianwan, Lianyungang, a city in the eastern province of Jiangsu. One began commercial operation in May 2007 and the other started up three months later.

The two generated 10.02 billion kilowatts hours of electricity last year, or 200 per cent of the Tianwan nuclear power station's original annual target.

The third-phase project of the Qinshan nuclear power station in eastern Zhejiang Province generated 11.54 billion kilowatts hour of electricity last year, accounting for 107 per cent of its annual target.

MNA/Xinhua

Rockets fired at military base in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 18 Jan — Unidentified men Thursday fired three rockets at a military base in Pakistan's central Punjab Province, causing minor damage to a mess hall, local Press reports said.

The reports quoted a local police officer saying that one rocket hit the mess hall of Kamra cantonment and two landed at an open area, police chief Tariq Juya said.

Kamra, located some 70 kilometres northwest of the capital Islamabad in the mountainous north of the Punjab Province, and houses the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex and an airbase.

Juya said that the rocket, fired by militants, caused a hole in the mess building.

"We have launched a search operation in the direction from where the rockets were fired," the police officer said. "We

are looking at the possibility if the rockets came from the North West Frontier Province."

MNA/Xinhua

South Korea's Lee says to continue
engaging North

SEOUL, 18 Jan — South Korea's president-elect Lee Myung-bak said on Thursday his conservative government will press North Korea to drop its nuclear arms programme but was mindful of the need to be patient with the Communist state.

Lee's transition team on Wednesday said the ministry that has long handled ties with the North will be scrapped and its functions absorbed into other agencies.

"We will continue to

persuade North Korea that giving up its nuclear weapons programmes will benefit both its regime and its people," Lee said in a prepared speech to the Seoul Foreign Correspondents' Club.

But he added: "We remain patient and mindful of the need to proceed carefully."

Lee, a conservative former mayor of Seoul who takes office on 25 February, had talked tough on North Korea

throughout his election campaign, promising to link future aid to the North's behaviour.

North Korea has not directly mentioned Lee in its official media since his win on 19 December but on Wednesday made an oblique criticism of him.

Lee said he supports six-country negotiations on ending the North's nuclear arms programme in return for massive aid and better diplomatic standing.—MNA/Reuters



Photo taken on 17 Jan, 2008 shows a piece of ancient fresco discovered in a tomb dating back to about 2,000 years ago in the Western Han Dynasty (206 BC-25 AD) at a museum in Jinan, capital of east China's Shandong Province. The well-preserved color frescos included images of drinking, dancing, cock fighting, women servants and historical stories.—XINHUA

Clinton urges Americans to stand
for eco justice

LOS ANGELES, 18 Jan — Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton said here on Thursday Americans must stand for "economic justice".

Blacks have long suffered and continue to suffer from economic injustice, Clinton told a crowd during a campaign tour of Southern California. "Laws have been passed," she said. "There was a long way to go before they were fully implemented, and there still is a way to go today, particularly when it comes

to voting rights and job discrimination," she said.

"But Dr (Martin Luther) King understood that in order to realize fully the promise of America, we had to stand for economic justice."

This was Clinton's second trip to the Los Angeles area in seven days. During her first trip last week, she unveiled a five-part 70-billion-dollar economic stimulus package in Commerce.

On Thursday, Clinton met with religious leaders at a church, and is

scheduled to take part in a "Solutions for the American Economy" town hall later in the day.

Also on Thursday, former North Carolina Senator John Edwards campaigned in Southern California.

Edwards was set to speak in downtown Los Angeles, where he would tell voters of "his detailed plans to stand up to the powerful interests and make sure hard-working families can get ahead", according to a campaign statement.—MNA/Xinhua

Italy arrests
29 mob
suspects
in Sicily

PALERMO, 18 Jan — Italian police have arrested 29 suspected mobsters in Sicily including the son of a former Cosa Nostra boss, in what police hailed as another blow to the Mafia, officials said on Wednesday.

"There are still islands under Mafia control, but the Cosa Nostra's power overall is in crisis," the chief prosecutor in Palermo, Francesco Messina, told reporters.

The operation follows a series of high-profile sweeps targeting the Sicilian Mafia, including November's arrest of "boss of bosses" Salvatore Lo Piccolo after nearly a quarter century on the run.

Magistrates believe Lo Piccolo assumed command of the Cosa Nostra following the capture in 2006 of Bernardo Provenzano.

MNA/Reuters

Britain's coasts affected by climate change

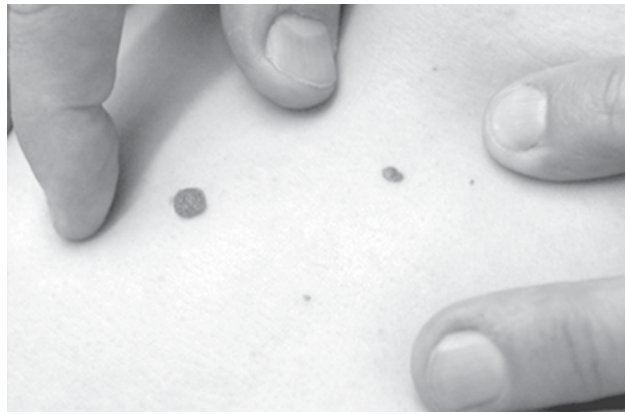
LONDON, 18 Jan — The coasts of Britain, especially England, are being eroded by the major impact of climate change, according to a government-sponsored report published Wednesday.

The seas along the coastline are becoming more violent, causing coastal erosion and a higher risk of flooding, the Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership (MCCIP) said in the report. Higher CO2 levels in the atmosphere are making oceans warmer and more acidic, affecting plankton, fish and birds.

The increasing choppiness of coastal waters means that 17 per

cent of Britain's coastline is being eroded. England is feeling the impact most, with 30 per cent of its coast affected, compared to 23 per cent for Wales and 12 per cent in Scotland, according to the report.

MNA/Xinhua



A dermatologist examines a patient. US researchers have discovered a new virus they believe may be linked to a rare but extremely lethal type of skin cancer, a study has said.—INTERNET

Gandhi's ashes, meant for museum, to rest at sea

MUMBAI, 18 Jan — Some of the final ashes of Mohandas K Gandhi, India's freedom hero and peace apostle, also known as Mahatma, will be scattered over the Arabian Sea after his family objected to a museum's plans to display them.

Gandhi was shot dead

by a Hindu hardliner in 1948 and after his cremation several urns containing his ashes were dispatched to his followers across the country to be displayed at memorials. One of those urns was handed over last year to a museum dedicated to Gandhi by an Indian business family that had

preserved it for almost 60 years. The Mani Bhawan Gandhi Sangralaya had plans to display the urn along with Gandhi's personal belongings, but his descendants intervened, asking the museum to consider scattering the ashes at sea.

"In deference to the wishes of the family the ashes will be scattered over the Arabian Sea on 30 January, which is his 60th death anniversary," museum official Dhirubhai Mehta said. Hindus normally cremate their dead and scatter the ashes over rivers or seas on the 13th day after death.

MNA/Reuters

Moderate quake hits remote Tibet county

LHASA, 19 Jan — An isolated mountainous area of Tibet was struck by a moderate earthquake early Friday morning, according to the local seismological bureau.

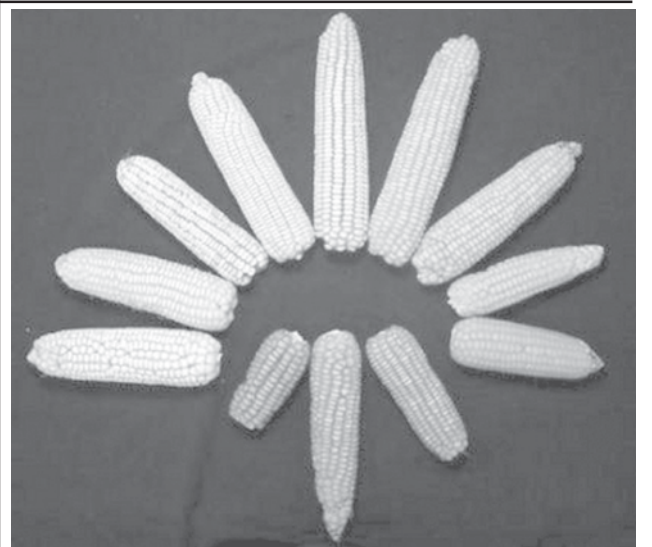
The quake, measuring 4.8 on the Richter Scale, jolted Motuo County of Linzhi region in southeastern Tibet at 3:21 a.m. There have been no reports of casualties, according to Guo Quanxing,

deputy head with the bureau.

The population in the tremor-plagued county, the only one in China without road services due to blocking high mountains, is nearly 10,000.

The area has a history of seismic disruption. It was hit by a quake measuring 8.6 on the Richter scale in 1950, the worst record in China.

MNA/Xinhua



A collection of inbred, hybrid and synthetic lines of corn, also called maize, are shown in this undated handout photo.—INTERNET

An Indian health worker holds a chick, on 17 January. Health workers in eastern India are battling to contain a "very serious" bird flu outbreak, amid reports the virus had spread to new areas and local people were resisting a mass poultry cull.

INTERNET

Israel test fires missile for propulsion system test

JERUSALEM, 19 Jan — Israel's security establishment on Thursday successfully fired a long-range ballistic missile, testing a rocket propulsion system as part of its missile development programme,

local media reported. According to a *Jerusalem Post* report, the missile was test fired Thursday morning from the Palmachim Air Force Base in the centre of the country.

"A successful missile

launch was carried out within the framework of examining rocket propulsion," the Defence Ministry later said in a brief statement to the media.

However, it refused to provide details concerning the type of missile and the purpose it served. The Palmachim base is the launch pad for a wide-range of Israel's missiles, including the Arrow Missile Defence System and the Shavit satellite launcher, which is an offshoot of the long-range Jericho surface-to-surface missile.

In light of the satisfactory results, the military will review the new system's incorporation in its various missiles, according to the *Jerusalem Post* report.

MNA/Reuters

Dhaka-Kolkata train service to start in three months

DHAKA, 19 Jan — The Bangladeshi caretaker government Communications Adviser Major-General (retd) Ghulam Quader has said the Dhaka-Kolkata train service will certainly start within three months.

"We are ready, India is also ready, all preparations are complete now," Quader was quoted Friday by local newspaper *The Daily Star* as saying.

The much-awaited train service, scheduled to start late last year, stumbled due to India's demand for barbed-wire fencing on the no-man's land near Chuadanga border.

Quader, who took over the Communications

Ministry two days ago, said Thursday the government has already sent documents of a treaty to New Delhi.

"The service will start immediately after India signs it and sends it back to us," he said.

On the barbed-wire fencing, Quader, also the adviser of Housing and Public Works Ministry, said: "We have objected to the barbed-wire fencing. They have their reasons, we have ours. The new proposal we sent does not have this barbed-wire fencing provision.

"The matter will be discussed at the state level, he said.

MNA/Xinhua



SPORTS

African football boss slaps down player criticism

ACCRA, 19 Jan— African football chief Issa Hayatou slapped down criticism by the continent's top players of the timing of the African Nations Cup on Friday, telling them to stop putting their own interest first.

Confederation of African Football president Hayatou, addressing a CAF congress in Accra, continued his firm line on the future of the tournament, whose timing has been criticized in recent months. Among those bemoaning the holding of the event in the middle of the European season, where top African players earn their living, have been the likes of Samuel Eto'o, Michael Essien and El Hadji Diouf.

All have left their clubs at a key moment of the season to play in the Nations Cup, which starts in Ghana on Sunday. —MNA/Reuters



China's Na Zhang watches her drive on the 2nd hole during the first round of the Women's World Cup of Golf at Sun City, on 18 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET

CROSSWORDS PUZZLE

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7

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- ACROSS
- 1 Edible part of nut

4 Rail undercarriage

8 Supply meagrely

9 Error

10 Makes possible

11 Austrian composer

12 Be in a chair

14 Festival

15 Burden

18 Water barrier

21 Vertex

23 Unpaid player

25 Utterly confused

26 Indian state

27 Spring-lock

28 Thin gruel
- DOWN
- 1 Destiny

2 Surrey town

3 Forced out

4 Protuberance

5 Stare angrily

6 Vigour

7 Gather

13 Red Indian war-axe

16 Implement

17 Package

19 Boundary

20 Surly

22 Enforce payment

24 Feel irritation of skin



Switzerland's Neel Jani leads Congfu Cheng of China during the qualifying sessions at Round 5 of the AIGP World Cup of Motorsport in Taupo on 19 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET

Local court to investigate incident between Depor keepers

MADRID, 19 Jan — Deportivo Coruna goalkeepers Dudu Aouate and Gustavo Munua face an investigation by a local court prosecutor over an incident that left Aouate needing several stitches around his left eye.

The Israel international and Uruguayan Munua have been asked to give statements to the local prosecutor on 23 January, Spanish media reported.

Munua punched Aouate in the face during a dispute in the changing rooms at the end of training last Friday. Munua later apologised for the attack. —MNA/Reuters

Thaksin to pay for European coach to help Thai team

BANGKOK, 19 Jan — Manchester City's billionaire Thai owner Thaksin Shinawatra plans to hire a European coach to help his country's national team, Thai media reported on Friday.

Thaksin, the ousted former Thai prime minister, said he would put up the cash for a European coach or a trainer from City's academy to work alongside national team boss Charnvit Polcheewin.

"His salary must not be too expensive but I will pay the costs," Thaksin told Thai reporters in Manchester. "We have agents who will help us look for (a coach)."

Thaksin, who bought City for 81 million pounds (159 million US dollars) last July while in exile in London, has promised to help Thailand, southeast Asia's most successful team, qualify for their first World Cup finals.—MNA/Reuters

FIFA's former marketing agents to stand trial in March

BERNE (Switzerland), 19 Jan—The criminal trial of six former executives of FIFA's former marketing agency ISL will begin in March, a Swiss court said on Friday.

The six accused are facing charges including embezzlement, fraud, fraudulent bankruptcy, harming creditors and the falsification of documents.

The criminal court in the Swiss canton of Zug, where ISL was based, said on its Web site (www.zug.ch) that the trial would start on 11 March.

The International Sport and Leisure (ISL) group managed the marketing and television rights of world soccer's governing body FIFA for more than 20 years before its collapse in May 2001 with estimated debts of around 300 million US dollars.

MNA/Reuters

Premier League Result

19 Jan , 2008

Fulham	0-3	Arsenal
Reading	0-2	Manchester United
Tottenham Hotspur	2-0	Sunderland
Birmingham City	0-1	Chelsea
Portsmouth	3-1	Derby County
Blackburn Rovers	1-1	Middlesbrough

Internet

Reading's goalkeeper Marcus Hahnemann (L) and Kalifa Cisse (R) challenge Manchester United's Carlos Tevez during their English Premier League soccer match at the Madejski Stadium in Reading on 19 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET



Bolivia seek Brazil's help on FIFA altitude ruling

BRASILIA, 19 Jan — Bolivia have asked for the help of five-times world champions Brazil in a bid to reverse FIFA's decision to limit high-altitude matches in the Andean nation, a government spokesman said on Friday.

Last month world soccer's governing body introduced a ban on international fixtures over 2,750 metres above sea level without acclimatisation. Bolivia's capital La Paz is 3,600 metres above sea level.

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has told Bolivian counterpart Evo Morales he will contact FIFA and Brazilian football authorities in an attempt to get the ruling reversed.

MNA/Reuters



Russia's Anna Chakvetadze serves to Russia's Maria Kirilenko in their third round Women's singles match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, on 19 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET



Two Beijing residents are enjoying the snowscape near the National Stadium, nicknamed "Bird's Nest," in Beijing, on 17 Jan, 2008. —XINHUA

Israel closes Gaza crossings, blocks aid shipments

JERUSALEM, 19 Jan— Israel tightened its closure of the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip on Friday in response to cross-border rocket fire by militants, preventing even UN humanitarian supplies from getting in, officials said.

Israel's stepped up campaign in the coastal territory has prompted the Palestinians to warn that peace talks between President Mahmoud Abbas and Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, spurred by a visit by US President George W. Bush, were in jeopardy.

Israel has killed more than 30 Palestinians in Gaza

since Monday, including one militant and a civilian in a missile strike on Friday morning.

The Israeli Army says it is targeting Gaza militants who have fired more than 110 rockets into the Jewish state in the last three days alone. In the West Bank city of Nablus, Israeli troops killed a

militant linked to Abbas' Fatah movement.

The Israeli Defence Ministry ordered all of the border crossings with Gaza closed and said only "humanitarian cases" which receive Defence Minister Ehud Barak's personal approval will be allowed through.

MNA/Reuters

Morocco building collapse kills 14

RABAT, 19 Jan — Fourteen people were killed when a two-storey residential building under construction collapsed in Morocco's northwestern city of Khenitra, government officials said on Thursday.

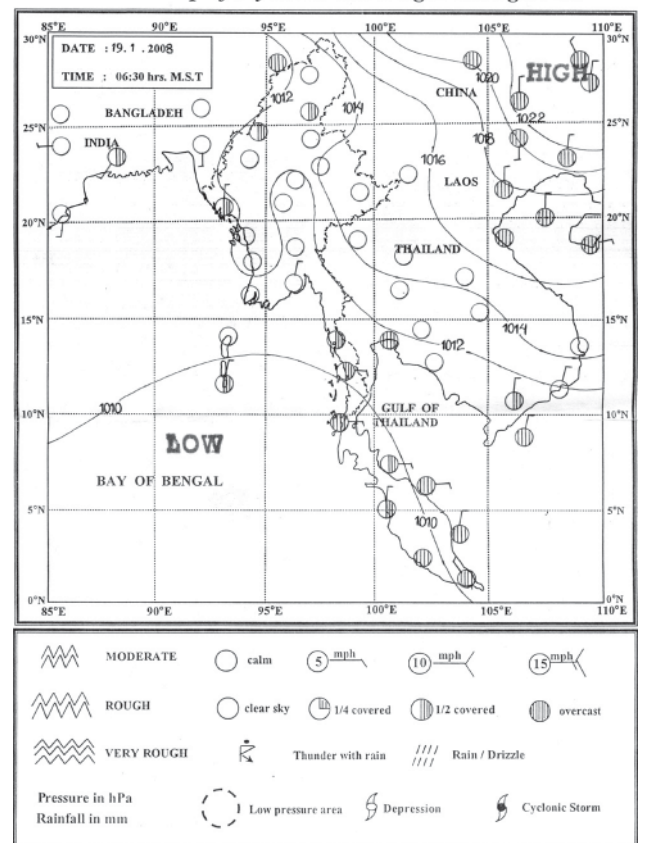
Twenty six people were injured in Wednesday's collapse and it was not known how many people might still be trapped beneath the rubble.

The number of people on site at the time of the collapse was unclear.

Authorities were investigating the cause of the accident in Khenitra which lies 40 kilometres (25 miles) north of Rabat.

Interior Minister Chakib Benmoussa, who visited the scene along with other senior officials, vowed to identify and punish officials who might be responsible for the collapse. — MNA/Reuters

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Saturday, 19 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 areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below January average temperatures in Mandalay and Magway Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above January average temperatures in Kachin and Mon States, Taninthayi Division, and about January average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Loilin (0°C), Namhsam (1°C), Heho and Ann (2°C) each (3°C), Lashio and Pinlang (4°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 18-1-2008 was 97°F. Minimum temperature on 19-1-2008 was 64°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 19-1-2008 was 74%. Total sunshine hours on 18-1-2008 was (8.6) hours approx.

Rainfall on 19-1-2008 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 Northeast at (09:30) hours MST on 20-1-2008.

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 20-1-2008: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin State, weather will be partly cloudy in Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. 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 rain or thundershowers in the extreme Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 20-1-2008: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 20-1-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 20-1-2008: Fair weather.



Sunday, 20 January
View on today

- 7:00 am**
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
- 7:25 am**
2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am**
3. Morning news
- 7:40 am**
4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am**
5. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ (၃၈) ဖြာမင်္ဂလာ
- 8:10 am**
6. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:20 am**
7. စစ်ကိုင်းတိုင်းပုထိုးလုံးတံတား
- 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
- 11:35 am**
4. ထက်မြက်ပျော်ရွှင် အိမ်ထောင်ရှင်
- 12:10 am**
5. Myanmar video feature: "အိမ်မက်ကလေးနှစ်ခု မက်နေတယ်" (ဝေဠုကျော်ကြည်လှလှဦး) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကျော်စောလင်း)
- 1:00 pm**
6. တောင်သူအများစိုက်အားထား ငွေချည်(၆)၏အပြုံးမျက်နှာများ (ကျောက်ဆည်စဉ်းကိုင်)
- 1:20 pm**
7. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 1:25 pm**
8. "သတိနဲ့ယှဉ်အသိနဲ့ပြင်" (အပိုင်း-၂) (ဝါးခယ်မရဲအောင် ဘုန်းလှ) (မြတ်ကေသီအောင်၊ ဟန်နီထွန်း၊ ပြည့်ဖူးခိုင်၊ နီနီရွှေရည်၊ ဆောင်းနှင်းဝေ၊ ခိုင်လင်းစု၊ ခိုင်သိန်း၊ အိုင်းရစ်လေးပြည့်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မင်းအုပ်စိုး)
- 2:35 pm**
9. ကျေးပင်အက်ရေလှောင်တံ
- 2:45 pm**
10. 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
- 4:45 pm**
4. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ-တတိယနှစ် (ပထဝီအထူးပြု) (ပထဝီ)
- 4:55 pm**
5. Dance of national races
- 5:15 pm**
6. Musical programme
- 5:25 pm**
7. Sing and enjoy
- 6:00 pm**
8. Evening news
- 6:30 pm**
9. Weather report
- 6:35 pm**
10. "အသက်ကလေးရယ်တဲ့ ရှည်စေလို" (ဦးအောင်လွင်၊ ဦးကြည်စိုး၊ မေထွဋ်ခေါင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကြည်စိုး)
- 6:50 pm**
11. Musical programme
- 7:15 pm**
13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်သူအားမာန်" (အပိုင်း-၆)
- 8:00 pm**
14. News
- 8:00 pm**
15. International news
- 8:00 pm**
16. Weather report
- 8:00 pm**
17. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်မြတ်သောအချစ်နေ့" (အပိုင်း-၁၄)
- 8:00 pm**
18. The next day's programme



Sunday, 20 January
Tune in today

- 8:30 am** Brief news
- 8:35 am** Music -Superfantastic
- 8:40 am** Perspectives
- 8:45 am** Music -Simple things
- 8:50 am** National news/ Slogan
- 9:00 am** Music -Lucky love
- 9:05 am** International news
- 9:10am** Cultural images of Myanmar -"Pickled tea the best among the leaves"
- 9:20 am** Music -Time
- 1:30 pm** News/ Slogan
- 1:40 pm** Children's delight (story) -"Pinochio"
- 1:50 pm** Songs for children
- 9:00pm** Weekly news review
- 9:10 pm** Article
- 9:20 pm** Music/LIETS -You're the 1st love, my everything -Can't leave you alone
- 9:45 pm** News /Slogan
- 10:00 pm** PEL

People's Desire

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

Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects sunflower plantations in Thongwa Township, attends opening of Masoeyein Monastery in Kayan Township

YANGON, 19 Jan — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, inspected thriving sunflower plantations in Thongwa Township and attended the opening of Sasana Zawtika Masoeyein Monastery (Mandalay Masoeyein Branch) in Kayan Township this morning.

First, Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspected one acre Hsinshwekyar sunflower plantation of farmer U Myint Thaung in Thaiktukan Village of Thongwa Township. In Patok Village, they viewed thriving sunflower plantations of farmer U Tin Gyi and making of natural fertilizers.

Yangon South District has grown 22,801 acres of sunflower, 343,939 acres of green gram, and



Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence hoists umbrella atop Maha Wizaya Pagoda at Kwanmoedein Model Village in Kayan Township. —MNA

42,000 acres of summer paddy against the target of 79,000 acres.

In Kwanmoedein Model Village, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party attended the opening of Sasana Zawtika Masoeyein Monastery (Mandalay Masoeyein Branch), the merit sharing ceremony for donation of the religious

buildings and the hoisting of umbrella atop Maha Wizaya Pagoda and the top

roof of the monastery.

It was also attended by CEC members

of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Livestock and

Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, (See page 10)

Ministry of Education to open first year courses for 2008 academic year

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan — The courses on various subjects of universities and degree colleges under the Ministry of Education will be opened on 21 January 2008, and the list for the first year students who passed the 2007 matriculation examination was announced at the respective universities and degree colleges for 2008 academic year. — 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**