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Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets officials, residents in Bhamo

Nation-building tasks not for development of one particular sector but for harmonious progress of all sectors

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan — Chairman of the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Prime Minister General Thein Sein met with departmental officials, members of social organizations and townsenders in Bhamo on 20 January.

Also present at the meeting were Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-

Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen Myint Soe, the ministers, the deputy ministers and departmental heads.

At the meeting, Chairman of Bhamo District

Peace and Development Council U Soe Win reported on the district's target of paddy cultivation in the rainy and summer seasons and plans for cultivation of nine major crops, irrigation facilities, transportation, education, health and development tasks in the district.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said Bhamo District is one the most important

districts as it shares border with a neighbouring country. Therefore, the district is included in the 24 development regions and plans have been implemented for the development of the region so that it will not lag behind in development.

A technological university, a university of computer studies and a 200-bed specialist hospital were established in Bhamo District. The district relied on only water way for transportation in the past. Today, Mandalay-Tagaung-Bhamo Road, Mandalay-Lashio-Bhamo Road and the rail road linking Katha and Bhamo were constructed in the division and Bhamo Airport was upgraded.

(See page 9)



Prime Minister General Thein Sein delivers an address in meeting with departmental officials and townsenders in Bhamo. — MNA



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

“Untimely Rainfall Warning”

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan—According to the observations at 6:30 am MST today, due to the influence of the western disturbances, rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in the Kachin, Chin, Northern Shan States and upper Sagaing Division within next 48 hours commencing noon today.—MNA

The government is implementing the projects one after another with the utilization of natural resources in the interest of the nation and its people.

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 24 January, 2008

Strive for harmonious development of industry, boost production of quality products

Development of industrial sector is of utmost importance for the prosperity of the nation. Therefore, the government is making endeavours for development of the State-owned and private industries. Enterprises producing import substitute products have developed after the government established industrial regions and zones and opened factories and workshops in states and divisions.

The Ministry of Industry-1 produces foodstuff and personal goods and the Ministry of Industry-2 is establishing many factories and workshops in the industrial regions with the utilization of modern technology.

In Kyaukse Industrial Region, farm equipment factory, cement plants, plastic industries, Myanmar pharmaceutical factory, ceramics and steel ware factory, sewing machine factory, candy factory, vest factory, firebrick factory and bicycle factory have been built and they are manufacturing goods.

Emphasis is to be placed on mass production of better quality machinery parts and personal goods. It is important to manufacture goods that can live up to the market demand and customer satisfaction.

Industrial development plays an important role in striving for national development. The nation will become a modern, industrialized one with the harmonious development of industries of the State-owned and private sectors, running at full capacity, keeping a proper balance of income and expenditure and boosting production of quality products.

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



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects condition of Thanlwin Bridge (Tarsan). — MNA

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects durability of Thanlwin Bridge (Tarsan), Tarsan Hydropower Project

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence together with Chairman of Shan State PDC Eastern Command Commander Maj-Gen Thauang Aye inspected Mongpang-Tarsan road section in Mongpang in a motorcade on 20 January.

Afterwards, they proceeded to Tarsan Village between the

border of Shan State (South) and Shan State (East) where they were welcomed by Chairman of Shan State (East) PDC Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and officials.

Upon arrival at Thanlwin Bridge (Tarsan), they looked into durability of the bridge.

At the briefing hall of Tarsan Hydropower Project, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win heard a report on tasks

being carried out and viewed the project site.

The project is to build RCC Dam on Thanlwin River. Upon completion, it will generate 35,446 million kwh per year.

Then, he presented utensils and provisions to servicemen and family members at the hall of the local station.

He went over extended construction of the axis road at mile post No 102/2 on Tarsan-

Mongpang Road. After hearing the report on tasks being carried out, he gave necessary instructions and inspected placing of gravel on Tarsan-Mongpang road section.

At Aung Zeya hall of the local station in Wanhtan Village, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win met with servicemen and their families and presented household goods and gifts to them. Later, they went back to Mongpang.

MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun delivers an address at 96th meeting between Banks Supervisory Committee and MBA executive committee.

MNA

MBA Executive Committee meets

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan — The 96th meeting between the Banks Supervisory Committee and the executive committee of Myanmar Banks Association of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue was held at the ministry here this afternoon.

Present at the meeting were Patron of the supervisory committee Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla

Tun, Chairman of the supervisory committee Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein, departmental heads, chairmen and managing directors of State-run and private banks and executive committee members of Myanmar Banks Association.

The minister in his

speech called for coordination and cooperation for sustainable development of banking services.

The deputy minister and the governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar discussed matters on banking services, and executive committee members and officials, on respective sectors. Next, the minister gave closing remarks.—MNA

Putin-Medvedev duo “could run Russia until 2033”

Moscow, 23 Jan—Russian President Vladimir Putin and his favoured successor Dmitry Medvedev could take turns to run Russia for another quarter of a century, a senior Kremlin ally said in an interview published on Monday. Sergei Mironov, a Kremlin loyalist and the speaker of the Russian Parliament’s Upper House, said Putin could become president again after a Medvedev term, serve two terms himself and then hand over once more to Medvedev. Neither Putin nor Medvedev have indicated they plan to be in government so far in the future, but the fact Mironov is floating the idea suggests Russia’s ruling elite feels firmly entrenched in power and expects to remain there for many years. “I will gaze a long way into the future,” the *Moskovsky Komsomlets* newspaper quoted Mironov as saying. “There could be a variety of scenarios.

Vladimir Vladimirovich (Putin) could come

back in 2012 (as president).”

“I think that by that time we will increase the head of state’s term to five or seven years. If it is seven years and Vladimir Putin is elected to two consecutive terms, he will run

the country for 14 years, that is from 2012 to 2026.”

“And in 2026, it could be that Dmitry Anatolyevich (Medvedev) will once again return to the post of president,” Mironov said.

MNA/Reuters

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

The Kukulkan pyramid stands at the Mayan ruins of Chichen Itza in Mexico’s Yucatan peninsula.

The victims of human sacrifice by Mexico’s ancient Mayans, who threw children into water-filled caverns, were likely boys and young men not virgin girls as previously believed, archaeologists said on Tuesday.—INTERNET



Gaza lights up as Israel eases fuel blockade

GAZA, 23 Jan — Israel resumed fuel supplies to the Gaza Strip’s main power plant on Tuesday, offering limited respite from a blockade that had plunged much of the Hamas-ruled territory into darkness and touched off international protests.

Only 13 truckloads of food and medicine entered Gaza on Tuesday, short of the 50 Israel had agreed to, but Foreign Ministry spokesman Arye Mekel said the rest would cross in the coming days.

At the United Nations in New York, Israeli and Palestinian envoys traded accusations of blame in

the Security Council for the recent wave of violence in Gaza, which threatens to torpedo a fragile Middle East peace process.

John Ging, who heads the leading UN aid agency in Gaza, said Israel’s decision to let some supplies into the coastal strip was a first step but would not be sufficient to head off a humanitarian disaster.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said earlier she had voiced her concerns to Israel, which has argued that sealing the borders could make the Palestinians stop rocket salvos being fired into its territory from Gaza.

MNA/Reuters



A Palestinian worker loads fuel into a truck at Nahal Oz crossing in Gaza on 22 Jan, 2008.

INTERNET

Yemen says holding suspects in Belgians’ killing

SANAA, 23 Jan—Yemen said on Monday it had identified the suspected killers of two Belgian tourists and their Yemeni drivers among dozens of al-Qaeda suspects rounded up since last week’s attack.

“Among those who were arrested in the past few days, four are believed to be the attackers,” a security official told *Reuters*. He declined to give further details.

Friday’s attack came less than a week after al-

Qaeda’s wing in Yemen vowed to carry out unspecified operations to win the release of jailed Islamic militants.

Yemeni officials have not ruled out al-Qaeda involvement in the attack though no one has claimed

responsibility for the shooting near Shibam, famous for its old towers, in the Hadramout region.

The arrests were made in Hadramout and the nearby Maarib and Shebwa regions.

MNA/Reuters

Bomb in Iraq’s Mosul kills seven, wounds 70

BAGHDAD, 23 Jan—A bomb attack on a residential building in Iraq’s northern city of Mosul on Wednesday killed at least seven people and wounded more than 70, police said.

Witnesses said it was one of the biggest explosions they had ever heard in Mosul, part of a region where al Qaeda in Iraq militants have regrouped after being pushed out of Baghdad and western Anbar Province.

The Sunni Islamist militant group is blamed for most major bombings in Iraq.

Women and children were among the victims, police said, adding that the death toll was expected to rise. —Internet

US military deaths in Iraq at 3,931

WASHINGTON, 23 Jan—As of Tuesday, 22 Jan, 2008, at least 3,931 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an *Associated Press* count. The figure includes eight military civilians. At least 3,197 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

The AP count is two higher than the Defence Department’s tally, last updated Tuesday at 10 am EST.

The British military has reported 174 deaths; Italy, 33; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 21; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Denmark, seven; El Salvador, five; Slovakia, four; Latvia, three; Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand, Romania, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, South Korea, one death each.—Internet

Protesters display anti-US posters while marching towards the US embassy in Manila on 23 Jan, 2008 to demand an end to the presence of US troops in southern Philippines and to the RP-US Balikatan, the annual joint military exercise.
INTERNET





People surf the Internet in Jinan, in eastern China's Shandong Province. Online shopping in China topped 59.4 billion yuan (8.2 billion dollars) last year, state media reported on Tuesday, up more than 90 percent from a year ago.—INTERNET

PPP MP elected as Thai new House Speaker

BANGKOK, 23 Jan—Thailand's People Power Party (PPP) MP Yongyuth Tiypairat was elected as the House Speaker at the first parliamentary meeting on Tuesday.

Yongyuth, former deputy leader of PPP, got 307 votes while his only rival — Democrat Party MP Banyat Bantadtan got 167 votes during an hour-long balloting by the newly-elected lawmakers, whose victory in the 23 December general election. PPP MP Chai Chidchob, who was selected as the acting Speaker as he is most senior member, chaired Tuesday's meeting for MPs to elect the House Speaker and two deputy speakers.

PPP party executives and MPs reached an agreement after a meeting Monday to nominate Yongyuth as the party's only candidate for the House Speaker post. Meanwhile, the PPP's five coalition partners — Chart Thai, Matchimathipataya, Puea Pandin, Pracharaj and Ruam Jai Thai Chart Pattana parties, had

agreed to not contest the House Speaker and two Deputy Speakers positions on Monday, according to PPP spokesman Kudap Saikrachang.

Yongyuth's victory had been widely anticipated among political observers as the 480-seat House was controlled by PPP and its allies.

MNA/Xinhua

Red Cross says changing climate worsens disasters

GENEVA, 23 Jan — Climate change is making it harder for many people to access clean water and food, and widening the spread of malaria and dengue fever, the world's largest humanitarian aid agency said on Monday.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is asking donors for 292 million US dollars per year for 2008 and 2009 to help communities steel themselves for the threats of global warming.

"Response alone is no longer enough," said Markku Niskala, secretary-general of the Swiss-based federation. Health care and disaster management make up 75 per cent of the appeal.

The 186 national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies around the world pledged at a strategy-setting conference in November to boost aid to those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, a phenomenon scientists have linked to emissions from cars, factories and power plants.

They also agreed to step up disaster preparedness and risk reduction programmes, especially for small island states, in delta regions and across Africa, where shifting patterns of weather, rainfall and temperature are expected to be most acute. —MNA/Reuters

Russia not to pressure Poland over US missile shield

MOSCOW, 22 Jan—Russia is not planning to put pressure on Poland over the deployment of US-planned anti-ballistic missile systems in eastern Europe, said Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov here on Monday.

"We will not exert pressure on Poland or any

other participants in the talks on the creation of the third missile deployment area in Europe," Lavrov told a news conference in Moscow Monday.

Moscow wanted Warsaw to understand its concerns over the deployment plan, ITAR-TASS news agency quoted

Lavrov as saying.

The United States is planning to deploy 10 missile interceptors in Poland and a radar system in the Czech Republic as part of its European missile shield. Russia has objected the plan with concerns over its national security. —MNA/Xinhua

Sri Lankan troops kill 15 rebels in latest fighting

COLOMBO, 23 Jan — Sri Lankan troops killed 15 Tamil Tiger rebels in an assault on rebel positions in the northern Jaffna Peninsula on Monday, the military said, taking the rebel death toll from three days of clashes to 89.

Suspected Tamil Tiger rebels also killed three police personnel in southern Sri Lanka.

The rebels were not immediately available for comment and there are no independent accounts of the battles that have escalated

following the formal abrogation of a six-year truce by the government last week.

"The Army launched an attack and completely destroyed 24 LTTE terrorist bunkers, killed 15 and injured 30 terrorists in Nagarkovil area in Jaffna today morning," said a spokesman at the media centre for national secu-

rity, asking not to be named.

Two soldiers were killed and nine wounded in the fighting, he said, the latest in a series of battles along a "border" that separates government territory from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam's (LTTE) de facto state in the north.

MNA/Reuters

Ten hurt as US flight hit by turbulence

WASHINGTON, 23 Jan—Ten people were injured as a US flight was hit by a heavy turbulence on Monday.

The Flight 1028 from the United Airlines from Los Angeles, California, with 187 passengers on board was diverted to Denver International

Airport in Colorado about 3 am, where eight passengers and two flight attendants were sent to hospital, the airline said.

The plane resumed flight to its original destination, Chicago, after being inspected by maintenance crews, it added.

MNA/Xinhua



Demonstrators run away from tear gas during a march in support of Kenya's president Mwai Kibaki in Nairobi, on 22 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET



Two women under an umbrella trot on a crossing in the falling snow in Tokyo, on 23 Jan, 2008. Snowfall of 3-centimetre (1.2-inch) was expected from early hours in the metropolitan areas.

INTERNET

EU to set easier CO2 regime for heavy industries

BRUSSELS, 22 Jan—Europe's steel, aluminium and cement industries will have a special, less strict regime for greenhouse gas emissions under European Commission proposals to fight climate change to be announced this week.

After weeks of intense lobbying by business and governments, EU sources said on Sunday those

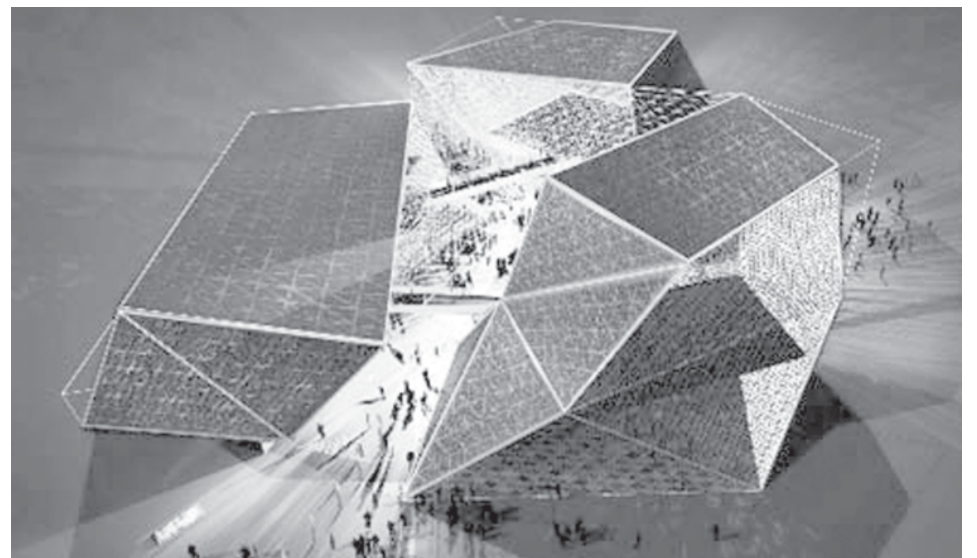
three energy-intensive industries would be introduced more slowly into a new system for auctioning permits to emit carbon dioxide (CO2) from 2013.

The sources insisted on anonymity because wrangling is continuing in the Commission on final details of the proposals on CO2 emissions, renewable energy sources,

biofuels and carbon sequestration to be unveiled on Wednesday.

A key flaw of the EU's Emissions Trading Scheme—the main instrument for curbing pollution blamed for global warming—has been that governments issued emission permits for free, handing industry windfall profits.

MNA/Reuters



The pavilion is about the size of two-and-a-half NHL ice hockey rinks, said Susan Gregson, Canada's consul general in Shanghai. It is expected to welcome up to 5.5 million people or 30,000 visitors per day during the six-month Expo period.—XINHUA

ECONOMIC NEWS



Models show off the Walt Disney Company Japan's new mobile handsets during the inauguration of Disney Mobile phone service in cooperation with Softbank Mobile in Tokyo. Disney said they are "extremely confident" in success here after learning lessons from its flop in the US market.—INTERNET

UAE to develop hydrogen-fired power generation project

ABU DHABI, 23 Jan—Masdar, an initiative for alternative energy of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), signed an agreement on Monday with Hydrogen Energy to develop an industrial-scale hydrogen-fired power generation project, *Emirates News Agency* reported.

Masdar and Hydrogen Energy, a joint venture between BP Alternative Energy and Rio Tinto, will collaborate on the front-end engineering design of the hydrogen-fired power plant to be located in Abu Dhabi.

In the plant, natural gas will be processed to create hydrogen, which will be used to generate low-carbon electricity and carbon dioxide, which will be captured for later use. The captured carbon dioxide will be injected into a producing oil field where it could replace natural gas currently being injected into the field to maintain pressure. The injected carbon dioxide also has the potential to increase the proportion of Abu Dhabi's oil that can be recovered. The plant will limit greenhouse gas emissions by capturing some 90 per cent of the carbon dioxide generated, and safely and permanently storing up to 1.7 million tons of carbon dioxide per year, the equivalent of decarbonizing Abu Dhabi's entire domestic transport sector.—MNA/Xinhua



Riders seek thrills on a roller coaster in Guangzhou, southern China's Guangdong Province, on 21 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET

Venezuela says no need for OPEC to up output

CARACAS, 22 Jan—Venezuela does not believe OPEC needs to increase output to tame high oil prices despite pressure from consumer nations, especially the United States, Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez told reporters on Monday.

The position of Venezuela, a price hawk in OPEC, reinforced the resistance that group members have offered in the face of calls for larger supplies. "We don't think it will be necessary to put more barrels on the market," Ramirez told reporters. "The price has been moving quite a bit, which demonstrates (there

has been) speculative movement."

Earlier on Monday, US Energy Secretary Sam Bodman repeated his plea for more oil from top exporter Saudi Arabia. OPEC's has cautiously responded to Washing-

ton's requests so far.

Oil has fallen by more than 10 per cent from a record high of 100.09 US dollars a barrel hit early this month, easing some of the pressure on OPEC to raise supplies, analysts said.—MNA/Reuters

S Korea suggests further eco ties with Russia, DPRK

MOSCOW, 22 Jan—A special envoy from South Korea suggested on Monday the establishment of a northeast Asian economic bloc along with Russia and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), news agencies reported.

Lee Jae-oh, envoy of South Korean President-elect Lee Myung-bak, will discuss the South Korean president-elect's plan to create a northeast Asian economic community during his six-day visit to Russia.

"We propose establishing a joint peace and economic committee between South and North Korea and Russia, which could serve as a platform to discuss peace and economic issues in the region," *RIA* news agency quoted the senior diplomat as saying at a meeting with Konstantin Pulikovskiy, co-chair of a Russian-South Korean intergovernmental commission.

Lee, who is the fourth envoy to Japan, China, Russia and the United States, delivered a letter from his boss to the Russian President Vladimir Putin via Putin's foreign affairs adviser, *RIA* said.

MNA/Xinhua

China sends teams to ensure market supply

BEIJING, 23 Jan—China's central government has sent inspection teams to 22 provinces in a nationwide survey of efforts to ensure adequate market supply and stabilize prices of household commodities.

"The move aims to ensure the central government's policy will be carried out to the letter by discovering and solving grassroots problems," the State Council, or the Cabinet, said in a statement.

The survey would focus on the measures local authorities have taken to boost the production of grain, pork, milk and cooking oil and price fluctuations of these key commodities, it said.—MNA/Xinhua

Russia urges Hamas to stop missile attacks

Moscow, 23 Jan— Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has urged Israel to lift its blockade of the Gaza Strip and urged Hamas to stop missile attacks against Israeli cities.

Lavrov made the remarks in a Monday telephone talks with Khaled Mashal, one of the leaders of Palestinian militant group Hamas that runs Gaza Strip, the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement posted on its website.

The top Russian diplomat “emphasized that Russia consistently stands for lifting the blockade of the Gaza Strip and for easing the position of the Palestinian civilian population”, it said.

“Simultaneously, it is necessary that the

interested parties should make maximum efforts to stop terror, violence and armed confrontation, creating a favourable environment for the process of Palestinian-Israeli political settlement,” said the statement.—*MNA/Xinhua*



Palestinians walk across the wall of Rafah border between the southern Gaza Strip and Egypt to pour into the Egyptian side to buy food, fuel and other supplies, Jan. 23, 2008. earlier in the day.—INTERNET

Afghan blast kills NATO soldier, wounds five

KABUL, 22 Jan — A soldier of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) was killed and five others sustained injuries when a roadside bomb struck their vehicle in south Afghanistan, a statement of the alliance released here Monday said.

“One ISAF soldier was killed and five soldiers were injured when their vehicles were involved in an explosion during a patrol in southern Afghanistan 20 January,” the statement said.

It also added that the soldiers’ injuries are not thought to be life threatening.

However, it did not disclose the exact place of the incident and the victims’ casualties by adding, “In accordance with ISAF policy, ISAF does not release the casualties’ nationality prior to the relevant national authority doing so.”—*MNA/Xinhua*



Chinese acrobats from the “Troupe of Shenyang” perform during the closing ceremony of the 32nd Monte-Carlo International Circus Festival in Monaco on 22 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET

Thai coalition partners jostle for Cabinet posts

BANGKOK, 22 Jan— Thailand’s newly elected Parliament met for the first time on Monday as a six-party ruling coalition argued over Cabinet posts in the new civilian government in waiting.

Legislators were due to choose a prime minister later this week with People Power Party (PPP) firebrand leader Samak Sundaravej expected to lead a coalition commanding 315 of 480 seats in the House of Representatives, which convened on Monday nearly a month after the 23 December election.

The PPP, which backs ousted prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra and fell just short of an outright majority in the election, will get two-thirds of the 36 Cabinet posts, including the key finance, commerce and defence portfolios, party officials say.

“Nothing will stop Samak from becoming the prime minister. This is a reward for him leading the PPP to victory,” retired academic-turned-political commentator Sukhum Nualskul said.

PPP Secretary-General Surapong Suebwonglee, whom Thai newspapers have tipped as a potential finance minister after other candidates turned down the post, would not confirm or deny his candidacy.

MNA/Reuters

Slovenia’s Bajuk concerned about US economy

BRUSSELS, 23 Jan— Slovenian Finance Minister Andrej Bajuk expressed here on Monday his and his euro-zone colleagues’ concern over the prospect of the US economy.

“We are all concerned. We are following events on a daily basis,” Bajuk told reporters before a meeting

of euro-zone finance ministers.

“We hope it won’t be as bad as commentators say,” said the minister, whose country is currently holding the European Union rotating presidency.

EU Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs Joaquin Almunia told reporters on

the same day before the meeting that the euro-zone economy would not be directly affected by a slowdown in the United States.

“Our economies in the past were more dependent on the US,” he said.

“I hope that the measures that the US Administration and the

Federal Reserve can adopt in the coming days can counter this risk of recession,” he added, referring to US President George Bush’s plans for a 150-billion-dollar package of measures to activate the economy and Federal Reserve’s expected cut of key interest rate in the months to come.—*MNA/Xinhua*

US planes bomb al-Qaeda safe haven south of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 22 Jan — US warplanes dropped 30,000 pounds of bombs on a suspected al-Qaeda safe haven south of Baghdad, the US Air Force said, the latest in a series of air strikes aimed at disrupting the Sunni Islamist group’s operations. The US Air Force said the operation, which began on Sunday night and continued on Monday morning,

involved *B-1* bombers and *F/A-18* jets. It targeted Salman Pak, an area 35 kilometres (20 miles) south of Baghdad.

US and Iraqi forces launched an offensive against al-Qaeda on 8 January in Iraq’s four northern provinces and Baghdad’s southern out-

skirts. The US military has declared al-Qaeda the biggest threat to peace in Iraq. “This particular mission targeted an area where al-Qaeda laid obstacles in the way of improvised explosive devices and took up safe haven at the same time.

MNA/Reuters

Workers weave the Li brocade in the Baoting Li and Miao autonomous county of south China’s Hainan Province, on 16 Jan, 2008. INTERNET





Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe receives Ambassador of Malaysia to Myanmar Dato Mazlan Bin Muhammad. — MNA

Minister receives Malaysian Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan—Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe received Malaysian Ambassador to Myanmar Dato Mazlan Bin Muhammad at the Ministry this morning. Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for SWRR Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population Brig-Gen Win Sein and departmental heads. MNA

Talks on Business Plan on 26 Jan

YANGON, 23 Jan—Computer Industrialists Association at Myanmar Info-Tech in Hline University campus, here, on 26 January. Those interested and members of MCIA may attend it and enlist at the office of MCIA of Myanmar Info-Tech, Tel: 652238. — MNA

Clinton leads Obama among California Democrats

SAN FRANCISCO, 23 Jan— Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton holds a 12-point lead over Barack Obama among Democrats likely to vote in California’s 5 February primary, according to poll results released on Tuesday.

Thirty-nine per cent said they would vote for Clinton, the Senator from New York, and 27 per cent said they would vote for Obama, a first-term Senator from Illinois, the survey conducted by The Field Poll showed. Since December, each of the leading candidates has gained ground by pulling voters from John Edwards, who now polls at 10 per cent, and other candidates. A relatively large number, 20 per cent, remain undecided. Voters who ranked health care, jobs and the economy as the campaign’s most important issues were most likely to favour Clinton, whose lead is largest among women, Latinos and lower-income voters. Voters who ranked the Iraq war and foreign policy as the most important issues were most likely to favour Obama, who is preferred by Blacks, college graduates and Democratic primary voters with household incomes of 80,000 US dollars or more. Both candidates are highly regarded by three-quarters of the Democratic voters, but 58 per cent said Clinton has the right experience for the presidency. MNA/Reuters

6.2-magnitude quake off Sumatra

JAKARTA, 23 Jan— A strong earthquake has struck Indonesia’s Nias Island west of Sumatra Island, causing panic and some damage, but no reports of casualties, an official at the country’s meteorology agency said on Wednesday. kilometres southwest of Gunungsitoli, the capital of Nias, the official added. Indonesia suffers frequent earthquakes since it lies on an area of intense seismic activity where a number of tectonic plates collide. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre said there were no immediate tsunami warnings or watches in effect.—MNA/Reuters

Eight injured by carbon monoxide poisoning in W Canada

OTTAWA, 23 Jan— Eight residents of a seniors home in Canada’s western Alberta Province were poisoned Monday after exhaust from a running car permeated the building with carbon monoxide, reports reaching here said. Five of them were in critical condition when they were carried out the building, located in the community of Linden, about 100 kilometres northeast of Calgary. They were taken by air ambulances to hospitals in provincial capital Edmonton and Calgary to receive treatment in hyperbaric chambers, where three have been upgraded to stable condition and two remain in critical condition. About 35 paramedics and firefighters from communities around the small village rushed into the condo-style seniors home after a caretaker noticed an odd smell, police said. MNA/Xinhua

Truck plunges from bridge at Thayet Tsp in Magway Div

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan — An Isuzu Truck, E/2635, plunged from a wooden bridge in Thayet Township on 21 January. Driven by Win Htay, 26, son of U Kyaw Lwin, the truck carrying passengers and goods set off from Nyaungpinwaing Village in Minhla Township, and arriving at the wooden bridge on the road near Moenatgon Village, the truck lost control, plunged into the creek as it wheeled on the right edge of the bridge, beams of which had broken. The accident took lives of five male passengers and seven female, and caused injuries to six male and one female passengers. The injured were rushed into Thayet Township People’s Hospital where they are receiving medical treatment and necessary aids. — MNA



CASH DONATED TO MWJA: Chairman of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association- MWJA U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) accepts K 1 million donated by U Khin Maung Thein and wife Susan Thein (Writer Sagaing Sein Sein) at Sarpay Beikman Building in Yangon on 21 January 2008. Wellwishers donated cash to the funds of MWJA and U Htin Gyi Digital Library amounted to K 1 million through U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung). — MNA

Car plunges from 8th floor of Jakarta building

JAKARTA, 23 Jan— A car plunged from a parking lot on the eighth floor of a building in the Indonesian capital on Tuesday, killing the driver who had dozed off with his foot on the accelerator, a security guard at the building said. The driver, who was waiting for his employer, crashed through the parking lot’s metal railing after he accidentally stepped on the accelerator with the engine running, the guard said. The vehicle landed on a parked car. It was the second such accident in Jakarta in less than a year. Last year a family of three was killed when their car plunged from the sixth floor of a shopping mall’s parking lot in south Jakarta. MNA/Reuters

All this needs to be known

- * Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- * Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- * Do not be softened whenever appeased

Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects...

(from page 16)

At Technological University (Bhamo), the Prime Minister heard reports on academic and management matters of the university presented by Acting Principal Dr Ohnma Win.

After attending to the needs, the Prime Minister presented gifts to the faculty members.

In his instructions, the Prime Minister also stressed the need to nurture the students to become intellectuals for the development of the State and the region and to be good citizens abiding by laws and regulations of the State based on the good foundation of following school disciplines.

Next, the Prime Minister and party looked into progress of the development of Bhamo in a motorcade.

They proceeded to Bhamo University and heard reports on academic and management matters presented by Pro-Rector Dr Tha Tun Aung.

After hearing the reports, the Prime Minister said that the government has spent a large sum of money on establishment of the universities to produce qualified technicians to participate in the drive for development of the State and the region.

The faculty members have to cultivate the students not only to tune out intellectuals but also to become youths equipped with good manners, patriotism, national spirit and Union spirit, he said.

The Prime Minister attended to the needs and presented school uniforms and K 110,000 to the faculty members.

The Prime Minister viewed documentaries of the university, doctorate theses, research projects, documentary photos and text books. He fulfilled the requirements and signed in the visitors' book.

The Prime Minister inspected the extended construction of the main building and heard reports on progress of the construction tasks presented by Senior Engineer U Khin Maung Swe of Public Works and gave necessary instructions.

Next, the Prime Minister met with departmental officials, members of social organizations and townselders at Bhamo Township Hall.

At Bhamo People's Hospital, the Prime Minister said that the government has established the hospitals with the aim of upgrading public health care services and stressed the need to provide health



Prime Minister General Thein Sein greets faculty members of Technological University (Bhamo). — MNA

care services, to conduct the educative talks on health knowledge at the grassroots level and to strive for uplift of self-sufficiency in medical treatment.

Next, the Prime Minister presented K 5 million to Medical Superintendent Dr Daw Tin Nyo and

clothes to Matron Daw Swe Swe Ohn.

The Prime Minister visited Bhamo Women's Vocational Training School of Education and Training Department of the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs.

The Prime Minister presented cash and kind to the acting principal.

The Prime Minister viewed the practical works of trainees at the training courses. The Prime Minister and party left Bhamo by air for Myitkyina.

MNA



ENERGY DEPUTY MINISTER VISITS PYAY OIL FIELD: Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay inspects Oil Installation (A) of Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise at Nwarmayan Model Village in Pyay Township during his inspection tour of Pyay Oil Field on 19 January 2007. — ENERGY

Myanmar Dental Association meets

YANGON, 23 Jan—The opening of the 28th conference of the Myanmar Dental Association and the 9th FDI-MDA joint meeting took place at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road here this morning.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe made an introductory speech.

Chairman of the Myanmar Dental Association Professor Dr Ba Myint presented certificates of honour to those members who had been conferred titles and medals by the

government.

The deputy minister formally opened the exhibition of dental medicines and medical equipment.

Professor Dr Ba Myint, Chairman of the central committee for the conference Professor Dr Thein Htut, and FDI representative Mr W V Palenstein addressed the second session. Chairman of the reception committee Professor Dr Pwint Phu extended greetings.

General Secretary of the

association Professor Dr Myo Win read the report of the executive committee and treasurer Dr Daw Aye Aye Cho, the financial statement.

The 15th executive committee was reconstituted with Professor Dr Thein Htut as chairman, Dr Pwint Phu as vice-chairperson, and Dr Htay Myint Oo, as general secretary.

At the joint meeting, national and foreign resource persons read papers on dental medicine. The meeting continues on 24 and 25 January. — MNA

Minister for Electric Power No 2 attends computer and cash donation ceremony

YANGON, 23 Jan—Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint together with CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association in-charge of Bago Division (West) Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay and Vice-Chairman of Bago Division PDC Brig-Gen Sein Myint, on 20 January inspected two fire engines and the fire station worth K 50 million donated by Chairman of Yangon Transformer & Electrical Co Ltd U Maung Thaung-Daw Kyi Win and

family.

The Minister attended the opening ceremony of self-reliant transformer in Kyethsutaw Village. Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Htay and Chairman U Khin Hlaing of the village power supply committee cut the ribbon to launch it.

The Minister viewed the transformer and the installation of power lines.

They attended the donation ceremony at Okpo Township USDA office. CEC member Brig-Gen Than Htay accepted

one set of computer for Okpo Township USDA donated by U Maung Thaung and wife.

U Maung Thaung donated K 1.3 million to township medical funds. Township USDA Secretary U Tin Htwe presented 400 membership applications to the CEC member.

The Minister and party viewed U Shin Ya Library, books, newspapers, journals and magazines worth K 10 million donated by wellwisher U Maung Thaung and wife. — MNA



Guests visit booth staged at 28th Conference of Myanmar Dental Association and 9th FDI-MDA meeting. — UMFCCI

Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets officials,...

(from page 1)

In the district, vegetables, meat and fish are in plenty except rice. There are plenty of vacant land in the district to grow paddy. Therefore, the district should strive for sufficiency of rice.

Without dividing plains and hilly regions, the Government has implemented plans for equitable development of all regions across the country and for improvement of living standard of all national races.

Since it took the responsibility of the State, the government has carried tasks for peace based on unity of all national races.

He said there prevailed peace and stability in border areas. The Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races chaired by the Head of State was formed with the aim of achieving rapid development in border areas.

Moreover, the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races chaired by the Prime Minister and the Ministry for Progress for Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs were con-

stituted separately. They effectively undertook the tasks for development of education, health, transport, agriculture and livestock breeding. Rural regions, border areas and border towns have developed, he said.

Material development in those areas improved and national solidarity spirit forged due to the government's proper endeavours.

He said rural development is the basis for national development. This is why five rural development tasks are being undertaken in the country. The rural areas have now improved gradually.

He said the nation-building tasks are not for development of one particular sector but for harmonious progress of all sectors including political, economic and social fields. He said the government, the Tatmadaw and the people are to continue to strive for rapid development of the nation as the volume of tasks and investment is great.

He said as there is peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order in the country the

Who does not harbour hatred is appeased

“He abused me, he defeated me, he robbed me”; the hatred of them, who does not harbour this thought, is appeased.

Dhammapada 4

government can carry out development tasks in states and divisions including border areas.

He spoke of the need for all the national races to safeguard the better foundations for stability and peace and prevalence of law and order.

Concerning the efforts for better economic foundations in the country, he said food, clothing and shelter are basic major requirements for human beings.

He said Myanmar is a nation with temperate climate and better geographical conditions and rich natural resources. The government is implementing the projects one after another with the utilization of natural resources in the interest of the nation and its people, he added.



Prime Minister General Thein Sein presents sports gear to Head of Bhamo District Sports and Physical Education Department. — MNA

The main facilities for the development of the State and the people are dams, roads, railroads, jetties and air-

The national races, on their part, are to make efforts for ensuring the enhancement of socio-economic life taking advantage of basic sound foundations that are brought about by the Government.

ports. In order to improve education and health sectors, the Government is implementing a series of infrastructures such as universities, colleges, school buildings, hospitals and clinics the length and breadth of the nation. The national races, on their part, are to make efforts for ensuring the enhancement of socio-economic life taking advantage of basic sound foundations that are brought about by the Government. The development of the industrial sector plays a leading role in a country. The Government is en-

couraging and beefing up the improvement of State-owned and private industrial sectors through various ways and means. There were 624 factories of the country and 35,000 of the private sector in 1988. Now there are 791 State owned factories and the private, over 100,000. Today's production has reached eight times more than in the past.

With the development of industrial sector and standard of living styles, the Government is making all-out efforts to sufficiently fulfill power (See page 10)

National Seminar on Fundamental Framework of Industrial Relations of Myanmar, ASEAN and Japan organized

YANGON, 23 Jan — The opening ceremony of the National Seminar on Fundamental Framework of Industrial Relations of Myanmar, ASEAN and Japan was held at Traders Hotel, here, on 21 January.

It was attended by Director-General U Chit Shein of Labour Department, representatives of ministries concerned, the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Industrialists Association, Myanmar Germant Entrepreneurs Association, Myanmar Economic

Corporation, Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association and representatives of employers and employees from industrial zones, observers, the representatives of ASEAN Secretariat, the representatives of Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Welfare of Japan and those of ILO Association of Japan Inc.

Director-General U Chit Shein delivered an opening speech on the occasion.

The seminar was held on 21 and 22 January.

MNA



Director-General U Chit Shein delivers an address at National Seminar on Fundamental Framework of Industrial Relations of Myanmar, ASEAN and Japan. — LABOUR

Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets officials,...

(from page 9)

and energy for the State and the people. In addition, the Government is making arrangements to ensure the emergence of human resources to improve education sector. It is making arrangements for the students in all parts of the country capable of easily pursuing studies of basic education, higher education and science and technologies only in their regions. Teachers, on their part, are to nurture not only qualified intellectuals and intelligentsia but also good citizens who adore discipline, laws, patriotic spirit, and Union spirit.

Furthermore, the Government is extending to build a host of hospitals and clinics across the country in order to keep alive all beings' hopes of enjoying longevity. More health staff are to be appointed and more pharmaceutical factories to be established providing basic sound foundations of the health sector.

Besides, doctors and nurses, on their part, are to extensively and effectively carry out conducting educative talks and prevention and treatment of the infectious diseases. Peace and stability, strong economy and education promotion are the key requirements not only for the development of the State and the people but also for emergence of the new democratic nation all the people are longing for.

Seven-step Road Map of the State has been laid down and it is being imple-

mented so as to smoothly restore a new democratic nation. Out of them, the National Convention, the most important step, had been held successfully despite facing various obstacles. Over 1000 NC delegates from eight NC delegate groups attended the National Convention and laid down fundamental principles and detailed basic principles. Now, the third step of Road Map of the State is drafting the State Constitution. As a result, the entire people are to actively participate in the realization of Seven-step Road Map of the State in order to restore a new democratic nation.

Myanmar comprising states and divisions is home to over 100 national races and they have been living together since time immemorial. The entire people near and far are to live together on the basis of Union Spirit for ensuring peace and stability and perpetuation of the Union.

Next, the Prime Minister presented a TV each to chairmen of Bhamo, Momaik, Shwegu and Mansi Township Peace and Development Councils, uniforms to the secretary of District Union Solidarity and Development Association, books and stationery to the district education officer, medicines and medical equipment to the medical superintendent of the district hospital and sports gear to the district sports officer.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister cordially greeted those present. — MNA



Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects tax-free market in Tamway Township. — MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe visits tax-free markets in Yangon

YANGON, 23 Jan — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence inspected the tax-free markets in Yangon this morning.

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, Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung

Pa and officials, looked into Nawade tax-free market in Ward 5 of Mayangon Township.

They also visited Yankin tax-free market in Yankin Township, Tamway tax-free market in Tamway Township,

Pantaya tax-free market in Dagon Township, Hanthawady tax-free market in Sangyoung Township and Konmyinthta tax-free market in Mayangon Township and looked into sales of goods at vegetables and grocery shops.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe instructed officials to supervise sales of fresh vegetables, fish and meat to the people.

MNA

Myanmar, Laos to improve bilateral agricultural sector

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan — The visiting Laotian delegation led by Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Mr Sitaheng Rasphone and wife of the Lao People's Democratic Republic arrived at Nay Pyi Taw Airport yesterday morning. They were welcomed there by Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo and wife Daw Ni

Ni Win and departmental heads.

At the Ministers' Office at 1.30 pm, the two ministers discussed matters on promoting the agricultural sector. Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo highlighted the importance of expediting the tasks being carried out by the two countries, and bilateral friendly relations.

The Laotian minister thanked Myanmar for helping Laos improve its agricultural sector, adding that he witnessed remarkable development of Myanmar's agriculture and livestock farming. He

also emphasized the need of promotion of bilateral cooperation.

The Laotian delegation went on a study tour of the Agricultural Research Department, Forest Research Department, University of Agriculture, University of Forestry, University of Veterinary Science, Paunglong Dam Multipurpose Project and Hydropower Plant in Nay Pyi Taw Yezin.

Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo and wife hosted a dinner in honour of delegation at the Golden Palace Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone.

MNA

Thai delegation leaves for Mandalay

YANGON, 23 Jan — The visiting Thai delegation led by Lieutenant-General Panumat Sivara of the National Defence College of Thai Royal Armed Forces left here by air for Mandalay at 7.30 am today to continue its excursion.

The Thai guests were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Commandant of the National Defence College of Myanmar Major-General Mya Win and senior military officers, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Bansarn Bunnag and officials.

MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo and Laotian Minister Mr Sitaheng Rasphone hold talks at Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. — MNA

MAAFLFS annual meeting on 29 Jan

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan — Myanmar Academy of Agriculture, Forestry, Livestock and Fishery Sciences will hold its sixth annual meeting at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation here at 9 am on 29 January.

MNA



An Australian giant prickly stick insect was among the 1,720 creatures in Hanover's zoo that were measured on 15 Jan, in the institution's yearly inventory. The bug weighed 33 grams (1.2 ounces).—INTERNET

Images of the Day



A young fisherman in U.S. captured a weird fish Wednesday, whose white belly looks like a big balloon. Its body is studded with hairy flesh thorns, fins are translucent in the color of cod-liver oil pill and gray back is speckled with white dots.—

INTERNET



This photo shows the childhood home of Christopher Columbus in Genoa, Italy. Though Genoa can't elbow past Rome, Venice and Florence amid Italy's must-see cities, it is a fabulous spot.

INTERNET



This guy had a trip to some Northern Russian cities, he concentrated on wooden architecture and churches while shooting. These are genuine Russian views in winter.—INTERNET



Elephants of 'The Cassolly' parade at the harbor of Monaco, ahead of the 32nd Monte-Carlo International Circus Festival in Monaco, Saturday, 19 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET



Surrounded by a range of food colors, a worker paints a marzipan plate at the Niederegger factory in the northern German town of Lübeck on 16

Jan, 2008.—INTERNET

ADVERTISEMENT

ချပ်ပိတ်ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာခေါ်ယူခြင်း

ရက်စွဲ၊ ၂၀၀၈ ခုနှစ် ဇန်နဝါရီလ ၂၂ ရက် ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ၏ ဘိလပ်မြေစက်ရုံ စီမံကိန်းအတွက်အောက်ပါစက်ယန္တရားများ (Brand New/ Fully Reconditioned)ကို ဌာနအရောက်ကျပ်ငွေဖြင့် (သို့မဟုတ်) CIF (Yangon) US\$ ဖြင့်ဝယ်ယူရန် ချပ်ပိတ်ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာများ ဖိတ်ခေါ်အပ်ပါသည်။

စဉ်	ပစ္စည်းအမျိုးအမည်	အရေအတွက်
(က)	Hydraulic Excavator, Bucket Capacity, 1.8m ³	(၂)စီး
(ခ)	Dump Truck (Rear Dumping), Load Capacity, 25 Tons	(၃)စီး
(ဂ)	Front End Wheel Loader, Bucket Capacity, 1.7m ³ -3m ³	(၃)စီး
(ဃ)	Drill-rig	(၁)စီး

ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာပိတ်ရက်မှာ ၈-၂-၂၀၀၈ နေ့ (၁၆:၀၀)နာရီဖြစ်ပြီး ဈေးနှုန်း တင်သွင်းလွှာပုံစံ တစ်စုံလျှင် ကျပ် ၂၀၀၀/- (ကျပ်နှစ်ထောင်တိတိ) နှုန်းဖြင့် ဘတ်ဂျက်နှင့်ငွေစာရင်းဌာန၊ ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးဌာနစုတွင် ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။ အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များကို ဖုန်းအမှတ်- ၃၈၇၃၂ သို့ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း ဆက်သွယ် မေးမြန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

ဥက္ကဋ္ဌ
ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့

Five killed, 20 injured in botched Peru robbery

LIMA, 22 Jan—Five people were killed, including one police officer, and 20 others injured when thieves attacked two long-distance coaches in a mining area in the southern Peru province of Puno, Peruvian website El Comercio said Sunday.

Highway police chief Colonel Eduardo Artera told El Comercio that 12 men armed with muskets and pistols burst on to the vehicles and shot passengers at point blank range at Pasha bus garage, in Puno’s Sina District, some 1,400 kilometres southeast of Peru’s capital Lima and close to the Bolivian border.

The gunmen wanted to steal gold, silver and other property of the passengers, most of whom are miners.

By coincidence, two police officers aboard the buses returned fire killing one of the robbers.

MNA/Xinhua

Singaporeans’ health-care costs jump 6.2% in 2007

SINGAPORE, 23 Jan—Singaporeans’ costs of health care shot up by 6.2 percent in 2007, a big jump over the annual average of 2.4 percent in the previous five years, local media reported Tuesday.

Health Minister Khaw Boon Wan attributed the increase to higher medical fees and prices of Chinese medicine, English-language daily *The Straits Times* reported.

The minister on Monday explained to the Parliament that the health-care

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Dated: 24 January, 2008.

inflation rate was measured by the price changes of a basket of items and the cost of three had soared particularly, including fees in public and private hospitals; outpatient specialist fees in public health-care institutions; and the cost of Chinese herbs and treatment from a Chinese physician.

There were also such factors as higher oil prices causing imports to cost more; the rise in wages of health-care workers; and the goods and services tax (GST) going up from 5 per cent to 7 per cent last July, said the report.

The minister pledged that public health-care costs would always stay affordable, even though some inflation was inevitable. The government has given help in several ways to the needy, he added, such as absorbing the GST hike on their health-care bills, and reviewing Medishield to see if the national medical insurance scheme can cover bigger hospital bills.

MNA/Xinhua

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Taleban kills six Afghan drivers, guards

KABUL, 22 Jan—Taleban insurgents attacked on Sunday afternoon trucks contracted with foreign troops for transporting construction materials, killing four drivers and two security guards in Gereshk District of southern Afghanistan’s Helmand Province, a senior local police officer said.

“A group of militants

opened fire on the trucks, which were hired by the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force for transportation of construction materials in the region,” a senior police officer in Helmand, who identified himself by one name Koka, told *Xinhua*.

As a result, six trucks were completely destroyed, four drivers and another two guards accompanying the trucks were killed, and three more guards were injured, the official said, adding that all casualties were Afghan nationals.

Qari Yousuf Ahmadi, a purported spokesman for the Taleban, told media that his outfit took the

responsibility, saying the Taleban fighters used the attack to punish those who were cooperating with foreign troops.

The Taleban, removed from power by the US-led invasion in late 2001, has waged years-long insurgency against the Afghan administration and continued to attack Afghan and foreign troops.

Rising militancy-related violence killed over 6,000 people in the post-Taleban nation last year and analysts and NATO commanders have expected an upsurge of guerilla-style attacks by Taleban militants in 2008.

MNA/Xinhua



A girl selects artificial flower at a New Year fair in Zaozhuang, east China’s Shandong Province, on 21 Jan, 2008. The artificial flower made of recycled plastic or silk are welcomed among rural consumers in the New Year goods market.—XINHUA

Study: Weight loss surgery can cure diabetes

BEIJING, 23 Jan — A new study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association indicated that obesity surgery can cure diabetes, according to US media reports Tuesday.

In the study, Australian researchers found that patients who had surgery to reduce the size of their stomachs were five times more likely to see their diabetes disappear over the next two years, compared with patients who had standard diabetes care.

"It's the best therapy for diabetes that we have

today, and it's very low risk," said the study's lead author, Dr John Dixon of Monash University Medical School in Melbourne, Australia.

Dixon and colleagues studied 60 obese people with a body mass index greater than 30 but less than 40. Body mass index or BMI is a ratio of height and weight. A BMI of 30 or greater is considered obese.

All the patients were obese and had been diagnosed with type 2 diabetes during the past two years. Their average age was 47.

Half of the patients were given gastric band surgery, and the other group had the normal weight-loss treatments; through the study, the team wanted to see if surgically induced weight loss could be an effective treatment for type 2 diabetes.

Seventy-three percent of patients given gastric band surgery found their diabetes was in remission two years after the surgery. For those given normal weight-loss treatments, only 13 percent were able to send the disease into remission.

Internet



A Hindu devotee adjusts her skewer as she prepares for the Thaipusam procession at the Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple in Singapore on 22 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET

20 killed in blast in N China illegal coal mine

TAIYUAN, 22 Jan — A total of 20 people were killed following a blast in an illegal coal mine in north China's Shanxi Province late Sunday, local authorities said on Monday.

The blast occurred at around 9 pm Sunday in Weijialing Coal Mine in Fenxi County, Linfen City. The rescue operation has

been concluded.

According to Shanxi Work Safety Administration, the mine was opened in 2004 but has been closed for failing to meet safety requirements. Illegal miners took the opportunity afforded by heavy snow cutting the area off to sneak into the mine at about 7 pm on

Sunday.

It was not immediately known how many people were in the mine as the illegal mine's foreman was killed in the blast. Police are trying to catch the organizers of the illegal mining activities.

MNA/Xinhua

Drinking water freezes, affecting 100,000 in China

WUHAN, 22 Jan — More than 100,000 people are enduring a drinking water shortage in central China's Hubei Province since Thursday when the plunging temperature froze supply. The low temperature, along with continuous heavy snowfall, burst water pipes and frozen hydrometers in Wuhan, the Hubei capital.

About 2,000 citizens have contact a water-supply hotline for help, a record high in recent years, according to the Wuhan Water Bureau. "The water supply here has been cut off for four days since the water tank in our building froze. We have had to fetch water from downstairs ever since," said a local resident. — MNA/Xinhua



A Gardiner's Seychelles frog rests on a thumb in this undated handout. A giant Chinese salamander that predates Tyrannosaurus rex and the world's smallest frog are among a group of extremely rare amphibians identified by scientists as being in need of urgent help to survive.—INTERNET

"Brokeback Mountain" actor Ledger found dead

NEW YORK, 22 Jan — Actor Heath Ledger, who was nominated for an Oscar for starring in "Brokeback Mountain," was found dead in his Manhattan apartment Tuesday afternoon.

Authorities say the death was probably drug-related. The 28 year-old Australian-born actor's body was discovered by his housekeeper, who had



Actor Heath Ledger

gone to get Ledger for a scheduled massage, local TV station NY1 reported.

Police say there were pills found at the location.

Ledger was recently seen in the Bob Dylan

biopic "I'm Not There." He had recently finished filming a turn as the Joker in "The Dark Knight," a sequel to 2005's "Batman Begins," NY1 said.

Ledger was survived by a daughter, Matilda. Matilda's mother, actress Michelle Williams, whom Ledger met in 2005 while filming "Brokeback Mountain," split with him last year.—Internet

World genomes project to promote research on human diseases

SHENZHEN, 22 Jan — Chinese, US and British scientists on Tuesday launched the 1000 Genomes Project, with the aim to promote research on human diseases.

The project will involve sequencing the genomes of at least a thousand people from around the world to create the most detailed and medically useful picture to date of human genetic variation.

It will receive major support from the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute in Hinxton, England, the Beijing Genomics Institute (BGI) Shenzhen, China and the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI), part of the US National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Drawing on the expertise of multidisciplinary research teams,

the 1000 Genomes Project will develop a new map of the human genome that will provide a view of biomedically relevant DNA variations at a resolution unmatched by current resources.

Using the map, scientists will work out detail information on genome containing genetic variants that are associated with risk of common human diseases, such as diabetes, coronary artery disease, prostate and breast cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease and age-related macular degeneration.

The new map would enable researchers to more quickly zero in on disease-related genetic variants, speeding efforts to use genetic information to develop new strategies for diagnosing, treating and preventing common diseases.

Internet



Pure Black face sheep are seen in Glen Fender, Highland Perthshire, Scotland, on 3 Jan, 2008. Scotland is considering lobbying the United States to lift a ban on haggis, hoping to boost sales of the sheep-stomach-based national dish.—INTERNET

SPORTS

Fulham dumped out of Cup as replays all go to penalties

LONDON, 23 Jan — Premier League Fulham were knocked out of the FA Cup by League One (third division) Bristol Rovers on Tuesday as all three of the night's third-round replays went to penalties.

Fulham, second-last in the Premier League, failed to impose themselves on their supposed inferiors during 120 goalless minutes on a heavy pitch, just as they struggled in the 2-2 Craven Cottage draw in the original match.

Fulham, who have not won in their last 13 games, had defender Dejan Sefanovic sent off in extra time and went down 5-3 on penalties.

In the fourth round this weekend Rovers will visit Barnet, who upset League One Swindon after they finished 1-1 after extra time.

Swindon contrived to miss the four penalties they took in the shootout, allowing the League Two (fourth division) side to advance by scoring two.

Derby County, bottom of the Premier League, scraped into a fourth-round home game with Preston North End after they finished level at 1-1 after extra time against Sheffield Wednesday at a sodden Hillsborough. — MNA/Reuters

Nations-Champions Egypt crush Cameroon 4-2

KUMASI, 23 Jan — Mohamed Zidan scored a first-half double as title holders Egypt made an impressive start in the African Nations Cup with a 4-2 thrashing of Cameroon on Tuesday.

The striker netted in the 17th minute and in first half stoppage time as Egypt went 3-0 up at the interval in the Group C game at Kumasi's Baba Yara stadium.

Midfielder Hosni Abd Rabou also scored twice, putting Egypt ahead with a 14th-minute penalty and adding a powerful shot nine minutes from time.

Samuel Eto'o pulled two back for Cameroon, heading in a cross six minutes into the second half and converting a penalty just before the final whistle.

Egypt showed the title they won two years ago on home turf, their fifth all told, was no fluke and sent a serious warning to the other contenders.

"We are not here just to be part of the tournament, we are here to win a second successive title," Zidan told Ghanaian television channel TV3.

"We give everything, we have to be in the final in Accra."

MNA/Reuters



Kong Yingchao competes in the women's sprint 7.5 kilometres race of the biathlon competition during China's 11th National Winter Games in Yabuli, northeast China's Heilongjiang Province on 22 Jan, 2008. Kong from the delegation of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) took the silver medal in the competition on Tuesday.

INTERNET

Stunning Sharapova batters top seed Henin

MELBOURNE, 23 Jan — Russian Maria Sharapova produced a blistering performance to overpower world number one Justine Henin 6-4, 6-0 in the Australian Open quarter-finals on Tuesday.

The fifth seed was in ebullient mood, smashing 30 winners as she took a tight first set and ripped through the second to line up a semi-final against Serbian third seed Jelena Jankovic.

"It's funny because I felt like I was in my own bubble today," Sharapova said in a courtside interview.

"It's amazing when you go out on the court and feel you're doing the right things to beat such an amazing player as her. It's just incredible."

Sharapova, runner-up in Melbourne last year, had lost six of her eight meetings with top seed Henin but she came out firing on all cylinders, storming to a 5-2 lead.

Targeting the Belgian's backhand, considered to be her strength, Sharapova was able to dictate the majority of rallies, keeping Henin pinned to the baseline and never allowing her to take control.

MNA/Reuters



Novak Djokovic of Serbia returns the ball to David Ferrer of Spain during their men's singles quarter-final match at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne, Australia, on Wednesday, 23 Jan, 2008. —INTERNET

Early goal sets Zambia on way to victory

KUMASI, 23 Jan — Zambia profited from James Chamaga's early goal to score a resounding 3-0 win over Sudan in their opening African Nations Cup Group C match on Tuesday.

Fellow forwards Jacob Mulenga and Felix Katongo added goals in the second half at Kumasi's Baba Yara stadium to put Zambia top of the group with Egypt after the defending champions' 4-2 win over Cameroon in the earlier match.

Chamanga, drafted into the starting line-up in place of suspended captain Chris Katongo, took just one minute and 45 seconds to fire Zambia ahead.

MNA/Reuters

Dunga looks to youth for Ireland friendly

RIO DE JANEIRO, 23 Jan — Brazil will take a new generation of players to Dublin next month to meet Ireland in a friendly, coach Dunga said on Tuesday. Ten of the 22-man squad are in the under-23 category, forming the core of the team that Dunga hopes will win gold at the Beijing Olympics later this year.

Alexandre Pato, the highly-rated 18-year-old who scored on his debut for AC Milan this month, gets a first call-up while Manchester United's Anderson and Liverpool's Lucas Leiva are also in the squad.

Sao Paulo midfielder Richarlyson also wins a first call-up to the senior squad.

Dunga told a news conference the game would serve as vital preparation for the Olympics.

"(The Olympic team) won't be able to play friendly matches as such so it is important for these players to earn some experience with the first team," he said.

MNA/Reuters



Tottenham's Dimitar Berbatov (R) vies with Arsenal's Armand Traore (L) during the second leg of their Carling Cup Semi Final at home to Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane stadium. Tottenham won 5-1.—INTERNET

Spurs thump Arsenal 5-1 to reach League Cup final

LONDON, 23 Jan — Tottenham Hotspur reached the League Cup final after ending a nine-year winless streak against Arsenal on Tuesday, an emphatic 5-1 victory earning a 6-2 aggregate triumph over their north London neighbours.

Tottenham had not beaten Arsenal in 21 games, including last year's semi-finals, but were always in command at White Hart Lane after Jermaine Jenas put them 1-0 up after three minutes of the second leg.

A Nicklas Bendtner own goal in the 27th was followed by a breakaway third by Robbie Keane three minutes into the second half as Arsenal's reserve team had no answers. Aaron Lennon and Steed Malbranque were also on target.

Substitute Emmanuel Adebayor pulled one back for last season's runners-up but Spurs never looked in danger and will face holders Chelsea or Everton, who meet at Goodison Park on Wednesday with the Londoners 2-1 up, in the February 24 final at Wembley.

MNA/Reuters



Germany's Maren Butterbrodt (R) delivers the ball to her teammate during the women's preliminaries against Japan at the Good Luck Beijing Wheelchair Basketball International Invitational Tournament in Beijing, on 22 Jan, 2008. Germany beat Japan 48-43.

INTERNET

Heavy snow kills 17, cuts power in many areas of China

BEIJING, 22 Jan—China has beefed up disaster alleviation work as an unusually heavy snowfall claimed at least 17 lives and caused widespread traffic and power disruption.

The death toll increased by two after a car collided with a truck on an ice-covered road on Monday night in Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province, leaving two dead and five others injured.

Before that, six people were confirmed dead in buildings collapsed by bad weather in Hubei and Anhui provinces and nine others died in weather-related traffic accidents in Hubei.

In southwestern Gui-

zhou, power has been cut off in nine counties because of grid damage caused by the freezing rainy weather.

In eastern Anhui, more than 3 million people have been affected by a heavy snow from Friday through Sunday, which caused snow drifts of up to 50 centimeters in certain areas. A total of 3,635 houses collapsed under the weight of snow, according to the provincial disaster relief office.—Internet



The heavy snow covers a collapsed building in a market in Shucheng county of east China's Anhui Province, on 22 Jan, 2008. —XINHUA

Mexico City starts grope-free buses for women

MEXICO CITY, 23 Jan— Mexico City has started a women-only bus service to protect female passengers from groping and verbal abuse common on the city's packed public transportation system.

Millions of people cram into subway trains and buses in the Mexican capital, one of the world's largest cities, and women have long complained of abuse from men taking advantage of over-crowding to sneak in an inappropriate grab.

"One time a man stuck his hand up my skirt. They grab your butt. It's gross," said 27-year-old office assistant Lourdes Zendejas, who waited 20 minutes during the evening rush hour to catch one of the new buses.

The special buses pull up at ordinary stops but have large pink "women only" signs on the front and side. They were added to two busy routes last week and the city government plans to expand the programme to 15 other

routes by April. Mexico City's transport system, which also includes hundreds of privately operated "micro" buses, carries twice as many riders as New York's.

"We were constantly receiving complaints of women being leered at, kissed or followed," said Carlos Cervantes, spokesman for the city's public bus system.

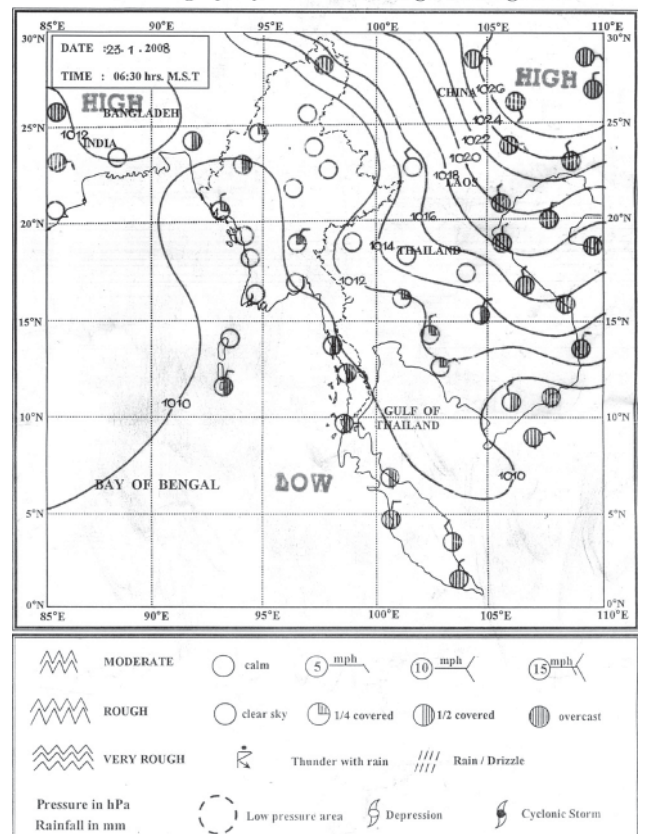
MNA/Reuters

Radio
Myanmar

Thursday, 24 January
Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music
-You are the one
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music
-I'll get over you
- 8:50 am National news/
Slogan
- 9:00 am Music
-Don't rush me
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music
-Everybody needs somebody
- 1:30 pm News/ Slogan
- 1:40 pm Lunch time music
-If you only knew
-He don't love you
- 9:00pm Aspects of Myanmar
"Banana cake"
- 9:10 pm Article
- 9:20 pm Topics
potpourri
-How cells digest protein could trigger Parkinson's
-New drug found better at suppressing hepatitis B virus
- 9:30pm Favourite songs chosen by music lovers
-10,000 promises
-Too much
- 9:45 pm News /Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Wednesday, 23 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 (5°C) below January average temperatures in Chin State, (4°C) below January average temperatures in Shan State, (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 Haka (-1°C) Pinlaung and Loilem (1°C) each, Heho (3°C), Lashio and Mogoke (4°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 22-1-2008 was 94°F. Minimum temperature on 23-1-2008 was 62°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 23-1-2008 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 22-1-2008 was (8.2) hours approx.

Rainfall on 23-1-2008 was nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from North at (17:30) hours MST on 22-1-2008.

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 24-1-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin, Chin and Northern Shan States, upper Sagaing Division. Weather will be partly cloudy in Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 24-1-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 24-1-2008: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 24-1-2008: Generally fair weather.



Thursday, 24 January
View on today

- 7:00 am
 1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကုန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီးနိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာမဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်အဘိဓမ္မမဟာရဋ္ဌဂုရုအဘိဓမ္မအဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိကတိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိကဆရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:15 am
 2. တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ အဂ္ဂမဟာပဏ္ဍိတ၊ ဘဒ္ဒန္တသိရိန္ဒာဘိဝံသ (ယောဆရာတော်) ဟောကြားတော်မူအပ်သော ဥပ္ပါတသန္တိပါဠိတော်
- 7:25 am
 3. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
 4. Morning news
- 7:40 am
 5. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am
 6. Dance of national races
- 8:05 am
 7. ကျောက်တစ်လုံးရေကု ရေလှောင်တံခံ
- 8:15 am
 8. Dance variety
- 8:30 am
 9. International news
- 8:45 am
 10. Let's Go
- 4:00 pm
 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm
 2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm
 3. English for Everyday Use
- 4:45 pm
 4. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ-ပထမနှစ် (မြန်မာစာ၊မြန်မာမှုပညာ၊ အရှေ့တိုင်းပညာအထူးပြုများ) (အရှေ့တိုင်းပညာ)

- 5:00 pm
 5. Cute little dancers
- 5:15 pm
 6. Musical programme
- 5:30 pm
 7. “ရင်ထဲမှာသာတဲ့လ” (ဆက်မော်၊ ခင်မောင်ချင်း၊ နှင်းဝတ်ရည်သောင်း) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ခင်မောင်ချင်း)
- 6:00 pm
 8. Evening news
- 6:30 pm
 9. Weather report
- 6:35 pm
 10. Musical programme
- 6:50 pm
 11. သက်တံရောင်သံစဉ်
- 7:00 pm
 12. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “လေဒီယာနှင့်ဆုံစည်းခြင်း” (အပိုင်း-၂)
- 8:00 pm
 13. News
- 14. International news
- 15. Weather report
- 16. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ချစ်သူများ”(အပိုင်း-၂၁)
- 17. The next day's programme

People's Desire

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

Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects development of Bhamo in Kachin State

Prime Minister urges faculty members to organize youth, parents to utilize sound foundations of respective regions

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan — Chairman of Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Prime Minister General Thein Sein, accompanied by Member of the SPDC Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Sagaing Division PDC Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen Myint Soe, ministers, deputy ministers, the director-general

of the Government Office and departmental heads, left Mandalay International Airport on 20 January morning and arrived at Bhamo Airport of Kachin State at 10.20 am.

The Prime Minister and party were welcomed by Chairman of Kachin State PDC Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, senior military officers and departmental officials.

At the lounge of the airport, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe reported on matters related to the runway extension project of Bhamo Airport.

Director-General U Tun Hlaing of Department of Civil Aviation briefed the Prime Minister on extension of the runway. After attending to the needs, the Prime Minister instructed officials to grow trees and flowery plants for greening the airport's environs and construct the runway meeting set standards.

The runway of Bhamo Airport was 5,500 feet long and 100 feet wide. So far, the runway has been extended to the 7,500 feet long one.

At University of Computer Studies (Bhamo), Acting Principal Dr Nan Saw Kalyar reported to the Prime Minister on academic and management matters of the university.

After fulfilling the requirements, the Prime Minister heard reports on the ratio of faculty members to students and producing of graduates.

In his instructions, the Prime Minister urged the faculty members to organize the youth and parents to utilize sound foundations of the regions, to train the students to have theoretical and practical skills, to constantly study respective subjects for uplift of work proficiency and to disseminate knowledge to the students to abide by laws, rules and regulations.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister presented gifts to the faculty members.

At the site for construction of the three-storey main building of the university, officials of Asia Metal Construction Co Ltd reported on facts about the project. The Prime Minister gave necessary instructions.

The three-storey main building can accommodate 300 students, and it will be 513 feet long, 358 feet wide and 66 feet high building.

(See page 8)

The three-storey main building of University of Computer Studies (Bhamo) can accommodate 300 students. It will be 513 feet long, 358 feet wide and 66 feet high.



Prime Minister General Thein Sein visits vocational training school for women in Bhamo.

MNA

INSIDE

In Kyaukse Industrial Region, farm equipment factory, cement plants, plastic industries, Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory, ceramics and steel ware factory, sewing machine factory, candy factory, vest factory, firebrick factory and bicycle factory have been built and they are manufacturing products.

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PERSPECTIVES