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Friday, 25 January, 2008

Four political objectives

- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- * National reconsolidation
- * Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- * Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

- * Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- * Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- * Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- * The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives

- * Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- * Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- * Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- * Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Blessed with impressive geographical features, Putao District will enjoy booming hotel, hiking and mountaineering, and eco-tourism industries

Prime Minister inspects development tasks in Myitkyina, Putao



Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects Mulashedi suspension bridge in Putao. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—Chairman of the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Prime Minister General Thein Sein, accompanied by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Kachin State PDC Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, Chairman of Sagaing Division PDC Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen Myint Soe, ministers, deputy ministers and departmental heads, arrived at Myitkyina Airport at 8.30 am on 21

January. At the lounge of the airport, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe reported on the background history of the airport and the runway extension project.

Director-General of Department of Civil Aviation U Tun Hlaing and Kachin State Senior Engineer U Khin Maung Kyaw reported on progress in extension of the runway and future construction work.

The Prime Minister fulfilled the requirement and stressed the need for timely completion of the project tasks meeting the set standard. The original runway measuring 6000

ft by 100 ft is being extended to the one measuring 7000 ft by 100 ft.

Next, the Prime Minister and party went to Bala Min Htin Bridge by car. He inspected the bridge and called on the officials to systematically carry out maintenance tasks and durability of the bridge. The Prime Minister and party then viewed the development of Myitkyina by car.

Afterwards, they proceeded to Putao by air. At the lounge of Putao Airport, the Prime Minister heard a report by Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe on upgrading of the airport. Director-General U Tun

Hlaing presented a report on extension of the runway.

In response to the reports, the Prime Minister said that Putao has natural scenic beauties attracting tourists. Making use of the region, measures can be taken for development of eco-tourism. If so, the region will become strategically important for

the economic growth as well as for regional development. So, all necessary requirement including transport and power supply are to be fulfilled.

Later, a meeting on supply of hydropower took place at 2.30 pm at Khakaborazi Yeiktha. Director-General U Aung Koe Shwe of Hydropower Projects Implementation

Department of the Ministry of Electric Power No 1 reported on generation of 200 kilowatts by Namhtut Hydropower Station in Putao and generation of 400 kilowatts on completion of a diversion dam with the water resources of Namkamti creek, three miles from west of Putao.

(See page 8)

Making use of the Putao region, measures can be taken for development of eco-tourism. If so, the region will become strategically important for the economic growth as well as for regional development.

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 25 January, 2008

Stability and peace — foundations for national development

In Myanmar, more than 100 national races have been living in amity and harmony for thousands of years. Although each of the national races lives in the region concerned in the nation, Union Spirit and historic fine traditions have flourished up to now.

The government is taking all possible steps for development of the states and divisions including border areas. Especially, it is building a large number of education, health, agriculture and livestock infrastructures, and as a result the towns and villages in far-flung areas have developed into modern cities.

Bhamo in Kachin State, for instance, one of the 24 development regions, has got a technological university, a university of computer studies and a 200-bed hospital for development in the education and health sectors.

In the past, waterway was the only means of transport for the region. Now, the government has constructed Mandalay-Tagaung-Bhamo Road and Mandalay-Lashio-Bhamo Road. And Bhamo Airport is in the process of being upgraded. So, local people have enjoyed better transport.

The entire people have to maintain already-built foundations of stability of the State, community peace and prevalence of law and order because peace and tranquillity lies in the core of regional development.

Stability of the State, peace, strong economy, and high education standard of the people are good foundations necessary for building a democratic nation the people are looking forward to. The entire people should therefore put these fruitful results in the fore, and the government, the Tatmadaw and the people have to continue to work together for proportionate development in the political, economic and social sectors.

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်မသုံးစွဲရနေ

လစဉ် လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေသွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည့်ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရနေဖြစ်သည်။

၂၀၀၈-ခုနှစ် ဇန်နဝါရီလ အတွက်

နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)
(၂၇-၁-၂၀၀၈) ရက်နေ့

၂၀၀၈-ခုနှစ် ဖေဖော်ဝါရီလ အတွက်

(၁၀-၂-၂၀၀၈) ရက်နေ့
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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

Commander attends Meeting of Management Committee for Observance of 61st Anniversary Union Day

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan — The Management Committee for Observance of the 61st Anniversary Union Day held a coordination meeting at Paunglong Yeiktha of Nay Pyi Taw Command Headquarters, here, this morning, with an address by Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin.

The commander stressed the need for

successfully holding the 61st Anniversary Union Day and hosting the dinner in accord with the procedures.

Next, chairmen and officials of subcommittees reported on progress of their tasks.

Giving necessary instructions, the commander made concluding remarks.

MNA

Hiking and mountaineering team members honoured

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan — The athletes of Myanmar Hiking and Mountaineering Federation that successfully scaled Phonrin ice-capped mountain in Putao District, Kachin State were honoured at the Ministry of Sports, here, this morning.

Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint made a speech and presented gifts to the members of the team and cash reward and presents to leader Dr Khin Maung.

Chairperson of the Central Committee of the Myanmar Women's Sports Federation Daw Aye Aye handed star medals to female members of the team.

Then, the leader of the team expressed thanks and the team members



Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint pins a badge to a mountaineer of Myanmar Hiking and Mountaineering Federation. — MNA

recounted their experiences.

The minister, officials and hiking and mountaineering team members posed for documentary photo. Afterwards, the team members were served with lunch.

Secretary of Myanmar Hiking and Mountaineering Federation Dr King Maung led the team comprising executives and members of the federation, members of USDA, MWSF, Mandalay University of Medicine,

Mandalay Technological University, Yadanabon University, Mandalay University of Distance Education, Monywa University and Monywa Institute of Economics, totalling 29 men and 10 women.

MNA

UMFCCI officials meet Laotian delegation

YANGON, 24 Jan — General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing of the Union

of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and invited

guests from brother associations met a five-member delegation led by

Director-General Dr Phouang Pasrisak Pravongviengkhan of Planning Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Lao People's Democratic Republic at UMFCCI office on 21 January.

They cordially discussed matters for communication between entrepreneurs of the two countries, potential for bilateral cooperation in commercial services, growing of rubber and physic nut by entrepreneurs in Myanmar, and production of bio-fuel.—MNA



Meeting of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Laotian delegation in progress. — UMFCCI

Bush admin issued false statements for Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 24 Jan — US President George W Bush and top administration officials made hundreds of false statements about security threat from Iraq to gain public support for the war on Iraq, a study by two nonprofit journalism organizations said on Tuesday.

The study was conducted by the Centre for Public Integrity and the Fund for Independence in Journalism.

The false statements

were “part of an orchestrated campaign that effectively galvanized public opinion and, in the process, led the nation to war under decidedly false pretenses”, the study found.

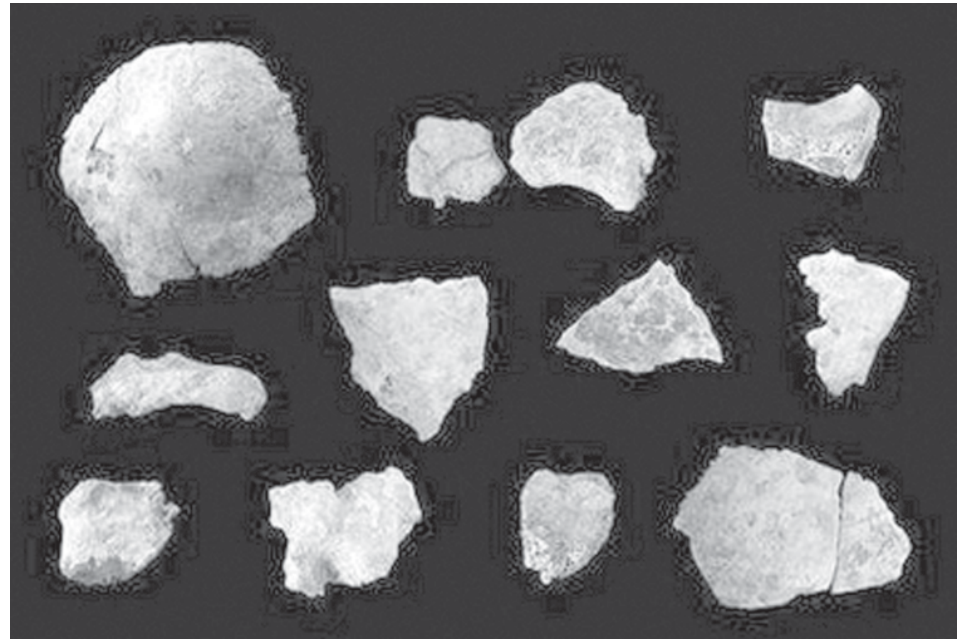
In the two years after the 11 September terrorist attacks, Bush and administration officials stated on 532 occasions at least that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction or was trying to obtain them or had links to al-Qaeda.

The statements were made in speeches,

briefings, interviews and other venues.

Bush made 259 false statements, followed by former Secretary of State Collin Powell with 244. On the list were also Vice-President Dick Cheney, national security adviser Condoleezza Rice, former defence secretary Donald H Rumsfeld, former deputy defence secretary Paul Wolfowitz and former White House Press secretaries Ari Fleischer and Scott McClellan.

MNA/Xinhua



Pieces of an ancient human skull fossil unearthed in Henan Province last month. The almost complete human skull fossil, which could date back 100,000 years, was unearthed in China, state media said on 23 Jan, 2008, hailing it as the greatest discovery since Peking Man.—INTERNET



Workers hang up Chinese traditional lanterns for the upcoming Chinese New Year of the Rat at a temple in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 24 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET

US suffers first death in new armoured truck

BAGHDAD, 24 Jan—The US military has suffered a first fatality in one of a new fleet of heavily armoured vehicles designed to protect soldiers from roadside bombs, the military said on Tuesday.

One soldier died and three were wounded when a bomb went off next to the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) armoured truck near Arab Jabour on Baghdad’s southern outskirts on Saturday.

MNA/Reuters

Thaksin’s wife fights corruption charges at court

BANGKOK, 24 Jan—Pojaman Shinawatra, wife of Thailand’s ousted premier Thaksin Shinawatra, defended herself at the Supreme Court in Bangkok Wednesday morning against corruption charges over a controversial land deal,

denying any illegal conduct in the case.

Pojaman said nothing was done inappropriately or unlawfully during the land deal as she appeared to face corruption charges in Bangkok Wednesday morning.

MNA/Xinhua

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Iran says any new sanctions will not affect atom work

TEHERAN, 24 Jan—Iran said on Tuesday any new international sanctions against it would not succeed in forcing the country to halt its nuclear programme, which the West suspects is aimed at making bombs.

“The Iranian nation moves in the framework of its legitimate and legal rights... and a possible ratification of a new (UN sanctions) resolution will not have an impact on our nation’s behaviour,” government spokesman Gholamhossein Elham told a news conference.

He spoke ahead of a meeting in Berlin on Tuesday of foreign ministers from major powers to discuss a possible third UN Security Council resolution against Iran for its refusal to halt enrichment, which can have both civilian and military uses.—MNA/Reuters

Syria imposes food blockade on Lebanon

BEIRUT, 24 Jan—Syria has imposed a blockade of food supplies on Lebanon, local newspaper *An Nahar* reported Tuesday.

The report, citing information received by Lebanese authorities, said Syrian Customs authorities informed all border checkpoints of their decision to prevent trucks and vehicles carrying food supplies from crossing into Lebanon as of 6 pm (1600 GMT) Monday.

An Nahar said Lebanese authorities had no “explanation to Damascus’ surprise decision”, but hinted that the siege might coincide with Monday nights’ protests in Beirut.—MNA/Xinhua

Kenyan runner killed in post-election violence

NAIROBI, 24 Jan—Kenyan marathon runner Wesley Ngetich has been shot and killed by a poisoned arrow, the second international athlete to die in post-election violence in the east African country.

“We have received word from Ngetich’s manager and we deeply regret negthich’s demise,” Athletics Kenya’s secretary, David Okeyo, told *Reuters* on Tuesday.

His American manager Hussein Makke, was quoted in US newspapers saying the athlete was a victim of a poisoned arrow attack during fighting in his home town of Trans Mara, at the edge of world famous Maasai Mara Game Reserve on Monday.—MNA/Reuters

Obama hurls new anti-Clinton broadsides

CAROLINA, 24 Jan—White House hopeful Barack Obama came out firing against his tag-team Clinton opponents on Wednesday as he battled to regain the initiative in the bad-tempered Democratic race.

Heading into South Carolina’s Democratic primary on Saturday, the Illinois senator all but accused Bill Clinton of lying as he countered the former president’s outspoken campaigning on behalf of his wife Hillary.

“The only thing I want to make sure of is that



US Democratic presidential candidate Illinois Senator Barack Obama addresses a town hall meeting in South Carolina.

when he goes after me, that he goes after me on the basis of facts and policy differences, and, you know, stuff isn’t just made up,” Obama said on ABC’s “Good Morning

America” programme.

In another appearance on NBC’s “Today Show,” the first Africa-American with a viable shot at the White House denied that Bill Clinton was getting

to him psychologically.

“It’s just that, I think, in the Clinton campaign, they have had former president Clinton delivering a bunch of inaccurate statements about my record. So, naturally, I’ve got to make sure that those are corrected,” he said.

Bad blood between the two campaigns spilled out into the open on Monday at a Democratic debate, when Obama and the former first lady accused each other of dishonesty, policy U-turns and campaign trickery.

Internet

Darfur rebels down government plane

KHARTOUM, 23 Jan—Darfur rebels said on Monday they had shot down a government plane bombing their areas in West Darfur, but Sudan’s Army denied the claim, the first from the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) this year. JEM has emerged as the most powerful threat

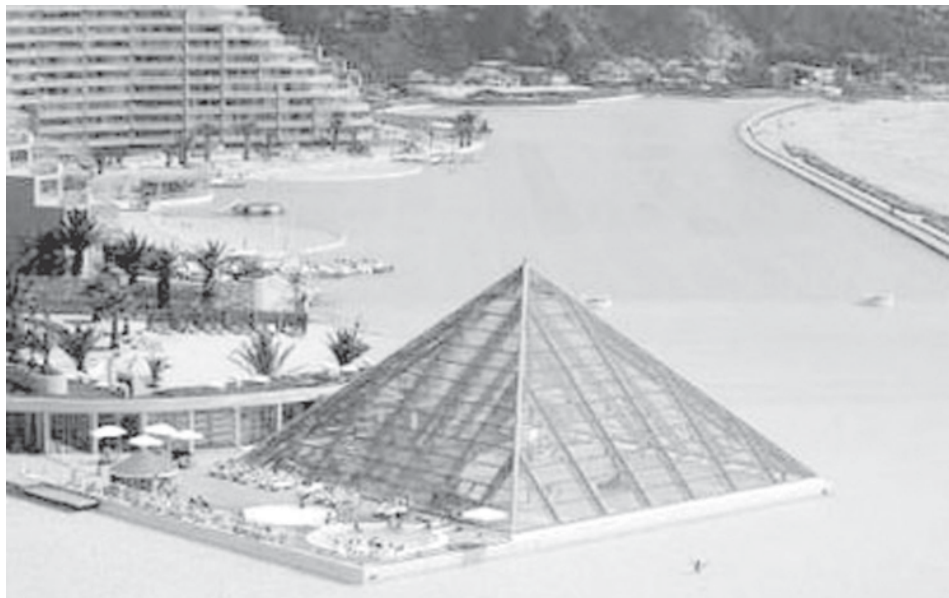
to the government after almost five years of fighting which experts estimate has killed 200,000 people, but its latest claim could not be independently verified. “It bombed our areas in Jabel Moun and our defence forces shot it down, it was a MiG-29,” JEM commander Abdel

Aiz el-Nur Ashr told *Reuters* from the West Darfur region. He said the aircraft crashed in a mountainous area in North Darfur between the towns of el-Fasher and Kebkabiya. An Army spokesman said the news was “utterly untrue”. *MNA/Reuters*

Militants kill five Pakistani troops in attack

ISLAMABAD, 24 Jan—Militants attacked a Pakistani security force fort in the South Waziristan region on the Afghan border on Tuesday killing five soldiers and wounding seven, the military said. The militants attacked the Ladha fort and an observation post an hour after midnight on Monday.

“Security forces retaliated with fire causing heavy casualties ... the attack was beaten back,” the military said in a statement. The exact number of militants killed could not be ascertained, it said. Violence has intensified in recent days in South Waziristan, where an al-Qaeda-linked militant leader blamed by Pakistani authorities and the United States for the 27 December assassination of opposition leader Benazir Bhutto is based. *MNA/Reuters*



A view of the swimming pool at the resort of San Alfonso del Mar in Algarrobo city on the southern coast of Chile, some 100 km (62 miles) west of Santiago, on 21 Jan, 2008. Acknowledged by the Guinness World Records as the world's largest swimming pool, the lagoon measures 1,013 metres (3,323 ft) in length, covers an area of eight hectares (20 acres), contains 250,000 cubic meters of water and is navigable in small boats. — INTERNET

Emergency workers rescue 131 from snowstorm in Tibet

LHASA, 24 Jan—The number of people rescued from snowbound highways in a region of Tibet since last Thursday had risen to 131 by Monday afternoon. However, the government of Ngari Prefecture fears others are still stranded by a snowstorm that began sweeping through the area for four days. One motorist, who

had been stranded with 15 other people in three vehicles for two days on a highway near the Sino-Nepal border, told *Xinhua* by cellphone, “rescuers have just arrived, and we are in good shape”. Ngari, a remote region in the west of Tibet Autonomous Region, has reported many sections of highways blocked by thick snow. Local officials say

many areas beyond mobile phone services are still cut off and they have no way of knowing how many other people are trapped. As heavy snow continued to fall over large parts of China on Monday, widespread traffic disruptions were reported and at least four deaths caused by structures collapsing under the weight of snow. *MNA/Xinhua*

Pakistan’s Khan says Backing Musharraf hurts US

WASHINGTON, 24 Jan — Continued US backing of President Pervez Musharraf risks alienating Pakistanis and increasing extremism in the nuclear-armed Islamic country, cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan said on Tuesday. Khan said he came to the United States “to try and convince the politicians in Washington that the policy they have adopted is a disaster for Pakistan and it is a disaster for America”. His main message to senior US lawmakers including Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid was that Washington must apply more pressure to make Musharraf

reinstate the senior Pakistani justices who were sacked under emergency rule late last year. *MNA/Reuters*

Bomber kills one, wounds 21 at Iraq school

BAGHDAD, 24 Jan — A suicide bomber killed one student and wounded a number of others when he detonated a trolley laden with explosives in a schoolyard north of Baghdad on Tuesday, Iraqi police said. They said 21 people were wounded, a mix of students and teachers who were arriving for classes at the boys secondary school in Baquba, the capital of volatile Diyala Province. The bomber hid the explosives in a trolley that he had pushed into the school, police said. Most of the boys at the school are teenagers. Diyala is one of several northern provinces where US and Iraqi forces have been carrying out a series of offensives against al-Qaeda in Iraq. The Sunni Islamist group is blamed for most suicide bombings in Iraq. *MNA/Reuters*

Blast injures two copper miners in Zambia

LUSAKA, 24 Jan—A blast at the Mufulira copper mine in Zambia left two mineworkers unconscious and with serious burns, a government official said on Tuesday. Mopani Copper Mines (MCM), a unit of Swiss firm Glencore International AG and Canada’s First Quantum Minerals, remained open and operational after the incident. MCM operates the Mufulira and Nkana mines and the Mufulira Smelter. “Two miners were badly injured and their chances of survival are very slim because their bodies were burned like charcoal,” Dayford Muulwa, the district commissioner for Mufulira, told *Reuters* by telephone. The two miners were in intensive care at the local hospital. *MNA/Reuters*

Russia asks Libya to free oil company executive

Moscow, 24 Jan — Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Wednesday asked Libya to release the head of oil giant Lukoil’s overseas office in Libya who was detained in late 2007 and reportedly involved in commercial spy case. “I have sent yet another appeal to my Libyan counterpart. We believe that

Libyan authorities could release Alexander Tsygankov on Russian Embassy guarantees,” Lavrov told a news conference on Wednesday. Tsygankov was arrested in Tripoli, capital of Libya, on 25 November and no official charges had been brought against him so far, *RIA* news agency reported. *MNA/Xinhua*



British billionaire Richard Branson, left, and the aerospace designer Burt Rutan appear at a news conference where they unveiled models of SpaceShipTwo, the vehicle they hope will be able to take passengers on suborbital joy-rides, just for the fun of it, along with its mothership, White Knight Two, behind them, at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, on 23 Jan, 2008. INTERNET

Philippines says China trade will cushion US slowdown

MANILA, 23 Jan— The Philippines expects its growing trade with China to cushion the impact of an economic slowdown in the United States, the chief spokesman of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo said on Tuesday.

“The United States remains a very close ally,” Presidential Spokesman Ignacio Bunye told reporters. “It’s economy is one of the biggest and if there’s a slowdown there’s an effect on other countries. Before, we

were solely dependent on the West, but there are other markets.”

Describing Manila’s trade with Beijing as growing “by leaps and bounds”, Bunye said: “This will somehow cushion whatever negative impact the slowdown in the US economy would have on the Philippines.”

The United States remains the Philippines’ biggest trading partner with total trade at about 1.5 billion US dollars in October, the latest month

for which data is available. China was in third place after Japan with trade of about 977 million US dollars.

In October 2006, the United States had about 1.56 billion US dollars in two-way trade with the Philippines while China had 809 million US dollars. Philippine imports from the United States are mainly electrical and transport equipment, while it exports mostly electronics and garments.

MNA/Reuters



A temple in the Olympic village area for the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.

INTERNET

ECONOMIC NEWS

Nepali low-cost carrier launches int’l line

KATHMANDU, 24 Jan— Yeti Airlines International, a joint venture between Yeti Airlines and UAE-based Air Arabia, Tuesday began international flights, with its inaugural flight taking off to Kuala Lumpur, local newspaper *The Kathmandu Post* reported on Wednesday.

The airline, which is also known as Fly-Yeti.com, is scheduled to operate three flights a week to Malaysian capital

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysian capital, and thrice-weekly flights to Sharjah, United Arab Emirates (UAE), using a *Boeing 737-800* aircraft. It is the first Nepali low-cost carrier and the first to have foreign investment.

Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Prithivi Subba Gurung said its operation will help to provide easy connections to Nepali working abroad and several more tourists to

visit Nepal. Lila Mani Poudel, secretary at the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, asked the airline to work with Nepal Tourism Board to promote Nepal’s image in the international market.

Ang Tshering Sherpa, chairman of the airline, said that the airline was planning to bring in another aircraft, an *Airbus-320*, in mid-February and another *Boeing 737-800* aircraft in mid-March.

MNA/Xinhua

Australian police seize 250,000 piracy DVDs

CANBERRA, 24 Jan— The police in Australia’s Victorian state on Tuesday busted what is believed to be the biggest-ever movie piracy operation in the country.

A home at Sunshine North, in Melbourne’s west, was raided and over 250,000 pirated DVDs and 100 DVD burners seized.

The haul included movies which have only just been released in cinemas and a 49-year-old man is helping police with their inquiries, according to a report of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

MNA/Xinhua

US drugs industry not reliable to prevent influenza

WASHINGTON, 24 Jan— Vaccines and drugs will not be enough to slow or prevent a pandemic of influenza, according to a US Government report released on Tuesday.

The report from the US Government Accountability Office confirms what most experts have been stressing for years — that the pharmaceutical industry cannot be relied on alone to protect the world from bird flu.

The GAO, the investigational arm of Congress, reached its own conclusion independently.

“The use of antivirals and vaccines to forestall the onset of a pandemic would likely be constrained by their uncertain effectiveness

and limited availability,” the GAO report reads.

Health experts almost universally agree that a global epidemic — a pandemic — of influenza is inevitable and even overdue. Flu is always circulating but, every few decades, a completely new strain emerges and makes millions sicker than usual.

One prime suspect is the H5N1 strain of avian influenza. It is entrenched in poultry across much of Asia, the Middle East and Africa, pops up regularly in Europe and has forced the slaughter of hundreds of millions of birds. It also occasionally infects people, killing 219 of the 351 people infected in 14 countries since 2003.

MNA/Reuters

Abu Dhabi says to invest \$15b in green energy

ABU DHABI, 23 Jan— Gulf Arab oil exporter Abu Dhabi plans to spend 15 billion US dollars in the first phase of an initiative to develop green energy and build the world’s largest hydrogen power plant, it said on Monday.

The investment would be part of the Masdar initiative, set up to develop sustainable and clean energy, Abu Dhabi’s Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed al-Nahayan told the World Future Energy Summit in the emirate. He gave no time frame.

Abu Dhabi, capital of the seven-member United Arab Emirates federation, will build the world’s largest hydrogen power plant with 500 megawatts of capacity, said Sultan al-Jaber, chief executive of Masdar, the Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company.

A Masdar official said British Petroleum and Rio Tinto would have a role in the power plant, but did not give details of their involvement.

MNA/Reuters



Workers clean the windows of a building in Bangkok on 23 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET

Belarus leader Lukashenko dismisses business rally

MINSK, 24 Jan— The President of Belarus on Tuesday dismissed complaints by entrepreneurs about new rules governing business and said protests were being stage-managed by the opposition.

A court in the ex-Soviet state jailed and fined 12 of about 2,000 activists who joined an unauthorised rally on Monday that was broken up by police.

The opposition movement Vyasna said the participants were handed 15 day sentences for public order offences and fined up to 700 US dollars.

Small entrepreneurs

say new 2008 regulations deny them the right to hire workers outside their immediate families or oblige them to re-register and be subject to higher taxes.

But President Alexander Lukashenko, accused in the West of crushing fundamental rights, said businessmen were being manipulated by Belarus’ liberal and nationalist opposition.

“Money and business do not like people going into the street. It is clearly those people who want destabilization,” Lukashenko, referring to the opposition, was quoted as saying by *BELTA* news agency. — MNA/Reuters

S Korea launches 30-mw solar power plant

SEOUL, 24 Jan—South Korea has launched the country’s largest and most advanced solar power plant that can generate 30 megawatts of electricity amid increasing worries over climate change and high oil prices, the *Korea Herald* reported on Wednesday.

According to the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Energy, it completed a plant in Daegu which has the capacity to generate 30 megawatts of electricity with solar cells on Tuesday.

The ministry said it believes the new solar power plant will help elevate the standards of the country’s solar energy industry, and signals the growing interest of local companies in producing key components for the market.

South Korea first stepped into the industry in 2003, and began domestic production of polysilicon in 2007. The ministry estimated that the new plant will generate 60 billion won (63 million US dollars) in sales this year, and have the power to supply energy to 12,000 homes. The investment in the plant is worth about 40 billion won (42 million US dollars).

MNA/Xinhua



A model presents a creation by French designer Dominique Sirop as part of his Haute-Couture Autumn-Winter 2008-2009 fashion collection in Paris on 23 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET

Heavy rains kill 17 canoeing on Zambia lake

LUSAKA, 23 Jan—Seventeen people drowned in a man-made lake in Zambia when their canoe capsized due to heavy rains, officials said on Monday, adding that flooding in the country was expected to get worse.

Ackimson Banda, junior minister for Zambia’s Central Province, said 13 of the victims were members of one family who were canoeing to a village to attend a funeral on Friday night.

“Seventeen people were confirmed dead after a canoe capsized on the man-made lake (Lusiwasi) where water has risen abnormally because of the heavy rains,” Banda told *Reuters*.

Zambia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi have been lashed by heavy rains for several weeks. Swollen rivers have burst their banks, killing dozens and forcing thousands of villagers to flee flooded homes.

Jacob Nkomoki the deputy director of Zambia’s Meteorological Department said more flooding was expected from heavier rains forecast in traditionally higher rain belts in the country’s northern region.

MNA/Reuters

Britain’s Defence Ministry details security breach

LONDON, 23 Jan—Britain’s Defence Minister on Monday said he “regretted” the loss of a ministry laptop containing personal data on 600,000 military staff or potential recruits, the latest in a series of security breaches.

The theft of the computer from a car, has raised fears lives could be at risk if the unencrypted information falls into the wrong hands, but Des Browne said there was no evidence so far that that was the case.

The minister told Parliament the loss of the computer, which con-

tained passport and national insurance numbers, was the result of a “procedural” error by a member of staff, but also admitted it was the third laptop to go missing since 2005. “I take this extremely seriously,” he said. “As with all parts of government, those who are dealing with the armed forces have a right to expect that their data will be properly protected. I very much regret that this has not happened.”

The breach is the latest in a slew of slip-ups by government departments. In November, details on 25 million people were

lost by the Revenue and Customs department, and a week later information on three million learner drivers went missing.

The loss of the defence department computer could make government’s plans for new legislation, including the introduction of detailed identity cards for all citizens, more difficult to pass.

MNA/Reuters



Germany’s gold medallists Aliona Savchenko and Robin Szolkowy (C) stand with silver medallists Maria Mukhortova and Maxim Trankov (L) of Russia and bronze winners Yuko Kawaguchi and Alexander Smirnov of Russia during the awards ceremony at the European Figure Skating Championships in Zagreb, on 23 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET

Fire hits US residence building, 18 families evacuated

WASHINGTON, 23 Jan—A residential building in New Jersey caught fire Monday leaving at least 18

families displaced, according to a TV report. It is not yet known whether there have been any casualties. The fire devoured the building in Newark, burning through its multi-level structure before spreading to neighbouring buildings, WABC TV reported.

Most of the 18 families managed to escape under their own initiative, but it was still too early to tell whether any casualties had resulted from the fire which started in the afternoon, it said. A total of 72 fire-fighters attended the blaze, but it was so hot that they were unable to get inside the building. Adding to their difficulties, their water equipment had frozen in the cold weather.— MNA/Xinhua

Saudi Arabia eases rules for women in hotels

RIYADH, 23 Jan— Saudi authorities, breaking with religious codes that require women to be accompanied by a male guardian, have decided to allow women to stay in hotels on their own, a newspaper reported on Monday.

A royal decree allowed the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to lay down new regulations simply requiring women to show personal identification including a photograph, which hotel managers must register with local police, al-Watan said.

Tribal custom and hardline religious strictures limit women’s movement in the conservative Islamic state, the only country in the world where women are forbidden from driving. Saudi women can face harassment from the religious police if they are not accompanied in public areas by a male relative who acts as her “guardian”. The rules are less strictly enforced for foreigners and in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia’s most liberal city.

The paper said the rules, set out in last month’s decree, were worked out in coordination with the Ministry of the Interior and the religious police organization, two bodies who rights activists say stand in the way of improved women’s rights in Saudi Arabia.

MNA/Reuters



Bill Gates receives a honorary doctorate in medicine at the Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm on 23 Jan, 2008. Gates and his wife on Wednesday were both conferred honorary doctorates in medicine for their work on global health issues through the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. —XINHUA

Results of 60th Tipitakadhara
Tipitaka Kovida Selection
Examination announced

YANGON, 24 Jan — The Tipitakadhara Selection Committee of the Religious Affairs Department today issued the results of the written and oral tests for the 60th Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida Selection Examination held from 23 December 2007 to 22 January 2008.

Result of Written Test
Dighanikaya Kovida

- 1. Seat No 152, Ashin Indobhasalankara, aged 36 years, 16 vasa, Maha Khaymikayama Shwegyin Monastery, Thanlyin Township, Yangon Division
- 2. Seat No 157, Ashin Paññissaralankara, aged 30 years, 10 vasa, Tipitaka Dhammapala Maha Wihara Monastery, Yinmabin Township, Sagaing Division
- 3. Seat No 158, Ashin Viçittalankara, aged 29 years, nine vasa, Tipitaka Monastery, Dagon Township, Yangon Division

Vinaya Kovida

- 1. Seat No 168, Ashin Khemaçara, aged 40 years, 20 vasa, Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery, PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Division
- 2. Seat No 179, Ashin Vasettha, aged 34 years, 13 vasa, Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery, Momeik Hill, Mingun, Sagaing, Sagaing Division
- 3. Seat No 184, Ashin Paññavamsalankara, aged 33 years, 12 vasa, Tipitaka Maha Ganthawin Nikaya Monastery, Dagon Myothit (East) Township, Yangon Division
- 4. Seat No 189, Ashin Paññobhasalankara, aged 24 years, four vasa, Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery, Momeik Hill, Mingun, Sagaing, Sagaing Division

Ubhato Vibhanga Kovida

- 1. Seat No 204, Ashin Çhandanuttara, aged 34 years, 14 vasa, Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery, Momeik Hill, Mingun, Sagaing, Sagaing Division
- 2. Seat No 207, Ashin Paññaçakka, aged 33 years, 13 vasa, Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery, Momeik Hill, Mingun, Sagaing, Sagaing Division
- 3. Seat No 214, Ashin Maghinda, aged 32 years, 12 vasa, Tipitaka Maha Gandayon Monastery, Mayangon Township, Yangon Division
- 4. Seat No 217, Ashin Janinda, aged 31 years, 11 vasa, Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery, Momeik Hill, Mingun, Sagaing, Sagaing Division
- 5. Seat No 229, Ashin Vajirapanibhivamsa, aged 28 years, eight vasa, Maha Withoddayon Monastery, Bahan Township, Yangon Division
- 6. Seat No 230, Ashin Çandasiri, aged 28 years, eight vasa, Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery, Momeik Hill, Mingun, Sagaing, Sagaing Division
- 7. Seat No 241, Ashin Theravamsa, aged 27 years, seven vasa, Sishin Building, Maha Withoddayon Taikthit, Mahaaungmye Township, Mandalay Division

Oral Test

Mula Arbhidhammika

- 1. Seat No 2, Ashin Jatila, aged 39 years, 19 vasa, Tipitaka Monastery, Dagon Township, Yangon Division
- 2. Seat No 3, Ashin Çandana, aged 37 years, 17 vasa, Shwepyitha Pariyatti Monastery, Shwepyitha Township, Yangon Division

Dighabhanaka

- 1. Seat No 6, Ashin Viççittasara, aged 33 years, 13 vasa, Tipitaka Maha Gandawin Nikaya Monastery, Dagon Myothyit (East) Township, Yangon Division
- 2. Seat No 7, Ashin Arçinna, aged 26 years, six vasa, Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery, Momeik Hill, Mingun, Sagaing, Sagaing Division

Vinayadhara

- 1. Seat No 9, Ashin Janeya, aged 39 years, 19 vasa, Mawgyun Pariyatti Monastery, Shwepaukkan Myothit, North Okkalapa Township, Yangon Division
- 2. Seat No 14, Ashin Indaka, aged 31 years, 10 vasa, Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery, Momeik Hill, Mingun, Sagaing, Sagaing Division
- 3. Seat No 16, Ashin Ñanamanju, aged 29 years, nine vasa, Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery, Momeik Hill, Mingun, Sagaing, Sagaing Division
- 4. Seat No 17, Ashin Setthañanalankara, aged 29 years, nine vasa, Tipitaka Maha Gandawin Nikaya Monastery, Dagon Myothit (East) Township, Yangon Division
- 5. Seat No 18, Ashin Dhammananda, aged 29 years, nine vasa, Dhamma Wihara Pariyatti Monastery, Kungyangon Township, Yangon Division
- 6. Seat No 19, Ashin Ñanavara, aged 28 years, nine vasa, Letpanpin Monastery, Kebar Village, Ayadaw Township, Sagaing Division
- 7. Seat No 20, Ashin Mangalaçara, aged 28 years, eight vasa, Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery, Anisakhan, PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Division
- 8. Seat No 22, Ashin Arçara, aged 27 years, seven vasa, Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery, Momeik Hill, Mingun, Sagaing, Sagaing Division
- 9. Seat No 23, Ashin Pajjalita, aged 27 years, seven vasa, Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery, Momeik Hill, Mingun, Sagaing, Sagaing Division
- 10. Seat No 24, Ashin Vepulla, aged 27 years, seven vasa, Maha Thubawdayon Monastery, Sagaing, Sagaing Division
- 11. Seat No 25, Ashin Çakkindalankara, aged 27 years, seven vasa, Tipitaka Maha Gandawin Nikaya Monastery, Dagon Myothit (East) Township, Yangon Division
- 12. Seat No 29, Ashin Kelasa, aged 24 years, five vasa, Pitakat Thonbon Nikaya Monastery, Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon Division
- 13. Seat No 31, Ashin Manijotalankara, aged 24 years, four vasa, Thittokyun Monastery, Thittokyun Village, Bilin Township, Mon State
- 14. Seat No 35, Ashin Tejaniya, aged 33 years, 13 vasa, Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery, Momeik Hill, Mingun, Sagaing, Sagaing Division
- 15. Seat No 36, Ashin Kosalla, aged 32 years, 12 vasa, Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery, Anisakhan, PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Division
- 16. Seat No 39, Ashin Nandiya, aged 29 years, nine vasa, Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery, Momeik Hill, Mingun, Sagaing, Sagaing Division
- 17. Seat No 40, Ashin Tejobhasa, aged 29 years, nine vasa, Tipitaka Maha Gandawin Nikaya Monastery, Dagon Myothit (East) Township, Yangon Division
- 18. Seat No 42, Ashin Pandavamsa, aged 29 years, nine vasa, Sunlungu Vipassana Monastery, Thingangyun Township, Yangon Division
- 19. Seat No 43, Ashin Suçittalankara, aged 28 years, eight vasa, Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery, Momeik Hill, Mingun, Sagaing, Sagaing Division
- 20. Seat No 47, Ashin Ankura, aged 27 years, seven vasa, Tipitaka Maha Gandawin Nikaya Monastery, Dagon Myothit (East) Township, Yangon Division (Visittha Vinayadhara)
- 21. Seat No 48, Ashin Paññajota, aged 26 years, six vasa, Shwepyitha Pariyatti Monastery, Shwepyitha Township, Yangon Division
- 22. Seat No 50, Ashin Jayasena, aged 26 years, six vasa, Zayyathukha Monastic Education School, Koehsaung Monastery, Myingyan, Mandalay Division
- 23. Seat No 51, Ashin Jotissaralankara, aged 26 years, six vasa, Pitakat Thonbon Nikaya Monastery, Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon Division

- 24. Seat No 52, Ashin Pandiçça, aged 24 years, five vasa, Kyaikkale Minkyaung Pariyatti Monastery, Mingaladon Township, Yangon Division
- 25. Seat No 57, Ashin Khemanandalankara, aged 24 years, four vasa, Pitzawtayon Monastery, Monywa, Sagaing Division

Ubhato Vibhangadhara

- 1. Seat No 61, Ashin Kumara, aged 31 years, 11 vasa, Tipitaka Maha Gandawin Nikaya Monastery, Dagon Myothit (East) Township, Yangon Division
- 2. Seat No 62, Ashin Çandima, aged 30 years, 10 vasa, Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery, Momeik Hill, Mingun, Sagaing, Sagaing Division
- 3. Seat No 63, Ashin Paññasiri, aged 29 years, nine vsa, Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery, Momeik Hill, Mingun, Sagaing, Sagaing Division
- 4. Seat No 64, Ashin Viçcitta, aged 29 years, nine vasa, Tipitaka Maha Gandawin Nikaya Monastery, Dagon Myothit (East) Township, Yangon Division
- 5. Seat No 69, Ashin Aggavamsa, aged 27 years, seven vasa, Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery, Momeik Hill, Mingun, Sagaing, Sagaing Division (Credit)
- 6. Seat No 70, Ashin Kumara, aged 26 years, six vasa, Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery, Momeik Hill, Mingun, Sagaing, Sagaing Division
- 7. Seat No 71, Ashin Dhammaçara, aged 26 years, six vasa, Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery, Momeik Hill, Mingun, Sagaing, Sagaing Division
- 8. Seat No 73, Ashin Gandama, aged 25 years, five vasa, Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery, Momeik Hill, Mingun, Sagaing, Sagaing Division
- 9. Seat No 74, Ashin Jotika, aged 25 years, five vasa, Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery, Momeik Hill, Mingun, Sagaing, Sagaing Division
- 10. Seat No 75, Ashin Çandavaralankara, aged 23 years, three vasa, Maha Khemikayama Monastery, Thanlyin Township, Yangon Division
- 11. Seat No 77, Ashin Kolita, aged 24 years, four vasa, Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery, Momeik Hill, Mingun, Sagaing, Sagaing Division
- 12. Seat No 79, Ashin Suçitta, aged 23 years, four vasa, Maha Thukhayama Monastery, Mayangon Township, Yangon Division
- 13. Seat No 80, Ashin Viçitta, aged 23 years, three vasa, Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery, Momeik Hill, Mingun, Sagaing, Sagaing Division
- 14. Seat No 81, Ashin Vijjodaya, aged 22 years, one vasa, Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery, Momeik Hill, Mingun, Sagaing, Sagaing Division
- 15. Seat No 83, Ashin Paññasaralankara, aged 19 years, Tipitaka Maha Gandayon Monastery, Mayangon Township, Yangon Division
- 16. Seat No 88, Ashin Kosalla, aged 28 years, eight vasa, Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery, Momeik Hill, Mingun, Sagaing, Sagaing Division
- 17. Seat No 89, Ashin Uppala, aged 28 years, eight vasa, Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery, Momeik Hill, Mingun, Sagaing, Sagaing Division
- 18. Seat No 90, Ashin Aggaçara, aged 26 years, seven vasa, Saddhamma Pitzawtayon Monastery, Monywa, Sagaing Division
- 19. Seat No 91, Ashin Janeyabuddhi, aged 26 years, seven vasa, Tipitaka Maha Gandawin Nikaya Monastery, Dagon Myothit (East) Township, Yangon Division
- 20. Seat No 92, Ashin Visuta, aged 27 years, seven vasa, Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery, Momeik Hill, Mingun, Sagaing, Sagaing Division
- 21. Seat No 94, Ashin Paññajota, aged 26 years, six vasa, Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery, Momeik Hill, Mingun, Sagaing, Sagaing Division
- 22. Seat No 95, Ashin Paññasami, aged 25 years, five vasa, Sasana Mandaing Monastery, Bago, Bago Division

(To be continued)

Blessed with impressive geographical...

(from page 1)

Next, Irrigation Department Director-General U Khin Zaw reported on arrangements for generating 4 megawatts of electricity when a dam has been built three miles far from the upstream of Namhtut Hydropower Station.

As regards measures for greening of Putao plain, director-general reported on potential for emergence of 6991 acres of arable lands upon completion of three diversion weirs between Nantpalat Creek and Malikha River, emergence of 500 acres of farmlands thanks to the two dams constructed between Kaunghmulon Pagoda Road and Nantpalat Creek, emergence of 500 irrigated acres thanks to a dam constructed between Putao-Machanbaw Road and Putao-Kaunghmulon Road, and emergence of 800 irrigated areas thanks to the two diversion weirs



Maj-Gen Khin Zaw of Ministry of Defence inspects tea plantation in Matupi Township. — MNA

Maj-Gen Khin Zaw inspects progress of Mindat, Matupi Townships

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan — Maj-Gen Khin Zaw of the Ministry of Defence together with Chairman of Chin State Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Hong Ngai and officials on 17 January met with servicemen and their families at the hall of Mindat Station and inspected Taungzalap green tea factory.

Next, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and party paid respects to Sayadaw Agga Maha Suddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Panna Siri of Taungpulu Monastery and offered provisions.

They visited Mindat Youth Training

School No 1, Win Thuzar Shop and Mindat District People's Hospital and Maj-Gen Khin Zaw presented cash assistance for Youth Training School No 1, Women's Vocational Training School and the patients.

They paid respects to Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Chairman Sayadaw Suddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Kheminda of Twedain monastery in the Township and donated offertories to the Sayadaw.

They looked into thriving tea plantations and condition of road section along Mindat-Matupi road

in a motorcade.

Next, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw inspected Win Thuzar Shop, Township People's Hospital, Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications and progress of Mindat Township.

Maj-Gen Khin Zaw delivered an address in meeting with departmental officials, members of social organizations and local people at the office of Matupi Township PDC.

At the hall of Matupi station, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw met with servicemen and their families and fulfilled the requirements.

MNA



Maj-Gen Khin Zaw of Ministry of Defence inspects vocational training school in Matupi Township. — MNA

Secretary-General meets Pyawbwe USDA members

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Jan — Secretary-General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association U Htay Oo, together with executive and members of Pyawbwe Township USDA, visited Zigon Monastery in Zigon Village, Pyawbye Township, Mandalay Division, and paid obeisance to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sujana and Bhaddanta Nanissara on 19

January.

The Secretary-General had a meeting with service personnel, ward and village organizers, local people and farmers, and called for rural development and boosting agricultural production.

He heard reports by officials concerned and local people on cultivation of crops, irrigation water supply and education, health and transport sectors of Thabyebin and Phettaw villages. This year, Nyaungbin and Magyeebin diversion weirs have been maintained, and plans are under way for multiple cropping in the regions.

MNA

Wellwishers invited to offer meals to monks

YANGON, 24 Jan — Members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, State Vinaya Sayadaws, dictionary compiler Sayadaws and tutor Sayadaws of training courses are discharging duties for purification and propagation of the Sasana, staying at Siri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill, here.

Everybody may donate a day meal worth K 2,200 for each member of the Sangha.

Wellwishers may contact the Director (Examination) of the Religious Affairs Department, Tel 660269 and the meal section for monks, Tel: 660998. — MNA

Industry-2 Minister receives Malaysian Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan — Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin met Malaysian Ambassador to Myanmar Dato Mazlan Bin Muhammad at the former's office here yesterday morning. They discussed matters relating to industrial and economic cooperation of the two countries.

Also present on the call were Deputy Minister Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw and officials. — MNA

Energy Minister receives Malaysian Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi met with Ambassador of Malaysia Dato Mazlan Bin Muhammad at his office yesterday

evening.

They frankly discussed the energy sector.

MNA

Human resources development main requirement for nation...

(from page 16)

to construction roads and bridges and establishment of hydel power stations in the district. Private businessmen have put the land on both sides of the road linking Myitkyina and Tanai under sugarcane and tapioca.

Kachin State lagged behind in development as community peace did not prevail in the region in the past. The Government made concerted efforts for the stability of the State and prevalence of community peace and tranquillity.

Thanks to the efforts of the government, all national races enjoy fruits of development in transportation, education, health, agriculture and communications sectors today, and efforts of the government lead to strengthening the unity of all national races.

Besides border areas, rural areas are now on the road to development thanks to the rural areas development plans. The State has gained those achievements as the community peace and law and order have prevailed in all regions.

The Government has already built a series of

roads, bridges and dams and thus strenuous efforts are to be made for the improvement of socio-economic life taking advantage of these basic sound foundations. In addition, the improvement of the human resources is the main requirement for a



Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects extension of the runway of Myitkyina Airport. — MNA



The Eternal Law

Hatred is never appeased by hatred; it is appeased by non-hatred. This is the eternal law.

Dhammapada 5

modern developed nation. With the aims of nurturing human resources, the Government designated development regions and established universities in all states and divisions to enable the people there to easily pursue studies of basic education and higher education and science and technologies. In the past, the students went to big cities such as Yangon and Mandalay

and learned their different branches of studies but can now do these only in their regions.

In the basic education sector, the Government extended primary, middle and high schools in all parts of the country and promoted primary schools to post-primary ones targeting local students capable of easily pursuing their studies only in their regions. Furthermore, the

Government organized social organizations and wellwishers to participate in the drive for the programme of sending children of school-going age. If the students accomplish their basic education, they can continue their studies of higher education only at the universities in the development regions designated by the Government. The actual goodwill of the State towards the

Thanks to the efforts of the government, all national races enjoy fruits of development of transportation, education, health, agriculture and communications sectors today, and efforts of the government lead to strengthening the unity of all national races.



Prime Minister General Thein Sein greets departmental officials and townselders in Nagmon, Putao District. — MNA

students near and far is to have easy access to learning advanced studies.

The teachers, on their part, are to train and guide the students to become the ones who have strong morale and adore disciplines and laws with patriotic spirit and Union spirit since their younger days so that they would ensure to fully enjoy the State's goodwill.

Moreover, the Government built specialist hospitals, hospitals and dispensaries in all regions and appointed doctors, nurses and health staff and sent them there in order to carry out extensive health care serv-

ices of the public. The health staff, on their part, are to fulfill the desire of the people to become fit and healthy and enjoy longevity by conducting educative talks on preventive measures against seasonal common infectious diseases. The health staff are to step up health care services expressing sympathy for the people apart from medical treatment skills.

Our country is home to over 100 national races and they have been living together with Union Spirit since time immemorial. The service personnel discharging (See page 10)

Human resources development main requirement for nation...

(from page 9)

duties in all parts of the country are to organize the local people to keep alive of patriotic spirits and Union Spirit. In addition, with the correct leadership, they are to make all-out efforts to ensure improvement of the social, economic, education and health sectors in their respective regions.

Next, the Prime Minister presented eight TV sets to chairman of Putao Township PDC U Kyaw Swe Win, books and stationery to township education officer U Tin Hla, medicines to township health officer Dr Kyi Lwin, sports gear to township sports officer U Aung Aung Swe and jackets and generators to township Secretary U Kwan Yein Dee.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister handed cash donations for township USDA, WAO, MCWA, WVO, Red Cross Society and Auxiliary Fire Brigade and cordially greeted those present.

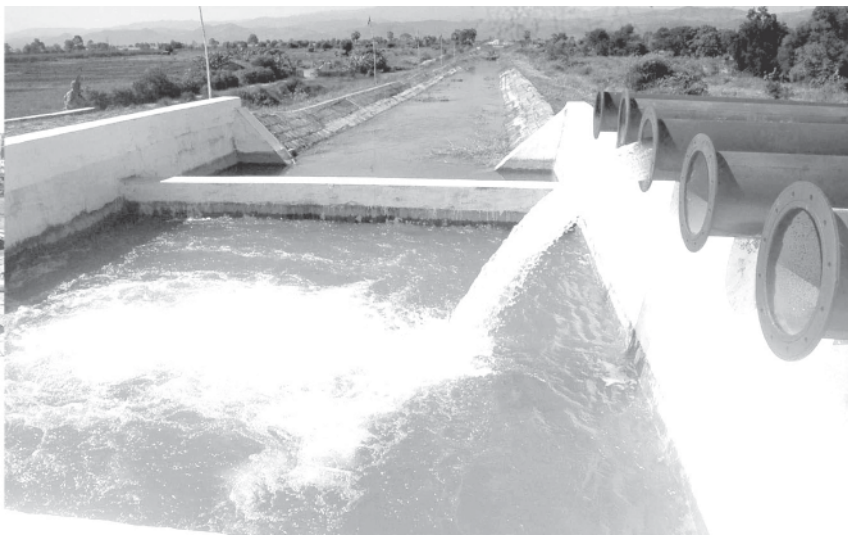
Later, the Prime Minister and party helicoptered to Nagmon of Putao District and they were welcomed by departmental officials and members of social organizations. At the hall of Nagmon, the Prime Minister met with departmental officials and members of social organizations and local people and made a speech on the occasion.

Next, the Prime Minister asked officials about the matters of organizational setup of the township, population, administration, law enforcement, education, health, transportation, communications, agriculture and livestock breeding. Officials concerned reported on the needs of the regions to the Prime Minister.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint, the



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects Dahseik River Water Pumping Project in Lankho Township.— MNA



commander and the ministers gave supplementary reports.

In his speech, the Prime Minister said that the aim of the inspection tour was to meet the national races, local people, townsenders and service personnel living in the flung areas and to fulfill the requirements of the areas. The government has implemented plans for the national races to enjoy the harmonious development across the nation.

The Prime Minister urged the service personnel to try to realize the goals and goodwill of the State while striving to improve the living standards of the national people.

The Prime Minister presented TV sets to the chairman of the township PDC, clothes and cash assistance to the secretary of township USDA, medicines and cash assistance to an official of township People's Hospital, cash and kinds to the secretary of township MCWA, bags of salts and cash assistance to the secretary of township WAO, aids to the heads of township Fire Department and Red Cross Society and gifts for Mannan and Khaunglanphu to the head of district Administration Department.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint presented exercise and text books to the township education officer, clothes and blankets to the township police officer and foodstuff to the head of township IPRD.

Next, the Prime Min-

ister cordially greeted those present.

At Nagmon Township People's Hospital, the Prime Minister met with the officials and inspected the hospital.

The Prime Minister and party left Nagmon by air for Putao.

At Putao District People's Hospital, the Prime Minister looked into patients wards, operation theatre, medical store and X-ray room and comforted the patients.

Next, the Prime Minister left Putao by air for Myitkyina.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence who accompanied the Prime Minister met with servicemen and their families of the local battalions at Bandoolla hall of Putao Station on 22 January and presented gifts to them.

On 22 January, USDA Secretariat Member Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and CEC members Ministers Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Maj-Gen Thein Swe and Brig-Gen Thein Aung also met with secretaries, executives and members of district and township level USDAs at the office of Putao District USDA and gave necessary instructions.

Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing met with hoteliers and entrepreneurs at Two Dragons Hotel in Myitkyina and gave instructions on promotion of hotels and tourism sector on the same day.

MNA

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win on inspection tour of Lankho Township

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Shan State PDC Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Thaung Aye and officials, met servicemen and family members at the hall of the local station in Mongpan Township on 21 January.

At Shwe Thanlwin Hall of the local station in Mongpan Township, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party instructed servicemen and family members to carry out regional development

tasks and presented gifts to them.

At Dahseik River Water Pumping Project in Lankho Township, officials reported to Lt-Gen Kyaw Win on progress of the project and cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy and edible oil crops with the use of water from the project site.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win handed over 15 baskets of groundnut to farmer U Than Oo and the commander, eight baskets of sunflower to farmer U Tilawka.

Next, they inspected tasks of the river water pumping project.

At the hall of Lankho Township, they met departmental officials, local people and social organization members and heard reports on progress of the region.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win presented TV set to the Chairman of Township PDC, the commander uniforms to Township Fire and Red Cross Brigades, Secretary of Shan State USDA U Nyan Lin, books to Lankho Township USDA.

Later, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win urged local people to participate in undertaking tasks of the regional development.

MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun meets Malaysian Ambassador Dato Mazlan Bin Muhammad.—MNA

F&R Minister receives Malaysian Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun met with Ambassador of Malaysia

Dato Mazlan Bin Muhammad at his office yesterday afternoon.

They cordially discussed the cooperation

sector. Also present at the call were Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar and Officials.

MNA



Laboratory staff check yoghurt consistency, rich in probiotic bacteria, at the Danone research and development centre in Shanghai. A Dutch university warned on Wednesday against using probiotic bacteria to treat patients with acute pancreatitis, after an experiment using these microbes showed high mortality rates.—INTERNET



Traditional dancers from Jammu and Kashmir state pose during a press preview of tableaux participating in the Republic Day parade in New Delhi.
INTERNET

Yamaha rider Valentino Rossi is thrown from his bike as he crashes during a pre-season testing session at the Sepang circuit in Malaysia.
INTERNET



Images of the Day

Dolphins jump over tourists at the Xcaret eco-park near Cancun, Mexico.
INTERNET

List of main Oscar nominations

LOS ANGELES, 24 Jan — The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced the nominations on Tuesday for the 80th annual Academy Awards.

Following is a list of the main Oscar contenders. The awards will be handed out in Hollywood on February 24.

Best Picture

“Atonement”
“Michael Clayton”
“No Country for Old Men”
“There Will Be Blood”
“Juno”

Best Actress

Cate Blanchett, “Elizabeth: The Golden Age”, Julie Christie, “Away From Her”, Marion Cotillard, “La Vie en Rose”, Laura Linney, “The Savages”, Ellen Page, “Juno”

Best Actor

George Clooney, “Michael Clayton”, Daniel Day-Lewis, “There Will Be Blood”, Johnny Depp, “Sweeney Todd”, Tommy Lee Jones, “In the Valley of Elah”, Viggo Mortensen, “Eastern Promises”

Best Supporting Actress

Cate Blanchett, “I’m Not There”, Ruby Dee, “American Gangster”, Saoirse Ronan, “Atonement”, Amy Ryan, “Gone Baby Gone”, Tilda Swinton,

“Michael Clayton”

Best Supporting Actor

Casey Affleck, “The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford”, Javier Bardem, “No Country for Old Men”, Philip Seymour Hoffman, “Charlie Wilson’s War”, Hal Holbrook, “Into The Wild”, Tom Wilkinson, “Michael Clayton”

Best Director

Julian Schnabel, “The Diving Bell and the Butterfly”, Jason Reitman, “Juno”, Tony Gilroy, “Michael Clayton”, Joel and Ethan Coen, “No Country for Old Men”, Paul Thomas Anderson, “There Will Be Blood”

MNA/Reuters

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Tin Ohnmar Tun
B.A (LAW) LL.B, LL.M (UK)
P.O Box 109,
Ph: 723043
(For. Domern Somgiat & Boonma Attorneys at Law, Thailand).
Dated: 25 January 2008

TRADEMARK CAUTION
VEKA AG., Dieselstrasse 8, D-48324 Sendenhorst, Germany is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following Trademark:-

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(Reg.No.IV/2924/1996)
In respect of : "Plastic products, namely profiles and seals, particularly profiles made of plastic material, semifabricated parts like plates and foils."
Profiles plastic and foils of plastic material for the construction of windows doors, roller shutters, roller blinds, roofs coverings and partitions all goods for building purpose."
Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said Trademarks shall be dealt with according to law.
U Myint Lwin, Advocate, LL.B, DBL
Dip in Marine Affairs(UK)
MYINT.Advocate@mptmailnetmm
Ph: 371 990 25.January.2008

(FOR LOCAL SERVICES ONLY)
Int. Org. requires **Assistant Field Officer (NOA) stationed in Mawlamyine.** Additional Information on vacancy at **any UN or INGO Bulletin Board** in Yangon, Mawlamyine, Myeik and Thandaung. Closing date: 04 February 2008.

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U Than Maung, Advocate
For **Royal Canin S.A.**,
C/o **Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.**
Unit 701/702 Traders Hotel, Pabedan Township,
Yangon, Union of Myanmar
Dated **25 January 2008** **utm.kcy@mptmail.com.mm**

ENGAGEMENT
U Tun Tun (Deputy Director, Irrigation Department, Ayeyawady Division) & Daw Mu Mu Myint, No.34-B Kanthonesint officer's compound, Pathein, announces the engagement of their eldest daughter
Zin Ohnmar Tun
B.Sc (Phy:), M.E (Civil)
To
Kyi Thar Soe
B.E (Electrical Power)
AAS (Computerized Accounting) 2nd Year MBA,
Alaska Pacific University
son of
U Soe Thein & Daw Tin Tin Win
(Retd: S.A.T, B.E.H.S-6 Pathein)
No.16, Kaladan Street, Pathein.
On 20th January 2008, in the presence of both parents and elders.
Both Parents & Zin Ohnmar Tun- Kyi Thar Soe

British Man held over “frenzied” attack on girl

LONDON, 24 Jan—Police said on Wednesday they had arrested a 21-year-old man in connection with the frenzied knife attack on a teenage girl in a Lancashire park.
Jessica Knight, 14, is critical in hospital after suffering multiple stab wounds in the incident which took place at around 5 p.m. on

Monday in Astley Park, Chorley, south of Preston.
“This is a particularly nasty assault on a defenceless young girl,” said Detective Superintendent Steve Brunskill.
“At this early stage of the investigation we are unsure of the motive and would urge people in the area to take precautions for their own

safety until this dangerous offender, or offenders, are caught.”
Police said they were now questioning a local 21-year-old man on suspicion of attempted murder. Knight was thought to have gone to the park, a popular hangout for young people, after visiting shops in Astley village.
MNA/Reuters

Indonesian man infected by bird flu, putting cases to 120

JAKARTA, 24 Jan—A 30-year-old Indonesian man from the outskirts of Jakarta was infected by avian influenza, bringing the total cases to 120 with 97 fatal in the hardest-hit country, Indonesian Health Ministry said Tuesday.

The man from Tangerang Town had been treated in a bird flu designed hospital of Persahabatan in east Jakarta since 18 January, an official of anti-bird flu centre of the ministry Joko Suyono said.

“Two of his laboratories tests show positive today,” Suyono told *Xinhua*. The man did not have historical contact with fowl like many other victims of the disease, said the official.
MNA/Xinhua

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT MYANMA AIRWAYS INVITATION OF QUOTATION

The required Europe/ Western made Ground Equipment are as follows;
(a) Trailor Type Ground Power Unit (G.P.U) 115/200 VAC, 400 HZ, 100KVA, DC 28V Qty.1
(b) Frequency Converter 115/200 VAC, 400HZ Qty.1
(c) Solid State Rectifier Unit 28.5 VDC Continous Output Current 400 Amps Qty.1
(d) EDDY CURRENT TESTER (High Frequency HF and Low Frequency LF) complete Accessories Probes Set Qty.1
The required informations for Ground Equipments are as follows:-
(a) CIF Yangon Price
(b) FOB Port
(c) Country of Origin
(d) Terms of Payment
(e) Delivery
(f) Validity-should be three months
(g) Warranty-one year and after sale services
(h) Detailed Specifications
Quotation Closing date/time 1.2.2008 (Friday) 16:00 hours. Quotation forms and documents are available at the Myanma Airways, starting from 25.1.2008 during office hours.
For further details, Please contact telephone number 374595,662689.

Myanma Airways

DPRK chief demands to develop software tech faster

PYONGYANG, 23 Jan—Kim Jong-il, top leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) has called for efforts to speed up the development of computer software technology, the official leading newspaper *Rodong Sinmun* reported on Tuesday.
“It is of weighty importance to develop the programming technology as required by the age of science and technology and the age of computer,” Kim said when visiting the 18th national programme contest and exhibition of the DPRK.
The DPRK should speed up the development of software technology under a long-term plan and more thoroughly establish the system for training software technologists and reinforcing the material means, Kim said. The educational institutions should offer effective computer education to students from their early years, he added.
The newspaper reported that Kim looked round exhibits for a long while to acquaint himself in detail with the performance of programmes and their development. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Bolivia seizes 50 tons of drugs

LIMA, 24 Jan—Over 50 tons of drugs have been seized since the beginning of 2008 in Bolivia, anti-narcotics police said Tuesday.
The drugs, including 800 kilos of cocaine and 51 tons of marijuana, were confiscated in over 500 anti-drug operations, police said in a statement.
Officers also demolished two drug processing plants and captured a large amount of coca leaves, from which cocaine is extracted, and other chemicals used in drug production.
Most hauls were made in border areas linking Bolivia with Chile, Peru and Brazil.
Bolivia sits in a transit route, on which drugs, destined for the US and European markets, are smuggled from Peru to Brazil and Chile. In 2007, Bolivian police seized over 430 tons of drugs and arrested 4,178 suspected drug dealers. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Egypt detains 30 Brotherhood men over Gaza protests

CAIRO, 24 Jan — Egyptian security men detained at least 30 members of the Muslim Brotherhood in dawn raids on Wednesday, accusing them of illegally organizing protests against the Israeli blockade of Gaza, security sources said.

The arrests were the latest escalation in a crackdown on Egypt's most powerful opposition group and followed the detention of 37 Brotherhood members over the past two days in the northern port city of Alexandria.

Security men rounded up the men in raids on their homes in northern Egypt. Those held include the secretary general of the Cairo doctors' syndicate, Saad Zaghloul, security sources said.

A Brotherhood spokesman confirmed that dozens of members had been arrested, and said the arrests took place in Giza, north of Cairo, and in Gharbia and Kafr al-Sheikh in the Nile Delta. All are areas where the Brotherhood has a strong popular base.

MNA/Reuters

British voting system open to fraud

PARIS, 24 Jan — Britain's voting system is open to fraud and makes it "childishly simple" to register bogus voters, Europe's main human rights body said on Tuesday.

Britain introduced new laws in 2006 to combat postal vote fraud after a probe found local members of then-prime minister Tony Blair's Labour Party had conducted massive vote-rigging in a local election in Birmingham, Britain's second biggest city. —MNA/Reuters

Study says sociable people get fat, worriers thin

TOKYO, 23 Jan — Outgoing people tend to be overweight, while anxious types are more likely to be thin, according to Japanese researchers who examined the links between personality and body mass.

More than 30,000 people in northeastern Japan aged between 40 and 64 were quizzed about their height and weight, and given a personality test, according to a study published in the *Journal of Psychosomatic Research* this month.

The results showed that

outgoing people were far more likely than other people to have a body mass index (BMI) of more than 25, a widely used definition of overweight, said Masako Kakizaki of Tohoku University, who led the analysis.

After controlling for other factors, such as smoking, men in the most extrovert category were 1.73 times more likely to be obese than their most introvert counterparts.

Extrovert women were 1.53 times as likely to be obese. People ranked as having the most anxious personalities were twice as likely as the least anxious to be underweight, or have a BMI of less than 18.5, the study found.

"These results may provide clues to devising more effective measures for preventing overweight, obesity or underweight," the researchers said in their paper. —MNA/Reuters

Blasts and bullets kill 16 in Iraq



US soldiers stop a car at a checkpoint in Baghdad

MOSUL, 24 Jan — Blasts and bullets killed at least 16 people in Iraq on Wednesday, among them seven who died when munitions blew up and three Iraqi soldiers shot dead in a Baghdad street, officials said.

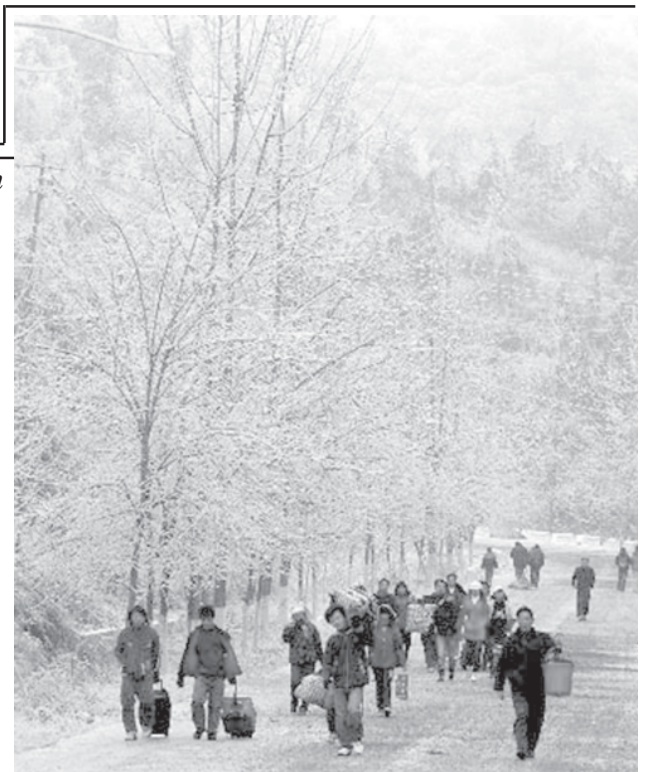
Almost 90 people were wounded in the violence, which also included a car bomb in a usually peaceful town near the oil city of Kirkuk, security officials said. Police Brigadier General Abdul al-Juburi said a powerful blast ripped

through an empty three-storey apartment block in Mosul, Iraq's main northern city, bringing the building down and shattering adjoining houses. "We have at least seven people killed and 70 wounded," Juburi said, adding that the blast was caused when munitions blew up. "The Iraqi Army received reports that a cache of weapons and munitions had been discovered in an empty building in west Mosul. The Army arrived near the area and was waiting for the disposal experts to arrive when the explosion occurred," Juburi told AFP. —Internet

Migrant workers walk on their way home from Kaili, a city in southwest China's Guizhou Province, on 23 Jan, 2008. The 40-day Spring Festival travel peak across the country started on 23 Jan.

Passengers in Guizhou walk home for the Spring Festival celebration because roads were blocked owing to the heavy snow.

XINHUA



Norway says embassy in Kabul threatened

OSLO, 24 Jan — Norway's Embassy and other buildings in the Afghan capital Kabul have been threatened with attack, Norwegian officials said on Tuesday. Word of the threat came just over a week after a four-man suicide squad breached security at Kabul's luxury Serena Hotel, killing eight people, including a Norwegian journalist.

MNA/Reuters

Vietnam to have 7th mobile operator this month

HANOI, 23 Jan — Vietnam's Ministry of Information and Communications plans to license the country's seventh mobile phone service provider named G-Tel, an enterprise under the Vietnamese Ministry of Public Security, this month, local newspaper *Youth* reported on Tuesday.

G-Tel will join hands with VimpelCom, a Russian mobile phone service provider, in establishing its mobile phone network in Vietnam.

Two years ago, Vietnam ceased granting new licences for mobile phone service providers, so the six licensed operators could keep their businesses running effectively. Now, three Vietnamese GSM operators Viettel, MobiFone and VinaPhone, and CDMA operator EVN Telecom are vying for Vietnam's first licence to offer mobile services using third-generation (3G) technology. Vietnam signed up 18.5 million mobile and fixed phone subscribers in 2007, nearly equating to the combined number of subscribers registered from 2004 to 2006, the ministry's Telecommunications Department told *Xinhua* recently. —MNA/Reuters

All 19 on board Polish aircraft die in crash

WARSAW, 24 Jan — All 19 people on board a Polish military transport aircraft died when it crashed late Wednesday near the Miroslawiec airport in northwest Poland, an airport spokesman said Thursday.

"Nobody survived the accident," Bogdan Ziolkowski told reporters.

The Spanish-built CASA C-295M transporter was approaching the West Pomeranian town of Miroslawiec when it went down in woods close to a Polish Air Force base runway, before setting on fire, Polish news agency PAP reported, quoting local fire services.

Prime Minister Donald Tusk and Defence Minister Bogdan Klich

visited the crash site during the night. President Lech Kaczynski, on a visit to Croatia, announced that he would return to Poland Thursday.

According to the Polish military, there were 15 passengers and four crew on board. Poland's TVN24 all-news television channel said the

plane was carrying officials taking part in an aviation safety conference.

The C-295M is a medium-range, twin-turboprop aircraft developed by the Madrid-based manufacturer, Construcciones Aeronauticas SA (CASA).

Internet



File photo of CASA C-295M military transport plane, carrying 18 officers and crew from a flight-safety conference crashed on 23 Jan, 2008 while trying to land in northwestern Poland, killing at least seven people, military and emergency officials said. —XINHUA

SPORTS

Rangers crush East Stirling 6-0 in Scottish Cup

GLASGOW, 24 Jan — Kris Boyd's hat-trick helped Rangers romp to a 6-0 win over Fourth Division East Stirling in Wednesday's Scottish FA Cup fourth round clash. The Scottish Premier League leaders, who will next visit Hibernian in the fifth round on February 3, effectively had the tie wrapped up with three goals inside five first half minutes.

Striker Lee McCulloch began the rout after 24 minutes when he was found on the right by Charlie Adam, cut inside a defender and slotted past goalkeeper Michael Brown from eight metres. Rangers defender Alan Hutton then ended a surging run by taking a back-heeled return pass from Alan Gow before striking a shot across Brown into the net after 27 minutes.

Boyd grabbed his first goal two minutes later with a clipped six-metre shot from Gow's cut-back and made it 4-0 just before halftime with a low shot that deflected off a defender. McCulloch blasted home a superb fifth goal five minutes into the second period from 25 metres and Boyd completed his hat-trick after 61 minutes from the penalty spot. "I'm quite glad it's over because it could have got out of hand," East Stirling manager Gordon Wyld told the BBC. — MNA/Reuters



Atalanta's Fernando Tisone (C) scores the winning goal past AC Milan's Giuseppe Favalli (R) and Daniele Bonera during their Italian Serie A soccer match in Bergamo on 23 Jan, 2008. Atalanta came from behind to beat AC Milan 2-1 in Bergamo on Wednesday and move up to sixth place in Serie A.—INTERNET

Atalanta stun AC Milan to go sixth

ROME, 24 Jan — Atalanta came from behind to beat AC Milan 2-1 in Bergamo on Wednesday and move up to sixth place in Serie A.

The European champions struck first when Atalanta's Cristiano Doni deflected a Gennaro Gattuso volley into his own net in the 16th minute.

Brazilian striker Pato fluffed a great chance

when alone in front of Atalanta keeper Ferdinando Coppola before Antonio Langella threw off two defenders with some smart control and drove in the equalizer three minutes before the break.

Fernando Tisone slotted in the winner in the 68th after Simone Inzaghi had drawn Milan keeper Zeljko Kalac off his line and served the Argentine midfielder.

Milan substitute Ronaldo blasted into Coppola from a good position, Tisone hit the crossbar with a shot from the edge of the area and Coppola denied Clarence Seedorf in stoppage time.

The defeat is a blow to Milan's bid to recover from a poor start and reach the top four to qualify for the Champions League.

MNA/Reuters

Houston Rockets' Tracy McGrady holds the ball away from Seattle SuperSonics' Kevin Durant during the fourth quarter of an basketball game in Seattle, on 23 Jan, 2008. The Rockets won 109-107. McGrady scored 28 points.—INTERNET



Getafe, Valencia hold edge in Cup ties

MADRID, 24 Jan — Last season's King's Cup runners-up Getafe and six times winners Valencia have the upper hand in their quarterfinals after 1-0 home wins in their first-leg matches on Wednesday. Getafe claimed a deserved victory over 2003 winners Real Mallorca while Ronald Koeman's Valencia put their troubles on hold by beating Atletico Madrid in a bad-tempered affair.

Atletico suffered an early blow at the Mestalla when they were reduced to 10 men after 25 minutes when midfielder Thiago Motta was sent off for picking up two quick-fire bookings. The visitors were clearly unnerved by the setback and Valencia were quick to take advantage, midfielder David Silva cracking home 12 minutes before halftime after a poor headed clearance from Atletico centre-back Pablo Ibanez. — MNA/Reuters



Valencia's Vicente Rodriguez (front) controls the ball past Atletico Madrid's Thiago Motta during their King's Cup soccer match at the Mestalla Stadium in Valencia, on 23 Jan, 2008.

INTERNET

Chelsea to face Spurs in League Cup final

LONDON, 24 Jan — Holders Chelsea will meet London rivals Tottenham Hotspur in next month's League Cup final at Wembley Stadium after beating Everton 1-0 in the second leg of their semifinal at Goodison Park on Wednesday.

Chelsea, holding a 2-1 first-leg lead, wrapped up an evenly balanced tie after 69 minutes when Joe Cole scored with a brilliant strike after a long raking pass from Florent

Malouda.

Forward Cole controlled the ball superbly with his first touch before firing past goalkeeper Tim Howard from 12 metres.

Earlier Nicolas Anelka hit the Everton crossbar while Joleon Lescott went close for the home side after only 10 minutes but saw a fine header scrambled away by Chelsea keeper Petr Cech.

Cech had double reason to celebrate at the end after becoming a father

for the first time earlier in the day. He also had an outstanding game and kept Everton out with a series of fine saves from, among others, Phil Neville and Phil Jagielka as Everton, battling to reach the final for the first time since 1984, pressurized the visitors defence.

But with Ricardo Carvalho also playing superbly at the back, Chelsea held firm and gradually took control of the game. — MNA/Reuters

Late double gives Juve Cup draw with 10-man Inter Milan

ROME, 24 Jan — Late goals from Alessandro Del Piero and Jean Alain Boumsong earned Juventus a 2-2 draw at 10-

man Inter Milan on Wednesday in the first leg of their Italian Cup quarterfinal. Argentine striker Julio

Cruz headed the Serie A leaders in front nine minutes after the break and turned in a cross from Brazilian winger Cesar in the 74th to double the lead.

Del Piero pulled one back for Juve in the 79th and French defender Boumsong, who is expected to leave Turin in the transfer window, levelled the score with a header five minutes from time. Cruz almost snatched a win for Inter when he hit the post in the closing stages. — MNA/Reuters



MotoGP rider Valentino Rossi of Italy takes a corner on his Honda during a pre-season practice session in Sepang on 24 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET

S Africa snatch late draw against Angola

TAMALE, 24 Jan — Substitute Elrio van Heerden scored from long range with two minutes left to give South Africa a 1-1 draw against Angola in the African Nations Cup on Wednesday.

Manucho headed Angola in front in the first half of the Group D game at the Tamale Sports Stadium which saw 2010 World Cup hosts South Africa stage an impressive late rally. Fielding an experimental team in their bid to give younger players more experience for 2010, South Africa had the ball in the net shortly before their equaliser but it was disallowed for offside.

Angola goalkeeper Lama denied them an injury-time winner when he parried a thundering drive from substitute Theminkosi Fanteni.

Earlier, Tunisia and Senegal drew 2-2 in the group's opening game.

MNA/Reuters



Slovakia's Daniela Hantuchova returns to Serbia's Ana Ivanovic in their Women's singles semi-final match at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne, Australia, on 24 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET

U Aung Shwe Oo
Foreign Correspondent (NTV)
BA, BL, BCS
Aged (73)

Eldest son of (U Aung Thar Ni+Daw Ma Saw Tha) at Room No 4, Building No 282, Yankin Township, Yangon, beloved husband of Daw Ni Ni, father of U Aung Ni Oo+Daw Khin Mya Htwe Naing, Daw Mu Mu Aung (Lecturer, Chemistry Department, Defence Services Medical Academy), U Aung Shwe Theim+Daw Sandar, Daw Hsint Hsint Aung (Foreign Correspondent), grandfather of Maung Zeya Pamaukha (G-7 (L) TTC), Mg Zeya Thuriya (G.2 (A) TTC), Mg Zeya Yarhu (Mawlamyine) and Ma Ingyin Phyo (Mawlamyine), passed away at SSC Hospital at 5:10 am on Thursday 24-1-2008 and the remain was cremated in the evening of the day. Friends and relatives are invited to receive the sermon of the monk at the above residence from 7 am to 11 am on 30-1-2007.

Bereaved Family

U Aung Shwe Oo
Foreign Correspondent (NTV)
BA, BL, BCS
Aged (73)

Eldest son of (U Aung Thar Ni+Daw Ma Saw Tha) of Sittway, brother of (U Aung Thar Kyaw), U Aung Kyaw Hla (Advocate General), (U Aung Shwe Tun), U Aung Kyaw Soe, U Tha Mya Kyaw (Retd-Assistant Factory Manager)+Daw Aung Mya Sein, Daw Shwe Nu Sein (Principal of BEMS, Sittway), Daw Mya Than Shwe (Assistan Lecturer, Department of English, Sittway University), brother-in-law of (U Tin Hla)+Daw Nyo Nyo, U Saw Oo+Daw Aye Lay, U Thauung Tun+(Daw Mya Mya), passed away at 5:10 am on Thursday 24-1-2008 at SSC Hospital and all the relatives are informed that the remain has been cremated in the evening of the day.

Bereaved Family

Beijing proposes smoking ban for hotels

BEIJING, 24 Jan — Beijing is to ban smoking in 70 per cent of the city's hotel rooms as it strives to clean up its air before this August's Olympic Games.

A draft law on the official website of Beijing Legislative Affairs Office (www.bjfbz.gov.cn) bans smoking inside all hotels except for in "well-ventilated and clearly indicated smoking rooms".

China has an estimated 350 million smokers and the smell of tobacco is difficult to escape in the country's capital with existing bans frequently flouted.

The new Beijing regulation, which is open to public consultation but will be enacted on 31 May, will later be expanded to

cover fitness centres, cultural heritage sites and offices.

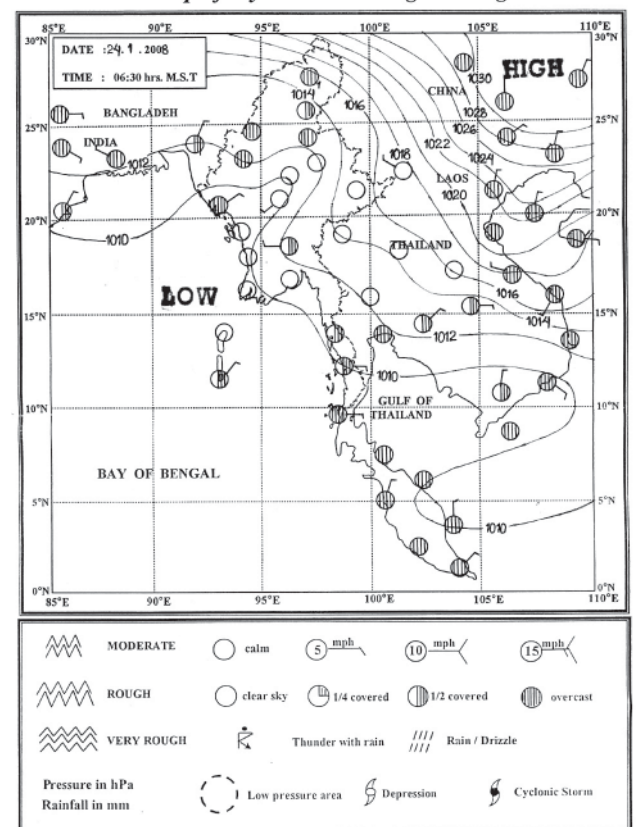
Fines for violations will be only 50 yuan (6.91 US dollars), however, compared to the 100 to 200 yuan (14-28-US-dollar) fines taxi drivers face if they smoke in their cabs under a law brought in last October.

Hospitals and universities will be allowed outdoor smoking areas but they must be away from places that people have no choice but to pass through, the draft said.

Smoking is already banned in schools, libraries, cinemas, theatres, museums, galleries, stores, banks and post offices and on public transport.

MNA/Reuters

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Thursday, 24 January, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain or thundershowers has been isolated in Kachin State, weather has been partly cloudy in Shan and Chin States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above January average temperatures in Kachin, Shan and Mon States, and Taninthayi Division and about January average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Haka (2°C) Loilem (3°C) and An (4°C).

Maximum temperature on 23-1-2008 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 24-1-2008 was 63°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 24-1-2008 was 74%. Total sunshine hours on 23-1-2008 was (8.2) hours approx.

Rainfall on 24-1-2008 was nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Northeast at (14:30) hours MST on 23-1-2008.

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 25-1-2008: Rain or thundershowers in Kachin, Chin and Northern Shan States, upper Sagaing Division. Weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine State, lower Sagaing 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 rain or thundershowers in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 25-1-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 25-1-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 25-1-2008: Generally fair weather.

Bird flu hits Vietnam poultry, may have killed man

HANOI, 24 Jan — Bird flu may have killed a 32-year-old Vietnamese man in a northern province where the virus has been found in poultry, state-run media and a government report said on Tuesday.

The man died at a Hanoi hospital of pneumonia earlier

this month, two days after he had been taken in from Tuyen Quang Province, the hospital's deputy director Nguyen Hong Ha was quoted by the online *VTC News* newspaper (www.vtc.vn) as saying.

The man fell ill on January 16 after eating

chicken which had died of unknown cause. Dead chicken and white-winged ducks were also found near his house, the newspaper quoted a relative as saying.

Vietnamese doctors were testing to see if the man had been infected by the H5N1 virus.—*MNA/Reuters*



Friday, 25 January
View on today

7:00 am

1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara

7:15 am

2. တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ အဂ္ဂမဟာပဏ္ဍိတ၊ ဘဒ္ဒန္တသိရိန္ဒာဘိဝံသ (ယောဆရာတော်)၊ ဟောကြားတော်မူ အပ်သော ဥပ္ပါတသန္တိပါဠိတော်

7:25 am

3. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

4. Morning news

7:40 am

5. Nice and sweet song

7:55 am

6. လှုပ်ရှားပုံပြင် စိတ်ပျော်ရွှင်

8:05 am

7. အတီးဖြိုင်ပွဲ

8:10 am

8. The mirror images of musical oldies

8:25 am

9. အသွင်သဏ္ဌာန်တောက်သည့် သဇင်တန်ပေါက်တံတား

8:30 am

10. International news

8:45 am

11. English for Everyday Use

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Song for uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. Practice in Reading

4:45 pm

4. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ-ဒုတိယနှစ် (မိတုဗေဒအထူးပြု) (မိတုဗေဒ)

5:05 pm

5. Song of National Races

5:15 pm

6. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား

5:25 pm

7. အကဖြိုင်ပွဲ

5:30 pm

8. “လောကရဲ့အလှရတနာ” (ရဲအောင်၊ ဓမ္မသဏ္ဌာန်၊ သူထူးစံ ပွင့်နီမောင်၊ ချစ်စိန်ဦး၊ ချောရတနာ၊ မေကဗျာ)

5:45 pm

9. Song of National Races

6:00 pm

10. Evening news

6:30 pm

11. Weather report

6:35 pm

12. သုတစုံလင်ရွှေညောင်ရှင်

7:05 pm

13. Musical programme

7:20 pm

14. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “လေဒီယာနှင့်ဆုံစည်းခြင်း” (အပိုင်း-၃)

8:00 pm

15. News

16. International news

17. Weather report

18. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ချစ်သူများ” (အပိုင်း-၂၂)

19. The next day's programme

People's Desire

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

Human resources development main requirement for nation

Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets local people in Kachin State

NAY PYI TAW, 24 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 Putao, Kachin State, on 22 January.

Also present on the occasion were 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, ministers, deputy ministers and de-

partmental heads.

At the meeting, Chairman of Putao District Peace and Development Council U Mya Aye reported on cultivation of rain-fed paddy and irrigated paddy fields in the district, cultivation of nine major crops except cotton, reclamation, sufficiency of rice and edible oil, transportation, education and health sectors in the district.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said Putao District is

located in the northernmost part of the country and shares borders with two neighbouring nations with heavy populations. Therefore, it plays an important part in strengthening relations including political, economic and social affairs between Myanmar and the two neighbours.

Putao District is rich in natural resources and rivers and creeks which can produce hydro power flow in the district. Moreover, snow-capped

mountains and forests in the division can develop the eco-tourism in the region. Therefore, Putao District can bring benefits to Kachin State as well as to the country.

The climate of all areas including Kachin State is favourable for agriculture. Myanmar can produce rice, fish and meat and is also rich in natural resources.

Therefore, people do not need to worry about three basic needs. However, people are needed to make

more efforts for improvement of their living standard making the best use of natural advantages.

The Government has made efforts for equitable development of all regions in the country.

As Putao District is mountainous, it is diffi-

cult to construct and upgrade roads in the region. However, the government is making efforts to construct roads and bridges.

Authorities concerned held meeting the day before in the district and discussed matters related (See page 9)

INSIDE

The government is taking all possible steps for development of the states and divisions including border areas. Especially, it is building a large number of education, health, agriculture and livestock infrastructures, and as a result the towns and villages in far-flung areas have developed into modern cities.

PAGE 2

PERSPECTIVES

Putao District is rich in natural resources and rivers and creeks, which can produce hydro power, are flowing in the district.



Prime Minister General Thein Sein delivers an address at meeting with departmental officials and local people at Phonkanrazi Hall in Putao. — MNA