Matapitu upatthanam, to serve thy parents; this is the way to auspiciousness.

Established 1914

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects development tasks of YCDC

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence inspects digging of lake in Thuwunna.—MNA

YANGON, 28 Jan—Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence inspected works being carried out by Yangon City Development Committee for development of Yangon City this morning.

Accompanied by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, Chairman of YCDC Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and officials concerned, at 6.30 am looked into extension of the culvert of Mitta road in 14 Ward, South Okkalapa and gave necessary instructions.

The extension of the culvert has been completed by 90 per cent.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party proceeded to Ward 23 of Thuwunna, Thingangyun Township where they inspected the digging of lake with the use of heavy machinery for prevention of flood in the rainy season.

(See page 9)

Meeting target of 500,000 acres of oil palm and 200,000 acres of rubber national task

Maj-Gen Tha Aye of Ministry of Defence inspects Basic Education High School in Pale Island.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Jan — Maj-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence inspected pearl culture on Pale Island and Domei Island off Taninthayi coast and construction of circular road around Katan Island on 26 January.

Maj-Gen Tha Aye Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo and departmental officials, arrived at Myama Pearl Enterprise under the Ministry of Mines on Pale Island. MPE General Manager U Sein Lwin reported on the history of Myanma pearl production, raising of mops and annual pearl culture. Maj-Gen Tha Aye gave necessary instructions.

Next, he presented gifts to the staff and called on them to actively participate in regional development tasks abiding by the rules and regulations laid down by the State.

(See page 9)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 29 January, 2008

Strive for emergence of agro-based industries

Myanmar is an agro-based country and efforts are being made for the nation to become an industrialized one with agriculture as the base.

With the emergence of a number of industrial zones across the nation the government is providing financial assistance for purchase of machinery and technical assistance for the use of modern equipment for industrial development. In cooperation with firms the production of Mandalay, Monywa and Taunggyi Ayethaya Industrial Zones has increased.

In 2007-2008, Mandalay, Meiktila and Taunggyi Ayethaya Industrial Zones produced over 2,000 jeeps, Mandalay, Dagon (South)-2 and Dagon Seikkan Industrial Zones over 3,000 trucks and Yenangyoung and Pakokku Industrial Zones over 9,000 motorcycles.

Moreover, Myanma farm equipment factories have been established in Ingon, Mandalay Division and Ywathagyi, Yangon Division, and they are now producing an array of power tillers, threshers, harrows and farm equipment.

In combination with the industrial sector efforts are to be made for production of value-added foodstuff and import-substitute industrial products based on domestic resources. As the majority of import items are manufactured with local raw materials the industrialists are to try their utmost for producing such items.

At a time when efforts are being made for industrial development the entrepreneurs, industrialists and officials are to work hard for production of quality goods and running factories and mills at full capacity. Only then, will the industrial sector develop all the more.

CASH DONATED TO MMA — ***Mr Lalit Sharma, General Manager of Zydus Cadila Health Care Ltd, donated K 2.1 million for construction of a building of Myanmar Medical Association through Chairman of MMA Prof Dr Kyaw Myint Naing on 24 January, 2008.***

The company will donate 5.1 million in total for construction of the building for MMA. — MNA

Cash donation for Nay Pyi Taw MMA building

YANGON, 28 Jan — General Manager Mr Lalit Sharma of Zydus Cadila Health Care Ltd donated K 2.1 million for construction of Myanmar Medical Association building in Nay Pyi Taw to Chairman of MMA Professor Dr U Kyaw Myint Naing at the auditorium on Theinbyu Road in Mingalar Taungnyunt Township.

Zydus Cadila Health Care Ltd plans to donate K 5.1 million, it is learnt.

MNA

People's Desire

* **Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views**
* **Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation**
* **Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State**
* **Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy**

Stake-driving ceremony of X-ray Unit of station hospital held in Salingyi

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan meeting with local people at Kyatet Model Village in Salingyi Township. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Jan — A stake-driving for X-ray Unit of the station hospital of Kyatet Model Village in Salingyi Township was held at the village yesterday, attended by Secretariat Member of the Union Solidarity Development Association Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

The minister and wellwishers drove the stake at the designated places.

The minister visited the patients undergoing treatment at the station hospital and presented provisions.

The minister also attended the opening of Pandaing building of Kyatet Model Village Basic Education High School. Headmaster of the school U Win Maung and the wellwishers formally opened the new building. And outstanding students unveiled the stone inscription of the building.

Next, the minister and Deputy Commander of North West Command Brig-Gen Tin Maung Ohn sprinkled scented water on it. The building is 120 feet long and 20 feet wide. It was built at a cost of K 7.9 million. The school has been facilitated with multimedia classrooms and students now have the opportunity to learn with the assistance of modern teaching aids.

The minister and party met local people from villages and fulfilled the requirements. The minister said in his discussions that the young are to be trained and nurtured to become ones with high intellectual power as today is Knowledge Age.

He spoke at length on sending school age children to school and cooperation with USDAs in implementing the five rural development tasks.

He said internal and external destructive elements are attempting to destabilize the country and to delay the progress of drafting the constitution. He urged the people to guard against the danger with nationalistic spirit.

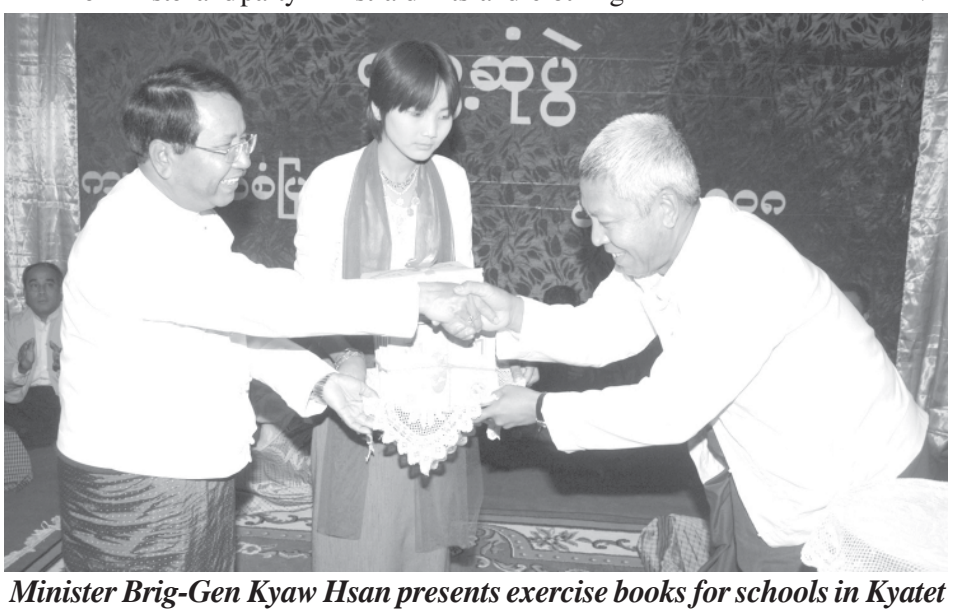
The minister presented exercise books for schools, first aid kits and clothing for local people. Secretaries of Township USDAs accepted K 200,000 each for four townships and a MRTV-4 receiver.

The minister presented K 200,000 for X-ray unit to the medical superintendent. Pandaing U Than Maung handed over documents related to the building to Headmaster U Win Maung.

Wellwisher Thudhamma Manijotadhara U Khin Maung of Mandalay presented K 1 million for X-ray unit and K 500,000 for Salingyi Township USDA to the minister.

Wellwishers donated K 600,000 for construction of X-ray unit to the minister and the deputy commander.

MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents exercise books for schools in Kyatet Model Village through the secretary of Salingyi Township USDA. — MNA

Chavez suggests creating military force against US

CARACAS, 28 Jan— Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez suggested creating a joint military force for the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas (ALBA) member nations to see off any possible United States military aggression.

Speaking during his Sunday show "Alo Presidente" alongside special guest Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega, he said "we are going to commission a working paper. We need a joint ALBA defence strategy".

Ortega backed the idea, adding that the United States was working via Colombia to threaten "not only Venezuela but also the whole of Latin America". "If they mess with one of us, then they will be dealing with all of us," Ortega said. "Touching Venezuela would mean setting the region alight. Messing with Venezuela is messing with all of Latin America."

Chavez added that Brazil's President Luiz Inacio da Silva had recently agreed with the idea of creating a South American defence council, and that using the same logic not only a defence council but dedicated Armed Forces could be created.

MNA/Xinhua

Gunmen kill 11 in Guyana village massacre

GEORGETOWN, 28 Jan— Gunmen killed 11 people in a Guyana Village early on Saturday in an attack a police source said was likely organized by the nation's most-wanted gang boss amid escalating violence in the small South American nation.President Bharrat Jagdeo said the leaders of the massacre in Lusignan, 11 miles (18 kilometres) east of the capital George-town, were "animals" seeking to spread terror on Guyana's eastern coast.—*MNA/Reuters*

A lion dance is performed at a shopping mall in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 26 Jan, 2008. **INTERNET**

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Egyptian troops pull back, Gazans pour over border

A Palestinian boy guards sheep back to Gaza which were bought in Egypt through the breached border fence of the Rafah crossing between the Gaza Strip and Egypt in the rain on 27Jan, 2008.— **XINHUA**

RAFAH (Egypt), 28 Jan—Egyptian troops pulled back overnight from the breached Gaza border after a security guard was shot in the foot, allowing thousands of Palestinians to stream across unhindered.

Witnesses said Palestinian taxis drove passengers across the border three days after Palestinian militants blasted it open in defiance of an Israeli blockade, and Gaza-plated cars and trucks entered Egypt to bring back supplies of food and fuel.

No Egyptian soldiers were visible at the border. An Egyptian security source said forces had received orders from Cairo to pull back and avoid confronting Palestinians.

Israel said it had imposed its blockade to try to counter cross-border rocket fire. The fall of the Rafah wall punched a new hole in a US-backed campaign to curb Hamas' clout and boost Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas nearly eight months after the Islamist group routed Abbas' Fatah forces in Gaza.

On Friday, Egyptian forces began placing barbed wire and chain-link fences to stop more people crossing. But Hamas militants, cheered on by crowds of Gazans, used a bulldozer to flatten sections of the chain and concrete fence.

MNA/Reuters

US soldier dies in non-combat related incident

BAGHDAD, 28 Jan— An American soldier died in a non-combat related incident in Iraq, the US military said on Saturday.

A soldier assigned to Multi-National Division — Centre (MND-C) died on Friday, a brief military statement said, without specifying the location of the incident.

The incident is under investigation, it said.

MND-C, also known as Task Force Marne, is responsible for security in areas located along the southern edge of Baghdad and stretch to the border of Saudi Arabia in the west and to the Iranian border in the east.

The latest death brings the number of US soldiers who have been killed in Iraq to more than 3,930 since the outbreak of the US-led war on Iraq in 2003, according to media account based on Pentagon figures.

MNA/Xinhua

Merkel's party faces test in German state votes

BERLIN, 28 Jan—Voters in two western German states go to the polls on Sunday in a test for German Chancellor Angela Merkel and her conservative Christian Democrats (CDU) before next year's federal election.

Senior CDU figures are fighting to hold on to power in both states but the race is especially tight in Hesse, home to the financial capital of Frankfurt, where Merkel ally Roland Koch has run a divisive campaign focused on crime and immigration.

Koch's battle has ratcheted up tensions in Merkel's fractious national coalition with the Social Democrats (SPD). A strong SPD showing in Hesse could mean a further deterioration in relations and policy gridlock.

The latest Forsa poll shows the CDU on 38-39 per cent and the SPD on 37-38 per cent. But pollsters say more than 40 per cent of voters are undecided.

Koch, a hardline conservative seen by supporters on the CDU's right as a future chancellor, is set to lose his absolute majority but he hopes to form a coalition with the liberal Free Democrats (FDP). A defeat or even heavy losses for Koch would reflect badly on Merkel, who remains highly popular in Germany but faces risks from a slowing economy ahead of next year's national vote.—*MNA/Reuters*

27 die in clashes in western Kenya

Army deployed for first time since vote

NAIROBI, 27 Jan—Three days of attacks and counterattacks among rival tribal gangs have killed at least 27 people in the previously calm city of Nakuru in western Kenya, prompting the deployment of the Kenyan Army for the first time since the disputed presidential election last month unraveled this East African nation. People have been hacked with machetes, shot with poison arrows, stoned, bludgeoned and burned to death in street fighting mostly in the poorest neighbourhoods of the city, residents, local media and aid groups said Saturday.

Gangs of young men from President Mwai Kibaki's Kikuyu tribe are battling Kalenjins and Luos loyal to opposition leader Raila Odinga, who has accused Kibaki of stealing the 27 December election. —*Internet*

People flee to safety under police guard during ethnic clashes in Naivasha, some 100 kilometres (62 miles) from Nairobi, Kenya, on 27 Jan, 2008.— **INTERNET**

Obama, Clinton look to next White House fights

MEMPHIS (Tennessee), 28 Jan — Democrats Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton jockeyed for position on Sunday in a bruising US presidential race after Obama scored a landslide win in a South Carolina primary tinged with the issue of race.

"I think (the result) speaks extraordinarily well, not just for folks in the South, but all across the country," said Obama, who beat Clinton by a 2-to-1 margin in Saturday's Democratic selection contest in South Carolina.

"People want change. I think they want to get beyond some of the racial politics that, you know, has been so dominant in the past," Obama, who would be the first Black US president, told ABC's "This Week".

Obama's victory, after losses to Clinton in New Hampshire and Nevada, gave him momentum heading into 5 February "Super Tuesday" Democratic contests in 22 states for their party's presidential nomination. Obama, a freshman senator from Illinois, won the first contest in Iowa earlier this month.

Clinton, a second-term senator from New York and wife of former President Bill Clinton, would be the first woman president.—*MNA/Reuters*

***The emergency meeting of Arab foreign ministers started in Cairo on Sunday afternoon at the headquarters of the Cairo-based AL on the Lebanese political stalemate and the humanitarian crisis in the Palestinian territory of Gaza Strip.—*XINHUA**

PPP leader Samak elected Thailand's new PM

BANGKOK, 28 Jan — Thailand's newly elected House of Representatives or Lower House on Monday elected People Power Party (PPP) leader Samak Sundaravej as the country's new Prime Minister.

Samak, 72, were backed with 310 votes at the balloting in the 480-seat House of Representatives meeting Monday chaired by newly elected House Speaker Yongyuth Tiyapairat, former deputy leader of PPP.

His only rival was the 43-year-old Abhisit Vejjajiva, leader of the opposition Democrat Party, who got 163 votes.

477 members of Parliament, whose victory in the 23 December general election had been endorsed by the Election Commission (EC), took part in the voting. According to the Constitution, an MP who officially names a candidate for the post must be supported by at least one-fifth of House members in the session. The supporting votes for an elected Premier must be at least half of the total MPs in the forum.

The Constitution also requires a prime minister to be an elected MP. His tenure at the helm is four years with the maximum of eight years in office.

During Monday's voting, the votes for Samak came from the PPP MPs and fellow lawmakers from the other five smaller parties that had announced a coalition with the PPP to form a new government.

MNA/Xinhua

Residents of Pakistan's tribal region Waziristan, travel to a safe area near Bannu, Pakistan on 27 Jan, 2008, as the Army battle with militants alleged to have links with al-Qaida and the Taleban. Thousands more people fled their homes in South Waziristan due to similar military operations.
INTERNET

***A displaced woman and her child walk to the police station in the Solai village near Nakuru on 27 Jan, 2008. At least 10 people were killed in ethnic fighting in the Kenyan town of Naivasha on Sunday as rival tribal gangs set fire to homes and blocked roads.—*INTERNET**

FM urges patience, restraint on Teheran's N-issue

Davos (Switzerland), 28 Jan — Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki here on Saturday urged the UN Security Council to be patient and show self-restraint on the Gulf state's nuclear issue until receiving the next report by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) around 20 February.

"We advise the UN Security Council to exercise restraint. There is not much time left until the final report of the IAEA comes out," Mottaki told a panel concentrating on Iran's foreign policy during the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting.

"We support the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, we are ready for compromises with relevant parties," he added.

Mottaki made the remarks after reports from New York of possible further sanctions against it contained in a proposal by Britain, China, France, Germany, the United States and Russia, which was made available Friday.

MNA/Xinhua

Finland hospital serves up mouse head on plate

HELSINKI, 28 Jan — A hospital patient in Finland found a mouse head among the steamed vegetables on his plate.

"Understandably, he lost his appetite," said Sakari Kela, chief administrator at the Northern Karelia Central Hospital.

The health of the patient in Joensuu, eastern Finland, had not been compromised by the dead rodent, Kela said on Saturday. —*MNA/Reuters*

NATO soldier dies of wounds sustained in E Afghanistan

KABUL, 28 Jan — A soldier from the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) died from wounds sustained in small-arms fire during a patrol in eastern Afghan province of Nuristan Saturday, said an ISAF statement.

"The soldier was evacuated to an ISAF medical facility where he died of wounds," the statement said.

"ISAF remains committed to rebuilding Afghanistan, a cause for which this soldier gave his life," said Lieutenant- Colonel Claudia Foss, an ISAF spokesman.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Seven dead, as building collapses in Rawalpindi

ISLAMABAD, 28 Jan— Seven people were killed and many others injured when a building collapsed in Pakistan's garrison city of Rawalpindi, local TV channel DAWN NEWS reported on Sunday.

A four-storey building, which was used to house fire crackers, collapsed after fire crackers burst near Thana Gunj Mandi, said the report.

The injured have been rushed to medical centres after the collapse. Rescue teams have reached the site to look for survivors.— *MNA/Xinhua*

Two dead, one missing in plane crash in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 28 Jan—Two pilots were killed and one mechanic was still missing in a plane crash at East Kalimantan Province of Indonesia on Saturday, local media reported.

The *CASSA 212* plane owned by Dirgantara Air Service was scheduled to fly to Long Apung Airport at Malinau regency from Tarakan regency, East Kalimantan, reported by leading news website Detik. —*MNA/Xinhua*

Societe Generale: Rogue trader hacks computers

BEIJING, 28 Jan—The trader who roiled the European markets for a 7.2-billion US dollar fraud at French bank Societe Generale hacked the bank's computers, media quoted the bank as saying on Monday.

The man used several techniques of fraud with his knowledge of the company's control procedures to elude detection, said Societe Generale Chief Executive Daniel Boutonn. He knew the times he was likely to be checked and avoided fraudulent activity during those times, he said.

Jerome Kerviel, 31, now in custody for police investigations in Paris Saturday, was accused of making fraudulent transactions at the French banking giant, which forced the bank to sell the contracts on the Eurostoxx, DAX and FTSE indices at a loss of 7.21 billion dollars.—*Internet*

IMF chief predicts "serious slowdown" of US economy

DAVOS (Switzerland), 28 Jan — The chief of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Dominique Strauss-Kahn, said here on Saturday he expected a "serious slowdown" of the US economy.

"Whatever the answer is on a recession, what is clear is there will be a serious slowdown in the United States," Strauss-Kahn, the IMF's managing director, told a panel at the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum. He called for a serious response.

As 2,500 political and business leaders gathered at this Swiss ski resort, the meeting was clouded by mounting concern over the US economic outlook in the aftermath of the subprime mortgage crisis, with some economists even warning of a recession.

Strauss-Kahn said the IMF was scheduled to update its economic forecasts next week, which were certain to have a lower growth figure for the United States.

IMF spokesman Masood Ahmed told reporters Friday they saw a period of below-potential economic growth for the United States, saying the recent sharp interest rate cut by the Federal Reserve was appropriate and helpful.

With a major downturn predicted for the US economy, the world's largest, the whole world was feared to be dragged down. As to emerging economies, taken by some as a substitute support of the world economy, Strauss-Kahn said that although they would largely perform well, it was unlikely for them to be immune from the US slowdown because of their substantial links with the US economy.

MNA/Xinhua

Matsushita, Toshiba to restructure battery business

TOKYO, 28 Jan—Matsushita Electric Industrial Co and Toshiba Corp are separately restructuring their battery manufacturing business, *Kyodo News* reported Saturday.

Matsushita Battery Industrial Co, the Japanese electronics giant's battery production unit, will consolidate its 15 battery factories in Asia, Europe and the United States within a few years to enhance cost competitiveness, according to company sources.

Matsushita will first shift the production at a Japanese manganese battery facility in Kanagawa prefecture near Tokyo and a US alkaline battery plant to other plants by the end of March, the report said.

Separately, Toshiba is considering to sell the production equipment at Toshiba Battery Co's AA alkaline battery factory in central Japan to a Tokyo-based affiliate of Fujitsu Ltd, for about 400 million yen (about 3.74 million US dollars) by August.

According to *Kyodo,* Toshiba is likely to focus on the production of advanced lithium batteries in future.— *MNA/Reuters*

Advertisement for the Apple iPod Nano on display at an Apple store in Palo Alto, Calif, in this 19 Oct, 2007. Qtrax, an online file-sharing service, is offering unlimited, free song downloads that are compatible with iPods, and all with the blessing of major recording companies.—INTERNET

ECONOMIC NEWS

Badawi highlights importance of ASEAN +3 process

DAVOS (Switzerland), 27 Jan—The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) needs to deepen its dialogue relations with China, South Korea and Japan, Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said on Friday.

Such a strategic alignment will not only assist the process of regional integration in Southeast Asia but also bring ASEAN countries closer to the major players in East Asia, Badawi told a session of the World Economic Forum annual meeting in Davos.

In fact, Badawi said, the 11th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur in 2005 had taken a decision to underline that the ASEAN Plus Three (China, South Korea and Japan) process will be the main vehicle for achieving the long term goal of building an East Asia Community.

This also had been reinforced by the 2nd Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation for the next 10 years, another important document adopted in Singapore during the 13th ASEAN Summit last year. Badawi said ASEAN needs to persevere in the complex task of building an integrated East Asia Community.

On the idea of an East Asian Free Trade Area proposed by the Plus Three countries as a long term goal, he said this will undoubtedly need to be pursued pragmatically and systematically, on a step by step basis, so as to avoid unnecessary difficulties along the way.

MNA/Xinhua

A model wears creations by the Italian fashion designer Gattinoni for his Spring-Summer 2008 collection during the AltaRoma fashion week at Rome's Palazzetto dello Sport building, on 27 Jan, 2008.— INTERNET

Dubai's gold trade rises 29% in 2007

ABU DHABI, 28 Jan—The total volume of gold trade in Dubai stood at 19.03 billion US dollars in 2007, rising 29 per cent over 14.75 billion dollars in the previous year, local newspaper *Gulf News* reported on Sunday.

According to a statement by Dubai Multi Commodities Centre (DMCC), a total of 559 tons of gold was imported into Dubai in 2007, up 14 per cent from 489 tons in 2006. Exports from Dubai reached 287 tons in 2007, increasing 5 per cent compared to 274 tons in 2006. Gold prices averaged 696 US dollars per ounce in 2007, up 15 per cent from 604 US dollars per ounce in 2006.

Dubai's top trading partners for gold are India, Switzerland, Malaysia, Australia, South Africa, Italy, Britain, Turkey, the United States and Saudi Arabia. "Dubai remains an important global centre for gold trade with the emirate registering year on year growth during the last five years," said Ahmad Bin Sulayem, executive chairman of DMCC. "This is clear evidence of the confidence that the commodities trade has in the strong economic policies of the government of Dubai," he added.—*MNA/Xinhua*

"NY Times" backs Clinton, McCain in bid for White House

WASHINGTON, 27 Jan — US Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton and Republican contender John McCain have received the golden blessings of the influential *New York Times* newspaper, marking a big boost to their bids for the White House.

In an editorial Friday, the leading liberal national newspaper backed the New York Senator (Clinton) and the Arizona Senator as its primary choices in the presidential race.

"The next president needs to start immediately on challenges that will require concrete solutions, resolve, and the ability to make government work," the newspaper said.

"Mrs Clinton is more qualified, right now, to be president."

Citing the former First Lady's ideas—"her comeback in New Hampshire and strong showing in Nevada, her openness to explaining herself", the newspaper concluded that she is "the best choice for the Democratic Party as it tries to regain the White House".

The paper also recognized Democratic presidential front-runner Barack Obama's popularity among voters with his understanding of "how much they are hungry for a break" with President George W Bush's years, as well as "for leadership and vision and true bipartisanship".

MNA/Xinhua

*A girl looks at rats made of jade for sale at a roadside shop in Bangkok, Thailand on 27 Jan, 2008. Chinese will celebrate their New Year, or Year of the Rat starting from 7 February .—*INTERNET

In this photo released by Carnival Cruise Lines, passengers relax aboard the Carnival Imagination en route from Key West, Fla, to Cozumel, Mexico, on 25 Jan, 2008. — INTERNET

Iran receives 7th shipment of N-fuel from Russia

TEHERAN, 27 Jan — Iran has received the seventh shipment of nuclear fuel from Russia on Saturday for it is first nuclear power plant being built at the Gulf port of Bushehr, the official *IRNA* reported.

The new consignment contained 11 tons of enriched uranium, Iran Atomic Energy Production and Development Company, was quoted as saying by the report.

He said that the rest nuclear fuel will be received on schedule.

So far 77 tons of total 82 tons of the needed fuel for primary stage of commissioning of the Bushehr nuclear power plant have been received since last 17 December, the company added.

According to the agreement between the two countries, Russia would deliver the 82 tons of nuclear fuel to Iran in eight consignments in two months.

Located in southwestern Iran, Bushehr is the country's first nuclear power station, but work at the plant has been long delayed for the disputes over the construction payment erupted between Iran and Russia.

MNA/Xinhua

Blast kills four Afghans from US-led force

KHOST (Afghanistan), 27 Jan — A roadside bomb killed four Afghan fighters from the US-led coalition force on Friday in southeastern Afghanistan, a provincial official said.

The fighters were killed when the device hit their vehicle on a road in Khost Province on the border with Pakistan, he said. He said the blast was the work of "terrorists", a term often used by Afghan officials for describing Taleban and al-Qaeda militants.

Also on Friday, a soldier from the coalition force was killed during an operation against Taleban insurgents in the eastern province of Kunar, the coalition said.

Three coalition soldiers, an Afghan interpreter and a local security member were wounded in the operation in which air support was also used, it said in a statement.

It did not identify the foreign victims.

Violence has killed more than 10,000 people, including more than 300 foreign troops, largely in southern and eastern areas over the past two years, the bloodiest period since the coalition overthrew Taleban from power in 2001.— *MNA/Reuters*

Swedish Govt approves "Gripen" sale to Thailand

STOCKHOLM, 27 Jan — The Swedish Government has approved the sale of six *Jas-39 Gripen* fighter planes to Thailand, the Swedish Defence Ministry announced Friday.

The government authorized the Swedish Defence Materiel Admini-stration on Thursday to enter into an agreement with the Air Force in Thailand on the transfer of an integrated air surveillance system comprising *JAS 39 Gripen* and the Erieye radar surveillance system, said the Defence Ministry in a statement.

The agreement covers six *Gripen* aircraft, the Erieye radar surveillance system and the accompanying data-link systems.

The order amounts to some SEK 3.8 billion (about 573 million US dollars) and the delivery is planned to take place in early 2011, the statement said.

MNA/Xinhua

Gunmen abduct female US aid worker in Afghanistan

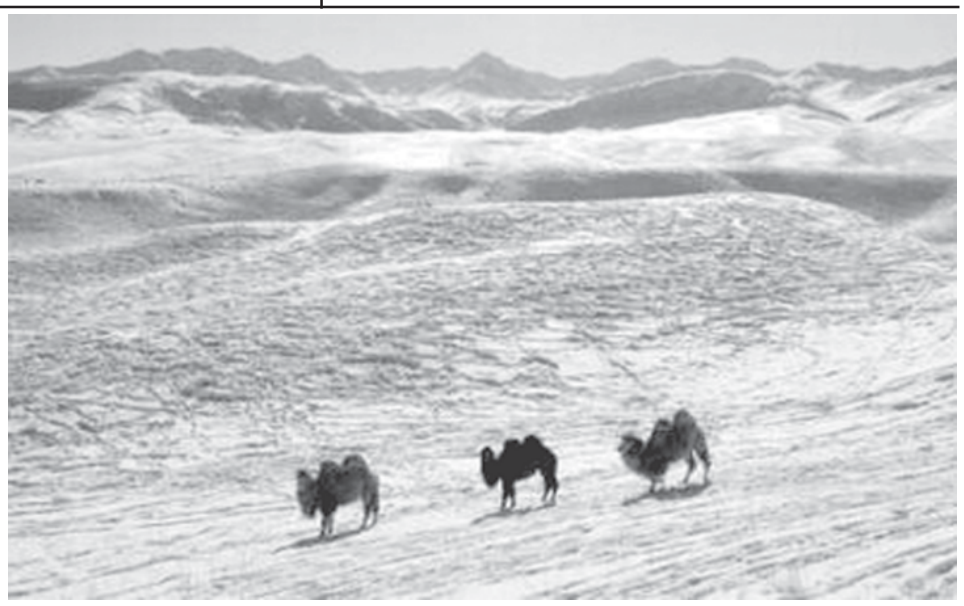
KANDAHAR (Afghanistan), 27 Jan — Gunmen abducted a US female aid worker on Saturday in Afghanistan's southern province of Kandahar, the provincial governor said.

The 49-year-old woman, who was not identified, was clad under a traditional burqa when she was seized from her car while on the way to her office, Assadullah Khalid told reporters.

"This happened this morning when she was being driven to her office. Her driver is kidnapped too," Khalid said.

The woman has lived for years in Kandahar, part of the main bastion of Taleban insurgents, and was working in an aid group linked to the agricultural sector, he said. When asked who the abductors could be, Khalid said only "gunmen". He said a search for her was under way.

MNA/Reuters



*Camels are seen on the snow-covered Yshkonyr plateau, some 50 kilometres (31 miles) south-west Almaty, on 27 Jan, 2008.—*INTERNET

Mei U Taung Hill

Dr Khin Maung Nyunt

The four wooded hills lying to the north, north east, and east of Mandalay Hill are Yet Kan Zin Taung Hill, Mei U Taung Hill, Yan Kin Taung Hill and Yey Tagun Taung Hill. Today they all are within easy reach of the town Mandalay by motor road in spite of their distances. Of them the second Hill, Mei U Taung Hill seems unique not only because of its geographical features but also because of the absence of Buddhist associations in its legend.

One of the offshoots of the Shan mountains, outcropping from the vast flatland, like its sister hills Yan Kin Taung Hill and Yey Tagun Taung Hill, Mei U Taung Hill is much lower than the other two and more forested and wild. Originally called "Yin Kat" Hill, named after the fragrant hairy medicinal flower trees which grow profusely on it before it took the present name "Mei U Taung" alias Thakhin Ma Taung Hill, after the tragic story of a beautiful village girl Ma Shwe U took place around and on this Hill, ten centuries ago.

Besides Yin Kat, other disideous flora cover the Hill such as Than, Dhahat, Htanaung, Neem, Tamarind, Bamboo, Toddy, palm Kokko, Sein Ban, Ngu, Padauk, Yinma, Ingyin, Tharaphee and herbal plants fruits and flowers. With little springs, falls and pools in Monsoon, the Hill is a paradise for avian, land and amphibious creatures. Dove, sparrow, cuckoo, owls, parakeets, boke, zayet, khar, nget-taw, ziwazo, deedoke, wunlo, jackdaw wild fowl and eagle are counted plenty among winged creatures, while tiger, sambhur, wild pig, jackle, deer, monitor lizard, tortise, lizard and reptiles dominate night life on the hill. Warm in daytime and cold at night this wilderness of the Hill is inhospitable for human habitation hill today. There is only one forest monk, a veteran ex-soldier in a small timber monastery built on a peak who braves this wild isolation.

The layend of this Hill, unlike those of the other Hills does not contain the arrival of the Buddha and his divine prophesy, or Saint in meditation or the deer hunt by a King or the search for herbal plant by a medicine man or the experiment of a mercury compound [philosopher stone] by an alchemist. The legend is just the pathetic story of a pretty local maiden of King Anawrahta's time.

Anawrahta [1044-1077 AD] was the 42nd ruler in the Bagan dynasty of 55 kings. The Bagan Period 9th to 13th century AD was one of the three peaks of Myanmar history. The story of this Hill was in fact not legend but a series of events which did happen in Bagan history. Unlike Hindu deities and Greek gods and goddesses of Olympus fame, the 37 nat spirits of Myanmar Pantheon were originally humans who had lived but who met untimely end and due to their violent deaths.They became wandering spirits untill they were given dwelling places by royal order. Seven nat spirits of the 37 total belonged to Anawrahta's time. The couple Byatta and Mei Wunna at Popa Hill, two Shwe Hpyin brothers at Taungpyone village, Mandalay Bodaw at Mandalay Hill and Ma Shwe U and Ko Yin Maung at Inkyin village and Yin Kat Hill.

Here goes Ma Shwe U's tragedy. A certain Ko Shwe Thee of Shan descent who was a native of Kantbalu, a small town in Shwebo District, Upper Myanmar was in the service of the King Anawrahta since he was a lad. Because of his honesty, loyalty and good service the King awarded him a headmanship. With the royal consent, he made a settlement at the place of his choice. At the foot of Mya Thein Tan Hill a few distance to the north-east of Mandalay Hill he cleared the jungle and settled there. Thus a village named Einchi, later Inkyin grew. He was the village headman. A pretty daughter was born to his wife Daw Oh Zar. They named her Ma Shwe U [Miss Golden Egg] because she was very pretty. Grown up into a young pretty maiden with good character and manner, her name spread.

King Anawrahta was returning from China bringing back religious relics and royal gifts from Chinese Emperer. With him were two brothers Shwe Hpyin Gyi and Shwe Hpyin Nge, his two brave knights, sons of his adopted son Byatta who was mighty equestrian soldier. At a place called Taungpyone Gyi the King made a long sojourn to build Hsu Taung Pyi Pagoda to enshrine sacred relics. Everyone of the royal entourage was required to contribute a brick and a handful of sand to the construction of the Pagoda.

The two brothers often went out to Inkyin village to court the beauty queen of the locality Ma Shwe U. Her father asked them to prove their strength and might by lifting a big boulder from the Hill and throwing it down. Without much ado, they performed it. You can still see the stone in the compound of their house and the village used to be called Kyauk Kyi Kya village [The village of a big stone drop]. But the beauty queen Ma Shwe U persistently turned down their love overtures.

To avoid the troublesome brothers, Ma Shwe U and her parents moved to Kaby village. But the brothers followed them there. Again poor Ma Shwe U and parents had to flee to Taungpyone Gyi village but in vain for the brothers did not give up their attempts to impose their love on her. Ma Shwe U became impatient and very angry and she yelled at them and cursed them.

In their love adventure and foolish craze for Ma Shwe U, the two brothers had totally forgotten their duty of providing their share of religious contribution. They were doomed. Anawrahta put them to death for negligence of duty and defiance of royal order. They became nat spirits, appearing before the King to ask reward for their services. The King gave them the fief of Taungpyone Gyi, biult a shrine for them and ordered the local people to venerate the two nat spirit brothers.

It seemed quite safe for Ma Shwe U when the two molesting brothers were executed by the King. Her parents married her to a good young man Ko Yin Maung, son of their friends in the village of Hnan Kyè. Later Ko Yin Maung was sent to Meiza Shweli for logging and selling teak wood so that the newly wed couple would get wealth.

Ma Shwe U, left with her parents was happy weaving a new longyi for her husband, at her hand loom. The two nat spirit brothers frequented her, still trying to win her love by force. She abused them and cursed them. The younger brother was angry and decided to feed her to his tiger. The older brother told him to give her up as she was now married. But the younger brother had his way. He made his tiger carry Ma Shwe U on its back, torturing her at the command of its master. Every time the younger brother made attempt to impose his love on her Ma Shwe U flatly refused cursing him. Then she was taken up to the summit of Yin Kat Hill and finally into a ravine where the younger brother fed her to his tiger when he received from her "no" to his last attempt. Ma Shwe U became nat spirit. The younger brother gave her Yin Kat Hill for her dwelling place. Since then the Hill came to be known as Mei U Taung Hill. Ma Shwe U's spirit appeared before Ko Yin Maung and related her tragic story and violent death. Ko Yin Maung was deeply moved and he suddenly died of broken heart to become nat spirit.

All along the way the tiger carried Ma Shwe U up to the summit and ravine of Yin Kat Hill, there are four nat shrines, land marking the tortures inflicted upon her by Shwe Hpyin Nge-Khasi Kya shrine on the site where her belt dropped from her body, Tha Tit Kya shrine at the place where a piece of flesh from her body dropped, Thway set Kya shine where her blood welled out due to tiger scratch and Kya Gu the ravine where she was devoured by the tiger. Just by the side of Kya Gu is a cluster of Tharaphee fragrant flower trees, 37 in number, believed to have grown out of the garland of Tharaphee flowers dropped from Ma Shwe U's hair knot. Though the original trees had died, new generations continue to grow to tell Ma Shwe U's tragic end.

Until the great Hermit U Khanti started developing the Hill, there was no Buddhist monuments on this Hill. Only nat spirit shrines dotted the entire area. Even the Hermit, for the satisfaction of the local believers, first built the nat spirit shrines. On the south side at the foot of the Hill was built a big spacious iron pavilion under which are slightly larger than live size iron statues of Ko Yin Maung cast by iron sculptor Saya Thein in 1938, Ma Shwe U and Shwe Hpyin Gyi and Shwe Hpyin Nge riding tiger on either side of her in separate apartments, cast by a sculptor Saya Sein of Mandalay, each statue weighing 700 viss of iron. The reclining statue of the great Hermit U Khan Ti is placed in front of them. Higher up are some Buddhist monuments — a Buddha Image in a devotional hall, covered stairways up the Hill, small pagodas, a Buddha's Foot Print and some zayats [rest houses].

On the summit is a 9-apartment iron pavilion with statues of Ma Shwe U and her nat spirit female friends — Ma Ngwe Taung Thakhin Ma, Sayadaw Thakhinma, Anauk ein daw Thakhinma in worshipping posture to the Buddha. In the ravine at Kya Gu which is a brick and iron building, there is an iron statue of Ma Shwe U cast in 1936 flanked by two tiger statues and the iron statue of her female attendant nat spirit Ma Saw Khin cast in 1930 weighing 2851 viss. Facing Kya Gu is recently built Su Taung Pyi Pagoda where local people occasionally gather to perform religious deeds. Except the lonely hermitage of the forest monk mentioned earlier there is no one living up on the Hill.

Today the Hill is in the custody of the Forest Department, Upper Myanmar and it is designated as Forest Reserve area covering 1874 acres. Few monasteries, nunneries and forester's quarters are springing up on the eastside, leading to Kya Gu. Ma Shwe U's house, her hand loom and a big stone boulder are museum pieces in Inkyin Village within walking distance from the Hill. A shrine housing Ma Shwe U statue is found there. The descendants of her parents still live there. Every year on the 4th waxing moon of Tagu [April] "Tharaphee flower gathering festival is held at Kya Gu. Believers participate in it. Occasionally propitiatory ceremonies are held in the compound of her house at Inkyin village.

Social and educational development programmes are in full implementation in this corner of Mandalay. Primary and middle schools have full attendance. Health and social services reach out to Inkyin village and all other villages around it. In addition to paddy and other crops, villages keep vegetable gardens and their products find their way to markets in Mandalay.

Mei U Taung Hill is a small distance from Kya Nee Kan Monastery which is situated prominently on the way to Taungpyone Gyi.

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Maj-Gen Khin Zaw supervises…

(from page 16)

cash assistance for the training school.

Afterwards, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw oversaw the rebuilding of No 1 Myoma Market in Pakokku Township and visited. Winthuza Shop At Pyithaya Hall, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and party met with departmental officials at district and township levels, members of social organizations and townselders. During the meeting, local authorities presented reports on regional data township-wise, implementations of regional development projects and agriculture after which the chairman gave a supplementary report.

In connection with the reports, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw ugred those present to cultivate seasonal crops after the reclamation of farmlands, utilize good strains in growing paddy for regional food security, cultivate double and mixed cropping in the places where there are river water pumping projects in Pakokku, go field trips down to grassroots levels for the realization of project tasks and cooperate with departmental officials and local people and cordially greeted those present.

At the briefing hall of Kyiywa River Water Pumping Project, project in-charge U Myint Kaung and officials presented reports to Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and party on project data while the chairman gave a supplementary report.

After hearing the reports, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw gave instructions on effective use of river water and supply of irrigated water to the farmlands and oversaw the tasks for supplying irrigated water to the farmlands.

The Kyiywa River Water Pumping Project can supply irrigated water to 5000 acres of farmlands at the environs of Pakokku Industrial Zone and Airport by making use of water resources from Ayeyawady river.

Next, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and party gave encouragement to those who were sowing seeds of Shwemyanmar paddy strains at the summer paddy 150-acre collective plantation in Pakokku.

In meeting with entrepreneurs at the briefing hall of Pakokku Industrial Zone, chairman U Than Maung of Pakokku Industrial Zone reported to Maj-Gen Khin Zaw on progress in building the industrial Zone and development of industrial sector. Afterwards, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and party looked into motor bikes, autos and spare parts produced by the industrial zone.

At the briefing hall of Kyangin-Pakokku railroad construction project, assistant general manager U Maung Maung Thwin of Myanma Railways reported to Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and party on tasks being carried out.

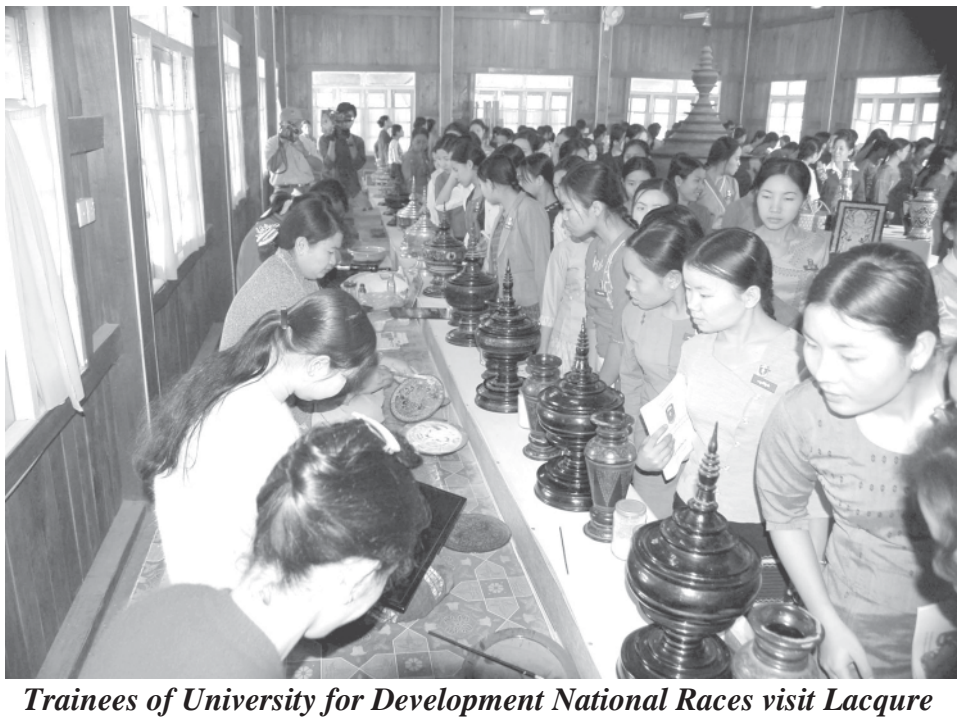
After hearing the reports, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw gave necessary instructions and inspected progress in building the railroad and the places chosen for building stations near Pakokku University in a motorcade.

MNA

Special Appellate Bench hears special appeal cases

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Jan — The Special Appellate Bench comprising Deputy Chief Justice of Supreme Court (Yangon) U Thein Soe, Supreme Court Judges of Supreme Court (Yangon) U Myint Thein and U Chit Lwin sitting at the court room No 1 of the Supreme Court (Nay Pyi Taw), delivered judgment of (4) special criminal appeal cases under Section 7 of the Judiciary Law, 2000 and (1) special criminal appeal cases under Section 8 of the Judiciary Law, 2000.

MNA



Trainees of University for Development National Races visit Lacqure Ware College in Bagan NyaungU. — MNA

Ceremony to confer certificates on Members of the Sangha on 9 Feb

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Jan — A graduation ceremony to confer titles and certificates on Members of the Sangha who passed examinations for 2007 will be held at Maha Atulawaiyan Monastery in Mandalay on 9 February.

Titles and certificates will be conferred on altogether 488 monks including 448 monks who passed the Dhammacariya Examination for 2007.

Ministry of Religious Affairs has already sent graduation invitations to those Members of the Sangha. They can attend the graduation although they have not yet received the invitations in time. — *MNA*

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kundala Bhivamsa and congregation share merits gained. — H

Merits shared for construction of three-storey building

YANGON, 28 Jan — A ceremony to share merits for construction of three-storey building was held in the compound of Saddhammaranthi Yeiktha on Zayyarkhaymar Street in Mayangon Township this morning.

At the ceremony, the guests received the Five Precepts from the Nayaka Sayadaw of the Yeiktha Kammahtanacariya U Sirinda. Next, the Sayadaw delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits.

MNA

Subject-wise technicians to launch talks

YANGON, 28 Jan— Organized by the work committee of Information and Technology Promotion of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, with the assistance of Maw Ushoung Company, talks of subject-wise technicians will be held at UMFCCI Office Tower at No 29, Minye Kyawswa Street in Lanmadaw Township at 1 pm on 2nd February, 2008.

Ambassador U Hla Maung (Economics) (Retd) will give talk on the title "The role of Public Limited Company and Capital Markets in the process of economic development", which is the important role of Capital Markets.

Any interested person may attend the talks.

MNA

Trainees of UDNR visit Bagan Archaeological Region

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Jan — Trainees of the B Ed Course No 39 of University for Development of National Races visited Bagan Archaeological Region on 24 January.

During the visit to Shwezigon Pagoda in Bagan Archaeological Region, they made cash donations.

They also visited Arnanda, Bu, Myazedi pagodas, Lawka Nanda and Ahlodaw Pyai and the Bagan Archaeological Museum and Thiri Zayabumi Palace.

In the afternoon, they visited Mount Popa in Kyaukpadaung Township.

The excursion group went to Yadanapon Teleport in PyinOoLwin on 23 January and viewed construction work at the teleport. Afterwards, they visited Yeywa Hydel Power Project.

On 25 January, they visited Kyatmauktaung Dam where an official of Agriculture and Irrigation Department briefed them on facts about the dam.

During the tour of Meikhtila, they visited the central tran-sport training school of the Rail Transportation Ministry and factories in Meiktila Industrial Zone.

MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects …

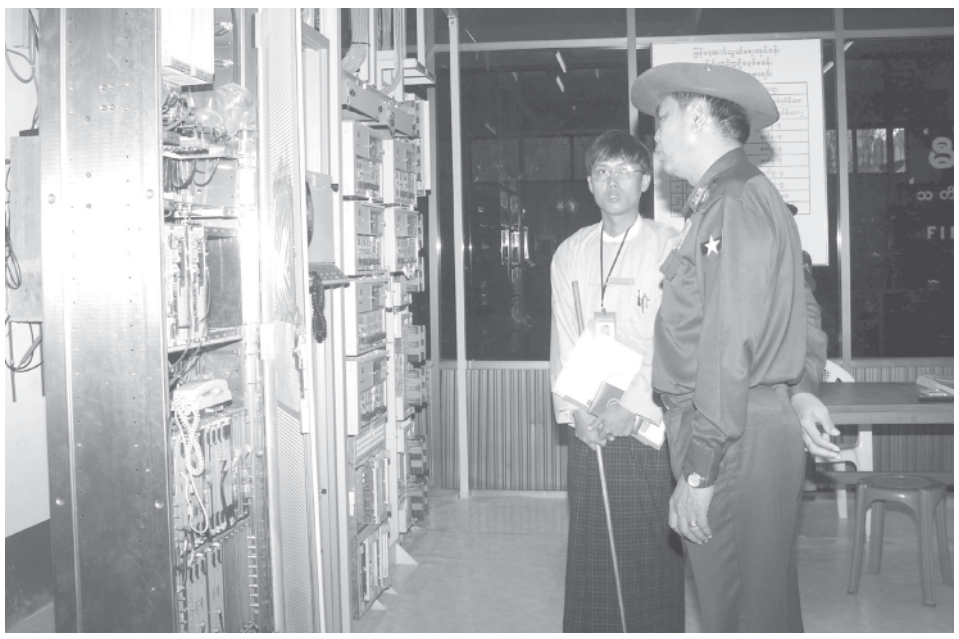
(from page 1)

After that, Lt-Gen Myint Swe viewed extension of the culvert of Paw San Hmwe road and dredging of drains along the road and gave instructions on timely completion of the tasks, proper flow of drains and creeks for possessing the characteristics of a city.

Later, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party arrived at Hlawga road of Dagon Myothit (South) and inspected tarring of the road section from the Union Road to Maungmakan Road and heard a report presented by an official on progress of work and future tasks.

On arrival at No 2 Main Road in Dagon Myothit (East), Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party looked into tarring of the road with the use of heavy machinery and heard reports presented by officials on work being carried out to complete the task in time.

In response to the reports, Lt-Gen Myint Swe stressed the need for officials at different levels to supervise the tasks and maintain the roads for ensuring better transport and fulfilled the requirements.—*MNA*



***Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Thein Tun inspects auto-exchange in Kengtung.* — MNA**

Deputy Minister looks into communication tasks in Shan State (East)

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Jan — Deputy Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Maj-Gen Thein Tun went on an inspection tour of Mongphyat of Shan State (East) on 23 January and made arrangements to fulfil requirements for installation of Auto-Exchange.

In Tachilek, the deputy minister met with service personnel of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications and inspected the tasks of Auto-Exchange, posts and telecommunications.

Upon arrival at Mongyaung on 24 January, the deputy minister looked into regional communication development tasks. The following day the deputy minister met with service personnel of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications in Kengteng and looked into the tasks of Auto-Exchange, posts and telecommunications and gave instructions on extension of Auto-Exchange lines.

MNA

Myanmar, Malaysia discuss cooperation in livestock breeding

YANGON, 28 Jan — Director-General Dato' Dr Abd Aziz Bin Jamaluddin of Veterinary Department of Malaysia and party met Director-General U Maung Maung Nyunt and departmental heads of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and CEC members of Myanmar Livestock Federation at the hall of the LBVD in Insein Township yesterday.

They discussed animal health and disease control measures, breeding of dairy and beef cattle, sheep and goats and plans for the technical cooperation in production of feedstuff, issue of certificates at Thilawa animal health centre for export of sheep and goats to Malaysia, arrangements for establishment of breeding farms and export of mythum and flesh to Malaysia.

On 25 January, the director-general and party of Veterinary Department of Malaysia visited animals health center under construction near Shwedu Village in Myeik, Taninthayi Division.

MNA

Meeting target of 500,000…

(from page 1)

Then he inspected the mop hatchery and pearl production process.

Maj-Gen Tha Aye met with the servicemen and their family members of the local battalion on Pale Island, presented edible oil and food to them and inspected agricultural work.

On arrival at the affiliated basic education school Maj-Gen Tha Aye encouraged the students learning their lessons with the use of computers. He presented cash assistance to the teachers. Maj-Gen Tha Aye and party visited Zabuthiri Monastery and paid homage and offered alms to the Sayadaw.

Afterwards, they proceeded to Myanmar Tasaki Co Ltd engaging in pearl culture on Domei Island in Bokpyin Township. Maj-Gen Tha Aye called for more investments in order to promote the pearl enterprise and the government's assistance to be provided. He then viewed the quality of pearls. He also inspected hatching of mops and raising of mops in the sea by motorboat.

Maj-Gen Tha Aye and party visited Taninthayi Naval Region Command where they inspected breeding of pigs and construction of a dam supplying fresh water for Kyunsu. Commander Brig-Gen Thura Thet Swe reported on the construction tasks and Maj-Gen Tha Aye fulfilled the needs and inspected vegetable patches in Kyunsu Station.

In meeting with the Tatmadawmen at the hall of Kyunsu Station, Maj-Gen Tha Aye called for their participation in the regional development tasks in cooperation with the local people and extension of agriculture and livestock breeding tasks.

After that, he met departmental staff and social organizations at the Kyunsu Township PDC office. The council chairman reported on cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy, oil palm and pepper and education, health, economic and social sectors of the township. Maj-Gen Tha Aye attended to the needs. In response to the reports, Maj-Gen Tha Aye said the departmental personnel are to dutifully carry out their tasks as the State has assigned duties to departments concerned in the administrative, judicial and economic sectors. The township is to try to meet the target of cultivating 500,000 acres of oil palm and 200,000 acres of rubber in Taninthayi Division and ensure the regional self-sufficiency. He then greeted those present.

Later, Maj-Gen Tha Aye inspected construction of over 44 miles long circular road around Katan Island in Kyunsu Township, condition of village roads and visited Salunaw village primary school. Officials reported on construction tasks.

Maj-Gen Tha Aye inspected construction of gravel road near Masanaw village and visited the township hospital and made cash donations for the patients. — *MNA*

Myanmar Muslim Youths (Religious Association) holds plenary meeting for 2008

YANGON, 28 Jan — The plenary meeting of Myanmar Muslim Youths (Religious Association) was held at Wunna Kyaw Htin Daw Saw Shwe Hall on Theinbyu Road in Mingala Taungnyunt Township yesterday.

Chairman of the meeting L Haji U Thein Hlaing, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Ambassador U Hla Maung (Retd) and officials of Islam Religious Association made speech on the occasion.

The meeting chair-man presented completion certificates to those who had attended the courses of computer, driving and women's tailoring.

Reports of executive committee, financial statement and reports of women's affairs were read out and approvals were sought during the meeting.

MNA

Qualified teachers, outstanding students awarded

YANGON, 28 Jan — The prize-presentation ceremony of Kamayut Township for 2007-2008 academic year was held at No 2 Basic Education High School in the township yesterday.

Patron of School Board of Trustees Dr Daw Sanda Aung presented prizes to the school heads and outstanding teachers. Later, the officials awarded the prize winners in the respective contests and the outstanding students who passed the matric exam for 2007 with flying colours.—*MNA*

Dr Daw Sandar Aung presents prize to headmistress of a model school. — MNA

Baidu, Alibaba ranked among top ten search engines

BEIJING,28 Jan — Baidu.com and Alibaba.com, two of China's major Internet search engines, ranked the world's 10 most popular search engines last month by comScore, an Internet research firm.

Nasdaq-listed Baidu ranked third, with 5.2 per cent of worldwide searches, according to the survey of 66.2 billion search queries.

Baidu is often referred to as China's version of Google due to the Chinese-language search engine's soaring popularity and profits. It made a net profit of 24.2 million US dollars in the third quarter of 2007.

Alibaba.com got 0.8 per cent of global searches, worked its way to 10th place, its first appearance in the top ten, according to the survey.

Hong Kong-listed Alibaba.com, the business-to-business unit of Alibaba Group, is one of China's fastest growing Internet companies.

Its registered members soared to 24.6 million in 2007 from six million in 2004. Paying members increased to 255,000 by June 2007 from 77,000 in 2004.

Google ranked first with 62.4 per cent of search share, about five times more than runner-up Yahoo with 12.8 per cent.

Microsoft's websites came in fourth with 2.9 per cent, followed by the South Korea's NHN Corporation with 2.4 per cent. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Vietnam battles bird flu more vigorously

HANOI, 28 Jan— Vietnam is urging localities nationwide to keep close surveillance on fowl farms, and transport, especially cross-border transport of poultry and related products, according to Department of Animal Health under the country's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on Friday.

Cao Duc Phat, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development and chairman of Vietnam's Anti-Bird flu Steering Committee, on January 24 asked sectors and cities and provinces nationwide to assign officials and specialists to go to grassroots levels to timely detect potential bird flu outbreaks right at households. Disinfection of poultry farms, egg incubators, slaughter-houses and wholesales markets should be conducted frequently.

He also urged relevant forces to strengthen animal quarantine, and management over cross-border transport of fowls and related products, and local media to strongly disseminate information about bird flu preventive measures. Residents are advised not to slaughter and eat sick or dead poultry, dishes made from fresh fowl blood, and undercooked eggs.

Vietnam currently has four localities having poultry being hit by bird flu: southern Tra Vinh Province, the two northern Provinces of Thai Nguyen and Tuyen Quang, and central Quang Binh Province, the department said, noting that bird flu outbreaks in Vietnam, starting in December 2003, have killed and led to the forced culling of dozens of millions of fowls in the country. —*MNA/Xinhua*

A view of Edinburgh old city shot from Princess Garden park. Scottish campaigners are calling for a memorial to a bear which joined Polish troops on the front line during World War II and died in Edinburgh, media reported on Saturday.—INTERNET

New political funding row hits Brown's government

LONDON, 28 Jan— A senior British minister faced accusations on Sunday that he had accepted illegal political donations, the latest funding row to hit Prime Minister Gordon Brown's government.

Britain's *Sunday Mirror* newspaper said a donor channelled 3,334 pounds (6,600 US dollars) to Health Secretary Alan Johnson through a proxy, which is banned under political funding rules brought in by the ruling Labour Party to prevent sleaze.

The Johnson row is the third party funding dispute to hit Brown's government since he took office in June last year, pledging a fresh start after a Labour funding scandal that overshadowed Tony Blair's final months in office.

Johnson denied any wrongdoing, saying there had been no reason to believe the money had come from a third party and his team had declared the donation to the authorities correctly.

Work and Pensions Secretary Peter Hain, another senior Cabinet member, quit the government last week after electoral authorities referred questions about funding for his deputy leadership campaign to the police.

While funding for other British political parties has also come under the spotlight, Labour has suffered the brunt of the scandals and analysts said they gave Brown's critics ammunition. — *MNA/Reuters*

Philippines cancels "MG-530 F" helicopters deal

MANILA, 28 Jan — The Philippine Defence Department on Friday said it had junked an order to purchase six attack helicopters from a local Boeing partner for suspected irregularities in the bidding.

According to local television GMA News, the contract for the six *MG-530 F* helicopters, valued 1.2 billion pesos (29 million US dollars).

The investigation stemmed from a complaint of losing bidder, Poland's PDL Swidnik SA, which said the bidding "favoured" Asian Aerospace Corp, the local partner of Boeing Co's McDonnell Douglas, the report said.

MNA/Xinhua

Up to 25 militants killed in Pakistan

KOHAT (Pakistan), 28 Jan — A Pakistani Army helicopter fired at militants trying to damage a road tunnel in the country's northwest on Saturday, killing up to 25, a senior government official said.

The helicopter fired at the militants as they gathered to damage the Kohat Tunnel, which links the towns of Kohat and Darra Adam Kheil in the Frontier Province, the official said.

"Some 20-25 militants have been killed in the attack," said Kamran Zeb, District Coordination Officer of the Kohat region.

A military spokesman confirmed the clashes in the area.

The incident came a day after up to 30 pro-Taleban militants and two soldiers were killed in Darra Adam Kheil in fighting that erupted when insurgents seized four trucks carrying ammunition and other supplies for troops on Thursday.

Known as a haven for smugglers, the small dusty town of Darra Adam Kheil had until recently been relatively free of the militant violence that has plagued other parts of Pakistan's tribal belt along the border with Afghanistan.

MNA/Reuters

205 Cambodians killed by malaria in 2007

PHNOM PENH, 28 Jan — A total of 205 Cambodian people were killed by malaria in 2007, about 50 per cent decrease over 2006, a senior health official said here on Friday. Last year, 53,127 Cambodians had malaria and the death toll was 205, said Doung Socheat from the Health Ministry.

Most of them were adults because they went into the forestry for logging to support their families and slept without tying anti- mosquito nets, he said, adding that mosquitoes are the primary source of malaria transmission.

MNA/Xinhua

Two Kikuyu men flee with their livestock from an area under attack on a rural road leading to the village of Solai, near Nakuru, in Kenya on 27 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET

Images of the Day

Wim Hof, of the Netherlands, stands up to his neck in ice for an hour and twelve minutes, on 26 Jan, 2008, outside the Rubin Museum of Art in New York, during a successful attempt to break his previous world record for immersion in an outdoor ice bath.—INTERNET

"No Country for Old Men" wins SAG top prize

LOS ANGELES, 28 Jan — The cast of "No Country For Old Men" took top prize at the Screen Actors Guild Awards on Sunday, winning the award for best ensemble cast.

The award makes the modern day western by the Coen brothers a leading favourite for the best picture award at the Oscars on 24 February. —*MNA/Reuters*

Visitors walk in the snow at Yuyuan Garden, one of the most popular tourism sites in town, on 28 Jan, 2008 in Shanghai, China.—INTERNET

Maria Sharapova of Russia poses while holding the women's singles trophy on a boat along the Yarra River in Melbourne following her victory at the Australian Open tennis tournament on 26 January.

INTERNET

Levi LaVallee, of Longville, Minn, releases his hand as he flies through the air with his snowmobile during the Freestyle competition on 27 Jan, 2008, at the Winter X Games at Buttermilk Ski Area near Aspen, Colo.

INTERNET

Bluefin tuna off the Sicilian coast.The environmental group WWF has called on supermarket chains around the world to take bluefin tuna off their shelves, saying overfishing, driven by the craze for sushi, threatened to wipe out the species.

INTERNET

Anti-whaling protest ship running out of fuel

SYDNEY, 28 Jan—Environmental group Greenpeace said on Saturday its anti-whaling ship, which has been harassing Japanese whalers in the Southern Ocean, had saved an estimated 100 whales but was running low on fuel and would return to port.

"In a dramatic 4,300-nautical mile chase, the Esperanza spent 14 days chasing the whaling fleet's factory ship, the *Nisshin Maru*," Greenpeace said in a statement. "Without the factory ship, the remaining hunter vessels have been unable to operate — bringing the entire whaling programme to a halt," it said.

Japan's six-ship whaling fleet has been trying to avoid anti-whaling protest ships in the Southern Ocean after protesters stopped whaling operations when two activists boarded a whaling ship and another group stopped a whaling ship from refuelling.

MNA/Reuters

ADVERTISEMENT

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV XIANG FENG VOY NO (8005)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XIANG FENG VOY NO (8005) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.1.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
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Republicans squabble over Iraq in White House race

FORT MYERS (Florida), 27 Jan—The Iraq war took centre stage in the Republican race for the White House on Saturday as front-runner John McCain accused rival Mitt Romney of backing a timetable to pull US troops out — a charge Romney angrily denied.

The testy exchange marked a change of focus to Iraq from the flagging US economy just days before Tuesday's vote in the hotly contested Florida race, the next Republican battle in the state-by-state contests to pick nominees for the 4 November presidential election.

The fireworks began when McCain accused the former Massachusetts governor and business executive of proposing a timetable to withdraw US troops from the Iraq war, which McCain has long backed.

"Governor Romney wanted to set a date for withdrawal similar to what the Democrats are seeking, which would have led to a victory by al-Qaeda in my view," McCain told a rally at a restaurant decked out with stars and stripes.

In April, Romney said President George W Bush and Iraq Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki should have timetables and milestones for reducing the number of US troops in Iraq but that those should not be made public. In those comments, made to ABC News, he stopped short of seeking a specific date for withdrawing troops. Romney demanded an apology from McCain, a 71-year-old four-term senator from Arizona and Vietnam War hero. —*MNA/Reuters*

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P.O.Box 109, Ph: 723043
(For. Domnern Somgiat & Boonma Attorneys at Law, Thailand)
Dated. 29 January 2008

Ecuadorean Govt withdraws 587 mining concessions

QUITO, 27 Jan—The Ecuadorean Government withdrew on Friday 587 mining concessions held by local and foreign firms, in an attempt to regulate this sector's activity, said Ecuadorean Mining and Petroleum Minister Galo Chiriboga.

The decision was taken due to the firms' overdue payment of conservation patents, triggering the withdrawal of concessions according to Ecuadorean legislation.

"The withdrawal of these concessions was decided in application of these legal norms, that total some 536,387 hectares," said Chiriboga in a Press conference.

The measure affects national and foreign firms that maintain small and medium size concessions in the mining sector, which is currently in an initial phase.

With this measure, the Ecuadorean Government will begin a restructuring phase by including a new legal framework and setting royalties to increase the State's participation in the mining sector.

Chiriboga warned that the Ecuadorean Government can withdraw more concessions. —*MNA/Xinhua*

Two Afghan policemen killed in Taleban ambush

KABUL, 28 Jan—Taleban insurgents on Sunday ambushed police vehicles in Gereshk District of Helmand, the southern Afghan province, killing at least two policemen and injuring three others, according to a local official.

Rehman Jan, the district police chief, told *Xinhua* that it occurred at around 11:00 am local time when a group of Taleban militants ambushed the police vehicles patrolling in Gereshk District.

"Taleban insurgents escaped without any casualties after short clash," he said.

Meanwhile, Qari Yousuf Ahmadi, the purported Taleban spokesman, claimed the responsibility for the attack.

Over 6,000 people lost their lives in conflicts and Taleban-related violence last year in the country.

MNA/Xinhua

27 suspected drug dealers arrested in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 28 Jan—Brazilian police arrested 27 suspected drug dealers on Sunday in Angra dos Reis, in the south of Rio de Janeiro State.

Among those arrested were two brothers, Edinaldo de Souza Brito Filho and Jacques Jeronimo Motta Neto, who were charged with murders attributed to the gang, and a drug lord nicknamed Tequinho.

Police said Tequinho had connections with drug lords in the city of Rio and Sao Paulo.

The drug dealers ruled the traffic in three favelas in Angra dos Reis, a tourist region known as "the Green Coast" and famous for its beaches and islands, and the scheme was reportedly led by Tequinho.

Police Chief Francisco Lopes said that the arrests did not put an end to the investigations. The police still had court orders to arrest another 20 suspects, and would analyze what they had seized to identify other gangs operating in the region.

During the operation, about 70 officers from the state and federal police departments also seized weapons, drugs, money and notes left by gang members. —*MNA/Xinhua*

Security forces arrest 31 militants in N-W Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 28 Jan—Security forces arrested 31 militants including a commander in north-western Pakistan's Swat Valley, News Network International (NNI) reported on Sunday.

Security forces conducted a search operation in Matta City, Sambat and Bodigram in Swat Valley and arrested 31 militants including local commander Sher Zaman.

A large quantity of arms and ammunition, which included rifles, pistols, shotguns and rounds of different calibre were also recovered from their possession, said the NNI report. Life in Swat is normal and peaceful and all the shops and other places of public utility remain open, according to the NNI report.

MNA/Xinhua

Colombia seizes one ton of cocaine, 36 kilos of heroin

BOGOTA, 28 Jan—Colombian authorities said on Sunday that they had seized a ton of cocaine and 36 kilos of heroin in northern Colombia's La Guajira Province.

The seizure took place on Saturday in Palomino, a rural area 900 kilometres north of the nation's capital, Bogota.

A speedboat was found to take the drugs to a fishing boat bound for Central America and to the United States. The speedboat and three cars were also seized during the operation, but the traffickers escaped, said General Alvaro Caro, head of the nation's anti-drug police.

The seized drugs, which had an estimated value of 20 million US dollars on the international black market, appeared to belong to "Los Nevados," a drug trafficking organization linked to the nation's paramilitaries, he said. "Los Nevados" was run by brothers Miguel Angel and Victor Manuel Mejia Munera, known as "Los Mellizos" (The Twins).—*MNA/Xinhua*

Study shows comet much more like asteroid

The McNaught Comet is seen in the southern New Zealand sky from Dunedin in the country's South Island on 23 Jan, 2007.—INTERNET

BEIJING, 28 Jan —A chemical analysis of samples of rock dust retrieved from a comet showed that the comet is much more like an asteroid than scientists had expected, media reported Monday.

A lot of the material detected in a comet called Wild 2 was formed very close to the sun in the early solar system and was somehow later transported to the outer solar system.

The rock dust closely resembles material from bodies called chondritic meteorites from asteroids in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter. Asteroids are fragments of ancient space rubble, made of rock and metal, that commonly orbit the sun in that belt. —*Internet*

HKSAR Govt promotes arts for disabled persons

HONG KONG, 28 Jan— The government of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region is committed to helping persons with disabilities to develop their artistic potential, an official said here on Saturday.

Speaking at the Jockey Club Arts for the Disabled Scheme annual performance, Hong Kong Secretary for Labour and Welfare Matthew Cheung Kin-chun said the HKSAR government is seeking more performance opportunities through the provision of a barrier-free environment."Involving persons with disabilities in arts and cultural activities is an effective way to help them integrate into society," Cheung said.

The scheme is a pilot project for nurturing persons with disabilities in the arts and cultural fields. It offers them basic artistic training and provides performance and exhibition opportunities to develop their talent and creativity.Their involvement also enriches the cultural life of Hong Kong.—*MNA/Reuters*

Scientists obtain 1st images of asteroid 2007 TU24

BEIJING, 28 Jan — Scientists at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, have obtained the first images of asteroid 2007 TU24 using high-resolution radar data, media reported Monday. The data indicate the asteroid is somewhat asymmetrical in shape, with a diameter roughly 250 metres in size.

An image of Mercury is seen as taken by NASA's Messenger spacecraft at a distance of approximately 17,000 miles (27,359 km) after the spacecraft's closest approach to the planet on 15 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET

Asteroid 2007 TU24 will pass within 1.4 lunar distances, or 538,000 kilometres, of Earth on 29 Jan, at 12:33 am Pacific time (3:33 am Eastern time).

"With these first radar observations finished, we can guarantee that 1.4-lunar-distance approach is the closest until at least the end of the next century," said Steve Ostro, JPL astronomer and principal investigator for the project.

"It is also the asteroid's closest Earth approach for more than 2,000 years."

Internet

Shark's head cut off to free Australian fisherman

SYDNEY, 28 Jan— A shark bit an Australian fisherman's leg so tightly on Sunday that fellow fishermen had to cut its head off to free the man.

The shark had just been hauled onto a tuna boat which was fishing 130 nautical miles off Australia's northeast coast, when a fisherman stepped on its tail and it bit him.

"He was fishing with a reel off a boat and caught a mako shark," said Brian Russell from RACQ CareFlight rescue service. "The shark was three metres in length and 90 kilogrammes in weight. They brought it on deck and the man stepped on its tail.

The shark whipped around and latched onto his right calf," Russell told *Reuters*.

"They couldn't release the shark's jaw, so they had to cut off its head to release the jaws," he said.

The man, who suffered a bite to the bone of his leg, was airlifted to a hospital and is in stable condition.—*MNA/Reuters*

Pakistan rebuffs US plan for CIA buildup

NEW YORK, 28 Jan — Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf this month rebuffed US proposals to let the CIA have greater latitude to operate in tribal areas where al-Qaeda, the Taleban and other militant groups are active, *The New York Times* said in Sunday editions.

The paper cited US and Pakistani officials who spoke to the *Times* in recent weeks about US-Pakistani talks that included the two top US intelligence officials, who travelled secretly to Pakistan. It said Pakistan and Washington were now discussing other joint efforts.

These include increasing the number and scope of missions by armed Predator surveillance aircraft over tribal areas, and identifying ways that Washington can speed information to Pakistan about suspected militants, the *Times* said.

MNA/Reuters

Freezing weather leads to train delays in China

BEIJING, 27 Jan— Prolonged snow, rain and cold weather has led to train delays in central and south China and stranded tens of thousands of passengers, in addition to expressway closures, flight cancellations and relocations of people.

A total of 136 electric passenger trains came to a standstill on an artery railway in Hunan Province after the local power supply system was damaged by continuous snow and icy rain.

Technicians and workers with the Guangzhou Railway Group Corp, the operating company, were using more than 100 diesel locomotives to pull the electric locomotives carrying tens of thousands of passengers from a section that suffered a sudden drop in power, a company spokesman said.

About 40,000 passengers were stranded at different stations along the trunk line linking Beijing and Guangzhou in south China, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese couples gather for a mass wedding ceremony at a shopping mall in Beijing. The Beijing government is expecting a rush of people wanting to marry on the day the 2008 Olympic Games opens, despite rumours of restrictions, a city official told state Press on Sunday.
INTERNET

SPORTS

Late Benzema goal sends Lyon 4 points clear

PARIS, 28 Jan — An injury-time freekick from France striker Karim Benzema earned Olympique Lyon a 1-1 draw at neighbours St Etienne that took the six-times champions four points clear at the top of Ligue 1 on Sunday.

A blunder from France goalkeeper Gregory Coupet enabled forward Batefimbi Gomis to open the scoring for St Etienne just before halftime but Benzema struck back with his 15th league goal this season virtually on the final whistle. Lyon move to 46 points from 23 games, one ahead of Girondins Bordeaux, who lost 1-0 at Lorient earlier on Sunday.

Forward Christophe Jallet gave Lorient the points from a dull affair with a late penalty after Algeria striker Rafik Saifi was brought down in the box by Brazilian defender Henrique. — *MNA/Reuters*

Inter held to goalless draw at Udinese

MILAN, 28 Jan — Leaders Inter Milan failed to win in Serie A for the first time in nine matches when they were held to a 0-0 draw at Udinese on Sunday.

The unbeaten champions had Brazilian winger Cesar sent off for two quick bookings after just 21 minutes but still had the better chances to beat fifth-placed Udinese with Julio Cruz and strike partner Zlatan Ibrahimovic going close.

Inter's lead from last week has been cut to five from seven points after second-placed AS Roma beat Palermo 1-0 on Saturday.

Juventus won 3-1 at midtable Livorno in Sunday's late game to go 10 points behind Inter in third. Serie A top scorer David Trezeguet hooked in his 14th and 15th of the league campaign either side of Alessandro Del Piero's 49th-minute strike.

Livorno, who grabbed a consolation through Erjon Bogdani, had Daniele De Vezze dismissed for two quick bookings at 2-0.

MNA/Reuters

***Sheffield United's Leigh Bromby (R) challenges Manchester City's Elano (L) during their FA Cup 4th round match at Bramall Lane, Sheffield. Sheffield won 2-1.*—INTERNET**

Lorient slow down Bordeaux with late penalty

PARIS, 28 Jan — Girondins Bordeaux's title hopes suffered a blow when they lost 1-0 at mid-table Lorient with a late penalty in Ligue 1 on Sunday.

Forward Christophe Jallet converted the spot-kick in the 77th minute of a dull affair after Algeria striker Rafik Saifi was brought down in the box by Brazilian defender Henrique.

Second-placed Bordeaux, who had won their last four matches, showed little intiative and rarely threatened the hosts.

The result lifted Lorient up to seventh and means six-times champions Olympique Lyon will move six points clear at the top if they win at neighbours St Etienne later on Sunday. — *MNA/Reuters*

Real beat Villarreal to go 9 clear

MADRID, 28 Jan — Leaders Real Madrid beat Villarreal 3-2 at home to pull nine points clear at the top of the Primera Liga on Sunday, as all their nearest rivals dropped points.

Brazil forward Robinho scored a goal in each half in a pulsating match at the Bernabeu, in which Giuseppe Rossi and Joan Capdevila had twice levelled for third-placed Villarreal.

Dutch midfielder Wesley Sneijder scored the winner as Real made the most of second-placed Barcelona's 1-1 draw away to Athletic Bilbao.

Real's eighth consecutive win puts them on have 53 points, Barca have 44 and Villarreal 38. Atletico Madrid and Espanyol both lost as their vague pretensions of challenging for the title were knocked back even further. — *MNA/Reuters*

***Serbia's Novak Djokovic holds the winners trophy at a photo shoot after he won the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on 28 Jan, 2008.*—INTERNET**

Bilbao hold Barcelona as chasing pack slips up

MADRID, 28 Jan — Barcelona failed to keep the pressure on leaders Real Madrid as they were held to a 1-1 draw away to Athletic Bilbao in the Primera Liga on Sunday. Bojan Krkic fired Barca in front just before the break but they failed to kill off the game, and finished hanging on for the final whistle after Lilian Thuram turned the ball into his own net 11 minutes from time.

Barca moved on to 44 points, six short of Real who face third-placed Villarreal at the Bernabeu in Sunday's late game.

Bilbao huffed and puffed to little effect in San Mames and when they did get a clear sight of goal in the first half striker Aritz Aduriz hoisted his shot over the bar with only Victor Valdes to beat.

In the 35th minute, Barca counter-attacked, Deco laid the ball out wide for Krkic and the 17-year-old scored low in the far corner. Barca were far from impressive and their grip on the game was broken in the 79th minute when French defender Thuram turned a low cross past Valdes, under pressure from Bilbao striker Fernando Llorente on a counter-attack. — *MNA/Reuters*

Sporting inflict second defeat of season on Porto

LISBON, 28 Jan— Leaders Porto suffered their second league defeat of the season as they went down 2-0 at rivals Sporting on Sunday, but remain comfortably top of the Portuguese Premier League.

The champions lead the standings with 41 points from 17 matches, followed by Benfica, who beat Vitoria Guimaraes 3-1 away on Saturday, on 33.

Sporting climbed to third with 30 points while Guimaraes are fourth on 28.

A blunder by Brazilian goalkeeper Helton, who let the ball through his legs, allowed Montenegrin midfielder Simon Vukcevic to put Sporting in front after 12 minutes.

Sporting, unbeaten at home this season, doubled the lead three minutes later when Russian midfielder Marat Izmailov headed home from close range after Helton failed to fend off a Vukcevic effort.—*MNA/Reuters*

Ronaldo double sends Man Utd through in FA Cup

LONDON, 28 Jan — Two goals from irrepressible midfielder Cristiano Ronaldo helped Manchester United to a 3-1 home win over 10-man Tottenham Hotspur in an entertaining FA Cup fourth-round tie on Sunday.

United, FA Cup winners a record 11 times, trailed to an early Robbie Keane goal but Carlos Tevez equalized and Ronaldo put them ahead from the penalty spot in the 69th minute and finished things off two minutes from time with the 25th goal of his remarkable season.

Manchester City, however, were knocked out when they lost 2-1 at Championship (second division) Sheffield United, to leave a record low six Premier League teams among the 16 that go into Monday's fifth-round draw after none of the fourth-round ties went to a replay.

Spurs, without a win at Old Trafford since 1989, went ahead after 24 minutes when winger Aaron Lennon's low cross was turned in from point-blank range by Keane.

United upped the pressure and it was no surprise when Tevez drove in the equalizer seven minutes before halftime.

MNA/Reuters

***Cristiano Ronaldo of Manchester United scores the second goal from the penalty spot during the FA Cup fourth round match against Tottenham Hotspur at Old Trafford. Ronaldo's double completed Manchester United's fight-back in a 3-1 win against 10-man Tottenham.*—INTERNET**

Tiger Woods holds the trophy after winning the final round of the Buick Invitational Golf Tournament on the Torrey Pines south course in San Diego, California on 27 Jan, 2008.
INTERNET

BMW sales rebound in 2007 in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 28 Jan — BMW Inc Indonesia, a local subsidiary of Munich-based luxury car manufacturer BMW AG, bounced back from a steep decline in sales in 2006 to post a 66.7 per cent rise last year due to the economic recovery, *Jakarta Post* quoted a BMW executive as reporting on Saturday.

President Director of the BMW Indonesia Joerg Kelling said that the BMW sold 1,000 units last year, driven mostly by strong demands in BMW 3 Series, 5 Series and the new X5 automobiles.

" Overall, we are very pleased with our achievement last year ," Kelling said. BMW's 3 Series remained the most popular, with 565 units sold last year, up almost 100 per cent from 285 units in 2006, with BMW 5 Series following suit at 212 units, rising by 75 per cent from 121 units in 2006.

MNA/Xinhua

More heavy rains warned in Zimbabwe

HARARE, 28 Jan — The current wet spell will continue in most parts of Zimbabwe with heavy rains expected in north and central Zimbabwe where some areas face threats of flash floods, the Meteorological Services Department has said.

Director of the department Amos Makarau on Friday said the current weather patterns and projections indicate that most parts of Zimbabwe should experience heavy rains starting on Friday.

"Rainfall amounts in excess of 50 milimetres in 24 hours are expected in places particularly in Matabeleland North (including Tsholotsho) north of Midlands, Mashonaland and Harare," Makarau said.

"There is therefore an increased risk of continued water logging, ponding and flash flooding in low-altitude areas. Most at risk are the Zambezi Valley from Victoria Falls to Muzarabani and in Mudzi and Mutoko," he said. —*MNA/Xinhua*

Kenya conducts aerial count of elephant population

NAIROBI, 28 Jan — Kenya's wildlife authorities said Saturday it will conduct a five-day total aerial count of the elephant population in the expansive Tsavo/Mkomazi ecosystem.

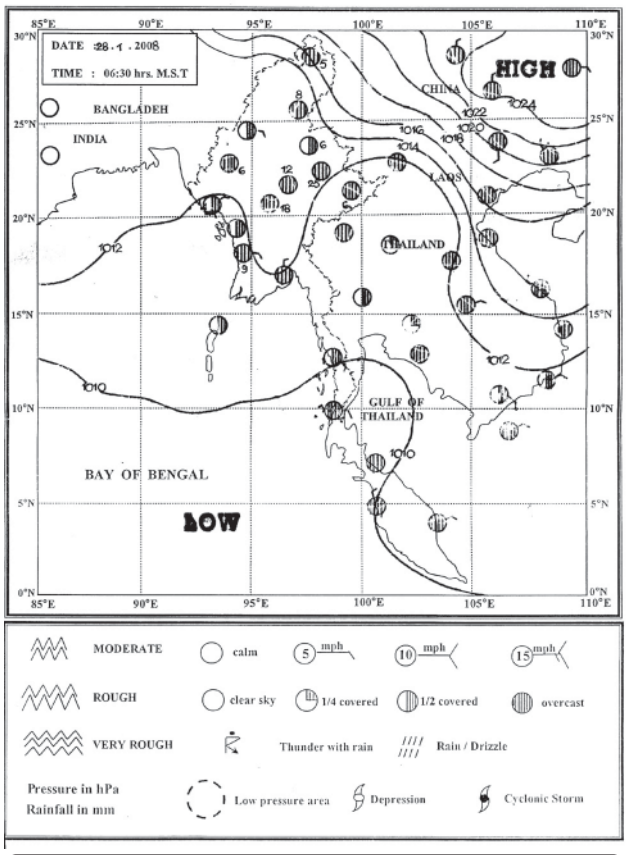
The exercise which will begin on Sunday and end on 2 February is a site-based system to monitor elephant population trends and the illegal killing of elephants and operates in 29 African and 13 Asian elephant range states.

The exercise covering 40,000 square kilometres will include participants from various organizations, such as Save the Elephants, the Department of Remote Survey and Remote Sensing, Lewa Downs Conservancy, and CITES Monitoring of the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) Secretariat. And the spectacular counting will be conducted using 10 light aircraft, the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) said in a statement.

The ecosystem covers both Tsavo East and Tsavo West and the surrounding ranches and stretches to Mkomazi Game Reserve in north-eastern Tanzania.

It is bordered by Mt Kilimanjaro, Pare Mountains and parts of Usambara ranges to the southwest. The Tsavo/Mkomazi ecosystem is one of the 45 MIKE sites in Africa. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Monday, 28 January, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Taninthayi Division and rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kayin State, fairly widespread in Rakhine and Mon States, Yangon Division and widespread in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3ºC) below January average temperatures in Chin State and lower Sagaing Division, (3ºC) to (4ºC) above January average temperatures in Kachin, Kayin and Mon States and Bago Division, (5ºC) to (6ºC) above January average temperatures in Shan State and Taninthayi Division, (8ºC) above January average temperatures in Rakhine and Kayin States and about January average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures was Haka (2ºC), Mindat and PyinOoLwin (5ºC) each and Katha (6ºC). The noteworthy amounts of rainfalls recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (0.39)inch, Pinlaung (1.93)inches, Kyauktaw (1.30)inches, Pathein (1.10)inches, Ann (1.02)inches, Lashio (0.99)inch, Mindat (0.98)inch, Magway and Pyay (0.94)inch each, Minbu (0.90)inch, PyinOoLwin and Zaungtu (0.83)inch each and Hsipaw (0.79)inch.

Maximum temperature on 27-1-2008 was 94ºF. Minimum temperature on 28-1-2008 was 66ºF. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 28-1-2008 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 27-1-2008 was (6.5) hours approx.

Rainfall on 28-1-2008 was1mm(0.04inch) at Mingaladon, at (Tr) Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was Mingaladon,1 mm (0.04inch), (Tr) at Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Southeast at (13:30) hours MST on 27-1-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 29-1-2008: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated to scattered in Kachin, Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah and Mon States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Ayeyawady, Bago and Yangon Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy 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: Likelihood of continuation of isolated rain in the Eastern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 29-1-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 29-1-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 29-1-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

TV Myanmar

Tuesday, 29 January
View on today

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

7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am
3. Morning news

7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song

7:55 am
5. ကဗျာပန်းဥယျာဉ်

8:05 am
6. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:15 am
7. Songs of national races

8:30 am
8. International news

8:45 am
9. Let's go

4:00 pm
1. Martial song

4:15 pm
2. Song to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm
3. English for everyday use

4:45 pm
4. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ–တတိယနှစ် (ရုက္ခဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ရုက္ခဗေဒ)

5:00 pm
5. Dance of national races

5:15 pm
6. ခံစားနားဆင် တေးစာတန်ဝင်

5:25 pm
7. Sing and enjoy

6:00 pm
8. Evening news

6:30 pm
9. Weather report

6:35 pm
10. ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲ့ရင်ခုန်သံ

6:50 pm
11. သုတစုံလင် ဓွဇာဏ်ရှင်

7:15 pm
12. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "မြူနိုးဝေဝေချစ်သက်တည်" (အပိုင်း–၁၉)

8:00 pm
13. News
14. International news
15. Weather report
16. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "အချစ်စေတမန်" (အပိုင်း–၂၁)
17. The next day's programme

Radio Myanmar

Tuesday, 29 January
Tune in today

8:30 am Brief news
8:35 am Music
-Stay with me
8:40 am Perspectives
8:45 am Music
-He's on the phone
8:50 am National news/ Slogan
9:00 am Music
- Baby its you
9:05 am International news
9:10 am Music
-Never forget
1:30 pm News/ Slogan
1:40pm Lunch time music
-Heaven by your side
-The day you want away
9:00pm English speaking course
9:10 pm Article
9:20 pm Weekly sports reel
9:30 pm Listening pleasure
-My heart keeps following you
-Gina
9:45 pm News /Slogan
10:00 pm PEL

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The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

People's Desire

☆ **We favour stability.**

☆ **We favour peace.**

☆ **We oppose unrest and violence.**

Maj-Gen Khin Zaw supervises regional development tasks in Pakokku

Maj-Gen Khin Zaw inspects Kyiywa river-water pumping project.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Jan — Maj-Gen Khin Zaw of the Ministry of Defence together with Deputy Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen Tin Maung Ohn and Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe met with military officers, other ranks and their families at Yedagun Hall in Pakokku on 22 January and inspected plantations of crops and thriving physic nut plants of the families in Pakokku Station.

On arrival at Pakokku Town Maha Wipulayama (Mandalay Taik), Maha Withutayama (Aletaik), Maha Wizayayama Pali University (Ashaetaik) and Bodhimandaing Kyaungtaiks, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw paid homage to the Sayadaws and donated offertories to them.

Next, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and party inspected Border Areas and National Races Development Training School in Pakokku where they met with the teachers and students. Afterwards, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw urged them to teach the students with kindness and nurture them to become educated youths who have good characters and safeguard national prestige and on whom the State can rely. Then, he presented cash assistance for the training school.

Upon arrival at Women's Vocational Training School of Education and Planning Department in Pakokku, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw presented

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Social and educational development programmes are in full implementation in this corner of Mandalay. Primary and middle schools have full attendance. Health and social services reach out to Inkyin village and all other villages around it. In addition to paddy and other crops, villages keep vegetable gardens and their products find their way to markets in Mandalay.

Page 7 **DR KHIN MAUNG NYUNT**

☆ **RFA, VOA and BBC airing skyful of lies**

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

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