

Sippaāñca, to acquire skill in sciences; this is the way to auspiciousness.

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Saturday, 2 February, 2008

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Harmonious cooperation stressed for regional food safety, speeding up agricultural work, regional development, smooth transport

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Mandalay Division PDC Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Tin Ngwe, visited Hsimeekhon (2) River Water Pumping Project site in Hsimeekhon model village, Myingyan Township, yesterday morning.

Deputy Director of Mandalay Division Water (See page 8)



Lt-Gen Ye Myint of Ministry of Defence inspects Ywathit River Water Pumping Station in Ngazun Township.—MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe attends opening of Kadappana Model Village, inspects progress of Kadappana Sluice Gate Project



Lt-Gen Myint Swe unveils signboard of Kadappana Model Village in Kyauktan Township.—MNA

YANGON, 1 Feb—Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence attended the opening of Kadappana Model Village in Tadar of Kyauktan Township yesterday evening. Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and officials formally opened the archway of the village.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe unveiled the signboard of (See page 8)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 2 February, 2008

Strive for development of east bank areas of Thanlwin River

In an effort to bring about development in rural regions the government has built a large number of infrastructures for socio-economic development. The project covers the east bank areas of the Thanlwin River with Kengtung as its centre.

In the past, armed conflicts reigned in Shan State and the region lacked peace and stability. Consequently, the people in Shan State had to live a life of misery in constant fear and the region lagged behind in development.

At present, with the prevalence of peace and stability in the region the local people are enjoying the fruitful results of peace and stability.

Shan State saw an array of hospitals including the Shan State General Hospital 200-bed. These institutions have been facilitated with modern medical equipment and physicians and health staff have been assigned there. They contribute much to improvement of health care services for the people.

In the meantime, intellectuals and technocrats in the field of the higher education sector are being nurtured and trained in order to ensure the development of human resources. The emergence of higher learning institutions such as Kengtung University, Technological University (Kengtung) and University of Computer Science (Kengtung) has enabled the youths of the region to have easy access to higher education.

Nowadays, thanks to concerted efforts of the government and local people towns of border regions have developed like cities with a string of communication, economic, education and health infrastructures. Such development infrastructures have given rise to the emergence of qualified human resouces.



Tyres being displayed at showroom of TRI STAR General Trading Company Ltd in Nay Pyi Taw Thabyaegon market. — 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

Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee meets



Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin addresses the meeting of Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb — Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee held the meeting (4/2008) at the office of Nay Pyi Taw Command yesterday afternoon.

Speaking at the

meeting Patron of the committee Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin

stressed the need for taking measures for traffic rules enforcement so as to reduce road accidents in 2008,

holding educative talks and taking action against those who broke traffic rules and regulations in 2007.—MNA

USAID, LBVD discuss prevention, control of AI disease



Meeting of officials of LBVD and experts from USAID in progress.

MNA

YANGON, 31 Jan —Infectious disease control team from USAID based in Bangkok and officials of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department held talks on prevention of outbreak of avian influenza disease today.

At the meeting held at LBVD here, Deputy Director-General of LBVD Dr Than Tun briefed on prevention and control of the disease in Myanmar in cooperation with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Health Organization (WHO), OIE and other organizations.

Dr John Mac Arthur of USAID

expressed thanks for efforts for prevention and control of the avian influenza and human-to-human infection of the disease in Myanmar.

After the meeting, they visited Yangon Veterinary Laboratory where equipment provided by USAID through FAO for prevention and control of the disease have been stored.

The infectious disease control team also met with Resident Representative of FAO Mr Tang Zhengping today and discussed matters related to avian influenza disease prevention and control activities.—MNA

TRI STAR General Trading Company opens Showroom

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb —[The opening of Tyre Showroom of TRI STAR General Trading Company Limited was held in front of the showroom, No (Ya) 68-69 in Nay Pyi Taw Thabyaegone market this morning.

Deputy Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo opened the showroom by cutting the ribbon. Tri Star tyre showrooms have been opened at Bayintnaung market

and Myenigon.

Various kinds of tyres for small and heavy vehicles as well as heavy machinery are available and replacement and installation of tyres will be given as a service at the showroom. TRR STAR General Trading Company Limited is the sole agent in Myanmar. Those wishing to buy tyres may contact No (Ya) 68-69, Nay Pyi Taw Thabyaegone market (Ph: 067-414718). —MNA

Survey says Iraq conflict has killed a million

LONDON, 1 Feb—More than one million Iraqis have died as a result of the conflict in their country since the US-led invasion in 2003, according to research conducted by one of Britain's leading polling groups.

The survey, conducted by Opinion Research Business (ORB) with 2,414 adults in face-to-face interviews, found that 20 per cent of people had had at least one death in their household as a result of the conflict, rather than natural causes.

The last complete census in Iraq conducted in 1997 found 4.05 million households in the country, a figure ORB used to calculate that approximately 1.03 million people had died as a result of the war, the researchers found.

The margin of error in the survey, conducted in August and September 2007, was 1.7 per cent, giving a range of deaths of 946,258 to 1.12 million.

ORB originally found that 1.2 million people had died, but decided to go back and conduct more research in rural areas to make the survey as comprehensive as possible and then came up with the revised figure. —MNA/Reuters

An angry mob of followers of Kenya's opposition leader Raila Odinga shout as they block a road during a demonstration in the western town of Kisumu. Kofi Annan suspended Thursday crisis talks aimed at ending Kenya's political crisis after an opposition lawmaker was shot dead by a policeman, triggering further clashes which killed at least two. —INTERNET



Key militant captured in Karachi shootout

KARACHI, 1 Feb—Pakistani authorities said on Wednesday that one of the militants arrested a day earlier after a shootout in Karachi was a leading member of an al-Qaeda-linked group.

Qasim Toori, a member of the Jundullah group, was arrested late on Tuesday following a raid by police and paramilitary troops, Akhtar Zamin, Home

Minister of Sindh Province, told Reuters.

Two policemen and three militants were killed during the gunbattle, while Toori and two wounded militants were arrested. "We have also recovered a large quantity of weapons and ammunition, including rocket launchers, C4 plastic explosive as well as suicide jackets," Zamin said.

"The recovery of such a

large quantity of arms and ammunition also indicates that they were planning more attacks in Karachi." Jundullah, which means "Army of God", was blamed for an attack on a convoy escorting Karachi Corps Commander Lieutenant-General Ahsan Saleem Hayat in June 2004, in which 10 people were killed.

MNA/Reuters

Suicide bomber in Kabul wounds five

KABUL, 1 Feb—A suicide bomber targeted an Afghan Army bus in the centre of Kabul on Thursday, wounding one Army officer and four civilians, officials said.

The suicide bomber was in a Toyota saloon car, a police official said, adding he blew himself up prematurely, before reaching the target.

"The Army bus was passing from here when the explosion occurred. It looked like the whole place caught fire.

Pieces of metal were flying. I saw one man on bicycle got hurt and policemen put him on a ambulance," said witness Sayed Tahir.

MNA/Reuters

Obama, Clinton agree one of them to win White House

LOS ANGELES (California), 1 Feb—Democratic US presidential rivals Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton opened a crucial debate on Thursday by agreeing on one issue: one of them will become president in 2009.

Clinton, who would be the first woman president, and Obama, who would be the first Black president, have been locked in a bitter battle for weeks over issues that ranged from health care to race.

The two candidates struck a conciliatory tone

on Thursday and said that one of them would take over when President George W Bush leaves the White House next year.

"It is a testimony to the Democratic Party and it is a testimony to this country that we have the

opportunity to make history because I think one of us two will end up being the next president of the United States of America," Obama said, sitting next to the former first lady.

MNA/Reuters

US mulls slowing Iraq troop drawdown as gains remains fragile

WASHINGTON, 1 Feb—The US command in Iraq appears leaning toward freezing further troop reductions this summer as security gains in the country remain fragile, despite the deep unpopularity of the five-year-old war.

President George W Bush has given his tacit backing to the possible slowdown, after top Iraq commander General David Petraeus suggested it was now his thinking in an interview Sunday. Speaking Thursday in Las Vegas, Bush noted that roughly 20,000 of the recent peak of 160,000 US troops in Iraq were expected to come home by July. But, Bush added, "we have come too far in this important theatre in this war on terror not to make sure that we succeed.

"And therefore any further troop reductions will be based upon



US soldiers stop a car at a checkpoint in Baghdad. —INTERNET

commanders and conditions."

Petraeus could pitch for a midyear stall to the drawdown when he presents his recommendations to Bush in April, as he studies whether the surge's gains in increasing security could be left at risk by a smaller force. —Internet

Ice still blocking China's highways in six provinces

BEIJING, 1 Feb—Twelve national highways in six provinces remained impassable because of ice on Wednesday afternoon, causing major congestion, according to the latest report from the Ministry of Public Security.

Through 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, highways in

regions such as central Hunan and Hubei, southeastern Anhui, southwestern Guizhou, southern Guangdong and northwestern Shaanxi Provinces remained impassable, the report said.

Highway congestion in Hubei Province involved about 20 kilometres of road. Slow traffic was reported around service

stations where long lines around gas pumps were blocked by icy roads.

Most highways in Guizhou and the northern part of Anhui were closed. Highways in Hunan, Hubei and Jiangxi were mostly back to normal, with a few sections still experiencing slow traffic.

MNA/Xinhua



Thousands of passengers wait to get inside the Guangzhou Railway station in Guangzhou, in south China's Guangdong Province on 1 Feb, 2008. —INTERNET



A model of a newly discovered prehistoric crocodile (*Montealtosuchus arrudacamposi*) is seen after a news conference at the Federal University in Rio de Janeiro on 31 Jan, 2008. —XINHUA

Abbas will not meet Hamas leaders in Cairo

RAMALLAH, 1 Feb—Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas’ Fatah movement will not hold talks with rival Hamas in Cairo during the discussions to reopen Gaza-Egypt border, an aide to Abbas said on Wednesday.

“President Abbas did not form a delegation from Fatah to accompany him... he will discuss Rafah crossing point’s issue with the Egyptian side and has

no intention to meet Hamas leaders,” negotiator Yasser Abed Rabbo told the Press.

Egypt invited Abbas and Hamas for talks on reopening Rafah crossing one by one. Egypt and Israel closed the passage after Hamas seized the Gaza Strip in June following fighting against pro-Abbas forces.

Earlier, Hamas spokesman Fawzi Barhoom had said his movement does not

mind meeting with Abbas in Cairo. But the Palestinian President rejects to hold any talks with Hamas unless it gives up control on the Gaza Strip. Abed Rabbo urged Hamas “to free the Palestinian people of Gaza by not obstructing the efforts to reopen the crossing”, adding “Hamas makes the troubles and wants us (PNA) to correct its mistakes”.

MNA/Xinhua

US attorney general, lawmakers clash on torture

WASHINGTON, 1 Feb — US Attorney General Michael Mukasey drew congressional fire on Wednesday for refusing to rule on the legality of waterboarding, and said the CIA may again seek to use the harsh interrogation method.

But Mukasey said before any CIA resumption

of waterboarding, a simulated drowning technique condemned by much of the world as torture, he or his successors would determine if it is lawful and the matter would go to the President.

“Those steps may never be taken, but if they are I commit to you today that this committee will be

notified,” Mukasey told the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The Bush Administration has come under heavy scrutiny from critics at home and abroad over harsh interrogation methods used on terrorism suspects since the September 11 attacks.

MNA/Reuters

Romney accuses McCain of “dirty tricks” in US race

SIMI VALLEY (California), 31 Jan—Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney angrily accused his rival John McCain on Wednesday of “dirty tricks” for saying he had backed a timetable for withdrawing US troops from Iraq.

“It’s offensive to me that someone would suggest that I have,” Romney said. Simmering tensions from the campaign for Florida,

where McCain outdueled Romney to win the state’s Republican nomination contest on Tuesday and solidify his front-runner status, spilled over into a crucial debate in California. Romney, a former Massachusetts governor now fighting for his political life with more than 20 states to hold their nominating votes on “Super Tuesday” next week, accused McCain of lying about his Iraq record.

Those races could well determine the Republican Party’s choice for the 4 November election against a Democratic candidate to succeed President George W Bush.

Gone from the debate at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library was former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani, who quit the race after a dismal finish in Florida and endorsed McCain.

MNA/Reuters

Kenya vows tougher action to stop killings

NAIROBI, 31 Jan — Kenya said on Wednesday it would act tougher to reign in post-election violence threatening to spiral out of control in the East African nation’s darkest moment since independence in 1963.

Protests over President Mwai Kibaki’s disputed reelection in the

27 December vote have degenerated into cycles of killing between rival tribes, and there is increasing evidence of gangs being well organized on both sides.

The top US diplomat for Africa urged the political rivals to forge a compromise at mediation led by former UN chief

Kofi Annan and said ethnic retaliation had “gone too far”.

“There has been an organized effort to push out people from Rift Valley ... It is clearly ethnic cleansing,” US Assistant Secretary for African Affairs Jendayi Frazer said in Ethiopia.

MNA/Reuters



Photo taken on 30 Jan, 2008 shows large ice sculpture works at Luhua port scenery area in Bostan Lake, northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. —INTERNET

Bomb blast near Nepal political rally wounds 55

KATHMANDU, 31 Jan—More than 50 people were wounded when a bomb exploded on Wednesday near a crowd of thousands attending a political rally held by Nepal’s governing alliance in the south of the Himalayan nation, police said.

“We have 55 people wounded in all,” a police official told Reuters from the southeastern town of Birgunj, 62 kilometres (39 miles) from the capital Kathmandu. A doctor at the local hospital said at least three people were in critical condition. “I think it was a plastic bomb,” police official Yogeswor Romkhani said. There was no immediate word on who carried out the blast, the latest in a series that have rocked the restive southern Terai plains in recent weeks.

MNA/Reuters

Bodies of 13 missing Pakistani soldiers found

KOHAT (Pakistan), 31 Jan—Bodies of 13 Pakistani paramilitary soldiers kidnapped by militants last week have been found in an abandoned vehicle, officials and police in northwest Pakistan said on Wednesday.

The bodies were recovered in Darra Adam Kheil, a tribal area near the city of Peshawar in North West Frontier Province, where fighting broke out on Friday after militants seized four trucks carrying ammunition and other supplies for soldiers.

“Ten bodies have been identified while the remaining three are difficult to recognize,” said a police official, who declined to be named.

“They were apparently killed last week but their bodies were found today.”

MNA/Reuters

Half a million Brazilians killed in decade

BRASILIA, 31 Jan— Nearly half a million Brazilians were murdered in the past decade but the homicide rate is gradually falling due to better social welfare, more policing and fewer firearms, a study said on Tuesday. In the 10 years from 1996 to 2006, around 465,000 people were murdered, according to a study published by two aid groups and the federal government. The vast majority were shot.

Gang-related violence routinely shakes Brazil’s major cities, temporarily shutting down neighbourhoods and killing innocent bystanders.

Experts say corrupt and under-staffed police cannot cope; they cite the vast disparity between rich and poor as one of the main underlying causes of the violence. — MNA/Reuters

Russian Govt clears way for carbon profits

Moscow, 31 Jan—Russia's Government on Tuesday opened the door to applications from entrepreneurs and big polluters to profit from greenhouse gas emissions cuts by selling these to Western countries.

The UN's Kyoto Protocol puts limits on greenhouse gases from 36 rich nations but softens the restrictions by allowing

governments to fund emissions-cutting projects in poor and former Communist countries and count the cuts as their own.

Legal doubts have paralysed such sales of carbon offsets from Russia, which has the potential to account for about a tenth of total emissions cuts under carbon trading through 2012, estimated at roughly

the annual emissions of Australia.

Western intermediaries and speculators have already ploughed millions into the Russian market five times more than Russian investors, say Economy Ministry officials in anticipation of a potential three billion euros (4.4 billion US dollars) market.

MNA/Reuters



Passengers hold umbrellas as they line up to buy tickets as it snows at a railway station in Hefei, Anhui Province, on 27 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET

Bush's trade deals must take back seat

WASHINGTON, 1 Feb — The White House has no chance of winning approval of free trade pacts with Colombia, South Korea and Panama until the US Congress passes new legislation to help workers who have lost their jobs because of trade, a senior Democratic Senator said on Wednesday.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, a Montana Democrat, said in a speech he would not begin action on the three free trade agreements until Congress and the Bush Administration agree on measures to expand the federal trade adjustment assistance programme.

"Let me be clear. This task and no other must be our nation's trade policy priority. Until we accomplish it, other issues on today's trade agenda must take a back seat," Baucus said.

Current US public anxiety about trade and globalization makes it necessary for Congress to turn its attention to the trade adjustment assistance programme before addressing the trade pacts, Baucus said. —MNA/Reuters



A model displays a creation by Stretch Couture during the Women Spring-Summer 2008 Haute Couture collection of the Rome Fashion Week at Auditorium Parco della Musica.—INTERNET

Petrobras leads Brazil's ranking of exporters

RIO DE JANEIRO, 1 Feb — State-owned oil and gas Petrobras remained the largest exporter among all Brazilian companies in 2007, the government's Secretariat of Foreign Trade said on Tuesday.

The company's export amounted to 13.6 billion

US dollars last year, up 22.9 per cent from 2006 and accounting for 8.4 per cent of the country's total.

However, the result was outnumbered by Petrobras' imports in the period of 15.3 billion dollars, representing 12.7 per cent of Brazil's overall imports in 2007 and a rise of 46 per cent from 2006. Miner Vale (former CVRD) came the second in the exporters' ranking, with 7.9 billion dollars in 2007, up 31.9 per cent from the previous year. In terms of imports, the figure was 395 million dollars, the 45th in Brazil's ranking of importers in 2007. —MNA/Xinhua

China remains world's largest stainless steel producer

BEIJING, 1 Feb — China remained the world's number one producer of stainless steel last year, taking up more than one quarter of the global output, figures with the China Iron and Steel Association (CISA) have shown.

China churned out some 7.2 million tons of stainless steel in 2007, or

more than one quarter of some 28 million tons of global output, said chairman of the stainless steel council under the CISA Li Cheng.

China overtook Japan as the world's biggest stainless steel producer in 2006.

Its alloy steel output hit 16.6 million tons last

year, up 21.72 per cent year on year.

Steel products exports, however, dropped sharply in the second half of 2007 on a series of reduction in export tax rebates.

MNA/Xinhua

Nigeria's crude oil production rises to 2.1 m bpd

ABUJA, 1 Feb — Nigeria's crude oil production, which slumped to below 1.8 million barrels per day owing to the Niger Delta crisis, has increased to 2.1 million per day, a top government official said here on

Wednesday.

Tony Chukwueke of the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) told the *News Agency of Nigeria* (NAN) at the ongoing Offshore West Africa (OWA) conference that production could also rise to 2.7 million per day before the end of the second quarter of this year.

At the peak of the Niger Delta crisis, the country was losing more than 900,000 barrels per day.

Niger Delta militants sabotaged oil installations and got two of the nation's refineries to close down since March 2006.

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia working on stabilizing food price

JAKARTA, 1 Feb — The Indonesian Government would issue on Friday a package of food price for cheap rice, ordinary rice, sugar, kerosene, soybean and cooking oil, in a bid to stabilize their soaring prices, a senior official said here on Wednesday.

Coordinating Minister for Economy Boediono told a joint Press conference after a meeting with the business communities that there was still a gap on the prices target proposed by the two sides.

A team from the Indonesian Chambers of

Commerce (KADIN) has been charged to synchronize the different prices, said KADIN Chairman MS Hidayat.

MNA/Xinhua

"A380" to fly Singapore-London route

SINGAPORE, 1 Feb — Singapore Airlines will fly its third Airbus A380 superjumbo on the Singapore-London route from 18 March, the carrier said on Wednesday.

The British capital is the Airline's second A380 destination after the launch to Sydney in October last year, said the SIA in a statement. Singapore Airlines is the first airline to fly the world's largest passenger aircraft A380. It currently has two A380s in service on the Singapore-Sydney route, and has a further 17 to join its fleet. —MNA/Xinhua



Villagers appreciate bread shaped into various patterns at a village in Rizhao city, east China's Shandong Province, on 31 Jan, 2008. —XINHUA

Istanbul factory blast kills 17

ISTANBUL, 1 Feb — An explosion at an Istanbul factory on Thursday killed at least 17 people and injured nearly 40 after it brought down several floors of a multi-storey building, Istanbul authorities said.

Television footage showed a seriously damaged building with shattered windows and surrounded by debris. One man lay on the street apparently badly hurt in the blast.

Istanbul health officials, quoted on private broadcaster CNN Turk, said the death toll was at 17.

But police said more people were still under the rubble and that the death toll could rise.

Police said the blast had been caused by an explosion in the factory's furnace room, but Istanbul Governor Muammer Guler said the cause of the blast was still to be confirmed.

MNA/Reuters



Rescuers work at the site after an explosion in Istanbul, Turkey, on 31 Jan, 2008. —XINHUA

Bin Laden urged by his son to end explosions

CAIRO, 31 Jan—Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden was urged by his son to stop explosions as they do no good for anyone, the Egyptian MENA news agency reported on Tuesday.

The 26-year-old Omar bin Laden made the remarks in an interview with an Egyptian TV programme broadcast on Monday, the report said.

The killing of civilians contradicts religion, democracy and humanity, Omar was quoted by MENA as saying in the first Arabic television channel interview in Cairo.

Asserting his intention to be an ambassador for peace, Omar also called on his father to try to stop using bombs and weapons and to find another way to reach his goals. — MNA/Reuters

Rice fields in S Vietnam mined by pests, diseases

HANOI, 31 Jan—Over 140,000 hectares of winter-spring paddy rice fields in Vietnam's southern region are being heavily infected with pests and diseases, agriculture agency said Tuesday.

Most of the affected paddy rice fields are located in the Mekong

Delta, the country's biggest rice hub, said the Plant Protection Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Provinces with fields most seriously mined by pests and diseases are Hau Giang, Long An, Soc Trang, Bac Lieu and Vinh Long.

Vietnam, the world's second biggest rice exporter after Thailand, exported 4.5 million tons of rice worth nearly 1.5 billion US dollars, mainly to the Philippines, Malaysia, Cuba, Indonesia and Japan, in 2007, according to the country's General Statistics Office.

MNA/Xinhua

China supports reasonable, necessary reform of UNSC

BEIJING, 31 Jan—China on Tuesday said there is no change in its position on the reform of the United Nations Security Council and it supports reasonable and necessary reform of the Council.

Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Jiang Yu made the remarks when asked whether there is a change of views on the reform of the Council since relevant intergovernmental negotiations on such reform had already been initiated, marking a new stage of the reform.

"China supports reasonable and necessary reform of the UN Security

Council so as to enhance its authority and efficiency. We have always supported the developing countries to play a bigger role in the UN and in the Security Council, and advocated to give priority for increasing representation of developing countries, particularly that of the African countries in the Security Council," Jiang said.

The reform would affect the future of the UN and the immediate interests of all member countries so we should follow a principle to get easier things done first and harder ones afterwards, said Jiang.

MNA/Xinhua

NATO hears Canada's frustration on Afghanistan

BRUSSELS, 31 Jan—NATO said on Tuesday it shared Canada's view of the need to bolster its Afghan peace operation but dismissed charges that allies were dragging their feet, pointing to a huge expansion since 2003. Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper threatened on Monday to pull its 2,500 troops out of Afghanistan early next year unless NATO sends significant reinforcements, saying the mission would fail unless more soldiers and equipment arrived.

"We share the assessment that Afghanistan needs long-term support, including military support. NATO as an organization has had a longstanding request for more troops in the south," a NATO spokesman said of the violent region where Canada operates.

But he noted the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) had more than quadrupled in size to over 40,000 troops and "is now close to what our military believe is our full requirement".

MNA/Reuters

Sanctions against Iran violate UN charter

TEHERAN, 1 Feb — Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad-Ali Hosseini said on Thursday that UN Security Council sanctions against Iran are in violation of the UN Charter, state-run Press TV reported.

"There is no legal justification for passing resolutions against Iran, just as there was no justification for Teheran's nuclear dossier to be hauled before the UN Security Council,"

Hosseini was quoted as telling Bahrain's newspaper *Al-Wasat*.

The spokesman, meanwhile, urged the UN Security Council to shelve the Islamic Republic's nuclear dossier, so it can be dealt with by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Hosseini said the resolutions passed against Teheran "aim to deprive the Iranian nation of its legitimate and inalienable right to develop peaceful nuclear technology".

He reiterated that Iran's nuclear activities pose no threat to other countries.

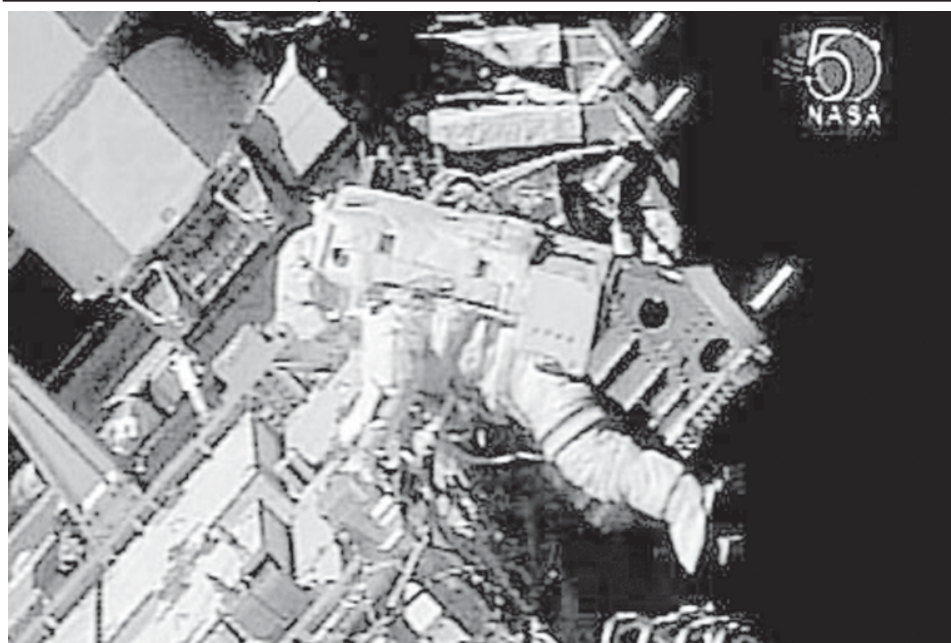
Foreign ministers of the five UN permanent members of the Security Council, Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States, along with Germany last week circulated a statement containing the proposed elements of a draft resolution to impose more travel bans, frozen assets and other sanctions on Iran. — MNA/Xinhua

Mexican farmers stage protest over US imports

MEXICO CITY, 1 Feb — Thousands of Mexican farmers, some herding cows, flooded into the capital on Thursday and set a tractor on fire to demand government protection against cheap US farm imports. Final trade barriers to agricultural products in North America were lifted in January under the North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA, opening Mexico for the first time to tariff-free US exports of staple foods like corn and beans.

Mexican farmers complain President Felipe Calderon's government is not doing enough to protect them from competition from subsidized US agricultural goods.

The protesters, many in boots and cowboy hats and some ringing cowbells, said Mexico should renegotiate NAFTA to maintain protection for home-grown corn and beans. —MNA/Reuters



In this image from NASA Television, commander Peggy Whitson is seen on the International Space Station during a space walk on 1 Feb 2008. —INTERNET

Setting foot in Golden Triangle Region (1)

Yadanasi Sayadaw (Loilem)

The road on which a car carrying me is a tortuous but fine one. The facility is not straight because it is built on highland.

Taking the car, I happened to think about the four paths that human beings usually lead their lives:

- (1) straight and fine path,
- (2) straight but not fine path,
- (3) fine but not straight path,
- (4) not fine and not straight path.

When the car just passed through the entrance to Kengtung, I saw magnificent Kengtung University along with hostels for faculty members and students.

After taking a rest at Maha Bodhi Kamatthana Monastery in Kengtung, we proceeded to the Maha Myat Muni Pagoda and Khemarattha Standing Buddha Image. Like the Sule Pagoda in Yangon, the Maha Myat Muni Pagoda is located at a junction of motor roads from four directions. Maha Myat Muni Buddha Image is a replica of Mandalay Maha Myat Muni Buddha Image.

I offered gold foils to the image and recited religious verses there. Then, the sun set.

The 76 feet and six inches high image has an 18-foot-long pure-gold Thinkyit (decorative frontlet embodied on the forehead) with the weight of a viss. In June and July 1995, some ancient Buddha images were excavated there. So, the chairman monks of the township All Ganas of Members of the Sangha in Kengtung, local prominent monks led by the chairman of Kengtung Sangha Nayaka Committee Naga Hnakaung Sayadaw, and local authorities led by the commander of Golden Triangle Region Command (now Prime Minister General Thein Sein) built the Khemarattha Standing Buddha Image, enshrining the excavated images in it, with the aim of promoting

and propagating the Sasana and ensuring peace and stability around the country.

The following day, I visited the historic Nawngton Lake in Kengtung. The word “Nawngton” is made up of two words “Nawng” and “Ton”. The word “Ton” is derived from a Shan language word “Tone” that means “receive or hold”. There is an oral history that when the Buddha was alive, some wellwishers washed rice to offer alms food to the Buddha and His company of arahats. The spilled out water flowed up to the lake that would be known as the Nawngton Lake. After some periods elapsed, the word “Tone” was pronounced as “Ton”. The word “Nawng” means a large lake. So, the word “Nawngton” means the lake that receives or holds Hsan-hsay-yay (water that has been used to wash rice to cook).

And the word “Keng” means tripod or the place of the stove supporting the pot used to cook rice. The region where rice was cooked to offer alms food to the Buddha and His company of arahats was known as Keng at the time. The word “tripod” also means holding the pot containing rice and water. So, the words “Keng” and “Tung” were combined into a single word “Kengtung”.

So, I would say Kengtung is a town of tripod. From the religious point of view, Kengtung is a region where the Three Gems — Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha — exist firmly and so does is the tripod of “non-disintegration of Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty”.

Nawngton Lake reflects the sense of upholding Our Three Main National Causes and oneness of over 100 national races.

Few days later, we left Kengtung for Tachilek.

The Union Highway is such a fine transport facility that it took us only over three hours to get to Tachilek,

102 miles from Kengtung.

In the past, passengers had to spend a night to make the same trip. On one side of Kengtung-Tachilek Road is a creek and other side, a ridge. Some ridges are made up of silt and sand. So, when it rains heavily or for several days consecutively, there was a landslide from the ridges and the road was blocked severely. Moreover, the U-shape bend road sections might be ravaged.

Unlike in the past, the road has been upgraded to a six-lane facility thanks to the goodwill of the Tatamdaw government.

The airport of Tachilek was found very splendid with works of Myanmar fine arts. Previously, Tachilek was just a small countryside town. Since 2000, it has been developed to a city, whose progress is on a par with that of Meisai of Thailand.

Due to the replica of the Shwedagon Pagoda that was built under the leadership of the Tatmadaw government, the dwellers of Tachilek have come to devote themselves to the Three Gems.

And there is the statue of King Bayintnaung that is distinct from Meisai side of Thailand.

I also recalled some events that the Second Myanmar Empire built by King Bayintnaung collapsed into many parts shortly thereafter.

Since 1988, peace and stability has been restored well throughout the nation and the nation has enjoyed development at unprecedented level. That is tangible. The Tatmadaw government had to make a lot of sacrifices and work day in, day out to accomplish such a demanding task. Therefore, the Tatamdaw government would not allow any situations that can harm the already-achieved development momentum.

So far, the Tatmadaw government has nearly accomplished three steps of the seven-step Road Map that is the only process to deal with globalization in accordance with the background history, geopolitics, traditions and qualities of Myanmar.

I wish the entire Myanmar people a success in implementing the State’s seven-step Road Map with a broad view, a broad mind and understanding.

Translation: MS

Myanmar Alin and Kyemon: 1-2-3008

So far, the Tatmadaw government has nearly accomplished three steps of the seven-step Road Map that is the only process to deal with globalization in accordance with the background history, geopolitics, traditions and qualities of Myanmar.

Harmonious cooperation stressed for regional...

(from page 1)

Resources Utilization Department U Win Hsan reported on the pumping of river water with the use of electric power and diesel-fired power and supply of irrigation water for cultivation of summer paddy in Myingyan District. The commander gave a supplementary report.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions and inspected the pumping of river water by the stations to the main canal.



Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Htay inspects a filling station in Paleik. —ENERGY

Deputy Energy Minister visits filling stations

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb — Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay visited filling station No (0648) in Shwebo and filling station Nos (0622) & (0642) in Sagaing under Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise on 29 January and inspected security and fire preventive measures and distribution of fuel.

On 30 January the deputy minister visited the main oil distribution centre (B-level) (Mandalay). There Manager U Khin Maung Win reported on security and fire prevention measures being taken, building of the oil tank and arrival and distribution of fuel.

Later, the deputy minister visited filling station No (0614), CNG filling station No (001) and CNG filling Station (Paleik) and called on the staff to take safety and fire prevention measures. — MNA

Two innocent people get injuries in mine explosions in Kyaukkyi Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb — A woman and a man lost their left feet and got injuries in the right hands in separate mine explosions in Bago Division on 30 January.

Daw Goon, 52, daughter of U Kyaw Hlaing, who dwells at the Meetinetaw Village in Kyaukkyi Township, stepped on a mine set by the insurgents on her way to collect leaves of In tree (*Dipterocarpus cuberculatus*) at the swamp west of Kinpun Creek, about 2 miles east of the village.

The similar plight occurred to U Min Tun, 32, son of U Aung Thein, at the same place the same day.

The two victims were rushed to Mone Station Hospital. Authorities concerned and local people are investigating the cases.

With the intention of undermining the State stability, disturbing tranquility, peace and law and order, insurgents are committing destructive acts employing all means and ways. — MNA

He inspected Nganmyargyi River Water Pumping Station in Ngazun Township.

On arrival at Nganmyargyi Station People's Hospital in Ngazun Township, Lt-Gen Ye Myint was conducted round the medical facility by Medical Superintendent Dr Myat Moe San and officials.

He looked into physic nut plantation (1) of Nganmyargyi Village-tract, Ngazun Township and the pumping of water into the main canal at waterworks (2) of Nganmyar river water pumping station (2).

On his inspection tour of Ywathit River Pumping Project in Ngazun Township, Lt-Gen Ye Myint instructed the officials to grow paddy in the rainy season and suitable crops in the remaining seasons in the irrigated areas.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected Ngazun Township People's Hospital.

In meeting with departmental officials, members of social organizations and townsenders at Ngazun Township PDC, Lt-Gen Ye Myint called for harmonious cooperation for regional food safety, speeding up the agricultural work, regional development and smooth transport.

He also inspected Kyauktalon River Water Pumping Station Project and gave instructions to the officials.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and the commander inspected the 1.24-acre model mixed crop plantation of chick pea and sunflower of U Hla Swe. —MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe attends opening of Kadappana Model...

(from page 1)

the model village. Officials also cut the ribbon to open the Mya Kyi Tha self-reliant library, the Pre-Primary School and the rural health care branch.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and the commander donated books to the library and inspected the library, the pre-primary school and the rural health care branch.

At Basic Education Post-Primary School, the chairman of Kyauktan Township PDC reported on cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy, beans and pulses, edible oil and physic nut.

Next, the commander delivered an address. Lt-Gen Myint Swe explained regional development and agricultural matters.

At Kadappana Sluice Gate Construction Project site in Thongwa Township, they heard reports on facts about the project and future tasks presented by Deputy Director U Soe Myint Tun of Irrigation Department. Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party viewed progress of the project.

Kadappana Sluice Gate is reinforced concrete type. The sluice gate will have 27 valves measuring six feet by 16 feet each. The sluice gate will benefit 15,000 acres of land through inlet and outlet channels. On completion, the sluice gate will prevent floods in farmlands in northeast area of Thanlyin Township and supply more water to the farmlands.

MNA

Provision of care for the elderly being rendered

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb — Leader of Working Group of Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Daw Tin Tin Nwe, together with Leader of Work Group of Prevention against Trafficking in Persons Daw Khin May Soe and member Daw Thin Thin Nwe, Secretary of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township WAO Daw Win Myint Cho and member Daw Khin Mar Yi, went to the four old women's residents in Shwechi and Mingalar wards in Nay



Daw Tin Tin Nwe presents gift to an aged woman in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana. — MNA

Pyi Taw Pyinmana and presented medicines and gifts to them as a door-to-door project to care for the

oldies.

According to the project, the provision of care for the elderly are

being rendered by 17 volunteers of Township WAO.

MNA

Results of First Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Women's Volleyball Tournament for 2008

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb — The first round matches of First Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Women's Volleyball Tournament for 2008 went on at the Volleyball Ground, here, today.

In the morning match, Ministry of Home Affairs team swept to a 3-0 win over Ministry of Electric Power No 2 in Group-C.

In the evening matches, Ministry of Sports team beat Ministry of Religious Affairs team 3-0 in Group-D, Ministry of Immigration and Population team lost to Ministry of Education 3-0 in Group-C.

Among the spectators today were Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Minister for Reli-

gious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Thura Aung Ko, Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min and others.

Tomorrow morning, Ministry of Energy team will meet Ministry of Industry-1 in Group-F and Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement team will play against Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development in Group-F. In the evening, Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development team will meet Ministry of Culture in Group-A and Ministry of Industry-2, Ministry of Finance and Revenue in Group-A.

MNA

Maj-Gen Tha Aye inspects...

(from page 16)

Poe La Min Jetty and U Kyauk Seinn jetties and freight-handling tasks. They also inspected breeding of giant sea perch at the fish farm of Myeik Co Ltd.

After hearing reports on the increase of acreage in cultivation of oil palm in the region and progress of oil palm cultivation project by officials and extended cultivation of oil palm and construction of oil palm factory by entrepreneurs at the meeting hall of Coastal Region Command, Maj-Gen Tha Aye gave necessary instructions.

Maj-Gen Tha Aye, the commander and party viewed demon-

stration on pollination at the oil palm plantation of Oil Palm Research of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation near Shwedu village.

Next, they proceeded to Myeik Technological University. Maj-Gen Tha Aye heard a report on academic matters of the university presented by Acting Principal Dr Win Sandar and attended to the needs.

They also looked into building of No 1 Myeik Myothit road and development of Myeik in a motorcade.

Next, they paid homage to Thaungthaya Sutaungpyae Pagoda and made cash donations.

MNA

Meeting on Implementation of the Myanmar-China Border Areas Management and Cooperation Agreement held

NAYPYITAW, 31 Jan—A 10-member Chinese delegation led by Mr Duan Jielong, Director-General of the Department of Treaty and Law of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, which was in Myanmar since 27 January 2008 to attend the 8th Meeting on the Implementation of the Myanmar-China Border Areas Management and Cooperation Agreement left Yangon this morning by Thai Airways International. The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Director-General of the Political Department and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Chinese Embassy in Yangon.

The 8th Meeting on the Implementation of the Myanmar-China Border Areas Management and Cooperation Agreement was held at Hotel Nikko Royal Lake in Yangon from 28 to 30 January 2008.

At the meeting, the Myanmar delegation led by U Phae Thann Oo, Director-

General of the Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Chinese delegation led by Mr Duan Jielong, Director-General of the Department of Treaty and Law of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China held friendly and cordial discussions on various issues relating to Myanmar-China boundary and management of border areas.—MNA

USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo delivers an address at a ceremony to conclude Myanmar Affairs and International Studies Course No 13. — MNA



With noble mind

- In serving public interest
- Do not deviate from own way
- Because of slanders
- Just carry it on

(Venerable Shwe Hinth Sayadaw)

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence and wife being welcomed by Ambassador of China to Myanmar HE Guan Mu at a reception to mark the spring festival of China in Yangon on 1 February, 2008.

MNA



USDA Myanmar Affairs and International Studies Course concludes

YANGON, 1 Feb—The Myanmar Affairs and International Studies Course No 13 of the Union Solidarity and Development Association concluded at Pyidaungsu Hall of USDA Training School at Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township this morning.

Speaking on the occasion, USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo said that the USDA was established to join hands with the people in carrying out the tasks for ensuring peace and stability and development tasks. It can be seen that members of the association have implemented tasks for the people in accord with the basic principles and future work programmes of the

association during 14-year period.

He said that the increasing members have been formed into the associations at different levels to serve the interest of the State. In addition, the training courses are being provided for the members to become qualified ones. The trainees are to utilize experiences gained from the training in their respective fields.

The Secretary-General continued to say that the government is giving priority to development of rural areas and sets the plan for participation of the association in regional development. He stressed the need for the association to undertake tasks for

power supply and establishment of libraries in addition to five rural development tasks. Furthermore, it is necessary to place emphasis on boosting production of agricultural produce.

Thanks to the collaborative efforts of the Government, the Tatmadaw and the people, infrastructures for political, economic and social sectors have been established in the country. The seven-step Road Map is being implemented to build a new democratic nation. The National Convention, first step of the Road Map has been implemented, and the new State constitution, the third step of the Road Map, is being drawn. It is the belief of the association that

only the seven-step Road Map can lead to a new nation. And therefore, members of the association are actively participating in the drive for success of the Road Map.

Every nation has to lay down policies which can serve the interests of the people of a nation. Myanmar is also evolving a policy which is suitable to the country.

In conclusion, the Secretary-General urged the members to step up their efforts for the success of the seven-step Road Map.

Also present on the occasion were USDA CEC members, officials of the USDA headquarters, and supervisors and instructors. A total of 101 trainees attended the course.—MNA

Environmentalists rally in protest of US climate policy

HONOLULU (United States), 1 Feb — Environmentalists rallied in front of the East West Centre here on Wednesday to press their demand for tougher action by the Bush Administration to tackle climate change.

Holding banners which read "Global Warming: Take Action Now", "No Rainforest Destruction for Biofuel" and "Clean

Energy Now", the demonstrators lined the street opposite the East West Centre as representatives were entering the venue of the Major Economics Meeting on Energy Safety and Climate Change.

"We want our voice heard by people attending the meeting so as to make the Bush Administration change its stubborn policy on climate change," Henry

Curtis, Executive Director of a local environmental group Life of the Land, told *Xinhua*.

Hosted by the Bush Administration, the two-day climate change meeting, which began Wednesday, brought together representatives from 15 countries as well as the United Nations and the European Union.

MNA/Xinhua

White House criticizes envoy over Iran

WASHINGTON, 1 Feb — The White House has expressed anger about an appearance in which US Ambassador to the United Nations Zalmay Khalilzad sat beside the Iranian Foreign Minister at a panel of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, on Saturday, the *New York Times* reported Wednesday.

Khalilzad was still in Europe and could not be reached for comment. His spokesman, Richard A Grenell, characterized Khalilzad's appearance beside Iranina Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki as "just a multi-lateral conversation with the moderator". "There was no separate meeting or separate conversation or handshake with the Iranian Foreign Minister," Grenell was quoted as reporting.—MNA/Xinhua



Palestinians build a snowman near the controversial Israeli barrier after a snowstorm, near the Qalandiya checkpoint, just outside the West Bank city of Ramallah on 31 Jan, 2008. — INTERNET

Afghan Upper House backs journalist death sentence

KABUL, 1 Feb — Afghanistan's Upper House of Parliament has backed a death sentence issued against a reporter accused of blasphemy, one of the members said on Wednesday.

The United States and UN right groups have

expressed concern over the case of Sayed Perwiz Kambakhsh, 23, sentenced to death by a court last week for allegedly mocking Islam and the Koran, and for distributing an article which said the Prophet Mohammad had ignored the rights of women.

"The Meshrano Jirga (elders house) yesterday supported the death sentence on him," Noorullah, a delegate said.

MNA/Reuters

Study debunks personality link to breast cancer

WASHINGTON, 1 Feb — The idea that a woman's personality traits can make her more prone to breast cancer appears nothing more than a myth, according to a Dutch study.

Women who were unemotional, depressed or anxious were no more or less likely to get breast cancer than any other women, the study found. Nor were women who were optimistic, angry or understanding, or had any combination of personality traits.

The Dutch researchers measured 11

personality traits in 9,705 Dutch women in a survey in 1989 and 1990, then tracked them through 2003 to see who got breast cancer.

"The present results indicate that women should not worry about a possible impact of personality factors as a risk factor for breast cancer," Eveline Bleiker of the Netherlands Cancer Institute and Antoni van Leeuwenhoek Hospital in Amsterdam, who led the study, said by e-mail.

MNA/Reuters

Russia, Belarus ink one-voice foreign policy plan

MOSCOW, 1 Feb — Russia and Belarus on Wednesday signed in Minsk a plan of action in foreign policy in a bid to enhance cooperation on international issues and preventing isolation attempts against Belarus, according to reports reaching here.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and his Belarussian counterpart Sergei Martynov also signed a plan of ministerial consultations in 2008 and discussed cooperation within international organizations, news agencies reported.

MNA/Xinhua

Britain announces new immigration fees

LONDON, 1 Feb — The British Government announced on Wednesday new immigration fees, and funding changes to border security over the next 12 months.

The announcement comes just weeks before the introduction of a new point-based system for managing migration. The system will help ensure high-skilled workers needed by the Britain's economy to come to the country and put in place a licencing system for businesses who want to recruit from overseas. — MNA/Xinhua

Roadside bomb attacks wound eight in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 1 Feb — Three roadside bombs detonated in different parts of Baghdad on Thursday morning, wounding altogether eight people including policemen, a well-informed police source said.

A roadside bomb went off near a police patrol near the Zaivouna bridge in eastern Baghdad's Baladiyahat neighbourhood, damaging a police vehicle and wounding three policemen on board in

addition to three passing civilians the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

He said that another roadside bomb detonated near the Musa iin Nassir fuel station in Karrandah neighbourhood in central the capital, wounding two civiliana.

The source quoted Iraqi police as saying that a US armoured vehicle was set on fire before dawn when a roadside bomb struck the military patrol on the al-

Qanat street that passes through al-Amin neighbourhood in eastern Baghdad.

The burning vehicle ignited, several secondary explosions more than two hours after the roadside bomb attack, the source said.

It is not immediately known that whether the US military sustained any casualty as the US troops cordoned off the scene soon after the attack.

MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi girls walk past an Iraqi policeman standing guard at a checkpoint in Mahmoudiya, 30km (20 miles) south of Baghdad on 30 Jan, 2008.

INTERNET

Distance education programmes train 6 mln Chinese

BEIJING, 1 Feb— More than six million Chinese have received a college-level education over the past three decades through distance education programmes on television, radio and the Internet.

Another 40 million have received training via the country's radio and television colleges, according to sources from a distance education symposium held here on Thursday.

Since 1978, the Central Radio and Television University and 44 provincial radio and TV colleges have been built. It was in that year China first launched distance learning to provide education opportunities for those who cannot go to universities.

Such students, those who failed the national entrance exams to universities, could get access to courses broadcast through television and radio nationwide.

At the symposium, State Councillor Chen Zhili called the colleges an important part of the country's higher-learning system. They served as a "backbone" for modern distance education.

They also made it possible for anyone to study at any time in any place, she said, noting they helped achieve education fairness and cultivated talent for the country.—MNA/Xinhua

Bulgaria President plane makes emergency landing

SOFIA, 1 Feb—Bulgarian President Georgi Parvanov's plane made an emergency landing at the Azores Islands after a technical problem on Wednesday, his office said.

Parvanov was on his way to official visit to Mexico when his Russian-made TU-154 had a technical problem.

After the incident the President cancelled the visit and returned to Sofia, a spokesman for President said.

The Azores, which belong to Portugal, are located in the Atlantic Ocean some 1,500 kilometres (950 miles) west of Lisbon.

MNA/Reuters

Scientists say China's snow storms not climate change

SYDNEY, 1 Feb—Snow storms in China that have killed more than 60 people are not directly linked to climate change, say scientists, but simply on extreme event caused by very cold winter temperatures and a La Nina weather pattern.

La Nina has brought moist air over southern China at a time of very cold winter temperatures, resulting in heavy snow falls, said Chinese weather experts.

"This is mainly related to abnormal atmospheric circulation and the La Nina event," Dong Wenjie of the National Climate Centre told the official *People's Daily*.

"The National Climate Centre predicts that this La Nina event will

continue at least up to summer 2008 at a medium to strong level," Dong said. "With climate warming extreme weather events are clearly increasing in frequency and intensity."

The worst snows in 50 years in southern China have hit as tens of millions of people attempt to return home to celebrate the Lunar New Year with families.

Australian climate scientist Penny Whetton, one of the authors of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) fourth assessment report, said the Chinese explanation for the storms was valid, adding the bad weather was not linked to climate change.

MNA/Reuters



People fill out the paper work before getting their flu shots in Chicago, Illinois. Scientists have mapped out the bit of molecular plumbing that allows the influenza virus to outwit front-line flu drugs, but disagree on exactly how it works, according to a pair of studies released on Wednesday.—INTERNET

Gunmen attack Israeli Embassy in Mauritania

NOUAKCHOTT, 1 Feb— Unidentified gunmen attacked the Israeli Embassy in the Mauritanian capital Nouakchott early on Friday, wounding some people, police and emergency services said.

A bar near the embassy, in the centre of Nouakchott, was also hit by gunfire in the attack before the attackers fled, they said.

The attack followed recent public calls by political parties in

Mauritania, an Islamic Republic which straddles black and Arab Africa, for the government to sever diplomatic ties with Israel. The country is one of the few Arab League states to have relations with Israel.—MNA/Reuters

World ice dancing champion sentenced for 2.5 yrs in jail

SOFIA, 1 Feb— Bulgaria's Burgas District Court Wednesday gave the country's ice-dancing world champion Maxim

Staviski a 2.5 years prison sentence, suspended for a five-year period. The sentence was made over causing a heavy car crash,

which killed one and injured three in last August. According to local Press, the court also banned Staviski from driving for four years, minus the time when his license was confiscated after the accident.

The deadly crash occurred on 5 August last year after Staviski veered into the opposite lane on a bridge near the city of Burgas and bumped headlong into another car with four people riding in it.—MNA/Xinhua

More than 200 kilos of cocaine seized in Peru

LIMA, 1 Feb—Peru police seized over 200 kilos of cocaine at the country's largest port Callao, the head of anti-drug police said on Thursday.

The drug was found hidden in containers carrying porcelain in a warehouse at Callao, 10 kilometres away from Lima. Drug traffickers often use the port to smuggle drugs out of the country, said anti-drug police chief Miguel Hidalgo.—MNA/Xinhua

Al-Qaeda top commander in Afghanistan killed

WASHINGTON, 1 Feb—One of al-Qaeda's top commanders in Afghanistan has been killed, CNN reported on Thursday.

Citing a Western official and a senior US military official, CNN

reported that the commander identified as Abu Laith al-Libi, was a key link between Taleban and al-Qaeda and ranked as one of the United States military's 12 most-wanted men.

Al-Libi, a 41-year-old

Libyan descent, was also believed to have been behind the February 2007 bombing at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan while Vice President Dick Cheney was visiting the country, according to the report.—MNA/Xinhua



A passer-by takes a cell phone picture of a replica display of Apple's iPhone at the Fifth Avenue Apple store in New York.—INTERNET

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MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (207)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (207) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 2.2.2008 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
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
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M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.,
for Anita Dr. Helbig GmbH
P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 2 February 2008

US researcher admits to
leaking drug data

WASHINGTON, 31 Jan—A Texas researcher admitted he had leaked a sensitive and controversial report about the heart risks of diabetes drug Avandia to its maker, GlaxoSmithKline, the journal *Nature* reported on Wednesday.

Steven Haffner of the University of Texas Health Science Centre at San Antonio admitted he tipped off the company days before the report was

due to be released, and a member of the US Congress quickly launched an investigation.

"Why I sent it is a mystery," Haffner is quoted by *Nature* as saying. "I don't really understand it. I wasn't feeling well. It was bad judgment."

In May, Dr Steve Nissen of the Cleveland Clinic reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine* that his analysis

of other studies suggested Avandia raised the risk of a heart attack by 43 per cent.

The report set off a storm of controversy, round after round of regulatory meetings and lead to requirements by the US Food and Drug Administration and European regulators that Avandia carry strong warnings about the risks.

MNA/Reuters

Madonna tops list of 20 richest
women in music industry

NEW YORK, 1 Feb—*Forbes* magazine on Wednesday released a list of 20 richest women in the music industry, with Madonna topping the roster of "Cash Queens of Music" between June 2006 and June 2007.

Madonna earned 72 million US dollars during the period, followed by Barbara Streisand with 60 million US dollars and Celine Dion, 45 million US dollars.

Ranking fourth through 10th were Shakira with 38



Madonna

million US dollars; Beyonce, 27 million US dollars; Gwen Stefani, 26 million US dollars; Christina Aguilera, 20 million US dollars; Faith Hill, 19 million US dollars; the Dixie

Chicks, 18 million US dollars; and Mariah Carey, 13 million US dollars.

The other singers that made the list were Hilary Duff, Avril Lavigne and Martina McBride, each earning 12 million US dollars; Britney Spears, eight million US dollars; Carrie Underwood and Nelly Furtado, seven million dollars each; Fergie, Jennifer Lopez and Sheryl Crow, six million US dollars each; and Norah Jones, 5.5 million US dollars.

MNA/Xinhua

Internet services in Egypt, India disrupted

MUMBAI, 1 Feb — A breakdown in an international undersea cable network badly disrupted Internet links to India and Egypt on Wednesday.

Egypt's Telecommunications Ministry said a communications cable in the Mediterranean was cut, disrupting 70 per cent of the country's Internet network.

The ministry said in a statement it was not known how the cable was cut but that services would probably take several days to return to normal.

India reported serious disruptions to its services and one Indian Internet service provider linked the problem to the Egyptian outage. — MNA/Reuters

China allocates emergency
fund to snow-hit areas

BEIJING, 31 Jan—China's Ministry of Civil Affairs (MCA) and Ministry of Finance on Tuesday allocated 98 million yuan (13.5 million US dollars) to four rain and snow-hit provinces to help those affected.

The two ministries have so far provided a total of 126 million yuan in financial aid to six provinces hit hard by icy rain and heavy snow.

The six regions include Anhui, Jiangxi and Guizhou Hunan, Hubei and Guangxi.

The aid was mainly used to help people

affected by the cold weather or those stranded in train stations or on blocked highways.

In a circular issued on Tuesday, MCA called on all local civil affairs agencies to fully participate in the fight against the inclement weather to bail out those affected.

By 2 pm on Monday, heavy snow had killed 24 people around the country since 10 January, and affected more than 77.86 million people in 14 provinces. Direct economic loss reached 22.09 billion yuan.

An MCA official said

on Tuesday during a live web interview that the ministry would intensify disaster relief work to deal with the impact of the unprecedented snowfall.

The MCA would accelerate the rebuilding of destroyed houses and do more to organize the donation of winter clothes and quilts, said Wang Zhikun, vice director of the MCA's minimum living allowance department. It would also strengthen coordination with other departments to combat the disaster, Wang added.

MNA/Xinhua

Birds culled in Saudi Arabia as new bird flu case found

RIYADH, 31 Jan—Saudi authorities have culled nearly 160,000 birds after a new case of the deadly strain of bird flu was found on a farm outside Riyadh, state media said on Tuesday.

The *Saudi Press Agency* said 158,000 birds were exterminated at al-Kharj, 150 kilometres (94 miles) south of the capital, after the H5N1 strain of bird flu was found there.

Authorities killed

thousands of birds in al-Kharj and other sites near Riyadh in November, as inspection teams combed farms and markets around the city of about four million people. In March, Saudi Arabia said the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu had been discovered in peacocks, turkeys, ostriches and parrots at a house in the east of the kingdom and that an unspecified number of birds in the area had been culled.

The Saudi Government says it has large stocks of Tamiflu anti-flu tablets in case the virus spreads to humans. The virus has caused more than 200 deaths in humans globally since 2003, according to World Health Organization data.

MNA/Reuters

Ship collision leaves 15
dead at Yangtze estuary

SHANGHAI, 1 Feb—At least 15 people were killed and one was missing after two ships collided, sinking one at the estuary of the Yangtze River, the Shanghai Maritime authority said on Wednesday.

The cargo ship, with 17 crew aboard, sank after crashing into another cargo ship at 1:30 am Wednesday at the No 3 anchorage. Only one member of the crew was rescued.

The sunk ship, belonging to the China Ocean Aviation Group Inc, has been hoisted out of the water.

The other ship, belonging to the Liaoning-based Chengyu Shipping Co Ltd, was carrying 6,000 tons of diesel oil and 16 crew when the accident occurred.

MNA/Xinhua



A woman lights a candle at a symbolic red ribbon in remembrance of individuals lost to AIDS. AIDS patients who take effective retroviral drugs do not pass on the virus even though unprotected sex, Switzerland's state commission on the disease claimed on Wednesday. —INTERNET

China confirms new bird flu case in Tibet

BEIJING, 31 Jan— The Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) announced on Tuesday that it had confirmed a new bird flu case among poultry in southwestern Tibet Autonomous Region.

The National Bird Flu Reference Laboratory confirmed on Tuesday that the case that had affected Jiedexiu Town,

Gongga County, on 25 January as caused by the highly pathogenic H5N1 subtype avian influenza virus, the MOA said.

The outbreak killed 1,000 birds and led to the culling of another 13,080. No human infections were reported.

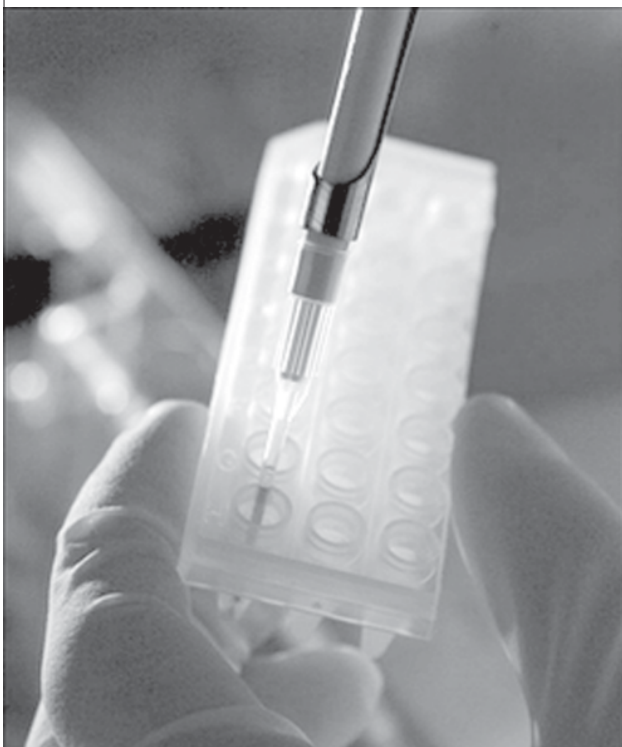
Bird flu control and prevention efforts were

going smoothly, the MOA stated. It said that it had sent experts to coordinate these efforts as the local government blocked off the infected region and stepped up quarantine and oversight to contain the outbreak.

The outbreak came less than a month after another case in Turpan, in northwestern Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, killed 4,850 birds and resulted in the culling of another 29,383.

MNA/Xinhua

A scientist works with genetic samples at a medical research centre. Mutations in a key section of a human sex chromosome appear to be able to cause mental retardation, according to an Australian researcher. A change involving duplication of a small part of the "X" chromosome was discovered in six families out of more than 550 in a worldwide study of mental health problems, geneticist Jozef Gecz said.— INTERNET



Japan researchers put tiny camera in mouse's brain

TOKYO, 1 Feb — Japanese researchers have implanted a small camera inside a mouse's brain to see how memory is formed, in an experiment they hope to some day apply to humans to treat illnesses such as Parkinson's disease.

The study, published in the *Journal of Neuroscience Methods and Sensors and Actuators*, used a camera three millimetres (0.1 inch) long, 2.3 millimetres wide and 2.4 millimetres in depth, said Jun Ohta, professor at Nara Institute of Science and Technology in western Japan. Working with researchers at Kinki University, Ohta implanted the special semiconductor camera inside the hippocampus

of the mouse's brain, designing the device so that a screen showed blue light whenever the camera captured memory being recorded by the brain.

The researchers injected the mouse with a substance that lights up whenever there is brain activity. The camera then captures that light and the visuals come up on a screen. The team now plans to use the camera while the mouse is walking.—MNA/Reuters

Stress syndrome seen adding risk after head injury

BOSTON, 1 Feb— Tests of 2,525 US combat veterans after returning from Iraq have found that depression and post-traumatic stress disorder play key roles in determining who will suffer from health problems following a mild brain injury.

"We thought the symptoms would be related to concussion, but they turned out to be most strongly related to PTSD," said Dr Charles Hoge, a psychiatrist at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research.

The research, published on Wednesday in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, also suggests that the rate of such injuries is high.

"In this study, nearly 15 per cent of

soldiers reported an injury during deployment that involved loss of consciousness or altered mental status," Hoge and his colleagues reported.

More than 1.5 million Americans have gone to Iraq or Afghanistan since 2001, and some estimates of the rate of head and neck injuries as high as one in four.

Hoge and his colleagues surveyed veterans within four months of their return from a year-long deployment.

In addition to being asked if they had been knocked out, left dazed by a head injury or had a head injury they did not remember, they were asked to rate their health.

MNA/Reuters

Palestinians play in the snow outside the walls of Jerusalem's Old City, on 31 Jan, 2008. A rare snowfall hit parts of Israel and the West Bank on 30 Jan, closing schools and businesses.
INTERNET



Indonesia lifts tsunami alert after East Timor quake

JAKARTA, 31 Jan— Indonesia's meteorology agency lifted a tsunami alert issued after a quake measuring 6.6 on the Richter Scale struck off shore East Timor on Wednesday with no immediate reports of casualties or damage. The epicentre of the quake was 299 kilometres northeast of East Timor's capital, Dili, but city residents said they did not feel the tremors or receive a tsunami alert from local authorities.

"We have lifted the warning, but we will continue to monitor information from the area," said Fauzi, head of the earthquake centre at the Indonesian meteorology office. The US Geological Survey put the quake at 6.2 magnitude and at a depth of 10 kilometres (six miles). "I didn't feel anything," said Reuters photographer Lirio da Fonseca, a Dili resident. — MNA/Reuters

Mexico's Popocateptl volcano erupts again

MEXICO CITY, 1 Feb — The Popocateptl volcano, located some 70 kilometres southeast of Mexico City, erupted several times on Monday, spewing a huge plume of steam and ash as high as 3,200 metres into the air, the country's National Disaster Prevention Centre said. A total of 13 eruptions had been recorded in the past 24 hours, the centre said in a Press release.

It also warned of fairly strong eruptions in the next few days, with possible minor explosions near the crater. With an altitude of 5,452 metres, the glacier-clad volcano contains a steep-walled crater 250-450 metres deep. Popocateptl, whose name is the Aztec word for smoking mountain, became active again in 1994 after a long dormant period.

MNA/Xinhua



This undated handout photo from the California Academy of Sciences received on 31 Jan shows a rare new species of mammal, a shrew-like creature called a grey-faced sengi, living in a small community in remote Tanzania. Sengis — small, furry, insect-eating mammals that live on forest floors — are also called elephant shrews.
INTERNET

SPORTS

Egypt ease through after Zambia draw

KUMASI, 31 Jan —Holders Egypt eased into the quarterfinals of the African Nations Cup as Group C winners on Wednesday despite conceding a late equalizer in a 1-1 draw with Zambia.

A last-gasp equalizer from Chris Katongo rescued Zambia but they were eliminated after Cameroon beat Sudan 3-0.

Amr Zaki scored after 15 minutes in another solid display by the defending champions, who finished with seven points, one more than second placed Cameroon.

Egypt were left to rue a string of missed chances and were caught out after a sustained period of pressure when Katongo blasted home from close range in the 89th minute.

Zaki's goal came at the end of a swift move with Sayed Moawad providing him with an easy finish for his second goal of the tournament.

MNA/Reuters

Werder sign Schalke winger Ozil

BERLIN, 1 Feb — Werder Bremen have signed talented winger Mesut Ozil from Bundesliga rivals Schalke 04 for a reported fee of around 5 million euros (\$7.44 million).

Werder, who trail leaders Bayern Munich on goal difference going into the second half of the season, said in a statement on Thursday that Ozil, a 19-year-old Germany Under-21 international, had agreed a contract running to June 30, 2011. Ozil is one of the most exciting young talents in Germany but he fell out of favour at Schalke after a disagreement with the club over a new contract.

The move, finalized hours before the closure of the transfer window, is a blessing for Werder coach Thomas Schaaf after the club sold Leon Andreasen to Fulham and let Carlos Alberto join Sao Paulo on loan.

MNA/Reuters

Wolfsburg knock Schalke out of German Cup

BERLIN, 31 Jan —VfL Wolfsburg came back from the brink to knock Schalke 04 out of the German Cup with a 5-3 victory on penalties on Wednesday.

Schalke took the lead through Peter Lovenkrands in the 27th minute and were heading for victory and a place in the quarterfinals before a last-minute strike from Sergej Karimov forced extra-time.

After a goalless 30 minutes Wolfsburg took the upper hand against their Bundesliga rivals when newly signed Swiss keeper Diego Benaglio saved in the shoot-out from Mladen Krstajic.

VfB Stuttgart, last season's runners-up, just managed to avoid a similar fate, as a Mario Gomez hat-trick gave them a 3-2 win over Werder Bremen Amateurs. Gomez's goals gave Stuttgart a 3-0 lead going into halftime but Werder's second team, who play in the regional third division, cut the deficit with goals from Marc Heider and Dominic Peitz to give the favourites a real scare.

Hamburg SV had a more comfortable 3-0 win over Third Division Rot-Weiss Essen to book their place in the last eight. Bundesliga side Arminia Bielefeld went out after a 2-1 loss to Second Division Carl Zeiss Jena.

MNA/Reuters

Beckham not in Capello's first England squad

LONDON, 1 Feb— Former captain David Beckham was left out of Fabio Capello's first England squad on Thursday for next week's friendly against Switzerland at Wembley.

The LA Galaxy midfielder, who was hoping to win his 100th cap, has not played a competitive match since England's 3-2 defeat by Croatia in a Euro 2008 qualifier last November but had been training with Arsenal in a bid to maintain his fitness.

It is not a new experience for the 32-year-old former Manchester United and Real Madrid midfielder who was also left out of former England manager Steve McClaren's first squad before eventually being recalled.

Goalkeeper Paul Robinson, first choice until being dropped for the Croatia game, was also omitted from the squad after being relegated to the bench at Tottenham Hotspur. —MNA/Reuters

Barca, Racing claim places in Cup semis

MADRID, 1 Feb — Barcelona reached the semifinals of the King's Cup on Thursday after a Thierry Henry header earned them a 1-0 aggregate victory over 10-man Villarreal at the Nou Camp.

The French striker scored the only goal of the tie when he planted a well-placed header beyond the reach of Villarreal keeper Diego Lopez four minutes before halftime.

Earlier Racing Santander, who are riding high in fifth place in the league, made the semifinals for the first time after a 3-3 draw at Athletic Bilbao put them through 5-3 on aggregate.

The two sides will join last season's losing finalists Getafe and Ronald Koeman's Valencia in the hat for Friday's semifinal draw. — MNA/Reuters

Davies goes from “pub” players to England squad member

LONDON, 1 Feb — Fabio Capello's England call-up for Aston Villa defender Curtis Davies on Thursday comes just months after the player described himself as a "pub player". Davies was one of the surprise selections in Capello's 30-man provisional squad for next week's friendly against Switzerland and the 22-year-old said he was shocked.

"I'm completely shocked but absolutely delighted," Davies, who is on loan from West Bromwich Albion, told Aston Villa's web site (www.avfc.premiumtv.co.uk). "When I got the news I thought it was a wind up. I had to check the message several times before I realized it was genuine. I really didn't have a clue."

MNA/Reuters



Portugal's Morgado Simao competes in the men's 100m butterfly event during the Good Luck Beijing 2008 Swimming China Open at the National Aquatics Centre, nicknamed "Water Cube", in Beijing on 1 Feb, 2008. —INTERNET



Tunisia's Issam Jemaa (R) fires a shot at goal as Angola's defenders try to block, during their African Cup of Nations soccer match in Tamale, Ghana.— INTERNET

FBI chief pleased with Beijing Games security

BEIJING, 1 Feb — The head of the FBI said on Wednesday he expects Beijing's 2008 Olympic Games to be "secure and safe" while offering China help against potential threats.

Robert Mueller, director of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation, was in Beijing to discuss cooperation with Chinese police and security officials for the Games, which open on August 8.

"I fully anticipate that the Olympics will be secure and safe," Mueller told a news conference. "I have been impressed by the preparations that have been made."

China is treating the Games as a live-to-air display of its economic and social progress. Security measures against militants, but also dissidents and protesters, have been intense. Senior Chinese police said in September that terrorism was the biggest threat to the Beijing Olympics.

MNA/Reuters

Litmanen joins Fulham until end of season

LONDON, 1 Feb — Former Ajax Amsterdam, Barcelona and Liverpool playmaker Jari Litmanen has joined Fulham until the end of the season, the Premier League club said on Thursday.

The 36-year-old Finland international, once part of the great Ajax side that won four Dutch titles and the European Cup in 1995, joins the struggling London club along with fellow Finn Tony Kallio who has signed from Swiss side Young Boys.

"I don't think there is a need to explain the qualities that Jari possesses as a player or the obvious reasons for wanting to bring him to Fulham," manager Roy Hodgson said on the club's website (www.fulhamfc.com). — MNA/Reuters

Pienaar out for two to three weeks

KUMASI, 1 Feb — South Africa midfielder Steven Pienaar will be out for two to three weeks after sustaining an ankle injury at the African Nations Cup, the player said on Thursday.

Pienaar will return to his English Premier League club Everton with his left ankle needing treatment after a knock picked up in training on Wednesday.

"I've been told it is up to two to three weeks before it is fixed. I have been unfortunate with injuries," Pienaar told Reuters.

Pienaar missed South Africa's last group match, a 1-1 draw with Senegal in Kumasi on Thursday. South Africa finished bottom of the group with two points from their three games and were eliminated.

MNA/Reuters

India to spend \$150m to save tigers

NEW DELHI, 1 Feb — India will spend an estimated six billion rupees (150 million US dollars) over the next five years in an attempt to save its endangered tigers, the Cabinet said on Wednesday.

The number of tigers in India has plummeted to between 1,300 to 1,500 from about 40,000 a century ago, according to provisional government survey results, as humans either kill them for their body parts or encroach on their habitat. India's tiger conservation authority had a budget of only 1.5 billion rupees for the previous five years. "It's a big jump which shows the government has given much importance to the issue of conserving tigers," said Rajesh Gopal, head of India's National Tiger Conservation Authority.

MNA/Reuters

Explosions in Peruvian Navy ship injures 15, spills oil

LIMA 1 Feb — A Peruvian Navy war ship serving BPZ Energy enterprise caught fire and then sank after several explosions, injuring at least 15 people and causing a big oil spill.

Zorritos' Mayor Tito de Lama on Wednesday told Peru's Radio Programmes (RPP) that the accident occurred at a northern dock Acapulco's dock some eight kilometres south of the locality, "from where the seriously burned victims are being evacuated".

De Lama said "at least three explosions" occurred "in yet unknown circumstances, but could be due to a short circuit".

Firemen, policemen and BPZ employees have gone to the site of the accident.

BPZ is an enterprise with capital from the United States, and the

Peruvian Navy ship was helping it to transport fuel. BPZ Energy's headquarters based in Texas, United States was founded in 2001, and it explores for oil fields and operates international oil and hydrocarbons, especially in Peru and Ecuador.

MNA/Xinhua

Galapagos sea lion massacre fuels conservation fears

QUITO, 1 Feb — Ecuadorian authorities are investigating a massacre of 53 sea lions in the pristine Galapagos Islands which has raised concerns about whether the government can protect the famous archipelago.

Park rangers found the decomposing sea lions with their skulls crushed on a

remote islet earlier this month. Now reports of tourists meddling with animals are prompting calls for stricter controls at the UN World Heritage site.

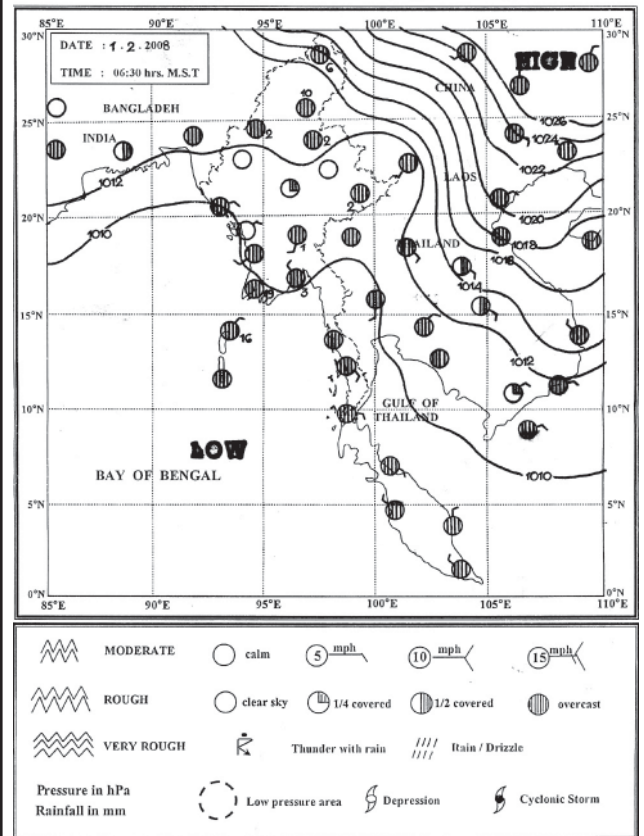
Ecuador is already debating whether to limit growing tourism on Galapagos and has expelled hundreds of illegal workers

to protect the natural reserve after the United Nations warned last year that the site was in danger.

"It is obvious the control system has to be greatly improved," said Luis Suarez, the head of Ecuador's branch of Conservation International.

MNA/Reuters

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Friday, 1 February, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thunder-showers have been widespread in Kachin State, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, fairly widespread in Bago and upper Sagaing Divisions, scattered in Shan and Mon States, isolated in Chin, Rakhin, Kayah and Kayin States and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (5°C) below February average temperatures in upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) to (4°C) below February average temperatures in Kachin and Chin States, (3°C) to (4°C) above February average temperatures in Shan, Rakhine and Mon States, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and about February average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were An (4°C) and Haka (5°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Theinzayat (2.01) inches, Hmawbi and Patheingyi (0.98) inch each, Shwegyin (0.90) inch, Zaungtu (0.78) inch, Hinthada (0.74) inch, Coco Island (0.67) inch, Bago (0.55) inch, Thayawady (0.51) inch, Myittha and Yangon (Mingaladon) (0.39) inch each.

Maximum temperature on 31-1-2008 was 88°F. Minimum temperature on 1-2-2008 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 1-2-2008 was 91%. Total sunshine hours on 31-1-2008 was (2.4) hours approx.

Rainfall on 1-2-2008 was (0.39) inch at Mingaladon, (0.24) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.20) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (0.55) inch at Mingaladon, (0.44) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.20) inch at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from South-east at (15:30) hours MST on 31-1-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 2-2-2008: Weather will be partly cloudy in North Rakhine State, Magway and lower Sagaing Divisions and rain or thunder-showers are likely to be isolated to scattered in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of continuation of rain in the lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 2-2-2008: Possibility of isolated rain or thunder-showers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 2-2-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunder-showers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 2-2-2008: Possibility of isolated rain or thunder-showers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Weather outlook for first weekend of February 2008: During the coming weekend, isolated rain or thundershowers are possible in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Yangon Divisions.



Saturday, 2 February
View on today

7:00 am

1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာမဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ချုပ်၊ အဘိဓမ္မမဟာရဋ္ဌဂုရု၊ အဘိဓမ္မအဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဇာတိက၊ 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. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:05 am

6. Musical programme

8:15 am

7. ဆက်သွယ်ဆင့်ပွားကျွန်းတောတံတား

8:25 am

8. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:30 am

9. International news

8:45 am

10. Grammar made easy

11:00 am

1. Martial song

11:15 am

2. Musical programme

11:30 am

3. Games for children

11:50 am

4. Round up of the week's TV local news

12:40 am

5. ကြားမြင်သုတပြည့်ဝစေရာစာပဒေသာ

12:55 am

6. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "စစ်သူကြီးဆွန်ကြီး" (အပိုင်း-၇)

1:40 pm

7. တောင်သူအများစိုက်အားထားငွေချည်(၆)၏အပြုံးမျက်နှာများ (မုံရွာနှင့်မြင်းမူ)

1:55 pm

8. "စည်းလုံးခြင်းရဲ့အရသာ" (ကိုကိုလင်းမောင်၊ မြတ်ကောသီအောင်)(ဒါရိုက်တာ-အေဝမ်းမောင်လှမျိုး)

2:20 pm

9. dance of national races

2:35 am

10. ငါ့သရောက်ရေလှောင်တံ

2:45 am

11. International news

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Song for uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. English for everyday use

4:45 pm

4. အဆေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်

5:00 pm

5. မြူးမြူးကြွကြွယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက

5:15 pm

6. Musical programme

5:25 pm

7. မြန်မာ့ဓလေ့ရိုးရာလက်တွေ့

5:35 pm

8. ရာဇပေါ်လွင်သရုပ်ဆောင်လွင်ပြင်

6:00 pm

9. Evening news

6:30 pm

10. Weather report

6:35 pm

11. အလှူရှာမယ် လှူကမ္ဘာဝယ်

7:00 pm

12. Musical programme

7:14 pm

13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်သူ့အားမာန်" (အပိုင်း-၉)

8:00 pm

14. News

8:00 pm

15. International news

8:00 pm

16. Weather report

8:00 pm

17. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်သူ့အားမာန်" (အပိုင်း-၁၇)

8:00 pm

18. The next day's programme



Saturday, 2 February

Tune in today

8:30 am Brief news

8:35 am Music

-Our song

8:40 am Perspectives

8:45 am Music

-Fantasy

8:50 am National news/ Slogan

9:00 am Music

- Dreams come true

9:05 am International news

9:10 am Music

-Just don't tell me that

1:30 pm News/ Slogan

1:40 pm Music at your request

-Baby its you

-For all we know

9:00 pm ASEAN news

Exchange News from ASEAN member countries

9:20 pm Myanmar culture

Dr Khin Maung Nyunt

"Understanding our nationalities"

9:30 pm Souvenir

-All for the love of a girl

-Angle baby

9:45 pm News /Slogan

10:00 pm PEL

People's Desire

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

Maj-Gen Tha Aye inspects construction of Myeik Myothit



Maj-Gen Tha Aye of Ministry of Defence visits Kyaing Lin Aung Jetty in Myeik Myothit Project.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb — Maj-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence accompanied by Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo and departmental officials looked into earth works of Kabin Dam Project t in Myeik Myothit on 29 January.

The embankment of the dam measuring 470 feet by 45 feet is being built to supply water to Myeik Myothit and it will be earth embankment type. The storage of water at the highest level will be 167 acre feet and its irrigated area, 7 acre feet.

At the briefing hall of Myeik Myothit construction project, Maj-Gen Tha Aye heard reports on

land allotment, construction of roads, bridges and jetties, arrangements being made for ensuring availability of water and funds for the building of the Myothit by the Secretary of Taninthayi Division PDC, progress of works by entrepreneurs of Annawa Soe Co, Po La Min Co and cold storages. The commander gave a supplementary report on priority tasks for the construction of the Myothit. Maj-Gen Tha Aye gave necessary instructions and inspected the project site.

Next, Maj-Gen Tha Aye and party viewed arrival of onshore and offshore trawlers at Kyaing Lin Aung Jetty, construction of housing estates and jetty by Annawa Soe Co, arrival of 700-ton-capacity vessels at
(See page 9)

INSIDE

Kengtung may be described as a town of tripod. From the religious point of view, Kengtung is a region where the Three Gems — Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha — exist firmly and so does is the tripod of “non-disintegration of Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty”.

PAGE 7

YADANASI SAYADAW (LOILEM)

- ★ **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**