

Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to President of Sri Lanka

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb—On the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka which falls on 4th February 2008, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.—MNA

Prime Minister felicitates Sri Lankan counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb—On the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka which falls on 4th February 2008, General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka, Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects multipurpose dams in Sagaing Div

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Feb—Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen Myint Soe and officials, yesterday, met with officers and other ranks and their families at Zeyathiri Hall of Monywa Station in Monywa and spoke at length on regional development.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party proceeded to Manipur Multipurpose Dam Project by helicopter and inspected work being carried out including earth work, gravel work, installation of steel ribs at No 1 and No 2 Diversion Tunnels and concrete work.

The gravel-filled dam, 2,444 feet long and

527 feet high, was built on Manipur River near Hsetaw Village, Kalay Township. Upon completion, it will benefit 50,000 acres and generate 1,903 million KWH yearly.

On arrival at Yazagyo Multipurpose Dam Project near Yazagyo Village, Kalay Township, Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence and party heard a report presented by Director of Dam Construction Group-4 U Victor on work being done and future tasks and looked into construction of the spillway.

(See page 8)

Lt-Gen Ye Myint views progress of Yazagyo Multi-Purpose Dam Project in Kalay Township. —MNA

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

New Minimum Temperature Record

(Issued at 12:00 hours MST on 3rd February, 2008)

The minimum temperature (-6.0)°C (21)°F observed on 3rd February, 2008 in Hakha is the new minimum temperature record of the station for the month of February during last (20) years. The former record of the station was (-40)°C (25)°F on 16th February 2003.



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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 4 February, 2008

Boost production of rice

Rice is one of the world's most important food crops. More than half of the people in the world eat the grain as the staple food. Nearly all the people who depend on rice for food live in Asia.

Food sufficiency is the biggest challenge of human beings. Every agricultural country is making endeavours for boosting production of crops for food security.

It is found that there is export difference depending on development of agricultural techniques, local rice market and the volume of rice consumption in studying the annual production and export of rice of the main agricultural countries in the ASEAN region.

Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam are three top rice-producing countries. Thailand exports rice the most although its production and per acre yield are less than those of Myanmar and Vietnam. Cultivation acreage of Vietnam is fewer than that of the two countries. However, per acre yield and the output are more than those of Myanmar and Thailand.

There are over 20 million hectares of crop cultivation acreage in Myanmar and cultivation acreage of paddy, the staple crop of Myanmar people, is over 8.1 million hectares. There is food sufficiency for Myanmar people as the country produces over 14.7 million tons of rice. The surplus of rice was exported to some countries.

Endeavours are to be made for increased production and export of rice to meet the higher demand of some nations in the region.

Agriculturalists and farmers are urged to extend cultivable lands. The yield of crops including rice and export of rice will rise with the use of high quality strains and applying modern cultivation methods along with mechanized farming most extensively.

Entries invited for Tun Foundation Literary Awards

YANGON, 3 Feb—Books published in 2007 and manuscripts may be sent to the Tun Foundation Literary Committee, at No 53/61, corner of Theinbyu Road and Strand Road, Botahtaung Township (Tel: 291881), not later than 30 September 2008 for the third Tun Foundation Literary Awards.

The entries must be either English or Myanmar version and are to be based on economics, health, history, culture, biography, ancient literature and reference and child and youth genres.

The Tun Foundation will give honorarium to the writers before publishing the books chosen with the permission of the Press Scrutiny and Registration Division

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

Cash donated to Sitagu International Buddhist Missionary Beikman, International Buddha Dhamma Studies Beikman

YANGON, 3 Feb — A ceremony to donate cash to the funds of Sitagu International Buddhist Missionary Beikman and International Buddha Dhamma Studies Beikman in Bagan was held at the Missionary Beikman on Panglong Road in Ward 33, Dagon Myothit (North) Township, here, this morning.

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung accepted the donations which comprised K 50 million donated by U Tun Hla-Daw Khin Pu and family (Shwe Daung Yin Robes Shop of Monwya) and K 10 million by Sitagu Dr Kyaw Khine-Thudhamma Theingi Sitagu Daw Sein Htway and family of Bahan Township for International Buddha Dhamma Studies Beikman and K 100 million by Sitagu Dr Kyaw Khine-Thudhamma Theingi Sitagu Daw Sein

Htway and family, K 15 million by shopkeepers of Thiri Mingala Market and K 6.5 million by U Mya Kyaw-Daw Su Su Htay and family of Bahan Township for the Missionary Beikman.



Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung accepts K 15 million to the funds of Sitagu International Buddhist Missionary Beikman donated by shopkeepers of Thiri Mingala Market. —MNA

Next, Sitagu Sayadaw Dr Ashin Nanissara delivered a sermon and those present on the occasion shared merits gained. —MNA

New school building handed over in PyinOoLwin Township

YANGON, 3 Feb — The ceremony to hand over the new school building of No 13 Basic Education Primary School to the Ministry of Education was held at the school in PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Division, on 24 January.

Secretary of PyinOoLwin Township Peace and Development Council U Khin Maung Than gave a speech, and wellwisher U Zarni Lwin explained the purpose of constructing the building.

Next, wellwisher U Zarni Lwin-Ma Wint Wint San and family and employees of Yadanabon Cafe handed over documents related to the building worth K 7.2 million to Township Education Officer U Win Myint. The TEO presented certificate of honour to the wellwishers.

It was also attended by the assistant township education officer, schoolheads, Township Union Solidarity and Development Association Joint-Secretary U Thein Swe and members, Chairman of Ward 6 PDC U Kyaw Min Naing and members, members of Ward Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Women's Affairs Organization. —H

Foreign Minister sends message of felicitations to Sri Lankan counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb—On the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka which falls on 4th February 2008, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Rohitha Bogollagama, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. —MNA

Vice-Mayor on inspection tour of tax-free markets

YANGON, 3 Feb — Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa inspected tax-free markets in Dagon Myothit (North) and Dagon Myothit (South), Thakayta and Tamway townships this morning.

He cordially conversed with shopkeepers and customers, and instructed officials to supervise tasks of the markets in accord with five aims of the tax-free markets. —MNA

F&R, Ulsan University tie at 1-1 draw in soccer friendly

YANGON, 3 Feb — The friendly football match between Finance and Revenue and Ulsan University of the Republic of Korea continued as third match at YTC (Thuwunna), here, at 3.30 pm today.

Before the match, players from both teams led by referees took the designated places on the pitch. Next, they greeted each other, and then, team captains exchanged commemorative pannents and posed for documentary photos.

Among the spectators were General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik, Chairperson of Central Committee for Myanmar Women's Sports Federation Daw Aye Aye, officials of MFF and guests.

The friendly match ended in a 1-1 draw. —MNA

Two Thai parties might face dissolution pending EC decision

BANGKOK, 3 Feb — Two political parties that have joined Thailand's newly elected coalition government might face dissolution for alleged vote-buying practice involving party executives, pending a decision by the Election Commission (EC).

An EC panel is due to decide within the next fortnight whether to recommend the commission to seek a Constitution Court order to

dissolve the Matchima Thipataya Party (Neutral Democratic Party) and Chart Thai Party (Thai Nation Party), said election commissioner Sodsri Sattayatham on Saturday, quoted by the *Bangkok Post* website.

The EC had previously assigned a committee headed by Boontan Dokthaisong to consider the electoral fraud case of Matchima Thipataya only. The commission decided Friday the same committee

should also consider the fraud case of the Chart Thai Party. Sodsri said that if the EC had separate committees handling the two cases they could reach contradicting conclusions, which could cause confusion.

After the 23 December election last year, the EC disqualified Sunthorn Wilawan, who was then deputy leader of Matchima Thipataya, as an elected MP candidate for vote-buying. — MNA/Xinhua

Russian presidential campaign officially kicks off

Moscow, 3 Feb — A one-month-long media campaign officially began Saturday ahead of Russia's 2 March presidential elections.

Russia's First Channel, the Russia TV Company and the TV Centre as well as Mayak, Radio Russia and Voice of Russia will grant free air time to advertising spots and TV debates.

The ruling United Russia Party, which has nominated First Deputy

Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev as its candidate, published its election programme -- "Putin's Plan, the Great Country's Worthy Future" — in the national *Rossiiskaya Gazeta* newspaper.

The Plan to develop Russia as a unique civilization, boosting its economy, improving people's lives through massive and extensive national projects for social development, supporting

civil society, strengthening national sovereignty and defence capabilities as well as ensuring Russia a proper role in the multi-polar world arena.

Medvedev, who has been publicly endorsed as his handpicked successor by the popular incumbent President Vladimir Putin, enjoys high popularity across the country and is the clear front-runner in the election campaign.

MNA/Xinhua

Five reported dead in Chicago-area store shooting

CHICAGO, 3 Feb — Several people were shot inside a store at a suburban Chicago shopping centre on Saturday, police said, and media reports said five were killed and another wounded.

Police in Tinley Park southwest of Chicago would only say they were searching for a man who may have fired the shots inside a Lane Bryant clothing store at the Brookside Marketplace shopping centre. One report said the shootings may have happened in the course of a robbery. — MNA/Reuters

Death toll from Baghdad Friday bombings hits 99

BAGHDAD, 3 Feb — The death toll from Friday's suspected al-Qaeda bombings on two popular pet markets in Baghdad has risen to 99, police said on Saturday, making it the deadliest day in the capital since last April.

In the bloodiest attack, police said a female suicide bomber killed 62 and wounded 88 at the Ghazil pet market in central Baghdad, one of the most popular meeting places in the capital and a previous target for bombers.

That came just minutes after another blast at a bird market in southern Baghdad which killed 37 and wounded 57, police said.

MNA/Reuters

16 migrant workers die in Saudi road crash

RIYADH, 3 Feb — Sixteen migrant workers have died in a road accident in Saudi Arabia after the bus that was carrying them collided with a car, newspapers said on Saturday.

The reports said the bus hit a sports utility vehicle on a desert highway near Abqaiq in the Eastern Province on Thursday night.

Eleven of the dead are Bangladeshi, three are Pakistani and two are Indian, the *Arab News* said. Sixteen men were injured.

Around seven million of Saudi Arabia's 24 million population are foreign residents, mostly blue-collar workers. — MNA/Reuters



Palestinian women chant slogans during a demonstration against closing the breached border crossing between Egypt and Gaza, in Rafah, southern Gaza Strip, on 2 Feb, 2008. Egypt will close its breached border with Gaza on Sunday, in coordination with the Hamas group that blew it up, senior Hamas leader Mahmoud Zahar said after meeting with Egyptian officials. — INTERNET

California plays vital role in US presidential campaign

LOS ANGELES, 3 Feb — California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger said on Friday, days ahead of the California primary, that his state would play a vital role in the US presidential campaign.

"It is clear California will play a big role in picking the White House nominees," Schwarzenegger said in a radio address. "This is why all the candidates are scrambling for our votes." California

and some other states will hold elections in choosing presidential candidates on 5 February, known as "Super Tuesday".

Schwarzenegger attended the Republican

debate at the Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley on Wednesday. The Democrats had their debate in Los Angeles the following day.

MNA/Xinhua



Internally displaced Kenyans, displaced by post election violence, relocate from the police station to the stadium in Thika, 40 kms, from Nairobi, on 2 Feb, 2008. — INTERNET

Russia sends 12 bombers to Atlantic, Arctic

Moscow, 3 Feb — Russia on Friday sent 12 Air Force bombers to take part in naval exercises over the Arctic and North Atlantic oceans, *ITAR-TASS* news agency quoted a spokesman for Russia's Air Force as saying.

"Twelve long-range aircraft took off today to participate in the concluding phase of exercises with the Russian Navy attack group," the Russian Air Force spokesman said.

He said the bomber group included two *Tupolev Tu-160* strategic bombers, codenamed "Blackjack" by NATO, two turbo-prop *Tu-95* strategic bombers, codenamed "Bear", and eight *Tu-22* bombers.

MNA/Reuters



Displaced Kenyans from the Kisii tribe travel on a truck to find safety after being driven out of their homes in Kapsabet by members of the Kalenjin tribe, on the road in Katito, near Kisumu, in Kenya, on 2 Feb, 2008. — INTERNET

Mexico wants end to US tear gas use at border

MEXICO CITY, 2 Feb — Mexico is demanding that US Border Patrol agents stop using tear gas to protect themselves against increased attacks as they try to keep illegal immigrants from entering the United States.

Mexico's Foreign Ministry also requested a US probe into an incident last month

where 15-year-old Cristian Saldana was struck in the nose by a tear gas canister after he threw stones at US agents trying to stop people from crossing illegally from the Mexican border city of Tijuana near San Diego.

Saying the use of tear gas was unacceptable under any circumstances,

the ministry sent a letter to the US Embassy requesting the investigation and said it was also setting up talks with US officials through its consular network.

Mexico's human rights commission says Border Patrol agents have fired tear gas into Mexico at least six times since November.

MNA/Reuters

US demand for more soldiers in Afghanistan rejected

BERLIN, 2 Feb — Germany rejects a request from the United States to offer more troops in southern Afghanistan, a German Government spokesman said Friday.

The government "has no plan" to change the German mandate in Afghanistan, Ulrich Wilhelm, chief spokes-

man for Chancellor Angela Merkel, told reporters in Berlin.

"The government has made clear that the existing mandate provides the basis for our engagement," he said.

The spokesman's remarks followed a report by the Sueddeutsche Zeitung newspaper that US Defence Secretary

Robert Gates has written a strongly-worded letter to his German counterpart, Franz Josef Jung, asking for additional combat troops in the more dangerous southern Afghanistan, which was confirmed by the German Defence Ministry.

"The letter came as a surprise," Wilhelm said.

MNA/Xinhua

Hungary's military helicopter crashes

BUDAPEST, 2 Feb — One person died and three were injured when a Mi-8 military helicopter crashed in central Hungary on Thursday, Hungary's military said in a statement.

The accident happened during an air drill when the helicopter crashed into a field between Torokszentmiklos and Oballa, and went on fire, said a statement issued by the military. — MNA/Xinhua



Residents shovel snow in front of their homes in Amman on 31 Jan, 2008. A heavy overnight snowstorm blanketed Jordan on Wednesday, closing schools and stores and grounding public transportation. —INTERNET

Pakistan successfully test fires intermediate-range missile

ISLAMABAD, 2 Feb — Pakistan successfully test fired an intermediate-range missile on Friday, the official *Associated Press of Pakistan* (APP) reported.

A Strategic Missile Group (SMG) of Pakistan Army's Strategic Force Command (ASFC) conducted a successful training launch of Ghauri (Hatf V) Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM), said the APP

report. The Ghauri IRBM has a range of 1300 kilometres. It is the second launch of missiles within a week in Pakistan, which successfully test fired a *Shaheen-I* SMG last weekend.

Addressing the troops in exercise area, President Pervez Musharraf said the nation had developed a strong nuclear deterrence capability and expected that officers and men entrusted with

the task of deterring aggression would continue to train hard and maintain professional excellence.

Musharraf said he was extremely pleased to see ASFC emerged as a well-trained and cohesive force in a very short span of time. All needs for the strategic capability as per Pakistan's minimum deterrence requirements would be met by the nation. — MNA/Xinhua



Soldiers prepare to clean up snow at a square outside the Nanjing Railway Station in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province on 2 Feb, 2008. Emergency crews struggled on Saturday to restore power to parts of southern China blacked out for a week by heavy snow as forecasters warned of no quick end to the worst winter weather in 50 years. —INTERNET

Chinese soldiers battle snow disasters

BEIJING, 2 Feb — China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) has deployed 251,000 soldiers to battle the chaos caused by the unusually heavy snow around the southern part of the country by 1 am on Friday, according to a military source.

The PLA's emergency response group also announced 772,000 militia and Army reservists were participating in the fight against the extreme weather.

More than 100 aircraft and helicopters are on standby, according to Air Force sources.

The snow, the heaviest in decades in many places, has been falling in China's eastern, central and southern regions for more than a fortnight. It has caused death, structural collapse, blackouts, accidents, transport problems and livestock and crop destruction. — MNA/Xinhua

Suspected insurgents arrested in Thai South

BANGKOK, 2 Feb — About 150 police, soldiers and Justice Ministry officials rounded up eight suspected insurgents from a village in Thailand's southernmost province of Narathiwat Friday morning, local media reported.

The officials raided Buaraeng Village in Ruesoh district in the morning to hunt for Sakariya Jaetaek, 18, whose identification card was earlier found at Nuradin mosque which insurgents launched a bomb attack against, local news network *The Nation* reported.

The authorities did not find Sakariya but found the eight suspects.

The suspects were taken to the Narathiwat Taskforce 39 for questioning. — MNA/Xinhua

Budget airlines begin flying on S'pore-Malaysia route

SINGAPORE, 3 Feb — Budget airlines Friday kicked off flights between Singapore and Kuala Lumpur of Malaysia, ending 30 years of dominance operation by Singapore Airlines and Malaysian Airlines on the lucrative route.

The operations follows the agreement between the two countries in November last year to open up the route to low-cost carriers.

Malaysia-based Air

Asia will fly out twice daily from Kuala Lumpur while Singapore-based Tiger Airways and Jetstar Asia will fly a daily service from Singapore.

On Friday morning, guests onboard Air Asia's maiden flight, including its Group Chief Executive Officer Dato' Tony Fernandes, were received at a welcome ceremony organized by the Civil Aviation Authority of

Singapore (CAAS).

CAAS' Director-General and Chief Executive Officer Lim Kim Choon said at the ceremony that he looks "forward to further liberalization of the Singapore-Malaysia Air Services Agreement which will then pave the way for new services between Singapore and cities in Malaysia".

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesian oil production begins picking up

JAKARTA, 3 Feb — Indonesia's oil production has picked up over the last 10 days, averaging one million barrels per day (bpd) from 960,000 bpd in 2007, an official said Friday.

The hike was led by the resumption of some major fields operated by Conoco Philips in Natuna and Belanak and Chevron's field in central Sumatra, said Kardaya Warnika, head of the Oil and Gas Executive Body (BP Migas).

The recent development raised optimism that Indonesia's oil production could meet the target of 910,000 bpd as contained in the proposed 2008 state budget revision, he was quoted by leading news website Detikcom as saying.

MNA/Xinhua



Competitors apply makeup backstage before the "Miss Germany 2008" gala in the southern German town of Rust on 2 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

UAE energy firm records 107% growth in profits

ABU DHABI, 3 Feb — The Abu Dhabi National Energy Company (TAQA) of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) recorded a growth of 107 per cent in its profits in 2007, which hit one billion dirhams (272.48 million US dollars), local newspaper *Khaleej Times* reported on Friday.

The company's revenues reached eight billion dirhams in 2007, up 65 per cent compared with 4.8 billion dirhams in the previous year. It also reported an increase of 30 per cent in its total assets in 2007, which stood at 68 billion dirhams.

The three-year-old TAQA made several strategic acquisitions in 2007, including BP Netherlands' gas exploration and production assets and the upstream petroleum exploration company Pioneer Canada.

MNA/Xinhua



Employees of Hyundai Motor India Limited at work at the newly inaugurated auto plant in Sriperumbudur, around 45 kms north of the southern Indian city of Chennai. South Korean car giant Hyundai Motor Co opened a second plant in India on Saturday, making the country its biggest foreign manufacturing site.—INTERNET

Vietnam exports less crude oil, earns more in Jan

HANOI, 2 Feb — Vietnam shipped abroad nearly 1.2 million tons of crude oil totalling 826.5 million US dollars in January, down 12.7 per cent in volume but up 46.5 per cent in value against last January, according to the country's General Statistics Office on Friday.

Meanwhile, it spent 716.3 million dollars imported petroleum products, posting respective year-on-year rises of 61.1 per cent and 8.6 per cent. Vietnam, which exported roughly 15.1 million tons of crude oil worth nearly 8.5 billion US dollars in 2007, down 8.1 per cent in

volume, but up 2.6 per cent in value against 2006, is likely to sell overseas 15 million tons of crude oil, mainly to China, Singapore, Japan, Britain and the United States, in 2008, according to the Trade Information Centre under the Ministry of Industry and Trade.—MNA/Xinhua

AU summit opens with vow to boost industrialization

ADDIS ABABA, 2 Feb — The 10th African Union (AU) summit started here Thursday with African leaders vowing to promote industrialization, integration and economic cooperation on the continent.

Alpha Oumar Konare, Chairperson of the AU

Commission, which is the AU's permanent secretariat, said at the opening ceremony that the summit takes industrial development as its theme because Africa has not made obvious process in industrialization over the past years. It is high time for Africa to process its

materials in its own territory instead of only exporting raw materials, he said. "It is high time for Africa to diversify its economy," he added. He also emphasized the importance of Africa's union, saying the future of Africa lies in the United States of Africa.—MNA/Xinhua



Models present creations from the Lacoste 2008/2009 fall collection during New York Fashion Week on 2 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Air India to join Star Alliance

MUMBAI, 3 — India's national carrier Air India announced Saturday that it has been invited to join the prestigious Star Alliance, the only Indian member to be part of the group.

The move will offer Air India access to more than 16,000 daily flights operated by the 17 Star members around the world that include Lufthansa, United Airlines and Air Canada.

MNA/Xinhua

First Deputy Prime Minister and presidential front-runner Dmitry Medvedev lays flowers at the memorial built to honour those who died in the Battle of Stalingrad during World War II, in Volgograd, Russia, on 2 Feb, 2008.

INTERNET



Russia accuses Europe vote watchdog of “sabotage”

Moscow, 3 Feb—Russia's Foreign Ministry accused Europe's main election watchdog on Friday of seeking to sabotage plans for monitoring the 2 March presidential election, which President Vladimir

Putin's chosen candidate is expected to win.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's (OSCE) monitoring body ODIHR was

trying to undermine the vote by politicizing the situation.

"Open sabotage continues from within the OSCE for our proposals of joint election monitoring on a collective, agreed upon and mutually acceptable basis," a spokesman said.

The growing row threatened a repeat of last year's standoff, when the ODIHR pulled out of monitoring Russia's December parliamentary election after Moscow invited only a small group of monitors late in the campaign.

MNA/Reuters

Sarkozy marries Bruni at Elysee Palace

PARIS, 3 Feb—French President Nicolas Sarkozy married supermodel-turned-singer Carla Bruni at the Elysee Palace on Saturday, French radio reported quoting several witnesses.

Two radio stations said the pair tied the knot at a low-key ceremony conducted by the mayor of the Paris District that houses the grandiose Elysee estate. "The bride was wearing white and was ravishing," mayor Francois Lebel told Europe 1 radio. "The bridegroom wasn't bad either," he added, without naming the couple.

The Italian news agency ANSA quoted Bruni's mother, Marisa Borini, as confirming the wedding had taken place. A spokesman for Sarkozy declined to comment on the reports.—MNA/Reuters

Indonesia floods kill 12, cause travel chaos

JAKARTA, 2 Feb—Floods and landslides triggered by heavy rain have killed at least 12 people across Indonesia and the capital's main airport was briefly shut on Friday as more than 40 flights were delayed due to low visibility. Scores of cars were stranded and people had to wade through murky knee-high water in many parts of Jakarta, a city of 14 million that is regularly hit by floods at this time of year.

Jakarta's main airport had been forced to close on Friday morning, after rain and fog cut visibility to less than 300 metres, Hariyanto, an official at Soekarno-Hatta Airport, said.

More than 40 flights had been delayed, with some planes diverted to Jakarta's smaller Halim Perdanakusuma Airport, while several flights coming to the capital were forced to return to Singapore.—MNA/Reuters

Thai new PM confirms end of checking Cabinet list

BANGKOK, 3 Feb — Thailand's newly elected Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej confirmed on Saturday that Cabinet secretary-general had finished checking the new Cabinet list.

Samak told reporters that the Cabinet secretary-general, who is a permanent official, informed him that the checking of the list had been completed.

He said it would be up to the Cabinet Secretariat to submit the list for a royal approval. Meanwhile, in an interview with Japanese media, Samak confirmed he would hold the post of Defence Minister.

Samak, a 72-year-old veteran politician, received 310 supporting votes from MPs in the Parliament late last

month, defeating his opponent, Democrat leader Abhisit Vejjajiva who won 163 votes. He became the 25th Prime Minister in Thailand's history, also the oldest when taking over the post.

His Cabinet which comprises 36 ministerial posts is believed to launch a series of populist projects.

MNA/Xinhua

British Parlt suspends MP over family payments

LONDON, 2 Feb — Parliament has approved the suspension of Conservative MP Derek Conway for 10 days after he was found to have paid his son almost 50,000 pounds of taxpayers' money for work he never did.

MPs on Thursday also ordered Conway, 54, to pay back 13,161 pounds of the money while Prime Minister Gordon Brown backed calls for greater transparency over members' expenses.

Frederick Conway, 22, a Newcastle University geography student, was paid almost 12,000 pounds

a year, plus bonuses, for almost three years from Conway's publicly funded allowance.

The Commons Standards and Privileges Committee found that Frederick had been "all but

invisible" from Parliament. It found Conway guilty of an improper use of his allowances but also said he may have committed a serious diversion of public money.

MNA/Reuters

Russia tells US plutonium plants to shut sooner

WASHINGTON, 2 Feb—Two Russian weapons-grade plutonium production reactors are ahead of schedule for shutting down and will stop operating before this December's deadline, the US Energy Department said on Friday. Russian Federal Atomic Energy Agency Director Sergey Kiriyaenko gave the good news to US Energy Secretary Sam Bodman when the two met earlier in the day to discuss US-Russian efforts to keep nuclear weapons and weapons material out of the hands of terrorists.—MNA/Reuters

Georgia to set up special dept to mend ties with Russia

Moscow, 2 Feb — Georgia is to set up a special department at the Foreign Ministry to improve relations with Russia, Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili said on Friday. "The special department at the Foreign Ministry will deal with mending relations with the Russian Federation," Saakashvili said at the inaugural ceremony of Foreign Minister David Bakradze, who was approved to the post Thursday.

"An experienced official will be appointed as head of that department, who will be able to work productively and successfully towards patching Georgian-Russian relations," the President said.

Saakashvili said he has invited Giya Vashadze, a highly experienced diplomat, to work for the Foreign Ministry. Praising Vashadze for his sound knowledge about the Russian policy, the President said he expected Vashadze would work actively to mend ties with Russia.—MNA/Xinhua

A reveller of the Gavioes da Fiel samba school parade on a float at the Anhembi Sambadrome as part of carnival celebrations in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on 1 February. —INTERNET



Myanmar where all national races will enjoy equal rights

Sai Thiha

“Being close relatives and brethren, the health and well-being of all the national people residing in 14 states and divisions are being looked after.

The government is making all-out efforts to serve the interests of national races and to ensure a prosperous future for them. All the national races living in the Union are Myanmar nationals. The government has no will to discriminate against any national races and wants to lead them towards prosperity.

Our country will become a developed one if national races work hard in harmony for national development due to favourable conditions of the area, natural resources and population of the nation.”

Senior General Than Shwe
(Excerpt from guidance given during the tour of Shan State in April 2002)

Myanmar is a Union where more than 100 national races make their homes. The Union of Myanmar is the nation of the national races. So, the fundamental strength of the State is national solidarity.

National brethren have established and safeguarded their motherland and worked together for peace, stability and progress of the nation and the people for thousands of years through the strength of national solidarity.

In the course of history, whenever national unity broke up, there were disruptive effects on national development and the Union was on the edge of collapse. Unlike that, in the times of consolidated national cohesion, the nation stood tall in the international community.

At present, the entire national people have aspiration to form the State with the Union System, exercise genuine and discipline-flourishing multi-party democracy system, and improve the national economy through the market economy.

So, the conditions called for a new constitution for building a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation to fulfil the wishes of national people. The Tatmadaw government taking responsibilities for democratic transition has held the National Convention with participation of the representatives of national races from various regions, the representatives of people from all walks of life and the representatives from various sectors to adopt basic principles to be included in the forthcoming constitution.

The people have expressed their support for the National Convention and welcomed the upcoming constitution by holding mass rallies on a grand scale in the states and divisions. The rallies reflected the fact that all national people have been living in the same Union for long, sharing joys and sorrows. So, they have equipped themselves with Union Spirit, with which they will continue to strive for national development, cherishing and valuing the sole motherland without any discrimination against or in favour of a particular national race. And they will, in collaboration, protect the Union from collapse.

The fundamental principals and detailed basic principles the National Convention has adopted prescribe as many provisions as it can for ensuring equality of the people of the Union regarding the affairs of national races. The forthcoming constitution is to give more priority to national race affairs than the 1947 constitution and the 1974 constitution.

The State that will emerge according to the fundamental principals and detailed basic principles the National Convention has adopted will be formed with seven regions, seven states, one Union territory, one self-administered division and five self-administered zones.

The seven regions will be the seven existing divisions: Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady divisions.

The seven states will be the seven existing states: Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan. The regions and states will be of equal status and

authority.

Nay Pyi Taw is to be designated as the Union territory of the State. Self-administered division and self-administered zones are designated as follows:

- (1) to group together Leshi, Lahe and Namyun Townships in Sagain Division and prescribe it Naga Self-Administered Zone;
- (2) to group together Ywangan and Pindaya Townships in Shan State and prescribe it Danu Self-Administered Zone;
- (3) to group together Hopong, Hsihseng and Pinlaung Townships in Shan State and prescribe it Pal-O Self-Administered Zone;
- (4) to group together Namhsan and Manton Townships in Shan State and prescribe it Palaung Self-Administered Zone;
- (5) to group together Konkyan and Laukkai Townships in Shan State and prescribe it Kokang Self-Administered Zone;
- (6) to group together Hopang, Mongmao, Panwaing, Narphan, Metmang and Panhsan (Pankham) Townships—six townships in Shan State into two districts and prescribe it Wa Self-Administered Division;

The government promulgated more rights of national races by designating self-administered divisions/states in addition to seven states. In order to avert possible future disputes, the delegates to the National Convention adopted a detailed basic principle to prescribe three norms—the said national race shall be the one that has not got separate region or state yet. It shall have an appropriate size of population. Moreover, the population shall be the ones who reside in the same region contiguously.

These principles are designed to give due rights to national races who have lived in the same region in the motherland through thick and thin for very long and have appropriate sizes of population.

That is clear if compared with the 1947 constitution that prescribed four states—Kachin, Kayah, Kayin and Shan—and Special Division of the Chins. A distinct point is that national races will be able to enjoy more rights than in the past.

Furthermore, national races can enjoy legislative, executive and judicial powers much more than in the Parliamentary Democracy Period and in the time of the Myanma Socialist Programme Party.

Legislative power will be exercised as separately as possible. At the central level, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw) will be formed. Region Hluttaws and State Hluttaws will also be formed, and legislative power will be delegated to them. Moreover, there will be formed one self-administered division leading body and five self-administered zone leading bodies and legislative power will be shared with them. Thus, in the future legislative sector of the future State will be (1) Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, (2) Pyithu Hluttaw, (3) Amyotha Hluttaw, (4) seven Region Hluttaws, (5) seven State Hluttaws, (6) one self-administered division leading body, and (7) five self-administered zone leading bodies.

In the 1947 constitution, the legislative body was formed with Pyithu Hluttaw, Chamber of Nationalities, Parliament formed with these two Hluttaws, Kachin State, Kayah, Kayin and Shan State Councils. In the 1974 constitution, Pyithu Hluttaw was the sole legislative body. So, in future, all national races will be vested with legislative power equally and democratically.

Pyithu Hluttaw will be formed with MPs elected based on township or population. And Amyotha Hluttaw will be formed with MPs elected equally in term of number from Regions and States.

Every township is home to various national races. So, the system of designating constituencies based on township and population is designed to enable national races to more participate in the Pyithu Hluttaw.

The system of electing representatives to Amyotha Hluttaw will not be based on area and population, but

with 12 Hluttaw representatives each from Regions and States. That means ensuring equal status of each region and state.

Region or State Hluttaw will be formed with Hluttaw representatives, two each of which are from a township. Besides, there are special rights prescribed for ethnic minorities.

In Shan State, for instance, Shan nationals have already got a state. Similarly, Danu, Pa-O, Palaung, Kokang and Wa national races have got self-administered areas. As for the national races in Shan State who have not enjoyed similar rights, each national race having population which constitutes at least 0.1 per cent of the population of the State will enjoy the right of electing a Hluttaw representative from among themselves. The elected person will become a minister member of the Region or State government.

That is intended to enable each national race having population which constitutes at least 0.1 per cent of the population of the State to share legislative and executive powers with other national races and to play an important role in this regard.

The remaining national races will have the rights to represent in the legislative functions of the Region or State concerned. These are not all. The representative will become a minister member of the Region or State government concerned. He will also have to deal with the affairs of the national race concerned.

Legislative power is not centralized, and is delegated to the Regions and States as well as to self-administered division and self-administered zones. In forming division/zone leading bodies for sharing the legislative power of self-administered division/zone, separate elections will not be held. The representatives, two of which are from a township elected to Region or State Hluttaw, will also become members of the leading body concerned.

For instance, two representatives each will be elected from Ywangan and Pintaya Townships in Danu Self-Administered Zone in Shan State. So, the four representatives will become members of the leading body of Danu Self-Administered Zone formed with Ywangan and Pintaya Townships. And one of the four will become the chairman of the leading body of Danu Self-Administered Zone. That is not all. He will be appointed as minister member of the Shan State government.

There is a principle that a self-administered division/zone leading body shall be formed with not less than 10 members. It means the number of the members can be more than ten. For example, except Danu nationals residing in Danu Self-Administered Zone, of the remaining national races, the one whose population is 10,000 or upwards will enjoy the right to elect a representative among themselves as member of the leading body.

These points are designed to enable each national race whose population is 10,000 or upwards to exercise legislative and executive powers in a democratic way.

So, it has been apparent that the constitution will be drafted with the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles that can guarantee the prosperous future of the State and the people.

Each nation exercises sovereign powers through the constitution concerned. However, no constitution is perfect. Necessary amendments have to be made to every constitution through coordination and discussions according to the conditions and times to better serve the interests of the State and the people concerned.

Whatever it may be, the upcoming constitution is intended to enable national races including ethnic minorities share equally the three sovereign powers—legislative, executive and judicial powers—in exercising the Unitary System, multi-party democracy system and market economy, as aspired by the entire people.

Translation: MS

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects multipurpose dams...

(from page 1)

The 4,745 feet long and 165 feet high facility which is of earthen type is being built on Neyinsara Creek. On completion, it will benefit 6,500 acres and generate 21 million KWH.

This morning, Lt-Gen Ye Myint met with officers and other ranks and families of Kalay Station and gave instructions on regional development.

MNA

With noble mind

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

(Venerable Shwe Hinthya Sayadaw)

Maj-Gen Tha Aye looks into development of Myitta, progress of Dawei University construction project

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Feb — Maj-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence together with Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo and officials met departmental personnel, members of social organizations and local people in Myitta of Dawei District on 31

equipment to Myitta Station Hospital and uniforms to teachers and social organization members through officials.

The commander and officials donated cash to the funds of Myitta Station Hospital.

Maj-Gen Tha Aye and party made an inspection tour of Myitta BEHS, Myittha Hospital (16-bed), the Station Hospital and police

Managing Director Mr Kriangkrai Chavaltanpipat of Myanmar Pongipat Co Ltd and party from Heinda Mine donated a Buddha image to be kept at the pagoda to Maj-Gen Tha Aye.

In Taungthonlon Village, Maj-Gen Tha Aye met social organization members and visited Taungthonlon BEHS Branch.

They inspected



Maj-Gen Tha Aye of Ministry of Defence looks into progress in construction of Dawei University.

MNA



January morning.

He provided one computer set to Myitta Basic Education High School, hospital station. They viewed tarmacking of Myitta-Dawei road.

At Shwedagon Replica Pagoda,

Factories under Ministry of Industry-1 inspected

YANGON, 3 Feb — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung inspected production of factories under the ministry in Thanlyin Township this morning.

They visited No 18 Thanlyin Garment Factory, No 19 Thanlyin Garment Factory, Paper Packaging Factory (Thanlyin), No 2 Footwear Factory, Plastic Packaging Factory and Glass Factory (Thanlyin).

The minister instructed officials to apply man power, technology and administrative power for boosting production of the factories. —MNA

XXIV SEA Games taekwondo medallists honoured

YANGON, 3 Feb — The dinner hosted by the President of Myanmar Taekwondo Federation to athletes who had clinched one gold, one silver and four bronze medals in the XXIV SEA Games 2007 was held at Yuzana Hotel in Bahan Township on 28 January.

At the outset, Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint made a speech of honour

on the occasion.

Next, President U Htay Myint (Yuzana Hotel) of MTF and a Korean embassy staff gave speeches on the occasion.

Afterwards, prize money were awarded to gold, silver and bronze medallists won in the XXIV SEA Games by the president and donors. Gold medallist Soe Soe Hmyar won prize money K 12 million. She bought a share of Livestock and

Fisheries Development Bank and spoke words of thanks. After the awarding ceremony, the president hosted dinner to those present.

Before the dinner, Vice-President of MTF U Mya Han and General

Secretary U Tin Win and officials, coaches and players recounted experiences gained from the SEA Games and explained about future plans of MTF to media persons.

MNA

All this needs to be known

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

CPT Minister inspects communication links in Toegyaunggale

YANGON, 3 Feb— Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw inspected communications tasks of Toegyaunggale Microwave station this morning.

Officials reported on measures taken for communications facilities to the minister. The minister gave instructions on improvement of internal and external

communication links.

The minister met service personnel of Thanlyin, Kyauktan, Kayan and Thongwa Townships at Microwave station in Thanlyin and

gave necessary instructions.

Next, the minister looked into functions of Microwave station of Thanlyin.

MNA

Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw inspects Toegyaunggale Microwave Station.

COMMUNICATIONS

Commander, CEC Member meet Rakhine State USDA members



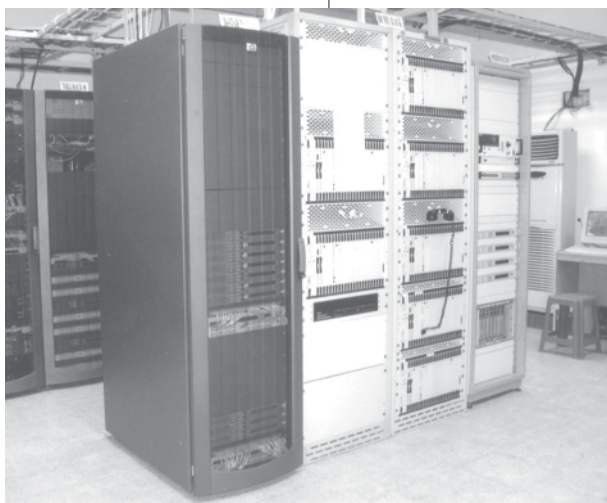
USDA CEC member Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe presents uniforms to Rakhine State USDA. —TRANSPORT

YANGON, 3 Feb — Patron of Rakhine State Union Solidarity and Development Association Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Maung Shein and USDA CEC Member (Rakhine State In-charge) Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe met with secretaries, executives and members of state, district and township at the association office in Sittway, Rakhine State yesterday.

At the meeting, secretaries of the township USDAs briefed the commander and the minister on rural development tasks while secretary of Rakhine State U Oo Kyaw Yin and officials gave supplementary reports.

Next, the commander and the minister gave speeches on the occasion and the CEC member presented longis for state, district and township USDAs through officials.

MNA



Free treatment for eye patients in Rakhine State

YANGON, 3 Feb — Head of Management Department of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe, Head of Discipline Department Daw Mya Theingi and Leader of Social and Cultural Work Group Dr Daw Sanda Aung arrived in Sittway on 28 January.

Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe and party together with Patron of Rakhine State Women's Affairs Organization Daw Kyawt Kyawt San and Chairperson of Rakhine State Women's Affairs Organization Daw Kyi Kyi Wai and members visited free treatment for eye patients at Sittway General Hospital.

The treatment was organized by the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Health and MWAFF under the arrangement of the Union Solidarity and Development Association.

The medical treatment team was led by Professor Dr Kan Nyunt, Professor Dr Mya Aung and Dr Thuza Han. The treatment was given to altogether 5,723 eye patients from ten townships and spectacles, sunglasses and cash were provided to them.

MWAFF donated K 1.5 million to officials.—MNA

Progress of hydropower projects supervised



Minister for Electric Power No 1 Col Zaw Min views construction tasks at Nancho Hydropower Project. — EP NO 1

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Feb — Minister for Electric Power No 1 Col Zaw Min yesterday inspected progress of Nancho Hydropower Project to be installed with 40 megawatts generator on Nancho Creek, 16 miles from Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana.

The minister viewed drilling of the water tunnel No 1 and the tunnel Portal of the water tunnel No 2, preparations for construction of the power station.

Nancho Hydropower Project has completed by 17.03 per cent.

At Upper Paunglaung Hydropower Project to be installed with 140 megawatts, the minister viewed construction of 968 feet long diversion tunnel and instructed officials to take care of the tunnel construction task.

The minister also inspected sites chosen for construction of RCC embankment, RCC and CVC batching plant, the Crushing Plant No 1 and No 2 and Aggregate Stock Piles, and preparations for construction of the quarry. —MNA



Responsible persons of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation present K 1.5 million to be spent on treatment of eye patients to officials.

MNA

Zimbabwe deports Briton over coup plot charge

HARARE, 3 Feb—A former British special officer who has been in prison in Zimbabwe, was deported to Equatorial Guinea to face coup plot charges soon after losing a legal appeal against extradition, his lawyer said on Friday.

Simon Mann was jailed in 2004 following his conviction on charges of trying to buy weapons without a licence as part of a plot against Equatorial Guinea President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo.

Mann, 55, was briefly released after serving his sentence in May last year but was again arrested on an immigration warrant while awaiting deportation.

His lawyer, Jonathan Sankange, told journalists that immigration authorities had deported Mann on Wednesday night soon after the Zimbabwe High Court rejected arguments that he should not be extradited because he might be tortured the coup charges in Equatorial Guinea.

Samkange—who on Thursday filed an appeal at the Supreme Court against the High Court decision—said he had only discovered later in the day that Mann to that effect,” he told journalists.—MNA/Reuters



Acrobats from China art ensemble perform during a dazzling entertainment held at Emperor Palace in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 1 Feb, 2008. The Chinese art ensemble, composed of Yunnan Acrobatic Troup and Chorus of Hani-Yi Autonomous Prefecture of Honghe of Yunnan Province, presented a fantastic evening party “Shangri-la In Dream” to more than one thousand overseas Chinese here, celebrating the forthcoming Chinese lunar New Year which falls on 7 Feb this year.—XINHUA

Hamas says will control Gaza-Egypt border transit

RAFAH (Gaza Strip), 3 Feb—Hamas agreed on Saturday to Egyptian calls to control the flow of Palestinians through the breached Gaza border and expects Egypt to seal remaining gaps in the frontier wall, a Hamas official said.

Gunmen from the Islamist group which rules Gaza blew up metal barricades on January 23 to allow Gazans relief from an Israeli-led blockade.

Since then Hamas has been under pressure from Egypt to stem the flow of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who have crossed the border.

“We will restore control over this border, in cooperation with Egypt, and gradually,” Mahmoud al-Zahar said at the border town of Rafah, adding he expected the remaining gap in the border wall to be sealed as early as Sunday.

He said Hamas wanted Israel excluded from the future running of the crossing:

“We do not accept that the Israeli occupation will continue to have any control.”

MNA/Reuters

Study says rats might hold clues to ancient migration

CANBERRA, 3 Feb— Research into the common rat has revealed how people and certain diseases migrated around the ancient world, Australian scientists said on Friday.

A study of DNA from 165 Black Rat specimens from 32 countries has found six distinct family groups, with each group coming from a different part of Asia.

“It has been unclear why certain rodent-borne diseases are more common in some places than others,” said head researcher Ken Alpin, from Australia’s top science research body, the CSIRO.

“But our work raises the possibility that the

different lineages of black rats each carry a different set of diseases.”

The black rat, *Rattus rattus*, is also known as the house rat or ship rat, and is one of the most common of the 56 species of rat. It is found throughout Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe and the Americas carries diseases including the plague and typhus.

Alpin said the six different rat lineages originated in India, East Asia, the Himalayas, Thailand, the Mekong

Delta and Indonesia.

The Indian lineage spread to the Middle-East around 20,000 years ago, then later to Europe and eventually Africa, the Americas and Australia.

The East Asian lineage moved from Taiwan to Japan, the Philippines, and Indonesia, arriving in Micronesia about 3,500 years ago, he said. The other four lineages have not moved as far, but could spread further in future.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam rejects Human Rights Watch report

HANOI, 3 Feb — Vietnam on Friday rejected the remarks by the Human Rights Watch in its annual report, saying it delivered wrong information, Vietnam News Agency reported.

“We strongly reject erroneous remarks in the annual report released by Human Rights Watch on 31 January, 2007,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Le Dung said when asked about the New York-based rights watchdog’s 2007 report.

“It is regrettable that Human Rights Watch has once again delivered wrong information that failed to reflect the real situation in Vietnam,” the spokesman said.

Dung reiterated that the Vietnamese state

always respects the rights to freedom and democracy of all citizens, including the right to freedom of speech.

“Like in other countries around the world, the Vietnamese state does not accept the abuse of the rights to freedom and democracy to commit acts that violate the law,” he said. The spokesman affirmed that in Vietnam, there is neither political crackdown nor any arrest on the grounds of political viewpoints or religions. Only those who

break the law are dealt with in line with regulations of Vietnamese laws, he said.

A number of people in Vietnam had in the past time been charged for violating the Vietnamese state’s laws and policies, undermining security and social order and stability, and destroying national unity, not for dissenting from the official view. The strict punishment given to law violators is normal and in compliance with stipulations of Vietnamese laws, he said.—MNA/Xinhua

In this photo released by the Florida Keys News Bureau, Zander Burns, foreground-right, listens as Mote Marine Laboratory scientist Dave Vaughan, left, answers his question from inside a new 2,400-gallon aquarium on 1 Feb, 2008, at the Florida Keys Eco-Discovery Centre in Key West, Fla.—INTERNET



US nuclear power plants to get more Russia uranium

WASHINGTON, 3 Feb— US nuclear power reactors will be able to obtain more supplies of Russian enriched uranium for fuel, under a trade deal signed by the two countries late on Friday.

The agreement will provide US utilities with a reliable supply of nuclear fuel by allowing Russia to boost exports to the United States while minimizing any disruption to the United States’ domestic enrichment industry.

“The agreement will encourage bilateral trade in Russian uranium products for peaceful purposes,” said US Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez. “It will also help to ensure that US utilities have an adequate source of enriched uranium for US utility consumers.”

Gutierrez and Russian Federal Atomic Energy Agency Director Sergey Kiriyenko signed the deal allowing for sales of Russian enriched uranium

directly to US utilities. Before the agreement, such direct transactions were not permitted.

For years, the US Government has restricted Russian uranium shipments, fearing Russia would dump uranium in the US market and financially hurt the major American uranium supplier, USEC Inc.

A spokesman for the Russia’s Atomic Energy Agency said with the new trade deal “the volumes of direct deliveries of uranium enrichment services may total 20 per cent of the market, so one in every five atomic stations in the US will work thanks to the import of Russian uranium enrichment services.” —MNA/Reuters

Images of the Day



A child plays amongst snowmen at a park in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province on 2 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Dubai ruler names son Hamdan Crown Prince

DUBAI, 3 Feb—Dubai ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum named his British-educated son Hamdan Crown Prince on Friday, the WAM news agency said, ending two years of uncertainty over succession in the Gulf trade and tourism hub.

Sheikh Mohammed, who has led Dubai's drive for growth, named his brother — also named Hamdan — and his other son, Maktoum, as deputy rulers of Dubai, one of the seven members of the United Arab Emirates, the official news agency reported.

Sheikh Hamdan, 25, is head of the Executive Council of Dubai, which runs Dubai's political and financial affairs and which outlined an ambitious development strategy last year.

Born in November 1982, Sheikh Hamdan began school in Dubai before moving to Britain, where he graduated from the elite Sandhurst military academy.

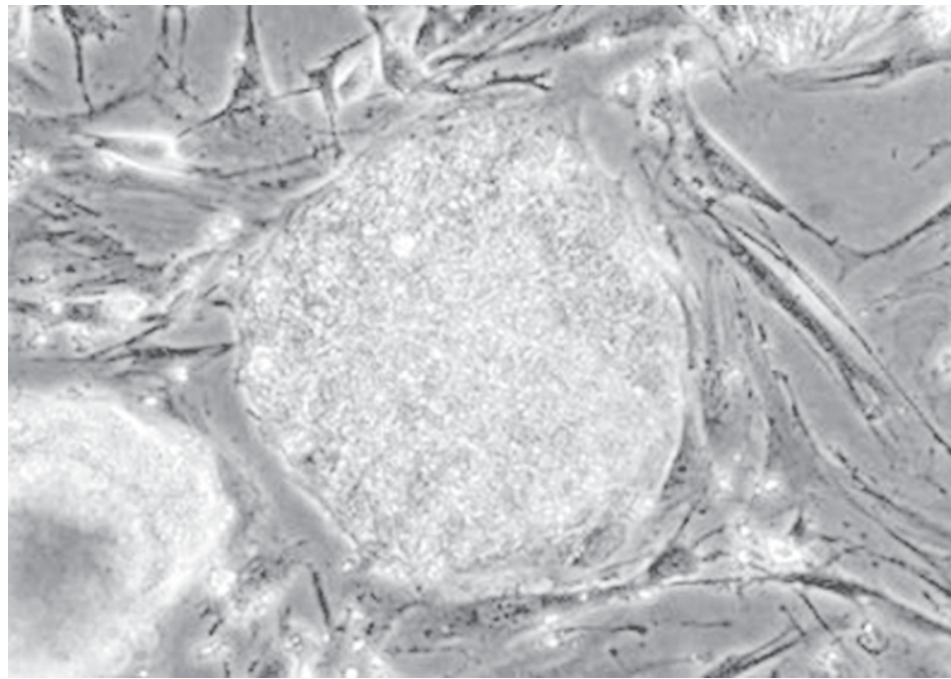
MNA/Reuters

Snow-stranded Chinese couples hold wedding ceremonies

BEIJING, 3 Feb—For Chinese, wedding ceremonies should be held on good occasion that promises auspiciousness. But for couples stranded by the biggest snowfall to hit China in five decades, "I do" seems more lasting and meaningful on the road.

Wu Haifeng, a young man from southwest China's Sichuan Province, met Shenzhen girl Lu Yixiang two years ago. They planned to hold the wedding ceremony in Wu's hometown Shi'an on 27 January. According to Chinese tradition, before a wedding, a bridegroom has to pick up a bride from her family and take her to the ceremony. However, since nowadays so many couple's homes are too far away from each other's, a restaurant room is often booked as the bridegroom's temporary home for a wedding. Wu and Lu decided to book a hotel room in nearby Liangping County in Sichuan.

On the afternoon of 26 January, Lu settled down at Liangping County, waiting for Wu to pick her up the next day. —MNA/Xinhua

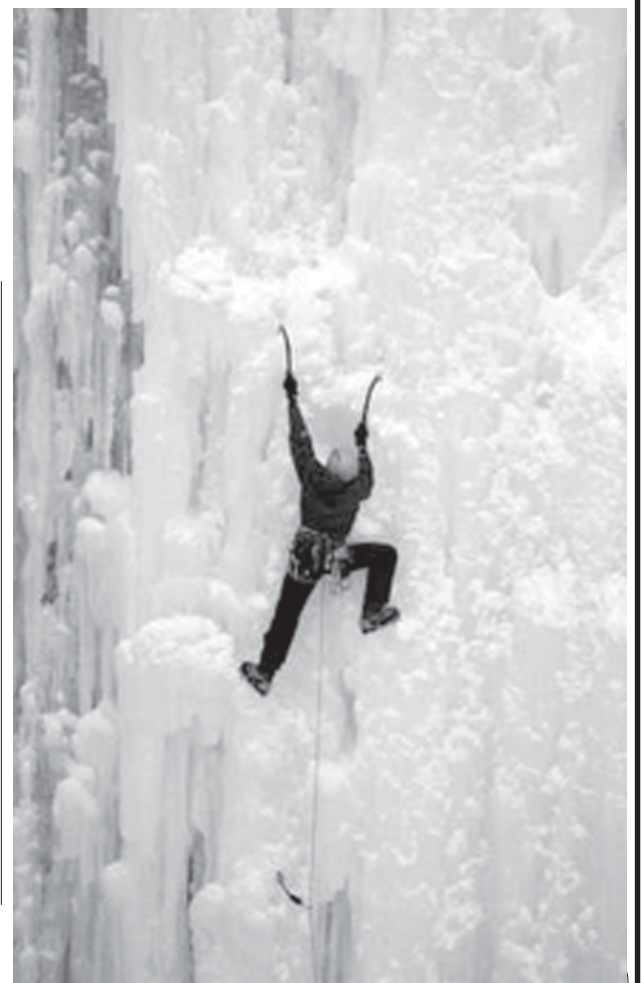


An undated microscopic view of undifferentiated human embryonic stem cells. Scientists in Finland said they had replaced a 65-year-old patient's upper jaw with a bone transplant cultivated from stem cells isolated from his own fatty tissue and grown inside his abdomen.

INTERNET

Revellers from the Coracoes Unidos do Ciepa children's samba school dance during their Carnival parade in the Sambadrome in Rio de Janeiro on 1 Feb, 2008.

INTERNET



A man climbs up a frozen artificial waterfall in the Swiss mountain resort of Pontresina.

INTERNET

ADVERTISEMENT

ချပ်ပိတ်ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာခေါ်ယူခြင်း

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ၊ ကွန်ကရစ်ပိုက်ထုတ်လုပ်ရေးစက်ရုံ၏ လုပ်ငန်းသုံးအတွက် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ High Tensile Wire များကို CIF/Yangon (US\$)သို့မဟုတ် သိုလှောင်ရုံ အရောက် ကျပ်ငွေဖြင့် ဝယ်ယူရန် ချပ်ပိတ်ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာများ ဖိတ်ခေါ်အပ်ပါသည်။

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(က)	4 mm ø Indented High Tensile Wire	(50) Tons
(ခ)	5 mm ø Plain High Tensile Wire	(400) Tons
(ဂ)	GI Strip (1.0)mm (t)x100 mm width, (350)Kg Per Coil	(14) Tons

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ဥက္ကဋ္ဌ
ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့

Obama eyes American Indians in US presidential bid

ALBUQUERQUE (New Mexico), 2 Feb — Democratic presidential hopeful Barack Obama said on Friday the United States has a “special obligation” to help American Indians and pledged to hold annual summits with tribal leaders if he is elected in November. Obama, an Illinois senator who would be the first Black US president, told an audience in New Mexico that American

Indians were doing worse than the rest of the country in areas including health, education, mortality rates, substance abuse and unemployment. “There is no doubt that we have a special obligation to try to work with the tribal leadership and Native American communities to solve some of these problems,” he said. He said more money needed to be invested in schools and substance

abuse programmes, and said he would appoint an official in his White House to work with tribal leaders across the country. “As president of the United States I’m not just going to have a Bureau of Indian Affairs that is off on the sidelines somewhere,” he said. “I’m going to have an annual summit with Native American leaders, tribal leaders. They’re going to meet directly with me.” MNA/Reuters

Indonesia cuts price of industrial fuels

JAKARTA, 3 Feb — Indonesia's state oil and gas firm Pertamina has cut the price of industrial fuels in February by up to 7.3 percent on the back of lower global oil prices. The price of gasoline for commercial use was slashed by 4.4 percent to 7,486 rupiah (80 US cents), while kerosene cut by 5.3 percent to 7,893 (85 US cents), the Jakarta Post said Saturday, quoting report from Pertamina. The price of diesel fuel for transportation and industry has been trimmed by 5.3 per cent to 8,237 rupiah (89 US cents) and 7,879 rupiah (85 US cents) respectively. Fuel oil enjoys the biggest price reduction, down 7.1 per cent to 5,382 rupiah (58 US cents). MNA/Xinhua

Death toll of bird flu hits 102 in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 2 Feb — A 32-year-old woman has died of bird flu at a Jakarta hospital, bringing the country's total death toll of the virus to 102, according to TV news report on Friday. The woman has been treated at the Persahabatan Hospital since January 26 and laboratory tests confirmed later that she had the H5N1 virus, reported Metro TV. She died late on Thursday after multiple organ failure. Experts have blamed widespread bird flu attacks across the huge archipelago on million of backyard chickens commonly found in rural families. In a related development, India is battling its worst-ever poultry outbreak. No human cases have been reported, but experts are scrambling to keep the disease from reaching crowded Calcutta and its 14 million people. The H5N1 bird flu has already caused a pandemic in poultry. Hundreds of millions of birds in more than 60 countries have died or been slaughtered to halt its spread. MNA/Xinhua

China sets up command centre to deal with snow disaster

BEIJING, 2 Feb — China's Cabinet has established a command centre to coordinate contingency measures for coal, oil and power supply, transportation and disaster relief in snow-hit areas, said the National Development and Reform Commission on Friday. The centre, with its office at the commission, involves 23 party and government departments and organizations, including watchdogs on traffic, public security, finance, health care and information as well as Armed Forces and energy giants. The State Council made the move to effectively

resolve some major problems in coal and oil shipments, power supply and disaster relief caused by the freezing weather, said Zhu Hongren, deputy director of the Bureau of Economic Operations with the NDRC, at a Press conference. “The government will fight against the winter storm with great resolution and protect the safety of people's lives and properties,” said Zhu. The centre has already called three meetings to study and cope with the situation of the disaster-hit areas since Tuesday, according to the NDRC. MNA/Xinhua

Exhibition of Beijing Olympics opens in Hungary

BUDAPEST, 2 Feb — A photo exhibition of the preparation work for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games was launched here Wednesday at Hungary's Lorand University. Liu Wenqing, cultural counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in Hungary, and Jeno Kamuti, secretary general of Hungarian Olympic Committee, attended the opening ceremony. Addressing the ceremony, Liu introduced Beijing's preparations for the 29th Olympic Games, which will begin on 8 August. He hoped that by hosting the Olympic Games, China will not only draw the world's attention to its sports, but also to its people and culture. The exhibition, from 30 January to 15 February in the arboretum of the university, serves to strengthen the friendship and cultural communication between people in China and Hungary, Liu said. Kamuti was confident the Beijing Olympics will

be the best in history, and that the Games will embody unprecedented cultural and humanistic significance. The 60 photos on display, provided by the culture office of China's Embassy in Hungary, cover a wide range of themes including the construction of the Olympic stadiums, the training of athletes, the active participation of Chinese citizens, as well as the infrastructure in Chinese cities. MNA/Xinhua

Anti-whalers to chase Japan fleet for second time

CANBERRA, 2 Feb — Hardline anti-whaling activists said on Thursday they would return to harass Japan's whaling fleet for another three weeks after departing Antarctic waters to refuel in Australia unless they were blocked by police. “This is a retreat for supplies only. We have not surrendered the Sanctuary to the whale killers,” Sea Shepherd protest skipper Paul Watson said after leaving an Australian-declared whale haven in the Southern Ocean. Watson and his crew may face questions from Australian police after arriving in Melbourne on 2 February over the boarding of a Japanese harpoon boat this month by two activists. The pair, Australian Benjamin Potts and Briton Giles Lane, were held for three days on the Japanese whale hunter Yushin Maru 2 after boarding it on the high seas, sparking Japanese accusations of piracy and an Australian police investigation. “The Australian Federal Police are still deciding if they have jurisdiction to investigate,” a spokeswoman for Australian Justice Minister Bob Debus said. MNA/Reuters

Britney Spears taken to hospital by police

LOS ANGELES, 2 Feb — Pop star Britney Spears was removed from her home by Los Angeles police and rushed to a hospital early on Thursday, the Los Angeles Times reported. Spears, 26, was rushed into an ambulance from a side entrance of her Studio City home shortly after 1

am/0200 GMT, escorted by more than a dozen motorcycle officers, two police cruisers and two police helicopters, the Times reported, citing unidentified authorities. She was taken to UCLA Medical Centre after a call from her psychiatrist, the authorities told the newspaper. Los Angeles police would not immediately confirm the report. The pop star, whose personal life has veered out of control in the last 12 months, lost custody of

sons Sean Preston, 2, and Jayden James, 1, in October but had been allowed to see them three times a week in court-monitored visits. Those visitation rights were stripped on January 4 after Spears refused to hand back the boys to ex-husband Kevin Federline and reportedly locked herself in a bathroom in a fit of hysterics. That episode ended with her being taken away on a stretcher and hospitalized for two days. MNA/Reuters





Workers finish painting carnival masks in Galapa village, near Barranquilla, Colombia, on 2 Feb, 2008. Barranquilla's carnival was declared by UNESCO as a Masterpiece of Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.—INTERNET

Brazil unable to curb Amazon destruction

BRASILIA, 2 Feb — Brazil's Government is unwilling and unable to halt destruction in the Amazon rainforest despite emergency measures it announced last week to curb rising deforestation, environmental experts say.

High commodity prices and increased land use elsewhere in Brazil are driving ranchers and farmers deeper into the Amazon in search of cheap land, environmentalists say.

Between August and December last year, 7,000 square kilometres (2,703 square miles), or two-thirds the annual rate, were chopped down.

In response, the government of Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva banned logging and cut farm credits in the 36 municipalities with the highest deforestation rate. It also said it would ban farm products from illegally deforested areas and would register

property deeds to prevent land theft.

"We are convinced if we play all our cards we can reduce deforestation in 2008 as well," Environment Minister Marina Silva said. In the two years through July 2007, the rate had fallen by 50 per cent.

But environmentalists said the measures were half-hearted and insufficient and some could even increase deforestation.

MNA/Reuters

Colombian drug kingpin found shot to death

BOGOTA, 2 Feb — The boss of Colombia's biggest remaining cocaine cartel was shot dead in neighbouring Venezuela in an apparent settling of scores among drug gangs, authorities said on Friday.

The discovery of the bullet-riddled body of Wilber Varela, known as "Jabon" or "Soap", on Wednesday near Colombia's border will likely fuel US criticism that Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has let his country become a safe haven for drug smugglers.

"We are working with Colombia to turn over the body," said Venezuelan anti-drug chief Colonel Nestor Luis Reverol, who said the body's fingerprints matched those of the wanted cocaine king. Varela, a former police sergeant sought for extradition by the US Government for smuggling tons of cocaine to the United States, was one of the last Colombian drug kingpins at large after last year's arrest of Diego "Don Diego" Montoya.

MNA/Reuters

Venezuela confirms death of Colombian drug lord

CARACAS, 3 Feb — The death of Colombian drug trafficker Wilber Varela in Venezuela was confirmed on Friday by the Venezuela's National Anti Drugs Organization's director Nestor Luis Reverol.

"It has been reliably determined that he is drug trafficker Wilber Varela, Thirty-two coinciding characteristics have been verified," said Reverol. On Wednesday, a person was found shot to death with seven bullet holes in a beach resort hut of Lamas de Los Angeles sector in Venezuelan city of Merida and his fingerprints, among other characteristics matched those of Wilber Varela, said Reverol.

MNA/Xinhua

Landslide kills 8 in Indonesia's Aceh

JAKARTA, 3 Feb — A landslide triggered by torrential rains swept through two houses in Indonesia's Aceh Province leaving eight people dead, local Press said Friday.

Heavy rains since Thursday evening unleashed the landslide at Danau Paris District, Singkil Regency early on Friday.

Villagers managed to recover all bodies including two children aged seven and five, reported Jakarta-based Metro TV.—MNA/Xinhua



An aerial view of the Chinese New Year market (bottom) at Singapore's Chinatown on 2 Feb, 2008. Chinese people all over the world usher in the Lunar New Year on 7 Feb, According to the lunar calendar, 2008 is the "Year of the Rat".

INTERNET

Bomb hits civilian bus in C Sri Lanka, 20 dead

COLOMBO, 2 Feb — A bomb exploded on a civilian bus in the central Sri Lankan town of Dambulla on Saturday, killing at least 20 people and wounding 50, the military said. The explosion was the latest in a series of bomb attacks blamed on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, a rebel group fighting to create an independent state in the island's north and east.

"The death toll has gone up to 20 and are 50 injured from the explosion," said military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara. "The explosion is a work of the LTTE." The military said the victims were travelling from the

central town of Kandy to the north central town of Anuradhapura to attend a religious ceremony.

MNA/Reuters



Sri Lankan volunteers and rescue workers walk at the site where a bomb blast ripped through a crowded bus on 2 Feb, 2008 in the north-central town of Dambulla.—INTERNET

Brazil finds fossil of "missing link" to crocodile

RIO DE JANEIRO, 2 Feb — Brazilian paleontologists said on Thursday they had found the fossil of a new species of prehistoric predator that represented a "missing link" to modern-day crocodiles.

The well-preserved fossil of Monte-alto-suchus arrudacamposi, a medium-sized lizard-like predator measuring about 5-1/2 feet (1.7 metres) from head to tail, dates back

about 80 million years to the Late Cretaceous period.

"This is scientifically important because the specimen literally is the link between more primitive crocodiles that lived in the era of the dinosaurs 80-85 million years ago and modern species," said paleontologist Ismar de Souza Carvalho of Rio de Janeiro Federal University.

MNA/Reuters

SPORTS

Almeria end Real's eight-match winning streak

MADRID, 3 Feb — Real Madrid's eight-match winning run in the Primera Liga came to an end on Saturday when they lost 2-0 at an ambitious and classy-looking Almeria.

A first-half goal by centre-back Juanito and a penalty from former Real Madrid reserve team striker Alvaro Negredo less than a minute after the break gave Almeria a memorable victory in their first season in the top flight in 27 years.

Real, whose previous league defeat was against Sevilla at the start of November, remain nine points clear of Barcelona at the top but the Catalans have a chance to cut the gap when they host Osasuna at the Nou Camp on Sunday. —MNA/Reuters



Thailand's Buakaw Pramuk (R) kicks Yoshihiro Sato during their K-1 World Max 2008 kickboxing tournament in Tokyo on 2 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Napoli's Lavezzi strikes twice to sink Udinese

ROME, 3 Feb — Argentine forward Ezequiel Lavezzi scored twice to help Napoli beat fifth-placed Udinese 3-1 on Saturday in an eventful Serie A game that ended with both sides down to 10 men.

Napoli made a superb start, with Marcelo Zalayeta and Matteo Contini hitting the crossbar before Udinese's Colombian defender Cristian Zapata turned a Lavezzi cross into his own net to concede the lead in the third minute.

The visitors levelled five minutes later when striker Simone Pepe snuck behind the Napoli defence to half-volley home a Gaetano D'Agostino free kick.

MNA/Reuters

Answers to yesterday's Crosswords Puzzle

1	A	T	T	A	R	4	T	E	5	N	S	I	O	N
	D		A		O		H			O		N		O
8	V	I	S	I	B	L	E	9	B	E	S	O	M	
	E		T		B		B		L		T		A	
10	R	H	Y	M	E	11	E	M	E	R	A	L	D	
	S				13	R	I	S	E			N		
15	E	M	B	R	Y	O	17	N	E	C	T	A	R	19
			O			20	T	O	U	R				E
22	S	I	M	I	L	A	R	24	E	N	D	E	D	
	E		B		I		N		L		I		D	
26	P	R	A	W	N	27	A	P	O	S	T	L	E	
	I		R		E		T		N		T		N	
28	A	N	D	A	N	T	E	29	G	L	O	S	S	

Hamburg lose ground after draw with Hanover

BERLIN, 3 Feb — Hamburg SV dropped to fourth place on Saturday when they were held to a 1-1 draw at home to Hanover 96 in their first game back after the Bundesliga's six-week break.

Hamburg, looking creaky in defence and hesitant going forward, fell behind in the 40th minute when Hungarian midfielder Szabolcs Huszti converted a penalty.

The home side grabbed the equalizer through Ivica Olic with 20 minutes still to go but they could do nothing to avoid a fourth successive league match without a win.

The result meant Hamburg slipped six points behind Bayern Munich, who strengthened their position on Friday when they won 2-1 at Hansa Rostock with goals from Franck Ribery and Luca Toni.

Bayern lead the table with 39 points from 18 games. Werder Bremen, with 36 from 17, will draw level once again if they win their home match against Bochum on Sunday.

Bayer Leverkusen moved up to third on 33 points, ahead of Hamburg on goal difference, after coming from behind to win 3-2 away to Energie Cottbus.

The individual performance of the day came from 20-year-old Czech striker Martin Fenin, who joined Eintracht Frankfurt from Teplice over the winter break.

Fenin struck a brilliant hat-trick on his debut to give Frankfurt a 3-0 win away to Hertha Berlin.

Hamburg could have done with a striker in that sort of form.

They saw plenty of the ball in the first half but the best chances fell to Hanover. —MNA/Reuters

Arsenal go top as Man United held at Spurs

LONDON, 3 Feb — Arsenal swapped places with champions Manchester United at the top of the Premier League on Saturday after their 3-1 win at Manchester City preceded United's 1-1 draw at Tottenham Hotspur.

Two goals for Emmanuel Adebayor and one for Eduardo de Silva made Arsenal the first team to win at City in the league this season and put them on 60 points from 25 games.

United, who could have returned to the summit with a win, trailed to Dimitar Berbatov's first half effort but levelled three minutes into added time with a close-range Carlos Tevez volley that went in off Spurs defender Michael Dawson.

"It's going to be nip and tuck from now until the end of the season," relieved United manager Alex Ferguson told Sky Sports. "We took a lot of risks in the last 20 minutes and feel we deserved a point."

United are now two points behind Arsenal, with third-placed Chelsea six adrift of the leaders after a 1-1 draw at Portsmouth for whom deadline-day signing Jermain Defoe scored on his debut to cancel out Nicolas Anelka's opener. Defoe's leveller denied Chelsea a club record 10th consecutive victory in all competitions. —MNA/Reuters



Sofia Arvidsson of Sweden returns a shot to Patty Schnyder of Switzerland during their Fed Cup Euro-Africa Zone tennis match in Budapest on 2 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET



Hamburg SV's Ivica Olic challenges Hanover 96's Steven Cherundolo (L) during their German Bundesliga first division soccer match in Hamburg on 2 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

More records in sight at African Nations Cup

ACCRA, 3 Feb — Records have been steadily tumbling at the African Nations Cup finals but there are still two more major landmarks to break at the tournament in Ghana.

Cameroon striker Samuel Eto'o broke the 38-year-old all-time goal scoring record for the Nations Cup on Wednesday, passing Laurent Pokou's record of 14 goals and extending it to 16.

Eto'o started the tournament on 11 goals but has netted five in Ghana, albeit scoring three from the penalty spot. He can now turn his attention to chasing the record for the most goals in a single tournament, set in 1974 by Mulamba Ndiaye.

Ndiaye's nine goals in the tournament hosted by Egypt ensured the title for Zaire, now known as the Democratic Republic of Congo. —MNA/Reuters



Arsenal goalkeeper Jens Lehmann smiles after his team's 3-1 win over Manchester City in their English Premier League soccer match at The City of Manchester Stadium, Manchester, England, on 2 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Celtic coast to 5-1 Scottish FA Cup win

GLASGOW, 3 Feb — Scott McDonald grabbed two goals as holders Celtic coasted to a 5-1 Scottish FA Cup fifth round win at Kilmarnock on Saturday.

Zander Diamond score the only goal in Aberdeen's 1-0 win over second division Hamilton Academicals, while St Mirren and Dundee United slugged out a goalless draw. McDonald blasted the opener for Celtic in the 22nd minute from a couple of metres as he ran in to meet a low cross from Paul Caddis on the right.

Celtic eased into a 2-0 lead in the second half when Gary Caldwell headed home in the 52nd minute after Italian Massimo Donati flicked on a corner by Japanese midfielder Shunsuke Nakamura. —MNA/Reuters

Russia hints may withdraw radar offer to US

Moscow, 3 Feb — Russia hinted on Saturday that a proposed deal with the United States over the use of Russian radar stations as an alternative to building part of a US missile defence system in Eastern Europe, may not be reached.

Washington wants to build elements of the missile shield in Poland and the Czech Republic to defend against rogue states such as Iran and North Korea. Russia says the shield is a threat to its security.

Last year Moscow offered the United States use of its radar station at Qabala in former Soviet Azerbaijan as an alternative to placing equipment in

Eastern Europe.

"The United States wants to use the potential radars at Qabala and, possibly, Armavir not as an alternative to the third position region but to strengthen their own systems," Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Kislyak told *Interfax* news agency. The "third position region" refers to the eastern European segment of the planned missile shield.

"A general settlement will not be reached," Kislyak said.

The United States has previously said Qabala and another Russian radar at Armavir, in southern Russia, can only be used in addition to the plans in Eastern Europe and on Friday Washington backed modernising Poland's defence as part of the missile shield deal.

MNA/Reuters

Turkey warns Interpol over PKK escapees

ANKARA, 3 Feb — Turkey has issued a warning to the international police organization Interpol, asking it to take precautions against leakage of Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) separatist members to other countries, local newspaper *Today's Zaman* reported on Saturday.

Turkish foreign and interior ministries have sent the names of top PKK leaders to relevant countries, asking for tightened measures at

international airports in order to prevent PKK members from escaping, said the report.

Among the airports that Turkey issued warning to were Zurich, Brussels, Frankfurt, Amsterdam, Berlin, Stockholm, Rome, Paris and London, it added.

Some senior PKK leaders might be captured at any moment, said the report, quoting intelligence sources.

The Turkish military has recently launched several cross-border attacks

to fight against PKK separatists, who use the Kurdish autonomous region in northern Iraq as a launch pad for attacks against Turkey.

The PKK, listed by the United States and Turkey as a terrorist group, took up arms against Turkey in 1984 with the aim of creating an ethnic homeland in the southeast. More than 30,000 people have been killed in the over-two-decade conflict.

MNA/Xinhua

Heavy snow closes highways in Germany

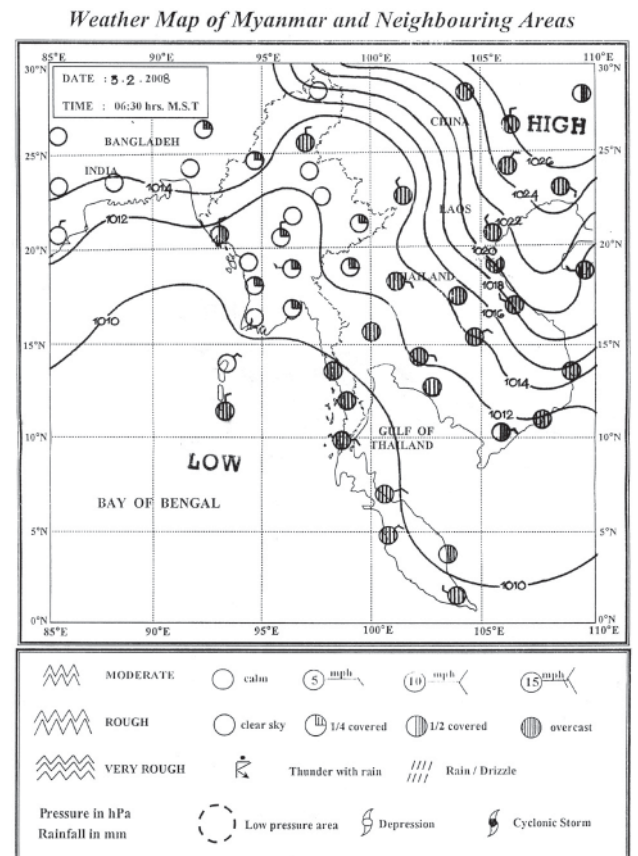
BERLIN, 3 Feb — Highways were closed in Germany on Saturday after heavy snowfalls, causing massive delays and traffic jams, local media reported.

The major A1 autobahn in the western German state of Nordrhein-Westfalen, home to the economic powerhouse cities of Cologne and Duesseldorf, remained closed Saturday morning and many passengers have been affected, Germany's NTV reported.

The highways, covered with ice and snow, are especially slippery and dangerous for heavy trucks, police said.

Authorities were unable to confirm when the roads would be reopened, the report said.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Sunday, 3 February, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in Kayin State, weather has been partly cloudy in Mon State, Taninthayi, Bago and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below February average temperatures in Kachin, Northern Shan, Rakhine States, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, (8°C) below February average temperatures in upper Sagaing Division, (12°C) below February average temperatures in Chin State, (3°C) above February average temperatures in Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) above February average temperatures in Mon State and about February average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Hakha (-6°C), Putao (2°C), Lashio and Loilem (3°C) each, Katha and An (4°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 2-2-2008 was 88°F. Minimum temperature on 3-2-2008 was 59°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 3-2-2008 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 2-2-2008 was (6.8) hours approx.

Rainfall on 3-2-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (0.67) inch at Mingaladon, (0.47) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.35) inch at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Northwest at (12:30) hours MST on 2-2-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 4-2-2008: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Kayin and Mon States, Bago and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (40%)

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair weather in the whole country.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 4-2-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 4-2-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 4-2-2008: Generally fair weather.



Monday, 4 February
View on today

- 7:00 am**
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
- 7:25 am**
2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am**
3. Morning news
- 7:40 am**
4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am**
5. Song of national races
- 8:05 am**
6. Cute little dancers

- 8:15 am**
7. (ဇာ)နှစ်မြောက်ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 8:30 am**
8. International news
- 8:45 am**
9. Grammar Made Easy
- 4:00 pm**
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm**
2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm**
3. အဝေးသင်တန်းသို့လှည့်ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ-ဒုတိယနှစ် (မြန်မာစာအထူးပြု) (မြန်မာစာ)
- 4:45 pm**
4. Dance variety
- 4:55 pm**
5. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား
- 5:10 pm**
6. (ဇာ)နှစ်မြောက်ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 5:25 pm**
7. "ဖြတ်လျှောက်ရုံလေးပဲလျှောက်ဖြစ်တော့မှာပါ" (ကျော်ဇေယျာ၊ မေသန်းနု၊ ပန်းဖြူ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်မောင်ဦး (စန်းပို့ကီ))

- 5:35 pm**
8. Song and dance of national races
- 5:45 pm**
9. Musical programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)
- 5:50 pm**
10. (ဇာ)နှစ်မြောက်ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 6:00 pm**
11. Evening news
- 6:30 pm**
12. Weather report
- 6:35 pm**
13. အလှူရှာမယ်၊ လှူကြွယ်
- 7:00 pm**
14. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "မြို့ရိုးဝေဝေချစ်သက်တည်" (အပိုင်း-၂၀)
- 7:45 pm**
15. ပြည်ထောင်စုစိတ်ဓာတ်မြှင့်တင်ရန်ခိုင်ခံ့မာရန်မှာဒီဝန်တာ
- 8:00 pm**
16. News
- 8:05 pm**
17. International news
- 8:10 pm**
18. Weather report
- 8:15 pm**
19. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "အချစ်စေတမန်" (အပိုင်း-၂၂) (ဇာတ်သိမ်းပိုင်း)
- 8:20 pm**
20. The next day's programme

People's Desire

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

Beans and Pulses and Sesame Merchants Association meets

YANGON, 3 Feb—The 15th Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Beans and Pulses and Sesame Merchants Association took place at the Mingala Hall of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry on Minye Kyawswa Road in Lanmadaw Township here yesterday afternoon.

First, Chairman of BPSMA U Tun Aung clarified measures being taken by the association.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence made a speech on the occasion.

Afterwards, President of UMFCCI U Win Myint spoke and Vice-President of Mandalay Division Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Ko Gyi reported on the yield of beans and pulses and sesame.

This was followed by a plenary meeting according to the agenda.

The future work programmes of BPSMA are to form its branches in the states and divisions, to produce quality beans and pulses and sesame, to strive for the emergence of the special beans and sesame cultivation zones, to extend its new markets and to strive for the nation to become the highest exporter of beans and pulses and sesame with the use of high quality strains.

MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence delivers an address at 15th Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Beans & Pulses and Sesame Merchants Association. —MNA

61st Anniversary Union Day Objectives

- For all the national races to safeguard the national policy— non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty;
- For all the national races to keep Union Spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people;
- For all the national races to defend and safeguard the Union for the perpetual existence;
- For all the national races to prevent, through national solidarity, the danger of internal and external destructive elements undermining peace and stability of the State and national development;
- For all the national races to make endeavours for the emergence of an enduring State Constitution in accord with the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles laid down by the National Convention, and
- For all the national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-step Road Map.



- ★ **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**