

Attasamma panidhi ça, to establish oneself rightfully; this is the way to auspiciousness.

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Senior General Than Shwe sends Union Day message

Subversive elements resorting to diverse means and ways to weaken and break up the Union
National people urged to surmount with the strength of national unity destructive acts that may cause deterioration of the Union

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Feb—The following is the message of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe on the occasion of the 61st Anniversary Union Day which falls today.

Esteemed national brethren,

On the auspicious occasion of the 61st Anniversary Union Day, I, in greeting, wish all national brethren blessed with auspiciousness.

The Union of Myanmar is a multiethnic nation where national brethren have been living through thick and thin for ages. Myanmar national people have handed down high cultural heritage, national prestige and integrity from one generation to the next, while safeguarding the sovereignty of the Union with genuine patriotic spirit and unwavering spirit.

National races' brilliant anti-colonialist movements and national liberation movements in the inde-

pendence struggles went down in the annals of the nation's history. They managed to build consolidated national unity on 12 February 1947, while engaging in independence struggles with anti-colonialist sentiment, nationalistic spirit and Union Spirit. As a result, since 4 January 1948, the nation has stood tall as the Union of Myanmar in the international community.

In the post-independence period, stability and peace could not be restored throughout the nation due to the evil consequences of the divide and rule tactic and oppression of the colonialist government. So, successive governments were not in a position to dedicate themselves to nation-building tasks and national development work, and the nation lagged be-

hind other countries in development.

Today, the national policy of non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty has been laid down, and national reconsolidation is being built firmly based on Union Spirit, while taking lessons from the historic incidents. At the same time, the government in its bid to build a modern and developed nation is implementing the border areas and national races development project, the rural development project and the 24 special development region project for equitable development of all parts of the nation.

(See page 8)

Lt-Gen Myint Swe attends ceremony to launch water supply to Dagon Myothit (South), inspects paving of road

YANGON, 11 Feb — A ceremony to launch water supply to Dagon Myothit (South) Township through a newly-laid pipeline was held in the township today and Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence unveiled the stone inscription of the water supply station.

The pipe laid by Yangon Division Union Solidarity and Development Association was opened at the ceremony to hail the 61st Anniversary Union Day, and the pipe will supply water from Ngamoeyeik and Gyobyu reservoirs to 6072 households in four wards in the township.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division

Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, Central Executive Committee

Members of USDA Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Minis-

ter for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa.

(See page 8)



Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence inspects paving of asphalt on Hlawga Road in Dagon Myothit (South) Township.— MNA

The significant night temperature

Haka

(5°C).

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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 12 February, 2008

Safeguard the Union in accord with fine traditions

Today, 12 February 2008 is the 61st Anniversary Union Day of the Union of Myanmar.

National races such as Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan and other national races have been living in the Union of Myanmar in unity and amity for years countable by the thousand.

Although the national races are different in dialect, culture and traditions they were born of the Union. It is incumbent upon the new generations of today to continue safeguarding the Union in accord with the fine traditions of living together through thick and thin since yore.

Nowadays, the government is building all necessary infrastructures such as bringing about community peace and tranquillity, economic development and human resources development for the emergence of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation to be in line with Myanma culture and traditions.

Whatever system is practised in a nation it has to be based on the constitution. Hence, the State constitution is being drafted, and work is well under way for holding referendum and then holding multiparty democracy general election in accordance with the forthcoming State constitution.

At such a time, all the national brethren are to make concerted and coordinated efforts for perpetual existence of the Union, making better use of the already-achieved infrastructures. Only then, will the Union be peaceful, prosperous and perpetual.

Operating of Ahlon Natural Gas Power Plant inspected

YANGON, 10 Feb — Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspected arrival of materials for the power line projects and preparations for sending them to the sites of Nay Pyi Taw Special Development Project, Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon) Project, Shweli-Mansan 230 kv national grid project, Kyitaungkan and Yinmabin power station projects, Myaungdagar-Kamanat power station and power line project, at Myanma Electric Power Enterprise and the Equipment Management Division of Electric Power Supply Enterprise in Ahlon Township yesterday morning.

In the afternoon, the minister looked into generating of electricity at No 1 turbine and No 2 turbine of Ahlon Natural Gas Power Plant of MEPE, two gas turbines and two recycle steam turbines and maintenance of No 3 gas turbine. — 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

Boosting agricultural produce in Ayeyawady Div coordinated



Commander Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe briefs on activities of agriculture production and ensuring self-sufficiency in oil crops of Ayeyawady Division.—A & I

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Feb — The coordination meeting on boosting the agricultural produce in Ayeyawady Division was held at the Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Office in Patheingyi, Ayeyawady Division on 4 February.

Chairman of Ayeyawady Division PDC Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe explained work carried out for boosting the agricultural produce and self-sufficiency in edible oil crops and Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo gave a speech on the occasion.

Later, departmental heads and officials under

the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation took part in the discussions.

The meeting came to an end with the concluding remarks by the minister.

The division has already put over 3.7 million acres under monsoon paddy and over 1.1 millions acres of summer paddy against the target of growing over 1.2 million acres of summer paddy.

It has also already grown over 1.8 million acres of beans and pulses against the target of growing over 1.9 million acres.

MNA

Minister meets with Kalaw Township departmental officials



Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe meets with departmental heads, social organization members and townsmen in Kalaw.— I & P

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Feb — Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe held a meeting with township departmental officials, members of social organizations and ward/village Peace and Development Council, and staff of the Ministry at the city hall in Kalaw, Shan State (South), on 8 February.

The meeting focused on production of National Scrutiny Cards.

In the evening, the minister inspected fire brigade camp in Taunggyi and left necessary instructions.

MNA

Htokseetoe Contest held to mark 61st Anniversary Union Day

YANGON, 10 Feb — To mark the 61st Anniversary Union Day 2008, the men's and women's open Htokseetoe Contest organized by the Myanmar Traditional Sports Federation was held at Padetha Gymnasium in South Okkalapa Township, here, this afternoon.

After the final matches, Vice-President of MTSF Daw Ye Ye Win gave K 50,000 and trophy to Second Prize winner Scorpion Team and K 75,000 and trophy to First Prize winner Spider Team in the men's event, and K 50,000 and trophy to Second Prize winner Pyanhlwar Team and K 75,000 and trophy to First Prize winner Sunye Team in the women's event. —MNA

General says Iran ready to teach US lesson

TEHERAN, 11 Feb— Iran's Armed Forces Chief of Staff Major General Hassan Firouzabadi has said that his country's Armed Forces are ready to teach the United States a lesson if it crosses the lines, Iran's state-run Press TV channel reported on Saturday.

"America's enmity towards Iran stems from the fact that they know Iran's revolutionary ideology is against their quest for domination,"

Firouzabadi was quoted as saying in the northeastern Iranian city of Mashhad.

The senior Iranian general reiterated that Iran's nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes and challenged the United States to prove its accusation that Teheran may be using civilian programme as a cover to develop atomic weapons.

"We say that our nuclear energy is for peaceful purposes and we have proven it," Firouzabadi

said. "Those who allege that Iran is a threat have to prove their claims."

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has always endangered the illegitimate accumulation of wealth by superpowers," he added.

The diplomatic standoff between Iran and the West began almost six years ago over suspicions that Teheran's nuclear work is a cover for an atomic weapons programme.

MNA/Xinhua



Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao (L) visits former Cambodian King Norodom Sihanouk (R) and his wife Norodom Monineath Sihanouk and extends festival greetings to them in Beijing, capital of China, on 10 Feb, 2008.—XINHUA

Norway Embassy in Kabul closed due to security threat

OSLO, 11 Feb — The Norwegian Embassy in Afghanistan's capital Kabul has been temporarily closed due to a security threat, the Norwegian Government said on Sunday.

"We can confirm that a threat has been made, which we are taking seriously," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Kristin Melsom told *Reuters*.

Melsom said security

measures had been initiated, but declined to give any more details. It was unsure for how long the embassy would stay closed, she said.

The ministry declined to comment on the details in the threat.

In January, a suicide attack claimed by the Taliban killed several people at Serena hotel in Kabul, including a Norwegian journalist. Norwegian Foreign

Minister Jonas Gahr Stoere was staying at the hotel, but did not get hurt in the attack.

Sunday is a workday in Afghanistan, so the embassy would normally be open. Norway has about 500 soldiers in Afghanistan as part of a NATO-led international force sent there after US and Afghan opposition forces ousted the Taliban Government in 2001.

MNA/Reuters



Residents walk past power poles, damaged by snow, in Guizhou Province. Transport, power generation and food supply were back to normal in most of China on Sunday.

INTERNET

Palestinians inspect the damage of a metal workshop destroyed during an Israeli air strike in Gaza City, on 10 Feb, 2008.

INTERNET

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

More than 50 killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 11 Feb— Car bombs and gunmen struck new US allies, police and civilians Sunday in northern Iraq, killing as many as 53 people. The spate of attacks came even as the American military released a captured diary and another document they say show al-Qaeda in Iraq cracking under a Sunni revolt against its brutal

tactics.

The violence coincided with a visit by Defence Secretary Robert Gates to Baghdad, where he warned that hard choices face Iraq's political leaders on how to stabilize the country despite promising new signs of progress toward reconciliation. The deadliest bombing on Sunday was near Balad, 50 miles north

of Baghdad, against a checkpoint manned jointly by Iraqi police and members of an awakening group.

Iraqi police said a suicide truck bomber targeted a checkpoint manned by US-allied fighters and Iraqi police at the entrance of a bridge in the district of Yathrib on the outskirts of Balad.

Internet

Insurgents attack UN in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU, 11 Feb—Suspected Islamist insurgents hurled at least seven grenades at a United Nations compound in Mogadishu but no one was hurt, a UN source said on Saturday. The source said the attackers struck at the UN Development Programme (UNDP) offices several times overnight after ordering residents in the area to switch off their lights late on Friday.

"Fortunately no one was hurt as none of the employees were present at the time," the UN source told *Reuters* by telephone. UNDP officials in Somalia's capital did not immediately comment.

MNA/Xinhua

US raids Iraq psychiatric hospital over attacks

BAGHDAD, 11 Feb—US troops raided a psychiatric hospital in Baghdad on Sunday and arrested a man suspected of involvement in two recent bombings blamed on mentally impaired women, the US military said.

Ten days ago, explosives carried by two women, said by Iraqi and US officials to be mentally handicapped teenagers and unwitting suicide bombers, blew up in two popular pet markets in central Baghdad, killing 99 people and wounding more than 150. The attacks, which the US military blamed on al-Qaeda, were the

deadliest bombings in the city since last April. "We did conduct an operation at the al-Rashad hospital," Lieutenant-Colonel Steve Stover, a spokesman for US troops in Baghdad, told *Reuters*. "We detained an individual that we believe was linked to al-Qaeda in Iraq and suicide bombers." He confirmed the man was suspected of being involved in the recent deadly attacks but declined to give any further details. The man had not yet been charged, he added.

MNA/Reuters



Obama wins Maine Democratic presidential contest

VIRGINIA BEACH (Virginia), 11 Feb— Senator Barack Obama won Maine’s contest to choose a Democratic presidential candidate on Sunday, handing rival Hillary Clinton another defeat in their tight race to represent the party in the November election.

Sunday’s win made a clean sweep for Obama, a senator from Illinois, of

the states that have held nominating contests since “Super Tuesday”, when more than 20 states had their say in choosing candidates to compete to succeed President George W. Bush.

Obama won Louisiana, Nebraska and Washington on Saturday, giving him a burst of momentum in a deadlocked race with

Clinton, a senator from New York, where every delegate to the party’s summer convention has become crucial.

“I want to thank the people of Maine,” Obama told a crowd of some 18,000 in Virginia Beach, saying he had won contests from coast-to-coast.

He was campaigning in Virginia ahead of its contest on Tuesday, when Washington DC and Maryland also hold elections.



Russia denies intrusion of Japan’s airspace

MOSCOW, 11 Feb — Russian Air Force on Saturday denied its military plane has intruded Japan’s airspace, saying all the planes carried out tasks strictly in compliance with international regulations.

“Russian Air Force planes performed their planned duties and did not violate Japan’s airspace. Strategic aircraft flights went according to plan strictly in compliance with international regulations on the use of airspace over neutral waters, without violating boundaries of other countries,” Colonel Alexander Drobyshevsky was quoted by the *Interfax* news agency as saying.

The Japanese Foreign

Ministry said on Saturday that a Russian Air Force bomber briefly intruded into Japan’s airspace in the morning and Japan had filed a strong protest over the intrusion, *Kyodo News* reported.

MNA/Xinhua

Obama was projected to pick up 15 delegates in Maine compared to nine for Clinton, his campaign manager, David Plouffe said in a statement.

“Today, Obama won an upset victory in Maine, a state where internal and external polls had Clinton leading in the days leading up to the caucuses,” Plouffe said.

MNA/Reuters

Kenya’s opposition leader Raila Odinga speaks to the media in Nairobi, on 10 Feb, 2008. Kenya’s rival parties geared up on Sunday to thrash out a power-sharing agreement to end a deadly crisis over President Mwai Kibaki’s disputed re-election.—INTERNET

Three survive plane crash near Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, 11 Feb— Three people survived a plane crash in rural Ventura County near Los Angeles on Friday, authorities said.

The pilot in the private plane reported engine trouble after taking off from the Camarillo Airport at about 7 pm, Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Ian Gregor said. The plane then crashed in an orchard, but all people on board survived, Gregor said. Gregor said the three people had only minor injuries and were able to get out of the plane on their own.—MNA/Xinhua

Insurgents kill three residents in Thai South

BANGKOK, 11 Feb — Three local residents in Thailand’s southernmost Yala Province were gunned down Saturday in two separate drive-by shootings by insurgents.

In the first incident on Saturday morning, a woman, shot by a pillion rider when she was riding her motorcycle on a village road in Raman District, died at a hospital later. —MNA/Xinhua

Indonesian rock concert stampede kills 10

JAKARTA, 11 Feb— A stampede at a rock concert in Indonesia’s West Java Province killed 10 people and injured several, police said on Sunday.

Hundreds of fans had packed a hall to watch a performance by a little known punk rock band in the city of Bandung when the stampede began on Saturday night, said Brigadier Nano Kartono, a local police officer.

Most of the dead were teenagers, he said.

MNA/Reuters

Earthquake jolts central Japan

TOKYO, 10 Feb — An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 5.0 jolted Chiba and Shizuoka prefectures in central Japan’s Kanto region Sunday morning.

According to the Japan Meteorological Agency, the 9:37 am quake, whose epicentre was 110 kilometres under the seabed in the Pacific, also mildly shook nearby areas. It could be felt in Tokyo and Yokohama.

No casualties or damage have been reported. Notsunami warnings have been issued.—Internet



Pakistani police officers examine the site of suicide bombing in Charsadda town near Peshawar, Pakistan, on 10 Feb, 2008. —INTERNET

Seoul’s 610-year-old gate collapses in fire

SEOUL, 11 Feb— South Korea’s landmark ancient architecture of Sungnyemun Gate, which is located in central Seoul and has a 610-year history, collapsed early Monday after catching fire.

The wooden structure of the gate caught fire at about 8:50 pm Sunday (1150 GMT Sunday) and collapsed at around 1 am Monday (1600 GMT Sunday), local government said.

The Sungnyemun Gate was the southern gate of the walls that surrounded Seoul during the Joseon Dynasty (1392-1910).

The construction of the gate began in 1395 and was finished in 1398 during the reign of King Taejo, who founded the Joseon Dynasty.

It is the oldest wooden structure in

Seoul and was designated the No 1 National Treasure in 1962.

The cause of the fire was under investigation. Local police said it might be an arson as a taxi driver who reported the fire told police that he saw a man in his 50s went into the gate shortly before the blaze started.

The collapse of the gate is expected to trigger severe criticism against the Cultural Heritage Administration, which is in charge of maintaining cultural and historical artifacts, including national treasures, local media said.

Internet



Dozens of firefighters battled a blaze at one of South Korea’s most historic sites .

INTERNET

World bourses lose \$ 5.2 trillion in January



A trader at the Frankfurt Stock Exchange in January 2008. World stock markets lost 5.2 trillion US dollars in January thanks to the fallout from the US subprime crisis and fears of a global economic slowdown, Standard & Poor's said.—INTERNET

BEIJING, 11 Feb.—World stock markets lost 5.2 trillion US dollars in January thanks to the fallout from the US subprime crisis and fears of a global economic slowdown, Standard & Poor's said Saturday.

"If investors thought the market could only go up, January's wake-up call pulled them back into reality," the independent credit ratings provider said. Standard & Poor's said the world's equity markets lost a combined

5.2 trillion dollars as emerging markets fell 12.44 percent and developed markets lost 7.83 percent to register one of the worst starts to a new year. "There were few safe havens in January as 50 of the 52 global equity markets ended the month in negative territory, with 25 of them posting double-digit losses," said Howard Silverblatt, senior index analyst at S&Ps.

All 26 developed equity markets posted negative returns in January, with 16 losing at least 10 percent of their value.

The January declines negated all previous market gains, leaving all of the developed markets in the red for the trailing three month period.—*Internet*

Yahoo board set to rebuff Microsoft bid

SAN FRANCISCO, 11 Feb.—Yahoo Inc's board believes Microsoft Corp's unsolicited bid of 44.6 billion US dollars to acquire Yahoo "massively undervalues" the company and directors are set to reject the offer, the *Wall Street Journal* reported on Saturday, citing an unnamed source.

Microsoft's 31 US dollars per share offer fails to take account of the risks that a merger between the world's largest software maker and Web media giant would be rejected by

regulators, the paper reported, citing "a person familiar with the situation".

The *Journal* quoted the unnamed source as saying Microsoft's offer amounted to an attempt to "steal" the company and that Yahoo is unlikely to consider any offer under 40 US dollars per share.

A spokeswoman for Yahoo, a diversified Internet media company, declined to comment on the proceedings of the company's board of directors. A Microsoft

spokesman was not immediately available.

If completed, a merger of Microsoft and Yahoo would represent the largest-ever merger of two computer technology companies.

MNA/Reuters

EU loses again at WTO on bananas, says irrelevant

BRUSSELS, 11 Feb.—The European Union lost another World Trade Organization (WTO) case over banana import rules



Dancers perform during Dong Da Festival in the Dang Da neighbourhood in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 11 Feb, 2008, the 5th day of the Luna New Year. The festival honours Vietnamese King Quang Trung.—INTERNET

Emirates Airline to launch service to Cape Town

ABU DHABI, 11 Feb.—The Dubai-based Emirates Airline will launch a new service to Cape Town of South Africa on a daily basis as of 30 March, local newspaper *Khaleej Times* reported on Saturday.

The new service linking Dubai, the commercial and financial hub of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Cape Town, which has Africa's third busiest airport, will be

the second one provided by the airline in South Africa.

Emirates will operate the new service with *Boeing 777-200* in a three-class configuration of 12 First, 42 Business, and 236 Economy class seats.

With *Boeing 777-200*,

the airline will provide 2000 seats and over 100 tons of cargo capacity per week.

Cape Town will be Emirates' second destination in South Africa after Johannesburg and its 15th destination in Africa.

MNA/Xinhua

ECONOMIC NEWS

Ukraine gas firm denies debts, guarantees transit

KIEV, 11 Feb.—Ukraine's state gas and oil company Naftogaz said on Friday it had no debts to Russia's Gazprom and promised it will ensure uninterrupted transit of Russian gas to European customers.

"Naftogaz Ukrainy has no debts to Gazprom...Naftogaz will carry out its obligations to Gazprom and RosUkrEnergo by ensuring transit of all volumes in full to European countries," the company said in a statement.

It said any suggestion of a debt of 500 million US dollars was a question to be addressed to RosUkrEnergo, an intermediary which oversees supplies of imported gas to Ukraine.

Gazprom on Thursday said total debts amounted to 1.5 billion US dollars and threatened to cut supplies from Monday unless arrears were paid.

President Viktor Yushchenko, due to visit Moscow next week, implicitly criticised the Ukrainian government of Yulia Tymoshenko on Thursday night for the new threat to supplies.

Without naming the prime minister, he said suggestions that Ukraine abandon intermediaries and seek higher rates for transit would not necessarily achieve Ukraine's aim of reliable supplies and advantageous prices.

MNA/Reuters



A craftsman making Japanese summer kimonos called yukatas spreads cotton-made fabric out to dry after being washed and starched at his workshop in Tokyo.—INTERNET

Thai PM outlines plans in his first weekly talk show

BANGKOK, 11 Feb — Thailand’s newly elected Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej said Sunday in his first weekly talk show through state TV and radio that he believed he can govern the state to a good future.

The talk show, named “Samak Talk”, was the first of its kind since his six-party coalition government took office Thursday.

Samak disclosed in

the programme that the Cabinet at its weekly meeting next Tuesday will discuss two important issues, namely the foreign capital reserve requirement policy and the draft government policy.

After the 2006 coup, the Bank of Thailand issued a 30-per-cent foreign capital reserve requirement policy, which has caused a lot of controversies, especially among foreign investors

who thought it an obstacle while investing in Thailand.

Samak said the Cabinet will discuss it to decide if it should be retained, altered or scrapped. Meanwhile, the Cabinet will also review the newly completed government policy draft, scheduled to be submitted to members of the House of Representatives later this month.

MNA/Xinhua



A resident throws water out of her damaged house after flash floods hit her village in the district of Situbondo, east Java on 10 Feb, 2008.

INTERNET

Some 2,000 people rallied in Zagreb’s Marshal Tito square on Saturday, demanding it be stripped of its association with the former Yugoslav leader and renamed Theatre Square.—INTERNET



Magnitude 5.4 quake jolts northern Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 11 Feb— A magnitude 5.4 quake struck close to the northern Mexican city of Mexicali in Baja California on Saturday morning, the US Geological Survey said, but there was no immediate report of any casualties or damage.

The USGS said the very shallow quake, only 4.3 miles (Seven kilometres) deep, was centred 16 miles (26 kilometres) southeast of Mexicali, a city with an estimated population of one million.

“The earthquake felt very strong,” Edith Cruz, admitting nurse at the Red Cross Hospital emergency room in Mexicali, told *Reuters*. —MNA/Reuters

Six Colombia soldiers dead in mily plane crash

BOGOTA, 11 Feb— Six members of Colombia’s military were killed on Saturday when their plane crashed over a jungle area in the southern part of the country where leftist rebels control wide areas, the government said.

The military is investigating the crash, which happened near the area in Caqueta Province where three US anti-drug contractors were kidnapped by the guerillas in 2003. Americans Thomas Howes, Keith Stansell and Marc Gonsalves are still being held in secret jungle camps by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC. —MNA/Reuters

East Timor President wounded in rebel attack

DILI, 11 Feb — East Timor President Jose Ramos-Horta is undergoing surgery at an Australian military base in the capital Dili after being shot in the stomach during an attack on his home by rebel soldiers, a presidential adviser said on Monday.

The adviser said the President, who won the Nobel Peace Prize for his struggle for independence from Indonesian occupation, was being operated on by an Australian medical team.

“President Ramos-Horta was shot in the stomach and is undergoing surgery at the heliport,” the adviser, Augusto Junior, told reporters.

Earlier, a neighbour of the President, Januario Freitas, told *Reuters* the stomach wound appeared serious.

Rebel leader Alfredo Reinado was killed in the attack and an East Timor soldier was also seriously wounded, military spokesman Domingos da Camara said. — MNA/Reuters

Japan aims for emissions trade with Russia

TOKYO, 11 Feb—Japan and Russia have agreed to start talks on fighting global warming, including possible greenhouse gas emissions trading that would help Tokyo to meet its goals under the Kyoto Protocol, media said on Sunday.

Japan is the world’s fifth-biggest emitter of greenhouse gases blamed for global warming, and while officials have pledged to meet its obligations under the international pact to fight global warming, critics say this may be difficult.

MNA/Reuters

Girl killed in police raid on drug gangs in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 11 Feb— A 10-year-old girl was killed and four others were injured by stray bullets in a police raid on drug gangs, local media reported on Friday.

Lorrane Adas Tavares Ferreria was hit in the chest while playing with other children in a slum in north of Rio. She died immediately.

Two of the kids who were playing with Lorrane were also injured. Carina Araujo Medeiros Silva 8 and Paula Araujo, 14, were sent to a nearby hospital.

The wounded also include Wallace de Oliveria, 22, Teresa Cristina de Amorim Santiago, 44 and an unidentified man, who all stayed at their homes during the shootout.—MNA/Xinhua

Poisonous gas kills six in Inner Mongolia

HOHHOT, 11 Feb— Six herders died and 10 others were sickened by apparent carbon monoxide poisoning from a generator in a nomad area of north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region on Thursday night, the local government said.

The victims, who were dining in the Urad Middle Banner outback, were found when a friend dropped in for a visit on Friday morning.

The 10 survivors were hospitalized in Bayannur and Linhe cities. Two remained in critical condition on Saturday afternoon, the regional health department said. Investigators said the herders were felled by poisonous gas from a gas-fuelled generator, which was working throughout the night. —MNA/Xinhua



Red Cross vehicles reach the village of Guelbanj, Chad, 25 km south of N’Jamena, on 10 Feb, 2008. The Red Cross estimates that hundreds fled the the capital during the fighting, with dozens left in the countryside, most preparing to return in the next days.—INTERNET



Panglong University in Panglong, Shan State (South).

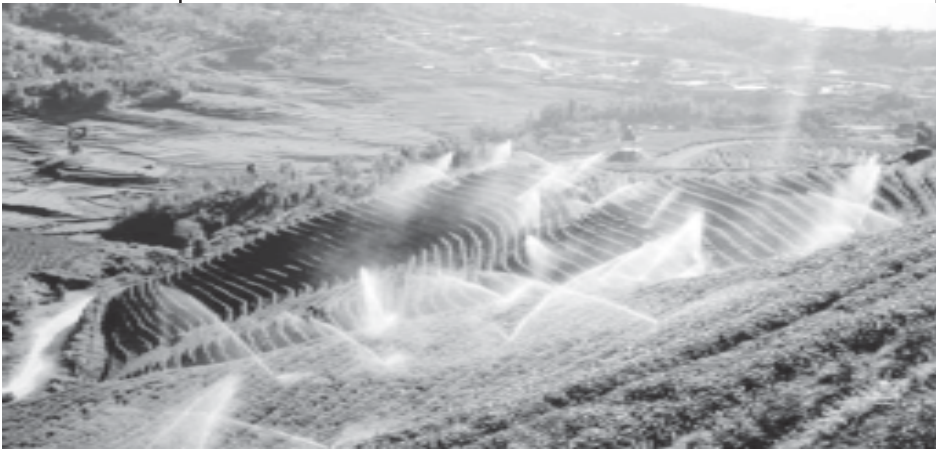
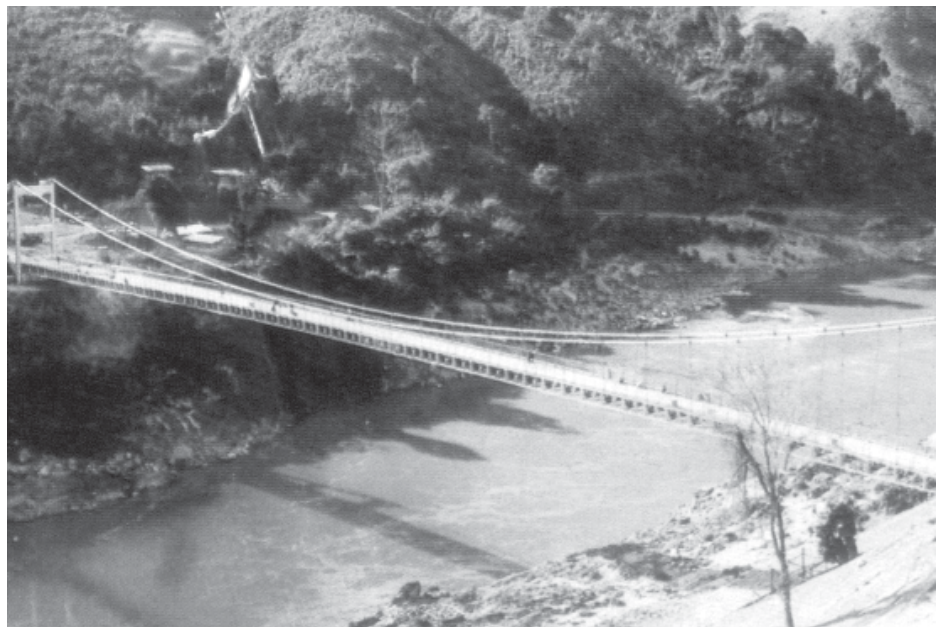
Shan State which has developed significantly in the time of Tatmadaw Government

Honouring the 61st Anniversary Union Day

Poppy-substitute plantations in Mongla region.



Digital Electronic Auto-exchange in Kyaukme Township, Shan State.



Thanlwin Bridge (Tarkaw-at) in Tangyan Township in Lashio District, Shan State (North).

Sr.	Subject	Unit	1988	2007	Progress
1.	Arable land	acre	1895263	3085983	1190720
2.	Dam (big/small)		360	561	201
3.	River water pumping project		-	4	4
4.	Reserve forest	Sq mile	1847	9127	7280
5.	Protected public forest	Sq mile	-	512	512
6.	Rail road	mile	169	418	249
7.	Motor road	mile	3795	4980	1185
8.	Bridge (above 180 feet)		21	31	10
9.	Post office		88	160	72
10.	Telegraph office		31	88	57
11.	Telephone station		29	128	99
12.	Microwave station		-	43	43
13.	Hydropower plant		1	167	166
14.	Private-owned factory		631	3756	3125
15.	Basic education school		3652	5185	1533
16.	University/college		1	4	3
17.	Technological university/college		-	4	4
18.	University of Computer Studies		-	4	4
19.	Hospital		69	112	43



The newly-opened Tachilek Airport in Tachilek, Shan State (East).

Senior General Than Shwe sends...

(from page 1)

Now, national people are pursuing the State's seven-step Road Map with a solemn determination in harness with the government for transition to a modern, developed democratic nation with flourishing discipline. And the third step of the Road Map — the drafting of State constitution — is under way.

However, subversive elements with negative attitude are resorting to diverse means and ways such as driving a wedge among national races, misleading the people, and aiding and abetting anti-government groups to weaken and break up the Union. In addition, they are imposing sanctions against the nation to

create a large-scale disruption to national progress.

In conclusion, I would like to exhort the entire national people to work hard in harmony to be able to accomplish the objectives of the 61st Anniversary Union Day (2008):

- (1) For all the national races to safeguard the national policy— non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty;
- (2) For all the national races to keep Union Spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people;
- (3) For all the national races to defend and safeguard the Union for the perpetual existence;
- (4) 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;

- (5) 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

- (6) For all the national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-step Road Map

to surmount with the strength of national unity the destructive acts that may cause deterioration of the Union in all aspects and to ensure emergence of a peaceful, modern and discipline-flourishing democratic nation.—MNA

Agreement on aid programme of UNFPA inked

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Feb — Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha and resident representative Mr Daniel B Baker of United Nations Fund for Population Activities in Yangon signed the agreement on UNFPA's aid programme at the ministry, here today.

Under the aid programme, the ministries concerned and UNFPA will carry out tasks for providing services on prevention against mother-to-child transmission of HIV, enabling the needy persons and to raise awareness of



HIV/AIDS among youths and collection of data on reproductive health for the expectant mothers.

MNA

Minister U Soe Tha and UNFPA Resident Representative Mr Daniel B Baker sign an agreement on aid programme of UNFPA.— MNA

Construction of Khabaung Hydroelectric Power Plant inspected



Minister Col Zaw Min inspects Khabaung hydroelectric power plant.— MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Feb — Minister for Electric Power No-1 Col Zaw Min arrived at the construction site of Khabaung Hydroelectric Power Plant this morning.

He inspected the Ir-

rigation Outlet room, test-running of No-1 turbine, installing of No-2 turbine, installation of Control Panel, Control Room and Switch Yard and Transformers and attended to the needs.

Next, he cordially

greeted the Chinese experts of CHMC Company and engineers of the ministry.

Khabaung Hydroelectric Power Plant with a capacity of 30 MW will go into operation soon.

MNA

One loses foot in blast in Mone

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Feb — A man lost his left foot in a mine blast in Mone Township as he stepped on the mine on 7 February.

U Myint Aung, 46, of Aungchantha Village in Mone Township, stepped on the mine planted by insurgents on his way to a forest to cut cane and the explosion blew off his left foot.

He was rushed to Mone People's Hospital. Authority and local people are in hot pursuit of insurgents.

The insurgents have been committing destructive acts to harm the stability of the State, community peace and prevalence of law and order and to cause panic among the people. — MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe attends ...

(from page 1)

After the opening ceremony, Lt-Gen Myint Swe went to the office of Dagon Myothit (South) Township USDA and inspected Phyo Free Medical Clinica paving of asphalt on the road linking Pyidaungsu Road and Kantha Road, on No 2 Road and on Tapinshwehti Road in Dagon Myothit (East) Township. Lt-Gen Myint Swe also inspected greening tasks in Dagon University.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspected dredging of Inya Lake. — MNA

Sales reps of SHARLU engine oil honoured

YANGON, 11 Feb—A ceremony to honour the sales representatives of Top Prime Trading Co Ltd which imports and distributes SHARLU brand engine oil, product of UAE was held at Central Hotel on Bogyoke Aung San Street, here, yesterday evening. First, managing director Dr Myo Tun of Top Prime Trading Co Ltd made a welcoming speech and explained the quality of SHARLU engine oil.

Next, managing director Dr Myo Tun and guests presented gifts to sale representatives who sold SHARLU engine oil most in 2007.

SHARLU engine oil is produced by Sharjah National Lube Oil Co Ltd of UAE in accordance with international standards.The company started importing engine oil for gasoline engine, diesel engine, CNG engine and other kinds of engines since 2004. Due to its good quality for durability of the engines, the users became like it. As the product was in larger demand in 2007, it is now on sale at No 301MGW Tower Bo Aung Kyaw Street, Botahtaung Township (Tel:256536, 4412637, 09-8031279) and the company showroom at Bayintnaung market.—MNA



Dr Myo Tun of Top Prime Trading Co Ltd presents gift to a sales representative.— MNA

I&P Minister meets Resident Representative of UNFPA



NAY PYI TAW, 11 Feb — Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe met with Resident Representative Mr Daniel B Baker of the United Nations Funds for Population Activities at the ministry, here, this evening. — MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe receives Mr Daniel B Baker of UNFPA.
MNA

POEM:

Towards the goal

Born in Union brethren
Kayah, Kachin, Mon and Kayin
In amity also are Rakhine and Shan
Close relatives too are Chin, Bamar
Races of all in solidarity
Coordinating are States, Divisions
For nation to prosper
Ever joining hands firmly
And in unity they stand
Taking own duties in harmony
Having in mind national cause
Own nation they serve
Let's march forward in unison
Towards the goal.

(Honouring the 61st Anniversary Union Day)
Nan Mon Hein (Trs)

Union Day Delegates on study tour of Nay Pyi Taw Yezin University

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Feb — Union Day Delegates went on study tour of Agricultural Research Department, Veterinary University and Forest Research Department in Nay Pyi Taw Yezin University today.

Director General Dr Toe Aung conducted the delegates round the Agricultural Research Department.

The study group leader Major Lwin Tun presented pennant to the director general and the delegates observed the booths of the department.

At the Veterinary University, the officials concerned explained facts



Delegates from states and divisions to Union Day visit Nay Pyi Taw Yezin University.— MNA

on the university and the delegates viewed the bio-chemistry department.

At the Forest Research Department, Director General U Tun

Paw Oo told the background of the department and the delegates observed the various booths and herbal garden.

MNA

Falcon Super Lubricants sales representatives honoured

YANGON, 11 Feb — Jointly organized by Han Myanmar Co Ltd and Falcon Super Lubricants, Dealer Sales Promotion-2007- 2008 took place at Traders Hotel on Sule

Pagoda road here yesterday.

Sale representatives were honoured and lucky draws for guests were picked up at the ceremony.

Guests were also



An official of Han Myanmar Co Ltd gives cash award to a sole-agent.— MNA

Nine passengers killed in head on collision in Hlinethaya Township

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Feb — A light truck with number plate 2/ Ka 2737 of Nyeinchanyay -224 bus line driven by Maung Aye, 45 and Shwe-ei-the-1 bus with number plate 7/Kha 7940 driven by U Han Toe collided head-on near Aung Zeya Bridge on Yangon-Nyaungdon Road in Hlinethaya Township yesterday.

The light truck overturned and nine passengers including one woman were killed and 18 others injured.

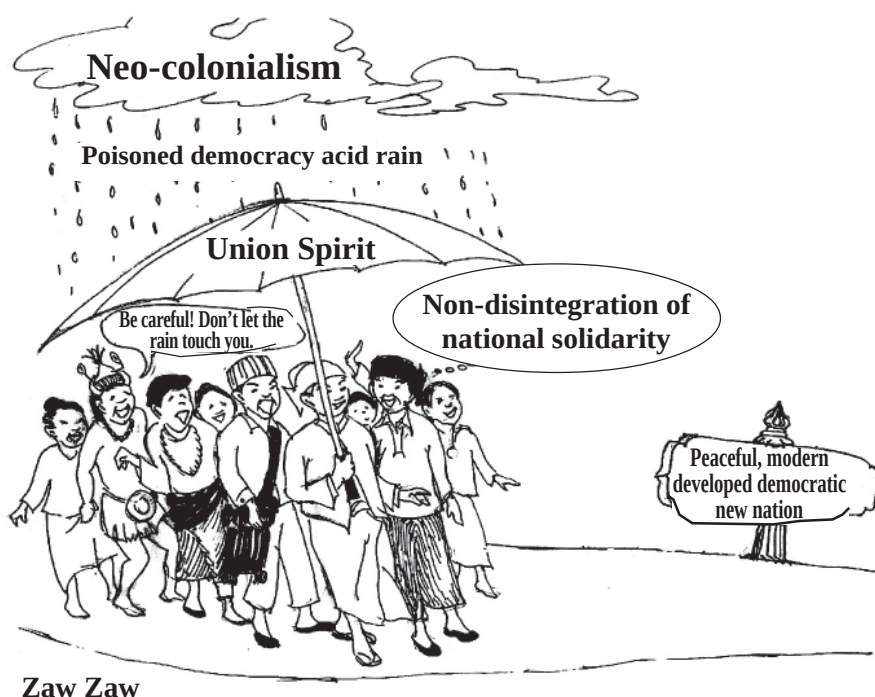
Injured people were taken to Yangon General Hospital and Insein Township Hospital and treatment is being given to them.

MNA

served with dinner to mark the Chinese Lunar New Year. Managing Director of the Co Ltd U Thein Naing made an introductory speech.

Han Myanmar Co Ltd is the sole-agent in Myanmar and has been distributing the high-quality Falcon brand engine oil produced by UAE. More information is available at the company, No 13 on Phone Gyi Street in Lanmadaw Township, Tel; 226258.

MNA



Zaw Zaw

US sends Colombia militia against Venezuela

CARACAS, 11 Feb—President Hugo Chavez accused the United States on Sunday of sending Colombian right-wing paramilitary forces into Venezuela to destabilize border areas and arm shantytown gangs in the capital Caracas.

With his most concrete charge to date in a months-old diplomatic dispute with Colombia, Chavez said the US ally supported the campaign that also included selling cocaine to buy support in slums.

The anti-US, leftist president often charges Washington with plotting his ouster. He rarely provides any evidence for the accusations, which the United States routinely denies.

“They (paramilitaries) are working

in shantytowns selling cocaine below market prices to win over crime gangs and arm them with military arms,” Chavez said on his weekly TV show.

He vowed to take to international bodies his charge that the two nations are “filling Venezuela with paramilitaries”. Most political analysts and diplomats dismiss such Chavez accusations as posturing aimed at firing up his supporters.

But the opposition warns his vitriol against Colombian President Alvaro Uribe and charges of a US-Colombian military plan against Venezuela risk escalating beyond rhetoric given that the border is heavily militarized.

MNA/Reuters



Workers at a Seoul railway station. Some South Koreans have strated the Lunar New Year with a new face after taking advantage of the long holiday break to undergo cosmetic surgery, a report said on Monday. — INTERNET



Residents carry their belongings as they evacuate their houses that are flooded with mud in Porong, East Java, Indonesia. — INTERNET

Row erupts over Berkeley’s anti-US Marine stance

BERKELEY (California), 11 Feb — Officials in the famously liberal California town of Berkeley have stirred a national fuss by telling US Marine Corps recruiters they aren’t welcome anymore and by aiding those protesting against them.

That stance is too much for some Republican lawmakers, who are threatening to retaliate by stripping the counter-culture city of about 5.3 million US dollars in federal and state dollars.

“If the US Marines are not good enough for Berkeley, neither are taxpayer dollars,” Senator John Cornyn, a Texas Republican, said in a statement.

Last week, the Berkeley City Council agreed to send a letter to the Marines stating their recruiters were not welcome in the city and that those who stayed would be considered “uninvited and unwelcome intruders.” The council also applauded people who “impede” the recruiters’ work and awarded a free parking permit to Code Pink, an anti-war group that demonstrates daily outside the Marine recruiting office in the city.—MNA/Reuters

Clinton replaces campaign manager in US race

WASHINGTON, 11 Feb — White House hopeful Hillary Clinton said on Sunday she has replaced her campaign manager with a long-time aide as she fights a tight race with Barack Obama for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Maggie Williams, a top aide to Clinton when her husband Bill Clinton was US president, has taken over from Patti Solis Doyle as campaign manager.

Aides to Clinton, a New York senator who would be the first woman president, played down any notion that the staff change was a signal of

trouble for her campaign. Solis Doyle will move into the role of senior adviser to Clinton during the remaining state-by-state races for the Democratic nomination to contest the presidential election in November.

“Patti Solis Doyle has done an extraordinary job in getting us to this point,” Clinton said in a statement. “I’m lucky to have Maggie on board and I know she will lead our campaign with great skill towards the nomination.”

MNA/Reuters

Briton man lives with corpse for several years

LONDON, 11 Feb — The body of a man believed to have been dead for a number of years was found sitting on the sofa of a flat where a council tenant continued to live, Avon and Somerset Police said on Friday.

Detectives could not say how long the man had been dead, but estimated it was several years.

The corpse was found in the living room by council workers on 30 January after complaints about a smell.

Believed to have been in his 70s, the dead man lodged in a council flat in the Bedminster area of Bristol.

His landlord, a Bristol City Council tenant, who remained living in the property with the corpse, was arrested and released on bail.

The death is not being treated as suspicious. The landlord, also believed to be in his 70s, has not been named. —MNA/Reuters

Car bomb kills 33 in Iraq, Gates visits Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 11 Feb — A car bomb killed 33 people in northern Iraq on Sunday, security officials said, hours before US Defence Secretary Robert

Gates arrived in Baghdad to assess recent security gains and discuss troop levels.

A US military spokesman said the blast

occurred near an Iraqi Army checkpoint in the town of Balad. Iraqi Colonel Hamadi Atshan said the bomb hit a checkpoint run by Sunni Arab volunteers who have joined US forces to fight al-Qaeda.

It was one of the deadliest attacks in Iraq this year.

Gates told reporters he would discuss troop levels with the US military commander in Iraq, General David Petraeus.

Petraeus is expected to testify to the US Congress in April about possible further cuts in American forces in Iraq should recent drops in violence be sustained.

MNA/Reuters

Iraqis inspect destruction at the site of a suicide bombing in the village of Yathreb. Two car bombs have rocks Baghdad.— INTERNET

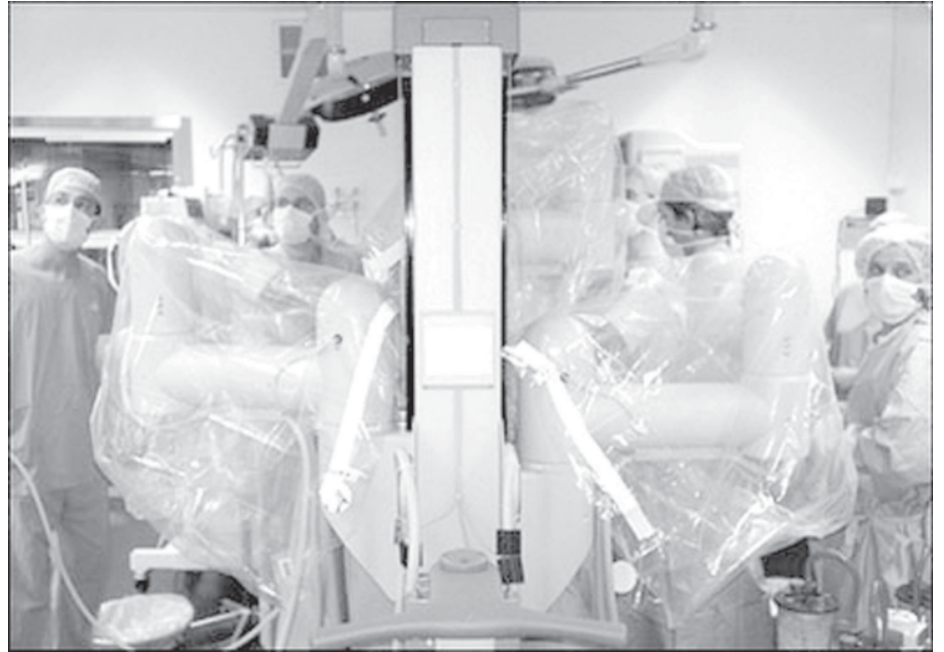


Images of the Day



An observation capsule hangs above the skyline of Singapore's financial district on 11 Feb, 2008 in Singapore which launched its inaugural flight of the Singapore Flyer, the world's biggest observation wheel.

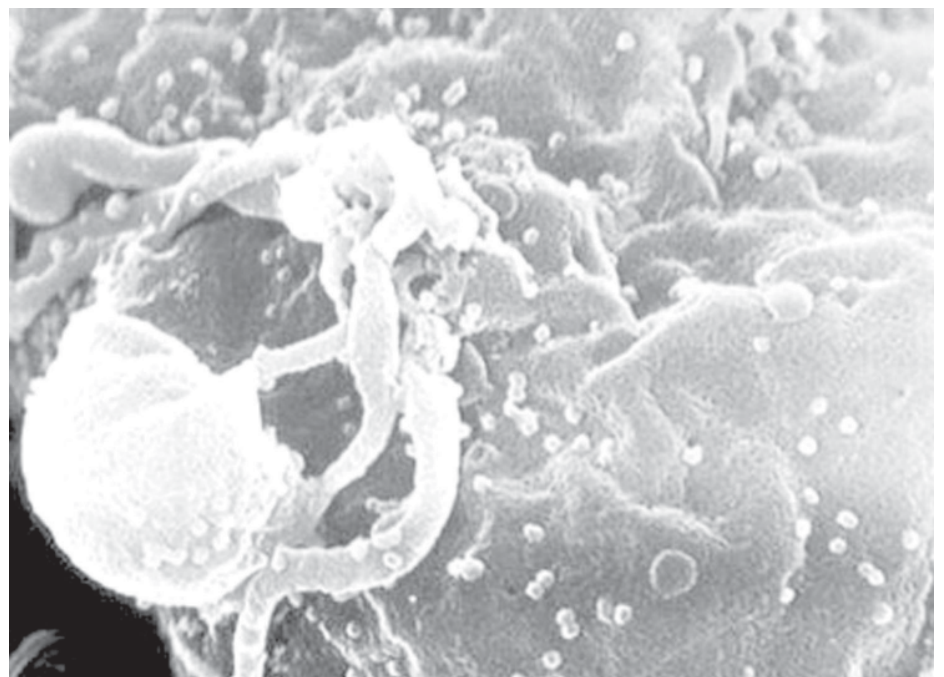
INTERNET



French surgeons perform a robot-controlled operation on a patient suffering from prostate cancer in 2000. Gene sleuths have identified more than 10 new genetic links to prostate cancer — two of which would be included in a new diagnostic test aimed at spotting men at risk from this disease.—INTERNET



Stuntmen perform in a park to celebrate Chinese New Year in Xiangfan on 10 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET



An electron micrograph of the HIV virus in an image courtesy of the CDC. Researchers have found another handle that the AIDS virus uses to attack cells, and said this one may explain how it gets into the gut, where it hides out and multiplies for a full assault on the body.—INTERNET

Iranian scientists produce mouse using stem cells

TEHERAN, 11 Feb — Iranian scientists have successfully produced on Saturday.

Hossein Baharvand, director of the Royan Research Centre's stem cells group, told *IRNA* that the mouse was produced from embryonic stem cells taken from a black mouse that were later injected into the blastosists of a white mouse.

The resulted embryos were then transferred to the womb of another mouse and finally a chimera mouse was born, he said.

In the next phase, experts are to produce mice with specific characteristics by genetically changing the mouse embryonic stem cells, Baharvand said.

MNA/Xinhua

India, Russia trade to hit \$20b by 2015

MUMBAI, 11 Feb — Trade between India and Russia has the potential to hit 10 billion US dollars by 2010 and 20 billion US dollars by 2015 if some obstacles like high credit risk and procedural hassles are addressed, the latest industry survey says.

Both countries will work hard to remove obstacles that hamper bilateral trade such as insurance cover, Russia's ban on bulk import of farm items, slow registration process for Indian pharmaceutical products, and low safeguards for investments, said a survey by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

The survey, conducted among leading business houses ahead of a three-day visit to India by Russian Prime Minister Victor A. Zubkov starting Monday, highlighted issues faced by Indian exporters in Russia.

MNA/Xinhua

ESA says sick shuttle astronaut in no danger

HOUSTON, 11 Feb — Hans Schlegel, the German astronaut on space shuttle *Atlantis* whose illness forced NASA to delay a spacewalk is not suffering a dangerous ailment and should be able to resume his normal duties, the European Space Agency said on Sunday.

The *Atlantis* crew was supposed to install Europe's laboratory Columbus on the *International Space Station* on Sunday, but NASA put it off until Monday due to Schlegel's still-undisclosed health problem.

He was scheduled to be one of two spacewalkers aiding the lab installation but will be replaced by crewmate Stan Love, NASA said.

In a statement, Volker Damaan, head of crew medical support at ESA's Astronaut Centre in Cologne, Germany said Schlegel's ailment "is currently not compatible with a spacewalk." —MNA/Reuters

ADVERTISEMENT

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GEE HONG VOYNO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GEE HONG VOYNO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.2.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EAGLE SHIPPING CO, LTD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EAGLE PRIDE VOYNO (802)

Consignees of cargo carried on MVEAGLEPRIDE VOYNO (802) are hereby notified that the vessel has will be arriving on 11.2.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EAGLE SHIPPING CO, LTD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Palestinian negotiator says
2008 peace deal possible

RAMALLAH (West Bank), 10 Feb— Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' top negotiator, Ahmed Qurie, told a US envoy on Saturday that a peace deal with Israel would only be possible this year if commitments by both sides were met.

Qurie told visiting Assistant US Secretary of State David Welch that Israel has not met its obligations under a long-stalled "road map" peace plan, such as halting all settlement activity and uprooting outposts built without government authorization in the occupied West Bank.

"We talked about the possibility of achieving peace this year and an agreement with Israel this year. We said yes it is possible but with good will from both sides," Qurie

said. He added the peace process would require continuous support from the "Quartet" of Middle East negotiators — the United States, Russia, the European Union and the United Nations— and the international community.

MNA/Reuters

Bin Laden, Omar not
operating in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 10 Feb— Pakistan rejected on Saturday a US official's assertion that al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden and Taleban leader Mullah Omar are operating from Pakistani territory.

A senior US Administration official told reporters in Washington Bin Laden, his deputy Ayman al-Zawahri and others were operating out of Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas bordering Afghanistan.

Mullah Omar and other Taleban leaders were directing insurgency operations in Afghanistan from the Pakistani city of Quetta, said the US

official who declined to be identified.

Pakistan has consistently denied that the militant leaders were on its territory since they disappeared when US-led troops overthrew the Taleban in Afghanistan for refusing to hand over bin Laden after the 11 September, 2001, attacks on the United States.

Bin Laden and Omar are believed to have fled from Afghanistan at that time.

Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Sadiq said if a US official had information on the whereabouts of the wanted militants he should tell Pakistan.—MNA/Reuters

Philippines suspends soldiers
over alleged killing

MANILA, 10 Feb—The Philippine Government has suspended some 50 rank-and-file soldiers allegedly involved in the killing of eight villagers in crossfire during a fighting between troops and Abu Sayyaf rebels in Sulu, said Defence Secretary Gilbert Teodoro on Saturday.

More than 50 infantry men will remain in their barracks pending finality of the official investigation on their alleged killing of civilians in Maimbung coastal town of Sulu, southern Philippines, on 5 February.

Teodoro went to Sulu to personally conduct probe in the event at the order of President Gloria Ma-

capagal-Arroyo.

Filipino Army officers involved in the Maimbung clash said Abu Sayyaf gunmen used local seaweed farmers as human shields.

Thirteen people, including two soldiers, three rebels, and eight civilians, were killed in the fighting, said the military.

Military chief General Hermogenes Esperon Friday denied that US soldiers were involved in the fighting.

The US Embassy also denied American soldiers had taken part in the fighting, saying US servicemen only acted as advisers to Filipino troops.

MNA/Xinhua

Venezuela threatens to stop
US oil sales over Exxon

CARACAS, 11 Feb — President Hugo Chavez on Sunday threatened to stop sending oil to the United States unless it halted an "economic war" that he said included an Exxon Mobil lawsuit freezing 12 billion US dollars in Venezuelan assets. The anti-American leader of a major crude exporter to the United States also warned that such US aggression could cause world oil prices to spike to 200 US dollars a barrel.

Oil prices rose this week in part because of the self-styled socialist revolutionary's dispute with the largest US company over compensation for Chavez's nationalization last year of an Exxon Mobil Corp project. — MNA/Reuters

Helicopter makes emergency
landing in New Zealand

WELLINGTON, 11 Feb — A helicopter was forced to make an emergency landing Monday at Wenderholm Regional Park, north of New Zealand's largest city of Auckland, and no injuries were reported.

Police said it was not clear what forced the emergency landing and the helicopter was scheduled to land at Dairy Flat but had to go down at Wenderholm.

Police said there was no damage to the helicopter and all personnel were safe.

The cause of the emergency was under investigation and no more details were available so far.—MNA/Xinhua

US Marine arrested over
rape in Japan's Okinawa

TOKYO, 11 Feb — A US Marine was arrested on suspicion of raping a 14-year-old Japanese girl in the southern Japanese prefecture of Okinawa, police said on Monday, an incident that could strain ties between the two security allies.

A spokesman for the Okinawa Prefecture police said the 38-year-old Marine was suspected of raping the schoolgirl on Sunday and that the two were riding in a car at the time.

Further details were under investigation, he added.

Japan is home to some 50,000 US troops, the bulk of them in Okinawa, where many residents have long resented bearing what they see as an unfair burden for maintaining the US-Japan security alliance, a pillar of Japan's post-war diplomacy.

In 1995, the rape of a Japanese schoolgirl by three US servicemen sparked huge protests in the island prefecture. — MNA/Reuters

Fowl death alerts
Thai N-E province

BANGKOK, 11 Feb — Twenty-six districts of Thailand's northeastern province of Khon Kaen were on high alert of deadly bird flu after local fowl died mysteriously last week, the provincial governor said on Sunday.

The 26 districts of the province which have been put on the watch list are being observed particularly closely, with x-rays and health checks being carried out rigorously by authorities, Governor Panchai Bawornrattanapran said.

Panchai was quoted by the Bangkok Post's webnews as saying that 15 chickens were reported dead in Muang Kao district in the past week alone but maintained preventative measures have already been taken. —MNA/Xinhua



People fide a railway toley as a train passes in Menila on 9 Feb, 2008.

INTERNET

World Bank plans clean technology fund for poor

LONDON, 11 Feb — Poor countries will soon receive billions of dollars from a new World Bank fund to help them cut pollution, save energy and fight global warming, the international organization said.

Developing countries such as India and China are already trying to reduce their carbon emissions, mainly to save on energy, but have baulked at doing more without technological help from Europe, Japan and the United States.

Most carbon dioxide heating the planet now is a result of western

industrialization, and developing countries want financial help to cut their own growing emissions.

“The fund will support publicly and privately financed projects that deploy technologies that can cut emissions, increase efficiency and save energy...(in) developing countries,” the US, British and Japanese finance ministers said in the *Financial Times* on Friday.

The World Bank clean technology fund would receive some of the two-billion US-dollar in climate funds US

President George W Bush announced last month, and part of the 800 million pounds (1.56 billion US dollars) Britain pledged to “environmental transformation” last year, Henry Paulson, Alistair Darling and Fukushima Nukaga said.

Japan last month announced a 10-billion-US-dollar package to support developing countries’ fight against climate change but the finance ministers’ letter did not detail how much of this would be channelled through the World Bank.

MNA/Reuters



Thousands of revelers watch the lions as they perform in China Town during the Chinese New Year, the Year of the Rat, celebration in London, on 10 Feb, 2008.
INTERNET

American artist dismisses false reports on Zimbabwe

HARARE, 11 Feb — Renowned rhythm and blues American artist Joe Thomas has dismissed as “false reports” by his country that Zimbabwe is not a safe tourism destination, saying that he felt much safer in Zimbabwe than in America.

Addressing a Press

conference on Friday, Thomas who is in Zimbabwe on a two-day visit as a goodwill tourism ambassador, said there was need to change the negative perceptions about Zimbabwe and Africa as a whole, local media *New Ziana* reported on Saturday.

MNA/Reuters

Nepal hands kidney racket suspect to India

KATHMANDU, 11 Feb — Nepal handed over to India on Saturday an Indian man suspected of running an illegal kidney transplant racket there, an Indian Embassy official said.

Amit Kumar was arrested at a hotel in southwest Nepal on Thursday. He is accused of duping or forcing hundreds of poor labourers into donating their organs to wealthy clients.

The racket, first uncovered last month in the booming IT city of Gurgaon outside New Delhi, was one of the largest transplant rings

reported in India for years, and has led to calls for the government to stop the booming trade.

Gopal Baglay, spokesman for the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu, said Kumar had been handed over to Indian authorities in response to their request for his extradition.

“He is on the way to Delhi,” Baglay said.

Kidney failure has become more common in rich countries, often because of obesity, and a shortage of transplant organs has fuelled a black market that exploits needy donors. — MNA/Reuters



British actress Rosmund Pike and Joe Wright arrive at the BAFTA (British Academy of Film and Television Arts) awards ceremony at The Royal Opera House in London on 10 Feb, 2008.

INTERNET

Lightning kills 2 in Brazil

BRASILIA, 11 Feb — Two men were fatally struck by lightning on Saturday in Valparaíso, a city in the Brazilian state of São Paulo.

Amir Esperancim, the pilot, and his assistant Antonio Agnaldo da Silva were flying in a small agricultural aircraft, and they interrupted their work when a storm came up quickly, according to the Civil Police.

The two were killed as they sought shelter beneath the wing of the aircraft, where they were struck by a bolt of lightning.

Lorival Carlos, who was in a van when the lightning struck, witnessed the accident and only found two charred bodies when he ran to them and tried to revive them. — MNA/Xinhua



A Palestinian farmer stands in a greenhouse damaged after a snowstorm last month in the West Bank city of Hebron on 10 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Indonesia to spray train roof riders

JAKARTA, 11 Feb — Indonesian commuters riding on the roofs of trains will be sprayed with coloured liquid so that security officers can identify and arrest them, a report said on Saturday.

Electric trains linking the Indonesian capital and its neighbouring towns are packed with passengers during rush hours, with many sitting

on the roofs due to a lack of space inside or to avoid paying.

After several failed attempts to discourage roof riders over years, the state owned railway company PT Kereta Api will from next week douse them with a coloured liquid so that officers can identify them when they get off the train, the *Jakarta Post* said.

MNA/Reuters

Coach crash in southern Thailand kills 5

BANGKOK, 11 Feb — A coach travelling from the Thai capital Bangkok overturned in southern province Ranong early Monday morning, killing five people and injuring some others. At 5:00 am (2200 GMT), police were informed of the accident which took place along a sharp curve in Ranong’s Kraburi District, according to a report by *Bangkok Post* website.

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Wenger praises personality



Arsenal manager
Arsene Wenger

LONDON, 11 Feb — Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has praised his side's 'personality' as the young Gunners go in search of Premier League glory.

Wenger saw title rivals Manchester United and Chelsea drop points on Sunday and the Gunners could open a five-point gap at the top of the table with victory against Blackburn

at Emirates Stadium on Monday night.

The inexperienced Gunners were tipped to struggle this season following the summer departure of star striker Thierry Henry to Barcelona. And Wenger has hailed the 'mental toughness' of his side as they continue to prove the critics wrong.—Internet

Eriksson proud of City

LONDON, 11 Feb — Sven Goran Eriksson paid tribute to his side and the Manchester City supporters following the 2-1 victory over Manchester United.

City defeated United at home in August and completed a double over their rivals as Darius Vassell and Banjani Mwaruwari found the target in the first half.

United pressed forward after the break and Michael Carrick pulled one back in stoppage time, but Eriksson felt City were worthy winners.

He told Sky Sports: "I think we deserved to win. We created more chances so we're very happy.

"Six points against Manchester United in one season is very good.

"I'm really proud of all the players and happy for the fans. It was a great result."



Sven Goran
Eriksson

Internet

Terry aims to catch Capello's eye

LONDON, 11 Feb — John Terry is not taking his place in the England side for granted as he works his way back to full fitness. The Chelsea captain has returned to training after a foot injury, which forced him to miss Fabio Capello's first game as coach against Switzerland.



John Terry

He is likely to return to first-team action in the coming weeks and is expected to be included in Capello's next squad for the friendly with France at the end of March.

But, with Capello having shown he will not pick his team on reputation, Terry is aware that he will need to be in form when the next squad is announced.—Internet

Egypt win record sixth title

ACCRA, 11 Feb — Egypt successfully defended the African Nations Cup then they beat Cameroon 1-0 in Sunday's final with a goal 13 minutes from time by Mohamed Aboutrika.

The Egyptians extended to six their record number of titles but not before overcoming a physically tough challenge from four-times champions Cameroon. It is only the third time a team have successfully defended the title after the Egyptians previously achieved the feat in 1959 and Cameroon in 2002.

Aboutrika applied the finishing touch to a square pass from Mohamed Zidan, after the striker had robbed possession from Cameroon's veteran captain Rigobert Song on the edge of the penalty area in the 77th minute. —MNA/Reuters



Egypt players celebrate their victory over Cameroon in their African Nations Cup final soccer match in Accra on 10 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Ajax suffer 2-1 defeat at Roda

AMSTERDAM, 11 Feb — Ajax Amsterdam suffered a 2-1 defeat at Roda JC Kerkrade in the Dutch league on Sunday to stay nine points behind leaders PSV Eindhoven.

Roland Lamah opened the scoring for Roda midway through the first half when he broke through the Amsterdam defence but seven minutes before the interval Siem de Jong set up Klaas-Jan Huntelaar for the equalizer.

Dieter van Tornhout won a battle for the ball on the backline 11 minutes before time and connected with Anouar Hadouir, who headed home the winner for Roda. With 10 matches remaining PSV, held to a 1-1 home draw by Heerenveen on Saturday, remain top with 53 points, followed by four teams with 44.

MNA/Reuters

Premier League reports

LONDON, 11 Feb — Brief reports of Premier League matches played on Sunday:

Manchester United 1
Manchester City 2

City honoured the memory of United's tragic 1958 Busby Babes, then celebrated their first win at Old Trafford since 1974 and first league double over them since 1969.

Darius Vassell and debutant Banjani Mwaruwari scored in the first half before substitute Michael Carrick grabbed a consolation goal in stoppage time for United.



Manchester United's Cristiano Ronaldo (L) challenges Manchester City's Micah Richards during their English Premier League soccer match at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England, on 10 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Chelsea 0 Liverpool 0

Liverpool looked the more likely to score in a game full of scrappy errors.

Chelsea might have had a penalty in the first half when Javier Mascherano tripped Joe Cole and Michael Ballack was just wide of the far post with a second-half volley. Striker Peter Crouch missed two Liverpool chances in the space of two minutes when he shot wide in the 18th then headed straight at Petr Cech from Steven Gerrard's cross.

Played on Saturday:

Aston Villa 4 Newcastle United 1

Newcastle collapsed alarmingly after the break despite Michael Owen's header giving them an interval lead.

Wilfred Bouma levelled with a deflected shot and John Carew made it 2-1 after 51 minutes with a glancing header. Norwegian Carew completed his hat-trick with another reflex header and a late penalty after Stephen Carr had handled the ball.

Villa climbed to fifth but Newcastle manager Kevin Keegan is still waiting for his first victory, five games after returning as manager.

Bolton Wanderers 0 Portsmouth 1

Portsmouth collected their eighth away league victory of the season, although they were fortunate to take the three points.

January signing Lassana Diarra struck



Chelsea's Frank Lampard, left, competes with Liverpool's Lucas during their English Premier League soccer match at Stamford Bridge, London, on 10 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

with nine minutes to go but Pompey needed a superb reflex save by England keeper David James from Tamir Cohen's point-blank shot late on.

Derby County 0 Tottenham Hotspur 3

Bottom club Derby got back to losing ways after a couple of draws, although Tottenham took a while to impose themselves.

Robbie Keane struck after 68 minutes following a mistake from County keeper Roy Carroll and Younes Kaboul made it 2-0 followed by a late penalty from substitute Dimitar Berbatov.

Middlesbrough 1 Fulham 0

Middlesbrough's fine run of form continued as they moved into 12th place

with this win over struggling Fulham.

Jeremie Aliadiere converted a Gary O'Neill pass after 11 minutes and Fulham rarely threatened an equalizer.

The biggest cheer of the day was reserved for Brazilian Afonso Alves, Boro's recent record signing, when he came on as a second-half substitute.

Sunderland 2 Wigan Athletic 0

Three points were all that mattered for Sunderland as they put some daylight between themselves and the bottom three. Dickson Etuhu gave Sunderland the lead shortly before halftime and Daryl Murphy secured a fourth consecutive home league win with a 25-metre piledriver after the break.

Wigan had plenty of chances and Kevin Kilbane was denied an equalizer when his shot came back off a post.

West Ham United 1
Birmingham City 1

West Ham started in rampant mood and took the lead through Freddie Ljungberg as Birmingham struggled to stay in the game.

However the visitors got level when James McFadden slotted in a penalty after being fouled by Lucas Neill.

The main talking point of the second half was a red card for West Ham's Lee Bowyer.

MNA/Reuters

Floods, storms kill 12 in Java

JAKARTA, 11 Feb — Floods and storms have killed 12 people on Indonesia’s main island of Java, a health official said on Sunday.

Floods triggered by heavy rain killed eight people in two districts in East Java over the past two days, said Rustam Pakaya, head of the Health Ministry’s crisis centre.

Four people died on Saturday when an electricity pole was toppled by storms, hitting a car in which they were travelling in Bekasi, east of the capital Jakarta, he said.

Several areas in Jakarta, where flooding killed five people this month, were under water on Sunday but there were no immediate reports of casualties.

Indonesia suffers heavy flooding and landslides every rainy season.

Rain and floods forced about 100,000 Jakarta residents from their homes early this month and brought the city to a standstill. — MNA/Reuters

Three suspected Afghan IED cell facilitators arrested

KABUL, 11 Feb — Afghan National Police (ANP) arrested three men suspected of facilitating improvised explosive device (IED) operations near the Pakistan border in eastern Afghanistan’s Paktika Province, a Coalition statement said on Saturday.

During a night patrol on 6 February in Bermel District of Paktika Province, the ANP, assisted by the US-led Coalition forces, searched a vehicle and found two rocket-propelled grenades,

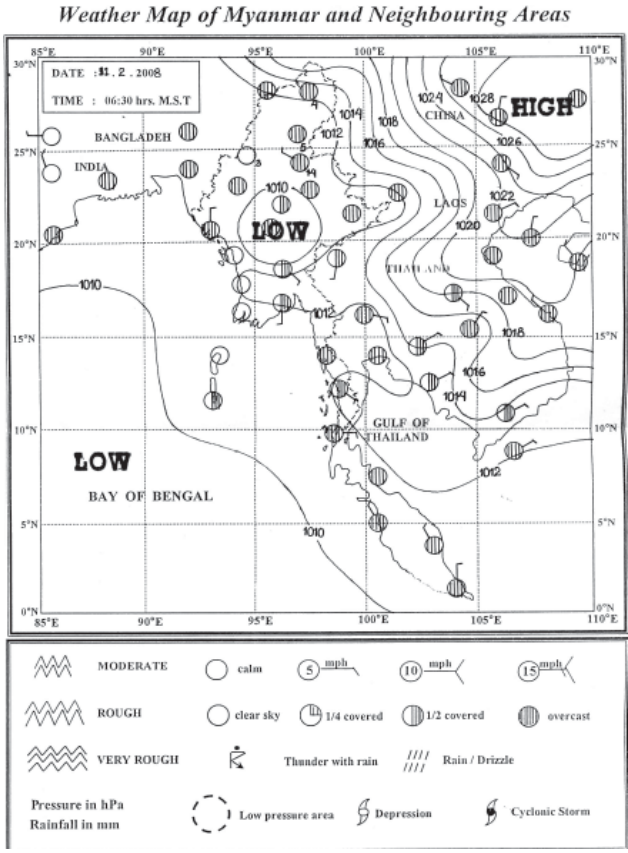
two mortars and blasting caps concealed in hidden compartments, it said.

Acting upon information from a villager, the ANP, according to the statement, on the same day also found three IEDs, each consisting of a 107 millimetres rocket and an anti-tank mine near a bridge in Kakakhel, a local village.

“The munitions were covered by dirt and placed in the roadway near a family home,” the statement said, adding that the devices were set to explode and could have killed anyone passing along that portion of the roadway.

ANP officers evacuated residents living near the IED, and then destroyed the device, making the roadway safe for travellers in the area, it added.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Monday, 11 February, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Shan State and Mandalay Division, isolated in Kachin, Chin, Rakhine and Kayin States, Sagaing Division and weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah and Mon States, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions, Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above February average temperatures in Shan State, Sagaing Mandalay and Magway, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above February average temperatures in Kachin and Mon States and about February average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperature was Haka (5°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Mogok (0.31) inch, Maungtau (0.19) inch, Kyauktaw (0.16) inch, Lashio and Haka (0.12) inch each.

Maximum temperature on 10-2-2008 was 98°F. Minimum temperature on 11-2-2008 was 66°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 11-2-2008 was 76%. Total sunshine hours on 10-2-2008 was (8.4) hours approx.

Rainfall on 11-2-2008 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 South at (11:30) hours MST on 10-2-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 12-2-2008: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin, Chin, North Rakhine States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in Mon, Kayin, Kayah States, Mandalay, Bago and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 12-2-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 12-2-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 12-2-2008: Partly cloudy.

US soldier found guilty of killing Iraqi citizen

BAGHDAD, 11 Feb — A US sniper was sentenced to 10 years in jail after being convicted by a court martial on Sunday of murdering an unarmed Iraqi citizen and then planting a gun on his body, the US military said.

At the courthouse in Camp Victory, the main US base near Baghdad’s International Airport, Sergeant Evan Vela, from the US state of Idaho, was found guilty of the killing and another charge of making false official statements.

“Sergeant Evan Vela was found guilty on one specification of unpremeditated murder during a general courts martial,” a statement from the US military said.

He was also convicted

of planting an AK-47 machine gun on the dead Iraqi, a violation under Article 134 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, of conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline. He was stripped of all pay and allowances, and given a dishonourable discharge from the Army.

The incident took place in May last year during an operation near the town of Iskandariyah, 40 kilometres (25 miles) south of Baghdad. Vela’s lawyer had argued that his

client was suffering from extreme sleep deprivation and physical fatigue.

Vela had admitted shooting the man after he stumbled upon the sleeping place of Vela and his colleagues, but said he had no exact recollection of the incident.

Last November two other snipers, Staff Sergeant Michael Hensley and Specialist Jorge Sandoval, were cleared of murder but convicted of planting evidence.

MNA/Reuters



Tuesday, 12 February
Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music
-All my love
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music
-Emotions
- 8:50 am National news/
Slogan
- 9:00 am Music
- I’ll wait
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music
-Cloud number nine
- 1:30 pm News/ Slogan
- 1:40 pm Lunch time music
-If love you always forever
-One and one
- 9:00 pm English Speaking Course
- 9:10pm Article
- 9:20pm Weekly sports reel
- 9:30 pm Listening pleasure
-A little bit more
-Always on my mind
- 9:45 pm News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL



Tuesday, 12 February
View on today

- 7:00 am 1. (ဇာ)နှစ်မြောက်ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့အခမ်းအနားကျင်းပပုံတိုက်ရိုက်ထုတ်လွှင့်မှုအစီအစဉ်
- 8:00 am 2. (ဇာ)နှစ်မြောက်ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 8:30 am 3. International news
- 8:45 am 4. Let’s Go
- 4:00 pm 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm 2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm 3. အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ-ပထမနှစ်(သတ္တဗေဒအထူးပြု)(သတ္တဗေဒ)
- 4:45 pm 4. Dance of national races
- 5:00pm 5. (ဇာ)နှစ်မြောက်ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 5:10 pm 6. ဆိုကြမယ် ပျော်ကြမယ်
- 5:50pm 7. (ဇာ)နှစ်မြောက်ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 6:00 pm 8. Evening news
- 6:30 pm 9. Weather report
- 6:35 pm 10. “ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့အထိမ်းအမှတ်”(အမျိုးသားပညာရည်မြင့်မားရေးနှင့်ပြည်ထောင်စုစိတ်ဓာတ်စကားပိုင်း)(ဂျပန်ဘာသာ)
- 6:50 pm 11. သုတစုံလင်ရွှေ့ဉာဏ်ရှင်
- 7:20 pm 12. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “မြို့ရိုးဝေဝေချစ်သက်တည်”(အပိုင်း-၂၃)
- 7:45 pm 13. ပြည်ထောင်စုစိတ်ဓာတ်မပြတ်ရင့်သန်နိုင်မာရန်မှာဒိုဝန်တာ “စစ်မှန်သောမျိုးချစ်စိတ်ဓာတ်”
- 8:00 pm 14. News
- 15. International news
- 16. Weather report
- 17. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “မေတ္တာမျဉ်းပြိုင်”(အပိုင်း-၃)
- 18. The next day’s programme

People's Desire

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

U-ru Bridge inaugurated in Homalin Township, Sagaing Division

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Feb — Hailing the 61st Anniversary Union Day, U-ru Bridge across U-ru River built by Bridge Construction Special Group-11 of Public Works of the Ministry of Construction was opened in Homalin Township, Sagaing Division, on 9 February.

Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen Myint Soe delivered a speech. He said social, health and economic sectors will gradually develop as local people can go from Sagaing Division to townships in Kachin State in a short time making use of the newly-built bridge.

He said various kinds of local products such as paddy and cold season crops can easily be transported to other regions and economic growth will surely be achieved with the application of new cultivation methods.

He spoke of the need to maintain the bridge for durability.

Next, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun said the Bailey type suspension U-ru Bridge,

1,090 feet long and 16 feet wide, is on Thetkeyyin-Phaungpyin-Homalin-Khamti Road in Homalin Township. It is a major bridge and it can withstand 35 tons of load.

He said Nantsalein Bridge being built to bring about better transport in Naga region will be opened soon. The government designated 2006 as the road year and built 5,559 miles of road nationwide after 1988, he added.

He said the government also built dams, roads, bridges, airports and ports that contribute to development of national economy in various parts of the country. Schools and universities, hospitals and dispensaries have been built for raising of health and education standard.

He urged the national races to utilize the already-achieved foundations for regional and national development.

The commander and the minister formally opened the bridge and the commander unveiled the stone plaque and they strolled along the bridge.—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

SPECIAL FEATURES TO HAIL 61st ANNIVERSARY UNION DAY

Shan State which has developed significantly in the time of Tatmadaw Government



POEM:

Towards the goal
Born in Union brethren
Kayah, Kachin, Mon and Kayin
In amity also are Rakhine and Shan
Close relatives too are Chin, Bamar
Races of all in solidarity
Coordinating are States, Divisions
For nation to prosper

CARTOON



Weather forecast for 12-2-2008

Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area
Partly cloudy.

Yangon and neighbouring area
Partly cloudy.

Mandalay and neighbouring area
Partly cloudy.

- ★ **Skyful liars attempting to destroy nation**
- ★ **BBC lying**
- ★ **VOA deceiving**
- ★ **RFA setting up hostilities**
- ★ **Beware! Don't be bought by those ill-wishers**