

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Lt-Gen Myint Swe attends 10th Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association

YANGON, 16 Feb — The 10th Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association took place at its office at the corner of Waizayanta and Thanthuma roads in Thuwunna of Thingangyun Township this morning.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence and party visited the salesrooms of construction materials displayed at the hall.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe delivered an address.

Chairman of the association Dr Khin Shwe explained tasks of the association and General Secretary U Zaw Win (AyonU Co) read the report of the executive committee and financial statement.

The old executives resigned and new executives were elected. Chairman Dr Khin Shwe gave an introductory speech.

As a gesture of hailing the annual general meeting, wellwishers donated K 17.4 million including K 1 million each by Dr Khin Shwe (Zay Gabar Co) and U Zaw Win (AyonU Co) to the association.

The association was set up in 1996. — MNA



Lt-Gen Myint Swe views booths to mark the 10th Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association.—MNA

INSIDE

We all have to be dutiful

Human beings have to carry out not only their duties but also that of their society, that of others, and that of their nation and people concerned. Men of various walks of life and various ages have to do their duties. A dutiful society can make progress systematically, while an irresponsible society will be in disorder without discipline and will face failures.

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AYE CHAN

Weather Forecast for (17-2-2008)

Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area:

Generally fair weather.

Yangon and neighbouring area:

Generally fair weather.

Mandalay and neighbouring area:

Generally fair weather.

Significant Night Temperatures

Loilem	(1°C)	Mogok	(4°C)
Namhsan	(2°C)	Heho	(5°C)
Haka	(2°C)	PyinOoLwin	(6°C)
Lashio	(4°C)	Magway	(6°C)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 17 February, 2008

Border areas enjoying human resource development

The government is now expediting the process of building infrastructures in the transport, economic, health, social and education sectors for progress of border areas.

After fulfilling all social requirements in border areas, it turned to the projects for human resource development and elimination of narcotic drugs.

Now is the Age of Knowledge. So, it has upgraded all the colleges in the 24 special development regions to universities for enabling the youth in border areas to pursue higher education in the region concerned where they live.

The government is creating good educational opportunities to sharpen the abilities of the youth of national races in its bid to improve their living conditions.

Due to the emergence of Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree Colleges and vocational training centres the government has constructed, the youth of national races have easy access to opportunity for pursuing education.

With the aim of providing better health care to national races, the government has established hospitals, dispensaries, rural health care centres in border areas and a 200-bed hospital each in the 24 special development regions.

Like cities, border areas have enjoyed the taste of remarkable development thanks to development of human resources and increasing number of infrastructures in the transport, economic, education and health sectors.

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People's Desire

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

Yangon Command holds Htamane-making contest

YANGON, 16 Feb — The regiments and units of Yangon Command organized the first H t a m a n e - m a k i n g contest at the command head-quarters, here, yester-day evening.

Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win formally opened the contest. Afterwards, the commander and officials presented prizes to the winning teams that stood first to sixth positions and gave gifts to members of the panel of judges.



A total of 12 teams took part in the contest. — MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win presents first prize to a battalion in first Htamane-making contest of Yangon Command. — MNA

89 outbreaks of fire throughout nation in Jan

YANGON, 16 Feb — There were 89 outbreaks of fire throughout the nation in January 2008 including 74 outbreaks of fire caused by negligence, 9 by short circuit, 4 by arson, one of natural fire and one of wildfire.

A total of 141 households, 3 factories and workshops, 2 warehouses were burnt down and over 400 fire victims were left homeless and 4 killed.

Out of a total of 89 fire outbreaks, the fire outbreaks caused by negligence are 83.14 per cent. Among the fire outbreaks, it was Yangon Division where fires broke out most. There were the second largest outbreaks of fire in Mandalay Division and the third largest fire outbreaks in Sagaing Division. Losses and damage to property were assessed in States and Divisions. There were the most loss of property in Yangon Division, the second in Shan State and the third in Mon State.—MNA

Myittashin free clinic in Thayet opened

YANGON, 16 Feb—Under the arrangement of Thayet District Union Solidarity and Development Association, Myittashin free clinic was opened at Shwe Bontha Ward in Thayet on 12 February. First, Head of District Health Department Dr Myint Myint Hlaing made a speech on the occasion. Later, the Joint-Secretary of Thayet USDA explained arrangements made for the establishment of the clinic.

Afterwards, Chairman of Thayet District PDC U Khin Maung Win, well-wisher U Ohn Shwe, Manager of Thayet Cement Plant U Aung Thein Myint, the Head of District Health Department and Executive of Thayet USDA U Thein Swe formally opened the clinic by cutting a ribbon.

This was followed by the cash donation ceremony which included K 6.845 million donated towards the trust fund of the clinic and K 570,000 towards the trust fund for medicines. And twenty ampoules of snake vaccines were also presented to rural health care centres.—MNA

Sub Police Inspector Course No 61/2006 concludes

YANGON, 16 Feb — The Sub Police Inspector Course No 61/2006 of the Myanmar Police Force Central Training School concluded at the parade ground of the school in Zeebingyi of PyinOoLwin Township yesterday morning.

Director-General Brig-Gen Khin Yi of Myanmar Police Force inspected the companies and took the salute of the trainee companies.

Director-General Brig-Gen Khin Yi presented awards to outstanding trainees and delivered an address.

Also present on the occasion were Police Adjutant-General Police Brig-Gen Soe Win Myint, Commandant of the school Police Brig-Gen Thein Tint, Police Col Win Khaung of Administration and Training Department, senior police officers, guests and relatives of the trainees.

The course was attended by 200 trainees. — MNA

38th Inter-State/Division Cycling Race commences

YANGON, 16 Feb— The 38th Inter-State/Division Cycling Race was opened at Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna) here this morning.

Having taken the designated places together with the participating teams, the previous-year champions Yangon Division Men's team and Ayeyawady Division Women's team presented the Championship Shields back to General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik.

Afterwards, the General Secretary, on behalf of the Minister for Sports, made an opening speech and formally opened the cycling race.

Next, the Director-General and officials concerned greeted the cyclists who take part in the race.

The cycling race that kicked off today will run till 22 February.—MNA

Clinton sharpens attack in US presidential race

CINCINNATI, 16 Feb — Senator Hillary Clinton sharpened her attack on Friday against rival Barack Obama before new contests for the Democratic presidential nomination, casting herself as a champion of the US middle class and saying voters faced a choice between “speeches and solutions”.

Clinton, under pressure to slow Obama's mo-

mentum after eight consecutive losses, honed her economic message to appeal to middle-and lower-income voters before the next round of Democratic contests in Wisconsin and Hawaii on Tuesday and Texas and Ohio on 4 March.

“It is time we had a president who was a fighter, a doer and a champion for the American middle

class,” Clinton said as she visited a popular Cincinnati restaurant, Skyline Chili, for an economic round-table.

“I am a candidate of, from and for the middle class of America,” added Clinton, who grew up in a comfortable middle-class suburb of Chicago, then went on to attend Wellesley College and Yale Law School.

MNA/Reuters



Some one thousand Tanzanians hold a demonstration against the scheduled visit by US President George W Bush in Dar es Salaam, capital of Tanzania, on 15 Feb, 2008.—XINHUA



Police officials inspect a car where a bomb exploded in Mexico City. A homemade bomb exploded near the Mexico City police headquarters, killing one man and injuring a woman, police said.

INTERNET

Hizbollah says ready for open war with Israel

BEIRUT, 16 Feb — Hizbollah's chief Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said on Thursday the group was ready for "open war" with Israel if the Jewish state wanted it after a top commander in Syria was killed.

"Zionists, if you want this type of open war then let the whole world hear: let it be an open war," Nasrallah told mourners at the funeral of Imad Moughniyah, killed by a bomb in Damascus on Tuesday. Hizbollah has accused Israel of killing Moughniyah but the Israeli Government denied any links. —MNA/Reuters

Israeli Army forces arrest 30 Palestinians in Gaza

GAZA, 16 Feb — Israeli special forces arrested 30 Palestinians in south-east Gaza Strip early Thursday, an Israeli Army spokesman said.

The forces infiltrated into area around the destroyed airport at southern Gaza's Rafah Town after midnight and took away 30 Palestinians for interrogation in the security operation there, according to the spokesman.

Palestinian residents at the area also confirmed the reports. Meanwhile, in the West Bank, Israeli forces arrested 13 Palestinians during operations conducted last

night, Israeli radio reported.

The radio quoted military sources as saying that most of the detainees were arrested in Hebron

and other West Bank cities, adding that they were held for being wanted by the Israeli Army.

MNA/Xinhua

A soldier of the Chadian Army (R) guards arrested rebels after heavy fighting on the city streets in N'Djamena, on 13 Feb, 2008. —INTERNET



US Marines charged with rape of Japanese woman

TOKYO, 16 Feb — Four US Marines based in southwest Japan have been charged with raping a Japanese woman last October, a US military spokesman said on Friday, days after the arrest of another Marine for suspected rape of a schoolgirl on the southern island of Okinawa.

US military authorities at Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station are holding hearings to determine whether the four Marines, aged 20 to 39, should face courts martial for the suspected rape of the woman, who was 19 at the time.

Japanese police had decided last year not to proceed with a case against the four over the incident, which Japanese media said occurred in a car at a car park in nearby Hiroshima City after the Marines met the young woman at an event hall.

“The hearing is on today and is expected to possibly roll over until tomorrow,” an Iwakuni air station spokesman said, adding that it could take some time before a decision on possible courts martial was made. —MNA/Reuters

Thousands protest against Arroyo

MANILA, 16 Feb — Thousands of people rallied in Manila on Friday calling for the resignation of Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo over a corruption scandal.

Police said around 10,000 people, mainly left-wing activists, students and religious groups, had taken to the streets.

The protests, sparked by a Senate inquiry into government kickbacks in a telecom deal, were the biggest since tens of thousands of people demonstrated against Arroyo in 2005 amid allegations she cheated in elections the previous year..

“We are outraged by the reports of corruption and greed in government,” said Maita Gomez, an activist who said she was wearing red because it was the colour of anger.

Religious leaders sang songs and read prayers from a stage set up at the front of the rally and people waved posters with the words “Out Gloria”. Some wore badges that read, “Moderate Your Greed”.

Office workers in high-rise buildings threw confetti on the crowds below.

But analysts said the absence of high profile politicians from the demonstration showed the political elite did not believe Arroyo, who has survived three impeachment bids and at least three coup plots, could be pushed out.

MNA/Reuters



Protesters display placards during a rally at the financial district of Makati city east of Manila, Philippines, on 15 Feb, 2008, to call for the resignation of Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. —INTERNET

Slovaks seize cocaine worth \$72m hidden in wine bottles

BRATISLAVA, 15 Feb — Slovak Customs snatched a bumper shipment of cocaine from South America worth 1.64 billion crowns (72 million US dollar), hidden in hundreds of wine bottles, Customs and police officials said on Wednesday.

The shipment contained 163.8 kilos of pure cocaine, far more than the 13.9 kilos of the drug the Slovaks managed to intercept between 1998 and 2007.

First police Vice-President Michal Kopcik said the drug valued each of the 420 seized wine bottles at 3.9 million crowns (171,500 US dollars). — MNA/Reuters

US House OKs contempt resolution against Bush aides

WASHINGTON, 16 Feb — The US House of the Representatives passed Thursday criminal and civil contempt resolutions against current and former White House aides.

By a 223-to-32 vote, the House held White House chief of staff Josh Bolten and former White House counsel Harriet Miers accountable for failing to respond to subpoenas from the House Judiciary Committee.

It is the first time since 1983 that a full chamber of Congress has ever voted on a contempt of Congress citation.

However, the Bush Administration said it will not ask the US attorney to pursue the contempt charges.

The House is able to bring its own lawsuit on the matter.

The House’s action stems from a year-long feud between the Congress and the Bush Administration on firing of nine federal prosecutors.

Earlier last year, US media reveals that in 2005, the White House had suggested that the Justice Department fire all of the nation’s 93 US attorneys, but the latter only dismissed 8 prosecutors.

Some fired prosecutors told Congress that they had been pressured by Republican lawmakers over voter fraud and public corruption investigations they were pursuing.

This enraged Democrats, who are demanding explanations from the Bush Administration.

MNA/Xinhua

China says US spying charges “groundless”

BEIJING, 15 Feb — China on Thursday rejected the US allegations of espionage, saying the charges were “groundless” and “with ulterior motives”.

“The so-called accusation against China on the issue of espionage is totally groundless and has ulterior motives,” Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao told a regular Press briefing.

“We urged the United States to abandon its Cold War thinking and stop groundless accusations and instead contribute to increasing mutual trust and friendship between our two peoples,” Liu said.—MNA/Xinhua



A Cambodian woman prepares roses for sale along a street in Phnom Penh.—INTERNET

Vietnamese province wins UNESCO biosphere recognition

HANOI, 16 Feb — The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has recently recognized the western part of Vietnam’s central Nghe An Province as a world biosphere reserve, local newspaper Vietnam News reported on Thursday.

The Nghe An biosphere reserve site covers 1.3 million hectares with the Pu Mat National Park being the site’s core zone. The park has valuable fauna and flora resources.

About 130 animal species, 295 kinds of birds, 54 amphibian species, 84 fish species, 39 kinds of bats, 305 day-butterfly species, 14 turtle species, and thousands of insect species are living in the reserve.

According to the UNESCO, the site, which borders Laos, has remarkably high biodiversity, ranging from lowland monsoonal evergreen forests to elfin cloud forest.

MNA/Xinhua

Russian troops kill four militants in Chechnya

MOSCOW, 16 Feb — Russian troops killed four militants who attacked military vehicles in its Caucasus region of Chechnya on Friday, local media reported on Friday.

Those militants opened fire at vehicles of regional military commander’s office early Friday and the police carried out manhunt immediately. ITAR-TASS and Interfax news agencies reported, citing Chechen Interior Minister Ruslan Alkhanov.—MNA/Xinhua



Petit Nice’s restaurant chef Gerald Passedat (C) shares his culinary art during a presentation at the third edition of “Omnivore Food Festival” in Deauville, on 11 February . The 30 chefs who came from the farthest reaches of France and around the world to demonstrate their avant-garde cooking styles showed that even as techniques become more international, chefs are increasingly attached to their roots.—INTERNET

China’s largest oilfield reports record 2007 int’l business

BEIJING, 15 Feb — Daqing, China’s largest oilfield, said that its international business had surpassed two billion yuan (278.2 million US dollars) for the first time in 2007.

The China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), parent company of Daqing and the country’s largest oil producer, released the figure on Thursday but did not give comparative

information for 2006.

The average profit margin for Daqing’s overseas projects was 12.65 per cent in 2007, a record, said the CNPC on its website.

The field also netted 18.007 billion yuan from revenues apart from oil exploration and production in 2007, mainly drilling services. This figure accounted for 35.14 per cent of total revenues.

As the industry became increasingly competitive, Daqing would not be able to rely solely on internal business but would have to expand its outside operations, the information office told *Xinhua* on Thursday.

The field produced 41.7 million tons of oil in 2007, slightly above the target of 41.62 million tons. — *MNA/Xinhua*



A farm hand helps with the harvest of tobacco plants in a field in southern Germany. The World Health Organization announced Friday that it planned to adopt a new international treaty on the illegal tobacco trade by 2010.—INTERNET

“NY Times” to cut 100 news jobs due to financial strain

WASHINGTON, 16 Feb —The *New York Times* will bow to growing financial strain and eliminate about 100 newsroom jobs this year, the daily reported on Friday.

The cuts will be achieved “by not filling jobs that go vacant, by offering buyouts, and if necessary by layoffs”, the executive editor, Bill Keller was quoted as saying. The *Times* has 1,332 newsroom employees. There were scattered buyouts and job elimination in the newsroom in recent years, but the overall number continued to rise, largely from the growth of its Internet operations.

The *New York Times*

Company has made significant cuts in the newsrooms of some of its other properties, including The Boston Globe, as well as in nonnews operations.

For 2007, the *Times* Company recently reported earnings of 208.7 million dollars on revenue of 3.2 billion dollars. Newspaper industry ad revenue fell about 7 per cent last year, and 4.7 per

cent at the *Times* Company, hurt by both the slowing economy and the rise of Internet advertising. Executives around the industry have projected that 2008 will be equally bad. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Italy grants \$5.11m to Jordan’s garment project

AMMAN, 15 Feb — The Italian Government extended 3.5 million euros (about 5.11 million US dollars) as a grant to support the Jordan Centre for Garment Design and Training Services project,

according to *The Jordan Times* on Thursday.

“The project will play a positive role in upgrading the performance of the Jordanian garment manufacturing industry through the provision of

specialized technical services and training to Jordanian companies as well as individuals operating in this sector,” Jordanian Planning and International Cooperation Minister Suhair Al-Ali was quoted as saying.

She indicated that the project will contribute to enhance the performance, productivity and competitiveness of small and medium enterprises operating in the garment industry. Jordan Enterprise Development Cooperation will implement the project in cooperation with the Italian Foreign Ministry, said the report, adding that the Jordanian side will provide the building for the centre and the needed logistical back. — *MNA/Xinhua*



A vineyard in Europe. Climate change is threatening to redraw the world’s wine-producing map, and the effects are already being seen in earlier harvests and coarser wines, experts told a conference on Friday.—INTERNET

Petrobras announces loss of top secret information

RIO DE JANEIRO, 16 Feb — Detailed information about Brazil’s recent oil and gas discoveries was stolen from a container in Rio de Janeiro, the state-owned energy giant Petrobras said Thursday.

According to the company, the data were stored in a hard disk and two laptops transported from an exploitation platform to Macae in Rio state’s northern seashore.

Thieves broke into the container and stole the equipment, Petrobras said. The top secret

information was related to discoveries in deep water oil fields, such as the Tupi field, announced last November as the company’s biggest reserve and believed to bear oil enough to double the country’s production. — *MNA/Xinhua*

US investors pledge \$10b for renewable energy

UNITED NATIONS, 16 Feb — US institutional investors pledged at a UN summit on Thursday to invest 10 billion US dollars

over two years in technologies that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to pressure companies to disclose their risks associated with climate change.

The plan “reflects the many investment opportunities that exist today to put a dent in global warming pollution, build

profits and benefit the global economy,” said Mindy Lubber, the president of Ceres, a coalition of investors and environmental leaders, and director of the Investor Network on Climate Risk.

The California Public Employees’ Retirement System, the largest US pension fund, and the state treasurers or comptrollers of 11 US states and other players agreed at the investor summit on climate risk to invest the money in green technologies like solar and wind power.

MNA/Reuters



An Indian shopkeeper arranges a display of ginger as he waits for customers in a wholesale vegetable and fruit market in New Delhi, on 9 Feb. —INTERNET

Tear gas scatters Malaysian “flower power” protest

KUALA LUMPUR, 16 Feb — Malaysian police used water cannon and tear gas on Saturday to break up an anti-government protest by ethnic Indians carrying roses to symbolise a peaceful demand for justice.

With the Malaysian Government concerned about street protests in the run-up to early general

elections on March 8, around 100 policemen, including riot police with helmets and shields, turned out to disperse a gathering of about 300 men, women and children.

Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi’s ruling coalition is widely expected to retain power at the polls, although with a reduced majority,

but many Indians accuse his multi-racial coalition, dominated by ethnic Malays, of racial discrimination.

The Hindu Rights Action Force (Hinraf) first announced the protest in January as a way to press its demand for the release of five of its leaders jailed under tough internal security laws.

MNA/Reuters



Spacewalker Rex Walheim’s helmet camera shows space shuttle astronaut Stanley Love (L) moving an experiment rack into place during a spacewalk in this view from NASA TV on 15 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Egypt keen to help solve Darfur crisis

CAIRO, 16 Feb — Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit on Thursday expressed his country’s keenness to find a swift settlement for the crisis of the western Sudanese region of Darfur and achieve security and stability in the African country.

Abul Gheit said after his talks with Sudanese opposition leader Mohamed Osman al-Mirghani that Egypt is holding contacts with all international and regional players concerned, including the United Nations and the African Union, to probe on the means to establish peace and stability in Sudan.—MNA/Xinhua

Canada’s Jeffrey Buttle performs during a men’s free skating at the International Skating Union Four Continents Figure Skating Championships in Goyang, west of Seoul, South Korea, on Friday.

INTERNET



Timor-Leste issues arrest warrants for 12 suspects

JAKARTA, 16 Feb — Timor-Leste has issued arrest warrants for 12 suspects involved in the attempted assassination of the country’s top leaders, the attorney general said on Friday.

In an interview with reporters, Longuinhos Monteiro said 12 warrants were handed over to police on Thursday and five more would follow soon. However, the names of the suspects were not immediately available.

A group of rebels

attacked the homes of Timor-Leste President Jose Ramos-Horta and Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao this week. Ramos-Horta was critically wounded and was flown to Australia for life-saving medical treatment while Prime Minister Gusmao escaped unharmed.

President Ramos-Horta has undergone three operations in a hospital in the Australian city of Darwin.

MNA/Xinhua

Thailand says hunter’s bullet hit Canadian tourist

CHIANG MAI (Thailand), 15 Feb — A Canadian tourist, shot while riding in a pickup truck in northern Thailand, may have been hit by a stray bullet from a hunter, police said on Thursday.

Erik Griffioen, a university lecturer from Ontario, was on trekking holiday with his wife when he was hit by a .22 bullet on Wednesday in the northern city of Chiang Mai, a popular tourist destination.

It was the fourth shooting involving Canadians this year.

“The bullet that hit him might have come from a

bird hunter or someone who accidentally fired a gun,” Police Lieutenant Colonel Thwatchai Pungpikul said. He said the truck had passed by a

forested area when Griffioen was shot in the back. He was recovering in hospital after an operation to remove the bullet. — MNA/Reuters

A 2003 photo shows Africa’s first cloned cow. Food produced from cloned animals will not be commercially available for a long time due to costs that are expected to remain sky-high, experts said.—INTERNET



Hotel blaze kills 11 in eastern China

BEIJING, 15 Feb — Eleven people were killed and four injured in a hotel fire in eastern China’s Zhejiang Province early on Friday, Xinhua news agency said.

The fire broke out at 1:50 am local time in the Chengshuai hotel in Yiwu City and was put out within an hour. Firefighters rescued 23 people, but 11 died in hospital and four were still being treated, Xinhua said. Yiwu is a booming manufacturing and commodities trading centre.

In December, a fire in a ground-floor flower shop in another Zhejiang City spread to a dance hall and an apartment block above, killing 21 people.

MNA/Reuters

US charges Israeli man over stolen French antiques

NEW YORK, 15 Feb — US authorities have charged an Israeli man with attempting to sell art and antiques in New York City that had been stolen from Paris in the late 1990s.

Solly Sinai, 53, who posed as an art dealer, was arrested in January in Paris and is being held there by French authorities after he tried to sell the goods in New York in June 2000, according to an indictment unsealed on Thursday. They were stolen in 1997 and 1998 from two antiques stores and a Paris residence.

MNA/Reuters

Russian anti-graft prosecutor killed by hitman

MOSCOW, 15 Feb — The prosecutor of Russia’s Volga Region of Saratov was killed overnight and police believe his murder could be linked to his anti-corruption drive, Russian media reported on Thursday. Yevgeny Grigoryev died late on Wednesday from gunshot wounds after an unknown person armed with a pistol with a silencer attacked him near his apartment in the courtyard of the regional prosecutor’s headquarters. — MNA/Reuters

Gunmen kill nine family members in north of Baghdad

TIKRIT, (Iraq), 16 Feb — Unknown gunmen shot dead nine members of a family in their house in the village of Awja in Salahudin Province on Thursday, a provincial police source said.

“Labib Ali al-Zaidan, his wife, and their seven sons were killed when unknown gunmen before dawn stormed their house in the Awja Village, the birthplace of the toppled president Saddam Hussein,” the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

MNA/Xinhua

We all have to be dutiful

Aye Chan

Everyone has to do their duties, for example, fulfilling the basic needs of the family or the society concerned. A bee consumes nectar from flowers for its living and has to participate in building a beehive, collect nectar, and pollinate flowers for its community. Similarly, cattle have to help man with ploughing, carrying logs and bamboo, and transporting loads. The area of duties man has to do is wider and more important than that of any other creature.

Human beings have to carry out not only their duties but also that of their society, that of others, and that of their nation and people concerned. Men of various walks of life and various ages have to do their duties. A dutiful society can make progress systematically, while an irresponsible society will be in disorder without discipline and will face failures.

Duties are of different kinds such as individual duties, family duties, duties for the society, region or organization concerned, and State duties. Only when the entire people do their bit, will it be possible for the people to achieve soon the goal of building a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation with flourishing discipline. Otherwise, it will take long unnecessarily to have mission accomplished and it will be difficult to safeguard the new nation in the long run.

In taking charge of duties, some think that dutifulness means just working dutifully. Some think that dutifulness means carrying out tasks

perfunctorily. And some think that dutifulness means carrying out tasks accordingly. In fact, shouldering duties with a sense of duty is many times more delicate with much more essence than what they consider.

For a government employee, does punctuality and just doing daily routines mean dutifulness, and does his carrying out tasks assigned by his superiors mean dutifulness? For a public member, does shouldering family duties mean dutifulness? Such persons can get poor benefits derived from their manual or mental labour in proportion to his contribution. The term “dutifulness” will be meaningful only when a person does his duties with goodwill, innovations and diligence in the interests of his society, the people and the nation.

In some cases, people should not ignore certain matters, thinking that they are not their concerns. He should deal with them as soon as he notices what is inappropriate to a situation. In that regard, he should do so as a superior, colleague, friend, acquaintance or public member. The person who makes mistakes may not be satisfied with others’ constructive criticism and even may hate them. In the absence of corrective measures, he may think that he is right and he keeps on making same mistakes. So, making positive suggestions is, indeed, a good habit.

For example, some disciplines are in force in region or department-wise for keeping the environment clean and pleasant, such as signboards that say “No spitting”, “No smoking”, “No rubbish”, “Keep off the grass” and “No plucking of flowers”. If a person

violates a restriction, anyone who notices that should point out and correct the act, because the act of an undisciplined person can destroy the cleanliness and systematic arrangements of the environment. So, a person who happens to violate the restriction should accept the positive comment and correct his mistakes.

The exercise of the saying “One should not ignore the practice of others” can bring about negative results rather than positive ones. In reality, people should not commit the malpractice that is committed by many. If the remaining persons follow his malpractice instead of correcting his offence, they will happen to indulge in committing malpractice. And one should notice if the number of the persons who follow others’ misconduct is on the increase, and that will have adverse effects on and harm the interests of the State.

However, it is not that easy. He should be resistant enough to unfair criticisms, should deal with hardships, and will have to make some sacrifices in that regard because he is doing so just in the interests of others. And if he, out of fear of being criticized, fails to point out someone’s misbehaviours, there will be no positive results. So, the people are urged to do duties with a sense of duty and faithfulness.

Today, the world is advancing rapidly. So, all should seek innovations all the more in accordance with the prevailing situations, instead of working with only conventional methods. The nation will be developed and modernized both in form and in essence only when duties are carried out through farsightedness and innovations.

So, the term “dutifulness” will reflect its essence only when a duty is carried out thoroughly, after taking all the facts into consideration in all aspects. In other words, one should shoulder one’s duties as soon as possible till no one needs to give one a hand. It will not be wise if one thinks it is usual and one has to do as usual as far as one can, and others will have to correct one’s mistakes. If so, one will not be dutiful and it cannot be considered that one is loyal.

The entire people should do their duties with a sense of duty. And with development of human resources with code of conduct, and right views, concept and conviction, the nation will have a prosperous future. So, the entire people are exhorted to do their duties with a sense of duty.

Translation: MS

Duties are of different kinds such as individual duties, family duties, duties for the society, region or organization concerned, and State duties. Only when the entire people do their bit, will it be possible for the people to achieve soon the goal of building a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation with flourishing discipline. Otherwise, it will take long unnecessarily to have mission accomplished and it will be difficult to safeguard the new nation in the long run.

DHF and diarrhoea control campaign launched in Thingangyun Township

YANGON, 16 Feb — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win heard reports on outbreak of dengue haemorrhagic fever and diarrhoea in the townships of Yangon Division, preventive measures and sanitation tasks presented by the

heads of Yangon Division and Thingangyun Township Health Departments and officials and gave necessary instructions at the office of Thingangyun Township Development Affairs Committee this morning. Next, the commander inspected conducting educative talks, preventive measures

against DHF and spraying of insecticide and dredging of ditches along Pyithayar

and Zawtika streets in the township.

MNA

Extended refectory, dispensary, Kyaiklat Dhammathala Chamber, e-Library donated to State Pariyatti Sasana University (Mandalay)

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Feb — Mandalay Division Union Solidarity and Development Association donated the extended refectory, the dispensary, Kyaiklat Dhammathala Chamber and e-Library to State Pariyatti Sasana University (Mandalay) in Aungmyethazan Township this morning.

Secretariat Member of the USDA Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, wife Daw Khin Khin Yi and the Secretary of Mandalay Division USDA offered documents related to the donations to Rector Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Dr Pandita-varabhivamsa.

Executives and wellwishers donated alms to members of the Sangha.

The Secretariat Member, wife and wellwishers visited the extended refectory, the dispensary and the room for the patient monks.

The ceremony to inaugurate Shwelaung Creek Bridge in Letwegyi Village of Madaya Township was held at the bridge. Executive of Mandalay Division USDA U Myo Thant and

officials opened the bridge.

Chairman of Madaya Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Bhaddanta Kovida, Letwegyi Village Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kundala, Patron of Mandalay Division USDA Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Tin Ngwe and the Secretariat Member sprinkled scented water on the bridge and strolled along the bridge.

The commander and the minister gave speeches.

The Secretariat member handed over documents related to the bridge to a local.

Shwelaung Bridge is 44 feet long and 12 feet wide, and it can

withstand 20-ton loads.

The bridge will contribute to improvement of health, education, economic and social sectors of the local people residing in 52 villages from both sides of the bridge.

MNA

With noble mind

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

(Venerable Shwe Hinthia Sayadaw)

Mayor inspects repair of pavements in Yangon

YANGON, 16 Feb — Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, accompanied by officials concerned, arrived at the junction of Anawrahta and Seikkantha Streets in Kyauktada Township this morning.

He inspected progress in construction of pavements along Anawrahta Road from 39th Street to Pansodan Street in Kyauktada Township.

The mayor also inspected construction of an underground drain measuring 74 feet long, 3 feet wide and 3 feet deep crossing Mahabandoola Street in Lanmadaw Township and repaving of the pavements along Inya Road from University Avenue to Pyay Road in Kamayut Township. —MNA

7th Medical Academic Seminar opened

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Feb — The opening ceremony of the 7th Medical Academic Seminar of the Department of Medical Science under the Ministry of Health was opened at the meeting hall of the ministry, here, this morning.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe made an opening speech on the occasion.

Afterwards, Director-General of the Department of Medical Science Professor Dr Than Myint, deputy directors-general, rectors, directors and faculty members took part in the discussions to launch the entrance system for pursuing medical science and its related subjects.

The seminar continues tomorrow.

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



Inauguration of Shwelaung Creek Bridge in progress. —MNA



Deputy Minister Dr Paing Soe addresses 7th Medical Academic Seminar of Department of Medical Science. —MNA

Commander attends meeting of Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee



Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin addresses Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee meeting (6/2008).

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Feb — The Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee held the meeting No 6/2008 at the hall of Nay Pyi Taw Command, here, yesterday afternoon.

In his instructions, Patron of the Supervisory Committee Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin called for reduction of traffic accidents, assignment of duties to qualified drivers and future tasks to be carried out.

The chairman of the supervisory committee reported inspection of work, future tasks of the committee and reminders issued by the committee.

Officials of the committees and subcommittees submitted reports on their respective work being done.

After attending to the needs, the commander made the concluding remarks.

MNA

New tarred road and bridge opened in Pyapon Township

YANGON, 16 Feb — A ceremony to open the new tarred road at the entrance to Kyonkadun Village and Thameintaw-Kani village bridge built by Pyapon Township Development Affairs Committee was held at the corner of the road on 12 February morning.

First, Assistant Engineer of the Township Development Affairs Committee U Kyaw Khine explained the salient points of the tarred road.

Chairman of Pyapon Township Peace and Development Council U Myo Myint Zaw, Executive Officer of the Township Development Committee Deputy Director U Tin Win and Secretary of the Township USDA U Win Myint formally opened the road.

The newly opened tarred road is 758 feet long and 10 feet wide and the concrete bridge is 10 feet long and 12 feet wide.

MNA

Energy Minister receives Chinese Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Feb— Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi received Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar Mr Guan Mu at his office, here, yesterday.

They cordially discussed matters on energy sector.

MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi receives Chinese Ambassador Mr Guan Mu.

MNA



“Year of Spain” ends in success

MADRID, 16 Feb—The closing ceremony of the “Year of Spain” was held in Madrid on Thursday, marking the success of the Spanish theme year which started in China at the beginning of 2007.

Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi sent a congratulatory letter. Spanish Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Bernardino Leon Gross and Chinese Ambassador to Spain Qiu Xiaoqi attended the ceremony. In his message, Yang Jiechi expressed congratulation to the success of the “Year of Spain.” He stressed that this year marked the 35th anniversary of the establishment of China-Spain diplomatic ties.

China is willing to continue to develop the friendship between the two peoples and promote cooperation in various areas, bringing the relations between the two countries to a higher level, Yang said.—MNA/Xinhua

China's CRCC approved for IPO

BEIJING, 16 Feb— China's securities regulator formally okayed on Thursday the initial public offering (IPO) of China Railway Construction Corporation (CRCC), one of the nation's largest road and rail project contractors.

The company received a formal approval from China Securities Regulatory Commission for its plan to issue 2.8 billion shares in Shanghai and the prospectus will be released on Friday, said an official with the commission.

The official, who required anonymity, did not disclose the specific date of listing at the Shanghai bourse. —MNA/Xinhua



Penguins make their way out of icy Antarctic water and across rocky terrain. Global warming could make Antarctic waters more inviting to crabs and sharks that would threaten the frigid continent's unique ecosystem, biologists warned on Friday.
INTERNET



Hetty Bower, aged 102, right, joins Bianca Jagger and other anti-war protesters, on their way to 10 Downing Street to deliver a letter of protest to British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, in London, on 15 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Anti-war protesters deliver letter to Brown

LONDON, 16 Feb — Anti-war protesters Friday delivered a letter to British Prime Minister Gordon Brown to protest at the war and occupation in Iraq and Afghanistan and urge the pullout of British troops from the two countries.

The letter, written by the London-based Stop the War Coalition, was handed over by a delegation of marchers from an anti-Iraq War demonstration in 2003, including the oldest and youngest demonstrators,

103-year-old Hetty Bower and five-year-old Alfie Sedley.

The letter to Brown referred to the anti-war march five years ago and said, "We said then that the war would be a disaster - everything that we said then has been proved to be true".

"There are still thousands of British troops in Iraq, whose only role seems to be to give cover to George Bush and the disastrous US occupation," said the letter.

"Meanwhile the number of British troops in Afghanistan is growing and the occupation there is causing devastation," it said.

The Stop the War Coalition, set up on 21 September, 2001, has opposed the various wars that are claimed to be part of the ongoing war on terrorism. It has been the most prominent group in Britain campaigning against war in Afghanistan and Iraq.

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysian police arrest two in protest as polls loom

KUALA LUMPUR, 16 Feb—Malaysian police broke up a small anti-government protest on Friday, arresting two people after a scuffle, as the country braced for a fresh flurry of protests ahead of elections next month.

In a sign of the administration's sensitivity to street protests in the run-up to the March 8 poll, about 100 police turned out to disperse a group of just 15 opposition party supporters outside the Malaysian King's Palace.

They had gathered at the imposing yellow-domed palace to urge the king to alter what they said were unfair electoral rules.

The monarch, currently abroad on holiday, is a symbolic head of state, but opposition parties have chosen to lobby him because they say they distrust the Election Commission and the ruling coalition, which has effectively governed since independence.

MNA/Reuters

UNSG presses Bush on climate change

WASHINGTON, 16 Feb — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Friday pressed US President George W Bush to take more of a leadership role in negotiations on a new global pact to fight global warming.

The United States, which has been a reluctant partner in climate diplomacy under Bush, abruptly reversed course at climate change talks in Bali, Indonesia, in December and joined 190 nations in agreeing to negotiate a new accord by late 2009.

"It would be ... very much important for the international community to sustain the momentum established in Bali, December last year, in climate change," Ban told Bush after an Oval Office meeting.

He said the United States, with its innovative technologies and financial capabilities, had a critical role to play in advancing the globally accepted framework from the Bali summit.

"I count on your leadership and active participation," Ban told a nodding Bush. "I do appreciate your constructive engagement in this. ... I count on your leadership." —MNA/Reuters

Bomb kills one, wounds two in Mexico City

MEXICO CITY, 16 Feb —A bomb exploded on a street near the Security Ministry in central Mexico City on Friday, killing one person and wounding two.

No group claimed responsibility for the blast and there was no warning. The Mexican Government is locked in a violent battle with drug gangs and has yet to catch left-wing rebels who planted small bombs at oil installations last year.

Hundreds of officers in riot gear blocked roads around the bomb site and evacuated nearby buildings as police helicopters hovered overhead.

MNA/Reuters



The site of an Israeli raid in the Bureij refugee camp, central Gaza Strip. French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner urged Israel to lift its blockade of the Gaza Strip and to freeze its policy of building settlements in the West Bank, at the start of a visit to the region on 16 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Jihad says Israel's invasion to reunite Palestinians

GAZA, 16 Feb — A senior Islamic Jihad leader said Thursday that Israel will not invade the Gaza Strip because such a move would reunite the Palestinians while Israel was interested in keeping an internal Palestinian

division.

"But Israel may expand the range and extends the time of its military operations," Gaza-based Jihad leader Mohammed al-Hendi told reporters.

"This requires the

Palestinian resistance to be on alert to face the occupation forces," said al-Hendi. Israel has been threatening to increase attacks in the Gaza Strip in response to the continuing rocket attacks launched by Gaza militants against southern Israel territories.

MNA/Xinhua



A highway on the outskirts of Sydney is cut off by rising floodwaters in June 2007. Some of the world's top companies have vowed to step up their efforts to cut greenhouse gas emissions, saying governments were failing to show sufficient leadership in the fight against global warming.

INTERNET

Images of the Day



This recent picture released by Swiss car maker Rinspeed shows people aboard Rinspeed's new model, the sQuba, the world's first real submersible car that will be presented at the 2008 Geneva car show in March.

INTERNET



A child looks at a turtle representing Easter Island, made with citrus fruit, that illustrate the Islands of the World theme of the 75th Lemon Festival, on 16 Feb, 2008, in Menton, southern France.

INTERNET



Heart illuminations for Valentine's Day. Valentine's Day e-greetings from a stranger could deliver more than the recipient bargained for in the shape of a destructive "Trojan horse" that hijacks computers, the FBI warned on Tuesday.—INTERNET



Bao Xishun, 56, a 2.36-metre (7-ft9-inch) herdsman shakes hand with He Pingping, 19, a 0.73-metre (2-ft5-inch) man listed by the Guinness World Records as the world's shortest man, during a visit to a park in Chifeng, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region on 16 Feb, 2008. Bao and He will attend a carnival in Madrid on 18 February, local media reported.—INTERNET

Australia arts centre employs eagle, falcon guards

MELBOURNE, 16 Feb — A giant eagle has been employed by Australian arts officials to protect a showcase building against marauding flocks of native cockatoo parrots causing thousands of dollars in damage to its spire.

A Wedge-tailed eagle named "Zorro", named after the legendary swordsman, was tethered on Friday to the 163-metre (531 feet) roof spire of the Melbourne Arts Centre after cockatoos took a liking to its thimble-size lights, chewing up 63,000 US dollars worth of bulbs.

Wedge-tails, which have a 2.5 metre (8.3 feet) wingspan, are one of the world's largest eagles and are a natural predator of cockatoos, which are notorious for chewing their way through everything from crops to satellite dish cables.

Arts centre spokesman Jeremy Vincent said Zorro would be tied to the spire every day for six weeks as a trial, with previous controls having failed to scare off the "marauding" cockatoos, a white parrot with a distinctive yellow head crest.

MNA/Reuters

Weddings in Buenos Aires double in Valentine's Day

BUENOS AIRES, 15 Feb — The amount of official weddings doubled on Thursday on Valentine's Day in Argentina's capital, Buenos Aires.

Buenos Aires' civil wedding registry normally has an average of 56 marriages per day but on Thursday it foresees that this number would be some 119 weddings, since many couples pick this day to officially formalize their relationships.

The restaurant sector also earned a lot of money on Thursday, because 75 per cent of the restaurant tables in Buenos Aires were reserved in advance. 14

February, Valentine's Day, was a disregarded festivity in Argentina but business advertisement has made it more popular in this South American country. On this Valentine's Day, the sales of presents increased 16 per cent compared with the same day of 2007.

Meanwhile, Argentina's Social Development Ministry will take advantage of this special day of love and friendship to hand over free condoms and contraceptive information to inhabitants in this city.

MNA/Xinhua

ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရန်ချိတ်ပိတ်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း (ကျပ်)

စဉ်	ပစ္စည်းအမျိုးအမည်	အရေအတွက်	တင်ဒါခေါ်ရက်	တင်ဒါပိတ်ရက်
1.	M.S Plate & M.S Rod	Lot	18.2.2008	25.2.2008
2.	M.S Plate	Lot	18.2.2008	25.2.2008
3.	Electrical Spare Parts	Lot	18.2.2008	25.2.2008
4.	S.T.P.P	20 Tons	18.2.2008	25.2.2008
5.	Cement Mill Trunnion Bearing	2 Nos	18.2.2008	10.3.2008
6.	Waste Gas Fan Impeller	1 Set	18.2.2008	10.3.2008
7.	Kiln Supporting Roller Bearing	2 Items	18.2.2008	10.3.2008

အမှတ် (၁) စက်မှုဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာ့ကြွေထည်မြေထည်လုပ်ငန်း၊ရောင်းဝယ်ရေးဌာန၊ ရုံးအမှတ် (၄၁)၊
နေပြည်တော်တွင် ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း ဆက်သွယ်စုံစမ်းပြီး တင်ဒါပုံစံများကိုလာရောက်ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။
တင်ဒါပုံစံတရားဝင် ဝယ်ယူများထံမှ တင်ဒါကိုသာ လက်ခံပါမည်။
(အသေးစိတ် သိလိုပါက စုံစမ်းရန် တယ်လီဖုန်းအမှတ် ၀၆၇-၄၀၅၉၈)

မြန်မာ့ကြွေထည်မြေထည်လုပ်ငန်း

Bird flu kills second Vietnamese this year

HANOI, 15 Feb — Bird flu has killed a 40-year-old Vietnamese man who might have been infected after eating sick chickens, state-run media said on Thursday.
His death is the second in Vietnam from avian influenza this year.
The man died in a Hanoi hospital on Wednesday four days after being treated for lung and kidney failure, the

Liberation Saigon newspaper quoted the hospital’s deputy director, Nguyen Hong Ha, as saying.
The Health Ministry reported that tests confirmed the man from the northern province of Hai Duong, 50 kilometres (31 miles) southeast of Hanoi, had the H5N1 virus.
It brought to 49 the country’s toll from bird flu. Health officials have been monitoring the man’s relatives since last week after he and his family ate two chickens that had died from unknown causes. Dead chickens have also been reported in the neighbourhood.
Last month, bird flu killed a 32-year-old man from an ethnic minority group in the northern province of Tuyen Quang. MNA/Reuters

Bird flu spreads to another Bangladesh district

DHAKA, 16 Feb — Bird flu has spread to another district in Bangladesh despite massive culling by authorities to contain the outbreak, officials said on Friday, bringing the number of affected districts to 42 out of 64.
Veterinary workers culled nearly 25,000 fowls after tests confirmed some chickens had died from the avian influenza virus in Comilla, in the south east, livestock officials said.
The H5N1 virus, first detected in Bangladesh in March last year, was quickly brought under control through aggressive measures, including culling. But it reappeared few months ago, apparently because of lax follow-up monitoring, experts say. MNA/Reuters

Insurgents killed, nine detained in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 15 Feb — The US-led coalition forces have killed several insurgents and detained nine armed individuals in southern Afghan provinces of Uruzgan and Zabul during two separate operations, the military said Thursday.
The forces using aerial-delivered munitions attacked a group of insurgents on motorcycles in Tarin Kot District of Uruzgan Province Wednesday, killing “a number of insurgents”, said a coalition statement released here.
It added that the militants were associated with a Taleban leader responsible for conducting anti-government activities in the area.
In a follow-on search of compounds in the district targeting the local-based Taleban leader and his followers, the Coalition said they killed “a number of armed insurgents” and detained three armed individuals. —MNA/Xinhua



NASCAR drivers head through the tri-oval during a Daytona 500 practice run on Friday afternoon 15 Feb, 2008 at the Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla. The 50th running of the Daytona 500 starts on Sunday afternoon.—INTERNET

Study says pepper may help disfiguring skin condition

LONDON, 16 Feb — Black pepper could lead to better treatments for a disfiguring skin condition that affects about 1 per cent of the world’s population, British researchers said on Thursday.
A team at King’s College London showed in a study of mice that piperine—the compound that gives black pepper its spicy, pungent flavour —

and its synthetic derivatives helped stimulate pigmentation in the skin of people with vitiligo.
Piperine was particularly effective when combined with phototherapy treatment using ultraviolet radiation, the researchers said in a study to be published in the British Journal of Dermatology.

“We have shown that topical treatment with piperine stimulates even pigmentation in the skin,” Antony Young, a photobiologist at King’s College who worked on the study, said in a statement.
“This provides support for the future clinical evaluation of piperine and its derivatives as novel treatments for vitiligo.”
The disease, to which pop star Michael Jackson has in the past attributed his gradual skin whitening, destroys the melanin which gives skin its colour. Melanin protects from ultraviolet rays so victims run a much higher risk of skin cancer. MNA/Reuters

Indonesian Navy buys tanks from Russia

JAKARTA, 16 Feb — The Indonesian Navy has ordered tanks from Russia and South Korea to modernize its weaponry system, which according to the Navy chief Thursday was 90 per cent out of date.
“We have placed orders but they aren’t delivered yet,” Navy Chief of Staff Admiral Sumardjono was quoted

by leading news website Detikcom as saying during a visit to the Surabaya Naval Base in East Java.
He declined to cite figure. MNA/Xinhua

Meningococemia cases reported in Delhi, six killed

NEW DELHI, 15 Feb — Six deaths and 43 cases of meningococemia have been reported in the Indian capital Delhi so far this year, prompting the authorities to notice the deadly bacterial infection, the local newspaper Hindustan Times reported Wednesday.
Delhi’s health department said that 28 cases were reported in January and 15 new cases found currently in February.
This disease peaks in April and May and cases will continue to pour in till then. We are tracking down

the families of infected people and giving them precautionary medicines,” said Yadav, municipal health officer.
More cases are coming from areas which are congested and there is lack of hygiene, Yadav said.
Meningococemia is a severe bacterial infection in the blood stream. The disease can cause death in as little as 12 hours after infecting the patient. Sixty deaths and 441 cases were reported in 2005 while 34 deaths and 486 cases were reported in 2006 in Delhi. MNA/Xinhua

Truck collision kills two, causes chemical leak in Anhui

HEFEI, 16 Feb — A truck collision in the eastern province of Anhui killed two people and led to a chemical leak, local traffic police said on Thursday.
The accident occurred around 6:30 am on Wednesday in Bengbu, which is in the northern part of the province on a highway linking Nanjing and Luoyang in Henan Province. A truck rear-ended a tanker truck carrying cyclohexane, a toxic chemical that can cause irritation to the eyes and skin.
Two people died on the scene and another was injured. Local traffic police and fire-fighters managed to cap the leak. Investigations were continuing. MNA/Xinhua

Probiotics may be fatal in acute pancreatitis

LONDON, 15 Feb — “Good” bacteria commonly found in probiotic yoghurts and drinks may be fatal for people with severe cases of pancreatitis, Dutch researchers said on Thursday.

More than twice as many patients with severe forms of the disease given probiotic supplements to prevent infections died compared to those who received placebos, the researchers reported in a study in the *Lancet* medical journal.

“The adverse effects of probiotics noted here were unexpected,” Hein Gooszen and colleagues

at the University Medical Centre Utrecht in the Netherlands wrote. “Several studies have associated probiotics with a reduction in infectious pancreatitis.” Gooszen was careful not to link probiotics to any other specific condition but said they should not be given to severely ill patients with organ failure and on a feeding tube.

Probiotics contain live microorganisms, usually so-called good bacteria, that colonize the intestine.

They are sold as supplements but also found naturally in many fermented food including yogurt and certain juices.

Humans normally carry several pounds of bacteria in their intestines, and they are key to digestion, immune system function and possibly play other beneficial roles. They can also out-compete “bad” bacteria that may cause disease.

They have been used as a treatment for pancreatitis, an inflammation of the pancreas that can precede pancreatic cancer.

The condition usually develops and subsides quickly but can destroy the function of the vital organ when untreated.

MNA/Reuters



France has earmarked 500,000 euros (735,000 dollars) to save the great hamster, a species threatened with extinction through loss of habitat in its native Alsace, the ecology ministry said on 16 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Pentagon plans to shoot down disabled satellite

WASHINGTON, 15 Feb — The Pentagon plans to shoot down a disabled US spy satellite before it enters the atmosphere to prevent a potentially deadly leak of toxic gas from the vehicle’s fuel tank, officials said on Thursday.

President George W Bush decided to have the Navy shoot the 5,000-pound (2,270-kilo) minivan-sized satellite with a modified tactical missile, after security advisers suggested its reentry could lead to a loss of life.

US officials said they were not trying to protect classified information on the satellite or to demonstrate their capabilities to China, which downed one of its own satellites with a missile last year, drawing criticism from Washington.

Some experts disagreed and questioned the risks associated with shooting down the satellite.

Two defence officials also cited disagreement within the Administration over the action and said the decision appeared to

have been strongly influenced by the White House.

The Pentagon hopes to strike the satellite just before it reaches the atmosphere and drive it into ocean waters. Officials would not estimate the likelihood of success, only calling it high.

Thousands of space objects fall to Earth each year, but they generally scatter over a huge area and there have never been any reported injuries.

MNA/Reuters



Hair from women with breast cancer can be distinguished from hair obtained from women without the disease, researchers in Australia report.—INTERNET

New target promises better asthma, allergy drugs

LONDON, 16 Feb — Scientists said on Friday they were a step closer to developing a new class of easy-to-take asthma and allergy drug, capable of tackling the underlying cause of disease rather than just the symptoms.

By targeting a protein called p110delta, researchers believe they can block allergic reactions before symptoms occur, yet avoid a widespread shut-down of the body’s immune system.

Bart Vanhaesebroeck from Barts and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry said new research had proved the role of the protein in

allergic reactions in mice, which would encourage drug firms to accelerate development of treatments.

Vanhaesebroeck and colleagues worked alongside Merck-Serono on the project, the results of which were published on Friday in the *Journal of Immunology*.

Other drugmakers — including Pfizer Inc, Genentech Inc, Boehringer Ingelheim and biotech firms Piramed Pharma of Britain and US-based Calistoga Pharmaceuticals — were also interested in the area, Vanhaesebroeck said in a telephone interview.

MNA/Reuters

Qila, a 12-year-old beluga whale, swims towards a trainer at the Vancouver Aquarium in Vancouver, British Columbia, on 14 Feb, 2008. The Aquarium announced that Qila is pregnant and is due to deliver her calf in July or August.

INTERNET

Pakistan, India agree to increase air links

ISLAMABAD, 16 Feb — Old rivals Pakistan and India agreed on Friday to increase the number of flights and routes between their countries and allow more airlines to operate them, they said.

The agreement was the latest sign of steadily improving ties between the

nuclear-armed neighbours, four years after they launched a tentative peace process.

“Both sides expressed satisfaction that the new arrangement would further the objective of facilitating people to people contact, business and trade activities,” the two

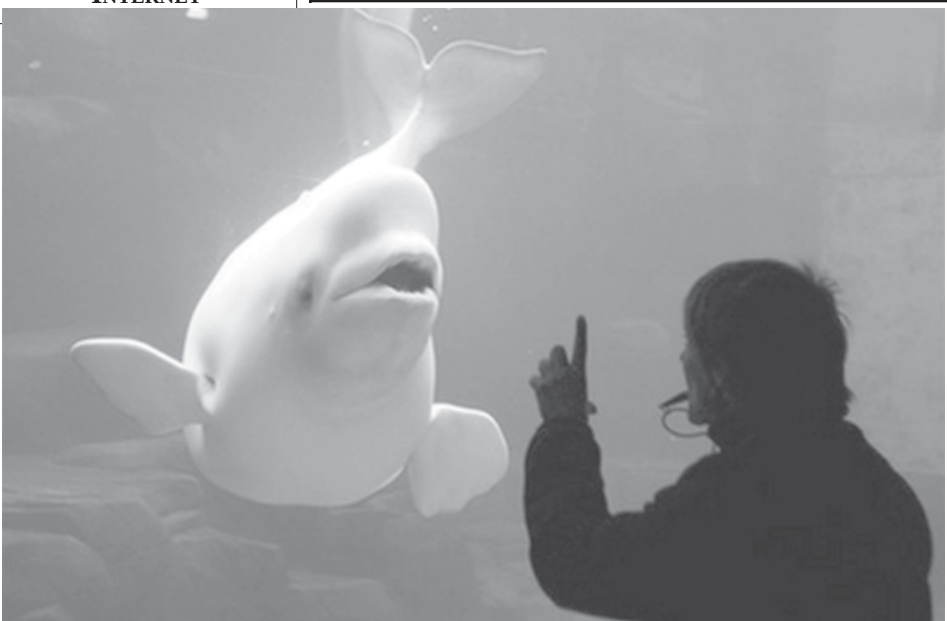
countries said in a statement.

Transport links, as well as other interactions including trade, have for years been limited between the countries, which have fought three wars since 1947 and nearly went to war a fourth time in 2002. At the moment, only one airline from each country operates between the Pakistani cities of Lahore and Karachi and the Indian cities of Mumbai and New Delhi.

Aviation officials agreed after two days of talks in Pakistan to add India’s Chennai and the Pakistani capital Islamabad as destinations and to increase the number of flights from each side every week to 28 from 12.

Each side can designate three airlines to operate on the agreed routes, they said.

MNA/Reuters



India's ageing Taj Mahal gets a mud pack face-lift

LUCKNOW (India), 16 Feb — Indian archaeologists have started giving a face-lift to the centuries-old Taj Mahal by applying a mud pack to the marble exteriors of the country's most famous monument.

The aim of the mud pack is to restore the gleam to the 17th Century architectural wonder in the northern city of Agra, about 400 kilometres (250 miles) from the capital.

"The first phase of the mud packing will take about five months," NK Samadia, an Archaeological Survey of India official, said by telephone from Agra.

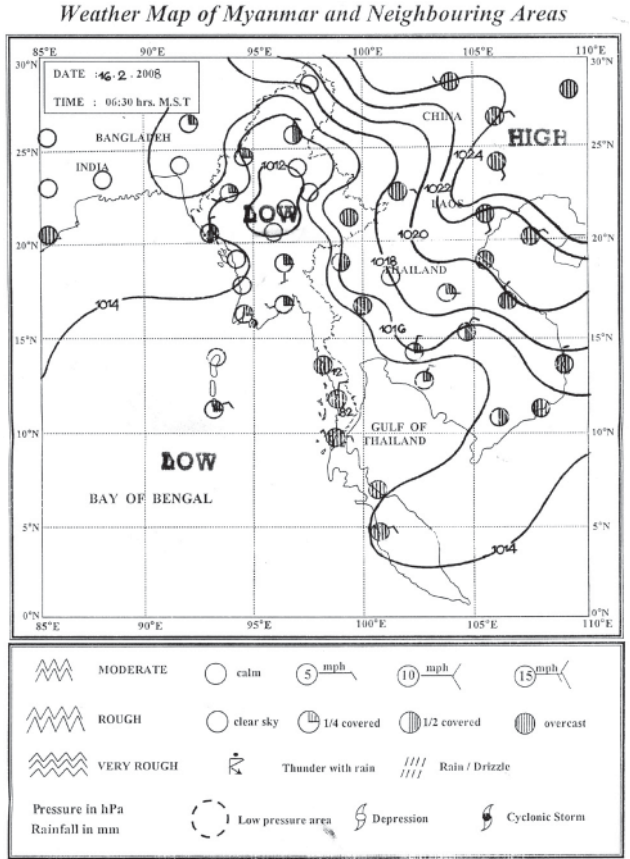
He said work started on the exterior on Wednesday. After that, the mausoleum's interiors will be treated.

Last year, an Indian parliamentary committee said airborne particles were being deposited on the monument's white marble, giving it a yellow tinge.

The mud pack will remain on the marble for about two or three days and then peeled off.

"That would be followed by a distilled-water wash of the surface to give the Taj a new look," Samadia said. The Taj Majal received a similar mud pack treatment in 2002, he said.

MNA/Reuters



WEATHER

Saturday, 16 February, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thunder-showers have been scattered in Taninthayi Division, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayin and Mon States, Bago Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (8°C) below February average temperatures in Magway Division, (5°C) to (6°C) below February average temperatures in Rakhine State, upper Sagaing and Yangon Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) below February average temperatures in Kachin, Chin and Shan States, Mandalay, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions, (6°C) above February average temperatures in Taninthayi Division and about February average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Loilin (1°C), Namhsam and Haka (2°C) each, Lashio and Mogok (4°C) each, Heho (5°C), PyinOoLwin and Magway (6°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Myeik (3.23) inches and Dawei (0.47) inch.

Maximum temperature on 15-2-2008 was 92°F. Minimum temperature on 16-2-2008 was 58°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 16-2-2008 was 73%. Total sunshine hours on 15-2-2008 was (8.8) hours approx.

Rainfall on 16-2-2008 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 (5) mph from Southwest at (18:30) hours MST on 15 -2-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 17-2-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Eastern Shan, Mon and Kayin States and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 17-2-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 17-2-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 17-2-2008: Generally fair weather.

Budget plane makes emergency land in Chiang Mai

BANGKOK, 16 Feb — A plane of Thailand's One-Two-Go Airline on Friday evening made an emergency landing in northern city of Chiang Mai, only 10 minutes after take-off due to technical problem.

The Flight OG 8127,

full of passengers, departed at 5:30 pm (1030 GMT) from Chiang Mai. But 10 minutes later passengers were informed there were technical problems and the plane had to return to Chiang Mai International Airport to have the machine repaired.

The plane landed safely without any casualties.

A passenger was quoted by local news network *The Nation* as saying that the plane shook heavily and air-conditioners had very loud noise while the plane was taking off.

MNA/Xinhua

Darth in the sky : An hot air balloon in the shape of Darth Vader from the Star Wars rises at the Tours and Taxis site as part of the Star Wars exhibition in Brussels.

INTERNET

Radio Myanmar

Sunday, 17 February
Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music
-Celebrate our love
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music
-Good sign
- 8:50 am National news
- 9:00 am Music
-One love
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Cultural images of Myanmar
-Lion statue
- 9:20 am Music
-With you
- 1:30 pm News/ Slogan
- 1:40 pm Children's delight (story)
-Little Mr Frog
- 1:50 pm Song for children
- 9:00 pm Weekly news review
- 9:10 pm Article
- 9:20 pm Music/ LIETS
-Owner of my heart
-What about now
- 9:45 pm News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL

TV Myanmar

Sunday, 17 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
- 7:50 am
5. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ (၃၈) ဖြာမင်္ဂလာ
- 8:00 am
6. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:10 am
7. ရင်းငြိမ်ရေထိန်းတံတား
- 8:20 am
8. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:30 am
9. International news
- 8:45 am
10. Say it in English
- 11:00 am
1. Martial song
- 11:10 am
2. Musical programme
- 11:25 am
3. Rong up of the week's International news
- 11:40 am
4. ထက်မြက်ပျော်ရွှင် အိမ်ထောင်ရှင်
- 12:05 am
5. "ရသနံလင်ပြုံးပျော်ရွှင် မြန်မာ့ရုပ်မြင်အစီအစဉ်" (ခန့်စည်သူ၊ ထူးသာပုလဲဝင်း၊ နန်းဆုရတီစိုး၊ ရတနာ၊ ဖြိုးဖြိုးခိုင် လှလှ၊ ဆင်မပွင့်၊ ကောင်းစံ၊ ရှက်တယ်၊ နေဦးလွင်၊ ရီတ)
- 12:45 pm
6. Musical Programme
- 2:00 pm
7. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 2:15 pm
8. "ရေမြင့်---ကြာတင့်" (ခန့်စည်သူ၊ ရော၊ ငှက်ပျောကြော်၊ ထင်ပေါ်၊ မိုးပြည့်ပြည့်မောင်၊ တက္ကသိုလ်ဝမ်းပုံ၊ မျိုးမျိုးခိုင်၊ (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဖုန်းမြင့်အောင်)
- 2:30 pm
9. ရှမ်းပြည်နယ်အရှေ့ပိုင်းနမ့်မွေ တံတား
- 2:45pm
10. International news
- 4:00 pm
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm
2. Song for uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm
3. Dance of national races
- 4:45 pm
4. ၂၀၀၈ခုနှစ်တက္ကသိုလ်ဝင်တန်း စာမေးပွဲဘာသာရပ် သင်ခန်းစာများ (အင်္ဂလိပ်ဘာသာရပ်)
- 5:05 pm
5. Sing and enjoy
- 6:00 pm
6. Evening news
- 6:30 pm
7. Weather report
- 6:35 pm
8. "အား---နာတယ်" (ခန့်စည်သူ၊ မိုးပြည့်ပြည့်မောင်၊ ရော၊ မျိုးမျိုးခိုင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဖုန်းမြင့်အောင်)
- 6:50 pm
9. လူငယ်များဆင်နွှဲဖုန်းရင်ရေခဲ တောင်အောင်ပွဲ
- 7:05 pm
10. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ ရုပ်သံအားမာန် (အပိုင်း-၁၄)
- 8:00 pm
11. News
- 12. International news
- 13. Weather report
- 14. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "မာယာထောင်ချောက်" (အပိုင်း-၂)
- 15. The next day's programme

People's Desire

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

Minister inspects upgrading tasks of Ywathagyi Railway Station



Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min inspects earth work for extension of Ywathagyi Railway Station and its yard.—MR

YANGON, 16 Feb — Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min together with Deputy Minister U Pe Than looked into earth work for extension of Ywathagyi Railway Station and its yard this afternoon.

Next, the minister went to Toegyaungalay and Dagon University Stations. He then met with officials of Dagon University and gave instructions on meas-

ures taken for smooth transportation of students by train. The minister inspected greening and beautifying task and growing of shade trees in the yard of the station and cleanliness of carriages.

Next, the minister inspected the maintenance task along the railroad section from Dagon University to Yangon Railway Station by RBE and stressed the need to upgrade railway traffic signal system. — MNA

Objectives of the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day

- * To work in concert with the people in building a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation
- * To realize the seven-step Road Map of the State joining hands with the people
- * Joining hands with the people and based on Union Spirit to crush internal and external destructive elements sabotaging stability and development of the State
- * To build a strong, capable and modern patriotic Tatmadaw to safeguard Our Three Main National Causes



A hummingbird hovers over a flower as it prepares to suck its nectar, in Montevideo.—INTERNET

- ★ **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**