

Myanmar and Russian Heads of State, Heads of Government and Foreign Ministers exchange felicitations on occasion of Sixtieth Anniversary of Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Myanmar and Russia

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb—*On the occasion of the Sixtieth Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Union of Myanmar and the Russian Federation, the following messages of felicitations were exchanged between the Heads of State, the Heads of Government and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the two countries.*

Message from His Excellency Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, to His Excellency Mr Vladimir V Putin, President of the Russian Federation.
Excellency,

On the auspicious occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Union of Myanmar and the Russian Federation, I have great pleasure in extending to Your Excellency, and through you to the people of the Russian Federation, our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes.

The Union of Myanmar and the Russian Federation have maintained friendly relations since we established diplomatic relations in 1948. The bonds of friendship and cooperation between our two countries have flourished over the past six decades.

In this new millennium there are many challenges that both our countries have to face. It is our sincere desire to jointly work with the Russian Federation in resolving the common challenges bilaterally as well as multilaterally, in the spirit of mutual understanding, confidence and active cooperation. I firmly believe that our common endeavours would assist us in our quest for peace, security and prosperity not only among us but also the region as a whole.

May I take this opportunity to convey my personal best wishes for Your Excellency's good health and success and for the continued progress and prosperity of the Russian Federation.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Message from His Excellency Mr Vladimir V Putin, President of the Russian Federation to His Excellency Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar.
Esteemed Mr Chairman,

Please accept sincere congratulations on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Russian Federation and the Union of Myanmar.

These six decades were marked by true friendship, mutual respect and multidimensional cooperation. I am confident that fruitful interaction will be the basis for further development of bilateral relations, broadening of contacts and strengthening of mutual understanding between the peoples of our multinational countries.

I wish you, Mr Chairman, good health and success in implementation of large-scale political changes, as well as well-being and prosperity to all citizens of Myanmar.

(See page 2)

Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects regional development tasks in Rakhine State

People of Rakhine State to strive for development of the whole state making use of natural resources plus good opportunities created by the government

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Feb — Prime Minister General Thein Sein accompanied by Maj-Gen Khin Zaw of the Ministry of Defence, ministers, deputy ministers and departmental heads left here by air for Sittway yesterday

morning and arrived at Sittway Airport at 9.15 am.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein and party were welcomed at the airport by Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of West-

ern Command Maj-Gen Maung Shein, Brig-Gen Than Tun Aung of Sittway Station, senior military officers and departmental heads.

(See page 8)



Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects runway of Sittway Airport.—MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 18 February, 2008

Strive for perpetual existence of flora and fauna

Myanmar is blessed with bio-diversity. A wide array of bio-diversity can be found on snowcapped mountains in the far northern region of Myanmar, in the central Yoma forests and the waters of the nation.

The existence of mountains, lands and natural forests contributes a lot to wildlife, flora and fauna and marine resources. Systematic measures are being taken for conservation of natural resources such as forests, lands and minerals.

Deforestation is a major factor causing global climate change. It has resulted in soil deprivation, floods and desertification.

Nowadays, the government is striving for conservation of forests in order to bring about a balanced environment. As a result, there has emerged over 60,000 square miles of reserve forests, protected public forests and sanctuaries.

In the meantime, efforts are being made for greening of Bago Yoma and the arid zone of Upper Myanmar with the extended establishment of forest plantations and sanctuaries.

As the government is stepping up its efforts for greening of 13 districts forests are now thriving in different parts of the zone.

The public should be well aware of the fact that the excessive use of forest products plus environmental pollution could cause adverse effects on the perpetual existence of bio-diversity.

Just as natural resources are indispensable for human beings it is incumbent upon the entire national people to continue conserving forests, endangered species and flora and fauna. Only then, will the drive for perpetual existence of natural resources meet with success.



Players of Filipino and Furious competing in men's event of basketball tournament.

NLM



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

Myanmar and Russian Heads of State, Heads of Government...

(from page 1)

Message from His Excellency General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar to His Excellency Mr Viktor Zubkov, Prime Minister of the Russian Federation

On the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Union of Myanmar and the Russian Federation, I have the pleasure to extend, on behalf of the Government of the Union of Myanmar and on my own, warm congratulations and best wishes to Your Excellency and through you, to the Government and people of the Russian Federation.

Over the past 60 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries, we have been able to maintain friendly relations based on mutual understanding and cooperation.

We look forward to working closely with Your Excellency to further consolidate and develop the existing friendly relations through frequent contacts and exchange of visits between leaders of our two countries as well as officials at various levels and to enhance cooperation in the areas of mutual interests in the spirit of equality and mutual benefit.

We are confident that the existing ties of friendship nurtured and maintained between our two countries will be further strengthened in the years to come.

Please accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

Message from His Excellency U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar to His Excellency Mr Sergey V Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

On this auspicious occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Union of Myanmar and the Russian Federation, I would like to convey to Your Excellency my sincere best wishes and warmest felicitations.

For the past 60 years, successive national leaders have maintained friendly relations based on mutual understanding and cooperation. It is our bounden duty to continue with utmost efforts to promote the relations existing between the two countries.

I am fully convinced that this memorable event will generate momentum to elevate the existing cordial and cooperative relations between our two countries to a higher level on a firm basis of true friendship, mutual respect and profound understanding.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Message from His Excellency Mr Viktor Zubkov, Prime Minister of the Russian Federation to His Excellency General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar

Esteemed Mr Prime Minister,

Please accept my sincere congratulations on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Russian Federation and the Union of Myanmar.

I highly appreciate the years of experience of fruitful cooperation between our countries in various fields. I hope for continuation of close interaction between the Governments of Russia and Myanmar with aim of further enhancing and diversification of Russia-Myanmar relations, especially in trade and investment sectors, for the well-being and prosperity of Russian and Myanmar people.

I wish you, Mr Prime Minister, good health, personal happiness and success in your important position.

Message from His Excellency Mr Sergey V Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation to His Excellency U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar

Esteemed Mr Minister,

I cordially congratulate you on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Russian Federation and the Union of Myanmar.

I am glad to acknowledge the substantial contribution that our foreign services traditionally make to strengthen historical friendly ties between our countries and nations. I am confident that the further deepening of our interaction in all directions, and on international arena as well meets the interests of people of Russia and Myanmar and constitutes as important aspect of safeguarding peace and security in Asia-Pacific Region.

I wish you, Mr Minister, good health, well-being and success in your important activity for the good of Myanmar people.

MNA

Horizon League Basketball Tournament continues

YANGON, 17 Feb — The Horizon League Basketball Tournament for 2007-08 jointly organized by Myanmar Basketball Federation and Horizon International Education Center continued at Kyaikkasan Gymnasium here this afternoon.

In the competitions, WHO passed through Shadows 20-0 points; Blue Boy won over Last Vampire

60-35; and Filipino was defeated 66-80 by Furious.

In the men's event, KKS stood top on the table with five wins in five matches, Cow Boy and Red Star four wins in four matches each.

In the women's event, Kandawglay and Sky tied at the top position with two wins in two matches.

The tournament continues on 24 February.—MNA

Democrats accuse Bush of fanning terrorism fears

WASHINGTON, 17 Feb — Democrats accused US President Bush on Saturday of fanning terrorism fears shamelessly as he was about to lose certain authority to wiretap foreign suspects without a court warrant.

Bush, for his part, flailed the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives for what he called putting US security at risk for political motives in an election year.

The Democratic leaders of the House and Senate, responding to a Republican blitz on the issue, said there should be no question in anyone's mind that US intelligence agencies retained the right to take "all actions necessary to protect" US security. "For anyone to

suggest otherwise is irresponsible and totally inaccurate," Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid of Nevada and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California said in a joint statement.

Senator Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island, in the Democratic Party response to Bush's weekly radio address, added, "We know this

President dislikes compromise, but this time he has taken his stubborn approach too far."

"He is whipping up false fears, and creating artificial confrontation," said Whitehouse, a former federal prosecutor and Rhode Island attorney general who serves on the Senate intelligence and judiciary committees.

MNA/Reuters

Kenyans from the Kikuyu tribe shelter inside the police station in Kisumu, Kenya, as they fear for their lives on 15 Feb, 2008.

INTERNET

Explosion occurs at a Auckland restaurant

WELLINGTON, 17 Feb — An explosion at an Auckland restaurant caused furniture and debris to be strewn across the road early Sunday morning, New Zealand police said.

Police said the explosion, at Cafe Hasan Baba restaurant in the Auckland suburb of Howick, occurred just after

3:00 am local time (1400 GMT Saturday). No one was injured in the explosion or resulting fire.

Furniture was spread over a nearby street and cemetery.

Fire safety officers were investigating the cause of the explosion and fire.—Internet



Malaysian riot police fire tear gas during a rally in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 16 Feb, 2008. Malaysian police fired tear gas and chemical-laced water to break up an illegal rally Saturday by ethnic Indians demanding for racial equality ahead of general elections. — INTERNET



Death toll of suicide attack in Pakistan's tribal area rises to 46

ISLAMABAD, 17 Feb — The death toll of a suicide attack in northwestern Pakistan's tribal area has risen to 46 on Sunday, local TV channel DAWN NEWS reported.

The explosion took place near the election office of an independent candidate in Parachinar of Kurram tribal agency Saturday, the report said, adding that 46 people were killed and over 100 others injured in the attack.

The government has imposed curfew and

deployed army to maintain order in Parachinar after the suicide attack occurred.

The political agent of Kurram Agency Zaheerul Islam was quoted by the Associated Press of Pakistan as saying that the

bomb was planted in a car parked outside the election office of national assembly candidate Riaz Hussain Shah. He was addressing an election meeting inside the office when the blast occurred. —Internet

People gather at the site of a suicide car bomb attack in Parachinar on 16 Feb, 2008.

INTERNET



Tanzanians demonstrate against Bush visit

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 17 Feb — About 2,000 Tanzanians marched through Tanzania's capital on Friday and burned US flags in protest against a visit by President George W Bush.

Chanting "Bush is an oil thief" and "evil is not a foreign policy", the demonstrators, tried to march from the city's centre to the US Embassy on its northern outskirts.

They were diverted to open ground by a small force of

police but tore down US flags erected for Bush's visit this weekend and burned them.

The police did not

intervene and there was no violence. The protesters chanted "Who is a terrorist? Bush".

MNA/Reuters



Tanzanians hold placards as they demonstrate on the streets of Dar es Salaam, on 15 Feb, 2008. —INTERNET

Village defence volunteer killed in Thai South

BANGKOK, 17 Feb — A village defence volunteer was killed apparently by insurgents inside a teashop in Thailand's southern border province of Pattani Saturday morning.

Maduanwar Dohing, 32, was killed inside a teashop in Phorming village of Panare district at 7:00 am (2400 GMT), according to local

newspaper *The Nation's* website.

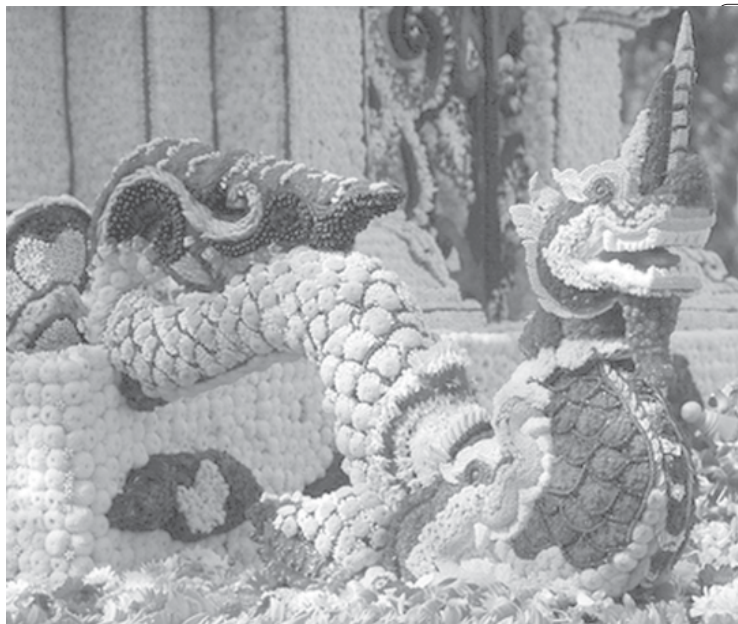
Police were quoted as saying that two men arrived on a motorcycle and opened fire at Maduanwar, a village defence volunteer, and fled on the motorcycle.

Also on Saturday morning, a suspected insurgent was injured during a gunfight with soldiers in Narathiwat

Province. The shooting occurred when about 50 soldiers searched the province's Borngo village for suspects.

When the soldiers approached a house, about five armed men ran out and fired at the soldiers. After the insurgents retreated, soldiers found a suspect left behind.

MNA/Xinhua



A dragon made of flowers decorates a float in the annual Flower Festival parade in Chiang Mai, Thailand, on 4 Feb, 2008.
INTERNET

DPRK urges US to withdraw forces from South Korea

Pyongyang, 16 Feb — The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) Friday criticized the United States for deploying its Armed Forces in South Korea, and urged Washington to withdraw its troops from the Korean Peninsula as soon as possible.

“The US forces’ presence in South Korea poses an actual danger to

ensuring peace on the Korean Peninsula,” said a commentary filed by the official *Korean Central News Agency* (KCNA).

“If the United States truly wants peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, it had better make a bold decision to pull its forces out of South Korea at an early date as this is a touchstone for showing its will for

peace,” the commentary added. Around 28,000 US troops are stationed in South Korea in a legacy of the 1950-53 Korean War, leaving the two Koreas technically in a state of conflict.

The number of American troops is set to decline to 25,000 by 2008 as part of the Pentagon’s worldwide realignment of its forces.—MNA/Xinhua

Protests over rape case continue in Okinawa

Tokyo, 16 Feb — Protests over a US Marine’s rape of a minor girl in Okinawa Prefecture continued Friday on the southern Japanese island, with nine local municipal assemblies passing resolution condemning the heinous crime.

The assembly of Futenma, where the largest US air force base in the Far East is located, demanded a quick finding of truth of the case and serious punishment for the criminal, according to

Japanese media.

It also requested the US forces to apologize to and compensate the victim, and take effective measures to fundamentally prevent similar incidents from happening again.

Up to now, a total of 16 local assemblies has passed documents condemning the case.

Representatives of the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly gathered in front of a US military base in central Okinawa,

demanding improved moral education and stricter discipline for the troops. In a statement released earlier in the day, the Okinawa Lawyers Association asked the Japanese and the US Government come up with swift and concrete plan for the realignment and reduction of Okinawa-based US forces, and take radical measures to prevent fatal crimes involving US military personnel.

MNA/Xinhua



A protest against the alleged rape of a 14-year-old girl in Japan’s southern island of Okinawa. Japanese prosecutors have said they expected to keep a US Marine in detention for over two weeks more before deciding whether to bring charges over allegations he raped a girl of 14.—INTERNET

Pakistan police arrest another suspect in Bhutto case

Islamabad, 16 Feb — Pakistani police arrested on Friday another suspect in connection with the assassination of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, a senior police investigator said.

“Yes, we have arrested a suspect and we are interrogating him,” said the investigator, who declined to be identified.

He identified the

suspect as Abdul Rashid but declined to give further details.

Private Geo Television said Rashid was suspected of providing “arms and ammunition” to those involved in the attack on Bhutto.

The two-time prime minister was killed in a gun and bomb attack in the city of Rawalpindi on 27 December as she left

an election rally.

Television footage showed a man firing three shots from a pistol at Bhutto moments before a bomb went off.

Pakistani and US intelligence officials have blamed Baitullah Mehsud, an al-Qaeda-linked militant commander based in a tribal region on the Afghan border, for the assassination.—MNA/Reuters

Lack of kit blamed for British soldier’s death

London, 16 Feb — A British soldier died after being sent into combat in Afghanistan with a lack of basic equipment, a coroner said on Friday.

Captain James Philipson of seven Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery was shot in the head in a gunfight with the Taliban in June 2006. The 29-year-old from Hertfordshire was the

first casualty after troops were deployed to the violent southern province of Helmand, where the Taliban remains strong.

Assistant coroner for Oxfordshire Andrew Walker said he died after an unforgivable “breach of trust between the soldiers and those who govern them”.

The inquest at Oxford heard that troops had

repeatedly complained about a lack of proper equipment, in particular standard night-vision kits.

Four kits had to be shared between as many as 30 men, the inquest heard.

The Taliban were armed with multiple rocket-propelled grenade launchers and other firepower, it heard. “They (the soldiers) were defeated not by the terrorists but by the lack of basic equipment,” Walker was quoted by the BBC as saying at the end of the inquest.

He said sending troops into a combat zone without basic kit was “unforgivable and inexcusable”, he added. —MNA/Reuters

US university shooting death toll rises to seven

Washington, 16 Feb — One more person injured in the shooting rampage at Northern Illinois University (NIU) has died in hospital, bringing the total number of those killed to seven, the authorities said Friday.

The shooting took place shortly after 3 pm (2100 GMT) Thursday when the gunman, a young, white male all dressed in black, walked out from behind a screen in a geology class taking place in 600-seat lecture hall and opened fire, the university’s president, John Peters, told a Press conference.

The gunman fired 20 to 30 shots at the some 160 students sitting in the hall before killing himself, he said. — MNA/Xinhua



A woman from the Kikuyu tribe, displaced during post-election violence, carries a hatchet at a police station in Bahati, on the outskirts of Nakuru, west of Nairobi, on 15 Feb, 2008. —INTERNET



Thousands of jobseekers crowd into the Spring job fair held in China International Exhibition Centre in Beijing on 16 Feb, 2008. The job fair offers over 20 thousands positions. —INTERNET

US economy “on the edge” of a recession

BEIJING, 16 Feb — Former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said the US economy is on the verge of its first recession in six years as falling home values hurt consumer spending.

“We are clearly on the edge,” Greenspan told a group of energy-industry executives at the Cambridge Energy Research Associates’ 27th annual CERAWEEK conference in Houston. He reiterated comments from last month that the odds of an economic contraction are “50 percent or better”.

Greenspan’s view has evolved from a year ago, when he saw a one-in-three chance of a recession, citing slowing profit growth and becoming one of the first economists to warn of the risk. Now, Wall Street firms including Merrill Lynch & Co and Goldman Sachs Group Inc are forecasting a contraction in the aftermath of the worst

housing downturn in a quarter century.

Fed Chairman Ben S Bernanke, Greenspan’s successor, acknowledged “downside” risks to the expansion on Thursday, while telling lawmakers he expects growth to pick up later this year. He reiterated the central bank is prepared to take “timely” action to aid the

economy as needed.

“While we are at stall speed in the US at the moment, we haven’t yet seen the discontinuity that characterizes recession,” Greenspan said during a question-and-answer session on Thursday. “American business was in such extra-good shape before this problem hit.

Internet



A woman with her baby in arms looks at a lantern displayed on a square in Fuzhou, capital of south China’s Fujian Province on 16 Feb, 2008. —INTERNET

China-Czech bilateral trade surges 61.9% in 2007

BEIJING, 17 Feb — Bilateral trade volume between China and the Czech Republic rocketed 61.9 per cent year on year to 9.9 billion US dollars, Petr Vavra, the Czech Embassy in Beijing’s commercial and economic section head, told Xinhua on Friday.

The Czech Republic

imported goods from China equaling 9.2 billion US dollars in 2007, up 61.1 per cent compared with 2006. This figure accounted for 7.8 per cent of the total Czech imports volume.

“China has become an increasingly important Czech’s supplier of machinery and electronic

products as well as consumer goods, including shoes, toys and glasses,” said Vavra.

The Czech Republic’s exports to China reached 700 million US dollars last year, up 73.7 per cent year on year, with a trade deficit of 8.5 billion US dollars.

MNA/Xinhua

Sinopec buys 64 gas stations from private Tianfa Group

BEIJING, 17 Feb — Sinopec, the country’s largest oil refiner, said on its website on Friday that its Hubei branch company in central China had signed an agreement to purchase 64 gas stations from the private-owned Hubei Tianfa Group.

The total assets of these

stations stood at 140 million yuan (19.51 million US dollars) after evaluation.

Hubei branch company of Sinopec has total assets of nearly five billion yuan and more than 1,800 filling stations.

Founded in 1988, Tianfa Group is a conglomerate engaged in

petroleum businesses, petrochemical development, papermaking and agricultural by-products.

It is the largest shareholder of the Shenzhen-listed Tianfa Petroleum, the country’s largest listed private oil firm.

MNA/Xinhua

Workers prepare a banner ahead of the Singapore Airshow in Singapore on 15 Feb, 2008. The Singapore aviation event, billed as the world’s second largest in size after Paris but smaller than others such as Dubai in terms of orders, is seen as a way for planemakers to get access to the fast-growing Asia-Pacific aviation industry. The show will run from 19-24 Feb. —INTERNET



No law to allow foreigners to buy land in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 16 Feb — Cambodia has so far prepared no law to allow foreigners to buy land on their own in the kingdom, said Prime Minister Hun Sen on Thursday at a school inauguration ceremony in Kampong Speu Province. “We have never thought and dreamt to organize draft law to allow foreigners to buy land in our country,” he

said. Some people wanted to criticize and tarnish the government before the general election on July 27, by gossiping that the government is planning draft law for foreigners to purchase land on their own in the kingdom, he said.

“If we have such a draft law, our neighbouring countries will buy all our land along the borders,” he said. — MNA/Xinhua

US food sales to Cuba hit new peak in 2007

HAVANA, 17 Feb — American producers sold 437.5 million US dollars in food to Cuba in 2007, a new peak in value despite Cuban complaints that the Bush Administration is hindering trade.

The main items were corn, chicken, wheat, soybean products and rice, according to the New York-based US-Cuba Trade and Economic Council, which monitors trade with Cuba.

Sales of agricultural

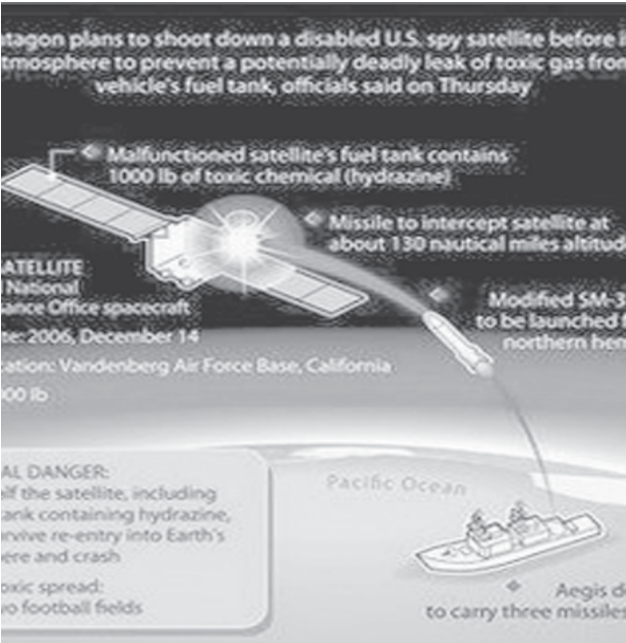
products to Cuba, allowed under an exception to the US embargo placed on Fidel Castro’s leftist government back in 1962, had fallen to 340.4 million US dollars in 2006 in a two-year decline.

Cuba’s food import agency Alimport blamed restrictions introduced by the Bush Administration, such as demanding Cuban payment prior to shipment, for causing US

sales to fall from a 2004 peak.

Alimport president Pedro Alvarez said the increased value of Cuban purchases last year reflect higher world food prices, not greater volume, and said trade with United States is flat.

Still, the fact is that the United States has remained Cuba’s main supplier of food and farm products, with sales totalling 1.99 billion US dollars since they began in 2001. — MNA/Reuters



An illustration explains how the Pentagon plans to shoot down a disabled US spy satellite. The United States pledged on Friday to compensate countries if debris lands on their territory from a dying US spy satellite that the Pentagon plans to shoot down.—INTERNET

US to compensate countries hit by satellite debris

GENEVA, 16 Feb — The United States said on Friday that it would compensate countries whose territory might be hit by debris of an inoperable US spy satellite that the Pentagon plans to shoot down.

Christina Rocca, US ambassador for disarmament affairs, said the United States had recently modified three SM-3 missiles and three US Navy ships to try to shoot down the satellite, which is currently in a decaying orbit.

Whether the effort succeeds or fails, the United States is prepared to offer assistance to countries to mitigate the consequences of any satellite debris impacts on their territory, Rocca told the Geneva-based Conference on Disarmament.

She added that if the action fails, the satellite is expected to make an uncontrolled re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere on or about 6 March in any region on the Earth's surface between 58.5 degrees North and 58.5 degrees South Latitudes. —MNA/Xinhua

Delhi policeman arrested in kidney racket scandal

NEW DELHI, 16 Feb — An Indian police inspector has been arrested for taking bribes from doctors accused of running an illegal kidney transplant racket on the outskirts of New Delhi, police said on Friday.

Ravinder Singh, an assistant sub-inspector in Delhi's police force, is accused of taking a two-million-rupee (50,000-US-dollar) bribe to let off doctors alleged to have forced poor labourers into donating their kidneys.

Singh and his colleagues visited the doctors on 7 January after receiving complaints, said police spokesman Rajan Bhagat.

"Instead of booking them under laws they let them off on a bribe," he said. Police in Gurgaon, one of Delhi's satellite cities, broke up the ring at the end of January.

MNA/Reuters

Turkey sends humanitarian aid to Iraq

ANKARA, 17 Feb — Turkish Red Crescent sent seven trucks loaded with 85 tons of humanitarian aid to Iraq on Friday, the semi-official *Anatolia* news agency reported.

"We will distribute the aid in Mosul and Tal Afar," Omer Tasli, director general of Turkish Red Crescent, was quoted as saying, adding that they also sent one communication vehicle and three personnel to the war-torn country.

Tasli continued that the organization would also send 23 tons of medicine and medical equipment, as well as 40 tons of serums to the region.

MNA/Xinhua

Taleban kills four police, takes away two in S-W Afghanistan

KABUL, 16 Feb — Taleban fighters attacked a police patrol, killing four policemen, wounding two others and taking away two more in southwestern Afghan province of Nimruz, provincial governor said on Friday.

The ambush on police vehicle took place Thursday evening in Chakhansur District of Nimruz, provincial governor Ghulam Dastagir Azad told *Xinhua* via phone.

Earlier, a purported spokesman for the Taleban Qari Yousuf Ahmadi told *Xinhua* via phone from an unknown location that the outfit's fighters killed four policemen, kidnapped two others and captured six machine guns during the attack.

MNA/Xinhua

Coach accident kills three, injures 14 in Vietnam

HANOI, 16 Feb — Three people have been killed and 14 others seriously injured as two inter-provincial coaches collided head-on in Vietnam's central Thua Thien Hue Province, local newspaper *Young People* reported on Friday.

The accident occurred in Phong Dien District on Thursday, killing two passengers instantly. Another passenger died in hospital.

The local driver of the coach en route from central Ha Tinh Province to southern Ho Chi Minh City fled away after the accident. —MNA/Xinhua

Quake jolts Mideast, injures three in Lebanon

BEIRUT, 16 Feb — An earthquake shook the Middle East on Friday, damaging buildings in south Lebanon where three people were injured.

The earthquake of magnitude 5.0 had an epicentre 15 kilometres (nine miles) northeast of the Lebanese coastal city of Tyre, according to the US Geological Survey website (www.usgs.gov).

The tremor was felt across Lebanon, Israel, the Palestinian territories and in the Syrian capital of Damascus. —MNA/Reuters



A South Korean dog sled racer competes in the first dog sled race held in North Korea at Mount Kumgang, North Korea 17 Feb, 2008. About 35 teams took part in the event held at a mountain resort run by an affiliate of the South's Hyundai Group. Due to a lack of recent snow, the racers used sleds mounted on wheels and competed on a coastal road with the Diamond Mountain range in the background.—INTERNET

Expanding US Service workers union backs Obama

WASHINGTON, 16 Feb — Senator Barack Obama's presidential campaign got a major boost on Friday, winning the endorsement of the influential 1.9-million-member Service Employees International Union.

SEIU President Andy Stern said the union's executive board "overwhelmingly" decided to endorse Obama for president. "It has now become clear the members of our union and the leaders of our union think that it is time to become part of an effort to make Barack Obama the next president of the United States," Stern said during a phone conference with reporters.

"We do think he has the experience and the vision we need in our next president," Stern said. He added that the labour group also had "enormous respect" for Obama's chief rival for the Democratic presidential nomination, Senator Hillary Clinton. The SEIU, one of the fastest-growing labour organizations in North America, represents health care and other service industry workers. The endorsement will allow Obama to tap into the union's organizational resources and help him in his battle for the Democratic presidential nomination against Clinton going into the 4 March primaries in Texas and Ohio.

MNA/Reuters

Orphans children sleep on a single bed at the SOS Children's Village Nairobi in Nairobi, Kenya, on 15 Feb, 2008. Orphanages in Nairobi have taken in dozens of children who had to flee their homes amid post election violence, as relief workers try to find their parents.—INTERNET



62nd Anniversary of MRTV marked



Director-General U Khin Maung Htay and congregation take the Five Precepts from a Sayadaw.— MNA

YANGON, 17 Feb —To mark the 62nd Anniversary of Myanmar Radio and Television, the ceremony to offer 'soon' to members of the Sangha was held at MRTV on Pyay Road, here, on 15 February.

Member of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Tipitakadhara Dhammabhandagarika Bhaddanta Sirindabhivamsa (Yaw Sayadaw)

administered the Five Precepts. Members of the Sangha recited Parittas.

Director-General U Khin Maung Htay and directors donated alms to the Sayadaws and shared merits gained.

After the ceremony, staff families of MRTV offered alms to members of the Sangha. — MNA

Myanma Motion Picture Award winners honoured

YANGON, 17 Feb — The Myanma Motion Picture Asiayon hosted a dinner in honour of Myanma motion picture award winning artistes and technicians for 2006 at the compound of MMPA on Winkabar Road in Bahan Township here yesterday.

It was attended by the directors-general and managing directors of the departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Information, officials of the Myanma Motion Picture Promotion and Scrutinizing Board, the patrons and executive members of MMPA and outstanding award winners.

First, Vice-Chairperson of MMPA Daw Myint Myint Khine made a speech on the occasion.

Managing Director of Super Coffeemix U Maung Maung Oo gave K 200,000 each to the motion picture award winners, Secretary of MMPA Malikha Soe Htaik Aung K 300,000 each and Chairman of Mingalar Cinema Group U Zaw Min (Mingalar) K 200,000 each. Best Sound Award winner Academy U Myo Nyunt (Pantha), Best Film Script Award winner Academy U Zaw Myint Oo, Best Film Editing Award winner Academy U Zaw Min (Hanthamyay), Best Cinematography Award winner Academy U Than Nyunt (Pantha), Best Music Award winner Academy Thaw Zin (Lawunein), Best Supporting Actor Award winner Academy Po Kyaw, Best Supporting Actress Award winner Academy May Thinzar Oo, Best Actor Award winner Academy Yan Aung, Best Actress Award winner Academy Nandar Hlaing, Best Film Director Award winner Academy Maung Myo Min (Yin Dwin Phyt) and Best Film Producer Award winner Daw Thein Thein Oo of Nawarat Film Production accepted the cash rewards.

On behalf of the winners, six-time Academy winner Yan Aung expressed thanks. Later, the award winners were served with dinner. — MNA



Malikha Soe Htaik Aung presents cash award to Academy Yan Aung.— MNA

Gas pipeline catches fire in Dagon Seikkan Township

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Feb — The gas pipeline supplying gas to Thakayta Sub-power Station from Insein-Ywama Gas Distribution Centre about 230 feet west of CNG Filling Station No 021 at the corner of Bago River Street and Ayeyawun Street in Dagon Seikkan Township, Yangon Division, caught fire at 11.45 am today.

Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and officials concerned inspected the scene where fire was put under control at 12.45 am. Consequently, the supplying of gas to the filling stations was temporarily cut off. The damaged pipeline is now under repair. There was no casualty.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

MNA

Third Thuta Swesone literary award presentation ceremony held

YANGON, 17 Feb — Under the supervision of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, Thuta Swesone Literary House of Swesone Media Group held the third ceremony to present Thuta Swesone literary award 2006 at Hotel Nikko on Natmauk Street in Tamway Township this afternoon.

Chairman of Swesone Media Group Dr Tin Tun Oo explained the purpose of presenting the awards and Chairman of the Prize Scrutiny Committee U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin) scrutinizing the prize winning works.

Departmental heads under the Ministry of Information, Chairman of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) and Chairman of Swesone Media Group Dr Tin Tun Oo presented Thuta Swesone Life-time Achievement Award to U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin), awards to Naung Sit Thi in the belles-letters genre, Maung Myint Kywe in the translation genre, Ye Yint Tint Swe in the international affairs genre, Nay Zin Latt in the youth literature genre, Dr Ma Tin Win in the arts genre, Bo Hlaing in the science genre, Dr Khin Maung Lwin (FAME) in the applied science genre, Khin Maung Nyo (Economics) in the social economic genre and Taung Soe in the reference genre.

Dr Tin Tun Oo donated K 500,000 to the funds of the MWJA through Chairman U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) and gifts to members of the Prize Scrutiny Committee.

On behalf of the winners, U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin) and Maung Myint Kywe spoke words of thanks. — MNA



Dr Tin Tun Oo gives Thutasweson literary award to a winner.— MNA

MCPA to conduct get-together on 29 Feb

YANGON, 17 Feb — Myanmar Computer Professionals Association will hold its 2nd get-together at Myanmar Info-Tech in Hline Township on 29 February.

Door gifts, lucky draw and MCPA bulletins for every person participating in the get together will be handed out and an entertainment program will be staged.

For further information contact MCPA, building-4, room-4, Myanmar Info-Tech (Ph-652276).— H

Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects ...

(from page 1)

At the lounge of Sittway Airport, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe reported to the Prime Minister on facts about the airport, completion of the extended building, extension of the runway and the apron, tarmacking of asphalt concrete along the runway.

Director-General U Tun Hlaing of Department of Civil Aviation briefed the Prime Minister on completion of progress of earth work, tarmacking of asphalt concrete, collection of materials and future plans.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister gave instructions. He said that if all the tasks of the project cannot be carried out at the same time due to some difficulties of expenditure and collection of heavy machinery and construction materials, priority is to be given to construction of the runway. In addition, he instructed officials to place emphasis on dredging of drains before the rainy season.

The runway of the airport is 6,000 feet long, 150 feet wide and 12 feet thick. The runway is tarmacked with concrete asphalt and its endurance is 73,000 lb. The apron is 600 feet long and 300 feet wide and the taxi way, 525 feet long and 75 feet wide.



Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets with departmental personnel, members of social organizations and local people.— MNA

to the needs.

Rakhine State has an area of over 14000 square miles with a population of more than three million who have been residing together since ancient times. The

state is covered with hills and mountains and forests and it has vast stretches of coastline with rich marine resources. It can produce rice, meat and fish and marine products not only for self-sufficiency but also for sales on commercial scale.

The Prime Minister said due to the poor transportation in Rakhine State, it lacked development in the past making its people to distance themselves from the people of other regions. Likewise, there were difficult communications between the north and the south of the State.

Therefore, in accord with the guidance of the Head of State, construction of Yangon-Sittway Union Road started in 1996 and it was inaugurated in February 2000. The State had to build the road passing through many mountains and creeks. Along the road there were 10 river-crossing bridges and over 800 small bridges.

Moreover, to enable Rakhine State to link its north and south and to have access to Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions, Yangon-Kyaukphyu Road was built applying the geo textile technique. Along the road there are 14 large bridges and over 600 medium and small bridges. In the past, those bridges were only a dream for the local people. But the dream has come true, thanks to the government's goodwill efforts, noted the Prime Minister.

(See page 9)



Prime Minister General Thein Sein visits General Hospital (200-bed) in Sittway.— MNA

At the City Hall in Sittway, the Prime Minister met departmental personnel, members of social organizations and local people. Commander Maj-Gen Maung Shein reported that the area of Rakhine State is 14,200 square miles. The state has 360 miles long beach. Next, the commander submitted the reports on formation of Rakhine State, land utilization, production of monsoon paddy and cultivation of summer paddy, growing 10 major crops, efforts made for meeting the targeted production, use of quality strain crops, cultivation of edible oil crops and edible oil sufficiency, planting of pepper, coffee, tea, rubber, oil palm, Thitseint (Belleric myrobalan) and physic nut, breeding of fish and prawn, progress of growing of rubber on 100,000 acres at MayU Mountain Range, matters related to road, bridge and dam projects in Rakhine State, progress in border trade and matters concerning education, health, social and cultural sectors of the state.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said he was there to study developments of Rakhine State, to continue carrying out regional development tasks and fulfill the requirements. He said he had also visited the townships of Kachin and Chin States and attended



Phaungdawgyi jetty in Sittway.— MNA



Aungsetkya Muni Buddha Image in Sittway.— MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects ...

(from page 8)

That is why all the national people living in Rakhine State are to strive for the development of the whole state making use of natural resources

ing of the constitution is nearing completion and announcement has been made to hold referendum in May for seeking approval of the people.

Furthermore, he said

the people.

The Prime Minister said that nowadays, a democratic state has come into shape as wished by the people. In conclusion, the Prime Minister urged those present to harmoniously participate in the tasks for emergence of the

vide health care services but also disseminate a wide range of health knowledge to the people.

The Prime Minister presented K 500,000 to the funds of the hospital through Medical Superintendent Dr Htay Kywe.

The Prime Minister revisited the child patient ward, the medical store, the ICU, the operation theatre and the x-ray room. Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint and the medical superintendent conducted the Prime Minister round the hospital.

Next, the Prime Minister comforted the patients.

Afterwards, they inspected Phaungdawgyi Jetty at Sittway Wharf.

At the briefing hall, Managing Director U Thein Htay of Myanmar Port Authority reported on matters related to buoys

(border) motor road between Myanmar and India and the water way of Kaladan River. Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe and Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe gave supplementary reports.

After hearing the reports, the Prime Minister instructed them to systematically carry out the tasks for the development of the region.

Next, the Prime Minister and party inspected the view point in Sittway and gave instructions on beautifying tasks.

At the briefing hall of the construction site of three-storey main building for Sittway University, Rector U Ba Shwe reported to the Prime Minister on background history of the university, academic and management matters, strength of

ter attended to the needs and urged the faculty members to organize the local youths and their parents in order to enjoy the educational opportunities created by the government with a view to promoting education standards and enabling the youth to enjoy fruits of education facilities. The Prime Minister stressed the need to nurture the students to become not only intellectuals but also good citizens equipped with patriotic spirit and Union Spirit.

Next, the Prime Minister cordially greeted the faculty members and looked into progress of construction of three-storey main building.

In the evening, the Prime Minister and party paid homage to the Lawkananda Pagoda in Sittway and donated cash for all-round renovation



Prime Minister General Thein Sein pays homage to Kakusan Buddha Image of Lawkananda Pagoda in Sittway.— MNA

plus the good opportunities created by the government. They are also urged to try to ensure peace and stability and the rule of law.

The people on their part are to systematically use and maintain the education and health infrastructures built by the State. Similarly, service personnel are required to try to fully realize the education, health and social objectives of the State.

The government is implementing the seven-step Road Map to transform the nation into a democratic one as aspired by the people. Now the first and second steps have been completed. As the third step, the draft-

the announcement has been issued to hold the Multi-party Democracy General Election in 2010 in accord with the forthcoming State Constitution. The Government is constantly performing the process of transition to democratic state that the people inspire. While carrying out the tasks for emergence of the constitution which will be in conformity with traditions and customs of the national races and natural resources, the government is undertaking tasks for ensuring stability of the State, prevalence of law and order, strengthening of sound economic foundations and disseminating wide knowledge to

constitution essential for the State and the people and emergence of a democratic nation in accord with the forthcoming constitution.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister presented gifts from ministries to Sittway Township USDA, MWAO, MCWA, WVO, Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigades and Sittway Township through officials.

At Sittway General Hospital (200-bed), the Prime Minister made a speech in meeting with doctors and health staff. In his instructions, the Prime Minister said that today doctors and health staff are to not only pro-

and jetties including Phaungdawgyi Concrete Jetty, export and import freight handling and income and progress in maintenance of Paletwa

the students and progress of the construction works. Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt made a supplementary report. The Prime Minis-

of the pagoda. They offered flowers and water to Aungsetkya Muni Buddha Image being kept in Aungsetkya Muni ordination hall and made cash donations. — MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein presents gift for Red Cross Society in Sittway.— MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein presents gift for Red Cross Society in Sittway.— MNA

Russia voices concern about US spy satellite situation

Moscow, 17 Feb — The Russian Defence Ministry expressed concern on Saturday about Washington’s decision to destroy its damaged intelligence-gathering satellite with air defence systems.

Washington’s decision to liquidate the spacecraft and the hastiness with which the Pentagon is trying to destroy its satellite raise a number of questions, said the Defence Ministry’s Department of Information and Public Relations.

“In particular, there are not enough arguments to substantiate the decision for intercepting the falling satellite with air defence systems,” *ITAR-TASS* news agency quoted the department as saying.

In addition, the United States has not provided “a comparative assessment of the consequences of intercepting the satellite in orbit and its uncontrolled descent”, said the ministry.

The ministry said the operation to destroy a US spy satellite could prove to be the testing of an anti-satellite weapon, the *ITAR-TASS* reported.

“Essentially, speculations about the danger of the satellite hide preparations for the classical testing of an anti-satellite weapon,” it said.

“Such testing essentially means the creation of a new type of strategic weans,” it added.

The United States plans to shoot down a malfunctioning spy satellite carrying toxic fuel, known by its military designation as USA 193.

The satellite, launched in December 2006, lost power and its central computer failed almost immediately afterward, leaving it uncontrollable.

Left alone, the satellite would be expected to hit earth during the first week of March.

Military and administration officials said the satellite is carrying fuel called hydrazine that could injure or even kill people who are near it when it hits the ground.

MNA/Xinhua



A man dressed as a Mexican Charro stands with members of Mexico City’s Chinese community during a Chinese New Year parade in Mexico City, on 16 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

214 m Chinese saw CCTV gala on Lunar New Year eve

BEIJING, 17 Feb — About 214 million Chinese in more than 100 million families, or 70 per cent of the national total, watched the annual Spring Festival evening gala broadcast live on the eve of the Lunar New Year.

Television (CCTV), still enjoys top audience ratings worldwide among Chinese, according to the latest survey of the Nielsen Media Research.

The annual Spring Festival gala celebration started in the 1980s. Since then, it has been the most popular TV event of the year. The special usually features dances, songs and short comedies.

This year’s Spring Festival fell on 7 February. The show was broadcast live by several CCTV channels from 8:00 pm on 6 February to 1:00 am the next day.

MNA/Xinhua



A private guard of an election candidate sits at the venue of a rally on the last day of election campaigning in Pakistan’s tribal town of Bannu on 16 Feb, 2008. Pakistan votes in a general election on 18 February.—INTERNET

Security to ensure peaceful elections in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 17 Feb — Pakistan will deploy 81,000 military troops and 400,000 police personnel to ensure peaceful elections on 18 February, Interior Minister Hamid Nawaz Khan said on Saturday.

Addressing a news briefing here, Hamid Nawaz said paramilitary troops including Rangers and Frontier Constabulary would be deployed to further tighten the security.

Hamid Nawaz said police from Northern areas and Pakistan-controlled Kashmir had also been called to deal with any untoward situation.

He elaborated that a total of 49,000 police personnel would be deployed in North West Frontier Province (NWFP), 130,000 in Punjab, 190,000 in Sindh and 25,000 in Balochistan on the polling day.

MNA/Xinhua

US judge dismisses “American Gangster” lawsuit

NEW YORK, 17 Feb — A federal judge has dismissed a 55-million-US-dollar lawsuit filed by former Drug Enforcement Administration agents against the movie studio that made “American Gangster”, but said the film got its facts wrong at the end.

General Electric, for falsely claiming the movie was based on a true story and harming the agents’ reputations.

The film, which grossed more than 127 million US dollars showed events sur-rounding former Harlem heroin kingpin Frank Lucas, portrayed by Denzel Washington and New Jersey detective Richard Roberts, de-picted by Russell Crowe.

MNA/Reuters

Third int’l forum on sinology opens in Lisbon

LISBON, 17 Feb — Portugal’s third international forum on sinology opened here at the auditorium of Macao Scientific and Cultural Centre.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the forum with the theme of “China and the Olympics”, Chinese Ambassador Gao Kexiang expounded the value of the 2008 Beijing Olympics to the host country.

Gao also outlined the promises of the Chinese Government to host a successful Olympic games and spoke of the ardor of the Chinese people to welcome the event. The ambassador hoped the forum could become a platform for the Chinese and European peoples along with the rest of the world to deepen mutual understanding.

An official from the Portuguese Foreign Ministry spoke of the friendly and peaceful relations between China and Portugal, adding that Portugal should strengthen cooperation in economy, politics and culture with China and further promote bilateral exchanges.—MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia may buy US jet fighters

JAKARTA, 17 Feb — Top Indonesian and US Air Force officials have met here for talks on bilateral defence cooperation, which may lead to the purchase of *F-16* jet fighters and *C-130 Hercules* personnel carriers, local Press said on Saturday.

Indonesian Air Force chief Vice Marshal Subandrio received US Under Secretary of the Air Force for International Affairs Bruce S Lemkin for a closed-door meeting on Friday, aimed at procuring new defence equipment for Indonesia, particularly combat and personnel carrier planes.

“We’ll consider purchases for the 2010-2014 period,” Air Force spokesman Rear Marshall Soenaryo was quoted by English-language daily *The Jakarta Post* as saying.

He said the latest version of *F-16* jet fighters was a necessary replacement for the Air Force’s aging fleet.

He said the Air Force would be able to save maintenance fees allocated between 2008-2019 by having the new jet fighters.

MNA/Xinhua

Fisher-Price's Kid Tough DVD Player is displayed at the American International Toy Fair on 15 Feb, 2008 in New York. It features a 3.2 inch color screen and rechargeable batteries. Fisher-Price is a division of Mattel.
INTERNET



Images of the Day



A mahout plays with an elephant during a show in the ancient Thai capital Ayutthaya, 80 km (50 miles) north of Bangkok, on 17 Feb, 2008.
INTERNET



South Korean girls wearing Korean traditional dresses perform during an exhibition programme of the International Skating Union Four Continents Figure Skating Championships in Goyang, west of Seoul, South Korea, on 17 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Susilo submits central bank chief candidates

JAKARTA, 17 Feb — Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono has submitted two candidates to the Parliament for the new governor of Bank Indonesia, replacing Burhanuddin Abdullah whose retirement is due in May.

The President nominated Bank Mandiri President Director Agus Martowardojo and Assets Management Company (PPA) Deputy Director Raden Pardede as the candidates, local newspaper *The Jakarta Post* reported Saturday.—MNA/Xinhua

Kiribati declares world's largest marine reserve

WELLINGTON, 17 Feb — The tiny Pacific island nation of Kiribati has declared the world's largest marine protected area, the Suva-based *Pacnews* reported on Friday.

The Phoenix Islands Protected Area (PIPA), a California-sized ocean wilderness, includes pristine reefs and eight coral atolls teeming with fish and birds.

It lies about halfway between Hawaii and Fiji and also includes undersea mountains. It would conserve one of the Earth's last intact oceanic coral archipelago ecosystems.

Kiribati Environment Minister Tetapo Nakara said the government wanted to conserve the area's "biological diversity".—MNA/Xinhua

Precision clock traps atoms in light to keep time

CHICAGO, 17 Feb — US physicists have made a clock so accurate it will neither gain nor lose even a second in more than 200 million years, a finding sure to please even the most punctually minded.

The clock, described in the Friday issue of the journal *Science*, outperforms the official atomic clock used by the US Commerce Department's National Institute of Standards and Technology, which promises to keep accurate time down to the second for 80 million years.

The new atomic clock is vying for the title of world's most accurate with another experimental clock developed in the same lab at the Joint Institute for Laboratory Astrophysics, a collaboration between NIST and the University of Colorado in Boulder.

MNA/Reuters

Wal-Mart, rivals pick Blu-ray in HD DVD disaster

NEW YORK, 17 Feb — Wal-Mart Stores Inc on Friday abandoned the flailing HD DVD format, potentially ending a war over next-generation DVDs as it joined Best Buy and Netflix in supporting rival Blu-ray technology.

The format war between Toshiba Corp-backed HD DVD and Sony Corp's Blu-ray, often compared to the Betamax-VHS battle in the 1980s, has slowed the development of what is expected to be a multibillion-dollar high-definition DVD industry.

It also has been a thorn in the side of retailers, which have had to commit shelf space to devices from both camps even as they field complaints from customers frustrated that some films come out in HD DVD while others are released in Blu-ray.

MNA/Reuters

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TAMPAN VOYNO (171)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTO TAMPAN VOY NO (171) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.2.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Auction nets over \$40m for AIDS in Africa

NEW YORK, 16 Feb — Contemporary art collectors opened their wallets on Thursday and shelled out 42.6 million US dollars at a Valentine’s Day charity auction spearheaded by rocker Bono and British artist Damien Hirst to benefit the fight against AIDS in Africa. Spirited bidding and prices far in excess of pre-sale estimates marked “The (Red) Auction” at Sotheby’s, where all but one of the 83 contemporary works, each donated by the artists or their estates, found buyers.

The 42,584,300-US-dollar total easily eclipsed even the highest expectations of about 29 million US dollars for the

sale, which Sotheby’s said was among the biggest single charity events in history.

Proceeds from the sale were earmarked for the United Nations’ Global Fund’s fight against AIDS in Africa in conjunction with Bono’s “Red” brand, wherein products from major corporations including Apple, the Gap, Microsoft and Hallmark have generated 58 million US dollars for AIDS.

“This was a really historic night,” said Bono, sporting his trademark sunglasses. “I’m really very, very moved,” he said, having “seen people dying for lack of the two pills a day” it takes to treat AIDS.

MNA/Reuters

ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရန်ချိပ်ပိတ်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း (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 ၀၆၇-၄၀၈၂၉၈)

မြန်မာ့ကြွေထည်မြေထည်လုပ်ငန်း

Japan children to spend more time on math, science

TOKYO, 16 Feb — Japanese schoolchildren will spend more time on core subjects such as math and science under guidelines unveiled on Friday, in an effort to boost academic standards months after the country slipped in global education rankings.

The changes, to be implemented gradually from next year, reverse reforms implemented in 2000 to create a more

“relaxed” environment that would foster creativity and reduce rote learning. An OECD survey published in December showed Japanese 15-year-olds fell to sixth place from second among 57 countries in science, to 10th place from sixth in maths and to 15th from 14th in reading.

The new guidelines, which *Kyodo* news agency said would be formalized in March after

a period of public comment, would also strengthen “moral education” but stopped short of making ethics a formal classroom subject, as many conservatives had advocated. “Many people recognize the need for ethics education,” Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda told reporters. “There are various ways to do this even without making it a formal subject.”

MNA/Reuters

DPRK voices strong stand against US provocation

PYONGYANG, 16 Feb — Kim Yong-nam, top legislator of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Friday vowed to take strong counter-measures against any provocation by the United States, the official *Korean Central News Agency*

reported.

Kim made his remarks at a meeting to mark DPRK leader Kim Jong-il's 66th birthday, which falls Saturday.

"We are closely following the double-dealing attitude of the US as it is employing double-edged tactics of

appeasement and pressure, persistently trying to stifle the DPRK by force," he said.

"We will not tolerate even a slight hostile action on the part of the US but decisively react to it with a stronger measure," he added.

MNA/Xinhua

UK police chief demands apology over Diana probe

LONDON, 16 Feb — The former British police chief who conducted an inquiry into Princess Diana’s death angrily denied on Thursday “scurrilous allegations” that he had not done his job properly.

“Allegations trip off people’s tongues — it’s just not right,” John Stevens told the London inquest into the deaths of Diana and her lover Dodi al-Fayed, killed in a high-speed Paris car crash in August 1997.

“I am looking for an apology in relation to

that,” he told the court. “There were scurrilous allegations made.”

His police probe concluded in December 2006 that Diana’s death was a tragic accident and that she was not the victim of a murder plot, as has been alleged by Dodi’s father, luxury storeowner Mohamed al-Fayed.

Fayed alleges that his son and Diana were killed by British security services on the orders of Prince Philip, Queen Elizabeth’s husband and Diana’s former father-in-law. — MNA/Reuters



Jennifer Bishop with the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun ‘Violence, addresses a meeting of concerned parents interested in tougher national gun control legislation in the wake of the Northern Illinois University shootings, at Oakton Community College in Skokie, Ill, on 16 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

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U OHN MAUNG, B.Sc., B.L Advocate & Notary Public No. 3, 34th Street, Yangon.

Somali leader unhurt in mortar attack on residence

MOGADISHU, 17 Feb — Somali President Abdullahi Yusuf escaped unhurt from a mortar attack on his official residence in the capital on Saturday, hours after returning to Mogadishu from an overseas trip, one of his aides said.

“Four mortars were fired at the Presidential Palace. Three of them landed outside, while one landed inside the compound. No one was hurt,” the aide, who declined to be named, told *Reuters*.

He confirmed that Yusuf was in the heavily guarded presidential compound at the time of the shelling, but it was unclear whether the attack was directly targeting the president, whose forces are battling an Islamist insurgency.

Yusuf arrived in Mogadishu in the morning after seeking medical treatment abroad. The 73-year-old who had a liver transplant nearly 14 years ago left Somalia on 4 January, a month after a chest illness sparked a health scare. Presidential spokesman Hussein Mohamud Hubsired said Yusuf’s “main priority is to hasten the government’s works” and to continue reconciliation efforts to establish lasting peace.—MNA/Reuters



A man reads an informational pamphlet at an AIDS awareness exhibition in Patna, India on 13 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Study warns Indian women against smoking

NEW DELHI, 16 Feb — About 62 per cent of Indian women who smoke will die in their productive age as compared to 38 per cent of non-smokers, indicating that women smokers will lose about eight years of their life, says a new study.

The study, which was

published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* and was conducted by Indian, British and Canadian scientists, said women smokers are at a much higher risk of getting respiratory, heart and tuberculosis diseases as

compared to non-smokers.

“For both men and women, the risks of smoking are evident even before age 50. Around 15 per cent of women smokers would die in the age of 30-49, as compared with seven per cent of non-smokers,” said the lead author of the study Prabhat Jha.

The study said that 20 per cent of women smokers are at the risk of getting respiratory diseases as compared to 7 per cent who do not smoke.

MNA/Xinhua



Scotland's Mark Beaumont celebrates in front the Arc de Triomphe after completing his cycling around the world record attempt in Paris, on 15 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

UN peacekeepers, Tutsi rebels clash in east Congo

KINSHASA, 17 Feb — UN peacekeepers trying to enforce a ceasefire signed last month have clashed with Tutsi rebels in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, the United Nations said on Saturday.

One rebel was wounded in the incident on Friday and several were arrested by the South African peacekeepers, a spokesman for the

UN mission in Congo (MONUC) said.

Congo's Government, Tutsi insurgents loyal to renegade General Laurent Nkunda and Mai Mai militia signed a ceasefire on 23 January aimed at ending more than a decade of violence in eastern North and South Kivu provinces.

MNA/Reuters

Fossil found in China could be 580m years old

BEIJING, 16 Feb — Chinese archaeologists have found a fossilized body of an octoradiate spiral organism dating back 580 million years in the southwestern part of the country, the *Guangming Daily* reported. The creature in question would have been a multicellular animal.

The fossil was found in Wenghui Village, Jiangkou County, in southwest Guizhou Province. It was jointly confirmed as an octoradiate spiral organism

by a research team under the Institute of Geology of the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences and an expert from Switzerland's National Museum of Natural Sciences.

The fossil is three centimetres in diameter and is said to be a 580-million-year-old multicellular animal that belonged to the Sinian Period (800 million years to 570 million years ago).

It was the earliest spiral organism body fossil that

has so far been found by scientists, the *Guangming Daily* said.

The fossil is a new genus and might be the ancestor of coelenterate and spiral organisms. The new finding could provide very important evidence for the comparative study of phosphatized spheroidal fossils dating to the Sinian period and the Ediacaran fauna (635 million years to 543 million years ago), scientists claim.

MNA/Xinhua

Freezing cold kills over 900 in Afghanistan

KABUL, 17 Feb — Persistent cold snap and snowfall have claimed the lives of more than 900 people over the past six weeks in the war-ravaged Afghanistan, a government official said on Saturday.

Reports collected by authorities till Saturday indicated that 926 people including women and children have lost their lives and 231 others sustained injuries due to the ongoing bitter cold across the country, Amir Jan, an official with Anti-Disaster Directorate told *Xinhua*.

Some of the injured have

been left to amputate their fingers and toes because of cold-caused injuries, according to doctors in western Herat Province.

Most of the affected belong to the western Herat Province, January said, adding that also a number of poor people were reported affected in the northern provinces of Jauzjan, Sar-e-Pul and Faryab.

The official further said that 316,055 heads of cattle died due to cold in the Central Asian country.

The cold wave and snowfall starting from early January is continuing in major parts of the country and, according to local elders, is unprecedented over the past 20 years. The Afghan Government with the support of international community has distributed 52 million Afghanis (around one million US dollars) worth of humanitarian aid to the affected areas but the locals are calling for more assistance.— MNA/Xinhua

Britain publishes new space strategy

LONDON, 16 Feb — Britain published on Thursday its civil space strategy for 2008-2012 and beyond, outlining new proposals for the country's future involvement in an increasingly competitive international space sector.

The new proposals on how Britain would continue to be at the forefront of this expanding sector, an-

nounced by Science and Innovation Minister Ian Pearson, include continued involvement in Earth observation, space science and telecom development, and establishing an international space facility at Harwell, Oxfordshire, which will focus on climate change, robotic space exploration and applications.

. Closer involvement in international initiatives on the future shape of space exploration to the Moon, Mars and beyond, and setting up a national space technology programme to support the development of new, innovative technologies and services are also on the agenda.

MNA/Xinhua



River taxis are parked along the Singapore river with the Singapore Financial District in the background on 15 Feb, 2008 in Singapore. Singapore's Finance Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam said Friday the government will post a budget surplus of 6.4 billion Singapore dollars (US\$4.52 billion) for the fiscal year ending March 2008.—INTERNET

SPORTS

Maldini hails his mother after notching up 1,000th game

MILAN, 17 Feb — Paolo Maldini thanked his mother for standing by him during his career after making his 1,000th professional appearance in AC Milan's draw at Parma on Saturday.

The 39-year-old, who retires at the end of the season, reached the milestone as a second-half substitute.

"I would like to dedicate this achievement to my family, in particular my mother who has followed me all these years and has always stayed close," he told reporters.

Maldini made his debut for Milan aged 16 against Udinese in a Serie A match in January 1985. He also amassed a record 126 caps for Italy, captaining his country on 64 occasions before retiring from the international game in 2002. —MNA/Reuters



Italy's Karin Knapp returns the ball to China's Li Na during the semi-finals of the Proximus Diamond Games tennis tournament in Antwerp on 16 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Real midfielder Sneijder out with rib injury

MADRID, 17 Feb — Real Madrid midfielder Wesley Sneijder is expected to be out of action for between three and six weeks after fracturing a rib in training on Friday.

The Dutch international midfielder will miss both legs of his side's Champions League last 16 tie against AS Roma and up to seven league matches because of the injury.

Real will also be missing Brazil forward Robinho, centre-backs Christoph Metzelder and Pepe and striker Javier Saviola for the Roma match, while Argentine defender Gabriel Heinze is doubtful. —MNA/Reuters

Answers to yesterday's Crosswords Puzzle

1	C	A	L	M	E	R		4	L	I	G	H	T	6
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	L		A		11	E	G	R	E	12	T		C	E
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15	G	U	M	M	E	16		17	A	P	A	T	H	18
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24	N	E	A	R	E	R			25	T	A	N	N	E
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Primera Liga reports

MADRID, 17 Feb — Brief reports of matches played in the Primera Liga on Saturday:

Espanyol 2 Sevilla 4

Sevilla raced into a 2-0 lead after just 11 minutes, the Primera Liga's leading scorer Luis Fabiano notching his 17th of the season with the opener and African Footballer of the Year Frederic Kanoute adding the second. Espanyol pulled one back before the break through Spain striker Luis Garcia but the home side suffered a major setback when Argentine defender Pablo Zabaleta was sent off on 65 minutes.

Sevilla midfielder Christian Poulsen sparked a second half flurry of goals when he scored with a pile-driver from the edge of the area to make it 3-1, Espanyol striker Ferran Corominas responded with a great volley before winger Diego Capel wrapped up with a first-time finish from close range.

Real Betis 2 Real Madrid 1

A second away defeat in a row for Real who took an early lead when Dutch midfielder Royston Drenthe ghosted in at the far post to steer in a neat pass from compatriot Arjen Robben.

But strugglers Betis turned the tables on the leaders before the break with two goals in the space of four minutes, Brazilian Edu heading in the first and former Liverpool winger Mark Gonzalez nodding in a carbon copy second.

Real Zaragoza 1 Barcelona 2

Barcelona claimed only their fourth win on the road this season in controversial fashion when Ronaldinho fired home from the penalty spot seven minutes from time after Zaragoza defender Juanfran was adjudged to have handled as he cleared his area.

Thierry Henry put Barca ahead late in the first half when he steered in past keeper Cesar after appearing to control a through pass from Deco with his hand.

Argentine international Diego Milito missed a chance to equalize before the break when he fired a penalty over the bar but strike partner Ricardo Oliveira levelled early in the second half after good work from former Barcelona player Sergio Garcia.

MNA/Reuters



Jeff Quinney hits a shot on the second hole in the third round of the Northern Trust Open golf tournament at Riviera Country Club in the Pacific Palisades area of Log Angeles on 16 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Angela Park of South Korea chips onto the 15th green during the final round of the SBS Open golf tournament in Kahuku, Hawaii, on 16 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Wenger hits back at Blatter criticism

LONDON, 16 Feb — Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger hit back on Friday at FIFA president Sepp Blatter's criticism of the English Premier League's plans to play a round of international fixtures all over the world.

Wenger, who said he was "not a 100-per-cent defender of the idea", said he felt it was unreasonable to criticise the proposals without weighing up the implications.

"My reaction is that I am surprised by the immensity of the battle, that people are against it without really analysing the pros and the cons," he told reporters on Friday.

Blatter was quoted as saying on Thursday the scheme was a money-making exercise that ignored the wishes of fans and may also affect England's bid to stage the 2018 World Cup finals.—MNA/Reuters



Betis' Rafael Sobis of Brazil shields the ball from Real Madrid's Fabio Cannavaro from Italy during a Spanish League soccer match at the Ruiz de Lopera Stadium against Betis in SEville, southern Spain, on 16 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Premier League chief sticks by overseas matches plan

LONDON, 17 Feb — Premier League chief executive Richard Scudamore has stuck by his widely-criticized plans to play extra matches abroad and accused FIFA President Sepp Blatter of not knowing enough about the idea when he denounced it. The 20 top flight clubs agreed last week to consider extending the league season to 39 games from 38 to include an international round of fixtures to be staged in January.

Blatter has said the plan could harm England's bid to host the 2018 World Cup and also accused rich clubs of simply wanting to get richer, while the English FA told FIFA on Friday it had serious reservations over the proposals. Scudamore told Saturday's edition of The Times that he wanted to meet Blatter to explain the plan in more detail so he could make a more informed judgement. —MNA/Reuters

Japan's Nishikori reaches first semi at Delray

DELRAY BEACH (Florida), 16 Feb — Japanese teenager Kei Nishikori reached the semifinal of an ATP event for the first time in his career after a 6-2, 6-4 victory over American Bobby Reynolds in the Delray Beach International on Friday.

The 18-year-old Nishikori will meet the US's Sam Querrey in Saturday's semi-final after he comfortably beat compatriot Vincent Spadea 6-2, 6-4.

Nishikori's previous best result was a quarterfinal finish in last year's event at Indianapolis.

The other two quarterfinals feature top-seed James Blake of the US against Russian Igor Kunitsyn and another all-American match-up between Robby Ginepri and Mardy Fish. — MNA/Reuters



Crash at street car race kills 8 near Washington

WASHINGTON, 17 Feb — Eight people were killed early on Saturday when a car plowed into roadside spectators watching an illegal high-speed street race in a town near Washington, according to media reports.

A sedan, which had not taken part in the race, crashed into the crowd gathered along a highway in Accokeek, Maryland, 20 miles (30 kilometres) south of Washington, at about 3 a.m., *The Washington Post* said.

"The driver told police that he was blinded by a cloud of white smoke and debris kicked up by the spinning wheels of two vehicles that had just finished racing," it said.

"It was a very horrific scene with the number of individuals in the road at one time and the amount of debris," the Post quoted Corporal Clinton Copeland of the Prince George's County Police Department as saying.

Eight people were killed and at least five were

injured, including a passenger in the sedan, the newspaper said. Police had said earlier the passenger was among those killed.

The Post quoted one of the spectators as saying a crowd of between 200 and 300 people had gathered to watch the race.

Copeland said it was too early to determine if any criminal charges would be filed.—MNA/Reuters



A Maryland State Police helicopter takes off from the scene of a car crash on Indian Head Highway, on 16 Feb, 2008, in Accokeek, Md.

INTERNET

Quake jolts Bolivia-Chile border, no damage

SANTIAGO, 17 Feb — A 6.0 magnitude earthquake struck Bolivia in the region of Potosi near the border with Chile on Saturday, but there were no immediate reports of injuries or damages.

The US Geological Survey said the quake was centered about 105 miles (170 kilometres) northeast of Calama, Chile, and had a magnitude of 6.0.

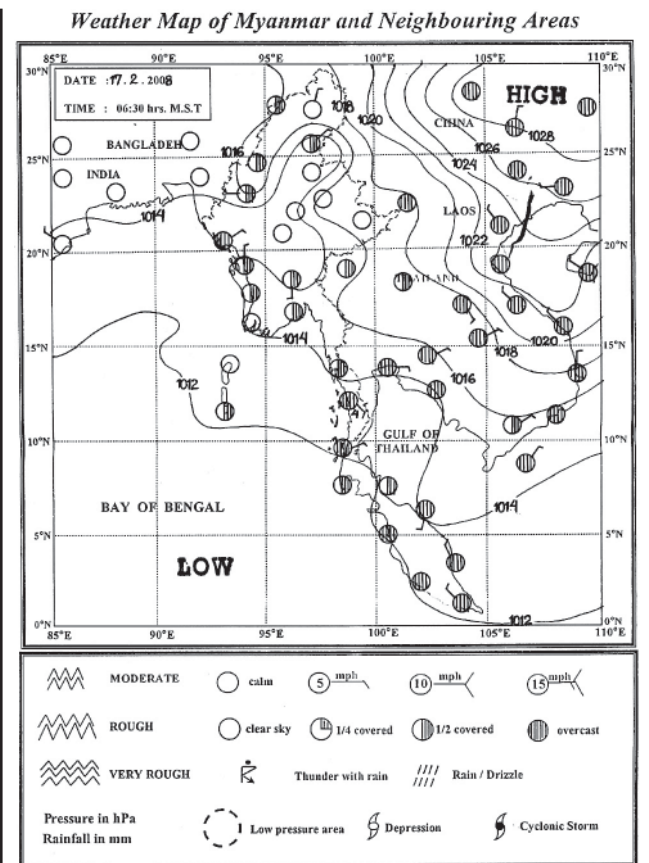
It hit at 1445 GMT at a depth of 83 miles (134 kilometres), the agency said.

No injuries or damages were reported in either

country. Chile's emergency response agency described the tremor as a "low intensity quake".

The mineral-rich northern Chile region has experienced several tremors of similar strength since a mammoth 7.7-magnitude quake on November 14 interrupted production at some of the country's largest copper mines.

MNA/Reuters



WEATHER

Sunday, 17 February, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30

hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thunder-showers have been isolated in Taninthayi Division, weather has been partly cloudy in Shan, Mon and Kayin States, and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below February average temperatures in Shan, Kayah and Kayin States, lower Sagaing Division, (5°C) to (6°C) below February average temperatures in Kachin and Rakhine States, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, (7°C) to (8°C) below February average temperatures in Chin State, upper Sagaing, Magway and Bago Divisions, (5°C) above February average temperatures in Taninthayi Division and about February average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Haka (-2°C) Loilin (-1°C), Heho and Namhsam (1°C) each, An (2°C), Pinlaung and Pyin Oo Lwin (4°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded was Myeik (0.16) inch.

Maximum temperature on 16-2-2008 was 92°F. Minimum temperature on 17-2-2008 was 57°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 17-2-2008 was 62%. Total sunshine hours on 16-2-2008 was (8.8) hours approx.

Rainfall on 17-2-2008 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 (8) mph from Southwest at (14:15) hours MST on 16-2-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 18-2-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Eastern Shan, Mon and Kayin States, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady divisions 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 decrease of night temperatures in the upper Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 18-2-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 18-2-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 18-2-2008: Generally fair weather.



Monday, 18 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. Song of national spirit

8:05 am

6. Cute little of dancers

8:25 am

7. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:35 am

8. International news

8:45 am

9. Grammer made easy

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Song for uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာတတိယနှစ်(သမိုင်းအထူးပြု)(သမိုင်း)

4:45 pm

4. ၂၀၀၈ခုနှစ်တက္ကသိုလ်ဝင်တန်းစာမေးပွဲဘာသာရပ်ဆိုင်ရာသင်ခန်းစာ(သရုပ်ဘာသာရပ်)

5:10 pm

5. Dance variety

5:25 pm

6. Songs and dance of national races

5:35 pm

7. "မင်းမသိသေးပါဘူးကွာ" (ဧရာဝတီပျော့ကြွေချစ်စရာကြူကြူသင်းအေးအေးခိုင်ခိုင်)(ခါရိုက်တာ-ဆွေစင်ထိုက်)

5:45 pm

8. Musical programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)

6:00 pm

9. Evening news

6:30 pm

10. Weather report

6:35 pm

11. အလှူရှာမယ်၊ လှူကမ္ဘာဝယ်

7:05 pm

12. Musical Programme

7:20 pm

13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "မြူနိုင်းဝေဝေချစ်သက်တည်" (အပိုင်း-၂၄)(ဇာတ်သိမ်းပိုင်း)

8:00 pm

14. News

15. International news

16. Weather report

17. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

"မေတ္တာမျဉ်းပြိုင်" (အပိုင်း-၄)

18. The next day's programme

People's Desire

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

Lt-Gen Myint Swe attends 6th Annual General Meeting of MITC Ltd

YANGON, 17 Feb — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence attended the 6th Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Information Technology Corporation Ltd for 2006-07 financial year at the meeting hall of Myanmar Info-Tech on Hline Campus, here, this morning.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, Chairman of e-National Task Force Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Vice-Chairman member of Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Aung Myint, Deputy Minister for CPT Maj-Gen Thein Tun and officials, the

Chairman of the Board of Directors of the association and director members and share-holders.

Chairman of e-National Task Force Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw explained the endeavours of the State for development of IT sector.

Chairman of the BODs U Thein Oo reported on tasks of the corporation.

Afterwards, the BOD's report, the financial statement and the audit report were submitted and approved. Next, the meeting assigned duties to the audit party, elected new BODs and replied to the queries raised by the share-holders.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the chairman. — MNA



Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence attends 6th Annual General Meeting of MITC and Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw making a speech.—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

Significant Night Temperatures

Haka	(-2°C)
Loilem	(-1°C)
Heho and Namhsam	(1°C)
An	(2°C)
Pinlaung and PyinOoLwin	(4°C)

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