

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Established 1914

Volume XV, Number 309

13th Waxing of Tabodwe 1369 ME

Tuesday, 19 February, 2008

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Prime Minister inspects development of Sittway, Kyauktaw, MraukU in Rakhine State University of Computer Studies (Sittway) opened for the nation to keep pace with changes and developments, for youths to have easy access to information technology



Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects Pyaing Chaung Dam in Kyauktaw Township. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb—Prime Minister General Thein Sein, accompanied by Maj-Gen Khin Zaw of the Ministry of Defence, the ministers, the deputy ministers, the Director-General of the Government Office and heads of department, yesterday inspected University of Computer Studies (Sittway) in Sittway, Rakhine State, and heard reports presented by Deputy Minister for Science and Technology U Kyaw Soe and Principal of the University Dr Soe Hay Mar on the salient

points of the university.

In giving instructions, the Prime Minister said that IT is now witnessing rapid development and is being used extensively throughout the world, adding that the university was opened for the nation to keep pace with changes and developments as well as for the youths to have easy access to information technology.

He went on to say that Myanmar Info Tech was opened in Yangon and Yadanabon Cyber Corporation in Mandalay for the

people to successfully engage in IT based businesses. Moreover, IT based factories were established in Yadanabon Myothit near PyinOoLwin.

He said that the number of global nations that have become prosperous through IT based businesses is on the increase and at such a time, the government is taking steps for the emergence of a large number of qualified human resources capable of building a modern and developed nation while striving for all youths to be able to pur-

sue modern technology at universities of computer studies.

He spoke of the need for teachers to nurture and train their students to become well-qualified technicians.

Next, the Prime Minister looked into computer lab and attended to the needs.

On arrival at Technological University (Sittway), the Prime Minister met with faculty members and stressed the need to train the students to become intellectuals
(See page 8)



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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 19 February, 2008

Further strengthen friendly ties between Union of Myanmar and Russian Federation

The establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Union of Myanmar and Russian Federation turns 60 years on 18 February 2008.

In the 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, on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the two nations, it said “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.”

Likewise, in the message from His Excellency Mr Vladimir V Putin to His Excellency Senior General Than Shwe, it said “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.”

The exchange of messages of felicitations between the Heads of State, the Heads of Government and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the two countries highlights further strengthening of friendly ties between the two nations, boosting of bilateral cooperation in all aspects including trade and investment and prosperity of peoples of the two nations.

The Union of Myanmar and the Russian Federation have maintained friendly relations since the diplomatic relations were established in 1948. And we firmly believe that the two nations will be able to continue to maintain friendly relations in the interest of peoples of the two nations.

Director-General U Thaung Htaik meeting with executives of Myanmar Hockey Federation and Tatmadaw Hockey Team.

MHF



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

Ministry of Labour holds Htamane-preparing contest

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Feb—Families of the Ministry of Labour held the Myanmar traditional Htamane-preparing contest in front of the Social Security Board Clinic here yesterday evening, attended by Minister for Labour Maj-Gen Aung Kyi, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Tin Tun Aung and departmental heads, staff families and others.

In the contest, Central Inland Freight Handling Committee stood first, Factories and General

Labour Law Inspection Department stood second, the Office of the Ministry of Labour and Central Trade Dispute Committee stood third and the Labour Department and the Social Security Board won the consolation prize.—MNA



Staff of Ministry of Labour participate in Htamane-preparing contest. — MNA

Selected Tatmadaw Hockey Team in training session

YANGON, 18 Feb—U Thaung Htaik, General Secretary of Myanma Olympic Committee Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department met with executives of Myanma Hockey Federation, responsible persons and players of selected Tatmadaw hockey team at Mingala Taungnyunt Artificial Turf Hockey Pitch here yesterday.

Speaking on the

occasion, he said that systematic measures are to be taken for the durability of the artificial turf hockey pitch, making arrangements for successful holding of Myanma Olympic Committee Chairman's Cup National Hockey League Tournament in March. He also urged the selected hockey team to redouble efforts for turning out of the outstanding players in order to take part in international armed forces tournament and domestic tournament.

MNA

Qualifying round of Grand Royal Special Reserve Golf Championship 2008 to be held



YANGON, 19 Feb — Myanmar Golf Federation organized the qualifying round of Grand Royal Special Reserve Golf Championship 2008, mainly sponsored by International Beverages Trading Co, Ltd to be held at Yangon Golf Club, Danyingon, here on 28 and 29 February.

This tournament will be held in accordance with St Andrews rules and regulations and local rules and regulations. It will be held through System 36 (Scratch Event).

The main sponsor is International Beverages Trading Co Ltd and co-sponsors, Dusit Inya Lake Hotel and Srixon and Alpine (Purified Drinking Water). Han Event Management will take charge of the tournament.

Amateur golfers can enlist at MGF (Tel-01-635563) not later than 26 February. — MNA

Bomb blasts near Paradise Hotel in Tachilek

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb — A bomb went off near Paradise Hotel in Tachilek of Shan State (East), damaging staff quarter of the hotel at 2.40 am today.

Similarly, three bombs exploded near Shwe Myanmar Tea Shop, 100 feet from the staff quarter at 2.45 am,

at the foot of a tree near the tea shop, 300 feet north of the tea shop at 2.50 am and in the mangrove, 150 feet west of the tree separately. There was no casualty in the bomb blasts.

The incidents were under investigation.

MNA

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

UK doctors' leaders slam health centres plan

LONDON, 18 Feb—Doctors' leaders criticized suggestions on Saturday that many GP surgeries across England could be replaced by a network of large health centres.

Government Health Minister Lord Darzi told the BBC that the days were over for single GPs working alone in a small practice. He said the future of patient care was in large local health centres or "polyclinics", grouping

together GPs, nurses and specialists.

But the British Medical Association (BMA) said the plans would duplicate care and be more expensive. Prime Minister Gordon Brown brought leading surgeon Darzi into the government last year and gave him the task of producing a blueprint for the future of the National Health Service.

Darzi has already proposed a network of 150

polyclinics for London and will deliver his NHS plan in the summer, coinciding with the 60th anniversary of the state-funded service.

The BBC said Darzi wanted to extend the network across the country.

"I'm recommending polyclinics because there is plenty of evidence either here in this country or outside this country, that integrated care around the needs of the patient ... is the way that healthcare should be delivered in future," Darzi told BBC television.

MNA/Reuters

Rioting hits town in S-E Turkey after boy's death

DIYARBAKIR (Turkey), 18 Feb—Rioters chanting slogans in support of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) smashed shop windows and damaged cars in mainly Kurdish southeast Turkey on Saturday after the funeral of a teenager.

The 15-year-old boy died after being hit on the head by a stone during a protest on Friday marking the ninth anniversary of the capture of PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan.

Some 1,000 people followed the child's coffin in the border town of

Cizre, witnesses said.

Protesters threw stones at passing buses and tore up paving stones which they used to block the main road of Cizre, near the Iraqi border, security officials and witnesses said.

MNA/Reuters

Election workers count ballots in Rawalpindi after polls closed for Pakistan's general elections on 18 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET



Protesters burn a US replica flag during a rally in front of the military headquarters in Manila on 18 Feb, 2008. The protesters denounced the annual US-Philippines military exercises which are taking place in the Philippines over the next two weeks.

INTERNET

Two Madrid Airport bombing suspects arrested in France

MADRID, 18 Feb—Spanish Interior Minister Alfredo Perez Rubalcaba said on Saturday that police have arrested two men suspected of involvement in the 2006 Madrid Airport bombing by Basque separatist group ETA.

Rubalcaba confirmed that Spanish and French police arrested three suspected ETA members Friday in southern France, two of whom are the Madrid bombing suspects.

The deadly bombing on 30 December, 2006 at Madrid Airport destroyed a multistorey parking garage and killed two people. Peace talks between the Spanish Government and ETA halted following the bombing, and the group called off its 15-month ceasefire in June 2007.

MNA/Xinhua

Germany arrests man suspected of aiding al-Qaeda

BERLIN, 18 Feb—German authorities said on Friday they had arrested a 45-year-old German national of Pakistani origin on suspicion of delivering money to al-Qaeda and of learning how to make bombs for use in terrorist attacks. The federal prosecutors' office said the man, identified as Aleem N, had travelled to the Pakistani-Afghan border four times during 2005-2007 and had each time delivered at least 4,000 euros (5,874 US dollars) to al-Qaeda operatives in the area.

The man, who was arrested on Thursday, is also suspected of supplying binoculars, radio and night vision equipment to al-Qaeda, and of recruiting members in Germany.

MNA/Reuters

Suicide blast kills 80 at dog-fighting competition in Afghanistan



Afghan policemen and locals at the site of the bomb blast in Kandahar on 17 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

KABUL, 17 Feb—A bloody suicide bombing shocked Taliban former stronghold Kandahar in south Afghanistan Sunday morning killing at least 80 people and injuring many more, Kandahar's governor

Assadullah Khalid said.

The huge explosion took place at a ground where hundreds of people were gathering to watch dog fighting, among the few pastimes for common Afghans.

"Eighty innocent people

have been confirmed dead in the heinous crime committed by enemies today," Khalid told news reporters. He said it is too early to count the number of the injured people as they have already been rushed to hospitals.

The official said the Taliban, fighting against Afghan government and foreign troops since it was overthrew six years ago, was behind the deadly attack. However, the Taliban militants did not say they were responsible for the bomb explosion.

Internet

Counting begins after Pakistanis vote

ISLAMABAD, 18 Feb—Counting began on Monday after an election in Pakistan which was far less violent than feared, although it could result in a parliament set on driving US ally President Pervez Musharraf from power.

The former army chief called for reconciliation after casting his vote in the city of Rawalpindi, where opposition leader and former prime minister Benazir Bhutto was assassinated on 27 December.

The vote for a new National Assembly and provincial assemblies was to have been held early last month, but was delayed because of Bhutto's assassination.

Polling stations closed their doors at 5 pm (1200 GMT). Results are expected to start emerging by midnight and trends should be clear on Tuesday morning.

An intelligence official said 11 people have been killed, seven in Punjab Province, and 70 wounded in election violence since voting began.—Internet



A giant cat float parades during the 124th Neice Carnival, on 17 Feb, 2008, in Niece, southern France. The carnival honours the Chinese Year of the Rat with cats, rats and mice floats. —XINHUA

Afghan paper says Karzai under foreigners’ influence

KABUL, 18 Feb—President Hamid Karzai is under the influence of foreign powers and troops led by NATO and the US must set a firm date for their departure from Afghanistan, a government-run daily newspaper said on Saturday.

The remarks are the first of their kind in an Afghan paper about Karzai and foreign troops in Afghanistan, where there is frustration over

growing insecurity and rampant corruption.

“...It should be said that the Afghan nation reacts seriously, despite its difficulties, when the national interests of their country are exposed to foreign danger and have never accepted and nor will accept a protege government,” Anis said.

“If the world does not pay attention to this matter, soon the fire of Afghanistan will burn the

region and a situation will emerge that will be unimaginable for anyone.” Karzai has been running Afghanistan since US-led forces and allied Afghan factions overthrew the Taliban Government in 2001. The 51-year-old won the presidential election in 2004 but is under pressure because of a steady increase in violence and the weakness of his government. MNA/Reuters

Probe of House Speaker will not affect investors’ confidence

BANGKOK, 17 Feb—Thai Foreign Minister Noppadon Pattama said on Saturday the ongoing investigation of House Speaker Yongyuth Tiya-pairat’s election fraud case would not affect foreign investor confidence in the country.

The investigation will take some time before it can be completed, Noppadon said, adding that he himself believed Yong-

yuth is innocent.

Yongyuth, former deputy leader of the People Power Party (PPP), which forms the core of the six-party coalition government, earlier said he had been framed by a conspiracy of unidentified persons who wished to have the ruling party dissolved by court action.

The Election Commission is to rule on the

fate of Yongyuth next week. Yongyuth was elected as the House Speaker last month. However, the Parliament member from northern Chiang Rai Province was charged of involving in several electoral frauds during the general election on 23 December last year.

MNA/Xinhua



A woman chooses book at the International Book Fair which is opened on 14 Feb in Havana, capital of Cuba. —INTERNET

Kenya says forcing a deal would be a mistake

NAIROBI, 18 Feb—Any outside attempt to force through a political deal in Kenya would be a mistake and the solution to the post-election crisis lies with Kenyans, Foreign Minister Moses Wetangula said on Sunday. US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice due in Nairobi on Monday to support mediation efforts led by former UN chief Kofi Annan.

“We encourage our friends to support us and not to make any mistake of putting a gun to anybody’s head and saying ‘either-or’ because that cannot work,” Wetangula told reporters.

“Even if we get visitors to help us in any way possible, the answer to the problem in Kenya lies with Kenyans themselves.” Later, a White House spokeswoman said Rice did not expect her visit to

forge a deal, nor would she be offering incentives to encourage the feuding sides to strike a pact.

“Secretary Rice doesn’t expect, I don’t think, to come away with a final deal,” the spokeswoman said.

MNA/Reuters

China expresses concern about US bid to shoot down damaged satellite

BEIJING, 17 Feb — China has expressed concern about Washington’s decision to shoot down a damaged satellite, urging the US Government to fulfill its international obligation.

Responding to a question on the US plan to shoot down a damaged satellite, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said on Sunday that the Chinese Government is highly concerned about development of the situation and has urged the US side to fulfill its international obligation and avoid causing damages to the security in the outer space and other countries. —Xinhua



Pakistan’s security officials examine the site of Saturday’s night suicide bombing that killed two civilians and wounded eight security personnel, in Mingora, the main town of Pakistan’s district Swat bordering Afghanistan. —INTERNET

Ex-Philippine officials urge Arroyo Cabinet to resign

MANILA, 18 Feb—More than 50 former top Philippine Government officials, including a one-time head of the central bank, urged President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo’s Cabinet to resign on Sunday over a multi-million dollar corruption scandal.

“We call on all those who can no longer endure this wrongful governance with its structures of evil and unmoderated greed: it is time to cut clean, it is time to go,” read the statement, signed by the ex-officials, including five former finance chiefs and a former central bank governor.

A senate probe into allegations of 130 million US dollars worth of kickbacks in a state telecoms deal with China’s ZTE Corp has revived calls for the resignation of Arroyo and opposition groups are planning anti-government rallies next week and on 25 February, the anniversary of the overthrow of dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

On Sunday, former president and democracy icon Corazon Aquino joined around 2,500 people in a Mass in Manila to honour Rodolfo Lozada, a former government official whose testimony in the Senate inquiry revived the protests.

“I want all of us Filipinos to be united again. If we can get together we will also see a bright future for our country,” Aquino told the cheering congregation, who finished the Mass with a protest song and clenched fists. —MNA/Reuters

US recalls record 65 million kg of beef



The US Department of Agriculture said on Sunday it had recalled 143 million pounds (65 million kg) of beef produced by a California company, marking the largest meat recall in the country's history.—INTERNET

BEIJING, 18 Feb—The US Department of Agriculture said on Sunday it had recalled 143 million pounds (65 million kg) of beef produced by a California company, marking the largest meat

recall in the country's history. The department described it as a Class 2 recall, meaning there was a low risk of illness. The recall was ordered because the plant violated rules barring the slaughter of

“downer” cattle in almost all cases as a precaution against Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), commonly known as mad-cow disease. Downer refers to cattle unable to walk. Westland/Hallmark Meat Co of Chino is taking back all raw and frozen products it has produced since 1 Feb, 2006, because the cattle didn't receive complete and proper inspection, according to a department statement.

The department told reporters it was not sure how much of the recalled meat had been consumed, but that there was a very remote chance of anyone becoming ill from consuming these products.

Internet

ECONOMIC NEWS

UK supermarkets withdraw tainted salmon products

LONDON, 18 Feb—Ten supermarkets have withdrawn fresh salmon products because of fears they could be tainted by diesel, the Food Standards Agency (FSA) said.

In a statement, the agency said the affected products could have an unpleasant “white spirit” taste but were unlikely to be a risk to health as the chemicals causing the problem were at low levels.

The salmon had been supplied by seafood company Marine Harvest to retailer Morrisons and to food firm Young's Seafood, which supplies fish products for other

supermarkets.

Marine Harvest is investigating the cause of the contamination, which it believes is diesel, the FSA said.

The following supermarkets have taken the

affected salmon products off their shelves: Asda, Booths, Budgens, the Co-op, Nisa-Today's, Sainsbury's, ShopRite, Somerfield, Tesco, as well as Morrisons.

MNA/Reuters

Mexico, Cuba to boost trade after debt deal

MEXICO CITY, 18 Feb—Mexico on Sunday agreed to restructure 400 million US dollars in Cuban debt and re-open credit lines with Havana after a six-year hiatus to boost bilateral trade amid improving diplomatic ties.

Officials from Mexico's foreign trade bank Bancomext, who signed

the deal in Havana, said the agreement would lift trade flows that fell to a historic low of 200 million US dollars in 2007, less than half the levels of the 1990s.

“With the signing of this agreement ... a great step has been made to normalize financial and commercial ties between

Contractors assemble a model helicopter at the exhibition booth of Northrop Grumman at the site of the Singapore Airshow. The airshow will be held from 19-24 Feb.
INTERNET



Troubled bank Northern Rock to be nationalized



Buildings are reflected in the windows of Northern Rock's Leicester branch, central England in this 4 Feb, 2008 file photograph.—XINHUA

LONDON, 17 Feb—British troubled bank Northern Rock is to be nationalized, British

Finance Minister (Chancellor of the Exchequer) Alistair Darling announced Sunday.

“Northern Rock is to be brought under temporary public ownership,” Darling said in a statement at a Press conference at 11 Downing Street.

“The move meets the objective of protecting taxpayers' money. Private

proposals did not deliver sufficient value for money,” he said.

Neither of the two private proposals delivered “sufficient value for money to the taxpayer,” Darling said. Sir Richard Branson's Virgin Group and a rival in-house management team had both tabled offers for the lender.

“Myself and the prime minister feel this is the right option,” the Chancellor said, adding “This is a temporary measure. The long-term future of the bank must lie in the private sector.”

He said “market conditions will improve” and it would be wrong to “abandon the asset.”

Darling said “confident taxpayer will get back every penny paid by the Bank of England (the central bank).”—Internet

Chavez says may create windfall oil tax

CARACAS, 18 Feb—Venezuela may create a windfall tax on oil profits generated by rising oil prices, President Hugo Chavez said on Sunday, extending the OPEC nation's efforts to increase revenue from the oil industry. The leftist leader said Venezuela could sue Exxon Mobil for unpaid oil taxes, just days after revelations that Exxon won court orders freezing up to 12 billion US dollars in Venezuelan assets to ensure compensation for a nationalized oil project.

Chavez also repeated threats to cut oil sales to the United States if Washington attacks the South American nation. The windfall tax would represent the fourth increase in oil taxes in as many years as part of Chavez's drive to increase revenue from the oil industry and increase state control over oil fields, a crusade that sparked the current legal tussle with Exxon.

“If the price of oil continues to strengthen between 80 US dollars and 100 US dollars per barrel, I think it is necessary to apply this tax,” Chavez said during his weekly broadcast held at the Cerro Negro oil project once run by Exxon.—MNA/Reuters



Trademark of Blu-Ray DVD technology is displayed at an electronic shop in Tokyo on 17 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

China, Lao FMs in discussion to promote ties

BEIJING, 17 Feb — Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi and Lao Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Thongloun Sisoulith exchanged views on strengthening enhancing ties between the two nations here on Friday.

China and Laos have witnessed a sound momentum of bilateral ties featuring frequent high-level exchanges, economic cooperation and

coordination on international and regional affairs, Yang said.

He expressed appreciation for Lao's support of the one-China policy, adding China is willing to make joint efforts with Laos to push the two-way ties to a new high.

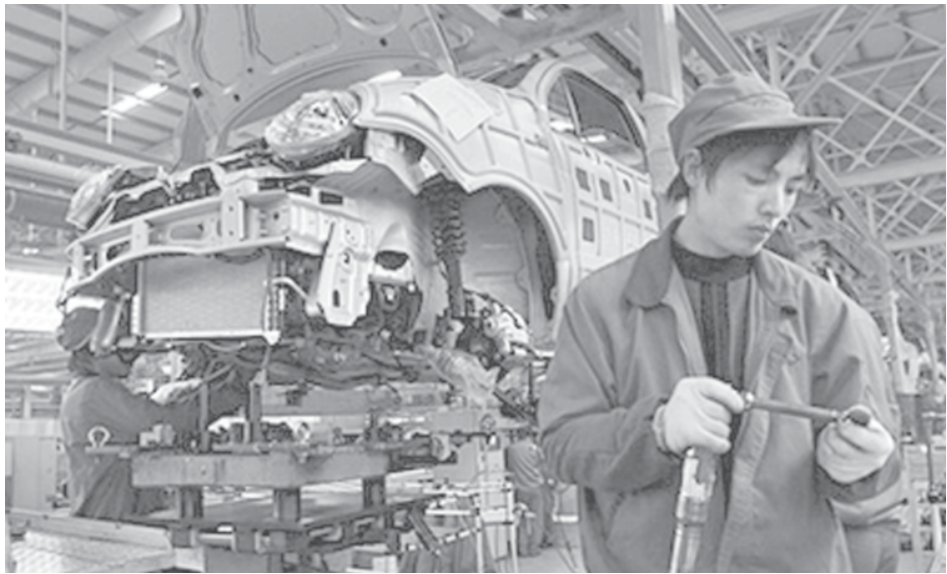
Thongloun said Lao highly emphasized its relationship with China, consistently pursued the one-China policy, and hoped the cooperation

between the two countries would produce new fruits in various fields.

The two sides exchanged views on the Third Summit of the Greater Mekong Subregion Economic Cooperation Program to be hosted by Laos.

The Greater-Mekong subregion comprises six countries, namely Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam.

MNA/Xinhua



Chinese automotive workers build Chery brand QQ6 cars on the assembly line at their factory in Wuhu, Anhui Province in December 2007. China suffered its first defeat at the World Trade Organization after it upheld a complaint by the United States, European Union and Canada over import tariffs on car parts, sources close to the case said.—INTERNET

Kenya elders demand goat from Kibaki

NAIROBI, 18 Feb— Kenyan elders have demanded a goat from President Mwai Kibaki as compensation for an alleged assault by First Lady Lucy Kibaki, local media said on Sunday.

The government denies the allegation by member of Parliament Gitobu Imanyara who had threatened to sue Kibaki's wife. Imanyara said he was assaulted last month at State House.

The Sunday Standard newspaper said a council of traditional elders, the Njuri Cheke, met on Friday and decided to take up the legislator's case.

"They have demand-

ed a fine of a he-goat and an unreserved apology from the First Family." The paper said the elders wanted the matter resolved according to Meru tribal customs.

Kibaki is wrestling with a crisis over his disputed re-election that has triggered widespread ethnic bloodshed.

The Presidential Press Service said Lucy's lawyers would take action against Imanyara's "wild allegations", which it said bordered on character assassination, blackmail and were part of a wider political scheme aimed at tarnishing her office.

MNA/Reuters



Workers repair a power line on a steel tower with the help of a line-laying airship, in Guiyang, capital of southwest China's Guizhou Province, on 17 Feb, 2008.— INTERNET

A boy from the Kikuyu tribe, displaced during post-election violence, sits near a cooking pot at a police station in Bahati, on the outskirts of Nakuru, west of Nairobi, on 15, Feb, 2008.
INTERNET



Projectile hits Egyptian building on Gaza border

ISMAILIA (Egypt), 18 Feb— A locally made Palestinian rocket exploded on the Egyptian side of the crossing point with Gaza on Sunday, damaging an Egyptian administrative building, security sources said.

There were no injuries.

The rocket, about 50 centimetre (20 inches) long, knocked out communications at the Egyptian border post but the building was deserted because it landed early in the morning, they said.

"Maybe it landed there by mistake and was meant to go into Israel. We have informed the Palestinian side and asked for explanations," said a security source who asked not to be named.

The Rafah crossing is where tens of thousands of Palestinians broke through into Egypt last month to seek relief from the blockade imposed by Israel.

Egypt has since resealed the border but it has been holding talks with the Palestinian Islamist movement Hamas, which controls Gaza, on how the border might reopen.

MNA/Reuters

Earthquake hits New Zealand's South Island

WELLINGTON, 17 Feb — New Zealand's South Island's Fiordland and the West Coast were shaken by an earthquake measuring 5.0 on Richter Scale on Friday, but caused no damages, the GNS Science said.

The tremor struck the area at 06:32 p m local time (0532 GMT). It was centred 60 kilometres north west of the Milford Sound and was five kilometres deep. The quake was likely to have been felt by people in the Fiordland and southern West Coast regions, GNS said. — MNA/Xinhua

90 militants surrender to Pakistani security forces

ISLAMABAD, 17 Feb — Up to 90 militants laid down their arms before the security forces in northwestern Pakistan on Saturday.

The 90 militants surrendered to the authorities at a ceremony attended by some local administration officials in Swat District of North West Frontier Province, the official Associated Press of Pakistan reported, adding that the militants vowed to remain peaceful in the future.

Meanwhile, security forces arrested another eight militants in Tehsil Kabal of Swat District, said the report. The security forces launched a major operation against local militants in Swat district in November last year, vowing to clear the area of militants.

MNA/Xinhua

Mortars hit Somali presidential complex, Yusuf safe

MOGADISHU, 18 Feb—Somali President Abdullahi Yusuf was unharmed on Sunday after suspected Islamist insurgents hit his official presidential complex in Mogadishu with mortar bombs for a second day, one of his aides said.

Witnesses said the shelling wounded at least five people, but a presidential aide told Reuters that Yusuf was safe and the mortars did not land anywhere near his private quarters.

"Five mortars were fired at the president's house, one of them landed outside the gate of the palace wounding two women and three men," witness Abdulahi Mohamed told Reuters by phone.

MNA/Reuters

Mythum farming with promising trend

Maung Aung (LBVD)

People in Chin State raise mythum as a traditional business. In Chin State, the number of mythums belonging to a family indicates its wealth. Traditionally, Chin nationals serve their guests mythum dish and pay mythums to those with grievances for compensation.

Mythum is a member of the Gavarus family, together with Gaur and Banteng. Commonly, they are found in southeast Asia, eastern India, Bhutan, and northwestern part of Myanmar.

These three wild cow species have no hump, a flat shape between the two horns, a depression in the forehead, a short nose, a short neck, and a plump back along dorsal spine. They eat young grass, young leaves, creepers and bamboo and are resistant well enough to harsh weather.

Mythum lives in groups in regions especially around pastures at an altitude between 3000 and 10,000 feet above sea level. In Myanmar, mythum is

found in Chin State, northern Sagaing Division, and northern Kachin State. According to the census collected in 2003-2004, the mythum population of Naungmon, Machanbaw and Khaunglanphu regions in Kachin was 938, that of Chin State, 32,491, and that of Leshi Township 759.

With short and big legs, Mythum is bigger than Myanmar cow. On average, a mythum weighs from 800 to 1300 lbs. Its growth rate is higher than that of a cow and it is fully-grown between one and a half and two years, earlier than a cow.

On average, a female mythum gives birth once a year for 15 times.

When born, a baby mythum is reddish and then it becomes dark gradually. A female mythum weans when its baby is at the age of about 4 months.

Mythum eats natural plants and grows fast. When it is at the age of one year, its meat can be consumed. Its growth is on a par with that of cows of foreign

species. About 80 to 120 viss of meat can be got from a 3-to-4 year-old mythum.

In Chin State, mythums are kept naturally in forests from January and beyond, and in farms from May to December. It likes salt. And in an area about 30 out of 50 households keep mythum.

In general, mythum is resistant to diseases. However, it may suffer from foot and mouth disease, anthrax, and blackleg. So, in the period of keeping mythums in farms, they should be vaccinated.

A farmer can make profits in a short time, keeping mythums at minimum cost. Its growth rate gets better if it is fed with a mixture of corn and salt.

The Head of State gave guidance on measures for development of mythum farming in Chin State for improving the socio-economic life of Chin nationals. In its bid to putting the guidance into reality, the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries provided K 110 million as a farming loan to Chin State in 2003. And the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department gave talks on animal infectious diseases and gave treatments to ill mythums in the region. Moreover, prizes for outstanding performances in breeding mythums are presented to the winners on the World Food Day to help increase the population of mythums.

In recognition of the progress in mythum farming and response to the report of Chin nationals, the government provided a loan of K 150 million to Chin State and K 12 million to Sagaing Division through the Livestock and Fisheries Bank in 2006-2007.

As a result, Myanmar's mythum population increased from 34,188 in 2003-2004 to 52,981 in 2007—50,988 in Chin State, 1024 in Kachin State, and 969 in Sagaing Division. The Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries is now taking steps for development of mythum farming, improving living conditions and development of Chin State.

Translation: MS

The Head of State gave guidance on measures for development of mythum farming in Chin State for improving the socio-economic life of Chin nationals. In its bid to putting the guidance into reality, the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries provided K 110 million as a farming loan to Chin State in 2003. And the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department gave talks on animal infectious diseases and gave treatments to ill mythums in the region. Moreover, prizes for outstanding performances in breeding mythums are presented to the winners on the World Food Day to help increase the population of mythums.

Syria completes first stage of Arab gas pipeline

DAMASCUS, 18 Feb—Syrian Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Sufian al-Alaw said on Sunday that the Syrian Petroleum Company has completed work of the Arab Gas Pipeline within the Syrian lands, the official SANA news agency reported.

“The pipeline is now ready to transport gas from Egypt through Jordan and to the stations of Tishreen and Deir Ali” of Syria, Alaw said during

a field visit to the gas reception station on the Syrian-Jordanian borders.

He said that the Arab pipeline was connected to the Syrian gas network in Tishreen station and the gas pressure is enough for calibration and tests, expressing hope that the Jordanian side will finalize work on the pipeline in Jordan within days.

The Syrian Petroleum Company will begin

work on the second stage of the pipeline, which extends from north-western Syrian city of Aleppo to the Turkish borders, estimating that the work will be taken a year and a half, he noted.

He added that Egypt will pump 900 million cubic metres of gas to Syria within the first year and the amount will increase gradually to meet Syria's increasing demand.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese garden opens in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, 18 Feb—A Chinese garden, named Liu Fang Yuan or Flowing Fragrance, was formally opened to the public Saturday after many years of work.

The garden, located on the grounds of the Huntington Library in Los Angeles, brings one of the largest classical Chinese gardens outside China to Southern California.

“The garden is a magnificent window that the people of California

now have into the Chinese culture, which doesn't exist anywhere else,” Huntington board chairman Stewart R. Smith said at an invitation-only event for hundreds of dignitaries, donors and supporters.

The garden's 18.3-million-dollar first phase was powered by a landmark partnership between the Huntington and the region's fast-growing and increasingly influential Chinese

American community.

The Huntington Library, long seen as a staid and largely Eurocentric institution, recognized that ethnic Chinese were rapidly changing the neighbourhood — and the world — and sought the ethnic community's help in bringing a 20-year garden vision to fruition, according to Suzy Moser, the library's assistant vice-president for advancement.—MNA/Xinhua



Prime Minister General Thein Sein pays homage to Buddha Image at Yanaung Zeya (a) Shitthaung Patodawgyi in MraukU. — MNA

University of Computer Studies (Sittway) opened...

(from page 1)
and technocrats at a time when the nation is in the process of training and producing human re-

the dam.
On arrival at Kyauktaw by helicopter, the Prime Minister and party were welcomed by crops, perennial crops and physic nut, cultivation of quality strain crops to meet the target, extended breeding of prawns, develop-

ment of education and health sectors, implementation of national development tasks in line with the guidance of the Head of State and requirements to be fulfilled.

The Prime Minister said that the whole Rakhine State including Kyauktaw Township has seen unprecedented development and has been in surplus of rice and urged officials and local people to make continued efforts for the economic development.

Blessed with natural resources, Rakhine State is to make relentless efforts for improvement of socio-economic life of the people, making better use of infrastructures created by the government, he noted.

The Prime Minister stressed the need to ensure community peace and prevalence of law and order, to nurture youths to be morally upright and to become those who abide by rules and regulations, to effectively carry out health care services for the people and to take part in the process of transition to democracy together with the government.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister presented gifts provided by the respective ministries for social organizations to officials concerned.

Next, he cordially greeted those present on the occasion.

Later, the Prime Minister and party arrived at Kyauktaw Township People's Hospital (25-bed) and heard a report on outbreak of diseases,

medical treatment, availability of medicines and setting up of trust funds for the hospital and requirements and called on doctors, nurses and hospital staff to discharge their duties with goodwill, to impart health knowledge and give educative talks to the people in co-operation with local authorities and social organizations.

After presenting K 500,000 to the trust funds of the hospital, the Prime Minister inspected medical wards, operation theatre and medical store.

On arrival at Maha Muni Pagoda in Kyauktaw, the Prime Minister and party were welcomed by Chairman of the Pagoda Board of Trustees U San Hla and members.

(See page 9)



Prime Minister General Thein Sein donates cash to members of board of trustees for Maha Muni Buddha Image in Kyauktaw Township.

MNA

sources and to make a constant study in order to keep abreast of the international community.

Next, the Prime Minister and party proceeded to Pyaing Chaung Dam in Kyauktaw Township where they inspected flow of water into the dam and water supply of the dam and fulfilled the requirements.

At the briefing hall, Director of Irrigation Department U Tun Aung Lwin reported on the salient points of the dam project to the Prime Minister who spoke of the need to strive for extended cultivation of summer paddy and for the use of electricity to be generated from

Brig-Gen Ye Aung of Kyauktaw Station and departmental officials.

First, the Prime Minister inspected Kissapanadi Bridge and gave instructions of maintenance of the facility.

At the office of Kyauktaw Township PDC, the Prime Minister met with departmental officials, entrepreneurs, social organizations and townsenders. At the meeting, the Chairman of Kyauktaw Township PDC reported on area and location of the township, organizational set-up, cultivation of ten major crops including paddy, self-sufficiency in rice and edible oil, cultivation of new item



Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects lecture room of University of Computer Studies.

MNA

University of Computer Studies (Sittway) opened...

(from page 8)

They offered flowers, lights, water and Shwethingan to the Buddha image. They also donated cash to the Chairman of the Pagoda Board of Trustees who presented the picture of the Buddha image.

The Prime Minister and party went to MraukU where they visited Yanaung Zeya Pagoda or Shitthaung Pagoda built by Rakhine King Minbargyi.

They were conducted round the works of art depicting the lives of the Buddha at the pagoda by Deputy Director U Saw Lwin of cultural heritage preservation division in MraukU. They donated cash and signed in the visitors' book.

Lust pierces through the uncultivated mind

As a house ill-thatched the rain pierces through so does lust pierce through the uncultivated mind.

Dhammapada 13



Prime Minister General Thein Sein donates K 500,000 to the fund of 25-bed hospital in MraukU. — MNA

The Prime Minister met officials and townelders at the Township Peace and Development Council Office. Chairman of Township PDC U Tint Naing Oo reported on measures undertaken for regional development.

The Prime Minister said he would promptly fulfill requirements and the government has been providing necessary assistance to economic, health and education sectors with the intention of achieving equitable development in all regions.

He urged the service personnel to organize the people, to utilize the better foundations and to make endeavours for raising the living standard of the people.

Next, the Prime Minister presented provisions and gifts to social associations through officials concerned and he cordially greeted those present.

The Prime Minister visited 25-bed hospital in MraukU and urged the staff to make efforts to become a hospital on which the people rely and provide wider health care services to the patients. He donated K 500,000 to the fund through Medical Superintendent Dr Shwe Thein. The Prime Minister visited wards for men and women, X-ray unit, operation theatre and medical store.—MNA

Minister receives UNHCR representatives

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb—Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe received Director Ms Lim and Senior Desk Officer Mr Jean Marie Garelli to Asia-Pacific Region of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at the former's office here this afternoon.

MNA

Mayor inspects Ngamoeyeik Water Purification Plant

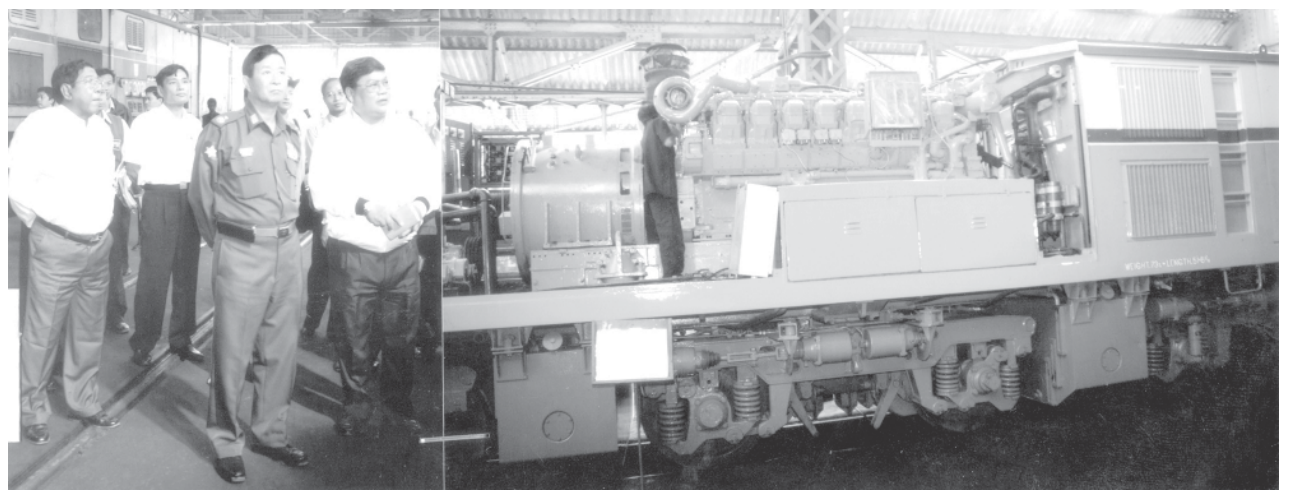
YANGON, 18 Feb—Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected Yangon City Water Supply Project (Ngamoeyeik) Water Purification Plant near Nyaunghnapin camp in Hmawby Township this morning.

The officials briefed the mayor on undertakings being carried out for supplying 45-million-gallon more drinking water to Yangon daily and the mayor attended to the needs.

It is learnt that about 40 per cent of the project has been completed.

Next, the Mayor inspected the road works in Mingaladon Township.—MNA

Minister inspects Insein Locomotive Shed



Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min inspects Locomotive Shed in Insein Township. — MR

YANGON, 18 Feb — Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, together with Deputy Minister U Pe Than and Myanma Railways Managing Director U Min Swe, met officials concerned of the Myanma Rialways Locomotive Shed in Insein Township this morning.

The minister inspected work site where diesel locomotives are being repiared to improve their capacity, assembling of diesel locomotives and coaches.

He also inspected upgrading of Insein Station and extending of its yards. He also went to No 7 Diesel Engine Factory and inspected maintenance of coaches and RBE Rail Bus.

In the afternoon, Deputy Minister U Pe Than inspected Mahlwagon-Setsan Goods sheds. — MNA

7th Medical Education Seminar opened

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Feb—The opening ceremony of the 7th Medical Education 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 consider the entrance system for pursuing medical science and its related subjects.

The seminar continues tomorrow. —MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects No 5 Agricultural Machinery Factory in Dagon Myothit (South)

YANGON, 18 Feb —Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, inspected No 5 Agricultural Machinery Factory of Agriculture Mechanization Department in Ywathagyi in Dagon Myothit (South) Township today.

During the inspection tour, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win inspected production of machinery parts for power tillers at the factory.

At the briefing hall of the factory, Director-General of Agriculture Mechanization Department U Win Maw reported on matters related to production of power tillers.

Machinery produced by the factory are sent to factories of Agriculture Mechanization Department in Kyaikalo and No 1 Agricultural Machinery Factory in Mayangon Township to assemble power tillers there.

After hearing reports, Lt-Gen Myint Swe called for exceeding the manufactured target of the factory.

No 5 Agricultural Machinery Factory (Ywathagyi) has mainly manufactured engines and machinery parts for Leya 22 power tillers.

Agriculture Mechanization Department sets its target of producing 6,000 power tillers in the 2007-2008 fiscal year, and so far, it has already manufactured 5,000 power tillers.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe also visited the Industrial Town in Dagon Myothit (East) Township today and met with industrialists.



Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects No 5 Agricultural Machinery Factory (Ywathagyi) in Dagon Myothit (South) Township. — MNA

At the meeting, Chairman of the Management Committee for the Industrial Town U Nay Win Swe reported on production of import-substitute materials including foodstuff, forest products, stationery, household goods, steelware, vehicles and machinery by 29 factories in the town.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Myint Swe visited Diamond Star Flour Mill, Myanmar Star Feedstuff Factory, Top Choice Stationery Factory, Summit Plastic Factory and Finished Wood Factory of National Wood Industry Co Ltd.

MNA

Minister inspects factories in Myingyan, Taungtha

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung yesterday inspected Cotton Seeds Grinding Factory and Dyeing Factory in Myingyan and Vest Factory in Taungtha of Myanma Textile Factory and fulfilled the needs.

He viewed storage of Bonezin Dam to extendly water supply to Taungtha and its environs, and thriving of local farmers' onion plantations on the banks of Sintewa Creek near Welaung Village in the town.

MNA



Minister U Aung Thaung inspects Vest Factory in Taungtha.

INDUSTRY-1

Yeywa hydro electric power project inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb—Minister for Electric Power No 1 Col Zaw Min inspected the Yeywa hydro electric power project being implemented on Myitnge river near Ye-Yaman village 31 miles south-east of Mandalay on 16 February morning. At the briefing hall, Construction Group 2 Director U Myint Zaw reported on progress

of the project, future plans, arrival of machinery and arrangements for delivering them to the project.

The minister stressed the need to complete the task in time and fulfilled the requirements.

Next, the minister looked into the installation of pen stocks pipes, concrete works and construction of flit bucket and spillway.

After that, the minister inspected the undertakings to install the Bottom Outlet Gate Chamber and construction of power station, concrete works, earth works, production of steel pipes and test-production of brick block.

In meeting with engineers and staff, the minister fulfilled the requirements.

Upon completion, the project will be able to generate 3,550 million KWH—MNA

Painting donated to National Museum

YANGON, 18 Feb—The ceremony to donate a painting to the National Museum under Ministry of Culture was held at the National Museum on Pyay Road, here, this afternoon.

First, Japanese artist Ms Yoko Yamada, chairperson of Asian artists association and member of Japanese artists association explained the purposes of the donation and presented the 162x130 cm oil painting, *Ceremony of the Full Moon* to the National Museum through U San Win, Director-General of Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library.

The director-general presented certificate of honour to her and spoke words of thanks.

MNA



Artist Ms Yoko Yamada presents oil painting to National Museum through an official.

MNA

Images of the Day

Japan's Mizuho Sakaguchi, left, battles the ball with North Korea's Kil Son Hui during the East Asian Football Federation Women's Football Championship 2008 Final Competition in Chongqing, China, on 18 Feb, 2008.
INTERNET



A Czech doctor performs in-vitro fertilization at the Clinic of Reproductive Medicine and Gynaecology, in Zlin.—INTERNET

Vietnam, Laos set border marker goal in 2008

HANOI, 18 Feb — Vietnam and Laos have agreed to plant 59 border markers along neighbouring provinces this year, local newspaper *Vietnam News* reported on Monday.

During a four-day meeting in Laos concluding on Sunday, the two sides agreed upon a detailed plan for a project on planting and upgrading the Vietnam-Laos border marker system with a total of 826 border markers along the neighbouring provinces. They also

agreed upon a 2008 estimated budget for the project, which will be reported to the two governments.

Vice chairman of the National Border Committee under the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nguyen Hong Thao, and head of the National Border Committee under the Lao Foreign Ministry, Phoukhao Phommavongsa, attended the meeting.

MNA/Xinhua



A resident dressed as "Zhu Bajie", a character from the Chinese classic "Journey to the West", dances during the Shehuo performance in Changzhi, Shanxi Province on 18 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET



The Moon as seen in Jakarta during the start of a total lunar eclipse in 2007. The Moon will turn an eerie shade of red for people in the western hemisphere late 20 February and early 21 February.
INTERNET

Qatar firm to build oil refinery in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 18 Feb — A company from Qatar will build a 15 billion ringgit (4.55 blion US dollars) oil refinery in Manjong, Malaysian nothern Perak state, local media reported on Monday.

The Perak government and Gulf Petroleum (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd signed a memorandum of understanding in Ipoh, capital of Perak on Sunday.

The project will be developed over three phases. It will comprise an oil refinery, a petrochemical plant and storage facility. It is expected to be completed in three years.

The project, located on a 400-hactare site, will futher boost the in vestment climate in Perak.

MNA/Xinhua

Minke whales in the Southern Ocean. The longest continuous record of temperature changes in the Southern Ocean has found that Antarctic waters are warming and sea levels are rising, an Australian scientist said on Monday.—INTERNET



ADVERTISEMENT

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV XIANG FENG VOY NO (8009)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XIANG FENG VOY NO (8009) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.2.2008 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING
(MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Militants blow up three polling stations in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 17 Feb— Suspected militants on Saturday blew up three polling stations in Pakistan's tribal region, local TV channel Geo reported.

Three polling stations were destroyed in Khar, the centre of Bajur tribal agency, said the report.

There is no claim of responsibility of the attack on polling stations.

Thai police seize speed pills on train bound for Bangkok

BANGKOK, 18 Feb — Thailand’s railway police Saturday seized 100,000 pills of methamphetamine, or called “speed pills”, on a train bound from northern city of Chiang Mai for the capital Bangkok. According to the report of official *Thai News Agency*, following a tip, railway police found the speed pills in a bag stowed above a passenger seat of a train running from Chiang Mai to Bangkok.

The report said the drugs are as much as 100,000 pills.

However, no arrests were made since the police could not associate the baggage with a particular passenger. No passengers were sitting near where the bag was found but railway police were able to collect a finger print and hope to be able to trace it.

MNA/Xinhua

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Pakistani town under curfew after blast kills 39

PARACHINAR (Pakistan), 18 Feb — Authorities imposed a curfew in a northwestern Pakistani town on Sunday a day after a suicide bomber attacked supporters of assassinated prime minister Benazir Bhutto killing 39 people, an official said.

Saturday’s blast in the town of Parachinar near the Afghan border

was the most deadly during a campaign for a 18 February general election that nuclear-armed Pakistan’s allies hope will help restore stability.

“We have imposed a curfew to avert any riots. If the situation remains calm then we may relax it,” Zaheer-ul-Islam, the district’s top government administrator, told *Reuters*.

MNA/Reuters

Israeli tanks maneuver on their way back from an operation in the Gaza Strip, Israel, on 17 Feb, 2008. Israeli troops backed by aircraft and tanks clashed with Palestinian militants firing mortars and machine guns near Gaza’s former international airport on Sunday, killing three gunmen and a civilian, health officials said.

INTERNET

French NGOs urge Sarkozy to rethink France-African ties

PARIS, 17 Feb— Several French NGOs have appealed to President Nicolas Sarkozy to implement the new policy that he had promised on Africa.

“A new policy is necessary,” Fabrice Tarrit, a senior official with the Association for Survival, said on the eve of Sarkozy's second visit to sub-Saharan Africa that is set to take him to Angola and South Africa in late February.

During his speech, Tarrit made particular reference to the “malaise” that had been caused by Paris’ “intervention” to save the regime of Chadian President Idriss Deby Itno during a recent

rebel uprising.

“The policy that was promised is taking too long to come true,” said Jean Merckaert, who works for the Catholic Development Committee against Hun-ger, listing a number of “worrying signs”. Among them, he cited the first trip to Africa by the President that “began in Libya and ended in Gabon”, with the famous “Dakar speech”, which has been very badly perceived by Africans, or the recent move by French courts not to follow through with investigation into complaints over “African wealth stashed away in French banks.”

MNA/Xinhua

Some 77 kilos of heroin seized in Turkey

ANKARA, 18 Feb — Turkish police confiscated 77 kilos of heroin in northwestern province of Kocaeli and Aegean Province of Denizli, the semi-official *Anatolia* news agency reported on Friday.

Acting on a tip-off, the police stopped a car that was heading to the biggest city of Istanbul in Kocaeli’s Gebze Town and seized 50 kilos of heroin.

Meanwhile, the police seized 27 kilos of heroin in a vehicle in Denizli and took into custody three people in suspected connection with the haul.

MNA/Xinhua

Clashes erupt in Beirut between rival supporters

BEIRUT, 18 Feb — Clashes broke out in Beirut on Saturday night between supporters from rival political camps, leaving 14 people injured, local New TV reported.

The TV footage showed that knives, stones and rods were used in the dispute, broken glasses were spread in the areas of Ras Al Nabeh and Bourj Abi Haidae in the western side of Beirut, as shops and buildings were set ablaze in the area.

The Lebanese Army intervened and fired into the air to separate the two sides, but they were both chanting against each other. Prior reports said that the fighting involved supporters of ruling

majority leader Saad Hariri and rivals in the opposition Shiite movement Amal. But the official *National News Agency* reported that Amal denies any of its supporters were involved in the

violence. Similar clashes have been taking place almost every night between pro-government Sunni supporters and opposition supporters in the western part of Beirut.

MNA/Xinhua

26 Chinese rescued from cargo off Philippine coast

MANILA, 18 Feb—Twenty-six Chinese seamen have been rescued from a cargo that is sinking off the northern coast of the Philippines, a Chinese Embassy official in Manila said on Monday morning.

The Panama-registered cargo, with 28 crew members on board, started to go down near the coast of Philippines’ Ilocos Norte Province at Sunday night, said Huang Li, the consulate official with the embassy, quoting sources of Chinese and Philippine marine rescue teams. Twenty-six seamen, before being trapped in the ocean, were quickly picked up by a passing Japanese crude vessel while the captain and a technician insisted staying on the sinking cargo to rescue the goods.— *MNA/Xinhua*



Most Chinese female netizens favour men around 30

HANGZHOU, 17 Feb — More than 90 per cent of female netizens in China see men around age 30 as ideal husbands, according to the country's first online love and marriage survey.

One-third of women were willing to say "I do" to 35-year-old men and men around age 40 could still win the hearts of 15.2 per cent of female netizens, said the survey.

The poll covered 154,386 netizens, among

whom males accounted for 57.7 per cent. Women aged 25 to 28 were the most popular choices for men. About 25.5 per cent of male respondents were willing to marry women aged 30 but only 12.5 per cent would accept women around 35, said the survey, released on Thursday.

Women face more pressure since their ideal age for marriage is usually lower than men's, said Professor Jiang Qianjin, a psychological expert on

love and marriage at Zhejiang University.

The one-month survey, consisting of an off-line questionnaire, online inquiry and professional analysis, was jointly conducted by a wedding service website (www. hongniang.com) and the Beijing-based Committee of Wedding Service Industries of China Association of Social Workers.

MNA/Xinhua

WHO takes aim at tobacco smuggling with new pact

GENEVA, 17 Feb — Nearly 130 countries have taken the first steps towards a new treaty to combat tobacco smuggling, blamed for higher consumption and up to 50 billion US dollars in lost tax revenues each year, officials said on Friday.

The officials, from

several international agencies, were speaking after the first negotiations under the World Health Organization (WHO).

They called for the pact to be ready for adoption by 2010, adding political will was needed.

They discussed a protocol to the WHO inter-

national treaty on tobacco control, which already bans sales to minors and tobacco advertising and sponsorship.

The United Nations agency estimates five million people die each year of tobacco-related diseases.

MNA/Reuters

12 big firms sign declaration to fight global warming

TOKYO, 17 Feb — Twelve globally famous companies signed a declaration here on Friday with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), pledging to make joint efforts to fight against global warming.

The Tokyo Declaration, endorsed by companies such as Sony Corp, Nokia Corp, Nike Inc and Hewlett-Packard Co, calls for more than 50 per cent cut of world's greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 to "limit the global average temperature increase to a maximum of two degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels". —MNA/Xinhua



A boy stands next to his mother as she holds a picture of their detained relative during a ceremony at the Iraqi National Theatre in Baghdad on 16 Feb, 2008. —INTERNET

difficult to treat because the body cannot repair damage to the brain or spinal cord.

Nerves could regenerate, but they are blocked by the scar tissue that forms at the site of the spinal injury.

The enzyme also promotes nerve plasticity, which potentially means that remaining undamaged nerve fibres have an increased likelihood of making new connections that could bypass the area of damage, said the report.

Preliminary tests show that combining chondroitinase with rehabilitation produces better results than using either technique alone. However, trials have yet to begin in patients.

MNA/Xinhua

British scientists developing spinal injury treatment

LONDON, 18 Feb — British scientists are developing a treatment which could allow damaged nerve fibres to regenerate within the spinal cord.

Researchers from the University of Cambridge

have identified a bacteria enzyme called chondroitinase, which is capable of digesting molecules within scar tissue to allow some nerve fibres to regrow, according to the BBC on Sunday.

Spinal injuries are



A Gentoo penguin feeds two recently hatched chicks by regurgitating a snack on Ardley Island, Antarctica, in this file photo. —INTERNET

US researchers develop carbon dioxide sucker

LOS ANGELES, 17 Feb — US researchers have developed a substance that can absorb CO2 (carbon dioxide) out of smokestacks and tailpipes, according to a new study.

The researchers at the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA) developed the CO2 sucker by synthesizing a new class of sponge-like crystals that can soak up carbon dioxide, the primary greenhouse gas in

industrial emissions, said the study published on Friday in the journal *Science*. The crystals, dubbed zeolitic imidazolate frameworks, or ZIFs, are grids of metal atoms and organic molecules that loosely trap carbon dioxide as it drifts into microscopic pores.

The researchers believe that atomic charges hold the gas in place so that the gas could then be buried, thus preventing it

from contributing to climate change. One variety, called ZIF-69, is so absorbent that a single litre of the material can hold 83 litres of carbon dioxide, according to the study.

The crystals could be tailored to capture carbon dioxide emissions from coal-fired power plants, factories and other industrial sources, said UCLA chemist Omar Yaghi, who led the study.

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Wenger denies Barca talk



Arsene Wenger

LONDON, 17 Feb—Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger has rejected talk linking him with a move to Bar-

celona. Reports emanating from Spain earlier this week suggested Barca were lining up a move for Wenger in the summer. Barca are considering replacing Frank Rijkaard at Camp Nou and are believed to have made Wenger their number one target to succeed the Dutchman. Wenger has shrugged off the latest rumours and says he is happy at Arsenal.—Internet



North Korea's Jong Tae Se, right, is challenged by Japan's Mizumoto Hiroki during the East Asian Football Championship 2008 Final Competition in Chongqing, China, on 17 Feb, 2008. INTERNET

Gilberto issues Nani warning

LONDON, 18 Feb—Arsenal star Gilberto Silva has warned Manchester United winger Nani he could get a kicking if he does cut out his showboating. Nani's showboating antics during United's 4-0 win over Arsenal in their FA Cup clash on Saturday infuriated the Arsenal squad who felt the Portuguese international was showing them a lack of respect. United boss Sir Alex Ferguson and Arsenal chief Arsene Wenger both condemned Nani for overstepping the mark.



Gilberto Silva

The summer signing from Sporting Lisbon came in for some rough treatment following his showboating and Gilberto has warned he could come in for the same if he continues his antics.—Internet

PL push ahead with 39th game talks

LONDON, 18 Feb—Premier League chairman Sir Dave Richards has confirmed that the league is pressing ahead with its plans for the '39th game'. The league confirmed earlier this month that they wanted to add an extra game to the top flight calendar in England. The plan would see all extra games (one each for every team) played abroad in various cities around the globe. Reaction to the plans were mixed, but the likes of Fifa and the Asian Football Confederation were quick to denounce the scheme. The Football Association have been lukewarm in their response, which has been unanimously backed by all 20 member clubs of the Premier

League who have been enticed by the reputed £5million payment for the one game. It was believed the plans would have to be shelved, but Richards insists that the Premier League are confident their scheme will get the backing of both the FA and Fifa once they have discussed their proposals in detail with them.

Internet



Dave Richards

Bundesliga match reports

BERLIN, 18 Feb —Brief reports of Bundesliga matches played this weekend: Played on Sunday: Hamburg SV 3 VfL Bochum 0 Hamburg won in the league for the first time since November as they made light of the absence of Dutch playmaker Rafael van der Vaart. Ivica Olic gave them the lead five minutes before the break with a neat finish. In the second half David Jarolim made sure by tapping in the second on the rebound and side-footing in the third from 10 metres. Hanover 96 0 Bayern Munich 3 Luca Toni scored a virtuoso hat-trick in the second half to restore Bayern's three-point lead at the top of the table. Toni beat the offside trap to control a Mark van Bommel header and sweep the ball past Robert Enke on the turn in the 58th minute. Six minutes later the Italian was too alert for the Hanover defence once again, as he raced on to Bastian Schweinsteiger's pass and finished calmly. Toni completed the hat-trick by heading over Enke after the unfortunate keeper had saved a shot with his legs, only to see the rebound go straight back to the striker.

MNA/Reuters



Bordeaux's Marouane Chamakh (bottom) is congratulated by team mates after scoring their fifth goal during their French Ligue 1 soccer match at the Louis II stadium in Monaco on 17 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Rooney hails United's options

LONDON, 17 Feb—Wayne Rooney believes Manchester United have riches in abundance in their bid for the treble. The dream is still alive following the 4-0 defeat of title rivals Arsenal in the FA Cup. Next up is a UEFA Champions League match against Lyon on Wednesday followed by a Premier League clash with Newcastle three days later. Rooney feels United's strength in depth could hold the key in the coming weeks. Certainly they have marvellous options in the middle of the park. There lies a cast list of Cristiano Ronaldo, Ryan Giggs, Paul Scholes, Michael Carrick, Owen

Hargreaves, Nani, Anderson, Ji-Sung Park, and Darren Fletcher. "Last season we had to play all the players in every game," said Rooney. "But this season you see Scholesy getting a rest—and at the end of the season that (resting players) could be very crucial.

Internet



Wayne Rooney believes Manchester United.



Italy's Flavia Pennetta hits a return to Klara Zakopalova of the Czech Republic during the final of the Cachantun Cup WTA tour tennis tournament in Vina Del Mar city, 75 miles (120 km) northwest of Santiago, on 17 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Benzema set to snub United

LONDON, 17 Feb—Karim Benzema claims he would reject a possible summer move to Manchester United because he wants to win the UEFA Champions League with Lyon. Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson has been linked with a bid for the French international striker at the end of the season as he bids to bolster his attacking ranks. Ferguson currently has limited attacking options with only Wayne Rooney, Carlos Tevez and Louis Saha recognised as experienced strikers in the United squad.



Karim Benzema

And Ferguson — who has also been linked with a move for Benzema's Lyon team-mate Hatem Ben Arfa—is understood to be on the look-out for attacking reinforcements. Internet

In memoriam

Family shares merits gained

Lt-Gen Tin Oo

In memory of benefactor Phay Phay Gyi Lt-Gen Tin Oo who suddenly left us seven years ago, we family members have made donations and offered 'soon' and provisions to the members of the Sangha today on 19-2-2008. We family members share with you the merits gained.

Wife Daw Khin Than Nwe

Sons and daughters —

- Major Maung Maung Kyaw (Retd) (BSI) -Daw Cho Leh Oo
- Phyu Phyu Tin Oo
- Dr Myat Noe - Yin Mar Oo
- Zaw Tun Oo - Khin Thida
- Nay Tun Oo

Grandchildren —

- Maung Hein Htet, Yin Myat Noe, Phu Ngon Kyaw, Thant Thi Han Zaw (Po Thila)

Blackouts in China city as snowy weather revisits

BEIJING, 18 Feb— More than two million people have been hit by power cuts in China's Qujing city and thousands have been stranded on highways as snowy weather revisits the southwest region, state media said on Saturday.

China has yet to recover from the worst power shortages in recent years that have hit central and southern parts since late January, as the coldest winter in decades damaged power cables and crippled coal deliveries to power stations.

Power plants at Qujing, the second-largest city in Yunnan province, have barely enough coal reserves for three days and snow has blocked roads, *Xinhua* news agency said, citing local government officials.

By Saturday, 80 per cent of the city's population suffered blackouts, and residents had to use candles, kerosene or charcoal for light and heat, *Xinhua* said.

Six highways had been closed for two days, stranding more than 30,000 passengers, as road travel began to pick up earlier this week with the end of the Lunar New Year break.

China said on Thursday it aimed to complete repairs to power lines and restore normal power supply by the end of March, after millions of families spent the Lunar New Year in the dark while facing soaring prices for food and other necessities.

MNA/Reuters

Snow blocks highways in Yunnan, 12,000 people affected

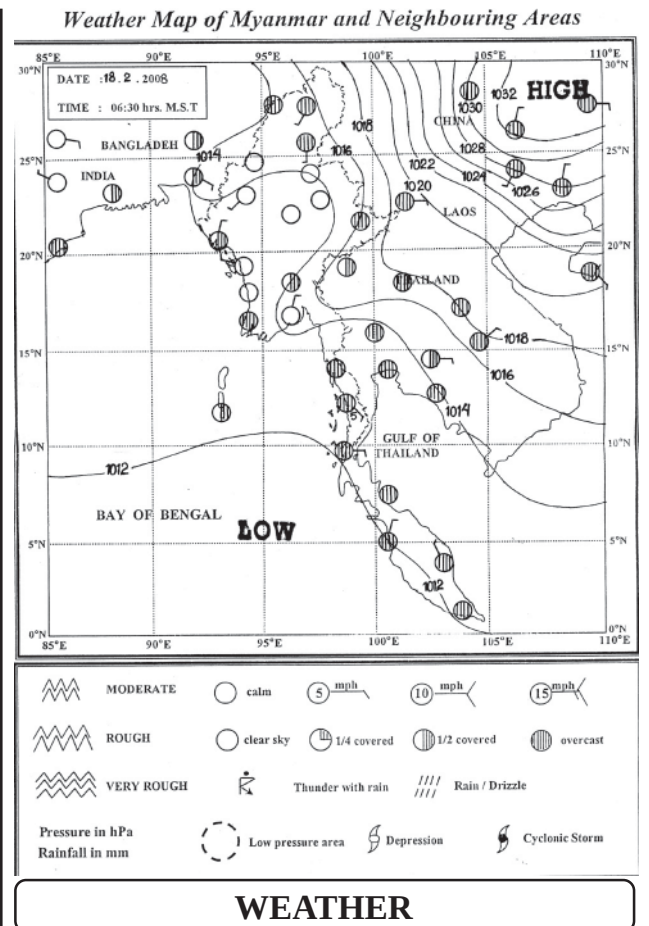
KUNMING, 18 Feb—

Consecutive snow and freezing weather have blocked about 14,000 kilometres of highways in the southwestern province of Yunnan and more than 12,000 passengers will be affected on Sunday alone, according to a spokesman of the provincial transport department.

Since late January, snow storms hit Yuannan, and in the northern part of the province, roads were seriously damaged.

From 19 January to Saturday, the interrupted roads have amounted to 14,000 kilometres, of which expressways are 265 kilometres and trunk roads more than 5,000 kilometres.

The disaster left about 178,000 people and 20,000 motor vehicles stranded, and caused an economic loss of 154 million yuan (about 20.5 million US dollars).— MNA/Xinhua



Tuesday, 19 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. ကဗျာပန်းဥယျာဉ်

- 8:00 am**
6. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:05 am**
7. Song of yesteryears
- 8:15 am**
8. ဒွန်ဘန်တံတား
- 8:30 am**
9. International news
- 8:45 am**
10. Let's Go
- 4:00 pm**
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm**
2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm**
3. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ ပထမနှစ် (ရက္ခပေဒ) (ရက္ခပေဒ)
- 4:45 pm**
4. Dance of national races
- 4:55 pm**
5. ခံစားနားဆင်တေးဇာတ်ဝင်

- 5:05 pm**
6. Sing and Enjoy
- 6:00 pm**
7. Evening news
- 6:30 pm**
8. Weather report
- 6:35 pm**
9. ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲ့ရင်ခုန်သံ
- 6:50 pm**
10. သုတစုံလင်ရွှေညောင်ရှင်
- 7:15 pm**
11. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်တယ် ချစ်တယ်" (အပိုင်း-၁)
- 8:00 pm**
12. News
13. International news
14. Weather report
15. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "မေတ္တာမျဉ်းပြိုင်" (အပိုင်း-၅)
16. The next day's programme



Tuesday, 19 February

Tune in today

- 8:30 am** Brief news
- 8:35 am** Music
- 8:40 am** Perspectives
- 8:45 am** Music
- 8:50 am** National news
- 9:00 am** Music
- 9:05 am** International news
- 9:10 am** Music
- 1:30 pm** News/ Slogan
- 1:40 pm** Lunch time music
- 9:00 pm** English Speaking Course
- 9:10 pm** Article
- 9:20 pm** Weekly sports reel
- 9:35 pm** Listening pleasure
- 9:45 pm** News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm** PEL

People's Desire

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

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo attends ceremony to mark 60th Anniversary of Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Myanmar and Russia

YANGON, 18 Feb —Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin attended the ceremony to mark 60th Anniversary of Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Myanmar and the Russian Federation at the Russian Embassy on Sagawah Road in Dagon Township here this evening. They were welcomed there by Russian Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Dr Mikhail Mgeladze and wife and embassy staff.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division PDC Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and wife, ministers and their wives, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence and their wives, heads of departments, foreign ambassadors to Myanmar, charges d' affaires ai, military attachés, officials of UN agencies and their wives and guests. — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife being welcomed by Ambassador of Russia to Myanmar Dr Mikhail Mgeladze at a reception to mark 60th Anniversary of Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Myanmar and Russia.—MNA

INSIDE

Myanmar's mythum population increased from 34,188 in 2003-2004 to 52,981 in 2007—50,988 in Chin State, 1024 in Kachin State, and 969 in Sagaing Division. The Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries is now taking steps for development of mythum farming, improving living conditions and development of Chin State.

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MAUNG AUNG (LBVD)

Weather forecast for 19-2-2008

Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area
Fair weather.
Yangon and neighbouring area
Fair weather.
Mandalay and neighbouring area
Partly cloudy

Significant Night Temperatures

Haka	(-2°C)
Loilem	(-1°C)
Namhsan	(0°C)
Pinlaung	(2°C)

- ★ 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