

Yan Aungmyin Sutaungpyae Pagoda consecrated, gold foils offered in Lashio

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb—A consecration ceremony of the Yan Aungmyin Sutaungpyae Pagoda in Lashio, Shan State (North), was held in conjunction with the offering of gold foils to the pagoda at Yan Aungmyin Monastery on 14 February.

It was attended by Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut

and wife and the congregation.

The commander and the congregation received the Nine Precepts from Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Narada of Maha Bawdayon Monastery in Lashio and then members of the Sangha recited the *Parittas*.

Alms givings were offered to the members of the Sangha by the commander and the officials, who later shared merits gained.

He also attended a ceremony to donate laboratory equipment donated by ILBC to No 7 Basic Education High School (branch) and No 4 BEHS of Lashio.

Managing Director U Tin Maung Win of ILBC explained the purpose of the donation and presented the equipment worth K 5 million to the two schools through the school heads. The Associate Officer of Shan State Education Department expressed thanks.

The commander later enjoyed the Third Myanmar Traditional Htamane-making contest organized by North-East Command and awarded prizes to the winning teams.—MNA

INSIDE

Shwe Tha Lyaung Pagoda was built by Sri Dhammathawka or Emperor Asoka in the Buddha Sasana Year 235. Originally its height was five cubits. Next Anawrahta of Bagan repaired and renovated this pagoda in ruin by encasing it with a larger and longer pagoda, ten cubits high.

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DR KHIN MAUNG NYUNT

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

Commander visits Kinda Dam in Myittha Township

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb—Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander

of Central Command Brig-Gen Tin Ngwe inspected renovation tasks to fully supply water from Kinda Dam through the left canal in Myittha Township, Mandalay Division, on 7 February afternoon.

In his inspection tour of Kinda power station, the commander heard a report by head of the power station U Kyaw Myint on facts about the station, the size of water flow into the dam, and supporting of electricity to the national grid. The commander inspected functions of the station and left instructions on tasks.

He inspected the dredging of the left canal and Samon underwater conduit at Kinda Diversion Weir.

The commander proceeded to Daingkaunggon water pumping station being undertaken by Mandalay Division Water Resources Utilization Department for greening Meiktila Plain. There, Assistant Director U Thant Zaw in charge of the project gave an account of salient points on the project. The commander gave instructions and attended to the needs of the project.

The commander viewed the tasks at PS-2 site where water is to be pumped with the use of electric power.

The electric power water pumping station project is designed to pump water from Kinda Dam to irrigate 5000 acres of farmlands in Daingkaunggon in 2007-2008 fiscal year and remaining 25,000 acres of farmlands in 2009-2010 fiscal year.—MNA



Commander Brig-Gen Tin Ngwe presses the button to open sluice gates of the left canal of Kinda Dam. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 22 February, 2008

Utilize good foundations beneficially for regional development

A variety of projects are now being implemented throughout the nation for national development, thus bringing about good foundations in the economic, education, health and social sectors.

Rakhine State having a large number of rivers and creeks and being surrounded by mountain ranges and the sea, people got difficulties in travelling within the region and from and to other states and divisions.

Despite rich aquatic and terrestrial resources, the state lagged behind other regions in development. So, the government constructed Yangon-Sittway Union Highway and Yangon-Kyaukpyu Road, as part of its bid to ensure regional development. These transport facilities extend to many other states and divisions, and the commodity flow has become swift, as a result.

With the concept that human resources development is a necessity for regional development, the government is taking measures for producing a growing number of intellectuals and intelligentsia through the education sector.

In this regard, students are trained and nurtured effectively not only to be brilliant in their studies but also to be able to benefit social organizations and to possess all characteristics of a citizen along with patriotic spirit.

In the health sector, health care services are provided and talks on health education and preventive measures are given to the people to enhance public knowledge of health.

All are, therefore, urged to help improve the socio-economic life of the people by utilizing good foundations beneficially and work hard in harmony with the government for development of the region concerned.



My Fair Lady of Artist Thoun Han.—H

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

57th Buddha Pujaniya of Thiri Mingalar Kaba Aye Pagoda held

YANGON, 21 Feb — The 57th Buddha Pujaniya of the Thiri Mingalar Kaba Aye Pagoda was held at the Pagoda in Mayangon Township on 17 February. First, member Sayadaws of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Ovadacarriya Sayadaws of the Pagoda and members of the Sangha consecrated the Buddha Images of the Pagoda.

Next, the congregations received the Five Precepts from Vice-Chairman of SSMNC Kyaikpi monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Suddhammajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Gunosana and members of the Sangha recited the parittas. Chairman of Central Committee for Organizing Buddha Pujaniya U Tin Oo supplicated on the religious matters. Vice-Chairman of SSMNC Yenangyoung Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Suddhammajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Tejaniya delivered a sermon.

After the ceremony, members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees, township PDC and social organizations, service personnel and wellwishers offered provisions to the members of the Sangha.

MNA



Rice offering ceremony at Thiri Mingalar Kaba Aye Pagoda in Mayangon Township.—MNA

USDA Secretariat Member meets members at Mingaladon Township



USDA Secretariat Member U Thein Zaw meeting with secretary and executives of Mingaladon Township USDA.—CPT

YANGON, 20 Feb — Secretariat Member U Thein Zaw of Union Solidarity and Development Association met with the secretary and executives at the office of Mingaladon Township USDA on 18

February and attended to the needs. He also viewed the learning of the students who will sit for the matriculation examination.

MNA

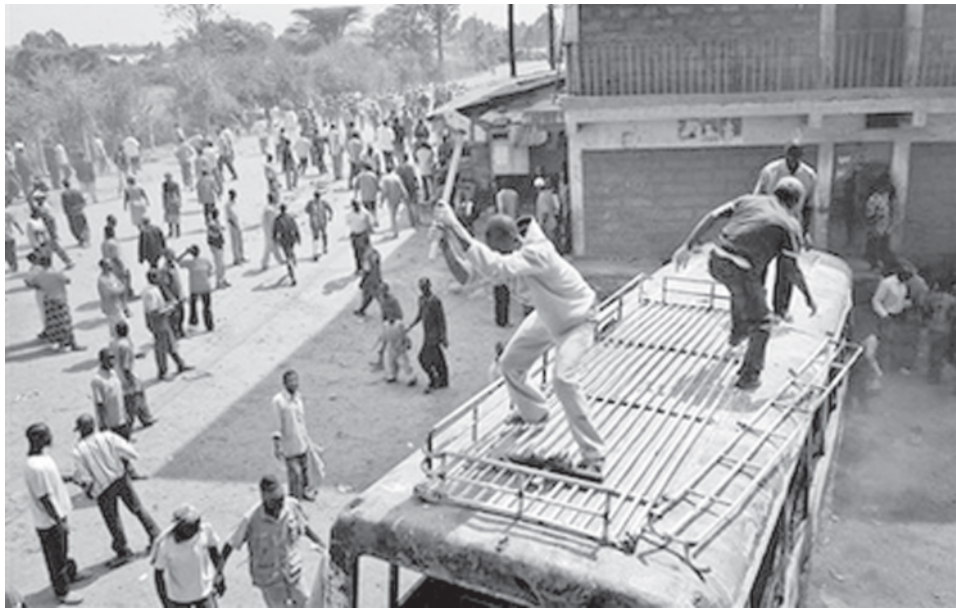
Spring Art Exhibition opens at Snow Flake Arts Gallery

YANGON, 21 Feb — The Spring Art Exhibition keeps opening at Snow Flake Arts Gallery at the corner of Sangyoung Street and Shin Saw Pu Street in Sangyoung Township, here this morning.

Seventy-nine paintings of 16 artists including Thoun Han, Hla Tin Tun, Lun Pe, Saw Hlaing, Ko Zaw Win, Kyi Win (Today), Thein Myint Thein, Mon Thet, Win Myint Moe, Myo Thant Aung, Hla Phone Aung, Sangyoung Ko Ko Aung, Win Thein, Min Hein

Aung, Saw Tint Wai and Ne Win Aung are on display at the exhibition. The Spring Art Exhibition will continue from 9 am to 6 pm daily until 5 March. The Snow Flake Arts Gallery will stage similar arts exhibitions after the Spring Art Exhibition. The Water-Colour Painting Exhibition will be held at the Snow Flake Arts Gallery.

For further detailed information, contact Daw Hnin Hnin Oo (Tel-095014153). — H



Rioters dismantle a bus for scrap metal in the Mathare slum, Nairobi, Kenya, on 20 Feb, 2008. Rioters attacked a bus full of people as they faced off against police who they charged were unfairly arresting people for rents gone unpaid amid weeks of postelection violence.—INTERNET

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Obama, McCain prevail in Wisconsin primaries

WASHINGTON, 21 Feb—US Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama won the Wisconsin primary on Tuesday, CNN projected.

John McCain was projected earlier by the TV channel to lead the Republican race in the state.

With 12 per cent of precincts' ballots

calculated, Illinois Senator Barack Obama beat New York Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton by 55 per cent to 44 per cent.

It was his ninth victory following the Super Tuesday when a full-scale race for the Democratic presidential nomination staged on 22 states and American Samoa. He was also expected to win his hometown of Hawaii, whose caucuses would be closed at 1 am EST on Wednesday (0600 GMT). On Republican

side, Arizona Senator McCain remained a two-digit lead over former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee at 56 per cent to 36 per cent as of 11 per cent of precincts counted.

"I promise you I will wage a campaign with determination, passion, and the right ideas for strengthening our country that prove worthy of the honour and responsibility you have given me," the 71-year-old Vietnam veteran told a supporter rally.

MNA/Xinhua

US helicopter kills three Iraqis in north of Baghdad

TIKRIT (Iraq), 21 Feb—A US helicopter shot dead three people in Salahudin Province on Tuesday, while seven Iraqi soldiers were injured in separate attacks in the province, a provincial police source said.

Three civilians, including two brothers, were killed when a US helicopter opened fire on them on the main road near the town al-Dujail, 60 kilometres north of Baghdad, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The helicopter apparently suspected that the civilians were insurgents planting roadside bomb on the road which usually used by US and Iraqi security forces, the source said.—MNA/Xinhua

Hundreds rally in Okinawa over US rape charge

TOKYO, 21 Feb—About 300 women gathered on Japan's southern island of Okinawa on Tuesday to protest the suspected rape of a 14-year-old girl there by a US Marine, calling for US troops to leave, media reported.

A 38-year-old Marine, Tyrone Hadnott, was arrested last Monday on suspicion of raping the girl in a car. He denied rape but admitted forcing her to kiss him, police have said.

"Why do Okinawa's treasures, our children, have to be harmed like this," Yoko Higa of a women's group in Okinawa, was quoted by Kyodo News agency as saying at the rally. "I am so mad, fire is burning from my head. I demand that the bases leave now."

Keiko Itokazu, an Upper House lawmaker, also spoke out against the

US Military presence in Okinawa. "This case prevents women and children from living here in peace," Kyodo quoted her as saying.

"Let's work to have the US troops—they are not good neighbours — leave Okinawa as soon as possible."—MNA/Reuters



People protest in front of a US camp against the suspected rape of a 14-year-old Japanese girl by US Marine Tyrone Hadnott in Okinawa.—INTERNET

BoE's Barker says downturn risks outweigh inflation fears

LONDON, 21 Feb—The danger of a sharp economic downturn in Britain is more worrying than rising inflation, but the case for an immediate interest rate cut is not compelling, Bank of England policymaker Kate Barker said on Tuesday.

The BoE cut borrowing costs by 25 basis points to 5.25 per cent this month and signalled in its quarterly inflation report

that there may be no more than a couple more cuts on the cards this year, given heightened inflation concerns.

Barker said there was little the Monetary Policy Committee could do now to stop inflation spiking well above the 2-per-cent target in the short term, and warned that if that surge fed into inflation expectations it could be painful to reverse.

MNA/Reuters

Colombian peasants, police clash over coca crops

BOGOTA, 21 Feb—About 2,000 Colombian peasants clashed with police on Tuesday in a swelling protest over a government programme to eradicate their coca leaf crops used to manufacture illegal cocaine.

Protesters, some throwing rocks, smashed a toll booth and blocked a major highway leading to the Caribbean coast from the northwestern city of Medellin to demonstrate against a campaign to send crews of workers to dig up the coca leaf plants.

MNA/Reuters



Apple TV is seen on display with the movie 'The Incredibles' showing at the Apple store in Palo Alto, California.—INTERNET

Three more countries ratify ASEAN Charter

SINGAPORE, 21 Feb—Three of ten member countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) - Laos, Malaysia and Brunei—have ratified the ASEAN Charter, bringing the total number to four, said Singapore's Foreign Minister George Yeo on Wednesday.

He announced this when he briefed the media after the ASEAN foreign ministers ended a two-day retreat in Singapore.

ASEAN Secretary-General Surin Pitsuwan received the instruments of ratification from Laos and Malaysia Wednesday during a special ceremony on the sidelines of the meeting, while Brunei deposited its instrument of ratification on 15 February, said Yeo.

MNA/Xinhua

Olmert, Abbas agree to accelerate talks

JERUSALEM, 20 Feb — Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas agreed on Tuesday to accelerate peace talks, despite differences over how quickly to tackle the thorny issue of Jerusalem, Israeli officials said.

“Israel is committed to discussing all the core issues,” Olmert’s spokes-

man Mark Regev told reporters after the leaders met in Jerusalem, adding negotiators would meet on an “almost daily” basis.

Regev said Olmert was “very clear” earlier this week when he asserted Abbas had accepted an Israeli suggestion to delay talks on Jerusalem until the end of negotiations on Palestinian statehood.

He declined to say

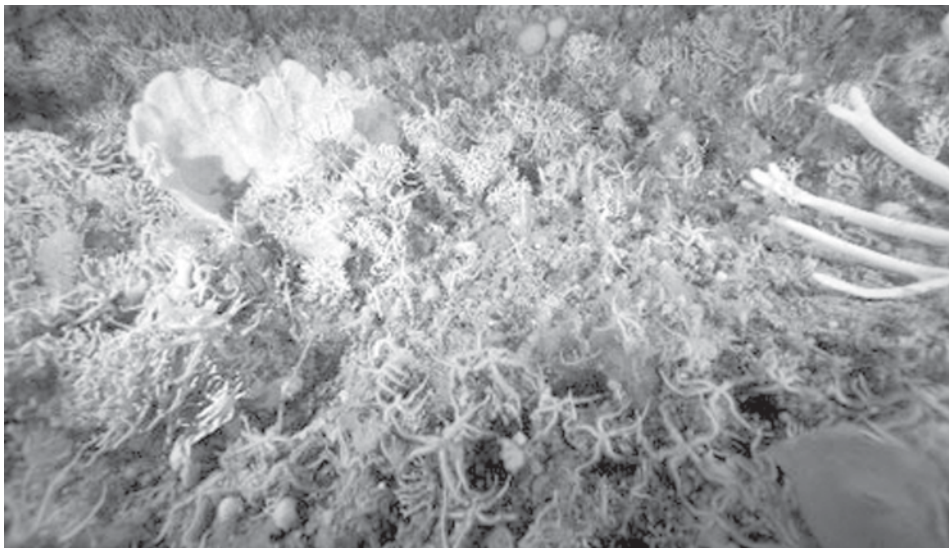
whether the Prime Minister had changed his position after Palestinians this week insisted that Abbas had made no such commitment.

An Israeli source familiar with the talks said: “The issue of Jerusalem did not come up in the discussion. I’m not aware of changes in the Israeli position.”

MNA/Xinhua



Traffic flows on a flyover at the Bund in Shanghai on 19 Feb, 2008. The flyover will be reconstructed for further development of the Bund, local media reported. The Bund is one of the most famous tourist sites in Shanghai.—INTERNET



Brightly coloured coralline, bryozoans and sponges sit on the ocean floor at a depth of about 600 metres (1970 feet) on the Antarctic continental shelf are shown in this handout image made available on 19 Feb, 2008.—XINHUA

Former Nepali PM’s party boycotts upcoming CA polls

KATHMANDU, 20 Feb— Former Nepali prime minister Surya Bahadur Thapa Tuesday announced that his party, the Rastriya Janashakti Party (RJP) of Nepal decided to boycott the upcoming 10 April Constituent Assembly (CA) elections.

According to a Press release issued by the RJP, the meeting of the central executive committee of the party held on Tuesday

decided to boycott the CA election pointing at the situation in Madhes.

Chairman of RJP Thapa accused the coalition government comprising Nepali Congress (NC), Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) (CPN-M) and CPN-UML, of trying to forcefully conduct the assembly polls, adding that RJP decided not to participate in the polls since the government has

remained indifferent to the worsening crisis in southern Terai plains of the country.

Thapa said that the government is using force and mistreating the agitating Madhesi, indigenous and other groups at a time when the government should include them in confidence and reach an understanding to create election atmosphere.

MNA/Xinhua

Four killed, 14 injured in US school bus crash

WASHINGTON, 21 Feb— Four students were killed and at least 14 others injured as a school bus and several other vehicles crashed in the US southwestern state of Minnesota on Tuesday, officials said.

The bus was tipped on its side in the afternoon on a highway north of Cottonwood after being hit by a pickup.

Minnesota Public Safety spokeswoman Christine Krueger told reporters that the bus was on its regular route, with 28 students and a driver on board.

The injured students were rushed to hospitals by some motorists who arrived first at the scene and by rescue squads and ambulances. —MNA/Reuters



Poll shows US mily stretched dangerously thin by war

WASHINGTON, 20 Feb — The US military has been stretched dangerously thin by the Iraq war, according to almost 90 per cent of retired and current military officers polled on the state of America’s Armed Forces.

Eighty per cent said it would be unreasonable to expect the US military to wage another major war successfully at this time, according to the poll by the Centre for a New American Security Think

Tank and Foreign Policy magazine.

More than 3,400 serving and retired officers took part in the poll, organizers said. Around 90 per cent were retired officers, a large majority had combat experience and about 10 per cent had served in Iraq or Afghanistan. The findings reflect concerns expressed publicly, although usually in less stark terms, by top US military officers, who

say frequent long deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan have put great stress on both troops and equipment.

“We are putting more strains on the all-volunteer force than it was ever designed to bear,” Army Lieutenant-Colonel John Nagl, a prominent counterinsurgency expert, said at a panel discussion in Washington on Tuesday to announce the results of the survey. —MNA/Reuters

Residents panic outside their homes in Indonesia’s Simeulue district on 20 Feb, 2008. A 7.5 magnitude quake struck off Indonesia’s Aceh Province on Wednesday killing at least three people and damaging buildings on the nearby island Simeulue.

INTERNET

Alleged terrorist leader killed in Philippines

MANILA, 20 Feb— The Philippine Marine troops have exhumed a body, believed to be that of a terrorist leader linked to the 2002 Bali bombings in Indonesia, officials said on Tuesday.

Dulmatin, a Jemaah Islamiyah bomb expert, also known as Ammar Usman, was likely killed when government troops clashed with suspected terrorists in the Philip-

piners’ southern island province of Tawi-Tawi on 31 January, Philippine TV network ABS-CBN reported, citing Navy spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Ariel Caculitan.

The body, which bore wounds in the head, chest and right foot, was exhumed after the military received information that Dulmatin was killed and buried at the site following an encounter in Tawi-Tawi.

Members of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation Tuesday started forensic examinations to confirm if the cadaver belonged to the Indonesian terrorist leader, comparing DNA samples from the body to those taken from Dulmatin’s two sons who were taken into military custody in 2006, said Nelson Allaga, chief of the Armed Forces’ Western Mindanao Command.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore, Turkey ink deal to boost investment

SINGAPORE, 20 Feb—Singapore and Turkey signed an Investment Guarantee Agreement on Tuesday, which will serve to increase investor confidence and encourage companies from both sides to venture into each other's countries.

The deal was inked by Singapore's Trade and Industry Minister Lim Hng Kiang and Turkish Transport and Communications Minister Binali Yildirim, according

to a statement by the Singapore Government.

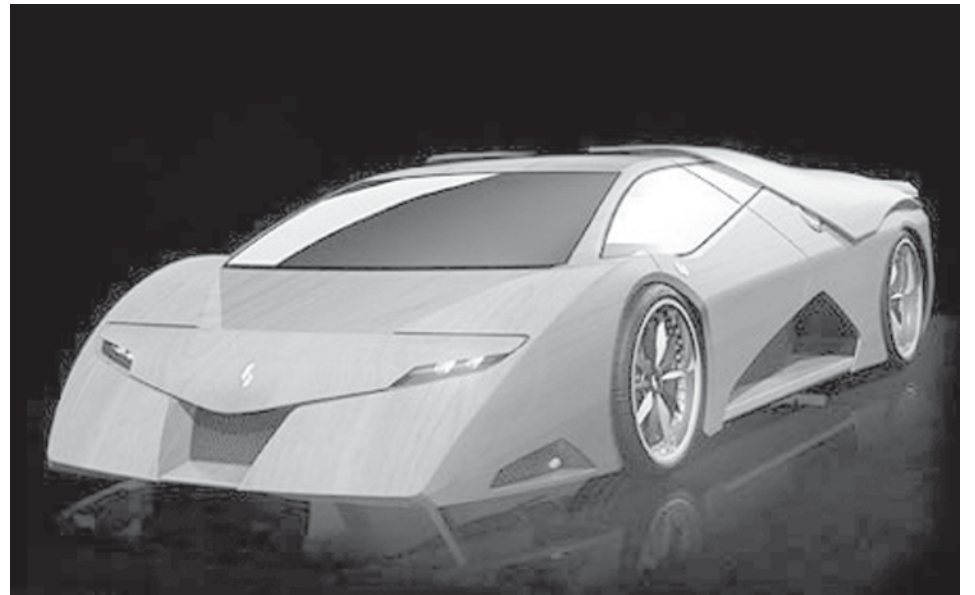
Lim said there is potential for further trade and investment collaboration, and encouraged businesses on both sides to further explore.

"The Turkish Government is undertaking long-term market-oriented reforms to build an open investment environment, this bodes well for the economy and for interested foreign investors," he said.

He said that Singapore's cultural knowledge and established ties within Asia present a partnership proposition for Turkish companies interested in engaging the fast-growing regional economies.

Turkey and Singapore have enjoyed growing economic relations. Bilateral trade grew 32 per cent last year, reaching 1.04 billion Singapore dollars (about 738 million US dollars).

MNA/Xinhua



A US design company has created the world's first wooden supercar "Splinter." —INTERNET

China's V-PM stresses improvement of energy structure

BEIJING, 20 Feb—Chinese Vice-Premier Zeng Peiyan Monday called for efforts to accelerate optimizing energy structure and to promote independent development of nuclear power.

Zeng said nuclear power was a sort of clean, high-efficient, safe and reliable energy. He emphasized that pushing forward construction of nuclear power projects was an important measure to speed up the change of economic growth pattern

and the restructuring of energy and the national economy at large.

He made the remarks while meeting with the project contractors for the Monday start of construction work on Ningde nuclear power station in the eastern province of Fujian.

According to Zeng, endeavours should be exerted to strengthen absorption of imported nuclear power technologies and achieve independent designing,

manufacturing and operating of pressurized water reactors each with an installed capacity of at least one million kilowatts. China's first nuclear power project located on a sea island, the Ningde station is 143 kilometres away from the provincial capital of Fuzhou. Its first stage involves four generating units each with an installed capacity of one million kilowatts and costs 51.2 billion yuan (7.1 billion US dollars).

MNA/Xinhua



Fishermen carry the sacrificial offerings to the port to attend the annual Fishing Light Festival held at Chuwang Village of Yantai City, east China's Shandong Province, on 19 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

ECONOMIC NEWS

Brazil, India call to end farm subsidies by rich countries

BRASILIA, 20 Feb—The foreign ministers of India and Brazil Monday called on developed nations to end their farm subsidies and open their agricultural markets to free competition. "Those subsidies that distort trade should be drastically reduced," visiting Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee said at a joint Press conference with his Brazilian counterpart Celso Amorim.

The current difficulties in the world economy have made it "more urgent than ever for a successful conclusion of the Doha Round of world trade talks", Amorim said.

France Monday announced that 20 European nations had rejected the

latest World Trade Organization proposals for a global trade deal, saying that plans to cut import tariffs and subsidies threatened European farmers.

The Doha Round of global trade negotiations was launched in 2001 with the aim of bringing down trade barriers to promote development. The talks have been stalled due to major differences on agricultural and non-agricultural market access.—MNA/Xinhua

A Saudi woman displays a necklace at Riyadh International Jewellery exhibition on 20 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Australia to invest \$4b in Indonesia's mining

JAKARTA, 20 Feb—Australian firms are prepared to invest more than four billion US dollars in Indonesia's mining industry, local newspaper *The Jakarta Post* as reported Tuesday.

"Australia has more than four billion dollars waiting to be invested," visiting Australia's Senior Trade Commissioner Rod Morehouse was quoted by the daily as saying.

Morehouse was in

Jakarta to attend the Ozmine exhibition and conference.

Earlier last year, Australia-based Rio Tinto Group expressed interest in investing two billion dollars in a nickel mining project in Sulawesi, expected to create 5,000 jobs as well as to build a nickel smelter capable of producing 46,000 tons of nickel metal per year.

Australian Ambassador to Indonesia Bill Farmer said the two countries, long time partners in the mining industry, were entering an "exciting chapter".

"Australian miners are part of the success story of Indonesia's mining industry. We have developed ways in dealing with issues in mining. We can bring this to Indonesia," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Crude oil ends at new record close of \$100.74

NEW YORK, 20 Feb—Crude oil for March delivery rose 73 cents on Wednesday to finish at a new record closing high of 100.74 dollars a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Earlier in the session, the March contract, which expired Wednesday, hit a record all-time high of 101.32 dollars a barrel.

This was mainly because traders took the Federal Reserve's weak economic report as a signal that more interest rate cuts are coming, analysts said.

The 100-dollar-a-barrel milestone was first reached in early January.

The Federal Reserve said Wednesday that it expects to see higher unemployment for the rest of 2008, as well as a reduction in economic growth in the minutes released from its meeting in late January.

Internet





Photo taken on 19 Feb, 2008 shows the Chinese scientific exploration ship Xuelong, or Snow Dragon, sails apart the floating ice area in Antarctica.

XINHUA

China, Japan to hold 8th strategic dialogue

BEIJING, 21Feb— China and Japan will hold their eighth strategic dialogue in Beijing from 22 to 23 February, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao announced here on Wednesday.

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Yabunaka Mitoji will head delegations to attend the dialogue, respectively, said Liu.

He added that the two sides will exchange views in depth on how to enhance strategic mutual trust and cooperation.

China and Japan have held seven rounds of strategic dialogues. The last round was held in China on 27 January, 2007.—MNA/Xinhua

Teamsters to endorse Obama in White House race

WASHINGTON, 21 Feb— The Teamsters union, which represents 1.25 million US transportation workers, is expected to endorse Barack Obama to become the Democratic presidential candidate, a union spokesman said on Wednesday.

The support would give the Illinois Senator a big boost ahead of critical contests in Texas and Ohio on 4 March in his state-by-state battle with New York Senator Hillary Clinton for the Democratic nomination for the November election.—MNA/Reuters

Sweden, Iraq sign deal on returning refugees

STOCKHOLM, 20 Feb— Sweden, which has taken in more Iraqi refugees than any other European Union country, said on Monday it had signed a deal with Iraq that allows some asylum-seekers to be returned forcibly.

The agreement was signed in Baghdad by Sweden's envoy to Iraq and Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari, Sweden's Justice Ministry said in a

statement.

Effective immediately, it allows Sweden to send back any asylum-seekers who do not meet its criteria. Sweden in the past has rejected requests from those who could not show that they personally were in danger if they returned to Iraq. Kristina Lindahl, a spokeswoman for Sweden's Immigration Ministry, said there were about 400 Iraqis currently in

Sweden whose requests for asylum had been rejected.

Previously Iraq was unwilling to accept returns unless they were voluntary, Lindahl said. There had been a few cases of voluntary returns, although she did not have exact numbers.

Lindahl said about 18,000 Iraqi asylum-seekers came to Sweden last year. That was more than half the total that came to EU countries in 2007 and was about double the number coming to Sweden in 2006.

MNA/Reuters



Residents walk through the snow in Istanbul on 18 Feb, 2008. Heavy snowfall and subzero temperatures paralysed traffic and forced the closure of schools and universities across much of Turkey on Monday.—XINHUA

N-W China's hydropower plant threatened by worst winter

LANZHOU, 20 Feb—Half the water in the Liujiaxia Reservoir is frozen after the worst winter in 60 years, posing threat to the Liujiaxia Hydropower Station, northwest China's pivotal hydropower plant.

When the ice melt begins, the resulting flows could affect operation of the generators. The power plant was currently taking

measures to prevent damaging the machines, an official of the maritime bureau of Linxia Hui Autonomous Prefecture in Gansu Province said.

"Freezing in such a large area has rarely occurred in the reservoir.

"This is the worst in 30 years," the spokesman added. From mid January to early February, unusual

freezing weather has gripped Gansu as the temperature around the reservoir dropped to minus 20 degrees Centigrade. The ice has also led to the suspension of the use of three piers in the reservoir areas. Local authorities have launched round-the-clock monitoring of the frozen reservoir.—MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia to enhance security for general election

KUALA LUMPUR, 21 Feb—Malaysian police will keep a close watch on "hot areas" in eight states of the country for the upcoming general election, local media reported on Tuesday.

Police will send more personnel to these areas to ensure that there are no untoward incidents there during the general election, Malaysia's Police Inspector-General Musa Hassan said when visiting Alor Star, capital of the Kedah State in north-western Malaysia.

Four of the "hot areas" are located in Kedah, the police chief said, but declining to identify the details.—MNA/Xinhua

Police kill three foreign insurgents in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 20 Feb— Iraqi police killed on Tuesday three foreign insurgents and detained an Iraqi leader of al-Qaeda network during raids on their hideouts in Salahudin Province, a provincial police source said.

"Two Saudi nationals and an Algerian insurgents, believed to be affiliated to al-Qaeda in Iraq network, were killed when a police force raided

at dawn the Sukheira area, southwest of Samarra City, some 120 kilometres north of Baghdad," the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The Iraqi security forces also arrested a local leader of al-Qaeda, identified as Muhammad al-Rahmani during another raid in the city, the source said. Meanwhile, the security forces seized a weapons cache, that

included rockets and roadside bombs, he said.

Violence has increased recently in Iraq's northern provinces, where Salahudin Province located, as insurgents regrouped there after being defeated from their strongholds in the central and western part of the country under the pressure of major offensives conducted by US and Iraqi security forces.—MNA/Xinhua



Tokyo Disneyland. As the Japanese have fewer and fewer children, Disney is setting its sights on the growing elderly population, launching a cut-rate annual pass for visitors aged 60 or older.—INTERNET

Sacred Shwe Tha Lyaung Hill at Kyaukse

Dr Khin Maung Nyunt

Situated immediately to the eastside of the town Kyaukse, in Mandalay Division, is a sacred hill named “Shwe Tha Lyaung Taung” of 977 feet in height. The name “Kyaukse” literally means “stone weir”. The entire area is a vast stretch of fertile land between the Shan mountains and streams and rivers, but watered by a number of man-made dams and canals to cultivate a variety of crops mainly paddy since the early centuries of Christian era. Like other isolated masses of rock rising abruptly from the plains, Shwe Tha Lyaung hill, close to Kyaukse is revered as the sacred hill because it is dotted with Buddhist monuments and shrines of old and modern times. Other sacred hills in Kyaukse District are (1) Pyet Kha Ywey with two peaks rising to 3004 and 3707 feet respectively (2) Mondaing Taung, 1696 feet (3) Kalagyaing Taung, 1711 feet (4) Min Mwey Taung, 792 feet and (5) Kein Naya Taung, 1504 feet. The most striking feature of these hills in Kyaukse area is the presence of pagodas and shrines built on their summits and spurs, creating a sublimely, attractive background to the scenery.

Since both rail and road between Mandalay and Yangon pass through Kyaukse, travellers enjoy the eye feed of blue Shan mountain ranges in the distance and white-washed and gilt pagodas dotted hills outcropping in the green and yellow plains, criss-crossed with a network of irrigations.

Scientists who have explored this area speak of granite outcrops, light grey quartz, limestone and sandstone, with elephant, tiger, deer, pigs, sambhurs, barking deer dominating in fauna and than, dahat, htanaung, pauk, tamarind and toddy palm major species in flora.

JA Steward, settlement officer No 3 party, compiled and published Kyaukse District Gazetteer in 1925. In volume A of that compilation he gives the legend of the pagoda on the summit of Shwe Tha Lyaung hill as follows:—

“Shwe Tha Lyaung Pagoda is ascribed by legend to Asoka and repaired by Anawrahta (1044-1077). It contains a replica of the sacred tooth which the king had sought in vain to obtain from the Emperor of China. Anawrahta sent off the royal elephant Sinmayintha with a replica of the tooth on its back and ordered that a pagoda containing another replica of the tooth should be built whenever the elephant knelt. The elephant ascended to the top of the Kyaukse Hill and knelt down and the Shwe Tha Lyaung Pagoda was built or reconstructed upon the spot. The elephant then proceeded to the top of Pyet Kha Ywey Hill and pointed out the site of that pagoda. It is supposed to have knelt in five different spots but authorities appear to differ as to the exact places” (page 45).

Mr Stewart was not right in the above statement. He was much confused and mixed up with the legend of the replica of sacred tooth Anawrahta received from the King of Ceylon (Sri Lanka) with the legend of the replica of sacred tooth which Anawrahta asked from Chinese Emperor and he never received it, instead a jade Buddha image of imperial colour (emerald Buddha) was presented to him. The five replicas of sacred tooth which were enshrined in pagodas at five different spots including Pyet Kha Ywey hill were those that belong to the legend of sacred tooth of Ceylon. Anawrahta received

a replica of the sacred left lower canine tooth of the Gotama Buddha as a royal gift from King Dhatusena of Ceylon. It was carried on the back of his royal white elephant named Ratana Sinmayintha which knelt at five different places— Shwezigon Pagoda at Bagan, on the summit of Tant Kyi Taung Hill on the west bank of the Ayeyawady River facing Bagan, on a hillock near the harbour of Lokananda, on the summit of Tu-yin hill rage, seven miles to the south of Bagan and finally on the two peaks Pyet and Kha Ywey of the hill in Kyaukse area. The elephant did go up the Shwe Tha Lyaung hill and made a brief halt there but it did not knelt down there. It was at these five spots where the white elephant knelt down that Anawrahta built pagodas to enshrine five tooth replicas.

On the summit of Shwe Tha Lyaung hill was an old pagoda believed to have been built by Emperor Asoka. Anawrahta only repaired and renovated it. He enshrined other sacred relics but not tooth replica.

In the Ko Khayaing Thamaing compiled by U Hpo Oh and quoted in the History of Shwe Tha Lyaung, Shwe Mut Htaw and Dhataung Taung by U Nyein Maung, 1993 January, different names of Shwe Tha Lyaung Hill in the times of four Buddhas already revealed are mentioned as follows:

- (1) in the time of Kyaukkusanda Buddha the hill was called Ratanapibha hill
- (2) in the time of Konagamana Buddha it was called Eithi Thaytha hill because 500 hermits dwelt on it.
- (3) in the time of Kassapa Buddha the hill was named Reinnara Sampara hill because sandal wood trees grew on the hill and mythical birds Keinnara Keinnari lived there
- (4) in the time of Gotama Buddha the hill assumed the name of Satu Yadanayathipabhada hill to honour all four Buddhas revealed
- (5) Finally because the shape of the hill resembled that of a reclining Buddha the hill acquired the name Shinpin Tha Lyaung or Shwe Tha Lyaung hill

Shwe Tha Lyaung Pagoda on the summit of this hill was built by Sri Dhammathawka or Emperor Asoka in the Buddha Sasana Year 235. Originally its height was five cubits. Next Anawrahta of Bagan repaired and renovated this pagoda in ruin by encasing it with a larger and longer pagoda, ten cubits high.

In Myanmar Era 952, (AD 1590) a severe earthquake brought down the pagoda and it was Min Ye Kyaw Swa, the viceroy of Inwa and son of King Nanda of Hanthawaddy who repaired and renovated it in ME 955 (AD 1593). He built a reclining Buddha Image with a tazaung pavilion to the north-east of Shwe Tha Lyaung Pagoda. A stone inscription in Pali and Myanmar was set up in the precinct. It records the regional titles, wealth, religious and social works of his royal father, the extent of his domains and boundaries, precious votive objects which Min Ye Kyaw Swa enshrined in the Pagoda and other religious monuments he built; lists of globe lands, names of pagodas slaves dedicated to the Pagoda, the Bahosi or clock drum tower he built there and finally his prayers and sharing of his merits with all beings.

The hill and the pagoda are associated with elephants and elephant dance festivals. The entire area of Kyaukse being close to the Shan mountains used to be the habitat of wild life. Particularly wild elephants roamed there. Long before Anawrahta of

Bagan, there had been a local legend of the elephant tamer king U-te-na. His father was the king of Kawsambi whose pregnant chief queen was carried away by a big garuda while she was sunning alone with a red velvet shawl covering her body. The garuda thought the red object was a piece of meat. In its nest on a big bannyan tree the garuda dropped her and flew away. The pregnant queen was rescued by a hermit who looked after her. When a son was born to her it was named U-te-na. The hermit taught the grown-up U-te-na 18 princely arts. In addition he gave him elephant taming mantra which if chanted with harp music, all wild elephants upon hearing it, would dance and obey the command of the chanter. At the astrologically appropriate date and time the hermit made U-te-na chant mantra with the music of the harp he had made. All wild elephants came dancing following U-te-na who with his old mother marched to Kawsambi and he was enthroned as the rightful successor to this royal father. This story was one of Jatakas. But local people believe it happened there and in olden days, villagers even pointed at an enormous bannyan tree where the garuda nested and a hill named Min Mwey taung as was the birth place of U-te-na. Since then, U-te-na pujas and elephant dance festivals are yearly held in Kyaukse District.

In the time of Anawrahta, another elephant tradition was added. As mentioned earlier Anawrahta made his white mount to carry on its back replicas of sacred tooth relic of Ceylon to choose sites for building pagodas to enshrine them. Pyet Kha Ywey hill in Kyaukse area was one of the five sites where the white elephant knelt down. On Shwe Tha Lyaung hill the elephant just made a brief halt. After completing his religious works of building pagodas and shrines Anawrahta issued a royal order that “all local people shall hold annual puja by offering rice food to these pagodas and monuments. They shall also honour royal white elephant that had carried the tooth replicas by offering elephant figures of gold and silver to the pagodas and when it passed away, they shall do religious works in its honour and share merit with it.”

Since that time generations in Kyaukse area have been carrying out the royal order of Anawrahta holding elephant dance festivals at Shwe Tha Lyaung Hill from 10th to 15th waxing of Thidingyut (October). In the offertories made to Shwe Tha Lyaung pagoda and Image, cakes in the design of elephant, elephant figures of bamboo and paper, elephant dummies are included. At Pyet Kha Ywey hill pagoda, food offering festival takes place every year on the 14th and 15th waxing moon of Thidingyut. In days of yore, tamed and trained elephants participated in these festivals. Later years, dummies made of bamboo, cloth and papers of life size are realistically created into which two young men go in and manipulate every happy movement of an elephant in harmony with the tune of elephant dance music. In course of time the art and craft of elephant dummy making and elephant dance and music developed to perfection in Kyaukse area. Kyaukse Thidingyut festivals and elephant dance are well-known far and wide attracting pilgrims and tourists at home and abroad.

Foreign Minister back from Singapore



Foreign ministers of ASEAN countries pose for documentary photo in Singapore.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb — U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, arrived back here today after attending the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat held on 19 and 20 February 2008 at Sentosa Island in Singapore.

On 19 February 2008, Foreign Minister U Nyan Win, together with his ASEAN counterparts, attended the Working Dinner hosted by Mr George Yeo, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore. At the dinner, ASEAN Foreign Ministers exchanged views on international and regional issues. Foreign Minister U Nyan Win briefed his colleagues on the latest developments in Myanmar including the forthcoming National Referendum to be held in May of this year to approve the State Constitution and the multi-party democracy general elections scheduled to be held in 2010.

At the AMM Retreat on 20 February 2008, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers cordially and frankly discussed issues on the earliest ratification of the

ASEAN Charter, transitional arrangements for post-ASEAN Charter, including the appointment of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN and establishment of Committee of Permanent Representatives, Plan of Action to implement the ASEAN Charter, and resource mobilization for ASEAN.

Furthermore, ASEAN Foreign Ministers discussed ASEAN's approach to East Asia Cooperation and blueprints for ASEAN Political and Security Community and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community.

Foreign Minister U Nyan Win also held a separate meeting with his counterpart Dr Hassan Wirajuda of Indonesia on 19 February and discussed on promotion of bilateral relations between Myanmar and Indonesia during his stay in Singapore. — MNA

Notice to mariners issued

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb — Fisheries Department has already issued an announcement today that all vessels large and small must stay away from 4 km radius of the areas in which survey will be conducted by Ngwe Oil & Gas Pte Limited at Rakhine Offshore Plot No M 8 starting from 5 March to 15 April.

The areas that survey will be carried out are at Point A from North Latitude 14 degree, 40 minute and 00 second to East Longitude 93 degree, 21 minute and 00 second; at Point B from North Latitude 14 degree, 00 minute and 00 second to East Longitude 94 degree, 49 minute and 00 second; at Point C from North Latitude 14 degree, 00 minute and 00 second to East Longitude 94 degree, 49 minute and 00 second; at Point D from North Latitude 14 degree, 40 minute and 00 second to East Longitude 93 degree, 33 minute and 00 second; at Point A from North Latitude 14 degree, 40 minute and 00 second to East Longitude 93 degree, 21 minute and 00 second.

MNA

Housing Management Course of PW opened

YANGON, 21 Feb—The opening of Housing Management Course organized by Public Works under the Ministry of Construction took place at the Central Training School (Thuwunna), this morning.

Deputy Minister for Construction U Thint Swe delivered an introductory speech.

Twenty trainees are attending the four-week course.

MNA



Deputy Minister U Thint Swe delivers an address at Housing Management Course of Public Works. — MNA

Meritorious deeds performed at Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image

YANGON, 21 Feb — In commemoration of the 7th Buddha Pujaniya, a ceremony to offer 'soon' and alms to Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image was held at the Gandakuti Building on Mindhamma Hill in Insein Township this morning.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and party donated flowers, water and 'soon' to Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image.

Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Magway Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Kumara administered the Five Precepts. Members of the Sangha recited Parittas.

The commander and wife, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and departmental officials donated robes and provisions to members of the Sangha.

Secretary of SSMNC Nyaungdon Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa delivered a sermon, and the commander and party shared merits gained.

After the ceremony, the commander, officials and wellwishers donated 'soon' to 45 members of the Sangha.

MNA

No 147 pylon of 230 kv national grid maintained

YANGON, 21 Feb — Deputy Minister for Electric Power No 2 Brig-Gen Win Myint, accompanied by departmental officials, supervised maintenance of No 147 pylon of 230 kv national grid crossing Ayeyawady River, near Kazintaw Village of Pantanaw Township and future tasks for its durability yesterday.

After hearing the reports presented by officials, the Deputy Minister instructed officials to carry out the tasks in time.

MNA

South-West Command Commander ...

(from page 16)

There are 600,000 physic nut plants and 130,000 rubber plants at the plantation. On his inspection tour, the commander also viewed running of paddy husk-fired engines.

MAGT Ltd set up a project to grow physic nut plants on 100,000 acres and established a 30-acre research plantation. So far, 700 acres were put under physic nut in 2007. MAGT Ltd sets a target to grow 10,000 acres of physic nut in 2008.

During the tour of Ngayokkaung, Ngaputaw Township, the commander also inspected cultivation of 21,600 physic nut plants and presented cash assistance to patients receiving treatment at the hospital in the township. — MNA

Lust not pierce through well-cultivated mind

As a house well-thatched the rain pierces not through, so does lust not pierce through the well-cultivated mind.

Dhammapada 14



Lawkanandar of Artist Hla Tin Htun. (News on page 2) — MNA

Htamane, provisions donated to monks at Shwedagon Pagoda

YANGON, 21 Feb — A ceremony to donate Htamane, a traditional food, and provisions to members of the Sangha for 1369 ME was held at Shwedagon Pagoda today.

First members of the religious associations recited religious verses and shared merits gained.

Members of the Sangha led by Ovadacariya Sayadaws of the Board of Trustees of Shwedagon Pagoda circled the pagoda clock-wise and members of the religious associations who participated in the Htamane making contest at the pagoda donated the food and provisions to the members of the Sangha.

Afterwards, the congregation received the Nine-Precepts from the Sayadaw of Bahan Township Maha Aungmyaybonsan Monastery and shared merits gained.

MNA

A member of a religious association donates provisions to a Sayadaw. — MNA

Minister supervises religious matters in Bagan-NyaungU, Pakokku

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb — CEC Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung inspected preliminary tasks for the construction of Bagan Buddha Dhamma Centre in Bagan Archaeological Region on 18 February.

At the meeting hall of the office of the District General Administration Department, the minister met with departmental officials and engineers and made a speech on construction tasks of Bagan Buddha Dhamma Centre.

Next, the minister visited the Ninth Sasana Linkara Examination in Recitation of Buddhist Sculpture at Sasana Beikman in Pakokku and paid homage to Patron Sayadaws and candidate

monks and donated offertories to them. At Sasana Wiponlayama (Mandalay) Anouthtaik, he paid homage to Presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sobhana, Presiding Sayadaw of Maha Wizayayama Aletaik Bhaddanta Sumingala, Lecturer Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kosalla of Mahawithutayama Ashaytaik and Presiding Sayadaw of Bawdhimandaing Kyaungtaik Bhaddanta Viriya and donated alms to the Sayadaws.

Next, the minister proceeded to Tounzalatt youth training school in Pakokku and inspected it.

The following day the minister attended a stake driving ceremony of Aungtaumu pagoda in Nyaungsauk village and donated K 100,000 for the construction of the

pagoda. And he attended a stake driving ceremony of Sasana Beikman in Yesagyo and donated cash.

At the cash donation ceremony, the Ministry of Religious Affairs donated K 4 million and wellwishers, K 40 million totalling K 44 million.

At the meeting hall of Yesagyo Township USDA, the CEC member met with the secretary and executives and donated books and journals to the association library and the school libraries in Yesagyo Township.

The CEC member in the evening went to Zawtika Pali University in Monywa and paid homage to State Ovadacayira Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Kavinda and donated offertories to the Sayadaw. — MNA



UMFCCI Joint-Secretary-1 meets Malaysian guests

YANGON, 21 Feb—Joint-Secretary-1 Dr Maung Maung Lay and the executives of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry received Chairman Dr Muhammad Hussin and Maj (R) Amir Alias of National University of Malaysia Alumni Association at the UMFCCI office, here, on 19 February.

They discussed holding of Malaysian Education & Health Expo and Seminar in April 2008 in Yangon and cooperation in economic and services sectors.—MNA

Free traditional medical treatment provided

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb—Nay Pyi Taw Pinyinana District Traditional Medicine Health Care Center of the Traditional Medicine Department and the Myanmar Traditional Practitioners Association (Nay Pyi Taw Pinyinana branch) made a field trip to Aung Zeya model village, Nay Pyi Taw Pinyinana Township on 16 February.

During the trip, the head of the district Traditional Medicine Department and traditional medicine practitioners gave free treatments and traditional medicines to over 150 villagers.—MNA



A bat stretches its wings. Scores of infectious diseases have emerged to threaten humans in the past decades as viruses leap the species barrier from wild animals and bacteria mutate into antibiotic-resistant strains, scientists have reported. For example, SARS is said to have come from Chinese bats.

INTERNET

Danish scientists find way to tell age through eyes

LONDON, 21 Feb — A new way to decipher a person’s age by looking into the lens of the eye could help forensic scientists identify bodies, Danish researchers said on Tuesday.

Their new technique uses radiocarbon dating to measure special proteins known as lens crystallines that develop around birth and remain unchanged for the rest of our lives. They are the only part of the body apart from teeth that do so.

The researchers correctly identified the ages of 13 people within one-and-a-half years by analysing a carbon isotope called carbon 14 trapped inside the crystallines, they reported in the journal *PLoS One*.

MNA/Reuters

Study shows zinc helps with diarrhoea in children

NEW YORK, 21 Feb — Treatment with zinc supplements can cut the severity and duration of acute or persistent diarrhoea in children, a study shows. Further research, however, is needed to determine exactly how zinc produces its anti-diarrhoea effects, the researchers note in the February issue of *Pediatrics*.

The findings stem from a pooled analysis of data from 22 relevant studies, including 16 that focused on the benefits of zinc in 15,231 children with acute diarrhoea and six that looked at 2968 children with persistent diarrhoea.

Zinc use cut the average duration of both acute and persistent diarrhoea, Dr Marek Lukacik, from the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta, and colleagues report. In addition, zinc therapy reduced the average stool frequency by 18.8 per cent and 12.5 per cent in children with acute and persistent diarrhoea, respectively.

Zinc supplements also helped prevent diarrhoea. Treatment with zinc supplements reduced the occurrence of both types of diarrhoea by roughly 18 per cent relative to placebo.

MNA/Reuters

Toshiba announces withdrawal from HD DVD business

TOKYO, 21 Feb — Toshiba Corp officially announced its complete withdrawal from high-definition (HD) DVD business on Tuesday, leaving Blu-ray technology promoted by electronics makers such as Sony, Panasonic and Hitachi the standard for next-generation DVDs.

The company said it will immediately stop producing HD DVD equipment and buy back all the products at retailers by around the end of March, but will continue to provide after-sales services to consumers.

“We carefully assessed the long-term impact of continuing the so-called next-generation format war and concluded that a swift decision will best help the market develop,” Toshiba President and CEO Atsutoshi Nishida said at a Press conference in the afternoon.

“While we are disappointed for the company and more importantly, for the consumer, the real mass market opportunity for high-definition content remains untapped and Toshiba is both able and determined to use our talent, technology and intellectual property to make digital convergence a reality,” Nishida added.

The company said although it believes its HD DVD format is superior in terms of cost and high compatibility with current DVDs, it has to stop the business out of consideration for profits and consumers’ advantage. — MNA/Xinhua

Girls show diabolos made of red sandalwood during the forum themed “Diabolo Culture and Beijing Olympic Games” in Beijing, capital of China, on 19 Feb, 2008.— XINHUA



Armenia’s Sarksyan wins presidential vote

YEREVAN, 21 Feb — Armenian Prime Minister Serzh Sarksyan won a presidential election, results showed on Wednesday, but opposition parties prepared protests in the capital after complaining that the contest was rigged.

Sarksyan, who has vowed to continue the policies of incumbent Robert Kocharyan, had an unassailable lead with 782,233 votes — or 56 per cent — of the 1,408,712 ballots counted, a spokeswoman for the Central Election Committee said.

The result looked set to give Sarksyan outright victory and let him avoid a runoff with his closest rival, opposition leader and former president Levon Ter-Petrosyan, who had 310,792, or 22 per cent, of votes counted, as calculated by *Reuters*.

The results were from 85 per cent of the ballots counted. The commission’s spokeswoman did not give percentages for candidates and said the body would wait until all ballots had been counted before doing so.

MNA/Reuters

UK’s Glaxo cuts HIV drug prices for poor countries

LONDON, 21 Feb — GlaxoSmithKline Plc cut the prices on its range of HIV drugs offered to developing countries, marking the fifth such discount since 1997.

The most significant reduction is an almost 40 per cent cut on Ziagen, a pill the World Health Organization recommends as a first- and second-line treatment particularly for children. The average discount across its 14 not-for-profit HIV medicines was 21 per cent, the company said on Tuesday.

MNA/Reuters

Indonesian airlines buy planes at S’pore show

JAKARTA, 21 Feb — Two of Indonesia’s most prominent airlines ordered dozens of new Boeing airplanes worth about 6.7 billion US dollars at the Singapore Airshow, local Press said on Wednesday.

State-owned Garuda Indonesia ordered 10 *Boeing 777-300ERs* (extended range) airplanes worth 2.3 billion dollars while low-cost airline Lion Air acquired 56 *Boeing 737-900ERs* worth about 4.4 billion dollars, reported *The Jakarta Post* newspaper.

MNA/Xinhua

Crude futures jump above \$100 on supply worries

NEW YORK, 21 Feb — Crude futures closed for the first time above 100 US dollars a barrel Tuesday, driven by concerns that OPEC will cut output and geopolitical tensions in Venezuela and Nigeria.

Light, sweet crude for March delivery rose 4.51 US dollars at a record 100.01 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange after earlier rising to 100.10 dollars, a new trading record. The previous high was struck on January 3 as London Brent crude settled up 3.65 dollars at 98.56 dollars a barrel.

MNA/Xinhua

Algerian Qaeda leader killed in Baghdad north

TIKRIT (Iraq), 21 Feb — Iraqi police and local anti-Qaeda group fighters killed a non-Iraqi Arab leader of the al-Qaeda in Iraq network in Salahudin Province, source from US and Iraqi liaison said on Wednesday.

Dozens of the joint force on Tuesday night raided hideouts of al-Qaeda fighters in the open area of the al-Jellam east of Samarra City, some 120 kilometres north of Baghdad, the source from the Joint Coordination Centre in capital city of Tikrit told *Xinhua*.

They clashed with an armed group, killing a gunman, who was later identified as Abu Azzam, a local Algerian al-Qaeda leader, the source said on condition of anonymity.

MNA/Xinhua



Camelia Rodriguez, 53, of Chelsea, Mass is married to her partner of eight years, Jorge Estuardo, left, by Pastor, right, during a last-minute wedding ceremony at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston on 20 Feb, 2008, where Rodriguez has been battling metastatic breast cancer.—INTERNET



A child dressed as a horse performs a ritual dance named "Nuo" at Maotan county of Chizhou, Anhui Province, on 21 Feb, 2008. "Nuo" is an ancient festival held traditionally during the Chinese Lunar New Year holidays.—INTERNET

Images of the Day



Amateur astronomers look at a partially eclipsed moon in the town of Varna, east of the Bulgarian capital Sofia, on 21 Feb, 2008. The last total lunar eclipse until 2010 occurred on Wednesday night, with cameo appearances by Saturn and the bright star Regulus on either side of the veiled full moon. INTERNET

US Navy fires missile at spy satellite

WASHINGTON, 21 Feb— The US Navy shot a missile at an out-of-control spy satellite from a ship deployed in the North Pacific late Wednesday, CNN reported.

"The missile has been launched and (it was) a successful intercept," a Pentagon source was quoted by CNN as saying. However, it will take a day or two to know whether the toxic fuel tank aboard the satellite has been destroyed.

With the weather over Pacific improving, US military finally gave the shoot-down order. A modified SM-3 missile was fired from the cruiser *USS Lake Erie*, attempting to hit the bus-size satellite at about 150 miles (240 kilometres) above the Earth, according to the Pentagon action plan released earlier.

The satellite, called *USA 193*, was launched on 14 Dec, 2006. Shortly after it reached orbit, ground controllers lost contact with it. Left alone, the satellite would be expected to hit Earth during the first week of March. Approximately 1134 kilos of satellite mass will survive re-entry, including 453 kilos of propellant fuel hydrazine, a hazardous material, in the tank, according to the Pentagon. — MNA/Xinhua



The USS Lake Erie launches a Standard Missile-3 at a non-functioning National Reconnaissance Office satellite as it traveled in space at more than 17,000 mph over the Pacific Ocean on 20 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

"Atlantis" lands safely at Kennedy Space Centre

WASHINGTON, 21 Feb— The US space shuttle *Atlantis* touched down at Kennedy Space Centre in Florida at 9:07 am EST (1407 GMT), concluding its 13-day construction flight to the *International Space Station*, according to NASA TV live broadcasting.

The morning at Kennedy brought a modest layer of thin clouds and very light winds. NASA's mission control centre gave the go-ahead for *Atlantis*' de-orbit, which slowed the shuttle down so it could enter the atmosphere and glide to the runway at Kennedy.

The shuttle, with seven astronauts aboard, came to a full stop safely on the runway one minute after touchdown. "Wheels stop and the STS-122 mission has ended," NASA's landing blog reported.

"We're extremely happy to be home," shuttle commander Stephen Frick radioed to Mission Control Centre.

Atlantis arrived at the space station on February 9 to deliver the long-awaited European Space Agency's *Columbus* laboratory to the station, increasing the orbital outpost's scientific capabilities. Construction of the space laboratory, which cost close to two billion US dollars, began in 1992. — MNA/Xinhua

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ပုံနှိပ်ရေးနှင့်စာအုပ်ထုတ်ဝေရေးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက်
စက္ကူနှင့်ပုံနှိပ်ရေးလုပ်ငန်းသုံးပစ္စည်းများ ဝယ်ယူရန်
တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ပုံနှိပ်ရေးနှင့် စာအုပ်ထုတ်ဝေရေး
လုပ်ငန်းအတွက် အသုံးပြုရန် လိုအပ်သော အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ စက္ကူနှင့်
ပုံနှိပ်ရေးလုပ်ငန်းသုံး ပစ္စည်းများကို ဝယ်ယူလိုပါသည်။

1. Newsprint Paper (48.8 Gsm)	-	3,200Tons
2. Woodfree Paper		
(a) 30" (70 Gsm)	-	200 Tons
(b) 30" (80 Gsm)	-	50 Tons
(c) 31" x 43" (70 Gsm)	-	20 Tons
(d) 31" x 43" (80 Gsm)	-	30 Tons
(e) 23 1/2" x 33" (A1) (70 Gsm)	-	10 Tons
(f) 23 1/2" x 33" (A1) (80 Gsm)	-	40 Tons
3. Art Card		
(a) 31" x 43" (260/275 Gsm)	-	15 Tons
(b) 23 1/2" x 33" (A1) (260/275 Gsm)	-	5 Tons
(c) 23 1/2" x 33" (A1) (250 Gsm)	-	5 Tons
4. Art Paper		
(a) 31" x 43" (85 Gsm)	-	10 Tons
(b) 23 1/2" x 33" (A1) (100/105 Gsm)	-	10 Tons
5. Web Offset Ink		
(a) Black	-	7,600 Kg
(b) Yellow	-	1,650 Kg
(c) Magenta	-	850 Kg
(d) Cyan	-	750 Kg
6. Sheet fed Offset Ink		
(a) Yellow	-	350 Kg
(b) Magenta	-	250 Kg
(c) Cyan	-	350 Kg
(d) Green	-	1,500 Kg
7. ပုံတူကူးဖလင်		
(a) Ortho Film (22" x 32") (50 Sht/Pkt)	-	55 Pkts
(b) Developer (5 Lit/Bot)	-	275 Bots
8. Image setter Film		
(a) 460 mm x 60m	-	22 Rolls
(b) 61 cmx 60 m	-	50 Rolls
9. Negative Plates & Chemical		
(a) 915x626x0.3mm	-	3,500 Shts
(b) 1035x740x0.3mm	-	600 Shts
(c) 889x609x0.3 mm	-	5,000 Shts
(d) Developer (5 Lit/Bot)	-	180 Shts
10. Positive Plates		
635x745x0.3mm	-	2,100 Shts
11. Wipe on Developer & Others		
(a) coating A+B	-	85 Pkts
(b) Lacquer	-	80 Liter
(c) Gum Arabic (20 Lit/Bot)	-	12 Bots
12. Stitching Wire		
(a) 23 Guage	-	2,000 Coil
(b) 24 Guage	-	550 Coil
13. Riso Ink & master Roll		
(a) RA Ink	-	26 Ctg
(b) RA Master Roll	-	14 Rolls
(c) RZ ink	-	30 Ctg
(d) RZ Master Roll	-	16 Rolls
14. Rubber Blanket		
889 x 626 x 1.95mm(With T Bar)	-	100 Shts
15. Timing Belt (2310-140 m-40)for		
The Orient four unit Web Offset		20 Nos
16. Toner Cartridge, Canon 1120 (EP 22)		60 Ctg

၂။ တင်ဒါပေးသွင်းမှုကို (၅-၃-၂၀၀၈) ရက် (၁၆:၃၀)နာရီတွင်
ပိတ်ပါမည်။

၃။ တင်ဒါပုံစံနှင့် အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များကို အောက်ပါလိပ်စာ
တွင် လာရောက်စုံစမ်းဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။

ပြည်တွင်း/ပြည်ပပစ္စည်းများ ဝယ်ယူရေးနှင့်ထုခွဲရောင်းချရေးကော်မတီ
ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
မြန်မာ့အသံနှင့် ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား
ပြည်လမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။ ဖုန်း ၅၃၇၆၈၅

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.
The second best time is now.

ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်းအတွက်
စက္ကူနှင့်ပုံနှိပ်ရေးလုပ်ငန်းသုံးပစ္စည်းများ ဝယ်ယူရန်
တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်းအတွက်
အသုံးပြုရန် လိုအပ်သော အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ စက္ကူနှင့် ပုံနှိပ်ရေးလုပ်ငန်း
သုံး ပစ္စည်းများကို ဝယ်ယူလိုပါသည်။

1. Newsprint Paper (48.8 Gsm)30"	2,000 Tons
2. Woodfree Paper (70 Gsm)(500sht/Pkt)	
(a) 16 1/2" x 11 3/4" (A3 Size)	1,000 Pkts
(b) 8 1/4" x 11 3/4" (A4 Size)	2,000 Pkts
3. Web Offset Ink (Black)	25,000 Kg
4. Sheetfed Offset Ink (Black)	2,500 Kg
5. P.S Negative Plates	
(a) 915x626x0.3mm	1,000 Shts
(b) 889x609x0.3 mm	2,000 Shts
(c) 889x586x0.3 mm	3,000 Shts
6. Wipe On Aluminium Plates	
(a) 745x635x0.24 mm	1,000 Shts
(b) 650x550x0.24 mm	5,000 Shts
7. P.S Negative Developer	240 Liter
8. Coating A+B Set	240 Sets
9. Developing Lacquer	240 Liter
10. (a) Ortho Film (Roll) (24"x200")	120 Rolls
(b) Ortho Film (Sheet)(22"x32")(50 Sht/Box)	300 Boxes
11. Film Developer (10 Lit/Bot)	180 Bots
12. Film Fixer (5 Lit/Bot)	180 Bots
13. A3 Toner HP Laser Jet 5000N	70 Boxes
14. Rubber Blanket (Roll)	
28mx1075mmx1.95mm	2 Rolls
15. Rubber Blanket With T.Bar	
890x625x1.95mm	70 Shts
16. Stencil Paper (48 Sht/Box)	300 Boxes
17. Duplicating Ink Tube	300 Boxes
18. Gum Arabic	300 Liter
19. Rubber Blanket	
(a) (765x780x1.95)mm	50 Shts
(b) (675x645x1.95)mm	100 Shts
(c) (676x545x1.95)mm	20 Shts
20. နေပြည်တော် (Imagesetter)	
(a) Film (76.8 cmx61m)	54 Rolls
(b) Developer	320 Liter
(c) Fixer	320 Liter
21. ရန်ကုန် (Imagesetter)	
(a) Film (61 cmx60 m)	36 Rolls
(b) Developer	320 Liter
(c) Fixer	320 Liter
22. Dampening Roller Sleeves	
(a) 64mm	4 Rolls
(b) 76mm	4 Rolls
(c) 84mm	4 Rolls
(d) 96mm	4 Rolls
(e) 104mm	4 Rolls
23. Sponge	400 Nos

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26 arrested for damaging
China’s heritage site

SHENYANG, 20 Feb—Police have arrested 26 people who are alleged to have seriously damaged a protected northeast China Neolithic culture site on the World Heritage waiting list.

Zhang Xiuwu, of Lingyuan City, Liaoning Province, is accused of illegally mining iron ore last year in several places at the Niuheliang relic site, an important site for the study of the Neolithic Hongshan Culture, an aboriginal culture that existed in north China about 6,000 years ago.—MNA/Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA TABAH VOYNO (TBH-211)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TABAH VOYNO (TBH-211) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.2.2008 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES PTE LTD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV EAGLE PRIDE VOYNO (803 N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MVEAGLE PRIDE VOYNO (803 N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.2.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EAGLE SHIPPING CO, LTD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Toshiba opens research lab for
next generation N-reactors

TOKYO, 21 Feb—Toshiba Corporation opened a new research facility for next generation nuclear reactors in Yokohama, Kanagawa Prefecture on Wednesday.

The facility is equipped with a high temperature liquid-sodium test loop for conducting advanced research in essential technology for fast reactors, next generation nuclear reactors.

The test loop is one of the largest operated by any Japanese manufacturer in terms of flow rate and the heating and cooling capacity of liquid sodium, widely recognized as the preferred coolant for fast reactors.

These characteristics allow the test loop to conduct simulations of sodium coolant at actual operating temperature and flow rates, and operation of the facility will provide Toshiba with essential data for fast reactor system design and verification of analysis methods.

MNA/Xinhua

China’s forestry sector loses
57.3b yuan in winter storm

BEIJING, 20 Feb—Severe winter this year has cost China’s forestry sector 57.3 billion yuan in losses, the State Forestry Administration (SFA) announced here Tuesday.

The worst winter in five decades in some areas damaged 20.86 million hectares of forests, one tenth of the total, setting back efforts to meet a national 20-per-cent forest coverage target by 2020, according to the administration.

MNA/Xinhua

Laser could provide breath test for cancer, asthma

WASHINGTON, 21 Feb — A new laser analyzer might be able to help doctors detect cancer, asthma or other diseases by sampling a patient's breath, US researchers reported on Tuesday.

The device uses mirrors to bounce the laser's light back and forth until it has touched every molecule a patient exhales in a single breath, the team reported in the journal *Optics Express*.

This can help detect minute traces of compounds that can point to

various diseases, including cancer, asthma, diabetes and kidney malfunction, they said.

"This technique can give a broad picture of many different molecules in the breath all at once," Jun Ye, who led the research at the University of Colorado, said in a statement. Ye's team at a joint institute of the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the university developed a new technique, called cavity-enhanced direct optical frequency comb spectro-

scopy.

When animals and people breathe out, they exhale not only gases that are not needed, such as carbon dioxide, but also compounds that result from the metabolism of cells. "To date, researchers have identified over 1,000 different compounds contained in human breath," Ye's team wrote in the report, published on the Internet at <http://www.opticsinfobase.org/abstract.cfm?URI=oe-16-4-2387>.

MNA/Reuters



People walk by a lantern featuring the five mascots of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, in Pinying in east China's Shandong province on 19 Feb, 2008. The lantern was one of many on display in preparation for the Lantern Festival, which marks the end of the traditional 15-day Spring Festival period celebrating the Lunar New Year. —INTERNET

China lunar probe to meet moon eclipse



The moon is engulfed in the Earth's shadow during a total lunar eclipse as viewed from Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. —INTERNET

BEIJING, 21 Feb — China's first lunar probing satellite, Chang'e-1, will be put to test Thursday morning when the Earth eclipses the Sun and blocks the supply of solar energy.

From about 10 am, the satellite will be hidden from the solar rays and lost the contact from the Earth for two and a half hours, said Ye Peijian, chief commander and designer in charge of the

satellite system.

Scientists have re-directed the orbit of the satellite and shortened the time it is out of direct sunlight by almost one hour and a half, Ye said.

Ye said the European Space Agency would also help to monitor the satellite and the final results would not be clear until this evening.

The satellite would also perform a second orbital adjustment during another eclipse in August, he said.

The 2,350-kilogramme satellite carrying eight surveying facilities aims to make a three-dimensional survey of the moon's surface. —Internet

Iraqi delegation in Iran to discuss Algiers treaty

TEHERAN, 20 Feb — An Iraqi delegation arrived in Iran on Monday to discuss the Algiers agreement which defines their common border, Iran's students news agency ISNA reported.

Iraqi President Jalal Talabani appeared to be reopening an old border dispute in December when he said that the 32-year-old treaty had been "voided by the current government".

Three days later he reversed his comments, saying the treaty was still valid but that Iraq would like to negotiate changes

in it. Iran welcomed his revised comments, but has repeatedly said Teheran has no intention of discussing changes to the treaty.

ISNA reported that "the visiting Iraqi delegation will discuss ways of implementing the 1975 Algiers treaty", and said the two sides would also discuss "clearing thousands of mines from the Shatt al-Arab waterway" between the two countries. The agreement defining the Iran-Iraq border was signed in the Algerian capital in 1975 by Iraq's then-vice

president Saddam Hussein and the Shah of Iran.

In September 1980, the eight-year Iran-Iraq War was triggered by a quarrel over the strategic Shatt al-Arab waterway and became one of the deadliest conflicts in Middle East history. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad will visit Iraq in March, the first official visit to Iraq by an Iranian leader since the 1979 Iranian Revolution that overthrew the Shah.

Both Talabani and Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki have visited Iran.

MNA/Reuters

Flash floods death toll in Philippines rises to 10

MANILA, 20 Feb — Flash floods have killed at least 10 people in the central Philippines and forced tens of thousands to flee to higher ground after three days of heavy rain, the head of the local Red Cross said on Tuesday.

"Ten people have drowned," said Richard Gordon, appealing for food, medicine, warm clothes and materials for temporary shelter. Three people were injured.

Gordon said nearly 30,000 families, or 140,000 people, have been affected as collapsed bridges, landslides and floodwaters isolated Eastern Samar Province, a poor rural area facing the Pacific Ocean in the central Philippines.

Ben Evardone, the provincial governor, said many families were still trapped in interior villages after rising floodwaters caused rivers to swell and burst their banks.

MNA/Reuters

Indonesia agrees death sentence to chemical weapons use

JAKARTA, 21 Feb — The Indonesian House of Representatives has endorsed a bill that threatens the death sentence to individuals who develop, produce and possess chemical weapons, local Press said on Wednesday. The bill says the use, transfer and acts to facilitate the use of chemical weapons will be punishable by sentences ranging from four years' imprisonment to capital punishment.

Endorsed at a plenary session Tuesday, the bill also bans individuals from involvement in the use of chemical weapons for military purposes, reported *The Jakarta Post* newspaper.

In case of the misuse of chemicals by a corporation, owners or management board members will be held responsible for the crime.

The government is authorized to seize the assets, close down plants and revoke operational licenses of a firm found guilty.

While the bill bans trafficking of deadly toxic chemicals, it orders the strict control of the use of the least dangerous chemicals for industrial, medical, research, agricultural, pharmaceutical and defence purposes. — MNA/Xinhua

Future European jobs will need brains

BRUSSELS, 20 Feb — Farmers, fishermen and office clerks will become a rare breed in Europe, but there will be millions of new jobs in service industries for highly skilled and educated people, a European Union study showed on Monday.

The study, conducted by the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, forecast a net addition of more than 13 million new jobs by 2015, of which an overwhelming majority would be for people with the highest qualifications.

"Skilled agricultural and fishery workers still accounted for almost 10 million jobs in 1996 but this is declining steadily and by 2015 is likely to be not much more than half that figure," the study said.

The number of people in crafts will also continue to decline as new technologies take over — a trend that will also cut some 500,000 jobs in manufacturing to 33,431,000 in 2015.

"Clerks are another group where technology has at last begun to bite," the study said, forecasting a decline of 1.85 million in the number of clerical jobs to 16.94 million by 2015. —MNA/Reuters

SPORTS



Arsenal’s Mathieu Flamini (top) challenges AC Milan’s Gennaro Gattuso during their Champions League first knockout round, first leg soccer match at the Emirates stadium in London on 20 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Vogts quits as Nigeria coach

LAGOS, 21 Feb — Berti Vogts has quit as Nigeria national team coach with immediate effect, the German Football Federation said on Wednesday.

The 61-year-old, who guided Germany to victory in the 1996 European Championship, had been heavily criticized in Nigeria following their African Nations Cup quarterfinal defeat to hosts Ghana, the Federation’s website said ([HYPERLINK "http://www.dfb.de"](http://www.dfb.de) www.dfb.de).

In a statement reported by German sports news agency *SID*, Vogts criticized the Nigerian Football Association for their lack of support for his training team in the face of heavy attacks in the Nigerian media.

"The actions and behaviour of the Nigerian Football Association during and after the African Nations Cup have destroyed all trust between the two parties and further cooperation is impossible," Vogts' lawyer Stefan von Moers said.

Many expected the Nigerian Football Association to fire Vogts after the team's unconvincing performance in the tournament. —MNA/Reuters

Late Tevez goal salvages draw for United in Lyon

LYON, (France), 21 Feb — Manchester United needed a late strike from substitute Carlos Tevez to salvage a 1-1 draw at Olympique Lyon in the first leg of their Champions League first knockout round tie on Wednesday.

Argentine striker Tevez fired in from close range three minutes from time after a cross by Nani took a deflection off Lyon striker Fred.

France forward Karim Benzema had put Lyon ahead with a low drive from 20 metres that bounced off the post and into the net on 54 minutes.

Lyon, inconsistent in Ligue 1, produced a spirited challenge but face a daunting task in the return

leg at Old Trafford.

For that match they will miss wing back Antony Reveillere, who carried a yellow card into the game and was booked for a first-half challenge on Cristiano Ronaldo.

Lyon made a bright start, Sidney Govou and Benzema trying their luck in the first 10 minutes with shots which failed to surprise Edwin van der Sar.

The home side kept the pressure on and United survived a fright on 23 minutes when defender Rio Ferdinand nearly beat Van der Sar by miskicking a seemingly harmless cross from Lyon midfielder Jeremy Toulalan.

United woke up after that scare and created their

S Korea held 1-1 by DPRK at East Asian C’ship

CHONGQING (Southwest China), 21 Feb — South Korea stayed on course for the title despite being held by DPRK 1-1 at the East Asian Football Championship (EAFC) here on Wednesday.

The under-strength South Korea, who beat China 3-2 in the their opening match, went ahead after 20 minutes when forward Yeom Ki Hun capitalized on a free kick on the edge of the area to blast a bullet shot into the net.

The DPRK equalized in the 73rd when their leading forward Jong Tae Se burst past two defenders after meeting a tricky through ball and easily rounded the South Korean goalkeeper from the right to calmly steer the ball into the net. Then DPRK keeper Ri Myong Guk became the dominant figure of the field as he made several brilliant saves to block South Korea's wild and sharp attack. —MNA/Xinhua



Gabriel do Santos (L) of Brazil’s Fluminense fights for the ball with Norberto Araujo of Ecuador’s LDU during their match in the Copa Libertadores soccer tournament in Quito on 20 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET



Mexico’s America German Villa (R) battles for the ball with Dario Botinelli of Chile’s Universidad Catolica in their first round Copa Libertadores soccer match at Azteca stadium in Mexico City on 20 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Olympiakos keep dream alive with Chelsea draw

ATHENS, 21 Feb — Olympiakos Piraeus believe they have kept their European dream alive after holding Chelsea to a 0-0 draw with a solid performance in the first leg of their Champions League last 16 tie.

"We knew that it would be hard to create lots chances against this team. We created a decent number of chances without managing to score but it is a result that allows to dream of more," Olympiakos coach Takis Lemonis told reporters. "I was really pleased by the atmosphere and by the way the team followed our tactics. We were rarely threatened by Chelsea and we managed to have several organized attacks."

Lemonis conceded the Greek champions had missed the injured Lomana LuaLua but was hopeful the striker would boost the attack for the match at Stamford Bridge on 5 March. —MNA/Reuters

Messi hits double in Barcelona’s win at Celtic

GLASGOW, 21 Feb — Argentine striker Lionel Messi hit a double as Barcelona beat Celtic 3-2 in the first leg of their Champions League first knockout round tie at Parkhead on Wednesday.

The Spanish side came back twice from behind to eventually sink Celtic with Messi's winner 11 minutes from the end of a thrilling match that marked their 100th win in the European Cup.

Celtic had led after 16 minutes through Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink before Messi levelled two minutes later. Midfielder Barry Robson put the home side in front again before the break but Thierry Henry pulled one back early in the second half.

"It is disappointing to score two goals at home and to lose 3-2. They have the best squad in the world and only time will tell if they have the best team in the world," Celtic manager Gordon Strachan told a news conference.

"They are probably favourites to win this tournament now and if you went to the bookies tomorrow they would be the favourites."

Barcelona assistant manager Johann Neeskens said his side could have scored more goals.

"We were dominating the game and controlling the game. We showed we could score some more goals," he told reporters. "We are very happy that we had this result against this team which is a very strong team."

Celtic keeper Artur Boruc pulled off a fine, parrying save after 12 minutes, diving to his left to turn away a 20-metre rasping shot from Andres Iniesta.

MNA/Reuters

Police investigate threat against Chelsea coach

LONDON, 21 Feb — British police are investigating an apparent death threat made against Avram Grant, the Israeli coach of Chelsea soccer club.

A package containing a white powder was left at the team's training ground on Tuesday, police in Surrey, west of London, said on Wednesday. British media said notes threatening Grant and his wife were left with it.

"When you open this letter you will die a very slow and painful death," British tabloid newspaper the *Sun* quoted one of the notes as saying.

It said a second message made threats against his wife, Tzofit, a high-profile personality in Israel. —MNA/Reuters

New Orleans Hornets guard Chris Paul shoots over Dallas Mavericks center Erick Dampier (L) during the second half of their NBA basketball game in New Orleans, Louisiana on 20 Feb, 2008. INTERNET



Asleep in Jesus U Kyaw Win (a) Alan Boey Aged (58) years

U Kyaw Win (a) Alan Boey, son of Mr. Pakyeng Boey - Daw Nyunt Zin (Daisy), son-in-law of (U Nyunt Wai) - Daw Nyunt Yee, beloved husband of Daw Si Si Nyunt, beloved father of Zar Mani Nyunt (Bruno) and Einzali Kyaw (Grace), brother of Daw Khin Khin Aye (Pamela)(Loi-Hein), Daw Yin Yin Aye (Catherine) MPF (PyinOoLwin), Daw Phyu Phyu Aye (Priscilla) (UNMIS/ Sudan), Dr.Daw Hla Hla Aye (Caroline) (MOH)- Bishop Zothan Mawia (Methodist Church L/M), Daw Angela Boey (WHO), Dr. Peter Boey (Canada), Dr. Roland Boey-Dr. Khin Than Myint was called to his heavenly home in his residence, 16/D.2,Mahar Myaing Housing Estate, North Dagon, at 4:15 am on Thursday, 21.2.08. Funeral service will be held at All Christian Denominations Cemetery (Yeway) on Saturday, 23.2.2008,at 11 am and entombed.Friends and relatives please kindly accept this as the only intimation

The bereaved family.

Japan's destroyer crew face questioning after crash

TOKYO, 21 Feb — Japan's Coast Guard quizzed the captain and crew of a warship on suspicion of negligence on Wednesday after a collision that sank a fishing boat, as media said the incident could prove a fresh blow to the government.

Military, Coast Guard and private vessels searched the waters off Chiba, east of Tokyo, for the father and son crew who

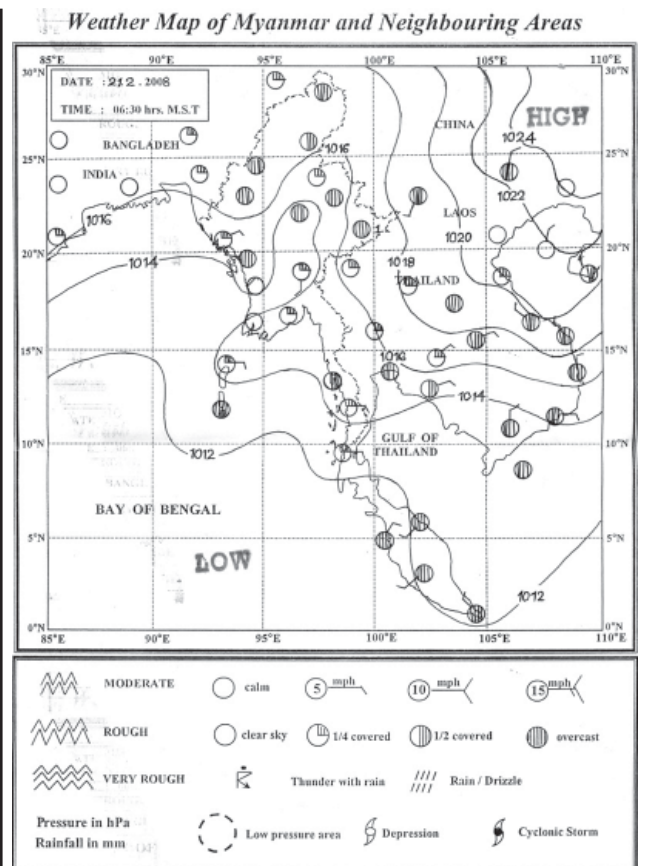
disappeared when the 7,750-ton destroyer *Atago* equipped with a high-tech radar systems, ploughed into a 7.3-ton tuna fishing boat.

Television pictures showed crowds of people praying and burning incense on the dock from which Haruo Kishisei, 58, and his 23-year-old son Tetsuhiro had set out on their trip on Tuesday.

"Unfortunately they have not yet been found," the top government spokesman told reporters. "As for the cause of the accident, we will have to wait for the results of the Coast Guard investigation," Chief Cabinet Secretary Nobutaka Machimura said.

As rescuers retrieved a silvergrey jacket belonging to Haruo Kishisei, media blamed the armed forces and the Defence Ministry for the incident, which follows a series of defence sector corruption scandals and information leaks.

MNA/Reuters



WEATHER

Thursday, 21 February, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thunder-showers have been isolated in Kachin and Chin States, Magway and Ayeyawady Divisions, scattered in Shan State and Mandalay Division, fairly widespread in Sagaing Division, weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below February average temperatures in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) below February average temperatures in Chin State, Magway and Bago Divisions and about February average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Loilem (1°C), Namhsan and Haka (2°C) each, PyinOoLwin and Heho (4°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Monghsat (1.06) inches, Minkin (0.28) inch and Pyapon (0.16) inch.

Maximum temperature on 20-2-2008 was 94°F. Minimum temperature on 21-2-2008 was 67°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 21-2-2008 was 61%. Total sunshine hours on 20-2-2008 was (9.1) hours approx.

Rainfall on 21-2-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (0.67) inch at Mingaladon, (0.47) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.35) inch at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from West at (12:30) hours MST on 20-2-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 22-2-2008: Possibility of isolated rain in Kachin, Chin and Shan States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated rain in southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 22-2-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 22-2-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 22-2-2008: Partly cloudy.

Three killed, 25 injured in powerful quake in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 21 Feb — At least three people were killed and 25 others seriously injured in Siemelu island of Aceh Province after a powerful earthquake which rattled the province in northern tip of Sumatra Island on Wednesday, Health Ministry said here.

Head of the crisis centre of the ministry Rustam Pakaya said that the victims were struck by

the collapsed buildings.

"Three people were killed and 25 others suffered serious injury," he told *Xinhua*.

The death toll was expected to rise as the searching has been underway and many buildings collapsed, said Pakaya.

"Telecommunication cut has hampered for coordination on the rescue," he said. The quake

measuring 6.6 on the Richter Scale struck at 15:08 Jakarta Time (0808 GMT) with epicentre 42 kilometres northwest Sinabang Town in Siemelu Island of the province and 30 kilometres beneath the earth, meteorology agency said.

Siemelu island is the closest with the epicentre, according to the meteorology agency.

MNA/Xinhua



Friday, 22 February
View on today

7:00 am

1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara

7:15 am

2. တိပိဋကဓရ၊ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရီက၊ အဂ္ဂမဟာပဏ္ဍိတ၊ ဘဒ္ဒန္တသိရိန္ဒာဘိဝံသ (ယောဆရာတော်) ဟောကြားတော်မူအပ်သော ဥပ္ပါတသန္တိပါဠိတော်

7:30 am

3. To be healthy exercise

7:40 am

4. Nice and sweet song

7:55 am

5. လှုပ်ရှားပုံပြင်စိတ်ပျော်ရွှင်

8:05 am

6. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:10 am

7. The mirror images of the musical oldies

8:20 am

8. ဆင်ဖြူရှင်တံတား

8:30 am

9. International news

8:45 am

10. English for Everyday Use

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Song to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ-ပထမနှစ် (အင်္ဂလိပ်စာအထူးပြု) (အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ)

4:45 pm

4. ၂၀၀၈ခုနှစ်တက္ကသိုလ်ဝင် စာမေးပွဲဘာသာရပ်ဆိုင်ရာ သင်ခန်းစာ (ဇီဝဗေဒဘာသာရပ်)

5:05 pm

5. Song of national races

5:20 pm

6. "ဆေးလိပ်ကင်းကွာ အနုပညာကမ္ဘာ" (လွင်စိုး၊မင်းမော်ကွန်း၊ဇာနည်၊ ကင်းကောင်၊ စိုးမြတ်နန္ဒာ၊ လှအညွန့်တင့်ကြည်လဲ့လဲ့ဦး၊ ဂွမ်းပုံ)

5:30 pm

7. Song of yesteryears

5:45 pm

8. အာဆီယံလက်မှုအနုပညာ ပစ္စည်းပြပွဲနှင့်၂၀၀၇ခုနှစ် အာဆီယံလူငယ် တံဆိပ်ခေါင်းပြိုင်ပွဲ

6:00 pm

9. Evening news

6:30 pm

10. Weather report

6:35 pm

11. သုတစုံလင်ရွှေညွန့်ရှင်

7:10 pm

12. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "လေဒီယာနှင့်ဆုံစည်းခြင်း" (အပိုင်း - ၁၁)

8:00 pm

13. News

14. International news

15. Weather report

16. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ဘဝဆက်တိုင်း" (အပိုင်း-၄)

17. The next day's programme



Friday, 22 February
Tune in today

8:30 am Brief news

8:35 am Music

-So real

8:40 am Perspectives

8:45 am Music

-It's so easy

8:50 am National news

9:00 am Music

-Tomorrow

9:05 am International news

9:10 am Music

-Taking back my heart

1:30 pm News/ Slogan

1:40 pm Lunch time music

-Ghost town

-Downtown train

9:00 pm W O M

9:15 pm Article

9:25 pm Music at your request

-Where do we go

-I think it's love

9:45 pm News/Slogan

10:00 pm PEL

People's Desire

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

South-West Command Commander inspects development tasks in Ayeyawady Division

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb — Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe inspected nurturing of 80,000 physic nutsaplings in Ngwehsaung of Pathein Township, Ayeyawady Division, on 17 February.

Ngwehsaung sets its target of growing 3,149 acres of physic nut in 2008-2009. In the town of Ngwehsaung, 86 acres of land were put under physic nut in 2006-2007 and 2,759 acres under the plant in 2007-2008.

After visiting the physic nut plantations, the commander met with departmental officials, members of social organizations and local people and presented cash assistance to patients receiving treatment at the hospital in the town.

Afterwards, the commander inspected development tasks in



Commander Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe inspects construction of earth road in Sangyoung Village in Ngayokkaung. — MNA

Ngwehsaung Beach.

During the tour of Ngayokkaung, Ngaputaw Township, on 16 February, the commander also met with departmental officials and local people and inspected work on construction of Ngayokkaung-Kwinbat Road.

The road is 16 miles and 7 furlongs long and 18 ft wide. On completion of

the road, residents can go easily to Pathein through Ngayokkaung-Hsinma-Ngwehsaung Road and Ngayokkaung-Ngayokkaungtaung-Seintaung Road. Commander Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe also visited the physic nut plantation of MAGT Ltd at Mile Post No 27/1 on Seintaung-Mawtin Road.

(See page 9)

Objectives of the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day

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

Identity cards for matriculation candidates

YANGON, 21 Feb — The Myanmar Board of Examinations today announced that students who will sit for the matriculation examination to be held from 10 to 19 March 2008 may take out their identity cards from the supervisors of respective examination centres as of 28 February.

Lists of roll numbers and examination centres for the candidates in Yangon municipal area will be issued at the offices of respective township education officers starting from 29 February.

The candidates of basic education high schools, branches and affiliated BEHSs in Yangon municipal area may get their identity cards from respective schoolheads and external candidates, from the supervisors of respective examination centres beginning 4 March. — MNA

- ★ **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**