

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XV, Number 313

2nd Waning of Tabodwe 1369 ME

Saturday, 23 February, 2008

Senior General Than Shwe felicitates Brunei King

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb — On the occasion of the 24th Anniversary of the National Day of Brunei Darussalam which falls on 23 February, 2008, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. —MNA

Prime Minister sends felicitations to Brunei

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb — On the occasion of the 24th Anniversary of the National Day of Brunei Darussalam which falls on 23 February, 2008, General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. —MNA

Secretary-1 attends reception to mark Armed Forces Day of Russian Federation

YANGON, 22 Feb —Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin attended a reception to mark the Armed Forces Day of the Russian Federation at Hotel Nikko Royal Lake in Bahan Township here this evening. They were welcomed at the reception by Russian Military Attaché to the Union of Myanmar Colonel Alexander V

Svinitsovskiy and wife and officials.

It was also attended by Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence and wife, Chairman of Yangon Division PDC

Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and wife, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence and their wives, officials of the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs, the Ambassadors and Charges d'Affaires of foreign embassies in Yangon, military attaches, officials of UN agencies and their wives and guests.

MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife being welcomed by Russian Military Attaché Colonel Alexander V Svinitsovskiy and wife at the reception to mark Armed Forces Day of the Russian Federation.

MNA



Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 23 February, 2008

Exert concerted efforts for regional development

Today, the government is striving together with the Tatmadaw and the people for the emergence of a new modern democratic nation. In this regard, it is building a number of infrastructures for the development of economic, education, health and transport sectors the length and breadth of the nation.

In the meantime, it is doing its best for the development of agricultural, industrial, energy and communication sectors. In the past, the national brethren found it hard to travel from one place to another, for there had been natural barriers such as rivers, creeks and mountain ranges. Now, with the emergence of new bridges and roads they have easy access to every region in the country.

The Yangon-Sittway road, the Yangon Kyaukpyu road, the Ngathaing Gyoung-Gwa road plus new bridges of different sizes have been constructed in Rakhine State which had to rely solely on water and air routes in the past. With better transport, access to Rakhine State from other regions is now possible, thereby contributing to the development of trade and commerce in the region.

Improvement in the living standard of the people is attributable to prevalence of peace and tranquillity as well as development in different regions. And it is incumbent upon the entire people to maintain the already-achieved peace, stability and development.

The government is making all-out efforts for the emergence of a new modern democratic nation aspired by the people while in the process of drafting an enduring State constitution, the fourth step of the seven-step Road Map.

At such a time, the entire national people are to make concerted efforts for the successful realization of the seven-step Road Map making better use of the already-achieved development infrastructures.

Briefing on Myanmar Furniture Fair-2008

YANGON, 22 Feb—A briefing on Myanmar Furniture Fair-2008 was held at the office of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry on Min Ye Kyaw Swa Street yesterday afternoon.

At the briefing, Chairman of Myanmar Timber Entrepreneurs Association U Sein Lwin explained the purpose of holding the Myanmar Furniture fair and General Manager U Htoo Aung of Myanmar Timber Enterprise under the Ministry of Forestry, pieces of furniture to be displayed at the fair.

The fair will be held at the Convention Centre from 3 to 7 March from 10 am to 4 pm daily. There will be 154 booths indoors and 12 outdoors. —MNA

People's Desire

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

Donors invited to build IIA building

YANGON, 22 Feb— Wellwishers are making cash donations for building of International Institute of Abhidhamma.

At the donation ceremony held at the Thadu Kari Dhamayon on Bo Aung Kyaw Street recently, Nun Daw Dhammadatthi of Room (4/4), Building 105, 8th Mile Pyay Road, donated K 500,000 to President and Pro-rector of IIA Retired Ambassador U Mya Than who presented a certificate of honour to the donor.

Those wishing to make cash donation for the propagation of Buddha Abhidhamma may contact phone number 254102 at Thadu Kari Dhamayon, No 295-297, Bo Aung Kyaw Street. —H



Nun Daw Dhammadatthi donates cash for building of International Institute of Abhidhamma.—H

Complementary copies of Tourist Maps of Myanmar, Map of Bagan in circulation

YANGON, 22 Feb—Under the supervision of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Design Printing Service Co Ltd (DPS) has published 1,390,000 copies of variety Tourist Guide Maps since 1995 for the development of Myanmar tourism industry.

At present, a total of 40,000 complementary copies of Tourist Maps of Myanmar (TMM-20) and the Maps of Bagan (MOB-11) are in circulation with a view to ensuring convenient travelling of tourists in open season.

Tourist Maps of Myanmar (TMM-20) carry detailed Myanmar map and particular maps of Mandalay, PyinOoLwin, Bagan, MraukU, Taunggyi, Inlay, Kyaikhtiye, Myeik, Napali, Ngwehsaung and Chaungtha.

The Map of Bagan (MOB-11) describes the location of Bagan Myothit and old city, Popa, NaungU and pagodas of Bagan including lists of airlines, transport agencies, hotels and restaurants. As a result, home-grown and foreign tourists may visit the interesting places with a low cost and time saved. Tourist Maps of Myanmar (TMM-20), the Map of Bagan (MOB-11) and other Myanmar tourism guideline maps are being effectively distributed to local and foreign tourism countries at ITB Berlin-2008 to be held in Berlin, Germany from 5 to 9 March.

FM felicitates Brunei counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb— On the occasion of the 24th Anniversary of the National Day of Brunei Darussalam which falls on 23 February, 2008, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Royal Highness Prince Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei Darussalam. —MNA

Compendium of Philosophy course from 3 March to 30 Sept

YANGON, 22 Feb—The International Institute of Abhidhamma (I.I.A) will commence the Certificate Course in English in Abhidhamma, dealing with the original Books of Abhidhamma Pitaka, in October.

Prior to the Certificate Course, with a view to laying down the groundwork and providing a good foundation in the subject, the I.I.A will conduct Courses in the Compendium of Philosophy (Abhidhammattha Sangha) in Myanmar and English by Sayagyi U Tin Htut and Sayagyi Professor Dr Mehm Tin Mon, in the evenings on weekdays at Abhidhamma Dhammayone, No. 49-51 Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, here. From 3 March to 30 September, on every Monday and Tuesday, Sayagyi U Tin Htut will give lecture on Compendium of Philosophy in Myanmar from 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm at Abhidhamma Dhammayone and on every Wednesday and Friday from 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm, Sayagyi Professor Dr Mehm Tin Mon will give lecture on Compendium of Philosophy in English at the same venue.

Those interested may attend the courses free of charge. For further information contact telephone number 254102.—H

Entrepreneurs of hotels and tourism agencies and tour guides may take out the complementary copies of the maps by verifying the copy of company registration and certificates of general power at Myanmar Tourism Service (Sule) and Design Printing Services Co Ltd at No 165-167, second floor, 35th street, Kyauktada Township, (Tel: 951-204020, 204200, 570127, Tel/Fax 951-245230) during office hours beginning 8 March. —MNA

Tourist Maps of Myanmar.

MNA

Russia needs more aircraft for national defence

Moscow, 22 Feb—Russia should increase the number of modern combat aircraft for the country's Air Force, President Vladimir Putin said on Wednesday.

"I believe the State Armaments Programme should be adjusted to increase the procurement of aircraft for national defence," Putin told a meeting of aircraft industry officials in Zhukovsky, near Moscow.

Putin said he found it

unacceptable that foreign customers receive advanced aircraft from Russia, while the country's own Air Force gets mainly overhauled planes built many years ago, Russian RIA news agency reported.

In 2007, Russia's leading aircraft manufacturer Sukhoi alone exported about 50 *Su-30MK2*, *Su-30MKM* and *Su-30MKI* aircraft in addition to spare parts sold earlier to Algeria, India, Malaysia, Indonesia and Venezuela.

Under the 2007-2015 State Armaments Programme, the Russian Air Force will receive 116 new and 408 upgraded aircraft for forward-deployed units, and 156 new and 372 modernized helicopters over the next eight years.

In order to meet the growing demand for aircraft, it is necessary to continue the steady development of the United Aircraft Corporation (UAC), the President added.—MNA/Xinhua

Democrats watch a huge video screen at a watch party on 21 Feb, 2008,

in Austin, Texas, during

Thursday's televised

debate between

Democratic presidential

candidates Sen Barack

Obama, D-Ill, and Sen.

Hillary Rodham

Clinton, D-NY

INTERNET



McCain calls "Times" story on lobbyist "untrue"

TOLEDO, OHIO, 22 Feb—Republican presidential front-runner John McCain on Thursday dismissed as "untrue" a *New York Times* report suggesting he had close ties to a female lobbyist nine years ago in a potential conflict with his high ethical stances.

"Obviously I'm very disappointed in the article. It's not true," the four-term Arizona Senator told a

news conference.

"At no time have I ever done anything that would betray the public trust or make a decision which in any way would not be in the public interest and would favour any one or any organization," McCain said. The *New York Times* reported on Wednesday that McCain had a close relationship with a telecommunications lobbyist, Vicki Iseman, saying that early in McCain's failed bid for the 2000 presidential election, members of his campaign had grown concerned the relationship might harm the campaign.

At the news conference, McCain described Iseman as a "friend" whom he has seen on various occasions in Washington including fund-raisers and receptions.—MNA/Reuters

McCain described Iseman as a "friend" whom he has seen on various occasions in Washington including fund-raisers and receptions.—MNA/Reuters

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Musharraf calls for harmonious coalition

ISLAMABAD, 22 Feb—Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf on Wednesday emphasized the need for harmonious coalition in the interest of peaceful governance, development and progress of Pakistan, a statement issued by the

Foreign Office said.

Musharraf made the remarks when he met with US Congressman Elton Gallegly in Rawalpindi on Wednesday and discussed with him on Pakistan-US relations and recent political developments in

the country including the 18 February elections.

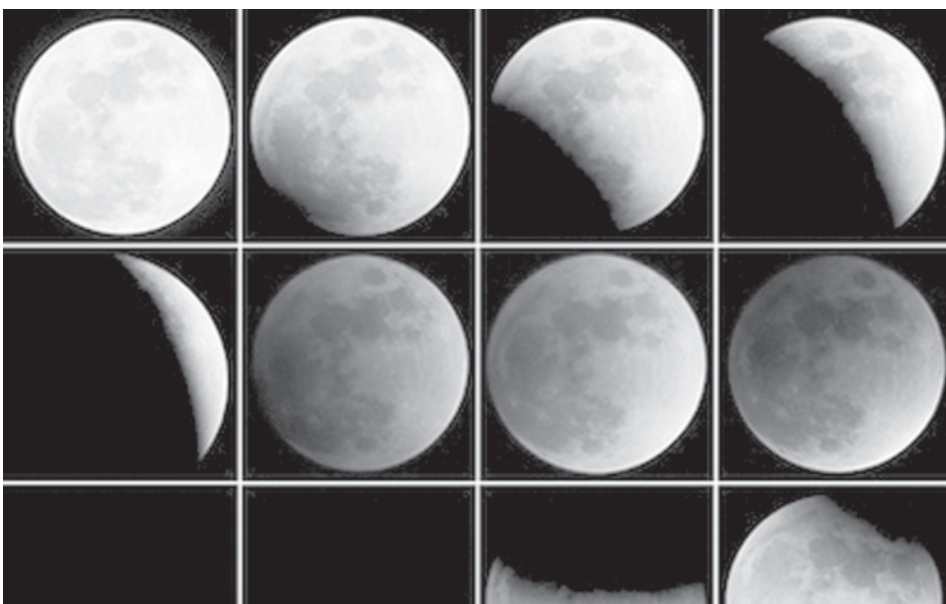
Musharraf highlighted the importance of the 18 February elections and called for harmonious coalition in the interest of the country.

He underlined Pakistan's commitment to a closer and broad-based relationship with the US based on commonality of interests and enhancement of areas of agreement, said the statement.

MNA/Xinhua

Discovery's mission to ship part of the Japanese laboratory Kibo up to the International Space Station will be delayed one month to 25 May.

INTERNET



A sequence of images taken approximately every twenty minutes show the moon passing through the shadow of the earth as photographed in Toronto on 20 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

"Suicide palm tree" seeds arrive in Britain

LONDON, 22 Feb—The seeds of the "suicide palm", a newly discovered and extremely rare palm tree, have arrived in Britain for urgent study and conservation, the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew said on Wednesday. The tree, whose nickname stems from its habit of

flowering itself to death once every half century, was discovered only recently on the island of Madagascar.

Only about 100 examples are known to exist of the tree, which grows to more than 18 metres high over a period of 50 years before bursting into bloom just once with hundreds of tiny flowers for pollination and then dying.—MNA/Reuters

India's Congress Party faces triple northeast test

GUWAHATI (India), 22 Feb—Elections in three small states in India's remote and revolt-racked northeast will provide another test for the ruling Congress Party as it seeks to boost its shaky morale ahead of a national poll due next year.

While the states are small and lack political weight nationally, elections in Tripura, Meghalaya and Nagaland over the next few weeks will give Congress another sign of whether its popularity is falling across the country. Congress suffered defeats to the rival Hindu-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the states of Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh last December.

"The results of these smaller states will matter for the Congress," said Mahesh Rangarajan, a political analyst and history professor at Delhi University.—MNA/Reuters



Workers level ground at the construction site for Shanghai Centre, the city's planned new skyscraper. Located in Lujiazui, Pudong, the building is expected to soar to 580 metres, dwarfing the 421-metre Jin Mao Tower and the 492-metre Shanghai World Financial Centre in its neighbourhood.

XINHUA

China, DPRK, ROK meet in Beijing on eco, energy assistance

BEIJING, 22 Feb — Officials from China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the Republic of Korea (ROK) on Thursday met in Beijing to discuss economic and energy assistance within the framework of six-party talks.

China's Ambassador for Korean Peninsula Issues Chen Naqing is heading the Chinese delegation, which also includes officials from the Foreign Ministry and Commercial Ministry,

said Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao.

"The six-party talks and the Korean Peninsula denuclearization process have achieved remarkable progress, which is attributed by all to the great efforts by relevant parties including China," Liu said. Despite some current difficulties, all parties have maintained consultation and communication, Liu said.

"China is ready to make joint efforts to push forward the six-party talks

so as to realize the agreements completely and in a balanced fashion," Liu said.

The six-party talks held in Beijing last February reached a nuclear deal, where the DPRK agreed to disable its nuclear reactor and declare all nuclear programmes and facilities by the end of last year to pave the way for dismantlement. However, the DPRK missed the deadline despite reported progress in its declaration.

Xinhua

Pakistan's elections result to be notified on 1 March

ISLAMABAD, 21 Feb — The official results of Pakistan's general elections held on Monday will be notified on 1 March, local TV channel DAWN NEWS reported on Wednesday.

Local newspaper DAWN unveiled on Wednesday the unofficial results of the polling, according to which the Pakistan People's Party secured the largest number of National Assembly seats. The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) won 88 seats, topping the list of contesting parties in the competition.

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N),

led by former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, secured 65 seats as the runner up while the former ruling party Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) is on the third position with 42 seats.

The unofficial results covered 267 out of a total

of 268 slots of National Assembly, which are available for candidates.

Local media reports indicated that the polling staff at some polling station have started to recount the votes due to complaints lodged by some political parties. —Xinhua



Buehrle collection director Lukas Gloor (L) and police spokesman Marco Cortesi hold a news conference in Zurich 19 Feb, 2008.

XINHUA

China to launch "Chang'e-2" lunar probe around 2009

BEIJING, 22 Feb — China plans to launch its second lunar probe, Chang'e-2, around 2009, according to a top satellite scientist.

Ye Peijian, chief commander and designer of China's first moon probe satellite system, revealed the plan during an interview programme on CCTV, China Central Television.

However, Ye did not elaborate on the plan with more details.

He said, Chang'e-1 the country's first lunar probe,

had resumed contact with the control centre after it moved out of the shadow area caused by an eclipse of the sun at about 14:10 on Thursday. From about 10:00 a.m. on Thursday,

the satellite was blocked from the supply of solar energy when the Earth eclipsed the sun and lost the contact with the control centre.

Xinhua

Timor-Leste President regains consciousness

CANBERRA, 21 Feb — Timor-Leste President Jose Ramos-Horta regained consciousness on Thursday, 10 days after he was shot in an assassination attempt in Timor-

Leste's capital Dili, according to a spokeswoman for the President.

"He is slowly waking up," and has started speaking to his family, said Luke Gosling, a Ramos-Horta aide who is with him in northern Australian city Darwin.

"The President has said a few words to family and is resting," Gosling said in a statement.

Ramos-Horta has undergone surgery in a hospital in Darwin since 11 February and has been heavily sedated at the hospital to help him stay still and avoid pain.

Xinhua

South African twins Ethel Nembula (L) and Dora Uys celebrate their 100th birthday with their family members and friends at a gathering in Johannesburg, on 20 Feb, 2008. The twin sisters are among the oldest in the world.

XINHUA



Chinese Army donates 10m yuan to snow-hit Sichuan

CHENGDU, 22 Feb — The General Armament Department of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) has donated 10 million yuan (1.4 million US dollars) to the southwest Sichuan Province for disaster relief efforts in snow-hit areas.

The funds will be distributed to Luzhou and Yibin cities and Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture, via the Provincial Civil Affairs Department, said Major General Hao Jianchang, deputy director of the Political Department of the PLA General Armament Department.

Xinhua

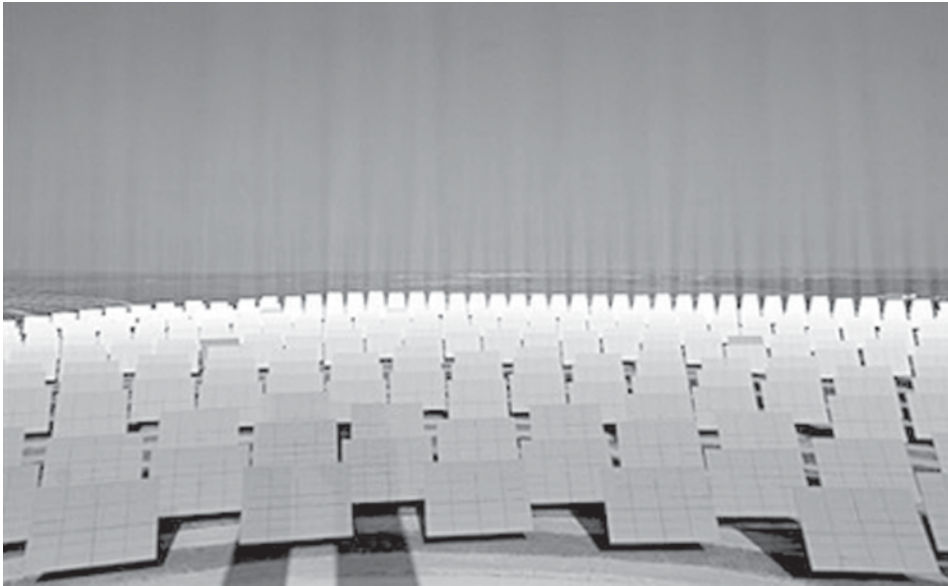
Afghan chopper with US senators makes emergency landing

WASHINGTON, 22 Feb — A helicopter carrying three US senators made an emergency landing in Afghanistan on Thursday, but no one was hurt, a TV report said.

Citing military and congressional sources, CNN said the military helicopter with US senators — Joseph Biden of Delaware, John Kerry of Massachusetts and Chuck Hagel of Nebraska — on board was forced to land in the mountains of Afghanistan because of a snowstorm.

According to Kerry's spokesman David Wade, the senators returned to Afghanistan's Bagram Air Base in a ground convoy and then left for Turkey. —Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency



A solar power plant. Abengoa Solar plans to build the world's largest solar plant in Arizona in cooperation with an energy utility in the southwestern state, the companies said on Thursday.—INTERNET

Snow storms cost China's tourism sector nearly \$1b

BEIJING, 22 Feb — The snow crisis that hit China over the Spring Festival period had a devastating effect on tourism in those provinces worst hit by the snowstorms, with revenues down nearly a third compared with last year.

The seven worst-hit provinces, including Guizhou, Hunan, Anhui, and Hubei completely or partly ceased tourism businesses. Tourism earnings during the Spring Festival were down 29.75 per cent, compared with last year's holidays, Shao Qiwei, director of National Tourism Administration (NTA) said at a disaster relief work conference.

Preliminary figures showed the storms have cost China's tourism industry 6.97 billion yuan (about 968.1 million US dollars), said Shao.

Some 15,800 tour groups have been cancelled since mid-January, totalling 300,000 passengers. About 60,000 of the tourists were on in-bound tours while 240,000 planned for domestic travels, statistics from NTA showed.

MNA/Xinhua

ECONOMIC NEWS

Iraq agrees \$5b Boeing, Bombardier plane deal

BAGHDAD, 21 Feb—Iraq said on Tuesday it had agreed to buy 40 new aircraft from US plane maker Boeing and six from Canada's Bombardier for state-run Iraqi Airways in a deal worth up to five billion US dollars. "A ministerial committee was formed and has agreed to buy 40 planes from Boeing, and four other used ones from Boeing and six new planes from Bombardier," Bangeen Riqani, Deputy Minister of Transport, told Reuters.

An earlier government statement had said Iraq

KUALA LUMPUR, 21 Feb — Malaysia's approved manufacturing investments jumped to a record last year as more foreigners were attracted by easier rules while the locals were buoyed by strong commodity prices, local media reported on Wednesday.

Approved manufacturing investments rose 30 per cent to 59.9 billion

ringgit (18.6 billion US dollars), of which more than half were foreign direct investments.

Malaysian International Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah Aziz, however, was quick to caution that it would be difficult to maintain the performance amid the uncertain global economic outlook.

"We have to be very

realistic ... Probably, we will not maintain the 59.9-billion-ringgit (18.6-billion-US-dollar) mark, but we will attract a high level (of investment).

We have to work extra hard," she said at the annual media conference by the Malaysian Industrial Development Authority in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday.

MNA/Xinhua

Gazprom says agrees more gas/oil projects with Iran

Moscow, 21 Feb—Russia's Gazprom, the world's largest gas producer, has agreed to develop more phases of Iran's giant South Pars gas field and enter the country's oil sector, the firm said on Tuesday.

New investment by a Russian energy firm is unlikely to be well received in the United States, which has been seeking to isolate Iran over its nuclear ambitions and has been urging foreign firms to cut business ties.

Gazprom said in a statement the deal was clinched on Tuesday at talks between its chief executive Alexei Miller and Iranian Energy Minister Gholamhossein Nozari. It did not give any figures for investment commitments.

"The two sides have agreed to jointly develop two or three blocks of South Pars as well as Gazprom Neft's participation in oil production projects in Iran", the statement said.

Gazprom is already involved in phases two and three of South Pars together with France's Total and Malaysia's Petronas. — MNA/Reuters

Toshiba, Sony, SCEI announce new JV for semiconductors

TOKYO, 21 Feb—Toshiba Corp, Sony Corp and Sony Computer Entertainment Inc announced Wednesday that they have signed a definitive agreement to form a new joint venture for the production of high-performance semiconductors, and the company will start operation from 1 April in

Isahaya, Nagasaki Prefecture. The joint venture will produce Semiconductors, including the "Cell Broadband Engine™" processor, the "RSX" graphics engine for Sony Group, as well as Toshiba's digital consumer products, the three companies said.

Manufacturing will start with 65 nanometres pro-

cess, and the joint venture will promote migration to 45 nanometres process mass production, in cooperation with Toshiba's system LSI manufacturing operation in Oita, while also working to achieve advances in manufacturing technologies and efficiencies.

MNA/Xinhua

Yuan breaks 7.15-mark against US dollar

BEIJING, 21 Feb—The Chinese currency recorded a new high on Wednesday, with a central parity rate of 7.1452 yuan against one US dollar, the 17th high for the yuan since the beginning of this year. The yuan, also known as the renminbi, has appreciated more than 13 per

cent since it was de-pegged from the dollar in July 2005. It climbed 6.9 per cent against the greenback in 2007 and has already appreciated more than 2 per cent so far this year. Some analysts said that the government wanted to use a gradual appreciation of the yuan to help ease

inflation pressure. Zhou Xiaochuan, head of the People's Bank of China (PBOC), the central bank, has said repeatedly in recent months that the yuan rate would gradually reach a "balanced" level and help bring equilibrium to the balance of payments.

MNA/Xinhua

UAE low-cost airline to launch service to India's city

ABU DHABI, 21 Feb—Air Arabia, a low-cost airline of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), announced on Wednesday that it will launch a new service linking its hub city Sharjah to the South Indian city of Kozhikode on 26 February, the Emirates News Agency reported. Once the service gets final approval from India's civil aviation authorities, the Sharjah-

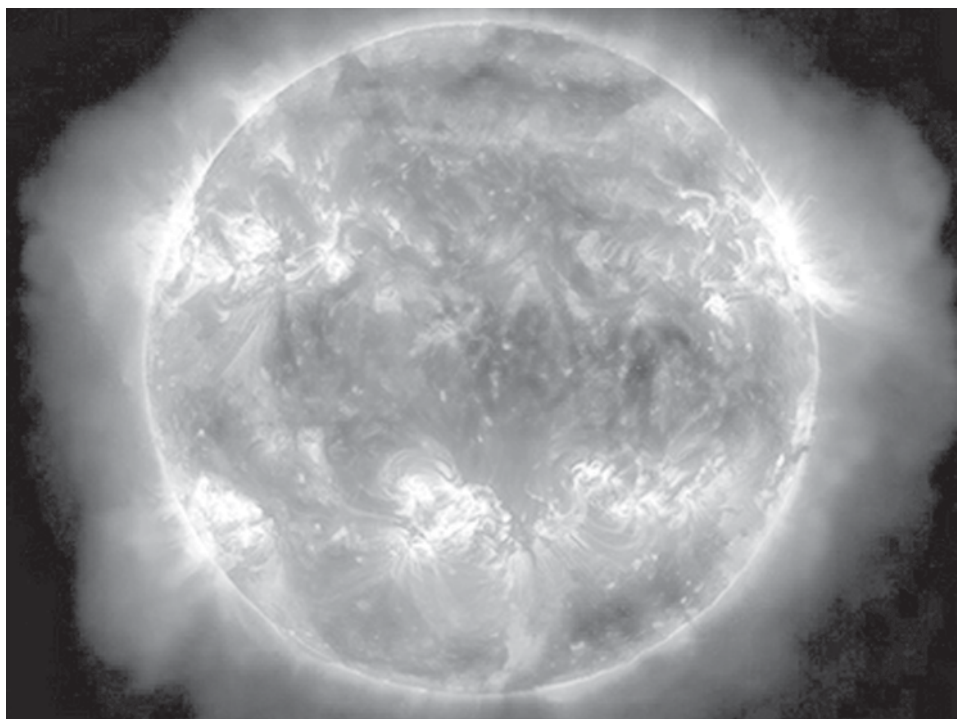
based Air Arabia will be the first Airline in the Middle East to commence operations to Kozhikode.

Kozhikode, the third largest city of the state of Kerala in Southwest India, will be Air Arabia's 10th destination in India and its third destination in Kerala. Currently, the airline provides daily roundtrip service to Keralan cities Thiruvananthapuram and

Kochi. Initially, the Sharjah-Kozhikode service will be operated three times per week. By the end of May, the service will be expanded to six times per week. — MNA/Xinhua

A Bangladeshi girl has her face painted with the national emblems of Bangladesh, in Dhaka, as part of celebrations marking the national language day of Bangladesh.—INTERNET





A NASA-released ultraviolet image of the sun. The big news: Earth is doomed to fry and then be gobbled up by the dying Sun.—INTERNET

Pakistan's PPP, PML-N to form coalition governments

ISLAMABAD, 22 Feb — Pakistan's political parties Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) will form coalition governments in central and provincial levels, leaders of the two parties said here Thursday night.

PPP co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari and PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif made the statement at a joint Press conference after almost an hour of closed-door meeting here Thursday night. "I have

requested Nawaz Sharif to be a part of that government," Zardari told the media.

"We are looking for a broader national consensus government," Zardari said.

"We intend to be together in our struggle for democracy," Zardari said, adding that "We intend to remain together in the Parliament".

Regarding the stance towards President Perez Musharraf, Sharif said that "the sooner the President respects the will

of the people the better".

Analysts say the coalition of PPP and PML-N will bring great challenge to Musharraf, who in 1999 seized power in a coup. "We have agreed to restore the 1973 Constitution in its original form," Sharif said.

Zardari also said the PPP's first resolution in the National Assembly will be a request for the United Nations probe into the assassination of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto.

MNA/Xinhua

Two fighter planes crash kills pilot in Florida

WASHINGTON, 21 Feb—A pilot was killed after two US F-15 fighter planes crashed into the Gulf of Mexico near Florida, the Air Force said Wednesday.

The two pilots were ejected and later were rescued. The Air Force said one of them has died, and the other pilot is in good condition.

The jets were on a training mission when they crashed in the air over the Gulf of Mexico, about 80 kilometres from Eglin Air Force Base in Florida.

MNA/Xinhua

Mogadishu clash toll rises to 12, dozens wounded

MOGADISHU, 21 Feb—The death toll of heavy fighting between Somali government forces and insurgent fighters around the main Bakara market in Mogadishu has risen to 12 and almost forty-five others wounded, medics and witnesses said on Tuesday.

"The casualty figures in the last 24 hours are 12 people dead and forty-five others wounded, almost all of them are civilians hit by stray bullets and shells in and around Bakara market," said Dr Dahir Mohamoud Mohamed, chairman of Medina hospital.—MNA/Xinhua

NY man charged after bank error lets him take \$2m

NEW YORK, 22 Feb — A New York man who discovered that millions of dollars had mysteriously appeared in his bank account, and withdrew more than two million US dollars has been arrested on charges of grand larceny, prosecutors said on Wednesday.

Benjamin Lovell, 48, pleaded innocent on Tuesday to charges that he withdrew money from a Commerce Bank account that had been opened by someone with the same name, prosecutors said.

The account belonged to Woodlawn Trustees Inc, a Delaware property management company, and was listed under the name of its finance director, who is also named Benjamin Lovell, court papers said.

Lovell had just 800 US dollars in his own Commerce Bank account when he went to make a deposit, but a teller, mistaking the Woodlawn account for Lovell's personal account, told him that his account contained more than five million US dollars, prosecutors said. — MNA/Reuters

NATO chief in Afghanistan on unannounced visit

KABUL, 22 Feb—NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer has arrived in Afghanistan on an unannounced visit to the war-torn country, an official of the Afghan Presidential Palace said on Wednesday.

The official, who declined to be named,

confirmed the NATO chief's arrival with Xinhua but gave no details.

The NATO's decision-making body, the North Atlantic Council, led by Scheffer, is visiting Afghanistan from 19 to 21 January and will hold meeting with Afghan President Hamid Karzai,

according to a NATO statement released from Brussels. A 43,000-strong multi-national force is deployed in Afghanistan under the flag of NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), fighting militants and ensuring security.

MNA/Xinhua

Democrat Obama raised \$36m in January

WASHINGTON, 21 Feb—Democrat Barack Obama raised just over 36 million US dollars for his presidential campaign in January, three times more than Republican front-runner John McCain, according to a campaign finance report filed on Wednesday.

Locked in a tight battle with New York Senator Hillary Clinton for the Democratic presidential nomination, Obama raised 36.1 million US dollars from donors in January and had 24.9 million US dollars in cash on hand at

the end of the month to spend on his campaign.

Clinton raised 13.9 million US dollars in contributions in January and made a personal loan to her campaign of five million US dollars, according to her Federal Election Commission report. Clinton had 29.1 million US dollars in cash on hand before the February contests in the state-by-state battle to nail down the nomination for the 4 November presidential election. Obama has won 10 state nominating contests in a row

against Clinton.

McCain's campaign was nearly derailed last summer by lackluster fundraising but the pace picked up as he moved closer to becoming the likely Republican presidential nominee.

MNA/Reuters

US soldier in S Korea investigated for raping girl

SEOUL, 22 Feb—A US soldier stationed in South Korea is under investigation on allegations that he sexually assaulted a 19-year-old local girl, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported on Thursday.

The US soldier, who was identified as a private first class, was alleged to rape a 19-year-old South Korean girl in Seoul on Wednesday after meeting her through an Internet site. Spokesman for the US Force Korea (USFK) Kim Young-kyu told Yonhap that the USFK is cooperating fully with South Korean authorities in the investigation of the incident.—MNA/Xinhua

Zanzibar attracts more foreign tourists

STONE TOWN (Zanzibar), 21 Feb—Thousands more foreign tourists came to visit the Indian Ocean archipelago of Zanzibar in 2007 to further boost the tourism sector in the isles' economy.

Ahmada Hamad Khatib, executive secretary of the Zanzibar Tourism Commission, told reporters on Tuesday that a total of 143,283 foreign tourists had visited the isles last year whereas the previous year drew 137,111 tourists.

Due to the post-election violence in Kenya, some foreign tourists opted to turn to Zanzibar for their scheduled holidays.

MNA/Xinhua

Miss Puerto Rico Universe 2008 Ingrid Marie Rivera arrives at the Premio Lo Nuestro Latin music awards show in Miami on 21 Feb, 2008. INTERNET



National Development and the Role of Health Sector—V

Professor Dr Paing Soe

(continued from 20-2-2008)

In building a peaceful and developed nation, national fitness and higher education level of the citizens are an important factor in producing qualified human resources. For the development of the health sector, the national health committee at the leading position is striving in line with the state health policies and responsibilities to implement a health system which is compatible with the developing political, economic and social conditions.

The majority of population lives in rural areas and has been depending for years on traditional medicine as a custom for family health care.

Traditional medicine development

To promote the usage of customary traditional medicine, the Head of State has made a guidance to the ministry of health to implement for the development of traditional medicine which has potency, efficacy and safety. To implement the guidance of “traditional medicine which is a national heritage will attain a dependency and usage by the people if produced purely and accurately in the traditional way” the ministry of health laid down the work plans for the three departments of medical research and the department of traditional medicine to do scientific research on traditional medicine for curing and preventing diseases.

The office of the traditional medicine was established under department of health in 1953. It was elevated to department level in 1989 by the Tatmadaw government. In drawing the national health plan (1989), the traditional medicine was co-opted into public health care plan.

Realizing that the western medicine alone could not solve the global health problems, the WHO is promoting traditional medicine on all aspects to augment western medicine.

The main responsibility of a traditional medicine practitioner is to care the patient and cure the symptoms with the traditional drugs which are not harmful. To achieve this responsibility, it is important to promote and develop the near extinct potent drugs for effective usage. Historically, Myanmar is standing on its own with the traditional medicine before the introducing of the western medicine. Even after the western medicine reaches into the country, traditional practitioners like Saya San maintain the traditional methods and preventing it from extinction.

Development of traditional medicine is implemented under the objectives of preventing potent traditional drugs from extinction, increasing the number of traditional practitioners quantitatively and qualitatively, upgrading the services and research to the international level



Traditional Medicine Hospital (Mandalay).

and to give health care to the public.

In line with the health resources development, increasing hospitals from (2) to (14), upgrading of two hospitals and increasing clinics from (89) to (237). A total of more than (5000) traditional drugs were registered in 2003 as a development activity. Two traditional medicine factories were constructed and to get raw materials for production of potent herbal drugs (9) herbal gardens were set up in states and divisions. According to the direction of the Head of State the **National Herbal Garden has been set up at Nay Pyi Taw** on a 196-acre plot so that the interested persons from inland and abroad can study herbal plants in one place.

For the development of traditional medicine, **A university was opened in 2002 at Mandalay to train and produce qualified traditional medicine practitioners and had already produced (174) graduates.**

A total of (8) traditional Medicine Congresses were held yearly for propagation of traditional medicine and were attended by traditional medicine council members, representatives from traditional medicine associations, ministries, departments and organizations, non-governmental organizations and manufacturers.

In relation to traditional medicine development, **the government had made legislations such as traditional drug law, and traditional medicine council law resulting in prevention of unsafe drugs, issuing licenses to manufacturers, electing traditional medicine council, issuing licenses to practitioners and setting up of traditional medicine practitioners association.**

The department of medical research (Lower Myanmar) has been doing research on traditional medicine for more than (40) years especially on the herbal drugs and formularies of most common diseases

of Myanmar; research findings, treatment regiments, dispensary use formularies and master degree dissertations are systematically collected and achieved in book forms as well as electronic format for the use by the future generations.

The use of customary traditional medicine will give the benefit of low cost, easy accessibility and acquiring health care in an easy and simple way. Western and traditional medicine have different basic concepts and if research is done in a scientific method as in western medicine on traditional formularies that are used confidently by the practitioners for years it will find that these are reliable. In this way, Quinine and artemesinine are cultivated locally and used as drugs.

In TB management, traditional medicine drugs and formularies are very promising in treating first line drugs resistant and multidrug resistant TB. A breakthrough is expected in near future on treating the MDR TB with traditional medicine combinations with the second line western drugs.

Under the supervision of national health committee and due to the efforts of raw herbal producers, cultivators and researchers it was **able to produce traditional drugs for the six commonest diseases of Myanmar. Drugs for diabetes from Kyet-hin-gar-thee, hypertension from a-kyaw-paung-ta-htaung, diarrhoea from coconut water and dysentery from yar-dan-se were experimental and tested and found to have potencies and safety. The technologies for these drugs production were transferred to departments concerned for public use.**

In this era of the Tatmadaw government, the health sector is tremendously developed and the health coverage is covered to the whole country. The whole country has the privileges of both physical and mental well being.

Process of building new nation can be achieved only through Our Three Main National Causes and political, economic and social objectives

USDA Journalism Course No 11 concludes



USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo addresses conclusion of Basic Journalism Course No 11 of USDA.—MNA

YANGON, 22 Feb—The Union Solidarity and Development Association held the conclusion of Basic Journalism Course No 11 at the training school in Nyaungnapin Camp, Hmawby Township, here, this morning.

Secretary-General of USDA U Htay Oo said that the government is now in pursuit of the policies it has laid down for building a peaceful, modern and developed nation, as aspired by the people.

He called on the members to organize the entire people to participate in the process, which is to be implemented through nationalistic fervour.

The Association is well convinced that the process can be achieved only through Our Three Main National Causes or

the national policy along with realizing the political, economic and social objectives which, in fact, constitute practical approaches to the objective conditions.

During the 14-year existence, the Association has achieved considerable success, thus successfully mobilizing the participation of more than 24 million members.

He stressed the importance of enhancing qualifications of members and knowledge of prevailing situations of the nation, people's desire and requirements in serving the public interests.

It is necessary to make clarifications by rebutting fabricated news, rumours and instigation that are designed to undermine peace and stability. USDA members are to always

serve the interest of the people by analyzing true and false and constructive and destructive acts.

In the basic journalism course, experienced instructors gave lectures on duty and functions of journalists and ethics to be followed in reporting the news. Hence, the trainees are to apply the knowledge and experiences obtained from the training in their practical fields.

At present, the government is striving for ensuring economic growth of the State and the people and development of human resources. The

government is implementing the 24 special development region plan, the border areas development plan and the rural development

tasks for improvement of all parts of the nation. All the members together with the people can enjoy fruits of the unprecedented development, peace and stability and sound foundations.

The seven-step Road Map of the State is the only method of smooth transition to emergence of a new nation. USDA members firmly believe that there is no alternative except the seven-step Road Map and they need to realize that the correct plan is being implemented. The successful completion of the National Convention where over 1,000 delegates of the whole country participated in the discussions is the milestone of the nation.

The USDA is to join hands with the entire people to take part in the task for holding the multi-party general election in the year of 2010 in accord with the forthcoming constitution.

During the transitional period of the new nation, all the USDA members are to try hard to overcome obstacles, disturbances and difficulties and guard against all the interferences through firm conviction and unity.

In conclusion, the secretary-general urged the trainees to participate in the respective sectors of realizing the transitional process for the new democratic nation; to discharge respective duties in seeking the

approval of the draft constitution in the referendum and successful holding of the multi-party general election; based on constant alert, firm spirit and sacrificing devotion, to guard against destructive elements that disturb the process to build a new nation; to carry out the tasks of the association as much as possible; and to strive for serving the interest of the people.

After the ceremony, the secretary-general and officials viewed newspapers produced by the trainees.

The eight-week training course was attended by 47 trainees from States and Divisions. *MNA*

Orange Supermarkets use new brand shopping bags

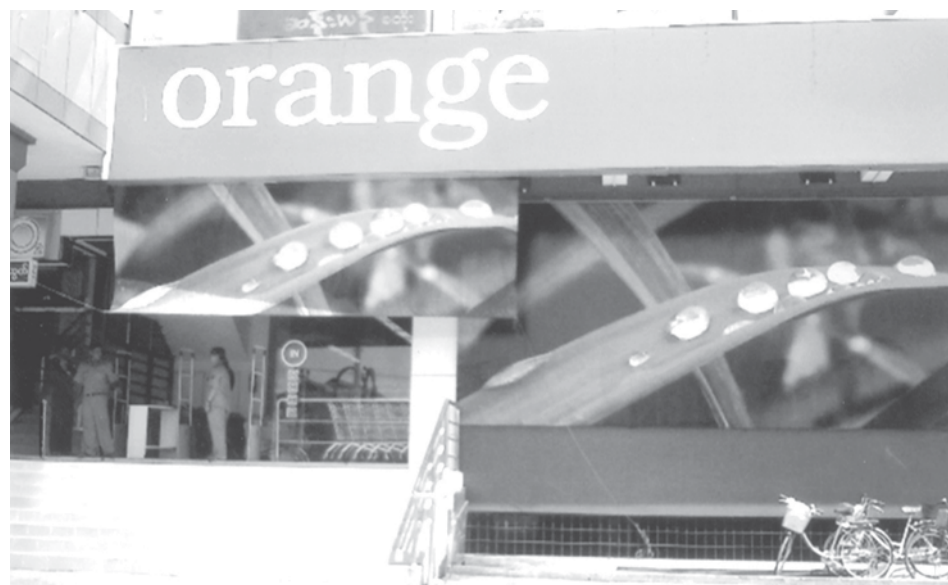
YANGON, 22 Feb—For ensuring conservation of the environment, arrangements are being made to substitute the use of plastic bags with the Go Green shopping bags that are environment-friendly and can be recycled at

Orange Supermarkets.

Orange Supermarkets are opened at the corner of Maha Bandoola street and 19th street in Latha Township; at Wayzayanta Shopping Mall on Wayzayanta Road in Thingangyun Township; near

Thudhamma Road in North Okkalapa Township, at the site on 80th street between 28th and 29th streets and Skywalk shopping mall on 78th street between 33rd and 34th streets in Mandalay.

MNA



Orange Supermarket in Wayzayanta Shopping Mall that uses Go Green shopping bags.—MNA

Commander inspects Military Code of Conduct Contest



Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin inspects Military Code of Conduct contest to mark the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day. —MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb — Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin yesterday delivered an address at the opening ceremony of the Military Code of Conduct contest in commemoration of the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day at the hall of the local battalion, here.

The commander viewed participation of officers, WOs, sergeants and privates in the contest.

A total of 60 contestants — three officers and 12 other ranks of the Camp Commandant's Office of the Ministry of Defence and

12 officers and 33 other ranks — took part in the contest. —MNA

Consecration, 'soon' and rice offering ceremony held at Maha Wizaya Pagoda

YANGON, 22 Feb — The consecration and 'soon' and rice offering ceremony was held at Dhamma Rekkhita Dhammayon of Maha Wizaya Pagoda in Dagon Township this morning.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and wife Daw Mar Mar Wai together with congregation took the Five Precepts from Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Magway Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Kumara.

The commander, wife and party donated alms to members of the Sangha.

Next, the congregation shared merits gained.

After the ceremony, the commander, wife and

officials offered rice and provisions to 45



Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun meets officials of the Budget Department. —MNA

Journals, cash donated to self-reliant libraries

YANGON, 22 Feb — A ceremony to donate 1,500 copies of Paddy and Rice Information and Technology journal published by Myanmar Rice Millers' Association to Information and Public Relations Department was held at the office of the MRMA in

afternoon.

Chairman of the association U Tin Win and General Secretary U Thaung Win presented K 500,000 and 1,500 copies of the journal to self-reliant libraries of IPRD. Assistant Director U Myint of IPRD (Yangon Division) accepted the donations and spoke words of thanks. —MNA

Myanmar Rice Millers' Association Chairman U Tin Win and General Secretary U Thaung Win present cash and publications to Assistant Director U Myint of IPRD (Yangon Division).

MNA

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects sugar...

(from page 16)

station will generate 230 megawatts to contribute to the implementation of Yeywa Hydropower Station.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win looked into summer paddy plantations of the local station and planting of summer paddy at Kyangin in Hsipaw

Township.

At Hsipaw Asia World (Toll Gate), Lt-Gen Kyaw Win heard reports on condition of the Hsipaw Bridge built on Dokhtawady River presented by the commander and gave necessary instructions.

Win inspected the bridge, and the commander reported on tasks being carried out for durability of the bridge to ensure smooth transport of goods before completion of the new bridge.

Later, they went to Lashio.

Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw

MNA

Staff urged to make preparations for carrying out of tasks in coming financial year

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb — Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun met departmental heads and officials of Budget Department at the meeting hall of ministry, here, this morning.

It was attended by

Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein, Director-General of Budget Department U Saw Maung Hla, managing directors and directors-general of the departments and

to carry out the departmental tasks in accord with the laws, rules and regulations and procedures. All the service personnel are to try hard to become good staff in striving for exceeding the



Those in-charge of branches of the department reported on functions of respective branches, accomplishments in the fiscal year and future tasks for 2008-09 financial year.

Afterwards, the minister said in his speech that the Budget Department plays a pivotal role in implementing the financial policies of the

State. He stressed the need

department, he said. He continued to say that it is necessary to make preparations for carrying out of the tasks in coming financial year by reviewing weak and strong points in 2007-08. In conclusion, the minister urged them to effectively apply information and communications technology in the respective sectors.

MNA

Myanmar Amateur Open Golf Championship 2008 from 4 to 7 March

YANGON, 22 Feb — The Myanmar Amateur Open Golf Championship 2008 organized by Myanmar Golf Federation will be held at Yangon Golf Resort in Danyingon, Insein Township from 4 to 7 March.

Those who are in the level of the amateur division (men) (handicap 0 to 12) are entitled to take part in the championship. And they are to contact Tel 651374 or 09-99 72554 or 635563 not later than 2 March for their enrollment. —MNA

China paper accuses US of hypocrisy in space

BEIJING, 22 Feb— A leading Chinese newspaper has accused the United States of hypocrisy in criticizing other nations' space ambitions while rejecting a proposed space treaty and firing a missile to destroy one of its own satellites.

The United States hit one of its own dying spy satellites with a missile on Wednesday, *Washington Time* — Thursday in Beijing — citing fears that a normal re-entry would risk lives.

Earlier this month, Russia and China proposed a treaty to ban weapons in space and the use or threat of force against satellites and other spacecraft.

But Washington rejected the proposal as unworkable and said it instead favours

confidence-building efforts, the *New York Times* reported.

China, which shot down one of its own satellites in January 2007, is monitoring Washington's destruction of the satellite.

"The Chinese side is continuing to closely follow the US action which may influence the security of outer space and may harm other countries," Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao told a regular

news conference.

The ruling Communist Party's newspaper, the *People's Daily*, went further, accusing the US of dangerous space ambitions and double-standards.

When China tested an anti-satellite missile a year ago, the Bush Administration and other governments criticized the act as dangerous.

The Chinese state newspaper said the United States was hypocritical.

MNA/Reuters

Indonesia claims self sufficiency in rice

JAKARTA, 22 Feb— Indonesia will not buy rice from other countries this year because domestic supplies can meet the national demand, an official said on Thursday.

"The 2008 rice procurement will be filled entirely by domestic sources," state logistics agency Bulog head Mustofa Abubakar was quoted by leading news website Detikcom as saying.

Rice production is expected to increase by some 6 per cent to 35 million tons in 2008 from last year's 33 million tons.

MNA/Xinhua

Philippines rushes aid after floods kill 14

MANILA, 22 Feb— Philippine soldiers hiked through a remote central province on Thursday to deliver food, water and clothes to thousands of evacuees after raging flood waters drowned 14 people and forced whole communities to flee.

Days of rain triggered the flooding in Eastern Samar, submerging roads and destroying bridges, making the remote rural province even more difficult to traverse.

"If the weather permits us, we're using helicopters to bring the relief goods," Lieutenant-General Pedrito Cadungog, head of the Air Force, told reporters after he dispatched a C-130 Hercules transport plane.

The waters have started to recede but more than 200,000 people have been affected in Eastern Samar as well as Leyte and Albay provinces, including tens of thousands who have been forced into temporary shelters. Fourteen people were reported drowned and another seven were still missing, the Philippine Red Cross said.

The military was trying to get nearly 30,000 pounds (13,600 kilograms) of food and shelter materials to evacuees and hundreds of troops marched on foot to deliver bags of rice, packs of instant noodles, potable water, sleeping mats, tents and warm clothes.

MNA/Reuters

NATO soldier killed in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 22 Feb— A soldier of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) was killed and another soldier was injured in an explosion during their patrol in southern Afghanistan Thursday, the military alliance said in a statement. It did not identify the nationality of

the casualties, saying "in accordance with ISAF policy, ISAF does not release the casualty's nationality prior to the relevant national authority doing so".

The injured soldier's wounds are not thought to be life-threatening, the statement added.

MNA/Xinhua



Attendees look at a 108-inch LCD television during the 2007 International Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, Nevada. Demand for flat panel television is expected to more than double to 180 million units by 2012, driven by strong sales in China and the United States, a Japanese industry group said.—INTERNET

Cambodia to deport US veteran for false threat

PHNOM PENH, 22 Feb— Cambodia will deport a US veteran who told journalists that militants were planning a rocket attack on the US Embassy in Phnom Penh, deputy police chief Sok Phal said on Thursday.

Gerald Forbes, 63, of Hawaii, was arrested for sending e-mails to journalists asking them to spread the warning the embassy would be

rocketed, then overrun, he said.

"He admitted he did it because he was angry with the slow reception of his pension. In fact there was no group to commit an act of terror," Sok Phal told *Reuters* without further explanation.

He said Forbes, in the country on a tourist visa, would be deported and never allowed to re-enter Cambodia.

MNA/Reuters

Whole grains may curb belly fat, inflammation

NEW YORK, 22 Feb— Cutting calories helps people lose weight, but doing so by filling up on whole grains may be particularly heart-healthy, new research suggests.

In a study of obese adults at risk of heart disease, researchers found that those who trimmed calories and increased their whole-grain intake shed more belly fat and lowered their blood levels of C-reactive protein or CRP.

CRP is a marker of chronic, low-level inflammation in the blood vessels, and both

abdominal fat and CRP, in excess, are linked to heart attack and stroke.

In contrast, dieters in the study who mainly ate refined grains, like white bread, were able to lose weight, but they trimmed less fat from the middle and showed no change in CRP. The findings offer yet more incentive for Americans to opt for whole

grains over highly processed versions, according to the researchers.

"This is the first clinical study to prove that a diet rich in whole grains can lead to weight loss and reduce the risk of several chronic diseases," Dr. Penny Kris-Etherton, the senior researcher on the study, said in a statement.

She and her colleagues at Pennsylvania State University report the findings in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*. In general, experts recommend eating whole grains — such as oatmeal, brown rice and barley — rather than refined grains, like white bread and other products made from white flour. Whole-grain foods retain more of the nutrients and fibre components of the grain. — MNA/Reuters



An Afghan man looks on a damaged car after a remote controlled bomb hit a police vehicle in Lashkar Gah the provincial capital of Helmand Province south of Kabul, Afghanistan on 21 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Japanese professor Yoji Kimura (standing at the back) demonstrates how to measure laughter in Osaka on 20 February after attaching sensors on the skin of subject's stomach. Kimura believes laughter is a weapon that in healthy doses can end the world's wars.
INTERNET



Images of the Day



A girl touches an advertising billboard in Shanghai. 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.
INTERNET



Children watch a traditional puppet show at an outdoor market in Singapore.
INTERNET

A girl looks at 'hina' dolls arranged on the 5.74-meter-high (18.8-foot-high) 26-step terraced shelves in the lobby at Konosu City Hall, Saitama Prefecture (state), north of Tokyo, on 19 Feb, 2008. More than 1,400 traditional 'hina' dolls clad in ancient court costume, believed to protect girls from evil, are on display on the pyramid-shaped structure until the March 3 hina doll festival.—INTERNET

Artist Cai Guo-Qiang's installation "Inopportune: Stage One", made of nine suspended automobiles hangs from the ceiling of the Guggenheim Museum in New York, on 21 Feb, 2008. The piece is part of the artist's exhibition Cai Guo-Qiang: I Want to Believe.—INTERNET



Scientists develop self-healing rubber

LONDON, 22 Feb — Scientists have developed a kind of rubber that when snapped into two can heal itself back into a stretchy piece of rubber again.

The self-healing rubber was built up from simple starting materials — fatty acids from vegetable oil and urea (a component of urine) in the lab of Ludwik Leibler at the Industrial Physics and Chemistry Higher Educational Institution in Paris, *Nature* reported Wednesday on its website.

The resulting material made by Ludwik Leibler and his colleagues

is a cross between silly putty and a rubber ball, it can stretch, but when snapped in two it can be stuck back together again, according to the report.

The self-healing rubber could have applications in anything from adhesives to bicycle tyres, scientists said.

The material works at room temperature and just requires the two broken bits to be held together gently while other existing self-healing materials' bonds knit back together only when heated or a strong force is applied.

Conventional rubber is made of a single,

continuous, stretchy molecule, held together with strong chemical links called covalent bonds, once the bonds are cut by a break in the material, the rubber can not be reassembled.

The self-healing rubber was made by using small molecular groups instead — the fatty acids from vegetable oil. Reacting these molecules with urea in a two-step process stuck nitrogen-containing chemical groups (amides and imidazolidones) onto the ends of the fatty acids.

MNA/Reuters

Japan eyes emissions cap, trade system

TOKYO, 21 Feb — Japan is considering introducing compulsory emissions caps and a domestic emissions trading scheme for its reluctant corporations, the *Nikkei* newspaper said on Wednesday.

Tokyo currently lets companies set their own targets and monitor themselves for compliance, and the country's most powerful business lobby strongly opposes a compulsory scheme.

But the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry appears to be

breaking ranks with the firms it regulates. The ministry has set up an informal study panel to look into compulsory trading schemes, the *Nikkei* said. The panel reports to a senior official at the ministry's technology and environment bureau and will compile its findings in June, it said, without citing sources.

METI will then meet with other ministries and key industries to hammer out the details of a plan that could come into effect from 2013, after the expiry of the Kyoto Protocol, the

world's current framework agreement to tackle global warming.

Tokyo argues that voluntary industry cuts and energy conservation by households will allow the country to meet its international obligations under the Kyoto Protocol.

Big Japanese manufacturers have argued that emissions caps will mean government meddling, unfair distribution of emission permits, restrictions on growth of healthy companies and subsidies for ailing ones.

MNA/Reuters

India "IT" chief faces charges over employee death

NEW DELHI, 22 Feb — The head of India's main outsourcing industry body will be prosecuted for allegedly giving inadequate security to a female employee killed while travelling home after work, after the Supreme Court rejected an appeal on Thursday.

Pratibha Srikanth Murthy, an employee of an Indian division of Hewlett-Packard Co, was being driven home in a company taxi after finishing her night shift in Bangalore when her driver raped and murdered her in December 2005, according to police.

Som Mittal was the managing director of Hewlett-Packard GlobalSoft at the time. He is now the president of the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM).

The government of Karnataka State, of which Bangalore is the capital, is prosecuting Mittal under a law governing employee safety, said Sanjay Hegde, counsel for Karnataka. The Supreme Court rejected his challenge to the charge on Thursday.

MNA/Reuters

Thailand cancels tsunami alert

BANGKOK, 21 Feb — Thailand's disaster warning centre Wednesday lifted a tsunami alert issued for the resort island of Phuket and five nearby provinces after a 7.6-magnitude quake rocked Indonesia's Sumatra Island. "The National Disaster Warning Centre has investigated and analyzed more information, and found that there was no tsunami that could affect Thailand," the centre said in a statement.

The Hawaii-based Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre also cancelled the tsunami alert two hours

after the quake, which occurred at 15:08 local time (0808 GMT) at a depth of 30 kilometres, according to Indonesia's meteorological and geophysics agency.

The Indonesian agency put the magnitude of the quake at 6.6, while the Hong Kong Observatory said the quake was measured at 7.6 on the Richter Scale. Meanwhile, a tourist who is on Phuket's famous Patong Beach told *Xinhua* that no emergency alert was heard on the beach by now and the situation in Phuket is normal. — MNA/Xinhua

China actively promotes employment

BEIJING, 21 Feb — China is stepping up its policy support to promote employment, said a circular released here on Tuesday on the official government website.

The circular allowed localities to raise the ceiling of the amount of small loans — a policy partly designed to help the unemployed open their own businesses — and lower the threshold for qualified borrowers when necessary.

The preferential tax policies, which reduce or exempt the tax burden on the unemployed and the disabled, should continue to be carried out till the end of this year. New policies would be introduced in 2009.

The government has been taking measures to encourage companies to recruit those who have had difficulty in finding employment. It was also creating more public service jobs.

China has implemented active employment policies since 2002. It has increased the number of newly employed in cities from 8.4 million in 2002 to 12.04 million people last year.

MNA/Xinhua

Kenya Airways suspends flights to Paris

NAIROBI, 21 Feb — National carrier, Kenya Airways announced on Tuesday it will temporarily suspend flights to Paris from Tuesday next week.

The airline CEO Titus Naikuni said there had been a sharp decline on bookings on the route as the French citizens reacted to their government's decision to issue a blanket travel advisory against travel to Kenya due to post-election unrest.

However, Naikuni remained optimistic of resuming the normal flight operations.

"We will monitor the situation on a monthly basis and are hopeful that we will resume Paris flights for the summer high season once the French Government's travel advisory has been removed," he said.

Kenya Airways, one of Africa's most successful airlines began thrice weekly flights to the Charles de Gaulle Airport in October 2006, flying mostly tourists.

French diplomatic and business community have also greatly benefited from the direct connection to Paris.

MNA/Xinhua

Norway's biggest quake hits Svalbard archipelago

OSLO, 22 Feb — An earthquake of 6.2 magnitude — the biggest in Norwegian history — jolted the thinly populated Svalbard archipelago in the Arctic on Wednesday night, the Norsar seismic research institute said on Thursday.

No one was hurt by the quake and no damage has been reported in the islands, about 1,000 kilometres (600 miles) from the North Pole, reports said.

"This is the biggest earthquake on Norwegian territory in history," the institute said in a statement, adding that the quake occurred at sea, about 10 kilometres (six miles) below the surface.

Anne-Karin Bekken, one of roughly 2,000 residents of the archipelago's main town Longyearbyen, said she and her boyfriend were jolted awake by the earthquake. — MNA/Reuters

**The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago.
Second best time is now.**



Visitors watch two horses fighting in Rongshui in southern China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region on 19 Feb, 2008. The folk custom of horse-fighting originated from a solution to a marriage dispute about 500 years ago, according to the local people. Now the ritual is held during festivals as a celebration. —XINHUA



A Lebanese army jeep and armored personnel vehicle make their way close to the Kuwaiti Embassy in Beirut. The Kuwaiti Embassy in Beirut was evacuated on Thursday after an anonymous threat of a rocket attack.—INTERNET

Vietnam faces shipping manpower shortage

HANOI, 22 Feb — Vietnam annually completes training of around 3,000 people for the domestic shipbuilding industry, meeting around 50 per cent of its manpower demand, according to a local education agency on Wednesday.

Specialized schools, colleges and universities in Vietnam annually turn out 600-700 engineers and 2,000-3,000 workers in shipbuilding-related fields, meeting 40-60 per cent of the industry's demand for human resources, said the Higher Education Department under the Ministry of Education and Training.

MNA/Xinhua



A man passes an advertisement for Harry Potter items on sale at a store in Mexico City, on 21 Feb, 2008. The latest book in the series, 'Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows,' goes on sale in Spanish in Latin America on Thursday.

INTERNET

Malaysia introduces MIES to check foreign documents

KUALA LUMPUR, 21 Feb — Malaysian Government Tuesday introduced the Mobile Immigration Enforcement System (MIES), a fast way to check on foreigners, in

efforts to enhance enforcement to track down illegal foreign workers in Malaysia.

Malaysia was the first country to use the system to track those who stay in

the country illegally, including foreign workers, Home Affairs Minister Radzi Sheikh Ahmad said after launching the MIES in Putrajaya, the administrative centre of Malaysia.

For a start, 100 MIES machines costing 9,000 ringgit (2,795 US dollars) each will be supplied to immigration enforcement teams and the People's Volunteer Corps for use in their operations.

"Our country is one of those which required their citizens to carry their identity cards with them, so we are introducing a similar system for foreigners who come to our country, whether to work or to further their studies. We want to detect those who stay here illegally.

MNA/Xinhua

Study says Water gushes created "staircases" on Mars

WASHINGTON, 22 Feb — Sudden, tremendous gushes of water from underground most likely carved out unusual fan-shaped geological formations with steps like a staircase long ago on the surface of Mars, scientists said on Wednesday.

The Martian surface boasts perhaps 200 large basins that have formations resembling fans. About 10 of them are terraced, with what looks like steps into the basin. Since they were first seen three years ago, scientists have debated how these formations, some of them nine miles (15 kilometres) wide, were created.

Dutch and US researchers simulated on Earth on a vastly smaller scale the conditions that might have led to these formations on Mars that resemble dry river deltas with steps.

At a facility at Utrecht University in the Netherlands, they dug a crater in sand in a room-sized tub, then started water flowing into the crater. As the water flowed in through a channel, it eroded the sediment, then fanned out and deposited sediment as deltas, building steps down into the basin, very much like the Martian formations. —MNA/Reuters



Homeless people set up tents at Republic square downtown Paris during a demonstration to draw attention to the need for long-term accommodation solutions for the city's homeless, on 21 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Giant snakehead hooked in UK river



A giant snakehead, a fearsome predator of a fish usually found in the fresh waters of South East Asia and India, has been hooked by an angler from a river in England.—INTERNET

BEIJING, 21 Feb — A giant snakehead, a fearsome predator of a fish usually found in the fresh waters of South East Asia and India, has been hooked by an angler from a river in England, media

repor- ted Thursday.

Andy Alder from Lincoln claimed to have captured the 60 cm long predator while using a sprat as bait on the River Witham near North Hykeham, Lincolnshire, Eng-

land. The creature, boasting a large mouthful of sharp teeth, usually preys on other fish.

The discovery sparked fears in the tabloid newspapers that the "savage fish" which has "even been reported to kill people" could start to breed in UK waters, as one member of the family has done in the United States.

However, the Environment Agency tried to allay the fears, saying the species of Channidae would stand little chance of surviving a winter in the East Midlands.

Internet

SPORTS



Tommy Haas, of Germany, returns a shot to John Isner in the SAP Open tennis tournament in San Jose, Calif, on 21 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Bayern lead German quartet into UEFA Cup last 16

LONDON, 22 Feb — Bayern Munich led a quartet of German clubs into the last 16 of the UEFA Cup when the competition favourites thumped Aberdeen 5-1 on Thursday.

Bundesliga leaders Bayern, who next play Anderlecht, went through 7-3 on aggregate after a one-sided contest at the Allianz Arena.

They were joined in the second knockout round by Bayer Leverkusen, who enjoyed a 5-1 demolition of Galatasaray, and now meet league rivals Hamburg SV, who dispensed with FC Zurich.

Werder Bremen cruised through 4-0 on aggregate against Braga. The four German sides to progress occupy the top four positions in the Bundesliga.

It was a perfect night for British sides with Rangers, Tottenham Hotspur, Everton and Bolton Wanderers all pro-

gressing. Zenit St. Petersburg, Getafe, Olympique Marseille, PSV Eindhoven, Benfica, Fiorentina and Sporting also booked their places.

Bayern made the breakthrough against Aberdeen after 12 minutes when Lucio thumped home a vicious free kick and they doubled their advantage nine minutes before halftime with defender Daniel van Buyten's powerful header.

Podolski added two more with a close-range finish on 71 minutes and a header six minutes later. Steve Lovell pulled one back for the Scottish side before Mark van Bommel's strike took Bayern's tally in the competition to 22 so far this season. Leverkusen, one place and two points behind third-placed Hamburg in the Bundesliga, tore Galatasaray apart at the BayArena after a goalless first leg in Istanbul.

MNA/Reuters



The peloton passes through a turn during the fourth stage of the Tour of California bicycle race on 21 Feb, 2008 in Big Sur, California. The stage began in Seaside finishing 135 miles later in San Luis Obispo, nearly all of the route through rain and strong winds along the scenic and rugged coastline of Highway 1 through Big Sur. —INTERNET

English FA says plan for 39th match needs major rethink

LONDON, 22 Feb — The English Premier League's plan for a 39th round of matches to be played overseas was unsustainable in its current format, FA chairman David Triesman said on Thursday.

He was speaking to Sky Sports News after an FA board meeting discussed the plan, concluding that it needed a huge rethink and might never become reality.

Despite widespread opposition to the idea, Premier League chief executive Richard Scudamore plans to meet FIFA president Sepp Blatter next week to argue his case for a proposal which the League would like to start in the 2010-11 season.

Scudamore will meet Blatter next Thursday in Zurich to try and convince him of the merits of the scheme which has been widely condemned in England and overseas.

Triesman, said he would also travel to Zurich to meet Blatter, even though the FA does not support the plan in its current format and has a number of serious reservations about its integrity.

The FA are concerned about fixture congestion, unbalancing the symmetry of the competition, their relationship with

FIFA and UEFA and how the plan could harm their attempts to win the right to stage the 2018 World Cup finals.

Triesman said the FA had not seen a "sustainable plan it could agree to" and that the Premier League needed "some fresh thinking and really substantive answers" to the issues it raised.

Blatter denounced the plan last week and said he would never allow the idea to become reality while he remains president of world soccer's governing body.

The board of the English FA met to discuss the "39th match" proposal on Thursday and agreed to give the Premier League more time to formulate the idea.

MNA/Reuters



Atletico Madrid's Perea (L) battles for the ball with Bolton Wanderers' Diouf during their UEFA Cup third round soccer match at Madrid's Vicente Calderon stadium on 21 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Australian league announce cautious expansion plans

MELBOURNE, 22 Feb — Australia's domestic soccer league have announced plans to expand the league to 10 teams for next season, pending the franchises meeting financial and operational criteria, Football Federation

Australia have said.

The franchises would be on Queensland's Gold Coast and in Townsville in north Queensland. The Queensland Roar franchise is already based in Brisbane.

"We have advised the interested consortia that they have two weeks to satisfy certain criteria, which include financial criteria, to enable them to enter the competition next season," FFA chairman Frank Lowy said in a statement.

"If they are able to satisfy the criteria within this timeframe, then there will be 10 teams in the A-League in 2008-09.

"If not, then they will be considered for entry in 2009-10."

MNA/Reuters



Argentina's San Lorenzo Andres Nicolas D'Alessandro (L) blocks Jadilson of Brazil's Cruzeiro during their Copa Libertadores soccer match in Buenos Aires, on 21 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Paul Gascoigne held under Mental Health Act

LONDON, 22 Feb — Former England midfielder Paul Gascoigne is being held under the Mental Health Act, a police source said on Thursday.

The former Tottenham Hotspur and Newcastle United player, widely known as Gazza, was arrested at the Hilton Hotel in Gateshead, on Wednesday evening.

Nobody was injured and there was no violence and no damage to the hotel. "A 40-year-old man has been detained," a spokesman for Northumbria Police said.

"We had received a report of concern for a 40-year-old man staying at the hotel. The man was detained under the Mental Health Act." Gascoigne's last direct involvement in football was as manager of minor League club

Kettering Town, a job he left in 2005. He was capped 57 times by England between 1988 and 1998 scoring 10 goals, and made international headlines during the 1990 World Cup finals in Italy.

Famously bursting into tears after receiving a yellow card in England's semi-final against West Germany, which would have seen him suspended for the final if England had qualified, he became a household name and "Gazzamania" was born.

He had already been identified as the most naturally gifted player of his generation, but hopes that his early promise would be fulfilled were seriously compromised playing for Spurs in the 1991 FA Cup final against Nottingham Forest. —MNA/Reuters



Ohio State's Jantel Lavender, left, grabs a rebound in front of Iowa's Megan Skouby during the second half of a college basketball game on 21 Feb, 2008, in Columbus, Ohio. Ohio State won 69-56.—INTERNET

Asleep in Jesus Saw Matthew Ba Saing (Saw Khu)

57 years

Younger son of (U Saw Harvey Ba Saing + Daw Aileen); son-in-law of (U Ko Gyi + Daw Mya Thein) of Mandalay; beloved husband of Daw Rita Ba Saing (FAO), residing at No.13, Yadana Road, Kyaukkon Ward, Yankin Township; and beloved father of Ma Thet Mar Lin (Marlene) (Australia) and Maung Wai Lin Saing (Warren) (Australia) fell asleep in Jesus peacefully on 22 February, 2008 at 9 pm.

(Funeral will be announced later.)

Bereaved family

Memory loss declining among US seniors

CHICAGO, 22 Feb — Older Americans are having less trouble with their memories, and it may be because they spent more time in school, US researchers said on Wednesday.

They found the rate of cognitive impairment — which includes a range of ills from significant memory loss to

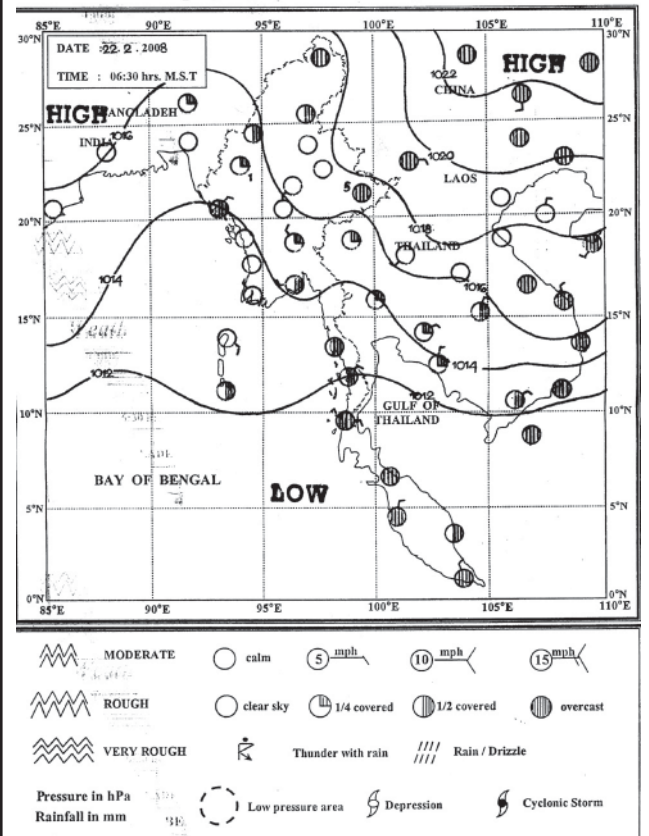
Alzheimer's disease — fell 3.5 percentage points among people 70 and over between 1993 and 2002.

"We found a clear relationship. The more education people had, the better they performed on cognitive tests," said Dr. Ken Langa of the University of Michigan, whose study appears in the journal *Alzheimer's & Dementia*.

Langa said the research reinforces other studies that suggest people who do mentally challenging tasks early on build up a reserve of brain power that helps them withstand later injuries to the brain, such as a mini-stroke.

MNA/Reuters

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Friday, 22 February, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30

hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thunder-showers have been scattered in Shan State and lower Sagaing Division, isolated in upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin and Chin States, Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below February average temperatures in Shan State, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, (9°C) below February average temperatures in Chin State, about February average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (-2°C), Loilem (-1°C), Namhsan and Heho (2°C) each, Pyin Oo Lwin and Pinlaung (3°C) each and Mogok (4°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Monghsat (1.10) inches, Kengtung and Katha (0.20) each, Kanbalu and Mogok (0.08) inch each.

Maximum temperature on 21-2-2008 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 22-2-2008 was 61°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 22-2-2008 was 59%. Total sunshine hours on 21-2-2008 was (9.1) hours approx.

Rainfall on 22-2-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (0.67) inch at Mingaladon, (0.47) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.35) inch at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from West at (15:30) hours MST on 21-2-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 23-2-2008: Possibility of isolated rain in Kachin and Shan States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in Chin, Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, Mandalay and lower Sagaing Divisions and generally fair in the the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair weather in the whole country.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 23-2-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 23-2-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 23-2-2008: Generally fair weather.

Weather outlook for last weekend of February 2008: During the coming weekend, weather will be partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.



Members of the FELCN, a special task force fighting drug trafficking, burn packs of cocaine in La Rinconada near La Paz, Bolivia on 21 Feb, 2008. The FELCN burnt some 500 kg of cocaine worth more than \$1 million on Thursday, according to a report by the FELCN.—INTERNET



Saturday, 23 February
View on today

7:00 am

- ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ့ မဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော် ဆောင်ချုပ်၊ အဘိဓမ္မမဟာ ရဋ္ဌဂုရု၊ အဘိဓမ္မအဂ္ဂမဟာ သဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:15 am

- တိပိဋကဓရ၊ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ အဂ္ဂမဟာပဏ္ဍိတ၊ ဘဒ္ဒန္တသိရိန္ဒာဘိဝံသ (ယောဆရာတော်) ဟောကြားတော်မူအပ်သော ဥပ္ပါတသန္တိပါဠိတော်

7:30 am

- To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

- Morning news

7:40 am

- Nice and sweet song

7:50 am

- အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:00 am

- Musical programme

8:25 am

- စွန်ချောင်းရေလှောင်တံ

8:30 am

- International news

8:45 am

- Grammar made easy

11:00 am

- Martial song

11:15 am

- Musical programme

11:30 am

- Game for children

11:55 am

- Roung up of the week's TV local news

12:30 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

“စစ်သူကြီးဆွန်ကြီး”

(အပိုင်း- ၁၀)

1:10 pm

- မြန်မာ့ရုပ်မြင်အစီအစဉ်

“အဖြူရောင်မေတ္တာ”

(မင်းမော်ကွန်း၊ ရီဝေယံ၊ ဆုပိုပိုအောင်)

(ဒါရိုက်တာ -အောင်မြင့်မြတ်)

1:20 pm

- အာဆီယံလက်မှုအနုပညာ

ပစ္စည်းပြပွဲနှင့်၂၀၀၇ခုနှစ်

အာဆီယံလူငယ်

တံဆိပ်ခေါင်းပြိုင်ပွဲ

2:30 pm

- Dance of National

Races

2:45 pm

- International news

4:00 pm

- Martial song

4:15 pm

- Song to uphold

National Spirit

4:30 pm

- အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်

ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြား

သင်ခန်းစာ-ဒုတိယနှစ်

(ဓာတုဗေဒအထူးပြု)

(ဓာတုဗေဒ)

4:45 pm

- မြူးမြူးကြွကြွယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက

4:55 pm

- မြန်မာ့ဓလေ့ရိုးရာလက်တွေ့

5:00 pm

- Game for children

5:15 pm

- ရသပေါ်လွင်သရုပ်ဆောင်

လွင်ပြင်

6:00 pm

- Evening news

6:30 pm

- Weather report

6:35 pm

- အလှူရှာမယ်၊ လှူကမ္ဘာဝယ်

7:00 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

“ချစ်သူအားမာန်”

(အပိုင်း-၁၅)

8:00 pm

- News

12. News

13. International news

14. Weather report

15. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

“မာယာထောင်ချောက်”

(အပိုင်း-၃)

16. The next day's programme

People's Desire

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

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects sugar mill, edible oil crop, summer paddy plantations in Kyaukme District

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence together with Chairman of Shan State (North) PDC Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut and officials inspected production process of Hsinshweli Sugar Mill of Ngweyi Pale Co in Samahse Village in Nawnghkio Township yesterday.

The mill can crush 1,500 tons of sugarcane and produce 150 tons of sugar daily. So far, 10,000 acres have been put under sugarcane against 12,000 acres. The mill needs to meet a yearly demand of 300,000 tons of sugarcane.

Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win looked into thriving two-acre radish and mustard plantations of farmer U Win Oo at Goktwin in the township and fulfilled the requirements. Radish and mustard plants have been grown as mixed crops, and there are 1,720 acres of radish and mustard in the township.

At the hall of Kyaukme Asia World (Toll Gate), Lt-Gen Kyaw Win heard reports on implementation of Myaungcho Hydropower Station Project and future tasks presented by Assistant Director U Nay Myo Win of Hydropower Implementation Department of Ministry of Electric Power No 1. Upon completion, the
(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



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win views transplanting of summer paddy in Hsipaw Township.—MNA

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