

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XV, Number 314

3rd Waning of Tabodwe 1369 ME

Sunday, 24 February, 2008

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win attends cash donation ceremony for People's Hospital, station hospitals in Shan State (North)

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut and officials attended a cash donation ceremony for People's Hospital and station hospitals in Shan State (North) at the city hall in Lashio yesterday.

The commander reported on regional development and implementation of agricultural works.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win said local farmers earn much money as per acre yield of paddy is between 150 and 280 baskets after 1988. Moreover, bio-ethanol and bio-diesel are made from sugarcane, he said.

The government is implementing the seven-step Road Map phase by phase. Cash donation for hospitals is a meritorious deed, he added.

Wellwishers donated K 140.9 million for the People's Hospital and station hospitals including K 72.8 million by U Mya-Daw Kyu, K 20 million by Shan State (North) PDC, K 22 million by companies and K 26.1 million by local people.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win accepted the donation. He went to Bio-ethanol plant where Commander Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut reported on advantages and disadvantages of bio-ethanol and research on production of bio-ethanol on commercial scale. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win gave instructions.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspected the production



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win views test-run of vehicles using bio-ethanol.—MNA

process and use of bio-ethanol in generators, motorcycles and three-wheeled cycles and cars.

One ton of sugarcane produces eight gallons of bio-ethanol and the bio-ethanol plant can produce 300 gallons per day. About 40,000 gallons of bio-ethanol can be produced from 100 acres of sugarcane.

MNA

Significant Night Temperatures

Haka	(-1°C)
Loilem	(2°C)
Namhsan, Heho and Mogok	(3°C)
Lashio and Pinlaung	(4°C)
An	(4°C)

Weather forecast for 24-2-2008

Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area:	Generally fair weather.
Yangon and neighbouring area:	Generally fair weather.
Mandalay and neighbouring area:	Generally fair weather.

INSIDE

Sacred Mya Sein Taung Hill, Taung Nyo

Mya Sein Taung hill which lies by the side of Taung Nyo stream at 23 mile pillar on the Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana-Taungdwingyi highway is a sacred hill on which Gandapalin Zedi and Hsu Taung Pyi Zedi are situated.

PAGES 7 & 8

DR KHIN MAUNG NYUNT

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 24 February, 2008

Multi-purpose dam projects to meet set standards for regional development

With the aim of improving the electric power sector, the government is now putting into action various projects, two of which are Manipura Multi-purpose Dam Project and Yazagyo Multi-purpose Dam Project.

Manipura Multi-purpose Dam with a gravel-filled embankment is under construction across Manipura River near Hsedaw Village in Kalay Township, Sagaing Division. Upon completion, the project will be able to benefit some 50,000 acres of farmlands and produce 1,903 million kilowatt hours a year.

Yazagyo Multi-purpose Dam Project is being implemented across Nerinzara Creek. The irrigation facility is of an earthen type. Upon completion, the project will be able to generate 21 million kilowatt hours a year and irrigate 6,500 acres of arable lands.

In addition to construction of dams, the government is working diligently to produce hydropower. Local farmers on their part are to strive for extensive cultivation of crops and improving the socio-economic life of the people.

The government is constructing more and more multi-purpose dams the length and breadth of the country to generate hydropower extensively. Therefore, efforts are to be made to complete the projects ahead of schedule with set standards to contribute towards the drive for regional development.

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်မသုံးစွဲရနေ

လစဉ် လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေသွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည့်ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရနေဖြစ်သည်။

၂၀၀၈ခုနှစ် ဖေဖော်ဝါရီလ အတွက် နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)
(၂၄-၂-၂၀၀၈) ရက်နေ့

၂၀၀၈ခုနှစ် မတ်လအတွက်
(၉-၃-၂၀၀၈) ရက်နေ့ နှင့်
(၃၀-၃-၂၀၀၈) ရက်နေ့

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

Commander, Minister supervise rural development tasks

YANGON, 23 Feb — CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint attended the opening of two reinforced concrete bridges in Saingnaingyi Village in Shwebo Township on 18 February.

At Basic Education Middle School (Branch) in Saingnaingyi Village, the CEC member donated K 500,000 and 50 bags of cement for construction of Ingyin school building and exercise book and sports gear to students through officials.

In Minkyi Village of Wetlet Township, the CEC member delivered an address at the opening of village development camp. He inspected the station hospital and the BEHS branch.

Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and

Development Council Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen Myint Soe and the CEC member met staff of the agricultural farm of Myanmar Agriculture Service in Hladaw Village. They also viewed installation of machines at Wetlet auto-telephone exchange.

The commander and the minister met departmental personnel, social organization members and local people at the hall of the township. The Minister for Sports presented sports gear to officials.

While in Wetlet Township, they attended opening of Thayetkon Village BEHS building. — MNA

Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award presentation ceremony 1 March

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb — A ceremony to present prizes to the winners in the Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award, the scholarship award and the Pakokku Library Book Award for 2007 will be held at Pyithaya Hall in Pakokku on 1 March morning, and the rehearsal will be organized at the same venue at 7 pm on 29 February.

The buses carrying the winners will leave the Sarpay Beikman building at 529/531 on Merchant Street on 27 February. The prize winners are to report the Sarpay Beikman building, not later than 7 am on 27 February.

The prize winners are to contact the Chief Editor of the Sarpay Beikman, Tel: 01-240048 and 381449 and the scholarship winners, the Deputy Director-General of Education Planning and Training Department, Tel: 01-548540 and 541283. Those wishing to attend the ceremony on own arrangement are to arrive at Pakokku, not later than 29 February.

For Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award for 2008, entries in collected poem, novel, collected short story, treatise and research genres are to be submitted to Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award Scrutinizing Committee at 529/531 on Merchant Street, not later than 30 September 2008. — MNA

Buddha Literary Award, Religious Examination Winners Award presented



Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko offers honorary certificate to a monk.

MNA

YANGON, 23 Feb — A ceremony to present the 7th Buddha Literary Award and Religious Examination Winners Award was held at Maha Sasana Waiponla Monastery on Gyartawya street in Myoma Ward, Bahan Township, here, this afternoon.

Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and congregation received the Five Precepts from Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Gunesana of Dhammika Yama Kyaikpi Monastery.

Presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Dhammatinna explained facts about the presentation of the awards.

The deputy minister and departmental heads donated offertories to members of the Sangha and conferred the awards and certificates of honour on seven monks, four nuns, three laypersons and one student.

A total of 16 donors contributed K 423,000 to the Buddha Literary Award and Religious Examination Winners Award fund and the congregation later shared merits gained. The fund was set up by Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Vepulla of Maha Sasana Waiponla Monastery. —MNA



U Nay Win-Daw Khin Win Mya (Buddhist Essential Support Trust) donate K 500,000 to the funds of International Institute of Abhidhamma through Pro-rector retired ambassador U Mya Than.—H

Zambia leader warns West on Zimbabwe election

LUSAKA, 22 Feb — Zambia’s President on Friday warned the West against interfering in Zimbabwe’s March election and believing it must be “free and fair” if President Robert Mugabe is defeated.

“I want to urge countries in Europe, the United States, Canada and Australia

to leave the Zimbabwe Government (alone),” President Levy Mwanawasa of neighbouring Zambia told a news conference in the capital Lusaka.

“They are creating a problem by thinking that an election must be free and fair if a ruling party loses,” Mwanawasa added.

Mugabe, in power since independence from Britain in 1980, is running for another five-year term on 29 March, but he has been challenged by former finance minister Simba Makoni, who is making the nation’s economic crisis the focus of his campaign.

Zimbabwe is struggling with soaring inflation that has risen above 100,000 percent, as well as chronic food and fuel shortages.— MNA/Reuters



Japanese professor Yoji Kimura believes laughter is a weapon that in healthy doses can end the world’s wars. To measure it, the expert on communications has invented a machine to chart out laughter — and a new unit of “aH” to calculate it.—INTERNET

Road accident kills 17 in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 23 Feb — At least 17 members of a family were killed and 12 others severely injured in a road accident in Pakistan’s eastern Punjab Province on Thursday, the *News Network International* (NNI) news agency reported.

An ill-fated family was going back to hometown after attending a funeral when a passenger bus collided with a wagon, killing 17 members of the family on the spot.

Police and doctors said that 13 women and two children were among those killed on the spot near the city of Jhang in Punjab. —MNA/Xinhua

Over 30 Taleban killed in operation

KABUL, 23 Feb — The Afghan Army has killed more than 30 Taleban fighters in an operation backed by air support in the violent south of the country, the Defence Ministry said on Thursday.

The clash happened on Wednesday in Helmand Province, a bastion for Taleban guerillas fighting the Afghan Government and its Western backers and Afghanistan’s main drug-producing region.

Ousted from power in 2001, the Taleban have made a comeback in the past two years and are active mainly in southern and eastern areas close to the border with Pakistan.

More than 11,000 people have been killed during this period, the bloodiest since US-led troops overthrew the Taleban after its refusal to hand over al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden, the architect of the 11 September attacks on the United States.

MNA/Reuters



A resident of the Mathare slum in Nairobi points his panga at police on 20 Feb. African Union Commission chief Jean Ping has pushed for a quick resolution of Kenya’s political crisis, which has claimed more than 1,000 lives.—INTERNET



Israeli soldiers clash with Palestinians during a protest against land confiscation for Israel’s separation barrier in the West Bank village of Kufr Hares, on 22 Feb, 2008. The declared purpose of the barrier is to keep out West Bank attackers, but because it dips into West Bank territory, Palestinians see it as a land grab.—INTERNET

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Home-made bombs explode in Thai south

BANGKOK, 23 Feb — Three home-made bombs exploded in Thailand’s far southern province Narathiwat on Friday morning, no reports of casualties.

The first explosion occurred at 7:10 am (0010 GMT) in front of a motorcycle shop in Narathiwat’s Sungai Padi District, according to the news website of media group *The Nation*.

While officials were checking the explosion scene, the second and third bombs went off about 900 metres and one kilometre from the first site respectively in the same district, the report said.

Authorities have yet to determine who were behind the bombings.

Narathiwat and the nearby Yala and Pattani provinces in the southernmost part of Thailand have been troubled with unabated insurgent violence for four years.

MNA/Xinhua

East Timor sends more forces to hunt rebels

DILI, 23 Feb — East Timor sent over 1,000 police and soldiers to sweep hills and raid homes on Friday in pursuit of rebels involved in last week’s assassination attempts on the country’s President and Prime Minister.

Rebel soldiers raided Jose Ramos-Horta’s home last Monday, seriously wounding the president during a gunfight.

Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao, who escaped unhurt in a separate attack, ordered the country’s military and police forces to form a joint command to arrest followers of rebel leader Alfredo Reinado.

Over 1,000 police officers and army soldiers paraded the streets of the capital, Dili, on Friday before embarking on the hunt for rebel soldiers in nearby hills.

“We promise we won’t betray the confidence given to us. We promise we will restore peace and stability,” military chief Taur Matan Ruak told a news conference.

Arrest warrants have been issued against 17 people suspected of involvement in the attack, including Gastao Salsinha who took command of rebel soldiers after Reinado was killed during the attack on Ramos-Horta. Asia’s youngest nation has been unable to achieve stability since hard-won independence in 2002.—MNA/Reuters

Russia warns of measures against US missile shield

Moscow, 23 Feb — Russia has to adjust its military strategies if the United States deploys missile defence systems in Eastern Europe, Russian Defence Minister Anatoly Serdyukov said here on Thursday.

The deployment of US missile shield in eastern Europe will aggravate

tensions across the region and jeopardize the global strategic balance, Serdyukov said in an article published on the website of the local newspaper *Moskovskiye Komsomolts*.

“It will also pose a threat to the national security of Russia,” he added.

Serdyukov said that it remains important tasks for Russia’s National Defence Ministry to beef up military readiness and develop strategic nuclear forces.

The minister also noted that Russia did not intend to threaten other countries by sending its strategic bombers to resume long-

range patrol over the Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic oceans.

“It is not a military show-off,” he said, adding that the strategic bombers are just conducting their regular flight and combat training.

Washington has pledged to base missile interceptors in Poland and a radar station in the Czech Republic as part of a project to extend the missile defence system to Europe.

Obama wins Democrats’ abroad global primary



US Democratic presidential candidate Senator Barack Obama (D-IL) campaigns at a rally in Corpus Christi, Texas on 22 Feb, 2008.—XINHUA

WASHINGTON, 22 Feb — US Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama was announced the winner of the party’s global primary on Thursday, another big boost to his campaign to win the party’s presidential nomination.

The International Chair for Democrats Abroad, Christine Marques, told

reporters that the Illinois Senator beat New York Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton by 65 per cent to 32 per cent.

A total of 22 delegates would be yielded from the global primary to the national nomination convention, with half a vote each, carrying 11 votes.

Among the eight

superdelegates, two have pledged to support Clinton, and another two have said they favour Obama and the rest are undecided.

From 5 to 12 February, American Democrats living in 164 countries and territories around the world voted via the Internet, mail and in person. Voting centres were set up in 33 countries, including the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Mexico, Canada, Italy and Japan, the highest number of voting centres in the primary’s history.

“With the US image so badly damaged by the present administration, American Democrats living overseas were eager to have their voices heard,” said Marques. —MNA/Xinhua

Moscow strongly opposes the plan, saying it poses a threat to its security while Washington says the system is aimed at states and groups in the Middle East that are seeking weapons of mass destruction, not against Russia.

MNA/Xinhua



A bottle of 100 numbered handcrafted Crystal Liquor Bottles named “Henri Gold & Silver”, dipped in Yellow Gold and Sterling Silver, is seen during a presentation in Mexico City on 22 Feb, 2008. —XINHUA

Israeli Army rolls into S-E Gaza Strip

GAZA, 22 Feb — Israeli troops rolled into south-eastern Gaza Strip on Thursday amid heavy machine gunfire, sparking reactions from Palestinian fighters, witnesses said.

The militants rushed to the al-Shouka neighbourhood in the east of border town of Rafah and fired mortar shells at the Israeli tanks and bulldozers, the

witnesses said.

There were no reports of casualties on both sides. However, the Israeli bulldozers caused damage to makeshift houses and groves. Israel forces often roll into al-Shouka, a small community alongside the border with Israel, from which Palestinian fighters

infiltrated Israel in June 2006 and kidnapped an Israeli soldier from his base.

Meanwhile, two Palestinian armed groups claimed responsibility for detonating a bomb when an Israeli Army jeep patrolling the border in central Gaza Strip was passing by.

MNA/Xinhua

A worker clears snow in an airport in New York, on 23 Feb, 2008. The worst snowstorm in two years hit New York on Friday, dumping more than 6 inches (15.24 cm) of snow in the largest US city, snarling land traffic and causing hundreds of flight cancellations and delays at area airports. —XINHUA



Two US soldiers killed in bomb attacks in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 22 Feb — Two American soldiers were killed and three others injured in two bomb attacks in Iraq on Wednesday, the US military said on Thursday.

One of the two soldiers was killed and three others injured when insurgents attacked their patrol with a rocket propelled grenade in Mosul, the capital city of the northern

Nineveh Province, a military statement said.

Another soldier assigned to Multi-National Division — Centre (MND-C) was killed when his vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb, a brief military statement said, without specifying the location of the incident.

However, MND-C also known as Task Force Marne is responsible for security in areas along the southern edge of Baghdad and stretching to the border of Saudi Arabia in the west and to the Iranian border in the east.

MNA/Xinhua

Explosion in Thai north injures 22 garbage collectors

BANGKOK, 23 Feb — Twenty-two scavengers were injured in an explosion at a garbage dumping site in Thailand’s northern province Tak on Friday, local media reported.

The explosion happened at 8:45 am (0145 GMT) Friday at the

dumping site in Mae Sot Municipality in Tak Province. borders Myanmar, news network *The Nation* reported.

Most of the injured were persons who collected recyclable garbage for sale. They were rushed to hospital for treatment.

MNA/Xinhua

Serial quakes jolt Indonesia

JAKARTA, 23 Feb — A series of earthquakes with magnitude of 5.8 and 5.7 respectively rattled western and eastern parts of Indonesia on Friday morning, but no report of damage or casualties, meteorology agency said here.

The 5.8 magnitude quake struck at 06:55 Jakarta Time (2355 GMT) with epicentre at 194 kilometres southwest

Muko town of Bengkulu and at 27 kilometres in depth, an official of the agency said.

The other quake shoot at 04:41 Jakarta Time (2141 GMT) with epicentre at 163 kilometres northwest Jayapura of Papua Province in easternmost of the country and at 10 kilometres in depth, the official said.

MNA/Xinhua

Ho Chi Minh City building first metro route

HANOI, 23 Feb — Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam's southern economic hub, has started construction of its first metro with a total investment of 1.1 billion US dollars, local newspaper *Vietnam News* reported Friday.

The 19.7-kilometre route, with 2.6 kilometres underground and 17.1 kilometres above, will link the city's downtown with its District No 9. It is

scheduled to become operational by 2014.

Of the investment, nearly 905 million US dollars comes from Japan's official development assistance and the rest from the city's budget.

The metro route will help ease traffic congestion and boost socio-economic development, said the report.

The Transport

Ministry will work with the city and neighbouring provinces to develop a mass rapid transit system in the region.

Each metro operating on the route will serve 162,000 passengers a day between 2014 and 2020, and 630,000 by 2030. The entire trip will take around 29 minutes, and there will be a metro every five minutes for 20 hours a day.

MNA/Xinhua



New cars are seen in a Venirauto car manufacturing plant, a joint venture between the Venezuelan government and Iran's major auto maker Khodro, in Maracay, 70 miles (115 km) west of Caracas, on 21 Feb, 2008. The first 10,000 low-cost vehicles will be launched to the public in 2008, officials said.—INTERNET

World fisheries face collapse within decades

MONACO, 23 Feb — A deadly combination of climate change, over-fishing and pollution could cause the collapse of commercial fish stocks worldwide within decades, said Achim Steiner, head of the United Nations Environment Programme.

"You overlap all of this and you see you're potentially putting a death nail in the coffin of world fisheries," Steiner told reporters on Friday on the fringes of a climate conference involving more than 150 nations and 100 environment ministers.

Some 2.6 billion people worldwide depend on fish

for protein, said a UNEP report *In Dead Water* published on Friday.

Climate change has compounded previous problems such as over-fishing, as rising temperatures kill coral reefs, threaten tuna spawning grounds, and shift ocean currents and with them the plankton and small fish which underpin ocean food chains.

"The question is not whether we should stop fishing but to address climate change, which is creating a degree of impact we've not seen before," said lead author of the UNEP report, Christian

Nellemann.

"We are getting more and more alarming signals of dramatic changes in the oceans. The recovery from the changes we're making will probably take a million years." The report found the most affected areas included those responsible for half the world's fish catch.

A slowing of ocean currents as a result of climate change may over the next 100 years interrupt the transport of nutrients to the most valuable coastal fishing zones, and the flushing away of pollution.

MNA/Reuters

Vietnam's garment export to US to surge in 2008

HANOI, 23 Feb — Vietnam is likely to earn 6.1 billion US dollars from exporting garments and textiles to the United States this year, up 38.6 per cent against last year, local newspaper *Youth* on Friday quoted a US trade agency as reporting.

Vietnam will this year overtake India and Mexico to become the second biggest garment exporter to the US market after

China, forecast the American Chamber of Commerce in Vietnam.

The market share of Vietnamese garments and textiles in the US market is expected to rise to 6.1 per cent this year from 4.7 per cent last year, and that of Chinese products to 38.7 per cent from 33.6 per cent, predicted the chamber.

Vietnam reaped 720 million dollars from exporting garments and textiles, mainly to the United States, the European Union and Japan in January, posting a year-on-year surge of 20.7 per cent, according to the General Statistics Office. — MNA/Xinhua



Tsuneyo Toyonaga, Japan's oldest person, has died of old age on Friday, 22 Feb, 2008 at a hospital in Nankoku, her nursing home said on Saturday. She was 113.

INTERNET

Singapore's Q4 domestic wholesale trade up 22.2%

SINGAPORE, 23 Feb — Singapore's overall domestic wholesale trade grew by 22.2 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2007 compared with the same period of 2006, the government said on Thursday.

Excluding petroleum, domestic sales went up by 4.8 per cent, according to the figures released by the Singapore Department of

Statistics (SDS).

Domestic sales of petroleum and petroleum products registered a significant increase of 47.3 per cent, largely due to higher prices.

Sales of timbre, paints and construction materials grew by 29.8 per cent,

sustaining positive growth for the sixth consecutive quarter. Double-digit growths were also reported by sectors of general wholesale trade, household equipment and furniture, and chemicals and chemical products.

MNA/Xinhua

Juergen Grossmann, CEO of German multi-utility RWE poses at an electric station for natural power, which is not yet connected, for electric cars before the annual news conference in Essen on 22 Feb, 2008.

INTERNET



Cambodia asks more time to cut Customs tariffs

PHNOM PENH, 23 Feb — Cambodia would ask the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN)

for one more year to cut its current Customs tariffs, planned to be axed by 2010, the *Mekong Times* newspaper reported Friday.

"We know that it is not good if we remove the tax barrier too soon because ASEAN countries have not reached an agreement yet," said Pen Siman, director of the Customs and Excise Department.

"I think that it is good if we can delay the implementation of the tax tariff until 2011," he added. Cambodia became an ASEAN member in 1999 and was allowed to keep its current tax tariffs

in place until 2010 in the hope of making Cambodian industry more competitive, the newspaper said.

The planned elimination of Customs tariffs is a requisite of ASEAN membership, it said, adding that under ASEAN regulations, Cambodia can also ask for the implementation of tax cuts to be delayed.

Cambodia has had 12 import tax rates in the past 10 years, with the highest at 120 per cent although the Kingdom currently has only 4, with the highest at 35 per cent.

MNA/Xinhua

Better education may better fend off memory loss

BEIJING, 22 Feb — From memory loss to dementia to Alzheimer's disease, people over 70 in US are finding less difficulty with these problems, showed findings online in the journal *Alzheimer's and Dementia* Wednesday.

Lead author Dr Kenneth Langa and Dr Allison Rosen, both of the

University of Michigan Medical School in Ann Arbor, Mich, used data on 11,000 people from the Health and Retirement Study, a national survey of US seniors age 70 and over.

The researchers compared data gathered in 1993 with data from 2002.

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 between 1993 and 2002.

The researchers contributed the decline to the better education people received. The more education people had, the better they performed on

cognitive tests.

Today's old adults are much likelier to have had more formal education, higher economic status, and better care for risk factors such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol and smoking that can jeopardize their brains.

The study 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. In 1993, people who were 70 or older on average had 11 years of education. By 2002, those 70 and older had 12 years of education, according to the survey.

Xinhua

Mobile phone subscribers in Egypt up to 30m in 2007

CAIRO, 23 Feb — The number of mobile phone subscribers in Egypt has risen to 30 million at the end of 2007, a monthly report from the Egyptian Ministry of Communications and IT showed on Thursday.

This means about 40 per cent of the Egyptian population came to use cell phones at the end of 2007, compared with 18 million mobile phone subscribers in 2006, the report said.

Moreover, fixed phone line users slightly rose to 15.2 per cent of the country's population of 76.5 million in 2007, from 15 per cent in 2006, it added. Internet users accounted for 11.7 per cent of the total Egyptian population in 2007, up from 8.3 per cent in 2006, according to the report.

Xinhua



Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez (L) talks to a doctor during the launch of "The Public Health System of Caracas" health plan at the Domingo Luciani health center in Caracas on 22 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

China urges US to provide data on satellite shutdown

BEIJING, 23 Feb — China on Thursday called on the United States to provide relevant data on its shooting down of a damaged US spy satellite.

China is continuing to closely follow the possible harm caused by the US action to outer space security and relevant countries, said the Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao in response to a question on the US shutdown of an out-of-

control spy satellite.

"China requests that the US fulfil its international obligations and promptly provide to the international community the necessary information so that relevant countries can take precautions," Liu

said.

A missile launched from a US Navy cruiser shot down a dying and potentially deadly US spy satellite deployed in the North Pacific late Wednesday.

Xinhua

Colombian Navy soldiers guard some 3,500 icotea turtles seized from a cargo ship in Magangue Municipality, Bolivar, Colombia, on 20 Feb, 2008. The icotea turtles are a rare and endangered species, which have been put under protection in the country.—XINHUA



Gondolas are beached after sea levels plunged to a 14-year low in Venice, on 19 Feb, 2008. The Centro Maree, whose forecasts are vital for organising transport in Venice, said a high-pressure system set off a "Code White" alert that signals low sea levels. Canals slipped on Monday to 80 centimetres (31.5 inches) below average sea level, the lowest since 1994, and remained at "Code White" levels on Tuesday. The lowest level recorded was 92 cm below in 1989. —XINHUA

Scientists say India risks new epidemics

NEW DELHI, 23 Feb — India is facing a risk for emerging infectious diseases (EIDs) as the

human population expands into natural wilderness, *The Times of India* reported on Friday.

"India risks new epidemics as the human population expands into natural wilderness, coming into contact with a diverse range of wildlife that harbour unusual diseases," Kate Jones, a biodiversity scientist at the Zoological Society of London and first author of the international study, told *The Times of India*.

She said there was an urgent need to prevent further intrusion into areas of high biodiversity. Other zoonoses in India include incidences of Japanese encephalitis in UP, the Surat plague, leptospirosis

and more common infections such as rabies and anthrax.

Of special concern are zoonoses such as bird flu, incidences of which have risen worldwide.

Researchers from the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), the US-based University of Georgia and Columbia University's Earth Institute analysed 335 incidents of previous disease emergence, beginning from 1940, and determined that zoonoses are the current and most important threat in causing new diseases to emerge. And most of these, including SARS and the Ebola virus, originated in mammals. —Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency



Sacred Mya Sein Taung Hill, Taung Nyo

Dr Khin Maung Nyunt

Low hill ranges thickly covered with green forest, criss-crossed by streams and rivulets feature the vast stretch of undulating land between Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana and Taungdwingyi, in the arid zones of central Myanmar. The area is noted for archaeological sites of ancient Pyu and early Bagan civilizations. Chance finds and excavated artifacts of antiquity of this area and ruined or repaired religious monuments on the hills are mute evidences of Buddha Sasana that had flourished there in days of yore.

Mya Sein Taung hill which lies by the side of Taung Nyo stream at 23 mile pillar on the Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana-Taungdwin-gyi highway is a sacred hill on which Gandapalin Zedi and Hsu Taung Pyi Zedi are situated.

Legend claims their origin far back to the lifetime of Gotama Buddha. Before Gotama Buddha revealed there was a village called Masala on Mya Sein hill range. The villagers were nat spirit worshippers when King Bodaw Insana and his guru hermit Devila arrived in Tampadipa country during the royal tour, they found Masala village. Seeing nat shrines everywhere the King renamed the village Nat Paw Ywa (the village of many nat shrines). The King sojourned there in a temporary palace when he left, the villagers moved to the palace site and the village was renamed Nan Ta Paw village. (The village on the palace site).

In the 9th vasa (ordained years) Gotama Buddha visited Lanka Dipa (Sri Lanka) third time. He left his footprint on the summit of Thumana hill. Next, he came to reside at the sandalwood monastery at Ley Kaing built by the merchant Cula-ponna and preached his teachings for seven days. When his cousin monk

Shin Ananda asked the Buddha where he would go next for his Dhamma duta mission, the Buddha mentioned the names of seven hills—Beinbibaw Hill, Mya Sein Hill, Tant Kyi Taung Hill, HpoU Taung Hill, Thin Pwint Taung Hill, Minwun Taung Hill and Mandalay Taung Hill.

When the Buddha arrived on Mya Sein Taung Hill, Zey Yanta deva made a fragrant and sandalwood throne for the Buddha to sit on to preach the Dhamma to the devas, ogres and humans, who embraced Buddhism. The Buddha recalled that in his previous existence he was a Pig King on Mya Sein Hill and Fowl King on Beinbibaw Hill. Later the sandalwood throne was enshrined in a pagoda (Paribawga Zedi). The stream nearly was named Naga La Chaung (the stream where naga serpents came to revel). Later it was renamed Thingan hput chaung became monks washed their robes in the stream.

Mei Nan Saw, daughter of the headman of Nan Paw village fell in love with a weikza and gave birth to a son Mawga Zauh, a breave and intelligent seer. The hermit of Mya Sein Taung Hill taught and trained him in 18 princely arts when grown up he began founding a town to promote Buddha Sasana. His father weikza helped him. The hermit advised him to get royal consent from the king of Pataliputra as the land belonged to him. When he did so, King Bimisara of Pataliputra willingly gave him regalia and married him to Supatta devi of Mauriya Town as his queen. Besides, a young knight named Wara-subawdha who was learned in Tipitaka and vedas was assigned to his service. King Mawgazauk ruled for 32 years. His son Maw Zaw Kandu succeeded him. Maw Zaw Kandu's queen was Pabawaddy. In the 15th year of his reign, Emperor

Asoka of Pataliputra sent to him 37 sacred relics and 1000 silver, directing that when a Maha Thera Saint monk came to show the site for building pagodas, sacred relics should be enshrined in them.

Not long after, Saint monk Ashin Eindagupata came to Mya Sein hills and Beinbibaw hill and located the auspicious sites for building pagodas. Two Knights, Warathudhama and Wara Thubawdha took charge of building pagodas on two hills respectively. On the summit of Mya Sein Hill, Wara Thudhama cleared the wild vegetation and recovered the ruined pagodas Ganda Palin. He placed on sandalwood throne the ruby-studded gold casket with Buddha's relics in it, gold statues of the Buddha at seven places he stopped and stayed after his enlightenment, silver statues of the King, Queen, their ancestors, silver statues of Satumaharita devas, sakka, and Brahmas around the relics casket and gold plates with inscribed Pathan treatise. These sacred objects were interned in the pagoda.

On the summit of Beinbibaw hill Wara-thubawdha dug a relics chamber of 8 cubits deep with 8 corners for 8 cardinal directions, iron sheets on four sides bronze sheets and silver sheets on them, white marble flooring, two gold posts each with silver statue of Bhumi deva and Rukha deva in the posture of worshipping the relic casket. Bejeweled bronze bar on the two gold posts on which was hung a gold cradle studded with rubies, bearing the relic casket on it, gold statue of the King, Queen, their ancestors, royal children, commanders, sakka, Brahmas and Satumaharita devas placed around the gold cradle, arranged in the relic chamber. Finally, a zedi was built on it.

Next, another pagoda named Pyi Kyi Chan Tha was built on San Hlut Hillock at the center of a distance of ten thousand tons between Mya Sein



Sa Ma Taung Hill Thawutti.

and Beinbibaw hills, lands surveyor Maung Yan of San Hlut village supervised the building of this pagoda. On the 14th waxing moon of Kason in Myanmar Era 218 (856 AD) the king with his count in state appeared and opened the consecration and inauguration ceremonies at the Pagoda. San Hlut village was renamed Maung Yan Village. After completing his religious deeds, King Maw Zaw Kandu returned to his capital on the 4th waning moon of Kason, leaving the upkeep of the Pagoda for the charge of knight Warathubawdha and Maung Yan. The knight built a Pathan monastery to the north of the Pagoda and set up an inscribed stone pillar in a brick structure, recording the royal dedications — Garda Palin Pagoda, Pyi Kyi Chan Tha Pagoda, Hpeik Hpeik Yaung Pagoda and the inscribed pillar in the brick structure.

When the King died, his son Maung Bo was still a minor. So his nephew Kan Net succeeded him. But within a month Kannaet died of small pox. Thus 14-year-old Maung Bo was enthroned. Maung Bo had

two daughters — Mya Hnin Zi and Saw Hnin Yi. Mya Hnin Zi was given in marriage to King Yan Paung of Sri Kestra by way of alliance. She became a lesser queen. King Yang Paung was noble and pious. One day the sacred relics encased in her ear plugs emitted rays of light. Count ladies, seeing them, thought that Mya Hnin Zi was a witch and reported to the King who exiled her to Yoma hill range.

There was the report of white and stripped elephants roaming in the forests of Hanthawaddy. The King sent his men to capture them. Two prince brothers Thawungyi and Thawunng in hot pursuit of the elephants reached the border between the two kingdoms. They saw the foundry pillar and reading the inscription on it they realized that they were on the territory of Tampawaddy kingdom. So they turned back though the elephants were within their sight. They sent a message to King Maung Bo to capture the elephants and send them to the King of Hanthawaddy. King Maung Bo felt insulted when he read the message

and with his armed forces he invaded Hanthawaddy. He was repulsed by the enemies, Prince Tharawun Gyi's men put him to death. King Maung Bo became nat spirit and was given a shrine on a hill which today is called Pho (Bo) Saunt hill (The hill guarded by Maung Bo, the nat spirit).

Tharawun Gyi was enthroned as King Hsin Kya Shin of Hanthawaddy. Tharawun Nge married Saw Hnin Yi and became King of Nantawpaw. Queen Saw Hnin Yi sent a letter to her elder sister Mya Hnin Zi explaining all what had happened. King Yan Paung realizing this mistake in exiling Mya Hnin Zi marched to Yoma hill range to take her back and make her chief queen. When she read the letter from her sister she felt very grieved at the violent death of her royal father at the hands of the enemies. Suddenly she died of heart break. The King buried her body with due honour and built a Lwan Zedi Pagoda to commemorate his longing for her.

(See page 8)

Preventive measures against DHF, diarrhoea taken in Insein Township



Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win inspects preventive measures against DHF being carried out in Insein Township.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win heard reports on control and prevention against dengue hemorrhagic fever and diarrhoea, tasks for proper flow of drains and sanitation presented by officials at Development Affairs

Committee Office in Insein Township this morning. The commander looked into talks on health knowledge, sanitation task, distribution of insecticide treated mosquito nets, spraying insecticides and proper flow of drains being undertaken in Japan Street of East Ywama Ward and Mahamyang Kyaung Street in Aung San Ward in Insein Township. — MNA

Industry-1 Minister inspects factory projects

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb —Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung inspected progress of Cement Plant Construction Project (Nay Pyi Taw) of Myanmar Ceramics Industries near Thawuthit in Lewe Township, Mandalay Division today.

The minister also inspected construction tasks of Cement Plant (Taungphela) being undertaken by Max Myanmar Co Ltd.

Secretariat Member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister U Aung Thaung met with local residents of Thitkyaing village of Lewe Township. The minister donated robes and offertories to members of the Sangha of the Monastery in the village.

Minister U Aung Thaung met with local residents of 13 villages on east bank of Sittoung River in the compound of the monastery and fulfilled their needs. He provided K 200,000 for the teachers of Basic Education Post Primary School (Thitkyaing).

The minister inspected progress of CTMP Pulp Factory construction project (Yeni) of Myanma Paper and Chemicals Industries in Yedashe Township, Bago Division.

Upon completion, the factory will produce 80 tons of brown paper and 50 tons of pulp per day.

MNA

Sacred Mya Sein Taung Hill, Taung Nyo ...

(from page 7)

After 15 years of reign Tharawun Nge died and was succeeded by his older son Min Hla Yaza. In 5 months time he was killed in the fighting to put down the rebellion. His younger brother Samadi Yaza took the throne. He was a tyrant refusing to listen to the good advice of his mother. One day while he was bathing in the royal tank his body turned into a monkey. His men killed him as he appeared monkey to them. As he had no child there was no one to succeed him and the dynasty came to an end. The Kanyan rebels with their strongholds in the Seven Hill Ranges of Thindwe took the Kingdom. Meanwhile a severe earthquake occurred pulling down the hills on Nantawpaw and all neighbouring areas including Taungdwingyi. Thus Nantawpaw came to be called Taung Myo Myo (The town swallowed by hills). Later it corrupts to Taung Nyo Myo. The date of the destruction of Nantawpaw by earthquake was ME 315 (963 AD).

In Maha Sakarit year 638, Kingdom of Sri Kestra declined and disrupted. Its people divided into three groups, Pyu, Kanyan and Myanmar. Pyu-Myanmar moved to the place called Yon Hlut Kyun where they set up 19 villages. King Thumudarit, nephew of Suparina nagara seinna, came to Taung Nyo and ruled there for only 3 years. Yamethin, Pet Waing, Pya Raung, Taung Nyo, Ta Min Hsan were the five districts in his kingdom. Later the king moved to Thet Thar and Pan Taung for 6 years and to Mindon for 3 years. Finally he came to Yon Hlut Kyun and ruled the 19 Pyu villages collectively called Pauk Kan Yama. (First Bagan). Subsequently capital Bagan moved to three places with three different names Sripyitsaya at Lokananda Tampawaddy at Thamahti and Bagan at present site. In 1061 AD Anawrahta founded the first Myanmar Empire and introduced and established Theravada Buddhist Sasana in his kingdom. His 3rd successor Alaungsithu built two Phaungdaw U Pagodas at Taung Nyo during his tour of home and abroad.

Taung Nyo was subjected to attack, invasion and destruction in the reigns of son of Ngasishin Kyaw

Swa of Pinya, Thado Min Pya, Mohnyin Mintara and Min Ye Kyaw Swa of Inwa and Min Kyi Nyo of Toungoo.

In the time of King Bannayan, son and successor of King Dhammazedi of Hanthawaddy, learned minister Thahtey Yaung and monk Maha Thera Shin Sanda wara left Hanthawaddy because of the misrule of Bannayan. They came to Taung Nyo and founded Maha Gama village for Pyu and Kanyan people. They recovered ruined structure of an old pagoda which was identified Hpeik Hpeik Yaung Zedi and an old brick cave. A relic chamber of 12 cubits by 5 cubits was dug in which were interned relics. They brought from Ceylon (Sri Lanka), from Suvannabhumi and from Bago together with the recovered relics and votive objects encased in the casket placed on the recovered gold cradle. Over the chamber a new zedi was built: the hillock upon which the newly built zedi was renamed Abhaya Thupati hillock (No danger hill) or Hpeik Hpeik Yaung, the name mentioned in the old stone inscription to the south of this hillock was Beinbibaw village, to the west were founded many villages, to the north was the monastery of Ashin Sandawara and a covered cause way leading to the Zedi. At the centre of the cause way was a brick shrine with the statue of Deva the guardian of Buddha Sasana. To the north west at a distance of 60 tars was Amatyki village of over 200 households. Due to floods the area to the east had no human settlement but there were some paddy fields there. Many water resources were found around the hillock.

In 1922 the long forgotten Hpeik Hpeik Yaung Zedi in ruin was discovered by the local villagers who were looking for a site for settling surplus population. One fullmoon night, wild birds on a ruined zedi on the summit of a hillock to the south were making alarming noises. Villagers woke up and came to the spot to find a ruined structure. In 1928 U Nyein and Daw Ma Ma Gyi of Pyan Ka Pyay village rebuilt the zedi.

Four prominent pagodas of historic importance at Taung Nyo today are Ganda Palin on Mya Sein Taung hill, Hpeik Hpeik Yaung Zedi on Thayakon hillock, Pyi Kyi Chan Thar Zedi on Phayakon hillock and Ko Taung Pyi Phaungdaw U Zedi at Ywa Thaya village.

Taung Nyo, being one of the early human settlements in Myanmar and a town of historic importance is no doubt a virgin field for archaeological

and historical research. Local people report on chance finds in ploughing, farming and road making, illegally excavated artifacts of some antiquity by treasure hunters and antique smugglers, existence of ruins of religious monuments in the fields, on the hills, deep in the jungle, on near water resources. They prove that Pyu and other early settlers had made home of this vast area covering Gwey Pin Yoe, Ma Thein, Po Zar Taw, Thayet Taw, Tet Shein, Tet Thein, Ywa Thar, Lei Pyin Ma, Po Tet, etc. Remains of Pyu graves are found on Mya Sein and Taung Nyo hill ranges as well as along the Taung Nyo stream. In them are found bones, bone ashes in urns, stone beads, implements and weapons of iron, figurines of semi precious stones, damaged potteries and pot shades. In some ruined pagodas, gold and silver votive objects, and precious jewellery were stolen by treasure hunters to sell to foreign antique dealers. Most common finds are stone beads of different designs that fetch the money enough for a daily meal, so they are called by the locals "Htamin sa kyauk".

As recent as the year 2001, on the 10th waning moon of Tabodwe (February) some sacred relics, 125 silver statues of the Buddha and a votive bunch of gold flowers were recovered from a ruined pagoda to the west of Tet Shein village. They belong to Nyaung Yan Period. They are now kept at the local monastery.

The names of hills, villages and places in this area tell their historic origin such as the fields cultivated by farmer couple Pho Kaung and Ma Thaung are now called Pho Kaung field and Ma Thaung field. Their son Ponna's field is now called Ponna Kyaw. Where Pig King had inhabited is now called Wet-su village, where Fowl King with his retinue had lived is now called Kyet Sar Myo Kyaw, the Lake in which they happily swam is now called Kyet Hsu Eine, where there was no more danger and the fowls announced to assemble by flapping their wings is now called A Taung Tee or Taung Tee and where Buddha's opponent Devadat the hunter, during his hunt, dropped and broke his gourd water container is now called "Bu Kwe".

Day trips to sites around Nay Pyi Taw reveal many clues to their antiquity, archaeology and history.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe meets...

(from page 16)

After that, Director-General of Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development U Aung Win reported on relevant works.

Later, chairmen of the management committees, departmental heads and officials presented matters on setting up of industrial zones, progress of industries, production, population of workers, investment, assistance provided, running of factories and future tasks.

This was followed by a general round of discussions.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by Lt-Gen Myint Swe.—MNA

Evil-doers grieve for foulness of deeds

Here he grieves and he grieves hereafter; both here and there does the evil-doer grieve. He grieves and he suffers having seen the foulness of his deeds.

Dhammapada 15

Ministry of Home Affairs conducts Work Efficiency Course for officers



Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo addresses opening of Work Efficiency Course No 1/2008 for officers.—MNA

YANGON, 23 Feb—The opening ceremony of Work Efficiency Course (1/2008) for officers of the Ministry of Home Affairs was held at the Administration Development Training School of General Administration Department in Mingaladon Township, here, this morning.

In his speech, Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo said that the course is aimed at widening the scope of knowledge on international

affairs and administrative skills of the trainees. He also called on the trainees to work hard in the course to carry out effective management in administrative affairs among the departments of the ministry.

A total of 50 trainees from Myanmar Police Force, Bureau of Special Investigation and Correctional Department are attending the ten-week course.

MNA

Prizes awarded to winners in golf tourney



YANGON, 23 Feb — The fourth and final round of the Myanmar PGA and Myanmar Golf Federation President's Cup 2008, jointly organized by Myanmar

PGA and MGF, was held at Hanthawady Golf Course at 10th mile in Bago Township yesterday.

After the fourth round, Myanmar PGA and MGF President Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd) gave a speech.

Director of Han Golf Masters Pte Ltd U Ko Ko Lay, General Sales Manager U Tha Phyo of Dagon Brewery Ltd and Mr Oh Sang Ok of Inno Group Co Ltd presented prizes to daily best scorers.

General Secretary U Aung Kyi of MGF gave first, second and third prizes to Yang Mi Young with 217 strokes, Jin Eun Hee with 223 and May Li with 223 in the women's handicap division and the



Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein presents prize to an outstanding student.—MNA

special prize to Yin May Myo in the women's scratch event. Vice Chairman U Zaw Min of Air Bagan Ltd handed first, second and third prizes to Bo Bo with 295 strokes in the men's amateur division, Nay Bala Win Myint with 296 and Aung Win with 296.

President of Myanmar PGA and MGF Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd) presented a trophy and a cheque as reward to Zaw Zaw Latt of Point Golf Gear Factory who stood first with 289 strokes in the

professional division and cash rewards to Park Kyung Joon and Soe Kyaw Naing of Srixon who tied at joint second position with 294 each.

Air Bagan Ltd, Inno Group Co Ltd, Eden Group Co Ltd, Srixon, KM Golf Centre, Alpine, Dagon Brewery Ltd, Heather Gate Whisky, Accel International Co Ltd and Hanthawady Gold and Country Club jointly sponsored the tournament, with the management of Han Event Management.

MNA



President of MPGA and MGF Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd) presents trophy to Zaw Zaw Latt.—MNA

Canadian couple have baby from 22-year-old sperm

OTTAWA, 23 Feb — A Canadian couple successfully conceived a baby with the husband's sperm, which was frozen 22 years ago. Mike Kuzminski, now 43, suffered from cancer when he was just 18 years old. An oncologist advised the young man to freeze his sperm because the treatment was likely to render him infertile. After his marriage with Kristin in 2003, Kuzminski's sister reminded him that he had made a deposit in a Calgary hospital years ago. The couple, who had never dreamed of having a baby, started their tryout. "All of a sudden, one part of you doesn't want to

get your hopes up, but you're opened up to this possibility. My heart was racing.... We could have a baby. Whoa!" said Kristin Thursday on a Canadian Television programme from western Alberta Province. It took them only two attempts to get Kristine pregnant, using a technique called intra-uterine insemination. Now they already have a son Jacek.—MNA/Xinhua

Indonesian experts seeking end to mud volcano

JAKARTA, 23 Feb — A group of Indonesian mining experts and public figures have launched an attempt to stop the mudflow in the East Java town of Sidoarjo that has swallowed 11 villages and thousands of houses since it erupted in May 2006. The group said it would use relief well technology to stop the mudflow, and conduct fund-raising activities to finance the project, local newspaper The Jakarta Post reported on Friday. Rudi Rubiandini, a drilling expert of the Bandung Institute of Technology, said that by drilling a relief well to get to the source of the mudflow, which lies at a depth of 2,000 to 3,000 metres, they would be able to plug the source. He said the source could be destroyed by injecting mud with higher specific gravity and channeling the hot salty water, which produces mud after mixing with clay, to the earth's surface via the relief well. MNA/Xinhua

Fidel Castro rebuts US call for change in Cuba

HAVANA, 23 Feb — Retired Cuban leader Fidel Castro on Friday lashed out at US presidential hopefuls' calls for change in his country, saying the only change needed is in the United States. In his first column article since he announced retirement as Cuba's top leader, Castro said all the US presidential candidates cried for change in Cuba in recent debates, but the fact is that "Cuba changed a long time ago and will continue its dialectic road without returning to the past". All these candidates in the US were forced to proclaim their immediate demands to Cuba "to avoid risking vote losses", said Castro. Castro said that US leaders want Cuba to become part of their "voracious and expansionist empire," and that is what they mean by change. Castro announced his retirement on Tuesday, after some 50 years in office. He said he would not accept the position of president of the Council of State and commander in chief but will definitely communicate his thoughts with Cuban citizens through a newspaper column titled "Reflections of Comrade Fidel". MNA/Xinhua



East Timorese policemen patrol on 15 Feb, 2008. East Timor extended on Friday a state of emergency put in place after attacks last week on its top two leaders and boosted the hunt for the rebels thought responsible, officials said.-- INTERNET

Timor Leste extends state of emergency

JAKARTA, 23 Feb — Timor Leste's Parliament on Friday approved to extend by 30 days the state of emergency imposed after the attacks on the country's President and Prime Minister, local media reported. A vote ended with 34-12 by lawmakers approved another emergency of 30 days, which includes nighttime curfew. The vote was proposed by acting president Fernando de Araujo. Over one thousand international police and soldiers patrolled in the capital city, Dili, on Friday to maintain situation in calm. The government pledged to arrest rebels relevant to the attacks. MNA/Xinhua



The ocean liner the Queen Victoria is escorted into Sydney Harbour in the early hours of Saturday morning, 23 Feb, 2008. The Queen Victoria is on her maiden around-the-world voyage and will share Sydney Harbour with her retiring sister ship the Queen Elizabeth 2 later Saturday when she also arrives in the harbour.—INTERNET

US Air Force “B-2” stealth bomber crashes in Guam

WASHINGTON, 23 Febr — A US B-2 stealth bomber crashed at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam just after taking off but the two pilots on board ejected safely, the US Air Force said late on Friday. "They have been evaluated by medical authorities and are in good condition," the Air Force said in a statement. An Air Force spokeswoman did not have details about bomber's mission in Guam. The aircraft, which cost almost 1.2 billion US dollars each, is based at Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri. The B-2 bomber can evade most radar signals making it difficult for defensive systems to detect, track and attack. It has a range of 6,000 nautical miles (9,600 kilometres) without refueling, according to the Air Force. The B-2 bombers have been used for missions in Afghanistan, Iraq and Serbia. MNA/Reuters

All 46 die in airplane crash in Venezuela

CARACAS, 23 Feb — All the 46 people aboard the Santa Barbara Airlines airplane died after the plane crashed on Thursday in Venezuela's Andean region, Venezuela's National Civil Protection Department reported on Friday. The aircraft crashed against a 12,000-foot high mountain at Los Conejos moorland, some 10 kilometres from Carnevalli Airport in Merida State, west of Venezuela. Venezuela's National Civil Protection Department Director Antonio Rivero said 43 passengers and three crew members died in the crash. "The procedures to recover the bodies and the airplane remains are now being complied to determine what caused the accident," said Rivero. The YV-1449 airplane, flight number 518, crashed half an hour after lifting off from Merida's Alberto Carnevalli Airport heading to Caracas' Simon Bolivar national airport. The deceased passenger list includes Mayor of Mucuchies Alexander Quintero and his 11-year-old son Eisber Quintero, and two family members of Citizen Security Vice Minister Tarek Al Aissami. Santa Barbara is a small aircraft company covering national flights in Venezuela. According to the initial investigations, the climate was normal at the time of the crash. MNA/Xinhua



Two unidentified relatives of passengers of the Venezuelan Santa Barbara Airlines plane that crashed arrive at the airport of Merida, Venezuela. A twin-prop passenger plane slammed into a mountain shortly after take-off from a popular tourist spot in Venezuela's western Andes region overnight, killing all 46 people on board, officials said on Friday. INTERNET

Images of the Day



Blu-ray discs are displayed at a Best Buy store on 19 Feb, 2008 in San Francisco.
INTERNET

South Korean students spin fireballs in southern Seoul as part of celebrations marking the year's first full moon day, which has been widely observed in China and other Asian countries.
INTERNET



Dsquared2 times three : A multiple exposure image shows a creation by Canadian identical-twin designers Dean and Dan Caten for Dsquared2 during the Autumn/Winter 2008/2009 women's collections at Milan Fashion Week.—INTERNET



Malaysians are seen here surfing the Internet at TM points (Telekom Malaysia) in downtown Kuala Lumpur.
INTERNET



A Spanish matador makes a derechazo on a Victoriano del Rio fighting bull in Nimes, southern France. A rancher in Spain plans to have his most prized bull cloned by a US firm in what will be a first in the history of Spanish bullfighting.
INTERNET



The Tahina spectabilis palm tree in an undated photo courtesy of Britain's Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. 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.—INTERNET

Vietnam, Finland agree to boost cooperative ties

HANOI, 22 Feb — Vietnamese state President Nguyen Minh Triet and his visiting Finnish counterpart Tarja Halonen said here Thursday that the two sides agreed to foster the bilateral friendly and cooperative relations, including investment and trade cooperation.

Vietnam and Finland will broaden and deepen cooperative ties in many fields, including economy, trade and investment so that they will develop in a more efficient and sustainable way in the coming time, Triet told reporters after holding

talks with the Finnish President.

Vietnam and Finland will try their best to implement four bilateral deals, he said. Before the Press briefing, the two presidents witnessed the signing of the deals, including two agreements on investment protection and on financing a forestry trust fund, and two memoranda of understanding on an air transport agreement, and on scientific and technological cooperation.

Tarja Halonen said she hoped that the two countries will strengthen

friendship and co-operation for joint development, and that their enterprises will ink more contracts.

During the talks, the two sides discussed many issues, including those on bilateral multifaceted cooperation, the European Union, and the United Nations, she said.

The Finnish President arrived in Hanoi capital on February 20 for her first state visit to Vietnam. Vietnam and Finland established diplomatic relations in 1973.

MNA/Xinhua

China to teach children Peking Opera

BEIJING, 23 Feb — China's education department will start pilot projects to teach students in primary and secondary schools how to perform Peking Opera, one of the nation's unique cultural treasures.

"It is a significant move not only to Peking Opera itself but also the whole Chinese culture," Wu Jiang, president of the China National Peking Opera Company told Xinhua.

It will bring today's children and teenagers closer to the heart of Chinese traditional culture, he said, "Peking

Opera is not only a form of art but also a concentration of cultural traditions".

The Ministry of Education is to add Peking Opera into music courses for primary and secondary schools in 10 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions including Beijing this year, as part of the efforts to promote traditional culture.

In the coming new

semester, 20 schools in Beijing will launch Peking Opera courses.

Peking Opera, with a history of more than 200 years, is a synthesis of music, dance, art and acrobatics and is widely regarded as a symbolic expression of Chinese culture. Many historical events are adapted into the plays, which in the past were an important primer on history and ethical principles.—MNA/Xinhua

Canada cool to carbon tax, despite province's move

VANCOUVER, (British Columbia), 22 Feb — The Canadian Government is not very interested in implementing a national carbon tax, despite a decision by its third largest province to adopt one, federal Environment Minister John Baird said on Wednesday.

British Columbia's plan, unveiled on Tuesday, is the first of its kind in North America and its supporters say is among the world's most comprehensive tax programmes aimed at curbing emissions of greenhouse gases, blamed for climate change.

Baird said British Columbia had the right to pursue its own strategy, but the federal government

has a different approach.

He added he will not criticize the Western Canadian province's plan to impose a tax based on carbon content that will cover nearly all fossil fuels used by industry and individuals.

"We have a different focus, our approach is on industrial regulation," Baird said told Reuters.

"There are a lot of different approaches. The good news is that they are taking action on climate change." The federal Conservative government, which has abandoned Canada's commitments under the Kyoto climate change protocol, announced last year that it planned to cut emissions by up to 65 per cent from 2006 levels by 2050. — MNA/Reuters

Suicide bomber kills seven in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 22 Feb — A suicide bomber detonated an explosives vest in the Iraqi town of Muqdadiya, northeast of Baghdad, killing seven people and wounding 17, a source in the town's hospital said.

The source said the attack had occurred in a market in the town, 90 kilometres (55 miles) northeast of the capital,

and so far the hospital had received seven bodies.

While attacks across Iraq have fallen by 60 per cent since last June, US commanders say al-Qaeda in Iraq, who they blame for most large-scale bombings, remains a dangerous foe, particularly in provinces north of Baghdad.

MNA/Reuters

Iran hangs six for armed robbery

TEHERAN, 22 Feb — Iran hanged six men for armed robbery on Wednesday, a news agency reported, the latest in a series of executions in the Islamic Republic that has been criticized in the West.

They were put to death inside a prison in Zanjan after being convicted of carrying out a robbery in the bazaar of the

northwestern city last year, the semi-official Fars news agency said. One of them had also been sentenced for murder.

Murder, adultery, rape, armed robbery, apostasy and drug trafficking are all punishable by death under Iran's sharia law, practised since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

European governments and Western rights groups have criticized Iran for an increasing number of hangings, many of them in public, since authorities launched a clampdown on "immoral behaviour" in July. Since then, police have arrested dozens of drug addicts, smugglers, rapists and murderers. Rights group Amnesty International says Iran has one of the highest rates of executions in the world.

MNA/Reuters



Lebanese soldiers ride in an armoured personnel carrier as they patrol the streets of the Lebanese capital. The Kuwaiti embassy in Beirut was evacuated on Thursday after an anonymous threat of a rocket attack, the latest scare in Lebanon as foreign governments act on security amid mounting political and sectarian tensions.—INTERNET

Vietnam arrests drug dealer, seizes 20 kilos of ecstasy

HANOI, 23 Feb — Vietnamese police have detained a man from northern Hai Phong city and confiscated some 70,000 pills of ecstasy weighing nearly 20 kilos and four sports guns in his house and car, local newspaper Pioneer

reported Friday.

The 39-year-old man, caught red-handed trading drugs on February 20, is believed to be a member of a transnational drug trafficking ring. The ring members buy lab-made drugs, which are smuggled into Vietnam

from other countries, and then sell them in some major cities.

Some local drug dealers from Hai Phong often sell ecstasy pills in some discotheques and bar lounges in capital Hanoi and southern Ho Chi Minh City. — MNA/Xinhua

Americans hid assets at Liechtenstein bank

WASHINGTON, 23 Feb — A senior US lawmaker said on Thursday he would launch an investigation into US citizens who hid assets at Liechtenstein's LGT Bank to avoid paying taxes and urged Senate passage of a bill to crack down on offshore tax havens.

"It is my understanding that many US citizens have also hidden assets at this bank," said Senator Carl Levin, a Michigan Democrat and chairman of the Senate's Permanent Subcommittee

on Investigations. "I intend to investigate."

Hans-Martin Uehlinger, an LGT spokesman contacted by phone in Liechtenstein, declined to comment immediately, saying he had not yet seen Levin's statement.

LGT's website says it is a wealth and asset management group run by the princely house of Liechtenstein for more than 70 years, with 1,600 employees and 29 locations worldwide.

MNA/Reuters

Study suggests cut salt to keep children thin

WASHINGTON, 23 Feb — Reducing the amount of salt that children eat could provide a short-cut to keeping them slim, British researchers reported here.

They found that children who ate less salt drank fewer sugary soft drinks and could reduce their risk of high blood pressure and obesity.

Writing in the journal *Hypertension*, they said

this could lower rates of heart attack and stroke in later life.

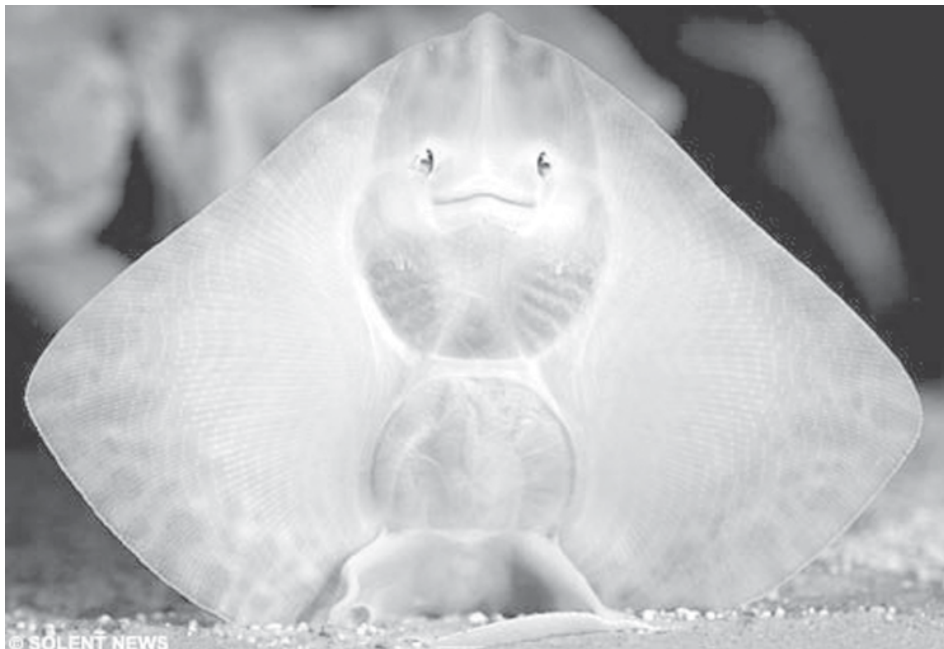
“Sugar-sweetened soft drinks are a significant source of calorie intake in children,” said Dr. Feng He of St. George’s University of London.

“It has been shown that sugar-sweetened soft drink consumption is related to obesity in young people,” He added in a statement.

“If children aged four to 18 years cut their salt intake by half, there would be a decrease of approximately two sugar-sweetened soft drinks per week per child, so each child would decrease calorie intake by almost 250 kilocalories per week.”

One pound of body weight equals 3,500 calories.

MNA/Reuters



A baby ray that appears to be smiling has brought visitors flocking to a Hampshire aquarium on 20 Feb, 2007. The translucent baby ray measures just 12 centimetres. —INTERNET

China’s CMA warns of severe sandstorms, spring drought

BEIJING, 22 Feb —The China Meteorological Administration (CMA) said on Wednesday that the country’s northern regions were likely to experience more frequent and severe sandstorms in spring, while eastern regions would receive less rain than last year.

“Sandstorm days” were forecast to increase significantly in eastern Inner Mongolia and northern Heilong, with a rising possibility of severe occurrences.

Eastern regions could expect less rain. Some areas, especially parts of Jilin and Liaoning provinces, were prone to “relatively severe” drought in the spring.

As a result, local forest management officials should raise the forest fire

alarm level, said the CMA.

Meteorologists said that the adverse forecasts were related to the La Nina phenomenon and abnormal atmospheric circulation and would prevail until summer.

La Nina is a large pool of unusually cold water in the equatorial Pacific that develops every few years and influences global weather. It is the climatic opposite of El Nino, which is awarming of the Pacific.

The latest development of La Nina conditions was the cause of rare prolonged snowstorms and low temperatures that resulted in havoc in many parts of China during the past month, said experts.

Snow storms that hit 21 provincial-level areas in

southern and central China, the worst in 50 years, killed 107 people and forced 1.5 million people to relocate over about one month.

MNA/Xinhua

A 999-metre-long scarlet wedding dress is displayed in a shopping mall in Dalian, Northeast China’s Liaoning Province on 21 Feb, 2008. The hand-knitted dress features 2,008 pieces of jade, 29 golden phoenixes and 880 peonies that took dressmakers three months to finish. — INTERNET



Cloud mars lunar eclipse in Britain

LONDON, 23 Feb — Thousands of hopeful astronomers around the world tried to catch a glimpse of the year’s only total lunar eclipse in the early hours of Thursday — but those watching from Britain saw little more than cloud.

Watchers from the eastern United States saw it easily and had posted dozens of successful pictures on the Internet — but by mid-morning none

had been posted from Britain, where it should have been most visible between 0300 and 0400 GMT.

“It’s been pretty grim,” said John Mason, spokesman for the British Astronomical Association. “There were a couple of gaps in the cloud for a couple of seconds from where I was but nothing else.”

During the eclipse, the Earth lined up directly

between the Sun and Moon, covering the latter with the Earth’s shadow. Depending on atmospheric conditions on Earth, the moon should have appeared blood red, rusty or grey.

The Royal Astronomical Society had promised a “spectacular sight”, saying that unlike a solar eclipse it could be viewed without any special equipment.

MNA/Reuters

Czech nurse gets life term for injection murders

HRADEC KRALOVE, 23 Feb — A Czech man was jailed for life on Thursday for killing seven people with lethal injections and trying to murder 10 more when he worked as a

hospital nurse in 2006.

A district court in the northern town of Hradec Kralove found Petr Zelenka guilty of killing patients with injections of a blood-diluting medicine

which made his victims bleed to death.

The case makes Zelenka, 31, the worst serial murderer in the country’s post-war history, police said.

Zelenka confessed to killing only five victims and alleged his confession was beaten out of him by police. He told judges in January he had not wanted to kill anyone.

“I knew that if I applied Heparin (the medicine), a doctor would come and something would happen,” he was quoted as saying by news website www.idnes.cz.

Zelenka also has to pay damages of nearly three million crowns (175,500 US dollars) to the victims’ families. He appealed against the verdict on Thursday. —MNA/Reuters



Pedestrians walk underneath a security camera in Tokyo on 22 Feb, 2008. Japanese Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura said Tokyo will install security cameras around US bases following a series of incidents involving US servicemen. —INTERNET

SPORTS

Bochum beat Hanover 2-1 in Bundesliga

BERLIN, 23 Feb — VfL Bochum took a big stride away from relegation trouble with a 2-1 Bundesliga win at home to Hanover 96 on Friday.

Hanover's Steve Cherundolo scored an unfortunate own goal to give Bochum the lead in the 30th minute after a shot from Stanislav Sestak bounced back off the keeper, hit the defender and rebounded in.

The visitors levelled at the start of the second half when Mike Hanke picked his spot from 10 metres but five minutes later Benjamin Auer netted the winner with a flying header from a Sestak cross.

Bochum's second victory in four games lifted them to 11th with 26 points from 21 matches, closer to the fight for UEFA Cup places than the relegation scrap.

Hanover stayed ninth on 29 points after a second successive defeat. Second-placed Werder Bremen can move level on points with leaders Bayern Munich, at least for one night, when they visit Eintracht Frankfurt on Saturday. Bayern host third-placed Hamburg SV on Sunday in the pick of the weekend games. — MNA/Reuters

Capello gives Liverpool San Siro warning

ROME, 23 Feb — England manager Fabio Capello has warned Liverpool not to think they have sewn up qualification for the Champions League quarterfinals after beating Inter Milan 2-0 at home on Tuesday.

"Liverpool must be very careful at the San Siro," he said in an interview in Friday's edition of La Gazzetta dello Sport. The English Premier League side face the Italians in the return leg on 11 March.

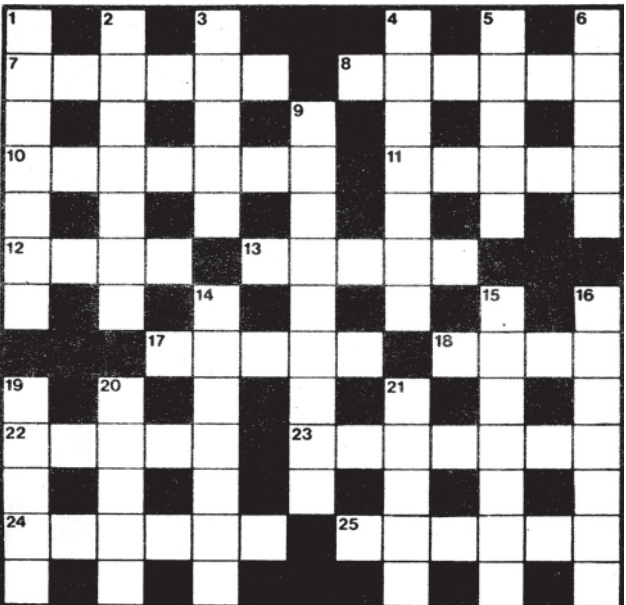
"Inter are really strong at home. Even at Anfield they defended with order after (defender Marco) Materazzi's sending off, conceding only a couple of chances.

"They can reverse the result, although it shouldn't be forgotten that Liverpool haven't reached two finals in three years by chance."

Capello also said his former club AC Milan still had a lot of work to do to ensure qualification on 4 March after Wednesday's goalless draw with Arsenal in London.

"Milan must be just as careful as Liverpool," he said. "Arsenal are capable of important feats, they find spaces and they strike at speed. — MNA/Reuters

CROSSWORDS PUZZLE



- ACROSS
- DOWN
- 7 Contested

8 I'll sec (anag.)

10 Draw

11 Happen

12 Floor covering

13 Furnish

17 Manservant

18 Facts given

22 Holiday allocation

23 Current

24 Full-grown

25 Reviewer
- 1 Friendly

2 Searching for

3 Large group of fish

4 Down payment

5 Loose

6 Striped animal

9 Decorum

14 Sweet wine

15 Dearth

16 Delusion

19 Fleshy

20 Graceful dance

21 Lean



Maria Sharapova from Russia in action against Tamarine Tanasugarn of Thailand during the third round of the Qatar Open, a WTA Tour event, in Doha on 21 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Nike to replace Adidas as France sponsors

PARIS, 23 Feb — US sportswear group Nike will supply kit and sponsorship to France's national team from 2011 to 2018, replacing German rivals Adidas, the French football federation said on Friday.

Nike will pay 320 million euros (474.1 million US dollars) over the seven-and-a-half-year contract and supply kit and equipment worth an extra 2.5 million euros a year, the Federation said in a statement on its website (www.fff.fr).

Further bonus payments would also be payable, depending on France's performance in international competitions. "In total, the new contract will bring the Federation four and a half times more resources than the current contract," the federation said.

MNA/Reuters

Sharapova reaches Qatar Open semis, Jankovic loses

DOHA, 23 Feb — Russia's Maria Sharapova swept aside Danish teenager Caroline Wozniacki 6-0, 6-1 on Friday to reach the Qatar Open semifinals and set up a revenge clash with Polish teenager Agnieszka Radwanska.

But third-seeded Serb Jelena Jankovic joined the long list of upset victims at the tournament when she lost 6-3, 6-4 to unseeded Li Na of China.

Fourth-seeded Sharapova surrendered only eight points in the first set and took command in the second when her opponent netted a backhand volley to give her a 2-1 lead.

The Australian Open champion was only even remotely under pressure when she had to fight off four break points before holding for 5-1.

"Apart from that one game in the second set I felt pretty comfortable out there," Sharapova told reporters after her one-hour victory. "From the beginning of the match I was aggressive, I served and returned well and felt pretty good." Now she has a potentially difficult meeting with 16th seeded Radwanska, who beat Dominika Cibulkova 6-4, 6-7, 6-4 after the Slovak upset sixth seed Venus Williams in the previous round.

Radwanska produced one of the biggest upsets at last year's US Open when she beat Sharapova in the third round. — MNA/Reuters



Li Na from China returns the ball to Jelena Jankovic from Serbia during their quarter-final Qatar Open tennis tournament in Doha on 22 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Van Basten agrees 4-year deal to coach Ajax

AMSTERDAM, 23 Feb — Netherlands coach Marco van Basten has signed a four-year deal to become manager of Ajax Amsterdam, the Dutch club said on Friday.

Van Basten announced in December he would step down from the national team after Euro 2008 in Austria and Switzerland.

The Ajax website (www.ajax.nl) said he would take over on July 1 from Adrie Koster who succeeded Henk ten Cate on a temporary basis after he joined Chelsea last October. It will be the 43-year-old Van Basten's third spell at the Amsterdam club where he began his playing career in 1981 and remained until 1987 when he joined AC Milan.

He scored 151 goals in 172 games for Ajax, winning the Dutch title several times as well as the league and cup double in 1983 and the European Cup Winners' Cup in 1987.

MNA/Reuters

Atlas punish error prone Colo Colo in Libertadores

RIO DE JANEIRO, 23 Feb — Mexico's Atlas made a strong start to their Libertadores Cup campaign by beating Colo Colo 3-0 at home in Group Three. The Guadalajara team, who struggled past Bolivia's La Paz in the preliminary round tie, were easy winners against the error-prone Chilean champions in Thursday's game at the Jalisco Stadium.

Bruno Marioni scored an early goal after some terrible defending by the Colo Colo rearguard.

Marioni's Argentine compatriot Diego Colotto headed a second from a corner before halftime, then Juan Carlos Medina polished off a mazy run by slotting the third in the 67th minute.

Atlas went top of the group but face a difficult trip to defending champions Boca Juniors in their next game. Boca and UA Maracaibo (Venezuela) have one point apiece.

Argentina's San Lorenzo were held to a goalless draw by Brazil's Cruzeiro in Group One, missing a chance notch their first win of the year.

MNA/Reuters



Heavyweight WBO champion Sultan Ibragimov (L) from Russia and IBF champion Vladimir Klitschko of the Ukraine, seen here in 2007, bid to bring some clarity to the muddled heavyweight division on Saturday when they put their world titles on the line at Madison Square Garden.—INTERNET

Bereavement

Our heartfelt Sympathy and Deepest Condolences to U Thi Ha (Vice-Chairman, Htoo Group of Companies) and U Tay Za (Chairman, Htoo Group of Companies) on the passing away of their beloved father "Thiripyanchi U Myint Swe (Retired Lt-Col).

Teachers and E.C
(1974-1981. Old TTC)

Canada says Afghan mission will end in 2011

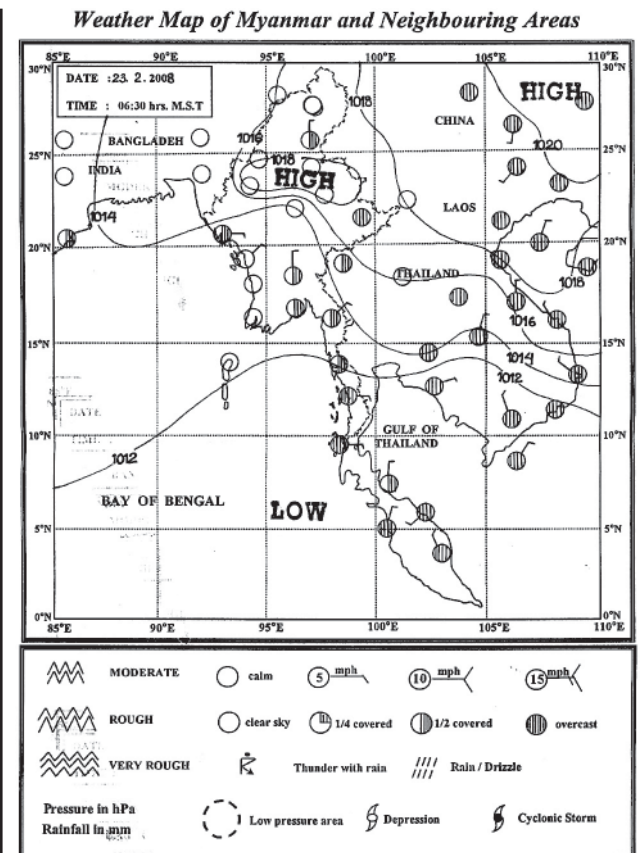
OTTAWA, 23 Feb — Canada's minority Conservative government, bowing to a key opposition demand, said on Thursday its military mission in southern Afghanistan will end in 2011 and would not

be extended.

The compromise with the main opposition Liberal Party, which said the new motion was "not a deal-breaker" and signalled its intention to back it, eliminated the chance of an election over the issue.

"While reiterating our commitment to the UN mandate on Afghanistan, it affirms that our commitment is not open-ended," Prime Minister Stephen Harper told the Conference of Defence Associations.

The 2,500-strong mission in the violent southern Kandahar region is currently due to end in February 2009. The government had initially proposed extending this to 2011, at which time the mission would be reviewed.— MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Saturday, 23 February, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below February average temperatures in Kachin and Northern Shan States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) below February average temperatures in upper Sagaing and Ayeyawady Divisions, (8°C) below February average temperatures in Chin State and about February average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Haka (-1°C), Loilem (2°C), Namhsan, Heho and Mogok (3°C) each, Lashio, Pinlaung and An (4°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 22-2-2008 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 23-2-2008 was 62°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 23-2-2008 was 53%. Total sunshine hours on 22-2-2008 was (8.8) hours approx.

Rainfall on 23-2-2008 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 (6) mph from Southeast at (12:30) hours MST on 22-2-2008.

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 24-2-2008: Possibility of isolated rain in Kachin and Shan States, Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, Yangon Divisions and generally fair in 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: Likelihood of isolated rain in the extreme Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 24-2-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 24-2-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 24-2-2008: Generally fair weather.



Sunday, 24 February

View on today

7:00 am

- ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကုန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ့မဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ချုပ်၊ အဘိဓမ္မမဟာရဋ္ဌဂုရု၊ အဘိဓမ္မအဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:15 am

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

7:25 am

- To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

- Morning news

7:40 am

- Nice and sweet song

7:50 am

- ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ (၃၈) ဖြာမင်္ဂလာ

8:00 am

- အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:10 am

- ဝန်ရိုက်ချောင်းတံတား

8:15 am

- အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:30 am

10. International news

8:45 am

11. Say it in English

11:00 am

1. Martial song

11:10 am

2. Musical programme

11:25 am

3. Round up of the week's International news

11:35 am

4. ထက်မြက်ပျော်ရွှင် အိမ်ထောင်ရှင်

12:05 pm

5. Myanmar video feature

“ကမ္ဘာသုံးရည်းစားစကား”

(လွင်မိုး၊ နိုင်သင်းကြည်)

(ဒါရိုက်တာ-ညိုမင်းလွင်)

1:50 pm

6. Musical programme

2:05 pm

7. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

2:15 pm

8. “ပေါင်ပေါကျတဲ့မီး”

(ရဲအောင်၊ ထွန်းထွန်းနိုင်၊

ညိုညိုမင်းထက်၊ ဘုန်းလုံ၊

ဟန်နီထွန်း၊ ဝိုင်းစုနိုင်သိန်း)

(ဒါရိုက်တာ -

မောင်မောင်မြင့်လွင်၊ မင်းအုပ်စိုး)

2:35 pm

9. လွှမ်းမိုးပြင်ရေလှောင်တံ

2:45 pm

10. International news

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Song to uphold

National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်

ပညာရေးရပ်မြင်သံကြား

သင်ခန်းစာ-တတိယနှစ်

(သမိုင်းအထူးပြု)

(သမိုင်း)

4:45 pm

4. ၂၀၀၈ခုနှစ်တက္ကသိုလ်ဝင်တန်း

စာမေးပွဲဘာသာရပ်ဆိုင်ရာ

သင်ခန်းစာများ

(သမိုင်းဘာသာရပ်)

5:15 pm

5. Song of national

aces

5:30 pm

6. Sing and enjoy

6:00 pm

7. Evening news

6:30 pm

8. Weather report

6:35 pm

9. “အသက်ကလေးရယ်တဲ့

ရှည်စေလို” (ဦးအောင်လွင်၊

ဦးကြည်စိုး၊ မေထွန်ခေါင်)

(ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကြည်စိုး)

6:50 pm

10. Musical programme

7:15 pm

11. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

“ချစ်သူအားမာန်”

(အပိုင်း-၁၆)

8:00 pm

12. News

13. International news

14. Weather report

15. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

“မာယာထောင်ချောက်”

(အပိုင်း-၄)

16. The next day's

programme

People's Desire

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

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 Myint Swe meets chairmen of industrial zones management committees and entrepreneurs in Yangon Division

YANGON, 23 Feb — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence met with chairmen, secretaries and members of the Industrial Zones Management Committees, entrepreneurs and officials in Yangon Division at the meeting hall of Yangon Command on Konmyinthta here this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe, heads of department, those from the management committees, guests and others.

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Myint Swe said that Yangon Division plays a pivotal role in development of the industrial sector, adding that the division is the greatest in terms of industrial development. And he stressed the need for entrepreneurs to report their requirements, for only when the industrial zones develop will the per capita income increase, thereby contributing to development of national economy.

Next, Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win dealt with matters on industrial development in the division.

(See page 9)



Lt-Gen Myint Swe meets Chairmen of Industrial Zones Management Committees and entrepreneurs in Yangon Division.—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**