

Senior General Than Shwe sends message of congratulations to President of Republic of Korea

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb— Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr Lee Myaung-Bak inaugurated on 25 February 2008 as the President of the Republic of Korea.—MNA

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win on inspection tour of Manhero in Muse

NAY PYI TAW, 25 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) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut, met departmental personnel and merchants at 105-mile border trade checkpoint near Mongyu Village in Muse Township yesterday.

Checkpoint in-charge Director U San Nwe Win of Border Trade Department gave report on export capacity and 10 kinds of exports. The commander then gave supplementary reports on efforts to know the markets in other local townships by directly having contacts with Muse Border Trade Camp through information technology, and adoption of Border Trade Online System (BTOS) to grant work licenses to trucks.

In his speech, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win called on the officials to prevent the flow of commodities that are illegally transported by avoiding the 105th mile border trade route, to cooperate with local authorities and One

Stop Service (OSS) to increase the volume of trade and to try to know the market situation in other countries and to seek extensive market. He also said that national entrepreneurs are to do their business with goodwill as the 105th mile border trade camp is the place where most of the import and export services of the State are carried out. In addition, it is important to increase the trade volume in accord with the objectives of border trade for cementing the bilateral relationship between the two countries, to fully collect taxes and revenues and to ensure the booming business of the private national entrepreneurs.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win looked into the 105th mile gate in Muse Township.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, the commander and party met departmental officials and local residents at Manhero and presented gifts and uniforms to townselders and members of fire brigade. At the Station Hospital in Manhero, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win encouraged the patients and presented gifts to them.

(See page 8)

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Significant night temperatures

Namhsan and Haka	(2°C)
An	(4°C)
Pinlaung, Heho and PyinOoLwin	(5°C)



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of Ministry of Defence inspects 105th mile Checkpoint in Muse Township. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 26 February, 2008

Towards development of Myanma Tourism Industry

Over 700 million tourists are visiting different countries of the world every year. ASEAN nations have become tourist destinations where about ten per cent of global tourists pay a visit yearly.

Myanmar, a member of ASEAN nations, is blessed with a great array of natural scenic beauty, ancient religious edifices and artistic works. The ancient cultural heritage and hospitality of Myanmar people are a decisive factor for the development of tourism industry.

Tourists who arrive in Myanmar often visit Bagan region where there are a string of ancient cultural heritage and artistic works. Moreover, Inlay Lake and Pindaya region in Shan State (South) with natural scenic beauty and local products of national races are tourist attractions.

At present, special vessels are plying along the Ayeyawady River for package tours. Taking the riverine cruise, tourists can visit Mandalay, Bhamo and Bagan.

For development of Myanma Tourism Industry not only natural resources and scenic beauty but also good services are indispensable.

Already blessed with scenic beauty as well as flora and fauna, the nation is to strive to make use of natural resources, eco-tourism and services of high quality. Only then, will Myanma Tourism Industry develop.

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

MMCWA President meets Resident Representative of UNICEF

YANGON, 25 Feb — President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Khin Saw Hnin met Mr Ramesh M Shrestha, Resident Representative of UNICEF, at meeting hall of the association in South Okkalapa, here, at 10 am on 21 February.

Mr Ramesh M Shrestha discussed measures taken for children in Myanmar and cooperation with Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare in the affairs of maternal and child welfare in Myanmar. Chairperson of MMCWA Daw Khin Saw Hnin and



President of MMCWA Daw Khin Saw Hnin receives Resident Representative of UNICEF Mr Ramesh M Shrestha. — MMCWA

CEC members took part in the discussion.

Together with the President of MMCWA on

the occasion were Central Executive Committee members.

MNA

Book titled brilliant and famous vocalists comes out

YANGON, 25 Feb — The book with the title of brilliant and famous vocalists written by Myanma Athan Thein Han was distributed recently.

The book features national literary award winner Letwinthar Saw Chit, director U Khin Zaw (K), U Htin Phat (Maung Htin), Matali U Kyaw Nyein, First Shwe Maung Gyi U Than, Second Shwe

Maung U Khin Maung (News Announcer), Third Shwe Maung U Zaw Win (Myanma Athen Maung Thawka), actor cum director Bo Ba Ko, May Shin, U Tin Oo (Nandiya), Gaba Gita U Than Myint (Aba), U Nyunt Tin, CE U Win Maung, engineer U Kyaing, BBS U Hla Too, writer Min Shin, Butalin U Chin Sein (Maung Kyi Shin), Daw Hla Hte

(Shan), Thiri Gayha Daw Khin Khin Kyi, pianist Hla Htut in addition to media works and experience of 20 persons.

The book is available at Gon Htoo Publishing House (Tel-386590 and 386595) at No 192, 33rd Street, Kyauktada Township and Tun Oo and Naga Publishing Houses in Mandalay Division.

MNA

IP STAR introduced

YANGON, 25 Feb — The introduction of IP STAR of Shin Satellite Public Company Ltd was held at Conference Hall of Myanmar Info-Tech in Hleing Township, here, on this afternoon.

Agent for Myanmar Mr Nuthapong Temsiripong introduced Shin Satellite Public Co Ltd and IP STARS.

Mr Vicent Kho of Xposibble Co explained matters on IP STAR and Internet Solution and answered queries shot by those present.

The event will last till 29 February from 9 am to 4 pm. —MNA



Chairman of Kungyangon Township Association (Yangon) U Kyaw Khaing donates K 1.7 million for supplying electricity to Thongwa Village to U Mya Maung. — H

AGM of Kungyangon Township Association held

YANGON, 25 Feb — Kungyangon Township Association (Yangon) held its annual general meeting at the Dhammayon of the Ministry of Energy in Bahan Township on 17 February.

On the occasion, the doyens and the outstanding students and personnel were honoured.

Next, wellwishers donated K 5 million for the outstanding students and K 3.3 million for the hospitals and the homes for the aged in Kungyangon and Kawhmu in respective sectors through officials.

The report and financial statement of the executive committee of the association were read and approved.

The new executive committee led by U Kyaw Hlaing (Myanma Ahla) was elected.

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi and wife Daw Khin Mar Aye and family served those present with snacks. —H

Cover of book on compilation of famous vocalists.

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ထူးချွန်စင်ရှား
လေ့ရှိသည့်အသံရှင်များ

Raul Castro elected President of Cuba

HAVANA, 24 Feb—Cuban Army General Raul Castro was elected the new president of Cuba on Sunday during a legislative session held at Cuba's Palace of Conventions in Havana.

Raul said his older brother Fidel Castro would remain a key figure and vowed to be on guard against US "meddling" as he assumed the presidency.

"We have taken note of the offensive and openly meddling declarations by the empire and some of its closest allies," the new Cuban leader said.

"I am assuming the



Picture shows Raul Castro(R) and his brother Fidel Castro. —XINHUA

responsibility entrusted to me with the conviction that the commander-in-chief of the Cuban revolution

remains unique. Fidel is Fidel," said Raul, during his acceptance speech at the seventh session of

Cuba's legislature, the National Assembly of People's Power (ANPP).

"Today a more compact and functional structure is needed," Raul, 76, told the ANPP, adding that Cuba needs "a smaller number of central administration bodies and a better distribution of their functions. We have to make our government more efficient."

On Sunday, 597 deputies unanimously elected a 31-member Council of State for a term of five years, which in turn elected Raul as president of the country.

Internet



Richard Branson poses in front of a Virgin

Atlantic Boeing 747 at London's Heathrow

airport. The first flight by a commercial airline to

be partly powered by biofuels took off from

London on a short trip to Amsterdam billed as

heralding a new eco-friendlier era of airline

travel.—INTERNET



Turkish strike will not solve PKK problem

CANBERRA, 25 Feb—Turkey's military strike against Kurdish PKK guerillas in northern Iraq will not solve its problem with the separatist rebels, US Defence Secretary Robert Gates said on Sunday, calling for Ankara to take political and economic measures to isolate the group. Gates, in Australia as part of a longer Asia trip, also urged Turkey to respect Iraq's sovereignty and improve communication with Baghdad about both the ongoing operation and other efforts against the PKK.

"I think it's important for everybody to bear in mind the importance of the sovereignty of Iraq," Gates told reporters.

There has been contact at high levels about this activity that is in northern

Iraq right now. I think that there can always be improvement in the timeliness and in the depth of the dialogue. It can't be just a one-time event. It needs to be an ongoing dialogue."

MNA/Reuters

Darfuri women and children rest in a school at Sirba town, ransacked during a recent government offensive to retake the area from Darfur rebels, near West Darfur's capital el-Geneina, on 21 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET



A Turkish Army Super Cobra helicopter takes off with artillery units in the background in Cukurca in Hakkari Province at the Turkey-Iraq border, on 24 Feb, 2008, Turkish jets and helicopters flew into northern Iraq on Sunday as elite commandos shake Kurdish rebels in a major ground operation across the border.—INTERNET

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

No legal basis for new UN sanctions against Iran

TEHERAN, 25 Feb—Iranian Government spokesman Gholam-Hossein Elham said on Saturday that there is no legal basis for new UN Security Council sanctions against Iran over its nuclear programme.

He made the remarks one day after International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Mohamed ElBaradei circulated his latest report on Iran's nuclear programme to the Agency's Board of Governors.

What was said in the report once more indicated that "referring of Iran to the UN Security Council was a political move which lacked legal basis," the official IRNA news agency quoted Elham as saying.—MNA/Xinhua

"Shame on you," Clinton tells Obama

CINCINNATI, 25 Feb—Hillary Clinton slammed rival Barack Obama on Saturday for campaign leaflets on her health-care plan that she called "blatantly false" and accused him of using Republican tactics in their contest for the Democratic US presidential nomination.

In a bitter exchange, Obama defended the leaflet as accurate and campaign spokesman Bill Burton decried Clinton's "negative campaign".

"Shame on you, Barack Obama," Clinton said, speaking to reporters after a rally in Ohio, a state that is key to her struggling campaign.

Brandishing a copy of the leaflet, Clinton said the Obama campaign was spreading "false, misleading, discredited information" about her health-care plan.

"Senator Obama knows it is not true that my plan forces people to buy insurance even if they can't afford it," Clinton said. "It is blatantly false and yet he continues to spend millions of dollars perpetuating falsehoods. It is not hopeful. It is destructive, particularly for a Democrat to be discrediting universal health care."

Obama said the content of the leaflet was correct. He said he was puzzled by the sudden "change in tone" by his rival because the leaflets Clinton referred to were sent out days or weeks ago. He suggested there was something "tactical" about her attacks now.—MNA/Reuters

Microsoft to stop making HD DVD players



A man walks next to a Toshiba HD DVD display at an electronics retailer in Tokyo on 19 Feb, 2008.

XINHUA

BEIJING, 25 Feb — Microsoft said it will stop making HD DVD players for its Xbox 360 video game system and said the move won't have a material impact on its video game business, media reported Monday.

Toshiba Corp. ceded the high-definition video format battle to Sony Corp's Blu-ray. Toshiba President Atsutoshi Nishida last week estimated about 300,000 people own the Microsoft video player, sold as a separate 130 US dollars add-on for the Xbox 360.

Microsoft said it would continue to provide standard warranty support for

its HD DVD players and is looking at how the HD DVD technology it has developed, such as HDi, which adds interactive features to HD DVDs, and its VC-1 video encoding technology, can be applied to other platforms.

"HD DVD is one of the several ways we offer a high definition experience to consumers and we will continue to give consumers the choice to enjoy digital distribution of high definition movies and TV shows directly to their living room, along with playback of the DVD movies they already own," Blair Westlake, a corporate vice president of Microsoft's media and entertainment group, said in a written statement.

Microsoft was one of HD DVD's main backers, along with Intel Corp. and Japanese electronics maker NEC Corp., and its support for the format was seen as a big win for Toshiba's format.

But support for the HD DVD waned as major movie studios — Sony Pictures, Walt Disney Co, News Corp's Twentieth Century Fox and Warner Bros. Entertainment — picked blue-ray to distribute high-def DVDs.

Internet



Photo taken on 23 Feb, 2008 shows the inside view of the newly-built No 3 terminal of the Beijing Capital International Airport in a drill before its trial operation set for on 29 Feb, 2008. —XINHUA

View of the illuminated facade of the Galleries Lafayette department store in Paris. —XINHUA



Egypt-to-Syria gas link near completion

DAMASCUS, 25 Feb — Commercial volumes of gas will start flowing from Egypt to Syria in August through an Arab gas pipeline that is near completion, regional energy officials said on Saturday. Testing of the pipeline from Al-Arish in Egypt to Deir Ali in Syria is due to commence in March.

MNA/Reuters

Philippine military on red alert to face anti-govt protests

MANILA, 25 Feb — The Philippine military Sunday warned soldiers not to join any government protest while declaring a nationwide red alert as opposition forces plan to hold rallies Monday, which falls on the 22nd anniversary of the downfall of former President Ferdinand Marcos.

Philippine military chief Hermogenes Esperon told local media that the military is now prepared for possible "contingency" during Monday's rallies by opposition parties and individuals, who could use the occasion to call for the resignation of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo over alleged corruption.

Police raise alert level

The Philippine police have raised alert level in

Metro Manila to prepare for possible rallies on Monday, which falls on an anniversary marking the downfall of former president Ferdinand Marcos, reported local television network GMA News Saturday.

The National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) of the Philippine National Police said Saturday it had raised its alert level to a notch higher from normal to heightened.

NCRPO Director Geary Barias earlier said police will be raising the alert in preparation for the 22nd anniversary celebration of the uprising which led to the ouster of Marcos, also known as EDSA I in reference to the name of the thoroughfare where protests were held at the time.

Meanwhile, some religious groups will hold a rally on 29 February in protest against alleged corruption in the government. —MNA/Xinhua

Four guilty in China's fake receipt case await sentencing

KUNMING, 24 Feb — The case against four men in China's largest case of making and selling fake receipts were in court on Friday in southwest China.

The four were charged with illegally making receipts and selling fake receipts by the prosecutors at the Luoping County court in Yunnan Province and pleaded guilty. The court adjourned to consider its sentence.

Yunnan police arrested five suspects in the case, including one who is to stand trial in a separate case.

More than one million bogus receipts worth 1.05 trillion yuan (147.3 billion US dollars) were confiscated in the case. The national treasury would lose more than 75 billion yuan in tax revenue if the receipts were put into circulation, officials said. —MNA/Xinhua

Battery of Samsung laptop P10 model melts

BEIJING, 25 Feb — A battery in a Samsung notebook computer P10 model melted in South Korea's capital Seoul, but no people were injured or killed, media reported Monday.

"After being used for about three and a half hours on a pillow on Sunday, the laptop battery emitted smoke," a fire department official in Seoul said. "The battery burned a bed and a floor a bit, but did not cause a big fire."

A Samsung's spokesman James Chung said the notebook was the P10 model, which was produced in 2002 but did not give further details such as a producer of the battery. —Internet



A woman uses her mobile phone behind a logo of Samsung Group in Seoul on 31 Jan, 2008.

XINHUA

Ahmadinejad demands US apology over nuclear issue

TEHERAN, 25 Feb—Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Saturday demanded an apology from the United States and its allies for groundlessly condemning its nuclear ambitions.

Ahmadinejad said in a televised address to the nation that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) report vindicated Iran over the nuclear issue and the best way for the US and its allies

to “compensate for their mistakes” is to “apologize and pay compensation”.

In the latest report on Iran’s nuclear programme, the UN nuclear watchdog said Iran had clarified the majority of open issues in its nuclear programmes but highlighted Teheran’s continued refusal to halt uranium enrichment.

Iran said the report once more indicated that “the referring of Iran to the UN Security Council was

a political move which lacked legal basis”.

Ahmadinejad warned that Teheran would take unspecified “decisive reciprocal measures” against any country that could impose additional sanctions on Iran. Western countries have accused Iran of using a civilian nuclear programme as a cover to develop nuclear weapons, a charge repeatedly denied by Teheran.

Xinhua



A Russian technician works at the Bushehr nuclear power plant. Iran has warned it would hit back with an appropriate response to new UN Security Council sanctions over its contested nuclear programme, as Western powers stepped up efforts to punish Teheran.—INTERNET

Lee Myung-bak sworn in as S Korean President

SEOUL, 25 Feb.—South Korea’s conservative leader Lee Myung-bak was sworn in as the country’s 17th President at 11:08 am (0208 GMT) on Monday in Seoul.

Lee, who won the presidential elections on 19 December last year, is expected to unveil his vision to revive the

country’s economy on the basis of the market economy and to introduce pragmatic ideals into foreign policy in his inaugural address.

A total of 45,000 South Koreans attended the inauguration ceremony held in front of the National Assembly in Yeouido, central Seoul. Japanese

Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda, Chinese President Hu Jintao’s special envoy Tang Jiaxuan, Russian Prime Minister Victor Zubkov, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Mongolian President Nambaryn Enkhbayar are also invited to scene of the ceremony.

Xinhua



Wrecked cars and burnt out garbage seen in the town of Baquba, Iraq.

INTERNET

Five people killed in murder-suicide in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, 25 Feb—Five people died and a 14-year-old boy was hospitalized in what appeared to be a murder-suicide at a condominium complex in Los Angeles, police said Sunday.

The boy called 911 about 11 pm on Saturday and said his father had just shot him and his brother, said police Sgt. Peter Rodriguez.

When police arrived at the condo they found the body of a woman on the doorstep and the bodies of three children—a boy, 5, and two girls, 8 and 9—inside the home, he said.

Police also found the body of a man with a shotgun beneath him, he said.

Xinhua

32 injured as plane loses control at Manila airport

MANILA, 25 Feb—Thirty-two passengers and three crew members of a small Filipino air line catering for tourists were slightly injured as the plane lost control when landing at an airport in Manila Sunday afternoon, reported local television network GMA News.

The European-made Dornier 328 plane belonged to the Sea Air company and it lost control during landing and ploughed through a grassy patch at the Manila Domestic Airport in Pasay City, said the report.

Airport officials said the turboprop plane came from a tourist resort in central Philippines developed mechanical trouble soon after landing on a runway.

Xinhua

45 injured in train crash in Turkey

ANKARA, 25 Feb—Forty-five people were injured when a cargo train collided with another train in central Turkey early on Saturday, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

Turkish Railways General Directorate was quoted as saying that the cargo train heading from Ankara to the eastern province of Malatya collided with 4 Eylül Mavi Train in Sarkisla town of the central Anatolian province of Sivas at 6:20 am (0420 GMT) after the cargo train violated red signal.

The injured were immediately taken to hospitals for treatment, added the general directorate.

Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Nepali Govt given 15-day ultimatum to end crisis

KATHMANDU, 15 Feb—The recently formed Consumers’ Struggle Committee has given a 15-day ultimatum to the Nepali Government to end the persisting problems of load-shedding, crisis of petroleum and cooking gas, *The Himalayan Times* reported on Sunday.

According to the daily, the committee has also warned of violent protests if the government do not solve the problems. The committee said Saturday they had set the deadline for 7 March to put an end to the scarcity of basic facilities. They have come up with four-point

demands: decrease load-shedding hours that is keeping for at least 8-hours per day in the capital, ensure smooth supply of liquefied petroleum gas, kerosene, diesel, petrol and water, bring down the prices of essential items and create a peaceful environment for living.—Xinhua

FARC vows to hold three US hostages for 60 years

BOGOTA, 25 Feb—The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) on Saturday said it would hold the three US hostages for 60 years as one of its member was sentenced to a six-decade imprisonment by a US court earlier.

The announcement was made by Ivan Marquez, a

senior member of the FARC, Colombia’s largest anti-government group, at an interview posted on the website of the Bolivian Press Agency.

The three US defence contractors —Marc Gonzales, Thomas Howes and Keith Stansell—were captured by the FARC

five years ago.

In January FARC commander Ricardo Palmera was sentenced by a US court to the maximum jail of six decades after he was extradited to the United States and was convicted in the three contractors’ kidnapping.

Xinhua

List of winners of Academy Awards

LOS ANGELES, 25 Feb— Following is a complete list of winners of the 80th annual Academy Awards, which were presented Sunday night at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood, downtown Los Angeles.

Best Picture

— "No Country for Old Men," Scott Rudin, Ethan Coen and Joel Coen, producers

Best Director:

-- Joel Coen and Ethan Coen, "No Country for Old Men"

Best Actor

-- Daniel Day-Lewis, "There Will Be Blood"

Best Actress

-- Marion Cotillard, "La Vie en Rose"

Best Supporting Actor

-- Javier Bardem, "No Country for Old Men"

Best Supporting Actress

-- Tilda Swinton, "Michael Clayton"



Winner for Best Actor

Daniel Day-Lewis.—INTERNET

Best Sound Mixing

-- "The Bourne Ultimatum," Scott Millan, David Parker and Kirk Francis

Best Sound Editing

-- "The Bourne Ultimatum," Karen Baker Landers and Per Hallberg

Best Original Score

-- "Atonement," Dario Marianelli

Best Original Song

-- "Falling Slowly" from "Once," Glen Hansard and Marketa Irglova



Best Actress Marion Cotillard.

INTERNET

Best Foreign Language Film

-- "The Counterfeiters," Austria

Best Adapted Screenplay

-- Joel Coen and Ethan Coen, "No Country for Old Men"

Best Original Screenplay

-- Diablo Cody, "Juno"

Best Animated Feature Film

-- "Ratatouille," Brad Bird

Best Art Direction

-- "Sweeney Todd The Demon Barber of Fleet Street," art director Dante Ferretti, set decorator Francesca Lo Schiavo

Best Cinematography

-- "There Will Be Blood," Robert Elswit



Best Supporting Actress

Tilda Swinton.—INTERNET



Oscar winners (from L-R) Javier Bardem, Joel and Ethan Coen for "No Country for Old Men" attend the 80th Annual Academy Awards Governors Ball after the Oscars ceremony in Hollywood, California on 24 Feb, 2008. —INTERNET

Best Costume Design

-- "Elizabeth: The Golden Age," Alexandra Byrne

Best Documentary Feature

-- "Taxi to the Dark Side," Alex Gibney and Eva Orner

Best Documentary Short Subject

-- "Freeheld," Cynthia Wade and Vanessa Roth

Best Film Editing

-- "The Bourne Ultimatum," Christopher Rouse

Best Makeup

-- "La Vie en Rose," Didier Lavergne and Jan Archibald

Best Animated Short Film

-- "Peter & the Wolf"

Best Live Action Short Film

-- "Le Mozart des Pickpockets (The Mozart of Pickpockets)"

Best Visual Effects

-- "The Golden Compass," Michael Fink, Bill Westenhofer, Ben Morris and Trevor Wood.

MNA/Xinhua

Beijing pledges to ensure air quality for Olympics

BEIJING, 24 Feb — Olympic host Beijing and its surrounding regions have pledged to make concerted efforts to ensure the air quality in the capital during the event.

Tianjin, Hebei, Inner Mongolia, Shanxi, Shandong and Beijing will jointly take pollution treatment measures to control dust, vehicle exhaust and industrial pollution emissions, according to a plan aimed at ensuring the air quality

for the 8-24 August Games.

"During the Games, Beijing will limit the number of vehicles on roads, stop polluting work at construction sites and impose pollutant reductions on key companies," said Du Shaozhong, deputy director of the Beijing Environmental Protection Bureau. The neighbouring areas will also take temporary measures to control pollution, he said.

A latest 2008 "Blue Sky" plan released by the Tianjin Environmental Protection Bureau, said the municipality will take compulsory pollution control measures for the Olympic Games. Tianjin will host some of the Games' football tournament.

The plan has marked Tianjin's Wuqing, Baodi, Jixian and Beichen areas bordering Beijing as key pollution control areas.

MNA/Reuters



Police officers stand at the entrance of Fedecamaras building after a bomb explosion in Caracas on 24 Feb, 2008. A man died in the explosion at the venue of the main businessmen group in the Venezuelan capital, authorities said.—INTERNET

Kenyan wildlife park bush fire rages for second day

NAKURU, (Kenya), 25 Feb — Using branches to beat back flames, Kenyan rangers and residents struggled for a second day on Saturday to control bush fires that have engulfed a third of one of the nation's best-known wildlife parks.

At least 100 local

citizens joined wildlife officials to help put out the fire, which was accidentally started in a nearby village and has already destroyed large patches of the 188 square kilometres Lake Nakuru National Park.

"We just heard people screaming from afar and

we knew it was about the fire, so we came immediately to put it out," said Dorcas Kafiri, running towards the fire with a branch in hand.

She, like other villagers near to the park, jumped through a fence to come and help.

MNA/Reuters



An Afghan police officer detains a suspect near the site of an explosion in Maiwand, Afghanistan, on 24 Feb, 2008. A freshly planted roadside bomb hit a vehicle convoy carrying the governor of Kandahar, killing three police officers and wounding two others, said Governor Asadullah Khalid. He was not hurt in the attack.—INTERNET

Beware of Fire

Take Fire Preventive Measures



Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presents a shield to Ministry for PBANRDA in the Inter-Ministry Women's Volleyball Tournament.

MNA

One injured in mine blast in Kyaukkyi

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb — Insurgent destructions are undermining the stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order. They are also committing destructive acts with the intention of killing and injuring innocent people using various ways and means.

On 19 February, U Khin Maung Win, 42, son of U Tin Maung of Kawpyin Village, Metaingtaung village tract, Kyaukkyi Township, lost his right leg from ankle and was wounded in his left thigh after stepping on a mine planted by the insurgents on the way from home to farm for working.

He was rushed to Mone station Hospital where he is receiving medical treatment and necessary assistance. The authorities concerned and local people are in hot pursuit of the insurgents.

MNA

Fire breaks out in Hlinethaya

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb — A fire started at No 216, Aungthukha Street in Yayokkan Village in Hlinethaya Township at 7.30 am today.

The blaze was under control at 9.40 am. A total of 201 houses were destroyed and 2,900 people of 765 households were homeless.

The relief camps for fire victims are opened at No 16 Basic Primary School, Thiha Nada monastery and Okkan Market in the township.—MNA

Use fire systematically

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb — Fire Services Department has issued a reminder that there were outbreaks of fire in the townships due to the ember and electric wire shock.

The reminder urged the people to be careful of fire and to avoid filling petrol and filling diesel near the generator with the use of candles and using lighted candles and mosquito repellent with negligence and it urged the public to put out fire in the stove and to use the fire systematically.—MNA

Fire destroys over 1300 shops, 17 offices, 113 rooms at Advanced Yadanabon Market in Mandalay

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb — A fire broke out at Advanced Yadanabon Market between 33th Street and 34th Street and 77th Street and 78th Street in Chanaye Thazan Township, Mandalay at 8.20 am today.

Shortly after the market was on fire, Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Tin Ngwe and officials, members of fire brigades with 78 fire engines, members of social organizations and the public numbering about 4,000 arrived at the scene and put out the fire. And the fire was put under control at about 2.25 pm.

The fire engulfed 1,293 shops on the ground floor,

135 shops on the first floor, 17 offices of organizations and companies on the second floor, 54 rooms of MICT Park on the third floor and 59 rooms of computer training centres on the fourth floor.

Altogether 21 people—four monks, 11 firemen, three men and three women—were injured in the fire.

The injured were admitted to Mandalay General Hospital for medical treatment while fire victims were provided with necessary assistance by officials concerned.

The fire started in Shop No 261 on the ground floor of the market due to wire short-circuit.—MNA

Final match and prize presentation of 1st inter-ministry women's volleyball held

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb — The 1st inter-Ministry women's volleyball tournament took place at the volleyball pitch No-1 here at 3.50 pm today.

In the event, Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs beat Ministry of Industry-1 3-2.

Later, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung awarded the first prize to Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and

Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, second to Ministry of Industry-1, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, third to Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs and deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min fourth to Ministry of Education.

Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population Brig-Gen Win Sein awarded the cash prizes to Tin Tin Htwe of the Ministry of PBANRDA, Nu Nu Htwe of the Ministry of

PBANRDA and La Myar Mi of the Ministry of Industry-1.

Deputy Minister for Labour Brig-Gen Tin Tun Aung awarded the cash prizes to Mya Mya Thin of the Ministry of Industry-1 and Thwe Thwe Win of the Ministry of PBANRDA.

Next, Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presented the shield and duplicated shield to the Ministry of PBANRDA and the ceremony concluded.

MNA

Chinese delegation concludes visit

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb — A Chinese delegation led by Mme Zhou Hong, Director-General of the Foreign Affairs Office of the Yunnan Provincial People's Government of the People's Republic of China, which arrived here on 19 February 2008 under the exchange programme between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar and the Yunnan Foreign Affairs Office, left Yangon yesterday by air.

The Chinese delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Daw Than Htay, Secretary of the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies, officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy staff of the Chinese Embassy in Yangon.

During their stay in Myanmar, the Chinese delegation members paid a courtesy call on Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Chairman of the Yangon City Development Committee in the morning on 21 February 2008.

The delegation held a meeting with officials from Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies led by Secretary Daw Than Htay and discussed matters relating to promotion of cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar and Yunnan Foreign Affairs Office.

During the visit, the Chinese guests paid homage to the Shwedagon Pagoda and Kyaik-hti-yo and also visited Thandwe and Taungup. — MNA

Gold chain snatcher arrested in Botahtaung Township

YANGON, 25 Feb — Members of Myanmar Police Force arrested a gold chain snatcher in Ward-9, Botahtaung Township on 23 February.

The case was that Daw Khin Khin Moe Moe, of 38th Street, Kyauktada Township at 9.10 pm on 23 February strolled along Anawratha Street and when she arrived near the Ministers' Office her gold chain on her neck was suddenly snatched by a man who was walking towards her. Members of Botahtaung Township

Police Station led by Sub-inspector Soe Win on patrol duty came to her aid, for she was shouting for help and arrested the snatcher with the help of the people.

The snatcher was identified as Si Thu, 23, son of U Nyunt Maung, of No 317, Bago Street, Ward-23, Dagon Myothit (South) together with the gold chain.

Action is being taken against him according to the law by Botahtaung Township Police Station.—MNA

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win on inspection...

(from page 1)

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, the commander and party went over 5-acre maize plantation of cold season crop of peasants U

Mine Ngin Aik, Basic Education High School and developments in Manhero, river water pumping project on Naung Khaung and Naung Tin

rivers, thriving of cold season crop maize plantations, other plantations and measure taken for construction of roads in the town. —MNA

Ayeyawady Division gets...

(from page 16)

inscription of the road, and the commander and Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun sprinkled scented water on it.

In his opening address, Commander Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe said local people has enjoyed benefits as the flow of goods in the region is speedy thanks to the emergence of the road.

The total distance of roads constructed by Public Works under Ministry of Construction in Ayeyawady Division has reached over 1,340 miles.

Maubin and Pyapon districts produce fish, meat, agriculture and marine products for export and has underpinned the economy of the country.

In the past, it took two hours to reach Pyapon from Kyaiklat by ship. Thanks to the newly-opened road, it takes only 20 minutes to reach Pyapon from Kyaiklat by car. Similarly, time to travel from Pyapon from Maubin has decreased from six hours by ship to 1 hour by car, and from over three hours from Maubin to Kyaiklat by ship to about 45 minutes by car.

In his speech, the commander called on local people to maintain the roads and bridges in the region.

Work on upgrading Maubin-Kyaiklat-Pyapon Road started in the 1996-1997 fiscal year and the road has been upgraded from earth road to macadam road which was opened today, Construction Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun said.

The total distance of roads including Maubin-Kyaiklat-Pyapon Road in Ayeyawady Division has reached over 1,340 miles.

Patheingyi-Thalathkwa-Mawtinzun Road in the division has become an all-weather road, the minister said.

Myaungmya-Einme-Kyaunggon Road, Patheingyi-Myaungmya Road, Pantanaw-Shwelaung-Wakema Road, Kyainpinse-Satkaw-Zalun-Hinthada Road are being upgraded.

The 40-mile section from Maubin to Pyapon of the road has been upgraded to a tarred one. The road is 22 ft wide.

Two major roads linking Yangon and Ayeyawady Division have been constructed.

MNA

Minister receives D-G of Chinese NDRC

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb — Minister for Electric Power No 1 Col Zaw Min received Director-General Mr Kong Linglong of Foreign Capital Utilization Department, National Development and Reform Commission of the People's Republic of China (NDRC) and party at the ministry, here, this afternoon.

The meeting discussed bilateral cooperation on generating of hydro-electric power.

MNA

MMA Surgical Society to be held talks

YANGON, 24 Feb — The talks entitled "Surgical Emergency II", organized by Surgical Society of Myanmar Medical Association (Central), will be held at the hall of MMA on Theinbyu Street in Mingala Taungnyunt Township at 9 am on 1 March.

Every doctor may attend the talks.

MNA



Brunei Ambassador to Myanmar Pehin Datu Inderasugara Brig-Gen (B) Dato Paduka Haji Mohammad Yusof bin Haji Abu Bakar and wife welcome Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win to a reception to mark the 24th National Day of Brunei Darussalam on 25 February. —MNA



Minister for Electric Power No 1 Col Zaw Min receives Director General Mr Kong Linglong and party of the Foreign Capital Utilization Department, National Development and Reform Commission of the People's Republic of China (NDRC). —MNA

Friendship Musical Concert marks 60th anniversary diplomatic relations between Myanmar and Russia

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb — The Friendship Musical Concert in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Establishment of the Diplomatic Relations between Myanmar and the Russian Federation was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this afternoon.

It was attended by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and

the Embassy of the Russian Federation.

The deputy minister extended greetings on the occasion. A famed Musical Ensemble of three Russian violinists led by Mr Juri Stupak entertained the audience with Russian folk music. The staff of the MOFA of Myanmar also presented Myanmar songs and dances.

With a view to further strengthening the existing friendly relations between Myanmar and the

Russian Federation, a series of joint commemorative activities had been held earlier this month in both capitals of Myanmar and Russia to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the two countries.

The exchange of messages of felicitations between the heads of State and Government and the Foreign Ministers had been made on the very day of the 60th anniversary day on 18 February 2008. A reception commemorating the anniversary was successfully held on the same day at the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Yangon. The Myanmar Embassy in Moscow also hosted a reception on 22 February 2008 at the Lenin State Hall in Moscow to celebrate the anniversary where the audience was entertained by Myanmar and Russian folk dances. —MNA



Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint extends greetings at Friendship Musical Concert to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Myanmar and Russia. —MNA

Special refresher course No 64 for basic education teachers concludes in Phaunggyi



Minister Dr Chan Nyein delivers address at a ceremony to conclude Special Refresher Course No 64 for Basic Education Teachers. — MNA

YANGON, 25 Feb — The closing ceremony of special refresher course No 64 for basic education teachers was held at Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) in Hlegu Township, here, this morning.

On behalf of Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein made a concluding speech on the occasion.



Minister Dr Chan Nyein presents award to an outstanding trainee. — MNA

The minister said international events including development of science and technology are taking place rapidly worldwide. The government is making efforts to enable the nation to catch up with the progress of international communities. In doing so, it is necessary to take special care of bad consequences that can tarnish the image of the country and the people.

He said it is a primary necessity to turn out qualified human resources for raising the national development momentum and ensuring the brighter future of the State on the right path that brings about the national interest.

He said the government has laid down long-term and short-term plans for promotion of national

education in the education sector and is systematically implementing them to enable Myanmar society to be a constant learning society based on knowledge. The government is also undertaking the programmes for every citizen to be educated and qualified intellectual and intelligentsia and promotion of education to international standard, he said.

Arrangements are being made to provide to access equal learning opportunity for everyone, to build basic foundations for a wide variety of choice and to create better educational environment that can be learned constantly he added.

He said infrastructures on information and communication technology, research centres of international standard, computer networks and other electronic systems were built nationwide and some are under construction.

There is equal learning benefit opportunity in rural and urban areas due to the benefit of electronic technology in teaching and learning field, he said.

The minister stressed the important role of basic education teachers in rural areas. He said teachers are to participate in the efforts for building of better foundations on education that rural people can learn and for regional development.

There are also those who are attempting to break up the Union and national solidarity relying on aliens although they are educated.

The government is striving for all-round development of the State with national outlook by safeguarding the Union, independence and sovereignty. In doing so, the project for progress of border areas and national races, 24 special development region project and five rural development tasks in order to ensure equitable

development of all parts of the country.

Overall, the education sector is to try to inculcate nationalistic fervour and Union Spirit into the students in order that a peaceful, modern, developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation can emerge.

Next, Dr Chan Nyein presented best training awards to Katha No (F-147) U Tint Lwin Oo who is a junior assistant teacher of Zalun Township Marry Land Affiliated BEHS of Ayeyawady Division and Katha No (D-21) Daw Thwe Thwe Shein who is a primary assistant teacher of Dawei Township No 1 BEHS of Taninthayi Division, award-1 for perseverance to Katha No (F-207) U Thein Wai who is a schoolhead of Paykon Post-Primary School of Zalun Township of Ayeyawady Division and Katha No (A-47) Daw Tin Hlaing who is a PAT of Thingangyun Township No 4 BEHS of Yangon Division and award-2 for perseverance to Katha No (C-265) Daw Yi Yi Nwe who is a PAT of Myoma BEHS of Nattalin Township of Bago Division. Afterwards, he gave away best hostile awards to leaders of hostles and certificates of honour to leaders of companies on behalf of the trainees.

A total of 1499 trainees— 240 males and 1259 females— attended the five-week course.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Chiarmman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, Deputy Minister for Transports Col Nyan Tun Aung, Deputy Minister for Electric Power No 1 U Myo Myint, the principal of CICS, instructors and trainees.

MNA

Kyaukse Association (Yangon) meets

YANGON, 25 Feb—Kyaukse Association (Yangon) held its annual meeting at Dhammayon Beikman at the corner of New Yedashe Road and West Shwegondine Road, Bahan Township, here, yesterday.

Executives of the Association presented certificates of honour to eight persons who were conferred titles or medals in commemoration of Indenpendence Day 2008, gifts to the children of association members who

passed matriculation exam 2007 with distinctions, and donated a picture to Dhamma Beikman. A 43-member executive committee of association was selected for 2008-09.

Newly-selected Chairman Police Col Yethurein Khin Maung Tun (Retd) (Khin Maung Tun-Lanmadaw) gave concluding remarks.

MNA

Turnout low in voting for Thailand’s senatorial election

BANGKOK, 25 Feb— The two-day advance voting for senators throughout Thailand’s 76 provinces ended on Sunday in an atmosphere of lethargy, as the Election Commission (EC) officials complained the law blocked the voters to cast their votes. Somchai Chungprasert, one of the five election commissioners, said on Sunday that one of the major reasons for the low turnout in the advance voting was

because eligible voters felt that number of elected senators was still unfair compared with the size of population in a city. For example, Bangkok has more than 10 million people but only one senator out of the total candidates would be chosen by voters like the rest of provinces nationwide, Somchai was quoted by the state-run *Thai News Agency* as saying. According to the new

Constitution of Thailand, the Senate will have 150 members, with 74 appointed and the remainder elected by the public in all 76 provinces, one for one province. The senatorial election, held for the first time under the 2007 Constitution, will be conducted 2 March. It is unfair to large provinces and the Constitution should be amended to suit demands of the people, Somchai said. — MNA/Xinhua



Mask Series: A Christie’s employee stands in front of a painting entitled ‘Mask Series 1996 No:6’ by Chinese artist Zeng Fanzhi at Christie’s auction house in London.—INTERNET

Bangladeshi artifacts return from Paris

DHAKA, 25 Feb— The 42 artifacts of Bangladesh that were sent to the Guimet Museum in Paris for an exhibition were brought back home early Saturday. Cultural Affairs Adviser of Bangladesh’s caretaker government Rasheda K Chowdhury received the artifacts when a cargo flight of Air France, carrying the artifacts, landed at the Zia International Airport.

Under an agreement between the Bangladeshi Cultural Affairs Ministry and the Guimet Museum, Bangladesh was supposed to send 187 archaeological masterpieces to Guimet Museum for exhibition. MNA/Xinhua



Shoppers in an undated photo. A new study suggests that women who eat diets rich in meat and dairy may have a decreased risk of breast cancer, while those who bulk up on fiber, fruits and vegetables show a lower risk of ovarian cancer. — INTERNET

Iran reinforces Iraq border after Turkish attack

TEHERAN, 25 Feb — Iran said on Sunday it had reinforced its border security after Turkey launched an offensive in north Iraq against Kurdish rebels, a move an analyst said was likely aimed at

stopping rebels hiding in Iran. Turkey said it launched the cross-border offensive after Iraqi authorities failed to stop an estimated 3,000

members of the separatist Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) from using northern Iraq as a base to stage attacks on Turkish territory.—MNA/Reuters

UK opposition chief criticized over Auschwitz comment

LONDON, 25 Feb— British opposition leader David Cameron faced demands for an apology on Saturday after he called government funding for school visits to the former Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz a “gimmick”. Cameron accused Prime Minister Gordon Brown’s Government in a speech on Friday of being “obsessed with short-term gimmicks”, including a recommendation to schools to make “trips to Poland”. “We’ve had a gimmick for every week that Gordon Brown has been Prime Minister. It would be funny if it wasn’t so serious,” the Conservative leader said. A list of 26 gimmicks released to accompany the speech included “Trips to Auschwitz”, a Nazi death camp in Poland. The government announced this month it would give 4.65 million pounds (9.14 million US dollars) to the Holocaust Educational Trust — set up in 1988 to educate young people about the Holocaust. MNA/Reuters

Philippines backs ban of cluster bombs

MANILA, 25 Feb — The Philippines has thrown its support on a planned international treaty that will ban the

use and proliferation of cluster bombs, noting that effective implementation of the convention would reduce the risk and enhance the security of Filipinos overseas, said the Department of Foreign Affairs on Sunday. At the Wellington Conference in New Zealand held this week, some 80 countries have agreed to finalize preparations for the treaty, a legally binding instrument that will prohibit the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm and providing for adequate resources to assist survivors and clear contaminated areas. MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam to pour \$2.5b into building oil refinery

HANOI, 25 Feb — State-run Vietnam National Oil and Gas Group (PetroVietnam) and two foreign companies are expected to form a joint venture in the second quarter, according to local newspaper *Vietnam Economic Times* on Friday. PetroVietnam, Kuwait’s KPI and Japan’s Idemitsu are negotiating in Hanoi capital for the establishment of the joint venture, to build the Nghi Son oil refinery in central Thanh Hoa province, which will have an annual capacity of processing seven million tons of crude oil. The refinery costing 2.5 billion US dollars is expected to become operational by 2011. PetroVietnam, investor of Vietnam’s first oil refinery named Dung Quat with an annual processing capacity of 6.5 million tons of crude oil under construction in central Quang Ngai Province, plans to put it into operation in the first quarter of 2009.—MNA/Xinhua



Japanese monkeys soak in a hot spring in a snow-covered valley in Yamanouchi town, central Japan on 17 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Im- ages of the



Ahi Tuna Ciabatta Burgers, two mini Ahi tuna burgers served on ciabatta with lettuce, tomatoes, green onions and Anaheim Chili sauce and served with a side of field greens tossed with Italian vinaigrette. It was the week two winning recipe from Food Network's 'Ultimate Recipe Showdown' by Kristine Snyder from Kihei, Hawaii.—INTERNET



Toronto Raptors' Jose Calderon, right, gets a hand in the face from New York Knicks' Renaldo Balkman during the first half of their NBA basketball game in Toronto, Ontario, on 24 Feb, 2008.

INTERNET



Chefs working with Wolfgang Puck display gold-dusted Chocolate Oscars and other desserts for guests at the Governors Ball during the 80th annual Academy Awards, the Oscars, in Hollywood on 24 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET



A polar bear sculpture made of ice stands outside the Global Seed Vault in Longyearbyen on 25 Feb, 2008. The vault has been built in a mountainside cavern on Spitsbergen Island around 1,000 km (600 miles) from the North Pole to store the world's crop seeds in case of disaster. The official opening will take place on 26 February.—INTERNET



Russia's Maria Sharapova celebrates with the trophy after beating Vera Zvonareva of Russia during their final of the Qatar Open, a WTA Tour event, in Doha on 24 Feb, 2008. Sharapova won 6-1, 2-6, 6-0.—INTERNET

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

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Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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Hamas threatens to kidnap more Israeli soldiers

GAZA, 24 Feb—The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) on Saturday warned that his movement will kidnap more Israeli soldiers if the Jewish state rejects to go ahead with a prisoner exchange deal.
“Capturing soldiers is not the goal and it is not a hobby,” said Osama al-Muzini, a Hamas leader

authorized to speak about the file of a captive Israeli soldier. “The goal is freeing our prisoners and we insist on this... if there was no response by the enemy, there is no doubt that the kidnapping of more soldiers will take place until all the prisoners are released,” al-Muzini added.
Hamas and two other

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Canada pledges \$555m in fresh aid to Haiti

PO RT-AU-PRINCE, 24 Feb—Canadian Foreign Minister Maxime Bernier pledged 555 million US dollars in fresh aid to Haiti on Friday, as he wrapped up a three-day visit to the impoverished Caribbean nation. The funds, to be paid over the next five years, were earmarked to help build roads, police precincts and implement social and economic programmes in the Western Hemisphere’s poorest country, Bernier told reporters.
“Compared to other donor countries, our assistance to Haiti is one of the biggest per capita contributions,” he said.
“We are proud to be able to help Haiti because we have in Quebec a Haitian community that has brought so much to Canada,” said Bernier, adding that Canada will act according to aid priorities set by Haitian authorities. — *MNA/Reuters*

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Iraqi security forces kill 10 al-Qaeda insurgents

TIKRIT (Iraq), 24 Feb—Iraqi security forces backed by the US aircraft raided insurgents’ hide-outs in Salahudin Province on Saturday, killing 10 suspected insurgents, including a local leader, and capturing four others, a provincial police officer said.
A joint force from the Iraqi Army and police and fighters from local anti-Qaeda Awakening Council group carried out a raid at dawn on the open areas near the al-Thirthar Lake, west of Samarra city, 120 kilometres north of

“Virtual fence” ready for use at US border with Mexico

WASHINGTON, 24 Feb—The US border with Mexico is expected to be strengthened as a high-tech “virtual fence” is ready for service, a government official said on Friday.

According to Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff, the so-called Project 28 “virtual fence”, which was supposed to be completed in mid-2007, was delayed to February, 2008, because of software problems and criticism by Congress.

He told a seminar on illegal immigration that the technology of sensor towers and advanced mobile communications applied on the 20-million-US-dollar project can fight illegal crossings all along the frontier.
“I have personally witnessed the value of this system, and I have spoken directly to the Border Patrol agents ... who have seen it produce actual results, in terms of identifying and allowing the apprehension of people who were illegally smuggling across the border,” he said.

Earlier this month, US President George W Bush requested from Congress for 775 million dollars on more fencing along the southern border with high-tech surveillance equipment.

MNA/Xinhua

Bomb destroys bus near Sri Lankan capital

MOUNT LAVINIA (Sri Lanka), 24 Feb—A suspected Tamil Tiger bomb blast destroyed a passenger bus on the outskirts of the Sri Lankan capital on Saturday morning, but there were no immediate reports of any fatalities.

Hospital officials said nine people were admitted with blast injuries following the explosion at a bus stand in the town of Mount Lavinia, just south of Colombo.

It was latest in a series of bombings blamed on the rebels in recent months.

A *Reuters* witness saw the charred, mangled wreckage of the bus, its rear blown completely apart. He said there were no immediate signs of any fatalities.

Local television reported the bus had been evacuated shortly before the blast after a woman passenger saw an unattended bag.

MNA/Reuters

Baghdad, Col Hassan Ahmad told *Xinhua*.
The raid resulted in the killing of 10 insurgents, including six non-Iraqi Arab nationals, and the capturing of four others, Ahmad said.

Among the killed was Abdul Basit al-Nissani, a local leader of the al-Qaeda in Iraq network, who blew himself up after he was surrounded by the security forces while crossing a small river, he said.
There were no casualties among the joint troops who also confiscated a

large amount of weapons and ammunition during the raid, Ahmad said.
The targeting area was used by the al-Qaeda militants to conduct attacks against civilians and Iraqi security forces.

Armed groups, including al-Qaeda, which were active in the swath stretching from the city of Samarra to the Thirthar Lake, northwest of Baghdad, has long been out of the control of the Iraqi security forces before the major operation against them in the area.

MNA/Xinhua

Japan launches experimental Internet satellite

TOKYO, 25 Feb—Japan launched an experimental communications satellite on Saturday as part of an ambitious space programme that could help ensure super high-speed Internet access in remote parts of Japan and elsewhere in Asia.

The *H-2A* rocket carrying the 2.7 tonne *KIZUNA* (WINDS) communications satellite took off into over the tiny island of Tanegashima, about 1,000 kilometres (620 miles) south of Tokyo, at 5.55 pm (0855 GMT).

The launch had been briefly delayed after a ship strayed into restricted waters.

The *KIZUNA*, equipped with three antennas targetting Japan, Southeast Asia and the Pacific regions, is referred to as the Wideband InterNetworking engineering test and Demonstration Satellite or *WINDS*.

The geostationary satellite will be used to conduct experiments on large-volume, high-speed data communications on remote mountains and islands with little Internet access.

Japan's scientists say the 52.2 billion yen (490 million US dollars) launch of *WINDS* will help the country build one of the world's most advanced information and telecommunications networks.

The launch comes 12 years after the project started, due mainly to technical glitches involving launch vehicles. —MNA/Reuters



Japan's H-2A rocket carrying a high-speed Internet communications satellite is launched at Tanegashima Space Centre in Kagoshima Prefecture. The launch was successful.—INTERNET

Google found guilty of violating film copyright

PARIS, 25 Feb—US internet giant Google has been found guilty of contravening copyright laws in connection with a film that was posted on its site prior to seeking authorization from the owner.

Google has been found guilty of “counterfeiting” by the Paris District Commercial Court for posting the film, “The World According to Bush (Le monde selon Bush)” by William Karel, online, without seeking permission from the copyright holders and despite their protests, film producer Jean-Francois Lepetit announced on Friday.

In compensation, the internet group has been forced to pay 150, 000 euros (about 220,000 US dollars) in damages to Flach Film, the company that produced the film, and Editions Montparnasse, which had been contracted to distribute the film legally,” said Lepetit.

In November 2006, Flach Film filed a lawsuit against Google because it had allowed internet users to access the movie in its entirety and free of charge, through its site Google Video France, despite complaints from the producer, according to Lepetit.

On the platform of Google video, the film could be accessed by simply clicking in the form of streaming or downloading and “it was viewed many times in a very short time,” according to the producer.

“Until the court proceedings began in December 2007, it was possible to find the film on Google,” said Lepetit. —MNA/Xinhua



Volunteers help care for pygmy sperm whale on 23 Feb, 2008, at the Marine Mammal Conservancy in Key Largo, Florida. The 9-foot-long male whale, estimated to weigh more than 900 pounds, stranded on Saturday morning in shallow waters off Lower Matecumbe Key in the Florida Keys.—INTERNET

Strong quake jolts Sumatra, no tsunami warning

JAKARTA, 25 Feb— An earthquake with magnitude of 6.5 rocked Bengkulu Province of Sumatra Island on Sunday, but there is no potential for tsunami, meteorology agency said here.

The quake struck at 21:46 local time (1446 GMT) with epicentre at 151 kilometres northwest Muko Muko town of Bengkulu Province and at 57 kilometres under sea bed, an official of the agency Beny H said.

“We do not issue tsunami warning, as the quake is not potential for tsunami,” he told *Xinhua*. The official said that the quake was felt in the whole province and nearby province of West Sumatra.

The agency were trying to confirm the intensity of the quake, according to the official.

MNA/Xinhua

Study hints stroke drug could have wider use

CHICAGO, 25 Feb—A study aiming to expand the three-hour time window for giving a clot-busting drug to stroke patients fell short of its goal, Australian researchers said on Friday, but the study hinted that certain stroke sufferers might still benefit from late administration of the drug. They had hoped to prove the clot-buster

known as tissue plasminogen activator or tPA would significantly reduce the spread of a stroke three to six hours after the first symptoms appeared.

Under current guidelines, the drug can only be given within three hours of the first symptoms, a restriction that leaves out all but a lucky few who get immediate help.

When given promptly,

tPA can reduce permanent disability. It only works on ischemic stroke, which is caused when a blood clot chokes off blood flow to the brain.

Stephen Davis of Royal Melbourne Hospital in Victoria, Australia, wanted to see if the drug could help a subset of stroke patients with salvageable brain tissue after the three-hour time limit had passed.

He and colleagues studied 101 patients who received tPA or placebo three to six hours after their stroke started. Of these, 99 people or 86 per cent were believed to have salvageable brain tissue. About half of these got tPA and half got placebo.

MNA/Reuters

Incidence of heart diseases drops in France

PARIS, 25 Feb— The incidence of smoking-related diseases has sharply decreased after France enacted tough anti-smoking laws, the Health Ministry said in a report released on Saturday.

According to the report, the incidence of myocardial infarction and cerebrovascular diseases dropped by 15 per cent in recent two months.

It will be further proved in the next two months that

anti-smoking laws will bring significant and instant benefits to the health of the French people, said the report. French has banned smoking in companies, government offices and shopping

centres since 1 February, 2007. From the beginning of this year, smoking are banned in all public places across France, including bars, cafes, restaurants and discotheques.

MNA/Xinhua

Small children happily learn to make the bed with the housekeeping staff at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Jakarta on 24 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET



SPORTS

Villa maintain push for Europe with Reading win

LONDON, 25 Feb — Aston Villa maintained their pursuit of a Champions League place on Sunday with a 2-1 Premier League victory at struggling Reading.

Ashley Young put Villa in front on the stroke of halftime after Gareth Barry had missed an earlier penalty.

Marlon Harewood increased Villa's lead after 83 minutes and although Nicky Shorey replied for Reading in stoppage time the home side slipped to their eighth consecutive league defeat.

Villa are in sixth place with 47 points, the same total as Liverpool and Everton who occupy fourth and fifth respectively.

Reading remain third from bottom with 22 points.

Arsenal, held 2-2 at Birmingham City on Saturday after their Croatia striker Eduardo broke his leg, are top on 64 points, three more than Manchester United, 5-1 winners at Newcastle. Chelsea, who lost the League Cup final 2-1 after extra time to Tottenham Hotspur at Wembley on Sunday, are third on 55 points.

MNA/Reuters

Flamini wants title for Eduardo

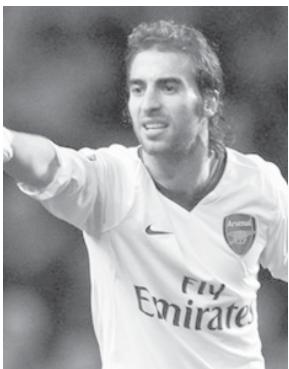
LONDON, 25 Feb— Mathieu Flamini has revealed that Arsenal are determined to win the Premier League title in honour of injured team-mate Eduardo.

The striker suffered an horrific broken leg in Saturday's 2-2 with Birmingham and it remains unclear just how long he will now be sidelined for.

He will definitely miss the remainder of the current campaign, and French midfielder Flamini insists that the incident has made the Gunners squad even more focused on claiming their first league crown in four years.

"We have lost Eduardo," he said.

"It is a terrible injury



Flamini: Support for Eduardo

because he has a broken leg. It was difficult. I have no words to describe what I saw.

"It was maybe the worst injury I have seen. We will have to stay very close to him because it's going to be difficult. It will be difficult to get over. He is a friend and a team-mate. It upsets you.

Internet



Michelle Wie tees off on the 16th hole during the second round of the Fields Open golf tournament at the Ko Olina Resort in Kapolei, Hawaii, on 22 Feb, 2008.

INTERNET

Italian Serie A reports

MILAN, 25 Feb — Brief reports of Italian Serie A matches over the weekend:

Played on Sunday:



Palermo's Carvalho De Oliveira Amauri (L) dribbles past Andrea Pirlo of AC Milan during their Italian Serie A soccer match at San Siro stadium in Milan on 24 Feb, 2008.

INTERNET

AC Milan 2 Palermo 1

Filippo Inzaghi climbed off the bench before throwing himself at the ball to give the European champions a stoppage time victory after they had again laboured at home.

Mark Bresciano's flick took a deflection off Massimo Oddo to hand Palermo the lead before midfielder Massimo Ambrosini slid in to convert Oddo's deep cross on 24 minutes.

The diving header was Inzaghi's first goal of the league campaign. Kaka went off at halftime for the hosts.



AS Roma's Cicinho (C) scores against Fiorentina during their Italian Serie A soccer match at the Olympic stadium in Rome on 24 Feb, 2008.

INTERNET

AS Roma 1 Fiorentina 0

Cicinho scored after Mirko Vucinic's shot had been blocked and fell kindly for the Brazilian, whose scuffed effort stood despite Francesco Totti being in an offside position in front of Fiorentina keeper Sebastien Frey.

Zdravko Kuzmanovic hit the bar shortly afterwards for the visitors, who played the second half without injured talisman Adrian Mutu. Cicinho was sent off in injury time for two quick yellows.

MNA/Reuters

Premier League reports

LONDON, 25 Feb — Brief reports of Premier League matches.

Played on Sunday:

Blackburn Rovers 4 Bolton Wanderers 1

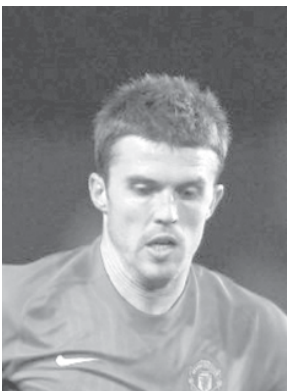
South Africa's Benni McCarthy scored two penalties, the second in the 67th minute, either side of a Kevin Davies equaliser for Bolton.

New England cap David Bentley virtually settled the outcome in the 71st minute when he headed home David Dunn's left cross at the far post.

Morten Gamst Pedersen added the fourth deep into stoppage time with the last kick of the game.

MNA/Reuters

Carrick lauds United hotshots



Michael Carrick

LONDON, 25 Feb— Michael Carrick believes that Manchester United's attacking unit are just about unstoppable at present.

The Red Devils put five past a hapless Newcastle outfit on Saturday, and cruised to a comfortable 4-0 victory over rivals Arsenal in the FA Cup last weekend.

With Cristiano Ronaldo unplayable at times, Wayne Rooney back among the goals and Louis Saha notching against the Magpies on his latest comeback from injury, Carrick is hoping that the club's impressive forward line can help fire them to the title this season. —Internet

Bundesliga match reports

BERLIN, 25 Feb — Brief reports of Bundesliga matches this weekend:

Played on Sunday:

Nuremberg 1 Energie Cottbus 1

Nuremberg failed to get the win they needed over the bottom club, and remain deep in relegation trouble themselves, ahead of the last two only on goal difference.

Marco Engelhardt put the home side ahead in the 58th minute, blasting into the roof of the net after Jan Koller had teed him up, but Dennis Sorensen equalized almost immediately with a shot that trickled in at the keeper's near post.

Bayern Munich 1 Hamburg SV 1

Bayern let Hamburg off the hook in the weekend's big game, as they missed the chance to move six points clear at the top.

The Bavarians missed chance after chance before a bad mistake from Lucio let in Ivica Olic to put Hamburg ahead with their first opportunity in the 60th minute.

Ottmar Hitzfeld sent on Franck Ribery and the Frenchman set up Ze Roberto for an equalizer six minutes later. The home side ended the match with 10 men when Mark van Bommel argued with the referee and received two yellow cards in added time.

MNA/Reuters

Seven die due to heavy rainfalls in Colombia

BOGOTA, 25 Feb— Seven people including three children died in Colombia due to heavy rainfalls, according to Colombian rescue team Friday.

In Colombia's southwestern city Cali, one person and a four-year-old boy died while two others were injured when their home was destroyed in a landslide caused by the continuous rainfalls, said the rescue workers.

The emergency headquarters of Antioquia Province reported two deaths of minors and two death of adults caused by floods in Medellin and San Luis municipality respectively.

"The head of Emergency Department had alerted the mayors, the local disaster prevention committees and the community, so that they could watch out for the the rivers' water level and overflows," said the spokesman from the department.

In the northeastern Santander Province, the committees estimated at least 20 houses in Bucaramanga were destroyed by the landslides and overflows of Oro River.

"Four municipalities have been affected by Santander's rainfalls. The most critical situation occurred in Bucaramanga, where 110 people were affected," said rescue workers in the region. — MNA/Xinhua



Ireland's Paul O'Connell wins the line out in the Six Nations Rugby Championship match against Scotland at Croke Park, Dublin, on 23 Feb, 2008. —INTERNET

Chavez sends condolences to families of air crash victims

CARACAS, 25 Feb— Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez expressed on Friday his condolence to the families of the victims in a Thursday air crash in southwestern province of Merida.

"My heart feels the sorrow. Venezuela is mourning the 46 deceased people, some publicly known. Hopefully these kind of things do not happen again," said Chavez at a ceremony inaugurating the Metropolitan Public Health

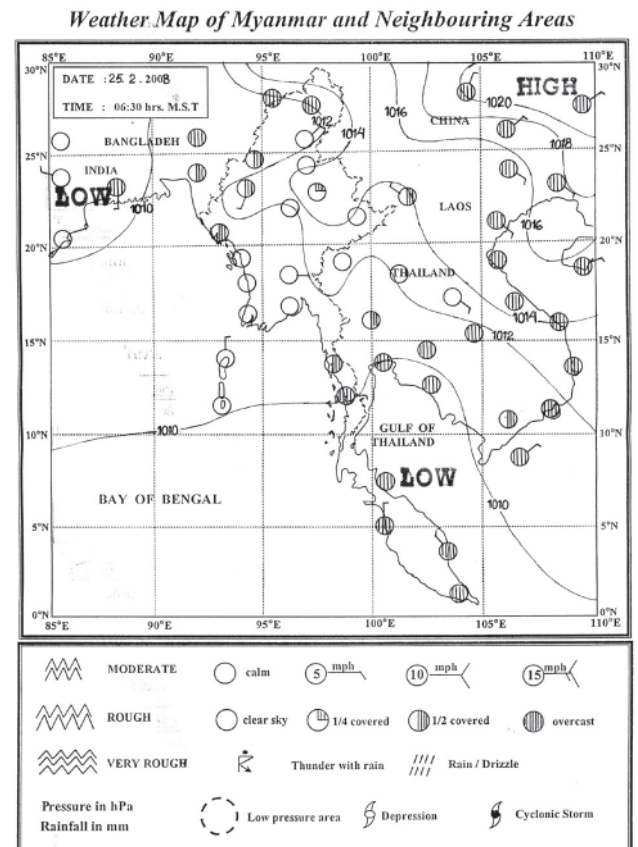
System.

An ATR42-300 twin-engine aircraft belonging to Santa Barbara Airlines crashed 30 minutes after taking off at 17:30 local time (2010 GMT) from Alberto Carnevali Airport in Merida City as it was heading toward Caracas'

Simon Bolivar National Airport.

Venezuelan Civil Protection office (PC) informed the public on Thursday about the disappearance of a commercial aircraft in the country's Andean region.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Monday, 25 February, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division, weather have been generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below February average temperatures in Rakhine and Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Yangon Divisions, (5°C) below February average temperatures in Chin State, (8°C) below February average temperatures in Bago Division and (3°C) above February average temperatures in Kachin State and about February average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Namhsan and Haka (2°C) each, An (4°C), Pinlaung, Heho and Pyin Oo Lwin (5°C) each. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was (0.28) inch.

Maximum temperature on 24-2-2008 was 98°F. Minimum temperature on 25-2-2008 was 64°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 25-2-2008 was 54%. Total sunshine hours on 24-2-2008 was (8.9) hours approx.

Rainfall on 25-2-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (0.67) inch at Mingaladon, (0.47) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.35) inch at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Southeast at (15:30) hours MST on 24-2-2008.

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 26-2-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight increase of night temperatures in the Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 26-2-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 26-2-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 26-2-2008: Generally fair weather.

Radio Myanmar

Tuesday, 26 February
Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music
-Don't stop the music
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music
-Tell me how to make your smile
- 8:50 am National news
- 9:00 am Music
-Do wah didy
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music
-I love always loved you
- 1:30 pm News/ Slogan
- 1:40 pm Lunchtime Music
-Let's live for today
- If you ever had a broken heart
- 9:00 pm English Speaking Course
- 9:10 pm Article
- 9:20 pm Weekly sports reel
- 9:30 pm Listening pleasure
-You only live twice
- Husbands & Wives
- 9:45 pm News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL



Tuesday, 26 February
View on today

- 7:00 am
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
- 7:15 am
2. တိပိဋကဓရဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ အဂ္ဂမဟာပဏ္ဍိတ၊ ဘဒ္ဒန္တသိရိန္ဒာဘိဝံသ (ယောဆရာတော်) ဟောကြားတော်မူအပ်သော ဥပ္ပါတသန္တိပါဠိတော်
- 7:25 am
3. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
4. Morning news
- 7:40 am
5. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am
6. ကဗျာပန်းညွှန့်
- 8:00 am
7. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:15 am
8. Song of yesteryears
- 8:30 am
9. International news
- 8:45 am
10. Let's Go
- 4:00 pm
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm
2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm
3. English for Everyday Use
- 4:45 pm
4. အဆေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ-ဒုတိယနှစ် (သရုပ်အထူးပြု) (သရုပ်)
- 4:55 pm
5. Dance of National Races
- 5:10 pm
6. ခံစားနားဆင်တေးဇာတ်ဝင်
- 5:20 pm
7. Sing and Enjoy
- 6:00 pm
8. Evening news
- 6:30 pm
9. Weather report
- 6:45 pm
10. ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲ့ရင်ခုန်သံ
- 6:50 pm
11. သုတစုံလင်ရွှေညောင်ရှင်
- 7:15 pm
12. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်တယ်--ချစ်တယ်" (အပိုင်း-၃)
- 8:00 pm
13. News
- 14. International news
- 15. Weather report
- 16. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "မေတ္တာမျဉ်းဖြိုင်" (အပိုင်း-၇)
- 17. The next day's programme

People's Desire

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

Ayeyawady Division gets new road Commodity flow in Ayeyawady Division picks up speed thanks to new road



Commander Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe and Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun cut a ribbon to open Maubin-Kyaiklat-Pyapon Macadam Road in Ayeyawady Division. — MNA

YANGON, 25 Feb — A macadam road linking Maubin, Kyaiklat and Pyapon districts in Ayeyawady Division was opened today.

The road was constructed by Ministry of Con-

struction. Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe unveiled the stone

(See page 8)

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

INSIDE

Tourists who arrive in Myanmar often visit Bagan region where there are a string of ancient cultural heritage and artistic works. Moreover, Inlay Lake and Pindaya region in Shan State (South) with natural scenic beauty and local products of national races are tourist attractions.

PAGE 2

PERSPECTIVES

- ★ 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