

The Referendum Law for the Approval of the Draft Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar 2008 issued

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Feb—The State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar yesterday issued the Referendum Law for the Approval of the Draft Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar 2008 as the Law No 1/2008 of the State Peace and Development Council.
The full text of the law is featured on pages 8, 9, 10 and 11.

Commission for Holding Referendum for the Approval of the Draft Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar 2008 formed

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Feb—The State Peace and Development Council issued Declaration No 3/2008 yesterday concerning the formation of the Commission for Holding Referendum for the Approval of the Draft Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar 2008.
The full text of the Declaration is as follows:-

State Peace and Development Council
Declaration No 3/2008
The 5th Waning of Tabodwe, 1369 ME
(26th, February, 2008)

Formation of Commission for Holding the Referendum
The State Peace and Development Council hereby formed the Commission for Holding the Referendum comprising the following persons in accordance with section 5 (a) of Chapter 3 of the Referendum Law for the Approval of the Draft Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar 2008 enacted as the Law No 1/2008 by the State Peace and Development Council.

1. U Aung Toe	Chairman
2. U N Zaw Naw	member
3. U Sai Yi Kyan	member
4. U Myo Tint	member
5. U Saw Win Aung	member
6. U Khet Htein Nan	member
7. U Lan Zone	member
8. U Htamai Yon	member
9. U Kyaw Din (a) U Htay Yei	member
10. U Kyaw Tun	member
11. U Saw Hlaing	member
12. Dr Hmu Htan	member
13. U Shi Thee	member
14. Dr Maung Htoo	member
15. U Maung Hla (a) U Hla Myint	member
16. U Chit Maung	member
17. U Chit Hla	member
18. Dr Aung Hsan Win	member
19. U Aye Maung	member
20. Dr Tun Shin	member

21. U Tun Tun Oo	member
22. U Tin Maung	member
23. U Aung Myo	member
24. U Khun Aung Nyein	member
25. U Thein Shwe Maung	member
26. U Kyar Tun	member
27. U Thaung Nyunt	member
28. Dr Tin Aung Aye	member
29. U Tin Aye	member
30. U Myat Thu	member
31. U San Lwin	member
32. U Sai Tun Myat	member
33. U Maung Lay	member
34. U Hsaing Paung Nat	member
35. U Sai San Tin	member
36. U Tun Yin	member
37. U T Khun Myat	member
38. U Ahlal	member
39. U Sai Yi Tit	member
40. U Da Yay Hla	member
41. U Tin Hsan	member
42. U Myat Ko	member
43. U Maung Maung Than	member
44. U Win Ko	Secretary
45. U Than Aung	Joint Secretary

Sd/ **Than Shwe**
Senior General
Chairman
State Peace and Development Council

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 28 February, 2008

Learning opportunity in rural areas emerging

Nowadays science and technology have developed rapidly and international events are changing with greater momentum. At this time, endeavours are to be made for development of the nation and its people.

The government has laid down long-term and short-term national education promotion plans and is implementing them. The government in cooperation with urban and rural people is undertaking the tasks to enable every citizen to be educated and to turn out qualified intellectuals and intelligentsia.

Infrastructures on information and communication technology and research centres of international standard are being built. Equal learning opportunities are available in different regions as computer networks and electronic systems are provided nationwide.

With the implementation of the government's national education promotion programmes the teachers in the education sector are to make efforts for establishment of a constant learning society based on knowledge.

It is necessary for basic education teachers discharging duties in rural areas to make strenuous efforts for raising education standard of rural people, learning higher education and completion of basic education.

Goodwill, qualification and teaching skills of the teachers bring about better results for literacy for every citizen. All the teachers are urged to participate in the tasks to enable rural people to gain knowledge and regional development.



Mr S Kumar greets a speaker of Seminar on “Significance of Micronutrients in Nutrition” and Launching of Becozince Syrup. — MNA

People's Desire

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

Commander attends ceremony to provide cash and rice to fire victims

YANGON, 27 Feb — A ceremony to provide cash and rice to fire victims of Ye Okkan village in Hlinethaya Township in Yangon North District was held at the meeting hall of Hlinethaya Township No 16 Basic Education Primary School yesterday morning.

Police Captain Khin Maung Sein briefed on matters on relief tasks for the families of victims.

Next, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win presented 250 bags of rice for the fire victims donated by the Yangon Division PDC through Ye Okkan village PDC chairman U Myo Kyaw Thu.

Well wishers donated K 5.1 million and 450 bags of rice to the fire victims. Officials presented certificates of honour to them. Next, the commander comforted the fire victims.

Afterwards, the commander inspected health care centre opened for the fire victims and gave necessary instructions.—MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win hands over rice bags to fire victims in Hlinethaya Township. — MNA

Minister looks into Myaungmya Jute Mill

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Feb — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo together with departmental officials arrived at Myaungmya Jute Mill on 22 February. The Minister looked into the sorting of jute fiber, the production of jute fiber, the sewing of the gunny bags and the production of gunny spindle . The minister urged officials to produce the value-added finished goods of high quality in order to exceed the targets.

Later, the minister met with factory manager and staff at meeting hall of the mill. He gave instructions to officials on the production of the the mill and fulfilled the needs.

MNA

Dr Reddy's Lab Ltd introduces Becozince Syrup

YANGON, 27 Feb — Jointly organized by Myanmar Paediatric Society and Dr Reddy's Lab Ltd, a seminar on Significance of Micronutrients in Nutrition was held in conjunction with a ceremony to introduce Becozince Syrup at Hotel Nikko on 24 February.

Professor S Kyaw Hla presided over the seminar. Professor Dr Kyu Kyu Khin gave talks on Micronutrients For Growth and Development and Associate Professor U Win Myat Aye, HIV and Nutrition.

Altogether 200 paediatricians attended the seminar and took part in the discussions.

Next, Country Manager of the company Mr S Kumar gave accounts on Becozince Syrup and presented gifts to those present.

Becozince Syrup provides immunity for the children to help fight against infection and disease. It is suitable for the children with diarrhea.

Hero International Enterprise distributed Becozince Syrup throughout the country. Everyone may contact Ph: 01-293367 and 706877.

MNA

UMFCCI to hold subject-wise talks

YANGON, 27 Feb — Organized by the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the subject-wise talks, sponsored by Myat Myittarmon Co Ltd, will be staged at UMFCCI Office Tower on Minye Kyawswa Road in Lanmadaw Township at 2 pm on 1 March.

Economist Dr Khin Maung Nyo (Economics) will give talks entitled “Is Trust Needed?”. Members of the UMFCCI and its brother associations and interested persons may attend the talks. — MNA

Fire breaks out in N Okkalapa

YANGON, 27 Feb — Two houses were gutted by a fire that broke out in North Okkalapa Township yesterday.

The fire started at the electric stove in the kitchen of the house of U Kan Nyunt, 56, son of U Tin Aung, of No 918, Thumaitta 24th Street, Ward-1, North Okkalapa Township.

The fire started at 5.15 pm yesterday and it took 30 fire engines 25 minutes to put out the fire.

Action is being taken against U Kan Nyunt under Section 285 by North Okkalapa Police Station.

MNA

Hungary, Russia to sign on gas pipeline

BUDAPEST, 27 Feb—The Hungarian and Russian governments are set to sign an agreement on constructing the Hungarian section of the South Stream natural gas pipeline which will bring Russian natural gas to Europe, in Moscow on Thursday, Hungarian Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany said on Monday.

“There is one more agreement we want to sign in the next few days. This is an agreement on an arm of the so-called South Stream project going through Hungary,” Gyurcsany told a Press conference after talks with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitri Medvedev in Budapest on Monday.

MNA/Xinhua

Thai policemen inspect the wreckage of a vehicle after a roadside bomb attack in Thailand's Yala Province, on 27 Feb, 2008. Suspected Muslim separatist rebels killed one soldier in a bomb attack, police said.

INTERNET



Malaysia allows candidates' agents monitor postal votes

KUALA LUMPUR, 27 Feb—The Election Commission of Malaysia will for the first time allow candidates to send agents to monitor postal votes process at army or police camps in the 12th General

Election on 8 March as a measure to enhance transparency of the process, according to local newspapers on Tuesday.

The measure was announced on Monday by Election Commission

Secretary Kamaruzaman Mohd Noor at the headquarters of the commission in Putrajaya, administrative centre of the Malaysian Federal Government.

MNA/Xinhua



A man shows a newspaper with pictures of the new members of the Cuban government, now led by President Raul Castro, on 25 Feb. Raul Castro prepares Tuesday for his first diplomatic encounter as president of a post-Fidel Cuba, at a planned meeting with the number two official from the Vatican.—INTERNET

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Australia considering joining US missile defence system

CANBERRA, 27 Feb—Australian Foreign Minister Stephen Smith said here on Sunday his government was considering joining a limited US missile defence system because it may help to protect Australian troops in the field.

But Smith said Australia would not be rushed into any decision.

Speaking to the Australian television network the Channel Nine, Smith said the technology of the missile defence had improved and may be of use in settings such as war

zones or areas where Australians were involved in peacekeeping missions.

“The technology’s moved on, and so what we’ve said is that in conversation with our ally, with the United States, we’re happy to give consideration to the missile defence arrangements,” Smith said.

“We made it clear during our time in opposition that we would happily give consideration to theater or limited missile defence,” the foreign minister said.

“We’re not rushing to embrace it, we are just giving very careful consideration to it and we’ll do that in conjunction with our United States ally,” he added.

MNA/Xinhua

McCain hits back in campaign finance row

WASHINGTON, 27 Feb—Aides to Republican John McCain on Tuesday accused the Democrats of playing election games in a legal row over his attempts to back out of receiving public money for his White House campaign.

“Everything we did here was legal, ethical and proper,” McCain spokeswoman Jill Hazelbaker said, accusing Democratic hopeful Barack Obama of “back-peddalling” on whether he too would take public funds.

McCain is trying to withdraw from an agreement with the Federal Election Commission to take FEC funds, which carry a strict limit on how much a candidate can spend in primary and general election campaigns.

The Arizona senator, author of a landmark campaign finance reform, submitted to the agreement last year when his campaign was deep in trouble, but is now poised to win the Republican nomination and is not short of cash from private donors.—Internet

At least 13 dead as Egypt microbus falls into canal

CAIRO, 27 Feb—At least 13 people died in Cairo on Monday when the microbus they were travelling in fell into a canal, security sources said.

The cause of the accident was not immediately apparent, they said.

Reckless driving, lax traffic rules and poor road conditions contribute to many crashes in Egypt, where a series of fatal road and rail accidents in recent years have caused a public outcry over the government’s handling of transport safety.

At least 29 people died in a pile-up earlier this month on a highway outside the Egyptian capital.

MNA/Reuters



A Barraway's carp gudgeon or Hypseleotris barrawayi is seen in this undated handout photograph released on 26 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Pakistan arrests militant linked to Bhutto attack

ISLAMABAD, 27 Feb—Pakistani security forces have arrested an al-Qaeda-linked militant wanted in connection with an assassination attempt on former prime minister Benazir Bhutto hours after she returned from exile in October.

Two-time prime minister Bhutto survived the suicide bombing on a procession in Karachi after she arrived home on 18

October, but nearly other 140 people were killed.

Bhutto was assassinated in a gun and bomb attack blamed on al-Qaeda-linked militants in the city of Rawalpindi on 27 December.

Interior Minister Hamid Nawaz told Reuters the suspect, Qari Saifullah Akhtar, was arrested early on Tuesday, along with his three sons, and was being interrogated about

the Karachi attack.

“He was involved in the Karsaz bomb blast,” the minister said, referring to an overpass in Karachi where the attack on Bhutto took place.

In her book, Reconciliation, published after her murder, Bhutto identified Akhtar as a “wanted terrorist” who tried to overthrow her second government in the 1990s.—MNA/Reuters

Cambodian National Assembly approves ASEAN Charter

PHNOM PENH, 27 Feb — The Cambodian National Assembly here on Monday unanimously approved the ASEAN (the Association of South-East Asian Nations) Charter.

"The ASEAN Charter will bring our country into the economic and social integration with other ASEAN countries and also into the ongoing process of globalization," said Pen Pagna, chairman of the legislation and justice committee of the

Parliament.

"It can help us rule by law and walk to democracy and development, too," he added.

The charter has 13 chapters with 55 articles. All ASEAN member countries have to ratify it.

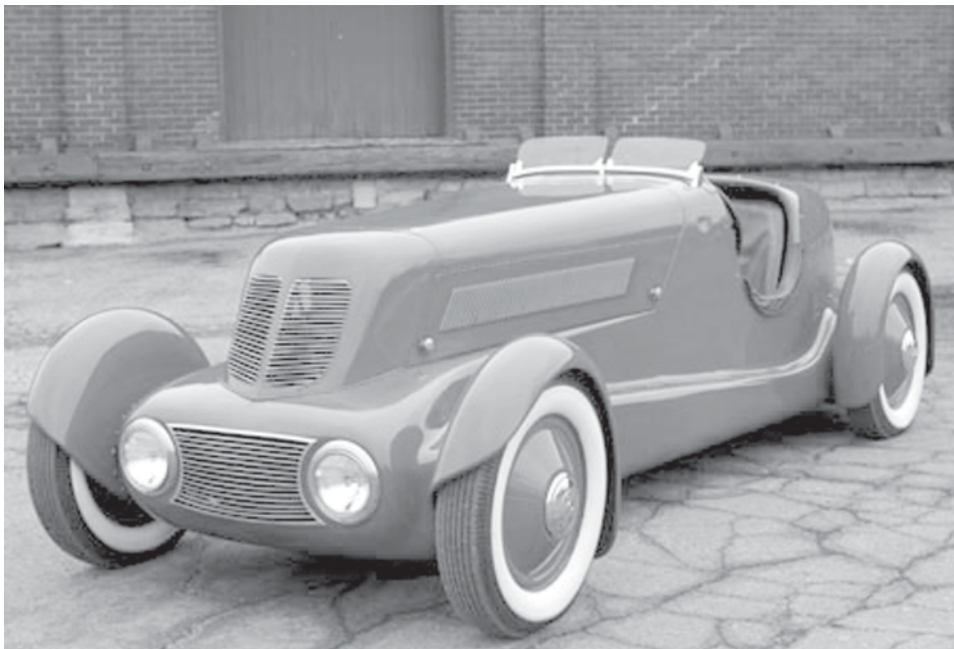
The ASEAN Charter aims to transform ASEAN into a rules-based legal entity like the European Union and paves the way for closer integration

within the group.

Under the charter, all ASEAN member states will have equal rights and obligations. They will also be legally entitled to sue one another.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Cambodia joined ASEAN in 1999.

Xinhua



A rare Ford Model 40 Special Speedster, custom built in 1934 for Edsel Ford, then President of the Ford Motor Company, is pictured in Ypsilanti, Michigan on 25 Feb, 2008. —XINHUA

70-km long fence to be erected at Egyptian border

JERUSALEM, 27 Feb — Israeli Defence Minister Ehud said on Tuesday that a seventy-kilometre long fence will be constructed along the border with Egypt, stretching from Beerotayim to Nitzana, and then all the way to the Rafah border crossing.

According to local media, Barak made the remarks while touring Israel's western border with Egypt, noting that building the fence might take about two years.

The Defence Minister was quoted as saying that Israel has made considerable strides in the war on terror in the past weeks.

"However, there are still numerous attempts to smuggle arms and explosives along the Egyptian border, and the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) continue to work hard to thwart such attempts," Barak added.

Also on Tuesday, Major General Amos Yadlin, head of the IDF's intelligence branch, said that trained terror activists and al-Qaeda operatives have recently entered the Gaza Strip through the breached border with Egypt.

Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency Vietnam, Singapore to strengthen cooperative ties

HANOI, 26 Feb — Vietnamese State President Nguyen Minh Triet and his visiting Singaporean counterpart SR Nathan said here Monday that the two sides would broaden and deepen the bilateral multifaceted cooperation.

Vietnam and Singapore will further their friendship and bilateral cooperation on various spheres, including infrastructure, tourism and manpower, Triet said when holding talks with the President who kicked off his official five-day

visit to Vietnam on 25 February.

Vietnam is in need of expertise and finance in the development of seaports, airports and tourism resorts nationwide, Triet said.

Nathan said Singapore is ready to cooperate and coordinate with Vietnam in different fields, including infrastructure, tourism, human resource and such regional issues as luring foreign direct investment in members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and strengthening the ASEAN Regional Forum.

Singapore is experienced in developing ports and airports, Nathan said.—Xinhua

Suez Canal's daily revenue hits new record

CAIRO, 27 Feb — The daily revenue of Egypt's Suez Canal on Monday recorded at 21 million US dollars, according to the Suez Canal Authority statistics.

The total number of vessels which transited the international waterway on Monday reached 74 as the freight hit the record of 3.86 billion tons since Suez Canal's inauguration on 17 November, 1869, the Egyptian MENA news agency quoted the statistics.

The Canal's revenue in the 2006-2007 fiscal year, ending on 30 June, 2007, recorded about 4.17 billion dollars, a 17-per-cent year-on-year increase.

Xinhua



Britain was shaken by its biggest earthquake for a quarter of a century early on 27 Feb, 2008, with tremors measuring 5.2 on the Richter Scale felt across England.—INTERNET

12 killed in bus accident in northeast India

NEW DELHI, 26 Feb — At least 12 people were killed and four seriously injured in a bus accident in Indian northeast state Assam Sunday, officials said.

A police spokesperson said the accident took place about 40 kilometres east of Assam's main city of Guwahati.

"The bus plunged into a stream some 25 feet after the driver lost control while crossing a concrete bridge on the highway," the Indo-Asian News Service quoted the police official as saying.

"There were 19 people travelling in the bus. Rescue workers managed to extricate 12 bodies," the official said.—Xinhua

Philippine floods fatality grows to 35

MANILA, 26 Feb — The death toll of floods and landslides, caused by continuous downpour in eastern Philippines, has risen to 35, the country's disaster relief agency said Monday.

The National Disaster Coordinating Centre (NDCC) said in a statement that ten people remain missing while 27 were injured as the calamity hits 10 cities and 123 township-level municipalities in Bicol Region.

NDCC said 124,473 families in the region were affected and 8,610 families still remained in various evacuations centres.

Meanwhile, local health authority reported 178 diarrhea cases in the region as a result of unusual week-long rains. —Xinhua

Seven dead in central China bus crash

WUHAN, 26 Feb — Seven people died and another ten were injured when a bus crashed in central China's Hubei Province, sources with the local work safety administration said on Monday.

The accident occurred at around 6:40 am Monday on the highway linking provincial capital Wuhan and Shiyan, a transportation artery connecting central and west Hubei, when a bus, registered in Hubei, hit the median strip, and overturned.

Three passengers died when they were thrown out of the bus. Four more passengers were hit and killed by another bus three minutes later when they were trying to crawl out of the vehicle. —Xinhua

Obama, Clinton clash in heated US debate

CLEVELAND, 27 Feb — Democrats Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton clashed sharply in a high-stakes one-on-one debate on Tuesday, accusing each other of falsely portraying their stances on health care, trade and other issues.

Clinton, who needs to win next week in Ohio and Texas to keep her

presidential campaign alive after Obama's streak of 11 straight victories in nominating contests, went on the attack early in the debate at Cleveland State University in Ohio.

Obama fired back repeatedly in a series of sometimes heated but controlled exchanges. The debate, the last before next Tuesday's contests,

was sharper in tone than last week's encounter in Texas, but far less personal and angry than a debate last month in South Carolina.

Clinton kept up her recent criticism of Obama campaign literature sent to Ohio voters that she said mischaracterized her health care proposal, which includes mandates requiring Americans to purchase health insurance.

"We should have a good debate that uses accurate information, not false, misleading and discredited information, especially on something as important as whether or not we will achieve quality, affordable health care for everyone," the New York Senator said.

MNA/Reuters

Sony, Sharp unveil LCD panel joint venture

TOKYO, 27 Feb — Japanese electronics giants Sony Corp and Sharp Corp on Tuesday announced a business tie-up in liquid crystal display (LCD) panels for hot-selling flat televisions.

The two companies reached a basic deal to establish a joint venture to produce and sell large LCD panels, they said in a joint statement, adding that they hope to sign a formal accord by 30 September.

Sharp will put an LCD factory that it is building in Sakai, western Japan, under the control of the joint venture, which will begin operating by March 2010, owned 66 per cent by Sharp and 34 per cent by Sony.

Production capacity is



expected to begin with 36,000 panels per month and will be expanded to 72,000 in the future.

The size of the investment has not yet been decided, the companies said.

According to the Nikkei business daily Sony will contribute more than 100 billion yen (933 million US dollars) towards the 380-billion-yen Sharp factory.

Internet



People and cranes are seen working at an acacia plantation belonging to a pulp and paper factory in Pangkalan Kerinci, Sumatra, in November 2007.—INTERNET

UAE company to build new refinery in Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI, 27 Feb — The Abu Dhabi Oil Refining Company (TAKREER) of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) announced on Monday that it will build a new refinery in Abu Dhabi Emirate to boost its refinery capacity, *Emirates News Agency* reported.

When completed by 2013, the new refinery will have a capacity of 417,000 barrels per day (bpd), representing 86 per cent of TAKREER's current installed refining capacity, according to the report.

The refinery is in the design phase and will be located in Ruwais, some 240 kilometres from Abu Dhabi City, the UAE capital.

The project is driven by demand and the need to meet stringent product quality requirements and environmental legislation, TAKREER's general manager Jasem Ali Sayegh said.

TAKREER was established in 1999 to take over the responsibility of refining operations previously undertaken by the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC).—MNA/Xinhua

ECONMICE NEWS

Venezuela limits food exports amid shortages

CARACAS, 26 Feb — Venezuela will halt exports of foods like milk and meat unless domestic demand is met first, the government said on Monday, as leftist President Hugo Chavez struggles with shortages of staple products.

Venezuelan shoppers have for months faced shortages of basics like milk and chicken, a problem the government blames on growing demand and hoarding but business leaders say stems from price controls that do not keep pace with high inflation.

The order published in the government's gazette on Monday requires companies to acquire an export permit from the Food Ministry certifying Venezuela's domestic demand for that product has been met.

The new rule will apply to around 80 types of food including some that have been in short supply such as dairy, meat, cooking oil and flour.

MNA/Reuters



In this picture made available, on 22 Feb, 2008, by Foto Sport Studio, a life size model of a Formula One Ferrari F2008 racer made entirely of chocolate, is seen in Sorrento, near Naples, southern Italy.—INTERNET

IMF predicts economic slowdown for Canada

OTTAWA, 27 Feb — Canada's economic growth will slow down to 1.8 per cent in 2008, challenged by a slump in the United States, the high dollar and more moderate domestic demand, the International Monetary

Fund (IMF) said Monday. The agency had projected a growth rate of 2.3 per cent in its forecast last year, Canadian Press reported.

The IMF report said the Canadian economy is unlikely to decouple from the US because the US receives 75 per cent of Canada's exports. It warned that Canada could fall into a deep recession if the American economy contracts, the US dollar plummets and commodity prices fall.

In that scenario, Canada's economy could shrink by 3.3 per cent this year and 3.8 per cent in 2009 before recovering to barely above zero in 2010, the agency said.

MNA/Xinhua



Tata Group Chairman Ratan Tata (2nd L) and Fiat's Vice Chairman John Elkann (L) pose with Ferrari 612 Scaglietti cars before the start of Magic India Discovery tour in Mumbai on 25 Feb, 2008. The 74-day tour will touch 57 Indian cities and cover more than 13,000 km (8,077 miles).—INTERNET

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects Myogyi Dam Project in Shan State (South)

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Feb — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence inspected Myogyi Multipurpose Dam Project in Ywangan Township in Shan State (South) yesterday.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint, accompanied by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Tin Ngwe inspected digging main canal and construction of diversion canal for the dam.

At the briefing hall of the project, U Myo Tun, Director of the Construction Group-7 of the Irrigation Department, reported to Lt-Gen Ye Myint on construction work of the project including construction of the main dam, a diversion tunnel and a spillway. After hearing reports, Lt-Gen Ye Myint called for timely completion of the project meeting the set standards.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint visited the work site of the diversion tunnel and the main dam.

The diversion tunnel of the dam is 468 metre long and its diameter is 18 ft.

During his tour of Shan State (South), Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party also visited Thanywa People's Hospital in Kyaukse Township and inspected the medicine store, patient ward,

operation theatre and X-ray room. Deputy Director-General of the Health Department Dr Kyaw Nyunt Sein and officials conducted them around the hospital. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions.

MNA



Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects Myogyi Multipurpose Dam Project in Ywangan Township, Shan State (South). — MNA



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects Monepaw regional development tasks in Muse

YANGON, 27 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 during his visit to Muse of Shan State (North) attended an opening ceremony of Kanbawza Bank (Muse branch) yesterday.

First, Commander Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut and Chairman of

Kanbawza Bank Limited U Aung Ko Win formally opened the ceremony of the bank.

At Shweli Yeiktha of Muse, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win met with executives of Muse District and Muse and Namhkam Townships Union Solidarity and Development Associations and discussed regional development tasks with them and urged them to try their best in the development tasks.

Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party attended a ceremony to present

medical equipment and cash donations for Monepaw station hospital at Nyein Aye Myay hall of Monepaw village in Muse Township. Afterwards, Chairman of Township PDC U Nyunt Han briefed on developments in agriculture, education, health and transportation sectors after making peace with armed groups. The commander gave a supplementary report.

Monepaw region national race group presented medical equipment worth K 2.6 million and K

500,000 to the commander.

Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party inspected physic nut sapplings in Monepaw village and thriving paddy field of farmer U Ba Yan Shoung in Mongphan village.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party

visited Monepaw station hospital and provided supplies to the patients. Next, they inspected Monepaw Basic Education High School (branch) and presented uniforms to teachers and two sets of computer for the school.

MNA

MWJA meets

YANGON, 27 Feb — Central Executive Committee of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association held its 2/

2008 meeting at Sapay Beikman building on Merchant Street, this afternoon.

Vice-Chairman-1 of MWJA U Tin Kha (Tekkatho Tin Kha) gave a speech. Secretary Dr Tin Tun Oo reported on implementation of the resolutions of the previous meeting.

Leaders of the respective work committees reported on the work done and took part in the discussions.

The meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by the Vice-Chairman-1 of MWJA.

MNA



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects transplanted rice seedlings in a field in Mongphan Village in Shan State (North). — MNA



Myanmar pursuing goal of democracy with transparency and time frame

U Pyay Kyaw

The Union of Myanmar is an independent and sovereign nation. In the past, the country was subjugated for 123 years by the British, and during the period, the colonizer exploited and unjustly took out of the nation the precious stones such as gold, silver, diamond, jade, ruby and sapphire including natural resources, agricultural produce and royal gems.

Like Myanmar, many other world countries fell under the colonial rule of the western industrialized countries such as the Britain, France, Belgium, the Dutch, Spain, Portugal and the US. They also exploited all the natural resources of the colonies.

At that time, the dictionaries in circulation in the colonialist countries did not carry some words such as freedom, liberty, independence, democracy, human rights, non-aggression and non-interference.

Unlike in the past, now they are repeatedly shouting the expressions of freedom, human rights, and democracy. At the same time, they are invading, imposing economic sanctions against, and interfering in the internal affairs of former colonies that are now engaged in national reconstruction tasks. They are none other than hypocrites.

In the course of history, Myanmar people had led a peaceful life, sharing joys and sorrows. Myanmar came under acts of aggressions of the colonialists in 1824, and since then, the people had fought back the colonizers in unity. The regaining of the State's territory and sovereignty (independence) cost a large number of lives and limbs of the people. Since 4 January 1948 on which the nation regained independence, the people had fallen victims to internal armed conflicts that occurred at the instigation of the colonialists and due to the sectarianism.

It was known to the international community that the Union was on the edge of an abyss, and the nation almost lost independence and encountered bloodshed four times—from 1948 to 1950, from 1958 to 1960, in the early 1962, and in 1988, and thus the people and the Tatmadaw had to defend the Union in collaboration.

Anyhow, peace has been restored in Myanmar since 1989. **Seventeen national race armed groups returned to the legal fold in consideration of the public interests. Myanmar enjoyed the taste of development at the unprecedented level from 1988**

to 2008. With community peace and stability of the State, the government is now implementing the fourth step of the road map.

In 1992, the government held discussions with the ten legal political parties (including NLD) and reached an agreement to hold the National Convention in order to lay down fundamental principles for a constitution. In 1990, Sein Win and some NLD member MPs fled to the camp of armed insurgents in border areas and illegally formed a so-called parallel government.

Thus, NLD Chairman U Aung Shwe removed Daw Suu Kyi's cousin expatriate Sein Win and NLD member accomplices, and U Tin Oo and Daw Suu Kyi who violated the law and incited riots, as member of the NLD headquarters. In addition, he sent a letter with his signature to the Multi-party Democracy General Election Commission, requesting that the commission remove them as representatives-elect.

Five NLD HQ members and nearly 100 NLD representatives led by U Aung Shwe had attended the National Convention since 1993, implying that NLD accepted the concept that a State constitution was essential for the nation.

It is common knowledge that the State Constitution Drafting Committee under the leadership of General Aung San drew the 1947 constitution in haste. At that time, the nation was still under the rule of the British government. Under the coercion and pressure of some Shan sawbwas (chieftains), the constitution enumerated some principles on the rights to secede from the Union 10 years after independence.

In the early March 1962, the ruling Pa-Hta-Sa (Union) government was not in a position at all to control the federal movement designed to secede from the Union and then join the South-East Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) led by the US. In consequence, the government could no longer practise the 1947 constitution.

In 1974, a new constitution was introduced on the basis of Socialism. Nonetheless, in the pragmatic world, the nation practising Socialist Constitution Law did not achieve much economic growth due to various reasons. Again the 1974 constitution was abrogated in 1988, resulting from the objection in the mass protests.

A five-warship fleet including an aircraft carrier of a big country intruded into the Myanmar's waters, prompting the Tatmadaw to take up State responsibilities.

The Union was witnessing general deterioration, stemming from inhumane killings of Myanmar people by same compatriots, burning down public property, looting of shops and government warehouses, and vying each other for power. So, the people and the Tatmadaw again had to save the Union.

The process of drawing an enduring constitution was carried out, taking lessons from defects and loopholes of the 1947 constitution and the 1974 constitution.

The National Convention was attended by more than 1000 representatives from ten legal political parties, representatives of representatives-elect, independent representatives-elect, representatives of national races from various townships, representatives of peasants, workers, intellectuals and intelligentsia and State service personnel, legal experts and representatives from national race peace groups.

Proposal papers of respective delegate groups, collections of the panel of chairmen of the National Convention plenary sessions, clarifications of the National Convention Convening Commission, and fundamental principles and detailed basic principles adopted with the approval of the plenary sessions received media coverage.

Proposal papers submitted to and discussions held at the National Convention, and principles of the chapters were collected into a book after the National Convention was completed on 3 September 2007. And copies were distributed at the reasonable prices. Nonetheless, renegades, the media under the influence of the colonialists, and internal traitorous national axe-handles are saying that the discussions held and principles adopted at the National Convention are incomprehensible lacking transparency. I would like to urge them to find them up in the old newspapers.

The newspapers carried 15 chapters or principles for 15 chapters to be included in the constitution as follows:—

Chapter (1)	The State	28-8-2007
Chapter (2)	The State Structure	28-8-2007
Chapter (3)	The Head of State	28-8-2007
Chapter (4)	Legislature	29-8-2007
Chapter (5)	Executive	30-8-2007
Chapter (6)	Judiciary	1-9-2007
Chapter (7)	The Tatmadaw	2-9-2007
Chapter (8)	Citizens, Fundamental Principles and Responsibilities of Citizens	2-9-2007
Chapter (9)	Election	2-9-2007
Chapter (10)	Political Parties	2-9-2007
Chapter (11)	Provisions on State of Emergency	3-9-2007
Chapter (12)	Amendment of the Constitution	3-9-2007
Chapter (13)	State Flag, State Seal, National Anthem and the Capital	3-9-2007
Chapter (14)	Transitory Provisions	3-9-2007
Chapter (15)	General Provisions	3-9-2007

During the period when Daw Suu Kyi and U Tin Oo were placed under restrictions, U Aung Shwe and NLD central executive committee attended the meeting to coordinate for holding the National Convention and agreed to the resolutions. Nearly 90

(See page 11)

The National Convention was completed on 3 September 2007, and before long a 54-member Commission for Drafting the State Constitution was formed. The 54 members included legal experts from states and divisions, professors of various fields, and those who are well-versed in the political, economic and administrative affairs. On 3 December 2007, the commission launched the drafting of the State constitution based on the principles the National Convention had adopted. On 19 February 2008, the commission plenary session adopted the draft and all the commission members signed the draft on 20 February.

<div>The Union of Myanmar The State Peace and Development Council The Referendum Law for the Approval of the Draft Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, 2008 (The State Peace and Development Council Law No 1/2008) The 5th Waning Day of Tabodwe 1369ME (26th February,2008) Preamble The Commission for Drafting the State Constitution has drafted the State Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar leading to non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of the national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty; building of the modern, developed and well-disciplined democratic State for which the entire people are longing; and for the long-term interest of all nationalities who are residing in the Union in accordance with the basic principles and detailed basic principles adopted by the National Convention. The State Peace and Development Council hereby enacts the following Law to enable the adoption of the draft law drafted as such by the entire people through referendum. Chapter 1 Title and Definition 1. This Law shall be called the Referendum Law for the Approval of the Draft Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, 2008. 2. The following expressions contained in this Law shall have the meanings given here under: (a) This Law means the Referendum Law for the Approval of the Draft Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, 2008: (b) Referendum means the Referendum held for enabling the approval of the draft State Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar; (c) Commission means the Commission for Holding Referendum; (d) State or Divisional Sub-commission means the State or Divisional Sub-commission for Holding Referendum. The said expression also includes the Sub-commission of the Shan State(North), Shan State (East) and Bago Division (West); (e) District Sub-commission means the District Sub-commission for Holding Referendum; (f) Township Sub-commission means the Township Sub-commission for Holding Referendum; (g) Ward or Village-tract Sub-commission means Ward or Village-tract Sub-commission for Holding Referendum; (h) Citizen means the person who is already a citizen of the Union of Myanmar according to the existing law; (i) Member of religious order means: (i) in the case of Buddhists, monks, novices, religious laymen and nuns; Explanation: The expression, member of religious order, applies to a religious monk or a member of the religious order while he is serving temporarily as such; (ii) in the case of Christians, persons who have been recognized and ordained or assigned duties by the relevant Churches as an individual who has dedicated himself mainly to serving the Christian religious order, persons included in the group of individuals or organization which of their own volition have submitted to the control of the respective head according to the religion professed as organized by religious discipline or vow; (iii) in the case of Hindus, Sanyazi, Mahant or Hindu priest; (j) Referendum Area means ward of village-tract prescribed by the Commission to vote for holding referendum; (k) Voting roll means the roll of persons who are at the prescribed referendum areas and have the right to vote; (l) Polling Booth Team means the team appointed by the relevant Sub-commission for carrying out voting in collective responsibility at a polling booth; (m) Polling Booth Officer means the leader of the polling booth team appointed by the relevant Sub-commission; (n) Cancelled Vote means: (1) the ballot paper of advance ballot paper which has no prescribed mark, (2) the ballot paper or advance ballot paper scrutinised and decided by the polling booth team to be a fake ballot paper or advance ballot paper, and (3) the ballot paper destroyed by any means and inserted in the ballot box.</div>	<div>Chapter II Convening the Referendum 3. (a) The referendum shall be held for the approval of the draft constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar; (b) The referendum shall be held completely within the period prescribed by the Commission. 4. (a) The Commission shall declare the day on which the referendum is to be held at least 21days advance; (b) The Township Sub-commission and the Ward or Village-tract Sub-commissions shall declare the list of the persons who have the right to vote according to their referendum area for holding referendum at least 7 days in advance. Chapter III Formation of the Commission and Sub-commissions 5. (a) The State Peace and Development Council shall form a referendum commission for holding referendum with the necessary number of suitable citizens; (b) The commission formed under sub-section (a) shall form or may cause to be formed the following sub-commissions: (1) a State or Divisional Sub-commission in a State or Division, comprising 15 members; (2) a District Sub-commission in a district, comprising 15 members; (3) a Township Sub-commission in a township, comprising 15 members; (4) a Ward or Village-tract Sub-commission in a ward or village-tract, comprising 5 to 20 members. Chapter IV Duties and Powers of the Commission for Holding Referendum and Sub-commissions 6. The duties and powers of the Commission are as follows: (a) holding referendum; (b) forming, guiding and supervising the sub-commissions; (c) determining and declaring the referendum areas for holding referendum; (d) prescribing the period to hold referendum; (e) guiding and supervising for preparation of list and schedule relating to holding referendum; (f) prescribing the forms, seals, ballot papers and advance ballot papers to be used by the Commission and Sub-commissions for holding referendum; (g) issuing ballot papers and advance ballot papers to the respective District Sub-commission; (h) sending the advance ballot papers to the relevant head of embassy or consulate through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to enable the persons who are abroad and having the right to vote, to cast vote; (i) declaring the number of person eligible to vote, persons who cast vote, persons who cast vote-in-favour and their comparison in percentage, reporting to the State Peace and Development Council after the referendum has been held; (j) carrying out other necessary matters relating to the referendum. 7. The Duties and powers of the State or Divisional Sub-commissions are as follows: (a) forming District Sub-commissions and Township Sub-commissions in accordance with the directive of the Commission; (b) supervising and coordinating the performance of the works of the District, Township and Wards or Village-tract Sub-commissions; (c) reporting the performance of the works of State and Divisional Sub-commissions to the Commission; (d) sending in advance to the Commission the lists of persons eligible to vote sent by the Township Sub-commissions according to the township; (e) sending the list to the Commission by preparing it in accordance with stipulations by differentiating the list of persons eligible to vote, persons who cast vote, votes-in-favor, votes-against and cancelled votes after collecting the number of votes sent by Township Sub-commissions after the referendum has been held. 8. The Duties and Powers of the District Sub-commissions are as follows: (a) requesting necessary for ballot papers and advance ballot papers for Township Sub-commissions from the Commission and distributing them sufficiently to Township Sub-commissions; (b) supervising and coordinating the performance of works of Townships Sub-commissions and Ward or Village-tract Sub-commissions; (c) carrying out in accordance with the directives of the Commission and State or Divisional Sub-commissions.</div>
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9. The Duties and Powers of Township Sub-commissions are as follows:
- forming Ward or Village-tract Sub-commissions in accordance with the directive of the Commission;
 - supervising the referendum held in ward or village-tract;
 - declaring, adding, amending and approving the voting rolls according to the relevant referendum areas relating to the referendum, sending in advance of the approved list of persons eligible to vote to the relevant State or Divisional Sub-commission;
 - requesting necessary ballot papers and advance ballot papers for referendum areas in the township from the District Sub-commission and distributing them sufficiently to the Ward or Village-tract Sub-commissions according to referendum areas and the teams contained in clauses (2), (3), (4), (5) and (6) of sub-section (d) of section 12;
 - declaring the days to vote at the referendum areas in the township;
 - reporting the list to the State and Divisional Sub-commission after preparing it by differentiating the list of persons who cast vote, votes in-favour, votes-against and cancelled votes after collecting the number of votes sent by Ward or Village-tract Sub-commissions, and sending the copy to the Commission and relevant District Sub-commissions;
 - reporting the performance of the works of Township Sub-commission to District Sub-commission and sending the copy to the Commission and relevant State or Divisional Sub-commissions;
 - carrying out other necessary matters relating to the referendum.
10. The Duties and Powers of Ward or Village-tract Sub-commissions are as follows:
- carrying out and taking responsibility for the referendum held in ward or village-tract;
 - submitting to the relevant Township Sub-commission for approval after preparing voting roll for referendum and declaring the approved voting roll in ward or village-tract;
 - declaring the polling booth areas and locations in ward or village-tract referendum area with the approval of Township Sub-commission and appointing members of polling booth team and polling booth officer;
- Proviso:** If any polling booth officer and member of polling booth team is unable to carry out the duty assigned for any reasons on the day of referendum, any suitable citizen who is respected by the local public may be assigned in substitution. Such assignment shall be reported to the Township Sub-commission.
- distributing ballot papers and advance ballot papers obtained from Township Sub-commission to polling booth teams sufficiently;
 - making ballot boxes in accordance with the stipulations;
 - opening ballot boxes of each polling booth at the said polling booth and supervising in counting votes;
 - sending list to Township Sub-commission after preparing it in accordance with stipulations by differentiating list of persons who cast vote, votes-in-favour, votes-against, cancelled votes, ballot paper and advance ballot paper received, remaining ballot papers and advance ballot papers;
 - reporting the performance of the works of Ward or Village-tract Sub-commission to Township Sub-commission;
 - carrying out other necessary matters relating to the referendum.

Chapter V Preparing Voting Rolls

11. (a) Every citizen, associate citizen, naturalized citizen and temporary certificate holder who has completed the age of eighteen years on the day of referendum shall have the right to vote at the referendum. Every person who is so entitled to vote shall be mentioned in the voting roll.
- (b) The names of the following persons who are in conformity with the provisions contained in sub-section (a) are entitled to be mentioned in the voting roll:
- the diplomats, diplomatic staff, consular staff of the Union of Myanmar and members of their household;
 - members of army, navy or air force of Tatmadaw who are out of referendum area on duty on the day of referendum although they live within military unit, and members of their household living together with them;
 - persons who are appointed by the Government to carry out duties outside the Union of Myanmar and members of their household;
 - State scholars who are abroad and members of their household living together with them;
 - other persons who are abroad with the permission of the Government;
 - students who are studying at various universities, degree colleges, colleges, institutes and schools;

Explanation: University, degree-college, college, institute and school means the universities, degree-colleges, colleges, institutes and schools opened or recognized by the Government for study by students. The said expression includes vocational schools, social welfare schools and homes or universities or schools established by the Tatmadaw.

Among the students studying at universities, degree-colleges, colleges, institutes and schools, students who come from other region and are studying there other than students who are included in voting roll of the area where the relevant university, degree-college, college, institute and school is established, are entitled to vote in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

- persons who are taking medical treatment as in-patient in hospital and service personnel who are on duty;
 - persons who are at the worksite of other region, having left their base camp, under the assignment of any Government department or organization;
 - detainees in custody of police station or prisons;
- (c) In preparing the voting roll, temporary workers who come from referendum area of permanent residence to other referendum area individually or in group until the day of referendum is over, they may be included in the voting roll of the referendum area where they are now present. The relevant Township Sub-commission shall be informed to cancel the list of the names of such persons from the voting roll of the referendum area where they originally resided.
- (d) The following persons shall not be included in the voting roll:
- members of religious orders;
 - persons who have been adjudged to be of unsound mind as provided for in the relevant law;
 - persons serving prison terms, having been convicted under order or sentence of a court for any offence;
 - persons who are illegally abroad;
 - foreigners.
12. (a) The voting roll shall be prepared by the Ward or Village-tract Sub-commissions according to their ward or village-tract.
- (b) The Ward or Village-tract Sub-commissions shall include the name of every eligible voter who lives in their ward or village-tract under sub-section (a) of section 11 in the voting roll.
- (c) In preparing voting roll under sub-section (a), the names of persons mentioned in sub-section (b) of section 11 shall not be included in the voting roll of Ward or Village-tract where they reside. If it is included in that voting roll, the name of such person shall be removed from the voting roll.
- (d) In preparing the voting roll for the persons included in sub-section (b) of section 11, the following teams formed with suitable number of members as directed by the Commission shall prepare it:
- for the persons who are abroad and eligible to vote and members of their household living with them, head of the relevant embassy and team or head of consulate and team;
 - for the members of army, navy, air force of Tatmadaw who are out of referendum area on duty on the day of referendum although they reside in military unit and members of their household living together with them, relevant commanding office and team;
 - for the students who are studying at various universities, degree-colleges, colleges, institutes and schools, rector of the university and team if it is the university; principal and team, if it is the degree-college and college; principal and team, if it is the institute and school; head of such school and team, if it is the school for social welfare; head of the school and team, if it is the home, head of the home;
 - for persons taking medical treatments as in-patient in hospital and service personnel who are on duty, medical superintendent of the hospital and team;
 - for the persons who are at the work-site of other region, having left their base camp, under the assignment of any Government department or organization, head of such worksite and team;
 - for detainees in custody of police station, officer-in-charge of relevant police station and team, for detainees in prison, warden and team.
- (e) in preparing voting roll for members of army, navy and air force of Tatmadaw who are eligible to vote under sub-section (a) of section 11 and members of their household, Ward or Village-tract Sub-commission shall carry out as follows:

(from page 9)

- (1) including the names of members of army, navy and air force of Tatmadaw who reside at the regiments, military units, military commands based within their relevant Ward or Village-tract and members of their household with the help of relevant commanding officer;
 - (2) including the names of members of army, navy and air force of Tatmadaw who are out of relevant military unit and the names of members of their household living together with them, in the voting roll of referendum area where they reside.
13. (a) The Ward or Village-tract Sub-commissions shall carry out inspection, declaration, amending and adding to the voting roll. However, in respect of amending, adding to the voting roll, the approval of the relevant Township Sub-commission shall be obtained.
- (b) The teams formed under sub-section (d) of Section 12 shall carry out inspection, declaration, amending, adding and approving the voting roll like the Ward or Village-tract Sub-commissions. If dispute arises relating to voting-roll, approval shall be obtained, for the team formed under clauses (1) and (2) of sub-section (d) of section 12, from the Commission, and for other teams, from their relevant Township Sub commission. The decision of the Commission and Township Sub-commission shall be final and conclusive.

Chapter VI
Voting

14. (a) Every person who is included in the voting roll for the referendum is entitled to vote.
- (b) The person who is entitled to vote shall cast vote only at the polling booth of the referendum area in which his name is included.
15. Stipulated ballot box shall be placed at a conspicuous place for public to enable voters to cast vote conveniently at every polling booth where referendum is to be held.
16. A person who is entitled to vote shall have the right to vote only once at the referendum.
17. A person eligible to vote shall obtain the ballot paper from Polling Booth Officer or person assigned by Polling Booth Officer, express his wish secretly at the stipulated place in the polling booth and put it into the ballot box.
18. The persons eligible to vote who are abroad, and persons who are to travel out of the referendum area where they reside on the day referendum is held are entitled to vote with advance ballot paper in accordance with the stipulations.
19. The manner of voting for the persons mentioned in sub-section (b) of section 11 shall be as stipulated in the Rules made under this Law.

Chapter VII
Postponing and Dissolving of Voting

20. (a) The relevant Township Sub-commission may postpone once to a suitable date for enabling voting at all polling booths or some polling booths or a polling booth within the stipulated period under sub-section (d) of section 6, if free and fair referendum may not be held stably due to natural disaster or situation affecting the security or any other disaster. In addition, polling booths may be immediately transferred to a place it deems appropriate. Such postponement and transfer shall be submitted to District Sub-commission and the copy shall be submitted to the Commission and relevant State or Divisional Sub-commissions.
- (b) If the persons eligible to vote are unable to vote at any polling booth on stipulated day to vote due to any reasons contained in sub-section (a), the Polling Booth Team shall declare postponement of voting. If it is postponed while being voted, Polling Booth Team shall close the ballot box in the presence of 5 persons eligible to vote and such process of the event shall be submitted immediately to respective the Ward or Village-tract Sub-commission. Such Sub-commission shall report to Township Sub-commission with its recommendation.
- (c) The Ward or Village-tract Sub-commission shall determine and declare a day within the stipulated period under sub-section (d) of section 6 and venue for casting vote by remaining persons eligible to vote at the polling booth declared for postponement.
- (d) New ballot box shall be used for voting on the day postponed.
21. (a) If situation arises to dissolve voting for referendum due to any reasons contained in section 20, the Ward or Village-tract Sub-commission may dissolve some polling booths or all polling booths within its referendum area. If such situation arises, the Ward or Village-tract Sub-commission shall submit its performance immediately to the relevant Township Sub-commission.
- (b) The Township Sub-commission shall report the submission of Ward or Village-tract Sub-commission under sub-section (a), to District Sub-commission with its recommendation immediately and send the copy

- to Commission and relevant State or Divisional Sub-commissions.
- (c) If situation arises to dissolve voting of referendum due to any reasons contained in section 20, the Township Sub-commission may dissolve a referendum area or up to the half of all stipulated referendum areas in its Township. If situation arises to dissolve over half of all referendum areas, the Township Sub-commission shall report to the relevant District Sub-commission and State or Divisional Sub-commission immediately with its recommendation.
- (d) The State or Divisional Sub-commission shall give decision on the submission of Township Sub-commission under sub-section (c). Such decision shall be final and conclusive. The State or Divisionl Sub-commission shall report such decision for dissolution to the Commission and send the copy to relevant District Sub-commissions and Township Sub-commissions.

Chapter VIII
Counting of Votes

22. (a) The polling booth team, immediately after closing the polling booth, shall:
- (1) inspect the ballot boxes in the presence of not less than ten persons eligible to vote, open such ballot boxes and count the votes. In so counting, votes-in-favour, votes-against and cancelled votes shall be differentiated and counted;
 - (2) continue to obtain the votes from remaining eligible voters in the postponed date under sub-section (c) of section 20. Only after closing such polling booth, votes from such polling booth shall be counted by adding the votes from the ballot boxes closed securely under sub-section (b) of section 20;
 - (3) count only the votes in the ballot boxes closed securely under sub-section (b) of section 20, if voting is unable to be held also on the postponed date under sub-section (c) of section 20;
 - (4) prepare separately the list of voters contained in voting roll, votes in favour, votes against, cancelled votes, ballot papers received and remaining ballot papers and send to the Ward or Village-tract Sub Commission in conformity with clause (1).
- (b) The Ward or Village-tract Sub-Commission shall collect the lists sent under clause (4) of sub-section (a) according to polling booth, prepare combined list, and advance ballot papers received and send to relevant Township Sub-commission with report.
- (c) The Township Sub-commission shall send combined list to State or Divisional Sub-commission with report of:
- (1) the lists collected and prepared according to the Ward or Village-tract sent by Ward or Village-tract Sub-commissions under sub-section (b);
 - (2) the lists obtained after counting advance ballot papers sent by teams formed under clauses (2), (3), (4), (5) and (6) of sub-section (d) of section 12 and advance ballot papers sent by Ward or Village-tract Sub-commissions and lists contained in clause (1). Such Copy shall be sent to the Commission and relevant District Sub-commissions.
- (d) The State or Divisional Sub-commission shall collect and send the voting lists sent by the Township Sub-commissions under sub-section (c) to the Commission.
- (e) The Commission shall count the advance ballot papers sent by teams formed under clause (1) of sub-section (d) of section 12 after differentiating votes in favour, votes against and cancelled votes.

Chapter IX
Declaring Votes

23. The Commission shall, after holding the referendum, combine the lists of advance ballot papers submitted by the State or Divisional Sub-commissions under sub-section (d) of section 22 and lists of advance ballot papers counted by the Commission under sub-section (e) of section 22, declare the number of eligible voters, number of voters in favour and the comparison of them in percentage.

Chapter X
Prohibition and Penalty

24. In respect of the referendum, no one shall do any of the following:
- (a) voting more than once;
 - (b) possessing the fake ballot paper or fake advance ballot paper;
 - (c) destroying the ballot paper or advance ballot paper;
 - (d) taking away the ballot paper outside the polling booth;
 - (e) opening the ballot box without authority, destroying or affecting it in any other manner;

(See page 11)

(from page 10)

- (f) destroying the polling booth;
- (g) making or destroying intentionally the lists, notices or other documents issued by the Commission and Sub-commission so as to be unable to be read;
- (h) lecturing, distributing papers, using posters or disturbing the voting in any other manner in the polling booth or on the premises of polling booth or at the public or private place to destroy the referendum.

25. Whoever violates any prohibition contained in section 24, attempts to violates as such, commit any criminal act by conspiring to violate or abet in violation, shall, on conviction, be punished with imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or with a fine not exceeding one hundred thousand kyats or, with both.

Chapter XI

Obtaining Financial and Staff Assistance

26. (a) The Commission shall:
- (1) submit and request the State Peace and Development Council by calculating the estimated expenditure for holding referendum and expend;
 - (2) allocate, as appropriate, out of the fund requested and obtained under clause (1) to the Sub-commissions.
- (b) The Sub-commissions shall:
- (1) expend the fund allocated by the Commission under sub-section (a) as directed by the Commission and keep the accounts systematically;
 - (2) send their balance statements of accounts to the Commission after holding the referendum.

27. The Commission may co-ordinate and obtain necessary staff and material assistance for the Commission and Sub-commissions from the ministries and organizations.

Chapter XII
Miscellaneous

28. The Commission shall submit the report to the State Peace and Development

Council after declaring the situation of the vote obtained under section 23.

29. (a) If the office of the member of the Commission becomes vacant for any reason, the State Peace and Development Council may substitute and appoint a member for such office;
- (b) If the office of the member of any Sub-commission becomes vacant for any reason, the following Commission or Sub-commissions may substitute and appoint:
- (1) if it is the post of the member of State or Divisional Sub-commissions, the Commission;
 - (2) if it is the post of the member of District Sub-commission, relevant State or Divisional Sub-commission;
 - (3) if it is the post of the member of the Township Sub-commission, relevant State or Divisional Sub-commission;
 - (4) if it is the post of the member of Ward or Village-tract Sub-commission, relevant Township Sub-commission.
- (c) The performance of the Commission or Sub-commission shall not be invalidated due to vacancy of the post of the member of the Commission and Sub-commission.

30. For the purpose of implementing the provisions of this Law, the State Peace and Development Council may make such Rules as may be necessary.

31. The Commission may without contravening to the provisions of this Law or Rules made hereunder issue such notifications, orders and directives as may be necessary without.

Sd./ (Than Shwe)
Senior General
Chairman

The State Peace and Development Council

Myanmar pursuing goal of democracy with...

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NLD representatives including U Aung Shwe attended the National Convention that was launched on 9 January 1993. NLD representatives led by U Aung Shwe and representatives of Shan NLD led by U Khun Tun Oo attended the National Convention till it laid down Chapter (1) "State Fundamental Principles", Chapter (2) "The detailed basic principles for The State Structure", Chapter (3) "The detailed basic principles for The Head of State", Chapter (4) "The detailed basic principles for Formation of Legislature", Chapter (5) "The detailed basic principles for Formation of Executive", and Chapter (6) "The detailed basic principles for Formation of Judiciary".

In July 1995, restrictions placed on Daw Suu Kyi were lifted. Since then, the 86 NLD representatives left the National Convention under the orders of Daw Suu Kyi. Then, NLD resorted to various means to disrupt the progress of the National Convention.

Hearing the announcement that the National Convention would resume on 17 May 2004, NLD informed that it would attend the convention. In response, an invitation letter was delivered to NLD. The party said that it was required to hold a meeting of the NLD executive committee with Daw Suu Kyi and U Tin Oo to decide whether or not it would attend the convention again. Following the news aired by VOA and BBC, NLD coerced the government to lay down State fundamental principles that the NLD representatives had agreed to. State fundamental principles were laid down by the National Convention, not by the government. So, any of the State fundamental principles could not be omitted, rejected, or amended. If NLD had been clever enough to achieve its intention, it would have attended the convention again and would have submitted its wishes to it.

On the evening of 14 May 2004, VOA and BBC broadcast a news story that NLD would not attend the

National Convention again, and it was news to me. I wondered if NLD did not know how to practise politics, or it had no power to do on its own. It turned its back to the National Convention for the second time. Had not it left the convention and continued to attend it in 1995, Hluttaw would have gone through its term two times by now.

I wonder whether it was NLD's own decision that it would not attend the National Convention in May 2004. Then, expatriates and some western radio stations such as BBC, VOA and RFA claimed that the convention would not be meaningful unless NLD attended it. NLD changed its mind so easily.

From 2004 to 2007, those who were anxious to disrupt the progress of the National Convention used media and explosives, and agitated the people, and then tried to use the UN. Whatever it may be, the entire national people are determined to continue the State's seven-step Road Map. The people expressed their support for the National Convention by holding mass rallies throughout the nation.

An accusation said that the tasks for emergence of a new constitution were not transparent. They will never realize the tasks so long as they are turning a blind eye to them. Now, the entire Myanmar people are accustomed to such accusations.

Another comment said that the Myanmar government said it was working for transition to democracy, but there was no time frame. **The National Convention was completed on 3 September 2007, and before long a 54-member commission for drafting the State constitution was formed. The 54 members included legal experts from states and divisions, professors of various fields, and those who are well-versed in the political, economic and administrative affairs. On 3 December 2007, the commission launched the drafting of the State constitution based on the principles the National Convention had adopted. On 19 February 2008, the commission plenary session adopted the draft and all the commission members signed the draft on 20 February.**

On 9 February 2008, the State Peace and Development Council released Announcement No 1/ 2008 and said that the draft will be approved through a referendum in May 2008. The announcement was aired on TV and radio and stated in the newspapers, and journals and it was posted on the Internet.

On 9 February 2008, the SPDC issued Announcement No 2/2008 and said that it will hold the multi-party democracy general elections in accordance with the new State Constitution in 2010. The process of building a discipline-flourishing democratic nation is transparent with a time frame. I would like to put a question. When will the US and Europe (NATO) withdraw their troops from Iraq and Afghanistan? They are urged to present a time frame to the international community for transparency.

The US President Bush is showing total disregard for the demand of the US citizens and US Congress to present a time frame of pulling back the US troops. Then, why did he demand a time frame in the Myanmar affairs? I have heard that he invited the UN Secretary-General and put pressure on him to deal with the Myanmar issue. Asia News Channel news said that the US government said that Myanmar would have to re-draw the constitution. In this regard, I have to remind it that Myanmar people solely have the right to draw and practise the constitution of the nation.

Representatives of various national races and the people participated in the process of holding the National Convention and drawing the State Constitution, and the entire people will participate in the holding of referendum, approving the draft and implementing the democratic transition processes. So, public participation will make history of the nation. I have no spare time to pay attention to the words of those negative attitude in the Myanmar's internal affairs. Myanmar people will continue to serve the interests of the nation with the strength of the national forces.

Translation: MS

Myanma Alin, Kyemon: 27-2-2008

ADVERTISEMENT

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MILLENNIUM VOY NO (01/08)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MILLENNIUM VOY NO (01/08) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 27.2.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(3) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S K.M INTERTRANS CO, LTD
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Senior Chinese leader meets Cambodian official

BEIJING, 27 Feb—He Guoqiang, a senior leader of the Communist Party of China (CPC), met here on Monday with Keo Puth Rasmey, chairman of Cambodia's FUNCINPEC Party and Deputy Prime Minister.

He, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and secretary of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI), said that relations between China and Cambodia had maintained smooth development, with fruitful cooperation in various fields.

He said that China treasured the traditional friendship with Cambodia and would always be Cambodia's good neighbour, friend and partner. — MNA/Xinhua

Various UN agencies provides grants to Nepal

KATHMANDU, 27 Feb—The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has agreed to provide a grant assistance of 68,214, 000 US dollars to the Nepali Government, the national news agency RSS quoted a Press release issued by the Ministry of Finance in Nepali capital Kathmandu on Monday.

A Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP) to this effect was signed between the Nepali Government and the UNICEF in Kathmandu on Monday. Under the CPAP, UNICEF will provide 20,214,000 US dollars from its Regular Resources while 48 million US dollars will be provided through Other Resources.

The duration of CPAP is to last for three years between 2008 and 2010. The overall goal of the Country Programme is the realization of the rights of all children and women

through support to the interlinked objectives of peace, reconciliation, and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MGDs).

Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Finance Krishna Gyawali and Gillian Mellosop, Representative of UNICEF

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Tin Ohnmar Tun
B.A (LAW) LL.B, LL.M (UK)
P.O.Box 109, Ph: 723043
(For. Domnarn Somgiat & Boonma, Attorneys at Law, Thailand.)
Dated: 28 February, 2008

UAE Airline announces first order for Boeing aircraft

ABU DHABI, 27 Feb—RAK Airways of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) announced on Monday its first order of four new generation Boeing 737-800 NG aircraft, Emirates News Agency reported.

The deal, which also includes purchase rights for two additional airplanes, is worth 1.65 billion dirhams (450 million US dollars), the report said.

It makes RAK Airways the first in the UAE to buy Boeing 737-800 NG aircraft, a short-to-medium-range airplane.

RAK Airways launched its inaugural flight from its hub city Ras Al Khaimah in the country's north to the Bangladeshi capital Dhaka in November 2007 with a leased plane. It currently provides services to Dhaka and Sri Lankan capital Colombo.

MNA/Xinhua

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS
INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER

1. Sealed Tender is invited by Myanma Railways, for supply of the following Stores which will be purchased in US Dollar, Euro;

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Quantity
1.	12(T)34/MR(ML) 2007-2008	Wheel, Axle, Roller Bearing	1 Lot

Closing Date/Time - 28.3.2008 (Friday) (12:00) hours

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanma Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon starting from 28.2.2008 during the office hours.

3. For further details please call: 291982, 291985 (201555 Ext 601,605)
Deputy General Manager
Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Botahtaung, Yangon

S China border police seize 238 kilos of drugs

GUANGZHOU, 27 Feb—Border police in south China's Guangdong Province said Monday that their largest case last year involved the seizure of 238 kilos of drugs and the arrest of five suspected drug traffickers.

The drugs included ketamine, cocaine, heroin, ice, marijuana, methamphetamine and ecstasy. It is the biggest case

uncovered by China's border police in 2007.

The border police caught two suspected drug traffickers named "A Biao" and "A Wen" when they were trading in a car at 2 pm on 2 November and captured two bars of heroin which weighed 1.6 kilos.

In A Biao's house, the police found 213 kilos ketamine, 4 kilos cocaine,

9 kilos Magu, 8 kilos ecstasy, 2 kilos marijuana, 340 grammes of heroin, 150 grammes of ice and an artificial gun.

The police then found 5.7 kilos Magu, a methamphetamine similar to ice, in a safe in the house of A Wen, a foreign suspect. The police did not disclose which country he was from.

MNA/Xinhua

Iran says new IAEA report is 90% in its favour

TEHERAN, 27 Feb—A senior Iranian nuclear official has said that a recent report by International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Mohamed ElBaradei on Iran's nuclear programme is 90 per cent in favour of Iran, the official IRNA news agency reported on Monday.

"The agency head tried to provide a moderate

report despite existing pressures," Gholamreza Aghazadeh, head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization was quoted as saying Sunday evening.

He added that the remaining 10 per cent of the report was still related to some allegations raised against Iran.

"The agency has announced that on six outstanding cases the IAEA

findings were in conformity with Iran explanations and it indicates the accuracy of Iran's reports and the closure of those cases," he said. He referred to the six cases as the plutonium tests, issues of Iran P1 and P2 centrifuges, the metal uranium documents, contamination in a technical university in Tehran, the Polonium 210 and Gachin mine.— MNA/Xinhua



The wall of a damaged house is seen in Kibera slum Nairobi as the government urges Kenyans to reject opposition calls for nationwide protests. INTERNET

China gene experts search for answers on diabetes

SHENZHEN, (China), 25 Feb — Chinese scientists are trying to find out which errant genes are responsible for diabetes and certain forms of cancer that have long plagued Chinese populations, a geneticist said.

Rising affluence, richer diets and a sedentary lifestyle have led to an alarming rise in cases of diabetes in China in recent decades, while cancers of the oesophagus, lungs,

breast, stomach and colon have plagued Chinese people for a much longer time. The partly state-funded Beijing Genomics Institute (BGI), which completed the mapping out of the first Chinese human genome in 2007, is trying to figure out which genes may be responsible for these chronic and even terminal illnesses.

“We are doing disease gene mapping, to find causal (gene) variants for

certain diseases in Chinese populations,” said Gao Yang, vice general manager of BGI’s Shenzhen branch, which was mainly responsible for the sequencing of the first Chinese genome.

“We are most interested in diabetes and five types of cancer.”

BGI is collaborating with Chinese hospitals on the cancer project and foreign institutions on diabetes.—MNA/Reuters



Pupils attend the opening ceremony of a new term in the First Experimental Elementary School in Guiyang, capital of southwest China’s Guizhou Province, on 25 Feb, 2008. More than 600,000 students of over 1200 primary and middle schools in Guiyang inaugurated new term on schedule on Monday after the area was hit by serious snow and sleet weather.—INTERNET

Woman suspected of having bird flu dies in Guangdong

GUANGZHOU, 26 Feb — A 44-year-old woman who was suspected of having bird flu died on Monday in the southern province of Guangdong, the provincial health

department confirmed.

Diagnosed as unknown-type pneumonia, the woman died at 9:25 am after all rescue measures proved ineffectual, according to the health de-

partment.

The migrant worker, surnamed Zhang, was found to have had contact with poultry which had died of the illness. She had developed symptoms of fever and a cough since 16 February, the department said.

The woman, from southwest China’s Sichuan Province, was hospitalized last Friday in Haifeng County in Shanwei City.

Her specimens tested positive for the bird flu virus strain H5N1, the department said.

MNA/Xinhua

Chile considers bids from five countries to build satellite

SANTIAGO, 26 Feb — The Chilean Government is considering bids from seven companies in five nations to build a military satellite to enhance its air force strength, the Defence Ministry said Sunday.

The nations involved in the bidding process are France, Canada, India, Russia and South Korea. Companies from Ukraine and the United States withdrew at the last minute.

The military satellite must have a five-year life, and could be put to use in

research of the country’s natural resources, oceans, rivers, forests and snowy regions.

Chilean President Michelle Bachelet had cancelled a bid set up by the previous government and ordered a new one amid criticism of the first process.

The first bid, conducted in 2005, gave the contract to French defence company EADS’s Earth Observation Satellite System but the Chilean Government refused to buy it in July 2006.

MNA/Xinhua

Sri Lanka’s sacred Sri Maha Bodi tree in Anuradhapura with its golden fence protecting it from people getting to touching distance. The tree is now under threat from monkeys.
INTERNET



Tests of new “AIDS” gel show promise for women

WASHINGTON, 26 Feb — A gel that uses a popular HIV drug to protect women from the AIDS virus is safe and acceptable to women, although it is too early to know if it actually prevents infection, researchers reported on Monday.

The gel uses the drug tenofovir, sold under the name Viread by Gilead Sciences Inc.

The study, released at a meeting of AIDS researchers in India, is a welcome piece of good news for the struggling field of microbicides. It involved 200 sexually active HIV-negative women in the United States and India.

“The gel is safe to use, and well tolerated by HIV-

negative women. That’s a key message in our findings,” said Dr. Craig Hoesley of the University of Alabama at Birmingham. “This sets the stage for larger studies to see if tenofovir can prevent HIV infection.”

Microbicides are products, such as gels or creams, that can be applied vaginally or anally to prevent transmission of the human immunodeficiency virus that causes AIDS.

Just last week a study showed one candidate, called Carraguard, did not protect women from infection.

Two other potential microbicides have made women more likely to become infected — a

spermicide called nonoxynol-9 and a product called Ushercell, made by Toronto, Canada-based Polydex Pharmaceuticals.

The tenofovir product appears to be safe, said the research team, funded by the National Institutes of Health, found. It is the first potential microbicide to use a licensed AIDS drug.

It was a phase II clinical trial designed to show safety, not that it was effective.

“It is a critical time for all of us engaged in HIV prevention, and I truly believe we are turning a corner,” said Sharon Hillier of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, who led the study. — MNA/Reuters

Red pepper found with “Baby” inside in Zhengzhou

BEIJING, 25 Feb — Recently a consumer surnamed Xing told *Henan Business Daily* that a big red pepper she had purchased was found to be carrying a baby red pepper inside.

Consumer Xing, who is an obstetrician in Zhengzhou, the capital city of Henan Province, suspected that the red pepper became pregnant as a result of effects from hormones.

Professor Zhao Huijie with Henan Agricultural

University believes that two red pepper ovaries joined each other during

their growth, causing one to envelop the other.

Internet



A red big pepper is found to contain a baby pepper in this photo taken on 25 Feb, 2008.

INTERNET

SPORTS

Stuttgart dumped out of German Cup by Jena

BERLIN, 27 Feb — Bundesliga champions VfB Stuttgart were knocked out of the German Cup by Second Division strugglers Carl Zeiss Jena on Tuesday, losing their quarterfinal on penalties after extra time ended at 2-2.

In Tuesday's other quarterfinal, Borussia Dortmund eased past Second Division 1899 Hoffenheim 3-1.

Stuttgart looked to be heading for victory at 2-1 up in the second period of extra time but Robert Mueller took advantage of a mistake by goalkeeper Sven Ulreich in the first minute of injury time and stroked the ball into the empty net.

Antonio da Silva missed the decisive penalty, firing Stuttgart's fourth over the bar, and Torsten Ziegner then stepped up to make it 5-4 to the eastern German club and book their place in the semifinals.

Striker Tobias Werner had given Jena a surprise lead in the 32nd minute, latching on to a long cross from the right and nodding past Ulreich.

Faced with some resolute defending, the Bundesliga champions had to wait until the 81st minute before Mario Gomez levelled.

The tall striker then netted again with a header in the fourth minute of extra time before Jena's last-gasp equalizer and the penalty drama.

In Dortmund, Giovanni Federico put the home side ahead after 20 minutes. The Italian midfielder struck from 20 metres after good work from Tinga and the Brazilian extended Dortmund's lead three minutes later, nodding in from close range. — MNA/Reuters



David Nalbandian, of Argentina, returns the ball to Boris Pashanski from Serbia during a Mexico Tennis Open game in Acapulco, Mexico, on 26 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Maccabi Tel Aviv stunned by minnows in State Cup

JERUSALEM, 27 Feb — Israeli Third Division side Beitar-Shimshon Tel Aviv knocked out giant city rivals Maccabi Tel Aviv with an injury-time winner in the State Cup on Tuesday.

Maccabi's defeat was the only major surprise of the ninth round (last 32), the first stage in which premier league clubs compete in the tournament. The cup winners earn a UEFA Cup berth.

Beitar-Shimshon substitute Adam Mizrahi scored the only goal of the match in the 120th minute, a minute after coming on as a substitute.

Maccabi, Israel's biggest club, have won the trophy a record 22 times, way ahead of city rivals Hapoel with 12.

MNA/Reuters

Paris St Germain make French League Cup final

PARIS, 27 Feb — Paris St Germain put their Ligue 1 worries aside to beat Auxerre 3-2 and advance to the French League Cup final on Tuesday.

PSG, fifth from bottom in the league standings, showed more initiative than their visitors before the break and were 2-0 up at halftime courtesy of headed goals by Colombia defender Mario Yepes and former Portugal striker Pauleta.

A blunder from Paris goalkeeper Mickael Landreau, who slapped the ball under the bar and into his own net, restored Auxerre's hopes in the 74th minute.

The home side reacted swiftly, however, defender Bernard Mendy racing into the box to put them further ahead five minutes later. Auxerre kept fighting and reduced the arrears in added time with an acrobatic volley from substitute forward Julien Quercia. — MNA/Reuters



Japan's Yoshida Kaii returns a shot against Russia's Mazunov Dmitry during the World Team Table Tennis Championship in Guangzhou, China. Japan beat Russia 3-0.—INTERNET

Everton hat-trick puts Heracles into Dutch Cup semis

AMSTERDAM, 27 Feb — Brazilian Everton scored a hat-trick to earn top-flight Heracles Almelo a comfortable 5-1 victory at Second Division side Haarlem in a Dutch Cup quarterfinal on Tuesday.

Giorgio Berkeleef opened the scoring for Haarlem after five minutes, but Heracles replied with four first-half goals to settle the match and reach the semifinals for the first time.

Roda JC Kerkrade also reached the final four following a 3-1 win at Second Division side Dordrecht.

Roland Lamah scored off a corner kick after 28 minutes to put Roda ahead, while Marcel de Jong doubled the lead six minutes into the second half. Ibad Muhamadu pulled one back on the hour but eight minutes before time Anouar Hadouir sealed the win for the 1997 and 2000 winners. — MNA/Reuters



Al-Rayyan's Thiago Ribeiro Cardoso (L) from Brazil fights for the ball with Al-Sadd's Khalifa Ayil from Oman during their Qatar Championship soccer match in Doha on 26 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET



Luis Nunez (L) of Chile's Universidad Catolica fights for the ball with Bruno Bianchi of Peru's San Martin during their Copa Libertadores soccer match at the Monumental stadium in Lima on 26 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Chakvetadze survives tough opener in Dubai

DUBAI, 27 Feb — Russian Anna Chakvetadze held off a strong challenge from Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska to reach the second round of the Dubai Championships with a 6-2, 2-6, 6-4 victory on Tuesday.

The field in Dubai is so strong that world number 19 Radwanska, a quarter-finalist at the Australian Open, needed to qualify. "She's a tough opponent to play and I didn't have many wins outdoors this year," Chakvetadze told reporters.

"But I was aggressive and I served pretty well and I was fighting to the end, and that's why I won. We both played well and it was a good match to win because you get more confidence."

Seventh seed Marion Bartoli and former world number three Nadia Petrova continued their run of poor form as they both fell at the first hurdle.

Frenchwoman Bartoli, the 2007 Wimbledon runner-up, has won just three of eight matches this year and was beaten 6-1, 6-7, 6-1 by Francesca Schiavone of Italy.

Petrova's 6-4, 6-4 humbling by Slovenia's Katarina Srebotnik signalled her fifth first-round defeat in six tournaments this year. Srebotnik will next face top seed Justine Henin.

"I think the simple answer is that I just feel burned out," said Petrova. "It already started last year, after I got my injuries after the US Open. I could hide it, I could still force myself and make myself focus and try to play my game and try to win. But this year it seems like nothing is working." — MNA/Reuters

Second seed Golovin stunned in Memphis C'ships

NEW YORK, 27 Feb — American Bethanie Mattek stunned second seed Tatiana Golovin 6-4, 6-4 in the first round of the Memphis Championships on Tuesday.

The 22-year-old Mattek, ranked 148th in the world, successfully landed 71 percent of her first serves to defeat the Frenchwoman.

World number 13 Golovin produced five double faults in the match and won

just 49 per cent of her serves. She had beaten Mattek in straight sets in 2003 in their only other meeting.

"I was seeing the ball really well," Mattek told reporters. "My goal for this match was to see the ball early, where she was hitting it. — MNA/Reuters

Utah Jazz's Carlos Boozer (5) beats Minnesota Timberwolves' Al Jefferson, left, to a rebound in the first quarter of an NBA basketball game on 26 Feb, 2008, in Minneapolis. Boozer led the Jazz with 34 points and eight rebounds while Jefferson scored 22 points for the Timberwolves in their 111-100 win.—INTERNET



Three Asian airports top world for service

GENEVA, 27 Feb — South Korea’s Incheon, Malaysia’s Kuala Lumpur International and Singapore’s Changi are the world’s top three airports for passenger service, according to results of a survey released on Monday by the industry body ACI.

It was the third year in a row that Asian airports captured the first three positions in the global leaguetable. Passengers are asked to assess factors like cleanliness, comfort of waiting areas and ease of check-in.

In Europe the top spot went to Porto in Portugal, in North America to Dallas-Fort Worth, in Africa to

Johannesburg, in Latin America to Ecuador’s Guayaquil, and in the Middle East to Israel’s Tel Aviv, ACI said.

A total of 90 airports and 200,000 passengers — took part in the survey conducted during 2007, said ACI, the Airports Council International which groups 580 members operating 1,647 airports in 175

countries.

Incheon also headed the list in the 2006 survey, followed by Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur and Changi on level pegging, and Dallas-Fort Worth. Fourth and fifth in the latest survey were Hong Kong and Japan’s Nagoya, according to ACI.

Guayaquil, which serves Ecuador’s Pacific

coast business capital and was once a traveller’s nightmare, has recently undergone a total makeover. Currently, like the European leader Porto, it processes under five million passengers a year.

By contrast, Incheon and Changi see between 25 million and 40 million travellers pass through, and Hong Kong and Dallas-Fort Worth handle more than 40 million. Kuala Lumpur processes between 15 million and 20 million.

MNA/Reuters

Massive power outage hits millions in Florida

MIAMI, 27 Feb — A massive power outage struck parts of Florida on Tuesday, knocking out electricity to millions of people, snarling traffic at intersections and trapping residents in elevators.

The outage was controlled quite swiftly and power came back to most areas of the “Sunshine State” within several hours.

Some sort of “disturbance” in the power grid forced the Turkey Point nuclear plant in south Florida to go into an emergency shutdown, said a spokeswoman for FPL Group Inc, the main energy provider in the area.

Other power companies were also affected as the outage spread sporadically but extensively up the

Florida Peninsula as far north as Tampa on the Gulf of Mexico. Officials called it a domino chain of blackouts.

A spokesman for Progress Energy’s Florida utility said its clients were affected in the central part of the state. Flights at Miami international airport were only marginally affected.

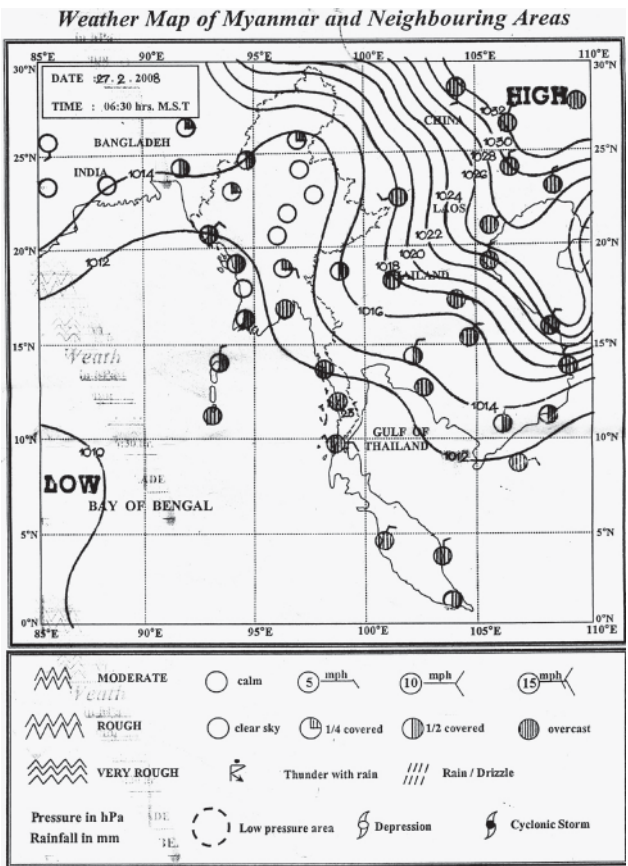
MNA/Reuters

US passenger plane makes emergency landing in Tokyo

TOKYO, 27 Feb — A passenger plane of the US Northwest Airlines made an emergency landing at Narita International Airport east of Tokyo Tuesday evening after smoke was detected in the cabin.

None of the 403 passengers and crew was hurt in the incident, according to airport officials said.

The plane made the emergency landing at about 8:00 pm 30 minutes after it took off for Manila. — MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Wednesday, 27 February, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thunder-showers have been isolated in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division and weather have been partly cloudy in Mon and Kayin States, Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below February average temperatures in Kayah State, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Ayeyawdy Divisions (6°C) below February average temperatures in Chin State and about February average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (2°C), Loilem (3°C), Namhsan and Pinlaung (4°C) each and Heho (5°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Myeik (0.09) inch, Putao (0.20) inch and Machanbaw (0.16) inch.

Maximum temperature on 26-2-2008 was 100°F. Minimum temperature on 27-2-2008 was 62°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 27-2-2008 was 58%. Total sunshine hours on 26-2-2008 was (9.2) hours approx.

Rainfall on 27-2-2008 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 Northeast at (11:30) hours MST on 26-2-2008.

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 28-2-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Mon and Kayin States, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Strong easterly wind with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in strong wind may reach (35) to (40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of continuation of isolated rain or thundershowers are in the extreme Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 28-2-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 28-2-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 28-2-2008: Generally fair weather.



Thursday, 28 February
Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music
-Things I'll never say
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music
-If I don't tell you now
- 8:50 am National news
- 9:00 am Music
-Tell it to my heart
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music
-Nothing but the truth
- 1:30 pm News/ Slogan
- 1:40 pm Lunch time music
-I still miss Someone
-I only want to be with you
- 9:00 pm Aspects of Myanmar
-Natural beauties of Myanmar, Chaung Tha & Ngwe Saung beaches
- 9:10 pm Article
- 9:20 pm Topics potpourri
-First mature cloned human embryos created
-Scientist says Amazon deforestation
- 9:30 pm Songs of your choice
-I see a boat on the river
-Love story
- 9:45 pm News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL



Thursday, 28 February
View on today

- 7:00 am 1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃမဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ချုပ်၊ အဘိဓမ္မမဟာရဋ္ဌဂုရု၊ အဘိဓမ္မေဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:25 am 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am 4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am 5. Dance of national races
- 8:10 am 6. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:15 am 7. (ဇာ)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 8:30 am 8. International news
- 8:45 am 9. Let's Go
- 4:00 pm 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm 2. Song for uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm 3. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ-ပထမနှစ် (ဥပဒေပညာအထူးပြု) (ဥပဒေပညာ)
- 4:45 pm 4. ၂၀၀၈ခုနှစ်တက္ကသိုလ်ဝင်စာမေးပွဲဘာသာရပ်ဆိုင်ရာသင်ခန်းစာ (စိတ်ကြိုက်မြန်မာစာ)
- 5:15 pm 5. Cute little dancers
- 5:25 pm 6. ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲ့ရင်ခုန်သံ
- 5:45 pm 7. တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုတေးသီချင်းပြိုင်ပွဲ ဆုရတေးများ
- 6:00 pm 8. Evening news
- 6:30 pm 9. Weather report
- 6:35 pm 10. Musical programme
- 6:45 pm 11. “မီးခိုးရဲ့ဆုံးဖြတ်ချက်” (နေအောင်၊ ထွန်းထွန်းဝင်း၊ မေသညာဦး၊ ပြည့်ဖူးခိုင်၊ စာစာမင်းတက်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-အောင်မိုး(ပဲရစ်))
- 6:55 pm 12. (ဇာ)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 7:10 pm 13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “လေဒီယာနှင့်ဆုံစည်းခြင်း” (အပိုင်း - ၁၁)
- 8:00 pm 14. News
- 15. International news
- 16. Weather report
- 17. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ဘဝဆက်တိုင်း” (အပိုင်း-၄)
- 18. The next day's programme

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

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo meets Chinese delegation

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Feb — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo received Chinese delegation led by Director-General Mr Kong Ling Long of National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) of People's Republic of China at SPDC Office here this noon.

It was also attended by Minister for Electric Power No 1 Col Zaw Min, Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Director-General of SPDC Office Col Kyaw



Kyaw Win and Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Guan Mu. — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo receives Director-General Mr Kong Ling Long of NDRC of the People's Republic of China. — MNA

Secretary-1 attends the signing of Chipwi Nge Hydropower project contract

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Feb — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo attended the ceremony to sign Chipwi Nge hydropower project contract at the SPDC

Office here this afternoon.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for Electric Power No 1 Col Zaw Min, Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint,

Deputy Minister for Electric Power No 1 U Myo Myint, Director-General of SPDC Office Col Kyaw Kyaw Win, departmental officials, the Chinese delegation led by Director-General Mr Kong Ling Long of National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) of the People's Republic of China and Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Guan Mu.

Director-General of the Hydropower Department under the Ministry of Electric Power No 1 U Aung Koe Shwe and Vice-President Mdm Zhang Xiaolu of China Power Investment Corporation (CPI) signed the agreement and exchanged the documents.

The Secretary-1, ministers, the deputy minister and departmental officials posed for a documentary photo together with the Chinese guests. — MNA



Director-General U Aung Koe Shwe and Mdm Zhang Xiaolu of China Power Investment Corporation sign contract for implementation of Chipwi Nge hydropower project in the presence of Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo. — MNA

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The entire national people are determined to continue the State's seven-step Road Map. The people expressed their support for the National Convention by holding mass rallies throughout the nation.

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U PYAY KYAW