

Danañca, generosity; this is the way to auspiciousness

Established 1914

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XV, Number 319

8th Waning of Tabodwe 1369 ME

Friday, 29 February, 2008

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win attends ceremony to donate one-year subscription for newspapers, present scholarship awards and TV sets



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects vehicles invented by students of International Language and Business Center (ILBC). — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Feb — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence viewed the demonstration of two electrical vehicles installed with batteries invented by students of International Language and Business Center at Shweli Yeiktha in Lashio yesterday morning.

The electrical vehicles are installed with 10 batteries that can be recharged within four hours. The cars can drive 100 km through. Arrangements are being made to share the technology of electrical cars with students of Technological University.

Accompanied by Chairman of Shan State (North) PDC Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut and party, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win attended the ceremony to donate the one-year subscription for newspapers to villages in the state, present

scholarship to outstanding university students and hand over TV sets to libraries at the city hall in Lashio.

The commander reported on the purpose of holding the ceremony. He presented K 2.5 million for subscribing newspaper to 135 villages in the state, K 3.5 million for a year to 10 students of the University of Medicine and K 400,000 for a year to two students of University of Pharmacy who stood the positions from the first to the 10th in the matriculation examination for 2007.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win gave TV sets to model libraries in Shan State (North), 20 TV sets to 20 libraries in Lashio District, 19 TV sets to 29 libraries in Muse District, 13 TV sets to 13 libraries in Kyaukme District and eight TV sets to eight libraries in Kunlong District.

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

U Tin Shwe, on behalf of the parents of outstanding students, and Head of Shan State (North) Information and Public Relations Department Daw Khin San spoke words of thanks.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, the commander and party proceeded to Aungsaytana and Aungthitsa new wards. Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint reported on allotment of plots for the people.

The 60 square feet plots were reclaimed in Aungsaytana and Aungthitsa blocks. A total of 10 model houses were built under the supervision of North-East Command. The plan is under way to allot the plots to retired servicemen and civilian staff.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, the commander and party viewed construction of the housing estates, allotment of plots, laying of water pipelines and construction of the roads in the new wards .

MNA

INSIDE

Elements rocking the boat

However much the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles adopted by the Convention are prudent for the State and the people, they keep on showing total disregard for the development of the nation and the people.

PAGES 8+9

A READER

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 29 February, 2008

Apply multiple and mixed cropping extensively

Boosting production of rice and ensuring edible oil sufficiency are targeted in the agricultural sector. The government is focusing on supply of sufficient irrigation water and boosting per acre yields of crops in its bid to achieve the target.

In particular, the government is constructing dams, sluice gates and diversion weirs wherever appropriate with natural favours to supply sufficient irrigation water, the major requirement in farming.

The Takaw Sluice Gate at Takaw Village in Thongwa Township, Yangon Division, was put into commission on 26 February. It was built by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

The Takaw Sluice Gate is the 208th irrigation facility in the whole nation and the 18th in Yangon Division. The sluice gate is situated over the Takaw Creek. Storing freshwater, the facility can benefit some 15,000 paddy fields in the late monsoon, cold season crops, summer paddy and other crops in Thongwa and Kayan townships.

In addition, water from the sluice gate is supplied to the farmlands near Kayan Creek through Moeyungyi Lake and Bago-Sittoung Canal, thus contributing towards the greening of the 30-mile radius around Yangon all-year round and benefiting about 50,000 arable acres in Kayan, Thongwa and Thanlyin townships.

Up to now, the whole nation has seen a large number of irrigation facilities inclusive of the Takaw Sluice Gate. So, local farmers have to work harder for boosting agricultural production by growing monsoon and summer paddy and using multiple-cropping and mixed cropping patterns on a greater scale.



Professional golfer U Chan Han tees off to open Grand Royal Special Reserve Golf Championship 2008. — 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

Myanma Cookery Preparation Show and Competition held

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Feb — The ceremony of Myanma cookery preparation show and competition was held at Golden Palace Hotel on 26 February evening, attended by Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing who extended greetings and cut the ribbon to open it. Next, the minister and party viewed preparations for cookery on display.

Afterward, the minister and party awarded prizes to hotels that had won in the show and competition. This ceremony was held under the supervision of Ministry of Hotels and Tourism. It was held in Nay Pyi Taw hotel zone. Thigaha Hotel,



Mayt Taw Win Hotel, Golden Guest Hotel, Golden Myanmar Hotel and Kumutra Hotel took part in it. — MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Soe Naing visits preparation at Myanmar Cookery Preparation Show and Competition.

MNA

Special Appellate Bench hears special appeal cases

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Feb — The Special Appellate Bench comprising Deputy Chief Justice of Supreme Court (Nay Pyi Taw) U Htun Htun Oo, Supreme Court Judges of Supreme Court (Mandalay) U Myint Aung and U Sein Hlaing sitting at court room No (1) of the Supreme Court (Nay Pyi Taw), delivered judgement of (twenty one) Special Criminal Appeal cases and then heard (six) Special Civil Appeal cases under Section 7 of the Judiciary Law, 2000. — MNA

Grand Royal Golf Championship commences



YANGON, 28 Feb — The Grand Royal Special Reserve Golf Championship 2008 Qualifying Round, organized by the Myanmar Golf Federation, commenced at Yangon Golf Club in Danyingon at 7 am today.

General Secretary of MGF U Aung Kyi, Executive U Ko Ko Lay, U Chan Han, Design and Development Director U Tint Oo of International

Beverages Trading Co Ltd and PR Manager U Ye Tint teed off the golf balls at the opening ceremony.

After the first round, Thet Maung Maung was leading the competition with 68 strokes in total, followed by Min Thura Aung with 69, Thant Zaw, Thein Lwin, Win Sein, Naing Ye Lin, Nyan Moe and Lin The with 70 each.

International Beverages Trading Co Ltd sponsored the championship with co-sponsors Dusit Inya Lake Hotel, Srixon and Alpine and management organizer Han Event Management.

The second round continues at the same venue tomorrow. — MNA

Sixth Writer Hsayawun Tin Shwe literary award winners announced

YANGON, 28 Feb — The sixth Writer Hsayawun Tin Shwe literary award presentation ceremony will be held at International Business Centre in March. The date will be announced later. Winners selected by the scrutinizing committee of Writer Hsayawun Tin Shwe literary award are Writer Dr Tin Aung Aye, Rector of Yangon University (Retired) Justice of Supreme Court in religious genre, "Selected Articles" written by Writer Maung Wunna in selected short stories genre, Writer Naing Zaw in health genre and Kaythipan U Hla Myint in biography genre. — MNA

Man taken action for stealing jade and gold bars

YANGON, 28 Feb — Daw Soe Soe Than who is living in No 6 Ward of Pabedan Township placed her purse containing five kinds of ornaments made of jade, three 10-tical pure gold bars and K 60,000 totalling worth K 50 million on a chair near the front door and she was doing the cleaning in the house at about 7 am on 8 January.

When security person Hla Ngwe came to the house she gave K 200 to him and then fell asleep for 15 minutes. She could not find her purse placed on the chair after waking up and filed a lawsuit at Pabetan Police Station.

After the case had been investigated by Pabetan Police Station, Hla Ngwe who is living in No 6 Ward of Dalla Township was arrested with the stolen property.

Pabedan Township Police Station took action against the theft under section 380. — MNA

Million-man Obama targets Texas, Ohio after debate



Democratic presidential hopeful Senator Barack Obama (L) greets supporters in Columbus, Ohio.

WASHINGTON, 28 Feb—Barack Obama touted the millionth donor to his White House bid on Wednesday, after rival Hillary Clinton failed to fell him in a testy last debate before vital nominating contests in Ohio and Texas.

Clinton, once the runaway Democratic front-runner, now hopes an 11th hour

campaign surge will carry her to victory in the 4 March showdowns, which her husband ex-president Bill Clinton says she must win to keep her hopes alive.

The rivals, in their last face-to-face showdown before the fateful primaries, swapped pointed jabs in the debate in Cleveland, Ohio, on Tuesday, in a showdown Clinton hoped might slow Obama's roaring momentum.

But hours after the debate, Obama welcomed the one millionth financial donor to his campaign, as rumours circulated he would post a staggering 50 million dollar fundraising haul in February alone.

Obama's grass-roots network of donors, who make small and repeated pledges, has rewritten the rules of campaign fundraising, and confounded predictions he would be flattened by the Clinton election machine. —Internet



A high-heeled shoe and some ornaments made of chocolate is exhibited during a promotion for the opening of a French chocolate shop in Hong Kong, China, on 27 Feb, 2008.—XINHUA

Russia warns Iran it may back UN sanctions

MOSCOW, 28 Feb—Russia warned Iran on Wednesday that it would support a new set of United Nations sanctions over its nuclear programme unless Teheran stopped uranium enrichment in the next few days.

The United States, Britain and France are pushing to impose new sanctions on Iran, which they suspect of seeking to acquire a nuclear weapon.

Russia's UN envoy Vitaly Churkin said Moscow could back a sanctions resolution the Western powers have drafted and which they are seeking to discuss in the Security Council this week. —MNA/Reuters

China urges int'l cooperation to prevent illegal immigration

BEIJING, 28 Feb—China on Tuesday called on the international community to strengthen cooperation to prevent illegal immigration. Responding to a question concerning a man from Tibet who was repatriated by the Nepali Government to China last weekend, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said that he had not heard of that case. —MNA/Xinhua

US Senate debates new Iraq withdrawal plan

WASHINGTON, 28 Feb—The US Senate began debating an Iraq war bill on Tuesday that would force the Bush Administration to begin withdrawing troops within four months, an election-year measure that supporters privately acknowledge will fail.

"All is not calm in Iraq, as the (Bush) Administration would have you believe," Senator Russ Feingold said as he kicked off debate on the bill, which is likely to come to a vote this week. The Wisconsin



A section of the national highway is cleared from debris following a landslide in the province of Sorsogon in Bicol region on 22 Feb after heavy rains. Persistent heavy rain has left 45 people dead and displaced hundreds of thousands in the Philippines, the government said on 28 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

NY police did not ID themselves to groom

NEW YORK, 28 Feb—New York police officers on trial for killing an unarmed Black man with 50 shots on his wedding day did not identify themselves before firing a blaze of bullets into his car, a witness testified on Tuesday.

Two officers are charged with manslaughter and a third with reckless endangerment in the death of Sean Bell, 23, who was killed in 2006 after a bachelor party at a strip club in a case generating outrage in much of New York's Black community.

Marseilles Payne, 32, then an exotic dancer at the club, who grew up with Bell in the high-crime South Jamaica neighbourhood where the shooting occurred, testified she was standing across the street when she saw a black minivan crash into Bell's car. She said she had been putting her dance bag in the trunk of her car at the time of the shooting. —MNA/Reuters

Eight Palestinians, Israeli killed in widening Gaza violence

GAZA CITY, 28 Feb—Eight Palestinians, including at least six militants, were killed in Israeli air strikes on Wednesday and an Israeli was killed by a Palestinian rocket in a spate of attacks across the Gaza Strip.

The fresh violence came the day after the United Nations urged Egypt, Israel and the Palestinians to find a fresh strategy to end the blockade of the Gaza Strip and halt rocket firing into Israel. Five Hamas fighters were killed in a raid on the southern town of Khan Yunis, which also wounded one person, medical sources told AFP.

It was followed by a second strike on the same site that left three people wounded, the sources added.—Internet



Palestinians inspect a destroyed vehicle belonging to Hamas militants after it was targeted by an Israeli air strike in the southern Gaza Strip on 27 Feb, 2008.—XINHUA

India successfully tests submarine-based missile

NEW DELHI, 27 Feb — India successfully tested on Tuesday a submarine-launched missile which can carry a nuclear warhead, officials said, a move that boosts the country's deterrence capabilities.

The K-15, a two-stage missile with a top range of 700 kilometres (450 miles), was fired from a submerged pontoon in the

Bay of Bengal and was seen leaving the sea off India's eastern coast.

"It was a success," Defence Ministry spokesman Sitanshu Kar said.

India, already capable of launching missiles from land and air, now moves a step closer to firing them from under the sea, an important step in creating nuclear deterrence to match

countries like the United States, Russia, France and China.

Officials say the K-15 will be eventually deployed with a domestically built nuclear submarine, after further tests.

India is developing a submarine capable of launching ballistic missiles, including the K-15 and the longer-range Brahmos supersonic cruise missile jointly developed with Russia.

MNA/Reuters

Int'l air traffic shows signs of slowdown

Geneva, 28 Feb — World airlines should prepare for a traffic slowdown in 2008 as January traffic data have shown such signs, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) said on Tuesday. International passenger demand grew by 4.3 per cent in January, which is sharply down from the 6.7-per-cent growth recorded in December and the 7.4-per-cent recorded for the full-year of 2007, according to figures released by the Geneva-

based organization.

Growth in international air cargo traffic also slowed slightly to 4.5 per cent in January from 4.7 per cent recorded in December, IATA said.

"January traffic results show that we could be at a turning point," said Giovanni Bisignani, IATA's director general and CEO, in a statement.

"A month's data is not enough to define a trend, however, the sharp shift in demand growth patterns makes it clear that the US credit crunch is negatively

impacting air travel," he said. According to IATA data, European passenger traffic grew only 0.3 per cent in January — marking the largest fall after growth of 5.5 per cent in December. North American passenger carriers saw 5-per-cent growth in international traffic compared with 6-per-cent growth in December.

Asia-Pacific carriers saw a small drop in demand growth to 5.7 per cent in January compared with 6.2 per cent in December.

MNA/Xinhua

FDI in Brazil hits record \$4.8b in January

RIO DE JANEIRO, 27 Feb — Total foreign direct investment in Brazil reached 4.814 billion US dollars in January, up from 2.422 billion dollars in the same month last year, and a record high for the month since 1947, the country's Central Bank said in a statement on Monday.

The figure exceeded the bank's estimate of 4.5 billion dollars, the statement said.

The bank foresees a

total of 28 billion dollars in investment in the country in 2008.

Foreign investment accumulated from February 2007 to January 2008 amounted to 36.977 billion dollars, up from 19.77 billion dollars in the previous 12-month period.

The government expects investment to total approximately 200 million dollars in February this year.

MNA/Xinhua

Death toll from Chile's plane crash rises to 11



The wreckage of a small police plane lies at a sports field after falling in Penalolén neighbourhood in Santiago on 27 Feb, 2008. —INTERNET

SANTIAGO, 27 Feb — The death toll from a plane crash in Chile's capital of Santiago Wednesday rose to 11 after the bodies of three more victims were found under the aircraft's fuselage. The police

aircraft crashed Wednesday in a populous region in Santiago, with six people aboard the Cessna Centurion 210 aircraft all killed immediately and five others died in the crash zone. The newly-found victims were identified as Ramona del Rosario Espinoza, 72, and Cecilia Borkosky Plaza, 54, who were exercising at the Penalolén Municipal Stadium, while the third woman has not been identified yet.

About 25 people were injured, seven of them seriously and two others with serious burns facing extreme risk.

A motor failure prompted the pilot to a force landing when the Carabineers Air Club's aircraft was heading towards Tobalaba airport, in southeast of Santiago. —Internet

"Encyclopedia of Life" takes shape 30,000 species

OSLO, 27 Feb — About 30,000 species of creatures and plants have been listed in a draft "Encyclopedia of Life" that may aid understanding of issues from human ageing to disease, scientists said on Monday.

The free Internet encyclopedia (www.eol.org) aims to eventually list all 1.8 million known species of life in a 100 million US dollars, 10-year project begun in 2007.

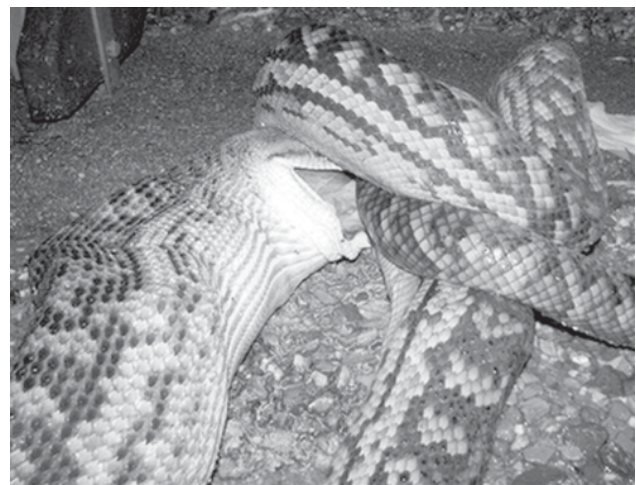
The first draft, with 25 fully completed entries including text, pictures and video, is due to be launched at a conference in Monterey, California, on Wednesday. A further 30,000 have less detailed information.

MNA/Reuters

Missile hits Pakistan's Waziristan, eight suspects dead

WANA (Pakistan), 28 Feb — A missile struck a house in a Pakistani region known as a safe haven for al-Qaeda militants early on Thursday, killing at least eight suspected militants, residents and intelligence officials said.

The attack took place in near Kaloosha Village in the South Waziristan tribal region on the Afghan border. —MNA/Reuters



In this photo released by the Australian Venom Zoo, a five-metre (16-foot) python swallows a pet dog whole in Kuranda, Australia. The python stalked the family dog for days before swallowing the pet whole in front of horrified children in the Australian tropics, animal experts said on 27 Feb, 2008. —XINHUA

YouTube outage might have been caused by Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 27 Feb — Pakistani Internet service providers may have inadvertently blocked the popular YouTube Website across the world at the weekend when they restricted local access to the site, a telecommunications official said.

YouTube said on Monday that many users around the world could not access the site for about two hours because traffic had been routed according to erroneous Internet protocols. The source of the problem was a network in Pakistan, YouTube said in a statement.

Pakistan ordered local Internet service providers

to block access to the site because it was running material insulting to Islam, a Pakistani industry official said on Sunday.

A government

telecommunications official said the initial order to restrict local access might have mistakenly affected users around the world. —MNA/Reuters



The departure hall of Beijing's giant new airport Terminal Three, which opens on 29 February. —XINHUA

All items from Xinhua News Agency

China, Zambia sign \$200m contracts

LUSAKA, 27 Feb—Visiting Chinese trade delegation on Monday signed with local enterprises a basket of contracts, buying goods worth 200 million US dollars.

Entrepreneurs from both China and Zambia also hammered out cooperation intentions of 300 million US dollars to further explore business potentials in the Southern African country.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Sebastian Kopulande, Chairman of Zambia-China Business Association, hailed Chinese

investment in Africa, saying that it is a clear testimony that the Asian giant is fulfilling promises it made at the Beijing Summit of Forum on China-Africa Cooperation held in November 2006.

“This event serves as testimony of the resolve by China to cooperate with Africa, and Zambia in particular, in our common quest to advance the welfare of the peoples of the two countries through economic partnership,” Kopulande said.

“It is also a recognition by our two governments

that meaningful bilateral economic relations can only be sustained through direct business-to-business interaction,” he said.

Also speaking at the signing ceremony, Zambian Commerce Minister Felix Mutati urged local business community to deepen partnership with their Chinese counterparts.

Xinhua



People look at a sculpture by Polish artist Igor Mitoraj in Madrid on 27 Feb, 2008. Mitoraj's 26 sculptures from “The Lost Myth” exhibition will be displayed on the streets of central Madrid until April 13th.—XINHUA

Gazprom warns to cut gas exports to Ukraine

Moscow, 27 Feb—Russia's natural gas monopoly Gazprom threatened on Tuesday to cut gas supply to Ukraine by one quarter since 3 March, accusing Ukraine of delaying gas debt payment.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has phoned his Ukrainian counterpart Viktor Yushchenko to discuss the issue, the Kremlin said on Tuesday.

Putin and Yushchenko reached a deal on the payment of Ukraine's gas debt to Russia on 12 February, avoiding a threatened cutoff in gas supplies.

Gazprom, however, says Ukraine has not yet ratified the agreement but continued to consume Russian gas.

Xinhua



A model presents wedding dress newly designed by Yumi Katsura in Tokyo on 27 Feb, 2008.—XINHUA

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

Kenya's January tea production down 29%

NAIROBI, 27 Feb—Kenya's tea production for the month of January 2008 dropped by 29 per cent from 41.6 million kilograms recorded in January 2007 to stand at 29.7 million kilos, tea marketers said here

Tuesday.

The Tea Board of Kenya attributed the decline in production to hot and dry weather conditions experienced in most tea growing areas particularly West of the Rift regions.

“In spite of some interruptions on tea plucking and green leaf transport logistics in the West of Rift following the post-election skirmishes during the first week of January, the impact on production was negligible,” the board said in statement said.

The country's tea output for 2007 hit a record high, rising to 369 million kilos compared to 310 million kilos recorded in 2006 and 328 million kilos in 2005.

The board said export volume for the month of January 2008 declined by 13 per cent from 35 million kg recorded during the same period last year to 30.4 million kilos.

Xinhua



China sees fast growth in marine shipping business

CHANGSHA, 27 Feb—China's marine shipping business continued to grow rapidly and notched up 341.4 billion yuan (about 46.77 billion US dollars) in value added last year.

The figure poses a year-on-year rise of 21.1 per cent, according to a statistical bulletin released at an ongoing annual conference of the State Oceanic Administration (SOA) held in Changsha, capital of central China's Hunan Province.

The number of coastal ports with handling capacity exceeding 100 million dead weight tonnage (DWT) each has totalled 14 in the country.—Xinhua

Siemens to cut 7,000 jobs at telecoms unit

BERLIN, 27 Feb—German conglomerate Siemens plans to cut up to 7,000 jobs worldwide in its telecommunications unit, local media reported Monday.

Around 4,000 jobs, including 2,000 in Germany, will be cut, and another 3,000 employees, including 1,000 in Germany, will be shifted to other units owned by Siemens or its partners, according to German news agency DPA.

The Munich-based Siemens has been under pressure to sell its telecommunications unit Siemens Enterprise Networks, which has been losing sales and customers.

The jobs cut is considered a step to make the unit more attractive to potential buyers, DPA said.

Xinhua

Air France-KLM to invest in Delta/Northwest Airline

PARIS, 27 Feb — The Air France-KLM Group, world's leader in air transport, would be willing to make a significant investment in the entity that will result in a possible merger of American Airlines' Delta Air Lines and Northwest Airlines, France's Les Echos daily reported Monday.

According to the business newspaper, the equity participation, which is currently estimated at more than 750 million euros (about 1.1 billion US dollars), would be announced “as soon as the merger deal is concluded” between the two airlines.

Xinhua

Thai chief drug firms negotiator removed from post

BANGKOK, 27 Feb—Thailand's chief negotiator with major drug firms that are battling Bangkok's override of their international patents has been removed from his post, Health Minister Chaiya Sasomsap said on Tuesday.

Siriwat Thiptharadon, head of the Food and Drug Administration and an architect of the previous government's compulsory licence (CL) policy, was moved to an inactive post.

"It's not about the CL issue, it's about appro-

priateness," Chaiya told reporters after a weekly cabinet meeting, a remark he did not explain.

Chatree Banchuen, a senior health ministry official, was appointed head of the FDA and lead negotiator on drug prices.

Starting in late 2006, former health minister Mongkol na Songkhla overrode patents on two HIV-AIDS drugs, a heart medicine and four cancer drugs, arguing that they were too expensive for a national health plan covering about 80 per cent of Thailand's 63 million

people.

Chaiya, a member of the new government which took power last month, has questioned the legality of the moves on the cancer drugs and said the government could afford their 24 million US dollars-27 million dollars annual cost.

Drug firms and their allies have accused Bangkok of stealing intellectual property. The United States put Thailand on its "priority watch list", citing weaker respect for patents.

MNA/Reuters



While it only turns into a handsome prince in fairy tales, the homely bullfrog, seen here, may harbour a valuable anti-ageing substance for humans, according to South Korean researchers.

INTERNET

US teenager shot over snowball fight dies

WASHINGTON, 27 Feb — A US teenager who was shot over a snowball fight died Monday in a hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, police said.

The victim, Tavin Rutledge, 16, has been at Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia on life support since Sunday and was pronounced dead on Monday morning, a police spokesman told reporters.

Rutledge and a friend were having a snowball fight in their Feltonville neighbourhood of Philadelphia on Sunday afternoon, when they accidentally hit a man in his 30s.

The man became enraged and went home. He returned with a gun and shot Rutledge in the head. The shooter is still at large.

MNA/Xinhua

Alarming! drug-resistant TB spreads faster than feared

BEIJING, 27 Feb—The World Health Organization (WHO) warned that drug-resistant tuberculosis is spreading faster than medical experts have feared, according to media reports Wednesday.

WHO said that drug-resistant tuberculosis has reached previously unthinkable rates of more than 20 per cent in some countries.

The highest rate recorded was in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, where 22.3 per cent of new tuberculosis cases were resistant to the standard anti-tuberculosis drug treatment.

There is also concern about XDR-TB, or

extensively drug-resistant TB, a strain virtually untreatable most times. WHO's report said XDR-TB has now been found in 45 countries.

The report data were based on information

collected between 2002 and 2006, but only available from about half of the world's countries. For example, only six countries provided information in Africa.

Internet

Suicide bomber kills 40 in northern Iraq

MOSUL (Iraq), 27 Feb — A suicide bomber blew himself up inside a bus travelling west of Mosul in northern Iraq's Nineveh Province on Tuesday, killing 40 people and wounding five others, a provincial police source said. "A suicide bomber wearing an explosive vest blew himself up in the

afternoon inside a bus carrying passengers travelling on the main road near the Tamarat Village, some 60 kilometres west of Mosul," the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The bus, which was totally destroyed by the blast, has moved earlier from the city of Mosul and was

heading to the neighbouring Syria in the west when the incident took place, the source said. Nineveh Province has been the main stronghold for al-Qaeda militants after they were believed to be regrouped after being defeated in Baghdad and other Iraqi provinces by US and Iraqi troops. — MNA/Xinhua



Local residents collect water from the partially dried-up Dongjinghe River, a branch of Hangjiang River, in Jianli county of Jingzhou, Hubei Province on 26 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Thai poll body disqualifies top ruling politician

BANGKOK, 27 Feb — Thailand's Election Commission ruled on Tuesday a top politician of the ruling People Power Party was guilty of vote buying in a December poll, which could possibly lead to a dissolution of the party.

The five-member commission ruled three to two there were "sufficient grounds to believe" PPP deputy leader and Parliament President Yongyut Tiypairat had violated election laws, Commissioner Somchai Jungpraser told reporters.

However, the ruling, based on evidence Yongyut had mobilized village

chiefs to buy votes, would have to be endorsed by the Supreme Court before the Commission could hold hearings on whether the party itself was behind the violation, he said.

The decision pushed the stock index down more than 1 per cent as fretted it could reignite two years of the political turmoil the December election was meant to end.

"It is a panic selling though investors thought the process of dissolving the PPP is going to be another while," a Thanachart Securities dealer said.

MNA/Reuters



A model poses with Ssangyong Motor's new sedan "Chairman W" during its unveiling ceremony in Seoul on 27 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

Kachin State PDC organizes Htamane Making Contest

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Feb — The 8th Htamane Making Contest organized by Kachin State Peace and Development Council was held at Myitkyina State Sasana Beikman in Myitkyina Township on 20 February, attended by Chairman of Kachin State PDC Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint and wife, Deputy Commander and senior military officers, departmental officials, members of social organizations and local people.

First, the commander and party viewed the Htamane



making competition of 27 teams. Next, the commander and officials presented awards to winning teams. — MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint presents award to winner in Htamane Contest, Myitkyina. — MNA

Education Minister visits degree college, schools

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Feb — Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein accompanied by officials concerned attended a stake-driving ceremony for a new building of Basic Education Middle School (Branch), Ward-1, Kanbalu on 22 February.

U Maung Ko of Htawara Company presented K 75 million to U Kyaw Nyunt, an townselder of Kanbalu.

The minister and party attended a ceremony to provide cash assistance for students at BEHS in Kanbalu on 21 February. The minister and townselder presented K 0.3 million each to 14 medical students.

Next, the minister and party inspected the multi-media classrooms and the lab of the BEHS. He also met with the headmasters and teachers of BEPS, BEMS and BEHS in Kanbalu and gave necessary instructions.

Afterwards, the minister proceeded to Myay Htoo BEMS where he donated a set of TV and DVD to the school.

The minister also visited Thakutaw BEPS, No 2 BEHS and No 3 BEHS in Shwebo on 20 February and he discussed matters related to high pass rate of the matriculation exam.

Next, they proceeded to Shwebo Degree College

where they inspected the learning of the students.

Afterwards, the minister went to BEPPS in Natpay village in Kanbalu and left necessary instructions.

Later, the minister attended a respect paying ceremony for the elderly at Natpay village monastery and met the villagers and doanted stationery for the students of the village BEPPS.

MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein delivers address at coordination meeting of Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and breeders and fisheries entrepreneurs. — L & F



Myanmar Furniture Fair-2008 on 3-7 March

YANGON, 28 Feb — Myanmar Furniture Fair-2008 will be held at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall on March 3 to 7 from 10 am to 4 pm daily. A total of 166 booths including wood-based products, vehicles and parts and forest conservation booths will be open at the fairs. — MNA

MCPA to give talks

YANGON, 28 Feb — Dr Thein Win, Consultant (T-Mobile Company), Executive Director (Sysinno.com Company) will give talks on Telecommunication Technology and Information Technology in the Future at Myanmar Info-Tech in Hline Township, here, on 4 March from 1 pm to 3 pm.

It will be organized by MCPA and members of Myanmar Computer Professionals Association and interested persons may attend the talks. For further information, dial 652276. — MNA

Demonstration on Epson new brand held

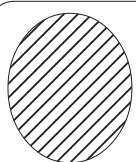
YANGON, 28 Feb — Client Focus Technology Group Co Ltd held a demonstration on its new brand product at Parkroyal Hotel on Alanpya Pagoda Road in Dagon Township this evening.

Managing Director of Client Focus Technology Group Co Ltd Mr Francis Au Seng Huat extended greetings.

Director U Aung Kyaw Moe explained matters related to new Epson brand and demonstrated its use.

Managing Director Mr Francis Au Seng Huat presented prizes to best sale agents.

New brand of Epson can print out the paper and photographs similar to that of same quality of laser printer. The new brand can be used through scan, print and copy applications. For further information, may contact IT/OA Showroom and Service Center II at No 130 on Seikkantha Road in Kyauktada Township, Tel: 249344, 249345, 249364, 374110 and 391409. — MNA



Mr Francis Au Seng Huat presents award to a sales agent.

MNA



Elements rocking the boat

A Reader

It is known to all that Myanmar has been in a transitional period since 1988. Myanmar practised socialism till 1988. But the people expressed their desire to practise multi-party democracy as they no longer wanted socialism.

Taking advantage of the sincere desire of the people, left- and right-wing politicians incited unrest and violence with intent to seize power through shortcut. Anarchy reigned in the country and the goal of the people was about to fall flat. There occurred civil commotion driving the country to the verge of losing its sovereignty.

The Tatmadaw had to take State responsibilities unavoidably. It abolished the Burma Socialist Programme Party and various organs. Centralized economic system was halted and market economy was adopted. The Tatmadaw crushed all armed insurrection of the politicians and destructive elements, who were trying to exploit the Myanmar political situation.

At that time, the 1974 constitution written based on the single party system became defunct. The main aim of the people is to ensure peace and the rule of law. In like manner, the essential requirement of the State is a new constitution that will shape multi-party democracy and market economy.

That was why the Tatmadaw government held the multi-party democracy general election on 27 May 1990 with a view to drafting a constitution essential to the State. On 27-9-1988 prior to the election, the Political Parties Registration Law was promulgated. As many as 235 political parties were registered.

However, greedy politicians wanting to grab power through shortcut made slanderous accusations against the government saying the election would be a sham. They encouraged outside interference. The reason behind their attempt was that they feared their parties might lose in the election.

The Election Commission set required qualifications of the representatives in a fair way in order that they would be entitled to run for the election. It has been known to all that those qualifications were set in accord with the provisions included in the 1947 constitution after Bogyoke Aung San himself approved them during the struggle for independence.

Likewise, the 1974 constitution included the same provisions. Every patriotic person knows that the constitution was formulated on a farsighted basis so that the puppets of imperialists could not abuse

sovereign powers of Myanmar that had been free from the yoke of colonialism.

However, political opportunists who were only interested in party politics ignoring national politics strongly opposed the provisions included in the constitution. But they had to run for the election as the general people took no step towards the provisions. All the people will still remember this.

Their ploys were that they would try to win the election in various ways; they would call a Hluttaw; the winning party would monopolize the Hluttaw; and then they would write a constitution as they wished sidelining the qualification needs of the representatives set by Bogyoke Aung San.

On 27 May 1990 the multi-party democracy general election was held in a fair and just way. In 1990 Myanmar's population was only 42 million. The number of 18-and-above year-old persons who were eligible to vote was more than 20 million (20181313). Although the State designated 492 constituencies across the country, the elections were held only in 485 constituencies for security reasons. There were only more than 15 million voters (15112524) accounting for 72.59 percent. Among them, NLD got nearly 8 million votes (7934622) and won the election. There have been records and evidence that out of the population of 42 million, the number of votes won constituted only the support of the minority.

Even ordinary people know that the major duty of the elected representatives of political parties including NLD that won in the election was to draft a new constitution.

Ninety three political parties participated in the election. Various parties issued their declarations. Seven parties said that they would apply the 1947 Constitution with amendments. There was no party that would apply the 1974 Constitution with amendments. Thirty one parties said that they would draw a new constitution. There were 44 parties that might draw a new constitution. Eleven parties did not say anything about the constitution.

National race parties such as Nationalities Democracy League and Shan Nationalities League for Democracy expressed the formation of eight states and Maya People's Party also expressed the formation of ten states.

United National Congress, Democratic Human Rights Party, Free People League of Burma and National Peace and Democracy Party were formed as one party. Their aim was to demand two points when the NLD called national races in the country to draw a constitution. The first demand was to establish an ethnic group based on religion. The second was to allow that group to have self-administration. Similarly, The demand of new ethnic group and new state was popular among the political parties at that time.

If we study the measures, everyone can realize that they plan to break up the Union one day taking advantage of multi-party democracy system desired by the people.

As soon as the Tatmadaw government held the election, it released the announcement 1/90 on 27 July 1990 with the aim of building the nation with the enduring constitution. The announcement stated work to be done after the multi-party democracy general election.

Moreover, the announcement stated that a political party will not possess three powers automatically— legislative, executive and judicial powers after the emergence of the Hluttaw. It can

gain the powers based on a constitution. According to this situation, it was also stated that the representatives elected by the people would be responsible for drawing a constitution of a democratic nation in the future. It was further stated that in Myanmar today there were many national groups who had political awareness and that it would be necessary to draw a constitution with the attitude of those groups.

However, the NLD released Gandhi Hall declaration demanding the convening of the Hluttaw in September. The declaration also demanded that power must be transferred to them according to the 1990 temporary constitution drafted by them. The Hluttaw would continue to draw the constitution after they came to power, the declaration added.

The Gandhi Hall declaration came after the elected representatives of NLD held a meeting on 28 and 29 July 1990 and made a decision.

In 1990 NLD attempted to form a parallel government creating a public riot in Mandalay but without a success. Chairman of National Democracy Party Sein Win (first cousin of Daw Suu Kyi), eight NLD representatives-elect and two independent representatives-elect totalling 11 fled to Manerplaw camp of KNU. Expatriate Sein Win falsely announced that 250 NLD representatives-elect signed and authorized them to convene Hluttaw at the border and form the national coalition government. Then, on 18 December 1990 they established NCGUB and formed a parallel government.

On 4 August 1992, the National Council Union of Burma (NCUB) comprising terrorist organizations such as Democratic Alliance of Burma (DAB), NCGUB of expatriate Sein Win and expatriate NLD was formed. Moreover, Political Defiance Committee was formed in January 1993 in order to fight against the government through political and diplomatic channels in addition to military means.

KNU, DPNS and ABSDF led and formed the committee and attempted to break up the cooperation between the government and the people, agitated the people to cause political defiance among the people and raised the momentum of military and diplomatic attacks. Saboteurs were sent to the country and hardcore UGs were also sent to the country to incite uprising. Authorities concerned have to expose and arrest them till today.

The task to draw the constitution was stalled as NLD refused to accept the duty of drawing the constitution. Therefore the Tatmadaw government took the initiative for drawing the constitution.

On 26-3-90 Central Executive committee of NLD officially announced that it had expelled General Secretary Daw Suu Kyi from the party because she infringed the section 3 (d) of Political Parties Registration Law. NLD Chairman U Tin Oo was also removed. Central Executive Committee of NLD was reorganized with U Aung Shwe as Chairman and U Lwin as Secretary.

The government held coordination meetings in June and July 1992 for holding the National Convention to draw the constitution. Altogether 29 representatives-elect from political parties and independent representatives including NLD attended the meetings. They decided to invite eight delegate groups to the National Convention after the discussions.

(See page 9)

The Tatmadaw government held the multi-party democracy general election on 27 May 1990 with a view to drafting a constitution essential to the State. On 27-9-1988 prior to the election, the Political Parties Registration Law was promulgated.

Elements rocking the boat

A Reader

(from page 8)

The National Convention was held on 9 January 1993 and 86 delegates including NLD Chairman U Aung Shwe and delegates from Shan Nationalities League for Democracy attended the meeting and took part in the discussions. They unanimously laid down six objectives, 15 chapters and 104 fundamental principles.

When the National Convention was in progress, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe met Daw Suu Kyi on 20 September 1994. On 28 October, officials of the government met Daw Suu Kyi. On 10 July 1995 restriction on Daw Suu Kyi was lifted.

The following day, however; Daw Suu Kyi held a press conference and officially announced that either dialogue or utter devastation had to be chosen (by the government) and she criticized the National Convention.

In September 1995, US Permanent Representative to the UN Ms Madeleine K Albright came to Myanmar and she met government officials. She also met Daw Suu Kyi on her departure day. In the afternoon, Daw Suu Kyi in an interview by a news agency said that she would issue an announcement on the National Convention.

On 28 December 1995, NLD representatives left the National Convention in compliance with the order of Daw Suu Kyi. The National Convention was adjourned temporarily in 1996 due to the subversive acts of NLD.

If NLD had not given priority to the interests of a certain person or its own, and it had kept on attending the National Convention putting the interests of the nation and the people in the fore, the National Convention would have been completed that year, and a new constitution would have been drawn. If so, the nation has been transformed into a democratic one by now.

NLD and Daw Suu Kyi have constantly focused on the interests of a particular person and the party. The root cause of why NLD left the National Convention was that the National Convention laid down 12 detailed basic principles for the persons who have no right to stand for election to Pyithu Hluttaw. Three of the 12 detailed basic principles were prescribed in the 1947 constitution in recognition of the points her father General Aung San submitted in 1947. They are:

- **person owing allegiance to a foreign government, or a subject of a foreign government or a citizen of a foreign country;**
- **person who is entitled to rights and privileges of a subject of a foreign government, or a citizen of a foreign country;**
- **person who obtains and makes use of member of an organization that obtains and makes use of money, land, housing, building, vehicle, property etc. directly or indirectly from a foreign country's government, or religious organization or other organizations;**

Together with other National Convention delegates, 86 NLD representatives attending the National Convention including Chairman U Aung Shwe agreed to lay down the three principles.

However, Daw Suu Kyi and NLD that were desperate to nullify the three detailed basic principles

If it is to yield to demands of an individual or a group of people, the national goal of building a democratic nation will still be far away.

It is acceptable to the entire people that the State Constitution (draft) adopted on 19 February is the most appropriate one according to the prevailing situations of the nation. While the National Convention was in session, the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles for drawing a constitution received a good media coverage, so the people are knowledgeable about the constitution.

and manipulate the democracy transition process to the liking of their western masters came to try constantly to disrupt the National Convention that was laying down principles in the interests of the entire people. In that regard, they resorted to all possible means in complicity with internal and external saboteurs to achieve their target, without taking into consideration the interests of the people.

They stuck to confrontation and sabotage acts, and made use of economic sanctions and alien pressure on the nation in order to get the nation and the people into crises.

However, the entire people including national race armed groups who returned to the legal fold expressed their unanimous support for the National Convention being held to adopt a new constitution that can help revive the Union system, practise the multi-party democracy system and the market economy.

In 1998, KNU insurgents, objecting to the Union system, released Methayawhta announcement in their attempt to revive the eight-state policy. It was very imprudent of Daw Suu Kyi and NLD to express their support for the Methayawhta announcement to gain its support in return.

The group led by expatriate Sao Hkam Hpa, a member of Sawbwa (chieftain) lineage, who in 1962 submitted federal system to secede from the Union, on 17 April 2005 announced in exile formation of a provisional Shan State government, and establishment of independent Shan State. The announcement posed a grave threat to the Union and the entire people, so national race groups and the people denounced it. And the government declared the group of renegade Sao Hkam Hpa and accomplices unlawful.

Those incidents are unforgettable ones for the people.

It is because internal and external destructive elements, who have been criticizing that the National Convention lacks time frame, cannot control their covetousness although the National Convention has been completed successfully. However much the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles adopted by the Convention are prudent for the State and the people, they keep on showing total disregard

for the development of the nation and the people.

So, they also opposed the formation of the Commission for Drafting the State Constitution, the third step of the State's seven-step Road Map. They are also demanding tripartite talks to annul the results of the National Convention and to draw a new one.

If it is to yield to demands of an individual or a group of people, the national goal of building a democratic nation will still be far away.

It is acceptable to the entire people that the State Constitution (draft) adopted on 19 February is the most appropriate one according to the prevailing situations of the nation. While the National Convention was in session, the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles for drawing a constitution received a good media coverage, so the people are knowledgeable about the constitution.

All realize that forthcoming State constitution is the best foundation for the nation and the people according to the present situations. They have also realized that all political parties that will serve the interests of the nation and the people will be vested with the rights to stand for the multi-party democracy general elections due to be held in 2010.

Nonetheless, there has been broadcasts through BBC, VOA, RFA and DVB that:

- **person owing allegiance to a foreign government, or a subject of a foreign government or a citizen of a foreign country;**
- **person who is entitled to rights and privileges of a subject of a foreign government, or a citizen of a foreign county;**
- **person who obtains and makes use of member of an organization that obtains and makes use of money, land, housing, building, vehicle, property etc. directly or indirectly from a foreign country's government, or religious organization or other organizations; have to be bestowed with the right to stand for election.**

If the destructive elements remain intransigent and continue to rock the boat, the national goal will be far away.

Translation: ST+NY+MS

Myanma Alin, Kyemon: 28-2-08

Three hospital examination centres for in-patient matriculation students

YANGON, 28 Feb— Under the arrangements of the Department of Health and the Myanmar Board of Examinations, three hospital examination centres will be opened in Yangon General Hospital,

Central Women's Hospital and Waibagi Specialist Hospital for the comfort and convenience of the in-patient students who will do in the matriculation examination from 10 to 19 March 2008.

In-patient matriculation students wishing to sit for the examination in the centres may contact the medical social relations officers who are assigned duties in the three hospitals.—MNA

Senior Myanmar-China Officials Meeting for Trafficking in Persons organized

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Feb — The 3rd Senior Myanmar-China Officials Meeting for Trafficking in Persons was held at Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone, here, this morning.

At the meeting, the Myanmar delegation

led by Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi and the Chinese delegation led by Deputy Director Ms Yuan Xiaoyin of Crime Investigation Bureau under Ministry of Public Security of the People's Republic of China

reviewed matters on cooperation in trafficking in persons in 2007, and continued discussions on future tasks in 2008. The meeting will continue the drawing of the MoU of Myanmar-China Trafficking in Persons tomorrow.

MNA



Third Senior Officials Meeting for Trafficking in Persons between Myanmar and China in progress. — MNA

Villager killed in mine blast

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Feb — A villager died in a mine blast in Zayatgyi Township on 20 February.

U San Win, 50, died while he was rushed to his home to receive treatment

as he lost his left foot and sustained injuries in his right thigh in the blast.

The victim stepped on the mine planted by insurgents as he walked to a jungle near the

village to collect bamboo.

Insurgents have committed terrorist acts to jeopardise the community peace and to cause panic among the people.

MNA

Staff of dailies conduct fire drill

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Feb — As part of efforts for prevention of fire, auxiliary fire brigade members of press under News and Periodicals Enterprise carried out fire drill at Myanma Alin Press in Bahan Township today.

Head of Tamway Township Fire Services Department Ye Thurein Thein Myint briefed on preventive measures against the fire and performed practical demonstration of extinguishing the flames.

Members of the auxiliary fire brigade participated in the fire drill.

The drill was also attended by managers and staff of Myanma Alin, Kyemon and the New Light of Myanmar dailies.

MNA



A fireman demonstrates extinguishing flames at Myanma Alin Daily in Bahan Township.

MNA



Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo accepts medicines and medical equipment donated by Orbis International. — HEALTH

Orbis International members donate medicine, medical equipment

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Feb — Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo met with members of Orbis International (flying hospital) at Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital in Mandalay on 26 February.

Executive Director Mr Geofriy Holland of Orbis International donated medicine and optical equipment to the hospital through Dr Mya Oo who gave gift to the

donor.

Deputy Minister and Mr Geofriy Holland viewed giving treatment to eye patients and visited Medical Retina Course at the hospital.

Afterwards, cataract patients, glaucoma patients and medical retina patients received medical check-ups by the eye specialists of Myanmar and the Orbit International. The specialists

chose 44 patients, out of 102, to perform surgeries in the first week.

Afterwards, they gave lecture on the medical retina to 24 doctors.

The team of specialists includes Staff Anaesthetist Dr Choyce, Dr Sheriff El Defrowy of Canada, Dr Sai Gandham of USA, Dr Mark Cepela and Dr Peter Kertes of Canada.

MNA

Outstanding disabled athletes honoured

YANGON, 26 Feb — Social Welfare Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare and Relief and Resettlement today honoured disabled athletes who won medals at the 4th ASEAN disabled sports competitions.

At the ceremony held at Disabled Youth Training School, Ma Htet Htet Aye

of school for the blind who participated in the fourth ASEAN disabled sports competitions held in Thailand.

U Myat Thu Win of Shwe Min Tha Service also presented cash awards to the winners of disabled athletes, and Ma Htet Htet Aye spoke words of thanks on behalf of disabled athletes.

MNA

Malaysia's AirAsia aims to be region's biggest carrier

KUALA LUMPUR, 28 Feb — Malaysia's Low-Cost Carrier (LCC) AirAsia has drawn up a six-year business plan that will see it carry 70 million passengers a year from 2014, which will make it Asia's biggest carrier, local media reported on Wednesday.

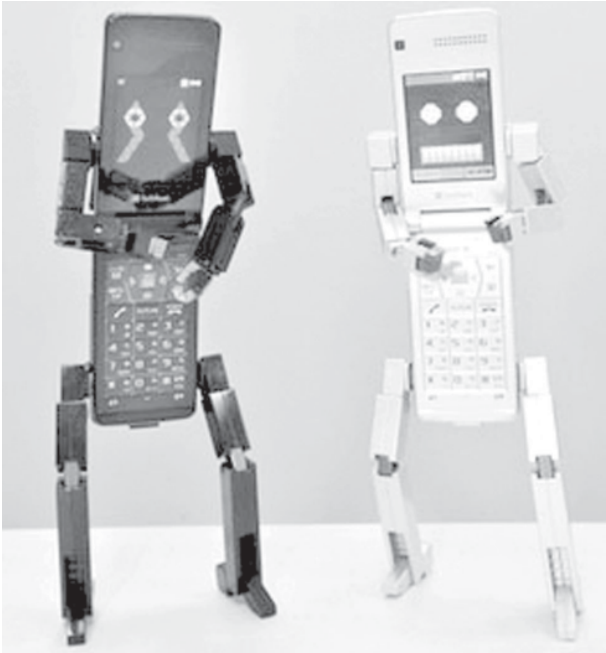
The figure is 3.5 times higher than this year's target of 20 million passengers.

Group Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Tony Fernandes is optimistic of achieving the target, which will in turn make the low-cost carrier terminal at the KL International Airport the regional hub for budget travel, given the foundation laid out over the past six years.

Factors going for the airline include its extensive regional network comprising 90 routes and its huge order of 175 Airbus A320s.

MNA/Xinhua

Images of the Day



Mobile phones produced by Japanese electronics giant Toshiba for Japan's Softbank and called the "Softbank 815T PB (PhoneBraver)" are displayed at the company's headquarters in Tokyo on 28 February. The robot-shaped phone will go on sale in April.—INTERNET



Tourists riding on rickshaws in Singapore. Singapore wooed Indian visitors at a tourism roadshow on Wednesday as it chased its target of greeting one million travellers from the South Asian nation by 2009. INTERNET



A professional dancer dressed as a Maasai woman, poses for a picture before performing in a cultural centre in Nairobi, Kenya, on 28 Feb, 2008.—INTERNET

A mammogram is performed in an undated photo. Among women with BRCA1 gene mutations, which are known to increase the risk of breast cancer, annual screening with both mammography and MRI is associated with better survival when compared with screening with either method alone, new research indicates.

INTERNET



Anemia drugs up death risk in cancer patients

CHICAGO, 28 Feb — Treating cancer patients with anemia drugs increases their risk of blood clots and death, US researchers said on Tuesday, confirming concerns about these widely used drugs.

Researchers said the drugs, erythropoiesis-stimulating agents or ESAs, raise the risk of death by 10 per cent in patients who took them compared to those who did not, a finding that could not be explained by

the higher blood clot risk alone.

Anemia is a common complication of cancer treatment.

"The findings of mortality are new and are different from prior reports," said Dr Charles Bennett of Northwestern University in Chicago, whose study appears in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

He said the drugs also increased the risk of blood clots in the lungs and legs by 57 per cent in cancer

patients, confirming other findings.

"Our findings, in conjunction with basic science studies, raise the concern that the drug may be stimulating cancer and shortening cancer patients' survival," Bennett said in a statement.

Millions of cancer and kidney disease patients take ESAs, man-made versions of a human hormone called erythropoietin. They work by stimulating production of oxygen-carrying red blood cells.—MNA/Reuters

New gene involved in hair texture, density uncovered

WASHINGTON, 28 Feb — The US researchers have discovered a new gene involved in determining hair texture in humans, according to journal *Nature Genetics* to be published in March.

Their genetic analysis demonstrated that mutations in a gene, known as P2RY5, cause hereditary "woolly hair"—hair that is coarse, dry, tightly curled and sparse. The paper about the findings will appear in the March

edition of journal *Nature Genetics*.

"Our findings indicate that mutations in the P2RY5 gene cause hereditary woolly hair. This is significant as it represents the discovery of the first new gene whose primary function seems to be the determination of hair texture in humans," said lead author Angela M Christiano at the Columbia University Medical Centre.

"This genetic finding

may inform the development of new treatments for excessive or unwanted hair, or potentially hair growth," Christiano added.

The genetic causes of hair texture in humans are largely unknown. Since research has shown that woolly hair was common among Pakistani families, Christiano and her colleagues set out to determine why this type of hair was specific to this group of people.

MNA/Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (173)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (173) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.2.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES PTE LTD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV XIANG FENG VOY NO (8011)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XIANG FENG VOY NO (8011) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.2.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING (MALAY-
SIA) AGENCY SDN BHD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

ANNOUNCEMENT

FOCUS ENERGY LIMITED (British Virgin Islands) announces their new Yangon (Branch) office situated at Level 12, Room 1203, Sakura Tower, Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township with effect from 3rd March 2008.

By the Board of Directors resolution dated 17/10/07 and 20/11/07 Mr. Michael Scott-Smith is appointed Chairman of Board of Directors and Chief Representative of FOCUS ENERGY LIMITED in Myanmar, Mr. Lamont Unni Christen as Director and Mr. Donald Win Myint as Acting Interim General Manager, at the FEL, Yangon Branch.

Tin Ohnmar Tun (Advocate)
B.A (LAW) LL.B, LL.M (UK)
License No. 2207
Legal Representative
On behalf of
Focus Energy Limited (Yangon) Branch
Mr. Michael Scott-Smith
Mr. Lamont Unni Christen
Telephone: (951) 723043
Dated: 29 February 2008.

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouses and Chellan offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 2nd March 2008 (Peasant's Day) being the public Holiday. Goods will be received, shipped or delivered on payment of Holiday Fees.

Drive with
care

TRADE MARK
CAUTION NOTICE
NIPPON MITSUBISHI
OIL CORPORATION, a
company organized under
the laws of JAPAN, and
having its principal office at
3 -12,Nishishimbashi, 1-
Chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo,
Japan is the owner and sole
proprietor of the following
Trademarks:-



Reg. No. 4/3226/2001

ENEOS

Reg. No. 4/3227/2001

Used in respect of:-
Industrial Oils, inedible oils and
fats, fuels, lubricants, waxes,
Services for repair and mainte-
nance of machines and appar-
atus for gasoline station,
services for repair and main-
tenance of automobiles and
motorcycles, services for
refueling of oils and fuels to
automobiles and motorcycles,
services for cleaning and
washing of automobiles and
motorcycles, services for re-
pair of tires for automobiles
and motorcycles.

Any unauthorized use,
imitation, infringements or
fraudulent intentions of the
above marks will be dealt
with according to law.

Tin Ohnmar Tun
B.A (LAW) LL.B, LL.M (UK)
P.O.Box 109, Ph: 248108
(For. Domnern Somgiat &
Boonma, Attorneys At
Law, Thailand.)
Dated: 29 February, 2008

Nokia Siemens
Networks to cut 239
jobs in Finland

HELSINKI, 27 Feb—Nokia
Siemens Networks will cut
239 jobs in Finland, the
Finnish-German joint
venture said in a statement
on Tuesday. The company
had started the talks at the
end of January with the goal
of cutting up to 250 jobs in
Finland as part of a plan to
slash costs. It had finished a
round of cooperation
procedure talks with staff
the day before. The Nokia
and Siemens 50-50 joint
venture employs more than
60,000 globally and will
have around 8,300
employees in Finland after
the reduction.

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

TRADEMARK CAUTION
Cambrew Limited., a com-
pany incorporated in Cam-
bodia at 215 Norodom Bou-
levard, Sangkat Tonle
Bassac, Khan Chamkar
Morn, 12301 Phnom Penh,
Cambodia, is the Owner
and Sole Proprietor of the
following Trademarks:-



Reg: No.4/7473/2007

ANGKOR BEER

Reg: No.4/7474/2007

In respect of: Int'l class 32:
Beer.
Fraudulent imitation or unau-
thorized use of the said
Trademark shall be dealt with
according to law.
U Myint Lwin, Advocate,
LL.B, DBL
Dip in Marine Affairs(UK)
www.mipadvocate.com

China's largest plastic
bag manufacturer closes

BEIJING, 28 Feb—Huaqiang, China's largest plastic bag manufacturer, has shut because of a national environmental drive that will impose limits on the use of plastic bags starting 1 June, a local source said on Tuesday.

The Henan Province-based factory stopped production in mid January and its 20,000 employees were awaiting their fate, said Liu Henglie, the commerce bureau director in Suiping County where the plant is located.

All machines in Huaqiang's two factories in Suiping County and Luohe City are to be sold. Further details about the future of the factories and its workers remained unknown, according to the official.

A notice in front of the Luohe factory on Saturday said "1,600 plastic film blowing machines and over 1,000 packing machines are for transfer. The two factories in Luohe and Suiping are to be transferred at a price of 280 million yuan (39.1 million US dollars) to 350 million yuan".

"Our factory stopped production on 18 January," said Chen Suhong, a veteran worker at the Luohe factory. "The electricity was cut off when I was on the afternoon shift. Later, our head gave us several days off because of output reduction."

The factories, belonging to the Guangzhou-based Nanqiang Plastic Industrial Ltd, were able to produce 250,000 tons of plastic bags valued at 2.2 billion yuan annually. — MNA/Xinhua

China's snow-hit south now "stable", damage serious

BEIJING, 28 Feb—A
Ministry of Civil Affairs
official said on Tuesday
that China's snow-hit
southern provinces were in
stable condition, but the
damage remained serious.

The country's post-snow
disaster-relief work would

focus on taking care of
people's basic livelihood
and reconstruction, said
Wang Zhenyao, director of
the disaster alleviation
office under the ministry.

A reconstruction plan
would be formed before
April and basic recon-

struction would be finished
by the end of June, said
Wang during an interview
on the central govern-
ment's website. He said
the reconstruction should
reach to the grassroots and
"no one shall be ignored".

MNA/Xinhua

Brazil termite hunters find 200-year-old mummy

SAO PAULO, 28 Feb—Exterminators looking for termites in a monastery in Brazil's biggest city of Sao Paulo found a mummy and a skeleton believed to be at least 200 years old, the head of the monastery said on Tuesday. "There were some mounds of termite dust and the exterminators broke into the walls to see what was in there," Father Armenio Rodrigues Nogueira, who is in charge of the monastery, one of the city's oldest, told Reuters.

"It was a huge surprise."

The bodies, believed to be two nuns, were found weeks ago, but officials at the Mosteiro da Luz (Monastery of Light) decided to keep them secret while the Institute for National Artistic and Historical Heritage did further research.

MNA/Reuters

Canada confirms new case of mad cow disease

OTTAWA, 27 Feb— Canada confirmed a new case of mad cow disease on Tuesday, the 12th since 2003, and said the animal in question was a six-year-old dairy cow from Alberta.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency said no part of the animal's carcass had entered the human or animal food supply.

"This case will not affect Canada's Controlled Risk country status, as recognized by the World Organization for Animal Health," the CFIA said in a statement.

The organization said last May it was classifying Canada and the United States as controlled risk, which signified it was happy with both countries' efforts to combat bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), known as mad cow disease.

"Based on science, it is not expected that this case should impact access to any of Canada's current international markets for cattle and beef," the CFIA said.

MNA/Reuters

Taleban issue ultimatum to Afghan mobile operators

KANDAHAR (Afghanistan), 27 Feb— Taleban insurgents on Monday gave Afghan mobile phone operators three days to shut down their networks at night or face attack, as the rebels said international forces used the cellphones to track them down.

The warning was issued after recent talks with representatives of the four mobile phone companies, Qari Mohammad Yousuf, a spokesman for the Taleban, told *Reuters* by mobile phone from an undisclosed location.

"Since the occupying forces stationed in Afghanistan usually at night use mobile phones for espionage to track down the Mujahedin, the Islamic Emirate gave a three-day ultimatum to all mobile phone firms to switch off their phones from five in the afternoon until seven in the morning," Yousuf said.

If the mobile companies failed to follow the Taleban order, then the Taleban would target their towers and offices, he added. Ousted from power in 2001, the Taleban themselves largely rely on mobile phones for communicating with each other and for passing their news to the media in Afghanistan. Four mobile phone operators, three of them foreign firms, with an estimated investment of several hundred million dollars have sprung up in Afghanistan since the Taleban's ouster.

MNA/Reuters



Members of the armed police cut sugarcane in Shangsi County, southwest China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 27 Feb, 2008. Local residents and armed police were organized to help farmers rush in the harvest of sugarcane, which were ravaged during recent snow havoc.

XINHUA



A firefighter in Hull, England on 28 Feb, 2008, tapes off chimney pots recovered from a damaged chimney stack following an earthquake. —INTERNET

Britain's LSBU sets up Chinese medicinal courses

LONDON, 27 Feb — Britain's London South Bank University (LSBU) announced on Monday the opening of its Confucius Institute, the first of its kind in the world to offer traditional Chinese medicinal courses, including a degree in acupuncture.

At the launching ceremony, LSBU Vice Chancellor Deian Hopkin said "We here at LSBU are very excited and proud to be launching the first Confucius Institute in Traditional Chinese Medicine in both the UK and the world."

This new Confucius

Institute will offer LSBU students a range of ways to further understand Chinese language and culture, which will surely benefit them as they take up careers in an increasingly global workplace, he said.

Hopkin expressed his belief that the acupuncture course to be offered at the institute will expand LSBU's health and social care offering and enable the university to continue training some of Britain's best healthcare professionals. Speaking at the ceremony, Wang Yongda, Minister Counsellor of

Chinese Embassy in London, announced that the Chinese Embassy to Britain would like to offer two scholarships as a gift to the institute to support its development.

MNA/Xinhua

Scientists release new map of global malaria risk

WASHINGTON, 27 Feb— Researchers have released a detailed map of global malaria risk, showing that some at-risk countries are getting less investment per capita than others, according to the latest issue of online journal *PLoS Medicine*.

An international team of researchers compiled data on malaria incidence reported by countries and research groups from 2002 through 2006, and climate data such as temperature and aridity that limit malaria transmission.

The new map illustrates that 2.37 billion people — 35 percent of the world's population — have some risk of acquiring malaria.

The finding diminishes previous risk estimates of 46 percent and 48 percent

published respectively in 1994 and 2002.

There are 1 billion people living in high-risk areas with the infection rates outside Africa put at less than 5 percent.

Malaria, a mosquito-borne disease caused by the parasite *Plasmodium falciparum*, infects some 500 million people each year and kills 1 million of them.—*Internet*

Pollution spill affects water supply in China

BEIJING, 28 Feb — A pollution spill on a branch of the Yangtze River has affected water supply for 200,000 people in central China's Hubei Province, according to local authorities.

The serious pollution on the Hanjiang River has affected residents along its three tributaries, namely the Xinglong, Tianguan and Dongjing rivers, local environmental and water company sources said.

The latest tests on

water samples from the three tributaries showed the permanganate index as well as ammonia and nitrogen levels were slightly higher than the standard.

The water became red with large amounts of bubbles, said Gao Qijin, head of Xingou Township Tap Water Company in Jianli County, which is along the Dongjing River.

He said the pollution was found on Sunday afternoon and the company immediately stopped drawing water from the Dongjing River as it did not meet the tap water standard.

Water supply has been cut for about 60,000 residents in the town. Five schools have also stopped classes, while many could not provide food to students.

MNA/Xinhua



Allison, a three-year-old Atlantic Green sea turtle, swims in a holding tank at Sea Turtle, Inc. in South Padre Island, Texas.—INTERNET

SPORTS

Middlesbrough head into FA Cup quarterfinals

LONDON, 28 Feb — A bizarre own goal by goalkeeper Paddy Kenny in extra time gave Middlesbrough a 1-0 win over Championship (Second Division) side Sheffield United in their FA Cup fifth round replay on Wednesday.

The first match had ended 0-0 in Sheffield and the replay was heading for penalties when Kenny pawed Egyptian striker Mido's deflected shot into his own net after it had come back off the post in the 114th minute.

Premier League Middlesbrough will now face another Championship side, Cardiff City, at home on 9 March for a place in the semifinals.

A dour game produced little in the way of cohesive football and few chances, although United striker James Beattie nearly caused an upset with a close-range effort just before the end of normal time.

MNA/Reuters



Slovenia's Katarina Srebotnik returns the ball to Justine Henin of Belgium during their tennis match at the WTA Dubai Tennis Championships in the Gulf emirate. —INTERNET

Zanetti saves Inter in draw with Roma

MILAN, 28 Feb — Captain Javier Zanetti scored two minutes from time to salvage a 1-1 home draw for Serie A leaders Inter Milan against second-placed AS Roma on Wednesday. Zanetti's strike from the edge of the area kept Inter nine points clear, taking them a step closer to retaining their title while maintaining their unbeaten record in the league this season.

Roma, the last side to beat Inter in the league last April, took the lead through Francesco Totti in the first half but conceded after French defender Philippe Mexes was sent off six minutes from time for a second yellow card.

Inter, without main strike duo Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Julio Cruz through injury, played the last 25 minutes with 10 men having already used their substitutes when Maxwell took a knock.

Florentina moved above AC Milan into fourth after Papa Waigo Ndiaye's brave diving header gave them a 1-0 home win over Livorno. —MNA/Reuters

S Korea, DPRK fail to agree on World Cup qualifier

SEOUL, 28 Feb — South Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) failed to reach agreements on using South Korea's national flag and anthem in their World Cup qualifier in Pyongyang next month, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported on Tuesday.

"Today, we've met three times with the North (DPRK) officials, but could not narrow differences of opinion," said Yoo Young-cheol, Public Relations Director of South Korea's Football Association, after holding talks with DPRK official in DPRK's Kaesong City. According to Yonhap, South Korea insisted that South Korea's national anthem and flag should be used during the qualifier match set for 24 March in Pyongyang. — MNA/Xinhua

Olympiakos get winning start in Greek Cup quarterfinals

ATHENS, 28 Feb — Midfielder Costas Mendrinos scored twice inside the first 10 minutes to give Olympiakos Piraeus a 2-0 home win over Iraklis in their Greek Cup quarterfinal first leg on Wednesday.

The goals at the Karaiskakis Stadium will make his side clear favourites to reach the semi-finals, although Olympiakos will be disappointed not to have killed off the tie completely.

Mendrinos opened the scoring with a left-foot volley after five minutes and fired the second just four minutes later. Coach Takis Lemonis rested several senior players but will have been glad to see striker Lomana LuaLua, who missed the last week's Champions League draw at home to Chelsea, play a full 90 minutes. —MNA/Reuters

Last-minute goal earns Barca 1-1 draw in Cup

MADRID, 28 Feb — Xavi scored a dramatic last-minute equalizer to earn Barcelona a 1-1 draw at home to Valencia in their King's Cup semi-final first leg on Wednesday.

Valencia looked to have completed a classic smash-and-grab raid at the Nou Camp when David Villa finished off a 70th minute counter-attack after Barca had dominated the game.

Valencia's German keeper Timo Hildebrand was in inspired form as Barca put on a late surge, but midfielder Xavi levelled in stoppage time to leave the tie evenly-balanced before the return leg on 20 March. Last year's finalists Getafe host Racing Santander in the second semifinal on Thursday.

A breathless opening saw 24-times winners Barca have three shots blocked in succession while Valencia had a goal disallowed inside the first 10 minutes.

But it quickly settled

Late Keita goal sends Lens into League Cup final

PARIS, 28 Feb — A strike deep in extra time by substitute Sidi Keita gave Racing Lens a 5-4 victory at Le Mans in a thrilling French League Cup semi-final on Wednesday.

A shootout was looming when Mali midfielder Keita scored the winner from the edge of the box 118 minutes into an action-packed tie played under driving rain.

Northerners Lens will meet fellow Ligue 1 strugglers Paris St Germain in the final on 29 March at the Stade de France, with



Adam Scott of Australia poses with his trophy after winning the Qatar Masters Golf Tournament in Doha on 27 Jan, 2008. Scott is tipped as Tiger Woods' future challenger. —INTERNET

Wu Jingyu wins women's 49kg at Int'l Taekwondo Tourney

BEIJING, 28 Feb — World champion Wu Jingyu of China claimed the title of women's 49kg class here on Tuesday, with a convincing 5-1 victory over Sweden's Zajc Hanna at the "2008 Good Luck Beijing" International Taekwondo Invitational Tournament.

The bronze medal was awarded to Gonda Ivett from Canada, who had lost the semifinal to China's Wu.

The four-day Olympic test event, which has drawn 128 athletes from 27 countries and regions, the same number of athletes for the Olympics, opened this morning at the Gymnasium of the University of Science and Technology Beijing (USTB), the venue for the Olympic judo and taekwondo competition in August. — MNA/Xinhua

Chinese women ease past US at table tennis worlds

GUANGZHOU (China), 28 Feb — China's star-studded women's team kept up their winning streak with a 3-0 win over the United States in the fourth round of the world team table tennis championships here on Tuesday. It was the first defeat the US suffered at the competition in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou, after cruising over Russia, Croatia and Sweden.

China's Wang Nan, one of the sport's most decorated players with 20 world titles, displayed the sangfroid of a true champion and dwarfed 20th-ranked Gao Jun, who the Chinese women said was a strong rival. The 29-year-old veteran took the first match 11-4, 11-8, 11-8, seeming unaffected by her shock defeat to a much lower ranked player from DPRK on Monday.

Cheered on by a home crowd of 4,000, Guo Yue, singles and mixed doubles champion in the world championships in 2007, quickly followed her teammate's lead, crushing 30th-ranked Wang Chen 11-4, 11-4, 11-7. —MNA/Xinhua



Japan's Ai Fukuhara returns a shot during a match against her South Korean opponent at the World Team Table Tennis Championships in Guangzhou on 28 Feb, 2008. —INTERNET

NYC pays \$21m to settle class action race suit

NEW YORK, 28 Feb — New York City has agreed to pay 21 million US dollars to settle a class action lawsuit that claimed the city's parks department discriminated against Black and Hispanic employees seeking better pay and promotion, officials said on Tuesday.

The suit, filed in 2001 on behalf of 3,500 people, said that between 1997 and 2004 the department retaliated against Black and Hispanic employees who complained about discrimination and neglected parks in neighbourhoods that housed Black and Hispanic populations.

As part of the settlement, in which almost 12 million US dollars would be distributed among the 3,500 claimants and almost nine million US dollars paid in lawyers fees and costs, the city agreed to review its pay and promotion decisions. — MNA/Reuters

UN says half of world to live in cities by end of 2008

UNITED NATIONS, 28 Feb — By the end of the year half of the world's population will be living in cities for the first time in history, the United Nations said in a report released on Tuesday.

According to the report, by the year 2050 there will be 6.4 billion people living in cities, up from 3.3 billion now. The world's total population is expected to rise to 9.2 billion in 2050 from the current 6.7 billion.

The world's most developed regions — Europe, North America and Oceania — have far more people in cities than in the countryside, as do Latin America and the

Caribbean. Africa and Asia are exceptions but have most of the world's people.

As urbanization increases, the world's total rural population is expected to begin declining in around a decade and should fall to 2.8 billion people in 2050 from 3.4 billion in 2007, the report said.

Some countries, like India — home to two of the world's biggest metropolises, Mumbai and

Michael Jackson faces forced sale of Neverland

LOS ANGELES, 28 Feb — Michael Jackson's famed Neverland Valley Ranch in California will be foreclosed and sold on 19 March unless the pop star pays a balance of nearly 25 million US dollars property records showed on Tuesday.

Fox News.com celebrity columnist Roger Friedman reported on the website (www.foxnews.com) that Jackson has been formally apprised of the foreclosure and that legal documents have also been

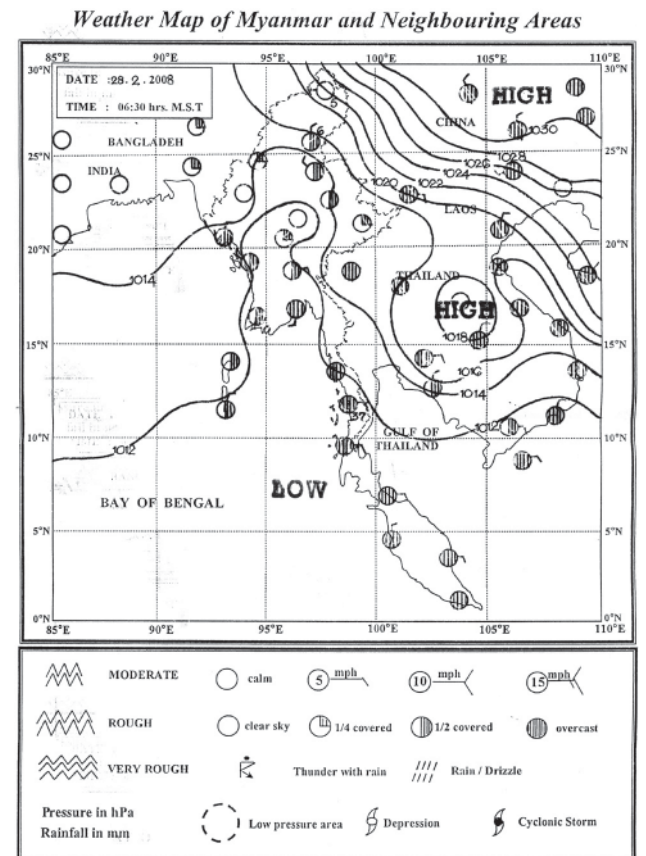
filed with the Santa Barbara County Recorder's office.

"You are in default of a deed of trust ...," Jackson was told in the five-page filing, according to a copy of the document published by FoxNews.com. "Unless you take action to protect your property it may be sold at a public sale."

According to the documents, if Jackson fails to pay the outstanding balance, estimated at 24.5 million US dollars Neverland would be sold to the highest bidder at a public auction on the courthouse steps.

The county recorder's website shows that a Notice of Trustees Sale was filed against Neverland Valley Ranch on Monday but no further details were available and a spokeswoman for the office declined to comment.

In 2006 state authorities ordered the property shuttered and fined Jackson for failing to pay his employees or maintain proper insurance, and the zoo animals have since reportedly been removed. — MNA/Reuters



WEATHER

Thursday, 28 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 has been partly cloudy in Mon and Kayin States, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below February average temperatures in Chin State, (3°C) to (4°C) above February average temperatures in Kachin, Shan and Mon States, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and about February average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Haka, Namhsam and Pinlaung (4°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Dawei (1.46) inches, Machanbaw (0.39) inch and Myitkyina (0.23) inch.

Maximum temperature on 27-2-2008 was 99°F. Minimum temperature on 28-2-2008 was 73°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 28-2-2008 was 59%. Total sunshine hours on 27-2-2008 was (8.4) hours approx.

Rainfall on 28-2-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (0.67) inch at Mingaladon, (0.47) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.35) inch at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Southeast at (17:00) hours MST on 27-2-2008.

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 29-2-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. 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: Continuation of likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in the Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 29-2-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 29-2-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 29-2-2008: Generally fair weather.



Friday, 29 February
View on today

7:00 am

- ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃမဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ချုပ်၊ အဘိဓမ္မဗဟုရဋ္ဌဂုရု၊ အဘိဓမ္မအဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

- To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

- Morning news

7:40 am

- Nice and sweet song

7:55 am

- လှပစွာပုံပြင်စိတ်ပျော်ရွှင်

8:05 am

- အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:10 am

- The mirror images of the musical oldies

8:15 am

- (၆၃)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

8:30 am

- International news

8:45 am

- English for Everyday Use

4:00 pm

- Martial song

4:15 pm

- Song for uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

- အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ-ဒုတိယနှစ် (မြန်မာစာ၊ ရသစာပေ၊ အရှေ့တိုင်းပညာအထူးပြုများ) (ဒဿနိကဗေဒ)

4:45 pm

- တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုတေးသီချင်းပြိုင်ပွဲ ဆုရတေးများ (၂၀၀၃ ခုနှစ်)

4:55 pm

- Song of national races

5:10 pm

- "လက်တွေ့ပြချင်လို့" (မြိုးဌေးစိုး၊ မြတ်ကေသီအောင်၊ (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကြည်စိုး)

5:20 pm

- Song of yesteryears

5:35 pm

- (၆၃)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

5:45 pm

- ရွှေယံစုံညီမြန်မာပြည်

6:00 pm

- Evening news

6:30 pm

- Weather report

6:35 pm

- သုတစုံလင်ရွှေညောင်ရှင်

7:05 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "လေဒီယာနှင့်ဆုံစည်းခြင်း" (အပိုင်း - ၁၂)

8:00 pm

- News
- International news
- Weather report
- လပတ်မှီးလေဝသနှင့်လေဗေဒခန့်မှန်းချက်
- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ဘဝဆက်တိုင်း" (အပိုင်း-၅)
- မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီးဦးဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ အရပ်ဆယ်မျက်နှာ မေတ္တာဘာဝနာပွားများခြင်း တရားတော်
- The next day's programme



Friday, 29 February

Tune in today

8:30 am Brief news

8:35 am Music

-Sunshine

8:40 am Perspectives

8:45 am Music

-my girl

8:50 am National news

9:00 am Music

-Butterfly

9:05 am International news

9:10 am Music

-There

1:30 pm News/ Slogan

1:40pm Lunch time

music

-My love

-I wonder why

9:00 pm WOM

9:15 pm Article

9:25 pm Music at your

request

-Island in the

stream

-I live my life

for you

-Chiquitita

9:45pm News/Slogan

10:00 pm PEL

People's Desire

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

Export, import activities inspected

YANGON, 28 Feb — Chairman of Committee for Ensuring Speedy and Regular Freight-handling and Operating Full Capacity Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe and members arrived at Bo Aung Kyaw Container Yard on Strand Road here on 25 February afternoon and looked into the checking of imported and exported goods by the inspection teams, loading of containers and monitoring of goods through X-ray machine. At Sule Wharf, the viewed unloading of bags of cement from Myanma Five Star Line's vessels and loading of rice and timber logs onto the



foreign vessels. At the container yard of Asia World Port, the minister and party inspected arrival of containers, checking of goods and loading and unloading of containers from

the vessels. Later, the minister gave instructions to officials on doing their jobs in accord with the prescribed, rules and regulations for speedy flow of commodities.— MNA

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe visits Sule Wharf. — MNA

Minister inspects communication services in Kachin State

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Feb — Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw inspected communication services at the office of Kachin State Myanma Posts and Telecommunications in Myitkyina on 22 February.

He met with staff of the office and fulfilled the needs for improvement of the communication sector in the state.

He then inspected communication devices equipped at the communication station in Myitkyina.

On 23 February, the minister also visited the exchange station in Sadon and digital auto exchange station in Waingmaw.

On 24 and 25 February, the minister inspected communication services at exchange offices in

Tarlawgyi village and Sinbo and digital auto exchange office in Bhamo.

Later, he viewed the communication station and paddy-husk fired generators in Han Htet Village in Bhamo.

MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw inspects communication station in Myitkyina. — CPT

Take Fire Preventive Measures

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