Government, people and Tatmadaw joining hands in nation-building tasks

Taking advantage of technological and development gap, media outside the nation inventing fabricated news

USDA is to rebut the slanders of those media

Yangon, 1 Feb — The Basic Journalism Course No 3, organized by the Union Solidarity and Development Association, concluded at the USDA Headquarters on University Avenue in Bahan Township this morning.

Secretary-General of USDA U Htay Oo made a speech. He said that the USDA was set up with five objectives, five basic principles, four oaths of allegiance, 11 codes of conduct, and 14 duties and responsibilities, based on the strength of new generation youth who will discharge the national duties. USDA members are participating in peace and stability and development tasks of the government, by upholding the Three Main National Causes.

While taking management, organization and training measures, the association is carrying out regional development and public welfare affairs. Hence, the youth with full confidence in objectives and functions of the association are joining hands with the association in undertaking its tasks. The increasing number of association members from all walks of life stand as a national strength to take up the national duties.

The purpose of the course is to enhance ideas, concepts and morale alongside journalism of the potential members who took interest in media industry, to counter alien media with medico, to pay attention to the public voices, to organize the people from all strata to be able to rebut fabricated news, and to have knowledge on propaganda, news reporting and news security. The trainees have studied all the lessons of the course practically and theoretically.

The trainees are to apply their experiences from the training course in their works, to disseminate the experiences and knowledge to other USDA members and the people, and to continue their studies for uplift of their efficiency.

All the national races should forge the Union Spirit forever as the genuine patriotic spirit. Our Three Main National Causes is the base of the Union Spirit. Therefore, efforts are to be made for flourishing of the Union Spirit.

The delegates of the National Convention represent all strata of the people and national races. At the National Convention, they held group discussions and participated in the plenary sessions. Discussions were held to lay down and adopt basic principles to be included in drafting the State Constitution. Only when the National Convention achieves success, will the Constitution be drawn successfully. The country is to be built as a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation according to the new Constitution. As such, the country will enjoy peace and stability, tranquility, freedom, equality, fairness, unity, development and strength in the future also. All are to actively take part in the tasks to achieve success in convening the National Convention.

(See page 8)
PERCENTAGES

Thursday, 2 February, 2006

Increase crop production with double cropping development

Agriculture is the main source of national economic development. As for the regions, agriculture serves as an engine of growth for ensuring food sufficiency and economic progress, and a sound foundation for improvement of social standard in rural areas.

In this regard, responsible personnel of the State are busy making arrangements for agricultural development, while providing every assistance to agricultural reforms covering the task of increasing crop per acre yield with the use of pedigree strains and advanced equipment and technology.

During his inspection tour of Ayeyawady Division on 30 January, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance to local authorities and officials at different levels for progress of crop cultivation, saying, “We will have to strive for utilizing the abundant land resources of our country as much as we can. And we are going to raise crop production more and more every year by extending sown acreage, increasing crop per acre yield and multiplying mixed-cropping.”

The Senior General’s inspection of the division, the nation’s main agricultural region, included a bridge over Pammawady River at Myinkaseik and development undertakings.

Prospects are bright for the division’s economic development as it has been putting land under ten major crops including paddy that is being grown in rainy season as well as summer according to targets. In addition the division has begun to grow 500,000 acres of physic nut plants, while plans are well under way to extend fish, prawn and poultry farming.

Now, the division is reclaiming land to set up large-scale physic nut farms to produce biodiesel from physic nut. The bio-diesel will run up large-scale physic nut farms to produce bio-diesel from physic nut. The bio-diesel will run large-scale physic nut farms to produce bio-diesel from physic nut. The bio-diesel will run large-scale physic nut farms to produce bio-diesel from physic nut. The bio-diesel will run up large-scale physic nut farms to produce bio-

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Ministry of Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe, Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, directors-general and managing directors of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue, chairmen of State-run and private banks, managing directors and executives.

The minister said all the banks are to make efforts for development of banking services based on the previous experiences and to precisely abide by the prescribed laws and rules and regulations and orders and directives on money laundering. He spoke of the need to establish research and development section in the banks and study banking information from home and abroad and related subjects. Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe and Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung took part in the discussions. — MNA

Construction of Yangon Cooperative Degree College inspected

Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min meets faculty members of Yangon Cooperative Degree College. — COOPERATIVE

YANGON, 1 Feb — Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min, accompanied by Director-General U Soe Win and officials, met with faculty members of Yangon Cooperative Degree College in Thanlyin on 30 January.

The principal reported on the brief history of the degree college and academic matters. The chairman of Naga Min Construction Cooperative Society reported to the minister on construction of the theatre of Uttara Hall.

The minister gave necessary instructions and inspected progress of construction tasks. — MNA

Mayor inspects upgrading of streets, sanitation work

YANGON, 1 Feb — Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Majr-Gen Aung Thein Lin and officials inspected tasks for making Yangon City clean and ensuring better roads and streets in cooperation with the members of respective district and township Peace and Development Councils, Engineering Department (Roads and Bridges) of YCDC and social associations yesterday.

The mayor inspected measures undertaken for proper drainage and sanitation works in Bahan Township, laying of concrete slabs on pavement in Tamway Township, extension of Myayagon Road in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, upgrading Bogyoke Aung San Street between Theinbyu Street and Bo Aung Kyaw Street in Botataung Township, upgrading Anawrahta Street between Latha Street and Lannmadaw Street in Lannmadaw Township and laying of concrete slabs on pavement in front of Yangon General Hospital. — MNA

[Image] Daw Mya Kyi and family of 31-A, 11th street, Lannmadaw Township, recently present K 100,000 to Joint-Treasurer U Maung Maung Gyi of Hninzigon Home for the Aged Administrative Board. — W

Banks Supervisory Committee and Myanmar Banks Association meets

Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun speaking at 78th meeting of Banks Supervisory Committee and Executive Committee of Myanmar Banks Association. — MNA

[Image] Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun speaking at 78th meeting of Banks Supervisory Committee and Executive Committee of Myanmar Banks Association.
Oil execs refuse to testify at US Senate hearing

WASHINGTON, 31 Jan—Officials from six major oil companies have refused to testify this week at a Senate hearing looking into whether oil industry mergers in recent years have made gasoline more expensive at the pump.

The companies—British Petroleum, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, ExxonMobil, Royal Dutch Shell, and Valero—told US Senate Hearing Chairman Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) that they had been contacted by the US Environmental Protection Agency's emergency meeting to decide whether to revoke the gasoline companies' permits to sell fuel.

Chavez vows US envoy against spying

CARACAS (Venezuela), 31 Jan—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez warned the US Ambassador against spying on Monday and said his agents had infiltrated the US embassy, which he has accused of links to espionage.

Venezuela last week accused US Embassy officials of contacting military officers to get access to state secrets for the Pentagon, the latest test of relations between Washington and Chavez, a fierce US critic who wants to bring socialist revolution to the world's fifth-largest oil exporter.

“I recommend to the US Embassy that they stop spying, we have you infiltrated, ambassador. Don't move around too much because we are watching you,” Chavez said at a business event.

“The US military officials in the embassy are spying and we've got them infiltrated. We even know where they eat their 'arepas reina pepesada,'” that gringos love,” Chavez said referring to a traditional Venezuelan fried cornmeal cake. US Embassy representatives say they have not been contacted on the issue and have no details on any charges.

Military authorities have so far not confirmed any arrests in the alleged passing of secrets, or said how many military officers are involved in the case.

Chavez on Friday threatened to arrest US Embassy staff caught spying.

Iraq kidnappers set deadline for German hostages

DUBAI, 31 Jan—The kidnappers of two German hostages held in Iraq said they would kill their captives within 72 hours unless Germany ended cooperation with Iraq and closed its Baghdad Embassy, Al Jazeera television said on Tuesday.

A new tape of the hostages showed them next to masked individuals who pointed automatic rifles at them. It was dated 29 January.

The hostage takers were from the Ansar al-Tawhid Wa-Sunna militant group, Jazira said, adding that the group also demanded that all German companies leave Iraq.

The two engineers, identified in German media reports as Rene Braeunlich and Thomas Nitzschke, were abducted last Tuesday outside their workplace in the Iraqi industrial town of Baaji, 110 miles north of Baghdad. They appeared in a video on Friday urging their government to help secure their release and at the time of the video, said they had not been contacted in the matter.

The embargo was extended to the exception of Valero, which took a beating at a Senate hearing last November on the industry's soaring profits at the time and high energy prices.

Bill Kovacic, a member of the Federal Trade Commission, is scheduled to testify at Wednesday’s hearing.

The FTC is investigating whether oil companies manipulated gasoline prices and oil refining production levels. The agency plans to finish its probe and send its findings to Congress this year.

Number of people infected with leprosy down in Tanzania

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 31 Jan—Tanzania has managed to reduce the number of people infected with leprosy from 30,000 in 2004 to 5,000 in 2005, according to a statement marking the 53rd World Leprosy Day.

The statement was issued on Sunday by the Tanzanian Ministry of Health and Social Welfare at Songea of the Ruvuma region in southernmost Tanzania and was available here on Monday.

The statement said that through Tanzania had managed to reduce the new cases of leprosy disease, the country still had not reached the set international target of reducing new cases of leprosy to one in every 10,000 people. Tanzania has a target of 3,500 new cases a year to meet, Ruvuma Regional Commissioner (provincial governor) Said Kalemba said that 10 percent of the new leprosy cases had developed permanent disability.

Tanzania is estimated to have 20,000 leprosy disabled people.

The provincial government explained that people need to develop disability if they fail to get early treatment of their leprosy disease.

British soldier shot dead in southern Iraq

LONDON, 31 Jan—A British soldier was killed in southern Iraq on Monday after coming under gunfire, British Ministry of Defence said.

The soldier from the 1st Battalion The Highlanders died of injuries sustained when his patrol came under small arms fire in Mayyan Province, the ministry said in a statement.

“There were no other injuries to British service personnel,” the ministry added. “I was very saddened to hear this morning that a British soldier had died whilst performing his duty in Iraq.

My thoughts are with his family and friend,” British Defence Secretary John Reid said in the statement.

US Capitol police arrest activist Sheehan

WASHINGTON, 31 Jan—Police at the US Capitol arrested US Representative Lynn Woolsey, a California Democrat.

Woolsey, who became a central figure for the US anti-war movement after her son Casey was killed in the Iraq war, won wide attention with an anti-war vigil outside Bush's Texas ranch.

CNN said Sheehan was arrested after unveiling a banner and was being held on Capitol Hill for about an hour, which would keep her away from the address, which was set to start at 9 pm EST (0200 GMT on Wednesday).

Sheehan and other activists were arrested in September for protesting outside the White House without a permit, a misdemeanor that carries a 50-US-dollar fine.

The spokeswoman, Capitol Police Sergeant Kimberly Schneider, said she had no immediate details.

Sheehan had been invited to be a guest at the address to a joint session of Congress by US Representative Lynn Woolsey, a California Democrat.

The governments of US and Britain said in a statement. "We are very saddened to hear this statement."
London police chief admits fatal shooting errors

London, 31 Jan — London's police chief Ian Blair told a newspaper on Monday his force made errors in the aftermath of the fatal shooting of an innocent Brazilian man whom officers mistook for a suicide bomber.

Blair, who is facing an investigation by an independent watchdog over comments he made after Jean Charles de Menezes was shot dead by police last July, said in an interview with the Guardian that false reports in the media should have been immediately corrected.

De Menezes, a 27-year-old electrician, was shot seven times in the head as he boarded a train at Stockwell underground station in south London on 22 July.

He was mistaken for one of four men who were suspected of trying to bomb London's transport system the day before. Police were already on high alert after suicide bombers had killed 52 people in similar attacks just two weeks earlier. Immediate reports from witnesses suggested de Menezes had been wearing a bulky jacket, had vaulted a ticket barrier and had run when challenged by officers.

However, leaked reports of evidence submitted to the Independent Police Complaints Commission, which is probing the shooting, cast doubt on the claims and showed there had been major blunders by police.

Earlier this month, the IPCC submitted its full report to prosecutors to consider whether any officers involved should face criminal action, but details have not been made public.

“Clearly the Met (London’s Metropolitan Police) could have taken the decision on the Saturday when we recognized that we had killed an innocent man, we could have put the record straight,” Blair told the Guardian.

“Although we did put the record straight by saying he wasn’t connected, we didn’t put the record straight about all the other issues around him, jumping over barriers and heavy coats and so on.”

MNA/Reuters

Iraq Health Minister says dead girl had bird flu

SULAIMANIYA (Iraq), 31 Jan—An Iraqi girl who died on 17 January in the Kurdish city of Sulaimaniya had bird flu, Iraq’s Health Minister said on Monday, despite the World Health Organization having initially ruled that out.

“The test of Tijan’s blood emphasized that she had bird flu from the kind that kills humans,” Health Minister Abdul Muttalib Mohammed Ali told a news briefing in Sulaimaniya, referring to the teenager, Tijan Abdell-Qader.

Dr Shirko Abdullah, manager of health department in Sulaimaniya, told Reuters: “The (Iraqi) Health Minister based his remarks on a report he received from a Cairo laboratory that indicated that the blood samples had H5N1.”

WHO said on Saturday it was also carrying out tests on the girl’s uncle, who died last Friday. A WHO spokeswoman said the initial tests on the girl had been carried out in Iraq.

MNA/Reuters

Saudi King says India, China visits successful

DUBAI, 31 Jan — Describing his recent visit to India and China as successful, Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah has said strengthening relations with the two nations was in the interest of the Kingdom.

“The leaders of the two countries have expressed their desire to strengthen their relations with Saudi Arabia,” the King said.

Expressing satisfaction over the outcome of his visits to the two Asian economic giants, China and India, he said: “I wished to start my tour with these two countries because I believe that strengthening relations with them will be in the interest of the Kingdom”.

“The agreements reached with China and India reflect the right stand taken by the Kingdom toward the two countries, he was quoted as saying by Arab News.

MNA/PTI

Italian soldier injured in roadside bomb blast in Iraq

ROME, 31 Jan—An Italian soldier was slightly injured on Monday morning in a roadside bomb blast near Nassiriya, where the headquarters of the Italian contingent in Iraq is located, Italian media here reported.

Italian Defence Ministry sources said the soldier was riding in a three-vehicle convoy and the blast involved only the vehicle the injured soldier was riding in. The soldier was said to have received a minor shrapnel wound in his left arm.

The convoy was hit in eastern Nassiriya while it was on its way to a nearby village where a reconstruction is in progress. It returned to base after the attack.

MNA/Xinhua

Japan to complete Iraq troop pullout by May

Tokyo, 31 Jan—Japan will begin withdrawing its non-combat ground troops in March from Iraq, where they have been engaged in their riskiest mission since World War II, and complete the pullout by May, Japanese media said on Tuesday.

Japan decided last month to keep its troops in southern Iraq for up to a year from 14 December, but government officials had left open the possibility they could be withdrawn sooner.

Japan's dispatch of troops to Iraq has won praise from close ally Washington, but most Japanese voters have opposed the move.

According to government sources quoted by Japanese media including Kyodo news agency, a basic agreement on the pullout of the troops was reached between officials from Japan, Britain and Australia on 23 January at a meeting in London.

Britain, citing estimates that Iraq will establish its new government as early as next month, proposed to withdraw around half its troops in southern Iraq by May, including those around Samawa, where Japan's troops are based. Kyodo quoted the officials as saying Japan and Australia decided to withdraw their troops at the same time, it said. Japanese Defence Agency officials, however, said that nothing has been decided.

Since the activities of Japan's roughly 550 ground troops are strictly limited by Japan's pacifist Constitution, they are not considered official forces to maintain security.

The sources quoted by Kyodo said Washington has basically agreed to the British plan as long as there are no significant upheavals in Iraq prior to May.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has repeatedly said Japan will have to carefully consider the situation in Iraq before deciding on a troop pullout, and that coordination with the British and Australian governments is needed to decide the timing.

MNA/Reuters

Guatemala to replace soldiers killed in Congo

MEXICO CITY, 31 Jan—Guatemala’s Government announced on Monday it will replace the soldiers who died on UN peace keeping mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), according to reports from Guatemala.

Guatemalan Army spokesman Jorge Ortega said that the reinforcements would reach the African country on 8 February, replacing eight soldiers killed during a gun fight in Garamba national park.

The replacements were chosen from soldiers who volunteered to reinforce the Guatemalan group of 105 soldiers in the DRC, the spokesman said.

MNA/Xinhua
Kuwaiti emir accepts Cabinet resignation

KUWAIT CITY, 31 Jan — Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah accepted the Cabinet’s resignation on Monday, the Kuwait News Agency reported.

Accompanied by other ministers of the Cabinet, Kuwaiti First Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah presented the resignation letter to the new emir.

Following the death of late Emir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Cabinet also finished its current tenure, therefore, the resignation was submitted to the new Emir Sheikh Sabah, who is also the former prime minister.

After accepting the resignation, Sheikh Sabah issued a decree, effective immediately, asking the ministers to stay in a caretaker role till a new Cabinet is sworn in.

Sheikh Sabah took the oath of office before Kuwaiti National Assembly (Parliament) on Sunday. He is the successor of the ailing Sheikh Saad Al-Abdulla Al- Sabah, who was removed by the Parliament due to health reasons last Tuesday.

—Internet

100th British military death in Iraq

LONDON, 31 Jan — A British soldier was killed in southern Iraq today, taking the total death toll of UK military personnel in the country to 100 since the US-led invasion in March 2003.

Corporal Gordon Alexander Pritchard, 31, served with the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. He died from injuries sustained in an explosion in Um Qasr in British-patrolled Basra Province.

The blast at 8.34am local time (0534 GMT) also injured three other soldiers, one seriously, the Ministry of Defence said.

Corporal Pritchard was commanding a land Rover in a three-vehicle rations and water run when the explosion went off.

Tony Blair, who ordered British troops to join the invasion, was “deeply saddened” by the death, as he was by all fatalities of service personnel, his official spokesman said.

The spokesman said British forces in Iraq— which currently amount to around 8,000 troops — would stay in the country for “as long as necessary”.

Critics of the war blamed the government for the soldiers’ deaths. Reg Keys, whose son Thomas was one of six military policemen killed in an ambush in Iraq more than two years ago, said the milestone figure was “absolutely dreadful.”—Internet

Pentagon to spend millions to fund foreign militaries

WASHINGTON, 31 Jan — The United States Congress has decided to allow the Pentagon to spend as much as 200 million US dollars of its own budgetary allocation to fund foreign militaries.

This permission came in the 2006 Defence Authorization Act that was passed last month and is a break with the tradition of having the State Department handling foreign military assistance.

The Defence Department’s high profile lobbying had sometimes overruled some of her junior level officials, reports said.

The defence authorization allows the Pentagon to provide training equipment and supplies to foreign militaries “to build the capacity” to conduct counter-terrorism operations or join with American forces in “stability operations”. But Congress has also said that the orders for such assistance must originate in the White House with the Pentagon working closely with the State Department in the realms of formulation and implementation.

—Internet

Ethiopia bans crops exports after price hike

ADDIS ABABA, 31 Jan — Ethiopia bans indefinite- ly any exports of teff, an indigenous staple grain, maize, sorghum and wheat, the Ministry of Trade and Industry said on Monday. The ban came after the recent rise in the prices of the grains due to various reasons, the ministry said in a statement.

Inflated prices on these grains will put pressures on the consumer public, while the ministry is duty bound to stabilize the market, the statement said.

In spite of increase over the past year in the amount of harvest involving the listed grains, exports of the food crops and smuggling them out of the country in some cases were among the causes for the price hike, it said.

—Internet

Explosion at Florida plant releases krypton gas

MIAMI, 31 Jan — An explosion on Monday at a Florida plant that makes ignition systems for aircraft engines exposed at least 100 people to krypton gas and sent 12 to hospital for treatment, a fire department official said.

The Unison Industries plant, a unit of General Electric, was quickly evacuated. Jacksonville fire-rescue spokesman Bennie Seth said there was no health effect from the krypton gas.

Several hours after the explosion, gas levels in the plant were found to be very low, she added.

Company spokesman woman Angela Milligan said she could not confirm that any employees at the plant had been exposed to any sort of gas or other potentially harmful material.

A Unison employee about 500 people in the Jacksonville area but no more than 111 were located in the plant where Monday’s incident occurred at about 10:45 am (1545 GMT). Milligan said. Seth said investigators had not yet found the cause of the blast.

—Internet

Suicide bomber kills two policemen in southern Iraq

KERBALA (Iraq), 31 Jan — Two policemen were killed and 20 people were wounded when a suicide bomber in a car attacked a barracks in the southern city of Nassiriya on Monday, police said.

They said the wounded included soldiers and civilians. Nassiriya, a mostly Shiite city 235 miles south of Baghdad, has been relatively free of the attacks plaguing central Iraq.

Sunni Arab guerrillas are waging a campaign of suicide and car bombings and shootings that have killed thousands of police officers, soldiers and civilians in an effort to undermine the Shiite-led government.

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—Internet
San Francisco, 1 Feb — A destructive worm posing as a pornographic e-mail may already have infected hundreds of thousands of computers and could erase many everyday files on 3 February, security experts warned on Tuesday.

The “Kama Sutra” worm, which targets popular Microsoft Corp, Adobe Systems Inc and ZIP files, is a threat because many users will not know the virus has infected their computers until it is too late, security experts said.

They also estimate that the worm—which spreads by e-mailing itself to addresses in an infected computer’s mailbox—may already have slipped onto 275,000 to 500,000 machines and is now simply waiting to obliterate files on Friday.

The virus, also known as Grew.A or MyWife, tricks users by appearing as an e-mail attachment with subject lines such as “Hot Movie”, “give me a kiss” and “Miss Lebanon”.

Nonetheless, the worm had infected 200,000 computers by 10 a.m. Pacific Time on Tuesday, according to a report on Tuesday’s Unfanged Daily.

The worm mainly has infected computers of vulnerable consumers and small businesses, which are far less likely to have up-to-date security software, he said.

The Kama Sutra worm also stands out because its primary purpose is to destroy files rather than to seek financial gain or to take control of a computer, security experts said.

According to a report on Tuesday’s Unfanged Daily, Flight 5952 from Guangzhou to Shanghai and Flight 1328 from Guangzhou to Beijing were cancelled on Monday.

Other delayed flights included Flight 3519 from Guangzhou to Shanghai, Flight 3539 from Guangzhou to Nanchang, Flight 5321 from Guangzhou to Hangzhou, Flight 303 from Guangzhou to Hong Kong and Flight 5238 from Guangzhou to Ningbo.

Strong winds have caused dropping temperatures, rain and snow in the northern regions of China in the past couple of days, when the country of 1.3 billion people is celebrating its most important holidays in a year, the Spring Festival or the Chinese Lunar New Year, according to the national meteorological bureau.

According to a report on Tuesday’s Unfanged Daily, Flight 5952 from Guangzhou to Shanghai and Flight 1328 from Guangzhou to Beijing were cancelled on Monday.

Some 30 overseas flights were delayed or even cancelled in Guangzhou, capital of southern China’s Guangdong Province, on Monday because of bad weather in the northern regions of the country.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia called for international cooperation on the exchange of weather information for worldwide disaster mitigation.

"Meteorological activities do not obey any political or geographical boundaries," Khaleda said while inaugurating the 33rd Session of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)/Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Panel on Tropical Cyclones for the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea here on Monday.

The Prime Minister stressed the need for proper application of the latest technology for upgrading the existing early warning and mitigation arrangements for natural disasters. "Mitigation of natural disasters is possible through accurate and timely forecasts and warnings, and adequate preparedness," she said.

The WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclone was formed in 1972 at the joint initiative of WMO and ESCAP to reduce losses of tropical cyclones in the countries of Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea regions.

The eight-member panel is comprised of Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Oman, the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Myanmar.

Some 30 overseas delegates from the member countries and observers from international agencies such like WMO, ESCAP, United Nations.

British soldiers secure the scene of a roadside bomb attack targeting British patrol in Um Qasr, an Iraqi port city near Basra, about 600 km (372 miles) south of Baghdad, on 31 Jan, 2006.

Dozens of flights delayed in Guangzhou for bad weather in north

Beijing, 1 Feb—Dozens of flights were delayed or even cancelled in Guangzhou, capital of southern China’s Guangdong Province, on Monday because of bad weather in the northern regions of the country.

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Three Iraqi soldiers killed in clash with guerrillas

Baghdad, (Iraq), 1 Feb—Three Iraqi soldiers were killed on Tuesday in a fierce clash with guerrillas in northern Iraq.

"Iraqi soldiers fought guerrillas in the Buhurz area, south of Baquba, some 65 kilometres northeast of Baghdad.

"Three soldiers were killed and three others wounded," a source from the Iraqi-US Joint Coordination Center in Diyala told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

In a separate incident, unidentifed gunmen stormed the house of Sheikh Qassim al-Hamadi, a Muslim cleric, in the Muqdadiyah Town east of Baquba at about 7:00 pm (1500 GMT) on Monday, the source said.

"The gunmen killed Hamdan’s wife and two of his children," he said.

Hamdani has been held in the US-run Bocca detention camp in southern Iraq for alleged links with guerrillas who fight the US occupation forces, the source added.

Guerrillas frequently mount attacks on the fledging Iraqi security forces, accusing them of collaborating with the US occupation forces.

Three Iraqi soldiers killed in clash with guerrillas

Bangladesh PM calls for exchange of weather information

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Extend growing of physic nut for rural development

**Article and photos by Thaung Win Bo**

Bio-diesel, extracted from physic nut, can be directly used in place of diesel. Using bio-diesel does not call for any changes in engine parts.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe with visionary has given guidance on growing physic nut plants in all the states and divisions of the nation so as to effectively use bio-diesel in place of diesel.

The Myanma Agriculture Service and the Agricultural Mechanization Department are jointly undertaking the projects to achieve the target of growing seven million acres of physic nut in states and divisions all over the nation in three years.

At the ceremony to grow physic nut grafts as a gesture of hail ing the National Convention held at highland (3) in Lashio on 15 January this year, Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing delivered a speech, saying, “We’re now implementing a special plan to grow physic nut in Shan State (North) in accordance with the directives of the government to meet the target of fifty hundred thousand acres of physic nut”.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan took part in the growing of physic nut grafts.

Then, those present observed lighting of lamps and lanterns, burning of diesel stoves, running of farm machinery and milling of physic nut with the use of oil obtained from physic nut seeds.

The commander added, “In addition to conventional methods, Shan State (North) is doing research to work out better ways to boost per acre yield of physic nut. Now, we’re growing the crop with the use of irrigated water to ensure that it can be grown all-year round”.

Physic nut reproduction farms and high-yield physic nut growing zones are being established in Lashio, Kyaukme, Muse, Kunlong and Laukkai districts of Shan State (North) under the supervision of the chairmen of respective District Peace and Development Councils.

Plans are under way to allot lands of 880,000 acres in Shan State (North) to national entrepreneurs after re-claiming vacant lands.

Physic nut thrives well at any regions at any time in Myanmar and it contributes towards rural development. So, I would say growing physic nut is a lucrative business.

“Now, measures are being taken for the drive for generation of electric power with the use of bio-diesel to supply power to the villages of Shan State (North) commencing 2007. Bio-diesel will make considerable contribution towards the rural development tasks. In the near future, all the Trawler-Gs, generators, combine harvesters, water pumps and Leya-16 power-tillers will be operated with bio-diesel. It takes eight months for a physic nut plant to bear fruits if the seed is sowed, and it takes six months, if graft is planted. Now, one can see physic nut plantations everywhere in Shan State (North). Not only local regiments and units, social organizations but also national entrepreneurs take interest in such a promising industry. And Shan State Myanmar Police Force is expanding the growing of physic nut plants”, said the secretary of Shan State (North) PDC.

Physic nut reproduction will be undertaken in all the states and divisions.

“Translation: MS”
Government, people and Tatmadaw joining hands in nation-building tasks...

(from page 1)

The Government, the people, and the Tatmadaw are joining hands in nation-building tasks. Hence, progress has been made in all aspects. Taking advantage of technological and development gap, the media inside and outside the nation are trying to penetrate the political, social, economic and cultural sectors of the nation. To present correct news to the public, the USDA trainees from States and Divisions attended the 9-week course.

Minister U Nyan Win signs Book of Condolences

YANGON, 1 Feb — The ministers for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win signed Book of Condolences for the demise of former President of the Federal Republic of Germany Dr Johannes Rau. — MNA

Minister U Nyan Win signs Book of Condolences for the demise of former President of the Federal Republic of Germany Dr Johannes Rau. — MNA

Religious courses conclude

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung presents a certificate to a member of the Sangha. — MNA

Deputy Minister inspects dockyard, extension of runway

Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung inspects extended construction of runway of Mawlamyine Airport. — MNA

YANGON, 1 Feb — The conclusion of Theravada Buddhist Missionary Course No 16 along with Basic Course No 7/2006 on Health Care with Traditional Medicines conducted by the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana under the Ministry of Religious Affairs took place at the conclusion hall of the State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) on Kaba Aye Hill here this afternoon. Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw Abhidhajah Ma Ha Patthha Bhaddanta Acinna Bhiphavamsa and member Sayadaws graced the occasion by their presence. Also present were Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, departmental heads, officials, trainees and guests.

Chairman of Theravada Buddhist Ovadacariya Board Sayadaw Abhidhajah Agga Maha Suddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Caanda Srip gave a sermon for the sharing of merits gained. — MNA

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win signs the Book of Condolences for the demise of former President of the Federal Republic of Germany Dr Johannes Rau. — MNA

Dagon Township WJA holds annual meeting

YANGON, 1 Feb — The annual meeting of Dagon Township Writers and Journalists Association was held at the town hall on 29 January morning.

Chairperson Daw Nu Nu (Nu Nu Sarpya Beikman) gave an opening speech. Secretary U Maung Maung San (San Nilar Win) and Treasurer Daw Khin Myint Than (Asaw Htwe) read out the executive committee report and financial statement.

In the election ceremony, the executive committee, including Daw Nu Nu (Nu Nu Sarpya Beikman) as Chairperson, U Hla Maung (Aung Chein Bwa) as Vice-Chairperson, Daw Ni Ni Aye (Shin Ni) as Treasurer were elected. Later, the chairperson and the secretary of the township association were selected as representatives to the MWJA Conference. — MNA

my child matters
**Medical course, language course open in PyinOoLwin**

Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa speaking at opening ceremony of Medical Platoon Course No 6 at Central Fire Services Training School in PyinOoLwin. — MNA

YANGON, 1 Feb—Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa addressed the opening of the medical platoon course No 6 on 30 January and the language training course No 17 of the Immigration and National Registration Department today at the central training school of the Fire Services Department in PyinOoLwin.

On 30 January, the minister inspected cultivation of physic nut plants on 50 acres of land in the compound of the training school. He also inspected the training course of the vocational training school of the ministry in PyinOoLwin.

On 29 January, the minister met with staff of the Meiktila District Immigration and National Registration Department and Fire Services Department and called for the discharge of their duties in accord with rules and regulations. — MNA

**Township Judges Refresher Course opened**

YANGON, 1 Feb—The opening of Township Judges Refresher Course No 4 conducted by the Supreme Court took place at the Supreme Court this morning, with an address by Chief Justice U Aung Toe.

Also present were Deputy Chief Justice U Thein Soe, Supreme Court judges, Director-General of the Supreme Court U Soe Nyunt, officials, and invited persons. Altogether 56 trainees are attending the 10-week course. — MNA

**Religious titles to be conferred**

YANGON, 1 Feb—A work coordination meeting for holding a ceremony to confer religious titles on members of the Sangha and to donate provisions was held this morning at Ministry of Religious Affairs here.

At the meeting, Chairman of the leading committee for holding the ceremony Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung addressed the meeting, and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and those present reported on tasks being carried out for the ceremony.

Those wishing to donate cash and kind may contact Ph 241125, 660441. — MNA

**Industry-1 market festival launched**

YANGON, 1 Feb—As a gesture of hailing the 59th Anniversary Union Day, the Ministry of Industry-1 opened the Industry-1 market festival in the compound of the ministry on Sethmu Road in Bahan Township, here, this morning.

Director-General of the Directorate of Industries U Thein Aung formally opened the festival held on the road around the compound of the ministry.

Deputy Minister for Industry-1 Brig-Gen Thein Tun unveiled the signboard of the festival, and viewed the pavilions of Myanmar Ceramics Industries, Myanma Paper and Chemical Industries, Myanma Foodstuff Industries, Myanma General and Maintenance Industries, and Myanma Textile Industries. The festival was packed with visitors.

At the festival, a wide range of goods manufactured by the ministry are on sale at reasonable prices retail and wholesale. For the recreation of the visitors, a music show is staged from 6 pm to 8 pm daily at the festival, that continues till 5 February. — MNA

**Sports gear worth US$ 580 handed over to Institute of Nursing (Yangon)**

Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presents sports gear to Rector Dr Daw Khin May Ohn of Institute of Nursing (Yangon). — MNA

YANGON, 1 Feb—Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee and Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint delivered an address at the ceremony to hand over sports gear to Institute of Nursing (Yangon) at the hall of the institute, here, yesterday morning.

Also present on the occasion were officials of the Ministry of Sports, Chairperson Daw Aye Aye of Central Work Committee for Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation and members of the panel of patrons, the director-general of Medical Science Department, the rector of Institute of Nursing (Yangon), employees and trainees.

First, the minister explained the purpose of the handover ceremony. Next, he presented 11 items of sports equipment for table tennis, badminton, basketball, football and Sepak Takraw sports events worth US$ 580. Rector of the institute Dr Daw Khin May Ohn accepted the sports gear and presented a souvenir to the minister.

Later, the rector expressed gratitude. — MNA
Nepal mulls downward revision of landing fees in int’l airport

KATHMANDU, 1 Feb — The Nepali Government is mulling a plan to reduce landing fees at the country’s only international airport in Kathmandu, a senior government official said here on Tuesday. “The government is mulling to revise landing fees at Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) in a bid to lure more foreign airlines in Nepal,” Yankila Sherpa, Nepal State Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, said during a national general body meeting of Hotel Association of Nepal, a non-governmen
tal organization.

Experts said nearly 800 square hectares of land.

The Centre for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS), an independent analysis wing of the Water Resources Ministry, said in a recent study that the widening process of the Brahmaputra-Jamuna still continues owing to long-term effects of the 1950 Assam (India) earthquake of 8.6 magnitude on the Richter Scale.

Experts said nearly 800 square km of valuable floodplains have been lost due to erosion along the Brahmaputra-Jamuna’s total length of 240 kilometres in Bangladesh.

River erosion in Bangladesh leaves 1m homeless

DHAKA, 1 Feb — Around one million people have been rendered homeless due to river erosion in Bangladesh over the last three decades as the mighty river Brahmaputra-Jamuna continues to widen.

The Daily Star quoted official statistics as saying on Tuesday that the Brahmaputra-Jamuna, a major river system in Bangladesh, has widened to 11.8 kilometres now from 8.3 kilometres in the early 1970s, eroding about 87,790 hectares of land.

“The government is working towards downward revision of the landing fees at TIA as we deem the current fee structure would be discouraging to airline operators in Nepal,” Sherpa added.

A number of airlines had stopped flights to Nepal in the past, citing expensive landing and navigation fees charged in TIA.

“We should retain airlines currently flying to Nepal by revising the landing fees as the airlines are crucial for tourism promotion,” she added — MNA/Xinhua

Mexican FM says border conflict with US resolved

MEXICO CITY, 1 Feb — The Mexican Government gives its recent border conflict with the United States resolved, following a full investigation conducted in accordance to reports from Madrid.

“The case of the alleged intervention of Mexican Army members, involved in helping drug traffickers, has been resolved and clarified by the Mexican Government,” Derbez told journalists during a visit to the Spanish capital Madrid.

No Mexican soldiers had crossed into US territory during last Monday’s incident, Derbez said.

On Tuesday last week, after the incident, Mexico and the US began a heated discussion on the identity of the men, who, dressed as Mexican soldiers, helped drug traffickers fleeing into Mexico in hot pursuit from US police.

The US Government asked Mexico for a thorough investigation and a swift response, while the Mexican authorities immediately rejected any possibility of Mexican soldiers assisting in drug dealers.

Derbez suggested the uniformed men could be US troops or US criminals disguised as Mexican soldiers.

The tension increased when US Ambassador to Mexico, Antonio Garza, made public a diplomatic note demanding the Mexican Government take border violence seriously. — MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia, Saudi Arabia eye closer economic ties

KUALA LUMPUR, 1 Feb — Malaysia and Saudi Arabia on Tuesday expressed their wishes to further strengthen bilateral economic and trade ties, urging business communities in the two countries to explore untapped potentials in various fields.

Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and visiting Saudi King Abdullah Abdul Aziz Al Saud delivered speeches at a business luncheon hosted by the Malaysia-Saudi Arabia Business Council.

“Malaysia places a great emphasis on strengthening bilateral trade ties with Saudi Arabia. The current state of bilateral relations is excellent. The volume of trade and investment between the two countries is growing in significance,” said Badawi in the Mandarin Oriental Hotel here.

Stressing that there remains much untapped potential in trade and investment between the two countries, Badawi called on Malaysian businessmen to enter into more joint ventures with their Saudi counterparts.

Badawi added that, in Saudi Arabia, Malaysian entrepreneurs will be especially looking for business opportunities in the area of infrastructure, including construction, electricity, shipyard building and maintenance as well as water desalination.

For his part, the Saudi King encouraged businessmen and investors in the two countries to take more initiatives to deepen business ties and cooperation.

The two governments have made their due efforts in laying the framework to facilitate bilateral cooperation and investment, and Strengthened the business linkages between the two countries to take the initiative, said King Abdullah.

Badawi arrived here Monday for a three-day visit to Malaysia, his first visit to this Southeast Asian nation after his ascending the throne last August. He paid a visit to Malaysia in October 2003 as Crown Prince to attend the 10th Organization of Islamic Conference (ICO) Leaders’ Summit.

Planned bomb attack foiled in Kabul

KABUL, 1 Feb — A planned bomb attack was foiled by Afghan forces on Monday in Afghan capital Kabul, local officials said. “This morning at about 11 am (0630 GMT) we got the report about the suspected bomb in police district 10, on the way between US Embassy and the airport,” said a local police official.

Afghan rapid reaction force department reported this to the foreign troops who afterwards went there, found and defused the bomb, General Mahbob Ahmad, commander of rapid reaction force told Xinhua.

“The explosives include two mines and one wireless controller,” he added while declining to tell the nationality of the foreign troops.

Afghan forces have for several times foiled suspected attacks. Afghan National Police (ANP) and Afghan National Army (ANA) foiled a suicide attack Wednesday with fast speed in the southern Kandahar Province, a local official said.

A Romanian man moves snow on the roof of an ice hotel at Balea Lac, Romania, at an altitude of 2,034 meters, (6,700 feet) 300 kilometres (186 miles) north-west of Bucharest, on 31 Jan, 2006. — INTERBET

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S Korea-Singapore FTA to take effect in March
Seoul, 1 Feb — South Korea and Singapore agreed to begin implementation of a bilateral free trade agreement (FTA) on March 2, according to South Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade on Tuesday.

The accord, which was ratified by South Korean National Assembly last December, calls for South Korea to remove tariffs on 91.6 per cent of its 10,315 trade items with Singapore within 10 years. In return, Singapore will scrap tariffs on all trade items with South Korea once the deal becomes effective, the ministry said in a statement.

Moreover, South Korea agreed to grant preferential tariff to the products produced at Kaesong Industrial Complex in North Korea in future, the statement added.

The Kaesong Industrial Complex is under construction jointly by South Korea and North Korea.

About 15 South Korean companies already have started on finding a way to exploit the Southeast Asian market and enhance trade with Singapore.

South Korea has signed free trade deals with Chile, Singapore and the European Free Trade Association, comprising Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

Scientists say global warming demands urgent solutions
London, 1 Feb — The world must halt greenhouse gas emissions and reverse them within two decades or watch the planet spiralling towards destruction, scientists said on Monday.

Saying that evidence of catastrophic global warming from burning fossil fuels was now incontrovertible, the experts from oceanographers to economists, climatologists and politicians stressed that inaction was unacceptable.

“Climate change is worse than was previously thought and we need to act now,” Henry Derwent, special climate change adviser to British Prime Minister Tony Blair, said at the launch of a book of scientific papers on the global climate crisis.

Researcher Rachel Warren from the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, who contributed to the book “Avoiding Dangerous Climate Change”, said carbon dioxide emissions had to peak no later than 2025, and painted a picture of rapidly approaching catastrophe.

Global average temperature were already 0.6 Celsius above pre-industrial levels, and a rise of just 0.4C more would see coral reefs wiped out, flooding in the Himalayas and millions more people facing hunger, she said.

A rise of 3C — just half of what scientists have warned is possible this century — would see 400 million people going hungry, entire species being wiped out and killer diseases such as dengue fever reaching pandemic proportions.

“To prevent all of this, global emissions need to peak in 2025 and then come down by 2.6 per cent a year,” Warren said.

“But even then we would probably face a rise of 2 degrees because of the delay built into the climate system. So we have to start to plan to adapt,” she added.

Already the effects of the change are becoming visible, with more extreme weather events and people in coastal areas put at risk from rising sea levels due to melting ice caps.

The first phase of the global Kyoto protocol on cutting greenhouse gas emissions runs until 2012, and negotiations have only just started on finding a way of taking it beyond that. —MNA/Reuters

Iran unveiled “nothing new” at EU3 talks
Brussels, 1 Feb — Iran presented no major new proposals at talks with European Union countries on Monday over Western concerns about its nuclear ambitions, a British official said after the discussions ended.

The talks in Brussels came ahead of a meeting of foreign ministers in London later on Monday where the EU and the United States will seek to persuade Russia and China to back tough diplomatic action against Iran over its nuclear programme.

“We didn’t hear anything new that we hadn’t heard already,” British diplomat John Sawers told reporters after two hours of talks with Javad Vaeedi, deputy head of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council. “We will pass on the information to our foreign ministers. They will make the final decision on whether the matter will go to the UN Security Council,” he added.

Emerging from the talks with the so-called EU3 of Britain, France and Germany, Vaeedi said the discussions had been “very positive” and raised the prospect of further meetings.

“As far as we are concerned, it has been a positive outcome,” he said.

Neither he nor Sawers referred to a new set of proposals Iran was expected to present at the talks aimed at halting a transfer of Iran’s case to the UN Security Council.

MNA/Reuters

Former postal worker kills 5, commits suicide in California
Los Angeles, 1 Feb — A former postal worker in California went on a shooting spree overnight, killing five people before she committed suicide, authorities said Tuesday.

Local police and federal agencies were investigating the scene of the carnage, a mail processing plant in a usually peaceful town of the coastal Santa Barbara county about 150 kilometres northwest of Los Angeles.

Officials said the shooter was a former employee who had been removed from the facility in 2003 by law enforcement officials after complaints from other employees, according to a website report of the Los Angeles Times newspaper.

The 44-year-old woman, whose name was not released, received a psychological medical disability, said Randy Degasperin, a postal inspector, who represented the US Postal Inspection Service, the post office’s police arm.

No physical threats were involved but her coworkers wanted the woman to receive help, he said, adding that the woman, who was a part-time distribution clerk, took another job.

The incident was the deadliest shooting in the workplace in the United States since 2003, when a 48-year-old man gunned down 14 co-workers, killing six, at a Lockheed Martin aircraft parts plant in Mississippi before killing himself. —MNA/Reuters

Study shows nearly eight million children born with defects
Washington, 1 Feb — Nearly eight million children are born with birth defects around the world every year and most of them either die or are disabled for life as a result, according to a report released on Monday.

With proper medical care up to 70 per cent of these defects could be prevented, or at least treated, the report from the March of Dimes said.

“An estimated 7.9 million children are born annually with a serious birth defect of genetic or partially genetic origin,” the report said.

“More than 90 per cent of all infants with a serious birth defect are born in middle- and low-income countries,” the report added.

“Because most of these countries do not have adequate services to care for infants and children with birth defects, many of them will die young.”

The March of Dimes, a charity whose goal is to eliminate birth defects, said 3.3 million deaths each year are associated with birth defects and another 3.2 million children born with defects become disabled.

MNA/Reuters

A Filipino woman clenches her fist while shouting anti-US slogans during a protest to demand custody of four US Marines outside the US Embassy in Manila on 30 Jan, 2006.—INTERNET

Smoke rises following the explosion of a car bomb in front of a building in Baghdad on 29 Jan, 2006. —INTERNET

The new light of Myanamar Thursday, 2 February, 2006 11

The first phase of the global Kyoto protocol on cutting greenhouse gas emissions runs until 2012, and negotiations have only just started on finding a way of taking it beyond that. —MNA/Reuters

For example, structural birth defects including congenital heart defects, congenital cataracts, cleft lip and palate and club foot, can be corrected with pediatric surgery, it said.

Treatments are also available for sickle cell disease, which causes misshapen red blood cells, thyroid disease and other problems.

In the United States alone, fortification of the grain supply with folic acid has produced a one-third decline in neural tube defects each year, with an overall cost savings calculated at 400 million US dollars annually, the report said.

In the United States, the infant mortality rate from birth defects fell 46 per cent between 1980 and 2001, the March of Dimes said.—MNA/Reuters

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Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:30 am and 12 noon to 4 pm. Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

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**Un agency invited to oversee destruction of cocaine in Kenya**

**Nairobi, 31 Jan** — The Kenyan Government has invited United Nations drug agency to witness the destruction of the 92.2 million US dollars cocaine haul, government spokesman Alfred Mutua Mutua said in a statement on Monday.

“The government has invited the United Nations Commission on Narcotics Drugs to inspect, verify and oversee the destruction of the six-billion-shilling (about 92 million dollar) cocaine haul that was confiscated by the Kenyan police,” he said.

Mutua said the Colombian cocaine was seized by police in the Kenyan coastal town of Mombasa about two years ago.

The seizure was the largest haul ever in Africa and the drugs have elicited sharp reactions from lawmakers and legal experts on how investigations have been carried out and its authenticity.

“It is important that the destruction is in accordance with the law and court procedures,” Mutua noted.

However, the government spokesman did not indicate when the UN drugs experts would be arrived in the East African country.

Six suspects charged in connection with the haul have been acquitted by a court in connection with the haul.

Several other people were also injured before a bullfighter stabbed the animal to death with his sword.

Bullfighting remains a popular sport in Mexico, although it does not draw the same crowds during its heyday in the middle of last century.

Mexico City's bullring was built 60 years ago and is one of the biggest in the world, holding 48,000 spectators. Little Bird was the first bull in the ring's history to jump into the crowd. MNA/Reuters

**China’s mobile phone subscribers to reach 440 m in 2006**

**Beijing, 31 Jan** — Number of mobile phone subscribers in China is expected to reach 440 million in 2006 with 48 million expected to be newly added this year, according to a prediction by the Information Industry Ministry.

The constant expansion of mobile phone subscribers has always been the major income source of the telecommunications business, which is expected to reach 700 billion yuan (87.5 billion US dollars) in 2006, up 10 per cent over 2005, according to the ministry.

China increased 58.604 million new mobile phone subscribers in 2005, with monthly growth approaching five million.

More and more Chinese people begin to use mobile phones. The Information Industry Ministry predicted that 33 per cent of the total population will possess mobile phones in 2006.

China will firmly hold its first position in the world in terms of its scale of mobile phone subscribers.

MNA/Xinhua

**Flying “Little Bird” bull injures seven Mexicans**

**Mexico City, 31 Jan** — A half-tonne bull named “Little Bird” has flown into Mexico’s history books by leaping into a packed crowd of bullfight fans and injuring seven in a panicked frenzy.

Television images from the bullfight on Sunday showed terrified spectators scattering as the 1,107-pound (503-kilo) beast jumped over the heads of stunned journalists and crashed into the most expensive seats at the vast Mexico City ring.

The rampaging bull — whose name “Pajarrito,” means “Little Bird” in English — gored one woman, who is hospitalized with a 6-inch (15-centimeters) gash in her chest.

Several other people were also injured before a bullfighter stabbed the animal to death with his sword.

Bullfighting remains a popular sport in Mexico, although it does not draw the same crowds during its heyday in the middle of last century.

Mexico City's bullring was built 60 years ago and is one of the biggest in the world, holding 48,000 spectators. Little Bird was the first bull in the ring's history to jump into the crowd.

MNA/Reuters

**Chinese Customs cracks over 60,000 smuggling cases in past five years**

**Beijing, 31 Jan** — Chinese Customs cracked down on a total of 60,059 smuggling cases in the past five years, involving 35.57 billion yuan (4.4 billion US dollars) worth of goods, according to the General Administration of Customs.

The administration said from 2001 to 2005, a total of 15,725 suspects were prosecuted for smuggling, with 7,687 arrested.

The Customs enhanced enforcement over smuggling in recent years, especially smuggling of important goods such as oil, cigarettes, vehicles, steel products and telecommunications equipment. In the past five years the Customs also seized 15,242 kilograms of drugs.

MNA/Xinhua

**Baby who had heart surgery in womb goes home**

**New York, 31 Jan** — An infant, named Grace, who underwent the world’s first heart “stent” procedure in the womb was discharged to go home on Friday, according to a Press release from Children’s Hospital Boston, the centre where the landmark operation took place.

The stent was placed in the developing fetus at 30 weeks of pregnancy on 7 November, 2005 to treat a heart defect called hypoplastic left heart syndrome (HLHS). She was born 10 January and underwent the first part of a definitive three-stage corrective operation on 13 January.

The physicians credit the earlier stent placement with protecting her lungs and making her recent operation run more smoothly than usual for these types of cases.

With HLHS, the most common heart disease-related cause of death during the first year of life, the left side of the heart is underdeveloped and can accept very little blood. Frequently, there is a hole that lets blood from the left side of the heart flow to the right side before leaving the heart.

In Grace’s case, however, there was not a hole, so blood accumulated on the left side and backed up into her lungs, which over time can cause serious damage.

To prevent the lung damage that would occur as the pregnancy went on, doctors decided to create a connection between the left and right sides of the heart, the stent was placed.

After several uneventful weeks, the mother returned to the hospital in January for delivery.

An ultrasound performed just before birth suggested that the stent procedure had worked: Grace looked like a typical HLHS baby, instead of one in the highest risk category as would have been expected without treatment.

At birth, Grace was breathing without major problems and did not need to be put on a mechanical ventilator.

MNA/Reuters

**The Japanese-developed H-2A rocket, carrying a 4-ton observation satellite, sits on the launching pad at Tanegashima Space Center recently.**

**INTERNET**

**Internet**

**The constant communication business, income source of the ring’s history to jump into the crowd.**

**INTERNET**
**ADB provides Uganda with fund for education, water sectors**

**KAMPALA, 31 Jan—**The African Development Bank (ADB) has agreed to provide Uganda with $85.75 million US dollars to support its education, water and sanitation sectors.

Two grant protocols on providing the funds were signed in Tunis by ADB acting Vice-President Mohammed Gharbi and Ugandan Finance Minister Ezra Suruma last week, state-owned newspaper The New Vision reported on Monday.

"The grant earmarked for the rural water supply and sanitation programme will contribute to the development of over 3,500 boreholes, 4,000 protected springs, 500 ecological toilets and provide gender-balanced support to domestic and school hygiene promotion throughout rural districts," Gharbi said. Suruma commended ADB for the successful tenth replenishment of the African Development Fund, the concessional window of the bank group, which has made it possible for poor countries to benefit from financing of certain activities at 100 per cent grant.

"This was a milestone in ADB's development and a big step in placing highly concessional resources at the disposal of its well performing but highly indebted and poor lot of its members", the Minister added. — MNA/Xinhua

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**Blast injures five in southern Turkey**

**ANKARA, 31 Jan—**Five were injured on Monday when an explosion occurred in the Turkish-US Friendship Association building in southern Turkey, reported the semi-official Anatolia news agency.

Cahit Kirac, governor of southeastern Turkish city of Adana, was quoted as saying that the bomb was planted in a waiting room on the ground floor of the Turkish-US Association building in downtown Adana.

"Four English language teaching course students and a janitor were wounded in the blast. They were not seriously injured," he added.

According to him, "efforts continue to capture an unidentified person who fled just after the explosion. Also bomb experts are working to determine the type of the bomb." Police evacuated the building and cordoned off the scene of the blast. — MNA/Xinhua

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**Floods, drought boost global disasters in 2005**

**GENEVA, 31 Jan—**More frequent floods and drought, blamed by some scientists on global warming, brought a near 20 per cent rise in natural disasters in 2005, researchers said on Monday.

But the death toll fell to 91,963 from 244,577 in 2004 when the figures were swollen by the impact of the Asian tsunami, the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) and Belgium's Louvain Research Centre said in a report.

Over 80 per cent of the fatalities in 2005 came from a single disaster — October's devastating earthquake in Kashmir and Pakistan's North West Frontier Province — just as the tsunami caused over 90 per cent of deaths a year earlier.

Without the earthquake and the tsunami, the death toll in both years was under 20,000, confirming a trend for more frequent, but less lethal disasters.

"That is the goods news," said professor Debaratlin Guha Sapir, of the Louvain Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED).

The bad news was that rising urbanization, with people in developing countries often crowding into environmentally dangerous areas around big cities, meant the risk of disasters was growing, said ISDR director Salvano Briceno.

"These figures reaffirm trends we have been observing for the past decade," he said. "Less people are dying from disasters, but there are many more long-term, negative implications for sustainable human development," he said. In 2005, there were 360 natural disasters, ranging from hurricane Katrina, which killed 1,322 people in New Orleans, to a measles epidemic in Nigeria in which more than 500 died. MNA/Reuters

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**Two people frozen to death in Turkey**

**ANKARA, 31 Jan—**Two people were frozen to death in central Turkey, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported on Monday.

The report said a person was frozen to death when he was hunting in Emirin Town of Afyon province, and another woman died of cold in Yahyali Town of Kayseri Province.

Heavy snowfalls, icy roads and freezing temperatures have also caused some deadly traffic accidents throughout Turkey these days. — MNA/Xinhua

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**Senegal, Mauritania to strengthen cooperation**

**DAKAR, 31 Jan—**Senegal and Mauritania announced on Monday they will strengthen cooperation in all spheres and bring their bilateral relations to a new stage, reports reaching here said.

The governments of the two Western African countries will discuss the details of cooperation at joint committee meetings, which are to be held regularly as from the first half of this year, according to a communique published on Monday after Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade concluded his one-day working visit to Mauritania. Wade and Mauritanian leader Ely Ould Mohamed Vall announced they will coordinate on agricultural policies and take necessary measures to protect the ecological environment and the biodiversity of the Senegal valley. The two countries will also cooperate in other spheres including education, public health, democracy construction, and fight against terrorism and transnational crimes, the communique said. — MNA/Xinhua

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**AIDS cases drop in Switzerland in 2005**

**GENEVA, 31 Jan—**A total of 234 cases of AIDS were reported in Switzerland in 2005, a drop of 20 per cent compared with the previous year, the Swiss Federal Health Office said on Monday.

"In total, 234 cases of AIDS were reported to the authorities in 2005, compared with 298 cases in 2004," said the office in a statement.

It added that 702 people were tested positive for HIV in 2005, 41 fewer than in 2004. However, officials warned that it was too early to draw any conclusions since only 111 new cases were diagnosed last year — the rest were from previous years but first reported in 2005. — MNA/Xinhua

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**Iran detain suspects of blast which kills eight**

**Tehran, 31 Jan—**Iran said on Monday that it has detained dozens of suspects of a blast which killed eight people in southern Iranian city of Ahvaz last Tuesday, the official news agency IRNA reported.

The detainees were suspected of involvement in two huge blasts which rocked Ahvaz on Tuesday, killing eight people and wounding over 40 others.

Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki accused Britain of being responsible for the explosions.

He said British troops deployed in northern Iraq along the border might assist those who launched the two bomb attacks in Ahvaz, demanding London to respond seriously to Iran's doubts. MNA/Xinhua

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**A Chinese soldier trains a dog by skipping rope at a military base in Nanjing, east China’s Jiangsu Province on 28 Jan, 2006. —INTERNET**

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**A snow sculpture of two figures under an umbrella sit on a bench at a park in Milan, Italy, on 28 Jan, 2006. Heavy snowfall has been hitting northern Italy during the last two days. —INTERNET**
**SPORTS**

**Spurs sunk by late goal from Fulham’s Bocanegra**

**LONDON, 1 Feb** — A last-gasp goal by American defender Carlos Bocanegra gave Fulham a 1-0 win over London rivals Tottenham Hotspur in the Premier League on Tuesday.

Elsewhere, Duncan Ferguson of Everton and Wigan Athletic’s Jason Roberts were sent off in a 1-1 draw at the JJB Stadium. Middlesbrough avenged their shock home defeat earlier this season when they swept past bottom-of-the-table Sunderland 3-0 while Charlton Athletic shared a 0-0 draw with West Bromwich Albion at the Valley.

Things started to go wrong at Craven Cottage for Spurs when defender Michael Dawson was dismissed in the 72nd minute for a second bookable offense.

Bocanegra then grabbed the only goal of the game in the 90th minute, heading his first goal of the season from six metres following a free kick by Simon Elliott.

Spurs remained fourth on 41 points, three adrift of third-placed Liverpool. Everton climbed to 13th with 29 points. Tempers became frayed at Wigan when Everton striker Ferguson was dismissed for violent conduct with 10 minutes to go.

Wigan forward Roberts also received the red card for a foul on David Weir three minutes later. Everton, now unbeaten in nine matches, went in front after a ninth-minute free kick by Simon Elliott.

A Wigan free kick, but the home side’s second goal eight minutes later, picking up a pass from Mark Viduka before drilling in a right-foot drive from 20 metres. Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink made certain of victory with a 20-metre volley by Paul Scharner.

**AC Milan tumble out of Italian Cup against Palermo**

**ROME, 1 Feb** — AC Milan tumbled out of the Italian Cup when they were beaten 3-0 by quarterfinal opponents Palermo on Tuesday.

Milan’s 3-1 elimination on aggregate was their second disappointment in four days following a 1-1 draw with Sampdoria at the weekend that left them 12 points behind leaders Juventus in Serie A. “We’re going through a bad patch,” Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti told reporters. “We need to concentrate harder, especially at the back. We let them have far too much of the ball at the beginning, you just can’t afford to do that against a quality team.”

The result represented a dream start for Palermo coach Giuseppe Papadopulo. The former head of Lazio took charge of the Sicilian side on Sunday after his predecessor, Luigi Del Neri, was sacked following five defeats in seven Serie A matches.

Milan, fielding a strong side fronted by Alberto Gilardino and Kaka in support, had an early chance to take the lead when the ball broke loose on the edge of the area to Kaka but the Brazilian playmaker failed to get any power on his shot.

There was nothing wrong, however, with the shot unleashed by Mariano Gonzalez from 20 metres out that curled into the top of Milan’s net in the 10th minute. Palermo striker Andrea Caracciolo grabbed the home side’s second goal eight minutes later, running on to Eugenio Corini’s through ball before finishing coolly into the bottom corner of the net.

At 2-0 down, Milan began to press forward but, five minutes into the second half Palermo struck again, this time on the break, when Gonzalez raced into the area, rounded Kalac and slot- ted home his second goal of the night.—**INTERNET**

**Zimbabwe knock Ghana out of Cup**

**ISMAILIA (Egypt), 1 Feb** — Zimbabwe rounded off their African Nations Cup campaign with a surprise 2-1 victory over Ghana which knocked the World Cup-bound opponents out of the tournament for the first time.

Midfielder Cephas Chimdemba put Zimbabwe in front on the hour mark and striker Benjani Mwaruwari galloped through to add the second, before Baba Adamu pulled one back for Ghana in stoppage time.

The result meant neither team qualified from Group D, where Nigeria’s 2-1 win over Senegal left the Senegalese to squeeze through on goal difference.

Zimbabwe had been the better side over the first 45 minutes but Pape Bouba Diop and Henri Camara both squandered chances.

In the 95th minute Senegal finally broke the deadlock when Henri Camara’s shot was parried away by Vincent Enyeama and substitute Souleymane Camara followed up to drive in from close range.

**Martins sets up late win for Nigeria**

**PORT SAID (Egypt), 1 Feb** — Olafemi Martins scored two late goals to give Nigeria a third successive victory at the African Nations Cup finals with a 2-1 win over Senegal.

The result was critical for Nigeria as it consigned them to third place, only securing a penalty shootout against Cameroon in their last eight tie.

Senegal still qualified for the quarterfinals in out that left them 12 points behind leaders Juventus in Serie A. “We’re going through a bad patch,” Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti told reporters. “We need to concentrate harder, especially at the back. We let them have far too much of the ball at the beginning, you just can’t afford to do that against a quality team.”

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**Zimbabwe knock Ghana out of Cup**

Ghana, though hand- cuffed by absences through injury, became the third World Cup-qualified nation to bow out of the tournament for the third time after losing two successive matches in the group while Ghana are the third World Cup final- istic eliminated after just three matches.

Only a superb save by Adjeydenied Zimbabwe an opener in the closing stages of the half when he pushed away Chimmedza’s booming free kick, but Mwaruwari should have done better with a header from N’Dowola’s inviting cross. Zimbabwe kept up the pressure after the break and were rewarded when Ghana failed to fully clear a corner and Chimmedza’s deflected-half-volley hit the back of the net.

Things went from bad to worse for the Ghana- ians when Mwaruwari ran on to a defence-splitting pass and coolly swept the ball past the advancing Adjey.

A quick free kick saw Martins net the winner from a similar position nine minutes later but this time after Kanu at the back post had headed the ball back into this path. Senegal had been the better side over the first 45 minutes but Pape Bouba Diop and Henri Camara both squandered chances.

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Iran says no legal basis for UN referral

**Teheran**, 1 Feb — Iran said on Tuesday moves to send its nuclear case to the United Nations Security Council were not legally justified and that it would not bow to demands it halt atomic research and development.

"There is no legal basis to refer Iran's case to the Security Council and the Europeans will face difficulties doing so," Gholamreza Aghazadeh, head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, said in an interview with the semi-official ISNA students news agency.

He was speaking after the five permanent members of the Security Council agreed on Tuesday that the UN nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), should report to the Council this week on what Iran must do to cooperate with the agency.

The agreement stopped short of recommending a formal referral of Iran to the Security Council, where it could face economic sanctions.

But Iranian officials have previously said any move to inform or report its case to the Council would lead it to scale back cooperation with UN inspectors and resume uranium enrichment — the most sensitive phase of the atomic fuel cycle.

The Foreign Ministers of China, Russia, the United States, France and Britain, plus Germany and the European Union, said after a dinner in London that the IAEA must decide to bring Iran's case before the Council when the agency holds an emergency meeting on Thursday.

The tough action against Teheran — the culmination of more than three years of failed efforts to find a diplomatic solution — follows Iran's decision last month to resume atomic research and development after a break of more than two years.

The London meeting statement again called on Iran to halt atomic research, which has led to Iran removing UN seals at a uranium enrichment facility which could be used to make bomb-grade material.

**Around six hurt in N Carolina chemical plant blast**

**Raleigh** (North Carolina), 1 Feb — Around six people were injured on Tuesday in an explosion at a chemical plant in North Carolina, an official said.

Two of the injured were taken by air ambulance to hospitals further away in North Carolina, said Lisa Propst, 911 communications manager for Burke County.

The explosion at the Synthron Inc plant in Morganton occurred shortly before 11:30 am EST (1630 GMT), said Propst.

The extent of the injuries was not known, nor was the cause of the blast. No one was answering telephone calls at the plant.

According to chemical industry websites, Synthron is a subsidiary of French independent specialty chemicals company Protex International group.

**WEATHER**

**Wednesday, 1 February, 2006**

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Kachin, and Chin States and upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Mon State, Bago and Tanintharyi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (2°C) and Pinyaung (4°C).

Maximum temperature on 31-1-2006 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 1-2-2006 was 60°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 1-2-2006 was (75%). Total sunshine hours on 31-1-2006 was (8.2) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 1-2-2006 were nil at Mingladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were nil at Mingladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from East at (15:30) hours MST on 31-1-2006.

**Bay inference:** Weather is generally fair in the Bay of Bengal.

**Forecast valid until evening of 2-2-2006:** Weather will be generally fair in the whole country.

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

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Likelihood of slight increase of night temperatures in the lower Myanamar areas.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 2-2-2006:** Fair weather.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 2-2-2006:** Fair weather.

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Delegates to the National Convention return home

YNANGON, 1 Feb — Chairman of the National Convention Convening Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung, Secretary Lt-Col Than Htay and Chairman of the Sub-committee for Accommodation and Reception Col Htain Linn this morning went to Nyaunghnapin Camp in YANGON, 1 Feb — Hailing the 59th Anniversary Union Day 2006, the market festival of the Ministry of Industry-1 commenced in the compound of the Ministry of Industry-1 in Bahan Township today.

This afternoon, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung visited the festival.

A total of 333 items of products manufactured by the Ministry of Industry-1 are being sold at the festival.

The market festival will last up to 5 February from 10 am to 8 pm daily. — MNA

NCC Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung bidding farewell to NC delegates. — MNA

Some delegates returned home yesterday afternoon.

— For all national races to safeguard the national policy — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty.
— To keep the Union spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people.
— For all national people to defend and safeguard the Union for its perpetual existence.
— To prevent, through national solidarity, the danger of internal and external destructive elements undermining peace and stability of the State and national development.
— For all national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-point future policy programme of the State.

Significant night temperatures

Haka (2˚C)
Pinlaung (4˚C)

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe with visionary has given guidance on growing physic nut plants in all the states and divisions of the nation so as to effectively use biodiesel in place of diesel.

Physic nut reproduction farms and high-yield physic nut growing zones are being established in Lashio, Kyaukme, Muse, Kunlong and Laukkai districts of Shan State (North) under the supervision of the chairmen of respective District Peace and Development Councils.

Plans are under way to allot lands of 880,000 acres in Shan State (North) to national entrepreneurs after reclaiming vacant lands.

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