Approval of the Constitution draft will be sought in a National Referendum to be held in May 2008

In accordance with the forthcoming State Constitution, the multi-party democracy general elections will be held in 2010

1. As a new Constitution is required to bring about multi-party democracy aspired by the people in the nation, the National Convention was convened in 1993. Due to various reasons, it was temporarily adjourned in 1996. Then, it was reconvened in 2004 and successfully completed in 2007.

2. The National Convention was participated by over 1,000 delegates of eight delegate groups such as Delegate Group of Political Parties, Delegate Group of Representatives-elect, Delegate Group of Peasants, Delegate Group of Workers, Delegate Group of State Service Personnel, Delegate Group of National Races, Delegate Group of Intellectuals and Intelligentsia, and Delegate Group of Other Invited Persons.

3. The delegates included those from every township representing over 100 national races residing in the nation. Likewise, representatives of national race armed groups which had returned to the legal fold were permitted to take part in the Delegate Group of Other Invited Persons.

4. The National Convention has unanimously adopted fundamental principles and detailed basic principles for drafting a new Constitution. Now, the Commission for Drafting the State Constitution which was assigned duties under Announcement No 2/2007 by the State Peace and Development Council has been drafting the new Constitution in accordance with the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles laid down by the National Convention and it is to be completed soon.

5. Hence, in accordance with the fourth step of the seven-step Road Map, the approval of the Constitution draft will be sought in a National Referendum to be held in May 2008.

By order,
Sd/ Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo
Lieutenant-General
Secretary-1
State Peace and Development Council

1. The Tatmadaw Government had to unavoidably take over State responsibilities due to the unrest and disturbances in 1988.
2. Since then, it restored community peace and tranquility as well as the rule of law while enabling the people to earn livelihood freely and peacefully.
3. For development of agricultural sector in view of bringing about economic development of the nation and the people, clusters of dams and reservoirs were built; river water pumping projects and underground water tapping projects were implemented; all-round efforts were made to ensure food sufficiency for the entire people; and conventional farming is being transformed into mechanized farming.
4. Moreover, the State has established heavy industries and encouraged private-owned industries by setting up industrial zones in order to transform the agricultural country into an industrialized one.
5. To bring about market-oriented economic system as aspired by the people, efforts have been made hand in hand with the people for development of internal and external trade.
6. Border areas and national races development projects were implemented for ensuring region-wise development in the country while infrastructures were built for better transportation to overcome natural barriers in order that national people will make closer contacts in amity.
7. To narrow down the gap in human resource development as much as possible in the nation, 24 special development regions were designated and universities, institutions and schools were opened. Similarly, to uplift health and fitness of the entire people, specialist hospitals, hospitals and rural hospitals were constructed and upgraded.
8. Although such endeavours to build up good foundations for the nation and the national people have not completed yet, required basic foundations have already been constructed.
9. As such necessary good foundations have been established, it is most appropriate to transform the administration of Tatmadaw into democratic administration of the people. Thus, in accordance with the forthcoming State Constitution, the multi-party democracy general elections will be held in 2010.

By order,
Sd/ Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo
Lieutenant-General
Secretary-1
State Peace and Development Council

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Monday, 11 February, 2008

**PERSPECTIVES**

**Extend cultivation of marketable seasonal crops**

Vegetables and fruit produced in Myanmar are very popular in foreign markets because of less content of chemical agents. Cultivation of vegetables and fruit with the use of modern agricultural techniques not only satisfies local consumption but also promotes export. About 100 kinds of vegetables, kitchen crops and flowers and over 70 kinds of fruit are grown in favourable conditions in Kachin State, Mandalay, Sagaing, Bago and Yangon Divisions.

Crops such as beans and green gram, onion and vegetables such as mustard, cabbage, tomatoes and carrots are grown in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinnmana and its environs. Various kinds of flowers from Yamethin and nearby villages and plums from Meiktila region are sold well.

Sunflower, an edible oil crop and green pea are grown together with beans and pulses in Kayin and Thongwa Townships as their harvest time is nearly the same. Other oil crops niger is grown a lot in Taunggyi, Hopong, Hshihxq, Kalaw, Aungban, Pinlaung, Pindaya, Wyan dan, Loilem and Langko in southern Shan State. As the amount of consumption of niger oil has increased in the region, extended cultivation of the crop is being undertaken instead of groundnut, sesamum and oil palm.

Mandalay region and Aungban, Taunggyi, Kalaw, Pyin Oo Lwin, Kyaunkume, Nawnghkio, Hsipaw and Lashio regions in Shan State are chilli cultivation areas. Now efforts are being made for export of quality chilli beginning March, the chilli cultivation season.

Agricultural companies and farmers need to utilize modern methods in cultivation of vegetables and fruit and extend the sown acreage of crops so that their income will surely increase.

**Foreign Minister felicitates Iranian counterpart**

**Myanmar delegation leaves for India**

**Three killed, 36 wounded in car crash**

**ASEAN Youth Performance Award winner arrives back**

**Commander inspects preventive measures against DHF in Thakayta**
Obama wins two contests, Huckabee takes Kansas

WASHINGTON, 10 Feb — Barack Obama won Democratic presidential contests in Nebraska and Washington state on Saturday, striking blows in a bruising back-and-forth battle with Hillary Clinton for the party’s nomination.

Nominating battles

Nebraska and Washington, with a combined 102 delegates at stake, were the latest battlegrounds in a deadlocked race between Obama and Clinton where every delegate to this summer’s nominating convention has become crucial. Louisiana Democrats also voted. Among Republicans, former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee easily won the presidential contest in Kansas, showing signs of life in a nominating race front-runner John McCain has nearly sewed up.

Huckabee, whose campaign has made inroads with social and religious conservatives, captured about 60 percent of the vote in Kansas, more than double McCain's total.

Louisiana and Washington also voted on Saturday in the Republican race to choose a candidate in November’s presidential election, and Huckabee and McCain were running close in early returns in both. —MNA/Reuters

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Fire erupts in N London market with no injuries

LONDON, 9 Feb — Hazardous response teams were sent to battle a major fire broke out in Camden Town market, northern London, on Saturday evening, with no injuries reported. The flames, which is said to have leapt up to over 10 metres in the air, started at about 19:20 local time in Camden Market, one of the biggest tourist attraction in London.

Up to 100 firefighters and 25 fire engines were sent there for the fire fight, which lasted about three hours.

There are no reports of casualties so far but London Fire Brigade said earlier people were reported trapped in the fire.

Police sealed off roads near the blaze and some houses and flats are being evacuated.

Hawley Arms, a popular Camden pub which is frequented by celebrities was damaged by the fire.

London Ambulance Service said it has ambulances and a hazardous response team at the scene.

Explosion were heard when the fire started but the cause of the fire was not yet clear.—Internet

Waterboarding should be prosecuted as torture

MEXICO CITY, 10 Feb — The controversial interrogation technique known as waterboarding and used by the United States qualifies as torture, the UN human rights chief said on Friday.

“I would have no problems with describing this practice as falling under the prohibition of torture,” the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Louise Arbour, told a news conference in Mexico City.

Arbour made her comment in response to a question about whether US officials could be tried for the use of waterboarding that referred to CIA director Michael Hayden telling Congress on Tuesday his agency had used waterboarding on three detainees captured after the 11 September attacks.

“Violators of the UN Convention against Torture should be prosecuted under the principle of ‘universal jurisdiction’ which allows countries to try accused war criminals from other nations, Arbour said.

“There are several precedents worldwide of states exercising their universal jurisdiction...to enforce the torture convention and we can only hope that we will see more and more of these avenues of redress,” Arbour said.

—INTERNET

Suspected suicide blast kills 20 at Pakistan election rally

PESHAWAR (Pakistan), 10 Feb — A suspected suicide blast ripped through an opposition election rally in northwestern Pakistan on Saturday, killing at least 20 people and wounding 25 officials said.

The attack happened at a rally of the Awami National Party (ANP), an ethnic Pashtun nationalist party, in the town of Charsadda in troubled North West Frontier Province, they said.

The bombing has further raised fears for the security of general elections on 18 February, which have already been delayed by the assassination of opposition leader Benazir Bhutto at a rally in December. “According to initial reports, 20 people were killed and 25 were injured. One of the injured told me in hospital that it was a suicide attack but I cannot confirm it officially,” provincial health minister Syed Kamal Shah told AFP. Interior Minister Hamid Nawaz said the attack was likely carried out by a suicide bomber. —Internet
Putin warns of new worldwide arms race

MOSCOW, 9 Feb — Russian President Vladimir Putin said here Friday that the world is facing a new arms race, RIA news agency reported.

"A new round of the arms race is developing in the world," said Putin.

University students in Beijing get stipends, part-time jobs

BEIJING 9 Feb — During China’s Spring Festival holiday, which runs from 6 February to 12 this year, about 12,000 university students in Beijing will not return home for various reasons, and they will get government subsidies and part-time jobs, local media reported.

About 300 students were stranded by the bad weather in their hometowns, and they have priority on the government’s assistance list.

About 2.3 million yuan (about 328,571 US dollars) in subsidies were extended by the city government to the stay-behinds, twice the money given last year. Also, 1,200 part-time paid jobs were offered.

In addition, universities provided services to these students, such as holding parties and opening libraries and gyms for them.

Six dead in Missouri city hall shootings

KIRKWOOD (Missouri), 8 Feb — A gunman killed two police officers and three city officials on Thursday night when he stormed into a city council meeting in a suburb of St Louis, police said.

The gunman, who was later shot dead by police, killed one police officer in the parking lot outside City Hall in Kirkwood and another inside the building. He rushed into the council meeting and began shooting people, including council officials and Mayor Mike Swoboda, who suffered a gunshot wound to the head and was in critical condition, police said.

“He shot three other people who were attending the council meeting. They also are deceased,” the St Louis Post-Dispatch newspaper quoted Officer Tracy Panus as saying. Two of the dead were council members and the other was an engineer, police said.

Crime scene tape is removed from around Kirkwood City Hall by a Manchester police officer (left) and another unidentified man on 8 Feb, 2008, in Kirkwood, Mo. A gunman opened fire at a meeting of the Kirkwood City Council in suburban St Louis on Thursday night, killing five people before being shot and killed by police. — INTERNET

Five US soldiers killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 9 Feb — Five US soldiers were killed in attacks in Iraq on Friday, the US military said on Saturday.

Four of the soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb while on patrol northeast of Baghdad, the military said in a statement. The other soldier was killed by an explosion near his vehicle during an operation in northern Iraq, it said. Thirteen US soldiers have been killed in Iraq this month, according toicasualties.org, an independent website that tracks military deaths in the country. — MNA/Reuters

Two killed in gas explosion in S Russia

MOSCOW, 10 Feb — A gas explosion killed two people at an apartment building in southern Russia’s Krasnodar region early Friday, RIA news agency reported. Rescuers recovered the body of a 20-year-old man at 10:20 am local time (0720 GMT), three hours after the body of a 61-year-old woman was pulled out from the debris, RIA cited a local emergencies official as saying.

Death toll could continue to rise as eyewitnesses claimed that another woman could have been in the building at the time of the blast. — MNA/Xinhua

Sri Lankan legislator dies of motor accident

COLOMBO, 10 Feb — Sri Lankan legislator Sripathi Sooriyarachchi who led a revolt against President Mahinda Rajapakse in early 2007 died of a motor accident on Saturday, police said.

The jeep he was travelling hit a tree near Tambuttegama, about 177 kilometres north of Colombo in the North Central Province at about 1:15 pm local time (0745 GMT).

Two of his security personnel died on the spot while Sooriyarachchi died on the way to the hospital, officials from the Tambuttegama hospital said.

Journalist shot dead in S-W Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 10 Feb — An unidentified gunman on Saturday shot dead a journalist in southwest Pakistan, the News Network International (NNI) news agency reported.

The NNI quoted police officer Muhammad Akbar as saying that Dr Chishti Mujahid was ambushed by a single assassin as he came out of his residence and was sitting in his car in Quetta, capital city of Balochistan Province. No group has claimed responsibility for the incident so far and the motives behind the killing were not clear. — MNA/Xinhua

This undated handout photo received from the Government Pharmaceutical Organization in Bangkok in 2007 shows a Thai pharmaceutical worker checking the quality of anti-AIDS medicines during production. — INTERNET

The new light of Myanmar Monday, 11 February, 2008

A young acrobat performs during a cultural show to celebrate Lunar New Year at a temple fair in Beijing on 9 Feb, 2008. — INTERNET

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China discovers five major gold mines in 2007

BEIJING, 10 Feb — The China Geological Survey Bureau (CGS) announced on Friday that in 2007 the country’s gold prospecting efforts made a series of significant findings, with five major gold mines discovered.

The CGS said that the five mines include the copper-gold mine in Gandise of Tibet Autonomous Region, the Dachang gold mine in Qinghai Province, the Yangshan gold mine in southern Gansu Province, the Shizhuang gold mine in Shandong Province and the Baolun gold mine in Hainan Province.

In addition, a number of gold deposits have been found on the peripheries of some lead and zinc mines. The five mines boast a combined gold reserve of some 600 tons, and there is still great potential for further prospecting, the CGS said.

The Shandong peninsula in east China is one of the country’s most important gold producers, with a proved gold reserve of over 1,000 tons so far.

In 2007, China overtook the United States to become the world’s second largest gold producer with an output of 270.491 tons, only next to South Africa, which produced 272 tons of gold in 2007. — MNA/Xinhua

Nigeria approves new rules for natural gas

LAGOS, 9 Feb — Nigeria’s President Umaru Yar’Adua has approved a new gas policy and gas pricing regime designed to raise domestic supply for power generation and industry, the presidency said on Thursday.

The OPEC member has the seventh largest proven reserves of gas in the world, at about 180 trillion cubic feet, but low prices and a lack of regulations have prevented any investment in domestic gas-powered industries. Redirecting natural gas from export to power is key to giving more Nigerians access to electricity. Lack of power is one of the main obstacles to growth cited by investors, and a major source of popular dissatisfaction with the government.

At present, Nigeria exports about three billion cubic feet (bcf) per day, flares about 2.5 bcf due to lack of facilities to use it, and supplies only 0.5 bcf to the domestic power sector. — MNA/Reuters

Indonesia to revise down economic growth target

JAKARTA, 10 Feb — The government of Indonesia plans to revise the economic growth target down from 6.8 per cent stated in the 2008 state budget amid soaring global prices for oil and staple food commodities, local English newspaper the Jakarta Post reported on Saturday. “A downward revision is a must, but we will consider all the plus and minus factors," Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati said on Friday. However, she declined to give an exact figure for the new forecast.

On Monday, the central bank of Indonesia said the country’s economy would grow between 6.2 per cent and 6.8 per cent this year.

Mulyani said the latest forecast on the country’s macroeconomic fundamentals showed mounting inflationary pressure as domestic consumption continued to suffer from global price increases.

“The rising price of staple foodstuffs will hurt the people’s purchasing power," she said. — MNA/Xinhua

Japanese, US financial leaders talk over global eco

TOKYO, 10 Feb — Japanese Finance Minister Fukushiro Nukaga and US Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson talked over global economy and agreed to work together closely on Saturday in Tokyo before a meeting of Group of Seven financial leaders.

Nukaga and Paulson “had a frank exchange of views on such topics as the global economy, the US and the Japanese economies, financial markets and climate change,” Japan’s Finance Ministry said in a statement.

The two financial chiefs agreed to continue to cooperate closely and to keep a good working relation, said the statement.

The finance ministers and central bank governors from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States are gathering in Tokyo for a one-day meeting, with a focus on measures to ease the current financial market turmoil stemming from the US subprime crisis. — MNA/Xinhua

Participants dressed up as Norman Warriors take part in an event to re-enact the 1066 Battle of Hastings at Battle Abbey, East Sussex in 2006. The Duke of Wellington’s descendants could be forgiven for wanting to put the boot in after blundering magmakers said he led the 1066 invasion of England, newspapers reported on 9 Feb, 2008. — Internet

Poland, Russia agree to differ on gas pipeline

Moscow, 10 Feb — Poland and Russia agreed to differ on Friday over a disputed Russian gas pipeline project, Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk said on a visit designed to heal rifts between the two countries.

Tusk’s talks with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Zubkov hit an early hitch when a reporter accompanying him was briefly detained by Russian security officials.

Ties between Russia and Poland have never been cordial and hit a low over the last two years because of disputes over energy, trade and a US plan to station elements of its proposed missile defence shield on Polish soil.

Tusk wants Russia to drop a plan to build the Nord Stream gas pipeline under the Baltic Sea to Germany, bypassing Poland. He is proposing an overland route through Poland instead.

“We have amicably agreed that our points of view on this issue are different," Tusk told reporters after meeting Zubkov.

“But at same time we agreed that Polish-Russian gas cooperation has been solid and both sides will ensure future gas policy will be beneficial for both Poland and Russia.” — MNA/Reuters
Two-storey ward for 200-bed... (from page 16)

Beginning 2003, medical students from third year to final part 2 are studying at the hospital. House surgeons are being trained at the hospital beginning 2006.

There are operation theatre, obstetrics and gynecology unit and child ward in the hospital. Specialists are giving treatment to patients.

Construction of new ward started on 30 March 2006 and completed at the end of 2007. The ward was built at a cost of K 378.02 million by Myanmar Industrial Construction Services of the Ministry of Industry-2.

Minister Dr Kyaw Myint and Chairman Col Phone Maw Shwe attended a ceremony to distribute traditional medical boxes for villages at the city hall in Magway. They presented the medical boxes for villages in Minbu, Yenangyoung, Chauk and Pwintphyu Townships in Magway Division and Pakokku District to officials.—MNA

Union Day ceremony to be telecast live

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb — Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) will telecast live a ceremony of the 61st Anniversary Union Day, which falls on 12 February, to be held at Nay Pyi Taw City Hall, starting from 7 am on that day. — MNA

USDA holds coord meeting on youth affairs

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb — The Union Solidarity and Development Association held a coordination meeting on youth affairs at Nay Pyi Taw this morning with an opening address by USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo.

Secretariat Member (Youth Affairs In-charge) U Thein Zaw, CEC members U Maung Maung Thein, U Thein Swe and Dr Chan Nyein gave necessary instructions on youth affairs.

Those in charge from States and Divisions gave accounts of youth affairs activities.

First, the Sagaing Division youth affairs in-charge reported on Moeyan Hma Kyai tour-2 of Naga Hills for the development of the region and the secretaries of Kachin State and Shan State (North), matters related to tours which will be organized coming summer.

The Secretary-General, the Youth Affairs In-charge and CEC members attended to the needs and the meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by Secretary-General U Htay Oo. — MNA

False thinking does not arrive at essential

Viewing the non-essential as the essential and the essential as the non-essential they, nourished on false thinking, do not arrive at the essential.

Dhammapada 11

Commander, Minister attend opening of paddy-husk fired power station

YANGON, 10 Feb — As a gesture of hailing the 61st Anniversary Union Day, opening ceremonies of Kamamat model village, paddy-husk fired power station and new school building were held at Kayan Township this morning.

It was attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint.

First, the commander formally unveiled the signboard of the village. Next, the opening of paddy husk-fired power station was held and Deputy Chief Engineer of Yangon City Power Supply Board U Khin Maung Win briefed on construction of the power station and power supply.

Next, the commander formally unveiled the signboard of the power station and the minister inspected round it. Next, they attended the ceremony to open the new school building in Kamamat model village. Afterwards, the commander and the minister accepted cash K 5.3 million for the new school and K 1.85 million for rural health centre donated by the wellwishers. — MNA

Indian Foreign Secretary and wife leave for Home

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb — At the invitation of Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar U Kyaw Thu, Foreign Secretary Mr Shivshankar Menon of the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and Mrs Mohini paid an official visit to the Union of Myanmar from 7 to 10 February.

The Indian delegation led by Mr Shivshankar Menon called on Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo at the hall of the SPDC Office on 8 February morning.

Mr Shivshankar Menon also met with Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and discussed matters related to mutual interests at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In the afternoon, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu and wife Daw Lei Lei Kyi hosted a luncheon to the Indian Secretary at Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

While in Myanmar, Mr Shivshankar Menon and wife Mrs Mohini made a cultural tour of Yangon, Mandalay and Bagan, and they left Yangon by air this morning. — MNA

USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo addresses coord meeting on youth affairs. — MNA
### Hailing the 61st Anniversary Union Day

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With the aim of supplying water to arable lands and local people Hinywet Dam was built in An Township of Rakhine State.

Government Technological University (Sittway)

The photo shows three-storey main building of Government Technological University (Sittway) built in Sittway of Rakhine State to create opportunity for local students to pursue advanced technology in the region.

Rakhine State which has developed significantly in the time of Tatmadaw Government

A rig seen at the worksite in exploring natural gas offshore in Rakhine State.

The photo shows Minkyaung Creek Bridge constructed on Yangon-Sittway Highway in Rakhine State.
Hailing the 61st Anniversary Union Day

Seeing disunity as danger

Haing Aung

At a time when the people are facing the neo-colonialists, they should know that a trap is a trap. It is an important point. Those with unclear outlook, especially those who think they know everything would assume that the trap or the net of the imperialists is a golden flower. The people cannot get out of the trap of the imperialists. The imperialists themselves drive a wedge among the people in order to break up the unity. That problem still costs countless number of deaths and it is far away from being solved.

Besides the colonialists’ evil legacies, many problems can still be found in West Asia regions such as Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan at the instigation of the neo-colonialists. In those countries, a large number of innocent civilians have been killed owing to forcible interference of some powerful nations and their sowing of discord among the civilians, the attacks of foreign troops and the attacks among the people of the same country. Study has shown that there have been between 151,000 and 600,000 deaths in Iraq after 2003.

In whatever era, old or new, the most effective way for the colonialists to dominate other countries is to drive a wedge in order to cause disunity in a targeted organization or country. If there is a crack, water can penetrate it. If there is a bruise with an opening, it can be infected with virus. The US won the Afghan war in 2001 only with the use of some special troops without using any tank, artillery or infantry. The Americans won because they were able to persuade the armed tribal groups of the western Afghan region.

Under any circumstance, who is the winner when the people of a nation fight among themselves? There can no way be any benefits.

If we study the internal conflicts, it can be found that they all last long — the Palestine issue (from 1948 to date; 60 years), the Sri Lanka issue (from 1963 to date; 45 years), the Afghan issue (from 2001 to date; 7 years), and the Iraq issue (from 2003 to date; 5 years). If a question is asked when those conflicts will end, I think no one will be able to give a definite answer.

So who can gain benefits due to the endless conflicts? The conflict of a nation is like a bruise that is breeding. With the bruise bleeding, the sufferer will lose strength gradually. When he becomes infected with virus, he may become unconscious with his bruise incurable.

Likewise, there are some countries that have almost broken up due to conflicts, for example, Somalia and Rwanda. There were also some unions that broke up like Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union. I have never heard that a nation became prosperous because of its conflict. Instead, it became poorer and poorer. As mentioned above, all the nations faced with crisis such as Palestine, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia and Rwanda as well as Sudan and Kenya, whose issues have been...
HAILING THE 61ST ANNIVERSARY UNION DAY

Seeing disunity as danger

Hlaing Aung

(popular in the newspapers, are getting bogged down. The real winners who gained benefits from the conflicts are none other than the colonialists.

For instance, since the foreign troops invaded Iraq and Afghanistan, they started deploying their troops in those countries to restore peace in their countries and drive out the foreign troops. They have to act under the command of others. In addition, it is colonialists who are flattering and persuading Albanians in Kosovo, which has been recognized as a sovereign region of Serbia by the UN Security Council resolution, to declare unilateral independence. If Kosovo seceded from Serbia after declaring its independence, international forces would still deploy there for the sake of an international protectorate. The incoming puppet government to rule Kosovo lack of natural resources will also be a lackey of others. And consequently, there will be clashes with minority Serbs allowing to cause bloodshed.

One can take lesson from the story of a boar and a lion. In the story the two animals fought each other because both of them wanted to drink water from a pond first. When they saw a vulture sitting on the tree-stump, they realized that if they went on fighting they would be eaten.

Therefore they realized that it would be very useful for them if they shared water together. Otherwise, their lives would end in the mouth of the vulture.

I have read an article in a popular military science journal entitled “Instability of the world serves the interest of our country” by a high-ranking military officer of a super power nation. Those who study history know that who gained benefits in the two world wars.

Neo-colonialists have cleverer ways than the old ones. They usually practise more gentle, subtle ways. In the past, the imperialists enslaved the entire country with the use of warships and they captured the king like a chicken. Nowadays the imperialists do not use obvious method of enslavement. They use various ways and means to break up the country through the remote control method. In other words, they employ the network centric imperialism which includes economic sanctions; subversive political methods such as spreading rumours and creating uprising; terrorist acts such as bomb explosion and killing innocent people; enslaving the people through the media; military method with the use of force if necessary; putting pressure on the country through the media.

It is necessary for the people to understand the real danger. They have to struggle out to free themselves from the trap of the old and neo-colonialists so that they can enjoy happiness blessed with self-determination.

— For all the national races to safeguard the national policy— non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty;
— For all the national races to keep Union Spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people;
— For all the national races to defend and safeguard the Union for the perpetual existence;
— For all the national races 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 the national races to make endeavours for the emergence of an enduring State Constitution in accord with the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles laid down by the National Convention, and
— For all the national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-step Road Map.

Poem:

Reciprocity

* Leaves and branches
  Touching one another
  Thriving with serenity
  For years of many
  Flourishing a tree is
* Deep spreading roots has it
  And stem so hefty
  Firmly thriving is the tree
* Myanmar-born kin and kith
  Like branches and twigs
  Representing Myanmar
  The tall and magnificent stem
  Haven for national brethren
* Deep spreading roots
  Symbol of patriotism
* Thrive will leaves and branches
  Roots if develop well
  And strong is the stem
  Depends on thriving branches
  Robustness of stem
  A reciprocal trend.

(Hailing the 61st Anniversary Union Day)
Maung Maung Moe Aung (Trs)
IRC says return home by Iraq’s internal refugees slows

Baghdad, 9 Feb — The number of Iraqis returning to their homes from refuge elsewhere in the country has slowed markedly as fears over security remain, the latest report by the Iraqi Red Crescent (IRC) says.

Its findings echo those of a new UN study which said most Iraqis returning home after fleeing to Syria were doing so not because they felt Iraq was safer but because they could no longer afford to live abroad.

Violence has fallen sharply across Iraq after a series of security crackdowns last year. The Iraqi Government and the US military say attacks are down by 60 per cent from last June.

But the IRC’s report for January, seen by Reuters on Thursday, said the number of internally displaced people (IDP) returning home had slowed sharply.

The number of registered IDPs fell by 110,000 in October, but dropped by fewer than 3,000 in December, it said.

Recent Turkish bombing raids on Kurdish guerrillas in northern Iraq, an area previously seen by Iraqis as a safe haven, had led thousands to flee their villages, compounding the refugee problem in the area, the IRC said.

Sri Lankan troops kill 30 rebels as fighting grinds on

Colombo, 9 Feb — Sri Lankan troops have killed at least 30 Tamil Tiger rebels including an area leader in fresh fighting in the island’s north, the military said on Friday.

Thursday’s clashes along a “border” that separates government from rebel territory in the far north was the latest violence in a 25-year civil war analysts say neither side is winning.

“Navy troops attacked a group of terrorists in Pirari in Trincomalee (in the northeast). A search found two LTTE dead bodies and one of them is an area leader,” a military spokesman said, asking not to be named in line with policy.

Troops also killed 28 Tiger rebels and wounded 24 others in clashes in the northern districts of Jaffna, Vavuniya and Mannar, he added, saying one soldier was killed and eight were wounded.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), who are fighting for a separate state in the Indian Ocean island’s north and east, were not immediately available for comment.

US military loses records for Bin Laden’s driver

Guantanamo Bay, US Naval Base. (Cuba), 9 Feb — The US military has lost a year’s worth of records describing the Guantanamo confinement of Osama bin Laden’s driver, a prosecutor said at the Yemeni captive’s war court hearing on Thursday.

Lawyers for the driver, Salim Ahmed Hamdan, asked for the records to support their argument that prolonged isolation and harassment at the Guantanamo Prison have mentally impaired him and could affect his ability to aid in his defence against war crimes charges.

“All known records have been produced with the exception of the 2002 Gitmo records,” one of the prosecutors, Navy Lieutenant-Commander Timothy Stone, told the court. “They can’t find it.” He said the military was still looking for the records kept at the remote US naval base in southeast Cuba, which he referred to by its nickname.

Harsh winter kills over 750 in Afghanistan

Kabul, 10 Feb — More than 750 people have perished as a result of severe cold and heavy snowfalls this winter across Afghanistan, a government official said on Saturday.

The cold spell, the worst in decades in the impoverished and mountainous central Asian country, has also killed nearly 230,000 cattle, said Noor Pashtah Kohistani of the National Disaster Management Commission.

“Across the country, 763 people have died since the start of the winter due to cold weather and severe snowfalls,” he told Reuters.

The snowfalls have destroyed more than 500 homes and damaged more than 40,000, a disaster commission statement said.

The worst affected areas were the western provinces of Herat and Badghis where some people had to have amputations because of frostbite, according to the state media.

Several families sold their children recently because they were unable to care for or feed them, media reports said.

Many key roads linking districts with provincial capitals have been blocked because of snow, hindering deliveries of supplies.

Wild elephants stray into B’desh village, kill man

Cox’s Bazar (Bangladesh), 10 Feb — Wild elephants straying into a Bangladesh village killed a man, injured another and trampled several homes on Saturday, forest officials said.

The incident occurred at a village near Ramu, about 400 kilometres (250 miles) southeast of the capital Dhaka, said an official of Bangladesh Forest Department. Villagers, who were caught off guard, fled their homes, but later returned with drums and firecrackers to scare off the herd of around six elephants.

The elephants also devoured rice stocks, fruits and soft plants and destroyed some standing crops in the tiny village.

Lebanon vote delayed for 14th time, mediator leaves

Beirut, 10 Feb — Lebanon’s presidential election has been postponed to February 26 from Monday, Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri said on Saturday, announcing the 14th delay in the vote caused by the country’s political crisis.

The conflict between the governing coalition and an opposition alliance led by the powerful Hizbollah has left Lebanon without a head of state since November. The crisis is the worst since the 1975-90 civil war.

Berri announced the postponement in a statement. The president is elected by Parliament, which cannot convene without a political deal between the US-backed governing coalition and the opposition, which is supported by Syria, Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa left Beirut on Saturday after mediating talks that failed to yield a breakthrough.

“I do not want to exaggerate and give more hope than necessary,” said Moussa, who has been trying to broker a deal under an Arab states’ initiative to end the crisis.

“I am leaving with some hope,” he added.

The two sides have agreed on Army chief General Michel Suleiman as the next head of state, but have been unable to agree on the make-up of a new Cabinet.

Israel arrests 17 Palestinians in West Bank

Ramallah, 9 Feb — Israeli Army arrested 17 Palestinians in an overnight raid on the West Bank, Palestinian security sources said Thursday.

The sources said the detentions took place in West Bank cities of Ramallah, Nablus and Hebron and the detainees were taken for interrogation at Israeli detention facilities inside a West Bank settlement.

Pakistan police use water cannons as lawyers march towards the residence of deposed chief justice Iftikhar Chaudhry during a protest rally in Islamabad on 9 Feb, 2008. —Internet

People are seen in Majuro, the capital of the Marshall Islands. Pacific islands are in the midst of a crisis of obesity and its associated dangers of diabetes, strokes and heart disease. World Health Organization figures show Pacific Island nations make up eight of the world’s 10 most obese countries.—Internet
Fast ice: Overall view of the icering shows Netherlands' Ireen Wuest (C) racing to a second place in the women's 500m event of the ISU World Allround Speed Skating Championships in Berlin. —INTERNET

Indian villagers compete in a horse cart race during the Kila Raipur sports festival on the outskirts of Ludhiana, in the northern Indian state of Punjab, on 10 Feb, 2008. The festival, also known as the 'Rural Olympics', is held annually in the northern city and the competition attracts athletes from all over India. —INTERNET

Members of a High School affiliated to the Renmin University of China perform as they parade through central London during the Chinese New Year, the Year of the Rat celebrations in London, on 10 Feb, 2008. —INTERNET

Naked mole rats live in dark underground tunnel systems and are native to the tropical grasslands of Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia. —INTERNET

Images of the Day

Heng Zhang, a project manager with Microsoft Corp’s ad Center Labs, demonstrates prototype ‘Air Wave’ advertising technology on 5 Feb, 2008, in Redmond, Wash. The advertising technology uses surface computing to reward consumers who complete a brief game, such as finding and ‘touching’ fish that pop up in an aquarium as shown here, with a printable discount coupon. —INTERNET

An artist’s impression of the A2 aircraft. British engineers have unveiled plans for a hypersonic jet which could fly from Europe to Australia in less than five hours. —INTERNET
Pilots stabbed in attack on New Zealand plane

WELLINGTON, 9 Feb — A woman passenger on a New Zealand commuter plane stabbed both pilots and threatened to blow up the 19-seat aircraft, police said on Friday.

The attack on the pilots, who were not seriously hurt, happened about 20 minutes into the flight between the South Island centres of Blenheim and Christchurch, police said.

The plane landed at Christchurch, where police with dogs boarded it and arrested a 33-year-old woman, who is originally from Somalia.

The woman was in police custody in Christchurch but the motive for the attack was still unclear, Canterbury District Commander Dave Cliff told Reuters.

The flight took off from Blenheim at 7:20 a.m. (1820 GMT) and the pilots sent a distress call at 7:40 a.m. The plane landed at Christchurch 26 minutes after the distress call was made. Christchurch Airport was closed to all flights for about three hours after the incident.

\[MNA/Reuters\]

Poll shows over 41% of Poles use Internet

WARSAW, 10 Feb—In 2007 41.5 per cent of Poles over 15 used the Internet, according to a recent NetTrack survey conducted by SMG/KRC between January and December 2007.

It shows 65.7 per cent of Poles use the Internet everyday or almost everyday, 19.1 per cent a few times a week, and 7.2 per cent once a week, Polish news agency PAP reported Friday. Over 80 per cent of Poles use the Internet at home, 26.4 per cent at work and 12.6 per cent at school or university. Poles access the net mainly by means of direct connection (72.2 per cent), only 3.7 per cent use modems.

\[MNA/Xinhua\]

Tenth of China’s forests damaged by blizzards

BEIJING, 10 Feb — About one-tenth of China’s forests were damaged by recent winter storms, the worst in at least five decades, and in the hardest-hit regions nearly 90 per cent of forests were ruined, Xinhua news agency said on Saturday.

The State Forestry Administration (SFA) said total losses reached 17.3 million hectares of forest in 18 provinces in southern China, said Xinhua.

The agency did not give any value of the losses, but in an earlier report the administration said by the end of January the storms had caused about $2.5 billion of damage to China’s forests.

Blizzards across central, southern and eastern China — areas not prepared for severe winter weather — cut power to 169 counties, killed scores of people and caused unprecedented havoc for tens of millions of people travelling ahead of the Lunar holidays.

Ecuador farmers evacuated again from volcano area

COTALO (Ecuador), 9 Feb — Hundreds of poncho-clad Ecuadoran peasants were evacuated from their hamlets near the roaring “Throat of Fire” volcano on Thursday only hours after they had been allowed to return to their homes.

The latest crisis at the volcano, called Tungurahua in the native Quichua language and located 80 miles (130 kilometres) south of capital city Quito, started early on Wednesday when it belched molten rock and ash, forcing more than 1,200 people to seek safety in nearby shelters.

They started returning early on Thursday but their homecoming was short-lived.

“The volcano started a new phase of intense eruptive activity,” the National Geophysics Institute said in a statement on Thursday afternoon.

During the cold night leading to Thursday morning, evacuees slept in schools and churches as activity at the 16,460-foot (5,020-metre) volcano slowed.

Scientists warned it remained unpredictable even as local residents tried to go back to their farms.

\[MNA/Reuters\]

Mass arrests in anti-Mafia sweep in US, Italy

NEW YORK, 9 Feb — US authorities arrested 54 organized crime suspects on Thursday including what they considered three high-ranking members of the Gambino crime family in an operation in New York and Italy, officials said.

A number of arrests had also been made in Sicily, judicial sources in Italy said.

Charges were being filed against 62 people including the street boss, the under boss and the members of the Gambino family — the three highest ranking members not already in prison, a US law enforcement source said.

Fifty-four were arrested early on Thursday, mostly in the New York area, on accusations of murder, racketeering, extortion, loan-sharking and labour violations including pension fund embezzlement, the source said.

The US source, who had direct knowledge of the operation, asked not to be identified because the US Attorney’s office in Brooklyn was due to announce the arrests in a news conference later on Thursday.

\[MNA/Reuters\]
Study says children, 4 yrs, starting school too early

LONDON, 9 Feb — Starting school at the age of four is “stressful” to children and does not help their education, according to a major review of English primary schools which also concluded kids take too many tests too early.

The Cambridge University review noted that some English children start at primary school two years earlier than in other countries.

By law, they must start full-time education in the term after their fifth birthday — although the report found many start at the age of four.

In Denmark and Finland, for example, they start school at the beginning of their seventh year. The review, incorporating several reports from other research organizations and universities, also found a negative culture of testing in English schools, which it said was because the system is too preoccupied with standards.

Testing happens more often, at a younger age and in more subjects, putting unprecedented pressure on students while having ques-tionable benefits, it concluded. It was also critical of increased uniformity of school curriculums, teaching methods and assessment. — MNA/Reuters

Nepal to lodge three cases against Indian kidney kingpin

KATHMANDU, 9 Feb — The Nepal police is lodging three cases against Indian national Dr Amit Kumar, the alleged kingpin in the kidney transplant racket, reported the local media house’s website eKantipur on Friday.

Kumar, the kidney racket mastermind from India, was made public during a Press conference organized by Metro-politan High Commiss-ioner Office in Nepali capital Kathmandu after he was nabbed on Thursday afternoon from a Sauraha-based hotel in Chitwan District close to the Indian border, some 100 kilometres south of Kathmandu.

The police also seized 936,000 Indian rupees from Kumar.

EU, US seek arbitration in biotech crops row

GENEVA, 10 Feb — The European Union and United States said on Friday they were seeking arbitration at the World Trade Organization (WTO) in their long-running row over the EU’s ban on biotech crops.

But the two trading powers told the WTO’s dispute settlement body they intended to suspend the request for arbitration to give themselves more time to work out a solution, trade officials said.

Crops engineered to resist pests and tolerate pesticides while improving yields are increasingly popular with farmers in rich and poor countries.

But many EU consumers, keen on organic produce, are wary of “Frankenfoods”, while advocacy groups say genetically modified (GMO) crops threaten biodiversity. — MNA/Reuters

Heidi Fleiss arrested for drug possession

LOS ANGELES, Feb — Former Hollywood madam Heidi Fleiss was arrested and charged with possession of controlled substances and possession of marijuana.

Deputies responded to a possible drunk driver a little after 9 am Thursday morning in the town of Pahrump.

Deputies stopped Fleiss and found drugs but no prescription. A passenger, John Owen, also was arrested on charges of being under the influence of controlled substances and possession of marijuana.

Reached by phone, Fleiss told Reuters she was stopped in a parking lot when an officer approached her. She had taken Owen, a plumber, to a hardware store, she said. — MNA/Reuters

Brunei lifts ban on firecrackers

KUALA LUMPUR, 10 Feb — Brunei has lifted ban on setting off of firecrackers during the Chinese New Year this year, according to reports reaching here on Saturday.

The Brunei Government announced the lifting of the ban before the Chinese New Year eve and sounds of firecrackers were heard nationwide in the sultanate as the Chinese communities there were celebrating their traditional festival with joy. — MNA/Xinhua

France to step up contacts with Kazakhstan

ASTANA, 10 Feb — French Prime Minister Francois Fillon sought to step up energy contacts with Kazakhstan on Friday and said he had discussed independence in the energy sphere on a visit to the oil-rich former Soviet republic. Europe sees the region, which lies on some of the world’s biggest energy reserves, as a potential new source of oil and gas to bypass Russia, which has disrupted flows in the past.

“We would like to increase contacts,” Fillon, the first senior French official to visit Kazakhstan since 1993, told reporters during a visit to the capital Astana.

“One litre of oil out of 10, and one tonne of uranium out of 12 consumed by France, are supplied by Kazakhstan. So our economic relations are developing and there’s huge potential for further growth.” Kazakhstan, Central Asia’s biggest economy which aspires to join the world’s top 10 oil producers in a decade, sees itself as the most stable country in the region and has attracted billions of dollars of foreign investment. — MNA/Reuters

A tourist photographs an Oscar statuette with his Apple iPhone, as sixty Oscar statuettes to be presented at the 80th Academy Awards, are showcased in a public display ‘Meet the Oscars’ at the Hollywood & Highland Centre in Los Angeles on 8 Feb, 2008. — INTERNET

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Ugandan people work on harvested coffee, at Barjobi village Lira district. The temperature is rising a little quickly in Uganda — and coffee farmers are getting worried. Growers say that global warming is damaging production of coffee, Uganda’s biggest export. — INTERNET

Chadian refugees walk back into N’Djema, Chad, on 8 Feb, 2008. Chadians were streaming back into their capital on Friday, saying life in Cameroon refugee camps was too harsh. The UN estimates at least 30,000 Chadians had fled across the Chari River to the Cameroonian town of Koussi after rebels and government forces clashed over the weekend in Chad’s capital, N’Djema. Aid was just starting to reach the refugees in Cameroon, and Chad’s capital has been calm since Wednesday. — INTERNET
**Everton tighten grip on fourth**

**London, 10 Feb** — Everton tightened their grip on fourth place in the Premier League and the prospect of Champions League football with a 1-0 win over Reading on Saturday.

Phil Jagielka headed the winner at Goodison Park to condemn Reading to a seventh consecutive league defeat which left them in the relegation zone for the first time this season.

Everton have 47 points, three more than Aston Villa who moved into fifth after a John Carew hat-trick sealed a 4-1 hammering of Newcastle United, who had led at halftime.

The title race resumes on Sunday with the Manchester derby at Old Trafford and Chelsea's home match against Liverpool. Leaders Arsenal are not in action until Monday when they host Blackburn Rovers.

Sunderland improved their survival chances with a 2-0 home defeat of fellow strugglers Wigan Athletic, while Birmingham City edged out of the bottom three above Reading, with a 1-1 draw at West Ham United, who had Lee Bowyer sent off. — MNA/Reuters

**Egypt team spirit will prove crucial, says coach**

**ACCRA, 10 Feb** — Egypt's team spirit will give them an edge when they face Cameroon's Indomitable Lions in the African Nations Cup final on Sunday, coach Hassan Shehata said.

“We have a side that plays for each other and maybe even for me as coach,” the former international said on Saturday.

“I think there is an understanding that we have a special bond. I think we will win,” added Shehata, who is seeking to become only the second coach to win successive Nations Cups.

Shehata, who has spoken rarely at the tournament, leaving interviews to his assistant Shawky Gharib, said he would not sleep the night before the final at the Ohene Dan stadium.

“I never sleep the night before the game. I have hardly slept at all this tournament. Not even pills help me.”

Asked whether he felt his team was better than the side which won the title two years ago, Shehata said that was for the critics to decide. “That is not up to me.” — MNA/Reuters

**Heerenveen stay with chasing pack after 1-1 draw at PSV**

**AMSTERDAM, 10 Feb** — In-form Heerenveen held Dutch league leaders PSV Eindhoven to a 1-1 draw on Saturday to stay amongst the quartet trying to close the gap at the top.

Youngster Otman Bakkal gave PSV a dream start when he headed home a free kick from Balazs Dzsudzsak after 43 seconds.

Gerald Sibon set up US international Michael Bradley early in the second half to equalise with his 13th goal this season.

With 10 matches remaining PSV remain top with 53 points, nine ahead of second-placed Ajax Amsterdam, who travel to Roda JC Kerkrade on Sunday.

Heerenveen stay third, also with 44 points, on goal difference above Feyenoord, 3-1 winners at Graafschap Doetinchem, and NAC Breda, who won 1-0 at home to Utrecht. — MNA/Reuters

**Leaders Rangers ease to 2-0 win over Falkirk**

**GLASGOW, 10 Feb** — Rangers grabbed a 2-0 win over Falkirk in their Scottish Premier League clash on Saturday to stretch their lead over title rivals Celtic to seven points.

Kris Boyd crashed in a 20-metre free kick for Rangers' first goal in the 23rd minute and substitute Steve Naismith drove in the second, two minutes from time.

Rangers have 56 points from 23 games while second-placed Celtic, on 49, are at Aberdeen on Sunday. Dundee United are third in the standings with 39 points from 25 matches following their 1-1 draw with Hibernian. — MNA/Reuters

**Roma beat Reggina to trim Inter’s lead**

**ROME, 10 Feb** — Christian Panucci and Mancini scored as second-placed AS Roma beat strugglers Reggina 2-0 on Saturday to trim Inter Milan's lead at the top of Serie A to five points.

Italy defender Panucci headed in a Francesco Totti cross from a tight angle in the 21st minute to put the Romans on their way to burying the memory of last week's 3-0 defeat at Siena.

They doubled the lead in the 76th minute when Brazilian midfielder Mancini fired home the rebound from a Ludovic Giuly shot after some fine dribbling.

Reggina’s Edgar Barreto had a goal disallowed for offside before Mancini's effort and Nigeria striker Stephen Makinwa hit the crossbar just after it. — MNA/Reuters

**Panathinaikos stretch lead as AEK lose**

**ATHENS, 10 Feb** — Panathinaikos stretched their lead at the top of the Greek Super League to four points after beating Veria 1-0 on Saturday.

Austria captain Andreas Ivanschitz scored the only goal of the game when he fired home a direct free kick from 20 metres in the 71st minute.

The win puts Panathinaikos, who face Rangers in the UEFA Cup next week, on 46 points, four clear of AEK Athens who slipped to a surprise 1-0 defeat at the hands of Larissa. It was their second successive league loss.

AEK had Portuguese defender Geraldo Alves sent off after 64 minutes and their fate was sealed 11 minutes from time by Polish striker Maciej Zurawski who scored his first goal for Larissa since joining from Celtic in the transfer window. — MNA/Reuters

**Leverkusen draw with fellow challengers Hamburg**

**BERLIN, 10 Feb** — Title hopefuls Bayer Leverkusen and Hamburg SV played out a 1-1 draw in the Bundesliga on Saturday, a result that will have delighted top two Bayern Munich and Werder Bremen ahead of their meeting on Sunday. Rafael van der Vaart struck with his 10th goal of the season to give Hamburg the lead but a fine header from Manuel Friedrich in the second half earned a point for the home side.

The result left the two teams in third and fourth respectively, level on 34 points.

Bayern lead the standings on 39 points, with Werder second on 36. A win for the Bavarians in Sunday's clash at the Allianz Arena would take them six points clear at the top. — MNA/Reuters

**Ghana’s Baffuor Gyani (R) challenges Ivory Coast’s Siaka Tiene (C) during their African Nations Cup third-place soccer match in Kimberley on 9 Feb, 2008. At left is Ghana’s John Paintsil.—INTERNET**

**Xavi rescues point for Barca at Sevilla**

**MADRID, 10 Feb** — Second-placed Barcelona failed to keep the pressure on leaders Real Madrid after scrapping a 1-1 draw at Sevilla in the Primera Liga on Saturday.

Barca had a chance to move to within three points of Real, who host Valladolid on Sunday, but faced an uphill battle after Diego Capel put an impressive Sevilla ahead in the first half.

They improved after the break and 14 minutes from time Xavi equalized to leave the Catalans on 48 points, five short of Real.

“Real are the strongest team at the moment. We are in three competitions and have to concentrate on getting our work done. We have to keep on working hard and accumulating points,” Barca coach Frank Rijkaard said.

Earlier on Saturday, Guillermo Franco snatched a goal in added time for Villarreal to give them a 1-0 victory at lowly Real Murcia. They climbed to third with 42 points. — MNA/Reuters

**Answers to yesterday’s Crossword Puzzle**

- **SENZA8**
- **TUMER**
- **SLE8**
- **PRIVATE**
- **HEL8**
- **ALD**
- **DEA**
- **TANG8**
- **OL8**
- **R8**
- **ER8**
- **D8**
- **UR8**
- **D8**
- **G8**
- **ST8**
- **R8**
- **C8**
- **ATE8**
- **SC8**
- **D8**
- **W8**
- **HEAT**
- **UN8**
- **SM8**
- **HE8**
- **LOT**
- **TA8**
- **N8**
- **ED8**
- **SA8**
- **M8**
- **UN8**
- **OR8**
- **T8**
- **H8**
- **AN8**
- **EC8**
- **E8**
- **SC8**
- **D8**
- **W8**
Sri Lanka ranked 3rd deadliest place for journalists

Colombo, 10 Feb — Sri Lanka has been ranked as the third deadliest place for journalists in 2007 by the World Association of Newspapers (WAN), a leading English newspaper reported on Saturday.

According to the Daily Mirror, the Paris-based association said six journalists were killed in Sri Lanka last year while eight were killed in Somalia (2nd) and 44 were killed in Iraq (1st). World-wide some 95 journalists and other media workers were killed in 2007 because of their professional activities, with Iraq and other conflict zones accounting for more than two-thirds of the deaths, said the WAN.

MNA/Xinhua

US space shuttle “Atlantis” docks with “ISS”

WASHINGTON, 10 Feb — US space shuttle Atlantis successfully docked with the International Space Station (ISS) on Saturday, kicking off a busy schedule of orbital work for the installation of the Columbus science laboratory.

The event occurred at 12:17 pm EST (1717 GMT), 342 kilometres above the Earth over the South Pacific Ocean. Guided by commander Stephen Frick, the 100-ton orbiter slowly and carefully pulled up to the ISS and latched on the Harmony module of the station at the rate of 6.1 centimetres per second.

The docking took place after Atlantis performed a successful orbital back-flip below the station to see if there is any damage to the space shuttle’s heat-resistant tiles.

After several delays in two months, the sevencrew Atlantis blasted off on Thursday from the Kennedy Space Centre, Florida, on a mission to deliver the European Space Agency’s Columbus laboratory to the ISS — MNA/Xinhua

Palestinian population up 30% in a decade

RAMALLAH (West Bank) 10 Feb — The Palestinian population in the West Bank, Gaza and Arab East Jerusalem grew by about 30 per cent in the last decade, according to census data published on Saturday.

The significant growth in numbers to 3.76 million from 2.89 million, may spur calls in Israel to give up occupied land in the face of a perceived Arab “demographic threat” to the Jewish state.

Palestinians — who want their own state in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, which Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East war, with Arab East Jerusalem as its capital — hope the census will boost their case in negotiations with Israel for an independent state.

MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Sunday, 10 February, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Kakhin, Chin States and upper Sagaing Division scattered in Mandalay Division, isolated in Rakhine State and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above February average temperatures in Kakhin, Rakhine and Kayah States, Magway and Bago Divisions(5°C) to (6°C) above February average temperatures in Shan and Mon States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions,(8°C) above February average temperatures in Mandalay Division and about February average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature was Pindau(4°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Bhamo (0.59) inch, Myitkyina, Mindat and Falam (0.24) inch each and Mogok (0.2) inch.

Maximum temperature on 9-2-2008 was 99°F.
Minimum temperature on 10-2-2008 was 65°F. Relative humidity at (99-30) hours MST on 10-2-2008 was 72%. Total sunshine hours on 9-2-2008 was (8.3) hours approx.

Rainfall on 10-2-2008 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 45 mph from Southeast (at 10:30) hours MST on 9-2-2008.

Bay inference: Weather is generally fair in the Andaman Sea, Southeast Bay, East Central Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 11-2-2008: Likelihood of isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers in Kakhin, Chin, Northern Shan and North Rakhine States, Sagaung, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 11-2-2008: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers.Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 11-2-2008: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers.Degree of certainty is (60%).

Monday, 11 February

Tune in today

8:30 am Brief news
8:35 am Music
9:05 am International news
9:10 am Music
9:35 pm News/Slogan
10:00 pm PEL

The space shuttle Atlantis, with the Columbus module visible in the cargo bay in the foreground, approaches the International Space Station for docking in this image from NASA TV on 9 Feb, 2008. (INTERNET)

Radio Myanmar

Tune in today

8:30 am Brief news
8:35 am Music
9:05 am International news
9:10 am Music
9:35 pm News/Slogan
10:00 pm PEL
People’s Desire

🌟 We favour stability.
🌟 We favour peace.
🌟 We oppose unrest and violence.

Senior General Than Shwe felicitates Iranian President

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Feb — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Mahmud Ahmadinejad, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the occasion of the National Day of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which falls on 11 February 2008. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sends message of felicitations to First Vice-President of Iran

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Feb — Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Parviz Davoodi, First Vice-President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the occasion of the National Day of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which falls on 11 February 2008. — MNA

Two-storey ward for 200-bed People’s Hospital in Minbu opened

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb — Hailing the 61st Anniversary Union Day the two-storey ward for 200-bed People’s Hospital in Minbu was opened on 9 February.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint and Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe formally opened the ward.

The minister and party inspected cost-sharing unit, teaching hall, medical rooms and rooms for doctors and nurses.

Minbu Township People’s Hospital was opened in 1949 and it was renovated in 1993. It was also designated as a teaching hospital of Magway Medical University in 2003 and it was then upgraded to 200-bed general hospital in November 2005.

(See page 6)

Minister Dr Kyaw Myint and Col Phone Maw Shwe formally open the two-storey ward for 200-bed Minbu Township People’s Hospital. — MNA

SPECIAL FEATURES TO HAIL 61ST ANNIVERSARY UNION DAY

Article

Seeing disunity as danger

I have noticed recently that daily newspapers have been carrying a lot of international news with photos to catch the attention of readers. I am glad to be informed of such international events in this rapidly changing world whether they are good or bad news.

Rakhine State which has developed significantly in the time of Tatmadaw Government

POEM:

Rakhi

Reciprocity

* Leaves and branches
  Touching one another
  Thriving with serenity
  For years of many
  Flourishing a tree is

Cartoon