

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

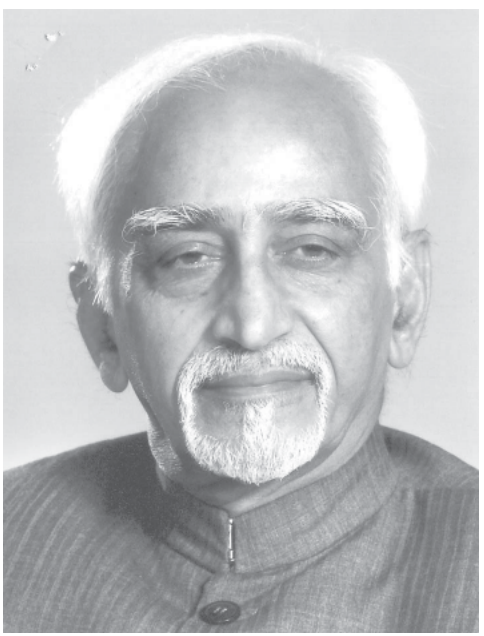
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Thursday, 5 February, 2009

Profile of Shri M. Hamid Ansari, Vice-President of India

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Feb—Born in 1937 at Kolkata, Shri M. Hamid Ansari obtained a Masters degree in Political Science from Aligarh Muslim University. He joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1961. In a career span of over three and a half decades, he served as Ambassador of India to UAE, Afghanistan, Iran and Saudi Arabia, as High Commissioner to Australia and Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations in New York. (See page 8)



Vice-President Shri M. Hamid Ansari of India.



Vice-President's wife Smt. Ansari.

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Chin State to become tea land

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb—Lt-Gen Khin Zaw of the Ministry of Defence, together with Chairman of Chin State Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Hone Ngaing, made an inspection tour of Haka-Gangaw Road Project in Haka Township, Chin State, on 2 February.

At the briefing hall in Bonzone Village, those in charge of Special Group (Road) (12) reported on work progress. Lt-Gen Khin Zaw emphasized the importance of meeting the standard in tarring the road.

He presented clothes and gifts to Bonzone, Layowun and Lonekywe villages that had played an active role in regional development tasks.

The deputy superintending engineer of Special Group (Road) (12) conducted Lt-Gen Khin Zaw along the road sections.

He inspected the 12th Mile mythun farm of U Kyaw Lwin.

He had a meeting with departmental officials, townsenders, social organizations and local people in Haka. The chairman of Haka Township PDC reported on development tasks, and the chairman of Chin State PDC, on sector-wise development of Chin State.

In his speech, Lt-Gen Khin Zaw said that the government has designated 24 special zones and is implementing the five rural development programmes for equitable development of all parts of the nation; that Chin State has been enjoying smooth transport due to the four all-weather roads; that local people are to equip themselves with nationalistic fervour and Union Spirit; and that Chin State needs to meet the targeted acreage of tea farms to translate into reality the guidance of the Head of State. He called for extensive breeding of mythuns to 100,000 heads in five years.

He presented clothes and medicines to local people, and inspected Ulon tea farm of the Myanma Agriculture Service, and called for growing tea on a wider scale.

Lt-Gen Khin Zaw inspected Aukchin Maunghan tea factory and the 15th Mile mythun farm of U Ram Ma Kyon in Bwelontalan. He will hold a meeting with departmental officials and local people in Haka to coordinate work for regional development.—MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Zaw of Ministry of Defence inspects Kyawboke farm (Haka) in Ulon tea farm of the Myanma Agriculture Service.

MNA



PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 5 February, 2009

More railroad networks consolidate solidarity

The government has been building bridges, motor roads and railroads for ensuring smooth and secure transport in the whole country.

Rail transportation plays an important part in transport sector. After 1988, the Ministry of Rail Transportation built 1,210.51 miles of railroads, 49 bridges which are 180 feet and above, 4,552 rail-cum-bridges and 325 stations including yards.

Regarding Myanma Railways, the Head of State gave guidance on construction of national rail networks. Therefore, the government is implementing railroad special projects in states and divisions.

Railroads will be built from Sittway, Ponnagyun, Kyauktaw, MraukU and Minbya to An in order to connect Rakhine State and the west bank of Ayeyawady River. The railroads will lead to those on the west bank of Ayeyawady River via An.

Dawei-Myeik Railroad Construction Project is being undertaken with the aim of linking northern and southern parts of the country. On completion of the project, trains can run from Myitkyina to Myeik.

Pyawbwe-Natmauk-Magway Railroad Construction Project will link eastern parts and western parts of central Yoma. The people can travel from Nay Pyi Taw to Taunggyi in Shan State (South) through the newly-built Pyawbwe-Phayangazu railroad. They can go from Taunggyi to Saikkhaung, Namhsan and Mongnai.

With the development of rail transportation sector, social, economic and transport services will improve and this consolidates solidarity of the national races and the Union spirit.



Chargé d' Affaires Mr Indika Premadasa cordially greets Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Kyaw Thu and wife, who attend ceremony to mark 61st Anniversary Independence Day of Democratic Republic of Sri Lanka which falls on 4 February. —MNA

People's Desire

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

Technical training school (Thagara) takes shape

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb—Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein called for timely completion of the technical training school (Thagara) project during his visit to the project on 1 February.

The project is being implemented by Korea International Cooperation Agency. During the visit, the minister inspected construction of the main building, lecture halls, practical rooms, workshops and offices.

The minister also inspected preparations for installation of machines and machinery at the training school. He also urged officials concerned to grow shady trees and to build sports ground and fulfilled the requirements.—MNA

Myanmar Forestry School (PyinOoLwin) holds 103rd graduation parade

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb—The 103rd graduation parade of Myanmar Forestry School (PyinOoLwin) of Forest Department was held at the parade ground of the survey school in PyinOoLwin on 2 February morning.

Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung presented awards to the outstanding trainees and delivered an address.

At the hall of Myanmar Forestry School (PyinOoLwin), the minister made a speech at the certificate presentation ceremony. Officials gave prizes to outstanding trainees. Director-General U Soe Win Hlaing accepted cash donation from wellwishers.

Later, the principal of the school presented completion certificates to the trainees.—MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung delivers address at 103rd graduation parade of Myanmar Forestry School (PyinOoLwin).

FORESTRY



Health Deputy Minister meets medical students

YANGON, 3 Feb—Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe, on 2 February, met Medical Superintendent Dr Daw Nu Nu Thar, rector, professors, specialists and medical students and house surgeons at Yangon General Hospital. The deputy minister gave instructions on learning clinical medicine.

Afterwards, the deputy minister met with medical students and house surgeons who are learning clinical medicine at Yangon West People's Hospital and gave instructions on facts that should be studied and followed. The deputy minister fulfilled the needs.

MNA

MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb — The State Peace and Development Council has confirmed the appointment of the following heads of service organizations on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Tin Soe	Director-General Planning and Administrative Department Ministry of Foreign Affairs
(b) U Min Lwin	Director-General Consular and Legal Affairs Department Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The State Peace and Development Council has appointed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(a) Dr Cho Win Maw General Manager	Managing Director Myanma Foodstuff Myanma Industries Foodstuff Industries Ministry of Industry-1 Ministry of Industry-1
(b) U Kyee Soe Deputy Director- General Hydropower Planning Department Ministry of Electric Power No. 1	Director-General Hydropower Planning Department Ministry of Electric Power No. 1
(c) U Khin Win Deputy Director- General Dry Zones Greening Department Ministry of Forestry.—MNA	Director-General Dry Zones Greening Department Ministry of Forestry

Iran stresses Iraqis can administer own affairs without foreign interference

TEHERAN, 4 Feb— Iran stressed here Tuesday that “the Iraqi people have proved that they can administer their own affairs without the involvement of foreign forces.” Foreign Ministry spokesman Hassan Qashqavi made the remarks in comments on the governorate elections last weekend which was said to be held in a peaceful atmosphere.

On Saturday, around

7.5 million Iraqis, about 51 percent of eligible voters, took part in the elections to choose the governing councils in 14 of the 18 provinces in Iraq. “The Iraqi people through active participation in the country’s elections voted for stability, security, national unity as well as reconstruction,” Qashqavi hailed.

“Massive turnout of the Iraqi people at ballot

boxes indicated that the new Iraq can easily administer its own affairs without the involvement of foreign forces,” he added.

The Iranian official extended the country’s congratulations to the Iraqi government and its Muslim nation on the successful nationwide elections, describing the move as “sign of the people’s firm determination in administering their own affairs which will lead to democracy and the country’s national sovereignty.” —*Internet*

Afghan intelligence breaks up Kabul bombing cell

KABUL, 4 Feb—The Afghan intelligence service has broken up a cell of suicide bombers allegedly responsible for six attacks in Kabul that killed 20 civilians, a spokesman for the agency said on Tuesday.

Agents arrested 17 people who were involved in the suicide attacks in the capital over the last two years, said Sayed Ansari, the spokesman for the National Directorate of Security. Three others are still on the run and believed to be in neighbouring Pakistan, he said.

The breakthrough came following an attack outside a US military base in Kabul on 17 Jan, when a suicide bomber killed four Afghan civilians and a US soldier, Ansari said.

Militants use suicide bombings against Afghan and foreign troops, but the number of such attacks have decreased in 2008 compared to a year before. The majority of the victims in such attacks have been civilian.

—*Internet*

Seven Polish soldiers stand trial for Afghan civilian deaths

WARSAW, 4 Feb—A military court in Warsaw started the trial of seven Polish soldiers accused of killing Afghan civilians in the village of Nangar Khel on 16 Aug, 2007. The soldiers are accused of causing the death of 11 Afghan civilians, including women and children, by shelling their village with mortar fire, Polish news agency PAP reported on Tuesday.

Prosecutor Jakub Mytych read out an indictment that accused the two officers, three enlisted men and two warrant officers serving with NATO forces of violating laws that protect civilians in times of war, including the Hague and the Geneva conventions.—*Internet*

Residents sitting on a sidewalk watch as US soldiers of Bravo Company, 1-18 Infantry Battalion patrol in Mosul, about 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, on 2 Feb, 2009.—INTERNET



Kyrgyzstan to close US base in its airport

MOSCOW, 4 Feb — Kyrgyz President Kurmanbek Bakiyev said here on Tuesday that his country will shut the United States military base in its capital airport, local media reported.

Russia and Kyrgyzstan, however, will continue cooperation with the United States on the anti-terrorist operation in Afghanistan after the closure of the US airbase in the Central Asian state, RIA Novosti cited Russian President Dmitry Medvedev as saying.

“We could join our efforts to promote stability in the region, our countries will help the operations underway in the region. We are ready for coordinated action,” Medvedev said, adding that the decision to close the Manas base was up to Kyrgyzstan.



Russia’s President Dmitry Medvedev (R) talks to his Kyrgyz counterpart Kurmanbek Bakiyev during a signing ceremony in Moscow on 3 Feb, 2009.

—*INTERNET*

The two countries also inked a deal to write off a Kyrgyz debt to Russia and an agreement on 150 million US dollars of financial aid for Kyrgyzstan, RIA and Interfax reported. —*Internet*



Kurdish soldiers escort suspected insurgents at a Peshmerga military camp in Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, on 3 Feb, 2009. Three suspected insurgents were arrested by the Peshmerga soldiers during a raid at their hideout on Tuesday.

—*INTERNET*

Some attacks by female suicide bombers in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 4 Feb—A look at some of the deadliest attacks by female suicide bombers in Iraq since the 2003 US-led invasion:

- 4 Jan, 2009: A woman hiding among Iranian pilgrims in Baghdad’s Shiite neighborhood of Kazimiyah kills more than three dozen people and wounds at least 72 outside a mosque.

- 8 Oct, 2008: A suicide bomber blows herself up near government offices in Baqouba, northeast of the capital, killing 11 people and wounding 19.

- 15 Sept, 2008: A woman blows herself up among a group of police officers in Balad Ruz, 45 miles northeast of Baghdad, killing at least 22 people and wounding 33.

- 14 Aug, 2008: A female suicide bomber strikes Shiite pilgrims in Iskandariyah, 20 miles south of the capital, killing at least 18 people and wounding 75.

- 28 July, 2008: Female suicide bombers attack a Shiite pilgrimage in Baghdad and a Kurdish protest rally in northern Iraq, killing at least 57 people and wounding nearly 300.

- 22 June, 2008: A female suicide

bomber strikes outside a government complex in Baqouba. At least 15 people are killed and more than 40 are wounded.

- 1 May, 2008: An Iraqi female suicide bomber imitating pregnancy detonates the first bomb in a double suicide attack that kills at least 36 people during a wedding procession in Balad Ruz. At least 65 people are wounded.

- 17 March, 2008: A female suicide bomber attacks a group of Shiite worshippers near a mosque in Karbala, killing at least 49 people and wounding 73.

- 1 Feb, 2008: Two women strapped with remote-control explosives — and possibly used as unwitting suicide bombers — attack pet markets in Baghdad. At least 100 people are killed and more than 100 are wounded.

- 7 Dec, 2007: A female suicide bomber attacks offices of a Sunni group battling al-Qaida in Iraq, killing at least 15 people and wounding 35 in Muqdadiyah in Diyala Province.

- 11 April, 2007: A woman wearing an explosives vest beneath her robe blows herself up among 200 Iraqi police recruits, killing 16 and wounding 33 in Muqdadiyah.—*Internet*



In this undated photo released by Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force and distributed by Kyodo News, the JMSDF destroyer Sazanami is shown. Japan said on 4 Feb, 2009 it will dispatch two destroyers, the 4,650-ton Sazanami and the 4,550-ton Samidare, to waters off Somalia for a mission protecting its commercial vessels against pirates.—INTERNET

Japan to send two destroyers for anti-piracy mission

TOKYO, 4 Feb—Japan will dispatch two destroyers to waters off Somalia for a mission protecting its commercial vessels against pirates, joining a growing number of countries patrolling those waters, an official said on Wednesday.

The government will also send a fact-finding mission to the region ahead of the deployment of the 4,650-ton Sazanami and the 4,550-ton Samidare, a spokes-

woman for the Defence Ministry said on condition of anonymity, citing department policy. Each ship has a helicopter aboard.

Japan previously has said it will join the fight against piracy, but the details confirmed by the ministry official on Wednesday were the first mention of how many ships would be sent.

Somalia is located along the Gulf of Aden, one of the world's busiest waterways, where pirates

made more 100 attacks on ships last year and took away millions of dollars in ransom.

Somali waters are now patrolled by more than a dozen warships from countries including Britain, France, Germany, Iran, the United States and China.

South Korea has also ordered warships sent to the region to protect its vessels and crews from pirates.

Internet

Australian floods wash crocodiles into streets

SYDNEY, 4 Feb—Floods ravaging northern Australia have washed crocodiles onto the streets, where one was hit by a car, authorities said in a warning to residents on Wednesday.

More than 60 percent of the vast northeastern state of Queensland has been declared a disaster area, and flooding after two recent cyclones has affected almost 3,000 homes, they said.

The army has been called in to help with rescue and recovery efforts, while three reports of large crocodiles washed up from flooded rivers have come in from homes in the Gulf of Carpentaria region.

"I'm not sure if it's the same crocodile moving around — on the three sides of Normanton there's been a large croc seen right up close to the water's edge," said mayor Joyce Zahner. "Hopefully he'll stay in the water and the kids will stay on the land," Zahner told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

A crocodile measuring 1.6 metres (5.3 feet) long was run over by a car on a street in the nearby city of Townsville on Tuesday, wildlife rangers said.—*Internet*



This Herbert River Express photo, on 3 Feb, shows the flooded Ingham area between Cairns and townsville in north Queensland. INTERNET

Saudi Arabia to cut one-third of flights linking Bangladesh

DHAKA, 4 Feb— Saudi Arabian Airlines moves to cut one-third of its passenger flights between the country's major cities and Bangladesh's capital Dhaka in April, leading English daily *The Financial Express* reported on Wednesday.

The leading Arab carrier has drawn a plan to cut back its flights to eight from 12 as the passengers' traffic slid on the back of a freeze on manpower recruitment from Bangladesh, the newspaper quoted travel traders as saying.

A Dhaka-based airline official told the newspaper that the carrier would implement the plan from April this year.

Internet

Israeli-Palestinian peace remains dismal as Hamas-Fatah reunion unlikely

JERUSALEM, 4 Feb— Despite the recent debilitating confrontation with Israeli army in Gaza Strip, Hamas is no more likely to seek reconciliation with its secular counterpart Fatah, leaving the Palestinian nation divided and any chance for Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations unsettled.

Hamas boldly rejected Palestinian National Authority (PNA) Chairman Mahmoud Abbas' suggestion for national reconciliation under the umbrella of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) on Monday, and accused Abbas of siding with Israel during its 22-day-long Cast Lead Operation in Gaza, which came to a close on 18 Jan, killing about 1,400 Palestinians.

Internet

Russian helicopter gunship crash kills three

MOSCOW, 4 Feb — A Russian Mi-24 helicopter gunship crashed in the southern region of Saratov, killing all three crew members on Tuesday, according to media reports.

The *Itar-Tass* news agency, citing Air Force spokesman Vladimir Drik, reported that the

crew members were killed when the helicopter crashed at the Pugachyov airfield.

The helicopter has burned and the crew are dead," Drik was quoted as saying.

He said the crash caused no casualties or damage on the ground.

The crash may have

been caused by a technical failure, *Interfax* reported, citing a source in the investigation commission.

A final determination will be made after a detailed examination of the black boxes that recorded the helicopter's flight figures, Drik said.

Internet

Ford US sales plunge 40%

CHICAGO, 4 Feb— Ford Motor Co said on Tuesday that its US sales were 40 percent lower in January than a year ago, fleet sales 65 percent lower, and retail sales to individuals 27 percent lower.

Analysts believed that Ford's sales figures may kick off the industry's

fourth straight monthly decline of more than 30 percent.

But the second largest auto manufacturer in the US said that the January sales for itself and the overall industry were in line with company expectations, and that retail demand appears to be stabilizing.

Ford struggles to continue operations without federal assistance, which may reduce Ford Family's control.

Ford burned 5.5 billion dollars in cash last quarter, and finished the year with cash reserves of 13.4 billion dollars, the company said last week in a statement.—*Internet*



A sign advertising a car dealership is seen in Los Angeles on 3 Feb, 2009. US auto sales plunged to a 27-year low in January, a steeper-than-expected drop that took the slumping US market below China's for the first time.—INTERNET

China bans tainted US peanut paste foods

BEIJING, 4 Feb—China has banned food imports from 11 United States-based companies whose products have been tainted with peanut butter or paste that contain salmonella bacteria, Wednesday's *China Daily* reported.

The blacklisted 11 food manufacturers include the Peanut Corporation of America (PCA), considered the source of the contamination, and also the breakfast cereal maker Kellogg, according to the General Administration of

Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ).

All companies selling PCA's peanut butter or peanut paste products contaminated with Salmonella Typhimurium while being processed at a Georgia plant, were recently recalled by United States.

The Salmonella Typhimurium bacteria can cause diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, stomach cramps and fever. The symptoms appear within 12 to 72 hours. An inspection led

by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reportedly found PCA's plant "not compliant with current good manufacturing practices required by the FDA".

The investigation also found problems in cleaning procedures, and the company failed to implement steps to mitigate salmonella contamination in the facility as well. Some 400 food products containing PCA butter have been recalled across the United States. —*Xinhua*



China's first Antarctic inland research station, the Kunlun Station, officially began operation on 2 Feb, 2009.—XINHUA

All items from Xinhua News Agency

DPRK top leader calls for boosting agriculture

PYONGYANG, 4 Feb—Kim Jong Il, the top leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), called on the people to make efforts to boost agricultural production, the official *KCNA* news agency said Tuesday.

Improving the agriculture industry is one of the most important tasks in building a great, prosperous and powerful nation, Kim said while visiting a farm in South Hamgyong Province, the *KCNA* said without giving the date.

Kim called on the rural people to cultivate seeds suitable to the domestic land and to rely on science and mechanization so as to greatly increase output per unit area. —*Xinhua*



A villager makes a lantern in Yangzhao village, Jishan county, north China's Shanxi Province, on 3 Feb, 2009. Various lanterns are geared up for the impending Chinese Lantern Festival, which falls on 9 Feb. XINHUA

Russia, Belarus to build common air defence system

MOSCOW, 4 Feb—Russia and Belarus signed an agreement on Tuesday to establish a common air defence system, local media reported.

The document was signed following talks in the Kremlin between Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and his Belarussian counterpart Alexander Lukashenko. The creation of the joint air defence system should go together with the development of military relations between Moscow and Minsk, Lukashenko was quoted by *Itar-Tass* as saying.

Moscow will also consider granting an additional loan of several billion rubles to Minsk and boost energy cooperation with the close ally, said Russian presidential aide Sergei Prihodko. —*Xinhua*

Oil prices rebound as OPEC signals further output cuts

NEW YORK, 4 Feb—Oil prices rebounded Tuesday as Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) signaled it might cut more production to boost prices.

The OPEC warned on Tuesday it could cut outputs again on March 15's meeting. The cartel has agreed to cut its output by 4.2 million barrels per day since last year. Oil prices were also boosted by the equities markets, after better-than-expected US pending home sales data boosted sentiment about the economy.

Light, sweet crude for March delivery rose 70 cents to settle at 40.78 US dollars a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. —*Xinhua*

Missing UAE ship feared seized by pirates off Somalia

NAIROBI, 4 Feb—A Comoros-registered cargo ship is missing off Somalia with 14 Indian crew aboard and a Kenyan maritime official said on Tuesday he feared it had been seized by pirates.

Andrew Mwangura, East Africa's Coordinator of Seafarers Assistance Programme (SAP), said the MV Jaikur II, owned by Al Rashid Shipping Dubai went missing while sailing on Somali waters from Kenya. "The vessel left Mombasa a week ago with 14 Indians headed for Somalia but it's missing on Somali waters. We fear the pirates might have seized it," Mwangura told *Xinhua* by telephone. If confirmed, the MV Jaikur II would be the fourth vessel being held by pirates this year in one of the world's most dangerous waterways. —*Xinhua*

Iraqi security forces capture woman responsible for recruiting suicide bombers

BAGHDAD, 4 Feb—Iraqi security forces captured a woman said to be responsible for recruiting 80 female suicide bombers, a senior officer said on Tuesday. "Our security forces have arrested Samira Ahmed Jassim, 51, also known as Um al-Mumeneen, or the mothers of believers, who confessed her responsibility for recruiting 80 as suicide bombers," Major

General Qassim Atta told reporters in Baghdad.

Atta said that Jassim, who was captured on 21 Jan, confessed that she is affiliated to the Ansar al-Sunna, an militant group close to al-Qaida network.

"The woman confessed responsibility for 28 suicide attacks in different areas in Baghdad and Diyala," Atta said, without saying where the woman was arrested.

Atta also showed reporters a video tape of Jassim confessing during interrogation. She dressed a traditional black Abaya and talked about how she recruit women and prepare them for the attacks.

Jassim sends the women to a farm where terrorists provide the suicide bombers with bombs and then she take them to the targeted places, according to Atta. —*Xinhua*



Women drink cocktails at an ice bar during a photo opportunity in the Alpha Resort-Tomamu's ice village in Shimukappu town, Japan's northern island of Hokkaido, on 3 Feb, 2009. —XINHUA

Hamas prepared for 1-year truce with open borders

CAIRO, 4 Feb — Hamas officials said on Tuesday they are ready to commit to a cease-fire with Israel for at least a year in exchange for a full opening of Gaza's borders, as the group began a new round of truce talks with Egyptian mediators.

At the same time, foreign ministers of pro-US Arab nations, including Saudi Arabia, met in the

United Arab Emirates in a show of unity in support for Egypt's efforts to forge a long-term truce and against Iran, Hamas' most important ally.

Egypt is trying to mediate a durable cease-fire in place of the temporary and increasingly wobbly truce that ended the Gaza war last month.

It has set a Thursday deadline for the Islamic

militant rulers of Gaza to accept a deal. But the complicated details of an accord appeared unresolved with border security arrangements a key obstacle.

"There is an agreement in principle about a calm for one year," said Ahmed Abdel-Hadi, a Lebanon-based Hamas official.

Internet

Colombian guerrillas release captive politician

VILLAVICENCIO, 4 Feb — Colombia's FARC guerrillas on Tuesday freed a former governor held hostage for more than seven years, the fifth captive released this week by Latin America's oldest surviving left-wing insurgency.

A Red Cross team swooped by helicopter

into the jungles of southern Colombia to pick up ex-governor Alan Jara and ferry him to the town of Villavicencio where his weeping wife and son hugged the smiling politician as he stepped onto the tarmac.

The FARC freed three captive police officers and a soldier on Sunday and

another handover is planned for later this week, fuelling speculation that the weakened rebels want to recover political capital after a year of military setbacks.

Thin but in good spirits, Jara said a rebel chief gave him two minutes to pack before marching him seven weeks to the handover. After years in chains, suffering jungle diseases and dodging army bombs, fellow hostages cheered him as he left.

"Every one of those 2,760 nights in captivity was suffering," Jara told reporters after his release. "That humidity rots everything, and those out there in the jungle are rotting. We have to get them out." — *Internet*

Iran satellite move sparks fears

LONDON, 4 Feb — Western powers have expressed serious concerns after Iran launched its first domestically-made satellite into orbit. Iran says the satellite, carried on a *Safir-2* rocket, is meant for research and telecommunications purposes and insists its intentions are peaceful.

But the US, UK and France have voiced concerns that the technology used could lead to ballistic missile development. The move comes a day before officials from six world powers meet to discuss a row over Iran's nuclear activities.

Iran is subject to United Nations sanctions because some Western powers think it is trying to build a nuclear bomb. Tehran denies that claim and says its nuclear ambitions are limited to the production of energy.

The group of six — comprising the US, Russia, China, UK, France and Germany — has offered Iran a package of incentives if it suspends uranium enrichment and enters into talks on its nuclear programme.

Internet

Couples to get damages for switched babies

BRNO, 4 Feb — A Czech hospital has been ordered to pay damages to the families of two girls who were switched at birth and spent 10 months with the wrong parents.

A court in Brno set the damages at a total of \$150,000, Radio Prague said.

The hospital had offered the couples \$13,000 each, leading to the litigation.

The girls were born in Trebic Hospital in Moravia. Months later, one of the fathers secretly had his ostensible daughter's DNA tested and discovered he was not the father. Subsequent testing

showed his partner was not the girl's mother. The compensation is being split among the parents and daughters according to an assessment of who suffered the most psychological damage. The father whose actions brought the switch to light gets the least.

News coverage from late 2007 when the story was reported set off a wave of DNA testing among new parents in the Czech Republic. The case also started a debate about how psychological trauma should be assessed when victims seek financial damages. — *Internet*



A customer checking out Motorola phones at a store. Motorola reported a huge fourth-quarter loss on Tuesday and said it was suspending its dividend and looking for a new chief financial officer.

INTERNET



Sculptor Antony Gormley is seen with his sculpture *Filter* which has recently been acquired by Manchester Art Gallery with an 800,000 pound (US\$112,600) grant from independent art charity The Art Fund, Manchester, England. The sculpture is being shown in public for the first time in the UK making Manchester Art Gallery one of five regional galleries in the country to have an Antony Gormley on permanent display.

Fire station burns after cooking mishap

A blaze broke out at a fire station in Japan this week after a firefighter left a cooking stove burning as crew members left the station to respond to emergency calls. Most of the duty staffers were out on a call when their colleague, alone at the station and cooking dinner for the crew, was himself called out.

In his haste to respond to the call, he forgot to turn the stove off, said Seiji Hori, a Nagoya City Fire Department official. Ten fire trucks from other stations put out the fire, Hori added. "We are an institute that should be in a position to educate people about fire, so we are extremely sorry that such an incident happened," Hori said, adding that they would consider ordering-in for dinner from now on.



A person rides a bicycle. Travelling to work by bike is both good for your health and can boost a company's profits, the Dutch Transport Ministry said on Monday.

Scrap workers find \$128,000 in safe

Workers at a steel plant near Berlin found 100,000 euros (\$128,500) in a safe that a bank had sent to be scrapped—but they did the decent thing and gave it back.

An employee at Germany's Postbank had failed to take out the cash before sending the safe to the scrapyard. Spokesman Ralf Palm blamed "the carelessness of an employee when a branch office moved in December."

New navigation system authorised

The Russian-made Global Satellite Navigation System (GLONASS) will soon start operating. The bill "Regarding Navigation Activity" was approved on Friday by the State Duma in the final reading.

The bill creates the legal platform for co-operation of all users of the Russian navigation system in different spheres of economy and regulates the use of GLONASS for Russian defence and security purposes.

The document specifies the powers of the President, the state and regional governments, companies and individuals in the navigation sphere. The new navigation equipment will be installed on transport, military machines and arms samples,



regulated by Russian navigation systems.

The installation of navigation systems on the Defence Ministry's equipment will cost around 9.5 billion roubles (\$US 270 million). About 46,000 complete sets of the navigating equipment and about 600 control stations are planned to be allocated to other state structures. The cost of installation is estimated at 3.5 billion roubles (\$US 100 million).



A female wild boar and her young feeding in the wild. A webcam set up in an Estonian forest has proven an unexpected hit among Internet surfers who want to catch a glimpse of wild boars feeding and frolicking in the snow, organizers said.

NEWS ALBUM

Setse beach attracting attention of more tourists

Article: *Maung Maung Htwe (MNA)*; Photos: *Hla Moe (MNA)*

On the tour of Mon State, we also dropped in Setse beach in Thanbyuzayat.

Our country is also known as Golden Land of Myanmar due to a good number of beach resorts with natural beauty. Of them, Ngapali, Chaungtha, Ngwehsaung, Maungmagan and Setse establish a reputation among tourists at home and abroad.

Being journalists, we have been to such beaches as Ngapali, Chaungtha and Ngwehsaung several times. The beach resorts in our country have their specific characters; some are serene and some are picturesque. Setse beach resort can be compared to a charming damsel.

Setse beach is 10 miles west of Thanbyuzayat, 50 miles from Mawlamyine and 237 miles from Yangon. The sandy beach stretches out two miles from east to west. Despite being part of Mottama Gulf, Setse beach has never seen any attacks of large sea animals. It has 21 department-owned guest houses.

Now, plans are well under way to grace Setse beach in order that its standard will be on a par with that of its counterparts that tourists can visit for relaxation.

The process consists of 10 programmes: to spruce up and make the beach pleasant and green; to arrange the lodging houses and buildings in a well-organized way; to nurture the trees in the compounds and on both sides of the main road along the beach; to upgrade shops, restaurants and photo studios; to supply adequate safe water; to keep public lavatories clean and tidy; to supply sufficient power supply; to ensure smooth transport along the beach; to take

preparedness measures against natural disasters; and to launch other activities to beautify the beach.

As part of the drive to attract more attention of the visitors, festivities including festivals such as hot air balloon festival, sand pagoda building festival and sports activities are held season-wise.

Moreover, a straight Setse-Kyaikkhami road is under construction along the beach in order to add to

beautiful recreation centre in a bid to upgrade the beach resort to a grand tourist destination.

Thanks to the ongoing projects being implemented under the long view, Setse beach is expected to catch up with other famous beach resorts soon.

The Union of Myanmar is a multicultural land, where over 100 national races have been living in



Some tourists enjoying themselves in Setse beach resort.

the interest and develop the region. When the project is over, tourists may take a car trip to enjoy natural beauty and pleasant splashes of the waves along the beach.

Apart from the ongoing projects, a long-term plan will come into force to transform Kyetthon Island, seven miles from Setse beach, into a pleasant and

unity and in harmony from time immemorial and which is blessed with various forms of natural resources in abundance such as gold, silver, precious stones along with fertile soil. Therefore, it is no wonder Myanmar is called Golden Land.

Translation: MS
Kyemon: 2-2-2009



Several projects are ongoing to spruce up Setse beach.

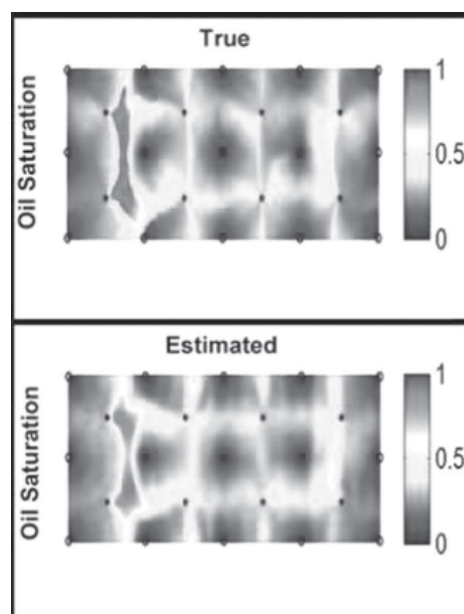
Talks on boosting business performance on 8 Feb

YANGON, 4 Feb—Organized by Myanmar Computer Entrepreneurs Association, an educative talks on “How adoption of technology can boost business performance” will be held at Myanmar Info-tech on 8 February.

Mr Colin Glass, Chief Executive Officer, Spring Board4 Asia, will give the talks. Members of the association and those wishing to attend the talks may contact Myanmar Info-tech in Hline Township, Ph 652238 not later than 5 February.

MNA

Improving oil extraction with new mapping technology



SCIENCE DAILY, 4 Feb — Picture this: an accurate map of a large underground oil reservoir that can guide

The top image shows the oil saturation map in a benchmark reservoir model with known properties (referred to as the true model). The bottom image shows a nearly identical reconstruction of that same reservoir map using the McLaughlin/Jafarpour solution approach, which took isolated data from 23 wells and simulated a 36-month recovery effort. Black dots represent the wells, remaining oil is indicated in red, and blue shows the water that remains underground following water pumping.

engineers' efforts to coax the oil from the vast rocky subsurface into wells where it can be pumped out for storage or transport.

Researchers in MIT's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering have developed technology that can generate such a map, which has the potential to significantly increase the amount of oil extracted from reservoirs.

The new technology uses the digital image compression technique of JPEG to create realistic-looking, comprehensive maps of underground oil reservoirs using measurements from scattered oil wells. These maps would be the first to provide enough detail about an oil reservoir to guide oil recovery in the field in real time.

Internet

Commander inspects Zaungtu diversion weir and hydropower plant

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb—Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Brig-Gen Hla Min, on 25 January, inspected distribution of water at Zaungtu diversion weir near Bawnatgyi village, Bago Division. At Zaungtu hydropower

station, superintendent engineer reported to the commander on generating and distribution of electric power and the commander left the necessary instructions. The commander inspected main dam and water intake.

On 26 January, the commander inspected

summer paddy farmland of farmer U Shwe Aye in Nyaunglebin Township. He attended the opening ceremony of Ahle village's bridge in commemoration of the 62nd Anniversary Union Day and inspected extension of Nyaungbintha-Kanyaindaing road in Pyu Township.—MNA

Villages in Shan State (East) enjoy cumulative development

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb—Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Phyo on 27 January inspected plantations of potato, summer paddy and

seasonal crops of U Sai Yee Kao of Tonhsi Village in Kengtung Township, and the post-primary school of Kattaik Village.

The commander viewed the shops of the village and the development affairs committee, and attended

to the needs for construction of Wanhsan-Wanhin-Naungshan inter-village road and education and health care of the village-tract. He also inspected Yanlaw Village Basic Education Middle School.

MNA

Profile of Shri M. Hamid Ansari, ...

(from page 1)

Shri Ansari has extensively written several academic and newspaper articles on issues of foreign policy, especially West Asia.

Shri Ansari has served as Vice-Chancellor of the Aligarh Muslim University during 2000-2002. He has been a Visiting Professor, Centre for West Asian and African Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University and

at the Academy for Third World Studies, Jamia Milla Islamia in New Delhi.

Shri Ansari has been Member of the National Security Advisory Board, Chairman of the Advisory Committee for Oil Diplomacy and Co-chairman of the India-UK Round Table. He was also the Chairman of the Working Group on Confidence Building Measures across segments of society in the State established by the

second Round Table Conference of the Prime Minister on Jammu & Kashmir.

Before his election as the Vice-President of India on 10 August, 2007, Shri Ansari has been Chairman of the Fifth Statutory National Commission for Minorities during the period March 2006 to July 2007.

The Vice-President and Smt. Ansari have two sons and a daughter.—MNA

Upgrading of road inspected in Maha Aungmyay Township

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb—Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Tin

Ngwe inspected resurfacing of road in Maha Aungmyay Township, Mandalay on 30 January.

Next, the commander delivered an

address at work coordination meeting to exceed the targets of plans at the meeting hall of the office of Mandalay Division PDC.—MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects construction of Khabaung dam. A&I

Hole-in-One at Phan-khar-myay Golf Course in Magway

YANGON, 4 Feb—U Tun Tun Swe playing together with U Naing Win Aung, U Myo Myint Tun and U Sein Win scored hole-in-one at the hole No. 11 at Phan-khar-myay Golf Course in Magway on 28 January.—MNA

Public Notice

1. The following medicines smuggled into Myanmar across the border are unregistered ones, with no quality guarantee.

Sr. No.	Medicine	Company	Country
1.	Dexamethasone Tablet (Dexamethasone 0.5 mg)	New Life Pharma Co Ltd	Thailand
2.	Periactin Tablet (Cyproheptadine HC1 4 mg)	M & H Manufacturing Co Ltd	Thailand
3.	Stugin Tablet (Cinnarizine 25 mg)	Bangkok Lab & Cosmetic Co Ltd	Thailand
4.	Tramacap Capsule (Tramadol HC1 50mg)	New Life Pharma Co Ltd	Thailand
5.	Dicotil Tablet (Loperamide HC1 2 mg)	Picco Pharma Co Ltd	Thailand

2. The people are, therefore, reminded to consume domestically-registered medicines only, not such unregistered ones.

3. Pharmaceutical companies and drug stores are hereby prohibited from importing, distributing and selling unregistered medicines, fake medicines, and substandard medicines, or they will face action to be taken in accordance with the existing law.

Ministry of Health

Khabaung Dam irrigation systems to benefit 100,000 acres of farmlands

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb—Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspected construction of the main right canal of Khabaung Dam being undertaken by Construction (5) of the Irrigation Department and irrigated summer paddy fields in Ottwin Township,

Bago Division, yesterday. The director of Construction (5) reported supply of water from the canals. The minister called for completion of the projects on schedule.

Now, irrigation systems of Khabaung Dam are under construction to benefit

some 100,000 acres of farmlands in Toungoo and Ottwin townships through Khabaung Diversion Weir. So far, the facilities have irrigated more than 7000 acres of summer paddy. The remaining systems are due to be constructed in the dry season.—MNA

Shwegyin Hydropower project completed over 73 percent

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb—Minister for Electric Power No.1 Col Zaw Min, on 3 February, arrived at Shwegyin Hydropower project, near Kyauk Naga village about six miles north-east of Shwegyin in

Bago Division, being implemented by No.4 Construction of Hydro-power Implementation Department. At the briefing hall, the minister fulfilled the need after hearing the reports.

Afterwards, the minister inspected earthwork, installation of pipe line and laying concert. So far, the works of Shwegyin Hydropower project have been completed by 73.5 percent.—MNA

Tobacco kills

Donations for all-round renovation of historic Pagoda

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb —The third cash donation ceremony for all-round renovation of Historic Yan Aung Myin Shwe Lat Hla Pagoda was held at the in Nay Pyi Taw Lewe pagoda on 2 February.

It was attended by Patron of committee for

all-round renovation of Historic Yan Aung Myin Shwe Lat Hla Pagoda Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, the deputy

ministers, members of the committee, officials, guest and wellwishers.

A total of 97 wellwishers donated K 261,103,220 including K 21,733,150 donated by 36 wellwishers who were unable to attend the ceremony. —MNA

Commander meets department personnel in Namhsan Township

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb —Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Brig-Gen Ya Pyae met with departmental personnel, townsenders and local people at the hall of Namhsan Township on 21 January.

After hearing reports on supply of electricity at Kengtawng hydropower station presented by officials, the commander gave necessary instructions and looked into distribution of electricity at control room

of main power station (branch).

Next, the commander oversaw road works at mile post No(206) on Namhsan-Kunhing road.

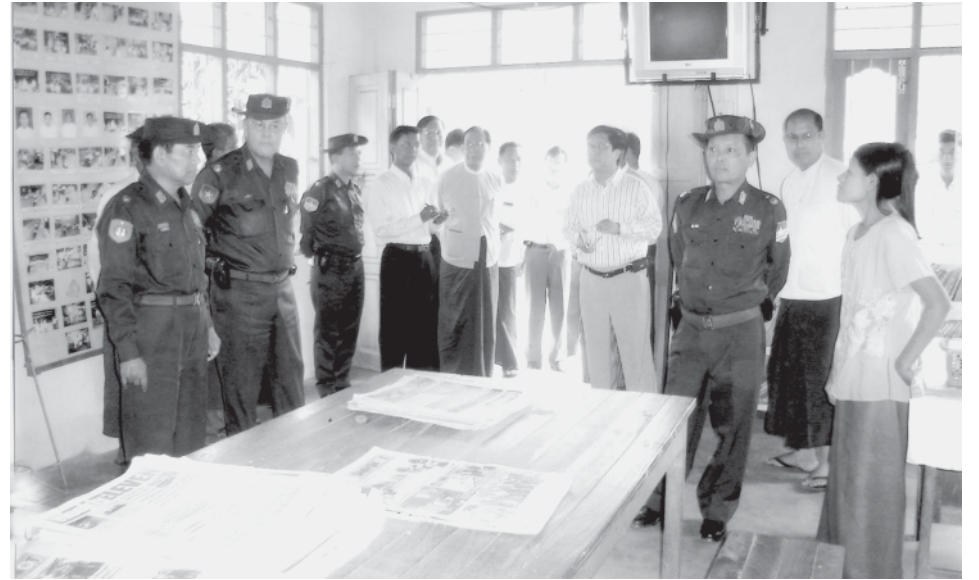
On 26 January, the commander delivered an address at the opening ceremony to provide free medical treatment to cleft palate and cleft lips patients at Sao San Tun Hospital and comforted patients.

Next, the commander and party looked into maintenance of Nyaungshwe-Shwenyaung road section.

At the meeting hall of No (2) Military Hospital in Aungban, the commander attended the ceremony to hand over Topcon Manual Operation Microscope donated by International Beverages Trading Co Ltd and inspected operation theater and intensive care unit of the hospital.

Next, the commander looked into construction of low-cost housing complex near Thamongkham village on Kalaw-Taunggyi motorway and attended to the needs.

MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, Ministers Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and Brig-Gen Thein Zaw inspect library in Nyaungzin model village.—MNA

Development of Dawei, Launglon, Thayetchaung townships under inspection

YANGON, 4 Feb—Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw on 1 February heard reports on trunk call

and mobile communications and future tasks presented by officials at Auto-exchange and Microwave Station in Dawei.

They inspected the site for construction of Launglon Auto-Exchange and visited Maungmagan Beach. Next, they viewed the site for construction of the bridge in Yebyu.

On 2 February, they inspected Thayetchaung

Auto-exchange, the site for new exchange and the library in Thayetchaung Township.

In Dawei, they heard reports on progress in construction of Dawei-Myeik railroad by officials. In the evening, Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein met departmental personnel under the ministry at Dawei District Fisheries Department.—MNA



Deputy Minister Dr Paing Soe makes speech at the meeting of the Work Committee for Upgrading Nay Pyi Taw National Herbal Garden.—MNA

Ways sought for development of National Herbal Garden

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb—The Work Committee for Upgrading Nay Pyi Taw National Herbal Garden held a meeting at the garden here this morning.

Chairman of the committee Deputy Minister

for Health Dr Paing Soe in his speech said that the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, the Ministry of Forestry, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation are pursuing a common goal of upgrading the garden in compliance with the guidance of the Head of State. All are to work hard together for its development as it is a pride of the nation, he said, calling for

sustainable progress of the garden.

Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe delivered an address. Director-General of the Traditional Medicine Department Dr Tin Nyunt gave an account of ongoing work for progress of the garden. Members of the work committee made suggestions about work progress done department-wise.—MNA

Opening of MDA Conference, FDI-MDA joint meeting held

YANGON, 4 Feb—The opening of the 29th Conference of Myanmar Dental Association was held in conjunction with the 10th joint meeting of FDI-MDA at Traders Hotel here this morning

with an opening address by Acting Director-General Dr Win Myint of Health Department.

The acting director-general and Chairman of MDA Prof. Dr Thein Htut opened the medicine and

medical equipment booth. Next, a respect-paying ceremony followed.

Then the chairman of the association, FDI Representative Dr. W. Keung Leung and chairman of reception

committee Prof. Dr Pwint Phu delivered addresses.

Next, officials read out annual reports and paper reading session followed.

The session and joint meeting is held up to 6 February. —MNA



Acting Director-General Dr Win Myint makes speech at the ceremony to open the 29th Conference of Myanmar Dental Association and the 10th joint meeting of FDI-MDA.—MNA

All this needs to be known

- * Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- * Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- * Do not be softened whenever appeased

Coastal and overseas shippings contributing to development of transport sector

Article & Photos: Soe Maung (MFSL)

(from page 16)
Indeed, the Myanmar Five Star Line is an international level shipping line and it has had (the International Standard Organization) ISO 9001:2000 and the certificate of International Safety Management.

In line with the motto of the Ministry of Transport: "To uplift the economy through transport service", vessels of MFSL are transporting heavy machinery, machines, machine spare parts, raw materials, locomotives and carriages from the respective ports to Myanmar through the free on board (FOB) system.

Beginning 1994, the MFSL has been running the Yangon-

Singapore-Yangon container transport route. At present, the organization extended its container transport service along the Yangon-Pot Kilan-Singapore-Yangon route. Moreover, the plan is under way to extend the container transport route in the ASEAN region.

As the MFSL has more opportunities to undertake the transportation of export and import commodities of the country, arrangements are being made to buy new vessels for its fleet.

To implement the aim for ensuring easy and smooth transportation of Myanmar coastal regions and speedy flow of commodities laid down by the State Peace and

Development Council, a jetty that measures 220 metres by 19.5 metres, the passenger lounge, the warehouse and the container yard were built on 33.257 acres of land near Bago River in Thakayta Township.

For the coastal transport services, sales of tickets for coastal routes, berthing of the passenger ships, loading and unloading of commodities of departments concerned and private entrepreneurs from coastal liners are being carried out.

The coastal liners under the MFSL are transporting over 50,000 passengers and over 100,000 tons of commodities yearly.

The MFSL is rendering services for the entrepreneurs in the

transportation of export and import goods by conventional vessel.

In implementing Four Economic Objectives of

the State, the MFSL is undertaking the local and foreign transport services for development of the transport sector in line

with the market-oriented economic system.

Translation: TTA
Kyemon: 31-1-2009



MV Bago of Myanmar Five Star Line loaded with containers.



Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Htay cuts ribbon to open earth road linking Wanetyon Village and Htaukkyantkwin Village in Nattalin Township.—MNA

Bridge, rural road inaugurated in two townships

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb—Shwepyae Ngweshan Bridge crossing Po Tha Aung Creek linking Zeetaw Village in Nattalin Township and Magyeebin Village in Paungde Township was opened at Zeetaw Village in Nattalin Township on 1 February.

Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than

Htay attended the ceremony and met local people and presented cash for maintenance of the bridge.

The deputy minister attended the opening ceremony of earth road linking Wanetyon Village and Htaukkyantkwin Village in Nattalin Township. He met local

people at Basic Education Primary School in Wanetyon Village and presented cash for maintenance of the road.

The deputy minister also met with local people at BEPS in Panntinlay Village of Zigon Township and presented cash donation for the school.—MNA

Holographic Universe

CARDIFF, 4 Feb — Cardiff University researchers, who are part of a British-German team searching the depths of space to study gravitational waves, may have stumbled on one of the most important discoveries in physics, according to an American physicist.

Centre for Particle Astrophysics in Illinois is convinced that he has found proof in the data of the gravitational wave detector GEO600 of a holographic Universe – and that his ideas could ex-

plain mysterious noise in the detector data that has not been explained so far.

The British-German team behind the GEO600, which includes scientists from the School of Physics and Astronomy's Gravitational Physics Group, will now carry out new experiments in the coming months to yield more evidence about Craig Hogan's assumptions. If proved correct, it could help in the quest to bring together quantum mechanics and Einstein's theory of gravity.

In order to test the theory of holographic noise, the frequency of GEO600's maximum sensitivity will be shifted towards ever higher frequencies. The frequency of maximum sensitivity is the tone that the detector can hear best. It is normally adjusted to offer the best chance for hearing exploding stars or merging black holes.

Even if it turns out that the mysterious noise is the same at high frequencies as at the lower ones, this will not constitute proof for Hogan's hypothesis. It would, however, provide a strong motivation for further study.

The sensitivity of GEO600 will then be significantly improved by using 'squeezed vacuum' and by the installation of a mode filter in a new vacuum chamber. The technology of 'squeezed vacuum' was particularly refined in Hannover and would be used in a gravitational wave detector for the first time.—Internet



View through one of the tubes of GEO600.

Panasonic expects net loss of \$4.2 bln, to cut 15,000 jobs

TOKYO, 4 Feb—Japan's electronics giant Panasonic Corp. said Wednesday it will consider cutting about 15,000 jobs worldwide by the end of March next year as part of the cost-saving measures to combat the global economic crisis.

Panasonic, formally Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., also said it will close down 13 domestic and 14 overseas production bases by the end of March this year.

The Osaka-based company expects a net loss of 380 billion yen (4.2 billion dollars) in the current fiscal year through March because of the ongoing global economic crisis, its first red ink in six years.

Panasonic reported Wednesday a net profit of

65.38 billion yen for its group business in the April-December period. The net profit for the first nine months of fiscal 2008 represents a 70 percent plunge from a year earlier.

The projected loss for the whole of fiscal 2008 is a sharp contrast with a record-high 310 billion yen profit the firm projected in April last year.—*Internet*

Indonesia improves fishery products quality for EU inspection

JAKARTA, 4 Feb—The Indonesian Fisheries and Maritime Affairs Ministry is improving the fishery products' quality to prepare for EU's inspection.

An EU inspection team is to come to Indonesia from 23 Feb till March 6 for a regular evaluation.

EU Team will evaluate how the Indonesian fishery industry has improved on a control system and fishery product cultivation," the ministry's head of Data and Information Center Soen'an Hadi Poenomo told *Xinhua* on Wednesday.

According to Soen'an, the evaluation tour will cover fishing vessels with the equipment, cold storage, laboratories, production units and auctions.—*Internet*



A giant snow sculpture of Disney characters draws the crowds at Odori park in central Sapporo, Japan. The week-long 60th Sapporo Snow Festival runs from on 5 February.

INTERNET

Hamas police 'seize aid for Gaza'

GAZA, 4 Feb—Hamas policemen have seized thousands of blankets and food parcels that were meant to be distributed to Palestinian civilians in Gaza, UN officials say.

A UN spokesman said policemen raided a UN warehouse on Tuesday after officials refused to

hand over the aid to a Hamas-controlled ministry. The UN said it was the first time its aid had been confiscated by Hamas.

It condemned the action and demanded the goods be immediately returned. Hamas denied its men had taken any aid.

UN spokesman Christopher Gunness said Hamas police took 3,500 blankets and over 400 food parcels.

The Hamas Social

Affairs Minister in Gaza, Ahmed al-Kurd, denied that members of the Islamist movement had removed aid from a UN building. However, he said his ministry was in dispute with the UN relief agency about how aid should be distributed.

About half the population in the Gaza Strip are dependent on UN food aid, since Israel imposed a blockade on the territory 19 months ago.—*Internet*

UK soldier arrested for giving civilian killing figures in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON, 4 Feb—A Senior British Army officer has been arrested in Afghanistan for allegedly supplying civilian killing figures to a human rights campaigner, British media reported. Lieutenant-Colonel Owen McNally, 48, was held on suspicion of breaching the Official Secrets Act. According to *The Sun* newspaper, Lieutenant-Colonel Owen McNally, 48, had access to the figures through his work for Nato's International Security Assistance Force, which is in Afghanistan occupation. The campaign group Human Rights Watch said last year that civilian deaths in Afghanistan from US and Nato air strikes nearly tripled to at least 1,633 between 2006 and 2007. UK Defence Ministry said in a statement: "We can confirm that a British Army officer has been arrested in Afghanistan on suspicion of breaching the Official Secrets Act. He is being returned to the UK for questioning.—*Internet*



A model displays gold thread made wedding dresses, designed by Japanese designer Yumi Katsura and tiaras, and priced 30 million Japanese Yen in Tokyo, Japan, on 4 Feb, 2009.

INTERNET

Dozens dead' in S Lanka fighting

UNITED NATIONS, 4 Feb—The United Nations says that 52 civilians have been killed in the past day of fighting in Sri Lanka.

A UN spokesman also said that cluster bombs had hit a hospital, which has been subject to several attacks.

The military denies responsibility for the attacks. There has been no comment from the Tamil Tiger rebels. Meanwhile President Mahinda Rajapaksa said the rebels would be "completely defeated in a few days" and asked people who had fled to return.

The 52 civilians the UN reported killed were in Sudanthirapuram, in Mullaitivu District. The organization said another 80 were injured.

Some reports said a makeshift hospital had been hit there but this has not been verified.

The UN also said the last major hospital in rebel-held territory - in the town of Puthukkudiyiruppu - had been hit by cluster bombs. It said the hospital had been evacuated after 16 hours of shelling. It is not clear who fired those shells.

The Sri Lankan government has previously ruled out any ceasefire and has vowed to crush the rebels.

Internet

German troops to be stationed in France for first time since WW II



Sarkozy and Merkel said they hoped a NATO summit in April would bring closer "cooperation with the US and progress on strategic and arms-control issues".—INTERNET

BERLIN, 4 Feb—French President Nicolas Sarkozy and German Chancellor Angela Merkel have confirmed that a

German battalion will shortly be stationed on French soil for the first time since World War II.

The hundreds of German troops will be serving in the Franco-German brigade set up in 1989 and which currently has 2,300 French soldiers and 2,800 German troops stationed side-by-side in southwest Germany.

"After the tragedies of our common history, everyone will understand the historic significance of this new step in Franco-German friendship," they wrote.

Sarkozy and Merkel also said they hoped a NATO summit in April would bring closer "cooperation with the U.S. and progress on strategic and arms-control issues".—*Internet*

Syria says US must lift sanctions to renew ties

WASHINGTON, 4 Feb—The United States must lift its sanctions on Syria if President Barack Obama wants to normalise fractured ties, a senior Syrian official said on Tuesday. In principle, to have normal relations between Syria and the United States, sanctions should be lifted. This is going to be a very important part of any dialogue between Syria and the United States," Abdullah al-Dardari, Syria's deputy prime minister for economic affairs, told Reuters in an interview.

It was the first time Syrian authorities have publicly linked rapprochement with the Obama administration to a lifting of sanctions, which have taken their toll on the country's economy and contributed to years of international isolation.

In general, we hope to see a different policy in Washington because the previous policy failed completely and Mr. Obama has been promising change," Dardari said.

The deputy prime minister, who is Syria's point man on major projects, said the impact of sanctions had been limited with foreign direct investment still increasing by some 30 percent a year, but he said they had been a psychological deterrent for some foreign investors. Dardari said Syria was feeling the strain of the global economic downturn, even if the impact on its nascent banking sector had been limited, and was eager to attract more foreign investment—particularly from its main trading partners in Europe and other Arab states.—*Internet*

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Win Mu Tin
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.

for N. V. Organon
P. O. Box 60, Yangon

Dated: 5 February 2009

Chemicals used to disrupt cancer

DALLAS, 4 Feb — US medical scientists have identified two chemical compounds that can possibly disrupt the growth of many types of cancer and degenerative diseases.

University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center researchers screened a chemical library of 200,000 compounds to find the chemicals that can be used to study and possibly manipulate cellular pathways.

"The identification of these chemicals and their targets within this cellular pathway represents an important step in developing therapeutic agents," said Assistant Professor Lawrence Lum.

Using cultured mouse cells, the researchers studied biochemical reactions within cells controlled by a class of proteins called Wnt that help control embryonic development in many animals, including humans. Misregulation of cellular responses to Wnt proteins is associated with a broad range of diseases, including cancer, Alzheimer's and polycystic kidney disease, and type 2 diabetes, the scientists said.—*Internet*



Employee for Japanese weather forecasting company Weathernews, Mayuka Nakatani, displays some of the 500 pod-shaped pollen counting robots called "Pollen-robot", which are ready to be used as nationwide monitors to observe pollen levels ahead of the coming hay fever season, at the company's headquarters in Chiba City, suburban Tokyo.—*INTERNET*

Nanotubes used to spur bone growth

SAN DIEGO, 4 Feb — US scientists say they are using nanotubes and stem cells to help accelerate bone growth in patients who undergo orthopedic surgery.

The University of California-San Diego researchers said they placed mesenchymal stem cells

on top of very thin titanium oxide nanotubes to control bone building cells. Mesenchymal stem cells can be directly supplied from a patient's own bone marrow, the scientists said.

"If you break your knee or leg from skiing, for example, an orthopedic sur-

geon will implant a titanium rod and you will be on crutches for about three months," said Professor Sungho Jin. "But what we anticipate through our research is that if the surgeon uses titanium oxide nanotubes with stem cells, the bone healing could be accelerated and a patient may be able to walk in one month instead of being on crutches for three months."

The research — said to be the first of its kind to use stem cells attached to titanium oxide nanotube implants — also included Professors Shu Chien and Adam Engler, as well Seunghan Oh and other researchers.

Internet

Internet

Arterial disease pain helped by exercise

ROTTERDAM, 4 Feb — Patients with leg pain caused by arterial disease may be able to forego treatment of the affected artery by participating in hospital-supervised exercise. Various treatments are available, including drug therapy or endovascular revascularization — a minimally invasive technique that widens and restores blood flow to the affected artery — for intermittent claudication is a painful leg condition affecting some patients with peripheral arterial disease.

Lead author Sandra Spronk of the University Medical Center in Rotterdam in the Netherlands said 151 patients with intermittent claudication were randomly assigned to undergo revascularization or hospital-supervised exercise. Supervised exercise consisted of 30-minute, semi-weekly sessions of walking on a treadmill. Follow-up was performed

after six and 12 months.

"The results from our clinical trial demonstrate that after six and 12 months, patients with intermittent claudication benefited equally from either revascularization or supervised exercise," Spronk said in a statement.

Internet



In this photo released by the San Diego Zoo's Wild Animal Park, Ramir, a 6-week-old Indian rhinoceros, drinks three bottles of milk from one of his caretakers, Marcia Diehl.—*INTERNET*

HIV expert calls for access to HIV drugs

ROME, 4 Feb — The co-discoverer of the HIV virus, Luc Montagnier, says poor nations need better access to HIV drugs. While receiving an award in Rome on Monday, he bemoaned the disparity among nations in treating patients with human immunodeficiency virus, which causes AIDS, ANSA reported.

"There is still a great disparity of treatment between the countries of the South and the countries of the North and only 30 percent of the world's poor have access to HIV drugs," said Montagnier, a 2008 Nobel Prize winner.

"The AIDS epidemic is currently under control in the north of the world and many efforts have been made to spread the results of scientific research to the countries of the south but there are still great difficulties in those countries."

Internet

Scientists build complex cell microtissues

SAN DIEGO, 4 Feb — US biomedical engineers say they have built complex-shaped microtissues in a Petri dish by assembling small blocks of living cell clusters.

The Brown University scientists said their achievement, using a 3-D Petri dish they invented, helps advance the field of tissue engineering and could reduce the need for some animal research.

Professor Jeffrey Morgan, who led the research, said it has enormous implications for basic cell biology, drug discovery and tissue research. He said the tissues created in the lab are more like natural tissue and can be constructed to have complex lace-like patterns similar to a vasculature — the arrangement of blood vessels in the body or in an organ.

"We think this is one step toward using building blocks to build complex-shaped tissues that might one day be transplanted," he said.—*Internet*



Al Hicks of the Department of Environmental Conservation photographs hibernating bats in an abandoned mine in Rosendale, NY. White nose syndrome is killing more bats over a larger area this winter, reaching south into New Jersey and Pennsylvania and leaving caves in hard-hit areas like New York with decimated bat populations.

INTERNET

Australian researchers make breakthrough in treating malaria

WASHINGTON, 4 Feb — A team of researchers at Australia's Monash University has made a major breakthrough in the international fight against malaria, which claims the life of a child across the world every 30 seconds, according to a report published on Tuesday in the US Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The team, based at the Monash University ARC Center of Excellence in Structural and Functional Microbial Genomics, has

been able to deactivate the final stage of the malaria parasite's digestive machinery, effectively starving the parasite of nutrients and disabling its survival mechanism.

This process of starvation leads to the death of the parasite, which is contracted by half a billion people and causes around 1 million deaths a year.

Leading Professor James Whisstock said the results had laid the scientific groundwork to further develop a specific class of drugs to treat

the disease.

"About 40 percent of the world's population are at risk of contracting malaria.

It is only early days but this discovery could one day provide treatment for some of those 2.5 billion people across the globe," Whisstock said.

"Drug-resistant malaria is an ever increasing problem, meaning that there is an urgent requirement to develop new therapeutic strategies," Whisstock said.

Internet



File photo shows Toyota Motor workers on a car assembly line at the company's Kyushu plant in Miyata City in Fukuoka prefecture. New vehicle sales in Japan fell to the lowest level in four decades in January as the deepening recession depressed consumer sentiment, an industry group said on Monday.—INTERNET

US study insulin possible new treatment for Alzheimer's disease

WASHINGTON, 4 Feb — A Northwestern University-led research team reports that insulin, by shielding memory-forming synapses from harm, may slow or prevent the damage and memory loss caused by toxic proteins in Alzheimer's disease.

The findings, which provide additional new evidence that Alzheimer's could be due to a novel third form of diabetes, was published on Monday in the online edition of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Internet



A tourist makes a path in the snow on a ridge, some 3,200 metres (10,499 feet) above sea level, in the mountains outside Almaty on 1 Feb, 2009.

INTERNET

NASA, Google launch virtual exploration of Mars

WASHINGTON, 4 Feb — NASA and Google announced Monday the release of a new Mars mode in Google Earth that brings to everyone's desktop a high-resolution, three-dimensional view of the Red Planet.

Besides providing a rich, immersive 3D view of Mars that will aid public understanding of Mars

science, the new mode, Google Mars 3D, also gives researchers a platform for sharing data similar to what Google Earth provides for Earth scientists.

The mode enables users to fly virtually through enormous canyons and scale huge mountains on Mars that are much larger than any found on Earth.

Users also can explore the Red Planet through the eyes of the Mars rovers and other Mars missions, providing a unique perspective of the entire planet.

Users can see some of the latest satellite imagery from NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter and other probes orbiting the Red Planet. Viewers can learn about new discoveries and explore indexes of available Mars imagery.—Internet

Internet

NASA postpones Discovery's launch by at least one week

WASHINGTON, 4 Feb — The US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has postponed space shuttle Discovery's launch by at least one week to give engineers more time to analyze potential problems with a valve that keep fuel flowing in Discovery's main engines, a press release from the NASA said on Tuesday.

Discovery's STS-119

mission to the International Space Station originally had been targeted for 12 Feb. During a review of Discovery's readiness for flight, NASA managers decided on Tuesday to plan a launch no earlier than 19 Feb.

The valve is one of three that channels gaseous hydrogen from the engines to the external fuel tank.—Internet

Hormone level during pregnancy may identify women at risk for postpartum depression

WASHINGTON, 4 Feb — Women who have higher levels of a hormone produced by the placenta midway through their pregnancy appear more likely to develop postpartum depression, according to a report in the February issue of Archives of General Psychiatry.

Postpartum depression (PPD) is more serious than "baby blues" and begins within four to

six weeks of giving birth, according to background information in the article. Risk factors include a history of depression, stressful life events, a lack of social support, low self-esteem, depression, and anxiety or stress during pregnancy.

However, these risk factors explain only a portion of the differences between women who de-

velop PPD and those who do not.

"Endocrine risk factors for PPD have been identified as well, including changes in reproductive hormones during pregnancy, a history of premenstrual syndrome and a history of oral contraceptive-induced mood changes," the authors said.

Internet

Chinese infant recovers from bird flu infection

TAIYUAN, 4 Feb — A 3-year-old girl has become the youngest person ever in China to recover from bird flu infection. The girl, identified only by her surname Peng, was hospitalized last month in north China's Shanxi Province after being diagnosed with the H5N1 strain of avian influenza. She was discharged on Tuesday from the No 4 People's Hospital in Taiyuan, the provincial capital of Shanxi. Holding the baby girl in his arms at the hospital, father Peng Zhiwen said, "I am so excited, but above all, I should thank all people who have shown care for my daughter."

She is the first of eight people infected with bird flu in China since the beginning of the year to recover, said Gao Guoshun, chief of Shanxi Provincial Department of Health.

Internet



People look at a bull in Tlacotalpan in Mexico's state of Veracruz on 1 Feb, 2009. Ten half-tonne bulls charged down the winding colonial streets of the small Mexican town of Tlacotalpan on Sunday, kicking at screaming spectators in a chaotic version of Spain's famous "Running of the Bulls."

INTERNET

SPORTS

World Cup organizers say Port Elizabeth bang on schedule

JOHANNESBURG, 4 Feb—The Port Elizabeth stadium, which initially had construction delays, will now be ready well before the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, organizers said on Tuesday.

“We, 2010 FIFA World Cup Organizing Committee South Africa are delighted with the progress made with the construction of the Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium,” organizing committee president Danny Jordaan said. “It is extremely exciting to see a brand new 2010 FIFA World Cup venue taking shape so many months ahead of its FIFA World Cup completion deadline.”

The venue had been the only new stadium chosen for this year’s eight-nation Confederations Cup in June before being discarded in July 2008 be-



The Port Elizabeth stadium, which initially had construction delays, will now be ready well before the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, organizers said on Tuesday.—INTERNET

cause of problems. About 40,000 of the 48,000 seats have already been installed, more than half of the 36 beams which support the roof have been put in position, as well as most of the columns and other supporting structures.

Internet

Upset specialists Burnley knock West Brom out of FA Cup

LONDON, 4 Feb—Steven Thompson scored twice as Burnley claimed their fourth Premier League scalp of the season on Tuesday with a 3-1 victory over West Bromwich Albion in their FA Cup fourth round replay.

The Championship (second division) side had already beaten Arsenal, Chelsea and Fulham in the League Cup before falling to Tottenham Hotspur in the semi-finals. The Premier League’s bottom side, who shared a 2-2 draw with Burnley at the first attempt, got themselves back into the game in the 60th minute when Dutch defender Gianni Zuiverloon shot from the edge of the penalty area into the bottom left.

Burnley will go on to face Arsenal or Championship side Cardiff City, whose replay was postponed due to bad weather. There is more FA Cup fourth-round replay action on Wednesday when Everton host Merseyside rivals Liverpool and Sunderland visit Blackburn Rovers.—*Internet*

Arshavin completes Arsenal switch

LONDON, 4 Feb—Russia forward Andrei Arshavin completed his transfer to Arsenal from Zenit St Petersburg on Tuesday, the English Premier League club said.

The move had been awaiting confirmation from the Premier League after the clubs failed to announce an agreement before Monday’s 5 pm transfer window deadline.

“We are delighted to have signed Andrei Arshavin, he is a player I have admired for a long time,” manager Arsene Wenger told the club’s website (www.arsenal.com).

“He is a versatile player with great experience, who will add real quality to our squad. Andrei is an exciting impact player with a huge amount of ability and has been an influential force with both Zenit St Petersburg and the Russian national team in recent seasons.”



Internet

Milan chief says Beckham wants to stay

MILAN, 4 Feb—David Beckham wants to stay at AC Milan after his loan from Los Angeles Galaxy finishes on 9 March, the Serie A club’s chief executive, Adriano Galliani, said on Tuesday.

The 33-year-old midfielder, who has been in fine form for Milan, moved to Italy during the long US close season on a two-month loan deal to try to stay in the frame for a place in the England side. Galaxy have insisted Beckham return in March but he has said he is torn.

“We are working to keep him and I think he would like that too,” Galliani told *Gazzetta dello Sport*. “Milan will do everything to have Beckham even after March. It is clear that it’s our wish to have him until the end of the season or on a permanent deal.”

For technical reasons, his loan is actually until June meaning Milan can talk to Galaxy outside of the transfer window, which closed on Monday. However, there is a written agreement that he goes back to the United States in March.

“There’s a hope but contracts should be honoured,” Galliani added. “If Galaxy want to talk, we would be very happy to try. But... they are in the right. Beckham must return to America on 9 March. Let’s wait.”—*Internet*



David Beckham

Fowler joins Australian A-League club Fury

SYDNEY, 4 Feb—Former Liverpool and England striker Robbie Fowler has signed a two-year deal with new Australian A-League side North Queensland Fury, according to the club. The 33-year-old forward, whose goal-scoring exploits once saw him idolised on the red half of Merseyside, will be the Fury’s marquee player as the club makes its debut

in the A-League this season.

Fury officials described the signing as a major coup, which showed the club, based in Townsville, was intent on making a successful start.

“Robbie is a legitimate international superstar of the game and there’s no doubt he will give us

every chance of winning,” Fury chairman Don Matheson said. “It’s taken a lot of work to make this happen, but it was worth it because I really believe having him playing for North Queensland Fury will change the way people think about the A-League.”—*Internet*

FIFA says thirteen nations, 11 bids for World Cups

GENEVA, 4 Feb—England, Australia, the United States and South Korea were among the 13 countries to have formally expressed their interest in



The FIFA sign at its headquarters in Zurich, Switzerland.—INTERNET

hosting the 2018 or 2022 World Cups, FIFA said on Tuesday.

The 11 potential bids include joint efforts by Belgium and the Netherlands, who have already linked up to stage Euro 2000, and from 1982 World Cup hosts Spain and Euro 2004 hosts Portugal. Indonesia, Japan (2002 co-hosts with South Korea), Russia, Mexico, the venue for the 1970 World Cup, and Qatar were the other countries that came forward by Monday’s preliminary deadline, world football’s governing body said in a statement.

One nation noticeable by its absence from this list is China, who decided to pull out of the race due to the serious problems and low standards of the game in the country, state media reported. The 13 potential hosts now have to firm up their interest and register their bids by 16 March.

Internet

Tsonga and Ferrer cruise to victory in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 4 Feb—Big guns Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France and David Ferrer of Spain cruised into the second round of the rain-interrupted SA Tennis Open Tuesday. Top seed Tsonga gradually took control of Brazilian Thiago Alves to record a 6-4, 6-1 centre-

court win in 54 minutes at Montecasino entertainment centre in a plush suburb of the South African financial capital.

And after trailing 2-0 in the opening set, second seed Ferrer won 12 games in a row to overcome Israel Davis Cup star Dudi Sela 6-2, 6-0 and set up a clash with German Simon Greul.

There were also wins for Czech Ivo Minar, Portuguese Frederico Gil, Swiss qualifier Marco Chiudinelli, Belgian Kristof Vliegen and Frenchman Jeremy Chardy on courts that were a car park just three months ago. ATP tournament tennis is back in South Africa after a 14-year absence induced by a lack of funds and the crowds have fallen in love with charismatic Muhammed Ali-lookalike Tsonga.—*Internet*



A competitor shows a "peonies" carved by him during a food carving competition in Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province, on 4 Feb, 2009.—INTERNET

Telescope sees smallest exoplanet

PARIS, 4 Feb—The smallest planet yet found outside the Solar System has been detected by a French space telescope.

The rocky world is less than twice the size of Earth.

Only a handful of planets have so far been found with a mass comparable to Earth, Venus, Mars or Mercury.

The discovery was made by Corot, an orbiting observatory with a 27cm-diameter telescope to search for planets orbiting other stars.

About 330 of these "exoplanets" have been discovered so far. But most of them have been gas giants similar to Jupiter or Neptune.

The new find, Corot-Exo-7b, orbits its Sun-like star once every 20 hours.

Because the planet is so close to its parent star, its temperature is between 1,000 and 1,500C - far too hot to support life.

The vast majority of exoplanets have been discovered using the radial velocity method.

This looks for spectral signs that a star is wobbling due to gravitational tugs from an orbiting planet.

But the method favours the detection of large planets orbiting close to its parent star.—Internet

MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (5.2.2009) (Thursday)

Transmissions	Times
Local	- (09:00am ~ 10:00am) MST
Europe	- (15:30pm ~ 23:30pm) MST
North America	- (23:30pm ~ 07:30am) MST

Local Transmission

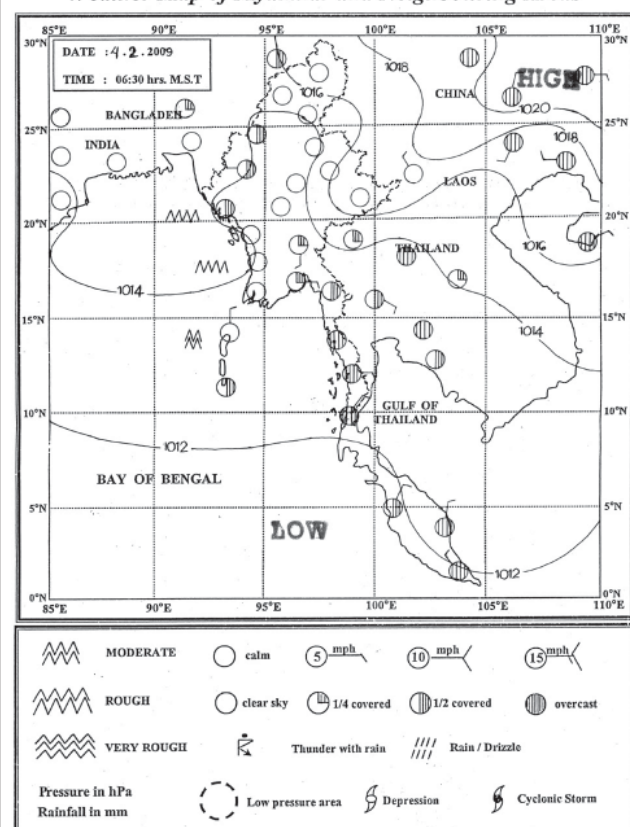
- Signature Tune
- Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- Hundred Fruits from a Common Stem, Our Union (Kachin State)
- Kachin Traditional New Crop Feast and Drum Dance
- Myanmar Modern Song
- Myanmar Movies Impact
- Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Europe/ North America Transmission

- Signature Tune
- Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- Myanmar Traditional Gold Leaf Works
- The Hilly Town (Namhsan)
- Let's grow High-Yielding Varieties for Surplus in Rice
- Discovering Imaw Bum Area (Part-II)
- The Beauty of Tamonyel Region
- Strength of Life (May Zin Aung)
- Traditional Folk Weaving Works
- Bio-diesel from Energy Field
- Myanmar Modern song
- The Hilly Town (Namhsan)
- Hundred Fruits from a Common Stem, Our Union (Kachin State)
- Hidden Beauty of Asia
- Discovering Imaw Bum Area (Part-III)
- Clothes Make the Women
- Mythun Breeding in Chin State
- Kanbawza Thardi Museum
- Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Wednesday, 4 February, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin, Shan and Mon States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below February average temperatures in Rakhine State, upper Sagaing and Magway Divisions, (7°C) to (8°C) below February average temperatures in Chin State and Bago Divisions, (3°C) above February average temperatures in Mon State and Taninthayi Division and about February average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Hakha (-3°C), Loilem (1°C), Pinlaung, Heho and Ann (3°C) each, Namhsan (4°C).

Maximum temperature on 3-2-2009 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 4-2-2009 was 61°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 4-2-2009 was 63%. Total sunshine hours on 3-2-2009 was (9.5) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 4-2-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Northwest at (11:30) hours MST on 3-2-2009.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 5th February 2009: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuations of decrease of night temperatures in the Chin State.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 5-2-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 5-2-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 5-2-2009: Generally fair weather.



Thursday, 5 February
View on today

- 7:00 am**
- 1. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:25 am**
- 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am**
- 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am**
- 4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am**
- 5. Dance variety

- 8:00 am**
- 6. ပေါက်တံတား(ရေပြာ)နှင့် ပေါက်တံတား(အုန်းတော)
- 8:10 am**
- 7. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:20 am**
- 8. (၆၂)နှစ်မြောက်ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 8:30 am**
- 9. International news
- 8:40 am**
- 10. Musical programme
- 4:00 pm**
- 1. Martial song
- 4:10 pm**
- 2. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 4:15 pm**
- 3. Song of national races
- 4:25 pm**
- 4. (၆၂)နှစ်မြောက်ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

- 4:40 pm**
- 5. ၂၀၀၉ခုနှစ်၊ တက္ကသိုလ်ဝင်စာမေးပွဲ ဘာသာရပ်ဆိုင်ရာသင်ခန်းစာ (သမိုင်းဘာသာရပ်)
- 5:15 pm**
- 6. Song to uphold national spirit
- 5:20 pm**
- 7. ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲ့ရင်ခွန်သံ
- 5:35 pm**
- 8. (၆၂)နှစ်မြောက်ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 5:45 pm**
- 9. "ပြည်ထောင်စုစိတ်ဓာတ်မပြတ် ရင့်သန်ခိုင်မာရန်မှာဒီဝန်တာ" (အသီးတစ်ရာအညွှတ်တစ်ခု နှိုပြည်ထောင်စု)
- 6:00 pm**
- 10. Evening news
- 6:30 pm**
- 11. Weather report

- 6:35 pm**
- 12. ပျော်ရွှင်စေသောနေ့ရက်များ "ဦးစိုက်နောက်ပြန်" (အပိုင်း-၂) (စိုးရန်အောင်၊ ဇော်ဇော်အောင်၊ နန်ဆုရတီစိုး) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-အောင်ကျော်သူရ)
- 6:55 pm**
- 13. ထူးဆန်းထွေလွှာများကိုသိပ္ပံဖြင့် ချဉ်းကပ်ခြင်း
- 7:10 pm**
- 14. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ကုန်သွယ်မှုနံတိုင်း" (အပိုင်း-၄၉)
- 8:00 pm**
- 15. News
- 16. International news
- 17. Weather report
- 18. မြန်မာရုပ်ရှင် "အဖေတစ်ခု၊ သားတစ်ခု" (စိန်မြင့်၊ ဇော်လင်း၊ ဆွေဇင်ထိုက်၊ အောင်ထွန်းလေး) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်နန္ဒ) (အပိုင်း-၁)

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Coastal and overseas shippings contributing to development of transport sector

Article & Photos: Soe Maung (MFSL)

The transport sector plays an important role in undertaking the development of country. Among the inland, aviation and waterway transport sectors, the waterway transport is vital for the smooth flow of commodities. The waterway transport includes inland water and overseas services. Actually, the Myanma Five Star Line that transports export and import commodities is contributing to the development of the nation.

The Myanma Five Star Line was established in 1959 and it launched the transport service with the use of rented vessel. At present, the organization is running its functions with 16 cargo vessels and nine coastal liners, totalling 25 in carrying out the local and foreign transport services.

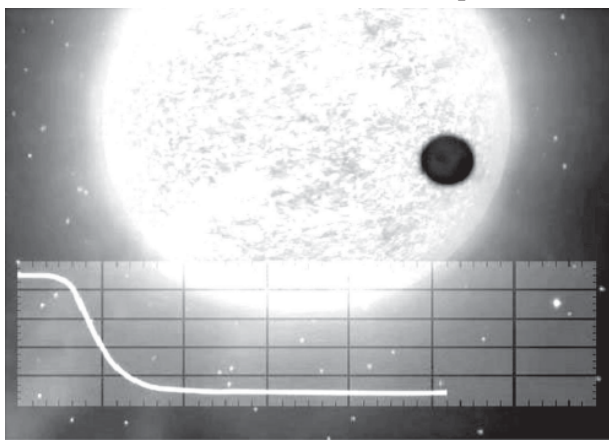
(See page 10)

Photo shows ocean-liner MV Magwe of Myanma Five Star Line.



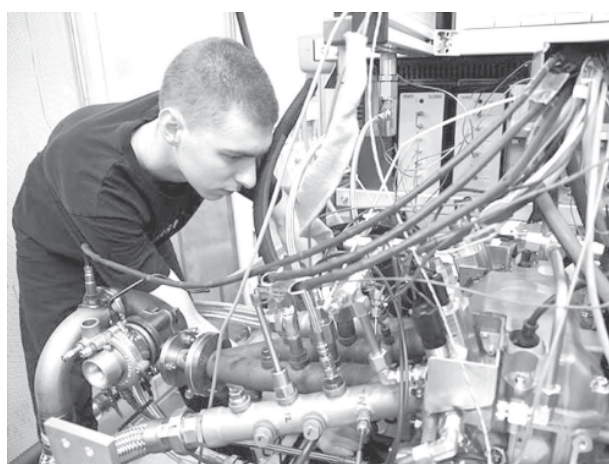
COROT discovers smallest transiting exoplanet ever

PARIS, 4 Feb — COROT has found the smallest terrestrial planet ever detected outside the Solar System. The amazing planet is less than twice the size of Earth and orbits a Sun-like star. Its temperature is so



Pneumatic hybrid engine much cheaper than electric hybrids

ZURICH, 4 Feb — A pneumatic hybrid engine could be used to power vehicles in the future. The benefit of this technology: it is much cheaper than



high that it is possibly covered in lava or water vapour.

About 330 exoplanets have been discovered so far, most of which are gas giants with characteristics similar to Jupiter and Neptune.

The new find, COROT-Exo-7b, is different: its diameter is less than twice that of Earth and it orbits its star once every 20 hours. It is located very close to its parent star, and has a high temperature, between 1000 and 1500°C. Astronomers detected the new planet as it transited its parent star, dimming the light from the star as it passed in front of it.

The density of the planet is still under investigation: it may be rocky like Earth and covered in liquid lava. It may also belong to a class of planets that are thought to be made up of water and rock in almost equal amounts. Given the high temperatures measured, the planet would be a very hot and humid place.—*Internet*

today's electric hybrids and almost just as economical.

The Japanese automobile manufacturer Toyota has built a car, the "Prius", which is seen as a concept for the future. It uses an electric hybrid engine to save fuel while still offering the usual drivability standards. However, this vehicle has a serious disadvantage. It is expensive and is unaffordable especially for consumers in up-and-coming countries such as China and India that are increasing rapidly their mobility demands. In addition, the battery needed by the electric hybrid as an energy storage device is heavy and expensive. Last but not least, the technology in the coupling between the gasoline engine and the electric drive is very complicated.

Simpler and cheaper

This is why Lino Guzzella, Professor of Thermotronics, does not think the electric hybrid is the only solution.—*Internet*

Academy Award Presentation on 7 Feb

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb — Myanma Motion Picture Outstanding Award (Academy Award) Presentation Ceremony for 2007 will be held at the Nay Pyi Taw City Hall Theatre at 6 p.m. on 7 February. The ceremony will be broadcast live on MRTV programme starting from 5.30 p.m.—*MNA*

BEWARE OF FIRE

Myanmar, Thai entrepreneurs to promote trade

YANGON, 4 Feb — Arrangements are being made to hold good-wise discussion between the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) and Thai entrepreneurs at UMFCCI here on 19 February.

Thai entrepreneurs from 16 companies will discuss simple materials such as electrical equipment, construction materials, pharmacies, health care and cosmetics, packaging materials, gifts and decoration, stationery, sport gears, handbags, slippers and lather, nylon rope and plumbing fixtures. Likewise, arrangements will be made to sell materials at the discussion for Myanmar entrepreneurs who want to export their materials.

Interested Myanmar entrepreneurs may register at UMFCCI by 6 February. For further information, may contact IRD of UMFCCI and Ph-214344, 214349 and Ext-203.—*MNA*