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Saturday, 21 February, 2009

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

Prime Minister General Thein Sein receives Chinese Ambassador

YANGON, 20 Feb —Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein received Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Union of Myanmar Mr. Ye Dabo at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall in Konmyinthta here at 3 p.m. today.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Director-General Col Thant Shin of the Government Office and Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Chinese Ambassador was accompanied by Minister Counsellor Mr. Wang Zongying and officials of the embassy.

MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein shakes hands with Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Union of Myanmar Mr. Ye Dabo at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall in Konmyinthta, Yangon.

MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein receives Ambassador of the People's Republic of China Mr. Ye Dabo at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall in Konmyinthta, Yangon.—MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 21 February, 2009

Actively take part in preservation of biodiversity in Myanmar

With favourable weather pattern and geographical feature, Myanmar is blessed with rare species of flora and fauna. According to records, there are over 1,000 species of butterflies, over 90 species of bats, over 1,000 species of birds, over 10,000 species of flowering plants and over 800 species of orchids in Myanmar.

Moreover, there are endangered species of animals and rare species of animals in the country. There are tigers in Hukaung Valley reserve forest, rare species of Myanmar deer in Shwettaw wildlife reserve and Cahthin wildlife reserve.

There are hard woods, herbal plants and a variety of orchids plus tigers, leopards, bears, wild oxen, wild boar, wild goats, mountain goats, pangolins, monkeys and other rare animals in Indawgyi wildlife reserve.

The Ministry of Forestry designed the areas where elephants, rhinoceros, wolves, pangolins, wild oxen, brown fish-owls, samburs, crocodiles, star tortoises and other rare animals reside as sanctuaries are preserving them.

Different kinds of animals and biodiversity can be seen in Hukaung Valley reserve forest, Indawgyi sanctuary, Moyongyi Lake Sanctuary, Shwettaw wildlife reserve and Alaungdawkatathapa National Park.

At present, the Ministry of Forestry is taking systematic measures for preservation of natural resources including biodiversity and trees and woods. At such a time, it is incumbent upon the entire national people to contribute their shares in the drive with a sense of duty. Only then, will the efforts for preservation of such natural resources be fruitful.

Made in Thailand Festival opened

YANGON, 19 Feb — Jointly organized by Gamonpwint Co Ltd and Department of Export Promotion of Thailand, the opening of Made in Thailand Festival took place at Gamonpwint shopping mall on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Mayangon Township here this morning. It was attended by responsible persons of the company, Thai Minister-Counsellor (Commercial) Mr. Prajuap (PJ) Supine and Thai entrepreneurs and special guests. Deputy Director-General Piramol Charoenpao cut the ribbon to open the festival.

Clothes, personal and household goods, cosmetics and foodstuff made in Thailand are available at special price at the festival that will be opened up to 2 March.

TV and household goods will be given as a gift to those who bought the Thailand-made goods worth over K 30000 in the lucky draw programme. In addition to the programme, coupons are to put into the ballot box after filling name, address, NRC numbers and telephone numbers in it to seek three Yangon-Bangkok-Yangon air tickets as a lucky draw. — 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

Information Minister visits Journalism Course (1/2009)



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan cordially converses with trainees of Journalism Course No. 1/2009 organized by MWJA.— MNA

YANGON, 20 Feb—Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan accompanied by departmental officials inspected display and sale of books at upgraded Sarpay Beikman Book Shop of Printing and Publishing Enterprise on Merchant Street here this evening.

The minister gave instructions on

improvement of the book shop.

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan together with officials of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association looked into giving lectures to trainees of Journalism Course (1/2009) organized by MWJA at the same building and cordially greeted course supervisors, course instructors and trainees. — MNA

Dy FM signs Book of Condolences for Australia bushfire losses

YANGON, 20 Feb — Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint signed Book of Condolences opened for the great losses caused by the recent devastating bushfires afflicted in the State of Victoria, Australia, at the Embassy of Australia, No. 88, Strand Road, here today.

MNA

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint signs Book of Condolences opened for great losses in recent devastating bushfires at State of Victoria, Australia.

MNA



A ceremony to launch Made in Thailand Festival in progress at Gamonpwint Shopping Mall in Mayangon Township.

MNA





Wrecked cars partially block a road in Abymes near Pointe-a-Pitre after a second night of violence on 18 Feb, 2009. —INTERNET

Iraqi Parliament fails to elect new speaker

BAGHDAD, 20 Feb—Iraq's parliament failed to elect a new speaker after its second round of secret ballot on Thursday, a parliament official said.

"The lawmakers held their second round of secret ballot to vote in a new speaker, but they failed to choose any of the two candidates for the speaker post," an official in the parliament media office told *Xinhua*.

The lawmakers failed to secure absolute majority votes, namely 138,

needed for the speaker post, according to the parliament law, the source said on condition of anonymity because he was authorized to speak to the media.

He said Ayad al-Samirraie was only two votes away from the absolute majority in the 275-seat parliament, while his competitor, Khalil Jadua, gained 81 votes.

Deputy parliament speaker Khalid al-Attiya announced the adjourn-

ment of the session to Saturday, the source added.

A total of 234 members of parliament attended Thursday's session to vote in a new speaker to fill the post which has been vacant for about two months, the source added.

The Iraqi parliament frequently failed to vote on a new parliament leader to replace former speaker Mahmoud al-Mashhadani, a Sunni Arab politician who was forced to resign by majority of parliament members late last year.

Internet

Kyrgyz President signs US base closure bill

BISHKEK, 20 Feb—Kyrgyzstan's President has signed a law to close a key US air base used as a staging post for military operations in Afghanistan.

President Kurmanbek Bakiyev signed the bill Friday to cancel the lease agreement for the Manas air base. The base is a transit point for 15,000 troops and 500 tons of cargo each month to and from Afghanistan.

Kyrgyz authorities can now issue an eviction notice, giving the United States 180 days to leave the base.

Kyrgyz lawmakers overwhelming voted on Thursday in favor of a government-backed bill to shutter the base.—*Internet*



A file photo shows an Afghan policeman carries an injured man after a suicide attack in Kabul.

INTERNET

US asks European allies to do more in Afghanistan

KRAKOW, 20 Feb—US Defence Secretary Robert Gates on Thursday asked NATO's European allies to do more in Afghanistan to balance new US pledges to send in 17,000 additional troops.

Gates and his counterparts in NATO countries were holding informal discussions on Afghanistan on Thursday.

"Secretary Gates made a point ... that this (additional US troops for Afghanistan) should not be seen as only a US extra effort, that this extra effort needs to be balanced by

all the allies," NATO spokesman James Appathurai told reporters.

All allies shared the view that everybody needs to do more, said Appathurai, without pronouncing any specific pledges by other allies. He said apart from military support, allies can also make civilian contributions to NATO's operations in Afghanistan.

European allies are under pressure to send more troops to Afghanistan after US President Barack Obama announced on Tuesday that Washington

will send in 17,000 more troops in the coming months. But even Gates admitted that the likelihood of European allies committing significant numbers of additional troops is small. Obama is clearly shifting US priority from Iraq to Afghanistan. But European leaders are yet to convince their citizens that they also have a stake in the war in Afghanistan. So far only Italy has announced it will reinforce its contingent by 500 troops in Afghanistan.

Internet



Dancers of the State Opera Ballet perform during the opening ceremony of the traditional Opera Ball in Vienna on 19 Feb, 2009.—INTERNET

Roadside bomb kills one, injures two in E Afghanistan

KHOST, 20 Feb—A bomb planted by insurgents struck the car of an Indian engineer in Khost province east of Afghanistan Thursday, killing a local guard and wounding two others including the engineer, police said.

"The gruesome incident occurred in Dumanda district on Khost—Gerdez highway at 12:30 pm local time, as a result the Indian engineer along with one of his guards were injured and another guard was killed," provincial police chief Abdul Qayum Baqizoi told *Xinhua*.

He further added that the Indian engineer works for a road construction company involved in building roads in east Afghanistan.

Internet

Czech leader scorns EU politics

BRUSSELS, 20 Feb—Czech President Vaclav Klaus has accused the European Parliament of contributing to a sense of political alienation among EU citizens.

Mr Klaus told MEPs in Brussels that "between citizens and EU representatives there is a great distance - not only geographically".

The Czech Republic currently holds the EU's six-monthly rotating presidency.

Some MEPs walked out of the chamber during Mr Klaus's speech, which was punctuated by both applause and boos.

The Czech leader criticised those EU politicians who "assume that there is only one possible correct future for European integration, which is ever closer union".

Internet

Trial of Iraqi shoe thrower postponed

BAGHDAD, 20 Feb—The trial of an Iraqi journalist who threw his shoes at US president George W Bush was postponed to 12 March, for differences exist on whether Bush's visit to Iraq was "official" one or not.

Chief Judge Faiq al-Zaidan ordered to postpone Thursday's session until he receive an answer from the office of the Iraqi Council of Ministers about whether Bush's visit to Iraq in mid December was an official one or not. Zaidan decided to send a letter to the office of Maliki's Cabinet as the defence team insisted that the charge filed against Zaidi is an insult and not an "assault on a foreign head of a state during official visit" which under the Iraqi law Zaidi would face up to 15 year in prison.

MNA/Xinhua

Quotable quotes from Chinese Vice President's foreign tour

BEIJING, 20 Feb—The following are notable quotes made during Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping's ongoing six-nation tour:

The year 2009 marks the 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Venezuela.

There is a great chance

to promote all-round exchanges and cooperation between the two countries."

"China and Venezuela should make a joint effort to enhance collaboration in the sectors of energy, finance, agriculture, infrastructure and high technology.

"China is willing to

join hands with Brazil to confront new challenges, promote common development, and make more contributions to South-South cooperation."

"Xi's visit will consolidate the strategic partnership for common development and enhance cooperation between the two countries." —

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said.

Xinhua

Aeromexico to decide on Mexico-Shanghai flights

MEXICO CITY, 20 Feb—Mexican airline Aeromexico said it wants to maintain its flights between Mexico City and Shanghai, China but sagging demand due to the global financial crisis has made it a difficult decision.

The company will decide next week whether or not to cancel its flights, Aeromexico's general director, Francisco Cuevas Feliu, told Xinhua on Thursday.

Cuevas Feliu said that in November the occupancy rate was between 75 and 80 percent, but in recent weeks it had dropped to 60 percent.

Aeromexico established two flights a week between Mexico City and Shanghai in May 2008 using Boeing 777 aircraft capable of accommodating 275 passengers.

Since then 21,000 Mexicans, Chinese and people from other

countries have flown between the two cities on Aeromexico flights.

Cuevas Feliu said when the airline first started, "everything seemed an adventure."

He said the route had not achieved satisfactory results, but there was still optimism.

"A great number of Chinese people travel to Central and South America and we can take advantage of that," Cuevas Feliu said.—Xinhua

Chief of Andean Parliament worried about US-Ecuador ties on diplomat expulsion

QUITO, 20 Feb—President of the Andean Parliament Ivonne Baki said on Thursday that the expulsion of a US diplomat by Ecuador would have a bad effect on the ties between the two countries.

Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa ordered on Wednesday the "imme-



People from around the country place commemorative flowers in front of the bronze statue of late Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping in the village of Paifang, Guang'an City in southwest China's Sichuan Province on Feb. 19, 2009, to mark the 12th anniversary of Deng's death.—XINHUA

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Japan conducts antipiracy exercise to prepare for Somalia mission

TOKYO, 20 Feb—Japan's Maritime Self-Defence Force (MSDF) and the Japan Coast Guard started a joint antipiracy exercise Friday in Hiroshima Prefecture to prepare for a mission off the Somalia to protect Japan-linked ships from pirates.

The exercise was conducted at the MSDF's Kure base in Hiroshima, involving one MSDF destroyer and two coast guard vessels with about 200 defence personnel and more than 50 coast guard officials aboard.—Xinhua

NATO to deploy second anti-piracy mission off Somalia

KRAKOW, 20 Feb —NATO defence ministers have agreed to carry out another anti-piracy naval operation off the coast of Somalia, NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer announced on Thursday.

"You can expect to see another, what we call, Standing NATO Maritime Group off the coast of Somalia in the coming months, contributing to the overall international (anti-piracy) effort," he told a press conference at the NATO defence ministers' meeting. He said, however, details of the operation remain to be worked out. The ships will be from the Standing NATO Maritime Group 1, which consists of six warships, he said.—Xinhua

More than 400 foreign schools to attend education expo in China

BEIJING, 20 Feb—More than 400 overseas universities and educational organizations will join this year's China International Education Exhibition Tour scheduled from 28 Feb to 15 March.

Schools from nine countries, including Australia, Canada, France, Singapore and Britain, will showcase a wide range of majors for overseas students including art, science and technology, medicine and tourism.

"Overseas study will continue to play a significant role in cultivating elites as China is promoting innovation for science and technology," said Bai Zhangde, director of the China Service Center for Scholarly Exchange under the Ministry of Education.

Xinhua



Actors perform dance at a gala to celebrate the Tibetan New Year in Lhasa, capital of southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, on Feb. 18, 2009.—XINHUA

Financial protectionism worse than trade protectionism

HONG KONG, 20 Feb—Hong Kong Monetary Authority Chief Joseph Yam said on Thursday that financial protectionism was more dangerous than trade protectionism.

"Unlike trade protectionism, financial protectionism can spread quickly, possibly leading to a sharp reversal of capital flows, with destabilizing consequences for monetary and financial stability," said Yam in an

article published on Thursday.

Globalization of financial markets, made possible by financial liberalization in individual economies, has been instrumental in the growth and development of the global economy, making the allocation and use of financial resources internationally more efficient, he said.

Many developing economies were therefore dependent upon external

finance that was often mobilized by financial institutions in the developed economies, said the chief.

If these financial institutions were prevented by law or government policies from lending overseas so that more funds could be made available for domestic borrowers, external finance for the developing economies might dry up, he said.

Xinhua

Record 881 US auto dealerships closed in 2008

DETROIT, 20 Feb — A record 881 US auto dealerships closed in 2008, with Detroit's three struggling automakers representing 80 percent of the decline, according to data released on Thursday.

In the face of tight credit and a plunge in sales of cars and trucks, about 4.2 percent of the country's 20,084 auto dealerships shut their doors, according to data firm Urban Science.

The number of clo-

tures, the bulk of which occurred in the fourth quarter, represents the biggest decline since 1991 when the company started to collect data.

The lack of credit has made it difficult for dealers to finance their vehicle inventory and for customers to secure financing to buy vehicles.

General Motors Corp, Ford Motor Co, Chrysler have also encouraged their dealerships to consolidate in a bid to streamline their

retail operations and reduce competition that has hit margins.

"There has been a loss of franchises across all the manufacturers, but the Detroit Three have been hit the hardest," said John Frith, vice president at Urban Science.

"We'll see even more contraction in the next several years as the Detroit Three strategically rethink their retail counts and locations."

Internet



A man holds a Motorola Aura at the GSMA Mobile World Conference in Barcelona on 18 Feb, 2009. Luxury designer Alexander Amosu also created Diamond Aura, encrusted with 99 diamonds around the clock face, available in limited edition. —INTERNET

Bahrain halts gas talks with Iran over insult

MANAMA, 20 Feb—Bahrain's foreign minister on Thursday blasted Iran for an Iranian official's remarks perceived as a threat to Bahraini sovereignty — a stinging rebuke a day after the tiny Gulf Arab kingdom halted talks on a key natural gas imports deal with Teheran.

Iranian officials, meanwhile, looked to soothe the rift sparked after former Iranian parliament speaker Ali Akbar Nateq Noori — a prominent cleric close to Iran's supreme leader — was quoted by Arab media last week as saying that Bahrain was the 14th province of Iran until 1970.

Bahrain's Foreign Minister Sheik Khalid bin Ahmed al-Khalifa said the remark was an "infringement of sovereignty" and a "distortion of historical fact."

"We are hurt by ... Iranian statements," he added. "These remarks must be silenced."

Bahrain fears Iran still holds its longtime claims to the island, ruled by a Sunni elite but with a poor Shiite majority that has close ties to the Shiite Iran.

Seeking to distance official Teheran from the statement, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Hasan Qashqavi said this week that Iran respects Bahrain's independence and has "no territorial claims against this country," according to the Iranian ministry Web site.

Internet

Journalists watch a German police officer with a sniffer dog search for explosives before the start of the 45th Conference on Security Policy in Munich.

INTERNET



An aerial view shows an immigration centre burning on the Mediterranean island of Lampedusa on 18 Feb, 2009. Fourteen people were being treated for smoke inhalation but no one was seriously injured, Italian media reported.

INTERNET

Brazil aircraft maker to cut jobs

BRAZIL, 20 Feb—Brazilian aircraft manufacturer Embraer is to lay off more than 4,000 employees as a result of the global economic downturn, it has said.

One of the world's largest passenger aircraft makers, the firm said demand for new planes had dropped and there was no prospect of swift recovery. The cuts will affect about 20% of the firm's global workforce. It has offices in Brazil, Asia, the US and Europe.

Embraer's main market is the US, which has been badly affected by the crisis. Last November, Embraer reported a 70% fall in profits following a sharp decline in Brazil's currency against the dollar.

Internet

About 30 hurt after northwest flight hits turbulence

TOKYO, 20 Feb—About 30 people were injured when a Northwest Airlines flight from Manila to Tokyo hit turbulence on Friday, a fire department official said. Two people were seriously injured and about 30 slightly injured, the official said. There were no reports of deaths.

The Boeing 747-400 plane was carrying 408 passengers and 14 crew, a transport ministry official said. Northwest Airlines, which merged last year with Delta Air Lines, was not immediately available for comment.

Internet

Iran has slowed its uranium enrichment programme

VIENNA, 20 Feb—Iran has slowed its uranium enrichment programme, said Mohamed ElBaradei, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) when submitting the report on Iranian nuclear issue to the UN Security Council on Thursday.

According to media here, this report said that only 164 gas centrifuges which are able to produce low-enriched uranium have been newly installed at Iran's Natanz uranium enrichment centre since last December, which is slower than the past.

However, this report also pointed out that although the UN Security Council has implemented sanctions on Iran, Iran still refused to fulfill UN's requirement of stopping its uranium enrichment activity.—Internet

IAEA confirms finding unnatural uranium in Syria again

VIENNA, 20 Feb— IAEA inspectors have found unnatural uranium particles in the sample taken from a bombed establishment in Syria, said a report submitted by Mohamed ElBaradei, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), to the members of IAEA council on Thursday.

The report said that the IAEA inspectors have found eighty uranium particles in the establishment blown down by Israel at a remote desert in eastern Syria. Syria has to give a proper explanation to the source of these substances.

The report also pointed out that "the possibility is very small that these uranium particles have come from Israel's air attack missiles."—Internet



A farmer carries an umbrella as she throws fertilizer onto her field of winter wheat crop as rain falls on the outskirts of the town of Xichuan, Henan Province on 18 Feb, 2009. —INTERNET

15 people injured in perfumery blast in Turkey

ANKARA, 20 Feb—A powerful blast hit a perfumery in central Turkish Province of Eskisehir on Thursday, injuring 15 people, the semi-official *Anatolia* news agency reported.

Eskisehir Governor Mehmet Kiliclar was quoted by saying that two of the injured were in serious condition in the central Anatolian Province.

“We are conducting a scene investigation and trying to find out what caused the blast,” Kiliclar said.

He said fire crews and civilian defence teams were working together to extinguish a huge blaze that engulfed a number of stores and parking cars in the nearby area. All buildings around the perfumery have been evacuated as a precautionary measure, he added.

Internet

Six killed by armed men in Colombia

BOGOTA, 20 Feb—Six passengers were forced off a bus travelling from Pasto to Tumaco and killed by an unidentified armed group, police said on Thursday.

“We have the information that it is an illegal armed group. We are investigating whether it is a criminal band,” said Colonel William Montezuma, police commander of Narino Province.

Police said the armed group forced the bus to stop late on Wednesday before forcing the six passengers off and killing them.

The rest of the 34 passengers remained on the bus and the driver was told to move on.

Initial investigations showed that the victims were merchants who arrived at Tumaco for business. The bodies have not yet been identified.—Internet

Energy giant BP to pay nearly \$180 m to settle pollution case in Texas

HOUSTON, 20 Feb—The leading global energy company BP has agreed to pay nearly 180 million US dollars to settle a federal lawsuit over pollution at its Texas City refinery.

Under the settlement announced on Thursday, the international energy giant will spend 161 million dollars to reduce pollution at the refinery, another 12 million dollars in penalties and 6 million on a project to clean the air

in the surrounding community.

Following a series of mergers and acquisitions, the BP became the largest oil and gas producer and one of the largest gasoline retailers in the United States by the end of 2001, with a focus on oil and gas production in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico near Houston.

BP's settlement with the US Department

of Justice and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) follows a deadly explosion and fire in March 2005 that killed 15 people and injured more than 170 others at the refinery.

In 2007, the British company pleaded guilty to violating the Clean Air Act and agreed to pay a separate fine of 50 million dollars.

Internet

French construction group to raise 1.5 b euro in capital

PARIS, 20 Feb —French construction group Saint Gobain announced on Friday it would raise 1.5 billion euros (1.9 billion dollars) in new capital and cut more jobs due to the global financial crisis.

Saint Gobain said in a statement that the capital, which would be raised through share subscriptions for its shareholders only, “aims to reinforce the financial flexibility of the group.”

The new capital will allow the company to reduce its capital debt ratio, solidify its credit score and strengthen its access to the financial market, it said.

Saint Gobain said it slashed 8,000 jobs worldwide in 2008 and saved 400 million euros in costs.

“There will be workforce reductions in 2009,” a Saint Gobain spokesman told *AFP*, adding that no figure has been decided.

Internet



The world's shortest man alive and certified by Guinness World Records, Chinese He Pingping, 20, at 74.1 centimeter-tall (2 feet, 5.17 inch-tall), drags a replica of a 55-centimeter (21.7-inch) shoe worn by the world tallest man, late Robert Wadlow of US in Tokyo, Japan.

Volunteers and fishermen attempt a massive rescue, using their boats and hands, to drive back to the sea hundreds of melon-headed dolphins which swam into shallow waters off Manila Bay in Orion, Bataan Province about 60 miles west of Manila, Philippines.

Man gets 20 weeks in jail for whistling

A Wingerworth, England, man has been sentenced to 20 weeks in prison after he repeatedly whistled the theme to “The Addams Family” TV show at his neighbours.

Leopold Wrobel, 51, was convicted of violating an antisocial behaviour order directing him to cease whistling the tune at neighbours Michael and Kathleen Sharpe. Magistrates at a Chesterfield, England, court also found him guilty of two counts of harassment, The Daily Telegraph reported on Friday.

Prosecutor Michael Treharne said Wrobel's behavior may seem silly “but if something happens on an on-going basis and goes on and on and on, eventually it reaches the stage of being absolutely intolerable.”

Kathleen Sharpe, 66, told the court Wrobel was always waiting with his whistling whenever she left her house.



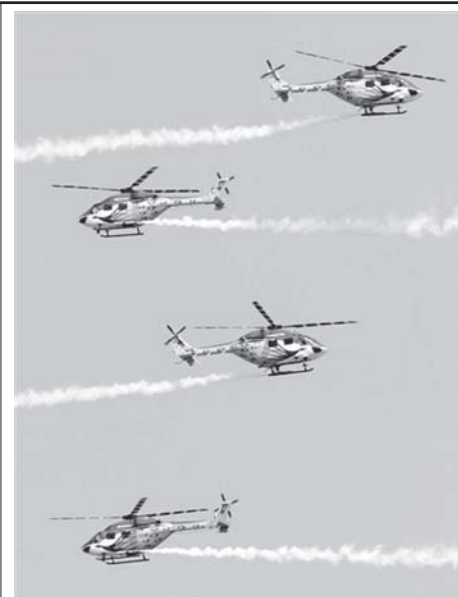
NEWS ALBUM

Quit smoking — Love me, love my pet

Smokers unwilling to kick off the habit may consider giving up cigarettes for the benefit of their pets, researchers said in the journal *Tobacco Control* on Monday.

A survey conducted by US researchers showed that 28 percent of pet owners who smoke would try to quit to spare their pets the harmful effects of second-hand smoke.

“It's not necessarily that people love their pets more than they love themselves or their children, it's just another motivational factor for people to consider quitting smoking,” said Sharon Milberger, an epidemiologist at the Henry Ford Health System in Detroit.



India's Dhruv helicopters perform at the “Aero India 2009” at Yelahanka air base on the outskirts of Bangalore, India. Aviation companies from around the world are participating in the 5-day event.

Even deactivated, grenade a bad show-and-tell idea

Officials cleared out a Dallas-area elementary school briefly on Thursday morning after a second-grade student brought a deactivated hand grenade for show and tell. Eulless police Lt John Williams says the student walked into his classroom with the grenade at Oakwood Terrace Elementary School. The teacher took it, placed it on a desk and notified the principal.

The school was evacuated until police arrived and inspected the object. Williams says that although the grenade still had a pin, it had a hole at the bottom and was empty — the sort of thing that might be used as a paperweight.

No injuries were reported. Students returned to their classrooms after 15 minutes, and the unidentified student was getting a good talking to from police.

Opportune time, circumstances and changes

U Swe (Bahan)

Man has learnt many lessons of time. Sometimes we have to wait for a period of time, and sometimes we have to catch up on time. Here, what is true is that time never waits for us, and we can never go back to the past. Everything changes as time passes. Have a look at yourself. Everything is impermanent. Every living thing is mortal. Science defines death 'no more cells recycling'. That means cells recycle until death. The body of a living thing always changes due to the new cells that recycle as time goes by.

However, in a short time, those changes are indistinct, but they become distinct after months and years have elapsed. Man changes both physically and mentally at all times. To be frank, I wish our physical and mental changes were all perfect. However, we should consider that everything, good or bad, runs its course. In reality, we are not able to control our body, let alone perfect changes.

Years pass and a person forms a family; families form a clan; and clans form an ethnic group. Ethnic groups, territory, government and sovereignty form a nation. In fact, a country has its own name and location, based on its people. So, it is safe to say that a nation is constituted with minds and bodies of each of the people. So, it is completely acceptable that everything associated with man changes continuously. People seek ways and means to improve all the changes. Therefore, things related to the human society are changing variously. **Any person cannot make perfect changes for him, so it is very hard to make perfect changes for many people in no time.**

For example, in a couple of decades, the United States of America, the world's richest country, has seen four presidential and regime changes according to the so-called world exemplary democracy system and constitution. Now, the US is facing the financial crisis and economic crisis, and has waged two unfinished wars. It is also attracting a growing dissatisfaction and displeasure of the majority of the world countries. US citizens expressed their choices with the hopes of best changes they had expected for many years. In practice, however, the country has not seen perfect changes. Thailand, one of Myanmar's immediate neighbours, has seen many changes in 20 years including three military coups followed by changes of prime ministers and governments. Last year alone, the country faced changes of prime ministers. The people split into two groups in the process of

In 2010, Myanmar will see a new government to be elected by the people and a new executive system, for which the government has pledged, made arrangements, and paved the way.

electing a new government, and that was very risky. Thai people expressed their choices, looking forward to best changes, but in practice they did not have their wishes fulfilled.

Now, the entire Myanmar people are eager to see a political change, as evidenced by the results of the referendum held in May and June 2008 in which 92.48 per cent of the voters expressed their support for the State constitution designed for democratic transition. The government has announced the programmes including the timeframe for the changes. In 2010, Myanmar will see a new government to be elected by the people and a new executive system, for which the government has pledged, made arrangements, and paved the way. Therefore, the democratic transition process contains the government's management and control to some extent. Nonetheless, some are claiming that the people should not accept the process because the government's management in that regard is not perfect. Really, even old democracies never made perfect changes at one go.

I am upset by the acts of a group of pessimists. In my opinion, their demand for a dialogue and negotiation without pre-conditions do not conform at all with the objective conditions. And their acts evoked my memories of the conditions of Japan that was about to be defeated in the end of the World War II. Hiroshima and Nagasaki lost lives of so many innocent people and a great deal of property. The objective conditions at the time brought the best historic results to Japanese King Hirohito with Kamikaze spirit who absolutely hated to accept defeat. Japan made a correct decision to yield to the wishes of and join hands with the Allies in order to bring glory back to its history. Sixty years after that Japan was able to stand as a militarily, economically strong country. Then, the points of the democracy-like agreement it signed with the Allies after the defeat in 1945 dwindled away. The country became a member of the world's greatest industrial countries. Even its

armed forces formed just for self-defence could send its troops to the Iraq battlefield. None of today's Japanese citizens blames their king for yielding to the Allies, but all Japanese people admire and love him for his vision.

Now, Myanmar is not fighting a war, and the two sides are not enemies, either. Indeed, they are getting involved in a dispute of how to pave the way to generate a prosperous future of the motherland. In this case, what they need is just to work in accordance with the sole common goal. Even senior democracies make changes without sacrificing the foundation. After the World War II, there was a heated debate among the Allies over whether members of the previous government and Nazi Party should be included in a new government for reconstruction of Germany. Eventually, they agreed with the formation of the government with old members. Following the US conquest over Iraq, discussions were held immensely to decide on whether Barth Party and Iraq armed forces should be dissolved or not. After their dissolution, national reformation process was followed by bloodshed for over a half decade. Above-mentioned points are only some evidences that indicate what should be done for the most appropriate changes of a nation.

Human beings by nature like changes, and do things individually or in organization to make some changes. In the process, they hold the hope of the best results. In this regard, the process should be carried out in accordance with the objective conditions, circumstances and time. Actually, it is very hard for a person to make perfect changes in a short time. At first, stand in front of a mirror and look at yourself through it to find out that you have achieved all the changes that you have longed for previous years, on your body and mind. Then, balance between objective conditions and your changes. No one thinks that they have achieved perfect changes. I wish certain persons would realize and accept that perfect changes of millions of people of a nation are impossible at one stroke. So, it is needed to work to achieve perfect changes little by little according to the objective conditions, circumstances and time. I would like to remind them that **if they waste present opportune time, favourable circumstances and changes, they will never get such unique opportunities again.**

Translation: MS

Perfect changes of millions of people of a nation are impossible at one stroke. So, it is needed to work to achieve perfect changes little by little according to the objective conditions, circumstances and time.

Cash donated for 5th all-round renovation of Shwe Phone Pwint Pagoda

YANGON, 20 Feb — A ceremony to donate cash for the 5th all-round renovation of Shwe Phone Pwint Pagoda for the first time was held at the pagoda in Pazundaung Township today.

Patron of the Central Leading Committee for the 5th all-round renovation of the pagoda Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint and Chairman of the Central Leading Committee Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan accepted the donation and presented certificates of honour to the donors.

First, Secretary of the Central leading Committee Managing Director of Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise of the Ministry of Information U Aung Myo Myint reported on measures being taken for the 5th all-round renovation of the pagoda.

Afterwards, Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint donated K300,000 for the renovation and Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan accepted the cash and presented the certificate of honour to the commander.

Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Managing Director U Aung Myo Myint, U Tint Lwin, the chairman of the board of trustees of the pagoda and officials concerned accepted the cash donated by wellwishers and today's donation reached over K25 million.



The Central Leading Committee has been taking measures for applying gold plates to Shwe Phone Pwint Pagoda and for renovating the religious buildings at the pagoda and wellwishers may donate cash to the pagoda.— MNA

Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint and Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan attend the first cash donation ceremony for the 5th all-round renovation of Shwe Phone Pwint Pagoda.

MNA

UN special rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar meets the Press

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb — Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana, the United Nations special rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar, gave a press conference at Yangon International Airport at 7 pm yesterday.

He gave a press conference before the end of his six-day visit to Myanmar. Myanmar's human rights

his special report on human rights in Myanmar at the United Nations General Assembly, he added.

Asked what result he gained during his visit to Kayin State by Reuters News Agency's U Aung Hla Tun, Mr Quintana replied that he met three groups who have exchanged arms for peace with the government



Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana, UN special rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar, meets with media personnel at Yangon International Airport.—MNA

situation remained "challenging" and he made recommendation on improvement of human rights situation in Myanmar and there were positive signs over his recommendations from Myanmar government, he said. He also met with Chief Justice U Aung Toe and discussed his recommendations about improvement of the judiciary system, he told reporters. He also met the Attorney-General and they exchanged views on the upcoming election in 2010, the State Constitution and international human rights law, he added. At the meeting with Minister for Home Affairs, the minister said he would consider his recommendations, Mr Quintana told the press conference. He said he had met five prisoners during a four-hour visit to the Insein prison. He will present

during his visit to Kayin State.

In his reply to U Ko Ko of Yangon Times Journal Mr Quintana said he could not meet U Win Tin although he wished to, but he received a letter from U Win Tin. Mr Quintana added that U Win Tin said in the letter that he expected to meet him during his next trip to Myanmar. He did not know why U Win Tin did not meet him, Mr Quintana said.

Positive response from the Chief Justice over his recommendations on human rights situation in Myanmar was the progress of the visit, he answered the question about the difference between his previous visit in August last year and the current visit asked by U Myo Thar Htet of Seven Days Journal.

The press conference ended at 7.20 pm.—MNA

MCDC concludes refresher course

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb—A ceremony to conclude office work refresher course No 1/2009 of Mandalay City Development Committee was held at the hall of MCDC on 13 February. Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han made a speech on the occasion and presented prizes to outstanding trainees.

MNA

62nd Anniversary Union Day marked in Magway Division

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb—Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe read out the message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe to the 62nd Anniversary Union Day held at Magway Division sport ground on 12 February.

MNA

Coord meeting for holding Tennis Event held

YANGON, 20 Feb—A coordination meeting was held at the meeting hall (1) in Aung San Stadium here this morning for organizing Junior Davis Cup Pre-Qualifying/World Junior Boys and Girls Pre-Qualifying Event, which will be held in Myanmar from 2 to 9 March.

General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General U Thaug Htaik of Sports and Physical Education Department made an address and General Secretary of Myanmar Tennis Federation U Lay Naing explained arrangements being made for holding the event.

MNA

Transport facility and smooth flow of commodity will improve soon between Myanmar and Bangladesh through Rakhine State

UMFCCI President meets Bangladeshi guests

YANGON, 20 Feb— President of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint, Vice-Presidents U Aung Lwin and U Zaw Min Win, General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing, Joint Secretary U Tun Aung and Chairman of Myanmar Medicines and Medical Merchants Association Dr Win Sithu met with Deputy Governor Mr Ziaul Hasan Siddiqui of Bangladesh Bank, Chairman of Bangladesh-Myanmar Business Promotion Council Mr Syed Mahmudul Huq, Trade Consultant Mr Shafiqul Islam of Ministry of Commerce, General



UMFCCI President U Win Myint and members hold discussions with Deputy Governor Mr. Ziaul Hasan Siddiqui of Bangladesh Bank and party. — MNA

Bangladeshi delegation. He understands that the Bangladeshi delegation is here to further enhance and develop the existing

efforts to increase production of rice, beans and pulses, marine products and others not only for local

foundation for further cooperation. Some Myanmar businessmen had the opportunity to meet the private sector in Bangladesh and discuss the trade promotion with them, he added.

He pointed out that Myanmar government is undertaking many important communication linkages in Rakhine State. Transport facility and smooth flow of commodity will improve soon between Myanmar and Bangladesh through Rakhine State, he said. In the near future, it will be much easier to travel and transport goods to this region. As such, he said that Myanmar will facilitate the greater bilateral trade cooperation with neighbouring Bangladesh.

The government has given instructions to undertake the border trade under the normal trade procedure, he added.

The UMFCCI

President said that in order to promote trade, the banking arrangements need to be established. Myanmar Investment and Commercial Bank and Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank need to have corresponding banks in Bangladesh for effective and reliable payments related to trade transactions. He said he believes that Bangladesh-Myanmar Business Promotion Council can play a leading role in promoting bilateral economic cooperation between the two countries, and UMFCCI will do its best to offer whatever assistance is possible. In conclusion, he expressed his thanks to the Bangladeshi Embassy's Commercial Counsellor for all the cooperation extended.

Deputy Governor Mr Ziaul Hasan Siddiqui of Bangladesh Bank said that they came to Myanmar for holding discussions on

economic opportunities between the two countries. Bangladesh focuses on cooperation in economic sector with Myanmar. It is necessary to promote the bilateral trade and to change the trend of border trade to that of the regular trade. They want to enjoy the smooth facilities in the banking services. He said that they would like to organize a meeting on banking matters in Yangon soon.

He continued to say that Bangladesh wants to invest in agriculture and livestock breeding sectors in Myanmar through the bilateral cooperation and they would like to join hands with Myanmar for economic development. In conclusion, the Deputy Governor invited Myanmar entrepreneurs to put their investment in economic sector of Bangladesh.

The meeting ended at 5 p.m.—MNA

Myanmar is making efforts to increase production of rice, beans and pulses, marine products and others not only for local consumption but for export. When Bangladesh faced a food shortage situation, Myanmar government permitted its private sector to export rice to supplement the neighbour's requirement.

Manager Mr Md Atiqur Rahman of Sonali Bank, Managing Director Mr Mohamad Nurul Amin of National Credit and Commerce Bank Ltd, together with officials of the Bangladeshi Embassy to Myanmar at the UMFCCI building on Minye Kyawswa Road in Lanmadaw Township this afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion, President U Win Myint said that he was pleased to meet with the honourable members of

bilateral economic relations between the countries. Trade cooperation between the two countries has been achieving success year after year, he said.

He noted that Myanmar is an agricultural country, and the government has laid down plans to boost the production of the agriculture sector. He said that it is simultaneously encouraging the agriculture sector. Myanmar is making

consumption but for export. When Bangladesh faced a food shortage situation, Myanmar government permitted its private sector to export rice to fulfil the neighbour's requirement, he added.

He said that Myanmar and Bangladesh are enjoying very good neighbourly relations. During his visit to Bangladesh last year, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye consolidated that relationship and laid the

132 students receive first aid skills

YANGON, 19 Feb — A total of 132 students of Mawlamyine University received first aid skills during the first aid course No. 7/2007 of the university.

The course was jointly conducted by Supervisory Committee for Mon State Red Cross Society and Mawlamyine University Red Cross Society and it concluded on 6 February.

U Maung Maung Myint, Chairman of Mawlamyine University Red Cross Society, and Prof Dr Htay Aung of Mawlamyine University presented the completion certificates and outstanding awards to the trainees. — MNA

CICS Basic Clerical Course No. 129 concludes

YANGON, 20 Feb — The conclusion ceremony of basic clerical course No. 129 was held at the parade ground of Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) this morning.

Rector U Win Maung took the salute of the graduation company and presented prizes to outstanding trainees.

Next, the rector delivered an address on the occasion at Ohndaw Hall and presented conclusion certificates to trainees. — MNA

MANA to hold 10th Annual General Meeting of Central Committee

YANGON, 19 Feb — Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association will hold the Workshop on Communication MANA's Strategic Vision and the Way Forward on 25 February, the 10th Annual General Meeting of the Central Committee on 26 February, and the MANA Youth Programme Workshop on 27 February at Myanmar Life Hotel in Mingladon Township, here.

Chairmen and executives from the State and Division Branches who will attend the meeting are to contact the MANA (Head Office) on 24 February evening.—MNA

United Nations special rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar concludes visit

Positive response secured from Myanmar government for improvement of human rights

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb— Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana, the United Nations special rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar, paid a second visit to Myanmar from 14 to 19 February 2009. He arrived in Myanmar on 14 February evening. Fulfilling his wishes, an arrangement was made for him to visit Kayin State by helicopter of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization on 15 February morning. During one and a half days visit in Kayin State, Mr. Quintana

met with three groups that had returned to the legal fold and are joining hands with the government in the regional development tasks.

They were: the group led by U Htein Maung at Htawkoko, Pado Aung San and group at Phayagon and DKBA in Myainggyingu. Mr. Quintana observed their development undertakings. Moreover, he had an opportunity to visit Hpa-an Jail and met with inmates separately.

On 16 February afternoon, Mr. Quintana on his request met about 30 diplomats, the majority of whom were ambassadors, at Mya Yeik Nyo Hotel. Next, he visited Insein Jail.

The arrangement to visit Maubin Jail on 17 February was cancelled



Myanmar Human Rights Organization led by Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin meeting with Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana, the United Nations special rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar, and party.—MNA

due to his submission. He requested to meet with certain diplomats in private.

The arrangement was made for him in short notice to call on the diplomats. He had an opportunity to meet ambassadors of Australia, the Republic of Singapore and the Russian Federation, the Charge d' Affaires of the US Embassy and senior diplomats of Thailand. In addition, as requested, the government made an arrangement for Mr. Quintana to meet with resident representatives of UN agencies at UNDP Office.

On 18 February, Mr. Quintana flew to Nay Pyi Taw and called on Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Attorney-General U Aye Maung and representa-

tives of Myanmar Bar Council. In meeting with Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Mr. Quintana asked about conditions of inmates and Myanmar judicial system. The Chief Justice explained at length the Myanmar judicial system. At the next call, Attorney-General U Aye Maung explained progress in amending the suitable laws to be in conformity with the constitution to shape the future nation. In the afternoon, Mr. Quintana separately called on Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo. On his further request, arrangements were made for him to meet with Chairman of Tripartite Core Group U Kyaw Thu and Minister for La-

bour U Aung Kyi.

On 19 February morning, he held meetings with Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, representatives of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation. In the afternoon, Mr. Quintana and party met with Myanmar Human Rights Organization led by Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin and exchanged views on promotion and protecting of human rights in Myanmar. After that, he went back to Yangon by air.

During the meeting with the Minister for For-

eign Affairs and the Minister for Home Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw, Mr. Quintana requested a meeting with U Win Tin. At 3.20 p.m. on 19 February, the arrangement was cancelled because U Win Tin did not meet Mr. Quintana. Officials handed over a letter of U Win Tin to Mr. Quintana. Before his departure at Yangon International Airport, Mr. Quintana held a press conference and remarked that Myanmar's human rights situation remained challenging but measures taken by the government were positive. At the airport, he had one more chance to meet with diplomats.

The government allowed Mr. Quintana to hold meetings with officials, diplomats, resident representatives of UN agencies, the peace groups that had returned to the legal fold and NGOs in accord with his wishes. Moreover, the government fulfilled the wishes of Mr. Quintana to visit the jails in Kayin State as time and condition permitted. It is obvious that the collaborative efforts of the Myanmar government with Mr. Quintana reflects its cooperation with the UN Human Rights Council for improvement and protection of human rights in Myanmar.

MNA

Development undertakings inspected in Wetlet, Shwebo



Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana, the United Nations special rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar, meets with responsible persons of DKBA in Myainggyingu, Kayin State.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Feb—Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe met villagers from Sainainglay, Thanagyaung and Meikhtila villages at Thanagyaung Village in Wetlet Township on 17 February.

After the meeting, he donated K 100,000 each to the funds of self-reliant libraries in Sainainglay, Meikhtila, Hsinmyay and Thanagyaung villages.

Wellwisher U Thein Win of Shwe Thapyay Co. donated K 500,000 to the funds for construction of Thanagyaung-Meikhtila-Sainainglay self-reliant gravel road.

After meeting with officials, townselders and villagers at the Basic Education Primary School of Hanlin Model Village in the township, the deputy minister presented K 100,000 each for school, clinic and library in the village.

In the afternoon, the

deputy minister inspected maintenance of lake, construction of the bund at Maha Nanda Lake and placing of gravel on Hsinbyushin Road in Shwebo.

In Wetlet, the deputy minister visited the waterwork on Khayay Street in Shwe-oh-twin Ward 3 and viewed progress in placing of gravel on Wetlet-Khawtaw-Ywathagyi Road with the contributions of the government funds.—MNA

Maj-Gen Ko Ko continues inspection tour of Pyapon Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb—Maj-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence, who was in Pyapon of Ayeyawady Division, accompanied by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe and departmental officials, looked into inspection station of Fisheries Department in Daminseik village on 18 February. On arrival at the inspection station, Maj-Gen Ko Ko heard reports on matters relating to fishery industry. He then inspected the cyclone shelter of Daminseik village being constructed by Yuzana Construction and gave instructions. Maj-Gen Ko Ko paid homage to Sayadaw Abhidhaja Aghamahassaddhammajotika Bhaddanta Pandi of Aungmyaychangthaya monastery and donated provisions to the Sayadaw.

Maj-Gen Ko Ko also inspected Youth Development Parahita Centre, pre-primary school of Maternal and Child Welfare Association of Kani model village, Dedalu bridge on Pyapon-Kyonkadun-Ahma road section, and renovation of Myogon dyke.

Maj-Gen Ko Ko looked into upgrading of Kyonkadun-Daw Nyein-Ahma road being carried out by Public Works and went to Myogon bridge in which he heard reports on reconstruction of the bridge.

After hearing the reports presented by officials concerned of Myanmar Salt and Marine Chemical Enterprise, Public works on maintenance works of Kyonkadun-Ahma road and future transportation facilities in Pyapon district, Maj-Gen Ko Ko inspected road works on Kyonkadun-Ahma-Daw Nyein road.

Maj-Gen Ko Ko and party proceeded to Daw Nyein village in which he looked into construction of cyclone shelter and heard reports on remaining works to be completed by the end of April.



Maj-Gen Ko Ko of Ministry of Defence inspects construction of cyclone shelter at Daminseik village in Pyapon Township.—MNA

Maj-Gen Ko Ko later went to salt field of salt maker U Aung Min of Naukmi village tract and observed production process of dried salt and viewed salt sample.

Officials concerned of Myanmar Salt and Marine Chemicals Enterprise presented reports on plans for production of 300,000 metric tons of slat from salt-industries in Ayeyawady Division in current salt season and the Commander gave a supplementary reports.

Maj-Gen Ko Ko also looked into shrimp paste businesses in Naukmi village and heard reports on production of shrimp paste with sea water shrimps.

Maj-Gen Ko Ko then proceeded to chosen site for construction of cyclone shelter in Ahma and heard reports on construction works presented by responsible persons of Dagon International Ltd and gave instructions.—MNA

Development undertakings inspected in Kalaw, Hsihseng

YANGON, 20 Feb—Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein on 14 February discussed education, health and economic development with local people in

Nantpantet Village Basic Education Primary School in Wetphyuyay Village-tract in Kalaw Township.

The minister presented cash to the funds of Village BEHS and

dispensary.

On 15 February, the minister visited Naunglon mango farm. In Saikkhaung Village of Hsihseng Township, the minister presented cash to

the funds of Village BEHS and dispensary and viewed thriving seasonal crops of local farmers.

On 16 February, the minister donated cash to the funds of BEPS in Lwephaw Village of Kalaw Township.—MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein visits seasonal crops plantations of Farmer U Tun Sein in Saikkhaung Village of Hsihseng Township.—MNA

Press conference on Grand Royal Special Reserve Billiards and Snooker Championship held

YANGON, 20 Feb—Press conference on Grand Royal Special Reserve Billiards and Snooker Championship, mainly sponsored by International Beverages Trading Co Ltd, was held at the ball room of Chatrium Hotel here this afternoon.

It was attended by General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik and officials, executives of Myanmar Billiards and Snooker Federation, officials of IBTC, guests and journalists.

General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik made a speech on the occasion.

President of Myanmar Billiards and Snooker Federation U Soe Myint explained the facts about tournament and Executive Director U Tint Oo of International Beverages Trading Co Ltd explained the purpose of holding the tournament.

The press conference concluded after responsible persons had replied to queries raised by those present. The championship will be held at Domino Club in Mandalay on 25 February, at Manchester Snooker Club in Taunggyi on 9 March, at the Township sport ground in Taunggyi and at the Township Gymnasium in Magway and at Diamond Billiards and Snooker Center in Kamayut Township (Yangon Division) on 18 March. Handsome prizes will be awarded.

MNA



SPED Director-General U Thaung Htaik addresses press meet on Grand Royal Special Reserve Billiards & Snooker Championship.—MNA

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Soe Win
Advocate
#0502Level 5 Sakura
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Fearing arrest, youth 'shoots' himself dead

HOSHARPUR, 20 Feb — A youth allegedly shot himself dead while being chased by a police party and his accomplice escaped after opening fire at them at Bhuno near here today.

The deceased was identified as Gurmukh Singh of Bihran village and police are on the look-out for his friend Gulshan of the same village, SSP (Hoshiarpur) Parmod Bhan told a press conference here.

The incident started off at a check post on Hoshiarpur-Mahilpur road, where police intercepted the duo. They sped off and police gave a hot chase.

Apprehending arrest, they opened fire at police. When police retaliated, Gulshan managed to escape while Singh pulled the trigger on himself, police claimed.

Police recovered a US-made 9 mm pistol, 12 cartridges and a .315 bore country-made pistol from the spot.

PTI

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV HANSEDUO VOYNO (101N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HANSEDUO VOYNO (101N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.2.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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US study ties food to stroke risk

CHICAGO, 20 Feb — People who live in neighbourhoods packed with fast-food restaurants are more likely to suffer strokes, US researchers said on Thursday.

They said residents of one Texas county who lived in neighbourhoods with the highest number of fast-food restaurants had a 13-per-cent higher risk of experiencing a stroke than those in neighbourhoods with the fewest such restaurants.

The study, presented at the American Stroke Association's International Stroke Conference, does not prove living near fast-food restaurants raises the risk of stroke, but it does suggest the two are linked in some way.

"The data show a true association," Dr Lewis Morgenstern of the University of Michigan's stroke programme, who led the study, said in a statement.

But he said it is not clear whether being surrounded by fast-food means you eat more of it, or that it is simply a sign of an unhealthy neighbourhood.

"We need to start unraveling why these particular communities have higher stroke risks," Morgenstern said. "Is it direct consumption of fast food? Is it the lack of more healthy options? Is there something completely different in these neighbourhoods that is associated with poor health" he asked.

MNA/Reuters

British couple arrested with 52 pounds of cocaine traveling with four kids

CARACAS, 20 Feb—Two British citizens were arrested on Monday by police in Venezuela for suspected drugs offenses, leaving four children in the care of the country's social services.

The Foreign Office said the pair were arrested at the airport on the island of Margarita, off the north coast of the country. They were accompanied by four minors, who were taken into care by the authorities.

"I can confirm that two British nationals were arrested at Margarita Airport in Venezuela on 16 February," a spokeswoman for the Foreign Office said. "Four accompanying minors are in the care of Venezuelan social services. We are providing appropriate consular assistance."

The spokeswoman could not confirm if the two people arrested were a couple, or the children part of their family. The adults were reportedly arrested at the airport while allegedly carrying cocaine hidden in three suitcases. *Sky News* reported that the Britons arrested were a couple and were allegedly found with 52 pounds of cocaine at the airport.

Internet

Volcano erupts in southern Chile

Clouds of smoke hung over Chaiten after last May's massive eruption.—INTERNET

CHAITEN, 20 Feb — Chile has evacuated more than 150 people who had returned to the southern town of Chaiten after it was destroyed by a volcanic eruption last year. Authorities decided to take action after the Chaiten volcano erupted again on Thursday, sending a stream of lava down its slopes.

Authorities say no-one will be allowed to stay in the area, in Patagonia. But many of Chaiten's 4,500 former residents have

resisted government plans to relocate the town. Deputy Interior Minister Patricio Rosende said the volcano had seen "a significant resumption of activity".

"Our security team has observed an increase in the size of a column of ash and smoke, with a deformation to one side," he said. "That leads us to presume that there is a collapse of one of the cones. This is more proof of the imminent risk in the area. It is a time-bomb."

The volcano, which is 10km (6 miles) from the town, had been dormant for 9,000 years before last May's spectacular eruption. Vast clouds of smoke and ash soared more than 30km into the sky, as the debris reached neighbouring Argentina and disrupted flights.

At the time, officials said the volcano's two craters had fused, helping ease pressure. But a government expert on volcanoes warned there could be a big eruption at any time. —Internet

Anti-social behaviour predicts depression

SEATTLE, 20 Feb — Anti-social behaviour among girls and anxiety among both sexes predicted depression in early adolescence, US researchers found. University of Washington social scientists tracked first- and second-graders for seven years and found that surprisingly, early signs of depression were not predictive of adolescent depression.

“Anti-social behaviour has typically been viewed as a big problem among

boys, so it tends to be ignored among girls. Boys with early anti-social behaviour typically go on to show more anti-social behaviour while girls may turn inward with symptoms, morphing into other mental health problems such as depression eating disorders, anxiety and suicidal behaviour during adolescence,” lead author James Mazza said in a statement.

“When all the risk factors were analyzed, anti-social behavior and anxi-

ety were the most predictive of later depression.

It just may be that they are more prevalent in the early elementary school years than depression.” More than 800 children participated in the study. Eighty-one percent were white and 54 percent were boys.

The findings are published in the online edition of *The Journal of Early Adolescence*.—Internet



Photographers gather around a Hyundai Genesis race car during the Chicago Auto Show recently.—INTERNET

Woman sues for receiving wrong egg during IVF

TOKYO, 20 Feb—A Japanese woman was impregnated with the fertilised egg of another woman by accident during an in vitro procedure last year, hospital officials have said.

The woman, who is in her twenties, aborted the pregnancy when she was told of the mistake at the government-run hospital in Kagawa prefecture, about 330 miles south-west of Tokyo. She is now suing the local government for £155,000. Hospital officials apologized for the mistake on Thursday.

“She was very happy after undergoing such a difficult procedure and becoming pregnant, but unfortunately a mistake had been made,” said Yuzo Matsumoto, director of the Kagawa Prefectural Central Hospital.

The hospital has a long history of carrying out such procedures, and this is the first time such a mistake has occurred, hospital spokesman Hajime Morishita said.

“The in vitro procedures are carried out in sequence one after the other, and in this case the eggs from one procedure may have accidentally been left over and used in the following procedure,” he said.

In vitro procedures—in which a woman’s eggs are removed, fertilised outside the womb, and placed in her uterus to cause a pregnancy—are common in Japan, with hundreds of thousands carried out per year. Surrogate births, in which eggs are removed for fertilisation and implanted in another woman, and adoptions are rare in the country.

Internet

World Cup tickets to go on sale



Around 3m tickets are being made available for the 2010 World Cup.

INTERNET

JOHANNESBURG, 20 Feb — Tickets for the 2010 Fifa World Cup in South Africa are due to go on sale as Africa prepares to host the contest for the first time. Around 3m tickets will be avail-

able for the 64 matches, which start next June.

In the first sales phase, applications for tickets will be followed by a random selection draw in April.

Some 120,000 cheaper tickets are being reserved for South African residents, and 40,000 stadium construction workers are to be given free access to matches. Although the tournament does not begin for 475 days, there is already huge excitement about the competition in Africa, says BBC Southern Africa correspondent Peter Biles in Johannesburg.

Ever since South Africa was awarded the football World Cup, questions have been asked about whether the country is capable of staging a successful tournament, says our correspondent. But stadiums and airports are being upgraded, and policing will be improved. At least 400,000 visitors are expected in South Africa next year. Fifa has said it hopes every single match will be sold out.

Internet

Two teens die after more stabbings in London

LONDON, 20 Feb — Police have launched murder enquiries after two teenagers were stabbed to death in different parts of London on Thursday night.

An 18-year old man was fatally stabbed in Leytonstone, east London, opposite Maryland railway station. One line of enquiry is that the death is gang related, the Metropolitan police said in a statement.

Police said the victim was knifed in the torso and was taken to Royal London hospital but died shortly after arriving.

Scotland Yard also said a 19-year-old was stabbed to death outside a service station in Wealdstone, northwest London, on Thursday.

He was pronounced dead at the scene. A second 19-year-old man also suffered stab wounds in the incident and was taken to a west London hospital where his condition is said to be stable.

No arrests have been made in either incident. The killings come after three boys were stabbed by a group of teenagers in a suspected gang fight in Chingford, east London, on Wednesday.

Internet

NASA spacecraft to seek out Earth-like planets

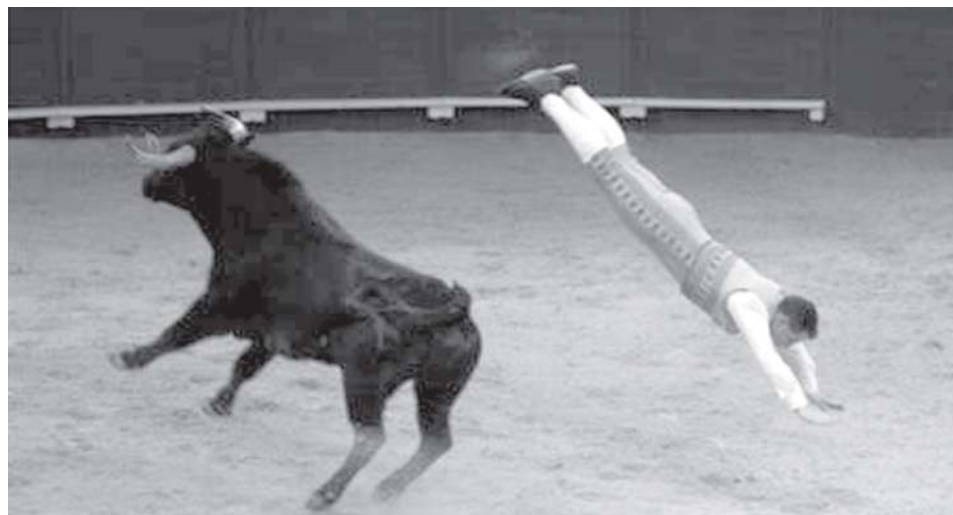
WASHINGTON, 20 Feb — A US spacecraft totting the biggest camera ever sent into space will be launched next month to scour our region of the Milky Way galaxy for warm, rocky planets like Earth that may host life,

NASA said on Thursday. The Kepler spacecraft is scheduled to spend 3-1/2 years looking at more than 100,000 stars similar to our sun, seeking evidence of planets similar in size and composition to Earth. Kepler is scheduled

to blast off from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida aboard a *Delta II* rocket on 5 March, the US space agency said. Colorado-based Ball Aerospace and Technologies, a subsidiary of Ball Corp, built it.

People long have pondered whether life exists elsewhere in the universe or whether Earth alone hosts living beings. “Kepler will push back the boundaries of the unknown in our patch of the Milky Way galaxy. And its discoveries may fundamentally alter humanity’s view of itself,” Jon Morse, director of NASA’s astrophysics division, told reporters.

Internet



A Spanish recortador jumps over a bull during the rehearsal ceremony of the World Bull Fair in Seville on 18 Feb, 2009. The show pays homage to the bulls used in traditional bullfights and the fair will run from February 19 to 22.

INTERNET

SPORTS



Tiger Woods.

Woods to make PGA Tour comeback next week

PACIFIC PALISADES, 20 Feb—Tiger Woods will return to the PGA Tour at next week's WGC-Match Play Championship in Arizona after being sidelined by knee injury since his US Open victory last year.

"I'm now ready to play again," the American world number one said on his official website (www.tigerwoods.com) on Thursday.

Woods, whose wife Elin gave birth to the couple's second child earlier this month, clinched his 14th major title at Torrey Pines in June before having reconstructive knee surgery.

He has not played competitive golf since his astonishing US Open playoff victory over Rocco Mediate.

Defying stabbing knee pain and a double stress fracture of his left tibia, Woods held off a late challenge by Mediate to triumph after 19 holes and claim his 65th PGA Tour title.

After recovering from knee surgery, he began hitting full shots midway through December and has made his top priority the 9-12 April US Masters, the opening major of the year.—*Internet*

Unlucky Eduardo out for two weeks with hamstring strain

LONDON, 20 Feb—Eduardo da Silva, who this week made a two-goal return to Arsenal action after almost a year on the sidelines, will be out of action for another two weeks with a hamstring strain, the club said on Thursday.

The Croatia striker, who suffered a badly broken leg a year ago this weekend, helped Arsenal to a 4-0 victory over Cardiff City in the FA Cup on Monday but tweaked a hamstring shortly before being substituted after 67 minutes. "Nobody knows how it happened but I knew straight away after the game it would be a two-week job," Arsene Wenger told Arsenal TV.

"It is nothing like he had before but I do know that little set-backs like this are part of being nine months out. But at the same time it is a blow because, of course, he can score goals."—*Internet*



Gazidis confident Arsenal can weather recession storm

LONDON, 20 Feb—Arsenal chief executive Ivan Gazidis has joined the Premier League club in the midst of a global recession, although you might not realise it if you take a trip to their impressive Emirates Stadium.

"I believe we are going to be very successful. We have some unbelievable assets that are going to mean that in the environment that we are heading into, which is challenging for everybody over the next few years, we are going to be very successful," Gazidis told Reuters in an interview.

Gazidis, who took over the post last month, will handle player contracts and negotiations at Arsenal. He has played a key role in the emergence of Major League Soccer in the United States over the past 15 years, including bringing David Beckham to the US.—*Internet*

Greek refereeing head replaced after "comedy" complaint

ATHENS, 20 Feb—The head of Greek football's Central Referees Committee has been asked to resign after three Super League referees were threatened with suspension this week.

A spokesman for the Greek Football Association said on Thursday Giorgos Psychomanis would be replaced by former referee Giorgos Giannopoulos following a series of controversial incidents in the weekend's games.

Aris Salonika were so incensed after a 2-1 defeat by champions Olympiakos Piraeus that they posted a statement on their website (<http://www.arisfc.gr>) demanding the suspension of referee Nathaniel Charalabidis and his two assistants.—*Internet*



Milan closer to Beckham deal, says Galliani

MILAN, 20 Feb—AC Milan vice-president Adriano Galliani said on Thursday that the Italian giants have moved a step closer to tying up a permanent deal for former England captain David Beckham.

Beckham has impressed during his time on loan at the Italian giants and both he and his club have made it clear that they want to secure a long-term agreement. But the former Manchester United and Real Madrid player's current club Los Angeles Galaxy said last week that Milan had missed a deadline to tie up a deal.

"In the last few hours we've taken some steps forward," said Galliani upon the team's return from the 1-1 draw with Werder Bremen in the UEFA Cup. "We are even more confident than before. I'm neither optimistic nor pessimistic."

Beckham has already admitted it would be difficult to return to Los Angeles. "I've said I want to stay here and obviously if I do go back it will be a bit difficult," he said following Sunday's Milan derby. "But I'm always professional so we will have to wait and see when the final decision is made."—*Internet*

Injured Nadal pulls out of Dubai

PARIS, 20 Feb—World number one Rafael Nadal on Thursday pulled out of next week's ATP tournament in Dubai because of a knee injury, the Spaniard announced on his website. Nadal joins Roger Federer on the sidelines for the UAE event after the Swiss star withdrew because of a back problem.

"I am very disappointed not to be able to compete in Dubai but the doctor has advised me to stay home and rest after the pain on my knee (which was picked up) in Rotterdam last week," Australian Open champion Nadal told his personal website.

"It's nothing to be worried about but it needs some rest. I ask my fans and the tournament organizers to understand and I am sorry for this." Dubai is one of my favourite tournaments and I have always played there. The field is always great and more important the crowds are always supportive.—*Internet*

Djokovic into Marseille last eight

MARSEILLE, 20 Feb—World number three Novak Djokovic eased into the quarter-finals of the Marseille ATP indoor tournament on Thursday as the Serbian continued his rehabilitation from his Australian Open nightmare.

Djokovic saw off Czech journeyman Jan Herynych 7-5, 6-4 and will tackle Germany's Mischa Zverev for a place in the semi-finals. Top seed Djokovic is playing in his first tournament since retiring from his Australian Open quarter-final clash against Andy Roddick last month where heat exhaustion scuppered his title defence.—*Internet*

Copenhagen's Vingaard delivers new City blow

PARIS, 20 Feb—FC Copenhagen's Martin Vingaard hit an injury-time goal to force a 2-2 draw at home to Manchester City in the UEFA Cup on Thursday to inflict another blow after coach Stale Solbakken accused the English side of "destroying football."

On a bitter-sweet night for English football, a second-string Tottenham lost 2-0 at Shakhtar Donetsk in their last 32 match, with manager Harry Redknapp only fielding two players—Jermaine Jenas and Michael Dawson—which drew against Arsenal in their last match.—*Internet*

Juve's Amauri to respect former club Palermo

MILAN, 20 Feb—Juventus striker Amauri has said he will not celebrate if he scores at former club Palermo on Saturday (1930 GMT), even if the goal helps boost his side's faltering title challenge.

Second-placed Juve have dropped nine points behind Serie A leaders Inter Milan after last weekend's 1-1 draw with Sampdoria where Amauri scored his first goal since December. Another slip-up in the potential banana skin in Sicily, coupled with a win for Inter at Bologna on Saturday (1500), could leave Juve's scudetto hopes hanging by a thread.

Internet





Phillip Maclarn of Australia competes during the qualifications of men's snowboard cross in the 24th World Winter Universiade at the Maoershan Ski Resort, 85km southeast from Harbin, capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province on 20 Feb, 2009. Phillip Maclarn took the 18th place after the qualifications with 1:03.26.—INTERNET

Bird flu strikes Lao province

HANOI, 20 Feb—Bird flu was detected in Khua District, Phongsaly Province of Laos on Wednesday, leading to the culling of a total of 903 chickens and 39 ducks, Lao newspaper *Vientiane Times* reported Thursday, citing the source with a provincial avian influenza control officer Somphone Ounmixay.

No human so far has contracted the virus, said Somphone. To prevent the spread of the virus, local authorities have been carrying out measures such as disinfection of poultry farms, slaughterhouses, and vaccination of poultry, said Somphone. Transport and trading of poultry and poultry products will also be closely monitored. Two Lao people have died from avian influenza since its first appearance in the country in February 2004.—MNA/Xinhua

MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (21.2.2009) (Saturday)

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

Local Transmission

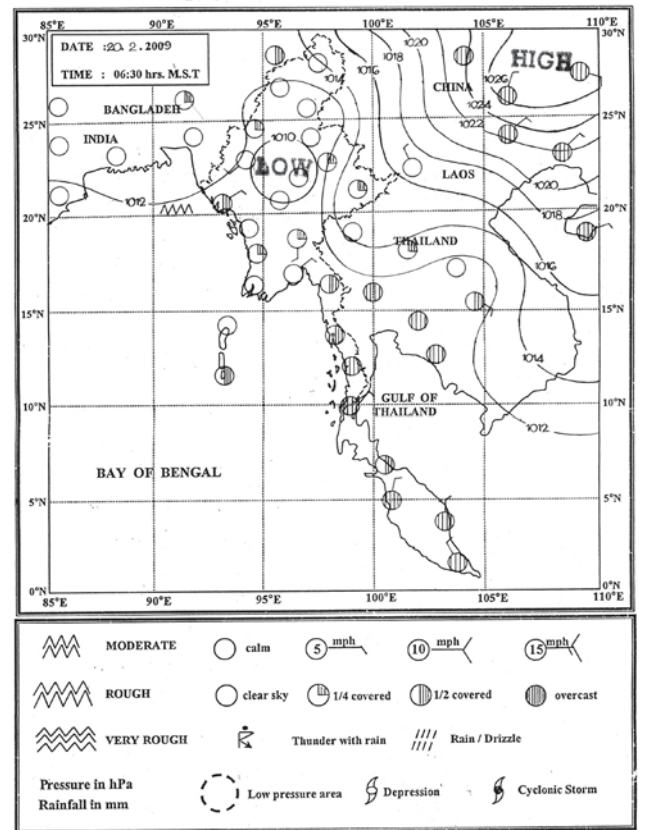
- Signature Tune
- Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- Pan - Say Region, Home to Kho - Hlon - Lishaws
- Traditional Rice Cakes and Gram Pretzel
- From Sandstones to Utensils
- The Source of the River Ayeyawady
- Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Europe/ North America Transmission

- Signature Tune
- Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- Meet Peculiar Salamander
- Feel Pretty ... in a Rawan Outfit
- More Railroad Networks consolidate Solidarity
- Mandalay Traditional Snack (Htou Moun)
- Daily Life of a Toddy - palm Climber
- View Point Amusement Park
- Off - shore Fishing Industry
- Adept Sons of Inlay Lake
- Pan - Say Region, Home to Kho - Hlon - Lishaws
- Traditional Rice Cakes and Gram Pretzel
- From Sandstones to Utensils
- Be Fashionable with Myanmar Cotton wear
- Myanmar Movies Impact
- Myanma Natural Spirulina (Part-I)
- The Source of the River Ayeyawady
- Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Friday, 20 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, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (5°C) below February average temperatures in Chin State, (3°C) to (4°C) above February average temperatures in Kachin, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States, Mandalay Division, (5°C) to (6°C) above February average temperatures in Shan State, upper Sagaing, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and about February average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (1°C).

Maximum temperature on 19-2-2009 was 97°F. Minimum temperature on 20-2-2009 was 70°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 20-2-2009 was 75%. Total sunshine hours on 19-2-2009 was (6.8) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 20-2-2009 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 (5) mph from Northwest at (15:30) hours MST on 19-2-2009.

Bay inference: Weather is generally fair in the North and West Central Bay and partly cloudy in Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 21st February 2009: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, Kayin and Mon States, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight increase of night temperatures in the Central and lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 21-2-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 21-2-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 21-2-2009: Generally fair weather.



Saturday, 21 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. ကဗျာပန်းဥယျာဉ်

8:05 am

6. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:15 am

7. “သတင်းကောင်း”
(သျှားညို၊ ဆုပန်ထွာ၊ ဖွင့်)
(ဒါရိုက်တာ-ညိုမင်းလွင်)

8:30 am

8. International news

8:45 am

9. Musical programme

11:00 am

1. Martial song

11:10 am

2. Musical programme

11:20 am

3. Game for children

11:45 am

4. Round up of the week's
TV local news

12:15 pm

5. Yan Can Cook

12:35 pm

6. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ
“အားကိုးချစ်သူကျေးတောသူ”
(အပိုင်း-၂၄)

1:20 pm

7. ဆန်းကြယ်ထူးခြားပြိုင်ပွဲများ
(Telematch)

2:00 pm

8. Musical programme

2:15 pm

9. ပန်းပေါင်းစုံရာဇမြေ

2:30 pm

10. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

2:45 pm

11. International news

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:10 pm

2. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

4:25 pm

3. ယုဇနစားသုံးဆီသန့်စင်စက်ရုံ

4:40 pm

4. မြူးမြူးကြွကြွယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက

4:55 pm

5. ၂၀၀၉ခုနှစ်တက္ကသိုလ်ဝင်စာမေးပွဲ
ဘာသာရပ်ဆိုင်ရာသင်ခန်းစာ
(မြန်မာစာဘာသာရပ်)

5:25 pm

6. Songs to uphold

National Spirit

5:30 pm

7. မြန်မာ့ဓလေ့ရိုးရာလက်ရာ့

5:45 pm

8. Musical programme

6:00 pm

9. Evening news

6:30 pm

10. Weather report

6:35 pm

11. အလှူရှာမယ်လှူကမ္ဘာဝယ်

6:55 pm

12. ပဉ္စလက်ကျောင်းတော်

7:15 pm

13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ
“သစ္စာနှင့်ယဉ်သောမေတ္တာ”
(အပိုင်း-၂၀)

8:00 pm

14. News

15. International news

16. Weather report

17. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ
“ကြမ္မာမုန်တိုင်း”
(အပိုင်း-၁၂)



Prime Minister General Thein Sein receives Vietnamese Ambassador

YANGON, 20 Feb—Prime Minister General Thein Sein of the Union of Myanmar received Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the Union of Myanmar Mr. Chu Cong Phung at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall in Konmyinthta here at 4 p.m. today.

Also present were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Director-General Col Thant Shin of Government Office and Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Vietnamese Ambassador was accompanied by Counsellor Mr. Vu Van Minh and officials of the embassy.

MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein greets Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the Union of Myanmar Mr. Chu Cong Phung at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall in Konmyinthta, Yangon.—MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the Union of Myanmar Mr. Chu Cong Phung at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall in Konmyinthta, Yangon.

MNA

6,313 prisoners granted amnesty

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb—The State Peace and Development Council is striving for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic new nation upholding Our Three Main National Causes. The Government had laid down the State's seven-step Road Map firmly. The people had approved the constitution for the future state with a vast majority. At present, the government is joining hands with the people in successfully realizing the Road Map.

In building the new nation, the government handed down sentences to those who violated the existing laws to prison terms in accord with the law to ensure peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order. However, systematic plans are being made for those serving prison terms to turn them into citizens to be able to participate in building a new nation.

The government will terminate the prison terms of 6,313 prisoners with good conduct and discipline on grounds of humanitation and as a gesture of showing sympathy towards their families, and release them on 21 February 2009 (12th Waning of Tabodwe, 1370 ME) to enable them to serve the interests of the regions and their own and the nation and to participate in the fair election to be held in the year 2010 together with the people after realizing the government's compassion and goodwill.—MNA

Gem Museum opens until 25 Feb

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb—Gem Museum (Nay Pyi Taw) was opened free of charge to the public from 12 to 18 February. The museum attracted the attention of a growing number of visitors. So the last opening date is extended to 25 February.—MNA

INSIDE

Opportune time, circumstances and changes

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ARTICLE

