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Sunday, 22 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

Maha Hsutaungpyi Buddha Image conveyed to Maha Pathada Bumi Gandakuti Kyaung of Uppatasanti Pagoda

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb — A ceremony to convey Maha Hsutaungpyi Buddha Image to be kept in Maha Pathada Bumi Gandakuti Kyaung at the northeast corner of the platform of Uppatasanti Pagoda on Nay Pyi Taw Uppatasanti Hill and Seinbudaw and Hngetmyatnardaw to be hoisted atop the Uppatasanti Pagoda, to unveil Maha Dagundaing and to share merits gained was held at the pagoda here this morning.

Present on the occasion were members of the Sangha led by Ovadacariya Sayadaws State Ovadacariya Sayadaws Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Maha Withutayama Zaygon Monastery Presiding Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Kavisara and member of Central Working Committee of the Sangha Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon Ngwataungtawya Monastery Presiding Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Panasiri, Chairman of Leading Committee for Construction of Uppatasanti Pagoda Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, ministers, deputy ministers, members of leading committee, work committee and subcommittees, heads of department, local authorities, well-wishers and members of religious and social organizations.

Staff Officer Saddhamma Jotikadhaja U Thura of the Religious Affairs Department of the Ministry of Religious Affairs acted as MC.

Maha Hsutaungpyi Buddha Image was con-

veyed in Karaweik decorated float and Seinbudaw and Hngetmyatnardaw in special vehicle.

The Maha Hsutaungpyi Buddha Image was conveyed along Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway, Pinlaung junction and Yazahtarni Road from the place where the pagoda was temporarily kept to the platform of the Uppatasanti Pagoda. Along the roads, local people paid respects to the image.

The vehicles carrying the Maha Hsutaungpyi Buddha Image and religious objects arrived at northern archway of the pagoda. the Maha Hsutaungpyi Buddha Image was conveyed to Gandakuti Kyaung and Seinbudaw and Hngetmyatnardaw to the Dhammayon on the pagoda platform.

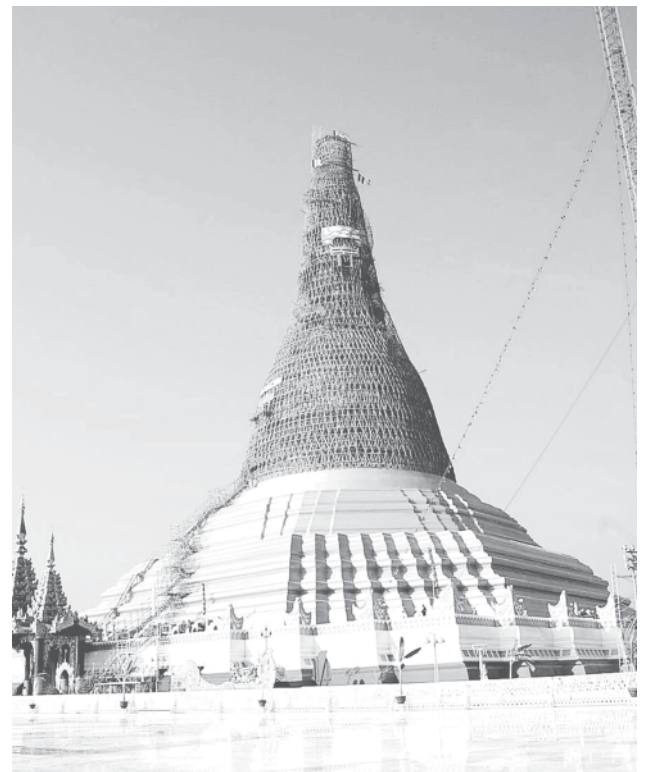
The Secretary-1, the commander and the ministers conveyed the Maha Hsutaungpyi Buddha Image to the Buddhasana throne in Gandakuti Kyaung.

They then offered alms food, fruit, flowers and water to the Maha Hsutaungpyi Buddha Image.

Members of the Sangha recited gathas.

A ceremony to enshrine Buddhasana throne was held on the platform of Uppatasanti Pagoda at 7.50 a.m.

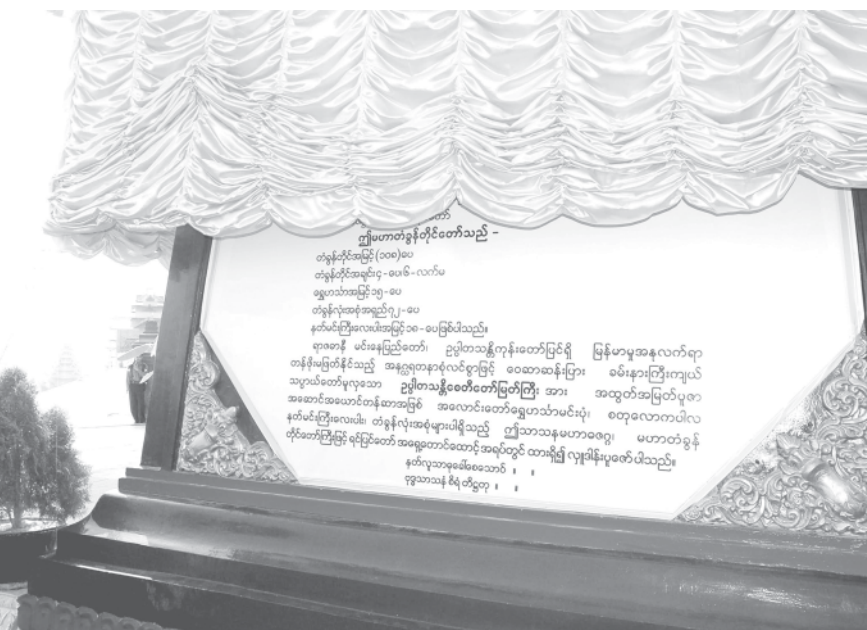
Presiding Sayadaw of Shwethuwun Monastery in Yangon Bhaddanta Saddhiya and Sayadaw of Boditahtaung Monastery in Monywa Bhaddanta Sobhita, the Secretary-1, the commander, the ministers, the deputy ministers, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence and wellwishers conveyed the religious objectives from the Dhammayon to Gandakuti Kyaung.



Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw. —MNA

The religious objectives and gems and jewellery were enshrined in Buddhasana throne by the Sayadaws and the Secretary-1.

The Maha Hsutaungpyi Buddha Image was built for public reverence in the Uppatasanti Pagoda before the (See page 8)



Secretary-1
Lt-Gen Thiha
Thura Tin Aung
Myint Oo presses the
button to unveil the
stone plaque of
Maha Dagundaing.
MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 22 February, 2009

Safe drinking water available in rural areas

The government is building infrastructures fulfilling education, health and economic needs to develop rural areas of the country where the majority of the people live. As a result, transport has become smooth and urban and rural areas have gradually developed.

Supply of safe water is one of the five rural region development tasks being carried out. The 10-year safe water supply project is being implemented from 2000-2001 to 2009-2010.

In the past there were some difficulties for the supply of drinking water in Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay Divisions in central Myanmar as they are in the arid zone. There was insufficient water in 8,042 villages in the zone and scarcity of water in 15,183 villages in other states and divisions.

Safe water is now available in 8,039 villages in three divisions in the arid zone and 13,626 villages in other states and divisions due to the government's effective implementation of safe drinking water supply project in those regions.

Fulfilling safe drinking water for the people is a noble deed. Such project is being implemented with the contribution of the wellwishers, social organizations, internal and external organizations and the government.

Supply of safe drinking water in the areas where water is scarce makes the local people free from diseases and other social evils and it also contributes to personal and environment hygiene.

It is necessary to continue to make efforts for supply of water with the contribution of the wellwishers and the government's goodwill. By doing so, the number of villages with adequate supply of water will increase more and more.

Minister looks into sub-power station

YANGON, 21 Feb—Minister for Electric Power No. (2) Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspected chosen site to install 30 MVA transformer, switch bay, switch yard, power line, control panel box in control room and cable lank at 66/33/11/6.6KV (30 MVA) sub-power station in Kamayut Township, here, yesterday.—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

Maj-Gen Ko Ko continues inspection tour of Labutta, Bogale Townships

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb – Maj-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence together with Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe and departmental officials inspected the tube-well sunk at Kaing-thaung village in Labutta Township on 19 February and heard reports on progress in carrying out tasks for water sufficiency presented by officials.

At the meeting hall of Kaing-thaung village Basic Education Middle School (branch), Maj-Gen Ko Ko met with departmental officials, members of social organizations and local people and gave necessary instructions. Then he presented cash for the fund of village school.

Next, Maj-Gen Ko Ko looked into rural health center (branch), school for development of youths and development of the village, and oversaw the site chosen for construction of new Kaing-thaung village.

Maj-Gen Ko Ko, the commander and party went to crab farm at Ayeya village in Bogale Township. After hearing



Maj-Gen Ko Ko of Ministry of Defence inspects learning of school children at basic education post-primary school at Shwe Pyi Aye (Htawpaing) village in Bogale Township. — MNA

reports on trial breeding of crab and sale of crabs in market and extended building of breeding farm by a responsible person, Maj-Gen Ko Ko inspected packaging and breeding of crabs.

At the briefing hall of cyclone shelter construction in Ayeya village, Maj-Gen Ko Ko heard reports on progress of works presented by responsible persons of Diamond Mercury Co and gave necessary instructions, and visited the workplace.

Next, Maj-Gen Ko Ko, the commander and party looked into learning of school children at Ayeya village Basic

Education High School (Affiliated) and Maj-Gen Ko Ko and the commander presented exercise books and stationery.

They also visited Basic Education Post-Primary School in Shwe Pyi Aye (Htawpaing) in Bogale Township. Maj-Gen Ko Ko presented exercise books and the commander, stationery and clothes.

Next, Maj-Gen Ko Ko inspected arrangements for ensuring drinking water supply in the region with the use of water purifier donated by UNICEF.

At Sein Yati village in Bogale Township, Maj-Gen Ko

Ko, the commander and party oversaw construction of Bogale-Setsan-Htawaping-Ahma road. After hearing reports on progress in construction of road section and road works on Kyonkadon-Setsan road presented by officials, Maj-Gen Ko Ko gave necessary instructions.

Next, they inspected Setsan-Kyonkadon motorway in a motorcade.

At BEPS in Kathamyin village, Maj-Gen Ko Ko looked into learning of school children and presented exercise books, stationery and clothes.

MNA



A ceremony to introduce DFINED:e computer dictionary in progress.

MNA

DFINED:e to be on sale on 1 March

YANGON, 21 Feb— Under the arrangements of the Ministry of Education and A&T International Co., Ltd, DFINED:e—computer dictionary—was introduced at Bagan Hall of Traders Hotel here this morning.

U Htoo Myint Naung from Technomation Studios explained facts about the DFINED:e that will be on sale at Mandalay computer exhibition on 1 March.

It includes English-Myanmar Dictionary, Myanmar Dictionary and Myanmar-English Dictionary which have been published by Department of

Myanmar Language Commission. Moreover, it also includes open source English-English Dictionaries. It has many applications such as music player, photo library, note, scientific calculator, address book and games.

Those wishing to buy the product may contact A&T International Co., Ltd at No. 149, Bogalayzay Street, Yangon (Tel: 392152 and 380854) and Technomation Studios at No. 185-195, Room 11-A, Pansodan Business Tower, Pansodan Street, Yangon (Tel: 243893).—MNA

US soldier guilty of murder in deaths of four Iraqis

VILSECK, 21 Feb — A US Army medic was convicted of murder Friday for his involvement in the execution-style slayings of four bound and blindfolded Iraqi detainees shot in the back of the head in the spring of 2007. The court sentenced him to life in prison.

Sgt Michael Leahy Jr was found guilty on charges of murder and conspiracy to commit murder by the nine-per-

son jury who had heard testimony about the killings at the court-martial at the Army's Rose Barracks Courthouse since Wednesday.

After a sentencing hearing, Leahy received a life sentence, with the possibility of parole. He also will have his rank reduced to private, his pay forfeited and be dishonorably discharged.

"Looking back at the canal, I see it was the wrong thing to do," Leahy

read from a statement to the court before he was sentenced. "Please see that I'm not a bad person, that I made a bad mistake. I want to move on."

Leahy, 28, was acquitted of murder in a separate incident involving the death of another Iraqi in January 2007. Wearing his dress uniform, he sat impassively as the verdicts were handed down by the foreman of the jury made up of officers and enlisted personnel.—*Internet*



Russia's President Dmitry Medvedev sits in an aircraft cabin as he visits Irkutsk Aircraft Plant in Irkutsk, on 20 Feb, 2009.—INTERNET

Taleban bombs made with British electronics

LONDON, 21 Feb — Some roadside bombs used by the Taleban in Afghanistan include electronic parts that originally came from Britain and were supplied by British Muslims, the *Daily Telegraph* reported Saturday.

According to the newspaper, which did not cite its source, the devices, which were used to activate bombs via remote control, were either sent to sympathisers in neighbouring countries or carried in by

volunteers who flew to Pakistan and crossed the border into Afghanistan.

It reported that an explosives officer told Foreign Secretary David Miliband of the findings while the minister was in Afghanistan on a two-day visit this past week.

"We have found electronic components in devices used to target British troops that originally come from Britain," the unnamed officer told Miliband during a briefing.—*Internet*

US military deaths in Afghanistan region at 581

WASHINGTON, 21 Feb — As of Friday, 20 Feb, 2009, at least 581 members of the US military had died in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan as a result of the US invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001, according to the Defence Department. The department last updated its figures Thursday at 10 am EST.

Of those, the military reports 426 were killed by hostile action.

Outside the Afghan region, the Defence Department reports 67 more members of the US military died in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Of those, three were the result of hostile action. The military lists these other locations as Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba; Djibouti; Eritrea; Ethiopia; Jordan; Kenya; Kyrgyzstan; Philippines; Seychelles; Sudan; Tajikistan; Turkey; and Yemen.

There were also four CIA officer deaths and one military civilian death.—*Internet*



A member of a local self defence force walks in the village of Bangadi in northeastern Congo, on 19 Feb, 2009. In the face of attacks and massacres by Ugandan Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels, who have slaughtered some 900 Congolese civilians since December, villagers in Bangadi have formed a self-defence force with locally made weapons and have twice repelled LRA attacks in recent months.—INTERNET

IAEA finds no weapons-grade enriched uranium in Iran

VIENNA, 21 Feb — The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said its inspectors have not found that Iran is attempting to process low-enriched uranium into weapons-grade uranium, the *Austrian Press Agency (APA)* reported on Friday.

The report quoted an anonymous IAEA expert as saying, "so far, Iran has carried out good cooperation with us in relevant verifications."

The uranium substances produced in Natanz (plant) have all been carefully registered, some of which are under the supervision of IAEA's remote cameras, the expert said.

"If the Iranians intend to transport these uranium substances to a secret location for further processing, agency's inspectors will find out."—*MNA/Xinhua*

Roadside bomb kills two Afghan soldiers, wounds four

KABUL, 21 Feb — Two soldiers of Afghan National Army (ANA) were killed and four others sustained injuries when their vehicle hit by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan's eastern Khost Province, an official said on Saturday.

"The incident occurred in the Sabari district on Friday, as a result two soldiers were killed and four others got wounded," Provincial Police Chief Abdul Qayum Baqizai told *Xinhua*.

He blamed the enemies of peace, a term used against Taleban militants, for the incident.

Conflicts and spiraling militancy, mostly in the shape of suicide attacks and roadside bombings which left over 5,000 people dead in 2008 in Afghanistan, is expected to go up this year.—*Internet*

Three foreign troops killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, 21 Feb—Three soldiers in the US-led coalition helping to fight a Taleban-led insurgency in southern Afghanistan have died after their patrol was hit by a bomb, according to the US military.

The three were killed on Friday in the southern province of Uruzgan, it said in a statement. It did not give their nationalities. "Three coalition service members died of wounds sustained from an improvised explosive device during a combat reconnaissance patrol in the Uruzgan Province, Friday," it said.

Many of the troops in Uruzgan — where Taleban have a strong presence — are Australian and Dutch nationals serving with the NATO-led International Security Assistance Forces.

Soldiers in a separate US-dominated coalition work alongside ISAF and the growing international forces.—*Internet*

Anti-US Iraqi cleric facing leadership challenge

BAGHDAD, 21 Feb — The firebrand anti-American cleric whose militia battled US troops for years is facing a strong challenge for leadership of Iraq's poor, urban Shiites from a small, well-organized faction with loose links to Iran, senior figures within his movement say. The split within Muqtada al-Sadr's organization has widened as Shiite groups weigh the outcome of last month's provincial elections and prepare for a national ballot this year that will determine the leadership in Baghdad.

The dissident faction is expected to mount a campaign to become a rival force appealing to al-Sadr's base among poor Shiites, senior officials close to the cleric said in interviews this week. This would offer greater openings for Teheran's influence in Iraq and give political cover to the so-called "special groups" of Sadrists that have continued attacks on US-led forces.

Internet



A combination of photographs shows a water amusement centre called "The Summer Palace" falling in a demolition blast in Shenyang, Liaoning Province, on 20 Feb, 2009. The landmark dome structure was dismantled to make way for construction of a new property development after serving 15 years as a fun place for local residents.—XINHUA

GM shares hit 74-year low

NEW YORK, 21 Feb—General Motors Corp shares on Friday tumbled to their lowest level in more than 70 years, pulled down by a drop in the broader markets and continued speculation about the future of the struggling automaker.

GM shares hit a low of \$1.52 in early afternoon trading, before rebounding somewhat to close down 23 cents, or 11.5 percent, at \$1.77. The low matched a record set on 26 July, 1934, according to the Center for Research in Security Prices at the University of Chicago. The price is adjusted for splits and other changes.

The Detroit-based automaker's shares have been battered over the past year by worries about the viability of the US auto industry and plunging sales stemming from the industrywide drop in demand for new vehicles.

GM shares were worth \$3.50 just a month ago and \$25.54 a year ago. On Tuesday, GM said it would need a total of \$30 billion in federal aid in order to avoid filing for bankruptcy protection, up from a previous estimate of \$18 billion and including \$13.4 billion it has already received. It also said it would need to cut 47,000 jobs worldwide and close five more US factories.—Internet

Japan's Sharp to make LCD panels in China

TOKYO, 21 Feb — Japan's Sharp Corp plans to produce liquid crystal display (LCD) panels in China through a partnership with a major Chinese electronics manufacturer, according to the *Nikkei* daily.

Sharp, the world's fifth-largest LCD panel producer, hopes to reach a deal with China's SVA Group this spring, the business daily said.

The electronics giant has been hit by the global slowdown and by the yen's rise against the dollar, which has made exporting panels to LCD television plants around the world less profitable.

The Japanese firm has said it expects its first-ever operating loss this year and will cut 1,500 jobs as revenues from high-end televisions plummet.

Sharp now intends to focus on producing panels using cutting-edge technologies at home while making older-generation panels abroad by joining forces with major foreign firms, *Nikkei* said.—Internet

Iran hails military ties with Russia

Moscow, 21 Feb—Iran's defence minister said on Friday he hopes to obtain new weapons from Russia to upgrade the nation's arsenals.

Iran has relied on Russian military assistance in the past and hopes to continue doing so, Mostafa Mohammed Najjar said.

"Russia has advanced military technologies, we have used them and plan to keep using them," he said at a news conference.

Najjar wouldn't elaborate on what specific weapons Iran was seeking. He met with his Russian counterpart and toured some Russians weapons plants during his five-day visit that began Monday.

Moscow has developed close ties with Teheran and is building its first nuclear power plant.

Russia also has supplied weapons to Iran, including Tor-M1 air-defence missiles, despite US and Is-

raeli complaints. However, Russian officials have rejected claims that they have provided Iran with more powerful, long-range S-300 air defence missile systems.

Supplying the S-300s to Iran would markedly change the military balance in the Middle East and the issue has been the subject of intense speculation and diplomatic wrangling for months.

Internet

Suspect in Indiana police shooting found dead

LOUISVILLE, 21 Feb—A man suspected of shooting two Indiana police officers in an ambush was found dead of a self-inflicted gunshot on Friday night, hours after he had barricaded himself in a Louisville house.

Negotiators tried all day to end the standoff peacefully, but the suspect was found dead at 8:45

pm after he shot himself, said Louisville Metro Police spokesman Robert Biven. Police had deployed gas inside the house around that time, Biven said.

Police had earlier said the suspect in the house was Robert Datillo, 37, of Jeffersonville, Ind. Datillo was wanted by investigators probing the shootings

of the officers at a motel Thursday in southern Indiana, just across the Ohio River from Louisville. Both officers were in stable condition Friday.

"It's always to our interests to have the person come out. Unfortunately this person decided to take his own life," Biven said.

Internet

Tanked soldier takes two joyrides in Germany

BERLIN, 21 Feb—Police say one joyride in a light tank wasn't enough for a drunken British soldier in Germany.

Police in Celle say the 18-year-old stole a small light tank early Friday and rumbled out of his base toward nearby Bergen — but drove off the road after 500 yards (meters).

Undaunted, he walked back to his base and commandeered a second armoured vehicle just like the first. This time, he was spotted by a British military police patrol. As the patrol tried to stop him, he lost control and drove into a tree. Military police then arrested him.

German police say a breathalyzer test showed an alcohol concentration of 0.1 percent. The blood alcohol limit in Germany is 0.05 percent.—Internet



Tourists take photographs during the 14th Philippine International Hot Air Balloon Week held at Clark airbase in the province of Pampanga, north of Manila on 15 Feb, 2009. INTERNET

NASA postpones space shuttle Discovery's launch for fourth time

WASHINGTON, 21 Feb—NASA has delayed the launch of the space shuttle Discovery for a fourth time amidst concerns about valves.

After meeting all Friday at Kennedy Space Center in Florida, shuttle managers decided against launching in a week. The launch date for Discovery currently is "under review," NASA said in a statement. The launch had been targeted for no sooner than 27 Feb.

Three valves in each shuttle channel hydrogen

gas from the main engines to the external fuel tank. Discovery's valves were removed, inspected and reinstalled as a precaution after one valve on the shuttle Endeavor broke during its November mission.

Managers want to make sure if that happens again, the shuttle and its seven-man crew would be safe.

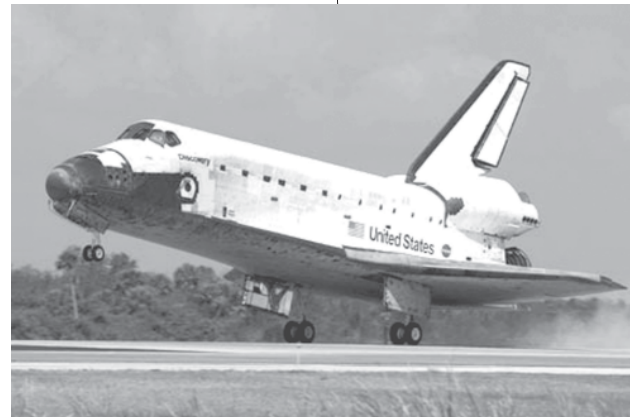
Discovery's latest mission to the International Space Station originally had been scheduled for 12 Feb.

During a review of Discovery's readiness for flight, NASA managers decided 3 Feb to plan a launch no earlier than 19 Feb.

Internet

The space shuttle Discovery lands, ending Mission STS-124 to the International Space Station, at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida.

XINHUA



Israel fires flare shells over Lebanon to look for its missing soldier

BEIRUT, 20 Feb—Israel fired flare lighting shells Friday night off the Lebanese coast and over South Lebanon's border town of Nakoura in search of its missing soldier, Al-Arabia TV reported.

Yasmina Bouziane, a spokeswoman for the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was quoted as confirming that she acknowledged that Israel fires flare shells 4-6 km off the Lebanese coast and over Nakoura where UNIFIL headquarter is located. However, the

spokeswoman told a radio that UNIFIL "has no information about the disappearance of an Israeli soldier."

There has been conflicting reports over the disappearance of the Israeli soldier.

Al-Arabia TV reported earlier on Friday night that the soldier disappeared while doing physical exercises near the borders with Lebanon.

But its reporter said later that the soldier was doing his exercise off Haifa shore where he

drawn and was driven away by the wind, adding Israeli forces were looking for him along the shore reaching South Lebanon.

Earlier, Lebanon's ANB TV reported that Israel informed the UNIFIL command that an Israeli boat was missing in the sea. The accident has raised fear of an operation carried out by Hezbollah in revenge of the assassination of its commander Imad Mughniyeh, as Hezbollah Chief Hasan Nasrallah promised.

Xinhua



Chinese national flag is escorted into Harbin International Conference, Exhibition and Sports Centre Gym at the opening ceremony of the 24th World Winter Universiade in Harbin, capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, on 18 Feb, 2009.—XINHUA

Opel needs around 3.3 billion euros to survive

BERLIN, 20 Feb—US carmaker General Motor's (GM) European subsidiary Opel may need more than 3.3 billion euros (4.2 billion US dollars) to maintain its liquidity, a union leader and board member said on Friday.

"Opel's existence is threatened and we need everyone's help to save it," said Armin Schild, a leader of IG Metall, Germany's biggest union and a board member of Opel, according to the report of

Bloomberg.

In January, Opel set its rescue package from German government was 1.8 billion euros.

However, as the economic crisis seriously cut the demand for new cars, Opel's needs have intensified. The 3.3 billion euros may be the bottom end of the government aid required by Opel, Schild said, and the company's supervisory board of will meet and discuss it on 27 Feb.—Xinhua

Chilean ship loaded with gold sinks in S Atlantic

BUENOS AIRES, 21 Feb—A Chilean fishing vessel loaded with some seven tons of unrefined gold and silver capsized in a storm in January in Argentine waters of the south Atlantic, the Argentine authorities said on Friday.

Seven crew members and one passenger on the "Polar Mist" were all rescued by two helicopters of the Argentine Army moments before the boat sank on 16 Jan, local

daily "La Nacion" reported.

The ship is currently lying on the seabed some 80 to 100 meters deep in the water, sources from the Argentine Navy Police (PNA) told Xinhua.

The ship set sail on 15 Jan, and sent an SOS call one day later when it encountered the storm. A Chilean tugboat had tried to drag it out of Argentine waters, but failed, the PNA said.

The ship was loaded with 6,900 kg of minerals worth of about 110 million US dollars, the "La Nacion" said.

Xinhua

All Items from Xinhua News Agency

Foreign direct investments in Brazil down 60%

RIO DE JANEIRO, 21 Feb—Foreign direct investments in Brazil totaled 1.9 billion US dollars in January, down 60 percent from the 4.8 billion US dollars registered during the same period last year, the country's Central Bank said on Friday.

According to the bank, the result was well below the expectation of 2.5 billion dollars and was the worst for a January in three years.

The drop showed the effects of the international financial crisis in the country, said Altamir Lopes,

head of the bank's economic department.

"It is an effect of the crisis, without a doubt. We already expected a fall in the direct investments flow, but it is still a strong result," he said.

The bank is expecting foreign direct investments to reach 1.8 billion dollars this month.

The bank's forecast for foreign direct investments for 2009 is 30 billion dollars, down 33 percent from 2008, when the figure reached a record high of 45 billion dollars.

Xinhua

Indoor fires linked to lung disease

BEIJING, 21 Feb—Exposure to burning solid fuel indoors for heat and cooking may cause the lung ailment known as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, a study of more than 20,000 people in China has shown.

The finding, published in the European Respiratory Journal, is significant because COPD has long been associated with smoking and little research has been done to find out why non-smokers also suffer from the disease.

COPD includes chronic bronchitis and emphysema. Emphysema is the loss of elas-

ticity of lung tissues, resulting in the collapse of small airways and leading to shortness of breath and hyperventilation.

The study covered 20,245 people over 40 years of age in seven Chinese provinces who were interviewed about their smoking habits, family health history and exposure to smoke from solid

fuels, such as wood, coal and dung. Among the participants, 12,471 were non-smokers and 5.2 percent of them were diagnosed as suffering from COPD, wrote the researchers, led by Ran Pixin at the State Key Laboratory of Respiratory Disease in southern China's Guangzhou City.

Xinhua

Chicago soy futures fall for 8th day on plentiful rainfall in Argentina

CHICAGO, 21 Feb—Soybean futures in Chicago Board of Trade finished lower for the 8th consecutive trading day on Friday, due to rainfall

in Argentina crop areas threatened by drought and tumbling stock market. Corn and wheat dropped too.

Corn future for March delivery lost 3 cents, finished at 3.505 US dollars a bushel. March soybean dropped 22 cents to 8.625 dollars per bushel and March wheat was down 0.25 cents, settled on 5.1925 dollars per bushel.

Soybean and corn's weakness stemmed from the arrival of moderate to heavy rains in major growing areas of Argentina on Friday. The rain

has been forecasted all week, but the amounts appear to be even heavier than the early predictions.

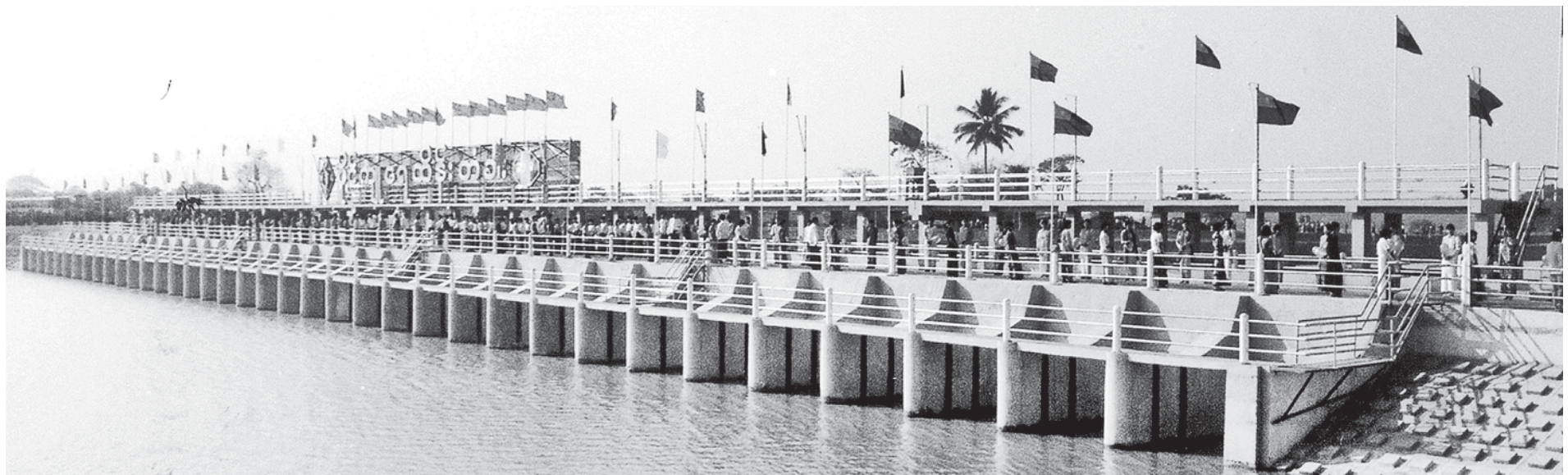
Lower oil and equity markets also pressured soybean and corn early in the session. The Dow Jones Industrial Average Index continued to decline sharply on Friday after closing at its lowest level since 2002 on Thursday. Market sentiment over decreased demand for agricultural products as a result of the global economic crisis and US recession continued to weigh on the futures.—Xinhua

People visit paintings by Fanya Pines during an exhibition in Jerusalem, on 19 Feb, 2009.

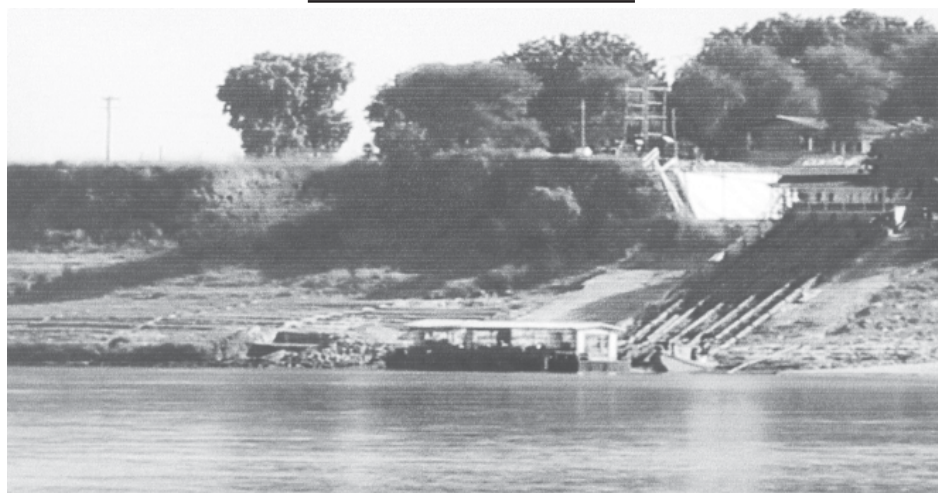
XINHUA



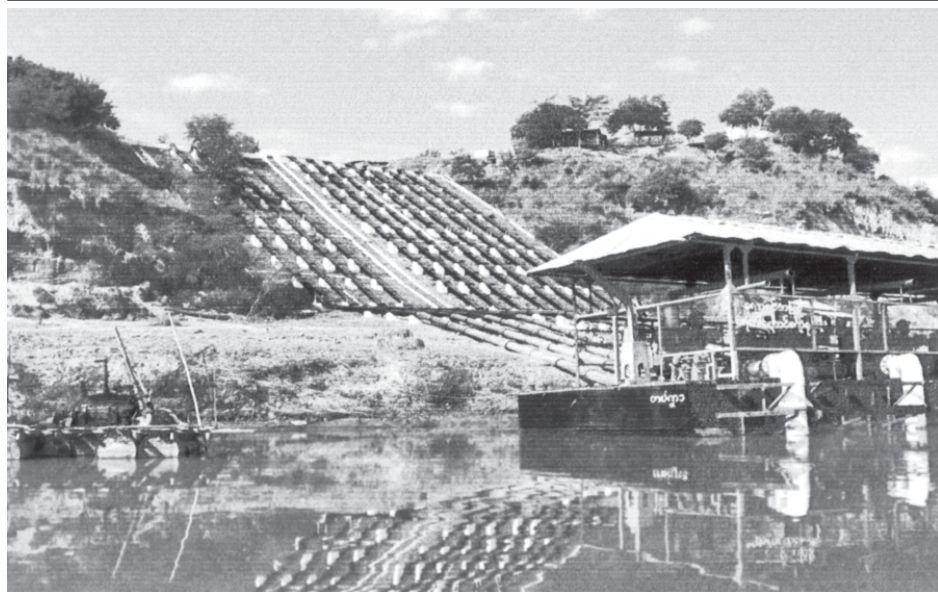
Projects the government has implemented to supply sufficient irrigation water to farmlands across the nation



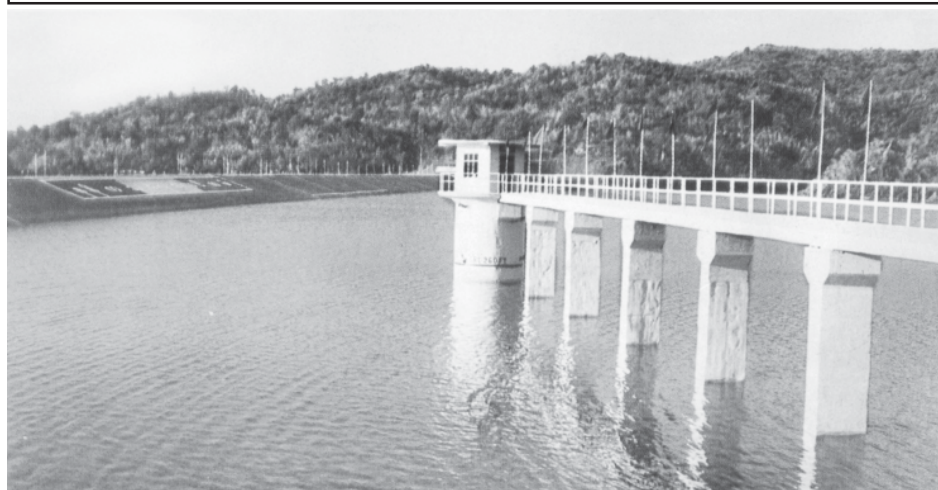
Paing Kyon sluice gate built for supply of irrigation water to 30000 acres of farmland in Kawa Township, Bago Division.



Letpan Chepaw river water pumping project in Mandalay Division.



Tatywa river water pumping project in Mandalay Division.



Progress of cultivation capacity across the nation

These days, anti-government groups are trying to deceive the people into misunderstanding the government, under the pretext of the shortage of electric power and water supply, instead of following an honest way.

The government is working with tremendous gusto to complete the projects for adequate supply of electric power and safe water for the entire people.

The following table indicates the projects the government has implemented for adequate supply of irrigation water to farmlands across the country.

Subject	Unit	1988	31-1-2009	Progress
Dam	dam	138	356	218
River water pumping station	station	4	322	318
Benefited acre	Acre (1x100,000)	0.14	5.14	5
Underground water tapping stations				
- Tube-well	well	-	4893	4893
- Hand pump	pump	-	2973	2973
- Benefited acre	Acre	-	96000	96000

Similarly, the following table represents the projects the government has implemented for sufficient supply of irrigation water to the farmlands in Mandalay Division.

Subject	Unit	1988	31-1-2009	Progress
Dam	dam	61	113	52
Under construction	dam		7	7
To construct	dam		10	10

Nantkathu Dam built for supply of irrigation water to 14000 acres of farmland in Ingapu Township, Ayeyawady Division.

Giant step towards democratic transition

Hlaing Aung

The international community says Myanmar has hardly made political progress since 1988. It is because so many issues are deterring Myanmar political reform from making a good headway.

Some members of international community extended a helping hand with goodwill to Myanmar to remedy the issue of political stalemate. Sometimes, the situations became worse due to additional attempts. Some were found anxious to distort the situations on purpose.

In reality, political affairs is somewhat similar to family affairs. While a couple clash with each other, some fuel the situations; some mediate the couple; and some make exacerbation in disguise. Sometimes such a clash grows into a fight, following the unnecessary interference of relatives of both sides. Some make a family clash go from bad to worse through sugar-coated suggestions. When the wife and the husband get into troubles due to their incitement, they, out of joy, spread the bad news from door to door and speak ill of the couple.

That is similar to an issue of a nation. Many alien countries interfere in the internal affairs of the nation concerned. Some manufacture fabricated news and make harsh comments on the issue. It is difficult for some countries that want to help the nation work out the problems it is dealing with.

The United Nations has tried for several years to solve the Myanmar issue. It sent an envoy of the UN Secretary General to the nation to hold a dialogue between the government and the opposition party. It also sent a special rapporteur on human rights so as to improve human rights in Myanmar.

In tackling an issue of a member country, the UN has to abide by many points such as not to interfere accidentally in the issues that are within the purview of the nation concerned; to approach an issue without bias on neither of the quarrelling groups; to help seek means acceptable to both sides; and to ensure that its representative tries to achieve the best result, carrying out the tasks within his purview.

Some persons without any knowledge of these points and those pretending not to understand these points are levelling baseless accusations variously

whenever they do not have their wishes fulfilled.

Outside help is like a catalyst that helps two elements react with each other. However much effective a catalyst is, it cannot make two elements react with each other if they do not react with each other. There is a similar process in a political case. The disagreement between two sides can be solved only through mutual understanding, trust, respects, magnanimity and forgiveness.

No man is perfect. There are so many true facts under the sun. All those with attachment deem everything that can fulfil their wishes to be true. If a politician considers politics is just for his self-improvement, as for him all things that can fulfil his wishes are true. If a politician considers politics is for the sake of the human society, as for him all things that can serve the interest of the whole human society and that of his country are true.

To express an independent view, it is believed that the government and the dissidents share the wishes to enable Myanmar to be peaceful and pleasant with development, and to keep abreast of the international community, and to enjoy democracy fully. However, the two sides have different opinions in a bid to materialize the common wishes and achieve the goal. So, I think the two sides are lack of cooperation. The UN is helping reduce the size of the disagreements, so each and every citizen in favour of national interests should welcome such a helping hand.

In helping settle the disputes, all UN envoys and special rapporteurs faced challenges due to unusual situations of Myanmar, and evil consequences of alien instigation and pressure. Every issue is to be worked out, but not in an easy way. What is the most important in this regard is that the two sides and a mediator seek a solution in a pragmatic way to be able to set up a common goal, dealing with good volition, without casting doubts over one another any more and building trust among them. Without any doubt, the correct solution can be sought if priority is given to the interest of all rather than to that of an individual or a particular group.

I simply believe that the nearer the turning point for building the foundation for a democratic nation in 2010,

the greater role the UN is playing in the Myanmar issue.

I think, in the recent visit of Mr Gambari, the special adviser of the UN Secretary General yielded positive results to the three sides. The government made arrangements to enable him to meet with those who he wanted to meet. In addition, it complied with the wish of the central executive committee of NLD to meet Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and all then met Mr Gambari together. That indicated the government's goodwill and compliance with the wish of NLD. In response to Mr Gambari's suggestion made during his previous visit, the government gave amnesty to more than 9000 prisoners. Whatever it is, the majority of those released would thank the government and Mr Gambari. NLD embraced a lot of benefits due to the opportunity to disclose its views and stances together to Mr Gambari. Mr Gambari also gained a great benefit because he seized opportunities to study and came to understand the objective conditions of the nation more and more. Moreover, his suggestions have come into shape to some extent. I would say the government's positive responses may be seen as success of the trip.

Similarly, the recent visit of UN special rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana generated satisfactory results. The government made arrangements for him to call at the prisons in Hpa-an and Yangon to study the objective conditions at will. And he got an opportunity to meet with the leaders of the local peace groups and witness the objective conditions in the distant areas concerning human rights. **The government's arrangements were very prudent and rewarding, because former rapporteurs met only with expatriate groups and remnant armed insurgents in the border, and they got one-sided views. As the saying 'seeing is believing' goes, in the recent visit, he witnessed the objective conditions of the local people.** Besides, he met with the chief justice, the attorney-general, and the minister for Home Affairs who are responsible for protection of human rights, and observed the plans the government is implementing. He also exchanged views with them and made some suggestions. The government showed positive response to his suggestions, and agreed to work together in recognition of his suggestions. They were significant progress. As another result of his visit, 6313 more prisoners were freed.

Anyhow, there might be some persons with self-righteous views who blamed the visits of those representatives, who are reluctant to join hands due to their skepticism, and who wanted to exploit such visits for their political gains. Let me say so because **in the political arena there is no examination to test the skills, characters and qualifications of a politician, there are many opportunists who practise politics through the motto 'the harsher comment made on the government, the greater applause'.**

Therefore, I would say, those who view conditions with reasoning power realize that recent progress is a giant step towards transition to democracy.

Translation: MS

No man is perfect. There are so many true facts under the sun. All those with attachment deem everything that can fulfil their wishes to be true. If a politician considers politics is just for his self-improvement, as for him all things that can fulfil his wishes are true. If a politician considers politics is for the sake of the human society, as for him all things that can serve the interest of the whole human society and that of his country are true.

Maha Hsutaungpyi Buddha Image conveyed...

(from page 1)

demise of Boditahtaung Monastery in Monywa Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Narada.

A ceremony to unveil Maha Dagundaing was held at the south-east corner of the pagoda. The Secretary-1,

the commander and the ministers took positions in front of the Dagundaing.

Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin and Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung formally unveiled the Maha Dagundaing.

The Secretary-1 formally unveiled the stone plaque of the Dagundaing and sprinkled scented water on it.

At the merit-sharing programme, Venerable Monk Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Panna Siri invested the Secretary-1 and the congregation with the Nine

Precepts.

Members of the Sangha recited metta suttas. The Secretary-1 offered alms to monks.

The commander, ministers and guests also offered alms to the monks.

Venerable Monk Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddhamta Kavisara delivered a sermon, and the congregation shared merits.

After the ceremony, the Secretary-1 performed rituals of golden and silver showers. —MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and party convey Maha Hsutaungpyi Buddha Image to Buddhasana throne in Gandakuti Kyaung. — MNA



Photo shows Maha Dagundaing at south-east corner of Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw. MNA



Photo shows Seinbudaw to be hoisted at the top of Uppatasanti Pagoda. MNA



The congregation led by Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo share the merits gained. —MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin and Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung cut the ribbon to open Maha Dagundaing.—MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo enshrines religious objects in Buddhasana throne. —MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and party pay homage to Maha Hsutaungpyi Buddha Image. (News on Page 1)—MNA

Maj-Gen Ohn Myint looks into construction of Kaunghmulon suspension bridge

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb— Maj-Gen Ohn Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Brig-

Gen Soe Win and officials, on 15 February inspected progress in construction of Kaunghmulon suspension bridge across Malikha river being constructed by Public Works near Htawadam Village,

Putao Township and gave necessary instructions.

Next, Maj-Gen Ohn Myint and party looked into scenic beauty on both sides of Malikha and flow of the river in a motor boat.

In meeting with departmental officials, members of social organizations and townsenders at Gubar Hall in Machanbaw township, officials concerned presented exercise books, publications, packets of dried noodles, medicines and medical equipment. Next, the managing director of Thawdwin Construction Co presented K 10 million and Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, clothes. Afterwards, Maj-Gen Ohn Myint viewed the maintenance of Malikha suspension bridge that links Machanbaw and Putao townships and renovation of Machanbaw-Putao road section and left necessary instructions.

MNA



Maj-Gen Ohn Myint of Ministry of Defence inspects progress of construction of Kaunghmulon suspension bridge across Malikha river.—MNA

Video scrutinization work clarified

YANGON, 21 Feb— Chairman of Video Scrutinization Supervisory Committee (Central) Managing Director of the Myanma Motion Picture Enterprise under the Ministry of Information U Aung Myo Myint gave instructions on video scrutinization work of the chairman and executives of Mandalay Division Video Board at the MMPE (Mandalay branch) in Aungmyethazan, Mandalay, on 16 February.

In meeting with serv-

ice personnel of the branch, he made clarification to the instructions of the minister for Information. He inspected Zeya Thiri cinema in Sagaing and Ahsintmyint cinema in Mandalay.

MNA

UMFCCI General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing and responsible persons of Dynamic Engineering & General Trading Co. Ltd present gift to Prof Daw Yi Yi Myint.—MNA

UMFCCI organizes commercial talks

YANGON, 21 Feb—The Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry organized commercial talks with the sponsorship of Dynamic Engineering & General Trading Co. Ltd at its office tower in Lanmadaw Township here on 7 February.

UMFCCI General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing made an opening address. Professor Daw Yi Yi Myint gave a talk on 'Reflection on the Transforming Economy and the Developing Market Force', and responded to the queries of the participants.—MNA



Objectives of the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

1. To work hard together with the people to accomplish the State's seven-step Road Map in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation
2. To uphold Our Three Main National Causes as the national policy at risk to life
3. To crush, in cooperation with the people, internal and external subversive elements that are disrupting stability, peace and development of the nation
4. To build a strong and patriotic modern Tatmadaw capable of safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the nation

Nawngmon Township: development in progress

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb—Chairman of the Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Brig-Gen Soe Win accompanied by departmental officials visited Alanwah village Basic Education Primary School in Machanbaw Township on 10 February and presented food, clothes and medicines.

After hearing reports on regional development tasks presented by the village PDC chairman, the commander fulfilled the requirements. The commander also presented food and school uniforms, exercise books to Ahtangar village BEPS. After hearing reports on regional development tasks presented by the village PDC chairman and local people, the commander attended to the needs. He also presented food, iodized salt, medicines and medical equipment to the local people.

The commander also visited Phatmar and Lasetu villages in Nawngmon Township and presented food and cash assistance for development of the villages.

At Yatbot No.2 and No.3 villages, the commanders heard reports on regional development tasks and attended to the needs. He presented food, iodized salt, medicines and medical equipment.

Next, the commander presented food and cash assistance to the chairman of Kwanlin village PDC.

At Nawngmon Township People's Hospital, the commander met with the chairman of the township PDC and local people, social organization members and presented gift them.

On 11 February, the commander together with officials inspected school library, science lab and multimedia classroom of Basic Education High School in Nawngmon and left necessary instructions.

Next, the commander attended the ceremony to upgrade the Yatbot-Kawle-Pannann road section.

At Yatbot village BEPS, the commander delivered an address in meeting with departmental personnel, social organization members and local people.

Next, officials accepted cash donations of wellwishers.—MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe addresses MLBF 9th AGM

YANGON, 21 Feb – Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence delivered an address at the ninth annual general meeting of Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation at Thiri Annawah Hall of Myanmar Fishery Federation in Insein Township here this morning.

Also present were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence addresses 9th annual general meeting of Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation.

MNA



Gen Win Myint, Patron of MLBF Minister for Livestock and Fisheries

Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Chairman of Yangon City

Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, departmental heads, advisors to MLBF, the president, the vice-presidents and executives and members of state/division LBFs.

Firstly, the opening of Myanmar Pet Show 2009 was held and the commander, the minister and mayor cut the ribbon to open the show.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party viewed booths displayed at the show.

Then the annual general meeting followed

at Thiri Annawah Hall. Lt-Gen Myint Swe stressed the need to scale up meat production sector for exporting more meat.

Next, the minister made a speech.

Afterwards, the president of MLBF explained progress in works of the federation.

Then the minister and officials accepted cash donated by wellwishers and presented certificates of honour to them.

The general secretary of the federation read out the annual report and financial account and

officials of state/division federations made suggestions.

Next, the managing director of Livestock, Feedstuff and Dairy Products Enterprise delivered an address.

The names of the list of new executives and CEC members were announced and new-appointed executives and CEC members took the oath.

Next, the chairmen of newly-appointed central executive committee extended greetings and the meeting came to an end. —MNA



Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint, Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin open Myanmar Pet Show 2009. — MNA

Regional development tasks of Kayin State inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb—Chairman of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Zaw Min and officials attended the trees planting ceremony and gave away seeds to local authorities and grew teak saplings.

On 9 February, Brig-Gen Zaw Min attended the fourth Myanmar traditional Htamane preparing contest and prize presentation ceremony held in Pyidaungsu Thiri ground, Hpa-an and presented prizes to winners.

On 10 February, Brig-Gen Zaw Min attended the concluding ceremony of First Aid Basic Course No 1/2009 conducted by Hpa-an University.

Next, he inspected the construction of a concrete bridge near Pawhtaw village and met with local farmers and attended to their needs.

Afterwards, Brig-Gen Zaw Min viewed the arrangements for construction of Minzi-Pawhtaw-Naungkamyine village-to-village road and provide cash to

Naungkamyine Village BEHS (Branch).

On 12 February, he attended a ceremony to mark the 62nd Anniversary Union Day and read out the message of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe sent to the 62nd Anniversary Union Day ceremony.

Brig-Gen Zaw Min and party viewed round snack market festival to mark the 62nd Anniversary Union Day and enjoyed a variety of traditional dances in the evening.—MNA

Labour Minister meets British Ambassador



Labour Minister U Aung Kyi receives British Ambassador Mr. Mark Canning at his office in Nay Pyi Taw.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb — Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi received British Ambassador to the Union

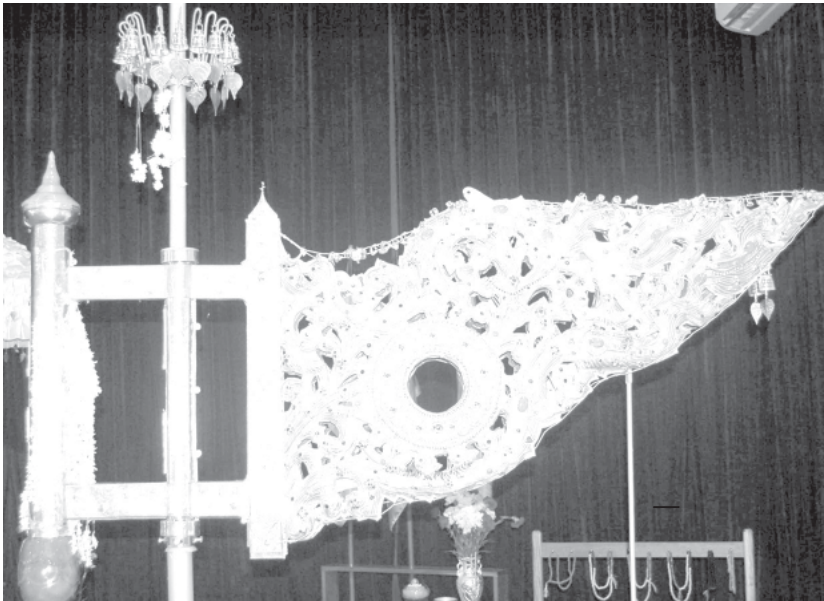
of Myanmar Mr. Mark Canning at the minister's office here on 17 February.

Also present were

Deputy Minister for Labour Brig-Gen Tin Tun Aung and officials.

MNA

DONATE BLOOD



Hngetmyatnardaw to be kept at the top of Uppatasanti Pagoda. (News on Page 1)—MNA



Maha Hsutaungpyi Buddha Image, Seinbudaw and Hngetmyatnardaw being conveyed to Uppatasanti Pagoda. (News on Page 1)—MNA

Ex-death row inmate's DNA not found on evidence

NASHVILLE, 21 Feb — DNA from key evidence in a Tennessee woman's slaying does not match the man who spent more than two decades on death row for killing her, according to new FBI lab tests.

Paul House, 47, who uses a wheelchair because he developed multiple sclerosis in prison, was convicted of killing Carolyn Muncey nearly 23 years ago. But the case against him has been in doubt for years because of DNA testing, which wasn't available then.

House was released last year after the US Supreme Court concluded no reasonable juror would have found him guilty based on DNA tests of semen stains on Muncey's clothing. Authorities had claimed he lured Muncey from her dilapidated cabin, beat her, killed her and then dumped her body in a culvert. There were no witnesses.

Internet

Three teens fatally shot on Chicago's South Side

CHICAGO, 21 Feb — Three teenagers, including a 13-year-old, were killed on Friday in a shooting on Chicago's South Side that authorities believe involved an assault rifle. It appears "several individuals" attacked the teens, and shell casings found at the scene point to at least one assault rifle, said Police Superintendent Jody Weis.

"It's just tragic, based on the guns that are on the streets, that three young men have lost their lives today," Weis said.

"We're bringing out every resource we have, and we'll work this case as hard as we can," he said.

Officials hope at least two surveillance video cameras near the crime scene will lead to clues, said police Cmdr Eddie Welch, who added that investigators are looking at "multiple scenes."

"They're in great positions," Welch said of the cameras.—*Internet*

Five killed in Ukrainian cargo plane fire in Egypt

CAIRO, 21 Feb — Five crew members died when a Ukrainian cargo plane crashed during takeoff, burst into flames and slid down the runway on Friday in the popular Egyptian tourist city of Luxor, officials said.

The plane was in the process of lifting off from the tarmac when it "slammed to the ground" and caught on fire, Egypt's Civil Aviation Minister Ahmad Shafiq said in a statement. The plane then slid off the tarmac and came to rest hundreds of yards from the runway where it was consumed in flames, he said.

The cargo plane, which had landed in Luxor to refuel, had a full tank, and this could have contributed to the fire, Shafiq said.

The Russian-made *Antonov An-12* cargo plane was traveling from Entebbe, Uganda to Ukraine when it stopped in Luxor, said an Egyptian aviation official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.—*Internet*

Mobile phones aim to be a 'doctor in your pocket'

Not content with offering calls, texts and Internet access, the mobile phone industry is convinced it can help save lives and offer health services to millions worldwide.

The idea of a phone serving as a "doctor in your pocket" has gained traction at the industry's biggest trade show, the Mobile World Congress, in Barcelona. Among a slew of possible applications in poor countries, insiders stressed the potential for the mobile phone to remind people to get vaccinations, take medicine, or undergo HIV tests.

Doctors and nurses working at distance from hospitals or clinics can also use mobile connections to relay information on local patients or report disease outbreaks.

"When you consider that there are 2.2 billion mobile phones in the devel-

oping world, 305 million computers but only 11 million hospital beds you can instantly see how mobiles can create effective solutions to address healthcare challenges," said Terry Kramer, strategy director at British operator Vodafone.

The Rockefeller Foundation, the UN Foundation and The Vodafone Foundation announced the Mobile Health (mHealth) Alliance this week, a partnership to advance the use of mobile technology in healthcare.

Man runs out of gas after robbing gas station

Authorities said they arrested a man who apparently forgot to fill up when he was robbing a gas station. The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office said a 23-year-old man used a Bowie knife to rob a Cape Haze gas station. Deputies said the man pulled the 12-inch blade and demanded money. But when he left, a customer followed him and called 911. While deputies were looking for signs of the robber, a newspaper carrier told them that a man in a car matching the one from the robbery had run out of gas nearby.

The man was arrested several hours after the robbery and charged with robbery with a weapon and loitering/prowling. He was released Monday on \$10,500 bail.

Answer to budget cuts: stop answering phones

One Colorado county clerk has an unusual response to staff cuts caused by budget shortfalls: Don't answer the phones.

The El Paso County clerk and recorder's office stopped answering telephones in three offices last month. The change was ordered by county clerk Bob Balink, who was forced to lay off 19 staffers late last year.

Balink hasn't commented on the phone shutdown, but the unanswered calls have two other local officials demanding a change.

El Paso's county assessor and county treasurer say the phone boycott is a bad move. They point out that some people don't have Internet access and can't drive to the clerk's office to see a county employee in person. Voice messages on the clerk's phones would refer people to the assessor's and treasurer's phone lines.

NEWS ALBUM



A tanker burns after being involved in a collision with a container ship in a shipping channel off the coast of Dubai. No fatalities were reported. The tanker's crew was evacuated safely after two sailors were pulled from the water with light injuries, a port spokeswoman said.

An infant male gorilla is seen in the gorilla habitat area at the San Francisco Zoo in San Francisco. The baby gorilla was born 8 Dec, 2008. The Zoo is hand-rearing the infant gorilla and surrogate training another female gorilla after the birth mother did not show interest in the newborn. The Zoo announced a global "Name the Baby" contest, as well as an online gift registry for the new arrival.



A saleswoman promotes her chocolate at a shopping mall in Tokyo, capital of Japan.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV DUBAI TRADER VOY NO (904)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DUBAI TRADER VOY NO (904) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.2.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S P.D.Z LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Border patrol agents shoot man as he runs over fellow officer

EL PASO, 21 Feb—US Border Patrol agents shot a man described as a suspected drug smuggler in the New Mexico desert on Thursday night, federal officials said on Friday.

Doug Mosier, a Border Patrol spokesman in El Paso, said agents were trying to stop a pickup truck headed north along a desert ranch road about 11 pm Thursday night,

when the driver ran over an agent.

At least one other agent at the scene opened fire, hitting the driver at least once.

Following the shooting, Mosier said, the driver of the truck crashed the vehicle along NM 9, about 25 miles west of the border crossing at Santa Teresa, about 14 miles west of El Paso. The agent and the driver, neither of whom have been identified, were both taken to a hospital in El Paso. Mosier said the agent suffered nonlife-threatening injuries.

Internet

Singapore barge crew kidnapped in Malacca Straits

KUALA LUMPUR, 21 Feb—Two crew of a Singapore-managed tug and barge have been kidnapped by pirates in the Strait of Malacca, a piracy reporting centre said on Saturday.

The incident occurred on Thursday, said Noel Choong, head of the International Maritime Bureau piracy reporting centre in Kuala Lumpur. He declined to disclose the nationality of the pirates or hostages.

"The pirates came up with guns, they attacked the ship and managed to board the ship and kidnapped two crew," Choong told *Reuters* by telephone.

The Strait of Malacca between peninsular Malaysia and Indonesia is among the world's busiest shipping lanes, used by more than 70,000 ships in 2007, including vessels supplying about 80 per cent of the energy needs of Japan and China.

Piracy in the Strait became so serious that in 2005 the Joint War Committee of the Lloyd's Market Association added the area to its list of war risk zones, sending premiums sharply higher.

Concerted efforts by Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore have helped slash the number of attacks.

MNA/Reuters

Laos to waive visa fees for young, elderly foreign visitors

HANOI, 21 Feb—Lao Government will waive visa fees for elderly and young foreigners entering the country as part of the efforts to promote tourism, Lao newspaper *Vientiane Times* reported Friday.

Lao Taxation department was drafting an order to inform the sectors concerned, including the ministries of public security and foreign affairs, to enforce the new decree which is expected to be put into practice within this year, said the newspaper.

According to general director of Lao Finance Ministry's Taxation Department Manivone Insisiengmay, the waiver would apply to foreigners aged over 65 and younger than 15.

Visas issued on arrival in Laos cost from 30 US dollars to 42 US dollars depending on a tourist's nationality. — *MNA/Xinhua*

"NY Times" suspends dividend to reduce debt

NEW YORK, 21 Feb—*New York Times* has decided to stop paying dividend for the first time since the company went public in 1969, as economic recession has hurt the company's ad revenue.

The third-largest US newspaper publisher said in a statement released Thursday afternoon after the market was closed that it will suspend its quar-

terly dividend of 6 cents a share to help reduce debt. The company already cut its payout by 74 per cent three months ago.

The suspension will save *New York Times* about 34.5 million US dollars annually, based on shares outstanding.

The trustees of the Ochs-Sulzberger family, who controls *New York Times*, said they supported

the dividend suspension as it is "in the best interest of all shareholders."

New York Times has seen advertising sales sliding as economic conditions weakened and it reported a 16 per cent drop in ad revenue in December. To cut cost the publisher is seeking buyers for its stake in the Boston Red Sox baseball team and is in talks about a sale-leaseback on its Manhattan headquarters.

In the past 12 months, *New York Times* shares have declined 82 per cent. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Tajikistan allows NATO cargo transit to Afghanistan

DUSHANBE, 21 Feb—Tajikistan has agreed to allow the transit of NATO non-military cargo through its territory to Afghanistan, a US military commander said on Tajik state television on Friday.

"Tajikistan has allowed (NATO) to use its railways and roads to transit non-military goods to Afghanistan," said Rear Admiral Mark Harnitchek of the US Transportation Command. Washington seeks to diversify supply routes for its troops in Afghanistan as militants in Pakistan step up attacks on supply convoys. Tajikistan's Central Asian neighbour Kyrgyzstan decided on Thursday to close a US military air base, removing one of the US military's supply routes into Afghanistan as it prepares to send more troops.

Kyrgyz President Kurmanbek Bakiyev signed the base closure decision into law on Friday. The country's Foreign Ministry is now expected to hand the United States an official eviction note. When that happens, Washington will have 180 days to wrap up its operations in Kyrgyzstan. — *MNA/Reuters*

Carnival revellers robbed by hotel gang in Rio

RIO DE JANEIRO, 21 Feb—Police in Rio de Janeiro said they are stepping up security after armed men hit two hotels, robbing 47 tourists in the Brazilian city for its famed Carnival festivities.

Visitors from the United States, Britain, Argentina and other countries were forced to hand over money, pass-

ports and cameras to a gang that took over their small hotel in the city centre before dawn yesterday. The robbers, brandishing handguns, grenades and knives, had gained entry after one of them asked to use the toilet and overpowered the receptionist, officers said.

Less than 24 hours earlier, another hotel

was hit in similar circumstances in the popular Copacabana beach neighbourhood. Thirteen tourists staying in the budget establishment were robbed by four armed men. Officials said a Carnival security plan drawn by hoteliers and police would be brought forward a day to Thursday because of the attacks.

Internet

India says it will oppose US 'protectionism'

NEW DELHI, 21 Feb—India on Friday vowed to oppose any protectionism moves by the United States as part of Washington's efforts to deal with the economic crisis.

"We are already witnessing worrying signs of protectionism in the world's biggest economy. We will need to argue against this

trend at the international fora (forums)," external affairs minister Pranab Mukherjee told a labour conference in New Delhi.

Mukherjee, who heads the Indian government's finance portfolio, said his country would also press for trade and aid flows to the developing world. India's

economy is "substantially internally driven" and therefore needed to generate greater domestic demand to cushion itself against the "economic turbulence abroad", he remarked.

He also underscored that India needed to look at regional cooperation as a defence against such crises. — *Internet*

Woman charged with baby's death

ROCK HILL, 21 Feb—A South Carolina woman has been charged with homicide after police say her unborn baby died when she tried to commit suicide in August.

Jessica Marie Clyburn, 22, tried to kill herself by jumping out a window, *The Rock Hill (SC) Herald* reported on Friday.

Clyburn reportedly told police she tried to kill herself because she was afraid the unborn child's father was going to leave her. Police said Clyburn was eight months pregnant when she jumped from a fifth-floor window and landed on a canopy four stories down.

Internet

India seeks information on Swiss accounts from Germany

NEW DELHI, 21 Feb—India has approached Germany to ascertain whether any Indian has an account in the Swiss branch of German-based Liechtenstein Bank, Minister of State for Finance Pawan Kumar Bansal said here.

"The Central Board of Direct Taxes is pursuing the matter, so is our Ambassador to Germany," Bansal said in the Rajya Sabha replying to a debate on the Prevention of Money Laundering (Amendment) Bill. Leader of Opposition Jaswant Singh had written to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh asking whether the government has taken up the issue with the German authorities.

MNA/PTI

Cosmic stage set for comet Lulin's fly-by

ARIZONA, 21 Feb—A recently discovered comet is making its closest approach to Earth in the next few days and offers anyone with binoculars or a small telescope a chance to see some frozen leftovers of our solar system's making.

Comet Lulin has, as expected, crossed the threshold to naked-eye visibility for people with dark, rural skies. It hovers just inside that envelope of visibility, however, and is not likely visible from cities, where the glare of urban lights can drown out all but the brightest night-sky objects.

"The comet is now naked-eye (if you're out in the country) and is brightening every day as it approaches Earth," said Jack Newton, who has made several photographs of Lulin from his Arizona Sky Village, a residential community committed to pristine natural surroundings and dark skies. "Some feel it will reach maximum brightness on Sat-



Comet Lulin as photographed by amateur astronomer Jack Newton in Arizona.—INTERNET

urday morning."

NASA has imaged the comet, too, finding that it is shedding into space enough water to fill an Olympic-size swimming pool every 15 minutes, as the sun boils the comet's surface material away. Lulin will be closest to Earth — about 38 million miles, or 160 times farther than the moon — on 24 February.

Internet

South African hippo finds happy home in city's sewage plant

JOHANNESBURG, 21 Feb—A young male hippopotamus has made a new home in a sewage plant, South African wildlife officials said on Thursday. The nearly 1,800-pound hippo wandered into Cape Town's Cape Flats Waste Water Treatment plant from an adjacent marsh after a fence was stolen, said Julia Wood, manager of the city's biodiversity programme.

Wood said the 4-year-old hippo, named Zorro because of the zigzag scar on his back caused by his father's tusk dur-

ing a fight, was "happy" in his new surroundings. He is living in the plant's pans — shallow pools made mostly redundant by new technology. The pans now contain primarily clean water surrounded by grassy areas.

"There are big beautiful pans and lots of grazing," Wood said. Wood said it is believed that Zorro had been on the run from his father, Brutus when he found the gap in the fence. Young bull hippos will often get booted out of their herd

after challenging the strongest male. In the wild, the young males move off and begin their own herds.

The sewage plant and the wetlands that surround it are part of the False Bay Coastal Park, one of the many nature reserves in a city famous for its flora and fauna. The wetland area is home to the only six hippos in Cape Town, where they were once numerous. The creatures, which are becoming endangered, were reintroduced 30 years ago.

Internet

Galeras volcano erupts

BOGOTA, 21 Feb—Galeras volcano in southern Colombia erupted on Friday for the second time in less than a week, the Colombian Institute of Geology and Mines said, with no victims or damage yet reported.

A forceful eruption began at 07:05 (12:05 GMT), neighbours reported.

The regional alert system was raised to its highest level, the institute

said in a statement. It follows a similar eruption late Saturday at the volcano, which is located near the border with Ecuador. That eruption caused no casualties or damage.

The 4 270m Galeras has stirred sporadically in recent years. It erupted in January 2008, causing no casualties, but a 1993 eruption claimed the lives of nine people.

Internet

At least 32 die of hepatitis-B in India

NEW DELHI, 21 Feb—At least 32 people have died of Hepatitis-B infections over the past week in the western Indian state of Gujarat, after seven people died Friday of the disease, local media reported on Saturday.

Local TV network NDTV said more people were infected with the disease as some doctors

were suspected to have used unsterilized needles carrying the virus when treating patients.

Two doctors were arrested Friday after being charged by the local health department for using unsterilized and used syringes, but were later released by court on bail, said the *Press Trust of India* news agency.

MNA/Xinhua

Scientists close in on cure for severe nut allergies

LONDON, 21 Feb—A group of children with severe peanut allergies have had their conditions successfully treated, allowing them to eat nuts without suffering any reaction for the first time. The success of the preliminary clinical trial, conducted by Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge, England, shows the possibility of modifying an allergy by desensitising the sufferer.

Scientists say that the development brings them one step closer to curing nut allergies. Researchers gave small daily doses of peanut flour to children with severe peanut allergy to help them to build tolerance to the nuts over a six-month period. By the

end of the trial, the children could eat up to 12 nuts a day without suffering a life-threatening reaction in the form of anaphylaxis.

Peanut allergy is increasingly common. Reactions can range from itching, rashes and swelling to breathing difficulties caused by a narrowing of the airways, and severe asthma. It is the most common serious allergic reaction but, unlike other childhood food allergies, it rarely recedes over time. Andrew Clark, a consultant in paediatric allergy who worked on the trial, said that further studies were planned into different types of nuts, as well as kiwi fruit. —Internet

Two Russian hostages escape Nigerian captors

LOGOS, 21 Feb—Two Russian expatriates kidnapped two months ago by gunmen in the Niger Delta were rescued on Thursday by Nigerian soldiers on routine patrol, a military spokesman said.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sagir Musa said the two Russians had escaped from their captors and wandered in the delta for several days before being spotted by Nigerian troops.

"(They) escaped from a yet to be identified militant camp and for the past five days were wandering in the creeks before our own patrol teams saw and rescued them," Musa said.

Gunmen in speedboats kidnapped the two Russians on December 20. They worked for Nigeria's sole aluminum smelter plant



ALSCON in the port town of Ikot Abasi in Akwa Ibom. The firm is owned by the world's largest aluminum producer, Russia's United Company RUSAL.

Hundreds of foreigners have been seized in the Niger Delta since early 2006, most of whom have been released unharmed.

Nigeria's most prominent militant group, the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), last month ended a five-month-old ceasefire and threatened more attacks on the oil sector.

MNA/Reuters

Moderate quake hits off Ryukyu Islands

HONG KONG, 21 Feb—An earthquake measuring 5.6 magnitude struck near Ryukyu Islands at 0017 GMT Saturday, according to a bulletin released by Hong Kong Observatory.

The epicenter of the quake was initially determined to be at 28.9 north latitude and 130.9 east longitude, about 300 km south of Kagoshima, Japan.—Internet

Three cleared over murder of Russian journalist

MOSCOW, 20 Feb—A jury in Moscow on Thursday acquitted three men charged with involvement on the murder of independent journalist Anna Politkovskaya.

The not guilty verdicts followed a two month trial that was hampered from the start by the man accused of masterminding the shooting, Rustam Makhmudov. Sergei Khadzhikurbanov — a former Moscow police officer — and Makhmudov's brothers, Ibragim and Dzhabrail were found not guilty of shooting dead Politkovskaya, a Kremlin critic, outside her Moscow home in October, 2006.

Politkovskaya's death was described by media reports in Russia at the time as a contract-style killing.

A security camera captured a man in a white baseball cap entering the building a few moments before she was shot three times in the chest and once in the head.—Internet

Bomb threats prompt evacuation of two schools in Oregon

SAN FRANCISCO, 21 Feb—Authorities evacuated another school in Oregon on Friday after uncovering a bomb threat, the second case in two days in the US state's Molalla School District, local newspaper reported.

Teachers at Molalla River Middle School found a threat written in one of the school's restrooms, which claimed a bomb was set to go off at a certain time Friday morning. The Oregonian newspaper said

in a report on its website. Authorities then called a fire drill to help the school be evacuated in an orderly fashion. Police searched the middle school building but did not find anything.

They believe the threat was unfounded. According to the report, Molalla High School was also evacuated Thursday after a bomb threat was discovered in a restroom. The school remains closed Friday.

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

The Women's tennis Association fines Dubai Championship organizers \$300,000

ST PETERSBURG, 21 Feb—The WTA Tour has fined Dubai Championships organizers a record \$300,000 after Israeli tennis player Shahar Peer was denied a visa by the United Arab Emirates.

The WTA also took steps on Friday to compensate Peer and ensure she and other Israeli players won't be shut out of future tournaments in the Emirates.

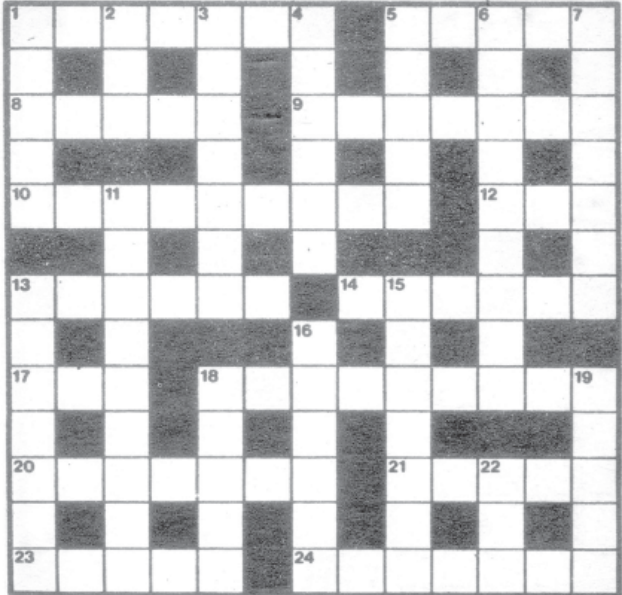
Organizers said at the time that they feared fan anger over Israel's recent military offensive in the Gaza Strip would spill into riots in the Persian Gulf country if Peer were to play.

Part of the fine will go to Peer and doubles partner Anna-Lena Groenefeld of Germany to make up for the prize money they could have won at the lucrative tournament.—*Internet*



Serbia's Ana Ivanovic returns the ball to Serena Williams of the US during the Quarter Finals of the Emirates Dubai WTA Tennis Championships in Dubai, United Arab Emirates on 19 February.—*INTERNET*

CROSSWORDS PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Abridge
- 5 Retinue
- 8 Horseman
- 9 Institute for higher education
- 10 Flagrantly
- 12 Before
- 13 Vacillate
- 14 Bosom
- 17 Pelt
- 18 Nature
- 20 Altered
- 21 Idol
- 23 Awe
- 24 Country walks

DOWN

- 1 Scour
- 2 Curious
- 3 Row of houses
- 4 Degree of precision
- 5 Foolish
- 6 Graceless
- 7 Basic part
- 11 Wrangle
- 13 Disfigured
- 15 Fidelity to life
- 16 Run in stocking
- 18 Imprisoned
- 19 Staggers
- 22 Everything



Aston Villa's Emile Heskey (L) shields the ball from Chelsea's Michael Ballack during their English Premier League soccer match at Villa Park in Birmingham, central England on 21 Feb, 2009.—*INTERNET*

Bayern's Podolski in spotlight against Cologne

BERLIN, 21 Feb—Bayern Munich striker Lukas Podolski will be in the spotlight on Saturday when his team entertain Cologne, the club he has agreed to re-join at the end of the season. Podolski received a standing ovation from his adoring Cologne fans and waved to the crowd after scoring one goal and setting up another in Bayern's 3-0 away win in September, incensing officials at his own club.

"It is not an ordinary match but there is too much fanfare surrounding it," he told reporters this week.

"I am happy the transfer (to Cologne) is complete but in the next three or four months I will step on the gas to win a title (with Bayern)."—*Internet*

BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE

(21-2-2009)

Arsenal	0 - 0	Sunderland
Aston Villa	0 - 1	Chelsea
Bolton	2 - 1	West Ham Utd
Man Utd	2 - 1	Blackburn
Middlesbrough	0 - 0	Wigan Athletic
Stoke City	2 - 2	Portsmouth



Manchester United's Dimitar Berbatov (L) challenges Blackburn Rovers' Vincenzo Grella during their English Premier League soccer match in Manchester on 21 Feb, 2009.—*INTERNET*

FIFA inundated by World Cup ticket demands

JOHANNESBURG, 21 Feb—FIFA received around 200 applications a minute in the first five hours when World Cup tickets went on sale on Friday. There were 60,000 online ticket applications worldwide within the first five hours, far exceeding expectations, world football's governing body said in a statement.

It added that thousands

of South Africans collected paper applications from bank branches in the 2010 tournament's host country. Organizers said the opening day of ticket sales dispelled any doubts about the tournament going ahead in South Africa.

"The beginning of this part of the build-up to the World Cup is our irrevocable promise that we make to the people of the world that all is in place and will be ready for 2010," said Organising Committee chief executive officer Danny Jordaan.—*Internet*



English pair lead Johnnie Walker Classic

SYDNEY, 21 Feb—English pair John Bickerton and Ross McGowan stormed to the top of a congested leaderboard after the third round of the Johnnie Walker Classic on Saturday.

Bickerton birdied six of the last 12 two holes in Perth to card a six-under-par 66 while McGowan made five birdies on the back nine for a 65 to head into Sunday's final round tied for the lead at 14-under 202.

The two Britons finished two strokes clear of four players, Chile's Felipe Aguilar (68), Frenchman Raphael Jacquelin (66), Australia's Terry Pilkadaris (68) and New Zealand amateur Danny Lee (69).

Internet

Solano taken to hospital with dehydration

LIMA, 21 Feb—Peru captain Nolberto Solano was rushed to hospital after feeling unwell following Universitario's 1-0 win over San Lorenzo in the Libertadores Cup on Thursday.

Solano, who has made a huge impact in the three games he has played since his surprise return to his homeland, was later released after being treated for dehydration. "It was dehydration, I was suffering from a lot of cramp and as a precaution they brought me here.—*Internet*



Cars take part in an automobile soccer match during a demonstration of Top Gear Live before its performance in Hong Kong on 19 Feb, 2009. The British TV show holds its first Asian tour to the territory.—*INTERNET*

Asleep in Jesus
Dr Saw Kalosay Doh Sein Paw
 Dental Specialist
 Mandalay General Hospital
 61 years
 (PyinOoLwin)
 Residing at No. 82, 12th Street, Nyandaw Ward, PyinOoLwin; son of (U Saw Sein Paw+Daw Naw Khu Khu); beloved husband of Daw Naw Rebecca Din (Township Medical Officer-Retd); younger brother of (U Saw Sein Tun Aung)+Daw Naw Marina; elder brother of Daw Naw Mu Yei Wah and U Saw Daniel Sein Paw; beloved father of U Saw Lah Pho+Daw Naw Mwi Mwi Doh, Daw Naw Thit Thit, Naw Hla Myo Su, Saw Sein Din, Naw Su Myittar; grandfather of three fell asleep in Jesus peacefully at 3 a.m. on 21-2-2009 (Saturday). Funeral service will be conducted at PyinOoLwin Kayin Baptist Church at 12 noon on 23-2-2009 and thence the remains will be conveyed to 8th Mile Christian Cemetery for burial at 1 p.m.
 Bereaved family

Kyrgyzstan serves airbase eviction notice to US
 ALMATY, 21 Feb—Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Kadyrbek Sarbayev delivered a formal notice to the US Ambassador to Kyrgyzstan on Friday, demanding that the United States close the Manas military airbase and have its troops leave the country in 180 days.
 Sarbayev officially handed the notice to US Ambassador Tatiana Gfoeller in the capital Bishkek on Friday afternoon, a Foreign Ministry statement said.
 Earlier Friday, Kyrgyz President Kurmanbek Bakiyev signed a law to close the Manas airbase, used for US anti-terror operations in Afghanistan. Bakiyev's signature came after the Kyrgyz Parliament voted overwhelmingly in favour of the closure on Thursday.
 MNA/Xinhua

MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (22.2.2009) (Sunday)

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

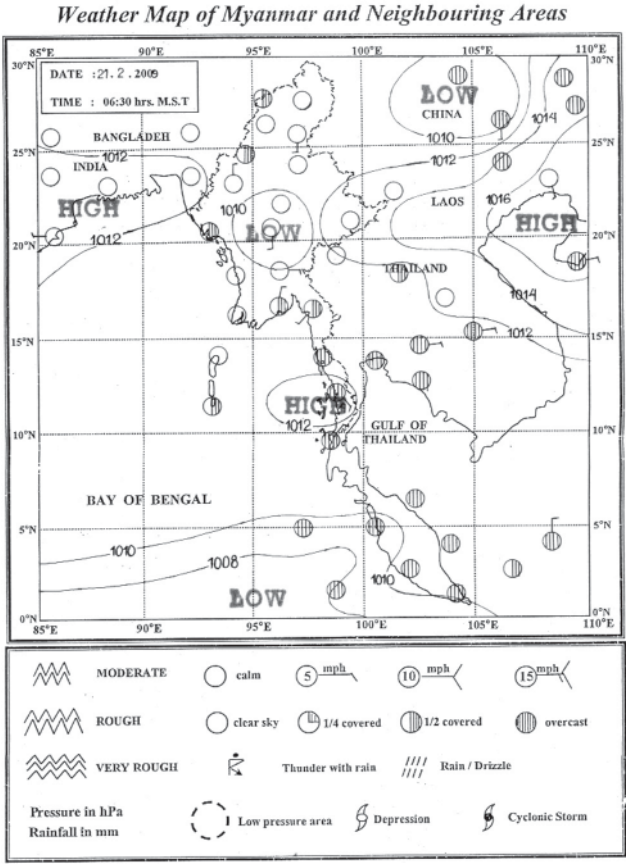
Local Transmission

- Signature Tune
- Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- Dressing Styles of Law-Waw Ladies
- National Progress through regional development
- Rakhine Traditional Wedding Ceremony
- A Little Village of Kyar Ton
- Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Europe/ North America Transmission

- Signature Tune
- Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- Pan - Say Region, Home to Kho - Hlon - Lishaws
- Glazed Earthen Pot
- Traditional Rice Cakes and Gram Pretzel
- From Sandstones to Utensils
- Be Fashionable with Myanmar Cotton wear
- Myanma Paintings of Successive Periods
- Myanmar Movies Impact
- Myanma Natural Spirulina (Part-I)
- The Soruce of the River Ayeyawady
- Dressing Styles of Law - Waw Ladies
- National Progress through regional development
- Rakhine Traditional Wedding Ceremony
- A Little Village of Kyar Ton
- Sittway with Magnificent Sight
- Life-Like ... Embossed relief painting
- Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm



WEATHER
Saturday, 21 February, 2009
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in Taninthayi Division, weather has been partly cloudy in Rakhine State and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) below February average temperatures in Chin State, (3°C) to (4°C) above February average temperatures in Kachin, Rakhine, Kayah and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, (6°C) above February average temperatures in Shan State and Bago Division and about February average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (4°C), Lashio and Ann (5°C) each. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Myeik (0.16) inch.
 Maximum temperature on 20-2-2009 was 99°F. Minimum temperature on 21-2-2009 was 71°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 21-2-2009 was 70%. Total sunshine hours on 20-2-2009 was (6.5) hrs approx.
 Rainfall on 21-2-2009 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 Southeast at (16:30) hours MST on 20-2-2009.
Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.
Forecast valid until evening of 22nd February 2009: Possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Shan and Mon States, upper Sagaing and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).
State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.
Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated light rain in the extreme Northern Myanmar areas.
Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 22-2-2009: Generally fair weather.
Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 22-2-2009: Partly cloudy.
Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 22-2-2009: Generally fair weather.

Time	Programme	Time	Programme
8:20 am	8. International news	2:20 pm	7. Musical programme
8:30 am	9. ရေဘုတ်ရေလှောင်တံခံ	2:30 pm	8. စွမ်းအားစုံညီကြက်ခြေနီ
8:45 am	10. Musical programme	2:45 pm	9. International news
11:00 am	1. Martial song	4:00 pm	1. Martial song
11:10 am	2. Musical programme	4:10 pm	2. Dance of national races
11:25 am	3. Round up of the week's international news	4:20 pm	3. Musical programme
11:40 am	4. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "အားကိုးချစ်သူကျေးတောသူ" (အပိုင်း-၂၅)	4:35 pm	4. ၂၀၀၉ခုနှစ်တက္ကသိုလ်ဝင်စာမေးပွဲ ဘာသာရပ်ဆိုင်ရာသင်ခန်းစာ (အင်္ဂလိပ်စာဘာသာရပ်) (အပိုင်း-က)
12:25 pm	5. Golf magazine (TV)	5:00 pm	5. Songs to uphold National Spirit
12:45 pm	6. မြန်မာ့ဗီဒီယိုဇာတ်လမ်း "နှစ်ကိုယ်ခွဲဇာတ်လမ်း" (လူမင်း၊ ထက်ထက်မိုးဦး) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဟိန်းစိုး)	5:10 pm	6. ညီညာပေါင်းစုပြတိုက် ကျေးဇူးတင်ရွာမှထမနဲပွဲ
7:00 am	1. တောင်တန်းသာသနာပြုဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၏ပရိတ်တရားတော်	5:25 pm	7. Sing and enjoy
7:25 am	2. To be healthy exercise	6:00 pm	8. Evening news
7:30 am	3. Morning news	6:30 pm	9. Weather report
7:40 am	4. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ(၃၈)ဖြာမင်္ဂလာ	6:35 pm	10. ကာတွန်းအစီအစဉ် "Pocket Dragon Adventure"
7:50 am	5. Nice and sweet song	6:55 pm	11. တစ်မျက်နှာတစ်ကွက်စာ "အတူတူပါပဲ" (သတ္တိ၊ ထက်အိကလျာ) [ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကြည်သာ (ပွဲကြိုက်ခင်)]
8:05 am	6. အတိုးမြှင့်ပွဲ	7:15 pm	12. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "သစ္စာနှင့်ယှဉ်သောမေတ္တာ" (အပိုင်း-၂၁)
8:15 am	7. "တန်ဖိုး" (ညီညီနေနိုင်၊ လှိုင်ဖြူဖြူထွန်း)	8:00 pm	13. News



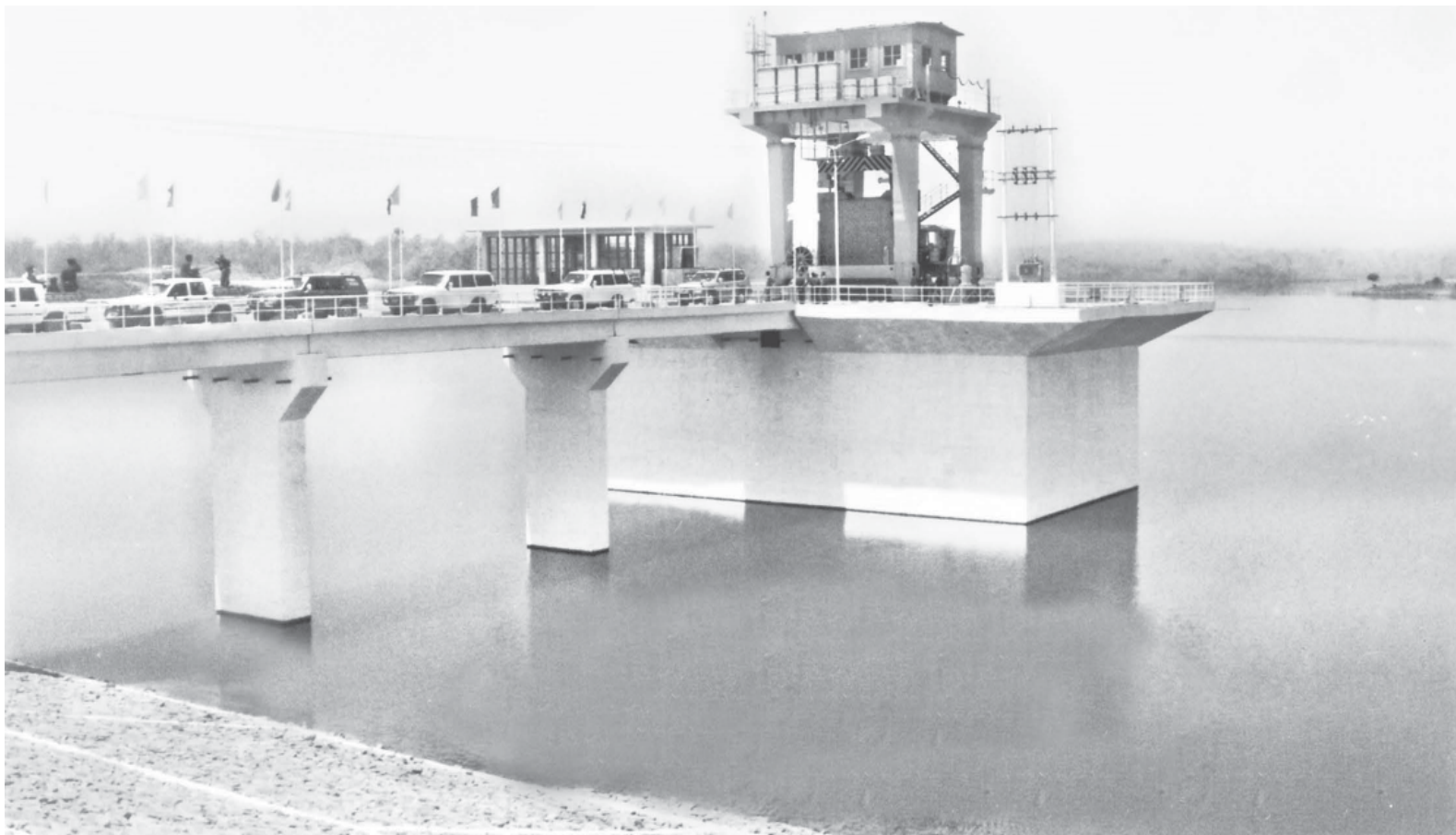
Zaungtu Multipurpose Dam in service of regional development

Article by Khin Aung Kyaw, Photo by (Kyemon)

The government is building a large number of dams and reservoirs and embankments for the development of agricultural sector, while taking systematic measures for all-round development of the State. As a result, remarkable progress has been made in all the sectors of the State.

Indeed the birth of Zaungtu Multipurpose Dam in Bago Division has contributed significantly to regional and national development. The irrigation facility not only benefits 36,000 of farmlands in Bago Division but also prevents flood water from entering farmlands in Bago Township and its neighbouring regions.

There were no hydroelectric power plants in Bago Division until 1988. At that time, the division had to rely solely on power supply of the national grid and diesel



Zaungtu Multipurpose Dam in Bago Township benefiting 36,000 acres of farmland.

generators. Now, the large-scale hydroelectric power project developed on Zaungtu Multipurpose Dam is now generating 20 megawatts to meet the

power demand of the division.

For development of Bago Division Shwekyin, Kunchaung, Phyuhaung, Khabaung and Yenwe

multipurpose dams are under implementation. Upon completion, the irrigation facilities will be able to generate 230 megawatts, thereby contribut-

ing much towards regional development.

It is sure that the emergence of a cluster of dams and reservoirs and embankments in Bago Divi-

sion will enhance the socio-economic status of local people all the more.

Translation: TS
(Kyemon: 20-2-2009)

Ground squirrels



Ground squirrels are able to relearn their ability to recognize the smell of their siblings after hibernation, which gives an additional advantage in forming groups for protection.—INTERNET

Smoking Linked To Most Male Cancer Deaths

SCIENCE DAILY, 21 Feb—The association between tobacco smoke and cancer deaths — beyond lung cancer deaths — has been strengthened by a recent study from a UC Davis researcher, suggesting that increased tobacco control efforts could save more lives than previously estimated. The epidemiological analysis linked smoking to more than 70 percent of the cancer death burden among Massachusetts men in 2003. This



A new analysis linked smoking to more than 70 percent of the cancer death burden among Massachusetts men in 2003. This percentage is much higher than the previous estimate of 34 percent in 2001.

percentage is much higher than the previous estimate of 34 percent in 2001.

“This study provides support for the growing understanding among researchers that smoking is a cause of many more cancer deaths besides lung cancer,” said lead author Bruce Leistikow, a UC Davis associate adjunct professor of public health sciences.—Internet

Arsenal 0-0 Sunderland

LONDON, 21 Feb—Arsenal played out their third successive 0-0 draw at home to Sunderland in the Barclays Premier League.

Andrei Arshavin's debut failed to help Arsenal conjure up a goal as they played out another frustrating draw at the Emirates Stadium.

The Russian saw an early low shot fly just wide, before Marton Fulop beat away his angled drive.

Sunderland battled well and were worth a share of the spoils as the Gunners again could not break down a stubborn defence and missed a chance to close the gap on the top four.—Internet



Arsenal played out their third successive 0-0 draw at home to Sunderland in the Barclays Premier League.—INTERNET

INSIDE

Giant step towards democratic transition

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ARTICLE

