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Senior General Than Shwe felicitates Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb— On the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the National Day of Brunei Darussalam which falls on 23 February 2009, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.— MNA

True patriotism

- * It is very important for everyone of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.
- * Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

Prime Minister inspects disaster preparedness, development projects in Ayeyawady Division



Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects tasks for construction of Cyclone Shelter by Htoo Trading in Kadonkani Village, Bogale Township.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb— Chairman of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Prime Minister General Thein Sein, accompanied by the ministers, the deputy ministers, the director-general of the Government Office and departmental officials, on 21 February left Yangon yes-

terday by helicopter for Pyapon, to inspect development tasks of storm-hit areas in Ayeyawady Division, road network project and construction of cyclone shelter.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein was welcomed by Maj-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of

Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe and Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing and officials.

The Prime Minister visited basic domestic science course conducted by Education and Training

Prime Minister sends message of felicitations to Brunei Darussalam

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb— On the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the National Day of Brunei Darussalam which falls on 23 February 2009, General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.— MNA



Department under the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs at Thiri Annawa Hall in Pyapon. He cordially greeted the trainees.

The Prime Minister said the basic domestic science course has been conducted for local youths under the guidance of the Head of State and arrangements are being

made for opening of industrial training schools in the suitable places. He urged the trainees to be proficient in vocational career.

Next, the Prime Minister viewed learning of tailoring, knitting, and clothes made by trainees and presented sewing machines and cash to the course in-charge.

(See page 8)

Prime Minister General Thein Sein views learning of trainees at cookery course in Bogale Education College.—MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 23 February, 2009

Utilize modern cultivation techniques for agricultural progress

The government is making all efforts for the country to keep abreast of the nations of the world, to develop the national economy and to further improve the living standard of the national people.

The government is also endeavouring for transforming conventional farming into mechanized farming in the country. Being an agro-based country, agriculture is still the mainstay of the country's economy as well as the main income source.

Modern techniques are to be utilized in order to boost production of agricultural produce and to explore water and land resources. Regarding the agricultural sector, agriculturalists are seeking quality strains of crops and conducting research on cultivation techniques.

Under the modern mechanized farming system, Dagon International Co Ltd undertakes cultivation of summer paddy in block No. 1 in agricultural mechanized model farming special zone-1 in Dagon Myothit (East) Township in Yangon Division, Htoo Trading Co Ltd cultivation of 50 acres of summer paddy and Shwenaga Min Co Ltd cultivation of high yield paddy in special zone-2 in Dagon Myothit (South) Township.

Collective efforts are to be made to become a major model farm through conducting courses on modern systematic techniques for farmers. Utilization of fertilizer and folio fertilizer and scientific cultivation methods is necessary for farmers to boost production of paddy and other crops.

Fire fighters of Mandalay Division Fire Services Department show demonstration on fire fighting with a fire extinguisher in Mandalay on 10 February.

NLM



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

Development work facilitated in Putao Township

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb—Efforts should be made to complete the new Putao-Mansekhun-Ziyadan road before the onset of open season in accord with the Head of State's guidance, said Maj-Gen Ohn Myint of the Ministry of Defence during his visit to upper Hsangaung village in Putao Township on 16 February.

Officials briefed him on the situation of the new Putao-Mansekhun-Ziyadan road and the existing Putao-Hsangaung-Ziyadan road at the village near Pataik creek. Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Brig-Gen Soe Wingave a supplementary report.

At the post-primary school of the village, Maj-Gen Ohn Myint met with teachers,



Maj-Gen Ohn Myint inspects Mansay suspension bridge linking Dagushiza and Mansay villages in Putao Township.—MNA

local elders and local people. He then inspected generating electricity with hydropower from Pataik creek to supply power to the village. He held meetings with teachers, local elders and local people at middle school in lower Hsangaung village

and at the primary school in Monngul village.

Maj-Gen Ohn Myint's inspection tour also included a 250-foot suspension bridge linking Dagushiza and Nantbauk villages in Putao Township and another suspension bridge linking

Dagushiza and Mansay village.

At Hokho ward in Putao, he facilitated the work of harnessing Nankhanti creek to generate power. He also inspected the durability of a bridge on Lonhsot creek.

MNA

Commander looks into regional development works in Taunggyi, Nyaung Shwe, Hopong Townships

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb—The opening of Mya Nadi crop drying factory was held at the archway of the plant at Taung Laylon village in Taunggyi Township on 14 February. Chairman of the Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of

Eastern Command Brig-Gen Yar Pyae pressed the button to open the factory and sprinkled scented water on it, and presented cash rewards.

The commander and party inspected process of making maize grains dry with the use of machines in the factory.

Next, the commander and party looked into breeding of milch cows on a commercial scale at the farm in Thanatkhar village.

At the briefing hall of livestock breeding special zone of Tilaw village-tract in Nyaung Shwe Township, the commander heard reports on the setting up of livestock breeding special

zone in the state presented by chairman and officials of supervisory committee for setting up of livestock breeding special zone and attended to the needs, and looked into progress in construction of roads in the zone.

On 15 February, the commander and officials inspected progress of beautifying and cleaning of Inlay Lake in Nyaung Shwe Township by boat.

Next, the commander and wife and party attended the opening of Myat Shwe-oh self-reliant library in Teya Ywama-inn village. The commander opened the building and presented cash donation to the library. The assistant

director and wellwishers also presented books, journals and cash assistance.

Next, the commander and party went to self-reliant village digital exchange and inspected installation of telephone lines in the village and visited Sein Thamadi gold/silversmith industry.

Afterwards, they viewed skill demonstration of parade company and military band representing Eastern Command at the parade ground of Defence Services Institute of Technology and Computer Studies in Hopong Township and presented cash awards and medicines.—MNA

13 civilians killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, 22 Feb — The US-led coalition in Afghanistan confirmed on Saturday that 13 civilians were killed in an operation against militants, with such casualties a major source of tension between Kabul and its allies.

The US military at first said that 15 militants were killed in air strikes in the western province of Herat late Monday but local officials said six women and two children were among the dead.

An Afghan army and coalition forces team visited the area after the local allegations, it said. "Coalition forces confirmed three militants and 13 non-combatants were killed during a coalition forces' operation near Gozara district, Herat Province, on 17 February," the coalition said in a statement.

It did not say who the 13 were.

"We expressed our deepest condolences to the survivors of the non-combatants who were killed during this operation," said US Brigadier General Michael Ryan in the statement.

The number of civilian casualties in military operations is one of the main sources of tension between President Hamid Karzai's government and the United States, Kabul's main military backer.

The United Nations said this week that more than 2,000 civilians were killed in insurgency-linked violence last year, the highest civilian death toll since the 2001 ouster of the Taliban.

About 40 percent of them died in military action, it said.—Internet



A damaged vehicle is seen after an air strike in Gozara district of Herat Province 17 February, 2009. US forces killed at least one child, video footage obtained by Reuters on Wednesday showed, in an air strike in western Afghanistan that Afghan police say killed 12 civilians and US forces said killed 16 militants.—INTERNET

US tests military exit routes out of Iraq

BAGHDAD, 22 Feb — The American military is shipping battlefield equipment through Jordan and Kuwait, testing possible exit routes in advance of a US withdrawal in Iraq, military officials said.

The convoys — carrying armoured vehicles, weapons and other items — mark the Pentagon's first steps in confronting the complex logistics of transporting the huge arsenal stockpiled in Iraq over nearly six years.

It's also part of a wider assessment, ordered by US Central Command, to decide what items the military can transfer, donate, sell or toss away once a full-scale withdrawal is under way, Marine Corps and Army officials told *The Associated Press*.

"Because they are starting to see a potential reduction of forces, they are looking to get more stuff out," Terry Moores, the deputy assistant chief of staff for logistics for Marine Corps Central Command, said on Saturday.—Internet



An internally displaced Iraqi woman sews together pieces of plastic sheeting to insulate her family's tent in a slum close to a garbage dump on the outskirts of the city of Karbala, some 120 kms from Baghdad in November 2008. More than 1.6 million Iraqis are still displaced and in urgent need of assistance after fleeing sectarian violence, the International Organization for Migration said.

INTERNET

Six militants killed in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 22 Feb — Six Taliban militants were killed on Saturday in Afghanistan's southern province of Kandahar, Interior Ministry said in a press release Sunday.

"Afghanistan's enemies attacked a police check point in Dand district on Saturday and the police returned fire killing six militants on the spot," the press release added.

It also said that two policemen were injured during the gun battle lasted for a while.

Conflicts and Taliban-linked militancy which claimed the lives of more than 5,000 people in 2008 in Afghanistan.—Internet

Afghan army kills five militants, arrests 12 others

KABUL, 22 Feb — Afghan troops launched operation against Taliban militants in the eastern province of Khost and surrounding areas Saturday and have killed five rebels and detained dozen others, an army officer Mastak Khan Zazi said.

"During the operation backed by the international troops, five militants were killed and 12 others including four injured militants were detained from the districts of Ali Shir and Sabari of Khost Province," Zazi told *Xinhua* on Sunday.

He also said that the aim of the operation is to further stabilize security in the eastern region.—Internet



Fleha Mohammed, 62, visits her destroyed family home in the district of Dora in Baghdad, Iraq, on 18 Feb, 2009. Fleha and her family fled heavy fighting in 2006 and returned two years later to find her home destroyed. The family is renting a house nearby since they lack means to rebuild their own.—INTERNET

A bus destroyed in a collision with a British military vehicle late Tuesday night on the outskirts of Basra, Iraq, on 18 Feb, 2009.

INTERNET



US soldier killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 22 Feb — An American soldier died on Saturday during combat patrol near Baghdad, the US military said in a statement.

The statement did not reveal how and where exactly the incident took place, but said the soldier is assigned to Multi National Division-Baghdad (MND-B), which is also known as Task Force Baghdad.

The name of the deceased is being withheld pending notification of next of kin, the statement said, adding that the incident is under investigation.—Internet

Chavez sees Fidel twice in surprise Cuba trip

HAVANA, 22 Feb—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has met twice with the ailing 82-year-old Fidel Castro during a surprise 24-hour visit to Cuba.

Cuban state media says Chavez arrived Friday night on a working visit

and was greeted by Fidel's younger brother President Raul Castro.

Venezuela's socialist leader — fresh off a referendum win that allows him to run for re-election — met with Fidel Castro Friday night and again shortly before departing

Saturday.

There were no images of Chavez meeting with Fidel Castro, only with his younger brother.

Fidel has not been seen in public since mid-2006 when he underwent intestinal surgery and ceded power to Raul.—Internet



Rescue workers prepare to get into the coal mine to look for survivors in north China's Shanxi Province, on 22 Feb, 2009. More than 40 miners have died after a coal mine blast occurred at about 2:00 am Sunday at the Tunlan Coal Mine of Shanxi Coking Coal Group in Gujiao City near Taiyuan, capital of north China's Shanxi Province, while rescuers are pulling out the trapped from the shaft, according to a rescuer at the site. —XINHUA

Afghans' demonstration helps secure the release of four suspects

KABUL, 22 Feb—Hundreds of Afghans came to the streets in Logar Province, 60 km south of Afghan capital Kabul, on Saturday and blocked a highway for hours, demanding the release of four persons who were arrested on charge of having link with Taleban militants.

The US-led Coalition forces, according to locals, raided Lashkarkhil village in Mohammad Agha district late Friday night, killing one person detaining four others, all of them civilians.

Villagers denounced it as highhandedness and called on provincial administration to secure the release of the sus-

pected men.

"With the mediation of provincial governor Atiqullah Ludin, the troops set the four men

free," spokesman of provincial administration Deen Mohammad Darvish told Xinhua.

Internet



Shiite militants prepare a roadside bomb on the corner of a street in the southern city of Basra in March 2008. Iran offered to stop attacking troops in Iraq if the West dropped opposition to its nuclear programme, a top British official said in comments to be broadcast on Saturday.—INTERNET

Iraq reopens Abu Ghraib prison west of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 22 Feb—The Iraqi authorities on Saturday reopened the notorious prison of Abu Ghraib, which was known as a symbol of American abuse of some Iraqi prisoners.

The name of the prison compound is now changed to Baghdad Central Prison as the authorities believe that the old name has left a bitter feeling in the memories of Iraqis.

The new facility has recreational areas, including a sewing room, exercise equipment, computers, a library and green houses.

The renovated prison is now reopened for 300 prisoners and their number will increase to more than 3,000 inmates, rehabilitation chief Abdul-Mutalib Jassim told reporters.

The prison is designed to hold 12,000 inmates after achieving final renovation, Jassim said.—Internet

Japan snowstorm disrupts flights, damages houses

TOKYO, 22 Feb—A snowstorm in Japan has damaged houses, caused power failures, disrupted train service and led to

the cancellation of more than 150 domestic flights, local authorities said on Sunday.

About 40 centimetres

(16 inches) of snow blanketed the runways at New Chitose Airport, the biggest air hub on the northern main island of Hokkaido on Saturday, an airport official said. At least 154 flights were cancelled.

The storm, which also brought high winds, damaged at least 137 houses and buildings and temporarily cut off power to 47,500 households in northern Aomori prefecture alone, the local authority said.

There were no reports of injuries, and authorities said conditions were improving on Sunday.

Internet



File photo shows a woman walking under heavy snow on the island of Hokkaido, northern Japan. INTERNET

Vietnam to open first oil refinery

DUNG QUAT, 22 Feb—Vietnam was to open its first oil refinery Sunday after more than a decade of delays, in what is being hailed as a significant moment in the country's development and energy security.

Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung is expected to inaugurate the more than 2.5-billion-dollar Dung Quat refinery Sunday evening live on nationwide television, an indication of its importance to the communist country.

Although Vietnam has considerable offshore oil reserves, it currently has to import all its petroleum products, costing the southeast Asian nation hundreds of millions of dollars — a figure rising



Oil tanks at Dung Quat, Vietnam's first oil refinery in the central province of Quang Ngai. Vietnam is to open its first oil refinery on 22 Feb, after decades of waiting, countless delays and spiralling costs, in what is being hailed as a significant moment in the country's development.—INTERNET

as energy consumption soars.

It spent 10.88 billion dollars importing refined products in 2008, according to official figures, while exporting 10.45 billion dollars of crude oil.

State-owned Petro

Vietnam Group financed and will run the new facility, which is expected to churn out 6.5 million tonnes a year or 148,000 barrels per day — about 30 percent of the country's needs.

Internet

Water supply to stop in parts of California because of drought

LOS ANGELES, 22 Feb—To cope with the continuing drought, the US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) will not provide water for agriculture beginning in March to at least 200 local water districts in California's Central Valley, a newspaper report said on Saturday.

Meanwhile, as part of the water-saving move, municipalities and industrial customers will receive half of their allotments, the *Los Angeles Times* said.

"This year is on the

heels of two previous critically dry years, and this is the third year in a row," USBR spokeswoman Lynnette Wirth was quoted as saying by the paper.

She said the last time the bureau faced such a shortfall was in 1992.

Wirth said officials were hopeful that allocations could be increased if there is more precipitation.

Paul Wenger, vice president of the California Farm Bureau Federation,

described the federal announcement as "very dire," and said that the Legislature needed to take immediate steps to help solve the crisis, such as facilitating faster transfers of water between farmers.

"If this continues for the next foreseeable future, it's going to be catastrophic for the Central Valley," he told the paper.

The water shortage was a blow to California's producers of almonds and other crops, the paper said.—*Xinhua*



People sift through rubbish at a dump in Lagos. Nigeria ordered its customs service and security and environmental agencies to clamp down on illegal imports of potentially toxic electronic waste.—INTERNET

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Rockets launched from S Lebanon into Israel prompts Israeli respond

BEIRUT, 22 Feb—Six Israeli shells hit south Lebanon areas early Saturday morning, follow-

ing Katyusha rockets launched from south Lebanon into northern Israel, *National News*

Agency (NNA) reported.

The agency said that six rockets landed between al-Huniyeh and al-Mansouri close to Naqoura in south Lebanon, where the headquarters of the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL) are located.

According to al-Jazeera TV channel, Israeli army confirmed that one rocket hit the western part of Galilee in northern Israel.

On Friday night, Israel fired flare shells off the town of Naqoura, amid information that an Israeli soldier disappeared while doing physical exercise near the borders with Lebanon.

Xinhua



An Israeli police officer removes the remains of a rocket as others watch in a northern Israeli village, on 21 Feb, 2009. Two rockets were fired from south Lebanon at Israel early Saturday, with one slamming into a mostly Christian Arab village and causing minor injuries to at least one Israeli, reported Israeli and Lebanese officials. Israeli censorship rules do not allow media to report where, specifically, rockets fired from Lebanon land in Israel.—INTERNET

China's medical insurance to cover all urban residents this year

BEIJING, 22 Feb—All unemployed urban residents in China will have access to medical insurance this year as the country plans to expand the coverage of an insurance scheme to all cities and towns, according to a government official Saturday.

Li Zhong, vice director of Health Insurance Department under the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, said at a forum that the programme, which has benefited residents in more than 300 cities as of 2008, is expected to be promoted to all cities and towns this year.

The programme, introduced in 2007, aimed to bring urban children, stu-

dents and jobless adults under the umbrella of medical insurance.

China established a medical insurance system for urban employees in 1998 and implemented a new cooperative medical care system for rural residents since 2003.

If the programme is successfully implemented, it means all Chi-

nese residents can have access to medical insurance. Under the programme, the premiums are paid by households, instead of individuals. The government gives each participant a subsidy of at least 40 yuan annually, and grants extra subsidies for low-income families and disabled ones.—*Xinhua*

Over 200,000 applications made for World Cup tickets

JOHANNESBURG, 22 Feb—Some 216,975 ticket applications for the 2010 soccer World Cup had been received from 125 countries and regions by Saturday, FIFA said.

"These are fantastic numbers, underlining yet again the fervour taking hold around the world for the 2010 World Cup, the first on the African continent," said Chairman of the FIFA ticketing Sub-committee, David Will.

He said the numbers — which include only online applications via Fifa's website and not those handed in via First National Bank branches — indicated that the 'football family' want to be part of the event.

The greatest application for tickets thus far has come from South Africans, followed by applicants from Britain, the United States, Germany, Brazil, Australia, Japan, Mexico, Canada, Switzerland, Ireland, Netherlands, Spain and Argentina. Tickets went on sale on Friday.—*Xinhua*

Vietnam confirms 1st human case died of bird flu in 2009

HANOI, 22 Feb—Vietnam confirmed that the 23-year-old woman Ly Tai Mui from northern Quang Ninh Province, who was confirmed of being infected with the H5N1 virus, has died, *Vietnam News Agency* reported on Saturday.

The patient had been taken to the local hospital with bird flu symptoms of high temperature and difficulty in breathing in late January after having sick fowls.

The patient was then taken to the provincial hospital Quang Ninh of Vietnam because her health condition became worse with severe respiratory illnesses, her internal organs and liver were deteriorated, said provincial staffs of doctors from Quang Ninh hospital.

Mui died after 18 days of being treated with advanced respiratory tube, said provincial doctors.

Xinhua



Visitors are driven in a BYD F3DM hybrid car at its headquarters in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen on 17, 2009. From its headquarters in south China, BYD Auto is pursuing a project of staggering ambition: To be in the lead as the world's cars free themselves from their century-old dependence on petrol.—INTERNET

Syrian President urges US to move away from "dictating policy"

DAMASCUS, 22 Feb — Syrian President Bashar al-Assad held separate talks with two US congressional delegations on Saturday and stressed the necessity for Washington to move away from the "dictating policy," the official SANA news agency reported.

Assad met the two delegations, respectively headed by John Kerry, chairman of the US Senate's Foreign Relations Committee, and Howard Berman, chairman of the US House of Representatives' Foreign Relations committee, SANA said.

"The Syrian-American relations must be based on the correct understanding of the region's issues and the

common interests," Assad was quoted as saying.

"Dialogue is the only way to know the truth about the problems and put a comprehensive vision of the solutions based on the history of the region and the rights of its peoples," he added.

Assad discussed with the US delegations bilateral relations and the situations in the Middle East, briefing them Syria's vision on all the developments, SANA said.

"Any talk about the peace process requires, first and foremost, the existence of parties who believe in peace and have the sincere intention to work for this purpose," said Assad.—*Internet*



A float with the pattern of Chinese dragon is seen during the carnival parade in Panama City, capital of Panama, on 21 Feb, 2009. The four-day carnival kicked off on Saturday.—XINHUA

Children stranded by parents' drug arrest

LIVERPOOL, 22 Feb — Four children were expected to return to Britain without their parents, who were arrested in Venezuela on drug trafficking charges while on a package vacation. The British Foreign Office told the *Liverpool Post* on Saturday that relatives were in Venezuela to retrieve the children.

Paul and Laura Makin were arrested as they tried to board an airplane for the trip home. They allegedly had about 50 pounds of cocaine with an eventual street value of as much as \$2 million in their luggage. Laura Makin has a son and daughter from a previous relationship and the couple have 2-year-old twin girls. Social services in Venezuela took temporary custody of the children.

Internet

Australian man missing at Japanese ski resort of Niseko

NISEKO, 22 Feb — Police searches have failed to find an Australian man who went missing from a popular bar at the Japanese ski resort of Niseko.

Fears are held for the safety of the 27-year-old who went missing about 1.30am (local time) on Friday after celebrating with friends at Wild Bills bar in the village, according to skiing website Powderlife. Sub-zero temperatures and snowfalls have been recorded at the resort since the man went missing.

Police have conducted searches of the area and the Brisbane man's relatives are believed to be flying to Japan from Australia. People had been known to fall asleep in the snow late at night after leaving local bars, although so far there had been no fatalities, the Powderlife website said.—*Internet*

Proposed treaty to reduce mercury use

NAIROBI, 22 Feb — A proposed treaty to be negotiated by more than 140 countries will focus on measures to reduce the use of mercury worldwide, a US official says.

Nancy Sutley, head of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, said in a statement that the proposed treaty will be created in such a way that signing countries will be legally bound to limit the use of the toxic metal, *The Washington Post* reported on Saturday.

"The United States will play a leading role in working with other nations to craft a global, legally binding agreement that will prevent the spread of mercury into the environment and improve the health of workers, pregnant women and children throughout the world," Sutley said.—*Internet*

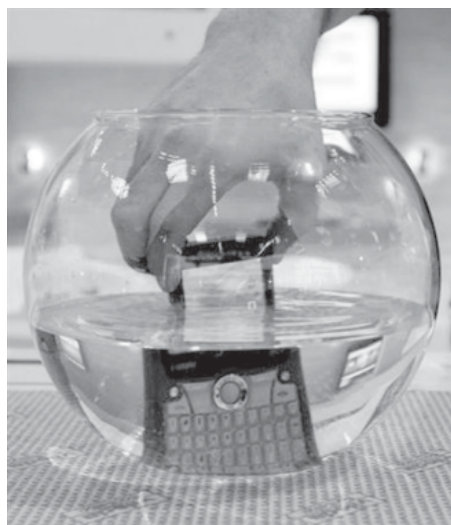
Mass city Misspells 'official' to catch bag cheats

No, managers with Gloucester's Public Works Department aren't idiots. They're just trying to catch cheats. When the Massachusetts city unveiled its new \$2 purple trash bags that all residents must use when disposing of household waste, the word "official" was deliberately spelled "offical."

Recycling coordinator Kathy Middleton tells *The Gloucester Daily Times* the intentional misspelling is supposed to make it easier to catch people who try to counterfeit bags. Middleton says counterfeiting has been a problem in the past.

John Craig, regional manager for WasteZero, the company that makes the bags, says he has never before had a community request a deliberate misspelling.

Middleton says the next batch of bags the city orders will be correct.



A man dips an i-Mate 810-F into a bowl of water at the GSMA Mobile World Conference in Barcelona February 18, 2009. The i-Mate 810-F is the world's first complete lifestyle mobile phone with a lifetime warranty, according to the manufacturer's official website.

Woman considers 24th marriage

An Indiana woman who has been single for 12 years after 23 marriages said she hasn't ruled out getting married again.

Linda Lou Taylor, 68, who holds a Guinness World Record as the most married woman in history, said two of her husbands turned out to be gay, two ended up homeless, a few cheated on her, one choked her and another padlocked the refrigerator shut, Gannett News Service reported Wednesday.

"It's easy to sum up," Taylor said of her oft-married life. "When I was younger I was just a snot-nosed kid but the neighbourhood boys were all in love with me. They all wanted to marry me."

Taylor said that despite her 23 failed marriages and being single for the past dozen years, she has not ruled out future matrimony. "I would get married again," she told Gannett, "because, you know, it gets lonely."

Danton wreck found in deep water

A French battleship sunk in 1917 by a German submarine has been discovered in remarkable condition on the floor of the Mediterranean Sea.

The Danton, with many of its gun turrets still intact, is sitting upright in over 1,000m of water.

It was found by the Fugro geosciences company during a survey for a gas pipeline between Algeria and Italy.

The Danton, which sank with 296 sailors still onboard, lies 35km southwest of the island of Sardinia.

Naval historians record that the Danton's Captain Delage stood on the bridge with his officers and made no attempt to leave the ship as it went down.

The French government is now keen to see that the site is protected.

"Its condition is extraordinary," said Rob Hawkins, project director with Fugro GeoConsulting Limited.



NEWS ALBUM



A photographer takes photo of a huge pumpkin growing in an intelligent greenhouse in Xiqing District in Tianjin, north China. The greenhouse is built to show new agricultural technologies, such as soilless culture and drip irrigation etc, as a model of modern sightseeing agriculture.

Scientists preserve the fossil of a dinosaur excavated in Liudian township in Ruyang County, central China's Henan Province. Extremely large fossils of dinosaurs were discovered recently by scientists in an area in Ruyang County. The biggest fossil measures 3.3 meters long and 2.3 meters wide. According to the fossil of its bones, the dinosaur is supposed to be much bigger than the one found in last July, which was identified as Asia's Heaviest dinosaur.

Positive results of trips to Myanmar

Kyaw Min Lu (Shwepyitha)

A news story stated in the 21-2-2009 issue of the newspapers said that the government granted an amnesty for 6313 prisoners. It was a very welcoming news story. The prisoners who had regained a sense of discipline and morality were released as a gesture of portraying humanitarianism and compassion, considering their families, and enabling them to serve the interest of their own and their region and casting votes in the 2010 elections in response to the government's benevolent attitude to them.

The government, in its bid to build a new nation, had to take action against those who had violated the law, in order to maintain peace and stability, and the rule of law. It had no choice, but to do so unavoidably with a sense of parental spirit and magnanimity towards the captives, and it had no ill will to them. Therefore, the government decided to grant an amnesty for such prisoners in order that they will not suffer mental sufferings for a long time in the prisons, and they can contribute towards nation-building tasks.

Reading the news, I felt as though I were sharing their joy with the thought of how much they would be happy with the amnesty for them. And I remembered the words the leader of the Spokes Authoritative Team of the State Peace and Development Council the Minister for Information to Mr Gambari in his last visit that the government had to take action against those who had violated the law but it constantly thought of giving reduction to prisoners. It proved that the government puts its words into deeds.

I also read a news story about the visit of Mr Quintana, special rapporteur on human rights to improve human rights in Myanmar. Mr Quintana paid a visit to Myanmar from 14 to 19 February. It was his second visit to Myanmar. During the visit, the government arranged one and a half day trip to Kayin State to fulfil his wish. He met U Htein Maung and party, Phado Aung San and party, and DKBA members who have returned to the legal fold and are engaged in regional development tasks hand in hand with the government. Mr Quintana had an opportunity to study and witness regional development projects the peace groups are undertaking. Moreover, he visited the prison in Hpa-an and had meetings with prisoners separately.

In response to Mr Quintana's request, the government organized a meeting between him and about 30 diplomats, most of whom were ambassadors, at Mya Yeik Nyo Hotel on 16 February afternoon. He was given permission to visit Insein prison. Arrangements had been made for him to visit Maubin prison the following day, but he said that he was not in mood to make the trip, so the trip was cancelled. And the government made arrangements in a short time for him to hold private meetings with some diplomats. So, Mr Quintana grabbed opportunities to meet the ambassadors, charge d' affaires and senior diplomats of Australia, Singapore, the Russian Federation, the US, and Thailand. Then, the government arranged a meeting for him to meet staff of United Nations Development Programme at the office.

On 18 February morning, Mr Quintana met with Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Attorney-General U Aye Maung and some representatives of the Myanmar Bar Council. At the meeting, Mr Quintana asked about the conditions of prisoners, and the judicial system of Myanmar. In response, the chief justice made an elaboration on the Myanmar's judicial system. Similarly, at his meeting with the attorney-general, the latter made thorough clarification to progress in amending the laws

in accordance with the new constitution. In the afternoon, he met with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Home Affairs separately. Besides, the government arranged a meeting for him to hold talks with the chairman of the Tripartite Core Group and the Minister for Labour in response to his request.

On 19 February morning, Mr Quintana met the director-general of the Myanmar Police Force, the representatives of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation. In the afternoon, he exchanged views on protection and improving human rights in Myanmar with the Myanmar human rights association led by Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin.

In meeting with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Home Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw, Mr Quintana expressed his wish to meet U Win Tin. So, responsible persons tried to arrange a meeting, but U Win Tin declined the programme, and he could not meet with U Win Tin. The letter of U Win Tin was handed to him through the officials.

Before his departure home, Mr Quintana held a press conference at Yangon International Airport. He said that there still were challenges of protecting and improving human rights in Myanmar, but the government's responses were positive. In addition, the government made arrangements for him to hold some more discussions with diplomats at the airport.

Reading the brief news about Mr Quintana's visit, I noticed the government made all possible arrangements for his convenience. Certain media made comments that Mr Quintana's visit did not produce any specific results; and that they did not think all his wishes were fulfilled in the trip. Indeed, they are used to airing news stories unilaterally for political gains. The NLD spokesman said, "There isn't any news up to this evening, and any meeting and any communication, either. So, that makes it clear that in his trip, Mr Quintana was in no position to meet all the persons he wanted to hold talks with." Their words implied that they were waiting at home for with decorations Mr Quintana out of their desire to meet him. But, in practice, when put forward a proposal to hold a meeting with U Win Tin, he declined it, putting on an air. **Whatever it is, I do not think it is wise and logical to unilaterally claim that Mr Quintana's visit was not successful just for the fact that their organization missed the opportunity to meet with him.**

Myanmar is a member of the global family that practises the independent and active foreign policy, and deals with its neighbours, regional countries, and world countries in line with the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. Myanmar is also a member of the UN, so the main principle of our country's foreign policy is to constantly cooperate with the UN. Therefore, our country has a fine tradition of maintaining active cooperation with the UN in the course of its history, which is known to all. Now, it is working together with the UN, and it will continue to do so in the future.

Our country also respects and appreciates the mediating role of the UN secretary-general. So, during the visits of Mr Gambari, his special envoy, the government paid considerable attention to cooperation with him. It also focused on cooperation with Mr Quintana throughout his visit to Myanmar. In response to his wishes, the government allowed him to meet responsible persons, diplomats, UNDP, peace groups and NGOs and to visit Kayin State and prisons. The government's willingness to cooperate with Mr Quintana depicted its cooperation with the UN Security Council.

The appointment of special rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar is to give advice to improve human rights in the nation. However, some radio stations aired that there might be many cases to find out how much Myanmar authorities had made progress for improvement of human rights as urged by the UN such as to amend internal laws to be in accordance with the international norms before the 2010 elections, to set free "prisoners of conscience", and to bestow freedom of jurisdiction. Nevertheless, there have been responsibilities and authority of the UN that whenever it gets involved in the affairs of a member country, the international organization should not interfere incidentally in the affairs that are within the purview of the country's sovereignty and authority. **It is fair to say that Mr Quintana could work for best results within the purview of his duties and authority, and that was proved by the words he spoke at the press conference.**

Mr Quintana said that he had got Myanmar government's positive responses to his suggestions he had made for improvement of human rights in the nation; that in meeting with the chief justice in Nay Pyi Taw, he had opportunities to hold discussions about his suggestions for free judicial system; that in meeting with the attorney-general, he exchanged views on the 2010 elections and approval of the State constitution, and international human rights law; and that in meeting with the minister for Home Affairs, the minister told him that he would pay serious attention to his suggestions on human rights.

In response to the questions of the reporters at the press conference, he said that he did not know why U Win Tin declined to meet him; and that the progress of his trip was the chief justice's response to his suggestions about human rights. Some media said that his initial aims were not achieved fully, and the trip did not produce any specific results because he did not have opportunities to meet certain persons and organization. They failed to keep the little image of their party.

Despite their negative comments, the people believed that Mr Gambari's trip brought about positive results, and Mr Quintana's visit to Myanmar generated a lot of progress. Previously, special rapporteurs on human rights in Myanmar held talks only with expatriates, remnant armed insurgent groups and political opportunists in the border of the neighbouring country to compile reports. In contrast, Mr Quintana had opportunities to visit Kayin State and study the real conditions of local people, hold talks with national race armed groups that have made peace with the government, and listen to the words of local people. Moreover, Mr Quintana on his tour could meet all persons he should meet, so he had an opportunity to observe the plans the government is implementing. He also could exchange views cordially with those responsible. He made several positive suggestions, and the government showed positive response to his suggestions, and willingness to cooperate with him. So, it is safe to say that his trip brought about prospects for improvement.

The release of 6313 prisoners resulted from the success of the trip. **If the government's purposes to release the prisoners include its serious attention to Mr Quintana's suggestions, I would say that is also a sense of the government's positive attitude.**

In conclusion, the ruling government is working hard to accomplish 5th, 6th and 7th steps of the seven-step Road Map. In that regard, the government is implementing the steps in accordance with the timeframe for the process of building a democratic nation, as aspired by the people and supported by the UN and the international community. Without any doubt, the international community and the UN will extend a helping hand with good volition to Myanmar in tackling the Myanmar issue. So, I simply believe that the results of Mr Quintana's trip will attract many positive views.

Translation: MS

Mr Quintana made several positive suggestions, and the government showed positive response to his suggestions, and willingness to cooperate with him. So, it is safe to say that his trip brought about prospects for improvement.

Prime Minister inspects ...

(from page 1)

Wellwisher U Aung Zaw Myint and wife Dr Myat Myat Ohn Khin also presented ten sewing machines to him.

Altogether 60 trainees from Pyapon and nearby villages are taking the 10-week course that includes tailoring, knitting, cookery and snacks-preparing.

At Shweyatu Yeitktha, Ayeyawady Division Superintending Engineer U Myint Thein reported to the Prime Minister on construction of 39 miles 2 furlongs- Bogale-Setsan-Htaw-paing- Amhar road and Pyapon-Kyonkadon-Ahmar road. Maj-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence gave supplementary reports. After hearing reports, the Prime Minister fulfilled the needs.

The Prime Minister said the Head of State had



Prime Minister General Thein Sein greets trainees of basic domestic science course in Pyapon Township.—MNA

Kyonkadon-Daw Nyein-Ahmar road will also be upgraded. These network roads will be used as a hillock or embankment in some places. The Prime Minister urged the officials to finish the projects before monsoon.

The Prime Minister inspected construction of 200-bed hospital by Dagon International Co Ltd and fulfilled the needs.

The Prime Minister and party inspected progress of Pyapon-Daw

Ltd U Win Aung. Cyclone shelters can normally be used as classrooms.

At Ahmar Hospital, the Prime Minister visited wards, operation theatre, medical warehouse, dispensaries and health care services.

At Kadonkani Village, Bogale Township, the Prime Minister and party inspected the work of building cyclone shelters and hillocks and digging drinking water lake by Htoo Trading Co

Ltd. The Prime Minister urged officials to give first priority to construction of cyclone shelters.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein heard a report on facilitation of the earthworks being undertaken by the company presented by Chairman U Teza of Htoo Trading Co Ltd.

The Prime Minister and party inspected the progress in building Kyinechaung-Bogale road and cultivation of

summer paddy from helicopter during their flight from Kadonkani village to Kaingtagyi Bridge construction project site in Bogale Township.

At the briefing hall, Chief Engineer U Soe Tint of Public Works reported on progress in carrying out earthworks at 41st mile on Bogale-Kyeinchaung-Kadonkani Road, and building of hillocks and the bridges and Deputy-Superintendent Engineer

U Kyaw Lin of Bridge Construction Project Special Unit-4 on the construction of Kinetawgyi Creek bridge which is 400-feet long and 12-feet wide, Phalachaung bridge, which is 50-feet long and 12-feet wide, Thaingchaung bridge-1, 61-feet long and 12-feet wide, and Thaingchaung bridge-2, 60-feet long and 12-feet wide, on Bogale-Kyeinchaung-Kadonkani road. The Prime Minister urged the officials to construct the roads simultaneously.

On arrival at Bogale Education College in Bogale Township, the Prime Minister cordially greeted the trainees taking basic domestic science course No-1 at the Education College. The Prime Minister inspected learning of tailoring, cookery and clothes made by the trainees. He told the officials to present handsome prizes to the
(See page 9)



Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects progress in construction of Ahmar Basic Education of High School.— MNA



given guidance on construction of road networks in the storm-hit areas as a preparedness task in case of natural disasters. Maubin-Yelegale-Shwetaung-h m a w - K y a i k p i - Mawlamyinegyun road, M a w l a m y i n e g y u n - Hlinephone-Thitpoke-Kwinpauk-Pyinsalu road, Labutta-Thingangyi-Pyinsalu road, Bogale-Kyainchaung-Kadonkani road and Labutta - Thongwa-Oktwin-Hteikson road will be built under the guidance of the Head of State.

Bogale-Setsan-Htaw-paing- Ahmar road will be built and Pyapon-

Nyein-Ahmar road, and cultivation of summer paddy. They arrived in Ahmar in Pyapon Township.

During the visit, the Prime Minister inspected construction of school buildings donated by Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon, Pyae Phyo Kyaw Co Ltd and Total Company in the compound of Ahmar Basic Education High School and the conditions for opening of technical high schools.

The Prime Minister heard the reports on construction of cyclone shelters by Chairman of Dagon International Co



Progress of Pyapon-Daw Nyein - Ahmar road.— MNA

Prime Minister inspects ...

(from page 8)

outstanding ones at the course.

The Prime Minister presented cash assistance to course in-charge, Chairman of Htoo Trading Co Ltd U Teza presented 40 sewing machines to the course in-charge.

The Prime Minister went to Pathein by helicopter. At Meeting Hall of South-West Command, he met with officials concerned of construction companies that are carrying out the rehabilitation tasks and building cyclone shelters for storm-hit areas in Ayeyawady Division.

The officials concerned of Shwe Thanlwin Co, FMI, Tetlan, TZTM, Eya-Shwewa, Moe Kyaisin, Max Myanmar, A-1, Wah Wah Win, Myat Noe Thu, Htoo Trading, Diamond Mercury, Dagon International, Yuzana, Aden Group, Mya Nanda and Shwedaung

Companies reported on the completion of the earth works, bore pile, stockpiling of construction materials and availability of water for the construction of Cyclone Shelter (500 people) at Chaungwa, Pyinkhayaing, Thingangon and Thatkalthaug villages in Ngapudaw Township, Thingangyi, Zinywegyi, Saluseik, Pyinsalu-1, Pyinsalu-2, Poelaung and Thitpute villages in Labutta Township, Kadondani and Aye villages in Bogale Township, Amar, Daw Nyein and Daminseik villages in Pyapon Township and Kyonda village in Dadeye Township. Then responsible personnel of Mya Nanda and Shwetaung Companies also reported on progress of work of construction of primary schools in Toe and Thauktkya Villages.

After hearing the reports, Prime Minister General Thein Sein fulfilled the requirements. He said the cyclone shelters can save lives in case of natural disaster and he told the officials to finish the cyclone shelters before the rainy season.—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

Dedaye, Pyapon in Ayeyawady Div witness development

NAY PYI TAW, 22 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 officials arrived at affiliated high school in Thaukkya Village in Dedaye Township on 20 February.

At the school, In-charge of Myananda Co Ltd reported on the site chosen for construction of Cyclone Shelter and other tasks, the headmaster on reconstruction of

damaged school buildings caused by storm and education sectors. The commander gave a supplementary report.

Next, Maj-Gen Ko Ko visited learning of school children, the site for construction of Cyclone Shelter and beautifying tasks of the village.

At the dispensary, the head of Township Health Department and officials reported to the Maj-Gen Ko Ko on progress work in construction of dispensary and rural health care services being carried

out by the health department.

During his visit, he inspected fishing work being conducted by residents and conservation of mangrove forest by boat.

Afterwards, the Maj-Gen Ko Ko went to Pyapon and inspected the extension building of the 200-bed hospital constructed by Dagon International Co Ltd, holding a meeting with officers and other ranks and families of Pyapon region command, providing personal goods, clothes and sewing machines.—MNA



Maj-Gen Ko Ko meets students at affiliated high school in Thaukkya Village, Dedaye Township.—MNA

Summer paddy thriving in Dalla Township, Yangon Division



Lt-Gen Myint Swe observes collective broadcasting of fertilizer in Thanban Chaung village.—MNA

YANGON, 22 Feb—Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence accompanied by senior military officers and departmental personnel visited the summer paddy field of farmer U Khin Maung Htay at Rakhinegyaung (North) village-tract in Dalla Township, Yangon South District, Yangon Division, this evening where he observed collective broadcasting of fertilizer and thriving summer paddy fields. Lt-Gen Myint Swe also inspected summer paddy field of U Kyaw Naing in Thanban Chaung village.

He cordially met with farmers and made arrangements to facilitate cultivation work.

MNA

Director-General of No.2 BED pays working visit to Shan State (East)

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb —Director-General of No.2 Basic Education Department U Aye Lwin visited Basic Education schools in Tachilek, Monghsat, Mongphyat, Kengtung Townships from 18 to 21 February and inspected the learning of the students, condition of school buildings, cleaning and beautifying of the school and its

environment, sufficiency of classroom facilities and preparation for holding the matric exam and holding of test in school.

Afterwards, the Director-General looked into office of township education officer and office of Joint-State education officer in Kengtung Township, Shan State (East).

MNA

Foreign Minister felicitates Brunei counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb— On the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the National Day of Brunei Darussalam which falls on 23 February 2009, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Royal Highness Prince Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei Darussalam.—MNA

Projects the government has implemented to supply sufficient clean water across the nation

Nowadays, 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 might and main to complete the projects for adequate supply of electric power and safe water for the entire people.

Now, the 10-year project (2000-2001 to 2009-2010) is ongoing for supply of sufficient safe water in rural areas throughout the country.

The following table depicts the success the government has achieved in implementing the projects for adequate supply of safe water the length and breadth of the country.

State/ Division	Targeted villages	Benefited villages	Facilities	Progress
Sagaing, Magway, Mandalay Divisions	8042	8039	12551	Over 99%
Other States and Divisions	15183	13626	19311	About 90%
Total	23225	21665	31862	93%

Of them, the water supply facilities constructed for supply of adequate clean water in rural areas of Mandalay Division are as follows: —

Region	Targeted villages	Benefited villages	Facilities	Progress
Mandalay Division	4119	4119	6396	100%
Meiktila District	757	757	1260	100%

The government has been implementing the 10-year project (2000-2001 to 2009-2010 for sufficient safe water supply



A tube-well is sunk in Kondaung village, Thazi Township to supply safe drinking water and irrigation water.



Water rising from an artesian well in Ayadaw Township, Sagaing Division.



Mahasi underground water project to supply clean water in Meiktila Township.

One-fifth of fossil-fuel emissions absorbed by threatened forests



Globally, tropical trees in undisturbed forest are absorbing nearly a fifth of the carbon dioxide released by burning fossil fuels.—INTERNET

LEEDS, 22 Feb—Globally, tropical trees in undisturbed forest are absorbing nearly a fifth of the CO₂ released by burning fossil fuels.

The researchers show that remaining tropical forests remove a massive 4.8 billion tonnes of CO₂

emissions from the atmosphere each year. This includes a previously unknown carbon sink in Africa, mopping up 1.2 billion tonnes of CO₂ each year. Published today in *Nature*, the 40 year study of African tropical forests—one third of the

world's total tropical forest—shows that for at least the last few decades each hectare of intact African forest has trapped an extra 0.6 tonnes of carbon per year. The scientists then analysed the new African data together with South American and Asian findings to assess the total sink in tropical forests. Analysis of these 250,000 tree records reveals that, on average, remaining undisturbed forests are trapping carbon, showing that they are a globally significant carbon sink.—*Internet*

Pathogenic bacterium identified in Cod

OSLO, 22 Feb—Farmed cod have recently been hit by a serious disease caused by an unknown bacterium. In his doctorate, Jarle Mikalsen contributed to the identification of this bacterium, now called *Francisella philomiragia noatunensis*. The disease caused by the bacterium is now called francisellosis and is listed in the national disease register and regulated under the terms of the Norwegian Food Act.

Mikalsen's work with intracellular bacteria (bacteria living in body cells) of farmed cod and salmon has increased knowledge and improved the diagnostics of these bacteria. It has been an important contribution to the understanding of bacterial infections in the fish farming industry.

This thesis is the result of a collaboration by several Norwegian research environments. Its central goal was to increase our knowledge of bacterial infections of significance for health or economy in the farming industry. Mikalsen contributed to the development of new diagnostic methods for demonstrating pathogenic bacteria in Norwegian fish farming, and an important part of this work was the identification and characterisation of the bacterium *Francisella philomiragia noatunensis*.—*Internet*

'Frozen smoke:' Ultimate sponge for cleaning up oil spills

SCIENCE DAILY, 22 Feb—Scientists in Arizona and New Jersey are reporting that aerogels, a super-lightweight solid sometimes called "frozen smoke," may serve as the ultimate sponge for capturing oil from wastewater and effectively soaking up environmental oil spills.

In the new study, Robert Pfeffer and colleagues point out that the environmental challenges of oil contamination go beyond widely publicized maritime oil spills like the Exxon Valdez incident.

Experts estimate that each year people dump more than 200 million gallons of used oil into sewers, streams, and backyards, resulting in polluted wastewater that is difficult to treat. Although there are many different sorbent materials for removing used oil, such as activated carbon, they are often costly and inefficient. Hydrophobic silica aerogels are highly porous and absorbent material, and seemed like an excellent oil sponge.—*Internet*

Permafrost thawing in northern Sweden

STOCKHOLM, 22 Feb—Areas with lowland permafrost are likely to shrink in northern Sweden. Warmer summers and more winter precipitation are two of the reasons. This is shown in a new dissertation from Lund University in Sweden.



Permafrost.

Permafrost is ground that is frozen year round at least two years in a row. North of the Arctic Circle permafrost is common due to the cold climate. For

several years, physical geographer Margareta Johansson at Lund University has studied lowland permafrost in peat mires surrounding Abisko. Permafrost is on the edge of its range there. Johansson states that permafrost is being affected by climate changes.

"At one of our sites, permafrost has completely disappeared from the greater part of the mire during the last decade," she says.

In areas where permafrost is thawing the ground becomes unstable and can collapse. This can be a local and regional problem in areas with cities and infrastructure. Moreover, the thaw can cause increased emissions of the greenhouse gases carbon dioxide and methane from the ground. Roughly 25 percent of all land surface in the northern hemisphere are underlain by permafrost.

—*Internet*

Indoor plants can reduce formaldehyde levels

SCIENCE DAILY, 22 Feb—Toxic gas formaldehyde is contained in building materials including carpeting, curtains, plywood, and adhesives. As it is emitted from these sources, it deteriorates the air quality, which can lead to "multiple chemical sensitivity" and "sick building syndrome", medical conditions with symptoms such as allergies, asthma, and headaches. The prevalence of formaldehyde and other volatile organic compounds (VOC) is greater in new construction.

Researchers are studying the ability of plants to reduce formaldehyde levels in the air. A study led by Kwang Jin Kim of Korea's National Horticultural

Research Institute compared the absorption rate of two types of houseplants. The results of the experiment on Weeping Fig (*Ficus benjamina*) and *Fatsia japonica*, an evergreen shrub, were published in the *Journal of American Society for Horticultural Science*.

—*Internet*



Fatsia japonica. Researchers found that complete plants removed approximately 80% of the formaldehyde in the air within 4 hours.—INTERNET

Fruit flies sick from mating

UPPSALA, 22 Feb—Mating can be exhausting. When fruit flies mate, the females' genes are activated to roughly the same extent as when an immune reaction starts. This is shown in a study at Uppsala University that is now appearing in the scientific publication *Journal of Evolutionary Biology*.

Using a combination of behavioral studies and genomic technology, so-called microarrays, researchers at Uppsala University can show how fruit fly females are affected by mating.

"We monitor how genetic expression is impacted by mating and show that the most common process that is

affected is the immune defense system," says Ted Morrow at the Department of Ecology and Evolution, Uppsala University.

What's more, the cost of mating turns out to be rather high. "Previous research findings show that if this cost were not a factor, females would produce 20 percent more offspring," says Ted Morrow. It is costly for females to mate because competition among males has led to behaviours and adaptations in males that are injurious to females, such as harassment during mating rituals and toxic proteins in their sperm fluid. "Our results are the strongest evidence that the cost to females is probably tied to the cost of starting an immune reaction. In other words, the males are like a 'sickness' to females," says Ted Morrow.—*Internet*



Fruit fly (*Drosophila melanogaster*)

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A customer samples a Sprint Nextel cellphone, manufactured by LG. Sprint Nextel Corp. said Thursday, it lost US\$1.6 billion in the fourth quarter as it continued to lose subscribers and revenue.—INTERNET

Sumatran tiger kills two loggers in west Indonesia

JAKARTA, 22 Feb—A Sumatran tiger mauled two illegal loggers to death in western Indonesia, bringing to five the number of people killed by the critically endangered cats in less than a month, a conservationist said on Sunday.

The tiger attacked a 30-

year-old man and his 18-year-old son early Saturday while they slept next to a pile of stolen wood in a protected forest on Sumatra island, about 375 miles (600 kilometers) west of the capital Jakarta, said Didy Wurdjanto of the state conservation agency.

Three people were killed in two separate attacks in late January in the area. Park rangers last week trapped an adult tigress believed responsible for the deaths and it was being relocated.

Grenade attack wounds five in Mexican beach town

ACAPULCO, 22 Feb—Assailants in an SUV hurled two grenades at a police station in the Pacific resort town of Zihuatanejo on Saturday, wounding one officer and four civilians.

Police and soldiers stepped up patrols and set up extra checkpoints after the attack in the popular beach town north of

Acapulco, according to the Guerrero state Public Safety Department.

Three taxi drivers, a woman and a policeman were hurt. Grenade attacks have become a fixture in Mexico's brutal cartel-related violence. Last week, five civilians and an officer were wounded in a grenade assault on a police patrol in

western Michoacan state.

In central Mexico, gunmen wielding AK-47s opened fire on two restaurants Saturday, killing two people. The first attack occurred in the town of Acelia and the second in at a highway eatery south of Mexico City. Police were trying to determine the motive and whether the two attacks were related.—Internet

Fighting dogs more common in Britain

LONDON, 22 Feb—Fighting dogs are becoming more common in Britain, including pit bulls and crosses with the outlawed breed, *The Times* of London reported. Some experts say young gang members may be turning to dogs because of crackdowns on possessing guns and knives.

"It's a serious offense to be caught carrying a gun or knife," said Jan Eachus of the Royal Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Animals. "But if you are walking a status

dog you're unlikely to get stopped."

The RSPCA said complaints about fighting dogs have soared in recent years. The group got 24 complaints in 2004 but the number rose to 137 in 2006 and 358 in 2007 — when there were 132 calls about dog fights in streets and parks.

Ray Greenwood, 63, lost his 10-year-old Jack Russell when it was attacked by another dog in a London park. He said he apparently annoyed the young man who owned by other dog by hitting it with his umbrella in an effort to protect his terrier.—Internet

Supporters and relatives of Iraqi journalist Muntadhar al-Zeidi who gained cult status for throwing his shoes at former US President George W Bush wave as he is taken away from a court in a Humvee in Baghdad, Iraq, on 19 Feb, 2009.—INTERNET

Google phones open Asian market in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 22 Feb—Singapore's SingTel telecommunication began on Saturday selling the Google phone to local consumers, according to local media.

The Google phone, or the HTC Dream mobile, is the first gadget in Asia running on Google-based Android operating system, which integrates well with Google's online search, email and map applications, TB broadcaster Channelnewsasia said.

CEO of SingTel Mobile, Yuen Kuan Moon said the Google phone, with a full Qwerty-based keyboard, is opposed to going full touch immediately and it serves a different segment of the market which the company does not want to ignore.

The Google phone, which must be bought with a two-year contract from SingTel, cost between 238 to 438 Singapore dollars (about 155 to 286 US dollars), depending on the subscription contract.

MNA/Xinhua

Gunmen kill at least six football fans in Nigeria

YENEGOA (Nigeria), 22 Feb—Gunmen ambushed a busload of football fans travelling to a match in southern Nigeria on Saturday and killed at least six in an apparent revenge attack, police and local officials said.

The supporters were travelling from Yenegoa in Bayelsa state to neighbouring Delta state. Local officials said the execution-style killing appeared to be in retaliation for a nightclub shooting in Yenegoa on Friday. "The fans coming to Delta were ambushed and shot. Eight were killed and seven were injured and are in hospital," Delta state police spokesman Charles Muka said.

A senior Bayelsa state government official who visited the scene said he had seen six bodies being taken to the mortuary in the nearby town of Ughelli. Another local official put the death toll among the "Ocean Boys" football supporters at 13.

MNA/Reuters

Sudan says 28 killed in clashes with Darfur rebels

KHARTOUM, 22 Feb—Seventeen rebels and 11 Sudanese soldiers have been killed in clashes in Darfur, the Army said, days after Khartoum signed a goodwill agreement with an insurgent movement.

The statement released to state media late on Friday was Sudan's first acknowledgement that it was fighting the

Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) despite the tentative deal, which did not include a ceasefire but was meant to pave the way for peace talks.

The renewed violence has come at a sensitive time in Darfur, where all sides in the near six-year conflict are waiting for International Criminal Court judges to decide whether to issue an arrest warrant

for Sudan's president on charges of orchestrating war crimes in the region.

Sudan's Armed Forces spokesman said the Army clashed with JEM in the Donki area on Thursday, just 25 kilometres (15 miles) northwest of El Fasher, the capital of north Darfur and headquarters of the region's joint UN/African Union peacekeeping force.—MNA/Reuters



US bank stress tests to show capital needs

WASHINGTON, 22 Feb—US financial regulators will soon launch a series of “stress tests” to determine which of the largest US banks should get bigger capital cushions in case of a deeper recession, a person familiar with Obama Administration plans said on Saturday.

The person, speaking on condition of anonymity, said if institutions were found to need additional capital, financial authorities would provide them with an

“extra cushion of support.” Banks are expected to receive additional information about the tests in the coming week from regulators.

The largest US banks are “well capitalized” for current conditions, the source said, but the Obama Administration wants to ensure they can withstand a more severe economic climate and play an important role in helping restart the flow of credit.

Initial plans for the stress tests were an-

nounced on 10 February as part of Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner’s bank stabilization plan, but the source on Saturday for the first time linked the tests to additional government support for large banks. That person did not specify what form any extra capital cushion may take. Little is known about the form of the stress tests, but the person described them as “consistent, forward looking and conservative.”

MNA/Reuters



Tokyo Electric Power Co will build a solar power plant in the US state of California through its subsidiary Eurus Energy Holdings Corp, according to a report. It plans to begin operations at the 1000 kilowatt plant by 2010 on a site yet to be selected, the Nikkei business daily reported.—INTERNET

Thrill seeking may be based in the brain

LEXINGTON, 22 Feb—The brains of thrill seekers differ from those of who avoid risky behaviour, US researchers suggest.

Psychologists Jane E Joseph, Xun Liu, Yang Jiang and Thomas H Kelly of the University of Kentucky, along with Donald Lyman of Purdue University, recruited two sets of volunteers — high sensation seekers or low sensation seekers — based

on their responses to personality surveys and risk-taking questionnaires. Both groups were shown a variety of photographs — ranging from mundane scenes of cows and food to very emotional and arousing images such as erotic scenes and violent pictures — while having their brains scanned with functional magnetic resonance imaging.

The study, published in the journal *Psychological Science*, found there was increased activity in the brain region known as the insula when high sensation seekers viewed the arousing photographs. Previous research has shown that the insula is active during addictive behaviors, such as craving cigarettes, the researchers say.

Internet

Developed economies nations urged to avoid protectionism

JAKARTA, 22 Feb—Indonesia and Thailand on Friday urged developed countries not to impose protectionism to cushion the fallout of the global recession.

The statement was made by Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and visiting Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva in a joint Press briefing after their meeting at the State Palace here. Concern has risen recently on raising number of countries turning into protectionism to lessen the impact of the global financial crisis.

Thai Prime Minister Susilo expected the leaders in the upcoming ASEAN summit in Thailand, and G-20 Summit meeting in London in April, would not result in decision to impose protectionism. “We hope in the ASEAN

Summit and the G-20 meeting in London, there will be a clear commitment from all leaders not to impose protectionism. I think ASEAN Summit will be an example by sending out this very powerful message,” he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Indian Air Force to install low range Aerosat Radar

NEW DELHI, 22 Feb—The Indian Air Force will soon install an Aerosat Radar which can pick up targets flying even at low ranges, said a senior Indian Air Force officer on Saturday, one day after Tamil Tiger rebels bombed the Sri Lankan capital Colombo with two small aircraft.

“Considering the region’s strategic importance, an Aerosat Radar capable of picking up targets at low ranges would be installed at Southern Air Command (SAC) in two years,” Southern Air Command’s chief Air Marshal S Radhakrishnan told the media in the south Indian state of Kerala.

Tamil Tiger rebels carried out surprise attacks on Colombo Friday night, which killed at least two people and injured 54 others. Local media reports said Sri Lankan troops used India-supplied radars to detect the two rebel planes and shot them down.

MNA/Xinhua



A salvage vessel hoists a capsized ferry out of the water in Barishal on 19 February. Search and rescue workers in southern Bangladesh recovered 12 more dead bodies following a ferry accident, bringing the death toll to 39, police said on Sunday.—INTERNET

NZ’s Fonterra advised of new melamine scare

WELLINGTON, 22 Feb—Dairy giant Fonterra announced on Saturday that one of its suppliers, a Germany-based company called Budenheim, has advised Fonterra that an iron supplement Budenheim supplies to food companies around the world had tested positive for melamine.

Fonterra uses very small quantities of the iron supplement in 12 fortified

whole milk powder products, the New Zealand dairy co-operative said in a Press release.

Fonterra said it had immediately stopped all production using the supplement and was sourcing a replacement product.

In addition, as an added precaution Fonterra had undertaken extensive retesting of retention

samples of the affected batches of Fonterra’s milk powder products. No melamine had been detected in any of its products, it said.

Fonterra said it was working with the New Zealand Food Safety Authority (NZFSA) and reviewing each batch of product to ensure that the product is safe to go to market.

MNA/Xinhua

List of winners at Spirit Awards

LOS ANGELES, 22 Feb—Following is a list of winners of the Spirit Awards, the arthouse world’s equivalent of the Oscars, which were handed out during a ceremony at Santa Monica beach on Saturday.

- BEST FEATURE - “The Wrestler”
- BEST DIRECTOR - Tom McCarthy, “The Visitor”
- BEST MALE LEAD - Mickey Rourke, “The Wrestler”
- BEST FEMALE LEAD - Melissa Leo, “Frozen River”
- BEST SUPPORTING MALE - James Franco, “Milk”
- BEST SUPPORTING FEMALE - Penelope Cruz, “Vicky Cristina Barcelona”
- BEST FIRST FEATURE - “Synecdoche, New York”
- BEST FIRST SCREENPLAY - Dustin Lance Black, “Milk”
- BEST SCREENPLAY - Woody Allen, “Vicky Cristina Barcelona”
- BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY - Maryse Alberti, “The Wrestler”
- BEST DOCUMENTARY - “Man on Wire”
- BEST FOREIGN FILM - “The Class” (France)—MNA/Reuters

SPORTS



Real Madrid's forward Arjen Robben (R) fights for the ball with Betis' defenders Juan Melli (L) and Fabian Monzon during their Spanish league football match at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid. —INTERNET

Six-shooters Real fire Liverpool warning, Barcelona taste derby defeat

MADRID, 22 Feb—Real Madrid sent an emphatic warning to Champions League opponents Liverpool on Saturday when they thrashed Real Betis 6-1 to move seven points behind leaders Barcelona, who suffered a shock 2-1 derby defeat against Espanyol.

Real scored all their goals in a terrific first half to record a ninth straight league win and they are brimming with confidence for Wednesday's last 16 Champions League match with Liverpool at the Santiago Bernabeu.

"I never said the league wasn't on," said Real coach Juande Ramos. "Just like we had a dip in the first half of the season — due to injuries and other factors — other teams will have the same experience over a long season." We are closer to Barcelona but they still have a significant advantage and seven points is still a lot." —INTERNET

Injuries worry Man United ahead of Inter Milan clash

MANCHESTER, 22 Feb—Manchester United are facing mounting defensive concerns ahead of their last 16 Champions League game against Inter Milan.

United were already without Serbian defender Nemanja Vidic due to suspension for Tuesday's first leg at the San Siro and they lost Jonny Evans to an ankle injury in the 2-1 Premier League win over Blackburn Rovers at Old Trafford here on Saturday. —INTERNET

Answers to yesterday's Crosswords Puzzle

1	S	H	O	R	T	E	N	5	S	U	I	T	E		
	C	D	E		I		I		N				L		
8	R	I	D	E	R		C	O	L	L	E	G	E		
	U				R		E		L		L		M		
10	B	L	A	D	A	N	T	L	Y	12	E	R	E		
			L		C		Y				G		N		
13	D	I	T	H	E	R		14	B	R	E	A	S	T	
	E		E					15	L		E		N		
17	F	U	R		18	C	H	A	R	A	C	T	E	19	R
	A		C		A		D		L					E	
20	C	H	A	N	G	E	D		21	I	M	A	G	E	
	E		T		E				S		L			L	
23	D	R	E	A	D			24	R	A	M	B	L	E	S

Lyon limber up for Barca with win as rivals drop points

PARIS, 22 Feb—Lyon moved a step closer to an eighth consecutive French championship on Saturday after Cris and Karim Benzema scored in a 2-0 win at Nancy as two of their title rivals slipped-up.

Paris St Germain and Toulouse both endured goalless draws — PSG at Grenoble and Toulouse at home to Valenciennes. Those slip-ups saw Lyon streak six points clear with 52 points from 25 matches to 46 for PSG and 45 for Toulouse.

Marseille will bid to go a point above the Parisians with a win over modest Le Mans at the Stade Velodrome on Sunday while Bordeaux can draw level with PSG and leapfrog Toulouse if they win at struggling former giants St Etienne — who are set fair for the last 16 of the UEFA Cup after a midweek victory at Olympiakos.

PSG had also enjoyed a European win bonus — in their case over Germany's VfL Wolfsburg, while Marseille were losing at home to Dutch side FC Twente — but against Grenoble they drew a blank. —INTERNET



Lyon's forward Karim Benzema (L) celebrates with teammates after scoring a goal against Nancy during their French L1 football match at Marcel Picot Stadium in Tomblaine. —INTERNET

Mourinho says Man Utd best counter-attackers in world



Inter Milan coach Jose Mourinho

ROME, 22 Feb—Inter Milan coach Jose Mourinho has hailed Manchester United as the best counter-attacking team in the world ahead of the pair's Champions League clash on Tuesday.

The battle at the San Siro between the champions of Italy and their visitors, who hold the titles of English, European and world champions, is the most mouth-watering of all the second round pairings in Europe's premier competition. And Mourinho is under no illusions as to who the favourites are but he wants his team to relax and go out to express themselves when Sir Alex Ferguson's

team arrives in town.

"I don't want my players to feel under pressure, I want them to enjoy themselves and the first thing I will tell them is that I have great belief in their ability to win it," said the Portuguese boss. "I've known Manchester since 2004, they're the best counter-attacking team in the world and can kill their opponents in transition (from defence to attack). —INTERNET

Amateur Danny Lee wins Johnnie Walker Classic

PERTH, 22 Feb —US Amateur champion Danny Lee birdied the final two holes for a 5-under 67 and a one-stroke victory Sun-

day in the Johnnie Walker Classic. The 18-year-old New Zealander, set to turn pro after the Masters, had a 17-under 271 total on

The Vines Resort's composite course.

"It feels like I'm dreaming at the moment," Lee said. "I won lots of amateur tournaments before and the US Amateur, but this is a totally different feeling. It's a pro event. All I wanted to do is make the cut and play well and get in the top 20. But I played extremely well today, and I won it." —INTERNET



Danny Lee of New Zealand tees off on the first hole during the fourth day of the Johnnie Walker Classic golf tournament at The Vines Resort, Perth, Australia, on 22 Feb, 2009. —INTERNET

BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE		
(23-2-2009)		
Fulham	2-0	West Bromwich A
Liverpool	1-1	Man City
Newcastle	0-0	Everton

Venus salutes Peer in Dubai victory speech

DUBAI, 22 Feb—Venus Williams raced to her 40th career crown on Saturday, but ensured that the raging Shahar Peer contro-

versy was not forgotten during her Dubai Open title celebrations.

Williams told a packed crowd that it was "a shame that one of our players couldn't be here", in a direct reference to the United Arab Emirates' widely-condemned decision to refuse to grant Israeli player Peer a visa. "I thought she had to be mentioned and I felt I was going to, whether anyone else did or not," said Wimbledon champion Williams, when it was remarked that she was the only one at the prize-giving ceremony to recall what had happened. —INTERNET



Venus Williams of the US holds her trophy after beating France's Virginie Razzano in the final match of the WTA Dubai tennis championships in the Gulf emirate. —INTERNET

Roddick, Stepanek advance, Azarenka triumphs in Memphis tennis

MEMPHIS, 22 Feb—Victoria Azarenka of Belarus claimed her second title of the season as Andy Roddick and Radek Stepanek booked a final showdown at this 1.22 million-dollar ATP and WTA hardcourt tournament.

Second-seeded Azarenka swept past top-seeded Dane Caroline Wozniacki 6-1, 6-3 to add the Memphis crown to the first career title she won in Brisbane last month. The 19-year-old had reached four finals over her previous two seasons but didn't break through until the Australian Open tuneup.

After a disappointing showing in the Australian Open, where she retired from her fourth-round match against eventual champion Serena Williams due to heat-related issues, Azarenka rebounded here. —INTERNET



A photographer takes a picture of the Chinese bronze rat head and rabbit head sculptures displayed on the preview of the auction of Yves Saint Laurent and Pierre Berge's art collection at the Grand Palais in Paris, France, on 21 Feb, 2009. Chinese lawyers have filed a motion to a French court seeking an injunction to stop auction house Christie's putting two bronze relics looted from China under the hammer, lawyers said Friday. The two relics, a bronze rat head and a bronze rabbit head, were looted from China's imperial summer resort Yuanmingyuan when it was burnt down by Anglo-French allied forces during the Second Opium War in 1860.—INTERNET

British pilot dies in light aircraft crash

LONDON, 22 Feb—A 50-year-old man has died after his single-seater aircraft crashed beside a runway at Fenland Airfield near Spalding in Lincolnshire, police said on Saturday.

Lincolnshire Police said the crash was not believed to be suspicious and no other people or aircraft were involved. The family of the man, from the Spalding area, have been informed of his death.

MNA/Reuters

MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (23.2.2009) (Monday)

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

Local Transmission

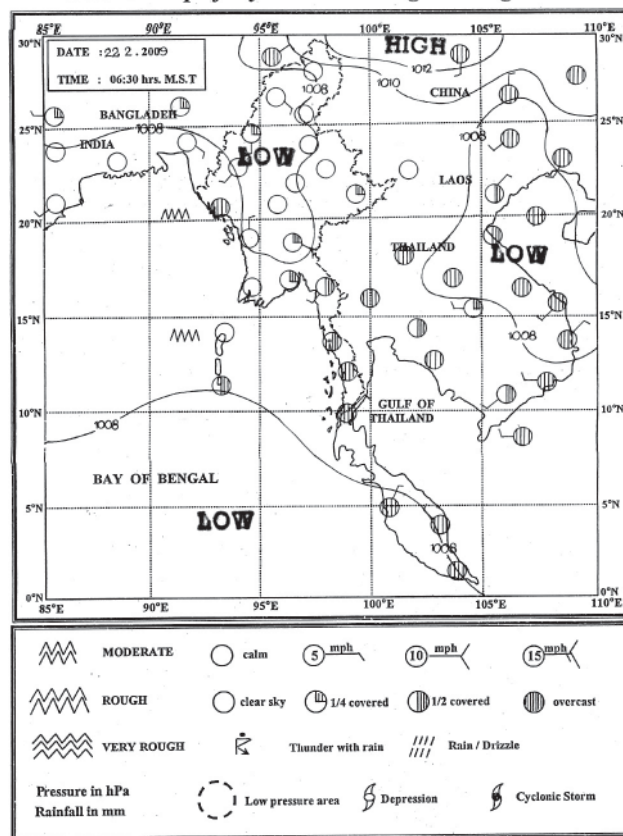
- Signature Tune
- Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- Laquerware made from Porcelain and glaze
- Kayin Don Dance, in Harmony with beauty of Ngwe Saung, Beach
- A glimps at the Mighty Loggers
- Illustrious handiwork in Kyeethe
- Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Europe/ North America 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
- Mother of Pearl Arts and Handicrafts
- Shwe Nan Daw Kyaung
- Sittway with Magnificent Sight
- Life-Like ... Embossed relief painting
- Poem Garden "Little Aeroplane"
- Lacquerware made from Porcelain and glaze
- Illustrious handiwork in Kyeethe
- Kayin Don Dance, in Harmony with beauty of Ngwe Saung, Beach
- A Glimps at the Mighty Loggers
- A Beautiful State decorated with Rubber
- Let's Make ... Fresh Instant Mohinga
- Myanmar Musical Orchestra (Bwe Song)
- Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Sunday, 22 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 Kachin and Shan States, upper Sagaing and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (6°C) below February average temperatures in Chin State, (4°C) below February average temperatures in Shan State and Bago Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above February average temperatures in Kayah, Kayin and Mon States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and about February average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (1°C) and Lashio (4°C). The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Kawthong (0.11) inch.

Maximum temperature on 21-2-2009 was 100°F. Minimum temperature on 22-2-2009 was 68°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 22-2-2009 was 70%. Total sunshine hours on 21-2-2009 was (8.5) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 22-2-2009 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 Norsthwat at (15:30) hours MST on 21-2-2009.

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 23rd February 2009: Possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin and Mon States, Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine and Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Bago 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 23-2-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 23-2-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 23-2-2009: Generally fair weather.



Monday, 23 February
View on today

- 7:00 am
 1. တောင်တန်းသာသနာပြုဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၏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. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:05 am
 6. Cute little dancers

- 8:15 am
 7. "စက်မှုဇုန်မှကျွန်မစက်ရုံ လာတည်တော့မယ်" (ဖြိုးငွေစိုး၊ မိုးဒီ၊ သဇင်၊ နှင်းဆီ၊ ခင်မိုးမိုးအေး) [ဒါရိုက်တာ-တင်အောင်ရွှေ (သုတေသီ)]
- 8:20 am
 8. သူဌေးရေလှောင်တမံ
- 8:30 am
 9. International news
- 8:45 am
 10. Musical programme
- 4:00 pm
 1. Martial song
- 4:10 pm
 2. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 4:20 pm
 3. Song of national races
- 4:25 pm
 4. Dance variety

- 4:35 pm
 5. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား
- 4:50 pm
 6. Musical programme (The radio Myanmar modern music troupe)
- 5:00 pm
 7. ၂၀၀၉ခုနှစ်၊ တက္ကသိုလ်ဝင်စာမေးပွဲ ဘာသာရပ်ဆိုင်ရာသင်ခန်းစာ (အင်္ဂလိပ်စာဘာသာရပ်) (အပိုင်း-က)
- 5:25 pm
 8. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 5:30 pm
 9. "တစ်လောကလုံးလင်းပါစေ" (ပြေတီဦး၊ မိုးပြည့်ပြည့်မောင်၊ ဇေယျဇွန်၊ ဝါဝါအောင်၊ စက်မှုဇုန်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-စင်ရော်မောင်မောင်)
- 5:45 pm
 10. Musical programme

- 6:00 pm
 11. Evening news
- 6:30 pm
 12. Weather report
- 6:35 pm
 13. Sing and enjoy
- 7:00 pm
 14. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "နွဲ့ဆိုးဆိုးသူကိုယ့်ချစ်သူ" (အပိုင်း-၁၄)
- 8:00 pm
 15. News
- 16. International news
- 17. Weather report
- 18. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "မြင့်မြတ်နုလုံးသားပိုင်ရှင်" (အပိုင်း-၂၉)
- 19. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ အရပ်ဆယ်မျက်နှာမေတ္တာ ဘာဝနာပွားများခြင်းတရားတော်



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

Zee Creek Dam inaugurated in Rakhine State to irrigate crop land, generate power

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb —Zee Creek Dam was inaugurated in Kyauktaw Township, Rakhine State yesterday.

The earth dam was built on Zee Creek by Irrigation Department Construction-3 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and it is the 219th one for the country. With 840 feet long and 115 feet high embankment, the dam can store 7,530-acre feet of water. It can supply water to 1,000 acres of cultivable land and generate 80 kilowatts.

Present on the inauguration ceremony were Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Thaung Aye, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, members of Rakhine State



Commander Maj-Gen Thaung Aye unveils stone plaque of Zee Creek Dam in Kyauktaw Township.—MNA

Peace and Development Council, local authorities, departmental officials, members of social organizations and local people.

The commander said the Zee Creek Dam is the sixth one to be opened for Rakhine State.

Water is now available for cultivation of summer

paddy and other crops in the region. He urged the local people to take part in the development projects of the region as the respective ministries give special priority to all-round development of Rakhine State.

He also urged them to actively participate in the 2009 Rakhine State all-

round development year.

Next, Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo said the dam was successfully opened for boosting production of agricultural produce and supply of power in the township.

The minister elaborated on development of cultivable lands, efforts for

availability of water, research on production of quality seeds and distribution and maintenance of the dam.

U Ba Saw of Kyauktaw Township thanked the government for construction of the dam.

The commander and the ministers cordially

greeted those present.

The commander formally unveiled the stone plaque of the dam. The commander, the ministers and party sprinkled scented water to it.

The commander, the ministers and the guests posed for souvenirs. Then they visited the dam.—MNA



Newly built Zee Creek Dam in Kyauktaw Township.—MNA

Mourinho: bring on United



Mourinho - geared up for United clash.

MILAN, 22 Feb—Jose Mourinho has claimed to be delighted that Inter Milan must face Champions League holders Manchester United next week.

The former Chelsea coach is in typically bull-

ish mood even though the Serie A leaders have handed the toughest last-16 draw possible after failing to win their group.

Inter entertain United at the San Siro on Tuesday knowing it is almost half a century since they last won the competition, and in the knowledge they

were eliminated by Sir Alex Ferguson's men at the quarter-final stage in 1999 when the Red Devils went on to win the trophy.

But, despite the Premier League's apparent superiority to Serie A, Mourinho cannot wait.

Internet

INSIDE

Positive results of trips to Myanmar

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ARTICLE

