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Better transportation means positive signs in economy and socio-economic life of nation

MR to link Mandalay and Bhamo

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb—Myanma Railways of the Ministry of Rail Transportation yesterday inaugurated Katha-Moetagyi railroad section

of Katha-Bhamo Railroad Construction Project.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Coun-

cil Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Myint Soe quoted the Head of State as saying that smooth transportation is pivotal in development

of a region and better transportation means positive signs in economy and socio-economic life of nation, MR had been working to shape Union Railroad Network. Today's inaugurated railroad section was one of the fruits and also the first phase of 98 miles long Katha-Bhamo Railroad Construction Project.

Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min said that Katha-Bhamo railroad to be built through Katha, Shwegu, Mansi and Bhamo townships would emerge as a direct railroad link between Mandalay and Bhamo.

With newly inaugurated railroad section, the total length of railroad has reached 3357.38 miles and the number of railway stations has touched 858. And number of bridges big and small has increased into 10,760.

(See page 8)



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Soe, Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min and Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint formally open Katha-Moetagyi railroad section. —MNA

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

INSIDE

Myanmar has favourable geographical and climatic conditions to grow crops well. All parts of the Union can grow crops suitable to their soil on a commercial scale. Particularly, Chin and Shan States, as characterized by nature, can grow tea well. But now, Popa region in Central Myanmar has been able to cultivate tea on a commercial scale.

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Perspectives



Local people attend opening ceremony of Katha-Moetagyi railroad section. — MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 22 February, 2010

Boost tea cultivation

Myanmar has favourable geographical and climatic conditions to grow crops well. All parts of the Union can grow crops suitable to their soil on a commercial scale.

Particularly, Chin and Shan States, as characterized by nature, can grow tea well. But now, Popa region in Central Myanmar has been able to cultivate tea on a commercial scale.

Tea grows well at an altitude of 3,000 feet above sea level. Chin State is extending the cultivation of tea by setting the goal of transforming itself into a state of tea. In the tea cultivation season of 2007-2008, 24 departments grew 340,000 tea saplings in Haka. The wards and villages cultivated 541,850 saplings.

Shan State (North) has grown 127,483 acres of tea and Shan State (South), 50,554 acres. So the whole country has put 221,980 acres of land under tea. Average per acre yield of tea is approximately 290.69 viss. Therefore, modern cultivation methods are necessary to boost per acre yield.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, experienced tea growers and experts of JICA of Japan held a workshop on boosting tea cultivation last May.

As neighbours such as India, Sri Lanka and Indonesia are growing tea, Myanmar is required to boost the cultivation of tea so as to penetrate the global tea market more.

Beware of fire



Managing Director U Soe Moe Nyunt of Genius Group and officials open the new showroom of G-STAR Electronics.—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

Pipeline to polish Myanmar property

YANGON, 21 Feb—Myanmar is working even at river bed to make the most effective use of its rich natural resources. Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise of the country is now laying a 24-inch diameter natural gas pipeline 40 feet under water at the floor of Toe River (Dedaye).

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi supervised the job site of laying 3500 feet long pipeline at Dedaye-Pyapon section near Dedaye Bridge in Ayeyawady Division yesterday.

The general manager of the MOGE (pipeline) and officials reported him on installation of the 24-inch diameter natural gas pipeline with using HDD (Horizontal Directional Drilling) at the briefing hall where he urged the officials to carry out the works with full load of



Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi inspects connecting of 24-inch diameter natural gas pipe in Dedaye-Pyapon section.—MNA

man and mechanical power, to follow the set procedures in welding joints of the pipeline and to test the welded joints with NDT system for scoring full reliability.

The minister and party looked into drilling of the

tube for pipeline under water of Toe River and laying of Dedaye-Pyapon section 24-inch diameter natural gas pipeline.

The natural gas pipeline installation have been completed for 69 miles on

land out of 87 miles while 36 miles long offshore pipeline out of 95 miles have been laid. Efforts are being made for timely completion of laying pipelines.

MNA

Consumer electronics on sale at G-STAR

YANGON, 21 Feb—Genius Group opened new G-STAR Electron-

ics Showroom on Goephyu Street (North Aung San Stadium) in Mingala Taungnyunt Township here this morning.

Managing Director U Soe Moe Nyunt and officials formally opened the new showroom.

G-Star Electronics now on sale with 3-year warranty after sales service are imported from Singapore.

G-Star branded LCD, EVD, water dispenser, TV, CRT, home theater 5.1 speaker, 2 channel speaker, refrigerator, and various consumer electronics are available at supermarkets and electronics centres in townships.

MNA

Bogale Township Association (Yangon) to hold AGM

YANGON, 21 Feb—The Bogale Township Association (Yangon) has planned to hold its 21st respect paying ceremony, AGM, prize-awarding ceremony and electing new executives at the association at 9 am on 21 March. All members of the association and residents living in Bogale Township are reminded to attend its activities without fail.

The older aged of 75 years and over are to contact Ph: 212508, doctorate holders for 2008-2009 and outstanding offspring of the members are to contact with related documents not later than 15 March.

Those wishing to make donation may contact Chairman U Saw Wai (Ph: 09-5108705), Vice-Chairman U Thein Win (09-5169521), Vice-Chairman U Khin Maung Tint (09-5079208), Secretary U Thein Nyunt (09-8625695), U Win Myint (09-5105806) and the association (212508).—MNA

Earthquake Report

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb—A slight earthquake of Magnitude 4.8 with its epicenter inside Myanmar about 125 miles northwest of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at 3 hour 45 min 58 sec MST on 21st February 2010.

MNA



A Somali government soldier frisks a resident in the streets in southern Mogadishu on 17 February during a security operation. Somalia's transitional government and a recently-armed Sufi group will sign an agreement in March to join hands in "fighting extremism", Ethiopia's foreign ministry said on Saturday.—INTERNET

Iran: VOA, BBC arms of US, British spy agencies

TEHERAN, 21 Feb — Iran's police chief on Saturday accused the Voice of America and the BBC of being the arms of US and British intelligence agencies, and warned of severe repercussions for journalists and activists caught having contacts with them, state media reported.

Gen Ismail Ahmadi Moghaddam was quoted by the official IRNA news agency as saying opposition activists have cooperated with the BBC and the Voice of America "with the aim of weakening and overthrowing the (ruling) system."

"The BBC is the arm of MI-6 (Britain's foreign intelligence agency) and VOA belongs to the CIA" Moghaddam said, according to IRNA. "Those who cooperate with foreign services through transmitting photos, reports, news and anti-revolutionary actions ... should know that all their actions are monitored."

Internet

China's railways carry record-high of 6.3 mln passengers

BEIJING, 21 Feb — China's train passengers totalled 6.33 million on Friday, the busiest day in the country's history falling at end of the Spring Festival holiday, the Ministry of Railways (MOR) said on Saturday. The number is an increase of 11.5 percent from the same day last year, as millions of people began to return to work as the one-week holiday neared its end.

Internet

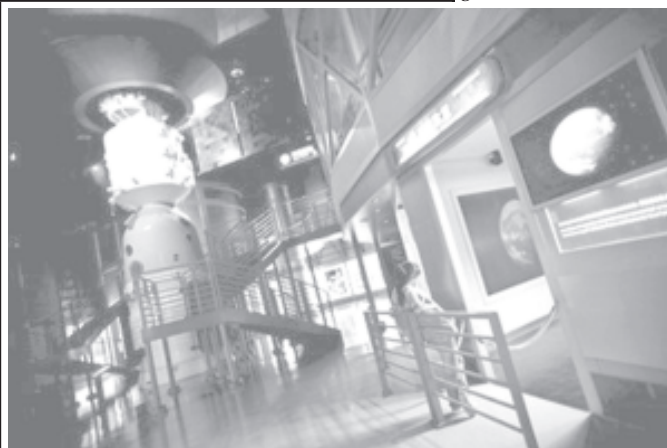
Okinawa officials against idea of US base relocation within island

TOKYO, 21 Feb — Japan's Okinawa Governor Hirokazu Nakaima told Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirofumi Hirano Saturday that relocating the US Marine Corps' Futenma Air Station within his Prefecture would pose problems for the southernmost prefecture.

Nakaima, following talks with Hirofumi at Okinawa's prefectural office in Naha, told reporters it would be "difficult" for his prefecture to accept relocation within the prefecture, local media sources said.

Internet

A visitor looks at a display of space images at the Science and Technology Museum in Shanghai in November 2009. China aims to land its first astronauts on the moon within a decade at the dawn of a new era of manned space exploration — a race it now leads thanks to the US decision to drop its lunar programme.—INTERNET



Afghan President calls on NATO-led troops to avoid harming civilians

KABUL, 21 Feb — Afghan President Hamid Karzai on Saturday called on NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to avoid harming non-combatants while fighting against Taliban militants.

"Although the NATO and the Coalition troops have done a lot to reduce civilian casualties; our objective is to reach the point where there is no civilian casualty," the president said in his speech at the joint session of parliament resumed after winter vacation.

He made this appeal as the ever-biggest operation with the involvement of 15,000 Afghan, NATO and US Marines, dubbed "Moshtarak" or "Together"

has been going on since last Saturday against Taliban militants in Marja District of the troubled Helmand Province in south Afghanistan.

Since launching the

operation more than 50 people including 15 civilians have been killed and hundreds of families have left their homes for safer places.

Xinhua

Roadside bomb kills two civilians in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 21 Feb — Two Afghan civilians were killed Saturday morning as their motorbike stepped over a roadside bomb, planted by Taliban militants in the southern restive Helmand Province, the Interior Ministry said in a statement. "Two innocent Afghans were martyred this morning when their motorcycle struck a mine in Nahr-e-Saraj District," the statement said.

It blamed the enemies of Afghanistan, a term used against Taliban militants by Afghan officials, for organizing the blast.

Notorious for militancy and poppy growing, the Helmand province has been the scene of Taliban's roadside bombings and attacks during the past week, as three police constables have been injured in militants' ambush at the same locations Nahr-e-Saraj District last Tuesday.—Xinhua

Premature explosion kills Taliban commander, four others in N Afghanistan

KABUL, 21 Feb — Five Taliban militants including their commander were killed as a mine went off prematurely in Afghanistan's northern Kunduz Province Friday, spokesman for provincial administration Mahboobullah Sayedi said on Saturday.

"Taliban commander Mullah Sharafudin alias Shahabudin along with four of his bodyguards were killed while a mine they wanted to plant on a road in Dasht-e-Archi District exploded prematurely killing five on the spot," Sayedi told Xinhua.

He also added that Mullah Sharafudin had served as district chief from Taliban side.

Taliban militants have yet to make comment.

Xinhua

Two militants killed as bomb explodes in W Afghanistan

KABUL, 21 Feb — Two Taliban militants were killed as their bomb exploded prematurely in Herat Province west of Afghanistan Saturday, a local official said.

"Two Taliban terrorists were busy in mine planting on a road in Shindand district this morning but suddenly the device went off killing both on the spot," district chief Lal Mohammad Omarzai told Xinhua.

This is the second incident of its kind claiming the lives of Taliban militants in Afghanistan over the past two days.

Similar incident killed five Taliban militants including their commander Mullah Sharafudin alias Shahabudin along with four of his bodyguards in Dasht-e-Archi district of northern Kunduz Province Friday.—Xinhua

Eight renegade Afghan police arrested in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 21 Feb — Afghan National Police (ANP) during a search operation in the country's southern Zabul Province have arrested eight policemen who joined Taliban militants days ago, Deputy to Provincial police chief said on Sunday.

"Eight police constables who joined Taliban in central Wardak Province last Wednesday were arrested in Shahri Safa District Saturday evening," Ghulam Jilani Farahi told Xinhua via telephone.

Six militants were also detained during the operation, he further added.

Xinhua

Indonesia aims to be world's breadbasket

JAKARTA, 21 Feb — Following Brazil's trail, Indonesia is encouraging foreign and local investors to lease huge swathes of fertile countryside and help make the country a major food producer.

"Feed Indonesia, then feed the world," was the recent call from President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono after the government announced plans to fast-track development of vast agricultural estates in remote areas like Papua and Borneo.

Between now and 2030 Indonesia expects to become one of the world's biggest producers of rice, maize, sugar, coffee, shrimp, meats and palm oil, senior agriculture ministry official Hilman Manan said. The world's fourth most populous country, with 235 million people, Indonesia has been self-sufficient in rice since 2008 and is already the top producer of palm oil.

"If everything goes well, Indonesia

should be able to be self-sufficient in five years. And then it can start to feed the world," said Sony Heru Priyanto, an expert at Satya Wacana Christian University. The first area targeted for development is 1.6 million hectares (3.95 million acres) in the southeast of the largely undeveloped province of Papua, around the town of Merauke.

The Merauke Integrated Food and Energy Estate will, the government hopes, create thousands of jobs and turn an impoverished and neglected corner of the Indonesian archipelago into a hive of activity. "We chose Merauke because it's the ideal place for food crop cultivation, such as rice, corn, soybean and sugar cane. Merauke District has 4.5 million hectares of land; 2.5 million hectares are ideal for cultivation," Manan said.

Internet



A Papuan farmer attends to his vegetables in Timika, in the eastern Indonesian province of Papua, on 18 Feb, 2010. Following the example of Brazil, Indonesia aims to become a major food producer, offering hundreds of thousands of hectares of rice paddies and fields to domestic and foreign investors.—INTERNET

Iran's state-owned car manufacturer Iran Khodro unveils the Peugeot 207i, a locally-built version of the French automobile firm's 207 model for the home market, in Teheran on 20 February.

INTERNET



Iran unveils new locally made Peugeot car

TEHERAN, 21 Feb — Iran's state-owned car manufacturer Iran Khodro unveiled for the home market on Saturday the Peugeot 207i, a locally built version of the French automobile firm's 207 model.

The Peugeot 207i will hit the market at the beginning of the next Iranian year which starts on 21 March. "We decided to produce the 207i for its low fuel consumption because, with the implementation of (a decision to withdraw) targeted subsidies, such cars will be in demand," Industry and Mines Minister Ali Akbar Mehrabian told reporters.

Over the next five years Iran intends to steadily scrap subsidies on energy products, which would make fuel items like petrol costlier. The country's petrol imports could also be targeted by Western countries as they consider levying new sanctions on Iran for its defiant nuclear programme.—Xinhua

Syria, France to boost economic cooperation

DAMASCUS, 21 Feb — The Syrian and French prime ministers on Saturday called for boosting economic relations between the two countries to match the level of standing political relations. Syrian Prime Minister

Mohammad Naji Otri on Saturday held talks with his French counterpart Francois Fillon who arrived in Damascus on Friday evening for a two-day official visit to Syria, hailing Fillon's visit marks a new stage of cooperation between the two countries.

Otri hoped that the talks will lead to bolstering cooperation in economy, trade, industry and transport, stressing to expand Syrian-French cooperation in the fields of training and education and establishing investment partnership.

The Syrian prime minister invited French companies to expand investment, particularly in the fields of energy, oil, gas, transportation and public services.—Internet

Visitor arrivals to HK up 17% during Chinese New Year

HONG KONG, 21 Feb — Total visitor arrivals to Hong Kong from 13 to 19 Feb, dubbed as the Chinese New Year Golden Week, reached 782,163, up 16.9 percent over the same period last year, the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTb) announced on Saturday.

Out of the total arrivals, those from the Chinese Mainland took up more than 70 percent, said the board.

In particular, Mainland arrivals surged to 102,849 on 16 Feb, the third day of the Lunar New Year, setting a new record of Mainland arrivals in a single day. In addition to the Mainland, robust growth was also recorded for other short- and long-haul markets.

HKTb's provisional figures showed that the cumulative visitor arrivals from 1 Jan to 19 Feb have already surpassed 5 million, reaching a new historic high.—Internet

Japan to review car recall system

TOKYO, 21 Feb — Japan's transport ministry may review and improve its car recall system, reports said Sunday, as Toyota Motor Corp battles accusations it may have delayed acting on drivers' complaints.

The step reflects deepening concerns in Japan over Toyota's recalls of more than 8 million vehicles, most of them in overseas markets.

Transport Minister Seiji Maehara told Japa-

nese lawmakers Friday that he hopes to try to improve his agency's recall system to respond better to consumer interests, Kyodo News agency reported.

"We will consider reviewing the recall system to make it more familiar to users," Maehara told a Lower House Committee.

The agency may require automakers to move more quickly to fix defects and may expand the types of problems subject to reporting requirements, according to the reports, which also included one in the Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper. The reports cited unnamed ministry officials.—Internet

The open letter that was sent to Toyota owners is displayed in the visitor centre at the Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Kentucky plant in Georgetown, Ky, on 18 Feb, 2010.

INTERNET





Firefighters spray water at a chemical plant in Shaoxing, east China's Zhejiang Province, on 20 Feb, 2010. A fire broke out at the silicone oil department of the organic silicon plant around 14 local time (0600 GMT) on Saturday. Fire department managed to control the fire soon and save two injured workers. —XINHUA

Argentina calls for dialogue with Britain over disputed islands

BUENOS AIRES, 21 Feb—Argentina on Saturday pushed for a negotiated solution to a diplomatic row with Britain after Britain decided to launch oil and gas exploration in the disputed Malvinas (Falkland) Islands.

Argentine Foreign Minister Jorge Taiana said in Mexico, where he is attending a Rio Group summit, that Britain should "sit down and have a dialogue about sovereignty" to settle the dispute.

Taiana is also to meet with UN Secretary-Gen-

eral Ban Ki-moon Wednesday to urge talks.

Argentina called Britain's planned hydrocarbon exploration in the north of the Malvinas (Falkland) Islands "a unilateral act of aggression" and Argentine President Cristina Fernandez signed a decree limiting maritime transit between the continental territory and the islands. British Foreign Secretary David Miliband said on Thursday that the exploration was "completely in accordance with international law." But British Prime Minister Gordon

Brown said on Friday in London that he was "confident" diplomacy could resolve a row over the disputed islands.

Xinhua

Six terrorists killed, arrested in Algeria

ALGIERS, 21 Feb—Algerian security forces killed three terrorists and arrested as many in operations in the north, local *el-Khabar* newspaper reported on Saturday.

According to the paper, two terrorists were killed and another was ar-

Rio Group's Unity Summit to focus on Haiti, new structure

PLAYA DEL CARMEN, 21 Feb—The Group of Rio meeting that runs from Saturday to Tuesday in Playa del Carmen, a resort city on Mexico's Caribbean coast, looks set to focus on regional efforts to help the recovery in Caribbean nation Haiti, which was struck by an earthquake on 12 Jan, that measured 7.3 on the Richter scale and killed more than 200,000 residents.

It may also see the creation of a new larger organi-

zation that adds Caribbean island nations to the existing Group of Rio 24-nation membership. This may follow the pattern pioneered by the Central American Integration System (SICA) in the 1990s. SICA first joined as an organization in 1990, but left in 2000 when its six members joined as individuals. Six of Caricom's 15 members are also Rio members on an individual basis.

Also under discussion will be economic recovery

in the region, which was one of the worst hit by the international financial crisis that triggered the biggest worldwide recession in 70 years.

Mexico suffered most during the crisis, with its economy registering a decline of 10.3 percent during its worst point in 2009. But the Rio Group's largest economic powerhouse, Brazil, came out relatively unscathed, growing modestly through the year as a whole.—Xinhua

All Items from Xinhua News Agency

A folk artist performs at Huoshentai temple fair in Shangqiu, central China's Henan Province, on 20 Feb, 2010. Huoshentai temple fair was held on Saturday in Shangqiu.—XINHUA



Israeli troops wound three Palestinians near Bethlehem

RAMALLAH, 21 Feb—Israeli troops on Saturday night shot and wounded three Palestinians in the village of Hosan near the West Bank city of Bethlehem, medics and local sources

said. The sources said that the three wounded Palestinians were in a car that drove in the village, adding that an Israeli army force opened fire at the car and hit its riders. Medics said that one of the three is in critical conditions.

The sources added that the Israeli army closed the area of the incident and imposed a curfew on the village, adding that Israeli soldiers stormed several homes in the village.

Earlier on Saturday, two Palestinian workers were injured when Israeli soldiers opened fire at their car near the southern West Bank city of Hebron, one of them was seriously injured.

Xinhua

Egyptian FM urges Palestinian factions to sign reconciliation paper

CAIRO, 21 Feb—Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul-Gheit urged on Saturday the rival Palestinian factions to sign the Egyptian-brokered reconciliation paper, the state-run *MENA* news agency reported. "Palestinian reconciliation remains a major priority to Egypt," he said, adding that any remarks on the reconciliation paper will be taken into consideration during implementation.

He made the remarks while addressing the third meeting of the board of trustees of Yasser Arafat Foundation held in the Arab League headquarters

in Cairo.

Palestinian division is a pain in the heart of every Arab citizen who is keen on reaching a solution to the Palestinian issue, Abul-Gheit said.

Moreover, he said Egypt supports any effort that could achieve the goal of resuming peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians according to a timetable and in a way that tackles all issues re-

lated to the final-status solution, including Jerusalem and border demarcation.—Xinhua

Xinhua

Palestinian children take part in a swimming training at the sports club "Namaa" in Gaza Strip on 20 Feb, 2010. —XINHUA



Yemen rebels block army from deploying along Saudi border

SANAA, 21 Feb—Shiite rebels prevented Yemeni government troops from deploying along the Saudi border on Saturday in defiance of the terms of a ceasefire, said a member of a committee established to oversee the truce.

“Deployment of the army along the border is making no headway because of the rebel refusal to conform to the terms of the ceasefire” agreed last week to end six months of fighting, said the source.

“Rather than dismantle their positions to permit the army deployment, they have simply redeployed those positions in the region of Malahidh,” in Saada Province, said the source.

Rebel sources could not immediately be reached for comment.

Storms may delay space shuttle Endeavour landing

HOUSTON, 21 Feb—Astronauts aboard the US shuttle Endeavour hope to end their two-week mission to the International Space Station on Sunday, but stormy weather is threatening to delay their return to Earth.

Endeavour's six crew are scheduled to touchdown at NASA's Kennedy Space Centre in Florida at 10:16 pm (0316 GMT), but the weather outlook included rain showers and overcast conditions near the coastal runway.

Similar conditions were forecast at the shuttle's backup runway at Edwards Air Force Base in California, complicating efforts to end a flight that equipped the International Space Station with Tranquility — a habitable module — and a new observation deck offering stunning views of space.

The Endeavour crew had additional landing opportunities late Sunday and Monday in Florida and California. Conditions were forecast to worsen at Kennedy on Monday, but improve at Edwards.—*Internet*

On Thursday, ceasefire monitors had said the army could begin taking up positions along the border on Saturday if demining operations were completed.—*Internet*

Drought continues to ravage southwest China, extending to north

BEIJING, 21 Feb—A total of 53.36 million Mu (about 3.56 million hectares) of crops in China had been affected by severe drought by Saturday, said the Office of State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters.

The drought, mostly in China's southwestern provinces including Yunnan and Guizhou, had damaged crops and caused water shortage to both people and livestock.

In Yunnan, the worst drought-stricken province,

A farmer walks on the cracking bottom of a pond in Shilin County, southwest China's Kunming City, on 2 Feb, 2010. —XINHUA

MANILA, 21 Feb—Philippine marines killed six al-Qaeda-linked militants early Sunday in an assault on a rebel encampment on a southern island and were

investigating whether one of the dead was a top insurgent leader, a senior military commander said.

A marine special operations platoon

raided an Abu Sayyaf camp outside Maimbung township on Jolo island following intelligence reports that two wanted militant leaders, Umbra Jumdal and Albader Parad, were there, said Lt Gen Benjamin Dolorfino, head of the military's Western Mindanao Command.

One marine was killed and three others were wounded in the clash, Philippine marines spokesman Lt Col Edgard Arevalo said.

Xinhua

Internet



A researcher records the behaviour of a Borneo pygmy elephant with the satellite tracking collar in Kinabatangan, Sabah, in eastern Malaysia 20 Feb, 2010. Researchers on Saturday put satellite tracking collars on one male and two female Borneo pygmy elephants, in an attempt to track the different behaviour and habit between the two genders. Borneo pygmy elephant, which only exist on the northeastern tip of the Borneo Island, are under the threat from the shrinking habitat.

Dog missing 40 days found, rescued

A 13-year-old black Labrador retriever missing from its California home for 40 days was rescued and returned by a neighbour, the dog's owner said.

Terina Held had been searching for her dog Buck in the Santa Cruz Mountains near her rural home in Los Gatos since 6 Jan, the Santa Cruz Sentinel reported.

The family's other dog had returned home from a run that day alone, and Held began searching, calling neighbours and putting up fliers.

“There is crazy landscape here with redwoods and cliffs; it's pretty hairy,” said Held. “We did everything we could for four weeks.”



Donka (front L2) and Nasko dance during their wedding at an open-air brides market in Mogila village, 220km from Bulgaria's capital Sofia. Every year, at saint Todor's day, families from a specific gypsy clan gather to find appropriate husbands for their girls. Dressed in their finest clothes, the girls try to catch the attention of men who are willing to pay a good price for them.

Teens may need more morning light

More morning light could overcome teenage “night owl syndrome,” US researchers suggest. Mariana Figueiro of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY, Dr Mark Rea and colleagues say many students miss out on morning light because they arrive at school before sun up.

In addition, schools seldom provide adequate light to stimulate the circadian system that regulates sleep patterns. Light that is enough to read and study by does not guarantee sufficient light for the biological system, Figueiro said.

“These morning-light-deprived teenagers are going to bed later, getting less sleep and possibly under-performing on standardized tests,” Figueiro said in a statement. “We are starting to call this the teenage night owl syndrome.”

The study, published in *Neuroendocrinology Letters*, found that 11 eighth-grade students attending an exceptionally well designed school providing blue light who wore special glasses to prevent short-wavelength — blue — morning light from reaching their eyes experienced a 30-minute delay in sleep onset by the end of the five-day study.

Visitors look at a classic car during a classic cars parade in Napier, New Zealand. More than 300 classic cars attended the parade.



NEWS ALBUM

Woman has baby after 18 miscarriages

A British woman who has had 18 miscarriages said she was finally able to give birth thanks to special treatments by a London doctor.

Angie Baker, 33, of Peacehaven, England, said she was able to give birth to a 7-pound baby girl on 9 Dec after 18 previous failed attempts because of treatment from Dr Hassan Shehata at St Helier Hospital in London, *The Times of London* reported.

“She's my little miracle. I can't explain how I feel. I'm overwhelmed. It seems like a dream and I still have to pinch myself. She's perfect in every way,” Baker said.

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb—Nay Pyi Taw Pynmana-Pinlaung Road is being upgraded by the Ministry of Construction for express buses.

Divided into two road sections, Nay Pyi Taw Pynmana-Pinlaung Road is being upgraded by Nay Pyi Taw District Public Works and the Road Construction Special Group-13 of the Ministry of Construction.

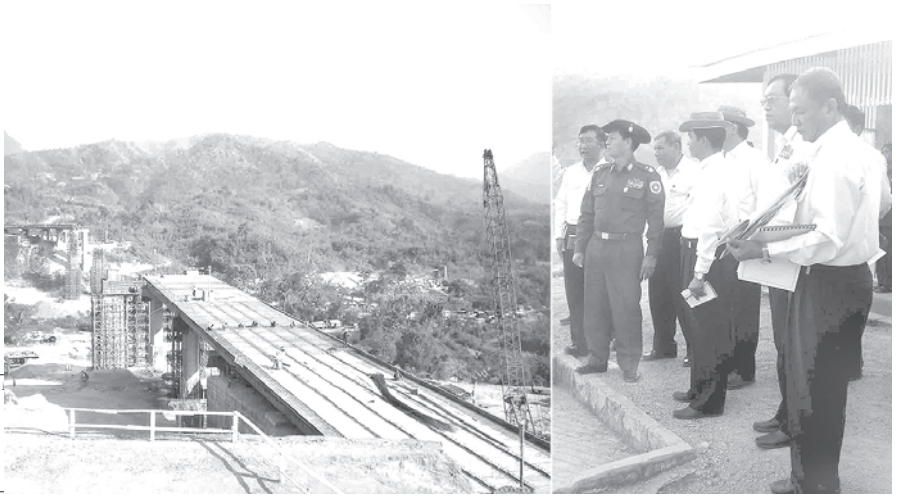
During the tour of inspection of the roadwork yesterday, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint gave instructions to officials concerned to extend the turnings as the mountain road and to construct drains on both sides of the road.

The minister also inspected construction of Leinli Suspension Bridge on the road and fulfilled the requirements of the construction.

The main portion of the suspension bridge is 1,000 ft long and each of its approach bridge is 760 ft long. The facility supporting on 25 ft motor road can withstand 75 tons of load.—MNA

Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint views construction site of Leinli Suspension Bridge.—CONSTRUCTION

Nay Pyi Taw Pynmana-Pinlaung Road sets sight on express service



Fire is a good servant but a bad...

(from page 16)

Ques: If so, what measures should be taken for prevention?

Ans : There are a lot to do. Mainly, respective markets are to take fire preventive measures in coordination with fire brigades concerned and to have two separate lines, power line and market security line.

monthly fire fighting drills.

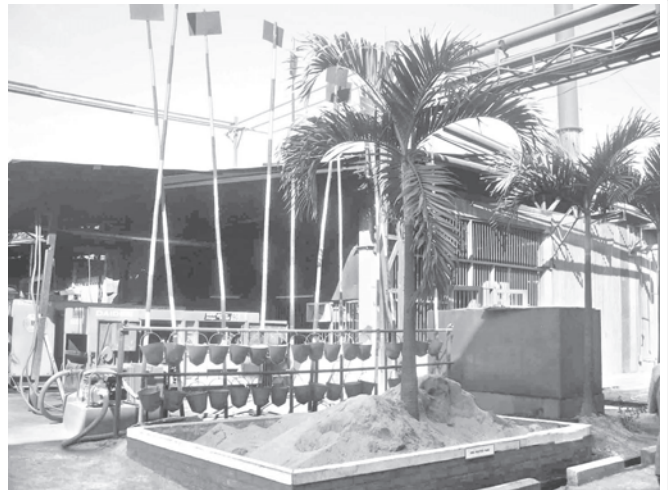
Ques: Let me know the average capacity of a fire engine.

Ans: A fire engine has a capacity of 700 to 1,000 gallons on average.

The amount can be used only from three to five minutes. So, fire engines need to fill up water again and thus every street,

ment.

Emergency lifts in skyscrapers need regular check and every room need to keep a rope that can bear the weight of a human body. Shopping malls are to be kit out with fire hydrant, fire hose, emergency generator, emergency lighting, exit sign, automotive shower system with sensor, ladders used by fire fighters, fire control



Equipment to be ready for use in case of fire.



An educative talk on fire prevention.

And power line must be switched off when the market closes. Markets are to be equipped with fire fighting equipment including water tanks with minimum capacity of 5,000 gallons in addition to auxiliary fire brigade and bi-

ward and factory need to be equipped with water storage tanks with capacity of 5,000 gallons to 10,000 gallons, underground taps, water towers, water barrels, sand, mi-cheik, mi-kap, water tanks, shovels, and light fire fighting equip-

section since its formation.

Ques: What should we do to minimize the fire outbreaks?

Ans : Respective townships are to draw fire preventive measures every year. Fire drills in particular areas, door-to-door inspection of villages and

wards, tougher inspection of factories and workshops, educative talks to staff, regular day and night warning in wards, establishment of poster boards warning the danger of fire, educative talks through

media and in wards, villages and schools are also a must.

He said Yangon saw 432 fire outbreaks in 2004, 282 in 2005, 287 in 2006, 267 in 2007, 161 in 2008 and 117 till November, 2009.

When asked his

warning to avoid undue losses, he stressed the word "caution". I would like to warn the public that fire is a good servant but a bad master.

Translation: TKK

Kyemon:

21-2-2010



Staff of Fire Services Department demonstrating the use of fire extinguisher.

Better transportation means...

(from page 1)

Moetagyi-Bhamo railroad (81.32 miles), Mongnai-Kengtung railroad (226 miles), Minbu-An-Yechanpyin railroad (245.54 miles), Dawei-Myeik railroad (132.50 miles), Pathein (Begar)-Nyaungdon-Yangon (Hlinethaya) railroad (89 miles), Pyay (Shwedaga)-

Toungoo (Kyetau)-Nay Pyi Taw railroad (120 miles), Hinthada-Nyaungdon railroad (48 miles), Thayet-Kyunchaung railroad (190.86 miles), and Ywataw-Kanpya railroad (65.20 miles) are also under construction.

The commander, Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min and Minister for

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Soe gives a speech at the opening ceremony of Katha-Moetagyi railroad section.

MNA



Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint posed for documentary photo together with local people.

Katha-Moetagyi railroad section of Katha-Bhamo Railroad Construction Project was put into commission on 16 May, 2007. The 16.68 miles long railroad section is in Katha Township and is composed of four railway stations, namely

Katha, Pawmamyine, Minle and Moetagyi.

MNA

Objectives of 65th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

1. To uphold Our Three Main National Causes at risk to life as the national policy
2. To work hard with national people for successful completion of elections due to be held in accordance with the new constitution
3. To crush internal and external subversive elements through the strength and consolidated unity of the people
4. To build a strong, patriotic modern Tatmadaw capable of safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the nation

Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min delivers a speech at the opening ceremony of Katha-Moetagyi railroad section.

MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Soe, Ministers Maj-Gen Aung Min and Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint present gifts to passengers on special train.—MNA

Myanmar, Indonesian entrepreneurs to meet

YANGON, 21 Feb—Joint Secretary General U Myint Soe of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry received Second Secretary (Economic) Mr Gopokson T. Situmorang of the Indonesian Embassy at UMFCFI

office on Minyekyawswa Road in Lanmadaw Township here on 15 February. They discussed matters relating to holding discussions between Myanmar and Indonesian entrepreneurs in Myanmar on 25 February.

The Indonesian delegation will comprise

foodstuff, textile, construction materials, furniture, handicraft, mines, medicine and medical equipment, cosmetic, airline and lubricant entrepreneurs. Those wishing to attend the discussion may register at UMFCFI office (ph-214344-49).—MNA

Myanmar Dental Association to give talks on 25 Feb

YANGON, 21 Feb—Talks on Recent Trends in Management of CL II & CL III Malocclusions, organized by Myanmar Dental Association un-

der continuous learning programme, will be held at the hall of Myanmar Medical Association at No. 249 on Theinbyu Road, Mingala

Taungnyunt Township here on 25 February. Members of the Association and dentists may attend the talks.

MNA



A train running on Katha-Moetagyi railroad section.—MNA



Opening of Katha-Moetagyi railroad section of Katha-Bhamo railroad construction project in progress.—MNA

Prize presentation timetable changes

YANGON, 21 Feb—The U Ohn Pe Literary Award, Scholarship Award, Pakokku Library Award will be held at 10.30 am instead of 9 am on 28 February at Grand Ballroom of Chatrium Hotel on Natmauk Road, here.

The rehearsal will be held at the hall of Sarpay Beikman at 529/531 on Merchant Street at 1 pm on 27 February. All winners are reminded to attend the ceremony without fail.

The literary award, scholarship award winners for National Culture and Fine Arts University and Pakokku Library Award winners are to contact Secretary of the Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award Scrutiny Committee U Maung Hlaing (Tel: 01-391448 and 0980-21703) and scholarship award winners Director U Myo Thant (Tel: 067-407272) and Deputy Director-General U Tun Hla (Tel: 01-548540) of Education Planning and Training Department soonest.

MNA

An Airport, better civil aviation facility for Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb—With a view to enhancing better civil aviation for the people of Rakhine State, the Ministry of Transport is making all-out efforts for construction of An Airport.

On 19 and 20 February, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe on his inspection tour of An Airport construction project, stressed the need to keep the airport green and pleasant by growing flowery plants and shade trees, to check communication devices and signal lights daily, to always take care of airport security, to minimize loss and wastage in the construction tasks and to carry out proper flow of drains in the area of the

airport. Yesterday, Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Thaung Aye and the minister looked into progress of construction tasks for runway, taxiway and control tower, landing of aircrafts and fencing of the airport compound.

At present, the runway, the control tower building and the approach road to the airport are under construction. Fencing of the airport is in progress.

On 19 February, Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Thaung Aye and



Commander Maj-Gen Thaung Aye and Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspect An Airport construction project.—MNA

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspected jetties of Inland Water Transport and berthing of vessels in Tattaung Village of An Township.

MNA

Offshore gas to Yangon for domestic use

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb — As part of piping natural gas from offshore oil field to Yangon for domestic consumption, 24-inch diameter pipes are being laid in Dedaye-Pyapon-Daw Nyein section in Ahmar Township, Pyapon

District, by Ministry of Energy.

Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay went to the worksite in Pyapon Township yesterday and assisted in laying pipes and called for completion of work meeting the set standard.

On his tour of Ahmar Township, the deputy minister inspected the construction of Pipeline Centre and Daw Nyein Landfall which will link pipelines between offshore oil field and inland area.

MNA



Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Htay inspects preparation of crane at landfall in Daw Nyein Village in Ahmar Township, Pyapon District.

MNA

Opening of tarred street honours 63rd Union Day

YANGON, 21 Feb—The opening of self-reliant new tarred street named Zinyaw located in Kwin ward of Mawlamyine in honour of 63rd Anniversary Union Day was held at that place on 11 February.

Executive Officer U Kyaw Lin of Township Development Affairs Committee explained efforts made for construction of the street.

Secretary of Mon State Peace and Development Council U

Than Win, Director of Mon State DAC U Aye Swe and Chairman of Street Construction Committee U Tun Min inaugurated the new street built by Mawlamyine Township DAC.

MNA

More schools for disabled youths

YANGON, 21 Feb—Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe visited the school for the girls of Social Welfare Department in Malikha Street, Mayangon

Township, here, this morning.

During the tour, the minister inspected the hostels, mess halls and class rooms, and he encouraged students who will sit for matriculation examination.

On arrival at the Social Welfare Training School on Kyaikwaing Road, the minister chose sites for new staff quarter and disable youth training school and school building for Disable Child Nursery Centre.—MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe meets with students who will sit for matriculation exam at training school for the girls in Mayangon Township.—swd

Mandalarians in Yangon to meet on 6 March

YANGON, 21 Feb—Mandalay Association (Yangon) will hold its 33rd annual general meeting and 34th prize-presenting ceremony and ceremonies to honour the honorable title winners awarded by the State and to donate cash for rice donation of Mandalay Chanthagyi Rice Donation

Association at the Tipitaka monastery, the Sakarwah street in Dagon township at 9 am on 6 March.

Students of the members of the association who have passed the matriculation exam with flying colours are to register together with the testimonies. The

wellwishers and donors may make donation at No.628/632, at the corner of Merchant Street and 30th street, on the first floor of the building (Ph-375594 and 388603).

The association has reminded its members to attend the ceremony without fail.—MNA

Take Fire Preventive Measures



A worker stands next to electromotive bicycles at the workshop in Tianjin Hanma Electromotive Bicycle Factory in China's northern city of Tianjin in January. Up to 120 million e-bikes are estimated to be on the roads in China, making them already the top alternative to cars and public transport, according to recent figures published by local media.—INTERNET

Electric bikes on a roll in China

TIANJIN, 21 Feb — Chinese commuters in their millions are turning to electric bicycles — hailed as the environmentally-friendly future of personal transport in the country's teeming cities.

Up to 120 million e-bikes are estimated to be on the roads in China, making them already the top alternative to cars and public transport, according to recent figures published by local media.

"This is the future — it's practical, it's clean and it's economical," said manufacturer Shi Zhongdong, whose com-

pany also exports electric bikes to Asia and Europe.

The bikes have been hailed as an ecologically-sound alternative in a country which is the world's top emitter of greenhouse gases, with their rechargeable batteries leaving a smaller carbon footprint than cars.

But some have expressed concerns about the pollution created by cheaper lead batteries, calling for better recycling and a quick shift to cleaner, though more expensive, lithium-ion battery technology.

Internet

32 dead as rainstorms hit Portuguese island

LISBON, 21 Feb—Violent rainstorms have killed at least 32 people on the Portuguese Atlantic island of Madeira, a senior official said, as Lisbon rushed relief supplies to the stricken territory. "We already have 32 fatalities and 68 injured, all of them in hospital," Joao Cunha e Silva, the vice president of the island's government, told the private Sic Noticias television channel Saturday. Television pictures showed torrents of muddy water bursting out of narrow channels, flooding roads and leaving debris in its wake, as locals struggled to keep their feet in the sudden

flash floods.

The Portuguese naval frigate Corte-Real set off from Lisbon for Madeira late Saturday with helicopters, a medical team and relief supplies, the armed forces said in a statement.

Also en route were two helicopters and two C-130 Hercules transport aircraft. A rescue team of 56 gendarmes and 36 firefighters was to depart Lisbon for the island's capital Funchal early on Sunday.—Internet

People look at cars carried down a hillside by floodwaters outside Funchal, the Madeira Island's capital, on 20 Feb, 2010. Heavy rain caused flash floods all around the Portuguese island and the local government has confirmed 32 dead.

INTERNET



Mexican cops find two bodies on road near Acapulco

ACAPULCO, 21 Feb—Police found the bound bodies of two men on a highway just outside Mexico's Pacific coast resort of Acapulco on Saturday.

The Public Safety Department in the southern state of Guerrero said the two men had been shot in the head and a handwritten message was left near the bodies.

The body of a third man was found in Ciudad Altamirano, an inland city in Guerrero near the border with neighbouring Michoacan state.

That body was missing its head and limbs, which had apparently been cut off. A handwritten message — a common tactic of Mexico's drug gangs — was also found near the body. Police seldom reveal the contents of such messages.—Internet

20 hurt by turbulence on United flight to Japan

TOKYO, 21 Feb—About 20 people have been injured by turbulence aboard a United Airlines plane flying from Washington, DC, to Japan.

Tetsuya Shinozuka, a police official at Tokyo's Narita International Airport, says many of the injuries were bruises, but at least one person may have broken a leg. He gave no further details.

United Airlines spokesman Mike Trevino in Chicago says about halfway into the 13-hour flight, the pilot advised passengers to put on their seat belts. A short time later, the plane "experienced moderate turbulence."

He declined to discuss

any injuries but says United is cooperating with health officials.

The Boeing 747 with 263 people on board landed on schedule Saturday in Tokyo.

Internet

Abu Dhabi police seize over two million narcotic pills

ABU DHABI, 21 Feb—Abu Dhabi police have arrested an Arab national and seized more than two million narcotic pills he planned to smuggle from the United Arab Emirates to another Gulf country,

the official WAM news agency reported Saturday.

The suspect, identified by his initials AAA, had hidden 2,236,985 pills in bags at a house in Al-Ain, about 150 kilometres (93

miles) southeast of the capital, WAM said. It did not identify the specific type of pill.

The man said the pills belonged to a relative, and that he did not know the shipment contained drugs.

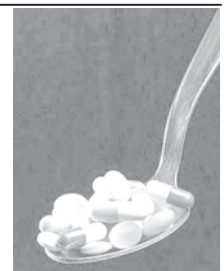
WAM quoted Lieutenant Colonel Hamad Ahmed al-Hamadi as saying the pills were smuggled into the UAE via a seaport.

Under UAE law, drug traffickers can receive the death penalty.

Internet



Injured passenger receives treatment when A United Airlines passenger plane lands at Narita Airport, in suburban Tokyo, on 20 Feb. Eighteen people were injured, with one breaking a leg, when a passenger plane hit turbulence en route from Tokyo to Washington, Japanese police said on Saturday. —XINHUA



Abu Dhabi police have arrested an Arab national and seized more than two million narcotic pills he planned to smuggle from the United Arab Emirates to another Gulf country, the official WAM news agency reported Saturday.—INTERNET



Photo taken on 19 Feb, 2010 shows the "Joy Street" of Holand Pavilion in Pudong Expo Site in Shanghai, east China. The foreign pavilions in Pudong Expo Site have entered the phase of internal decoration and exhibition installation.—XINHUA

Captain, students recount sailing ship horror

RIO DE JANEIRO, 21 Feb—When wind and rough seas drove the Canadian sailing ship carrying dozens of teenage students to lean precariously to one side, the captain figured it was just another day of sailing in rough weather. When the boat immediately keeled again, he knew it was going down.

"The ship had gone from sailing upright to being on her side in the water in about 15 or 20 seconds," William Curry said. "I knew, of course, that the blow to the ship was fatal and that she was not going to right." Just like that, a five-month academic dream cruise for 64 young students and crew ended in a mad scramble for life

rafts as the *SV Concordia* was quickly sucked beneath the waves.

Back on land today, they recounted how fears of starvation and a lonely death far from land filled their heads during two nightmarish days adrift at sea. Curry called it a miracle that everyone on board made it into rafts and survived after the three-masted *Concordia* apparently experienced a weather phenomenon known as a "microburst" — a sudden, violent downdraft of wind — that instantly crippled the vessel on Wednesday.

Internet

US toddler, woman killed by pit bulls

PHILADELPHIA, 21 Feb—A 38-year-old Philadelphia woman was killed Saturday morning by her family's pit bulls terriers, *My Fox Philly* reported — only hours before a toddler was killed in Florida, apparently by the same breed. The Philadelphia woman was named as Christine Stabb, 38. Her mother Barbara Erb said she was arguing with her daughter, when her pit bull named Jade attacked, killing her daughter.

Erb said she locked her five other pit bulls in the kitchen and called 911. When police arrived, they shot and killed Jade and another dog named Bear that lunged when shots were fired. The four other dogs were taken away by animal control officers while authorities continue to investigate the incident. Meanwhile in Florida, *MyFox Orlando* reported that a three-year-old girl was killed at her Ocala home on Saturday (EST) - where her family operated a business called Haakers Dream Bull-dog Ranch. —Internet

File photo of a Czech doctor performing in vitro fertilization at the Clinic of Reproductive Medicine and Gynaecology. Women will soon be able to tell how many eggs they have in their ovaries in a simple hormone test that Australian researchers said Sunday could revolutionize family planning and fertility treatment.

INTERNET



Singing 'rewires' damaged brain

SAN DIEGO, 21 Feb—Teaching stroke patients to sing "rewires" their brains, helping them recover their speech, say scientists. By singing, patients use a different area of the brain from the area involved in speech. If a person's "speech centre" is damaged by a stroke,

they can learn to use their "singing centre" instead.

Researchers presented these findings at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in San Diego. An ongoing clinical trial, they said, has shown how the

brain responds to this "melodic intonation therapy". Gottfried Schlaug, a neurology professor at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Harvard Medical School in Boston, US, led the trial.

The therapy is already established as a medical technique. Researchers first used it when it was discovered that stroke patients with brain damage that left them unable to speak were still able to sing. Professor Schlaug explained that his was the first study to combine this therapy with brain imaging - "to show what is actually going on in the brain" as patients learn to sing their words.

Internet

Water-skier killed after hitting tree

BEWONG, 21 Feb—A water-skier has died after hitting a partially submerged tree on a waterway on NSW's south coast. The 56-year-old was waterskiing behind a boat on Wandandian Creek, Bewong, yesterday afternoon when he struck the tree, police said. He was pulled unconscious from the water by the boat's driver and rushed to a boat ramp. Paramedics were standing by to transport him to hospital but he was pronounced dead on arrival. Police said they seized the boat, skis and a tow rope for forensic examination.—Internet



Hollywood 'ignores' true story of cure for disorder

LONDON, 21 Feb — It is the astonishing story of an American's efforts to find a cure for the rare genetic condition killing his children. Harrison Ford's latest Hollywood blockbuster, *Extraordinary Measures*, is described as being "inspired by the true events" of a successful fight against fatal Pompe

disease. ut support groups representing the families of those who suffer from the disorder have accused the film's makers of ignoring the European scientists who actually discovered the world's only treatment for it.

Extraordinary Measures, which is directed by Scot Tom Vaughan, pre-

mieres in the UK this week. But the Association of Glycogen Storage Disorders (AGSD), which was founded by a Scot whose baby died from the condition, says that while it welcomes the spotlight the film, based on a Pulitzer Prize-winning book, will turn on the disease, the film-makers have "airbrushed" the real story out of the picture.

Internet

Siberian tigers sit up gesturing to visitors during a show at a zoo on the second day of the Lunar New Year in Fuzhou in southeast China's Fujian Province, on 15 Feb, 2010. Millions of Chinese celebrated the Lunar New Year of the Tiger which began on Sunday.

INTERNET

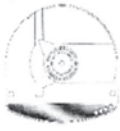
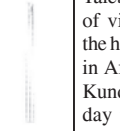
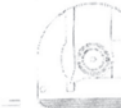
Three drown after falling through thin ice

ILLINOIS, 21 Feb — Two children and an adult woman have drowned after falling through thin ice on a St Clair County lake in Illinois — 42 kilometres south of St Louis, *MyFox National* reports. The St Clair County Sheriff's Department and Monroe County Deputies were alerted to the tragedy by a woman who reported that she was having trouble locating her 6-year-old son, Steven Baum, who had been visiting a friend, Kadin Baxmeyer, 7.

Internet

INDUSTRIAL DESIGN CAUTIONARY NOTICE

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Figure 1
(Front)Figure 2
(Rear)Figure 3
(Left side)Figure 4
(Right side)Figure 5
(Top plan)Figure 6
(Bottom plan)Figure 7
(Reference rear view)

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For Sony Computer Entertainment Inc.,
C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,
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Yangon, Union of Myanmar

Dated 22 February 2010

Afghan police deployed in Helmand warzone

KABUL, 21 Feb—Hundreds of Afghan police officers have been deployed in areas captured by NATO forces fighting a major offensive against the Taliban, officials say. They have been sent to the Helmand Province area of Marjah, to hold ground gained in Operation Moshtarak.

The British military says Taliban resistance to the offensive has increased, as expected.

Meanwhile, the Taliban denied NATO claims that militants were using human shields, and were low on ammunition. Taliban spokesman Qari Yusuf Ahmadi told BBC Pashto that militants in Marjah had been able to get ammunition from captured NATO weapons.

Internet

Afghan police repel Taliban attack on district chief house, one killed

KUNDUZ, 21 Feb — Taliban in the latest wave of violent attacks raided the house of a district chief in Afghanistan's northern Kunduz Province on Friday night and police repulsed the attack killing the attacker, deputy to provincial police chief Abdul Rahman Haqtash said on Saturday. "A group of Taliban rebels under Mullah Khanak attacked the house of the chief of Archi District Shikh Sadi on Friday night but police returned fire killing Khanak on the spot," Haqtash told Xinhua. No casualty has been reported on police, he added.

Xinhua

Researchers pinpoint Bosworth battlefield

UPTON, 21 Feb— An archaeological team has announced it has found the exact site of the battle of Bosworth Field, a turning point in English history.

The archaeologists said they believe they have pinpointed the place where Richard III made his last stand 22 Aug, 1485, The Guardian reported. Richard, the last British king to die in combat, was defeated by Henry Tudor, who was crowned Henry VII on the battlefield.

"This is a discovery as important to us as Schliemann discovering Troy," Frank Baldwin, head of the Battlefields Trust, said.

The site in Leicestershire is almost 2 miles from the battlefield visitors' centre.

Internet

US Marines seize Taliban headquarters, IDs, photos

MARJAH, 21 Feb —After a fierce gunfight, US Marines seized a strongly defended compound on Friday that appears to have been a Taliban headquarters — complete with photos of fighters posing with their weapons, dozens of Taliban-issued ID cards and graduation diplomas from a training camp in Pakistan.

Militants who had been using the field office just south of Marjah's town centre abandoned it by the end of the day's fighting, as Marines converged on them from all sides, escalating operations to break resistance in this Taliban stronghold in southern Helmand Province.

Marines fought their way south from the town centre on Friday after residents told them that several dozen militant fighters had regrouped in the area. Throughout the day, small groups of Taliban marksmen tried to slow the advance with rifle fire as they slowly fell back in face of the Marine assault.

As the Marines advanced, they found rows of abandoned bunkers dug alongside an irrigation canal that the Taliban had used to fire on them the day before. Located at a crossroads, the five abandoned bunkers, camouflaged under a layer of mud, looked out across an open field. In

the near distance, large stones had been set up to help the Taliban site in on their targets.—Internet

Floating: A model presents a creation by designer Francis Montesinos during the Madrid Cibeles Fashion week.

INTERNET



A view of South Asia's first floating power station in 1998. Energy-hungry Bangladesh has signed a 1.7-billion-dollar deal with India to build two coal-fired power plants in the country's south to ease a huge electricity shortage, an official said on Saturday.—INTERNET



Thai diplomat is killed in Bangladesh road crash

DHAKA, 21 Feb—A senior Thai diplomat in Bangladesh has been killed in a road accident near the capital, Dhaka, officials say. They say that deputy Thai embassy head Pannee Lickanjule died when the vehicle she was travelling in was collided with a truck. Ms Lickanjule was travelling in a convoy that was escorting visiting Thai Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.

Figures released in 2009 showed that about 12,000 people are killed every year on Bangladesh's roads. Police say that the driver of the vehicle — who was unhurt in the accident — fled from the scene of the crash. Road safety has become an increasing concern across the country as the number of roads and vehicles increases.

Internet

Pakistan air raids kill 30 militants

ISLAMABAD, 21 Feb— Pakistani fighter planes on Saturday killed at 30 Taliban-linked militants in South Waziristan tribal region, the army said. "In Shawal mountains in South Waziristan agency 30 terrorists have been killed by security forces through strike this morning," said an

army statement.

"Hideout in Shawal mountains was targeted after a tip received that terrorists are hiding in the Shawal mountains," the text message from the army spokesman said. Pakistani forces launched major ground operation in South Waziristan tribal region in October last year, killings hundreds of militants.

Most of the militants are believed to have fled South Waziristan after the operation and moved to the neighbouring North Waziristan and Orakzai tribal region. The fighting had displaced thousands of people from Waziristan and the army chief General Ashfaq Pervaiz Kayani said earlier this month that repatriation of the displaced people will begin in March.

Xinhua



Children react as they watch a performance by the Clowns Sans Frontiers troupe, not seen, at a makeshift camp set up for earthquake survivors in Port-au-Prince, on 20 Feb, 2010. Last 12 Jan, a magnitude 7 earthquake struck Haiti, leaving thousands homeless.—INTERNET

Electric power execs lean toward nuclear

OVERLAND PARK, 21 Feb—A survey of US electric power industry leaders reflects the impact of the weak economy and indicates their support for nuclear energy.

In its fourth annual Strategic Directions in the Electric Utility Industry Survey, engineering and consulting giant Black & Veatch found that nuclear energy is the utility industry's preferred "environmentally friendly" technology, followed by wind power and natural gas.

"Contrary to many 'experts' who talk about the utility industry today, most insiders still view nuclear energy as the best

way to achieve environmental improvement while meeting the capacity and energy needs of the future," the authors of the report, released on Thursday, wrote.

Still, more than 75 percent of the 329 executives who participated in the survey said respondents said there is a future for coal-fired power plants.

Industrial and commercial sales for many utilities have been "severely or seriously eroded" by the recession, the study shows. Less than one-quarter of those surveyed said they expect electricity usage in their area to rise by more than 1.5 percent annually in the next 10 years.—*Internet*

Autism symptoms not present at six months

SACRAMENTO, 21 Feb—Symptoms of autism — a lack of shared eye contact, smiling and communicative babbling — are not present at six months, US researchers found.

Lead author Sally Ozonoff, a professor of psychiatry and behavioural sciences and a researcher with the University of California-Davis MIND Institute, said the symptoms emerge gradually and only become apparent during the latter

part of the first year of life.

The researchers conducted the study over five years by painstakingly counting each instance of smiling, babbling and eye contact during examinations until the children were age 3.

The study, published in the *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*, found that by age 12 months the two groups' development had diverged significantly.

Intentional social and

Drought concerns plague Syrian farmers

ALEPPO, 21 Feb—Pervasive drought in north-eastern Syria sparked the largest wave of internal displacement in the region in years, UN agricultural officials said.

Outdated irrigation systems and chronic drought pushes 1 million poverty-stricken farmers to look elsewhere for their livelihood, the UN's humanitarian news agency IRIN reports.

"Farmers who depend on only one crop are in trouble," said Abdulla Bin Yehia, a representative of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization in Damascus. "They have nothing else to help them and they have to move."

Soaring costs of feed

for cattle and other livestock is complicating the issue, prompting 50 percent of the population to leave for metropolitan areas.

Damascus, in coordination with the Swiss government and the United Nations, is moving on a \$40 million project for drinking water while agricultural officials tabled a \$476,000 drought-warning system.—*Internet*

Great whites more at risk than tigers

SAN DIEGO, 21 Feb—Great white shark numbers have dropped by 90 percent during the past 20 years, making them one of the world's most endangered species, US scientists said.

The great white population has dropped to below 3,500, making them even more endangered than tigers, a study from Stanford University showed.

The study found great whites were in danger from illegal fishing and being hit by boats and tangled in fishing nets, marine scientist Ronald D'Or said at the American Association for the Advancement of Science conference in San Diego.

"When I heard there may be fewer (great whites) than tigers I thought 'Oh my god' that is truly scary," D'Or said.

D'Or said people are beginning to understand how rare and special great whites are when they previously were thought of as just dangerous.

In Australia, tracking tags placed on great whites serve as warning systems to alert surfers and swimmers, *The Daily Telegraph* reported on Friday.

"They have receivers on the beaches so when a great white comes into the bay the receiver automatically makes a cell phone call and tells the guy in charge to close the beach," D'Or said.—*Internet*

A great white shark is observed during behavioural research studies off the coast of Guadalupe, Mexico, on 15 Sept, 2008.

INTERNET



SPORTS

Venus adds another record to her collection

DUBAI, 21 Feb—Venus Williams became the most successful active woman player on the WTA Tour when she secured her 42nd title by successfully defending the Dubai Open here on Saturday. Williams, who beat Victoria Azarenka 6-3, 7-5 in an absorbing final, thus overtook Justine Henin's record of 41 titles, only two months after achieving another notable

statistic — a career total of 25 million dollars in prize money.—*Internet*



Venus Williams

No goals and three red cards but Inter impress

ROME, 21 Feb—Nine-man Inter Milan stretched their lead at the top of Serie A to eight points after a 0-0 draw with 10-man Sampdoria in a nasty,



Inter Milan's forward Samuel Eto'o argues with referee Tagliavento (R) after he received a yellow card during their Serie A football match against Sampdoria at San Siro Stadium in Milan.—*INTERNET*

edgy encounter at the San Siro on Saturday. Sampdoria played around 35 minutes with a two-man advantage and 25 minutes with one extra player and yet never showed either the urgency or ingenuity needed to break down the champions.

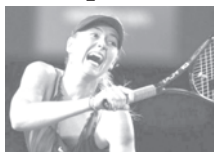
Inter lost both centre-backs Walter Samuel and Ivan Cordoba in the first-half while Samp's Giampaolo Pazzini was dismissed 17 minutes from time. Jose Mourinho's team may not have won but they looked more likely than their visitors to do so. But the club were so angry with the referee's handling of the game that they refused to send either Mourinho or anyone else to speak to the Press.

Internet

Answers to yesterday's Crosswords Puzzle



Sharapova triumphs in Memphis



Russian tennis player Maria Sharapova

MEMPHIS, 21 Feb—Maria Sharapova put her disappointing Australian Open performance behind her on Saturday, as she beat Sofia Arvidsson 6-2, 6-1 to win the WTA Tour's Memphis title. The top-seeded Russian, playing in her first tournament since she crashed out of the first round of the year's first Grand Slam, didn't drop a set all week

and capped her campaign with a victory over Swedish qualifier Arvidsson in 66 minutes.

"Coming in here, I asked for matches and I got five of them and I got the win, so I'm certainly happy," said Sharapova, who was expected to rise from 16th in the world to 13th on Monday. "I felt like I played consistent tennis throughout the week and did the right things against all my opponents," said Sharapova, who spent almost a year out of the game with a shoulder injury in 2008-09. "I guess that's a good week."

Internet

Valencia loses left back Mathieu with ankle injury

MADRID, 21 Feb—Valencia has lost the services of left back Jeremy Mathieu for the rest of the season as a consequence of the ankle injury he picked up in Thursday's Europa League game in Bruges. The defender damaged ankle ligaments in the game and needed to be carried from the pitch on a stretcher. Mathieu underwent an operation on his return to Spain and will be out of action for three months.

Xinhua

Fergie won't panic despite tired United's defeat

LIVERPOOL, 21 Feb—Sir Alex Ferguson admits Manchester United are showing signs of tiredness as the title race gathers pace but he insists there is no need to panic in the wake of his side's 3-1 defeat at Everton. United have now lost six Premier League matches in the current campaign and have not been defeated as many times in the league since 2004. They have also suffered three other defeats in cup competitions - against Besiktas, Leeds and Manchester City. Yet United manager Ferguson, who saw his side lose an eight-match unbeaten run, maintains he is not worried about his team's defeats in a season of alarming inconsistency.

But the Scot did concede his players, who won 3-2 at AC Milan in the Champions League in midweek, showed indications of fatigue on Saturday. "We left something in Milan and certainly there was tiredness in the team but we're going for a championship and we expect Manchester United to respond to the importance of the game," Ferguson said.—*Internet*



Everton's Russian midfielder Diniyar Bilyaletdinov (R) vies with Manchester United's French defender Patrice Evra (L). —*INTERNET*

Ancelotti expects title boost to aid Euro mission



Chelsea's striker Didier Droghda celebrates scoring his second goal during their English Premier League football match against Wolverhampton Wanderers at Molineux Stadium in Wolverhampton.

INTERNET

WOLVERHAMPTON, 21 Feb—Carlo Ancelotti believes Chelsea's vital Premier League win at Wolves was the perfect boost ahead of Wednesday's Champions League encounter with their former manager Jose Mourinho and his Inter Milan team.

After collecting just six points from their previous six away games, Ancelotti felt it was crucial to improve at Molineux on Saturday and take full advantage of Manchester United's defeat at Goodison Park.

Internet

O'Neill hails Villa's team spirit



Martin O'Neill is happy with the togetherness at Villa Park.

INTERNET

LONDON, 21 Feb—Villa are riding high in the Barclays Premier League and aiming for a place in next season's Champions League. Crystal Palace stand in their way for a place in the FA Cup quarter-finals and they meet Manchester United in the Carling Cup Final later this month. The Villans have made big strides this season and O'Neill believes the attitude in the Villa dressing room is geared for success.

He said: "Team spirit is so, so important. I

think team spirit is helped obviously by results on the field, sometimes you never know which goes first. "But at the end of the day, you see a losing dressing room and you will see a spirited team."

Internet

Tiger Woods has more questions unanswered



US team member Tiger Woods

BEIJING, 21 Feb—The world number one golfer Tiger Woods has issued multiple apologies since his sex scandal was exposed. However, there are still some questions left for him to further clarify. His wife Elin Woods never showed up under spotlight. Throughout her marriage, Elin never allowed herself be

part of the story, even on Friday's press conference. Thus more questions are raised about their current marriage stage. Tiger mentioned her 10 times in his speech, but none of them explained why she was absent.

During Friday's event, no questions were allowed to be asked after his speech. It is apparent that Tiger and his handlers wanted to control all aspects of the meeting. If he really wanted to sincerely apologize and be ready to go public, why not take questions?

Xinhua

Swiss Ammann marks history with four Olympic ski jump golds

WHISTLER, 21 Feb — Simon Ammann of Switzerland has captured an unprecedented Olympic double, adding large hill gold to normal hill victory on Saturday, just as he did in Salt Lake

City eight years ago.

The 28-year-old, competing in his fourth Olympics, has been in peerless form at Whistler Olympic Park and soared to jumps of Olympic record-setting 144 metres

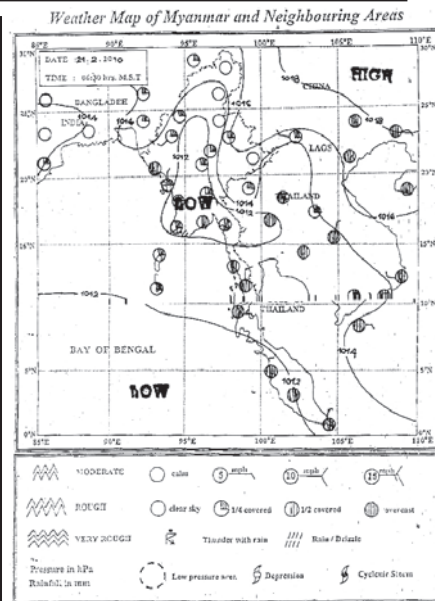


and 138 metres for a total of 283.6 points to seal a commanding victory.

Xinhua

Simon Ammann of Switzerland reacts after his final jump during the individual large hill ski jumping event at the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics in Whistler, British Columbia, on 17 February 2010.

INTERNET



MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (22-2-2010) (Monday)

| Transmissions | Times |
|----------------------|---|
| Local | - (09:00am~10:00am)MST |
| Europe | - (15:30pm~23:30pm)MST |
| North America | - (23:30pm~07:30am)MST |
| Oversea Transmission | - (22-2-10 11:30 am ~ 23-2-10 11:30 am) MST |

Local Transmission

- * Signature Tune
- * A Day In Yangon (Myanmar's Shwedagon)
- * News
- * Myanmar As Told By History
- * Travelogue "Yangon to Bagan"
- * Biological Expedition to Hponkan Razi Region (III) & (IV)
- * News
- * Virtuous Women
- * VCD Centre (II)
- * News
- * Daily Life of a Todday-palm Climber
- * Beauty of Ngwe Saung & Lovers Island
- * News
- * Traditional Dance of National Races "Classical Beauty"

Oversea Transmission

- * Signature Tune
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- * Daily Life of a Toddy-palm Climber
- * Beauty of Ngwe Saung & Lovers Island
- * News
- * Traditional Dance of National Races "Hand in Hand in Unity"
- * The Elephant Camp...Where I've been to
- * News
- * Music Gallery
- * Ecstasy of Life
- * Dressing Styles of Law-Waw Ladies
- * News
- * Amazing Sculptural Works of Poe-win Hill
- * Culture Stage
- * News
- * Travelogue (Pyin Oo Lwin)
- * Shwesaryan Pagoda Festival
- * News
- * Poem Garden "The Sun"
- * Silk-Ware from Amarapura

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

WEATHER

Sunday, 21st February, 2010

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in Kachin State, weather has been partly cloudy in Chin, Rakhine and Mon States, Mandalay, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below February average temperatures in Kachin and Chin States, Magway, Bago and Yangon Divisions, (3°C) above February average temperatures in Taninthayi Division, (5°C) above February average temperatures in Rakhine State and about February average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Namhsan (2°C), Haka and An (4°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded was Putao (0.04) inch.

Maximum temperature on 20-2-2010 was 97°F. Minimum temperature on 21-2-2010 was 63°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 21-2-2010 was 59%. Total sun shine hours on 20-2-2010 was (9.3) hours approx.

Rainfall on 21-2-2010 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2010 was (Tr) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and (Nil) at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Northeast at (21:30) hours MST on 20-2-2010.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 22nd February 2010: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Kachin, Shan and Mon States, weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine State, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions and fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Seas will be 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 22-2-2010: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 22-2-2010: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 22-2-2010: Partly cloudy.

Myanmar



Monday, 22
February
View on today

7:00 am

1. တောင်တန်းသာသနာပြု
2. ဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

2. To Be Healthy Exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning News

7:40 am

4. အောင်တော်မူ (စောမင်းနောင်)

စိုင်းညိုမင်းတေးရေး-
စိုင်းတလေးတင်အောင်)

7:50 am

5. Nice & Sweet Song

8:05 am

6. Cute Little Dancers

8:20 am

7. အတိုးမြှင့်ပွဲ

8:30 am

8. "ပြည်သူ့အကျိုးသယံဇာတကြီးစား မြန်မာ့မီးရထား"

8:35 am

9. "မီးမီးရဲ့ဆုံးဖြတ်ချက်"

8:40am

10. International News

8:45am

11. Musical Programme

4:00 pm

1. Martial Song

4:05pm

2. အရေးကြီးပွဲ

4:10 pm

3. Dance Of Variety

4:20 pm

4. Musical Programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)

4:30 pm

5. ဂုဏ်သိက္ခာ၊ တက္ကသိုလ်ဝင် စာမေးပွဲဘာသာရပ်ဆိုင်ရာ သင်ခန်းစာ (ဘောဂဗေဒဘာသာရပ်)

5:05 pm

6. Songs For Uphold National Spirit

5:10 pm

7. Dance Of National Races

5:15 pm

8. Musical Programme

5:20 pm

9. "လင်ပန်းရေလှောင်တစ်"

5:25 pm

10. "ညောင်မယ်ဖျံ"

5:35 pm

11. စုပေါင်းသံရုံးရွေးချယ်ပွဲ

6:00 pm

12. Evening News

6:15 pm

13. Weather Report

6:20 pm

14. Sing & Enjoy

7:00 pm

15. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "အဆိပ်သင့်တဲ့အချစ်" (အပိုင်း-၃၆)

8:00 pm

16. News

17. International News

18. Weather Report

19. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

"ဆူးလွမ်းသောချစ်နှင်းဆီ"

(အပိုင်း-၂၇)

20. "သုခုမရင်ပြင်"

- ★ Only with stability and peace will the nation develop
- ★ Only with stability and peace will democratization process be successful

- ★ Anarchy begets anarchy, not democracy
- ★ Riots beget riots, not democracy
- ★ Democracy can be introduced only through constitution

People's Desire

- We favour peace and stability
- We favour development
- We oppose unrest and violence
- Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence

- ★ VOA, BBC-sowing hatred among the people
- ★ RFA, DVB-generating public outrage
- ★ Do not allow ourselves to be swayed by killer broadcasts designed to cause troubles

Fire is a good servant but a bad master

Although it is just the beginning of Taboung, we have seen fire outbreaks here and there in the country. Especially, the recent fire outbreak at Thingangyun Market in Thingangyun Township, Yangon Division (East) made me feel nervous.

It was found that the overheated fuse caused the fire which burned down 651 shops, causing heavy losses. The Thingangyun Market fire outbreak reminded me of similar cases at markets and factories since 2004. It can be said that fire outbreak was a nightmare for Myanmar in summer. Of the fire outbreaks, negligence fire counted for 57 per cent, kitchen fire 25 per cent, electric shock 11 per cent, arson, forest fire and natural fire three per cent each.

So, our media crew made an interview with U Thin Htay Shwe, head of Yangon Division Fire Services Department.

Ques: Would you please tell me the causes of market fire out-

breaks?

Ans : We found that electric short circuit caused by negligence

Byline: Maung Maung Htwe (MNA)
Photos: Tha Nyan (MNA)



Fire fighters putting out fire.

of users is the most frequent one. Most of fire outbreaks occur at midnight and before dawn and there are also cases of late informing to fire brigade, improper fire alarm system, extinguishing by own without calling help, entrance doors of markets are locked, fire engines cannot enter the markets due to firm sun shades,

rapid spread of fire due to fuel in the markets, unsystematic storage of goods in shops, unsystematic layout of the markets, inadequacy of emergency fire fighting equipment (water bucket, sand, water barrel, fire extinguisher, mi-gap (flap attached to a pole), mi-cheik (iron hook attached to a long pole), lad-

der, light fire fighting equipment), lack of educative talks on fire prevention to market security force and shopkeepers, absence of auxiliary market fire brigade, insufficient amount of water in and around the market to put out the fire.
(See page 7)

New evidence that green tea may help fight glaucoma and other eye diseases

SCIENCE DAILY, 21 Feb—Scientists have confirmed that the healthful substances found in green tea—renowned for their powerful antioxidant and disease-fighting properties—do penetrate into tissues of the eye. Their new report, the first documenting how the lens, retina, and other eye tissues absorb these substances, raises the possibility that green tea may protect against glaucoma and other common eye diseases.

It appears in the Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry.

Chi Pui Pang and colleagues point out that so-called green tea "catechins" have been among a number of antioxidants thought capable of protecting the eye. Those include vitamin C, vitamin E, lutein, and zeaxanthin. Until now, however, nobody knew if the catechins in green tea actually passed from the stomach and gastrointestinal tract into the tissues of the eye.—Internet



Scientists have confirmed that the healthful substances found in green tea — renowned for their powerful antioxidant and disease-fighting properties — do penetrate into tissues of the eye.—INTERNET