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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

Myanmar citizen must be for his own country and must not be sycophant and stooge of any alien nation in disguise of Myanmar Government working for smooth transportation in Katha-Bhamo region



Prime Minister General Thein Sein views construction of Ayeyawady Bridge (Sinkhan).—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb—Prime Minister General Thein Sein yesterday looked round the progress of Chanayethazan, Mahaaungmye, Chanmyathazi and Amarapura townships of Mandalay Division.

While in Chanmyathazi Township, the Prime Minister together with Lt-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Central Command Commander Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe, ministers, the auditor-general, deputy ministers and the Mandalay Mayor inspected progress in paving of concrete blocks between 35th Street and Theikpan Street on 62nd Street.

The Prime Minister then flew to construction site of Yadanatheinga Bridge spanning Ayeyawady River near Ngwenein Village, Shwebo Township. The Prime Minister heard reports on salient points of the project and called for parallel completion of road and bridge.

The Prime Minister in meeting locals of Ngwenein Village-tract said, "The government is building road networks as well as bridges for development of regions. The government is now erecting Yadana-

theinga Bridge which will contribute to development of the region. Upon completion the bridge spanning Ayeyawady River will further facilitate transport to Mandalay Division, Shan State (North), Kachin State in addition to Lower Myanmar region." He then urged the locals to work hard for better socio-economic life making use of infrastructures.

The Prime Minister and party later visited Myanmar traditional glazed earthenware business of A-1 earthenware businessman Ngwenein villager U Thaug Nyunt. On the way to Moetagyi Village of Katha Township, the Prime Minister viewed the condition of Katha-Moetagyi railroad aboard the chopper.

Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint reported to the Prime Minister on construction of Katha-Sinkhan motor road and Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min on construction of railroad from Moetagyi to Bhamo. The Prime Minister then called for completion of the project ahead of schedule pointing out the region being rainy one.

(See page 6)



PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 24 February, 2010

Strive for speedy rural development

As the majority of the population of Myanmar lives in rural areas, the government has placed a special emphasis on rural development by taking measures necessary for enhancing socio-economic status of rural people. Rural development tasks are being implemented to ensure better transport, to supply safe drinking water, to improve health and education standards of rural people and to boost rural economy.

To ensure better transport, lots of river-crossing bridges are being constructed and intervillage roads as well as those linking rural areas and urban areas built. With the emergence of new roads and bridges, rural people can now travel from one place to another easily and trading of local products have become brisk and rural areas are developing in proportion to urban areas.

Ceremonies to open new tube-wells were held in Indaw, Kanlun (North) and Kanthaya villages in Kyaukpadaung Township on 17 February. As a result, more than 3,000 villagers living in these villages have now access to safe drinking water.

Recently, a people's hospital was inaugurated in Bilin Township, Mon State, a station hospital at Kyauktaung village, Pauktaw Township, Rakhine State, and rural health centres at Yaygyaw and Twantaytarwa villages in Twantay Township, Yangon Division. More and more station hospitals and clinics are to be opened to provide health care to more and more people in rural areas.

In addition, new buildings for basic education schools, new affiliated high schools and new rural libraries appear in various regions. As a result, rural youths have come to have more opportunities to pursue education and adults are now able to broaden their horizons.

As regional authorities, social organizations and well-wishers are enthusiastically offering financial support and contributing voluntary labour to rural development endeavours being undertaken by the government, we believe that rural areas will soon be able to fully enjoy development in health, education, social and economic sectors.

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

Energy Minister receives Kuwaiti guests

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb — A meeting took place at the Ministry of Energy, here, yesterday.

Deputy Managing Director Mr A Naser Y Al-Fulaij of Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Corporation (KUFPEC) of Kuwait and Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi focused on matters related to the energy sector of both countries.

MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi receives Deputy Managing Director Mr A Naser Y Al-Fulaij and party of KUFPEC.—MNA

Township officers provided with bird flu control knowledge

YANGON, 23 Feb—The Instructor Course for Bird Flu Control and Enhancement of Public Awareness, jointly conducted by Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department and CARE Myanmar, commenced at the hall of animal health and development branch in Insein Township yesterday morning.

morning.

Altogether 10 trainee heads of Township LBVDs of nine States and Divisions are attending the one-week course. On completion, they will give multiplier course to 20 trainees each from townships and villages.—MNA

60 trainees receive local, int'l flooring skills

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb — Myanma Timber Enterprise and Myanmar Timber Merchants Association jointly conducted a training course on parquet flooring in Yangon yesterday.

During the training at the wood based technical training school in Dagon Myothit (North) Township, 60 trainees will receive local and international flooring skills.—MNA

Gusto's answer for information management



YANGON, 23 Feb—The systematic use of Information System (Software) is earning a lot in today business.

There are many systems to manage information in each department level, but most of them are weak in working connectively with the others in network. So, it is needed to have a information system which can work cooperatively in a network, like ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) system. ERP software developed by

Germany based SAP Company is the best among programmes of its type of companies worldwide.

Gusto Software Solution has arranged to introduce ERP software of SAP Company to local users at Software & Solution Exhibition to be held from 26 to 28 February. One may contact Gusto Software Solution at No. 26, 14th Street (Lower Block), Lanmadaw Township, Yangon (ph: 224496 and 095144885) for further details.—MNA

UMFCCI explains business opportunities for Japanese

YANGON, 23 Feb—The Japanese delegation led by Chairman Mr Unno Tohru of Myanmar Friendship Association of Shizuoka province, Japan called on Vice-Presidents U Zaw Min Win and U

Tun Aung of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry at the

federation on 16 February.

The facts in their discussion were economic opportunities in Myanmar, prescribed facts about the investment in Myanmar for foreign businessmen, and opportunities provided by UMFCCI for Japanese businessmen.—MNA

Vice-President U Zaw Min Win of UMFCCI receives Chairman Mr Unno Tohru and party of Myanmar Friendship Association of Shizuoka Province of Japan.—MNA





Photo taken on 21 Feb, 2010 shows militants with guns ride a vehicle in Mogadishu, capital of Somali. Security threats with sporadic gunshots marked the residence of Somali President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed on Sunday, testifying the tension in the capital of the Horn of Africa country.—XINHUA

FAO meeting on agricultural biotechnologies to be held in Mexico

ROME, 23 Feb—The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said on Monday that the conference on agricultural biotechnologies in developing countries will be held in Mexico in early March.

The developing countries are currently facing growing food insecurity, a situation exacerbated by climate change that could worsen the living conditions of millions of people, said the Rome-based UN food agency.

The conference, which

will be held in the city of Guadalajara on 1-4 March, will discuss how agricultural biotechnologies can help the developing countries, the FAO said in a Press release.

The meeting will also explore opportunities and partnerships to strengthen the capacity of developing countries to choose and

use appropriate biotechnologies, the FAO said.

"It is imperative that agricultural biotechnologies should also be used to address the needs of small-holders, fishers and forest-dependent people in developing countries to face food insecurity and climate change," the FAO said.—Xinhua

Operation on Taliban claims Afghan civilian lives

KABUL, 23 Feb — As the NATO-led Operation Moshtarak, or Together, against Taliban bastion in southern Afghanistan entered its 10th day on Monday, the number of casualties inflicted on non-combatants is on the rise.

The latest airstrike against suspected Taliban militants in the troubled southern region on Sunday left 27 civilians including four women and a child dead and injured another dozen, according to a statement issued by the Presidential Palace.

The country's Cabinet, while previously put the number of casualties at 33, in a sharp reaction strongly condemned the incident, calling on NATO-led troops to avoid harming innocent citizens.

The Cabinet warned that harming civilians would negatively affect the war on terror.—Xinhua



Afghans walks an operation in Marjah, Helmand Province 21 Feb, 2010. NATO forces are facing strong resistance eight days into a major offensive in southern Afghanistan as Taliban fighters dig into fight to the death.—XINHUA

Iran warns airlines over not calling Gulf Persian

TEHERAN, 23 Feb — Airlines not referring to the waterway between Iran and the Arabian peninsula as the Persian Gulf will be banned from Iranian airspace, the Transport Minister told local media on Monday.

The warning was directed specifically toward the airlines of neighbouring Gulf Arab countries who have a history of referring to the body of water as the "Arabian Gulf."

"The airlines of the southern Persian Gulf countries flying to Iran must use 'Persian Gulf' on their flight monitors," Hamid Behbahani told the IRAN daily. Airlines ignoring the warning would

be banned from Iranian airspace, while repeat offenders would have their planes grounded in Iran and "the companies' flight permits to Iran cancelled."

The report said Iran expelled a Greek flight attendant from the private Iranian airline, Kish Air, for using "Arabian Gulf" on a monitor over the weekend.

Iranians are traditionally sensitive over the historic name of the waterway between Iran and seven Arab nations. Last month the Saudi-based Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation said it cancelled the Islamic Solidarity Games in April because its Iranian host planned to use Persian Gulf on banners and medals.—Internet



A passenger passes through a new full body scanner on the first day of a three-month test at Charles de Gaulle Airport, north of Paris, on 22 Feb, 2010. The scanner, that can see through clothes of travellers, could be used for flights heading to the United States, although the French Parliament will discuss concerns over whether the devices invade travellers' privacy or pose health risks. — XINHUA

Car bombing in W Iraq kills five policemen

RAMADI, 23 Feb — The death toll from a car bomb explosion near a police headquarters in western Iraq on Monday rose to five, said a provincial police source.

Four people were injured by the bombing in western Iraqi province of Anbar, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

A booby-trapped car detonated outside the department of police internal affairs in the provincial capital of Ramadi, some 110 km west of Baghdad, according to the source.—Xinhua

Russia not to join in Afghanistan military operation

MOSCOW, 23 Feb — Russia will not participate in the military operation in Afghanistan "under any circumstances," Russia's NATO envoy Dmitry Rogozin said on Monday. "It is our principle that we will not take part in the military phase of the operation in Afghanistan. We will not send our soldiers or officers there under any circumstances," Rogozin said on the Ekho Moskvy radio.

The envoy described Russia's current relationship with NATO as "quite constructive." The two sides have assessed common threats recently and exchanged views on military cooperation, including logistics, anti-terrorism, and the fight against piracy, he said.—Xinhua

Iraqi security forces capture gang accused of slaughtering eight family members

BAGHDAD, 23 Feb—Iraqi security forces said on Monday they have captured four gangsters who are accused of killing eight people from one family in a town southeast of Baghdad.

"A police force from Baghdad Command detained four suspects with their silencer pistols in the town of al-Madain, some 30 km southeast of Baghdad," Baghdad Police Command said in a statement.

It said the suspects are members of a gang believed to be responsible for the killing of eight family members in a house in an area near al-Wahda, the statement said.—Xinhua

Japan's gov't maintains economic assessment

TOKYO, 23 Feb—The government of the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) said on Tuesday that the economy is slowly picking up, despite risks to the nation's economic recovery, in a report released by the Cabinet office. "Economic conditions are continuing to improve, but cannot yet continue without measures because factors such as the high unemployment rate mean there are still risks," the report said.

On exports, the report

changed its view to say that they are "increasing moderately." In January, it had said they were increasing and led by exports to Asia.

On imports the report also changed its view from January's "improving" to "moderately improving" for February, citing a decline in raw materials being brought into the country.

The report also cut its assessment on fixed investment for the first time in seven years, saying it

was getting weaker, and citing the policy of the government of Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama, which has looked to cut money directed into large public-works projects. The report also acknowledged that Japan is currently suffering from mild deflation. Government data released earlier this month showed that while Japan's GDP increased, it had posted the biggest drop in prices in more than 50 years.

Internet

Tea growers conduct tea-picking operation at their eco-tea garden at Xiping Village in Zhaoping County, southwest China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 22 Feb, 2010. The proper rainfall and increasing temperature recently led to spring tea-picking about 15 days earlier than last year in this area.

XINHUA



Oil drops below \$80 after 3-week rally

SINGAPORE, 23 Feb—Oil prices retreated below \$80 a barrel on Tuesday in Asia as investors mulled whether sluggish US crude demand justified a 14 percent rally over the last three weeks.

Benchmark crude for April delivery was down 34 cents to \$79.97 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract added 25 cents to

settle at \$80.31 on Monday.

Oil has jumped from \$69.59 a barrel on 5 Feb on investor optimism that the global economy will rebound strongly from recession last year. Yet growing inventories of crude, gasoline and diesel fuel suggest demand in the US remains weak.

Some analysts expect crude demand in the US and Japan will gradually follow overall economic

growth and lift prices. Goldman Sachs expects crude to trade between \$85 and \$95 for most of this year.

"Continuing growth in the two largest developed market economies suggests that the economic recovery is still on track," Goldman Sachs said in a report. "We expect that Japanese oil demand will break the trend of the past decade and grow in 2010."—Internet



File photo shows The Valero St Charles oil refinery is seen during a tour of the refinery in Norco, Louisiana on 15 August, 2008.

INTERNET



A visitor leaves the world's biggest high-tech fair, the CeBIT, in Hanover in 2009. The number of exhibitors at the world's biggest high-tech fair, the CeBIT, will be down around three percent this year as the tech industry recovers only slowly from a global slump, organizers said on Monday.—INTERNET

Exhibitor numbers decline at world's biggest hi-tech fair

BERLIN, 23 Feb—The number of exhibitors at the world's biggest high-tech fair, the CeBIT, will be down around three percent this year as the tech industry recovers only slowly from a global slump, organizers said on Monday.

In total, 4,157 companies from 68 countries are expected to display their latest gadgets at the fair in Hanover, northern Germany, down from just un-

der 4,300 last year, the event's host, Deutsche Messe, said in a statement. Numbers have dropped steadily from the height of the dot-com boom in 2001, when more than 8,000 firms sought to showcase their wares at the annual event, which this year runs 2 to 6 March.

Last year, exhibitor numbers plunged by a quarter and visitor numbers by a fifth as the fair

lost ground to rival shows in the United States and in Spain.—Internet

China Southern Airlines likely to receive 1.5b yuan capital injection

BEIJING, 23 Feb—China Southern Airlines, the country's largest carrier, said late on Monday that it was likely to receive 1.5 billion yuan (about 219 million US dollars) as capital injection from its parent company.

The parent China Southern Air Holding Co would use the funds, which was allocated by the Ministry of Finance, to "support the development of the airline's core business," said the company in a statement to the Shanghai Stock Exchange.—Xinhua

Greek hoteliers expect reduced revenues in 2010 due to economic crisis

ATHENS, 23 Feb—Greek hoteliers foresee a bad year in 2010 for the country's tourism industry, which holds a crucial part in Greek economy, due to the economic crisis, according to Athens-Attica Hotel Association on Monday.

This year's tourist season is expected to end with a marginal increase in occupancy of hotels in Athens and Attica compared with 2009, but with less revenues, the president of the Athens-Attica Hotel Association, Giannis Retos, told a Press conference, expressing the agony of the people working in the sector across the country.—Xinhua

UK economy faces huge structural change and five years of slow growth

LONDON, 23 Feb—A report into the future of the British economy forecasts fundamental structural change as a result of the recession and slow growth for the next five years.

The report "Transitions", released on Monday by the international accountancy firm BDO and the Centre For Future Studies, said that the British business landscape will change significantly, and that firms must not expect a return to business as usual. The report said forces driving change will continue well beyond the technical end of the recession and the consequences

will be permanent and far reaching. Peter Hemington, a BDO partner, said, "The recession will mark a series of transitions from the industrial structures and models of the past to the digital, networked age of the future. We are living through a dramatic period of creative destruction as a result of which many organizations will either transform or disappear."—Xinhua



A worker walks past an environment friendly public toilet at 2010 World Expo Site in east China's Shanghai, on 22 Feb, 2010. More than thirty pre-fab public toilets serving about 8,000 visitors at a time are installed for the 2010 Shanghai World Expo.—XINHUA

Brazil's President stresses importance of relations with Caribbean countries

RIO DE JANEIRO, 23 Feb—Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva stressed the importance of the relationship between Brazil and the Caribbean nations on Monday.

The President kicked off his visit to Mexico, Cuba, Haiti and El Salvador on Sunday. It is the first time that Caribbean nations are included in the President's itinerary.

The President's first stop was Mexico, where he stayed till on Tuesday

to participate in the Second Caribbean and Latin American Summit. Lula reminded that the first meeting was held in December 2008 in Brazil's Bahia state.

"It was the first time we managed to gather all (Latin American and Caribbean) countries without the participation of the United States and Canada," he said. The summit is an important forum to discuss the common problems of Latin American and Caribbean countries, strengthen their political and cultural relations, as well as increase investments and trade, he added.

In addition, Lula said he will discuss several investments during his visit to Cuba. Brazil's development, industry and trade minister, Miguel Jorge, is already in the country to discuss agreements. The president also stressed Brazil's state-owned oil and gas giant Petrobras' work in Cuba.—Xinhua

Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) officers patrol an area around Randalstown, Northern Ireland, on 8 Jan, 2010, after a suspected bomb exploded under a police officers car. In the latest attack, a car bomb on 22 Feb, exploded outside a Northern Ireland court, police said.

INTERNET

A policewoman (3rd R) accompanies children at the railway station in Fuyang, east China's Anhui Province, on 22 Feb, 2010. Travel peak occurred around China as the Spring Festival holidays ended.

XINHUA

Malaysian elected to chair IAEA's Board of Governors

KUALA LUMPUR, 23 Feb—Malaysia's Ambassador to Qatar Muhammad Shahrul Ikram Yaakob has been elected chairman of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Malaysian Foreign Ministry said on Monday.

Muhammad Shahrul Ikram was elected unanimously during a special meeting of the board on 12 Feb, and will serve as the board chairman until Sep-

tember this year, the ministry said in a statement here.

The Malaysian Government has appointed him as its new governor to the board on 4 Feb this year, the ministry said.

Muhammad Shahrul Ikram has immense experience in multilateral affairs, having served in various capacities at the ministry and at Malaysian missions abroad, the ministry said.—Xinhua



Leading US-based IT research centre opens in S Korea

SEOUL, 23 Feb—A branch laboratory of a leading US-based information technology (IT) centre has opened in the free economic region of Incheon, South Korea, paving the way for enhanced global cooperation in the field, the government said on Tuesday.

The Centre of Excellence in Wireless and Information Technology (CEWIT) run by the State University of New York-Stony Brook will be located in the Incheon Free Economic Zone (IFEZ), 40 km west of Seoul, with 30 researchers, boosting international development in the wireless, communication, and IT convergence industries, the Ministry of Knowledge Economy said. "We look forward to further enhancing our IT research and development projects through the opening of CEWIT-Korea," the ministry said in a statement.—Xinhua

All Items from Xinhua News Agency



Moussa affirms AL commitment to contribute to south Sudan rehabilitation, development

KHARTOUM, 23 Feb—Arab League (AL) Secretary General Amr Moussa on Monday reiterated the AL commitment to actively contribute to rehabilitation and development in south Sudan.

"The Arab investment conference in south Sudan, which will kick off in Juba on Tuesday, comes in fulfillment of the AL pledge to establish development and investment projects in the south", Moussa told reporters upon arrival at the Khartoum Airport.

"The AL is concerned with all Sudanese issues, in the south, Darfur and all other areas", he added.

Sudanese Minister of Investment, George Bong, for his part, welcomed the AL delegation and affirmed importance of the Arab role in rehabilitation of the south.

"This conference constitutes the real beginning for the Arab investment in south Sudan", he said.—Xinhua

Turkish Red Crescent to send humanitarian aid to cold-hit Mongolia

ANKARA, 23 Feb—Turkish Red Crescent said on Monday it will send 9 tons of aid materials including blankets and foodstuff to Mongolia, which was hit by harsh winter, Turkey's semi-official Anatolia news agency reported on Monday. The organization was quoted of saying in a statement it decided to offer the assistance in response to a call from the Mongolian government for international help. The severe winter weather has started to impact people's daily life in Mongolia, it said.

Extreme cold weather killed over 1.7 million livestock in Mongolia, according to official statistics.

Mongolia's economy has been hard hit by the prolonged spell of the freezing weather and heavy snow, with the southern province of Dundgobi being the hardest hit, local officials said.—Xinhua



Prime Minister General Thein Sein views site chosen for construction of Ayeyawady river-crossing Yadanatheinga Bridge from view deck of briefing hall of bridge construction project.—MNA

Myanmar citizen must be for his own country and must not be sycophant and stooge...

(from page 1)

The Prime Minister oversaw earthworks of Katha-Bhamo earth road construction site. At Moetagyi Station, the Prime Minister met local people of Moetagyi Village-tract. He said to locals that Katha and Bhamo lagged behind in development due to remote geographical location; that the Head of State seeing the situation has given guidance to build motor roads and railroads to help the regions keep pace with others in all-round development; that locals may soon reap the benefits of newly inaugurated Katha-Moetagyi railroad. The Prime Minister explained construction of remaining railroad from Moetagyi to Bhamo and urged the local people to maintain the infrastructures for durability.

Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min and Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw reported to the Prime Minister on works of ministries concerned for development of Katha and Bhamo regions.

The Prime Minister and party went to Ayeyawady Bridge (Sinkhan) construction project in Katha District. In his report to the Prime Minister, the Minister for

stand 60 tons of load.

After hearing reports on facts about the railroad and railway stations, 50 per cent completion of earthwork and works to be done before

the rainy season presented by Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min, the Prime Minister attended to the needs.

At People's Hospital in Bhamo, the Prime

Minister encouraged those who are undergoing treatment at the ceremony to give free eye care to patients with eye complaints in Bhamo District, and he provided

them with optical glasses.

Lt-Gen Tha Aye, the commanders and ministers presented optical glasses to those who underwent eye surgeries.

(See page 7)



Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects bicycle lane and pedestrian lane which will have facilities for health exercises.—MNA

Construction said that Sinkhan Bridge would be one-way motorroad-cum-railroad facility; that the bridge was of broad crest type with iron truss; that the clearance is 320 feet in width, 47 feet in height; that the bridge can with-

“The government is building road networks as well as bridges for development of regions. The government is now erecting Yadanatheinga Bridge which will contribute to development of the region. Upon completion the bridge spanning Ayeyawady River will further facilitate transport to Mandalay Division, Shan State (North), Kachin State in addition to Lower Myanmar region.”



Prime Minister General Thein Sein cordially greets villagers and members of social organizations of Ngwenyein village-tract in Shwebo Township.—MNA



**Prime Minister
General Thein Sein
inspects
construction of
Katha-Bhamo earth
road with heavy
machinery.**

MNA



Myanmar citizen must be for his own country and must not be sycophant and stooge...

(from page 6)

Next, the Prime Minister and party visited Bhamo University where they were welcomed by Principal Dr Sein Tun and faculty members. The Prime Minister delivered an address in meeting the principal and faculty members.

In meeting townselders and members of social organizations at the Town Hall in Bhamo, the Prime Minister said that the government focused development of transport sector, the basis need in regional development, with the aim of narrowing the development gap among the regions.



Prime Minister General Thein Sein views glazed earthenware at production site of businessman U Thaung Nyunt.—MNA



For promotion of education standard of the entire nation, efforts are being made on extended opening and upgrading of schools in the basic

ment regions for local youths to pursue tertiary education in their own regions. In health sector, hospitals and clinics were opened and up-

ernment performed infrastructural development in economic sector.

As a result, local people are enjoying the

Katha and Bhamo lagged behind in development due to remote geographical location; that Head of State seeing the situation has given guidance to build motor roads and railroads to help the regions keep pace with others in all-round development; that locals may soon reap the benefits of newly inaugurated Katha-Moetagyi railroad.



Bird's eye view of Katha-Moetagyi railroad.

MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets townsenders, departmental officials and members of social organizations at the hall in Bhamo.

MNA



Myanmar citizen must be for his own country...

(from page 7)

A Myanmar citizen must be for his own country, Myanmar. He must not be a sycophant of any alien nation or a stooge of a foreign country in disguise of a Myanmar.

Next, the Prime Minister presented clothes to the chairman of Bhamo District PDC.

Lt-Gen Tha Aye, the commanders and the ministers presented food-stuff, publications and clothes to responsible persons.

In meeting with the principals and faculty members of the University of Computer Studies and Technological University in Bhamo at Uni-

versity of Computer Studies (Bhamo), the Prime Minister said that
(See page 9)

A Myanmar citizen must be for his own country, Myanmar. He must not be a sycophant of any alien nation or a stooge of a foreign country in disguise of a Myanmar.



Prime Minister General Thein Sein gives instructions to principal and faculty members at University of Computer Studies (Bhamo).—MNA

Technocrats, intellectuals and intelligentsia play a major role in implementing national development tasks. The government made a plan for emergence of well-qualified human resources. It is required to cultivate students to become outstanding ones equipped with Union spirit and good morale.



Prime Minister General Thein Sein presents optical glasses to a patient who has undergone eye surgical treatment at Bhamo People's Hospital.—MNA



Myanmar citizen...

(from page 8)

technocrats, intellectuals and intelligentsia play a major role in implementing national development tasks. The government made a plan for emergence of well-qualified human resources. The Prime Minister urged the teachers to nurture their pupils to become good citizens who are reliable and to try their best to be proficient in their respective subjects. It is required to cultivate their pupils to become outstanding ones equipped with Union spirit and good morale, he noted. —MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets local people, departmental personnel and social organizations at Moetagyi Station of Katha District.—MNA



Photo shows Bhamo University.

□MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein cordially converses with those who will receive eye surgical treatment at Bhamo People's Hospital.—MNA



Destruction of poppy plantations figures hits 13139.09 acres

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb — During the poppy cultivation season for 2009-10, a total of 13139.09 acres of poppy plantation — 12705.65 acres from 1 September 2009 to 13 February 2010 and 433.33 acres from 14 to 20 February 2010 — have been destroyed.

The total acres of poppy plantation that have been destroyed from 14 to 20 February 2010 were 149.85 acres in Tangyan, Namhkam, Kutkai and Mongyan Townships of Shan State (North), 25.5 acres in Phekho and Kunhing Townships of Shan State (South), 134.3 acres in Mongton, Mongping and Monghsat Townships of Shan State (East) and 123.79 acres in Tanai, Waingmaw and Phakant Townships of Kachin State. —MNA

Mawlamyine MMA members meet

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb — Myanmar Medical Association is striving for improvement in Myanmar medical science and working at all places in the country for social and medical educative works. Mawlamyine branch of

the association held its 8th medical conference at Mawlamyine People's Hospital. It was attended by Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win

and Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo.

The commander and the deputy minister delivered addresses at the conference and viewed the medicine and medical equipment showroom.

MNA

YCDC works for sufficient drinking water in Bahan

YANGON, 23 Feb — YCDC is working constantly for supplying drinking water and better transport in Yangon.

Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected works for getting suffi-

cient potable water and upgrading of roads in Bahan Township this morning.

MNA

YCH well equipped by i Love Myanmar

YANGON, 23 Feb — Intensive Care Unit of Yangon Children's Hospital have equipped with new medical equipment donated by i Love Myanmar, a group under Emmanuel Founda-

tion.

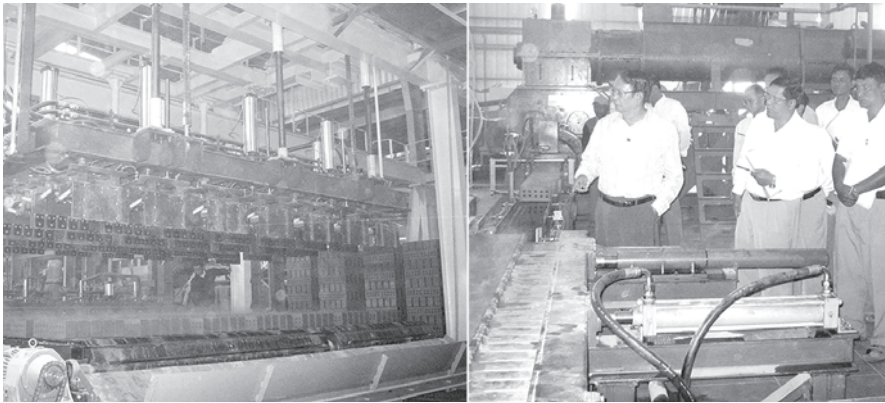
The equipment was donated with a ceremony held at YCH today, attended by Medical Superintendent Dr. U Aung Kyi Win of YCH, officials, Director U

Danyal Lalin of Emmanuel Foundation and Daw Levi Sap Nai Thang of iLM.

The equipment includes two air compressors that cost US\$30,000.

MNA

Nay Pyi Taw Brick Factory takes shape



Minister U Aung Thaung inspects Nay Pyi Taw Brick Factory Project (Mingon).—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung went to Nay Pyi Taw Brick Factory in Mingon, Nay Pyi Taw Pynmana Township, today to assist in production process of the factory as it is on trial.

During his inspection tour, the minister examined the quality of bricks and urged officials

concerned to step up efforts for inaugurating the factory as soon as possible.

Upon completion, the factory is expected to produce 150,000 bricks per day and 50 million in a year.

The factory is established by the Myanmar Ceramic Industries of the Ministry

of Industry-1. The aims of the project are to provide quality bricks to construction of buildings in Nay Pyi Taw, to develop industrial zones around Nay Pyi Taw and to create job opportunities for local people and to reduce the expenditure of foreign exchange on quality bricks.

MNA

Myanmar engineers complete oil exploration training of Petronas

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb — Altogether 50 Myanmar apprentice engineers who completed the oil exploration training

course at INSTEP of Petronas Co of Malaysia were honoured at Sedona Hotel in Yangon on 19 February.

Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, Vice-Chairman of Petronas Co and General Manager Mohd Zaini



Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Htay presents prize to an outstanding trainee.—MNA

Charge d' Affaires at Mr Ahmad Azian Haji Sabtu and wife welcome Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and wife at reception to mark 26th Anniversary National Day of Brunei on 23 February in Yangon.—MNA

Mohd Yunus of Petronas Carigali Myanmar Ltd presented completion certificates and prizes to the trainees.

The apprentice engineers pursued the six months on-job training section and six-month practical training section for oil exploration course at the training school of Petronas Co.—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



16 more NLD members of States and Divisions resign They accept State's seven-step Road Map to participate in genuine national politics

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb — Members of the National League for Democracy U Hla Win, Ma Soe Soe Kyi, U Dizinbel, U Hla Myint and U Tin Aung Moe of Kyonpyaw Township of Ayeyawady Division on 30 September 2009 and U Than Gyaung (a) Tin Win and U Aye Naing of Lebyin Village of Pyu Township of Bago Division on 3 November 2009 sent letters of resignation to the NLD Headquarters and local authorities of their own accord.

Vice-Chairman of Taunggyi Township NLD U Khin Maung Than of Mingala U Ward of Taunggyi of Shan State (South) on 12 January 2010, U Thet Wai of Nyaungthabye Village of Mawlaik Township of Sagaing Division on 5 February, three NLD members including U San Tin of Hsemaing-Ywathit Village-tract of Mohnyin Township of Kachin State and U Hla Sein of Mudun Village of Chaungzon Township of Mon State on 9 February, Secretary of Kyunsu Township NLD U Khin Maung Win of Nyaungbee Village of Kyunsu Township of Taninthayi Division on 12 February, U Aye Tun of Nathmaw Village of Chaungzon Township of Mon State on 13 February and U Sein Thauang of Thabyegon Village of Nay Pyi Taw Lewe Township on 16 February resigned from the party by sending letters of resignation of their own accord.

The resignation letters of 16 NLD members mentioned that the form of NLD seems well; and that actually, most of the party members put forward their self-interest while lacking unity; they are bullying one another without helping each other. That is why they resigned from the party because they accept the State's seven-step Road Map with the concept that they would participate in the genuine national politics being realized by the State.—MNA

Cargo boat capsizes in Chaungzon Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb — The cargo boat 'Su Kyaw Lin (9)' en route from Myeik, Taninthayin Division to Mawlamyine, Mon State, capsized after colliding with a shoal at the mouth of Kanpauk Creek near Hintha Island in Chaungzon Township at about 2.30 pm on 18 February. Tatmadaw watercraft from Nathmaw Jetty rescued helmsman U Mya and nine other persons on board and salvaged the cargoes. Local authorities in Chaungzon Township are giving necessary assistance to the passengers, it is learnt.—MNA

Man loses 4 children in house fire

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb — A candle set a house in fire in Lashio, Shan State (North), on 18 February, leaving four children dead.

Ma Zar Chi Win, 13, Mg Lin Lin Aung, 7, Mg Aung San Lin, 4, and Ma Jo Baidia, 3, children of U Ar Jit (a) Khin Maung Myint, died as they were asleep when the fire started in their home in Thitsar Road, Ward-7, Lashio.

The fire broke out about 10.10 pm and was extinguished about 10.25 pm. It destroyed three houses.

MNA

Peru buses crash head-on; 38 dead, 58 hurt

LIMA, 23 Feb—Two buses crashed head-on along a remote stretch of highway in northeast Peru on Monday, killing at least 38 people and injuring 58, police said.

Police and firefighters used cutting equipment to reach the injured trapped inside the twisted wreckage of the buses, which collided shortly before dawn on the Panamerican Highway between Rio Hondo and Viru, 290 miles (485 kilometres) northeast of the capital. No official cause was given for the accident, but Peruvian newspaper *El Comercio* posted pictures showing that the stretch of highway where the accident took place lacked an obligatory white dividing line separating the opposing lanes.

As of the Monday afternoon "the number of people killed in the accident has risen to 38 with another 58 wounded," said regional highway police chief Gen Eduardo Arteta.—*Internet*

Tanzanian-flagged ship fights off pirates

DUBAI, 23 Feb—The US Navy says the crew of a Tanzanian-flagged ship has successfully fought off a pirate attack in the Gulf of Aden before a US warship arrived and apprehended the pirates.

The Navy's 5th Fleet, which is based in Bahrain, UAE, said on Monday the *MV Barakaale 1* signalled for help from the international anti-pirate task force after pirates tried to board the vessel from a skiff.

The statement said the American destroyer *USS Farragut* dispatched a helicopter that gave chase to the pirate skiff, firing warning shots across its bow that brought it to a halt.

Sailors from the *USS Farragut* then boarded the pirate vessel and detained the eight men on board.

—*Internet*

Seoul to propose international cyber security body at G20 summit

SEOUL, 23 Feb—South Korea is to propose setting up an international cyber security body at the G20 summit in Seoul in November, local media reported citing government officials on Tuesday.

"We are planning to propose organizing a comprehensive cyber security body with its headquarters possibly based in Seoul," an unnamed official from the Ministry of Public Administration and Security was quoted as saying by *Yonhap* news agency.

The official added the ministry will map out the plan in the first half of this year in order to present the proposal at the Group of 20 Summit.

The plan comes shortly after a number of private and government websites in the United States and South Korea encountered DDoS (distributed denial-of-service) attacks last July, prompting the international community to recognize the need for a world anti-cyber threat organization, media said.—*Xinhua*



Armed pirates keep vigil along the coastline at Hobyo town, northeastern Somalia in January 2010. A court in Somalia handed out 15-year prison sentences to 11 pirates on Sunday, the presiding judge said.—*INTERNET*

New snowfall prediction method created

SALT LAKE CITY, 23 Feb—University of Utah scientists say they've developed an easier way for meteorologists to predict snowfall amounts and density.

The method is based on a study of 457 winter storms during eight years at 9,644 feet in the Wasatch Range of Utah's Alta Ski Area. Professor Jim Steenburgh, chairman of atmospheric sciences at the university, said the method has been adopted by the National Weather

Service for use across Utah — and it could be adjusted for use anywhere.

The method was created after researchers determined forecasters could predict snowfall density most accurately using only two variables: temperatures and wind speeds at mountain crest level. "We've developed a formula that predicts the water content of snow as a function of temperature and wind speed," Steenburgh said. "This is

about improving snowfall amount forecasts — how much snow is going to fall. As a nice side benefit for the ski community, this will tell you whether you're going to get powder or concrete when it snows.

The new method is also helpful to avalanche forecasters, said doctoral student Trevor Alcott, the study's first author. "We're forecasting snow density, which is related to the stability of freshly fallen snow."—*Internet*

Arizona dog is world's tallest

An Arizona canine is now the world's Top Dog.

Giant George — all 43 inches tall and 245 pounds (111 kg) of him — was named the world's Tallest Living Dog and Tallest Dog Ever by *Guinness World Records* on Monday.

The four-year-old gray Great Dane from Tucson, Arizona, made it into the

record books after *Guinness* dispatched its own inspector to verify his height, measured from paw to shoulder.

Giant George, who has his own website — www.giantgeorge.com — as well as Facebook and Twitter pages, beat out his nearest rival, Titan, a Great Dane from San Diego, California.

And there's no dog house for this plentiful pooch, who consumes about 110 pounds (50 kg) of food each month. Owner Dave Nasser says George sleeps on his own queen-sized bed inside the house.



The Great Dane Giant George is pictured in this undated handout photograph taken on 12 January, 2010 and released on 22 February, 2010.

Egypt to receive stolen sarcophagus from US

The US will return to Egypt a 3,000 year old wooden sarcophagus confiscated at the Miami Airport after being shipped from Barcelona, the Culture Ministry announced on Monday.

The brightly painted sarcophagus dates back to the 21st Dynasty (1070-945 BC) and belonged to a private individual called Imesy, said the statement, though last year antiquities head Zahi Hawass linked it to a pharaoh called Ames.

Customs officials at Miami International Airport seized the coffin in Octo-

ber 2008 from a shipment coming from Spain after the importer could not present the proper documentation to prove ownership.



This undated photo released by the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities in Cairo, Egypt on 22 Feb, 2010, shows a 3,000 year old wooden sarcophagus dated back to the 21st Dynasty and belonged to a private individual called Imesy. Egypt says the United States has agreed to return a 3,000 year old wooden sarcophagus that illegally left the country 40 years ago.

Stolen watch back after 51 years

A Florida man said an heirloom watch stolen from his family 51 years ago in Michigan mysteriously turned up at a supermarket near his Florida home.

Piero Ramos, 18, an employee at Publix in North Fort Myers said he saw the watch at the top of a trash can at the store on Tuesday and noticed the inscription "John Iwanacki," the dates 1922-1957 and the signature of automaker Henry Ford, WINK-TV, Fort Myers, reported on Monday.

Ramos said he checked a phone book and was able to find Bill Iwanacki of Fort Myers, grandson of the watch's original owner.

Iwanacki said the watch, a retirement gift from the Ford Motor Co, was stolen from his family's Michigan home in 1959.

"I'm just feeling goosebumps. I'm beside myself," Iwanacki said after becoming the first member of his family to see the watch in 51 years.

Iwanacki said he is stumped as to how the watch wound up so close to his own Fort Myers home.

"I can't figure it out. We can't figure it out. We're putting the pieces together," he said.

NEWS ALBUM

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV AN WU JIANG VOY NO (0533)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV AN WU JIANG VOY NO (0533) are here by notified that the vessels will be arriving on 24.2.2010 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
 MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
 AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING CO., LTD
 Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV ORIENTAL DESIRE VOY NO (005)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ORIENTAL DESIRE VOY NO (005) are here by notified that the vessels will be arriving on 24.2.2010 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Car crashes into pool, no injuries

GREEN COVE SPRINGS, 23 Feb—Florida authorities said a motorist and his passenger, a golden retriever, were not injured when their Mazda 3 hatchback plunged into a swimming pool.

Witnesses said the pool at Eagle Harbour apartments in Clay County was empty Saturday when the car crashed into the water, leaving only the top of the vehicle visible from above the water, WJXT-TV, Jacksonville, Fla, reported on Monday.

Neighbours said the driver appeared relaxed but disoriented after escaping the car with his canine.

"He wasn't panicked, he was really, really calm," witness Neal Mars said. "I was pretty sure he had no idea what just happened."

Authorities said the man and the dog were treated at the scene for minor injuries. Investigators said they have yet to determine the cause of the incident. Tow truck driver Mike Tewkesbury said it took three drivers four hours to free the car from the pool.

Internet

13 million preterm births per year

SEATTLE, 23 Feb—Preterm birth is the largest cause of child mortality and those who survive can experience serious short- and long-term health issues, US researchers said.

Experts from the Global Alliance to Prevent Prematurity and Stillbirth of Seattle Children's Hospi-

tal wrote in the journal *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth* that globally, 13 million babies are born preterm and 3.2 million are stillborn each year.

Neonatal deaths account for more than 42 percent of mortality in children under age 5 — a rise from 37 percent in the year 2000, the report said. In addition, 1 million stillbirths that could be prevented with existing interventions occur each year during childbirth.

The report outlines the urgent need for increased focus and research to investigate further the mag-

nitude, causes and consequences of preterm birth and stillbirth. Additionally it makes recommendations to speed up development of diagnostics, treatment and prevention strategies, with careful attention to ethical considerations, the researchers said.

"For the first time ever, experts from around the world have agreed to a comprehensive, evidence-based approach to solving this global tragedy," experts at the Global Alliance to Prevent Prematurity and Stillbirth said in a statement.—Internet

Terror suspect Zazi pleads guilty to NYC bomb plot

NEW YORK, 23 Feb—Najibullah Zazi, a former Denver Airport shuttle driver in the US state of Colorado pleaded guilty on Monday to conspiring to use bombs in the United States, to commit murder in a foreign country and to support al-Qaeda.

The 25-year-old native of Afghanistan but legal permanent resident of the United States entered the plea before Chief US District Judge Raymond Dearie in Brooklyn, NY, who scheduled sentencing

for 25 June. Zazi faces a life in prison.

He faces a life prison sentence without parole in the plea deal.

Zazi was arrested in September 2009 as part of the 2009 US al-Qaeda group accused of planning to carry out acts of terrorism against the United States. FBI said he attended courses and received instruction on weapons and explosives at an al Qaeda training camp in Pakistan in 2008.

On 9 September, 2009,

he rented a car, to drive from his home in Denver, Colorado, to New York City. According to *The New York Times*, this trip triggered a series of arrests on 15 September, 2009.

Investigators are cited as saying Zazi was caught on surveillance video purchasing items in a beauty supply store in Colorado that could be used to make a bomb, which would be detonated in time for the eighth anniversary of the 11th September terrorist attacks.—Internet

Infections in US hospitals kill 48,000, cost billions

WASHINGTON, 23 Feb—Nearly 50,000 US medical patients die every year of blood poisoning or pneumonia they picked up in hospital, a study published on Monday shows.

Hospital-acquired sepsis and pneumonia in 2006 claimed 48,000 lives, led to 2.3 million extra patient-days in hospital and cost 8.1 billion dollars, according to the study, led by researchers from the Centre for Disease Dynamics, Economics and Policy at Washington-based Resources for the Future.

Together, the two hospital-acquired infections — also called nosocomial infections — account for about one-third of the 1.7 million infections US patients pick up every year while in hospital, the study published in the *Archives of Internal Medicine* shows.

They are also responsible for nearly half of the 99,000 deaths a year from hospital-acquired infections reported by the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The study found that patients who underwent invasive surgery during their initial hospitalization were more likely to pick up a secondary infection while in hospital, and elective surgery patients were at even higher risk of nosocomial infection.—Internet

17 Yemeni fishermen drown in Red Sea

SANAA, 23 Feb—Up to 17 Yemeni fishermen have drowned after three boats sank in the Red Sea, state-run media and Coast Guard sources said on Monday.

The three boats drowned between 13 and 17 Feb off the country's western waters in the Red Sea, military-run sep26.net website quoted sources from the Yemeni Coast Guards.

A Coast Guard source in the western port province of al-Hudaydah told *Xinhua* that families have informed the authorities that their relatives aboard were missing.

The three boats are believed to have sunk near the seashore of southern province of Taiz, said the source who asked not to be identified because he is not authorized to talk to media.

An investigation has been launched to find out more details about the sinking of the three boats, the source said.—Xinhua



Indonesia mulls new capital as Jakarta sinks

JAKARTA, 23 Feb — It has been the economic heartbeat of the world's fourth most populous country for almost 500 years, but Jakarta's days as Indonesia's capital could be numbered.

Choked with traffic and garbage, the city on the northwest Java coast has been pushed to breaking point as its population surges above 12 million and its foundations sink under the weight of rampant development.

Floods displace thou-

sands of people and cause millions of dollars of damage every year, and are predicted to get worse with rising sea levels, unchecked logging in catchment areas and the blocking of canals with rubbish.

A World Bank study has found that by 2025 the sea could be lapping at the gates of the presidential palace in the centre of the former spice capital, known until 1942 as Batavia.

This could explain why President Susilo Bambang

Yudhoyono recently revived a radical plan to shift the capital to a new location. "Going forward, the idea of moving the centre of the administration must again be considered and developed, considering Jakarta has become exceedingly crowded," Yudhoyono told reporters in December.

Similar proposals go back to previous presidents Sukarno and Suharto, who decades ago foresaw the eventual breakdown of Jakarta.

Internet

Commerzbank reports 1.6-billion-euro loss

FRANKFURT, 23 Feb — Germany's second largest bank, Commerzbank, on Monday reported a 1.6-billion-euro (2.2-billion-dollar) net operational loss in the fourth quarter of 2009 that it

blamed on asset writedowns.

The loss eclipsed forecasts from analysts surveyed by Dow Jones Newswires, who were expecting a shortfall of 1.02 billion euros.

The bank said in a statement that "against the background of difficult markets," it suffered a trading loss of 561 million euros in the final three months of 2009 linked to insurance guarantees.

It described the fourth quarter as "typically seasonally weak."

Commerzbank, badly hit by the global finance crisis, did not disclose its annual results. But over the first nine months of 2009 its net loss came to more than 2.68 billion euros. The bank last year carried out a recapitalization with German government aid in the amount of 18.2 billion euros.

It is expected to release annual results on Wednesday.

Internet



Headquarters of Germany's Commerzbank in Frankfurt/Main, western Germany. Germany's second largest bank, Commerzbank, on Monday reported a 1.6-billion-euro (2.2-billion-dollar) net operational loss in the fourth quarter of 2009 that it blamed on asset writedowns.

INTERNET



UK oil exploration firm starts Falklands drilling

LONDON, 23 Feb — A British oil exploration company said on Monday it began drilling near the Falkland Islands, a development that could worsen tensions between Britain and Argentina, which fought a war over the disputed islands nearly three decades ago.

Desire Petroleum PLC said it started drilling for oil about 60 miles (100 kilometres) north of the disputed Falkland Islands, despite strong opposition from Argentina. The country claims the south Atlantic islands as its own and calls them Las Malvinas.

"The well is being drilled to an estimated target depth of circa 3,500 metres (11,500 feet)," the company said in a statement. "Drilling operations are expected to take approximately 30 days." Argentina lost a seven-week war over the islands to Britain in 1982 and the two countries have to resolve their differences since pledged peacefully. But



This photo taken late 2009 and made available by Diamond Offshore Drilling on Monday 22 Feb, 2010 shows the semi-submersible oil drilling rig the Ocean Guardian under tow in British coastal waters.—INTERNET

moves to begin exploiting what could be lucrative reserves of oil and gas around the islands have sent tensions soaring.

The dispute over the Falklands dates back to the 19th century, when the islands were seized by the British.

Internet

UN warns of threat from hi-tech waste in 3rd World

BALI, 23 Feb — Sales of household electrical gadgets will boom across the developing world in the next decade, wreaking environmental havoc if there are no new strategies to deal with the discarded TVs, cell phones and computers, a UN report said on Monday.

The environmental and health hazards posed by the globe's mounting electronic waste are particularly urgent in developing countries, which are already dumping grounds for rich nations' high-tech trash, the UN Environment Programme study said.

Electronic waste is piling up around the world at a rate estimated at 40 million US tons (36 million metric tons) a year, the report said, noting that data remain insufficient.

China produces 2.6 million US tons (2.3 million metric tons) of electronic waste a year, second only to the United States with 3.3 million US tons (3 million metric tons), it said.

UNEP Executive

Director Achim Steiner said the globe was ill-prepared to deal with the explosion of electronic gadgets over the past decade.

"The world is now confronted with a massive wave of electronic waste that is going to come back and hit us, particularly for least-developed countries, that may become a dumping ground," Steiner told *The Associated Press* ahead of a UNEP executive meeting in Bali.—Internet



The main entrance to the Miami Herald and El Nuevo Herald building is shown in 2006.

INTERNET

Miami Herald drops reader contribution programme

WASHINGTON, 23 Feb — Just two months after it was launched, *The Miami Herald* is ending a programme asking online readers to make a contribution to support the newspaper.

The Miami Herald, in a brief article over the weekend, said it was discontinuing the "voluntary payment programme" launched in December.

"After evaluating two months of response, we've decided to end the programme," the newspaper quoted Elissa Vanaver, a company vice president and assistant to the publisher, as saying.

Vanaver declined to say how much money the effort had raised.

The Miami Herald on 15 December began running a link at the bottom of

each story on the Web saying: "Support ongoing news coverage on *MiamiHerald.com*."

The link took readers to a page which asked them to "please consider a voluntary payment for the Web news that matters to you." Readers could contribute to the newspaper using a major credit card.

Faced with a steep decline in print advertising revenue, falling circulation and free news on the Internet, US newspapers have been looking at ways to boost revenue online.

The New York Times has announced plans to begin charging readers next year for full access to *NYTimes.com*.

Internet

SPORTS

Pele says World Cup games should have five officials

MEXICO CITY, 23 Feb—Pele says FIFA should field a match official behind each goal to assist the referee at the World Cup in a bid to avoid scandals like Diego Maradona's infamous handball at the 1986 tournament.

Pele says he is in favour of five match officials being used in each game at the World Cup in South Africa starting on 11 June, but is opposed to the introduction of video replays as he says stopping play to review a potential foul could impede a possible counterattack.

UEFA introduced the experiment of using five match officials in the Europa League this season.

Pele spoke on Monday in Mexico City, where he is promoting the Copa Libertadores, South America's top club championship.

Pele also says Robinho deserves a place on the Brazilian squad.—*Internet*

Portsmouth hold talks with three potential buyers

PORTSMOUTH, 23 Feb—Portsmouth are locked in talks with three potential buyers as the financially troubled club battle for their future.

Chief executive Peter Storrie is speaking to a South African consortium, while co-owners Balam Chainrai and Levi Kushnir are talking to two groups.

Hong Kong businessman Chainrai has promised the club "will not close".

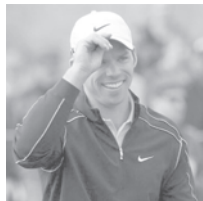
Pompey survived a winding-up order after numerous financial problems, but are set to return to court on 1 March.

Chainrai's spokesman was unable to provide any further details of the three parties.

Chainrai recently became the club's fourth owner of the season, taking 90% of the club shares after the previous owner Ali Al Faraj defaulted on loan payments due to him.

Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) had taken Portsmouth to court over an unpaid tax bill amounting to £7.4m.—*Internet*

Paul Casey gives \$100,000 to Houston charity



Paul Casey, of England, tips his cap to the gallery as he walks onto the 25th green where his tee shot stopped within a foot of the hole during the finals of the Match Play Championship golf tournament on 21 Feb, 2010, in Marana, Ariz.

HOUSTON, 23 Feb—Paul Casey of England promised to help a local charity after winning the Houston Open last year for his first PGA Tour victory.

Tournament officials discovered on Monday how serious he was.

Casey and his wife, Jocelyn, are giving \$100,000 to a charity through the Houston Golf Association, which runs the event.

He will work with tournament director Steve Timms to figure out which charity gets the money.—*Internet*

Djokovic sweats his way to opening victory in Dubai tennis



Novak Djokovic of Serbia

DUBAI, 23 Feb—Novak Djokovic began his bid to make his first successful title defence on the ATP Tour with a weird wobble and an uncomfortable feeling which he described, after his 6-4, 6-4 win over Guillermo

Garcia-Lopez in the Dubai Open, as "sweaty".

The problem was that the match had appeared all but over when the world number two from Serbia quelled the fluent Spaniard's best efforts and advanced to 5-0 in the second set.

Then, against the odds, Garcia-Lopez broke back twice and looked capable of extending the contest.

"It was not pleasant him coming from 5-0 to 5-4 and serving to get back into the match," admitted Djokovic.

"But it was all my fault, you know - I think I lost focus."—*Internet*

Villa double extends Valencia's home run



Valencia's forward David Villa celebrates his goal during their league football match at Mestalla Stadium in Valencia.

BARCELONA, 23 Feb—Spanish international striker David Villa scored twice to keep Valencia on course for a Champions League place as they beat Getafe 2-1 on Monday despite being reduced to ten men. Valencia who are in third place in the table eight points clear of fifth placed Deportivo La Coruna - recorded their fourth successive home victory and deserved the three points despite never being at their best.

—*Internet*

Mourinho cops three match 'handcuff' ban



Inter Milan's Portuguese coach Jose Mourinho

ROME, 23 Feb—Inter Milan coach Jose Mourinho was on Monday hit with a three-match ban for insulting officials and making a 'handcuffs' gesture during Saturday's Serie A match against Sampdoria. The former Chelsea manager was also fined 40,000-euros by the Italian sporting justice.

And the sanctions didn't stop there for Inter as Walter Samuel and Ivan Cordoba, both sent

off against Sampdoria, were banned for one match each while Muntari Sulley and Esteban Cambiasso copped two-game suspensions.

Muntari's was for "repeatedly insulting officials" while Cambiasso has been sanctioned for "trying to punch a Sampdoria player during the interval."

But it is Mourinho, the bete noir of the Italian press, who has suffered the most. His punishment was for "having repeatedly contested the referee's decisions during the course of the game with dramatic behaviour including ... the handcuffs gesture ... (and) for having insulted the referee and his assistants during the interval."—*Internet*

Brazil's Ronaldo to retire next year



Brazilian striker Ronaldo

SAO PAULO, 23 Feb—Double World Cup winner Ronaldo said on Monday he would retire from professional football at the end of next year but still had hopes of appearing for Brazil in the 2010 World Cup finals in South Africa in June.

The 33-year-old three-times world footballer of the year - widely regarded as one of the greatest players of all time - told a media conference in Sao Paulo he was finally calling time on his illustrious but injury-hit career.

Currently playing for Corinthians in Sao Paulo, the player known as 'El Fenomeno' during his prime said he had agreed with the club to play until the end of 2011.

"I've renewed for another two years and they will be the last of my career. I want to give my all. I hope to have fun and end with some big wins," he said, according to the G1 news website.

—*Internet*

Tevez to return for Chelsea clash



Carlos Tevez

LONDON, 23 Feb—Carlos Tevez is aiming to be back in England in

time for Manchester City's trip to Chelsea on Saturday, the Argentina striker's representative said on Monday.

Tevez is currently in Argentina, spending time with his family following the premature birth of his baby daughter, and, according to City manager Roberto Mancini, has ignored the club's requests for him to return.

—*Internet*

Ivanovic hires Steffi Graf's former coach



Serbia's former women's tennis world number one Ana Ivanovic

BELGRADE, 23 Feb—Serbia's former women's tennis world number one Ana Ivanovic has hired Heinz Gunthardt, formerly Steffi Graf's coach, her website reported on Monday.

Gunthardt, who helped Graf win 12 Grand Slam titles, "will accom-

pany Ana to the BNP Paribas Showdown in New York next week, thus marking the pair's first event together," Ivanovic's website anaivanovic.com said.

"The appointment of Gunthardt ends, or at least suspends, Ana's active participation in the Adidas Player Development Programme: the 22-year-old was formerly working with Sven Groeneveld on a part-time basis," the statement said.

After a series of losses in 2009, Ivanovic has fallen to number 23 in the WTA rankings and was knocked out in the second round of the Australian Open in January.

In 2008, Ivanovic was briefly world number one, after winning the French Open.—*Internet*



Hass to miss Germany's Davis Cup tie with France

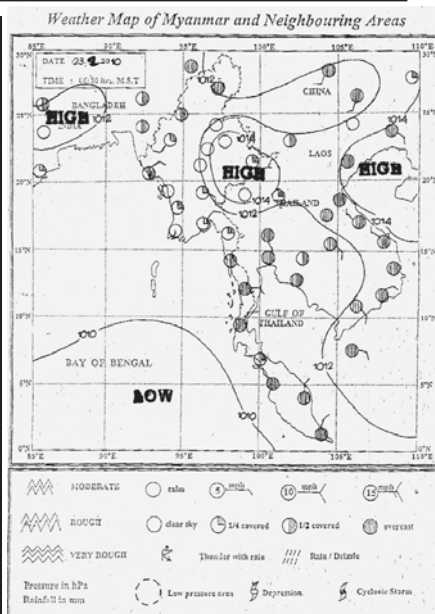
BERLIN, 23 Feb— German No. 1 tennis player Tommy Haas was not included in the German Davis Cup team because of his poor form, the team captain Patrick Kuhnen said Tuesday.

Instead, Philipp Kohlschreiber and Benjamin Becker will spearhead the German tie with France in their Davis Cup World Group first round clash to be held in Toulon from March 5-7.—Xinhua



Vehicles carrying members of an exploration squad of the 26th Chinese Antarctica expedition team run back from Grove Mountains to China's Zhongshan Station in Antarctica, on 2 Feb, 2010.

INTERNET



MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (24-2-2010) (Wednesday)

Transmissions	Times
Local	- (09:00am~11:00am)MST
Europe	- (15:30pm~23:30pm)MST
North America	- (23:30pm~07:30am)MST
Oversea Transmission -	(24-2-10 11:30 am ~ 25-2-10 11:30 am) MST

Local Transmission

- * Signature Tune
- * From Yangon to the Peak of Mt. Victoria
- * Mya Nan San Kyaw Golden Palace in Mandalay
- * Record Album
- * Myanmar Traditional Chess
- * Traditional Dance of National Races "In Harmony and Union (Mandalay)"
- * The Venerable Baw Kyo Pagoda
- * Beauty of Myanmar Women's Costumes in Twelve Seasons "Taboung"
- * Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Sour fried Pork and Cabbage)
- * The Secret Jewel of the Andaman Sea

Oversea Transmission

- * Signature Tune

- * Myanmar Traditional chess
- * Traditional Dance of National Races "Beautiful Yamanya Choral Dance (Mon)"
- * The Venerable Baw Kyo Pagoda
- * Beauty of Myanmar Women's Costumes in Twelve Seasons "Taboung"
- * Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Sour fried Pork and Cabbage)
- * The Secret Jewel of the Andaman Sea
- * Uniquely... Artistic Straw Paintings of Myanmar
- * Arts of Myanmar Traditional Tapestry
- * Culture Stage
- * Myanmar Natural Spirulina (Part-I)
- * Myanmar Natural Spirulina (Part-II)
- * Myanmar Natural Spirulina (Part-III)
- * Fantastic Scenic Sunsets of Myanmar
- * Kengtung Waterfall
- * Myanma Bamboo Xylophone (or) Pattala
- * Oboe; Myanmar Musical Instrument
- * Keng Tung; Town in the beautiful Valley
- * Shan Traditional "Hsoon" Offering Ceremony
- * Myanmar Traditional Marionette Theatre (Part-2)
- * Ayeyawady Dolphin Expedition (Part-I)

Website; www.mrtv3.net.mm

WEATHER

Tuesday, 23rd February, 2010

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin, Chin, Shan, Rakhine and Mon States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below February average temperatures in Chin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States, Mandalay and Bago Divisions, ((3°C) above February average temperature in Taninthayi Division and about February average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Loilem (0°C), Namsang and Haka (2°C), each and Heho (4°C).

Maximum temperature on 22-2-2010 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 23-2-2010 was 62°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 23-2-2010 was 55%. Total sun shine hours on 22-2-2010 was (8.9) hours approx.

Rainfall on 23-2-2010 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 Southeast at (17:30) hours MST on 22-2-2010.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 24th February 2010: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division, weather will be party cloudy in Shan, Chin and Rakhine States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Likelihood of isolated light rain in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 24-2-2010: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 24-2-2010: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 24-2-2010: Partly cloudy.

Myanmar



Wednesday, 24
February
View on today

7:00 am

1. တောင်တန်းသာသနာပြု ဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:15 am

2. အင်္ဂုလမင်္ဂလ် (ယဉ်ဝေယံထွန်းတေးရေး-ဝိတစာဆို-မျိုးနွယ်ဆွေ)

7:25 am

3. To Be Healthy Exercise

7:30 am

4. Morning News
5. Nice & Sweet Song

7:50 am

6. Dance Of National Races

8:00 am

7. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:10 am

8. ရွှမ်းအားပြည့်လွတ်လှံထား ပလတ်စတစ်ထုတ်ကုန်များ

8:25 am

9. Musical Programme

8:40am

10. International News

8:45am

11. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

4:00 pm

1. Martial Song
2. မြန်မာပြုကြွလှံကွေးမှုအတတ်

4:10pm

3. "မပြောမမြီးမတီးမမြည်"

4:35 pm

4. Classical Songs

4:45 pm

5. အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ (ရသစာပေအရေးအသားအထူးပြု)(ရသစာပေအရေးအသား) ပထမနှစ်

5:00 pm

6. Songs For Uphold National Spirit

5:05 pm

7. Musical Programme

5:15 pm

8. ရွှေယဉ်လင်အာဆီယံအစီအစဉ်

5:25 pm

9. မြန်မာအမျိုးသမီးများနေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

5:40 pm

10. စူပါတေးသံရှင်ရွေးချယ်ပွဲ

6:00 pm

11. Evening News

6:15 pm

12. Weather Report

6:20 pm

13. မြန်မာ့ဓလေ့စားရာလက်တွေ့

6:35 pm

14. ထက်မြက်ပျော်ရွှင်အိမ်ထောင်ရှင်

7:00 pm

15. ရသပေါ်လွင်သရုပ်ဆောင်လွင်ပြင်

7:30 pm

16. အလင်္ကာဝတ်ရည်မြန်မာမှုတေးဂီတအဖွဲ့ဖျော်ဖြေခန်း

8:00 pm

17. News
18. International News

8:00 pm

19. Weather Report
20. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်တေးသံသာ"(အပိုင်း-၂၃)

8:00 pm

21. မြန်မာဒီပိုမာတ်လမ်း "မယ်တင်ကိုမလွမ်းရ" (ခန့်စည်သူနန္ဒာလှိုင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-သန့်ဇင်အောင်)

- ★ 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

Secretary-1 and wife attend reception to mark Russian Armed Forces Day

YANGON, 23 Feb—Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Quartermaster-General General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin attended the reception to mark the Russian Armed Forces Day of the Russian Federation at Chatrium Hotel in Tamway Township here this evening.

The Secretary-1 and wife were accompanied by Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence and their wives, Ambassadors, Charges d' Affaires and Military Attachés and their wives of foreign missions in Yangon and guests.

At 6:45 pm, the Secretary-1 and wife arrived at Chatrium Hotel where they were welcomed by Military

Attaché of the Russian Federation Colonel Alexander Svintsovskiy and

officials.

Secretary-1 Quartermaster-General Gen-

eral Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin and

Russian Military Attaché Colonel Alexander Svintsovskiy cor-

dially greeted those who attended the reception. MNA



Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Quartermaster-General General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo being welcomed by Military Attaché of the Russian Federation Colonel Alexander Svintsovskiy.—MNA