Prime Minister General Thein Sein looks into progress of Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) construction project, stresses the need of completing project on schedule and making arrangements for timely arrival of construction materials.

Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) will have a 11,431 feet long main bridge and a 14,181 feet long motorway. The bridge will also have a 28 feet wide two-way motor road and a 14 feet wide area for railroad. The pedestrian way will be 3 feet and 3 inches each.
Dams that contribute to greening of environment

Myanmar has vast tracts of vacant and virgin land that can be used for agriculture. The economy of the nation is based on agriculture. Adequate supply of water is a prerequisite for agriculture. Therefore, the government is taking measures for fulfilling all the requirements including water supply.

Dams, weirs and sluice gates are being built wherever possible. Underground water facilities, small dams and canals are being constructed in various regions. Due to the construction of dams, some areas in Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay Divisions have become green and pleasant.

Despite many acres of arable land, Magway Division had to rely on rain for agriculture and it was not certain whether harvest would be good or bad. Now crops can be grown with the use of dam water. Especially, cultivation of edible oil crops can be extended.

Than-U-Chauk dam was inaugurated in Kyaukhtu Township in Gangaw District on 23 January. It is built across Than-U-Chauk creek. It is the 46th dam in Magway Division and will be able to irrigate more than 200 acres of farmland.

As Magway Division has 46 dams so far, acreage of irrigated farmland has increased up to more than 200,000 acres. Paddy, cotton, sugar cane and various kinds of beans and pulses and other edible oil crops are thriving in Pakokku, Yesagyo, Pwintbyu and Myaing Townships as small dams have been built there.

Nowadays, in the entire upcountry, various ways and means have been used to supply water for agriculture. Therefore, farmers are now able to grow double and mixed crops by using irrigation water beneficially. Moreover, they will have to grow other plants and trees that will contribute to the environment and climate.
US group seized in Haiti for child trafficking

PORT-AU-PRINCE, 2 Feb—Ten members of a US charity group have been detained by Haitian police for allegedly trying to traffic children from the earthquake-devastated country, Haitian authorities said.

The five men and five women with US passports were caught late Friday while they were about to cross border to enter the Dominican Republic with 33 children, aged between two months to 14 years.

The US embassy in Haiti confirmed the detention of its citizens for “alleged violations of Haitian laws related to immigration.”

UNICEF, the UNICEF, said the children had lost their parents in the quake. They said the children were still alive and some could give contact information of their families.

At least 15 killed in fighting in Somali capital

HARGEISA, 2 Feb—At least 15 civilians, including a 4-year-old child, were killed when militants and government soldiers pounded each other’s positions with mortars in the Somali capital overnight, residents and a nurse said on Monday.

Eight bodies were removed from the rubble in northern Mogadishu, said resident Osman Guled. Four bodies were found in another part of the capital, said Sharifo Hussein, who lives in Yaqshid District.

Three others died at Medina hospital, said nurse Yasmin Jim’ale.

Ahmed Daud Dahir, a commander with the presidential guard, said the militants lobbed more than six mortars at the presidential palace but no one there was wounded. President Sheik Sharif Sheik Ahmed was not in the palace during the attack because he is in neighbouring Ethiopia for an African Union leaders meeting.

Dahir said government soldiers retaliated, hitting exactly where militants had fired their mortars. Militants have attacked the presidential palace several times in the past three years, but there has been little damage and few injuries.

NATO oil tanker attacked in Pakistan’s Peshawar

PESHAWAR, 2 Feb—A NATO oil tanker was attacked and burned down on Monday morning in the northwest Pakistani city of Peshawar, police said.

Police said a couple of unidentified militants opened fire at the tanker that was soon wrapped up in flames.

They said the fire was hugely intense but on time activity by the fire tenders saved the nearby locality.

A search operation against the unidentified miscreants but nobody was arrested.

Locals said the militants ordered the driver and his assistant to get down and set the tanker on fire. Militants frequently attacked oil tankers and trucks bringing goods from Pakistan’s port city of Karachi for forces battling Taliban in Afghanistan. It was reported that around 80 percent of the US-led NATO forces supplies are transported through the neighbouring country.

France seizes seven tons of cannabis

PARIS, 2 Feb—France has seized seven tons of resinified cannabis and arrested seven suspects on Sunday near Paris, police said Monday.

French police found the cannabis stashed in a lorry full of oranges in Gonesse, on northeastern outskirts of Paris after months of coordinated investigation and scout with Moroccan and Spanish police.

The seven people accused of drug traffic included two French men, while others were still under interrogation, police said.

This is the biggest haul of cannabis in France since the beginning of 2009. Ten years ago, French police had captured 23.5 tons of cannabis in north France, which is as of now the highest record.

Iran produces first unmanned helicopter

TEHRAN, 2 Feb—Iranian researchers of Amir Kabir University of Technology successfully manufactured the first light unmanned helicopter in the country, the state-run IRNA news agency reported on Monday.

The helicopter weighs 10 kilogrammes and can fly for one hour with airplane fuel, according to the report. It is equipped with automatic system and can be used for transmitting information, taking photos and movies, and, in the inter-city journey, can be used as a traffic controller and firefighter, the report said.

On 3 September last year, Iran’s Khaje Nasir Toosi University of Technology unveiled the first Iranian two-seat electric urban car, the semi-official Mehr news agency reported. Dubbed “Qasedak-e Nasir” (Dandelion of Nasir), the vehicle is powered by rechargeable batteries was developed by a group of young university researchers.

A worker installs steel rods at the Kuningan City superblock construction site in Jakarta on 2 Feb, 2010. Indonesia may reach investment grade in two or three years because of its economic growth and reforms, the head of state investment agency said last week, a status that would attract investors and provide big returns for bond holders.

Four NATO troops, one US, die in Afghan fighting

KABUL, 2 Feb—Four NATO service members — including one American — were killed in action on Monday, the deadliest day for the international force in more than two weeks.

Combat deaths are still running at higher levels than in recent years even through the traditional winter fighting lull and despite talk of peace overtures to the Taleban and their allies.

The American service member, who was not identified, died in a roadside bombing in southern Afghanistan, the NATO command announced. Two British soldiers also died in bomb blasts during a foot patrol in the south, the main theatre of the war. The British Ministry of Defence said the soldiers were attacked near Malgir, in Helmand Province.

A man attends to a man wounded during overnight fighting at the Madina hospital in Somalia’s capital Mogadishu, on 1 Feb, 2010. Militants fired mortar bombs at the presidential palace in the Somali capital overnight, prompting return fire by troops that killed at least 16 people, medical officials and residents said on Monday.
New Zealand girl, 14, uses body-board to fend off shark

Wellington, Feb—Fourteen-year-old Lydia Ward said she was at a beach near the southern city of Invercargill when the shark struck.

The shark, about 1.5m (4.9ft) in length, is reported to have lunged at her and tried to bite her hip.

Standing in water that only reached up to her waist at Oreti Beach, she said she hit the “big, grey, slippery thing” repeatedly with her body-board.

“I showed Dad and he didn’t really believe me but then I showed him my wetsuit with all the blood coming out and he believed me,” Lydia told Radio New Zealand.

Although not seriously injured, Lydia required hospital treatment for two of the deeper wounds.

Her mother told a local newspaper that Lydia thought she had accidentally stood on the shark before it attacked her.

She said neither Lydia nor her 15-year-old brother, also in the water at the time of the attack, planned to go back into the sea in the very near future.

Shark attacks are very rare. Researchers say that more people die from bee stings and lightning strikes than shark attacks.

Global chip sales down 9% in 2009

San Francisco, Feb—Worldwide semiconductor sales in 2009 fell 9 percent from 2008, a decline that is better than predicted, a leading US trade group said on Monday.

Global chips sales in 2009 totaled 226.3 billion US dollars, surpassing the previous forecast of 219.7 billion dollars, according to year-end numbers released by the Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA), which is based in San Jose, California.

“2009 turned out to be a better year for the global semiconductor industry than expected,” George Scalise, president of SIA, said in a statement.

“A strong focus on inventories throughout the supply chain mitigated the impact of the worldwide economic downturn and positioned the industry for growth as the global economy recovers,” he added. —Internet

Toyota to restart production in US next week

Chicago, Feb—Toyota Motor Sales USA will resume production next week, Jim Lentz, president and chief operating officer at Toyota Motor Sales, said in a conference call on Monday in Washington.

Toyota Monday morning said its dealers should be receiving parts starting late on Tuesday to fix accelerator pedals on 2.3 million recalled vehicles in the United States.

Six North American plants are shut down this week in the recall of eight current and previous model year cars and trucks.

Dealers will get replacement parts by late Tuesday or early Wednesday, Lentz said.

In addition to the production halt, Toyota issued a “stop sell” order on the recalled models.

The order will be lifted on a “vehicle by vehicle” basis, Lentz said, as dealers repair individual vehicles.

But Lentz said dealers’ priority should be on repairing customers’ vehicles — rather than fixing vehicles for sale on the lot.

The repair will take about 30 minutes at a dealership, and customers should go to their dealers once they receive a notification letter from Toyota starting later this week. —Internet

S Korea fund to buy stake in British airport

Seoul, Feb—South Korea’s state pension fund, the world’s fifth largest, said on Tuesday it would buy a 12 percent stake in Britain’s Gatwick Airport — its second major investment in the country in three months.

“We have been looking into investment opportunities abroad which ensure safe returns,” said Kim Hyung-Dong, spokesman for the National Pension Service which has assets of more than 273 trillion won (236 billion dollars).

“The investments in Britain are part of efforts to diversify investment,” he told AFP, saying the fund would expand its overseas interests but giving no figure. —Internet

Indonesia becomes Toshiba production hub in Asia

Jakarta, Feb—Japanese electronics giant Toshiba has picked up Indonesia as its regional production hub for liquid crystal display (LCD) television set and has relocated its Vietnamese factory to Indonesia, a local media reported here on Tuesday.

“Indonesia will be the only production base for Toshiba LCD TV in Asia and Oceania,” President Director PT Toshiba Consumer Product Indonesia (TCPI), Yuzo Tsuchiya quoted by the Jakarta Post as saying.

Oil trims gains after $75 hit, dollar stronger

Singapore, Feb—Oil pared gains on Tuesday as the dollar strengthened, with the market’s attention turning to forecasts for steady US crude inventories after prices topped $75 earlier on optimism about the economy. The US dollar rose after the dollar strengthened, with the market’s attention turning to forecasts for steady US crude inventories after prices topped $75 earlier on optimism about the economy.

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Kenya hopes to benefit from China’s eight new Sino-African cooperation measures

ADDIS ABABA, 2 Feb—Kenya expects to gain full benefits from the Chinese government’s eight new measures of promoting Sino-African cooperation, Kenyan Foreign Minister Moses Wetangula said during an exclusive interview with Xinhua on Monday.

Kenya wants to benefit from the measures in areas such as agriculture, Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), infrastructure development, energy and environment, said Wetangula, who is here to attend the 14th African Union (AU) summit held in the Ethiopian capital.

The Chinese government announced eight new measures aimed at promoting pragmatic Sino-African cooperation at the fourth ministerial meeting of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt last November.

The measures included, among others, intensification of technical-scientific cooperation, reinforcement of African financial capacities and increased access of African products to the Chinese market.—Xinhua

Haiti re-opens schools after killer earthquake

PORT-AU-PRINCE, 2 Feb — Schools in Haiti’s capital city re-opened on Monday after the 12 Jan killer earthquake as President Rene Preval said all elementary schools should re-open in March.

UNICEF communication officer Francis Vanni said that children would return to school activities as soon as their schools are ready to receive them in Port-au-Prince and the other towns affected by the earthquake.

Vanni also said that as efforts to rebuild all schools would take time, he urged the international community to continue assisting Haitian children.

On Monday, some children were seen walking with their parents to the few schools that were re-opened with limited curricular activities.

Children are most vulnerable to post-quake crisis in Port-au-Prince, with 75 percent of the city was devastated by the magnitude-7.3 quake.—Xinhua

All Items from Xinhua News Agency

LA Times print edition shrinks due to economic recession

LOS ANGELES, 2 Feb — The Los Angeles Times, the largest newspaper on the West Coast, began to trim its print edition again on Monday due to the economic recession and changing readership habits.

The most-obvious change to readers are the reduction in width of the printed page. The double-page paper stock are trimmed from 48 inches to 44 inches, meaning a two-inch haircut for each printed page.

For the first time in decades, on Monday’s Times are printed without a stand-alone business section. The newspaper’s editors plan to sprinkle business news into the combined world/nation/state/local section each Monday.

Deadlines for the main sections of the newspaper are advanced about three hours earlier, to accommodate a 6 pm Press run. Late-breaking news are high-lighted in a new section to be called LATExtra, which are inserted into the main sections late each evening.

The sports section continue to have its customary late deadlines each night, to enable coverage of games and scores, The Times said.

Insiders at The Times have griped that the earlier deadlines are to enable the paper to continue a lucrative printing job: producing West Coast editions of the Wall Street Journal and New York Post under contract from Press baron Rupert Murdoch’s News Corporation.—Xinhua

Top Chinese search engine Baidu to build Int’l headquarters

SHENZHEN, 2 Feb — World’s largest Chinese search engine Baidu.com signed on Monday an agreement with Shenzhen city government to build its international headquarters in this boomtown of southern Guangdong Province.

The entrance of Baidu.com will boost Shenzhen’s development and enhance Baidu’s influence in south China and even southeastern Asia, said Wang Rong, Shenzhen’s acting mayor, at the signing ceremony.—Xinhua

A farmer plants vegetable in the field in Haikou, capital city of south China’s Hainan Province, on 1 Feb, 2010. The daily export of winter vegetable in Hainan raised 50 percent comparing with the amount in 2009, and reached 13, 000 tons. So far the winter vegetable of Hainan has sold to 170 markets all over the nation.—Xinhua

Saudi gov’t approves joining nuclear safety convention

RIYADH, 2 Feb — Saudi government approved on Monday joining the Convention on Nuclear Safety, Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported.

During a cabinet meeting under King Abdullah bin Abdul-Aziz, the government approved joining the convention adopted in Vienna on 17 June, 1994. A royal decree to be issued in this regard, the report said.

In mid-May of 2008, the White House announced major cooperation agreements with Saudi Arabia on civil nuclear power.—Xinhua

Contestants for ritual girls of the 2010 Shanghai World EXPO pose for photos during the launching ceremony of the national final of the competition in Hangzhou, east China’s Zhejiang Province, on 31 Jan, 2010. The final match will be held in March. XINHUA

Local farmers show how to make traditional food on the 5-day-long Ganzhou Hakas Culture Festival opened in Ganzhou City of east China’s Jiangxi Province, on 1 Feb, 2010.—XINHUA

Seven Somali pirates trying to attack Western ships referred to court

SANA, 2 Feb — A Yemeni provincial prosecution referred on Monday seven Somali pirates captured off the country’s southeast coast to a criminal court, a military-run website reported.

The seven Somali pirates were seized along with five machine guns and ammunition on 15 Oct, 2009 off the Yemeni southeast coastal province of Hadramout in the Arab Sea while they were trying to target French and American ships, the 26 Sept quoted judicial sources as saying.—Xinhua
**Ransom paid for cargo ship captured by Somali pirates**

**MOGADISHU, 2 Feb—** A ransom for the release of a cargo ship MV Filitsa has been sent to Somali pirates, according to agents’ reports on Monday.

The reports said the agreed ransom was air-dropped by helicopters onto the cargo vessel held by the pirates, but the ship had not been freed immediately.

Armed Somali pirates hijacked the Greek-owned ship with crew members last November in the attacks along the world’s most dangerous waters, Andrew Mwangura, the coordinator of the East Africa Seafarers Assistance Programme (SAP), had said the Marshall Islands-registered MV Filitsa was captured about 513 miles off north of Seychelles with three Greeks and 19 Filipinos on board.

The Horn of Africa nation’s coastline is considered one of the world’s most dangerous stretches of water because of piracy.

**China puts first gas-electric hybrid buses in use**

**CHANGCHUN, 2 Feb—** China’s first 50 gas-electric hybrid buses were put in use on Monday in Changchun, capital of northeastern Jilin Province.

The 12-metre long CA6120UR2 type hybrid buses can cut carbon emission by 30 percent, said Cui Shusen, President of Changchun Public Transport Group.

The buses were specially designed and manufactured for Changchun, a city with rich gas resources, by First Automobile Works Group (FAW), one of China’s leading automaker, Cui added.

The city will soon launch another 50 gas-electric buses, Cui said.—*Xinhua*

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**Nigeria sabotage forces cut in Shell output**

**LAGOS, 2 Feb—** Anglo-Dutch oil group Shell said on Monday it had shut in some production in southern Nigeria after a key supply pipeline was sabotaged hours after militants announced the end of a ceasefire.

Oil prices rose on the news on Monday, with New York’s main futures contract, light sweet crude for delivery in March, gaining 88 cents to 73.77 dollars a barrel at about 1650 GMT.

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**Baltic countries to talk on solutions to save Baltic Sea**

**HELSEINKI, 2 Feb—** Representatives from the ten Baltic Sea states will gather here on 10 Feb for the Baltic Sea Action Summit to coordinate actions to save the Baltic Sea from serious pollution.

While gathering heads of state and government, the summit, initiated by Finnish President Tarja Halonen and Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen, will also bring together representatives of NGOs and the business sector who are willing to make concrete commitments to the revival of the Baltic Sea.

Surrounded almost totally by land, the Baltic Sea is extremely endangered by marine pollution, and it is considered one of the most polluted oceans in the world. According to the Finnish presidential office, high-level participants include Sweden’s King Carl XVI Gustaf, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin and Danish Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen.

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**Polish scientists say three Neanderthal teeth found in Poland**

A team of Polish scientists said on Monday they have discovered three Neanderthal teeth in a cave, a find they hope may shed light on how similar to modern humans our ancestors were.

Neanderthal artifacts have been unearthed in Poland before, but the teeth are the first bodily Neanderthal remains found in the country, according to Mikolaj Urbanowski, an archaeologist with Szczecin University and the project’s lead researcher.

Urbanowski said the teeth were unearthed in the Stajnia Cave, north of the Carpathian Mountains, along with flint tools and the bones of the woolly mammoth and the woolly rhinoceros, both extinct Ice Age species.

The researchers also found a hammer made of reindeer antler and bones of cave bears bearing cut marks, indicating they were eaten by the Neanderthals, Urbanowski said.

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**Egypt tightens penalties for relics robbers, smugglers**

Parliament amended Egypt’s antiquities law on Monday to bring in stiffer punishments for the theft and smuggling of relics while granting patent rights to the country’s antiques council.

The amendment requires Egyptians who have antiques to report their possessions to the Supreme Council of Antiquities, headed by Zahi Hawass, in six months.

The sale of antiques is still banned.

“Parliament agreed on article eight that forbids trade in antiquities but allows possession of antiques with some conditions, on condition that they cannot use them to benefit others, or to damage and neglect them,” Hawass said.

These relics, he said, can in future only be given as a gift with the country’s antiquities council.

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**18-tower ice castle**

**Utah man creates**

A Utah ice sculptor said his massive outdoor ice castle has grown to include 18 towers, each of which measures 30 to 35 feet high.

Brent Christiansen said he uses 20 sprinkler heads to expand the structure by 10-12 tons of ice each day on the golf course of the Zermatt Resort and Spa in Midway, Utah, and he plans to continue expanding the project through the end of February.

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**News Album**

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They may also be passed on as part of an inheritance.

The antiquities legal counsel, Ashraf el-Ishmawi, who helped in the drafting of the amendments, clarified that the law precluded antiques and heirlooms.

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**In this picture made available by Szczecin University’s Department of Archaeology on Monday, on 1 Feb, 2010 one of three Neanderthal teeth discovered in Poland is pictured. A team of Polish scientists say they have discovered three Neanderthal teeth in a cave in the southern part of the country. Mikolaj Urbanowski, an archaeologist and the lead researcher, said on Monday that, although Neanderthal artifacts have been unearthed in Poland before, the teeth are the first remains of Neanderthals themselves discovered in the country.**

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**18-tower ice castle**

The Salt Lake Tribune reported on Monday.

Christiansen said the resort allows him to keep the $2 entrance fee visitors must pay to enter the castle and he and his wife were given a room at the hotel for the season.

The self-taught sculptor said the main tower of the structure is expected to reach three to four stories high by the time of its completion.
Kengtung, city of eastern Shan State with all-round development

Article: Maung Maung Myint Swe; Photos: Lay Nwe (Mingaladon)

During a recent visit to Kengtung, we the news crew of Myanma Alin saw Kengtung in peace and stability gaining development momentum.

While in Kengtung, we went sightseeing of neat and tidy roads, roundabouts, housings and buildings. To gather facts about the efforts made for progress of the town, we had an interview with Executive Officer of Kengtung Township Development Affairs Committee Assistant Director U Aung Htay Kywe.

“Our committee manages to undertake the construction of tarred roads in the town, supply of water, growing of flowery plants and shade trees along the roads and carrying out of sanitation tasks daily with the close supervision of the Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council and the assignments of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs.”

All local roads were tarmacked to enhance the image of the town. We saw maintenance of all the roads. “We have maintained Mongyan Road and Loimwe Road in Kengtung. Moreover, we have laid concrete in the vacant space between the housings and the roads. So, you can see all the roads are neat and tidy,” the executive officer continued.

We visited downtown Kengtung and noticed the efforts of the Township DAC in keeping the local roads clean and pleasant. We saw the decorated works such as beautiful pavements, flowery plants, shade trees and landscaping along Mongla junction leading to Kengtung Airport.

New housings and various buildings can be seen along the local roads namely Mongyan Road, Airport Road, Loimwe Road, Tachilek Road and the Exit Road to Taunggyi. The town hall on Airport Road is a symbol of Kengtung.

The monument roundabout in downtown Kengtung is decorated with beautiful flowery plants. In addition, the junction on Loimwe Road is beautified with flowery plants and landscaping.

Naungton Lake is one of the most attractive places in Kengtung. We observed that the lake has an area of one square mile and it is located in Ward 5 of Kengtung. The lake is surrounded with a tarred road. The bund of the lake is filled with stones. Red brick posts are erected along the bund fenced with steel fixings. Flowery plants are in full bloom along the bund.

Especially, the water surface of the lake is clean. We learned that during the Maha Thingyan water festival, Naungton Lake is always packed with water throwing pandals and those enjoying the festival.

We next visited the beautiful landscaping near the golf course at the entrance to the town, and growing of flowery plants from Mongla junction to the town. We noticed that the triangle shape traffic islands are decorated with landscaping. The Township DAC supervises sanitation tasks along Mongyan Road, Airport Road, Loimwe Road, Tachilek Road and Taunggyi Road with the use of five garbage vans for keeping the town clean and tidy.

During the visit to Kengtung, we witnessed the development of Kengtung in full swing as peace and stability have been restored. As a result, the Kengtung dwellers are enjoying fruits of progress in all aspects.

Translation: TTA

Myanma Alin:
2-2-2010
Prime Minister General Thein Sein looks into progress......

(from page 1)

After giving necessary instructions, the Prime Minister viewed the construction site of the project.

The Prime Minister inspected progress in construction of bored piles in the site in Pakokku on the bank of Ayeyawady River.

At Letpanchepaw, the Prime Minister looked into construction of bored piles for the bridge and left necessary instructions.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister viewed progress of the construction for the bridge at Letpanchepaw on the bank of Ayeyawady River.

Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint submitted the report on rising of water level at Ayeyawady River and efforts being made for timely completion of the project task. The Prime Minister gave instructions on completion of the bridge construction tasks on schedule and arrangements to be made for timely arrival of construction materials and attended to the needs.

The Prime Minister and party spent night in Bagan.

Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) will have a 11,431 feet long main bridge and a 14,181 feet long motorway. The pedestrian way will be 3 feet and 3 inches each. The facility is of reinforced concrete steel frame bridge that can withstand 60-ton loads. In Myanmar, Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku), 21,931 feet long, will be the longest among the bridges built by the Ministry of Construction.—MNA

Contributors to Arts Show and Book Fair honoured

YANGON, 2 Feb—A ceremony to mark successful completion of the 2nd Arts Show and the 3rd Book Fair of Hninzigon Home for the Aged was held at the home in Bahan Township this afternoon.

Vice-Chairman of the Home Board of Trustees U Aung Than gave a speech. Auditor of the Home U Soe Nyunt reported on organizing the show, invitational art contest and sales of books.

Responding persons presented certificates of honour to the artists, literary houses and book stalls that contributed to the shows of the home.

The Arts Show and the Book Fair lasted eight days from 26 January to 2 February.—MNA
Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Volleyball Tourney concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Feb—A ceremony to award the winners in the 3rd Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Women’s Volleyball Tournament 2009 was held at Nay Pyi Taw volleyball ground this afternoon.

In the final match, Ministry of Industry-1 team secured champion with a 3-0 win over Ministry of Sports team.

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win presented medals to the players of the Industry-1 Ministry, Sports Ministry and Home Affairs Ministry teams that secured first, second and third prizes respectively.

Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint awarded the outstanding players.

Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung gave K 100,000 to fourth prize winning Ministry of Electric Power No. 2 team, K 200,000 to third prize winning Home Affairs Ministry team, K 300,000 to second prize winning Sports Ministry team and K 500,000 as cash award and K 2 million awarded by the ministry to champion Ministry of Industry-1 team.

Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presented championship shield and duplicate shield to champion Ministry of Industry-1 team.

Entries invited to UMFFCI Training Institute Logo Contest

YANGON, 2 Feb — Arrangements are being made by the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry to organize a logo design contest that can reflect the UMFFCI Training Institute. Designers and artists may take part in the logo contest. The winner will be awarded a prize of K 500,000 with four consolation prizes, K 50,000. Each participant is entitled to put forward up to two logos designs together with photo and profile. The application form is available at UMFFCI Office. Entries may be sent not later than 26 February. For further information, contact Human Resource Development Working Committee at UMFFCI Office Tower in Lanmadaw Township here (Ph: 214344~49 and 217210) during office hours. — MNA

Khin Maung Nyo (Economics) to give talks at MFF

YANGON, 2 Feb— Jointly organized by Myanmar Fisheries Federation and Myanmar Prawn Entrepreneurs Association and sponsored by Wise International School for Executives, Khin Maung Nyo (Economics) will gave talks on peaks and valleys at Thiri Annawah Hall of MFF in Insein Township here at 2 p.m. on 6 February. — MNA

Meiktila benefiting greatly from urbanization projects

Byline & Photos: Ko Tin Hlaing (Meiktila)

Industrial Zone (1) Road is in the process of being upgraded.

Traffic islands on Yangon-Mandalay Highway are attractively decorated with beds of flowers and landscaping plants in downtown Meiktila Township.

Meiktila is benefiting greatly from urbanization projects. Simultaneously, the committee is taking measures for ensuring smooth and secure transport in the township. As part of the drive, it has constructed a good number of inter-village bridges and roads, and culverts.

With the aim of translating into reality the guidance of the Head of State, and the directive of the ministry is now working hard for ensuring sufficient rural water supply. In 2009-2010 financial year, the committee sank tube-wells and built brick tanks in 11 villages in the township.

Now, rural folks in Meiktila Township are happy because they have easy access to adequate potable water supply. Now, the projects Meiktila Township Development Affairs Committee has on the go for development and keeping the township clean is in full swing. The number of the fine roads constructed and upgraded in rural areas in the township on the increase. As a result, there has been a better trade of agricultural produce including rice, beans and pulses, sesame, corn, cotton, and many other crops between rural and urban areas in the township. And the life quality of the rural residents is improving satisfactorily.

Translation: MS
Myanma Alin: 31-1-2010
Russia, US resume arms treaty negotiations


The talks aim to update a bilateral agreement called the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), which expired in December. Gareth Evans, co-chair of the International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, told reporters in Geneva on Monday that a new version of the treaty is “on the verge of happening,” and described the remaining issues as insubstantial.

Evans, who on Monday released a report on nuclear disarmament called Eliminating Nuclear Threats, said that the “most crucial of all years is this year.” In addition to the START negotiations, several international conferences will take place this spring, such as US President Barack Obama’s Nuclear Security Summit in April and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in May. Evans also called on the United Nations Conference on Disarmament (CD) to bring ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) to the General Assembly. —Xinhua

Syrian woman celebrates 110th birthday

DAMASCUS, 2 Feb—A Syrian woman Wasila Ali Qaddour, known as Um Hassan, celebrated her 110th birthday in January in her hometown village in Syria’s northwestern governate of Idlib, the official SANA news agency reported on Monday.

Wasila is still blessed with good health and does her housework. The people of her town call her “the memory of the village” or the oldest grandmother with 100 grandsons. They consider her a historical reference for the writers and historians of the village, the report said. Vegetables are her basic food. She doesn’t eat meat except at religious and social events.

Xinhua

Strong earthquake hits Solomon Islands

HONG KONG, 2 Feb—An earthquake measuring 6.5 on the Richter Scale occurred in Solomon Islands at 6.37 am on Tuesday Hong Kong Time (2237 GMT), according to a bulletin released by the Hong Kong Observatory on Tuesday.

The epicenter was initially determined to be at 6.1 degrees south Latitude and 154.4 degrees east Longitude, about 720 kilometres west-northwest of Hiniara, Solomon Islands, it said. —Xinhua

Strong quake hits off Papua New Guinea

WASHINGTON, 2 Feb—A strong earthquake measuring 6.2 on the Richter Scale hit off Papua New Guinea’s coast, the US Geological Survey (USGS) said on Monday.

But no tsunami warning was issued after the quake.

The USGS said the quake struck off the coast of Bougainville island at 8:28 am local time on Tuesday (2228 GMT Monday), 885 km northeast of Papua New Guinea’s capital of Port Moresby at a depth of 33 km. —Xinhua

Exercise affects insulin sensitivity

ANN ARBOR, 2 Feb—A US researcher says what is eaten after exercise produces differences in the way the body metabolizes.

Senior author Jeffrey Horowitz of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor also says many of the health benefits of aerobic exercise are due to the most recent exercise session rather than weeks or longer of exercise training.

“Many of the improvements in metabolic health associated with exercise stem largely from the most recent session of exercise, rather than from an increase in ‘fitness’ per se,” Horowitz says in a statement.

The study, published in the Journal of Applied Physiology, finds exercise enhanced insulin sensitivity, particularly of carbohydrates eaten after the exercise session. Enhanced insulin sensitivity means sugar is taken from the blood stream into tissues like muscles to be stored or used as fuel. Impaired insulin sensitivity—known as insulin resistance—was unavailable.

Internet

Fire engulfs 60 hectares of forest in SW China

BEIJING, 2 Feb—More than 900 fire fighters are still trying to put out a forest fire in the Liangshan Yi autonomous prefecture of southwestern China’s Sichuan Province, the State Forest Fire Prevention Headquarters said on Monday.

The fire started in Liangshan prefecture’s Muli County on 29 Jan, and had engulfed more than 60 hectares of forest as of 5 pm on Monday, the headquarters said.

More than 900 fire fighters are currently trying to put out the fire but had so far failed to bring it under control, it said, adding that artificial precipitation in the region was unavailable.

Xinhua

Sophisticated brain scans help detect precursors to Alzheimer’s disease

LOS ANGELES, 2 Feb—Sophisticated brain scans can help detect the precursors to Alzheimer’s disease before any symptoms begin, according to a new study.

The University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA) announced at the weekend that its researchers tracked 169 people over three years who had been diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment or MCI, a condition that causes memory problems greater than those expected for an individual’s age — but not the personality or cognitive changes that define Alzheimer’s.

They discovered that after three years, those who went on to be diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease showed a 10 to 30 percent greater atrophy in two specific locations within the brain’s hippocampus, a part of the brain known to be critical for long-term memory.

In another study, researchers looked at 10 cognitively normal elderly people and compared their brain scans with those of seven other elderly people who were later diagnosed with MCI and then Alzheimer’s disease.

Xinhua

Strong earthquake hits Solomon Islands

This undated photo, Pedro Manuel Alcolado Menendez, a senior researcher with Cuba’s Institute of Oceanology, looks at a giant squid at the Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota, Florida. Internet

Exercise affects insulin sensitivity

Pedestrians pass by a wall covered with Spring Festival couplets in Yichang, central China’s Hubei Province, on 1 Feb., 2010.—Xinhua

Fire engulfs 60 hectares of forest in SW China

Exercise affects insulin sensitivity

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Fire engulfs 60 hectares of forest in SW China

File photo shows Bird’s Nest, or the National Stadium in Beijing, capital of China. It has several choices to partner with for luxury hotel and high-end commercial facilities to be built inside the stadium this year.—Xinhua
Chinese VP urges sum-up of study on scientific theory

Beijing, 2 Feb—Chine

ese Vice President Xi Jingping on Monday urged all localities and depart

ments to earnestly sum-

marize experiences of the study and implementation of the Scientific Outlook on Development and make full use of its posi-
tive outcomes.

Xi, also a Standing Committee member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, made the re-
marks when he chaired a seminar held on Monday in Beijing on the sum-up of the study and imple-
mentation of the theory, which emphasized the well-being of people and comprehensive, coordi-
nated and sustainable de-
velopment.

He called for efforts to con-
tinue the study and re-
search on the scientific outlook on development and well implement the theory, so as to accumu-
late new experiences.

The CPC launched the campaign to study and implement the theory in September 2008, embrac-
ing a wide participation of more than 75 million CPC members. The campaign was scheduled to end at the end of this month, but

said, the implementation of the theory was a long-
term mission and must be con-
tinued. —Xinhua

Exxon quarterly profit tops Street, stock up three percent

Houston, 2 Feb—Ex-

xon Mobil Corp (XOM.N) reported a fourth-quarter profit on Monday that topped Wall Street expectations as natural gas projects boosted results at the largest US oil company’s exploration arm.

Still, Exxon’s net in-

come fell 23 percent as weak demand for fuel in the global economic slowdown caused a loss in its refining business.

Exxon’s shares rose 3 percent, outperforming a 2.2 percent gain in the Chi-
cago Board Options Ex-

change index of oil compa-
nies (OIX). Oil and gas pro-
duction increased nearly 2 percent in the quarter to

4.18 million barrels of oil equivalent (BOE) per day — better than some ana-

lysts had expected — helped by production from Exxon’s massive liquefied natural gas (LNG) projects in Qatar.

“Natural gas production in Asia Pacific and the Mid-
dle East was up 31 percent,” Pavel Molchanov, analyst at Raymond James, said. “That’s where a lot of the growth came from. They had those big lique-
faction terminals start up in Qatar in the second half of the year.” Exxon is also in-

vesting in natural gas closer to home. The company has said it plans to buy XTO Energy Inc (XTO.N) for about $30 billion in stock in a big bet on North America’s fast-
growing natural gas indus-

try.

Sony Pictures Entertainment cuts 450 jobs

Los Angeles, 2 Feb—Sony Pictures Entertainment is to trim 450 jobs from its workforce, the studio said, with execu-
tives citing online piracy and changing viewer hab-

its as reasons for the cuts.

A company statement said a further 100 open po-

sitions will be closed, while the lay-offs — roughly 6.5 percent of the company’s 6,800 workforce — would be completed by early March.

“The decision to take this step was difficult,” studio chiefs Amy Pascal and Michael Lynton told employees in a memo re-

leased to media. “But it’s being done in the context of a strategy designed to help us safeguard our com-
petitiveness and chart our own course through these troubled waters.”

The memo cited the changing media landscape as being part of the reason for the cuts, which would impact the company’s home entertainment and IT divisions. —Internet

Bordeaux wine industry rallies to survive in US

Bordeaux, 2 Feb—Bordeaux vintners and merchants are rallying to survive in a thirsty but tur-
mulus US market after their biggest customer there deserted.

US importer Chateau & Estate Wines (DC&E), a subsidiary of UK drinks giant Diageo, last year ended a 35-year relationship with Bordeaux fine

wine and began aggres-
sively liquidating tens of millions of dollars’ worth of stock at 40 to 60 per-

cent discounts.

“DC&E was for years the largest US buyer of Bordeaux and had amassed a huge cellar, which is now being sold off,” Diageo, which remains in the Bordeaux business outside the United States, left the US market

for Bordeaux fine wine in the face of enormous unsold stocks, shrinking profit margins and a trend among US consumers toward less expensive wine. —Internet

Russia’s Lukoil to invest 30b dollars in Iraqi oil field

Moscow, 2 Feb—Ru-

sian state energy mo-

poly Lukoil will invest 30 billion US dollars with its foreign partners in the development of the West Qurna-2 oil field in Iraq, said the company’s CEO on Monday.

First phase of invest-
m ent to the oil field, whose annual output is estimated at 95 million metric tons, will reach 4.5 billion dollars, said Vagit Alekperov when meeting with Prime Minister

Vladimir Putin.

Russia has cancelled more than 10 billion dol-

lars, or 90 percent of the debt owed to it by Iraq, said Putin, adding that the

Iraqi government has wel-

comed Lukoil’s move.

It was also “a pleasure

for Lukoil and Nor-

wegian Statoil to win the tender for the West Qurna-2 in last De-

cember, he said.” —Xinhua

Reducing high jobless rate to be top priority for EU

Brussel

s, 2 Feb—Although there are signs of eco-

nomic recovery of the European Union (EU), the job market has not recovered from the economic crisis as such. Analysts say cutting the record high jobless rate within the 27-member bloc is to be the top priority for the EU in the near future.

According to the latest figures published by the EU statistic arm Eurostat, the unemployment rate of the 16-member eurozone reached 10 percent in December 2009, a 1.8-percentage increase compared with the same period last year.

For the EU, unemployment rate was 9.6 percent in December 2009, compared with 7.6 percent in De-

cember 2008. —Xinhua
McDonald’s to expand operations in Russia

MOSCOW, 2 Feb—US fastfood magnate McDonald’s has planned to beef up its operations in Russia, the corporation’s president and CEO announced here on Monday.

As the company marked the 20th anniversary since its first restaurant was opened in Moscow in the Soviet era, Jim Skinner said McDonald’s has planned to invest around 135 million US dollars expanding and upgrading operations in Russia this year.

This year, some 45 new outlets will be launched in the country, while through 2012 some 40-45 new outlets will be launched annually, he added.

According to the RIA Novosti news agency, with 245 outlets in business, McDonald’s currently holds an estimated 70 percent share of Russia’s fastfood store service market. It serves around 600,000 people in Russia daily.—Xinhua

One Chinese dead, one saved, 22 still missing in Indonesia boat sinking

BEIJING, 2 Feb—Eight people, including one Chinese national, were found dead and close to 30 others are feared to have drowned after their speed boat sank in seas off eastern Indonesia last week. China’s maritime search and rescue centre said on Monday.

Twenty four Chinese were on the Indonesian ship “Dolphin” which sank on 27 Jan due to bad weather as it trav-elled from Aru to Tual islands.

So far, one Chinese has been rescued alive by Indone-sian rescuers, and the other 22 Chinese nationals are still missing, the centre said. A total of 35 people were on the ship when it sank.

Fans hail first 3D broadcast of football match

BEIJING, 2 Feb—A moment of television history was made today as football fans watched the world’s first broadcast of a match in 3D.

Sky Sports broadcast the Arsenal vs Manchester United game to nine pubs across the UK using the latest polarised 3D method.

Fans at the Railway Tavern pub in central London gave the new 3D viewing experience the thumbs-up.—Xinhua

Russian to monitor Far East airspace with automatic system

VLADIVOSTOK, 2 Feb—The radio unit of Russian air forces and air defence forces on Monday started to install automatic system monitoring airspace in Russia’s far eastern Khabarovsk Territory.

The new monitoring system, the scope of which includes the Primorye Territory and the Transbaikal Territory, will be installed in the city outskirts of Khabarovsk, the RIA Novosti news agency reported citing source.

The radio unit of Russian air force and air defence forces will be in charge of monitoring all military and civil flight courses within the region, including international ones.

Also, the new system will not be affected by unstable voltage and power cut. Russian armed forces have plans to install the new system in other regions of the country. —Xinhua

Pakistan detains American man near Afghan border

PESHAWAR, 2 Feb—A local Pakistani official says authorities have detained an American man near the country’s famed Khyber Pass leading to Afghanistan because he did not have government permission to travel there.

Offical Javed Khan said the man was apprehended on Monday in the Jannrud area of Khyber, part of Pakistan’s semi-autonomous tribal region that is off-limits to foreigners without government authorization.

Khan said the man was transferred to the main city in the northwest, Peshawar, but did not provide any additional information.

A spokesman for the US Embassy in Islamabad, Rick Snellie, confirmed that Pakistani government officials have given him the same information but could not independently verify the report.—Xinhua

Kenyan police find new cache of 30,000 bullets

NAROK, 2 Feb—Kenya’s police chief says officers have seized another cache of bullets at the premises of a man already facing charges for a separate arms seizure last year.

Matthew Iteere says police found the Kenyan and Czech-made bullets in a container at Munir Ahmed’s garage. He says police seized two other containers but are yet to confirm their contents.

Most of the 30,000 bullets are Kenyan, Iteere says. Such bullets are made at a government plant and only issued to Kenya’s armed forces.

Lawyer Cliff Ombeta says his client could not have been involved with the latest cache because he had been in police custody since 8 Dec.

Ahmed was arrested after police found up to 100,000 bullets and an assortment of guns at his home and business premises.

—Internet

Cooler heads : A Russian woman stands near two giant ice sculpture heads in central Moscow.—Internet

People walk around a burning building in a commercial area in Port-au-Prince on 31 Jan, 2010.—INTERNET

Fans at a London pub watch the world's first live broadcast of a match in 3D.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TAMPA N VOY NO (307)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPA N VOY NO (307) are hereby notified that the vessels will be arriving on 3.2.2010 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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INTERNET
Obama calls for end to US moon programme

WASHINGTON, 2 Feb—US President Barack Obama sent Congress a budget on Monday with a record 1.56-trillion-dollar deficit, which calls for an end to the US mission to return to the moon.

“We are proposing cancelling the programme, not delaying it,” Peter Orszag, director of the Office of Management and Budget, said during a conference call. The White House redlined NASA’s flagship Constellation programme, because it was too costly.

The over-budget programme includes building a replacement for the space shuttle to allow astronauts to reach low-earth orbit, a new-generation rocket and modules for a moon base. Obama instead proposed boosting the development of commercial rockets and other vehicles that can ferry US astronauts to the International Space Station.

Funds previously earmarked for the Constellation programme would be used for research projects that include robotics and other technologies needed to prepare for an eventual human mission to Mars.

Analysts say getting the cancellation through Congress will be a tough mission for the administration, as lawmakers from Florida and other states with close ties to the space programme are likely to oppose moves that could threaten local jobs.

Cambodian rescuers carry a mock casualty during an emergency exercise at a military air base in Phnom Penh on 2 Feb, 2010. The Cambodian National Committee for Management Disaster and Societe Concessionaire des Aeroports (SCA) organized the fourth full scale airport emergency exercise to improve the airport community’s ability to face a major crisis.—INTERNET

Pathogens in some restaurant milk in Spain

VALENCIA, 2 Feb—One-third of milk and dairy products samples analyzed from restaurants in Spain exceed the microbe limits set by the European Union, researchers say.

Researchers at the University of Valencia examined 265 batches of milk and ready-to-use milk derivatives in a range of bars and restaurants in Valencia. The results, published in the journal Foodborne Pathogens and Disease, show a third of the samples had some kind of microorganism contamination and were not fit for human consumption.

“Out of all the dairy products we analyzed, 35 percent of the samples exceeded the maximum contamination levels established by EU law for pathogens and 31 percent exceeded the limits set for mesophilic aerobic microorganisms,” one of the study’s authors, Isabel Sospedra, says in a statement.—INTERNET

Over 10,000 ducks die in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 2 Feb—The Cambodian government said on Monday that more than 10,000 ducks have died and some 30,000 others are being sick in the country’s southern province of Takeo.

Kao Phal, director of animal production department of Agriculture Ministry said that samples of the dead ducks being examined and the results will be known on Tuesday or the day after.

He said that those dead ducks were reported happening a few days ago and now some 30,000 others are being sick.

Kao Phal said while sample testing is being examined, he could not tell what the cause to the deaths of the ducks was.—Xinhua

French court seeks answers on deadly Concorde crash

PARIS, 2 Feb—US airline Continental and French aviation officials go on trial on Tuesday for the manslaughter of 113 people who died in Paris when a supersonic Concorde plummeted to the ground in a ball of fire.

The New York-bound jet crashed shortly after take-off from Charles de Gaulle Airport on 25 July, 2000, killing all 109 people on board — most of them Germans — and four hotel workers on the ground.

Two Continental employees, a former French civil aviation official and two Concorde engineers will from Tuesday be tried on the same charge in a court near Paris, with proceedings expected to last four months.

A French accident inquiry concluded in 2004 that the disaster was partly caused by a strip of metal that fell onto the runway from a Continental Airlines DC-10 plane that took off just before the supersonic jet.

It said the Concorde ran over the super-hard titanium strip, which shredded one of its tyres. That caused a blow-out and sent debris flying into an engine and a fuel tank and set it on fire, according to the inquiry.

But Continental has rejected that claim, arguing that the fire began before the plane reached the spot where the metal strip lay and that Concorde suffered from dangerous design defects which were known about but not corrected.—INTERNET

Mexican mayor fears massacre of 16 was random

CIUDAD JUAREZ, 2 Feb—The mayor of a violent Mexican border city said on Monday he fears a shooting that killed 16 people in a working class neighbourhood may have been random because many of the victims were “good kids” with no apparent ties to drug gangs.

The dead included at least eight teenagers, the youngest a 13-year-old girl.

Mayor Jose Reyes Ferriz said police were pursuing all lines of investigation. But he said none of the victims of the attack on Saturday night had criminal records, and the teenagers were “good kids, students, athletes.”

He said he feared violence was reaching levels of brutality shocking even for Ciudad Juarez, which faces El Paso, Texas, and has become one of the world’s deadliest cities amid rampant battles between drug gangs fighting for turf and smuggling routes north.

“There is no logical explanation, a concrete reason for this event. This is something that worries us, gratuitous or random criminal acts,” Reyes told MVS Radio. “It goes way beyond what had been happening and puts Ciudad Juarez in even greater danger.”—INTERNET

People gather near the crime scene of a shooting in Ciudad Juarez on 31 Jan, 2010. Suspected drug hitmen burst into a party and killed 13 high school students in Ciudad Juarez on Sunday, the latest massacre in one of the world’s deadliest cities, the Mexican army said. Army spokesman Enrique Torres said the victims were between 15 and 20 years old, and an additional 17 party-goers were wounded in the shooting, some critically.—INTERNET
South Africa’s McCarthy moves to West Ham

London, 2 Feb—South Africa’s Benni McCarthy completed his long anticipated move to West Ham United from Premier League rivals Blackburn Rovers on Monday’s transfer deadline day. The 32-year-old joined for an undisclosed fee on an 18-month contract that will keep him at Upton Park until 2012. McCarthy, who could make his debut for the relegation threatened London side in Saturday’s league match against fellow strugglers Burnley, said he had wanted West Ham to be his first club in English football when he left Portuguese side Porto.

“I am very pleased and extremely happy,” McCarthy, South Africa’s record goalscorer, with 32 goals in 77 internationals, told West Ham’s website. “This is a great club. The reason why I am happy is that it has finally happened is because about five years ago I had a disappointing experience when I thought I was going to be a West Ham player until Porto pulled out and I had to go back,” added McCarthy, who scored 37 goals in 109 league matches for Rovers after arriving at Ewood Park from Porto in July 2006.

Wear freefall goes on

Sunderland, 2 Feb—Sunderland failed to halt their slide towards the relegation quagmire after Stoke claimed a deserved point in an uninspiring goalless stalemate here on Monday. The draw means Steve Bruce’s side, who started the season in such promising fashion they were being tipped as contenders for Europe, have now won only once in their last 14 league matches and they are just four points above the bottom three.

Stoke had the better of the chances, with former Sunderland player Dean Whitehead enjoying a couple of good chances, although the hosts could justifiably claim they had been denied a second-half penalty following an apparent foul by Robert Huth. Sunderland manager Steve Bruce was admirably blunt on his assessment of the match - entertainment wise that is. “It was an abysmal game to be honest,” said the 40-year-old.

“You want three points to end the run we have been enjoying but while we were nervous and edgy at least the commitment and resilience, which has been lacking was there. “This might be the springboard we need.”

Whitehead had the best chance of a lacklustre opening period with less than three minutes on the clock.

Calgiari coach beats ‘special one’ Mourinho to award

Rome, 2 Feb—Cagliari’s Massimiliano Allegri won the coach of the year award for the 2008/09 season on Monday easily beating quadruple defending Serie A champions Inter Milan’s Jose Mourinho. Allegri, 42, won the award with 40 percent of the vote of his fellow coaches after guiding Sardinia-based Cagliari, who are regarded as one of the lesser lights in the league, into a respectable ninth place in last year’s championship.

Mourinho, who refers to himself as the ‘special one’, received just 20 percent of the vote. Allegri arrived at Cagliari in 2008 after coaching lower division outfits Sassuolo (2007-2008).—Internet

FA say Terry’s England captaincy in Capello’s hands

London, 2 Feb—England manager Fabio Capello alone will make a decision on John Terry’s future as England captain. The Football Association (FA) said on Monday.

The 29-year-old Chelsea defender’s position has been called into question following reports the married father of twins had an affair with the ex-girlfriend of former teammate Wayne Bridge.

There are now concerns the issue could have a damaging effect on England’s bid to win the World Cup in South Africa later this year but the FA are adamant they would leave the matter to Capello. “Fabio Capello alone will make the decision about John Terry’s position,” said an FA spokesman. “Fabio is fully up to speed with developments regarding John Terry.”

“He spoke with our chairman Lord (David) Triesman and chief executive Ian Watmore today (Monday), who both backed him to make the best decision for England on the footballing grounds.”—Internet

Inter loan out Brazilian striker to bitter rivals

Rome, 2 Feb—Series A’s runaway leaders Inter Milan permitted experienced Brazilian striker Mancini to move on loan to bitter city rivals AC Milan on Monday with an option to buy him outright. The 29-year-old has failed to break into the Inter first team since arriving from AS Roma in the summer of 2008 and has appeared only seven times for the Italian champions this season all as a substitute at the end of the matches. Mancini, who was also strongly courted by French giants Marseille, came to Inter on the back of several impressive sea- sons at Roma where they had twice finished runners-up behind Inter in the title race and reached the last eight of the Champions League on two occasions.—Internet

Goalkeeper Cech sees key week ahead for Chelsea

Hull, 2 Feb—Goalkeeper Petr Cech is convinced Chelsea have the perfect opportunity to establish a lead at the top of the Premier League this week that could prove highly significant come the end of the season.

Carlo Ancelotti’s side, which won 2-1 at Burnley on Saturday, will use the game in hand they possess over Manchester United and Arsenal at Hull City on Tuesday night. Then, on Sunday, they host Arsene Wenger’s Gunners in one of the highest profile fixtures of the calendar.—Internet

Brazilian striker joins Stoke from Pompey

LONDON, 2 Feb—Stoke signed goalkeeper Asmir Begovic from Premier League rivals Portsmouth on Monday’s transfer deadline day for a fee of £3.25 million pounds, the club announced.

The 22-year-old was bid to win the World Cup in South Africa later this year but the FA are adamant they would leave the matter to Capello. “Fabio Capello alone will make the decision about John Terry’s position,” said an FA spokesman. “Fabio is fully up to speed with developments regarding John Terry.”

“He spoke with our chairman Lord (David) Triesman and chief executive Ian Watmore today (Monday), who both backed him to make the best decision for England on the footballing grounds.”—Internet

Asmir Begovic

Last month Pulis tried to sign another Pompey goalkeeper in David James but the loan deal collapsed over the issue of the England international’s wages. Begovic will compete with Danish international Thomas Sorensen for the starting XI spot.

Goalkeeper Asmir Begovic

Begovic joins Stoke from Pompey

Sunderland’s Darren Bent (L) vies with Stoke City’s Ryan Shawcross (R) during an English FA Premier League football match at the Stadium of Light, in Sunderland.—Internet

Chelsea’s Czech goalkeeper Petr Cech

Sunderland Darren Bent (L) vies with Stoke City’s Ryan Shawcross (R) during an English FA Premier League football match at the Stadium of Light, in Sunderland.—Internet

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55 nations set 2020 carbon goals since Copenhagen

Oslo, 2 Feb —Fifty-five nations accounting for almost 80 percent of world greenhouse gas emissions have set national goals for fighting climate change by a deadline in the “Copenhagen Accord,” the United Nations said on Monday.

“This represents an important invigoration of the UN climate change talks,” Yvo de Boer, head of the UN Climate Change Secretariat, said of the varying national promises for cuts on emissions until 2020 submitted by a 31 January deadline.

The countries, including top emitters led by China and the United States, mostly reiterated commitments unveiled before December’s UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, which disappointed many countries by failing to agree a new binding UN treaty.

It said the pledges covered 55 nations and amounted to 78 percent of global emissions from energy use.

“Greater ambition is required to meet the scale of the challenge,” de Boer said. “But I see these pledges as clear signals of willingness to move negotiations towards a successful conclusion.”

Taylor Swift drops one of her four Grammy awards at the 52nd annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles on 31 January 2010.

WEATHER

Tuesday, 2nd February, 2010

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr.

M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in Taninthayi Division, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin, Rakhine States and Mandalay Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions.

Night temperatures were (9°C) below February average temperatures in Chin State, (4°C) to (5°C) below February average temperatures in Kachin State, upper Sagaing, Magway and Bago Divisions, (5°C) above February average temperatures in Mon State and Taninthayi Division and about February average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (-3°C), Loilem (0°C) and Nansam (2°C). The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Myeik (0.04) inch.

Maximum temperature on 1-2-2010 was 96°F. Minimum temperature on 2-2-2010 was 60°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 2-2-2010 was 43%. Total sunshine hours on 1-2-2010 was (10.0) hours approx.

Rainfall on 2-2-2010 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from North at (15:30) hours MST on 1-2-2010.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 3rd February 2010: Likelihood of isolated light rain in Kachin State, weather will be partly cloudy in Shan, Rakhine, Chin States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and generally 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 3-2-2010: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 3-2-2010: Partly cloudy.
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 broadcasts designed to cause troubles

Meiktila benefiting greatly from urbanization projects

Byline & Photos: Ko Tin Hlaing (Meiktila)

Being located at the junction of Yangon-Mandalay-Myaingyan-Kyaungpadaung-Taunggyi Road, Meiktila enjoys a smooth transport which is essential for economic growth. Meiktila Township Development Affairs Committee is now in pursuit of a variety of programmes to keep the fast-developing township clean.

As for Meiktila dwellers, adequate supply of potable water is more important than any other thing. Completely around Meiktila Lake are wards. Now, the committee supplies 1.6 million gallons of safe water.

(See page 9)

Welcome to Meiktila sign at the entrance to Meiktila.

Significant night temperatures (2-2-2010)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Haka</td>
<td>-3°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loilem</td>
<td>0°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Namhsan</td>
<td>2°C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A girl walks among snowmen built as part of a display on a street in Moscow on 31 January, 2010.—INTERNET