Sluice gate helps develop farming in Htantabin Township

YANGON, 16 Feb—Pandaing Sluice Gate located in Htantabin Township of Yangon North District is irrigating farmlands in the township.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation manages to construct a new sluice gate by conducting land survey.

The local authorities and the ministry are joining hands in taking preventive measures against floods in Htantabin and Hlinethaya townships. At present, Myaseinyaung Creek is being dredged there.

Accompanied by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Win Myint and Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence inspected irrigation facilities for cultivation of summer paddy. (See page 8)

Manauung ring road surrounding Megawady, Manaung Island

As a staff of Myanma Alin daily, I made a trip to Manaung Island, home to Rakhine national races in order to write articles about the opening of ring road of Manaung Island. Manaung Island, located in the Bay of Bengal, is the second largest island in Myanmar.

It was in the evening when I arrived in Manaung via Yangon by means of air route, road and waterway. When the speed boat approached the port of Manaung I noticed the hustle and bustle of people, fishing boats and ships. I also saw neat and beautiful tarred roads, buildings, houses, departmental buildings, hospitals, libraries, markets and schools. Microwave tower, built by Myanma Posts and Telecommunications, is the most significant structure on the Island. Manaung is formed with Manaung island, Ye Island and Taek island. It has an area of 202.05 square miles. Manaung is about 22 miles from east to west and 18 miles from south to north. It has five wards, 36 village-tracts and 138 villages.

Hailing the 63rd Anniversary Union Day, the opening of the ring road was held on 6 February. On the opening day, I interviewed U Chan Tin, 82, from Myothit ward. He said that he was a retired staff from education department. In the past, the ring road was only a foot path and narrow. It took about two hours to carry sick persons from the village which is only about four or five miles from the town. But now, it takes few minutes after opening of the facility. In the past, the roads were in poor condition and there was no security. Carrying goods four or five miles from (See page 7)
**PERSPECTIVES**

Wednesday, 17 February, 2010

**Take part in the task of maintaining roads and bridges**

Infrastructures being built by the government are for long-term development of the political, economic and social sectors of the nation.

The Thrimingalga overpass on the Mandalay-Sagaing-Shwebo-Mytikyina motor road was opened in Sagaing Township, Sagaing Division, on 13 February. It is the 17th bridge in Sagaing Division.

Easy and smooth transportation can enhance the socio-economic status of the people and enhance friendship among the national races. Therefore, the government is building networks of roads linking village and village, rural areas and urban areas, district and district and states and divisions.

In addition to building new roads, the government is upgrading the existing ones. In 1988, there were over 21,000 miles of road but now there are more than 41,700 miles throughout the country.

Thanks to Thrimingalga overpass, all the vehicles coming from Mandalay across the Yadana River Bridge no longer need to wait at the level-crossing and continue to Monywa or Shwebo and to Myitikyina via Shwebo, saving time and ensuring safety.

With emergence of new technologies, transportation has also improved. Roads and bridges play a major role in transporting passengers and goods.

To fulfill the needs of people, the government has been spending substantial sum of money on the construction of roads and bridges. Therefore, we would like to urge local people to take part in the task of maintaining roads and bridges in order that they can be used effectively in the long run.

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**Tasks of Management Committee for organizing Union Day 2010 reviewed**

**Myanmar, Japan to cooperate in drive for agri development**

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**Industry-I eyes India for cooperation**

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**Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Huay Oo receives Japanese Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr. Yasuaki Nogawa.**

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**Htihlaingshin, Kyansitthar get into work**

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**Take Fire Preventive Measures**
Portugal sends 40 more troops to Afghanistan

LISBON, 16 Feb—Portugal on Monday sent a contingent of 40 troops to Afghanistan to join a quick reaction force there, military authorities said.

The Staff of the Portuguese Army said 120 more soldiers will be sent to the Asian country soon.

The contingent sent out on Monday is made up of soldiers from the Support and Service Detachment, which includes five women and eight Air Force personnel.

These troops are to be stationed near the Afghan capital of Kabul at the Warehouse Camp.

In mid-2008, Portugal reduced its troop presence in Afghanistan to 100, but it agreed last year to increase its troop level.

BA flight turned back after doubts over passenger

LONDON, 16 Feb—A British Airways plane flying from London to Mexico was forced to do a U-turn over the Atlantic after concerns about a passenger on board, the airline said on Monday.

Amid heightened security following the failed Detroit bombing in December, the flight carrying 318 passengers returned to London’s Heathrow Airport on Friday after a “data discrepancy” involving a US passenger, BA said.

“BA Flight 243 returned to Heathrow on Friday afternoon due to a data discrepancy with a US citizen. The passenger was asked to leave, which he duly did, and collected his bags,” said a BA spokesman.

“The plane was refuelled and left later that day,” he added.

Small plane crashes at mid-NJ airport, killing five

NEW JERSEY, 16 Feb—A small plane trying to land broke apart and tore through a snowy field next to a runway on Monday afternoon, killing all five people aboard, including a teenager and a child, and scattering debris over 200 feet.

The crash was reported at 3:45 pm at Monmouth Executive Airport, about 35 miles east of Trenton, said Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Jim Peet.

The weather was overcast, but no precipitation was falling.

Capt Tim Clayton of the Wall Township police said debris from the crash was scattered over a 200-foot stretch of snowy ground.

Clayton said the victims were three men, a teenager and a young child. The names of the victims were not immediately released, but Clayton said at least three were related. Two were from New Jersey, the other three from elsewhere, he said.

Taleban denies commander captured in Pakistan

WASHINGTON, 16 Feb—The top military commander of the Taleban has been captured in Pakistan in a secret raid, the New York Times said on Monday, but the Taleban labeled the report rumormongering.

Citing US government officials, the Times said Mullah Abdul Ghan Baradar, described as the most significant Taleban figure captured since the start of the Afghan war, had been in Pakistani custody for several days and was being interrogated by Pakistani and US intelligence.

The White House and CIA declined comment on the report and the Penta gon also had no immediate comment.

A Taleban spokesman said Ghani, known to many Taleban as Mullah Baradar, was still in Afghanistan actively organizing the group’s military and political activities.

Five civilians killed, two injured in NATO airstrike in Afghanistan

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“The joint patrol called for an airstrike. Following the strike, the Afghan-ISAF patrol approached the scene and determined the individuals had not been emplacing an IED,” it added.

The event was not part of Operation Moshtarak, a massive operation conducted by 15,000 US and Afghan forces in the neighbouring Helmand province, southern Afghanistan, since Saturday, it said.

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China’s economic rise has silver lining for Japan

Tokyo, 16 Feb—China is on the verge of unseating Japan as the world’s number two economy, but student Shi Minfei is one reason why Beijing’s rapid growth is not all bad news for its deflation-hit neighbour.

With Japan’s consumers keeping a tight hold on their purse strings, leaving the nation as reliant as ever on exports, Chinese tourists like Shi are a rare example of good news for the country’s long-suffering retailers.

The 20-year-old engineering student from Shanghai said she had splurged about 300,000 yen (3,300 dollars) on clothing, bags, shoes and cosmetics during her visit to Japan.

“I’m going mostly to shopping malls,” Shi said as she hopped aboard a tour bus in downtown Tokyo, adding that the Japanese capital still has an edge over Shanghai when it comes to splashing cash.—Internet

Hyundai targets 4.5 percent rise in US market share

Orlando, 16 Feb—Hyundai Motor Co (005380.KS) aims to increase its share of the US market to 4.5 percent this year from 4.2 percent in 2009, helped by popular new product launches and aggressive marketing.

South Korea’s Hyundai, the only major automaker to increase sales in the battered US market last year, sees a “really good chance” that its US sales will break the 500,000 unit mark for the first time in 2010, US sales chief David Zuchowski told Reuters in an interview.

Last year, Hyundai’s US sales rose 8.3 percent to 435,064 units, while overall US industrywide sales were down 21 percent. Its share of the US market jumped to 4.2 percent from 3 percent in 2008.

“The 500,000 number is a magical number for us,” Zuchowski told Reuters on the sidelines of the National Automobile Dealers Association convention in Orlando, Florida. Hyundai US chief executive John Krafcik, in a separate interview with Reuters, said it is unlikely that the automaker can match its hefty 1.2-percentage point gain in US market share in 2010.—Internet

S Korea to start drilling for gas hydrates

Seoul, 16 Feb—South Korea will start exploratory drilling for gas hydrates off its east coast as part of a drive to acquire alternative energy resources, officials have said.—Internet

Oil hovers above $74 as traders eye crude demand

Singapore, 16 Feb—Oil prices hovered above $74 a barrel on Tuesday in Asia as investors looked for signs of improving global crude demand amid light holiday trading.

Benchmark crude for March delivery was up 9 cents at $74.22 a barrel at midday Singapore time on electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. With markets closed on Monday in the US for the Presidents Day holiday, the contract last settled on Friday, falling $1.15 to $74.13.

Trading volume was light in Asia as markets in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, Singapore, and Malaysia were closed for the Lunar New Year holiday.

Russian industrial output rises 7.8 percent in January

Moscow, 16 Feb—Russia’s industrial production grew 7.8 percent year-on-year in January, the highest monthly rise since April 2008, the Federal State Statistics Service (Rosstat) said on Monday.

The sharp increase in January’s industrial output is partly due to the low comparative base in the same month a year earlier, when industrial output plummeted 16 percent amid the economic crisis, Rosstat said. However, industrial production dropped by 20.4 percent in January from December, a decline explained by the seasonal factor, namely the New Year holidays.

Russia’s industrial output, which slumped 10.8 percent in 2009 compared with that in 2008, has shown signs of recovery since December, when the figure climbed 2.7 percent. The Russian economy, heavily dependent on energy resources, was hit hard by the global downturn after commodity prices collapsed late 2008. The country is emerging from the crisis as crude prices continue to rise.

Truckmaker MAN makes Q4 net loss

Frankfurt, 16 Feb—German bus and truck manufacturer MAN SE lost 472 million euros ($642 million) in the fourth quarter of 2009 amid a steep drop in demand due to the economic downturn, the company said on Monday.

MAN, based in Munich, said the loss compared with net income of 177 million euros in the fourth quarter of 2008.

Revenue for the October-December period fell 18 percent to 3.3 billion euros from nearly 4 billion euros in the fourth quarter of 2008.

MAN said revenue for the quarter and the full year fell “due to the massive decline in demand in the transportation sector in particular.

Despite the decline, fourth-quarter order intake increased 35 percent to 2.6 billion euros from almost 2 billion euros in the fourth quarter of 2008.

Orders for the full year were 30 percent lower at nearly 10 billion euros from almost 14 billion euros in 2008. The company said it expects its bus and truck business to remain at the current lower level in 2010. The power engineering business, which will soon merge MAN Diesel and MAN Turbo together, should see a moderate decline in revenue, the company said.

MAN Diesel makes large motors for ships and power plants, while MAN Turbo makes compressors, gas and steam turbines. The merger of the two divisions should contribute about 60 million euros in cost savings.

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Georg Pachta-Reyhofen, CEO of the MAN Group, poses in front of a V8 truck prior to the company’s annual Press conference in Munich, southern Germany, on 15 Feb, 2010.—Internet
Train collision kills at least 20 outside Brussels

BRUSSELS, 16 Feb—At least 20 people were killed on Monday morning after two passenger trains collided head-on outside Brussels, local media reported.

The two commuter trains collided at about 8:45 am local time (0745 GMT), the height of morning rush hour, in the Belgian town of Halle, some 15 km southwest of Brussels.

There has been no official announcement of casualties but local broadcaster VRT cited the mayor of Halle as saying at least 20 died and many others were injured, while Belgian National Railways said 25 people were killed.

Lodewijk De Witte, governor of the province of Flemish Brabant where Halle is located, told VRT that 10 people had lost their lives and 11 more, including a child, were in a serious condition.

There are still passengers trapped in the trains, according to Xinhua reporters at the scene.

Rail track operator Infrabel said there were still passengers trapped in the two trains, according to VRT.

One of the trains was travelling from the Flemish town of Leuven, east of Brussels, to Braine-le-Comte, south of the city. The other was travelling from the town of Quesvain, on the French border, to the industrial city of Liege. —Xinhua

S Korea’s Incheon Int’l Airport voted best airport for five straight years

SEOUL, 16 Feb—South Korea’s Incheon International Airport (IAIC) has been voted the world’s best airport by the Airport Council International (ACI) for the fifth straight year, the airport said in a statement on Tuesday.

The ACI scored the highest marks in the ACI’s annual Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Award, receiving the top honour in three categories to become the Best Airport Worldwide, Best Airport in Asia-Pacific, and Best Airport with annual passenger traffic between 25 and 40 million, according to the IAC. The IAIC scored 4.99 points out of a perfect five, which was the highest points ever awarded in the survey’s history, by way finishing at the top spot from 2005 to 2009, the longest winning streak ever as well, the statement said.

“Winning the top honours in the ACI survey as the best airport for five consecutive years is the result of the combined efforts of the government and 35,000 airport employees who have consistently delivered excellent service every year,” CW Lee, president and CEO of IAC said in a statement.

Singapore’s Changi International Airport and the Hong Kong International Airport were second and third respectively in the ranking, which was based on 250,000 responses from passengers that rated 34 airport services worldwide last year. The award ceremony is scheduled to take place at the 5th ACI Asia-Pacific Regional Assembly, Conference and Exhibition in Hanoi, China on 13 May this year. —Xinhua

Strong quake rocks E Indonesia, no casualty

JAKARTA, 16 Feb—An earthquake with magnitude of 6.8 struck eastern parts of Indonesia on Tuesday, but there were no reports of damages or casualties, the local Meteorology and Geophysics Agency and the Disaster Management Agency said.

The US geological survey reported that the quake was recorded at a lower magnitude of 6.2. The quake struck at 04:51 am on Tuesday (2151 GMT Monday) with epicentre at 262 km northwest Saumlaki of Maluku and the depth at 106 km under seabed, an official of the meteorology and geophysics agency, Rahma Baharudin told Xinhua. The intensity of the quake was only felt at 2 to 3 MMI (Modified Mercally Intensity) at Saumlaki, she said. —Xinhua.

El Nino, forming threaten biosphere reserve in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 16 Feb—Dry weather from the El Nino phenomenon are causing fire hazards to a forest in east Mexico that is recognized by UNESCO as a biosphere reserve under the Man and the Biosphere Programme, officials said on Monday.

The situation at Pantanos de Centla in the east state of Tabasco is similar to that seen in 2003, when Tabasco saw 77 fires, said Jose Calix Lopez, head of the National Forestry Commission (Conafor)’s branch in Tabasco.

Residents often start fires in order to hunt turtles, an illegal practice spurred by prices of up to 300 pesos (about 23 US dollars) per turtle on the black market. —Xinhua

Cruise liner Queen Mary 2 makes first China call at Shanghai Port

SHANGHAI, 16 Feb—The luxury ocean liner Queen Mary 2, one of the world’s largest, longest and most expensive luxury liners, arrives at the Port of Shanghai on 15 Feb, 2010. —Xinhua

Seven illegal immigrants missing after boat capsizes in Turkish river

ANKARA, 16 Feb—Seven illegal immigrants were missing after a boat capsized in the Meric River in northwestern Turkey, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported on Monday.

Turkish border patrol teams caught eight illegal immigrants late Sunday, Edirne Province Governor Ali Tosun told reporters.

Tosun said the immigrants told security forces that seven of their companions were missing after their boat capsized in the Meric River, Turkey is one of the major routes for illegal immigrants from east to west, while the Meric River is a natural border line between Turkey and Greece which is one of the first stops for illegal immigrants to reach European countries. —Xinhua

An airport staff member (L) demonstrates a full body scan at Manchester Airport. Full body scanners introduced at two airports after the failed Christmas Day bomb- ing of a US-bound jet may breach human rights, the country’s equality commission warned on Tuesday.

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SHANGHAI, 16 Feb—The luxury ocean liner Queen Mary 2 arrived at the Port of Shanghai on Monday afternoon, making its first port call in China since its maiden voyage in 2004.

The world’s reputed cruise carrying about 2,500 passengers and 1,200 crew arrived at the port at 1:30 pm, and would stay for about 10 hours before leaving for Nagasaki, Japan. Queen Mary 2 was the largest luxury liner which ever made calls at the Port of Shanghai, marking the beginning of a peak of cruise arrivals at the host city of the 2010 World Expo. Shanghai immigration officers had flown to Hong Kong, the previous destination of the cruise, to ensure that all passengers on board could go through necessary customs procedures earlier. —Xinhua

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MEXICO CITY, 16 Feb—Dry weather from the El Nino phenomenon are causing fire hazards to a forest in east Mexico that is recognized by UNESCO as a biosphere reserve under the Man and the Biosphere Programme, officials said on Monday.

The situation at Pantanos de Centla in the east state of Tabasco is similar to that seen in 2003, when Tabasco saw 77 fires, said Jose Calix Lopez, head of the National Forestry Commission (Conafor)’s branch in Tabasco.

Residents often start fires in order to hunt turtles, an illegal practice spurred by prices of up to 300 pesos (about 23 US dollars) per turtle on the black market. —Xinhua

Cruise liner Queen Mary 2 makes first China call at Shanghai Port

SHANGHAI, 16 Feb—The luxury ocean liner Queen Mary 2 arrived at the Port of Shanghai on Monday afternoon, making its first port call in China since its maiden voyage in 2004.

The world’s reputed cruise carrying about 2,500 passengers and 1,200 crew arrived at the port at 1:30 pm, and would stay for about 10 hours before leaving for Nagasaki, Japan. Queen Mary 2 was the largest luxury liner which ever made calls at the Port of Shanghai, marking the beginning of a peak of cruise arrivals at the host city of the 2010 World Expo. Shanghai immigration officers had flown to Hong Kong, the previous destination of the cruise, to ensure that all passengers on board could go through necessary customs procedures earlier. —Xinhua
Panama rescues five US castaways

Panama City, 16 Feb — A patrol of the Panamanian Air-Naval Service (Senam) on Monday rescued five US castaways, after their yacht drifted in the Panamanian Pacific coasts.

The Senam said in a statement that the crew of the “Bristol Rose” yacht was rescued on Monday morning at 60 nautical miles to Jaque town in Darien Province, border with Colombia.

The Senam said that the rescued were all members of the same family, and all of them are US citizens.

They were 11 hours drifting and after being rescued, they were taken to the port of Pila Bay, where they received medical assistance.

The US citizens are in good conditions, and they have exhaustion symptoms.

Two Britons detained near New Delhi airport

New Delhi, 16 Feb — Two British nationals have been arrested in the Indian capital for alleged suspicious activity near the international airport, media reports said on Tuesday.

The Hindustan Times said Stephen Hampton, in his mid-40s, and 56-year-old Steven Martink were detained on Monday night at the Radisson hotel near the city’s airport after staff informed intelligence agencies of suspicious behaviour.

The NDTV news channel said police found radar-like equipment on the two men, which could be capable of tracing far-off aircraft, as well as a map of New Delhi’s main international airport.

Citing police sources, the channel said that no links to terrorist activity had been established and the men had told officials the equipment was meant for planespotsing.

A police spokesman told AFP that two men had been taken into custody but declined to provide further details.

India has been on a heightened state of alert after a deadly restaurant bombing in the western city of Pune on Saturday killed nine people, including two foreigners.

It has also been on the defensive after revelations that David Coleman Headley, a US citizen and key suspect in the 2008 Mumbai attacks, visited India numerous times as a tourist.

Indian man run over by train twice

Two trains ran over a man in the Indian city of Delhi in quick succession as his body lay on the tracks. The shocking incident has prompted the Railway Ministry to order a probe into how the second train was allowed entry on the line where the man’s body lay.

Mahesh Kumar, 50, was run over by a train at the Old Delhi station on Thursday morning.

Ten minutes after Mr Kumar’s body was discovered, another train ran over him. His body was not removed for an hour. Senior railway public relations official Anant Sarwade told the BBC that the body of Mahesh Kumar, 50, a railways employee, was found on the tracks at the station. The police are investigating whether Mr Kumar killed himself or it was an accident.

“We are getting reports that Mr Kumar had been depressed of late,” Mr Sarwade said.

He said a second train entered the same track, 10 minutes after Mr Kumar’s body was discovered, and ran over his body. The police took nearly an hour to pick up the body from the track after completing their investigation.

Man builds 625-square-foot snow house

An Ohio man said he is putting the finishing touches on his winter project: a 625-square-foot snow castle built in the front yard of his family’s home.

Jimmy Grey, 25, of the Chardon area in Geauga County, said the 25-foot-by-25-foot structure, which boasts four rooms, a flat-screen TV, a surround-sound system, strobe lights and beer that never goes warm, was a project born out of a desire to keep busy after losing his job last spring. The Plain Dealer newspaper in Cleveland reported on Monday.

Four killed, three injured in school collapse in Haiti

Port-au-Prince, 16 Feb — Four students were killed and three others injured by a partial collapse of a school in northern Haiti due to a mudslide on Monday, local news reports said.

Days of rain caused a mudslide, which made a primary school wall collapse on Monday noon in Cap-Haitien, some 130 km north of capital Port-au-Prince, said the reports.

So far, there are still several students buried under the debris. The cause of the collapse is still under investigation.

Taleban commander, four Arab fighters killed in S Afghanistan

Kabul, 16 Feb — Afghan forces raided Taleban hideout in Washir District of the southern Helmand Province, killing a Taleban local commander and four Arab fighters, spokesman for provincial administration Daoud Ahmadzai said on Tuesday.

“Troops late on Monday night targeted a hideout out of Taleban rebels in Washir District, killing Mullah Sarajuddin along with four Arab militants,” Ahmadzai told Xinhua.

According to the official, Mullah Sarajuddin alias Mullah Hukmat was involved in organizing anti-gov-ernment activities and arranged contact between Taleban and Arab fighters.

Taleban militants, however, have yet to make comment. The attack against Taleban commander in Washir took place amid ongoing joint Afghan and NATO forces operation in the neighbouring Marja District where, according to officials, the militants have fled without major resistance.

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INTERNET

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INTERNET

The police are in-
Manauung ring road surrounding Megawady, ...

The villages to the jetty cost about K 1,000 then. Now, it will cost K 200 to transport them by car or motorcycles. So, they could save the time. It was too valuable for the locals, he said.

The Head of State with his earnest desire for ensuring equitable development in social, economic, health and education sectors of all regions of the country, on one occasion gave guidance regarding road construction, the most basic infrastructure in national development. He said that better transport plays an important role in improvement of socio-economic status of local people thus, emphasis is being placed on development of transport sector.

Superintending Engineer U Khin Soe of Public Works in Kyaukpyu District explained to me about the construction of the road. He said that better transport will improve the socio-economic status of local people. The road was upgraded to all-weather one for the cars, motorcycles and bicycles. The road is 51 miles and four furlongs long. It is 12 feet wide. There are 37 villages along the road. There are 190 small and big bridges on the road. It will be more beneficial to local residents.

Manauung is situated in Kyaukpyu district. It is about 60 miles from Rakhine coast. Manauung, called Satupark island, is surrounded by Khaohnmaw, Hmyawtaw, U Maw, Zetawmaw and Benaw capes. The road was constructed by local people in 1991-1993. In 1997-98, Public Works maintained the road. It has emerged in a short period of time to meet the Prime Minister's instruction on construction of roads and bridges during his tour (2/2007). Kaiee village near Kaiee beach is located about 30 miles from the west of Manauung and 21 miles and four furlongs from the east. I had an interview with U Shwe Tun Aung from Kaiee village. He said that it was difficult to use the road in the past. The locals had to travel on foot. Due to transport barriers, students from the villages did not continue to attend the school after completing grade-5. Now, they continue learning education in Manauung. It takes about an hour or one hour and a half to reach Manauung by car or motorcycle. Now, they carry goods by motorcycles. thank the government very much. They will carry out maintenance of road for its durability.

We also interviewed Ma Ni Ni Win Zaw from Phayagongyi village, who is studying at grade-11 in Manauung. She said that she has to attend the school in Manauung from her village. Manauung is about one mile and a half from her village. There were difficulties to use the road in the past. Now, the school-children are very happy to go to school on time thanks to the ring road, she added. She said she believed that the socio-economic life of local people will be more improved thanks to the ring road of Manauung Island.

Photo shows road section of Manauung Island.
The 10th Plenary Meeting of 6th 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee in progress.—MNA

State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee holds…

(from page 1)

The meeting discussed the suggestions of members of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha and the plans for the fourth meeting of the 6th State Central Working Committee of the Sangha. Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung supplicated on the religious affairs. Joint Secretary Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Indasiri explained the reports of the first session.

Sluice gate helps develop…

(from page 1)

In Htantabin Township and the site chosen for construction of a new sluice gate in the township.

On his inspection trip, Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence looked into dredging of Myaseinyaung Creek to be undertaken by Myanmar Railways near Yangon (Hlinethaya) railway station yard on Yangon–Pathein railroad construction project.—MNA

MEB playing important role in State economy

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Feb—As Myanmar Economic Bank plays an important role in economic development of State, all staff of the enterprise are to conscientiously discharge duty in their respective sectors and apply advanced methods in giving the banking services to the customers, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun noted at the coordination meeting of MEB for 2009-2010 financial year at its hall, here, yesterday.

Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyin and officials submitted the reports on accomplishment of the MEB in the financial year. The meeting continues up to 18 February.—MNA

205 drug-related cases exposed in January

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Feb—A total of 205 drug-related cases were exposed in January. 94259 kilos of opium in 23 cases, 596299 kilos of heroin in 65 cases, 0.44885 kilo of opium oil in 17 cases, 0.0511 kilo of low-grade opium in one case, 34.4359 kilos of marijuana in 13 cases, 93379 stimulant tablets in 67 cases, 31.7215 kilos of opium speciosa in nine cases, 30 tablets of alprazolan; 0.0026 kilo of Ephedrine, 920 kilos of caffeine in one case, 17.805 kilos of Ice in two cases, 24 ampoules of diazepam injection in one case, 763 capsules of tramadol in three cases, 354 liters of chemical liquid in one case, 1.02 liters of opium liquid in one case, one liter of cough syrup, 975 kilos of chemical powder and one other case.

Action was thus taken against 278 people—222 men and 56 women—in 205 cases under the law.—MNA

YCDC builds new Hsinmalaik Market

YANGON, 16 Feb—Yangon City Development Committee is striving for all-round development of Yangon, the economic hub of the nation, day in, day out.

In so doing, the buildings of old Hsinmalaik Market, located at the junction of Bayintnaung Road and Strand Road, is being dissolved. At the same time, preparations are being made to build a new modern market.

Yesterday, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Than Lin looked into progress of dissolving the old structures and building the new market. —MNA

Taungtha Township Association holds 26th AGM

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Feb—The 26th Annual General Meeting and Prize Presentation Ceremony of Taungtha Township Association (Yangon) was held at Sethmaung near East Archway of Shwedagon Pagoda here on 14 February.

Chairman Dr Khin Maung Swe made an opening speech and Patron of the Association Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung addressed the ceremony. A total of 12 donors donated K 4.8 million through the minister. The patron, executives and donors presented prizes to outstanding students.

Report of the work executive committee and financial statement were read out and sought for the approval. The chairman gave a concluding speech.—MNA

Special Appellate Bench sits at Nay Pyi Taw Supreme Court

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Feb—The Special Appellate Bench comprising Deputy Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (Yangon) U Thein Soe, Supreme Court Judges of the Supreme Court (Yangon) U Khin Myint and Dr Tin Aung Aye sitting at court room No. 1 of the Supreme Court (Nay Pyi Taw) delivered judgment of six special civil appeal cases and then heard three special criminal appeal cases under Section 7 and one special criminal appeal case under Section 8 of the Judiciary Law, 2000, yesterday.—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
Metmung, Monghkat and Mongyan of Shan State (East)...
(from page 16)
Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing presented CI sheets, bags of cement, hydropower dynamo, pipes, generator, electric cords, a TV set and bags of rice to the responsible persons and greeted those present.

At the People’s Hospital in Metmung Township, he presented gifts to patients and medicines to the hospital, and inspected solar room, medical store and operation theatre.

On his arrival in Monghkat, Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing met with officers and other ranks and their families at Monghkhat Station Hall and departmental officials, members of social organizations and local people at Monghkhat Township Hall.

Then he looked into development of Monghkat in a motorcade.

In meeting with departmental officials, members of social organizations and local people at Mongyan Town Hall, Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing provided them with food, clothes, medicines and sports gear.

While in Mongyan, he oversaw progress of Mongyan, and presented food to officers and other ranks and their families at Mongyan Station Hall. — MNA

Phaunglaung Dam, new facility for irrigating...
(from page 16)
Efforts are being made to supply water to the irrigated regions through the main canal and tributary canals.

Now, Ngalaik Dam and Yezin Dam are irrigating tens of thousands of sown acreage in Nay Pyi Taw Pyimmana. In the time of Tatmadaw Government, Chaungmagyi Dam, Kaukpyo Dam, Paunglaung Dam and diversion weirs have been constructed. As a result, the local farmers can extend the cultivation of paddy, double cropping and mixed cropping, sugarcane, maize, sesame and beans and pulses. Moreover, these dams supply potable water to satellite towns and staff quarters plus the water fountains and parks.

It is certain that Phaunglaung Dam, on completion, will supply drinking water to the local people and contribute to improvement of social, economic, education and transport sectors of the region. The government has exploited water resources in hilly, plain, border and coastal regions across the nation not only for agricultural purpose but also for drinking. Thanks to all-out efforts of the government, the residents of arid regions of the nation have the opportunity to utilize the water resources tapped by the government through various ways and means.

Translation: TTA

Special Rapporteur’s Myanmar trip

YANGON, 16 Feb—ASEAN delegates departed Myanmar today after participating in Training Workshop on Preservation of Intangible Cultural Heritage: Traditional Dance Pattern hosted by Myanmar.

They were seen off by officials from the Ministry of Culture at Yangon International Airport.—MNA

Special Rapporteur Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana meets 36 diplomats.—MNA

YANGON, 16 Feb—United Nations Special Rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana and party arrived here by air yesterday morning.

He met resident representatives and staff of UN agencies at United Nations Representative Office in Tamway Township at 10.35 a.m.

The special rapporteur held a meeting with a group of 36 diplomats most of whom were ambassadors of foreign missions in Myanmar at Mya Yeik Nyo Hotel, here at 1 p.m.

He also met Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s lawyers U Kyi Win, U Nyan Win, U Hla Myo Myint and Daw Khin Htay Kywe at 3 p.m.

Later, Mr. Quintana met District Judges U Thaung Nyunt and U Nyi Nyi Soe of Yangon Division at 4 p.m.

In the evening, Director-General U Myat Ko of General Administration Department hosted a dinner to Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana and party at Mya Yeik Nyo Hotel.—MNA

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Translation: TTA

Kyemon: 16-2-2010

Photo shows completed construction of water control tower of Phaunglaung Dam project.
India’s Tata hires General Motors’ ex-European chief

NEW DELHI, 16 Feb—India’s leading car maker Tata Motors said on Monday it had appointed the former head of General Motors’ European operations as its chief executive officer. Carl-Peter Forster would have “overall responsibility” for Tata Motors’ global operations, including its British-based Jaguar and Land Rover manufacturers, the company said in a statement.

“Tata Motors expects that Mr Forster’s induction will greatly facilitate its ambition towards being a truly international company,” said Ratan Tata, chairman of Tata Motors’ parent Tata group. Tata Motors recently announced it had swung to profit in the fiscal quarter to December after posting heavy losses following its 2.3-billion-dollar acquisition of General Motors Europe, where he was responsible for Opel/Vauxhall, Saab and the European activities of Chevrolet. Tata Motors’ main business is commercial vehicles such as trucks but it also manufactures luxury car marques Jaguar and Land Rover.

At 55, Forster has 24 years of international experience in the car industry, Tata said. Most recently he was the head of General Motors Europe, where he was responsible for Opel/Vauxhall, Saab and the European activities of Chevrolet. Tata Motors’ main business is commercial vehicles such as trucks but it also manufactures luxury car marques Jaguar and Land Rover.

Europe warns money men they can’t ‘destroy’ Greece

BRUSSELS, 16 Feb—Europe on Monday warned international money markets that a relentless attack on Greece and by extension the euro will fail, with new cost-cutting measures set to be imposed on Athens. As the 16 countries that make up the eurozone battle to ring-fence their shared currency amid the fallout from Greece’s unprecedented debt crisis, contingency bailout plans are also being prepared, their leader said.

“The financial markets are completely wrong if they think they can destroy Greece,” said Luxembourg Prime Minister and Eurogroup president Jean-Claude Juncker.

Giant Food, Stop & Shop cookies recalled

WASHINGTON, 16 Feb—Giant Food LLC and the Stop & Shop Supermarket Co say they are recalling their 24-ounce “Party Platter Cookies” because of a labelling error. The US Food and Drug Administration said the cookies -- packaged on a rectangular platter with plastic wrapping — contain undeclared almonds and almond paste, allergens that pose a potentially life-threatening health risk to allergic individuals.

The cookies were sold through Giant’s in-store bakeries at its supermarkets in Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia, and through Stop & Shop-in-store bakeries at its supermarkets in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, New York and New Jersey.

Customers who have purchased the product should discard any unused portions and take their receipt to any Giant or Stop & Shop supermarket for a refund.

12 killed as truck hits minibus in Philippines

MANILA, 16 Feb—Police say a truck blew a tyre and smashed head-on into a minibus in the northern Philippines, killing 12 people and injuring 15.

Cagayan Valley police director Roberto Damian says the tractor-trailer was travelling at high speed on Monday when one of its tires burst causing the driver to lose control and veer into the opposite lane.

Some of the passengers were students on their way to school. The truck driver survived the crash but the driver of the minibus was killed.

Poor vehicle maintenance and bad roads are blamed for many traffic accidents in the Philippines.

Physicists build ‘houses’ from light

CALGARY, 16 Feb—Canadian physicists say they have taken a step closer to what they call the “holy grail of quantum science” by building “houses” made of light particles.

University of Calgary researchers said they manipulated a mysterious quantum property of light known as entanglement to mount up to two photons on top of each other, thereby allowing the construction of a two-storey quantum toy house of any style or architecture.

“This ability to prepare or control complex quantum objects is considered the holy grail of quantum science” said doctoral student Andrew MacRae, a co-author of the study. “It brings us closer to the onset of the new era of quantum information technology.”

The researchers said that new generation of technology is expected to allow qualitatively new capabilities, including measurement instruments of extraordinary sensitivity, dramatically faster computers, secure communication systems and enhanced control over chemical reactions.

“Quantum light is like an ocean and it’s full of mysteries and treasures,” Professor Alexander Lvovsky, who led the research, said. “Our task is to conquer it. But so far, physicists were able to control only a tiny island in this ocean. What we have done is to make this island bigger.”

The research is reported in the early online edition of the journal Nature Photonics.

Vallourec to invest $650 million to build US plant

PARIS, 16 Feb—French seamless tube maker Vallourec (VLLP.PA) on Monday said it would invest $650 million in building a new plant in the United States, to meet the needs of the oil and gas industries there.

The new small-diameter rolling mill, in Youngstown, Ohio, will initially produce 350,000 metric tons per year, and provides and annual nominal rolling capacity of 500,000 metric tons of seamless tubes, Vallourec said. The facility will start operating in the fourth quarter of 2011, creating around 350 new direct jobs. It will include heat treatment and threading facilities.

10 THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 17 February, 2010
Rescuers suspend search effort on Mount St Helens

MOUNT ST HELENS, 16 Feb — The rescue effort for a climber who fell into the crater at Mount St Helens when a snow cornice collapsed was suspended on Monday evening when high winds made footing unstable for search personnel, a sheriff’s spokesman said.

One rescuer reached the floor of the volcano’s crater, but had to abandon efforts to find the 50-year-old man because strong downdrafts were dislodging rocks, Skamania County undersheriff David Cox said. The rescue will pick up again on Tuesday morning, he said.

“There are always overhanging cornices of snow this time of year, and unless you look carefully, you may not notice that there is nothing but air beneath you,” said Rocky Henderson of Portland Mountain Rescue in Ore-gon, who has climbed to the rim several times.

Rescue efforts began when a 911 cell phone call was received early on Monday afternoon, sheriff’s officials said. The caller told dispatchers that the climber was approximately 5 feet from the crater’s edge when a snow cornice collapsed.

Scientists make power-generating nanofiber

BERKELEY, 16 Feb — A US-led international research team says it created energy-scavenging nanofibers that can convert mechanical movement into electricity.

The researchers, led by University of California-Berkeley Professor Liwei Lin, said the nanofibers have piezoelectric properties and might someday be woven into clothing and textiles.

“This technology could eventually lead to wearable ‘smart clothes’ that can power hand-held electronics through ordinary body movements,” said Lin, noting the nanofibers are made from organic polyvinylidenefluoride, making them flexible and relatively easy and cheap to manufacture.

Mexico’s Televisa to buy 30 pct of Nextel Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 16 Feb — Mexican media giant Televisa said on Monday it has agreed to buy 30 percent of cell phone carrier Nextel de Mexico for $1.44 billion as part of its plan to offer “quadruple play” — voice, video, Internet and wireless products. The companies plan to bid together on wireless airwaves in a government auction planned for May, and the investment is subject to winning the auction and Nextel getting the spectrum to broaden its services.

“...If the proposal we present in the auction is not successful, then we don’t do the deal,” Alfonso de Angoitia, Televisa’s executive vice president, told reporters on a conference call.

Astronauts move old space station docking port

CAPE CANAVERAL, 16 Feb — Astronauts did some rearranging at the International Space Station for the second night in a row on Monday.

CD-ROMs, USB sticks and even mobile phone cameras have become handy options for disgruntled or ambitious Swiss bank staff to copy computer data on thousands of clients when a few years ago a computer some paper trail was needed.— INTERNET

A sample showing the insides of a lithium-ion battery is pictured in Tokyo, at Toyota showroom. Lithium-ion batteries used in the current generation of plug-in vehicles are not only heavy, which adds to energy consumption, but also depend on dwindling supplies of the metal lithium, whose prices have risen steadily.— INTERNET

Argentina set on rattling Falklands oil firms

BUENOS AIRES, 16 Feb — Argentina has initiated plans to blacklist companies involved with Falklands oil exploration to heighten their sense of insecurity while operating in the waters of the British-controlled territory.

Argentina and Britain went to war over the Falklands in 1982 but recent British-backed exploration for hydrocarbons in the islands’ waters has reignited tension between Buenos Aires and London and Stanley, the Falklands’ capital.

This week Argentina toughened its stance on the oil and gas exploration operations and unveiled plans for sanctions against shippers and firms that trade in the Falklands, in particular firms involved with any area of hydrocarbons exploration activities.— INTERNET

A pair of spacemen in the new position. A pair of spacemen used the station’s hefty mechanical arm to remove the 10-year-old adapter from the space station and transfer it to a port at the new room named Tranquility. There, it will provide an extra parking spot for visiting vessels and serve as a buffer against micrometeorite hits.

As that work was going on, the crews of the shuttle and station were connecting power and data lines in the new $27 million observation deck that was moved to its permanent location early on Monday. Later this week, the domed, seven-windowed lookout will get its most important addition: a robotic work station for operating the station’s mechanical arm.

“It’s a beautiful module,” said shuttle pilot Terry Virts.

Traffic moves along Sheikh Zayed road in Dubai, 2007. A Saudi Arabian student has racked up 400 traffic violations since 2008 in Dubai for a grand total of 356,000 dirhams ($97,000) in fines.—INTERNET

Clash in Palestinian camp in Lebanon kills two

BEIRUT, 16 Feb — Islamic militants clashed with Fatah gunmen in a Palestinian refugee camp in southern Lebanon on Monday, killing at least two people, Palestinian security officials said.

It was not immediately clear what prompted the shootout in the Ein el-Hilweh camp, where gunfights are common between armed groups jockeying for power.—INTERNET

Venezuela finds dozens of suspected drug planes

CARACAS, 16 Feb — Authorities have discovered 28 airplanes in central Venezuela that were presumably being used by drug traffickers. A security official from central Guarico state says the planes were found inside a hangar on the outskirts of El Sombrero. The town is located in a rural area about 143 miles (230 kilometres) from Caracas.

Hedy Ramirez told the state-run AVN news agency on Sunday that federal police and National Guard troops have taken control of the hangar and impounded the planes while investigations proceed.—INTERNET
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV SAN JIANG KOU VOY NO (235)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV SAN JIANG KOU VOY NO (235) are here by notified that the vessels will be arriving on 16.2.2010 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 COSCO SHIPPING CO., LTD
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

Bharti eyes Africa in $11 billion bid for Zain assets

Bharti, controlled by billionaire Chairman Sunil Mittal and Zain said the deal was still subject to due diligence and regulatory approvals.

But Mohamed Al Kharafi, chairman of Kuwait’s Kharafi group, which owns 11.47 percent of Zain through one of its units, told Indian television he was confident a deal would go through and that an all-cash transaction was planned. The move by Bharti, which is 30 percent owned by Singapore Telecommunications Ltd (STEL.SI), follows two failed attempts to buy South Africa’s MTN Group (MTN.J) in a $24 billion deal.—Internet

27 civilians killed by rebels in Congo

Eastern Congo has been wracked by violence since Rwanda’s 1994 genocide spilled war across the border. Hutu militias that participated in the massacres of more than 500,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus sought refuge in Congo.

In January 2009, a short joint operation was launched between the Congolese and Rwandan armies against the Hutu rebels. Congolese troops continue to pursue them.—Internet

Microsoft replays Zune design for phone comeback

The software, which was unveiled on Monday at the Mobile World Congress, is a dramatic change from previous generations of the software that used to be called Windows Mobile. But Microsoft is, for now, sticking to its model of making the software and selling it to phone manufacturers, rather than making its own phones.

Microsoft’s mobile system powered 13.1 percent of smartphones sold in the US last year, according to research firm In-Stat. That made it No 3 after Research In Motion Ltd’s BlackBerry and the iPhone. But Microsoft has been losing market share while Apple and Google Inc’s Android gained.—Internet

This photo taken on 6 Feb, 2010 shows two sand hill cranes grazing on the lawn of the Disney Wilderness preserve in Kissimmee, Fla. Internet
Sleep apnea decreases nightmare recall

DENVER, 16 Feb—Severe sleep apnea decreases frequency of dream and nightmare recall, US researchers found.

The study, published in the Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine, shows patients with severe obstructive sleep apnea report a significantly lower frequency of nightmares than patients with mild or no sleep apnea.

Dr Jim Pagel of the University of Colorado Medical School and director of the Sleep Disorders Centre of Southern Colorado in Pueblo said the study indicates obstructive sleep apnea suppresses the cognitive experience of nightmare recall.

Frequent nightmare recall, occurring at least weekly, was reported by 71.4 percent of people who did not have obstructive sleep apnea and 43.2 percent of patients with mild obstructive sleep apnea, the study said.

The rate of frequent nightmare recall was 29.9 percent in patients with moderate obstructive sleep apnea and 20.6 percent in patients with severe obstructive sleep apnea, Pagel said.—INTERNET

Scientists create photographic technique

OXFORD, 16 Feb—University of Oxford scientists say they’ve developed a technology that’s capable of capturing a high-resolution still image alongside very high-speed video.

Researchers led by Peter Kohl said they combined off-the-shelf technologies found in standard cameras and digital movie projectors to create a tool that will transform many forms of detailed scientific imaging and could provide access to high-speed video with high-resolution still images “from the same camera at a price suitable for the consumer market.”

They said the new technology — the idea of researcher Gil Bub — has been patented by the university and is attracting interest from the scientific imaging sector.

“What’s new about this is that the picture and video are captured at the same time on the same sensor” said Bub. “This is done by allowing the camera’s pixels to act as if they were part of tens, or even hundreds, of individual cameras taking pictures in rapid succession during a single normal exposure. The trick is that the pattern of pixel exposures keeps the high resolution content of the overall image, which can then be used as-is, to form a regular high-res picture, or be decoded into a high-speed movie.”—INTERNET

China’s Bao Yingying (C) stands on the podium after winning the gold medal of women’s individual sabre at the Moscow leg of the International Fencing Federation Grand Prix in Moscow, capital of Russia, on 15 Feb, 2010. —INTERNET

Smoking hurts head-neck cancer outcomes

ANN ARBOR, 16 Feb—Patients with head and neck cancer linked to human papillomavirus have worse outcomes if they smoked or were smokers, US researchers say. A study, published in Clinical Cancer Research, suggests that current or former smokers may need a more aggressive treatment regimen.

Senior study author Thomas Carey of the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Centre in Ann Arbor says research shows that human papillomavirus-positive head and neck cancers tend to be more responsive to current treatments and patients overall tend to have better outcomes than patients with human papillomavirus-negative tumours.

However, the new study finds that current tobacco users with human papillomavirus-positive tumours were five times more likely to have their cancer recur. Even former smokers had an increased risk of recurrence, Carey says. “Because the effect of human papillomavirus is so strong in giving a very good prognostic picture, we were surprised to find that smoking remained a huge issue, and it actually affected the outcome in patients who smoked,” Carey says.

The study looked at 124 patients with advanced cancer of the tonsils or the base of the tongue. Of the human papillomavirus-positive patients who had never used tobacco, 6 percent had a recurrence of cancer—INTERNET

Switzerland’s Dario Cologna celebrates during the flower ceremony after winning gold in the men’s 15 km individual start cross-country final at the Vancouver Winter Olympic Games in Whistler, British Columbia on 15 Feb, 2010.—INTERNET

Cranberry juice boosts heart health

LONDON, 16 Feb—Researchers in London measured the cardio-protective potential of cranberry juice and found it may help lower blood pressure and help promote heart health.

Researchers at Queen Mary University of London compared the cardio-protective potential of cranberry juice and that of red wine, cocoa and green tea and found that oligomeric proanthocyanidins were present in regular and light cranberry juice cocktail. Dr Roger Corder of Queen Mary University identified oligomeric proanthocyanidins in cranberries that can promote a healthy heart by inhibiting Endothelin-1 synthesis—a blood vessel constricter that causes heart disease.

“Red wine has long been associated with heart health, but this new study shows that cranberry juice is a very promising alcohol-free alternative,” Corder, author of “The Red Wine Diet,” said in a statement. “We have now identified oligomeric proanthocyanidins as the specific compound in cranberries that can boost the health of blood vessels, helping to prevent vessel constriction—a leading cause of high blood pressure.”

The research was published in the journal Agricultural and Food Chemistry.—INTERNET

Sleepiness doubles teen car accident risk

BOLOGNA, 16 Feb—Sleepiness at the wheel and poor sleep significantly increase the risk of motor vehicle accidents in teens and young adults, researchers in Italy say.

Lead researcher Dr Fabio Cirignotta, professor of neurology at the University of Bologna in Italy, finds adolescent drivers were twice as likely to have had a crash if they experienced sleepiness while driving or reported having bad sleep. Eighty of the 339 students — ages 18-21 and 58 percent were male — had crashed at least once and 15 percent said they considered their sleepiness was the main cause of the crash, Cirignotta says.

The study, published in the Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine, indicates 56 percent of students who had at least one previous crash reported driving while sleepy, compared with 35 percent who had not been in a crash.

“Commonly used countermeasures to fatigue, such as opening the window, listening to the radio, or drinking a coffee, are known to be short-lasting and, essentially, useless,” Cirignotta says in a statement. “The only effective countermeasure to drowsiness is to stop driving immediately, pull over to a safe place and nap for 10 to 15 minutes.” Cirignotta says the students suffered from chronic sleep deprivation, while the students need some nine hours of sleep they get about 7.3 hours on weeknights.—INTERNET
Inter clash captivates Cech

LONDON, 16 Feb—Chelsea's Czech international goalkeeper Petr Cech cannot wait for next week's “perfect” Champions League tie against Inter Milan.

The last 16 clash pits Premier League leaders Chelsea, who've yet to win the European Cup, against an Italian side managed by the Londoners' former boss Jose Mourinho.

"Always the Champions League is our aim and you can see that we've been playing for it every season and we’ve gone far, but the aim is the same," Cech told Chelsea Magazine.

"The Champions League is the only trophy this club is missing so I think that is what everyone would like to win," added the Czech international, a member of the Blues side that lost the 2008 Champions League final to English rivals Manchester United in a penalty shoot-out in Moscow.

Real Madrid target Nemanja Vidic is going nowhere, claims Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson

LONDON, 16 Feb—Sir Alex Ferguson insists he wants to keep Nemanja Vidic at Manchester United.

The Serbian's future has been the subject of intense speculation for most of this season, with tomorrow's Champions League opponents AC Milan being linked with a summer move for Vidic and, more recently, Real Madrid.

Vidic's continued absence from the United line-up with a nerve problem has not done much to dampen down the rumours, with claims surfacing that Ferguson is not greatly impressed with the former Spartak Moscow man's attitude.

But if that opinion is true, Ferguson has a funny way of showing it judging by the forceful way he declared his desire for the 28-year-old to remain at Old Trafford.

Peek claims victory for separating politics and sport

DUBAI, 16 Feb—Shahar Peer, who became the first Israeli woman to compete in the United Arab Emirates when she beat Yanina Wickmayer in the Dubai Open here Monday, says that her win was also a victory for keeping politics and sport apart.

Peer was denied a visa to compete in the UAE in 2009, but after a lengthy struggle by the WTA Tour on her behalf, earned the right to compete this year - one year after the Israeli man, Andy Ram, made his pioneering appearance in Dubai.

Uruguayan football great dies

MONTEVIDEO, 16 Feb—Juan Carlos Gonzalez, a member of the Uruguayan squad that won the 1930 World Cup, died on Monday aged 85, local media reported.

Gonzalez, who also won the Uruguayan title with Penarol, played in two of the Uruguayan side's matches but did not play in the final where they beat Brazil 2-1.

His remains will be transferred to the Olympic Pantheon here and he will be buried alongside other Uruguayan sporting heroes.
**WEATHER**

**Tuesday, 16th February, 2010**

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Shan, Chin and Rakhine States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) below February average temperatures in Bago Division, (3°C) above February average temperatures in Chin State and about February average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Namsan (4°C), Machanbaw and Heho (5°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 15-2-2010 was 97°F. Minimum temperature on 16-2-2010 was 68°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 16-2-2010 was 67%.

Total sun shine hours on 15-2-2010 was (8.4) hours approx.

Rainfall on 16-2-2010 was (Nil) at Mingladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2010 was (Tr) at Mingladon, Kaba-Aye and (Nil) at Central Yangon. Maximum wind-speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southeast at (21:30) hours MST on 15-2-2010.

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

Forecast valid until evening of the 17th February 2010: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Kachin and Chin States, Taninthayi Division and weather will be generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated light rain in Upper Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 17-2-2010: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 17-2-2010: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 17-2-2010: Partly cloudy.

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**Programme Schedule**

**MRTV-3**

**Programme Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Programme</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>News</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:10 am</td>
<td>Musical Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:20 am</td>
<td>Classical Songs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>Evening News</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:40 am</td>
<td>Travelling on the Chin Mountain Ranges</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:45 am</td>
<td>International News</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:50 am</td>
<td>Travelling on the Chin Mountain Ranges</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>News</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:15 am</td>
<td>Musical Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Classical Songs</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:45 am</td>
<td>Evening News</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:55 am</td>
<td>Travelling on the Chin Mountain Ranges</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>News</td>
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<td>10:15 am</td>
<td>Musical Programme</td>
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<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>Classical Songs</td>
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<td>10:45 am</td>
<td>Evening News</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>Travelling on the Chin Mountain Ranges</td>
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</tbody>
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**Thanking**

Mr. Bernd Bieger, Representative of Fritz Werner Industrie-Ausrustungen (Yangon Branch) who fell asleep in Jesus on 11.2.2010. We would like to thank to all who sent condolences, baskets and flowers on his sad occasion from H.E The Ministers and Deputy Ministers from the Ministries of the Union of Myanmar, Government Enterprises, Private Companies, H.E The Ambassador of German Embassy and staff, H.E The Ambassador of Indonesian Embassy and staff, International School Yangon Teachers and Students, Traders Hotel, Sedona Hotel and also especially wish to thank all who helped unstintingly to YMCA members, Misica Hotel General Manager and staff family, Management and Colleagues from Fritz Werner Head Office in Germany and Yangon staff family and to all our Friends.

Rondiyah and Sally Bieger
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

Mettmung, Monghkat and Mongyan of Shan State (East) on track to development

Phaunglaung Dam, new facility for irrigating farmlands in Nay Pyi Taw

As part of efforts to boost production of crops and keep the region lush and green, the government is implementing the small- and medium-scale dam projects. Of them, Phaunglaung Dam with 925 feet long and 65 feet high embankment is under construction on Phaunglaung Creek of Nay Pyi Taw District. Upon completion, the dam can store 12,257 acre-feet of water and irrigate about 400 acres of farmlands. The implementation of the project located near Meelaunggon Village of Uttarathiri in Nay Pyi Taw District commenced in 2007-2008. Accompanied by Staff Officers U Win Myint Oo and U Than Naing Oo of Construction (5) of Irrigation Department, we the news crew left for the dam project area along Nay Pyi Taw Pyimmana-Taungdwingyi Road.

In the past, Nay Pyi Taw Pyimmana relied on irrigation water from Ngalaik Dam. On completion, Phaunglaung Dam will benefit the rest areas of Ngalaik Dam irrigated region for enabling the local farmers to grow monsoon, summer paddy, sesame, groundnut, sunflower and mung bean. At present, the water control tower and the spillway of the dam have been completed.