Established 1914

Volume XVII, Number 310 8th Waxing of Taboung 1371 ME Saturday, 20 February, 2010

Four economic objectives
* Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
* Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
* Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
* The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives
* Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
* Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
* Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
* Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Four political objectives
* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
* National reconsolidation
* Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
* Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Prime Minister General Thein Sein receives ROK Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Feb—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein received Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the Union of Myanmar Mr. Park Key Chong, who had completed his tour of duty, at the hall of Government Office, here, at 10.30 am today.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Maung, Director-General Col Thant Shin of the Government Office and Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Ambassador of the Republic of Korea was accompanied by embassy officials.

MNA

Venerable Sayadaws meet in fourth meeting of 6th State Central Working Committee

YANGON, 19 Feb—The first-day session of the fourth meeting of the 6th State Central Working Committee of the Sangha took place at Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill in Mayangon Township yesterday morning.

Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Kumara delivered a Saraniya Ovadakatha.

Secretary of SSMNC Ponnamayama Zay Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa of Nyaungdon supplicated on the brief report of the committee.

Member Sayadaws of the Committee submitted the report of the committee.

The second-day session continued at the same venue today.

Joint Secretary Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Samvara discussed the suggestions of the member Sayadaws of State Central Working Committee of the Sangha.

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung supplicated on the religious affairs.

(See page 8)

Prime Minister General Thein Sein greets Ambassador of the Republic of Korea Mr. Park Key Chong at Government Office.—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein greets Ambassador of the Republic of Korea Mr. Park Key Chong at Government Office.—MNA
**Perspectives**

Saturday, 20 February, 2010

Smooth transport, a driving force behind regional development

The government is working hard for all-round development of the Union in its bid to ensure equitable development of all regions. As part of the drive, the government has been implementing various projects in order of priority so as to improve the economic, education, health and social sectors of the regions concerned. Now, the whole country has seen a great number of new infrastructural buildings, as a result.

Improvement of the transport sector is a driving force behind regional development. Today, local goods can be transported from one region to any other else with convenience, which is a testament to swift commodity flow across the nation. With smooth transport, there has been a marked increase in trade between one region and another.

The inauguration of the Pontoon Bridge spanning the Gyaing (Kawkareik) River on Hpa-an-Myaungdaw Road in Hpa-an Township, Kayin State, took place the other day. The transport facility is of girder type. With a 629 feet long main bridge, the facility can withstand 60 tons of loads. Surely, the bridge will make significant contribution towards the transport sector of the state.

So far, Kayin State has witnessed over 2000 miles of roads inclusive of Hpa-an-Kawkareik-Myaungdaw Road. Now, the road sections are in the process of being upgraded to all-weather ones. Many more transport projects are ongoing in the state. The projects for the three bridges over the Pata Creek, Winyaw River and Haungthayaw River in Kya-in-Seikyi Township, for instance, are due to be completed on schedule.

Regional development has led to the emergence of Hpa-an University, Technological University, and University for Computer Studies. So, the youth of Kayin State now have easy access to higher education in their region. Local people enjoy better health care owing to the 200-bed General Hospital in Hpa-an, and the 100-bed hospital in Kawkareik. Moreover, the midwifery school and the nurse training school produce medical staff.

Now, the roads, railroads and bridges have formed a transport network covering the whole nation. With large numbers of infrastructural buildings in the transport sector, there have been signs of national and regional development to a far higher degree.

Myanmar Open Tennis Tournament 2010 concludes

YANGON, 19 Feb—The final matches and prize-awarding ceremony of Myanmar Open Tennis Tournament 2010 were held at Thibyu tennis court in Mingala Taungnyunt Township here yesterday.

Officials from Sports and Physical Education Department and Myanmar Tennis Federation presented medals and cash prizes to winners in singles event (above 60), double event (above 45), singles event (above 45), double event (above 35) and women’s singles event (open).

General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General U Thaung Htai of Sports and Physical Education Department presented medals and cash awards to winners in men’s double event (open) and in men’s singles event (open).—MNA

Yangon command commander focuses on smooth and secure transport

YANGON, 19 Feb.—Work Coordination Meeting of Yangon Division Smooth and Secure Transport Supervisory Committee was held at the meeting hall of Yangon Command headquarters today with a speech by Chairman of Yangon Division Smooth and Secure Transport Supervisory Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Win Myint.

Officials concerned reported matters related to ferries for Universities, control of traffic rules and smooth and secure transport, the commander fulfilled the requirements.—MNA

Minister U Nyan Win meets Nepalese Prime Minister Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal.—MNA

Minister U Nyan Win holds discussion with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal Ms Sujata Koirla.

Ministers invited to WHD commemorative magazine

NAV PI TAW, 19 Feb.—A plan is under way to publish the World Health Day commemorative magazine.

Cartoons, poems, short stories and articles may be sent to the Director (Health Education) of Central Health Education Division of Health Department under the Ministry of Health, Building No.4 in Nay Pyi Taw, not later than 1 March.—MNA

Myanmar, Nepal to enhance mutual cooperation

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Afghan official says NATO airstrike kills seven policemen

KABUL, 19 Feb — The Afghan Interior Ministry says a NATO airstrike aimed at insurgents missed its target, killing seven policemen in northern Kunduz province.

Interior Ministry spokesman Zemari Bashary said Thursday that a joint NATO-Afghan convoy near Imam Sahib town in Kunduz came under attack by militants around 3 pm. He said the two sides exchanged heavy fire and the allied troops called for an airstrike. However, the bomb dropped hit a police vehicle instead, killing seven and injuring two police officers.

Bashary said the investigation into what happened was continuing.

A NATO spokesman said the coalition is “aware of an incident” and trying to gather information before releasing a statement.—Internet

Grenade attack wounds 21 in SW Afghanistan

KABUL, 19 Feb — A grenade attack on Thursday evening wounded 21 civilians with one of them in critical conditions in Afghanistan’s southwestern Nimroz Province, police said.

“A grenade was hurled by unknown men toward a vehicle driven by a government employee in Zaranj city, capital of Nimroz Province,” provincial police chief Abdul Jabar Watanard told Xinhua. “As result, 21 civilians were wounded.”

One of the injured was in critical conditions following the attack, which took place in a crowded area, he added.—Xinhua

Twin blasts wound 12 in E Afghanistan

KHOST, 19 Feb — Twin bomb blasts Thursday evening left 12 people, including six police officers, wounded in Afghanistan’s eastern Khost Province.

A bomb planted by militants went off on Thursday evening near a police vehicle on a road beside Ghazi Babrak Khan Park in Khost city, capital of Khost Province, an eye witness who declined to be named told Xinhua.

“A second blast occurred as police officers rushed to the site,” he added.

“Some 12 people including six policemen were evacuated to provincial hospital this evening, and most of them sustained minor injuries,” Amir Badshah, head of provincial health department and a doctor of the hospital, told Xinhua.—Xinhua

13 killed in attack on govt building in west Iraq

BAGHDAD, 19 Feb — A suicide car bomb exploded on Thursday outside the gate of the main government compound in the capital of Iraq’s Anbar Province, killing at least 13 people, including four police, a health official said.

The attacker detonated his explosive-packed car at the compound housing the governor’s office, police headquarters and courts in downtown Ramadi.

The province, where al-Qaeda-backed Sunni militants once held sway, has seen a rise in attacks against security forces and government officials in recent months. The incident also comes amid fears that next month’s elections will stoke political violence.—Internet

Rain and mud pours over Haiti’s quake homeless

PORT-AU-PRINCE, 19 Feb — A heavy downpour sent the throngs living beside Haiti’s shattered national palace cowering under tarps on Thursday as the rush of water made much of the camp of earthquake victims impassable — an ominous foretaste of the rainy season to come. Amputees struggled to manoeuvre through mud on crutches and wheelchairs.

Many in the makeshift tents housing nearly 600,000 people in Haiti’s capital still live without even plastic tarps, which the international community is trying to get to everyone by May 1. So when the rain comes, bed sheets spread on sticks as protection from the sun quickly get soaked and people move in temporary mud on crutches and wheelchairs. Some in the makeshift tents housing nearly 600,000 people in Haiti’s capital still live without even plastic tarps, which the international community is trying to get to everyone by May 1. So when the rain comes, bed sheets spread on sticks as protection from the sun quickly get soaked and people move in temporary mud on crutches and wheelchairs. Some in the makeshift tents housing nearly 600,000 people in Haiti’s capital still live without even plastic tarps, which the international community is trying to get to everyone by May 1. So when the rain comes, bed sheets spread on sticks as protection from the sun quickly get soaked and people move in temporary mud on crutches and wheelchairs. Some in the makeshift tents housing nearly 600,000 people in Haiti’s capital still live without even plastic tarps, which the international community is trying to get to everyone by May 1. So when the rain comes, bed sheets spread on sticks as protection from the sun quickly get soaked and people move in temporary...
Singapore expects 2010 GDP to grow up to 6.5 pct

SINGAPORE, 19 Feb—Singapore raised its 2010 GDP forecast and now expects the city-state’s economy to grow as much as 6.5 percent after contracting last year.

Gross domestic product will likely expand between 4.5 percent and 6.5 percent this year, up from a previous forecast of between 3 percent and 5 percent, the Trade and Industry Ministry said on Friday.

The economy shrank 2 percent last year, the ministry said.

Singapore — which relies on trade, finance and tourism to fuel one of Asia’s richest nations — expects to benefit from increased demand for its exports and services from regional neighbours as Asia leads the global economy out of recession.

“Asia is expected to experience a strong recovery in 2010,” the ministry said in a statement.

“Financial markets have stabilized, and trade flows and industrial production have also picked up strongly.”

“The recovery in the G3 economies, however, is expected to be weaker.”

The ministry said the economy fell an annualized seasonally adjusted 2.8 percent in the fourth quarter, a smaller drop than the ministry’s initial estimate last month of a 6.8 percent contraction.—Internet

Latin American coffee output falls 28 percent

GUATEMALA CITY, 19 Feb—Combined coffee production in nine Latin American countries fell 28.2 percent in the first four months of the 2009-2010 growing season, the National Coffee Association of Guatemala said on Thursday.

From October to January, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Mexico, Peru and the Dominican Republic exported a combined 5.6 million sacks of coffee weighing 60 kilogrammes (132 pounds) each, against 7.8 million the same time last year, Anacafe said in a statement.

Only three nations in the group saw an increase in coffee production: Honduras (by 47.5 percent), Guatemala (by 18.1 percent) and Mexico (by 16.1 percent).

Farm produce accounts for 42% of Brazil's exports

RIO DE JANEIRO, 19 Feb—The exports of farm produce accounted for 42 percent of all Brazilian exports in 2009, Brazilian Agriculture Minister Reinhold Stephanes announced on Thursday.

According to the minister, the percentage means a highest share of Brazil’s agricultural exports in three decades. He stressed, however, that the figures do not reflect a sharp increase in agricultural production.

“It does not mean that Brazil’s agribusiness sales increased. Rather, it was a result that the exports of other sectors fell due to the global financial crisis,” said Stephanes.

In 2009, Brazil’s agricultural exports generated a total income of 65.8 billion US dollars, down 9.8 percent from 2008.

In 2010, Stephanes expects Brazil’s agribusiness exports to increase by 10 billion US dollars due to negotiations to remove barriers erected by 25 countries against Brazilian exports.

Australian airline Qantas to pack up to 100 more on its A380s

CANBERRA, 19 Feb—A380 superjumbo’s reputation for luxury and extra room has given way to commercial reality at Australian airline Qantas, the Sydney Morning Herald reported on Friday.

It will increase the number of seats on its flagship aircraft by as many as 100 because of a long-term trend of passengers preferring to fly closer to the back, the newspaper reported.

When the A380 was unveiled in France five years ago, airlines trumpeted that the superjumbo would offer passengers bigger seats, inflight lounges, double beds and even showers.

But Qantas’s decision to squeeze more passengers on its A380s confirms the long-held suspicions that the early euphoria about the flying cruise liners would eventually give way to the bottom-line.

Oil falls to near $78 on US dollar rally

SINGAPORE, 19 Feb—Oil prices fell to near $78 a barrel on Friday in Asia after the US Federal Reserve’s unexpected hike to interest rates for emergency loans to banks boosted the dollar, making commodities less attractive to investors.

Benchmark crude for March delivery was down 91 cents to $78.15 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

The contract added $1.73 to settle at $79.06 on Thursday.

The Federal Reserve said late Thursday it will bump up the so-called “discount” lending rate by one-quarter point to 0.75 percent effective on Friday. The surprise move, which doesn’t affect consumer lending rates, helped weaken the euro to $1.3482 on Friday from $1.3529 the previous day.

A coffee farmer carries bags of the beans in Ciudad Bolivar, in Colombia. Combined coffee production in nine Latin American countries fell 28.2 percent in the first four months of the 2009-2010 growing season, the National Coffee Association of Guatemala has said.—INTERNET

A tunnel drilling machine is seen at the construction site of a natural gas transfer station for the gas pipeline OPAL in Lubmin, northern Germany, on 18 Feb, 2010.—INTERNET

A coffee farmer carries bags of the beans in Ciudad Bolivar, in Colombia. Combined coffee production in nine Latin American countries fell 28.2 percent in the first four months of the 2009-2010 growing season, the National Coffee Association of Guatemala has said.—INTERNET

Singapore has raised its economic growth forecast this year as countries that buy most of its exports emerge from recession.—INTERNET

Internet

Xinhua

Internet

Xinhua

Internet
Russia says ready to help Turkey build nuclear power plant

ISTANBUL, 19 Feb—Visiting Russian Deputy Prime Minister Igor Sechin on Thursday voiced readiness to help Turkey build its first nuclear power plant, reported the semi-official Anatolia news agency.

With Turkish Energy and Natural Resources Minister Taner Yildiz at his side, Sechin said at a Press conference at Istanbul’s Ataturk Airport that experts are about to finalize the feasibility works over the Turkish plan in April and that the conclusions would be satisfactory. Stressing that Russia attaches great importance to the cooperation with Turkey, Sechin said the Turkish nuclear project “entails a close cooperation” between the two countries.

A consortium of Russia’s Atomstroyexport and Inter RAO, together with Turkish company Park Teknik, have registered the sole bid to build the nuclear power plant at Akkuyu on Turkey’s east Mediterranean coast.

Slated to eventually comprise four separate 1,200-megawatts units, the project is expected to help meet Turkey’s rapidly growing power demand.

Referring to Turkey’s Sansun-Ceyhan oil pipeline, Sechin said, “this project is one of the issues of priority. Both Turkey and Russia have established working groups.”

Indian Navy to induct Mig-29K fighters to fleet in Goa

GOA, 19 Feb—The Indian Navy will on Friday induct its first four Russian-built Mig-29K combat jets that will be deployed on the aircraft carrier Admiral Gorshkov, rechristened INS Vikramaditya, when it is commissioned into the fleet three years from now, said Navy officials.

Indian Defence Minister AK Antony is expected to attend the induction ceremony.

The fighters will conduct shore-based sorties from the Dabolim Naval Air Station till INS Vikramaditya arrives in 2012. The jets were purchased by the Indian Navy as part of a 1.5 billion US dollar deal signed with Russia in January 2007. Of this, 740 million US dollars were meant for 16 Mig-29s and the balance for refitting the carrier. The Russians have now raised the price to between 2.2 billion and 2.9 billion US dollars and negotiations are currently under way on this.

Of the 16 jets, 12 will be single-seaters and four will be twin-seater trainers.

“The jets were received in knocked-down condition and were assembled here. Russian pilots initially flew them to check them out. They will be formally inducted on Friday,” an Indian Navy official said.

Indonesia to pay back local taxes to oil, gas firms

JAKARTA, 19 Feb—Indonesian Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati said that the government was drafting a new government regulation on the cost recovery scheme that would allow the reimbursement of indirect taxes including regional taxes and levies, a local media reported here on Friday.

“This is actually in line with what is written in existing contracts. Oil and gas contractors will no longer need to allocate separate additional payments both to regional and central governments,” the minister was quoted as saying by the Jakarta Post in a hearing with lawmakers in the parliament on Thursday.

Indonesia’s oil and gas Production Sharing Contract (PSC) system requires the government to reimburse all cost items covered by the cost recovery payment rules. Reimbursements are made once contractors enter the production stage.

Hamas frees 20 Fatah prisoners in Gaza

GAZA, 19 Feb—Hamas on Thursday freed 20 prisoners affiliated with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas’ Fatah movement in the Gaza Strip.

The detainees came out on Thursday afternoon from the central prison in the west of Gaza City.

On Wednesday, posed Hamas Prime Minister Ismail Haneya announced that he ordered the release of the 20 prisoners during a good-bye ceremony to a group of Arab members of Parliament. Haneya, whose government controls Gaza since Hamas took over the coastal enclave in 2007, said the release of the prisoners was aiming at supporting stalled Egyptian efforts to broker reconciliations between Hamas and Fatah.

WHO recommends pandemic A/H1N1 virus as seasonal flu vaccines

GENEVA, 19 Feb—The World Health Organization (WHO) recommended here on Thursday that the pandemic A/H1N1 virus should be used for making seasonal influenza vaccines in the northern hemisphere.

Besides the pandemic A/H1N1 virus, the A/H3N2 virus and the influenza B virus should also be included in making influenza vaccines in the 2010-2011 northern hemisphere influenza season, the UN agency said in a statement. The recommendation was announced following a four-day closed-door meeting of influenza experts, which was meant to select the seasonal flu vaccine strains for the northern hemisphere.

Yemeni Shiites free another four Saudi captives

SANAA, 19 Feb—Yemeni Shiites rebels on Thursday were preparing to hand over another four Saudi captives to the Yemeni ceasefire committee in the northern province of Saada, a Houthi rebel spokesman told Xinhua.

Mohammed Abdel Salam, the Houthi rebel spokesman, said the process of freeing four Saudi soldiers is underway and the soldiers will be handed over to the Yemeni-Houthi joint ceasefire committee. He declined to give further details on the matter.

Houthi rebels handed over on Monday a Saudi captive identified as “Yehya bin Abdullah bin Amir al-Khuzaiee”, who was one of the five Saudi soldiers held captive since their three-month border war.

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Flight divers to Salt Lake after threatening note

SALT LAKE CITY, 19 Feb—A United Airlines jetliner that made an emergency landing on Thursday after a threatening note was found in the galley resumed its flight after seven hours on the ground.

The note was found in the galley of a United Airlines 757, which was en route from Denver to San Francisco on Thursday. The note was discovered by a flight attendant and was reportedly written in a threatening manner.

The pilot decided to divert to Salt Lake City, a major international airport, to allow for a thorough investigation of the note.

A United Airlines spokesperson confirmed that the flight was diverted to Salt Lake City and that the note was found in the galley. The airline is cooperating with law enforcement agencies to determine the origin of the note.

Obese woman gives birth in Romania

A 25-year-old woman weighing 528 pounds (240 kilograms) gave birth to her first baby on Thursday in what one expert called a rare and risky case.

Her healthy baby girl, born by cesarean section, weighed 6.4 pounds (2.9 kilograms), said Bogdan Popescu, a spokesman at Bucharest University Emergency Hospital, which is equipped to treat obese people.

Oldest Canadian vet

The oldest Canadian veteran of World War I has died at the age of 109.

John Babcock died in Thursday in Spokane, where he has lived since 1932, according to a statement from Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

“I was deeply saddened to learn to-day of the death of John Babcock, Canada’s last known First World War veteran,” Harper said. “As a nation, we honour his service and mourn his passing.”

Babcock had become a celebrity in recent years, especially in Canada. “John Babcock was Canada’s last living link to the Great War, which in so many ways marked our coming of age as a nation,” Harper said. He described Babcock as a hero of the Canadian Forces during World War I.

“He was a true Canadian hero,” Harper said. “He lived through a war that defines our country, and his dedication to his country will be remembered forever.”

Police capture escaped zebra in downtown Atlanta

An Atlanta highway turned into a circus on Thursday afternoon when an escaped zebra galloped along a busy section of interstate with police in hot pursuit.

The 12-year-old animal, named Lima, was exercising outside a downtown Atlanta arena in preparation for an evening show when something spooked him, said Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus spokeswoman Crystal Drake.

The zebra broke away from his trainers and bumped up against a fence, then wriggled through an opening.

“We’re not sure what it was that started him, but we’re looking into that,” she said. He was spotted by people in downtown Atlanta around 4:30 pm, said Georgia Department of Transportation spokeswoman Monica Luck.

Workers try to contain a zebra that broke loose from the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus, on 18 Feb, 2010, in downtown Atlanta. The animal made its way through downtown to the interstate highway that cuts through the centre of the city.
Minister inspects main factory, training school in Pyinmana

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Feb—Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung visited the main workshop of Engineering Department (Pyinmana) of Myanmar Timber Enterprise, here, this morning. An official of the factory reported on repairing of vehicles and machines, learning of training at mechanic course, and the minister gave necessary instructions and inspected repairing of vehicles and heavy machines, engine room, servicing room of diesel pump, press and cutting machines and store.

At the No. 2 Training School of Myanmar Timber Enterprise (Pyinmana), Principle Assistance General Manager U Ohn Maung reported on opening course and preparation for next year course. The minister gave necessary instructions and viewed the learning of the trainees.

Awareness raising workshop for phase-out of Ozone depleting substances held

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Feb—The National Commission for Environmental Affairs (NCEA) of the Ministry of Forestry organized an awareness raising workshop for the phase-out of the Ozone depleting substances, provided by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and with the assistance of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, at Nay Pyi Taw City Hall. Secretary of NCEA, Director-General U Sam Lwin of the Planning and Statistics Department of the Ministry of Forestry delivered an opening speech on the occasion. Also present on the occasion were rectors, deputy directors-general and directors of departments under the Ministry of Forestry, officials concerned Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, resource persons, delegates of the ministries and organizations, refrigerator and aircon shops, students from University of Forestry and Basic Education High School Nos. 5 and 6 in Nay Pyi Taw.

Hugo paints available in market

YANGON, 19 Feb—Jointly organized by Hugo United Group International (Singapore) and Tet Nay Aung Co. Ltd (Sole Distributor), a ceremony to introduce a new Hugo paint imported from Singapore took place at Traders Hotel here on 5 February.

Hugo High Performance Interior Paint and Hugo Emulsion Paint with long-lasting quality are designed to protect covering of moisture, bacteria and mould on the wall. Acrylic Spray Paint is available in three different colours—metallic, golden and pearl. It is specially designed to be used in painting wooden and metal surfaces.

Plan is underway to distribute Hugo Wood and Metal Paint, Hugo Marine Paint and Hugo exterior Paint. Those who want to buy Hugo paint may contact near Chaungwa jetty on Bayintnaung Road in Hlane Township (Ph: 537852, 530921, 701229 and 501905 and Fax: 558219).—MNA

Get-together for E-major graduates

YANGON, 19 Feb—English major graduates from 1981 to 2000 will meet for a get-together at White Rice Restaurant, here, at 5 pm on 2 March.

The old students are to contact Ko Win Maung, Tel: 09-8022975, Ko Myat Thu Win, Tel: 222923, Ko Ohn Win, Tel: 375856, Ext: 509, Ko Tun Lin, Tel: 09-5134525, Ko Aung Naing Moe, Tel: 54964 and 09-5020478, Ko Arthur, Tel: 202046 and 09-5044267, Ko Zaw Win, Tel: 520703 and 09-5128859, Ma Kathaline Thein, Tel: 09-3028470 and Ma Aye Mon (a) Alice, Tel: 09-5119058. Those who got degrees in other academic years may attend the get-together.

Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun speaking at concluding ceremony of Spoken English Course No. 1/2009.—MNA

F&R officers in practice of spoken English

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Feb—The Spoken English Course No. 1/2009 concluded at the Ministry of Finance and Revenue this morning.

As part of roundtable discussion, five officer trainees of Central Bank of Myanmar and Myanmar Economic Bank discussed the topic on all-round development of our country. Two officer trainees from Budget Department and Pension Department conversed facts about Nay Pyi Taw. Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun and Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe presented prizes to outstanding trainees and gifts to instructors. Altogether 50 trainees attended the 16-week course.

Innocent civilians wounded in KNU-planted mine blasts in Htantabin, Kyaukkyi, Kawkaraik Townships

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Feb—In February, 2010, there were incidents in Htantabin and Kyaukkyi townships of Toungoo District in which innocent people were wounded after stepping on the mines planted by the insurgents of KNU Brigade-3. Ko Win Soe of Padaukkwin Village, Htantabin Township, and U Tin Oo of Mone Ward-1 of Kyaukkyi Township were killed and 12 February respectively while both were in the forests for collecting bamboo. And they lost their left buttock. On 15 February, Saw Tha Khway of Talo farm work and wounded his left thigh and right ankles. On 7 February, U Tin Oo of Mone Ward-1 of Kyaukkyi Township lost his right lower leg after stepping on a mine while gathering firewood in the forests.

Similarly, a time bomb planted by KNU insurgents exploded under a grocery of the outer stalls in the market at 12.05 pm today. Natives Daw Naw Ae Wa, Daw Ana Ray, Daw Aye Aye Khaing, Ma Zin Mar Htwe and U Hsan Naing were seriously wounded in the bomb blast. They are now receiving treatment at Kawkaraik Township Hospital. The Tatmadaw columns are also in hot pursuit of the KUN insurgents.

People of KNU and KPN areas showed their unhappiness towards the KNU insurgents and are cooperating with Tatmadaw columns by sending information about insurgents’ operations and their hideouts. The Tatmadaw columns are also in hot pursuit of the KUN insurgents.

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Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun speaking at concluding ceremony of Spoken English Course No. 1/2009.—MNA

F&R officers in practice of spoken English

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Feb—The Spoken English Course No. 1/2009 concluded at the Ministry of Finance and Revenue this morning.

As part of roundtable discussion, five officer trainees of Central Bank of Myanmar and Myanmar Economic Bank discussed the topic on all-round development of our country. Two officer trainees from Budget Department and Pension Department conversed facts about Nay Pyi Taw. Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun and Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe presented prizes to outstanding trainees and gifts to instructors. Altogether 50 trainees attended the 16-week course.
Yangon South District...

After meeting with local people in Wabalaungthawk Village of Kawkmu Township, he looked into construction of a Cyclone Shelter and a hillock in Lakkhokkon Village in Kungyangon Township.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe presented refreshments to patients at Lakkhokkon Station Hospital.

At the construction site of a concrete bridge at the entrance to Kungyangon, he heard reports on progress of the concrete bridge.

Later, he visited Kungyangon Auto-exchange of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications.

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**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

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**Venerable Sayadaws meet in fourth...**

(from page 1)

In the afternoon, representative Sayadaws from all Guans and from States and Divisions discussed Vinicchaya, religious and education affairs included in the report submitted by the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee.

Today, wellwishers U Tin Win-Daw Then Thein Oo and daughter Dr. Thin Yu Aung of Thwunna offered meals to the Sayadaws.

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**UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights concludes visit**

YANGON, 19 Feb—United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Myanmar Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana and party left Yangon and arrived in Sittway on 16 February morning. They met departmental officials at Rakhine State General Administration Department in Sittway.

In the afternoon, the Special Rapporteur visited Sittway Jail and met four inmates. In the evening, he met responsible persons of the prison separately and visited there.

In the afternoon, he met U Tun Kyaw and party of Kayinni National People’s Liberation Front (Kaw La La Ta), U Waw Law Hoonung Khong and party of NDAP Kachin Special Region (1), U Tha Htoo Kyaw and party of DKBA and Pado Aung San and party of Phayagon Special Region at Mya Yeik Nyo Hotel.

In the evening, he met U Tin Oo of National League for Democracy and U Khan Maung Gyi of National Unity Party separately.

This morning, the UN Special Rapporteur and party arrived at Nay Pyi Taw by air and called on Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi, Chief Justice U Aung Toe and Attorney-General U Aye Maung. In the afternoon, he met the Myanmar Human Rights Committee led by Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo, MPP Chief Brig-Gen Khin Yi and Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin. In the evening, he left for Yangon by air.

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**Delta shaping road network**

YANGON, 19 Feb—Public Works of the Ministry of Construction is implementing the Ayeyawady Delta network development project.

In meeting with officials at the hall of Pyapon Township, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein stressed the need to timely complete the construction works meeting set standards and make preparation tasks for the rainy season.

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**State Townships urged to maintain dignity of court**

YANGON, 19 Feb—The Chief Justice U Thein Soe urged the trainees to try their best to be qualified judges for serving interest of the State and the people by observing State policies and maintain the dignity of the courts. Altogether 55 trainees are attending the 12-week course.

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**Who won Pakokku U Ohn Pe Library Book Award?**

YANGON, 19 Feb—Winners of Pakokku U Ohn Pe Library Book Award-2010 were announced today.

Library Book Awards went to “My mother and I” written by Writer Prof. Dr Khin Maung Win (Liber) and “The first-ever sermon of the Buddha” written by Writer Nawatha Win.

Prize presentation ceremony will be held in conjunction with Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award and prize-giving ceremony at 9 a.m. on 28 February at the Grand Ballroom of Chatrium Hotel on Natmauk Street.
Infrastructural development enhances Kengtung’s fire fighting capability

Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing unveiled signboard of Myanmar Fire Brigade in Kengtung.—MNA

Myanmar, Laos to uplift sports standards

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Feb—In a meeting held at the Ministry of Sports on 7 February, Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and Chairman of National Sports and Physical Education Committee Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office Dr Phouthong Seng Akhom and party of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic focused on cementing friendly relations between the two countries, development of sports, exchange and training of sports teams, organizing the friendly matches, exchange of the sports techniques, match commissioners and qualified coaches and cooperation in successfully holding the XXVII SEA Games.

In the evening, the Minister for Sports hosted a dinner to the guest minister and party at Thingaha Hotel.

Pakokku U Ohn Pe Scholarship Award winners come out

YANGON, 19 Feb—The list of the names of outstanding students who won the Pakokku U Ohn Pe Scholarship Award were announced today.

First, second and third prizes in Myanmararsar subject went to Maung Kaung Zeya, son of U Zeya, of Kyauktada BEHS Maung Kyaw Khine Htet, son of U Maung Maung, of BEHS (6) in Pathein and Ma Nann Kham Htwe, daughter of U Shan Sein, of BEHS (23) in Chanayethazan Township.

In English subject, Ma Htoo Mon Khine (external), daughter of U Tun Min, of BEHS (1) in Monywa stood first, Ma Htaw Kyaw Lwin, daughter of U Ohn Myint, of BEHS (2) in Monywa second and Ma Htan Nanda Paing, daughter of U Zaw Win, of BEHS (1) in Monyin, third. In Mathematics subject, Ma Myint Su San, daughter of U Ohn Lwin, of BEHS (1) in Dagon secured first prize, Ma Swe Zin Linn, daughter of U Htein Lan, of BEHS (18) in Aungmyaythazan Township, second prize and Ma Su Myat Yadana Lwin, daughter of U Soe Lwin, of BEHS (2) in Lannadaw Township, third prize. Ma Htut Myat Noe Aung, daughter of U Ko Ko Aung, of BEHS (2) in Sangyoung Township stood first in Physics, Chemistry and Biology subjects. Ma Hnin Yu Khine, daughter of U Thein Tun, of BEHS (2) in Tharton, Ma Akari Soe (external), daughter of U Khway Maung, from Gangaw and Maung Zaw Ye Aung, son of U Myint Soe, of Inbin BEHS in Myanmar Township won first prizes in Economics, Geography and History subjects respectively.

AFC CHALLENGE CUP 2010:

Myanmar sees glittering future in Challenge Cup

YANGON, 19 Feb—Myanmar National Team took a huge step towards the last four after a narrow 2-1 win over Bangladesh in the second match of Group A yesterday evening.

The AFC Challenge Cup 2010 organized by AFC continued at Colombo of Sri Lanka yesterday evening.

Myanmar led 2-0 at the break thanks to goals from Tun Tun Win at the 13th minute and Paing Soe at the 32nd minute. In the second half, Bangladesh players pulled one back for their team but Myanmar put the rival under its thumb through counter attacks in the remaining minutes.

Myanmar National Team has six points with two wins in two matches in the Group (A). Tomorrow evening, Myanmar will compete against Tajikistan in the third group match.

Education Minister visits classroom of Basic Education High School in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Feb—Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein inspected school at No.5 Basic Education High School for second-semester inspected students sitting examination at No.5 Basic Education High School.

On his arrival in Kengtung, Montgrun and Homa, he called for boosting agricultural production with the effective utilization of natural resources and stressed the need to seek ways and means for an increase in production.

In meeting with departmental officials, members of social organizations and local people at Bayintnaung Hall in Bawlake of Kayah State, Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing fulfilled the requirements on education, health and agricultural sectors of the township.

Next, he oversaw construction of 50-bed Hospital (Annex) and comforted patients at the People’s Hospital in Bawlake. On his inspection tour of Shan State (South) and Kayah, Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing presented foodstuffs to servicemen and their families.

Education Minister inspects schools in Nay Pyi Taw

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Global cyber attacks hit firms, govt

SAN FRANCISCO, 19 Feb—Hackers have created a “dangerous new” network of virus-infected computers in 2,500 businesses and government agencies around the world, a US Internet security firm warned on Thursday.

NetWitness dubbed the army of 75,000 zombie machines the “Kneber army of 75,000 zombie machines” and said it was checking a fault on Friday, due to a natural-gas fuel leak that could result in fires in the cabin, the transport Ministry said.

Japanese auto industry suffers new recall blow

TOKYO, 19 Feb—The Japanese auto industry suffered a fresh blow to its reputation on Thursday as the Transport Ministry announced the recall of 4,000 Isuzu trucks, after Toyota said it was checking a fault with its top model.

Isuzu Motors, which is part owned by Toyota Motor Corp, was to recall the 4,286 natural-gas powered trucks in Japan from Friday, due to a natural-gas fuel leak that could result in fires in the cab, the transport Ministry said.

Amazon routes Kindle books to BlackBerry smartphones

SAN FRANCISCO, 19 Feb—Amazon released a free Kindle for BlackBerry application that makes the online shop’s electronic books available for reading on the Research In Motion smartphones.

“The launch of our popular Kindle for iPhone app last year, customers have been asking us to bring a similar experience to the BlackBerry.” said Amazon Kindle vice president Ian Freed on Thursday.

The application available for download online at HYPERLINK “http://us.rd.yahoo.com/dailynews/article%3f%3d%2fuc_api%2ffieldtext%2fu%2finternet-bookstore-companymazamp%2f51746463%2f%3f%3d%2ft10sadu%2f” “http://amazon.com/kindle/ebooks” amazon.com/kindle/ebooks lets BlackBerry users access an online bookstore with more than 420,000 digital works. Amazon technology lets readers switch between smartphones, iPod Touch devices, computers, and Kindle electronic tablets without losing their places in digital books.
Daimler suffers steep loss in 2009

FRANKFURT, 19 Feb — The German auto giant Daimler shocked markets on Thursday with a sharp 2009 loss after an “exceptionally bad” year for its luxury cars and heavy trucks.

The group hopes to recover this year and chairman Dieter Zetsche said he was aiming for a 2010 pretax profit of 2.3 billion euros (3.1 billion dollars), despite “a difficult environment,” compared with a pretax loss of 1.5 billion last year.

That did not reassure investors however, and Daimler shares showed a loss of 4.75 percent at 31.47 euros in afternoon trade on the Frankfurt stock exchange, while the DAX index of German blue-chips was 0.47 percent higher overall.

Zetsche told a Press conference that 2009 was “an exceptionally bad year for the economy, the auto sector and for Daimler.”

Sales fell by 20 percent and the company suffered a net loss of 2.64 billion euros, compared with a profit of 1.4 billion euros a year earlier. “The lower result was mainly the result of lower sales, but also of stiffer competition and a fall in market prices,” Zetsche said.

NordLB auto analyst Frank Schwope told AFP that “Daimler disappointed because it did not do as well as other automobile manufacturers.” — Internet

Air India gets $173M government cash injection

MUMBAI, 19 Feb — India approved a cash infusion for ailing national carrier Air India on Thursday, part of an expected $432 million bailout of a company many once considered a proud symbol of the nation.

The $173 million injection “would not only ease the cash flow situation of the company but would also preclude borrowings from the markets at a high cost,” the Ministry of Civil Aviation said in a statement.

Other carriers have stumbled in the wake of the global financial crisis — notably Japan Airlines which filed for bankruptcy in January. Analysts say many of Air India’s problems are homegrown, born of decades of mismanagement and under investment. — Internet

Brazil’s Petrobras announces oil discoveries in Angola

RIO DE JANEIRO, 19 Feb — Brazil’s state-owned oil and gas giant Petrobras announced on Thursday two oil discoveries in Angola. According to the company, the discoveries were made in wells of Nzanza-1 and Cinguvu-1, which are located in Block 15/06, some 350 kilometres northwest of Angola’s capital city Luanda. The oil was found in a water depth of some 1,400 metres.

Petrobras holds a five percent stake in Block 15/06 while local company Eni Angola a 35 percent stake in it. Other participants in the consortium are Sonangol P&P, with a 15 percent stake, SSI Fifteen Limited, with a 20 percent stake, Total, with a 15 percent state, Falcon Oil Holding Angola AS, with a five percent stake, and Statoil Angola Block 15/06 AS, also with a five percent stake. — Xinhua

SAS aircraft are parked at the gates at Arlanda airport, north of Stockholm in 2009. The Swedish government sought parliamentary approval on Thursday to allow to sell its stake in loss-making SAS Scandinavian Airlines at an “opportunity moment.”

“Under the terms of the agreement, CME will pay 400 million dollars in cash for 100 percent of the terrestrial free-to-air TV channel, bTV,” News Corp. said in a statement emailed to AFP in the Bulgarian capital Sofia. Central European Media Enterprises (CME) is the main broadcaster in Central and Eastern Europe. News Corp said the sale was part of its plan to exit its free-to-air broadcasting business assets in the region.

CME “will also take control of the two genre channels, bTV Comedy and bTV Cinema, along with News Corporation’s 74-per-cent interest in Radio Company C.J which operates five radio stations,” the statement added.

News Corp. — which has most of its operations in the United States — earlier this month reported a 254-million-dollar profit in the October-December quarter, compared to a 6.4-billion-dollar loss in the same quarter a year ago.

“bTV was a News Corporation start-up which went on to become clear market leader for the past eight years,” News Corp. stations Europe chief operating officer Gary Davey, was cited as saying in the statement. — Internet
**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV OEL SINGAPORE VOY NO ( )**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV OEL SINGAPORE VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessels will be arriving on 20.2.2010 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS BLPL LOGISTIC PTE LTD**

Phone No: 256098/378316/376797

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**Anglo American profits halve on economic downturn**

LONDON, 19 Feb—Global mining giant Anglo American on Friday said that its net profit more than halved to 1.575 billion pounds in 2009 as last year’s economic downturn slashed the prices of metals.

The London-based company said it would not pay a dividend for a second year running as profit after tax slumped 53.5 percent from 3.388 billion pounds in 2008.

“The impact of the global economic downturn on the mining industry remains strong as emerging economies such as China ramp up demand for raw materials,” Anglo American, the biggest mining company in South Africa, said in a statement.

Anglo American said revenue dropped by a quarter last year to 16 billion pounds.

Group chief executive Cynthia Carroll said “the medium and long term outlook for the mining industry remains strong” as emerging economies such as China ramp up demand for raw materials.

"Demand for commodities is expected to remain robust with the continuing shift in the pattern of economic growth towards fast-growing emerging economies," Carroll said. "In order to sustain its growth potential, we anticipate that China will continue to upscale and develop its infrastructure, while the longer term potential of India and Brazil is expected to provide further support.—Internet"

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**Nestle posts big drop in annual net profit**

GENEVA, 19 Feb—The world’s biggest food company Nestle on Friday posted a 42 percent drop in annual net profit in 2009 to 10.4 billion Swiss francs, largely in line with analysts’ expectations.

The net profit equivalent to 7.1 billion euros or 9.6 billion dollars marked a retreat to the Swiss group’s performance in 2008.

“Demand for commodities is expected to remain robust with the continuing shift in the pattern of economic growth towards fast-growing emerging economies,” Carroll said. “In order to sustain its growth potential, we anticipate that China will continue to upscale and develop its infrastructure, while the longer term potential of India and Brazil is expected to provide further support.—Internet"
Breast cancer growth gene identified

HOUSTON, 19 Feb—US medical researchers say they have identified the gene that enables breast cancer growth and metastasis. Baylor College of Medicine scientists say they’ve discovered a master gene called SRC-3 (steroid receptor co-activator 3) not only enhances estrogen-dependent growth of cancer cells by activating and encouraging the transcription of a genetic message into a protein, but it also sends a signal to the cell membrane to promote cell motility or movement.

The researchers, led by Dr Bert O’Malley, said their finding not only uncovers a new activity for SRC-3, it also explains how the epidermal growth factor receptor at the membrane gets a signal to the enzyme that tells the cell to move—and ultimately grow—allowing the cancer to invade surrounding tissue.

“Now we have a final picture as to why epidermal growth factor receptor and the estrogen receptor are the most dangerous combination of molecules overproduced in breast cancer,” O’Malley said. “When they are both overfunctioning, people die quickly and are resistant to therapy.”

The study that included scientists from the George Washington University Medical Centre appears in the journal Molecular Cell.—INTERNET

Rosemary may cut cancer-causing agents

MANHATTAN, 19 Feb—The addition of rosemary extract to ground beef reduces cancer-causing agents that can form upon cooking, US researchers said.

Heterocyclic amines are mutagenic compounds that form when meat and fish are cooked at high temperatures—especially meats that are grilled, pan-fried, broiled or barbecued—and are categorized as human carcinogens, the researchers said.

Kansas State University researchers Kanithaporn Puangsombat and J Scott Smith compared five rosemary extracts with varying concentrations of water and ethanol for their ability to inhibit heterocyclic amines formation in cooked beef patties.

The rosemary extracts were isolated with ethanol concentrations ranging from 10 percent to 40 percent.

The extracts—containing rosmarinic acid, carnosol and carnosic acid—were added directly onto the ground beef patties and cooked at two different temperatures: 400 degrees F for 5 minutes each side and 375 degrees F for 6 minutes each side.

US researchers find way to detect cancers through DNA changes

BEIJING, 19 Feb—US researchers unveiled a new way to detect cancers by identifying the unique changes that occur in the DNA of cancerous cells, AFP reported on Friday.

Researchers at Johns Hopkins University in the US used the cutting-edge DNA sequencing and identified the radical genomic rearrangements that occur only in tumors, not in healthy cells.

The DNA rearrangements that occur in cancerous cells are unique, which makes it easier for scientists to detect them.

The new method to detect the DNA rearrangements was dubbed PARE, for Personalized Analysis of Rearranged Ends, said Victor Velculescu, an associate professor of oncology at Johns Hopkins University and senior author of the study.

PARE could also be used to determine if a patient’s cancer was completely removed by surgery, said the researchers.

Synthesized compounds kill cancer cells

NEW HAVEN, 19 Feb—Yale University scientists say they’ve updated the process for synthesizing a family of compounds with the potential to kill cancer and other diseased cells.

The researchers said the compounds, known as the kinamycins, are naturally produced by bacteria during metabolism and are known for their potent toxicity. For years scientists have guessed a core structure common to the different compounds was responsible for the toxicity, but the core could not be studied because there was no simple way to create it in the laboratory. Now the Yale scientists say they’ve developed a method to recreate the structure that allows them to synthesize the kinamycins with much greater efficiency than previously possible.—INTERNET

Toyota Motor Corp’s newest Prius hybrid car is seen at a test course in Tokyo on 19 Feb, 2010. The head of Toyota Motor Corp will testify to US lawmakers next week after bowing to pressure to pressure to explain the company’s worst ever safety crisis, becoming the highest profile Japanese executive to face such a grilling from Congress.—INTERNET
**SPORTS**

**Vieira set for ban after accepting FA charge**

**LONDON, 19 Feb**— Patrick Vieira is set to be banned for three matches by the Football Association (FA) on Friday after "reluctantly deciding" to accept a violent conduct charge.

The Manchester City midfielder was charged by the FA on Wednesday after appearing to kick Stoke’s Glenn Whelan between the legs during Tuesday’s 1-1 Premier League draw at the Britannia Stadium.

A City statement issued Thursday said: “Patrick Vieira has reluctantly decided not to contest the FA charge of violent conduct.”

Vieira added: “At no time did I intend to injure Glenn Whelan. I apologised to him at the time. My foot did make contact with him but I carried no malice at all toward him.”

France star Vieira, who was making only his second start for City following a January transfer window move from Italian giants Inter Milan, is now set to miss league matches against Liverpool and Chelsea as well as the FA Cup fifth round replay at Stoke.

Tony Pulis, the Stoke manager, was enraged Vieira escaped on-field punishment from referee Alan Wiley. —Internet

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**Emil Hegle Svendsen wins men’s 20 km for Norway**

**WHISTLER, 19 Feb**— Norway’s Emil Hegle Svendsen won men’s 20 kilometers of biathlon Thursday in the 2010 Vancouver Olympics Games.

Svendsen, who previously won a silver medal in the men’s 10 km sprint, finished first in 48 minutes and 22.5 seconds. His compatriot, Ole Einar Bjøndalen, took the silver medal, 9.5 seconds behind Svendsen. —Xinhua

**Maria Riesch wins ladies’ super combined slalom for Germany**

**WHISTLER, 19 Feb**— Germany’s Maria Riesch won on Thursday the title in the ladies’ super combined slalom in the 2010 Vancouver Olympics Games.

Riesch won the gold medal ahead of Julia Mancuso of the United States, who earned her second silver after the ladies’ downhill on Wednesday.

anja Paerson of Sweden occupied the third place, this bronze medal is her sixth Olympic medal.

Favorite of the competition, Lindsey Vonn of the United States, winner of the ladies downhill, didn’t finish the slalom after a crash. —Xinhua

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**Evans Lysacek wins men’s singles figure skating for United States**

**VANCOUVER, 19 Feb**— Evan Lysacek of the United States defeated his arch-rival defending champion Evgeni Plushenko of Russia to win the men’s singles figure skating at the Vancouver Olympic Winter Games Thursday.

Lysacek, who was second after short program, had the title at 257.67 points after free program, the first gold for the United States in the event since Brian Boitano won in 1988 Calgary winter Olympics.

Plushenko, gold medal winner in Torino, who gave a near-perfect performance in free program, had to content with the silver at 256.36. —Xinhua

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**Nebit claims women’s 100m speed skating victory for Canada**

**VANCOUVER, 19 Feb**— Though almost tumbled at the finish line, Christine Nebit claimed the first speed skating gold for the host country when she lifted the women’s 1000 meters trophy at the 21st Winter Olympic Games here on Thursday.

In front of 6529 crazy home fans at the Richmond Olympic Oval, Nebit had a rusty start but surged back in the last 200 meters, winning in one minute 16.56 seconds when she almost tumbled at the finish line.

Ranked No.1 of the event, Nebit said: “I can’t believe it’s the Olympics, it doesn’t feel real. I can’t believe, it was too close for comfort.” —Xinhua

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**Tora Berger wins women’s biathlon 15km for Norway**

**WHISTLER, 19 Feb**— Friday’s Tora Berger won on Thursday the title in the women’s 15 kilometers of biathlon in the 2010 Vancouver Olympics Games.

Berger finished first in 39 minutes 52.8 seconds, 20.7 seconds faster than Elena Kaz Khristulaeva of Kazakhstan, who who the silver.

“It’s so good. Really, I don’t know what to say. It’s really, really good. It’s probably the biggest dream I’ve dreamed about,” said Berger on her feelings about being an Olympic champion.

Berger’s gold is the 100th medal for Norway in the history of Winter Olympics.

Darya Domracheva of Bulgaria came in third with 28.2 seconds behind the champion. —Xinhua

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**Hamburg wins, Berlin ties at Europa League**

**Hamburg SV’s Rued van Nistelrooy controls the ball during their second leg soccer match against PSV Eindhoven in Hamburg on 18 February, 2010.**

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**Sharapova into Memphis semis, Roddick reaches quarters**

Xinhua

**Top seed Maria Sharapova (pictured in January) continued her march through the WTA Tour event in Memphis, reaching the semi-finals with a straight-sets victory over Elena Baltacha, 6-2, 7-5.**

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**Memphis, 19 Feb**— Top seed Maria Sharapova continued her march through the WTA Tour event here, reaching the semi-finals with a straight-sets victory over Elena Baltacha.

Sharapova, ranked 16th in the world, on Thursday defeated her British opponent 6-2, 7-5. She hasn’t dropped a set and has lost only 11 games in three matches in her first tournament since falling in the first round of the Australian Open last month.

It was another story for second-seeded American Melanie Oudin, who fell 6-1, 6-3 to Swedish qualifier Sofia Arvidsson. Arvidsson, ranked 139th, had to hurry from a minor tour event in Midland, Michigan, to play in qualifying and barely made it.

“I didn’t arrive until an hour and a half before my qualifying,” she said. “I almost didn’t make it into the tournament. I’ve been fighting through my matches. It has been unbelievable.”

Sharapova next faces fifth-seeded Czech Petra Kvitova, who rallied to beat third-seeded Estonian Kaia Kanepi 1-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7/0). Arvidsson will face Britain’s Anne Keothavong, a 6-4, 6-3 winner over Croatian Karolina Sprem. —Internet
Tiger Woods to make public apology

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, 19 Feb—Superstar golfer Tiger Woods, whose stunning fall from grace last year captivated the sports world, is set to make a public apology on Friday and speak about his playing future. The world No. 1 has been in hiding since admitting in December he cheated on his wife — his private life having unraveled after a bizarre minor car accident in the middle of the night outside his Florida home the previous month.—Internet

MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (20-2-2010) (Saturday)

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<tr>
<td>North America</td>
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<td>Overseas Transmission</td>
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Local Transmission

* Signature Tune
* Bagan, Our Pride and Glory of the Past
* News
* Romantic Dance of Poe Chit
* Let’s visit the Grand Maungzun Pagoda Festival
* A Souvenir of Pathein
* News
* Traditional Dances of National Races “Victory of Union Day In the New History”
* Living in Paradise
* News
* Record Album “Loving Winter, Khit”
* Mobile Education Activities for Wildlife Conservation
* News
* Exquisite Silver Jewellery
* News
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WEATHER

Friday, 19th February, 2010

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in Kachin, Shan and Chin States, lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, weather has been partly cloudy in Rakhine and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (7°C) below February average temperatures in Kachin State, (3°C) to (4°C) above February average temperatures in Shan and Rakhine States, Mandalay, Bago and Yangon Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above February average temperatures in Kayah and Mon States, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions, and about February average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures was Putao (3°C) and Hakka (5°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded was Haka (0.28) inch. Maximum temperature on 18-2-2010 was 99°F. Minimum temperature on 19-2-2010 was 71°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 19-2-2010 was 73%. Total sun shine hours on 18-2-2010 was (7.6) hours approx. Rainfall on 19-2-2010 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2010 was (Tr) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and (Nil) at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from South at (21:30) hours MST on 18-2-2010. Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 20th February 2010: Like rain are likely to be isolated in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division weather will be partly cloudy in Chin, Shan and Rakhine States and Mandalay Division and fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days:Generally fair weather in the whole country.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 20-2-2010:Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 20-2-2010:Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 20-2-2010:Partly cloudy.

Weather outlook for last weekend of February 2010: During the coming weekend, weather will be partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.
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

Yangon South District grasps development

Yangon, 19 Feb — At the opening ceremony of Thuta Byuha Library in Peinnegon Village of Kawhmu Township yesterday, Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence stressed the need to strive for durability of the library and to open it both day time and evening for broadening the horizon of the people.

Yesterday morning, Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspected progress of Himethaya-Dalla-Twantay Road and construction of earth road linking five villages in Twantay Township.

In Hmamaging Village of Kawhmu Township, Lt-Gen Myint Swe viewed cultivation of summer paddy and visited Basic Education High School branch.

(See page 8)

Health Ministry urges people to follow advice on A(H1N1)

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Feb — Myanmar dailies have carried new influenza A (H1N1) cases broke out in the country. A(H1N1) cases were reported in Tiddim Township, Chin State, in Kyaukme Township, Shan State and in the townships of Bahan, Tamway, Dagon Myoht (North), Dagon Myoht (East), Shwepyitha, Himethaya and Hninby in Yangon Division.

In 2009, there were 69 people infected with the virus and from January 2010 to date, there were 56 infected people. A total of 100 people with flu-like symptoms were hospitalized this year and among them, 24 were discharged. The remaining patients are on the mend and under surveillance as the treatment period has not yet been over. But there have been no death.

Virus control and preventive measures are being taken with added momentum through the cooperation between the central and local authorities. People are to strictly follow the reminders and warnings of the Health Ministry and participate in the preventive measures in order to stop the spread of the disease.

Students may take out identity cards for matriculation exam

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Feb — The students who will take the matriculation examination for 2010 are to take out the identity cards from the supervisors of respective examination centres beginning 25 February. The roll numbers and exam centres will be posted at the respective Township Education Offices on 1 March for the students who will take the exam in the townships of Yangon municipal area.

The students from the Yangon municipal area are to take out the identity cards from the school heads of respective schools. The external students are to take out the identity cards from supervisors of their respective examination centres.