**Four political objectives**

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

**Four economic objectives**

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

**Four social objectives**

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

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**Fields in Magway Division fed with underground water to meet per-acre yield target**

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Feb — Lt-Gen Khin Zaw of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe and officials, visited rice field irrigated with underground water in Yesagyo Township yesterday.

During the inspection tour of Yesagyo Township, Lt-Gen Khin Zaw called for making efforts for meeting the 100 baskets per-acre yield target (See page 8).

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**Special river-water pumping projects in Yangon Division to benefit over 67,000 acres of farmland**

Article by Tin Htwe (MNA); Photos by WRUD

Kyokon river-water pumping station in Htantabin Township. (See page 7)

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Opium, heroin, opium oil, methamphetamine, ephedrine, morphine and stimulant tablets are still posing a grave threat to mankind. Thus, it is incumbent upon the entire national people to join hands with the government in the fight against narcotic drugs.
Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views*
Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

**Active participation in the fight against narcotic drugs**

At present, acts of drug production and trafficking are taking place throughout the world. Stimulants that are produced on the basis of chemicals as well as opium, heroin, opium oil, marijuana, etc. are being used extensively in various countries.

The scourge of stimulants among the global youths is still a major problem. As the youths have easy access to various forms of drugs in different means, educative talks on scourge of drugs are to be conducted on a wider scale.

In Myanmar, the 15-year Drug Elimination Plan (1999-2014) has been laid and is being implemented with added momentum. With the active participation of the government and the people, remarkable progress has been made in that regard.

In the past, a spate of drug trafficking was rampant in the border areas. At present, such problem has been put under control thanks to concerted and well-coordinated efforts of the nation, neighbouring countries and countries in the region.

Meanwhile, with the participation of local people efforts for destroying of poppy plantations grown illegally in some regions, exposing opium and heroin refiners and seizure of drug traffickers are meeting with success.

Opium, heroin, opium oil, methamphetamine, ephedrine, morphine and stimulant tablets are still posing a grave threat to mankind. Thus, it is incumbent upon the entire national people to join hands with the government in the fight against narcotic drugs.
Afghan security officials inspect the bomb attack site in Kabul, Afghanistan, on 1 Feb, 2009. A suicide attack on foreign forces convoy left four people injured in the southern outskirts of the Afghan capital on Sunday morning.

Online

US soldier dies in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 2 Feb—The US military says an American soldier has died of a noncombat-related injury in the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk.

A US statement says the soldier died Saturday but gave no further details.

The latest fatality brings to at least 4,237 the number of US military members who have died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003.

The figure includes eight military civilians killed in action.

At least 3,406 military personnel died as a result of hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

Online

Top nuclear generals say “strategic deterrence” enhanced in information age

BEIJING, 2 Feb—China’s top two nuclear forces generals said that their troops had successfully built up “strategic deterrence” by enhancing capability of intercontinental strike and creating a versatile missile inventory.

General Jing Zhiyuan, commander of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) Second Artillery Corps, the missile force which controls China’s nuclear weapons stockpile, and the forces’ political commissar General Peng Xiaofeng co-authored an article on one of China’s most authoritative publications.

The two generals wrote on the Sunday edition of the semimonthly Quushi (seeking truth) Journal that the Second Artillery has developed itself from nuclear forces to versatile ones that combine both nuclear and conventional missiles.

The Quushi Journal, affiliated to the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, often publishes articles written by ranking Party or government officials and influential scholars.

In the past three decades, General Jing and General Peng wrote, the Second Artillery participated in several major tri-service military exercises which were aimed at reiterating the firm resolve of China to maintain its territorial integrity and guard national security.

Online

Obama calls for more NATO troops in Afghanistan may go unheeded

WASHINGTON, 2 Feb—President Barack Obama has made clear he is countering America’s NATO allies for greater military contributions in Afghanistan. He may be in for a disappointment. Most European leaders have either ruled out sending more troops to buttress the fight against a resurgent Taliban, or talked about increases that number only in the hundreds.

In encountering such reluctance, the US is paying a price for its past errors, says Anthony Cordesman, a military analyst at Washington’s Center for Strategic and International Studies.

“We asked NATO to join us in a peacemaking, post-conflict reconstruction effort when we hadn’t won the war, and let the insurgency grow to where it threatened to take over the country,” Cordesman says. “Now we’re dissatisfied because these countries that signed up for something different aren’t willing to bail us out of our own mistakes.”

With the US preparing to deploy as many as 30,000 additional troops, the result is likely to be a growing Americanization of a military effort that was supposed to mark the North Atlantic Treaty Organization’s first significant out-of-area operation.

The issue will be an early test of Obama’s international leadership.

Online

Conflicts overshadow talks on African Union’s future

ADDIS ABABA, 2 Feb—Only about 20 leaders and influential scholars attended the first day-long session, held entirely behind closed doors for a debate about whether the African Union should evolve into an EU-style system for regional governance.

Libyan leader Moamer Kadafi led the calls for the AU to create a union government that he believes would boost Africa’s international standing, but failed to win many converts among fellow leaders reluctant to relinquish any sovereignty.

In a compromise, the summit agreed to transform the African Union Commission, which currently oversees the body, into an AU Authority that would have a broader mandate. Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete told reporters.

Online

Israel strikes Gaza after militant rocket fire

JERUSALEM, 2 Feb—Israel threatened “harsh and disproportionate” retaliation after Gaza militants fired at least 10 rockets and mortar shells across the border Sunday and warplanes later bombed the area where Hamas smugglers in weapons from Egypt through tunnels.

The flare-up raised the risk of growing violence in the days leading up to Israel’s parliamentary elections on 10 Feb.

Since an unwritten truce ended Israel’s offensive in Gaza two weeks ago, rocket and mortar fire from the Palestinian territory ruled by Hamas has increased steadily. Israeli retaliation, including brief ground incursions and bombings of rocket launchers and smuggling tunnels, is also intensifying.

“If there is shooting at residents of the south, there will be an Israeli response that will be harsh and disproportionate by its nature,” Prime Minister Ehud Olmert told his Cabinet.

Israel launched its three-week offensive with the aim of ending years of Hamas rocket fire at southern Israel. It left nearly 1,300 Palestinians dead, more than half of them civilians, according to Gaza officials.

Thirteen Israelis were killed, including three civilians.

Online

A visitor looks at photos at a photo exhibition marking the 50th anniversary of Cuban revolution, in Moscow, Russia, on 1 Feb, 2009. The exhibition was held especially for the visiting Cuban leader Raul Castro. —Xinhua
Japan’s volcano Asama erupts, sending ash showers

Tokyo, 2 Feb—Japan’s Mt Asama, straddling central Gunma and Nagano prefectures, erupted early on Monday from its summit crater, sending ash showers as far as Tokyo and its vicinity in the southern Kanto region, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

The 2,568-metre volcano, about 145 kilometres from Tokyo, erupted at 1:51 am (0451 GMT) Monday, the meteorological agency said. TV reports showed ashes showering down in neighboring regions.

In the town of Karuizawa in Nagano Prefecture, about 2 millimeters of ash scattered in the area, but local government said it has not received any reports of damage.

The last major eruption of the volcano happened in 2004, causing damage to local crops.

On Sunday, the agency had raised the volcanic eruption alert level for Mt Asama from 2 to 3 on the 5-stage warning scale. Level 3 prohibits people from going on Mt Asama.

Japan has 108 active volcanoes and is one of most seismically busy areas in the world.

36 people die in Mexico due to cold weather

MEXICO CITY, 2 Feb—At least 36 people have died in Mexico in the last four months due to problems related to cold weather, the Mexican Health Ministry (SSA) said in a statement on Sunday.

According to the statement, 22 people died of toxicosis of carbon monoxide as some people burn firewood and charcoal to warm themselves during the cold spell of around minus 5 Celsius degrees which lasted four months in the north of Mexico.

Fourteen others died of hypothermia.

Health authorities recommended that people cover themselves properly to resist the extreme changes of temperature and refrain from taking medicines without consulting the doctor.

Four killed in Russian cafe attack

MOSCOW, 2 Feb—Four people, including a local official, were killed in an attack in Russia’s southern republic of Dagestan, Interfax news agency reported on Sunday.

Unidentified assailant opened fire at the cafe where Kazimbek Akhmedov, head of the administration of Dagestan’s Untuukul district, was hosting a family party on Sunday evening, a local police source was quoted as saying.

Akhmedov, two of his bodyguards and one more guest of the cafe were killed, Interfax said.

Plane makes emergency landing in Delhi

NEW DELHI, 2 Feb—An Indian aircraft of the private airline Indigo made an emergency landing on Sunday evening at the Delhi Indira Gandhi airport, the NDTV reported.

The plane, which was on a scheduled flight from south Indian state Goa to New Delhi, made the landing after its pilot reported to the Air Traffic Control (ATC) that one passenger was misbehaving and creating trouble.

“The pilot said he suspected a hijacker on board and asked for priority landing,” a top airport official said.

Airport officials said a passenger was possibly misbehaving, leading to the pilot’s alert, but they did not rule out it could be a mock security drill.

The aircraft moved to the isolation bay at the Delhi airport after it landed.

Indigo Airlines said that all the passengers and the plane were safe and the passengers were allowed to disembark.

The airport security and Quick response teams have surrounded the aircraft at the isolation bay.

No inter-Palestinian talks if Hamas rejects PLO

CAIRO, 2 Feb—Visiting Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas warned here Sunday that there will be no inter-Palestinian talks unless Hamas accepts the legitimacy of the Fatah-dominated Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO).

Abbas told reporters at a press conference that “we make it clear that...no dialogue with those who rejects the Palestine Liberation Organization,” referring to the rival Hamas movement who took control of the Gaza Strip in a coup in June 2007.

“The organization (PLO) is the only representative of the Palestinians,” he added.

In a speech addressed in Qatar last week, Hamas’ exiled leader Khalid Mashaal advocated a new umbrella body to represent the Palestinians in Gaza, the West Bank and in the Diaspora, calling for “a new political reference for the Palestinian people.”

On the situation of the war-torn Gaza Strip, Abbas held Hamas responsible for provoking the 22-day war which claimed some 1,300 lives and wounded more than 5,500 in the enclave.

Bird flu reemerges in Vietnamese southern province

HANOI, 2 Feb—Bird flu has reemerged in a village in Vietnamese southern Ca Mau Province, Vietnam News reported on Monday, citing source with local agriculture department. According to Su Van Minh, head of the agriculture department of the Tran Van Thoi district in Ca Mau, more than 460 unvaccinated ducks raised on a local farm died last week.

Test of the dead ducks have been found positive for the H5N1 virus, said Minh. The district reported bird flu case last September.

Minh said local veterinary authority has promptly disinfected the surrounding areas of the farm to keep the disease from spreading.

All items from Xinhua News Agency
Hyundai, Kia target China sales

BEIJING, 2 Feb—Hyundai Motor Co and affiliate Kia Motors Corp, South Korea’s biggest carmakers, are targeting record sales in China this year to help them weather the meltdown of auto markets in the US and Europe.

Panasonic expects 3.9-billion-dollar loss

Tokyo, 2 Feb—Japan’s Panasonic Corp expects a net loss of 3.9 billion dollars for this financial year to March due to weak sales and restructuring costs amid the economic crisis, news reports said on Monday.

Panasonic will forecast the annual loss of 350 billion yen, it said.

Panasonic plans to streamline its manufacturing operations and book losses from the falling value of shareholdings and foreign exchange movements, the Mainichi newspaper said.

The company declined to confirm or deny the report, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers.

Hyundai and Kia outperformed the industry average by adding new, smaller models.

“Hyundai and Kia are doing relatively well in China and January sales numbers were promising,” said Kang Sang Min, a Seoul-based analyst at Tong Yang Securities Inc.

“Their strength in emerging markets will help them beat competitors more reliant on matured markets,” added Kang, who rates Hyundai as a “buy”.

June date for Airbus assembled in Tianjin

BEIJING, 2 Feb—Airbus plans to deliver its first Chinese-assembled A320 jet in June as part of its bid to compete with Boeing for orders in the world’s second-largest aviation market.

The jet, completed at the plane maker’s assembly line in Tianjin in north China, will be delivered to Sichuan Airlines through Dragon Aviation Leasing Co after a May test flight.

The Tianjin plant is expected to deliver 11 jets this year and more than 20 jets in 2010. In 2011 it is due to assemble four aircraft a month.

The total value of industrial cooperation between Airbus and the Chinese aviation industry is expected to reach US$200 million a year in 2010 and 450 million US dollars in 2015.

On Saturday, Airbus signed a contract with Chinese partners to establish a joint venture in Harbin in northeast China to manufacture parts for the A350 XWB and the Airbus A320 family.

Manufacturing at the Harbin Hafei Airbus Composite Manufacturing Center Co Ltd will start in September and a new plant should be ready for operation by the end of 2010.

Harbin Aircraft Industry Group will hold a 50 percent stake in the venture and Airbus a 20 percent stake.

Hafei Aviation Industry Co Ltd, Avancha Industry & Technology Co Ltd and Harbin Development Zone Heli Infrastructure Development Co Ltd will each hold a 10 percent stake.

Tokyo police to try smoking ban for interrogations

Tokyo, 2 Feb—Offering suspects a cigarette during police questioning may become a thing of the past if a Tokyo police experiment with a ban on smoking in interrogation rooms works out.

The Tokyo Metropolitan Police will implement the ban on a trial basis from mid-February due to health concerns about second-hand smoke as well as worries that offering cigarettes from a police officer’s own pack may be seen as doing the suspect a favour, Kyodo news agency reported on Monday.

Police are expected to formalise the ban after a three-month trial period, although some officials have expressed concern that requests by suspects to take a smoking break may decrease the level of “tension” during an interrogation, Kyodo added.

A Tokyo Metropolitan Police Agency spokeswoman said she was unable to confirm the report as no announcement had been made.

Japan last year tightened rules for police interrogations, barring officers from touching suspects or grilling them for long hours, following several cases in which the accused were later found to be innocent after having been forced into making confessions.

Tokyo Metropolitan Police

Photo illustration of international television networks covering an event in California. NHK World TV went on air Monday as the latest English-language international news network as Japan joined the race to boost clout overseas by reaching out to viewers.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 3 February, 2009
White House expects digital TV delay until June

WASHINGTON, 2 Feb — The Obama administration said on Friday it expects the US House to approve legislation that would delay until June the planned nationwide transition to digital television.

“We anticipate that the House will pass a delay on DTV until 12 June,” White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said. The transition, which was mandated by Congress, is now scheduled to occur on 17 February.

The US Senate has already approved legislation to delay the transition because of worries that some 20 million mostly poor, elderly and rural households that have older television sets receiving analog signals are not ready for the change.

Al-Qaeda figure surrenders in Algeria

ALGIERS, 2 Feb — A leading member of Al-Qaeda’s North African branch has surrendered to Algerian authorities, several newspapers reported on Sunday, citing security sources.

Abu Ben Touati, said to be a key leader of the Al-Qaeda Organisation in the Land of the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), gave himself up in Yakouren in the Tizi Ouzou region east of the capital Algiers, the El Watan and Algerie News newspapers said.

According to the reports Ben Touati, also known as Abou Tamine, said he was responding to a recent appeal by one of the leading Islamist militants in Algeria, Hassan Hattab.

Hattab called on militants to end their armed campaign in a message earlier this month in which he urged his followers to take advantage of a government amnesty.— Internet

Bomb blast in Colombian city of Cali; four hurt

BOGOTA, 2 Feb — Colombian officials say a car bomb has exploded near a police post in the western city of Cali, injuring at least four people.

Cali security chief Liliana Salamanca says it appears two of those hurt are civilians, and the other two police. Acting Mayor Luis Carlos Botero says that on Sunday night’s blast caused a blackout in the affected neighbourhood.

In an interview with Caracol radio, he said it is too early to speculate who might be behind the bombing.

The bomb went off five blocks from the city’s courthouse, where an 31 Aug bombing killed four people and wounded 26.

Sri Lankan hospital hit by shelling, nine killed

COLOMBO, 2 Feb — Three artillery barrages struck a hospital in Sri Lanka’s chaotic war zone, slamming into its pediatrics ward and its women’s wing and killing nine patients, the Red Cross said on Monday.

Dr Thurairajah Varatharajah, the top government health official in the area, said the shells in at least two of the attacks Sunday appeared to have been fired by the Sri Lankan army.

They caused extensive damage to the overcrowded Puthukkudiiruppu hospital, one of the last functioning health institutions inside rebel-held territory, he said. “We’re at a loss to understand why people would shell a hospital,” said UN spokesman Gordon Weiss, who did not cast blame on either side for the attack.

The three attacks hit a kitchen, a chapel and the women and children’s wing of the hospital, Red Cross spokeswoman Sarasi Wijeratne said on Monday.

The attacks killed nine people and wounded 20 others, she said. The aid agency, which has offices in the hospital, did not say which side fired the shells.

The UN confirmed the hospital was hit several times Sunday by artillery shells throughout the day.

“It seems to have struck the pediatric ward, a 30-bed ward filled to overflowing.”

The last communication that we had from our staff member on the ground was that they were still counting the dead,” Weiss said on Monday.

Military spokesman Brig Udaya Nanayakkara said the army was not responsible for the attacks and blamed the rebels, known formally as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

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Brain chemical blocks weight gain

US medical scientists say they’ve discovered increased levels of a natural brain chemical can block weight gain.

The researchers at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center found mice with increased levels of the chemical orexin don’t gain weight when fed a high-fat diet. The chemical works by increasing the body’s sensitivity to the so-called “weight-loss hormone” leptin, the researchers said.

Professor Masashi Yanagisawa, senior author of the study, said finding a way to boost the orexin system might prove useful as a therapy against obesity.

“Obese people are not deficient in leptin,” Yanagisawa said. “They have tons of leptin floating around. The problem is that their brain isn’t very sensitive to it.”

Problems with a picky eater?

If your child is a picky eater and refuses to eat or try new foods, the University of Maryland Medical Center offers these suggestions:

- Set an example by eating various healthy foods yourself.
- Fix foods that are attractive. Decorate your child’s plate with bright, colorful foods with different consistencies.
- If your child isn’t hungry, don’t force the issue. When children are hungry enough, they will eat.
- Stay away from sugary treats. Instead, offer fresh fruits, vegetables, and whole grains.
- Make healthy eating a tradition. Start early by offering a variety of baby foods when the infant is as young as 6 months.

Hard to detect a woman interested in a man

US researchers expected women to have a leg up in judging romantic interest, but no such edge was found.

When it comes to assessing the romantic playing field — who might be interested in whom — men and women were shown to be equally good at gauging men’s interest during an Indiana University study involving speed dating, and equally bad at judging women’s interest.

“The hardest-to-read women were being misperceived at a much higher rate than the hardest-to-read men,” lead author Skyler Place, a doctoral student at Indiana University said in a statement. “The women were being flirtatious, but it turned out they weren’t interested at all — nobody could really read what these deceptive females were doing, including other women.”

The study involved 28 women and 26 men of college age, who watched video clips of couples interacting on speed dates — meeting a large number of people in one evening of successive brief one-on-one conversations.

The speed dating sessions were all conducted in Germany while the observer ratings were all made by students in Indiana.

Despite the language difference, observers were still able to judge men’s romantic interest accurately.

An official shows journalists around sewage ponds during an official visit at the Qing River Sewage Treatment Plant which supplies water to the Olympic Lake in the Olympic Green area.

A rescue worker walks in front of a police station after an explosion in Cali on 1 Feb, 2009. A bomb exploded outside a police building in the Colombian city of Cali on Sunday, wounding at least four people in a rare urban attack, officials said.

Men look at the haze-shrouded skyline and wounded 26.


**Minister for Information meets ambassador of DPRK**

Yangon, 2 Feb—Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received Ambassador of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea to Myanmar Mr Kim Sok Chol at the Myanmar Radio and Television on Pyay Road here at 3 p.m.

Also present at the call were officials of departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Information. — MNA

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**Special river-water pumping projects in Yangon Division to benefit over 67,000 acres of farmland**

(from page 1)

Yangon Division Water Resource Utilization Department is striving for providing irrigation water through its river-water pumping tasks and special river-water pumping projects.

The river-water pumping tasks of the department and special river-water pumping projects are being implemented in Taikkyi, Htantabin, Hmawby, Hlegu and Thanyin townships in Yangon Division. There are four special river-water pumping projects, 11 river-water pumping tasks and eight pumping projects with the use of diesel totalling 23. There are five special river-water pumping projects under implementation, four river-water pumping tasks and one to be implemented. As there are altogether nine projects and 24 pumping tasks totalling 33.

With a view to providing adequate irrigation water for summer paddy plantations in Yangon Division, the department is working hard to benefit 29,955 acres of land through 23 river-water pumping tasks and projects, to benefit 36,800 acres of land through nine river-water pumping tasks and projects under implementation and to benefit 66,755 acres of land through 32 river-water pumping tasks and projects.

The projects in Taikkyi township are Aingkalaung special river-water pumping projects (including Alabok river-water pumping task), Thabyaytan special river-water pumping projects (including Tawlati river-water pumping task), Zigon river-water pumping task, Minhlawa river-water pumping task under implementation and Hsinchan river-water pumping task to be implemented. The projects in Htantabin township are Yeboththaung and Kyong special river-water pumping projects, Lamutan and Kyunngu river-water pumping tasks and Gwaytanshe special river-pumping project and Asugyi and Alainle river-water pumping tasks. Those in Hmawby township include Myaungdaik, river-water pumping task and Kankalay special project under implementation. In addition, there are many river-water pumping tasks and special projects in Mingaladon and Thanyin townships.

Since 1995, Yangon Division Water Resource Utilization Department has been implementing river-water pumping tasks with the use of diesel and it is now implementing the tasks with the use of electricity. It has been learnt that eight remaining river-water pumping tasks are to include in special river-water pumping projects.

With the aim of saving power and providing irrigation water regularly, river-water pumping tasks are being undertaken by means of biomass gasifier engine pump set, which is cost-effective and can ensure more income for farmers and reduce air pollution. The motto ‘Food Security the Challenges of Climate Change and Bio Energy’ was adopted on World Food Day which fell on 16 October, 2008. Production of bio-energy from oil palm can harm food security. But production of bio-energy from rice husk can not only solve energy problem but also ensure food security. In this connection, the world is trying to produce bio-energy by undertaking river-water pumping projects, tapping underground water and using natural waste in order to face and address the challenges.

Overall, the river-water pumping projects being implemented by Yangon Division Water Resource Utilization Department are gaining momentum and upon completion, they will benefit Yangon 30-mile radius greening project that facilitates Working Group on Environment and summer paddy fields that assist Working Group on Agriculture.

Translation: ST
Myanmar Alin: 31-1-2009

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Ngwe Nantha river-water pumping station in Hlegu Township through which irrigation water will be provided for farmlands.

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Sipin river-water pumping station in Hlegu Township.
Fields in Magway Division

fed with underground...

(from page 1)

in the township which sets its target of 150,000 acres of rice in the summer. Husk-powered engines have pumped water from 761 tube-wells in the township to irrigate 2,200 acres of paddy plantation in the summer.

Lt-Gen Khin Zaw also instructed officials concerned to generate power with the use of husk-powered engines to supply to the villages in the township.

During the tour of Yezagyo Township, Lt-Gen Khin Zaw viewed sample paddy strains of Myanmar and Shwe Thwayin Village.

After that, he visited the Pekon Village and Panyin Village and inspected thriving paddy fields and broadcasting of natural fertilizers and weeding at the paddy field. Moreover, he viewed operating of husk-powered generators which have been used in the villages to pump underground water from tube-wells to irrigate paddy fields.

The Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council reported on cultivation of paddy with the use of underground water.

In the afternoon, Lt-Gen Khin Zaw went to Ponnyataung tunnel construction project where officials concerned of Myanmar Railways reported to him on progress of construction of Kyaw-Yemyatnyi railway tunnel and Ponnyataung tunnel. On his tour, Lt-Gen Khin Zaw inspected the Ponnyataung Tunnel and called for taking measures for maintenance of the tunnel.

At the hall located near the junction of Hlin-Gangaw Roads, Lt-Gen Khin Zaw held a meeting with officials of Road Construction Special Group 11. The Superintending Engineer and officials reported to him on progress of construction of Myaing-Tawma-Gangaw Road.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Zaw gave necessary instructions and fulfilled the requirements. The road will be 106 miles and two furlongs long. Upon completion of Myaing-Tawma-Gangaw Road, the commodity flow in the region will be speeded up and the region will see the development.

Information Minister attends prize presentation (2008) Literary Award

YANGON, 2 Feb—The third prize presentation ceremony of Tun Foundation (2008) Literary Award was held at the hall of Myanmar Banks Association on Sibin Road in Yanjink Township this morning, attended by Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, First, Chairman of Tun Foundation Bank U Thein Tun extended greetings, and Chairman of the Tun Foundation Literary Committee retired ambassador U Thet Tun explained the tasks of the committee and future plans.

Secretary of the Tun Foundation Literary Award Scrutiny Committee U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin) submitted the reports on briefed remarks on the manuscript awards.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presented awards for health and fitness award to Dr Daw Myint Myint Khin, Dr U Kyaw Lwin and Dr U Khin Maung Chit.

Next, the chairman of Tun Foundation Bank, the chairman of the Tun Foundation Literary Committee and members, members of the BOD and patrons of the literary committee presented prizes to 16 award winners in the 10 genres.

Later, Chairman U Thein Tun gave away gifts for the literary committee to U Myint Kywe (Maung Myint Kywe).

Central banking course concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Feb—Organized by Central Bank of Myanmar under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue, a concluding ceremony of Central Banking Course 1/2009 (officer level) was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue, here this morning, with a speech by Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun.

Also present were Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe, Governor of the Central Bank of the Myanmar U Than Nyein, departmental heads, responsible persons and trainees.

According to the agenda, the Minister made a speech and presented awards to outstanding trainees.

Then, on behalf of the trainees, the leader of the trainees spoke words of thanks.

A total of 31 trainees attended the four-week course and learnt banking services, law, rules and regulations.

Vice-Mayor looks into regional developments

YANGON, 2 Feb—Vice-chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-mayor Col Maung Pa inspected construction site Chaungwawailay creek crossing concrete bridge linking Seikkyi/Khaunagto Township and Kyimyindaung Township today. The bridge is 140 ft long and 28 ft wide.

Vice-mayor also looked into No.1 BEMS in U Tun Bo Ward.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and Tun Foundation (2008) Literary Award winners pose for documentary photo.

Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun awards an outstanding trainee of Central Banking Course 1/2009 (officer level).

Mayor inspects roadwork in Tamway Township

YANGON, 2 Feb—Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen U Aung Thein Lin inspected the upgrading of East Horse Racing Road in Tamway Township today.

Talks on Customer Relationship Management on 5 Feb

YANGON, 2 Feb—Under the arrangements of the Myanmar Hoteliers Association and sponsorships of Silver view Resort (Ngwe Saung Beach) and Shwe Inn Tha Floating Resort (Inn Bay), U Aye Kyaw (MHR) will give talks on Customer Relationship Management at Yuzana Hotel in Bahan Township at 4 p.m. on 5 February. Executives and members of the association may attend the talks. The association will conduct the talks every Thursday of the first week of month.
Transport Minister attends ceremony
to honour award winner of IMO

YANGON, 2 Feb—Department of Marine Administration under Ministry of Transport conducted a ceremony to honour Captain Kyaw Thet Aung who was presented Certificate in Recognition of Meritorious Service by International Maritime Organization in a ceremony to present IMO Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea for 2008 at Inya Lake Hotel yesterday evening, attended by Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe.

U Maung Maung Oo, Director-General of Department of Marine Administration explained facts about the award of IMO. Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe handed over Certificate in recognition of meritorious service to Captain Kyaw Thet Aung and Deputy Minister Col Nyan Tun Aung also presented certificate of honour to him.

Next, Myanmar Overseas Seafarer Association presented gifts to Captain Kyaw Thet Aung. The certificate presented by IMO is internationally recognized certificate presented to those who selflessly saved the lives of victims in the ocean and effectively prevented threats against ocean and its biodiversity. While discharging duty on MV ANL Warringa ship, Captain Kyaw Thet Aung managed to rescue the lives of 15 shipwrecked sailors from MV Fitria Persada sunk during terrible weather in February 2008.

The award presenting ceremony for 2008 organized by IMO took place at the hall in which the 85th meeting of Maritime Safety Committee was held in London, England, on 1 December 2008.

The ceremony was attended by representatives from 104 countries and over 700 guests from respective maritime organizations and certificates were presented by Mr. Mitropolous, secretary-general of IMO. As Captain Kyaw Thet Aung could not attend the ceremony, representative of Myanmar, deputy director-general of Department of Marine Administration Captain U Thet Htay received the certificate on behalf of Captain Kyaw Thet Aung.—MNA

New school building handed over in Pyapon

YANGON, 2 Feb—A ceremony to hand over the new building of Basic Education Primary School was held in Acharlay Village of Pyapon Township, Ayeyawady Division, on 30 January.

Director U Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Assistant Township Education Officer U Toe Win and the wellwisher from Myanmar Fritz Warner Industry formally opened the building.

The wellwisher handed over the documents related to the Assistant Township Education Officer. Next, the wellwisher presented school uniforms, school bags and stationery worth K 4 million for 304 students to the Assistant Headmistress.

The new school building is 110 feet long and 30 feet wide. With the participation of Myanmar Network Activity Group (NAG), Gracious MyanmarTour (GMT) and Myanmar Egress, the wellwisher spent K 36 million on the school building constructed by Kyae Phyoo Kyaw Co. MNA

Deputy Health Minister inspects Medical Teaching Centre

YANGON, 2 Feb—Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe went to Medical Teaching Centre of Medical Science Department in University of Medicine-1 here on 1 February and looked into tasks being undertaken together with rectors, deputy director-general and directors.

The minister observed the teaching aid CDs for undergraduate and postgraduate medical students and gave instructions on lectures. He also inspected the studio of the Medical Teaching Centre.—MNA

Special Appellate Bench delivers judgment for civil and criminal cases

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Feb—The Special Appellate Bench comprising Deputy Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (Mandalay) U Khin Maung Latt, Supreme Court Judges of the Supreme Court (Mandalay) U Sein Hlaing and U Thet Tun delivered judgment in criminal appeal case and four special civil appeal cases, and then heard five special civil appeal cases under section 7 of the Judiciary Law, 2000, on 2 February 2009.—MNA

A wellwisher of Myanmar Fritz Warner Industry presents uniforms, bags and stationery to school children through a teacher. —NLM
Commander inspects irrigated field, river water pumping stations

YANGON, 2 Feb—Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint inspected irrigated fields in Hmawby and Taikkyi townships yesterday.

During the visit to Myochaung Village in Hmawby Township, the commander viewed ploughing to grow rice on the model irrigated field in the village.

Afterwards, the commander visited Kankalay River Water Pumping Station. He also visited Gyogon River Water Pumping Station in Htantabin Township, Yaypawthaung, Minhlawa, Thabyaytan, Tawlati, Alabok and Aingkalaung river water pumping stations.

The commander viewed thriving groundnut cultivation, paddy field and sunflower cultivation in Taikkyi Township and met with local farmers.

The commander also inspected construction of three-storey building for Technological University in Hmawby.

Today, he met athletes representing Yangon Command to participate in the Defence Services Commander-in-Chief’s Shield men’s and women’s volleyball tournaments at the command headquarters.

Urban and rural people enjoy benefits from biogas fuel

Article & photos: Ko Gyi Tha

Urban and rural people enjoy benefits from biogas fuel

Both urban and rural areas are facing fuel problems. In that regard, I assume our country’s fuel problem is also our concern. I built this biogas unit to help solve the fuel problem.

When asked about his purpose of the biogas unit, he said, “My aim is to make this process popular in urban areas in addition to rural ones. To build a biogas unit, we need a space of about 17 feet.

“We can build one in any type of ground. It is better if the space is not a wet area. Firstly, we dig a six and a half feet high and 10 feet wide hole in the ground. The hole must have a small tank to keep natural waste on one side and a small tank of bio-solution on the other side. We have to lay concrete on the floor of the unit, and then we have to build a tank of raw materials. The cover of the unit must be level with the ground. So, it does not take any space. We can use a biogas unit safely for 20 to 30 years. It takes a week to 10 days to build a unit.”

Regarding the benefits of using a biogas unit, he said, “Main raw materials to produce biogas are waste of cattle, horse, goat and pig, rubbish, leaves and leaf humus. It is better if raw materials are wet. We can use a particular type of material or a mixture of various kinds of raw materials.

“The meter box indicates the size of biogas in the unit. It can generate about 80 watts of electricity. If it is used, a housewife does not need to get electric power, firewood and charcoal. The use of biogas can prevent deforestation, and it saves some money on our expenses. Users can get many benefits from the use of biogas, so I will have to relay this method to others.”

Therefore, the people should use biogas on the wider scale for many benefits in our daily life.

Translation: MS Kyemon: 1-2-2009

Some cold season crop patches grown with the use of bio-solution.

Steel biogas digester to be kept inside a biogas unit.
**The picture taken on 2 Feb, 2009 shows a golden tea ceremony room and a golden tea set on display at a gold exhibition in Tokyo, Japan. The room, which is 2.7-metre-long, 2.55-metre-wide and 2.5-metre-high, is the replica of a golden tea ceremony room built by Hideo Yoshio Toyotomi in 1587. The golden room and the golden tea set are to be sold in a price of around $3.9 million.—INTERNET**

**Milk producer to lower prices in Malaysia to help fight economic crisis**

KUALA LUMPUR, 2 Feb—Dutch Lady Milk Industries Berhad (Dutch Lady Malaysia) is expected to lower the prices of its dairy products in Malaysia to help consumers to cope with the current economic crisis.

To that end, the Dutch Lady will launch a two-month price reduction campaign, in which the retail prices of its dairy products might be reduced by six to 13 percent, a source close to the company said here on Monday.

The company also planned to flatter customers with attractive prizes, and etc., according to the source. The milk product maker is expected to announce the details of the reduction later this week.—INTERNET

**London stock market continues to fall by midday**

LONDON, 2 Feb—The London Stock market continued to fall by midday on Monday, dragged down by banking shares.

By 12:06 GMT the FTSE 100 index was down 67.04 points at 4,082.6 points.

Shares in Barclays sank nearly 12 percent while other banks also dropped with HSBC and RBS both down 5.5 percent.

Among the few risers, Mining group Rio Tinto climbed 5.9 percent.—INTERNET

**Police: Filipino-Chinese trader kidnapped in S Philippines**

COTABATO (Philippines), 2 Feb—A Filipino-Chinese trader was kidnapped by gunmen Monday afternoon in the restive southern Philippine province of Sultan Kudarat, the police said.

Diokhing Que, in his 60s, was on his way home from his store at the public market of Jolo Island when kidnapped by four armed men believed to be members of the Abu Sayyaf group in the village of Kakyangan, regional police commander Chief Superintendent Benzali Jabarani told a Xinhua reporter by phone. “He (Que) is a Filipino Chinese engaged in small business. The kidnappers thought that he is rich but he’s not,” Jabarani said.

The police official said Que is married to a Filipina Tausug and has long been residing in the island, a known stronghold of Abu Sayyaf. Abu Sayyaf gunmen are also holding three workers of the International Committee of the Red Cross they kidnapped early this month in the Island of Sulu.—INTERNET

**Indian immigrant set on fire in Italy**

ROME, 2 Feb—Italian police have arrested three young men for allegedly beating and setting on fire an Indian immigrant in a town near Rome.

The attack has sparked outrage in Italy and fueled a debate on its attitude toward immigrants.

Carabinieri police said Monday that the 35-year-old Indian was attacked while sleeping on a bench in Nettuno, a town 50 miles (80 kilometers) south of Rome.

Police said the three poured gasoline on the man, then set him on fire early Sunday.

Italian news reports say the man is hospitalized with severe burns but that his life is not in danger.

Police say the three suspects include a 16-year-old. Premier Silvio Berlusconi’s government has been cracking down on immigration in Italy, which many citizens link to crime.—INTERNET

**Appeal filed in case of Nazi war-criminal suspect**

BERLIN, 2 Feb—A German prosecutor said Monday he has appealed a court ruling that a Nazi war-criminal suspect is too ill to stand trial. Dortmund Prosecutor Ulrich Maass said he asked a state court in Cologne to review the medical dismissal of attempts to try 87-year-old Heinrich Boere for the wartime killings of three Dutch civilians in the Netherlands.

Maass said he will argue that despite Boere’s old age and poor health, he should be made to answer for his crimes. “We have to try. This is the last chance that I have,” Maass said. He brought murder charges against Boere in April for the World War II killings of three men in the Netherlands when he was a member of a Waffen SS death squad that targeted civilians in reprisal killings for resistance attacks.

Boere fled to Germany after the war and was sentenced to death in absentia by a Dutch court in 1949. The sentence was later commuted to life imprisonment, but German courts have blocked attempts to extradite him or enforce the verdict here.

Recently, Boere was No. 6 on the Wiesenthal Center’s list of most-wanted suspected Nazi war criminals. Maass reopened the case with his own investigation in 2006. In January, an Aachen state court said Boere was too ill to stand trial, citing a thorough two-day medical exam.—INTERNET

**People walk past a car damaged by a tornado in Malaga, southern Spain on 2 Feb, 2009.**

**Japanese Self Defence Force personnel put the finishing touches on giant statues of Disney characters, Goofy, Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse and Donald Duck in preparation for the 60th Sapporo Snow Festival, starting on 5 Feb, in Sapporo, northern Japan, on 2 Feb, 2009.**

**A black cab is covered in snow at a side street in London on 2 Feb, 2009. Roads, airports and schools were forced to close, buses and underground train services suspended, extreme weather warnings issued as the record-breaking snow hit much of Britain early Monday, it is believed to be the worst-ever snowfall in southeastern England since 1991.**

**The 60th Sapporo Snow Festival, starting on 5 Feb, in Sapporo, northern Japan, on 2 Feb, 2009.**

**The milk product maker is expected to announce the details of the reduction later this week.**

**The police official said Que is married to a Filipina Tausug and has long been residing in the island, a known stronghold of Abu Sayyaf.**

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MARE BALTICUM VOY NO (+)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MARE BALTICUM VOY NO (+) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.2.2009 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 up 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 BLPL LOGISTICS PTE LTD

Phone No: 256908/3738316/376797

CLAMS DAY NOTICE

MV GATI PRIDE VOY NO (2009)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GATI PRIDE VOY NO (2009) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 31.1.2009 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 up 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.

WEIGHT-LOSS SURGERY SIDE EFFECTS

WASHINGTON, 2 Feb.—Long-term complications from weight-loss surgery deserve more attention because the number of US procedures is booming, advocates say.

Even as stomach-shrinking, or bariatric, surgery has become a standard of care for those with weight-related health issues, no one is yet sure why some bariatric patients fare better than others, or why some even face disastrous side effects, McClatchy Newspapers reported Sunday.—Internet

GlaxoSmithKline to cut 6,000 jobs

LONDON, 2 Feb.—Drugs company GlaxoSmithKline is set to announce about 6,000 job losses when it posts results on Thursday, the Sunday Telegraph said.

The cuts by Glaxo, the world’s second largest drugs company after US group Pfizer, are part of Chief Executive Andrew Witty’s strategy to meet the challenges facing the industry, including increased competition from generic drug makers, the newspaper said.

The company, which employs about 100,000 people including 18,000 in the UK, has failed to get as many new drugs to market as it had hoped when it was created via a merger eight years ago. Witty has tried to shift Glaxo’s centre of gravity away from blockbuster prescription drugs, like top-seller Advair for asthma, and towards non-prescription consumer healthcare products.

Internet
New tool predicts women’s outcome in breast cancer

WASHINGTON, 2 Feb—Evaluating how various proteins interact in tumors can help predict a woman’s chances of surviving breast cancer, allowing doctors to better tailor treatment, Canadian researchers said on Sunday.

Knowing from the outset that a particular woman’s prognosis is bad could allow doctors to give her aggressive treatment right away, but often it is difficult to know which breast cancer patients will do well and which will not. The researchers analyzed networks of proteins — chemical compounds vital in cellular processes — in breast cancer tissue from about 350 women in the United States and Europe.

They found that women who survived the disease had a different organization of the network of proteins within the cancer cells than those who died. Writing in the journal Nature Biotechnology, they said tracking these protein interactions enabled them to accurately predict in 82 percent of patients whether their breast cancer would kill them or not.

“We approached cancer as a problem in how proteins communicate with each other — or how proteins interact with each other in networks,” Jeff Wrana of Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto, who led the study, said in a telephone interview. “It could help to direct the appropriate therapies for individual patients.”

Researchers at Stanford University School of Medicine have identified a protein critical for the growth of pancreatic tumors in humans.

Researchers see no autism-vaccine link

PHILADELPHIA, 2 Feb — US researchers have published a review summarizing the many studies refuting the claim of a link between vaccines and autism.

The review, published online ahead of the 15 Feb print issue of Clinical Infectious Diseases, examined three main hypotheses and showed how epidemiological and biological studies shut down these claims. "When one hypothesis of how vaccines cause autism is refuted, another invariably springs up to take its place," Dr Paul Offit of Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, co-author of the review, said in a statement.

The review said the controversy began after a 1998 study published in The Lancet suggested a link between the combination measles-mumps-rubella vaccine and autism. —Internet

Scientists produce smallest-ever printing

PALO ALTO, 2 Feb — California researchers say they have broken a key barrier in the realm of small writing, engraving letters that are sub-atomic in size.

Two Stanford University physicists have succeeded in writing two letters — an “S” and a “U” — in honor of their employer — small enough that if used to print out the 32-volume set of Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2,000 times, the contents would fit on the head of a pin, the San Jose Mercury News reported Sunday.

Google sends the wrong message

SAN FRANCISCO, 2 Feb — Google said that for nearly an hour on Saturday, users got an erroneous message when they did searches on many sites, saying, “This site may harm your computer.” The problem began at 6:30 am (2:30 pm British time) and ended 55 minutes later.

“What happened? Very simply, human error,” the company said on its blog. Google said it flags search results with the message when a site is known to contain malicious software. Instead, many other sites were affected. A detailed explanation is available at the company’s site, googleblog.blogspot.com. —Internet

Australian bushfire threat falls with record temperatures

MELBOURNE, 2 Jan— Stricken residents of southeast Australia began returning to their charred homes Monday after bushfires set by arsonists and fuelled by record temperatures reduced 29 houses to ruins.

Cooler temperatures brought desperately needed relief from the worst heatwave in a century that fanned fires, paralysed electricity and rail grids and claimed up to 35 lives.

The heatwave even crippled a brand new 100-million-dollar (63-million-US) Ferris wheel in the country’s second largest city, Melbourne, when three days of soaring temperatures buckled braces on the ride, its operators said.

“It’s just seeing it so black, there’s nothing left,” said tearful Helen Morrison as she picked through a mangled pile of corrugated iron and ash that had been her home in the town of Boolarra, northeast of Melbourne.

“How could they do something like this?” she asked after authorities said they were hunting arsonists who are believed to have set the blaze that burned out of control from Thursday until Sunday.—Internet

A radiologist examines breast X-rays after a cancer prevention medical check-up at the Ambroise Pare hospital in Marseille, southern France. —INTERNET

Stanford study prevents pancreatic tumor growth in mice by inhibiting key protein

WASHINGTON, 2 Feb — Researchers at Stanford University School of Medicine have identified a protein critical for the growth of pancreatic cancer. Blocking the expression of the protein slowed or prevented tumor growth in mice and made cultured cancer cells vulnerable to the conditions of low oxygen that occur in solid tumors.

“This research clearly shows that inhibiting the protein inhibits the tumor’s ability to grow,” said cancer biologist Amato Giaccia. “Ultimately, we’d like to be able to specifically knock out the expression of this protein in pancreatic tumors in humans.”

Pancreatic cancer is a highly aggressive and deadly disease that accounts for more than 30,000 deaths in the United States annually, and current therapies are largely ineffective.

“Right now, we have very little to offer these patients,” said Giaccia. He is the senior author of the research, which was published on Sunday in the journal Cancer Research.

Giaccia is also a member of the Stanford Cancer Center.

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The review said the controversy began after a 1998 study published in The Lancet suggested a link between the combination measles-mumps-rubella vaccine and autism. —Internet

Five die of dengue, thousands ill in Bolivia

LA PAZ, 2 Feb — About 7,250 confirmed and likely cases of dengue fever have been logged in Bolivia in 2009 with five deaths blamed on the illness, an official said on Sunday.

Health Minister Ramiro Tapia told state television the government increased the budget for fighting dengue to $1.2 million, with about half going to the city of Santa Cruz, the Latin American Herald Tribune reported.

"Now we are going to have the resources to fight dengue more effectively," he said. "Tapia said his ministry intends to start a national cleanliness campaign going to the city of Santa Cruz, the Latin American Herald Tribune reported.

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A police officer receives medical care by a fire-fighter after falling about eight metres from a grandstand after it collapsed at a local league soccer game in Defensores del Chaco stadium, Asuncion, Uruguay on 1 Feb, 2009. The stadium closed for a month after two policemen died and five were injured in the accident. —INTERNET
Serena Williams has warned rivals she is ready to dominate women’s tennis again after her crushing Australian Open win over Dinara Safina — provided she can stay focused.

“Serena Williams has warned rivals she is ready to dominate women’s tennis again — provided she can stay focused.”

Internet

Supersub Messi fires 5,000-goal Barcelona to comeback victory

MADRID, 2 Feb — Supersub Lionel Messi scored twice as nine-man Barcelona, with their 5,000th Spanish league goal, came from behind to beat Racing Santander 2-1 and move 12 points clear of Real Madrid on Sunday.

Supersub Messi fires 5,000-goal Barcelona to comeback victory

A Nikola Zigic penalty had put Racing in front on 56 minutes before Messi changed the game, equalising just five minutes after coming on before scoring an 81st minute winner. Messi’s personal goals tally for the season is now 16 while Barcelona, unbeaten in 20 games, recorded a ninth straight league win.

Buenos Aires, 2 Feb — Inter Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti has included David Beckham in the former Italian champions’ UEFA Cup squad even though his current loan from Los Angeles Galaxy ends on 9 March.

Saint-Etienne’s defender Yoann Benalouane (L) clashes with Lyon’s midfielder Juninho during their French L1 football match at the Gerland stadium in Lyon. — Internet

French league in table-topping shake-up

PARIS, 2 Feb — A shake-up at the top of the French league this weekend saw reigning champions Lyon retain top spot, but five points separate the top six spelling a European qualification dogfight if the situation lasts.

A Juninho freekick equaliser for Lyon cancelled out Kevin Mirallas’ opener for St Etienne in a 1-1 draw in Sunday’s late match though Paris Saint Germain were the major winners of the weekend. Paul Le Guen’s PSG beat Caen 2-0 to jump three places to third as they were the only team in the top six to win, boosting morale before a new club president is due to be named in the next few days. — Internet

Beckham named in AC Milan’s UEFA Cup squad

ROME, 2 Feb — AC Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti has included David Beckham in the former Italian champions’ UEFA Cup squad even though his current loan from Los Angeles Galaxy ends on 9 March.

“We have included him because he is playing well,” Ancelotti told Sky. Milan are desperate to keep the 33-year-old England midfielder, who set up two goals in Sunday’s 3-0 win at Lazio, but Galaxy have said he must return in March. If Beckham leaves in early March, he would be able to play in the away and home legs only of the last 32 tie against Werder Bremen on 18 Feb and 26 Feb.

Sanchez named in UEFA Cup squad

David Beckham has been named in AC Milan’s UEFA Cup squad for their last-16 tie against Sporting Lisbon in Lisbon. — Internet

Perry beats Hoffman in FBR Open playoff

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz., 2 Feb — After the first two playoff holes, neither Kenny Perry nor Charley Hoffman looked capable of winning the FBR Open. They were 1 over, and it looked as if they might have to play until dark.

“The playoff was ugly,” Perry said. “We were hitting it everywhere, having to scramble from all over the place.” Perry finally finished off Hoffman, making a 22-foot birdie putt on the third extra hole Sunday at TPC Scottsdale.

French international defender Sagnol quits

PARIS, 2 Feb — French international defender Willy Sagnol on Sunday announced his retirement from football after failing to recover from an Achilles tendon injury he suffered at Euro 2008.

“The evidence is there — it’s an injury which won’t heal. Surgery is not possible. The only solution is to stop,” said the 31-year-old Bayern Munich player who hadn’t played at all this season.

Sagnol was part of the French team which finished runners-up to Italy at the 2006 World Cup.
Eight killed by grenade attack in N-E Thailand

BANGKOK, 2 Feb—Eight people were killed and 97 were injured in a grenade attack in Sri Bunruang district of Nong Bua Lamphu province in Northeast of Thailand, local police said on Sunday. The explosion happened at an concert held for merit making at Sirimongkol Temple at 11 pm (0400 GMT) on Saturday night.

During the concert, two groups of teenagers were having a brawl in front of the concert stage and then the explosion occurred, police Colonel Thammajak Kongmongkol, police station’s chief of Sri Bunruang district told Xinhua.

“Two male suspects were arrested and they confessed of hurling a grenade at their rivals,” police Colonel told Xinhua who added that the offenders would be prosecuted for having an intention to kill people.

Forty injured people out of 97 were admitted to the Nong Bua Lamphu hospital.

MNA/Xinhua
UNSG’s special advisor meets with ministers, responsible persons of political parties; observes reconstruction of storm-hit areas in Ayeyawady Division

NAY PYI TOW, 2 Feb—Special Advisor to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Mr Ibrahim Agboola Gambari today met with Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha at 8.35 a.m; Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo at 10.25 a.m; Joint General Secretary of National Unity Party U Khan Maung Gyi and party at 11.25 a.m; and Secretary of Shan Nationalities League for Democracy U Sai Saw Aung and party at 11.45 a.m. at Seinle Kantha State House in Yangon separately.

In the afternoon, Mr Gambari went to Ayeyawady Division by helicopter together with Chairman of the Tripartite Core Group Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu and officials concerned and viewed the reconstruction works in Bogale, and Hlinepone Model Village of Labutta Township.

The government is playing a leading role in introducing use of bio-fuel to rural areas on a large scale. A demonstration of extraction of biogas from natural waste took place at the Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory (Yangon) on 26 October 2008. On the occasion, Prime Minister General Thein Sein spoke of the need to build digester in every village by convincing the households that they can do the cooking and light storm-lanterns with the use of bio-fuel derived from animal waste of five or six heads of cattle, to get the rural people to use bio-fuel extensively for improvement of their living conditions and the remaining bio fertilizers and bio solution for the growing of crops and to conduct multiplier courses on installation and use of bio-fuel boilers.

In compliance with the instructions of the Prime Minister, biogas fuel is used widely in rural areas.

DNA component can stimulate and suppress immune response

SCIENCE DAILY, 2 Feb— A component of DNA that can both stimulate and suppress the immune system, depending on the dosage, may hold hope for treating cancer and infection, Medical College of Georgia researchers say.

Low levels of CpG increase inflammation, part of the body’s way of eliminating invaders. But high doses block inflammation by increasing expression of the enzyme indoleamine 2,3 dioxygenase, or IDO, an immunosuppressor, the researchers say.

Internet

Single gene lets bacteria jump from host to host

SCIENCE DAILY, 2 Feb — All life — plants, animals, people — depends on peaceful coexistence with a swarm of microbial life that performs vital services from helping to convert food to energy to protection from disease. Now, with the help of a squid that uses a luminescent bacterium to create a predator-fooling light organ and a fish that uses a different strain of the same species of bacteria like a flashlight to illuminate the dark nooks of the reefs where it lives, scientists have found that gaining a single gene is enough for the microbe to switch host animals.

Internet

Keeping informed that a local has a biogas unit for the cooking and electric power on Shwedaunggya Street in Bahan Township, Yangon, I made a tour of the house recently.

In an interview, U Tin Shwe of Ayeyeik Gabar compound at 19/A on Shwedaunggya Street told the Kyemon, “Now, many countries are facing fuel problems, and so is our country. I have learnt that the government is seeking ways of generating alternative fuel to solve... (See page 10)