Living in harmony and unison since recorded history

Since recorded history, various national races such as Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan have been living in the motherland in harmony and unison sharing joys and sorrows.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
(From message sent to 60th Anniversary Union Day)
Further strengthen bilateral cooperation between Myanmar and India

Myanmar has maintained friendly relations with neighbours and countries in the region. The exchange of visits between leaders of Myanmar and leaders of neighbouring countries has been frequent in order to further strengthen friendly ties and bilateral cooperation.

At the invitation of Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, a delegation led by Vice-President of the Republic of India Shri M. Hamid Ansari and wife Shrimati Salma Ansari arrived in the Union of Myanmar on 5 February.

Myanmar and the Republic of India have maintained friendly relations based on a spirit of good neighbourliness. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye paid a goodwill visit to the Republic of India from 2 to 6 April 2008 and discussed matters related to boosting cooperation in transport, trade and economic sectors.

During his visit to Myanmar, Vice-President of the Republic of India Shri M. Hamid Ansari met with Vice-Chairman of the SPDC Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and discussed matters on bilateral cooperation.

During the Indian Vice-President’s visit, the Exchange of Instrument of Ratification on Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection, MoU on Setting up of English Language Learning Centre in Yangon with the assistance of India and MoU on Setting up of the Industrial Training Centre in Pakokku were signed.

Therefore, we firmly believe that the goodwill visit of Vice-President of the Republic of India Shri M. Hamid Ansari to the Union of Myanmar has not only helped further strengthen the existing friendly ties between Myanmar and the Republic of India but also boost the bilateral cooperation.

An introducing ceremony of new products of NIBBAN Electric & Electronics in progress. — MNA

NAV PYI TAW, 6 Feb—Lt-Gen Khin Zaw of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Chin State Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Hong Ngai and officials, inspected learning of students and enviroms of the Institute at the Haka Government Technical Institute on 4 February.

And Lt-Gen Khin Zaw and party also inspected tea plantations in 4 ½ mile region tea plantation.

In the afternoon, Lt-Gen Khin Zaw and party inspected learning of students and new school building at Runthalo village Basic Education High School (Branch) in Falam Township.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Zaw presented cash assistance to new school building.

Lt-Gen Khin Zaw inspected thriving tea plantations of Runkalaung model tea plantation and made donation to the hospital.

Lt-Gen Khin Zaw met with District level departmental officials, social organizations, townswelders and local people at Thazin Ward of Nurses Training School and donated traditional medicines, clothes, blankets and cash.

NIBBAN Electric & Electronics introduces new products

Yangon, 6 Feb—An introducing ceremony of new products of NIBBAN Electric & Electronics in conjunction with honouring of the agents, was held at Western Park Royal Restaurant, here, yesterday evening.

Chairman of NIBBAN Group U Thein Kyi greeted those present.

Executive Director Dr. Aung Thein of NIBBAN Electric & Electronics explained facts related to NIBBAN products and presented gifts to highest sales agents for 2008.

It now distributes new products—Colour TVs, new models TV Antenna, DVD Player, new models EVD Player, Speakers, Digital Home UPS and On line UPS, Baho voltage regulators, inverters and LED lamps—to the market. The Japan technology based NIBBAN products may be purchased of at its showroom and service centre with centre. It also distributes NIBBAN Digital TV Set-top Box.

The NIBBAN brand electric and electronics goods are available at Yangon Showroom and Service Centre, No. (164), Boywe Saired, Latha Township (Tel: 01-251792, 384370 and 389253) and Mandalay Showroom and Service Centre, No. (173), 48th Street between 31st and 32nd streets, Chanayethazan Township (Tel: 02-69957, 66003).— MNA

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Zaw met with staff families of Falam Station and presented clothes and gifts.

Lt-Gen Khin Zaw inspected basic and advanced tailoring courses, Mosaic painting course and knitting course at Women Vocational Training School and donated cash assistance to the school.

In the evening, Lt-Gen Khin Zaw inspected Ngasickbar hydropower plant of the Ministry of Electric Power No. 2 in Falam Township.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Zaw inspected green pea’s plantations and paddy farms in Lome and Ayehonpe villages.

In the afternoon, Lt-Gen Khin Zaw inspected 200-bed District People’s Hospital in Falam and made donation to the hospital.

Lt-Gen Khin Zaw met with District level departmental officials, social organizations, townswelders and local people at Thazin Ward of Nurses Training School and donated traditional medicines, clothes, blankets and cash.

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In the evening, Lt-Gen Khin Zaw inspected Ngasickbar hydropower plant of the Ministry of Electric Power Supply Enterprise under the Ministry of Electric Power No. 2. On arrival at the briefing hall of Saingain village construction project, State deputy superintendning engineer and officials reported to Lt-Gen Khin Zaw on construction of Kalay-Falam-Haka road and Saingain-Tidimm Road and paving of tarred road and gravel roads.

Lt-Gen Khin Zaw urged them to complete the rest road sections as soon as possible before monsoon season. — MNA
Two Canadian soldiers hurt in roadside bomb explosion in Afghanistan

KABUL, 6 Feb—Two Canadian soldiers were injured in Afghanistan on Thursday when an improvised explosive device detonated near their armoured vehicle.

The soldiers were on a routine patrol in the Shah Wali Khot district, about 20 kilometers north of the city of Kandahar, military officials said in a statement issued early Friday morning. The soldiers were evacuated by helicopter to the medical facility at Kandahar Airfield. One soldier was seriously injured and was listed in fair condition early Friday morning, officials said. The other soldier was treated and released from hospital.

Officials said that the next of kin of the soldiers involved in the incident have been notified and that the soldiers’ names will not be released. Eleven Canadian soldiers have been killed since the start of December by roadside bombs in Afghanistan.

The most recent, Sapper Sean Greenfield, 25, died on Saturday after his armoured vehicle hit a roadside bomb about 40 kilometers west of Kandahar city in the district of Zhari. He was the second Canadian soldier to be killed in an explosion this year. The Canadian military’s death toll in Afghanistan has reached 108 since the mission began seven years ago. One Canadian diplomat and two Canadian aid workers have also been killed.

Russia to start up Iranian nuclear power plant this year

Moscow, 6 Feb—Russia will start up a nuclear reactor at Iran’s Bushehr power plant by the end of the year, Russian news agencies reported Thursday.

“The plant will be launched this year according to the timetable... if there are no unforeseen circumstances,” said Sergei Kiriyenko, head of the Rosatom state nuclear energy corporation.

“We work in compliance with the schedule. There are no questions unresolved with our Iranian counterparts,” Itar-Tass quoted him as saying.—Internet

Roadside bombing kills three, injures two policemen in S Afghanistan

KANDAHAR, 6 Feb—One vehicle belonging to Uruzgan police forces in south Afghanistan was struck by roadside bombs Thursday on the Uruzgan-Kandahar highway, leaving at least three policemen dead and two more wounded, a police official said.

Juma Gul Humat, the provincial police chief of Uruzgan, told Xinhua that it occurred around Thursday noon when the police vehicle patrolling along the Uruzgan-Kandahar highway hit two IEDs (Improvised Explosive Device). “The incident happened near Shawali Kot district of Kandahar Province and Uruzgan police forces has sent a team to the spot for investigation,” the police official added.

The southern Afghanistan has seen escalating violence and the violence is predicted to go up in 2009 in the post-Taliban central Asian state.—Internet

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The southern Afghanistan has seen escalating violence and the violence is predicted to go up in 2009 in the post-Taliban central Asian state.—Internet
Large fire erupts near Khartoum oil installations

KHARTOUM, 6 Feb—A large fire broke out on the outskirts of the Sudanese capital Khartoum on Thursday in an area that is home to oil and electrical installations, an AFP correspondent reported.

A large column of blue and orange smoke rose over Khartoum skies on Thursday afternoon from the blaze around 15 kilometres (nine miles) south of Khartoum called Shagara.

A witness told AFP the fire started around midday and that he had not heard an explosion.

Police sealed the area and prevented journalists gaining access as emergency services rushed to the area.

The Interior Ministry issued a statement saying fire fighters had the blaze under control and that it had caused no injuries.

“Civil defense forces were able to control the fire that began today at noon,” the statement said, adding that a committee had been formed to investigate the cause of the conflagration. —INTERNET

Floods inundate near 500 houses in East Java, Indonesia

JAKARTA, 6 Feb—Floods have inundated 472 houses and a mosque in Lamongan District, East Java province in Indonesia.

The flood waters also submerged 123 hectares of crops fields and 34 hectares of rice fields, Antara news agency Friday quoted Aris Wibawa, a spokesman of the Lamongan District administration, as saying in a press statement.

“Until now, we are still collecting data to know the material losses inflicted by the natural disaster,” Wibawa said.

The Lamongan authorities had sent relief aid consisting among other things of rice and other staple foods to help flood victims, he said.

Meanwhile, a whirlwind hit three sub districts, which were being inundated by floods, in Takalar District, South Sulawesi, on Thursday.

Some 54 houses in Polonganbangkeng Selatan (Polsel), Pattallassang and Polonganbangkeng Utara sub districts were seriously damaged by the strong wind. The current rainy season has triggered floods and landslides in various parts of Indonesia, including in East Java, Central Java, West Java, South Sulawesi, East Kalimantan, and Aceh Provinces. —INTERNET

US estimated to have lost 525,000 jobs in January

NEW YORK, 6 Feb—US non-farm payroll are estimated to have shed more than half a million jobs in January after losing a similar number in December as employers, fearing the impact of a weak economy on sales and profits, shrank their work forces to cut costs.

A poll of 82 economists by Reuters produced a median estimate of 525,000 jobs lost in January after 324,000 jobs were shed from non-farm payrolls in December. Estimates of January job losses ranged from 400,000 to 780,000.

Manufacturing payrolls were estimated to have lost 139,000 jobs, an unsurprising figure given gloomy readings on regional and nationwide manufacturing indexes.

Average hourly earnings were estimated to have risen a slight 0.2 percent after rising just 0.3 percent in December. —INTERNET

Hamas negotiators stopped with suitcases of cash

CAIRO, 6 Feb—Hamas negotiators left Egypt without a long-term cease-fire with Israel on Thursday — but not before some of the militant group’s delegation were stopped at the Gaza border carrying millions in cash.

The delegation walked away from the cease-fire talks because of disagreements over the blockage on Gaza and border security. Talks will continue at a later date.

An Egyptian security official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media, said the group initially refused to be searched by Egyptian authorities at the Rafah border crossing.

When the group relented, authorities found $7 million and 2 million euros ($2.5 million) in cash in their suitcases. —INTERNET

US Marines move to Guam from Okinawa seen delayed

WASHINGTON, 6 Feb—A key part of a major realignment of US forces in Japan in which 8,000 Marines would be shifted from Okinawa to Guam, is likely to be delayed beyond its 2014 target date, the commander of US forces in Asia and the Pacific said on Thursday.

“We are behind a timeline to achieve that goal of 8,000 (Marines) down to Guam, and we don’t have enough money to make it happen right now,” Navy Adm Timothy Keating said.

“I don’t think it will happen on time. I think it will be more expensive,” he told Reuters in an interview.

But the Pentagon, anxious to reassure Japan of its commitment to the timetable, later took the unusual step of publicly disagreeing with Keating’s assessment.

“We have no reason to believe that we are not going to meet the timeline we have set out,” Pentagon press secretary Geoff Morrell said.

“He’s certainly entitled to his opinion on this matter,” Morrell said of Keating’s statement. “But officially we are committed to the road map as agreed.”

In the interview, Keating stressed that there had been no change under the new Obama administration to the major overhaul plan, unveiled in 2006 and formally called the Defence Policy Review Initiative.

More rain forecast for Australia’s wet North

SYDNEY, 6 Feb—Water levels began to drop slightly across the vast flooded region of northern Australia on Friday, but a forecast of more heavy rain will stymie recovery and cleanup efforts.

Queensland state Premier Anna Bligh visited the hardest-hit area and pledged $525,140 (Australian dollars) to help northern towns recover, asking Australians to add their own contributions.

“The place is totally waterlogged, and we’ve got more very heavy rain appearing as I speak,” Bligh told Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio Friday after flying over the town of Ingham in a helicopter.

Traffic stops in front of a large column of smoke after a fire broke out on the outskirts of Khartoum. —INTERNET

The Herbert River in Ingham dropped by 3.3 feet (one meter) in the last 24 hours but could return to its Monday peak of 40 feet (12.2 meters) if the low pressure storm system off the coast dumps the expected 11.8 inches (300 millimeters) on the town this weekend.

The North Queensland town of Normanton is flooded by monsoonal rains. —INTERNET

The new light of myanmar Saturday, 7 February, 2009
China to see early recovery ahead of global economy

BEIJING, 6 Feb—Most Chinese economists said China’s economy would recover as early as this year, a survey has showed.

China Economic Monitoring and Analysis Center, a survey organization of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said in a report on Thursday that 92 percent of the economists polled believed China’s economy will recover from the global financial crisis in 2009, backed by the government’s four-trillion-yuan stimulus plan.

The survey was carried out at the end of December last year, among 73 domestic economists who study the macro economy. Three percent of the polled economists said the stimulus package would pay off in 2010.

The polled economists believed China would embrace an early recovery before the global economy picked up speed.

The average prediction of China’s Gross Domestic Product growth is 8.0 percent, according to the survey. 86 percent of the economists believed the inflation index would drop from 2008, with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) falling from 5.9 to 2.5 percent this year.

China’s economy cooled to its slowest pace in seven years in 2008, expanding 9 percent year-on-year as the widening global financial crisis continued to affect the world’s fastest-growing major economy, according to data released by NBS.

Bird flu hits two more provinces of Vietnam

HANOI, 6 Feb—Bird flu hit two more provinces of Vietnam, southern Soc Trang and central Nghe An, apart from the previously-reported infected southern province of Ca Mau, an official at the Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development confirmed with Xinhua on Friday.

According to Friday’s People’s Army newspaper in Vietnam, more than 500 ducks raised at a farm in Soc Trang Province died early this week. Samples of dead ducks have been found positive to the H5N1 virus.

The nearby province, Bac Lieu, is now in the high risk of bird flu outbreak, said the newspaper.

Portugal’s airport Customs seize 70 kg of drugs in January

LISBON, 6 Feb—Portugal’s Customs authorities seized a total of 70 kilograms of drugs at Lisbon and Porto airports in January and arrested 18 people suspected of drug trafficking, Lusa News Agency reported on Thursday.

The agency quoted a statement by the customs authorities as saying the seized drugs came from Brazil, Cape Verde and Guinea Bissau.

Sixteen men and two women were arrested for suspected drug trafficking, aged from 25 to 50, according to the statement. Among them there were two Portuguese nationals. The drugs were hidden in their handbags, luggage, underwear or shoes.

Chile, Russia sign deal on fruits, vegetables export

SANTIAGO, 6 Feb—The Chilean and Russian governments on Thursday signed an agreement on guaranteeing the security and quality of Chilean fruits and vegetables exported to Russia.

Under the deal, all fruits and vegetables shipped from Chile to Russia should follow a series of operation procedures as from April 1 to comply with Russian regulations such as the one on the maximum amount of wasters. The document, signed in Russia, shows Chile’s importance as a major producer of quality food in the world, said Chilean Agricultural Minister Reinaldo Ruiz.

“This achievement confirms that we are doing the right thing, and the country is able to offer the best product to the world,” the minister said.—Xinhua

Chilean fruit exports to China rises 68% in 2008

SANTIAGO, 6 Feb—Chilean fruit exports to China grew by 68 percent in 2008 compared with 2007, to 96 million US dollars, Chilean Agriculture Minister Marigien Hornkohl said.

Grape exports accounted for 46 percent of the entire exports, followed by apples with 21 percent, cherries with 20 percent and plums with 10 percent, according to Hornkohl, quoted on Thursday by local media.

It is not easy for Chile to enter Asian market, due to cultural differences and geographical distance, Hornkohl said.

“We are making efforts to innovate packing and maritime transportation technologies to guarantee the arrival of the fruit in good conditions,” Hornkohl added.—Xinhua

No outbreak of bird flu among poultry reported

BEIJING, 6 Feb—There have been no reports of bird flu outbreak among poultry since January in the provinces where eight human infections were found, the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) said yesterday.

“The conclusion was arrived at based on research of the overall epidemiological situation and investigations conducted last month, the ministry said.

The statement was made in response to remarks by the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on possible bird flu outbreaks among poultry in China.

Eight human bird flu cases have been reported in the country in January, the most in a single month since 2003 when the lethal virus was first detected in humans, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Five people have died.

“The human cases show the virus must be circulating among birds,” Vincent Martin, a senior technical advisor on avian flu for the FAO, told Bloomberg.

He said the FAO had received no reports of bird flu cases among poultry from MOA since December.

All items from Xinhua News Agency

A couple from Hong Kong take their wedding picture, as an assistant looks on, at the snow festival in Sapporo, northern Japan, on 5 Feb, 2009. The 60th Sapporo snow festival opened on 5 Feb and goes on till on 11 Feb.—Xinhua

A Gold-plated Berlin Bear awards are ready in an electroplating company for the 59th Berlinale International Film Festival which is held from on 5 Feb to on 15 Feb, 2009. Xinhua

Visitors view orchid during the second international orchid and camellia expo in Dali, a city in southwest China’s Yunnan Province, on 5 Feb, 2009. The expo was opened in Dali on 5 Feb, with the participation of more than 30 Chinese and foreign cities. —Xinhua
**Oil falls below $41 as recession batters US**

**Singapore, 6 Feb**—Oil prices fell below $41 a barrel Friday in Asia as soaring US unemployment and bleak corporate results kept investors pessimistic about demand for crude.

Light, sweet crude for March delivery fell 49 cents to $40.68 a barrel by midday in Singapore in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract overnight rose 85 cents to settle at $41.17.

Depressed US company earnings from last quarter continued on Thursday, led by media giant News Corp which said it lost $6.4 billion.

A drop-off in sales has companies scrambling to cut costs by slashing payrolls. Cosmetics maker Estee Lauder Cos said on Thursday it would cut 2,000 employees, or 6 percent of its work force.—Internet

**Japan Airlines posts loss for fiscal third quarter**

**Tokyo, 6 Feb**—Japan Airlines racked up a 38.5 billion yen ($423 million) loss for the fiscal third quarter as business travel and cargo traffic plummeted, battered by a global downturn.

The nation’s top airline, also known as JAL Group, Friday forecast a 34 billion yen loss for the fiscal year through March, a reversal from its November projection of a 13 billion yen profit. The carrier made 16.5 billion yen profit in the previous fiscal year.

Sales for October-December sank 13 percent from a year earlier to 485.7 billion yen. Travel for domestic passengers was flat for the period, but sank for international passengers and international cargo, the company said. Japan Airlines said it will continue with turnaround efforts, such as job cuts, more fuel-efficient aircraft and a focus on business travelers. But it acknowledged hard times were likely to continue.—Internet

**US sailor missing in Gulf of Aden after boat flirts**

**Dubai, 6 Feb**—The US Navy says a sailor from the USS San Antonio is missing after falling from a small boat used to transfer personnel from one ship to another.

The Navy says three sailors fell from the inflatable boat, which overturned while being lowered into the waters of the Gulf of Aden on Wednesday morning.

In a statement issued from the 5th Fleet’s Bahrain headquarters, the Navy said two sailors were rescued unjured and the third was missing.

The Navy said the accident is under investigation and the name of the missing sailor is being withheld pending family notification.—Internet

**US Navy watches as Somali pirates nab $3.2 million**

**Narobi, 6 Feb**—As US Navy ships looked on, Somali pirates sped away on Thursday with $3.2 million in ransom after releasing an arms-laden Ukrainian freighter — ending a four-month standoff that focused world attention on piracy off Somalia’s lawless coast.

The Navy said it couldn’t seize the bandits for fear of endangering 147 other seamen still held hostage on other hijacked ships.

So, within sight of two nearby US warships, the pirates counted the cash — air-dropped by para-chute — then took off in motorboats, pirate Aden Abdi Omar said, speaking to The Associated Press by satellite phone after arriving in the central Somali town of Haradhere.

“We are not holding it (the ship) anymore,” said Omar, adding that more than two dozen pirates made their escape aboard motorized skiffs, navigat- ing the choppy waters in small groups.

The $3.2 million booty — among the largest-ever reported ransoms — would be divvied up among the pirates, he said.

The seizure of the MV Faina, loaded with Soviet-era tanks and other heavy weapons, was one of the most brazen in a surge of pirate attacks on shipping off the Somali coast. Vessels from the US Navy’s 5th Fleet quickly surrounded the cargo ship after it was seized Sept. 25, to make sure the arms on board did not get into the hands of Somali insurgents believed to have links to al-Qaida.—Internet

**Woman fakes madness for degree**

A woman in Sweden has faked madness as part of her art degree show.

35-year-old Ann Odell staged a false suicide bid by standing on the edge of a bridge in Stockholm. After being rescued by police, she was taken to St Goran’s hospital where she yelled and spat at medical staff before being sedated and tied down.

The 13-year-old, a resident of Wuxi in Jiangsu Province, may need several operations if she survives the immediate effects of the suicide try. The teen suffered burns from an electric blanket after she took the pills and passed out.

The girl’s mother told the newspaper that she had found her daughter lying on a bed “like she was dead” around 12:30 pm on 24 January after she came home from a hospital visit with her husband.

**13-year-old attempts suicide to save dad**

A teenage girl in east China was struggling for life after taking more than 200 sleeping pills in an attempt to kill herself and donate her liver to her seriously ill father, Shanghai Daily reported Thursday.

The 13-year-old, a resident of Wuxi in Jiangsu Province, may need several operations if she survives the immediate effects of the suicide try. The teen suffered burns from an electric blanket after she took the pills and passed out.

The girl’s mother told the newspaper that she had found her daughter lying on a bed “like she was dead” around 12:30 pm on 24 January after she came home from a hospital visit with her husband.

**A couple are crossing over a “Love zebra crossing” in Chengdu, Sichuan on 1 Feb, 2009. The red-ground zebra crossing, first such work in China, was painted with words “I love You” and two linked hands. The “red carpet” was created to send blessings to local couples, and to remind people of traffic regulations.**

**A man and a woman fly a kite at the Nanfeng Square in Yuncheng, north China’s Shanxi Province, on 3 Feb, 2009. Many residents of Yuncheng filled kites at the square on Tuesday, enjoying the mildness of early spring.**

**A man pulls the tail of a bull in Tlacotalpan in Mexico’s state of Veracruz February 1, 2009. Ten half-tonne bulls charged down the winding colonial streets of the small Mexican town of Tlacotalpan on Sunday, kicking at scream- ing spectators in a chaotic version of Spain’s famous ‘Running of the Bulls.’ The Mexican tradition traces its routes back to the Spanish conquest, but unlike Pamplona’s ancient festival where a pack of bulls chase people for minutes down a narrow path, in Tlacotalpan the beasts are let loose in the streets for hours and taunted by crowds to attack.**

**South Korean visitors look at various cars displayed at the Busan Motor Show 2008. European car makers called on Thursday for a halt in EU negotia- tions with South Korea for a free trade agree- ment, warning Europe was giving too many concessions.—Internet**

**Doctor jailed for taking 50 cents in bribe 24 years ago**

An Indian court sentenced a 75-year-old doctor to jail for accepting half a dollar (35 pence) as bribe 24 years ago, media quoted officials as saying on Thursday.

India’s federal police caught Balgovind Prasad accepting 25 rupees (51 cents) from a sweeper in 1985 for issuing a fake medical certificate, police said.

The case dragged on for years and Prasad was convicted in 1992 and given a one-year jail term. He was freed as he appealed the sentence.

On Tuesday, a higher court in India’s eastern state of Bihar state refused the one-year term to three months, saying the bribe amount was too small, but directed the police to take Prasad into custody as he was guilty of the crime.

**A crew watches as Somalis seize a cargo ship 60 nautical miles from the Somali coast.**

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Odell was discharged the next morning when she told doctors that her actions were a stunt for her degree at Sweden’s University College of Arts. “It’s not only disgraceful that she used our resources, but that she also did to other patients, the staff — to everyone—is shameless,” said the hospital’s physician David Eberhard.

“She and the head of her college used our resources, but what she also did to other patients, the staff — to everyone—is shameless,” said the hospital’s physician David Eberhard.

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DEVELOPMENT OF RAKHINE STATE IN THE TIME OF TATMADAW GOVERNMENT

Technological University (Sittway)

Photo shows Technological University (Sittway) built for enabling local youth to pursue modern technology in Rakhine State.

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No. 1 Concrete Jetty seen at Kyaukpyu Port facilitated for in vessels in Kyaukpyu Township of Rakhine State.

Hailing the 62nd Anniversary Union Day

Maei Creek Bridge

Maei Creek Bridge built across Maei Creek for ensuring smooth transport in Maei of Rakhine State.
Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife host dinner in honour of visiting Indian delegation

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Feb — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San hosted a dinner in honour of the Indian delegation led by Vice-President of India Shri M Hamid Ansari and wife Shrimati Salma Ansari at Bayintnaung Yeiktha here yesterday.

Also present at the dinner were Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Prime Minister General Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tha Tha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye and wife, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Maj-Gen Ohn Myint of the Ministry of Defence, the ministers, the deputy ministers, Myanmar Ambassador to India U Kyi Thein, the directors-general and departmental Heads of the State Peace and Development Council Office and Government Office and Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Aloke Sen.

First, national anthems of India and Myanmar were played and Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Mr Shri M Hamid Ansari toasted before the dinner. Artistes from the Fine Arts Department and Myanmar Music Asiayon to the accompaniment of Myanma Athan modern music band entertained them with songs and dances. — MNA

Indian Vice-President, wife plant tree to mark friendship

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Feb — Vice-President Shri M Hamid Ansari of the Republic of India and wife Shrimati Salma Ansari planted a starflower tree at National Herbal Garden here today to mark the friendship between the two countries.

At the invitation of Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Indian Vice-President Shri M Hamid Ansari and wife arrived here yesterday.

Accompanied by Deputy Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Maj-Gen Thein Tun and wife and Director-General of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Kyaw arrived at the garden today where they were welcomed by Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Development Affairs Committee Mayor Col Thein Nyunt and wife and Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe.

Vice-President Shri M Hamid Ansari and wife Shrimati Salma Ansari planted a starflower tree to mark the friendship between the two countries and watered the tree.

Vice-President Shri Hamid Ansari and wife posed for documentary photos together with Mayor Col Thein Nyunt and wife and deputy ministers, and left the garden.

Vice-President Shri M Hamid Ansari and wife Shrimati Salma Ansari and delegation members visited Nay Pyi Taw in a motorcade. — MNA

Vice-President Shri M Hamid Ansari and wife Shrimati Salma Ansari grow a starflower tree to mark friendly ties between Myanmar and India at National Herbal Garden. — MNA
Indian Vice-President, wife and party arrive in Yangon

Visiting Vice-President Mr. Shri M Hamid Ansari and wife Shrimati Salma Ansari of the Republic of India, accompanied by Deputy Minister for Communications, Posts and Telecommunications Maj-Gen Thein Tun and wife, Myanmar Ambassador to India U Kyi Thein and wife, Indian Ambassador Mr Aloke Sen and wife, and officials from the Indian delegation paid homage to the Shwedagon Pagoda, the Indian Vice-President, wife and party at his residence in Dagon Township.

In the evening, the Indian Ambassador hosted a dinner in honour of the Indian Vice-President, wife and party at his residence in Dagon Township.

The Rector of YIE Dr Than Oo (Trs) unveiled the signboard of the Indian-Myanmar Entrepreneurship Development Centre.

Indian Vice-President, wife and party visited the computer pool and the library.

Education and the Mayor cut the ribbon to open the MIEDC.

The Indian Vice-President pressed button to unveil the signboard of MIEDC.

Rector of YIE Dr Kan Zaw extended greet- ings. The visiting Indian Vice-President expressed thanks.

The Rector presented the gift to mark the opening ceremony to the Indian Vice-President.

Next, the Indian Vice-President and party visited the computer pool and the library.

At Shwedagon Pagoda, the Indian Vice-President, wife and party were welcomed by Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees.

The guests offered flowers, water, lights and joss sticks to the Buddha image at the prayer hall and presented cash donation to the funds of the pagoda. The Deputy Minister accepted the donation and gave the Dhamma gifts to the Indian Vice-President. Next, the Indian delegation paid homage to the pagoda clockwise.

The guests extended greetings to the Rector and the library.

Delegates to Union Day from states and divisions arrive in Nay Pyi Taw.— MNA

Union Day delegates from States/Divisions arrive

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 Feb—Delegates from Shan State (North), (East) and (South), Rakhine State, Kachin State, Sagaing Division, Mandalay Division, Kayah State and Magway Division arrived here by air, Myanma Railways and buses to attend the 62nd Anniversary Union Day, 2009. Officials of the 62nd Anniversary Union Day Accommodation Sub-committee welcomed them at Nay Pyi Taw Airport, Ywataw Station and Transit Center No.7 and transported them to Transit Center No.7.— MNA

62nd Anniversary Union Day Objectives

— For all the national races to safeguard the national policy— non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty;
— For all the national races to keep Union Spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people;
— For all the national races to defend and safeguard the Union for the perpetual existence;
— For all the national races to prevent, through national solidarity, the danger of internal and external destructive elements undermining peace and stability of the State and national development;
— For all the national races to make concerted efforts for the emergence of an enduring State Constitution in accord with the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles laid down by the National Convention, and
— For all the national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-step Road Map.

POEM:

Be alert and cautious

Myanmars descended from Myanmars
In Myanmar, the Golden Land
National brethren over hundred in total
Have been living in amity
Sacrificing life and limb
To equip people with Union Spirit
To ensure consolidated unity
Myanmar stands tall in the world
With noble behaviors and attitude
Though everything going usual
Spreading are rumours here and there
Colonialists plotting to tarnish nation’s image
Needed is to take great care
‘Cause colonialists resorting to all possible ways
And to take lessons from past events
Making mountain out of molehill
In habit of making baseless accusations
People thus to keep constant vigil
Against such clandestine schemes
And to remain united forever.

(Hailing the 62nd Anniversary Union Day)

Dr Than Oo (Trs)
NAY PYI TAW, 6 Feb—Hailing the auspicious ceremony of enshrining religious objects into the seven places of reliquary and the central reliquary and erecting the pivot at 325 feet high Uppatasanti Pagoda, the successful completion of Maha Pathana recitation was held at the Dhammayon on the hill of the pagoda, here, this morning.

Present on the occasion were State Ovadacariya Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Maha Withutayama Guru Bhaddanta Kavisara and State Ovadacariya Pakokku Maha Withutayama Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Vīcara, members of the Sangha, 18 Pathanabhanaka Sayadaws, Chairman of Leading Committee for Building Uppatasanti Pagoda Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, members of the Leading Committee, Work Committee and subcommittees, directors-general of the SPDC and the Government offices, departmental heads, wellwishers and religious associations.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vīcara administered the Nine Precepts. Members of the Sangha recited Metta Sutta. The Secretary-1 offered alms to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vīcara. The commander and officials also donated offerings to members of the Sangha.

On 2 February, a ceremony to open the recitation of Maha Pathana was held at the Dhammayon of the pagoda. The religious associations of ministries, departments and units, townships and wards in Nay Pyi Taw District participated in the Maha Pathana recitation from 2 February to date.

MNA

Maha Dvara Nikaya Gana meeting
14-15 Feb

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Feb—The Maha Nayaka Pujaniya of Dhammanu Dhamma Maha Dvara Nikaya Gana and the Maha Sannipata meeting will be held at Sasana Beikman of Hsedatkyi Pagoda in Hinthada on 14 and 15 February.

Members of the Gana Abbot Sayadaws have been invited to attend the meeting without fail for holding discussions on religious affairs, Gana affairs and general matters. Members of the Sangha are to arrive at the Sasana Beikman not later than 13 February.

MNA

AGM of Myanmar Info-Tech Corporation Ltd on 14 Feb

YANGON, 6 Feb—The seventh annual general meeting of Myanmar Info-Tech Corporation Ltd will be held at the meeting hall of Myanmar Info-Tech in Hline Township here at 8 a.m. on 14 February. Share holders are invited to attend the meeting without fail.

They held discussions on cooperation in the energy sector.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, departmental heads of the departments and enterprises under the ministry and officials.

MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi meets Mr. N. M. Borah, Chairman of Oil India Limited Co. of India, and party.

MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung meets Chairman Mr. Joon Kook Choi and party of Auto Electronic Corp. (AEC) of ROK.
Democratic practice: the minority have to respect the majority’s wish

U Pyay Kyaw

Today, peace and stability have been restored throughout the nation, following the cessation of multicoloured insurgency that leftist politicians called civil war. As a result, the nation has been in a position to build infrastructures with heart and soul for its economic growth. Now, the seven-step Road Map designed to transform the nation into a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic one is in its fifth step.

In order to put the Road Map into reality, Myanmar has adopted fundamental principles and detailed basic principles through the National Convention for the new State constitution, thereby bringing the first step to fruition. The nation is carrying out all necessary groundwork for democratic transition to achieve the second step. The third step—drafting the State Constitution based on the principles adopted by the National Convention — has been materialized. The draft of the State Constitution (2008) was approved by 92.48 per cent of the voters. So, the fourth step has been accomplished, as well.

Multiparty democracy elections will be held in 2010 to complete the fifth step. After the elections, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the executive (governing) body led by the President, and Union high courts will be formed to translate the sixth step into reality. As the seventh step, the legislative, executive and judicial bodies will have to implement the national goal of building a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation. The seven-step Road Map is making such a good progress as it represents a flourishing democratic nation. The seven-step Road Map in accordance with the mandate of the National Convention Convening for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan replied thoroughly to the demands made by Mr Gambari, and the clarification received media coverage. In conclusion, I would like to present some excerpts from the Information Minister’s speech, as follows:

“The approval of the State Constitution with 92.48 percent public support amounted not only to ratification of the constitution but also to giving mandate to carry out the democratization process in accordance with the constitution. It also means an approval to go ahead with the process according to the seven-step Road Map. At the referendum, the constitution was ratified with the 92.48 percent yes votes against the 6.1 percent no votes. According to the democracy practice, the minority will have to accept the majority’s wish. It will be undemocratic if the constitution approved by the majority is to be reviewed and amended because of the minority’s wish.”

Translation: MS
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV DUBAI TRADER VOY NO (903N)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV DUBAI TRADER VOY NO (903N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.2.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses 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 P.D.Z LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

New York plane crash tapes unveiled
WASHINGTON, 6 Feb — The crew of a US Airways jetliner disabled by birds that knocked out both its engines over New York calmly told air controllers: “We’re gonna be in the Hudson” before splash landing in the river, according to tapes of the account released on Thursday. The Federal Aviation Administration recordings revealed a four-minute segment of clipped, matter-of-fact radio communication between the pilots of Flight 1549 and controllers, who cleared the skies to get the stricken plane with 155 passengers and crew in for an emergency landing.

The recordings start with the Airbus A320 apparently striking a flock of birds shortly after takeoff on 15 January from LaGuardia airport, bound for Charlotte, North Carolina. — Internet

US diplomat in Ethiopia found dead
ADDIS ABABA, 6 Feb — Brian Adkins, a newly assigned American diplomat in Ethiopia, was found dead last weekend at his home in the Ethiopian capital. Addis Ababa, an embassy spokesman and a senior State Department official told. US Embassy Press Officer Michael McClellan identified Adkins and said he was from Columbus, Ohio. He was 25 at the time of his death. “He was found dead over the weekend and a criminal investigation is under way,” McClellan told on Thursday. “The Ethiopian federal police are investigating it.”

According to the newspaper, Adkins joined the State Department after receiving his master’s degree in 2007. A State Department official, who declined to be named because of the ongoing investigation, said it was the diplomat’s first tour of duty as a foreign service officer. There were no apparent threats against him, and investigators were trying to determine whether he was the victim of a random crime. — Internet

Ammonia leak kills one at Russian plant
MOSCOW, 6 Feb — A worker at a fertilizer plant was killed on Thursday morning by an ammonia leak, authorities said.

Another employee of the Mineral Fertilizer Producing Plant at the Kirovo-Chepetsk chemical complex suffered serious injuries, the Interfax news agency reported.

The Russian Natural Resources and Environment Ministry said details of the leak were being turned over to the prosecutor’s office to determine whether there was any criminal wrongdoing. Rinat Gizaubulin, a director of regulation and state policy, said the plant should pay compensation for any environmental damage. Uralkhim, which owns the plant in the Kirovo region, said the dead man’s family would receive damages. A spokesman said the ammonia leaked at about 5:15 am when a pipeline was damaged.

Nigeria confirms deaths of 84 children, 111 cases of contaminated teething mixture
LAGOS, 6 Feb — Nigerian federal government on Thursday reported the deaths of 84 children between the age of two months and seven years from the contaminated “My Pikin” teething mixture, the Lagos-based Punch newspaper reported on Friday. Oso- timehin, Nigeria’s Minister of Health disclosed this in Abuja, noting that since the case broke in November 2008, the number of deaths had continued to rise just as the number of cases reported in hospitals had increased to 111.

The minister ordered the immediate surrendering of the deadly product by all drug pharmacies, government medical stores, patent medicine stores, clinics, and hospitals in the country to the nearest office of the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC). He said the federal government was deeply concerned about the number of deaths and would leave no stone unturned in getting to the root of the matter. — Internet

British Airways posts 127 mln of loss in nine months
LONDON, 6 Feb — British Airways said Friday that it posted a net loss of 127 million pounds (about 186 million U.S. dollars) in the nine months ending Dec. 31 due to the current economic crisis, the airline said.

The airliner said it would try to sell more tickets in markets with stronger currencies to enable it to benefit from exchange rates.

“The industry continues to face very difficult trading conditions on the back of a weak economic environment,” the airline’s press office said.

Two jailed over Tunisia bombing
PARIS, 6 Feb — A French court has sentenced a German to 18 years over an attack on a Tunisian synagogue that killed 21 people in 2002.

Christian Ganczarski, who prosecutors believed had links with al-Qaeda, was arrested in France in 2003.

The court also sentenced Walid Nouar, the brother of Noureddine Chekatt, who was killed during the attack on the synagogue in Djerba.

Both men denied the charges and are expected to appeal against the verdict.

The Djerba bombing—which killed 14 German tourists, five Tunisians and two French nationals— was claimed by al-Qaeda.

French prosecutors believe it was organised by Khalid Sheikh Mohammed — the alleged mastermind of the 9/11 attacks on the US — who is being held at the Guantanamo detention centre.

Internet
Japanese cure spinal damage in mice

Tokyo, 6 Feb — Japanese scientists said on Wednesday they cured mice whose hind legs were paralyzed by damage to their spinal cords, offering hope to people with paralysis.

Researchers at Keio University in Tokyo announced at a symposium that they had achieved the first confirmed case in which movement in paralyzed mice’s limbs was restored by transplanting neural stem cells grown from human iPS cells, or induced pluripotent stem cells, Kyodo news service reported Wednesday.

“It is valuable that treatment using human iPS cells has proved effective, said physiology Professor Hideyuki Okano, who led the research team. “We want to apply (the results) in a clinical setting as soon as possible.” To this point, there is no effective treatment for people who suffer paralysis when their spinal cords sustain nerve damage in traffic or sports accidents.

The Japanese researchers generated neural stem cells, which will grow into nerve cells, from human iPS cells produced under a method developed by Shinya Yamanaka of Kyoto University. They then transplanted about a half million of the cells into the damaged spines of 40 mice, Okano said.

60-year-old gives birth to twins

Calgary (Alberta), 6 Feb — A 60-year-old woman in western Canada has given birth to twins after going to India for fertility treatments, the new mother told a Canadian broadcaster on Thursday.

The Alberta Health Services issued a news release on Thursday saying the mother and two infants are in good condition. The health department also said the woman and her family declined to speak with media and asked that they respect her privacy. The agency declined a request for further details about the mother and recent births.

First-time mother Ranjit Hayer spoke to a CBC reporter from her hospital bed on Thursday morning before the news release was issued. Hayer said that she was determined to be a mother, and had tried for decades to conceive naturally and with medical intervention. One effort in India failed when she and her husband paid a doctor for in-vitro fertilisation, but he absconded with their money. They returned to Canada and again saved for years, the CBC reported, until they had enough money to go back to India and try again with donor eggs. The woman became pregnant with triplets, but one had to be terminated because of medical problems.

The CBC said Hayer’s two boys were delivered seven weeks prematurely by caesarean section at Calgary’s Foothills Hospital on Tuesday. The news network quoted the woman’s obstetrician, Colin Birch, as saying there are social and ethical considerations beyond the medical ones.

Hundres stranded on snowed-in highway

London, 6 Feb — Snow blanketed much of Britain Thursday, with hundreds of people stranded on a Devon highway and two hikers dead in the icy Lake District. The A38 near Exeter was closed at about 9 pm after a sudden heavy snowstorm. Sue Rolfe told The Guardian she abandoned her car on the highway and walked to the Exeter Court hotel, where she works. She said efforts to plow the road failed.

Europe jewel thief ‘linked to UK’

London, Paris and Frankfurt appear to show the same woman. In the Paris and Frankfurt thefts, valuable rings were swapped for replicas. At the London store, staff were distracted and later discovered that the ring had vanished.

In all cases the middle-aged woman has an accomplice, a man or a younger woman. At Abrahams jewellers in Hatton Garden, London, co-owner Victoria Abrahams said that last October the two women asked to see items from the window display, but distracted her while she was retrieving them. When the women left, staff became suspicious and it was discovered that the ring had been stolen.

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LONDON, 6 Feb — An Australian pilot whose plane developed engine trouble on Friday morning ditched in Darwin Harbour, and he and his five passengers walked ashore, officials said.

Steve Bolle had just taken off from the airport in Darwin when the plane developed problems, the Northern Territory News said. He brought the plane down about 600 feet from shore. No one on board was injured.

Bolle and his passengers work for CGS, a major Australian computer service firm. They were flying to Maningrida, about 300 miles away, for service calls at a clinic, school and police station.

Denis Mackenzie, the company’s managing director, said “a lot of people are very happy with him.” He said one of the passengers called him immediately after the ditching to let him know and to tell him they were walking to the beach. "He’s a modest sort of guy and probably won’t want a fuss,” Mackenzie said of Bolle. The plane was underwater because of the incoming tide, Mackenzie said.

The suspect in the Paris theft also wore a headscarf.

A thief wanted in Europe for stealing rings worth thousands of euros could have struck in the UK, police believe. A woman, usually dressed in a headscarf and wearing gold-rimmed glasses, is being sought by police in Europe for a string of thefts over a 10-year period.

Experts are now also linking her to the theft of a £120,000 ring in London. CCTV footage from the targeted stores in London, Paris and Frankfurt appears to show the same woman. In the Paris and Frankfurt thefts, valuable rings were swapped for replicas. At the London store, staff were distracted and later discovered that the ring had vanished.

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Gerrard out for three weeks

LIVERPOOL, 6 Feb—Steven Gerrard will miss three weeks of Liverpool’s Premiership title campaign after picking up a hamstring injury in Wednesday’s 1-0 FA Cup defeat by city rivals Everton, his club said Thursday.

“A scan today has confirmed a tear in the hamstring of Steven’s left leg. He will be out of action for about three weeks,” a club spokesman told Liverpoolfc.tv.

The 28-year-old limped off after just 16 minutes of the fourth-round replay at Goodison Park and now looks set to miss the club’s next two league encounters against Portsmouth and Manchester City, as well as England’s friendly against Spain next week.—Internet

Jankovic in for shoulder victim Sharapova in Paris Open

PARIS, 6 Feb—Serbia’s Jelena Jankovic has received a wildcard entry for next week’s Paris Open in place of shoulder injury victim, and fellow ex-number one, Maria Sharapova, organisers said Thursday.

Jankovic will join top-ranked Australian Open champion Serena Williams and number four-ranked Russian Olympic champion Elena Dementieva at the Pierre-de-Coubertin stadium.

Sharapova underwent surgery on her right shoulder in October and the problem meant she was unable to defend her Australian Open title last month.

She slipped out of the top 10 on Monday for the first time since winning Wimbledon in July 2004 and is currently ranked 17th.—Internet

Barcelona put one foot in Spanish Cup final

MADRID, 6 Feb—Thierry Henry and Rafael Marquez shot Barcelona to a 2-0 victory over Real Mallorca at the Nou Camp stadium on Thursday in the Spanish Cup semi-finals first leg.

A header from Henry, who has scored 12 league goals for Pep Guardiola’s men this season, from a Bojan Krkic cross past Mallorca’s Argentinian keeper German Lux put Barcelona ahead in the 35th minute.

Carles Puyol, Xavi Hernandez and Samuel Eto’o were absent, though Cameroonien star Eto’o did come on briefly at the end of the match, while Andres Iniesta, Henry and Lionel Messi, who replaced Henry at half-time, played.

Barcelona, the runaway leaders in the Spanish League, doubled their score in the 73th minute through a superb freekick from Mexican Marquez (73).

On Wednesday, Sevilla beat Athletic Bilbao 2-1 with an injury time winner in the other semi-final.—Internet

Australia on target for Fed Cup Asia/Oceania final

PERTH, 6 Feb—Samantha Stosur rebounded to seal the win for Australia over Thailand on Thursday in the Fed Cup Asia/Oceania Group I play-offs, putting the host nation in good position to make the final.

Australia remained unbeaten in the round robin stage of the women’s team competition with a 3-0 win in the tie against Thailand, their main Group B rival.

Having already beaten South Korea on Wednesday, the Australians will be expected to easily handle winless Teipei in their final group match on Friday, and advance to the final as the top side in their group.

Their rivals in the final will be either Indonesia or New Zealand, the two nations unbeaten in Group A and set to play each other on Friday.—Internet

Keegan banned for speeding

LONDON, 6 Feb—Kevin Keegan was Thursday banned from driving for six months after telling a court he had been in “turmoil” over his future as Newcastle manager when he was caught speeding last August. The former England manager reached the legal maximum of 12 penalty points on his licence when he was clocked travelling at 36mph in a 30mph zone on August 27, 2008.

That was the week before the 57-year-old left Newcastle in acrimonious circumstances and the court heard that “his head was in turmoil” after a stressful meeting with club owner Mike Ashley. Magistrates have the power to waive a ban for motorists who reach 12 points if it would cause exceptional hardship but Keegan, in a written submission, accepted he could not make such a case. As well as his ban, Keegan was fined 750 pounds.—Internet

Villegas opens with 63 in bid for odd hat trick

SAN DIEGO, 6 Feb—Camilo Villegas seems to be playing his best golf when Tiger Woods isn’t around to defend a title.

Villegas holed out for an eagle early in his round and made a string of birdies late for a 9-under 63 on the easier North Course at Torrey Pines, giving him a three-shot lead Thursday in the Buick Invitational as he goes for a bizarre hat trick.

A victory this week would be his third straight at a tournament where Woods was the defending champion.

Villegas won the BMW Championship and Tour Championship last fall to close out the FedEx Cup portion of the season.—Internet

Ballack, Frings back to face Norway

BERLIN, 6 Feb—Chelsea star Michael Ballack and Bremen’s Torsten Frings have both been recalled to the Germany squad to face Norway in a friendly next Wednesday, but there is no place for Lukas Podolski.

Frings’s Werder team-mate Mesut Oezil, 20, has been called up for the first time as has Hoffenheim’s Andreas Beck, while Borussia Moen-chengladbach teenager Marko Marin is in line to win his fifth cap against Norway.—Internet

Barcelona's French forward Thierry Henry (R) celebrates with teammate Spanish forward Bojan Krkic (L) after scoring during the Spanish Kings Cup semi-final match Barcelona vs Mallorca at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona. Internet

Samantha Stosur of Australia plays a return against Tamarine Tanasugarn of Thailand during their singles match of the Federation Cup in Perth. Internet

Jelena Jankovic of Serbia, has received a wildcard entry for next week’s Paris Open in place of shoulder injury victim, and fellow ex-number one, Maria Sharapova, organizers said on Thursday. Internet

Chelsea star Michael Ballack, and Bremen’s Torsten Frings have both been recalled to the Germany squad to face Norway in a friendly next Wednesday, but there is no place for Lukas Podolski.—Internet

Kevin Keegan. Internet

Barcelona’s Friendly against Spain next week.— Portsmouth and Manchester City, as well as England’s friendly against Spain next week.—
Italy offers euro1,500 to new car buyers

Milan, 6 Feb.—The Italian government on Friday approved euro1,500 ($1,900) payments to new car buyers who trade in older models, in an effort to boost the auto industry hard hit by the global economic slowdown.

Automakers are among Italy’s most important sectors, as well as the country’s biggest employer and industrial concern.

Italy has seen new car registrations plummet by a third in January, compared to a year earlier. Like other European automakers, Fiat has enacted a series of temporary layoffs to cope with the crisis.

Industry Minister Claudio Scajola detailed the measures after a Cabinet meeting in Rome that approved the package.

Fiat shares were up by 5.6 percent to euro4.5 ($5.76) in trading on the Milan Stock Exchange.

Italy joins Britain, France and Germany in helping out car makers as sales tumble.

Germany is paying consumers euro2,500 ($3,200) to junk old cars for greener models. EU leaders will talk car makers as sales tumble.

Italy offers euro1,500 to new car buyers

The latest nation to try to boost the auto industry hard hit across a swathe of Britain as councils said they were unsure how to spend euro1,300 ($1,600) payments to new car buyers.

England on 5 Feb, 2009. Heavy snow caused chaos in the Friday morning rush hour.—Internet

MTRV-3 Programme Schedule (7.2.2009) (Saturday)

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Local Transmission
- Signature Tune
- Song of Myanmar Beauty and Scenic Sights
- Hundred Fruits from a Common Stem, Our Union (Kayin State)
- A Visit to A Laungdaw Kassapa in Modern Days
- Kayin Traditional Vegetable Curry (Tarlabaw)
- 100 Shuttles Traditional Weaving Industry
- Song of Myanmar Beauty and Scenic Sights

From Europe/North America

Programme Schedule (Saturday)

1. Martial song
2. Nice and sweet song
3. Dance of national races
4. Round up of the week’s news
5. Game for children
6. Yan can cook
7. Weather report
8. News
9. International news
10. Musical programme
11. News
12. Cotton Tunes
13. Signature Tunes
14. Movie programme
15. Myanmar Gems mosaic
16. Kayah Traditional Museum
17. Myanmar Modern song
18. Hundred Fruits from a Common Stem, Our Union (Kayin State)
19. A Visit to A Laungdaw Kassapa in Modern Days
20. Kayin Traditional Vegetable Curry (Tarlabaw)
21. 100 Shuttles Traditional Weaving Industry
22. Yoke Son Monastery of Lai Kai Ancient City
23. Oxen Brothers
24. Myanmar Beauty and Scenic Sights

Website: www.mtrv3.net.mm

WEATHER

Friday, 6 February, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin and Mon States, Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions.

Night temperatures were (6°C) below February average temperatures in Chin State and Bago Division, (3°C) to (4°C) below February average temperatures in upper Sagaing, Magway, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, (3°C) above February average temperatures in Taninthayi Division and about February average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka and Lolem (0°C) each, Namhsan and Palaung (3°C) each and Lashio (4°C).

Maximum temperature on 5-2-2009 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 6-2-2009 was 57°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 6-2-2009 was 74%.

Total sunshine hours on 5-2-2009 was (9.4) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 6-2-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Southeast at (16:30) hours MST on 5-2-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 7th February 2009: Weather will be partly cloudy in Shan, Mon and Kayin States, Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight increase of night temperature in Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 7-2-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 7-2-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 7-2-2009: Generally fair weather.

Weather outlook for first weekend of February 2009: During the coming weekend, weather will be generally fair in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.
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

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, wife Daw Mya Mya San see off Indian Vice-President, wife

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Feb—The goodwill delegation led by Indian Vice-President Shri M Hamid Ansari and wife Shrimati Salma Ansari, accompanied by Myanmar ambassador U Kyi Thein and wife, Indian ambassador to Myanmar Mr Aloke Sen and wife, military attaché Colonel Manoj Mukund Naravane and officials left here for Yangon by air this afternoon.

The Indian goodwill delegation was seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, SPDC member General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Khin Lay Thein, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thaha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, ministers, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence. First, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presented documentary photo album to Indian Vice-President Shri M Hamid Ansari at the lounge of the airport. Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye cordially greeted the Indian goodwill delegation members. Similarly, the Indian Vice-President cordially greeted those who accompanied Vice-Senior General Maung Aye.

After that, the Indian goodwill delegation left for Yangon by special flight at 1 p.m.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San see off Indian Vice-President Shri M Hamid Ansari and wife Shrimati Salma Ansari at Nay Pyi Taw Airport. —MNA