Prime Minister General Thein Sein on inspection tour of Biluchaung Hydropower Projects

Prime Minister General Thein Sein visits control room of Biluchaung No. 2 Hydropower Plant.— MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein views sample stones from the water intake tunnel.— MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein visited control room of Biluchaung No. 2 Hydropower Plant on 10 February morning. Accompanied by Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Brig-Gen Yar Pyae, ministers, deputy ministers, Chairman of Kayah State PDC Brig-Gen Win Myint, the director-general of the Government Office and departmental heads, the Prime Minister left Loikaw by helicopter and arrived at Lawpita Village where they were welcomed by departmental officials of Hydropower Generating Enterprise.

At the construction site of Biluchaung No. 3 Hydropower Project, the Prime Minister was presented with reports on implementation of Biluchaung hydropower projects and progress of Biluchaung No. 3 Hydropower Project presented by Minister for Electric Power No. 1 Col Zaw Min.

The Managing Director of Future Power Co Ltd reported on undertaking of six main tasks of the project, use of heavy machinery and strength of workers.

After hearing the reports, the Prime Minister gave instructions on implementation of the project meeting the set standard, timely completion of the tasks, supply of heavy machinery to the worksite and attention to be paid to worksite safety.

The Prime Minister viewed the sample stones taken out from the water intake tunnel by drilling machine displayed near the briefing hall.

At the construction site of the approach tunnel No. 2, the Prime Minister looked into placing of shot concrete at the walls of the tunnel and gave necessary instructions.

The Prime Minister viewed the sample stones from the water intake tunnel by drilling machine displayed near the briefing hall.

At the construction site of Biluchaung No. 3 Hydropower Plant, the Prime Minister and party were welcomed by Managing Director U Kyi Tha of Hydropower Generating Enterprise and staff.

(See page 9)
Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

**Central Bank Governor attends 44th SEACEN and 28th Board of Governors Meeting**

**Nay Pyi Taw** 13 Feb—A delegation led by Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyen accompanied by Director Daw Ohmar Sein, attended the 44th South East Asian Central Banks (SEACEN) Governors’ Conference and the 28th Board of Governor Meeting which was held at Kuala Lumpur, in Malaysia from 6 to 11 February.

On 6 February, the conference and meeting opened at Auditorium in Central Bank of Malaysia. After greeting words of the Governor Dr. Zeti Akhtar Aziz, Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Datuk Sri Mohd Najib Bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak opened the conference and meeting.

The delegation left Malaysia after attending the 50th Anniversary of Central Bank of Malaysia, Central Bank Governors’ Forum (2009) and the Conference of Central Bank of Malaysia, on 12 February.—**MNA**

**People’s Desire**

Saturday, 14 February, 2009

**Strive for regional and national development maintaining peace and stability**

With the participation of the entire national people the government is making all-out efforts for national development. In that regard, it is building a large number of infrastructures to bring about harmonious development in different parts of the states and divisions.

As it is placing emphasis on development of political, economic, education, health and transport sectors, remarkable progress has been made in those spheres. Kayah State is one of the states and divisions that are now enjoying the fruits of development.

In the past, there were over 60,000 paddy sown acres in Kayah State. Now, there are over 100,000. At present, extended cultivation of summer paddy and edible oil crops such as groundnut, sesame and sunflowers is being carried out in Kayah State in addition to monsoon paddy. As a result, the state is now in a position to enjoy self-sufficiency in rice and edible oil.

In the education sector, Kayah State has seen over 300 basic education schools coupled with higher learning institutions where about 60,000 students are learning.

In the health sector, it has seen six 25-bed township hospitals, eight station hospitals, 27 rural health centres and a 16-bed traditional medicine hospital in addition to the 200-bed general hospital. Moreover, the extended opening of air route, Aungban-Loikaw railroad and motor roads has contributed much to secure and smooth transport. With this, trade and commerce in the region is booming.

Peace and stability is indispensable for development of a region. Only when there are community peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order, will the socio-economic status of the region improve.

Such being the case, all the national brethren are to exert concerted efforts for regional and national development while maintaining the already achieved peace and stability based on mutual trust and understanding.

**Nay Pyi Taw Mayor’s Cup Bowling Tournament concludes**

**Nay Pyi Taw** 13 Feb—As a gesture of honouring the 62nd Anniversary Union Day, the final matches of the 1st Nay Pyi Taw Mayor’s Cup Inter-Ministry and Open Men’s and Women’s Bowling Tournament were held at the bowling hall of Nay Pyi Taw Sports Complex yesterday afternoon.

Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Mayor Col Thein Nyunt, members of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, members of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, responsible persons of Myanmar Bowling Federation and guests.

After the final matches, Mayor Col Thein Nyunt and officials awarded prizes to the winners.—**MNA**

**Two blasts in Kyaukgyi, one mine seized in Kanyuntkwin**

**Nay Pyi Taw** 13 Feb—An improvised mine in a plastic container planted under a concrete pipe of the drainage on 4th Street of Zay-baing ward in Kanyuntkwin, Phyu Township, Bago Division was exposed around 10:30 pm on 8 February after a duty-conscious man’s tip-off.

In another incident, two blasts occurred about 10 pm last night in Kanyuntkwin, but there were no casualties. A bomb blasted on the temporary wooden bridge linking Kat-kyaw ward and Kyauk-ein-su village about 10 pm last night which was followed by another blast near the fence of an empty house in Sar-dan village about 10 minutes later, but no casualties were reported in both blasts.

**Maha Toe Travels & Tours selected for Gold Prize of BID**

**Yangon,** 13 Feb—Maha Toe Travels & Tours Agency won International Arch of Europe Award in the Gold Category in Frankfurt 2009 presented by Business Initiative Directions (BID) of Spain. Maha Toe Travels & Tours Agency was voted by Tourism Industry Organizations from Europe and 93 other countries, under the arrangement of BID. As BID have invited Maha Toe Travels & Tours Co., Ltd to receive the award on the 35th prize presenting ceremony to be held in Frankfurt, Germany, on 23 February, the board of directors of Maha Toe Travels & Tours Co., Ltd is now making arrangements for the ceremony.

For further information of the services of Maha Toe Travels & Tours, contact Maha Toe Travels & Tours No. 815 corner of Mahabandola Street and Hedia Street, Lamawad Township, Yangon or (Tels: 227322, 221586 and 221703), Fax: 0 9 5 1 2 2 7 3 2 2 ; E.mail:mahatoe@myanmar.com.m.m.—**MNA**

**Nay Pyi Taw Mayor Minister Col Thein Nyunt presents prizes to winners of 1st Nay Pyi Taw Mayor’s Cup Inter-Ministry and Open Men’s and Women’s Bowling Tournament. —**MNA**
Troops throng Afghan capital as US envoy arrives

KABUL, 13 Feb—The new US regional envoy landed in Afghanistan on Thursday to help chart President Barack Obama's strategy for peace in this volatile country, a day after a bold Taleban assault demonstrated the insurgency's ability to wreak havoc even in the tightly guarded capital.

A US Embassy spokes-
man confirmed Richard Holbrooke's arrival late in the day, but declined to give further details about his location or the schedule for his multi-day visit to Kabul. Holbrooke's first visit to the country comes amid an increasing sense that the security situation is disintegra-
ing in and around Kabul. On Wednesday, Taleban fighters launched their most audacious attacks on the capital, killing 20 people in a coordinated assault on three government buildings. Government officials said the mastermind behind the attacks was based in Pakistan, a reminder of the cross-border violence and disputes that have made the battle against the Taleban so difficult.

Eight killed by Iraq bomb attack

BAGHDAD, 13 Feb—A suicide bomber detonated an explosive belt packed with nails among Shiite worshippers on Thursday in a holy city south of Baghdad, killing eight pilgrims and wounding more than 50, police and hospital officials said.

It was the second deadly attack on pilgrims in two days, in what appeared to be a Sunni extremist campaign to discredit Iraq's mostly Shiite security forces and rekindle the sectarian conflict that nearly plunged the country into full-scale civil war two years ago.

The latest attacks, though smaller than those of past years, showed that al-Qaida and other Sunni extremists may have been severely weakened but they have not been defeated. Thursday's blast occurred about 200 yards (meters) from the Imam Hussein shrine in Karbala, the focal point of ceremonies that culminate on Monday and draw hundreds of thousands of worshippers from throughout the Shiite world.

A police official said the bomber mingled in the crowd before trigger-
ing the blast. He said dozens of nails were found at the scene. The official agreed to discuss the attack only if not quoted by name, because he was not supposed to release infor-
mation to journalists.

An official at the Karbala hospital, also insist-
ing on anonymity for the same reason, said eight people were killed and 52 wounded by the explosion.

Five children shot in Afghanistan

US soldier dies of non-combat injuries in Iraq

KABUL, 13 Feb—The US military says an American soldier has died of non-combat injuries in Iraq.

A statement says Spc James M Dorsey, 23, of Beardstown, Ill, was found unresponsive by fellow troops in Baghdad on 8 Feb and attempts to resuscitate him were unsuccessful.

The statement released Wednesday says Dorsey was assigned to 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regi-
mament.

The death raises to at least 4,244 members of the US military who have died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003.

British soldier killed in Iraq

LONDON, 13 Feb—A British soldier died on Thurs-
day in a “shooting incident” in Basra, southern Iraq, announced the British Defence Ministry.

The soldier, from the 1st Battalion, the Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment, died from a gunshot wound at the Contingency Operating Base.

The circumstances of the shooting were still under investigation, the ministry said, but it was un-
derstood that nobody else was involved. The victim’s family had been informed, it added.

The number of British soldiers who have died in Iraq since 2003 now stands at 197. There are about 4,000 British soldiers based in Basra Airport.
Chilean President criticizes anti-Cuban economic embargo

HAVANA, 13 Feb — Visiting Chilean President Michelle Bachelet on Thursday criticized the economic embargo of the United States against Cuba that has continued for nearly 50 years.

“Chile has always been against the embargo and at all the forums we have said so,” Bachelet said at the opening ceremony of the Cuba-Chile Business Seminary.

Bachelet said her country has been against discriminatory practices in trade and therefore opposes the US embargo on Cuba.

Official Cuban statistics indicate that the embargo has caused losses of more than 93 billion US dollars.

Odalys Seijo, vice president of the Cuban Chamber of Commerce, hailed the sustained growth of economic ties between Havana and Santiago and she affirmed that “the real potentials surpass the current number of changes.”

Also on Thursday, Bachelet along with Cuban Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque visited the memorial of former Chilean president Salvador Allende, who was killed in a 1973 military coup led by Augusto Pinochet.

Bachelet made a speech at the university of Havana and attended the opening ceremony of the 18th International Book Fair as well, which this year pays homage to Chile.

Shell considers selling New Zealand businesses

WELLINGTON, 13 Feb — Oil giant Shell was considering selling some of its businesses in New Zealand as it begins a strategic review of its assets in this country.

Shell, which entered in New Zealand nearly a century ago, will move to concentrate on global oil exploration and retaining in high-growth markets.

Rival fuel companies already in New Zealand, other global oil giants or financial institutions could be possible buyers.

Shell’s businesses under review include 215 service stations, its shareholding in the Marsden Pt oil refinery, a 36 percent shareholding in construction firm Fulton and Hogan and a 25 percent holding in the operator of Flybuys.

Ukraine bus fire kills seven, injures 16

KIEV, 13 Feb — At least seven people were killed and 16 others injured in a bus fire in the Donetsk region in eastern Ukraine on Thursday, officials said.

“The fire occurred on a public bus at noon in the Slavic region in Donetsk,” Iglor Krol, spokesman for the emergencies ministry, said. “A total of 30 passengers were on board. Seven people were killed, 16 injured, and the fate of the other seven passengers remains unclear,” Krol said. He said it took about 20 minutes for rescuers to extinguish the fire.

T-Mobile to invest 180 million euros in Macedonia

TIRANA, 13 Feb — Germany’s mobile operator T-Mobile and its landline operator T-Home planned on Thursday to invest 180 million euros (about 231 million US dollars) in Macedonia in the next three years.

Macedonia Telecom’s CEO Nikolai Beckers said T-Home’s investment plan has already been drawn up, while T-Mobile’s plan has entered the final stage of drawing. T-Home’s investment strategy includes fiber-to-home project, network upgrading, set-up of auxiliary networks, updates and investment in equipments.

Beckers said landline telephone users are in decline in Macedonia, while the number of Internet and IPTV customers is increasing.

All items from Xinhua News Agency

“Ariane” rocket successfully launches 4 satellites

PARIS, 13 Feb — A European Ariane 5 ECA rocket successfully launched two telecommunications satellites and a pair of military payloads on Thursday evening.

The rocket, carrying the Hot Bird 10 and NSS-9 telecommunications satellites, and the Spirale A and Spirale B spacecraft, lifted off from Europe’s Spaceport at Kourou, French Guiana at 22:09 GMT on Thursday, sending them into orbit.

This is the 187th launch of an Ariane launcher, and the first launch in 2009, following six flights performed by ArianeSpace in 2008.

Hot Bird 10, built by EADS Astrium, will provide television, radio and interactive services across Europe, North Africa and the Middle East in the next 15 years.

NSS-9, manufactured by the Orbital Sciences Corporation, is designed for a minimum service of 15 years, providing relay services for broadcasters, government users, and carriers across the Pacific region and for the maritime industry. Two small Spirale satellites were carried as auxiliary passengers of the heavy-lift vehicle.
Large number of US weapons given to Afghan Army missing

WASHINGTON, 13 Feb—Some 87,000 pieces of weapons given by the Pentagon to Afghan army and police units are unaccountable, US congressional auditors said in a report on Thursday.

The missing weapons included rifles, pistols, machine guns, grenade launchers, shotguns and mortars, said the report written by the Government Accountability Office, or GAO, the investigative arm of Congress. The weapons are among about 240,000 small arms and other sensitive items, including 2,410 highly prized night vision devices that were given to Afghan security forces being trained by the US military.

The report also said the Pentagon also failed to keep serial numbers or other records on about 135,000 weapons donated by allies and handed over to Afghan security forces.

The US effort to train and equip Afghan security forces so far has cost 16.5 billion US dollars, and will cost another 5.7 billion dollars this year, according to US officials.

The GAO said the security lapses were due to "a lack of clear direction" from the Defence Department "and staffing shortages" at the headquarters of the US Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan, which is responsible for training and equipping Afghan security forces.

Bank inside EU Parliament house robbed

BRUSSELS, 13 Feb—A man barged into a in-house bank in the European Union Parliament complex Thursday afternoon and made off with a undisclosed sum of money despite heavy security.

Witnesses said the man threatened the staff with a gun in a ING business hall in the legislature building, and quickly fled after a terrified assistant handed him the gun in a ING business hall in the legislature building, and quickly fled after a terrified assistant handed him the cash. No one was hurt in the robbery.

The sum of the loss was not disclosed.

Police were looking through security video in an effort to identify the unmasked robber Thursday night. As all visitors who try to enter the parliament complex have to undergo strict security procedures, police suspected that the gun the robber showed was a real one.—INTERNET

An Afghan police man frisks an Afghan man at a checkpoint in Kabul, Afghanistan, on 12 Feb, 2009.—INTERNET

Outcome of Gaza truce talks to be announced "soon"

CAIRO, 13 Feb—The result of the Gaza ceasefire talks between Hamas and Israel would be announced in "coming hours," the official MEMA news agency reported Thursday, quoting a senior Egyptian source.

The talks between the two sides were "positive," the Egyptian official was quoted as saying, adding that he expected the outcome of the talks to be announced "soon."

Meanwhile, a well-informed Palestinian source also told MEMA that "the outcome of the talks would be announced in coming hours."

The source, who took part in Thursday’s talks between a Hamas delegation led by its politburo deputy chief Moussa Abu-Marzouk and Egyptian intelligence chief Omar Suleiman, said during the talks, the Hamas delegation presented to Suleiman its latest stance on the ceasefire officially suggested by Cairo last week. Egypt has proposed an 18-month truce in Gaza and staged opening of the enclave’s border crossings, which until now only allow the flow of a trickle of humanitarian aids.

It also suggested that the Palestinian factions revive the long-stalled reconciliation dialogue on 22 Feb, which would facilitate the recon-struction of Gaza, home to some 1.5 million people.

A staff member of Afghan Justice Ministry holding her kids escapes after suicide bombers attacked the building in Kabul, capital of Afghanistan, on 11 Feb, 2009.—XINHUA

US Army drops charges against soldier in killings

FRANKFURT, 13 Feb—The US Army dropped charges of conspiracy to commit premeditated murder against a soldier in the deaths of four bound and blindfolded Iraqis in 2007.

In a brief statement Thursday, the Army said charges against Staff Sgt Jess Cunningham of Bakersfield, California, had been withdrawn and dismissed.

No reason was given and the 7th US Army Joint Multinational Training Command did not elaborate.

A call to Cunningham’s lawyer was not immediately returned.

British travel industry suffers as recession bites

LONDON, 13 Feb—Latest figures released on Thursday show that Britain’s travel industry has fallen a victim to the deepening recession with declining overseas visits. The International Passenger Survey, which is the key monitor of international tourism to Britain, indicates that overseas visitors made 32 million visits to Britain last year and spent just over 16.4 billion pounds (23.5 billion US dollars).

This means that before adjusting for inflation, their spending is three percent up on January-December 2007, while the number of visits has fallen by two percent.—INTERNET

S Korea finds harmful bacteria in French powdered milk product

SEOUL, 13 Feb—South Korean government has found harmful bacteria in a French powdered milk product that can pose health risks to infants, local media reported on Friday. According to South Korea’s Yonhap News Agency, South Korea’s National Veterinary Research and Quarantine Service (NVQRS) discovered traces of the enterobacter sakazaki (E sakazaki) bacteria in a 135 kg package of canned organic infant formula made by Vitajermin SA.

The package imported late last month will likely be destroyed, and the Korea Food and Drug Administration has been notified to check sales of products made by Vitajermin that cleared inspections in the past, Yonhap said.

From December 2007, the French company exported to South Korea a total of eight shipments containing 1,492 kg of canned baby formula. Six of those, totaling 1,222 kg, actually reached the market, according to Yonhap.
Rakhine State was not in a position to deal well with other states and divisions. Despite the long colonization of Rakhine State for 123 years from 1825 to 1948, the colonialists did not pay any attention to regional development.

In the post-independence period, Rakhine State was accessible by sea from Yangon. Due to geographical barriers, it did not get smooth transport. The colonialists stirred up a variety of problems that could lead to secession of the region from the Union by sowing hatred among national brethren and providing fertile soil for illegal immigrants from the neighbouring country. Only with national unity and Union Spirit, could the whole Union regain independence. And due to the sense of Union Spirit and national cohesion, the people have managed to restore independence throughout the history of the nation.

In spite of internal and external subversive elements resorting to various means to hinder nation-building tasks, the Union is enjoying peace and rapid development.

As said by the Prime Minister at Sittway Station in Rakhine State on 24 January, Rakhine State is a part of the Union of Myanmar, and is like a mini-union where various national races such as Rakhine, Bamar, Pau, Kanyan and Thet have been living in harmony for thousands of years.

Now, the roads and bridges the government has constructed for convenience of Rakhine dwellers have become part of the transport network of the Union. It has got many fine roads and bridges that local people had never dreamt about previously.

Yangon-Sittway Highway Project was launched in 1996 and completed in February 2000. Construction of a fine road to Rakhine State is far more difficult than that to any other region. Such a road has to pass through swamp lands, rivers, creeks and mountain ranges.

In order to complete Yangon-Sittway Highway Project, 27 above-180-foot and 1067 under-180-foot bridges had to be constructed, spending thousands of millions of kyats.

Thanks to the peaceful and stable conditions, the whole Union has been making considerable progress. National races in the border areas are enjoying the taste of development and peace, thus amounting to the development gap getting narrow between rural and urban areas.
**Union Day present to Rakhine State**

*Kyaw Zan Shwe*

Moreover, Yangon-Kyaunkpyu Road had to be built, overcoming a large number of natural barriers in order to link the southern part with the northern part of Rakhine State as well as with Ayeyawady and Yangon divisions. Yangon-Kyaunkpyu Road has 16 above-180-foot and 879 under-180-foot bridges along it.

The good news Rakhine State residents got from the Prime Minister was that the government had a plan to construct a railroad in the region. I never got any idea that our state would get a railroad. We were informed that the railroad would pass through Sittway, Ponagyun, Kyauktaw, MraukU, Minbya and An, and then it would link with the railroad on the west bank of the Ayeyawady River through An; that the process of importing railtrack for 1000 miles of railroads was in the process; and that the project would come into force as soon as possible.

The people of Rakhine State are very pleased with the news that the ministers who accompanied the Prime Minister on the tour will implement programmes on natural disaster preparedness, information, communication, fishing, and supply of adequate electric power.

Now, our state has seen a lot of basic foundations for its development. And according to the news brought by the Prime Minister, our state has a prosperous future ahead of it. I consider those programmes to be a blessing to Rakhine State to commemorate the 62nd Anniversary Union Day. In other words, I assume it to be a Union Day gift to the entire national brethren of the Union. Now, all the parts of the Union have the future of prosperity with peace and stability, which represents the taste of the Union, independence, and national unity.

Translation: MS

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**POEM:**

*Our Union of Myanmar*

* A drop of water
  Cannot become river
* A piece of dust
  Cannot create mountain and forest
* A single race
  Cannot form a Union
* Many drops of water
  Can become rivers
* Many pieces of dust
  Can create mountains
* Unity of national brethren
  Such as Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan,
  Ensures safety
May our Union, our home
Last for thousands of years more

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**9th AGM of Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation on 21 Feb**

YANGON, 13 Feb — The 9th Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation will be held at Myanmar Fishery Federation in West Gyogon, Insein Township on 21 and 22 February.

While the AGM is in progress, pets show and competitions will be held in addition to displaying of feedstuff and husbandry medicines at booths and stalls.—MNA

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**Commander, ministers inspect construction of retaining wall, services of IWT**

NAV PYI TAW, 13 Feb — Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Thaung Aye, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung and Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspected construction of 120-foot long gravel filled retaining wall being built by Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems for prevention of landslide at Apaukwa Model Village in Kyauktaw Township of Rakhine State on 8 February.

At the office of Inland Water Transport (Rakhine Branch) Commander Maj-Gen Thaung Aye and Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe heard reports presented by officials and gave necessary instructions. Next, the commander and the minister delivered addresses in meeting with service personnel of Inland Water Transport (Rakhine Branch) and greeted them. — MNA
Investment and human resources play important role...

(From page 16)

Although Kayah State is not far from T appao, Nay Pyi Taw, Bago and Mandalay Divisions situated in central region of the country, those in Kayah State were facing poor transportation in the past due to mountain barriers.

Under the divide-and-rule policy of colonialists for many years, lack of friendship among national races caused armed conflicts due to racism and regionalism.

The Tatmadaw government, in order to develop the Kayah State, is making every effort for development of Kayah State fulfilling its requirements of transportation, education, health and economic sectors in order not to lag behind other regions while Kayah State is enjoying stability and security.

With regard to the transportation sector, the Aungban-Loikaw railroad was constructed in 1993 in addition to existing air routes and motor roads. As such, the local people in Kayah State have easy access to other regions and it can be exported. Therefore, acreage of maize should be extended on the hilly region where paddy cannot be grown. As maize yields about 59 baskets per acre, it is necessary to use quality maize strain for meeting the target.

The calculation of economic development is based on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Per Capita Income. For 2008-2009 financial year, Kayah State sets the plan to fetch K 68.2 billion with 7.6 per cent of development rate. From April to December 2008, the state has fetched K 52.2 billion or 76.5 per cent implementation of the plan with 6.8 per cent development rate. Moreover, concerted efforts are to be made for exceeding the target in 2008-2009 as the third year of fourth-five year short term plan.

The per capita income K 270,417 of Kayah State in 2008-2009 fiscal year is lesser than that of other States and Divisions. At the end of third quarter in 2008, PCI of the whole region did not enjoy rice sufficiency in the past. In Kayah State, State had over 80,000 acres of arable lands. At present, the state has extended farmland up to 378,136 acres. Due to growing 61,051 acres of paddy only, the region did not enjoy rice sufficiency in the past. In 2008-2009 financial year, over 9,000 acres of land was put under summer paddy in addition to 101,481 acres of monsoon paddy, and as a result, there was an output of over 70 million baskets of paddy in total in the state. As such, Kayah State enjoys 113.71 percent rice sufficiency and 128.12 percent edible oil sufficiency. Although the state has surplus rice and edible oil, it is necessary to pay attention to increasing population yearly.

Maize is one of the agricultural produce in Kayah State and it can be exported. Therefore, acreage of maize should be extended on the hilly region where paddy cannot be grown. As maize yields about 59 baskets per acre, it is necessary to use quality maize strain for meeting the target.
The Prime Minister viewed generating of turbines at the control room.

The Prime Minister and party went back to Loikaw by helicopter. They proceeded to 3rd Mile Pakye Village of Nwalawoe Village-tract in Loikaw Township.

At the house of U Shar Yei, the Prime Minister looked into generating of electricity through biogas, cooking of meals and lighting of fifteen 2-foot fluorescent lamps.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister instructed officials to organize local people to use biogas at all the houses as the local people can use the bio-energy through the waste of animals in cooking meals and using bio-solution as natural fertilizers for uplift of living standard by earning more income, and he added that officials are to provide necessary technology to the local people.—MNA

Lt-Gen Tha Aye visits No. 1 Sittoung Paper Mill

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Feb—Lt-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence together with Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win met with servicemen of Theinzayet station in Theinzayet village in Kyakktu Township on 8 February.

Lt-Gen Tha Aye presented sports gear and clothing to the servicemen and their families and he visited crop and vegetable plantations grown in the station. He proceeded to eucalyptus nursery plantation in the village. The Forest Department has grown Eucalyptus as the industrial raw material.

He also inspected cultivation of eucalyptus, which is the raw materials for No. 1 Sittoung Paper Mill of the Ministry of Industry-1 and visited the Briquette factory in the mill. In the paper mill, Lt-Gen Tha Aye held discussion with the departmental officials of the state.

Construction of approach tunnel No.2 of Biluchaung No. 3 Hydropower Project in progress.—MNA

Concerts to mark Union Day in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Feb—Open-air concerts to mark the 62nd Anniversary Union Day took place at the City Hall here this evening.

Among the audience were the director-general of the Fine Arts Department under the Ministry of Culture, officials, delegates of states and divisions and service personnel.

The Fine Arts Department and cultural troupes from states and divisions presented dances and songs.

Vocalists entertained the audience to the accompaniment of the Myanmar Radio modern band, and the Anyeint troupe of the Fine Arts Department, to the accompaniment of Ywawas U San Yin traditional orchestra.

The concerts continue tomorrow.—MNA
DEVELOPMENT OF SHAN STATE IN THE TIME OF TATMADAW GOVERNMENT

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Alternative development reflects prevailing peace and stability in Shan State (East) in the time of Tatmadaw Government.

Honouring the 62nd Anniversary Union Day

Main building at Panglong University built in Panglong of Loilem District in Shan State (South).
Russia says NATO has failed to stop Afghan heroin trade

MOSCOW, 13 Feb — Russia on Thursday blamed NATO’s failure to stamp out heroin production in Afghanistan for a rise in domestic drugs use. US-led forces centered Afghanistan’s counter-terrorism efforts after the al-Qaeda attacks on the United States in 2001, but NATO members only agreed last year they could carry out direct strikes on drug traffickers.

This was too late to prevent drug addiction becoming a serious problem in Russia, Viktor Ivanov, head of Russia’s Federal Drug Control Agency, told a news briefing. Afghanistan supplies 90 per cent of the world’s heroin. “The growth of narcotics from abroad has continued since the appearance of troops (in Afghanistan) in 2001,” Ivanov said. “This organization (NATO) had a remit to combat terrorism and not to combat drugs.” — MNA/Reuters

Kidney divorce case gets more complicated

GARDEN CITY, 13 Feb — A New York surgeon suing his estranged wife for the kidney he donated to her admits it was he who turned his divorce case into a media circus, his lawyer said.

The case got even more complex on Wednesday when Richard Batista’s lawyer held a news conference to talk about Batista’s former fiancee, Newsday reported. Pamela Rathburn-Ray held her own news conference Tuesday to claim that he physically abused her during their engagement 20 years ago.

“It turned out to be a Jerry Springer show,” Batista said. Batista, a vascular surgeon at Nassau University Medical Center, denies hitting Pamela Rathburn-Ray. His wife, Dawnell Batista, has requested that Rathburn-Ray testify at their divorce trial. — Internet

An aerial view of Padang city taken from Siti Nurbaya hill in Indonesia’s West Sumatra Province on 11 Feb, 2009. — Internet

Two politicians killed in N Iraq

MOSSUL, 13 Feb — Two Iraqi politicians were shot dead and a third was injured by gunmen in the volatile city of Mosul, a local police source said on Thursday.

“One unknown armed men gunned down Abdul Kareem al-Sharabi, a key figure in the National Dialogue Front, a main Sunni secular political party,” the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. The attack took place before on Thursday noon near the victim’s house in the 17th of July neighbourhood in western Mosul. The source said. — Internet

A Baby born with 24 fingers and toes

A baby boy has been born in California with 24 fingers and toes.

Medical staff at St Luke’s Hospital in San Francisco said that the digits on Kamani Hubbard were so perfectly formed that they do not constitute a deformity or disability.

According to The Daily Telegraph, the baby looked so normal that maternity staff did not even notice the discrepancy.

The boy’s father Kris Hubbard eventually spotted the sixth digit on each hand and foot.

Although Polydactylysm is not particularly rare, it is extremely uncommon for an extra digit on each hand and foot.

A fashion car is made with more than 200 kg white chocolate in two days by two chocolate craftsmen, in East China’s Shanghai. The chocolate car was created to celebrate the 17th of July neighbourhood in western Mosul, a local police source said on Thursday.

Two live pigeons stuffed in his trousers

An Australian man was caught with two live pigeons stuffed in his trousers as he got off a flight from the Middle East, authorities said on Tuesday.

Customs officers body-searched the 23-year-old after he was allegedly found with two bird eggs in a vitamin container in his pocket during baggage checks at Melbourne Airport on Sunday.

“The man was taken to a private interview room and Customs and border protection officers found he was wearing tights with a live pigeon concealed in each leg,” Customs said.

The man, who had come off a ten-hour flight from Dubai, was also allegedly carrying plant seeds in a money belt and eggplant samples in his bag.

“Wildlife smuggling is not only cruel to the animals involved, it poses a severe risk to the Australian with pigeons in trousers environment and the health of the Australian community,” said Customs wildlife spokesman Richard Janeczko.

The offences carry a maximum penalty of 10 years in jail and a 110,000 dollar fine (70,000 US dollars).

Man in wheelchair allegedly steals purse, spits

Columbus police arrested a man in a wheelchair after he allegedly stole a woman’s purse early on Saturday and then spit in an officer’s face. Police said a 51-year-old man approached a 49-year-old woman who was reclining on a couch in the lobby of the apartment building with her brown purse beside her.

Police said the man took the purse and tried to get away but the woman yelled at him to return the purse and it was recovered. The man got into an elevator and went to his room but was arrested for robbery a short time later.

Two officers took the man to a medical center for treatment. Police said the man then insulted the weight of one officer and then cursed and spit in his face.

Plane crashes in US New York State, 49 dead

NEW YORK, 13 Feb — An airliner with 48 people on board crashed into a home in the US State of New York on Thursday evening, with 49 people reported to be killed.

The crash occurred at around 10:20 p.m. Thursday in suburban Buffalo in northern New York State, nearly a seven-hour drive from New York City, as a 50-seat Continental Airlines commuter flight crashed into a house in Clarence Centre, local media reported.

CNN quoted Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as saying that the plane had 48 people on board, and their fate remained unknown. However, The Buffalo News quoted “unconfirmed reports from a source at Buffalo Niagara International Airport”. There were “multiple fatalities”, a local official said in a news briefing broadcast by the local television. The official refused to confirm the report of 49 deaths. — MNA/Xinhua

A Bombardier Dash-8 Q400 is shown on it’s acceptance flight at Pearson International Airport, Toronto, Ontario. A commuter aircraft similar to the one shown crashed into a home and exploded in Clarence, NY, on Thursday night 12 Feb, 2009. — Internet

Examples of animal and insect colourings and camouflage are displayed at the “Darwin” exhibition at the Natural History Museum in London in 2008. Charles Darwin, born 200 years ago on Thursday, upended our conception of humanity’s place in Nature but also unleashed a pernicious justification of social and racial inequality.

Men carrying their wives rush to the final acceptance flight at Pearson International Airport, Toronto, Ontario. A commuter aircraft similar to the one shown crashed into a home and exploded in Clarence, NY, on Thursday night 12 Feb, 2009. — Internet

A 24-fingered baby born in California. Examples of animal and insect colourings and camouflage are displayed at the “Darwin” exhibition at the Natural History Museum in London in 2008. Charles Darwin, born 200 years ago on Thursday, upended our conception of humanity’s place in Nature but also unleashed a pernicious justification of social and racial inequality.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 14 February, 2009 11
Silver nanoparticle ink is developed

CHAMPAIGN, 13 Feb — US scientists say they've developed a silver nanoparticle ink that can create flexible, stretchable and spanning micro-electrodes.

University of Illinois Professor Jennifer Lewis and colleagues said such printed microelectrodes can withstand repeated bending and stretching with minimal change in their electrical properties. “Unlike inkjet or screen printing, our approach enables the microelectrodes to be printed out-of-plane, allowing them to directly cross pre-existing patterned features through the formation of spanning arches,” Lewis said. “Typically, insulating layers or bypass electrode arrays are required in conventional layouts.”

When printed, the silver nanoparticles are not yet bonded together, the scientists said. The bonding process occurs when the printed structure is heated to 150 degrees Celsius or higher. During thermal annealing, the nanoparticles fuse into an interconnected structure and, since only modest processing temperatures are required, the printed features are compatible with flexible, organic substrates.

The research that included Bok Yeop Ahn, Eric Duoss and Professors Ralph Nuzzo and John Rogers, appears in the online journal Science Express.

Giant Mona Lisa goes on display

Pei-Ming has described his work as a ‘homage’ to Mona Lisa.—INTERNET

PARIS , 13 Feb — A giant, grey version of the Mona Lisa with streaks of paint running down her face has gone on display at the Louvre museum, in Paris. The work, by artist Yan Pei-Ming, forms the centrepiece of an exhibition entitled The Funeral of Mona Lisa. It is being displayed in a room next to Leonardo da Vinci’s original, as part of the Louvre’s efforts to bring modern art face-to-face with old masterpieces. Da Vinci’s famous 16th century portrait is the museum’s star attraction. Pei-Ming’s work consists of five paintings, with the huge grey Mona Lisa in the centre. It also features a portrait of Pei-Ming’s dead father and a self-portrait of Pei-Ming in a deathlike pose.

A sleeping brain is still hard at work

Philadelphia, 13 Feb — US-led research is providing strong support for the idea that one of the key functions of sleep is the consolidation of memories. University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine researchers say although sleep is thought to facilitate memory and learning, the molecular links between sleep and synaptic plasticity aren’t well understood. Ocular dominance plasticity — in which one eye can become dominant if the other eye is blocked — is a classic model of experience-dependent cortical plasticity that allows scientists to follow specific changes in the visual cortex in response to the occlusion of one eye. “We have shown that ODP is consolidated by sleep,” said senior study author Assistant Professor Marcos Frank.

Police find body in car trunk after chase

DENVER, 13 Feb—Denver police responding to a report of gunfire found a body in the trunk of a car that sped away as they arrived and then crashed early Thursday after a chase.

Three people were arrested, KWGN-TV reported. Two were still in the car when it hit a guardrail, while the third got out during the chase and tried to escape on foot. Phillip Montano, 21, and Derrick Blake, 32, have been charged with first-degree murder. Angela Sanders, 33, the driver of the Toyota Camry, faces charges as an accessory and eluding police.

Officials responding to the call encountered a “visibly shaken” man who pointed out the house where the gunfire had been heard, said Steve Davis, a police department spokesman. He said the Camry left the scene as the officers approached the house. The dead man, described as young and appearing Hispanic, had not been identified on Thursday night.—INTERNET

Octuplets doc treats mom with quadruplets

LOS ANGELES, 13 Feb — A California doctor who helped a woman conceive octuplets gave fertility treatment to a 49-year-old woman who is pregnant with quadruplets, medical sources say. The Los Angeles Times reported on Thursday that Dr. Michael Kamrava transferred at least seven embryos made from younger donor eggs to the woman, who is about five months pregnant. Experts say transferring that many embryos raises the odds of a multiple birth and threatens the health of the mother and babies.

The California Medical Board is already investigating the octuplets case, the newspaper reported. “I do think it is concerning, and dangerous, especially to the mother,” said a doctor with knowledge of the case. “She is close to 50. When women get to be that age, our fear is the cardiovascular complications, such as stroke or heart attack. That’s how serious this is.”—INTERNET
Police inspect a home where bones were found in the yard after a fire at Kinglake, north east of Melbourne, Australia on 11 Feb, 2009. Residents of towns scorched by Australia’s worst-ever wildfires returned to their homes for the first time and found scenes of utter devastation. —INTERNET

Gene explosion set humans, great apes apart

WASHINGTON, 13 Feb—An eruption of a poorly understood kind of genetic change set humans apart from great apes, and also sets chimps, gorillas and orangutans apart from monkeys, researchers reported on Wednesday.

Right before the great apes branched off from other apes and monkeys 10 million years ago, their DNA began to make explosive changes — not classic mutations, but another change known as copy number variation, University of Washington geneticist Evan Eichler and colleagues found.

These changes in DNA sequences may help explain what makes humans —and other apes— unique, they report in the journal Nature. “These are really like volcanoes in the genome, blowing out pieces of DNA,” Eichler said in a statement. —INTERNET

Surgery makes artificial arms easier to control

CHICAGO, 13 Feb — A new type of surgery may give amputees better control over their artificial arms, allowing them to point a finger, grasp a baseball bat or even give someone a pinch, US researchers said on Tuesday.

The findings represent the latest advances in a surgical technique to use nerves severed by amputation to control artificial limbs. The technique involves reconnecting amputated nerve fibers to muscles in the chest and using electrical impulses from those nerves to operate a special motorized artificial arm.

“Now, instead of saying I want to close my hand, a patient can say, ‘I want to be in a finger-pointing mode and close my hand,’ or I want to have a fine pinch grasp, or a power grasp like you hold a baseball bat,” said Dr Todd Kuiken of the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, who reported his findings in the Journal of the American Medical Association. Currently, most prosthetic arms are powered by body motion. Motion in the upper shoulder is transferred through a cable to operate the hand, wrist or elbow. But this method only allows patients to use one joint at a time and takes a lot of training.

Doctors find telltale cells in leukemia patients

WASHINGTON, 13 Feb — Researchers from the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Centre have identified a panel of small molecules, or metabolites, that appear to indicate aggressive prostate cancer. Results of the study will appear in journal Nature on Thursday.

The finding could lead to a simple test that would help doctors determine which prostate cancers are slow-growing and which require immediate, aggressive treatment.

“One of the biggest challenges we face in prostate cancer is determining if the cancer is aggressive. We end up over treating our patients because physicians don’t know which tumors will be slow-growing. With this research, we have identified a potential marker for the aggressive tumors,” says senior study author Arul Chinnaiyan, director of the Michigan Center for Translational Pathology.

The researchers looked at 1,126 metabolites across 262 samples of tissue, blood or urine associated with benign prostate cancer, early stage prostate cancer and advanced, or metastatic, prostate cancer. They mapped the alterations in metabolites and identified about 10 that were present more often in prostate cancer than in the benign cells and were present most often in the advanced cancer samples. —INTERNET

Oracle Racing of the US (right) races against Alinghi Challenge of Switzerland during in the first of three races in the Challengers Final of the Louis Vuitton Pacific Cup Series in Auckland, on 11 February. The winner of the three races will sail against Team New Zealand in the Cup Final. —INTERNET

India creates fizzy drink from cow urine

BEIJING, 13 Feb—An Indian national movement has created a fizzy drink made from cow urine. The Rashtriya Swa- amsevak Sangh's Cow Protection Department has announced that development has almost finished on the beverage, which is called “gau jal”, meaning “cow water”.

Deartment head Om Prakash said that the drink is undergoing final laboratory tests and should be on the market by the end of the year.

“Don’t worry, it won’t smell like urine and will be tasty too,” he told The Times.

“It’s (ultimate selling point) will be that it’s going to be very healthy. It won’t be like carbonated drinks and would be devoid of any toxins.” —INTERNET

Nokia to cut production as phone market dives

HELSINKI, 13 Feb — Cellphone maker Nokia said on Wednesday it would cut production at its key Salo plant in Finland as demand for handsets has dropped.

Cellphone sales are set to dive this year, affected by consumers’ reluctance to spend on new gadgets in the midst of the economic recession and large inventories built up by phone sellers at the end of last year.Nokia, which plans to slash annual costs at its key handset unit by more than 20 percent, said it would continue to seek savings in operational expenses, looking at all areas and activities. At the Salo plant, a cornerstone of the company’s rise to become the world’s top mobile phone maker in 1998, it will temporarily lay off the whole staff of 2,500 on a rotational basis, with between 20 percent and 30 percent of staff idle at a time. —INTERNET

Doctors find telltale cells in leukemia patients

WASHINGTON, 13 Feb — Tell-tale cells may be able to warn people they are at risk of the most common type of leukemia, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, U.S. researchers reported on Wednesday.

They looked at frozen blood samples from 45 people later diagnosed with CLL and found cells called antibody-producing B cells circulating. People who have a certain type of these cells are diagnosed with a condition called monoclonal B-cell lymphocytosis, CLL, which affects about 15,000 Americans each year and kills 4,500, is usually preceded by this condition, said Dr Ola Landgren of the National Cancer Institute in Maryland. —INTERNET

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Hiddink refuses to concede Chelsea trophy hopes

London, 13 Feb — New Chelsea boss Guus Hiddink has refused to raise the white flag on the Londoners’ Premier League and Champions League ambitions despite the crisis which has engulfed the club.

The experienced Dutchman, drafted in as a replacement for the sacked Luiz Felipe Scolari by owner Roman Abramovich until the end of season, insists that there are plenty of grounds for optimism.

His conviction’s first test will come on Saturday when Chelsea tackle second-tier Watford for a place in the FA Cup quarter-finals.

“They are in several races – the FA Cup, the Champions League and also the league,” Hiddink told Chelsea TV.

“There is a 10-point difference (to league leaders Manchester United) but if you look in the past of this league and other leagues as well, some things can happen during the final stages of the championship,” Hiddink only agreed to take on the job because of his close friendship with Abramovich with the deal also allowing him to remain as Russia coach with whom he is plotting a path to the 2010 World Cup.

Li heartened by progress despite Paris Open exit

Paris, 13 Feb — Chinese number one Li Na said she was hoping to put her injury woes behind her after a 6-0, 6-2 victory over second seed Jelena Jankovic in the second round of the WTA Paris Open on Thursday.

Jankovic took the first set in the face of little opposition from her opponent, but Li hit back to win through Dimitrov twice had chances in the final set to grab a break before running out of steam.

Serenia and Mauresmo cruise, Jankovic toils in Paris

Paris, 13 Feb — Serena Williams swept into the Paris Open last eight with a comfortable 6-1, 6-2 win over Croatia’s Karolina Sprem on Thursday, while second seed Jelena Jankovic battled to victory over China’s Li Na.

Home favourite Amelie Mauresmo overcame Romania’s Monica Niculescu 6-1, 6-2 and third seed Elena Dementi-eva saw off Russian counterpart Anastacia Pavlyuchenkova.

World number one Williams took just under an hour to dispatch Sprem and will meet French qualifier Emilie Loit on Friday for a place in the semi-finals.

“Definitely I think I was in control of the match today,” Williams said. “(My return) could be better. It’s better than it was, but I can work on it as well.”

Beckham would honour Galaxy deal says coach Arena

London, 13 Feb — David Beckham would see out his Los Angeles Galaxy contract as opposed to trying to leave should a permanent deal with AC Milan not materialise, Galaxy team boss Bruce Arena said on Thursday.

“David Beckham under- stands what a contract means, he will honour his contract, whether it’s with LA Galaxy or AC Milan,” Arena insisted.

Nadal survives teenage test in Rotterdam

Rotterdam, 13 Feb — Rafael Nadal defeated world number 490 Grigor Dimitrov 7-5, 3-6, 6-2 on Thursday to reach the Rotterdam Open semi-finals, but the Bulgarian teenager demonstrated his exciting potential as a future star.

World number one Nadal had plenty of problems with the 17-year-old junior Wimbledon and US Open winner who broke the newly-crowned Australian Open champion in the eighth game of the second set on his way to levelling the match.

But Nadal, who has struggled all week on the ultra-fast court here, quickly recovered his pose to reach the last eight.

Spanish Rafael Nadal returns a backhand to Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov during the ATP Tennis Tournament in Ahoy, Rotterdam.—Internet

James backs Portsmouth’s bid for Eriksson

Portsmouth, 13 Feb — Portsmouth goalkeeper David James believes Sven Goran Eriksson is the man to rescue his team from the Premier League relegation battle.

James returned to Fratton Park on Thursday after playing in England’s friendly defeat in Spain to find his club rudderless following ‘Tony Adams’ sacking at the start of this week.

Paul Hart will take charge for Saturday’s league clash against Manchester City, but Portsmouth are reported to be keen to lure former England coach Eriksson away from his current job with Mexico’s Alan Curbishley, the former Charlton, Chelsea and West Ham boss, and Avram Grant, who spent most of last season in charge at Chelsea, has also been linked with the Portsmouth post.

Kinnear to have triple heart bypass op

Newcastle, 13 Feb — Newcastle manager Joe Kinnear will undergo a triple heart bypass operation on Friday, the Premier League club confirmed on Thursday.

Kinnear’s assistants Chris Hughton and Colin Calderwood will continue to look after first-team affairs at St James’ Park.

They have been in charge since Kinnear was taken to hospital complaining of pains in his arms ahead of his side’s win at West Bromwich Albion last Saturday. After a series of tests it was decided that the 62-year-old needs the operation immediately.

In 1999, Kinnear suffered a heart attack before a match against Sheffield Wednesday during his time as Wimbledon manager.

A club statement said: ‘Newcastle United can confirm that manager Joe Kinnear will undergo a triple heart bypass operation on Friday.”

Kinnear’s as- sistant Chris Hughton, the former En- gland boss Bruce Arena said on Wednesday that his time as Wimbledon manager is over.

Michael Bradley of the US kicks the ball past Pavel Pardo of Mexico to score his second goal during their FIFA World Cup qualifying match at Columbus Crew Stadium in Columbus, Ohio.
Over 300 buildings damaged by strong earthquake in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 13 Feb—Over 300 buildings were seriously damaged and over 3,000 people escaped from their homes after a 7.4 magnitude quake rocked North Sulawesi Province on Thursday morning, according to the Health Ministry.

A mobile phone shortly after 8 am (0100 GMT) as a pickup truck carrying the policeman was passing over, the website by The Nation newspaper reported.

The three policemen died instantly in the blast and the fourth was listed in a critical condition from his injuries.—MNA/Xinhua

Three Thai police killed in bomb attack in S Thailand

BANGKOK, 13 Feb—Three Thai policemen in Thailand’s southernmost province of Pattani were killed on Thursday in a bomb attack while they were returning to their base after escorting teachers to school. The bomb, which was planted on a public road in Nongjik District, was detonated by a mobile phone shortly after 8 am (0100 GMT) as a pickup truck carrying the policemen was passing over, the website by The Nation newspaper reported.

The three policemen died instantly in the blast and the fourth was listed in a critical condition from his injuries.—MNA/Xinhua

Weather

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST:

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WEATHER
Investment and human resources play important role in building industrialized nation

Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets departmental officials, members of social organizations, local people in Loikaw

Prime Minister General Thein Sein cordially greets departmental personnel, members of social organizations and local people at Town Hall in Loikaw. —SNA

In the education sector, the number of basic education schools has increased to 388, up from 333. For enabling the local youths to pursue the higher education in the region, one arts and science university, one University of Computer Studies and one Technological University were opened in Loikaw after designating it as a development region.

Big day for Becks

MILAN, 13 Feb — It is deadline day for AC Milan in their attempts to keep David Beckham in Italy - and the England midfielder remains hopeful a deal can be struck with the Los Angeles Galaxy.

The Rossoneri are keen to retain the 33-year-old’s services after

Beckham spoke about the situation in an interview with Friday’s Gazzetta dello Sport, saying: “Milan and Galaxy are negotiating and I hope I can remain in Italy.

“I have already expressed my wish to remain in Milan and now I have to wait.”

“Physically, I feel really good, I really like playing for Milan.

Good luck for the Los Angeles Galaxy.

Internet

Mother-of-pearl from shells could inspire regeneration of human bones

and Paleontology of the University of Granada; Julyan Cartwright, researcher of the Andalusian Institute of Earth Sciences (CSIC-UGR), and Marc-Georg Willinger (University of Aveiro, Portugal).

Gastropods’ nacre towers...

Over 4,500 square miles area of Kayah State is formed with two districts and seven townships that is home to over 300,000 people of various national races.

Kayah State, being a small area with few population shares common border with a neighboring country and plays a vital role in maintaining bilateral ties between the two countries. (See page 8)