True patriotism

* It is very important for everyone of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.
* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Chairman of National Defence Commission of DPRK

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Feb— On the occasion of the birthday of His Excellency Mr Kim Jong Il, Chairman of the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, which falls on 16 February 2009, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Kim Jong Il, Chairman of the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.— MNA

Seasonal festivities of Ngwehsaung Beach attracting tourists

Nowadays, prevailing peace and tranquility and the unprecedented development can be witnessed throughout the country. To take relaxation, most of local visitors are heading for the recreation centres at natural beaches.

While breathing fresh air at seaside, the visitors can enjoy various kinds of delicious seafood. In addition to the opportunity to walk on the soft sand at the beaches, the picnickers can go swimming in the seawater. Everyone who had visited the beaches cannot forget the joyful and lovely nights of the sea for the whole life.

Many countries renovate their famous recreation centres at beaches to competitively attract the tourists. In Myanmar, tourists at home and from abroad can take relaxation at most beaches conveniently.

Ngwehsaung Beach is one of the famous natural beaches in the country.

Visitors enjoying themselves at sea of Ngwehsaung Beach.

Talks on rehabilitation practice on neck pain 21 Feb

YANGON, 15 Feb—The Rehabilitation Society of Myanmar Medical Association (Central) will conduct an orientation course on Neck Pain: A common problem in rehabilitation practice at the hall of MMA at No. 249 on Theinbyu Street in Mingala Taungnyunt Township on 21 February morning. Specialists, nurses and technicians concerning nerves and physiotherapy may attended the course.

INSIDE

Inuit trails represent complex social network spanning Canadian Arctic

OTTAWA, 15 Feb — Inuit trails are more than merely means to get from A to B. In reality, they represent a complex social network spanning the Canadian Arctic and are a distinctive aspect of the Inuit cultural identity.

And what is remarkable is that the Inuit’s vast geographic knowledge has been passed through many generations by oral means, without the use of maps or any other written documentation. These findings are by Dr. Claudio Aporta from Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada.

Using a combination of historical documents, ethnographic research, geographic tools including GPS, GIS and Google Earth, as well as a recent journey following Inuit along a traditional trail, Dr. Aporta shows the geographic extent of the Inuit’s sophisticated network of routes. He describes how the Inuit have made use of the Arctic environment and how their trails represent significant channels of communication and exchange across the territory — Internet

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While breathing fresh air at seaside, the visitors can enjoy various kinds of delicious seafood. In addition to the opportunity to walk on the soft sand at the beaches, the picnickers can go swimming in the seawater. Everyone who had visited the beaches cannot forget the joyful and lovely nights of the sea for the whole life.

Many countries renovate their famous recreation centres at beaches to competitively attract the tourists. In Myanmar, tourists at home and from abroad can take relaxation at most beaches conveniently.

Ngwehsaung Beach is one of the famous natural beaches in the country.

The visitors can walk on soft and whitish sand on the nine-mile long Ngwehsaung Beach. Ngwehsaung beach earns good reputation for its crystal clear seawater and absence of whirlpool.

(See page 7)
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

**Perspectives**

**Monday, 16 February, 2009**

Strive for regional development to build a democratic nation

Prime Minister General Thein Sein went on tour of inspection in Loikaw the other day. He met with state/district/township level departmental personnel, members of social organizations and local people at the town hall in Loikaw. He formally opened a grand university for Kayah State, fulfilled the requirements of the region and provided necessary assistance for the townships in the state.

Kayah State, a small one in terms of area is least populous in the country. It shares common border with a neighbouring country. It is an important state in maintaining bilateral ties between the two countries.

The government is fulfilling requirements of transport, education, health and economic sectors in order not to lag behind other regions in development.

In the transport sector Aungban-Loikaw railroad was built. As a result, local people in the region have easy access to Shan State, Mandalay and Bago Divisions. In the education sector, there is higher learning opportunity for all the local youths after arts and science university, university of computer studies and technological university have been opened in Kayah State.

Moreover, the 150-bed hospital was upgraded to 200-bed facility in Loikaw with an appointment of specialists in order to provide health care services effectively to local people. Kayah State extended farmlands up to 378,136 acres and it has become a state with surplus rice as the local people grow summer and monsoon paddy.

The government is trying to establish a modern and developed nation based on agriculture. The vast majority of the voters have approved the constitution for future State. All the national people are to join hands with the government as a national duty for successful holding of the election to be held in 2010 in accord with the constitution.

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**Minister for Finance and Revenue on tour of Kayuakpadaung Township**

**NAY PYI TAW**, 15 Feb — Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun yesterday met departmental officials, town elders, businessmen and social organization members at Sasana Beikman in Kayuakpadaung and fulfilled their requirements.

This morning, the minister met with local people from Pwaykyit Village-tract at Pwaykyit Basic Education High School Branch and presented sports gear to the village football team and books to the village library through officials.

Next, he visited the school. In Kanni Village-tract, the minister viewed the operating of paddy husk-powered generator and gave football equipment and books to the local people.

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**Myanmar Optic Shop opened at Nay Pyi Taw Thapyaygon**

**NAY PYI TAW**, 15 Feb — Retired opticians of the Ministry of Commerce moved Myanmar Optic shop at Nay Pyi Taw Thapyaygon brokerage from Thapyaygon Market on 12 February to give more services for residents in Nay Pyi Taw.

Besides, opticians are running a similar shop at No. 233/235 on Shwebontha Street (middle block) in Yangon.

At Myanmar Optic Shops, they sell daily used lens, bi-focal glasses and sun-glasses at reasonable prices, and eye specialists and opticians will give eye tests to customers. They will sell eye glasses at offices in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

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**Hockey Coaching Course concludes**

**YANGON**, 15 Feb — The Hockey Coaching Course, jointly conducted by Myanmar Hockey Federation of the Ministry of Sports and International Hockey Federation, concluded at Theinbyu Hockey Pitch in Mingala Taungnyunt yesterday afternoon.

On behalf of the director-general of Sports and Physical Education Department, President of MHF Commandant of Defence Services Self-defence and Sports Institute Col Htin Zaw Win gave an address. Pakistani Instructor Mr Khawaja Mohammad Aiswai of IWH explained the providing of lectures and training.

Next, the president of the federation and executives presented completion certificates to the trainees.

Altogether 33 trainees attended the course that started on 11 February. — MNA

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**STAG Hair Centre for men opened in Parami**

**YANGON**, 15 Feb — STAG Hair Center for men of Win Win Trading was opened at No 50 on Myintzu Street in Parami here on 12 February.

At the opening of Hair Center, Managing Director U Aung Naing of Win Win Trading explained the purposes of opening the center. Next, invited persons and journalists browsed the center, and Manager U Myint Zaw replied to the queries raised by those present.

At the STAG Hair Center for men, hair designers will give services of hair dressing, washing and colouring with advanced equipment and give 20 percent discount to customers up to 31 March.

It opens from 8:30 am to 6:30 pm daily except Mondays. — MNA

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**People’s Desire**

* 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
Israel rules out Gaza truce unless soldier freed

JERUSALEM, 15 Feb—Israel said on Saturday it would not agree to a ceasefire with the Hamas rulers of the Gaza Strip unless an Israeli soldier held by the Islamists was freed. Prime Minister Ehud Olmert’s office said in a statement: “The Prime Minister’s position is that Israel will not reach understandings on a truce before the release of Gilad Shalit.”

Israel wants to tie any ceasefire deal with Hamas in Gaza to the release of soldier Shalit, held captive in the Palestinian enclave since 2006 when he was kidnapped in a cross-border raid.

Egypt is mediating a long-term ceasefire between Israel and Hamas. Israeli media reported significant headway had been achieved in the indirect talks.

Hamas spokesman in Gaza Fawzi Barhoum told Reuters that the Egyptian-mediated talks were stalled by disagreement on the duration of the ceasefire. Israel wants a permanent ceasefire while Hamas favours an 18-month truce that could be extended. “Once this obstacle is overcome an announcement would be made,” Barhoum said.

Iran official to US:

Chess better game than boxing

TEHERAN, 15 Feb—When it comes to dealing with Iran, the country’s parliamentary speaker said the United States would be better served taking up chess than continuing to box, the country’s official news agency reported on Saturday.

His comments come at a time when the new administration of President Barack Obama has signaled a new willingness to reengage Iran, whose relations with the previous administration were long strained.

Obama last week pledged to rethink Washington’s relationship with Teheran. “The United States needs to play on a chess set (with Iran) instead of playing in a boxing ring,” IRNA quoted Ali Larijani as telling a group of visiting reporters in Teheran on Saturday.

And at his inauguration last month, Obama said his administration would reach out to rival states, saying “we will extend a hand if you are willing to unclench your fist.”

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has responded by saying Iran would welcome talks with the United States — but only if there was mutual respect.

Iranian officials have said that would mean that the United States needs to stop making “baseless” accusations against the Islamic Republic in order to pave the way for talks between the two longtime adversaries. The US accuses Iran of supporting terrorism and secretly seeking to build nuclear weapons — charges Iran denies.

One British soldier killed

in Afghanistan

LONDON, 15 Feb—Britain’s Defence Ministry announced on Saturday that a Royal Marine was killed in southern Afghanistan.

The marine, from 45 Commando, died of a gun shot wound after coming under fire in Helmand Province, a spokesman for the ministry said.

He was in a patrol supporting a bomb disposal team, the spokesman said, and died while being flown to hospital.

He is the seventh British serviceman to die in Afghanistan so far this year and the 14th British casualty since the 2001 invasion.

There are more than 8,000 British troops stationed in Afghanistan.

US supplies via Russia to start soon

MOSCOW, 15 Feb—The shipment of US military supplies for Afghanistan through Russia will begin soon, news agencies quoted Russia’s foreign minister as saying on Saturday.

“The transit will take place literally within days,” Sergey Lavrov told TV Tsentr, according to the Interfax, ITAR-Tass and RIA-Novosti agencies.

Foreign Ministry officials could not be reached for comment late Saturday, and the reports did not say whether the supplies would transit Russia by land or air. However, Russia announced last week that it would allow US shipments of non-lethal military supplies to Afghanistan.

Supply routes to Afghanistan for the US-led international military operation have become an increasingly critical issue in recent months amid growing militant attacks on the land routes through Pakistan that carry about 75 percent of US supplies.

The US plans to send around 30,000 more troops to Afghanistan this year.

Roadside bomb kills four Afghan police

KABUL, 15 Feb—Four Afghan police were killed as their van hit a mine in Afghanistan’s southern Kandahar Province, the former stronghold of Taliban, provincial police chief Mataullah Qazi said on Saturday.

“The police were on routine patrol in Dand district on Friday night when a mine planted by militants was exploded by remote control killing the four policemen on the spot,” Qazi told Xinhua.

Roadside bomb kills district chief in E Afghanistan

KABUL, 15 Feb—A roadside bomb struck the vehicle of a district chief in Khost Province, east Afghanistan on Saturday, killing the district chief and his two bodyguards, an official said.

“The mine planted by enemies struck the car of Badi Zaman Sabari, the district chief of Nadir Khahkot, killing him on the sport and wounding two of his body guards,” a local official Qal Qasim Jihadyar told Xinhua.

He said that the incident occurred at 8:30 am local time (0400GMT) when Zamb Sabari was on his way to office.
### Mobile phone industry gears up for Barca gathering

**BARCELONA, 15 Feb—** The mobile phone industry reached the milestone of its fourth billionth connection worldwide, but the cold winds of economic crisis will chill celebrations at the sector’s biggest annual gathering this week.

The majority of the planet is now texting, calling or surfing on mobile handsets and the potential for growth in developing countries is undiminished. 2.7 billion are still without a connection, yet despite this and the relatively recession-proof business of providing telephony connections, the industry as a whole is bracing for a downturn and anticipating a fall in investment.

As well as the launch of new products and industry initiatives, the crisis is seen to dominate the four-day Mobile World Congress, the world’s biggest industry event, which kicks off on Monday in Barcelona.

“For a long time people believed that telecoms would be spared, but as it is a global crisis everyone is going to be affected,” said Thomas Husson, an analyst for research group Forrester. — Internet

### India pre-poll budget

**NEW DELHI, 15 Feb—** India’s ruling Congress party will present on Monday a pre-election mini-budget that will seek to shield the economy from the global slump and provide relief for the poor, analysts say.

The interim budget, which will form the economic backdrop of the party's campaign for general elections that must be held by mid-May, will aim to be a please-all document with a populist streak, economists say. “Their aim is to get re-elected,” Deepak Lalwani, India Director of London-based brokerage Astaire and Partners, told AFP. The Congress-led government owed its unexpected election win in 2004 to India’s impoverished masses who turfed out the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party after they felt bypassed by an economic boom. “There’s a need to sustain our foreign trade, revive foreign investment and generate domestic demand in order to maintain our growth rates,” said acting finance minister Pranab Mukherjee. — Internet

### Glaxo to cut prices for poor countries

**NEW YORK, 15 Feb—** Drug maker GlaxoSmithKline PLC says it will cut drug prices to the 50 poorest countries in the world and use 20 percent of its profits from those countries to build health clinics and other infrastructure, according to published reports.

The company’s chief executive, Andrew Witty, also is proposing that drug companies, nonprofit groups and others donate their patents related to neglected tropical diseases to a common pool that could be used to speed development of new drugs, the Wall Street Journal said.

Witty said prices will be cut for the poorest countries so that they are no higher than 25 percent of the price in developed countries, according to the report. Glaxo, the second biggest drug maker by sales, generates about $43 million annually in profits from those countries. About $1.5 million to $2.5 million would be generated for the clinics, Witty told the Journal.

HIV drugs are already sold at not-for-profit prices in those countries, but the prices will be cut if the drugs aren’t already sold at prices below the threshold of 25 percent, reports said. — Internet

### Obama to sign stimulus bill

**WASHINGTON, 15 Feb—** President Barack Obama will sign the $787 billion economic stimulus bill on Tuesday in Denver, a White House official said on Saturday. Obama on Saturday hailed congressional approval of the stimulus bill as a “major milestone on our road to recovery” and vowed to move swiftly to set the plan in motion.

“I will sign this legislation into law shortly, and we’ll begin making the immediate investments necessary to put people back to work,” Obama said in his weekly radio address from Chicago after his biggest legislative victory since taking office on 20 January.

The Senate cast the final vote, 60-38, late Friday, hours after the House of Representatives passed an identical bill, 246-183, capping weeks of arguing over how to best jolt the economy out of deep recession. — MNA/Reuters

### Two Florida banks temporarily halting foreclosures

**MIAMI, 15 Feb—** Two Florida banks are joining some of the country’s largest lenders in temporarily halting foreclosures as the federal government tackles the housing crisis.

On Friday, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and major banks JP Morgan Chase & Co., Morgan Stanley, Citigroup Inc and Bank of America Corp said they were halting foreclosures for at least a month.

Coral Gables-based BankUnited and Fort Lauderdale-based Bank Atlantic followed suit, all saying they hoped to learn more soon about President Barack Obama’s $50 billion plan to keep more people from losing their homes. Obama is expected to provide more details in an Arizona speech on Wednesday.

“We want to help people remain in their homes,” said Ramiro Ortiz, BankUnited’s president and chief executive officer. — Internet

### Groups question Hamas on ‘extra-judicial’ killings

**GAZA CITY, 15 Feb—** The day after Israeli tanks entered Gaza last month, masked Palestinians opened fire on the al-Najar family outside their home, killing the father and wounding 10 others, including two teenage girls and a 78-year-old grandmother.

Ammar al-Najar, 25, a son of the victim, didn’t know who the gunmen were but he said the family supports the Fatah movement and had trouble previously with Gaza’s ruling Hamas group.

“My father … tried to talk to them, but they didn’t talk. They just started shooting,” he said. The men wore no identifying symbols, he said. International and Palestinian human rights organizations say there was a rash of shootings and beatings across Gaza during Israel’s offensive, voicing suspicions the Islamic militants of Hamas used wartime chaos to target enemies, including activists from the rival Fatah. — Internet

### Drilling in the dust changes lives in southern Sudan

**MIRINDANYI, (Sudan) 15 Feb—** It seems such a simple task: pumping the handle of a water borehole up and down until the clear and cool liquid splashes into the plastic container.

And in the dry and dusty southern Sudanese village of Mirindany, they have been celebrating doing just that since their pump was installed last year.

But it was not always this way. Beforehand, “it took two hours to the river to collect the water, then two hours back,” said Floris Fazir, pausing to heave a 20-litre container on her head.

“In the dry season, we got water from a scraped well on the river bed, and that was dirty. We would get sick often. But water from the borehole is sweet to drink.”

Southern Sudan, an oil-rich but grossly underdeveloped region about the size of Spain and Portugal, is slowly recovering after years of bloody north-south civil war. — Internet

**Young Sudanese girls pump drinking water from a recently drilled borehole in the village of Mirindany.** — Internet
Housing affordability reaches five-year high in New Zealand

WELLINGTON, 15 Feb — Housing affordability in New Zealand reached a five-year high, according to a survey released on Sunday.

Housing affordability improved to its best level in five years in January due to a fall in house prices and sharp reductions in mortgage interest costs, according to a monthly survey by interest.co.nz website. The website's editor Bernard Hickey said it was predicting housing would be affordable again for most New Zealanders by the end of 2009.

Meanwhile, the Sunday Star-Times reported that mortgage sales listings had increased in the past year on two top real estate websites — TradeMe and realestate.co.nz.

Mortgage sales listing on TradeMe had increased from 32 to 106 between January 2008 and January 2009, and realestate.co.nz said listings on its site had increased from 95 to 285.

One in every 200 homes listed for sale on realestate.co.nz was on the hook after being forced into foreclosure by the mortgage holder.

Around 8 percent of mortgage listings on realestate.co.nz were for homes worth more than 1 million NZ dollars (520,000 US dollars).

One pilot killed in helicopter crash in England

LONDON, 15 Feb — A pilot was thought to be killed on Saturday afternoon in a helicopter crash in South Yorkshire, England, according to a report of SKY Television.

The aircraft came down close to Sandtoft airfield near the M180 junction with the A18 outside Doncaster, the report said.

It was thought to have been traveling either to or from Leeds Bradford airport. Both South Yorkshire and Humber side fire and rescue services are attending the scene, it said.

SKY quoted sources as saying that it was the pilot's solo flight.

Kidnapped Sri Lankan held by Abu Sayyaf rebels

COTABATO (Philippines), 15 Feb — A Sri Lankan peace worker abducted in the troubled southern Philippines is now in the hands of Abu Sayyaf rebels, police said on Sunday.

Umar Jaleel, a 34-year-old and member of the Nonviolent Peaceforce, has been turned over by his captors to Abu Sayyaf bandits under a Furiigi Indama in the Philippines is now in the hands of Abu Sayyaf rebels, police said on Sunday.

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China's insurance agents report 250 mln yuan profit in 2008

BEIJING, 15 Feb — China Insurance Regulatory Commission (CIRC) said on Saturday the country’s insurance agents have gained 255 million yuan (36.76 million US dollars) of profit in 2008, up 30.81 year-on-year. According to a market report issued by CIRC, China has 2,445 insurance agents, 136,634 proxies and 2.6 million sales people by the end of 2008.

About 82 percent, or 804.35 billion yuan, of the insurance premiums received by Chinese insurers were acquired with the help from these intermediaries, the report said. By 2008, the registered capital of insurance agents reached 6.8 billion yuan, and their aggregate assets hit 9.5 billion yuan, the report said.

Six killed in train, bus collision in western Ukraine

Kiev, 15 Feb — Six people were killed and 11 others injured on Saturday when a train crashed into a passenger bus in western Ukraine, officials said.

“The accident took place near the village of Proshovo, about 25 kilometres from the Ternopil region in western Ukraine around noon,” Igol Krol, the Ukrainian Emergency Ministry’s spokesman, told reporters.

“When a passenger bus with about 23 people on board attempted to cross an unguarded railway crossing and was struck by the train,” he said.

“Five people died at the scene, and the sixth person died later at a hospital, another eleven people were hospitalized,” he added.

Singapore Airlines planes are pictured at the Changi International Airport in Singapore. Singapore Airlines said on Saturday it will indefinitely suspend its thrice weekly service to Vancouver which has been “badly affected” by the global economic crisis.—INTERNET

A South Korean boy looks at a poster with information on robots in Seoul in 2007. South Korea will spend about 1.05 billion dollars to nurture the robotics industry as a new growth engine, officials said on Thursday.

Robot arms assemble Golf VI cars at German car maker Volkswagen’s plant in Wolfsburg, central Germany, November 2008. European new cars sales slumped in January to the lowest level for twenty years, trade data showed on Friday, boosting the argument of countries such as France which wants to help the ailing sector. —INTERNET

One of the most popular routes for foreign investors to make money in China is through the country's insurance agents. According to official figures, in 2008, about 82 percent of the insurance premiums received in China were acquired with the help of these intermediaries.

A South Korean boy looks at a poster with information on robots in Seoul in 2007. South Korea will spend about 1.05 billion dollars to nurture the robotics industry as a new growth engine, officials said on Thursday. —INTERNET

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Anti-terrorism laws under anti-terrorism laws

British police said on Saturday they had seized three vans that were to form part of a 100-vehicle aid convoy headed for the border at Rafah into Gaza as a result of an anti-terror raid in the north-west of England.

Lancashire police said they were searching five houses in the town of Burnley on Saturday after arresting nine men under anti-terrorism laws.

US Marine kills himself at mom's farm

A US Marine who had served twice in Iraq went AWOL and headed to Canada, where he shot himself at his parent's farm in Nova Scotia, police said. Lance Cpl. Timothy Scott was believed to have crossed the border carrying a gun he stole from his father's home in Norfolk, Va, Canwest News Service reported. He killed himself on Thursday after his mother called the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to report that her son had come to the house with a gun.

US Marine kills himself at mom's farm

The 41-year-old remained comatose by paramedics for minor cuts and bruises.

Woman killed by train

A man worked on a carnival character representing the 'King of the Masquerade' made for the 125th Nice Carnival in Nice, France.

Taleban release Chinese engineer

A Taleban spokesman said as quoted by Reid Media News said.—

INVESTIGATORS found more than 20 mummies in an ancient Egyptian tomb.

Man survives being run over by train

A man has survived being run over by a train after drunkenly falling asleep between the tracks.

Jens Mauer passed out on the train line after reportedly stumbling as he walked between the tracks.

Taleban release Chinese engineer

Scott had been posted AWOL at Camp Lejeune, NC, after he disappeared on Tuesday.

The engineer, Long Xiaowei, arrived at China's embassy in Islamabad on Sunday and was in good health, a Chinese official said. Mr Long was captured in August in the Dir region with a Chinese colleague.

A Taleban spokesman said at the time. A Pakistani guard and driver who had been captured with the two engineers were recovered at the same time.

Granny, 68, fails 771 times of driving test

A South Korean grandma who had failed her driving test 771 times was reportedly to try again next time.

The 68-year-old, identified only as Cha, has taken the test almost every week for the past year. She failed her driving test 771 times was reportedly to try again next time.

A police sergeant supervising the test in the city's Deokjingu district called it a record-breaking number there.

Pythons found after brief escape from Calif home

It's pretty difficult for a 23-foot, 130-pound python to hide.

The orange reticulated python, the world's longest snake species, and a second python, measuring 13 feet, escaped from a terrarium in their owner's home in San Luis Obispo.

The orange reticulated python, the world's longest snake species, and a second python, measuring 13 feet, escaped from a terrarium in their owner's home in San Luis Obispo.

A South Korean grandma who had failed her driving test 771 times was reportedly to try again next time.

Local media said that Cha carried a handcart to sell food and household items door to door at apartment complexes, but she wants to get a car for her business.

Inventor of Taser stun gun dies

LOS ANGELES, 15 Feb — Jack Cover, an aerospace scientist who invented the controversial Taser stun gun now widely used by police, has died in southern California at the age of 88.

Mr Cover was suffering from Alzheimer's disease and died of pneumonia at a retirement home in Mission Viejo yesterday, Taser guns use electrical shocks to subdue unruly offenders, which supporters say helps reduce violence.

Critics, however, have linked the device to a number of deaths.

“Jack was one of the most influential inventors of modern times who affected the lives of hundreds of thousands of law enforcement officers, citizens and even criminal suspects,” CEO and founder of Taser International, Rick Smith, said. “Jack’s dream of reducing violence through the Taser technology was realised since his earliest invention of the original Taser ECD,” Mr Smith said. “Jack served as our chief scientist in our founding days at Taser International and he will be greatly missed.”—Internet

Air cargo passing through Hong Kong's airport dropped 28.9 percent year-on-year in January, figures have shown, the latest sign of how the global economic slowdown is hitting Chinese exporters.

Air cargo passing through Hong Kong's airport dropped 28.9 percent year-on-year in January, figures have shown, the latest sign of how the global economic slowdown is hitting Chinese exporters.
Humans and chimpanzees genetically more similar than one yeast variety is to another

GOTHENBURG, 15 Feb — There may be greater genetic variation between different yeasts of the same species than between humans and chimpanzees. This is one of the findings of a study from the University of Gothenburg that is being published in the scientific journal Nature. This study heralds a new era in evolutionary genetics research — the mapping of an individual’s DNA. The mapping of the entire yeast genome in 1996 marked the beginning of a revolution in biological and medical research. The human genome was mapped in 2001, and by now the number of characterised species is approaching 1000, most of which are bacteria. The next advance is only a few years away — mapping the genetic evolution of individual multicellular animals, including humans.

“We shall then be able to identify the genetic causes of human disease and understand how the process of evolution works when species are being formed,” says Anders Blomberg, professor at the Department of Cell and Molecular Biology, University of Gothenburg.

Anders Blomberg and his colleague Jonas Warringer are publishing a paper in the journal Nature, that to some extent leads to a new era in evolutionary and functional genetics research. The lowly yeast is, once again, leading the way.—Internet

Climate change likely to be more devastating than experts predicted

Carnegie Institution, 15 Feb — Without decisive action, global warming in the 21st century is likely to accelerate at a much faster pace and cause more environmental damage than predicted, according to a leading member of the Nobel Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

IPCC scientist Chris Field of Stanford University and the Carnegie Institution for Science points to recent studies showing that, in a business-as-usual world, higher temperatures could ignite tropical forests and melt the Arctic tundra, releasing billions of tons of greenhouse gas that could raise global temperatures even more— a vicious cycle that could spiral out of control by the end of the century.

“There is a real risk that human-caused climate change will accelerate the release of carbon dioxide from forest and tundra ecosystems, which have been storing a lot of carbon for thousands of years,” said Field, a professor of biology and of environmental Earth system science at Stanford, and a senior fellow at Stanford’s Woods Institute for the Environment.—Internet

Seasonal festivities of Ngwehsaung Beach attracting tourists

(from page 1)

Moreover, the natural resources including mangroves are being conserved in the beach area. International level hotels are offering standard hotel services to the visitors. As such, many economists remarked that Ngwehsaung Beach is a natural beach with bright prospects in Southeast Asian region.

Ngwehsaung is gaining development momentum year after year. In looking back the recent past, Ngahsaw Village was renamed Ngwehsaung in the year 2000. The Government upgraded Ngwehsaung Village to Ngwehsaung Town on 1 April 2004.

Not only foreign guests but also domestic ones are giving priority to taking relaxation at Ngwehsaung Beach, 29 miles from Pathein.

With regard to development of Ngwehsaung Zone, Joint Secretary Dr Aung Huy Lin of Myanmar Hoteliers Association said, “Seasonal festivities are being organized at the beach beginning 2008-2009 season for enabling the local and foreign tourists to enjoy the beautiful and lovely night scenes of Ngwehsaung. Most of the seasonal festivities are based on the traditional culture.”

He added, “The seasonal festivities held monthly are the hot air balloon releasing festival in October, the Kathama festival in November, the literary talks in December, the Kayin don dances festival in January, the Humane making contest in February, the Tabaung festival in March, the Maha Thungyan Water Festival in April and the festival of water pouring at Bo trees in May.”

“Other countries have made arrangements for organizing the monthly festivals at the beaches for the tourists. Similar arrangements had not been made in our country,” he said.

The joint-secretary further explained, “For the first step, the Ngwehsaung Natural Photo Contest test was held on 31 January and 1 February with the aim of charming the domestic and foreign tourists with the information about natural beauty of Ngwehsaung. Altogether 68 photographers participated in the contest with 261 entries. Prizes were awarded at the ceremony, and the excellent works will be used in calendars to be published next hotel season. Furthermore, the prize winning works of the contest have been posted on the website for the foreign tourists.”

He concluded, “More and more domestic and foreign visitors taking rest can be witnessed at Ngwehsaung Beach. We estimated that the number of local travellers will increase more than that of previous year. International level hotels are giving hotel services to the tourists from abroad while local vacationers may stay at the cheaper hotels and lodging houses. They have the opportunity to stay at the places of their choice.”

After writing an article on developing Ngwehsaung Beach, I took a rest on a bench at the beach. Sounds of waves from the sea were unforgettable for my life.

Translation: TTA

Kyemon: 14-2-2009

Aerial view of a fire in the rainforest. Higher temperatures could ignite tropical forests and melt the Arctic tundra, releasing billions of tons of greenhouse gas that could raise global temperatures even more—a vicious cycle that could spiral out of control by the end of the century.—Internet

Scenic Ngwehsaung Beach in the western coast of Ayeyawady Division.
Pre-Primary Children’s Contest organized in Pathein

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb.—The Pre-Primary Children’s Physical and Intellectual Skill Contest, organized by Ayeyawady Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, was held at Eya Shwewa Hall in Pathein on 7 February, attended by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe. Next, the commander, wife and officials presented prizes to the winners.

Repaved roads inaugurated in Bago

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb.—As a gesture of honouring the 62nd Anniversary Union Day, the opening ceremony of repaved Hmawkan 13th Street in Bago was held on 6 February morning. After the inauguration ceremony, Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Brig-Gen Hla Mna inspected the street.

Next, the commander attended the opening of repaved shortcut road to the Thiri Street in Bago. At the town hall, the commander presented prizes to the winners in the essay contest in commemoration of the 6th Leprosy Elimination Day. In Kyaukkyisu Ward, the commander inspected preventive measures against bank erosion in Bago River.

Villagers enjoy electricity through bio-fuel in Kengtung

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb.—Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Phyoo on 6 February looked into cooking of meals and lighting with the use of bio-fuel through animal waste at the integrated farm of U Kya Mawt in Katpha Village and at the house of U Sai San in Yinhla Village of Kengtung Township.

Work coordination meeting of Yangon Division Health Committee held

YANGON, 15 Feb.—Work coordination meeting of Yangon Division Health Committee took place at Sabei hall of Sanyoung No (2) Basic Education School, here, this morning with an address by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint.

At the meeting, the Secretary of Yangon Division Health Committee Head of Division Health Department reported on tasks of the Committee and the leader of Yangon Division Disease Control Project on preventive measures against dengue haemorrhagic fever.

Chairmen of Township Health Committee, Heads of Township Health Department, Heads of Township Development Affairs Committee and Basic Education Schools and social organizations took part in the discussions, and the Chairman of Division Health Committee Secretary of Yangon Division PDC fulfilled the requirements.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks by the Commander.
Concert honouring Union Day continues

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—The concert honouring the 62nd Anniversary Union Day continued at the open air theatre of City Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening, attended by Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin and wife.

The director-general of Fine Arts Department and officials, Union Day delegates, staff of ministries and local people enjoyed the entertainment. Artists of Fine Arts Department and female national races presented various songs. Vocalists of Myanmar Athan modern music troupe also sang the songs. Later, Shwe Wai Lwin Anyeint troupe led by dancer Win Maw Oo of Fine Arts Department performed songs and dances to the accompaniment of a Myanmar orchestra.

Minister inspects cotton depot in Kyaukpadaung Township

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—Minister for Industry-I U Aung Thaung inspected purchase of cotton, storage and ginning of cotton at Ngwechi long staple cotton depot in the cotton ginning mill in Kyaukpadaung Township yesterday.

The minister also inspected Winthuza shop for cotton growers. He went to Kyigon Village where he inspected the building for biogas-powered generator for supply of electricity in the village in Ayeyawa village-tract in Taungtha Township. The building was constructed at a cost of eight million Kyats.

The minister met village people from Kyigon and Lehaung villages and he inspected digging of canal for generating electricity from Welaung Dam, repair of Bo Ya Nyunt Statue in Taungtha Township and onion plantation.—MNA

Singaporean, Myanmar specialists to provide free medical treatment in Mandalay

YANGON, 15 Feb—Specialists from the Republic of Singapore and the Union of Myanmar will jointly provide free health care and surgical operations from 20 to 22 February.

Singaporean and Myanmar specialists will perform free surgical operations on the patients with diabetes, heart, bone and general diseases at the five-storey building of Mandalay General Hospital.

Coordination Meeting for opening summer sport courses

YANGON, 15 Feb—Coordination meeting on programme to open summer sport courses-2009 was held at the meeting hall in Aung San Stadium yesterday afternoon, with an opening speech by Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik.

Next, responsible persons from the 27 Sport Federations reported on arrangements for opening summer sport courses-2009.

January saw 96 outbreaks of fire

YANGON, 15 Feb—Fire broke out 96 times in the country in January. Among them, 74 fires were caused by kitchen fire and negligence, 14 by short-circuit, six by arson, one by forest fire and one by other. —MNA

Htamane making contest held in Ngwesaung Beach

YANGON, 15 Feb—With a view to promoting Myanmar Tourism Industry, the first Htamane making contest of Ngwesaung Beach, organized by Ngwesaung Hotel Zone Hoteliers Association and supervised by Myanmar Hoteliers Association, was held at Ngwesaung Beach in Ngwesaung, Pathein Township, Ayeyawady Division on 7 February.

Five teams from Hotels in Ngwesaung Beach took part in the contest. Afterwards, Head U Aung Myo Hlaing of Ngwesaung General Administration Department presented awards to Palm Beach Resort, first prize, owner U Thein Aung of Shwe Myanmar Restaurant, second and joint-secretary Dr Aung Htay Lin of Ngwesaung Hotel Zone Hoteliers Association to Yuzana Hotel and Emerald Sea Hotel third.

Tourists, local guests and local residents took part in the contest and were served with Htamane.—MNA
Kawa Township making progress in agricultural farming

(from page 16) on Bago-Thongwa Road. He said that he had four children including a university student and a matriculation student; that he raised about 1500 ducks and get about 600 duck eggs a day; that he sold the eggs to purchasing centres in Thanatpin at the price of 90 kyats an egg; that his family earned about 2.5 million kyats a year from their farms; and that the per acre yield of summer paddy could reach as many as 70 baskets.

The manager of the Township Myanma Agriculture Service explained that last year Kawa Township put 202,005 acres under monsoon paddy and achieved per acre yield of over 62 baskets, and per acre yield of 3000 acres of summer paddy was 76 baskets; that year 202,328 acres were put under monsoon paddy, and per acre yield was 69 baskets, 3085 acres were put under summer paddy, 118,900 acres under green gram, 1490 acres under black gram, 5778 acres under groundnut, 17,905 acres under sunflower, 117 acres under sesame, 1200 acres under cow pea, 55 acres under corn, and 1800 acres under vegetables.

Kawa Township Development Affairs Committee is immersing in the tasks for gracing the township. The six wards in the urban area of Kawa Township have 26 lakes with the total water storage capacity of 42.09 million gallons along with a tube-well.

The committee has constructed 48 roads in addition to four furlongs of a rural tarred road, about 18 miles of laterite roads, and 68 miles of earth roads. In 2008-2009 financial year, it upgraded Kawa-Shankan rural road into a laterite facility.

Five-mile long Kawa-Shankan rural road leading to Kawa and Thabyu-Makyetkyi rural roads are main roads.

In the township municipal area are 16 pony carts and 110 trishaws from which over 1.2 million kyats has been levied. The committee so far has earned more than 28 million kyats from 34 enterprises: 11 committee-owned slaughter houses, nine markets, seven pawn shops, two ferry jetties, four ports, and a toll gate. So, the performances the township development affairs committee has carried out are very heartening.

Translation: MS Myanma Alin: 5-2-2009 ****
**West risks repeating Soviet mistakes in Afghanistan**

**ALI MARDAN** (Afghanistan), 15 Feb—The foreign warplanes swooped in just as the Afghan village of Ali Mardan was celebrating a wedding. Bombs slammed into the crowded village square, killing 30 men, women and children. After the smoke cleared and the dead were buried, all the able-bodied men left alive took up arms against the invaders. That was 1982 and the warplanes belonged to the Soviet Union, but 20 years after the last Soviet soldier left Afghanistan on Sunday, US and NATO troops are all too often making the same mistakes and could run the same risk of being driven out.

**An Afghan boy walks by a destroyed monument in Kabul in this picture taken on 5 Feb, 2009. February 15th marks 20 years since the last Soviet troops withdrew from Afghanistan. Moscow's forces pulled out of the country in 1989 after a decade of war in which thousands of Soviet soldiers and many more Afghans died.**—INTERNET

**Brazil launches “AIDS” campaign on middle-aged women**

**RIO DE JANEIRO**, 15 Feb—The Brazilian Ministry of Health launched on Friday a new campaign against AIDS, which focuses on middle-aged women.

The decision to target at this particular group was due to sharp increase of the AIDS cases among middle-aged women in the country, said the ministry.

The number of Brazilian women aged 50 and up infected with HIV increased threefold in the last 10 years, from 3.7 cases in 1996 to 11.6 cases for every 100,000 women in 2006, according to the ministry.

Most of the infected women in this group married or in stable relationships, it said.—MNA/Xinhua

**Japan’s Iraqi reconstruction aid mission formally ends with ceremony**

**NAGOYA**, 15 Feb—Japan formally ended its five-year reconstruction aid operations in Iraq with a ceremony on Sunday at an Air Self-Defense Force base in Aichi Prefecture commemorating the return of ASDF personnel from Kuwait.

The ASDF members had carried out withdrawal-related tasks at a Kuwaiti base from early December after Defence Minister Yasukazu Hamada issued an order in late November for the return to Japan of a contingent of airwomen who had airlifted goods and personnel for multinational forces and the United Nations to and from Iraq.

The personnel in charge of the pullout work, totaling about 130 members, started returning to the ASDF’s Komaki base in January in groups using commercial flights and all of them had come back to the base by Saturday after conducting tasks such as clearing tents and disposing of equipment.

About 450 people, including family members of the withdrawal unit personnel, attended the ceremony to welcome the ASDF members home.—Internet

**“Buy American” provisions to hurt US economy**

**WASHINGTON**, 15 Feb—The US Consumer Electronics Association (CEA) warned on Friday the “Buy American” provisions in the economic stimulus package would hurt the US economy and lead to a trade war.

“The ‘Buy American’ provisions in the stimulus bill will signal to our trading partners around the world that the United States is returning to the bad old days of protectionism and economic nationalism,” CEA President and CEO Gary Shapiro said in a statement.

The US Congress has passed the 787-billion-US-dollar stimulus package. Some provisions in the bill prohibit the use of foreign iron, steel, and manufactured goods in public works projects funded by the stimulus plan.

“Rather than stimulate the American economy, these provisions will lead to retaliation from abroad and cost precious jobs in the United States,” warned Shapiro.

He said the promise that the “Buy American” provisions keep with the letter of World Trade Organization commitments “is a meaningless gesture.”

“It contradicts recent statements by both President Obama and G-20 leaders to avoid protectionism, which exacerbate the global economic crisis,” said Shapiro.

“The lessons of Smoot-Hawley and the Great Depression are clear — if we close our borders to international trade and artificially prop up our own industries, we deepen the global recession and further make ourselves vulnerable to a trade war,” he added.

**100 kilos of heroin seized in Turkey**

**ANKARA**, 15 Feb—Turkish security forces confiscated 100 kilos of heroin in an operation conducted in eastern Turkey on Saturday, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

Acting on a tip-off, the security forces stopped a truck in Ercis town of eastern province of Van on way to Istanbul, according to the report.

Upon a search conducted in the truck, the security forces found a total of 100 kilos of heroin hidden in separate components of the truck, said the report, adding that the driver of the truck was taken into custody. Turkey is a key transit route for smuggling drugs from Asia and the Middle East to markets in western Europe.—MNA/Xinhua
ITALY POLICE WARN OF SKYPE THREAT

Romzi, 15 Feb—Criminals in Italy are increasingly making phone calls over the Internet in order to avoid getting caught through mobile phone intercepts, police say.

Officers in Milan say organized crime, arms and drugs traffickers, and prostitution rings are turning to Skype in order to frustrate investigators. The police say Skype’s encryption system is a secret which the company refuses to share with the authorities. Investigators have become increasingly reliant on wiretaps in recent years.

Customs and tax police in Milan have sounded the alarm. They have overheard a suspected cocaine trafficker telling an accomplice to switch to Skype in order to get details of a 2kg (4.4lb) drug consignment.

The police say use of wiretaps has forced some criminals on to the Internet in order to avoid getting caught through mobile phone intercepts.

In a statement, the police said: “Breast cancer in young women is a highly advanced stages of the disease and less likely to get early treatment.

study in hopes of making a difference in terms of treatment,” study first author Dr. Beth Beadle of the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston said in a statement.

SRI LANKA MILITARY SAYS REBELS ATTACK REFUGEE BUS

COLOMBO, 15 Feb—A suspected Tamil Tiger rebel hurled a hand grenade at a bus full of war-displaced refugees Saturday, killing a woman and wounding 13 others, the military said.

The bus was attacked in Puliyanakulam village in the north while transporting people who had fled the embattled region for government territory, military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said.

The military’s claim could not be independently verified because information is not being provided to the press.

The government has accused the Tigers of having recently lost their main strongholds to government forces and are on the run in a small sliver of coastal land — one of the most scenic in terms of scores of people as human shields and killing civilians who want to escape. The rebels have denied the allegations.
Global warming seen worse than predicted

CHICAGO, 15 Feb—The climate is heating up far faster than scientists had predicted, spurred by sharp increases in greenhouse gas emissions from developing countries like China and India, a top climate scientist said on Saturday. “The consequence of that is we are basically looking now at a future climate that is beyond anything that we’ve considered seriously,” Chris Field, a member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, or IPCC, told the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in Chicago. Field said “the actual trajectory of climate change is more serious” than any of the climate predictions in the IPCC’s fourth assessment report called “Climate Change 2007.” He said recent climate studies suggested the continued warming of the planet from greenhouse gas emissions could touch off large, destructive wildfires in tropical rain forests and melt permafrost in the Arctic tundra, releasing billions of tons of greenhouse gases that could raise global temperatures even more.

“There is a real risk that human-caused climate change will accelerate the release of carbon dioxide from forest and tundra ecosystems, which have been storing a lot of carbon for thousands of years,” Field, of Stanford University and the Carnegie Institution for Science, said in a statement.—INTERNET

Facts on dengue fever. In the worst national outbreak in a decade, nine Bolivians have died after contracting hemorrhagic dengue fever, officials announced on Saturday.—INTERNET

Pollution link to asthma in womb

LONDON, 15 Feb — Traffic pollution causes genetic changes in the womb which increase a child’s risk of developing asthma, research suggests.

A study of umbilical cord blood from 56 children found “reprogramming” of a gene associated with exposure to compounds in traffic fumes. The gene was associated with asthma symptoms at age five, the researchers reported in the PLoS ONE journal. It is the first time pollution has been shown to influence genes, experts said.

In the study, researchers looked at a gene called ACSL3, which is expressed in the lung. They also recorded the mothers’ exposure to polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) — a byproduct of combustion present in high levels in heavy-traffic areas — during their pregnancy with backpack air monitors. The researchers found a significant association between chemical changes which control activation of the gene and high levels of maternal PAH exposure. Although the finding needs to be confirmed in larger studies, researchers say changes in the ACSL3 gene may help early diagnosis of pollution-related asthma.—INTERNET

Neanderthal genetic code revealed

WASHINGTON, 15 Feb—International researchers say they have completed a draft of the genetic blueprint of Neanderthals, humans’ primitive cousin.

The scientists say their discovery shows Neanderthals made “very little, if any” contribution to human genes, USA Today reported on Saturday. Neanderthals occupied Europe from about 800,000 to 30,000 years ago, the newspaper noted.

Team chief Svante Paabo of Germany’s Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig said their findings provide a “good overview” of the Neanderthal genome. “We see this as a tool for future biologists (looking for) what’s really unique to modern humans,” Paabo was quoted by the newspaper as saying.—INTERNET

Study uncovers pre-pregnancy concerns

SOUTHAMPTON, 15 Feb—British researchers say a study they conducted found most women trying to get pregnant are not following dietary recommendations. The research team from Britain’s University of Southampton found in a study of 12,500 British women that those attempting to become pregnant were only slightly more likely to follow preconception diet tips, the BBC reported on Friday.

The study of women ages 20 to 34, focused on their dietary supplement use, physical activity, alcohol consumption, smoking habits and overall diet. A total of 309 participants ultimately became pregnant within three months of the study and, of those, only 5.5 percent had been taking the recommended daily dose of folic acid supplements.—INTERNET

Special light may detect Parkinson’s disease

LONDON, 15 Feb—A light as bright as a million-watt bulb may be able to help identify early signs of Parkinson’s disease, British researchers say.

A Keele University team says the special light of a “super-microscope” could help spot changes in brain cells before Parkinson’s destroyed them, BBC reported on Saturday. Researcher Joanna Collingwood told the American Association for the Advancement of Science the technique could mean early treatment for Parkinson’s patients. The researchers used a synchrotron, or Diamond Light Source, which fires particles at just below the speed of light, focusing them into a beam less than a single cell in diameter.—INTERNET

A man watches a YouTube video in Hong Kong. A video of a hysterical passenger screaming at airline staff and writhing on the floor after missing a flight at Hong Kong airport has become a YouTube hit.—INTERNET

One in ten children in the UK have asthma.—INTERNET

A man looks at a Dell computer on sale at a store in Miami. Dell has awarded nearly three million dollars in grants to organizations teaching science and technology skills to youth in India, Brazil and Mexico.—INTERNET
Eto’o double rescues Barcelona in Seville

MADRID, 15 Feb—Samuel Eto’o scored twice as leaders Barce-

cola came from two goals down to preserve their

22-match unbeaten league run with a 2-2 draw at Real Betis on Sat-

turday.

The result gives champions Real Madrid, cur-
ently 13 points behind in second, a chance to cut

the gap at the top to 10 points when they face

Sporting Gijon on Sunday.Juan Melli and former Liver-

pool man Mark Gonzalez put Betis into a 2-0 lead after just

25 minutes as Barcelona looked set for their first
defeat since the opening day of the season.

Eto’o pulled a goal back close to half-time and then equalised six

minutes from the end for his 23rd goal of the season but Barcelona’s run of
ten straight league wins still came to an end.

Barcelona’s Samuel

Eto’o celebrates after scoring against Betis during their Spanish

league football match at Ruiz de Lopera stadium in Seville. The match ended 2-2.—INTERNET

Injured Serena hands Dementieva

Paris final with Mauresmo

PARIS, 15 Feb—Russia’s Elena Dementieva reached the

final of the Paris Open on Saturday after her semi-

final opponent, Serena Williams, pulled out Saturday

with a knee injury.

Number one seed Williams had secured her place

in the last four Friday defeating French qualifier Emilie

Loit 6-4, 6-1, although the American was made to work

much harder than she had done in her opening two

matches.

In Sunday’s final Dementieva will meet revitalised

Frenchwoman Amelie Mauresmo who stunned

Serbian second seed Jelena Jankovic 6-2, 6-0, 6-1.

Williams, fresh from her Australian Open win, said

she had felt pain during her match with Loit.

French tennis player Amelie Mauresmo returns the

ball to Serbia’s Jelena Jankovic during their 17th

WTA French Open tennis match in Paris.—INTERNET

PSG pile on French title

race pressure

PARIS, 15 Feb—Paris Saint Germain moved into second place in the

French championship on Saturday with a 2-1 win over St Etienne, their

fourth successive league victory putting them just a point behind leaders

Lyon.

Seven-time champions Lyon can re-establish a

four-point lead when they tackle rock-bottom Le Ha-

vre on Sunday.Bordeaux squandered two precious

points in their bid for the title when Grenoble’s

Bostjan Cesar struck the leveller to hold Laurent

Blanc’s side to a 1-1 draw.—INTERNET

Nadal sets up dream

Rotterdam final with Murray

ROTTERDAM, 15 Feb—Rafael Nadal took a breather

here Saturday with a 6-4, 6-4 defeat of Gael Monfils

after a week of marathon matches to reach a Sunday

final with Andy Murray at the Rotterdam Open.

Spain’s Australian Open champion was finally able to

advance in energy-saving style after going the dis-

tance in his first three victories. It still took him more

than 90 minutes to defeat an opponent suffering with

stomach problems.The world number 1 will line up

than 90 minutes to defeat an opponent suffering with

stomach problems. The world number 1 will line up

for a four-point lead when they tackle rock-bottom Le Ha-

vre on Sunday.Bordeaux squandered two precious

points in their bid for the title when Grenoble’s

Bostjan Cesar struck the leveller to hold Laurent

Blanc’s side to a 1-1 draw.—INTERNET

Answers to yesterday’s

Crosswords Puzzle

PIQUE D’OEIL AUVES

STIPEND NICKS TCCO

OAKS REGATTA RSC

ZINC MICE GS

SUBUTI KATTERL

HIBI TIO LIMITS

SAW TOE ENSURE

Voronin double fires Hertha
top of the Bundesliga

BERLIN, 15 Feb—Hertha Berlin’s Ukrainian striker Andrey Voronin

fiend his side to the top of the Bundesliga on Saturday with both
goals which sealed a 2-1 win over Bayern Munich.

With Hoffenheim suffering their first defeat at the Rhein-Neckar-

Arena when Bayer Leverkusen hammered them 4-1 on Friday night,

the way had been paved for the winner of the Bayern-Hertha clash at

Berlin’s Olympic Stadium to take over.

And Hertha took their chance to go from third to top and now lead

Hoffenheim by a single point with Bayern third with two defeats

in their last three games.—INTERNET

Voronin celebrates scoring his second
goal during the German first division

Bundesliga football match against FC

Bayern Munich in Berlin.—INTERNET

Mardy Fish, fired 16 aces in de-

feating third seed James Blake

6-3, 6-2 in an all-American

semi-final at the 600,000-dollar

ATP hardcourt tour-

nament here Saturday.

Fish will play the winner of a later semi-final between US top seed Andy

Roddick, the defending cham-

pion, and Czech fourth seed Radek Stepanek, who has

a chance to avenge his loss to the American in last year’s

final.

It will be the second San Jose final for Fish, who lost to

Roddick in the 2004 championship match.—INTERNET

Mardy Fish blasts Blake to reach San

Jose ATP final

SAN JOSE, 15 Feb—Mardy Fish

fired 16 aces in de-

feating third seed James Blake

6-3, 6-2 in an all-American semi-final at the 600,000-dollar

ATP hardcourt tournament on

Saturday.—INTERNET

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Global warming 'underestimated'

CHICAGO, 15 Feb—The severity of global warming over the next century will be much worse than previously believed, a leading climate scientist has warned.

Professor Chris Field, an author of a 2007 landmark report on climate change, said future temperatures ‘will be beyond anything’ predicted. Prof Field said the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warned.

He said warming is likely to cause more environmental damage than forecast.

Speaking at the American Science conference in Chicago, Prof Field said fresh data showed greenhouse gas emissions between 2000 and 2007 increased far more rapidly than expected. “We are basically looking now at a future climate that is beyond anything that we’ve considered seriously in climate policy,” he said.

Internet

WEATHER

Sunday, 15 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, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3˚C) below February average temperatures in Chin State, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, (3˚C) to (4˚C) above February average temperatures in Kachin and Rakhine State and about February average temperatures in the remaining State and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Hak (3˚C) and Pinday (5˚C).

Maximum temperature on 14-2-2009 was 94˚F. Minimum temperature on 15-2-2009 was 63.6˚F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 15-2-2009 was 83%. Total sunshine hours on 14-2-2009 was (7.4) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 15-2-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (6) mph from North at (12:30) hours MST on 14-2-2009.

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 16th February 2009: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, Kayin and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight increase of night temperatures in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 16-2-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 16-2-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 16-2-2009: Generally fair weather.
Kawa Township making progress in agricultural farming

Kawa is about nine miles from Inn dagaw. On our trip to Kawa Township, we passed through 360 feet long Bago River Bridge (Kawa) that links Bago Town- ship with Kawa Township. Local people are very pleased with the bridge that cost 392 million kyats as they can travel and transport goods to other regions across the nation through the bridge all-year round.

Chairman of Kawa Township Peace and Devel- opment Council U Hla Win Aung said, “Our town- ship is 28 miles long and 20 miles wide and has an area of 647.68 square miles or 414,515 acres. It is constituted with six wards, 90 village-tracts and 154 villages with a population of 207,271. It has an area of 206,050 acres of farmlands; 201,856 acres of paddy, 4050 acres of crops, and 144 acres of thatch.”

We then visited the 133-acre farmland of U Thaik Soe (a) U Aung Thaik of Zewber village-tract. In an interview, he said, “I am 36, a graduate. I run 133 acres of farmlands. I have over 30 cattle, two Leya Brand power-tillers, an NC 131 tractor and a Zwe (50) tractor. On average, I make a profit of over three million kyats a year.”

Farmer U Po Cho, who has 58 acres of monsoon paddy, 40 acres of green gram and 2.5 acres of groundnut, said, “Agricultural farming is our family busi- ness. I have a Gaungdong tractor and a Zwe tractor. On average, our family makes an annual profit of about two million kyats. I get agricultural methods from Myanma Agriculture Service and fertilizer from the Township Peace and Development Council. I have a plan to grow summer paddy and cold season crops when there is supply of irrigation water.”

Then, we visited the 104-acre summer paddy field of U Myint Soe of Ale Village, Ale Village-tract on Bago-Thongwa Road. He said that he had four

A large farm of beans and pulses in Kawa Township, Bago Division.

--U Hla Win Aung, Chairman of Kawa Township Peace and Development Council

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

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

Four economic objectives
- Development of agriculture as the base and all-round develop- ment 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

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