Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Army General Anupong Paojinda

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb—Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye received the goodwill delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Army General Anupong Paojinda at Bayintnaung Yeiktha here at 6 pm yesterday.

Also present on the occasion together with Vice-Senior General Maung Aye were Member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Secretary-1 of the SPDC Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Maj-General Min Aung Hlaing and Lt-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Brig-General Maung Maung Ohn of the Ministry of Defence and Myanmar Military Attache to Thailand Col Win Maung and together with Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Army General Anupong Paojinda were Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Bansarn Bunnag and Defence Attaché and Army Attaché Colonel Ekachai Harpoonvittaya.

MNA
YANGON, 18 Feb—The goodwill Thai delegation, led by General Anupong Paopajinda, Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Army, arrived here from Nay Pyi Taw by special flight today.

The delegation, accompanied by Brig-Gen Maung Maung Ohn, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar, and Thai Defence Attaché and Army Attaché Colonel Ekachai Harpoonvittaya, was welcomed by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint, military officers and officials concerned at the Yangon International Airport.

The delegation paid homage to Lawka Chanta Abhay Labha Muni Buddha Image on Mindammar Hill in Insein Township and viewed white elephants at White Elephant Garden.

The delegation also visited Shwedagon Pagoda and Thira Mingala Kaba Aye Pagoda.

Later, the delegation continued by plane to the Myanmar Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Admiral Maung Aye. MNA

Meetings for management of natural disasters held

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb—The ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management-ACDMand the Ministry for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement jointly organized the 13th Meeting of ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management and the 3rd Senior Officials’ Meeting of ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management+3 at Thingaha Hotel, here, this morning.

Director-General U Than Oo of Relief and Resettlement Department and Chairman of the Committee Dato’ Muhammad Hatta Bin Ab-Aziz of Malaysia gave speeches.

The participants of the meeting discussed prevention and preparedness against natural disasters in ASEAN region, national level management for relief, resettlement and rehabilitation for natural disasters and regional cooperation matters. Next, the chairman of the committee of Malaysia handed over duties and functions of the chairman to Myanmar. Also present at the meeting were delegates of ASEAN countries, responsible persons of ASEAN Secretariat, the UNHCR and other organizations.

The meetings will continue up to 20 February. MNA

Housing Management Course and Storekeeper Grade-III Course concludes

YANGON, 18 Feb—A ceremony to conclude Housing Management Course and Storekeeper (Grade-III) Course, conducted by Public Works and Department of Human Settlements and Housing Development, was held at the central training school (Thuwunna) of Ministry of Construction here yesterday. Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein made an opening speech on the occasion. Altogether 35 trainees attended the five-week course. MNA
**Eight British men tried for alleged airline bomb plot**

**LONDON, 18 Feb—**Eight British Muslims plotted to kill thousands of civilians by blowing up at least seven trans-Atlantic passenger planes in mid-air with home-made liquid bombs disguised as soft drinks, a prosecutor said at their trial Tuesday.

Lawyer Peter Wright said the men planned to smuggle the bomb ingredients aboard jets bound from Britain to North America disguised as “soft-drinks bottles, batteries and other innocuous items” carried in hand luggage.

“They were to be detonated in-flight by suicide bombers,” including several of the accused, said Wright as he opened the case against the defendants.

Eight men aged between 22 and 30 deny conspiracy to murder. But Wright said the defendants were close to carrying out their plan when they were arrested in August 2006.

The arrests led to huge travel chaos, as hundreds of flights were grounded and thousands of people had their trips disrupted. They also triggered massive changes to airport security — including restrictions on carrying liquids on planes — that persist to this day.

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**Italy to increase troops in Afghanistan**

**ROME, 18 Feb—**Italy is to increase its troops in Afghanistan in response to a call from the United States, Italian Defence Minister Ignazio La Russa said after meeting with US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Tuesday.

La Russa said the number of Italian troops in Afghanistan was already being raised from some 2,300 to 2,800, and the government “might consider” asking the parliament for more reinforcements to help safeguard the Afghan elections in August.

He did not specify what that “hypothetical” number might be. La Russa echoed other ministers in noting that Italy was the third-biggest contributor to the NATO mission and called on other European Union countries to shoulder more of the burden.

Last week Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini said troops would go up to 2,800 and their deployment would be more flexible.

He said it was time for other major European countries to “play their part”.

Stressing the need for a political solution alongside military action, Frattini underscored the importance of a conference on Afghanistan featuring all the regional players, which Italy has called as Group of Eight president.

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**Israel considering prisoner release for soldier**

**JERUSALEM, 18 Feb—**Israel’s Security Cabinet will consider a possible prisoner exchange with Hamas, freeing hundreds of Palestinian prisoners for a soldier captured in June 2007, an Israeli official said on Tuesday.

The top-level meeting is set for Wednesday, said government spokesman Mark Regev. He said a decision also was expected on terms of a long-term truce in Gaza after Israel’s bruising offensive there last month.

On Tuesday, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert repeated his new condition that the soldier, Sgt Gilad Schalit, must be freed.

“We will negotiate his release first, and only then will we be willing to discuss things like the Gaza crossings and re-building the (Gaza) Strip,” Olmert said during a tour of Jerusalem.

Israel and Egypt clamped a blockade on Gaza after Hamas overran the crowded sliver of territory in 2007, allowing in only humanitarian supplies.

In Damascus, exiled Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal complained about Olmert’s new condition.

“There can be no truce unless the (Gaza) blockade is lifted and the crossings are opened. The truce issue should not be linked to the issue of prisoner Schalit,” Meshaal told reporters in Damascus after meeting with Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa.

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**Sudan criticizes US on Darfur**

**UNITED NATIONS, 18 Feb—**Sudan’s ambassador to the United Nations criticized the United States Tuesday for supporting possible prosecution of the country’s president, even as the government takes a step toward peace in Darfur.

Ambassador Abdlalmahmood Abdlkahleem Mohamed said it was “ironic” that the United States, which refused to become a party to the International Criminal Court, is now supporting its possible prosecution of Sudan’s President Omar al-Bashir on genocide charges.

Mohamed spoke after Sudan’s government and Darfur’s most powerful rebel group agreed on Tuesday to launch negotiations on ending the six-year war in Darfur. The Sudanese government is hoping that by showing seriousness about peace, it can avert prosecution of al-Bashir by the Hague-based court on accusations he orchestrated atrocities against Darfur’s ethnic Africans.

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**Obama orders 17,000 US troops to Afghanistan**

**WASHINGTON, 18 Feb—**President Barack Obama, in his first major military decision, has ordered 17,000 more US troops to Afghanistan to tackle worsening insurgent violence, the White House said on Tuesday.

“This increase is necessary to stabilize a deteriorating situation in Afghanistan, which has not received the strategic attention, direction and resources it urgently requires,” Obama said in a written statement.

As a presidential candidate, Obama promised to focus more attention on the war in Afghanistan, where violence has risen dramatically in the past two years as Taliban militants and other insurgents have gained strength.

“The decision was communicated to the Pentagon yesterday,” White House spokesman Robert Gibbs told reporters travelling with Obama in Denver. The 17,000 troops include an Army brigade equipped with Stryker armoured vehicles, a Marine expeditionary brigade and support personnel, officials said. The forces are part of an anticipated US troop buildup that could expand US military presence in Afghanistan to 60,000 troops, from a current 38,000, in coming months.

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**Some protests set for Clinton’s Indonesian visit**

**JAKARTA, 18 Feb—**Small-scale protests were expected in Indonesia on Wednesday ahead of a visit by US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to the world’s most populous Muslim nation and Southeast Asia’s biggest economy.

But the visit is generally expected to go smoothly given relatively good government-to-government relations and many Indonesians’ view of Clinton’s boss President Barack Obama as something of a favorite son. Clinton is due to arrive in the Indonesian capital from Japan on Wednesday afternoon on the second leg of an Asian tour also taking in South Korea and China.

The US Secretary of State called on Tuesday for coordinated action to revive the global economy at a news conference with Japanese Foreign Minister Hirofumi Nakasone.

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**President Ramon Carrizales (R Front) upon his arrival in Caracas, capital of Venezuela, on 17 Feb, 2009. Xi Jinping arrived in Caracas on 17 Feb for an official visit to Venezuela. —INTERNET**

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**The Ocean Nova, a Bahamas flagged cruiser with 104 people aboard which conducted a tour of Antarctica, is seen stranded near an Argentine base in Antarctica on 17 Feb, 2009. —INTERNET**

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**THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Thursday, 19 February, 2009 3**
Chinese President’s Africa tour gives fresh impetus to traditional friendship

BEIJING, 18 Feb — After a three-day visit to Saudi Arabia beginning 10 Feb, Chinese President Hu Jintao started an Africa tour aimed at enhancing China’s friendship with developing countries in the region.

The trip, which took Hu to Mali, Senegal, Tanzania and Mauritius from 12 to 17 Feb, has given new impetus to the traditional friendship between China and Africa.

The time-honored friendship between China and Africa can be traced back to as early as the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), when Chinese navigator Zheng He traveled to the African continent during his seven epic voyages.

In the 1960s, when most African countries launched a wave of independence struggles, late Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai had also visited Africa to express his country’s staunch support for its African brothers.

The fates of the Chinese and African peoples are closely interrelated as they share a similar history and similar developmental tasks, and the two sides have carried out various forms of cooperation based on the principles of equality and mutual benefit.

“Every time I come, it’s like coming back home,” Hu said while delivering a key speech in the Tanzanian capital of Dar es Salaam on Monday.—Xinhua

California to halt 275 state-funded public projects due to budget crisis

LOS ANGELES, 18 Feb — Due to a budget crisis, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is preparing to announce a halt to 275 state-funded public works projects still in operation, it was reported on Tuesday.

The projects, which cost 3.8 billion dollars, include upgrades to 18 bridges and roads in Los Angeles County to protect them from collapsing in earthquakes, the Los Angeles Times said.

Earlier, the governor had suspended a series of other public projects because the state was running out of cash.

In addition to shutting down public works projects, Schwarzenegger is about to lay off 10,000 government workers, the paper said.

A spokesman for Schwarzenegger confirmed that layoff notices would go out on Tuesday.—Xinhua

Israel strikes Gaza targets

GAZA, 18 Feb — Israel launched air attacks against some Gaza targets on Wednesday, local residents said.

One of the targets in the southern Gaza Strip was alleged to be the tunnels run under the Egyptian border.

Israeli military confirmed that aircraft had hit targets in Gaza but had no further details.—Xinhua

Hong Kong issues alert on French infant formula suspected with harmful bacteria

HONG KONG, 18 Feb — The Center for Food Safety of Hong Kong issued an alert here on Tuesday advising people not to consume certain batches of an infant formula manufactured by Vitagermine in France, due to their suspected contamination with Enterobacter sakazakii.

The product is called Babynat Organic Infant Milk. The manufacturer is recalling the product as the Republic of Korea authorities have found traces of the bacteria in the product.

The Center for Food Safety of Hong Kong said the affected product has been imported into Hong Kong. Investigations are underway.

Enterobacter sakazakii can be found in the environment, but it generally causes disease only in people with weakened immune systems. It can cause invasive infection such as bacteria in blood or meningitis.—Xinhua

Air strikes kill five militants in W Afghanistan

KABUL, 18 Feb — Air raids against rebels’ hideout in western Afghanistan claimed the lives of five armed militants and wounded 18 others including women and children, a district chief said on Tuesday.

“These raids carried out against Ghulam Yahya Khan, a rebel commander, in Karizmir village of Gazara district Monday night, killing five armed men and injuring 18 civilians including five women and five children,” Akhn Khan the district chief of Gazara told Xinhua.

No military officials were immediately available to make comment on the subject.

Precision air strikes against Taleban hideout in the northwest Badghis Province a day earlier on Sunday left a key Taleban commander Mullah Daastir and nine of his men dead.—Xinhua

Green tech may help Silicon Valley beat economic downturn

SAN FRANCISCO, 18 Feb — Mortgage crisis and global recession have finally caught up to Silicon Valley, the world’s leading high-tech hub, but clean technology may help the region rebound from the economic downturn, said a new report released on Tuesday.

The annual report, 2009 Silicon Valley Index, was published by Joint Venture: Silicon Valley Network and Silicon Valley Community Foundation, two prominent local organizations.

Until the last quarter of 2008, Silicon Valley seemed to be weathering the global financial crisis and economic recession better than the United States as a whole, but after November, the region has witnessed spike in job losses and significant drop in commercial property markets.—Xinhua

Brazil to expel 98 foreign NGOs operating in the country

RIO DE JANEIRO, 18 Feb — Ninety-eight foreign Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that failed to register with the Justice Ministry, will be forbidden from operating in Brazil, government authorities said on Tuesday.

There are 170 NGOs operating in the country but only 72 have completed the mandatory registration ahead of a 2 Feb deadline.

The measure, carried out under a ministry decree issued last year, was aimed at avoiding hypocrisy, illegal exploitation of natural resources and violation of Brazil’s sovereignty, especially in the Amazon Rainforest region. The government was afraid of the influence of economic and religious foreign groups in the area.

The low registration figures have confirmed the government’s suspicion that many foreign NGOs operate in the country “in an obscure way,” said National Justice Secretary Romen Tuma Jr None of the registered NGOs operates in Brazil’s northern region, where the Amazon Rainforest is located.

About 36.5 percent of them operate in Sao Paulo, 20 percent in Rio, and 43.5 percent in the southern and midwestern regions.—Xinhua

A bird flu patient surnamed Shu presents flowers to medical workers as she is leaving the Xiangya Hospital affiliated to Zhongnan University in Changsha, central China’s Hunan Province, on 17 Feb, 2009.—Xinhua

Chinese PLA soldiers and officers for the new batch of peace-keeping mission to Lebanon bid farewell to fellow comrades, on the plane gangway at the international airport of Kunming, southwest China’s Yunnan Province, on 16 Feb, 2009.—Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency
Guatemala apologizes to Cuba for Bay of Pigs

HAVANA, 18 Feb—Guatemalan President Alvaro Colom apologized to Cuba on Tuesday for his country’s having allowed the CIA to train exiles in the Central American country for the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion.

“Today I want to ask Cuba’s forgiveness for having offended our country, our territory, to prepare an invasion of Cuba,” Colom said during a speech at the University of Havana. “It wasn’t us, but it was our territory.”

He added that he wished to apologize “as president and head of state, and as commander in chief of the Guatemalan army.”

About 1,500 Cuban exiles trained under CIA guidance in Guatemala before invading the island beginning 17 April, 1961, in an unsuccessful bid to overthrow Fidel Castro’s communist government. The invasion ended after less than three days, with about 100 invaders killed and more than 1,000 captured by Cuban forces.

Colom, whose government is considered centrist-leftist, said he was asking Cuba’s forgiveness as “a sign of solidarity and that times are changing,” and to “re-affirm my idea that Latin America is changing.”

GM seeks up to $30 in aid, to cut 47,000 jobs

DETROIT, 18 Feb—General Motors Corp, presenting a dire outlook for the future, said Tuesday it may need $30 billion in total government financing to weather the economic downturn and would cut 47,000 jobs worldwide and shutter five more US factories in a massive restructuring plan.

The automaker is already surviving on $13.4 billion in federal loans and said in a plan submitted to the Treasury Department that it would seek an additional $16.6 billion if economic conditions worsen, but it could achieve profitability in two years and fully repay its loans by 2017.

The US automaker presented its turnaround plan to the Obama administration as it worked to win concessions from the United Auto Workers union and bondholders to dramatically resize the company.

The UAW said it reached a tentative deal with GM, Chrysler LLC and Ford Motor Co on contract changes but discussions were still under way about how the companies would fund union-run trust funds that will take over the companies’ retiree health care obligations starting next year.

GM said it was making progress but had not yet achieved all the concessions from union workers, debt holders, dealers and suppliers that the Bush administration sought in the loan terms provided last December.

US general wants troop cut plans in Europe dropped

WASHINGTON, 18 Feb—The US Army’s commander in Europe said on Tuesday plans to cut the number of American troops on the continent should be scrapped because the current force size was needed to conduct training exercises with allies.

General Carter Ham, the head of US Army Europe, said two brigades based in Germany should remain there rather than move to the United States in 2012 and 2013 as planned. That would keep about 42,000 US soldiers based in Europe.

Ham said he had recommended the change of plans to General John Craddock, the head of US European Command and NATO’s Supreme Allied Commander. Any decision to cancel the move would ultimately come from the Pentagon.

Oil stays below $35 after big drop overnight

SINGAPORE, 18 Feb—Oil prices languished below $35 a barrel on Wednesday in Asia as further signs the US recession is deepening spurred investor concern over crude demand.

Light, sweet crude for March delivery fell 13 cents to $34.80 a barrel by midday in Singapore on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract on Tuesday fell 2.58 to $34.93.

Investors are doubting whether a $787 billion stimulus bill, signed Tuesday by President Barack Obama, will be enough to jolt the US out of its worst recession in decades.

General Motors Corp and Chrysler LLC asked the government Tuesday for an additional $14 billion in aid. GM presented a survival plan that also calls for cutting a total of 47,000 jobs globally and Chrysler said it will cut 3,000 more jobs.

Cholera kills more than 3,600 in Zimbabwe

GENEVA, 18 Feb—Zimbabwe’s cholera outbreak has killed 3,688 people and infected 77,650 since August, the latest data released by the World Health Organization showed Tuesday.

The regular update from the WHO and Zimbabwe’s Health Ministry was dated 16 February. Last Thursday, the official death toll stood at 3,525, with 73,585 cases recorded since the outbreak began in August 2008.

The charity Doctors Without Borders (MSF) said on Tuesday that Zimbabwe’s health system was in a state of collapse and resembled that of a country at war.

Most recently the uncontrolled outbreak has been thriving in the southern African country’s impoverished, undernourished and neglected rural areas, according to international health workers.

Rising floods spread to second Australian state

SYDNEY, 18 Feb—Authorities put helicopters on standby for emergencies on Tuesday as they evacuated residents from homes north of Sydney inundated by floodwaters, while wildfires continued blazing in the country’s drought-parched south.

Australia’s populous east coast has been beset by weather extremes of fiery drought and torrential rains that scientists argue are being exacerbated by climate change.

The Bourke region of New South Wales state’s northwest was declared a natural disaster area Tuesday after 20 homes and several government buildings were flooded, State Emergency Service spokesman Phil Campbell said.

High water also isolated about 5,000 people in towns, villages and farms across the state’s north, he said.

Drought might have collapsed Cambodian Angkor city

BANGKOK, 18 Feb—The collapse of Cambodia’s great ancient city of Angkor may have been due to a massive drought nearly 600 years ago — not just rival Siamese forces and widespread deforestation as previously suspected, a researcher said.

Brendan M. Buckley said Tuesday that bands from tree rings that he and his colleagues examined showed that Southeast Asia was hit by a severe and prolonged drought from 1415 until 1439, coinciding with the period during which many archeologists believe Angkor collapsed.

TV reporter dead in 25-storey fall from E China tower

WENZHOU, 18 Feb—The TV reporter, who fell from the roof of a 25-storey building Tuesday as he was shooting in east China’s Zhejiang Province Tuesday, died Wednesday morning, according to a local TV official.

Bao Cunliang, 38, a Wenzhou TV Station reporter, died at 2:10 am at the Wenzhou Hospital of Integrated Chinese and Western Medicines. He fell off the station’s building at 8:45 am on Tuesday, said Dong Jinhai, news director of the city-level TV station.

Bao was shooting streets in the rain by himself, but the view was obstructed by the wall surrounding the roof. Bao stood on the wall which was more than one meter high and only 20 cm wide, Dong said.

Internet
Oil slick drifting to Irish coast

LONDON, 18 Feb — A large fuel oil slick thought to have leaked into the Celtic Sea during a Russian refuelling incident is heading to the coasts of Ireland and Wales. The UK coastguard estimates up to 1,000 tonnes may be on the water, but Russia denies the spill is on that scale.

Irish coastguards said the spill, 50 miles (80km) off of west Cork, covered 2.8 miles by 3.1 miles around a Russian aircraft carrier and a tanker. It was first spotted by aerial pollution surveillance on 14 February. Samples from the spill have been taken for analysis, the Russian coastguard said, and the Russian Embassy has been asked by the Irish government to supply data about oil on its ships.

Aerial monitoring was still being carried out by Irish and British maritime agencies, reports said. The Russian navy said it was carrying out an internal investigation, but could not confirm how the oil came to surround its vessels or whether its refuelling operations had caused the spill.

There are two refuelling tankers, one aircraft carrier, one Russian tug, a Russian destroyer, a British destroyer and an Irish naval vessel in the area. The Irish coastguard said the spill was breaking up and was spreading over a larger area and moving eastwards about 30 to 40 miles off the coast.

The majority of the oil is expected to remain on the surface, it said in a statement. The Irish coastguard does not expect the slick to reach the Irish coast or Irish waters.

The Irish and British maritime agencies are working with the European Maritime Safety Agency and the Irish coastguard.

China approves support plan for electronics and information industry

BEIJING, 18 Feb — China approved Wednesday a support plan for the country’s electronics and information industry.

The government will boost innovation, increase financial input and promote the use of information technologies to spur development of the country’s electronics and information industry.

Attendees at the meeting agreed that the central government’s policy to boost domestic national science and technology projects and towards improving public technological service platforms will focus on boosting the progress of the 3G (third-generation) mobile communication services and promoting the use of digital TVs.

Efforts will be made towards developing national science and technology projects and towards improving public technological service platforms.

Unexploded bombs go missing in Gaza Strip

JERUSALEM, 18 Feb — Unexploded bombs dropped on the Gaza Strip during the Israeli offensive have disappeared from a storage site in the Palestinian territory, a UN spokesman said on Tuesday.

Israel said it suspected Hamas, the Islamist group which controls Gaza, took them. Three 2,000 pound bombs (about 1 tonne) and eight 500 pound bombs (about 250 kg) that had been collected by international bomb disposal experts were taken from a Hamas police post in Gaza City.

It was not known where they were and the United Nations was trying to find them, UN spokesman Richard Miron said. “It’s clearly extremely dangerous and needs to be disposed of in a safe manner,” he said.

Hamas police official declined to comment. The Islamist Hamas faction took control of the Gaza Strip from Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas’s Fatah faction in a takeover in 2007 after winning elections.

During its 22-day offensive against Gaza militants that ended on 18 January, Israel launched thousands of rockets, bombs and shells from the ground, air and sea on Gaza. Some 1,300 Palestinians and 14 Israelis died during the fighting.

Wind leads police to marijuana-growing operation

Mother Nature helped police uncover a home marijuana-growing operation. Police said a gust of wind set off a security alarm at a home in western St. Joseph County on Tuesday, prompting Indiana State Police Trooper Mick Dockery to investigate.

Dockery found the back door of the house open. Inside the home, his police dog indicated the presence of drugs. Police found 19 marijuana plants and 40 grams of processed marijuana.

No arrests have been made, but St. Joseph County prosecutors are reviewing possible charges against the homeowners.

Woman’s record-length fingernails broken in crash

A Salt Lake City woman who was in the Guinness Book of World Records for her long fingernails has had them broken off in a car accident.

Lee Redmond sustained serious but non-life threatening injuries in the accident. Redmond was the current Guinness record holder, with nails that hadn’t been cut since 1979. Her nails measured a total of more than 28 feet long in 2008, with the longest nail on her right thumb at 2 feet, 11 inches, according to the Guinness Website.

Salt Lake County Sheriff’s Lt. Don Hutson said she was ejected from an SUV in the crash and taken to the hospital in serious condition. Redmond has been featured on TV in episodes of “Guinness Book of World Records” and “Ripley’s Believe It or Not.”

Lee Redmond shows off her fingernails, which are about 30 inches long, in Salt Lake City. Redmonds fingernails were broken off in a traffic accident. Her injuries were serious but not life threatening, according to Salt Lake County Sheriff’s Office.

Man sentenced for planting syringe in potato chips

A 35-year-old man was sentenced to five years of probation for planting a syringe in a bag of potato chips. The man pleaded guilty in November to tampering with a food product.

A federal judge ordered him not to contact Frito-Lay Corp during his probation.

The man originally told the company last year that he noticed a funny taste while eating chips and found a syringe in the bag. Food and Drug Administration investigators later determined he and a friend had conspired to extort money from Frito-Lay by planting the syringe, which his friend had used to inject crack cocaine.
Really, we the people are pleased with the thought that we will have to wait just one year to 2010. Our thought is that next year, our country will see multiparty democracy general elections to which the entire people are looking forward, thereafter there will emerge people’s representatives. Then, there will be hlutaw (parliament) in accordance with the State Constitution. By then, our country will be able to set its foot in democracy we have been waiting for ages.

In spite of the people awaiting with much expectation, anti-government groups are getting louder in their protest at democratic transition. I think they even cannot stand the thought that they are going to face the public decisions in 2010.

NLD issued the so-called special announcement 1/01/09 on 4 January. According to the resolutions passed at the CEC meeting held on 1 January 2009, NLD and seven other parties demanded that all the political prisoners including Daw Suu Kyi be released unconditionally as soon as possible. Shortly after that, they issued announcement 2/01/09 urging the people to support their announcement 1/01/09. They have been opposing and having a go at the government in their own party’s interest. But, I noticed that they have come to deceive the people into supporting them.

I have no idea about the directives and arrangements of the NLD CEC, but I noticed that the woman secretary of Meiktila District NLD in an interview by the BBC said, “We are now collecting the signatures to comply with the directive of the headquarters.” It was merely an attempt to revise the Signature Campaign launched by Min Ko Naing and group. In their bid to attract public support for their party’s announcement, they tried to mislead the people into misunderstanding the government, pointing out the shortage of electricity and water supply, instead of following an honest way.

The woman said, “We local people of Meiktila demand, putting our signatures at the end of the letter that we should be provided with enough electricity, water and safe water, the most fundamental requirements. In this case, we have written that we suggest that the government should do something to supply electricity and safe water for us, and we put our signatures at the end of the letter.” It is vividly clear that there is even a grain of truth in what she said. They are used to telling half-truths, exaggerating the situations and making a mountain out of a molehill. Their demand carries their implicit lies, exaggerating the situations and making a mountain out of a molehill. Their demand carries their implicit lies, exaggerating the situations and making a mountain out of a molehill.

In my opinion, there was no exaggeration in her words. And he is the joint-general secretary of a prestigious party, so he did not use any harsh words in his speech. Frankly speaking, there were many points about NLD he did not mention. Now, the people have realized the attitude of the party. Some persist in cheering the party due to personality cult and party attachment, whereas so many people no longer support the party because they have understood well the party’s innate nature.

NLD will not hesitate even at the slightest degree to do everything evil to come to power. What is always on its mind is ‘power’. If necessary, it is very easy to deceive the people who will decide on its future. It harshly criticized the National Convention in which more than 1000 delegates of the people held discussions actively to adopt principles. It also showed disregard to the public decisions, saying it does not accept or recognize the State Constitution that has been approved with the support of 92.48 per cent of the voters, and it will have to re-write and amend the constitution. In addition, it said that it took no interest in the 2010 elections. Playing a game for political gains, it said that it would not stand, then it said it would stand for election. Then, it said that it would have to consider whether it would stand for election or not.

Again, it is persuading the people to provide it with their signatures in its demand for release of political prisoners. The people are not interested at all in mass riots, demonstrations and political campaigns. If it keeps on doing the same thing, NLD will lose all the support of the people.

VOA said that a Signature Campaign was in progress at NLD Headquarters for release of political prisoners; and that among those who had put their signatures were some diplomats from the embassies of the US, UK, France, Germany and Italy to Myanmar. However it is today’s people will not get involved in the campaign. The incidents are still fresh in their minds that the nation faced instability due to some persons who had been caught in its snare of instigation and incitement. The people have realized that they have to prevent their political prisoners and relatives from getting involved in such pointless incidents.

Meiktila NLD is attempting to make small matters grow into riots. In fact, there is no particular weakness of the ruling government it can point out, so it is trying to provoke public opinion by means of complete electrical and water supply. However, the government has never ignored supply of water and electricity to the people. Present projects are tangible evidences in that regard. The people have understood and have accepted it. So, I would like to propose some projects with exact data and figures for the knowledge of all anti-government groups including Meiktila NLD.

Regarding irrigation water supply, our country has placed emphasis on irrigation water necessary for boosting cultivation capacity and ensuring cultivation of crops all-year round. Up to January 2009, the number of irrigation facilities rose to 356 from 138 in 1998, accounting for progress of 218. The new facilities benefit 2.78 million acres (1.13 million hectares) of farmlands.

And during the same period, the number of river water pumping stations has surged to 322 from only 4. They irrigate 500,000 acres (2.02 million hectares) of farmlands. Furthermore, the government has sunk 4893 tube-wells and 2973 sand pumps, totaling 7876. The facilities benefit 96,000 acres (38851 hectares) of farmlands.

In some dam projects, irrigation systems are ongoing. So, the government is trying hard to provide water to the farmers. By this financial year to benefit 0.189 million acres (0.0765 million hectares) of arable lands. Simultaneously, it is speeding up construction of river water pumping stations and underground water tapping stations. Therefore, farmers will be able to grow more acres of lands and boost per acre yield of their crops. About 1.8 times of the turnover of agricultural produce is on target for 2008/2009 with the aim of increasing the per capita income of rural people.

In Mandalay Division alone, during the period between 1988 and today, the government has constructed 52 irrigation facilities that add to the total number to 113. Moreover, seven dams are under construction and 10 more projects are due to be implemented soon. Meiktila has got several new large dams such as Nyuangmon, Letkhokin, and Shammange. Apart from them, the government is implementing an underground water tapping project in Meiktila District, an arid region, in case it may have its crops unsuccessful due to climate changes. The feasibility study proved possible to tap underground water on a large scale in Meiktila and Thazi townships. So, the project will soon be put into action. These two townships have deposits of 70,000 acre feet of water and 800 tube-wells will be sunk at an estimated cost of 271.26 million kyats. And the project will be able to benefit some 11,000 acres of farmlands. It will ensure safety of irrigation supply, will supply irrigation water when the regions’ rainwater is less than usual, and will benefit the region’s greening programme. These are the projects the government is implementing for adequate supply of water.

(To be continued)

Translation: MS

Up to January 2009, the number of irrigation facilities rose to 356 from 138 in 1988, accounting for progress of 218. The new facilities benefit 2.78 million acres (1.13 million hectares) of farmlands.

Kyaw Ye Min

(The New Light of Myanmar)
NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb — Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe met with town elders, departmental personnel and members of social organizations from villages in An Township on 15 February.

Next, the minister presented K 500,000 for Tattaung Station Hospital, K 500,000 each for Tattaung village-tract Women’s Affairs Organization and Maternal and Child Welfare Association, 70 bags of cement and 100 Cl sheets for repair of Tattaung No. 2 Basic Education Primary School and 70 bags of cement, medicines, clothes, school text books and publications for Tattaung Post-Primary School to responsible persons and cordially greeted local people.

At Kankyun village of Kyaukmyaung village-tract, the minister explained Government’s efforts on development of Rakhine State and rural development tasks to be undertaken with momentum in meeting with local people, town elders and members of social organizations.
Annual General Meeting of MWAF concludes successfully

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb — Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation continued its second-day programmes at the City Hall in Nay Pyi Taw this morning.

It was attended by President of MWAF Daw Khin Khin Win, Vice-President Daw Khin Thet Htay, CEC members, intellectuals, patrons of intelligentsia and state and division WAOs.

Next, the meeting discussed undertakings of State and Division WAOs. Chairman discussed reports. The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the president. — MNA

Myanmar Dictionary 2nd edition in circulation

YANGON, 18 Feb — The 2nd edition of Myanmar Dictionary published by Department of Myanmar Language Commission comes out today.

The 2nd edition comes 18 years after the appearance of the first Myanmar dictionary. The mini dictionary comprising five volumes was published in 1980. Based on the five volumes, the first edition of Myanmar Dictionary was published in 1991. The new dictionary includes 18,000 words, technical terms, pictures and numbers in measurement. A compact disc of Myanmar Dictionary is also attached with the dictionary.

The 2nd edition costs K 7000 and available at Department of Myanmar Language Commission, bookstores in Yangon and Mandalay and super markets. Those living in Yangon municipal area may contact Ph 391186 to buy the dictionary.

Other dictionaries published by Department of Myanmar Language Commission are available at the department, No 27, Pay Road, 6 1/2 mile, Yangon. — MNA

Blood donated to mark 62nd Anniversary Union Day

YANGON, 18 Feb — Under the leadership of Mawlamyne Township supervisory committee for blood donors, a collective blood donation ceremony was held at Blood Bank of General Hospital in Mawlamyne on 13 February in commemoration of the 62nd Anniversary Union Day.

It was attended by Chairman of the supervisory committee Dr Toe Toe Aung, secretary U Kyaw Myint, treasurer U Lwin Moe, officials of the blood bank of the hospital and faculty members of Mawlamyne Education College. Blood donors donated 20 packets of blood.

So far, over 900 packets of blood have been donated to the blood bank of the hospital under the supervision of the committee. — MNA

Wooden bridge opened in Taungtha

YANGON, 18 Feb — In honour of the 62nd Anniversary Union Day, a wooden bridge “Shwe Taungtha” was opened in Taungtha Township on 12 February.

The bridge is 205 feet long and 5 feet wide and 7 feet high. It was built on self-reliance basis by the workers of Taungtha Vest Factory. — MNA

MPS to hold annual meeting in March

YANGON, 18 Feb — Myanmar Photographic Society will hold its annual general meeting for 2008-09 in March.

All the association members are to take part in the discussions to reorganize the association. Association members from States and Divisions are to contact the association at No. 27-29, 35th Street (Lower) in Kyauktada Township, Tel: 01-373167 or through State and Division Information and Public Relations Departments. — MNA

PSB Academy to provide scholarships, stipends

YANGON, 18 Feb — PSB Academy is the greatest education provider joining hands with famous Universities around the world and some 50,000 students of the region and 30 countries learn at the PSB yearly. PSB Academy will provide scholarships and stipends to students interested in the economic subject in California State University Long Beach USA (CSULB) and students must learn three and a half academic year.

50 stipends each worth 10,000 Singapore dollar and 30 scholarship each worth 20,000 Singapore dollar will be provided to students of Myanmar.

The special education meeting for the scholarship presenting programme will be held at Traders Hotel from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm, 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm and 5 pm to 6 pm on 21 February.

Students can enrol for the scholarship test at the meeting and they are sitting the test in Bagan and Toungoo halls at the hotels on 22 February. Graduate and undergraduate students can take the test. If not chosen for the scholarship, they can apply for the stipend to attend the CSULB Programme.

For more information, contact Overseas Education Channel (AT & S Co Ltd) Building-5, No-4, Myanmar Info-tech in Hine Township and dial 652268, 652320 and 652258. — MNA
Information Minister drives stakes for self-reliant village libraries in Sittway Township

Local people urged to strive for development of their libraries

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb—Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan attended a ceremony to drive stakes for construction of self-reliant library and to present cash and kind to local people in Kywite Village in Sittway Township on 15 February.

It was also attended by Vice-Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Col Soe Lwin of Sittway Station, officials of the Ministry of Information, departmental officials, social organization members and local people of six villages totalling over 1,400.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Col Soe Lwin, Managing Director U Soe Win of News and Periodicals Enterprise and Acting Director-General U Ye Htut of Information and Public Relations Department drove stakes at the designated places and sprinkled scented water on them.

In meeting with local people, the minister heard reports on regional development tasks presented by officials and attended to the needs.

Next, the minister handed over K 3 million donated by the Union Solidarity and Development Association to the funds for construction of Kywite Village Library. Moreover, the minister donated K 400,000 each to the funds of basic education schools and rural development tasks in five villages, and books, clothes and personal goods to the local people.

Col Soe Lwin also handed over K 500,000 donated by Rakhine State PDC to purchase of furniture for Kuntaung Village Library.

In meeting with local people, the minister said that the government is speeding up undertaking of regional development in Rakhine State. In February 2009, the Ministry of Information is gathering momentum on construction of new TV retransmission station and installation of machinery for enabling the local people to enjoy various kinds of TV channels of their choice. Moreover, the FM radio system is being implemented to disseminate news and entertainment to the people in the state as soon as possible, he said.

He continued that he was pleased with active participation of local people in education and health sectors, and promised to fulfil the requirements.

He said that all the people have high talent and efficiency and they can stand shoulder to shoulder with people of other countries. To uplift the efficiency, all the people have to read. As such, the ministry establishes self-reliant libraries in the villages.

PDC for purchasing furniture for Kywite Village Library.

In Ponnagyun Township, the minister attended the stake driving ceremony for construction of Kuntaung Village self-reliant library. The minister, Col Soe Lwin, Managing Director U Soe Win and Acting Director-General U Ye Htut drove the stakes at the designated places.

Next, the minister met over 1,300 local people from 12 villages and heard reports on regional development presented by local authorities.

The minister presented K 3 million donated by USDA for construction of Kuntaung Village Self-reliant Library, K 300,000 each to the funds of basic education schools and rural health sectors, and he promised to fulfil the requirements.

He said that all the people have high talent and efficiency and they can stand shoulder to shoulder with people of other countries. To uplift the efficiency, all the people have to read. As such, the ministry establishes self-reliant libraries in the villages.

While reading various books, local people are to strive for development of their libraries. Moreover, the people are urged to actively take part in the realization of the seven-step Road Map of the State in their respective sectors.—MNA

Objectives of the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

1. To work hard together with the people to accomplish the State’s seven-step Road Map in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation

2. To uphold Our Three Main National Causes as the national policy at risk to life

3. To crush, in cooperation with the people, internal and external subversive elements that are disrupting stability, peace and development of the nation

4. To build a strong and patriotic modern Tatmadaw capable of safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the nation

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan makes a speech in meeting with local people of six villages in Kywite Village in Sittway Township.—MNA

Modern Survey Course concludes

YANGON, 18 Feb—The Advanced and Modern Survey Course No. 11, conducted by Settlement and Land Records Department, concluded at the Central Land Record Development Training School in Taikkyi Township on 15 February.

Director-General U Win Kyi of SLRD delivered a speech and presented prizes to the outstanding trainees. Principal U Than gave completion certificates to the trainees. Altogether 90 trainees attended the course that lasted five and a half months.—MNA

Tobacco Kills
Communication sector develops in Mon State with facilities of telephones, Internet, e-mail

**Article: Maung Maung Htwe (MNA); Photos: Hla Moe (MNA)**

During our recent trip to Mon State, we witnessed the unprecedented progress of communication sector. In the past, Mon State had been equipped with auto-exchanges and magneto exchanges. From 1988 to date, Mon State has been gaining development momentum with communication facilities such as mobile radio stations called GSM stations, CDMA-450 MHZ stations, e-mail, Internet, ADSL, local ground satellite communication stations, local satellite communication channels and public call offices (PCO).

To observe the development tasks in communication sector of the state, we, the news crew of the Kyemon Daily had an interview with Mon State Manager U Myo Swe of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications.

Frankly, Mon State Manager U Myo Swe explained, “In line with the motto of the ministry ‘Information Technology for All’, we are undertaking development of communication sector in Mon State under the leadership of the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs and Mon State Peace and Development Council.”

He continued to say, “In the past, all the villages in the state faced hardships in the communication sector. At present, most of villages are convenient in the communicative measures. Up to the end of 2008, Mon State had been facilitated with 32 telephone offices, three GSM stations, five CDMA-450 stations, nine microwave stations, 35 e-mail and Internet (ADSL) stations, 42 local ground satellite communication stations, 168 satellite communication channels and one Public Access Centre. In the whole state, there are 12,758 telephones, 2,649 GSM telephones, 4,084 CDMA-450 MHZs and 219 telephones including auto-mobile use CDMA-450 lines in Theinzayat of Kyaitko Township. Moreover, one 750-line CDMA-450 MHZ radio station is under construction in Anin of Thanbyuzayat Township. At 2,400-line Mawlamyine Auto-exchange, Analog system of the exchange is being displaced with digital facility.”

We had an opportunity to visit the GSM mobile radio station in Mawlamyine and an auto-exchange under construction at the industrial zone. Assistant Manager Daw Khin Soe Aye of Mon State Communication Station (Post Office) of MPT explained, “There are 64 post offices in Mon State. Post offices in Mawlamyne, Thaton, Mon State Manager U Myo Swe of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications.

Of them, five offices are running its functions with computerized telegraphic facilities and another six offices are giving services with facsimile facility to the customers. On 1 February 2009, Kyaukkhami telegraphic office commences the computerized fax system. At Mudon Post Office/ Telegraph Office, the computerized facsimile facility is being provided to the customers. The plans are under way to open e-Telegram service offices in Kyaitko and Theinseik.”

While the post and telegraph works are developing with momentum, the telephone communication facility is also gaining development momentum.

At the villages with poor transportation, the local people can use CDMA-450 MHZ telephones to overcome the hardships. Thanks to automobile use CDMA-450 MHZ telephones, travelers can receive the information about arrival, departure and schedules of travel in time. Furthermore, local fishing entrepreneurs and fishermen can apply the communication equipment to know the weather, production, changes of prices, arrival, departure and other works. Internet cafés and GSM mobiles are serving the users with convenient communication facilities.

In Mon State, unprecedented development can be seen in the communication sector.

Translation: TTA

Kyemon: 15-2-2009

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A station indicates improvement of communication sector in Mon State.

Mon State Manager U Myo Swe of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications.
TRADE MARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE

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Japan wants national ID cards for aliens

Tokyo, 18 Feb—Japan plans to issue national residence cards for everyone living in the country to make staying illegally more difficult.

A revision of the Immigration and Registration Law has been drafted, The Yomiuri Shimbun reported. The government plans to submit it for a vote during the current session of the Diet, Japan’s parliamnet, the paper said. The law would abolish municipal registration, substituting one issued by the Justice Department. People caught forging or changing the national ID card would face prosecution and prison terms. Resident aliens would also be required to report any changes of address, job or school to the Immigration Bureau instead of to municipal governments.

French ‘spider-man’ scales Hong Kong skyscraper in latest stunt

HONG KONG, 18 Feb—A French daredevil scaled a 73-story Hong Kong skyscraper barehanded Tuesday, his latest attempt to draw attention to global warming by climbing up the world’s tallest buildings.

Alain Robert, dubbed the French spider-man, has scaled dozens of tall structures without ropes or harnesses, including the Eiffel Tower in Paris, the Empire State Building in New York and Malaysia’s Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur. It took Robert about 40 minutes Tuesday to scramble up the world’s tallest building without ropes or harnesses, including the Eiffel Tower in Paris, the Empire State Building in New York and Malaysia’s Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur. It took Robert about 40 minutes Tuesday to scramble up the world’s tallest building.

Mobiles to have same charging socket by 2012

Barcelona, 18 Feb—Key mobile phone industry players have agreed to fit phones with the same power socket by 2012, industry group GSMA said on Tuesday. It said handsets would have a micro USB interface, already used to transfer pictures from digital cameras to a computer.

The initial group of companies that have signed for the change include Nokia, LG, Motorola, Samsung and Sony Ericsson. Operators such as AT&T, Orange, Telefonica, T-Mobile and Vodafone are also part of the initiative.

The GSMA said that eventually it expected mobile phones to ship without a charging plug and cable because everybody would have this. This should also lead to less waste and could yield energy savings because the agreement calls for chargers to meet efficiency targets.

Green vehicles subsidized in Chinese cities

Beijing, 18 Feb—The Chinese government has launched a pilot programme to subsidize energy-efficient and new-energy vehicles in the public transport sector in 13 cities, the Ministry of Finance (MOF) said on Tuesday in a statement.

The ministry said the subsidies would mainly go to 10-meter-long, or above, buses.

The statement was a supplement to an earlier joint statement by the MOF and the Ministry of Science and Technology in January, which said the central government would offer a one-off subsidy for the purchase of mixed-power, electric and fuel-cell vehicles.

The MOF said on Tuesday that mixed-power passenger cars would be given subsidies up to 420,000 yuan (61,435 US dollars) each, and electric and fuel-cell vehicles would get subsidies of 500,000 yuan and 600,000 yuan each, respectively.

Japanese model of Disney’s Sleeping Beauty castle seen in an auction.

Model of Disney’s Sleeping Beauty castle seen in an auction.
China plans to launch 3rd ocean survey satellite in 2010

BEIJING, 18 Feb—China plans to launch a third ocean survey satellite in 2010 to upgrade its capacity for maritime weather forecasting and disaster relief, according to a report in the Science and Technology Daily on Wednesday.

The newspaper is an official publication of the Ministry of Science and Technology.

The satellite, Haiyang-2A, an ocean dynamic environment satellite, will be used to monitor ocean wind fields, sea levels and temperatures, Jiang Xingwei, an official with the National Marine Environment Forecast Center, was quoted as saying.

China plans to have a system consisting of ocean color remote sensing satellites, ocean dynamic environment satellites and ocean surveillance satellites.

The colour remote sensing satellites (Haiyang-1 series) use infrared remote sensing technology to monitor ocean pollution and topography in shallow waters. The dynamic environment satellites (Haiyang-2 series) use microwave remote sensing technology to monitor ocean wind fields and ocean surface temperatures.

The ocean surveillance satellites (Haiyang-3 series) will have the combined features of the previous two series.

China started to develop ocean dynamic environment satellite in 2007, the newspaper said.

China launched its first ocean survey satellite, Haiyang-1A, in May 2002. In April 2007, the second ocean survey satellite, Haiyang-1B, was launched. Both were ocean colour remote sensing satellites.

—INTERNET

Pet chimpanzee shot after mauling US woman

STAMFORD, 18 Feb—A 175-pound pet chimpanzee has been shot dead by police after it mauled a woman in the US.

The victim, said to be in her 50s, suffered serious facial injuries and was taken to hospital in Stamford, Connecticut. Stamford police Lieutenant Richard Conklin told reporters the woman, who was visiting a friend, was attacked for no apparent reason when she got out of her car.

Sandra Herold, the owner of the 15-year-old chimp called Travis, wrestled with the animal as he mauled her friend, then ran inside her house to raise the alarm.

"She retrieved a large butcher knife and stabbed her long-time pet numerous times in an effort to save her friend, who was really being brutally attacked," Lt Conklin said.

The victim suffered "a tremendous loss of blood," he added.

The ape had started roaming around the vicinity when emergency crews arrived.

—INTERNET

Study raises hopes of anthrax vaccine pill

LONDON, 18 Feb—An oral vaccine packed into dairy products like milk and cheese protected mice from the anthrax bacteria, suggesting a pill could replace injections for humans, researchers said on Monday.

"Normally, you can’t eat vaccines because the digestive process in the stomach destroys them, so vaccines are administered by needle," Todd Klaenhammer, a researcher at North Carolina State University in the United States who co-led the study, said in a statement. "Using ‘food grade’ lactic acid bacteria as a vehicle provides a safe way of getting the vaccine into the small intestine of the drug’s efficacy," he said.

The study, which included scientists from the US Army Medical Research and Research of Infectious Diseases, was published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Anthrax is a fairly common bacteria whose spores can be used as a biological weapon. Usually it causes an easily treated skin lesion. But if inhaled, it can take hold quickly and by the time a person starts showing symptoms, it is usually too late for successful treatment with antibiotics.

Earlier this month, Human Genome Sciences Inc said it would provide an initial 20,000 doses of Abthrax, which fights anthrax infection, to the US government. US based Emergent BioSolutions also produces a vaccine.

—INTERNET

Chipmakers pin hopes on mobiles

BARCELONA, 18 Feb—Global chipmakers, battling slower technology demand, are betting size matters as they pin their hopes for future growth on small and easy to carry mobile devices such as netbooks and smartphones. Global shipments of personal computer processors fell more than 11 percent in the fourth quarter but netbook sales are expected to more than double this year to about 35 million units, according to analysts.

Intel, the world’s biggest chipmaker, expects to sell at least 50 percent more of its Atom chips for netbooks and other mobile Internet devices this year than it did in 2008, Anand Chandrasekher, head of Intel’s ultra-mobile group, said on Tuesday at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona.

Intel’s revenues from Atom chips, which cater for a new and fast-growing market, rose 50 percent to $300 million (211 million pounds) in the fourth quarter. Overall company sales fell 23 percent to $82 billion as the chip industry struggles through the downturn.

—INTERNET

Boy’s body found in crocodile

CAMBERRA, 18 Feb—The remains of a five-year-old Australian boy have been found in the stomach of a crocodile, police say. Jeremy Dobole was last seen on 8 February playing near his family’s home beside a flooded mangrove swamp in northern Queensland.

Police now say he was attacked and eaten by a 14ft (4.3m) crocodile who was then trapped in a floodwater river. The announcement came after police examined the crocodile, using non-lethal surgical procedure.

"The family have requested that media respect their privacy at this time," police said in a statement.

Queensland officials say the animal will now be sent to a crocodile farm or zoo. The victim’s parents have reportedly asked authorities not to kill the crocodile.

—INTERNET

Vietnam, Laos boost sports cooperation

HANOI, 18 Feb—Vietnam and Laos signed four components as part of their 2007-2009 sports cooperation agreement here, the Vietnam News Agency reported Tuesday.

Under the deals, inked by Vietnamese Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism Hoang Tuan Anh and President of the Lao National Sports Committee Phouthong Seng Akhom, the two sides will exchange experts and officials to learn each other’s sports management and development experiences.

Vietnam will continue to assist Laos in building its National Sports Training Centre and send coaches to the neighbouring country to train athletes in several sports events in preparation for the upcoming 25th Southeast Asian Games (SEA Games). The two sides will jointly organize training courses for referees, coaches and athletes as well as encourage the business cooperation in providing equipment.

MNA/Xinhua

Thailand’s rice exports in January falls 37.74% year-on-year

BANGKOK, 18 Feb—Thailand’s rice exports in January this year fell 37.74 per cent year-on-year in terms of volume, the Commerce Ministry said on Tuesday.

In January, Thailand—the world’s largest rice exporter—shipped only 628,792 tons of rice, valued at 331 million US dollars, compared with 1,011 million tons worth of 421 million US dollars a year ago, the website by Thai News Agency quoted Foreign Trade Department director-general Apiradi Tantraporn as saying. However, the Commerce Ministry is still confident that the country’s exports for calendar 2009 would meet the target of 8.5-9.5 million tons, the website said.

— MNA/Xinhua

A visitor takes a picture of the LG KM900 Arena phone at the GSMA Mobile World Congress in Barcelona on 17 Feb, 2009. The GSMA represents the interests of the worldwide mobile communications industry.

—INTERNET
Real’s Robben has old scores to settle with Liverpool

MADRID, 18 Feb—Real Madrid winger Arjen Robben said on Tuesday he had some old scores to settle with Liverpool when they meet in the Champions League first knockout round next week. “I want to beat Liverpool because I’ve lost against them twice in the semi-finals,” Robben told Radio Marca. “Also Reina saved a penalty of mine and I would like to take another and score this time.”

Robben was at Chelsea when Liverpool beat them on the way to the European Cup final in 2005 and 2007. Two years ago, the match went to penalties after the tie ended 1-1 on aggregate, and Reina saved from Robben and Geremi as Liverpool took the shootout 4-1 at Anfield.

Frenchman Florent Serra upset second seeded and two-times finalist Robin Soderling played with the third day of the WTA Dubai Tennis Championships on 17 Feb, 2009. —INTERNET

Milan’s Nesta to undergo further back surgery

MILAN, 18 Feb—Injury-plagued AC Milan defender Alessandro Nesta will undergo another back operation on Tuesday to try to save his career. The former Italy international, 32, has not played this season having managed 29 league games last term and just 14 the season before with continuing niggles. AC Milan announces that Alessandro Nesta will go under the knife tomorrow morning, the Serie A club said in a statement on Monday.

Milan had hoped a rehabilitation stint in the United States had cured his back problems but he broke down again last week. David Beckham, who limped out of Sunday’s 2-1 defeat by Inter Milan with a calf injury, has been named in the squad for Wednesday’s UEFA Cup last 32 first leg at Werder Bremen but Kaka is again out with a foot problem.

Elena Dementieva of Russia returns the ball to Sybille Bammer of Austria during their match on the third day of the WTA Dubai Tennis Championships on 17 Feb, 2009. —INTERNET

Eduardo’s dream return comes at right time for Arsenal

LONDON, 18 Feb—Eduardo’s dream return to the Arsenal first team after his horrific leg break has given manager Arsene Wenger new attacking options as he seeks to lift their Premier League campaign. The Brazilian-born Croatia striker scored twice in Monday’s 4-0 victory over Cardiff City in the FA Cup fourth round, marking his first match for the club in almost a year in style.

“It was the best day of my life because it proved I can play again,” local media quoted Eduardo as saying. “It was a special moment to score and very emotional. I had tears in my eyes. I celebrated by kissing my wedding ring because my wife, Andreja, daughter Lorena and family supported me right through it.”

Wenger, whose side are fifth in the league, 12 points behind leaders Manchester United, said Eduardo’s return gave him new possibilities as they try to close the gap in the league and progress in the Champions League and FA Cup. “We’ll know at the end of the season how important it (his comeback) is, but I’m very happy to have him back,” said the Frenchman. “He can play as a striker, on the flank, behind the striker, up front on his own. That is important for us.” —INTERNET

Juve interested in Sampdoria playmaker Cassano

MILAN, 18 Feb—Juventus are interested in Sampdoria’s influential playmaker Antonio Cassano, who was again instrumental in Sunday’s 1-1 draw between the sides.

“He is a boy who is becoming a man. He is exciting and a good player,” Juve president Giovanni Ancolli Gigli told Radio Anch. “Cassano is a name which we are considering.”

Milan flew out for Wednesday’s UEFA Cup clash at Werder Bremen. “The wish of the player is to stay, we will see how the situation evolves.” The midfielder, on a two-month loan at Milan from Los Angeles Galaxy, wants to remain in Italy permanently after impressive performances in Serie A helped him win back a place in the England squad.

The ball came off his head and then hit his arm because it’s an important tournament here. I have to continue to play like this and play relaxed.”

Sodering played with an ailing back and needed a trainer before the start of the third set. The timeout helped Serra calm himself after the second set loss. “It was a very difficult first round match for me,” Serra told reporters as an ailing back and needed a trainer before the start of the third set. The timeout helped Serra calm himself after the second set loss. “It was a very difficult first-round match for me,” Serra told reporters.

Internet

Milan’s chief executive Adriano Galliani said on Tuesday.

“It was the best day of my life because it proved I can play again,” local media quoted Eduardo as saying. “It was a special moment to score and very emotional. I had tears in my eyes. I celebrated by kissing my wedding ring because my wife, Andreja, daughter Lorena and family supported me right through it.”

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Milan flew out for Wednesday’s UEFA Cup clash at Werder Bremen. “The wish of the player is to stay, we will see how the situation evolves.” The midfielder, on a two-month loan at Milan from Los Angeles Galaxy, wants to remain in Italy permanently after impressive performances in Serie A helped him win back a place in the England squad.

Galaxy said Friday he must go back to Los Angeles on March 9 after a Major League Soccer deadline to complete the transfer passed. However, Milan are still confident of reaching a deal when talks resume towards the end of the week.

Various figures have been bandied about in the media after Milan’s open offer of five million euros (4.4 million pounds) was turned down. Some reports have said Galaxy want about 12 million while Milan are only willing to go to eight or even 10.—INTERNET

Milan’s Nesta will go under the knife tomorrow morning, the Serie A club said in a statement on Monday. Milan had hoped a rehabilitation stint in the United States had cured his back problems but he broke down again last week. David Beckham, who limped out of Sunday’s 2-1 defeat by Inter Milan with a calf injury, has been named in the squad for Wednesday’s UEFA Cup last 32 first leg at Werder Bremen but Kaka is again out with a foot problem.

Internet

Eduardo’s (hidden) headers his goal past Cardiff City goalkeeper Tom Heaton (C) during their FA Cup fourth round replay soccer match at the Emirates Stadium in London on 16 Feb, 2009. —INTERNET

Hiddink could turn to Chelsea’s youngsters

LONDON, 18 Feb—Chelsea coach Guus Hiddink said he could turn to promising young players to get the London club’s Premier League title challenge back on track. Hiddink, who transformed a drab Russia team into an exciting one that reached the Euro 2008 semi-finals by bringing in inexperienced young players, hinted he could draw on that successful tactic during his temporary spell at Stamford Bridge. “Even if you are a big club ... you will always create some space for youngsters,” he told Sky Sports News.

“There are always promising youngsters and that’s why we have to keep an eye on them. If they have the quality to come in, we don’t hesitate to bring them in.” Hiddink, appointed to manage the London club until the end of the season after last week’s sacking of Luiz Felipe Scolari, watched his reserves beat Portsmouth reserves 6-0 on Monday in the company of club owner Roman Abramovich.—INTERNET

Milan’s Nesta will go under the knife tomorrow morning, the Serie A club said in a statement on Monday.

Milan had hoped a rehabilitation stint in the United States had cured his back problems but he broke down again last week. David Beckham, who limped out of Sunday’s 2-1 defeat by Inter Milan with a calf injury, has been named in the squad for Wednesday’s UEFA Cup last 32 first leg at Werder Bremen but Kaka is again out with a foot problem.
In memoriam
Family shares merits gained
Lt-Gen Tin Oo

In memory of benefactor Phay Phay Gyi Lt-Gen Tin Oo who suddenly left us eight years ago, we family members have made donations and offered ‘soon’ and provisions to members of the Sangha today on 19-2-09. We family members share with you the merits gained.

Wife Daw Khin Than Nwe
Sons and daughters—
— Major Maung Maung Kyaw (Retd) + Cho Le Oh
— Phyu Phyu Tin Oo
— Dr Myat Noe + Yin Mar Oo
— Zaw Tun Oo + Khin Thida
— Nay Tun Oo

Grandchildren—
— Hein Htet, Yin Myat Noe, Phu Ngon Kyaw,
— Wife Daw Khin Than Nwe
and provisions to members of the Sangha today on 19-2-09. We family
us eight years ago, we family members have made donations and offered ‘soon’

60 Afghan Taleban fighters lay down arms

KABUL, 18 Feb—Sixty Taleban militants have laid down their arms and resumed their normal life, an official Mohammad Akram said Tuesday. “Due to the efforts of the Commission for Strengthening Peace (CSP), these brothers laid down their arms in Wardak Province and vowed to support peace and reconciliation in the country,” Akram told journalists at a ceremony held to welcome the former Taleban fighters.

WEATHER

Wednesday, 18 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, Tanintharyi Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (6°C) below February average temperatures in Chin State, (3°C) to (4°C) above February average temperatures in Shan, Kayah and Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions and about Feb-
ruary average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (0°C), Loein (3°C) and Nambu (5°C). Maximum temperature on 17-2-2009 was 96°F. Minimum temperature on 18-2-2009 was 68°F. Relative humidity at (09-30) hours MST on 18-2-2009 was 84%. Total sunshine hours on 17-2-2009 was (7.8) hrs approx. Rainfall on 18-2-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5)mph from Northeast at (16:30) hours MST on 17-
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 19th February 2009:
Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin and Mon States and Tanintharyi Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions.

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

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


Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 19-2-2009: Generally fair weather.
Mountaineering experiences recounted

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb — A ceremony to recount experiences of climbing Mt. Khawnuthon was held at Golden Jubilee Hall of University of Veterinary Science in Yezin, Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana on 16 February with an address by Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein.

The students recounted the experiences of mountaineering and Rector of the University Dr Myint Thein spoke words of thanks.

Fish resource conservation discussed

YANGON, 18 Feb — Mawlamyine District Fisheries Department and District Fish Resource Conservation Group jointly held the talks on conservation of fish resource at Thepon Jetty near Attaran Hotel in Mandalay Ward of Mawlamyine on 10 February.

Leader of the group U Maung Soe and Head of District Fisheries Department U Thet Oo gave talks on conservation of fish resource and functions of Fisheries Department, and presented educative pamphlets to those present.

In fear lest they will be further away from the goal (1)

“Kaka wants Beckham stay

Milan, 18 Feb — AC Milan star Kaka has urged the club to push through a deal to keep David Beckham at the San Siro.

Beckham is currently on loan at the Serie A giants but is due to return to parent club Los Angeles Galaxy on 9th March.

Milan have so failed to agree a deal to sign Beckham with the MLS club expecting the midfielder to report back to America next month.

Beckham remains hopeful a deal can be thrashed out and Kaka believes the former Manchester United and Real Madrid man has established himself as a key member of the Milan side.

Kaka admits the initial move for Beckham may have been motivated for marketing, but he insists the player has won everyone over at Milan.

“Maybe it was a marketing move at first,” Kaka told SporTV. “But today the truth is that he is fundamental. He is a player that in the last games was very decisive, with passes and goals.”

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sees off Thai delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Army

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb — The Thai delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Army General Anupong Paojinda who was on a visit in Nay Pyi Taw at the invitation of Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party welcomed them.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presented documentary photo album of the goodwill visit to the Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Army.

Thai delegation left here for Yangon. They were seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence and officials.

Kaka - impressed by Beckham.

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