Yangon, 20 Feb — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein received Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to the Union of Myanmar Mr. Ye Dabo at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall in Konmyinttha here at 3 p.m. today.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Director-General Col Thant Shin of the Government Office and Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Chinese Ambassador was accompanied by Minister Counsellor Mr. Wang Zongying and officials of the embassy.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein shakes hands with Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to the Union of Myanmar Mr. Ye Dabo at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall in Konmyinttha, Yangon.

MNA
**PERSPECTIVES**

**Actively take part in preservation of biodiversity in Myanmar**

With favourable weather pattern and geographical feature, Myanmar is blessed with rare species of flora and fauna. According to records, there are over 1,000 species of butterflies, over 90 species of bats, over 1,000 species of birds, over 10,000 species of flowering plants and over 800 species of orchids in Myanmar.

Moreover, there are endangered species of animals and rare species of animals in the country. There are tigers in Hukaung Valley reserve forest, rare species of Myanmar deer in Shwesettaw wildlife reserve and Caithhin wildlife reserve.

There are hard woods, herbal plants and a variety of orchids plus tigers, leopards, bears, wild oxen, wild boar, wild goats, mountain goats, pangolins, monkeys and other rare animals in Indawgyi wildlife reserve.

The Ministry of Forestry designed the areas where elephants, rhinoceros, wolves, pangolins, wild oxen, brown fish-owls, samburs, crocodiles, star tortoises and other rare animals reside as sanctuaries are preserving them.

Different kinds of animals and biodiversity can be seen in Hukaung Valley reserve forest, Indawgyi sanctuary, Moyongyi Lake Sanctuary, Shwesettaw wildlife reserve and Alaungdaw Katha National Park.

At present, the Ministry of Forestry is taking systematic measures for preservation of natural resources including biodiversity and trees and woods. At such a time, it is incumbent upon the entire national people to contribute their shares in the drive with a sense of duty. Only then, will the efforts for preservation of such natural resources be fruitful.

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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

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**Made in Thailand Festival opened**

**Yangon, 19 Feb** — Jointly organized by Gamonpwint Co Ltd and Department of Export Promotion of Thailand, the opening of Made in Thailand Festival took place at Gamonpwint shopping mall on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Mayangon Township here this morning. It was attended by responsible persons of the company, Thai Minister-Counsellor (Commercial) Mr. Prajuap (PJ) Supine and Thai entrepreneurs and special guests. Deputy Director-General Piramol Charoenpao cut the ribbon to open the festival.

Clothes, personal and household goods, cosmetics and foodstuff made in Thailand are available at special price at the festival that will be opened up to 2 March.

TV and household goods will be given as a gift to those who bought the Thailand-made goods worth over K30,000 in the lucky draw programme. In addition to the programme, coupons are to put into the ballot box after filling name, address, NRC numbers and telephone numbers in it to seek three Yangon-Bangkok-Yangon air tickets as a lucky draw. — MNA

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**Information Minister visits Journalism Course (1/2009)**

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan cordially converses with trainees of Journalism Course No. 1/2009 organized by MWJA. — MNA

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**Dy FM signs Book of Condolences for Australia bushfire losses**

**Yangon, 20 Feb** — Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint signs Book of Condolences opened for the great losses caused by the recent devastating bushfires afflicted in the State of Victoria, Australia, at the Embassy of Australia, No. 88, Strand Road, here today.

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**A ceremony to launch Made in Thailand Festival in progress at Gamonpwint Shopping Mall in Mayangon Township.**

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**Next, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan together with officials of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association looked into giving lectures to trainees of Journalism Course (1/2009) organized by MWJA at the same building and cordially greeted course supervisors, course instructors and trainees. — MNA**
Iraqi Parliament fails to elect new speaker

BAGHDAD, 20 Feb—Iraq’s parliament failed to elect a new speaker after its second round of secret ballot on Thursday, a parliament official said.

“The lawmakers held their second round of secret ballot to vote in a new speaker, but they failed to choose any of the two candidates for the speaker post,” an official in the parliament media office told Xinhua.

The lawmakers failed to secure absolute majority votes, namely 138, needed for the speaker post, according to the parliament law, the source said on condition of anonymity because he was authorized to speak to the media.

He said Ayad al-Samarrai was only two votes away from the absolute majority in the 275-seat parliament, while his competitor, Khalil Jadua, gained 81 votes.

Deputy parliament speaker Khalid al-Attiya announced the adjournment of the session to Saturday, the source added.

A total of 234 members of parliament attended Thursday’s session to vote in a new speaker to fill the post which has been vacant for about two months, the source added.

The Iraqi parliament frequently failed to vote on a new parliament leader to replace former speaker Mahmoud al-Mashhadani, a Sunni Arab politician who was forced to resign by majority of parliament members late last year.

Kyrgyz President signs US base closure bill

BISHKEK, 20 Feb—Kyrgyzstan’s President has signed a law to close a key US air base used as a staging post for military operations in Afghanistan.

President Kurmanbek Bakiyev signed the bill Friday, as a result the Indian engineer along with one engineer, police said.

He further added that the Indian engineer works for a road construction company involved in building roads in east Afghanistan.

A file photo shows an Afghan policeman carries an injured man after a suicide attack in Kabul.

Roadside bomb kills one, injures two in E Afghanistan

KOHIST, 20 Feb—A bomb planted by insurgents struck the car of an Indian engineer in Kohist province east of Afghanistan Thursday, killing a local guard and wounding two others including the engineer, police said.

“The gruesome incident occurred in Dumanda district on Kohist—Gerdez highway at 12:30 pm local time, as a result the Indian engineer along with one of his guards were injured and another guard was killed,” provincial police chief Abdul Qayum Baigzoi told Xinhua.

US asks European allies to do more in Afghanistan

KRAKOW, 20 Feb—US Defence Secretary Robert Gates on Thursday asked NATO’s European allies to do more in Afghanistan to balance new US pledges to send in 17,000 additional troops.

Gates and his counterparts in NATO countries were holding informal discussions on Afghanistan on Thursday.

“Secretary Gates made a point ... that this (additional US troops for Afghanistan) should not be seen as only a US extra effort, that this extra effort needs to be balanced by all the allies,” NATO spokesman James Appathurai told reporters.

All allies shared the view that everybody needs to do more, said Appathurai, without pronouncing any specific pledges by other allies. He said apart from military support, allies can also make civilian contributions to NATO’s operations in Afghanistan.

European allies are under pressure to send more troops to Afghanistan after US President Barack Obama announced on Tuesday that Washington will send in 17,000 more troops in the coming months. But even Gates admitted that the likelihood of European allies committing signifiant numbers of additional troops is small. Obama is clearly shifting US priority from Iraq to Afghanistan. But Euro-pean leaders are yet to convince their citizens that they also have a stake in the war in Afghanistan. So far only Italy has announced it will reinforce its contingent by 500 troops in Afghanistan.

Czech leader scorbs EU politics

BRUSSELS, 20 Feb—Czech President Vaclav Klaus has accused the European Parliament of contributing to a sense of political alienation among EU citizens.

Mr Klaus told MEPs in Brussels that “between citizens and EU representatives there is a great distance - not only geographically”.

The Czech Republic currently holds the EU’s six-monthly rotating presidency.

Some MEPs walked out of the chamber during Mr Klaus’s speech, which was punctuated by both applause and boos.

The Czech leader criticised those EU politicians who “assume that there is only one possible correct future for European integration, which is ever closer union”.

Iraqi shoe thrower trial postponed

BAHGDAD, 20 Feb—The trial of an Iraqi journalist who threw his shoes at US president George W Bush was postponed to 12 March, for differences exist on whether Bush’s visit to Iraq was “official” one or not.

Chief Judge Faqil al-Zaidan ordered to postpone Thursday’s session until he receive an answer from the office of the Iraqi Council of Ministers about whether Bush’s visit to Iraq in mid December was an official one or not. Zaidan decided to send a letter to the office of Maliki’s Cabinet as the defence team insisted that the charge filed against Zaidi is an insult and not an “assault to a foreign head of a state during official visit” which under the Iraqi law Zaidi would face up to 15 year in prison.
Quotable quotes from Chinese Vice President’s foreign tour

BEIJING, 20 Feb— The following are notable quotes during Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping’s ongoing six-nation tour:

The year 2009 marks the 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Venezuela.

There is a great chance to promote all-round exchanges and cooperation between the two countries.”

“China and Venezuela should make a joint effort to enhance collaboration in the sectors of energy, finance, agriculture, infrastructure and high technology.”

“A great number of Chinese people travel to Central and South America and we can take advantage of that.”

Ecuadorean President Rafael Correa ordered on Wednesday the “immediate” expulsion of Mark Sullivan, the first secretary in the US embassy’s office of regional affairs, for an “unacceptable intimidation on internal affairs of Ecuador.”

“I think everything done in this way affects the ties, so we must be cautious, to make things with calmness and to review the reasons before being impulsive.” Baki, an Ecuadorian, told to a local radio station.

Chief of Andean Parliament worried about US-Ecuador ties on diplomat expulsion

QUITO, 20 Feb— President of the Andean Parliament Ivonne Baki said on Thursday that the expulsion of a US diplomat by Ecuador would have a bad effect on the ties between the two countries.

More than 400 foreign schools to attend education expo in China

BEIJING, 20 Feb— More than 400 overseas universities and educational organizations will join this year’s China International Education Exhibition Tour scheduled from 28 Feb to 15 March.

Schools from nine countries, including Australia, Canada, France, Singapore and Britain, will showcase a wide range of majors for overseas students including art, science and technology, medicine and tourism.

Financial protectionism worse than trade protectionism

HONG KONG, 20 Feb— Hong Kong Monetary Authority Chief Joseph Yam said on Thursday that financial protectionism was more dangerous than trade protectionism.

Unlike trade protectionism, financial protectionism can spread quickly, possibly leading to a sharp reversal of capital flows, with destabilizing consequences for monetary and financial stability,” said Yam in an article published on Thursday.

Globalization of financial markets, made possible by financial liberalization in individual economies, has been instrumental in the growth and development of the global economy, making the allocation and use of financial resources internationally more efficient, he said.

Many developing economies were therefore dependent upon external finance that was often mobilized by financial institutions in the developed economies, said the chief.

If these financial institutions were prevented by law or government policies from lending overseas so that more funds could be made available for domestic borrowers, external finance for the developing economies might dry up, he said.

People from around the country place commemorative flowers in front of the bronze statue of late Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping in the village of Paifang, Guang’an City in southwest China’s Sichuan Province on 19 Feb, 2009, to mark the 12th anniversary of Deng’s death. —XINHUA

All items from Xinhua News Agency
Record 881 US auto dealerships closed in 2008

DETROIT, 20 Feb — A record 881 US auto dealerships closed in 2008, with Detroit’s three struggling automakers representing 80 percent of the decline, according to data released on Thursday.

In the face of tight credit and a plunge in sales of cars and trucks, about 4.2 percent of the country’s 20,084 auto dealerships shut their doors, according to data firm Urban Science.

The number of closures, the bulk of which occurred in the fourth quarter, represents the biggest decline since 1991 when the company started to collect data.

The lack of credit has made it difficult for dealers to finance their vehicle inventory and for customers to secure financing to buy vehicles.

General Motors Corp, Ford Motor Co, Chrysler have also encouraged their dealerships to consolidate in a bid to streamline their retail operations and reduce competition that has hit margins.

“There has been a loss of franchises across all the manufacturers, but the Detroit Three have been hit the hardest,” said John Frith, vice president at Urban Science.

“We’ll see even more contraction in the next several years as the Detroit Three strategically rethink their retail counts and locations.”

Bahrain halts gas talks with Iran over insult

MANAMA, 20 Feb—Bahrain’s foreign minister on Thursday blasted Iran for an Iranian official’s remarks perceived as a threat to Bahraini sovereignty — a stinging rebuke a day after the tiny Gulf Arab kingdom perceived as a threat to Bahraini sovereignty — a stinging rebuke a day after the tiny Gulf Arab kingdom.

Iranian officials, meanwhile, looked to soothe the rift sparked after former Iranian parliament speaker Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri — a prominent cleric close to Iran’s supreme leader — was quoted by Arab media last week as saying that Bahrain was the 14th province of Iran until 1970.

Bahrain’s Foreign Minister Sheikh Khalid bin Ahmed al-Khalifa said the remark was an “infringement of sovereignty” and a “distortion of historical fact.”

“We are hurt by ... Iranian statements,” he added. “These remarks must be silenced.”

Bahrain fears Iran still holds its long-time claims to the island, ruled by a Sunni elite but with a poor Shiite majority that has close ties to the Shiite Iran.

Seeking to distance official Teheran from the statement, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Hasan Qashqavi said this week that Iran respects Bahrain’s independence and has “no territorial claims against this country,” according to the Iranian ministry Web site.

Brazil aircraft maker to cut jobs

BRAZIL, 20 Feb—Brazilian aircraft manufacturer Embraer is to lay off more than 4,000 employees as a result of the global economic downturn, it has said.

One of the world’s largest passenger aircraft makers, the firm said demand for new planes has dropped and there was no prospect of swift recovery. The cuts will affect about 20% of the firm’s global workforce. It has offices in Brazil, Asia, the US and Europe.

Embraer’s main market is the US, which has been badly affected by the crisis. Last November, Embraer reported a 70% fall in profits following a sharp decline in Brazil’s currency against the dollar.

About 30 hurt after northwest flight hits turbulence

TYO, 20 Feb—About 30 people were injured when a Northwest Airlines flight from Manila to Tokyo hit turbulence on Friday, a fire department official said. Two people were seriously injured and about 30 slightly injured, the official said. There were no reports of deaths.

The Boeing 747-400 plane was carrying 408 passengers and 14 crew, a transport ministry official said.

Northwest Airlines, which merged last year with Delta Air Lines, was not immediately available for comment.

Iran has slowed its uranium enrichment programme

VIENNA, 20 Feb—Iran has slowed its uranium enrichment programme, said Mohamed ElBaradei, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) when submitting the report on Iranian nuclear issue to the UN Security Council on Thursday.

According to media here, this report said that only 164 gas centrifuges which are able to produce low-enriched uranium have been newly installed at Iran’s Natanz uranium enrichment centre since last December, which is slower than the past.

However, this report also pointed out that although the UN Security Council has implemented sanctions on Iran, Iran still refused to fulfill UN’s requirement of stopping its uranium enrichment activity.

IAEA confirms finding unnatural uranium in Syria again

VIENNA, 20 Feb—IAEA inspectors have found unnatural uranium particles in the sample taken from a bombed establishment in Syria, said a report submitted by Mohamed ElBaradei, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), to the members of IAEA council on Thursday.

The report said that the IAEA inspectors have found eighty uranium particles in the establishment blown down by Israel at a remote desert in eastern Syria. Syria has to give a proper explanation to the source of these substances.

The report also pointed out that “the possibility is very small that these uranium particles have come from Israel’s air attack missiles.”
Energy giant BP to pay nearly $180 m to settle pollution case in Texas

HOUSTON, 20 Feb—The leading global energy company BP has agreed to pay nearly 180 million US dollars to settle a federal lawsuit over pollution at its Texas City refinery.

Under the settlement announced on Thursday, the international energy giant will spend 161 million dollars to reduce pollution at the refinery, another 12 million dollars in penalties and 6 million on a project to clean the air in the surrounding community.

Following a series of mergers and acquisitions, the BP became the largest oil and gas producer and one of the largest gasoline retailers in the United States by the end of 2001, with a focus on oil and gas production in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico near Houston.

BP’s settlement with the US Department of Justice and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) follows a deadly explosion and fire in March 2005 that killed 15 people and injured more than 170 others at the refinery.

In 2007, the British company pleaded guilty to violating the Clean Air Act and agreed to pay a separate fine of 50 million dollars.

French construction group to raise 1.5 b euro in capital

PARIS, 20 Feb—French construction group Saint Gobain announced on Friday it would raise 1.5 billion euros (1.9 billion dollars) in new capital and cut more jobs due to the global financial crisis.

Saint Gobain said in a statement that the capital, which would be raised through share subscriptions for its shareholders only, “aims to reinforce the financially flexibility of the group.”

The new capital will allow the company to reduce its capital debt ratio, solidify its credit score and strengthen its access to the financial market, it said.

Saint Gobain said it slashed 8,000 jobs worldwide in 2008 and saved 400 million euros in costs.

There will be workforce reductions in 2009,” a Saint Gobain spokesman told AFP, adding that no figure has been decided.

15 people injured in perfumery blast in Turkey

ANKARA, 20 Feb—A powerful blast hit a perfumery in central Turkish Province of Eskisehir on Thursday, injuring 15 people, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

Eskisehir Governor Mehmet Kiliclar was quoted by saying that two of the injured were in serious condition in the central Anatolian Province.

“We are conducting a scene investigation and trying to find out what caused the blast,” Kiliclar said.

He said fire crews and civilian defence teams were working together to extinguish a huge blaze that engulfed a number of stores and parking cars in the nearby area. All buildings around the perfumery have been evacuated as a precautionary measure, he added.

Six killed by armed men in Colombia

BOGOTA, 20 Feb—Six passengers were forced off a bus travelling from Pasto to Tumaco and killed by an unidentified armed group, police said on Thursday.

“We have the information that it is an illegal armed group. We are investigating whether it is a criminal band,” said Colonel William Montezuma, police commander of Narino Province.

Police said the armed group forced the bus to stop late on Wednesday before forcing the six passengers off and killing them.

The rest of the 34 passengers remained on the bus and the driver was told to move on.

Initial investigations showed that the victims were merchants who arrived at Tumaco for business. The bodies have not yet been identified.

Man gets 20 weeks in jail for whistling

A Wingerworth, England, man has been sentenced to 20 weeks in prison after he repeatedly whistled the theme tune to “The Addams Family” TV show at his neighbours.

Leopold Wrobel, 51, was convicted of violating an antisocial behaviour order directing him to cease whistling the tune at neighbours Michael and Kathleen Sharpe. Magistrates at a Chesterfield, England, court also found him guilty of two counts of harassment, The Daily Telegraph reported on Friday.

Prosecutor Michael Threarme said Wrobel’s behaviour may seem silly “but if something happens on an on-going basis and goes on and on and on, eventually it reaches the stage of being absolutely intolerable.”

Kathleen Sharpe, 66, told the court Wrobel was always waiting with his whistling whenever she left her house.

Indian helicopters perform at the Aero India 2009 at Yelahanka air base on the outskirts of Bangalore, India. Aviation companies from around the world are participating in the 5-day event.

Quit smoking — Love me, love my pet

Smokers unwilling to kick off the habit may consider giving up cigarettes for the benefit of their pets, researchers said in the journal Tobacco Control on Monday.

A survey conducted by US researchers showed that 28 percent of pet owners who smoke would try to quit to spare their pets the harmful effects of second-hand smoke.

“It’s not necessarily that people love their pets more than they love themselves or their children, it’s just another motivational factor for people to consider quitting smoking,” said Sharon Milberger, an epidemiologist at the Henry Ford Health System in Detroit.

Even deactivated, grenade a bad show-and-tell idea

Officials cleared out a Dallas-area elementary school briefly on Thursday morning after a second-grade student brought a deactivated hand grenade for show and tell. Euless police Lt John Williams says the student walked into his classroom with the grenade at Oakwood Terrace Elementary School. The teacher took it, placed it on a desk and notified the principal.

The school was evacuated until police arrived and inspected the object. No injuries were reported. Students returned to their classrooms after 15 minutes, and the unidentified student was getting a good talking to from police.

Volunteers and fishermen attempt a massive rescue, using their boats and hands, to drive back to the sea hundreds of melon-headed dolphins which swam into shallow waters off Manila Bay in Orion, Bataan Province about 60 miles west of Manila, Philippines.

A farmer carries an umbrella as she throws fertilizer onto her field of winter wheat crop as rain falls on the outskirts of the town of Xichuan, Henan Province on 18 Feb, 2009. —INTERNET
Man has learnt many lessons of time. Sometimes we have to wait for a period of time, and sometimes we have to catch up on time. Here, what is true is that time never waits for us, and we can never go back to the past. Everything changes as time passes. Have a look at yourself. Everything is impermanent. Every living thing is mortal. Science defines death ‘no more cells recycling’. That means cells recycle until death. The body of a living thing always changes due to the new cells that recycle as time goes by.

However, in a short time, those changes are indistinct, but they become distinct after months and years have elapsed. Man changes both physically and mentally at all times. To be frank, I wish our physical and mental changes were all perfect. However, we should consider that everything, good or bad, runs its course. In reality, we are not able to control our body, let alone perfect changes.

Years pass and a person forms a family; families form a clan; and clans form an ethnic group. Ethnic groups, territory, government and sovereignty form a nation. In fact, a country has its own name and location, based on its people. So, it is safe to say that a nation is constituted with minds and bodies of each of the people. So, it is completely acceptable that everything associated with man changes continuously. People seek ways and means to improve all the changes. Therefore, things related to the human society are changing variously. Any person cannot make perfect changes for him, so it is very hard to make prefect changes for many people in no time.

For example, in a couple of decades, the United States of America, the world’s richest country, has seen four presidential and regime changes according to the so-called world exemplary democracy system and constitution. Now, the US is facing the financial crisis and economic crisis, and has waged two unfinished wars. It is also attracting a growing dissatisfaction and displeasure of the majority of the world countries. US citizens expressed their choices, looking forward to best changes, but in practice they did not have their wishes fulfilled.

Now, the entire Myanmar people are eager to see a political change, as evidenced by the results of the referendum held in May and June 2008 in which 92.48 per cent of the voters expressed their support for the State constitution designed for democratic transition. The government has announced the programmes including the timeframe for the changes. In 2010, Myanmar will see a new government to be elected by the people and a new executive system, for which the government has pledged, made arrangements, and paved the way. Therefore, the democratic transition process contains the government’s management and control to some extent. Nonetheless, some are claiming that the people should not accept the process because the government’s management in that regard is not perfect. Really, even old democracies never made perfect changes at one go.

I am upset by the acts of a group of pessimists. In my opinion, their demand for a dialogue and negotiation without pre-conditions do not conform at all with the objective conditions. And their acts evoked my memories of the conditions of Japan that was about to be defeated in the end of the World War II. Hiroshima and Nagasaki lost lives of so many innocent people and a great deal of property. The objectionable conditions at the time brought the best historic results to Japanese King Hirohito with Kamikaze spirit who absolutely hated to accept defeat. Japan made a correct decision to yield to the wishes of and join hands with the Allies in order to bring glory back to its history. Sixty years after that Japan was able to stand as a militarily, economically strong country. Then, the points of the democracy-like agreement it signed with the Allies after the defeat in 1945 dwindled away. The country became a member of the world’s greatest industrial countries. Even its armed forces formed just for self-defence could send its troops to the Iraq battlefield. None of today’s Japanese citizens blames their king for yielding to the Allies, but all Japanese people admire and love him for his vision.

Now, Myanmar is not fighting a war, and the two sides are not enemies, either. Indeed, they are getting involved in a dispute of how to pave the way to generate a prosperous future of the motherland. In this case, what they need is just to work in accordance with the sole common goal. Even senior democracies make changes without sacrificing the foundation. After the World War II, there was a heated debate among the Allies over whether members of the pervious government and Nazi Party should be included in a new government for reconstruction of Germany. Eventually, they agreed with the formation of the government with old members. Following the US conquest over Iraq, discussions were held immensely to decide on whether Barth Party and Iraq armed forces should be dissolved or not. After their dissolution, national reformation process was followed by bloodshed for over a half decade. Above-mentioned points are only some evidences that indicate what should be done for the most appropriate changes of a nation.

Human beings by nature like changes, and do things individually or in organization to make some changes. In the process, they hold the hope of the best results. In this regard, the process should be carried out in accordance with the objective conditions, circumstances and time. Actually, it is very hard for a person to make perfect changes in a short time. At first, stand in front of a mirror and look at yourself through it to find out that you have achieved all the changes that you have longed for previous years, on your body and mind. Then, balance between objective conditions and your changes. No one thinks that they have achieved perfect changes. I wish certain persons would realize and accept that perfect changes of millions of people of a nation are impossible at one stroke. So, it is needed to work to achieve perfect changes little by little according to the objective conditions, circumstances and time.

In 2010, Myanmar will see a new government to be elected by the people and a new executive system, for which the government has pledged, made arrangements, and paved the way.
Cash donated for 5th all-round renovation of Shwe Phone Pwint Pagoda

YANGON, 20 Feb — A ceremony to donate cash for the 5th all-round renovation of Shwe Phone Pwint Pagoda for the first time was held at the pagoda in Pazundaung Township today.

Patron of the Central Leading Committee for the 5th all-round renovation of the pagoda Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint and Chairman of the Central Leading Committee Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan accepted the donation and presented certificates of honour to the donors.

First, Secretary of the Central leading Committee Managing Director of Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise of the Ministry of Information U Aung Myo Myint reported on measures being taken for the 5th all-round renovation of the pagoda.

Afterwards, Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint donated K300,000 for the renovation and Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan accepted the cash and presented the certificate of honour to the commander.

Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Managing Director U Aung Myo Myint, U Tint Lwin, the chairman of the board of trustees of the pagoda and officials concerned accepted the cash donated by wellwishers and today’s donation reached over K25 million.

The Central Leading Committee has been taking measures for applying gold plates to Shwe Phone Pwint Pagoda and for renovating the religious buildings at the pagoda and wellwishers may donate cash to the pagoda. — MNA

UN special rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar meets the Press

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb — Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana, the United Nations special rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar, gave a press conference at Yangon International Airport at 7 pm yesterday.

He gave a press conference before the end of his six-day visit to Myanmar. Myanmar’s human rights situation remained “challenging” and he made recommendation on improvement of human rights situation in Myanmar and there were positive signs over his recommendations from Myanmar government, he said. He also met with Chief Justice U Aung Toe and discussed his recommendations about improvement of the judiciary system, he told reporters. He also met the Attorney-General and they exchanged views on the upcoming election in 2010, the State Constitution and international human rights law, he added. At the meeting with Minister for Home Affairs, the minister said he would consider his recommendations, Mr Quintana told the press conference. He said he had met five prisoners during a four-hour visit to the Insein prison. He will present his special report on human rights in Myanmar at the United Nations General Assembly, he added.

Asked what result he gained during his visit to Kayin State by Reuters News Agency’s U Aung Hla Tun, Mr Quintana replied that he met three groups who have exchanged arms for peace with the government during his visit to Kayin State.

In his reply to U Ko Ko of Yangon Times Journal Mr Quintana said he could not meet U Win Tin although he wished to, but he received a letter from U Win Tin. Mr Quintana added that U Win Tin said in the letter that he expected to meet him during his next trip to Myanmar. He did not know why U Win Tin did not meet him, Mr Quintana said.

Positive response from the Chief Justice over his recommendations on human rights situation in Myanmar was the progress of the visit, he answered the question about the difference between his previous visit in August last year and the current visit asked by U Myo Thar Htet of Seven Days Journal.

The press conference ended at 7.20 pm. — MNA

MCDC concludes refresher course

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb — A ceremony to conclude office work refresher course No 1/2009 of Mandalay City Development Committee was held at the hall of MCDC on 13 February. Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han made a speech on the occasion and presented prizes to outstanding trainees. — MNA

Coord meeting for holding Tennis Event held

YANGON, 20 Feb — A coordination meeting was held at the meeting hall (1) in Aung San Stadium this morning for organizing Junior Davis Cup Pre-Qualifying/World Junior Boys and Girls Pre-Qualifying Event, which will be held in Myanmar from 2 to 9 March.

General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General U Thaung Htik of Sports and Physical Education Department made an address and General Secretary of Myanmar Tennis Federation U Lay Naing explained arrangements being made for holding the event. — MNA
# Transport facility and smooth flow of commodity will improve soon between Myanmar and Bangladesh through Rakhine State

**UMFCCI President meets Bangladeshi guests**

**YANGON, 20 Feb —** The conclusion ceremony of the first aid course No. 129 was held at the parade ground of Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) this morning.

Rector U Win Myint took the salute of the graduation company and presented prizes to outstanding trainees.

Next, the rector delivered an address on the occasion at Ohndaw Hall and presented conclusion certificates to trainees.

President said that in order to promote trade, the banking arrangements need to be established. Myanmar Investment and Commercial Bank and Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank need to have corresponding banks in Bangladesh for effective and reliable payment related to trade transactions.

He said he believes that Bangladesh-Myanmar Business Promotion Council can play a leading role in promoting bilateral economic cooperation between the two countries, and UMFCCI will do its best to offer whatever assistance is possible. In conclusion, he expressed his thanks to the Bangladeshi Embassy’s Commercial Counsellor for all the cooperation extended.

Deputy Governor Mr Ziaul Hasan Siddiqui of Bangladesh Bank said that they came to Myanmar for holding discussions on economic opportunities between the two countries. Bangladesh focuses on cooperation in economic sector with Myanmar. It is necessary to promote the bilateral trade and to change the trend of border trade to that of the regular trade. They want to enjoy the smooth facilities in the banking services. He said that they would like to organize a meeting on banking matters in Yangon soon.

He continued to say that Bangladesh wants to invest in agriculture and livestock breeding sectors in Myanmar through the bilateral cooperation and they would like to join hands with Myanmar for economic development. In conclusion, the Deputy Governor invited Myanmar entrepreneurs to put their investment in economic sector of Bangladesh.

The meeting ended at 5 p.m. — MNA

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**132 students receive first aid skills**

YANGON, 19 Feb — A total of 132 students of Mawlamyine University received first aid skills during the first aid course No. 7/2007 of the university.

The course was jointly conducted by Supervisory Committee for Mon State Red Cross Society and Mawlamyine University Red Cross Society and it concluded on 6 February.

U Maung Maung Myint, Chairman of Mawlamyine University Red Cross Society, and Prof Dr Huay Aung of Mawlamyine University presented the completion certificates and outstanding awards to the trainees. — MNA

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**CICS Basic Clerical Course No. 129 concludes**

YANGON, 20 Feb — The conclusion ceremony of basic clerical course No. 129 was held at the parade ground of Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) this morning.

Rector U Win Maung took the salute of the graduation company and presented prizes to outstanding trainees.

Next, the rector delivered an address on the occasion at Ohndaw Hall and presented conclusion certificates to trainees. — MNA

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**UMFCCI President holds discussions with Deputy Governor Mr Ziaul Hasan Siddiqui of Bangladesh Bank and party. — MNA**

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**MANA’s Strategic Vision and the Way Forward on 25 February**

YANGON, 19 Feb — Myanamar Anti-Narcotics Association will hold the Workshop on Communication MANA’s Strategic Vision and the Way Forward on 25 February, the 10th Annual General Meeting of the Central Committee on 26 February, and the MANA Youth Programme Workshop on 27 February at Myanmar Life Hotel in Mingaladon Township, here.

Chairmen and executives from the State and Division Branches who will attend the meeting are to contact the MANA (Head Office) on 24 February evening. — MNA
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Development undertakings inspected in Wetlet, Shwebo

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Feb—Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe met villagers from Sainainglay, Thanagaung and Meikhtila villages at Thanagaung Village in Wetlet Township on 17 February. After the meeting, he donated K 100,000 each to the funds of self-reliant libraries in Sainainglay, Meikhtila, Hsminyay and Thanagaung villages.

Wellwisher U Thein Win of Shwe Thapay Co. donated K 500,000 to the funds for construction of Thanagaung-Meikhtila-Sainanglay self-reliant gravel road. After meeting with officials, townsenders and villagers at the Basic Education Primary School of Hanlin Model Village in the township, the deputy minister presented K 100,000 each for school, clinic and library in the village. In the afternoon, the deputy minister inspected of lake, construction of the bund at Maha Nanda Lake and placing of gravel on Hsinbyushin Road in Shwebo.

In Wetlet, the deputy minister visited the waterwork on Khayay Street in Shwe-oh-twin Ward 3 and viewed progress in placing of gravel on Wetlet-Khawttawyi-Wthathagy Road with the contributions of the government funds. —MNA

Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana, the United Nations special rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar meets with responsible persons of DKBA in Myainggyingu, Kayin State. —MNA

Myanmar Human Rights Organization led by Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin meeting with Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana, the United Nations special rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar, and party. —MNA

The government allowed Mr. Quintana to hold meetings with officials, diplomats, resident representatives of UN agencies, the peace groups that had returned to the legal fold and NGOs in accord with his wishes. Moreover, the government fulfilled the wishes of Mr. Quintana to visit the jails in Kayin State as time and condition permitted. It is obvious that the collaborative efforts of the Myanmar government with Mr. Quintana reflects its cooperation with the UN Human Rights Council for improvement and protection of human rights in Myanmar. —MNA

The arrangement was made for him to visit Kayin State by helicopter of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization on 15 February morning. During one and a half days visit in Kayin State, Mr. Quintana met with three groups that had returned to the legal fold and are joining hands with the government in the regional development tasks.

They were: the group led by U Hein Maung at Htawkoko, Pado Aung San group at Phayagon and DKBA in Myainggyingu. Mr. Quintana observed their development undertakings. Moreover, he had an opportunity to visit Hpa-an Jail and met with inmates separately.

On 16 February afternoon, Mr. Quintana on his request met about 30 diplomats, the majority of whom were ambassadors, at Mya Yeik Nyo Hotel. Next, he visited Insein Jail.

The arrangement to visit Maubin Jail on 17 February was cancelled due to his submission. He requested to meet with certain diplomats in private. The arrangement was made for him in short notice to call on the diplomats. He had an opportunity to meet ambassadors of Thailand. In addition, as requested, the government made an arrangement for Mr. Quintana to meet with resident representatives of UN agencies at UNDP Office.

On 18 February, Mr. Quintana flew to Nay Pyi Taw and called on Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Attorney-General U Aye Maung and representatives of Myanmar Bar Council. In meeting with Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Mr. Quintana asked about conditions of inmates and Myanmar judicial system. The Chief Justice explained at length the Myanmar judicial system. At the next call, Attorney-General U Aye Maung explained progress in amending the suitable laws to be in conformity with the constitution to shape the future nation. In the afternoon, Mr. Quintana separately called on Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo. On his further request, arrangements were made for him to meet with Chairman of Tripartite Core Group U Kyaw Thu and Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi.

On 19 February morning, he held meetings with Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, representatives of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation. In the afternoon, Mr. Quintana and party met with Myanmar Human Rights Organisation led by Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin and exchanged views on promotion and protection of human rights in Myanmar. After that, he went back to Yangon by air.

During the meeting with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Home Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw, Mr. Quintana requested a meeting with U Win Tin. At 3.20 p.m. on 19 February, the arrangement was cancelled because U Win Tin did not meet Mr. Quintana. Officials handed over a letter of U Win Tin to Mr. Quintana. Before his departure at Yangon International Airport, Mr. Quintana held a press conference and marked that Myanmar’s human rights situation remained challenging but measures taken by the government were positive.

At the airport, he had one more chance to meet with diplomats.

Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana, the United Nations special rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar, the United Nations special rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar concludes visit Positive response secured from Myanmar government for improvement of human rights —MNA

United Nations special rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar concludes visit Positive response secured from Myanmar government for improvement of human rights

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb—Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana, the United Nations special rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar, paid a second visit to Myanmar from 14 to 19 February 2009. He arrived in Myanmar on 14 February evening. Fulfilling his wishes, an arrangement was made for him to visit Kayin State by helicopter of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization on 15 February morning. During one and a half days visit in Kayin State, Mr. Quintana met with three groups that had returned to the legal fold and are joining hands with the government in the regional development tasks.

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At the airport, he had one more chance to meet with diplomats.
NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb—Maj-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence, who was in Pyapon of Ayeyawady Division, accompanied by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe and departmental officials, looked into inspection station of Fisheries Department in Daminseik village on 18 February. On arrival at the inspection station, Maj-Gen Ko Ko heard reports on matters relating to fishery industry. He then inspected the cyclone shelter of Daminseik village being constructed by Yuzana Construction and gave instructions. Maj-Gen Ko Ko paid homage to Sayadaw Abhidhaja Aghamahasaddhammajotika Bhuddanta Pandi of Aungmyaychangthaya monastery and donated provisions to the Sayadaw.

Maj-Gen Ko Ko also inspected Youth Development Paratha Centre, pre-primary school of Maternal and Child Welfare Association of Kam model village, Dedalu bridge on Pyapon-Kyonkadun-Ahma road section, and renovation of Myogon dyke.

Maj-Gen Ko Ko looked into upgrading of Kyonkadun-Daw Nyen-Ahma road being carried out by Public Works and went to Myogon bridge in which he heard reports on reconstruction of the bridge.

After hearing the reports presented by officials concerned of Myanmar Salt and Marine Chemical Enterprise, Public works on maintenance works of Kyonkadun-Ahma road and future transportation facilities in Pyapon district, Maj-Gen Ko Ko inspected road works on Kyonkadun-Ahma-Daw Nyen road.

Maj-Gen Ko Ko and party proceeded to Daw Nyen village in which he looked into construction of cyclone shelter and heard reports on remaining works to be completed by the end of April.

Press conference on Grand Royal Special Reserve Billiards and Snooker Championship held

YANGON, 20 Feb—Press conference on Grand Royal Special Reserve Billiards and Snooker Championship, mainly sponsored by International Beverages Trading Co Ltd, was held at the ball room of Chatrium Hotel here this afternoon. It was attended by General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik and officials, executives of Myanmar Billiards and Snooker Federation, officials of IBTC, guests and journalists.

General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik made a speech on the occasion.

President of Myanmar Billiards and Snooker Federation U Soe Myint explained the facts about tournament and Executive Director U Tint Oo of International Beverages Trading Co Ltd explained the purpose of holding the tournament.

The press conference concluded after responsible persons had replied to queries raised by those present. The championship will be held at Domino Club in Mandalay on 25 February, at Manchester Snooker Club in Taunggyi on 9 March, at the Township sport ground in Taunggyi and at the Township Gymnasium in Magway and at Diamond Billiards and Snooker Center in Kamayut Township (Yangon Division) on 18 March. Handsome prizes will be awarded.
Volcano erupts in southern Chile

Clouds of smoke hung over Chaiten after last May’s massive eruption.—INTERNET

CHAITEN, 20 Feb — Chile has evacuated more than 150 people who had returned to the southern town of Chaiten after it was destroyed by a volcanic eruption last year. Authorities decided to take action after the Chaiten volcano erupted again on Thursday, sending a stream of lava down its slopes.

Authorities say no-one will be allowed to stay in the area, in Patagonia. But many of Chaiten’s 4,500 former residents have resisted government plans to relocate the town. Deputy Interior Minister Patricio Rosende said the volcano had seen “a significant resumption of activity.”

“Our security team has observed an increase in the size of a column of ash and smoke, with a deformation to one side,” he said. “That leads us to presume that there is a collapse of one of the cones.”

This is more proof of the imminent risk in the area. It is a time-bomb.”

The volcano, which is 10km (6 miles) from the town, had been dormant for 9,000 years before last May’s spectacular eruption. Vast clouds of smoke and ash soared more than 30km into the sky, as the debris reached neighbouring Argentina, causing flights to be grounded.

At the time, officials said the volcano’s two craters had fused, helping ease pressure. But a government expert on volcanoes warned there could be a big eruption at any time. — Internet

US study ties fast food to stroke risk

CHICAGO, 20 Feb — People who live in neighbourhoods packed with fast-food restaurants are more likely to suffer strokes, US researchers said on Thursday.

They said residents of one Texas county who lived in neighbourhoods with the highest number of fast-food restaurants had a 13-per-cent higher risk of experiencing a stroke than those in neighbourhoods with the fewest such restaurants.

The study, presented at the American Stroke Association’s International Stroke Conference, does not prove living near fast-food restaurants raises the risk of stroke, but it does suggest the two are linked in some way.

“The data show a true association,” Dr Lewis Morgenstern of the University of Michigan’s stroke programme, who led the study, said in a statement.

But he said it is not clear whether being surrounded by fast-food means you eat more of it, or that it is simply a sign of an unhealthy neighbourhood.

“We need to start unraveling why these particular communities have higher stroke risks,” Morgenstern said. “Is it direct consumption of fast food? Is it the lack of more healthy options? Is there something completely different in these neighbourhoods that is associated with poor health?” he asked.

MNA/Reuters

British couple arrested with 52 pounds of cocaine traveling with kids

CARACAS, 20 Feb — Two British citizens were arrested on Monday by police in Venezuela for suspected drugs offenses, leaving four children in the care of the country’s social services.

The Foreign Office said the pair were arrested at the airport on the island of Margarita, off the north coast of the country. They were accompanied by four minors, who were taken into care by the authorities.

“I can confirm that two British nationals were arrested at Margarita Airport in Venezuela on 16 February,” a spokeswoman for the Foreign Office said. “Four accompanying arrest, youth

‘shoots’ himself dead

HOSHIARPUR, 20 Feb — A youth allegedly shot himself dead while being chased by a police party and his accomplice escaped after opening fire at them at Bhuno near here today.

The deceased was identified as Gurmukh Singh of Bihran village and police are on the look-out for his friend Gulshan who is accused of killing the youth.

“The deceased was looking for work at Hoshiarpur and his friend Gulshan was looking for employment at Bhuno near here today,” the police said.

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The deceased was identified as Gurmukh Singh of Bihran village and police are on the look-out for his friend Gulshan who is accused of killing the youth.

“The deceased was looking for work at Hoshiarpur and his friend Gulshan was looking for employment at Bhuno near here today,” the police said.

The incident started off at a check post on Hoshiarpur-Mahilpur road, where police intercepted the duo. They sped off and police gave a hot chase.

Apprehending arrest, they opened fire at police, who retaliated. Gulshan managed to escape while Singh pulled the trigger on himself, police claimed.

The police recovered a US-made 9 mm pistol, 12 cartridges and a .315 bore country-made pistol from the spot.

INTERNET

Fearing arrest, youth

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV HANSEDUO VOYNO (101N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HANSEDUO VOYNO (101N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.2.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.L.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

INTERNET

SHIPping AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S MAXICON CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Anti-social behaviour predicts depression

Seattle, 20 Feb — Anti-social behaviour among girls and anxiety among both sexes predicted depression in early adolescence, US researchers found. University of Washington social scientists tracked first- and second-graders for seven years and found that surprisingly, early signs of depression were not predictive of adolescent depression.

“Anti-social behaviour has typically been viewed as a big problem among boys, so it tends to be ignored among girls. Boys with early anti-social behaviour typically go on to show more anti-social behaviour while girls may turn inward with symptoms, morphing into other mental health problems such as depression eating disorders, anxiety and suicidal behaviour during adolescence,” lead author James Mazza said in a statement.

“When all the risk factors were analyzed, anti-social behavior and anxiety were the most predictive of later depression. It just may be that they are more prevalent in the early elementary school years than depression.” More than 500 children participated in the study. Eighty-one percent were white and 54 percent were boys.

The findings are published in the online edition of The Journal of Early Adolescence.—Internet

Woman sues for receiving wrong egg during IVF

Tokyo, 20 Feb — A Japanese woman was impregnated with the fertilised egg of another woman by accident during an in vitro procedure last year, hospital officials have said.

The woman, who is in her twenties, aborted the pregnancy when she was told of the mistake at the government-run hospital in Kagawa prefecture, about 330 miles south-west of Tokyo. She is now suing the local government for £155,000. Hospital officials apologized for the mistake on Thursday.

“She was very happy after undergoing such a difficult procedure and becoming pregnant, but unfortunately a mistake had been made,” said Yuzo Matsumoto, director of the Kagawa Prefectural Central Hospital.

The hospital has a long history of carrying out such procedures, and this is the first time such a mistake has occurred, hospital spokesman Hajime Morishita said.

“The in vitro procedures are carried out in sequence one after the other, and in this case the eggs from one procedure may have accidentally been left over and used in the following procedure,” he said.

In vitro procedures—in which a woman’s eggs are removed, fertilised outside the womb, and placed in her uterus to cause a pregnancy—are common in Japan, with hundreds of thousands carried out per year. Surrogate births, in which eggs are removed for fertilisation and implanted in another woman, and adoptions are rare in the country.—Internet

World Cup tickets to go on sale

Johannesburg, 20 Feb — Tickets for the 2010 Fifa World Cup in South Africa are due to go on sale as Africa prepares to host the contest for the first time. Around 3m tickets will be available for the 64 matches, which start next June.

In the first sales phase, applications for tickets will be followed by a random selection draw in April.

Some 120,000 cheaper tickets are being reserved for South African residents, and 40,000 stadium construction workers are to be given free access to matches. Although the tournament does not begin for 475 days, there is already huge excitement about the competition in Africa, says BBC Southern Africa correspondent Peter Biles in Johannesburg.

Ever since South Africa was awarded the football World Cup, questions have been asked about whether the country is capable of staging a successful tournament, says our correspondent. But stadiums and airports are being upgraded, and policing will be improved. At least 400,000 visitors are expected in South Africa next year. Fifa has said it hopes every single match will be sold out.—Internet

NASA spacecraft to seek out Earth-like planets

Washington, 20 Feb — A US spacecraft totalling the biggest spacecraft ever sent into space will be launched next month to scour our region of the Milky Way galaxy for warm, rocky planets like Earth that may host life, NASA said on Thursday. The Kepler spacecraft is scheduled to spend 3 to 1/2 years looking at more than 100,000 stars similar to our sun, seeking evidence of planets similar in size and composition to Earth. Kepler will blast off from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida aboard a Delta II rocket on 5 March. The US space agency said. Colorado-based Ball Aerospace and Technologies, a subsidiary of Ball Corp, built it.

People long have pondered whether life exists elsewhere in the universe or whether Earth alone hosts living beings. Kepler will push back the boundaries of the unknown in our patch of the Milky Way galaxy. And its discoveries may fundamentally alter humanity’s view of itself,” Jon Morse, director of NASA’s astrophysics division, told reporters.—Internet

Two teens die after more stabbings in London

London, 20 Feb — Police have launched murder enquiries after two teenagers were stabbed to death in different parts of London on Thursday night.

An 18-year-old man was fatally stabbed in Leytonstone, east London, opposite Maryland railway station. One line of enquiry is that the death is gang related, the Metropolitan police said in a statement.

Police said the victim was knifed in the torso and was taken to Royal London hospital but died shortly after arriving. Scotland Yard also said a 19-year-old was stabbed to death outside a service station in Wealdstone, northwest London, on Thursday.

He was pronounced dead at the scene. A second 19-year-old man also suffered stab wounds in the incident and was taken to a west London hospital where his condition is said to be stable.

No arrests have been made in either incident. The killings come after three boys were stabbed by a group of teenagers in a suspected gang fight in Chingford, east London, on Wednesday.
**S P O R T S**

Tiger Woods.

**Woods to make PGA Tour comeback next week**

**Pacific Palisades, 20 Feb**—Tiger Woods will return to the PGA Tour at next week’s WGC-Match Play Championship in Arizona after being sidelined by knee injury since his US Open victory last year.

“Tiger has progressed well over the past few weeks and we are confident he is ready to return,” said his manager, Alison Sweeney.

Woods, whose wife Elin gave birth to the couple’s second child earlier this month, clinched his 14th major title at Torrey Pines in June before having reconstructive knee surgery.

He has played no competitive golf since his astonishing US Open victory over Rocco Mediate.

Defying stabbing knee pain and a double stress fracture of his left tibia, Woods held off a late challenge by Mediate to triumph after 19 holes and claim his 65th PGA Tour title.

After recovering from knee surgery, he began hitting full shots midway through December and has made his top priority the 9-12 April US Masters, the opening major of the year.

**Unlucky Eduardo out for two weeks with hamstring strain**

**London, 20 Feb**—Eduardo da Silva, who this week made a two-goal return to Arsenal action after almost a year on the sidelines, will be out of action for another two weeks with a hamstring strain, the club said on Thursday.

The Croatian striker, who suffered a badly broken leg a year ago this weekend, helped Arsenal to a 4-0 victory over Cardiff City in the FA Cup on Monday but tweaked a hamstring shortly before being substituted after 67 minutes. “Nobody knows how it happened but I knew straight away after the game it would be a two-week job,” Arsenal TV said.

“It is nothing like I had before but I do know that it is a setback. I can be on the sidelines for the UAE event after the Swiss star withdrew because of a back problem.

“I am very disappointed not to be able to compete in Dubai but the doctor has advised me to stay home and rest after the pain on my knee (which was picked up) in Rotterdam last weekend,” Australian Open champion Nadal told his personal website.

“It’s nothing to be worried about but it needs some rest. I ask my fans and the tournament organizers to understand and I am sorry for this.”Dubai is one of my favourite tournaments and I have always played there. The field is always great and more important the crowds are always supportive.”

**Greek refereeing deal replaced after “comedy” complaint**

**Athens, 20 Feb**—The head of Greek football’s Central Referees Committee has been asked to resign after three Super League referees were threatened with suspension this week.

A spokesman for the Greek Football Association said on Thursday Giorgis Psychomanis would be replaced by former referee Giorgos Giannopoulos following a series of controversial incidents in the weekend’s games.

Aris Salonika were so incensed after a 2-1 defeat by champions Olympiakos Praeaus that they posted a statement on their website (http://www.arisfc.gr) demanding the suspension of referee Nathaniel Charalambis and his two assistants.

**Injured Nadal pulls out of Dubai**

**Paris, 20 Feb**—World number one Rafael Nadal on Thursday pulled out of next week’s ATP tournament in Dubai because of a knee injury, the Spaniard announced on his website.

Nadal joins Roger Federer on the sidelines for the UAE event after the Swiss star withdrew because of a back problem.

“I am very disappointed not to be able to compete in Dubai but the doctor has advised me to stay home and rest after the pain on my knee (which was picked up) in Rotterdam last weekend,” Australian Open champion Nadal told his personal website.

“It’s nothing to be worried about but it needs some rest. I ask my fans and the tournament organizers to understand and I am sorry for this.”Dubai is one of my favourite tournaments and I have always played there. The field is always great and more important the crowds are always supportive.”

**Copenhagen’s Vingaard delivers new City blow**

**Paris, 20 Feb**—FC Copenhagen’s Martin Vingaard hit an injury-time goal to force a 2-2 draw at home to Manchester City in the UEFA Cup on Thursday to inflict another blow after coach Stale Solbakken accused the English side of “destroying football.”

On a bitter-sweet night for English football, a second-string Tottenham lost 2-0 at Shakhtar Donetsk in their last 32 match, with manager Harry Redknapp only fielding two players—Jermaine Jenas and Michael Dawson—which drew against Arsenal in their last match.

**Juve’s Amauri to respect former club Palermo**

**Milan, 20 Feb**—Juventus striker Amauri has said he will not celebrate if he scores at former club Palermo on Saturday (1930 GMT), even if the goal helps boost his side’s faltering title challenge.

Second-placed Juve have dropped nine points behind Serie A leaders Inter Milan after last weekend’s 1-1 draw with Sampdoria where Amauri scored his first goal since December.Another slip-up in the potential banana skin in Sicily, coupled with a win for Inter at Bologna on Saturday (1500), could leave Juve’s scudetto hopes hanging by a thread.
Bird flu strikes Lao province

HANOI, 20 Feb—Bird flu was detected in Khua province, Lao PDR on Wednesday, leading to the culling of a total of 903 chickens and 39 ducks.

No human so far has contracted the virus, said Somphone. To prevent the spread of the virus, local authorities have been carrying out measures such as disinfection of poultry farms, slaughterhouses, and vaccination of poultry, said Somphone. Transport and trading of poultry and poultry products will also be closely monitored. Two Lao people have died from avian influenza since its first appearance in the country in February 2004.—MNA/Xinhua

Phillip Maclarn of Australia competes during the qualifications of men’s snowboard cross in the 24th World Winter Universiade at the Maowershan Ski Resort, 85km southeast from Harbin, capital of northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province on 20 Feb, 2009. Phillip Maclarn took the 19th place after the qualifications with 1:03.26.—INTERNET

**MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (21.2.2009) (Saturday)**

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<th>Transmissions</th>
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<tr>
<td>Local</td>
<td>(09:00am – 10:00am) MST</td>
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<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>(15:30pm – 23:30pm) MST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>(23:30pm – 07:30am) MST</td>
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**Local Transmission**
- Signature Tune
- Song of Myama Beauty and Scenic Sights
- Pan - Say Region, Home to Kho - Hion - Lishaws
- Traditional Rice Cakes and Gram Pretzel
- From Sandstones to Utensils
- The Source of the River Ayeayawady
- Song of Myama Beauty and Scenic Sights

**Europe/ North America Transmission**
- Signature Tune
- Song of Myama Beauty and Scenic Sights
- Meet Peculiar Salamanders
- Feel Pretty ... in a Rawan Outfit
- More Railroad Networks consolidate Solidarity
- Mandalay Traditional Snack (Hou Moun)
- Daily Life of a Toddy - palm Climber
- View Point Amusement Park
- Off - shore Fishing Industry
- Adept Sons of Inlay Lake
- From Sandstones to Utensils
- Be Fashionable with Myanmar Cotton wear
- Myanmar Movies Impact
- Myanmar Natural Spirulina (Part-I)
- The Source of the River Ayeayawady
- Song of Myama Beauty and Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

**WEATHER**

Friday, 20 February, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin, Shan and Mon States, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (5°C) below February average temperatures in Chin State, (3°C) to (4°C) above February average temperatures in Kachin, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States, Mandalay Division, (5°C) to (6°C) above February average temperatures in Shan State, upper Sagain, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and about February average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (1°C).

Maximum temperature on 19-2-2009 was 97°F. Minimum temperature on 20-2-2009 was 70°F. Relative humidity on 19-2-2009 was 68½ hrs approx. Rainfall on 20-2-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, KabAye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, KabAye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (KabAye) was (5) mph from Northwest at (15:30) hrs MST on 19-2-2009.

Bay inference: Weather is generally clear in the North and West Central Bay and partly cloudy in Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 21st February 2009: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, Kayin and Mon States, Bago, Yangon, Ayeayawady and Taninthayi Divisions 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 Central and lower Myanmar areas.


Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 21-2-2009: Generally fair weather.
Prime Minister General Thein Sein receives Vietnamese Ambassador

YANGON, 20 Feb — Prime Minister General Thein Sein of the Union of Myanmar received Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the Union of Myanmar Mr. Chu Cong Phung at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall in Konmyintha here at 4 p.m. today.

Also present were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Director-General Col Thant Shin of Government Office and Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Vietnamese Ambassador was accompanied by Counsellor Mr. Vu Van Minh and officials of the embassy.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein greets Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the Union of Myanmar Mr. Chu Cong Phung at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall in Konmyintha, Yangon.—MNA

6,313 prisoners granted amnesty

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb — The State Peace and Development Council is striving for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic new nation upholding Our Three Main National Causes. The Government had laid down the State’s seven-step Road Map firmly. The people had approved the constitution for the future state with a vast majority. At present, the government is joining hands with the people in successfully realizing the Road Map.

In building the new nation, the government handed down sentences to those who violated the existing laws to prison terms in accord with the law to ensure peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order. However, systematic plans are being made for those serving prison terms to turn them into citizens to be able to participate in building a new nation.

The government will terminate the prison terms of 6,313 prisoners with good conduct and discipline on grounds of humanization and as a gesture of showing sympathy towards their families, and release them on 21 February 2009 (12th Waning of Tabodwe, 1370 ME) to enable them to serve the interests of the regions and their own and the nation and to participate in the fair election to be held in the year 2010 together with the people after realizing the government’s compassion and goodwill.—MNA

Gem Museum opens until 25 Feb

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb — Gem Museum (Nay Pyi Taw) was opened free of charge to the public from 12 to 18 February. The museum attracted the attention of a growing number of visitors. So the last opening date is extended to 25 February.—MNA

Opportune time, circumstances and changes

MNA

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