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Sunday, 22 February, 2009

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Maha Hsutaungpyi Buddha Image conveyed to Maha Pathada Bumi Gandakuti Kyaung of Uppatasanti Pagoda

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb — A ceremony to convey Maha Hsutaungpyi Buddha Image to be kept in Maha Pathada Bumi Gandakuti Kyaung at the northeast corner of the platform of Uppatasanti Pagoda on Nay Pyi Taw Uppatasanti Hill and Seinbudaw and Hnegmyatnardaw to be hosted atop the Uppatasanti Pagoda, to unveil Maha Dagundaing and to share merits gained was held at the pagoda here this morning.

Present on the occasion were members of the Sangha led by Ovadacariya Sayadaws State Ovadacariya Sayadaw Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Maha Withutayama Zaygon Monastery Presiding Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rathtu Guru Bhaddanta Kavisara and member of Central Working Committee of the Sangha Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon Ngwataungtawya Monastery Presiding Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Panasiri, Chairman of Leading Committee for Construction of Uppatasanti Pagoda Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, ministers, deputy ministers, members of leading committee, work committee and subcommittees, heads of department, local authorities, well-wishers and members of religious and social organizations.

Staff Officer Saddhamma Jotikadhaja U Thura of the Religious Affairs Department of the Ministry of Religious Affairs acted as MC.

Maha Hsutaungpyi Buddha Image was conveyed in Karaweik decorated float and Seinbudaw and Hnegmyatnardaw in special vehicle.

The Maha Hsutaungpyi Buddha Image was conveyed along Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway, Pinlaung junction and Yazahtarni Road from the place where the pagoda was temporarily kept to the platform of the Uppatasanti Pagoda. Along the roads, local people paid respects to the image.

The vehicles carrying the Maha Hsutaungpyi Buddha Image and religious objects arrived at northern archway of the pagoda. The Maha Hsutaungpyi Buddha Image was conveyed to Gandakuti Kyaung and Seinbudaw and Hnegmyatnardaw to the Dhammayon on the pagoda platform.

The Secretary-1, the commander and the ministers conveyed the Maha Hsutaungpyi Buddha Image to the Buddhasana throne in Gandakuti Kyaung. They then offered alms food, fruit, flowers and water to the Maha Hsutaungpyi Buddha Image. Members of the Sangha recited gathas.

A ceremony to enshrine Buddhasana throne was held on the platform of Uppatasanti Pagoda at 7.50 a.m.

Presiding Sayadaw of Slewethwum Monastery in Yangon Bhaddanta Saddihiya and Sayadaw of Bodathaung Monastery in Monywa Bhaddanta Sobhita, the Secretary-1, the commander, the ministers, the deputy ministers, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence and well-wishers conveyed the religious objectives from the Dhammayon to Gandakuti Kyaung.

Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

The religious objectives and gems and jewellery were enshrined in Buddhasana throne by the Sayadaws and the Secretary-1.

The Maha Hsutaungpyi Buddha Image was built for public reverence in the Uppatasanti Pagoda before the (See page 8)
Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Maj-Gen Ko Ko continues inspection tour of Labutta, Bogale Townships

NAV PYI TAW, 21 Feb – Maj-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence inspected learning of school children at basic education post-primary school at Shwe Pyi Aye (Hawmpaing) village in Bogale Township. — MNA

DFINED:e to be on sale on 1 March

YANGON, 21 Feb—Under the arrangements of the Ministry of Education and A&T International Co., Ltd, DFINED:e—computer dictionary—was introduced at Bagan Hall of Traders Hotel here this morning.

U Htoo Myint Naung from Technomation Studios explained facts about the DFINED:e, that will be on sale at Mandalay computer exhibition on 1 March.

It includes English-Myanmar Dictionary, Myanmar Dictionary and Myanmar-English Dictionary which have been published by Department of Myanmar Language Commission. Moreover, it also includes open source English-English Dictionaries. It has many applications such as music player, photo library, note, scientific calculator, address book and games.

Those wishing to buy the product may contact A&T International Co., Ltd at No. 149, Bogalayzay Street, Yangon (Tel: 392152 and 380854) and Technomation Studios at No. 185-195, Room 11-A, Pansodan Business Tower, Pansodan Street, Yangon (Tel: 243893). — MNA

Minister looks into sub-power station

YANGON, 21 Feb—Minister for Electric Power No. (2) Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspected chosen site to install 30 MVA transformer, switch bay, switch yard, power line, control panel box in control room and cable lank at 66/33/11/6.6KV (30 MVA) sub-power yard, power line, control panel box in control room and Switch Bay, Switch No. (2) Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspected chosen station in Kamayut Township, here, yesterday.

Supply of safe water is one of the five rural region development tasks being carried out. The 10-year safe water supply project is being implemented from 2000-2001 to 2009-2010. In the past there were some difficulties for the supply of drinking water in Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay Divisions in central Myanmar as they are in the arid zone. There was insufficient water in 8,039 villages in three divisions in the arid zone and 13,626 villages in other states and divisions.

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Safe water is now available in 8,039 villages in three divisions in the arid zone and 13,626 villages in other states and divisions due to the government’s effective implementation of safe drinking water supply project in those regions.

Fulfilling safe drinking water for the people is a noble deed. Such project is being implemented with the contribution of the wellwishers, social organizations, internal and external organizations and the government.

Supply of safe drinking water in the areas where water is scarce makes the local people free from diseases and other social evils and it also contributes to personal and environment hygiene. It is necessary to continue to make efforts for supply of water with the contribution of the wellwishers and the government’s goodwill. By doing so, the number of villages with adequate supply of water will increase more and more.

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Safe drinking water available in rural areas

The government is building infrastructures fulfilling education, health and economic needs to develop rural areas of the country where the majority of the people live. As a result, transport has become smooth and urban and rural areas have gradually developed.

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US soldier guilty of murder in deaths of four Iraqis

VILSECK, 21 Feb — A US Army medic was convicted of murder Friday for his involvement in the execution-style slayings of four bound and blindfolded Iraqi detainees shot in the back of the head in the spring of 2007. The court sentenced him to life in prison.

Sgt Michael Leahy Jr was found guilty on charges of murder and conspiracy to commit murder by the nine-пerson jury who had heard testimony about the killings at the court-martial at the Army’s Rose Barracks Courthouse since Wednesday.

After a sentencing hearing, Leahy received a life sentence, with the possibility of parole. He also will have his rank reduced to private, his pay forfeited and be dishonorably discharged.

“Looking back at the canal, I see it was the wrong thing to do,” Leahy read from a statement to the court before he was sentenced. “Please see that I’m not a bad person, that I made a bad mistake. I want to move on.”

Leahy, 28, was acquitted of murder in a separate incident involving the death of another Iraqi in January 2007. Wearing his dress uniform, he sat impassively as the verdicts were handed down by the foreman of the jury made up of officers and enlisted personnel.—Internet

Taleban bombs made with British electronics

LONDON, 21 Feb — Some roadside bombs used by the Taleban in Afghanistan include electronic parts that originally came from Britain and were supplied by British nationals serving with the NA TO-led International Security Assistance Forces.

The Taleban used electronic components in devices used to target British troops that originally came from Britain on a two-day visit this past week.

“We have found electronic components in devices used to target British troops that originally come from Britain,” the unnamed officer told Miliband during a briefing.—Internet

Roadside bomb kills two Afghan soldiers, wounds four

KABUL, 21 Feb — Two soldiers of Afghan National Army (ANA) were killed and four others sustained injuries when their vehicle hit by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan’s eastern Ghazni Province, an official said Saturday.

“The incident occurred in the Sabari district on Friday, as a result two soldiers were killed and four others got wounded,” Provincial Police Chief Abdul Qayum Baqizai told Xinhua.

He blamed the enemies of peace, a term used against Taleban militants, for the incident. Conflicts and spiraling militancy, mostly in the shape of suicide attacks and roadside bombings which left over 5,000 people dead in 2008 in Afghanistan, is expected to go up this year.—Internet

Three foreign troops killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, 21 Feb — Three soldiers in the US-led coalition helping to fight a Taleban-led insurgency in southern Afghanistan have died after their patrol was hit by a bomb, according to the US military.

The three were killed on Friday in the southern province of Uruzgan, it said in a statement. It did not give their nationalities. “Three coalition service members died of wounds sustained from an improvised explosive device during a combat reconnaissance patrol in the Uruzgan Province, Friday,” it said.

Many of the troops in Uruzgan — where Taleban have a strong presence — are Australian and Dutch nationals serving with the NATO-led International Security Assistance Forces.

Soldiers in a separate US-dominated coalition work alongside ISAF and the growing international forces.—Internet

US military deaths in Afghanistan region at 581

WASHINGTON, 21 Feb — As of Friday, 20 Feb, 2009, at least 581 members of the US military had died in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan as a result of the US invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001, according to the Defence Department. The department last updated its figures Thursday at 10 am EST.

Of those, the military reports 426 were killed by hostile action.

Outside the Afghan region, the Defence Department reports 87 more members of the US military died in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Of those, three were the result of hostile action. The military lists these other locations as Guantamano Bay Naval Base, Cuba; Djibouti; Eritrea; Ethiopia; Jordan; Kenya; Kyrgyzstan; Philippines; Seychelles; Sudan; Tajikistan; Turkey; and Yemen.

There were also four CIA officer deaths and one military civilian death.—Internet

IAEA finds no weapons-grade enriched uranium in Iran

VIENNA, 21 Feb — The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said its inspectors have not found that Iran is attempting to process low-enriched uranium into weapons-grade uranium, the Austrian Press Agency (APA) reported on Friday.

The report quoted an anonymous IAEA expert as saying, “so far, Iran has carried out good cooperation with us in relevant verifications.”

The uranium substances produced in Natanz (plant) have all been carefully registered, some of which are under the supervision of IAEA’s remote cameras, the expert said.

“If the Iranians intend to transport these uranium substances to a secret location for further processing, agency’s inspectors will find out.”—MNA/Xinhua

Anti-US Iraqi cleric facing leadership challenge

BAGHDAD, 21 Feb — The firebrand anti-American cleric whose militia battled US troops for years is facing a strong challenge for leadership of Iraq’s poor, urban Shiites from a small, well-organized faction with loose links to Iran, senior figures within his movement say.

The split within Muqtada al-Sadr’s organization has widened as Shiite groups weigh the outcome of last month’s provincial elections and prepare for a national ballot this year that will determine the leadership in Baghdad.

The dissident faction is expected to mount a campaign to become a rival force appealing to al-Sadr’s base among poor Shiites, senior officials close to the cleric said in interviews this week. This would offer greater openings for Teheran’s influence in Iraq and give political cover to the so-called “special groups” of Sadrist that have continued attacks on US-led forces.
GM shares hit 74-year low
NEW YORK, 21 Feb — General Motors Corp shares on Friday tumbled to their lowest level in more than 70 years, pulled down by a drop in the broader markets and continued speculation about the future of the struggling automaker.

GM shares hit a low of $1.52 in early afternoon trading, before rebounding somewhat to close down 23 cents, or 11.5 percent, at $1.77. The low matched a record set on 26 July, 1934, according to the Center for Research in Security Prices at the University of Chicago. The price is adjusted for splits and other changes.

The Detroit-based automaker’s shares have been battered over the past year by worries about the viability of the US auto industry and plunging sales stemming from the industrywide drop in demand for new vehicles.

GM shares were worth $3.50 just a month ago and $25.54 a year ago. On Tuesday, GM said it would need a total of $30 billion in federal aid in order to avoid filing for bankruptcy protection, up from a previous estimate of $18 billion and including $13.4 billion it has already received. It also said it would need to cut 47,000 jobs worldwide and close five more US factories.—INTERNET

Japan’s Sharp to make LCD panels in China
TOKYO, 21 Feb — Japan’s Sharp Corp plans to produce liquid crystal display (LCD) panels in China through a partnership with a major Chinese electronics manufacturer, according to the Nikkei daily.

Sharp, the world’s fifth-largest LCD panel producer, hopes to reach a deal with China’s SVA Group this spring, the business daily said.

The electronics giant has been hit by the global slowdown and by the yen’s rise against the dollar, which has made exporting panels to LCD television plants around the world less profitable.

The Japanese firm has said it expects its first-ever operating loss this year and will cut 1,500 jobs as revenues from high-end televisions plummet.

Sharp now intends to focus on producing panels using cutting-edge technologies at home while making older-generation panels abroad by joining forces with major foreign firms, Nikkei said.—INTERNET

Iran hails military ties with Russia
MOSCOW, 21 Feb — Iran’s defence minister said on Friday he hopes to obtain new weapons from Russia to upgrade the nation’s arsenals.

“Iran has relied on Russian military assistance in the past and hopes to continue doing so, Mostafa Mohammed Najjar said. “Russia has advanced military technologies, we have used them and plan to keep using them,” he said at a news conference.

Najjar wouldn’t elaborate on what specific weapons Iran was seeking. He met with his Russian counterpart and toured some Russians weapons plants during his five-day visit that began Monday.

Moscow has developed close ties with Tehran and is building its first nuclear power plant.

Russia also has supplied weapons to Iran, including Tor-M1 air defense missiles, despite US and Israeli complaints. However, Russian officials have rejected claims that they have provided Iran with more powerful, long-range S-300 air defense missile systems.

Supplying the S-300s to Iran would markedly change the military balance in the Middle East and the issue has been the subject of intense speculation and diplomatic wrangling for months.—INTERNET

NASA postpones space shuttle Discovery’s launch for fourth time
WASHINGTON, 21 Feb — NASA has delayed the launch of the space shuttle Discovery for a fourth time amidst concerns about valves.

After meeting all Friday at Kennedy Space Center in Florida, shuttle managers decided against launching in a week. The launch date for Discovery currently is “under review,” NASA said in a statement. The launch had been targeted for no sooner than 27 Feb.

Three valves in each shuttle channel hydrogen gas from the main engines to the external fuel tank. Discovery’s valves were removed, inspected and reinstalled as a precaution after one valve on the shuttle Endeavor broke during its November mission.

Managers want to make sure if that happens again, the shuttle and its seven-man crew would be safe.

Discovery’s latest mission to the International Space Station originally had been scheduled for 12 Feb. During a review of Discovery’s readiness for flight, NASA managers decided 3 Feb to plan a launch no earlier than 19 Feb.

Following are no earlier than 19 Feb.

Tanked soldier takes two joyrides in Germany
BERLIN, 21 Feb—Police say one joyride in a light tank wasn’t enough for a drunken British soldier in Germany.

Police in Celle say the 18-year-old stole a small light tank early Friday and rumbled out of his base toward nearby Bergen—but drove off the road after 500 yards (meters).

Undaunted, he walked back to his base and commandeered a second armoured vehicle just like the first. This time, he was spotted by a British military police patrol. As the patrol tried to stop him, he lost control and drove into a tree. Military police then arrested him.

German police say a breathalyzer test showed an alcohol concentration of 0.1 percent. The blood alcohol limit in Germany is 0.05 percent.—INTERNET

A combination of photographs shows a water amusemen centre called “The Summer Palace” falling in a demolition blast in Shenyang, Liaoning Province, on 20 Feb, 2009. The landmark dome structure was dismantled to make way for construction of a new property development after serving 15 years as a fun place for local residents.—XINHUA

Suspict in Indiana police shooting found dead
LOUISVILLE, 21 Feb — A man suspected of shooting two Indiana police officers in an ambush was found dead of a self-inflicted gunshot on Friday night, hours after he had barricaded himself in a Louisville house.

Negotiators tried all day to end the standoff peacefully, but the suspect was found dead at 8:45 pm after he shot himself, said Louisville Metro Police spokesman Robert Biven. Police had deployed gas inside the house around that time, Biven said.

Police had earlier said the suspect in the house was Robert Daltito, 37, of Jeffersonville, Ind. Daltito was wanted by investigators probing the shootings of the officers at a motel Thursday in southern Indiana, just across the Ohio River from Louisville. Both officers were in stable condition Friday.

“It’s always to our interest to have the person come out. Unfortunately this person decided to take his own life,” Biven said.

www.datillo.com

Tourists take photographs during the 14th Philippine International Hot Air Balloon Week held at Clark airbase in the province of Pampanga, north of Manila on 15 Feb, 2009. —XINHUA

Internet

Internet

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Internet

The space shuttle Discovery lands, ending MissionSTS-124 to the International Space Station, at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida. XINHUA

Internet
Israel fires flare shells over Lebanon to look for its missing soldier

BEIRUT, 20 Feb—Israel fired flare lighting shells Friday night off the Lebanonese coast and over South Lebanon’s border town of Nakoura in search of its missing soldier, Al-Alarabi TV reported.

Yasmina Bouziane, a spokeswoman for the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was quoted as confirming at UNIFIL headquarter is over Nakoura where the Lebanese coast and Interim Forces in Lebanon spokesman for the UN TV reported.

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People visit paintings by Fanya Pines during an exhibition in Jerusalem, on 19 Feb, 2009. XINHUA

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Opel needs around 3.3 billion euros to survive

BERLIN, 20 Feb—US carmaker General Motor’s (GM) european subsidiary

Bloomberg. In January, Opel set its rescue package from German government was 1.8 billion euros.

Opel's existence is threatened and we need everyone's help to save it," said Armin Schild, a leader of IG Metall, Germany's biggest union and a board member of Opel, according to the report.

Chilean ship loaded with gold sinks in S Atlantic

BUENOS AIRES, 21 Feb—A Chilean fishing vessel loaded with some seven tons of unrefined gold and silver capsized in a storm in January in Argentine waters of the south Atlantic, the Argentine authorities said on Friday.

Seven crew members and one passenger on the “Polar Mist” were all rescued as two helicopters of the Argentine Army moments before the boat sank on 16 Jan, local daily “La Nacion” reported.

The ship was loaded with 6,900 kg of minerals worth of about 110 million US dollars, the “La Nacion” said.

Xinhua

All Items from Xinhua News Agency

Foreign direct investments in Brazil down 60%

RIO DE JANEIRO, 21 Feb—Foreign direct investments in Brazil totaled 1.9 billion US dollars in January, down 60 percent from the 4.8 billion US dollars registered during the same period last year, the country's Central Bank said on Friday.

According to the bank, the result was well below the expectation of 2.5 billion dollars and was the worst for a January in three years.

The drop showed the effects of the international financial crisis in the country, said Altamir Lopes, head of the bank’s economic department.

“It is an effect of the crisis, without a doubt. We already expected a fall in the direct investments flow, but it is still a strong result,” he said.

The bank is expecting foreign direct investments to reach 1.8 billion dollars this month.

The bank's forecast for foreign direct investments for 2009 is 30 billion dollars, down 33 percent from 2008, when the figure reached a record high of 45 billion dollars.

Xinhua

Indoor fires linked to lung disease

BEIJING, 21 Feb—Exposure to burning solid fuel indoors for heat and cooking may cause the lung ailment known as COPD, a study of more than 20,000 people in China has shown.

The finding, published in the European Respiratory Journal, is significant because COPD has long been associated with smoking and little research has been done to find out why non-smokers also suffer from the disease.

COPD includes chronic bronchitis and emphysema. Emphysema is the loss of elas-

China national flag is escorted into Harbin International Conference, Exhibition and Sports Centre Gym at the opening ceremony of the 24th World Winter Universiade in Harbin, capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, on 18 Feb, 2009.—XINHUA

People visit paintings by Fanya Pines during an exhibition in Jerusalem, on 19 Feb, 2009. XINHUA

Chicago soy futures fall for 8th day on plentiful rainfall in Argentina

CHICAGO, 21 Feb—Soybean futures in Chi-

cago Board of Trade finished lower for the 8thconsecutive trading day on Friday, due to rainfall in Argentina crop areas threatened by drought and tumbling stock market. Corn and wheat dropped too.

Corn future for March delivery lost 3 cents, fin-

ished at 3.505 US dollars a bushel. March soybean dropped 22 cents to 8.625 dollars per bushel and March wheat was down 0.25 cents, settled at 5.1925 dollars per bushel.

Soybean and corn’s weakness stemmed from the arrival of moderate to heavy rains in major growing areas of Argen-

tina on Friday. The rain has been forecasted all week, but the amounts appear to be even heavier than the early predictions. Lower oil and equity markets also pressured soybean and corn early in the session. The Dow Jones Industrial Average Index continued to decline sharply on Friday after closing at its lowest level since 2002 on Thursday. Market sentiment over decreased demand for agricultural products as a result of the global economic crisis and US recession continued to weigh on the future.

Xinhua

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Opel needs around 3.3 billion euros to survive

BERLIN, 20 Feb—US carmaker General Motor’s (GM) european subsidiary Opel may need more than 3.3 billion euros (4.2 billion US dollars) to maintain its liquidity, a union leader and board member said on Friday.

“Opel’s existence is threatened and we need everyone’s help to save it,” said Armin Schild, a leader of IG Metall, Germany’s biggest union and a board member of Opel, according to the report.

According to the report, Opel set its rescue package from German government was 1.8 billion euros. However, as the economic crisis seriously cut the demand for new cars, Opel’s needs have intensified. The 3.3 billion euros may be the bottom end of the government aid required by Opel, Schild said, and the company’s supervisory board of will meet and discuss it on 27 Feb.—Xinhua

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COPD includes chronic bronchitis and emphysema. Emphysema is the loss of elasticity of lung tissues, resulting in the collapse of small airways and leading to shortness of breath and hyperventilation.

The study covered 20,245 people over 40 years of age in seven Chinese provinces who were interviewed about their smoking habits, family health history and exposure to smoke from solid fuels, such as wood, coal and dung. Among the participants, 12,471 were non-smokers and 5.2 percent of them were diagnosed as suffering from COPD, wrote the researchers, led by Ran Pixin at the State Key Laboratory of Respiratory Disease in southern China’s Guangzhou City.

People visit paintings by Fanya Pines during an exhibition in Jerusalem, on 19 Feb, 2009. XINHUA

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Projects the government has implemented to supply sufficient irrigation water to farmlands across the nation

These days, anti-government groups are trying to deceive the people into misunderstanding the government, under the pretext of the shortage of electric power and water supply, instead of following an honest way.

The government is working with tremendous gusto to complete the projects for adequate supply of electric power and safe water for the entire people.

The following table indicates the projects the government has implemented for adequate supply of irrigation water to farmlands across the country.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>31-1-2009</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dam</td>
<td>dam</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>356</td>
<td>218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River water pumping station</td>
<td>station</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefited acre</td>
<td>Acre</td>
<td>0.14</td>
<td>5.14</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
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<td>Underground water tapping stations</td>
<td>well</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4893</td>
<td>4893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Tube-well</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Hand pump</td>
<td>pump</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2973</td>
<td>2973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Benefited acre</td>
<td>Acre</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>96000</td>
<td>96000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Similarly, the following table represents the projects the government has implemented for sufficient supply of irrigation water to the farmlands in Mandalay Division.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>31-1-2009</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dam</td>
<td>dam</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under construction</td>
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Paing Kyon sluice gate built for supply of irrigation water to 30,000 acres of farmland in Kawa Township, Bago Division.

Nantkathu Dam built for supply of irrigation water to 14,000 acres of farmland in Ingapu Township, Ayeyawady Division.
The international community says Myanmar has hardly made political progress since 1988. It is because so many issues are lingering and making the political reform from making a good headway.

Some members of international community extended a helping hand with goodwill to Myanmar to remedy the issue of political stalemate. Sometimes, the situations become worse due to additional attempts. Some were found anxious to distort the situations on purpose.

In reality, political affairs are somewhat similar to family affairs. While a couple clash with each other, some fuel the situations; some mediate the couple; and some make exacerbation in disguise. Sometimes such a clash grows into a fight, following the unnecessary interference of relatives of both sides. Some make a family clash go from bad to worse through sugar-coated suggestions. When the wife and the husband get into trouble due to their inclement, they, out of joy, spread the bad news from door to door and speak ill of the couple.

That is similar to an issue of a nation. Many alien countries interfere in the internal affairs of the nation concerned. Some fabricate news and make harsh comments on the issue. It is difficult for some countries that want to help the nation work out the problems it is dealing with.

The United Nations has tried for several years to solve the Myanmar issue. It sent an envoy of the UN Secretary General to the nation to hold a dialogue between the government and the opposition party. It also sent a special rapporteur on human rights so as to make a helping hand.

In helping settle the disputes, all UN envoys and representatives, who are reluctant to join hands due to righteous views who blamed the visits of those representatives, who are responsible for protection of human rights, and Yangon to study the objective conditions at will. Moreover, his suggestions have come into positive results to the three sides. The government made arrangements to enable him to meet with those who he wanted to meet. In addition, it compiled with the wish of the central executive committee of NLD to meet Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and all then met Mr Gambari. That indicated the government's goodwill and compliance with the wish of NLD. In response to Mr Gambari's suggestion made during his previous visit, the government gave amnesty to more than 9000 prisoners. Whatever it is, the majority of those released would thank the government and Mr Gambari.

The international community says Myanmar has hardly made political progress since 1988. It is because so many issues are lingering and making the political reform from making a good headway.

The greater role the UN is playing in the Myanmar issue.

I think, in the recent visit of Mr Gambari, the special adviser of the UN Secretary General yielded positive results to the three sides. The government made arrangements to enable him to meet with those who he wanted to meet. In addition, it compiled with the wish of the central executive committee of NLD to meet Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and all then met Mr Gambari together. That indicated the government's goodwill and compliance with the wish of NLD. In response to Mr Gambari's suggestion made during his previous visit, the government gave amnesty to more than 9000 prisoners. Whatever it is, the majority of those released would thank the government and Mr Gambari. NLD embraced a lot of benefits due to the opportunity to disclose its views and stances together to the Gambari. Mr Gambari also gained a great benefit because he seized opportunities to study and came to understand the objective conditions of the nation more and more. Moreover, his suggestions have come into shape to some extent. I would say the government's positive responses may be seen as success of the trip.

Similarly, the recent visit of UN special rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana generated satisfactory results. The government made arrangements for him to call at the prisons in Hpa-an and Yangon to study the objective conditions at will. And he got an opportunity to meet with the leaders of the local peace groups and witness the objective conditions in the distant areas concerning human rights.

The government's arrangements were very prudent and rewarding, because former rapporteurs met only with expatriate groups and remnant armed insurgents in the border, and they got one-sided views. As the saying 'seeing is believing' goes, in the recent visit, he witnessed the objective conditions of the local people. Besides, he met with the chief justice, the attorney-general, and the minister for Home Affairs who are responsible for protection of human rights, and observed the plans the government is implementing. He also exchanged views with them and made some suggestions. The government showed positive response to his suggestions, and agreed to work together in recognition of his suggestions. They were significant progress. As another result of his visit, 6313 more members were freed.

Anyhow, there might be some persons with self-righteous views who blamed the visits of those representatives, who are reluctant to join hands due to their skepticism, and who wanted to exploit such visits for their political gains. Let me say so because in the political arena there is no examination to test the skills, characters and qualifications of a politician, there are many opportunists who practise politics through the motto 'the harsher comment made on the government, the greater applause'.

Therefore, I would say, those who view conditions with reasoning power realize that recent progress is a giant step towards transition to democracy.

Hlaing Aung

No man is perfect. There are so many true facts under the sun. All those with attachment deem everything that can fulfil their wishes to be true. If a politician considers politics is for the sake of the human society, as for him all things can serve the interest of the whole human society and that of his country are true. Whenever they do not have their wishes fulfilled.

Outside helps like a catalyst that helps two elements react with each other. However much effective a catalyst is, it cannot make two elements react with each other if they do not react with each other. There is a similar process in a political case. The disagreement between two sides can be solved only through mutual understanding, trust, respects, magnanimity and forgiveness.

No man is perfect. There are so many true facts under the sun. All those with attachment deem everything that can fulfil their wishes to be true. If a politician considers politics is for the sake of the human society, as for him all things can serve the interest of the whole human society and that of his country are true. Whenever they do not have their wishes fulfilled.
Maha Hsutaungpyi Buddha Image conveyed...

(from page 1)

demise of Boditahtaung Monastery in Monywa

Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Narada.

A ceremony to unveil Maha Dagundaing was held at the south-east corner of the pagoda. The Secretary-1, the commander and the ministers took positions in front of the Dagundaing.

Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin and Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung formally unveiled the Maha Dagundaing.

The Secretary-1 formally unveiled the stone plaque of the Dagundaing and sprinkled scented water on it. At the merit-sharing programme, Venerable Monk Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Panna Siri invested the Secretary-1 and the congregation with the Nine Precepts.

Members of the Sangha recited metta suttas. The Secretary-1 offered alms to monks.

The commander, ministers and guests also offered alms to the monks.

Venerable Monk Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddhamta Kavisara delivered a sermon, and the congregation shared merits.

After the ceremony, the Secretary-1 performed rituals of golden and silver showers. —MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and party convey Maha Hsutaungpyi Buddha Image to Buddhasana throne in Gandakuti Kyaung. —MNA

Photo shows Maha Dagundaing at south-east corner of Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw. —MNA

Photo shows Seinbudaw to be hoisted at the top of Uppatasanti Pagoda. —MNA

The congregation led by Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo share the merits gained. —MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin and Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung cut the ribbon to open Maha Dagundaing. —MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo enshrines religious objects in Buddhasana throne. —MNA
Maj-Gen Ohn Myint looks into construction of Kaunghmulon suspension bridge

NAI P YI TAW, 21 Feb—Maj-Gen Ohn Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Brig-Gen Soe Win and officers, on 15 February inspected progress in construction of Kaunghmulon suspension bridge across Malikha river being constructed by Public Works near Htawadam Village, Putao Township and gave necessary instructions. Next, Maj-Gen Ohn Myint and party looked into scenic beauty on both sides of Malikha and flow of the river in a motor boat.

In meeting with departmental officials, members of social organizations and townswelders at Gubar Hall in Machanbaw township, officials concerned presented exercise books, publications, packets of dried noodles, medicines and medical equipment. Next, the managing director of Thawdawin Construction Co presented K 10 million and Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, clothes. Afterwards, Maj-Gen Ohn Myint viewed the maintenance of Malikha suspension bridge that links Machanbaw and Putao townships and renovation of Machanbaw–Putao road section and left necessary instructions.

Nawngmon Township: development in progress

NAI P YI TAW, 21 Feb—Chairman of the Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Brig-Gen Soe Win accompanied by departmental officials visited Alanwah village Basic Education Primary School in Machanbaw Township on 10 February and presented food, clothes and medicines.

After hearing reports on regional development tasks presented by the village PDC chairman, the commander fulfilled the requirements. The commander also presented food and school uniforms, exercise books to Alhtangar village BEPS. After hearing reports on regional development tasks presented by the village PDC chairman and local people, the commander attended to the needs. He also presented food, iodized salt, medicines and medical equipment to the local people.

The commander also visited Phatmar and Lasetu villages in Nawngmon Township and presented food and cash assistance for development of the villages.

At Yatbot No.2, Maj-Gen Ohn Myint also visited Phatmar and Lasetu villages in Nawngmon Township and presented food and cash assistance for development of the villages.

Video scrutinization work clarified

YANGON, 21 Feb—Chairman of Video Scrutinization Supervisory Committee (Central) Managing Director of the Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise under the Ministry of Information U Aung Myo Myint gave instructions on video scrutinization work of the chairman and executives of Mandalay Division Video Board at the MMPE (Mandalay branch) in Aungmyethazan, Mandalay, on 16 February.

In meeting with service personnel of the branch, he made clarification to the instructions of the minister for Information. He inspected Zeya Thiri cinema in Sagaing and Ahsintmyint cinema in Mandaly.

UMFCCI organizes commercial talks

YANGON, 21 Feb—The Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry organized commercial talks with the sponsorship of Dynamic Engineering & General Trading Co. Ltd at its office tower in Lannmadaw Township here on 7 February.

UMFCCI General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing made an opening address. Professor Daw Yi Yi Myint gave a talk on ‘Reflection on the Transforming Economy and the Developing Market Force’, and responded to the queries of the participants.—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

Naypyidaw, 21 Feb—Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Brig-Gen Soe Win accompanied by departmental officials visited Alanwah village Basic Education Primary School in Machanbaw Township on 10 February and presented food, clothes and medicines.
Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence addresses 9th annual general meeting of Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence delivered an address at the ninth annual general meeting of Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation at Thiri Annawah Hall of Myanmar Fishery Federation in Insein Township here this morning.

Also present were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint, Patron of MLBF, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, departmental heads, advisors to MLBF, the president, the vice-presidents and executives and members of state/division LBFS.

Firstly, the opening of Myanmar Pet Show 2009 was held and the commander, the minister and mayor cut the ribbon to open the show.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party viewed booths displayed at the show.

Then the annual general meeting followed at Thiri Annawah Hall. Lt-Gen Myint Swe stressed the need to scale up meat production sector for exporting more meat. Next, the minister made a speech. Afterwards, the president of MLBF explained progress in works of the federation.

Then the minister and officials accepted cash donated by wellwishers and presented certificates of honour to them.

The general secretary of the federation read out the annual report and financial account and officials of state/division federations made suggestions.

Next, the managing director of Livestock, Feedstuff and Dairy Products Enterprise delivered an address. The names of the list of new executives and CEC members were announced and newly-appointed executives and CEC members took the oath.

Next, the chairmen of newly-appointed central executive committee extended greetings and the meeting came to an end. — MNA

Regional development tasks of Kayin State inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Feb—Chairman of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Zaw Min and officials attended the trees planting ceremony and gave away seeds to local authorities and grew teak saplings.

On 9 February, Brig-Gen Zaw Min attended the fourth Myanmar traditional Htamane preparing contest and prize presentation ceremony held in Pyidaungsu Thiri ground, Hpa-an and presented prizes to winners.

On 10 February, Brig-Gen Zaw Min attended the concluding ceremony of First Aid Basic Course No 1/2009 conducted by Hpa-an University. Next, he inspected the construction of a concrete bridge near Pawhtaw village and met with local farmers and attended to their needs.

Afterwards, Brig-Gen Zaw Min viewed the arrangements for construction of Minzi-Pawhtaw-Naungkamye village-to-village road and provide cash to Naungkamye Village BEHS (Branch).

On 12 February, he attended a ceremony to mark the 62nd Anniversary Union Day and read out the message of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe sent to the 62nd Anniversary Union Day ceremony.

Brig-Gen Zaw Min and party viewed round snack market festival to mark the 62nd Anniversary Union Day and enjoyed a variety of traditional dances in the evening.—MNA

Labour Minister meets British Ambassador

On 17 February, Labour Minister U Aung Kyi received British Ambassador Mr. Mark Canning at his office in Nay Pyi Taw.

On 21 February, Labour Minister U Aung Kyi attended a ceremony to mark the 62nd Anniversary Union Day, the meeting and what to do with the money.

MNA

DONATE BLOOD
Ex-death row inmate’s DNA not found on evidence

NASHVILLE, 21 Feb — DNA from key evidence in a Tennessee woman’s slaying does not match the man who spent more than two decades on death row for killing her, according to new FBI lab tests.

Paul House, 47, who uses a wheelchair because he developed multiple sclerosis in prison, was convicted of killing Carolyn Muncey nearly 23 years ago. But the case against him has been in doubt for years because of DNA testing, which wasn’t avail- able then.

House was released last year after the US Supreme Court concluded no reasonable juror would have found him guilty based on DNA tests of semen stains on Muncey’s clothing. Authorities had claimed he lured Muncey from her dilapidated cabin, beat her, killed her and then dumped her body in a culvert. There were no witnesses.

One Colorado county clerk has an answer to budget cuts: stop answering phones.

Not content with offering calls, texts and Internet access, the mobile phone industry is convinced it can help save lives and offer health services to millions worldwide.

The idea of a phone serving as a “doctor in your pocket” has gained traction at the industry’s biggest trade show, the Mobile World Congress, in Barcelona. Among a slew of possible applications in poor countries, insiders stressed the potential for the mobile phone to remind people to get vaccinations, which was not available then.

Doctors and nurses working at distance from hospitals or clinics can also use mobile connections to relay information on local patients or report disease outbreaks.

When you consider that there are 2.2 billion mobile phones in the developing world, 305 million computers but only 11 million hospital beds you can instantly see how mobiles can create effective solutions to address healthcare challenges,” said Terry Kramer, strategy director at British operator Vodafone.

The Rockefeller Foundation, the UN Foundation and The Vodafone Foundation launched the Mobile Health (mHealth) Alliance this week, a partnership to advance the use of mobile technology in healthcare.

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Man runs out of gas after robbing gas station

Authorities said they arrested a man who apparently forgot to fill up when he was robbing a gas station. The Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office said a 23-year-old man used a Bowie knife to rob a Cape Haze gas station. Deputies said the man pulled the 12-inch blade and demanded money. But when he left, a customer followed him and called 911.

While deputies were looking for signs of the robber, a newspaper carrier told them that a man in a car matching the one from the robbery had run out of gas nearby.

The man was arrested several hours after the robbery and charged with robbery with a weapon and loitering/prowling. He was released Monday on $10,500 bail.

Three teens fatally shot on Chicago’s South Side

CHICAGO, 21 Feb — Three teenagers, including a 13-year-old, were killed on Friday in a shooting on Chicago’s South Side that authorities believe involved an assault rifle. It appears “several individuals” attacked the teens, and shell casings found at the scene point to at least one assault rifle, said Police Superintendent Jody Weis.

“It’s just tragic, based on the guns that are on the streets, that three young men have lost their lives to- day,” Weis said.

“We’re bringing out every resource we have, and we’ll work this case as hard as we can,” he said.

Officials hope at least two surveillance video cam- eras near the crime scene will lead to clues, said po- lice Cmdr Eddie Welch, who added that investigators are looking at “multiple scenes.”

“They’re in great positions,” Welch said of the cam- eras.—Internet

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Five killed in Ukrainian cargo plane fire in Egypt

CAIRO, 21 Feb — Five crew members died when a Ukrainian cargo plane crashed during takeoff, burst into flames and slid down the runway on Friday in the popu- lar Egyptian tourist city of Luxor, officials said.

The plane was in the process of lifting off from the tarmac when it “slammed to the ground” and caught on fire, Egypt’s Civil Aviation Minister Ahmad Shafiq said in a statement. The plane then slid off the tarmac and came to rest hundreds of yards from the runway where it was consumed in flames, he said.

The cargo plane, which had landed in Luxor to re- fuel, had a full tank, and this could have contributed to the fire, Shafiq said.

The Russian-made Antonov An-12 cargo plane was traveling from Entebbe, Uganda to Ukraine when it stopped in Luxor, said an Egyptian aviation official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.—Internet

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Laos to waive visa fees for young, elderly foreign visitors
HANOI, 21 Feb—Laos Government will waive visa fees for elderly and young foreigners entering the country as part of the efforts to promote tourism, Laos newspaper Vientiane Times reported Friday.

Laos Taxation department was drafting an order to inform the sectors concerned, including the ministries of public security and foreign affairs, to enforce the new decree which is expected to be put into practice within this year, said the newspaper.

According to general director of Laos Finance Ministry’s Taxation Department Manivone Inissengmay, the waiver would apply to foreigners aged over 65 and younger than 15.

Visas issued on arrival in Laos cost from 30 US dollars to 42 US dollars depending on a tourist’s nationality. — MNA/Xinhua

Tajikistan allows NATO cargo transit to Afghanistan
DUSHANBE, 21 Feb—Tajikistan has agreed to allow the transit of NATO non-military cargo through its territory to Afghanistan, a US military commander said on Tajik state television on Friday.

“Tajikistan has allowed (NATO) to use its railways and roads to transit non-military cargo to Afghanistan,” said Rear Admiral Mark Hamrick of the US Transportation Command.

Washington seeks to diversify supply routes for its troops in Afghanistan as it prepares to send more troops.

Janeiro said they are stepping up security after the driver ran over and killed a man described as a suspected drug smuggler in the New Mexico desert on Thursday night, federal officials said on Friday.

North Carolina police said they were surprised to find a pickup truck head on north along a desert ranch road about 11 pm Thursday night.

Border patrol agents shoot man as he runs over fellow officer
El Paso, 21 Feb—US Border Patrol agents shot a man described as a suspected drug smuggler in the New Mexico desert on Thursday night, federal officials said on Friday.

Doug Mosier, a Border Patrol spokesman in El Paso, said agents were trying to stop a pickup truck headed north along a desert ranch road about 11 pm Thursday night.

When the driver ran over an agent, the agents fired at least one other agent at the scene opened fire, hitting the driver at least once.

Following the shooting, Mosier said, the driver of the truck crashed the vehicle along NM 9, about 25 miles west of the border crossing at Santa Teresa, about 14 miles west of El Paso.

The agent and the driver, neither of whom have been identified, were both taken to a hospital in El Paso. Mosier said the agent suffered non-life-threatening injuries.

Internet

Singapore barge crew kidnapped in Malacca Straits
KUALA LUMPUR, 21 Feb—Two crew of a Singapore-managed tug and barge have been kidnapped by pirates in the Strait of Malacca, a piracy reporting centre said on Saturday.

The incident occurred on Thursday, said Noel Choong, head of the International Maritime Bureau piracy reporting centre in Kuala Lumpur. He declined to disclose the nationality of the pirates or hostages.

“The pirates came up with guns, they took over the ship and managed to board the ship and kidnapped two crew,” Choong told Reuters by telephone.

The Strait of Malacca between peninsular Malaysia and Indonesia is among the world’s busiest shipping lanes, used by more than 70,000 ships in 2007, including vessels supplying about 80 per cent of the energy needs of Japan and China.

New Delhi, 21 Feb—India on Friday vowed to oppose any protectionism moves by the United States as part of Washington’s efforts to deal with the economic crisis.

“We are already witnessing worrying signs of protectionism in the world’s biggest economy. We will need to argue against this trend at the international fora (forums),” external affairs minister Pranab Mukherjee told a labour conference in New Delhi.

Mukherjee, who heads the Indian government’s financial portfolio, said his country would also press for trade and aid flows to the developing world India’s economy is “substantially internally driven” and therefore needed to generate greater domestic demand to cushion itself against the “economic shocks the world is about to face,” he remarked.

He also underscored that India needed to look at regional cooperation as a defence against such crises.

Internet

Woman charged with baby’s death
ROCK HILL, 21 Feb.—A South Carolina woman has been charged with homicide after police say her unborn child died when she tried to commit suicide in August.

Jessica Marie Clyburn, 22, tried to kill herself by jumping out a window, The Rock Hill SC Herald reported on Friday.

Clyburn reportedly told police she tried to kill herself because she was afraid the unborn child’s father was going to leave her.

Police said Clyburn was eight months pregnant when she jumped from a fifth-floor window and landed on a canopy four stories down.

Internet

Carnival revellers robbed by hotel gang in Rio
RIO DE JANEIRO, 21 Feb.—Police in Rio de Janeiro said they are stepping up security after armed men hit two hotels, robbing 47 tourists in the Brazilian city for its famed Carnival Festivities.

Visitors from the United States, Britain, Argentina and other countries were forced to hand over money, passports and cameras to a gang that took over their small hotel in the city center late dawn yesterday. The robbers, brandishing handguns, grenades and knives, had gained entry after one of them asked to use the toilet and overpowered the receptionist, officers said.

Less than 24 hours earlier, another hotel was hit in similar circumstances in the popular Copacabana beach neighbourhood. Thirteen tourists staying in the budget establishment were robbed by four armed men. Officials said a Carnival security plan drawn up by hoteliers and police would be brought forward a day to Thursday because of the attacks.

Internet

India says it will oppose US ‘protectionism’
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Internet

India seeks information on Swiss accounts from Germany
NEW DELHI, 21 Feb—India has approached Germany to ascertain whether any Indian has an account in the Swiss branch of German-based Liechterstein Bank, Minister of State for Finance Pawan Kumar Bansal said here.

“The Central Board of Direct Taxes is pursuing the matter, so is our Ambassador to Germany,” Bansal said in the Rajya Sabha replying to a debate on the Prevention of Money Laundering (Amendment) Bill. Leader of Opposition Jaswant Singh had written to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh asking whether the government has taken up the issue with the German authorities.

MNA/PTI

MNA/Reuters
**Cosmic stage set for comet Lulin’s fly-by**

**ARIZONA, 21 Feb**—Acrecently discovered comet is making its closest approach to Earth in the next few days and offers anyone with binoculars or a small telescope a chance to see some frozen leftovers of our solar system’s making.

Comet Lulin has, as expected, crossed the threshold to naked-eye visibility for people in rural skies. It hovers just inside that envelope of visibility, however, and is not likely visible from cities, where the glare of urban lights can drown out all but the brightest night-sky objects.

“The comet is now naked-eyed (if you’re out in the country) and is brightening every day as it approaches Earth,” said Jack Newton, who has made several photographs of Lulin from his Arizona Sky Village, a residential community committed to pristine natural surroundings and dark skies. “Some feel it will reach maximum brightness on Saturday.”

**At least 32 die of hepatitis-B in India**

**NEW DELHI, 21 Feb**—At least 32 people have died of Hepatitis-B infections over the past week in the western Indian state of Gujarat, after seven people died Friday of the disease, local media reported. Local TV network NDTV said more people were infected with the disease as some doctors were suspected to have used unsterilized needles carrying the virus when treating patients.

Two doctors were arrested Friday after being charged by the local health department for using unsterilized and used syringes, but were later released by court on bail, said the Press Trust of India news agency.

**Moderate quake hits off Ryukyu Islands**

**HONG KONG, 21 Feb**—An earthquake measuring 5.6 magnitude struck near Ryukyu Islands at 0017 GMT Saturday, according to a bulletin released by Hong Kong Observatory.

The epicenter of the quake was initially determined to be at 28.9 north latitude and 130.9 east longitude, about 300 km south of Kagoshima, Japan.

**Three cleared over murder of Russian journalist**

**MOSCOW, 20 Feb**—A jury in Moscow on Thursday acquitted three men charged with involvement in the murder of independent journalist Anna Politkovskaya.

The not guilty verdicts followed a two month trial that was hampered from the start by the man accused of masterminding the shooting, Rustam Makhmudov. Sergie Khadzikurbanov — a former Moscow police officer — and Makhmudov’s brothers, Ibragim and Dzhabrail were found not guilty of shooting dead Politkovskaya, a Kremlin critic, outside her Moscow home in October, 2006.

Politkovskaya’s death was described in one of the school’s restrooms, which claimed a bomb was set to go off at a certain time Friday morning. The Oreganian newspaper said in a report on its website.Authorities then called a fire drill to help the school be evacuated in an orderly fashion. Police searched the middle school building but did not find anything.

They believe the threat was unfounded. According to the report, Molalla High School was also evacuated Thursday after a bomb threat was discovered in a restroom. The school remained closed Friday.

**Galeras volcano erupts**

**BOGOTA, 21 Feb**—Galeras volcano in southern Colombia erupted on Friday for the second time in less than a week, the Colombian Institute of Geology and Mines said, with no victims or damage yet reported.

A forceful eruption began at 07:05 (12:05 GMT) on Friday for the second eruption in less than a week, the institute said.

**Two Russian hostages escape Nigerian captors**

**LOGOS, 21 Feb**—Two Russian hostages escaped from kidnappers two months ago by gunmen in the Niger Delta were rescued on Thursday by Nigerian soldiers on routine patrol, said Jack Newton, who has made several photographs of Lulin from his Arizona Sky Village, a residential community committed to pristine natural surroundings and dark skies. “Some feel it will reach maximum brightness on Saturday.”

**South African hippo finds happy home in city’s sewage plant**

**JOHANNESBURG, 21 Feb**—A young male hippopotamus has made a new home in a sewage plant, South African wildlife officials said on Thursday. The nearly 1,800-pound hippo wandered into Cape Town’s Cape Flats Waste Water Treatment plant from an adjacent marsh after a fence was stolen, said Julia Wood, manager of the city’s biodiversity programme.

Wood said the 4-year-old hippo, named Zorro, was captured because of the zigzag scar on his back caused by his father’s tusk during a fight, was “happy” in his new surroundings.

He is living in the plant’s shallow pools — shallow pools once used to store untreated wastewater but now made mostly of water by new technology.

The pans now contain primarily clean water surrounded by grassy areas.

“There are beautiful, peaceful pools and lots of grazing.” Wood said.

Scientists close in on cure for severe nut allergies

**LONDON, 21 Feb**—A group of children with severe peanut allergies have had their conditions successfully treated, allowing them to eat nuts without suffering any reaction for the first time.

The success of the preliminary clinical trial, conducted by Addenbrooke’s Hospital in Cambridge, England, shows the possibility of modifying an allergy by desensitising the sufferer.

Scientists say that the development brings them one step closer to curing nut allergies.

Researchers gave small daily doses of peanut flour to children with severe peanut allergy to help them to build tolerance to the nuts over a six-month period.

By the end of the trial, the children could eat up to 12 peanuts a day without suffering anything threatening in the form of anaphylaxis.

Peanut allergy is increasingly common. Reactions can range from itching, rash and swelling to breathing difficulties caused by a narrowing of the airways, and severe asthma. It is the most serious allergic reaction but, unlike other childhood food allergies, it rarely recedes over time.

**Two Russian hostages escape Nigerian captors**

**LOGOS, 21 Feb**—Two Russian expatriates kidnapped two months ago by gunmen in the Niger Delta were rescued on Thursday by Nigerian soldiers on routine patrol, said a military spokesman.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sagir Musa said the two Russians had escaped from their captors and wandered in the delta for several days before being spotted by Nigerian troops.

“They escaped from a yet-to-be-identified militant camp and for the past five days were wandering in the creeks before our patrol team saw and rescued them,” Musa said.

Gunmen in speedboats kidnapped the two Russians on December 20. They worked for Nigeria’s sole aluminium smelter plant worked for Nigeria’s sole aluminum smelter, Company RUSAL in the port town of AlSCON in the port town of Ilot Abas in AkwaBom. The firm is owned by the world’s largest aluminium producer, Russia’s United Company RUSAL.

Hundreds of foreigners have been seized in the Niger Delta since early 2006, most of whom have been released unharmed.

Nigeria’s most prominent militant group, the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), last month ended a five-month-old ceasefire and threatened more attacks on the oil sector.

**Bomb threats prompt evacuation of two schools in Oregon**

**S AN FRANCISCO , 21 Feb—Authorities evacuated another school in Oregon on Friday after uncovering a bomb threat, the second case in two days in the US state’s Molalla School District, local newspaper reported.

Teachers at Molalla River Middle School found a note written in one of the school’s restrooms, which claimed a bomb was set to go off at a certain time Friday morning. The Oreganian newspaper said

**South African hippo finds happy home in city’s sewage plant**

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The Women’s tennis Association fines Dubai Championship organizers $300,000

ST PETERSBURG, 21 Feb—The WTA Tour has fined Dubai Championships organizers a record $300,000 after Israeli tennis player Shahar Peer was denied a visa by the United Arab Emirates.

The WTA also took steps on Friday to compensate Peer and ensure she and other Israeli players won’t be shut out of future tournaments in the Emirates.

Organizers said at the time that they feared fan anger over Israel’s recent military offensive in the Gaza Strip would spill into riots in the Persian Gulf country if Peer were to play.

Part of the fine will go to Peer and doubles partner Anna-Lena Groenefeld of Germany to make up for the prize money they could have won at the lucrative tournament.—Internet

Bayern’s Podolski in spotlight against Cologne

BERLIN, 21 Feb—Bayern Munich striker Lukas Podolski will be in the spotlight on Saturday when his team entertain Cologne, the club he has agreed to rejoin at the end of the season. Podolski received a standing ovation from his adoring Cologne fans and waved to the crowd after scoring one goal and setting up another in Bayern’s 3-0 away win in September, incensing officials at his own club.

“It is not an ordinary match but there is too much fanfare surrounding it,” he told reporters this week.

“I am happy the transfer (to Cologne) is complete but in the next three or four months I will step on the gas to win a title (with Bayern).”—Internet

FIFA inundated by World Cup ticket demands

JOHANNESBURG, 21 Feb—FIFA received around 200 applications a minute in the first five hours when World Cup tickets went on sale on Friday. There were 60,000 online ticket applications worldwide within the first five hours, far exceeding expectations, world football’s governing body said in a statement.

It added that thousands of South Africans collected paper applications from bank branches in the 2010 tournament’s host country.

Organizers said the opening day of ticket sales dispelled any doubts about the tournament going ahead in South Africa.

“The beginning of this part of the build-up to the World Cup is our irrevocable promise that we make to the people of the world that all is in place and will be ready for 2010,” said Organising Committee chief executive officer Danny Jordaan.—Internet

English pair lead Johnnie Walker Classic

SYDNEY, 21 Feb—English pair John Bickerton and Ross McGowan stormed to the top of a congested leaderboard after the third round of the Johnnie Walker Classic on Saturday.

Bickerton birdied six of the last 12 two holes in Perth to card a six-under-par 66 while McGowan made five birdies on the back nine for a 65 to head into Sunday’s final round tied for the lead at 14-under 202.

The two Britons finished two strokes clear of four players, Chile’s Felipe Aguilar (68), Frenchman Raphael Jacquelin (66), Australia’s Terry Pilkadaris (68) and New Zealand amateur Danny Lee (69).—Internet

Cars take part in an automobile soccer match during a demonstration of Top Gear Live before its performance in Hong Kong on 19 Feb, 2009. The British TV show holds its first Asian tour to the territory.—Internet

Solano taken to hospital with dehydration

LIMA, 21 Feb—Peru captain Nolberto Solano was rushed to hospital after feeling unwell following Universitano’s 1-0 win over San Lorenzo in the Libertadores Cup on Thursday.

Solano, who has made a huge impact in the three games he has played since his surprise return to his homeland, was later released after being treated for dehydration. “It was dehydration, I was suffering from a lot of cramp and as a precaution they brought me here.”—Internet

Manchester United’s Dimitar Berbatov (L) challenges Blackburn Rovers’ Vincenzo Grella during their English Premier League soccer match in Manchester on 21 Feb, 2009.—Internet

Aston Villa’s Emilie Heskey (L) shields the ball from Chelsea’s Michael Ballack during their English Premier League soccer match at Villa Park in Birmingham, central England on 21 Feb, 2009.—Internet
Thursday. voted overwhelmingly in favour of the closure on Bakiyev’s signature came after the Kyrgyz Parliament for US anti-terror operations in Afghanistan.

Ambassador Tatiana Gfoeller in the capital Bishkek Kadyrbek Sarbayev delivered a formal notice to theacement,win. Kazakhstan serves airbase eviction notice to US

ALMATY, 21 Feb—Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Kadyrbek Sarbayev delivered a formal notice to the US Ambassador to Kyrgyzstan on Friday, demanding that the United States close the Manas military airbase and have its troops leave the country in 180 days. Sarbayev officially handed the notice to US Ambassador Tatiana Gfoeller in the capital Bishkek on Friday afternoon, a Foreign Ministry statement said.

Earlier Friday, Kyrgyz President Kurmanbek Bakiyev signed a law to close the Manas airbase, used for US anti-terror operations in Afghanistan. Bakiyev’s signature came after the Kyrgyz Parliament voted overwhelmingly in favour of the closure on Thursday.

Asleep in Jesus
Dr Saw Kalosay Doh Sein Paw
Dental Specialist
Mandalay General Hospital
61 years
(PinyinOoLwin)
Residing at No. 82, 12th Street, Nyandaw Ward, PinyinOoLwin; son of (U Saw Sein Paw+Daw Naw Ku Khau); beloved husband of Daw Naw Rebecca Din (Township Medical Officer-Rtd); younger brother of (U Saw Sein Tun Ang)+Daw Naw Marina; elder brother of Daw Naw Mu Yei Wah and U Saw Daniel Sein Paw; beloved father of U Saw Lah Pau+Daw Naw Mwi Mwi Doh, Daw Naw Thi Thi, Naw Hia Myo Su, Saw Sein Din, Naw Su Myititar; grandfather of three fell asleep in Jesus peacefully at 3 a.m. on 21-2-2009 (Saturday). Funeral service will be conducted at PinyinOoLwin Kayin Baptist Church at 12 noon on 23-2-2009 and thence the remains will be conveyed to 8th Mile Christian Cemetery for burial at 1 p.m. Bereaved family.

Kyrgyzstan serves airbase eviction notice to US

WEATHER

Saturday, 21 February, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr
MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in Taninthayi Division, weather has been partly cloudy in Rakhine State and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3˚C) below February average temperatures in Chin State, (3˚C) to (4˚C) above February average temperatures in Kachin, Rakhine, Kayah and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, (6˚C) above February average temperatures in Shan State and Bago Division and about February average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (4˚C), Lashio and Ann (5˚C) each. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Myek (0.16) inch.

Maximum temperature on 20-2-2009 was 99˚F. Minimum temperature on 21-2-2009 was 71˚F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 21-2-2009 was 70%.

Sunshine hours on 20-2-2009 was (6.5) hrs approx. Rainfall on 21-2-2009 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 (4) mph from Southeast at (16:30) hours MST on 20-2-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 22 February 2009: Possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Shan and Mon States, upper Sagaing and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated light rain in the extreme Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 22-2-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 22-2-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 22-2-2009: Generally fair weather.
Giant step towards democratic transition

The government is building a large number of dams and reservoirs and embankments for the development of agricultural sector, while taking systematic measures for all-round development of the State. As a result, remarkable progress has been made in all the sectors of the State.

Indeed the birth of Zaungtu Multipurpose Dam in Bago Division has contributed significantly to regional and national development. The irrigation facility not only benefits 36,000 of farmlands in Bago Division but also prevents flood water from entering farmlands in Bago Township and its neighbouring regions.

There were no hydroelectric power plants in Bago Division until 1988. At that time, the division had to rely solely on power supply of the national grid and diesel generators. Now, the large-scale hydroelectric power project developed on Zaungtu Multipurpose Dam is now generating 20 megawatts to meet the power demand of the division.

For development of Bago Division Shwekyin, Kunchaung, Phyuchaung, Khabaung and Yenwe multipurpose dams are under implementation. Upon completion, the irrigation facilities will be able to generate 230 megawatts, thereby contributing much towards regional development.

It is sure that the emergence of a cluster of dams and reservoirs and embankments in Bago Division will enhance the socio-economic status of local people all the more.

Translation: TS

LONDON, 21 Feb—Arsenal played out their third successive 0-0 draw at home to Sunderland in the Barclays Premier League.

Andrei Arshavin’s debut failed to help Arsenal conjure up a goal as they played out another frustrating draw at the Emirates Stadium.

The Russian saw an early low shot fly just wide, before Marton Fulop beat away his angled drive.

Sunderland battled well and were worth a share of the spoils as the Gunners again could not break down a stubborn defence and missed a chance to close the gap on the top four. —Internet

Arsenal 0-0 Sunderland

A new analysis linked smoking to more than 70 percent of the cancer death burden among Massachusetts men in 2003. This percentage is much higher than the previous estimate of 34 percent in 2001. This study provides support for the growing understanding among researchers that smoking is a cause of many more cancer deaths besides lung cancer,” said lead author Bruce Leistikow, a UC Davis associate adjunct professor of public health sciences. —Internet

Smoking Linked To Most Male Cancer Deaths

Ground squirrels are able to relearn their ability to recognize the smell of their siblings after hibernation, which gives an additional advantage in forming groups for protection. —Internet

Ground squirrels

Zaungtu Multipurpose Dam in service of regional development

The New Light of Myanmar Sunday, 22 February, 2009

Zaungtu Multipurpose Dam in Bago Township benefiting 36,000 acres of farmland.

Article by Khin Aung Kyaw, Photo by (Kyemon)