True patriotism

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

Senior General Than Shwe felicitates Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb— On the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the National Day of Brunei Darussalam which falls on 23 February 2009, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.— MNA

Prime Minister inspects disaster preparedness, development projects in Ayeyawady Division

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb— Chairman of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Prime Minister General Thein Sein, accompanied by the ministers, the deputy ministers, the director-general of the Government Office and departmental officials, on 21 February left Yangon yesterday by helicopter for Pyapon, to inspect development tasks of storm-hit areas in Ayeyawady Division, road network project and construction of cyclone shelter. Prime Minister General Thein Sein was welcomed by Maj-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe and Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing and officials.

The Prime Minister visited basic domestic science course conducted by Education and Training Department under the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs at Thiri Annawa Hall in Pyapon. He cordially greeted the trainees.

The Prime Minister said the basic domestic science course has been conducted for local youths under the guidance of the Head of State and arrangements are being made for opening of industrial training schools in the suitable places. He urged the trainees to be proficient in vocational career.

Next, the Prime Minister viewed learning of tailoring, knitting, and clothes made by trainees and presented sewing machines and cash to the course in-charge.

(See page 8)

Prime Minister sends message of felicitations to Brunei Darussalam

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb— On the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the National Day of Brunei Darussalam which falls on 23 February 2009, General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.— MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein views learning of trainees at cookery course in Bogale Education College.— MNA
**Perspectives**

Monday, 23 February, 2009

Utilize modern cultivation techniques for agricultural progress

The government is making all efforts for the country to keep abreast of the nations of the world, to develop the national economy and to further improve the living standard of the national people.

The government is also endeavoring for transforming conventional farming into mechanized farming in the country. Being an agro-based country, agriculture is still the mainstay of the country’s economy as well as the main income source.

Modern techniques are to be utilized in order to boost production of agricultural produce and to explore water and land resources. Regarding the agricultural sector, agriculturists are seeking quality strains of crops and conducting research on cultivation techniques.

Under the modern mechanized farming system, Dagon International Co Ltd undertakes cultivation of summer paddy in block No. 1 inagricultural mechanized model farming special zone-1 in Dagon Myothit (East) Township in Yangon Division, Htoo Trading Co Ltd cultivation of 50 acres of summer paddy and Shwenaga Min Co Ltd cultivation of high yield paddy in special zone-2 in Dagon Myothit (South) Township.

Collective efforts are to be made to become a major model farm through conducting courses on modern systematic techniques for farmers. Utilization of fertilizer and folio fertilizer and scientific cultivation methods is necessary for farmers to boost production of paddy and other crops.

**Development work facilitated in Putao Township**

**Nav Pyi Taw, 22 Feb**—Efforts should be made to complete the new Putao-Mansekhun-Ziyadan road before the onset of open season in accord with the Head of State’s guidance, said Maj-Gen Ohn Myint of the Ministry of Defence during his visit to upper Hsangsau village in Putao Township on 16 February.


At the post-primary school of the village, Maj-Gen Ohn Myint met with teachers, local elders and local people. He then inspected generating electricity with hydropower from Pataik creek to supply power to the village. He held meetings with teachers, local elders and local people at middle school in lower Hsangsau village and at the primary school in Monmgul village.

Maj-Gen Ohn Myint’s inspection tour also included a 250-feet suspension bridge linking Dagushiza and Nantbauk villages in Putao Township and another suspension bridge linking Dagushiza and Mansay village.

At Hokho ward in Putao, he facilitated the work of harnessing Nankhanti creek to generate power. He also inspected the durability of a bridge on Lonhsot creek.

**MNA**

**Commander looks into regional development works in Taunggyi, Nyaung Shwe, Hopong Townships**

**Nav Pyi Taw, 22 Feb**—The opening of Mya Nadi crop drying factory was held at the archway of the plant at Taung Laylon village in Taunggyi Township on 14 February. Chairman of the Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Brig-Gen Yar Pyae pressed the button to open the factory and sprinkled scented water on it, and presented cash rewards.

The commander and party inspected process of making maize grains dry with the use of machines in the factory. Next, the commander and party looked into breeding of milch cows on a commercial scale at the farm in Thanatkhar village.

At the briefing hall of livestock breeding special zone of Tilaw village-tract in Nyaung Shwe Township, the commander heard reports on the setting up of livestock breeding special zone in the state presented by chairman and officials of supervisory committee for setting up of livestock breeding special zone and attended to the needs, and looked into progress in construction of roads in the zone.

On 15 February, the commander and officials inspected progress of beautifying and cleaning of Inlay Lake in Nyaung Shwe Township by boat.

Next, the commander and wife and party attended the opening of Myat Shwe-oh self-reliant library in Teya Ywama-in village. The commander opened the building and presented cash donation to the library. The assistant director and wellwishers also presented books, journals and cash assistance.

Next, the commander and party went to self-reliant village digital exchange and inspected installation of telephone lines in the village and visited Sein Thamadi gold/silversmith industry.

Afterwards, they viewed a skill demonstration of parade company and military band representing Eastern Command at the parade ground of Defence Services Institute of Technology and Computer Studies in Hopong Township and presented cashawards and medicines.—MNA
13 civilians killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, 22 Feb — The US-led coalition in Afghanistan confirmed on Saturday that 13 civilians were killed in an operation against militants, with such casualties a major source of tension between Kabul and its allies.

The US military at first said that 15 militants were killed in air strikes in the western province of Herat late Monday but local officials said six women and two children were among the dead.

An Afghan army and coalition forces team visited the area after the local allegations, it said. “Coalition forces confirmed three militants and 13 non-combatants were killed during a coalition forces’ operation near Gozara district, Herat Province, on 17 February,” the coalition said in a statement.

It did not say who the 13 were.

“We expressed our deepest condolences to the survivors of the non-combatants who were killed during this operation,” said US Brigadier General Michael Ryan in the statement.

The number of civilian casualties in military operations is one of the main sources of tension between President Hamid Karzai’s government and the United States, Kabul’s main military backer.

The United Nations said this week that more than 2,000 civilians were killed in insurgency-linked violence last year, the highest civilian death toll since the 2001 ouster of the Taliban.

About 40 percent of them died in military action, it said.—Internet

US tests military exit routes out of Iraq

BAGHDAD, 22 Feb — The American military is shipping battlefield equipment through Jordan and Kuwait, testing possible exit routes in advance of a US withdrawal in Iraq, military officials said.

The convoys — carrying armoured vehicles, weapons and other items — mark the Pentagon’s first steps in confronting the complex logistics of transporting the huge arsenal stockpiled in Iraq over nearly six years.

It’s also part of a wider assessment, ordered by US Central Command, to decide what items the military can transfer, donate, sell or toss away once a full-scale withdrawal is under way, Marine Corps and Army officials told The Associated Press.

“Because they are starting to see a potential reduction of forces, they are looking to get more stuff out,” Terry Moores, the deputy assistant chief of staff for logistics for Marine Corps Central Command, said on Saturday.—Internet

Six militants killed in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 22 Feb — Six Taleban militants were killed on Saturday in Afghanistan’s southern province of Kandahar, Interior Ministry said in a press release Sunday.

“Afghanistan’s enemies attacked a police checkpoint in Dand district on Saturday and the police returned fire killing six militants on the spot,” the press release added.

It also said that two policemen were injured during the gun battle lasted for a while.

Conflicts and Taleban-linked militancy which claimed the lives of more than 5,000 people in 2008 in Afghanistan.—Internet

Afghan army kills five militants, arrests 12 others

KABUL, 22 Feb — Afghan troops launched operation against Taleban militants in the eastern province of Khost and surrounding areas Saturday and have killed five rebels and detained dozen others, an army officer Mastak Khan Zazi said.

“During the operation backed by the international troops, five militants were killed and 12 others including four injured militants were detained from the districts of Ali Shir and Sabari of Khost Province,” Zazi told Xinhua on Sunday.

He also said that the aim of the operation is to further stabilize security in the eastern region.—Internet

A damaged vehicle is seen after an air strike in Gozara district of Herat Province 17 February, 2009. US forces killed at least one child, video footage obtained by Reuters on Wednesday showed, in an air strike in western Afghanistan that Afghan police say killed 12 civilians and US forces said killed 16 militants.—Internet

A US soldier killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 22 Feb — An American soldier died on Saturday during combat patrol near Baghdad, the US military said in a statement.

The statement did not reveal how and where exactly the incident took place, but said the soldier is assigned to Multi National Division-Baghdad (MND-B), which is also known as Task Force Baghdad.

The name of the deceased is being withheld pending notification of next of kin, the statement said, adding that the incident is under investigation.—Internet

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Chavez sees Fidel twice in surprise Cuba trip

HAVANA, 22 Feb—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has met twice with the ailing 82-year-old Fidel Castro during a surprise 24-hour visit to Cuba.

Cuban state media says Chavez arrived Friday night on a working visit and was greeted by Fidel's younger brother President Raul Castro. Venezuela's socialist leader — fresh off a referendum win that allows him to run for re-election — met with Fidel Castro Friday night and again shortly before departing Saturday.

There were no images of Chavez meeting with Fidel Castro, only with his younger brother. Fidel has not been seen in public since mid-2006 when he underwent intestinal surgery and ceded power to Raul.—Internet

Afghans' demonstration helps secure the release of four suspects

KABUL, 22 Feb—Hundreds of Afghans came to the streets in Logar Province, 60 km south of Afghan capital Kabul, on Saturday and blocked a highway for hours, demanding the release of four persons who were arrested on charge of having link with Taleban militants.

The US-led Coalition forces, according to locals, raided Lashkarkhel village in Mohammad Agha district late Friday night, killing one person detaining four others, all of them civilians.

Villagers denounced it as highhandedness and called on provincial administration to secure the release of the suspects.

Free,” spokesman of provincial administration Deen Mohammad Darvish told Xinhua. Internet

Iraq reopens Abu Ghraib prison west of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 22 Feb—The Iraqi authorities on Saturday reopened the notorious prison of Abu Ghraib, which was known as a symbol of American abuse of some Iraqi prisoners.

The name of the prison compound is now changed to Baghdad Central Prison as the authorities believe that the old name has left a bitter feeling in the memories of Iraqis.

The new facility has recreational areas, including a sewing room, exercise equipment, computers, a library and green houses.

The renovated prison is now reopened for 300 prisoners and their number will increase to more than 3,000 inmates, rehabilitation chief Abdul-Mutalib Jassim told reporters.

The prison is designed to hold 12,000 inmates after achieving final renovation, Jassim said.—Internet

Japan snowstorm disrupts flights, damages houses

TOKYO, 22 Feb—A snowstorm in Japan has damaged houses, caused power failures, disrupted train service and led to the cancellation of more than 150 domestic flights, local authorities said on Sunday.

About 40 centimetres (16 inches) of snow blanketed the runways at New Chitose Airport, the biggest air hub on the northern main island of Hokkaido on Saturday, an airport official said.

At least 154 flights were cancelled.

The storm, which also brought high winds, damaged at least 137 houses and buildings and temporarily cut off power to 47,500 households in northern Aomori prefecture alone, the local authority said.

There were no reports of injuries, and authorities said conditions were improving on Sunday.—Internet

Vietnam to open first oil refinery

DUNG QUAT, 22 Feb—Vietnam was to open its first oil refinery Sunday after more than a decade of delays, in what is being hailed as a significant moment in the country’s development and energy security.

Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung is expected to inaugurate the more than 2.5-billion-dollar Dung Quat refinery Sunday evening live on nationwide television, an indication of its importance to the communist country.

Although Vietnam has considerable offshore oil reserves, it currently has to import all its petroleum products, costing the Southeast Asian nation hundreds of millions of dollars — a figure rising as energy consumption soars.

It spent 10.88 billion dollars importing refined products in 2008, according to official figures, while exporting 10.45 billion dollars of crude oil. State-owned Petro Vietnam Group financed and will run the new facility, which is expected to churn out 6.5 million tonnes a year or 148,000 barrels per day — about 30 percent of the country’s needs.—Internet
**Water supply to stop in parts of California because of drought**

**Los Angeles, 22 Feb**—To cope with the continuing drought, the US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) will not provide water for agriculture beginning in March to at least 200 local water districts in California’s Central Valley, a newspaper report said on Saturday.

Meanwhile, as part of the water-savings move, municipalities and industrial customers will receive half of their allotments, the Los Angeles Times said.

“This year is on the heels of two previous critically dry years, and this is the third year in a row,” USBR spokeswoman Lynnette Wirth was quoted as saying by the paper.

She said the last time the bureau faced such a shortfall was in 1992.

Wirth said officials were hopeful that allocations could be increased if there is more precipitation.

Paul Wenger, vice president of the California Farm Bureau Federation, described the federal announcement as “very dire,” and said that the Legislature needed to take immediate steps to help solve the crisis, such as facilitating faster transfers of water between farmers.

“If this continues for the foreseeable future, it’s going to be catastrophic for the Central Valley,” he told the paper.

The water shortage was a blow to California’s producers of almonds and other crops, the paper said.—Xinhua

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**Rockets launched from S Lebanon into Israel prompts Israeli respond**

**Beirut, 22 Feb**—Six Israeli shells hit south Lebanon areas early Saturday morning, following Katyusha rockets launched from south Lebanon into northern Israel.

The agency said that six rockets landed between al-Huniyeh and al-Mansouri close to Naqura in southern Lebanon, where the headquarters of the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL) are located.

According to al-Jazeera TV channel, Israeli army confirmed that one rocket hit the western part of Galilee in northern Israel.

On Friday night, Israeli fired flare shells off the town of Naqura, according to a government statement.

Li Zhong, vice director of Health Insurance Department under the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, said at a forum that the programme, which has benefited residents in more than 300 cities as of 2008, is expected to be promoted to all cities and towns this year.

The programme, introduced in 2007, aimed to bring urban children, students and jobless adults under the umbrella of medical insurance.

China established a medical insurance system for urban employees in 1998 and implemented a new cooperative medical care system for rural residents since 2003.

If the programme is successfully implemented, it means all Chinese residents can have access to medical insurance. Under the programme, the premiums are paid by households, instead of individuals.

The government gives each participant a subsidy of at least 40 yuan annually, and grants extra subsidies for low-income families and disabled ones.—Xinhua

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**Vietnam confirms 1st human case died of bird flu in 2009**

**Hanoi, 22 Feb**—Vietnam confirmed that the 23-year-old woman Ly Tai Mui from northern Quang Ninh Province, who was confirmed of being infected with the H5N1 virus, has died, Vietnam News Agency reported on Saturday.

The patient had been taken to the local hospital with bird flu symptoms of high temperature and difficulty in breathing in late January after having sick fowls.

The patient was then taken to the provincial hospital Quang Ninh of Vietnam because her health condition became worse with severe respiratory illness, her internal organs and liver were deteriorated, said provincial staffs of doctors from Quang Ninh hospital.

Mui died after 18 days of being treated with advanced respiratory tube, said provincial doctors.—Xinhua

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**People sift through rubbish at a dump in Lagos. Nigeria ordered its customs service and security and environmental agencies to clamp down on illegal imports of potentially toxic electronic waste.—INTERNET**

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**All items from Xinhua News Agency**
Syrian President urges US to move away from “dictating policy”

DAMASCUS, 22 Feb — Syrian President Bashar al-Assad held separate talks with two US congressional delegations on Saturday and stressed the necessity for Washington to move away from the “dictating policy,” the official SANA news agency reported.

Assad met the two delegations, respectively headed by John Kerry, chairman of the US Senate’s Foreign Relations Committee, and Howard Berman, chairman of the US House of Representatives’ Foreign Relations commit-tee, SANA said.

“The Syrian-American relations must be based on the correct understanding of the region’s issues and the common interests,” Assad was quoted as saying.

“Dialogue is the only way to know the truth about the problems and put a comprehensive vision of the solutions based on the history of the region and the rights of its peoples,” he added.

Assad discussed with the US delegations bilateral relations and the situations in the Middle East, briefing them Syria’s vision on all the developments, SANA said.

“Aany talk about the peace process requires, first and foremost, the existence of parties who believe in peace and have the sincere intention to work for this purpose,” said Assad.—Internet

Children stranded by parents’ drug arrest

LIVERPOOL, 22 Feb — Four children were expected to return to Britain without their parents, who were arrested in Venezuela on drug trafficking charges while on a package vacation. The British Foreign Office told the Liverpool Post on Saturday that relatives were in Venezuela to retrieve the children.

Paul and Laura Makin were arrested as they tried to board an airplane for the trip home. They allegedly had about 50 pounds of cocaine with an eventual street value of as much as $2 million in their luggage. Laura Makin has a son and daughter from a previous relationship and the couple have 2-year-old twin girls. Social services in Venezuela took temporary custody of the children.—Internet

Australian man missing at Japanese ski resort of Niseko

NISEKO, 22 Feb — Police searches have failed to find an Australian man who went missing from a popular bar at the Japanese ski resort of Niseko.

Fears are held for the safety of the 27-year-old who went missing about 1:30am (local time) on Friday after celebrating with friends at Wild Bills bar in the village, according to skiing website Powderlife. Sub-zero temperatures and snowfalls have been recorded at the resort since the man went missing.

Police have conducted searches of the area and the Brisbane man’s relatives are believed to be flying to Japan from Australia. People had been known to fall asleep in the snow late at night after leaving local bars, although so far there had been no fatalities, the Powderlife website said.—Internet

Proposed treaty to reduce mercury use

NAIROBI, 22 Feb — A proposed treaty to be negotiated by more than 140 countries will focus on measures to reduce the use of mercury worldwide, a US official says.

Nancy Sutley, head of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, said in a statement that the proposed treaty will be created in such a way that signing countries will be legally bound to limit the use of the toxic metal, The Washington Post reported on Saturday.

“The United States will play a leading role in working with other nations to craft a global, legally binding agreement that will prevent the spread of mercury into the environment and improve the health of workers, pregnant women and children throughout the world,” Sutley said.—Internet

Mass city Misspells ‘official’ to catch bag cheats

No, managers with Gloucester’s Public Works Department aren’t idiots.

They’re just trying to catch toasters. When the Massachusetts city unveiled its new $2 purple trash bags that all residents must use when disposing of household waste, the word ‘official’ was deliberately spelled ‘offcial.’

Recycling coordinator Kathy Middleton tells The Gloucester Daily Times the intentional misspelling is supposed to make it easier to catch people who try to counterfeit bags. Middleton says counterfeiting has been a problem in the past.

Middleton says the next batch of bags the city orders will be correct.

Woman considers 24th marriage

An Indiana woman who has been single for 12 years after 23 marriages said she hasn’t ruled out getting married again. Linda Lou Taylor, 68, who holds a Guinness World Record as the most married woman in history, said two of her husbands turned out to be gay, two ended up homeless, a few cheated on her, one choked her and another padlocked the refrigerator shut, Gannett News Service reported Wednesday.

“It’s easy to sum up,” Taylor said of her oft-married life. “When I was younger I was just a snot-nosed kid but the neighbourhood boys were all in love with me. They all wanted to marry me.”

Taylor said that despite her 23 failed marriages and being single for the past dozen years, she has not ruled out future matrimony. “I would get married again,” she told Gannett, “because, you know, it gets lonely.”

Danton wreck found in deep water

A French battleship sunk in 1917 by a German submarine has been discovered in remarkable condition on the floor of the Mediterranean Sea.

The Danton, with many of its gun turrets still intact, is sitting upright in over 1,000m of water.

It was found by the Fugro geosciences company during a survey for a gas pipeline between Algeria and Italy.

The Danton, which sank with 296 sailors still onboard, lies 35km southwest of the island of Sardinia.

Naval historians record that the Danton’s Captain Delage stood on the bridge with his officers and made no attempt to leave the ship as it went down.

The French government is now keen to see that the site is protected.

“It’s condition is extraordinary,” said Rob Hawkins, project director with Fugro GeoConsulting Limited.

A float with the pattern of Chinese dragon is seen during the carnival parade in Panama City, capital of Panama, on 21 Feb, 2009. The four-day carnival kicked off on Saturday.—Xinhua

A man dips an i-Mate 810-F into a bowl of water at the GSMA Mobile World Conference in Barcelona February 18, 2009. The i-Mate 810-F is the world’s first complete lifestyle mobile phone with a lifetime warranty, according to the manufacturer’s official website.
Positive results of trips to Myanmar

Kyaw Min Lu (Shwepyitha)

The appointment of special rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar is to give advice to improve human rights in the nation. However, some radio stations aired that Mr. Gambari might be mandated to hold talks with U Win Tin, the chairman of the Tripartite Core Group and the Minister for Labour in response to his request.

On 19 February meeting, Mr. Quintana met the director-general of the Myanmar Police Force, the representatives of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation. In the afternoon, he exchanged views on peace protection and improving human rights in Myanmar with the Myanmar human rights association led by Deputy Attorney-General Tun Shin.

In meeting with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Home Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw, Mr. Quintana expressed his wish to meet U Win Tin. So, visits of Mr. Gambari to special envoy, but U Win Tin declined the programme, and he could not meet with U Win Tin. The letter of U Win Tin was handed to him through the official.

Before his departure home, Mr. Quintana held a press conference at Yangon International Airport. He said that there still were challenges of protecting and improving human rights in Myanmar. Mr. Quintana also mentioned the importance of the cooperation with UN and meet with the minister for Home Affairs, the minister told him that he would pay serious attention to his suggestions on human rights.

In response to the questions of the reporters at the press conference, he said that he did not know why U Win Tin declined to meet him; and that the progress of his trip was the chief justice's response to his suggestions about human rights. Some media said that his initial aims were not achieved fully, and the trip did not produce any specific results because he did not have opportunities to meet certain persons and organization. They failed to keep the little image of their part.

Despite the negative comments, the people believed that Mr. Gambari's trip brought about positive results, and Mr. Quintana's visit to Myanmar generated a lot of discussions. Previously, special envoy Mr. Gambari in Myanmar held talks only with expatriates, remnant armed insurgent groups and political opportunists in the border of the neighbouring country to compile reports. In contrast, Mr. Quintana had opportunities to visit Kayin State and study the real conditions of local people, hold talks with national race armed groups that have made peace with the government, and listen to the words of local people. Moreover, Mr. Quintana on his tour could meet all persons he should meet, so he had an opportunity to observe the plans the government is implementing. He also could exchange views cordially with those responsible. He made several positive suggestions, and the government showed positive response to his suggestions, and willingness to cooperate with him. So, it is safe to say that his trip brought about prospects for improvement.

The release of 6313 prisoners resulted from the success of the trip. If the government works to improve the condition of the prisoners, it might work out a programme to release the prisoners. Therefore, the government must be obligatory to release the prisoners.

Mr. Quintana made several positive suggestions, and the government showed positive response to his suggestions, and willingness to cooperate with him. So, it is safe to say that his trip brought about prospects for improvement.
Prime Minister inspects ...

(from page 1)

Wellwisher U Aung Zaw Myint and wife Dr Myat Myat Ohn Khin also presented ten sewing machines to him.

Altogether 60 trainees from Pyapon and nearby villages are taking the 10-week course that includes tailoring, knitting, cookery and snacks-preparing.

At Shweyatu Yeitkha, Ayeyawady Division Superintendent Engineer U Myint Thein reported to the Prime Minister on construction of 39 miles 2 furlongs- Bogale-Setsan-Htaw-paing- Ahmar road and Pyapon-Kyonkadon-Ahmar road. Maj-Gen Ko of the Ministry of Defence gave supplementary reports. After hearing reports, the Prime Minister fulfilled the needs.

The Prime Minister said the Head of State had given guidance on construction of road networks in the storm-hit areas as a preparedness task in case of natural disasters. Maubin-Yelegale-Shwetaung- hmaw - Kyaikpi-Mawlamyinegyun road, Mawlamyinegyun-Hlhonephone-Thitpoe-Kiwmpak-Pynsaluroad, Labutta-Thingangyi-Pynsalu road, Bogale-Kyaunchaung-Kadonkani road and Labutta - Thonwga-Oktwin-Hleiksonroad will be built under the guidance of the Head of State.

Bogale-Setsan-Hawlpaing- Ahmar road will be built and Pyapon-Kyonkadon-Daw Nyein-Ahmar road will also be upgraded. These network roads will be used as a hillock or embankment in some places. The Prime Minister urged the officials to finish the projects before monsoon.

At Kadonkani Village, Bogale Town- ship, the Prime Minister and party inspected the work of building cyclone shelters and hillocks and digging drinking water lake by Htoo Trading Co Ltd. The Prime Minister urged officials to give first priority to construction of cyclone shelters.

At Ahmar Hospital, the Prime Minister visited wards, operation theatre, medical warehouse, dispensaries and health care services.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein heard a report on facilitation of the earthworks being undertaken by the company presented by Chairman U Teza of Htoo Trading Co Ltd.

The Prime Minister and party inspected the progress in building Kyinechaung-Bogale road and cultivation of summer paddy from helicopter during their flight from Kadonkani village to Kaingtawgyi Bridge construction project site in Bogale Township.

At the briefing hall, Chief Engineer U Soe Tint of Public Works reported on progress in carrying out earthworks at 41° mile on Bogale-Kyeinchaung-Kadonkani Road, and building of hillocks and the bridges and Deputy-Superintendent Engineer U Kyaw Lin of Bridge Construction Project Special Unit-4 on the construction of Kinetawgyi Creek bridge which is 400-feet long and 12-feet wide, Phalachaung bridge, which is 50-feet long and 12-feet wide, Thaingchaung bridge-1, 61-feet long and 12-feet wide, and Thaingchaung bridge-2, 60-feet long and 12-feet wide, on Bogale-Kyeinchaung-Kadonkani road. The Prime Minister urged the officials to construct the roads simultaneously.

On arrival at Bogale Education College in Bogale Township, the Prime Minister cordially greeted the trainees taking basic domestic science course No-1 at the Education College. The Prime Minister inspected learning of tailoring, cookery and clothes made by the trainees. He told the officials to present handsome prizes to the
Prime Minister inspects …

(from page 8)

outstanding ones at the course.

The Prime Minister presented cash assistance to
course in-charge, Chairman of Htoo Trading Co Ltd
U Teza presented 40 sewing machines to the course
in-charge.

The Prime Minister went to Pathin by helicopter.
At Meeting Hall of South-West Command, he met
with officials concerned of construction companies
that are carrying out the rehabilitation tasks and building
cyclone shelters for storm-hit areas in Ayeyawady
Division.

The officials concerned of Shwe Thanlwin Co,
FMI, Tetlan, TZTM, Eya-Shewa, Moe Kyasin, Max
Myanmar, A-1, Wah Wah Win, Myat Noe Thu, Htoo
Trading, Diamond Mercury, Dagon International,
Yuzana, Aden Group, Mya Nanda and Shwetaung
Companies reported on the completion of the earth
works, bore pile, stockpiling of construction materials
and availability of water for the construction of Cyclone
Shelter (500 people) at Chaungwa, Pyinshkayang,
Thangangyi and Thatkalhuang villages in Ngapadaw
Township, Thangangyi, Zinyweyi, Saluseik, Pyinsalu-
1, Pyinsalu-2, Poelaung and Thitpate villages in Labutta
Township, Kadondani and Aye villages in Bogale
Township, Amp, Daw Nyein and Damineik villages
in Pyapon Township and Kyonda village in Dadeye
Township. Then responsible personnel of Mya Nanda
and Shwetaung Companies also reported on progress
of work of construction of primary schools in Toe and
Thaughtkya Villages.

After hearing the reports, Prime Minister General
Thein Sein fulfilled the requirements. He said the
cyclone shelters can save lives in case of natural
disaster and he told the officials to finish the cyclone
shelters before the rainy season.—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

Dedaye, Pyapon in Ayeyawady
Div witness development

NAV PYI TAW, 22 Feb
—Maj-Gen Ko Ko of the
Ministry of Defence
together with Chairman of
Ayeyawady Division Peace
and Development Council
Commander of South West
Command Maj-Gen Kyaw
Swe and officials arrived at
affiliated high school in
Thaunkya Village in
Dedaye Township on 20
February.

At the school, In-
charge of Myananda Co
Ltd reported on the site
chosen for construction of
Cyclone Shelter and other
tasks, the headmaster on
reconstruction of
damaged school buildings
caused by storm and
education sectors. The
commander gave a
supplementary report.

Next, Maj-Gen Ko
visited learning of
school children, the site
for construction of
Cyclone Shelter and
beautifying tasks of the
village.

At the dispensary, the
head of Township Heath
Department and officials
reported to the Maj-Gen
Ko on progress work in
construction of
dispensary and rural health
care services being carried
out by the health
department.

During his visit, he
inspected fishing work
being conducted by
residents and conservation
of mangrove forest by
boat.

Afterwards, the Maj-
Gen Ko went to Pyapon
and inspected the extension
building of the 200-bed
hospital constructed by
Dagon Inter-national Co
Ltd, holding a meeting with
officers and other ranks and
families of Pyapon region
command, providing
personal goods, clothes and
sewing machines.—MNA

Summer paddy thriving in Dalla Township, Yangon Division

YANGON, 22 Feb—Lt-
Gen Myint Swe of
Ministry of Defence
accompanied by senior
military officers and
departmental personnel
visited the summer paddy
field of farmer U Khin
Maung Htay at
Rakhineyaung (North)
village-tract in Dalla
Township, Yangon South
District, Yangon Division,
this evening where he
observed collective
broadcasting of fertilizer
and thriving summer
paddy fields. Lt-Gen
Myint Swe also inspected
summer paddy field of U
Kyaw Nang in Thaunkya
village.

He cordially met with
farmers and made
arrangements to facilitate
cultivation work.

Director-General of No.2 BED pays working visit to Shan State (East)

NAV PYI TAW, 22 Feb —Director-
General of No.2 Basic Education
Department U Aye Lwin visited Basic
Education schools in Tachilek,
Mongsat, Mongphyat, Kengtung
Townships from 18 to 21 February and
inspected the learning of the students,
condition of school buildings, cleaning
and beautifying of the school and its
environment, sufficiency of classroom
facilities and preparation for holding the
matric exam and holding of test in school.

Afterwards, the Director-General
looked into office of township education
officer and office of Joint-State education
officer in Kengtung Township, Shan
State (East).

Foreign Minister felicitates Brunei counterpart

NAV PYI TAW, 23 Feb —On the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the National Day of Brunei
Darussalam which falls on 23 February 2009, U
Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of
Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Royal Highness Prince Haji Mohamed Bolkiah,
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei
Darussalam.— MNA
Nowadays, 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 might and main to complete the projects for adequate supply of electric power and safe water for the entire people.

Now, the 10-year project (2000-2001 to 2009-2010) is ongoing for supply of sufficient safe water in rural areas throughout the country.

The following table depicts the success the government has achieved in implementing the projects for adequate supply of safe water the length and breadth of the country.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State/Division</th>
<th>Targeted villages</th>
<th>Benefited villages</th>
<th>Facilities</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sagaing, Magway, Mandalay Divisions</td>
<td>8042</td>
<td>8039</td>
<td>12551</td>
<td>Over 99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other States and Divisions</td>
<td>15183</td>
<td>13626</td>
<td>19311</td>
<td>About 90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>23225</td>
<td>21665</td>
<td>31862</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Of them, the water supply facilities constructed for supply of adequate clean water in rural areas of Mandalay Division are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Targeted villages</th>
<th>Benefited villages</th>
<th>Facilities</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mandalay Division</td>
<td>4119</td>
<td>4119</td>
<td>6396</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meiktila District</td>
<td>757</td>
<td>757</td>
<td>1260</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The government has been implementing the 10-year project (2000-2001 to 2009-2010) for sufficient safe water supply.
One-fifth of fossil-fuel emissions absorbed by threatened forests

Leeds, 22 Feb—Globally, tropical trees in undisturbed forest are absorbing nearly a fifth of the CO₂ emissions from the atmosphere each year. This includes a previously unknown carbon sink in Africa, mopping up 1.2 billion tonnes of CO₂ each year. Published today in Nature, the 40 year study of African tropical forests—one third of the world’s total tropical forest—shows that for at least the last few decades each hectare of intact African forest has trapped an extra 0.6 tonnes of carbon per year. The scientists then assessed the new African data together with South American and Asian findings to assess the total sink in tropical forests. Analysis of these 250,000 tree records reveals that, on average, remaining undisturbed forests are trapping carbon, showing that they are a globally significant carbon sink.—Internet

Permafrost thawing in northern Sweden

Stockholm, 22 Feb—Areas with lowland permafrost are likely to shrink in northern Sweden. Warmer summers and more winter precipitation are two of the reasons. This is shown in a new dissertation from Lund University in Sweden.

Permafrost. Permafrost is ground that is frozen year round at least two years in a row. North of the Arctic Circle permafrost is common due to the cold climate. For several years, physical geographer Margareta Johansson at Lund University has studied lowland permafrost in peat mires surrounding Abisko. Permafrost is on the edge of its range there. Johansson states that permafrost is being affected “At one of our sites, permafrost has completely disappeared from the greater part of the mire during the last decade,” she says.

In areas where permafrost is thawing the ground becomes unstable and can collapse. This can be a local and regional problem in areas with cities and infrastructure. Moreover, the thaw can cause increased emissions of the greenhouse gases carbon dioxide and methane from the ground. Roughly 25 percent of all land surface in the northern hemisphere are underlain by permafrost.

Fruit flies sick from mating

Uppsala, 22 Feb—Mating can be exhausting. When fruit flies mate, the females’ genes are activated to roughly the same extent as when an immune reaction starts. This is shown in a study at Uppsala University that is now appearing in the scientific publication Journal of Evolutionary Biology. Using a combination of behavioral studies and genomic technology, so-called microarrays, researchers at Uppsala University can show how fruit fly females are affected by mating.

“We monitor how genetic expression is impacted by mating and show that the most common process that is affected is the immune defense system,” says Ted Morrow at the Department of Ecology and Evolution, Uppsala University.

What’s more, the cost of mating turns out to be rather high. “Previous research findings show that if this cost were not a factor, females would produce 20 percent more offspring,” says Ted Morrow. It is costly for females to mate because competition among males has led to behaviours and adaptations in males that are injurious to females, such as harassment during mating rituals and toxic proteins in their sperm fluid. “Our results are the strongest evidence that the cost to females is probably tied to the cost of starting an immune reaction. In other words, the males are like a ‘sickness’ to females,” says Ted Morrow.—Internet

Pathogenic bacterium identified in Cod

Oslo, 22 Feb—Farmed cod have recently been hit by a serious disease caused by an unknown bacterium. In his doctorate, Jarle Mikalsen contributed to the identification of this bacterium, now called Francisella philomiragia noatunensis. The disease caused by the bacterium is now called francisellosis and is listed in the national disease register and regulated under the terms of the Norwegian Food Act.

Mikalsen’s work, with intracellular bacteria (bacteria living in body cells) of farmed cod and salmon has increased knowledge and improved the diagnostics of these bacteria. It has been an important contribution to the understanding of bacterial infections in the fish farming industry. This thesis is the result of a collaboration by several Norwegian research environments. Its central goal was to increase our knowledge of bacterial infections and significance for health or economy in the farming industry. Mikalsen’s work with Francisella philomiragia noatunensis presented a new diagnostic method for demonstrating pathogenic bacteria in Norwegian fish farming, and an important part of this work was the identification and characterisation of the bacterium Francisella philomiragia noatunensis.—Internet

Indoor plants can reduce formaldehyde levels

Research Institute compared the absorption rate of two types of houseplants. The results of the experiment on Weeping Fig (Ficus benjamina) and Fatsia japonica, an evergreen shrub, were published in the Journal of American Society for Horticultural Science.

Perimort. Fatsia japonica. Researchers found that complete plants removed approximately 80% of the formaldehyde in the air within 4 hours.—Internet

Fruit fly (Drosophila melanogaster). ‘Frozen smoke:’ Ultimate sponge for cleaning up oil spills

Science Daily, 22 Feb—Scientists in Arizona and New Jersey are reporting that aerogels, a super-lightweight solid sometimes called “frozen smoke,” may serve as the ultimate sponge for capturing oil from wastewater and effectively soaking up environmental oil spills.

In the new study, Robert Pfeffer and colleagues point out that the environmental challenges of oil contamination go beyond widely publicized maritime oil spills like the Exxon Valdez incident.

Experts estimate that each year people dump more than 200 million gallons of used oil into sewers, streams, and backyards, resulting in polluted wastewater that is difficult to treat. Although there are many different sorbent materials for removing used oil, such as activated carbon, they are often costly and inefficient. Hydrophobic silica aerogels are highly porous and absorbent material, and seemed like an excellent oil sponge.—Internet
Google phones open Asian market in Singapore

SINGAPUR, 22 Feb—Singapore’s SingTel telecommunication began on Saturday selling the Google phone to local consumers, according to local media.

The Google phone, or the HTC Dream mobile, is the first gadget in Asia running on Google-based Android operating system, which integrates well with Google’s online search, email and map applications, TB broadcaster Channelnewsasia said.

CEO of SingTel Mobile, Yuen Kuan Moon said the Google phone, with a full Qwerty-based keyboard, is opposed to going full touch immediately and may not be an immediate segment of the market which the company does not want to ignore.

The Google phone, which must be bought with a two-year contract from SingTel, cost between 238 and 438 Singapore dollars (about 155 to 286 US dollars), depending on the subscription contract.

Gunmen kill at least six football fans in Nigeria

YENEGOA (Nigeria), 22 Feb—Gunmen ambushed a busload of football fans travelling to a match in southern Nigeria on Saturday and killed at least six in an apparent revenge attack, police and local officials said.

The supporters were travelling from Yenegoa in Bayelsa state to neighbouring Delta state. Local officials said the execution-style killing appeared to be retaliation for a night club shooting in Yenegoa on Friday. “The fans coming to Delta were ambushed and shot. Eight were killed and seven were injured and are in hospital,” Delta state police spokesman Charles Muka said.

A senior Bayelsa state government official who visited the scene said he had seen six bodies being taken to the mortuary in the nearby town of Ughelli. Another local official put the death toll among the “Ocean Boys” football supporters at 13.

Sudan says 28 killed in clashes with Darfur rebels

KHARTOUM, 22 Feb—Seventeen rebels and 11 Sudanese soldiers were reportedly killed in clashes in Darfur, the Army said, days after Khartoum signed a goodwill agreement with an insurgent movement.

The statement released to state media late on Friday was Sudan’s first acknowledgement that it was fighting the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) despite the tentative deal, which did not include a ceasefire but was meant to pave the way for peace talks.

The renewed violence has come at a sensitive time in Darfur, where all sides in the near six-year conflict are waiting for International Criminal Court judges to decide whether to issue an arrest warrant for Sudan’s president on charges of orchestrating war crimes in the region.

Sudan’s Armed Forces spokesman said the Army clashed with JEM in the Donki area on Thursday, just 25 kilometres (15 miles) northwest of El Fasher, the capital of north Darfur and headquarters of the region’s joint UN/African Union peacekeeping force.

Grenade attack wounds five in Mexican beach town

ACAPULCO, 22 Feb—Assailants in an SUV hurled two grenades at a police station in the Pacific resort town of Zihuatanejo on Saturday, wounding one officer and four civilians.

Police and soldiers stepped up patrols and set up extra checkpoints after the attack in the popular beach town north of Acapulco, according to the Guerrero state Public Safety Department.

Three taxi drivers, a woman and a policeman were hurt. Grenade attacks have become a fixture in Mexico’s brutal cartel-related violence.

Last week, five civilians and an officer were wounded in a grenade assault on a police patrol in western Michoacan state.

In central Mexico, gunmen wielding AK-47s opened fire on two restaurateurs Saturday, killing two people. The first attack occurred in the town of Acelia and the second in a highway eatery south of Mexico City. Police were trying to determine the motive and whether the two attacks were related.
US bank stress tests to show capital needs

WASHINGTON, 22 Feb—US financial regulators will soon launch a series of “stress tests” to determine which of the largest US banks should get bigger capital cushions in case of a deeper recession, a person familiar with Obama Administration plans said on Saturday.

The person, speaking on condition of anonymity, said if institutions were found to need additional capital, financial authorities would provide them with an “extra cushion of support.” Banks are expected to receive additional information about the tests in the coming week from regulators.

The largest US banks are “well capitalized” for current conditions, the source said, but the Obama Administration wants to ensure they can withstand a more severe economic climate and play an important role in helping restart the flow of credit. Initial plans for the stress tests were announced on 10 February as part of Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner’s bank stabilization plan, but the source said on Saturday for the first time linked the tests to additional government support for large banks. That person did not specify what form any extra capital cushion may take. Little is known about the form of the stress tests, but the person described them as “consistent, forward looking and conservative.” MNA/Reuters

Thrift seeking may be based in the brain

LEXINGTON, 22 Feb—The brains of thrill seekers differ from those of who avoid risky behaviour, US researchers suggest.

Psychologists Jane E. Joseph, Xun Liu, Yang Jiang and Thomas H Kelly of the University of Kentucky, along with Donald Lyman of Purdue University, recruited two sets of volunteers — high sensation seekers or low sensation seekers — based on their responses to personality surveys and risk-taking questionnaires. Both groups were shown a variety of photographs — ranging from mundane scenes of cows and food to very emotional and arousing images such as erotic scenes and violent pictures — while having their brains scanned with functional magnetic resonance imaging.

The study, published in the journal Psychological Science, found there was increased activity in the brain region known as the insula when high sensation seekers viewed the arousing photographs. Previous research has shown that the insula is active during addictive behaviors, such as craving cigarettes, the researchers say.

MNA/Reuters

Developed economies nations urged to avoid protectionism

JAKARTA, 22 Feb—Indonesia and Thailand on Friday urged developed countries not to impose protectionism to cushion the fallout of the global recession.

The statement was made by Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and visiting Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejajiva in a joint Press briefing after their meeting at the State Palace here. Concern has risen recently on raising number of countries turning into protectionism to lessen the impact of the global financial crisis.

A salvage vessel hoists a capsized ferry out of the water in Barishal on 19 February. Search and rescue workers in southern Bangladesh recovered 12 more dead bodies following a ferry accident, bringing the death toll to 39, police said on Sunday. —INTERNET

Indian Air Force to install low range Aerosat Radar

NEW DELHI, 22 Feb—The Indian Air Force will soon install an Aerosat Radar which can pick up targets flying even at low ranges, a senior Indian Air Force officer on Saturday, one day after Tamil Tiger rebels bombed the Sri Lankan capital Colombo with two small aircraft.

“Considering the region’s strategic importance, an Aerosat Radar capable of picking up targets at low ranges would be installed at Southern Air Command (SAC) in two years,” Southern Air Command’s chief Air Marshal S Radhakrishnan told the media in the south Indian state of Kerala.

Tamil Tiger rebels carried out surprise attacks on Colombo Friday night, which killed at least two people and injured 54 others. Local media reports said Sri Lankan troops used India-supplied radars to detect the two rebel planes and shot them down.

MNA/Xinhua

NZ’s Fonterra advised of new melamine scare

WELLINGTON, 22 Feb—Dairy giant Fonterra announced on Saturday that one of its suppliers, a Germany-based company called Budenheim, has advised Fonterra that an iron supplement Budenheim supplies to food companies around the world had tested positive for melamine.

Fonterra uses very small quantities of the iron supplement in fortified whole milk powder products, the New Zealand dairy co-operative said in a Press release.

Fonterra said it had immediately stopped all production using the supplement and was sourcing a replacement product.

In addition, as an added precaution Fonterra had undertaken extensive retesting of retention samples of the affected batches of Fonterra’s milk powder products. No melamine had been detected in any of its products, it said.

Fonterra said it was working with the New Zealand Food Safety Authority (NZFSA) and reviewing each batch of product to ensure that the product is safe to go to market. MNA/Xinhua

List of winners at Spirit Awards

LOS ANGELES, 22 Feb—Following is a list of winners of the Spirit Awards, the arthouse world’s equivalent of the Oscars, which were handed out during a ceremony at Santa Monica beach on Saturday.

BEST FEATURE — “The Wrestler”
BEST DIRECTOR — Tom McCarthy, “The Visitor”
BEST MALE LEAD — Mickey Rourke, “The Wrestler”
BEST FEMALE LEAD — Melissa Leo, “Frozen River”
BEST SUPPORTING MALE — James Franco, “Milk”
BEST SUPPORTING FEMALE — Penelope Cruz, “Vicky Cristina Barcelona”
BEST FIRST FEATURE — “Synecdoche, New York”
BEST FIRST SCREENPLAY — Dustin Lance Black, “Milk”
BEST SCREENPLAY — Woody Allen, “Vicky Cristina Barcelona”
BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY — Maryse Alberti, “The Wrestler”
BEST DOCUMENTARY — “Man on Wire”
BEST FOREIGN FILM — “The Class” (France) — MNA/Reuters

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Monday, 23 February, 2009 13
Real Madrid’s forward Arjen Robben (R) fights for the ball with Betis’ defenders Juan Melli (L) and Fabian Monzon during their Spanish league football match at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid. —INTERNET

**SPORTS**

**Chinese Golf Open of the Year**

**INTERNET**

**AMATEURS**

**INTERNET**

**Fabian Monzon during their Spanish league football match at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid.** —INTERNET

**Six-shooters Real fire Liverpool warning, Barcelona taste derby defeat**

**INTERNET**

**Mourinho says Man Utd best counter-attackers in world**

**INTERNET**

**Injuries worry Man United ahead of Inter Milan clash**

**INTERNET**

**Venus salutes Peer in Dubai victory speech**

**INTERNET**

**Roddick, Stepanek advance, Azarenka triumphs in Memphis tennis**

**INTERNET**

**Amateur Danny Lee wins Johnnie Walker Classic day in the Johnnie Walker Classic. The 18-year-old New Zealander, set to turn pro after the Masters, had a 17-under 271 total on the Vines Resort’s composite course.**

**INTERNET**

**“It feels like I’m dreaming at the moment,” Lee said. “I won lots of amateur tournaments before and the US Amateur, but this is totally different feeling. It’s a pro event. All I wanted to do is make the cut and play well and get in the top 20. But I played extremely well today, and I won it.”**

**INTERNET**
British pilot dies in light aircraft crash

LONDON, 22 Feb — A 50-year-old man has died after his single-seater aircraft crashed beside a runway at Fenland Airfield near Spalding in Lincolnshire police said on Saturday.

Lincolnshire Police said the crash was not believed to be suspicious and no other people or police said on Saturday.

An aircraft crashed near a runway at Fenland Airfield in Lincolnshire, England, killing the pilot. The cause of the crash is not yet known.

A photographer takes a picture of the Chinese bronze rat head and rabbit head sculptures displayed on the preview of the auction of Yves Saint Laurent and Pierre Bergé’s art collection at the Grand Palais in Paris, France, on 21 Feb, 2009.

Chinese lawyers have filed a motion to a French court seeking an injunction to stop auction house Christie’s putting two bronze relics looted from China under the hammer, lawyers said Friday.

The two relics, a bronze rat head and a bronze rabbit head, were looted from China’s imperial summer resort Yuanmingyuan when it was burnt down by Anglo-French allied forces during the Second Opium War in 1860. — INTERNET

**WEATHER**

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST:

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area:

**WEATHER**

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST:

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area:

Forecast valid until evening of 23rd February 2009:

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Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST:

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area:

Forecast valid until evening of 23rd February 2009:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Four political objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, prevalence of law and order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* National reconsolidation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Four economic objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>* Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Four social objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>* Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Zee Creek Dam inaugurated in Rakhine State to irrigate crop land, generate power**

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb—Zee Creek Dam was inaugurated in Kyauktaw Township, Rakhine State yesterday.

The earth dam was built on Zee Creek by Irrigation Department Construction 3 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and it is the 219th one for the country. With 840 feet long and 115 feet high embankment, the dam can store 7,530-acre feet of water. It can supply water to 1,000 acres of cultivable land and generate 80 kilowatts.

Present on the inauguration ceremony were Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Thaung Aye, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, members of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council, local authorities, departmental officials, members of social organizations and local people.

The commander said the Zee Creek Dam is the sixth one to be opened for Rakhine State. Water is now available for cultivation of summer and other crops in the region. He urged the local people to take part in the development projects of the region as the respective ministries give special priority to all-round development of Rakhine State.

He also urged them to actively participate in the 2009 Rakhine State all-round development year.

Next, Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo said the dam was successfully opened for boosting production of agricultural produce and supply of power in the township.

The minister elaborated on development of cultivable lands, efforts for availability of water, research on production of quality seeds and distribution and maintenance of the dam.

U Ba Saw of Kyauktaw Township thanked the government for construction of the dam.

The commander and the ministers cordially greeted those present.

The commander formally unveiled the stone plaque of the dam. The commander, the ministers and party sprinkled scented water to it.

The commander, the ministers and the guests posed for souvenirs. Then they visited the dam.—MNA

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**Mourinho: bring on United**

MILAN, 22 Feb—Jose Mourinho has claimed to be delighted that Inter Milan must face Champions League holders Manchester United next week. The former Chelsea coach is in typically bullish mood even though the Serie A leaders have handed the toughest last-16 draw possible after failing to win their group.

Inter entertain United at the San Siro on Tuesday knowing it is almost half a century since they last won the competition, and in the knowledge they were eliminated by Sir Alex Ferguson’s men at the quarter-final stage in 1999 when the Red Devils went on to win the trophy.

But, despite the Premier League’s apparent superiority to Serie A, Mourinho cannot wait.