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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 political objectives

- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, prevalence of law and order
- National reconsolidation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four 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

Senior General Than Shwe sees off Prime Minister General Thein Sein on latter’s departure for Thailand

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

Senior General Than Shwe sees off Prime Minister General Thein Sein at Nay Pyi Taw Airport. —MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Feb—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe saw off Prime Minister General Thein Sein at Nay Pyi Taw Airport at 10 a.m. today.

The Prime Minister left here by special aircraft today to attend the 14th ASEAN Summit to be held in Hua Hin of Thailand at the invitation of Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva of Thailand.

Also present at the airport were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Secretary-1 of the SPDC Lt-Gen Thira Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, SPDC member Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, Maj-Gen Ko Ko, Lt-Gen Tha Aye, Lt-Gen Khin Zaw, Li-Gen Ye Myint, Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and Maj-Gen Maung Shein of the Ministry of Defence, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung, Director-General Col Kyaw Kyaw Win of the SPDC Office, departmental heads, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Bansarn Bunnag and officials.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein was accompanied by Director-General Col Thanl Kyaw Shin of the Government Office, Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, departmental heads and officials.

Members of the delegation for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha left here for Hua Hin of Thailand in advance yesterday to attend the ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Meeting and the ASEAN Economic Ministers’ Meeting before the ASEAN Summit. MNA

Senior General Than Shwe shakes hands with Prime Minister General Thein Sein before departure for Thailand at Nay Pyi Taw Airport. —MNA
Exert concerted efforts for industrial development

Myanmar is trying its utmost for development of the industrial sector based on agriculture. Development of the industrial sector plays a pivotal role in building a peaceful modern and developed nation.

Efforts are being made for transforming the nation into an industrialized one in terms of ensuring the development of agro-based industries, of boosting the quality and quantity of industrial products, of producing more new items and of producing industrial items. A ceremony to open and hand over the Technical Training School (Thagara) established in Thagara Industrial Region in Yedashe Township, Bago Division, was held at the industrial region on 25 February.

The technical training school was jointly established by the Ministry of Industry-2 and Korean International Cooperation Agency. The main hall of the training school is complete with the lecture room, the student affairs department and the electronic department that are facilitated with teaching and learning aids, industrial equipment and computers. The training school conducts one-year courses at which four subjects are taught.

For industrial development the government is taking steps for the development of State-run industrial sector, private industrial sector and industrial sector run with foreign investment.

The emergence of the training school will surely contribute much to the development of the industrial sector of the State. This being so, the entire national people are to strive together with the government for the development of industries in line with one of the four economic objectives—the initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples.
Iran slams US statement on its nuclear programme, terrorism

UNITED NATIONS, 27 Feb—Iran Thursday lashed out at the US statement on its nuclear programme and alleged engagement in terrorism, saying such allegations “baseless and absurd.”

In a letter circulated to the UN Security Council president, the Iranian permanent representative to the United Nations, Mohammad Khazaei, said, “It is unfortunate that the Security Council yet again heard some baseless allegations against the Islamic Republic of Iran by the representative of the United States in today’s meeting of the council on Iraq.”

The US ambassador to the United Nations, Susan Rice, said the new US administration will seek to end Iran’s nuclear ambitions and its support for terrorism. This comments at the end of an open meeting of the UN Security Council on Iraq drew an immediate rebuke on Thursday from Iranian UN ambassador.

“Despite the allegations made by the US representative, Iran’s nuclear programme has been, is and will remain absolutely peaceful and Iran has never tried nor will ever try to acquire nuclear weapons,” the letter said.

“It is unfortunate that, yet again, we are hearing the same tired, un-warranted and groundless allegations that used to be unjustifiably and futilely repeated by the previous US administration,” the letter said.

McCain, Obama on same page on Iraq

WASHINGTON, 27 Feb—US Sen John McCain, R-Ariz, says he agrees with President Barack Obama’s reported plan for troop withdrawals from Iraq.

The Huffington Post reported on Thursday that McCain said if he had been elected president he would have made the same decision on a timetable for troop withdrawals, since that is what the nation’s military leaders recommend. The plan is backed by such officials as US Ambassador to Iraq Ryan Crocker and Generals Raymond Odierno and David Petraeus.

“I like it best because it’s what Ambassador Crocker and General Odierno and General Petraeus also felt was a suitable strategy,” McCain said of the president’s plan, which Obama has suggested might leave 50,000 combat troops in Iraq. Critics of the reported plan have suggested any troops remaining in Iraq after a withdrawal would, by definition, combat troops. McCain the plan seems to be “a viable strategy.”

UK faces rendition allegation over Iraq transfers

LONDON, 27 Feb—The British government has admitted for the first time that its troops in Iraq handed over to the US two terror suspects who were then transferred to Afghanistan for interrogation, sparking fresh claims that it collapsed over extraordinary rendition.

John Hutton, the Defence Secretary, told MPs in the Commons that he had been aware about the incident in 2004 and that “it should have been questioned at the time”.

The case was featured in lengthy papers that went in front of two cabinet ministers, Jack Straw, the then-foreign secretary, and Charles Clarke, previously the home secretary, he added.

Both deny having seen the references, and Mr Hutton claimed that they were buried in the papers and their significance was not flagged.
Canton Fair provides platform for promotion of Sino-South Africa trade

JOHANNESBURG, 27 Feb—The 105th Canton Fair, to be held between April and May 2009, has been formally introduced to South Africans in Johannesburg on Thursday by Zhang Zhigang, deputy director of the Committee for Economic Affairs of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).

Zhang, also Vice President of China Import and Export Fair and chairman of the Council of China Foreign Trade Centre, told the meeting that China Import and Export Fair, also renowned as the Canton Fair, is held biannually in Guangzhou every spring and autumn.

The Canton Fair has been held uninterrupted for over 100 sessions since 1957. The fair, comprehensive in nature, has won its renown of “China’s No 1 Fair” for its long history, the largest scale, the most complete exhibit variety, the biggest buyer attendance and the greatest business turnover in China.

Zhang said in an interview with Xinhua on Thursday that China and South Africa have witnessed fast expanding economic and trade cooperation in the past 10 years since the two countries forged diplomatic ties.

In 2008, China and South Africa reaped a bilateral trade turnover of 17.8 billion US dollars, up 27 percent over the previous year. And a total of 3,091 South African businesses and enterprises attended the Canton Fair in 2008, signing contracts totaling 1.16 billion US dollars.

Zhang Zhigang said that China and South Africa, both as important development countries, are strongly complementary in economic and trade cooperation. Both have huge potential to tap in each other’s markets.

President of China Import and Export Fair, also biannually held in Canton, China, is known as the “China’s No 1 Fair”.

Obama may attend US-EU April meeting in Czech Republic

PRAGUE, 27 Feb—US President Barack Obama is expected to attend a US-EU meeting scheduled for April in the Czech capital, the CTK news agency reported on Thursday.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Defence Secretary Robert Gates are also likely to go along with Obama, CTK quoted diplomatic sources as saying.

Other local media said Obama is expected to arrive here on 4 April or 5 April. The US embassy here has yet to confirm the news.

The Czech Republic now holds the rotating EU presidency.

Crude prices jump as OPEC to cut supply

NEW YORK, 27 Feb—Crude prices jumped Thursday as OPEC will cut output again.

OPEC member the United Arab Emirates announced it was cutting back supplies to Asia for April after the cartel warned to cut more production when it meets in March.

Since September, OPEC has cut output by 4.2 million barrels per day as part of efforts to stem the steep drop in prices as demand shrinks.

US government data released on Wednesday showed US gasoline demand is rising over the last week while imports over the last two weeks are more than 10 percent below the prior month’s average.

Light, sweet crude for April delivery jumped 6.4 percent, or 2.72 US dollars to settle at 45.22 dollars a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

One third of companies expect to cut jobs

WELLINGTON, 27 Feb—Business confidence in New Zealand has continued in the doldrums at the start of 2009 with one in three firms now expecting to shed staff.

The National Bank’s first monthly survey of the year, released on Friday, showed pessimists outnumber optimists, with a net 41 percent of businesses expecting the economy to worsen over the coming year, a drop of six percentage points.

Firms’ expectations of their own activity improved slightly, but only from its worst-ever reading to its second-worst reading of a net 20 percent.

With employment and investment intentions at all-time lows, National Bank chief economist Cameron Bagrie said it suggests the downturn is heading into a new phase.

He added that the first stage was about demand, the second is about the business sector’s response to the difficult economic climate which is to cut back on staff and investment.

US new home sales drop to lowest level on record

WASHINGTON, 27 Feb—New home sales in the United States plunged 10.2 percent in January to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 309,000 units, the lowest level on record, the Commerce Department reported on Thursday. The January sales were 48.2 percent below the year-earlier level.

Regionally, new home sales fell by 12.5 percent in the Northeast last month and were down 28.0 percent in the West. In the Midwest, meanwhile, sales dropped by 3.1 percent to 342,000 units, the 13th consecutive decline. In light of weak demand, that still represented a supply of 13.3 months at the current sales rate.

The weak showing for new home sales indicated that the country is still in the grips of the severe housing slump, which many analysts believe will last for some time, given the difficult sales environment. 

Japan’s jobless rate at 4.1% in January

TOKYO, 27 Feb—Japan’s jobless rate stood at 4.1 percent in January, down 0.2 percentage point from December, the government said on Friday.

The number of unemployed people totaled 2.77 million, up 210,000 from a year earlier, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications said in a preliminary report.

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare separately said the ratio of job offers to job seekers in the reporting month dipped 0.06 point to a seasonally adjusted 0.67, which means there were 67 jobs available for every 100 job seekers.
Switzerland eyes free trade deal with China

ZURICH, 27 Feb—Switzerland wishes to be the first European nation to sign a free trade deal with China to unlock more business opportunities, Swiss Economy Minister Doris Leuthard said on Thursday. “We hope that Switzerland may be the first European country to have a free trade agreement with China,” Leuthard said in an interview with Xinhua on the sidelines of an economic forum organized for a Chinese business delegation.

The delegation, led by China’s Commerce Minister Chen Deming, is on a four-country Euro-pean tour to buy products and technology. Switzerland is their second stop, where the Chinese com-panies inked trade deals worth more than 300 million US dollars with Swiss counterparts.

Chen said after talks with Leuthard that China and Switzerland will launch a joint feasibility study on the free trade agreement in the latter half of this year. It “marks a new step in our closer trade and economic cooperation,” he said. In his recent visit to Switzerland, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao decided with Swiss leaders that it was time for the two countries to start negotiations for a free trade agreement to expand bilateral trade and investment.

China confident of 8% growth target this year

BEIJING, 27 Feb—China was confident of achieving its 8 percent gross domestic product (GDP) growth target for 2009, Liu Tienan, vice minister of the National Development and Reform Commission, told a press conference Friday.

Liu said China’s fast development facilitated industrialization and urbanization, trends that in turn provided huge consumption potential.

The country’s financial system was “in good shape” overall, he said.

China had faced downward pressure from the global economic downturn, especially since the fourth quarter, he added.

China had developed stimulus plans for 10 industries, which would continue to buoy confidence and support economic development, he said. Starting last month, China unveiled stimulus packages for 10 sectors: automobile, steel, ship-building, textiles, machinery, electronics and information technology, light industry, petrochemicals, nonferrous metals and logistics.

Cuban leader, French envoy agree to boost relationship

HAVANA, 27 Feb—Cuban leader Raul Castro met with a special envoy of French President Nicolas Sarkozy on Wednesday and they discussed boosting bilateral ties, a local newspaper reported on Thursday.

Castro appreciated the friendly initiative from the French side and said Cuba is interested in re-boosting “the traditional political, economic and bilateral cooperative ties for the benefit of both countries,” the official daily “Granma” said.

Jack Lang, the French envoy, also expressed interest in working to promote the relationship between Cuba and the European Union (EU) in the framework of “reciprocal respect.”—Xinhua

Road accidents up 20% during Brazil carnival

RIO DE JANEIRO, 27 Feb—Road accidents during the just-concluded carnival holiday in Brazil increased 20 percent compared with 2008 despite the new tougher regulations against drunk drivers, police said on Thursday.

A total of 2,865 accidents occurred on the country’s roads during the period from Carnival Friday to Ash Wednesday, which claimed 127 lives, down from 128 last year, and injured 1,784 others, up 21 percent from 2008, Federal Highway Police said.

The average rate of drunk drivers on the roads dropped during the holiday, one per every 16 drivers compared one in every 10 drivers in 2008.—Xinhua

Factroy explosion kills four, injures two in north China

HUMEN, 27 Feb—Four people were killed and two were injured after a factory explosion in north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region Thursday afternoon, local authorities said.

The accident happened about 3:30 pm when six workers were carrying out welding operation at a factory of Northwest Chuangye Construction Company, owned by a major steel maker Baogang Group, said Ning Huidong, a Baogang official.

Three workers died at the scene. One died on the way to the hospital. One suffered rib fracture and one was slightly injured, he said.

The explosion was from a toolbox of the factory building, he said.—Xinhua

Vietnam confirms 2nd human case died of bird flu in 2009

HANOI, 27 Feb—A 32-year-old man from Vietnam’s northern Ninh Binh Province, who had been tested positive to H5N1 virus, died of the virus.

The patient died on Wednesday after 13 days of being treated at the National Institute of Infectious and Tropical Disease, the local newspaper Pioneer reported Friday.

The patient, named Cu Van Chieu, was taken to hospital on 13 Feb with severe breathing difficulty. He had contact with fowls before developing bird flu symptoms. He is the third bird flu patient in Vietnam this year and the 2nd human case died of the H5N1 virus this year.—Xinhua

Cooked chickens are sold in a market in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 27 Feb, 2009. A 32-year-old man from northern Vietnam has died of bird flu, in the country’s second death from the disease this year, a health official said on Friday.

INTERNET
One dead, 540 injured during Carnival in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, 27 Feb—At least 259 people were reported injured in the con-cluding hours of Haiti’s Carnival 2009, bringing the total casualties in the fest-have up to one death and 540 injuries, local police said on Thursday.

The sole fatality was identified as 15-year-old Sandra Pierre, who suf-fered several fractures in the skull after a gigantic carriage rolled over upon her during a street concert in Port-au-Prince, a police spokesman said on Thurs-day.

According to official statistics, around one mil-lion local residents par-tookipated in this year’s Carnival, which began on Sat-Sunday. In order to guar-anteen safe social order and se-curity, Haitian police had sought the cooperation of the Red Cross and UN peacekeeping forces, now indicate it is more widespread.

Scientists from British Antarctic Survey (BAS), Durham University and Ger-manys Alfred Wegener Institute for Pol-lar and Marine Research (AWI) collected boulders deposited by three glaciers in the Amundsen Sea Embayment — a region cur-rently the focus of in-tense international sci-entific attention as it is changing faster than any-where else on the West Antarctic Ice Sheet’s (WAIS) and it has the po-tential to raise sea-level by around 1.5 meters.

Analysis of the boulders has enabled the sci-entists to start construct-ing a long-term picture of glacier behaviour in the region. By the end of the century, the accelerated melting could cause sea levels to climb by 3 to 5 feet (about 0.91 to 1.52 meters) — levels substan-tially higher than pre-vailed before the major scien-tific group two years ago.

Parrot offered to settle lawsuit

A woman in Florida says she’s offering her parrot to end a dispute between two other women fighting over the ownership of another parrot.

Leah Dellapelle, 28, said she loves Travis, her African gray parrot, but she can’t afford his $100-a-month diet, The South Florida Sun-Sentinel reported.

Dellapelle says Travis may be the an-swer to a lawsuit filed by Angela Colicheski, 52, against Sarita Lytell, 47, both of Boca Raton.

“I’m looking for someone who can af-ford birds,” Dellapelle said.

Colicheski contends Lytell has her par-rot, Tequila, who flew away about three years ago. Lytell said she has cared for a parrot she named Lucky since it was found dehydrated and scared in May 2006 and she is not about to give it up.

“He’s my little baby and he could be taken away from me,” Lytell said. “He looked at me today and said, ‘Ma, it’s all right. Don’t cry.’”

Police say man reports own drunken driving

A Pennsylvania man called 911 to inform authorities he was too drunk to drive and was pulling his car over as a precaution, state police allege.

An unidentified state police trooper said in a report that John Wilson, 26, of Knox, was arrested in the parking lot of a gas station in Sligo at 12:45 am on Saturday, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette re-ported.

“(MrWilson) related that he had left the bar and was on his way home when he realized he was too drunk to make it home,” the state trooper alleged.

German forgets thousands of euros in toilet

A German businessman lost more than 10,000 euros (9,000 pounds) in a plastic bag after forgetting the cash in a public toilet, authorities said on Thursday.

Hesse state police said the man took the “five-figure” sum with him as he stopped to relieve himself in a motorway service station near Haiger in western Germany. He then drove off.

A police spokesman said it was not clear why the man took half an hour to notice his loss — by which time the money had gone.

Port-Au-Prince, 27 Feb—About 157,806 nonregular employees in Japan are ex-pected to lose their jobs between October 2008 and March 2009 amid the global economic downturn, a Labour Ministry survey showed on Friday.

The job cuts are mainly temporary workers in the manufacturing sector, while about 10,000 regular employees are also feared to lose their jobs during the period.

The estimated number of job cuts during the six-month period represents a 26.4 per cent rise from the Health, Labour and Welfare Ministry’s projection in its January survey.—MNA/Xinhua

Nonregular workers to lose job in Oct-March in Japan

TOKYO, 27 Feb—The H7 bird flu has been detected in Japan since February 2007. And it is the first ever case of the H7 virus discovered in the country.

Toyohashi, Aichi Prefecture, said the agricul-ture ministry on Friday.

It is the first time that bird flu has been detected in Japan since February 2007. And it is the first ever case of the H7 virus discovered in the country.

The ministry said the virus “may be of attenuated virulence” as the in-fected birds are still alive.

And the farm has been quarantined on Wednesday. — Internet

1st H7 bird flu case detected in Japan’s Aichi Prefecture

TOKYO, 27 Feb—The H7 bird flu has been detected at a quail farm in Toyohashi, Aichi Prefecture, said the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Min-istry on Friday.

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Antarctic glaciers’ fast melting risks sea-level rise

BEIJING, 27 Feb—Ant-arctic glaciers are melt-ing faster than before and across a much wider area, thereby threatening to raise sea levels world-wide and forcing migra-tion of people to low-lying areas, according to scientists.

Earlier, scientists be-lieved the melting was confined to the Antarctic Peninsula, a narrow tongue of land pointing toward South America. But satellite data and au-toimated weather stations now indicate it is more widespread.

Scientists from British Antarctic Survey (BAS), Durham University and Ger-manys Alfred Wegener Institute for Pol-lar and Marine Research (AWI) collected boulders deposited by three glaciers in the Amundsen Sea Embayment — a region cur-rently the focus of in-tense international sci-entific attention as it is changing faster than any-where else on the West Antarctic Ice Sheet’s (WAIS) and it has the po-tential to raise sea-level by around 1.5 meters.

Analysis of the boulders has enabled the sci-entists to start construct-ing a long-term picture of glacier behaviour in the region. By the end of the century, the accelerated melting could cause sea levels to climb by 3 to 5 feet (about 0.91 to 1.52 meters) — levels substan-tially higher than pre-vailed before the major scien-tific group two years ago.

Antarctic glaciers’ fast melting risks sea-level rise

Bulgarian chess grandmaster Kiril Georgiev(C) plays a move while trying to break the world record for the largest number of simultaneous chess games vs 360 players in Sofia. Georgiev managed to beat the record by winning 80 percent of his games in 14 hours and 8 minutes.

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Police say man reports own drunken driving

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Parrot offered to settle lawsuit

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An employee for Japanese mobile communication giant NTT docomo displays a “health-care mobile phone” hand-set, equipped with various sensors, while enabling a user to con-nect to a tonometer to display blood pres-sure. 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.

Canopic jars found by Japanese archaeologists working in Egypt in the Sakkara necropolis, about 25 km (15 miles) south of Cairo, are seen in this undated handout photo released. The team from Waseda University in Tokyo have found four wooden sarcophaguses and associated grave goods which could date back up to 3,3000 years, the Egyptian government said.

Antarctic glaciers’ fast melting risks sea-level rise

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Indawgyi Wildlife Park consists of bio-diversity and trees

Article & Photos: Kyaw Kyaw (Bhamo)

Stalagmites confirm 9,000-year lower Brazil rainfall
SAO PAULO, 27 Feb — Climate researchers expected to see wet/dry periods in Brazil’s Nordeste region similar to the rest of South America in the past 9,000 years. But the area experienced the opposite, drought when rain was expected. Using stalagmite data, researchers identify unexpected air circulation as the cause.

Until recently, researchers studying climate history in Brazil’s dry Nordeste region expected it to have wet and dry periods similar to the rest of South America. But over the past 9,000 years, the region has shown just the opposite, drought when rain was expected, and vice versa. Geoscientists from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and the University of Sao Paolo, Brazil, with others, report this week that they’ve identified the cause as a surprising air circulation pattern.

As Stephen Burns, a UMass Amherst geoscientist explains, “In general, the Northern Hemisphere tropics have been getting drier and the Southern Hemisphere tropics have been getting wetter as maximum summer solar heating shifts southward. But Northeast Brazil has been acting like a Northern Hemisphere site and it’s been getting steadily drier from about 9,000 years ago to today.”

Millions of people there must cope with severely disruptive, recurring droughts, Burns and colleagues point out. A more accurate model of past conditions could help predict what to expect in the future. —Internet

Critically endangered cheetahs in Algeria snapped with camera trap
ALGIERS, 27 Feb — A Wildlife Conservation Society-supported survey of the Sahara has captured the first camera-trap photographs of the critically endangered Saharan cheetah in Algeria. The survey was conducted by researchers from the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), the Office du Parc National de l’Ahaggar (OPNA), and the Université de Béjaïa, with support from WCS and Panthera.

The photographs were taken as part of the first systematic camera trap survey across the central Sahara, covering an area of 2,800 square kilometres (1,081 square miles).

Overall, the survey identified four different Saharan cheetahs—a subspecies of cheetah (Acinonyx jubatus hecii)—using spot patterns unique to each individual.

“This Saharan cheetah is critically endangered, yet virtually nothing is known about the population, so this new evidence, and the ongoing research work, is hugely significant,” said Dr Sarah Durant, Zoological Society of London Senior Research Fellow.

“This first camera-trap confirmation of cheetahs in Algeria is a landmark success toward our efforts to save these big cats,” said Dr. James Deutsch, Director of WCS-Africa. “Findings like these help us refine our conservation strategies for the cheetah across its entire range.” —Internet

Potato chips should be eaten only in moderation
SCIENCE DAILY, 27 Feb — A new study published in the March 2009 American Journal of Clinical Nutrition by Marek Naruszewicz and colleagues from Poland suggests that acrylamide from foods may increase the risk of heart disease. Acrylamide has been linked previously to nervous system disorders and possibly to cancer.

After ingesting large amounts of potato chips providing about 157 micrograms of acrylamide daily for four weeks, the participants had adverse changes in oxidized LDL, inflammatory markers and antioxidants that help the body eliminate acrylamide—all of which may increase the risk of heart disease.

Additional research is needed in long-term studies of people consuming typical amounts of acrylamide (averaging about 20 to 30 micrograms). It is recommended that FDA and the food industry continue to decrease acrylamide in foods by improving food processing technologies. FDA reports that acrylamide is particularly high in potato chips and French fries.

According to American Society for Nutrition Spokesperson Mary Ann Johnson, PhD: “Consumers can reduce their exposure to acrylamide by limiting their intake of potato chips and French fries, choosing a variety of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and low fat meat and dairy products, and quitting smoking, which is a major source of acrylamide.” —Internet

Acrylamide, found in foods such as potato chips and french fries, may increase the risk of heart disease. Acrylamide has been linked previously to nervous system disorders and possibly to cancer.
National people to uphold Union Spirit for prevailing peace and tranquillity

Union Spirit can develop Union as well as prevent Union from breaking up

Stakes driven for building self-reliant village libraries in Kyaukpyu District

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan delivers an address in meeting with local people of eight villages in Kyaukpyu Township. — MNA

NAV Pyi Taw, 27 Feb—A ceremony to drive stake for construction of the library in Ngalapwe Village of Kyaukpyu Township, Rakhine State, was held at the village on 24 February morning.

Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Thaung Aye, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung and Acting Director-General U Ye Htu of the Information and Public Relations Department drove the stakes at the designated places.

In meeting with over 1,600 local people from eight villages, the commander and the ministers heard reports on regional development and attended to their needs.

In his speech, the commander said that he welcomed the reports on progress of education, health and regional development by the local people. The wish and desire of the local people are similar to the programmes being implemented by the government, he said. The concerted efforts of the government and the people are the drive for gaining success to ensure stability and development of the nation. The spirit to develop the respective regions and the nation is the patriotic spirit, he added. In conclusion, the commander urged the national people to uphold the true patriotic spirit forever.

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan delivered an address.

Afterwards, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Acting Director-General U Ye Htu of IPRD, Cde Min Zaw of Danyawady Naval Region Command and Chairman of Yanbye Township PDC U Aung Kyaw Soe drove stakes for construction of Letpanwa Village Library in Letpanwa Village, Yanbye Township.

In meeting with 1,200 local people from 11 villages, the minister fulfilled the requirements of regional development task.

The minister handed over K 3 million donated by USDA for building self-reliant village library, K 500,000 each for rural development tasks to five village-tracts, books for village libraries and clothes to local people through officials. Chairman of Township PDC U Aung Kyaw Soe also gave K 500,000 donated by Rakhine State PDC for buying furniture of Letpanwa Village Library through officials.

In meetings with local people, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said that the government is accelerating the regional development in Rakhine State. Likewise, the Ministry of Information is carrying out information tasks for the people with added momentum. Measures are being taken to complete construction of new TV retransmission station and installation of high frequency transmission machines in February 2009 for enabling the local people to enjoy various kinds of TV channels of their choice. Efforts are being made to implement the FM radio system to present news and entertainment to the people in the state as quickly as possible, he said.

He said that all the people have high talent and efficiency and they can stand shoulder to shoulder with people of other countries. To uplift the efficiency, all the people have to read, he noted. Therefore, the ministry establishes self-reliant libraries in the villages. He urged local people to strive for development of their libraries seeking knowledge through books.

He added that all the national brethren have been living in the Union since yore through thick and thin. Nowadays, national people have become families living in amity. All the villages, towns, States and Divisions become mini-unions through relationship, understanding and unity. Therefore, the national people are to uphold the Union Spirit for prevailing peace and tranquillity. The Union Spirit can develop the Union as well as to prevent the Union from breaking up. The lives of people in miseries can be seen across the world due to breaking up of the countries. By taking lessons from such miseries, such minister pointed out that the national people are to make collective efforts for prevailing peace and stability of the State with Union Spirit, for undertaking development tasks, for ensuring perpetual existence of the nation and for achieving success in implementing democratic process.

In conclusion, the minister urged local people to actively take part in the respective sectors for realization of the State’s seven-step Road Map and national development drives while serving the national interest.— MNA
Implementing of Chipwenge Hydro Power Project in progress

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Feb — Maj-Gen Ohn Myint of the Ministry of Defence on 20 February went to Chipwenge Hydro Power Project near Lankyaw Village in Chipwe Township and inspected construction of the embankment and intake channel of the project being implemented by Hydro Electric Power Department of Ministry of Electric Power No 1.

Before the tour of inspection, Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, accompanied by Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Brig-Gen Soe Win and departmental officials, met with departmental officials and members of social organizations in Chipwe at Chipwe Township General Administration Department on 20 February.

Maj-Gen Ohn Myint also met with teachers and students at the basic education primary school in Okkat Ward and presented uniforms to teachers and students. During the tour, Maj-Gen Ohn Myint also inspected the progress of construction of Labuyingaing Hotel, condition of Dunban Chaung Bridge and condition of Maliyan Bridge in Wawaw.

Maj-Gen Ohn Myint on way to Sadon Township, Maj-Gen Ohn Myint inspected the upgrading of Chipwe-Waimaw Road Section and plantations on both sides of the road.

He met with departmental officials and members of social organizations at Hninpinw Hotel in Sadon Township, Maj-Gen Ohn Myint and party inspected the basic education high school in Sadon Township and the people’s hospital in Sadon Township. — MNA

Villages in Kyunsu Township get aids for regional development

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Feb — Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein fulfilled the requirements for regional development tasks on his tour of village-tracts in Kyunsu Township, Taninthayi Division, from 21 to 23 February.

The minister met with members of township administration department, staff, local people and personnel of NGOs at Kyun Yadana hall of the township and attended to the needs.

The minister went to Mayanchaung, Kapa, Kade Katud, Katan, Tayapine, Wachaung, Myaung-gaw, Lewalbyin, Done-pale-aw and Kangyi villages and fulfilled the requirements on carrying out five rural development tasks with momentum, ensuring supply of electricity with the use of hydropower, solar energy and bio fuel in the village and building village-to-village road in meeting with responsible persons, teachers, health staff, local people and members of NGOs.

Next, the minister presented 20 sets of solar generators and 20 sets of hydro power turbines for village dispensaries, monasteries and computer rooms, teaching aid books and journals for matriculation students and books, teaching aid books and journals for matriculation students and rice, clothes and cash for the villages through responsible persons. — MNA

IBTC Open Golf Championships go on

YANGON, 27 Feb — The Yangon last leg of IBTC Open Golf Championships tournament of Myanmar Golf Tour 2008-2009, organized by Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar PFA and mainly sponsored by International Beverages Trading Co Ltd continued at Yangon Golf Course (Danyingon) in Insein Township here yesterday morning.

After the third day 18-hole professional golfers event, Zaw Zaw Latt (Srixon) is leading with 214 strokes, Zaw Zin Win (Srixon) and Naing Naing Lin (Point Golf Shop) second with 217 strokes each and Myint Shwe (Srixon), Min Naing (Srixon) and Aung Win (Srixon) third with 218 strokes each.

In the men’s amateur event, Aung Win (Forestry) is leading with 208 strokes, Nay Bala Win Myint second with 214 strokes and Than Zaw third with 224 strokes.

With the aim of ensuring the emergence of outstanding golfers, the tournament was mainly sponsored by International Beverages Trading Co Ltd together with co-sponsors KBZ Bank, Aia Bagan Ltd, Hotel Yangon, Ruby Dragon Jade and Gems Co Ltd, Srixon, MGW Construction Ltd, Myanmar Red Star International Co Ltd, KM Golf Center, Accel International Co Ltd (Canon), Alpine Purified Drinking Water, MY Associates Co Ltd, Tiger Head Cement Factory and Life Line Co Ltd (DHEA Plus). — 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.

MNA
Regional development tasks in Kawthoung, Bokepyin inspected

**Li-Gen Tha Aye of Ministry of Defence inspects reconstruction of Puloneiton Bridge in Kawthoung.**

**NAV PSI TAW, 27 Feb** — Lt-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence, together with Chairman of Taminthay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Khun Zaw Oo and officials, inspected summer paddy patches of Kawthoung Correctional Department and 7-mile sluice gate of the irrigation Department on 24 February morning. They also looked into construction of GSM radio station (2) and tower foundation. Next, Li-Gen Tha Aye inspected reconstruction of Puloneiton Bridge and met with local entrepreneurs at Kawthoung District PDC office.

**Military Band Competition continues**

**NAV PSI TAW, 27 Feb** — To mark the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day 2009, the 17th Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) Military Band Competition continued here this morning. It was attended by Chairman of the Organizing Committee for the Competitions Vice-Admiral-Gen Myint Aung and officers of the command continued here this morning. It was attended by Chairman of the Organizing Committee for the Competitions Vice-Admiral-Gen Myint Aung and officers of the command.

**Advanced Domestic Science Course No. 20, Clerical Work Course No. 58/59 conclude**

**YANGON, 27 Feb** — Director-General U Than Win of Education and Training Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs addressed conclusion ceremony of Advanced Domestic Science Course No.20 and Clerical Work Course No. 58/59 at central training school of the department this afternoon. The director-general presented awards to outstanding trainees and completion certificates to the trainees. A total of 183 trainees attended the three-month courses. After the ceremony, the director-general viewed works of the trainees and inspected learning theaters, hostels and mess of the school and thriving perennial and seasonal crop plantations.

**Trading of crops inspected at Muse Border Trade Zone**

**NAV PSI TAW, 27 Feb** — Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Aung Than Htun on 17 February visited trading of various crops and systematic storage of crops at the checkpoint of Muse 105th Mile Border Trade Zone.

The commander inspected the export crab trade station of National Development Co Ltd and cultivation of summer paddy in the farmlands of farmer Daw Shwe Yin with the use of modern paddy transplanting machine near Seilant Village of Namhkam Township.

At Pansay Station Hospital, the commander presented cash assistance and food to the patients.

At Pansay Village Basic Education High School (Branch), the commander met with departmental officials and attended to the needs. On 18 February, the commander visited the Post-Primary School in Phanubgsai Village and provided cash assistance and stationery to the school.

In Monekoe, the commander viewed cultivation of summer paddy in the field of farmer U Win Maung and maintenance of Kyuok-Wanting Bridge in Muse Township. At Shweli Yadana Hall in Muse, the commander met staff officers of the command headquarters and departmental officials.

**Forestry Minister meets Korean guests**

**NAV PSI TAW, 27 Feb** — Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung received Vice-Chairman Mr. Ahn Dong Won of KOICA and party at the minister’s office here this morning. Also present were Directors-General U San Lwin of Planning and Statistics Department, Director-General U Khin Win of Dry Zones Greening Department and the deputy directors-general.
Asian countries to enhance information sharing in combating piracy

SINGAPORE, 27 Feb—Asian countries will enhance information sharing with international organizations and countries outside Asia in combating piracy and armed robbery against ships, a regional organization said on Friday.

According to the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia Information Sharing Center (ReCAAP ISC), the number of piracy and armed robbery against ships has a possibility to rise in the backdrop of the current economic crisis.

The ReCAAP ISC governing council will be prepared and continue to make further progress in information collecting, analyzing and exchanging in bid to reduce piracies, said Tay Lim Heng, chairman of the ReCAAP ISC governing council.

The governing council said in a press conference that it will continue to cooperate with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and maritime countries outside Asia on anti-piracy and armed robbery efforts in Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden.

The ReCAAP ISC said in an early report that the piracy and armed robbery situation in Asia had improved in 2008, with the number of attacks falling from 100 in 2007 to 96 in 2008.

Chinese banks profit up 30.6% in 2008

BEIJING, 27 Feb—China’s banking industry reported 583.4 billion yuan (85.79 billion US dollars) of after-tax profit in 2008, up 30.6 per cent, said China Banking Regulatory Commission (CBRC) Thursday.

CBRC chairman Liu Mingkang released the figure at a Press conference on Chinese banks’ measures against the financial crisis.

According to a report on CBRC website, the after-tax profit for 2007 stood at 446.7 billion yuan, while the pre-tax profit for 2006 was 337.9 billion yuan.

“The impact on China’s banking system is limited and the risks are under control,” said Liu.

Work starts on Japanese, Dutch halls at Shanghai World Expo

SHANGHAI, 27 Feb—Japan and the Netherlands started construction of their exhibition halls at the Shanghai World Expo 2010 on Friday.

The 24-meter-high Japanese Exhibition Hall, which covers 6,000 square meters, is expected to be completed in mid-December at a cost of 133 million US dollars, said spokesman Hiroshi Tsukamoto.

The hall will use environment-friendly materials, such as a transparent roofing film that absorbs sunlight and glows at night, he said.

The Netherlands Exhibition Hall, comprising of 17 small halls, will cost 20 million euros and cover 4,800 square meters. It was expected to be completed on Oct. 31, said Walter Van Weelden, the Netherlands’ Expo commissioner general.

The Shanghai World Expo 2010, due to be held from 1 May to 31 Oct next year, is expected to attract 70 million visitors, almost triple the number at the Hanover, Germany, expo in 2000.

US economy shrinks at 6.2% pace in fourth quarter of 2008

WASHINGTON, 27 Feb—The US economy shrank at an annual rate of 6.2 percent in the final quarter of last year, much steeper than the 3.8 percent drop originally estimated and the 0.5 percent decline in the third quarter, the Commerce Department reported Friday.

“Slumdog Millionaire” original Indian author unhappy with title change

NEW DELHI, 27 Feb—As the euphoria over Oscar-winning movie “Slumdog Millionaire” began to settle down, Vikas Swarup, author of the novel “Q and A” on whose story the movie is based, said he was not very happy over the title of the book being changed, said the Press Trust of India Friday.

“I was not very happy that the title of the book was changed to Slumdog Millionaire,” Swarup, Indian Deputy High Commissioner (ambassador) to South Africa, was quoted by PTI as saying in an email interview.

He was replying to a query about the change in the book’s title, he was told “this is the norm in a book-film tie, which is targeted mainly at people who have not heard of the book and come to the book only after seeing the film”. “Slumdog Millionaire”, which is based on Mumbai’s slum life, won eight top Oscar prizes on Monday in Los Angeles, triggering widespread euphoria in India and congratulations from the country’s top political leaders and artistic celebrities.

China signs $2 bln purchase deals with Britain

LONDON, 27 Feb—A visiting Chinese business delegation sealed deals amounting to 2 billion US dollars with British firms in London on Friday afternoon in a significant move to stave off protectionism in the wake of the global financial crisis. The 11 procurement deals and agreements covered areas ranging from textile, metal services, airplane and automobile parts, eco-town building, and motion pictures.

Neighbours carry Rubina Ali, who acted as the young Latika in the film “Slumdog Millionaire”, back to her home in a slum in Mumbai on 26 Feb, 2009. Ali came back on Thursday after attending the 81st Academy Awards. —XINHUA

The bride dances to the music of Lusheng, a musical instrument of southwest China’s Miao people, on her wedding ceremony held in a village of Sansui County of southwest China’s Guizhou Province, on 26 Feb, 2009. —INTERNET

War-orphaned children sit in cardboard boxes at the Kizito orphanage in Bunia in northeastern Congo on 24 Feb, 2009. Ethnic violence has simmered for years in northeastern Congo, part of broader civil and regional conflict currently uprooting hundreds of thousands of Congolese fleeing massacres and reprisal killings by various armed groups roaming the country’s vast and lawless wilds. —INTERNET
**UK teenage pregnancies rise for first time in five years**

London, 27 Feb—Teenage pregnancy rates in England and Wales have risen for the first time in five years, threatening a government target to halve levels by 2010, according to official figures released on Thursday.

Britain has one of the highest rates of teenage pregnancy in Europe and while underage birth rates have fallen over the last decade, this is partly due to an increased use of abortion.

The issue was highlighted earlier this month by the case of Alfie Patten from Eastbourne who became a father at the age of just 13. His girlfriend was 15.

Provisional figures for 2007 showed there were 41.9 conceptions for every 1,000 under-18 girls, up from 40.9 the year previously and the first rise since 2002.

Half of those pregnancies were terminated, a higher proportion than in 2006, meaning there was no rise in the number of live births.

The government said the figures showed young people were not getting effective contraception and were indulging in more risky sexual behaviour.

In response, it announced it would spend an extra 20.5 million pounds to improve young people's access to contraception and raise their awareness of unprotected sex.

Children's Minister Beverley Hughes said the figures were disappointing but that the long-term trend in underage pregnancies was still downward.

**Claims Day Notice MV XIANG DA VOY NO (9007)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XIANG DA VOY NO (9007) are hereby notified that the vessel arrived on 2.3.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**Shipping Agency Department**

A/W/A/P/T

Myanmar Port Authority

Agent for: M/S China Shipping (Malaysia) Agency SDN BHD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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**Claims Day Notice MV BANGKACHAI VOY NO (79)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGKACHAI VOY NO (79) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.2.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**Shipping Agency Department**

A/W/A/P/T

Myanmar Port Authority

Agent for: M/S Wongsamut Ocean Shipping Co., Ltd

Phone No: 256919/256916/256912

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**Cyclone brews off Australian oil, mining region**

Perth, 27 Feb—A tropical low has formed off the remote west Australian coast and may develop into a cyclone this weekend, the country’s weather bureau said on Thursday, threatening iron ore mines and offshore oil and gas production.

The tropical low formed about 210 kilometres northwest of Kalumburu, in the north-west of the Western Australian state, and may develop into a cyclone by Saturday as it moves towards the Pilbara coast, the bureau said. “Widespread heavy rain is likely in the Pilbara from Saturday evening as the system approaches the Pilbara coast, and significant flooding may result,” the bureau said.

The Pilbara region is home to key iron ore mines owned by BHP Billiton Ltd and Rio Tinto Ltd, while the nearby town of Karratha is home to some of Australia’s largest oil and gas projects, including the onshore North West Shelf liquefied natural gas processing plant.

A cyclone would be the season’s fourth, following tropical cyclones Dominic, Billy and Anika. Dominic, the third cyclone of the season, forced the shut-in of several oil and gas operations for nearly a week.—MNA/Reuters

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**Spain detains 11 people for drug trafficking**

Madrid, 27 Feb—Spain detained 11 people in a recent operation against international drug trafficking, the police said on Thursday.

Among the detainees were Carlos Vargas, a soccer player from Rayo Vallecano club, two former politicians from Hercules de Alicante club and two former soccer managers, the police said.

They were accused of smuggling 600 kilos of cocaine to Spain. Zoran Matijevic, a former soccer manager from Serbia, was the alleged leader of the drug trafficking ring.

The drugs were hidden in windmill machines, which called the attention of the police as the alleged receivers of the machines were actually in the citric business.

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**Invitation to Tender**

Tender No. 1 (T) AMD-FR (2009-2010)

1. Sealed Tenders are invited by Agricultural Mechanization Department, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation for the supply of following Machines which will be purchased in Myanmar kyats.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Machinery &amp; Equipment for Foundry</td>
<td>1 Lot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Machinery &amp; Equipment for S 1110G</td>
<td>1 Lot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Engine Production</td>
<td>1 Lot</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Tenders closing date (31.3.2009)(Tuesday) (16:00 HR)

3. Tender documents are available at the Factory & Research Section of Agricultural Mechanization Department, Bayintnaung Road, Insein Township, Yangon during the office hours.

4. For further details please call 680959, 682046 Ext. 323.

Director General

Agricultural Mechanization Department

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**The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.**
Britain rules out charges against Pentagon hacker

LONDON, 27 Feb — British prosecutors said on Thursday they would not bring charges against a computer expert accused by a US attorney of the “biggest military hack of all time”, dealing a blow to his bid to avoid extradition.

Gary McKinnon was arrested by British police in 2002 after US prosecutors charged him with illegally accessing computers, including the Pentagon, US Army, Navy and NASA systems, and causing $700,000 US dollars worth of damage.

A British court ruled in 2006 that he should be extradited to the United States to face trial. If convicted by a US court, he could face up to 70 years in prison. McKinnon has been battling the British court decision ever since.

His lawyers asked Britain’s Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) to consider a request to prosecute him in Britain where they believe he would receive a much shorter sentence. But the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) said a review had concluded it would be better for him to face trial at home.

“These were not random experiments in computer hacking, but a deliberate effort to breach US defense systems at a critical time, which caused well documented damage,” said Alison Saunders, head of the CPS Organized Crime Division.

“They may have been conducted from Mr McKinnon’s home computer — and in that sense there is a UK link — but the target and the damage were transatlantic,” said the CPS.

China urges US to abolish poultry trade protectionist measure

BEIJING, 27 Feb — China on Friday urged the United States to rescind a section of the Omnibus Appropriations Act 2009 that does not allow for the lifting of the import ban on Chinese poultry products. On 25 Feb, the US House of Representatives passed a spending bill that would fund the federal government through September, the end of fiscal year 2009.

Section 727 said, “None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to establish or implement a rule allowing poultry products to be imported into the United States from the People’s Republic of China”.

“This is a typical discriminatory and protectionist action and it is in serious violation of the World Trade Organization’s most-favored-nation treatment and general elimination of quantitative restrictions,” Yao Jian, spokesman of the Ministry of Commerce, said in a statement on the ministry’s website.

The clause seriously disturbed the normal poultry trade between the two nations and harmed the legitimate rights and interests of China’s poultry industry, Yao said. China was strongly opposed to the section and urged the United States to abolish it, he said, adding China reserved the right to appeal to the WTO.

Singapore manufacturing output falls 29.1% in January

SINGAPORE, 27 Feb — Singapore’s manufacturing output fell 29.1 per cent in January over a year ago, government statistics showed on Thursday.

On a seasonally adjusted month-on-month basis, output dipped 4.4 per cent in January due to the global economic downturn and Chinese New Year festivities, the Economic Development Board (EDB) said in a statement.

The electronics cluster and the precision engineering cluster contracted the most in January.

The electronics cluster contracted 43.1 per cent in January year on year. All segments of the cluster saw lower production due to the lackluster demand for electronic products worldwide.

The precision engineering cluster shrank 37.4 per cent in January. Output in the precision modules and components decreased 39.8 per cent as orders dwindled due to the global economic downturn. The machinery and systems segment also declined 34.4 per cent.

Output of the biomedical manufacturing cluster, the chemicals cluster and the general manufacturing industries contracted 27.3 per cent, 24.0 per cent and 19.1 per cent respectively in January over the same period.

While output of the transport engineering cluster grew a modest 3.3 per cent in January on year. The current global financial crisis and economic slowdown has affected Singapore’s trade-dependent economy.

China Navy halts pirate attack off Somalia

BEIJING, 27 Feb — A Chinese naval patrol rescued an Italian merchant ship from a pirate attack in the waters off Somalia, China’s state media reported on Thursday.

A Chinese destroyer, Haikou, was escorting a fleet of ships in the Gulf of Aden on 24 February when an Italian boat suffered an engine failure and two high-speed pirate boats zoomed towards it, China’s official Xinhua news agency said.

Haikou despatched three special operations troops in a helicopter, which flew directly above the Italian boat and fired two warning shots to scare the pirates away, the report said.

It added that it was the second successful rescue staged by Chinese destroyers after beginning a naval mission last month to tackle rampant piracy off the coast of Somalia. Xinhua said that the Wuhan, another destroyer in China’s three- vessel fleet, had rescued a Greek ship on 29 January.

A surge in attacks at sea this year in the busy Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean off Somalia has pushed up insurance costs, brought the Somali gangs tens of millions of dollars in ransom and prompted foreign warships to go to the area.

More budget funds given to NASA for space exploration

WASHINGTON, 27 Feb — US President Barack Obama on Thursday announced his overall budget request for the fiscal year 2010 that starts on 1 October, which gives more money to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for space exploration and climate change research.

It gives the US space agency 18.7 billion US dollars, a rise of 2.4 billion dollars over 2008 when one billion dollars from the economic stimulus package is included. It will also fund NASA’s robust programme of space exploration involving humans and robots.

“NASA will return humans to the Moon while also supporting a vigorous programme of robotic exploration of the solar system and universe,” the budget reads.

Chinese visitors examine flexible solar panel sheets displayed at the international photovoltaic power generation expo in Tokyo on Wednesday, 25 Feb, 2009. —INTERNET

 prisoners get off from a US military truck ahead of their release in Baghdad’s Doura district on 26 Feb, 2009. —INTERNET

A visitor examines flexible solar panel sheets displayed at the international photovoltaic power generation expo in Tokyo on Wednesday, 25 Feb, 2009. —INTERNET

Brazilian cruise ship adrift off Uruguay’s coast

RIO DE JANEIRO, 27 Feb — A transatlantic cruise ship which left Rio on Monday carrying 1,479 passengers is purportedly adrift off the coast of Punta del Este, Uruguay, where it was supposed to make a quick stop.

The Uruguayan Navy said that the ship underwent a “small fire” in one of its generators on Wednesday night. The fire was quickly put out, but caused some damage to the ship, which has yet to be fixed.

Costa Cruzeiros, the company which owns the cruise ship, released a statement saying that no passengers or crew members were injured in the incident, but the passengers, 338 of whom are Brazilians, were scared by the smoke and the blackout which followed the fire. The company denied that the ship is adrift, saying that it is only anchored off the Uruguayan coast until an evaluation of necessary repairs is done. It did not say when the cruise will continue its trip.

MNA/Xinhua

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MNA/Xinhua
Liverpool chief exec Parry to leave club

LONDON, 27 Feb — Liverpool chief executive Rick Parry is to leave his post at the end of the season, clearing the way for manager Rafael Benitez to sign a new contract, reports said on Friday.

Parry’s departure, the latest twist in the boardroom unrest at Liverpool, is expected to be announced officially later in the day, the BBC and other media said.

Benitez has been refusing to sign a new contract because he wants more control over the club’s transfer policy.

Parry has had a strained relationship with Benitez and the club’s American co-owner Tom Hicks, but his swing looked as good as ever. He felt no soreness or pain in his knee after walking 50 holes over three days, including a practice round. What few people anticipated — especially after Woods opened the match that his cousin, who died on the morning: “It was a hard day for me, for my family and the crowd that numbered less than 24,000, but Ancelotti remained defiant about his position. “I don’t feel under threat even if I take all the responsibility,” he said. “I’m not trying to mask it, the season has been a bad one but now we have to try to achieve our last objective (finishing in the top three in Serie A).”

Bellamy grief provides City inspiration

MANCHESTER, 27 Feb — Craig Bellamy has dedicated the goals that sent Manchester City into the last 16 of the UEFA Cup to the memory of a much-loved cousin who died on the eve of the club’s second round, second-leg clash with FC Copenhagen.

The Wales striker struck twice in the space of seven second-half minutes to secure a 2-1 win over the Danish champions and send City into a clash with another Danish side, Aalborg, for a place in the quarter-finals. With AC Milan and English rivals Aston Villa and Tottenham all out of the competition, City now look to be serious contenders for their first silverware since the club was bought by the cash-rich Abu Dhabi United Group.

Bellamy revealed after the match that his cousin, whom he described as one of his closest friends, had died on Wednesday morning. “It was a hard day for me, for my family and his family. I’ll miss him dearly and I’d like to dedicate this game to him and the goals as well,” Bellamy said.

Second-string Villa frozen out of UEFA Cup

PARIS, 27 Feb — Aston Villa, with one eye on Champions League riches, suffered the brutal cost of downgrading the UEFA Cup on Thursday when their second-string team slumped to a last 32 exit in freezing Moscow.

Villa boss Martin O’Neill left the likes of Gareth Barry, Brad Friedel, Emile Heskey, James Milner, Gabriel Agbonlahor and Ashley Young back in England for the second leg tie against CSKA. The Russian side took full advantage to carve out a 2-0 win on the night and a 3-1 aggregate victory to reach the last 16.

Zimbabwe hold DRC in African Nations surprise

JOHANNESBURG, 27 Feb — Zimbabwe sprang another African Nations Championship surprise in Ivory Coast on Thursday by forcing a 1-1 draw with the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Group B result in the central city forced a 1-1 draw with Ivory Coast Thursday by many other African Nations co-owner Tom Hicks, but

Top-seeded Novak Djokovic of Serbia returns a backhand to Marcin Cilic of Croatia during their ATP Dubai tennis championship quarter-finals, Dubai, 27 Feb. Djokovic won 6-3, 6-4. — Internet

Djokovic advances, sick Murray out of Dubai tennis

DUBAI, 27 Feb — Novak Djokovic’s bid to close the gap on Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal at the top of the world rankings carried him to the semi-finals of the Dubai Open after a 6-3, 6-4 win over Marcin Cilic on Thursday.

But third seed Andy Murray, who began 2009 as favourite to win the Australian Open, was forced to withdraw from the tournament with a virus.

Former Australian Open champion Djokovic had struggled in his previous match against the Czech Jan Hajnich, but the Serb played more solidly during his victory against Croatia’s Cilic, who has broken into the top 20 for the first time this year.

Tiger makes celebrated return and early departure

MARRANA, 27 Feb — Golf waited eight months. Tiger Woods lasted only two days. Woods had hardly any complaints about his first tournament since knee surgery in June, but after a momentous U.S. Open victory that made fans anticipate his return even more.

His swing looked as good as ever. He felt no soreness or pain in his knee after walking 50 holes over three days, including a practice round. What few people anticipated — especially after Woods opened the match that his cousin, who died on the morning: “It was a hard day for me, for my family and the crowd that numbered less than 24,000, but Ancelotti remained defiant about his position. “I don’t feel under threat even if I take all the responsibility,” he said. “I’m not trying to mask it, the season has been a bad one but now we have to try to achieve our last objective (finishing in the top three in Serie A).”

Bellamy grief provides City inspiration

MANCHESTER, 27 Feb — Craig Bellamy has dedicated the goals that sent Manchester City into the last 16 of the UEFA Cup to the memory of a much-loved cousin who died on the eve of the club’s second round, second-leg clash with FC Copenhagen.

The Wales striker struck twice in the space of seven second-half minutes to secure a 2-1 win over the Danish champions and send City into a clash with another Danish side, Aalborg, for a place in the quarter-finals. With AC Milan and English rivals Aston Villa and Tottenham all out of the competition, City now look to be serious contenders for their first silverware since the club was bought by the cash-rich Abu Dhabi United Group.

Bellamy revealed after the match that his cousin, whom he described as one of his closest friends, had died on Wednesday morning. “It was a hard day for me, for my family and his family. I’ll miss him dearly and I’d like to dedicate this game to him and the goals as well,” Bellamy said.

Second-string Villa frozen out of UEFA Cup

PARIS, 27 Feb — Aston Villa, with one eye on Champions League riches, suffered the brutal cost of downgrading the UEFA Cup on Thursday when their second-string team slumped to a last 32 exit in freezing Moscow.

Villa boss Martin O’Neill left the likes of Gareth Barry, Brad Friedel, Emile Heskey, James Milner, Gabriel Agbonlahor and Ashley Young back in England for the second leg tie against CSKA. The Russian side took full advantage to carve out a 2-0 win on the night and a 3-1 aggregate victory to reach the last 16.

Zimbabwe hold DRC in African Nations surprise

JOHANNESBURG, 27 Feb — Zimbabwe sprang another African Nations Championship surprise in Ivory Coast on Thursday by forcing a 1-1 draw with the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Group B result in the central city forced a 1-1 draw with Ivory Coast Thursday by many other African Nations co-owner Tom Hicks, but

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Susilo says Indonesia must strengthen diplomacy, mily

JAKARTA, 27 Feb—Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said Thursday Indonesia must strengthen itself in defence or military terms, he said.

“Although Indonesia will prioritize diplomacy and soft power approaches, we must continue to develop our defence system. If we want peace, we must also be prepared for war,” Susilo said at the Indonesian Defence Council meeting.

In the future, we must carry out our diplomacy properly for the sake of the national interest. War is a last option,” Susilo said at the Indonesian Defence Council (TNI) headquarters in Cilangkap, quoted by the national Antara news agency.

At the same time, Indonesia must also strengthen itself in defence or military terms, he said.

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Weather

WEATHER

Friday, 27 February, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in Kachin State, weather has been partly cloudy in Shan State and upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3C) (4C) above February average temperatures in Kachin and Shan States, upper Sagaing and Mandaly Divisions, (5C) (6C) above February average temperatures in Rakhine and Mon States, Taninthayi Division and about February average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures in Namhsan (7C) The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Mchambauk (0.24 inch) and Putau (0.15 inch).

Maximum temperature on 26-2-2009 was 98F. Minimum temperature on 27-2-2009 was 64F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 27-2-2009 was 76%. Total sunshine hours on 26-2-2009 was (8.8) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 27-2-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Minimum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Northeast at (15:30) hours MST on 26-2-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 28th February 2009: Isolated rain are possible in Kachin State, weather has been partly cloudy in Shan State and upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in Chin, Shan and Mon States, Yangon Division 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 continuation of isolated light rain in the Northern Myanmar areas.


Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 28-2-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 28-2-2009: Generally fair weather.

Weather outlook for first weekend of March 2009: During the coming weekend, weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon Division and generally fair in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Division.

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Indawgyi Wildlife Park consists of bio-diversity and trees

**Article & Photos: Kyaw Kyaw (Bhamo)**

Indawgyi Lake, dubbed the largest inland sea in Myanmar, indicates the natural beauty of Kachin State. Moreover, the lake is included in the list of largest inland lakes in Southeast Asian region and it is one of the ASEAN natural heritage conservation parks.

Indawgyi Lake is located at an altitude of 546 feet in Mohnyin Township of Mohnyin District in Kachin State. The lake is 14 miles long from the south to the north and seven miles wide from the east to the west. The lake has about 100 square miles of wetland area. The volume of the water at the lake is 65 feet at the deepest point and about 20 feet on average depth. It is a natural inland lake circled by 1,000 feet to 4,000 feet high steep mountain ranges.

Indawgyi Lake is a natural inland lake and one of the world’s largest freshwater lakes at an altitude of 546 feet. The area of the lake is 100 square miles, with a volume of 65 feet at the deepest point and about 20 feet on average depth.

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Water birds seen at Indawgyi Lake.

**World’s smallest periscopes peer at cells from several sides at once**

The mirrored pyramidal wells device captures the images of four sides of a single grain of pollen from the sunflower in the lower right.

**New oil deposits can be identified through satellite images**

COPENHAGEN, 27 Feb — A new map of the Earth’s gravitational force based on satellite measurements makes it much less resource intensive to find new oil deposits. The map will be particularly useful as the ice melts in the oil-rich Arctic regions. Ole Baltazar, senior scientist at the National Space Institute, Technical University of Denmark (DTU Space), headed the development of the map.

The US company Fugro, one of the world’s leading oil exploration companies, is one of the companies that have already made use of the gravitational map. The company has now initiated a research partnership with DTU Space.

“Ole Baltazar’s gravitational map is the most precise and the widest coverage to date,” says Li Xiong, Vice President and Head Geophysicist with Fugro. “On account of its high resolution and accuracy, the map is particularly useful in coastal areas, where the majority of the oil is located.”

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY, 27 Feb — A team of Vanderbilt scientists have invented the world’s smallest version of the periscope and are using it to look at cells and other micro-organisms from several sides at once.

“With an off-the-shelf laboratory microscope you only see cells from one side, the top,” says team member Chris Janetopoulos, assistant professor of biological sciences. “Not only can we see the tops of cells, we can view their sides as well – something biologists almost never see.”

The researchers have dubbed their devices “mirrored pyramidal wells.” As the name implies, they consist of pyramidal-shaped cavities molded into silicon whose interior surfaces are coated with a reflective layer of gold or platinum. They are microscopic in dimension – about the width of a human hair – and can be made in a range of sizes to view different-sized objects. When a cell is placed in such a well and viewed with a regular optical microscope, the researcher can see several sides simultaneously. — Internet

**Hlawa Park up to 5 p.m. on Peasants Day**

**Course on Common Clinical Problems 2009 opens**

**Want to enjoy healthy and stress free life**

YANGON, 27 Feb — Talks (March 2009) organized by the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry will be held on 7 March at 2 p.m. at the UMFCCCI Office Tower on Min Ye Kyaw Swa Street in Lanmadaw Township here under the sponsorship of Medi Myanmar Group Ltd.

The title of the talk is healthy and stress free life style by Professor Dr Kin Maung Win. The talk may be attended by members of UMFCCCI and affiliated associations and those interested. — MNA

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