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Sunday, 21 February, 2010

Four political objectives

- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, 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 economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Fourth Meeting of State Central Working Committee of the Sangha concludes successfully

YANGON, 20 Feb.—The Fourth Meeting of the 6th State Central Working Committee of the Sangha continued for the third day at Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill in Mayangon Township today.

In the morning session, Joint Secretary Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Indasiri explained the discussions of the Sayadaws on the report of the com-

mittee for one year period and sought the approval.

In the afternoon, the Secretary Sayadaw submitted the list of Sayadaws who will discharge duties for second third-year term.

Meeting Chairman Sayadaw Vice-Chairman of State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Mandalay Masoeyin Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha

Pandita Bhaddanta Tejasarabhivamsa offered certificates to Vinayadhara Sayadaws.

Participant Sayadaws signed the record book.

Chairman of the Committee Magway Maha Withutayama Taikthit Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika
(See page 9)

Prime Minister calls for turning out well-qualified mechanical and technical human resources

Prime Minister General Thein Sein on inspection tour of cement plants, factories in Thagara Industrial Region

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb.— Prime Minister General Thein Sein stressed the need to make a plan for operating machines at full capacity to meet the target on his arrival at the construction site of Cement Plant (Nay Pyi Taw), which will be opened in the not too distance future, being built by Myanmar Ceramic Industries of the Ministry of Industry-1 near Thawutthi in Nay Pyi Taw Lewe Township this morning.

At the briefing hall of the plant, Prime Minister General Thein Sein accompanied by Lt-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence, the ministers and departmental heads, heard reports on location of the plant, aim of opening the plant, its basic points, production capacity and standards, availability of inputs and main

raw materials and requirement on inputs, machines installed at the

plant and production lines, presented by Managing Director U Soe Yi

of Myanmar Ceramic Industries and attended to the needs.

Next, the Prime Minister and party inspected main control, lab, kiln,

cooling machine, milling machine and packaging
(See page 8)



Photo shows Max Cement Plant (Taungphila).—MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 21 February, 2010

Keep urban areas neat and tidy

Both urban and rural areas being green plus neat and tidy can lead the public to enjoy good health and happiness. So all the people are required to participate in measures for keeping houses, markets, schools and roads clean and tidy and creating a healthy environment.

Roads in bustling cities are being upgraded in order to ensure smooth and secure transport. It is encouraging to see that all necessary measures are being taken such as preventing floods and leveling road surfaces, paving gravels and digging ditches for proper drainage.

Moreover, gardens and lakes are being built and trees are being grown for greening the environment and public rest and recreation. In cooperation with departments concerned, development affairs committees are implementing the tasks for cleaning up garbage in urban areas, supplying pure drinking water and keeping pavements neat and tidy. Health workers on their part are not only carrying out sanitation tasks in wards, villages, houses, schools and markets but also taking preventive measures against infectious diseases.

Rules and regulations on greening and beautifying urban areas have passed. Those who violate the rules and regulations by spraying graffiti, recklessly dumping rubbish, spitting out betel quid and throwing garbage and other waste material in public roads, backyards and ditches will be fined.

Greening and beautifying tasks have to be undertaken daily, not in a day or in a month. Only if the people are to actively take part in growing trees and flowers, keeping houses, schools and markets neat and tidy and systematically dumping garbage, will there be a clean and healthy environment.

People's Desire

- * Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- * Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- * Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- * Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

MPF produces anti-rabies, anti-venom vaccines

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung inspected production process of anti-rabies and anti-venom vaccines at Myanmar Pharmaceuticals Factory (Yangon) of Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries in Yangon today.

Cell line culture and virus strain provided by Pasteur Institute of India is used to produce the anti-rabies vaccine. The required laboratory tests are being carried out to check the quality of the vaccine to reach the standardization agreed by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and World Health Organization (WHO).

The minister also assisted in producing anti-



Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung views production of anti-venom vaccines at Myanmar Pharmaceuticals Factory (Yangon).—INDUSTRY-1

venom from sheep and chicken eggs and taking venom from vipers and cobras to use for producing the vaccines.

The anti-venom produced from chicken eggs would be commercially available after the research process.

During the visit, the minister also inspected renovation of the factory and departments.

MNA

Date for furniture design contest extend up to 18 April

YANGON, 19 Feb—Myanmar Timber Entrepreneurs Association extended the last date for the participants to take part in the Furniture Design by Myanmar Talents-2010 Design Contest up to 18 April.

On 30 April, the prize presentation ceremony will be organized in conjunction with holding the Myanmar Furniture Exhibition (Nay Pyi Taw).

MNA

Golf tourney for medical professionals

YANGON, 19 Feb—Myanmar Medical Association (Central) will organize the monthly golf tourney at Taw Win Mingaladon Golf Course at noon on 21 February.

Members of the association may take part in it.

MNA

Apollo Gleleagel Hospitals (India) meets Press

YANGON, 19 Feb—Press conference on providing medical treatment and services by Apollo Gleleagel Hospitals Kolkata of India was held at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road here on 15 February.

Chief Executive Officer Dr Rupali Basu explained medical treatment and services of Apollo Gleleagel Hospitals and so did Daw Thida (Myitizimagon tour agency).

Apollo Gleleagel Hospitals in India stands fourth in the world. It is the biggest and best one and has altogether 46 hospitals. Apollo Gleleagel Hospitals performs head, bone, kidney, heart surgeries and providing treatment on cancer.

The hospital performed successful operations on 500 patients with kidney disorders from Myanmar. The hospital is conducting training course for nurse, turning out doctors and providing services to other hospitals. Patients may contact Tele-medicine. For more information, contact Daw Thida (Myitizimagon tour agency) Ph: 01-296446, 095065871 and 095013522.—MNA

Good news for computer crazy: KMD opens new branch



KMD Sales & Service (Myaynigon branch) in Sangyoung Township.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb—The Myaynigon branch of KMD Sales & Service at No. 331, Pyay Road, Myaynigon, Sangyoung Township was opened on 12 February.

KMD Sales & Service (Myaynigon) opens daily from 9:00 am to 8:00 pm except gazette holidays. It is a one-stop sales & service centre with various choices of branded notebooks, desktop computers and accessories. In addition, customers can also enjoy special discount for a particular item every week. For more information, call 503522 or 502244.—MNA

No official negotiations with US for missile shield deployment

SOFIA, 20 Feb — Bulgaria has informed Russia that there are no official negotiations with the United States about basing parts of their European missile shield in Bulgaria, Bulgarian Foreign Ministry announced on Friday.

"Responding to a Russian note received on 19 Feb, 2010, and following the spirit of transparency in the bilateral ties, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed again that there were not any official negotiations up to now about deployment of missile shield on Bulgarian territory," the Press release said.

At the same time Bulgaria underlines that the acquisition of nuclear and missile capabilities in violation of the non-proliferation agreements by state, as well

as by terrorist networks, is one of the most serious threats to collective security.

"As a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Bulgaria will continue to follow strictly the joint NATO' approach for decision-making in the field of security, including the missile defence," the statement said.

On 12 Feb, the US ambassador to Bulgaria James B. Warlick said there have been informal discussions at different levels "in Sofia and in Washington" about basing parts of the American missile shield in Bulgaria.

Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borisov also said he supports plans for taking part in a new US missile defence system in Europe.—Xinhua



Pakistani volunteers unload relief goods and tents for an avalanche survivors in Dasu, in northwestern Pakistan on 19 Feb, 2010. An avalanche crashed down on a village in northwestern Pakistan, burying houses and leaving more than 50 people dead or missing, officials said on Thursday.—INTERNET

Iran's Navy launches first home-made destroyer

TEHERAN, 20 Feb — Iran's Navy launched its first domestically made destroyer in the presence of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Friday, Iran's English-language satellite channel Press TV reported.

The Jamaran guided missile destroyer, a Mowjeh Class vessel, has a displacement of around 1,420 tons and is equipped with modern radars and electronic warfare capabilities, Press TV said.

The multi-mission destroyer, which has a top speed of 30 knots, can carry 120-140 personnel on board and is armed with a variety of anti-ship and surface-to-air missiles.

The destroyer has also been equipped with torpedoes and modern naval cannons, the report added.

The official IRNA news agency quoted Khamenei as saying that there will be times more valuable and magnificent works in the field of

Navy construction in Iran in the future.

"Some causes might initially seem to be ambitious but under high endeavors, overshadowed by faith and trust, any seemingly impossible goal will be possible," Khamenei said.

"By the same token, definitely future works in the field of Navy construction will prove to be more giant and valuable," he added.

Xinhua



A helicopter flies over the stepped Ziggurat temple, a three-tiered edifice dating back to 2113 BC, in the ancient city of Ur in southern Iraq on 4 February. The Ziggurat of Ur which tradition dictates is the Biblical birthplace of Abraham was handed back by the US military to Iraqi control in Spring 2009.—INTERNET

1.2 million Haitians need emergency shelter as rainy season approaches

UNITED NATIONS, 20 Feb — An estimated 1.2 million Haitians are in need of emergency shelter support as the rainy season approaches, the UN humanitarian chief told the Security Council here on Friday.

"We are only 30 percent there," John Holmes, UN Under-Secretary-General and emergency relief coordinator, said when he was briefing the 15-nation Council on his recent trip to Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

"We are straining every nerve to speed up the delivery of shelter materials, mainly plastic sheeting but also tents before the rains begin in earnest," Holmes said as he stressed shelter and sanitation "surge" as the top priority. Around 3 million people, or one in every three Haitians, were badly affected by the earthquake, Holmes said.—Xinhua

Foreign soldier killed in NATO operation in S. Afghanistan

KABUL, 20 Feb — A foreign soldier with the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) was killed on Friday in the ongoing massive operation on the Taliban in southern Afghanistan.

A Press release issued by the ISAF said the soldier died following a small-arms fire attack during Operation Moshtarak, or Together, in southern Afghanistan.

The ISAF Press release, however, failed to give any further detail.—Xinhua

Weapons cache recovered in NE Afghanistan

KABUL, 20 Feb — An Afghan-international patrol has seized a weapons cache in the country's northeastern Nuristan Province, said the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) on Friday.

The NATO force said in a Press release that the cache, which was recovered in Nurgaram District of the province late on Thursday, consisted of 12 107mm rockets and two rocket-propelled grenades.

On Thursday, a civilian informed an Afghan-NATO joint patrol of another weapons cache buried in a field in Garm Ser District of the southern Helmand Province. The patrol recovered the cache containing 22 mortar rounds.—Xinhua



An Iraqi policeman looks at a burnt police vehicle as he secures the site of a bomb attack in Ramadi, west of Baghdad, on 18 Feb, 2010.—INTERNET

Four killed in roadside bombing in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 20 Feb — Four civilians were killed by roadside bombing on Friday in Afghanistan's restive southern province of Kandahar.

The incident happened in Dand District of the province, Ahmadullah Nazik, the district chief told Xinhua through telephone.

Investigations are underway, said the official, adding that no one has so far claimed responsibility for the attack.

Located close to the former Taliban stronghold Kandahar city, Dand is of strategical importance as a staging post for Taliban attackers intent on regaining their control of Kandahar city.—Xinhua

Greek current accounts deficit down 23.3 percent in 2009

ATHENS, 20 Feb—Greece's current accounts deficit shrank by 23.3 percent in 2009 to 26.7 billion euros, or 10.8 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product, the Bank of Greece said on Friday.

The central bank attributed this development to a large decline in the trade deficit and to a lesser extent to a reduction of the incomes deficit, while the services and current transfers surpluses

also fell in the year.

The trade deficit fell by 13.3 billion euros in 2009, reflecting a decline in the trade deficit in goods, excluding fuel and ships, by 7.4 billion euros. Net payments for fuel imports was 4.6 billion euros and net payments on ship purchases was 1.3 billion euros.

Net import payments fell by 9.9 billion euros, or 24 percent, while export revenues fell by 2.5 billion euros or 17.8 per-

cent in the year. The Bank of Greece said foreign capital inflows in the domestic primary and secondary state bond market totaled 31 billion euros in 2009.

The services surplus fell by 4.6 billion euros, reflecting lower net revenues from transport and travel services (down by 3.4 billion and 1.1 billion, respectively). Net payments for "other" services grew by 121 million euros.—Xinhua

Why some smokers find it harder to quit

MADISON, 20 Feb—Success in quitting smoking differed for people who had different psychiatric disorders, US researchers said.

For instance, researchers at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health found, unlike smokers with no psychiatric disorders, smokers with an anxiety disorder were less likely to quit smoking six months after treatment.

The same researchers linked the type of psychiatric disorder to quitting. For instance, smokers diagnosed with an anxiety disorder reported a strong

emotional bond with cigarettes but smokers with a history of a substance use reported their smoking especially likely to be affected by social and environmental influences.

"This information may help clinicians gauge relapse risk and identify treatment targets among smokers who have ever had psychological ill-

nesses," lead author Megan Piper said in a statement.

The findings are published in the special section of the Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology.

Internet

French supermarket giant Carrefour has said its 2009 net profit tumbled 74.2 percent, hit by huge restructuring charges.

INTERNET



A volunteer health worker removes a Guinea worm from the leg of a patient in Sudan's Equatoria state on 2 Feb, 2010. Infections worldwide have been slashed by 99 percent from some 3.9 million people in 1986 to 3,500 in 2009, according to the World Health Organization.—INTERENT

Bank of England reveals high street banks cut back lending

LONDON, 20 Feb—The Bank of England (BOE), Britain's central bank, said on Friday in its monthly Trends in Lending report that there was an 8.1-percent fall in the stock of

loans to businesses in last December comparing with the same month in 2008.

The BOE report said that for the month of December lending was down

by 4.3 billion pounds (about 6.7 billion US dollars).

The report covers the major UK lenders—Banco Santander, Barclays, HSBC, Lloyds Banking Group, Nationwide and Royal Bank of Scotland. Together they accounted for around 65 percent of the stock of lending to businesses, 45 percent of the stock of consumer credit, and 75 percent of the stock of mortgage lending at the end of 2009.

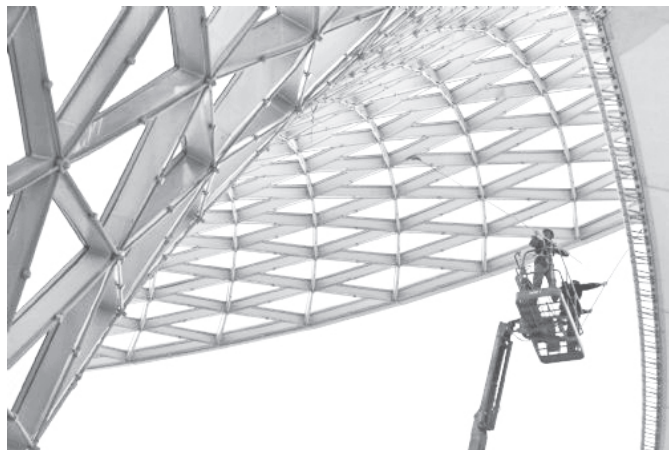
Net lending to UK businesses weakened in December, said the report. Xinhua

Commercial flights to Haiti resumed

PORT AU PRINCE, 20 Feb—After one month and seven days since the 7.3-magnitude earthquake shook Haiti, commercial flights at the airport Toussaint Louverture in Port au Prince were resumed on Friday.

According to local media news reports, the first flight arriving in Port au Prince was a American Airlines plane coming from Miami of the United States. The American Airlines operates three non-stop daily flights to Haiti.

Two of the flights will leave from Miami's International Airport and the other from Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood Airport in Florida.—Xinhua



China's retail sales up 17 pct during Spring Festival

BEIJING, 20 Feb—China's retail sales hit 340 billion yuan (49.8 billion US dollars) during the "golden week" of Spring Festival, up 17.2 percent over the same period of last year, the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) said on Friday.

Boosted by various sales promotion activities, the weeklong Spring Festival holiday, which started from 13 Feb, this year, is China's closest equivalent to the West's Christmas shopping season.

Food, tobacco and liquor were in great demand during the festival. Sales of food by China's major retailers grew 16.5 percent year on year, while sales of tobacco and liquor were up 13.2 percent.—Xinhua

Builders clean the Sunshine Valley of 2010 Shanghai World Expo, in Shanghai, east China, on 19 Feb, 2010. The construction and exhibition installation of 2010 Shanghai World Expo are proceeding steadily on schedule during the Spring Festival holidays.

XINHUA

Iran gets gas boost from Azerbaijan

TEHERAN, 20 Feb—Iran's recent deal with neighbouring Azerbaijan to build a pipeline to import 6.5 billion cubic metres of natural gas a year underlines its energy weakness as the United States strives to secure global backing for harsh new sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

"Iran may get some geopolitical mileage out of an enhanced energy relationship," the US global security consultancy Stratfor said of the 12 Feb, agreement with Azerbaijan's state-owned energy company, SOCAR.—Internet

UN reports initial negative testing results of white powder found in suspicious envelope in cafeteria

UNITED NATIONS, 20 Feb—A UN spokesman said here on Friday that the initial testing results of the white powder found in a suspicious envelope in the UN cafeteria “are negative.”

“The preliminary (testing) results of the white powder are negative,” Farhan Haq, the associate UN spokesman, said. “Confirmation testing continues” and is “most likely to be determined (on) Monday.”

The cafeteria, located

on the first floor of the UN Secretariat Building, remained closed on Friday after it was evacuated on Thursday afternoon due to a “suspicious envelope” found in the main UN cafeteria.

The initial UN reports mean that the white powder found in the envelope is non-toxic. The UN Secretariat Building is located on the First Avenue, between the 42nd Street and 48th Street in Manhattan, central New York City.

On 11 Nov, 2009, Rus-

sia became the sixth UN mission in New York City to receive a letter containing white powder after an envelope was found at the diplomatic post on Manhattan’s Upper East Side overnight.

The UN missions of Austria, France, Britain, Germany and Uzbekistan all received letters containing white powder in the previous two days. More than 40 people were decontaminated as a precaution after the letters were found.—Xinhua



Visitors look around at a Spring Festival temple fair in Zhengzhou, capital of central China’s Henan Province, on 19 Feb, 2010. Many people in the city went to visit temple fairs during the Spring Festival holidays. —XINHUA

All Items from Xinhua News Agency

Satellite launch delayed on technical concern

PARIS, 20 Feb—The Paris-headquartered European Space Agency (ESA) announced on Friday to postpone the launch of CryoSat-2 satellite from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan due to some technical concern.

The CryoSat satellite launch scheduled for 25 Feb, was delayed due to a concern related to the sec-

ond stage steering engine of the Dnepr launcher, ESA said in a statement.

According to the Ukrainian company Yuzhnoye, who developed and is responsible for the launcher, the fuel reserve for the second stage engine is not as large as they would like it to be, therefore the launch provider have to review the situation and take

precautionary measures.

The satellite will fly in a highly inclined polar orbit, reaching latitudes of 88 degree north and south, and precisely monitor changes in the thickness of sea ice and variations in the thickness of the ice sheets on land, ESA said.

Kosmotras, the launch provider, will inform ESA of a new launch date later.—Xinhua



Workers look at an information bulletin at a job fair in Hangzhou, capital of east China’s Zhejiang Province, on 19 Feb, 2010.—XINHUA

Brazilian President to meet Fidel Castro in Cuba

BRASILIA, 20 Feb—Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva will meet with Cuban leader Fidel Castro on Wednesday for a meeting of “friends” during which they will discuss aspects of international politics, Lula’s spokesman Marcelo Baumbach said on Friday.

Da Silva will arrive in Havana on Tuesday evening, coming from Cancun, Mexico, where he will attend the Rio Group Summit.

Castro and Lula da Silva are friends since the early 1980s, when the Brazilian former union

leader founded the Workers’ Party (PT), through which he became Brazil’s president since 2003.

“The meeting that President Lula will have with President Fidel Castro is a visit of a friend to another, during which they will discuss current issues concerning international politics,” the spokesman said.

After this meeting, Lula will be present at the closure of the Working Group Brazil-Cuba on Trade and Economic Affairs, and in the evening he will have dinner with Cuban President Ral Castro.—Xinhua

Nearly 1,000 dengue cases reported in Argentina, Paraguay

BUENOS AIRES, 20 Feb—Argentine health authorities on Friday reported about 500 dengue cases in the country, while the number of people infected with the fever in neighbouring Paraguay reached 477.

In Argentina, most of the dengue cases were registered in the northeastern provinces including Misiones, Chaco, Corrientes and Santa Fe. In Misiones alone, 424 cases were reported.

Cases were also reported in Buenos Aires Province and the capital city of the country. Meanwhile, Paraguayan health authorities said a total of 477 dengue cases were registered out of 1,653 patients with symptoms of dengue.—Xinhua

Gunfire in Mogadishu makes Somalis uncertain about future

MOGADISHU, 20 Feb—A burst of gunfire which was heard on Friday in the war-ravaged Somali capital of Mogadishu made common Somalis feel uncertain about their future. Somalia, the Horn of Africa nation, has been plagued by civil strife since the overthrow of

military strongman Mohamed Siad Barre in 1991. Islamist rebels run much of south and centre of Somalia while the Somali government control small parts of the restive capital Mogadishu.

Thirty-six-year-old Yusuf Abdi, a former taxi driver, told Xinhua journalists that the gunfire everyday made him extremely uncertain about the future. He said the bombings and gun shots just made him feel very insecure.

His son, 12-year-old Ali, is so thin that he looks more like a boy eight or nine years old. The boy is of school age, but because of the long-lasting conflicts here, he never had the chance for education and could not speak English.—Xinhua



A local resident helps put out fire in the forest at Changyuan Village in Qizi Town of Xiangxiang City, central-south China’s Hunan Province, on 18 Feb, 2010. A forest fire broke out on a mountain in Qizi Town on Thursday and was controlled soon. —XINHUA

Powerful storm sweeps Argentina's capital

BUENOS AIRES, 20 Feb — A 90-minute powerful storm with a heavy rainfall of 90 millimetres in volume swept Argentina's capital city of Buenos Aires on Friday, causing an overflow of the Maldonado Stream and seriously interrupting the traffic.

Three of the five subway lines in the city had to suspend operation, while the other two could

offer irregular service only.

Meanwhile, at essential places in the north of the city, firemen, policemen, and rescue teams were seen helping people cross the streets with ropes tied to the traffic lights and columns, since the water level reached a height over people's waists. At the Ezeiza International Airport, the international, domestic and regional flights were all delayed.

The railway General Roca, which connects Buenos Aires with the southern zone of Gran Buenos Aires, was also suspended from operation as a result of flooding over rails.

At midday on Friday, the National Meteorology Service said that the weather conditions over Argentina will remain unstable till early morning on Saturday.—Xinhua

TTP confirms death of Taliban leader's brother in drone attack

ISLAMABAD, 20 Feb — Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) spokesman confirmed on Friday that Mohammed Haqqani, the brother of senior Taliban commander Siraj Haqqani, was killed in a US missile strike in northwest Pakistan, local TV channel reported. According to the private TV DAWN News, TTP spokesman said Mohammed Haqqani was killed when a US drone attack targeted a militant compound and vehicle Thursday night in North Waziristan tribal area.

It was reported that Mohammed Haqqani and three other close associates of Siraj Haqqani were killed during the air strike.

Mohammed Haqqani's brother Siraj Haqqani was the leader of the Haqqani network, which is affiliated to the Afghan Taliban and al-Qaeda.

It has not been confirmed whether Siraj Haqqani was killed or injured in the drone attack.

The US has intensified drone attacks on militants in Pakistan's tribal regions recently, especially in

North Waziristan agency, a stronghold of the Haqqani network in Pakistan's lawless tribal belt on the Afghan border.—Xinhua

Gunmen kidnap local employees of American NGO

QUETTA, 20 Feb — Unknown gunmen kidnapped three members of an American non-governmental organization and their driver in Pakistan's southwestern Balochistan Province, a senior official said on Friday.

The employees of "Mercy Corps" were kidnapped when they were returning to Quetta, the capital of Balochistan, from Zhob, a main city in the region, Provincial Home Secretary Akram Durrani said.

Durrani said the kidnapped people and their driver were Pakistanis and their vehicle was taken away with them.

No group has claimed responsibility for the kidnapping so far. Families of the kidnapped people informed the police that they had been missing since Thursday.

An eyewitness told local officials that the gunmen stopped the vehicle of the workers on the main road.—Xinhua



Some 100,000 South Koreans gather at the Jamsil Stadium in Seoul in 2006. South Korea will speed up its baseball games and install energy-saving equipment at major parks as part of a "green sports" plan to cut emissions, officials said on Friday.—INTERNET

Russia lends funds to Bulgarian Belene nuclear power plant

SOFIA, 20 Feb — Russia will lend between 1.35 billion and 1.9 billion euros (about 1.82 billion to 2.57 billion US dollars) to Bulgaria for the construction of the Belene Nuclear Power Plant until Bulgaria finds a strategic investor for it, officials said here on Friday.

At a joint Press conference after a Bulgaria-Russia meeting, Bulgarian Economy, Energy and Tourism Minister Traicho Traikov said Bulgaria launched on Friday a tender for finding a strategic investor for the Belene project.

Bulgaria has no money to fund the project during the tender process, which may take up to two years, he said.

Sergei Kirienko, head of the Russian nuclear energy corporation Rosatom, said Russia has the will to fund the project during the tender period.

Xinhua



An Israel Antiquities Authority worker holds a fragment of a marble plaque with an Arabic inscription dated to 910 CE, discovered in Jerusalem's Old City, and displayed. The fragment of a 1,100-year-old plaque is thought to have been made by an army veteran to express his thanks for a land grant from the caliph al-Muqtadir, who the inscription calls 'Emir of the Faithful.' Dating from a time when Jerusalem was ruled by the Muslim Abbasid empire, the plaque shows one way rulers rewarded their troops and ensured their loyalty.

Ancient Arabic inscription found in Jerusalem

A home renovation in Jerusalem's Old City has yielded a rare Arabic inscription offering insight into the city's history under Muslim rule, Israeli archaeologists said. The fragment of a 1,100-year-old plaque is thought to have been made by an army veteran to express his thanks for a land grant from the Caliph al-Muqtadir, whom the inscription calls "Emir of the Faithful."

Dating from a time when Jerusalem was ruled from Baghdad by the Abbasid empire, the plaque shows how rulers rewarded their troops and ensured their loyalty, archaeologists said.

The Abbasids conquered Jerusalem after numerous wars with the Fatimid empire in Egypt. The Abbasid caliphs valued Jerusalem as an Islamic holy site.

Woman finds 32-year-old \$17,500 cheque

A Florida woman said she found an unopened envelope containing a 32-year-old cheque for \$17,500 in the bottom drawer of her night stand.

Barbara Cosgrove, 85, of Lauderhill, Fla., said she does not remember who gave her the envelope or why she put it away instead of cashing the cheque, but she said she does recall the money is from an insurance settlement for an April 1, 1976,



Citizens cover Chen Kcai, who is famous for his ability to endure coldness, with ice cubes in Mudanjiang City, northeast China's Heilongjiang Province. Over 300 swimmers took part in the yearly winter swimming performance in Mudanjiang River.

Scientists find young planet

The discovery of a young planet orbiting a solar-type star could provide clues to early stages of planetary evolution, British scientists said.

The giant planet, named BD+20 1790b, is the youngest planet ever found orbiting a star of a similar size to Earth's sun, said astronomer Maria-Cruz Galvez-Ortiz of the University of Hertfordshire.

The planet, located 83 light years from Earth, is 35 million years old and six times the size of Jupiter, Galvez-Ortiz and her team wrote in a recent issue of the journal *Astronomy & Astrophysics*. "There are still very few extrasolar planets that have been discovered — only about 420," Galvez-Ortiz told *The Daily Telegraph* in a story reported.



Swiss scientists say they have found a trigger for narcolepsy, the health disorder that sparks sudden daytime bouts of tiredness or sleep, in a move that could open up new avenues for treatment.

NEWS ALBUM

Self-reliant libraries in Mingaladon, Hlegu Tsps broader people's horizon

YANGON, 20 Feb—Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Win Myint arrived at Chittikon Ward, Mingaladon Township this morning where officials reported him on drainage system, and preventive measure against DHF and cholera diseases. The commander then inspected sanitation works.

The commander attended opening of Lin

library in Shwenattha model village-tract. He together with Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin attended stake driving ceremony of 25-bed Pale Myothit station hospital. The commander also attended opening of Lin yaung gyi, Pynnyaalin and Pynnyatazaung self-reliant libraries in Padamya Myothit, Zayatkwin Village and Minlwkon Village in Hlegu Township. He later proceeded to People's

Hospital in Hlegu Township to inspect arrangements for healthcare. He viewed broadcasting of natural and chemical fertilizer on summer paddy plantations in Yemon Village.

The commander later made inspection of construction of main canal at Yemon-1 river water pumping station in Yemon station, carpack and stalls, housings and primary school in Thabaikkon Village.

MNA

Mya Yadana, Pale (3) to enjoy adequate potable water soon

YANGON, 20 Feb—Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin oversaw the tasks of Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation) of

YCDC for adequate supply of potable water to residents of Thingangyungyi model village-tract. Myayadana Myothit and Ward 3 of Pale Myothit Mingaladon

Township, Yangon District (North) this morning.

The mayor met with local people and fulfilled the requirements.

MNA

Homeless, orphans receive good care in Wanetchaung

YANGON, 20 Feb—Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin visited Social Care Centre in Wanetchaung

village, Hmawby Township, Yangon District (North) this afternoon.

They provided the department with foodstuff, medicines and clothes. They then encouraged the homeless and the orphans taken care by the department.—MNA

Want to learn wireless and mobile computing?

YANGON, 20 Feb—India-Myanmar Center for Enhancement of IT Skills (IMCEITS) will conduct the Wireless and Mobile Computing (WiMC) Course at Yangon University of Computer Studies (Hline) in May.

It will be the 4th batch of the course. The graduates of University of Computer Studies and IT graduates of Technological Univer-

sities may submit the application for the course. Moreover, those who had completed the software development Java programming course conducted by IMCEITS and Japan-Myanmar Course Centre (ICTTI) may submit the applications for the

course. All the applicants have to site for the entry test.

The course limits only 40 trainees. For further information, contact IMCEITS, Yangon University of Computer Studies (Hline), Tel: 01-662329 and 01-562529.—MNA

Take Fire Preventive Measures

Kinmuntaung Dam contributes...

(from page 16)

We get moderate amount of rainfall, and irrigation water is available at any time. So, there is no need to worry about irrigation water. The Myanmar Agriculture Service constantly provides us with notices about farming. We are pleased with this. Now, I get on well with my business because I also get a brick kiln, and lab lab bean workshop, and run a grocery."

Farmer U Win Tin, 55, from Gonmin Village said, "I have transformed my cropland into paddy

field. I also grow summer paddy. I began my farming monsoon paddy on 17 August. I am getting on with my farming due to the assistance of advanced agricultural methods. Both monsoon and summer paddy fields are successful due to the irrigation water from the dam. I get good harvest."

Farmer U Myint Soe from the same village said that he ran an eight-acre paddy field; that he got on with his business due to the adequate water supply; that they had dug channels on a self-reliant basis to get irrigation water; and

that he thanked the departments concerned for the agricultural assistance and fertilizers.

The chairman of the Township PDC said that the township had over 100,000 acres of paddy

fields, five dams and two small dams; that irrigation facilities benefited 26,340 acres of paddy fields; and that the paddy output exceeded the target.

Despite the age of nearly 20 years,

Kinmuntaung Dam is still in good condition thanks to constant maintenance. The earthen type dam is 1680 feet long and 82 feet high. Its maximum water storage capacity is 10,520 acre feet, and it can supply

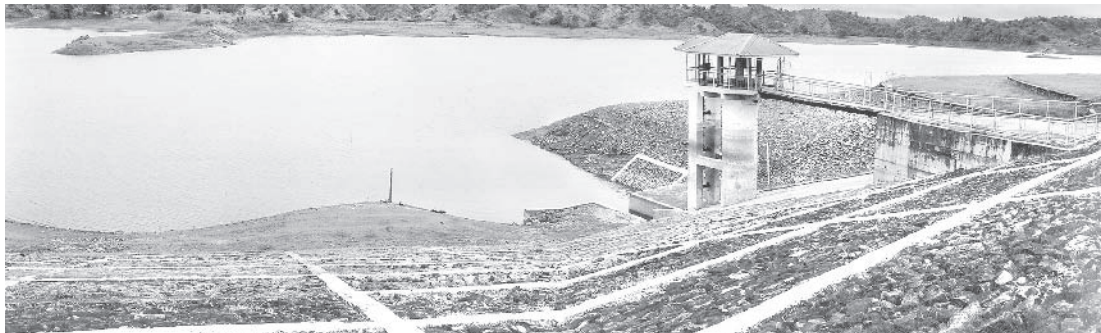
9880 acre feet of water.

Staff Officer U San Thein said that the irrigation facility benefited 5000 acres of paddy fields and other crops yearly; and that in 2008-2009, it irrigated 5158 acres of farmlands. Owing to the agricultural assistance and supervision of the committees at all level, Taungdwingyi Township is now making great progress year by year, thus contributing towards Magway Division's target of one million acres of monsoon paddy.

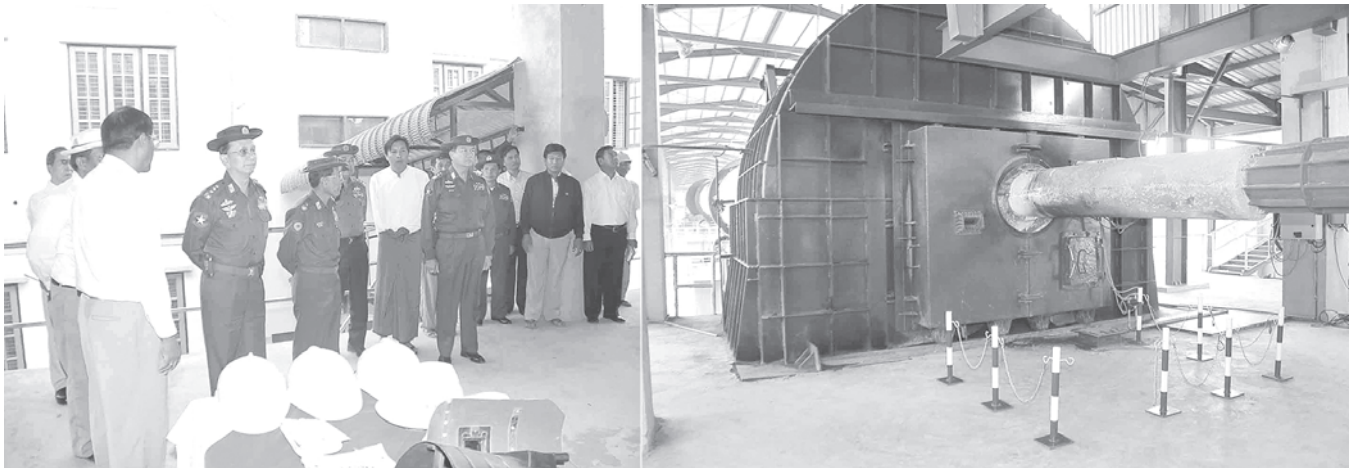
Translation: MT
Myanma Alin:
17-2-2010



Pintaing Village grows 200 acres of corn due to Kinmuntaung Dam.



Kinmuntaung Dam and its control tower near Katha Village, Taungdwingyi Township, Magway Division.



Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects construction of Cement Plant (Nay Pyi Taw).—MNA

Prime Minister calls for turning out well-qualified mechanical...

(from page 1)

machine and test running of machines at cement production divisions.

Then they proceeded to Max Cement Plant (Taungphila) at Taungphila, east of Thawuthi of Nay Pyi Taw Lewe Township just nine miles from Yangon-Mandalay Express way. The Prime Minister looked into progress of construction of buildings, kiln, milling machine, lime storage tank, lime spinning tank, storage of charcoal, production of plastic fiber at polyethylene bag factory, weaving of bags with the use of looms, the process of plastic packaging, packers and test running of machines at packaging factory and construction of office building.

At Bulldozer and Excavator Factory of Myanma Automobile and Diesel Engine Industries under the Ministry of Industry-2, the Prime Minister inspected welding workshop, silo and painting and spraying of heavy machinery at painting workshop.

At multi-purpose diesel engine factory, the Prime Minister looked into forging, foundry and assembling workshops and machines and spare parts manufactured by the factory.

(See page 9)



Prime Minister General Thein Sein views production line of Polyethylene bag factory in Max Cement Plant (Taungphila).—MNA



Photo shows Max Cement Plant (Taungphila).

MNA



Heavy machinery manufactured by Bulldozer and Excavator Factory.—MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein visits Technical Training School (Thagara).

MNA

Fourth Meeting of State Central Working...

(from page 1)

Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Kumara gave the Nigamana Ovadakatha.

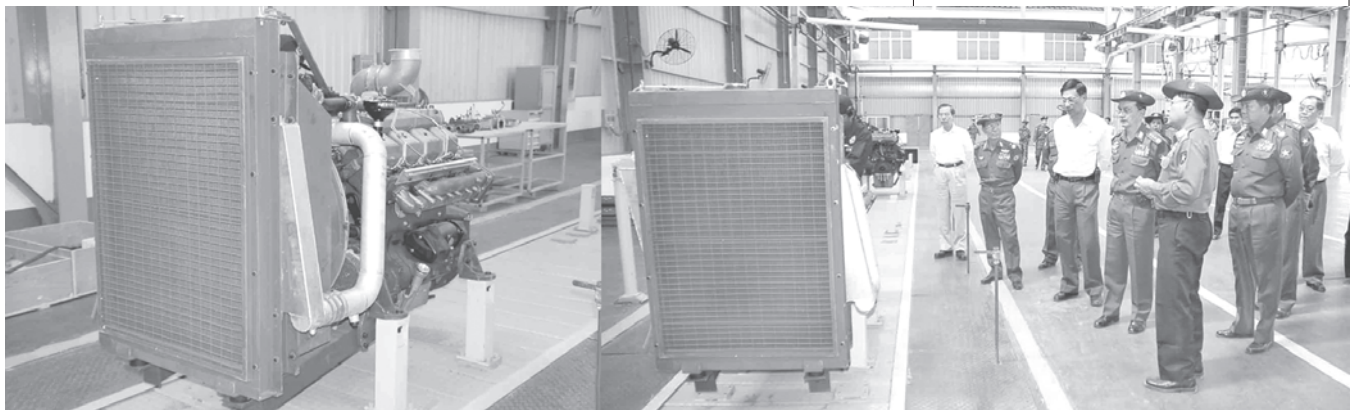
Next, members of the Sangha who attended the meeting recited Jayanto Bodiyamule Gatha three times.

Afterwards, the meeting came to a close successfully.

Today, (General Soe Win)-Daw Than Than Nwe, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe (Retd)-Daw Khin Hnin Wai, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win (Retd)-Daw Khin San Yi, (Lt-Gen Maung Bo)-Daw Khin Lay Myint, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than (Retd)-Daw Marlar Tint, Lt-Gen Ye Myint (Retd)-Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint and Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe (Retd)-Daw Nan Khin Hla Win and families offered meals to the Sayadaws.

MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects diesel engine factory in Thagara. —MNA



Prime Minister calls for turning out well-qualified mechanical...

(from page 8)

The Prime Minister also oversaw assembling of machines at the hydropower turbine and generator plant.

At Technical Training School (Thagara), the Prime Minister looked into theatres and practical rooms of factory equipment, computer aided design, electrical and electronic training sections.

Principal U Htay Win Aung of the school conducted the Prime Minister round the school.

The Prime Minister called for use of teaching aides effectively and stressed the need to turn out well-qualified mechanical and technical human resources.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein arrived back here in the afternoon.

MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects Technical Training School (Thagara).

MNA

Educative talks on traffic rules at Mawlamyine

YANGON, 20 Feb— Under the supervision of Mon State Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee, Mawlamyine Township Traf-

fic Police Force organized an educative talk on traffic rules at No.7 Basic Education Middle School, Mawlamyine on 11 February.

The Traffic Police Force handed over educative pamphlets to the headmaster.

The educative documentary photos will be on display at the school for a week.

MNA

Seafarers to meet at dinner

YANGON, 20 Feb— Myanmar Overseas Seafarers Association will hold the 8th annual dinner at Sedona Hotel, here, at 6 pm on 27 Feb-

ruary.

Members of the association and family

members were invited to attend the dinners.

MNA

Donate blood



Beans and Pulses merchants get funds



Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence views beans and pulses and edible oil crops displayed at 16th AGM of Myanmar Beans, Pulses and Sesame Merchants Association.—MNA

YANGON, 20 Feb — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence accepted cash donated by wellwishers to the funds of the Myanmar Beans, Pulses and Sesame Merchants Association at the association's 16th annual meeting here today.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe addressed the annual meeting held at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Lanmadaw Township.

After accepting the donation, he posed for group photos along with officials of the association and browsed photos of peas and sesame displayed at the meeting hall.

During the meeting, the annual report and the financial statement of the executive committee and amendments for the charter of the association were approved. — MNA

Objectives of 65th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

1. To uphold Our Three Main National Causes at risk to life as the national policy
2. To work hard with national people for successful completion of elections due to be held in accordance with the new constitution
3. To crush internal and external subversive elements through the strength and consolidated unity of the people
4. To build a strong, patriotic modern Tatmadaw capable of safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the nation

Minister emphasizes taking fire preventive measures

YANGON, 20 Feb—Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe met with the officials of Fire Service Department (Head Office) and Yangon Division FSD at the hall of Fire Services Department in Mayangon Township.

At the meeting, the minister stressed the need for fire preventive tasks.—MNA

Myanmar cruise into semifinal of Challenge Cup

YANGON, 20 Feb—Myanmar lost to Tajikistan 3-0 in the third match of the Group (A) in the AFC Challenge Cup 2010 in Colombo of Sri Lanka at 4 pm MST today.

Myanmar sailed into the last four of the Cup by standing second in the group on six points with two wins and one loss in three matches behind group-winners Tajikistan.—MNA

Winners of Pakokku U Ohn Pe literary awards-2009 announced

YANGON, 20 Feb — Winners of the Pakokku U Ohn Pe literary awards for 2009 were announced today by the committee for selecting Pakokku U Ohn Pe literary awards.

Zar Ni, Aung Tha San (Thandwe) and Khat Zaw won first, second and third prize respectively in the collective poems genre.

In the long story genre, Ko (Tekkatho) won the first and Ko Naing (Chin Hill) the second; in the collective short stories genre, Thwe Htar Nyo (Thakkala) won the second and Myo Thuriya the third; in the treatise genre, Tin Myint won the first and

Tekkatho Khin Maung Zaw the second.

Winners of the research literature genre are Maymyo Chit Swe and Maung Maung Nann Nwe. Dr. U Thein Nyunt (Nyunt Wai-Katha) was selected as the winner of the Pakokku U Ohn Pe Lifelong literary Award for 2009.

Winners of the Pakokku U Ohn Pe scholarship to study at the National Culture and Fine Arts University are Mg Soe Thiha (2nd year, Music) of NCFAU (Yangon) and Ma Aye Su Mon (2nd year, Music).

The committee has invited the winners to

attend the presentation which is scheduled to be held at Chatrium Hotel on Natmauk Road here at 9 am on 28 February, and to participate in a rehearsal for presentation ceremony at the hall of Sarpayloaikman at 1 pm on 27 February. The winners are urged to contact the committee at Sarpay Beikman, Ph: 381448 within two days. The committee will accept manuscripts for the Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award for 2010 till 30 September. Pakokku U Ohn Pe literary awards contest has been held yearly since 1993.—MNA



The Cement Plant (Nay Pyi Taw) being built by Myanma Ceramics Industries. (News on page 1)—MNA

New influenza A (H1N1) reminder

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb — Myanmar dailies have carried new influenza A (H1N1) cases that occurred in the country. There have been cases in Tiddim Township, Chin State, in Kyaukse Township, Shan State and in Bahan, Tamu, Dagon Myothit (North), Dagon Myothit (East), Shwepyitha, Hlinethaya and Hmawby in Yangon Division townships.

If one is infected with A (H1N1) virus, take the following measures:

- (1) cover the nose and mouth with a handkerchief when sneezing and coughing
- (2) cover the nose and mouth with a surgical mask in order not to cause infection
- (3) wash the hands thoroughly with soap
- (4) avoid going to crowded places and festivities
- (5) stay at home and receive systematic treatment

If any patients are found to have such symptoms as high temperature, persistent cough, hard breathing and unconsciousness, they are to go to the Health Department for due care and treatment.

Ministry of Health

Endeavour astronauts say goodbye to space station

CAPE CANAVERAL, 20 Feb —After more than a week together, the crews of space shuttle *Endeavour* and the *International Space Station* are parting ways.

The six shuttle astronauts and five station residents embraced and said farewell early on Friday before the hatches between the shuttle and station were sealed in preparation for Friday night's undocking.

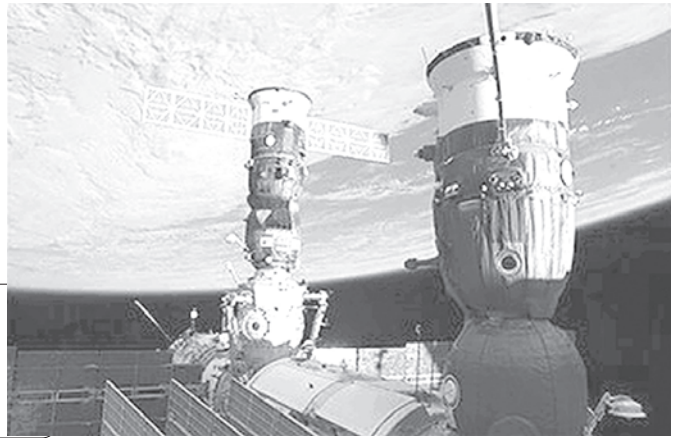
Endeavour will leave behind a virtually completed space station. The shuttle crew delivered and installed a new room and observation deck that is

providing amazing views of Earth.

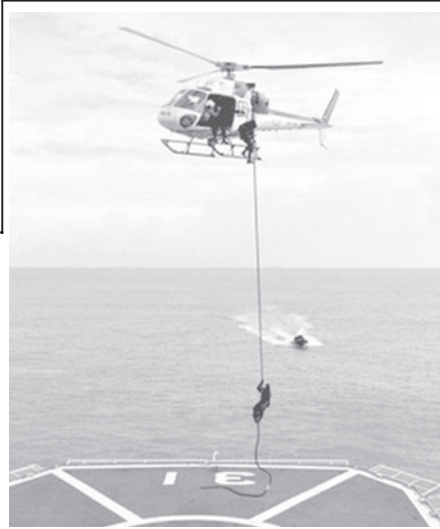
Late on Thursday, the astronauts celebrated the addition of the domed seven-window lookout by

cutting a red ribbon in a formal opening ceremony. They also handed over a plaque containing tiny moon rocks from the lunar surface.—*Internet*

This image provided by NASA shows the Russian Soyuz and Progress spacecrafts, docked to the International Space Station on 17 Feb, 2010 photographed by a shuttle crew member on the station while space shuttle Endeavour remains docked with the station.—INTERNET



File photo shows Royal Malaysian Marine police during a training session. Eleven Indonesian sailors have been rescued after surviving at sea for eight days, set adrift by hijackers who seized their Singapore-registered tugboat, Malaysian authorities have said.—INTERNET



Malaysia rescues 11 Indonesian crew set adrift

KUALA LUMPUR, 20 Feb —Eleven Indonesian sailors have been rescued after surviving at sea for eight days, set adrift by hijackers who seized their Singapore-registered tugboat, Malaysian authorities said on Friday.

The Malaysian maritime enforcement agency chief in Sabah state, Mohamad Taha Ibrahim, said the men were found on Thursday off Pulau Layang-Layang, about 300 kilometres (186 miles) northwest of Kota Kinabalu on Borneo Island.

He said the sailors

were on board the *Asta*, a tug sailing from Singapore to Cambodia, when it was hijacked on 6 February off Tioman island on the east coast of peninsular Malaysia.

Mohamad Taha said

the vessel was attacked by masked pirates armed with assault rifles and machetes, who held the crew captive for five days before setting 11 of the 12 sailors adrift on a life raft.

Internet

First Clipper yacht expected to arrive in Qingdao

QINGDAO, 20 Feb— The first yacht of the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race is expected to arrive in Qingdao on Saturday for a 10-day stopover.

The fleet, which consisted of 9 yachts, departed Singapore on 2 February and the yachts named *Spirit of Australia*, *Jamaica Lightning Bolt* and *Qingdao* would probably be the first team members to arrive in Qingdao, a coastal city of east China's Shandong Province, said Wang Xiulin, vice mayor of Qingdao, at a Press conference on Friday. Qingdao is the last stopover of the fourth leg in the race's overall 13 stopovers of 7 legs. The fleet is scheduled to leave for California on 2 March.

The race from Singapore to Qingdao is one of the toughest. After several months in the tropics, the crews face big ocean waves and extreme cold weather. The demands during this race on both crews and boats are high and breakages are common, said Ian Dickens, marketing director of the Clipper Ventures PLC.

After the stopover of Singapore, the yachts from Australia, Finland and Jamaica are the top three for the time being. The yacht, *Qingdao*, from China ranks in the eighth.—*Xinhua*

Suspected Taliban agent arrested in Seoul

SEOUL, 20 Feb— A Pakistani man who claimed to be an agent of the armed militants group Taliban has been caught by local police, raising concern here over the country's immigration control, local media reported on Friday.

The Pakistani, whose name has not been revealed, was arrested for violating the immigration control law by making illegal entry and exit 17 times over five years while carrying another Pakistani national's passport, according to *Yonhap* news agency.—*Xinhua*

Huge deficit prompts Los Angeles Council to cut 4,000 jobs

LOS ANGELES, 20 Feb—The Los Angeles City Council on Thursday ordered the elimination of 4,000 municipal jobs in a bid to help the city tackle its financial problems.

The council voted 9-3 to approve the move which went beyond Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's call for 1,000 layoffs this year.

The city faces a 212-million-dollar shortfall by 30 June and a projected 484-million-dollar deficit in fiscal year 2010-11.—*Xinhua*



Pedestrians waded through a flooded street in Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina, on 19 Feb, 2010. A heavy rain hit the capital city on Friday, leaving streets flooded in some area. —XINHUA

Two soldiers killed, one injured in bomb blast in S Philippines

MANILA, 20 Feb—Two government troopers died and another was injured when they were attacked by a homemade bomb planted by Abu Sayyaf terrorists in the outskirts of Sumisip town in Basilan of south Philippines on Friday morning.

Commander of the military's Task Force Trillium said the troops from the Army's 32nd Infantry Battalion were on foot patrol in an area

where the Abu Sayyaf bandits were regrouped when they were attacked by the terrorists in the village of Pamatsaken around 6:30 am.

He said the military fatalities were both enlisted personnel. The two, along with the injured, were flown to Zamboanga City, home of the military Western Mindanao Command.

Pama said the soldiers were also searching the

area after receiving information that the two Chinese nationals — Michael Tan and Oscar Dee kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf last November are being kept there.

The 380-strong Abu Sayyaf group, founded in the early 1990s by Islamic extremists, is notorious for kidnappings, bombings and even beheadings in the South over the past decade.

Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BIMA VOYNO (054)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BIMA VOYNO (054) are hereby notified that the vessels will be arriving on 21.2.2010 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 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
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING
LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Dozens die in Morocco minaret collapse

RABAT, 20 Feb — At least 36 people were killed in Morocco when a minaret collapsed at a mosque in the central town of Meknes, officials say. More than 60 people were injured in the accident at the Berdieyenne mosque in Meknes' old city during Friday prayers, according to Moroccan state television.

The TV report said that the collapse came after heavy rains which lashed the region for several days. The minaret is said to have been four centuries old. Many people are said to be buried under the rubble of the collapsed tower.

A resident, Khaled Rahmouni, told *Reuters* news agency that about 300 worshippers had gathered inside the mosque for Friday afternoon prayers.

Internet



Oil nears 80 dollars on Fed rate increase

NEW YORK, 20 Feb — Oil prices rallied to near 80 U.S. dollars a barrel on Friday as investors took Fed's increasing overnight loan rates as a sign of the strength of economic recovery.

Federal Reserve announced after market closing on Thursday that the central bank decided to increase the overnight loan rates it charges banks by 25 basis points to 0.75 percent. The decision, which took effect on Friday, made investors believe that it reflected policymakers' confidence in economic recovery and thus boosted market sentiment.

Meanwhile, oil workers' strike in France added to investors' concern about a potential disruption of US gasoline supply. The latest government inventory report showed a 379,000-barrel-a-day drop in gasoline output to 8.4 million barrels last week, while gasoline imports fell 459,000 barrels a day to 709,000 barrels.

Light, sweet crude for March delivery gained 75 cents to settle at 79.81 dollars a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. — *Xinhua*

Babies may be born bilingual

VANCOUVER, 20 Feb — Canadian and French researchers suggest hearing two languages in the womb may lead to bilingual newborns.

Krista Byers-Heinlein and Janet F. Werker of the University of British Columbia in Vancouver and Tracey Burns of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development in France found infants born to English monolingual mothers were more interested in English than Tagalog — a language spoken in the Philippines.

However, infants born to bilingual mothers regularly speaking both English and Tagalog while pregnant had an equal preference for both languages.

The study, published in *Psychological Science*, also concluded both the monolingual infants as well as the bilingual infants were able to discriminate between the two languages.

The researchers employed a method known as "high-amplitude sucking-preference procedure," which uses the infant's sucking reflex. Increased sucking indicated increased interest in a stimulus.

"The results of these studies demonstrate that the roots of bilingualism run deeper than previously imagined, extending even to the prenatal period," the authors said in a statement.

Internet

Midwest airports rated best in survey

WESTLAKE VILLAGE, 20 Feb — The three top-rated airports in North America for customer satisfaction are located in the Midwest United States, a survey released on Thursday shows. A survey by JD Power and Associates said the best large facility is Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport, Kansas City International is the best midsize airport, and Indianapolis International was named the best small airport.

The survey took responses from more than 12,000 passengers who took round-trip flights and were based on six factors: check-in and baggage-check process, food and retail services, terminal facilities, security check, baggage claim and accessibility. "Airports that rated the highest are raising the performance bar," says Stuart Greif, a JD. Power vice president. "They exceeded the scores of the highest-rated airports in our last study two years ago."

This year's survey found respondents noted comfort in terminals, amount of time to pass through security, ease of check-in and bag check, and speed of baggage delivery as the areas most affecting passenger satisfaction. "For many passengers, basic needs such as seating comfort and ease of moving through the airport are not consistently being met," Greif says.

Internet

Area police chief dies in Pakistan suicide attack

PESHAWAR, 20 Feb — Police say a team of suicide bombers attacked two police stations in northwestern Pakistan, killing an area police chief and wounding several officers. Police official Gul Zareen says the attacks started within minutes of each other on Saturday in the district of Mansehra.

He says local police chief Khalil Khan died when an attacker blew himself up inside the police station in Mansehra. He says a pair of attackers stormed a nearby police station minutes later, triggering a shootout that left one of the attackers dead.

Internet



Young boys play Japanese video game giant Nintendo's portable video game console "Nintendo DS" at a showroom in Tokyo in 2006. Gaming giant Nintendo said on Friday it had won 556,500 US dollars' compensation from an Australian firm for selling illegal game-copying devices. — *INTERNET*

US officials ask Cuba to release jailed American

HAVANA, 20 Feb — Top US diplomats used a high-level meeting with their Cuban counterparts on Friday to call for the release of an American held in a maximum security prison without charge for nearly three months.

Cuba alleges Alan P. Gross is a spy whose arrest proves Washington is still out to topple the island's communist government. Gross' family maintains he is a veteran development worker who came to Cuba to distribute communications equipment to Jewish groups.

Both the US and Cuba also offered restrained praise for the discussions, which lasted about five hours and focused on migration issues. The Cubans said the talks at an undisclosed location in Havana were positive and respectful, while the U.S. called them part of a larger, constructive process.

The US also said in a statement that its delegation, led by Craig Kelly, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere affairs and the highest-ranking American official to visit in years, "raised the case of the US citizen detained in Cuba and called for his immediate release." In its own assessment, Cuba made no mention of Gross' arrest or of American officials' broaching the issue, saying only that the meeting "took place in an atmosphere of respect."

Internet

US rebrands military campaign in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 20 Feb — The US military operation in Iraq is to be renamed Operation New Dawn later this year, according to a defence department memo. The change, set to take place in September, aims to reflect the reduced role of US troops as their numbers in Iraq fall to around 50,000. US troops went into Iraq in 2003 under Operation Iraqi Freedom.

President Barack Obama has pledged to withdraw all combat troops by the end of August. About 100,000 troops remain in Iraq and up to 50,000 are expected to remain there until the end of 2011 to help train and equip Iraqi forces. — *Internet*

Gold nanoparticles may zap cancer cells

ATLANTA, 20 Feb—Sending gold nano-particles into cancer cells can kill them, researchers at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta suggest.

Mostafa El-Sayed, director of the Laser Dynamics Laboratory at Georgia Tech, says directing gold nanoparticles into the nuclei of cancer cells actually stops them from multiplying. Once the cell stops dividing, apoptosis—cell death—sets in, El-Sayed says. “In cancer, the nucleus divides much faster than that of a normal cell, so if we can stop it

from dividing, we can stop the cancer,” El-Sayed says in a statement.

El-Sayed and colleagues used a peptide to bring the gold nanoparticles into the cytoplasm of a cancer cell, but not the healthy cells. A nuclear localization signal peptide was used to bring it into the nucleus. Just bringing the gold into the cytoplasm did nothing.

The study, reported in the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, found implanting the gold into the nucleus effectively kills the cancer cell.

Internet

Russia's Oksana Domnina (R) and Maxim Shabalin perform during the ice dance compulsory dance figure skating competition at the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics on 19 Feb, 2010.—INTERNET



Low levels of antibiotics cause superbugs

BOSTON, 20 Feb—Treating bacteria with insufficient levels of antibiotics produces germs that are cross-resistant to a wide range of antibiotics, US researchers say.

James J Collins of

Boston University said administered in lethal levels, antibiotics trigger a fatal chain reaction within the bacteria that shreds the cell's DNA.

However, when the level of antibiotic is less

than lethal the same reaction causes DNA mutations that are not only survivable, but actually protect the bacteria from numerous antibiotics beyond the one to which it was exposed.

“In effect, what doesn't kill them makes them stronger,” Collins said in a statement.

“These findings drive home the need for tighter regulations on the use of antibiotics, especially in agriculture; for doctors to be more disciplined in their prescription of antibiotics; and for patients to be more disciplined in following their prescriptions.”—Internet

Tamiflu boost not needed for severely ill

WINNIPEG, 20 Feb—An increased dosage of Tamiflu, or oseltamivir, for patients with severe H1N1 influenza is unlikely to be required, Canadian researchers suggest.

World Health Organization guidelines recommend that all critically ill patients be treated with Tamiflu and if the patient was unresponsive to standard doses or critically ill, a higher dose should be considered. Critically ill patients may have gastrointestinal absorption issues, the researchers explained.

However, lead author Dr Anand Kumar of the Health Sciences Centre at the University of Manitoba and colleagues found blood sampling indicated that the 75 mg twice daily dosage of

Tamiflu was well absorbed in critically ill patients with respiratory failure.

The researchers looked at the gastrointestinal absorption of Tamiflu in 44 patients, age 18 and older, with suspected or confirmed H1N1 influenza who were admitted to nine intensive care units in Winnipeg, Ottawa and Tarragona, Spain.

The study, published in the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, found blood sampling indicated that the 75 mg twice daily dosage of Tamiflu was well absorbed in critically ill patients, but patients with kidney dysfunction requiring dialysis needed an adjusted dose but adjustment for obesity was not required.

Internet

Test detects micro amounts of cancer

BALTIMORE, 20 Feb—A promising blood DNA test should be capable of detecting microscopic cancer tumours missed by conventional imaging equipment, scientists in Baltimore said.

The test could revolutionize cancer care by sparing some patients chemotherapy and ensuring other patient receive extra treatment when the original course of treatment fails to kill all the cancer cells, said Victor Velculescu of Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Centre.

The test uses genetic technology to identify so-called DNA “fingerprints” in tumour cells and then detect them in blood, Velculescu said. In clinical trials, the test detected tiny traces of tumour DNA in the blood of four patients with bowel cancer and two with breast cancer, he said.

The test, known as PARE for personalized analysis of rearranged ends, also could determine whether cancer has spread to lymph nodes and would allow for healthy tissue around a tumour to be left in place, *The Times of London* reported on Friday.

“We believe that this is one of the first applications of new genome sequencing technologies that could be useful for cancer patients,” Velculescu said.—Internet

Dolphins can turn on, turn off diabetes

SAN DIEGO, 20 Feb—Dolphins can induce diabetes when food is scarce and turn it off when food is abundant, said California scientists looking for a cure for humans.

The unique ability may result from a dolphin's need to maintain high blood sugar levels for its large brain—an ability possibly lost by humans through evolution, said Stephanie Venn-Watson, a veterinary epidemiologist at the National Marine Mammal Foundation in San Diego.

“It is our hope that this discovery can lead to novel ways to prevent, treat and maybe even cure diabetes in humans,” said Venn-Watson, who made the discovery while researching dolphins off the

coast of Southern California.

By taking blood samples from dolphins who had become comfortable around researchers, Venn-Watson found they could induce type II diabetes during times of fasting when food was scarce and

then almost immediately turn it off when food once again was available, *The Daily Telegraph* reported on Friday.

People may have had the same ability because there is evidence a fasting gene still exists in humans, she said.—Internet



Complementary medicine for breast cancer

EAST LANSING, 20 Feb—US researchers are producing a DVD and booklet on the safety and effectiveness of alternative and complementary medicine for women with breast cancer.

Gwen Wyatt and colleagues at Michigan State

University in East Lansing asked more than 200 women recovering from breast cancer about what was most popular and why.

The findings include:
— About 57 percent used alternative/complementary options. The

sicker a woman was the more likely she was to use multiple therapies.
— Biologically based diet supplements and vitamins were the most popular. The next most popular methods were mind-body therapies using audiotapes, video and music therapy.

— The therapies with the highest costs—acupuncture and therapeutic touch—were used by very few women.

— Women without at least some college education were less likely to use alternative/complementary therapies.

“Women are using these therapies, but they have little education about safety and efficacy,” Wyatt said in a statement.

“They could really benefit from information on how to make a wise decision and choose the best therapies.”

Internet

A doctor examines a patient in Pompano Beach, Florida in 2009. Drugs may cure the sick, but patients can also benefit from the warmth and wisdom of the doctors treating them, according to a new Australian study into the impact of placebos.—INTERNET

SPORTS

Roddick out, Sharapova into final at ATP/WTa event

MEMPHIS, 20 Feb—Eighth-seeded Sam Querrey upset top-seeded Andy Roddick 7-5, 3-6, 6-1 to book a semi-final berth as top seed Maria Sharapova moved into the women's final at this combined ATP/WTa tennis tournament.

Querrey, who lost to Roddick in the San Jose semi-finals last week despite never facing a break point, poured it on in the third set to notch his best result in Memphis. Roddick's double-fault in the second game of the third set gave Querrey the upper hand, and Querrey made the most of it.—*Internet*

Tennis ace Venus defeats Peer to end Dubai security agony

DUBAI, 20 Feb—Venus Williams is on target to make a successful defence of her Dubai Open title after Friday's 6-1, 6-4 semi-final win halted Israeli Shahar Peer's remarkable run and ended the security agonies at the 2million dollar WTA event. Williams had to overcome the distracting ambience of the smallest arena she can remember playing in before beating the first Israeli woman athlete ever to compete in the United Arab Emirates.—*Internet*

Shahar Peer of Israel reacts during her semi-final match against Venus Williams of the US at the WTA Dubai Tennis Championships.—INTERNET



Barca's Busquets sees Real clash as La Liga decider

MADRID, 20 Feb—Barcelona midfielder Sergio Busquets believes an April showdown with bitter rivals Real Madrid will decide the Spanish league title despite seeing their lead cut to just two points. The Catalan giants were forced to field a makeshift defence



Atletico Madrid's Diego Forlan (left) vies with Barcelona's Sergio Busquets during their Spanish League match.—INTERNET

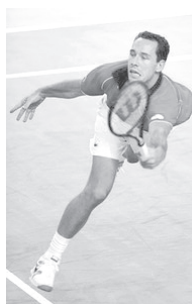
in their first defeat of the season against Atletico Madrid last weekend, allowing Los Blancos to close the gap at the top of La Liga with a routine win away to basement club Xerez.

Barcelona face Racing Santander this weekend but 21-year-old Busquets, son of former Barca keeper Carles, already has his eyes on the mouthwatering clash against Manuel Pellegrini's Real Madrid in two months' time. "The match at the Bernabeu will go a long way to deciding who wins and loses the title but there is a long way to go before that and we have a lot of games that will also have a big impact like this weekend," said the Spanish international.—*Internet*

Llodra stuns Soderling to reach Marseille semis

MARSEILLE, 20 Feb—Unseeded Frenchman Michael Llodra pulled off an upset at the ATP Open 13 tournament here on Friday when he beat top seed and world number eight Sweden's Robin Soderling, 7-6 (7/2), 6-4. "Against this kind of player you have to seize every opportunity, which I think I managed to do," the 29-year-old said after his quarter-final match.

Internet



French Michael Llodra

Robben-inspired Bayern eye record winning streak

BERLIN, 20 Feb—Bayern Munich bid to equal a record of 10 straight league wins on Saturday when they travel to lowly Nuremberg for a match that could see them top the table for the first time in 21 months. Inspired by Dutch international winger Arjen Robben, who has found the net in his last six outings, Bayern have embarked on a tremendous run of form, winning their last 13 games in a row in all competitions.

And the 21-time Bundesliga kings will travel to relegation-threatened Nuremberg full of confidence after scraping a 2-1 win in their Champions League last-16 first leg



Bayern Munich's Arjen Robben

against Fiorentina on Wednesday. Bayern chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge said his men would be in no mood for generosity towards their local rivals.

Internet

Casey cruising through Match Play competition

MARANA, 20 Feb—Paul Casey has yet to play the final four holes at Dove Mountain after three days of the Match Play Championship. That's because the Englishman has won all three of his matches 5 and 4, the latest over Brian Gay in the third round Friday. Casey lost to Geoff Ogilvy in the final last year and won the European World Match Play Championship in 2006.

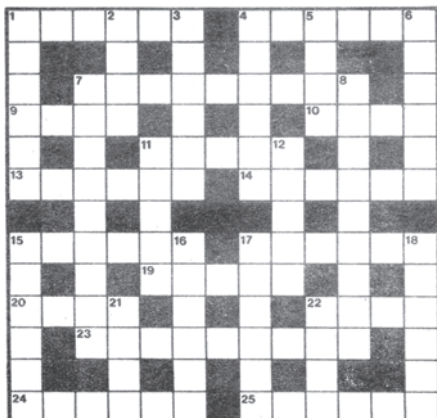
"I don't think there's any one particular part of my game that's jumping out that is fantastic right



Paul Casey, of England

now," he said. "It's just all very, very solid." Casey, the highest remaining seed at No. 6 and one of three English players still in it, advanced to a Saturday morning quarterfinal against Stewart Cink, the lone surviving American and a semifinalist in 2008 and 2009.—*Internet*

CROSSWORDS PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Boisterous
- 4 Refined spirit
- 7 Iniquitous
- 9 Image
- 10 Comfort
- 11 Spate
- 13 Recently
- 14 Almost
- 15 Visitor
- 17 Uplifted
- 19 General run
- 20 Pillow-case
- 22 Light
- 23 Robot
- 24 Keep
- 25 Scope

DOWN

- 1 Israel (anag.)
- 2 Bobbin
- 3 Annual
- 4 Jail
- 5 Loyal
- 6 Beautiful
- 7 Homesickness
- 8 Sexton
- 11 Navy
- 12 Exclude
- 15 Barrow-boy
- 16 Fame
- 17 Revolve
- 18 Leave
- 21 Cougar
- 22 Plunder

Ferguson wants Scholes to extend United stay



Paul Scholes

MANCHESTER, 20 Feb—Sir Alex Ferguson believes that Paul Scholes's recent fine form will convince the veteran midfielder to scrap thoughts of retirement and sign a new one-year deal with Manchester United. Scholes, 35, has been offered the extension by United management but has yet to agree terms, having hinted before Christmas that there was

a possibility of him retiring when his current deal ends at the conclusion of this season.

But Ferguson has been so impressed by Scholes in a three-man central midfield formation, most recently in the midweek 3-2 win at AC Milan, he believes the one-club man should continue for at least one more campaign with the reigning English champions. "I'd be happy to give him a new contract," Ferguson said Friday. "I think it all depends on what Paul thinks himself, but you saw his performance on Tuesday and I thought it was brilliant."

Internet

Australia told of CGames security plan theft last year

SYDNEY, 20 Feb—Australian tennis chiefs were told last year that security plans for October's Commonwealth Games in India had been stolen, according to a report. Tennis Australia said information on the alleged theft came from its own independent security assessment ahead of its Davis Cup tie with India in Chennai last May. It subsequently decided to pull out and forfeit the series. Australia were fined 10,000 US dollars by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) for failing to fulfil the fixture. Tennis Australia at the time said the decision was based on concerns over security arrangements.

A Tennis Australia spokesman said it understood that sensitive plans had been stolen from a computer, while another official told The Sydney Morning Herald said that the theft had led to a major security review. There were media reports in India in March 2009 that computers containing Games security information were stolen from the office of New Delhi Police's Joint Commissioner for the Games.

Internet



People cover their faces with masks to protect themselves from the swine flu virus at the entrance to a hospital in Mexico City in 2009.

The global death toll from swine flu approached the 16,000 mark as the pandemic waned in much of Europe and Asia, the World Health Organization said on Friday.

INTERNET

MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (21-2-2010) (Sunday)

Transmissions

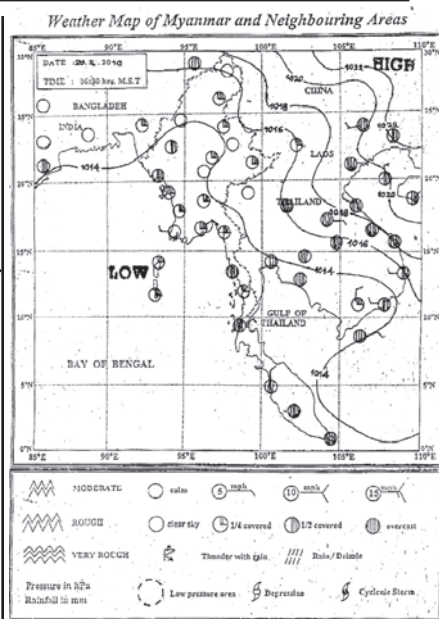
Local	Times
Local	- (09:00am~10:00am)MST
Europe	- (15:30pm~23:30pm)MST
North America	- (23:30pm~07:30am)MST
Oversea Transmission	- (21-2-10 11:30 am ~ 22-2-10 11:30 am) MST

Local Transmission

- * Signature Tune
 - * A Day In Zalun
 - * News
 - * A Study Tour to Bagan (Sulamuni Temple)
 - * Songs for you "When I miss you, Rhythm of Heart"
 - * News
 - * Traditionl Dances of National Races "Victory of Union Day in the New History"
 - * Famous Pagoda Festival in Shwebo
 - * News
 - * Biological Expedition to Hponkan Razi Region (I) & (II)
 - * Good Friends for Good Future
 - * News
 - * Be a Typical Myanmar Lady
- Oversea Transmission**
- * Signature Tune
 - * A Day In Zalun

- * News
- * A Study Tour to Bagan (Sulamuni Temple)
- * Songs for you "When I miss you, Rhythm of Heart"
- * News
- * Traditionl Dances of National Races "Classical Beauty"
- * Famous Pagoda Festival in Shwebo
- * News
- * Biological Expedition to Hponkan Razi Region (I) & (II)
- * Good Friends for Good Future
- * News
- * Be a Typical Myanmar Lady
- * Water Fountain Garden (Nay Pyi Taw) "Blessed with a Variety of Beauties"
- * News
- * Rattan Handicrafts
- * Traditional Bamboo Utensils of Myanmar
- * Usefulness of the Whole Todday Palm
- * The Beauty of The 2nd Defile of The River Ayeyawady
- * News
- * Elegant Myanmar Dance (Part-3)
- * Music Gallery
- * News
- * Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Brown Mollusc Soup)
- * Myanmar Jaggery
- * News
- * Culture Stage
- * The glory of Maha-Muni Buddha Image, at dawn

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm



WEATHER

Saturday, 20th February, 2010

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr.

M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin, Chin, Shan and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below February average temperatures in Chin and Rakhine States, Bago Division, (6°C) below February average temperatures in Kachin State, (3°C) to (4°C) above February average temperatures in Mon State and Yangon Division, (5°C) above February average temperatures in Taninthayi Division and about February average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Haka (2°C), Putao and An (4°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 19-2-2010 was 100°F. Minimum temperature on 20-2-2010 was 72°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 20-2-2010 was 62%. Total sun shine hours on 19-2-2010 was (8.8) hours approx.

Rainfall on 20-2-2010 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2010 was (Tr) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and (Nil) at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Northeast at (18:30) hours MST on 19-2-2010.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 21st February 2010:

Light rain are likely to be isolated in Kachin, Chin and Mon States, weather will be partly cloudy in Shan and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions and fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair weather in the whole country.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 21-2-2010: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 21-2-2010: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 21-2-2010: Partly cloudy.



**Sunday, 21
February
View on today**

7:00 am

1. တောင်တန်းသာသနာပြု ဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:15 am

2. အဂ္ဂိဇယမင်္ဂလ (ယဉ်ပေယဉ်တေးရေး-ဂီတစာဆိုမျိုးနွယ်ဆွေ)

7:25 am

3. To Be Healthy Exercise

7:30 am

4. Morning News

7:40 am

5. Nice & Sweet Song

7:50 am

6. "ရှမ်းတောင်တန်းဆီက တံတားကြီးများ"

8:00 am

7. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မော် (၃၈) ဖြာမင်္ဂလာ

8:15 am

8. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:30 am

9. "မင်းမသိသေးပါဘူးကွာ"

8:40 am

10. International News

8:45 am

11. Musical Programme

11:00 am

1. Martial Song

11:05 am

2. Musical Programme

11:20 am

3. Round Up Of The Week's International News

11:30 am

4. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "တာသကန္တာ" (အပိုင်း-၇၄)

12:30 pm

5. Golf Magazine (TV)

12:50 pm

6. မြန်မာ့ရုပ်ရှင် "မောင်မြွေဇာ" (နေအောင်မင်းဦး၊ မေသန်းနု) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်တင်ဦး)

2:45 pm

7. International News

4:00 pm

1. Martial Song

4:10 pm

2. Dance Of National Races

4:20 pm

3. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

4:30 pm

4. ၂၀၀၈ခုနှစ်၊ တက္ကသိုလ်ဝင် စာမေးပွဲဘာသာရပ်ဆိုင်ရာ သင်ခန်းစာ (ပထဝီဝင်ဘာသာရပ်)

5:00 pm

5. Songs For Uphold National Spirit

5:05 pm

6. Musical Programme

5:15 pm

7. "ကျော်သွားမှာလား၊ မော်စားမှာလား"

5:20 pm

8. Sing & Enjoy

6:00 pm

9. Evening News

6:15 pm

10. Weather Report

6:20 pm

11. ကာတွန်းအစီအစဉ် "BUGS ADVENTURES" (အပိုင်း-၁)

6:40 pm

12. တစ်မျက်နှာတစ်ကွက်စာ "အကြင်နာတောင်တန်း" (တေးရေးဆွဲ-နိုင်ငံခြားခရီးသွားဦး၊ ဖြူဖြူသော်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင် (MMG))

7:00 pm

13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "တော်ဝင်နွယ်သား" (အပိုင်း-၁၄)

8:00 pm

14. News
15. International News
16. Weather Report

8:05 pm

17. ကာတွန်းအစီအစဉ် "တောကောင်လယ်သိုင်း ညီနောင်လေးများ"

8:15 pm

18. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ရွှေစာလည်" (အပိုင်း-၉)

9:00 pm

19. ရုပ်သံကြွယ်ပွင့်များ

- ★ Only with stability and peace will the nation develop
- ★ Only with stability and peace will democratization process be successful

- ★ Anarchy begets anarchy, not democracy
- ★ Riots beget riots, not democracy
- ★ Democracy can be introduced only through constitution

People's Desire

- We favour peace and stability
- We favour development
- We oppose unrest and violence
- Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence

- ★ VOA, BBC-sowing hatred among the people
- ★ RFA, DVB-generating public outrage
- ★ Do not allow ourselves to be swayed by killer broadcasts designed to cause troubles

Kinmuntaung Dam contributes to meeting target of one million acres of monsoon paddy in Magway Division

Byline & Photos: Aung Than (Mingala Taungnyunt)



Kinmuntaung Dam irrigates paddy fields with an over-six-mile channel.

One can see small signboards erected on the bounds of farmlands that read "Grow quality paddy strains", "Use chemical fertilizers with natural fertilizers and bio-chemical fertilizers".

Under the supervision of the Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council and arrangement of the Chairman of District PDC, our news crew accompanied by Chairman of Taungdwingyi Township PDC U Myat Kyaw left for Kinmuntaung Dam on 8 September 2009 in order to write articles about the dam. It was built by Construction-4 of Irrigation Department by damming Kinmuntaung creek near Katha Village in Taungdwingyi Township.

We saw lush and green Cassia siamea, eucalyptus and other plants grown by the Forest Department on both sides of the Magway-Taungdwingyi motor road.

We saw many acres of paddy plantations and 45-day seedling plantation on both sides of Taungdwingyi-Aunglan motor road after passing the feeder road of Nay Pyi Taw about six miles from Taungdwingyi. The dam is about 16 miles from Taungdwingyi. Staff Officer U San Thein of Irrigation Department explained to us about the dam. A total of 200 acres of monsoon paddy is grown in fields irrigated by Kinmuntaung Dam, he said.

We also asked U Tun Shwe, 70, as to the transforming of croplands into paddy fields. He said, "Yes, I am getting on with my business. I grow monsoon and summer paddy on a three-acre field.

(See page 7)