



The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Established 1914

Volume XVI, Number 304

7th Waning of Tabodwe 1370 ME

Monday, 16 February, 2009

Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Chairman of National Defence Commission of DPRK

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Feb— On the occasion of the birthday of His Excellency Mr Kim Jong Il, Chairman of the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which falls on 16 February 2009, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Kim Jong Il, Chairman of the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.— MNA

True patriotism

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

Seasonal festivities of Ngwehsaung Beach attracting tourists

Article & Photos: Maung Maung Htwe (MNA)



Visitors enjoying themselves at sea of Ngwehsaung Beach.

Nowadays, prevailing peace and tranquillity and the unprecedented development can be witnessed throughout the country. To take relaxation, most of local visitors are heading for the recreation centres at natural beaches.

While breathing fresh air at seaside, the visitors can enjoy various kinds of delicious seafood. In addition to the opportunity to walk on the soft sand at the beaches, the picnickers can go swimming in the seawater. Everyone who had visited the beaches cannot forget the joyful and lovely nights of the sea for the whole life.

Many countries renovate their famous recreation centres at beaches to competitively attract the tourists. In Myanmar, tourists at home and from abroad can take relaxation at most beaches conveniently.

Ngwehsaung Beach is one of the famous natural beaches in the country.

The visitors can walk on soft and whitish sand on the nine-mile long Ngwehsaung Beach. Ngwehsaung beach earns good reputation for its crystal clear seawater and absence of whirlpool.

(See page 7)

Talks on rehabilitation practice on neck pain 21 Feb

YANGON, 15 Feb—The Rehabilitation Society of Myanmar Medical Association (Central) will conduct an orientation course on Neck Pain: A common problem in rehabilitation practice at the hall of MMA at No. 249 on Theinbyu Street in Mingala Taungnyunt Township on 21 February morning.

Specialists, nurses and technicians concerning nerves and physiotherapy may attended the course.

MNA

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PERSPECTIVES

Inuit trails represent complex social network spanning Canadian Arctic

OTTAWA, 15 Feb — Inuit trails are more than merely means to get from A to B. In reality, they represent a complex social network spanning the Canadian Arctic and are a distinctive aspect of the Inuit cultural identity.

And what is remarkable is that the Inuit's vast geographic knowledge has been passed through many generations by oral means, without the use of maps or any other written documentation. These findings are by Dr. Claudio Aporta from Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada.

Using a combination of historical documents, ethnographic research, geographic tools including GPS, GIS and Google Earth, as well as a recent journey following Inuit along a traditional trail, Dr. Aporta shows the geographic extent of the Inuit's sophisticated



Dog sled trail in Canada's Arctic. Inuit trails are more than merely means to get from A to B. In reality, they represent a complex social network spanning the Canadian Arctic and are a distinctive aspect of the Inuit cultural identity.

network of routes. He describes how the Inuit have made use of the Arctic environment and how their trails represent significant channels of communication and exchange across the territory.—Internet

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 16 February, 2009

Strive for regional development to build a democratic nation

Prime Minister General Thein Sein went on tour of inspection in Loikaw the other day. He met with state/district/township level departmental personnel, members of social organizations and local people at the town hall in Loikaw. He formally opened a grand university for Kayah State, fulfilled the requirements of the region and provided necessary assistance for the townships in the state.

Kayah State, a small one in terms of area is least populous in the country. It shares common border with a neighbouring country. It is an important state in maintaining bilateral ties between the two countries.

The government is fulfilling requirements of transport, education, health and economic sectors in order not to lag behind other regions in development.

In the transport sector Aungban-Loikaw railroad was built. As a result, local people in the region have easy access to Shan State, Mandalay and Bago Divisions. In the education sector, there is higher learning opportunity for all the local youths after arts and science university, university of computer studies and technological university have been opened in Kayah State.

Moreover, the 150-bed hospital was upgraded to 200-bed facility in Loikaw with the appointment of specialists in order to provide health care services effectively to local people. Kayah State extended farmlands up to 378,136 acres and it has become a state with surplus rice as the local people grow summer and monsoon paddy.

The government is trying to establish a modern and developed nation based on agriculture. The vast majority of the voters have approved the constitution for future State. All the national people are to join hands with the government as a national duty for successful holding of the election to be held in 2010 in accord with the constitution.

Myanmar Optic Shop seen at Nay Pyi Taw Thapyaygon brokerage.

MNA



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

Minister for Finance and Revenue on tour of Kyaukpadaung Township

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun yesterday met departmental officials, townsellers, businessmen and social organization members at Sasana Beikman in Kyaukpadaung and fulfilled their requirements.

This morning, the minister met with local people from Pwaykyit Village-tract at Pwaykyit Basic Education High School Branch and presented sports gear to the village football team and books to the village library through officials. Next, he visited the school.

In Kanni Village-tract, the minister viewed the operating of paddy



Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun inspects paddy husk-powered generator in Kanni village-tract, Kyaukpadaung Township.—MNA

husk-powered generator and gave football equipment and books to the local people.

At Basic Education Post-Primary School in Hinkhwet-aing Village, the minister met with local

people and donated sports equipment and books to them. Later, the minister visited the school.—MNA

Myanmar Optic Shop opened at Nay Pyi Taw Thapyaygon

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb — Retired opticians of the Ministry of Commerce moved Myanmar Optic shop at Nay Pyi Taw Thapyaygon brokerage from Thapyaygon Market on 12 February to give more services for residents in

Nay Pyi Taw.

Besides, opticians are running a similar shop at No. 233/235 on Shwebontha Street (middle block) in Yangon.

At Myanmar Optic Shops, they sell daily used lens, bi-focal glasses and sun-glasses at reasonable prices, and eye specialists and opticians will give eye tests to customers. They will sell eye glasses at offices in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

Hockey Coaching Course concludes

YANGON, 15 Feb—The Hockey Coaching Course, jointly conducted by Myanmar Hockey Federation of the Ministry of Sports and International Hockey Federation, concluded at Theinbyu Hockey Pitch in Mingala Taungnyunt yesterday afternoon.

On behalf of the director-general of Sports and Physical Education Department, President of MHF Commandant of Defence Services Self-defence and Sports Institute Col Htin Zaw Win gave an address. Pakistani Instructor Mr Khawaja Mohammad Awais of IHF explained the providing of lectures and training.

Next, the president of the federation and executives presented completion certificates to the trainees.

Altogether 33 trainees attended the course that started on 11 February.—MNA

STAG Hair Centre for men opened in Parami

YANGON, 15 Feb —STAG Hair Center for men of Win Win Trading was opened at No 50 on Myinzu Stree in Parami here on 12 February.

At the opening of Hair Center, Managing Director U Aung Naing of Win Win Trading explained the purposes of opening the center. Next, invited persons and journalists browsed the center, and Manager U Myint Zaw replied to the queries raised by those present.

At the STAG Hair Center for men, hair designers will give services of hair dressing, washing and colouring with advanced equipment and give 20 percent discount to customers up to 31 March.

It opens from 8.30 am to 6.30 pm daily except Mondays.—MNA



A foreign official investigates the wreckage of a vehicle after a suicide attack in Kabul on 11 Feb, 2009.—INTERNET

Iran official to US: Chess better game than boxing

TEHERAN, 15 Feb—When it comes to dealing with Iran, the country's parliamentary speaker said the United States would be better served taking up chess than continuing to box, the country's official news agency reported on Saturday.

His comments come at a time when the new administration of President Barack Obama has signaled a new willingness to engage Iran, whose relations with the previous administration were long strained.

Obama last week pledged to rethink Washington's relationship with Teheran.

"The United States needs to play on a chess set (with Iran) instead of playing in a boxing ring," IRNA quoted Ali Larijani as telling a group of visiting reporters in Teheran on Saturday.

And at his inauguration last month, Obama said his administration would reach out to rival states, saying "we will extend a hand if you are willing to unclench your fist."

Iranian President

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has responded by saying Iran would welcome talks with the United States — but only if there was mutual respect.

Iranian officials have said that would mean that the United States needs to stop making "baseless" accusations against the Islamic Republic in order to pave the way for talks between the two longtime adversaries. The US accuses Iran of supporting terrorism and secretly seeking to build nuclear weapons — charges Iran denies.

Internet

One British soldier killed in Afghanistan

LONDON, 15 Feb—Britain's Defence Ministry announced on Saturday that a Royal Marine was killed in southern Afghanistan.

The marine, from 45 Commando, died of a gun shot wound after coming under fire in Helmand Province, a spokesman for the ministry said.

He was in a patrol supporting a bomb disposal team, the spokesman said, and died while being flown to hospital.

He is the seventh British serviceman to die in Afghanistan so far this year and the 144th British casualty since the 2001 invasion.

There are more than 8,000 British troops stationed in Afghanistan.

MNA/Xinhua



A man, who was injured in a bomb attack that targeted Shi'ite pilgrims during the Arbain ceremony, lies in a bed at a hospital in Hilla, 100 km (62 miles) south of Baghdad, on 14 Feb, 2009.—INTERNET

Israel rules out Gaza truce unless soldier freed

JERUSALEM, 15 Feb—Israel said on Saturday it would not agree to a ceasefire with the Hamas rulers of the Gaza Strip unless an Israeli soldier held by the Islamists was freed. Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's office said in a statement: "The Prime Minister's position is that Israel will not reach understandings on a truce before the release of Gilad Shalit." Israel wants to tie any

ceasefire deal with Hamas in Gaza to the release of soldier Shalit, held captive in the Palestinian enclave since 2006 when he was kidnapped in a cross-border raid.

Egypt is mediating a long-term ceasefire between Israel and Hamas. Israeli media reported significant headway had been achieved in the indirect talks.

Hamas spokesman in Gaza Fawzi Barhoum told *Reuters* that the Egyptian-mediated talks were stalled by disagreement on the duration of the ceasefire. Israel wants a permanent ceasefire while Hamas favours an 18-month truce that could be extended. "Once this obstacle is overcome an announcement would be made," Barhoum said.

MNA/Reuters



Iraqi women cry at the site of a suicide bombing that killed 40 people near Musayyib, about 40 miles (60 kilometres) south of Baghdad, on 13 Feb, 2009.—INTERNET

US supplies via Russia to start soon

MOSCOW, 15 Feb—The shipment of US military supplies for Afghanistan through Russia will begin soon, news agencies quoted Russia's foreign minister as saying on Saturday.

"The transit will take place literally within days," Sergey Lavrov told TV Tsentr, according to the *Interfax*, *ITAR-Tass* and *RIA-Novosti* agencies.

Foreign Ministry officials could not be reached for comment late Saturday, and the reports did not say whether the supplies would transit Russia by land or air. However, Russia announced last week that it would allow US shipments of non-lethal military supplies to Afghanistan.

Supply routes to Afghanistan for the US-led international military operation have become an increasingly critical issue in recent months amid growing militant attacks on the land routes through Pakistan that carry about 75 percent of US supplies.

The US plans to send around 30,000 more troops to Afghanistan this year.—Internet

Roadside bomb kills four Afghan police

KABUL, 15 Feb—Four Afghan police were killed as their van hit a mine in Afghanistan's southern Kandahar Province, the former stronghold of Taliban, provincial police chief Matiullah Qati said on Saturday.

"The police were on routine patrol in Dand district on Friday night when a mine planted by militants was exploded by remote control killing the four policemen on the spot," Qati told *Xinhua*.

Internet

Roadside bomb kills district chief in E Afghanistan

KABUL, 15 Feb—A roadside bomb struck the vehicle of a district chief in Khost Province, east Afghanistan on Saturday, killing the district chief and his two bodyguards, an official said.

"The mine planted by enemies struck the car of Badi Zaman Sabari, the district chief of Nadir Khahkot, killing him on the spot and wounding two of his body guards," a local official Gul Qasim Jihadyar told *Xinhua*.

He said that the incident occurred at 8:30 am local time (0400GMT) when Zamab Sabari was on his way to office.

MNA/Xinhua



Police man a road block as residents of Marysville are bussed to their devastated homes from Buxton, north of Melbourne, Australia on 14 Feb, 2009. More than 400 fires ripped through Victoria, destroying more than 1,000 houses, leaving some 5,000 people homeless, and scorching 1,100 square miles (2,850 square kilometres) of land.—INTERNET

Mobile phone industry gears up for Barca gathering

BARCELONA, 15 Feb—The mobile phone industry recently reached the milestone of its four billionth connection worldwide, but the cold winds of economic crisis will chill celebrations at the sector's biggest annual gathering this week.

The majority of the planet is now texting, calling or surfing on mobile handsets and the potential for growth in developing countries is undiminished — 2.7 billion are still without a connection. Yet despite this and the relatively recession-proof business of providing tel-

ephone connections, the industry as a whole is bracing for a downturn and anticipating a fall in investment.

As well as the launch of new products and industry initiatives, the crisis is set to dominate the four-day Mobile World Congress, the world's biggest industry event, which kicks off on Monday in Barcelona.

"For a long time people believed that telecoms would be spared, but as it is a global crisis everyone is going to be affected," said Thomas Husson, an analyst for research group Forrester.—*Internet*

Glaxo to cut prices for poor countries

NEW YORK, 15 Feb—Drug maker GlaxoSmithKline PLC says it will cut drug prices to the 50 poorest countries in the world and use 20 percent of its profits from those countries to build health clinics and other infrastructure, according to published reports.

The company's chief executive, Andrew Witty, also is proposing that drug companies, nonprofit groups and others donate their patents related to neglected tropical diseases to a common pool that could be used to speed development of new drugs, the *Wall Street Journal* said.

Witty said prices will be cut for the poorest countries so that they are no higher than 25 percent of the price in developed countries, according to the report.

Glaxo, the second biggest drug maker by sales, generates about \$43 million annually in revenue from those countries. About \$1.5 million to \$2.5 million would be generated for the clinics, Witty told the *Journal*.

HIV drugs are already sold at not-for-profit prices in those countries, but the prices will be cut if the drugs aren't already sold at prices below the threshold of 25 percent, reports said.

Internet

India pre-poll budget 'to have populist streak'

NEW DELHI, 15 Feb—India's ruling Congress party will present on Monday a pre-election mini-budget that will seek to shield the economy from the global slump and provide relief for the poor, analysts say.

The interim budget, which will form the economic bedrock of the party's campaign for general elections that must be held by mid-May, will aim to be a please-all document with a populist streak, economists say. "Their aim is to get re-elected," Deepak Lalwani, India Director of

London-based brokerage Astaire and Partners, told *AFP*. The Congress-led government owed its unexpected election win in 2004 to India's impoverished masses who turfed out the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party after they felt bypassed by an economic boom. "There's a need to sustain our foreign trade, revive foreign investment and generate domestic demand in order to maintain our growth rates," said acting finance minister Pranab Mukherjee, spelling out the government's goals.—*Internet*

Drilling in the dust changes lives in south Sudan

MIRINDANYI, (Sudan) 15 Feb—It seems such a simple task: pumping the handle of a water borehole up and down until the clear and cool liquid splashes into the plastic container.

And in the dry and dusty southern Sudanese village of Mirindanyi, they have been celebrating doing just that since their pump was installed last year.

But it was not always this way. Beforehand, "it took two hours to the river to collect the water, then two hours back," said Floris Fazir, pausing to heave a 20-litre container on her head.

"In the dry season, we got the water from a scraped well on the river bed, and that was dirty. We would get sick often. But water from the borehole is sweet to drink."

Southern Sudan, an oil-rich but grossly underdeveloped region about the size of Spain and Portugal, is slowly recovering after years of bloody north-south civil war.

Internet

Young Sudanese girls pump drinking water from a recently drilled borehole in the village of Mirindanyi.

INTERNET

Obama to sign stimulus bill Tuesday in Denver

WASHINGTON, 15 Feb—President Barack Obama will sign the \$787 billion economic stimulus bill on Tuesday in Denver, a White House official said on Saturday.

Obama on Saturday hailed congressional approval of the stimulus bill as a "major milestone on our road to recovery" and vowed to move swiftly to set the plan in motion.

"I will sign this legislation into law shortly, and we'll begin making the immediate investments necessary to put

people back to work," Obama said in his weekly radio address from Chicago after his biggest legislative victory since taking office on 20 January.

The Senate cast the final vote, 60-38, late Fri-

day, hours after the House of Representatives passed an identical bill, 246-183, capping weeks of arguing over how to best jolt the economy out of deep recession.

MNA/Reuters

Two Florida banks temporarily halting foreclosures

MIAMI, 15 Feb—Two Florida banks are joining some of the country's largest lenders in temporarily halting foreclosures as the federal government tackles the housing crisis.

On Friday, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and major banks JPMorgan Chase & Co, Morgan Stanley, Citigroup Inc and Bank of America Corp said they were halting foreclosures for at least a month. Coral Gables-based BankUnited and Fort

Lauderdale-based Bank Atlantic followed suit, all saying they hoped to learn more soon about President Barack Obama's \$50 billion plan to keep more people from losing their homes. Obama is expected to provide more details in an Arizona speech on Wednesday.

"We want to help people remain in their homes," said Ramiro Ortiz, BankUnited's president and chief executive officer.

Internet

Groups question Hamas on 'extra-judicial' killings

GAZA CITY, 15 Feb—The day after Israeli tanks entered Gaza last month, masked Palestinians opened fire on the al-Najar family outside their home, killing the father and wounding 10 others, including two teenage girls and a 78-year-old grandmother.

Ammar al-Najar, 25, a son of the victim, didn't know who the gunmen were but he said the family supports the Fatah movement and had trouble previously with Gaza's ruling Hamas group.

"My father ... tried to talk to them, but they didn't talk. They just started shooting," he said. The men wore no identifying symbols, he said. International and Palestinian human rights organizations say there was a rash of shootings and beatings across Gaza during Israel's offensive, voicing suspicions the Islamic militants of Hamas used wartime chaos to target enemies, including activists from the rival Fatah.—*Internet*





Singapore Airlines planes are pictured at the Changi International Airport in Singapore. Singapore Airlines said on Saturday it will indefinitely suspend its thrice weekly service to Vancouver which has been "badly affected" by the global economic crisis.—INTERNET

Housing affordability reaches five-year high in New Zealand

WELLINGTON, 15 Feb — Housing affordability in New Zealand reached a five-year high, according to a survey released on Sunday.

Housing affordability improved to its best level in five years in January due to a fall in house prices and sharp reductions in mortgage interest costs, according to a monthly survey by interest.co.nz website.

The website's editor Bernard Hickey said it was predicting housing

would be affordable again for most New Zealanders by the end of 2009.

Meanwhile, the Sunday *Star-Times* reported that mortgage sales listings had increased in the past year on two top real estate websites — TradeMe and realestate.co.nz.

Mortgagee sales listing on TradeMe had increased from 32 to 106 between January 2008 and January 2009, and realestate.co.nz said listings on its site had increased from 95 to 285.

One in every 200 homes listed for sale on realestate.co.nz was on the hock after being forced into foreclosure by the mortgage holder.

Around 8 percent of mortgage listings on realestate.co.nz were for houses worth more than 1 million NZ dollars (520,000 US dollars).

Xinhua

One pilot killed in helicopter crash in England

LONDON, 15 Feb — A pilot was thought to be killed on Saturday afternoon in a helicopter crash in South Yorkshire, England, according to a report of SKY Television.

The aircraft came down close to Sandtoft airfield near the M180 junction with the A18 outside Doncaster, the report said.

It was thought to have been traveling either to or from Leeds Bradford airport. Both South Yorkshire and Humberside fire and rescue services are attending the scene, it said.

SKY quoted sources as saying that it was the pilot's solo flight.

Xinhua

China's insurance agents report 250 mln yuan profit in 2008

BEIJING, 15 Feb — China Insurance Regulatory Commission (CIRC) said on Saturday the country's insurance agents have gained 255 million yuan (36.76 million US dollars) of profit in 2008, up 30.81 year-on-year. According to a market report issued by CIRC, China has 2,445 insurance agents, 136,634 proxies and 2.6 million sales people by the end of 2008.

About 82 percent, or 804.35 billion yuan, of the insurance premiums received by Chinese insurers were acquired with the help from these intermediaries, the report said. By 2008, the registered capital of insurance agents reached 6.8 billion yuan, and their aggregate assets hit 9.5 billion yuan, the report said.—*Xinhua*

Six killed in train, bus collision in western Ukraine

KIEV, 15 Feb — Six people were killed and 11 others injured on Saturday when a train crashed into a passenger bus in western Ukraine, officials said.

"The accident took place near the village of Proshovo, about 25 kilometres from the Ternopil region in western Ukraine around noon," Igor Krol, the Ukrainian Emergencies Ministry's spokesman, told reporters.

"When a passenger bus with about 23 people on board attempted to cross an unguarded railway crossing and was struck by the train," he said.

"Five people died at the scene, and the sixth person died later at a hospital, another eleven people were hospitalized," he added.—*Xinhua*

All items from Xinhua News Agency



A South Korean boy looks at a poster with information on robots in Seoul in 2007. South Korea will spend about 1.05 billion dollars to build two robot theme parks as part of a drive to nurture the robotics industry as a new growth engine, officials said on Thursday.

INTERNET

Kidnapped Sri Lankan held by Abu Sayyaf rebels

COTABATO (Philippines), 15 Feb — A Sri Lankan peace worker abducted in the troubled southern Philippines is now in the hands of Abu Sayyaf rebels, police said on Sunday.

Umar Jaleel, a 34-year-old and member of the Non-violent Peaceforce, has been turned over by his captors to Abu Sayyaf bandits under a Furiigi Indama in Basilan, said Benzali Jabarani, a local police commander.

"There's no ransom demand yet from the kidnapers. Our policemen are coordinating with the soldiers on the ground," Jabarani said.

Nine gunmen seized the Sri Lankan early Friday morning from his residence in Lamitan, Basilan Province. The Filipino caretaker of the house, Gil Tura, managed to escape the abduction.

Umar Jaleel's colleagues in the Nonviolent Peaceforce said they will not pay any ransom in exchange for his freedom.

Nonviolent Peaceforce is a nonpartisan unarmed peacekeeping force composed of trained civilians from around the world, according to the organization's profile. The group has been monitoring the peace process in the restive region of Mindanao.—*Xinhua*

Robot arms assemble Golf VI cars at German car maker Volkswagen's plant in Wolfsburg, central Germany, November 2008. European new cars sales slumped in January to the lowest level for twenty years, trade data showed on Friday, boosting the argument of countries such as France which wants to help the ailing sector.

INTERNET





Air cargo passing through Hong Kong's airport dropped 28.9 percent year-on-year in January, figures have shown, the latest sign of how the global economic slowdown is hitting Chinese exporters.—INTERNET

Anti-terror police seize three vans headed for Gaza

LONDON, 15 Feb — British police said on Saturday they had seized three vans that were to form part of a 100 vehicle aid convoy headed for Gaza as a result of an anti-terror raid in the north-west of England.

Lancashire police said they were searching five houses in the town of Burnley on Saturday after arresting nine men under anti-terrorism laws

on a motorway near Preston on Friday. Six of the men have been released and the remaining three are still in custody. Police can hold them without charge until Sunday night.

The convoy had been organised by the pro-Palestinian organisation Viva Palestina and left central London on Saturday, the group's website said. It said volunteers

planned to drive 5,000 miles (8,000 km) through France, Spain, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt where they had hoped to cross the border at Rafah into Gaza on 2 March.

It said the vehicles, which include a fire engine and ambulances, were carrying clothes, blankets and children's toys.

MNA/Reuters

Inventor of Taser stun gun dies

LOS ANGELES, 15 Feb — Jack Cover, an aerospace scientist who invented the controversial Taser stun gun now widely used by police, has died in southern California at the age of 88.

Mr Cover was suffering from Alzheimer's disease and died of pneumonia at a retirement home in Mission Viejo yesterday. Taser guns use

electrical shocks to subdue unruly offenders, which supporters say helps reduce violence. Critics, however, have linked the device to a number of deaths.

"Jack was one of the most influential inventors of modern times who affected the lives of hundreds of thousands of law enforcement officers, citizens and even criminal

suspects," CEO and founder of Taser International, Rick Smith, said.

"Jack's dream of reducing violence through the Taser technology was realised since his earliest invention of the original Taser ECD," Mr Smith said. "Jack served as our chief scientist in our founding days at Taser International and he will be greatly missed."—Internet

US Marine kills himself at mom's farm

BRIDGEWATER, 15 Feb — A US Marine who had served twice in Iraq went AWOL and headed to Canada, where he shot himself at his parent's llama farm in Nova Scotia, police said. Lance Cpl. Timothy Scott is believed to have crossed the border carrying a gun he stole from his father's home in Norfolk, Va, Canwest News Service reported. He killed himself on Thursday after his mother called the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to report that her son had come to the house with a gun.

Scott had been posted AWOL at Camp Lejeune, NC, after he disappeared on Tuesday. In a statement confirming Scott's identity, officers at Camp Lejeune said he enlisted in 2005 and had done two tours of duty in Iraq, the Jacksonville, NC, Daily News said.—Internet

Taleban release Chinese engineer

ISLAMABAD, 15 Feb — Taleban militants in north-western Pakistan have released a Chinese engineer held hostage for more than five months. A Taleban spokesman was quoted as saying the engineer was freed as a "goodwill gesture" to the Chinese.

The engineer, Long Xiaowei, arrived at China's embassy in Islamabad on Sunday and was in good health, a Chinese official said. Mr Long was captured in August in the Dir region with a Chinese colleague.

The colleague escaped in October, a Taleban spokesman said at the time. A Pakistani guard and driver who had been captured with the two engineers were recovered at the same time.—Internet

Man survives being run over by train

A man has survived being run over by a train after drunkenly falling asleep between the tracks.

Jens Mauer passed out on the train line after reportedly stumbling as he attempted to cross the tracks in Brand, eastern Germany.

The 41-year-old remained comatose as an express train passed just inches from his head, reports Ananova.

Station staff managed to pull the man to safety and he was later found to be

five times over the legal drink drive limit.

Mauer was treated at the scene by paramedics for minor cuts and bruises.



Woman jailed over 24,000-euro parking fine

An Austrian woman has begun a 500-day jail sentence for ignoring parking tickets and failing to pay a cumulative fine of around 24,000 euros (21,440 pound), police said.

They said the 38-year-old civil servant from the southern city of Graz was jailed after ignoring 700 attempts by local authorities to notify her of the fines over a 2-year period. "Of course we have had people ignore three, four, five or even 10 reminders, but 700 ... that is unheard of," said police official Herbert Mattersdorfer.

A police spokesman said that under Austrian law, the woman could only spend 42 days at a time in jail for this offence, so her term would be split into several stints behind bars.



A man works on a carnival character representing the 'King of the Masquerade' made for the 125th Nice Carnival in Nice, France.

Granny, 68, fails 771 times of driving test

A South Korean grandma who had failed her driving test 771 times was reportedly to try again next time.

The 68-year-old, identified only as Cha, has taken the test almost every working day since 2005 in the southwestern city of Jeonju. She failed again Monday for the 771st time.

A police sergeant supervising the test in the city's Deokjingu district called it a record-breaking number there.

Local media said that Cha carried a handcart to sell food and household items door to door at apartment complexes, but she wants to get a car for her business.

Pythons found after brief escape from Calif home

It's pretty difficult for a 23-foot, 130-pound python to hide.

The orange reticulated python, the world's longest snake species, and a second python, measuring 13 feet, escaped from a terrarium in their owner's home in San Luis Obispo.

Police warned residents that the snakes were large enough to make meals of young children or pets.

But both had been captured.

NEWS ALBUM

More than 20 mummies found in ancient Egyptian tomb



An Egyptian archaeological mission has found about two dozen mummies in an ancient tomb of the Pharaonic era in the Saqqara area south of Cairo.

The mummies were unearthed in the tomb, which lies to the west of Zoser's step pyramid and dates back to the 6th dynasty in ancient Egypt, or about 4,300 BC, said the official MENA news agency.

According to MENA, the archaeological team, led by Secretary General of the Egyptian Supreme Council for Antiquities Zahi Hawas, found five holes with each containing four mummies, one of which of a dog. They also found some skeletons and a 180-cm-long casket contained the mummy of a man named Badi Harri who lived in 640 BC, Hawas was quoted as saying.



Seasonal festivities of Ngwehsaung Beach attracting tourists

Article & Photos: Maung Maung Htwe (MNA)

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Moreover, the natural resources including mangroves are being conserved in the beach area. International level hotels are offering standard hotel services to the visitors. As such, many economists remarked that Ngwehsaung Beach is a natural beach with bright prospects in Southeast Asian region.

Ngwehsaung is gaining development momentum year after year. In looking back the recent past, Ngahsaw Village was renamed Ngwehsaung in the year 2000. The Government upgraded Ngwehsaung Village to Ngwehsaung Town on 1 April 2004.

Not only foreign guests but also domestic ones are giving priority to taking relaxation at Ngwehsaung Beach, 29 miles from Patheingyi.

With regard to development of Ngwehsaung Zone, Joint Secretary Dr Aung Htay Lin of Myanmar Hoteliers Association said, "Seasonal festivities are being organized at the beach beginning 2008-2009 season for enabling the local and foreign tourists to enjoy the beautiful and lovely night scenes of Ngwehsaung. Most of the seasonal festivities are based on the traditional culture."

He added, "The seasonal festivities held monthly are the hot air balloon releasing festival in October, the Kathina festival in November, the literary talks in December, the Kayin don dances festival in January, the Htamane making contest in February, the Tabaung festival in March, the Maha Thingyan Water Festival in April and the festival of water pouring at Bo trees in May."

"Other countries have made arrangements for organizing the monthly festivals at the beaches for the tourists. Similar arrangements had not been made in our country," he said.

The joint-secretary further explained, "For the first step, the Ngwehsaung Natural Photo Con-



Scenic Ngwehsaung Beach in the western coast of Ayeyawady Division.

test was held on 31 January and 1 February with the aim of charming the domestic and foreign tourists with the information about natural beauty of Ngwehsaung. Altogether 68 photographers participated in the contest with 261 entries. Prizes were awarded at the ceremony, and the excellent works will be used in calendars to be published next hotel season. Furthermore, the prize winning works of the contest have been posted on the website for the foreign tourists."

He concluded, "More and more domestic and foreign visitors taking rest can be witnessed at Ngwehsaung Beach. We estimated that the number of

local travellers will increase more than that of previous year. International level hotels are giving hotel services to the tourists from abroad while local vacationers may stay at the cheaper hotels and lodging houses. They have the opportunity to stay at the places of their choice."

After writing an article on developing Ngwehsaung Beach, I took a rest on a bench at the beach. Sounds of waves from the sea were unforgettable for my life.

Translation: TTA

Kyemon: 14-2-2009

Humans and chimpanzees genetically more similar than one yeast variety is to another

Gothenburg, 15 Feb — There may be greater genetic variation between different yeasts of the same species than between humans and chimpanzees. This is one of the findings of a study from the University of

Gothenburg that is being published in the scientific journal Nature. This study heralds a new era in evolutionary genetics research--the mapping of an individual's DNA.

The mapping of the entire yeast genome in 1996 marked the beginning of a revolution in biological and medical research. The human genome was mapped in 2001, and by now the number of characterised species is approaching 1000, most of which are bacteria. The next advance is only a few years away — mapping the

genetic evolution of individual multicellular animals, including humans.

"We shall then be able to identify the genetic causes of human disease and to understand how the process of evolution works when species are being formed," says Anders Blomberg, professor at the Department of Cell and Molecular Biology, University of Gothenburg.

Anders Blomberg and his colleague Jonas Warringer are publishing a paper in the journal Nature, that to some extent leads to a new era in evolutionary and functional genetics research. The lowly yeast is, once again, leading the way.—Internet



Climate change likely to be more devastating than experts predicted

Carnegie Institution, 15 Feb — Without decisive action, global warming in the 21st century is likely to accelerate at a much faster pace and cause more environmental damage than predicted, according to a leading member of the Nobel Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

IPCC scientist Chris Field of Stanford University and the Carnegie Institution for Science points to recent studies showing that, in a business-as-usual world, higher temperatures could ignite tropical forests and melt the Arctic tundra, releasing billions of tons of greenhouse gas that could raise global

temperatures even more—a vicious cycle that could spiral out of control by the end of the century.

"There is a real risk that human-caused climate change will accelerate the release of carbon dioxide from forest and tundra ecosystems, which have

been storing a lot of carbon for thousands of years," said Field, a professor of biology and of environmental Earth system science at Stanford, and a senior fellow at Stanford's Woods Institute for the Environment.—Internet



Aerial view of a fire in the rainforest. Higher temperatures could ignite tropical forests and melt the Arctic tundra, releasing billions of tons of greenhouse gas that could raise global temperatures even more—a vicious cycle that could spiral out of control by the end of the century.—INTERNET

Yangon-Mawlamyine-Yangon cycling contest on 23 Feb

YANGON, 15 Feb—Yangon-Mawlamyine-Yangon 380-mile-long men's cycling contest will kick off on 23 February.

At 6 a.m. on 23 February, the cyclists are to start the competitions in front of Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna) in Yangon to the sports ground in Kyaikto Township along the route of Htaukkyant-Hlegu-Bago-Phayagyi-Waw route from Waizayanta Road and No. 3 Highway and through new Sittoung Bridge.

On 24 February, they are to resume the competition from the point

in front of Kyaikto Sports Ground and stop over in front of the Customs Office in Mawlamyine taking the Bilin-Thaton-Paung route through Mawlamyine Strand Road.

On 25 February, they have to cycle along the Kyaikyo-new Sittoung Bridge-Waw, Phayagyi-Bago-Htaukkyant route and to finish the competition at No. 23 road divider in Htaukkyant. The prize presentation ceremony will be held at YTC at 3 p.m.

Myanmar Cycling Federation made requests to all to assist the cyclists in the route.

MNA



Member of State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye and wife being welcomed by Ambassador of Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Myanmar Mr Kim Sok Chol at the birthday party of Mr Kim Jong Il, Chairman of National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 15 February.—MNA

Pre-Primary Children's Contest organized in Patheingyi

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—The Pre-Primary Children's Physical and Intellectual Skill Contest, organized by Ayeyawady Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee,

was held at Eya Shwewa Hall in Patheingyi on 7 February, attended by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West

Command Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe.

Next, the commander, wife and officials presented prizes to the winners.

MNA

Repaved street, car park inaugurated in Pyin Oo Lwin

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Tin

Ngwe attended the inauguration of the repaved Thiri Street honouring the 62nd Anniversary Union Day held in Ward 10 in

Pyin Oo Lwin Township on 8 February.

The commander also attended the opening of Thiri Padetha Car Park.

MNA

Repaved roads inaugurated in Bago

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—As a gesture of honouring the 62nd Anniversary Union Day, the opening ceremony of repaved Hmawkan 13th Street in Bago was held on 6 February morning.

After the inauguration ceremony, Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Brig-Gen Hla Min inspected the street.

Next, the commander

attended the opening of repaved shortcut road to the Town Hall in Bago.

At the town hall, the commander presented prizes to the winners in the essay contest in commemoration of the 6th Leprosy Elimination Day.

In Kyaukkyisu Ward, the commander inspected preventive measures against bank erosion in Bago River.

MNA

Villagers enjoy electricity through bio-fuel in Kengtung

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Phyoo on 6 February looked into cooking of meals and lighting with the use of bio-fuel through animal waste at the integrated farm of U Kya Mawt in Katpha Village and at the house of U Sai San in

Yinhla Village of Kengtung Township.

At the hall of Kengtung Township Development Affairs Committee Hall, the commander attended the 6th Leprosy Elimination Day ceremony.

Next, he awarded prizes to winners in the Myanmar traditional Htamane-making contest at the town hall.

MNA

Work coordination meeting of Yangon Division Health Committee held

YANGON, 15 Feb—Work coordination meeting of Yangon Division Health Committee took place at Sabei hall of Sangyoung No (2) Basic Education High School, here, this morning with an address by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint.

At the meeting, the Secretary of Yangon Division Health Committee Head of Division Health

Department reported on tasks of the Committee and the leader of Yangon Division Disease Control Project on preventive measures against dengue haemorrhagic fever.

Chairmen of Township Health Committee, Heads of Township Health Department, Heads of Township Development Affairs Committee and Basic Education Schools and social organizations took part in the discussions, and the Chairman of Division Health Committee Secretary of Yangon Division PDC fulfilled the requirements.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks by the Commander.

MNA

Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint speaks at the coordination meeting of Yangon Division Health Committee.

MNA





**Commander
Maj-Gen Wai Lwin
and wife enjoy
performance of
cultural troupe
marking the 62nd
Anniversary Union
Day in Nay Pyi
Taw.**
MNA



Concert honouring Union Day continues

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—The concert honouring the 62nd Anniversary Union Day continued at the open air theatre of City Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening, attended by Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin and wife.

The director-general of Fine Arts Department and officials, Union Day delegates, staff of ministries and local people enjoyed the entertainment.

Artistes of Fine Arts Department and female national races presented various songs. Vocalists

of Myanmar Athan modern music troupe also sang the songs. Later, Shwe Myanmar Anyeint troupe led by dancer Win Maw Oo of Fine Arts Department performed songs and dances to the accompaniment of a Myanmar orchestra.

MNA

Minister inspects cotton depot in Kyaukpadaung Township

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung inspected purchase of cotton, storage and ginning of cotton at Ngwechi long staple cotton depot in the cotton ginning mill in Kyaukpadaung Township yesterday.

The minister also

inspected Winthuza shop for cotton growers. He went to Kyigon Village where he inspected the building for biogas-powered generator for supply of electricity in the village in Ayeywa village-tract in Taungtha Township. The building was constructed at a cost

of eight million Kyats.

The minister met village people from Kyigon and Lehaung villages and he inspected digging of canal for generating electricity from Welaung Dam, repair of Bo Ya Nyunt Statue in Taungtha Township and onion plantation.—MNA

Singaporean, Myanmar specialists to provide free medical treatment in Mandalay

YANGON, 15 Feb—Specialists from the Republic of Singapore and the Union of Myanmar will jointly provide free health care and surgical operations from 20 to 22 February.

Singaporean and Myanmar specialists will perform free surgical operations on the patients with diabetes, heart, bone and general diseases at the five-storey building of Mandalay General Hospital.

Eye patients can receive free treatment to be provided by Singaporean and Myanmar eye specialists at Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital on 23rd Street of Mandalay.

The patients wishing to receive free medical treatment may enlist at the respective hospital, beginning 17 February.

MNA

Coordination Meeting for opening summer sport courses

YANGON, 15 Feb—Coordination meeting on programme to open summer sport courses-2009 was held at the meeting hall in Aung San Stadium yesterday

afternoon, with an opening speech by Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik.

Next, responsible

persons from the 27 Myanmar Sport Federations reported on arrangements for opening summer sport courses-2009.

MNA

Thanlyin-Thakayta 230 KV power line under installation

YANGON, 15 Feb—Minister for Electric Power No. 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspected installation of Thanlyin-Thakayta 230 KV Twin Bundle Double Circuit Transmission Line across Bago River yesterday.

At the briefing hall, Project Manager

Superintending Engineer U Saw Win Maung of Power Supply Project (South) of MEPE reported on construction of the power grid and installation of power line between tower No. 9 and No. 16. Project Director U Thein Hlaing gave a supplementary report.

The minister looked

into conditions of towers, construction of power line with the use of puller machine, installation of 605 MCM ACSR conductor and hauling block with the use of tensioner machine and gave instructions on timely completion of the tasks and worksite safety measures.—MNA

January saw 96 outbreaks of fire

YANGON, 15 Feb—Fire broke out 96 times in the country in January. Among them, 74 fires were caused by

kitchen fire and negligence, 14 by short-circuit, six by arson, one by forest fire and one by other.—MNA

Htamane making contest held in Ngwesaung Beach

YANGON, 15 Feb—With a view to promoting Myanmar Tourism Industry, the first Htamane making contest of Ngwesaung Beach, organized by Ngwesaung Hotel Zone Hoteliers Association and supervised by Myanmar Hoteliers Association, was held at Ngwesaung Beach in Ngwesaung, Patheingyi Township, Ayeyawady Division on 7 February.

Five teams from Hotels in Ngwesaung Beach took part in the contest. Afterwards, Head U Aung Myo Hlaing of Ngwesaung General Administration Department presented awards to Palm Beach Resort, first prize, owner U Thein Aung of Shwe

Myanmar Restaurant, second and joint-secretary Dr Aung Htay Lin of Ngwesaung Hotel Zone Hoteliers Association to Yuzana Hotel and Emerald Sea Hotel third.

Tourists, local guests and local residents took part in the contest and were served with Htamane.

MNA



Judges inspect Htamane in the Ngwesaung Htamane competition in Patheingyi Township on 7 February.—NLM

Kawa Township making progress in agricultural farming

Article: Reporter Singu Soe Win; Photos: Tin Soe (Myanma Alin)

(from page 16)
on Bago-Thongwa Road. He said that he had four children including a university student and a matriculation student; that he raised about 1500 ducks and get about 600 duck eggs a day; that he sold the eggs to purchasing centres in Thanatpin at



U Hla Win Aung,
Chairman of Kawa
Township Peace and
Development Council.

green gram, 1490 acres under black gram, 5778 acres under groundnut, 17,905 acres under sunflower, 117 acres under sesame, 1200 acres under cow pea, 55 acres under corn, and 1800 acres under vegetables.

Kawa Township Development Affairs Committee is immersing in the tasks for gracing the township. The six wards in the

urban area of Kawa Township have 26 lakes with the total water storage capacity of 42.09 million gallons along with a tube-well.

The committee has constructed 48 roads in addition to four furlongs of a rural tarred road, about 18 miles of laterite roads, and 68 miles of earth roads. In 2008-2009 financial year, it upgraded

Kawa-Shankan rural road into a laterite facility. Five-mile long Kawa-Shankan rural road leading to Kawa and Thabyu-Makyetkyi rural roads are main roads.

In the township municipal area are 16 pony carts and 110 trishaws from which over 1.2 million kyats has been levied. The committee so far has earned more than 28

million kyats from 34 enterprises: 11 committee-owned slaughter houses, nine markets, seven pawn shops, two ferry jetties, four ports, and a toll gate. So, the performances the township development affairs committee has carried out are very heartening.

Translation: MS
Myanma Alin: 5-2-2009



U Aung Thaik of Zwebar village-tract
explaining facts about the green gram
plantation.

the price of 90 kyats an egg; that his family earned about 2.5 million kyats a year from their farms; and that the per acre yield of summer paddy could reach as many as 70 baskets.

The manager of the Township Myanma Agriculture Service explained that last year Kawa Township put

202,005 acres under monsoon paddy and achieved per acre yield of over 62 baskets, and per acre yield of 3000 acres of summer paddy was 76 baskets; that year 202,328 acres were put under monsoon paddy, and per acre yield was 69 baskets, 3085 acres were put under summer paddy, 118,900 acres under



Green gram thrives in Kawa Township.



Bago River Bridge (Kawa) linking Kawa Township and Htongyi Village in Bago Division.



West risks repeating Soviet mistakes in Afghanistan



An Afghan boy walks by a destroyed Soviet made helicopter in Kabul in this picture taken on 5 Feb, 2009. February 15th marks 20 years since the last Soviet troops withdrew from Afghanistan. Moscow's forces pulled out of the country in 1989 after a decade of war in which thousands of Soviet soldiers and many more Afghans died.—INTERNET

ALI MARDAN (Afghanistan), 15 Feb —The foreign warplanes swooped in just as the Afghan village of Ali Mardan was celebrating a wedding.

Bombs slammed into the crowded village square, killing 30 men, women and children. After the smoke cleared and the dead were buried, all the able-bodied men left alive took up arms against the invaders. That was 1982 and the warplanes belonged to the Soviet Union, but 20 years after the last Soviet soldier left Afghanistan on Sunday, US and NATO troops are all too often making the same mistakes and could run the same risk of being driven out.

Internet



An Iraqi policeman, left, uses a device to detect explosives in Karbala, 80 kilometres (50 miles) south of Baghdad, Iraq, on 14 Feb, 2009.—INTERNET

Brazil launches “AIDS” campaign on middle-aged women

RIO DE JANEIRO, 15 Feb—The Brazillian Ministry of Health launched on Friday a new campaign against AIDS, which focuses on middle-aged women.

The decision to target at this particular group was due to sharp increase of the AIDS cases among middle-aged women in the country, said the ministry.

The number of Brazillian women aged 50 and up infected with HIV increased threefold in the last 10 years, from 3.7 cases in 1996 to 11.6 cases for every 100,000 women in 2006, according to the ministry. Most of the infected women in this group are married or in stable relationships, it said.—MNA/Xinhua

Japan's Iraqi reconstruction aid mission formally ends with ceremony

NAGOYA, 15 Feb—Japan formally ended its five-year reconstruction aid operations in Iraq with a ceremony on Sunday at an Air Self-Defense Force base in Aichi Prefecture commemorating the return of ASDF personnel from Kuwait.

The ASDF members had carried out withdrawal-related tasks at a Kuwaiti base from early December after Defence Minister Yasukazu Hamada issued an order in late November for the return to Japan of a contingent of airmen who had airlifted goods and personnel for multinational forces and the United Nations to and from Iraq.

The personnel in charge of the pullout work, totaling about 130 members, started returning to the ASDF's Komaki base in January in groups using commercial flights and all of them had come back to the base by Saturday after conducting tasks such as clearing tents and disposing of equipment.

About 450 people, including family members of the withdrawal unit personnel, attended the ceremony to welcome the ASDF members home.—Internet



An Iraqi police woman, right, searches a woman in Karbala, 80 kilometres (50 miles) south of Baghdad, Iraq, on 14 Feb, 2009, a day after a female suicide bomber struck a tent filled with women and children resting during near Musayyib.—INTERNET

US officers probed on Iraq rebuilding—“NY Times”

NEW YORK, 15 Feb—US officials looking into irregularities in the early portion of the 125 billion US dollars US-led effort to rebuild Iraq have expanded the inquiry to include senior US military officers who oversaw the programme, *The New York Times* reported on its website. Citing senior

government officials with whom it conducted interviews, as well as court documents, the *Times* reported that investigators had subpoenaed the personal bank records of a colonel, now retired, in charge of reconstruction contracting in Iraq in 2003 and 2004, when the operation expanded greatly in scope to repair Iraq's infrastructure.

Investigators were also examining the activities of an Air Force lieutenant colonel who was a senior contracting officer in Baghdad in 2004, the *Times* said citing two federal officials involved in the inquiry.

MNA/Reuters

“Buy American” provisions to hurt US economy

WASHINGTON, 15 Feb—The US Consumer Electronics Association (CEA) warned on Friday the “Buy American” provisions in the economic stimulus package would hurt the US economy and lead to a trade war.

“The ‘Buy American’ provisions in the stimulus bill will signal to our trading partners around the world that the United States is returning to the bad old days of protectionism and economic nationalism,” CEA President and CEO Gary Shapiro said in a statement.

The US Congress has passed the 787-billion-US-dollar stimulus package. Some provisions in the bill prohibit the use of foreign iron, steel, and manufactured goods in public works projects funded by the stimulus plan.

“Rather than stimulate the American economy, these provisions will lead to retaliation from abroad and cost precious jobs in the United States,” warned Shapiro.

He said the promise that the “Buy American” provisions keep with the letter of World Trade Organization commitments “is a meaningless gesture.” “It contradicts recent statements by both President Obama and G-20 leaders to avoid protectionism, which exacerbate the global economic crisis,” said Shapiro. “The lessons of Smoot-Hawley and the Great Depression are clear — if we close our borders to international trade and artificially prop up our own industries, we deepen the global recession and further make ourselves vulnerable to a trade war,” he added.

MNA/Xinhua

100 kilos of heroin seized in Turkey

ANKARA, 15 Feb—Turkish security forces confiscated 100 kilos of heroin in an operation conducted in eastern Turkey on Saturday, the semi-official *Anatolia* news agency reported.

Acting on a tip-off, the security forces stopped a truck in Ercis town of eastern province of Van on way to Istanbul, according to the report.

Upon a search conducted in the truck, the security forces found a total of 100 kilos of heroin hidden in separate components of the truck, said the report, adding that the driver of the truck was taken into custody. Turkey is a key transit route for smuggling drugs from Asia and the Middle East to markets in western Europe.—MNA/Xinhua



Indian soldiers take photographs on their mobile phones in Srinagar. The mobile phone industry recently reached the milestone of its four billionth connection worldwide, but the cold winds of economic crisis will chill celebrations at the sector's biggest annual gathering this week.

INTERNET

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Dated. 16 February, 2009.

INVITATION TO TENDER TENDER NO (1) (ES) A.M.D (2009-2010)

1. Sealed Tenders are invited by Agricultural Mechanization Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, for the supply of the following store (in Myanmar Kyats.)

Sr.No	Description	Quantity
(1)	Tyre & Tube Sets	(1)Lots, (5)Items
(2)	Assorted Taper Roller & Ball Bearing	(1)Lots, (55)Items
(3)	Implement Disc, 12-V Battery & Paints	(3)Lots, (8)Items
(4)	Plunger & Barrel, Delivery Valve and Nozzle Tips	(1)Lots, (7)Items
(5)	Tractor Spares (Zwe, 5911, 6711, 7011, 7045 John Deere-2300)	(2)Lots, (124)Items
(6)	Tractor Spares (SH-50, SH-654, TN-800)	(3)Lots, (80)Items
(7)	Tractor Spares (8011, Massey Ferguson 275, John Deere-2800)	(3)Lots, (137)Items

2. Tender Closing Date 31st March 2009, 12:00 hrs

3. Tender documents are available at Equipment & Stores Branch of Agricultural Mechanization Department (Head Office), AMD Bayintnaung Road, Insein Township, Yangon, during office hours from (18-3-2009). Only Tenders purchased from AMD will be accepted.

4. For more details, Contact; 01-682209, 01-682593

Director General
Agricultural Mechanization Department

Italy police warn of Skype threat

ROME, 15 Feb—Criminals in Italy are increasingly making phone calls over the Internet in order to avoid getting caught through mobile phone intercepts, police say.

Officers in Milan say organized crime, arms and drugs traffickers, and prostitution rings are turning to Skype in order to frustrate investigators. The police say Skype’s encryption system is a secret which the company refuses to share with the authorities. Investigators have become increasingly reliant on wiretaps in recent years. Customs and tax police in Milan have sounded the alarm.

They overheard a suspected cocaine trafficker telling an accomplice to switch to Skype in order to get details of a 2kg (4.4lb) drug consignment. Use of wiretaps by prosecutors in Italy has grown exponentially in recent years. Investigators say intercepts of telephone calls have become an essential tool of the police, who spend millions of dollars each year tracking down crime through wiretaps of landlines and mobile phones.



The police’s use of wiretaps has forced some criminals on to the internet.—INTERNET

nentially in recent years. Investigators say intercepts of telephone calls have become an essential tool of the police, who spend millions of dollars each year tracking down crime through wiretaps of landlines and mobile phones.

Internet

First new gout drug in 40 years approved

DEERFIELD, 15 Feb—The US Food and Drug Administration has approved a new drug for gout, the first new prescription for the painful condition in 40 years, its maker says.

Takeda Pharmaceuticals North America Inc of Deerfield, Ill, said on Friday its Uloric drug has been approved by the FDA for the more than 5 million US victims of gout, a malady characterized by intense pain, inflammation and warmth in affected joints, the *Chicago Tribune* reported.

The newspaper said most doctors use well-established generic treatments such as allopurinol for gout, in which high levels of uric acid in the body are responsible for an inflammatory form of arthritis most common in men older than 40.

Takeda said Uloric reduces patients’ uric acid levels to low enough levels to reduce the number of painful flare-ups. —Internet

Four shot dead in alleged killing spree

ROCHESTER, 15 Feb—A former hospital employee in New York went on a killing spree on Saturday that claimed four lives, two of them former colleagues of the suspect, police said.

Frank Garcia was arrested in Ontario County after he allegedly gunned down Christopher and Kim Glatz, 45 and 38, in their home outside Rochester, *CNN* reported. Neighbours said Garcia had been going door to door asking for the couple.

Investigators said Garcia knew all four of his alleged victims, although they did not reveal how close he was to them. Police in Monroe County said the first two victims, Mary Sillman, 23, and Randall Norman, 41, were killed at Lakeside Hospital in Bridgeport, while a third person was shot and wounded. Those shootings occurred before 5 am. The killings in Ontario County were in the afternoon. Sheriff Philip Povero said the shootings were “execution-style.” —Internet

Pregnancy shouldn’t delay cancer diagnosis

HOUSTON, 15 Feb—Young women should not let pregnancy delay diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer, US researchers say. The study findings, published in the journal *Cancer*, indicated pregnancy had no impact on breast cancer survival

after 10 years, but found women who were pregnant had been more likely to be diagnosed with advanced stages of the disease and less likely to get early treatment.

“Breast cancer in young women is a highly aggressive disease, and

it’s important that we study it in hopes of making a difference in terms of treatment,” study first author Dr Beth Beadle of the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston said in a statement.

Internet

A boy feeds swans at the Black Sea coast near the town of Varna, east of the Bulgarian capital Sofia, early on 15 Feb, 2009. Every year hundreds swans arrived to find food and warm weather on the coast.—INTERNET



Sri Lanka military says rebels attack refugee bus

COLOMBO, 15 Feb—A suspected Tamil Tiger rebel hurled a hand grenade at a bus full of war-displaced refugees Saturday, killing a woman and wounding 13 others, the military said.

The bus was attacked in Puliyanakulam village in the north while transporting people who had fled the embattled region for

government territory, military spokesman Brig Udaya Nanayakkara said.

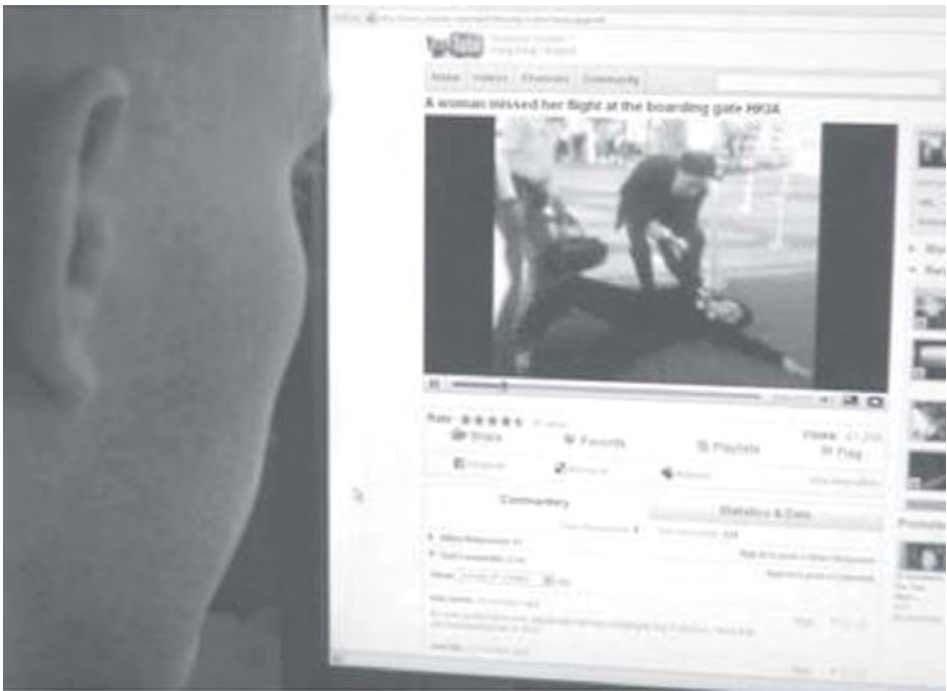
Rebel officials could not be contacted for comment. The military’s claim could not be independently verified because independent journalists are barred from the war zone. A 59-year-old woman was killed and the wounded included four children,

Nanayakkara said.

The government has accused the Tigers — who have recently lost their main strongholds to government forces and are cornered in a small sliver of coastal land — of holding scores of people as human shields and killing civilians who want to escape. The rebels have denied the allegations. —Internet



Revelers take part in the Ceu na Terra, or ‘Heaven on Earth,’ pre-carnival parade in Rio de Janeiro, on 14 Feb, 2009.—INTERNET



A man watches a YouTube video in Hong Kong. A video of a hysterical passenger screaming at airline staff and writhing on the floor after missing a flight at Hong Kong airport has become a YouTube hit.—INTERNET

Pollution link to asthma in womb

LONDON,15 Feb — Traffic pollution causes genetic changes in the womb which increase a child’s risk of developing asthma, research suggests.

A study of umbilical cord blood from 56 children found “reprogramming” of a gene associated with exposure to compounds in traffic fumes.The gene was associated with asthma symptoms at age five, the researchers reported in the *PLoS ONE* journal.It is the first time pollution has been shown to influence genes, experts said.

In the study, researchers looked at a gene called *ACSL3*, which is expressed in the lung. They also recorded the mothers’ exposure to polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (*PAHs*) — a by-product of combustion present in high levels in heavy-traffic areas — during their pregnancy with backpack air



One in ten children in the UK have asthma.—INTERNET

monitors.The researchers found a significant association between chemical changes which control activation of the gene and high levels of maternal *PAH* exposure.Although the finding needs to be confirmed in larger studies, researchers say changes in the *ACSL3* gene may be help early diagnosis of pollution-related asthma.—*Internet*

Neanderthal genetic code revealed

WASHINGTON,15 Feb—International researchers say they have completed a draft of the genetic blueprint of Neanderthals, humans’ primitive cousin.

The scientists say their discovery shows Neanderthals made “very little, if any” contribution to human genes, *USA Today* reported on Saturday.Neanderthals occupied Europe from about 800,000 to 30,000 years ago, the newspaper noted.

Team chief Svante Paabo of Germany’s Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig said their findings provide a “good overview” of the Neanderthal genome.”We see this as a tool for future biologists (looking for) what’s really unique to modern humans,” Paabo was quoted by the newspaper as saying.—*Internet*

Special light may detect Parkinson’s disease

LONDON, 15 Feb—A light as bright as a million-watt bulb may be able to help identify early signs of Parkinson’s disease, British researchers say.

A Keele University team says the special light of a “super-microscope” could help spot changes in brain cells before Parkinson’s destroyed them, *BBC* reported on Saturday.Researcher Joanna Collingwood told the American Association for the Advancement of Science the technique could mean early treatment for Parkinson’s patients.The researchers used a synchrotron, or Diamond Light Source, which fires particles at just below the speed of light, focusing them into a beam less than a single cell in diameter.—*Internet*



Global warming seen worse than predicted

CHICAGO, 15 Feb—The climate is heating up far faster than scientists had predicted, spurred by sharp increases in greenhouse gas emissions from developing countries like China and India, a top climate scientist said on Saturday. “The consequence of that is we are basically looking now at a future climate that is beyond anything that we’ve considered seriously,” Chris Field, a member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, or IPCC, told the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting

in Chicago.

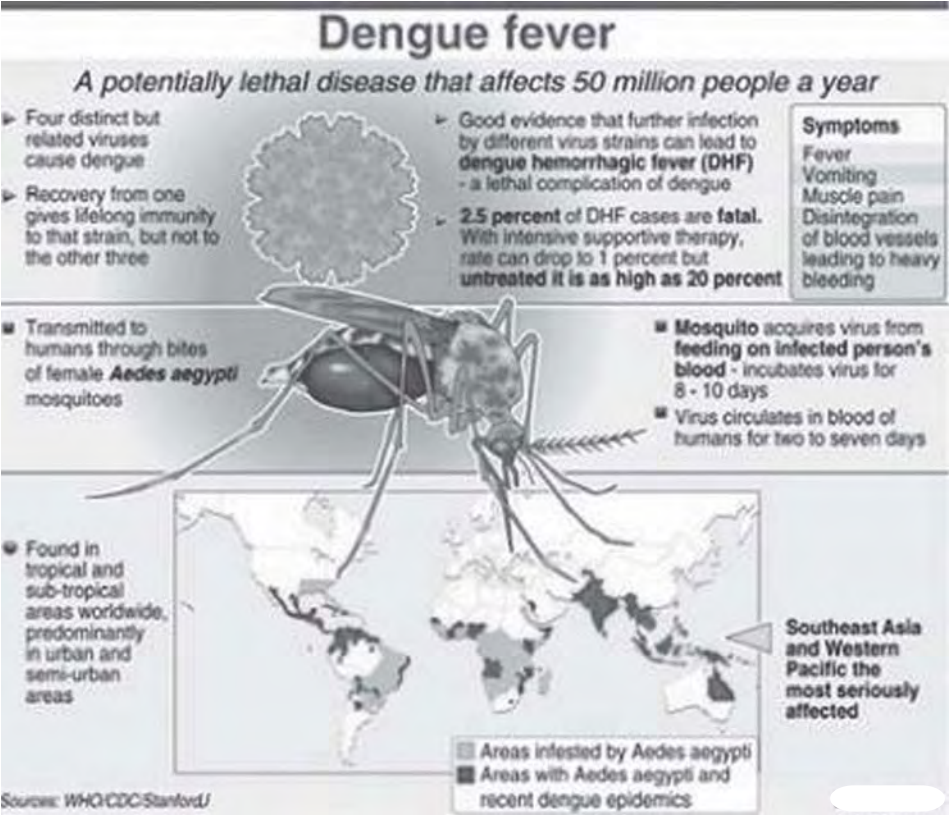
Field said “the actual trajectory of climate change is more serious” than any of the climate predictions in the IPCC’s fourth assessment report called “Climate Change 2007.”

He said recent climate studies suggested the continued warming of the planet from greenhouse gas emissions could touch off large, destructive wildfires in tropical rain forests and melt permafrost in the

Arctic tundra, releasing billions of tons of greenhouse gasses that could raise global temperatures even more.

“There is a real risk that human-caused climate change will accelerate the release of carbon dioxide from forest and tundra ecosystems, which have been storing a lot of carbon for thousands of years,” Field, of Stanford University and the Carnegie Institution for Science, said in a statement.—*Internet*

Facts on dengue fever. In the worst national outbreak in a decade, nine Bolivians have died after contracting hemorrhagic dengue fever, officials announced on Saturday.—INTERNET



Study uncovers pre-pregnancy concerns

SOUTHAMPTON, 15 Feb—British researchers say a study they conducted found most women trying to get pregnant are not following dietary recommendations.

The research team

from Britain’s University of Southampton found in a study of 12,500 British women that those attempting to become pregnant were only slightly more likely to follow pre-conception diet tips, the *BBC* reported on Friday.

The study of women ages 20 to 34, focused on their dietary supplement use, physical activity, alcohol consumption, smoking habits and overall diet.A total of 309 participants ultimately became pregnant within three months of the study and, of those, only 5.5 percent had been taking the recommended daily dose of folic acid supplements.—*Internet*

A man looks at a Dell computer on sale at a store in Miami. Dell has awarded nearly three million dollars in grants to organizations teaching science and technology skills to youth in India, Brazil and Mexico.—INTERNET

SPORTS

PSG pile on French title race pressure



Paris Saint-Germain
Jeremy Clement (front)
is challenged by
Saint-Etienne's Paulo
Machado during their
French L1 football
match in Paris.

INTERNET

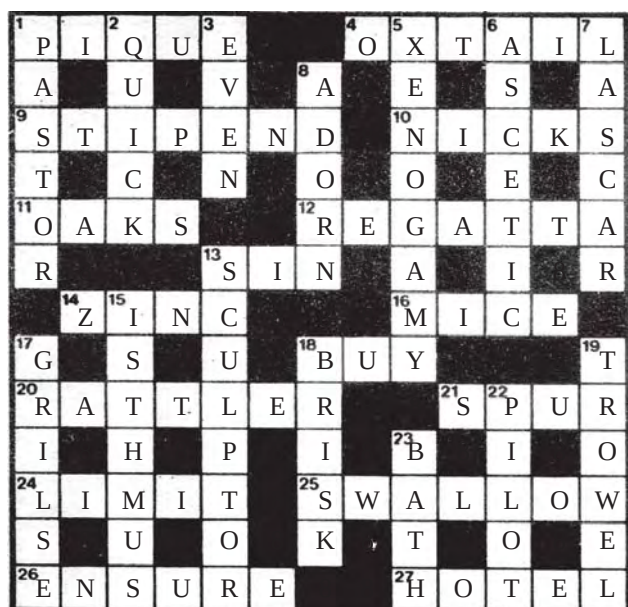
Seven-time champions Lyon can re-establish a four-point lead when they tackle rock-bottom Le Havre on Sunday. Bordeaux squandered two precious points in their bid for the title when Grenoble's Bostjan Cesar struck the leveller to hold Laurent Blanc's side to a 1-1 draw.—*Internet*

Nadal sets up dream Rotterdam final with Murray

ROTTERDAM, 15 Feb—Rafael Nadal took a breather here Saturday with a 6-4, 6-4 defeat of Gael Monfils after a week of marathon matches to reach a Sunday final with Andy Murray at the Rotterdam Open.

Spain's Australian Open champion was finally able to advance in energy-saving style after going the distance in his first three victories. It still took him more than 90 minutes to defeat an opponent suffering with stomach problems. The world number 1 will line up against Scottish second-seed Murray in a dream final for organizers. Murray roared into the final Saturday with a lightning 6-1, 6-2 defeat of Mario Ancic but is facing a fitness test due to a sore right ankle. "I knew Gael was not at his best," said Nadal, bidding for a second straight hardcourt title after winning the Australian Open.—*Internet*

Answers to yesterday's Crosswords Puzzle



Eto'o double rescues Barcelona in Seville

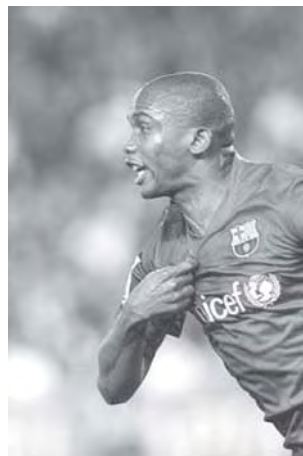
MADRID, 15 Feb—Samuel Eto'o scored twice as leaders Barcelona came from two goals down to preserve their 22-match unbeaten league run with a 2-2 draw at Real Betis on Saturday.

The result gives champions Real Madrid, currently 13 points behind in second, a chance to cut the gap at the top to 10 points when they face Sporting Gijon on Sunday. Juan Melli and former Liverpool man Mark Gonzalez put Betis into a 2-0 lead after just 25 minutes as Barcelona looked set for their first defeat since the opening day of the season.

Eto'o pulled a goal back close to half-time and then equalised six

minutes from the end for his 23rd goal of the season but Barcelona's run of ten straight league wins still came to an end.

Internet



Barcelona's Samuel
Eto'o celebrates after
scoring against Betis
during their Spanish
league football match at
Ruiz de Lopera stadium
in Sevilla. The match
ended 2-2.—INTERNET

Ilunga keeps Hammers happy



Herita Ilunga, headed
home with eight min-
utes remaining to earn
West Ham a 1-1 draw
with Middlesbrough
and keep the London
club's FA Cup run
alive.—INTERNET

Boro. The relegation-threatened visitors' bright start belied their lowly league position and they might have gone ahead after only two minutes, when Adam Johnson dragged his shot wide after Matt Upson had only half-cleared Stewart Downing's cross.

Downing then had a chance himself to break the deadlock on 11 minutes, but his shot from distance, which sent Robert Green sprawling, was also off target.—*Internet*



Hertha BSC Berlin's striker Andrej
Voronin celebrates scoring his second
goal during the German first division
Bundesliga football match against FC
Bayern Munich in Berlin.—INTERNET

Fish blasts Blake to reach San Jose ATP final

SAN JOSE, 15 Feb—Mardy Fish fired 16 aces in defeating third seed James Blake 6-3, 6-2 in an all-American semi-final at the 600,000-dollar ATP hardcourt tournament here Saturday. Fifth seed Fish broke Blake in the fifth and seventh games of the second set and fired



Mardy Fish, fired 16 aces in de-
feating third seed James Blake
6-3, 6-2 in an all-American
semi-final at the 600,000-dollar
ATP hardcourt tournament on
Saturday.—INTERNET

three aces in a row to open the final game before holding at love to advance after 59 minutes.

Fish will play the winner of a later semi-final between US top seed Andy Roddick, the defending champion, and Czech fourth seed Radek Stepanek, who has a chance to avenge his loss to the American in last year's final.

It will be the second San Jose final for Fish, who lost to Roddick in the 2004 championship match.—*Internet*

Injured Serena hands Dementieva Paris final with Mauresmo

PARIS, 15 Feb—Russia's Elena Dementieva reached the final of the Paris Open on Saturday after her semi-final opponent, Serena Williams, pulled out Saturday with a knee injury.

Number one seed Williams had secured her place in the last four Friday defeating French qualifier Emilie Loit 6-4, 6-1, although the American was made to work much harder than she had done in her opening two matches.

In Sunday's final Dementieva will meet revitalised Frenchwoman Amelie Mauresmo who stunned Serbian second seed Jelena Jankovic 6-2, 0-6, 6-1. Williams, fresh from her Australian Open win, said she had felt pain during her match with Loit.

Internet



French tennis player Amelie Mauresmo returns the
ball to Serbia's Jelena Jankovic during their 17th
WTA French Open tennis match in Paris.—INTERNET

Voronin double fires Hertha top of the Bundesliga

BERLIN, 15 Feb—Hertha Berlin's Ukrainian striker Andrej Voronin fired his side to the top of the Bundesliga on Saturday with both goals which sealed a 2-1 win over Bayern Munich.

With Hoffenheim suffering their first defeat at the Rhein-Neckar-Arena when Bayer Leverkusen hammered them 4-1 on Friday night, the way had been paved for the winner of the Bayern-Hertha clash at Berlin's Olympic Stadium to take over.

And Hertha took their chance to go from third to top and now lead Hoffenheim by a single point with Bayern third with two defeats in their last three games.—*Internet*



An attempt at the world's longest sausage is prepared by cooks in giant frying pan in the eastern Croatian town of Vinkovci, some 250 kilometres from the capital, Zagreb.—INTERNET

Global warming 'underestimated'

CHICAGO, 15 Feb—The severity of global warming over the next century will be much worse than previously believed, a leading climate scientist has warned.

Professor Chris Field, an author of a 2007 landmark report on climate change, said future temperatures "will be beyond anything" predicted. Prof Field said the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report had underestimated the rate of change. He said warming is likely to cause more environmental damage than forecast.

Speaking at the American Science conference in Chicago, Prof Field said fresh data showed greenhouse gas emissions between 2000 and 2007 increased far more rapidly than expected. "We are basically looking now at a future climate that is beyond anything that we've considered seriously in climate policy," he said.

Internet

MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (16.2.2009) (Monday)

Transmissions

Local	Times
Local	- (09:00am ~ 10:00am) MST
Europe	- (15:30pm ~ 23:30pm) MST
North America	- (23:30pm ~ 07:30am) MST

Local Transmission

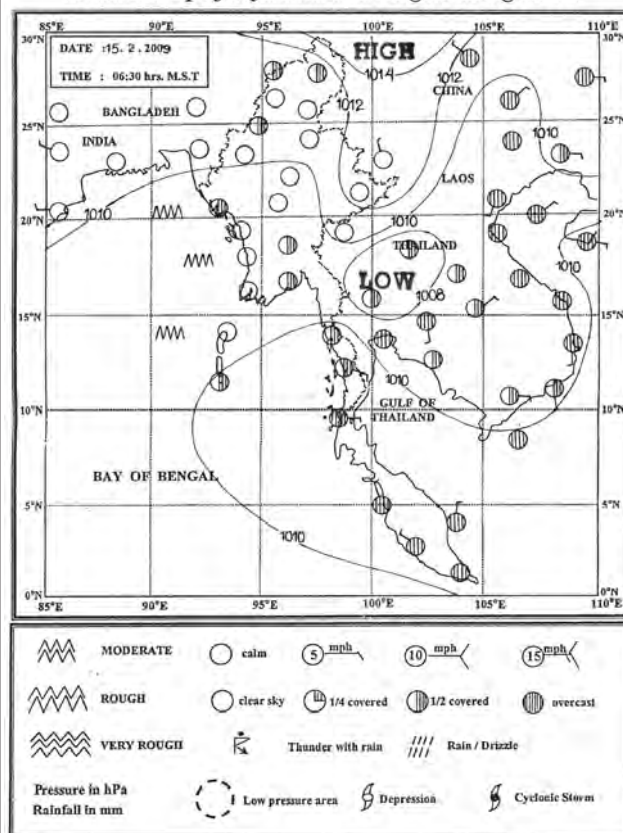
- ☐ Signature Tune
- ☐ Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- ☐ Hundred Fruits from a Common Stem, our Union (Magway Division)
- ☐ Lucky Bamboo
- ☐ Rope Painting
- ☐ Talks: Myanmar Traditional Marionette Theatre (Part III)
- ☐ Kambozathadi: Palace of Conquerors
- ☐ Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Europe/ North America Transmission

- ☐ Signature Tune
- ☐ Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- ☐ Hundred Fruits from a Common Stem, our Union (Bago Division)
- ☐ Chaungtha Beach Resort
- ☐ Naga Traditional Cultural Showroom
- ☐ Versatile Toddy Palms
- ☐ The Beauty of Ingyin in Fossils From Chindwin River
- ☐ Aung Zay Yon Hill Htamane Festival
- ☐ Myanmar Orchestra, A Blend of Arts!
- ☐ Myanmar Modern Song
- ☐ Hundred Fruits from a Common Stem, our Union (Magway Division)
- ☐ Lucky Bamboo
- ☐ Rope Painting
- ☐ Versatile Toddy Palms
- ☐ Talks: Myanmar Traditional Marionette Theatre (Part III)
- ☐ Kambozathadi: Palace of Conquerors
- ☐ National Herbal Park (Part-I)
- ☐ Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Sunday, 15 February, 2009

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

Maximum temperature on 14-2-2009 was 94°F. Minimum temperature on 15-2-2009 was 63°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 15-2-2009 was 83%. Total sunshine hours on 14-2-2009 was (7.4) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 15-2-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from North at (12:30) hours MST on 14-2-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 16th February 2009: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, Kayin and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight increase of night temperatures in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 16-2-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 16-2-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 16-2-2009: Generally fair weather.



**Monday, 16 February
View on today**

7:00 am

1. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. အတီးမြိုင်ပွဲ

7:50 am

5. Nice and sweet song

8:05 am

6. Cute little dancers

8:20 am

7. “မီးခိုးရဲ့ဆုံးဖြတ်ချက်”
(နေအောင်၊ ထွန်းထွန်းဝင်း၊
မေသဉ္ဇာဦး၊ ပြည့်ဖူးခိုင်၊
ဇာဇာမင်းထက်)
[ဒါရိုက်တာ-အောင်မိုး(ပဲရစ်)]

8:30 am

8. International news

8:45 am

9. Musical programme

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:10 pm

2. Dances variety

4:20 pm

3. Song of national races

4:30 pm

4. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား

4:40 pm

5. Musical programme
(The Radio Myanmar
Modern Music Troupe)

4:50 pm

6. ၂၀၀၉ခုနှစ်၊ တက္ကသိုလ်ဝင်စာမေးပွဲ
ဘာသာရပ်ဆိုင်ရာသင်ခန်းစာ
(ဇီဝဗေဒဘာသာရပ်)

5:10 pm

7. Song to uphold
National Spirit

5:20 pm

8. Musical programme

5:30 pm

9. “ပန်းပေါင်းစုံရာမြေ”

5:45 pm

10. မူဟန်သွယ်သွယ်ဆိုကြမယ်

6:00 pm

11. Evening news

6:30 pm

12. Weather report

6:35 pm

13. Sing and enjoy

7:10 pm

14. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ
“နွဲ့ဆိုးဆိုးသူကိုယ့်ချစ်သူ”
(အပိုင်း-၁၂)

8:00 pm

15. News
16. International news
17. Weather report
18. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ
“မြင့်မြတ်နုလုံးသားပိုင်ရှင်”
(အပိုင်း-၂၇)

**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

Kawa Township making progress in agricultural farming

Article: Reporter Singu Soe Win; Photos: Tin Soe (Myanma Alin)

Kawa is about nine miles from Innadagaw. On our trip to Kawa Township, we passed through 560 feet long Bago River Bridge (Kawa) that links Bago Township with Kawa Township. Local people are very pleased with the bridge that cost 392 million kyats as they can travel and transport goods to other regions across the nation through the bridge all-year round.

Chairman of Kawa Township Peace and Development Council U Hla Win Aung said, "Our township is 28 miles long and 20 miles wide and has an area of 647.68 square miles or 414,515 acres. It is constituted with six wards, 90 village-tracts and 154

villages with a population of 207,271. It has an area of 206,050 acres of farmlands: 201,856 acres of paddy, 4050 acres of crops, and 144 acres of thatch."

We then visited the 133-acre farmland of U Thaik Soe (a) U Aung Thaik of Zwebar village-tract. In an interview, he said, "I am 36, a graduate. I run 133 acres of farmlands. I have over 30 cattle, two Leya Brand power-tillers, an NC 131 tractor and a Zwe (50) tractor. On average, I make a profit of over three million kyats a year."

Farmer U Po Cho, who has 58 acres of monsoon paddy, 40 acres of green gram and 2.5 acres of ground-

nut, said, "Agricultural farming is our family business. I have a Gaungdong tractor and a Zwe tractor. On average, our family makes an annual profit of about two million kyats. I get agricultural methods from Myanmar Agriculture Service and fertilizer from the Township Peace and Development Council. I have a plan to grow summer paddy and cold season crops when there is supply of irrigation water."

Then, we visited the 104-acre summer paddy field of U Myint Soe of Ale Village, Ale Village-tract on Bago-Thongwa Road. He said that he had four
(See page 10)



A large farm of beans and pulses in Kawa Township, Bago Division.

Atlanta flight test evaluates technique for saving fuel and reducing noise in airliners

ATLANTA, 15 Feb — Airline passengers arriving in Atlanta on early morning "redeye" flights during the past few months may have noticed something different during their descent to the

runway. Instead of the typical sound of engine power rising and falling as the aircraft descended in a series of level flight steps, they may have noticed a quieter arrival — without the steps.

The changes were part of Georgia Tech's flight-testing of "continuous descent arrivals," a procedure designed to save fuel and time while producing environmental benefits by reducing both noise and emissions. Involving more than 600 flights, the Atlanta study was done in collaboration with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), FedEx and Atlanta's two dominant air carriers: Delta Air Lines and AirTran Airways.

Internet



Atlanta International Airport was chosen to evaluate the continuous descent arrival technique in about 600 flights.

Volcanic spreading and lateral variations in structure of Olympus Mons, Mars

SCIENCE DAILY, 15 Feb — The immense Olympus Mons volcano on Mars (about 23 km tall and 600 km wide) exhibits a somewhat lopsided structure: elongated to the northwest, shortened to the southeast, with corresponding types of faulting (extensional and compressional, respectively) prevalent in each sector.

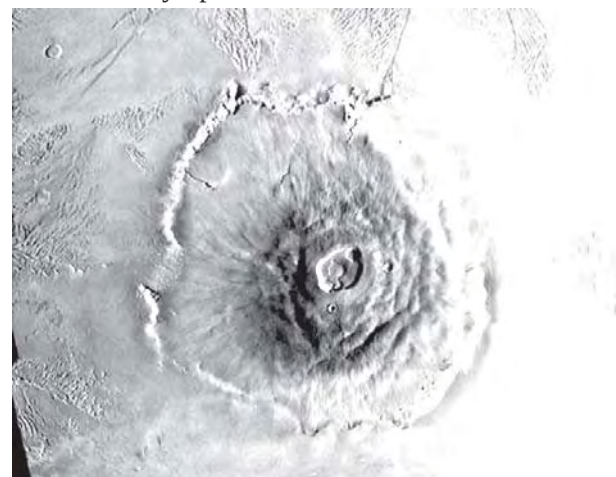
However, the overall shape of the edifice is characterized by a decrease in slope with increasing distance from the center, somewhat like the surface of a tent that is supported by a single central pole.

In order to uncover the mechanism that generates the distinctive features of the shape of Ol-

ympos Mons, Patrick J. McGovern and Julia K. Morgan, Lunar and Planetary Institute, Universities Space Research Association, constructed models of Olympus Mons

as collections of particles that slip and slide past each other, controlled by the weight of other particles and the friction value assigned to each.

Internet



Color Mosaic of Olympus Mons on Mars. Olympus Mons is about 600 km in diameter and the summit caldera is 24 km above the surrounding plains. The complex aureole terrain is visible at the top of the frame. North is up.