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True patriotism

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

Senior General Than Shwe sends message of congratulations to newly-elected Bangladeshi President

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb—Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr. Mohammad Zillur Rahman on his election as the President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe receives Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Army and party



NAY PYI TAW, 17 Feb — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe received a visiting Thai goodwill delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Army General Anupong Paojinda at Bayintnaung Yeiktha here at 12.30 pm today.

Also present were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and Myanmar Military Attaché to Thailand Col Win Maung, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Bansarn Bunnag and Thai Defence Attaché and Army Attaché Colonel Ekachai Harnpoonvittaya.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe greets Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Army General Anupong Paojinda at Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe receives visiting Thai goodwill delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Army General Anupong Paojinda at Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA



PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 18 February, 2009

To enjoy greater longevity free from diseases

The Ministry of Health has laid down three tactics — to give health educative talks, to take disease control measures, and to give effective treatment at the grassroots level — so as to put its two objectives into reality: for the people to enjoy greater longevity, and to be free from diseases.

In order to achieve its objectives, the ministry is scaling up health care under the leadership of the National Health Committee.

Of the health care services in Myanmar, the leprosy control campaign proved successful, and the World Health Organization recognized at the end of January 2003 that leprosy was no longer a public health problem in Myanmar.

The disease usually affects skin and peripheral nerves. If a victim fails to take treatment in the early stage, he can be physically deformed.

According to the World Health Organization, health means being free from diseases and disabilities, but with physical and mental and social well-being.

Myanmar launched its leprosy control campaign in 1952 with the assistance of WHO and UNICEF. At that time, the victims were given dapsone only. In 1986, it practised the MDT therapy designated by WHO. In 1996, the ministry took measures to cover all the victims and all the areas of the nation cent per cent including border areas.

Therefore, the entire people have to extend a helping hand to the drive for sustainable progress in disease control measures in the follow-up programmes for elimination of the disease, and participate in the rehabilitation tasks in order that victims with physical deformation and loss of physical, mental and social well-being can get on well with their societies.

Winning teams of 57th MOC Chairman's Shield Inter-Ministry Track and Field Events awarded

YANGON, 17 Feb — The prize presentation ceremony of the 57th Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman's Shield Inter-Ministry Track and Field Events was held at Youth Training Center (Thuwunna) here this morning.

After final events, prize presentation ceremony followed.

Patron of Myanmar Women's Sports Federation Prof. Dr. Daw Khin May Ohn presented a champion shield and duplicate shield to women's team of the Ministry of Home Affairs who bagged nine gold, seven silver and six bronze medals and Vice-President of Myanmar Track and Field Federation U San Tun, Home Affairs Ministry's men team who fetched 13 gold, five silver and seven bronze medals.

On behalf of the Chairman of MOC, General Secretary of MOC Director-General U Thaung Htaik of Sports and Physical Education Department presented a Championship Shield and duplicate shield to the Ministry of Home Affairs team who got 22 gold, 12 silver and 13 bronze medals. — 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

Dailies to reach every village in Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Feb — A ceremony to open the new press of sub-printing house of News and Periodicals Enterprise of Ministry of Information and to launch the distribution of newspapers to every village in Rakhine State, was held at the house on 15 February.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Vice-Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Col Soe Lwin of Sittway



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and Col Soe Lwin inspect sub-printing house (Sittway). — MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Col Soe Lwin of Sittway Station and Managing Director of NPE U Soe Win formally open the ceremony to open upgraded sub-printing house (Sittway). — MNA

Station and Managing Director of NPE U Soe Win formally opened the ceremony.

At the ceremony, Managing Director U Soe Win presented newspapers to paper agents from 892 villages from 14 townships — 27

villages in Sittway Township, 92 villages in Ponnagyun Township, 79 villages in Kyauktaw Township, 94 villages in MraukU Township, 62 villages in Minbya Township, 53 villages in Pauktaw Township, 51 villages in Myebon

Township, 88 villages in Rathedaung Township, 98

villages in Maungtau Township, 78 villages in Buthidaung Township, 54 villages in Kyaukpyu Township, 51 villages in Yanbye Township, 36 villages in Manaung Township and 29 villages in An Township.

After the ceremony, the minister and the deputy chairman of Rakhine State PDC cordially greeted those present at the ceremony.

Measures are being taken to distribute newspapers to remaining villages in Rakhine State.

MNA

Talks on "Wireless Knowledge" on 21 Feb

YANGON, 17 Feb — An executive of Myanmar Computer Professionals' Association will give educative talks at Myanmar Info-tech in Hline Township on 21 February.

U Aung Zaw Myint, an executive of MCPA, will give talks on "Essential Wireless Skill and Knowledge" at the talks conducted by MCPA.

Anyone interested in wireless systems may participate in the talks and more information is available at MCPA, Ph: 652276. — MNA



Managing Director of NPE U Soe Win presents newspapers to a paper agent. — MNA



Newest US troops in dangerous region near Kabul

LOGAR PROVINCE, 17 Feb — Close to 3,000 American soldiers who recently arrived in Afghanistan to secure two violent provinces near Kabul have begun operations in the field and already are seeing combat, the unit's spokesman said Monday.

The new troops are the first wave of an expected surge of reinforcements this year. The process began to take shape under President George Bush but has been given impetus by President Barack Obama's call for an increased focus on Afghanistan.

US commanders have been contemplating sending up to 30,000 more soldiers to bolster the 33,000 already here, but the new administration is expected to initially approve only a portion of that

amount. White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said Monday the president would decide soon.

The new unit—the 3rd Brigade Combat Team of the 10th Mountain Division—moved into Logar and Wardak provinces last month, and the soldiers from Fort Drum, NY, are now stationed in combat outposts throughout the provinces.

Militants have attacked several patrols with rifles and rocket-propelled grenades, including one ambush by 30 militants, Lt Col Steve Osterholzer, the brigade spokesman, said.

Several roadside bombs also have exploded next to the unit's MRAPs — mine-resistance patrol vehicles — but caused no casualties, he said.—*Internet*



The scene of suicide bomb attack in Kabul on 11 February, 2009.—INTERNET

Over 2,000 civilians killed in Afghanistan in 2008

KABUL, 17 Feb — The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) in its 2008 annual report released here Tuesday said that 2,118 civilians had been killed last year in Afghanistan.

“In 2008, UNAMA recorded a total of 2,118 civilian casualties. The growing death toll represents an increase of almost 40 percent on 1,523 civilian deaths recorded in 2007,” the reported said.

It also added that the armed opposition outfits were responsible for 1,160

civilian deaths and this represents 65 percent increase over 2007 figure.

Majority of the victims, according to the report, died in suicide attacks and roadside bombings carried out by insurgents.

“The vast majority or 85 percent of those killed by anti-government elements died as a result of suicide attacks and improvised explosive devices,”

it said. Air strikes carried out by the U.S. military and the NATO-led peace-keeping forces, according to the report were responsible for 828 civilian deaths in 2008.

It moreover stressed that 38 aid workers from the non-government organizations were killed in 2008, doubling the number of those killed in 2007.

—*Internet*



Congolese girls displaced by war stand on the outskirts of a makeshift camp near Goma in eastern Congo, 11 February, 2009. —INTERNET

US soldier court-martial begins Tuesday in Germany

VILSECK, 17 Feb — A US soldier will be court-martialed for his alleged involvement in killing four Iraqi prisoners, who were bound, blindfolded, shot in the head and dumped in a Baghdad canal in 2007.

Sgt Michael Leahy Jr, 26, of Lockport, Illinois, faces life in prison and a dishonorable discharge if convicted with premeditated murder, conspiracy to commit premeditated murder, and obstruction of justice.

The charges stem from a lengthy investigation of the prisoners' slaying, which the Army said happened sometime between 10 March and 16 April, 2007.

Leahy also faces charges, including murder, for a separate incident in January 2007. The Army has provided no information on that event.

The Rose Barracks Courthouse court-martial begins Tuesday and is expected to last several days.

In total, seven soldiers have been involved in the case regarding the killing of the four prisoners. All were with the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade of the 1st Infantry Division in Iraq, which is now part of the Germany-based 172nd Infantry Brigade.

—*Internet*

Gunmen attack oil facilities in southern Nigeria

LAGOS, 17 Feb — A private security official says gunmen have attacked two oil facilities operated by Royal Dutch Shell in Nigeria's restive south.

The official says that a local militant leader claimed responsibility for the attack early Tuesday in a letter and threatened further violence. The security official spoke on condition of anonymity due to company prohibitions on dealings with the media.

Military and Shell officials were not immediately available for comment.—*Internet*



People walk past broken glass outside the Justice Ministry after a gun battle with the Taliban attackers in Kabul 11 February, 2009.—INTERNET

Four Shiite pilgrims killed, 13 wounded in bomb explosion in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 17 Feb—Four Shiite pilgrims were killed and 13 others wounded by a roadside bomb explosion in eastern Baghdad on Monday, an Interior Ministry source said. A roadside bomb struck a bus carrying Shiite pilgrims in the Obaidi district, killing four of them and wounding 13 others, the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

The pilgrims were returning to their homes in eastern the capital after observed the major religious ceremony of Arbaeen in the holy city of Karbala, some 110 km southwest of Baghdad.

Earlier in the day, another roadside bomb explosion hit a minibus in the Shiite district of Sadr City, killing four people and wounding 10 others.—*Internet*

Roadside bomb kills three workers in E Afghanistan

KABUL, 17 Feb—Three employees of a road construction company were killed and three others sustained injuries as a mine planted by militants went off in Kunar province east of Afghanistan on Monday, an official said.

“The explosion occurred this morning in Sarkano district, leaving three local guards of the company dead and wounding three others,” district chief Mohammad Shuaib told *Xinhua*. He did not give more details but added the company is a local firm engaged in building roads in the Province. Meanwhile, Zabihullah Mujahid who claims to speak for Taliban outfit said from unclosed location that the target was police inflicting casualties on policemen.—*Internet*



Chinese President Hu Jintao (L Front), accompanied by Mauritian Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam (R Front), inspect the honor guard upon his arrival in Port Louis for a state visit on 16 Feb, 2009.—XINHUA

Chinese President arrives in Mauritius for state visit

PORT LOUIS, 17 Feb—Chinese President Hu Jintao arrived on Monday in this Mauritian capital for a state visit aimed at enhancing bilateral friendship and cooperation.

He was greeted at the airport by Mauritian Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam.

“The China-Mauritius relationship has become a model of solidarity and cooperation between two developing countries,” Hu said in a statement re-

leased upon his arrival.

His visit will enhance mutual understanding and trust, deepen the traditional friendship and promote mutually beneficial cooperation between China and Mauritius, said the Chinese president.

It will also help take China-Mauritius relations to a new high, Hu added.

During the visit, the last leg of his five-nation “journey of friendship and cooperation,” Hu is expected to meet with Mauritian

President Anerood Jugnauth and hold talks with Ramgoolam.

The two countries will sign a number of cooperation documents during Hu’s two-day visit.

He left Dar es Salaam earlier Monday after wrapping up a state visit to Tanzania.

Also on Monday, Hu delivered a key-note speech on China-Africa ties at a welcoming rally attended by people from various sectors in Tanzania.—Xinhua

Major nuclear submarine incidents since 1960s

BEIJING, 17 Feb—Two nuclear-armed submarines, Britain’s HMS Vanguard and France’s Le Triomphant, collided in the Atlantic Ocean earlier this month, officials confirmed on Monday.

The following is a list of major accidents involving nuclear submarines since the 1960s.

10 April, 1963: The USS Thresher sank off the New England coast, with all 129 men aboard.

May-June 1968: USS Scorpion sank with 99 men aboard in the Atlantic Ocean east of Norfolk, Virginia.

4 March, 1970: French submarine, the Eurydice, sank with 57 crew off St. Tropez in the Mediterranean Sea.

12 April, 1970: A Soviet nuclear-powered attack submarine sank with 88 crew members in the Atlantic Ocean off Spain.

7 April, 1989: A Soviet Mike class attack submarine sank off northern Norway after a fire, 42 died.

12 Aug, 2000: The Oscar II-class SSGN Kursk sank during a training exercise in the Barents Sea, killing all 118 people on board.

6 Sept, 2006: A fire broke out on a Russian submarine moored near the Finnish border, killing two crew members.

21 March, 2007: An explosion on board the Tireless nuclear submarine of the British Navy killed two soldiers and injured another.—Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

30 homemade ARJ jets to be delivered by 2012

BEIJING, 17 Feb—China’s first homemade regional jet, the ARJ21, has started mass production and 30 planes will be delivered to clients by 2012, according to the state-run Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China.

The plane maker will deliver the first five planes next year, 10 planes in 2011 and the remaining 15 planes in 2012, said Luo Ronghuai,

vice general manager of the company.

Shanghai Aircraft Manufacturing Factory, which assembles the ARJ (Advanced Regional Jet), has signed contracts with four factories to produce the jets, including Xi’an Aircraft International Corp which will supply as much as 3.26 billion yuan (US\$477 million) worth of components.

The plane maker has received 208 orders for the



A resident living in Shijingshan district clears snow on the road in Beijing, capital of China, on 17 Feb 2009. Beijing welcomes its first snow after the Spring Festival.—XINHUA

Fiji airline named South Pacific’s best

WELLINGTON, 17 Feb—Fiji’s major international airline Air Pacific Limited has been named the best airline in the South Pacific in the Global Traveler’s fifth annual award survey for 2008.

Global Travelers is a US publication with a circulation of 100,000 and a readership of 268,000 per

month and is focused on the high end business and leisure travel. Airline managing director and chief executive John Campbell said awards were determined by the votes of 31,457 travelers, the Fijilive website reported on Tuesday.

He said Air Pacific’s

selection by highly experienced American travelers was a testament to the efforts of the entire Air Pacific team, who strived to personify the Fijian spirit, renowned for warmth, friendliness and welcoming attitudes.

Xinhua

Vietnam to issue 2nd batch of government bonds this year

HANOI, 17 Feb—The Hanoi Securities Trading Center announced on Monday that it will hold the auction of the second batch of Vietnamese government bonds for this year on 20 Feb, the local newspaper *New Hanoi* reported on Tuesday.

The bonds are in Vietnamese dong, with its total value worth about 58.82 million US dollars, said the centre.

Of the total, five-year bonds are valued at 29.41 million dollars while ten-year bonds are worth 29.41 million dollars.

The deadline for application is before the auction.—Xinhua



A local villager collects plastic water pipe after he irrigated his wheat farmland for the second time at Hancun Township in Huaibei City, east China’s Anhui Province, on 17 Feb, 2009.—XINHUA



A plane lands at Tengchong Airport in Tengchong, southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 16 Feb, 2009, marking the airport's opening to air traffic. Tengchong Airport locates in Tengchong County on the border between China and Myanmar. It takes 50 minutes from Kunming, capital of Yunnan Province, to Tengchong by air after the Tengchong Airport opens to air traffic. —INTERNET

California budget still in limbo

LOS ANGELES, 17 Feb—Short of one Republican vote, California lawmakers failed again to pass a long-delayed budget to plug California's huge deficit, the *Los Angeles Times* reported on

Monday.

Ending a weekend marathon of tense negotiations, bleary-eyed state lawmakers late Sunday suspended their bid to close what is projected to be a 41-billion-dollar deficit by the

middle of next year, the paper said. But lawmakers vowed to continue working on Monday to halt the state's dizzying slide toward financial col-lapse, according to the paper.

Internet

Russia won't toughen policy on Iran

MOSCOW, 17 Feb—Russia does not intend to toughen its policy toward Iran regarding its nuclear program, a senior Russian diplomat said Monday.

Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said it's necessary to intensify international efforts to reach a political settlement of the Iranian nuclear standoff. But Ryabkov added that Russia has no intention to take a harsher attitude to Iran, Russian news agencies reported.

"Our stance on the Iranian nuclear program has no elements which could be interpreted as toughening of approach," Ryabkov was quoted as saying.

The US has accused Iran of supporting terrorism and secretly seeking to build nuclear weapons — charges that Iran denies.

Russia has developed close ties with Iran and is building its first nuclear power plant. Moscow has supported limited UN

sanctions on Iran, but opposed the US push for tougher measures.

President Barack Obama has signaled a new willingness to engage Iran, whose relations with the Bush administration were long strained.

Iranian Defence Minister Mostafa Najari arrived in Moscow late Monday for talks with his Russian counterpart on bilateral military ties, the Interfax news agency reported.

Internet



People walk on a bridge destroyed by a landslide in the northern Argentine city of Tartagal on 10 Feb, 2009. —INTERNET

Scientists succeed in human trials of HIV microbicide in Zimbabwe

HARARE, 17 Feb—Scientists have had the first successful human trials on a gel-PRO 2000 microbicide intended to prevent HIV infections in women in Zimbabwe, local media *New Ziana* reported on Monday.

Zimbabwe's principal investigator with the University of Zimbabwe working in collaboration with the University of California San Francisco and Professor Mike Chirenje said research proved that PRO 2000 microbicide is 30 percent effective.

"Ideally, we would have wanted a 100 percent effectiveness. But this is a starting point for us considering that there are several researches on other gels done in the past and none of them proved such effectiveness," Chirenje

said during a presentation of trial results.

The other microbicide Buffer Gel, which was tried concurrently with PRO 2000, however failed to protect women from contracting HIV from positive partners.

Microbicides are substances intended to prevent the transmission of HIV and other Sexually Transmitted Infections when applied inside a woman's private parts. They come as gels, creams or a film. When applied to the private parts, microbicide inhibits the virus from entering the human body.

The microbicide research conducted between 2005 and 2008 involved 3,099 women drawn from South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi and the United States.—Internet



"Thumbelinda", the world's smallest horse takes part in a toy fair with its trainer Michael Goessling in New York, on 15 Feb, 2009. The seven-year old horse received the title of "World's smallest horse" from the Guinness Book of Records in the autumn of 2006. —INTERNET

Livni says give up parts of 'Land of Israel'

JERUSALEM, 17 Feb—Tzipi Livni, who hopes to be appointed Israel's prime minister-designate, said Monday Israel must give up considerable territory in exchange for peace with the Palestinians, drawing a clear distinction with her rival, Benjamin Netanyahu.

She told a convention of American Jewish leaders, "we need to give up parts of the Land of Israel," using a term that refers to

biblical borders that include today's Israel, the West Bank and Gaza, repeating her well-known view that pulling out of Palestinian areas would be for the good of Israel, to maintain it as a Jewish state.

Livni told the Conference of Presidents of Major American Organizations that Israel must take the initiative and come forward with its own peace plan to head off in-

ternational programs. "Any plan put on the table will not be in our interest," she said.

Livni's centrist Kadima Party won one more seat than the hawkish Likud, led by Netanyahu. He opposes large-scale territorial concessions in peace talks with the Palestinians. He believes negotiations should concentrate instead on building up the Palestinian economy.

Internet

Two Czech trains crash, injuring at least 43 people

PRAGUE, 17 Feb—Two trains crashed head on in the Czech Republic on Monday, and at least 43 people were reported injured. The accident took place near a train station in Northern Moravia, a region 200 miles (320 kilometers) east of Prague, the capital.

Ondrej Kubala, an official with the Czech Rail authority, said the crash occurred when a small local commuter train with 110 people aboard went through a red light and left the station ahead of schedule at about 25 mph (40 kph). It collided head on with a larger train that slammed on its breaks while carrying 120 passengers. At least 43 people were injured, three of them severely, including the driver of the smaller train, the national CKT news agency reported.

"Why he did not stop we do not know," Kubala said of the injured driver.—Internet

Some of the world's deadliest fires

SYDNEY, 17 Feb—Wildfires that swept Australia's southern Victoria state on 7 Feb were the worst in Australian history and among the deadliest in the world. Here is a list of some of the world's deadliest wildfires:

—7 Feb, 2009 — Victoria, Australia — Confirmed death toll stands at 189.

—16 Feb, 1983 — Victoria and South Australia, Australia — 75 people killed, more than

500,000 acres destroyed (202,000 hectares).

—19 Aug, 1949 — Bordeaux, France — More than 200 killed, 250,000 acres (101,000 hectares) destroyed.

—13 Jan, 1939 — Victoria, Australia — 71 people killed and up to 5 million acres (2 million hectares) burned.

—13-15 Oct, 1918 — Cloquet, Minnesota — Up to 1,000 killed, 250,000 acres (101,000 hectares) destroyed.

—20-21 Aug, 1910 —

Idaho, Montana and Washington — At least 160 killed a millions of acres (hectares) burned.

—1 Sept, 1894 — Hinckley, Minnesota — At least 415 killed, 200,000 acres (81,000 hectares) burned.

—8 Oct, 1871 — Pestigo, Wisconsin — Between 1,200 and 2,400 killed and swath of north-east Wisconsin and upper Michigan scorched.

—7 Oct, 1825 — New Brunswick, Canada — 160 people killed.—Internet



A firefighter climbs down from his truck as a bushfire approaches the town of Labertouche, 90km (56 miles) east of Melbourne, on 7 Feb, 2009. Aircraft dropped water bombs on raging Australian bush fires on Saturday as a "once in a century" heatwave sparked dozens of blazes across the country.—INTERNET

Israel cautions anew against a nuclear-armed Iran

JERUSALEM, 17 Feb—Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak told a forum of military chiefs on Monday that Israel would regard a nuclear-armed Iran as an "existential threat" that would speed up a regional arms race.

Israel's military spokesman released Barak's comments after the United Nation's nuclear watchdog chief said global nuclear disarmament work was being hampered by Arab perceptions Israel wasn't abiding by a non-proliferation treaty.

Barak told a closed forum of military chiefs at a strategy session that if Iran obtained atomic weapons it would pose a "central threat to world order," the statement said.

He added it would "dramatically accelerate nuclear proliferation in the region."—Internet

Sudan, Darfur rebel faction in first step to talks

KHARTOUM, 17 Feb—The Sudanese government and a Darfur rebel faction have agreed on confidence-building measures at talks in Qatar, Qatari media said on Monday — a step that may eventually lead to negotiations on a peace deal.

Sudan started talks with the Justice and Equality Movement, one of Darfur's main insurgent groups, last week, almost six years into a conflict that international experts say has killed

200,000 people and uprooted 2.7 million.

However, other influential rebel factions are refusing to talk to Khartoum and say the peace drive will fail without them.

Qatar's official QNA news agency quoted Prime Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim al-Thani as saying Sudanese government and JEM officials were expected to sign an initial agreement on confidence-building measures on Tuesday, which could open the way for talks on a framework peace agreement.

"We hope to start framework talks in about two weeks about a ceasefire and details of the issue of prisoners," Sheikh Hamad said in remarks aired on Al Jazeera television.

Speaking by phone from the Qatari capital Doha, JEM spokesman Ahmed Hussein Adam said the two sides had reached a basic agreement on the key issue of the release of prisoners.—Internet

US, Japan sign pact to move Marines to Guam

TOKYO, 17 Feb—Hoping to give new momentum to a plan to rework the deployment of US troops in the Pacific, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton signed an agreement on Tuesday with Japan that will move 8,000 Marines off the southern Japanese island of Okinawa to the US territory of Guam.

The framework of the transfer had already been agreed on in 2006, but several major points remain to be worked out, including the location of a base to replace Okinawa's Futenma air station, a major hub for the Marines there.

Officials on both sides have agreed to relocate the operations of the base to another, less crowded part of Okinawa, but local opposition has stalled progress.

Internet

Mom, daughter escape after plane crashes into home

Hours after a plane slammed into her home Karen Wielinski gave an exclusive interview to Buffalo radio station WBEN. This is her account based on that interview.

Karen Wielinski was watching TV in her home when she heard a plane making an usually loud noise.

"I thought to myself, if that's a plane, it's going to hit something," she said. Then, Continental Airlines Flight 3407 crashed into the Clarence Center, New York, home, trapping her and her family. "And next thing I knew the ceiling was on me," she said.

Just before the crash, Wielinski was sitting in the family room watching TV, her 22-year-old daughter Jill was watching TV in the front of the home and her husband Doug had just left the



Husband and wife Doug and Karen and daughter Jill were in their house when the plane crashed.

family room to work in the dining room, she said.

The Bombardier Dash 8 Q400, a 74-seat turboprop, was en route from Newark, New Jersey, to Buffalo Niagara International Airport when it went down around 10:20 pm ET on Thursday.

Bundesliga show red card to saucy number request

The German Football League (DFL) have shown a red card to a request by Karlsruhe defender Dino Drpic and his pin-up wife who want the footballer to wear the suggestive number 69 on his playing shirt.

Bundesliga officials have blocked the idea on the grounds the numbers requested are hard to see over a distance, but Drpic and wife Nives Celzijus, a Playboy model, claim to want the erotic figures to help the club sell more shirts.

"We have asked the club to choose a lower number to make it easier to be seen," the DFL's Chief Operating Officer Holger Hieronymus told German tabloid Bild.

And Drpic's agent Milan Lopac confirmed the idea had been blocked.

"Unfortunately, the DFL didn't like the idea," he said. "Karlsruhe agreed with our suggestion and even found it a good idea as it would have helped with marketing the shirts."

No warrant needed to trace Internet use

A judge in Canada has ruled that Internet users have no expectation of privacy and police can use track people through Internet protocols without warrants. The ruling by Ontario Superior Court Judge Lynne Leitch is binding on lower courts, and gives law enforcement a new tool to use in investigating such matters as child pornography, the *National Post* reported on Friday.

Ruling in a child pornography possession case, Leitch found that the Canadian Charter does not provide a "reasonable expectation of privacy" regarding subscriber information retained by Internet service providers. Police asked Bell Canada in 2007 for subscriber information on an IP address used by someone who had allegedly accessed child pornography. Bell provided the requested information without inquiring whether police had a search warrant.



NEWS ALBUM



A koala named Sam is given a drink of water by Country Fire Authority volunteer fire fighter Dave Tree as he rescued her after deadly fires swept through the area of Mirboo North, about 120km (75 miles) southeast of Melbourne.

Austria's Julian Hochleitner, 14, competes in the European Deer Caller Championship in the German city of Dortmund. Hochleitner finished the competition in 12th place, ahead of his father who is seen looking on.

Let's go ahead in harmony

Si Thu Aung

The three worlds: animate world, inanimate world and natural world are in their course without a break as time goes by.

Here, the deeds—wholesome or unwholesome that have been done decide the future of individuals and the whole human society.

According to Buddhism, human beings by nature completely indulged themselves bad deeds under the influence of greed, anger and delusion, but showed total disregard for charity, precepts and meditation. As a result, the lifespan of man gradually fell from aeons of years to as few as 10 years. Then, human beings become out of fear and apprehension at evil consequences of bad deeds and turn to good deeds. Then, man's lifespan gets longer till as many as aeons of years (10^{140}). A process of falling down and then rising of the lifespan of man is called an epoch. Sixty-four epochs form an asancheyya epoch. After four asancheyya epochs have elapsed, the Earth is on its Doomsday.

Dating back to the prehistoric period, human beings enjoyed the dawn of civilization when the societies of the world were united and harmonious. When a system was no longer in conformity with the interest of human beings, the system was transformed into a new one. Therefore, the world has passed through the age inland was owned by all, feudal age, monarchical age, colonial period and imperial period, and many political and economic systems had been in force one after another in accordance with the age and period concerned.

Anyhow, it is absolutely impossible that a system goes backwards into the previous system, because such a backward situation is completely unacceptable to the human society. No citizen accepts a situation in which the country concerned will be transformed from democracy into monarchical age or from feudal age into the initial age.

We cannot go back to our past time, and it is imprudent if we try to do so. If a person sticks to an event that was in the past, and does not accept the prevailing situations, such a person cannot get along with others, and he even may be considered to be an immature person or like the old men in their dotage.

There is similar phenomenon in politics. A demand for reviving the past results, disregarding prevailing situations is unreasonable and impossible.

Indeed, politics is maximization of national interest, not individual profiteering business.

Making a demand for implementing outdated results in the interest of their party at the expense of national interest, certain persons are expressing how selfish they are in terms of politics. That indicates they are not mature yet in politics.

In practice, none of the struggles to revive past events yield positive results both in the world and Myanmar political histories.

For example, in the Middle East issue that always receives the world media coverage, Israelis say that their ancestors have made the region their home for more than 2000 years, so they have the rights to settle down in it.

However, Palestinians say that Israelis have been no more in the region for nearly 2000 years. Palestinians have lived there for many generations, so they believe the region belongs to them. The majority of Arabian countries have not recognized Israel yet.

Some moderate Arabian countries like Saudi

Arabia have presented the Land for Peace programme that Arabian countries would recognize Israel if it gave up the areas of Arabian countries it has occupied. Nevertheless, both sides have not accepted the programme yet, and so the programme has not come to fruition yet.

In consequence of their intransigence, the inferno of the armed conflicts is still raging in Gaza region, claiming thousands of innocent people and lashing a large number of buildings. The Israel-Palestine issue has split the Arab community into two parts, and got Israel have its enemies around it for a long time.

If they are all optimistic and flexible about the prevailing situations, they can combine advanced technology and management skills of Israel, cheap labour of Palestine and investments of Arabian countries to jointly produce goods on a large scale. And if they work together to develop the Middle East that occupies a strategic location at the centre of three continents, it will become an economic hub of the world. However, the majority of the people are still desperate to revive the past conditions, instead of prioritizing present conditions, thus wasting unique opportunities for prosperity.

Those incidents in the course of the Myanmar history are similar to those events. Some people still harbour immense hatred and doubts provoked by their malevolent attitude, so internal armed insurgency that broke out in the post-independence period still exists up to now. As a result, Myanmar rich in natural resources has not enjoyed development as much as it should.

In my opinion, political forces of Myanmar are under greater malevolent attitude, because they are still desperate to revive outdated results in order to come to power.

For instance, ex-prime minister U Nu, who relinquished power in 1962, publicly claimed after the 1988 political unrest that the government hand over power to him. His awkward demand was laughable enough because it no longer suited the prevailing conditions.

Some political forces are demanding that the about-20-year-old election results be implemented; that they should be bestowed with the rights to make amendments to the State Constitution that has been approved by about 93 per cent of the voters around the nation; and armed groups should be entrusted with the rights to participate in the process of amending the constitution. It is, therefore, apparent to all those with reasoning power that what for they are demanding, for the interests of the people, or for power.

Now, arrangements are ongoing to hold general elections in a bid to implement the State's seven-step Road Map. So, the majority of the people are happy with the rays of democracy because only few steps are yet to be implemented: to hold general elections and to hand over power after forming of a government with elected representatives. However, it is very disappointing that a group of certain people is

attempting to launch the democratic transition process again by claiming that they do not accept the new constitution; that new elections do not need to take place; and that they must have the rights to amend the constitution as they wish, thereby attracting the public annoyance.

Their acts evoked my memories on the event in which Bhamo Sayadaw was sent away to Bhamo in the time of King Mindon in Konbaung Period. The monk was well-versed in Buddhist literature, and never hesitated to lampoon any awkward situation. The king ordered the monk be sent to Bhamo due to an issue. The king had no choice, but to send the monk to Bhamo, however the queen often visited the monk for obeisance, and he himself revered the monk. So, the king asked the boat crew, who would have to send the monk by boat along the Ayeyawady River, to convey the monk to any of the pagodas along the bank if he wanted to. Throughout the boat trip, the monk did not express his wish, but when the boat was close to the port of Bhamo, he said, "Hey, wait, wait, I want to visit a pagoda, so convey me to it." Then, the crew members said, "Which pagoda, Your Venerable?" The monk said, "Hmmm... the pagoda I want to visit is the Shwezigon Pagoda in Bagan." So, the boat crew members even did not know what to do, and kindly requested him to give up his wish to visit the pagoda. He said, "I just expressed my wish according to your king's order, but I do not have any ill-will to trouble you." Then, he asked them to approach the port.

In fact, the monk did not have any slightest ill-will to bother the crew members. But, the acts of the group are demanding on purpose for making the democratic transition process go backwards, with the intention of making the nation away from the goal. I think they are trying to turn their back on the new democratic nation, showing disregard to the public interests. Anyway, the government has invited anyone, anti- or pro-constitution, to stand for elections in accordance with the election law.

If they really want to serve the interest of the nation and the people, they should recognize the benevolent attitude of the government, and stand for elections fairly in line with the law. Those who will elect the representatives in the elections are the electorate. And those who will have to accept the choice of the people and serve the public interests are political forces.

Now, the international community are working together with a sense of cooperation more than ever in dealing with natural disasters and the global financial crisis and other forms of crises. If they want to be able to stay in touch with objective conditions, I would like to tell them about the information that the entire people are desirous of working together to generate development and prosperity of the Myanmar human society.

Translation: MS

The entire people are desirous of working together to generate development and prosperity of the Myanmar human society.

Cash and kind donated to self-reliant village libraries of Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Feb—The donating of cash, daily newspapers, publications and TV sets to establish self-reliant village libraries and to provide funds for the libraries in Rakhine State took place at U Ottama Hall in Sittway on 15 February.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan in his speech stressed the importance of Union Spirit. He said that local people are enjoying development due to the efforts the government is making for equitable development of all regions of the nation. In compliance with the guidance of the Head of State, the ministries concerned have launched many projects to accelerate all-round development of Rakhine State.

The ministry is trying to spread its wings in the media sector for human resource development of the state.

Local people, well-wishers, social organizations and local authorities have to work together for enabling the remaining villages to have newspapers.

Self-reliant village libraries are fundamental for human resource development of rural areas. With that concept, the ministry has launched its plan since 2003 to

establish self-reliant village libraries.

The people have to overcome the dangers posed by certain internal and external destructive elements resorting to various means to destroy the nation, and to maintain and boost the already-achieved development momentum.

In conclusion, he called on local people to keep on working hard with Union Spirit for national development and stability and to join hands with the government to accomplish the State's seven-step Road Map to

presented K 51 million donated by the Union Solidarity and Development Association to 17 libraries through local authorities; 8,500 publications to 17 model village libraries through Col Soe Lwin of Sittway Station; and K 2,172,000 to 400 villages through Managing Director of the News and Periodicals Enterprise U Soe Win.

Col Soe Lwin presented K 8.5 million to 17 model village libraries through the minister.

Rakhine State PDC presented K 3,456,000 to 640 villages through the

managing director of NPE.

Well-wishers donated K 15,454,000, nine TV sets worth K 1,170,000 and publications worth K 8,458,800; Vice-President of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation U Hla Maung Shwe, K 9 million; and U Ohn Myint (Civil Tech) of Yangon, K 3 million to model libraries of Rakhine State.

Today's donations of cash and publications totaled K 97,032,800.

After the ceremony, the minister and the vice-chairman of Rakhine State PDC cordially greeted the attendees. —MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan delivers address at ceremony to donate cash, daily newspapers, publications and TV sets to self-reliant village libraries and to provide funds for the libraries in Rakhine State.—MNA

Industry-1 Ministry to stage Special market festivals in State and Divs

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Feb—Special market festivals of Industry-1 Ministry will be held in Yaksauk and Hsipaw, Shan State from 17 to 23 February, in Sagaing, Sagaing Division from 18 to 24 February, in Kayan, Yangon Division from 18 to 27 February, in Yamethin, Mandalay Division from 24 to 28 February, in Thayet from 24 February to 2 March and in Pakokku (Kanma), Magway Division from 25 February to 3 March, in Kyonpyaw, Ayeyawady Division from 27 February to 5 March.—MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan hands over K24 million donated by USDA to libraries in eight townships in Sittway District.—MNA

ASEAN Foundation, MOFA hold quiz contest

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Feb—Quiz contest, jointly organized by ASEAN Foundation based in Jakarta of Indonesia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was held at Royal Kumudra Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone here at 8.30 am today.

Director Daw Thida

Aung of Department of ASEAN Affairs under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ms Renelle Ivy Adan of the ASEAN Foundation made speeches on the occasion. Afterwards, Ms Niko Atmadja of the ASEAN Foundation explained the facts about the method of playing the

quiz. A total of over 100 students from Universities and Colleges in States and Divisions took part in the contest.

Afterwards, Director-General U Than Tun of ASEAN Affairs Department presented awards to winners.

MNA



Director-General U Than Tun awards winners of ASEAN quiz.—MNA

MWAF President addresses opening of annual meeting



Daw Khin Khin Win, President of MWAF, delivers address at annual meeting of MWAF. — MNA



Daw Khin Khin Win, President of MWAF, and participants of annual meeting of MWAF browse documentary photos of MWAF. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Feb — The opening of annual general meeting of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation was held at Nay Pyi Taw City Hall this morning with an address by MWAF

President Daw Khin Khin Win.

It was attended by MWAF Vice-President Daw Khin Thet Htay and CEC members, Chairperson of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare

Association Daw Khin Saw Hnin and CEC members, the patrons, the chairpersons and secretaries of state/division WAOs, intellectuals and intelligentsia, representatives from state/

division WAOs and guests.

After the opening ceremony, the MWAF President and party viewed documentary photos on activities of MWAF and state/division WAOs.

Next, the first day agenda of MWAF's annual meeting followed. MWAF President Daw Khin Khin Win presided over the meeting.

MWAF General Secretary Dr Daw Myint Kyi read out the report of central executive committee.

Afterwards, the chairpersons of Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin and Mon State WAOs presented reports on activities of respective organizations.

After hearing reports, the meeting chairperson MWAF President Daw Khin Khin Win gave necessary instructions and the meeting went into recess.

In the afternoon session, MWAF Vice-President Daw Khin Thet Htay presided over the meeting.

Next, the chairpersons of Rakhine State, Shan State, Shan State (North) and Shan State (East), Sagaing Division, Taninthayi Division, Bago Division and Bago Division (West) WAOs presented reports on their activities.

Then the meeting chairperson MWAF Vice-President Daw Khin Thet Htay made review on reports and gave necessary instructions.

The annual meeting continues tomorrow.

MNA

Education Minister inspects universities and BEHSs in Yangon

YANGON, 17 Feb — Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein looked into Yangon University of Education, Yangon University, Universities Science Research Department and Yangon University of Economics on 14 February, Dagon

University, Yangon Western University on 15 February and Yangon East University on 16 February, and gave necessary instructions.

He visited No.(1) BEHS in Thanlyin Township and No.(1) BEMS in Thakata Township and inspected

the pretest for matriculation examination and learning of the students.

Then, the minister also inspected National Management College in Botahtaung Township and No.(1) BEHS in Thingangyun Township. —MNA



Minister Dr Chan Nyein inspects National Management College.

MNA

Mayor inspects road upgrading in Mandalay



Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han inspects upgrading of 87th Street in Mandalay. —NLM

MANDALAY, 17 Feb — Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han inspected the upgrading of 87th Street between 21st and 22nd streets on self-reliant basis in Mandalay on 5 February.

The mayor gave

instructions to the officials concerned of the Road and Bridge Department of MCDC on minimizing the loss and wastage and effective use of machinery.

Before the visit to the work site of the upgrading the road, the mayor inspected the beautifying works and trees planting

along the road around Mandalay Moat in Aungmyaythazan Township and dredging drains from the moat.

Afterwards, the mayor went to Mandalay Hill and gave instructions on beautifying tasks at the foot of Mandalay Hill.

NLM

Mudon in Mon State getting beautiful and pleasant

Article: Maung Maung Htwe (MNA); Photos: Hla Moe (MNA)

Recently, the news team of ours spent a night in Mudon while visiting Mon State.

As we saw clean roads, flowery plants and shady trees in front of most houses in the urban area, we noticed that Mudon possessed the town characteristics in every way.

The chairman of Mudon Township Peace and Development Council, who is native of Mudon, proudly expressed prominent points of Mudon Township.

The chairman said, "The religious affairs is flourishing in our town. Local people are enjoying development fruits of economic and education sectors. The town is native of former and cur-

Township was the best pass rate township in Mon State. There were one six-distinction winner and other distinction winners among the outstanding students.

With regard to the matriculation pass rate, Mudon Township achieved the first prize for three successive years in Mon state from 2006-2007 to 2008.

The establishment of evening reading rooms at seven Basic Education High Schools may be included in the secrets behind such achievements.

Mudon, home to 185,624 people, is located on 314.7 square miles of land, not far from Yangon-Myeik Road and Yangon-Myawady Road.

Rubber and paddy are main products of the



Photo shows clean and beautiful entrance to Mudon.

In the morning, Executive Officer U Maung Maung Aye of Mudon Township Development

dwellers actively participated in the tasks. Moreover, they kept their houses and compounds neat and

clean."

We, the news team had an opportunity to visit the water supply task of the Township DAC. The committee depends on Winphanon and Azin dams for the town's water supply.

The water from Azin Dam is filtered at water tanks and then pumped up to the 130,000-gallon-capacity reinforced concrete water tank with the use of a 75 KW compressor. Afterwards, the water is being supplied to the urban area through pipelines. In supplying water, the houses are installed with water meters.

To be able to supply safe water to the dwellers, two Japan 0.2 KW chlorinating machines

were installed at the water tank, and the water sample is frequently sent to the Water Supply and Sanitation Branch of Yangon for testing. According to the laboratory replies, officials approved the water at the tank is pH 6.96.

Indeed, Mudon means a remote town in Mon language. During our visit, the news team, together with Executive Officer U Maung Maung Aye, noticed that although it is an ancient town, Mudon is gaining development momentum in accord with the town characteristics.

Translation: TTA

Myanma Alin:

10-2-2009



Neat and clean urban road seen in Mudon with town characteristics.

rent film stars. As the final and significant point, there are many beautiful and pretty girls and ladies in the town."

According to the data related to the town, a total of 1,026 students out of 1,741 passed the matriculation examination for 2007-2008 academic year, that was 58.93 per cent success. Therefore, Mudon

township. Rubber latex is being collected from 24,119 acres of rubber plantation out of 42,953 acres. In 2008-2009 cultivation season, a total of 86,602 acres of land was put under monsoon paddy, and 76.83 baskets of paddy per acre yielded in the township. Moreover, local farmers cultivated 8,860 acres of summer paddy.

Affairs Committee conducted us round the town.

"In Mudon, all the dwellers participate in all tasks of the town. When the township Development Affairs Committee grew shady trees and flowery plants to beautify the urban roads, they also planted the trees and flowery plants in their compounds. When we maintained the urban roads, the



Chlorinated water from Azin Dam being supplied to local people.

Berlin names Afghan envoy to coordinate with US

BERLIN, 17 Feb—Germany nominated a special envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan on Monday, saying it wanted to strengthen coordination with US President Barack Obama's envoy to the region, Richard Holbrooke.

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said the appointment of Bernd Muetzelburg, currently Ambassador to New Delhi, underlined Berlin's stance that regional neighbours had to be

involved in efforts to bring peace to Afghanistan.

"After the elections in the United States, the US Government made clear that we will be dealing more with a regional approach in Afghanistan," Steinmeier said.

"Mr Muetzelburg will be the contact person for US envoy Mr Holbrooke who asked us during the Munich Security Conference last weekend to appoint a contact person. I assume that other European countries will do the

same," he said.

Obama has pledged to make Afghanistan a foreign policy priority. Germany has a parliamentary mandate to send up to 4,500 troops to Afghanistan as part of a NATO mission, and around 3,500 soldiers are deployed at present.

MNA/Reuters

Members of the Chinese expedition team work on China's Antarctic ice breaker Snow Dragon on the Antarctica, on 15 Feb, 2009. The Snow Dragon carrying the 25th Chinese Antarctica scientific expedition team is working near Prydz Bay and Amery Ice Shelf recently.
INTERNET



Chinese soldiers leave for UN mission in Lebanon

KUNMING, 17 Feb—A team of 170 Chinese soldiers left for UN peacekeeping mission in Lebanon Monday aboard a chartered flight from Kunming, capital of southwest Yunnan Province.

They formed the first batch of the fifth engineering battalion and the fourth medical team that China will send to Lebanon. Another team of 165 soldiers, including 30 medical staff, are scheduled to depart for the Middle East country on 26 February. The soldiers,

all from southwest China's Chengdu Military Command, will replace previous teams.

During their eight-month term in the bordering area of south Lebanon, the engineering battalion, 275 soldiers in total, will engage in mine sweeping and explosive removal. They will also build roads, bridges, and maintain airports.

The 60-member medical team will care for the sick and wounded and conduct epidemic prevention work.

MNA/Xinhua



The 2-year-old leukemia-afflicted kid Li Rui is fondled and kissed by his parents, at the Beijing Children's Hospital in Beijing, China's capital, on 17 Feb, 2009.—INTERNET

ADB sanctions 41 firms, 38 individuals for corruption

MANILA, 17 Feb—The Asian Development Bank (ADB) sanctioned 41 firms and 38 individuals for corruption last year, according to a report released on Monday by the Manila-based lender.

This makes a total of 552 firms and individuals banned from working for

the ADB since it began investigating corruption allegations in 1998, the Bank said. ADB's Office of the Auditor General, Integrity Division, as the focal point of the Bank's anti-corruption drive, received 186 complaints in 2008, which resulted in 89 investigations, said the bank. It investigated matters ranging from a medical-benefit fraud case by a former staff member involving less than 100 US dollars to alleged collusion in bidding for a road construction project worth more than 10 million dollars. According to the report, 74 per cent of the cases investigated involved ADB-financed activities, while 18 per cent involved ADB staff members. The remainder involved sanction violations and conflicts of interest.—MNA/Xinhua

Coupons aim to prosper Nanjing tourism

BEIJING, 17 Feb—The city government of Nanjing, eastern Jiangsu province, has decided to give away 20 million-yuan-worth of tourism coupons to urban residents in an effort to spur local consumption.

This is the fourth Chinese city that has introduced free coupons programs as a means to help spur their local consumptions following Hangzhou of Zhejiang province, Chengdu of Sichuan province and Dongguan of Guangdong province.

According to Nanjing-based Yangtze Evening Post, each of the 200,000 households in the city will get a 100 yuan worth of coupons, which will be handed out in four months from March to June.

The first group of



An official displays the three categories of the tourism coupons with tag prices at 10, 20 and 50 yuan on 16 Feb, 2009.—INTERNET

local families were selected as eligible first to get the coupons on Monday through a lottery, through which each household got its own number to pick up the freebies in one of the four upcoming months.

The coupons, with face values at 10, 20 and 50 yuan respectively, can be used as travel expenses to 37 designated tourism

attractions around the city. The coupons sum is required to be less than half of the total payment.

Mu Genglin, vice director of the city's tourism administration, said the coupons are expected to bring a corresponding consumption of as much as 200 million yuan in the local tourism sector.

Internet

45% of Indonesia's population threatened by malaria

JAKARTA, 17 Feb—Indonesian Health Minister Siti Fadilah Supari said on Monday that about 45 per cent of the country's population is at risk of contracting malaria. Speaking to a hearing with the House of Representatives (DPR), the minister said 424 of Indonesia's 495 districts and cities were malaria

endemic regions.

She said high endemic regions with an annual parasite incidence (API) rate of more than five per one thousand people were scattered in the provinces of Maluku, North Maluku, Papua, West Papua, North Sumatra and East Nusa Tenggara.

Internet

124 war-displaced die in Philippine evacuation centres

TALAYAN, 17 Feb—At least 124 displaced people have died of severe illness and deadly water-borne diseases in evacuation centers amid the ongoing fighting between government troops and separatist rebels in the southern

Philippines, an official said on Monday.

Lawyer Frances Cynthia Guiani-Sayadi, solicitor general for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, told Xinhua that the cases of deaths were recorded since last August, when

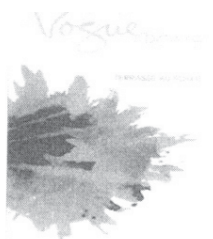
the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) attacked some town and villages in the south and government troops mounted an offensive against the rebels afterwards.

MNA/Xinhua

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U Myint Lwin, Advocate,
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At least 21 migrants drown off Spanish beach

MADRID, 17 Feb—At
least 21 North African mi-
grants, many of them chil-
dren, drowned in sight of
bathers as their over-
crowded boat capsized just
metres off a beach in the
Canary Islands, Spanish
emergency services said on
Monday.

Swimmers and surfers
tried to reach the migrants
as they struggled in rough
waters before Coast Guard
boats arrived at the spot
just 20 metres (66 feet) off
Cocoteros beach at the
town of Tegui in
Lanzarote at 7:00 pm (1900

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV GATI MAJESTIC VOY NO (91909)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GATI MAJES-
TIC VOY NO (91909) are hereby notified that the
vessel will be arriving on 17.2.2009 and cargo will be
discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie
at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the
byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S GATI COAST TO COAST**
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797



A supporter of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez sports a haircut depicting the president as he waits for the results of a referendum outside Miraflores Palace in Caracas on 15 Feb, 2009.—INTERNET

BMW to cut 850 jobs at UK Mini plant

LONDON, 17 Feb—Ger-
man car manufacturer
BMW AG is shedding
around 850 jobs at its Mini
plant in Oxford, central
England, as it cuts back
production in the wake of
a 3- per-cent slump in
sales. The company,
which produced 235,000
cars at the plant last year—
its only Mini factory

worldwide— said in a
statement it would now be
operating five days a week
instead of seven.

"While Mini has been
weathering the economic
downturn, it is not immune
from the challenges of the
current situation," the
company said in a state-
ment on Monday. Sales
of the Mini, made famous
in the 1969 Michael Caine
movie The Italian Job,
slumped 34.5 per cent in
January to just over 10,100
worldwide, according to
data supplied by the com-
pany.—MNA/Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV MARE BALTICUM VOY NO (128)

Consignees of cargo carried on MVMARE
BALTICUM VOY NO (128) are hereby notified that
the vessel will be arriving on 18.2.2009 and cargo will
be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will
lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the
byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BLPL LOGISTIC PTE LTD**
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Regional unemployment rates vary across EU

BRUSSELS, 17 Feb—Regional unemployment rates
varied widely across the European Union (EU) in
2007, from 2.1 per cent in the Dutch region of Zeeland,
to 25.2 per cent in Reunion, a French Overseas Depart-
ment, official figures showed Monday.

Of the 263 EU regions for which data are available,
28 had an unemployment rate of 3.5 per cent or less in
2007, half the average for the EU, according to the 27-
nation bloc's statistics office Eurostat. They included
eight regions in the Netherlands, seven in Italy, five in
Britain, three each in the Czech Republic and Austria
and two regions in Belgium.

MNA/Xinhua

2nd South African Airways crew arrested over drugs

LONDON, 17 Feb—British Customs officers, for the
second time in four weeks, have arrested another crew
of a South African Airways (SAA) plane after cocaine
was found in baggage at London's Heathrow Airport,
officials said on Monday. The 15 strong-crew, includ-
ing flight and cabin staff, were being questioned after
arriving on a flight from Johannesburg, a spokesman
for Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) said
in a statement.

About five kilos (11 pounds) of cocaine, with an
estimated street value of 250,000 pounds (357,400 US
dollars), were seized by the UK Border Agency (UKBA),
it said. Last month, the crew of another South African
Airways flight was arrested at Heathrow after cannabis
and cocaine were found in baggage. They were bailed
until March 23 after officers seized 50 kilos (110 pounds)
of cannabis, worth 150,000 pounds, and four kilos of
cocaine with an estimated value of 160,000 pounds in
three pieces of luggage.—MNA/Reuters

*An employee of
the Afghan
Justice Ministry
(R) is being
comforted by
his friend after
he left the
ministry during
a gun battle
with Taleban
attackers in
Kabul on 11
Feb, 2009.
INTERNET*





Mexico says US firm can't explore shipwreck

MEXICO CITY, 17 Feb —Mexico has denied a US sea salvage company's request to explore and recover artifacts from a sunken 17th-century Spanish galleon in the Gulf, the government said Monday.

The ship in question, the galleon Our Lady of Juncal, was part of a fleet hit by a powerful storm in 1631 in "one of the greatest tragedies that has ever occurred in Mexican waters," according to Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History. The proposal by Odyssey Marine Exploration Inc of Tampa, Florida, "is not intended to conduct research and does not have the approval of archaeologists or an academic institution

of recognized prestige," the Institute said. It added that "treasure hunters have always had their eyes on" the wreck site.

Odyssey Marine chairman Greg Stemm said in a statement that "the proposal presented to Mexico for archaeological services is in compliance with the UNESCO Convention and would keep all cultural artifacts together in a collection."

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

says on its Web site that the convention aims to "preserve in situ all remains of human existence submerged for at least one hundred years."

The Our Lady of Juncal set sail from the Gulf coast port of Veracruz on 14 Oct, 1631, as part of a 19-ship fleet bearing what the Institute described only as "a valuable shipment of the goods obtained by the king's ministers to feed the Spanish empire." Most of the fleet never made it.—Internet



Waves hit the sea wall in Wimereux, northern France 10 February, 2009. A storm rushing in from the Atlantic lashed the west coast of France, as high winds and tides brought the risk of coastal flooding.—INTERNET

An Algerian is treated with traditional Chinese therapy in Algiers, capital of Algeria, on 15 Feb, 2009. Traditional Chinese therapy becomes popular among Algerians while some voluntarily choose traditional Chinese therapy including acupuncture and cupping jar to treat their illness.—XINHUA



Product launches muted at wireless show

BARCELONA, (Spain), 17 Feb — The softness in the market for new mobile phones showed clearly

Monday in a thin array of new product rollouts at the GSMA Mobile World Congress trade show in Barcelona — usually a smorgasbord of eye-catching gadgets.

With the global recession making companies hold back, big device launches were thin, and anyone wanting a flurry of new products using the Android operating system developed by Google Inc will have to wait.

"They are very conscious about the market this year.

All of them they are expecting a market slowdown so there is no point

to launching high-end devices and drop it after a quarter or two," said IDC market researcher Francisco Jeronimo.

Sony Ericsson announced its first full touch-screen phone with a 12 megapixel camera running Symbian Foundation S60 software — the first non-Nokia phone to launch with the platform. The phone, called the idou during the development stage, will be launched in the coming months with a commercial name and brought to market in the second half of this year.

Internet

Russia in new Latam push with Bolivia gas pipelines

MOSCOW, 17 Feb — Russian state gas giant Gazprom is in talks to build a system of gas pipelines in Bolivia, President Dmitry Medvedev said Monday in the latest Kremlin push to boost its influence in South America.

Medvedev announced the plan after talks in the Kremlin with Bolivian President Evo Morales, whose visit to Moscow comes soon after similar trips by fellow leftist leaders Raul Castro of Cuba and Hugo Chavez of Venezuela. "We spoke about Russia helping our friends in Bolivia with hydrocarbons and the construction of a gas transport system," Medvedev said after the meeting.

"A memorandum was signed with Gazprom, whose cooperation is moving into the practical sphere," he said, adding that work on the "strategic project" would run to 2030. He did not elaborate.

MNA/Reuters

Cambodia expresses concern about chemicals in food

PHNOM PENH, 17 Feb — The application of harmful preservative chemicals to food sold in market stalls remains a threat to consumers, despite efforts by doctors and officials to discourage their use, national media reported Monday.

Food vendors often use chemicals including pesticides and hydrochloric acid either to preserve food or to make it more visually appealing to customers, English-language daily newspaper the Phnom Penh Post quoted Chhouv Kong Phally, director of the health promotion programme at the Ministry of Health, as saying.

These can lead to

problems from minor ailments like headaches to life-threatening diseases, notably cancer, he said.

While public awareness of these dangers has increased, the chemicals themselves are still relatively prevalent, he said,

adding that a survey of 648 Phnom Penh vendors in 2008 found that 266 of them treated their food with chemicals. Meanwhile, 121 out of the 273 products in survey were found containing chemicals.

MNA/Xinhua



Colombia becomes tourism destination for Chinese citizens

BOGOTA, 17 Feb — Visiting Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping said Monday morning that Colombia has been listed as the sixth tourism destination for Chinese citizens in South America.

This will help promote

the bilateral cooperation in tourism sector and as contacts of the two peoples amplify, the economy and commerce in collaboration between China and Colombia will also be strengthened. During a breakfast meeting with entrepreneurs from both sides, Xi proposed that work needs to be done with joined hands to create a beautiful future of China-Colombia friendly cooperation.

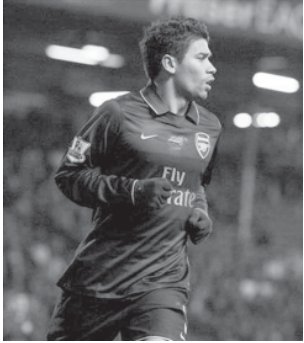
MNA/Xinhua

A man gets his eye tested at a free eye-care camp set up by voluntary organisation 'Karm' in Mumbai on 15 Feb, 2009.

INTERNET

SPORTS

Eduardo hits two as Arsenal beat Cardiff in Cup



Arsenal's Eduardo Da Silva

LONDON, 17 Feb—Eduardo da Silva made an emotional return to club action after almost a year, scoring twice to help Arsenal beat Cardiff City 4-0 in their FA Cup fourth round replay at The Emirates on Monday.

The Croatia striker was playing his first match for Arsenal since suffering a horrific ankle injury and he marked it by heading the first goal after 20 minutes and scoring the third with a 60th-minute penalty.

Nicklas Bendtner and substitute Robin van Persie were also on target and only an outstanding display by goalkeeper Tom Heaton prevented Arsenal running riot.

The victory secured a fifth-round meeting with another Championship (second division) team, Burnley, who knocked Arsenal out of the League Cup earlier this season, with a home quarter-final against Hull City or Sheffield United awaiting the winners.

"It was amazing, I think everyone has waited for him (Eduardo) to come back after that horrific thing and I'm really pleased for him," Bendtner told Setanta TV.—Internet



Manchester United's Cristiano Ronaldo (L) spits at Derby County's Robbie Savage during their FA Cup fifth round soccer match at Pride Park in Derby, central England on 15 Feb, 2009.—INTERNET

Hiddink takes charge of first Chelsea training session

LONDON, 17 Feb—Guus Hiddink took charge of his first Chelsea training session on Monday with the club's England midfielder Frank Lampard saying the Dutchman was already making his presence felt.

Hiddink watched last weekend's 3-1 FA Cup win away to Watford following the sacking of former Chelsea manager Luiz Felipe Scolari.

Lampard told www.chelseafc.com that Hiddink's presence had lifted the spirits of the players.

"He has cast his eye over training and the game and you can see a little lift in the lads trying to impress him, which always happens when a new manager comes in," said Lampard. "I think he will be happy with the desire and spirit we showed at 1-0 down (against Watford) and some of the football we played on a difficult pitch was good. I am sure he is looking forward to working with us.—Internet



Drivers take the green flag to start the Daytona 500 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race at the Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Florida, on 15 Feb, 2009.—INTERNET

So Wa Wai wins Best of Best HK Sports Stars Award

HONG KONG, 17 Feb—Winners of the Hong Kong Sports Stars Awards 2008 were announced in a gala ceremony here on Monday night. With a glorious victory in the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games, So Wa Wai for the first time was able to clinch the most coveted "Best of Best Hong Kong Sports Stars Award".

So, who won the men's T-36 200m sprint in the Beijing Paralympics with a new world record, said that he was amazed to win the award. "It is amazing that I win the award, as there are so many famous athletes here and I thought I had little hope to win," said So, who is also the world record holder of the men's T36 200m sprint.

Badminton player Wang Chen and veteran cyclist Wong Kam Po were once again among the eight winners of the "Hong Kong Sports Stars Awards" which made them seven times the winners of the awards.—MNA/Xinhua

Johnson wins at Pebble after final round washout

PEBBLE BEACH, 17 Feb—American Dustin Johnson clinched his second PGA Tour title on Monday when the final round of the weather-hit Pebble Beach National Pro-Am was washed out by rain.

No play was possible on Sunday because of heavy rain and strong winds on the Pebble Beach Golf Links and organizers abandoned play on Monday morning with the course under water. It was the first PGA Tour event decided after 54 holes since American Phil Mickelson won the 2005 BellSouth Classic.

The 68-man field had been scheduled to tee off at 0730 local (1530 GMT) on Monday but, after start times had been pushed back an hour, the tournament was finally called off.—MNA/Reuters

Russian seeds fall, qualifiers impress in ATP-WTA event

MEMPHIS, 17 Feb—Russian seed Igor Andreev and Alla Kudryavtseva made first-round exits while some impressive qualifiers advanced at the 1.22 million-dollar WTA and ATP hardcourt tournament in Memphis.

Sixth seed Andreev was ousted by compatriot Igor Kunitsyn 1-6, 6-4, 6-3. Andreev, ranked 22nd, fell to 0-4 this season with his

third first-round ouster in a row.

Australian qualifier Chris Guccione fired 19 aces and denied Vince Spadea's three break-point chances to eliminate the American 7-6 (7/1), 7-6 (7/5) while Israeli qualifier Dudi Sela beat American Bobby Reynolds 7-6 (7/4), 6-2.

On the women's side, Dutch qualifier Michaella

Krajicek upset Russian seventh seed Kudryavtseva 6-1, 6-4, but five other women's seeds advanced.

Second seed Victoria Azarenka of Belarus defeated American Varvara Lepchenko 6-2, 6-2 while Czech third seed Lucie Safarova fired eight aces to eliminate Britain's Melanie South 6-2, 6-2, in 62 minutes.—Internet

Ivanovic gets winning boost from new coach, and revenge in Dubai

DUBAI, 17 Feb—Former world number one Ana Ivanovic provided hints on and off the court at the Dubai Open here Monday as to why her new coach might just provide the boost she needs to get back to the top of the world rankings.

The Serbian superstar teamed up with American Craig Kardon only last week - and her first match with his help produced an important revenge.

She won 7-5, 6-4

against Alisa Kleybanova, the aggressive Russian who caused a massive shock last month when she beat Ivanovic in the third round of the Australian Open in Melbourne.

That was Ivanovic's last match on the WTA Tour, but she took the opportunity to repair some of the damage at the first attempt, proving resilient when it mattered most.

"I was looking for revenge but I felt nervous at the start," Ivanovic admit-

ted. "But I have been very aggressive and serving very well. That's something I have been working on with Craig and I felt confident going on court."—Internet



Amelie Mauresmo of France reacts during the final match against Elena Dementieva of Russia in the Paris Open tennis tournament on 15 Feb, 2009.

INTERNET



Several chimps eat scallion at Tama Zoo in Tokyo, Japan, on 16 Feb, 2009. The chimps were trained to eat scallion four years ago in order to keep fit and avoid catching cold.

INTERNET

WFP launches operation to avert high food prices in Africa

NAIROBI, 17 Feb—The UN World Food Programme (WFP) has launched its first food voucher operation in Africa, deploying a new tool to address hunger in an urban environment where food is available, but beyond the reach of many because of high prices.

In a statement received here Monday, the UN agency said the new voucher programme is targeting 120,000 people who are suffering from the impact of high food prices in urban areas of Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso, where the prices of basic staples such as millet and sorghum are more than 25 per cent higher than they were last year.

“Sometimes it makes more sense to give people vouchers than bags of food,” said Annalisa Conte, WFP Country Director in Burkina Faso. “This is an innovative solution to hunger needs among people who live in a city where shops and market stalls may be full of produce, but prices are still too high for the poor and the vulnerable.”

Under the new programme, family members will be given a voucher which they can use in shops that have signed a contract with WFP. In exchange for the voucher, people will receive maize, cooking oil, sugar, salt and soap. Each family will receive up to six vouchers per month for six months.

The retailer is able to redeem food vouchers through an arrangement WFP has made with MICROFI, a local micro finance company.—MNA/Xinhua

MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (18.2.2009) (Wednesday)

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

Local Transmission

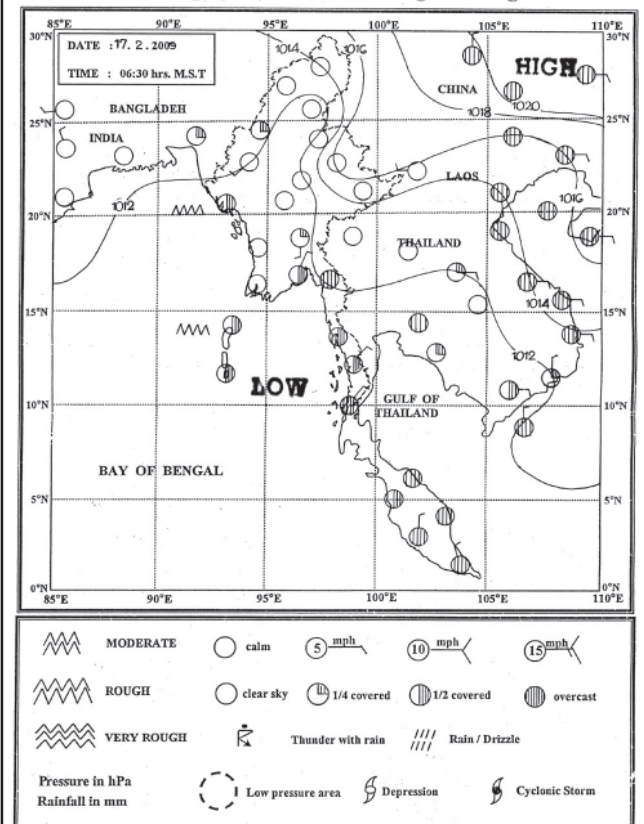
- ☐ Signature Tune
- ☐ Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- ☐ Hundred Fruits from a Common Stem, our Union (Yangon Division)
- ☐ One Day Trip to Sanka Village
- ☐ Sea Turtles Conservation
- ☐ Myanmar Mat
- ☐ Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Europe/ North America Transmission

- ☐ Signature Tune
- ☐ Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- ☐ Hundred Fruits from a Common Stem, our Union (Mandalay Division)
- ☐ Arrogant Mosaic
- ☐ The Fascinating Oceanography of Myanmar
- ☐ Sights to see in Pyin-Oo-Lwin
- ☐ Unforgettable Trip to Ahka Village
- ☐ Copies that will never lose (Sand Painting)
- ☐ National Herbal Park (Part-II)
- ☐ Myanmar Modern Song
- ☐ Hundred Fruits from a Common Stem, our Union (Yangon Division)
- ☐ Beautiful Embossed Bark Painting
- ☐ One Day Trip to Sanka Village
- ☐ Sea Turtles Conservation
- ☐ Myanmar Mat
- ☐ Golden Plum Job of Central Myanmar
- ☐ Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Tuesday, 17 February, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin, Kayin and Mon States, Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (6°C) below February average temperatures in Chin State, (3°C) to (4°C) below February average temperatures in Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) above February average temperatures in upper Sagaing Division and about February average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (0°C), Loilem (3°C) and Namhsam (4°C).

Maximum temperature on 16-2-2009 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 17-2-2009 was 67°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 17-2-2009 was 76%. Total sunshine hours on 16-2-2009 was (8.0) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 17-2-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Northeast at (21:30) hours MST on 16-2-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 18th February 2009: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, Kayin and Mon States, Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions.

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 Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 18-2-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 18-2-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 18-2-2009: Generally fair weather.



Wednesday, 18 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. မြူးမြူးကြွကြွယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက

7:55 am

5. အတီးဖြင့်ပွဲ

8:15 am

6. Musical programme

8:30 am

7. International news

8:45 am

8. လယ်ယာဖြင့်စီးပွားဖြင့်မားစေရန် ပဒေရေလောင်တံခံ

8:55 am

9. Song of national races

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:10 pm

2. Classical song

4:20 pm

3. ဆိုင်းအဖွဲ့ဖျော်ဖြေခန်း

4:40 pm

4. ၂၀၀၉ခုနှစ်တက္ကသိုလ်ဝင်စာမေးပွဲ ဘာသာရပ်ဆိုင်ရာသင်ခန်းစာ (ပထဝီဝင်ဘာသာရပ်)

5:15 pm

5. Songs to Uphold National Spirit

5:25 pm

6. နိုင်ငံစီးပွားအလေးထားကျေးလက် ထုတ်ကုန်များ

5:40 pm

7. Musical programme

5:50 pm

8. ရွှေယံစုံလင်အာဆီယံအစီအစဉ်

6:00 pm

9. Evening news

6:30 pm

10. Weather report

6:35 pm

11. မြန်မာ့လေ့ရိုးရာလက်ရာ

6:50 pm

12. မူဟန့်သွယ်သွယ်ဆိုကြမယ်

6:55 pm

13. ထက်မြက်ပျော်ရွှင်အိမ်ထောင်ရှင်

7:20 pm

14. ရာသီလွင်သရုပ်ဆောင်လွှင့်ပြင်

8:00 pm

15. News

16. International news

17. Weather report

18. မြန်မာ့ဒီမိုကရေစီလမ်း

“အပိုင်းကိန်းများ”

(ထွန်းထွန်း(Examplez))

ခိုင်သင်းကြည်၊ ဖူးစုံ

(ဒါရိုက်တာ-ညိုမင်းလွင်)

**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

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye welcomes Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Army General Anupong Paojinda



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye welcomes Thai goodwill delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Army General Anupong Paojinda at Nay Pyi Taw Airport.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Feb—At the invitation of Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, a goodwill delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Army General Anupong Paojinda arrived here by special aircraft this morning.

Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Bansarn Bunnag, Myanmar Military Attaché to Thailand Col Win Maung and Thai Defence Attaché and Army Attaché Colonel Ekachai Harnpoonvittaya welcomed the delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of the RTA General Anupong Paojinda at the airport.

The special aircraft carrying the Thai goodwill delegation led by General Anupong Paojinda touched



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Commander-in-Chief of the RTA General Anupong Paojinda taking the salute of the Guard of Honour.—MNA



Yangon Golf Club to hold centenary

YANGON, 17 Feb—Yangon Golf Club will hold professional and amateur level golf tournament to mark its centenary at Yangon Golf Club (Danyingon) from 19 to 20 February and handsome prizes will be awarded.

The prize presentation ceremony will be held at Yangon Golf Club on 22 February. Golfers and members of YGC will be served with dinner and entertained with Iron Cross music band.

Air Bagan Ltd will be the main sponsor for the golf tournament.—MNA

INSIDE

Let's go ahead in harmony

PAGE 7

ARTICLE

down at the airport at 10 a.m. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party welcomed the delegation.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Commander-in-Chief of the RTA General Anupong Paojinda took the salute of the Guard of Honour from the dais at the airport.

They then inspected the Guard of Honour. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye cordially greeted members of the goodwill delegation. Commander-in-Chief of the RTA General Anupong Paojinda also cordially greeted members of Myanmar welcoming party.

The goodwill delegation left for Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone.—MNA

