Established 1914

The New Light of Myanmar

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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

Model paddy farming zones gaining more ground

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence views progress of farm roads and drains being undertaken by Yuzana Co in Agricultural Mechanized Farming Special Zone (1) in Dagon Myothit (East) Township. — MNA

YANGON, 19 Feb—Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence inspected paddy cultivation in irrigated fields by Dagon International Ltd in the Agricultural Mechanized Model Farming Special Zone-1 in Dagon Myothit (East) Township today.

During the tour, Lt-Gen Myint Swe viewed progress of work on construction of ring road at the lake, cultivation of paddy in the farm and pumping water into the fields.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe went to Yuzana Co Ltd in the zone and inspected the paddy cultivation and land preparation for the integrated farm.

He also visited the 50-acre model paddy field of Htoo Trading Co Ltd, and thriving paddy field of Shwenaga Min Co Ltd in the Special Zone-2 in Dagon Myothit (South) Township and the main irrigation canal of Pinle Koethwe Co in the Special Zone-2 in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Myint Swe proceeded to the 50-acre model paddy field of the local battalion in Dagon Myothit (South) Township and pumping water into the field.

After viewing thriving paddy plantation in irrigated field in Shantaegyi Village in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Lt-Gen Myint Swe went to Thakhutpin Monastery in Darbain, Hlegu Township, and donated offertories to the Presiding Sayadaw of the monastery.

Afterwards, he inspected work on construction of a new school building in the village and viewed learning of students at the Basic Education Middle School in the village.

He also inspected the 2-mile-long and 12-foot-wide earth road linking Darbain and Thakhutpin. He also looked into the road works between Mile Post No. 21/7 and 22/20 on No. 2 Highway maintained by Public Works of Ministry of Construction and gave instruction to officials concerned.

MNA

Easter Island's controversial collapse: More to the story than deforestation?

SANTIAGO, 19 Feb — Easter Island (Rapa Nui) has gained recognition in recent years due in part to a book that used it as a model for societal collapse from bad environmental practices—ringing alarm bells for those concerned about the health of the planet today.

But that's not the whole story, says Dr. Chris Stevenson, an archaeologist who has studied the island—famous for its massive stone statues—with a Rapa Nui scientist, Sonia Haoa, and Earthwatch volunteers for nearly 20 years.

The ancient Rapanui people did abuse their environment, but they were also developing sustainable practices—innovating, experimenting, trying to adapt to a risky environment—and they would still be here in traditional form if it weren't for the diseases introduced by European settlers in the 1800s.

While evidence suggests the Rapa Nui people cut down 6,000,000 trees in 300 years, for example, they were also developing new technological and agricultural practices along the way—such as fertilization techniques to restore the health of the soil and rock gardens to protect the plants.

As a result, every rock on Easter Island has probably been moved three or four times, Stevenson said.

Internet

In fear lest they will be further away from the goal (2)

PAGE 7 ARTICLE

INSIDE

So far, of 8042 villages of the three arid divisions, 8039 villages have got 12,551 water supply facilities. That accounts for over 99 per cent fulfillment of the target.

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 20 February, 2009

Development tasks need participation of local people

Rakhine State, a region of the Union of Myanmar, is home to various national races who have been living in harmony, sharing joys and sorrows for thousands of years.

Local people of Rakhine State have been enjoying the fruits of development, resulting from the hard work the government has exerted for equitable development of all regions of the nation.

Previously, Rakhine State was like a separate region due to geographical barriers. So, the government constructed Yangon-Sittway Highways with great tenacity, along with Yangon-Kyaukpyu Road to link southern and northern parts of the state, and to link with Ayeyawady and Yangon divisions.

Now, a railroad is under construction in the state, and on completion it will link Sittway and An through Ponnyagyun, Kyauktaw, MraukU and Minbya. And the railroad will link with the railroad on the west bank of the Ayeyawady River.

The media sector needs further improvement for human resource development of Rakine State. With this object in view, TV retransmitting stations of Rakhine State are being upgraded with the use of modern machines in order that every part of the state can receive television programmes. Necessary plans are ongoing to retransmit FM radio programmes in Sittway.

Now, old machines are being replaced with modern ones in the printing press of Rakhine State in order that each of the villages of the state has access to daily newspapers. The project will cover 892 villages of 14 townships. Follow-up programmes will be implemented to benefit the remaining villages.

Local people are, therefore, to join hands with the government in the plans the government is pursuing to ensure equitable development of the states and divisions.

Mandalay Division Fire Service Officer U Tin Min and party inspect gas plant as a part of preventive measures in Dawnabwa Ward, Aungmyethazan Township on 9 February.

NLM

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**

U Khin Maung Soe appointed as Myanmar Ambassador to Vietnam

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb —The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Khin Maung Soe as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.—*MNA*

U Tin Yu appointed as Myanmar Ambassador to Egypt

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb —The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Tin Yu as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Arab Republic of Egypt.—*MNA*

U Thet Oo appointed as Myanmar Ambassador to Nepal

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb —The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Thet Oo as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal.—*MNA*

U Aung Thein appointed as Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb —The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Aung Thein, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Thailand.—*MNA*

Talks on micro-credit scheme given

***Vice-President of MWAF Daw Khin Thet Htay delivers an address at talks on micro-credit scheme of MWAF.*—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Feb—The Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation organized the talks on micro-credit scheme at the City Hall, here, this morning.

Vice-President Daw Khin Thet Htay of MWAF delivered an address.

Chairman of Central Cooperative Ltd and Cooperative Bank U Khin Maung Aye gave talks on benefits of the micro-credit scheme.

The chairman replied to the queries raised by responsible persons of MWAF, patrons and chairpersons of State and Division Women's Affairs Organizations.

Vice-President Daw Khin Thet Htay gave gifts to Chairman of Cooperative Bank U Khin Maung Aye, members of Myanmar Police Force, Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Transport and Ministry of Health who contributed to holding the Annual General Meeting through officials.

The chairman of the bank presented K 1 million to the funds of the federation through the vice-president.—*MNA*

Supply chain & value chain discussed

YANGON, 19 Feb—The Directorate of Trade and the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry jointly organized the talks on marketing development of products by constructing balanced and appropriate supply and value chains at the UMFCCI Office Tower on Minye Kyawswa Road in Lanmadaw Township on 15 February.

General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing of the federation and Dierctor-General U Khin Maung Lay of the Directorate of Trade gave speeches.

Senior Researcher Dr Maung Aung of the federation, Deputy General Manager (Retd) U Kyaw Myint of Myanma Agriculture Service, Associate Professor Dr Daw Soe Thu and Lecturer Dr Daw Ohnma Thein of Management Department of Yangon Institute of Economics gave the talks on Marketing development of products and replied to queries raised by those present.—*MNA*

No victory against Taleban soon

SYDNEY, 19 Feb— Australia's Defence Minister warned Thursday he did not expect victory against Taleban militants in Afghanistan in the near future and would not commit more troops unless NATO members did so too. Warning that Australia's 1,000-strong contingent was likely to remain in the war-torn country for years to come, Defence Minister Joel Fitzgibbon told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation that other countries needed to do more.

"Australia could double its troop numbers tomorrow and without significant additional contributions from others it would make no difference," he said.

"We have always said this is not about numerics. It's about ensuring, (before) we even consider doing more, that those NATO countries, which I believe are undercommited, are prepared to do more."

Fitzgibbon was speaking from Poland where NATO defence ministers were gathering to reassess strategy on Afghanistan as the United States prepares to deploy 17,000 more troops to fight Taleban-led militants.

Asked how long Australian troops would remain in Afghanistan, Fitzgibbon replied: "No-one believes we will meet with success any time soon. The reality is we are talking years.

"How many years we don't know because we don't yet know how much will there is amongst the NATO partners to achieve success."

Internet

India's Jet cuts int'l routes, plans leasing aircraft

NEW DELHI, 19 Feb— Amid difficult times for the aviation industry, India's Jet Airways has cut three of its biggest loss-making international routes and plans to lease four wide-body *Boeing 777* aircraft, besides phasing out three *Boeing 737* planes.

The carrier, which has been overtaken last month by Kingfisher as the largest airline, discon-tinued the Amritsar-London-Amritsar route in December, Bombay- Shanghai-San Francisco and Bangalore-Brussels sectors in January as part of its network rationalization exercise.

"These were the highest loss-making routes. This will, therefore, help us reduce losses further in the next few quarters," Jet Airways CEO Wolfgang Prock-Schaeur told investors.

Commenting on the fleet rationalization programme undertaken by the company for the ongoing quarter, he said. "we will lease out another *Boeing 777* aircraft, this is aircraft number three (third to be leased out) to Turkish Airlines. Starting April, the plans are to lease out four more *Boeing 777*.

"In addition we will be phasing out our three *Boeing 737* classic aircraft, whose lease expire in Q4 of FY 2009, and not replace them."

MNA/PTI

"Haikou" vessel of Chinese navy (front) escorts merchant vessels in the Gulf of Aden, on 17 Feb, 2009. The Chinese naval fleet completed its 21th batch of escort missions against pirates on Wednesday.—XINHUA

US military deaths in Afghanistan region at 580

WASHINGTON, 19 Feb—As of Wednesday, 18 Feb, 2009, at least 580 members of the US military had died in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan as a result of the US invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001, according to the Defence Department. The department last updated its figures Wednesday at 10 am EST. Of those, the military reports 425 were killed by hostile action.

Outside the Afghan region, the Defence Department reports 67 more members of the US military died in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Of those, three were the result of hostile action. The military lists these other locations as Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba; Djibouti; Eritrea; Ethiopia; Jordan; Kenya; Kyrgyzstan; Philippines; Seychelles; Sudan; Tajikistan; Turkey; and Yemen.

Internet

Soldier pleads guilty to assault in Iraq death

FORT CAMPBELL, 19 Feb— An Army staff sergeant who was facing a murder charge in the death of an Iraqi detainee pleaded guilty to assault on Wednesday and received more than a year's confinement.

Staff Sgt Hal M Warner was sentenced to 17 months' confinement, had his rank reduced to private and was given a bad conduct discharge. He pleaded guilty to charges of assault, maltreatment of a subordinate and making a false statement.

Another soldier, 1st Lt Michael Behenna of Edmond, Okla, faces trial next week on a murder charge in the death of detainee Ali Mansour Mohammed in May 2008. Prosecutors say Behenna shot Mohammed, then used an incendiary grenade to burn the detainee's body.—*Internet*

Gunmen kill Sunni Arab party member in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 19 Feb—Unknown gunmen assassinated a member of the Iraqi Islamic Party (IIP) in front of his house in Baghdad on Wednesday, an Interior Ministry source said.

Samir Safwat al-Haditi, head of IIP branch in Baghdad's southeastern district of Zaafaraniyah, was killed in the morning by gunmen, the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

IIP, a major Sunni political party, headed by Iraq's Vice President Tariq al-Hashimi, condemned the assassination of Hadithiin a statement posted on its website.

Three of IIP members were killed across Iraq within less than a month, during the campaign for the 31 January provincial elections.

Internet

Ecuador expels second US embassy official

QUITO, 19 Feb—Ecuador on Wednesday expelled a US embassy official for allegedly interfering with internal national police matters. Mark Sullivan, the first secretary in the embassy's office of regional affairs, was the second US embassy official expelled this month by President Rafael Correa, who has accused the American officials of "insolence" for conditioning aid on the right to veto personnel choices.

Foreign Minister Fander Falconi said Sullivan was ordered to leave after a police report mentioning his alleged interference with the Special Investigation Unit (Uies) came out.—*Internet*

US general visits Afghan bomb site for death claim

KABUL, 19 Feb—Responding quickly to another allegation of civilian casualties, a US general traveled to western Afghanistan on Wednesday to investigate claims six women and two children were killed in a US airstrike. Photos of the site showed at least one dead boy, bloodied and dirty from the attack.

Civilian deaths have been a huge source of friction between the US and President Hamid Karzai, who has increased demands that American troops avoid killing civilians in its fight against the Taleban.

President Barack Obama announced Wednesday he was deploying an additional 17,000 US forces to Afghanistan to bolster the 33,000 already in the country. That plan increases the chances that more civilians could be killed.

The Afghan Ministry of Defence condemned the deaths of civilians in Monday's airstrike and said it came despite a recent US-Afghan agreement to increase participation of Afghan forces in US missions, a step aimed at preventing civilian casualties. The US coalition said in a statement that the strike Monday in the Gozara district of Herat Province killed 15 militants and targeted a leader named Ghulam Yahya Akbari.—*Internet*

Flood waters pass through stock yards at Yarrarloola Station, a large farm in the Pilbara Region in northern part of Western Australia State in this handout picture received on 18 Feb, 2009.—INTERNET

*A shopowner shows a traditional children's clothes of Tibetan ethnic group at her shop in Lhasa, capital of southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, on 18 Feb, 2009.—*XINHUA

Chinese vice premier meets Bahamian governor-general

NASSAU, 19 Feb— Governor-General of Bahamas Arthur D Hanna met with visiting Chinese Vice Premier Hui Liangyu on Tuesday and the two leaders pledged to enhance cooperation and friendly ties between their two countries.

Hui, after conveying warm greetings from President Hu Jintao to Hanna, said since the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1997, China-Bahamas relations have entered a new phase of all-round development with political mutual trust deepened, economic and trade cooperation developing rapidly and personnel exchanges enhanced.

Hui said China attaches great importance to developing ties with the Bahamas. He said China is willing to enrich the content of bilateral relations, enhance mutual understanding and friendship and deepen pragmatic cooperation in order to boost their friendly relations of cooperation to a new high.

Xinhua

China's trade of electronics, information products total $885 bln last year

BEIJING, 19 Feb— China's imports and exports of electronics and information products reached 885.4 billion US dollars in value last year, said the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology here Wednesday.

The figure represented a 10 percent growth from 804.7 billion US dollars in 2007. The growth rate was less than 23.5 percent in 2007.

Among the total, exports rose 13.6 percent to 521.8 billion US dollars, which accounted for more than a third of China's total exports last year. Imports of these products expanded by 5.4 percent to 363.7 billion US dollars, accounting for 32.1 percent of the country's total.—*Xinhua*

Singapore's stealth frigates display power in Navy drill

SINGAPORE, 19 Feb— Singapore's six radar-evading stealth frigates displayed their firepower for the first time at a military exercise held by the country's navy and air force, local media reported on Thursday.

According to Chinese Language newspaper *Lianhe Zaobao,* some 800 personnel participated in the two-day military exercise to end on Thursday in the South China Sea.

The newspaper said it was arranged by Singapore's Defence Ministry on board the RSS Steadfast in the South China Sea, 185 km north-east of Singapore, to observe the joint military drill.

Besides six radar-evading stealth frigates, the navy also sent three missile corvettes, one Landing Ship Tank, one submarine. And the air force sent two *F-5* Tiger jets, four *F-16* fighter jets, one *E-2C* surveillance aircraft and one Super Puma helicopter for the mission.

Xinhua

India ready to review India-Nepal treaty

KATHMANDU, 19 Feb — Visiting Indian Foreign Secretary Shiv Shankar Menon has said New Delhi was ready to review the India-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship of 1950 and willing to sit for talks whenever Kathmandu requests, *The Himalayan Times* reported on Thursday.

"About 98 percent work had been completed on updating the boundary between the two neighbours and the strip maps will be exchanged very soon," he was cited as saying.

The minister said an updated extradition treaty would also be signed between the two governments soon.—*Xinhua*

6.8-magnitude earthquake hits New Zealand's Kermadec Islands

WELLINGTON, 19 Feb — An earthquake measuring 6.8 on the Richter scale struck the remote Kermadec Islands region, north of New Zealand's North Island on Thursday, the New Zealand Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences (GNS) said.

The quake occurred at 10:53 am New Zealand local time (2153 GMT Wednesday) at a depth of 62 km, the GNS reported. The quake's epicenter was about 260 km north east of Raoul Island.

There were no immediate reports of any damage or injuries. No tsunami warning was issued by the Hawaii-based Pacific Tsunami Warning Center.

The islands, which are often hit by severe quakes, have no permanent population except a small New Zealand Department of Conservation team on Raoul Island. —*Xinhua*

Britain's helicopter goes down in North Sea, all rescued

LONDON, 19 Feb — All 18 people on board a helicopter of Britain that went down to the North Sea on Wednesday evening have been rescued.

The Super Puma helicopter went down when approaching a platform120 miles east of Aberdeen, northeast Britain. The alarm was raised just before 1900 GMT, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) reported.

The people on board the Puma helicopter, which was used to transport oil workers to and from rigs, have been rescued from two liferafts, a coast-guard was quoted as saying.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman referred to the ditch as "a civilian incident," adding "The RAF (Royal Air Force) has sent one Nimrod from RAF Kinloss and one Sea King helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth."

A full scale rescue operation is underway, with four helicopters involved.

Xinhua

Iran says to sign gas contract with France's Total soon

TEHERAN, 19 Feb — An Iranian oil official said that France's oil giant Total would soon sign a contract with Iran to develop one phase of the South Pars gas field, the state broadcaster IRIB reported on Wednesday. Seifollah Jashnsaz, general manager of National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), told IRIB that Iran would sign the 5-billion-US-dollar contract with Total oil company before the end of the current Iranian year ending on 20 March, 2009.

We have been in talks with Total on developing a phase of SouthPars. The deal will be finalized by the end of the current Iranian year, Jashnsaz said, adding under the deal, Total will develop both the upstream and the downstream sectors of the phase of SouthPars.

Total "had never stopped its negotiations and its contacts with us," which "are now coming to a conclusion," said the NIOC head.

Yves-Louis Darricarrere, head of the Total's exploration and production, said last week that "Total is still in negotiations with Iran on a major gas deal, but talks are moving very slowly."

In September 2008, Total's chief executive Christophe de Margerie denied that the company had withdrawn from Iran, saying Total wanted to remain involved in Iran's energy projects.—*Xinhua*

All items from Xinhua News Agency

*Two Chinese walk past an ox statue during a snowfall in the costal city of Dalian, northeast China's Liaoning Province, on 18 Feb, 2009. Rain and snowfall have helped ease a severe drought in northern and eastern China.—*XINHUA

*A police dog jumps through a fire ring at the command of a Chinese police officer during a city show for local residents at a square in Liuzhou, southwest China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 17 Feb, 2009. —*INTERNET

Fed says US economy will get worse in 2009

WASHINGTON, 19 Feb— The Federal Reserve warned Wednesday that the nation's crippled economy is even worse than thought and predicted it would deteriorate throughout 2009, with no sign that the housing market will stabilize.

The Fed's bleak estimates indicated that unemployment could climb as high as 8.8 percent this year and that the economy would con-tract for a full calendar year for the first time since 1991. The central bank's latest projections came hours after a separate report showed that new home construction and applications for future projects both fell to record lows last month.

Still, some economists saw a silver lining in the otherwise dismal housing report: Scaled-back building should reduce the number of unsold homes and contribute to an eventual housing recovery.

The reports raise the stakes for the plan President Barack Obama announced Wednesday to curb foreclosures and ease the broader US housing slump that sent the economy into recession. The Fed's latest forecast says the unemployment rate will climb to between 8.5 and 8.8 percent this year. The old prediction, issued in mid-November, estimated that the jobless rate would rise to between 7.1 and 7.6 percent.

Internet

Iran says it has built unmanned aircraft

TEHERAN, 19 Feb— Iran has built an unmanned surveillance aircraft with a range of more than 600 miles — enough to reach Israel — a top defence official said in remarks published on Wednesday.

Deputy Defence Minister Ahmad Vahidi said he could not provide more details, only saying the development of the unmanned aircraft, or drone, was an "important achievement." His remarks were published Wednesday in the government-owned newspaper, Iran, and by the semiofficial Fars news agency.

Iran announced two years ago it had built an unmanned aircraft, but Vahidi's comments were the first by a top official revealing its range. His claims could not be independently confirmed.

Wednesday's reports follow this week's announcement that Iran has restructured its military in an effort to improve its air defence capabilities.

The move was widely seen as part of a broader military build up by Teheran, which is concerned about the US military's presence in neighbouring Iraq and Afghanistan and Israeli threats to target its nuclear facilities.

Iran has taken Israeli threats to strike its nuclear sites seriously and has said Israel would be subject to Iran's "devastating retaliation" if it attacks.—*Internet*

Bankruptcy stalks automakers despite loan plans

CHICAGO, 19 Feb—Even if General Motors and Chrysler obtain billions more in government loans, the threat of bankruptcy remains high for the troubled automakers, analysts warned.

"Despite the extension of considerable emergency funding to GM and Chrysler and their finance arms, we continue to see a high risk of a Chapter 11 (bankruptcy) filing by one or more of the US auto makers," Bruce Clark of Moody's Investors Service said.

Moody's, a credit rating agency, estimated the likelihood of an "orderly" bankruptcy protection filing backed by the government at 70 percent.

GM and Chrysler insist they can return to profitability if the US Treasury extends up to 21.6 billion dollars in additional loans on top of the 17.4 billion approved in December. That would bring GM's total to 30 billion and Chrysler's to nine billion.

In detailed, long-term viability plans submitted to the Treasury Tuesday, they warned that the cost of doing nothing would be far higher.

GM placed the tab of restructuring through bankruptcy at 100 billion while Chrysler said it would need 24 billion.

Internet

Israel decides not to accept Gaza ceasefire before release of kidnapped soldier

JERUSALEM, 19 Feb—Israeli security cabinet decided unanimously Wednesday not to accept a ceasefire in the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip before kidnapped Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit is released.

In doing so, the security cabinet accepted the position of outgoing Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, said local daily *The Jerusalem Post*.

The security cabinet also decided after hours of discussion that while Gaza border crossings would continue to facilitate the passage of vital humanitarian supplies for Gaza residents, any further opening of the crossings will be dependent on the release of Shalit.

He has been in Palestinian captivity since he was abducted in across-border raid by Hamas-allied militants in June 2006.

Meanwhile, local daily *Ha'aretz* quoted Israeli Interior Minister Meir Sheetrit as saying that "it would be inconceivable" for Israel to accept an Egyptian-proposed ceasefire calling for reopening Gaza border crossings to more-than-limited humanitarian aid without Shalit's release.

The security cabinet decided that Israel would not open its border crossings with Gaza until Hamas agrees to release Shalit, said Sheetrit, who made the remarks shortly after the security cabinet meeting.

Internet

CBS 4Q profits fall; company cuts dividend

LOS ANGELES, 19 Feb— CBS Corp said on Wednesday its profits fell 52 percent in the fourth quarter because of weaker advertising sales and the broadcasting company slashed its quarterly dividend more than 80 percent.

CBS estimated it would save about $450 million in the remainder of 2009 by cutting the dividend starting April 1 to 5 cents a share from a previous 27 cents. While the company said it could pay off $1.4 billion in debt maturing in July 2010 with regular cash flows, it said the step will give it greater flexibility.

"When the economy and the credit markets improve, we will revisit the amount of our dividend at that time," Chief Executive Leslie Moonves told analysts on a conference call. Shares in CBS jumped 24 cents, or 4.6 percent, to $5.37 in after-hours trading following the announcement. They had dropped 2.3 percent in the regular trading session.—*Internet*

Five soldiers killed in plane crash in Colombia

BOGOTA, 19 Feb–At least five soldiers aboard a Colombian Air Forces (FAC) plane were killed when it crashed on a training mission on Wednesday, official sources said. The plane precipitated to ground near the First Air Command in Puerto Salgar, department of Cundinamarca, northwest of Bogota, the FAC said in a statement.

Three officers and two under officers, crew of the plane died in the accident.

"The FAC regrets to inform that today (Wednesday), about 8 am local time (1300 GMT) the plane AC-47 with license FAC-1670, crashed fulfilling a training mission," the FAC said.

MNA/Xinhua

***People parade to celebrate the 147th anniversary of the foundation of the city of Matagalpa in Nicaragua, on 14 Feb, 2009. —*INTERNET**

Eight hurt in Colombian plane explosion

MEDELLIN, 19 Feb — Eight people were hurt when a DC-3 on a mission to ferry police officers was ripped by an explosion while at a Medellin, Colombia, airport authorities said.

The aircraft had arrived from Bogota to pick up 27 members of Colombia's special forces and was to have transported them to Choco, Colombia Reports said on Wednesday.Four of the eight officials who were wounded suffered substantial injuries. The plane reportedly broke in two pieces.

While the blast appeared to be accidental, anti-explosives personnel were brought in to investigate, Colombia Reports said.Although authorities assume that it concerns some sort of accident, they did order anti-explosive units to investigate the location.

The incident occurred at Enrique Olaya Herrera Airport, which has become a secondary facility in Medellin since completion of Jose Maria Cordova International Airport. —*Internet*

The plane reportedly broke in two pieces. **INTERNET**

Mental activities reduce memory loss risk

ROCHESTER, 19 Feb — Reading, playing games, using a computer or working on crafts in middle age or later reduce the risk of memory loss, US researchers recommend.

The study involved 197 people between the ages of 70-89 with mild cognitive impairment, or diagnosed memory loss, and 1,124 people that age with no memory problems.

Both groups answered questions about their daily activities within the past year and in middle age, when they were between ages 50 and 65.

The study found people who participated in social activities and read magazines during middle age were about 40 percent less likely to develop memory loss than those who did not.

"This study is exciting because it demonstrates that aging does not need to be a passive process.

By simply engaging in cognitive exercise, you can protect against future memory loss," Dr Yonas Geda, the study author and neuropsychiatrist at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn, said in a statement.

"Of course, the challenge with this type of research is that we are relying on past memories of the participants, therefore, we need to confirm these findings with additional research."

The findings are to be presented at the American Academy of Neurology's 61st annual meeting in Seattle, 25 April-2 May.

Internet

Two Britons detained in Venezuela

CARACAS , 19 Feb — Two British nationals have been detained in Venezuela in connection with alleged drugs offences.They were arrested at the airport of the island of Margarita, while allegedly carrying a large amount of cocaine hidden in three suitcases.

Four children who were with them have been placed in the care of Venezuelan social services.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office said it was providing consular assistance to the couple.

No formal charges have yet been brought against the couple, who remain in custody on Margarita.

The British consulate said it took any case involving young children very seriously, and members of the family are believed to be travelling to Venezuela to begin the process of bringing the children back to the UK.

Internet

Top weatherman says global warming good for Russia

MOSCOW ,19 Feb — Global warming may be a worry to low-lying lands but Russia's top weatherman said on Wednesday that warmer temperatures would help to cut heating bills in one of the world's coldest countries.

"The heating season will be reduced and this is a positive factor for us as it will allow us to economise on fuel," Alexander Bedritsky, head of Russia's state weather centre, was quoted as saying by *RIA* news agency.

Russia is one of the biggest producers of carbon dioxide as it burns vast amounts of oil and gas to heat houses during the bitter months where temperatures regularly fall below minus 50 degrees Celsius (minus 58 degrees Fahrenheit). Heating bills in Russia could be cut by 5 to 10 percent by 2050 if current trends continue, the weather centre said.—*Internet*

NEWS ALBUM

A dolphin flows over a heart-shaped ice mixed with food given by the breeder for the incoming Valentine's day at Yokohama Yakkeijima Sea Paradise, in Yokohama, south of Tokyo, Japan.

Ore man loses ear lobe in fight over parking spot

Police said two roommates began fighting over a parking space on Thursday night, and the dispute ended when one man bit off the other's ear lobe. Officer Kevin Krebs said it appeared that the victim came home and parked in a spot preferred by his roommate, starting the fight.

Police said a 25-year-old man was treated for the ear injury and released from the hospital. Krebs said doctors were unable to reattach his right ear lobe. The man was booked on an assault charge. Bail was set at $250,000.

Japanese man says is oldest to conquer Everest

A Japanese climber who scaled Mount Everest last year at the age of 75 said on Thursday he has been recognized by Guinness World Records as the oldest person to reach the world's highest peak.

Yuichiro Miura, who conquered Mount Everest despite having undergone two heart operations, had earlier congratulated Nepal's Min Bahadur Sherchan, who was said to be 77 and reached the summit just two days before Miura.

But Miura's office showed a certificate from Guinness World Records, which gave him the title as the Nepalese climber failed to submit documents to prove his record. A Guinness spokesman was not immediately available to comment.

"Honestly, I'm happy to be recognized as the Guinness record holder, even though I didn't climb the mountain to get the record," Miura, now 76, said in a statement. "The record is something which will be broken in the future," he continued.

A veteran climber, Miura was the first person to ski down Everest's South Col in 1970, a feat immortalised in an Oscar-winning documentary.

Japanese climber Yuichiro Miura (R) with Nepalese climber Min Bahadur Sherchan at Mt Everest's base camp in May 2008. Miura, who scaled Mount Everest last year at the age of 75, said he has been recognized by Guinness World Records as the oldest person to reach the world's highest peak.

Police catch suspect through DNA on doughnut

Police believe a church burglary has been solved through DNA found on a half-eaten doughnut. A 22-year-old man was charged with burglary in the January 2007 break-in at Woodhaven Christian Church. Police said a number of musical instruments were taken, but officers found a box of doughnuts in the church's kitchen and noticed a bite had been taken from one of the doughnuts.

Deputies sent the half-eaten doughnut to the Indiana State Police lab for testing. Authorities received confirmation in November that DNA left on the treat matched the man, who is serving a prison sentence at the Branchville Correctional Facility for an unrelated home burglary.

Well-decorated pigs are laid in rows to compete for this year's "big pig competition", a folk tradition, in Shantou, Guangdong Province. The pig with the heaviest weight and most beautiful decorations will be declared the winner. After that, the meat will be shared among relatives and friends. The tradition, dating back to the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), was originally held by villagers who sacrificed their pigs to pray for good luck and dispel epidemics.

In fear lest they will be further away from the goal (2)

Kyaw Ye Min

I would also like to present the programmes for supply of clean water. Now, the 10-year plan (2000-2001 to 2009-2010) is ongoing in line with the guidance of the Head of State. The project covers 8042 villages of three arid divisions: Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay divisions and 15,183 villages of other states and divisions, totaling 23,225 villages. So far, of 8042 villages of the three arid divisions, 8039 villages have got 12,551 water supply facilities. That accounts for over 99 per cent fulfillment of the target.

And so far, of 15,183 villages of other states and divisions, 13,626 villages or about 90 per cent have got 19,311 water supply facilities. As for the whole project, of the 23,225 targeted villages, 21,665 have got 31,862 facilities. So, work progress is about 93 per cent.

As for Mandalay Division alone, so far, 6396 water supply facilities have been built for all the 4119 targeted villages. So, all the villages in Mandalay Division have access to clean water. Meiktila District is constituted with 757 villages, and all the villages have got 1260 water supply facilities. Therefore, all the villages in Meiktila District have access to safe water. Due to scarcity of water, there was a well-known expression in the arid regions including Meiktila District "We need water rather than gold". Now, all the villages in the arid regions have had access to safe water thanks to the rural water supply project. So, local people are appreciating the goodwill of the government. However it was very awkward of Meiktila NLD to have leveled such groundless accusations against the government, thus showing their malevolent attitude to the government in spite of the government working hard and making a good headway in the services for community well-being.

Now, I would like to present development in the electric power sector. The nation's total electric power supply has jumped remarkably to 4507.916 million units from only 1559.308 million units in 1988. It indicates that in the time of the Tatmadaw government, the nation uses 2948.608 million more units. In order to achieve that result, the government put great emphasis on generation of hydropower.

The total size of the water that flows along the rivers and creeks in Myanmar a year is 870 million acre feet. About 40,000 megawatts can be generated if the water flows are controlled at 267 sites along the rivers and creeks. Therefore, the government is constructing hydropower plants on a large scale. Now, all the hydropower plants of Myanmar generate 1420 megawatts a year, and hydropower plants under construction will be able to generate 21,043.5 megawatts on completion.

In 1988, under the Ministry of Electric Power (1) were 14 hydropower plants, two of which could generate more than 10 megawatts each: Baluchaung -2 (Lawpita) and Kinda hydropower plants. From 1988 to date, 36 more hydropower plants have been constructed, and 13 of them are large ones. Now, Myanmar has 50 hydropower plants including 15 large ones — Baluchaung (2), Kinda, Hsedawgyi, Baluchaung (1), Zawgyi (1), Zawgyi (2), Zaungtu, Thaphanseik, Monchaung, Paunglaung, Yenwe, Khabaung, Shweli (1), Kengtawng and Tikyit.

Twenty-three ongoing hydropower projects are designed to help meet the increasing domestic demand of electricity. Six of them — Paunglaung (upper), Nancho, Yeywa, Kunchaung, Pyuchaung and Shwekyin hydropower projects are due to be completed in 2009-2010. After completion of the six projects, the electric power supply will meet the demand. Thaukyaykhat (2) and An hydropower projects will be completed in 2010-11; Thahtay hydropower project, in 2011-12; and Upper Kengtawang hydropower project, 2012-2013. By then, Myanmar's electric power supply will hit 2999.5 megawatts, and that will exceed the demand. And no regions of the nation will face shortage of electricity any longer.

In conformity with one of the four economic objectives: "Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad", hydropower is being generated extensively to fulfil the local demand. Now, 13 hydropower projects namely Shweli (2), Htamanthi, Tahsan, Hatkyi, Chibwe, Chibwenge, Tapein (1), Tapein (2), Thanlwin (uipper), Thaninthayi, Baluchaung (3) and Sai Tin are being implemented jointly with foreign investors. Upon completion, the projects will be able to produce over 21.000 megawatts.

Thirteen hydropower projects are due to be implemented in the near future, and they will be able to generate 11,850 megawatts, on completion. Some are undertaken by related ministries, and some, through Joint Ventrue (JV) system and Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) system. Therefore, local electric power demand will be fulfilled soon, and the surplus will be exported to neighbouring countries. In reality, those projects are very heartening.

Up to 1988, Mandalay Division had only one large hydropower plant "Kinda". After 1988, it has seen Hsedawgyi (25 megawatts) and Paunglaung (280 megawatts) hydro plants. Yeywa (790 megawatts), Paunglaung (upper) (140 megawatts), and Nancho (40 megawatts) hydropower plants are under construction. On completion, they will be able to generate 970 megawatts. The electricity consumption of Mandalay Division was 183.59 million units in 1988, and now it has increased to 1058.613 million units.

In order to distribute the electric power to the people, the Ministry of Electric Power (2) is now implementing grid projects and main power station projects in states and divisions. Under the ministry are 18 small-scale hydropower plants with the total annaul generation capacity of 35,859.2 kilowatts. In Mandalay Division, electric power is distributed with the use of eight 230 KV grids, seven 132 KV grids, seven 230 KV main power stations, and two 132 KV main power stations, apart from Shweli-Mansan-Shwesaryan grid. In 1988, the number of households using electricity was 80,420 in Mandalay Division, and the number has increased to 311,696.

The above-mentioned hydropower projects are large ones. There are many medium- and small-scale State-owned and private-owned hydropower plants, diesel-fired power plants, biogas power plants, coal-fired power plants, recycled biogas electric power plants, and steam power plants. Anyhow, the government's efforts to boost generation of electricity are very rewarding. For the time being, the nation still has to deal with the issue of power shortage. However, the government is implementing a large number of electric power projects with huge investments across the nation at the same time for long-term interests. Now, the way has been paved to meet the domestic electric power demand, and then to sell it to neighbouring countries, and what is needed is just to keep on going on the way. I am sure the expression "electricity is out" will no longer be common in the near future.

The projects the government is undertaking to boost supply of electricity and clean water for the whole country and for Mandalay Division and Meiktila District make it clear that the plot that the anti-government groups say "Signature Campaign" is particularly designed to deceive the people. They are indeed trying to exploit the public with the intention of inciting riots. If a person gets involved in the campaign, he is the one to suffer. It is common knowledge that they are deceiving the people into opposing the government, but they fail to back the people in times of serious problems. The people have known well that they are such kind of persons who set fire to a building, but when the building is ablaze, they flee for a safe place carlier than others, bringing together with their belongings.

As said by U Khin Maung Gyi, they said that they would not stand for 1999 election, and then they changed their mind and said that they would stand for election. Again they said they would not attend the National Convention, then they said they would attend it. In the end, they did it. Then, their representatives left the National Convention under the directive of Daw Suu Kyi. And again they are saying they will not stand, then will stand for election. If they want to stand for election, they should do it, and accept the decisions of the people. They should not get the people confused by expressing their indecisive words.

In the run-up to the referendum, they tried their best to disrupt it through the campaign of 'No-vote' or 'Vote-no'. However, their attempts were all abortive in the end. Despite their tremendous attempt, the people did not comply with their campaign. So, the State Constitution was approved with the record percentage of votes. When the constitution was approved with massive public support, they complained that the results were unacceptable, so it was needed to review that. They could accept it only after the process. In fact, they should have given up leveling such baseless accusations. To be blunt, their acts imply that they fail to honour the public desire and mandate.

In democracy, decision maker is the public. Political parties have to respect the people's desire and accept the public decisions. I am sure those responsible of NLD must know that point. They persist in inciting anti-government campaigns and mass demonstrations, taking full advantage of the government's forbearance towards them. If their acts become harmful enough to stability and peace of the nation, the government may take action against them. I wish they would know that no one or organization is above the law.

In conclusion, I would say it is high time they stopped deceiving the people into getting involved in their campaigns for their interest or to come to power. They should have honoured the people's decisions and wishes as their party is a prestigious one serving its interest in the framework of the law. If they persist in exploiting the people and provoking riots, they will be further away from the goal. Now, it is not too late for them to mend their ways. They have the hope of reaching the goal only if they apply correct and honest ways.

Translation: MS

In order to distribute the electric power to the people, the Ministry of Electric Power (2) is now implementing grid projects and main power station projects in states and divisions.

Information Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan gives a speech to local people of Pauktaw Township, Rakhine State.

MNA

All villages, towns, States and Divisions become mini-unions through relationship, understanding and unity

Information Minister attends stake driving ceremonies for construction of self-reliant village libraries

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Feb—Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, together with member of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Police Col Ba Kyi, Managing Director U Soe Win of News and Periodicals Enterprise and Acting Director-General U Ye Htut of Information and Public Relations Department drove stakes for construction of self-reliant library in Taungphu Village of Pauktaw Township on 16 February.

In meeting with over 1,200 local people from six villages, the minister heard reports on regional development matters presented by officials and fulfilled the requirements.

The minister presented K 3 million for construction of the library in Taungphu Village donated by Union Solidarity and Development Association and K 400,000 each for construction of school buildings at basic education schools in Thawinchaung and Taungnyo Villages, books for self-reliant village libraries and clothes personal goods to the local people through officials. Police Col Ba Kyi handed over K 500,000 donated by Rakhine State PDC for purchase of furniture at Taungphu Village Library to officials.

In Sunye Village of Minbya Township, the minister also attended the stake driving ceremony for the self-reliant village library. Afterwards, the minister met with over 1,500 local people of three villages and attended to the needs.

The minister handed over K 3 million donated by USDA for construction of the library in Sunye Village, K 400,000 each for school buildings of basic education schools in Sunye and Kyaung-shaychaung Villages, books for libraries and clothes and personal goods for the local people through officials. Police Col Ba Kyi presented K 500,000 donated by Rakhine State PDC for purchase of furniture at Sunye Village Library to officials.

At the ceremonies meeting with local people, the minister said that the government is striving for development of the region in Rakhine State. In February this year, the Ministry of Information is gathering momentum on construction of new TV retransmission station and installation of high frequency transmission machines for enabling the local people to enjoy various kinds of TV channels of their choice. Efforts are being made to implement the FM radio system to present news and entertainment to the people in the state as quickly as possible, he said.

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

MNA

***Information Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents cash assistance, books and stationery, clothes and personnel goods for regional development of Minbya Township through personnel concerned.—*MNA**

Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Association AGM 2009 opened

YANGON, 19 Feb —The opening of annual general meeting of Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Association 2009 was held at the hall of University of Nursing (Yangon) this morning.

Chairperson of Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Association Prof. Dr Nann Htwun Hla delivered an address and presented certificates of honour to wellwishers followed by the plenary meeting.

Vice-Chairperson (2) of the association Daw Nwet Nwet Khin made an address and the agenda of the meeting followed.

In the afternoon session, Vice-Chairperson (2) Prof. Daw Yin Mya delivered an address.

Next, chairpersons of state/division associations read out the annual reports, held discussions and laid down future programme. —*MNA*

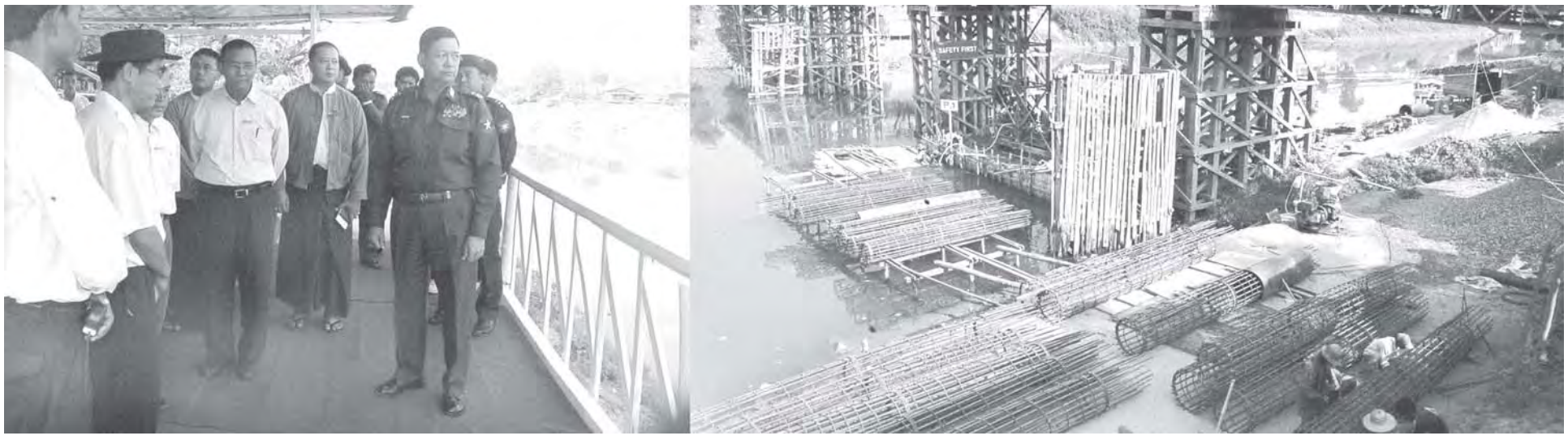
***Chairperson of MNMA Prof. Dr Nann Htwun Hla presents certificate of honour to a wellwisher at MNMA meeting.—*MNA**

Geospatial Technology Course 24 Feb-31 May

YANGON, 19 Feb—The Geospatial Technology Certificate Course No. 1/09, jointly organized by Myanmar Computer Professionals Association and Myanmar Credent Technology, will be conducted at e-learning centre in Myanmar Info-Tech in Hline Township from 6 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

The training course will accept only 20 trainees from 24 February to 31 May. For further information, contact MPCA at Room 4, Hall 4 of Myanmar Info-Tech in Hline Township, Tel: 652276.—*MNA*

Regional development gaining progress in Bago, Ayeyawady Divisions



Maj-Gen Ko Ko of Ministry of Defence inspects under construction of Bago Bridge project in Bago Township.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Feb—Maj-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence on 16 February heard reports on construction of two three-lane bridges in the places of two iron frame bridges presented by the senior engineer of Public Works at the Bago Bridge Construction site in Bago.

Maj-Gen Ko Ko inspected progress in construction of the bridge.

At the toll gate of Htaukkyant-Bago six-lane project at Bago-Yangon Road mile post No. 43/7, the general manager and responsible persons of Max Myanmar Co Ltd reported on construction of the toll gate and maintenance of the road.

On 17 February, Maj-Gen Ko Ko arrived at Dedaye Bridge in Dedaye. Accompanied by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe and officials, Maj-Gen Ko Ko viewed construction of the rural health centre in Toe Model Village of Dedaye Township.

They looked into resettlement of storm survivors at the houses built by Eden Co and cultivation of kitchen crops at the respective compounds of houses.

Maj-Gen Ko Ko and party inspected construction of Tamatakaw embankment to prevent inflow of seawater near the model village. The director of Irrigation Department reported on progress of tasks and plans for construction of embankments around the island.

At the briefing hall, they heard reports on construction of Tamatakaw embankment and priority to be given to cultivation of monsoon paddy. The commander gave a supplementary report.

Maj-Gen Ko Ko inspected the site for construction of the cyclone shelter. The Assistant Engineer of Shwetaung Development Co submitted the reports on choosing of the site for the cyclone shelter and stockpiling of construction materials.

While in Toe Model Village, Maj-Gen Ko Ko and party visited Basic Education Post-Primary School.

Later, they proceeded to Gonnyindan Bridge in Kyaiklat Township and viewed maintenance of the bridge.

MNA

New tarred road opened in Myeik

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Feb— Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Costal Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo attended the opening ceremony of new tarred road of Pale road and Myothit market ring road in Myeik Taung ward in Myeik Township on 10 February.

Afterwards, the commander inspected taking preventive measures on deficiency of vitamin B-1 in mothers and child by doctors of Myeik People's Hospital.

MNA

62nd Anniversary Union Day held in Taunggyi

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Feb—Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Brig-Gen Yar Pyae read out the message sent by the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar to the 62nd Anniversary Union Day held at the sport ground of Taunggyi on 12 February.—*MNA*

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Htay delivers an address to village dwellers of Thitseintkine Village in Kyangin Township.—MNA

Development tasks ongoing in Kyangin, Myanaung townships

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Feb—Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay on 14 February inspected construction of the basic education primary school in Thitseintkaing Village, Kyangin Township, Ayeyawady Division, and presented cash donations to the school.

In meeting with officials, members of the school board of trustees and parents of students at BEPS (Eastern Innlat) in Kyangin, he presented cash donations for renovation of the primary schools of East Innlat, Gyobin and Kyi-taing villages.

He viewed construction of the earth road linking Magyigwin and Talok-htaw villages; Talok-htaw Village bridge, and presented cash assistance to the Hsinkyongwin Village BEPS.

He had a meeting with officials and members of social organizations at Myanaung Township Peace and Development Council, and presented cash assistance for regional development tasks.

On 15 February, he presented cash donations to seven primary shools in Myanaung.

The deputy minister attended the opening of 100 feet long Thayetpinhse Bridge at Thayetpinhse village, and presented cash donations for construction of inter-village earth roads.

MNA

CMSD, Worksite Health Division under inspection

YANGON, 19 Feb — Secretary of National Health Committee of Ministry of Health Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo met staff at the hall of Central Medical Store Depot, here, yesterday and inspected ambulances and storage of medicines.

On arrival at the Worksite Health Division, the deputy minister met with service personnel. Next, he visited laboratories and attended to the needs.—*MNA*

New gravel road inaugurated in Magway

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Feb—Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe attended the inauguration ceremony of new gravel road to Aungmyaegon Village in Magway Township on 11 February.

He opened the road and strolled on it.

At the house of farmer U Kyaw Soe in Thabyesan Village, Col Phone Maw Shwe viewed use of bio-fuel in cooking and lighting through the natural waste.—*MNA*

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan addresses Thuta Swesone Literary Award presentation ceremony

YANGON, 19 Feb— Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan delivered an address at the 4th Thuta Swesone Literary Award presentation ceremony organized by Thuta Swesone publishing house of Swesone Media Group under the supervision of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association at Sedona Hotel yesterday.

Chairman of Swesone Media Group Dr Tin Tun Oo explained matters related to award presentation.

Next, Chairman of award scrutiny and selection committee U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin) explained award scrutiny and selection process and assessment on award winning books.

Then Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presented Thuta Swesone Life-time Achievement Literary Award to Dr Khin Maung Nyunt and prizes to Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu (Chit Swe Myint) in the socio-economic genre, Col Saw Myint (Retd) (Hmu Thamein) in the belles-lettres genre and Ambassador U Hla Maung (Retd) (Ambassador U Hla Maung-Economic) in the international affairs genre.

MWJA Chairman U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) and SMG Chairman Dr Tin Tun Oo presented awards to U Chit Naing (Director-General) (Retd) in the youth literature genre, Maung Hla Thaung (Bank) in the reference literature genre, Daw Tin Tin Hla, on behalf of Kyaw Oo Hla, in the translation genre, Maung Tun Lwin (Meteorology) in the general knowledge (science) genre, Aung (Medicine-1) in the general knowledge (applied science) genre and Maung Zeya in the general knowledge (arts).

Information Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents a prize to Col Saw Myint (Retd) (Hmu Thamein) in belles-letters genre at Thuta Swesone Literary Award presentation ceremony.—MNA

Next, Dr Tin Tun Oo and wife Dr Khin Moe Moe presented K 700,000 for the association to MWJA Chairman U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) and Vice-Chairman (1) U Tin Kha (Tekkatho Tin Kha), K 500,000 for U Po Kyar memorial Thuta Sweson Library at Neinvana village in Hinthada Township to responsible persons and gifts to the scrutiny and selection committee.

On behalf of the award winners, writer Hmu Thamein, Chit Swe Myint and Life-time Achievement Thuta Swesone Literary Award winner Dr Khin Maung Nyunt spoke words of thanks and the ceremony came to an end.

MNA

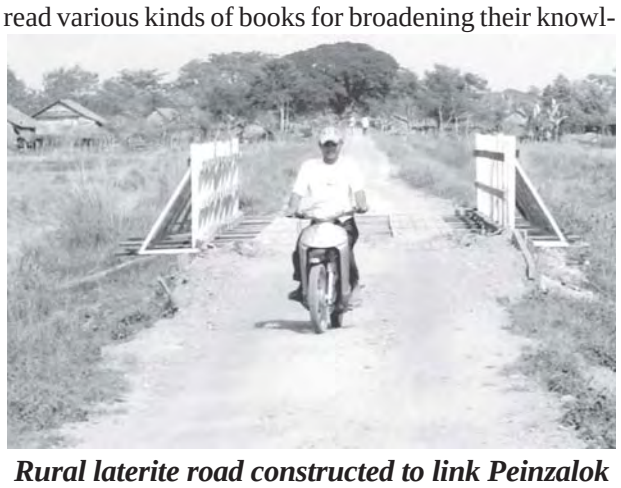
Kanyinkyo Village of Kyaukdaga…

(from page 16)

formed with four villages, is home to 4,087 people. Agriculture is main business for all the local people. The village-tract had been equipped with one Basic Education High School Branch, three BEPSs. The affiliated BEHS was upgraded to the BEHS branch. The building of BEHS Branch was constructed with K 16 million contributions of the local people. On 23-12-2008, the affiliated school was upgraded to the BEHS branch, opened by Chairman of Bago Division PDC Commander of Southern Command Brig-Gen Hla Min. At present, 35 teachers from schools are teaching about 950 students. Moreover, the rural health centre was built at a cost of over K 5.4 million to provide health care services to the local people."

JAT U Myint Thein also explained, "In the communication sector, one CDMA-450 telephone was installed in the village by the commander for enabling the local people to make telephone calls to other States and Divisions. We all are pleased with telephone installation."

He continued to say that while the Information and Public Relations Department is striving for enhancement of reading skills and knowledge of the rural people across the nation, the village built Pyinnya Nuggaha Library with over K 1.4 million contributions of the people and the library will be opened soon. On completion, the local people will have the opportunity to read various kinds of books for broadening their knowledge scope."



Rural laterite road constructed to link Peinzalok Ywama of Nyaunglebin Township and Kanyinkyo Village of Kyaukdaga Township.

We had an interview with Executive Officer U Lun Tin of Township DAC. He said, "The Development Affairs Committees under the Department of Development Affairs are implementing the 30-year plan from 2000-2001 to 2030-2031 financial years for ensuring better transport in rural regions. In the past, Peinzalok-Ywama-Kanyinkyo road was a narrow earth lane. Thanks to the concerted efforts of the local people, the earth road, 14 feet wide and seven feet high, was reconstructed. In the 2005-2006 financial year, the DAC placed laterite on the road and built bridges on it. Nyaunglebin Township DAC took the responsibility for construction of road section (1) and bridges, and Kyaukdaga Township DAC, the road section (2) and bridges."

He added, "Road section (1) was 10,933 feet long. Nyaunglebin Township DAC spent K 6,270,000 on construction of 5,021 feet long road section for the first phase. The government contributed K 12.45 million to construction of 5,630 feet long and 10 feet wide laterite road. In addition, the government spent K 3.5 million on building of 12 feet wide and 29.5 feet long bridge No. 3 on Peinzalok-Ywama-Kanyinkyo road."

In visiting the bridge on the road section (1), we had an interview with farmer grandpa U Win Yu of Kanyinkyo Village. He told us, "If we wanted to go to Yangon-Mandalay Highway from the village in the past, we had to walk over four miles long route through the paddy fields on foot and arrived at Peinzalok near the highway. At present, the local people are enjoying the fruits of better transportation thanks to construction of over 21,000 feet long rural laterite road."

With regard to construction of the road section (2), Executive Officer U Lun Tin of Township DAC further explained, "A total of 2,090 feet long road section was built with K 4.34 million contributions of Kyaukdaga Township DAC and 1,800 feet long another road section with K 4.05 million allocated by the government. In addition, Zalok Creek Bridge, 90 feet long, 12 feet wide and 15 feet high, was constructed at a cost of K 10.9 million. At the inauguration ceremony, Director-General U Myo Myint of the DAD and the director of Bago Division DAC formally opened the rural laterite road and bridges."

While visiting the road section (2), we met with farmer grandpa U Ngwe Si of Kanyinkyo Village. He heartily expressed, "The already-opened laterite road and bridge link villages between Nyaunglebin and Kyaukdaga Townships. Moreover, the people from villages of Shwegyin and Kyaukkyi townships on eastern bank of Sittoung River can use the road and bridges. At present, the rural people are enjoying the fruits of better transportation with the use of motorcycles, bicycles, three-wheeled motorbikes and Gaungdong trucks in addition to improvement of trading, education, health and social sectors."

We visited thriving green gram plantation cultivated by local farmers through collective responsibility of cultivation system, next to Sittoung River. In an interview, a responsible person said, "We can see the collectively grown plantations. A total of 223 farmers from Kanyinkyo Village grew 1,366.90 acres of green gram. With the investments of IWT Deputy General Manager Major Kyaw Myint (Rtd) and Managing Director U Than Oo of Sun Bar Co, the local farmers cultivated 2,355.90 acres of green gram in total.

In connection with the collective responsibility of cultivation system, he explained in detail, "The local farmers were disbursed loans without interest, quality strain seeds and farming implements, to grow green gram on full cultivable lands, to collectively take responsibility to pay back the loans, to realize the local unity and to increase the family income."

"Total cost for cultivation was K 148,169,300. Therefore, the committees at different levels were formed on 30-9-2008, and Sun Bar Co from Yangon provided the local farmers with capital without interest. At the harvesting season, all the farmers have to pay back the loans through money or selling of green gram at the prevailing prices to the investor. Moreover, Myanma Awba Co Ltd sold pesticide at cost price to the farmers through loan system. Under the supervision of technicians, cultivation of green gram started on 20-10-2008 and it was completed on 30-11-2008. A total of 97 per cent plants grew well. As such, the commander viewed thriving green gram plantations."

Thanks to utmost efforts of the government in implementing the plans for narrowing the development gaps among all the regions throughout the country, Kanyinkyo Village of Kyaukdaga Township is gaining momentum in the rural development tasks.

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Translation: TTA

Myanma Alin: 17-2-2009

Bangladesh ferry capsizes, 100 missing

DHAKA, 19 Feb—About 100 people were missing on Thursday after a launch capsized in southern Bangladesh following a collision with a cargo vessel, police said.

The ferry was carrying more than 150 passengers when it sank in Kirtonkhola river in Barisal district, nearly 170 kilometres (106 miles) from Dhaka.

The body of one of the victims was found, while about 50 passengers were either rescued or managed to swim to safety, police officer Nuruzzaman Chowdhury said. He said the cargo vessel involved in the collision had been seized.

"We are trying to locate the sunken ferry," Nuruzzaman said. Ferry accidents kill hundreds of people and leave many unaccounted for in Bangladesh every year, and families of the victims are not compensated.

Officials said some of the passengers had boarded the launch on Thursday without buying tickets—something common across Bangladesh where many river accidents occur due to overloading and inexperience or negligence of the crew.

Internet

Ferry accidents kill hundreds of people and leave many unaccounted for in Bangladesh every year.—INTERNET

Iran urges global nuclear disarmament

TEHERAN, 19 Feb—Iran called on Thursday for global negotiations aimed at total nuclear disarmament, saying that the elimination of atomic weapons was the only guarantee against their use or threatened use.

Alireza Moaiyeri, Iranian ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, addressed the Conference on Disarmament shortly before the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was expected to issue its latest watchdog report on Iran.

"The existence of nuclear weapons simply means that all states will continue to live with a permanent sense of insecurity," Moaiyeri told the Conference on Disarmament (CD).

"Along that line, the primary goal for the CD should be to remove this source of insecurity and to establish a world free of nuclear weapons." The Geneva disarmament forum has failed to reach consensus needed to launch talks on any issue since clinching global pacts banning chemical weapons and underground nuclear explosions in the 1990s.—*Internet*

Israeli warplanes strike on Gaza-Egypt's borderline

GAZA, 19 Feb—Israeli F16 war jets struck on Thursday afternoon the borderline area between southern Gaza Strip town of Rafah and Egypt, no injuries reported, witnesses in the town said.

Residents said *F16* warplanes struck the borderline area, apparently targeting underground tunnels which were used for smuggling goods from Egypt into the Gaza Strip. Hamas security sources in Gaza said the Israeli warplanes carried out three separate airstrikes on the borderline area between Rafah and Egypt. Several tunnels were damaged.

The Israeli airstrikes on the tunnels area came shortly after Palestinian militants fired two homemade rockets from the Gaza Strip at Israel. According to Israel's Radio, no injuries were reported.

The airstrikes were carried out as two US congressmen arrived here on Thursday, marking the highest-level visit by U.S. officials to the territory since Hamas movement seized control of the enclave nearly two years ago.—*Internet*

A float is being prepared in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, ahead of next week's carnival.—INTERNET

British lawyer sentenced in Berlusconi bribe case

MILAN, 19 Feb—British lawyer David Mills has been sentenced to more than four years in prison for corruption over accepting a 600,000 US dollar bribe from Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi in 1997.

The sentence of four years and six months imprisonment was read put out by a judge a Milan court. Prosecutors had called for a sentence of four years and eight months in prison for Mills.

Berlusconi currently has immunity in the case, in which he had been charged with paying Mills the bribe from alleged "secret funds" held by his Mediaset SpA—Italys largest private broadcaster—to withhold incriminating details about his business dealings. His government introduced the law which gave him, alongside the head of state and the presidents of both chambers of Parliament, immunity while in office in July 2008. Its validity is currently being decided by Italy's Constitutional Court.—*Internet*

Young sea gypsies play in the water in the centre of their neighbourhood in the Sulawesi Sea in Malaysia's state of Sabah on the Borneo island on 17 Feb, 2009. A community of 30 families of the indigenous ethnic group of sea gypsies are still maintaining a nomadic and sea-based life without fresh water supply, TV nor electricity, and only go to land to bury the dead.—INTERNET

Kyrgzt parlt. passes bill on closure of US air base

ALMATY, 19 Feb—The ruling AK-Zhol party of the Kyrgyz Parliament on Wednesday unanimously passed a bill on closing a US air base that provides support to military operations in Afghanistan, according to reports from Kyrgyz capital of Bishkek.

The bill will then be handed to a plenary session of the Parliament for a vote on Thursday, *Interfax* reported. A simple majority of votes is needed to pass the bill in Parliament, that is 46 out of 90 seats, while the ruling AK-Zhol party holds an overwhelming majority of 71 seats.

The United States began using the Manas base shortly after it launched anti-terror operations in Afghanistan following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Kyrgyz President Kurmanbek Bakiyev said earlier in February he had decided to close the Manas air base.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Bird Flu hits 9 Vietnam's Provinces

HANOI, 19 Feb—Bird flu is plaguing in nine provinces in Vietnam with a newly-reported coastal province Khanh Hoa was also found the virus, according to Department of Animal Health under Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on Wednesday.

In Khanh Hoa Province of south central Vietnam, bird flu has killed 27 fowls raised at a local farm, said the department, Vietnam watchdog of bird flu. Samples of dead ducks found in the province tested positive to H5N1 virus, said the department.

So far this year, nine provinces of Vietnam nationwide have been hit by avain flu, including four provinces in Mekong Delta, namely Ca Mau, Soc Trang, Hau Giang and Bao Lieu, two northern provinces of Bao Ninh and Quang Ninh, two central provinces of Nghe An and Quang Tri, and the newly-confirmed southern Khanh Hoa, said the department.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Three soldiers injured in bomb attack in S. Thailand

BANGKOK, 19 Feb—Three Thai soldiers were injured on Wednesday in a bomb attack in Bae-jang village of Grong-bhi-nang District in Thailand's restive southernmost province of Yala, the website by Thai-language newspaper *Thai Rath* reported.

According to local police's investigation, the bomb exploded while Thai security were about to reach a targeted area in Bae-jang village, from where they did hear several gun shootings in early Wednesday morning.

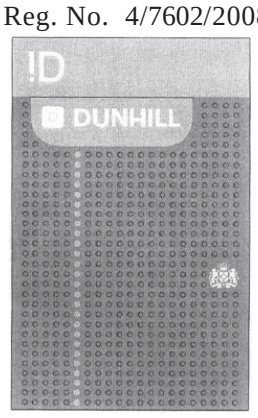
The police believed the bomb attack was done by suspected militants.

MNA/Xinhua

TRADE MARK CAUTION NOTICE

Dunhill Tobacco of London Limited, a company organized under the laws of England and Wales, carrying on business, through its licensees and affiliates, as Tobacco Manufacturers and Merchants, having its principal office at 1A St. James's Street, London, SW1A 1EF, United Kingdom is the owner and sole proprietor of the following Trademarks:-

Reg. No. 4/7602/2008



Reg. No. 4/7603/2008

Used in respect of :- Cigarettes, cigars, cigarillos, roll your own tobacco, pipe tobacco, tobacco and tobacco products.

Any unauthorized use, imitation, infringements or fraudulent intentions of the above marks will be dealt with according to law.

Tin Ohnmar Tun
B.A (LAW) LL.B, LL.M (U.K)
P.O.Box. 109,
Ph: 723043
(For. British American Tobacco Ltd, U.K.)
Dated. 20 February, 2009.

Mercedes-Benz recalls 555 sedans in China for steering defects

BEIJING, 19 Feb— Mercedes-Benz will recall about 555 sedans in China for steering defects, China's quality watchdog said here on Wednesday.

The front shock absorber of those sedans may fail to operate because of manufacturing flaws and lead to steering problems, according to the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine. The recall effects vehicles produced before 15 Aug, 2006. Mercedes-Benz dealers would check and replace flawed shock absorbers free of charge, the administration said.—*Internet*

TRADE MARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that our client Corporation Habanos, S.A. of Avenida 3ra No. 2006 e/20 y 22, Miramar, Ciudad de la Habana, Cuba is the owner and sole proprietor of the following Trade Mark:

H.UPMANN

Reg. No. 4/7358/08

Used in connection with tobacco, including cigars, cigarettes, cigarillos, cut tobacco for pipes; smokers' articles including ashtrays, cigar-cutters, match boxes,cigarcases,matches.

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said trademarks or other infringement whatsoever will be dealt with according to law.

Soe Win
Advocate
#0502 Level 5 Sakura Tower Ph: 255055
For Hiborne,Hawkin & Co.

TRADE MARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that our clients, SuperGen, Inc., a California corporation of 4140 Dublin Blvd., Suite 200, Dublin, California 94568 USA are the owners and sole proprietors of the following trademark:

DACOGEN
Reg. No. 4/7359/08

To be used in connection with pharmaceutical compositions for treating cancer and immune disorders.

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said trademarks or other infringement whatsoever will be dealt with according to law.

Soe Win
Advocate
#0502 Level 5 Sakura Tower Ph: 255055
For Hiborne,Hawkin & Co.

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Notice is hereby given that **Molson Canada 2005** of 33 Carlingview Drive, Toronto, Ontario, M9W 5E4, Canada is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademark -

CARLING

(Reg. No. IV/4680/2000)

The said trademark is used in respect of the description of goods following, that is to say-

"Alcoholic brewery beverages including, beer, ale, lager, porter, and stout "

All ownership rights of the above trademark have been transferred to **Molson Canada 2005** by means of the Deed of Assignment dated 7th February 2005 between **Molson Canada** and **Molson Canada 2005**; and the Declaration of Assignment in Myanmar by Myanmar Reg. No. *IV/2154/2008.*

Any imitation or fraudulent use of the said trademark will be dealt with according to law.

Htain Lin Oo *(LL.B)* Advocate
MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM for
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Patent and Trade Mark Agents
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e-mail: depdep@vsnl.net
Intellectual Property House
31 South Bank Road
Chennai- 600 028
Alaknanda Building
16 Nepean Sea Road
Mumbai- 400 036
MA-99 Moulsari Road
DLF Phase-III
National Capital Region122002
e-mail: dandi@vsnl.com
India. 20 February 2009

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Notice is hereby given that **Molson Canada 2005** of 33 Carlingview Drive, Toronto, Ontario, M9W 5E4, Canada is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademark -

CARLING BLACK LABEL

(Reg. No. IV/4681/2000)

The said trademark is used in respect of the description of goods following, that is to say-

"Alcoholic brewery beverages including, beer, ale, lager, porter, and stout"

All ownership rights of the above trademark have been transferred to **Molson Canada 2005** by means of the Deed of Assignment dated 7th February 2005 between **Molson Canada** and **Molson Canada 2005**; and the Declaration of Assignment in Myanmar by Myanmar Reg. No. *IV/2155/2008.*

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Mumbai- 400 036
MA-99 Moulsari Road
DLF Phase-III
National Capital Region122002
e-mail: dandi@vsnl.com
India. 20 February 2009

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SUPA BHUM VOY NO (127)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SUPA BHUM VOY NO (127) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.2.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Inflight health problems 'rising'

LONDON , 19 Feb — Due to growing numbers of older passengers and ever longer flights, the likelihood of health problems in the skies is increasing, US resear-chers suggest.

From blood clots to flu pandemics, both travellers and authorities should be aware of the risks — and seek to minimize them a *Lancet* review urges. An ageing population means passengers are boarding planes with existing health problems, researchers warn. Extended flight times could also increase the risk to health, they say.

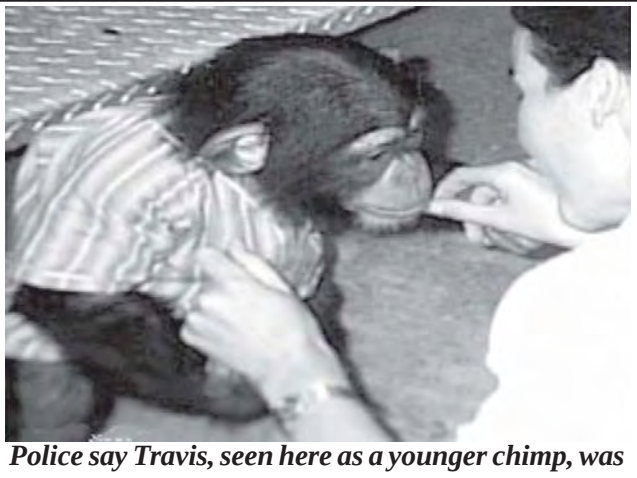
The review of the many studies into the health risks of flying found an overall association between air travel and venous thromboembolism (VTE), which occurs when a blood clot in a leg vein travels through the body to the lung. Some 75% of air-travel cases of VTE have been linked to lack of movement while on board— although eco-nomy passengers are no more likely to develop clots than their coun-terparts in business, the review found.

Risk was at its highest in flights of eight hours or more, but one study found the risk started to climb at four hours, the Lahey Clinic Medical Center team, led by Dr Mark Gendreau, found.

Internet

***Planes are able to go longer distances without stopping.*—INTERNET**

Donate Blood



***Police say Travis, seen here as a younger chimp, was like a child to his owner, Sandra Herold.*—INTERNET**

Victim of chimp attack in 'critical but stable' condition

STAMFORD, 19 Feb — Seven hours of surgery and four teams of surgeons were needed to stabilize a Connecticut woman attacked by a pet chimpanzee, doctors at Stamford Hospital said on Wednesday. Dr Kevin Miller said Charla Nash, 55, remains in critical but stable condition after her friend's pet chimp, once featured in TV commercials for Coca-Cola and Old Navy, attacked her on Monday.

Nash, 55, had just arrived at the home of her friend, Sandra Herold, 70, when the chimp, named Travis, jumped on her and began biting and mauling her, said Stamford Police Capt. Rich Conklin. Conklin said the attack was unprovoked, and he described it as "brutal and lengthy."

Miller said Nash's vital signs are improving but that she received extensive injuries to her face and hands. Miller said she is making good, but small, progress after being treated by hand specialists and plastic surgeons, as well as specialists in ophthalmology, orthopedics and trauma.—*Internet*

Chinese sailors rescued undergo treatment in Russia's far east

Moscow, 19 Feb — The Chinese sailors injured when a cargo vessel sank in the Sea of Japan on Sunday are receiving treatment in hospital, and the cause of the accident is under investigation, the Chinese consulate in Russia's far eastern city of Khabarovsk told *Xinhua* on Wednesday.

The Chinese embassy in Russia and the consulate in Khabarovsk have asked the Russian side to provide the sailors with necessary aid and continue rescue efforts shortly after the incident, said Sun Lijie, consul-general of the Chinese consulate in Khabarovsk.

According to the Chinese Foreign Ministry, three Chinese crew members were rescued and seven others were missing in the sea accident.

Eight sailors died after the Sierra Leone-flagged dry cargo vessel New Star sank in the Sea of Japan near the port of Nakhodka on Sunday morning, Russian news agencies reported.

Half of the 16-member crew, which included Chinese and Indonesian nationals, were picked up from a raft by a nearby Russian border guard vessel. but they failed to save those aboard the second raft, news reports said.—*MNA/Xinhua*

A man paints graffiti on a wall of the Azteca Stadium during a graffiti contest in Mexico City on 15 Feb, 2009.—Xinhua

Solar power plant to supply 30,000 homes by 2010

Beijing, 19 Feb — China is planning to construct a domestically designed solar thermal power plant which is capable to power at least 30,000 households, *China Daily* reported Thursday.

The plant, to be Asia's first 1.5-megawatt solar thermal power station, will start construction in Beijing's suburb as soon as next month, said Wang Zhifeng, chief of the plant.

Designed by the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the plant is expected to cost 100 million yuan (14.7 million US dollars) and will start operating in 2010.

Covering 13 hectares, the plant will be funded from the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Beijing municipal government and the academy.

Wang, also laboratory director for solar thermal power at the academy, said the experimental power plant would be designed and operated by 10 Chinese institutions and companies, including the academy, Xi'an Jiaotong University, Huadian Corp. and Himin Solar Group.

The plant is expected to generate up to 2.7 million kwh of electricity per year, equivalent to eliminating 2,300 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions from conventional power plants, Wang said.

Its solar tower is designed to be 100-meter tall and is surrounded by 100 heliostats composed of curved mirrors which track the sun and redirect its rays to a receiver at the top of the tower.

The receiver would convert concentrated solar thermal power from the heliostats into thermal power. Steam from the receiver outlet would be sent directly into the turbine for electricity generation.—*Internet*

Large cache of ice age fossils unearthed in Los Angeles

Los Angeles, 19 Feb — Workers excavating an underground garage in Los Angeles have uncovered the nearly intact skeleton of a mammoth and the largest known cache of fossils from the last ice age, it was announced on Wednesday.The treasure trove included the nearly intact Columbian mammoth and fossils of tree trunks, turtles, snails, clams, millipedes, fish and gophers, according to Los Angeles George C Page Museum.

"This gives us the opportunity to get a detailed picture of what life was like 10,000 to 40,000 years ago in the Pleistocene ice age", said John Harris, chief curator at the museum.

The vast discovery, known as project 23, is expected to boost the number of specimens pulled from the tar to about 4 million, nearly doubling what has been logged since around the turn of the past century.Among the 700 newly found specimens are an American Lion skull, lion bones, dire wolves, saber-toothed cats, juvenile horse and bison, a huge prehistoric bird called a teratorn, coyotes, lynx, and ground sloths.

Excavators first discovered the cache a couple of years ago, and researchers have just begun working on huge chunks of soil removed from the site.

The tusks of the mammoth, named as Zed by researchers, are nearly 10 feet long. Because of his significance, Zed was excavated on site.—*Internet*

Florida smoker's widow gets $8m in damages

Fort Lauderdale, 19 Feb — Philip Morris was ordered by a jury Wednesday to pay $8 million in damages to the widow of a smoker who died of lung cancer in a case that could set a standard for some 8,000 similar Florida lawsuits.

The six jurors deliberated over two days before returning the award for Elaine Hess, 63, whose husband Stuart Hess died in 1997 at age 55 after decades as a chain smoker.

The award amounts to $3 million in compensatory damages and $5 million in punitive damages against Richmond, Va-based Philip Morris USA, a unit of Altria Group Inc. Hess's attorneys sought up to $130 million.

Internet

Smoking kills — irrespective of class

Glasgow, 19 Feb — Smokers of all social classes, regardless of gender, have a much higher risk of premature death than non-smokers, British researchers found.

Dr Laurence Gruer and Dr David Gordon, both of the National Health Service Health Scotland, and Graham Watt and Dr Carole Hart, both of the University of Glasgow, studied the impact of smoking on the survival rates of 15,000 men and women recruited in 1972-76 from Renfrew and Paisley in Scotland.

The participants were grouped by gender and social class and further divided into smokers, never-smokers and ex-smokers. The social class category was subdivided as I and II (highest); III non-manual; III manual; and IV and V (lowest).

After 28 years of follow-up, 56 percent of female never-smokers and 36 percent of male never-smokers in the lowest social classes were still alive compared with 41 percent of female smokers and 24 percent of male smokers in the top two social class groups. Smokers in the lowest social classes fared even worse.

Surprisingly, non-smoking women in the lowest social classes had one of the lowest death rates, the study said.The findings are published in the *British Medical Journal*.

Internet

A grey seal pup is seen on Hay island off the coast of Nova Scotia on 11 Feb, 2009. East coast sealers postponed the hunt for 2,200 seal on the island after failing to find a buyer for the pelts.—Xinhua

Brazilian police seize 423 kg of cocaine

Rio De Janeiro, 19 Feb — The Brazilian Federal Police announced on Wednesday the seizure of 423 kg of cocaine in the southeastern state of Sao Paulo.

Two people were arrested in the operation on the SP-330 state road on the outskirts of Ribeirao Preto, the police said.

Two rifles and four machine guns were also seized. The cocaine was found hidden in a truck carrying corn.

The police said they started investigating the case two weeks ago and focused on one of the arrested who organized the shipment.

The person was also suspected of smuggling weapons to one of the largest gangster groups in the country.

Internet

SPORTS

Don't crown us champions yet warns Ferguson

MANCHESTER, 19 Feb—Sir Alex Ferguson insists it is too soon to crown Manchester United as Premier League champions despite watching his side move five points clear of Liverpool with a 3-0 victory over Fulham.

The league leaders, who can open up an eight-point lead with victory over Blackburn on Saturday prior to Liverpool's Anfield clash with Manchester City on Sunday, cruised past Fulham thanks to goals from Paul Scholes, Dimitar Berbatov and fit-again Wayne Rooney on Wednesday.

The win was United's ninth on the bounce in the league and goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar racked up his fourteenth consecutive Premier League clean sheet, taking his shut-out run to 1302 minutes.But United boss Ferguson admitted that there are still possible pitfalls on the road to an eighteenth league title between now and May.

He said: "You can never be dead sure, but it's safe to say that Chelsea have an uphill fight now to overcome us. Things can happen, though. We were 12 points clear of Arsenal one season, 1997-98, and we lost the league.

"We had a lot of injuries that year, but hopefully, with the squad we have now, we can cope with injuries. That's been the change around at the club, we have such a big squad that we can cope with injuries.This was our game in hand, though, so it was important and I think the players applied themselves the right way." —*Internet*

Sir Alex Ferguson

Williams sisters within an ace of Dubai tennis date

DUBAI ,19 Feb—The Williams sisters moved within one match of another meeting when Serena Williams produced a performance of firm commitment and heavy hitting to reach the quarter-finals of the Dubai Open here on Wednesday.

The world number one from the United States won 6-4, 6-2 against Zheng Jie, the Wimbledon semi-finalist from China - seven hours after her elder sister Venus Williams also reached the last eight.Serena had to fight hard in the first set, capturing it thanks to one break of serve chiselled painstakingly out in a 12-point ninth game full of great ground-strokes from both players.

After closing out the set without fuss, Serena broke again at once and dominated the second set, though she was not especially satisfied with her performance."My intensity was high, but I think I can play a lot better, to be honest," she said.—*Internet*

Villa offer tough baptism for Chelsea's Hiddink

LONDON ,19 Feb—Chelsea's stuttering season starts afresh on Saturday when Guus Hiddink takes them to Aston Villa, with the improving Midlanders looking down from third spot in the Premier League at the fourth-placed Londoners.

That is not a situation owner Roman Abramovich envisaged when he recruited Luiz Felipe Scolari as manager before the start of the season.

Abramovich would hardly have considered the prospect of trailing leaders Manchester United by 10 points with 13 games remaining but that is the situation Chelsea are in after sacking Scolari last week.

Chelsea manager Guus Hiddink.

New manager Hiddink, who took his first training session on Monday, will be expected to turn things round quickly, having been encouraged by the display in last weekend's 3-1 FA Cup win at Watford.

Internet

Hewitt ousts Blake as Roddick drops Darcis at ATP/ WTA Memphis

MEMPHIS, 19 Feb—Australian veteran Lleyton Hewitt sent third-seeded American James Blake tumbling out of the first-round of the 1.22 million-dollar ATP and WTA hardcourt tennis tournament in Memphis.

Hewitt notched the upset of the day with a 3-6, 6-1, 6-4 triumph over Blake. Hewitt, a former world number one, bounced back from a sloppy first set to improve to 8-1 lifetime in head-to-head matchups with Blake.—*Internet*

Rooney on target as United go five points clear

LONDON ,19 Feb—Wayne Rooney scored on his return from injury as champions Manchester United crushed Fulham 3-0 at Old Trafford on Wednesday to surge five points clear of Liverpool at the top of the Premier League.

The England striker, back in action after a month out with a hamstring injury, came on as a 61st minute substitute and scored from close range with his first touch of the game barely two minutes later to send United 3-0 up.Paul Scholes had volleyed United into the lead off a Michael Carrick corner in the 12th minute, with Fulham keeper Mark Schwarzer getting down to the shot only for the ball to bobble over the line.

Dimitar Berbatov then doubled the tally 17 minutes later with a tap in.United now have 59 points to Liverpool's 54 and third placed Aston Villa's 51 after 25 matches. Chelsea, their title chances dismissed by United manager Alex Ferguson in the pre-match programme, are fourth on 49 with 13 games remaining.—*Internet*

Manchester United's Wayne Rooney celebrates after scoring during their English Premier League match against Fulham in Manchester,on 18 Feb, 2009.
INTERNET

Milan foiled by late Diego equaliser for Werder

LONDON ,19 Feb—A late equaliser from Werder Bremen's Brazilian international Diego denied AC Milan victory in their UEFA Cup first knockout round first leg tie in Germany on Wednesday.

Midfielder Diego rewarded a strong second-half display from the Bundesliga side six minutes from time by controlling Hugo Almeida's header with his chest before firing past Dida to secure a 1-1 draw.Filippo Inzaghi had put competition favourites Milan ahead on 36 minutes, the striker firing in a rebound after his own header from Mathieu Flamini's cross had been blocked.—*Internet*

Werder Bremen's Diego celebrates after scoring against AC Milan during their UEFA Cup match at the Weser stadium in Bremen on 18 Feb, 2009.
INTERNET

England women's star signs with Boston

BOSTON, 19 Feb—Kelly Smith, the England forward who was a finalist for FIFA Women's Player of the Year in 2008, signed a multi-year contract on Wednesday with the Boston Breakers of Women's Pro Soccer.

The seven-team US league will open its inaugural season in April with US rosters joined by top international talent such as Smith, who has 33 goals in 76 matches over a 14-year career with England's national squad.

"We are delighted to have signed such a world-class, creative attacking talent," Breakers president Joe Cummings said."Kelly has been playing at the top level for a long time, and I feel she will have a tremendous impact, not only on our team, but also the league."

Internet

Djokovic makes winning return in Marseille

MARSEILLE ,19 Feb—World number three Novak Djokovic celebrated his return to action with a 7-6 6-4 victory over France's Jeremy Chardy in the first round of the Marseille Open on Wednesday.Djokovic was playing his first match since retiring against American Andy Roddick during their Australian Open quarter-final last month.

Serbia's Novak Djokovic returns the ball to France's Jeremy Chardy during their men's singles match at the Marseille Open ATP tennis tournament on 18 Feb, 2009.
INTERNET

"I took some rest after the Australian Open," Djokovic told reporters."It was hard to get some rhythm today because I played against a big server and we were both serving well with a high percentage of first serves. —*Internet*

British zookeeper Alex Larenty gives Jamu, the lion a relaxing massage.—INTERNET

Deforestation causes extinction of 26 species in Amazon

RIO DE JANEIRO, 19 Feb—Deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest region by 2006 has led to the extinction of 26 animal and plant species, according to a UN agency report released on Wednesday.

At the same time, another 644 species of animals and plants, including the red-faced spider monkey, the spectacled bear and the otter, were in danger of extinction.

According to a UN Environmental Program report, by 2005 the region lost 17 percent of its forest — a total of 857,666 square kilometers, nearly equal to the territory of Venezuela.

Meanwhile, deforestation in the region was still going on at an accelerated pace.

Internal and external factors led to the deforestation in each of the nine countries straddling the Rainforest region, UNEP said, including urbanization and the exploitation of natural resources, as well as global warming, which affects the rainy seasons and ecological balance.

The report pointed out three key factors that will influence development of the region in the future: public policies, the market, and the development of new technologies.—*Internet*

MRTV-3
Programme Schedule
(20.2.2009) (Friday)

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
- ❒ Meet Peculiar Salamander
- ❒ Feel Pretty ... in a Rawan Outfit
- ❒ More Railroad Networks consolidate Solidarity
- ❒ Adept Sons of Inlay Lake
- ❒ 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 (Ayeyawady Division)
- ❒ Precious Myanmar Lacquerware
- ❒ Myanmar Marionette
- ❒ The Wonderful Peikchin Ravine
- ❒ The Artwoks of Bagan Gift Centre
- ❒ Mularsheedi we Love!
- ❒ Smogless sky, Enchanting Smiles (Mingun, Sagaing Division)
- ❒ Meet Peculiar Salamander
- ❒ Feel Pretty ... in a Rawan Outfit
- ❒ More Railroad Networks consolidate Solidarity
- ❒ Mandalay Traditional Snack (Htou Moun)
- ❒ Daily Life of a Toddy-plam Climber
- ❒ View Point Amusement Park
- ❒ Adept Sons of Inlay Lake
- ❒ Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

TV Myanmar

Friday, 20 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. လှပ်ရှားပုံပြင်စိတ်ပျော်ရွှင်

7:50 am
5. Nice and sweet song

8:00 am
6. အကဖြိုင်ပွဲ

8:15 am
7. Musical programme

8:30 am
8. International news

8:40 am
9. "မင်းမသိသေးပါဘူးကွာ" (ဇရာ၊ ငှက်ပျောကြော်၊ ချစ်စရာ၊ ကြူးကြူးသင်း၊ အေးအေးခိုင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ–ဆွေဇင်ထိုက်)

8:50 am
10. The mirror images of the musical oldies

4:00 pm
1. Martial song

4:10 pm
2. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

4:20 pm
3. Dance of national races

4:30 pm
4. "သတိတစ်ချက်တစ်သက်အမှား" (ကျော်မင်းနောင်၊ ကြည်လဲ့လဲ့ဦး၊ နန်းကလျာလှိုင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ–စောစန္ဒာလှိုင်)

4:40 pm
5. Musical programme

4:50 pm
6. ၂၀၀၉ခုနှစ်၊တက္ကသိုလ်ဝင်စာမေးပွဲ ဘာသာရပ်ဆိုင်ရာသင်ခန်းစာ (စိတ်ကြိုက်မြန်မာစာ)

5:15 pm
7. Songs to Uphold National Spirit

5:25 pm
8. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

5:35 pm
9. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား

5:45 pm
10. Song of Yesteryear

6:00 pm
11. Evening news

6:30 pm
12. Weather report

6:35 pm
13. သုတစုံလင်ရွှေဘဏ်ရှင်

7:10 pm
14. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ကုန်သွယ်မုန်တိုင်း" (အပိုင်း–၅၄)

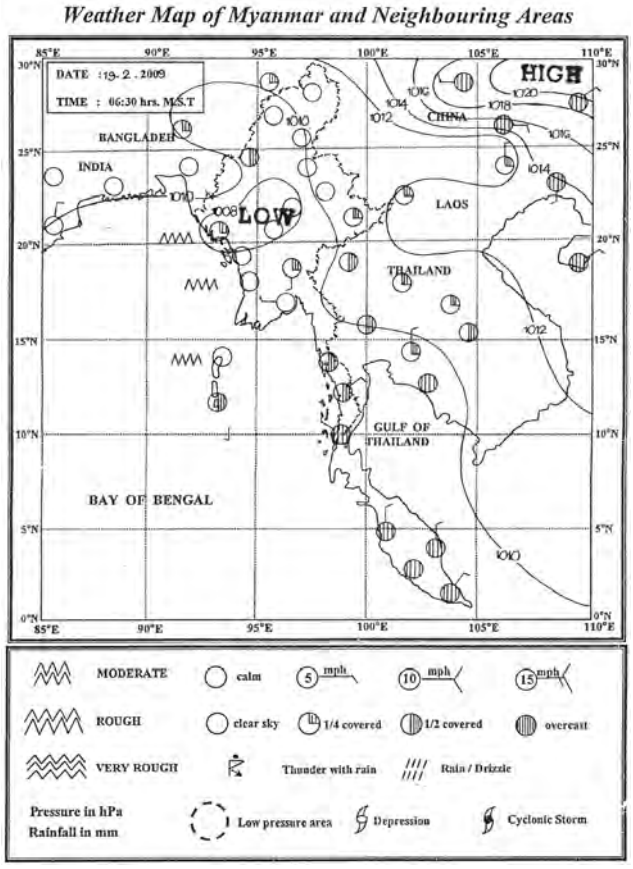
8:00 pm
15. News

16. International news

17. Weather report

18. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "မေတ္တာလမ်းဆုံ" (အပိုင်း–၂)

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Thursday, 19 February, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Mon State, Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3˚C) to (4˚C) below February average temperatures in Chin State and Bago Division, (3˚C) to (4˚C) above February average temperatures in Kachin, Shan, Kayah and Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions, (6˚C) above February average temperatures in Mon State and about February average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (2˚C), Lashio and Namhsam (6˚C) each.

Maximum temperature on 18-2-2009 was 97˚F. Minimum temperature on 19-2-2009 was 69˚F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 19-2-2009 was 80%. Total sunshine hours on 18-2-2009 was (6.6) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 19-2-2009 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 Northwest at (17:30) hours MST on 18-2-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 19th February 2009: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin and Mon States Yangon, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions 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 Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 20-2-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 20-2-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 20-2-2009: Generally fair weather.

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Kanyinkyo Village of Kyaukdaga Township witnesses thriving green gram plantations

Article: *Reporter Peinzalok Thein Nyunt;* Photos: *Yan Aung Tun (Peinzalok)*

The Government is trying to realize the objective: Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well which is one of four economic objectives. In undertaking agriculture and regional development tasks, progress can be witnessed in the cultivation of green gram in Kanyinkyo Village of Kyaukdaga Township.

Under the arrangements of Patron of the Village All-round Development Committee Deputy General Manager Major Kyaw Myint (Rtd) of Inland Water Transport and Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council U Myo Tint, we, the news team arrived at Kanyinkyo Village by motorbike on 2 February.

We were welcomed by Deputy General Manager Major Kyaw Myint (Rtd), Executive Officer U Lun Tin of Township Development Affairs Committee, Chairman of Village-tract PDC U Aung Win Shwe, Junior Assistant Teacher U Myint Thein and local people.

In an interview, Chairman of Village PDC U Aung Win Shwe said, "Kanyinkyo Village-tract,

(See page 10)

Photo shows thriving green gram plantations in Kanyinkyo Village of Kyaukdaga Township, Bago Division.

Identity cards for matriculation candidates

YANGON, 19 Feb—The Myanmar Board of Examinations today issued an announcement that students who will sit for the matriculation examination to be held from 11 to 20 March 2009 may take out their identity cards from the supervisors of respective examination centres as of 27 February.

The list of roll numbers and examination centres for the candidates in Yangon municipal area will be posted at the offices of respective Township Education Officers starting from 3 March.

The candidates of Basic Education High Schools, branches and affiliated schools in Yangon municipal area may get their identity cards from respective school heads and external candidates, from the supervisors of respective examination centres beginning 5 March.—*MNA*

Researchers cast doubt on role of free radicals in aging

MONTREAL, 19 Feb — For more than 40 years, the prevailing explanation of why we get old has been tied to what is called oxidative stress. This theory postulates that when molecules like free radicals, oxygen ions and peroxides build up in cells, they overwhelm the cells' ability to repair the damage they cause, and the cells age.

Though an industry has grown around alternative antioxidant therapies, clinical trials have not shown that such treatments have statistically significant effects.

An industry of "alternative" antioxidant therapies —such as Vitamin E or CoQ10 supplements in megadose format— has sprung up as the result of this theory. However, clinical trials have not shown that these treatments have statistically significant effects.

And now researchers at McGill University, in a study published in the February issue of the journal *PLoS Genetics*, are calling the entire oxidative stress theory into question. Their results show that some organisms actually live longer when their ability to clean themselves of this toxic molecule buildup is partially disabled. Collectively, these molecules are known as reactive oxygen species, or ROS for short.

Dr. Siegfried Hekimi of McGill's Department of Biology, said most of the evidence for the oxidative stress theory is circumstantial, meaning oxidative stress could just as easily be a result of aging as its cause."The problem with the theory is that it's been based purely on correlative data, on the weight of evidence," explained Hekimi, McGill's Strathcona Chair of Zoology and Robert Archibald & Catherine Louise Campbell Chair in Developmental Biology.

Internet

Top soccer players dissatisfied with physique

MADRID, 19 Feb—Body composition, anthropometrical dimensions and morphological characteristics play a key role in the success of soccer players.

The objective of the new study was to evaluate the body composition and body image of a group of top-flight soccer players and compare the results with those of a group of university students used as control subjects.

Marta Arroyo, lead author of the study and researcher at the University of the Basque Country explained to SINC that "the initial hypothesis was that athletes in general and, in this case, soccer players, have a better perception and are more satisfied with their body image than young men their age with similar weights who do not play sports professionally".

Internet

Match between Real Sociedad and Gimnastic de Tarragona.