



Established 1914

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XVI, Number 314

3rd Waxing of Taboung 1370 ME

Thursday, 26 February, 2009

Seventh Plenary Meeting of Sixth 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee commences

YANGON, 25 Feb—The Seventh Plenary Meeting of the Sixth 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee of the Union of Myanmar began on Kaba Aye Hill in Mayangon Township here this morning.

Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abbot of Maha Withutayama Monastery in Magway Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Kumara chaired the meeting, while Joint-Secretary of SSMNC

Abbot of Kalaywatawya Monastery in Yangon Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Kammathana Cariya Dwipitaka Kovida Bhaddanta Jagarabhivamsa acted as MC.

The meeting chairman delivered Saraniya Ovada Katha (counsel).

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung supplicated on religious affairs.

(See page 10)

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

Myeik, Taninthayi, Pyigy Mandaing gaining development

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb — Lt-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence arrived in Myeik by air on 22 February. He was welcomed at the airport by Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo and officials.

Lt-Gen Tha Aye together with the commander and officials inspected construction of dam for supply of irrigated water to farmlands in the Myeik Station and generating of hydropower.

Next, Lt-Gen Tha Aye and party looked into maintenance of Taninthayi Bridge, road works between mile post Nos 54/6 and 54/7 on Taninthayi-Bokpyin

motorway, and gave necessary instructions.

At oil palm farm of Shwe Kanbawza Co Ltd, Lt-Gen Tha Aye oversaw oil palm plantations and presented cash assistance.

He also presented blankets, clothes and gifts to families of Taninthayi Station.

Then, Lt-Gen Tha Aye inspected maintenance of Tamokechone creek Bridge and placing of gravel and resurfacing of road section between mile post Nos 86/5 and 86/6 on Taninthayi-Bokpyin motorway, and gave necessary instructions.

At Point 1020 of Taninthayi-Bokpyin motorway project, Lt-Gen Tha Aye heard reports on progress in road works and construction of bridges

presented by officials and urged them to complete the road construction projects in time.

Next, Lt-Gen Tha Aye met with departmental personnel, members of social organizations, townsenders and local national races at the hall in Pyigy Mandaing.

After hearing the reports on progress of regional development tasks, Lt-Gen Tha Aye delivered a speech.

At Pyigy Mandaing People's Hospital, Lt-Gen Tha Aye comforted the patients, presented cash assistance to them and inspected operation theater and medicine store.

Then Lt-Gen Tha Aye met with servicemen and their families of Pyigy Mandaing Station and presented blankets,

clothes and food to them.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Tha Aye visited Chaungmon oil palm nursery of Yuzana Co and gave necessary instructions to officials.—MNA



Lt-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence inspects Chaungmon oil palm nursery of Yuzana Co.—MNA

Bizarre bird behavior predicted by game theory

CARDIFF, 25 Feb—A team of scientists, led by the University of Exeter, has used game theory to explain the bizarre behaviour of a group of ravens. Juvenile birds from a roost in North Wales have been observed adopting the unusual strategy of foraging for food in 'gangs'. New research explains how this curious behaviour can be predicted by



Raven descending in search of carrion. Ravens usually forage for food individually.

adapting models more commonly used by

economists to analyse financial trends.

This is the first time game theory has been used to successfully predict novel animal behaviour in the real world. The researchers believe this analysis could also shed light on the variation in feeding strategies in different populations in other species.

Ravens feed on the carcasses of large animals.

Most populations live in temperate forests, where individuals search for carcasses and find them defended by a pair of territorial adults.

Unpaired younger birds, on the other hand, gather at communal roosts from which they search individually for carcasses on adult territories and recruit each other to overwhelm adult protectionism.—Internet

Low water level at Ayeyawady, Chindwin Rivers

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb — The water level of the Chindwin River is now below 100 cm lower level in Monywa according to the observation today. It will remain the above-mentioned level till the first ten days of March.

The water level of the Ayeyawady River is now below 1,020 cm lower level in Nyaung U according to the observation today. It will remain the above-mentioned level till the first ten days of March.

MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 26 February, 2009

For local students to try hard to become brilliant intellectuals and intelligentsia

Chairman of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspected development projects for the storm-hit areas in Ayeyawady Division, road networks project and construction of cyclone shelter in Pyin Khayaing in Labutta Township the other day.

The Prime Minister cordially met local people in Kanhtoo Kantha Ward and urged them to make efforts for the regional development. He gave instructions on growing of shade trees and other vegetables in the surroundings and kitchen crops in the vacant lands.

The government put emphasis on development of storm-hit regions and progress of economic, social, health and education sectors of the local people.

Regarding the education, basic education high schools were opened and basic domestic science courses to equip local youths with knowledge and skills needed to enter profession were conducted. Now arrangements are under way to open technical schools.

The government also opened basic education schools in rural areas for youths to pursue education with the aim of turning out human resources important for national development.

It is necessary for local students to try hard to become brilliant intellectuals and intelligentsia as learning opportunities are within their reach.

The students on their part should try to grab at these opportunities created by the government and utilize them in the interest of the nation and its people. It is the duty of the teachers to nurture them to become patriots with consolidated Union Spirit.



Zaw Zaw Latt (Srixon) leading professional golfers division.—MGF

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

Upgrading of Myitkyina-Sumprabum-Putao road section in progress



Maj-Gen Ohn Myint of Ministry of Defence inspects repairing of Myitkyina-Sumprabum-Putao road section.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb—Maj-Gen Ohn Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Brig-Gen Soe Win, on 18 February inspected the People's Hospital in Sumprabum Township. At the hospital, the commander presented cash assistance to patients and donated medicines and cash for the hospital.

Afterwards, Maj-Gen Ohn Myint met with departmental officials at the meeting hall of Sumprabum Township General Administration Department and he

also met with teachers at Basic Education High School in Sumprabum Township.

Maj-Gen Ohn Myint inspected repairing of Myitkyina-Sumprabum-Putao road section at mile post No. 128/2 and No.107/ 6. Afterwards, Maj-Gen Ohn Myint met with teachers and nurses in Khatkayan village.

At the briefing hall of mile post No. 53 in Teyanzwat village, Maj-Gen Ohn Myint and the commander met with teachers, nurses and townselders. And they also inspected upgrading of the road between mile post No. 0/0 and No. 53/0, being conducted by Public Works of Myitkyina District.

On arrival at the confluence of Maykha and Malikha rivers near Tanphe village in Myitkyina Township, they inspected flow of the river water and greening of its environment.—MNA

Seminar on education abroad on 4 March

YANGON, 25 Feb—A seminar on application for second semester 2009 at TAFE and University of Western Sydney (UWS) in Sydney, Australia, is going to be held at Parkroyal Hotel on 4 March.

Daw Chit Chit Myint from Unique Study Abroad, Resident Representative from TAFE and UWS, will give necessary account on the application from 10 am to 1 pm on the appointed day. She will also answer queries raised from 1 p.m to 2 p.m and discuss with those who wants to apply for the school individually.

The presence at the seminar will get application forms free of charge. For details, may contact ph 526340, 524640 and 385304.

It has been 13 years for Unique Study Abroad serving free to those who want to attend at major universities in the USA, UK, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. Managing Director of Unique Study Abroad Daw Chit Chit Myint is a sole resident representative in Myanmar who is being invited to attend annual meeting of international educational organizations in eight countries since 1996.

IBTC Open Golf Championship continues for second day

YANGON, 25 Feb—The final leg of IBTC Open Golf Championship of Myanmar Golf Tour 2008-2009, jointly organized by Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar PGA, continued at Yangon Golf Club in Danyingon of Insein Township this morning.

After the second round, Zaw Zaw Latt (Srixon) was leading the professional golfers division with 142 strokes. Naing Naing Lin (Point Golf Shop) stood at the second position with 144. Min Naing (Srixon) and Aung Win (Srixon) tied at the third position with 145. Hla Myo (Srixon) and Myint Shwe (Srixon) stood fourth by firing 147 strokes each.

In the men's amateur golfers division, Aung Win (Forest) stood first with 142, followed by Nay Bala Win Myint with 145 and Thein Aye with 146. Maung Maung Oo and Yan Myo Aye tied at the fourth position with 150 each.

The championship was sponsored by International Beverages Trading Co Ltd together with KBZ Bank, Air Bagan Ltd, Hotel Yangon, Ruby Dragon (Jade & Gems) Co Ltd, Srixon, MGW Construction Ltd, Myanmar Red Star International Co Ltd, KM Golf Centre, Accel International Co Ltd (Canon), Alpine Purified Drinking Water, MY Associates Co Ltd, Tiger Head Cement Plant and Life Line CO Ltd (DHEA Plus).

MNA

MNA



Afghan bomb kills four US troops; deadliest this year

KABUL, 25 Feb—A roadside bomb killed four US troops in southern Afghanistan on Tuesday, inflicting the year's deadliest single attack on international forces a week after Washington set plans to send reinforcements. An Afghan civilian working with the Americans also died.

The Americans were patrolling with Afghan soldiers when their vehicle struck a bomb Tuesday afternoon, the US military said in a statement. The military withheld identities of the dead and the attack's location

pending notification of relatives.

The previous deadliest attack on US troops this year was an explosion in Zabul Province in January that killed three Americans.

Twenty-nine US military personnel have died in Afghanistan this year, far surpassing the eight Americans killed in the first two months of 2008. A total of 654 have died since the US-led offensive that ousted Afghanistan's Taliban regime in late 2001.

Taliban militants have increased attacks the last

three years and now hold sway in large areas of countryside, leading the Obama administration to promise an intensified focus on defeating Islamic extremists in this region.

President Barack Obama announced on 17 Feb that he had decided to send 17,000 more soldiers and Marines to Afghanistan, adding to the record 38,000 already fighting a strengthening insurgency. Many of the US troops now operate in Taliban strongholds in the dangerous south.

Internet

Iraqi policemen kill four US soldiers, Iraqi interpreter

MOSUL, 25 Feb— Two Iraqi policemen shot dead four US soldiers and their Iraqi interpreter in the northern city of Mosul on Tuesday, a local police source said.

"For reasons that are not yet known, two Iraqi policemen allegedly opened fire on US soldiers near a bridge in western Mosul, killing four soldiers and an Iraqi interpreter," the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

The policemen were manning a checkpoint near the bridge when a US patrol was passing by, the source said.

The US military has not confirmed the incident.

Internet



Map of Iraq locating attack on US soldiers in Mosul. Iraqi policemen shot dead four US soldiers and their local interpreter in Mosul.—INTERNET

Mine explosion wounds three Afghan children

KABUL, 25 Feb—A mine left over from the past wars in Afghanistan injured three Afghan children in northern Baghlan Province, member of provincial assembly Fazal Haq Andarabi said on Wednesday.

"The children were playing with the toy-shaped device when it exploded wounding the trio while two of them in critical condition," Andarabi told *Xinhua*.

Two weeks ago also two children lost their lives while they were playing with explosive powder in the same district.

Afghanistan is one of the most mine-contaminated countries in the world as millions of mines have been planted by different warring groups over the past three decades of war and civil strife.

Internet

Afghan forces, US military kill 16 militants

KABUL, 25 Feb—Afghan troops with the support of the US-led Coalition forces killed 16 suspected insurgents in Taliban-hotbed Helmand Province in south Afghanistan, a statement of the US military released here Tuesday said.

"The Afghan National Army soldiers assisted by the Coalition Forces killed 16 militants while conducting a combat reconnaissance patrol in Helmand Province Monday," the statement added.

The clash, it added, took place when the militants opened fire on the troops and the threat escalated, and then the combined forces responded with several precision strikes to kill the militants.

Neither civilians nor troops were harmed during the operation, it stressed.

Taliban militants have not made comment so far.

Internet

Gunmen kill mayor of western Mexican town

MORELIA, 25 Feb—Mexican authorities say gunmen shot and killed the mayor of a town in the western state of Michoacan, the latest in a string of attacks against elected local officials.

Michoacan state prosecutor Adrian Lopez says Vista Hermosa Mayor Octavio Carrillo was arriving at his home when four gunmen waiting for him opened fire.

Carrillo is the sixth elected local official killed in Michoacan since June.

Violence has soared in Michoacan, President Felipe Calderon's home state, as drug gangs battle each other for territory and intensify attacks on police.

Calderon says drug violence claimed at least 6,000 lives last year.—Internet

People come to the aid of an unidentified victim at the scene where at least five people were shot and two suspects were taken into custody in a shooting incident along the Mardi Gras parade route in New Orleans, on 24 Feb, 2009.—INTERNET



US military deaths in Iraq war at 4,251

WASHINGTON, 25 Feb—As of Tuesday, 24 Feb, 2009, at least 4,251 members of the US military had died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003.

The figure includes eight military civilians killed in action. At least 3,412 military personnel died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The British military has reported 179 deaths; Italy, 33; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 21; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Denmark, seven; El Salvador, five; Slovakia, four; Latvia and Georgia, three each; Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand and Romania, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan and South Korea, one death each.

Internet

US military deaths in Afghanistan region at 584

WASHINGTON, 25 Feb—As of Tuesday, 24 Feb, 2009, at least 584 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 Friday at 10 am EST.

Of those, the military reports 429 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.

There were also four CIA officer deaths and one military civilian death.

Internet

Somali fighters attack peacekeeping base; 18 dead

MOGADISHU, 25 Feb—Islamic militants attacked a peacekeeping base in the Somali capital for the second time in a week on Tuesday, and clashes between the soldiers and militants left at least 18 people dead throughout the city.

Dozens of others, including women and children, were seriously injured in the fighting, which came two days after a suicide bomber attacked an African Union peacekeeping base, killing 11 Burundian soldiers.

An extremist Islamic group called al-Shabab, which claims the AU troops are an occupying force and has threatened them, claimed responsi-

bility for Sunday's attack.

The US State Department considers al-Shabab, a terrorist organization, linked to al-Qaeda, something the group has denied. Spokesman Robert Wood called Sunday's attackers "desperate extremists who aim to strip from the Somali people an opportunity to determine their own future."

On Tuesday, Mogadishu's ambulance ser-

vice staff collected the 18 bodies from different parts of the capital, said Rufa'i Mohamed Salad, one of the coordinators.

Medina Hospital Director Dahir Mohamed Dhere said 78 people injured in the fighting were admitted to his hospital. Many were seriously injured and some were women and children.

Internet



Medical staff attend to a man wounded in a crossfire at the Madina hospital in Somalia's capital Mogadishu on 24 Feb, 2009.—INTERNET

One killed in NC helicopter crash at Xe

MOYOCK, 25 Feb—A helicopter crash killed a pilot and seriously injured a passenger on Tuesday on the northeastern North Carolina campus of the private security contractor Xe, authorities said.

The Federal Aviation Administration initially reported that one person was hurt in the 1:33 pm crash, but Camden County Sheriff Tony Perry confirmed the pilot had died.

Neither Perry nor Xe spokeswoman Anne Tyrrell would release the name of the pilot on Tuesday night. Tyrrell also declined to identify the passenger.

Internet



Rescue workers help passengers after a Turkish Airlines passenger plane crashed while attempting to land at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport on 25 Feb, 2009.—INTERNET

US consumer confidence plummets to record low in February

NEW YORK, 25 Feb—US consumer confidence, which had decreased moderately in January, declined again in February, reaching yet another all-time low, a report said on Tuesday.

The Conference Board, an economic research group, said its Consumer Confidence Index now stands at 25.0, down from 37.4 in January. The

Present Situation Index declined to 21.2 from 29.7 last month. The Expectations Index decreased to 27.5 from 42.5 in January.

The decline of the index, which was first introduced in 1967, is driven by worsening business conditions and a rapidly deteriorating job market, and suggests that overall economic conditions have weakened even

further this quarter, said Lynn Franco, director of the Conference Board consumer research centre.

"Looking ahead, increasing concerns about business conditions, employment and earnings have further sapped confidence and driven expectations to their lowest level ever," he added.

Internet

China warns against piracy

BEIJING, 25 Feb—China's Ministry of Transport has warned the merchant ships passing through the Gulf of Aden to remain alert to pirates operating in the area.

The Chinese Navy has carried out 22 escort missions since the country began its deep-sea task against rampant piracy in the Gulf of Aden. More than 20 warships from around the world are escorting ships passing through the area, but three vessels were still attacked by pirates in January.—Internet

Plane crashes at Amsterdam, 1 killed, 20 hurt

AMSTERDAM, 25 Feb—A Turkish plane slammed into a field while attempting to land at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport and broke into three pieces, Dutch police said. Turkish Airlines said one person was killed and 20 injured.

Turkey's Transport Minister Binali Yildirim says 135 passengers and eight crew were aboard the Turkish Airlines flight from Istanbul to Amsterdam. Police spokesman Jaap Hage told *The Associated Press* a Turkish Airlines 737-800 had crashed in a field next to a runway.

The plane, Flight TK1951, left Istanbul's Ataturk Airport at 8:22 a.m. (0622 GMT). An airport spokeswoman told Dutch NOS news that all flights to and from Schiphol had been suspended.

NOS quoted a local reporter, Onno Beukers, as saying that the wreckage was lying in a field next to the runway and that emergency services were treating passengers in the field. A photo shown by the NOS showed the plane lying in three pieces in the muddy field. It did not appear that the plane had caught fire after the crash.—Internet



Two workers clear the ruined floor at the blast scene located between the al-Hussein mosque and the Khan Al-Khalili bazaar in Cairo, capital of Egypt, on 23 Feb, 2009.—XINHUA

Washing machine timer used in Cairo bazaar bomb

CAIRO, 25 Feb—The crude bomb that killed a French teenager and injured 24 others at a famous Cairo bazaar was packed with gunpowder and nails and detonated by a washing machine timer, according to a report by Egyptian authorities on the attack.

Sunday's explosion was the first attack targeting foreigners in Egypt in three years. Many experts believe it was the work of a small, previously unknown

extremist group or individuals, without any connection to the militants who waged war against the Egyptian state in the 1990s.

The homemade bomb, which weighed about 1 pound 10 ounces (750 grams), included gunpowder, nails, small pieces of iron and bits of bricks, said the report, according to an Egyptian security official who read it.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity

because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

The bomb was placed in a plastic jar under a marble bench in front of the revered Hussein mosque and the Khan el-Khalili bazaar, a popular tourist destination.

Washing machine timers have been used in the past in Egypt to detonate explosives, including a series of bombs used against tourism resorts between 2004 and 2006.—Internet



Police secure a check point outside the US Capitol hours before US President Barack Obama is to address a Joint Session of Congress at the Capitol Washington.—INTERNET

Obama plans to withdraw most US troops from Iraq in 19 months

WASHINGTON, 25 Feb—US President Barack Obama plans to withdraw most of US troops out of Iraq in less than 19 months, pending a formal announcement later this week, officials said Tuesday.

Except a residual force between 30,000 to 50,000 to be left till December 2011, most of the 142,000 US troops will be out of

Iraq by August 2010, 19 months after Obama's swearing-in on 20 Jan, US TV networks and wire services quoted administration officials as saying. Obama is meeting with Secretary of Defence Robert Gates at the White House Tuesday afternoon and he is expected to make a formal announcement later this week, probably on Wednesday,

they said.

The new withdrawal timetable will be three months later than Obama's original pledge to pull out most troops in 16 months after his inauguration.

Some 4,250 US troops died and 650 billion US dollars have been spent since the United States invaded Iraq in March 2003.—Xinhua

Abbas urges int'l community not to boycott new Palestinian unity gov't

STOCKHOLM, 25 Feb—Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Tuesday urged the international community not to boycott a new proposed national unity government to be formed by the two Palestinian movements Fatah and Hamas.

Speaking on his arrival in Stockholm at the start of a two-day visit to Sweden, Abbas said forming a new unity government between Fatah and Hamas would be "the only hope" for Palestinians.

Efforts to form a unity government have failed in the past, partly because key powers, including Israel and the United States, refused to accept a coalition that included Hamas, which refuses to recognize Israel's right to exist.

However, the two movements have recently showed willingness to join hands. They will try to bridge their differences in the two-day talks starting in Cairo on Wednesday.

Such a unity government must fully honor the commitments accepted by the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization), Abbas said in an interview with the Swedish news agency TT.—Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Europol seizes 1.35 mln worth of counterfeit euros in crackdown

VIENNA, 25 Feb—The European Police Office (Europol) has seized more than 1.35 million worth of counterfeit euros (around 1.72 million US dollars) in a recent crackdown, authorities said on Tuesday.

In a coordinated operation with Austrian police this month, Europol also arrested two key suspects, who were from the former Yugoslavia, said Europol spokesman Andras Vida.

Despite the seizure, Vida said, millions of forged euros could already have flowed into some European countries. Vida said the Serbia-based gang primarily forged 100-euro banknotes.

Erich Zwettler, an official of the Austrian Federal Criminal Police Office, said the counterfeit notes were mainly sold in countries such as Austria, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy, Greece and Slovenia.

Xinhua

Japan's trade deficit expands to record high in Jan

TOKYO, 25 Feb—Japan's trade balance was in the red for the fourth straight month in January, registering a record trade deficit of 952.6 billion yen (9.97 billion US dollars) in January, the finance ministry said Wednesday.

In a preliminary report, the ministry said that imports were down 31.7 percent to 4,435.2 billion yen (46.68 billion dollars) while exports plunged 45.7 percent to 3,482.6 billion yen (36.65 billion dollars).

In terms of regions, Japan's trade surplus with the United States, in particular, dived 75.3 percent.

The trade data, measured on a customs-cleared basis, have yet to be adjusted for seasonal factors.

Xinhua

23 killed, 438 injured in Panamanian carnival celebration

PANAMA CITY, 25 Feb—At least 23 people have been killed and 438 injured in carnival celebrations in Panama, the authorities said.

During the four-day "Rey Momo (Momo King)" celebrations which ended on Tuesday, 23 people were killed in traffic accidents and violent incidents.

Among the 438 injured, most of them were wounded by guns, knives, glass bottles and other objects used by troublemakers, Eynar Cruz, director of the Emergencies Center of the Santo Tomas Hospital (HST), said.

Balbina Herrera, a presidential candidate from the ruling party, was also injured after a drunken man threw a beer can at him.—Xinhua

Thousands line up for jobs at New York job fair

NEW YORK, 25 Feb—More than 5,000 New Yorkers Tuesday braved the cold in hopes of finding new work amid rising job cuts.

Women For Hire held a career fair from 10 am to 2 pm local time at the Sheraton New York Hotel & Towers in Manhattan on the day. Throngs of hopefuls lined up for the event. And for the first time, the organizer opened the career fair to men.

Founded in 1999, Women For Hire, offers a wide variety of career-related information and videos geared to working women, and an online job board that helps leading employers connect with top-notch professional women in all fields, according to its website.

According to Women for Hire, 41 companies offered 1,000 openings to be filled at Tuesday's job fair. At the last such event in November just 1,500 people attended.

The job fair was open to men this year because of the severity of the financial crisis and an influx of inquiries, said Tory Johnson, Women for Hire's chief executive.

Xinhua

A released detainee kisses his mother in Baghdad, Iraq, on 22 Feb, 2009. Altogether 64 detainees were released from US military custody on Sunday.
INTERNET



New Zealand extends Afghan troop deployment

WELLINGTON, 25 Feb—New Zealand has extended the duration of its troop deployment in Afghanistan for another year until September 2010, Prime Minister John Key said on Tuesday.

The tour of duty for the 140-member provincial reconstruction team in Bamiyan Province, west of Kabul, had been due to end in September this year.

"The situation in

Afghanistan requires an ongoing international programme of security and development assistance to the government of Afghanistan," Key said in a statement.

Key said the work of New Zealand's reconstruction team was highly valued by the Afghanistan Government and the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

The commitment, which would cost about

42 million New Zealand dollars (21.4 million US dollars), includes personnel for various operational headquarters in Afghanistan, military officers to the UN Assistance Mission and medical specialists in south Afghanistan. New Zealand troops have been in Afghanistan since December 2001, with the reconstruction team present since September 2003.—MNA/Reuters



This photo released by Los Lagos Regional Government shows residents of Chaiten, Chile as the volcano spews smoke and ash in the background, on 24 Feb, 2009.—INTERNET

Indian PM congratulates Slumdog Millionaire team

NEW DELHI, 25 Feb—With Slumdog Millionaire creating history at the Oscars, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh Monday said the entire team of the film including musician A R Rahman have done India proud.

The Prime Minister "congratulates A R Rahman, Resul Pookutty (sound engineer), Gulzar (lyricist), and entire Slumdog Millionaire team for the success at the Oscars," a PMO spokesperson said.

Singh said "they have done India proud". Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee also congratulated the Slumdog team on bringing laurels to India by winning the Oscars.

The film bagged eight awards including two Oscars for Rahman for Best Original Score and Best Song for the song "Jai Ho", which was penned by lyricist Gulzar.—MNA/PTI

Indian peace delegation in Pakistan to help revive ties

ISLAMABAD, 25 Feb—An Indian peace delegation led by Bollywood filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt is in Pakistan to help improve relations between the two neighbours, which have been strained following last year's Mumbai terrorist attacks.

The 13-member delegation comprising civil society activists, journalists and rights activists, which crossed the Wagah border Sunday, was received on the Pakistani side by Human Rights Commission of Pakistan chairperson Asma Jahangir, SAFMA secretary general Imtiaz Alam and actress Meera.

Bhatt said the peace mission's objective is to promote peace and build trust between the two countries. He compared the Indo-Pakistan situation to a long dark night but hoped that he would soon see a silver lining in every dark cloud.—MNA/PTI

Cambodia's Sihanouk donates personal archives to France

PHNOM PENH, 25 Feb—Cambodian former king Norodom Sihanouk has donated his private records to the French Government's National Archives in Paris, where they have been catalogued since their arrival from Beijing two years ago, national media reported Tuesday.

"Sihanouk is the first foreign head of state to give his archives to France," Olivier de Bernon, director of studies at the Ecole Francaise Extreme D'Orient (EFEO), was quoted by the Phnom Penh Post as saying.

Over two years, with help from two researchers and one archivist, Bernon catalogued manuscripts and photos belonging to the 86-year-old King Father, who abdicated in 2004.

MNA/Xinhua



The Italian Air Force acrobatic squad "Frecce Tricolori" (Tricolour Arrows) compose the colors of the Italian flag during an exhibition prior to an alpine ski, Women's World Cup super-combined event, in Tarvisio, Italy.

Allows carp to snack on bread at state park

In a move likely to be popular with tourists and fish alike, Pennsylvania officials will not prohibit feeding bread to the carp at a park in the state's northwest corner.

Complaints delayed the start of the ban this year at Pymatuning State Park. Now, the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has dropped the idea altogether.

More than 300,000 people visit the park each year to see throngs of bread-hungry carp so thick that ducks can walk on the fish.

Officials wanted only fish food pellets used, because they say other food harms the fish.

Visitors have tossed chicken, watermelon, doughnuts and other foods to the carp.

The state will ask tourists to stick to fish pellets and bread.

This Roman marble minotaur is just one of 733 lots for sale at what has been branded the "auction of the century". Proceeds are expected to top 300 million euros (£269m).

Indian villagers up in arms after tiger eats five people

Hundreds of Indian villagers in the northern Uttar Pradesh state on Thursday seized arms from local forest officials after the latter failed to catch a man-eating tiger that have eaten five people recently, reported the local Indo-Asian News Service.

Residents of Kaanp-Tanda village which is close to the Dudhwa

wildlife park snatched the rifles of forest officials and threatened to attack them after the tiger killed a 55-year-old man early Thursday morning, the fifth victim of the big cat, said the report.

Dudhwa is the country's second largest tiger reserve and has 106 tigers. The man-eater strayed out of the sanctuary limits and has been preying on humans for more than a month, said the report.

Husband throws out money during quarrel

A man dropped a box of money out of his apartment window during a quarrel with his wife in Hefei, Anhui Province, China.

A policeman patrolling the area one recent morning saw a paper box fell to the ground. Wang Lei opened the box and saw about 50,000 yuan inside. He couldn't find the owner so he knocked on doors and then saw the arguing couple in room 201. The man threw over the box to let off some steam, he said.



NEWS ALBUM



A heavy man in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, used his body to hold down a thief until police arrived.

Man uses his weight to detain thief for police

A heavy man in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, China, used his body to hold down a thief until police arrived.

Late on Tuesday, Liu, 30, caught a thief who stole his cell phone as he waited for a bus. As the thief used his fist to hit his face, Liu managed to get him to the ground, and sat on him.

As Liu weighed nearly 100 kg, the thief could not move under him. He sighed at the sight of policemen.

Mon State grows rubber on 40 per cent sown acreage across the nation

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

(from page 16)

Mawlamyine Township, the Rubber Research and Plant Propagation Farm in Kyonphaik Village and the Rubber Test Unit and the Kyonphaik Crumb Rubber Factory.

Indeed, the research is an initial step for a work. The research work to produce the quality rubber strains is being conducted at the Perennial Tree Applied Research Division in Hpaauk Village, and recommendations are then forwarded for use of the suitable rubber strains. According to the results of five years research works, BPM-24, BP-235 and RRIC-100 rubber strains are found to be suitable

for the region.

However, some growers planted the imported rubber strains according to their wishes and they suffered losses due to unsuitable rubber strains for the weather and region. As such, the growers are advised to rely on the recommendations of the research division.

In accord with its functions, Rubber Research and Plant Propagation Farm in Kyonphaik Village set a plan to distribute 300,000 saplings in 2008-2009.

The Crumb Rubber Factory is producing yellowish crumb and brownish crumb from the rubber latex. In 2008-2009, the factory is expected to produce

1,500 tons of crumb rubber against the target of 1,200 tons.

In the state, three rubber saw mills produce rubber wood. The rubber plants of over 30 years old were cut down and produced into rubber wood. Rubber Saw Mill of Myanma Perennial Crops Enterprise at Yogo Village of Mawlamyine Township has set the target to produce 464 tons of rubber wood.

In the procedures, the rubber log is to be sent to the saw mills within three days and it is to be sawn immediately and treated with chemicals. Afterwards, the rubber wood is to be dried. The rubber wood can be sold at K



Finished rubber products including furniture being put on display.

400,000 per ton. About four to five tons of rubber wood can be extracted from one acre of rubber plantation. The old rubber plants can be substituted with quality strain rubber plants.

After visiting many rubber farms in Mon State, we went back to the mother house.

Actually, the genuine goodwill of the government for all the national people with the Union

Spirit and the vigorous efforts of the local people, the good results can be achieved in all aspects.

Translation: TTA
Myanma Alin:
20-2-2009

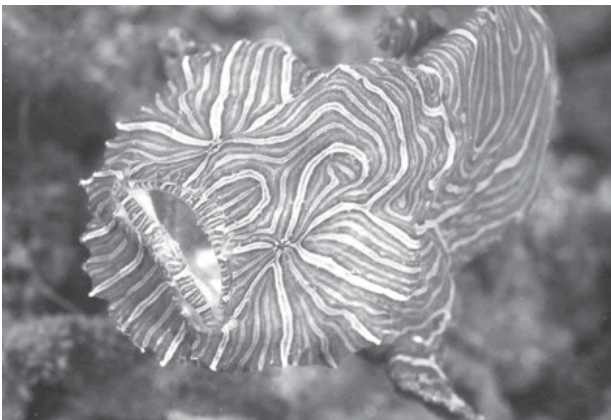


Thriving rubber saplings seen at Rubber Research and Plant Propagation Farm.

Psychedelic looking bouncing fish a new species

SCIENCE DAILY, 25 Feb —“Psychedelica” seems the perfect name

for a species of fish that is a wild swirl of tan and peach zebra stripes and



A *H. psychedelica* jettisons itself through the water.

behaves in ways contrary to its brethren. So says University of Washington's Ted Pietsch, who is the first to describe the new species in the scientific literature and thus the one to select the name.

Psychedelica is perhaps even more apt given the cockamamie way the fish swim, some with so little control they look intoxicated and should be cited for DUI.

Internet

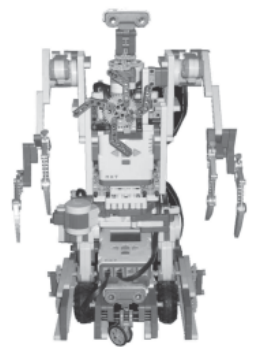
Autonomous robot dancer identifies dance and music

PORTO, 25 Feb — Built from a simple Lego NXT kit, a new robotic system designed by a student of FEUP can identify different types of dance and music in an intelligent manner and is fully autonomous. The next step is to create and manage choreography between humanoid robots.

The project started just over a year and is already a successful example of the application

of advanced concepts of artificial intelligence. In the final course project, João Oliveira, a student finalist at the Masters in Integrated Electrical Engineering of the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto (FEUP), decided to implement in a simple Lego NXT kit a software similar to the one that is developed in robotic soccer.

Internet



Built from a simple Lego NXT kit, a new robotic system designed by a student can identify different types of dance and music in an intelligent manner and is fully autonomous.

Local people urged to actively take part in realizing seven-step Road Map, national development drives through Union Spirit based on amity, attachment, understanding and unity

Information Minister attends cash, newspaper, book, TV set donations for village self-reliant libraries in Thandwe District

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb—A ceremony to donate cash to the funds for construction of self-reliant village libraries and newspapers, publications and TV sets to the libraries in Thandwe District of Rakhine State was held at Dwarawady Hall in Thandwe on 22 February morning, attended by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, officials of the Ministry of Information, departmental officials, social organization members and local people.

After speaking on the occasion, the minister presented K 3 million each to three libraries of three townships and 1,500 books and publications to three model village libraries and K 540,000 for newspapers to 100 villages of the district.

Chairman of Thandwe District Peace and Development Council U Kyaw Hsan handed K 500,000 each for purchase of furniture to three model village libraries, K 259,200 for newspapers to 48 villages of the district through officials.

Officials accepted two MRTV-4 receivers worth K 72,000 each for District PDC Office and District IPRD donated by U Win Maw of Forever Group Co Ltd; K 4 million for village libraries by wellwishers of the district through U Toe Toe; three TVs worth K 450,000 by Head of District Fisheries Department U Myint Shwe and books worth K 1,635,000 by Thandwe District USDA Secretary U Soe Win. The donations amounted to K 16,978,200.

Next, the minister inspected documentary photos of District IPRD and sales of MRTV-4 receivers and accessories.

In Nanchaung Village of Thandwe Township, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Acting Director-General U Ye Htut of IPRD, District PDC Chairman U Kyaw Hsan and Township PDC Chairman U Myat Kyaw drove stakes for construction of the library.

In meeting with over 1,300 local people from 12 villages, the minister attended to the needs. Afterwards, the minister presented K 3 million to the

funds of building the library and K 1.1 million for undertaking rural development tasks in Nanchaung, Myapyin and Zeebyugon villages and books for village libraries and clothes for the local people through officials.

Chairman of District PDC U Kyaw Hsan handed over K 500,000 donated by Rakhine State PDC for purchase of furniture of Nanchaung Village Library.

In meeting with local people, the minister said that the government is striving for equitable development of all regions of the country including remote areas as well as Rakhine State. In accord with the guidance of the Head of State to speed up the development tasks in Rakhine State that faces poor transportation due to a large number of rivers and creeks, the Ministry of Information is carrying out the development of human resources and extending the media sector for broadening the horizons of local people, he said. Efforts are being made for distribution of daily newspapers to all the villages of Rakhine State, for development of self-reliant village libraries, for broadcasting of radio through FM system, for construction

of new TV retransmission stations and for installation of high frequency transmitters at the operating TV retransmission stations, he added. Moreover, he continued to say that MRTV-4 and its related TV channels were launched in Thandwe and An today for enabling the local people to enjoy various kinds of TV channels of their choice.

The minister noted that remarkable development can be witnessed in all aspects of the nation. In building a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation, systematic progress can be seen step by step in accord with the State's seven-step Road Map, he said. He pointed out that the people are to participate in maintaining the development momentum and with awareness they are to guard against the destructive acts of internal and external elements.

In conclusion, the minister urged the local people to actively take part in the respective sectors for realization of the State's seven-step Road Map and national development drives through Union Spirit based on amity, attachment, understanding and unity among the national races.—MNA

Shwe Naing Ngan Journal comes out

YANGON, 25 Feb — No. 20, Volume VII of Shwe Naing Ngan Journal came out yesterday.

It has covered articles, foreign and local news including the future of Rakhine State, one village one product system, Mon State's production of 65,000-ton salt, Ngachin Dam, building of Dawei-Myeik railroad, efforts for completion of 230 KV power grid linking Hlinethaya and Athoke and generation of electricity by paddy husk-powered generator for 132 households of Doebin Village in Ottwin Township.

The journal is available at Sarpay Beikman Bookstore, Printing and Publishing Enterprise on Theinbyu Street, Pan Shwe Pyi book shop and book shop of News and Periodicals Enterprise. Manuscripts can be sent to No. 8, second floor of Pangyan Tower at the corner of Dhammazedi and Bagaya streets in Sangyoung Township (Ph 538302).

MNA

Objectives of the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

1. To work hard together with the people to accomplish the State's seven-step Road Map in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation
2. To uphold Our Three Main National Causes as the national policy at risk to life
3. To crush, in cooperation with the people, internal and external subversive elements that are disrupting stability, peace and development of the nation
4. To build a strong and patriotic modern Tatmadaw capable of safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the nation



Information Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents K 540,000 in order to donate dailies to 100 villages in Thandwe District.

MNA

Seinleshwepyi weekly journal in circulation

YANGON, 25 Feb — No. 6, Volume VII of Seinleshwepyi weekly journal came out today.

The journal has covered the discussion of delegate to National Convention U Myat Thu (Tekkatho Myat Thu) and local and foreign eco-

nomics news including traders' arrangements to import more fertiliser for summer paddy cultivation, an increase in the value of export at the 105th Mile check point in Muse and reduction of rubber export by three countries.—MNA

Special Appellate Bench hears cases

YANGON, 25 Feb — The Special Appellate Bench comprising Deputy Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (Yangon) U Thein Soe, Supreme Court Judges of the Supreme Court (Yangon) U Khin Myint and U Tin Aye sitting at Court room No.1 of the Supreme Court (Nay Pyi Taw) delivered judgment of (9) special civil appeal cases. And then heard (5) special civil appeal cases under section 7 of the Judiciary Law, 2000, on 23rd February 2009.—MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan drives stake for construction of library in Nanchaung village of Thandwe Township.—MNA

Committee for Prevention against Recruiting Minors into Army meets

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb—The Committee for Prevention against Recruiting Minors into Army held its eighth meeting at Adjutant-General's Office of the Ministry of Defence here

minors, to protect the interests of children, and to enforce the orders and directives promulgated to protect the interests of children; and that the committee is pursuing the six resolutions passed at

prevention of recruitment of minors have been distributed to each of the servicemen.

He disclosed that the committee arranged a package tour for ambassadors and military

times with 251 trainees as a whole from Defence Services military training depots, the Social Welfare Department, the Myanmar Police Force, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education in 2007 and 2008; and that moreover military commands opened multiplier course on prevention of recruiting child soldiers for 25 times in 2008 and altogether 1308 officers and other ranks completed the course.

In conclusion, he called for supervision of the tasks in order that military units abide by the rules and regulations to the letter, and assessments of work progress and follow-up programmes.

The joint-secretary of the committee reported on progress in implementing the seventh meeting resolutions; and Secretary of the committee Judge Advocate-General Maj-Gen Soe Maung and members, on work done sector-wise in accordance with laws, rules and regulations for protection of interests of children.

The committee chairman reviewed the reports and gave concluding remarks.

MNA



Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thura Myint Aung makes speech at the eighth meeting of the Committee for Prevention against Recruiting Minors into Army.—MNA

yesterday afternoon.

Chairman of the committee Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thura Myint Aung in his speech said that the State Peace and Development Council formed the committee on 5 January 2004, and reconstituted it on 14 December 2007 in line with the objective conditions; and that over the last five years, the committee held seven meetings and laid down work programmes.

He added that the committee is complying with the three objectives—not to make forced recruitment of

the seventh meeting.

In Myanmar, laws, regulations, orders and directives have been promulgated to protect children from being deprived of freedom, and recruitment of under-age children for military services is prohibited through laws and orders, he said, noting that pamphlets and wall-sheets on recruitment are being distributed down to the rural level and billboards have been erected in urban areas for the public knowledge; and that in addition, pocket-sized cards carrying points on

attaches of foreign embassies to Myanmar and representatives of UN agencies to visit recruiting units and military training units in Yangon and Mandalay, and they had seven meetings with recruits and raw recruits.

He said that the committee, the Social Welfare Department and UNICEF jointly conducted the course on prevention of recruiting child soldiers two times at the social welfare institute (Kyaikwaing) in Yangon, and the committee has organized the course for seven

Technical Training School (Thagara) inaugurated

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb—The Ministry of Industry-2 implemented the advanced technical training school construction project at Thagara Industrial Region in Yedashe Township in accordance with the guidance of the Head of State. The ceremony to open Technical Training School (Thagara) was held in conjunction with a ceremony to hand over documents related to the school at Thagara Industrial Region this morning.

It was attended by Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Deputy Minister Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Myanmar Mr. Park Key-Chong, Vice-Chairman of Korea International Cooperation Agency-KOICA Mr. Ahn Won Dong formally and members, departmental heads, guests and staff.

Minister Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Korean Ambassador Mr. Park Key-Chong and KOICA Vice-Chairman Mr. Ahn Won Dong formally opened the technical training school (Thagara).

Next, the minister pressed the button to open the stone plaque of the school. The minister and guests sprinkled scented water on it and posed for a documentary photo in front of the archway.

Next, the ceremony to hand over documents related to the school was held at the auditorium. The minister delivered an opening speech, and the Korean ambassador and the vice-chairman made addresses.

Director-General U Myo Aung of Directorate of Myanmar Industrial Planning and Resident Representative of KOICA Mr. Cho Kwang Geol signed the documents and exchanged notes.

Next, Project Manager Mr. Yeong Wook Kim and officials conducted the minister and guests round the learning rooms in the main building, Students' Affairs Department, devices to be used in teaching at Electronic Department and Electricity Department, testing equipment, computers, CNC Machining Center of CAD/CAM Department, Hydraulic & Pneumatic room of Machinery Department, Grinding Machine room, Welding room, and Lathe Machine room.

One-year course on electronics, electricity, CAD/CAM and machinery will be conducted at Technical Training School (Thagara) which was built with the assistance of the government of the Republic of Korea.

MNA

17th Military Band Competition held

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb—To mark the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day 2009, the 17th Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) Military Band Competition was held at No. 7 Transit Centre (Ywadow), here, this morning.

It was attended by Chairman of the Organizing Committee for the Competitions Vice Adjutant-General Maj-

Gen Hla Shwe, Chairman of the Parade Work Committee Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Zaw Win, Brig-Gen Tun Nay Lin of the Armed Forces Day Parade, members of the organizing committee for the competition, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, members of the panel of judges and servicemen.

The military band

representing No. 11 LID, the band representing No. 33 LID, the band representing No. 101 LID, the band company-1 representing Northern Command, the band company-1 representing Coastal Region Command, the band representing No. 99 LID and the band company-3 representing Coastal Region Command took part in the competition.—MNA



Minister Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, ROK Ambassador Mr Park Key-Chong and Vice-Chairman Mr. Ahn Won Dong of KOICA formally open the technical training school (Thagara).—MNA

Seventh Plenary Meeting of Sixth...

(from page 1)

Joint-Secretary Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Jotika Bhivamsa read out the report on work

progress in the third term of the SSMNC (third branch); and members, on work progress sector-wise in the second term.

At the afternoon session, SSMNC

members passed resolutions on Vinaya (rules), Sasana, and academic matters.

Daw Myint Myint Thein, Daw Khin Win Myint and sisters and family offered alms food to the attendee monks.

MNA



Seventh Plenary Meeting of the Sixth 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee in progress.—MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspects Kenwood brand high frequency transmitters/ receivers donated by Yangon-based Mitsubishi Corporation of Japan to Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.—MNA

First paper reading session on traditional medicine held

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb—The opening ceremony of the first paper reading session on traditional medicine, organized by Traditional Medicine Department under the Ministry of Health, was held at the convocation hall of University of Mandalay

Traditional Medicine on 21 February, with an address by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.

After the ceremony, Minister Dr Kyaw Myint cordially greeted members of Traditional Medicine Council, members of Myanmar Traditional Medicine

Practitioner Association and researchers.

Director-General Dr Tin Nyunt of Traditional Medicine Department chaired the paper reading session, and Professor Dr U Meik of Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioner Association and Practitioner U Htein

Win co-chaired. Sixteen research papers, divided into four sections, were submitted.

On 22 February, ten papers on traditional medicine were submitted.—MNA



Minister Dr Kyaw Myint makes speech at first paper reading session on traditional medicine.—MNA

Talks on Information Security on 28 Feb

YANGON, 24 Feb—With the aim of development of Information and Communication Technology in Myanmar, Myanmar Computer Professionals Association holds educative talks. MCPA executive U Tin Htoo Khaing will give talks on Information Security at Room (205), Myanmar Info-Tech, Hline Township, here, from 9.30 a.m. to noon on 28 February.

The importance of information, threats to

information security and preventive measures will be given at the talks.

Members of the association, businessmen, IT managers, network professionals and enthusiasts may attend the talks and take part in the discussions. For further information, contact office of MCPA at room 4 in building 4 (Ph: 652276).

MNA

Mitsubishi donates 40 high frequency transmitters/receivers

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb — Yangon-based Mitsubishi Corporation of Japan donated 40 Kenwood brand high frequency transmitters/receivers to Department of Meteorology and Hydrology at the Ministry of Transport, here, this morning.

General Manager Mr K Karagiri of Mitsubishi Corporation explained the purpose of donations.

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe spoke words of thanks.

The General Manager presented 40 high frequency transmitters/receivers to Director-General of DMH Dr Tun Lwin.

After the ceremony, the minister viewed the machines.

The high frequency transmitters/receivers will be installed at meteorology and hydrology stations in coastal regions of Rakhine State, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions, Kayin and Mon States and

Taninthayi Division. Thanks to installation of the new machines, the stations can inform the Nay Pyi Taw/Yangon weather forecast centres about the daily weather information in time and can contribute to the warning system of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology that timely issues facts about natural disasters on unfavourable weather, cyclones, storm surf, flooding and tsunami.

MNA

MMMEEA delegation leaves for Vietnam

YANGON, 24 Feb — Secretary of Myanmar Medicine and Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs Association U Zaw Moe Khaing, CEC member Dr Zaw Tun Aye and member U Tun Tun Oo today left here for Vietnam to hold discussions with Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry at the meeting to be held in Ho Chi Minh and Hanoi of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

They were seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Chairman of MMMEEA Dr Win Sithu, Vice-Chairman U Thet Zin, Joint Secretary Dr Thin Nwe Win and executive U Khin Maung Aye.

The secretary of MMMEEA and party will discuss matters on import of quality medicines and boosting trade volume with their counterparts.

MNA



Officials of MMMEEA seen at Yangon International Airport before departure for Vietnam.—MNA



Fatah frees 40 Hamas prisoners in WBank

JERUSALEM, 25 Feb—Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah faction released some 40 Hamas prisoners in the West Bank ahead of a reconciliation summit hosted by Egypt, a lawmaker from the Islamist group said on Wednesday. "Some 40 political detainees were freed on Tuesday," Ayman Daraghmeh of Hamas's Reform and Change bloc told *Reuters*. "We consider this a positive development." A Fatah official confirmed on condition of anonymity that 40 "security prisoners" were released, but said they were freed because their sentences had ended. Abbas's Palestinian Authority denies Hamas accusations that supporters of the Islamist group held in West Bank jails were detained for political reasons. Fatah has also accused Hamas of

targeting its supporters in the Gaza Strip. The factions were to meet in Cairo later in the day to try to heal a rift that has been widening since Hamas won a 2006 parliamentary election. The schism worsened a year later after Hamas forces wrested control of the Gaza Strip from Fatah.—*Internet*

Sarkozy says Europe must protect industry as US does

ROME, 25 Feb—French President Nicolas Sarkozy said on Tuesday that it would urge the European Union to protect its industries the same way that the United States does. "From next Sunday, Italy and France will talk with tough language and ask Europe (at a European Union crisis summit) to take strong decisions," Sarkozy told a news conference in Rome alongside Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi. "If the United States defend its farmers as it does, we can do the same in Europe; if the United States defends its industry, as it does, they are right, maybe in Europe we can do the same," said Sarkozy.—*MNA/Reuters*

China to set up central food safety commission

BEIJING, 25 Feb—China's State Council, or Cabinet, will set up a food safety commission to strengthen the country's food monitoring system, whose lack of efficiency has long been blamed for repeated food scandals.

The decision was written in a draft law on food safety, which was submitted to the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee,

China's top legislature, on Wednesday and is likely to be voted on Saturday after a fourth reading.

China's current food safety system involves at least five departments, including health, agriculture, quality supervision, industry and commerce administration, and food and drug supervision.

The departments shoulder different responsibilities for food

safety. For example, quality supervision administration monitors the food production sector. But when foods leave factories for sale, they are monitored by the industry and commerce administration.

However, the draft, which would be effective on June 1 this year once it was adopted, does not say what responsibilities the food safety commission would have. "Its function should be stipulated by the State Council," the draft says.

Internet



Actors perform Tibetan traditional dance to celebrate the Tibetan New Year in Longwangtan Park in Lhasa, capital of southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, on 25 Feb, 2009. Local citizens here on Wednesday sung and danced with traditional custom to celebrate the Earth Ox Tibetan New Year. Tibetans across China are celebrating the 50th Tibetan New Year after the Democratic Reform with their old traditions.—INTERNET

Bus crash kills 39 in Indian-occupied Kashmir

NEW DELHI, 25 Feb—A bus carrying dozens of passengers in Indian-occupied Kashmir skidded off a road and plunged into a river on Wednesday, killing at least 39 people, police said.

Another 14 people were seriously injured when the overcrowded bus en route to Jammu, the winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir state, plunged 250 metres (800 feet) into a river near a remote village, police said.

"The bus driver was negotiating a sharp bend when he lost control and it rolled down into the Chenab river," A.R. Baig, a police spokesman said. Rescuers, mostly villagers, helped pull bodies from the river and took survivors to a hospital.—*Internet*

More than 34,000 apply for "world's best job"

BEIJING, 25 Feb—A total of 34,684 applicants from more than 200 countries have applied for "the best job in the world"—taking care of tropical Australian Island on the Great Barrier Reef, according to media reports Tuesday.

Up till the deadline the most interest came from the US with 11,565 applicants, followed by Canada with 2,791, Britain 2,262 and Australia 2,064, the government said in a statement.

All candidates are required to submit a video chip in English in about

one minute explaining their qualities for the post. The applicants have to be over 18, and be a passionate communicator with fluent English.

The job provides 150,000 Australian dollars (about 100,000 US dollars) for six months and includes free airfares from the successful candidate's home country to the island.

The campaign is a key element in a drive to

promote the northeastern Australian state's 18-billion-dollar-a-year tourism industry during the tough global economic climate.

A list of 50 applicants will be announced on March 2, the final 11 candidates will be flown to the island for interviews from May 3, and the winner will be announced on May 6.

Internet



Masked Gilles of Binche talk during the parade of Mardi Gras (Shrove Tuesday), the last day of Carnival in Binche, about 50 km south of Brussels, capital of Belgium, on 24 Feb, 2009.—INTERNET

Iran launches test run of first nuclear power plant

BUSHEHR (Iran), 25 Feb—Iran on Wednesday launched a test run of its first nuclear power plant which is being built by a Russian contractor near the southern Iranian port city of Bushehr.

The 1,000-megawatt nuclear power plant, which had been scheduled for operation in 2007, is expected to be completed by the end of this year after repeated delays.

According to Iran's

official IRNA news agency, Iran and Russia will announce an operation date for the plant on Wednesday.

The Bushehr plant, Iran's first nuclear power plant, originally started in the mid-1970s by Siemens of Germany but was abandoned with the outbreak of the country's 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Iran and Russia, after reaching an agreement on nuclear cooperation in

1992, signed a contract in January 1995 to finish the construction of the plant, the completion of which has been repeatedly delayed.

Internet

Residents attend a traditional "Mud Festival" ceremony in the rice field on the outskirts of Yotsukaicho City, Chiba prefecture, suburban Tokyo, Japan, on 25 Feb, 2009. Participants took part in this annual "Mud Festival" ceremony wishing for a good luck and the new year have a good harvest by smearing mud on their bodies.—INTERNET



**TRADE MARK
CAUTION NOTICE**
**RECKITT BENCKISER
HEALTHCARE (UK) LIM-
ITED**, a company organized
under the laws of ENGLAND,
and having its principal of-
fice at Dansom Lane, Hull
HU8 7DS, England is the
owner and sole proprietor of
the following Trademarks:-

TEMGESIC

Reg. Nos. 4/361/1978,
4/921/1999 &
4/5281/2008 for
Int'l Class 5

Used in respect of:-

Pharmaceutical preparations
and substances.

(International Class 5)

SUBUTEX

Reg. Nos. 4/5037/1996 &
4/5281/2008 for
Int'l Classes 3 & 5

Used in respect of:-

Non-medicated toilet prepara-
tions, soaps, detergents and
cleaning preparations (Inter-
national Class 3)

Pharmaceutical, veterinary and
sanitary preparations, deodor-
ants, air freshening prepara-
tions, insecticides, disinfect-
ants, disinfectants for hygiene
purposes, germicides, antiseptic
preparations, wipes, swabs,
plasters, dressing tissues,
bandages, material for band-
aging, compresses; lint gauze
for dressings, cotton wool,
wadding, all for medical pur-
poses, first aid kits. (Interna-
tional Class 5)

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. Domnarn Somgiat &
Boonma, Attorneys at Law,
Thailand)
Dated. 26 February, 2009.

TRADEMARK CAUTION
SEKISUI KAGAKU KOGYO
KABUSHIKI KAISHA (doing
business as **Sekisui**
Chemical Co., Ltd.), a
company incorporated in
Japan, and having its
registered office at 4-4,
Nishitemma 2-chome, Kita-
ku, Osaka-shi, Osaka 530-
8565, Japan, is the owner
and proprietor of the
following Trademarks:

'S'-lon

Reg. No. 4/8706/2008
(11-12-2008)



Reg. No. 4/8707/2008
(12-12-2008)

All in respect of "Gutters,
not of metal; plastic building
materials; synthetic building
materials; prefabricated
building kits (not of metal);
pipes of synthetic resin for
building or construction;
branching pipes, not of
metal; building materials, not
of metal; drain pipes, not of
metal; drain traps (valves),
not of metal or plastic;
penstock pipes, not of metal;
rigid pipes, not of metal, for
building; water-pipes, not of
metal; railway sleepers, not
of metal; manhole covers,
not of metal" in **Internat-
ional Class 19**".

Fraudulent or unauthorised
use, or actual or colourable
imitation of the said marks
shall be dealt with according
to law.

U Than Maung, Advocate
For Sekisui Chemical Co.,
Ltd.,
C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,
Unit 701/702, Traders Hotel
Yangon, Union of Myanmar
utm.kcy@mptmail.com.mm
Dated 26 February 2009

Drive with care**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE****MV BUNGA MAS-11 VOY NO (-)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MVBUNGA MAS-
11 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will
be arriving on 26.2.2009 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 MAXICON CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed
on 2nd March (Monday)
2009, being public holiday
under the Negotiable
Instruments Act.

**Central Bank of
Myanmar**

**33 dead after
bus plunges
into river
in India**

JAMMU, 25 Feb— Po-
lice say a passenger bus
has plunged into a river in
the Indian part of Kashmir,
killing at least 33 people.

K Rajindera, the in-
spector general of police
for the state's Jammu re-
gion, says the accident oc-
curred Wednesday near
Pranoo village, some 105
miles (170 kilometers)
northeast of Jammu town.

Rajindera says 19
people also were injured in
the accident, and that res-
cue operations are con-
tinuing. The bus plunged
about 250 feet (76 meters)
into the river.

The cause of the acci-
dent has not been deter-
mined, but Rajindera says
the 32-seater vehicle was
overcrowded.

Internet

**1,300
Thai firms
go
bankrupt
in January****UAE signs \$3bn deal with Boeing,
Lockheed**

CAIRO, 25 Feb—The
United Arab Emirates on
Tuesday struck nearly \$3
billion in deals with US gi-
ants Boeing Co and
Lockheed Martin Corp to
supply military transport
aircraft, the latest in a se-
ries of high-priced contracts
this week underscoring the
Gulf nation's efforts to bol-
ster its defenses despite
economic woes.

The agreements anno-
unced at the 9th Inter-na-
tional Defence Con-
ference and Exhibition in-
cluded the purchase of four
C-17 aircraft from Chi-
cago-based Boeing and 12
C-130J Super Hercules
aircraft produced by
Bethesda, Maryland-based
Lockheed Martin, the of-

ficial WAM news agency
reported.

The deals — making up
most of a total \$3.4 billion
in contracts signed Tues-
day — are part of the
UAE's effort to "modern-
ize and develop the
country's air transport fleet
... in addition to contribut-
ing to international hu-
manitarian and relief op-
erations," said a spokes-
man for the IDEX confer-
ence, Staff Maj. Gen
Obaid Al-Ketbi, according
to WAM.

In all, the Abu Dhabi
government has struck at
least \$4 billion in deals
over the past few days.

The deals come at a
time when the country is
grappling with fallout

from the global economic
meltdown but must also
seriously weigh its na-
tional security interests in
a rough-and-tumble re-
gion, where tensions are
simmering between its ally
United States and its bel-
ligerent neighbor to the
north, Iran.

"The fact is that the
UAE has a very close re-
lationship with the United
States. That relationship
has been growing closer
and as US tensions with
Iran look to potentially in-
crease," said Jon
Alterman, director of the
Middle East program at
the Washington-based
Center for Strategic and
International Studies.

Internet

**UNIDO urges precautions against
trade protectionism**

VIENNA, 25 Feb—The Vienna-based United Nations Industrial Development
Organization (UNIDO) called for precautions against protectionism in its "Industrial
Development Report 2009" released on Tuesday.

UNIDO Director-General Kandeh Yumkella pointed out in the report that
industrial production is the key to overcoming poverty. He also said that the
economic crisis can not become an excuse for protectionism, otherwise the
achievements made in the past few years will be lost.

Over the past 15 to 20 years, industrialization and globalization have pulled many
people all over the world out of poverty, said Yumkella, adding that he hopes "the
current economic crisis will not reverse this development process".—MNA/Xinhua

BANGKOK, 25 Feb—Some 1,307 Thai companies went bankrupt in January, 53.7
per cent higher than that of the same period of 2008, due to the global economic
crisis, Thailand's Department of Business Development said Tuesday, quoted by
the website of *Bangkok Post*.

The bankrupt companies were in the construction, real estate and service-related
sectors, while some 459 of the total were in Bangkok and the other 848 were in other
provinces, the department said.

The Fiscal Police Office has estimated that about 1.2 million workers, or about
4.2 per cent of the total work force, would be unemployed this year, while the
government's economic stimulus measures may provide only 180,000 new jobs.

However, the country had the advantage of relocating workers from the commer-
cial sector to the agricultural sector, said the department.—MNA/Xinhua

**Toddler, six others shot on
Mardi Gras parade route**

NEW ORLEANS, 25 Feb—A Mardi Gras parade
erupted into chaos on Fat on Tuesday when a series of
gunshots struck seven people, including a toddler. The
child was not seriously injured and two suspects were
in custody, police said.

The shootings happened near the Garden District
about 1:40 pm after the last major parade of the cel-
ebration, Rex, had ended. A stream of truck floats that
follow the parade were passing by when gunfire broke
out.

"It sounded like a string of fireworks, so I knew it
was more than one shooter," said Toni Labat, 29, a
limousine company manager. She was with her two
children, a 2-year-old boy and a 10-year-old girl.

"Everybody was petrified. They hit the ground, the
floats stopped, everybody on the floats ducked," Labat
said.

Labat said one man dragged himself on the ground
screaming for help after being wounded and another
man was gasping for air and bleeding from his mouth.

Internet



CNOOC announces successful appraisal well of S China sea

BEIJING, 25 Feb—China National Offshore Oil Company Limited (CNOOC Ltd.) announced Tuesday that the first appraisal well at its deep-water natural gas discovery in South China Sea has been successfully completed by its partner Husky Oil China Limited.

Test results of the appraisal well, Liwan 3-1-2, showed flow at equipment restricted rate of up to 53 million cubic

feet of gas per day, providing further of the discovery, Liwan 3-1, as a major gas discovery deep water offshore China.

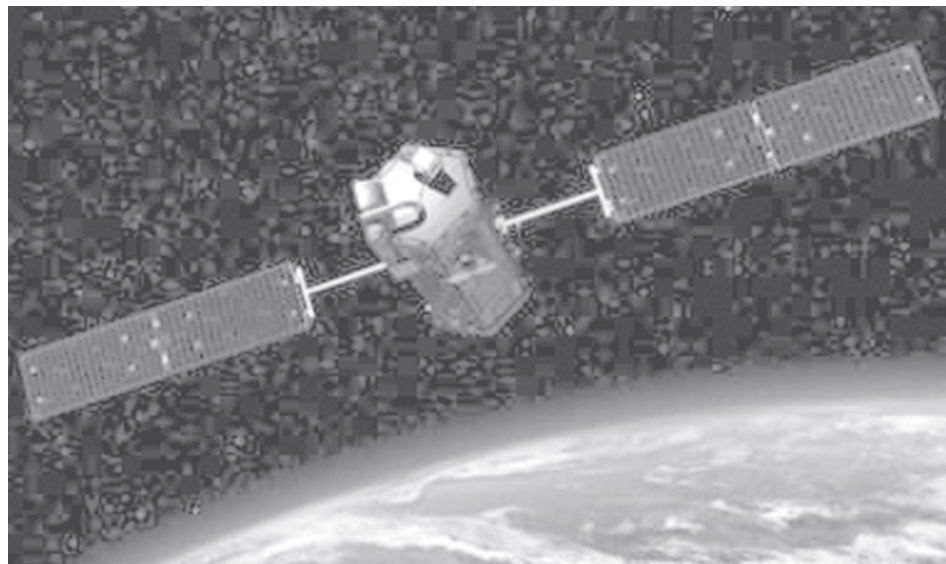
Future delivery ability is expected to reach over 150 million cubic feet per day, said CNOOC Ltd.

China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC), the parent company of CNOOC Ltd., entered into a production sharing contract with

Husky for deepwater block 29/26 in the Pearl River Mouth Basin in August 2004. The Liwan 3-1 discovery was made in the block in 2006. Husky Oil China Limited is the subsidiary of Husky, listed in Canada.

The appraisal well Liwan 3-1-2 is about 350 kilometres southeast of Hong Kong. The drilling activities commenced in November 2008.

MNA/Xinhua



An undated artist image of NASA's Orbiting Carbon Observatory satellite. The US satellite to monitor global carbon dioxide emissions plummeted into the ocean near Antarctica on Tuesday after failing to reach orbit, NASA said, calling it a major disappointment for climate science.—INTERNET

US salmonella outbreak count hits 666 people sickened

WASHINGTON, 25 Feb—An outbreak of salmonella food poisoning traced to peanut products has sickened 666 people and is continuing despite one of the biggest food recalls in US history, health officials said on Tuesday.

But the outbreak of salmonella is still only linked to nine deaths, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said in a statement.

“To date, 19 clusters of infections in five states have been reported in schools and other institutions, such as long-term care facilities and hospitals. King Nut brand peanut butter was present

in all facilities,” the CDC said in a statement.

King Nut is produced by Peanut Corporation of America, which has gone into bankruptcy and

closed two plants in Georgia and Texas after inspectors traced the salmonella outbreaks to them.

MNA/Reuters

An aerial view shows melting glaciers near Ilulissat in Greenland. The risk posed to mankind and the environment by even small changes in average global temperatures is much higher than believed even a few years ago, a study said on Monday.

INTERNET



NASA CO2 satellite crashes near Antarctica

WASHINGTON, 25 Feb—A rocket carrying a NASA satellite designed to globally track carbon dioxide emissions crashed into the ocean

near Antarctica after launch Tuesday, officials said.

The Orbiting Carbon Observatory failed to reach orbit after its early-morning launch from California's Vandenberg Air Force Base, the US space agency said.

Preliminary evidence showed that the fairing on the *Taurus XL* rocket failed to separate, preventing it from reaching orbit.

The fairing is a clamshell structure that encapsulates the satellite as it travels through the atmosphere.

The spacecraft landed near Antarctica in the

ocean, John Brunschwyler, project manager for the *Taurus XL*, told a media briefing.

A Mishap Investigation Board will immediately be convened to determine the cause of the launch failure, a NASA Press release said.

The 278-million-US-dollar spacecraft was slated to launch into a near-polar, sun-synchronous orbit that would fly about 705 kilometres above Earth. It was going to measure carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and to determine what happens to the climate-changing pollutant.

MNA/Xinhua

Lebanon accuses 30 fundamentalists of links to al-Qaeda

BEIRUT, 25 Feb—A Lebanese judiciary source said 30 Lebanese, Palestinian and Saudi Sunni fundamentalists were accused of being connected to al-Qaeda network and planning to establish an Islamic state in north Lebanon, Elnashra website reported Tuesday.

Military examining magistrate Rashid Mizher has charged them with plotting to carry out terrorist attacks, and their punishment would reach life imprisonment, said the report.

The military court will set the date to begin the

trial of the suspects, eight of them already in custody, including five Lebanese, two Saudis and a Palestinian.

The court has issued

investigation memos against the rest of the suspects who are still on the run, according to the report.

MNA/Xinhua



57 people sick in snack food poisoning in N-E China

HARBIN, 25 Feb—Fifty-seven people were sick after eating snack food from a shopping centre in this capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province

on Monday, said a health official Tuesday.

Liu Minglie, deputy director of the city's health bureau, said hospitals in the city had not reported any deaths or any critically ill patients as a result of the poisoning.

He said hospitals have registered 57 people who suffered nausea and vomiting after eating the

spicy Chinese snack “malatang” from a vendor in the underground dining area of Hongbo Shopping Center in downtown Harbin's Hongqi Street.

Among those, 28 have since left hospital after they passed medical checks. All of the hospitalized patients are in stable conditions, said Liu. He said a clinical examination found the patients were poisoned by nitrite.

Lab researches also showed food samples from the hotpot vendor contained excessive amounts of nitrite, the official said without giving exact data on the content.—MNA/Xinhua

Indian youths perform the Bhangra, a traditional Punjabi folk dance, during the annual Sports Day function at Khalsa College in Amritsar.

INTERNET

SPORTS

Bayern confident in Toni for Sporting clash



Bayern Munich's coach Jurgen Klinsmann (left) plays with the ball as his players warm up during a training session in Lisbon, on 24 February, on the eve of their Champions League football match against Sporting Lisbon.—INTERNET

MUNICH, 25 Feb — Bayern Munich are hoping to have Luca Toni back for their Champions League clash at Sporting Lisbon on Wednesday after the Italian striker recovering from a heel injury.

Bayern have lost three of their last four league games - including an embarrassing 2-1 reverse at home to strugglers Cologne on Saturday - and need Toni back for their trip to Lisbon's Jose Alvalade stadium.

Toni limped off during the first-half of Bayern's 2-1 defeat at Hertha Berlin ten days ago with an achilles tendon injury, but Bayern coach Jurgen Klinsmann is optimistic about the striker, top-scorer in the league here last season, will be back on Wednesday.

"I am confident he will play," said Klinsmann. "Toni has looked good in training and we are hoping he will play." In his absence, Lukas Podolski and Landon Donovan played a half each against Cologne, but Klinsmann said he was far from happy with the result.—INTERNET

Tiger returns to PGA at Match Play Championship



Tiger Woods blast a tee shot during a practice round at the World Golf Championships Accenture Match Play Championship on 24 Feb, 2009, in Marana, Ariz.—INTERNET

MARANA, 25 Feb — Tiger Woods has been ahead of schedule since he first began rehabilitation for reconstructive knee surgery. Only when he returned to the PGA Tour did he fall hopelessly behind.

He wasn't even the first player to warm up Tuesday morning at Dove Mountain. That honor

went to Phil Mickelson, who had never seen so many photographers on the range at the Accenture Match Play Championship.

Woods finished his practice round about an hour later than he expected, and walked into his press conference with an apology. "Sorry I'm late," Woods said. "I forgot how long it takes to play 18 holes walking."

It was the first time he had walked a round of golf since the Monday playoff at last year's US Open, where he beat Rocco Mediate for his 14th major, then shocked the golfing world by announcing he would miss the rest of the year after having surgery on his left knee.—INTERNET

Inter escape United examination with goalless Champions League draw

MILAN, 25 Feb — Inter Milan survived a Manchester United onslaught to hold the holders to a 0-0 draw at San Siro in the Champions League last 16 first-leg match on Tuesday.

It was a result that will probably have pleased neither manager, although Sir Alex Ferguson will have been most miffed at how his team failed to score though they did come away with the Champions League record for games without defeat as it reached 20.

Ferguson, though, was delighted overall with the result. "I hope not scoring a goal doesn't come back to bite us," said the Scot. "However, I think we deserved to win. We played very well. They gave us 15-20 minutes of pressure as we expected in the second-half. "But we showed good composure and maturity. The players enjoyed playing in that kind of atmosphere."

But Ferguson insisted that despite the missed opportunity, United were still in a good position to progress. "There's obviously disappointment we haven't won the game for sure," he said.—INTERNET



Manchester United's Bulgarian forward Dimitar Berbatov (R) fights for the ball with Inter Milan's defender Davide Santone during their UEFA Champions League first knockout round first leg football match at San Siro Stadium in Milan. The match ended in a 0-0 draw.—INTERNET

Fish survives scare from qualifier Dancevic at ATP Delray Beach

DELRAY BEACH, 25 Feb — Mardy Fish survived a scare from Canadian qualifier Frank Dancevic to win 7-5, 6-3 in the first round of the ATP Delray Beach International Tennis Championship.

The top-seeded Fish is looking to become the first American to win the 500,000 dollar hardcourt tournament since Jan-Michael Gambill in 2003.

Fish saved four of the five break points he faced and converted three of his nine to win the first career matchup between the two.

The world No. 20 and a top seed for the third time in his career, Fish is in search of his first ATP singles title since claiming the second of his career at Houston in 2006.—INTERNET

Djokovic starts bid to catch Nadal and Federer



Serbia's Novak Djokovic returns a forehand to Italy's Flavio Cipolla during their singles tennis match on the second day of the ATP Dubai tennis championships in the Gulf emirate. Djokovic won 6-3, 6-2.—INTERNET

DUBAI, 25 Feb — Novak Djokovic's bid to close up on Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer in the absence of both of the top two this week began with symptoms of the stresses of the modern game.

The top-seeded former Australian Open champion was self-admittedly not impressed with his own performance as he struggled with Flavio Cipolla, an Italian qualifier who has yet to break the top 100. "I think I didn't play as the crowd hoped," said Djokovic after a 6-3, 6-2 win which took an hour and 24

minutes and involved many long rallies and grittily contested deuce games.

However it was my first match, so I hope they will excuse me - next time I will hopefully be better," the top-seeded Serbian added. Djokovic broke early but could not get away from a tenacious opponent, who covered the court superbly and mixed up slices with topspins cunningly on the backhand and even sometimes did it on the forehand side too.

Djokovic could not add to his break and took a long time trying to close out the set. He also needed a monster game before he could consolidate his early break in the second set, and played an indifferent game to break serve at 4-2. "He was changing a lot of pace," said Djokovic, "and I am not used to playing such a player. I didn't play well, but I won."

Djokovic could hardly demean his opponent's spirited and clever efforts by pointing out that he was tired from having come straight from the semi-finals in Marseille, with little more than a day in which to get used to a different time zone and very different conditions.

INTERNET

One goal will win it for us, warns Wenger



Arsenal's Dutch forward Robin van Persie celebrates after scoring a penalty against AS Roma during their Champions League first knockout round football match, at Emirates stadium in London. Arsenal won 1-0.—INTERNET

LONDON, 25 Feb — Arsene Wenger has warned Roma that Arsenal only need one goal to book their place in the Champions League quarter-finals.

Wenger's side will travel to Rome for the last 16 second leg clash on March 11 with a slender advantage after Robin van Persie's first half penalty clinched a 1-0 win at the Emirates Stadium on Tuesday. Following three consecutive goalless draws in the Premier League this was the sort of poised, passionate performance that Wenger has been waiting for from his team of precocious talents.

Even without Cesc Fabregas, Theo Walcott, Eduardo, Emmanuel Adebayor and Andrei Arshavin, they still stretched Roma's defence time and again. The only flaw was their failure to add to van Persie's 37th minute spot-kick, awarded for a Philippe Mexes foul on the Dutch striker.

Nicklas Bendtner was guilty of two glaring misses and Samir Nasri and Emmanuel Eboué will also feel they should at least have hit the target with chances that came their way.

INTERNET



Visitors watch exhibits of preserved human bodies at the Exhibit-Conference centre in Warsaw on 24 Feb, 2009. The Exhibition showcases more than 200 organs and full body specimen dissected to expose bodily systems.—INTERNET

Foot-and-mouth disease hits 10 provinces of Vietnam

HANOI, 25 Feb—Foot-and-mouth disease hit another Mekong Delta Can Tho province of Vietnam, raising the number of infected provinces to ten, according to Department of Animal Health under Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on Wednesday.

The disease has newly broken out in Can Tho province with six pigs contracted the deadly disease, according to the department.

The disease has so far this year broken out in ten provinces of Vietnam, including four northern provinces of Hoa Binh, Bac Kan, Quang Ninh, Phu Tho, four central provinces of Nghe An, Quang Binh, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, the Central highlands province of Kon Tum, and the newly-infected Mekong Delta province of Can Tho, said the department.

The foot-and-mouth disease in livestock hit 14 Vietnamese provinces in 2008, affecting more than 2,400 bulls and buffaloes and 67 pigs.—Internet

MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (26.2.2009) (Thursday)

Transmissions

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

Times

Local Transmission

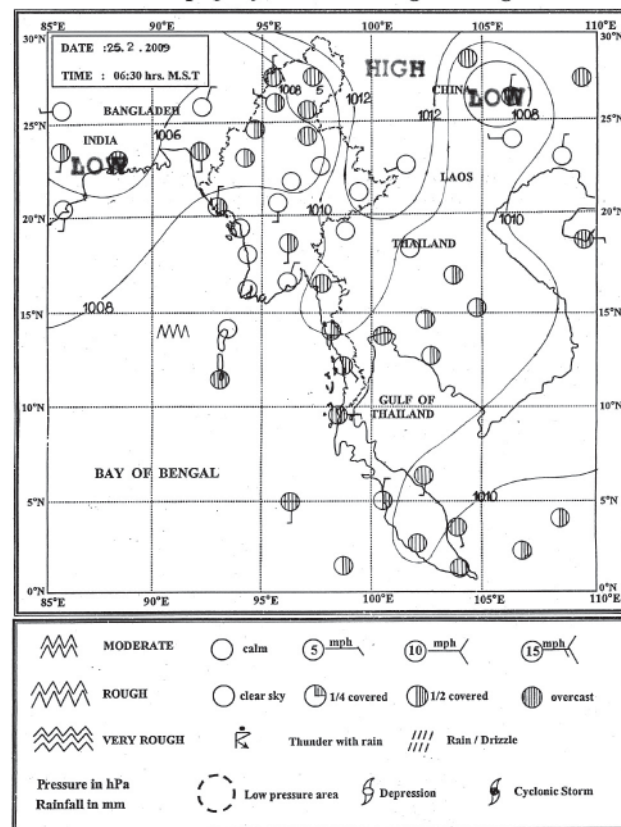
- ☐ Signature Tune
- ☐ Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- ☐ A World-class recreation Centre
- ☐ Traditional Bamboo Utensils of Myanmar
- ☐ Ayeyawady Division Turning Lush and Green
- ☐ Bead Gallery
- ☐ Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Europe/ North America Transmission

- ☐ Signature Tune
- ☐ Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- ☐ Ah Laung Taw Kathapa Natural Cave and National Park
- ☐ The Fruits of Myanmar
- ☐ Myanmar Earthen Pots
- ☐ Grassland Survey in Hukaung Tiger Reserve
- ☐ Fried and Crispy, delicious Lablab beans
- ☐ Inlay Wild Bird Sanctuary
- ☐ Tasty fried Nga - Poe from Padu Village
- ☐ Green Energy for Energy Hungry World
- ☐ Padaung Village and Elephant Camp
- ☐ Myanmar Modern Song
- ☐ A World-class recreation Centre
- ☐ Traditional Bamboo Utensils of Myanmar
- ☐ Ayeyawady Division Turning Lush and Green
- ☐ Bead Gallery
- ☐ Gold Fishes and their 'Water Palace'
- ☐ Making Myanmar Marionette
- ☐ The Art of Silk-screen Painting
- ☐ Myanma Green Tea
- ☐ Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Wednesday, 25 February, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain have been isolated in Kachin State, weather has been partly cloudy in Chin and Mon States, Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above February average temperatures in Kachin, Chin, Shan, Rakhine and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Bago Divisions and about February average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Namhsan (4°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Putao and Machanbaw (0.27) inch each.

Maximum temperature on 24-2-2009 was 98°F. Minimum temperature on 25-2-2009 was 64°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 25-2-2009 was 76%. Total sunshine hours on 24-2-2009 was (8.4) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 25-2-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Northeast at (10:30) hours MST on 25-2-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 26th February 2009: Possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Chin and Mon States, upper Sagaing Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of continuation of isolated light rain in the extreme Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 26-2-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 26-2-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 26-2-2009: Generally fair weather.



Thursday, 26 February
View on today

7:00 am

1. တောင်တန်းသာသနာပြုဆရာတော်
ဘုရားကြီး၏ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

7:50 am

5. Nice and sweet song

8:05 am

6. “မျှော်သူ မမောစေချင်”

(စိုးသီဟ၊ ဆုပန်ထွာ၊
နန်းကလျာလှိုင်)
(ဒါရိုက်တာ-စောစန္ဒာလှိုင်)

8:10 am

7. Dance variety

8:30 am

8. International news

8:40 am

9. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:50 am

10. Musical Programme

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:10 pm

2. Song of national races

4:15 pm

3. Cute little dancers

4:25 pm

4. “စက်နှင့်စက်ကိရိယာပစ္စည်း
ထုတ်လုပ်မှုစက်ရုံမြိုင်”

4:35 pm

5. Musical programme

4:45 pm

6. ဂုဏ်ထူးဆောင်တက္ကသိုလ်ဝင်စာမေးပွဲ
ဘာသာရပ်ဆိုင်ရာသင်ခန်းစာ
(ဓာတုဗေဒဘာသာရပ်)

5:10 pm

7. Song to uphold
National Spirit

5:20 pm

8. “မေတ္တာရေအမြင့်တင့်လေသည့်
ရွှေကြာ”
(ထွန်းထွန်း(Examplez)၊
မြတ်ကေသီအောင်၊ နိုးပြည့်သင်)
[ဒါရိုက်တာ-အောင်မိုး(ပဲရစ်)]

5:30 pm

9. ဂီတသံစဉ်အလှဆင်

5:45 pm

10. ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲ့ရင်ခုန်သံ

6:00 pm

11. Evening news

6:30 pm

12. Weather report

6:35 pm

13. ပျော်ရွှင်စေသောနေ့ရက်များ

“လက်ဖဝါးမှာစာရေးပါ”

(အပိုင်း-၂) (ဇာတ်သိမ်း)

(ဇော်ဇော်အောင်၊ စိုးရန်အောင်၊

ရဲမွန်၊ သဒ္ဓါထက်၊

တက္ကသိုလ်ဝင်ပွဲ)

(ဒါရိုက်တာ-အောင်ကျော်သူရ)

6:50 pm

14. ထူးဆန်းထွေလာများကိုသိပ္ပံဖြင့်
ချဉ်းကပ်ခြင်း

7:10 pm

15. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

“ကုန်သွယ်မှုနံတိုင်း”

(အပိုင်း-၅၅)

8:00 pm

16. News

17. International news

18. Weather report

19. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

“မေတ္တာလမ်းဆုံ”

(အပိုင်း-၃)

20. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

“မြို့နိုးဝေဝေချစ်သက်တည်”

(အပိုင်း-၂)



Upgrading and beautifying tasks in Yangon discussed

YANGON, 25 Feb—Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence attended the meeting 3/2009 of Leading Committee for Beautifying and Upgrading Yangon at the hall of Yangon City Development Committee, here, this afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Myint Swe said that it is necessary to upgrade and beautify Yangon in accord with the town characters.

He urged local authorities, departmental officials, organizations and people to join hands with the staff of YCDC in keeping Yangon lush



Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence delivers a speech at meeting 3/2009 of Leading Committee for Beautifying and Upgrading Yangon.—MNA

and green.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint reported on con-

struction of bus stops in satellite towns of Yangon, supervision for use of bus stops for the convenience of passengers, undertaking of systematic garbage disposal system in sum-

mer and dredging of main drains in Yangon before the rainy season.

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin presented the reports on upgrading of traffic lights, drawing

of traffic signs, carrying out of sanitation at drains and arrangements for supply of water to the suburban areas.

Chairmen and officials of work committees

submitted the reports on their respective sectors.

After giving necessary instructions, Lt-Gen Myint Swe fulfilled the requirements.

MNA

Special sales in Kamma

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb—The opening of special sales of the Ministry of Industry-1 was held at the sports ground in Kamma of Pakokku Township this morning.

Everyone may buy 309 items of products manufactured by the ministry at the special sales.

MNA

**Beware
of
Fire**

Free medical treatment for workers

YANGON, 25 Feb—A medical team led by Medical Superintendent U Aung Lin of Workers' Hospital (Yangon) under the Ministry of Labour in cooperation with a team

led by Daw Hla Hla Than, in-charge of the Social Security Board (branch-6), gave free treatment to workers of Okkyin Jute Factory of the Myanma Industrial Crops Develop-

ment Enterprise under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation yesterday. Altogether 525 employees received treatment, and 350 were given anti-lockjaw vaccination.—MNA

Mon State grows rubber on 40 per cent sown acreage across the nation

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

During our recent visit to Mon State, we, members of the news team observed rubber cultivation and production.

Rubber has a botanical name *Hevea brasiliensis* under the Euphorbiaceae family. The scientists estimated that it originated in Amazon Valley in Brazil of South America.

The strain of rubber arrived at Myeik in Taninthayi Division of Myanmar in 1876. However, rubber was grown on a commercial scale only in 1905. We learned that Kyonkadat Rubber Farm was established in Thanbyuzayat Township of Mon State in 1902.

The government is providing necessary assistance to fertile Mon State to become a rubber

state.

Before 1988, Mon State put 76,607 acres of land under rubber. In 2008-2009, a total of 407,879 acres of rubber have been cultivated in the region. Moreover, a total of 30,220 acres of crops were grown as mixed cropping among the rubber plants of one or two years old.

At present, Mon State is standing atop in rubber cultivation lands with 40.42 per cent sown acreage of rubber across the nation, 60 per cent of latex production acres and 62 per cent of rubber production.

As part of efforts to become a rubber state, Mon State has so far cultivated 407,879 acres of rubber exceeding the target of 400,000 acres in

2008-2009 cultivation season.

At 300,000 acres of rubber farms where rubber latex can be collected, continuous efforts are being made for production of 100,000 tons of rubber.

The increase in rubber cultivation and production depends on allotment of cultivable lands, distribution of quality rubber strains and sharing of cultivation methods being undertaken by the government to the local growers. Moreover, the restoration of peace and stability in the region is one of the key factors for increased rubber production.

We had the opportunities to visit the Perennial Tree Applied Research Division in Hpa-auk Village of (See page 7)



Furniture made of rubber wood.