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Thursday, 18 February, 2010

Mongyawng, Tachilek, Mongphyat dwellers enjoying peace and prosperity

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Feb—Accompanied by Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Kyaw Phyo and Chairman of Shan State PDC Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Yar Pyae, Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence pointed out development of region, and pre-

sented sets of computer and TV in meeting with departmental officials, members of social organizations and local people at Bala Min Htin Hall in Mongyawng on 15 February.

At People's Hospital in Mongyawng, he presented food and gifts to patients and medicines for the hospital.
(See page 8)

Kyaukme emerges as a symbol of dragon ball cultivation

Recently I visited townships including Kyaukme on my way back to Mandalay from Lashio. I had an opportunity to get every detail of Kyaukme as I spent the

son and tea. Now it has acquired a good reputation for being the best land to grow dragon ball plants.

I had an interview with the chairmen of Kyaukme District and

**Byline: Tin Htwe (MNA)
Photos: Ko Htwe**



Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications Building in Kyaukme helps facilitate communication.

night there as planned.

Downtown streets are neat and tidy as Mandalay-Lashio motorway stands beside it, not passing through the town centre. Among townships along Mandalay-Lashio Motorway, Kyaukme is the largest one, a district town. It is famous for its sweet dam-

Township PDCs. Kyaukme Township PDC Chairman U Myo Lwin gave accounts on cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy in the township and construction of roads and bridges for regional development.

The secretary of Kyaukme District PDC took me to go sightseeing.

I had a chance to enjoy an aerial view of Kyaukme from Mt. Minkuthawady. Brick buildings on the vast land of Kyaukme reflect the sound economic status of the town. Kyaukme Myoma market bustling with trucks, shopkeepers and shoppers is the trading center of the region. I

was pleased to see students on bicycles along the road. All these have been due to peace and stability, prevailing in the region and contributing towards development of trade, economic, education and health sectors.

I also had an interview with Tea Broker U

Thein Lwin of Kyaukme. He took me to his Thin Shwephi tea brokerage house in Ward-6 of Kyaukme to study pickled tea business.

He explained to me that tea can be harvested from the mid of March to October and November as it is a perennial plant, saying that tea leaves that come out first are the best. Pickled tea business is suitable for rainy season and dried tea business for summer, he added. A tea plant produces processed tea, green tea and pickled tea. The quality of tea relies on the types of mountain they are grown.

He continued that only 25 per cent was left in the process of producing dried tea from tea leaves. But 80 per cent was left in pickled tea business. Namhsan blessed with sandy soil is the best place for tea cultivation. He briefed me on putting 30000 acres of farmland under tea in Kyaukme and 40000 acres in Namhsan. It is learnt that per acre yield of tea is 250 viss and 200 viss is left in pickled tea business.

(See page 7)



Thriving dragon ball plants at a farm in Kyaukme.



PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 18 February, 2010

Lend a helping hand to government to wipe out narcotic drugs

Nowadays, various forms of narcotic drugs have been widely used all over the world, including stimulant tablets produced with the use of chemicals. Therefore, every nation and region has placed a special emphasis on drug elimination work. With the purpose of curbing or wiping out drug production and trafficking, respective countries are working together in the fight against cross-border crimes.

Myanmar is also accelerating the momentum of its fight against narcotic drugs. The government has been implementing the 15-year plan for elimination of narcotic drugs since 1999. The Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control has occasionally held ceremonies to set fire to narcotic drugs seized from all over the country.

The government has also been rendering all the necessary assistance to the people of the regions where poppy used to be grown in order that they can grow rubber, sugar cane, corn and orange in place of poppy and engage in livestock breeding and other businesses. In some border areas, poppy plantations were destroyed with the help and cooperation of the local people. Also in Tachilek, Monghsat, Monghsu, Pekhon and Pinlaung, acres of poppy plantations were destroyed during the poppy cultivation season.

Moreover, the government is raising the tempo of curbing and eliminating narcotic drugs production and trafficking. In January, 2010, a total of 205 drug cases were exposed and action was taken against more than 200 people who committed crimes related with drug abuse, production and trafficking.

For elimination of production, trafficking and use of narcotic drugs, the government is also educating the people from all walks of life, including student youths, on prevention of the danger of narcotic drugs. Therefore, we would like to call on the entire people to lend a helping hand to the government in its drive to wipe out the danger of narcotic drugs.



Services are given to those with ear complaint at opening of AUTRON Hearing Care Center.—MNA

Perspectives

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

MPF members urged to uplift dignity of force



Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo addresses work coordination meeting of Myanmar Police Force.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Feb—Staff of Myanmar Police Force are to place emphasis on implementation of four objectives of MPF, forge the consolidation among them and uplift the dignity of the force without bribe and corruption, Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo said at the coordination meeting here, yesterday.

Senior police officers and officials submitted reports on their respective sectors.

The meeting attended by Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Win Sein, MPF Chief Brig-Gen Khin Yi and officials lasted three days from 15 to 17 February.

MNA

Public Works link Bokpyin and Kawthoung

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Feb—For enabling the national brethren to have easy access to each other, Public Works is focusing on construction and

maintenance of roads and bridges across the nation.

At present, Chaunggabya Bridge on Bokpyin-Kawthoung Road and Kyauktanayang

Deep Sea Port are under construction.

Concerted efforts are being made to carry out the gradient of hilly areas along Bokpyin-Kawthoung Road.

On 12 February,

MNA

Buy hearing-aids at AUTRON

YANGON, 17 Feb—A total of seven percent of world population is suffering from being deaf. The international standard hearing-aid is needed for the deaf to overcome their

daily difficulties.

SIEMENS Company of Germany is producing digital hearing-aids run by computer programme with the latest technologies.

Singapore based SIEMENS Company had awarded professional excellence award to AUTRON Hearing Care Centre of Myanmar for two straight years 2008 and 2009.

To provide the hearing care services and deaf-aids for Myanmar people, the centre opened its new showroom at No 26/27, fourth floor of FMI Shopping Centre near Bogyoke Market here today. It is learnt that technical hearing care services were provided free of charge at the opening ceremony.

Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe supervised construction of bridge and road linking Bokpyin and Kawthoung and progress of the deep sea port.

Myanmar wins Award of Excellence

YANGON, 17 Feb—Korea Post announced winners at the international level in International Postage Stamp Design Contest for 2010 to mark the Visit Korea Year, organized by Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs under the programme of Korea Post. Ma Cho Zaw Aung (Yangon University of Foreign Languages) of Myanmar won Award of Excellence in the General Category.—MNA

Outbreaks of fire in Bhamo and Kyaukpadaung Townships

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Feb—A fire broke out in the compound of U Labya Aung's house in Paukgon village in Bhamo of Kachin State at 3 pm on 9 February. The cause of the fire was due to the gasoline container dropped on the concrete floor and one building was destroyed.

Altogether 26 houses were destroyed in an another case that broke out in U Tin Hla's house in Rathedaung village, Kyaukpadaung Township, Mandalay Division on the same day. The fire broke out while cooking the rice.

MNA



NATO air strike kills

12 militants in E Afghanistan

KABUL, 17 Feb.—NATO's air raid against Taliban militants in east Afghanistan left a dozen insurgents dead on Tuesday, a Press release of the alliance said on Wednesday.

"Coalition aircraft dropped precision-guided munitions on insurgent locations. More than a dozen insurgents were reportedly killed," the Press of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said.

Xinhua



Afghans are checked by policemen when they leave Marjah district in Helmand province, southern Afghanistan, on 13 Feb, 2010. Hours after launching major offensive by 15,000 NATO and Afghan soldiers against Taliban militants in Marjah district of southern Helmand province, Afghan Minister of Defense Abdul Rahim Wardak said that several areas have been captured and clash for control of Marja Bazaar is going on.—INTERNET

Situation in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 17 Feb— Following are security developments in Iraq at 0600 GMT on Tuesday.

Kirkuk—A policeman was attacked and wounded by armed men firing silenced weapons in front of his home in the centre of Kirkuk, 250 kilometres (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Mosul—A car bomb exploded near an Interior Ministry forensics department, killing two policemen and wounding nine, including five policemen, in eastern Mosul, 390 kilometres (240 miles) north of

Baghdad, police said.

Gunmen shot dead a Christian man in his vegetable shop on Monday in western Mosul, police said.

Gunmen attacked an Iraqi Army checkpoint and killed a soldier on Monday in western Mosul, police said.

Police said they found the body of a Planning Ministry employee with gun shot wounds on Monday in western Mosul, police said.

MNA/Reuters



A man walks past a damaged house after a bomb attack in Baghdad on 15 Feb, 2010. A person was wounded during the attack, police said.

INTERNET

Casualties of Afghan people in invasion of NATO troops led by US

KABUL, 17 Feb—The NATO troops led by the US have invaded Afghanistan and they are there for a long time.

A number of Afghan people are killed and injured due to invasion of the NATO troops led by the US.

Casualties of Afghan people

According to the Internet news, a total of 32588 Afghan people were killed and 38896 injured seriously as from the day when the NATO troops led by the US invaded Afghanistan to 17 February.

No.	Subject	Number
1.	Number of Afghan people killed	32588
2.	Seriously injured Afghan people	38896

Internet

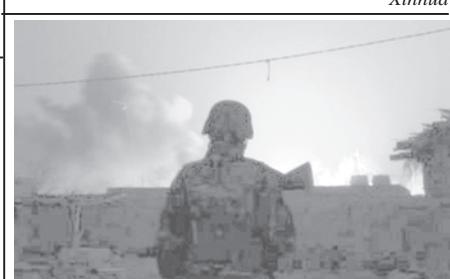
NATO soldier killed in major operation in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 17 Feb.—A soldier of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) was killed during a major offensive against Taliban militants in Afghanistan's troubled southern region, a Press release of the alliance said on Tuesday night.

"An ISAF service member was killed in an IED strike in southern Afghanistan today," the Press release said. "This is an Operation Moshtarak-related casualty."

The press release did not disclose the exact place of the incident, or the nationality of the soldier, saying "it is ISAF policy to defer identification procedures for casualties to the relevant national authorities."

Xinhua



A burning gas storage set on fire by Taliban fighters in the town of Marjah in Nad Ali district of Helmand Province on 14 February, 2010.

INTERNET

US and allies kill, injure Iraqi people

BAGHDAD, 17 Feb— There has been daily casualties in Iraq since the US and its allies have invaded the country.

Casualties of Iraqi people

The total number of casualties as from the day they invaded the country to 17 February reached 700287 and the total number of seriously injured people reached 1264612, according to the news on the Internet.

No.	Subject	Number
1.	Death toll of Iraqi people	700287
2.	The total number of seriously injured people	1264612

Internet



Afghan boy Sayd Rahman, 7, who was shot in crossfire near the Taliban stronghold of Marjah, lies on a stretcher at a US Army outpost in the Badula Qulp area, west of Lashkar Gah in Helmand Province, southern Afghanistan, after being taken by his father to receive medical treatment, on 14 Feb, 2010.—INTERNET



Latest Darfur fighting displaces thousands'

KHARTOUM, 17 Feb—Recent fighting between Sudanese troops and rebels in the western region of Darfur has killed many people and displaced thousands more, UN and African peacekeepers said on Tuesday.

A statement from African Union-United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) called on all

parties to exercise maximum restraint following hostilities in Jebel Marra, South Darfur, and Jebel Moon, West Darfur.

"The clashes over the past few days have left many dead and caused thousands to flee their homes," the statement said. Fighting pitted pro-government forces and combatants from the Su-

dan Liberation Army of Abdelwahid Nur — one of two main rebel groups, in Jebel Marra, according to various reports.

The fighting forced the French aid group Médecins du Monde to evacuate a dozen of its expatriate workers, the organization said.

Armed confrontation also erupted in Jebel Moon, another rebel stronghold near the border with Chad.

Internet



Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) militants in Jebel Marra in 2005. Recent fighting between Sudanese troops and rebels in the western region of Darfur has killed many people and displaced thousands more, UN and African peacekeepers said on Tuesday.—INTERNET

Bomb explodes at JP Morgan office in Athens, no injuries

ATHENS, 17 Feb—A time bomb exploded at the offices of JP Morgan brokerage firm in the central Athens district of Kolonaki around 7:50 pm local time on Tuesday evening, causing damages to the building, but no injuries, according to the first information by Greek police authorities.

The blast occurred 30 minutes after an unidentified man made a warning phone call to a Greek daily newspaper, so police had time to evacuate the building and seal off the crowded area.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack yet, but it is a common practice for Greek extreme Left and anarchist guerilla groups to give warnings a few minutes before terrorist attacks. Foreign economic targets, along Greek politicians and policemen, are the main targets of attacks of terrorist groups operating in Greece for years. Terrorist attacks have been stepped up in the country since December 2008, when a teenager was shot dead by police fire and Greece witnessed the worst riots in its recent history.—Xinhua



Policemen seal off the area of the bomb explosion which occurred outside the office of JP Morgan brokerage firm in Kolonaki District in central Athens, capital of Greece, on 16 Feb, 2010.—XINHUA

Three killed in steel factory explosion in India

NEW DELHI, 17 Feb—Three persons were killed and nine others injured in an explosion at a steel factory in Nagpur of Maharashtra state in western India on Tuesday, said police.

The explosion took place at the J D Ispat factory at Kapsi village near Nagpur because of "technical problems" in a blast furnace, but police ruled out any attack. Forensic experts and senior police officers rushed to scene to investigate.—Xinhua



People read books at a bookstore on the Guanqian Street in Suzhou, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 15 Feb, 2010. Many citizens choose to spend the Spring Festival holidays in libraries or book stores to enrich themselves in reading.—XINHUA

Mudslide hits southern Italy, over 2,000 people evacuated

ROME, 17 Feb—Residents of a southern Italy town were evacuated on Tuesday following a dangerous landslide which brought down an entire hillside, state media reported.

During the weekend the area around Maierato, a town in the Calabria re-

gion near the Tyrrhenian coast, had been hit by heavy rainfall.

So far a total of 2,300 residents have been evacuated by the authorities, according to state television Rai that broadcast an impressive amateur video of the landslide, showing people escaping and the hillside coming down and burying the town under debris and mud.

Mayor Sergio Rizzo described the scene as "apocalyptic." However, no deaths or injuries have been reported.

In recent days the entire region has been severely affected by mudslides. Towns around Cosenza have also been evacuated this week due to floods which destroyed a water main on Monday, leaving thousands of homes without tap water.—Xinhua

Smartphones under growing threat from hackers

BARCELONA, 17 Feb—Smartphones are under a growing menace from cyber-criminals seeking to hack into web-connected handsets, but the mobile industry has contained the threat so far, security experts said.

Software security firms warned at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, Spain, that the increasingly popular

smartphones could face an explosion of virus attacks in the coming years.

"Tomorrow we could see a worm on phones which would go around the world in five minutes," said Mikko Hypponen, chief research officer at F-Secure, which makes anti-virus software for mobile phones.

"It could have happened already. It hasn't, but it could happen. And I do think that sooner or later it will happen, but when? Well that I cannot tell you," he told AFP.

But security companies, mobile operators and makers of operating systems have found solutions to limit the attacks so far and delay an onslaught of spam and viruses, he said.

Internet



Afro-Arab Agriculture Ministers meet in Egypt

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, 17 Feb—The Afro-Arab agriculture ministers started a meeting in the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh on Tuesday to discuss the recommendations on the implementation of the Joint Action Plan on agricultural development and food security.

In the inaugural speech, Egypt's Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation Amin Abbaza said

his country hopes the meeting will succeed in establishing a partnership between the Arab and African countries to promote food security and agricultural development.

He said Egypt looks forward to "making the best use of available resources in the African and Arab world, which was submitted by agriculture experts on Monday after their two-day meetings in Sharm el-Sheikh."—Xinhua

technological capacities and those own cultivable land, water resources and manpower."

The Afro-Arab Agriculture Ministers are set to endorse a draft resolution on promoting agricultural development and food security in the African and Arab world, which was submitted by agriculture experts on Monday after their two-day meetings in Sharm el-Sheikh.—Xinhua



People queue to buy tickets at the Shenyang North Railway Station in Shenyang, capital of northeast China's Liaoning Province, on 16 Feb, 2010. The number of passengers at Shenyang North Railway Station remarkable increase on Tuesday.—Xinhua

Hong Kong leads in mobile download technology

BARCELONA, 17 Feb—Hong Kong's leading mobile network operator Create a Simple Life (CSL), its parent company Telstra International and the ZTE Corporation said on Tuesday that they have made good progress in introducing Long Term Evolution (LTE) into public use.

The LTE is the method used for the next generation of mobile broadband technology and is expected

to enter into widespread commercial use in 2011.

Addressing the Fifth Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, Christian Daigneault, CTO of CSL, said the three companies had already begun testing the LTE at 20 active and fully operational cell sites on the streets of Hong Kong. "A unique aspect of this trial is that it has moved out of the laboratory and 'into the streets'. We are

now testing the cell sites with a 'consumer ready' LTE USB modem and field trials of this are presently being conducted throughout our LTE network," said Mr Daigneault. "We are very pleased with the results of these trials and the USB modem is performing extremely well, showing peak download speeds upwards of 100Mbps on the streets of Hong Kong."—Xinhua

Three killed, 2,000 evacuated due to chemical leak in N Philippines

MANILA, 17 Feb—at least three workers were killed, three others were hospitalized and some 2,000 residents were evacuated due to a chemical leak from a barge docked at a wharf in Batangas Province in southern Luzon island of the Philippines.

Those who died due to suffocation were not immediately identified, three others were rushed to a nearby hospital, local television GMANEWS quoted Batangas provincial police Chief Albert Supapo as saying on Wednesday morning. Supapo said 400 families or 2,000 residents near the wharf were evacuated to a nearby school. The leak occurred at about 4:30 pm on Tuesday.—Xinhua



Tourists take photos of the picturesque rime scenery on Lushan Mountain, a famous tourist destination in east China's Jiangxi Province, on 16 Feb, 2010. Due to the cold wave, Lushan Mountain witnessed a sudden temperature fall recently, which caused the rime scenery, attracting lots of tourists during the Spring Festival holidays. —Xinhua

Greek PM seeks to boost ties with Russia

MOSCOW, 17 Feb—Visiting Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou on Tuesday sought to strengthen ties with Russia as his country has been mired in an unprecedented debt crisis.

Papandreou, who is on his first visit to Russia as the head of government, pledged to expand relations with Russia during respective talks with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and Russian

Prime Minister Vladimir Putin. Putin, after talks with Papandreou, said bilateral trade between Russia and Greece dropped by more than 40 percent due to the global economic downturn. He urged the inter-governmental commission to meet over the next few months so as to bring bilateral trade to the pre-crisis level.

"As regards Greece's current economic difficulties, we know about

them," Putin was quoted by the Interfax news agency as saying. "Of course there's nothing good about it but we believe they can be overcome." Both Papandreou and Putin said the debt crisis would not affect Russia's South Stream gas pipeline.

Greece will emerge from the crisis stronger, which will ultimately help build the pipeline, Papandreou said.—Xinhua

All Items from Xinhua News Agency

Russia to deliver aircraft carrier to India in late 2012

MOSCOW, 17 Feb—Russia will deliver the *Admiral Gorshkov* aircraft carrier to India at the end of 2012, the deputy head of Russia's agency for military-technical cooperation said on Tuesday.

Under an original 1.5-billion-dollar contract signed several years ago, Russia should have supplied the aircraft carrier to India in 2008. The delivery has been postponed as Moscow claimed it had underestimated the cost of the refurbishment and demanded extra payment. A supplementary deal is expected to be signed in February or March, Alexander Fomin, first deputy director of the Federal Military-Technical Cooperation Service, was quoted as saying by Russian news agencies while attending an arms fair in New Delhi.—Xinhua

Ship sinks in Marmara sea

ISTANBUL, 17 Feb—A ship sank in the Sea of Marmara and another one ran aground off the Aegean city of Canakkale on Tuesday.

Turkish directorate general of coastal safety said a Turkish cargo ship sank off Bandirma town of Balikesir Province in the Marmara region.

Also, it said a Moldovan-flagged cargo ship ran aground off Besiye Cape in the Aegean province of Canakkale due to bad weather conditions.

The crew of the ship had been evacuated, and there were no immediate reports of loss of property or environmental pollution. The Moldavian ship was heading for Syria.

Picture taken on 16 Feb, 2010 shows paintings to be auctioned at a gallery in the luxury ocean liner Queen Mary 2 at the Port of Shanghai, east China.
Xinhua





A blast site in Kandahar on 7 February, 2010. Four Afghan policemen were killed when their vehicle hit a roadside bomb on the western outskirts of southern Kandahar city, senior police officer Abdul Ahad said. Two civilian passers-by were also wounded in the blast.

INTERNET

Former top US officials hold cyberattack exercise

WASHINGTON, 17 Feb — An all-star team of former top US officials held a cyberattack exercise on Tuesday, in an attempt to test the government's response to a large-scale cyber crisis.

The exercise, called "Cyber ShockWave," took place at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Washington, DC. CNN filmed the exercise and will broadcast it next weekend.

The exercise "will highlight the immediate, real dangers of cyber-terrorism by bringing together a bipartisan group of former senior administration and national security officials playing the roles of Cabinet members," the Bipartisan Policy Centre (BPC), sponsor of the "Cyber ShockWave," said when announcing the initiative. A number of former security agents and law-

makers participated in the exercise, among whom former president George W Bush's Homeland Security chief Michael Chertoff acted as National Security Advisor, former Director of National Intelligence John Negroponte as Secretary of State, and former White House Homeland Security Advisor Fran Townsend as Secretary of Homeland Security.

Xinhua

Cold snap killing Florida's coral reefs

The polar snap enveloping much of the United States in record cold has been killing off coral reefs in the normally balmy warm waters off the Florida Keys, experts said on Monday.

The unusually chilly weather so far this year has seen sea temperatures plummet in southern Florida — a fatal development for the coral, which dies when exposed for an extended time to temperatures below 15 degrees Celsius (59 degrees Fahrenheit).

Especially in the lower Keys, "tem-

peratures have been lower... there is higher mortality," Diego Lirman, a University of Miami expert on coral, told AFP.

Florida's usually mild and sunny winter weather has given way to record low temperatures during the historic cold snap in recent weeks.

In Miami, the thermometer in January and February regularly dropped below 35 degrees Fahrenheit (1.6 Celsius), the coldest temperatures since 1970.

The cold snap also has led to "bleaching," in which the coral loses pigmentation and ultimately dies.

Destruction of coral having a negative effect on delicate tropical eco-systems in the region, Lirman added, with micro-algae living within the coral forced to leave their habitat for lack of a food source.



A Green sea turtle is seen in a climate controlled tank as it is treated for "cold stun" at the Gumbo Limbo Nature Centre in January 2010 in Boca Raton, Florida. The polar snap enveloping much of the United States in record cold has been killing off coral reefs in the normally balmy warm waters off the Florida Keys, experts said on Monday.

Briton has delivered papers for 68 years

A 90-year-old British man who has delivered papers as an income-supplementing hobby for 68 years is being recognized by Guinness World Records.

Guinness officials said they are in the process of certifying Ted Ingram, 90, of Winterborne Monkton, near Dorchester, England, as the world's longest-serving paper boy, having delivered papers since 1942 and only taking two vacations and

Visitors to South Africa for World Cup may get price relief

JOHANNESBURG, 17 Feb — Visitors to South Africa for the 2010 FIFA World Cup may get some price relief if South Africa's top trade union boss has his way.

Zwelinzima Vavi, general secretary of Congress of South African Trade Unions, wants South Africa's competition commission to intervene in the pricing of transport and

accommodation ahead of the World Cup, which takes place from 11 June to 11 July.

"This is absolutely something we want the competition commission to do something definitely about, and they must act decisively now before those unscrupulous employers put up their prices in June and July," Vavi told the South African Broad-

casting Corporation on Tuesday.

There have been concerns in South Africa and other footballing nations about businesses increasing hotel and flight prices in the run-up to the tournament.—Xinhua

Driver of Belgian train survives crash

BRUSSELS, 17 Feb—Belgian railway officials say one of the drivers of two trains that collided outside Brussels with the loss at least 18 lives has survived the crash with serious injuries.

Rescuers are resuming the search for more victims in the wreckage of the two commuter trains that collided on Monday in one of the deadliest rail accidents in Belgian history. National Railways spokesman Jochen Goovaerts says police will question the driver when his condition allows it.—Internet

Crashed Ethiopian plane cockpit recorder recovered

BEIRUT, 17 Feb—The Lebanese military says naval commandos have recovered the cockpit voice recorder belonging to the Ethiopian Airlines jet that crashed last month into the Mediterranean.

The Boeing 737 crashed on 25 Jan, just minutes after takeoff from Beirut during a thunderstorm. All 90 people on board died.

The plane's data flight recorder was retrieved among the plane's wreckage last week and was flown to France for analysis.

Part of the cockpit voice recorder was retrieved in the same area last on Wednesday, but officials said it was missing its memory voice recorder.

An army statement said that recorder was retrieved on Tuesday.

Both black boxes will be analyzed by BEA, a French agency that specializes in assisting with technical investigations of air crashes.—Internet

Zahi Hawass, media-savvy guardian of Egypt's past

Egypt's antiquities chief Zahi Hawass, at 62, still bubbles with excitement whenever he announces the latest discovery of a tomb or relic, his eyes lighting up under the brim of his trademark Indiana Jones-style hat.

Aside from his love of the media limelight, Hawass is locked in battle to assert Egypt's sovereignty over its heritage, even if that means crossing swords with the world's most prestigious museums.

His style and patriotism will be on show again on Wednesday when he holds a Press conference to announce the DNA results on the mummy of boy king Tutankhamun, the pharaoh whose origins have mystified scholars.

Hawass insisted the tests be carried out by Egyptian scientists.

After centuries of non-Egyptian



An Egyptian visitor to the Egyptian museum in Cairo wearing the 'Niqab' as she posed for another in front of a statue of the Great Sphinx at the entrance to the Egyptian Museum.

dominance, with some of the country's unique relics on display in foreign museums, he has campaigned for Cairo to play a more assertive role in finding and safeguarding its heritage.

Born in the Nile Delta town of Damietta, Hawass studied archaeology at the universities of Cairo and Alexandria, and went on to earn a doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania.

Since becoming head of the Supreme Council for Antiquities (SCA) in 2002, he has pressed for the return of relics held in foreign museums, while tightening up on the supervision of foreign excavation teams.

NEWS ALBUM



Kyaukme emerges as a symbol of dragon ball...

(from page 1)

Kyaukme Township sharing borders with Mogok, Momeik and Namhsan in the north, Hsipaw in the east, Yaksawk in the south and Nawngkio in the west is situated on Mandalay-Lashio railroad and motorway in Shan State (North). It has an area of 1553 square miles stretching 47 miles from east to west and 33 miles from north to south.

Kyaukme Township, a hilly town with flat land is 2506 feet above sea level. It has an average rainfall of 52.44 inches.

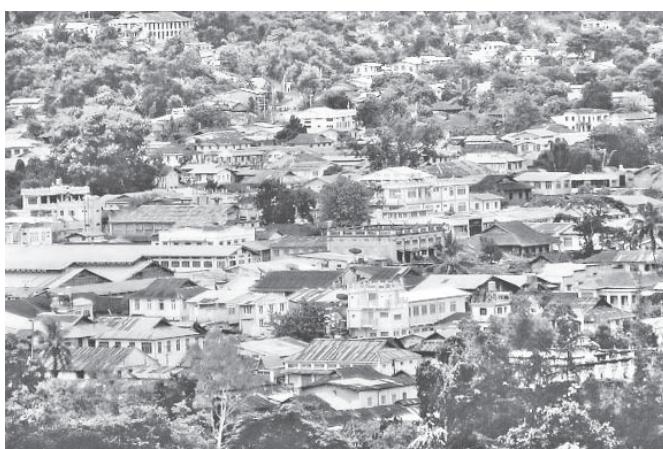
Creeks namely Mongngok, Namhsaung, Ngaung, Ponwoe, Namkaw (Monglong), Namlong (Minkon), Namtan (Mongtin), Tawlawy (Minkon), Nawngkam, Khoohn and Namsin are flowing in the mountainous township. Kyaukme Town-



U Myo Lwin
Chairman of Kyaukme Township PDC.

ship was founded in 1902. It was called Namton Myothit at that time. The name of the town had changed after finding black stones that is called Marhinlan there.

Kyaukme Township got an exchange with the capacity of 20 manual telephones in 1995. Now, the exchange has been equipped with 833 digital auto telephone lines. GSM mobile system was launched on 17 February, 2008 and CDMA 450 mobile system with the



Archway saying "Warmly Welcome to Kyaukme of Shan State (North)" seen at the entrance to Kyaukme.



A bird's eye view of Kyaukme.

capacity of 700 lines started in October, 2009. Some villages in the township enjoy IP Star phones.

In education sector, four BEHSs, seven BEMSSs, one BEHS (Branch), three BEMSSs (Branch), 129 BEPSs and 25 post primary schools have been opened in the

township.

The township has one 150-bed People's Hospital, three station hospitals, three station health centers, two rural health centers, 23 rural health branches, one anti-leprosy unit, one anti-tuberculosis unit and one anti-malaria unit to provide health care services to local people.

Kyaukme Township Development Affairs Committee built 34 tarred

roads totaling 14 miles and three furlong, 14 urban gravel roads totaling seven miles and three furlongs, 74 bridges in urban area, nine rural gravel roads totaling 74 miles, 19 rural earth roads totaling 102 miles, two suspension bridges in rural area, 27 wooden bridges in rural area, 49 conduits and five culverts.

On my way back to Mandalay, I visited a Dragon Ball farm at the exit of Kyaukme. The dragon ball was introduced in Myanmar in 1997. I like the taste of the dragon ball. Some people say it is of medicinal value.

It is cool and delicious to have a dragon ball fresh from the plant.

**Translation: YM
Kyemon: 16-2-2010**

Mine blasts injure nine in Laukkai

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Feb — Absconders Phon Kya Shin, Phon Kya Phu, Phon Ta Shwin and Phon Tarli of former Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (Kokang group) were involved in an early morning mine attack that took place in Laukkai, northern Shan State, today.

Two mines rocked an old market place at the corner of Tonchain ward in the town at 1.25 am and 2.20 am respectively, but there was no death or injury.

Four more unexploded remote control mines were found when authorities combed the area. With the help of local people security personnel found out that the culprits were the said four absconders.—MNA

But in another mine attack two days earlier at the same ward injured nine persons. A mine went off at 8.05 am and another followed 25 minutes later in the park and play ground in front of Drug Elimination Museum. The injured were six persons including U Shauk Sium son of U Shauk Sipha of Namkyun village, Kunlong Township, and three citizens of People's Republic of China including Chan Pheinhua son of U Dan Tonphan from Fulan of Fulan Proviane of PRC. Two more remote control mines were found in the area. It was also the work of the same group of the said four absconders.—MNA

Health staff urged for greater coordination in medical treatment

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Feb — In meeting with the medical superintendent, professors, specialists, doctors and health staff led by Rector Professor Dr Tint Swe Latt of University of Medicine (2) at General and Teaching Hospital in North Okkalapa Township in Yangon on 11 February, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe called for nurturing doctors who are extremely well qualified for academic matters and equipped with nationalistic fervour and goodwill and stressed the need to treat the patients with hospitality and to work together in an organized way in providing treatment to patients.—MNA



Mongyawng, Tachilek, Mongphyat dwellers...

(from page 1)

Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing provided servicemen and their families with food and clothes in meeting with them at Mongyawng and Tachilek Station Halls separately.

After giving instructions on regional stability and development undertakings at Aung Myat Hall in Tachilek, he provided the township with medicines and sports gear.

On his arrival in Mongphyat, he met with departmental officials, social organization members and local people at Bayintnaung Hall and presented medicines and sports gear for the township.

At Mongphyat Station Hall, Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing provided servicemen and their families with food and clothes. — MNA



Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of Ministry of Defence visits People's Hospital in Mongyawng.—MNA

Breeders alerted to bird flu

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Feb—Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries is striving for preventing the outbreak of avian flu. It kept alert eyes on broilers and farms.

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-

Gen Maung Maung Thein inspected broilers and pig farms in Mandalay Division on 13 February.

On 14 February, he met breeders of integrated farming zone in Kyaukme and emphasized the prevention of

the bird flu. He also inspected pig farm (Htonbo) in Patheingyi Township in Mandalay.

The minister met breeders and staff of the ministry in Mandalay separately.

MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein visits pig breeding farm in Napha region of Lashio.—L&F

Talks on Software Development Experience in UK on 21 Feb

YANGON, 16 Feb—With a view to sharing the knowledge on patterns, technologies and procedures applied in international software development companies, Myanmar Computer Professionals Association will organize talks on "Software Development Experience in UK" by IT Specialist U Moe Kyaw Soe at Room No (205) in main

building of Myanmar Info-Tech, Hline Township here from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on 21 February.

Members of the association, software engineers and computer enthusiasts may attend the talks free of charge. For further information, contact MCPA Office, Room (4), Building (4) (Ph: 652276). — MNA

Share holders of MIT Corporation invited for AGM

YANGON, 17 Feb—Share holders of Myanmar Info-Tech Corporation Limited have been invited to attend eighth annual general meeting of the

company for 2008-2009 fiscal year to be held at the meeting hall of Myanmar Info-Tech on Universities' Hline Campus here at 9 a.m. on 6 March.—MNA

Minister inspects upgrading of Meiktila-Kalaw-Taunggyi road

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Feb—Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspected upgrading of Meiktila-Taunggyi-Kengtung-Tachilek road in a motorcade yesterday.

On arrival at the briefing hall of Yinmabin

work site at the mile post No. 35/0, the minister heard report on progress in upgrading Meiktila-Kalaw-Taunggyi road section presented by engineer in-charge of Hilly Region Road Construction Company.

The minister urged

the officials to carry out the road construction with sufficient workers on each road section, construction of drains, meeting the set standard and maintenance of roads. Later, he fulfilled the requirements.

MNA

Forests, plantations help conserve environment of Magway Division

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Feb—with the aim of satisfying the local timber demands, Sawmills under Myanma Timber Enterprise are producing sawn timbers while focusing on fire preventive measures at worksites.

No. 95 Sawmill in Taungdwingyi and No. 25 Sawmill in Ngaphe are following the rules, regulations and departmental

disciplines adopted by MTF in their tasks.

Workers of MTF are working in concert for extraction of timber in their respective forest reserves located in Magway and Ngaphe townships.

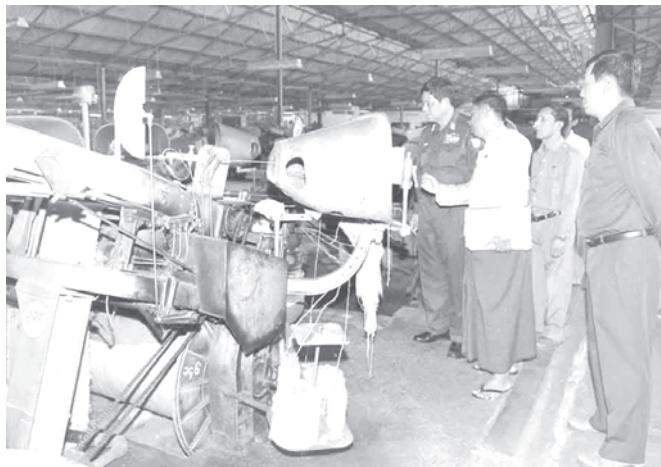
Shwesettaw Sanctuary under the Forest Department is one of the tourist attractive regions. The department has established the sanctuary home

to bio-diversities as part of efforts to conserve environment and enhance the tourism industry.

On 13 and 14 February, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung made an inspection tour of Taungdwingyi, Magway, Minbu and Ngaphe townships and heard reports on progress of sections under MTE and Forest Department. —MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung inspects No (95) Sawmill in Taungdwingyi.—FORESTRY



Eco graduates (1994-1995) to hold respect-paying ceremony, dinner

YANGON, 16 Feb—The first respect-paying ceremony of the graduates (1994-1995) of Institute of Economics (Yangon) will be held in conjunction with a dinner at the Lion City Restaurant of Shwe Marlar Yeikmon on Bayintnaung Road, here, at 6:00 p.m. on 7 March.

Those wishing to attend the ceremony may contact U Thant Zin (Ph: 095011959), U Nay Lin Aung (Ph: 095069741), U Ye Naing (095135380), U Htun Zaw Thaung (095001391), U Ko Ko Maung (095044716), U Kyaw Kyaw Aung (098720905), U Win Khine (095161880), Daw Htay Htay Aung (095070284), Daw Htar Htar Lwin (095110227), Daw Aye Thanda Khine (095004964), Daw Yin Yin Nyein (095068324) and Daw Su Hlaing Htun (095128034). MNA

Four wounded by blast in Panglong

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Feb — A blast occurred in Panglong in Shan State (South), yesterday, injured four people.

The mine blasted at 8.30 pm on 16 February near a generator which supplies power to Aung Marga playhouse in Panglong Township Sports Ground where funfair has been held to mark the 63rd Anniversary Union Day as from 2 February. Four

people including U Sai Non, son of U Lon Ti, of Ward-2 in Panglong were injured and they are receiving treatment at Panglong Township People's Hospital. A group of SSA (Ywet Sit) insurgent group planted the mine. Local people and authority are making efforts for arresting the insurgents who involved in the blast.

MNA

Thriving summer paddy — a joy of life ...



"The weir will play a pivotal role to go multi-cropping pattern."

Staff Officer (Civil) U Wai Phyto Kyaw.
Waingmaw Township Irrigation Department.

(from page 16)

With a view to developing agricultural sector in Kachin State, the construction of Wahshaung Diversion Weir started in 1962-63 fiscal year and was completed in 1966-67 fiscal year. It was built by damming Nantmyinkha Creek near Wahshaung village in Waingmaw Township in Myitkyina

District of Kachin State in order to extend farmlands in Waingmaw Township.

The catchment area of the diversion weir is 108 square miles. The weir, which is of ogee concrete type, has 21-feet height and 250.5 feet length. It has a 60,812 feet long canal and a 273,110 feet long tributary. It can irrigate 11,762 acres of farmlands.

Staff Officer (Civil) U Wai Phyto Kyaw of Waingmaw Township Irrigation Department said, "Villages included in the irrigated area of Wahshaung Diversion Weir will grow summer paddy. The weir will hold a pivotal role to go multi-cropping pattern. Designed by Head Office of Irrigation Department, RC-type 30-

Gunny factory beefs up production

YANGON, 17 Feb—Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspected production lines of Okkyin gunny factory on

15 February. Deputy Managing Director U Ye Phone Myint of Myanma Jute Enterprise and the factory manager reported to the minister on progress

in annual production of the factory, future plans, availability of raw materials and capability of machines.

Then, the minister stressed the need for commercial production and for boosting jute production to hit the target.—MNA

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects production process of Okkyin gunny factory.—MNA

Agreement of Consulting Services for Shweli (3) signed

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Feb—The ceremony to sign agreement of consulting services for Shweli (3) Hydropower Project between the Hydropower Planning Department and Colenco Power Engineering Ltd (CPE) of Switzerland was held at the meeting hall of the ministry here this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Electric Power No.1 Col Zaw Min, Deputy Minister U Myo Myint, directors-general and managing

directors and officials of the departments and enterprises under the ministry and officials from Colenco Power Engineering Ltd (CPE) and Aung Pyi Tan Co., Ltd.

Director-General U Myint Zaw of Hydropower Planning Department and Executive Vice-President Mr Jean Francois Belin of Colenco Power Engineering Ltd (CPE) signed and exchanged the notes.

MNA



Contract-signing ceremony between Hydropower Planning Department and Colenco Power Engineering Ltd (CPE) in progress.—MNA

feet wide spillway of the weir designed to prevent flood is due to be completed in this open season."

As in the other years, the dredging of canals will be carried out in the open season. The maintenance

of the structures was done in the rainy season. The works contribute not only to the extended cultivation of summer paddy but to minimizing the wastage of water.

The farmlands in irrigation area of

Wahshaung Diversion Weir enjoy sufficient irrigation water and start next step to multi-cropping pattern through the proper maintenance of the 53-year-old weir.

**Translation: HKA
Kyemon: 17-2-2010**



Main canal carrying irrigation water to farmlands where the extended cultivation of summer paddy is targeted.



A Haitian girl stands next to tents at a camp in Port-au-Prince set up for people displaced from their homes.—INTERNET

China, S Korea, Japan to launch joint study on trilateral free trade deal

SEOUL, 17 Feb—South Korea plans to launch a joint research with China and Japan on the feasibility of a free trade agreement (FTA) among the three Northeast Asian countries, South Korea's Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday.

According to a report by the ministry, the country, which has been seeking an economic integration of the Northeast Asian region by creating favorable conditions for FTAs, will kick off a joint study with the countries, in which government officials, scholars and business representatives will participate.

Along with the trilateral FTA, the country will also continue to push for settling separate bilateral trade agreements with China and Japan, the ministry said in the report.

Currently, South Korea has free trade agreements with Chile, Singapore and the European Free Trade Association, as well as a similar pact with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Recently reaching a free trade deal with the European Union, the country also wrapped up its free trade talks with India, settling the so-called comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA) in August.

With respect to the free trade deal with the United States, signed in June 2007, both countries are waiting for legislative approval.

South Korea is also seeking similar trade deals with Australia, Canada, and Mexico.—Xinhua



Staff members of Laoshe Teahouse clad in traditional dresses peddle at the Changdian temple fair in Beijing, on 16 Feb, 2010.—XINHUA

Indonesia composes mechanism to address financing problem for infrastructure development

JAKARTA, 17 Feb—Indonesian government has composed mechanism to address financing and guarantee problems for infrastructure development by providing capital base of establishment of the Indonesian Infrastructure Finance Facility (IIFF) and the Indonesian Guarantee Fund (IGF), a

minister said here on Wednesday.

The Minister for National Development Planning Armida S Alisjahbana said that with the IIFF, the government could reduce fund needs from capital market by acting as 'banker to the deal' and catalyst in the next project financing.

"The government could also provide guarantee through the IGF," said Armida.

She said she hopes the financing institutions are in form of state-owned enterprises but managed by investment bankers, risk managers and professional financiers.

Internet

year, the events have been cancelled as no one is in the mood to party.

The preliminary IDB report estimated the damage at between eight and 14 billion dollars in what was already the poorest country in the Americas before the catastrophe.

Factoring in Haiti's population and economic output, the upper estimate would make it the most destructive natural disaster in modern history, the bank said. Related article: Haiti gang turf wars.

Internet

Russia says missile delivery to Iran delayed for technical reasons

MOSCOW, 17 Feb—A senior Russian official said on Wednesday the delivery of S-300 air defence missiles to Iran has been delayed for technical reasons, Interfax news agency reported.

Russia will deliver the surface-to-air missiles to Iran after the technical flaws uncovered have been fixed, the Interfax quoted Alexander Fomin, deputy head of Russia's Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation, as saying.

"The delay is due to technical problems.

Internet

French envoy in DR Congo says Great Lakes countries to hold economic meeting

KINSHASA, 17 Feb—The French ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo), Pierre Jacquemot, announced on Tuesday that there will be a meeting in June to mobilize funds for the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Region (CEPGL) to support Rwanda, Burundi and DR Congo.

The French diplomat declared this in Kinshasa during an opening ceremony of a seminar of

government experts, which was to discuss the validation of basic agreements and the restructuring of CEPGL.

According to Jacquemot, France holds the opinion that regional cooperation would bring about lasting peace for the benefit of the local populations, especially during this post-conflict period. The present meeting is pursuing three objectives, including a basic law to support CEPGL, measures to support the



Tourists taste snacks at Chenghuang Temple in Shanghai, east China, on 16 Feb, 2010. The festive Chenghuang Temple attracted a great number of tourists during the Spring Festival holidays.—XINHUA



American Airlines to resume service to Haiti

CHICAGO, 17 Feb—AMR Corp's American Airlines on Tuesday said it would resume service to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on Friday, its first flight to the nation since a devastating earthquake last month.

Additionally, AMR's American Eagle will begin new service into Haiti

from Puerto Rico starting on 12 March.

US carriers suspended operations in Haiti following the 7.0 magnitude earthquake on 12 January.

Delta Air Lines, the world's largest airline, cancelled its flight from New York's John F Kennedy International

Airport to Port-au-Prince.

A Delta spokesman said on Tuesday in an email that the carrier was working with Haitian authorities to reinstate commercial service as quickly as possible, and hoped to be able to announce a date shortly.

Internet

India's Tata Steel Q3 consolidated profit down 42 percent



Kirby Adams, CEO of Tata Steel Europe addresses a press conference in Mumbai. Tata Steel, the world's eighth-largest steelmaker, reported on Tuesday a 42 percent drop in consolidated quarterly profit that included results from British unit Corus.—INTERNET

MUMBAI, 17 Feb—Tata Steel, the world's eighth-largest steelmaker, reported on Tuesday a 42 percent drop in consolidated quarterly profit that included results from British unit Corus.

It blamed low steel

prices for the performance.

For the three months to December, consolidated net profit slumped to 4.72 billion rupees (102 million dollars) from 8.13 billion rupees a year earlier, the com-

pany said.

The consolidated net profit for the fiscal third-quarter however beat market expectations of 1.8 billion rupees.

Net sales fell 21 percent to 262.02 billion rupees. "Average selling prices of steel were lower across the group," the company said in a statement.

Tata Steel shares rose 2.23 percent, or 12 rupees, to 549.35 ahead of the release of the earnings data. Tata Steel Europe chief executive Kirby Adams said trading conditions in Europe remain tough and weakness in the construction sector would continue to be a challenge.—*Internet*

Argentina escalates row with Britain over Falklands

BUENOS AIRES, 17 Feb—Argentina escalated a row with Britain over oil drilling in the Falklands by ordering all ships heading to the disputed islands through its waters to seek permission from Buenos Aires first.

Argentine President Cristina Kirchner signed the decree, ratcheting up tensions between Argentina and Britain over Las Malvinas, the Spanish

name for the islands they warred over in 1982 at the cost of almost 1,000 lives.

"All ships that wish to move between ports in continental Argentina and ports in the Malvinas islands, or that wish to cross Argentine territorial waters as they head to the islands" require prior per-

mission, it said.

Kirchner's chief of staff Anibal Fernandez left no doubt the move was intended to clamp down on shipping that might be helping Britain as it launches operations to explore the region's oil and mineral reserves.

Internet

File photo of tourists walking in Stanley, Falkland Islands. Argentina escalated a row with Britain over oil drilling in the Falklands by ordering all ships heading to the disputed islands through its waters to seek permission from Buenos Aires first.—INTERNET



British inflation hits 14-month high of 3.5%

LONDON, 17 Feb—Britain's benchmark Consumer Prices Index (CPI) rate of inflation rose to 3.5 percent year-on-year in January, according to official figures released on Tuesday, pushed to the 14-month high by an increase in Value Added Tax (VAT) to 17.5 percent, higher oil costs and the effects of sterling's depreciation.

The rise comes after December's rise in the CPI

of 0.6 percent, which took it to 2.9 percent. This latest rise to 3.5 percent has led to Mervyn King, governor of the Bank of England (BoE), Britain's central bank, to write a public letter of explanation to Alistair Darling, the chancellor of the exchequer.

King forecast that inflation was likely to fall back towards its target level of 2 percent later in the year. In his letter to the chancellor, King outlined the

causes of the rise. "Three short-run factors have driven the current measured rate of inflation up. First, the restoration of the standard rate of VAT is raising prices relative to a year ago."

"Second, over the past year, oil prices have risen by around 70 percent. That is pushing up petrol-price inflation significantly, which, in turn, is raising overall CPI inflation."

Xinhua

Eurocopter bids for \$8 billion in Indian defence contracts

NEW DELHI, 17 Feb—Eurocopter said on Tuesday it was bidding for Indian military contracts worth up to eight billion dollars, including a deal scrapped in 2007 after it was awarded to the European helicopter maker.

"We have bid for contracts from the Indian Army, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard and others worth between seven and eight billion dollars," the company's marketing vice-president Rainer Farid told AFP at an arms fair in New Delhi. He also said that Eurocopter, the helicopter unit of European aerospace giant EADS, had resubmitted a bid for a 600-million-dollar deal to sell India 197 army helicopters.

It was scrapped in De-

cember 2007, after it had been awarded to Eurocopter amid allegations in the Indian media of wrongdoing by the firm. The signing of the deal was meant to have been a highlight of a visit to India by French President Nicolas Sarkozy in January 2008.

The company had been contracted to sell 60 helicopters in a "fly-away" condition to the Indian army, while the remaining 137 were to be assembled at state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd in India (HAL).—*Internet*

VW guarantees 100,000 jobs until end of 2014

FRANKFURT, 17 Feb—Volkswagen said on Tuesday it had agreed to guarantee the jobs of

100,000 workers in Germany until the end of 2014.

In exchange for a deal with Germany's powerful IG Metall trade union, "the company and employee representatives affirmed their commitment to jointly achieve productivity rises," the statement said.

A "performance-related remuneration component" was also agreed upon, as was the hiring of apprentices based on how well they did during a training period.

The agreement covers 100,000 workers and extends a previous job guar-

antee that was to run until 2011 in VW plants and at the financing division of Europe's biggest auto manufacturer.

The company also pledged to take on 1,400 trainees annually throughout Germany.

"Workers have a safe job, are motivated and ready to contribute to an increase in productivity. That is the basis of Volkswagen's success," Harmut Meine, the IG Metall official that negotiated the accord, said in a separate statement.

In all, VW employs nearly 370,000 workers worldwide.—*Internet*



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Win Mu Tin

M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.
for TAEWON S&G LTD.
P.O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 18 February 2010

Bharti founder eyes Africa market

NEW DELHI, 17 Feb—Indian telecom tycoon Sunil Bharti Mittal is hoping to make it third time lucky as he seeks to gain a presence in Africa, one of the world's least developed mobile phone markets.

After two failed attempts to tie up with South African flagship MTN, the founder-chairman of cellular giant Bharti Airtel announced this week a 10.7-billion-dollar bid to buy the African unit of Kuwait's Zain telecom group.

The takeover would be one of India's biggest cross-border deals and give Bharti a significant foothold in the continent's cellular market where just 36 out of every 100 people own a mobile phone.

That compares with Europe and other developed markets where there are more mobile phones than people, while in India mobile use stands at about 44 connections per 100 people.

"Africa is under-penetrated, it has less competition (than the Indian market). It is a step in the right direction" for Bharti, said Romal Shetty, senior telecom analyst at international consultancy KPMG.

Bharti, India's largest mobile firm which is 32-percent owned by Singapore Telecom, and Zain, Kuwait's biggest phone company, said on Monday they had agreed to hold exclusive talks until 25 March to conclude a deal.—*Internet*



A man talks on his mobile phone near an advertising hoarding for telecom company Bharti Airtel in New Delhi.—INTERNET

22 killed in road accident in India

NEW DELHI, 17 Feb—At least 22 people were killed and 30 injured on their way to a wedding mid-night on Tuesday when the bus they were travelling on fell into a river in Jalaun District of Uttar Pradesh, northern India, said police on Wednesday.

The bus skidded off the road and fell into the Pahuj River in Jalaun about 250 km from the state capital Lucknow, said police.

The passengers were from the neighbouring Madhya Pradesh who were going to Jalaun to attend a wedding.

The driver of the bus had escaped and is on the run, said police.—Xinhua



Photo taken on 16 Feb, 2010 shows a wedding performance held on boats at Xitang ancient town in Jiaxing, east China's Zhejiang Province. Actors of the wedding performance delivered candies and Chinese dates to spectators to create happy atmosphere on Tuesday.—Xinhua

Cluster bomb ban closer to ratification

UNITED NATIONS, 17 Feb—The United Nations announced that a 30th country had signed on to the international convention banning cluster bombs, paving the way for the document to come into force on 1 August.

"The United Nations received today the 30th instrument of ratification for the Convention on Cluster Munition," said a statement from Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's Press office. "The Secretary-General welcomes this major advance on the glo-

bal disarmament agenda, and notes that the Convention's entry into force just two years after its adoption demonstrates the world's collective revulsion at the impact of these terrible weapons," according to the UN said.—*Internet*

UN statement.

"Cluster munitions are unreliable and inaccurate. During conflict and long after it has ended, they maim and kill scores of civilians, including many children," the UN said.—*Internet*



Moderate quake hits westernmost Indonesia

JAKARTA, 17 Feb—A magnitude-5.3 earthquake rocked westernmost Indonesia in Aceh Province on Wednesday at 2:08 am Jakarta Time (1908 GMT, Tuesday), the Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency said in a statement.

The epicentre was located some 248 kilometres southwest of Banda Aceh, the provincial capital, at a depth of 30 kilometres under seabed.

The agency did not issue a tsunami warning.

Xinhua

Women have pictures taken in front of an ice sculpture in Harbin, capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, on 17 Feb, 2010.—XINHUA

A cluster bomb (including its bomblets) is on display at the Spreewerk ISL Integrated Solutions weapons decommissioning facility near Luebben in 2009.—INTERNET

Nepal, India sign agreements

KATHMANDU, 17 Feb—Nepal and India on Tuesday inked a memorandum of understanding coinciding with Nepali President Ram Baran Yadav's ongoing visit to India.

According to myrepublica.com report, the signed agreements include air service agreement, extension of Indian railway link to six border points with Nepal, construction of a Polytechnic institute in Hetauda and a conference hall in Birgunj.

The railroad extension includes construction of 183 km railroad at five different border points.

This is Yadav's first foreign trip since he was elected Nepal's head of state in July 2008.

Xinhua





Western Mexico: five decapitated men found

CULIACAN, 17 Feb— Mexican authorities have found the decapitated bodies of five men in a western state known for drug-gang violence.

Sinaloa state prosecutors spokesman Martin

Gastelum says the bodies and heads were found on Tuesday in front of a primary school in the town of Escuinapa.

He says two of the heads were missing their ears and two more had a

"Z" carved on their backs in an apparent reference to the Zetas drug gang.

The Zetas have been involved in some of the bloodiest confrontations in a drug war that has cost more than 15,000 lives in Mexico in three years.

Sinaloa is the birthplace of the leaders of several drug cartels.

The Zetas are based in the border state of Tamaulipas across from Texas.—Internet

Three dead in southwest China forest fire

KUNMING, 17 Feb— Three forest workers died while trying to put out flames that engulfed forests in southwest China's Yunnan Province on Tuesday, the local government said early on Wednesday.

The three men were among 300 people fighting a forest fire that broke out on Mt Wugong (Mt Centipede) in Binchuan County of Dali at 12:30 pm, the county government said in a Press release.

It said the three forest workers died while protecting other fire fighters from being injured.

The visible flames, which engulfed about 50 hectares of the forest amid high wind, were put out at midnight.

The local government said Binchuan county had received no rain since November and was prone to fire.

Another forest fire broke out at 3 p.m. Sunday on Mt. Cangshan, a major tourist attraction in Yangbi County of Dali. As of on Tuesday night, it was only partially contained.—Xinhua

Indonesia welcomes foreign doctors

JAKARTA, 17 Feb—Indonesia, the world's fourth largest country in terms of population, needed doctors from foreign countries to make up with the supply gap, a senior official of the Health Ministry said here on Wednesday.

Director General for Public Health Services of the ministry Farid W Hussain said that it was insufficient to serve over 230 million people with the total number of 108,132 doctors in the archipelago country, most of the doctors live in Java Island.

"We welcome those (doctors) from overseas to come to Indonesia," he told a Press conference at his office. Indonesia comprises of over 17,500 islands.

However, the director said that the foreign doctors had to comply with the regulation in the country, such as registering their operation.—Xinhua



Folk artists play traditional Chinese instrumental music at Beijiao village in suburbs of Beijing, capital of China, on 14 Feb, 2010.—XINHUA



Actresses dance during a show of Chinese performing arts to celebrate the lunar new year in Kota Kinabalu, capital of Malaysia's Sabah State, on 16 Feb, 2010.—XINHUA



People look at a taxi immersed by water after heavy rain in Buenos Aires, on 16 Feb, 2010.

XINHUA

Samsung C&T becomes first Asian solar power plant builder in the US

SEOUL, 17 Feb—South Korea's construction and trading firm, Samsung C&T, has agreed to build five solar power plants in the US, thus becoming the

first Asian company to do so, the company said on Wednesday.

Under the agreement, Samsung C&T will partner with the US-based Solar Managers to launch a joint venture titled Solar Project Solutions to

construct a combined 130-megawatts plants in the state of California by 2013, as it will be in charge of operation for 25 years after the completion, according to Samsung.

Internet

MNA/Reuters

Treaty signed to protect endangered sharks

NEW YORK, 17 Feb— More than 100 nations signed a UN-supported wildlife treaty on Tuesday designed to protect shark species threatened with extinction.

The 113 countries signing the treaty are party to the UN Environment Programme-administered Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals.

UN officials said the

countries agreed to prohibit the hunting, fishing and deliberate killing of certain shark species — the great white, basking, whale, porbeagle, spiny dogfish, and the shortfin and longfin mako sharks.

"This first global CMS instrument on commercially exploited species is a decisive step forward in international shark conservation," said UNEP/CMS Executive Secretary Elizabeth Mrema.

"Wildlife conventions, UN agencies and international fisheries need to work together to prevent these creatures that roam the world's oceans from becoming extinct."

The agreement, signed during a meeting of government representatives in the Philippines, is designed to restore the long-term viability of populations of migratory sharks.

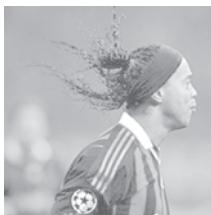
Internet



S P O R T S

Rooney double inspires United to first win in Milan

ROME, 17 Feb—Wayne Rooney was the hero as Manchester United made AC Milan



AC Milan's Brazilian forward Ronaldinho celebrates after scoring against Manchester United during their UEFA Champions League round of 16 match at San Siro stadium in Milan. Manchester United defeated AC Milan 3-2.—INTERNET

look old in a 3-2 win in the Champions League last 16 first leg clash here on Tuesday to record their first ever victory in the San Siro.

Rooney scored a brace as Milan's old legs finally caught up with them as United came from behind to win at a canter until some late drama that saw United's Michael Carrick dismissed in injury time for a second booking.

Ronaldinho gave Milan an early lead but after Paul Scholes' fortuitous equaliser Sir Alex Ferguson's side gradually took control and by the end they threatened to run up a cricket score.

Internet

Chardy upsets Verdasco at Memphis ATP

MEMPHIS, 17 Feb—France's Jeremy Chardy shocked second-seeded Fernando Verdasco 7-6 (7/4), 6-3 in the first round



France's Jeremy Chardy (pictured last November) shocked second-seeded Fernando Verdasco 7-6 (7/4), 6-3 in the first round of the ATP Tour's Memphis stop.—INTERNET

of the ATP Tour's Memphis stop.

Chardy needed just one hour and 15 minutes to dispatch the Spaniard, who had rallied to beat Andy Roddick in the final at San Jose, California, on Sunday.

Chardy, ranked 41st in the world, fell behind in the first-set tiebreaker but rallied, then earned a break en route to a 5-2 lead in the second set.

Verdasco fended off a match point against his serve at 5-2, but couldn't hold off Chardy in the next game as the Frenchman advanced to a second-round meeting with Lukas Lacko.—Internet

Venus reaches final 16 in Dubai Tennis Open

DUBAI, 17 Feb—Venus Williams' bid to hang on to one of her two remaining titles made a reassuring start as she quashed the challenge of one of the tour's brightest young hopes to reach the last 16 of the Dubai Open.

The defending champion's 6-2, 6-3 win over Sabine Lisicki, the 20-year-old Wimbledon quarter-finalist, contained consistent serving, well-timed increases in pressure, and a conspicuously tight focus.

A good week here is important for the five-time Wimbledon champion's belief that, approaching her 30th birthday, she remains capable of winning more majors, and that need showed in the quality of her performance.—Internet

Moyes anxious as Sporting's late goal leaves tie on the edge

LIVERPOOL, 17 Feb—Everton manager David Moyes admitted his side's Europa League hopes are in the balance after they conceded a crucial late goal in their 2-1 win over Sporting Lisbon at Goodison Park.

Moyes' men were cruising towards the last 16 after strikes from South Africa midfielder Steven Pienaar and French defender Sylvain Distin put them two goals ahead just after half-time in Tuesday's last 32 first leg.

But Distin was sent off in the closing moments for a foul on Liedson that led to a penalty calmly converted by Sporting midfielder Miguel Veloso.

That put the Portuguese club firmly back in the tie going into the second leg in Portugal next Thursday.—Internet



Everton's Sylvain Distin (right) challenges Sporting Lisbon's Liedson during their Europa League Third Round First Leg match at Goodison Park in Liverpool. Everton won 2-1.—INTERNET



Lyon's Cameroonian midfielder Jean II Makoun is congratulated by his teammates after scoring a goal during the Champion's League football match Lyon Vs Real Madrid at the Gerland stadium in Lyon.

Lyon won 1-0.—INTERNET

Makoun extends Real's Lyon misery

LYON, 17 Feb—Lyon ruined former striker Karim Benzema's return to his boyhood club by beating Real Madrid 1-0 in their last 16 Champions League first leg clash here on Tuesday.

The defeat will add to the woes of Real's Chilean coach Manuel Pellegrini, who is under pressure to return European football's most coveted trophy to the Santiago Bernabeu following the triumph of fierce rivals Barcelona in the competition last year.

Defeat continued Real's desperate record at Lyon's ground, having failed ever to win there or even score.

Lyon coach Claude Puel has been under pressure of late as the fans have taken the view that he is too negative in his strategy, but the former Monaco and Lille handler was sporting a beaming smile after this victory.—Internet



Sweden's Bjorn Ferry competes during the men's 12.5km pursuit of biathlon at the 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Whistler Olympic Park, Canada, on 16 Feb, 2010. Bjorn Ferry won the gold medal of the event.—XINHUA

Ferry wins men's 12.5 km pursuit Olympic biathlon gold

WHISTLER, 17 Feb—Bjorn Ferry of Sweden claimed the gold medal of the men's 12.5 km pursuit of biathlon at the Vancouver Olympic Winter Games on Tuesday.

The 31-year-old Sweden finished first in 33 minutes 38.4 seconds, 16.5 seconds faster than Christoph Sumann of Austria, who won the silver.

"It was a great ski day today, and all my competitors, 40 to 50 of them, were good today. This is more of a mental game and I was mentally prepared for this one," said Ferry after his competition.

"It's a great medal, it's a great feeling. I am 31 and I've waited for this my whole life," he added.

Xinhua

S Korean Lee wins women's 500m speed skating at Vancouver Olympics



South Korea's Lee Sang-Hwa greets the audience after the women's 500m of speed skating at the 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Richmond Olympic Oval stadium, Canada, on 16 Feb, 2010. Lee Sang-Hwa claimed the title of the event with a total time of 76.09 seconds.

XINHUA

VANCOUVER, 17 Feb—South Korean speed skating ace Lee Sang-Hwa edged world record holder Jenny Wolf from Germany in the women's 500m here on Tuesday, collecting the second speed skating gold for South Korea at the Vancouver Olympic Winter Games. Lee finished the two-run final in a combined winning total of 76.09 seconds, outplaying the 31-year-old Wolf by 0.05 seconds.

Lee, 21, took the top place after the first run in 38.249 while Wolf trailed behind in 38.307 seconds.

In the second, the reigning world champion Wolf managed to edge her archrival in a split of 0.012 seconds but failed to beat Lee in the total.

Xinhua

Several competitions postponed because of weather conditions

WHISTLER, 17 Feb—Vancouver Winter Olympics organizers announced Tuesday that several competitions and training runs have been postponed or cancelled because of weather conditions in Whistler.

Men's super combined downhill and men's super combined slalom, scheduled for Tuesday, has been postponed to a later date.

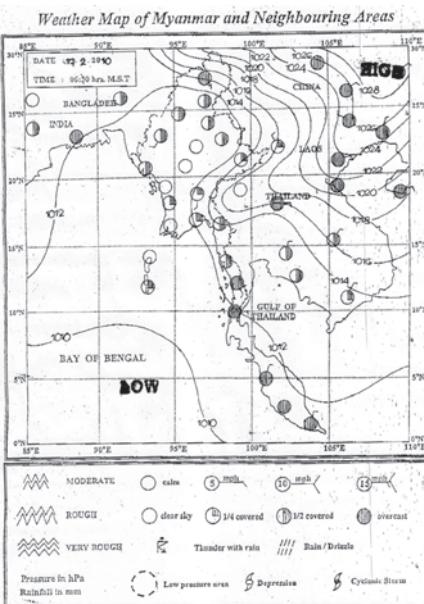
The Ladies' downhill 3rd training run, also scheduled for Tuesday on Whistler Creekside, has been cancelled for the same reason.—Xinhua



Rundown Mercedes Of Maryscot, or Sadie, a Scottish Terrier, poses in the winning circle after winning Best in Show at the 134th Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show at Madison Square Garden in New York, on 16 Feb. 2010.—INTERNET



A group of monkeys sit huddled together on a cold morning in Udhampur, north of Jammu on 17 Feb, 2010.—INTERNET

**MRTV-3****Programme Schedule
(18-2-2010) (Thursday)****Transmissions**

	Times
Local	- (09:00am~10:00am)MST
Europe	- (15:30pm~23:30pm)MST
North America	- (23:30pm~07:30am)MST
Oversea Transmission-	(13-2-10 11:30 am ~ 14-2-10 11:30 am) MST

Local Transmission

- * Signature Tune
 - * Pride of Place in Bagan(The Ananda Temple)
 - * News
 - * Ywams Floating Market; A Place of Matchlessness
 - * Let's speak Myanmar
 - * News
 - * Myanmar Movies Impact "Cho Lain"
 - * News
 - * Myanmar Traditional Marionette Theatre (Part-1)
 - * Traditional Dance of National Races "Marching Towards A New Nation"
 - * News
 - * Today's Efficient Youth (ILBC)
- Oversea Transmission**
- * Signature Tune
 - * Pride of Place in Bagan (The Ananda Temple)

- * News
- * Ywama Floating Market; A Place of Matchlessness
- * Let's speak Myanmar
- * News
- * Myanmar Movies Impact "Cho Lain"
- * News
- * Myanmar Traditional Marionette Theatre (Part-1)
- * Traditional Dance of National Races "Union Goal"
- * News
- * Today's Efficient Youth (ILBC)
- * Culture Stage
- * News
- * Let's Go and Enjoy Nature's Beauty
- * Dream of a farmer
- * News
- * Traditional Art of Making Goldware
- * Mann Ma- Yway
- * Unique Biodiversity of Indawgyi Lake Part(VI)
- * News
- * Music Gallery
- * News
- * Myanmar Endeavours Towards Water Resources Management (Part-II)
- * The Artworks of Bagan Gift Centre

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

WEATHER**Wednesday, 17th February, 2010****Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr.**

M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in Kachin State, weather has been partly cloudy in Rakhine and Mon States, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above February average temperatures in Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Mon States, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above February average temperatures in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division about February average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Loilem (3°C), Namhsan (5°C) and Pinlaung and An(6C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Machabaw (0.08) inch and Putao(0.04) inch.

Maximum temperature on 16-2-2010 was 99°F. Minimum temperature on 17-2-2010 was 70°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 17-2-2010 was 92%. Total sun shine hours on 16-2-2010 was (9.2) hours approx.

Rainfall on 17-2-2010 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2010 was (Tr) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and (Nil) at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southeast at (12:30) hours MST on 16-2-2010.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 18thFebruary 2010: Rain are likely to be isolated in Kachin, Chin, Shan and North Rakhine States and Upper Sagaing Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of continuation of isolated rain in Upper Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 18-2-2010: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 18-2-2010: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 18-2-2010: Partly cloudy.



**Thursday, 18
February
View on today**

7:00 am	
1. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရား ကြံးချုပ်စိတ်တရားတော်	10. Musical Programme
7:25 am	
2. To Be Healthy Exercise	4:00 pm
7:30 am	
3. Morning News	4:10 pm
7:40 am	
4. အဂ္ဂလာမင်းလ (ယဉ်ဝေယ ထွန်းတော်ရေးရေး- ဝန်ကြီးဌာန်းနှင့်)	4:20 pm
	4:30 pm
	4:45 pm
	5:00 pm
	5:15 pm
	5:30 pm
	5:45 pm
	6:00 pm
	6:15 pm
	6:30 pm
	6:45 pm
	7:00 pm
	7:15 pm
	7:30 pm
	7:45 pm
	8:00 pm
	8:15 pm
	8:30 pm
	8:45 pm
	9:00 pm
	9:15 pm
	9:30 pm
	9:45 pm
	10:00 pm

5. Nice & Sweet Song	13. ထူးသန်းထွေလာများကို သိပ်ဖြန့်ချင်ကိုပြင်း
6.အထိုပ်ပြိုင်း	14. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ ထမ်းကွဲ “နှောင့်ဖွေ့ဖွေ့” (အိုင်း-၁၀)
7. Dance Variey	15. News
8. “နှောင်းနောင်”	16. အဖျိုးသားအတိုင်းအမှုတ် ဥယျာဉ်
9. International News	17. အဖျိုးသားအတိုင်းအမှုတ် ဥယျာဉ် (ပုံးစိုင်း)
8:50 am	18. International News
10. Musical Programme	19. Weather Report
11. Martial Song	20. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတလမ်းကွဲ “လှိုလှိုကော်”
12. Cute Little Dancers	12. ပေါ်ခွင့်စေသောနေ့ရက်များ “ချေးသည်” (အိုင်း-၁၃)
13. Weather Report	17. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတလမ်းကွဲ “ချုပ်တော်သာ” (မိုးမိုးသာရောင်းသယ်) (အိုင်း-၂၂)
14. Evening News	21. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတလမ်းကွဲ
15. International News	
16. အကပြိုင်း	
17. အကပြိုင်း	
18. အကပြိုင်း	
19. အကပြိုင်း	
20. အကပြိုင်း	
21. အကပြိုင်း	



6th Waxing of Taboung 1371 ME

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Thursday, 18 February, 2010

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

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

People's Desire

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

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

Thriving summer paddy — a joy of life for farmers in Waingmaw

Waingmaw Township in Kachin State is a region where both summer paddy and monsoon paddy are thriving. The township targets to put 10,028 acres of

Article: Tin Htwe (MNA);
Photos: Maung Pyone Myint (Bilu)



Wahshaung Diversion Weir allows local farmers to cultivate summer paddy.

farmlands under summer paddy in 2010 to realize the objective of Kachin State to become fourth granary of Myanmar.

In its drive, local farmers will cultivate summer paddy by irrigation water from Wahshaung Diversion Weir. A total of 12 villages, namely Wahshaung,

Nanwah, Wuyan, Madain, Myoma (1), Myoma (2), Myoma (3), Myoma (4), Myoma (5), Moklwe, Khetcho and Naungsipaw, in Waingmaw Township include in the irrigated area of Wahshaung Diversion Weir. The villages will grow multi-cropping pattern.
(See page 9)

Myanmar rout Sri Lanka 4-0 in Challenge Cup

YANGON, 17 Feb—Myanmar in its debut hammered host Sri Lanka 4-0 in the AFC Challenge Cup 2010, organized by the Asian Football Confederation, in Colombo of Sri Lanka at 8 pm Myanmar Standard Time yesterday.

Myanmar took a leading role in the first half with an opening goal scored by Kyaw Thiha at the 37th minute.

At the 72nd minute of second half, superb

forward Yan Paing kicked the ball into the net of Sri Lanka for the second. Winger Paing Soe added the third for Myanmar at the 82nd minute. Two minutes before the whistle went for the end of the match, wonderful midfielder Myo Min Tun netted the fourth for mother team.

In the second match of the group, Myanmar will play against Bangladesh at 8 pm MST tomorrow.—MNA

Untimely rain reported

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Feb—The untimely rain is forecasted in Kachin State, Chin State, Shan State, Northern Rakhine State, Sagaing Division and Mandalay Division during the coming 24 hours from this noon due to the clouds moving towards Myanmar from the northwest, said the press release of the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology referring to the observation at 11.30 a.m. today.—MNA

Take Fire Preventive Measures