Lt-Gen Tha Aye of Ministry of Defence tours Hkamti, Lahe townships

Lt-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence and Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commanded North-West Command Maj-Gen Myint Soe inspected Hkamti Training Centre for Development of Nationality Youths in Border Areas on 9 January and met with national race youths at the training centre and spoke words of encouragement.

Lt-Gen Tha Aye inspected Namsalein suspension bridge on Hsinthay-Lahe Road and the domesticated wild oxen farm of the command.

He visited Monhtwe Village where he met with local people, students and teachers, Lahe Town Hall, local regiment, and Lahe Training Centre for Development of Nationality Youths in Border Areas where he presented gifts to national race youths of the training centre. Lt-Gen Tha Aye then inspected Lahe Township People’s Hospital (25-bed).

It was one misty morning of the cold season and Aye Kaba motorboat was sailing at full speed, braving the cold weather. We, media crew of Myanmar Alin daily, were on our way to regions of successful summer paddy cultivation in Mawlamyinegyun Township to collect facts about effective cultivation method of summer paddy.

The motorboat was heading for Phoetilut, one of the regions of successful summer paddy cultivation. Along the route were continuous scenes of harvesting monsoon paddy, carrying sheaves of paddy with bull-carts or in groups. In a few days, rice of monsoon paddy will be available in abundance in the whole country.

After an hour drive, we saw Phoetilut village on the opposite bank of Kyunchuang creek. The village is composed of 348 households with a population of 1,562. The village grew 1,102 acres of monsoon paddy this year and will grow 750 acres of paddy in coming summer paddy cultivation season.

Encouraging signs of development in agricultural sector

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Just as the motorboat turned into Phoetilut creek, we were greeted by the engine sound of power tillers at work. It is learnt that other villages in the village-tract are also ploughing for cultivation of summer paddy. It is really a village-tract of great industry.

As we stepped on Wedaung village on the opposite bank of Phoetilut village, we saw endless ploughed fields. We asked the chairman of Phoetilut village-tract PDC about paddy cultivation of the village-tract. The chairman said “Our village-tract has 30 power tillers, 10 threshers, 22 water pumps and 10 pumps. Phoetilut farmers are endowed with both mettle and industry. The harvest targeted for coming summer paddy cultivation season is 100 baskets of rice per acre. As you see, other village-tracts are still reaping monsoon paddy. Farmers of ours know that early cultivation promises bumper harvest. That’s why they grow early.” Farmers of Phoetilut village visited such village-tracts of successful summer paddy cultivation as Taguntainggyi, Htitolo, Thabyaechaung in Mawlamyinegyun Township five years ago. There they saw anyone who grew summer paddy became well-off. Then, they put what they learnt from those villages into practice.

(See page 10)
PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 13 January, 2010

Make effective use of resources

The Ayeyawady delta region is rich in natural resources. It has vast stretches of farmland where paddy and other major crops thrive well. As it also has lots of rivers and creeks as well as a coastline, the people in the region can engage in fisheries and salt industry on a commercial scale.

With economic development, local people will be able to enjoy long-term interests. Good transport is the sine qua non for development of agriculture, meat and fish and salt industries. This being so, the government has given priority to construction of road networks with a view to facilitating regional development.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein, during his tour in Ayeyawady Division on 10 January, inspected the Pathein-Thalupkhwar-Mawtinsun road construction project in Ngapudaw Township and the 3rd Mile Myothit construction project in Labutta Township. The Pathein-Thalupkhwar-Mawtinsun road is one of the road network development projects being implemented in the Ayeyawady delta region. Companies are taking responsibility for construction of the road section-wise. The Prime Minister called for full use of man and machine power to ensure timely completion of the projects and called on technicians to carry out their respective work meeting the required standards to ensure durability of roads.

For development of coastal regions, requirements of the transport sector and other infrastructures are being fulfilled. In addition, necessary measures are being taken for the development of the agriculture, meat and fish and salt industries, which are the mainstay of the local people’s livelihood.

As the Ayeyawady delta region is rich in aquatic and terrestrial resources, enterprises in the region will develop if the local people and authorities concerned try to make the most effective use of the resources.

Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing inspects extension of Pyinmana-Pinlaung road and construction of Lainli Bridge

NAU PYI TAW, 12 Jan—Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence accompanied by Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Yar Pyae and Departmental officials inspected the development of Taunggyi in a motorcade on 9 January.

They proceeded to the mile post No. 49 on Pyinmana-Pinlaung road and inspected preparation being made for allotment, progress in construction of approach road and approach bridge of Lainli Bridge on the bank of Pinlaung side.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing inspected construction of approach road of Lainli Bridge on the bank of Pyinmana side.

Database Applications Developer Course in Jan last week

YANGON, 12 Jan—

MNA

Anyone with basic skills on DBMS and SQL Language can join the course. After completing the course, a trainee receives two certificates: one from MPEC and another from Beacon School of Technology of Singapore.

Interested persons may join MPEC at No 112, Room No (11/12), 8th Mile, Pyay Road, Mayangon Township, Yangon (Ph: 668779, 668259, 6850124).

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased

Lugyimin Mobile organizes lucky draw

Director U Pyi Soe Tun of Lugyimin mobile shop explains lucky draw programme.

MNA
Angola says two attackers arrested; Togo out of Cup

CABINDA, 12 Jan — Angola said on Monday it had arrested two people suspected of taking part in an attack on a bus carrying the Togo national soccer team to the African Nations Cup in which two delegation members were killed.

It said it wanted its neighbors and France to clamp down on the rebels who have claimed responsibility for the attack in Cabinda, a heavily militarized oil-producing province geographically cut off from northern Angola.

Provincial prosecutor Antonio Nito said the two suspects belonged to the Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda (FLEC) — the small remnant of a group that has been fighting for independence from Angola for over 30 years.

Friday’s attack took place shortly after the Togo team’s bus crossed into Cabinda from the Republic of Congo.

23 militants lay down arms in N Afghanistan

KABUL, 12 Jan — A group of 23 armed anti-government militants laid down their arms and resumed their normal life in Baghlan Province north of Afghanistan on Monday.

“Twenty three militants loyal to Taleban laid down their arms in Andarab District this afternoon,” Mohammad Akbar Barikzai, governor of Baghlan Province said. Barikzai told Xinhua that with the surrender of these militants, the government control has been tightened in Andarab District and surrounding areas.—Xinhua

Venezuela protests to US on claimed air incursion

CARACAS, 12 Jan — Venezuela made a diplomatic protest to the United States and the Netherlands on Monday, saying a US military plane violated its airspace last week after taking off from the Dutch Caribbean island of Curacao. A US diplomat denied it.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Nicolas Maduro called the purported incursion “an attempt to provoke some type of incident.” He presented a protest letter to John Caufield, charge d’affaires at the US Embassy in Caracas, and to Dutch diplomat JG van Vloten Dossel.

Maduro expressed concern about the Netherlands’ role, saying that “we are worried that their territories are being used by the United States to make illegal incursions into our airspace.”

Caufield denied the accusation, saying a US military plane has not strayed into Venezuelan airspace since 2008, when the US acknowledged what it called an accidental incident involving a Navy plane. Caufield noted US and Venezuelan officials discussed that incident in 2008. “We have not had any other event of a violation of Venezuelan airspace by American planes,” Caufield said.

In making the allegation last week, Chavez accused Washington of trying to provoke his government by sending an American P-3 plane from Curacao to twice enter Venezuelan airspace on Friday. The plane was met by Venezuelan F-16s and escorted out of Venezuelan airspace, he said.—Internet

On 11 Jan, 2010, China conducted a test on ground-based midcourse missile interception technology within its territory. The test has achieved the expected objective. The test is defensive in nature and is not targeted at any country. Xinhua

Policeman killed in suicide attack

KABUL, 12 Jan — Afghan police say a member of the Afghan National Police has been killed and two others wounded in a suicide attack at a police station in south-central Afghanistan.

Uruzgan provincial police chief Junna Gul Hamit says a suicide bomber detonated his cache of explosives Monday evening near the gate of a police chief’s office in Dwharad District.

Hamit says the attacker tried to enter the office where a meeting was underway.

Although wounded by police, the bomber detonated his explosive vest, killing the one policeman and injuring the other who kept him from going inside.—Internet

US official in Beirut for security cooperation talks


Johnson and US Ambassador to Lebanon Michele Sison met with the command staff of the ISF, led by Director General Achraf Rifi, the US embassy in Beirut said in a statement.

Sison met with the command staff of the ISF, led by Rifi, to work with NATO’s Afghanistan Mission “an attempt to provoke some type of incident.” She reiterated France’s determination of continuing to work with NATO’s International Force of Security Assistance to restore stability in the restless count.—Xinhua

French soldier killed in Afghanistan

PARIS, 12 Jan — A French soldier was killed on Monday morning during a mission in Kabul, capital of Afghanistan, President Nicolas Sarkozy’s office said.

The serviceman was killed during patrolling with Afghan national army in the valley of Alasay, some 80 kilometers northeast of Kabul, and another was seriously hurt in the same attack, the office said without more details.

Sarkozy condemned the “blind violence” against French troop and reiterated France’s determination of continuing to work with NATO’s International Force of Security Assistance to restore stability in the restless count.—Xinhua

Workers clean the site of a bomb attack in Baghdad on 11 January, 2010. A sticky bomb attached to a vehicle wounded three passengers who work in the office of an Iraqi parliamentarian, in Abu Nawas Street in central Baghdad, police said.—Internet

An Iraqi boy shows a photo of himself taken before US helicopters attacked the vegetable field where he was playing which left him with no sight in his right eye and severe burns to most of his face. Tony Blair’s controversial former chief spin doctor, Alastair Campbell, will give evidence to a public inquiry into the Iraq war, days before his one-time boss takes the stand. Internet
Samsung targets 50% growth in air conditioner business

BERLIN, 12 Jan—Samsung Electronics Co, South Korea’s largest electronics manufacturer, said on Tuesday its air conditioner unit is targeting 3 trillion won (2.67 billion US dollars) in sales revenue this year, a 50-percent growth from last year, by focusing on the overseas market.

“Samsung has not been active in the air-conditioner business so far, but we will put heavier focus on it with the goal of reaching a global leader status within two to three years,” Moon Gang-ho, head of Samsung’s air conditioner unit, said in a press conference.

Samsung plans to sell 5.5 million units overall this year and expects to accrue two thirds of the sales revenue from overseas markets, Moon added.

The company’s emphasis on foreign markets is reflected by its recent opening of two manufacturing plants in India, Moon said, adding it plans to expand to areas like Brazil and Indonesia soon.

Air Berlin passenger volume falls in 2009

BERLIN, 12 Jan—Germany’s second-largest airline company Air Berlin said on Monday that its passenger volume decreased 3.9 percent during 2009 as a result of the global economic crisis.

Air Berlin transported a total of 27.9 million passengers over the whole year of 2009, slumping from 29 million in 2008, according to the company.

“One of the reasons for this decline is that the accumulated capacity was reduced by 2.6 percent,” the Berlin-based company said. Despite the difficult market environment in 2009, its fleet capacity utilization, which measures how many flight seats are taken by passengers, reached 77.3 percent, a slight decline of one percentage point comparing with the previous year.

Airbus hopes to double A380 production in 2010

PARIS, 12 Jan—Plane maker Airbus aims to double output of its new A380 superjumbo in 2010, the company’s chief operating officer Fabrice Breguier said in an interview published on Tuesday.

“Airbus’s objective is to double A380 deliveries in 2010,” Breguier was quoted as saying the Liver 20 A380s this year, attaining a stable rate of two planes per month in the second half of the year,” he added.

In 2008 Airbus delivered 12 of the super-jumbos. Breguier said the company’s industrial capacity should allow them to eventually complete four of the aircraft per month, but “a lot remains done to streamline the production process and, in the longer term achieve a more systematic standardization.”

Toyota introduces the FT-CH Concept vehicle at the North American International Auto Show at the Cobo Centre on 11 January in Detroit, Michigan. The FT-CH concept car is aimed at Toyota’s strategy “to offer a wider variety of conventional hybrid choices to its customers,” as it begins to introduce plug-in hybrids and battery-powered vehicles in global markets, the company said.—Xinhua

Containers are loaded onto a cargo ship in Manila. Philippine exports rose in November for the first time after a 10-month slide, thanks to a boost in the electronics sector, the government said on Tuesday.—INTERNET

Japan’s current account surplus rises by 76.9% in Nov

TOKYO, 12 Jan—Japan’s current account surplus rose by 76.9 percent year on year to 1.03 trillion yen (12 billion dollars) in November, according to statistics released on Tuesday by the Ministry of Finance.

The surplus in the current account is the broadest measure of Japan’s trade with the rest of the world, and was down from 1.3976 trillion yen (15 billion dollars) in October.

The balance of trade in goods and services stood at 439.5 billion yen (4.8 billion dollars), down from 618.3 billion yen (67 billion dollars) in October.

Exports posted a year-on-year decrease of 7 percent, and stood at 4.704 trillion yen (51 billion dollars). The year-on-year decrease was much smaller than October’s, when exports posted a 24.6-per-cent fall.—Xinhua

Turkmen gas flowing to Russia

ASHGABAT, 12 Jan—Turkmenistan restarted natural gas shipments to Russia during the weekend amid speculation Ashgabat was making strong moves away from Moscow, Gazprom said.

Turkmen gas company Turkmenagaz signed a December deal with Russian gas monopoly Gazprom for natural gas supplies.

A Gazprom spokesman said gas supplies from Turkmenistan started up during the weekend, Russia’s state news agency RIA Novosti reports.

Russia was the primary importer of Turkmen gas. That relationship was strained, however, following a Turkmen pipeline explosion in April that the government in Ashgabat blamed on Gazprom.

Energy analysts pointed to the launch of a natural gas pipeline from Iran to Turkmenistan last week as a sign Ashgabat was moving away from Moscow.

Britain’s‘energy crisis’ not yet over

LONDON, 12 Jan—Britain’s gas crisis is not yet over as demand continues to soar in times of a bitter cold spell.

Facing one of the coldest winters ever, British consumers are hoping that the gas flow continues unabated.

While the cold has been easing over the past days, energy giant BP on Monday announced it would close down a North Sea gas pipeline for a week of maintenance, putting further pressure on the British grid after a pipeline pumping in crude from Norway was temporarily shut down last week.

Britain’s demand for oil and gas is at an all-time high because of a continuing cold spell that has left most of the country in subfreezing temperatures for weeks.—INTERNET
**Boat carrying 10 missing off southern Japan**

Tokyo, 12 Jan—A fishing boat carrying 10 crew members, six Chinese and four Japanese, went missing and might have capsized on Tuesday off the Goto Islands in Nagasaki Prefecture, Japan, according to the Japanese Coast Guard.

The Coast Guard has dispatched an airplane and a patrol boat to the area to search for the 113-ton Yamada Maru No 2, which contact was lost at around 4 am on Tuesday.

Feared BYD ferrous battery, the e6 with an expected range per charge cycle of 330 km in cruising mode, an estimated acceleration time from 0-100 km/h in less than 14 seconds and with a projected top speed of 140 km/h.

These characteristics make the e6 ideal for daily commutes, in-town driving and even long distance travel. The new version F3DM electric vehicle also features BYD Fe battery together with a BYD 371QA 1.0-litre gasoline engine. It will be equipped with the solar panel sunroof, which can be used to channel power to the Fe battery.

The F3DM has a range of about 400 km on one tank of fuel, with a maximum speed of 160 km/h. It can also run for 100 km powered by Fe battery pack alone.—Xinhua

**China’s electric car displayed at NAIAS**

Detroit, 12 Jan—China’s first electric carmaker BYD displayed its e6 and F3DM electric vehicles at the North America International Auto Show (NAIAS) which opened in the US auto city of Detroit on Monday.

Features BYD ferrous battery, the e6 with an expected range per charge cycle of 330 km in cruising mode, an estimated acceleration time from 0-100 km/h in less than 14 seconds and with a projected top speed of 140 km/h.

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**Korea’s first icebreaker embarks on Antarctic voyage**

Seoul, 12 Jan—South Korea’s first-ever icebreaking vessel set sail for its Antarctic voyage on Tuesday to test its icebreaking operations and explore candidate sites for the country’s second research base there, the government said.

The 7,487-ton icebreaker named Araon stopped last Friday at the port of Christchurch, New Zealand, to store supplies and refuel before heading to the Antarctic for a month-long research expedition.

Araon will conduct research in Cape Burks, where South Korea is preparing to build its second research base in the Antarctic, and in Terra Nova Bay, the southern end of the Antarctic, a second candidate site, according to the Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs.

**UN launches 2010 as International Year of Biodiversity**

United Nations, 12 Jan—As the United Nations on Monday kicked off its official launch of 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity to highlight the continued devastation on the world’s species, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called it a “wake-up call” to protect the globe’s natural resources.

In his message released by his spokesman here marking the occasion, the Secretary-General said, “Over the past half-century, human activities have caused an unprecedented decline in biological diversity.” “A wide variety of environmental goods and services that we take for granted are under threat, with profound and damaging consequences for ecosystems, economies and livelihoods,” the message read.

World leaders in 2002 reached a consensus to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010, which was added into the Millennium Development Goals but “will not be met,” Ban said.

The trends of downward consequences persist, he said, citing that tropical forests continue to hurt where endemic species have fallen and have disrupted local, regional and global climates.

In addition, Ban also named the damaging effect climate change and ocean acidification had on coral reefs.—Xinhua

**Light plane crash kills four in Chile**

Santiago, 12 Jan—Four people were killed on Monday when a light plane crashed near La Serena city, some 474 km north of the Chilean capital of Santiago, according to the country’s air force.

“The control tower of the La Serena Airport confirmed that they had found the light plane in La Cachimba valley, 22 km inside from La Serena, and unfortunately the four people onboard died,” said Rodrigo Ceballos, coordinator of the air force’s search and rescue service.

The four killed include the pilot and three businessmen. Ceballos said the single-engine Mooney plane, which took off at 10:30 am local time (1330 GMT) on Monday from an Airport in La Serena, was flying to Santiago. The cause of the accident is still unknown.—Xinhua

**New Zealand to boost diplomatic relations with Fiji**

Wellington, 12 Jan—The New Zealand government was making efforts to improve diplomatic relations with Fiji. The two governments have agreed to an additional Counsellor position being established for Fiji in Wellington, and for New Zealand in Suva.

New Zealand Foreign Minister Murray McCully said on Tuesday the decision followed his talks with his Fiji counterpart Ratu Inoke Kubaubula in the Fiji resort town of Nadi last week, Radio New Zealand International reported on Tuesday.

A number of issues of bilateral interest to both countries were discussed in a positive and constructive atmosphere, he said.

The face-to-face meeting followed communications between the two ministers over recent months.

The two agreed to keep in close contact and to meet as necessary in future.

The announcement came two months after Fiji expelled New Zealand’s top diplomat Todd Cleaver from the country. It was the third such expulsion since military commander Frank Bainimarama took over the Pacific island country of Fiji in 2006 and was in retaliation for a travel ban imposed by the New Zealand government on Fiji’s officials.—Xinhua
Extreme cold sparks blackout concerns in S Korea

SEOUL, 12 Jan—South Koreans were urged Tuesday to save energy after unusually icy weather caused a surge in power demand, sparking concern about possible blackouts. Knowledge Economy Minister Choi Kyung-Hwan said the country used a record amount of electricity over the past four days, peaking at 68.56 million kilowatts last on Friday morning. This is 5.35 million kilowatts more than recorded during last summer’s peak, when air conditioners are widely used. Unless people reduce usage the nation’s power reserve capacity will fall below four million kilowatts, which would be considered an emergency situation, Choi said.

China to build, launch Bolivia satellite

LA PAZ, 12 Jan—China has pledged to build and launch a communications satellite for Bolivia to help link up remote and isolated areas of the Latin American country as part of an overall development plan, officials said. Bolivian President Evo Morales will visit China in March to conclude agreements for the space programmes, which has become possible because of the Chinese offer to fund the project on easy loan terms. The construction and launch of the satellite — Bolivia’s first — is expected to cost $300 million. Details of the financing and whether Bolivia will contribute any cash, if at all, are yet to be worked out. Competition in the global space industry has intensified amid space building and launch capacity and governments’ need to claw back huge costs incurred in laying out space programmes. Most of the programmes, including that in China, were initiated for diplomatic and political ends, in most cases the Cold War, and now increasingly are driven by pragmatism and business needs.

Indian village opens railway station

An Indo-Pacific red lionfish swims in the Caribbean in this undated handout photograph. More than 300 scuba divers have been certified to catch red lionfish in a race to prevent the invasive and voracious species from consuming all the young and small fish on the Cayman Islands’ famous coral reefs.

Women equal to men in math ability

Women have comparable ability to men in math but men are more confident about their math ability, US researchers found. Lead author Nicole Else-Quest, a psychology professor at Villanova University, said girls around the world are not worse at math than boys, but girls from countries where gender equity is more prevalent are more likely to perform better in math. “We have agreed that seven passenger trains will stop at this station a day, and we believe it is financially viable,” Anant Swaroop, railway ministry official, told.

Pigs close motorway after crash

A busy motorway was closed for hours on Wednesday after three pigs became trapped in a lorry carrying a herd of pigs, posing a risk to motorists, police said. Some 12 pigs ran around on the carriageway of the M11 motorway north of London following the early-morning crash, involving a truck carrying a load of 82 animals. The other pigs, each weighing some 20 stones (125 kilos), were trapped in the wreckage, said a spokesman, adding that some of the escaped animals subsequently began grazing on a motorway embankment. “The southbound carriageway has been closed at Junction 8 and the road is likely to remain shut for around six hours while recovery work and repairs to the central reservation continues,” said an Essex Police spokesman. “The northbound carriageway has also been closed and could remain shut for about two hours because of fears that the pigs could cross from the southbound lane and be a danger to road users.”

Oil falls below $82 on warmer weather expectations

On Monday, a weakening US dollar helped push the contract to a 15-month high near $84 a barrel before it settled down 23 cents at $82.52. Crude prices have jumped from $69 a barrel a month ago as cold winter weather, especially in the US Northeast, boosted demand for oil products such as heating oil. Forecasters now expect those freezing temperatures to ease in coming weeks, especially in the US, Europe and Asia will push the contract to a 15-month high near $84 a barrel before it settled down 23 cents at $82.52. "The bullish impetus out of the dollar weakness was largely offset by warmer Northeast temperature expectations for the next couple of weeks," Galena Illinois-based Ritterbusch and Associates said in a report. The euro fell slightly against the dollar in early trading Tuesday and the dollar was steady against the yen.

Oil prices fell below $82 a barrel on Tuesday in Asia on expectations a frigid cold spell in parts of the US, Europe and Asia will ease in coming weeks, weakening crude demand. Benchmark crude for February delivery was down 61 cents to $81.92 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Australia’s freshwater crocodiles at risk

WADAYE, 12 Jan—Fierce saltwater crocodiles and poisonous cane toads are threatening freshwater crocodiles in Australia’s Northern Territory, researchers said. The number of freshwater crocs has decreased since the late 1990s in some rivers around the port of Wadaye, the Australian Broadcasting Corp. reported Monday. The smaller, more timid, freshwater crocs are being muscled out in some parts of the territory by saltwater crocs, which are the world’s largest reptiles and grow to average length of 13 feet. Saltwater crocs arguably are Australia’s most dangerous animal, while freshwater crocs, which average about 5 feet in length, are not known for attacking people or other larger mammals, Australian conservationist Sandy Boulter told the BBC in a story published Monday.

DIY railway station

India’s vast railway system carries 18.5 million passengers every day.

Mr Bean replaces Spanish PM on EU site

Hackers have attacked the EU website replacing the Spanish Prime Minister with that of the comedy character Mr Bean. Spanish Representives for Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero confirmed the defacement of www.eu2010.es but insisted data on the site was never compromised. The government, which took over the six-month rotating presidency of the EU on January, admitted that the site had become saturated as thousands of Internet users sought to confirm press reports of the spoof. The stunt was achieved using a cross-site scripting attack, or XSS, which injects unauthorized content and code into visitors’ browsers that steal authentication credentials or redirect victims to malicious websites.

A man boards a bus in central Seoul. South Koreans have been urged to save energy after unusually icy weather caused a surge in power demand, sparking concern about possible blackouts.

Internet

A handout photograph. More than 300 scuba divers have been certified to prevent the invasive and voracious species from consuming all the young and small fish on the Cayman Islands’ famous corals reefs.

Phone scam victims' browsers that steal authentication credentials or redirect visitors to malicious websites.

www.eu2010.es
Ethiopia hopes to expand trade with China

ADDIS ABABA, 12 Jan—Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi said on Monday his country hopes to expand its trade size with China.

During his talks with visiting Chinese Minister of Commerce Chen Deming, Meles said his country hopes to join hands with China to promote investment cooperation in areas like infrastructure and manufacturing, adding that Ethiopia is willing to provide more attractive investment environment for Chinese firms.

The current all-round cooperation between the two countries has maintained good momentum and played an important role in Ethiopia’s economy, he added. For his part, Chen said the bilateral trade volume reached a historical high of 1.376 billion US dollars during the first 11 months of last year against the backdrop of international financial crisis, up 12.4 percent over the same period of the previous year.—Xinhua

Gaza militants fire homemade rocket at southern Israel

GAZA, 12 Jan—Militants from the Gaza Strip on Monday night fired a homemade rocket from the Hamas-controlled enclave at the western Negev area in southern Israel, an Israeli army spokesman told Israel Radio.

The radio quoted the army spokesman as saying that Palestinian militants from Gaza fired one homemade rocket that landed near Sha’ar Hanegev council in southern Israel, causing no injuries or damages. No one in Gaza claimed responsibility for the rocket attack, which was launched shortly after the Hamas government in Gaza announced that it would carry out measures to preserve the highest interests, implicating halting rocket attacks from Gaza at Israel. Speaker of Hamas government Taher al-Nounu called in a statement on the Palestinian factions and Gaza militant groups “to agree on a national accordance that draws up a certain mechanism in dealing with the changes on the ground with Israel.” Al-Nounu reiterated in his statement to the mounting Israeli military actions carried out recently against the Gaza Strip. At least ten Palestinians were killed in Israeli air and ground strikes on the enclave within the last ten days.—Xinhua

Russia to launch special TV channel for Vancouver Olympics

MOSCOW, 12 Jan—Russia will set up a special sport TV channel for news coverage at the upcoming Vancouver Winter Olympic Games in February, local media reported.

A joint project on the special sport channel, which has not been named, was being developed by the widely-received Russian TV Channel One and All-Russian State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company (VGTRK), the Inter-Tass news agency reported.

“It will be a rehearsal of using all modern television technologies before the Olympic Games in Sochi,” according to VGTRK, a state-owned Russian television and radio company. The new channel will use high-definition technology, whose broadcasts will be carried by paid satellite and cable television networks. It will also broadcast other major sport events this year, including the South Africa World Cup in June, said VGTRK.

The Vancouver Winter Olympics is slated for 12-28 February.—Xinhua

Bulgaria’s construction production drops 21.9 percent last November

SOFIA, 12 Jan—Bulgaria’s construction production in November 2009 slumped by 21.9 percent compared to that of the same month 2008, according to the preliminary data released on Monday by the National Statistical Institute.

The building construction, which amounts to 62.3 percent of the entire construction production, lowered by 28.3 percent year-on-year. The civil engineering construction registered a decrease of 8.5 percent during the same period.

On the monthly basis, the Construction Production Index in last November also showed a decrease of 10.7 percent compared to the previous month. The production of building construction decreased by 12.5 percent and the civil engineering production was down by 7.5 percent.

Ancient eyeliner guard against bacteria

PARIS, 12 Jan—Egyptian women in ancient times may have worn thick eyeliner to guard against bacterial infection, French scientists said.

Scientists at the University of Pierre and Marie Curie tested lead-based substances found in eye makeup from the time of the pharaohs. The makeup had been preserved at the Louvre museum in Paris. When cultured on human skin cells, the lead-based substances, which contained the mineral laurionite, boosted production of nitric oxide by as much as 240 percent, the scientists wrote in this week’s issue of the journal Analytic Chemistry.—Internet

Two dead in central China apartment fire

CHANGSHA, 12 Jan—Two people died when an apartment building in central China’s Hunan Province caught fire early on Tuesday, the local fire department said.

Fire broke out at a five-story apartment building in Hongxing Village of Yuhua District in the provincial capital Changsha around daybreak, said a spokesman for the city’s fire department.

The department sent a rescue team and six fire engines to the site. Nine people were rescued from the building, but two of them died later in hospital.

The other seven are still in hospital. Police have launched an investigation. The identities of the victims are not yet known.—Xinhua

Albanian soldiers and rescuers make their way through floodwaters near Obot village, in the Shkoder district some 120 km (75 miles) northwest of the capital Tirana on 11 Jan, 2010.—Xinhua

Two members of Tintin and his Bullfighter Dwarfs perform with a cow during a show in the town of Choachi, near Bogota, on 11 Jan, 2010.—INTERNET

Photo taken on 9 Jan, 2009 shows the Danxia landform scenic area in Guide County, Hainan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, northwest China’s Qinghai Province. As the winter comes, cliffs of red terrestrial sandstones and withered plants take on a beautiful landscape. In Chinese Danxia means “rosy clouds.”—Xinhua
Stake-driving ceremony of Nay Pyi Taw Zabu Thiri Sports Centre held

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Jan – The stake-driving ceremony of Nay Pyi Taw Zabu Thiri Sports Centre took place at the compound near Nay Pyi Taw Sports Ground in Pyin Theidi Ward in Nay Pyi Taw Zabu Thiri Township this morning.

Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Nay Pyi Taw Mayor Col Thein Nyunt drove stake first and sprinkled scented water on it.

Next, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and party drove stakes and sprinkled scented water on them.

Zabu Thiri Modern Sports Centre will be built by Max Myanmar Group of Companies in a modish design on 150-acre wide plot in Pyinnya Theidi Ward, Nay Pyi Taw Zabu Township.

Tobacco Kills.

Commander inspects Hlinethaya-Dala-Twantay Road

YANGON, 12 Jan – Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Win Myint arrived at Aung Zeya Bridge Tollgate in Hlinethaya Township yesterday and inspected progress of upgrading of Yangon-Nyaungdon Road.

After hearing reports on work progress and ongoing tasks presented by officials at the briefing hall of Hlinethaya-Dala-Twantay Road, the commander gave necessary instructions and looked into work progress along the road.

Then the commander went to model summer paddy field in Wahyonseik ward in Kyimyindaing Township and oversaw growing of summer paddy at the model farmland.

On his arrival at Hsetsan Ward, the commander inspected construction of Konchaung Reinforced Concrete Bridge and inter-districts road, and attended to the needs in meeting with local people.

Welcoming ceremony for B.Ed course No. 41 trainees held

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Jan – A ceremony to welcome trainees who will attend 4-year B.Ed course No. 41 at University for Development of National Races was held at Central Institute of Civil Service (PyinOoLwin) in PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Division on 11 January. It was attended by Chairman U Kyaw Thu of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, officials and trainees.

Chairman U Kyaw Thu provided cash assistance for study tour to the trainees. The trainees then looked around the compound of the CICS.
CICS (Upper Myanmar) opens Special Refresher Course No (13) for Faculty Members

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Jan.—The Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) in PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Division, held the opening of Special Refresher Course No (13) for Faculty Members at its Yadana Hall yesterday morning.

Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein, on behalf of Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, delivered an address, citing the guidance given by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe that practically effective education system is to be the centre stage in the education sector, adhering to the concept “education for the State, education for the Nation” not “education for the education’s sake”.

He urged the trainees to play an exemplary role in nurturing students for the latter’s all-round development to be able to tackle the new challenges.

Altogether 859 faculty members from universities and colleges in upper Myanmar are attending the four-week course.—MNA

A visit to developing Chipwe...

It can be said that Bala Min Hin Bridge is the one that stands at the head of Ayeayawady River because it was built seven miles downstream from the confluence where two rivers flow together and become Ayeayawady River.

We stopped over at Washaung concrete bridge in Waingmaw Township to observe the bridge and flow of water in the creek.

At lower Namawyan village on Waingmaw-Chipwe road, land preparations are being carried out with the use of heavy machinery. When we entered Mandaung village BEPS, school children greeted us with songs.

On the way to Chipwe, We passed 59th Mile Bailey suspension bridge in Waingmaw Township and Zanaungyan suspension bridge that crosses Maykha river.

When we arrived in Chipwe, the sun was sinking in the west. We spent the night in Chipwe.

Chipwe is located 927 feet above sea level sharing borders with Hsawlaw Township in the north, the People’s Republic of China in the east, Waingmaw in the south and Injanyan Township in the west. It has 1324 square miles stretching 40 miles from east to west and 64 miles from south to north. In Chipwe Township, having mountains, deep valleys and rivers in large quantity and plains in small quantity, characterized by dry gravel soil and igneous rock. It is formed with four wards, 40 village-tracts and 125 villages with the population of 17920.

In road transport sector, Chipwe-Hsawlaw road is being upgraded starting from November, 2007. Upon completion, local people will be able to use the motorway.

People in Chipwe Township largely rely on mountain torrents and spring-fed streams for water supply and drinking water. Works for river water pumping, sinking and building dam and reservoir had not been implemented. Rain water and mountain torrents play an important role in agriculture sector. As land utilization process, 1705 acres of field, 2757 acres of farmland, 3977 acres of garden and 3520 acres of hillside cultivation have been reclaimed so far.

It is learnt that Myanmar Peak Mining Company produced 2300 tons of ore in 2007-08 in Panwah Region, Chipwe Township. Passenger buses of Jainphawmyay private bus line are running along 87-mile long Chipwe-Myiiktina road, 32-mile gravel road and 55-mile earth road three days a week.

For better road transportation in the township, 40-mile long Chipwe-Panwah gravel road, seven-mile long Chipwe-Myaumawpa earth road, nine-mile long Chipwe-Lawkhaung earth road, 69-mile long Chipwe-Phinaw earth road and 144-mile long Chipwe-Phala earthroad have been built. The township has four IP STAR telephones for trunk call. In education sector, two high schools, one middle school and 40 primary schools were opened. One Township People’s Hospital, one Station Hospital, one Health Center and five clinics provide health care services to local people in the township.

I still have a vivid memory of my visit to newly-built Labaygyai Hotel outside Chipwe.

Translation: YM Kyemon: 9-1-2010

Panoramic view of Maykha river that runs parallel to Waingmaw-Chipwe road.

Minister Dr Chan Nyein greets trainees at the opening of Special Refresher Course No (13) for Faculty Members.—MNA

182 drug-related cases exposed in December, 2009

NAY PYI TAW, 12 Jan.—In December 2009, 182 drug-related cases were exposed: 32. 4322 kilos of opium in 27 cases; 0.2664 kilo of heroin in 58 cases; 5.7977 kilos of opium oil in seven cases; 0.7856 kilo of low-grade opium in four cases; 9.7243 kilos of marijuana in 15 cases; 5495 stimulant tablets in 53 cases; 30.9045 kilos of speciosa in 11 cases; 459 tablets of alprazolam in one case; 1,072 kilos of amphetamine, 0.244 kilos of morphine powder in one case, one case for failure to register, and four other cases.

Action was thus taken against 282 people—219 men and 63 women in accordance with the law.

MNA
Myanmar-Bangladesh volleyball friendly

YANGON, 12 Jan—Myanmar-Bangladesh volleyball friendly was held at National Indoor Stadium (Thuwunna) here this afternoon.

Selected Myanmar men’s team beat selected Bangladeshi men’s team (25-18), (25-20) and (25-19).

The second match takes place at the same venue at 3 pm on 14 January. Admission is free.—MNA

IBTC OPEN Golf Championship (Taunggyi) continues for third day

YANGON, 9 Jan—IBTC OPEN Golf Championship (Taunggyi), as part of sixth leg of Myanmar Golf Tour 2009-2010, continued for third day at Ayethayar Golf Resort in Taunggyi, Shan State (South) this morning.

After 18 hole of third day, Yin Aung Latt (Srixon) and Thein Zaw Myint (KMQ Golf Centre) led the tour with 215 strokes each. Zaw Zin Win stood third with 218 strokes in professional golfers competition.

In amateur competition, Soe Moe Win stood first with 220 strokes, followed by Tin Lin Ko with 225 strokes and Aung Kyaw Thu with 225 strokes.

Main sponsor of the tour is International Beverages Trading Co Ltd (IBTC) and co-sponsors are Air Bagan Ltd, KBZ Bank Ltd, Hotel Yangon, KM Golf Centre, HAN Golf Masters Pte Ltd, Myanmar Thiba Trading Co Ltd, Bay of Bengal Resort (BOB), HAN Golf Centre, CEPSA Lubricantes, ACCEL International Co Ltd (Canon), Imperial Jade Purified Drinking Water, Lifeline Co Ltd, GP Thornton, Mweseinchaung village in Kungyangon township, Mweseinchaung village in Kungyangon township-tract.

We learnt from the township manager of Mweseinchaung village-tract.

We then proceeded to Htannyinaung-techaung village around 12 pm. Just as we disembarked, we were greeted by local villagers who heartily said “I have planned to grow 20 acres of summer paddy this year. Now, I am preparing to grow 12 acres of summer paddy on the harvested farms. I have targeted to have a harvest of summer paddy every year. I would like to tell summer paddy growers, the early bird catches the worm.”

The early bird catches the worm.

Our media crew then proceeded to Mweseinchaung village in Kungyangon village-tract.

We learnt from the township manager of Mweseinchaung village-tract.

We then arrived at Htannyinaung-techaung village around 12 pm. Just as we disembarked, we were greeted by farmer U Huu Myint who said “I grew 30 acres of monsoon paddy this year. Now, I am preparing to grow 93,500 acres of summer paddy in coming summer cultivation season. We arrived at Htannyinaung-techaung village and we saw in regions of summer rice cultivation are in their prime. We were told that the facility to resume power supply as soon as possible.—MNA

We then interviewed farmer U Sein Myint at his work. He said “I grew 30 acres of monsoon paddy this year. Now, I am preparing to grow 30 acres of summer paddy on harvested farms. I grow summer paddy every year and I understand the nature of summer paddy very well. It needs sun light and should not be grown late. The late cultivation may have negative effect on quality and output of summer paddy.”

To sum up, what we saw in regions of summer paddy cultivation are in their prime.

So, I would like to tell summer paddy growers, the early bird catches the worm.

Translation: TKK
Myanma Alin
(10-12-2009)
New scanners use terahertz waves

ANN ARBOR, 12 Jan—Scanners using terahertz waves would ensure privacy during security screenings but detect explosives or other weapons, engineers in Michigan said.

Terahertz waves can detect the chemical signature of explosives and the metal and plastic in guns, said engineers at Advanced Photonix Inc, an Ann Arbor firm working on new identification technology.

Unlike scanners using X-rays and millimetre waves, a terahertz scanner identifies material without producing a high-definition image of a traveller’s body, Richard Kurtz, the company’s chairman, told the Detroit News in a story published on Monday.

When hit by a terahertz wave, materials bounce back a return wave with a unique signature.

‘Smoked’ flavour food concerns

LONDON, 12 Jan—The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) says one of the flavourings used to give smoke flavour to meat, cheese or fish, may be toxic to humans.

The authority looked at 11 smoke flavourings commonly used in the European Union. It says several of the flavourings are dangerously close to levels which may cause harm to humans.

The European Commission will now establish a list of smoke-flavouring products that are safe for use in food. The smoke flavourings are products which can be added to foods to give them a “smoked” flavour, as an alternative to traditional smoking. EFSA says it “cannot rule out concerns” about a flavouring called Primary Product AM 01, which is obtained from beech wood.

The wood particles are burnt under controlled conditions and the hot vapours are dissolved in a solvent. The Panel says the use of the substance “at the intended levels is a safety concern”. The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) says one of the flavourings used to give smoke flavour to meat, cheese or fish, may be toxic to humans.

The authority looked at 11 smoke flavourings commonly used in the European Union. It says several of the flavourings are dangerously close to levels which may cause harm to humans. The European Commission will now establish a list of smoke-flavouring products that are safe for use in food.

The smoke flavourings are products which can be added to foods to give them a “smoked” flavour, as an alternative to traditional smoking. — Internet

Israeli shelling northern Gaza kills two Palestinians

Gaza, 12 Jan—Two Palestinians were killed on Monday night in an Israeli tank shelling on northern Gaza Strip town of Biet Hanoun, witnesses and local sources said.

They said Israeli tanks stationed near the borders at northern Gaza Strip and Israel shelled a group of Palestinians, adding that the shelling killed two people and wounded two others. Gaza emergency chief Mu’aweya Hassanein told reporters that two Palestinians were killed and two others injured in an Israeli shelling on the town of Biet Hanoun, adding that they were broughtto Kamal Odwan Hospital in northern Gaza Strip.

Local sources said that the two dead are members of Izzedan al-Qassam Brigades, an armed wing of Islamic Hamas movement, adding that the militants were apparently trying to fire rockets from the area at Israel. There has been no immediate Israeli army response on the raid. However, an Israeli army spokesman said that the army is checking out the report.

— Xinhua

Moderate quake jolts Honduras-Guatemala border

MANAGUA, 12 Jan—A moderate earthquake rattled the Honduran-Guatemalan border on Monday. There were no immediate reports of casualties, according to Press reports monitored here. The tremor, measuring 4.9 on the Richter Scale, struck 260 km north of the Honduran capital of Tegucigalpa at 5:40 pm (2340 GMT), said Francisco Moncada, an official with the country’s Bureau of Disaster Monitoring.

The quake was widely felt in Honduras’ western areas and northern Caribbean cities but no immediate reports of property damage or casualties have been made, he said. A tremor of 4.8 magnitude struck the same area on 31 December—Xinhua

Algeria protests at new US air security rules

ALGIER, 12 Jan—Algeria’s Foreign Minister summoned the US ambassador on Monday to protest at Algeria’s inclusion on a list of countries whose flights bound for the United States will be subject to extra security checks, state media reported.

The North African country is fighting an Al-Qaeda-linked insurgency but the violence has subsided significantly in the past few years and officials say they have stringent security measures in place, especially at airports. Algeria’s inclusion on the list — announced by Washington after a botched attempt to blow up a Christmas Day flight bound for Detroit — was “inappropriate, unjustified and discriminatory,” the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

“The Foreign Minister, Mr Mourad Medelci, has summoned the ambassador of the United States of America in Algiers to express to him the Algerian government’s strong protest over this measure,” the official APS news agency said.

Algeria, a mainly Muslim energy exporter, has cooperated with the United States in the fight against violent Islamist militants.

The 14 countries on the US list are Cuba, Iran, Syria, Sudan, Afghanistan, Algeria, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia and Yemen. — Internet

A man passes snow-covered trees on his way to the final day at the Biathlon World Cup in the eastern German ski resort of Oberhof, on 10 Jan, 2010. — Internet

In this 25 Nov, 2009 photo: Kenyan fishermen offload their catch in Malindi, Kenya. In past years, illegal commercial trawlers parked off Somalia’s coast leaving more fish. — INTERNET

SKM Industries representative Nicole Durant models the TV Hat, which allows the user total freedom from glare to watch movies or other content on their iPhone or iPod Touch under the hat’s protected brim.— INTERNET
GM announces more electric car markets to open in US

DETROIT, 12 Jan—The major US automaker GM announced on Monday at the North America International Auto Show (NAIAS) that two US states will launch markets for its Volt extended-range electric car.

Chevrolet boss Jim Campbell told reporters in Detroit that Michigan will join California as launch markets for the Volt extended-range electric car, which goes on sale late this year.

At last month’s Los Angeles Auto Show, Chevrolet announced the Volt would be sold initially in California. General Motors Co will build a pure-electric vehicle by expanding the Chevrolet Volt’s battery pack in its class.

“GM supports innovations in every class,” said John Leahy, Airbus Chief Operating Officer Customers. “The A330 is a thumbs up for our environment friendly innovations in every class.”

Virgin confirms order for 10 Airbus A330

LONDON, 12 Jan—Virgin Atlantic Airways confirmed on Monday that it has ordered for 10 Airbus A330s, including four that will be leased from AerCap. This is Virgin’s first order of the A330-300 long-range aircraft.

“The A330s are adding immense operational flexibility to Virgin’s modern fleet and at the same time fit in with our commitment to invest in today’s most environmentally efficient aircraft,” said Steve Ridgway, Virgin’s Chief Executive. The aircraft will strengthen services between the United Kingdom, North America, the Caribbean, Africa and Asia, for both business and leisure markets.

“This significant order is a thumbs up for our A330,” said John Leahy, Airbus Chief Operating Officer Customers. “The A380 is a leader in aircraft reliability, comfort, and low fuel burn making it the most eco-efficient aircraft in its class.”

Virgin’s A330s-300s will seat up to 270 in Upper Class, Premium Economy and Economy, and will be the launch aircraft for revolutionary onboard cabin innovations in every class.—Xinhua

OECD jobless rate stable at 8.8% in November 2009

PARIS, 12 Jan—The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) members registered 8.8-percent jobless rate in November 2009, according to the latest report released on Monday.

The data showed that the unemployment rate for OECD members was even with the previous month and 2.1 percentage points higher than a year earlier.

In the Euro area, the unemployment rate was 10.0 percent in November 2009, 0.1 percentage point up from October and 2.0 percentage points higher than November 2008. For France, the rate was 10.0 percent, 0.1 percentage point higher than the previous month and 1.7 percentage points higher than a year earlier while the jobless rate in Germany was 7.6 percent in November 2009, the same as the previous month and 0.5 percentage point higher than in November 2008.—Xinhua

India’s Infosys reports Q3 drop in net profit

BANGALORE, 12 Jan—India’s second largest software exporter Infosys posted on Tuesday a smaller-than-expected fall in net profit due to fresh overseas business and predicted strong growth to come.

The 4.87 percent decline to 15.6 billion rupees (344 million dollars) during the three months to December allowed the firm to increase its forecast for the full year to the end of March.

Analysts had estimated profits for the Nasdaq-listed firm would be near 14.7 billion rupees for the quarter. Infosys shares rose 3.59 percent or 89.45 rupees to 2,578 rupees, in morning trade on Tuesday after the earnings were announced. Revenues, by Indian accounting standards, for the Bangalore-based outsourcer fell 0.8 percent to 57.41 billion rupees, it said in a statement to the Mumbai stock exchange.—Internet

Cold weather causes three more deaths in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 12 Jan—Mexico reported three more deaths on Monday as freezing temperatures continue to wreak havoc across Latin America. Carlos Guzman Hernandez, a local politician in the central state of Hidalgo, was found dead of hypothermia after his car failed on the road.

In the northeastern border city of Matamoros, an old woman was killed by a fire when a stove she lit burned her home. In the eastern coastal state of Veracruz, a three-year-old girl died of carbon monoxide poisoning. Her mother was in serious condition.

On Saturday, Mexican Health Minister Jose Angel Cordova Villalobos had reported nine confirmed deaths due to the freezing weather.

The National Meteorological Service said temperatures in the past week, which hit minus 11 degrees Celsius in some northern states, were the lowest since 1886.

It said the cold weather will last at least two more days. The southern states and the Gulf of Mexico region, which are traditionally warmer, are also experiencing strong winds and cold.

Also on Monday, El Salvador issued a yellow alert due to high winds and cold weather.

The bad weather has triggered four power cuts, and partially damaged 20 homes and one public building in El Salvador.—Xinhua
China’s space pioneers hit new high

BEIJING, 12 Jan — The nation’s top science and technology award for 2009 has been presented to two scientists who have made great contributions to the country’s space development. Gu Chaohao, 83, whose achievements in mathematics helped set a solid theoretical basis for China’s space development; and space scientist Sun Jiadong, 80, received the award from President Hu Jintao yesterday morning in Beijing. Gu was honored for his contributions to differential geometry, partial differential equations and mathematical physics, the awards committee said, while Sun was recognized for his 50-year contribution to the nation’s space industry and continuing service on the frontlines of space technology. They presented 5 million yuan ($733,000) each. “When Gu started his mathematics studies, I don’t think he would have realized how much he would contribute to the country’s space industry,” said Qi Faren, the chief designer of Chinese spacecraft since the launch of the Shenzhou manned spacecraft prototype in 1999. “But his specialized fields, like impartial differential equations, have made the development of space science and technology much easier and far less costly.” Illustrating his point, Qi said before the use of impartial differential equations, testing a spacecraft meant flying one. However, thanks to the development of the theory, scientists can now test a spacecraft by simulating models on computers. —Internet

New find shows slaves didn’t build pyramids

CAIRO, 12 Jan — Egypt displayed on Monday newly discovered tombs more than 4,000 years old and said they belonged to people who worked on the Great Pyramids of Giza, presenting the discovery as more evidence that slaves did not build the ancient monuments.

The series of modest nine-foot-deep shafts held a dozen skeletons of pyramid builders, perfectly preserved by dry desert sand along with jars that once contained beer and bread meant for the workers’ afterlife. The mud-brick tombs were uncovered last week in the backyard of the Giza pyramids, stretching beyond a burial site first discovered in the 1990s and dating to the 4th Dynasty (2575 BC to 2467 BC), when the great pyramids were built on the fringes of present-day Cairo.

Malaysia to use SMS to cut hospital queues

KUALA LUMPUR, 12 Jan— The Malaysian Health Ministry is making efforts to introduce an SMS-based system at hospitals in the country in a bid to reduce queues of patients. The New Straits Times said on Tuesday that the ministry had started a pilot project for that, in which the queue management and appointment reminder would send out an SMS when there are five patients before their turn. The system would also provide updated statistics for hospital services in the country, through which the ministry could monitor the number of patients, the illnesses being treated and the duration at the various departments within the hospital and clinics, the daily quoted Malaysian Health Minister Liow Tiong Lai as saying. —Xinhua

Diarrhoea kills at least five in E Indonesia

JAKARTA, 12 Jan — At least five people have been killed by diarrhoea in South Middle Timor regency of East Nusa Tenggara Province in Indonesia in the past week, local media reported on Tuesday.

The regency health agency head, Yuli Butu, said Tuesday that dozens of local people had also been treated in health centers and hospitals.

The head of the agency quoted by the Jakarta Post as saying that the medical team had been deployed to the diarrhoea-hit area. Diarrhoea and dengue fever have also infected hundreds of toddlers in Kupang, Belu, Sikka, and Aor of the province. —Xinhua

Australia’s hottest night in 10 years

SYDNEY, 12 Jan — The Australian city of Melbourne has sweated through its hottest night since 1902, with temperatures topping 34 degrees Celsius (93 degrees Fahrenheit), meteorologists said on Tuesday.Millions tossed and turned in the overnight heat in Australia’s second city, with power cuts exacerbating the problem in some areas and some people even resorted to nocturnal trips to the beach to cool off. “It’s probably the most uncomfortable night I’ve ever had Down Under,” said Andrew Jefferson of Ballarat, west of Melbourne, who emigrated from Britain in 2001.

Thousands of homes were without power as electricity companies’ equipment failed in the heat. The city was also hit by hundreds of train cancellations on Monday, engaging commuters. —Internet

Mexico opens 2010 with one of its deadliest days

MEXICO CITY, 12 Jan — Mexico opened the new year with what could be its most dubious distinction yet in the 3-year-old battle against drug trafficking — 69 murders in one day.

The country resembled a grim, statistical dart board on Saturday as law enforcement and media reported the deaths from various regions, including 26 in the border city of Ciudad Juarez, 13 in and around Mexico City and 10 in the northern city of Chihuahua. More than 6,500 drug-related killings made 2009 the bloodiest year since President Felipe Calderon declared war on the cartels in late 2006 and deployed 45,000 soldiers to fight organized crime, according to death tallies by San Diego’s Trans-Border Institute.

Two weeks into 2010, gang bloodstream is becoming more grotesque as drug lords ramp up their attempts at intimidation. Last week a victim’s face was peeled from his skull and sewn onto a soccer ball. On Monday, prosecutors in Culiacan identified the remains of 41-year-old former police officer divided into two separate ice chests.

“You wonder how this will end, and it seems impossible,” said Daniel Vega, an architect in the northern city of Monterrey. “I doubt Mexico can override drug use, especially since demand for the drugs, as well as all the money and weapons, come from the United States.”

Using their so-called Narcobarometer, researchers at the University of San Diego’s Trans-Border Institute track and analyze murders in Mexico, hoping to find ways to quell the violence. Their tally? More than 20,000 murders since 2001, more than half in the past two years. —Internet

Performers are seen in the Spanish show “Rain” by Eva Yerbabuena at the Teatro Municipal in Santiago, capital of Chile, on 11 Jan, as part of the International Festival “Santiago en MII”. —Xinhua

A snowplough clears snow from a road in Mostoles, near Madrid. Snow fell in parts of Spain for the first time in half a century Monday as a wave of Arctic cold that has killed scores of people and caused billions of euros in damage to Europe’s economy swept southwards. —INTERNET

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A snowplough clears snow from a road in Mostoles, near Madrid. Snow fell in parts of Spain for the first time in half a century Monday as a wave of Arctic cold that has killed scores of people and caused billions of euros in damage to Europe’s economy swept southwards. —INTERNET
Real midfielder Van der Vaart sidelined for three weeks

**MADRID**, 12 Jan—Real Madrid will be without midfielder Rafael Van der Vaart for around three weeks, the club confirmed on Monday.

The Dutch international was forced to leave the field after just 20 minutes of his side’s 2-0 win at home to Mallorca on Sunday night.

He was replaced by Esteban Granero, who scored Real Madrid’s second goal of the night.

Van der Vaart underwent tests to discover the extent of his problem on Monday morning and the club’s medical staff confirmed that he had torn a muscle in left calf.

That injury will mean he misses next weekend’s trip to play Athletic Bilbao, as well as the home match against Malaga and possibly the following game, which is away to Deportivo la Corua.

It is bad luck for the midfielder, who was told he could leave the club over the summer, but opted to stay and fight for his place in the first team.

Van der Vaart had been first choice following the injury to Brazilian star Kaka, but with Kaka having recovered the Dutch could struggle to recover his place in the side. —**Xinhua**

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**Malawi stun Algeria 3-0 at African Nations Cup**

**LUANDA**, 12 Jan—Malawi shocked Algeria 3-0 to snap their first ever win at an African Nations Cup finals on Monday in the Angola’s capital on the tournament’s second day.

A surprisingly surprising case came from Burkina Faso, who held favorites Cote d’Ivoire to a goalless draw in Cabinda.

Togo were officially disqualified after the scheduled kickoff time of their Group B match with Ghana, which did not take place because of the departure of the Togolese from the tournament some hours earlier for Friday’s bus attack that killed two of their delegation.

Cabinda’s new Chiazi stadium was largely empty, amid tight security, as Didier Drogba and his teammates squandered several chances.

Cote d’Ivoire had scored eight goals in two World Cup qualifiers against Burkina Faso, who held favorites Cote d’Ivoire to a goalless draw.

**Atalanta appoint Mutti as new coach**

**ROME**, 12 Jan—Italian Serie A club Atalanta named Bortolo Mutti as their new coach on Monday following the resignation of Antonio Conte last week.

Mutti is already the third Atalanta coach this season as Angelo Gregucci began this campaign in charge.

Atalanta are the second Serie A team to change coaches twice this season following Siena and Mutti thus becomes the 10th coaching change.

He previously played for Atalanta from 1981-84 and coached the team in the 1998-99 season.

His last coaching job was at Modena in 2007-08.

Atalanta are second last from the bottom in Serie A and have lost four of their last five matches, getting their only point at home to leaders Inter Milan.

**Safina reaches quarters in Sydney WTA event**

**CANBERRA**, 12 Jan—Russian Dinara Safina has returned from a back injury with a 7-5, 6-4 win over Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland to reach the quarterfinals of the Sydney International WTA event.

Second-seeded Safina, runner-up at Sydney before her last run to last year’s Australian Open final, lost the opening five games before winning nine straight to take the first set and go up a break in the second.

She was broken while serving for the match, but broke the No. 10-ranked Radwanska to finish the match.

Safina was playing for the first time since a back injury forced her out of the first round of the season-ending championships in October and cost her the year-end No. 1 ranking. —**Xinhua**

**Troubled times for Turin teams**

**ROZI, 12 Jan**—There are two major footballing hotbeds in Italy, located fairly close to each other in the north west of the country but while one city is flying, the other is in crisis.

In Milan Inter are top of the league and bidding for a fifth straight Serie A title with AC emerging as their closest, and perhaps only serious title challengers. Both are through to the Champions League knock-out stages and face mouth-watering clashes in February against Manchester United and Chelsea.

But just 130km down the road, Turin is in turmoil.

Juventus are the most decorated club in Italian football having won 27 scudetto crowns and twice lifted Europe’s premier trophy. —**Xinhua**

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**NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR**

Wednesday, 13 January, 2010

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**Man United announce annual profit of 48.2 mn pounds**

**LONDON**, 12 Jan—English Premier League reigning champion Manchester United made a profit before tax of 48.2 million pounds in the financial year ended on 30 June, 2009, revealed the club on web site Monday.

According to the summary published by Red Football Ltd - the holding company of Manchester United Ltd, the Group turnover for the year was 278.5 million pounds, seeing a rise of 22.3 million pounds.

The profit before tax for the year was 48.2 million pounds while the figure a year earlier was a loss of 21.4 million pounds.

During the year, Old Trafford staged 34 major events, including 19 Premier League home games and six UEFA Champions League matches.

Besides, Manchester United secured a new shirt sponsorship deal during the year with Aon who will become the new principal shirt sponsor and will succeed AIG from the commencement of the 2010-2011 season. Manchester United also welcome back Audi as their car partner. —**Xinhua**

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**Argentina international Lavezzi out for a month**

**ROUTE**, 12 Jan—Argentine forward Ezequiel Lavezzi will be out for at least a month after suffering a thigh injury against Sampdoria on Sunday, his club Napoli said on Monday.

Lavezzi pulled a muscle during the first half of the match and was replaced by countryman German Denis, who went on to score the only goal of the game.

Napoli said ‘El Pocho’ — which means ‘the chubby one’ — will miss four to five weeks. It means he will not be available for Wednesday’s Italian Cup trip to Juventus where Napoli will try to extend their 14-match unbeaten run under coach Walter Mazzarri, who has yet to taste defeat since replacing former Italy coach Roberto Donadoni in October. —**Internet**

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**Sanchez scores hat-trick as Man City defeat Blackburn**

**MANCHESTER**, 12 Jan—Manchester City manager Roberto Mancini saw Carlos Tevez score a hat-trick in a dominating 4-1 win over Blackburn Rovers and then revealed he’d try to buy the striker two years ago.

Tevez’s treble, his first for City and first since he scored four goals against Rovers for Manchester United in a League Cup tie 13 months ago, was the centrepiece of a victory that took his side up into fourth place in the Premier League table and maintained Mancini’s winning start to his Eastlands career.

“When I was in Italy and watched him on TV I thought Carlos was a good player,” former Inter Milan boss Mancini told reporters after Monday’s match.

“I wanted him to come to Inter. I asked about him. But of course, there was no chance because he was at United.” —**Argentina ace Tevez has been enjoying a productive strike partnership with Benjani Mwaruwari and the Zimbabwean forward played a key role in several of City’s goals against Rovers.**

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**Carlos Tevez celebrates after scoring the third goal during their Premier League match against Blackburn Rovers at The City of Manchester stadium. Tevez scored a hat-trick as City moved up into fourth place in the League table with a 4-1 win.—**INTERNET
Farmers suicides in Vidarbha on a decline

NAIGPUR, 12 Jan— Farmer suicides in Vidarbha, have gradually gone down during the last three years, with only 966 cases recorded in 2009, according to official statistics.

The Vasantrao Naik Sheti Swavalamban Mission, a nodal agency of Maharashtra government, recorded 1,246 farmer suicides in 2007 (in Vidarbha); 1,147 suicides in 2008 and 966 in 2009 respectively, showing a decline in the trend, Mission Director General, S G Malakolikar told PTI.

Also, among the 1,246 suicides in 2007, only 337 cases were found to be eligible for compensation as per the definition laid down by government and decided by a district level committee, he said.

Xinhua
★ 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 broadcasts designed to cause troubles

A visit to developing Chipwe

Byline: Tin Htwe (MNA); Photos: Than Oo (MNA)

Recently, I eagerly read travelogues written by veteran writers. I learned difficulties in traveling from one place to another in the past.

Today’s road transportation is far better than that previously.

Especially, it can be witnessed that condition of town-to-town and village-to-village roads and bridges in Kachin State in northern Myanmar is far better than that in the past.

In our trip to Chipwe, we first reached Bala Min Htin Bridge, one of Ayeyawady River crossing bridges linking Myitkyina and Waingmaw Townships. Bala Min Htin Bridge is a significant symbol of progress in road transportation in Kachin State.

(See page 9)

Zanaungyan suspension bridge built on Maykha river and its beautiful environs near Chipwe.