Four political objectives
* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
* National reconsolidation
* Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
* Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives
* Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
* Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
* Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
* The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives
* Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
* Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
* Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
* Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan—Prime Minister General Thein Sein this afternoon inspected the Express Train to run on the Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay railway route of Myanma Railways under the Ministry of Rail Transporta

On arrival at Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station, Prime Minister General Thein Sein, accompanied by Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and departmental heads, were welcomed by Deputy Ministers for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin and U Pe Than, the managing director of MR and staff.

The Prime Minister viewed the room of the engine driver, the upper class seats, air-conditioners, fluorescent lamps, toilets and ordinary class seats onboard the express train at the No. 1 platform of the station. Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min and officials conducted the Prime Minister round the express train.

At platform No. (1), the Prime Minister inspected completion in installation of machine parts at the 1200-Hp modern diesel engine manufactured by Insein Locomotive Shed of Myanma Railways, documentary photos on test-run of the modern locomotive, repair to air-conditioners at RBE coaches imported from Japan and other repair tasks at the coaches and left necessary instructions.

The Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay express train installed with air-conditioners will be operated in place of No. 25-up Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay express train and No. 26-down Mandalay-Nay Pyi Taw express train as of 14 January.

New express train has four upper class coaches with air-conditioners and two ordinary class coaches without air-conditioners. The train has 248 upper class seats and 120 ordinary class seats.

The Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay express train installed with air-conditioners will be operated in place of No. 25-up Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay express train and No. 26-down Mandalay-Nay Pyi Taw express train as of 14 January.
PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 14 January, 2010

Ayeyawady Division on the road to further economic development

Being a fertile coastal region, Ayeyawady Division can produce paddy, meat, fish, salt and other marine products not only for domestic consumption but also for export.

The Ayeyawady delta region has plenty of rivers and creeks, which served as natural barriers for transportation of passengers and goods. Therefore, in the past, the waterway was the only means of transport for the people in the region. As the government has been building new motor roads, railroads and bridges there, transport in the region has become easier and more convenient. As a result, Ayeyawady Division is on the road to becoming the most economically developed region in the nation.

Road network development projects are being implemented in the storm-devastated areas in Ayeyawady Division. Out of the 10 highways in the region, the Maubin-Yaykayaw-Shwetaunghmaw-Kyaikpi road is being upgraded and extended to Mawlamyineygun. New bridges are being built. Yazudaing bridge No (2) on that road was opened on 9 January.

Mawlamyineygun Township is situated on an island. It had to depend on the waterway for transport. Although it is not far from other townships, it takes long to travel from one place to another. Now, with the opening of Yazudaing bridge No (2), people can travel easily to Shwetaunghmaw, Kyaikpi and Mawlamyineygun and regional products can be transported and traded in a short time.

Yazudaing bridge No (2) is the 48th facility in the region. Efforts are also being made to be able to open Yazudaing bridge No (1) as soon as possible.

Nyaungdon bridge, another Ayeyawady river-crossing bridge, will also emerge on the Nyaungdon bridge, another Ayeyawady river-crossing bridge. The opening of more than 180 feet long in Ayeyawady Division.

As the government has been building new motor roads, railroads and bridges there, transport in the region has become easier and more convenient. As a result, Ayeyawady Division on the road to further economic development.

Twantay Township gets two new rural health centers

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan — Ceremonies to hand over documents related to rural health centers by MEGA LIFESCIENCES Co Ltd was held in conjunction with opening ceremonies of centers at Atwin Yaykyaw and Twantaywa villages in Twantay Township on 10 January.

Deputy Director-General Dr Kyi Myint of Health Department, the chairman of Twantay Township PDC, CEO Mr. Vivek Dhawan and MD Mr. Girish Wadhwa of the company opened the Atwin Yaykyaw village rural health center.

Secretary of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe gave accounts of rehabilitation works in the region.

Next, Mr. Vivek Dhawan handed over documents related to the center and list of medicines to Dr Kyi Myint. It was also attended by Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Army Soe Thein, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, departmental heads, responsible persons of MEGA LIFESCIENCES Co Ltd and local people. Similar ceremony was also held at Twantaywa village.

MEGA LIFESCIENCES Co Ltd spent US$ 120,000 for construction of two rural health centers and on clinical equipment.

Mon Shine International Trading honours sale representatives

YANGON, 13 Jan — Mon Shine International Trading Co Ltd held a ceremony to honour sale representatives of Khin Pyone Mon Indonesia batik, Grand Solo batik, Solo Collection at Chatrium Hotel on 10 January. It was attended by guests, celebrities and sale representatives. Managing Director U Mya Thaung made a speech. The responsible persons then presented best seller award for 2009 to sale representatives. As entertainment programme, Talents & Models show and comedians Nyien Chan and Kaung Kyaw staged their performance to those present.

MD U Mya Thaung of Mon Shine International Trading Co Ltd making a speech.—MNA

Computer Networking with CCNA course on 16 Jan

YANGON, 13 Jan—NetInfo Training Centre will soon open a new course on CCNA, a networking certificate becoming popular at the international community, with the aim of easing a variety of difficulties faced by learners.

The centre is equipped with nine Cisco Routers and seven Cisco Switches. So, a trainee can become a computer network expert. And after completing the course, he will be ready to sit for Cisco Certified Network Associate Certificate exam.

The three-month weekend course will begin 16 January. For more information, contact NetInfo Training Centre, Room No (1), Building No (2), Myanmar InfoTech, Hline Township, Yangon (Ph: 507045 or 652248).—MNA
2003 Iraq invasion was illegitimate:
Dutch probe

THE HAGUE, 13 Jan—The 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq lacked legitimacy under international law, an independent commission probing Dutch political support for the still controversial war said on Tuesday.

“There was insufficient legitimacy under international law for a military invasion of Iraq” for which the Netherlands gave political but no military support, commission chairman Willibord Davids told journalists in The Hague.

The commission’s report said the Dutch government decision “was based mainly on international political considerations.” And it said the Netherlands had wrongly interpreted UN Security Council Resolution 1441, which gave Iraq a final chance to disarm, as authorizing individual member states to use military force against that country.

Two US troops, four Afghan soldiers killed

KABUL, 13 Jan—Two US service members died and four Afghan soldiers were killed in separate explosions Wednesday in eastern Afghanistan, an area of the nation rife with violence, officials said.

Nine members of the Afghan National Police were injured Wednesday in other incidents.

NATO said the two American troops died in a bomb blast, but disclosed no other information. Their deaths bring to 12 the number of American troops killed in Afghanistan so far this month; 16 other soldiers from the international coalition have died this month.

Car bomb wounds several in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 13 Jan—A car bomb rattled Taleban birthplace Kandahar in south Afghanistan and injured several persons on Wednesday, a local official Sarajudin said. “An explosive-laden vehicle went off next to the headquarters of Daman District, 10 km east of Kandahar city, the capital of Kandahar Province at 10:30 am local time, and badly damaged the building and injured several people around,” Governor of Daman District Sarajudin told Xinhua.

More details would be available after investigation, he added.—Xinhua

The destroyed vehicle after a suicide attack which targeted a police station in Saqlawiya seen on 13 Jan, 2010.

A suicide bomber blew up a truck near a police station in Saqlawiya in Iraq’s western Anbar province on Wednesday, killing seven people and wounded six, police said.—INTERNET

US and allies kills, injures Iraqi people

BAGHDAD, 13 Jan—There has been daily casualties in Iraq since the US and its allies have invaded the country.

The total number of casualties as from the day they invaded the country to 13 January reached 699,931 and the total number of seriously injured people reached 1,263,698 according to the news on the Internet.

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<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Death toll of Iraqi people</td>
<td>699,931</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>The total number of seriously injured people</td>
<td>1,263,698</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

KABUL, 13 Jan—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.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Subject</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Number of Afghan people killed</td>
<td>32,439</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Seriously injured Afghan people</td>
<td>38,171</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Afghan civilian deaths ‘rise 14%’

KABUL, 13 Jan—The number of Afghan civilians killed in violence in 2009 was higher than in any year since the Taliban were ousted in 2001, a United Nations report says.

Civilian casualties rose by 14% in 2009 compared with 2008, the UN Mission in Afghanistan (Unama) reported. The Unama report said 2,412 civilians had been killed in Afghanistan in 2009 compared with 2,118 in 2008.—INTERNET
Russia, US to resume nuclear disarmament talks in January

Moscow, 13 Jan—Russia's US Talks on a new nuclear arms control deal would resume in the second half of January, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Tuesday.

"We hope it will happen somewhere in the second half of January," Lavrov said.

"Negotiators from both sides are now doing their homework," he told a press conference after talks with his Spanish counterpart Miguel Moratinos.

A document of such volume and importance must be checked both from a legal and editorial point of view so as to avoid divergences between the English and Russian versions, Lavrov said. "The work is underway. As soon as it is over, we will announce the date of signing," said Lavrov.

Moscow and Washington are expected to reach a new pact to replace the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START-I) which expired on 5 Dec.

The START-I treaty, signed in 1991 between the Soviet Union and the United States, obliged both sides to reduce the number of their nuclear warheads to 6,000 and delivery vehicles to 1,600.

US port shut as ‘highly explosive’ chemical spills

RALEIGH, 13 Jan—Nine containers of highly explosive material spilled at a major US port on Tuesday, forcing the North Carolina facility’s closure and evacuation orders for a nearby town, officials said.

The accident happened around 4:45 am (0945 GMT) when a forklift punctured containers of the explosive during off loading. Morehead City Mayor Jerry Jones said.

Explosives experts from a local Marine base—as well as police, fire brigades and the Coast Guard—rushed to deal with the spilled chemical, known as pentaerythritol tetranitrate or PETN, which has featured in recent terror plots.

PETN, which can be used in detonators and grenades, is the same material that was used in the botched Christmas Day bombing of a Northwest airliner en route from Amsterdam to Detroit.

"It spilled on the ground," Jones said. He said the PETN was in crystal form but was packed in water to reduce volatility. "We’ve reduced the hazard. It’s getting manageable now," he said.

The “blast zone” has decreased from two miles (3.1 km) to one, Jones said. The section of highway 70 is still closed and the voluntary evacuation of downtown remains in place, the mayor added.

Three Britons, one Colombian kidnapped in Nigeria

LAGOS, 13 Jan—Gunmen on Tuesday seized three Britons and a Colombian, shooting dead their police escort in the first major kidnapping for six months in southern Nigeria’s Niger Delta.

The four—contract workers for the Anglo-Dutch oil giant Shell—were abducted as they travelled to work from the southern oil city of Port Harcourt to the Shell-operated Afam power plant, police said.

“They were ambushed by gunmen,” around the small town of Obeli, said Rivers State police spokeswoman Rita Abiye, adding that police were concentrating their search in and around that town.

The town is about half-way between Port Harcourt and Aba, the workers intended destination, situated 50 kilometres (30 miles) northeast of Port Harcourt.

The gunmen shot dead the police officer escorting the group and wounded their driver.

A Shell spokesman in Nigeria said: “We are concerned for the safety of the contractor staff and our thoughts are with them and their families at this difficult time.”

Lebanon, Syria criticize US air screening rules

BEIRUT, 13 Jan—Lebanon and Syria criticized on Tuesday the tight security screening recently introduced by the United States against travellers from the two Arab nations, branding the measures a form of discrimination and warning they might lash back with similar measures.

President Barack Obama’s administration ordered the changes after the alleged attempt by a Nigerian man to blow up a jetliner bound to Detroit from Amsterdam on Christmas Day. The US Transportation Security Administration said enhanced screening techniques would include full-body pat-downs, searches of carryon bags, full-body scanning and explosive detection technology.

“It is the sovereign right of the USA to choose to protect its citizens the way it deems most appropriate,” Lebanon’s Information Minister Tarek Mitri told reporters. “What is under question is the fact that citizens of different countries are singled out in a discriminatory fashion.”

Major quake hits Haiti; many casualties expected

PORT-AU-PRINCE, 13 Jan—The strongest earthquake in more than 200 years rocked Haiti on Tuesday, collapsing a hospital where people screamed for help and heavily damaging the National Palace, UN peacekeeper headquarters and other buildings.

US officials reported bodies in the streets and an aid official described “total disaster and chaos.”

United Nations officials said hours after the 7.0-magnitude quake struck at 4:53 pm that they still couldn’t account for a large number of UN personnel.

Communications were widely disrupted, making it impossible to get a full picture of damage as powerful aftershocks shook a desperately poor country where many buildings are flimsy. Electricity was out in some places.

Karel Zelenka, a Catholic Relief Services representative in Port-au-Prince, told US colleagues before phone service failed that “there must be thousands of people dead,” according to a spokeswoman for the aid group, Sara Fajardo.

Gunman kills two, wounds one in Japanese bar shooting

TOKYO, 13 Jan—A man opened fire at a bar in western Japan on Tuesday, killing two people and wounding one seriously before taking his own life.

Guns are strictly controlled in Japan, and shootings are rare. When such attacks do occur, they are often linked to gangsters known as yakuza.

Police in Habikino City in Osaka prefecture were investigating the gunman’s motive, police official Mitsuyuki Oda said.

The Kyodo News agency said the gunman was a city employee and could have been targeting his mother-in-law as a result of a family dispute. Police are trying to confirm if an elderly woman who was killed was a relative of the gunman.

People carry an injured person after an earthquake in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on 12 Jan, 2010. The largest earthquake ever recorded in the area rocked Haiti on Tuesday. —INTERNET

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People carry an injured person after an earthquake in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on 12 Jan, 2010. The largest earthquake ever recorded in the area rocked Haiti on Tuesday. —INTERNET
HANOI, 13 Jan—Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung said here on Tuesday that Vietnam always attached great importance to strengthening the close and long-term cooperation with Singapore.

Dung made the statement at the talks with Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on the occasion of his four-day visit to Vietnam from 12 to 15 Jan. Dung said that Vietnam always considers Singapore as one of its biggest trade partners and encouraged Singaporean businessmen to speed up investment in the ongoing projects in Vietnam.

His Singaporean counterpart said that Singapore also pays much attention to strengthening and developing the traditional relations and multi-faceted cooperation with Vietnam. Lee Hsien Loong said that Singapore will support Vietnam to successfully play the role of chairman of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) this year and to implement the ASEAN Chapter. The two leaders discussed measures to intensify bilateral cooperation in trade and commerce, education, tourism, culture, transportation and national defence and security. They agreed to further promote people exchange, especially among the youth of the two countries in coming years. —Xinhua

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Volcano erupts in Ecuador, no reports of injuries

QUITO, 13 Jan—The Tungurahua volcano in central Ecuador erupted on Tuesday following frequent emissions recently, spewing ashes and lava. There are no reports of casualties. The volcano, located about 180 km south of the capital Quito, underwent three emissions early on Tuesday after a massive eruption on Monday, with ash columns reaching as high as 3,000 metres, said the country’s Institute of Geophysics in a report.

No one was reported killed or injured in the latest eruption, though intense rumbling sounds and big explosions terrified people living in the vicinity, and some were evacuated temporarily. “We were ordered to leave home at night after the eruption on Monday. It has been nearly 24 hours since then,” said Miguel Freire, one of the inhabitants there. —Xinhua

New Zealand experiences temperature extremes in 2009

WELLINGTON, 13 Jan—New Zealand experienced extreme temperature swings in 2009, as heat waves in January and early February were followed by the coolest May on record. Heat waves occurred in January and the start of February; May was the coldest on record; October had its lowest temperatures since 1945; and August was the warmest August ever, according to the New Zealand National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) released on Wednesday. In individual months, especially September and November, daily temperatures frequently broke long-standing records, with extremely cold temperatures often occurring within a week or so of record hot events.

NIWA climate scientist James Renwick said in a press release that wild swings in temperature were sometimes only days apart. —Xinhua

Photo taken on 12 Jan, 2010 shows a new look of the Sunshine Valley located at the axle of the World EXPO Garden in Shanghai, east China. The garden, of which nearly 90% of its construction has been finished, would welcome visitors from all over the world this May when the 2010 Shanghai World EXPO opened. —Xinhua

China builds engine R&D centre for jet engine

SHANGHAI, 13 Jan—AVIC Commercial Aircraft Engine Co (AVIC ACAE) on Tuesday started building a research and development centre to develop engines for domestic-branded jumbo jets in Shanghai.

The center is responsible for developing home-made engines for the 150-seat CS9/9 and a 250-seat model.

Tan Ruisong, vice general manager of AVIC, said the ground-breaking ceremony marked a major milestone for China’s commercial aircraft engine industry.

The centre in Minhang District covers an area of 30 hectares and will have a floor area of 300,000 square metres. It costs 3.23 billion yuan ($473 million US dollars) and will be completed in 2013.

The centre will accommodate nearly 3,000 research staff, according to the company. —Xinhua

15,000 people remain isolated by floods in Panama

CHUNU, 13 Jan—At least 15,000 people remain isolated due to floods caused by pouring rains in Panama, the National System of Civil Protection (Sinaproc) said on Tuesday.

Highways and roads in Bocas del Toro bordering with Costa Rica were flooded as Sixaola River roared. Many communities in the province were made isolated, the Sinaproc said.

Meanwhile, Luz Graciela Calzadilla, a meteorologist at the Electric Transmission Company, said that the effects of the cold front in Costa Rica would continue over the next 18 to 24 hours in Panama.

On Monday, the Panamanian authorities issued a green (preventive) alert in the provinces of Bocas del Toro, Chiriqui, Vergauagas and Colon, asking the inhabitants to be cautious. —Xinhua

12 children killed in train-bus collision in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 13 Jan—A passenger train collided with a school bus on Wednesday in Pakistan’s eastern Punjab Province, leaving 12 children dead and over 10 others injured, an official from the area said.

The train rammed into the van at an unmanned railway crossing at Mian Chau area in Punjab Province in the morning, Muhammad Aslam Bodal, member of National Assembly from the area said.

A police officer in the area Mian Farooq said that over 10 children were injured in the accident and they have been admitted to a local hospital. Farooq said the accident was caused by heavy fog in the area and the train driver failed to see the van at the crossing. The van driver also died. Police said the railway guard on duty, who was absent at the time of the accident, has been arrested for negligence. —Xinhua

Product are loaded onto trucks in a snow melting salt manufacturing company in Lianyungang, east China’s Jiangsu Province, on 12 Jan, 2010. —Xinhua

All Items from Xinhua News Agency
Chrysler set for 2010 operating profit

DETROIT, 13 Jan—Chrysler Group LLC is in a position to post an operating profit in 2010 if it hits its global sales target of 1.65 million vehicles, chief executive officer Sergio Marchionne said on Tuesday.

“If you can say 2010 is going to be better than 2009 you can breathe a sigh of relief,” Marchionne told reporters on the sidelines of the Detroit auto show.

“We’re through the tunnel. The key now is not to fall back into the same bad habits.”

Chrysler sold 1.3 million units worldwide in 2009 after sales in the US dropped to 987,000 units - the lowest level since 1962.

Marchionne forecast a modest increase to 1.1 million vehicles for 2010 US sales, while the remaining growth would come from Canada, Mexico and other markets.

The numbers cited by Marchionne suggest that Chrysler’s restructuring has substantially lowered its break-even point.

“We’re on the money with our five year plan,” Marchionne said, adding that he considers recent criticism of Chrysler’s lack of new products to be unfair since the number three US automaker emerged from bankruptcy only last summer.—Internet

Astronauts urine clogs space station water recycler

CAPE CANAVERAL, 13 Jan — NASA is finding it is not just mechanical glitches that make the International Space Station a tough place to operate. Engineers troubleshooting a problem with the station’s $250 million water recycling system, which processes urine into clean water for drinking, believe the cause is a high concentration of calcium in the astronauts’ urine, which clogs the system.

Scientists do not yet know if the high calcium concentration is due to bone loss, a consequence of living in a zero-gravity environment, or other factors.

“We’ve learned a lot more about urine than we ever needed or wanted to know — some of us anyway,” said station flight director David Korth.

BRAZIL may eradicate extreme poverty by 2016

RIO DE JANEIRO, 13 Jan—Brazil may be able to eradicate extreme poverty by 2016, a study released on Tuesday by the Applied Economic Research Institute (Ipea) showed.

Brazil could reach a Gini index of 0.488, close to the 0.466 registered by the United States last year if Brazil’s current social equality programmes work, said Ipea.

In order to achieve this, the country would have to reduce taxes for the low income population, which pays proportionally more than the richer citizens.

Brazilian families with an income of 1,020 reais (582 US dollars) per month spend almost half of their earnings on taxes, while families with an income of 15,300 reais (8,742 dollars) or more spend only a quarter of their money on taxes, said Ipea.

To reduce poverty, Ipea said, the country needed to maintain a high growth rate and a low inflation rate, and to tilt its policies toward low income groups.

The Gini index measures inequality of income with 0 meaning complete equality. The world average is estimated at between 0.36 and 0.66.

Extreme poverty is defined by Ipea as income being no more than a quarter of the country’s minimum wage, or 128 reais (73 dollars) per month.

Xinhu

Oldest licensed driver in New Zealand is 104

Nearly 4000 of the 3.2 million licensed drivers on New Zealand’s roads are 90 or over.

Of those, seven drivers were over 100 with the oldest being 104-year-old Ellen Noy, from Kaiapoi, showed figures released by the New Zealand Land Transport Agency on Tuesday. The numbers of licence-holders dramatically increase as the drivers get younger, with those aged 40 to 44 making up the largest group, at 335,161 — suggesting an increasing number of older drivers on the roads is just around the corner.

Therapy aids cochlear implant of toddlers

An Israeli researcher says music therapy can help toddlers with cochlear implants acquire speech.

Dr Dikla Kerem of the University of Haifa says music gradually introduced can help toddlers bridge between the quiet world before the implant and the world of sounds unfolding following the operation.

The study findings suggest it is important parents and staff learn the best way to expose these children to music and how to use music for communication.

Therapists should use an undirected approach, the study says. “Music therapy is gradually penetrating the field of rehabilitation, but there is still a lot of work to be done in improving awareness of this important area,” Kerem says in a statement.

The study was carried out in Israel as a doctoral thesis for the Aalborg University in Denmark.

The findings were presented at the “Brain, Therapy and Crafts” conference held at the University of Haifa.

Cleopatra’s eye make-up ‘had health benefits’

The heavy eye make-up favoured by ancient Egyptians such as Cleopatra may have had medical as well as aesthetic benefits, French research suggests.

The study, published in the journal Analytical Chemistry, suggests it helped to protect against eye disease.

The key appears to be lead salts contained in the make-up. At very low levels, salts produce nitric oxide, which boosts the immune system to fight off bacteria which can cause eye infection.

The make-up used by the ancient Egyptians to darken and enhance the eyes sometimes took up to a month to concoct. In theory, because it contained lead it might actually have posed a risk to health. But an analysis by scientists from the Louvre Museum and the CNRS research institute found that in very low doses lead could actually have a positive effect. Lead researcher Philippe Walter said: “We knew ancients Greeks and Romans too had noted the make-up had medicinal properties, but wanted to determine exactly how.”

The researchers used a tiny electrode, 1/10th the thickness of a human hair, to look at the effect of lead chloride salt synthesized by the Egyptians - laurionite - on a single cell.

A kimonon clad female diver swims at an event to celebrate the New Year at the Sunshine International Aquarium in Tokyo.
China issues alarm on fast developing sea ice off eastern coast

BEIJING, 13 Jan—China’s National Marine Forecasting Station on Tuesday issued an alarm on sea ice as it was developing fast off the country’s eastern coast.

In the following week, the floating chunks of ice could extend up to 90 nautical miles off the coast of Bohai Sea and northern Yellow Sea as cold fronts pushed the temperature down to minus 10 degrees Celsius and below. Sea ice in the Liaodong Bay nearly doubled to 71 nautical miles on Tuesday from 38 nautical miles on 31 December.—Xinhua

Greek guerilla group claims responsibility for Saturday’s terror attack in front of Parliament

ATHENS, 13 Jan—A Greek guerilla group called “Conspiracy of Nuclei of Fire” claimed on Tuesday evening responsibility for the terrorist attack which took place outside the Athens Parliament on Saturday.

In a note posted on the Internet the group confirmed estimates by counter terrorism experts that the attack which caused no injuries, since the area was evacuated after a warning telephone call, was carried out by two persons.—Xinhua

Mexican anti-drug officials had been helping Mexican authorities track Teodoro Garcia Simental for more than five months.

Garcia, known as “El Teo,” was arrested before dawn near the southern tip of the Baja California peninsula, where his gang had been bringing in planeloads of drugs to smuggle across the US border, said Ramon Eduardo Pequeno, head of the federal police’s anti-drug unit.

Garcia, in his mid-30s, is connected to the deaths of at least 300 people, authorities say, and ordered his rivals disposed of in especially grisly ways: beheading them, hanging their bodies from bridges or dissolving them in caustic soda. He took hefty ransom payments from kidnapping Tijuana business leaders.

A mountain rescue team with police helicopters rushed to the Brauneck resort, Bayen, after receiving calls that many skiers were trapped in cables, which came to a sudden shutdown at about 10 am local time.

Police said that a technical failure triggered the automatic halt of the lift system at the resort, which is on Alps mountains, about 60 kilometres south of Munich, capital of Bayern State.—Xinhua

Airlines raise fuel surcharges to Europe

DALLAS, 13 Jan—Major airlines have raised fuel surcharges on travel to Europe by $20 per roundtrip, and some have added conditions that could cause travellers to pay higher fares.

Surcharges to Paris, Frankfurt and most cities on the Continent were raised to $280 per roundtrip and to $242 for London, airline representatives said on Tuesday.

Tim Smith, a spokesman for American Airlines, said his company matched increases by Continental and United. “That’s purely a competitive factor,” he said.

Delta, Continental and United confirmed that they had raised surcharges to Europe by $20 a roundtrip.

Tom Parsons, CEO of Web site Bestfares.com, said surcharges on roundtrips to Ireland are now $100.

Dublin is still a dirt-cheap destination,” he said.

Some airlines that previously required only a seven-day advance purchase for the lowest coach fares are now requiring a 14-day advance purchase, Parsons added.

Dozens of German gondola-stuck skiers rescued in Alps

BERLIN, 13 Jan—More than 40 passengers were rescued from broken gondolas in a southern Germany ski resort after dangling in the cold alpine air for nearly three hours, local police said.

Fishing boats are seen trapped by sea ice in Laizhou Bay, east China’s Shandong Province, on 12 Jan, 2010. The most severe icing situation in the past 30 years in the coast off Shandong Province continued to worsen amid cold snaps.—Xinhua

A mountain rescue team with police helicopters rushed to the Brauneck resort, Bayen, after receiving calls that many skiers were trapped in cables, which came to a sudden shutdown at about 10 am local time.

Police said that a technical failure triggered the automatic halt of the lift system at the resort, which is on Alps mountains, about 60 kilometres south of Munich, capital of Bayern State.—Xinhua

Mexico drug kingpin arrest highlights new strategy

TIJUANA, 13 Jan—Federal troops stormed a seaside vacation home and captured one of the country’s most brutal drug lords on Tuesday, the second time in less than a month that Mexico has taken down one of its most powerful traffickers.

The arrest was considered another victory for enhanced surveillance techniques that are being cultivated with the assistance of the United States.

American anti-drug officials had been helping Mexican authorities track Teodoro García Simental for more than five months.

Garcia, known as “El Teo,” was arrested before dawn near the southern tip of the Baja California peninsula, where his gang had been bringing in planeloads of drugs to smuggle across the US border, said Ramon Eduardo Pequeno, head of the federal police’s anti-drug unit.

Garcia, in his mid-30s, is connected to the deaths of at least 300 people, authorities say, and ordered his rivals disposed of in especially grisly ways: beheading them, hanging their bodies from bridges or dissolving them in caustic soda. He took hefty ransom payments from kidnapping Tijuana business leaders.
New express train has four upper class coaches with ...

(from page 1)

The new train is equipped with one 440-Hp engine and four 220-Hp engines in addition to the air-cushion suspensions for comforts of the passengers at the coaches and the compressed air-brake system for secure transportation.

The coaches are installed with equipment of automatic door opening system and that of vacuum type commode.

The passenger coaches are facilitated with fluorescent lamps, reclining seats and small tables for comfortable traveling of the passengers.

No. 25-up Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay express train will leave Nay Pyi Taw at 10:30 pm daily and No. 26-down Mandalay-Nay Pyi Taw express train will depart from Mandalay at 8:15 am daily similar to the previous schedules and they will stop over at Tatkon, Yamethin, Pyawbwe, Thazi, Thedaw, Myittha and Kyaukse stations.

The ticket for Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay air-conditioned express train is fixed at K 3,000 for the upper class seat and K 1,200 for the ordinary class seat. The tickets are available at ticket sale sections of Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station, Nay Pyi Taw Thabyegon Market, Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Station, Mandalay Station and other stopover stations.

**Transport Minister oversees upgrading of Dawei Airport, functions of Dawei Port**

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan — Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspected cleaning and beautifying task and extended construction of runway at Dawei Airport on 11 January. The minister urged official to carry out upgrading and maintenance tasks meeting set standards and to discharge their responsibilities dutifully.

Next, the minister looked into construction of retaining walls near Minyat jetty on Kannar Street in Dawei and Seikantha Bridge.

At the office of Dawei Port, the minister stressed the need to seek ways and means for generating more incomes and to take part in regional development tasks.

On 12 January, the minister oversaw arrival of vessels and passenger lounge at Hsinbyupin Jetty in Thayetchaung Township in Dawei District.

**Myanmar Rice Industry Association EC meeting held**

YANGON, 13 Jan — The executive committee of Myanmar Rice Industry Association held the meeting 1/2010 at the hall of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Lanmadaw Township today.

Chairman of the association U Chit Khaing, Vice-Chairmen U Aung Than Oo, U Hla Maung Shwe, U Tin Win and U Sein Win Hlaing gave speeches.

General Secretary U Ye Min Aung submitted the reports on minutes of the executive committee and the management committee and progress of tasks.

The executives discussed formation of branch associations at different levels, the trend of rice and paddy market, stability of rice prices, flow of rice and paddy at home, export of rice and general matters.

**EP-2 Minister meets Chinese guests**

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan — Minister for Electric Power No (2) Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint received General Manager Mr. Zhang Guolai of Sinohydro Corporation Limited of the People’s Republic of China and party at his office, here, yesterday.

They held discussions on cooperation in power grid and sub-power station projects.

**3D Arts and Animations Introduction Course on 20 January**

YANGON, 13 Jan — With a view to turning out 3D Artists and 3D Animators, KMD Computer Centre will conduct a 3D Arts and Animations Introduction Course on 20 January.

The course will provide trainees with theoretical and practical lessons for enabling them to draw computer animations and to use special effects.

Those who submit a mini project of their own on 3D Arts or 3D Animation after the course will be presented certificates certifying their innovations. Trainees will have access to latest version of 3D studio max at the course. Those who complete the course will be able to earn a living as 3D Artists or 3D Animators in the practical field.

The course will last eight week and it will be opened five days a week. As there is limit on seat, enthusiasts need to contact KMD Computer Centre at No (550-552) at the corner of Merchant and 36th Streets in Kyauktada Township (Ph: 249155, 381776, 381035, 384109, 391286 and 391287) urgently.
Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku)…

(from page 16)

Kalewa and Tamu through Myawady, Ottwin, Pyawbwe, Kyaukpadaung, Letpanchepaw and Pakokku.

On his inspection tour of the Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) Project on 13 December 2009, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on earliest start to launch the project at the alignment No (5). In order to put the guidance into action, ground consecration ceremonies were held simultaneously on Letpanchepaw side, Yayle Island and Pakokku side on 14 December. The following day, ceremonies to drive stakes and bored piles were held under the leadership of Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint to launch the project.

Under the guidance given on 6 December 2009 by the Head of State on construction of four more bridges spanning the Ayeyawady River, the project has come into force. Upon completion, approximately, the main bridge will be 21,000 feet long, and it will be a longer facility if it has its approach bridges. Then, it will be far longer than the present longest bridge in Myanmar “Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine)”. And it will be on the highway to be constructed by India, Myanmar and Thailand.

Fact File of the Project

1. Main Bridge – 11431 feet (3484 metres) = (2.1622 miles)
2. Type
   (a) Foundation & Lower Structure – Broad Crest
   (b) Upper Structure – Steel Girder
3. Formation
   Main Bridge (1) NyaungU side – 8183 feet = (2494 metres)
   100 metres – 2 spans
   120 metres – 19 spans
   Main Bridge (2) on Bawlonkhon Island – 1004 feet = (306 metres)
   100 meters – 3 spans
   Main Bridge (3) on Pakokku Side – 2244 feet = (684 metres)
   100 metres – 2 spans
   120 metres – 4 spans
4. Road/Railroad and Walkway
   (a) Motorway – 28 feet wide = (8.50 metres)
   (b) Railroad – 14 feet = (4.30 metres)
   (c) Walkway (3’ 3” wide each) – 6’ 6” = (2 metres)
5. Clearance Area (Width) – 262 feet = (80 metres)
6. Clearance Area (Height) – 52 feet = (16 metres)
**Labour Minister visits Labour Exchange Offices, Central Inland Freight Handling Committee in Mandalay**

**NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan—**Labour Minister U Aung Kyi visited Labour Exchange Offices in Maha Aungmye, Chanay Thazan and Aungmye Thazan Townships and Central Inland Freight Handling Committee in Mandalay on 11 January. On his tour of inspection, the minister stressed the need for worker safety measures and social welfare programme and called for generating jobs opportunities at home and abroad, upgrading work proficiency of the employees, ensuring labour rights according to the law and providing health care services to employees. **MNA**

**Fire drill held in Nay Pyi Taw Airport**

**NAY PYI TAW, 12 Jan—**A fire drill was held at sports ground of Nay Pyi Taw Airport construction project this morning. A responsible person explained arrangements for fire preventive measures and the firefighters demonstrated a fire practice. **MNA**

**3rd respects paying ceremony of Nay Pyi Taw Thawuthti BEHS on 30 Jan**

**NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan—**The cash donation ceremony of old students from Nay Pyi Taw Thawuthti Basic Education High School for holding third respects paying ceremony was held at that school on 11 January. The respects paying ceremony will be held from 9 am to 12 noon on 30 January. Eighty four teachers of the last ceremony and all old students are invited to attend the ceremony without fail. Those wishing to make donation may contact Ko Zaw Min Naing (Waing Café) (Ph: 067-65015), Ko That Khaing (Khaing Thazin) (Ph: 067-65056), Dr Than Zaw Win (Ekarit clinic) (Ph: 067-65164), Ma Win Win Thwe (snack shop) (Ph: 067-65047), Ko Zaw Aung (reporter) (Ph: 067-60083), Ko San Win (Ph: 09-5138332) and Ma Khin Hla Win (Ph: 09-6801094). **MNA**

**Man loses foot in mine blast**

**NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan—**A man lost his right foot in a mine blast on the bank of Mone Creek near the bullock-cart route to Old Phaungseik Village, Thandaung Township, Kayin State, at about 4 pm on 8 January. The mine planted by an insurgent group went off when U Tin Win (a) U Maw Le, 45, from Mythandu Village, Thandaung Township on his way to catch fish together with his friends in the creek stepped onto it. He is now in bed at Mone Station Hospital. Local authorities and officials concerned are rendering assistance to the victim. **MNA**

**Trainees of B.Ed course on study tour**

**NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan—**Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Kyaw Thu presented cash assistance to the trainees from four-year B.Ed course of University for Development of National Races for their study tour at Central Institute of Civil Service (upper Myanmar) in PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Division on 11 January. The members of study tour observed the central training school of Myanmar Police Force and viewed demonstration of fire preventive measures at Central Fire Service Training School. The study tour also covered farms of Myanmar Farms Enterprise, National Kandawgyi Gardens, Myanmar Forestry Training School, Yatanarpon Teleport in Yatanarpon Myothit. **MNA**
US trade deficit rises to $36.4 bln in November
WASHINGTON, 13 Jan—The US trade deficit jumped 9.7 percent to $36.4 billion US dollars in November, the Commerce Department reported on Tuesday.

The November imbalance was bigger than the 34.5 billion dollar deficit that economists had been expecting.

Renault recalls 387,000 cars due to steering problem
PARIS, 13 Jan—The French carmaker Renault has recalled over 387,000 cars in 2009 to repair steering problems, the company announced on Tuesday.

In total, 387,399 cars were affected by the recall in October 2009, including the Scenic model, produced between January 2006 and March 2007, and Kangoo model, manufactured between 2008 and January 2009, the company spokesman said.

The steering defects make customers feel hard to manage turning so the company decided to launch the recall, Renault's second-largest automaker explained, adding that the defect car can be fixed in about 30 minutes after sent back to garage.

Asian carmakers scope deeper inroads in US market
DETROIT, 13 Jan—Asian carmakers, which have left US rivals in the dust on their home turf, are now signaling at this week's Detroit auto show they have set their sights on still bigger shares of the massive market.

“The overall market share tells me where the consumer is voting,” Don Esmond, head of Toyota's US auto sales, said on Tuesday at an industry round-table discussion.

More bluntly, Carlos Tavares, the Nissan executive vice president in charge of the Americas, said in an interview with AFP: “We still expect and hope to grow our (US) market share steadily.”

With their smaller, cheaper and less fuel-thirsty vehicles, Asian auto manufacturers have scored customers amid the worst US recession in decades and spikes in gasoline prices.

Samsung develops new high-density memory solutions for mobile devices
SEOUl, 13 Jan—South Korea's Samsung Electronics Co unveiled on Wednesday two new high-density memory solutions for mobile devices, which will greatly expand its data storage density.

The new storage solutions, a 64-gigabyte (GB) moviNAND memory device and a 32 GB micro secure digital (microSD) memory card, will quench mobile handset designers' thirst for smaller, advanced compact high-density memory solutions, Samsung said.

Samsung's high-density memory solutions bring the storage capacity levels of computing systems to small, mobile devices,” said Dong-soo Jun, executive vice president of memory marketing at Samsung Electronics, adding that “it will usher in a new era of mobile and IT device capacity growth.”

Exxon Mobile joins Turkish Black Sea exploration accord
ISTANBUL, 13 Jan—Exxon Mobile Corporation announced on Tuesday it signed a deal with Brazil’s Petrobras to participate in the consortium with Turkish Petroleum Corporation (TPAO) in a quest to find oil in the Black Sea.

Exxon said that under the deal it purchased 25 percent share of rights over a 3 million hectare area in Sinop, Ayancik and Carsamba shores, with Petrobras holding 25 percent and TPAO 50 percent shares in the consortium.

However, the deal needs to be ratified by the Turkish government to take effect.

In April 2009, Turkey's TPAO and Brazil's Petrobras signed an agreement for the exploration of oil in the Black Sea. Recently the massive deep-water oil platform “Leiv Eiriksson”, which set off from Norway months ago, passed through the straits and reached Sinop, to explore oil at a depth of 6,000 meters with a daily cost of up to 1 million US dollars.

The platform will stay in the Black Sea for five years, according to the semi-official Anatolia news agency.

Global IT spending to rebound in 2010
SAN FRANCISCO, 13 Jan—After a sharp decline in 2009, global information technology (IT) spending is expected to rebound this year and keep growing in the years ahead, market research firm Forrester said on Tuesday.

Global IT spending, which dropped 8.9 percent last year, will rise 8.1 percent in 2010 to more than 1.6 trillion US dollars, according to a new report released by Forrester.

“This technology downturn of 2008 and 2009 is unofficially over,” Andrew Bartels, vice president and principal analyst of Forrester, declared in a statement.

“All the pieces are in place for a 2010 tech spending rebound.”

Software and computer hardware will see the greatest growth as businesses and governments begin spending again on information technology, Forrester predicted.

Jetstar Pacific airline safety violations
HANOI, 13 Jan—Top managers at Vietnamese budget airline Jetstar Pacific, part-owned by Australia’s Qantas, violated maintenance regulations, according to the official media.

A spokesman for the airline’s website which says the carrier was known as Pacific Airlines until May 2008.

A Jetstar Airbus passenger jet takes off from Singapore airport. Top managers at Vietnamese budget airline Jetstar Pacific, part-owned by Australia’s Qantas, violated maintenance regulations, official media has reported.
Italy 2nd-oldest country in Europe

ROME, 13 Jan—Long-lived Italians are having fewer children, making Italy the second-oldest country in the European Union, a government statistics office said on Tuesday. The country’s population continues to grow only because of immigrants, the Italian news agency ANSA reported.

Israt, the national statistics bureau, said that with an average life expectancy of 84, Italian women are longer lived than other Europeans except the French and Spanish. Italian men have an average life expectancy of 78.6 years, second only to Sweden.

The Italian birthrate, at 9.6 per thousand, is lower than any other in the European Union except Germany. The country has 1.4 people over 65 for every child under 15, again trailing Germany.

The country’s population grew 0.7 percent in 2009 because of immigrants, Istat said. Immigrants are more likely to be legally employed, to be in the workforce and to be unemployed, the bureau found. They are also more likely to be looking for work, with 8 percent job hunting on average at any given time, compared to 6.7 percent of native-born Italians.—Internet

Bortezomib effective against stomach tumour

PITTSBURGH, 13 Jan–A drug already approved for some cancers could be an effective treatment for a rare tumour found in the gastrointestinal tract, US researchers said. The drug Bortezomib, also known as Velcade, is used to treat multiple myeloma and some lymphomas, said pathologist Anette Duensing of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

In tests, Bortezomib showed promise against gastrointestinal stromal tumour cells. The stromal tumour cells usually are treated with imatinib, or Gleevec, which is effective initially but rarely kills the cells completely, Duensing and her team wrote in a recent issue of Cancer Research.

Bortezomib suppressed the cancer cells’ production of an enzyme called KIT and was active against imatinib-resistant cells. “This is intriguing because resistance to imatinib seems to permit a small pool of quiescent cancer cells to survive,” Duensing said. “But Bortezomib eradicates KIT production, so it might be able to rid the body of the remaining tumour cells.”—Internet

20 percent of British infantry unfit for frontline

LONDON, 13 Jan—Nearly 20 percent of the British army’s infantry are unfit to fight on the frontline, according to figures obtained by the country’s Conservatives on Tuesday. Some of the troops are unfit to be sent to the frontline for medical reasons such as physical injury, mental illness and a lack of fitness, according to data from the country’s Defence Ministry. Other small number of non-deployable cases include soldiers aged under 18, pregnancy ones, and those who are unable to fight for compassionate and disciplinary reasons, the ministry added.

Conservative MP Bernard Jenkin, who obtained the information in a parliamentary written answer from the ministry, said manning at this level was unsustainable concerning such deployment intensity. All of the 36 infantry battalions in the British army, each of which has 650 troops, reported they had more than 70 soldiers unfit for combat service, and the most senior infantry battalion the Grenadier Guards said it had 127 soldiers who could not be deployed.

Bill Rammell, Armed Forces Minister at the ministry who provided the information, said some of those classified as not fully deployable may be able to perform in combat roles, providing suitable medical support was available in theatre.—Xinhua

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**Blood pressure drugs cut dementia risk**

**BEIJING, 13 Jan**—The blood pressure drugs that block the protein angiotensin could reduce the risk of developing Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia, according to the online British Medical Journal on Wednesday.

In a study, scientists in US found that older people taking a certain type of blood pressure medication known as angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs) were significantly less likely to develop the brain-wasting illnesses. “We think it (angiotensin) is one of the most important factors determining healthy blood vessels and also acts in the brain to help neurons to be a little more resilient,” said Benjamin Wolozin, the senior author of a report on the findings.

Wolozin, also a professor of pharmacology and neurology Boston University School of Medicine, and his colleagues looked at the incidence of dementia in 800,000 mostly male patients in the US from 2002 to 2006. They all had heart disease and were 65 or older.—Xinhua

**Protein may help restore lost movement after stroke**

**LOS ANGELES, 13 Jan**—US researchers have found that a supplemental protein may help restore impaired mobility of people who suffer from a stroke. Naturally occurring in humans, the protein has proved to work well in restoring motor function in rats after a stroke, according to two new studies by researchers at the University of California, Irvine (UCI).

The researchers hope that the protein will also help humans. Administered directly to the brain, the protein restores 99 percent of lost movement; if it’s given through the nose, 70 percent of lost movement is regained. Untreated rats improve by only 30 percent. “No drugs exist that will help a stroke after a few days.”—Xinhua

**Calcium levels key in kidney disease**

**SALEM, 13 Jan**—US researchers have linked abnormally high or low blood-calcium levels to an increased risk of premature death. Dr Csaba Kovacs of Salem Veterans Administration Medical Centre and colleagues examined the death rates associated with various blood-calcium levels in 1,243 male US veterans with moderate-to-advanced chronic kidney disease not requiring dialysis therapy.

The researchers found patients with abnormally high calcium levels had a 31 percent increased risk of dying during the study versus patients with normal levels. Low calcium levels were also linked to higher death rates—but after much shorter periods of exposure. These patients had a 21 percent increased risk of dying.—Internet

**Pine bark relieves hemorrhoid symptoms**

**CHIETI, 13 Jan**—An anti-oxidant plant extract Pycnogenol may be beneficial in patients with hemorrhoids, both for acute and chronic treatment, researchers in Italy said.

Pycnogenol, also known as pink bark, is from the bark of the French maritime pine tree and has important anti-inflammation and anti-thrombotic properties. The randomized, controlled study conducted by GD’Annunzio University in Italy investigated 84 patients suffering from an acute episode of exaetmal hemorrhoids, lasting 24-48 hours prior to inclusion in the study.

Patients were randomly allocated to one of three groups, Group 1 consisted of initial 300 mg of Pycnogenol tablets daily for four days, followed by 150 mg per day for the following three days; Group 2 received the same treatment as Group 1, plus 0.5 percent Pycnogenol topical cream; and Group 3 was a placebo treatment group.

**Metformin safe for heart failure patients**

**LOS ANGELES, 13 Jan**—Metformin, a drug used to treat type 2 diabetes, is safe for use in treating patients who have both diabetes and advanced heart failure, US researchers say. Senior author Dr Tamara Horwich, an assistant professor of medicine in the division of cardiology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles, said the study involved 401 patients with an average age of 56, with type 2 diabetes and advanced systolic heart failure.

The study participants were tracked for 14 years in a comprehensive heart failure management programme.—Internet

**NASA plans for Mars laboratory**

**HOUSTON, 13 Jan**—The Mars rover known as Spirit may be permanently stuck in the sand but remains of value for scientific exploration, NASA officials said.

The rover programme was launched in 2004 with Spirit and Opportunity landing on opposite sides of the planet for what was to be three months of exploration. Opportunity still roams the planet while Spirit became stuck in sand about nine months ago. The latest attempts to free Spirit sunk it even deeper in the Martian soil, said Doug McCuistion, head of NASA’s Mars Exploration Programme.

This NASA artist’s conception shows the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter in low orbit over the planet Mars, on 10 March, 2006. The NASA probe entered orbit on Friday in search of water, life and other information about our red neighbour.—Internet

**Some anti-cancer drugs could harm heart**

**HOUSTON, 13 Jan**—Several drugs that slow cancer growth also impair the heart’s ability to respond to stress, researchers in Texas said. Researchers at the MD Anderson Cancer Centre in Texas said the drugs inhibit a cancer growth receptor called PDGFR, a protein that allows cancer cells to increase uncontrollably. PDGFR also plays an important role in protecting the heart by allowing the growth of new blood vessels when the heart is under stress, said Dr Aarif Khakoo.

“The role of PDGFR signaling in the heart has been largely unexplored until now,” the cardiologist wrote this week in the Journal of Clinical Investigation. Sentut, Naxavar and Gleevee are some of the chemotherapy agents commonly used in human cancer patients to target and inhibit PDGFR.

“Recently, some of these targeted anti-cancer drugs have been associated with heart failure, Khakoo said, adding high blood pressure may put patients who receive these drugs at even greater risk.”—Internet
Mokoena gives Pompey FA Cup relief

LONDON, 13 Jan—South Africa’s Aaron Mokoena scored right at the end of extra-time to help his club Portsmouth come from behind to beat Coventry City 2-1 in an FA Cup third round replay on Tuesday.

Victory gave Portsmouth, bottom of the Premier League and beset by financial problems, a fourth round tie at home to top-flight rivals Sunderland.

Both of Pompey’s goals were heartbreaking for second-tier Coventry, coming in the last minute of normal time and in stoppage time added on at the end of the second half of extra-time.

The win gave Portsmouth fans a rare moment of celebration in an otherwise chaotic season, off and on the field, and Mokoena said it had come at a vital time for the south coast club.

“It was very important to win this game so we can build on it,” Mokoena told ITV4. “We needed it so badly. It’s a big win for us.”

Campsell on brink of dramatic Arsenal return

LONDON, 13 Jan—Sol Campbell was nearing an extraordinary return to Arsenal on Tuesday.

The English Premier League club confirmed the 35-year-old former Gunners captain would play for Arsenal’s reserves against West Ham later on Tuesday, with the aim of making a permanent move back to the north London club.

“Tonight’s (Tuesday’s) reserve team to face West Ham United at Upton Park features Sol Campbell, who plays tonight on a reserve league registration, with a view to a permanent move back to Arsenal Football Club,” a statement on Arsenal’s official website said.

The central defender, capped 73 times by England, left Arsenal for Premier League rivals Portsmouth in 2006.

“Sol Campbell on brink of dramatic Arsenal return”

Serena on top but Henin, Clijsters Open threat

MELBOURNE, 13 Jan—Defending champion Serena Williams heads into the Australian Open as firm favourite but the return of Justine Henin and Kim Clijsters could be a real threat.

Williams ended the season as world number one.

Opting to start her year at the Sydney International earlier, lead Group C with three points, and we were punished,” said a miserable Amodu. —Internet

South Africa’s Aaron Mokoena, pictured in 2009, scored in the final minute of extra-time as crisis club Portsmouth came from behind to beat Coventry City 2-1 in an FA Cup third round replay on Tuesday. —Internet

Mokoena gives Pompey FA Cup relief

Roma hit back in Italian Cup against Trastiena

ROME, 13 Jan—AS Roma bounced back from conceding a shock early goal against Serie B strugglers Trastiena to win 3-1 on Tuesday and qualify for the quarter-finals of the Coppa Italia.

Roma, who will play Genoa or Catania next, joined Serie A leaders Internazionale and Milan in the last eight after Jose Mourinho’s team beat Livorno 1-0 in December.

Trastiena were ahead after just five minutes as Luigi Della Rocca converted a penalty after he himself had been fouled by Marco Cassetti.

A shock was on the cards against a weakened Roma, for whom coach Claudio Ranieri rested the likes of centre-back Juan, striker Luca Toni and midfield dynamo Daniele De Rossi.—Internet

Ferguson escapes FA action over referee rant

LONDON, 13 Jan—Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson will not face disciplinary action over his latest criticisms of a referee, the Football Association (FA) announced on Tuesday.

Ferguson was furious with Mark Clattenburg for sending-off Darren Fletcher during English champions United’s 1-1 draw away to Birmingham City on Sunday.

Afterwards the Scot suggested Clattenburg had been inconsistent this season but the FA, England’s governing body, have decided his remarks did not mean he was alleging bias or questioning the official’s integrity. “No action will be taken in relation to Sir Alex Ferguson,” an FA spokesman said on Tuesday.—Internet

Mozambique deny Benin first Nations Cup victory

BENGUELA, 13 Jan—Mozambique held Benin to a 2-2 draw here Tuesday night to deny the west Africans their first-ever victory at the Africa Cup of Nations.

Angola 2010 is Benin’s third Nations Cup appearance after they debuted in the competition at the 2004 edition in Tunisia and had they defended an early two goal lead, they would have been celebrating their inaugural victory in the tournament.

Champions Egypt off to winning Nations Cup start

BENGUELA, 13 Jan—Defending champions Egypt defeated Nigeria 3-1 in their opening Africa Cup of Nations Group C match at the Ombaka stadium here on Tuesday.

Egypt coach, Hassan Shehata, said some inspired second-half substitutions helped his team to a deserved victory.

“The substitutions paid dividends,” said the former Zamalek striker.

The veteran manager added: “The victory over Nigeria is just the beginning, we still have a long way to go and so we still need our fans’ genuine support and prayers.”

Striker Mohamed Zidan said: “We didn’t give up, I think we deserved the victory.”

Nigeria coach, Shaibu Amodu, said his team paid the price for some schoolboy errors.

In the tournament, Champions Egypt, who beat Nigeria earlier, lead Group C with three points, with Benin and Mozambique tied for second following this thrilling draw.

Nigeria beaten 3-1 by the defending champions, foot the table. —Internet

Federer’s imposing claim for another Slam win

MELBOURNE, 13 Jan—A resurgent Roger Federer is again the man to beat in next week’s Australian Open as he shoots for his 16th Grand Slam crown in the year’s opening major.

Just when his rivals appeared to have closed the gap on the Swiss, the world number one had another stellar season in 2009, winning his first-ever French Open and a sixth Wimbledon title.

The 28-year-old great became the all-time Grand Slam leader in men’s tennis after dominating a field of 900 players in Geneva during their group C stage match at the African Cup of Nations CAN2010 at Ombaka stadium in Benguela. Egypt won 3-1. —Internet

A resurgent Roger Federer is again the man to beat in next week’s Australian Open as he shoots for his 16th Grand Slam crown in the year’s opening major.—Internet

Felder’s imposing claim for another Slam win
Brazilian military rescues victims in Haitian earthquake

BRASILIA, 13 Jan—Brazilian troops participating in the peacekeeping mission in Haiti have turned to rescue work after the strong earthquake that heavily damaged the country.

Working through the early hours of Tuesday afternoon, Brazilian comrades buried in collapsed buildings and assisted local authorities after the magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck Tuesday afternoon. A number of Brazilian soldiers were missing, according to the Brazilian Defense Ministry.

Army Commander, General Enzo Martins said there was some damage to several buildings used by Brazilians and damage estimates were still ongoing. According to reports received from Claudio Campos, the Charge d’Affaires of Brazil in Port au Prince, the Brazilian Embassy suffered serious damage but there were no casualties among Brazilian officials.

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Xinhua

Weather

Wednesday, 13th January, 2010

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kakhin State and Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below January average temperatures in Kakhin, Rakhine States and Yangon Division, (3°C) to (4°C) below January average temperatures in Chin, Kayah, Kayin States and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above January average temperatures in Shan and Mon States and about January average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Loilim (0°C), Namsam and An (3°C) each, Patao (4°C).

Maximum temperature on 12-1-2010 was 94°F. Minimum temperature on 13-1-2010 was 57°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 13-1-2010 was 92%. Total sun shine hours on 12-1-2010 was (9.2) hours approx. Rainfall on 13-1-2010 was (Nil) at 09:30 hr.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 14th January 2010: Likelihood of isolated light rain in Kakhin State and Taninthayi Division, weather will be generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 14-1-2010: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 14-1-2010: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 14-1-2010: Fair weather.

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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

Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) to emerge as the longest of its kind in Myanmar

Byline: Kayan Soe Myint; Photos: Moe Myint Hlaing

Groundwork in progress to drive RP 30 and RP 29 bored piles.

Being a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Myanmar cooperates economically with Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand and China. So, Myanmar sees the project for construction of a road in border areas in Paletwa and Kalaton River renovation project in addition to Asia-ASEAN Highway to link Myanmar with Thailand, Laos, China, India and Bangladesh, BIMSTEC Highway, eastern, western, southern and northern highways in Mekong Region, and the highways to be constructed jointly by India, Myanmar and Thailand and by India and Myanmar.

As part of the highway project to be implemented jointly by India, Myanmar and Thailand, Public Works under the Ministry of Construction, in compliance with the guidance of the Head of State, is constructing Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) over the Ayeyawady River to link Letpanchepaw in Bagan and Pakokku in order to have easy access to (See page 9)