**Local farmers reaping the benefits of Bawbin Dam**

**Byline: Myint Maung Soe; Photos: Myo Min Thein (Mayangon)**

Local farmers of Zigon and Gyobingauk townships in Bago Division now have higher income as they can grow summer paddy in addition to monsoon paddy every year. The local farmers can do so due to Bawbin Dam. Making better use of water from Bawbin dam, local farmers have been able to practice double and triple-cropping patterns.

Bawbin Dam is located between Gyobingauk Township and Zigon Township. Construction of Bawbin dam began in 1999-2000 and was completed in 2003-2004. Staff Officer U Than Hla of Construction Group No. 2 of Irrigation Department said, “Bawbin dam is formed with a main dam and a supporting dam. The main dam is named Bawbin. 1 and the supporting dam Bawbin. 2. Bawbin. 2 has strong water inflow and Bawbin. 1 has enough water storage capacity. The dam benefits 30,000 acres of farmlands.”

The earthen type facility is built by damming Bawbin creek, 14 miles east of Zigon Township. The main dam is 910 feet in length and the supporting dam is 1,590 feet in length. (See page 7)
Encourage innovations for factories to run at full capacity

With the concept that at the heart of the drive for national development lies the industrial sector, the government is taking all necessary measures for ensuring proportionate development between the State-owned and the private-owned industries.

Thagara Industrial Region, established as part of the goal, manufactures bulldozers and excavators to contribute towards construction projects.

Today, heavy machinery is in high demand due to a great number of construction projects, and so the government is building a heavy machinery factory in Thagara Industrial Region to meet the demand.

The factory produces bulldozers, excavators, and cranes. It is also gearing up to produce medium bulldozers and compactors. It can produce 100 bulldozers and 100 excavators, along with sizeable number of three-ton cranes a year.

All the units of the heavy machinery the factory has produced are in full operation at work. Bulldozers produced in Heavy Machinery Factory (Thagara) are cheaper, but stronger than existing ones in construction sites.

The 150-horsepower excavator weighing 22 tones is effective because it can excavate one cubic meter of earth at one go. Excavators are produced under quality control.

So far, the government has founded 18 industrial zones for industrial development. As a result, the number of State-owned factories has increased from 624 to 768, and that of private-owned factories, from 3500 to 118,000 between 1988 and now.

Industrial zones are, indeed, a driving force for transforming the nation into an industrialized one. It is, therefore, required to encourage innovations and hard work to make sure that the factories can run at full capacity and boost production of marketable quality products.

**New TOA Mandarin Duck paint on the market**

YANGON, 17 Jan— TOA paint (Thailand) Co Ltd and Greenline Myanmar Group Co Ltd introduced new products, Mandarin Duck paint and Alkali Resisting Primer, at Chatrium Hotel here today.

Officials from two companies extended greetings.

Mr. Wuttipong of TOA paint (Thailand) Co Ltd explained about Mandarin Duck water colour, TOA Decorative Paint, TOA Wood Coating, TOA Special Paints and Heavy Guard and TOA Construction Chemical.

TOA Mandarin Duck paint can promise high quality and lucky draw programmes is added to each can of paint.

Those who want to order the products may contact No. (65), Konzaydan Road, Pabedan Township, Yangon (Ph: 384119 and 246194) and No (310), 80th Street between 20th and 21st streets Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay (Ph: 02-64858 and 09-8617140).

Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun addresses 116th meeting of the Banks Supervisory Committee and executive committee of Myanmar Banks Association.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan— Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt addressed work coordination meeting on construction of inter-district roads at the ministry, here, on 15 January.

After hearing reports on work progress and follow-up tasks for 2009-10 fiscal year, the minister assigned duties.

District-to-district road No (1) that links Mandalay and Yangon Divisions is 400 miles and one furlong long, and 194 miles long tarred road and graveled road have been constructed on it so far.

Works are underway on construction of 146 miles and four furlongs long tarred road and 110 miles and six furlongs long gravel road along 507 miles and four furlongs long district-to-district road No (2) that links Mandalay Division and Mon State.

Arrangements are being made to build 65 miles and two furlongs long gravel road on 339 miles and seven furlongs long district-to-district road No (3) that links Kachin State and Sagaing Division during 2009-10 fiscal year.— MNA

**Meeting on e-Banking transformation**

Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun called for transformation to e-Banking System and heard reports on banking services.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan— The 116th meeting of the Banks Supervisory Committee under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue and the executive committee of Myanmar Banks Association was held at the ministry here today.

Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun addresses 116th meeting of the Banks Supervisory Committee and executive committee of Myanmar Banks Association.—MNA

Ministry of Finance and Revenue and the executive committee of Myanmar Banks Association held the meeting.

246194) and No (310), 80th Street between 20th and 21st streets Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay (Ph: 02-64858 and 09-8617140).

Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun was the guest of honor.

TOA Mandarin Duck paint and Alkali Resisting Primer being introduced.

MNA
Russia, US should ratify START treaty simultaneously, Medvedev says

**MOSCOW, 17 Jan —** Russia and the United States should ratify the new strategic arms reduction treaty (START) simultaneously, President Dmitry Medvedev said on Saturday.

“I consider it extremely important. We must synchronize the ratification procedures for the relevant documents,” the Interfax news agency quoted Medvedev as telling parliamentary leaders.

“We cannot allow a situation which once happened during the Soviet period when the Soviet Union ratified these documents and the US did not,” he said. “I think this is something our American partners should know about.”

The president also spoke positively of the current negotiations between the two countries.

“Negotiations will continue,” he said. “They are tough, but in general we have agreed on many points with the Americans. We have taken quite serious steps forward and have brought our positions closer together to a considerable extent.”

Russia and the United States have exerted intense efforts trying to clinch a deal on a replacement document to the START-1 that expired 6 Dec, 2009. The talks are expected to resume in the second half of this month, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov earlier said earlier.

The START-1, 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.—Xinhua

US soldier dies in Afghanistan

**KABUL, 17 Jan —** An American soldier has died in Afghanistan after being wounded while fighting Taliban-led militants, NATO said on Sunday.

In a brief statement, NATO’s International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said the soldier had died on Saturday in eastern Afghanistan, an increasingly volatile theatre of the war against the anti-government militants.

“An ISAF service member was killed in the militancy-hit Afghanistan on Saturday, a Press release of the alliance said.”

“A group of militants were busy planting roadside bombs in Urgon District this morning to target Afghan and foreign forces when war planes of international troops pounded the site, killing four rebels on the spot,” Mukhlis Afghan, the spokesman, told Xinhua.

Two more militants, who were injured, were also detained by the Afghan forces, he said.

Troops also seized a few assault rifles and explosive devices in the area, he added.

Taliban outfits have yet to make comments. Eastern and southern parts of the militancy-hit country have been the scene of Taliban-led insurgency over the past couple of years.

Parts of the 37,000 additional US and NATO troops announced by US President Barak Obama and allied countries are expected to be deployed in eastern and southern regions to combat Taliban-led militancy there.—Xinhua

Airstrike kills four Taleban militants, wounds two in E Afghanistan

**KHOST, 17 Jan —** Airstrikes against Taleban militants left four militants dead and two others injured in east Afghanistan’s Pakhtika Province on Saturday, said a provincial administration spokesman.

“A group of militants were busy planting roadside bombs in Urgon District this morning to target Afghan and foreign forces when war planes of international troops pounded the site, killing four rebels on the spot,” Mukhlis Afghan, the spokesman, told Xinhua. Two more militants, who were injured, were also detained by the Afghan forces, he said.

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Journalist killed, soldiers deployed to Tijuana

**MEXICO CITY, 17 Jan —** The bloody and broken corpse of a radio journalist known for his broadcasts on drug trafficking was found on Saturday on a highway a few miles (kilometres) from the city where he was kidnapped, prosecutors said.

Linea Directa radio station reporter Jose Luis Romero was forced at gunpoint out of a Los Mochis restaurant on 30 Dec. A few hours later, gunmen killed the chief police investigator in the northern Mexican state of Sinaloa who had started investigating the kidnapping.

Sinaloa assistant state prosecutor Rolando Bon Lopez said Romero’s body was found shoved into a black bag with his hands bound and broken, two bullets in his head and another in his shoulder.

Lopez said he believed, based on the condition of the corpse, that Romero was killed soon after he was kidnapped. Sinaloa is home to some of Mexico’s most powerful cartels.—Internet

A woman with children walk near a military checkpoint in Tijuana, Mexico, on 16 Jan, 2010. —INTERNET

Iraq captures suspected senior leader of al-Qaeda

**BAGHDAD, 17 Jan —** Iraqi security forces have captured one of the top leaders of al-Qaeda in Iraq network, a military spokesman said on Saturday.

Major General Qassim Atta, spokesman of the Operations Command, told a televised Press conference that the Iraqi security forces captured Ali Hussein al-Azzawi, a senior leader of al-Qaeda groups across Iraq.

Azzawi, an ex-pilot of Iraqi Airways, was allegedly responsible for several high-profile attacks, including deadly suicide bombings against UN building in 2003.—Xinhua

People gather around a destroyed police vehicle after a blast in Ghazni on 13 Jan, 2010. A roadside bomb hit an Afghan police vehicle, killing one officer and wounding six of his colleagues on Wednesday in Ghazni province, southwest of Kabul, officials said. —INTERNET
Home trading in Beijing plummets in first two weeks of 2010

BEIJING, 17 Jan—Property trading in Beijing in the first two weeks of this year slumped, following a string of government moves to curb soaring real estate prices.

Beijing property transaction management authority said on its website on Friday that sales of future delivery residential apartments during Jan 1 to 13 Jan were down 63.9 percent month on month to 3,031 units, compared with 8,397 units, in the first half of December.

Those for second-hand homes also plunged 73.3 percent to 4,800 units, according to data from the website.

The relatively small transaction volume was largely due to a strong wait-and-see mood from the buyers, in response to the government’s efforts to deflate property bubbles, said Gao Shan, vice general manager of the Beijing-based Comprehensive Real Estate Service Corporation.

The central government has taken a series of measures, including trimming loans, intensifying land supply and market monitoring, and ending tax rebates on property transaction, to prevent home prices from further soaring since the previous month. —Xinhua

Chinese rescue team found body of top UN official in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, 17 Jan—Hedi Annabi, chief of United Nations (UN) in Haiti was found dead among debris in the quake-destroyed UN headquarters in Haitian capital Port-au-Prince, Chinese rescuers announced Saturday.

Xinhua reporters witnessed Annabi's body being recovered by Chinese rescue team at 2:22 pm local time. He was believed to be in a meeting with a high-ranking delegation from China when the quake took place. So far no survivors were found at the scene.

Annabi was Tunisian national. “All the personal property of Annabi that were found in the rubble will be sealed and handed over to UN officials, said Huang Jian, leader of the Chinese rescue team.

Chinese and Brazilian international rescue teams were working together in the rubble to look for Annabi. The rescuers put his body onto a stretcher, than 4 Chinese peacekeeping policemen took the body to the UN officers and officially transferred the body to them. MNA/Xinhua

Syria open to foreign banking investors

DAMASCUS, 17 Jan—Syria is offering foreign investors a majority stake in its private banks as the country pushes ahead with efforts to boost economic reforms and move away from its socialist legacy.

The move also comes as Syria steadily sheds its image as a radical in the political arena, with ties warming up with former foes such as the United States, France and Saudi Arabia.

Central bank governor Adib Mayala told AFP on Wednesday that under a 4 January banking law the maximum capital stake for foreign investors was being raised to 60 percent from the current 49 percent.

“It is an important measure which will boost the capacity of Syrian banks,” Mayala said.

Private banks were authorised in Syria under a law passed in 2001 — a year after President Bashar al-Assad replaced his late father Hafez al-Assad at the head of the country — but with Syrian nationals holding the majority stakes. —Internet

Baoshan Steel reports profit loss in 2009

SHANGHAI, 17 Jan—Net profit in Baoshan Iron & Steel Co, China’s biggest steel marker, declined 11 percent year-on-year to 5.75 billion yuan (842 million US dollars) in 2009. Its total revenue stood at 148.3 billion yuan last year, down 25.95 percent from a year earlier, said the Shanghai-based company in an annual business report filed to the Shanghai Stock Exchange on Saturday, without giving reasons for the losses.

China’s steel product prices underwent frequent fluctuations last year, against the backdrop that the world economic recession reduced steel demand both at home and abroad. —Xinhua

Cranes at a construction site in Berlin.

According to a weekly the German government will raise its growth rate forecast for 2010 from 1.2 percent to 1.5 percent in its annual economic report. —INTERNET

German government warns against using MS Explorer

BERLIN, 17 Jan—The German government has warned web users to find an alternative browser to Internet Explorer to protect security. The warning from the Federal Office for Information Security comes after Microsoft admitted IE was the weak link in recent attacks on Google’s systems. Microsoft rejected the warning, saying that the risk to users was low and that the browsers’ increased security setting would prevent any serious risk.

However, German authorities say that even this would not make IE fully safe. Thomas Baumgaertner, a spokesman for Microsoft in Germany, said that while they were aware of the warning, they did not agree with it, saying that the attacks on Google were by “highly motivated people with a very specific agenda”. “These were not attacks against general users or consumers,” said Mr Baumgaertner. “There is no threat to the general user, consequently we do not support this warning,” he added. —Internet

Baoshan Steel starts building $3.6 b 8.5G LCD production line

SHENZHEN, 17 Jan—China’s top appliance maker TCL on Saturday started building a 8.5-generation LCD production line in the southern city of Shenzhen to meet the rising demand for flat-screen TVs.

The plant, in which TCL and Shenchao Technology Investment Company each hold a 50 percent stake, involves an investment of 24.5 billion yuan (3.6 billion US dollars). It covers an area of 600,000 square meters.

The fund includes 10 billion yuan from TCL and Shenchao, bank loans and also investment from domestic TV makers and overseas LCD panel producers, the two investors said.

The plant has a full capacity of 14 million LCD panels per year with an estimated output value of 16.9 billion yuan (2.48 billion US dollars). —Xinhua

Wrong-footed by rocketing consumer demand, Asian technology suppliers are scrambling to expand capacity before inventories run dry of everything from smart phones to flat-panel screens. —INTERNET

Bottles are seen at a factory of a Chinese beer company on the outskirts of Beijing. China’s steel product prices underwent frequent fluctuations last year, against the backdrop that the world economic recession reduced steel demand both at home and abroad. —Xinhua

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**Chinese FM calls for enhanced cooperation, common development between Asia, Latin America**

**Tokyo, 17 Jan—Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi on Saturday urged Asian and Latin American countries to promote bi-regional cooperation and seek common development.**

Yang made the appeal at the ongoing foreign ministers’ meeting of the Forum for East Asia-Latin America Co-operation (FEALAC). Yang is in Japan for the Forum for East Asia-Latin America Co-operation (FEALAC).

To achieve the goal of common development, the Chinese foreign minister said that Asia and Latin America need to enhance cooperation to expedite the recovery and growth of the world economy.

And the two regions also need to facilitate coordination in a joint effort to encourage environment-friendly and sustainable development, he said.—Xinhua

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**Cypriot President starts official visit in Greece**

**Athens, 17 Jan—Cypriot President Dimitri Christofias started an official visit to Greece on Saturday.**

Christofias was received by his Greek counterpart Karolos Papoulias at the Athens Presidential Mansion.

Christofias, who is also the leader of the Greek Cypriot community, briefed Papoulias on his talks last week with Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat with the aim of solving the Cyprus issue.

During his four-day visit, Christofias will have consultations with Greek political leadership and seek support to his position. Christofias invited Papoulias to visit Cyprus as soon as possible.

On Sunday, accompanied by Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou, he will visit the fire-stricken region of Ilia in Peloponnese.

Cyprus supported financially the reconstruction of a whole village named Artemida after the fatal catastrophic fires of 2007, which burnt down even the area around the ancient Stadium at Olympia, the birthplace of the Olympic Games.

Christofias will wind up his visit in Athens on Tuesday morning. Xinhua

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**Rescue continues as international community mobilized to help quake-hit Haiti**

**Port-au-Prince, 17 Jan—Rescue efforts continued in Haiti on Saturday as the international community has been mobilized to provide the devastated island nation’s earthquake survivors with medical assistance and other humanitarian aid.**

In the first three days after the magnitude-7.3 earthquake struck on Tuesday, aid workers spared no efforts to find any signs of life. A number of people have been saved from the rubble of Haiti’s capital city but in most cases, more bodies were pulled out of the rubbles.

As of early Friday, the Chilean search and rescue team rescued 23 people from the Montana Hotel. Juan Gabriel Valdes, chief of the Chilean aid commission, said that rescue efforts would continue as long as there was hope of finding more people alive.

Meanwhile, the body of a Chinese peacekeeping police officer was found among the ruins of the collapsed building of the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti. Chinese search and rescue team leader Huang Jianfa said here early Saturday.

The rescue team was doing everything possible to speed up the search for seven other Chinese officers who remained missing. Xinhua

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**Nepal marks 12th National Earthquake Safety Day**

**Kathmandu, 17 Jan—Nepali people observed the 12th National Earthquake Safety Day (NESD) across the country on Saturday.**

The NESD is observed with the slogan “Let’s reduce the earthquake risk, enhance the safety of community, and build safer schools, hospitals and houses.”

In Lalitpur, 2.8 km east of Kathmandu, some people used an elephant with a red carpet and some model buildings on its back to raise people’s awareness on the day and share knowledge and information about safety measures. NESD has been observed in Nepal on 16 Jan every year since 1999 which coincides with the 65th anniversary of the last deadly earthquake which rocked Nepal in 1934 and claimed the lives of 8,500 people.—Xinhua

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**Shanghai Expo to exhibit Haitian capital before and after quake**

**Shanghai, 17 Jan—Shanghai World Expo coordinators are considering a plan to exhibit the changed landscape of Haitian capital Port-au-Prince before and after the earthquake, to make a stronger presence of the country to the world.**

“We plan to present the views of the quake-devastated capital before and after the earthquake in the Haitian Hall to call for more attention and supports from the international community for its reconstruction,” said He Lihua, an exhibition official.

“We have made initial agreement with Courtney Rattray, deputy representative of the Caribbean countries to the Expo, and we are soliciting opinions from the Haiti authorities,” he said. “No answer has come yet,” he added.—Xinhua

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**A volunteer treats an injured at a hospital in Port-au-Prince, capital of Haiti, on 16 Jan, 2010. The hospital is full of the earthquake patients with insufficient medical care. —Xinhua**

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**A vessel travels through sea ice difficulty to leave Laizhou Port of Laizhou City, east China’s Shandong Province, on 15 Jan, 2010. The worst sea ice in 30 years appeared from early January along the coastline of the Bohai Sea and the Yellow Sea as cold fronts pushed temperature to minus 10 degrees Celsius and below. By now over 40% of the sea surface of Bohai Sea has iced up. —Xinhua**

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**Photo taken on Jan. 16, 2010 shows the effluent illumination in trial operation to the China Pavilion and Sunshine Valley of 2010 Shanghai World Expo, in Shanghai, east China. The overall exhibition installation will be finished in late March and the organization of Shanghai Expo goes very well to meet the upcoming 100 days countdown of Shanghai Expo. Since five permanent buildings and about one hundred other pavilions are ready, the overall exhibition installation has already started. —Xinhua**

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**THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Monday, 18 January, 2010**

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12 wounded in Philippines bus ambush

ZAMBOANGA, 17 Jan—Gunmen ambushed a bus in the southern Philippines, wounding 12 people in a suspected extortion attempt, the military said Sunday. The vehicle was attacked late Saturday on its regular route to the city of Pagadian, said the regional military chief, Lieutenant-General Benjamin Dolorfino.

The driver, who was one of 12 people wounded, was listed in serious condition at a hospital in nearby Ipil town, the general told reporters.

The army dispatched a unit of infantry to seek at least two suspects who were armed with an assault rifle and a shotgun, he added. Dolorfino described the gunmen as “suspected extortionists”. —Internet

Abu Dhabi arrests French passenger for bomb joke on plane

PARIS, 17 Jan—A senior French air passenger was arrested on Saturday in Abu Dhabi due to one sensitive letter “bomb” he joked on board, his brother Michel Lioret told French media. French Foreign Ministry confirmed the case later.

Jean-Louis Lioret, 66, ruined his journey on an Etihad airliner from Paris to Bangkok when the plane was about to leave the stopover Abu Dhabi.

As he was helping a neighbour to keep a packet on an empty seat beside he, Lioret blurted out “I hope it’s not a bomb.” The joke was heard by the steward and triggered security alert at once.

Immediately, he was taken off the plane and finally put into Abu Dhabi central prison. Michel Lioret said what the packet contained was only some cigarettes.

French Foreign Ministry confirmed the arrest and said it would cooperate with the authority of Abu Dhabi on the case. —Xinhua

11 militants killed in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 17 Jan—Afghan and the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) eliminated 11 militants in Helmand Province south of Afghanistan on Friday night, a Press release of the alliance said Saturday.

“The ANSF (Afghan National Security Forces) partnered with ISAF forces to conduct an overnight operation in Sistani village, Nad Ali district, Helmand Province,” the Press release added.

“The initial assessment damage resulted in 11 militants killed,” it stressed.

There are no initial reports of damage to buildings or infrastructure.

No innocent Afghan civilians were hurt in these operations.

Taliban militants have yet to make comment. —Xinhua

Istanbul becomes one of Europe’s Capitals of Culture

Spectacular fireworks displays and cultural performances will mark the launch of Istanbul’s year as one of three European Capitals of Culture. The prestigious title gives cities the opportunity and funding to showcase and enrich their cultural life. For Turkey, which is struggling to fulfil its longstanding aim of becoming a member of the European Union, the title has particular significance. But Istanbul’s celebration is not without its problems.

Istanbul competed fiercely with the Ukrainian capital Kiev to win this title, the last time it will be offered to a non-EU member. The two other winners were Pecs in Hungary and Essen in Germany. With its rich heritage of Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman history and its pulsating contemporary urban life, Istanbul is already recognized as one of the world’s great cultural capitals.

Zero-carbon pavilion gets power from food scraps

A pavilion for Shanghai Expo 2010 will become China’s first public building to have zero-carbon emissions, China National Radio reported.

The building complex will be powered by solar, wind and water energy. Food scraps also will be used to produce electricity through decomposition.

The complex, built by environmentally friendly materials, will house a lecture hall, a restaurant, an exhibition hall and six model rooms.

Scots ‘drink 46 bottles of vodka’

Adults in Scotland are drinking the equivalent of 46 bottles of vodka each in a year, a study has suggested. The research was based on industry sales data analysed by NHS Health Scotland. It said sales for the year to September 2009 averaged 12.2 litres of pure alcohol per person over the age of 18. The Scottish government said the figure, which had remained static since 2005, was the equivalent of 537 pints or 130 bottles of wine per person. The new figures come as the Scottish government pushes for a minimum price for alcohol to tackle the country’s drink-related problems.

In total, 50.5 million litres of pure alcohol were sold in Scotland last year, enough for every drinker over the age of 18 to exceed the weekly consumption levels set by the Scottish government. People in Scotland drank 25% more alcohol per head of population than individuals in England and Wales, the figures suggested.

China launches third orbiter for indigenous global satellite navigation system

XICHANG, 17 Jan—China successfully launched an orbiter into space from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in southwestern Sichuan Province at about 0:12 am Beijing Time on Sunday.

It was the third orbiter that China has launched for its independent satellite navigation and positioning network, also known as Beidou, or Compass system. —Xinhua

Portland high-rise to get 250-foot-tall terraces

They haven’t figured out yet how to get the pruning done, but architects and federal officials plan one of the world’s most extensive vertical gardens in downtown Portland — what amounts to a series of 250-foot-tall terraces designed to shade the west side of an 18-story office building.

It is not a new idea to use greenery vertically as “living architecture,” running plants up the sides of a building to keep it cool.

But even in a city with a reputation for rainforest greenery as well as for green architecture, the wall of the Edith Green-Wendell Wyatt Federal Building would stand out.

The architects’ plans call for seven vertical “vegetated fins” to jut at acute angles. The fins would be the metal framework for planters and the greenery sprouting from them.

Chinese artist Jason de Caires Taylor works on a sculpture called “The Man on Fire” underwater in this undated handout in the Mexican resort of Cancun. At the bottom of its turquoise waters and playing with the reflections of the sun at sea, a series of sculptures were immersed in the Mexican resort of Cancun in what aspires to be a huge underwater museum that harmonizes with the beauty of its coral reefs.

Spectacular fireworks displays and cultural performances will mark the launch of Istanbul’s year as one of three European Capitals of Culture.
Efforts to be made for ensuring durability and development of self-reliant village libraries meeting five-point set standards

Minister inspects Upper Myanmar Government Press (Mandalay), Mandalay Division IPRD

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan—Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan on 12 January afternoon inspected binding of school textbooks, operating of binding machines, sheet fed press, machinery of printing presses, maintenance of machines, quality of school textbooks, storage of paper rolls and textbooks at Upper Myanmar Government Press (Mandalay) of Printing and Publishing Enterprise under the Ministry of Information in Aungpinle Ward of Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Division. The press manager and officials conducted the minister around the press. The minister looked into growing of shade trees, Seintalon mango plantation and other crops in the compound of the press, fire preventive measures and maintenance of press buildings and gave instructions on production of quality products by minimizing loss and wastage, systematic keeping of raw materials and finished goods, and carrying out staff welfare tasks through the concerted efforts of the press manager and all staff to successfully undertake tasks of the press.

At 2:30 pm, the minister proceeded to Mandalay Division Information and Public Relations Department in Ward D of Pyayyadagan Township and viewed the wall magazine, display of documentary photos, keeping of books at Knowledge Bank Library and practising of book borrowing system. Next, he met with staff of the Division, District and Township IPRDs. Deputy Director U Kyaw Than Tun of Mandalay Division IPRD, district and township level officials reported on carrying out of durability and development of self-reliant village libraries in Mandalay Division and information task. Later, the minister gave instructions on efforts to be made for ensuring durability and development of self-reliant village libraries meeting five-point set standards.

Local farmers reaping…

(from page 1)

The dam supplies irrigation water for 2500 acres of farmland in Zigon Township to grow summer paddy. The dam is the largest facilitator to cultivation of Gyobingauk Township. We also interviewed some farmers.

Farmer U Tin Ngwe of Meikaukbin village, Zigon Township said he could grow both monsoon paddy and summer paddy due to Bawbin dam; that he would grow 20 acres of summer paddy this year with water of Bawbin dam; that as for whole Meikaukbin village, it had planned to put 1,700 acres of land under summer paddy.

Farmer U Aye of Bawbin village, Zigon Township said, “I am growing beans with water of Bawbin dam after monsoon harvest. After that, I shall grow four acres of summer paddy.” Thus, local farmers are reaping the benefits of Bawbin dam, one of the irrigation facilities constructed by the State.

Translation : TKK
Myanma Alin
(17-1-2010)

“Thanks to Bawbin dam, we can grow summer paddy every year.”
Farmer U Tin Ngwe Meikaukbin village, Zigon Township.
Foreign Affairs Minister attends ASEAN meetings in Vietnam, proceeds to Japan to attend 4th Foreign Ministers’ Meeting

NAI PYI TAW, 17 Jan—A Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win attended the ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Retreat and exchanged views on matters relating to ASEAN Community Building and External Relations. He attended the lunch hosted in honour of the Foreign Minister by Mr Tran Van Minh, Chairman of the People’s Committee of Da Nang City at the Furama Resort Hotel.

During the ASEAN meeting, Minister U Nyan Win also met with the Foreign Minister of Indonesia H.E. R M Marty Muliana Natalegawa in the afternoon of 14 January and held discussions on the bilateral relations between Indonesia and Myanmar.

After attending the ASEAN meetings, Minister U Nyan Win left Da Nang, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on 15 January and proceeded to Tokyo, Japan to participate in the 4th Foreign Ministers’ Meeting of the Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC).

The minister also participated in the ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Retreat and exchanged views on the plan of ASEAN Connectivity, Minister U Nyan Win together with the other participating ASEAN Foreign Ministers left Bangkok, Thailand for Savannakhet, Lao PDR by special aircraft on 12 January and proceeded to Da Nang by car. ASEAN Foreign Ministers had the opportunity to study East-West Corridor along the road trip. They arrived at Da Nang in the evening of 13 January.

Minister U Nyan Win attended the Informal Working Dinner of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers in the evening of 13 January at Furama Resort Hotel. At the Informal Working Dinner, the Foreign Ministers exchanged views on regional and international issues, the results of the Copenhagen Climate Change Summit and the work progress of the Tripartite Core Group for Post-Nargis Recovery. Minister U Nyan Win briefed his counterparts on the developments in Myanmar at the Informal Working Dinner.

In the morning of 14 January, the minister attended the Third Meeting of APSC Council and exchanged views on the report of the ASEAN Secretariat General on the developments in sectoral bodies under the APSC Council and the Communication Plan of the APSC Council.

The Minister also attended the Special Meeting of the ACC. At the meeting the ASEAN Foreign Ministers discussed and adopted the draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for the ASEAN Connectivity High Level Task Force (HLTF). The meeting also agreed to assign HLTF to draw up a draft Master Plan for ASEAN Connectivity for submission to the 17th ASEAN Summit for approval.

All this needs to be known
* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased

Housing & Building 2010 exhibition from 5 to 8 Feb

YANGON, 17 Jan—IEMS Company Limited is planning to hold Housing & Building 2010 exhibition at Tatmadaw Convention Centre from 5 to 8 February.


For more information, dial 09-4831628.

KYOCERA digital multifunction copier introduced

NAI PYI TAW, 17 Jan—Global Technology Co Ltd introduced KYOCERA brand digital multifunction photocopier at Park Royal Hotel in Yangon on 15 January.

Kyocera photocopyers are of two models, TASKalfa 180 and TASKalfa 220. As the drum unit of these models are long life drum, up to 150,000 sheets of paper can be copied and one Kyocera toner can print as many as 15,000 sheets.

The company also provides after sale service—one year warranty for all of its products. Kyocera brand photocopiers are made through Japan technology and is a well-known brand in Europe and Asia. The contact address of the company is Global Net (Global Technology Co Ltd) Room No.1 Building No.7, Myanmar Infotech, Hline Township, Yangon, Ph:01-652232, 652324, 507054, 521288, 521289, 521290 and No. Pa /47, Pweyone Street, Myoma Market, Nai Pyi Taw, Ph: 067-421548.—MNA

Director U Min Swe Hlaung of Global Technology Co Ltd introduces Kyocera brand digital multifunction copiers.—MNA
Mon State holds School Family Day

NAV PYI TAW, 17 Jan – Mon State held School Family Day in conjunction with prize presentation ceremony at Basic Education High School No (6) in Mawlamyine on 3 January, attended by Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win. The commander spoke on the occasion and presented prizes to outstanding students.

On 4 January, the commander attended the 62nd Anniversary Independence Day which observed at Mawyawady Park in Mawlamyine.

Next, the commander presented prizes to winners of essay and poem contests to mark Independence Day.

MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win awards a winner of essay and poem contests to mark Independence Day.

MNA

Hsipaw which is well worth a visit

The compound of Hsipaw Township Development Affairs Committee is decorated with flower beds and landscaping plants.

(from page 16)

Having expired, the old girder suspension spanning the Dokhtawady River can cope with only under 30-ton vehicles. On completion, Hsipaw Bridge will be 569 feet long with a 28-foot-wide motorway and two three-foot-wide pedestrian walkways on it. It has a 200-feet-long approach road.

Project Engineer U Myint Wai said, “We launched this project on 1 May 2008. This is the first bridge constructed with bored pile system in northern Shan State. The difficulty we are facing is that parts are often broken off the bits of the drilling machines, and bits fall off the machines.”

Before the bridge project is completed, the pontoon bridge built by Asia World Co Ltd is coping with about 120 vehicles a day.

Hsipaw Township occupies a strategic location in northern Shan State, and sees several Union Highways including Mandalay-Lashio-Muse Highway. The swift Dokhtawady River flows through Hsipaw from north to south.

The township has a sown acreage of 102,240. It grows monsoon and summer paddy. Of the nine major crops, it grows sugarcane, green gram, pigeon pea, groundnut, sesame, sunflower and com. It has recently run trial plots of coffee and tea.

It is a habitat of various species of wild animals. It breeds buffalo, cow, chicken, duck, pig, sheep and goat, and has mining blocks and coal blocks under No (3) Mining Enterprise, 15 bus lines, 568 auto telephones, 439 GSM phones, 350 manual phones, and 110 Starphones. When it has CDMA phone line, it will have access to smooth communications.

In the education sector, it has four basic education high schools, two high school branches, three middle schools, six middle school branches, two affiliated middle schools, 112 primary schools, and 19 post-primary schools.

As to the health sector, it has one 100-bed people’s hospital, two 16-bed people’s hospitals, three rural health centres, 14 sub rural health centres, four special region health centres, one traditional medicine hospital, one TB control centre, one leprosy control centre.

On our way back, we dropped in the paddy field of U Saw Naing of Sanpheik Village-tract in Hsipaw Township. Herun 155 acres of fields of Hsinshweli strain paddy. In the township, the per acre yield of Hsinshweli strain paddy is 250 baskets, on average.

Hsipaw Township Development Affairs Committee is trying its best to urbanize the township.

It was at dusk and the clouds over the sky were glowing with reflected light. Greenish paddy plants were swaying in the breeze. On the whole, Hsipaw is well worth a visit for me due to its signs of dramatic progress.

Translation: MS Kyemon: 16-1-2010

THE  NEW  LIGHT  OF  MYANMAR  Monday, 18 January, 2010

PC and electronics on sale by installments

NAV PYI TAW, 17 Jan— T.Z. World Company opened computer and electronics sale centre at No. 15 on Min Nanda Road, Dawbon Township, Yangon Division on 4 January. Japan made branded computer, refrigerator, washing machine, air-conditioner, TV, bicycle, EVD, speaker and fan can be purchased there by installments.

To purchase by installments, customers need national scrutinizing card (copy), census (copy), original recommendation letter of the ward PDC, scrutinizing card (copy) of guarantor and his or her duplicate census. The 50 per cent of the total price have to be paid cash down after purchase and 25 per cent after thirty days and final installments after sixty days.

T.Z. World also has opened two branches, one at the front of Mya Gandamar market, Thamai Junction, Yangon-Insein Road, another at Nyaunglebin (Shwekyin-Madauk) Junction and it is making arrangements to open branches in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana.—MNA

T.Z World Computer and Electronics Sale Center on Min Nanda Road in Dawbon Township.—MNA

The approach structure and pillars under construction at Hsipaw Bridge Project.
### Results of Tipitakadhara Selection Examination announced

(Continued from yesterday)

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### CPT Minister addresses work coord meeting

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw inspects WCDMA control room of wireless auto telephone unit in Ahlon Township.—CPT

The minister heard reports on plans for installation of wireless auto telephones in Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw. On 16 January, the minister addressed the work coordination meeting at DHL near Hanthawady roundabout in Yangon.—MNA
Antarctica goes green with launch of wind farm

**WELLINGTON, 17 Jan** — A small part of Antarctica turned green on Saturday as the ice-covered continent’s biggest wind farm, which can generate enough electricity to power 500 homes, was formally switched on.

The joint New Zealand-US project’s three huge turbines will provide 11 percent of the power needed to run the two nations’ science bases on Antarctica’s Ross Sea coast, cutting greenhouse gas output, lowering fossil fuel use and reducing the risk of fuel spilling in the continent’s pristine environment, officials said.

The $11 million wind farm is located on Crafter Hill, halfway between the United States’ McMurdo Station and New Zealand’s nearby Scott Base.

While the turbines have been operating well since December, the formal turn-on ceremony took place on Saturday, with New ZealandForeign Minister Murray McCully and US Ambassador David Huebner addressing the crowd via video link with the site from New Zealand’s northern city of Auckland.

Noting the two countries share a commitment to increasing the world’s use of renewable energy resources, McCully said it was “fitting we have worked so hard together to get this wind farm up and running in Antarctica, one of the world’s most pristine and fragile environments.

One of three new wind generation turbines under construction on Ross Island in Antarctica is seen in this undated handout picture. **Internet**

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One drowns, four missing as boat capsizes in Malaysia

**KUALA LUMPUR, 17 Jan** — A student drowned and four others are still missing after a dragon boat capsized on Sunday morning in northwestern Malaysian state of Penang, police said.

The boat carrying 18 students capsized at around 8 am local time on Sunday when they tried to turn the boat around after encountering strong waves, according to the police. Local police officer Gan Kong Meng said the students, aged 16 or 17, were training for a dragon boat race in waters about 500 metres off the coast on the east side of George Town, Penang. 12 students swam to shore, he added.

He said that preliminary investigation showed that several students had not worn life jackets. A search-and-rescue team comprising personnel from various security units and the Civil Defence Department were scouring the sea for the missing students, he said. **MNA/Xinhua**

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Nestle to use heat-treated flour in dough

**DANVILLE, 17 Jan** — Nestle says its refrigerated cookie dough may be in short supply while it revamps production to avoid possible salmonella and E coli contamination.

The company will begin using heat-treated flour to enhance the safety of the product, spokeswoman Laurie MacDonald told USA Today on Friday.

To make the switch, production of chocolate chip, oatmeal raisin, sugar and specialty doughs have been suspended at Nestle’s Danville, Va. plant, where most of its refrigerated cookie dough is made.

MacDonald said two samples of cookie dough from the Danville plant recently tested positive for E coli, which can cause severe illness. All of the dough was destroyed before it could be shipped, she said.

Dough production is to resume the week of 25 Jan, with tubes of the new cookie dough appearing on store shelves in early March.

The switch in production comes eight months after 72 people in 30 states were infected with E. coli after reportedly eating Nestle cookie dough raw. **Internet**

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Vietnam earns $10.2 b from exports to US in Jan-Nov period

**HANOI, 17 Jan** — Vietnam’s exports to the United States reached 10.21 billion US dollars in the first 11 months of last year, down 5.81 percent year-on-year, said the information centre of the Vietnamese Ministry of Industry and Trade on Friday.

Last November, Vietnam pocketed $929.1 million US dollars from exporting goods to the United States, a decrease of 14.62 percent from the previous month.

Vietnam’s export turnover to the US market in the first 11 months of 2009 came mostly from the exports of garment and textile, wood and wood products, footwear, seafood, and crude oil, said the centre.

Garment and textile topped the Vietnam’s export items to the United States during the same period with the export turnover standing at 4.51 billion US dollars, accounting for 44.13 percent of the total export turnover to this market.

Export turnover of wood and wood products, the second largest export item to the United States, reached 979.46 million US dollars, a climb of 1.91 percent over the same period of a year earlier, said the centre. **Xinhua**

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The New Light of Myanmar Monday, 18 January, 2010

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UK’s Conservatives widen opinion poll lead

**LONDON, 17 Jan** — Britain’s opposition Conservative Party has widened its opinion poll lead to 13 percentage points, up four points from last month, a ComRes survey showed on Saturday.

The poll, to be published in the Independent on Sunday, followed one by Populus earlier this week which also showed the Conservatives holding a 13 point lead over the ruling Labour Party.

Support for both Labour and the Liberal Democrats, Britain’s third party, remained unchanged in the ComRes survey at 29 percent and 19 percent respectively, compared to 42 percent for the Conservatives.

The number of people saying they would vote for a party other than one of the main three fell four percentage points.

The projections suggest the Conservatives would secure a majority of 70 seats in Parliament in an election due by June, ComRes said.

According to the telephone poll of 1,005 people carried out between January 13 and January 14, 33 percent of respondents agreed that Labour “has the right ideas about how to get Britain out of recession”, while 59 percent disagreed.

Some other recent polls have pointed to a shrinking Conservative lead that could result in a parliament in which no party obtains an overall majority, meaning Liberal Democrat leader Nick Clegg could hold the balance of power. **MNA/Reuters**

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China to promote low carbon transport

**BEIJING, 17 Jan** — Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Dejiang said on Friday that China would actively promote low carbon transport and build a resource-conserving and environmentally friendly transportation system.

The transportation authorities should issue emission standards and make sure the standards were implemented, Zhang said at a national meeting on transportation.

Energy-saving transport facilities should be widely used, he said. **Xinhua**
Indian toys cause asthma, reproductive problems in kids

NEW DELHI, 17 Jan—The high toxic levels of plastic toys in Indian markets, even the branded ones, cause asthma, lung problems and reproductive problems in kids, according to a research by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) on Saturday. In its latest study released on Saturday, CSE’s pollution monitoring laboratory found high levels of phthalates, a chemical used to soften plastic, in all samples of toys it tested. Over 45 percent of the samples exceeded the internationally accepted safety limits for phthalates.

“We randomly purchased 24 toys from different parts of Delhi, especially those toys that children are more likely to chew and suck. Out of the 24 toys, 15 were soft and nine others hard,” said CSE Associate Director Chandra Bhushan.

“The sample included major brands like Funskool and Mattel. In our test, we detected one or more phthalates in all toys,” he said. In total, 60 percent of soft toys and 20 percent of hard toys exceeded the safe limits.”

Phthalates are organic chemicals commonly used as plasticizers to make plastic supple. It helps in making plastic products cheap and toxic. The chemical can damage the male reproductive systems, impair lungs and affect the duration of pregnancy. Laboratory tests on mammals have indicated that it can also trigger asthma, allergies, poor semen quality, genital defects, premature breast development and skeletal defects.

Phthalates are organic chemicals commonly used as plasticizers to make plastic supple. It helps in making plastic products cheap and toxic. The chemical can damage the male reproductive systems, impair lungs and affect the duration of pregnancy. Laboratory tests on mammals have indicated that it can also trigger asthma, allergies, poor semen quality, genital defects, premature breast development and skeletal defects.

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(For Allen and Glochill, Advocates & Solicitors, Singapore)


Greek wary of new incidents after terrorist bombing

ATHENS, 17 Jan—Greek authorities are guarding against any new violent episodes after a bomb went off outside Greece’s Press Ministry building in Athens late Friday.

The homemade bomb caused no injuries but damaged the Press building, nearby shops and cars. An unidentified man reportedly made warning phone calls to Greek newspapers and television channels about 20 minutes before the attack.

“Democracy will not be intimidated nor terrorized by a group of bullies,” said government spokesman Yiorgos Petalotis.

Greece has adopted a firm approach to anarchist and leftist terrorist groups that have operated in the country for years.

The country has seen a rise in domestic terrorist attacks since the fatal shooting of a teenage by police in December 2008 that triggered the nation’s worst riots in decades.

A similar makeshift bomb exploded near the parliament building on 10 Jan but caused no casualties. “Conspiracy of Nuclei of Fire”, a leftist guerrilla group, claimed responsibility for the bombing.—Xinhua

S Korea reports two more outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease

SOUTH KOREA, 17 Jan—South Korea reported on Saturday two more outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease in local cattle farms, more than a week after the first outbreak in eight years, the government said.

The two cattle farms, both located in Gyeonggi province, about 45 kilometers north of Seoul, are within a 1-kilometer radius of the farm where the first outbreak was confirmed on 7 January, South Korea’s Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries said.

The government decided to cull and bury about 124 head of dairy cattle even before detailed test results were received, and also plans to kill livestock within a 500-metre radius of the two farms to prevent further spread of the highly infectious virus.

The foot-and-mouth disease is a highly contagious and sometimes fatal disease that can affect cloven-hoofed animals including pigs, sheep and goats, while humans are hardly affected by the virus.
Gene map for malaria crop offers higher yield hope

WASHINGTON, 17 Jan—Plant scientists at the University of York in the United Kingdom have published the first genetic map of the medicinal herb Artemisia annua. The map, published on Friday in Journal of the National Cancer Institute, is being used to accelerate plant breeding of Artemisia and rapidly develop the species into a high-yielding crop. However, tests show they contained other types of tumour, including lung and bowel. The Dutch researchers say this could put major trials of drugs in doubt. Many experimental studies on cancer use laboratory-grown “cell lines”, meaning that dozens of studies may rely on cells originally taken from a single patient. New drugs can be tested on these cells to see if they have an effect before they are tested on real patients. The problem of “false”—or contaminated—cell lines, is not a new one, and there have been calls for scientists to take more care verifying they have the right sort of cells before continuing with their experiments.—Internet

Mediterranean diet protects against stomach cancer

NEW YORK, 17 Jan—Eating the Mediterranean way can help reduce your risk of stomach cancer, a large study from Europe shows. “The results add to the evidence for the role of the Mediterranean diet in reducing cancer risk and add further support for the need to continue to promote the Mediterranean diet in areas where it is disappearing,” Dr Carlos A. Gonzalez of the Catalan Institute for Oncology in Barcelona and his colleagues say. The traditional diets of Greece, Italy and other Mediterranean countries have many health benefits, they point out in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, including protection against cancer. But there is less information on how eating this way might influence risk of specific cancer types. Gonzalez and his team looked at gastric cancer, the second-leading cause of cancer death worldwide.—Internet

In this photo released by China’s Xinhua News Agency, passengers wait for boarding at the airport in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on 15 Jan, 2010. People began to evacuate from the earthquake-hit capital as air service resumed at the airport.—INTERNET

Vitamin D may reduce nursing home falls

SYDNEY, 17 Jan—Falls, a leading cause of death and disability in the elderly, may be reduced by vitamin D supplementation in nursing homes, Australian researchers say. Lead researcher Ian Cameron of the Sydney Medical School said older people living in nursing facilities or admitted to a hospital are at higher risk for falls than those living at home. Hip fractures, which can be deadly, occur in nursing facilities at a rate 10 times greater than elsewhere.

Cameron and colleagues conducted a meta-analysis of 41 studies involving 25,422 older people, mostly women. Five studies tested the effects of giving vitamin D to patients in nursing facilities, where it was found to be an effective measure for preventing falls, although researchers are not sure why. The researchers found multifactorial interventions—which often incorporated exercise, medication or environmental factors including appropriate equipment—reduced the risk of falls in hospital.—Internet

Bipolar diagnosis jumps in young children

BOSTON, 17 Jan—The number of children aged 2 to 5 who have been diagnosed with bipolar disorder and prescribed powerful antipsychotic drugs has doubled over the past decade, according to research released on Friday. The research suggests that while it is still rare to prescribe powerful psychiatric drugs to 2-year-olds, the practice is becoming more frequent. The data, compiled from 2000 to 2007, and published in the Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, could inform testimony at the upcoming Boston-area murder trials of the parents of 4-year-old Rebecca Riley. The girl died of an overdose of mood-stabilizing medication in 2006.—Internet

In this photo from the Imperial Museum of Ming Dynasty in Nanjing and from the website of Nanxingcang Barn, a visitor experiences extracting the grain from the grain-storing cask on display inside the Imperial Grainary Museum of Ming Dynasty of Nanxingcang Barn, which has been opened to public visitors, in downtown of Beijing on 16 Jan, 2010. Affluent exhibits reenacting the history of grain transport through the Grand Canal and the imperial barns storage are accessible to visitors, who can also experience the queen of stone mill some 600 years ago. Internet

Oesophageal cancer cell errors threaten research

LONDON, 17 Jan—Dozens of cancer studies may be thrown into doubt by the discovery that researchers inadvertently used the wrong type of cancer cells. The “cell lines”, according to the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, were supplied as samples of oesophageal cancer.

Dr Carlos A. Gonzalez of the Catalan Institute for Oncology in Barcelona and his colleagues say.

The traditional diets of Greece, Italy and other Mediterranean countries have many health benefits, they point out in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, including protection against cancer. But there is less information on how eating this way might influence risk of specific cancer types. Gonzalez and his team looked at gastric cancer, the second-leading cause of cancer death worldwide.—Internet

A visitor experiences extracting the grain from the imperial grain-storing cask on display inside the Imperial Grainary Museum of Ming Dynasty of Nanxingcang Barn, which has been opened to public visitors, in downtown of Beijing on 16 Jan, 2010. Affluent exhibits reenacting the history of grain transport through the Grand Canal and the imperial barns storage are accessible to visitors, who can also experience the queen of stone mill some 600 years ago. Internet
Barcelona take revenge after beating Sevilla 4-0 in Spanish soccer league

MADRID, 17 Jan—Lionel Messi scored twice as FC Barcelona avenged its exit from the Copa del Rey with a 4-0 thrashing of Sevilla in the Camp Nou Stadium. Barca had beaten Sevilla 1-0 away from home in midweek but went out of the Cup on away goals and Pep Guardiola's men were clearly in the mood for revenge.

They dominated the first half but thanks to the brilliant performance of Sevilla goalkeeper Andres Palop, who had been vital in his side’s Copa del Rey triumph, the Catalan’s were unable to open the score.

It needed a stroke of luck in the second half when Escude deflected Gerard Pique’s close range shot into his own net to open the score, but from that moment there was no stopping Barca.

Pedro Rodriguez added the second following a magnificent pass from Xavi Hernandez and Leo Messi scored the third from inside the penalty area with five minutes left.

The goal was Messi’s 10th for the club and in injury time he netted his 101st after a smart finish against Palop.

The win was all the more sweeter because Real Madrid crashed to its third league defeat of the season.

An own goal from Julien Escude and an incredible atmosphere in the stands, Athletic went from the game from the first minute, Real Madrid crashed to its third defeat of the season.

The match was level at 1-1 until Bayern opened the scoring. Defender Martin Demichelis slotted home a Pedro Rodriguez strike capped a miserable first half for Sevilla who paid a heavy price for knocking Barcelona out of the Kings Cup in midweek.

Real had crashed to their third defeat of the season with a 1-0 loss at Athletic Bilbao earlier on Saturday and Barca made them pay for the slip-up notching their first home win of 2010 to open up a five-point cushion.

Barcelona’s Lionel Messi celebrates with his teammates his hundredth goal for FC Barcelona during their Spanish first division soccer match against Sevilla at Nou Camp stadium in Barcelona on 16 Jan, 2010.—Xinhua

Sharapova vs Kirilenko clash set to kick off Australian Open

MELBOURNE, 17 Jan—An all-Russian, all-Maria clash will kick off action at Rod Laver Arena for the first day of Australian Open 2010 on Monday, with a host of other top 10 players on display on Day 1 at Melbourne Park.

Fourteenth-seed Maria Sharapova and compatriot Maria Kirilenko get proceedings underway from 11am at Rod Laver Arena, while Kim Clijsters and Andy Murray will also step out for their opening matches on center court.

Day 1 also features an all-Chinese clash when Peng Shuai and Li Na face off, a legendary match at Wimbleton 2007, fight for a second-round spot on Court 8.

Manchester United’s Bulgarian forward Dimitar Berbatov (R) scores the opening goal of the English Premier League football match between Manchester United and Burnley at Old Trafford, Manchester.—INTERNET

United face Berbatov surgery dilemma

MANCHESTER, 17 Jan—Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson will on Monday make a decision on whether Dimitar Berbatov, a scorer in the 3-0 win over Burnley, requires knee surgery.

The Bulgarian striker has been struggling for a number of weeks with the injury and United had hoped he would be able to play through the discomfort, but he was bothered by his knee once again despite going on to score in United’s victory at Old Trafford on Saturday.

Ferguson took him off in the closing stages and will now consider whether he needs an operation.

He said: “Dimitar was feeling his knee again. We’ll look at it on Monday and we’ll see (about surgery). He could have come off at half-time but he wanted to stay on again and that’s good.”

Real Madrid crashes to defeat in Bilbao

MADRID, 17 Jan—Multi-million Euro Real Madrid crashed to a 1-0 defeat in Athletic Club Bilbao’s San Mames Stadium on Saturday night.

The most expensive team in the world lost to a side that spent just two million Euros this summer and only plays with footballers born or raised in the Basque district. Maybe for that reason Athletic enjoys a special relationship with its fans.

It is Real Madrid’s third defeat of the season. A second minute goal from Athletic striker Fernando Llorente was the difference between the two sides.

The big striker headed home a corner taken by Fran Yeste that flicked off Real Madrid midfielder Lassana Diarra with the game hardly under way. Cheered on by a packed crowd in San Mames and with an incredible atmosphere in the stands, Athletic went from the game from the first minute and had already hit the woodwork twice through Carlos Gurpegui and Gaizka Toquero before Llorente’s goal.

Athletic Bilbao’s Koki Lertxundi (R) vies with Real Madrid’s Sergio Ramos (L) during a Spanish league football match, at San Mames stadium in Bilbao. Bilbao won 1-0.—INTERNET

Mancini won’t write off Robinho despite latest flop

LIVERPOOL, 17 Jan—Roberto Mancini is adamant Robinho still has a future at Manchester City despite hauling him off the Brazil star soon after sending him on as a substitute in the 2-0 defeat at Everton.

Mancini has only started Robinho once in his five matches since replacing Mark Hughes as City manager and is clearly struggling to find a way to motivate the under-performing former Real Madrid forward.

Robinho, who cost City a club record 32 million pounds, was at his luckiest worst after coming on as a first half replacement for Roque Santa Cruz at Goodison Park on Saturday and Mancini showed his disgust by taking him off soon after the interval.

Mancini’s hardline stance failed to spark City into life and they lost for the first time under the former Inter Milan coach, dropping out of the Premier League’s top four in the process.

But Mancini won’t write off Robinho for good and insisted the attacking options at his disposal mean he would always be willing to rotate the team at the expense of even his biggest stars.
UN confirms death of Haiti mission chief Annabi

UNITED NATIONS, 17 Jan — The UN mission chief in Haiti, Hedi Annabi, died in Tuesday’s earthquake that devastated the country’s capital, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced on Saturday. Annabi, a Tunisian, was believed to be 65. In a statement, Ban also confirmed the death of Annabi’s deputy, Brazilian Luiz Carlos da Costa, and of the acting UN police commissioner in Haiti, Doug Coates of Canada. Ban gave no details of how the bodies had been found, but the world body said earlier this week that Annabi and his aides were under the rubble of the Hotel Christopher, the UN headquarters in Port-au-Prince, and could be alive or dead.

Haitian President Rene Preval said on Wednesday that Annabi had died, but the United Nations said at the time it could not confirm that.

Plastic food containers are among common products that can contain bisphenol-A, or BPA.

WEATHER
Sunday, 17th January, 2010

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr.
M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Rakhine and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (4°C) below January average temperatures in Chin State, (3°C) to (4°C) above January average temperatures in Nothern Shan, Rakhine and Kayah States, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above January average temperatures in Eastern Shan and Mon States and about January average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (0°C), Machanbaw (4°C) and Heho (5°C).

Maximum temperature on 16-1-2010 was 94°F. Minimum temperature on 17-1-2010 was 63°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 17-1-2010 was 77%. Total sun shine hours on 16-1-2010 was (8.5) hours approx. Rainfall on 17-1-2010 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2010 was (Tr) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and (Nil) at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Northeast at (10:30) hours MST on 16-1-2010.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 18th January 2010:
Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, Chin, Shan and Kayah States and Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair weather in the whole country.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 18-1-2010: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 18-1-2010: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 18-1-2010: Partly cloudy.
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

Hsipaw which is well worth a visit

Byline & Photos: Tin Htwe (MNA)

Hsipaw is 45 miles and five furlong from Lashio, and the road is all downhill, thus taking us nearly two hours to reach our destination. The views from along the fine road were absolutely breathtaking, making me feel refreshed.

Due to the upgraded road near Gokhteik Viaduct, it was nice to view trucks moving along the uphill road snaking itself among the mountains.

When asked about regional development undertakings in an interview, Chairman of Hsipaw Township Peace and Development Council U Khin Kyi said, “We are now carrying out many tasks for regional development such as construction of the surgical ward of the people’s hospital, staff quarter, Hsipaw Bridge and fire service station, repairs to roads, and an auto exchange in Namlan.”

A deer forages in a gully in an area burned in the Station wildfire last year, where some foliage has begun to grow after a storm a few weeks ago created small washouts, in La Canada Flintridge, Calif, Saturday, on 16 Jan, 2010. Several inches of rain are predicted from a series of storms expected to hit California in the next several days.

Significant night temperatures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Haka</td>
<td>(0° C)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Machanbaw</td>
<td>(4° C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heho</td>
<td>(5° C)</td>
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The triangle-shaped traffic island with some lovely residences in Hsipaw.