### 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

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**63rd Anniversary Union Day to be celebrated on a grand scale**

*Nay Pyi Taw, 19 Jan*—A meeting took place at the State Peace and Development Council Office here this afternoon to coordinate holding of the 63rd Anniversary Union Day (2010).

Chairman of the Central Committee for Organizing the 63rd Anniversary Union Day Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo in his address said that the 63rd Anniversary Union Day celebration will be held in line with the five objectives:

1. For all national races to uphold the national policy—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty
2. To boost the sense of Union Spirit of the national people
3. To defend and safeguard the Union with consolidated unity of all national races against dangers posed to disrupt State stability and development by internal and external subversives
4. For all national races to work harder to build a modern, developed, discipline-flourishing democratic nation in line with the State Constitution approved with the great majority of the ballot
5. For all national races to make concerted efforts for successful accomplishment of the seven-step Road Map

Union Day commemorative ceremonies are held on a grand scale with the aim of portraying the fine tradition of regaining the State’s independence and sovereignty with the might of consolidated national unity, and enhancing the people’s sense of Union Spirit.

He called on the Central Committee, the Management Committee, and subcommittees for Organizing Union Day to deal with the tasks to achieve the goal.

Chairman of the Management Committee Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin gave an account of arrangements for the celebration.

The attendees reported on Union Day message and celebration, fixing the numbers of Union Day delegates, and delegates to Union Day dinner and reception, traditional dances of national races and modern music entertainment at the dinner, and excursions for Union Day delegates.

The Secretary-1 gave concluding remarks. **MNA**
Build new roads and bridges for speedy regional development

Good transport is the key to regional development. Northern regions of Myanmar, due to their topography, are difficult of access. Therefore, development infrastructures are now being built the length and breadth of the Union.

New roads and bridges are being constructed in every region of the country and Kachin State is no exception. In Kachin State, the Mandalay-Tagaung-Bhamo motor road has been built. The Ayeyawady river-crossing bridge (Sinkhan) is being constructed near Sinkhan village in Bhamo Township and construction of the Katha-Bhamo railroad is under way, Katha, Shwegu, Mansi and Bhamo townships are going to be linked. Commodities will be able to be shipped direct from Mandalay to Bhamo by train.

The Nankwae Creek Bridge on the Myitkyina-Namte (Tanai) motor road, which contributes to good transport in northern parts of Myanmar, was opened on 15 January. The bridge is of broad crest type, 262 feet long and can withstand 60-ton loads. It will facilitate the transportation of passengers and goods in the region.

As the region is mountainous and has numerous valleys, river- and creek-crossing bridges have to be constructed on motor roads and railroads being built. With improvement in road, rail, water and air transport, national brethren will be able to travel from one region to another easily and speedily, thus increasing contacts and relations among them and cementing national unity.

As the government places special emphasis on speedy development of all regions where various national races live, it is building networks of motor roads, railroads and bridges. With easy and smooth transport, various regions will enjoy speedy development. Therefore, we would like to call on all those responsible to make sure that all construction projects meet the required standards and are completed in time.

Donation ceremony postponed to 24 Jan

YANGON, 19 Jan—A ceremony to donate land, buildings, trust funds, media aids and publications to self-reliant libraries at No. 2 Basic Education High School in Sangyoung Township, in Yangon Division has been postponed to 24 January instead of 23 January. Well-wishers may make donations at Yangon Division Peace and Development Council (Ph: 370507) and at the office of Information and Public Relations Department, Yangon, No 22/24, Pansodan Street, Yangon (Ph: 371339).—MNA

Foreign Minister attends 4th FEALAC Foreign Ministers’ Meeting

NAV PYI TAW, 19 Jan—Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win attended the 4th Foreign Ministers’ Meeting of the Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC) held in Tokyo, Japan, from 16 to 17 January. The meeting was attended by 34 FEALAC member countries.

The opening session held on 16 January focused on global financial and economic crisis and sustained development including environmental protection, climate change and social inclusion. In his statement, Minister U Nyan Win noted that developing countries suffer most from the negative consequences of environmental degradation although the environmental hazard and climate change are mainly caused by the industrialized countries, calling on industrialized countries to increase assistance to the developing countries for their economic development and environmental conservation.

He attended the retreat style session, the reception hosted by Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Katsuya Okada in honour of the heads of delegation on 16 January, and the dialogue session with the International Financial Institutions on 17 January, which adopted its Tokyo Declaration and two decisions on the Sub-Group of Tourism of FEALAC and on Bi-Regional Centre for the Development of SMEs; and approved the admission of Mongolia as its 34th member.

He exchanged views on matters of mutual interest in meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia Mr Hor Nambong on 16 January, and Vice Foreign Minister of Brazil Ambassador Roberto Jaguaribe and Foreign Minister of Japan Mr Katsuya Okada on 17 January. He also attended Senior Officials Meeting of the FEALAC held on 14 and 15 January. MNA

2000-acre salt farm under reclamation in Kawa Tsp

NAV PYI TAW, 19 Jan—Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min views salt farm of U Kyi Win in Thamanseik Village, Kawa Township of Bago Division. MNA

Minister U Nyan Win discussing with other participants in (FEALAC).—MOFA

Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min views salt farm of U Kyi Win in Thamanseik Village, Kawa Township of Bago Division.—MNA

2000-acre salt farm under reclamation in Kawa Tsp

NAV PYI TAW, 19 Jan—Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min inspected the 225-acre salt farm of U Kyi Win in front of Thamanseik Village, Kawa Township, Bago Division, on 17 January. The salt entrepreneur gave an account of the programme to reclaim 2000-acre of sun-baked salt farm. The minister called for boosting production of salt and completion of work on schedule.

The minister inspected the 11.5-mile Thakkala-Thayetgon-Ayemon inter-village earth road at Thakkala Village in Kawa Township.—MNA
Some evacuations lifted in Calif as storm tapers

LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE, 19 Jan — A heavy rainstorm that pummeled the San Gabriels and other foothills of Southern California was beginning to ease. The rainstorm was benumbing the region, but not before bringing major damage on Monday, but not before prompting evacuations, cutting power to thousands and forcing even Disney to close its gates to Disneyland on Tuesday, after being briefly opened. Authorities ordered nearly 200 homes evacuated or put on alert in foothill communities just below areas devastated by the massive Station Fire, which charred more than 250 square miles of the Angeles National Forest in August. This week, more than 100 homes remained evacuated or on alert in La Canada Flintridge on Monday night. Authorities evacuated 83 homes about seven miles away in Los Angeles’ San Fernando Moun tain foothills for part of the day, but invited most of those residents to return in the evening after the storm had passed.

The Everest mountain range is seen from a plane. India’s Environment Minister slammed the UN’s top climate body in comments published on Tuesday, claiming its doomsday warning about Himalayan glaciers was not based on “scientific evidence.”

Indian minister slams UN body on glacier research

NEW DELHI, 19 Jan — India’s Environment Minister Giriraj Singh slammed the UN’s top climate body in comments published on Tuesday, claiming its doomsday warning about Himalayan glaciers was not based on “scientific evidence.”

The controversy focuses on a reference in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s (IPCC) landmark 2005 report that said the chances of Himalayan glaciers “disappearing by the year 2035 and perhaps sooner” is “very high.”

“The IPCC claim that glaciers will vanish by 2035 was not based on an iota of scientific evidence,” minister Giriraj Singh told the Hindustan Times. “The IPCC has to do a lot of answering on how it reached the 2035 figure, which created such a scare.”

On Monday, the IPCC’s chairman, Rajendra Pachauri, told AFP that the panel would review the 2035 figure.

Giriraj Singh said he felt “vindicated” after repeatedly challenging the IPCC’s work on glaciers. He believes there is no “conclusive scientific evidence” linking global warming to the melting of glaciers.

In November, Giriraj Singh backed a study by Indian scientists which supported his view, prompting Pachauri to label his support “arrogant.”

The Nobel-winning IPCC is already under attack over hacked emails exchanged which skeptics say reflected attempts to skew the evidence for global warming.

Gunmen kill five people at Baghdad aid office

BAGHDAD, 19 Jan — Officials said gunmen broke into the office of an Iraqi humanitarian organization in Baghdad on Monday and killed five employees.

The attackers also left behind a bomb, which exploded later when security forces arrived at the scene, according to an Interior Ministry official and a police officer who described the attack.

They said the blast in the mainly Sunni Azamiyah neighbourhood in northern Baghdad wounded two members of Iraqi security forces. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release details of the attack.

Iraqi security forces sealed off the area shortly after the shooting, which occurred around 2:30 pm, witnesses said. Four men and one woman employed by the Mawtini charity were shot dead, police said.

Iraqis authorize government to sue Blackwater

BAGHDAD, 19 Jan — Iraq’s government has started collecting signatures for a class-action lawsuit from victims who were wounded or lost family in incidents involving the US private security firm known as Blackwater.

Iraq’s government in September authorized law enforcement agencies to sue Blackwater, which was involved in a 2007 shooting that killed 17 civilians in the Azamiyah district of Baghdad.

The head of the Prime Minister’s legal consultation office said on Monday the government will seek compensation for a string of incidents, including the 2007 shooting of 17 civilians in Namir Square.

The official, Fadhil Mohammed Jawad, says there is no deadline to receive the authorizations. He refused to give a date for the lawsuit.

On 31 Dec, a US federal judge threw out criminal charges against the company, now known as Xe Services, regarding the Namir Square killings, citing mistakes by prosecutors.

Kabul on high alert after brazen Taliban strikes

KABUL, 19 Jan — The Afghan capital was on high alert on Tuesday after one of the most dramatic attacks on Kabul since the hardline Islamist Taliban were thrown from power more than nine years ago.

The authorities are likely to face questions about how the militants were able to penetrate the highly-fortified heart of Kabul, although top US and NATO officials hailed the attack for its shock value.

The Та talan gunmen and suicide bombers launched a series of attacks on Monday on commercial and government buildings and fought running gun battles with security forces, leaving five people dead and sending residents fleeing.

Malaysia says US wrong to warn of Borneo threat

KUALA LUMPUR, 19 Jan — Malaysia’s government has urged the United States to review what it called a “misleading travel advisory warning of possible attacks on foreigners on Borneo Island.”

The US warned its citizens last week that criminal and terrorist groups could be plotting attacks in Malaysia’s eastern Sabah state in Borneo. The alert urged Americans to “avoid or use extreme caution” especially when travelling to remote island resorts in Sabah.

Workers gather around a large tree on the roof a home in Corona del Mar, Calif on Monday afternoon 18 Jan, 2010. Forecasters said storms lasting through at least Friday could drop 20 inches of rain inland and 8 inches along the coast and in the valleys of Southern California.
US economy begins to recover but jobless rate still high

BEIJING, 19 Jan—One year after US President Barack Obama was sworn in, the world’s largest economy has shown encouraging signs of recovery, a sharp contrast from what the President described in his inaugural speech last January.

“Homes have been lost, jobs shed, businesses shuttered,” he said then. Despite the weakening job figures — unemployment in the US is roughly 10 percent — American GDP growth is expected to stabilize this year and the worst is past, some analysts said.

“This recession is very likely to have concluded in the third quarter of 2009 although it is up to the US National Bureau of Economic Research to decide when the economy has bottomed out,” said investment bank Nomura International in a recent report. Peter Cardillo, chief market economist at Avalon Partners, said recently that US GDP growth could reach 3 percent this year. Many other economists forecast that it would be about 2.5 percent year-on-year. Obama has claimed credit for this improvement, arguing that his $787 billion stimulus package helped right the economy.

“We can see clearly now that the steps my administration is taking are making a difference, blunting the worst of this recession and helping to bring about its conclusion”, Obama said in late October.

But significant challenges remain, and not all economists are convinced that Obama’s efforts have helped.—Internet

POSCO says Buffett wants to buy more POSCO shares

SEOUL, 19 Jan—South Korea’s POSCO said on Tuesday US investor Warren Buffett, whose investment vehicle owns 4.5 percent of the world’s No 4 steelmaker, had indicated he wanted to buy more POSCO shares. POSCO said in a statement that the US billionaire said he wanted to own more POSCO stocks after missing the opportunity to buy them on dups last year when the global financial crisis depressed equity asset values.

The comments were made while POSCO chief executive Chung Joon-yang visited Buffett’s Berkshire Hathaway headquarters in Omaha, Nebraska on Monday, POSCO said. —Internet

LCD makers set for strong first half after Q4 slowdown

SEOUL, 19 Jan—Leading LCD makers in South Korea and Taiwan are headed for a robust first half this year on improving demand for flat screen TV s, but performance for the last quarter of 2009 is likely to be hit by seasonal weakness and a strong currency.

The liquid crystal display (LCD) industry rebounded from a downturn last year thanks to China’s TV-buying spree and a shortage of key glass output that kept screen prices firm.

The outlook is bright for the next few quarters as strong Chinese demand for screens used in television is lifting the sector from the seasonal downturn much earlier than expected.—Internet

S Korean Gov’t to purchase account receivable insurance worth 4.8b USD

SEOUL, 19 Jan—South Korea will purchase account receivable insurance worth 5.4 trillion won (4.8 billion US dollars) from small and mid-size enterprises in a bid to relieve their financial distress, a government agency said on Tuesday.

According to the Small and Medium Business Administration (SMBA), it decided to expand the size of insurance purchase from last year’s 5 trillion won (4.4 billion US dollars), which doubled the amount of 2008’s 2.5 trillion won (2.2 billion US dollars) in the wake of a global economic downturn. Amid widespread speculation that corporate restructuring would expand and an exit strategy would come in 2010, there still is a high chance that small companies may face a series of bankruptcies as customers may not pay for their receivable, the SMBA explained. —Internet

EU still committed to signing free trade accord with C America

MEXICO CITY, 19 Jan—A senior European Union (EU) official on Monday stressed the 27-nation bloc’s commitment to signing a free trade agreement with Central American nations.

EU Trade Commissioner Benita Ferrero Waldner said the accord would be signed on 18 May in Madrid. “We are firmly committed to completing these negotiations (for signing the accord),” she told reporters in Guatemala City, where she is on an official visit.

The commissioner is also travelling to El Salvador and Costa Rica later this week. —Xinhua

World tourism to rebound from crisis in 2010

MADRID, 19 Jan—Global tourism is set to rebound in 2010 after the economic crisis and the swine flu pandemic produced “one of the most difficult years” for the sector, the UN World Tourism Organization said. —Xinhua

“2010 will be a transformational year” for world tourism, UNWTO Secretary General Taleb Rifai told a news conference called to present the organization’s annual World Tourism Barometer. The report said international tourist arrivals fell by an estimated 4.0 percent in 2009, to 880 million, but should recover to grow by 3.0 to 4.0 percent in 2010.

It said growth in the sector returned in the last quarter of 2009 contributing to better than expected full-year results, led by the Asia-Pacific and Middle East regions. “Still, 2009 is considered to be one of the most difficult years that tourism has seen,” for a long time and “probably one of the toughest in the last two decades,” Rifai said.

He said a slump due to the global economic crisis was “aggravated by the uncertainty around the A(H1N1) pandemic.” But he added: “The trend is bottoming out.” —Internet

BYD wins backing to make e6

BEIJING, 19 Jan—New energy vehicle and battery manufacturer BYD Auto-mobie Co said on Monday that it has won approval to produce the e6, its first pure electric car, in the country. A BYD official said the e6 accelerated the auto maker’s new energy vehicle strategy and will help domestic car makers compete against international rivals.

China-based BYD, backed by billionaire War- ren Buffet, will launch the plug-in e6 sedan in China in the first half of this year for about 300,000 yuan ($43,988 US dollars), mainly supplying government, public services and taxi fleets. BYD also plans to sell the e6 in the United States at the end of this year with a price tag of about 40,000 dollars.

With government support, hybrid and electric vehicles are becoming an industry trend as consum- er seek ways to reduce emissions to protect the environment. Demand for such vehicles has prompted car makers to increase investment and speed up engineering in the field. General Motors plans to launch its extended-range electric car Volt in the US this year before introducing it to China in 2011. Nissan plans to launch its Leaf plug-in electric car in 2012.—Xinhua

BYD Auto’s e6 is presented during the 2010 North American International Auto Show (NAIAS) at Cobo centre in Detroit, Michigan, USA, on 11 Jan, 2010.—Xinhua

Internet
Shanghai holds Press conference for 2010 Expo

BEIJING, 19 Jan—Shanghai’s major preparations are well underway, with just 103 days to go before the 2010 World Expo. At a Press conference held by the State Council Information Office this morning, officials from Shanghai said they’re confident the expo will be a success.

Shanghai Executive Vice Mayor Yang Xiong says preparation work has been progressing smoothly, with support and participation from both home and abroad. President Hu Jintao’s visit to the Expo site on Friday also encouraged organizers, workers and participants.

Plans are well on target as the 100-day countdown approaches. The installation of exhibition stands will be finished in late March. It started as soon as the five permanent buildings and 100 pavilions were ready.

Yang Xiong, Shanghai executive vice mayor, said, “So far 192 countries and 50 international organizations have confirmed participation in the event, together with 31 domestic provinces, autonomous regions, Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions as well as Taiwan island. More than 80 percent of the 42 self-built foreign pavilions have started interior decoration and exhibition arrangement. 11 joint pavilions have been completed.”

South Korea to consider deploying peacekeepers in Haiti

SEOUL, 19 Jan—The South Korean government is seriously mulling over dispatching military troops to quake-hit Haiti to take part in the UN peacekeeping operations (PKO), local media reported on Tuesday.

“Due to heightening security concerns in Haiti, the United Nations has been urging member states for increasing peacekeeping deployment,” a government source was quoted as saying by Yonhap news agency.

The UN Security Council passed a resolution on Monday requesting 1,500 more police officers and 2,000 additional military troops from its member states to participate in its humanitarian operations in Haiti, the source added.

Xinhua

Brazil to renew construction of third nuclear power plant

RIO DE JANEIRO, 19 Jan—Brazil will restart building its third nuclear power plant in February after a suspension of some 24 years, the country’s nuclear energy company Eletronuclear announced on Monday.

The renewal of Angra 3’s construction, which was supposed to begin last December, had to be postponed since the local government of Angra dos Reis, a southern city where the plant is located, had revoked its construction licence, said Leonam Guimaraes, assistant to the president of the state-owned company.

Xinhua

Earthquake shakes entire western Greece, no injuries reported

ATHENS, 19 Jan—A moderate quake measuring 5.2 on the Richter Scale was registered at 5:56 pm local time on Monday in Western Greece. No injury was reported, according to Athens News Agency.

The quake’s epicentre was located in the region of western Evpapiro, 160 kilometres northwest of Athens. The quake was particularly felt in Patras, Nafpaktos and the broader region.

According to early information by Greek authorities it was felt across an area of hundreds of kilometres away from the epicentre which is traced near the city of Nafpaktos.

The province’s prefect Thimios Sokos said on local media that people were panic, because the quake lasted more than usually and so far no injuries have been reported.

The earthquake caused some problems to highways though due to falling rocks. Strong quakes are no strangers to Greeks. Greece suffers more earthquakes than any other country in Europe. On September 1999 in one of the most catastrophic earthquakes in its recent history measuring 5.9 degrees on the Richter Scale which hit Athens, Greece counted 143 dead.

Xinhua

Russia registers first stabilizing population for 15 years

MOSCOW, 19 Jan—Russia has registered the tendency of a stabilizing population for the first time over the past 15 years, said Health and Social Development Minister Tatiana Golikova on Monday. “Russia has approached the population stabilization standard,” the minister was quoted as saying by the Interfax news agency.

Preliminary forecasts showed that as of 1 Jan, 2010, the total population levelled with that of the same date last year, or even 15,000 to 25,000 higher, said Golikova.

In 2009 the number of newly-born babies registered in Russia was 1.76 million, 2.8 percent higher than the 1.714 million registered in 2008, she said.

The number of deaths in last year also went down 4 percent, she said, adding that the gap between the numbers of births and deaths could be compensated by growing migration.

Xinhua

All Items from Xinhua News Agency

UN gives 16 mln USD for humanitarian activities in DRC

NAIROBI, 19 Jan—The UN humanitarian affairs has allocated 16 million US dollars to sustain emergency humanitarian activities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), through the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) John Holmes, who allocated the funds, said the money will be channeled to specific priority projects implemented by the UN and its partners.

The CERF’s twice-yearly allocations for underfunded humanitarian crises are based on an analysis of past and current funding levels, and they prioritise the most life-saving activities.

Xinhua

Members of a medical team from Japan tend to an earthquake victim in Leogane, Haiti on 18 Jan, 2010. International rescue and medical teams are aiding victims of last Tuesday’s deadly earthquake which killed thousands.

Xinhua
Extreme cold affects millions in northwest China

BEIJING, 19 Jan—Closed roads and delayed flights left thousands of travellers stranded on Tuesday following blizzards and extreme cold that killed four people and affected 1.6 million others in northwestern China, a government spokesman said.

Snowstorms delayed 122 flights in Urumqi, capital of Xinjiang region, on Monday, leaving more than 4,000 passengers stranded, and blocked roads from nine avalanches stranded more than 1,000 passengers in the region, according to a Urumqi government spokesman surnamed Wang. Like many Chinese officials he declined to give his full name.

Four people had died because of the bad weather, Wang said Tuesday. He did not give details. Rescue workers were evacuating thousands of rural residents to safer ground at lower altitudes because of the latest storm front, expected to last through on Wednesday and plunge temperatures to minus 45 degrees (minus 43 Celsius), Wang said. "In neighbouring Mongolia, an official appealed for help from the international community as his country battles the most severe winter it has seen in three decades.

Two Chinese, four Afghans kidnapped in Afghanistan

KABUL, 19 Jan—Two Chinese engineers and four Afghans have been kidnapped by gunmen in northwestern Afghanistan, an official said on Monday.

The men were seized late Saturday while travelling back to their base after a day working on a road construction project, according to Abdul Sattar Barez, the deputy provincial governor of Faryab Province.

Nobody has claimed responsibility for the kidnapping. Afghan police and intelligence services were searching for the men.

Kidnappings — mostly of Afghans — for ransom or for political reasons are on common in Afghanistan, where violence has made efforts to rebuild the country costly and dangerous.

Nigerian kidnappers free three Britons and Columbian

LAGOS, 19 Jan—Nigerian gunmen on Monday freed three British expatriate workers and their Colombian colleague abducted last week in the country’s Niger Delta, a police spokeswoman said.

"All kidnapped victims — the three Britons and the Columbian — have been released this evening and (are) looking okay," Rivers State police spokeswoman Rita Abbey, said in a text message to AFP.

She gave no further details on their state of health or if a ransom was paid before their release was secured.

Earlier police said that the gunmen had demanded 300 million naira (1.98 million dollars, 1.38 million euros) for the release of the captives.

Apple tablet computer expected at 27 January event

WASHINGTON, 19 Jan—Apple has announced it would show off its “latest creation” in San Francisco later this month, an event expected to feature the unveiling of a long-awaited tablet computer.

"Please join Apple on 27 January for a Special Event," said a typically cryptic email invitation to journalists from the company behind the Macintosh computer, the iPod and the iPhone.

"Come see our latest creation," said the invitation, which featured colourful blobs of paint surrounding the Apple logo. The California-based company did not supply any further details about the invitation-only event to be held at 10:00 am Pacific time (1800 GMT) at the Yerba Buena Centre for the Arts Theatre in San Francisco.

Tut’s finder may have stolen relics

The man responsible for discovering King Tutankhamun’s tomb in 1922 is one of the world’s most famous archaeological finds, but may have systematically removed objects without authorization, Der Spiegel reported on Sunday.

Carter had intended the contents of the tomb to go to England and the United States, but Egypt refused, insisting all artifacts remain in the country. Thwarted, Carter and his team then secretly helped themselves to many of the relics, some of which ended up in museums outside Egypt, the newspaper said.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, for example, holds about 20 objects believed to have come from Tut’s tomb, while other museums in the United States and Europe have confirmed they hold tomb relics, Der Spiegel said.

In the most recent discovery, a small sculpture of a servant for the dead was found in the Louvre in Paris.

A Chinese cabbage is handed to a robot named “Robovie-II”, developed by Japanese robotics research institution ATR, at a grocery store during a shopping assisting experiment by utilizing the robot in an ubiquitous network technology platform in Kyoto, western Japan on 5 January, 2010. The robot greets the shopper at the entrance of the store, follows him to the shelves while holding a grocery basket and reminds him of the items on a shopping list, which the shopper would have entered beforehand in a specialized mobile device. The experiment is aimed to gather data in order to provide live-lihood support for the elderly by using robots and network technologies, ATR’s researcher Satoshi Koizumi said.

A photograph taken by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev is sold at a charity auction in St Petersburg, Russia, on 16 Jan, 2010. Medvedev’s black-and-white photo showing the Tobolsk Kremlin has sold for $1.7 million at a charity auction that exhibits works by well-known Russians. It was snapped up for 51 million roubles by Mikhail Zingarevich, a board member at Illim Group, the pulp and paper company where Medvedev once worked as a lawyer.

In donating his photograph for Saturday night’s auction, Medvedev followed the example set last year by Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

This undated photo released by the Wildlife Conservation Society shows a large-billed reed warbler. The breeding area of the large-billed reed warbler, one of the world’s rarest birds, has been discovered in the remote and rugged Pamir Mountains in war-torn Afghanistan, a New York-based conservation group said on Monday.

A researcher with the Wildlife Conservation Society stumbled upon the small, olive-brown large-billed reed warbler in 2008 and taped its distinctive song — a recording experts now say is probably the first ever.

He and colleagues later caught and released 20 of the birds, the largest number ever recorded, the group says.

At the time, however, Robert Timmins, who conducting a survey of avian communities along the Wakhan and Pamir rivers, thought he was observing a more common warbler species.
Information Minister inspects self-reliant libraries, donates publications

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspected measures for sustainable development of self-reliant libraries in Aima and Kyatyin Information Minister inspects self-reliant libraries, donates publications

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents DTH receivers for Aima Village Library in Pale Township through a responsible person.—MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents publications for libraries in Pale Township through a responsible person. —MNA

Myanmar Maritime University turning out outstanding technocrats

Marine technology is one of the technologies that can contribute a lot towards national defence and economic development.

With the aim of enabling students to have access to international standard marine technology and turning out marine officers, marine engineers, marine engineers and architects, Myanmar Maritime University was built at Thilawa in Thanlyin Township, Yangon South District and the main building of the university was opened on 29 March, 2004.

Myanmar Maritime University was built possessing form and essence of international universities. The degrees offered at Myanmar Maritime University are B.E. (Naval Architecture), B.E. (Marine Engineering), B.E. (Marine Electrical System and Electronics), B.E. (River and Coastal Engineering), B.E. (Port and Harbouring Engineering) in addition to B.Sc. (Nautical Science) and B.Sc. (Hons) (Nautical Science).

Thanks to emergence of Myanmar Maritime University, national brethren have an opportunity to study advanced marine technology at home. With the emergence of outstanding marine officers, not only Myanmar marine technology can stand tall among other countries but also the graduates can work for international maritime industry.

Translation: YM

Byline: Tin Mar Win & Aye Thanda Thein
Photo: Myanma Alin

Myanmar Maritime University.

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Photo: Myanma Alin

Myanmar Maritime University turning out outstanding technocrats

Marine technology is one of the technologies that can contribute a lot towards national defence and economic development.

With the aim of enabling students to have access to international standard marine technology and turning out marine officers, marine engineers, marine engineers and architects, Myanmar Maritime University was built at Thilawa in Thanlyin Township, Yangon South District and the main building of the university was opened on 29 March, 2004.

Myanmar Maritime University was built possessing form and essence of international universities. The degrees offered at Myanmar Maritime University are B.E. (Naval Architecture), B.E. (Marine Engineering), B.E. (Marine Electrical System and Electronics), B.E. (River and Coastal Engineering), B.E. (Port and Harbouring Engineering) in addition to B.Sc. (Nautical Science) and B.Sc. (Hons) (Nautical Science).

Thanks to emergence of Myanmar Maritime University, national brethren have an opportunity to study advanced marine technology at home. With the emergence of outstanding marine officers, not only Myanmar marine technology can stand tall among other countries but also the graduates can work for international maritime industry.

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Health Minister Dr Kyaw Myint meets liver donor and liver transplant patient

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint met a liver donor and a liver transplant patient undergoing treatment with the State funds by Myanmar surgeons for the second time at Yangon General Hospital on 18 January.

At the room-1 of intensive care unit of the new YGH, Minister Dr Kyaw Myint cordially met liver donor U Lin Htet Hlaing and asked after his health condition and then gave encouragement to liver transplant patient U Aung Myint Naing who had recovered from liver transplant operation using half liver of the donor.

At the meeting hall of the new YGH, the minister together with directors-general met professors who had performed the liver transplant operation for the second time and those who had contributed to the operation. In response to reports on the liver transplant operation performed by the professors, the minister made arrangements to fulfill the requirements and discussed long-term measures with responsible persons. In meeting liver patient U Kin Zaw Htet who was transplanted with the liver of a dead person for the first time in 2004, the minister asked the patient about the successful liver transplant operation and attended to the needs.

During his inspection of progress in renovating the building of National Blood Centre in the compound of the YGH, the minister was conducted round the hospital by Medical Superintendent Dr Daw Nu Nu Tha, Pathologist Dr Thida Aung and officials concerned and made arrangements to fulfill the requirements.

Labour Minister receives Executive Director of ILO

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi received a party led by Executive Director Mr Kari Tapiola of International Labour Organization at the ministry here on 18 January. The meeting focused on works between the government of the Union of Myanmar and ILO. It was also attended by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Tin Tun Aung, Director-General U Chit Shein, Deputy Director Ms Karen Curtis of Labour Standards Department, Law Officer Mr Drazen Petrovic and Liaison Officer Mr Steve Marshall.

The government of the Union of Myanmar and ILO agreed on extension of appendix MoU for next 12 months to carry out arrangement for complaints against forced labour.

Culture related roundtable meeting on 23 Jan

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—A culture related roundtable meeting of Ministers of Culture and Arts of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV) hosted by Myanmar will be held at Thingaha Hotel in Yangon on 23 January.

Cambodian Minister of Culture and Arts Mr Him Chhean, Laotian Minister of Culture and Information Mr Moumkeu Oraboun and wife Mrs Vilayvieng Phimmasone, Vietnamese Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism Mr Hoang Tuan Anh and senior officers arrived in Yangon to attend the meeting on 18 and 19 January. The aims of the meeting are to strengthen friendship among CLMV countries, uplift good neighbouring spirit, ensure cooperation among member countries, holding cultural exchange, enhancing cultural preservation, and boosting tourism sector through cultural cooperation.

Training Workshop on the Development of End-to-End Tsunami SOPs

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—The opening ceremony of the Training Workshop on the Development of End-to-End Tsunami Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) jointly sponsored and organized by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization/Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO/IOC) and Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH) was held at the Ministry of Transport here this morning, with an address by Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung.

Head of ICG/IOTWS Secretariat, UNESCO/IOC Mr Tony Elliott made opening remarks. The training workshop will focus on the development of SOPs for National Tsunami Warning Centre-warning provider, also for other disaster related organizations including media and authorities of state/division, township and local which must be practiced whenever the occurrence of tsunami in the Indian Ocean.

The DMH will also present the exiting SOPs, practiced in the occurrence of tsunami, storm and flood in Myanmar during the training workshop. The workshop will conclude on 21 January.
Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thura Myint Aung addresses 18th Defence Services Medical Seminar

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan — Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thura Myint Aung addressed 18th Defence Services Medical Seminar at Hsinbyushin Hall of Transit Center here this morning.

Also present on the occasion were Lt-Gen Ohn Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Defence Services Inspector-General Lt-Gen Thein Hlaik, Military Appointment-General Lt-Gen Hsan Hsint, Judge Advocate-General Lt-Gen Soe Maung, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Director of Medical Services Maj-Gen Thant Aung, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, senior military officers, foreign medical experts, advisors to medical services, professors and heads of department, commanders of medical services, doctors and guests.

In his address, Lt-Gen Thura Myint Aung said today’s seminar is the 18th seminar of MMC. I am glad to see efforts of medical services on making better presentations in research sector than previous years, organizing pre-conference workshop at No (2) Defence Services General Hospital and major and mini symposiums, providing health care services, conducting management, training, cure and preventive measures, diagnosis and research and healthcare education.

Today, the world was experiencing dramatic progress in technology and research field. So, it was necessary to keep pace with changes and disseminate knowledge and information. But, the information and knowledge should be accurate and correct and thus the guidance of professionals was important. There were a lot of challenges in health sector across the globe and there were also many essential parts to be prepared to fight new epidemic diseases.

The research findings, information and analysis of annual medical seminar would be disseminated among the medical corps, which would contribute much to healthcare management of Tatmadaw and broaden the scope of knowledge of physicians, medical officers and health professionals.

This year’s seminar would include 47 research papers, 15 research posters, five data posters, three major symposiums, five mini symposiums, one clinico-pathological conference, one clinical session and seven special talks.

The research papers to be read out in the seminar covered multi-sector such as prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and exercise that it would broaden the horizons of the attendees.

Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thura Myint Aung then urged researchers of Defence Services Medical Corps to put research findings into practice and viewed the display of medical research posters.

The 18th Defence Services Medical Seminar continues at Sinbyushin Hall of Transit Centre in Nay Pyi Taw till 21 January.—MNA
Brazil to launch Programme to Accelerate Growth two

BRASILIA, 19 Jan—Brazil will launch the second phase of the Programme to Accelerate Growth (PAC) in March, said Brazilian Minister of Institutional Relations Alexandre Padilha on Monday. The first phase of this ambitious plan launched in January 2007 included various infrastructure investments. PAC 2 aims to ensure the plan’s continuity from the first four years of PAC will reach about 360,000 million US dollars by the end of this year.

For the second phase of PAC, Lula wanted priority to be given to improving sanitation and solid waste treatment in metropolitan areas.

Other objectives include the integration of budgets for science and technology with Internet globalization phase of the Programme to Accelerate Growth (PAC) launched in January 2007 included various infrastructure investments. PAC 2 aims to ensure the plan’s continuity from the first four years of PAC will reach about 360,000 million US dollars by the end of this year.

PAC 2 will be implemented by a new government that emerges from general elections in October this year.—Xinhua

Guatemala sends first aid flight to quake-hit Haiti

MEXICO CITY, 19 Jan—Guatemala has flown out its first batch of humanitarian aid to Haiti where a strong earthquake could have killed 200,000 people, according to reports reaching here on Monday. Guatemala’s National Disaster Reduction Directorate (Conared) was sending tinned food, drinking water, medicine and clothing, which had been gathered at collection points across the country, Conared spokesman David de Leon told the Press.

Conared will send to Haiti another batch of relief supplies by airplane on either on Wednesday or Thursday, the spokesman added. The bulk of the supplies were contributed by individual Guatemalans.—Xinhua

Bolivian Vice President delivers humanitarian aid to Haiti

LA PAZ, 19 Jan—Bolivian Vice President Alvaro Garcia travelled on Monday to Port-au-Prince, Haiti’s capital, aboard a military plane with 50 tons of humanitarian aid for the victims of last Tuesday’s devastating earthquake.

The aid included 20 tons of food, 20 tons of vehicles, 5 tons of medicines and 5 tons of blood and plasma.

Garcia will meet with Bolivian members of the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Haiti, who are currently assisting the victims in Haiti.—Xinhua

Three Saudi militants killed in blast abroad

RIYADH, 19 Jan—The Saudi Interior Ministry says an investigation has shown that three Saudi militants were killed in a 14 Sept blast outside the country.

The official Saudi Press Agency quoted a ministry statement as saying on Monday that DNA tests showed the three were militants who had fled the country to join militants abroad.

It did not say in which country the blast took place.

It named the three as Mohammed Abdel-Rahman al-Rashed, 28, Sultan Rabi al-Utaibi, 26, and Fahd Jutayli, 24, who were released from Guantanamo Prison in 2007. Jutayli was reported to have been killed by security forces last year in Yemen, where Saudi militants have been finding sanctuary.

Both al-Rashed and al-Utaibi were on Saudi Arabia’s most wanted list.—Xinhua

Universal Studios to build theme park in S Korea

SEOUL, 19 Jan—US film giant Universal Studios on Tuesday signed a deal with South Korean partners to build its largest theme park in Asia at a cost of around three trillion won (2.67 billion dollars).

Universal Parks and Resorts and 14 South Korean partners, including Lotte Group and a subsidiary of steel giant POSCO, signed the framework agreement to develop the park at Hwasong, by 2014. The initial deal was announced in late 2007 but faced problems raising capital until retail and hotels group Lotte was persuaded to join the project.

Universal Studios also operates theme parks in Hollywood, Orlando in Florida and Japan, and a park on Singapore’s Sentosa Island is nearing completion. When completed, the South Korean resort, 40 kilometres (25 miles) southwest of Seoul, will be larger in area than all four combined and will create more than 40,000 jobs, according to Kim Moon-Soo, governor of Gyeonggi Province.

It aims to attract up to 15 million visitors every year, said Chung Chi Kwan, president of US Resorts Asset Management Co, an agent for the project.—Internet

Australia’s LNG plants could face delays

SYDNEY, 19 Jan—Half the proposed liquefied natural gas plants in Australia could face delays, analysts say.

A larger playing field of supply options for Asian LNG customers could adversely affect the prices producers receive, giving buyers an advantage in contract negotiations, according to a Merrill Lynch report.

“The project attrition, delay and even outright cancellations are inevitable,” wrote Sydney-based analyst Mark Hume to Merrill Lynch clients, Bloomberg reports. Hume said that about half of the 30 proposed LNG processing units in Australia and Papua New Guinea could still on stand schedule.

While annual LNG demand is forecast to grow to 384 million metric tons by 2020, exceeding supply, “it is a far cry from the heady days of 2007 when expectations were for demand to grow to circa 500 million tons a year,” Hume wrote.

Chevron Corp, Royal Dutch Shell Plc and Woodside Petroleum Ltd. are among Australia’s key players competing for LNG customers. But for “preferred global LNG supply-side picks,” Bank of America Merrill Lynch chose BG Group Plc, Inex Corp, Oil Search Ltd, a partner in Exxon Mobil Corp’s Papua New Guinea venture, and Origin Energy Ltd.

People transport relief goods in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on 17 Jan, 2009. More relief goods arrived at Haiti on Sunday.—Xinhua
WHO chief says world fortunate to have “moderate” pandemic

GENEVA, 19 Jan—The world has been fortunate so far to see that the impact of the A/H1N1 pandemic influenza is moderate, World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Dr Margaret Chan said on Monday.

“The best health news of the previous decade is the fact that the long overdue influenza pandemic has been so moderate in its impact... We have remained fortunate up to now,” Chan told a session of the WHO’s executive board.

The H1N1 virus did not mutate to a more virulent form. Resistance to oseltamivir did not become widespread.

The vaccine proved safe and a close match with circulating virus. Things could have gone wrong in any of these areas, Chan told the 34-member board.

Currently the pandemic appears to be easing in some countries in the northern hemisphere with good surveillance systems, and the worst may be over, Chan said.

“It would be unwise for anyone to reach firm conclusions before April, when the normal influenza season usually ends. There is still quite a lot of winter left,” she warned.

In addition, it remains unpredictable what would happen between now and later this year, when the southern hemisphere enters its influenza season and the virus becomes more transmissible, she said.—Xinhua

China expands smoking bans in 7 major cities

BEIJING, 19 Jan—China is tightening smoking regulations to ban lighting up in any indoor public spaces in seven provincial capitals, the latest sign of rising health awareness in the world’s largest tobacco-consuming nation.

The success of the effort may provide the best indicator yet as to whether broad efforts to restrict tobacco use can overcome stiff resistance from retailers and some local governments, which profit significantly from tobacco taxes.

Smoking is a huge business in China: 2 trillion cigarettes are sold in the country every year.

Artemisia genome to aid malaria treatments

YORK, 19 Jan—Genetic mapping of the plant Artemisia annua will speed breeding of the world’s most urgently needed malaria treatments, scientists in Britain said.

Plant scientists at the University of York published the first genetic map of the plant and will use it to accelerate production of high-yield crops, said Ian Graham, who heads the university’s Centre for Novel Agricultural Products.

Malaria kills an estimated 1 million people a year worldwide and the most effective treatments are Artemisinin Combination Therapies, the demand for which is expected to double by 2012 to about 200 million treatments a year, Graham said this month in the journal Science.

According to the World Health Organization, 2.5 billion people live in areas at risk of malaria, and there are 381 million new cases and 738,000 deaths a year from the disease worldwide.

In recent years, artemisia production has declined because farmers made too little profit from existing plant species, Graham said, adding that the decline in production has raised fears of shortages.

Knowing the plant’s genome will enable scientists to breed for higher performance and speed growth of the crop, he said.—Internet

Poverty, hunger and wealth gaps prevail

BEIJING, 19 Jan—Last year, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization announced that the number of hungry people in the world increased over the last decade. In 2008, the World Bank announced a significant decline in the number of poor people up to the year 2005. But if poverty is defined principally in terms of the money income needed to avoid hunger, how can announcements such as these be reconciled?

According to the World Bank’s “dollar-a-day” international poverty line, which was revised in 2008 to US$1.25 a day in 2005 prices, 1.4 billion people living in poverty, down from 1.9 billion in 1981.

However, as China has accounted for most of this decline, there were at least 100 million more people living in poverty outside China in 2005 than in 1981. In Sub-Saharan Africa and parts of Asia, poverty and hunger remain major challenges.

International agencies estimate that more than 100 million people fell into poverty as a result of higher food prices during 2007-2008, and that the global financial and economic crisis of 2008-2009 accounted for an increase of another 200 million.

Delayed job recovery from the global downturn remains a major challenge for poverty reduction in the coming years.

Yemen threatens more strikes on al-Qaeda

SANAA, 19 Jan—Yemen army will continue strike al-Qaeda as long as it threatens Yemen’s security and stability, the official Sabah news agency quoted Yemeni Interior Minister Mutahar al-Masri as saying on Monday.

The minister told police officers in Yemeni police academy that Yemen is able to deal with all challenges its security services facing and will continue its military operation against al-Qaeda.

Al-Qaeda had suffered heavy losses, including the death of a number of its leaders, the minister added.

Al-Masri highlighted the importance of applying security measures with the outlaws according to the Yemeni law and Constitution.

Yemeni officials said on Friday that Kasm al-Rainy, the al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) military leader and Amr Ubadhah al-Waili, the leader of al-Qaeda group in al-Faww governorate, northern Yemen, were among six militants who was killed in an airstrike in northern Yemen.—Xinhua

Mexican super flyweight boxer dies of lung cancer


Hernandez died aged 24 in the Salvador Zubiran National Nutrition Clinic 27 days after being admitted with pneumonia symptoms. Doctors discovered advanced lung cancer while running tests on the infection. He was being treated with chemotherapy and had been breathing with a respirator for several days when he died.

Hernandez, better known as ‘The Bombadier’, was the holder of two championship belts. He won the Mexican super flyweight title in December 2008, and defended it four times last year. He also won the central American title.—Xinhua

A burning shopping centre is seen in Kabul, capital of Afghanistan, on 18 Jan, 2010. A series of explosions rocked Afghan capital Kabul on Monday as militants penetrated downtown city and targeted important government buildings, leaving 15 people, dead and 63 others wounded, Defence Ministry spokesman Zahir Azimi said. —Xinhua
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (492)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (492) are hereby notified that the vessels will be arriving on 20.1.2010 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S PHULSAWAT SHIPPING CO., LTD

Phone No: 2569083/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BILLION VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BILLION VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessels will be arriving on 20.1.2010 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W.3 where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2569162/2569192/256921

Australian researchers find promising candidates for malaria vaccine

WASHINGTON, 19 Jan—Australian researchers have uncovered a group of proteins that could form the basis of an effective vaccine against malaria. Their findings are published on Monday in the international journal PLoS Medicine.

Presently there is no malaria vaccine available, and these new findings support the development of a vaccine against the blood-stage of malaria.

Malaria is an infection of blood cells and is transmitted by mosquitoes. The most common form of malaria is caused by the parasite Plasmodium falciparum.

Malaria parasites burrow into red blood cells by producing specific proteins. Once inside red blood cells, the parasites rapidly multiply, leading to massive numbers of parasites in the blood stream that can cause severe disease and death.

James Beeson, Freya Fowkes from the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute and colleagues have identified proteins produced by malaria parasites during the blood-stage that are effective at promoting immune responses that protect people from malaria illness.

Xinhua

Hongkong Post to issue special stamp to mark Chinese lunar year of the tiger

Hong Kong, 19 Jan—Hongkong Post on Tuesday announced that a set of special stamps to mark the Chinese lunar year of the tiger will be released for sale on 6 February.

The special stamps vividly portray four breeds of tigers in different postures. A sheetlet with two stamps featuring the ox and the tiger embossed with genuine gold and 99.9 percent pure silver bearing a certificate of authenticity is also available as a personal or business gift.

Official first day covers for the “Year of the Tiger” special stamps as well as official souvenir covers for the “Gold and Silver Stamp Sheetlet on Lunar New Year Animals - Ox/ Tiger” will go on sale at all post offices from Saturday together with a set of four postcards featuring different breeds of tigers at all philatelic offices.—Xinhua

Drive safely

BELLVILLE, 19 Jan—Authorities working to determine what spurred a flurry of gunshots that left five people dead in southeast Texas are questioning a 20-year-old relative who lived with the victims in the isolated house surrounded by pasture land.

Police said on Monday the victims of the weekend bloodshed all lived in the single-storey brick home in Bellville, a town of about 4,000 people located 55 miles northwest of Houston. They included a retiree and his wife, a younger woman and man, and a girl believed to be about 3 years old, police said.

Investigators were questioning a 20-year-old man, who a relative said is a son of the wife. He remained jailed on burglary and attempted burglary charges after allegedly trying to break into a Bellville home.

The man—arrested about 3 am on Sunday after a homeowner pulled a gun on him—could face capital murder charges. Prosecutors are reviewing the case.

No one else is being sought and it does not appear any other people were involved in the shootings, Sheriff DeWayne Burger said.

Sgt Paul Faircloth of the Austin County Sheriff’s Office said authorities were still trying to determine a motive for the slayings. He said the sheriff’s office received a call Sunday afternoon from a person who had gone to the home and discovered the crime scene. Deputies arrived and found four bodies inside the home.—Internet

Xinhua

Crime scene tape surrounds off a residence where five family members were found slain on 17 Jan in Bellville, Texas. —Internet
Daily D and calcium keep fractures away

DAVIS, 19 Jan — Taking both vitamin D and calcium daily reduces bone fracture risk, a US researcher says.

John Robbins of the University of California, Davis, in the Sacramento area says this holds true whether a person is young or old, male or female, or has had fractures in the past.

The study, published in the British Medical Journal, includes 70,000 patients from the United States and Europe including data published in 2006 from clinical trials conducted at University of California, Davis, as part of the Women’s Health Initiative.

“What is important about this very large study is that goes a long way toward resolving conflicting evidence about the role of vitamin D, either alone or in combination with calcium, in reducing fractures,” study co-author Robbins said in a statement.

“Our WHI research in Sacramento included more than 1,000 healthy, postmenopausal women and concluded that taking calcium and vitamin D together helped them preserve bone health and prevent fractures,” he said.

“This latest analysis, because it incorporates so many more people, really confirms our earlier conclusions.”

Robbins was part of an international team of researchers led by Copenhagen University in Denmark, who analyzed the results of seven large clinical trials from around the world.— Internet

Sleep apnea link to glucose control

CHICAGO, 19 Jan — Obstructive sleep apnea may worsen diabetes, researchers at the University of Chicago say.

Lead author Dr. Renee Aronsohn says the study demonstrates a clear, graded, inverse relationship between obstructive sleep apnea — a disorder characterized by episodes of stopped breathing during sleep — and glucose control in patients with type 2 diabetes.

Relative to patients without the sleep disorder, the presence of mild, moderate or severe obstructive sleep apnea disorder significantly increased mean adjusted HbA1c values — a measure of glucose control not affected by short-term fluctuations due to meals — by 1.49 percent, 1.93 percent and 3.69 percent, respectively. The study, published in the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine, also confirmed the sleep disorder is very common among type 2 diabetes patients. Overnight polysomnography tests revealed 77 percent of the total of 60 diabetes patients in the study had obstructive sleep apnea. However, only five patients were previously evaluated for the disease, and none were undergoing treatment.

“Our findings have important clinical implications as they support the hypothesis that reducing the severity of obstructive sleep apnea may improve glycemic control,” Aronsohn says in a statement. “This effective treatment of obstructive sleep apnea may represent a novel and non-pharmacologic intervention in the management of type 2 diabetes.”— Internet

Tigers in wild face risk of extinction

BEIJING, 19 Jan — Wild tigers in the country face the danger of extinction in about three decades if loss of habitats and illegal trade continue, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) has warned.

“If urgent and proper measures are not taken, there is a risk that wild tigers will no longer be found on Chinese territory,” Zhu Chunquan, conservation director of biodiversity of WWF China, said.

The number is a sharp decline from 1990 when there were 200 Siberian tigers in the world. — The Times of London reported on Monday.

Gene’s role in skin cancer revealed

CHICAGO, 19 Jan —US researchers say skin cells can turn cancerous if the protein kinase C gene is turned off.

The Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine researchers found the protein kinase C gene provides the last checkpoint at which skin cells with unrepaired sun-damaged DNA can be destroyed before reproducing.

Normally, the protein kinase C is activated in response to DNA damage. If the damage is too great to repair the PKC protein directs the cell to die. In squamous cell carcinoma this gene is turned off — the cell proceeds to divide without first stopping to repair its DNA, thus producing daughter tumour cells.— Internet

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Chinese paramilitary police prepare to clean up snow on the tarmac at Beijing International Airport, Beijing, China, on 19 Jan, 2010. Parts of northern China are seeing their harshest winter in decades, with Beijing this month receiving its heaviest one-day snowfall in 59 years.— Internet

Healthier big game snacking options

PRESNO, 19 Jan — For those who are still trying to follow through on New Year’s resolutions or looking for healthier Super Bowl snacks, a chef and dietitians have suggestions.

Healthy chef Kathleen Darleman, author of “Cooking Thin with Chef Kathleen,” and registered dietitians Keri Glassman, author of “The O Diet,” and Alyse Levine, diet and nutrition contributor for LiveStrong.com, offer tips on how to score great substitutions for favourite party fare that are still easy, delicious and healthy.

Instead of wings and blue cheese dressing, a smarter substitution is shrimp and cocktail sauce. Calories for shrimp and cocktail sauce are less than 140, while chicken wings and blue cheese dressing are nearly 420, Darleman suggests.

Instead of munching on potato chips, choose lightly salted pistachios. Although the two snacks have the same amount of calories, pistachios provide 6g of protein vs. 2g per serving of potato chips — about eight potato chips and pistachios provide 3g of the daily value for fiber per serving vs. 1g in potato chips.— Internet
Leon Moore (R) of Guyana fights with Marangin Marbun of Indonesia during their WBA (PABA) super bantamweight title bout in Singapore on 16 Jan, 2010. Moore won the bout. —Internet

Moore in a hurry to be a world champion

SINGAPORE, 19 Jan—Guyanese boxer Leon “Hurry Up” Moore has fought in Colombia, Barbados and Kyrgyzstan and now a move to Southeast Asia late in his career has put the fighter into the position of possible world-title contender.

Moore, 31, won a unanimous points decision over Indonesian Marangin Marbun in Singapore Saturday, leaving him potentially one victory away from a showdown with WBA super-bantamweight champion Poonsawat Kratingdaenggym. The shy Moore’s route to victory in both his ambition to become a world champion after he

Nadal wears down Luczak in three sets

MELBOURNE, 19 Jan—Defending champion and second seed Rafael Nadal wore down Australian Peter Luczak to begin his Australian Open campaign with a straight sets victory on Monday. The Spanish world number two, bidding for his seventh Grand Slam title, overcame the 78th-ranked ranked Luczak 7-6 (7/0), 6-1, 6-4 in two hours 34 minutes.

Nadal, who is working his way back to full fitness after injuries blighted his last season, will next play either Argentina’s Leonardo Mayer or Slovakia’s Lukas Lacko with a potential quarter-final looming against Andy Murray.

Nadal, who beat Roger Federer in a gripping five-set final here last year, has not claimed a title since winning the Barcelone clay last April. —Internet

Maradona hopes to lift trophy in S Africa

BUENOS AIRES, 19 Jan—Argentine coach Diego Maradona said Monday that his team have both the hope and desire to lift the World Cup in South Africa this year. If they do so, it will be a 24-year-old curse broken. In 1986, Maradona inspired his country to the World Cup in Mexico and Argentina, having lost to West Germany in the 1990 final, have not won the tournament since.

“We hope to get as far as possible. We know we are not the favorites but we have a great desire,” Maradona told reporters during an inspection of his team’s base at the University of Pretoria.

“We want to break the curse after 24 years that we have not been given (the World Cup). The desire never goes away,” he said. - Internet

Russian Nikolay Davydenko (pictured) continued his impeccable start to the year when he advanced comfortably to the second round of the Australian Open after cruising past German Dieter Kindlmann 6-1, 6-0, 6-3 in just 91 minutes. —Internet

No-nonsense Serena powers on in Australia

MELBOURNE, 19 Jan—No-nonsense defending champion Serena Williams powered into the Australian Open second round on Tuesday where she was joined by in-form Russian Nicolay Davydenko.

Williams, who is searching for her 12th Grand Slam singles title to put herself alongside Billie Jean King as one of the all-time greats, powered into the second round of the tournament since. Williams won 6-2, 6-1.

The four-time champion here, usually a slow starter at Grand Slams, had her right thigh heavily strapped, which she said was to support her hamstring “Just supportive and preventive,” she said.

Henry escapes punishment over handball incident

ZURICH, 19 Jan—French captain Thierry Henry escaped being punished for his infamous handball in the 2010 World Cup finals play-off against Ireland. FIFA announced on Monday. France were losing 1-0 to Ireland at the Stade de France on 18 November, having won the first leg 1-0, when Henry teed up William Gallas in extra-time for what proved to be the decisive goal after illegally controlling the ball with his hand.

FIFA’s disciplinary committee said, however, that they were powerless to punish the 1998 World Cup-winning striker because their rules forbade them to do so if the original misdemeanour had not been seen by the match officials. —Internet

French captain Thierry Henry

Haitian boxer Berto pulls out of fight

LAS VEGAS, 19 Jan—André Berto pulled out of next week’s World Boxing Council welterweight title fight with Shane Mosley, saying the pain of dealing with the horrific earthquake has taken too big a toll on him emotionally.

Berto, whose parents are Haitian and represented Haiti in the Athens Olympics, said even though this was the biggest fight of his career he cannot continue to train. —Internet

Davydenko’s hot run continues at Australian Open

MELBOURNE, 19 Jan—Unfashionable Russian Nikolay Davydenko continued his impeccable start to the year when he advanced comfortably to the second round of the Australian Open on Tuesday.

The sixth seed cruised past German Dieter Kindlmann 6-1, 6-0, 6-3 in just 91 minutes to remain unbeaten in 2010. Davydenko beat world number Rafael Nadal in the final, and beat world number one Roger Federer in the semis, in Doha before heading to Australia for the year’s first Grand Slam.

Although his previous encounter with Kindlmann was a closely fought three-set win at last year’s US Open, Davydenko was impressive as he out classed the 175th-ranked German from the outset.

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Angola, Algeria fight on as Essien hobbles home

LUANDA, 19 Jan—Angola and World Cup qualifiers Algeria joined holders Egypt and Ivory Coast in the Africa Cup of Nations quarter-finals on Monday.

A goalless draw played out to another 50,000 capacity crowd at Luanda’s 11 November stadium put both teams into the last eight mix, at the expense of Mali and Malawi.

While the hosts and the Desert Foxes are still in contention day nine of this feast of African football proved the end of the road for Chelsea’s star midfielder Michael Essien.

Ghana’s best player hobbed out of contention for Tuesday’s make or break Group B date with Burkina Faso after picking up a knee injury in training over the weekend. - Internet

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Shanghai selects 70,000 volunteers for World Expo 2010

Shanghai, 19 Jan—Shanghai, the host city of the World Expo 2010, has chosen 70,000 volunteers to work inside the Expo site, organizers told a press briefing on Tuesday.

They were chosen from more than 560,000 registered applicants all over the world, said Ma Chunlei, deputy director of the publicity department of the Shanghai Committee of the Communist Party of China. He didn’t specify the standards of the selection.

The on-site volunteers would serve as interpreters, receptionists, guides, and media coordinators during the Expo, which would start on 1 May and last through 31 Oct. Each one was expected to work at least 14 days, Ma said.

The selection of 130,000 more volunteers to work at 1,000 service sites around Shanghai was underway. They would offer services such as information, translation and emergency services outside the Expo site, Ma said.—Xinhua

A worker shows “huamo”, a steamed bread eaten during festivals, at a bread shop in Wanrong County, north China’s Shanxi Province, on 19 Jan, 2010. The bread shop produced more than 30 varieties of “huamo” with the pattern of tiger for customers as the spring festival approaches. —Xinhua
Only with stability and peace will the nation develop
Only with stability and peace will democratization process be successful

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

People’s Desire
- We favour peace and stability
- We favour development
- We oppose unrest and violence
- Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence

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

Htantabin Township, Yangon Division to grow summer paddy extensively

YANGON, 19 Jan—Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Win Myint and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, this morning inspected Pandaing Sluice Gate near Pandaing Village in Htantabin Township, Yangon North District, old intake channel adjacent to the Kukkowa River, and construction of a channel linking Pandaing Sluice Gate and Mingalar Sluice Gate.

Li-Gen Myint Swe inspected Mingalar Sluice Gate near Khanaungpaw Village in Htantabin Township, the water inflow at Myaungtalok Village in Twantay Township, and Basic Education High School (Branch) in Yayso Ma-ngezu Village in Htantabin Township.

Next, he inspected the scattering of fertilizer on the paddy field in Hngetthaik Village, Hlinethaya Township, and the dredging in Mya Sein Yaung Creek.

He viewed the site chosen for construction of a railway station near Atwin Padan Village in Hlinethaya Township, and gave instructions in response to the reports presented by officials concerned.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party inspected the upgrading of roads on Tay-U Yin Street in Ward (7) and on Aung Thukha Street in Ward (8), Hlinethaya Township.

Prize presentation of Tun Foundation literary award-2009 on 24 Jan

YANGON, 19 Jan—The prize presentation ceremony of Tun Foundation literary award for 2009 will be held at No. 2 Myanmar Banks Association, Yankin Township, here, at 9:30 am on 24 January. Literary Committee announced that all prize winners and invited guests are to attend the ceremony. For more information, dial 296325 or 296261.