56th Myanmar Medical Conference held

YANGON, 20 Jan—The Myanmar Medical Association (Central) organized the 56th Myanmar Medical Conference at its office on Theinbyu Road in Mingala Taungnyunt Township here this morning.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence delivered an opening address.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Win Myint, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe and the chairman of the MMA (Central) formally opened the commemorative medicines and medical equipment pavilions, and inspected them.

63rd Anniversary
Union Day Objectives

— For all national races to uphold the national policy—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty
— To boost the sense of Union Spirit of the national people
— 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
— 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
— For all national races to make concerted efforts for successful accomplishment of the seven-step Road Map

Lt-Gen Tha Aye visits Putao, Machanbaw Townships


Lt-Gen Tha Aye viewed thriving teak and rubber plantations along Myitkyina-Namtee (Tanai) road and inspected the construction site of No. 3 inter-district road (Kachin State).

Lt-Gen Tha Aye then viewed a grove of rubber plants of the local battalion in the township and inspected extension of runway of Putao Airport. Later, Lt-Gen Tha Aye inspected the condition of Malikha river-crossing suspension bridge linking Naungkhathing village and Machanbaw Township. He met with officers and other ranks and their families at the local battalion and presented gifts to them. (See page 7)

Yazudaing Bridge No. 1 and No. 2 contributing to development of Mawlamyinegyun

Since Mawlamyinegyun Township in Ayeyawady Division lies on an island, its transportation has to rely solely on waterway in the past. With the opening of Yazudaing Bridge No. 2 on 9 January in the township, one can travel from one place to another with peace of mind, making the most of the Mawlamyinegyun-Shwetaunghmaw-Kyaikpi motorway.

As a network of roads were constructed in cyclone Nargis-ravaged regions in Ayeyawady Division. The project includes Yazudaing Bridge No. 2 that is located on No. 10 Highway linking Bogale, Mawlamyinegyun, Kyonemange and Myaungmya. (See page 7)
Unity is strength of the Union

Myanmar is home to more than 100 national races and they have been living together in unity and amity through thick and thin. This indicates the nation’s high standard of culture and the existence of harmonious society.

National races living in various parts of the country have their own languages, cultures, traditions and social customs. However, they have Union blood and Union Spirit in common. They are like brothers born of the same womb or like fruits of the same stem.

It was through the unity of national races that national independence and sovereignty was regained. As an independent people, they will always safeguard and defend their independent nation. Now they are building a modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

It is necessary for the entire national people to take part in the drive for a new democratic nation being built in accordance with the national policy—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty. History and national experiences show that it is very important for the national brethren to cultivate Union Spirit in their hearts for ever.

Only if national unity is strong will there be peace and stability and a modern and developed nation emerge. It is necessary for the entire national people to place special emphasis on non-disintegration of the Union, defend it and guard it against the dangers of internal and external destructive elements.

Unity is strength of the Union. Therefore, it is necessary for all national brethren to be always united, upholding their fine traditions and maintaining favourable conditions existing in the Union.

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

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**EP-1 Minister receives Swiss guests**

**NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan—** Minister for Electric Power No (1) Col Zaw Min received Chief Executive Officer Mr. Roberto Gerosa of Colenco Power Engineering Ltd of Switzerland and party at the ministry here yesterday morning. They held discussion on implementation of new projects.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister U Myo Myint and departmental heads, Managing Director Mr. Jean-Francois Belin of Colenco Power Engineering Limited and officials.—MNA

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**Housing & Building 2010 on 5 Feb**

**YANGON, 20 Jan—** IEMS Company Limited is organizing Housing & Building 2010 at Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road here from 5 to 8 February.

During the exhibition, Inax branded tiles of TMW Enterprise, Sosuco branded tiles of Sanyo, home decorations of Champion Construction Material, Sakura, Orchid and Panasonic brand consumer electronics of Pyae Sone Win Naing Co, media lighting of Regency, construction metal and metal structure of Asia Metal Co, building materials, showrooms, and home decoration of Naing Construction, Shine Construction, Aurora Group Construction and Opal Construction, high quality paints of TWJS Co (hometex), Sea Master and Nippon Paint, Izen brand advanced electronic toilet seats of Golden Hook Co, modern furniture of Universal Furniture, Coffier Manufacturing and PW & GG JV Co, building materials and showroom of Asterion International, parquet and floor decorations of Sinpauk Construction, interior decoration showrooms of D & D Co, electronic door of 133, Stainless steel structure of GSR Stainless Steel, building materials and interior decorations of ALLWAYS Hardware Mart, Pure Air brand automatic air freshener of SP Group, and Korea-made laminate floor of Tharapyoe will be on display.

The exhibition is also reinforced with entertainment and lucky draw programmes. For further information, dial 09-48831628.—MNA

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**Major attacks in Afghanistan’s capital**

Kabul, 20 Jan—A look at major attacks in Afghanistan’s capital:

- 15 Jan: Militants storm the Serena Hotel in a coordinated assault that kills seven.
- 7 July, 2008: A suicide car bomb detonates at the gates of the Indian Embassy, killing more than 60 people.
- 11 Feb, 2009: Militants launch coordinated assault on three government buildings, killing at least 20 people.
- 15 Aug: Suicide car bomber strikes near the front gate of NATO’s headquarters, killing seven people.
- 17 Sept: A suicide car bomber kills six Italian soldiers and 10 Afghan civilians on one of Kabul’s main roads.
- 8 Oct: A suicide car bomber detonates his vehicle outside the Indian Embassy, killing 17 people.
- 28 Oct: Gunmen with suicide vests storm a guest house, leaving 11 dead, including 5 UN staff and 3 attackers.
- 15 Dec: Suicide car bomber strikes near hotel frequented by Westerners, killing 8 people.
- 18 Jan, 2010: Team of suicide bombers and gunmen target government buildings, leaving 12 dead, including 7 attackers.—INTERNET

**Afghans tighten security in Kabul after attack**

KABUL, 20 Jan—Two US service members were killed by a roadside bomb in southern Afghanistan on Tuesday, a day after a brazen Taleban attack on the capital showed militants are stepping up their fight against the US and its allies.

The southern Taleban heartland has seen intense fighting and is expected to be the destination for most of the 30,000 US reinforcements being sent by President Barack Obama.

A NATO statement gave no other details about the latest US deaths.

Also on Tuesday, Afghans increased the number of checkpoints and patrols in the capital amid public anger over security lapses that enabled small group of militants mount a series of suicide explosions and gun battles the day before.

President Hamid Karzai ordered a review of security measures in the capital but said Afghan troops should be praised for their performance in preventing an even bigger disaster as the non-militant death toll stood at five—three security forces and two civilians, including a child.—INTERNET

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

KABUL, 20 Jan—The NATO troops led by the US have invaded Afghanistan and they are there for a long time.

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

According to the Internet news, a total of 32479 Afghan people were killed and 38228 injured seriously as from the day when the NATO troops led by the US invaded Afghanistan to 20 January.

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<td>2.</td>
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**US and allies kills, injures Iraqi people**

BAGHDAD, 20 Jan—There has been daily casualties in Iraq since the US and its allies have invaded the country.

The total number of casualties as from the day they invaded the country to 20 January reached 700005 and the total number of seriously injured people reached 1263887 according to the news on the Internet.

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<td>2.</td>
<td>The total number of seriously injured people</td>
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Lone shooter

APPOMATTOX, 20 Jan—Police with dogs and heat-sensing equipment hunted for a man they say shot eight people to death on Tuesday and then nearly took down a police helicopter that was trying to flush him out of the woods near this central Virginia town.

State police said officers had the suspect, Christopher Speight, 39, circled in the woods late Tuesday near the home where seven of the bodies were found and they believed he was still alive.

An eighth victim was found barely alive on the side of the road—which led to police being called—and died on the way to the hospital.

All the victims were adults and both men and women were killed, state police Sgt Thomas Molnar said. Three of the bodies were found inside the home, and four just outside it, Molnar said.

Police refused to speculate on a motive and would not say what type of weapon was used. Molnar also gave no background on the suspect. Speight’s last known address was along the block where the shootings occurred, but Molnar did not know if the suspect was still living there. He also would not say if all the victims were shot at the home. —Internet

Crisis will keep children out of school

PARIS, 20 Jan—The world financial crisis not only hurt balance sheets but could sabotage poor countries’ efforts to get more children into school, according to a report released on Tuesday by the UN education agency.

UNESCO urged more funding and attention for those shut out of education systems such as ethnic minorities and rural girls, who make up a disproportionate part of the legions of school-age children who have never seen the inside of a classroom.

“The main message is that education is at risk, that we might have a lost generation because the financial gap of what resources are needed for education and those that are provided are widening—especially with the crisis,” UNESCO’s chief Irina Bokova said at the launch of the report at UN Headquar-
ters in New York.

Some 72 million children were out of school in 2007, and the report estimates that 56 million will remain out of school in 2015.

“Rich countries have mobilized a financial mountain to stabilize their financial systems and protect vital social and economic infrastructure, but they have provided an aid molehill for the world’s poor,” the chief author of the Education for All Global Monitoring Report, Kevin Watkins, said in a statement. —Internet

WTO panel to investigate US tariffs on Chinese tyres

GENEVA, 20 Jan—The World Trade Organization (WTO) on Tuesday established an expert panel to investigate and rule whether punitive US tariffs on Chinese-made tyres breach WTO regulations.

The panel was established at a meeting of the WTO’s Dispute Settlement Body (DSB), at which China reiterated its position that the US tariffs run short of factual bases and breached the US obligations under the WTO. “The Chinese government deeply regretted the US decision to impose restrictions on Chinese tyres and believed it was a departure of international consensus of G20 leaders to fight against protectionism,” the Chinese delegation said. “China once again urges the United States to promptly withdraw its measures. And we believe the panel will make impartial determination on this case,” it added.

China initially made the panel request in December, but it was rejected by the United States in accordance with relevant procedures. —Xinhua

At last six dead as pirates fight over record ransom

MOGAADISHU, 20 Jan—Intense fighting between Somali pirate gangs over a record ransom amount paid for the release of a Greek oil supertanker has killed at least six people, elders and pirates said.

Three pirates and a civilian were killed in the latest bout of fighting that erupted in the town of Haradhare late Monday, elders and pirates told AFP by phone.

Tension has been high in the central Somali pirate lair since an estimated seven million dollars were dropped by a small plane on Sunday for the release of the VLCC Maran Centaurus. —Internet

New tech tools help Haiti quake relief

WASHINGTON, 20 Jan—Hundreds of tech volunteers spurred to action by Haiti’s killer quake are adding a new dimension to disaster relief, developing new tools and services for first responders and the public in an unprecedented effort.

“It really is amazing the change in the way crisis response can be done now,” said Noel Dickover, a Washington, DC-based organizer of the Crisis-Camp tech volunteer movement, which is central to the Haiti effort. “Developers, crisis mappers and even Internet-savvy folks can actually make a difference.”

Volunteers have built and refined software for tracking missing people, mapping the disaster area and enabling urgent cell phone text messaging. Organizations including the International Red Cross, the United Nations, the World Bank and the US Federal Emergency Management Agency have put the systems to use. —Internet

The Hybrid Kinetic Motors Corporation’s Quaranta concept car is unveiled at the Convention Centre at the Renaissance Hotel and Spa in Montgomery, Ala, on 19 Jan, 2010. —INTERNET

Chuck Hawkins from Orange County Fire Swiftwater Rescue Team 9 checks on a stalled vehicle in Laguna Hills, Calif, on 19 Jan, 2010. A motorist had rescued a woman and a baby from the vehicle after torrential rain trapped several vehicles. —INTERNET
Financial crisis endangers children’s education worldwide

LA PAZ, 20 Jan—The aftermath of the global financial crisis threatens to deprive millions of children in the poorest countries of education, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) warned on Tuesday.

UNESCO said in the 2010 Education for All Global Monitoring Report that 72 million children are still out of school, and the deceleration of economic growth together with the rise of poverty and the fiscal pressures could erode the limited education achievements of the past decade.

“While rich countries are creating necessary conditions for its economic recovery, many poor countries face the immediate prospect of recession in their education systems,” the report said.

Peruvian doctors have 80 surgeries daily for Haiti quake victims

LIMA, 20 Jan—Peruvian doctors have been conducting 80 surgeries daily at a hospital near the border between quake-stricken Haiti and the Dominican Republic, the Peruvian Health Ministry said on Tuesday.

Peruvian doctors, along with their partners from Japan, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, are working at El Buen Samaritano Hospital in the city of Jimani.

“We just finished shift duty. We have been working at night and operated on 10 patients, which makes the daily number of surgeries reach 80,” said Carlos Malpica, director of Mobilization of General Office of National Defence of Health Ministry.

The attentions for traumatic injures must be given in the first 24 or 48 hours,” said Malpica. But “we are receiving patients after almost one week. It is frustrating to see people have operations to cut one part of their body, because they arrived with infections and sepsis.”—Xinhua

A passenger aircraft painted with World Expo designs unveils on the tarmac of Hongqiao Airport, in Shanghai, east China, on 19 Jan, 2010. This is the 4th of the six planes painted with World Expo logos, which are provided by China Eastern Airlines to service for the Shanghai Expo.—Xinhua

Turkmen President praises cooperation with Russia

ALMATY, 20 Jan—Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov said on Wednesday that Russia is his country’s reliable partner.

Berdymukhamedov made the remark during his talks with visiting Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Igor Shuvalov in the Turkmen capital of Ashgabat.

Turkmenistan would persist in promoting friendly cooperation of mutual benefit with Russia, Berdymukhamedov said, adding that his country wished to establish direct links with Russia’s regional areas as well as major industrial and cultural centres.

Shuvalov said the Russian side is satisfied with the high-level cooperation between the two countries.

Turkmenistan resumed natural gas supplies to Russia early this month. Under the new contract, Turkmenistan will supply Russia with up to 30 billion cubic metres of natural gas annually at European-level prices.

Two farmers pluck ripe strawberries in a greenhouse of the Shahe Ecological Strawberry Growing Base in Ganyu county, east China’s Jiangsu Province, on 19 Jan, 2010. Strawberry produced here will be transported to Shanghai and Beijing for the Spring Festival market supply.—Xinhua

All Items from Xinhua News Agency

Jordan to establish nuclear science university in cooperation with France

AMMAN, 20 Jan—Jordan announced plans on Tuesday to create a Jordanian-French university that is specialized in nuclear sciences and research, according to the country’s atomic energy commission.

The university will adopt the system followed by the French Ecole Polytechnique, which is a state-supported institution of higher education and research founded in 1794 in France, a statement by the Jordan Atomic Energy Commission (JAEC) obtained by Xinhua noted on Tuesday.

The university, which will be supported by France, will be established under a memorandum of understanding that Jordan and France will sign next month during a visit by French Prime Minister Francois Fillon to Jordan, the statement indicated.—Xinhua

Italy to tighten control of confiscated Mafia assets

ROME, 20 Jan—Italy will soon establish a new agency in the south of the country to better handle confiscated Mafia assets in a bid to intensify the fight against the Mafia, Interior Minister Roberto Maroni said on Tuesday.

The agency will be the core-part of a strategic anti-Mafia plan to be unveiled by the government when it convenes in the southern town of Reggio Calabria on 28 Jan. Ansa news service quoted Maroni as saying.

The plan will launch a coordinated effort against Italy’s three main Mafias: ‘Ndrangheta in the Calabria region, Cosa Nostra in Sicily and Camorra around the Naples area. The new agency’s goal would be to sell off seized Mafia property by controlling auctions to make sure the goods did not return to the Mafia, Maroni explained.—Xinhua

A wounded woman is transported to the hospital in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on 18 Jan, 2010. A 7.0 magnitude earthquake hit the country on 12 Jan, 2010. The rescue work still continues.—Xinhua

Moldova-flagged cargo ship sinks in Black Sea

İSTANBUL, 20 Jan—A Moldova-flagged cargo vessel sank off the Black Sea coast of Turkey after breaking into two due to harsh winter weather, Turkish coast security bureau said on Tuesday.

All 21 crew members on board the ship were rescued by the coast security members at 9:00 am local time (0700 GMT) on Tuesday. The 145-metre “Orcun C” coming from Ukraine anchored at the Guven Foreland in Kilyos, nearly 30 km north of Istanbul.

The vessel’s anchor has been dragged and then grounded at 3 am local time. After receiving the accident signal, Turkish coast rescue teams rushed to the ship.

The helicopters and the rescue ships failed to get close to the vessel because of the strong winds and the waves.

Xinhua
STORMS CUT PHILIPPINE’S 2009 RICE PRODUCTION

MANILA, 20 Jan—Rice production in the Philippines, the world’s biggest importer of the grain, fell by more than 3.0 percent last year after a series of major storms damaged crops, the government said on Wednesday.

Tropical storm Ketsana and Typhoon Parma, which claimed more than 1,100 lives in October and November as they pummelled the main island of Luzon, were mainly responsible for the fall in rice output, the agriculture ministry said.

Unmilled rice production was 16.26 million tonnes last year, down 3.31 percent from 2008, the ministry said in its annual report.

The government had already made large tenders in a tight global market last year to head off possible shortages of rice, the staple food for the 93 million Filipinos.

The entire crop sector, which accounted for 46.80 percent of total agricultural output, also slid by 1.42 percent last year due to the bad weather and rising fertilizer costs, the ministry said.

However, livestock, poultry and fisheries managed slight increases to push agricultural growth up by 0.37 percent overall.

CHRYSLER TO RECALL 24,177 VEHICLES ON BRAKE ISSUE

DETROIT, 20 Jan—Chrysler Group LLC will recall 24,177 vehicles due to a potential defect in a brake system that could result in sudden brake failure, the automaker said in a filing with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The recall applies to 2010 model-year Chrysler Sebring, Dodge Avenger and Nitro, Jeep Liberty, Commander and Grand Cherokee SUVs, as well as 2009-2010 model year Dodge Ram trucks.

In some of the vehicles, the clip retention tab on the brake pedal pin was improperly formed, or not installed, during the manufacturing process, Chrysler said.

MEXICAN JUDGE ORDERS TIJUANA KINGPIN TO FACE TRIAL

TIJUANA, 20 Jan—An alleged drug kingpin blamed for much of Tijuana’s gang violence was ordered to face trial on Tuesday, while the military said it caught three purported members of his gang about to dissolve a body in chemicals.

A judge ordered “El Teo” Teodoro Garcia Simental, who was arrested last week, to stand trial on organized crime and drug trafficking charges, the Attorney General’s Office said.

Troops, meanwhile, arrested two men and a woman at a house in Tijuana where a body was found in a bathtub, about to be dissolved in a chemical substance, a military statement said.

Soldiers received a tip that armed people were storing drugs in the house.

The military said the three worked for Raydel Udiarte, the reputed chief of hit men for Garcia’s gang.

They were found with 117 kilograms (258 pounds) of marijuana, three rifles, a pistol, ammunition and two bulletproof vests, the military said.

 Driverless train runs 10 km in Brazil

A train full of passengers ran 10 km without a driver in Rio, local press reported on Monday.

The train, heading for downtown Rio, ran into some mechanical problems with its doors at the Ricardo de Albuquerque station. According to some passangers, the doors kept opening and closing and they had to get off.

To verify the problem, the driver got out of the locomotive. However, before he could return, the train started to run on its own at a speed reportedly above 70 km per hour.

After running about 10 km and passing almost two stations, the train finally stopped when the control center cut off the power supply in the contact net.

Supervia, the company operating Rio’s trains, did not confirm the incident which messed the entire train system, causing a series of delay.

Instead, the company said it would investigate the causes of the mechanical problems.

Several organizations such as the local transportation regulation agency and Regional Engineering and Architecture Council would also look into the causes of the incident.

EGYPT ANNOUNCES FIND OF ANCIENT CAT-GODDESS TEMPLE

Archaeologists have unearthed a 2,000-year-old temple that may have been dedicated to the ancient Egyptian cat goddess, Bastet, the Supreme Council of Antiquities said on Tuesday.

The ruins of the Ptolemaic-era temple were discovered by Egyptian archaeologists in the heart of the Mediterranean port city of Alexandria, founded by Alexander the Great in the 4th century BC.

The city was the seat of the Greek-speaking Ptolemaic Dynasty, which ruled over Egypt for 300 years until the suicide of Queen Cleopatra.

The statement said the temple was thought to belong to Queen Berenice, wife of King Ptolemy III who ruled Egypt in the 3rd century BC.

French robbers get away with 100 kg of gold

Four gunmen heisted over 100 kg of gold and other precious metals on Monday from a foundry in Lyon, in east-central France, police said.

The robbers threatened an employer of the foundry with his wife’s life and intimidated him to surrender between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m. Monday from a foundry in Lyon, in east-central France, police said.

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Claude Catto told local media.

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Lt-Gen Tha Aye visits...
(from page 1)

In meeting with personnel, townsenders, members of social organizations and local nationalities at Guba Hall of Machanbaw Township, Lt-Gen Tha Aye heard reports on necessities for development of the township and presented gifts to nationalities.

Lt-Gen Tha Aye then visited Machanbaw Township People’s Hospital and donated cash to the fund of the hospital and viewed development of the township. Lt-Gen Tha Aye met with departmental personnel, senior citizens, members of social organizations and local nationalities at Phokkanrazi Hall and gave guidance on development undertakings of the region.

Lt-Gen Tha Aye then visited Putao Township Women’s Vocational Training School of Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs and presented gifts to trainees and instructors.

MNA

Transport Dy Minister receives Indian guests

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan — Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung received Mr Tapas Ghosh and party of Networks P. Ltd. from the Republic of India at the ministry here this afternoon. They held discussion on development in transportation sector. Also present at the call were Director-General U Win Pe of Transport Department, Managing Director U Soe Tint of Inland Water Transport and Joint Director-General Dr Thein Tun of Meteorology and Hydrology Department and officials. — MNA

Yazudaing Bridge ...
(from page 1)

Under the guidance of the Head of State, Public Works of the Ministry of Construction opened Yazudaing Bridge No. 2 in the first phase of its project which covers the building of two major bridges across Yazudaing river. Construction of Yazudaing Bridge No. 1, which calls for strenuous efforts and huge investment, is expected to be completed in 2010. The one-way Yazudaing Bridge No. 2 is of steel girdle type. The 540 feet long facility is complete with 20 feet wide motorway and 10 feet high clearance. It can bear 60 tons of loads. The Yazudaing Bridge No. 2 is 48th of its kind with a length of over 180 feet in Ayeyawady Division.

The Yazudaing Bridge No. 1 that is under construction is also a one-way facility and it is of steel girdle type. The total length of the bridge is 1955 feet and 9 inches long. The main bridge is 998 feet and 2 inches long with 20 feet wide motorway flanked by 2 feet wide pedestrian ways. The clearance is 20 feet high. It can withstand 60 tons of loads. The construction of the bridge began on 1 April 2009 and now it has been completed by 60 per cent.

Prior to cyclone Nargis in Ayeyawady Division, the total length of road was only 1344 miles and 5 furlongs. And 161 miles and 3 furlongs of roads were extended in the aftermath of the Nargis, bringing the total length of roads to 1506 miles. Moreover, a total of 2913 bridges between 100 and 180 feet and under 180 feet, and 234 bridges over-180 feet long have been launched. Strenuous efforts are being made day and night to open Yazudaing Bridge No. 1. So, Mawlamyinegyun will be accessible to every state and division very soon. Thus, higher socioeconomic statuses of local people can be expected in the near future as a result of the Yazudaing Bridge No. 1 and No. 2 contributing to swift commodity flow.

Translation: ZZS
(Myanmar Alin: 19-1-2010)
**GMS region, not Safe Haven for human traffickers**

**Senior Official Meeting for COMMIT commences in Bagan**

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan—The opening ceremony of the 7th Senior Officials Meeting for Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative Against Trafficking (COMMIT) was held at Golden Palace Hotel in Bagan this morning.

It was attended by delegates of Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, observers from Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines, UN agencies, the rapporteur from the UN Security Council on trafficking in women and children, donor organizations, the ASEAN Secretariat and representatives from INGOs totalling 135.

Before the opening ceremony, the leaders of the delegations from respective countries called on Chairman of Central Committee for Prevention Against Trafficking in Persons Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo.

At the opening ceremony, the Chairman of the Central Committee explained the emergence of the COMMIT and delivered an address, saying that six countries of Greater Mekong Sub-region have been implementing the plan for combating the human trafficking problem for five years. The laws on anti-human trafficking have been enacted in almost all the member countries. The gangs of human traffickers have established networks in committing the human trafficking offences. As the GMS member countries systematically combated the offences of the human traffickers, the GMS region is not Safe Haven any more for the human traffickers. It is important that the present meeting will review the undertakings of the COMMIT for one year and adopt the future plans. The chairman also explained the anti-human trafficking programmes of Myanmar.

In his address, Resident Coordinator of UN agencies Mr Bishow Parajuli said that much progress can be seen in the anti-human trafficking policy, preventive measures, punishment and looking after of human trafficking victims in Myanmar. For example, Myanmar is the first of all GMS countries in enacting the Anti-Trafficking Law in accord with the Palermo Protocol by meeting international set standards. Moreover, Myanmar is the first in formation of the special police squads for combating human trafficking. Today’s meeting is to review the undertakings in 2009 and find out the challenges for prevention against human trafficking, he said.

He stressed the need for holding talks for future tasks, and expressed pleasure to welcome UN special rapporteur on trafficking in women and children Ms. Joy Ngozi Ezeilo. He continued to say that every year, thousands of men and women fall into victims of trafficking while the world has seen exploitation of

**Culture Minister hosts dinner to CLMV Ministers and officials in NyaungU**

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan—Ministers and high-ranking officials from Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, arriving in Yangon to attend culture related roundtable meeting of Ministers of Culture and Arts of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV), proceeded to NyaungU by air this morning.

They visited to Shwezigon Pagoda, Dhamayangyi Pagoda, Sulamani Pagoda, Ananda Pagoda and Wetkyi-in Gupyaungyi Pagoda in Bagan ancient cultural region.

The preliminary coordination meeting of the high ranking officials from CLMV member countries was held at Bagan Archaeological Museum, with an opening speech of Director-General U San Win of Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library in the afternoon. Matters on enhancing cultural cooperation among the CLMV member countries were discussed at the meeting.

In the evening, the ministers and officers visited Bagan Archaeology Museum, excavation sites of old Bagan palace and Bagan Shwenandaw and paid homage to Myinkapa Gupyaungyi Pagoda and Lawkananda Pagoda.

Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint hosted a dinner to them at Aureum Palace Hotel in Bagan. —MNA
Industry-1 Minister meets Indian guests

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan—Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung received a delegation headed by Mr G L Goenka, President of Indo-Myanmar Chambers of Commerce and Industry (IMCCI) of the Republic of India at his office here this morning. The meeting was also attended by officials of the ministry.—MNA

Construction Minister attends contract signing ceremonies

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan—Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint attended contract signing ceremony between Public Works and entrepreneurs for applying to Yangon-Bago-Meiktila-Mandalay Road through BOT system held at the ministry here on 19 January.

It was also attended by Chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission Minister Brig-Gen Maung Thein, members of the commission Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Attorney-General U Aye Maung, Deputy Ministers for Construction U Tint Swe and Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Deputy Minister for Electric Power No. 2 Brig-Gen Win Myint, officials and entrepreneurs from seven private organizations. The director-general of Public Works and entrepreneurs signed the contract and exchanged the notes.

Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint attends contract signing ceremony for upgrading of Tonkhan-Mantkhaing Road. CONSTRUCTION

Mya Kan Tha Recreation...

(from page 16) township; that the tasks included clearing wild plants, water supply, building of inter roads flanked by bricks, making beds of flowers and landscaping plants, and wiring; and that the upgrading tasks had been completed on 31 August 2005.

As to the purpose of renovation of the park, he said that under the plan to shape Pakokku into the major city in the western bank of the Ayeyawady River, they had built a water-slide centre and a ski resort in order that the visitors could enjoy them for rest and recreation, set up beds of flowers and landscaping plants and fountains to make the vacationers feel relaxed, and a Htan-thon-bin Tower from which visitors can have a good view over the areas around the park; and that it was worth it to carry out those tasks because that met the satisfaction and recognition of the holidaymakers.

It was on the early morning of a Monday when we were there, so there were not many visitors in it yet at that time. Just as we entered the park, we found a statue reflecting the importance of unity. The multicolored tower was found built on the three toddy palms. In the park are six foundations at the six junctions of the roads, specially decorated flower beds, a plantation of Thanakha (a kind of tree used in making fragrant paste for cosmetic purpose), a water-slide centre, a ski pitch, and the whole park is illuminated with coloured lights at night.

In a word, Mya Kan Tha Recreation Park in Pakokku Township is worth a visit as it is like an oasis of an arid region in the central Myanmar.

Translation: MS Myanma Alin: 15-1-2010

A pleasant view of a fountain and a star-shaped flower bed.

Young people can ski in the ski resort.

The fountain at the entrance of Mya Kan Tha Recreation Park.
Citigroup loss narrows, loans seem to stabilize

NEW YORK, 20 Jan—Citigroup Inc (CN) posted a $7.6 billion quarterly loss on Tuesday, but the bank’s shares rose as declining loan losses raised hopes that the worst might soon be over. Citigroup Chief Executive Vikram Pandit said loan performance outside of the United States looks strong, adding to investors’ perception that the bank is recovering after a toxic assets forced it to seek three different US government rescues. “They’ve crept out of the abyss like everyone else,” said Henry Asher, president at Northstar Group, whose clients own Citi shares. “They have a long way to go before they start reporting significant profits,” Asher added.

The bank is still facing significant headwinds. When asked about the outlook for loan losses on a conference call with analysts, Chief Executive Vikram Pandit said that losses could increase in the first quarter, and after that, the economy will be a key variable.

US drone attack kills six in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 20 Jan—At least six suspected militants were killed in US drone attack in Pakistan’s North Waziristan tribal area, local TV channel reported on Tuesday. A US surveillance plane fired two missiles at a house in the North Waziristan area of Deegan, where at least six militants were killed and four others injured, the private TV Express reported.

It was the 8th US air strike this month in the tribal area, which Washington considers as the centre of Taliban and al-Qaeda militants.

GS Engineering to build major tidal power plant

SEOUL, 20 Jan—South Korean firm GS Engineering and Construction said on Wednesday it has won a 3.4-billion-dollar contract to build one of the world’s largest tidal power stations.

Under the deal signed with the state-run Korea Hydro and Nuclear Power Co, GS Engineering will build the power station on the west coast near Ganghwa Island, 50 kilometres (30 miles) west of Seoul.

Construction will start in late 2011 with a view to completion in 2017.

The power station will have a capacity of 1.3 million kilowatts per hour or 2.41 billion kilowatts per year.

In order to produce the same amount of energy, a thermal power plant would require 3.54 million barrels of fuel every year and emit one million tonnes of greenhouse gas, the company said in a statement.

South Korea is also in the process of building three other tidal power plants on the west coast.

Nigeria talking to Shell, Chevron on licences

ABUJA, 20 Jan — The Nigerian government is in talks with the United States oil firm Chevron and Anglo-Dutch oil giant Shell over the renewal of their shallow water oil licences, an official statement said on Tuesday.

“Chevron and Shell are still in negotiations with the Federal Government over the renewal of their expired licences,” a statement by the Ministry of Petroleum Resources quoted Junior Oil Minister Odein Ajumogobia as saying.

The statement dispelled media reports that the renewal of the licences was stalled due to the absence of President Umaru Yar’Adua.

An oil platform on the outskirts of Port Harcourt. The Nigerian government is in talks with the United States oil firm Chevron and Anglo-Dutch oil giant Shell over the renewal of their shallow water oil licences, an official statement said on Tuesday.—INTERNET

BHP Billiton posts record iron production figures

SYDNEY, 20 Jan — Anglo-Australian mining giant BHP Billiton on Wednesday posted record iron ore production figures for the second half of 2009, but warned that while China had driven commodity prices higher volatility remains.

The world’s largest diversified mining group said its iron ore production for the half-year ended on 31 December was up six percent over the same period a year earlier at 62.6 million tonnes. It was “another half production record, 72.0 million tonnes, for petroleum and iron ore, due to successful growth project delivery,” the company said in a statement.

Total petroleum production rose 17 percent over the previous corresponding half-year to 79.57 million barrels of oil equivalent, it said.

The global miner said the December quarter had seen “strong price recovery across the commodity suite driven by demand in China and restocking in the developed world.”

- IBM raises outlook but investors wary after rally

New York, 20 Jan — IBM (IBM.N) raised its 2010 profit target and reported a stronger-than-expected, 9 percent increase in fourth-quarter earnings, as cost cuts and a shift to more profitable contracts helped it weather a slump in corporate spending.

IBM’s share price fell 2 percent after the results, however, as the results failed to encourage more buying in the shares which already rallied nearly 60 percent in the past year.

Some analysts said International Business Machines Corp had set a high bar for itself, noting that the world’s leading technology services company has not missed earnings estimates since 2005.

“I think there were some pretty big expectations built in, and you really needed to wow it,” Stephen Massocca, managing director at Wedbush Morgan, said after the results were issued on Tuesday.

Ted Parrish, co-portfolio manager at Henssler Equity Fund, added: “While I think the long-term prospects for the company are good, I think the shares are a bit frothy, not overvalued but I would say the stock isn’t going to do as well as it did in 2009.”

While IBM’s results failed to excite Wall Street, they added to evidence that corporate technology spending is recovering, coming just days after another technology powerhouse, Intel Corp (INTC.O), posted results that topped expectations.

The strong numbers also show IBM’s efforts to cut costs and shift from commoditized hardware to services and software businesses are paying dividends, analysts said.—INTERNET

Oil slips below $79 ahead of inventories report

KUALA LUMPUR, 20 Jan — Oil prices slipped below $79 a barrel on Wednesday in Asia amid expectations of a dismal US crude inventory report.

Benchmark crude for February delivery fell 68 cents to $78.64 a barrel at early afternoon Kuala Lumpur time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose $1.02 to settle at $79.02 on Tuesday.

Crude’s sharp rise on Tuesday was driven by the Dow Jones industrials’ 1.1 percent gain but fundamentally, the oil market remains weak and investors are cashing out, said Victor Shum, an energy analyst with consultancy Purvin & Gertz in Singapore.

“The rise in oil prices was overdone so we are seeing some pullback, primarily also because of expectations that the US government weekly report will show increases in oil inventories,” Shum said.

A rise in inventories would suggest demand remains weak. The Energy Department’s Energy Information Administration plans to announce its inventory report later on Wednesday.—INTERNET

Mexican tycoon gives $65 million to genetic study

MEXICO CITY, 20 Jan — Telecommunications mogul Carlos Slim pledged $65 million on Tuesday for genetic research on cancer, type 2 diabetes and kidney disease. Scientists from Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Mexico’s National Institute of Genomic Medicine will collaborate on the three-year Slim Genomic Medicine Initiative.

Slim, who heads the Grupo Carso conglomerate and is one of the world’s richest men, said the project will help doctors better diagnose diseases and improve therapies.

“Only with the development of this genomic science and surrounding technology will it be possible, as it was before with vaccines, to face these diseases and prevent these diseases through their early detection, their early diagnosis,” he said.—INTERNET

China oil dependency

China’s oil dependency reached alarming levels last year with imports accounting for 52 percent of total consumption, China Business News reported yesterday, citing Zhang Xiaojing, Vice-Minister of the National Development and Reform Commission.

Importing more than 50 percent is a globally recognized level for an energy security alert.

China to see robust increase of import oil

BEIJING, 20 Jan — China’s oil imports will continue to see solid growth this year, with more than half of the country’s total oil consumption coming from abroad, industry insiders said.

It is inevitable for the country - the world’s second-largest oil consumer - to see a robust increase of imports, as domestic production cannot keep up with rising demand, they said.
More than 50 Haitian orphans flown to the US

WASHINGTON, 20 Jan—More than 50 Haitian orphans landed in the United States on Tuesday and were immediately taken for medical check-ups, hospital officials said.

Their orphanage in Port-au-Prince was run by two US sisters from Pennsylvania, Ali and Jaime McMutrie, who campaigned for days to get the group of some 53 desperate children out of the devastated Caribbean nation.

“They have landed and they are heading by bus to the airport where they are going to be evaluated,” Marc Lukasiak, a spokesman for the Children’s Hospital in Pittsburgh, told AFP.

Most of the orphans were under the age of four and many were said to be suffering from dehydration and diarrhea, Lukasiak said, adding that it was too early to know their overall condition.

The children, most of whom were awaiting adoption by American families in a process that normally takes 18 months, arrived on a military transport plane accompanied by Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell and local television reporters.

Some US families hoping to adopt the children welcomed the orphans at the airport, the TV station WPXI reported.

Air China rises on upbeat earnings guidance for 2009

BEIJING, 20 Jan—The share price of Air China, China’s largest airline, closed up at midday Wednesday in Shanghai against widespread losses across the board, after the company announced an expected return to profit in 2009.

The company’s stock price edged up 1.26 percent to end at 11.22 yuan (1.64 US dollars), while the board slid 1.04 percent in the morning trading session.

Preliminary accounts had moved into the black in 2009, buoyed by a steady growth in the domestic market and cost reductions stemming from a lower oil price, the company said in a statement filed to the Shanghai Stock Exchange late Tuesday.

It said specific figures would be revealed in the annual business report, but it did not disclose when the report would be released.

The company posted a loss of 9.1 billion yuan (1.3 billion US dollars) in net profit in 2008, as global downturn slashed demand both at home and abroad, according to the statement.

The country’s civil aviation industry moved out of the red and began to report overall profits in 2009, the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) announced on 13 Jan.—Xinhua

Japan’s service demand slips as consumer spending wanes

TOKYO, 20 Jan—Japan’s demand for services fell in November with consumer spending notably dropping, according to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI).

The preliminary tertiary industry activity index for November, which covers activity in industries which account for 63 percent of Japan’s economy, fell 0.2 percent from October, to a seasonally adjusted 96.6 points, METI said in a report on Tuesday.

Consumer spending in Japan accounts for 60 percent of the national economy, but demand in the wholesale and retail sector fell 0.7 percent in November from a month earlier and the report indicates that establishments for eating and drinking, a mainstay of Japanese social life, has seen demand plummet by 2.4 percent from October’s figures.—Xinhua

Fatah to form committee to end Hamas’ grip on Gaza

RAMALLAH, 20 Jan—Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas’ Fatah party has decided to form a committee working on ending Hamas movement’s rule in the Gaza Strip, an official said on Tuesday.

Fatah Revolutionary Council met in the West Bank city of Ramallah on Friday and “discussed formation of several committees, most importantly a committee working on restoring Gaza to the Palestinian legitimacy,” Hazem Abu Shanab, a member of the council, told Xinhua.

Abbas’ Fatah party has decided to form a committee working on restoring Gaza to the Palestinian legitimacy on Friday and “discussed formation of several committees, most importantly a committee working on restoring Gaza to the Palestinian legitimacy,” Hazem Abu Shanab, a member of the council, told Xinhua.

Hamas routed pro-Abbas security forces and seized control of Gaza in June 2007.

Photo taken on 1 Jan, 2010 shows the night scene of the Three Gorges Dam.
Storms in Mideast kill British tourist, 6 others

CAIRO, 20 Jan—Rare torrential rains across the Middle East swept away homes, marooned resort towns and killed seven people on Monday, including a British tourist, in what officials are calling the worst flooding in at least a decade.

The flooding along Egypt’s Red Sea coast, the border with Israel and in the south left six people dead. It also damaged the south left six people dead. It also damaged the roads leading to the resorts in the Sinai Desert and killed seven people on Monday, in scores of families in Aboul-Rish village in Aswan slept overnight outdoors after their homes were destroyed.

Egyptian villagers stand on their home at Aboul Rish village in Aswan, Egypt, on 18 Jan, 2010, following heavy rains and flash floods. Heavy rains and flash floods left seven people dead and 14,000 people marooned in floodwaters, from the Red Sea coast to the south of the country. In Aswan city, where three people died, Wednesday, the cities of Minufiya and Beni Suef were also hit by floods and landslides.

Super X-ray machine, boon for science, gets OK

BEIJING, 20 Jan—A machine that can create super X-rays capable of exposing the complicated structures of chemical compounds and proteins passed the inspection of experts from the Chinese Academy of Sciences yesterday and began to be put into public use.

The Shanghai Synchrotron Radiation Facility, or SSRF, is expected to greatly boost China’s competitiveness in life sciences and, in particular, medical research, said officials from the Shanghai Institute of Applied Physics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the facility’s key developer.

Officials said the facility, which has been in trial use since last May, is the nation’s biggest platform for scientific research and technological development.

The machine already has been used in 395 high-tech projects, including projects to study the inner structure of cancerous cells and the development of cerebrovascular diseases.

“Such research will help find more efficient ways for early diagnosis of tumors,” said Xu Hongjie, general manager of the SSRF project.

Officials said researches and projects completed in the trial run have already had significant results.

Scientists from the Chinese Academy of Sciences have used the machine to identify the respiratory system of locusts.

Weak infrastructure makes disasters worse

GENEVA, 20 Jan—If infrastructures are weak, the vulnerability of populations to disasters is vastly increased, the head of the World Health Organization said in Switzerland.

Dr Margaret Chan, director-general of the World Health Organization, said making hospitals safe during emergencies was the theme for last year’s World Health Day. “One point is obvious. This strong link between weak infrastructures and capacities and the vulnerability of populations applies to many other areas of public health,” Chan said in a speech on Monday to the WHO executive board.

China’s coal mine accidents, fatalities drop in 2009

BEIJING, 20 Jan—China reported 1,616 coal mine accidents in 2009, down by 338 compared to the year before, a source from the State Administration of Coal Mine Safety (SACMS) has said.

Accidents caused 2,631 deaths, also down by 584 year-on-year, said SACMS Director Zhao Tiechui while addressing a national meeting on workplace safety held in Beijing on Tuesday. Most coal-producing provinces saw a year-on-year decrease in coal mine accidents, according to the SACMS source.

But Zhao warned the country’s small coal mines, which produce 35 percent of the country’s coal, were responsible for 70 percent of the fatalities.

China online earnings reach 11 billion dollars in 2009

BEIJING, 20 Jan—Chinese firms earned nearly 11 billion dollars from their Internet operations last year, a research group said on Monday, as the nation with the world’s biggest online population becomes more web-savvy.

China has at least 384 million Internet users, more than any other country in the world, according to a new tally released last week by the China Internet Network Information Centre (CNNIC), a government-linked industry body.

By the end of June 2009, the number of online shoppers in China had reached 87.88 million, meaning roughly one in four Internet users shopped online, according to a report by the centre.

Words influence stigma of mental health

BOSTON, 20 Jan—How a person struggling with alcoholism or drug addiction is described may significantly alter attitudes of healthcare professionals, US researchers say.

“We found that referring to someone with the ‘abuser’ terminology evokes more punitive attitudes than does describing that person’s situation in exactly the same words except for using ‘disorder’ terminology,” Kelly says in a statement. “Reducing the use of such stigmatizing terms could help diminish the shame, guilt and embarrassment that act as barriers, keeping people from seeking help.”
Struggling Hanover name Slomka as new coach

BERLIN, 20 Jan—Struggling Bundesliga side Hanover 96 sacked Andreas Bergmann as coach on Tuesday and promptly replaced him with former Schalke boss Mirko Slomka. The 42-year-old Slomka, who coached Hanover’s youth team from 1989-1999 and was assistant first team coach between 2001 and 2004, has signed an 18-month deal.

“I am very happy to accept this challenge in the area where I grew up,” said Slomka. Bergmann became the sixth Bundesliga coach to be sacked this season after his side dropped into the German league’s bottom three last weekend. It has been a disastrous season for the north German club after their captain and Germany goalkeeper Robert Enke committed suicide on November 10 and now the team has slipped into the relegation zone.

Saturday’s 3-0 home defeat by bottom-side Hertha Berlin put Hanover in the bottom three after their first game back following the winter break and Bergmann has paid the price for his side’s run of seven games without a win. —Internet

I was wrong in clash with umpire, admits Roddick

MELBOURNE, 20 Jan—Andy Roddick admitted he was wrong in his clash with the chair umpire over his ruling on a match point after he marched into the third round at the Australian Open on Wednesday.

The straight-shooting American finished his 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 win over Brazilian Thomaz Bellucci by arguing with umpire Fergus Murphy over a Hawk Eye video review decision which went against him on his first of two match points.

The video review ruled that a Bellucci volley had fractionally clipped the line saving the first match point, but Roddick contended that he wasn’t allowed to play the shot by an out-call from a line judge.

Two-goal Tevez back to haunt United in League Cup

MELBOURNE, 20 Jan—Carlos Tevez, whose move across Manchester was the source of so much controversy, made the difference as City claimed a 2-1 win over United in the rivals’ League Cup semi-final first leg here on Tuesday.

Ryan Giggs’s first derby goal since 1996 handed United the lead but Tevez, whose decision to reject United and sign for their wealthy neighbours in the close season was accompanied by such ill feeling, scored twice, taking his tally to 13 goals from his last 11 games.

Tevez was always destined to play a pivotal role in this semi-final, one way or another.

Sure enough, when Craig Bellamy was held back by badly beaten United full-back Rafael five minutes before the interval, it was the Argentinian forward who was handed the responsibility of converting from the penalty spot, one he gleefully accepted with an emphatic finish. —Internet

US tennis player Serena Williams returns a forehand to her Polish opponent Urszula Radwanska on the second day of play at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne. Williams won 6-2, 6-1. —INTERNET

Redknapp reveals Van Nistelrooy interest

LONDON, 20 Jan—Tottenham Hotspur manager Harry Redknapp said Tuesday he was pondering bringing Real Madrid striker Ruud van Nistelrooy back to the Premier League in a loan move.

The 33-year-old former Manchester United forward is struggling to get into Real’s first team and his lack of match practice is threatening his chances of making the Dutch squad for this year’s World Cup finals in South Africa.

However, it would appear Russia striker Roman Pavlyuchekone would have to leave Spurs to make room for van Nistelrooy, who was most recently linked with Turkish giants Galatasaray and whom he declared an interest in joining. —Internet

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Impressive Wozniacki makes Open second round

MELBOURNE, 20 Jan—Fourth seed Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark downed Canada’s Aleksandra Wozniack 6-4, 6-2 to get her Australian Open campaign off to a winning start on Wednesday.

Wozniacki edged a close first set against the Canadian but overpowered her opponent in the second to notch up a convincing win.

The two players with similar surnames — both of Polish extraction — have met seven times on the WTA Tour with Wozniacki winning six of the encounters.

She never looked in any danger on Wednesday once she claimed a tight first set, breaking the Canadian three times in the second to book her passage to the next round, where she will meet Germany’s Julie Görges. —Internet

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Quake death toll in Haiti is of 50,000 plus: health minister

PORT-AU-PRINCE, 20 Jan—More than 50,000 people were killed and other 250,000 were injured during the 7.0-magnitude earthquake that hit Haiti on Tuesday, Haitian Health Minister Alex Larson told a press conference on Friday. He said the Haitian government institutions were moved to a police station near the international airport, as the Presidential Palace and ministries' offices buildings totally collapsed after the disaster.

All the sport centres in the capital city Port-au-Prince will be used as medical centres to assist the injured, Larson added.

The devastating quake on Tuesday destroyed nearly 70 percent of the buildings in Port-au-Prince. The presidential palace, ministries' offices, hospitals and schools were all affected.

The United Nations, International Red Cross, other organizations and Haitian government officials estimated a probable death toll of 100,000 victims and at least 3 million people affected by the earthquake, the worst in the recent 200 years of the Caribbean country’s history.—Xinhua

WEATHER

Wednesday, 20th January, 2010

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. MST. During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin, Chin, Rakhine and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon 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 Eastern Shan and Rakhine States, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, (5°C) above January average temperatures in Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions, (7°C) above January average temperatures in Kayah State and about January average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night-time temperatures were Loilem and Haka (3°C), Putao and Heho (5°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 19-1-2010 was 92°F. Minimum temperature on 20-1-2010 was 60°F. Relative humidity at (12:30) hours MST on 20-1-2010 was 76%. Total sun shine hours on 19-1-2010 was (7.5) hours approx. Rainfall on 20-1-2010 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 (5) mph from Northeast at (12:30) hours MST on 19-1-2010.

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

Special feature: According to the observations at (12:30) hr. MST Today, yesterday’s the tropical depression over South China Sea has crossed South Vietnam Coast and forecast to be weakened.

Forecast valid until evening of 21st January 2010: Possibility of isolated rain in Shan, Kayah, Mon and Kayin States and Taninthayi Division and weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin State, Mandalay Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated light rain in the Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 21-1-2010: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 21-1-2010: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 21-1-2010: 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

Mya Kan Tha Recreation Park in Pakokku

Parks, recreation parks and gardens serve as one of the characteristics a town has to possess. Pakokku, one of the five districts in Magway Division in the central Myanmar is an arid region with low rainfall. It has an area of 11.24 square miles and a population of about 157,000, and is constituted with 15 wards of 17,803 houses.

In a recent interview, Chairman of Pakokku District Peace and Development Council U Zaw Win briefed us on ongoing undertakings for development of the district. At the invitation of Chairman U Tin Myo Lat and Secretary U Win Tint of Pakokku Township PDC, we paid a visit to Mya Kan Tha Recreation Park, which lends a certain dignity to the township. Mya Kan Tha Recreation Park is located on the outskirts in the western part of Pakokku by the road to Seikpyu. Chief Engineer of the Township Development Affairs Committee U Thein Zaw said to the Myanma Alin that the park had an area of 25.2 acres; that it was established in May 1994; that in May 2005, the Township Development Affairs Committee launched the programme to upgrade the park to a modern one under the directives of the administrative bodies at different levels as it was a district level (See page 9)