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Lahe Township witnessing signs of significant progress

Only with stability and peace will it be possible for a country to enjoy development. To put it another way, stability and peace are fundamental requirements for a region or a country to implement development tasks on a broad scale. However much manpower, machinery and investment a nation uses for its development, if it is in no position to restore those crucial requirements. Therefore, I would say stability and peace take centre stage for regional and national progress.

For instance, there is a significant development gap between past conditions of Lahe Township on Naga Mountain Range in Myanmar that peace and stability could not be restored, and its prevailing conditions that it has begun to reap the fruits of joy development.

(See page 7)

Byline & Photos: Dedai(IPRD)

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(See page 7)

Byline & Photos: Dedai(IPRD)
Boost national prestige, integrity through literature

Myanmar literature has flourished throughout successive periods. Men and women of letters preserve a fine tradition of bringing dignity to own race and religious faith through literary works based on both mundane and supramundane affairs, and making sustained efforts to improve the mother tongue.

The government gives effective encouragement to Myanmar literary world by holding awarding ceremonies annually to honour literati for their outstanding works. Organizations in many fields and well-wishers add awards of all genres with the aim of helping bring about literary works on building the nation.

Tun Foundation held its fourth Awarding Ceremony (2009) at the Myanmar Banks Association in Yangon the other day. The genres included biography, health, archaic treaty (English) and reference (English), apart from life-long achievement award.

Indeed, literature serves as a driving force behind the bid to link the sectors of building the nation with one another. Literati are to help the people stay in touch with latest developments and expand their horizons; enhance the nationalistic spirit and national outlook of the people; and introduce classical works of Myanmar and international affairs by creating works on information and knowledge.

Today, certain powerful countries use information technology as a tool to gain domination over developing countries. They resort to all possible ways and means to make the peoples of the Third World think highly of Western culture and lifestyles. Accordingly, the peoples of the Third World think highly of Western culture and lifestyles. Accordingly, the people have to overcome such attacks with own literary work and culture.

Literati and men of letters are, therefore, under a duty to write beneficial works of literature constantly, help preserve the national character, and safeguard the national prestige and integrity through the might of literature.
Three US soldiers killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, 25 Jan — Three American soldiers with the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) were killed in Afghanistan on Sunday, taking the total number of US casualties to five in two days, the alliance said in two separate Press releases.

“Three ISAF service members from the United States was killed today in an IED (Improvised Explosive Device) strike in southern Afghanistan”, ISAF in another Press release also confirmed the death of two more American soldiers in similar incident in the restive southern region. Two more US soldiers with ISAF troops were killed on Saturday also in south Afghanistan.

Over two dozens of the NATO-led soldiers with majority of them Americans have been killed in Afghanistan since early this year.

Suspected drone down in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 25 Jan — A suspected US drone crashed in Pakistan’s tribal region, a Pakistani intelligence official told CNN.

The unmanned aircraft went down about 8 pm (10 am ET) on Sunday night near the village of Hamzoni in North Waziristan, the official said. Hamzoni is about 5 km (3 miles) west of Miran Shah, a town well-known for Taleban and al Qaeda activity.

The official said he did not know whether the aircraft was shot down or if it crashed because of mechanical problems. He asked not to be named because he is not authorized to speak to the media. It was the second reported crash of a US drone in Pakistan. In September 2008, Pakistan officials said a drone went down on the Pakistan side of the border with Afghanistan, near Jalal village in the Angoor Adda region of South Waziristan.

Fight over gas pipeline leaves 11 dead in PNG

PORT MORESBY, 25 Jan — A gunbattle over lucrative profits from a gas pipeline planned by ExxonMobil in Papua New Guinea has left 11 people dead and 270 properties destroyed, reports said on Monday.

The violence erupted when a gang of villagers from the Erave district in the Southern Highlands attacked a neighbouring clan in Pawale village with high-powered guns on the weekend, the Post Courier reported. “Hundreds of women and children who fled are unaccounted for after 270 houses and other properties were destroyed,” the paper said.

The raid was believed to be in retaliation for the killing of a man ahead of talks among Southern Highlands landowners on the sharing of profits from the LNG from the remote Southern Highlands to the Papua New Guinea capital Port Moresby, from where the gas will be shipped abroad.—INTERNET

Ethiopian plane crashes into sea off Beirut

BEIRUT, 25 Jan — Ninety people, including two British nationals, are presumed dead after an Ethiopian Airlines plane crashed into the sea today minutes after taking off from Beirut during a thunderstorm. Witnesses reported seeing a “ball of fire” plunging into the Mediterranean.

Among those on Flight 409, which was heading to the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, were two British nationals of Lebanese origin, as well as the wife of the French ambassador to Lebanon, Reuters reported. The majority of the passengers were Lebanese or Ethiopian. Lebanon’s military said the aeroplane appeared to have broken up mid-air before falling into the water, and that there was no realistic prospect of finding survivors more than 12 hours after the crash.

The Boeing 737-800 aircraft took off from Beirut’s Rafik Hariri airport at around 2.30am local time and disappeared from radar a few minutes later, two miles off Naameh, a coastal village. The plane took off amid heavy rain, high winds and lightning. Poor weather also hampered the rescue efforts by helicopters and naval ships, although 24 bodies have so far been recovered. Among the 83 passengers and seven crew listed as being on the plane were 42 Lebanese nationals, 22 Ethiopians, one Iraqi, one Syrian, one Canadian and one Russian, as well as the Britons and the French ambassador’s wife, Marla Pletton.—INTERNET

Medvedev says 95% of new START treaty agreed

MOSCOW, 25 Jan — The new strategic arms reduction treaty START has almost been agreed upon by Russia and the United States, said Russian President Dmitry Medvedev on Sunday.

“Ninety-five percent of issues have been coordinated. I have rather optimistic expectations regarding the treaty,” Medvedev told reporters at Krasnaya Polyana, a ski resort near the Black Sea coast of Sochi, according to the document, US President Barack Obama and I clearly outlined the limits — what we may not do and what they may not do. Everything is clear here,” he said.

Russia and the United States have been working on a successor to the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty START-1 that expired on 5 Dec, 2009. The START-1, signed in 1991 between the Soviet Union and the United States, obliged both sides to reduce the number of their nuclear warheads to 6,000 and delivery vehicles to 1,600.

Medvedev and Obama agreed in July to slash each country’s nuclear warheads to 1,550 to 1,675 and delivery vehicles to 500 to 1,000 under a new START treaty. Disagreements remain on verification and control arrangements to be included in the document. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Friday that Moscow and Washington would resume their arms talks “at the start of February.”

INTERNET

An elderly Yemeni man pushes a child sitting in a cart full of plastic containers as they head to fill them with drinking water in Sanaa on 23 January. impoverished Yemen is reeling under the threat of Al-Qaeda, northern Shiite rebels and southern secessionists, but a lack of water is putting its ancient capital at even greater risk, experts say.—INTERNET

A gunbattle over lucrative profits from a gas pipeline planned by ExxonMobil in Papua New Guinea has left 11 people dead and 270 properties destroyed, reports said on Monday.

Policeman killed, eight bodies found in mass grave in Iraq

FALLUJAH, 25 Jan — A policeman was killed in a bomb attack and eight decomposed bodies discovered near the once volatile city of Fallujah on Sunday, a local police source said.

A roadside bomb went off near a police patrol in the town of Garma near the city of Fallujah, some 50 km west of Baghdad, killing a policeman and wounding two others, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The blast destroyed a police vehicle, damaging several nearby civilian cars, the source said.

Separately, the police discovered eight decomposed bodies buried in a mass grave outside Fallujah, the source added.—Xinhua
Al-Qaeda behind recent bombing in Afghan capital

KABUL, 25 Jan — Afghans blamed a bomb killing at least 15 dead and injured over 70 others. "A terrorist arrested recently has confessed that he and the seven terrorists that attacked Kabul last week," a senior intelligence official told newsmen at a Press conference Sunday.

He also added that 188 terrorist networks have been unearthed and smashed, though not all details are available. He added that the_KEYWORDS_ used ammonium nitrate in making explosive devices to target government interests.

In the recent attack on Kabul, a suicide bomber blew himself up by detonating a bomb that was made from ammonium nitrate, Balouch said.

Rescuers reach stranded Russian ship

MOSCOW, 25 Jan — Rescuers evacuated 11 people by helicopter Saturday morning from a Russian cargo vessel stranded in icy waters off the coast of eastern Russia, an official said.

Russian officials say the evacuees have been flown on a privately owned helicopter to the town of Nogliki on nearby Sakhalin Island, which lies to the north of Japan.

The Smolninsky refrigerated ship was battered by heavy winds on Friday, freezing it over and causing the vessel to list dangerously to its port side in the Sea of Okhotsk, which separates Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula from the mainland. The Sakhalin rescue centre's spokesman, Nikolai Ivanov, said the Smolninsky still has 20 crew members on board and is making slow progress to safer waters closer to the shore, some 55 kilometres (34 miles) away, in the hope of saving the vessel.

UN panel chief won’t quit for Himalayan melt error

NEW DELHI, 25 Jan — The head of a panel of United Nations climate scientists said on Saturday he would not resign despite a recent admission that a panel report warning Himalayan glaciers could be gone by 2035 was hundreds of years off. The claim, made in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's voluminous, Nobel-winning report, came in a paragraph with several errors. Data indicates the ice could melt by 2350. The assertion went virtually unnoticed until The Sunday Times said the projection seemed to be based on a news report.

The scientists are investigating how the forecast got into the report and apologized on Thursday for the mistakes, adding that they were not intentional. But the errors have opened the door for attacks from climate change skeptics. But Rajendra Pachauri, who heads the panel, said he would not resign.

46 injured after plane crash lands in Iran

TEHRAN, 25 Jan — An Iranian passenger plane carrying 157 passengers and 13 crew crash landed in northeastern Iran on Sunday injuring at least 46 people, state television reported.

The broadcast quoted Iran’s civil aviation spokesman, Reza Jalalzadeh, as saying that no one was killed in the accident. He gave no indication of what might have caused the accident. The Taban Air flight caught fire upon landing at Mashhad airport at 7:20 a.m. local time (0350 GMT). The injured have been taken to hospitals in Mashhad, the report added.

M4.8 earthquake hits north China

BEIJING, 25 Jan — An earthquake measuring 4.8 on the Richter scale struck northern China’s Shanxi Province Sunday at 10:36 a.m. Beijing Time, according to China’s national seismological network.

The epicentre, located at the border area between Hejin City and Wanrong County, was at 35.5 degrees north latitude and 110.7 degrees east longitude with a depth of 12 kilometres, the network said.

Seven killed as bomb blasts in north Afghanistan

KABUL, 25 Jan — Seven civilians were killed and another sustained injuries as a bomb, left over from the past years of war, went off in Afghanistan’s northern Faryab Province on Friday, said a statement of Interior Ministry released here on Saturday.

“The tragic incident occurred in Qaisar District on Friday when residents found a big bomb and wanted to move it to a safe place, but suddenly it exploded, leaving seven civilians dead and another injured,” the statement added.

The bodies of the victims have been handed over to their families, it said.

INTERNET
ISS orbit successfully corrected

MOSCOW, 25 Jan—The orbit of the International Space Station (ISS) has been successfully raised by about 5 km on Sunday, said the Mission Control Centre outside Moscow. The operation has thus created conditions for the dockings between the ISS and Russian cargo spaceships as well as US space shuttles—news agencies reported.

The space maneuver was carried out in automatic mode at around 12:02 Moscow Time (0902 GMT) and lasted about 150 seconds, said the Mission Control, when two thrusters of the Zvezda service module were initiated to raise the space station’s orbit.

The orbit of the ISS is corrected periodically to compensate for Earth’s gravity and to ensure successful spacecraft dockings.

A tryout orbit correction has already been conducted earlier this month, when the space station was raised by around 1.7 km. Russian cargo spaceship Progress M-04M and US space shuttle Endeavour are scheduled to be launched on 3 Feb and 7 Feb respectively.

Russia plans to launch four manned and six cargo supply missions to the ISS in 2010.—Xinhua

South Korean President starts visit to India

NEW DELHI, 25 Jan—South Korean President Lee Myung-Bak on Sunday began a four-day visit to India during which the two countries will explore the possibilities of a civil nuclear pact and sign agreements in various fields, including IT and civilian space, reported the Indo-Asian News Service.

Lee began his visit from Chennai, southern India, where he visited the Hyundai factory near the Tamil Nadu capital and met Korean businessmen before flying to New Delhi in the evening, said the report quoting official sources.

Lee will also be the guest of honour at the Republic Day parade in the Indian capital on Tuesday, according to the report.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will hold talks with Lee on Monday on a wide range of bilateral, regional and global issues, including the intensification of economic ties and cooperation in sphere of civilian nuclear cooperation and space technologies, according to the report.

Closer cooperation in combating global financial recession will also be discussed in the context of the G20 summit Seoul will host later this year, according to the report. Xinhua

Yemeni rebels say Saudi air strikes kill seven

SANAA, 25 Jan—Yemeni rebels said on Sunday seven people were killed and two others wounded in Saudi air raids against areas in northern Yemen.

The Shiite rebels known as Houthis said that Saudi air forces continued shelling the group’s whereabouts with heavy artillery, referring to 626 rocket-attacks which allegedly targeted areas in northern Yemen.

The group added in a statement posted on the Internet that Saudi forces had carried out six raids in northern Yemen during which seven citizens were killed, two wounded and two houses destroyed.

The group added in a statement posted on the Internet that Saudi forces continued shelling the group’s whereabouts with heavy artillery, referring to 626 rocket-attacks which allegedly targeted areas in northern Yemen. Xinhua

Nine Latin American countries meet on rebuilding quake-hit Haiti

CARACAS, 25 Jan—Foreign ministers of nine member nations of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas (ALBA) met here on Sunday to discuss how to help rebuild Haiti, which was battered by a 7.3-magnitude quake on 12 Jan, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez announced.

In his nationwide televised on Sunday TV/Radio Programme “Hello, President,” Chavez said the meeting will work out a mid- and long-term strategic plan to rebuild Haiti, including the rebuilding of hospitals, waterworks as well as projects to boost farm, food and fishing production.

According to the Haitian Interior Ministry, the death toll had surpassed 110,000 in the devastating quake, which had also injured some 200,000 people and left more than 600,000 Haitian officials estimated that the final death toll could reach 200,000. Xinhua

A tsunami of destruction threatens worldwide heritage

BEIJING, 25 Jan—Three decades of aggressive development, illegal mining, natural disasters and crime have had major implications on China’s sites of historical and cultural importance.

An examination carried out by the State Administration of Cultural Heritage (SACH), revealed that new buildings, roads and reservoirs have replaced sites, which were previously listed as places of national heritage. The report even unveiled that illegal mining in Inner Mongolia destroyed a large part of the Great Wall. Heritage places were recorded in 1982 and, according to officials from SACH, some 30,995 items from this list has vanished.

It is not just large-scale construction and infrastructure projects which are causing the destruction of China’s heritage. Natural disasters and crime is also contributing to the country’s vanishing ancient relics. Xinhua

Workers break the ice at the Yalu River in Dandong City, northeast China’s Liaoning Province, on 23 Jan, 2010. Local section of the Yalu River was frozen due to continued cold wave that gripped the city recently. —Xinhua

Smoke rises hundreds of metres into the sky following an explosion in the area near Baghdad’s Palestine Hotel. Three massive blasts in quick succession shook Baghdad, with the first near the Palestine Hotel followed minutes later by two loud explosions near the international Green Zone. Xinhua

Chinese exploration team members look for meteorolites in Grove Mountains of Antarctica, on 24 Jan, 2010. Chinese expedition team has made China’s possession of Antarctic meteorolites exceeding 10,536 pieces on Saturday. —Xinhua

Beijing ambitious to become “world city”

BEIJING, 25 Jan—Beijing is no longer content to be only an international city, and intends to become a “world city,” Mayor Guo Jinlong said on Monday.

Guo gave no agenda for the objective when he announced the plan on the opening day of the third session of the 13th Beijing Municipal People’s Congress.

Huang Yan, director of Beijing Municipal Commission of Urban Planning, told Xinhua on Monday that the government hoped to achieve the transformation of Beijing into a “world city” by 2050.

The international community generally regarded a world city as having a per-capita gross domestic product (GDP) exceeding 15,000 US dollars a year, while Beijing had just surpassed the 10,000-US dollar mark in 2009, said Huang. Huang said a world city usually had a global influence in terms of politics, economy and culture. It was usually favoured by influential international organizations to base their headquarters.—Xinhua

A tryout orbit correction has already been conducted earlier this month, when the space station was raised by around 1.7 km. Russian cargo spaceship Progress M-04M and US space shuttle Endeavour are scheduled to be launched on 3 Feb and 7 Feb respectively. Russia plans to launch four manned and six cargo supply missions to the ISS in 2010.—Xinhua
China economist sees 2010 GDP up 9.5 percent

BEIJING, 25 Jan—China’s gross domestic product growth is likely to grow about 9.5 percent in 2010, largely driven by strong domestic consumption and corporate investment, a government researcher said in remarks published on Monday.

Zhang Liqun, an economist at the Development Research Centre, a think-tank under the State Council, said he saw little chance of serious inflationary pressure this year; the headline consumer price index (CPI) was likely to rise at most 3 percent.

“I expect domestic consumption to grow at a fairly fast pace this year on the back of consistent policies to boost car and owner-occupied home sales,” Zhang was quoted as saying by the official China Securities Journal.

China’s GDP last year grew 8.7 percent. The median 2010 GDP forecast of economists polled by Reuters last week was 9.5 percent, the same as Zhang’s.

Zhang said enterprises would take the baton from the government to drive fixed-asset investment, which would rise about 20 percent this year compared with 30.1 percent in 2009.

Bangladesh aims to cut poverty rate to 15% by 2021

DHAKA, 25 Jan—The Bangladesh government is working to cut poverty to 15 percent of its population by 2021, the country’s local Government Minister Syed Ashraful Islam said on Sunday.

Inaugurating the 2nd ministerial meeting of the Centre of Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) in Dhaka, he said Bangladesh wants CIRDAP to play a vital role for poverty alleviation and development of poorer nations.

Islam called upon the delegates of 14 countries, participating in the five-day meeting of the CIRDAP in Dhaka, to extend all possible support in promotion of agriculture sector and rural development in particular.

S Africa steps up security after poachers kill 14 rhinos

Poachers have killed 14 rhinos in South Africa this year, the national parks authority said on Friday, announcing military patrols in the world-famous Kruger National Park.

“These poachers are members of well-resource syndicates and are also involved in chilling crimes like human trafficking, arms smuggling, prostitution and drug trafficking,” said David Mabunda, chief of the South African National Parks (SANParks) in a statement.

“They are dangerous criminals.”

Rhino poaching has intensified in South Africa with 14 slaughtered — seven in Kruger and seven in the North West province — in the first two weeks of January. Last year, 122 were killed nationwide.

SANParks said plans were on for soldiers to patrol the borders of Kruger and to camp in specific areas. Kruger shares about 490 kilometres (280 miles) of international borders with Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

Hunger looms as Zimbabwe’s planting season ends

BINDURA, 25 Jan—In a dusty field in northern Zimbabwe, villagers clap and sing as they receive desperately needed seed and fertilizer for their crops, their only source of food and income.

In this poor village in Bindura district, about 70 kilometres (45 miles) north of Harare, families live and die by the seeds they plant and the rains that fall.

Donors have given $74 million in aid to Zimbabwe’s traditional sustenance farmers, a windfall for communities like Bindura.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization predicts that donor-funded projects could produce 450,000 tonnes of grain, about one-quarter of the nation’s needs.

“We had no hope of getting seed, and at the same time we did not know how we would get seed in time” for the planting season, said Christopher Mafusire, who received 10 kilos of seed from the scheme.

The 67-year-old said he could now plant two acres of land, which should be enough to feed his family — if rains come on time.

“This village had hunger, but now we will not starve,” Mafusire said.

Many Zimbabwean farmers aren’t so fortunate.—Internet

Stolen dog reunited with owner after trek

A stolen German shepherd made it most of the way home to northern Italy before a veterinarian recognized a tattoo identifying his original owner.

Rocky, who was battered, thin and dirty after a two-month trek of almost 400 miles from Salerno near Naples to Pisa, got to travel the last few miles to Tuscany in comfort, the Italian news agency ANSA reported. Ibrahim Ewal, who adopted Rocky from the pound in Carrara five years ago, came to fetch him and drove him home on his motor scooter.
Learned men taking part in successful realization of Ministry of Information’s objectives honoured

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan awards prize through U Myint Thein.—MNA

YANGON, 25 Jan—A ceremony to honour learned men who had participated in the successful realization of Ministry of Information’s objectives was held at the Studio-A of Myanma Radio and Television on Pyay Road, here, this morning with an address by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

Also present on the occasion were heads of department, technicians who had contributed their services in success of the objectives, staff of MRTV and guests.

In his address, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said that the ministry has been discharging duties of information of the State, literary and arts in accord with the policies laid down, adding that literati and artists have been actively participating in the drive for successful realization of the ministry’s objectives. The minister stressed the necessity for artists to continue participating in the process.

Next, the minister presented prizes for 129 artists who had contributed their services in National Literary Award Scrutiny Board, Sarpy Beikman Manuscript Scrutiny Board, Pakokku U Othn Pe Literary Award Scrutiny Board, Myanmar, the Panel of Judges for Promoting the Standard of Myanmar Motion Picture for 2008, Motion Picture Censorship Board for 2008, and Video Censorship Board for 2008, MRTV Old Songs Scrutiny Board, Modern Musics Scrutiny Board, Myanmar Classial Songs Scrutiny Board and Myanma References Scrutiny Board through U Tin Kha (Tekkatho Tin Kha), U Myint Thein, U Maung Hlaing, Daw Po Po Kyi, U Min Naung and Dr Thaw Kaung.

Afterwards, Chairman of Myanmar Music Asisayon U Maung Maung Latt spoke words of thanks and the ceremony came to an end.

After the ceremony, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan cordially greeted those present on the occasion.

Lahe Township witnessing signs of significant progress

Byline & Photos: Dedai (IPRD)

The office of Lahe Township Information and Public Relations Department.

(from page 1)

the efforts the Tatmadaw government has been making with heart and soul for national development. I served as a government servant for nine years in that township commencing November 1979.

In the time of the Tatmadaw government, Lahe Township has seen signs of remarkable development, according to my firsthand experiences during my tour of duties for five more times in the township, and one time in Leshi.

Previously, an about 56 miles trip from Khanti in northern Sagaing Division to Lahe Township took travelers about six days because conflicts and instability were rampant in the region and they had to get protection of security forces. In the process, provisions and personal goods were carried on the backs of mules, horses and cows. And it was needed to take great care to travel from one village to another. The development rate of the region was at the bottom.

Now, Lahe Township on Naga Mountain Range has enjoyed development far better than that in the past. The roads in downtown township are all tarred ones. The 56-mile trip has been reduced to a 7 Hours drive. People can travel from one place to another in the township at any time as a result of peace and stability. Much of Khanti (Hsinthay)-Lahe Road has been tarred. The old bridges spanning the creeks along the road have been reconstructed, two of which are above-180-foot ones: Hwehtalik Bridge and Nansalein Bridge. Due to the bridges constructed by the government, the commodity flow in the region has become swift, and there is no need to use mules, horses and oxen to transport goods.

As to the education sector, the basic education middle school in the township has been upgraded to a high school. Lahe Township is in one of the special regions for progress of border areas and national races. So, it has witnessed a good number of youths training centres and vocational training centres for women.

Regarding the communication sector, it had no telegraph office, post office, and auto exchanges in the past. Now, it has been equipped with manual telephones, iStar telephones, post office and telegraph office. It has got a TV retransmitting station, an office of the Information and Public Relations Department, and 96 self-reliant village libraries, thus broadening the horizons of local people. Owing to the 0.05-megawatt hydropower station, the urban wards have easy access to electric power. In addition, some villages have hydropower generators.

The township has also enjoyed the urbanization programme, as supported by a growing number of fine houses. Such tangible results are largely due to stability and peace, reflecting the drive the government is in pursuit of with benevolent attitude towards the people for equitable development of all parts of the Union, regardless of location.

Translation: MS

Kyemon: 25-1-2010
Kawthoung-Bokpyin-Myeik Road Section under construction

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan—Lt-Gen Khin Zaw of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, inspected Kawthoung-Bokpyin Road Section on 23 January.

He called for greater regional development in meeting with officers and other ranks and their families at Bokpyin Station.

He inspected Kawthoung-Bokpyin-Myeik Road Section, and the bridges, culverts, oil palm farms and saplings along the road section.—MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Zaw looks into condition of Kawthoung-Bokpyin road section.—MNA

Fire engines, vehicles donated to Fire Services Department

YANGON, 25 Jan — A ceremony to donate five fire engines, one rescue vehicle and one ambulance by Japanese Government to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement was held at Fire Services Department (Headquarters) in Mayangon here this morning.

Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Yasuaki Nogawa, who explained the purpose of donation, handed over documents related to vehicles to U Myint Tun, Director-General of the Fire Services Department. Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe expressed thanks.

The minister and officials later viewed the vehicles which were donated for cyclone damaged regions in Ayeyawady Division. The total amount of donation is 124,536 US dollars.—MNA

Energy Minister inspects progress in laying 24-inch gas pipelines offshore

YANGON, 25 Jan—Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi arrived at Swiber Conquest Pipe Lay Barge that was starting to lay 24-inch gas pipelines at Myanmar offshore oil field this morning.

At the meeting hall aboard the Swiber Conquest vessel, Superintendent Mr. Ed.Farner and Project Manager Mr. Rajesh Parchal reported to the minister on progress in laying gas pipelines offshore Myanmar.

After hearing the reports, the minister discussed technical ways of laying gas pipelines with technicians and then he instructed them to lay pipelines technically and to make efforts in laying pipelines at sea round the clock to complete in time during the open season.

Next, the minister looked into welding of 24-inch pipelines, checking the joint weld by means of automatic ultra sonic test, heat shrink sleeve coating, foam injection and laying a series of gas pipelines and then met technicians in the control room aboard Pipe Lay Barge.

The 24-inch pipelines laying task covers 85 miles inland and 93 miles offshore totalling 179 miles. Now 50 miles have been covered in laying pipelines inland and offshore pipelines laying task started on 23 January and all the works will be completed on schedule.

Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe inspects five fire engines, a life vehicle and an ambulance donated by the Japanese government.—MNA

Seven Diamond Dragon Trading Co Ltd launches new products

YANGON, 25 Jan—Seven Diamond Dragon Trading Co Ltd, distributor of Storm, Galanz, Amby London, Saigon and Ladyfirst branded cosmetics, to express its thanks to retailers, organized a lucky draw programme at Chatrium Hotel here yesterday.

Director U Sai Hu of the company extended greetings and introduced new products. It was followed by lucky draw programme and then lunch. MNA

Director U Sai Hu of Seven Diamond Dragon extends greetings at the ceremony to launch new products.—MNA

Australian Ambassador to Myanmar Ms. Michelle Su-Wen Chan greets Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha and wife at the reception to mark National Day of Australia on 25 January.—MNA

Seven Diamond Dragon Trading Co Ltd
Minister inspects construction of Yazudaing Bridge No (1)

YANGON, 25 Jan — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint on 24 January inspected the construction of Yazudaing Bridge No (1) on Maubin-Yelaekalay-Shwe-Yelaekalay detour and the road which links Yazudaing Bridge Nos (1) and (2).

The minister also viewed the earth work for the construction of the approach road on Kyaiypi bank. He called the officials for completing of approach road in time with the accomplishment of the bridge and for meeting set standards.

Construction Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspects progress in building Yazudaing Bridge No (1).

Bawga Thiri express bus terminal in Nay Pyi Taw standing at core transport

(form page 16)

The Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee is making efforts with added momentum to turn the Nay Pyi Taw into a city of international level.

Bawga Thiri express bus terminal is one of infrastructures already in place in Nay Pyi Taw. The express bus terminal is a gateway to all express plying to and from Nay Pyi Taw and its nearby cities, cities of upper and lower Myanmar, Lashio of Shan State (North) and Taunggyi of Shan State (South).

Our news crew of Myanma Alin daily arrived there to write a byline about better transport the Nay Pyi Taw is enjoying.

Acting Head of Revenues Department of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee U Kyaw Soe Win in the interview said, “Our Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee opened Bawga Thiri express bus terminal at the junction of Yangon-Mandalay route and Yazultahtani Road near Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana on 8 December 2006. The purpose of building the express bus terminal is to ensure smooth transportation and swift commodity flow between Nay Pyi Taw and other cities. The express bus terminal includes brokerage houses, bus stations, food centres and workshops. First priority of our Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee is to become the Nay Pyi Taw developed. So, every car passing through this express bus terminal has been given exemption from paying the tax.”

Head of Division of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee’s Revenues Department Administrator of Bawga Thiri express bus terminal U Aung Myo Myat explained to us, “According green and pleasant for ever, adding that the numbers of 28 fire extinguishing posts are erected for fire prevention.”

We had learnt that a total of 82 brokerage houses out of 90 have been opened in the express bus terminal. Those houses are filled with various kinds of materials like construction materials, electric materials and foodstuff from Yangon and Mandalay for trade, from which materials are distributed retail and wholesale to the markets in Nay Pyi Taw.

Moreover, there are 64 bus stations in Bawga Thiri express bus terminal for bus lines plying in downtown Nay Pyi Taw and between Nay Pyi Taw and other cities. Names of the bus lines running in downtown Nay Pyi Taw are Tawwin, Armanthit and Shwemyodaw. Tawwin bus line is plying between Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay, Yenmyo, and Thawthit. In addition, the trips between Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee and Toungoo, Meiktila, Magway, Taunggyi, Yangon, Seikpyu and Mandalay are being plded. And also bus lines are making trip between Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay, Yangon, Monywa, Myingyan, Taunggyi, NyaungU and Lashio.

Entrpreneurs willing to launch the business in Bawga Thiri express bus terminal may contact Revenues Department of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee. On the whole traveling from one place to another and swift commodity flow are booming at a rapid speed thanks to inaugration of Bawga Thiri express bus terminal.

Translation: ZZS
Myanma Alin:
24-1-2010
Indian labourers unload waste from a tannery onto the banks of the Ganges river in Kanpur in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh on 13 Jan. Environmentalists have accused tanneries of dumping waste directly into the sacred river Ganges.—INTERNET

**Two dead in Beijing chemical plant explosion**

**BEIJING, 25 Jan—**Two workers were killed in an explosion at a Beijing chemical plant late Sunday, witnesses and the local government said on Monday.

The blast happened around midnight at a workshop of FRST Chemical Co in Yongshun township of Tongzhou District, a manufacturing town in the eastern suburbs of Beijing. “I heard a bang and saw the place was on fire,” said a resident surnamed Lu, who lives close to the plant.

Lu said he saw two walls of the factory compound had collapsed, and windows were broken in buildings at least 20 meters from the site.

A Tongzhou district government spokesman confirmed two workers died in the accident, which happened at 11:42 pm.—Xinhua

**Patients often unaware of radiation risks**

**NEW YORK, 25 Jan—**Americans are receiving more medical radiation than ever before, experts say, but while it saves countless lives, serious, even fatal mistakes can happen.

With radiation therapy being delivered by technologically complex machines, risks from software flaws, faulty programming, inadequate safety procedures or poor training can lead to crippling mistakes, The New York Times reported on Sunday. The average lifetime radiation dose is seven times what it was in 1980, but patients often are unaware of the risks, the Times said in an analysis based on a review of public and private records and interviews with physicians, researchers, government regulators and others.

Hospitals often place too much trust in the new computer systems and software, said Dr Howard I. Amols, chief of clinical physics at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre in New York.

Since there is no single agency overseeing medical radiation, regulators and researchers can only guess how often radiotherapy accidents occur. Accidents are under-reported, records show, and some states do not require they be reported at all.

In June, the Times found, a Philadelphia hospital gave the wrong radiation dose to more than 90 patients with prostate cancer — then did not report it. “My suspicion is that maybe half of the accidents we don’t know about,” said Dr Fred A Mettler Jr, who has investigate radiation accidents around the world.

**S Korea considers holding G20 summit in Nov**

**SEOUL, 25 Jan—**South Korea is strongly considering holding the G20 summit on 15 Nov, immediately following the summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in Japan, local media said, citing government officials on Monday.

“We think it would be desirable to have delegations fly into Seoul immediately following the APEC forum in Yokohama of Japan, which will finish on 14 Nov,” a finance ministry official was quoted as saying by Yonhap news agency.

This year’s APEC forum takes place in Yokohama on 6-14 Nov, making it more convenient to have the G20 summit held in Seoul to better accommodate the busy schedules of officials participating in both meetings, another unnamed senior government official told Yonhap.

The official said the Convention & Exhibition Centre (COEX) in Seoul is the strongest candidate venue to hold the summit, citing its capacity to hold world-class events and proximity to a number of high-end hotels.

In September last year, South Korea was selected as the host country of the fifth G20 summit, where the Group of 20 advanced and emerging economies convene to address global economic issues.—INTERNET

**Pair first to cross Antarctica unassisted**

**ATLANTA, 25 Jan—**An American—who had never crossed-country skied before—and a Norwegian woman together became the first to cross Antarctica unassisted, records show.

Ryan Waters, 36, a native of Cobb County, Ga, and Cecille Skog, 35, a native of Alesund, Norway, reached the South Pole on New Year’s Eve and arrived at their destination on Thursday at the Ross Sea, completing their 70-day, 1,000-mile expedition, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported.

Others have traversed the continent, but with the assistance of kites or dogs. Waters and Skog did it all alone, each pulling 300 pounds of equipment as they skied in temperatures as cold as minus 50 degrees.

“The mental part was the most difficult part. It was so many days of constant skiing and at times it was hard,” Waters said.

Waters currently lives in Boulder, Colo., where he runs his own business called Mountain Professionals, Waters’ parents said.

Waters worked as a geologist for a number of years before focusing on his passion for exploration, the newspaper reported.—INTERNET

**Japan manufacturers’ mood brightens**

**TOKYO, 25 Jan—**Confidence among Japanese manufacturers has recovered to its highest level since the financial crisis hit, as strong exports to resurgent Asian markets raise hopes of a steady global recovery, a Reuters poll showed.

The Bank of Japan, which wraps up a two-day rate-setting meeting on Tuesday, will likely decide to continue monitoring economic improvements and hold off on new policy initiatives while keeping interest rates near zero to help get the country out of deflation.

“Asian economies have proved to be stronger than previously thought with no signs of a slowdown yet to emerge.

That supports projections that the global economy will continue to recover,” said Masamichi Adachi, a senior economist at JPMorgan Securities Japan.

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**Women clad in Japanese kimono look at clothing displayed outside a store in Tokyo on 25 Jan, 2010. Japanese manufacturers’ confidence has recovered to its highest level since the global financial crisis hit, but remains weak overall due to concerns about deflation and sluggish domestic demand, a Reuters poll showed.**
**Sino-Kazak Pipeline transports 20 mn tons of oil to China**

URUMQI, 25 Jan—The Sino-Kazak Pipeline has pumped more than 20 million tonnes of crude oil from Kazakhstan to China since it became operational in 2006, according to the regional government of Xinjiang.

Last year, the pipeline carried 7.3 million tonnes of crude oil into China, up 26 percent year-on-year, the inspection and quarantine bureau in the northwestern Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region said in a press release on Monday.

The volume makes up about 4 percent of the country’s crude imports, which is estimated at around 204 million tonnes last year.

The Sino-Kazak pipeline runs 2,798 kilometres from Atasu in Kazakhstan to the country’s largest oil refinery plant in Dushanzhi, in Xinjiang, via the Alataw Pass.

It was jointly developed by the China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) and the Kazakh state energy company, Kazmunaigaz, and is designed to transport 20 million tonnes a year.

It has linked China with the oil fields of the Caspian Sea and helped ease China’s reliance on the Strait of Malacca, a traditional route for 80 percent of the country’s imported oil.

Last year, China’s reliance on foreign oil for the first time topped 50 percent.——Xinhua

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**Sam’s Club cuts 11,200 jobs, ten percent of workforce**

SAN FRANCISCO, 25 Jan—Sam’s Club, the warehouse club division of Wal-Mart Stores Inc is cutting roughly 11,200 jobs, or about 10 percent of its workforce, as it outsources in-store demonstrations and eliminates positions used to recruit new business members.

Sam’s Club Chief Executive Officer Brian Cornell said on Sunday that the retailer would outline charges associated with the job cuts in February, when it releases fourth-quarter results. He said he did not expect any “material impact” on its financial results.

“We look at this as an investment in the in-club experience,” Cornell said in an interview. “This is not a cost-cutting move for us in the short term. We really hope it will be cost neutral for our operation. It’s an investment in building loyalty, enhancing the member experience and driving future growth.”

Cornell took the helm at Sam’s Club on 3 April last year and has been looking for ways to boost its sales and increase its membership ranks. Members pay an annual fee to shop in its clubs and get discounts on everything from bulk-sized packages of toilet paper to raspberries.——Internet

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**China Faw Group sets 2010 sales target at 2.3 mn units**

CHANGCHUN, 25 Jan—China Faw Group Corp has set its sales target for 2010 at more than 2.3 million units, an increase of 18.3 percent from a year earlier, an executive said on Sunday.

Jin Yi, Faw Group’s Deputy General Manager, told the 2010 purchase convention that the nation’s No.2 carmaker also targets a sales revenue of 290 billion yuan ($42.5 billion US dollars), an increase of 11.2 percent from 2009.

The carmaker reported strong sales last year thanks to cuts in purchase tax and subsidies on small car purchases. It sold 1.95 million units last year, with a sales revenue of 260.8 billion yuan. The two figures recorded annual growth of 26.9 percent and 23.4 percent, respectively.——Xinhua

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**File photo shows a Sam’s Club employee helping a customer in the photo department in Naperville, Illinois. Giant US retailer Wal-Mart announced this weekend that it will eliminate about 11,500 jobs at its Sam’s Club megastores in the United States. —Internet**

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**Man who tried to open airplane door released**

DENVER, 25 Jan—A man accused of attempting to open an airplane’s exterior door while in flight has been released after investigators determined it wasn’t a terrorism matter, authorities said on Sunday.

The incident occurred on Saturday on a United Airlines jetliner en route from Washington, DC, to Las Vegas. The plane, which had more than 100 people aboard, was diverted to Denver International Airport.

FBI spokeswoman Kathy Wright said a passenger tried opening one of the front doors of the airplane and may have tried to open the cockpit door before passengers restrained him. The man was taken into custody, questioned and released for a medical evaluation, she said.

Authorities will decide on charges after reviewing the incident, Wright said.——Internet

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**HP to launch music service in Europe**

HELSINKI, 25 Jan—Hewlett-Packard, the world’s biggest maker of PCs, will launch a digital music service across key European markets on Monday, hoping to benefit from consumers’ rising appetite for new types of music download services.

The MusicStation service will be preloaded on 16 of HP’s personal computers.

A man tries the Acer Aspire One netbook at a computer mall.——Internet

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**Oil stays below $75 in Asia as stock markets fall**

KUALA LUMPUR, 25 Jan—Oil prices stayed below $75 a barrel in Asia on Monday, dampened by falls in regional stock markets and on Wall Street over President Barack Obama’s plans to restrict big banks.

Benchmark crude for March delivery dipped 2 cents to $74.52 a barrel at midday Kuala Lumpur time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract lost $1.54 to settle at $74.54 on Friday.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell for third straight day on Friday, losing 4.1 percent over the week. It was the worst showing for the market since it began its recovery last March, partly due to disappointments in earnings results and Obama’s plan for tighter regulations.

Most Asian stock markets also were down on Monday.

“The plan has caused both equities and commodities to consolidate considerably last week. Details of the plan aren’t available but as more news come out, we can expect a lot of volatility in oil pricing,” said Victor Shum, an energy analyst with consultancy Purvin & Gertz in Singapore.

He said the correction was not unusual and some traders may view the lower prices as a buy opportunity.——Internet
Ministry of Information
Myanmar Radio and Television
Invitation to Tender

1. Sealed tenders are invited for Myanmar Radio and Television for the following equipment:

(A) Studio Equipment and Accessories:
- Play Out Server System
- Audio Source Player
- Sound Processor
- Master Clock System
- Audio Patching Equipment
- Installation Material & Accessories

(B) Digital Audio Workstation
(C) Informedia Workstation
(D) Hard Disk Recorder & Workstation
(E) Installation & Accessories

2. Tender closing date/time will be on 10.2.2010 at 16:30 hrs.

3. Tender documents are available at the below mentioned address:

Procurement Committee
Ministry of Information
Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise
No.28, Kokkine Yeiktha Street,
Bahan Township, Yangon
Ph: 534574, 536029

Young visitors at the 10th Ani-Com and Games Hong Kong test out computer games in 2008. Bone-bending rickets can now be added to the list of ills linked to children spending uncounted hours before a computer screen, British researchers said on Friday.—Xinhua

A/H1N1 flu death toll reaches 248 in Egypt

CAIRO, 25 Jan—Egypt on Sunday registered four more death cases of influenza A/H1N1, bringing the nationwide death toll to 248, said the Health Ministry in a statement.

The dead cases came from the governornates of Port Said, Alexandria, Cairo and Assiut, said the statement.

Up till now, Egypt has reported more than 15,600 cases of the novel flu, according to the Health Ministry.

Egypt confirmed its first influenza A/H1N1 death case on 19 July of a 28-year-old Egyptian woman, who was back from Saudi Arabia after making Umrah (pilgrimage to Mecca at any time of the year).

A 20-year-old male patient with severe congenital heart disease was admitted to Medical and Geriatric ward of United Christian Hospital on 20 Jan for fever and flu symptoms. His condition deteriorated and was transferred to the Intensive Care Unit on the same day.

He was prescribed with Tamiflu and antibiotics and required ventilation support.

Positive result for A/H1N1 flu was confirmed on 21 Jan. His condition remained critical and he succumbed at 5:15 am on 24 Jan.

The case has been reported to the Hospital Authority Head Office and the Centre for Health Protection.

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Sudan underscores importance of China-Arab energy co-op conference

KHARTOUM, 25 Jan—Sudanese Minister of Energy and Mining al-Zubair Ahmed al-Hassan on Sunday highlighted the importance of the second China-Arab Conference on Energy Cooperation, due to be held on 26-28 Jan in Khartoum. “The conference is a true fruit of the Sino-Arab cooperation and reflects seriousness of the Chinese government to enhance its partnership with the Arab states,” al-Hassan said at a Press conference in Khartoum. “The conference comes as part of the exchange of benefits between China and the Arab states in the field of energy,” he added.

He further said that the partnership between China and the Arab states in field of energy has made strides. He said the forum would discuss a number of working papers in the fields of energy, petroleum, renewable energies, including solar energy, wind energy and nuclear energy, adding that “there will be an objective scientific discussion on these topics.”

The Chinese Ambassador to Sudan, Li Chengwen, speaking at the Press conference, said that the conference came within the framework of the Sino-Arab cooperation, adding that “the conference enhances the Sino-Arab ties, particularly in the economic, commercial, cultural and educational fields.”

“There is a wide cooperation between China and the Arab states in field of energy. It is a cooperation that we all benefit from through exchange of experiences,” he said. —Xinhua

Boy, seven, raises 50,000 pounds in a day for Haiti

LONDON, 25 Jan—A seven-year-old boy told Sunday how he raised more than 50,000 pounds in a day for survivors of the Haiti earthquake by doing a sponsored bike ride.

Charlie Simpson set out to collect just 500 pounds for a UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) appeal by cycling five miles around his local park with his dad has a little cycle round the park with his dad has a sponsored bike ride.

“His mother, Leonora, helped him create a sponsorship form and said the document quickly spread around the Internet and the enormous sum was donated in one day.

“He really felt strongly about this and thought that something had to be done,” she said.

“But what started off as a little cycle round the park with his dad has turned into something a lot bigger than that and we can’t believe it.

“I am extremely proud of our Charlie, he’s done really well. He’s worked hard and he’s raised a phenomenal amount of money so we couldn’t ask for anything more.” —Internet

HK reports 63rd fatality from influenza A/H1N1

HONG KONG, 25 Jan—The Hospital Authority of Hong Kong announced on Sunday another fatal case of influenza A/H1N1, bringing to 63 the total number of fatal cases of the flu.

A 20-year-old male patient with severe congenital heart disease was admitted to Medical and Geriatric ward of United Christian Hospital on 20 Jan for fever and flu symptoms. His condition deteriorated and was transferred to the Intensive Care Unit on the same day.

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Moderate earthquake hits off Solomon Islands

HONG KONG, 25 Jan—A 5.6-magnitude earthquake struck off the Solomon Islands on Sunday night, according to the US Geological Survey website. The epicentre of the earthquake was 160 km southeast of the town of Gizo, New Georgia Islands and at a depth of about 10 km. It took place at 10:19 pm Hong Kong Time (1119 GMT), according to the website. No tsunami warning was issued as yet and there was no report of casualties and damage. —Xinhua

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Qatar, Algeria sign agreement on visa exemption

ALGIERS, 25 Jan—Algeria and Qatar signed on Sunday an agreement on the mutual visa exemption, Algerian news agency reported.

Algerian Foreign Minister Mourad Medelci and Qatari Minister of State for Energy and Industry Affairs Mohammed bin Saleh Al Sada signed the agreement, during a meeting held in Algiers within the framework of the 4th round of meetings of joint Algerian-Qatari committee.

The agreement covers citizens of the two countries carrying both diplomatic and private passports.

Algeria says US represses over reconsidering terror watch list

ALGIERS, 25 Jan—A senior Algerian official said on Sunday his country received re-assurance from Washington over the reconsideration of its 14-nation terror watch list, Pan-Arab al-Jazeera TV reported.

Following talks with the US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Janet Anderson, Algerian Minister Delegate for Maghreb and African Affairs Abdelkader Messaïd said his country has got reassurance from the United States over the measures which apply to Algerian citizens during his meeting with the US senator and in a phone call from US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to Algerian Foreign Minister Mourad Medelci.

Messaïd said that Sanderson told him the policy will be reconsidered and will be submitted for approval within the framework of the 4th round of meetings of joint Algerian-Qatari committee.

China’s Poly Real Estate 2009 profit surges 50% on property boom

BEIJING, 25 Jan—Poly Real Estate Group Co, Ltd, China’s leading property developer, estimated on Sunday its profit shot up around 50 percent in 2009 boosted by strong sales and rocketing property prices. The profit was expected to total 2.24 billion yuan (329 million US dollars), the Shanghai-listed company said in a statement on the exchanges’s website.

Earnings per share stood at 0.91 yuan, it said.

The company is yet to announce its annual report of 2009.

China saw rare property boom in history last year as sales sizzled by 75 percent of 2009.

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Japan ‘may rethink’ US Futenma Air Base after poll

TOKYO, 25 Jan—Japan’s Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama has said the result of a weekend mayoral poll could fuel a major rethink about US military bases in Japan.

Residents of the Japanese city of Nago, on Okinawa, chose a candidate opposed to the hosting of an American base.

The Futenma base was originally scheduled to move to Nago from a more crowded part of Okinawa.

Talk of moving the base out of Japan altogether has threatened the long-standing US-Japan security alliance.

Mr Hatoyama said the results of Sunday’s election reflected the will of the people, and that Japan will continue to re-examine its commitment to relocate the air base. “The country will start from scratch on this issue and take responsibility to reach a conclusion by the end of May,” he told reporters.

Indian Navy increases fleet of fast attack craft along coast areas

NEW DELHI, 25 Jan—The Indian Navy said on Sunday after the Mumbai attacks in November 2008, it is augmenting its fleet of fast attack craft, reported the Press Trust of India.

The report quoted a senior navy officer as saying that this year the Indian Navy has commissioned six new fast attack craft which can attain a speed of 70 km per hour, in order to enhance security along the coast.

The Indian Navy has also planned to commission 50 to 60 intermediate and small fast attack craft which will be deployed at various ports along the eastern and western coastal areas of the country, the report quoted Rear Admiral P Murugesan of the Eastern Fleet as saying.

At least 170 people were killed and over 300 injured in the Mumbai attacks, when 10 terrorists landed by the sea to stage coordinated attacks in the Indian financial capital.
**SPO**

**Vieira rates World Cup chances as ‘100 percent’**

*Paris, 25 Jan—* New Manchester City recruit Patrick Vieira says he has a “100 percent chance” of playing for France at next summer’s World Cup finals, despite having not represented his country since June 2009. “As I’m an optimist, I’m going to say 100 percent,” he said in response to a question about his chances of playing in South Africa on the Canal Football Club television show on Sunday evening.

“Out of respect, I don’t see myself missing the World Cup.” Vieira, who has yet to play for his new club, admitted that he had received “no guarantees” from France coach Raymond Domenech, who met shortly before Christmas, and conceded that the situation “is not as simple as that”.

*Internet*

**Mancini admits he won’t stop Robinho leaving**

*Scunthorpe, 25 Jan—* Manchester City manager Roberto Mancini admits he won’t stop Robinho leaving if the Brazilian forward is not happy at Eastlands.

Robinho told a Brazilian radio station over the weekend that City’s directors are happy to let him return home to join Santos on loan before the transfer window closes on February 1.

After watching Robinho score City’s finals goal in their 4-2 FA Cup fourth round win at Scunthorpe on Sunday, Mancini denied any knowledge of an imminent exit for the former Real Madrid star but did concede that he would let him leave if he isn’t happy. Robinho, who cost City a club record 32.5 million pounds last season, has repeatedly produced below-par displays and Mancini appeared to run out of patience when he replaced the winger after sending him on as substitute against Everton earlier this month.

*Internet*

**Wenger defends selection policy as Arsenal crash out**

*Stoke, 25 Jan—* Arsene Wenger defended his right to field a weakened team in Arsenal’s 3-1 FA Cup fourth round defeat at Stoke and insisted his desire to lift the Premier League title had been behind his decision. Wenger made nine changes at the Britannia Stadium but will recall the likes of William Gallas, Thomas Vermaelen, Gael Clichy, Andrey Arshavin and Eduardo for the crucial league trip to Aston Villa on Wednesday.

This disappointing defeat leaves Wenger still waiting for his first trophy since 2005 but the Frenchman places far more importance on the league. After the visit to Villa Park, the Gunners — currently two points behind leaders Manchester United with a game in hand — face three more crunch encounters against Sir Alex Ferguson’s champions, then Chelsea and Liverpool. And Wenger insisted injuries left him with no alternative but to operate a rotation policy ahead of those matches.

He said: “I wanted to win this game and I don’t regret the team I picked, I did not have much choice.”

*Internet*

**Panamanian Soccer Federation names best player and coach of 2009**

*Panama City, 25 Jan—* The Panamanian Soccer Federation (Fepafut) chose forward Orlando “Papi” Rodriguez and coach Gary Stempel as the player and coach of the year in Panamanian soccer, local media said on Sunday.

The awards were given on Saturday during a meeting between the Fepafut and the media. Rodriguez was chosen for his outstanding performance in soccer club Arabe Unido while Stempel was awarded for his work in both Panamanian soccer national team and the soccer club San Francisco.

*Internet*

**Cristiano Ronaldo hero and villain as Real Madrid beats Malaga**

*Madrid, 25 Jan—* Cristiano Ronaldo scored his first two goals of the year and was sent off as Real Madrid beat Malaga 2-0 in another slightly disappointing display. The Portuguese winger scored his first two goals of 2010 after 35 and 39 minutes of the match. Both the goals followed good collective moves in what was an otherwise poor display from Real Madrid, but Ronaldo undid all of his good work with a moment of madness in the 70th minute of the game.

Under pressure from Malaga defender Miguila, he swung his arm and caught the defender full in the face, for which he was shown a direct red card. Tests later showed he had broken the defender’s nose and the Real Madrid player should now expect a suspension of between four and 10 games for aggression.

*Internet*

**Djokovic, Venus stride into Australian Open quarters**

*Melbourne, 25 Jan—* Novak Djokovic and Venus Williams stride into the Australian Open quarter-finals on Monday while Li Na ensured China has two players in the last eight of a Grand Slam for the first time. Third seed Djokovic, the 2008 winner, joins Spanish defending champion Rafael Nadal, British fifth seed Andy Murray, American seventh seed Andy Roddick and 14th seeded Croat Marin Cilic safely through.

Also staying in the hunt was in-form Russian sixth seed Nikolay Davydenko, who was stretched to the limit by Spanish ninth seed Fernando Verdasco before prevailing 6-2, 7-5, 4-6, 6-7 (5/7), 6-3.

*Internet*

**Algeria stuns Nations Cup favourites Ivory Coast in thriller**

*Casablanca, 25 Jan—* Algeria clawed back from the brink of elimination to stun title favourites Ivory Coast 3-2 on Sunday and reach the Africa Cup of Nations semi-finals. The winners fell 2-1 behind on 89 minutes to a brilliant Abdulkader Keita goal only for Madjid Bouhlla to level in stoppage time and unmarked substitute Hamer Bouazza headed a 92nd-minute late-post winner. Drama continued to the end with television replays suggesting a late shot from Ivorian defender Kolo Toure that found the net was wrongly judged offside by an assistant referee.

Ivory Coast coach Vahid Halilhodzic was furious and distraught in equal measure. “This is a huge disappointment, of course,” said the 57-year-old Bosnian-who was stretched to the limit by Spanish ninth seed Fernando Verdasco before prevailing 6-2, 7-5, 4-6, 6-7 (5/7), 6-3.

*Internet*

**Chinese tennis player Li Na gestures after victory in her fourth round women’s singles match against Danish opponent Caroline Wozniacki at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne. Li Na won 6-4, 6-3**

*Internet*
Former US Commerce Secretary Mosbacher dies

LOS ANGELES, Jan 25—

Robert Mosbacher, who served as US commerce secretary under former President George HW Bush and helped champion the North American Free Trade Agreement, died on Sunday at the age of 82. Mosbacher died in Houston after a yearlong battle with pancreatic cancer, the former president said in a statement.

"Together we shared a journey that led to the presidency, the mountaintop of American politics, and there we worked together to help America more fully embrace the world around us and compete in the newly emerging global markets that the waning Cold War made accessible," Bush said. Mosbacher, like Bush, was raised in an affluent US Northeast family and made his fortune in the Texas oil industry before moving into Republican politics.


In this on 10 Jan, 2010 photo, members of the Brothers of The Third Wheel Triikers club pose in front of the Lyons Valley Trading Post during a club ride in San Diego. They are among a growing group of aging motorcyclists taking up trikes; three-wheeled motorcycles that provide stability and nearly all the comforts of a car while still allowing riders to feel the wind in their face. — INTERNET

WEATHER

Monday, 25th January, 2010

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in Taninthayi Division, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Bago and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (5°C) to (6°C) below January average temperatures in Kachin and Chin States, (4°C) below January average temperatures in upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above January average temperatures in Kayah, Kayin, Mon and Rakhine States, Mapgyaw, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and about January average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka and Loilem (0°C) each, Putao, Machanbaw and Namsang (2°C) each and Lashio (3°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded was Myeik (0.08) inch.

Maximum temperature on 24-1-2010 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 25-1-2010 was 64°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 25-1-2010 was 63%. Total sunshine hours on 24-1-2010 was (7.5) hours approx.

Rainfall on 25-1-2010 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2010 was (Tr) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and (Nil) at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from West at (15:30) hours MST on 24-1-2010.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 26th January 2010: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Shan, Kayah, Kayin, Mon States, Yangon, Bago, Ayeawady and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 26-1-2010: Partly cloudy to cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 26-1-2010: Possibility of isolated light rain. Degree of certainty (40%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 26-1-2010: 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

Myanmar Health Research Conference (2009) begins

YANGON, 25 Jan—The Myanmar Health Research Conference (2009) was opened at the Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar) on Ziwaka Road in Dagon Township this morning, with addresses by Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, and Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe. After the opening ceremony, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Win Myint, and the deputy minister visited the poster contest and pavilions of medicines and medical equipment.

Local and foreign experts submit 92 papers, 20 posters and six topics to the conference that goes on till 29 February. Anyone can attend it as observers.

Bawga Thiri express bus terminal in Nay Pyi Taw standing at core transport

Express buses seen at Bawga Thiri express bus terminal. (See page 9)

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan—The 55th Inter-State/Division Men’s Football Tournament (Open) (2010) continued in the zones in Ayeyawady Division this afternoon.

In Hinthada Zone, Mon State outclassed Rakhine State 4-1; In Myaungmya Zone, Mandalay Division hammered Shan State (East) 7-0; in Pathein Zone, Taninthayi Division and Kayah State held a thrilling 8-8 draw; and in Maubin Zone, Kachin State and Kayin State tied at 2-2 draw.

Tomorrow fixtures are Yangon Division vs Bago Division in Hinthada Zone; Shan State (South) vs Chin State in Maubin Zone; and Shan State (North) vs Sagaing Division in Myaungmya Zone.

Significant night temperatures (25-1-2010)

Loilem (0° C)
Putao (2° C)
Machanbaw (2° C)
Namsang (2° C)
Lashio (3° C)