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

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

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

Secretary-1 and wife attend reception to mark 61st Anniversary of Republic Day of India

YANGON, 26 Jan — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin attended the reception to mark the 61st Anniversary of the Republic Day of India at the residence of the Indian Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar in Dagon Township here this evening.

The Secretary-1 and wife were welcomed by Indian Ambassador H.E Mr Aloke Sen and wife. Also present on the occasion were Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and wife, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe and wife, Minister for Construction and for Electric Power (See page 9)

Lashio Wholesale Centre in Shan State (North)

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

Lashio Wholesale Centre has been established in the compound of Mansu Market in Lashio, Shan State (North) in the interest of local farmers, bringing about a marked increase in trade of goods including agricultural produce between the region and other ones.

U Sai Tun Tin, Chairman of Lashio Wholesale Centre, told the Myanma Alin, “We launched the centre on 18 September 2007 under the directive of Shan State Peace and Development Council. So, local farmers can sell their agricultural produce freely, and merchants cannot dictate the prices of goods of farmers here. Farmers benefit from the centre because they can sell their goods at face prices.”

“We issue the daily prices of crops that prevail in Magway Wholesale Centre, Mandalay Wholesale Centre and Taunggyi Wholesale Centre. In addition, we (See page 7)

INSIDE
To associate with the wise can bring about considerable benefits. One may enjoy peace of mind and pervasive peace straight from the heart by paying respects to whom respect is due.

PAGE 8

Mi Pyi Chit
Wipe the danger of narcotic drugs out

The danger of narcotic drugs is threatening human beings and their social environment. Drugs and stimulant pills produced based on chemicals are common in the world, causing various problems for drug addicts and their families and social environment.

Well aware of the danger of narcotics, every nation or region has placed great emphasis on taking drug elimination measures. All global countries are trying their utmost to reduce and eliminate narcotic drug production and trafficking assisting each other in the fight against transnational crimes in border regions. Myanmar is carrying out drug elimination tasks tirelessly. It is providing every necessary assistance to farmers enabling them to establish poppy-substitute plantations of rubber, sugarcane, maize and orange and livestock farms and other businesses in the poppy-growing regions.

At the same time, poppy plantations in the border regions notorious for growing poppy have been destroyed in cooperation with the local people. During the poppy growing season, some poppy fields in Tachilek, Monghsat, Mongshu, Pekhon and Pinyaung townships were destroyed.

Myanmar is also taking effective measures for eliminating drug trafficking and production. As a result, 182 drug-related cases were exposed and action was taken against over 200 culprits in December, 2009.

Attaching great importance to drug elimination, the government is scaling up preventive measures against narcotic drugs and educative campaigns against the danger of narcotic drugs. So, public cooperation is necessary for eliminating the menace — a threat to humans and their social environment.

ELE products to be on sale at CONCORDIA Show Rooms

England-based ELE is the top company distributing its product to 150 countries. The feasibility study equipment for concrete, tarmac and earth and equipment for laboratory use will be on sale with special price.

Those interested may contact 3rd and 5th floor of Shwegon Plaza, Bahan (Ph: 951544824, 558170, 549444, 090050912 and 558374; Fax: 951544199), No. 144, Thirti Yadana Market in Nay Pyi Taw.

Medical equipment and medicines on display at Myanmar Medical Conference

YANGON, 26 Jan — A total 88 booths of 44 pharmaceutical companies are on display at the 56th Myanmar Medical Conference held at Myanmar Medical Association on Theinbyu Road here.

Model Pharmacy Company is one of the pharmaceutical companies exhibiting medical equipment and medicines at the conference. It is the distributor of over 100 kinds of medicines and medical equipment. For detail, one may contact Model Pharma Co Ltd, at No. D-2, 16/20, Nayky Street, Pazundaung Township here, Ph: 0201615, 397681 and No. 69, 70, at the corner of 69th Street and 43rd Street, Mabaungmye Township, Mandalay; Ph: 02-34272 for Upper Myanmar. — MNA

Donate Blood

* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Development undertakings in Laukkai, Hopang townships in full swing

Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing inspects National Races Technical Training School in Laukkai.

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan — Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence met district level officials at Laukkai Station on 23 January.

The officials concerned reported facts about the township and ongoing tasks for regional development. Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut gave a supplementary report. Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing inspected the development of Laukkai.

Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing visited National Races Technical Training School, and Station Hospital in Panlon Village of Hopang Township. He then inspected surgical room and medical store.

In meeting with service personnel and town elders at Basic Education High School (branch) in Panlon Village, Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing called for further regional development, and minimizing loss and wastage in the water supply.

On his inspection tour of Hopang-Mannenhon Road Section Project, he called for meeting the set standard and completion of the programmes on schedule. — MNA

Booths of Model Pharma Co Ltd on display at the 56th Myanmar Medical Conference. — MNA
Putin orders free education for Haitians in Russia

Moscow, 26 Jan—All students from quake-stricken Haiti in Russia will receive state funding to continue their studies, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said on Monday.

“We have decided that all those who are studying on a paid basis will study at the expense of the Russian federal budget,” Putin was quoted by Russian news agencies as saying during a visit to a university in the central Russian city of Cheboksary.

Putin said 75 students from the Caribbean nation are currently studying at Russian universities.

He also expressed his condolences over the disaster. “Certainly, we will try to help you like we did in the first days after the tragedy, by sending our rescuers and medical staff there,”—Xinhua

Bulgarian soldiers injured during rocket attack in Kandahar

Sofia, 26 Jan—A rocket attack on a Bulgarian military base in Afghanistan left a Bulgarian soldier severely injured and three others slightly wounded, sources with Bulgarian Ministry of Defence said on Monday.

Three of the wounded soldiers were receiving treatments at a nearby American hospital, the sources said.

Taleban militants opened fire late Sunday when Bulgarian Defence Minister Nickolay Mladenov and Commander of the Joint Operational Command Lieutenant-General Atanas Samadov visited the military base in the Kandahar Airport.

A rocket blasted only 200 metres from the officials but they were unharmed, the sources added.

Currently, 500 Bulgarian troops are stationed in Afghanistan. About 300 are based in the capital of Kabul and 200 in Kandahar.

In December 2009, Mladenov said an additional 100 Bulgarian troops will be sent to Afghanistan in 2010, and the Bulgarian contingent in Afghanistan will be consolidated in Kandahar.

——Xinhua

Iraq suicide blast kills at least 18

Baghdad, 26 Jan—A suicide car bomber killed at least 18 and injured dozens more Tuesday in a strike against a police crime lab in central Baghdad, a day after several hotels were hit by suicide attacks, officials said.

This week’s bombings — all against prominent and heavily fortified targets — dealt yet another blow to the image of an Iraqi government struggling to answer for security lapses that have allowed bombers to carry out a number of massive attacks in the heart of the capital since August.

Among those confirmed killed were 12 police officers and six civilians who were visiting the office. Officials said more than half the wounded were police. Tuesday’s attack comes one day after a series of bombings targeting hotels favored by Westerners.

The toll from those blasts continued to rise, with 41 people confirmed killed and up to 106 reported injured, police and health officials said Tuesday.—Internet

Death toll rises to 36 in Baghdad bombings

Baghdad, 26 Jan — Up to 36 people were killed and 71 others injured by the three suicide car bombings targeted major Baghdad hotels on Monday afternoon, an Interior Ministry source said.

“The total number of people killed by the three blasts is 36 and some 71 others were injured,” the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The three attacks were carried out by suicide bombers who drove their cars to the areas outside the three heavily-fortified major hotels in central Baghdad, the source said.

The first blast occurred at about 3:40 pm local time (1240 GMT) near the two major Baghdad hotels of Sheraaton and Meridian on the Abu Nawas street, the source said.

TV footage showed several of the concrete walls around the Meridian hotel had fallen on the ground by the powerful blast wave that caused severe damages to the hotel building which houses offices of many foreign media and companies.

Minutes later, another blast hit the area outside the Babylon hotel some 5 km to the south of the first blast and the third was outside the al-Hamraa hotel in Karrada district, the source added.

Baghdad has witnessed a number of high-profile bomb attacks in recent months, mainly targeted the government buildings, killing and wounding thousands of Iraqis.

US military and Iraqi officials have said that they expect more violence ahead of the country’s landmark parliamentary elections slated for 7 March.—Xinhua

Cold snap kills 40 in eastern Europe

Bucharest, 26 Jan — More than 40 people have died this week as eastern and central Europe battles a Siberian cold snap that has cut power and roads, disrupted air travel and stranded whole villages, officials said on Monday.

Snow has blanketed swathes of western Turkey, Bulgaria and Romania, with lows of minus 35 degrees Celsius (minus 31 Fahrenheit), while Poland has again been gripped by a deep freeze that has killed more than 200 in the country since November.

An ice and snow front moved on Monday into Germany causing the cancellation of more than 200 flights out of Frankfurt airport — Europe’s third biggest international air hub — according to the airport management company.

In Bulgaria, schools remained closed on Monday in many eastern towns while rescuers fought their way through four-metre (13-feet) high snowdrifts to bring bread and other necessities to cut-off villages.

Temperatures plummeted to minus 34.4 degrees Celsius in central Romania where roads were cut and dozens of trains cancelled.—Internet

Residents gather around a hole made by a bomb attack in central Baghdad on 25 Jan, 2010. At least 36 people were killed on Monday in a series of car bombings detonated at three well-known hotels in downtown Baghdad, police said. — Xinhua

A man takes a photo of icicles on a thickly frozen jetty in Sassnitz on the Baltic Sea island Ruegen, northern Germany. More than 40 people have died this week as eastern and central Europe battles a Siberian cold snap that has cut power and roads, disrupted air travel and stranded whole villages, officials said on Monday. — Internet

A man who was wounded in a bomb attack waits for medical treatment at a hospital in Baghdad January 26, 2010. A suicide blast killed at least 18 people at an Interior Ministry office in Baghdad on Tuesday, officials said. — Internet

A rocket blasted only 200 metres from the officials but they were unharmed, the sources added.

Currently, 500 Bulgarian troops are stationed in Afghanistan. About 300 are based in the capital of Kabul and 200 in Kandahar.

In December 2009, Mladenov said an additional 100 Bulgarian troops will be sent to Afghanistan in 2010, and the Bulgarian contingent in Afghanistan will be consolidated in Kandahar.

——Xinhua
Singapore to host forum on tax information exchange

SINGAPORE, 26 Jan—Singapore will host the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes from 30 Sept to 1 Oct this year, the country’s Ministry of Finance said on Monday.

The Global Forum, comprising over 90 jurisdictions, is responsible for assessing and monitoring through peer reviews the effective implementation of the internationally agreed standard for exchange of information for tax purposes across jurisdictions. This is the first meeting of the Global Forum after it was constituted as a self-standing body in September 2009 in Mexico.

The 2010 meeting of the Global Forum will review the preliminary outcomes of the peer review process and the progress made over the past one year.

Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Minister for Finance of Singapore said, “Singapore is pleased to host the Global Forum at an important time as it puts in place an objective peer review process aimed at monitoring the implementation of the internationally agreed standard for exchange of information.”

Greece bets on five-year bond sale starting on Monday

ATHENS, 26 Jan—Greece put on auction on Monday five-year bonds at an estimated value of at least three billion euros in a critical test of its potential to borrow more from investors on international markets in a critical period for its economy.

In a challenging time for Athens, as foreign analysts express doubts whether the country will be able to tackle its enormous budget deficit in the future and meet its financing needs, the Greek Public Debt Management Agency opened the way for the sale.

While the spread between Greek and German five-year bonds has widened over 380 points the past few days, Greece’s government takes up a bold bet.

According to analysts in Athens this choice showcases the government’s optimism that it can restore confidence in Greek economy soon.

They express caution though that the move could backfire if Greece will not be able to obtain more than three billion euros.

According to sources from the Finance Ministry the money raised within this week will finally exceed five billion euros. Representatives of Greek banks who are involved in the process express optimism too.

Greece needs 53.3 billion euros to finance its needs this year.

NZ airline offers economy-class bed seats

WELLINGTON, 26 Jan—Air New Zealand said on Tuesday it will set a new benchmark for longhaul flights by offering beds in economy class, but they come with a catch — passengers need to buy three seats to enjoy lie-down travel.

The airline’s “Skycoach” will use three economy seats that unfold to create a space where children can play or people can relax and sleep, airline chief executive Rob Fyfe said. The Skycoach is aimed at couples and families, and will be the price of about two and a half seats.

“For those who choose, the days of sitting in economy and yearning to lie down and sleep are gone,” Fyfe told reporters. “The dream is now a reality not that you can even share with a traveling companion — just keep your clothes on thanks.”

Developed in-house by Air New Zealand designers and engineers, Fyfe said the Skycoach represents the first real improvement in comfort for economy travelers in more than 20 years and would help the airline set a new benchmark for international travel.

Apple posts record-high profit on strong iPhone sales

SAN FRANCISCO, 26 Jan—A doubling of iPhone sales helped Apple post record-high quarterly net profit on Monday of $3.38 billion dollars.—INTERNET

Customers leave an Apple Store in San Francisco, California. A doubling of iPhone sales helped Apple post record-high quarterly net profit on Monday of $3.38 billion dollars.—INTERNET

Vietnam may face steel oversupply this year

HANOI, 26 Jan—Vietnamese Vice Minister of Industry and Trade Do Huu Hao said here on Monday that Vietnam may face steel oversupply this year.

Hao made the forecast at a meeting with the Vietnam Steel Corporation (VNSteel), saying that the pressure is from overproduction of domestic companies and increasing steel import.

A report from the Vietnamese Ministry of Industry and Trade forecast that Vietnamese steel companies will produce 6.8 million tons of steel in 2010, up 9.3 percent from last year. The Vietnam Steel Association said that Vietnam’s steel demand is expected to stand at 5.8 million tons this year, up 10 percent year-on-year.
Montreal conference endorses roadmap for Haiti recovery

MONTREAL, 26 Jan—Recognizing the huge challenges in rebuilding the quake-ravaged Haiti, the international community on Monday endorsed a roadmap to gradually restore order in the Caribbean nation.

Major donors and regional and multilateral partners agreed to restore the operational capacity of the government of Haiti and urgently conduct post-disaster and reconstruction-focused needs assessments.

They agreed that another technical conference would be held in March at the headquarters of the United Nations in New York to coordinate the aid and relief efforts.

Recognizing the continued leadership and sovereignty of the government of Haiti, the participants held that an initial 10-year commitment was essential in concerted efforts to rebuild Haiti’s capacity.

“Sustainable development, including environmental sustainability, climate resilience, disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness, will be a cornerstone of our joint approach,” they said in a statement.

Haiti’s Prime Minister Jean-Max Belmerie appealed for “more and more” aid and support for his people after the 7.3-magnitude quake on 12 Jan that killed up to 200,000 and left hundreds of thousands more people injured and homeless.—Xinhua

People watch the rescue operation of the Boeing 737-800 passenger plane of Ethiopian Airlines that crashed off the Lebanese coast, south of the capital Beirut, on 25 Jan, 2010.—Xinhua

Thousands cheer FIFA 2010 World Cup Trophy Tour in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 26 Jan—Thousands of Indonesia’s soccer fans on Tuesday welcomed the FIFA 2010 World Cup Trophy Tour here. They had an opportunity to see directly the World Cup Trophy and to enjoy various amusements, namely 3D movie about it and dance, among others.

“In the tour, soccer fans get a chance to see closely the genuine World Cup trophy. Our aim is to spread happiness and hope to make the world a better living place. We want people to share the soccer spirit with their fellow citizens, an experience that is hard to get,” said Liu Lingling, the spokesperson of the FIFA World Cup Trophy Tour.—Xinhua

Nine injured in gas explosion in Ukrainian passenger train

KIEV, 26 Jan—Nine people were injured when a gas cylinder exploded on a passenger train in Ukraine, local media reported on Monday, citing a statement issued by the Press centre of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU).

“The blast occurred at approximately 6 pm (1600 GMT) on Sunday in a passenger train heading from the northwestern city of Chernovtsy for the country’s capital Kiev,” the Interfax-Ukraine News Agency quoted the statement as saying.

“Nine people were injured and seven have been rushed to a local hospital, most of them with burns,” the statement said.

The gas cylinder exploded in a conductor’s corner where he was cooking, violating the fire regulations on the train. Ukraine’s Channel 5 television reported.

Peru declares state of emergency in southeast provinces

LIMA, 26 Jan—Peru has declared a state of emergency for 60 days in two southeast provinces due to heavy rains, Peru’s President of the Council of Ministers, Javier Velasquez Quesquen, said on Monday.

The measure covers the provinces of Cusco and Apurimac, and their towns of Calca, Cusco City, Urubamba, Canchis Quispicanchi, Anta and the Convention. The emergency declaration will be published in the official gazette El Peruano so that the measure can take effect immediately.

The minister said that a plane will carry relief materials to Cusco in the next hours to help those affected.

Defence Minister Rafael Rey has already sent five helicopters to evacuate the stranded tourists in the town of Aguas Calientes.—Xinhua

The village of Davos is pictured on 25 Jan, evening prior to the opening day of World Economic Forum (WEF). Under a new climate change initiative, the WEF is blocking the gas guzzling cars that normally clog the roads around the congress, banning cars that give off more than 230 grammes per kilometre of carbon dioxide and consume more than nine litres of fuel per 100 kilometres.—INTERNET

Up until 25 bodies found: Ethiopian airlines

ADES AABAR, 26 Jan—While searching for survivors continues some 25 bodies have been recovered after an Ethiopian Airlines plane crashed off the coast of Lebanon on Monday, the Ethiopian Airlines said in a statement.

A team of experts from Ethiopia has arrived in Beirut. The Boeing 737-800, carrying 82 passengers and eight crew, crashed into the Mediterranean some four minutes after taking off from the Beirut-Rafik Hariri International Airport in the capital.

According to Ethiopian Airlines, Flight ET-409 was carrying 82 passengers and eight Ethiopian crew. Passengers included 23 Ethiopians, 51 Lebanese nationals, two British, one Turkish, one Frenchman, one Russian, one Canadian, one Syrian and an Indian national.

Army and naval rescue units were searching for survivors alongside a UN Maritime Task Force, it said. Rescuers found 25 bodies of Lebanese and Ethiopians. Six of them are Ethiopians. The Ethiopian team is closely working with all concerned offices to provide support to the family and friends of victims affected by the unfortunate accident.

A team of senior government officials led by Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin will be heading to the accident scene on Tuesday, according to a report filed by the Ethiopian Public and Television Agency.

According to Ethiopian public relation office, the pilot has served for more than 20 years.

Government officials including Prime Minister Meles Zenawi have expressed their deep sorrow over the sudden accident.—Xinhua

All Items from Xinhua News Agency
Rival Fatah, Hamas leaders argue over end of PLC mandate

GAZA, 26 Jan—Leaders of Gaza Strip-ruling Hamas movement and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas’ Fatah party on Monday argued over the end of the legal mandate of the Hamas-dominated Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC), or the parliament of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

According to the Palestinian basic law, the four-year term for the PLC ends on Monday, four years after the Islamic movement won the legislative elections held in the Palestinian territories in January 2006, ousting Fatah party which dominated the parliament for 10 years.

Fatah party leaders say that from now and further, the legislative council, is not legal anymore and what is needed is to immediately head to the ballots to elect new parliament, while Hamas leaders say that the current parliament it dominates “is legal” until the sworn-in of the newly elected parliament members.

Unusual item forces evacuation of US Southwest Airlines plane

CHICAGO, 26 Jan—Passengers were removed from a US Southwest Airlines flight at Midway Airport in Chicago on Monday afternoon after an “unusual item” was found on board, airport officials said.

The unidentified item was spotted as Flight 2543, bound for Detroit, was pulling away from the gate around 1:15 pm local time, and the plane was searched, according to the US Transportation Security Administration (TSA). “The pilot returned the plane to the gate where all passengers and carry-on items were rescreened, with negative findings,” the TSA said in a Press release. —Xinhua

Iraq’s ‘Chemical Ali’ hanged for 1988 gas attack

BAGHDAD, 26 Jan—Even in Saddam Hussein’s ruthless regime, “Chemical Ali” stood apart, notable for his role in gassing 5,000 people in a Kurdish village—the deadliest chemical weapons attack ever against civilians. Ali Hassan al-Majid was hanged on Monday, leaving a notorious legacy that stamped Saddam’s regime as capable of unimaginable cruelty and brought unsettling questions about Iraq’s stockpiles of poison gas and whether it could unleash them again.

The poison gas clouds that struck the village of Halabja began what would become an about-face by Washington, which had supported Saddam during the eight-year war against Iran’s new Islamic state in the 1980s, but soon became his arch-foe and protector of the Kurds in their northern exclave.

“I want to kiss the hangman’s rope,” said Kamil Mahmoud, a 40-year-old teacher who lost eight family members in the 16 March, 1988, attack in Iraq’s Kurdish region. —Internet

Rare dinosaur skeleton turned over to researchers

A rare and nearly complete dinosaur skeleton stolen from private property in Montana and stored in an evidence locker for more than two years has been turned over to researchers.

Scientists at the Black Hills Institute of Geological Research in South Dakota said the skeleton of a meat-eating dinosaur, of Geological Research in South Dakota said the 70-million-year-old turkey-sized predator could be a new species of raptor.

It’s a mean and nasty little dinosaur,” said Peter Larson, president of the institute. “Even though it’s not very big, you wouldn’t want to meet it in a dark alleyway.”

Researchers say it’s unusual to find the skeleton of a meat-eating dinosaur, and especially one that’s so small. “So many things can happen to a small-bodied animal,” Larson said.

The commercial fossil hunter who dug up the dinosaur removed it without the knowledge or permission of the property owners. Nathan Murphy was sentenced to four years in a halfway house and three years probation after pleading guilty to stealing fossils on federal land, and was ordered to pay $17,325.

Man says he will use leopard to save home

A Russian man said he will employ the assistance of his pet leopard in defending his Moscow home from demolition.

Serge Bobyhev, of the Rechnik settlement, a rural area of the Russian capital, said the residents of the area were granted the land during the era of Soviet rule, RIA Novosti reported.

“We will fight to the bitter end,” Bobyhev said, adding that his “very affectionate pet cat” will help him keep officials and construction workers away.

An investigation in 2006 spurred by an environmental watchdog group, Rosprovidnadzor, looked into 400 private homes built on land belonging to a federal canal agency.

Most of the buildings were legalized, but court decisions have been handed down permitting demolition of the others, the news service said. Bobyhev and the owners of several dozen of the residences on the protected land said they simply had been forgotten, RIA Novosti said.

Mortar attack kills several at AU Mogadishu base

MOGADISHU, 26 Jan—A mortar shell smashed into an African Union peacekeeping mission base in Mogadishu on Monday, killing several people, including a soldier, officials on the base said.

An 82-mm mortar round struck a secondary entrance to the AMISOM’s main Mogadishu base, ripping through an area where dozens of Somali civilians queue up every day to receive treatment from the mission’s doctors, an official said.

According to an official with AMISOM’s Ugandan contingent, one Ugandan soldier was killed in the attack.

The force’s spokesman, Ba-Hoku Barigye, confirmed the incident but could not give an accurate death toll.

“An explosion took place at one of the base’s entrances, it appears several Somalis were killed,” he said.

They launched a fierce military offensive in May 2009 aimed at toppling internationally-backed President Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, whose embattled administration has owed its survival largely to the protection of AMISOM’s 5,300 peacekeepers.

Several ice climbing lovers climb their way up on a frozen waterfall at the Mount Qilianshan scenic spot of Wulan County, east China’s Shandong Province.

African Union troops from Uganda ride an armoured vehicle in a convoy through the streets of Somalia’s capital, Mogadishu in 2009.—Internet
YANGON, 26 Jan—Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence attended the ceremony to open the Myanmar Fine Arts and Sculpture Exhibition held at Saya San Plaza at the corner of New University Avenue and Saya San Road in Bahan Township here yesterday.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Win Myint, Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, departmental officials, diplomats and others.

The commander, the minister, the mayor and the chairman of Central Cooperatives Society Ltd formally opened the exhibition, and Lt-Gen Myint Swe unveiled the signboard of the exhibition.

The chairman of Central Cooperatives Society Ltd explained the salient points of the exhibition.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party looked into Myanmar sculptors put on display at the exhibition.

The exhibition will be kept open up to 3 February at the venue from 9 am to 9 pm daily. Admission is free.

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Lashio Wholesale Centre in Shan State (North)

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

Lashio Wholesale Centre has been exporting corn since September 2009. Up to the mid-January 2010, we have exported 40,260 tons of corn. Northern Shan State has exported 118,097 tons of corn, so far. In 2008-2009 financial year alone, we exported 34,261 tons of corn, so this year’s export is more than last year.Boosting export of corn year by year is due to the freedom of trade. Farmers are growing corn increasingly year by year. We provide agricultural loans for farmers at the beginning of the corn season."

"Apart from corn, we export soya bean, sesame, groundnut, and niger to China. Here, we figure out the disputes between shops and customers through coordination."

Indeed, Lashio Wholesale Centre is still in its infancy, but it has been able to generate mutual benefits between it and farmers, because farmers sell their goods at the centre, instead of in brokerage houses. It is, therefore, safe to say that Lashio Wholesale Centre contributes towards one of the four social objectives the government has been implementing: Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system.

Prices of goods prevailing in other wholesale centres are declared in Lashio Wholesale Centre.

Translation: MS Myanma Alin: 26-1-2010
May peace prevail everywhere

Mi Pyi Chit

A nation will be peaceful without any conflicts if warm relations, loving-kindness and mutual understanding are common between the people. I wish to see flourishing of Ways to Blessings, Dhamma, cardinal virtues, and deterrent principles of shame and fear to do evil deeds throughout the year 2010.

Surely, the majority of the viewers get agitated, while watching news stories on instability and conflicts that are rife in many countries screened by TV stations around the world. They include suicide bomb attacks in Iraq, tensions between Palestine and Israel, incidents along Afghanistan and Pakistan border areas, internal armed revolts in some African countries, and protests associated with political protests and bomb attacks in a neighbouring country.

In like manner, Myanmar has lost lives of countless number of servicemen, armed insurgents and civilians, stemming from the internal armed revolts of multicoloured armed groups. Actually, they are evil consequences of instability.

Such undesirable effects are sparked by individuals’ emotional feelings, grudges, hatred, hostility, disputes, highly running passion, jealousy, impatience, and lack of loving-kindness, compassion and cardinal virtues. In other words, the avoidable incidents are due to their failure to suppress their feelings with farsightedness and mindfulness.

In order to possess good behaviours, everyone needs good relations with their parents, teachers, and close friends. Parents and teachers should feel obliged to keep their children and students grounded in speech, character, habit and concept. In my opinion, a child may become rough in speech if he is brought up by a rude mother; heartless in action, if he is brought up by a hard-hearted father; and pessimistic in thought, if he is taught by a teacher who does not look on the bright side.

Personally, verbal action is more important in that regard. Any words a person speaks should not have adverse effects on others. I want all people to speak beneficial, but harmless words to others. Maybe a person had misbehaviours in his youth due to innocence. Therefore, such people have to mend their ways according to conditions when they come of age. It is not very difficult for a person to keep his temper and give up misconduct. Any words not intended to harm others, but that can cause doubts should not be spoken in order to avoid adverse effects for the sake of himself and his society.

Being a Buddhist is very fruitful. In Buddhism, there are a large number of religious verses, maxims, and homilies. The 38 Ways to Blessings, for instance, should be exercised, irrespective of religious faith, race and time. The practice of one of the 38 ways: to stay away from the foolish can bring peace to those who follow it and their societies.

To associate with the wise can bring about considerable benefits. One may enjoy peace of mind and pervasive peace straight from the heart by paying respects to whom respect is due. Putto Vuda Sutta features duties of people inclusive of duties of parents, duties of children, duties of teachers, duties of students, duties of masters, duties of servants, duties of monks, and duties of lay disciples. People may gain worldly benefits by following the duties concerned.

There are a lot of good advantages of being Myanmar citizens. A person and his society may enjoy peaceful situations by exercising Myanmar’s way of life. Myanmar is surrounded by rows of mountain ranges that serve as natural barriers to its enemies and natural disasters. The geographical features form a huge quantity of rivers and creeks, including long rivers such as Ayeyawady, Chindwin, Sittoung and Thanlwin that facilitate the nation’s transport and agricultural farming. Many dams have been constructed and many other are being constructed by damming them to generate hydropower. Myanmar has three seasons, a variety of climate patterns in various regions, and snow-capped mountains. Diverse species of flowers and crops thrive in the nation. Myanmar hardly faces violent natural disasters. It is said that there is a link between the attitude of the people and the natural conditions of their country. The nation is also blessed with a very long coast.

Now, not only adults but also the youth have easy access to the opportunities of learning the Teachings of the Buddha. The nation has countless number of pagodas, stupas, temples, monasteries, and meditation centres. Fraternal and family-like relations between strangers are traditions of Myanmar.

The people are familiar to Dhamma (the Teachings of the Buddha) due to the good opportunities to learn them with convenience. No one can deny that practising Dhamma can significantly curb lawlessness and unjust actions, and to live in Myanmar is a golden opportunity.

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Translation: MS
Myanmar Port Authority inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe on 24 January inspected Myanmar Port Authority where Director of MPA U Thein Htay reported on situation of light houses, renovation and durability of jetties, arrival of ocean liners, building of new vessels, renovation of buoys, arrivals of foreign ocean liners, unloading of cement bags and loading of logs. The minister gave necessary instructions and inspected loading and unloading of goods onto and from the vessels.

At the Ahlon shipyard, the minister heard a report on repair to vessels and other salient points and left necessary instructions.

MNA

Two blasts rock Kyaukkyi, no one hurt

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—Two separate explosions occurred in Kyaukkyi, Bago Division, early this morning. One occurred in front of a building in Thetkyi Ward at about 4 am, and the other in front of a house in Myitta Ward at about 4.05 am. There were no casualties as there were hardly people around there at that time but the fences and some windows of the buildings were slightly damaged.

It was learnt that the perpetrators were the acts of a group of KNU Brigade-3. In a similar incident in which 7 people were dead and 11 others injured that occurred in Ppun, Kayin State 16 December 2009 was also the act of a group under KNU Brigade-5.

Such incidents have proved that KNU insurgents are detonating bombs, blowing up power lines, planting mines in farms and gardens and extorting money, rice and rations from villages and towns, the majority of whose populations are Kayin nationals, although they are shouting that they are serving the interest of Kayin nationals and Kayin State. It is learnt that as the terrorist insurgents in disguise are penetrating regions where peace and stability prevail, the local people are cooperating with the authorities in exposing them.—MNA

Scenes on progress of Hainggyikyun

(from page 16)

Konthaya new village, and Thaunglay Village of Thetkeithaung Village-tract as new Thaunglay Village.

Wellwishers Shwe Than Lwin, AyonU, FMI, Tetlan, Aung Chan Tha, Myint Myat Alin, Myitta Foundation and MBCA Companies built 1587 houses for the local people.

In the communication sector, the region was equipped with 332 CDMA telephones.

To rehabilitate the salt industry in the region, the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries provided K 300,000 each to 207 salt farmers for 7138 acres of salt farms. The Ministry also provided various kinds of fishing nets and 959 motorized boats to the fishermen.

In Hainggyikyun, four 500-1000-person capacity Cyclone Shelters were built in Pyinkhayang, Thangagon, Chaungwa and Thetkeithaung Villages and one Cyclone Shelter each in Kanhtoothaya, Phomogon, Thayachang, Magyichaning, Ottwin and Setseik Villages.

The Ministry of Science and Technology opened a technical high school in Chaungwa opposite to Hainggyikyun on 5 May 2009 and the school is training about 150 trainees.

With regard to the agriculture sector, a total of 39,740 acres of land has been put under monsoon paddy.

As a result of undertaking the rehabilitation task in all aspects, Hainggyikyun is gaining development momentum more than that in the past.

Translation: TTA

Myanmar Alin:
23-1-2010

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NASA’s telescope spies near-Earth asteroid

WASHINGTON, 26 Jan—NASA’s Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer, or WISE, has spotted its first never-before-seen near-Earth asteroid, the first of hundreds it is expected to find during its mission to map the whole sky in infrared light.

But there is no danger of the newly discovered asteroid hitting Earth, NASA said on Monday in a statement.

The near-Earth object, designated 2010 AB78, was discovered by WISE on 12 Jan. The mission’s sophisticated software picked out the moving object against a background of stationary stars.

As WISE circled Earth, scanning the sky above, it observed the asteroid several times during a period of one-and-a-half days before the object moved beyond its view. Researchers then used the University of Hawaii’s 2.2-meter (88-inches) visible-light telescope near the summit of Mauna Kea to follow up and confirm the discovery.

The asteroid is currently about 158 million km from Earth. It is estimated to be roughly 1 km in diameters and circles the sun in an elliptical orbit tilted to the plane of our solar system.

The object comes as close to the sun as Earth, but because of its tilted orbit, it will not pass very close to Earth for many centuries. This asteroid does not pose any foreseeable impact threat to Earth, but scientists will continue to monitor it.

Electricity price to rise in Phnom Penh

PHNOM PENH, 26 Jan—Customers of Electricity du Cambodge (EDC) in Phnom Penh and five other provinces would pay a new value-added tax (VAT) on electricity consumed beginning 1 March, under a new plan proposed by the Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy on Monday, local media reported Tuesday.

Study maps birds’ auditory brain pathway

DURHAM, 26 Jan—Duke University Medical Centre scientists say they’ve identified an auditory feedback pathway in the songbird brain that is needed to learn a song.

Professor Richard Mooney, senior author of the study, said the research lays the foundation for improving human speech, for example, in people whose auditory nerves are damaged and who must learn to speak without the benefit of hearing their own voices.

“This work is the first study to identify an auditory feedback pathway in the brain that is harnessed for learned vocal control,” Mooney said, noting the research team also devised a way to alter the activity of the neurons to prove they interact with the motor networks that control singing.

Record number of young Americans jobless

CHICAGO, 26 Jan—The US economic recession has taken a particularly heavy toll on young Americans, with a record one out five black men aged 20 to 24 neither working nor in school, according to research released on Tuesday.

Teenagers have found it significantly harder to get a job since the recession began in late 2007, with black youths and young people from low-income families faring the worst, wrote Andrew Sum of Northeastern University in Boston, a employment researcher commissioned by the Chicago Urban League and the Alternative Schools Network.

“Low-income and minority youth, who depended on part-time jobs as a significant stepping stone to future employment, have been forced out of the job market and economically marginalized,” Herman Brewer of the Chicago Urban League said in a statement.

Overall, 26 percent of American teenagers aged 16 to 19 had jobs in late 2009, said the report, which was based on US Census Bureau data. That figure is a record low since statistics began to be kept in 1948, the researchers said.

LG Electronics targets to double share in North American air conditioner market

SEOUL, 26 Jan—South Korea’s LG Electronics, the largest air conditioner manufacturer in the world, said Tuesday it is targeting a twofold jump in its commercial air conditioner market share in North America.

In a related move, LG participated in the 2010 AHR Expo on Monday in Orlando, Florida to unveil 25 new commercial air conditioner models and Energy Star-labeled residential models, the company said.

LG also said it has been expanding its infrastructure for commercial air conditioners (CAC) in the North American market, as it has opened its second LG CAC Training Academy last December with plans to build two more by the end of the year.

The AHR Expo is the world’s largest heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigerating exposition, where more than 1,800 exhibiting companies from over 120 companies showcase their new product lines. The Energy-Star label, awarded by the US Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency, is only given to products that prove it is significantly more energy-efficient than regular products.
NYC may lay off 19,000 workers if state cuts aid

New York City will have to lay off more than 10,000 public workers, in addition to 8,500 teachers, if the state legislature approves the $1.3 billion of cuts the governor proposed in his deficit-closing budget, Mayor Michael Bloomberg said on Monday.

The mayor, in a speech to the legislature, estimated 3,150 police officers would be cut, reducing the force’s “operational strength” to 1985 levels.

About 1,050 firefighters would have to be let go, along with 900 correctional officers, and the city would have to cut its daily inmate population by 1,900, he said. The number of at-risk children that service workers monitor would fall to 2,700 from 9,000, Bloomberg said.

The mayor, an independent, said Governor David Paterson’s budget “utterly fails the test of fairness.” He told lawmakers: “You can’t lose control of the streets in terms of safety or cleanliness. You can’t lose control of the streets in terms of an ambulance or a firefighter showing up.”

Both the economies of New York City and the state depend on Wall Street for much of their tax revenues, and big banks’ brush with near-death last year has severely dented public budgets.—Internet

French hostages in Afghanistan alive but facing danger

PARIS, 26 Jan — French President Nicolas Sarkozy said on Monday on French television TF1 that national hostages in Afghanistan are alive but their situation is dangerous.

The French journalists abducted in Afghanistan “are alive and healthy but the situation is extremely difficult and dangerous,” Sarkozy said during a prime-time interview by the private political channel.

He promised the government and French soldiers in Afghanistan had been mobilized to rescue the French nationals. Two French television reporters were kidnapped by unknown gang members on 30 Dec when they were travelling near Kabul with their Afghan employees.

There are about 3,500 French soldiers among 113,000 foreign troops under the United States and NATO command fighting Taleban militants in Afghanistan.—Xinhua

Green power to help ancient rice terraces

MANILA, 26 Jan — A group of international power companies has donated a $1 million hydroelectric project to help save legendary rice terraces in the Philippines.

Deterioration of the massive rice terraces — dubbed the “stairway to heaven” and the “eighth wonder of the world” — prompted UNESCO in 2001 to include them on its list of World Heritage Sites in Danger. They were created mostly by hand more than 2,000 years ago by the indigenous people of the northern province of Ifugao.

The facility was built and donated by Japan’s Tokyo Electric Power Co on behalf of the e8, an international non-profit organization of 10 leading power utilities from G8 countries. “It is our goal not only to pursue sustainable energy development but to raise awareness of the cultural heritage of one nation. The Ifugao Rice Terraces is a cultural site and must be protected,” e8 Executive Director Johane Meagher said in a statement on Friday.—Internet

Parrot, 26 Jan — Parrot, the world’s largest producer of unmanned aerial vehicles, said on Tuesday that it had sold more than 100,000 of its Nano drones in 2009.

The company, which has a distribution network in more than 80 countries and a 45% market share in Europe, said it expected to sell around 200,000 units in 2010. This would represent a 100% increase in sales compared to 2009.

Parrot also announced that it had sold more than 1,000 examples of its Bebop drone, a low-cost, sporty model that can fly up to 30 miles per hour, since its launch in May 2009. —AFP

Germany set for Afghan troop increase

BERLIN, 26 Jan — Germany’s development minister has indicated that Berlin will increase its troop numbers in Afghanistan while focusing more heavily on training local security forces.

Dirk Niebel told ZDF television Tuesday that “there will of course be an adjustment of the troop strength.” He wouldn’t confirm or deny speculation that Germany will send about 500 more troops to Afghanistan.

Chancellor Angela Merkel met with Niebel and other ministers Monday night to thrash out Germany’s position for this week’s London conference on the future of Afghanistan.

Germany has nearly 4,300 soldiers in northern Afghanistan. They serve under a parliamentary mandate that currently sets the maximum number at 4,500.

Niebel said Germany plans to shift its focus further toward training Afghan forces.—Internet

13 of one family killed in road accident in India

NEW DELHI, 26 Jan — At least 13 people belonging to one family were killed early Tuesday morning when they were travelling in collided with a dumper in Madhya Pradesh, central India, said police.

The accident took place in the Sivni town of Madhya Pradesh at 03:00 am. local time (2130 GMT Monday), when the victims, including five women and two children, were returning home from Uttar Pradesh in northern India to their home town Chhindwara in Madhya Pradesh.

Road accident rate in India is among the highest in the world, with at least 100,000 people killed every year on the road, according to official estimate.—Xinhua

Cyprus police bust large antiquities theft ring

NICOSIA, 26 Jan— Authorities have busted a smuggling ring in Cyprus and recovered dozens of ancient artifacts it planned to sell for euro11 million (15.5 million), including a miniature gold coffin, silver coins and terracotta urns, said police Monday.

In what is believed to be the largest antiquities theft case of its kind in the Mediterranean island’s history, police seized the artifacts dating back thousands of years from homes, storage sheds and vehicles where they were being hidden.

The artifacts include copper and silver coins, terracotta urns and clay and limestone figurines believed to date from the Copper Age to around 400 BC, Cyprus Antiquities Curator Maria Hadjicosti told The Associated Press. Ten Cypriots were arrested during the raids over the weekend, and authorities were searching for another five suspects, including a Syrian man, police spokesman Michalis Katsoomatos said. The suspects face charges of illegally possessing and trading in antiquities.

Police said the smugglers had planned to sell the artifacts in Cyprus, but would not identify the buyer. Authorities also said they were investigating where the artifacts had been obtained.—Internet

In this image released by the Cyprus Police on Monday, 25 Jan, 2010, show the antiques miniature gold coffin seized yesterday in southern city of Limassol, Cyprus. —INTERNET
Technology fair opens in Sao Paulo

RIO DE JANEIRO, 26 Jan—A technology and electronics fair opened on Monday in Sao Paulo and organizers said it is expected to draw more than 6,000 participants this year.

The week-long fair, dubbed the Campus Party, is divided into four sections this year—science, creativity, digital entertainment and innovation.

Scott Goldstein, one of the leading organizers, said that more than 6,000 participants are expected to attend.

Saudi: Government donates $50 million to Haiti

RIYADH, 26 Jan—Saudi Arabia has donated $50 million in relief to Haiti to cope with the devastating earthquake that hit the country nearly two weeks ago, making it the largest donation from the M iddle East to date, a Saudi foreign ministry spokesman said on Monday.

More than 150,000 people have been buried by the government since the 12 Jan quake struck, but that doesn’t count the bodies still in wrecked buildings, buried or burned by relatives or dead in outlying quake areas, according to govern ment officials. The quake left some 700,000 people homeless in Port au-Prince, mostly huddled under sheets, boards and plastic in open areas.

Israel sent a medical and rescue team in Haiti last week on a "mercy mission" to deliver aid and rescue Arab families in the Haitian capital. Dubai is one of seven sheikdoms making up the United Arab Emirates, a M iddle East-ern nation on the Persian Gulf, said a plane carrying 77 tons of basic relief supplies has been sent by the government to Haiti.

Shootout in Mexico kills two soldiers, four gunmen

MEXICO CITY, 26 Jan—Ar rest warrants have been issued for two soldiers and four men suspected of killing two soldiers and four gunmen in a shootout in northern Mexico.

The Defence Department says the clash began when troops and suspected drug traffickers in north ern Mexico have killed two soldiers and four gunmen.

Trade Mark Caution

TRADE MARK CAUTION

Perkins Holdings Limited, a British company of Eastfield, Peterborough, PE1 1NA, England, is the owner of the following Trade Mark—

The Institute of Medicine is calling for a major public health push to detect the hepatitis viruses, which are killing half the liver transplants performed every year in the United States. The report concludes the current approach to prevention and control of hepatitis B and hepatitis C is not working.

Many unaware they have hepatitis B or C

WASHINGTON, 26 Jan—As many as 5.3 million people in the United States have hepatitis B or C but most are unaware until they develop liver cancer or liver disease, researchers say.

An Institute of M edicine study found hepatitis B is not widely recognized as a serious public health problem, and as a result, viral hepatitis prevention, control and surveillance programmes have inadequate resources.

The report concludes the current approach to prevention and control of hepatitis B and hepatitis C is not working.

The Institute of M edicine recommends increased knowledge and awareness among chronic viral hepatitis among healthcare providers, social service providers and the public; improved surveillance for hepatitis B and hepatitis C; and better integration of viral hepatitis services.

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Menus list calories, less calories chosen

SEATTLE, 26 Jan — Parents who have access to fast-food menus with calorie information tend to choose lower calorie selections for their children, US researchers say.

Study leader Dr Poora S Tandon of Seattle Children’s Research Institute said the study involved 99 parents of children ages 3-6, who sometimes eat in fast-food restaurants with their children. They were presented with sample McDonald’s restaurant menus which included current prices and pictures of items, and asked what they would select for themselves and also for their children as a typical meal.

Half of the parents were given menus that also clearly showed calorie information for each item. Choices included most of the items sold at McDonald’s, including a variety of burgers, sandwiches, salads, dressings, side items, beverages, desserts and “Happy Meals.”

“Weight loss was similar to both groups, and compared to theorist group lost 8.5 percent. Insulin and glucose markers improved only in the low-carb group, and there was a significant drop in blood pressure in the low-carb group compared to theorist group. Similar reductions were seen for diastolic blood pressure. Weight loss was similar but substantial in both groups we studied, but blood pressure improved more in the low-carb diets,” said study author Dr William Yancy Jr, an associate professor of medicine at Duke University Medical Centre and a staff physician at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centre in Durham, NC.

The study, published in the journal Pediatrics, found parents who were given the calorie information chose 102 fewer calories on average — a calorie reduction of approximately 20 percent — for their children, compared with the group who did not have access to calorie information on their menus.

“Even modest calorie adjustments on a regular basis can avert weight gain and lead to better health over time,” Tandon said in a statement. “Just an extra 100 calories per day may equal to about 10 pounds of weight gain per year.”

Prostate therapy differs between hospitals

SAN DIEGO, 26 Jan — What type of prostate cancer treatment a man receives depends on whether he is treated at county or private hospitals, US researchers say.

“Tobacco is the most unregulated consumer product on the market today, exempt from important basic consumer protections, such as ingredient disclosure, product testing, accurate labeling, and restrictions on marketing to children,” the report says. Among the recommendations of the report are:

- Physicians and healthcare providers should discontinue using tobacco.
- Decrease targeting of women, the prevalence of smoking among women worldwide is expected to be 20 percent by 2025, compared with 12 percent today.
- Decrease duty-free and reduced-cost sales of tobacco.
- Decrease exposure to secondhand smoke.
- Decrease subsidies for tobacco production.

Gym could hurt eardrums

EDMONTON, 26 Jan — A workout at the gym may be a strain on the ears, a Canadian researcher warns.

Bill Hodge of the University of Alberta says his research suggests almost half of the people working out in noisy gym type environments and listening to an iPod turn up the volume to levels that may put them at risk for hearing loss — likely due to the presence of background noise. Hodge says it is not the listening level alone that’s risky — it’s how long a person listens at that level. In the study, almost half of the participants listened for a length of time during exercise that puts them at risk for hearing loss.

However, Hodgetts advises an easy way to avoid raising the volume to harmful levels may be getting better earphones that “seal” the ear canal so background noise is reduced. The study is published in the International Journal of Audiology.

Low-carbo diet better than low-fat to lower blood pressure

BEIJING, 26 Jan — A low-carbohydrate diet may be better than a low-fat diet plus the weight-loss drug orlistat for its effect on helping lower blood pressure, a new study in Monday’s Archives of Internal Medicine says.

Researchers in US picked up 146 overweight or obese adults who were randomly assigned to a low-carbohydrate diet or orlistat with a low-fat diet.

The average age of the study participants was 52 and the average body mass index was 39 (30 and over is considered obese). Orlistat was marketed as Xenical, a prescription medication, and Alli, available over the counter.

The low-carb diet began with a carbohydrate intake of less than 20 grams of carbohydrates a day. The group taking orlistat received a 120 milligram dose of the drug three times daily and got less than 30 percent of their calories from fat. Over 48 weeks, the low-carbohydrate group lost 9.5 percent of their body weight, while the orlistat group lost 8.5 percent.

Insulin and glucose markers improved only in the low-carb group, and there was a significant drop in blood pressure in the low-carb group compared to the orlistat group. Similar reductions were seen for diastolic blood pressure.

“Weight loss was similar but substantial in both groups we studied, but blood pressure improved more in the low-carb diets,” said study author Dr William Yancy Jr, an associate professor of medicine at Duke University Medical Centre and a staff physician at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centre in Durham, NC.

“There are options out there. Pick a diet you think you could stick to better, and work with your physician to help you target the diet intervention for you,” he advised.

Yancy said the blood pressure and cholesterol drops might have been even more impressive if people had stayed on their medications, but as they lost weight and normalized these readings, the doctors took them off blood-pressure and cholesterol drugs.

Obesity is a significant inducement to many illnesses, including heart disease, stroke, diabetes and many cancers.

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Egypt down Cameroon in Nations Cup to set up Algeria rematch

BENGUELA, 26 Jan—Aided by a brace from skipper Ahmed Hassan, Egypt defeated 10-man Cameroon 3-1 after extra-time in an Africa Cup of Nations quarter-final match here on Monday.

Egypt’s prize is a mouth-watering last-four showdown on Thursday against bitter rivals Algeria, who pipped the Egyptians to a World Cup ticket in dramatic circumstances in November.

The Pharaohs thus improved to 17 matches unbeaten in the tournament and also extended their five-year superiority over the Indomitable Lions.

Egypt assistant coach Shawkii Gharib saluted Cameroon for pushing his team all the way, while defending the performance of South African referee Jerome Daman.

“Cameroon are a great team and they pushed us very hard,” said Gharib. “We, on our own part, played very well and knew what we needed to do to win this match.”

Justine Henin of Belgium celebrates winning a point against Nadia Petrova of Russia in their quarter-final match on day nine of the Australian Open in Melbourne. Henin won 7-6, 7-5 to advance to the semi-finals.—INTERNET

Henin ready to stay at United

Manchester, 26 Jan—Manchester United’s Wayne Rooney said Monday that while interest from other clubs was flattering, he had no plans to leave Old Trafford.

The England striker has been in superb form this season, scoring 19 goals in the Premier League alone— including all four in United’s 4-0 win over Hull on Saturday that took the defending champions back to the top of the table.

Rooney’s goals have been a huge boon to United in the absence of Portuguese winger Cristiano Ronaldo, who left Old Trafford before the season started for Spanish giants Real Madrid in an 80 million pounds move.—INTERNET

Goalkeeper Enyeama takes 10-man Nigeria into semis

LUBANGO, 26 Jan—Nigeria goalkeeper Victor Enyeama turned Africa Cup of Nations matchwinner by converting the decisive kick in a 5-4 penalty shootout win over Zambia on Monday after a goalless quarter-final.

John Obi Mikel, Obafemi Martins, Obinna Nsofor and Osaze Odemwingie also scored from the spot to give the ‘Super Eagles’ a 100 percent success rate from five kicks.

Thomas Nyirenda was the unconsolable Zambian at the end after Enyeama saved his kick—the seventh of the shootout—and Nigeria scraped through despite having Onyekachi Apanwu sent off during extra time.

The ultra-negative last quarter-final of the biennial African football showcase was a massive disappointment after victories for Ghana, Algeria and Egypt in thrillers. Defending champions Egypt had made the penultimate stage a few hours before Nigeria thanks to a 3-1 extra-time triumph over Cameroon with 170-cap midfielder Ahmed Hassan scoring twice for his side and once for his opponents.—INTERNET

Manchester United’s Wayne Rooney, pictured on 23 Jan, said Monday that interest from other clubs was flattering, he had no plans to leave Old Trafford.—REUTERS

Malaysia’s Fernandes rules out West Ham stake

KUALA LUMPUR, 26 Jan—Malaysian aviation tycoon Tony Fernandes on Tuesday ruled out becoming a minority stakeholder in West Ham, after he lost out in a bid to take control of the English Premier League club.

Former Birmingham City owners David Sullivan and David Gold on 19 January said they had won full control of the east London club after acquiring a 50-per cent stake in a move they admitted only made sense to them as lifelong supporters. Sullivan secured an option to buy the remaining 50 per cent in the next four years but said he would prefer to attract other wealthy West Ham fans, including Fernandes, to join him in investing in the club.

Tennis doubles greats honoured in Australia

MELBOURNE, 26 Jan—One of the world’s best doubles partnerships was honoured Tuesday as Mark Woodforde and Todd Woodbridge were inducted into the Tennis Australia Hall of Fame.

The pair, who won 61 doubles titles, including a record six Wimbledons, two US Opens and a French Open, said the recognition matched their Grand Slam achievements.

“I think it’s such an incredible honour and probably equal, if not better, than winning the Wimbledons and the Olympics because I think it just reflects back about how well you succeeded in the sport,” Woodforde said. —INTERNET

Arsenal’s Senderos moves to Everton on loan

LONDON, 26 Jan—Arsenal’s Swiss defender Philippe Senderos moved to Everton on loan for the rest of the season, the club said on Monday.

The 24-year-old, who has been capped 35 times by his country, spent all of last season on loan at Italian side AC Milan after falling out of favour with coach Arsene Wenger. —INTERNET

Andy Roddick is seen here during a changeover between games against Marin Cilic of Croatia in their quarter-final match on day nine of the Australian Open in Melbourne. Cilic won 7-6 (7/4), 6-3, 3-6, 2-6, 6-3 in three hours 50 minutes on Rod Laver Arena.

His reward is a semi-final against either defending champion Rafael Nadal or British fifth seed Andy Murray, who play later Tuesday.

It was another test of endurance for the 14th seeded Cilic, who has spent the longest time on court of all the remaining players in the draw at 18 hours eight minutes for his five matches.—INTERNET
Teen pregnancy rate up after 10-year decline

WASHINGTON, 26 Jan— The US teen pregnancy rate rose in 2006 for the first time in more than a decade, reversing a long slide, a US think tank reported on Tuesday. The overall teen pregnancy rate was up 3 percent in 2006, with a 4 percent rise in the rate of births and a 1 percent rise in the rate of abortions, according to the report by the Guttmacher Institute.

The United States has higher rates of teen pregnancy, birth and abortion than in other Western industrialized countries. There were 71 pregnancies per 1,000 US girls aged 15-19. In 2006, 7 percent of all teenage girls got pregnant, according to the report.

Fewer black teenage girls got pregnant, closing a gap with Hispanic teens. But rates among both groups were still significantly higher than for white teens, the report said, and rates went up for all ethnic groups. “We’re not quite sure yet whether this is just a blip or whether it’s the beginning of a longer upward trend,” Larry Finer, Guttmacher’s director for domestic research, said in a telephone interview.

### MRTV-3 Programme Schedule

#### Transmissions

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<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
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<td>North America</td>
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#### Local Transmission
- Signature Tune
- Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sites
- Ancient City Mrauk-U
- Myanma Traditional Bronze Casting
- Myanma Art of Making Items in gold
- Inside Keng Tung
- Myanma Modern Song
- The Art of Silk-screen Painting
- Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sites

### Weather

Tuesdays, 26th January, 2010

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Shan and Mon States, upper Sagaing and Tanintharyi Divisions, isolated in Kachin, Chin and Kayin States, Mandalay, Bago and Yangon Divisions, weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (4°C) below January average temperatures in Kachin and Chin States, (3°C) to (4°C) above January average temperatures in Shan, Rakhine and Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Division, (5°C) to (6°C) above January average temperatures in Kayah and Mon States, Tanintharyi Division and about January average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (1°C), Patao, Namasang and Loleim (4°C) each.

The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (Lewe ) (0.24) inch, Katha and Myeik (0.32) inch each, Homalin (0.20) inch, Pinlaung (0.16) inch, Nay Pyi Taw, Bago, Namasang and Thuton (0.32) inch each.

Maximum temperature on 25-1-2010 was 97°F. Minimum temperature on 26-1-2010 was 65°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 26-1-2010 was 68%. Total sunshine hours on 25-1-2010 was 7.5 hours approx. Rainfall on 26-1-2010 was (Tr) at Mingaladon, (Nil) 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 Southeast at (12:30) hours MST on 25-1-2010.

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 27th January 2010: Weather will be partly in Rakhine State, upper Sagaing and Magway Divisions, light rain or thundershowers will be isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Lookout for subsequent two days.Tuesday: Likelihood of isolated light rain in the Eastern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 27-1-2010: Likelihood of isolated light rain in Eastern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 27-1-2010: Likelihood of isolated light rain in Eastern Myanmar areas.

Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 27-1-2010: Likelihood of isolated rain of thunder showers.

Degree of certainty is (60%).
People’s Desire

- We favour peace and stability
- We favour development
- We oppose unrest and violence
- Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence

Scenes on progress of Hainggyikyun

Article & Photos: Ko Tin Hlaing (Meiktila)

Hainggyikyun, a town of Labutta Township in Ayeyawady Division, is located on the coastal region, which is an entrance to the Bay of Bengal. Hainggyikyun, constituted with three wards and 100 villages of 22 village-tracts, has an area of five miles long and three miles wide.

In 2008, Hainggyikyun was destroyed by cyclonic storm. The government, companies and wellwishers provided necessary assistance for the storm and tidal ravaged villages of Hainggyikyun.

Due to impacts of the storm, seawater flowed into wells and lakes of the villages. Therefore, efforts were made to remove salty water from the wells and lakes and cleaned them for supplying potable water to the local people.

For ensuring availability of clean drinking water, a total of 32 new wells and 36 lakes were renovated in 36 villages of village-tracts.

Hainggyikyun Development Affairs Committee repaired the damaged jetties and built new pontoon jetties at villages for berthing of ships that carried relief items for the storm survivors. The committee also renovated the damaged roads and bridges for transportation of relief items to the villages.

Moreover, 3.7-mile Pammawady Road and the circular road were tarmacked and 0.7 mile long gravel road section was constructed on U Aung Zeya Road in the urban area. Furthermore, the committee renovated rural roads namely Kyongya, Yekhaunggyi, Pyinkhayaing, Kyaukkalat, Thetkeithaung, Thaunglayletaw and Po Nyo Gon roads.

Hainggyikyun had 85 Basic Education Primary, Middle and High Schools. A total of 56 buildings of 156 from the schools were destroyed by the storm. So far, all the school buildings have been renovated with the contributions of the State, wellwishers and companies. Neat and tidy dispensaries are providing health care services to the local people.

Storm affected Phonedawpyay and Khongyi Villages of Ottwin Village-tract were reconstituted as (See page 9)

Significant night temperatures (26-1-2010)

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<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Haka</td>
<td>(1°C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Putao, Namhsan</td>
<td>(4°C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loilem</td>
<td>(4°C)</td>
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