Four political objectives

* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
* National reconsolidation
* Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
* Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San pay respects to Maha Bawdhitahtaung Laykyunsekkya Standing Buddha Image, Thanbuddhe Pagoda in Monywa

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San who were in Kanbalu of Shwebo District, Sagaing Division accompanied by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, commanders, ministers and departmental heads arrived in Maha Bawdhitahtaung Sasana Region in Monywa Township by helicopter from Kanbalu at 1:10 p.m. on 29 January.

They were welcomed there by Deputy Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen Tin Maung Ohn, the secretary of Sagaing Division PDC and departmental officials. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife and party paid homage to the Buddha Image which is kept on the first floor of Laykyunsekkya Standing Buddha Image.

Next, they paid homage to Buddha Images and religious paintings on the second and third floors of the Standing Buddha Image and viewed religious buildings and greening of Maha Bawdhitahtaung Sasana Region from the view deck on the third floor.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife and party cordially greeted pilgrims at the compound of the Buddha Image.

(See page 8)
Try to improve regional economy by boosting agricultural produce

As Myanmar’s economy is based on agriculture, the State is fulfilling all requirements including irrigation water for boosting cultivation of crops in the agricultural sector. Dams and reservoirs have been built in large numbers for supply of irrigation water.

Due to intense heat, scarcity of water and little rainfall, local people in the arid regions including Sagaing Division once failed to boost agricultural produce.

But now, reservoirs, lakes and small dams have been built in those regions. As many dams including Thaphaneik Dam have been constructed in Sagaing Division, more farmlands have emerged, leading to an increase in cultivation capacity.

Moreover, measures for tapping water resources are being taken in Kyunhla Township for improving its agricultural sector. Needs for better transport, adequate supply of irrigation water and boosting cultivation are also being fulfilled.

Thanks to Thaphaneik Dam, built by damming Mu River, Sagaing Division has enjoyed not only self-sufficiency in rice but also surplus. For the local farmers, they will have to extend sown acreage, increase per acre yield and use quality strains and modern agricultural methods in order to boost agricultural production. They need to grow oil crops, long staple cotton, beans and globally marketable crops in addition to paddy.

More than 200 dams have been built nationwide for supply of irrigation water and regional greening. Local authorities and farmers are to extend cultivation of paddy and double cropping by making use of irrigation water. Only then, will the regional economy as well as their living standard improve more.

Mr and Miss Myanmars emerge for 2010

YANGON, 31 Jan — Myanmar Bodybuilding and Physical Culture Federation and Myanmar Distribution Group (MDG) Co Ltd jointly sponsored the 2010 Mr and Miss Myanmars contest at Myanmar Convention Centre here yesterday.

Of the 14 contestants of the junior level Mr Myanmar contest, Min Zaw stood first, Tun Win Naing, second and Maung Maung Kyi third. Among the eight participants of the senior level contest, Aung Swe Naing won the Mr Myanmar, Aung Khang Win was first runner-up and Khang Lin the second runner-up.

Miss Myanmar was won by Swe Zin Phyo, while Wutyi Phyo was first runner-up and Nguwa Khang second runner-up. — MNA

CPT Minister inspects communications facilities

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Jan — Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw on 29 January inspected the auto exchange in Mawhan, Kachin State and met with service personnel.

Next, the minister looked into the Pinhe rural exchange and attended to the needs. Yesterday, the minister inspected the auto exchanges in Mohnin, Hopin and Pinbaw and fulfilled the requirements.

After that, the minister proceeded to Nay Pyi Taw where he attended the work coordination meeting at the meeting hall of the ministry.

It was also attended by Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Thein Tun, departmental heads, chief engineers and state/division managers.— MNA

Air Bagan Myanmar Masters 2010 Golf Tourney continues

YANGON, 31 Jan — Air Bagan Myanmar Masters 2010 Golf Tourney continued for the third day at Punhlaing Golf Club here yesterday morning.

After the third day’s match, Gavin Flint (Australia) led the tourney with 206 strokes, followed by Aung Win (Myanmar) with 210 strokes, Hsu Chia-jen (China-Taipei) and Akhmal Tarmizee (Malaysia) the third place with 211 strokes each. The final match of the tourney continues tomorrow at the same venue, and it is open to all golf enthusiasts.

The main sponsor of the golf tourney is Air Bagan Ltd and the presenting sponsor, International Beverages Trading Co Ltd (IBTC) with the support of Max Myanmar, Punhlaing Golf Club, Hotel Yangon, MGF and MPGA. — MNA
KABUL, 31 Jan—A joint US-Afghan force called in an airstrike on what turned out to be an Afghan army post after taking fire from there before dawn on Saturday, killing four Afghan soldiers and prompting an angry demand for punishment from the country’s defence ministry. Both NATO and Afghan authorities described the clash around a snow-covered outpost in Wardak Province southwest of Kabul as a case of mistaken identity. NATO called the attack “unfortunate” and promised a full investigation.

Nevertheless, the deadly strike threatens to strain relations between NATO and the Afghan government at a time when both sides are calling for closer partnership in the fight against the Taliban. The fighting came on the heels of several cases of bloodshed between Afghans and Americans in recent weeks. NATO and Afghan officials said an Afghan interpreter angry over “job issues” shot and killed two US soldiers on Friday before he was gowned down by an American service member in the same district as the airstrike. NATO officials said the two attacks appeared unrelated.—Internet

Suicide attack kills 12 in Pakistan’s tribal region

ISLAMABAD, 31 Jan—A suicide bomber killed at least 12 people, including two soldiers, in northwest Pakistan’s tribal region on Saturday, local officials said.

The bomber exploded his bomb at a check post of security forces at Khar, the centre of Bajaur tribal region, they said.

The bomber detonated his bomb when the security forces stopped for search, which also injured 25 people.

No group claimed responsibility for the attack. But the officials blamed Taliban militants for the attack.

The injured were rushed to the region’s main hospital, officials said. Several critically injured were shifted to Peshawar, the capital of North West Frontier Province.

The security forces are engaged in operation against Taliban militants in Bajaur and an army statement said that 10 militants and two soldiers were killed in an encounter on Friday.

All bazaars in Khar were shut down and the authorities imposed curfew after the attack, locals said. The security forces launched a search operation to apprehend suspected militants, they said.
Shell, Dow Chemical CEOs hope to increase investment in China

DAVOS, 31 Jan—The CEOs of Shell and Dow Chemical, two oil and chemical giants in the world, have said they are willing to expand investment in China as the country is increasingly important on the global stage.

Peter Voser, chief executive officer of Royal Dutch Shell, told Xinhua in an interview on the sidelines of the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum that Shell has significant investment plans in China, which is one of the company’s key countries.

“We are very optimistic that we will achieve a very competitive position there,” he said. “It is the biggest market in the world in the longer term and I think we have all the businesses and all the products which China will need.”

Now, Shell has closely cooperated with Chinese state-owned oil companies like CNPC and Sinopec. China is becoming the most important energy market, and the two (CNPC and Sinopec) are Shell’s partners in China, said Voser.

“They are very active in all the areas of upstream and downstream,” he said. “We are very happy to collaborate and work together with them within China but also outside China. We are delivering our technology and our best products into China.”—Xinhua

China is not only a market but a resource

DAVOS, 31 Jan—China is not only a huge market but also a huge resource, said Ben Verwaayen, chief executive officer of Alcatel-Lucent, a global telecommunications corporation headquartered in Paris, France.

It means “a lot of our products and a lot of our ideas are coming from China,” the CEO told Xinhua in an exclusive interview.

“There is a lot of creativity in the market and there are a lot of entrepreneurial people that have great ideas and a lot of good things are happening in China.” According to Verwaayen, China is an extraordinarily important market. “We have been around in China for a long period of time,” he said.

The rise of China is one hot topic at the five-day Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum that began on Wednesday. Many participants agreed that it is time to seek opportunities in emerging markets like China. —Xinhua

WTO ministers reaffirm commitment to fight protectionism

DAVOS, 31 Jan—Some 17 WTO trade ministers on Saturday reaffirmed their commitment to fight protectionism despite the world trade body’s long-time deadlock in the Doha Round trade-opening negotiations.

The ministers at an informal meeting in Davos said they would continue efforts “to resist protectionist pressures at home,” and they recognized that “the opening-up of market is the best tool to do to fight the crisis,” Swiss Economics Minister Doris Leuthard told a Press conference.

Leuthard, the host of the meeting, admitted that there was still no breakthrough in the eight-year-old Doha Round negotiations. But she said the WTO rules “are there as a whole,” and those rules have helped prevent “an even worse global economic crisis.” “The opening-up of markets is the best we can do to fight the crisis, to better stabilize our budgets and to contribute to the recovery of the global economy which will induce overall job creation. The conclusion of the Doha Round will be a strong multilateral tool to that purpose,” Leuthard told reporters. —Xinhua

Saudi to host Gulf-Africa Investment Forum in April

RIYADH, 31 Jan—Saudi Arabia is to host the Gulf-Africa Investment Forum on 24-25 April, Saudi Press Agency reported on Saturday.

Council of Saudi Chambers (CSC), together with the Gulf Research Centre, will organize the meeting in Riyadh, which is expected to attract delegations of Gulf countries and African countries, the report quoted Secretary General of CSC Fahad S al-Sultan as saying.

Al-Sultan said the meeting, under the theme of “Gulf and Africa: Economic Partnership,” will discuss various investment opportunities in Africa and the relevant concrete actions, al-Sultan added.—Xinhua

Extreme cold damages Mongolia’s economy

ULAN BATU, 31 Jan—Mongolia’s economy has been hard hit by its prolonged spell of extreme cold weather and heavy snow, with the southern province of Dundgobi the hardest hit, a local official said.

“A direct loss of 6.6 million US dollars has been suffered by the economy of Dundgobi province due to extreme cold and continuous snow blizzards,” Dundgobi Governor Sh. Turbat told Xinhua in a recent interview.

Almost all of the province is suffering from a natural disaster known as dzud, with snowfall depths ranging from of 20-90 centimetres.

The average temperature in the province has dropped to -36 degrees Celsius at night and -26 degrees Celsius during the day. “We are trying our best to overcome the winter difficulties. The local government’s priority is to prevent the loss of human lives. Herders are losing their lives while trying to save their livestock. We are delivering to most affected areas fodder and forage to keep the herders in their winter camp,” Turbat said.

Xinhua
China’s largest clean diesel motor plant in production

BEIJING, 31 Jan—China’s largest clean diesel motor plant has gone into production in Inner Mongolia. It marks a giant step forward, for China’s auto parts industry. The new plant is a subsidiary of Haw Tai Automoble. It will manufacture diesel motors, complying with euro five emission standards. It’s China’s first clean diesel engine for autos. And could reduce energy consumption by a quarter, compared with gasoline engines of the same size.

Xu Hengwu, Director of Haw Tai Motor Plant, said, “Considering the national energy strategy and the urge to cut carbon dioxide emissions, diesel motor markets will experience rapid growth in the near future.” Diesel motors are relatively environmentally-friendly. Cars powered by diesel engines make up over 50-percent of market share in Europe and the figure is increasing in North America, Japan and South Korea. However, China has lagged behind with a market share close to zero.

This new plant, with a production capacity of 300-thousand for the first phase, is making a breakthrough. Zhao Jinguang, Deputy Secretary of Foton Motor Co, said, “It is a trend that traditional engines will develop into low-emission and environmentally-friendly motors.

UN starts ticket-for-food programme in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, 31 Jan—Up to 2.4 million Haitians will get food rations from the World Food Programme (WFP) which is organizing a 15-day emergency ticket-for-food programme in the Haitian capital.

More than a dozen distribution spots will be set up in the city to facilitate the project, a WFP spokesperson said on Saturday. “We will be forming 16 fixed distribution sites around the city. We aim to reach 10,000 people at each site,” said Marcus Pryor.

The UN body has so far provided food to around 650,000 Haitians in the 18 days after the killer earthquake hit the Caribbean island country on 12 Jan.

The Haitian authorities said that the magnitude-7.3 quake has destroyed the country’s food supply system. Feeding an entire city of millions of people is unusual to the WFP, which is more used to providing food to refugees displaced by conflicts and wars.

“Each family will be allotted 60 pounds (27 kg) of rice. Only female heads of household will be allowed into the distribution area to bring the food out,” the WFP spokesperson said. “We will be loading and transporting during the night because of the dense population and traffic within Port-au-Prince.”

Canada, US bolster cooperation on aviation security

OTTAWA, 31 Jan—Canadian Minister of Public Safety Vic Toews and Transport Minister John Baird met here on Friday with Jane Holl Lute, US deputy secretary of Homeland Security, to promote the cooperation and coordination between the two neighbouring countries on aviation security measures and standards.

They also explored ways to enhance global aviation security to protect passengers around the world following the attempted bombing of a US flight on 25 Dec, 2009.

“Canada is a full-partner with the United States in securing aviation in North America,” said Toews. “It is important that we continue to work together to develop and implement effective and complementary measures and standards to ensure the safety and security of our citizens.”

Hijacked Cambodian cargo ship no pirate attack

NAROB, 31 Jan—A hijacked Cambodian cargo ship is being held off Somalia’s Berbera port by businessmen owing to a deal which has gone sour and not pirate attack, a regional maritime official confirmed on Saturday.

Andrew Mwangura, East Africa’s Coordinator of Seafarers Assistance Programme (SAP), said the MV Layla-S which was seized on Wednesday after it unloaded at the port in the semi-autonomous region of Somali land has 14 crew members on board from Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Somalia and Syria.

“The ill-fated Cambodian flagged cargo ship MV LAYLA-S is being held hostage in port Berbera by Somali businessmen owing to a deal which has gone sour,” Mwangura said by telephone from Mombasa, east Kenya.

“It is said that the vessel has link with Syrian and UAE business men. We are informed that she was taken by gunmen after discharging her cargo,” he said. Piracy has become rampant off the coast of Africa, especially in the waters near Somalia, which has been without an effective government since 1991.

Four Chinese snatch victory at “Moscow Chess Open”

MOSCOW, 31 Jan—Four out of five Chinese players won their contest on the first day of the International Chess Festival “Moscow Open 2010” here on Saturday.

Hou Yifan, a 16-year-old Chinese girl who participated in the tournament for male players, said she won the game rather easy.

The International Chess Festival, hosted by Russian State Social University for the sixth consecutive year, presented a prize totalling five million rubles (164,635 US dollars).

Some 1,226 players from 30 countries, including 100 masters, have participated in the festival.

The “Moscow Open 2010” consists of six tournaments, which are devoted to the Victory in the Great Patriotic War in 1945.
HK to inspect 4,000 “over aged” buildings after collapse incident

HONG KONG, 31 Jan — Plans of extensive and comprehensive inspection of roughly 4,000 buildings aged 50 years and over will be carried out in a month, said the website of the HK Special Administrative Regional government on Saturday after a building collapse incident.

“This is a comprehensive check across the territory of all the buildings of this age, which we believed are more or less of similar construction, which is reinforced concrete framed construction,” said Secretary for Development, Carrie Lam, after inspecting the scene of the building collapse case in Ma Tau Wai Road on Saturday. A five-storey apartment building of more than 50 years old in Hung Hom, Hong Kong’s Kowloon District, collapsed suddenly around 1:30 pm local time (0330 GMT) Friday afternoon. Four people were confirmed dead and two others injured.

“We are going to set up 40 teams of professional and technical staff to go out to various parts of Hong Kong, Kowloon and the New Territories to inspect these 4,000 buildings. The target is to complete these comprehensive inspection within a month. We will then follow up with the needed remedial action,” she added.—Xinhua

Abbas to respond to US peace offer after talks to Arabs

RAMALLAH, 31 Jan — Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas will respond to a US offer to resume peace talks with Israel after he consults with Arab states, a Palestinian newspaper reported on Saturday.

“The response will be in 10 days,” the Jerusalem-based al-Quds daily quoted Abbas as saying. The offer suggests that Washington mediates in indirect talks between Israel and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

The Palestinians want Israel to completely stop settlement activities in the West Bank and East Jerusalem before going back to the negotiations that have been stalled since December 2008. According to Abbas, Israel rejected US President Barack Obama’s proposal to halt the settlement and offered another

China’s Ping An Insurance forecasts over 1500 pct profit increase in 2009

BEIJING, 31 Jan — Ping An Insurance (Group) Co. of China, the country’s second-largest insurer, said in a statement to the Shanghai Stock Exchange on Saturday that its net profit in 2009 would grow over 1500 percent over the 2008 level.

The company did not give the exact figure of its estimated profit, but according to the statement, its net profit in 2008 stood at 662 million yuan (about 96.93 million US dollars) with earnings per share at 0.09 yuan.

The result is an unaided one, and specific figures will be released in the upcoming annual report, it said.

Ping An attributed its soaring profit to its rapid and sound development in its insurance, banking and investment business, and a change in China’s accounting standards required by the Ministry of Finance from the end of last year.—Xinhua

India grudgingly accepts consensus at London Conference on Afghanistan

NEW DELHI, 31 Jan — India is grudgingly accepting the reality that other major participants at the London Conference on Afghanistan this week have reached a consensus to clear a way for new negotiations with the Taleban, the Times of India reported on Saturday.

The paper quoted Indian Minister of External Affairs SM Krishna as saying that India is “willing to give it a try” if the Taleban meet the three conditions put forward by the participating countries at the conference.

The three conditions are acceptance of the Afghan Constitution, severing connections with Al-Qaeda and other terrorist groups, and renunciation of violence and are accepted in the mainstream of Afghan politics and society.

Stray dogs kill 13 animals at Bulgaria zoo

The director of Sofia’s zoo says a pack of stray dogs killed 13 of its animals. Zoo director Ivan Ivanov says an unknown number of dogs leapt through a fence and attacked eight mouflon, four fallow deer and a doe.

Ivanov told The Associated Press the incident occurred last week and was the most serious in the zoo’s recent history. He believes freezing temperatures and hunger had driven the dogs.

Two fallow deer and one mouflon managed to escape and survived before security guards intervened. The dogs also escaped. Ivanov said that new animals of the same species have been already transported to Sofia. The zoo is the largest in the country with 1,310 animals of 274 different species.

Visitors take photos in front of the chocolate terracotta warriors array in Beijing, capital of China. The Chocolate Wonderland, a chocolate theme park in the Olympic Green, was officially opened to the public, in which 560 miniature chocolate terracotta warriors were displayed.

Mom says teen on solo sail is dyslexic

The Australian teenager now in the midst of a solo, non-stop around-the-world sail suffers from profound dyslexia, her mother says. Julie Watson told The Brisbane Courier-Mail her daughter, Jessica, 16, was diagnosed with dyslexia when she was still in preschool. She struggled with school because she could not learn to read.

When Jessica was 11, her mother read her “Lionheart: A Journey of the Human Spirit” by Jesse Martin, who in 1999 became the youngest person to sail alone around the world with out stopping. Julie Watson said her daughter “went very quiet, you could see the cogs turning.” “She realized he was an ordinary person with vulnerabilities and humanness,” Julie Watson said. “And that’s why he wrote the book: so people realized you don’t have to be superhuman to go around the world.”

Jessica is now trying to break Martin’s record. She is on board her yacht, the Pink Lady, halfway across the South Atlantic. “She has struggled all along with perception and people saying: ‘How could she do that if she can’t even spell?’ But you don’t have to accept that as a limitation,” her mother said.

A carnival reveller participates in an afternoon parade in the Ipanema neighborhood of Rio de Janeiro January 30, 2010. Thousands of revellers gathered for the annual “Band of Ipanema” samba parade through the beachfront area, in the city’s most famous street party of the year.—INTERNET

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A visitor views a porcelain at a ceramic painting exhibition opening at the Zhejiang kiln ceramics gallery in Hangzhou, capital of east China’s Zhejiang Province.
Body of lottery winner found buried in Florida

PLANT CITY, 31 Jan — The body of a former truck driver’s assistant who won $17m in a lottery in 2006 has been found buried under a concrete slab in a backyard in Florida. Abraham Shakespeare, who was barely literate, went missing nine months ago after complaining of being exploited by hangers-on who tried to take his money. His body was found on Friday behind a home belonging to the boyfriend of a woman who befriended him in 2007. Police believe he was murdered, but have not yet arrested anyone.

Second major storm of winter hits Washington

WASHINGTON, 31 Jan — For the second time this winter, snow blanketed Washington on Saturday as a winter storm moved eastward to the Carolinas and Virginia. The capital got up to 8 inches, The Washington Post reported. Snowfalls of a foot or more were reported in Virginia. The storm moved across Maryland and Delaware and dumped several inches of snow on the southern Jersey Shore.

Haiti detains Americans taking kids across border

PORT-AU-PRINCE, 31 Jan — Ten Americans were detained by Haitian police on Saturday as they tried to bus 33 children across the border into the Dominican Republic, allegedly without proper documents. The Baptist church members from Idaho called it a “Haitian Orphan Rescue Mission,” meant to save abandoned children from the chaos following Haiti’s earthquake.

The fire engulfed a three-storey apartment block on a busy commercial strip.

Babies thrown from flat to escape fire

NEW YORK, 31 Jan — Five people are dead and three have been injured in a Brooklyn blaze that investigators suspect was intentionally set. Some people trapped in the building were forced to toss at least two children out of windows, one of whom — a two-month-old girl — suffered a skull fracture when she hit the ground, The New York Post reported.

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Colombian police seize cocaine-stuffed cookies

BOGOTA, 31 Jan — Colombian police seized 10 packages of cookies, counternarcotics police said in a statement. Not your average biscuit, “the cream was taken out of the cookies and replaced with compressed bleached cocaine to avoid suspicion from counternarcotics units,” it added.

American citizens pose for a photo at police headquarters in the international airport of Port-au-Prince, on 30 Jan, 2010. Ten Americans were detained by Haitian police on Saturday as they tried to bus 33 children across the border into the Dominican Republic, allegedly without proper documents.
Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San...

(They offered flower and water to the Standing Buddha Image at the prayer hall.

Afterwards, they paid respects and presented provisions to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Ahammadas of Gantgawtahtaung Monastery in PyinOoLwin and five presiding Sayadaws of the Bawdhitahtaung Sasana Region at Buddha Shwekyuang where Maha Bawdhitahtaung Sayadaw

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party visited Thanbuddhe Katkyaw Pagoda and offered flower and water to the Mingala Buddha Image which is being kept at the Pagoda.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party offered alms to members of the Sangha led by Phowintaung Phowintaung Popakyaung Sayadaw Maha Suddhamajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Sumana at Nayaka building.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, wife and party left Monywa by helicopter and arrived in Mandalay in the evening.

U Thu Kha’s centenary birth marked

Yangon, 31 Jan—The Myanmar Motion Picture Association organized a ceremony to mark the centenary birth of late writer-cum-film director U Thu Kha at its office on Wingabar Street in Bahan Township yesterday. Grandchildren and movie professionals paid respects to the picture of the late film-directing genius as a gesture of their admiration.

The works he had created while alive such as films, plays, songs, and literary works were demonstrated.

Religious Affairs Minister inspects plantations

Nay Pyi Taw, 30 Jan—Member of Central Organizing Committee for Myanmar War Veteran Organization Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung inspected 1000-acre hybrid farm and arrangement for water supply to plantations in Homakha Village, Nawnghkio Township of Shan State (North) on 24 January. The minister also looked into plantations, breeding farms and test-planting Ngwechi-6 cotton fields in the compound of MWVO Training School, Mandalay.—MNA.
Easy access from one place to another may bring about higher...

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said in response to the report that the road transportation is the basic need for development of the nation. Easy access from one place to another may ensure bring about socio-economic status and broaden the horizons of the national races. It may also secure better friendship among the national races. So, the government built motorways and railways and constructed bridges across Ayeyawady, Thanlwin and Chindwin rivers in a short period of time. Now, we are here to observe situations to built Ayeyawady Bridge (Singu-Kyaukmyaung) which will link eastern and western parts of Ayeyawady River.

The project will start soon. The government is striving not only for transportation sector but for development in economic, education, health and social sector.

Local people from Singu and Kyaukmyaung regions are to make endeavours for self-sufficiency in rice and boosting agricultural production. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye cordially greeted the attendee.

On arrival at Shwe Mudhtaw Pagoda in Singu, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party offered flowers, water and fruit and paid homage to the Buddha Image.

On behalf of Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo donated cash for the pagoda through Pagoda Board of Trustees and accepted Dhamma gift.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspected alignment for Ayeyawady Bridge (Singu-Kyaukmyaung) from the view deck of the pagoda. Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint reported on progress of feasibility study and facts about the bridge.

In response to the report, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye called for the systematic study on conditions of water flow and banks.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspected the Singu jetty.

Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye viewed Nwenyein village, Kyaukmyaung model village on west bank of Ayeyawady River in Shwebo Township of Sagaing Division and alignment for the bridge by helicopter and arrived in Mandalay in the afternoon. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party inspected development of Mandalay and upgrading of downtown roads in a motorcade and arrived here in the evening. — MNA

The government built motorways and railways and constructed bridges across Ayeyawady, Thanlwin and Chindwin rivers in a short period of time.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party offered flowers, water and fruit and paid homage to the Buddha Image.
DELHI book fair showcases booming book market in Asia

NEW DELHI, 31 Jan—The 19th biennial Delhi World Book Fair was launched on Saturday in New Delhi, with a nine-day festival deemed as one of the biggest book fairs in Asia.

INDIA submits emission mitigation actions to UN

NEW DELHI, 31 Jan—India on Saturday submitted its domestic emission mitigation actions to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), reported local daily The Hindu on Sunday.

India told the UNFCCC that to link up with the Copenhagen Accord, it would try to reduce the emissions intensity of its gross domestic product (GDP) by 20 percent to 25 percent by 2020 in comparison to the 2005 levels, said the report.

The domestic mitigation actions will be entirely voluntary in nature and will not have a legally binding character, according to the report.

Ginkgo: Risk of seizures in epileptics

BONN, 31 Jan—An herbal remedy may raise the risk of seizures in people with epilepsy, German researchers warn.

Eckhard Leistner and Christel Drewke of Institut fur Pharmazeutische Biologie, Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universitat, say the remedy—pills or teas from the leaves or raw or roasted seeds of Ginkgo biloba used to treat an array of maladies including Alzheimer’s disease and blood vessel blockages—contains potentially toxic ginkgotoxin that may affect a chemical signalling pathway in ways that trigger epileptic seizures.

The researchers reviewed 10 studies and they say there is evidence Ginkgo can interact with anti-seizure medications and reduce their effectiveness.

The researchers urge restrictions be placed on the use of the top-selling remedy.

“It is therefore important that the large number of G. biloba product users and their healthcare providers be made aware of these risks, in order to enable them to make informed decisions about the use of these preparations,” the study says.

The review is published in the Journal of Natural Products.

Raynald Fortin competes during the Grande Viree dog sled race in the streets of the Old Quebec at the Quebec Winter Carnival in Quebec City on 30 Jan, 2010. —Xinhua

S Korea confirms sixth outbreak of FMD

SEOUL, 31 Jan—South Korea confirmed on Saturday the sixth outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in a local cattle farm north of Seoul, local media reported.

The farm, located in Pochen in Gyeonggi Province, about 45 kilometres north of Seoul, is about 3.8 kilometres away from where the first outbreak was reported on 7 Jan, South Korea’s Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries said.

The animals in the farm reported blisters on Friday, the ministry added.

Quarantine authorities decided to cull all 81 heads of dairy cattle in the farm, and also plan to kill and bury livestock within a 500-metre radius of the farm to prevent further spread of the highly infectious virus.

The fifth outbreak of the FMD also reported in Pochen region on Tuesday, and 63 heads of livestock within the 500-metre radius of the outbreak site were culled.

DR Congo lake wreckage kills nine

KINSHASA, 31 Jan—A small fishing boat coupled with two canoes with 42 passengers on board overturned and left nine dead on Lake Tanganyika in Katanga Province of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo), a local radio station said on Friday.

Citing a maritime police source based at Tembwe, 68 km from the scene of the wreckage, the radio said the overloading, bad weather and the drunkenness of the crew members were the main causes of the accident, which occurred between Monday night and Tuesday morning. The nine victims included seven children.

The news of the accident arrived quite late at the maritime services at Tembwe because there were difficulties in accessing the Kabumba locality along Lake Tanganyika, the same source said.

Maurice Nkulu Ngoy, a judicial police officer at Kalamie police station, told the radio that similar accidents occur very often as some people do not have proper navigation documents, they are not registered and they escape from paying taxes and take risks by navigating through insecure conditions.

Tourists enjoy themselves at the Fortaleza Canyon in the Serra Geral National Park in Rio Grande do Sul, southern Brazil, on 28 Jan, 2010. —Xinhua
Antibiotic displays unexpected results

ST LOUIS, 31 Jan—An antibiotic that can cause hearing loss in people actually protected the ears of young mice given extended low doses of the drug, scientists in Missouri said. The study by the Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis raises important questions about what mechanisms cause hearing loss and what mechanisms could be protective. William Clark, the study’s lead author wrote in the current issue of the Journal of the Association for Research in Otolaryngology. The study arose from concerns about how to protect ailing infants from noise aboard medical helicopters. Ailing babies often receive the antibiotic gentamicin, a mild antibiotic that is closely related to kanamycin, which can cause hearing loss. Researchers were concerned the noise and the antibiotics would interact synergistically to cause greater hearing loss, Clark said. Studies on young mice, which have similar inner-ear anatomy to that of humans, showed hearing loss from noise. Mice treated with kanamycin in low doses, however, were protected from sensory cell damage and hearing loss, the study found.

California lists moon junk as historical resource

LOS ANGELES, 31 Jan—Seeking to preserve the site where humans first set foot on the moon, a California state panel on Friday registered a collection of 106 objects left by the Apollo 11 mission as an historical resource. The move by the state Historical Resources Commission marks the first such designation for cultural artefacts located other than on Earth, said Lisa Westwood, part of a team of scholars and museum professionals who applied for the listing.

The group hopes that placing the moon objects on California’s registry of historic landmarks and resources will lead ultimately to designating Tranquility Base as a United Nations World Heritage Site. “We are elevating the profile of this resource, and instilling upon the public, which could include space travellers at some point, a sense of site stewardship and the importance of preservation,” said Westwood, an archaeologist who teaches at Chico State University.

NY fears Central Park rabies outbreak

NEW YORK, 31 Jan—A spike in the number of rabid raccoons recovered in New York’s Central Park has led to warnings a rabies outbreak could spread to humans. Since the beginning of December, health officials have confirmed 28 rabid raccoons in or near the park, compared with only three from 2003 through November, CNN reported. Authorities say they can’t explain the increase. Health and parks department officials said they were working to increase surveillance and vaccinate wild raccoons in the 843-acre Central Park, as well as in the city’s Morningside and Riverside parks. Officials urge park visitors to keep pets on a leash and to stay away from raccoons. Most of the cases have been in the northern portion of Central Park, between 79th and 110th streets, officials said.

Macao Red Cross receives nearly 380,000 USD for Haiti victims

MACAO, 31 Jan—The Macao Red Cross said on Friday that it has so far received more than 3 million patacas (379,747 US dollars) in donations from local people for earthquake victims in Haiti. The Kiang Wu Hospital Charitable Association, a local charity, donated some 380,000 patacas (48,101 dollars) to the Macao Red Cross for the Haiti disaster relief, according to a spokesperson of the Red Cross. The money will be used to assist the quake relief operations in Haiti, where local officials has estimated that over 100,000 people were killed in the disaster, and the Macao Red Cross will later discuss with the Red Cross Society of China and the International Committee of the Red Cross on the way the donations will be delivered.

S African business donates to Haiti victims

JOHANNESBURG, 31 Jan—A South African business has donated five million rand (675,000 US dollars) to Haitian earthquake victims. On Friday the Cape Town-based company presented a check to Imtiaz Sooliman from the South African humanitarian aid organization Gift of the Givers, which sent two search and rescue missions to the stricken Caribbean country.

“Our only hope is that these funds find their way to the most vulnerable members of the community and somehow help them in their quest to rebuild their shattered lives,” Nazeem Ebrahim, Oasis Group Holdings marketing director told the media in Cape Town. A quake measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale hit Haiti on 12 Jan, killing an estimated 200,000 people.
Peugeot follows Toyota in car recall

PRAGUE, 31 Jan — Peugeot Citroen, Europe’s second-biggest carmaker, is recalling some cars made with Toyota in Europe. “For Peugeot 107s and Citroen C1s, we are going to carry out an identical campaign as Toyota,” a spokesman said. The Japanese car giant has now recalled millions of cars worldwide with faulty pedals.

Both models are made in a Czech plant, a joint venture with Toyota that assembles around 200,000 Peugeot and Citroen cars every year. Peugeot said “under 100,000” cars will be recalled. It did not say when the recall would begin. Toyota is recalling up to 1.8 million cars across Europe, including about 220,000 in the UK, following an accelerator problem.

Rival carmaker Honda has also announced the recall of 646,000 cars globally to fix a switch defect that could cause a fire. The Japanese carmaker said on Friday that it was not aware of any accidents resulting from the issue and that only a limited number of incidents involving accelerator pedals had been reported in Europe.

Both Peugeot models are made in Kolin, east of Prague, and are made for the European market mainly, the Peugeot spokesman said. The plant also makes the Toyota Aygo. The Peugeot 107, Citroen C1 and the Aygo are essentially the same car with different styling and fittings. The French carmaker has no other joint ventures with Toyota.
Diabetes may be linked to pollutants

**Internet**

**WINNIPEG, 31 Jan—** There is growing evidence that diabetes, especially among indigenous people — may be linked to environmental pollutants, US and Canadian researchers say.

One out of four indigenous adults living on reserves in Canada have been diagnosed with type 2 diabetes, The Dominion reports.

More than a dozen published studies show a diabetes link to persistent organic pollutants, including polychlorinated biphenyls, carcinogenic hydrocarbons, or dioxins and synthetic pesticides such as DDT.

Environment Canada’s National Pollutant Release Inventory says there are 212 indigenous communities in Canada living near or downstream from pulp mills and other facilities that produce dioxins and furans.

**Secondhand smoke a danger to smokers**

**GENOA, 31 Jan—** People who have a health risk from smoking have an additional risk from inhaling secondhand smoke — secondhand smoke — researchers in Italy found.

Maria Teresa Piccardo, Anna Stella and Federico Valerio of the National Cancer Research Institute in Genoa, Italy, studied the exposure of newsagents in the city to harmful cigarette smoke.

“Newsagents were chosen because they work alone in small newsstands, meaning that any tobacco smoke in the air they breathe is strictly correlated to the number of cigarettes smoked by that newsagent,” Piccardo said in a statement. “We studied the contribution environmental tobacco smoke made to carcinogen exposure in 15 active smokers.”

In 2006, Dr Dae-Hee Lee and colleagues found people with the highest rate of exposure to persistent organic pollutants were roughly 38 times more likely to have diabetes than those with the lowest rate of exposure. However, people who were obese but did not have high levels of persistent organic pollutants were not at increased risk of developing diabetes.

**Vitamin D may fight Crohn’s disease**

**MONTREAL, 31 Jan—** Canadian researchers say vitamin D can counter the effects of Crohn’s disease.

Researchers at Montreal’s McGill University Health Centre and University of Montreal found vitamin D acts directly on the beta defensin 2 gene, which encodes an antimicrobial peptide and the NOD2 gene that alerts cells to the presence of invading microbes.

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**Vitamin D deficiency may worsen asthma**

**LOS ANGELES, 31 Jan—** Lower levels of Vitamin D may worsen asthma and hinder response to steroid treatment, a new study finds.

For the study, researchers at the National Jewish Health (NJH) in Denver took the vitamin D levels of 54 asthmatics and assessed lung function, airway hyper-responsiveness, which is the prevalence of airway constriction, and response to steroid treatment.

The study found that people with low levels of vitamin D in their blood did worse on the tests that evaluated lung function and airway hyper-responsiveness.

In those with vitamin levels below 30 nanogrammes per millilitre (ng/ml), airway hyper-responsiveness almost doubled, compared to those with more D in their blood.

Low vitamin D levels were also associated with a worse response to steroid therapy and increased production of the pro-inflammatory cytokine, TNF-alpha. This raises the possibility that low vitamin D levels are tied to increased inflammation of the airways, the researchers noted.

The study was published in the Jan. issue of the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine.

**Lionel Messi plays for Argentina during the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa.**

**Standard refrigerators good for vaccines**

**GAITHERSBURG, 31 Jan—** Experts at a US government agency say standard-size freezerless refrigerators do a good job maintaining ideal temperatures for storing vaccines.

However, researchers at the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Gaithersburg, Md, say they cannot recommend small dormitory-style refrigerators do a good job maintaining ideal temperatures for storing vaccines.

“Among the many recommendations that we have made, we think one of the most positive outcomes of this research is that medical clinics in most cases need not spend several thousand dollars on a pharmaceutical grade refrigerator simply for the purpose of storing vaccines,” Gregory Strouse, a physicist at NIST, says in a statement.

The researchers also advise that to keep vaccines 2 to 8 degrees Celsius or 35 to 46 degrees Fahrenheit include:

— Keeping vaccines off the door shelves, away from the refrigerator walls, and out of crispers because these areas can be areas non-optimal temperatures.

— Keeping water bottles on the door shelves provides thermal “ballast” that helps mitigate temperature rises caused by power failure, leaving the door ajar or high temperature in the room.

— Vaccines kept in their packaging retain their temperature longer.
Zola desperate for McCarthy to boost relegation battle

London, 31 Jan—West Ham manager Gianfranco Zola hopes South African forward Benni McCarthy will provide a major boost to his struggling side’s bid to avoid relegation. Zola’s team drew a blank in Saturday’s 0-0 draw with Blackburn and remain too close to the Premier League’s bottom three for comfort.

With new co-owners David Sullivan and David Gold willing to back Zola in the transfer market, the Italian has lined up a 2 million pounds move for McCarthy, who is out of favour at Blackburn. Zola expects the deal to be done before Monday’s transfer deadline and is confident the former Porto forward will fire the 15th placed team away from the drop zone.

McCarthy, who is out of favour at Blackburn. Zola Italian has lined up a 2.5 million pounds move for Gold willing to back Zola in the transfer market, the for comfort.

Zola hopes South African forward Benni McCarthy to avoid relegation. Zola’s team drew a blank in Saturday’s 0-0 draw with Blackburn and remain too close to the Premier League’s bottom three for comfort.

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Zola desperate for McCarthy to boost relegation battle.

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Mancini tells City to keep up United standard

Manchester, 31 Jan—Roberto Mancini has urged his Manchester City players to put their midweek League Cup disappointment behind them when Premier League strugglers Portsmouth visit Eastlands on Sunday. Mancini and his squad have been licking their wounds since Wednesday’s crushing semi-final defeat to Manchester United at Old Trafford, but the Italian has been making a good job of hiding his hurt in the hope that this will give his players the lift they need.

Mancini says he was proud of his side and believes City will have no trouble in securing Champions League qualification for the first time if they can maintain the same level.

Murray hoping for best vs Federer in Aussie final

Melbourne, 31 Jan—Andy Murray understands what it will take to beat Roger Federer in the Australian Open final and finally fulfill the hopes of an entire nation. “I’m going to need to play my best match ever,” Murray said on Saturday.

“That’s what I plan on doing. If I do, I’ve got a good chance of winning.” The solution to ending a 74-year Grand Slam drought for Britain sounds simple in theory.

While Murray leads Federer 6-4 in career head-to-head matches, he lost their only meeting in a major at the U.S. Open final. And the only two matches that Murray has lost in his last nine against top-10 players have been to Federer. Yet the 22-year-old Scot was so unfazed that he seemed almost bored as he explained why he believes he can handle Federer, who has won more Grand Slam singles titles than any other man. “I’ve played him a lot of times so I know the way you need to play against him,” Murray said. “It’s not going to be too many surprises on the court tomorrow.”

Answers to yesterday’s Crosswords Puzzle

Park’s brace maintains Monaco’s unbeaten run

Paris, 31 Jan—A double by Korean international Park Chu-kyung inspired Monaco to a 3-2 victory over Nice on Saturday to extend their unbeaten run to seven league matches. Park’s brace, and one by Brazilian star Nene, ended a 14-year winless run against their opponents who are deep in relegation trouble having not won in their past nine games, a run which included a Cup exit at the hands of lower league Plabennec.

Leaders Bordeaux, meanwhile, were held to a 0-0 draw by second from bottom Boulogne - a late goal by Bordeaux’s Moroccan international striker Marouane Chamakh was ruled out for an infringement. Bordeaux saw their eight-point lead reduced to six when surprise packets Montpellier beat Marseille 2-0 later on Saturday, second-half goals by Karim Ait-Fana and an own-goal by Benoit Cheyrou enough to take the points. Park — who on Friday signed a contract extension tying him to Monaco until 2013 — struck in the 19th minute with a header from a corner by Nene.

Monaco’s forward Cha Young Park (L) celebrates with defender Djimi Traore after scoring a goal during their French L1 football match against Nice at the Louis II Stadium in Monaco.
Bayern rout Mainz to top Bundesliga

BERLIN, 31 Jan—Bayern Munich reclaimed the top place of the Bundesliga after the German giants thrashed Mainz 3-0 for their seventh successive league win on Saturday.

Belgian defender Daniel van Buyten headed the hosts’ first in the 58th minute and Mario Gomez curled in a free kick four minutes from time. In-form hosts’ first in the 58th minute and Mario Gomez thrashed Mainz 3-0 for their seventh successive top place of the Bundesliga after the German giants

Undefeated Leverkusen can retake the top spot on Sunday when they face Freiburg (1630 GMT).
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

Easy access from one place to another may bring about higher socio-economic status and broaden horizons of national races

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects alignment for Ayeyawady Bridge (Singu-Kyaumyaung)

Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, accompanied by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the commanders, the ministers and departmental heads, arrived in Singu Township, PyinOoLwin District by helicopter this morning. They were welcomed by Col Win Zaw of Central Command, Col Aung Kyaw Moe of the local station, the secretary of Mandalay Division PDC and chairmen of district and townships. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye met with departmental officials, members of social organizations, town elders and local people at the hall in Singu.

The chairman of Singu Township PDC explained area of the township, numbers of households and population, land utilization, agriculture and food sufficiency, projects being carried out, education and health tasks and establishment of self-reliant libraries in each and every village in the township. Next, a local reported on development of Singu Township and requirements needed to fulfill.

(See page 9)