NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—A Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win arrived back home by air yesterday afternoon after attending the ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Retreat and the Special Meeting of the ASEAN Coordination Council (ACC) in Lombok, the Republic of Indonesia, from 15 to 17 January.

On 15 January, Indonesian Minister of Foreign Dr R M Marty M Natalegawa and wife hosted a dinner to the ASEAN Foreign Ministers and spouses and the ASEAN Secretary-General at Oberoi Lombok Hotel.

On 16 January, the minister attended the ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Retreat at Oberoi Lombok Hotel and exchanged views on international and regional issues. The ASEAN Foreign Ministers held cordial discussion on topics including the ASEAN Community Building, modalities of ASEAN Summits, East Asia Summit and ASEAN Community in a global community of nations. During the retreat, the minister explained the positive developments in Myanmar in the post-election era. In their discussions on the issue on Myanmar, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers welcomed the positive developments including the successful holding of the multi-party democracy general elections and stressed the need for the countries, which imposed sanctions on Myanmar, to respond to those developments and lift their sanctions against the country.

In the afternoon, the minister joined other ASEAN Foreign Ministers and the ASEAN Secretary-General to participate in the activities of coral reef planting, tree planting and releasing turtles on the beach of Lombok in commemoration of the event of holding of ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Retreat in Lombok.

(See page 8)

A line of traffic signboards on Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw section of Yangon-Mandalay Expressway.

Yangon-Mandalay Expressway is 202 miles and one furlong long from Yangon No. 3 Junction to Nay Pyi Taw C Junction. The four-lane divided highway has 30 feet wide traffic islands and two 25-foot-wide ways on it. Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw section of the expressway was commissioned on 25 March 2009.

It is not at the level of an expressway yet, because vehicles can run on it at the speed of 60 mph only. Along the expressway, some traffic signboards say “100 kilometers”, some say “80 kilometers”, and some say “Over speed may be highly risky”. There are also many forms of traffic signboards along it.

(See page 7)
**Myanmar to become leading supplier of beans and pulses**

As part of efforts to speed up the agriculture sector of the State, vacant and virgin lands have been reclaimed to extend sown acreage. Up to 1988, over 26 million acres of vacant and fallow lands could not be utilized in the agriculture sector.

So far, a total of 11.7 million acres of over 26 million acres of vacant and virgin lands have been reclaimed. Agricultural technology, quality strains of crops and fertilizers are provided to the farmers for ensuring boosting production of crops.

Likewise, the farmers are provided for water availability with irrigation facilities such as dams, sluice gates, river water pumping projects and underground water tapping works.

Myanmar is standing at the top role in paddy production. In addition, Myanmar becomes a leading country in producing beans and pulses in South-East Asian region.

The country produced 170,000 tons of beans and pulses from 1.8 million acres in 1988, compared with 4.975 million tons from 10.57 million acres to date. Myanmar stands second at the world level in exporting beans and pulses after Australia. At present, utmost efforts are being made for using quality strains of crops and change of crop patterns in respective regions so as to achieve the target production of mung bean, green gram and pigeon pea.

Concerted efforts are being made for penetrating the international market by growing better yield and quality beans and pulses. The bean specified companies have been organized for exporting value-added products, and plans are being implemented for farming the domestic and international markets.

Thus, Myanmar, that stands second at the world level and top role in paddy exporting nation, is to focus on extended reclamation of vacant and virgin lands for production of more and more quality beans and pulses.

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**Construction Minister inspects PyinOoLwin-Mogok Road construction**

Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint inspected PyinOoLwin-Mogok Road yesterday.

He inspected Nantpanchaung Bridge construction at milepost No. 70/4 near Legyi Village. PyinOoLwin-Mogok new road is 97 miles long and seven furlongs wide, and 12-foot-wide tar road, flanked by 3-foot-wide shoulders. There are one district group of Public Works under the Ministry of Construction, one special construction group, and ten construction companies getting involved in the road construction day and night.

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**Myanmar establishes diplomatic ties with Gambia**

**NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan—**The Union of Myanmar and the Republic of The Gambia desirous of establishing friendly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation on the basis of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and norms of international law in accordance with the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic Relations and on Consular Relations, decided to establish diplomatic relations between the two countries at Ambassadorial level with effect from 13 January, 2011.

The Joint Communique on the agreement to establish diplomatic relations between the Union of Myanmar and the Republic of The Gambia was signed by the Permanent Representative of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations and the Permanent Representative of the Republic of The Gambia to the United Nations in New York on 13 January, 2011.

Myanmar has been making efforts to expand diplomatic relations with countries all over the world and the Republic of The Gambia has become the 103rd country with which Myanmar has established diplomatic relations. —MNA

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**Future puts 5 intravenous fluids on the market**

**YANGON, 19 Jan —**K Future Co Ltd, as a sole agent, has been distributing five kinds of indispensable intravenous fluids — 5% Dextrose Infusion, 0.9 Sodium Chloride Infusion (Physiological Saline), Dextrose 5% & Sodium Chloride 0.9% Infusion (Dextrose & Physiological Saline), Dextrose 2.5% & Sodium Chloride 0.45% Solution (1/2 Strength DPS) and Ringer’s Lactate Infusion — developed by Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factories (Yangon and Kyauk). Those injections are at the advantages in terms of quality and price compared with exported ones.

The exhibition for those intravenous fluids will be held at Myanmar Medical Association at No. 249, Theinbyu Road, Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon, from 19 to 25 January in conjunction with 57th Myanmar Medical Conference-2011. The sale agents may contact K Future Co Ltd at Room No. 3, Building No. 17, Sabei Street (near Yuzana Plaza), Tamway Township in Yangon (Ph: 73096666 and 73146666). —MNA
**Car bomb kills 12 at Iraqi guards headquarters**

_BAGHDAD, 19 Jan_—

An Iraqi police spokesman says a car bomb has killed 12 people at a headquarters for a guard force that protects government buildings in eastern Iraq.

A police spokesman in Diyala Province says 57 people were injured in the blast on Wednesday morning.

Al-Karkhi says the car was driven by a suicide attacker and crashed into the headquarters’ main gate in the city of Baqouba, 35 miles (60 kilometres) northeast of Baghdad. He says it exploded when guards opened fire on the car to try to stop it.

Police say the blast toppled a building on the headquarters’ grounds. The attack comes a day after a suicide bomber targeting police recruits in northern Iraq killed 65 people.

**12 Taleban killed in blast in Afghanistan’s Frayab Province**

_KABUL, 19 Jan—_ Twelve Taleban militants were killed and six others injured as their explosive device went off in Afghanistan Farah Province 425 km northwest of Capital Kabul, Interior Ministry said in a statement on Wednesday.

“The militants were busy in making roadside bombs in a compound in Totak Village of Ghormach district late Tuesday night but suddenly their explosive material went off as a result 12 militants were killed and six others sustained injuries,” the statement said.

Two local commanders of the Taleban fighters were also among those killed in the blast, the statement added.

The militants killed in the incident were involved in carrying out roadside bomb attacks in Farah and the neighboring Badghis Provinces.

Taleban militants have yet to make comments.

**Explosion rocks S Afghan Province, leaves bomber dead**

_KANDAHAR, 19 Jan—_ An explosion rocked the town of Spin Boldak District in Kandahar Province, 450 km south of Afghan Capital Kabul on Wednesday, casualties feared, police said.

“A suicide bomber attempted to target security forces in Spin Boldak District this morning at around 11.00 am local time but the police identified and opened fire seriously injured him,” Abdul Razeq, the commander of Border Police in Spin Boldak district told Xinhua.

“The bomber before taking his last breath exploded his explosive device strapped in his body and died on the spot,” Razeq added.

There were no casualties on police and civilians, the police officer emphasized.

**Roadside bomb kills 13 civilians in Afghanistan**

_KABUL, 19 Jan—_ A motorized rickshaw packed with civilian passengers struck a roadside bomb in eastern Afghanistan Wednesday, triggering a blast that killed all 13 people in the vehicle.

The blast happened in Khoshamad District of eastern Paktika Province, the Interior Ministry said in a statement, adding that women and children were among the dead. Further details were not immediately available.

Civilians are increasingly the victims of the escalating Afghan war, particular from planted bombs on roads and in markets. A recent United Nations report said it documented 2,412 conflict-related civilian casualties in the first 10 months of 2010. More than three-quarters of them were caused by militant activity, a 25 percent increase from the same period in 2009, the report said.

At the same time, civilian casualties attributed to pro-government forces decreased.

In western Herat Province Tuesday night, a rocket hit a civilian house during a firefight between militants and NATO forces in the area, government spokesman Shafiq Berozyan said. One child was killed and another 10 people were wounded, he said. These incidents came after two deadly roadside bombings this weekend.

On Saturday, six civilians were killed when their minivan hit a bomb while driving in southern Helmand Province. On Sunday, a station wagon carrying a family of nine people struck a bomb in northern Baghlan Province, killing all of those aboard.

**Three killed in US drone strike in Pakistan**

_ISLAMABAD, 19 Jan—_ At least three people were killed in a US drone strike launched Tuesday night in Pakistan’s northwest tribal area of North Waziristan, reported local Urdu TV channel Dunnya.

**US and allies kill, injure Iraqi people**

_BAGHDAD, 19 Jan—_ There has been daily casualties in Iraq since the US and its allies have invaded the country.

**Casualties of Iraqi people**

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<thead>
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<th>No.</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>The total number of seriously injured people</td>
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**Casualties of Afghan people in invasion of NATO troops led by US**

_KABUL, 19 Jan—_ The NATO troops led by the US have invaded Afghanistan and they are there for a long time.

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

**Casualties of Afghan people**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Subject</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Seriously injured Afghan people</td>
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### Science

**Sharks may be colourblind**

PERTH, 19 Jan—Australian researchers say a study of vision in sharks found they have only one type of cone vision cell in their eyes, strongly suggesting they are colourblind.

Researchers from the University of Western Australia and the University of Queensland in Australia found that although the eyes of sharks function over a wide range of light levels, they only have a single type of long-wavelength-sensitive cone cell in the retina and therefore are potentially totally colourblind, the Springer online journal The Science of Nature reported Tuesday.

“This new research on how sharks see may help to prevent attacks on humans and assist in the development of fishing gear that may reduce shark bycatch in long-line fisheries,” researcher Nathan Scott Hart said.

**300 starlings found dead in South Dakota**

YANKTON, 19 Jan—In the latest in a string of bird deaths, more than 300 starlings found dead in downtown Yankton, SD, were probably poisoned, wildlife officials said.

City officials said poison used at a local feed lot is believed to be the cause, the Yankton Press & Dakotan reported Tuesday.

Yankton Animal Control Officer Lisa Brasel said DRC 1339, a bird poison commonly used by the US Department of Agriculture, has been confirmed as the likely cause. Brasel said a USDA official contacted her Tuesday afternoon after seeing news of the dead birds.

Wildlife biologist Ricky Woods confirmed DRC 1339 was used by the USDA at a feedlot about 10 miles south of Yankton.

While birds usually die before getting so far from the source of the poison, it is not unknown, he told the Press & Dakotan.

**Chinese IT firm opens new headquarters in Canada**

TORONTO, 19 Jan—Huawei Technologies Co Ltd, a Chinese telecom equipment maker, Tuesday celebrated the official opening of its Canadian Headquarters in Markham, Ontario.

The new 46,000-square-foot facility includes sales and marketing capabilities as well as a test lab.

“The establishment of our headquarters in Markham underscores our long-term investment in the Canadian market, and on a broader scale signifies Huawei’s continued growth in North America,” Charles Ding, president of Huawei North America, said.

To date, Huawei has created more than 250 jobs in Canada, approximately 70 percent of which are based in Markham. Over the next two years, Huawei is expected to add 280 new jobs in Canada, many of which will continue to be located in the Markham area.

**Material makes electricity from waste heat**

EVANSTON, 19 Jan—US researchers say they’ve found a material that can generate electricity from the waste heat of car exhaust systems or industrial processes and equipment.

Researchers at Northwestern University placed nanocrystals of rock salt into lead telluride to create a material that is expected to be able to convert 14 percent of heat waste to electricity, a university release said Tuesday. “It has been known for 100 years that semiconductors have this property that can harness electricity,” chemistry Professor Mercouri Kanatzidis said. “To make this an efficient process, all you need is the right material, and we have found a recipe or system to make this material.”

“We can put this material inside of an inexpensive device with a few electrical wires and attach it to something like a light bulb,” said Vinayak Dravid, professor of materials science and engineering and co-author of the paper.

**Facebook temporarily shut information-sharing apps**

BEIJING, 19 Jan—Facebook’s controversial move to give apps the ability to capture users’ mobile phone number and address is temporarily suspended.

When downloading a Facebook app, people have always been asked if they want to share their name, picture, friends list, and other information.

The social network pushed through the new change last Friday by throwing in an additional request asking to share a person’s address and mobile phone number.

This new change has triggered massive negative feedbacks from users because they cannot know what the app is really about until they’ve agreed to share their contact information during the app installation process.

Concerns quickly arose that malicious apps could tap into the new feature to snatch addresses and cell numbers.

**Science**

A young girl walks past her family’s dried corn field in 2009 in Kenya. A growing world population combined with the steady effects of climate change are forecast to create a global food shortage in the next 10 years, but the news isn’t all bad for some countries.—INTERNET
Long shifts for nurses may hurt patients

Baltimore, 19 Jan—US researchers link nurses’ long work hours with patients’ greater likelihood of dying from pneumonia and heart attack, according to a study released Wednesday. —Internet

Teeth being saved for their stem cells

Miami, 19 Jan—A new medical movement has US dentists extracting teeth for their stem cells they believe can someday be used to cure any number of ailments, experts say.

Stem cells are spun out of extracted baby teeth, wisdom teeth and even healthy adult teeth, frozen to 100 degrees below zero and stored for possible future use. The Miami Herald reported Tuesday.

Apple net income soars 78 pct in holiday quarter

San Francisco, 19 Jan—Apple Inc’s stellar holiday-quarter results were enough to make investors forget, at least for the moment, that CEO Steve Jobs is taking another medical leave of absence.

The company was able to boost production of iPads faster than analysts predicted, and shoppers bought iPhones as fast as Apple could make them, helping drive the company’s fiscal first-quarter net income up 78 percent from the prior year.

Shares rose mildly in after-hours trading after the results came out, partly offsetting a more than 2 percent drop during regular trading on the health news.

Jobs had surgery in 2004 that he said cured him of a rare form of pancreatic cancer.—Internet

IBM quarterly results top forecasts

New York, 19 Jan—US computer giant IBM posted quarterly results that were better than expected on Tuesday on revived technology spending. The Armonk, New York-based company said its net profit rose nine percent to $5.3 billion in the fourth quarter over a year ago while revenue was up seven percent to $29 billion.

Earnings per share of $4.18 were better than the $4.08 expected by analysts, IBM shares were up 2.82 percent at $150.65 in after-hours electronic trading.

“We completed an outstanding year, with record profit and free cash flow, and exceeded the high end of our 2010 earnings per share roadmap objective,” IBM chairman, president and chief executive Samuel Palmisano said.

Singapore exchange to launch world’s fastest trading engine in August

Singapore, 19 Jan—Singapore Exchange will launch the world’s fastest trading engine on 15 Aug, the bourse announced Wednesday.

The new system, called SGX Reach, will boast an order response time of 90 microseconds “door-to-door” and be able to handle 1 million order book changes per second per partition, which is 100 times the capacity of the existing engine, it said. “Reach will provide our customers with leading-edge services delivered on a high-speed platform and driven by world-class technology.—Xinhua

Oil edges down on Alaska pipeline restore, OPEC production increase

New York, 19 Jan—Crude oil price edged down on Tuesday as the Trans Alaska Pipeline restored oil flow and the International Energy Agency (IEA) said that some members of Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) may have quietly raised production.

The Trans Alaska pipeline, shut down for more than a week, restarted on Monday. The pipeline was expected to boost throughput to 500,000 barrels per day within 24 hours.

The IEA said on Tuesday, OPEC may be quietly increasing output in response to higher oil prices and Saudi Arabia appears already to have raised its production.—Xinhua

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Thursday, 20 January, 2011

Health

Health Tip: Protect yourself against cold weather

ICY snow, wind and frigid temperatures are frequently in nature’s plans for winter. The US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention suggests these cold weather safety tips:

* Wear layers of lightweight clothing, including a scarf, hat, gloves and boots.
* Help prevent falls by covering icy spots with sand or cat litter.
* Pay attention to the wind chill when deciding how to dress.
* Travel with an emergency kit, a buddy and a cell phone.
* Maintain your car, keep your gas tank full and stock the vehicle with emergency supplies.—Internet

Pedestrians walk past an Apple Store in San Francisco, Tuesday, on 18 Jan, 2011.—Internet

Veterinarians check cattle for vaccinations at a farm in Goyang, 30 kms northwest of Seoul. Officials in South Korea’s southern regions have urged people not to return to home towns there for the Lunar New Year holiday for fear of spreading the nation’s worst outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease.—Internet

A sunbather puts on sunblock at the Renaca beach in Vina del Mar, Chile, 2009. Scientists have pinpointed a molecular mechanism in mice which helps skin cancer cells confound the animal’s immune system, according to a study released Wednesday.—Internet

Internet
Tremors felt in northwest India and New Delhi as quake hits Pakistan

NEW DELHI, 19 Jan— As a powerful earthquake struck southwestern Pakistan in the small hours Wednesday, tremors were felt in parts of northwestern India, including the national capital, reported the Press Trust of India.

People in New Delhi rushed outside their homes in the wee hours of the chilly night as tremors were felt, said the report. The India Disaster Monitoring and Response System (IDM) said the epicenter of the earthquake was located in southwestern Pakistan in the desert area bordering Iran and Afghanistan.

“It was a shallow earthquake which struck at a depth of 7.4 km,” the report quoted an IDM official as saying.

The epicentre of the quake was located at 28.9 degrees north on the latitude and 64 degrees east on the longitude, the IMD said.

The quake was felt strongly in Anqing, and local residents were seen running out of buildings when it struck.

“Desk in my office was shaking terribly hard,” said Zhang Zhenggui, a local government employee told Xinhua on the phone. The quake was also felt in Wuhu and Hefei, two other cities in Anhui.—Xinhua

Floods in southern Africa claim over 50 lives

JOHANNESBURG, 19 Jan— Over 50 people have died in floods in South Africa and neighbouring Mozambique, South Africa’s Minister for Cooperative Governance Sicelo Shiceko said Tuesday. More than 6,000 people have fled their homes, and a state of emergency has been declared in several communities in seven of South Africa’s nine provinces.

The death is a frightening reminder of how many people are drowned in a whirlpool while he was searching for missing people in a flooding river. Local broadcaster E-News reported that seven people were still missing.

Meteorologists said more rainfall is expected over the next few days, which could cause already high river levels to rise dangerously. South Africa’s army has been put on high alert.

In Mozambique, 13 people have died in floods while some 13,000 have fled, state radio reported. Authorities fear that continued rain could affect hundreds of thousands.—Internet

Brazil mudslide deaths over 700 and rising

ITAPIAPA, 19 Jan— The deadly toll from catastrophic mudslides in Brazil last week rose Thursday to 702 as more bodies were recovered from the devastated mountainous Serrana region near Rio de Janeiro.

Rio’s State health and civil defence service, which gave the tally, also said around 14,000 people were homeless or unable to return to unstable areas.

The disaster, which struck Wednesday last week, is the worst of its type in Brazil’s history.

The toll was likely to rise further in the days ahead as emergency crews backed by 700 military personnel used helicopters and four-wheel drives to access areas that have been cut off for days. “I’m never going back there to live. Death will always be in that place,” said Roberto Fabiano Augusto, a survivor rescued from the isolated village of Vale de Cuaba.—Internet

M4.8 tremor hits east China City

BEIJING, 19 Jan— An earthquake measuring 4.8 on the Richter scale hit an area near Anqing City in east China’s Anhui Province Wednesday, according to the China Earthquake Networks Centre.

No casualties or damages were immediately reported, local authorities said.

The quake struck at 12:07 pm, the centre reported.

The epicentre was monitored at 30.6 degrees north latitude and 117.1 degrees east longitude with a depth of nine kilometres, the centre said.

The quake was felt strongly in Anqing, and local residents were seen running out of buildings when it struck.

“Desk in my office were shaking terribly hard,” said Zhang Zhenggui, a local government employee told Xinhua on the phone. The quake was also felt in Wuhu and Hefei, two other cities in Anhui.—Xinhua

6.0 magnitude quake rocks sea off Sumatra Island, Indonesia

BEIJING, 19 Jan— An earthquake measuring 6.0 on the Richter Scale hit the sea north of Sumatra Island, Indonesia, at 7:33 pm Tuesday, Beijing Time, according to the China Earthquake Networks Centre.

The epicentre was monitored at 2.7 degrees north latitude and 96.4 degrees east longitude with a depth of about 20 km, the centre said.

Nearly 2.2 million Chinese population hit by drought

BEIJING, 19 Jan— About 2.2 million Chinese are facing a drought-like situation, the country’s drought relief authorities have claimed.

The Xinhua news agency quoted Chen Lei, Deputy Director of the State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters, as saying that provinces like Henan, Shanxi, Hebei, Shandong, Jiangsu, Anhui and Shaanxi have experienced a 20-90 percent drop in rainfall over the last four months of the season. Drought affect wheat producing areas like Shandong and Henan provinces in November last year.

Chan also said the lack of rain has lowered water levels of the Yellow, Huaihe and Haihe rivers, and urged the government to deal with the situation quickly.—Internet

Floodwaters spread across Australia

BEIJING, 19 Jan—Knee-deep water is inundating communities in south-eastern Australia. The floods reached the southern state of Victoria on the weekend following weeks of flooding that has ravaged Queensland in the north and swamped a major city.

More than 350,000 people have been evacuated from their homes in Victoria State. 51 towns and 15,000 properties are affected by the rising waters. Meanwhile, the Australian Prime Minister is announcing the formation of a business task force to assist with rebuilding devastated infrastructure in Queensland, the worst-affected state. Julia Gillard, Australian Prime Minister, said, “I’ve decided to bring together ten Australian leading business people to form a business roundtable to assist with corporate support as Queensland recovers and rebuilds from these devastating floods.”—Xinhua

The Brisbane City skyline is reflected in an eerily calm Brisbane river.—Avexrex

Snow, sleet, ice spread up East Coast, cars slide

MONTPELIER, 19 Jan— An East Coast storm bringing sleet and freezing rain spread into northern New England on Tuesday, sending cars skidding off roads, knocking out power and making ski area managers cross their fingers that snow wouldn’t turn to ice at higher elevations.

The storm, which iced over roads all the way down to Delaware and delayed flights for tens of thousands of weather- weary travelers, was expected to drop up to 10 inches of snow before moving out early Wednesday.

Up to 6 inches of snow fell across much of New Hampshire before turning to freezing rain late Tuesday afternoon, just in time for the evening commute.

Vette Judge works to clear the ice from the back window of her car, in Washington, Tuesday, on 18 Jan, 2011, after a mix of freezing rain and sleet fell overnight in the Washington area.—Internet

In Maine, the storm brought a mix of snow, sleet, freezing rain and rain. Inland areas could see up to 8 inches of snow before the storm ends, National Weather Service meteorologist Steve Capriola said.—Internet

internet
A traffic signboard on Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw section says “Over 60 mph is highly risky”.

A warning signboard expressing four major causes of traffic accidents.

Man’s fault or vehicle ...

(from page 1)

However, the expressway has seen many traffic accidents. Four major causes of traffic accidents are: (1) steering system is in bad conditions, (2) failure of brake and accessories, (3) wheels and tyre are not in good conditions, and (4) drink driving, and drowsy driving.

The expressway was inaugurated on 25 March 2009, but it has been serviceable since January 2009. According to the data collected by the Road Administration Department of the Ministry of Transport, 51 traffic accidents took place from 1 March 2009 to 4 April 2010, leaving 23 dead and 105 injured. According to the Myanmar Police Force, traffic accidents on the expressway from 9 January 2010 to 6 May 2010 numbered 130 that killed 57 and injured 204. Among the 130 cases, 105 were due to careless drivers and pedestrians, and 25, due to technical problems. And according to the reports by the Expressway Project under Public Works, the road accidents that had occurred on the expressway from 9 January 2009 to 17 April 2010 totaled 108, killing 47 and injuring 148. The reports say that accidents are due to reckless driving, technical problems, and pedestrians’ reckless use of the road.

Taking the reports serious, inspection teams from the Road Designs Division under Public Works inspected the curves near the sites of accidents, 24 horizontal curves, and 21 vertical curves and submitted reports on conditions of the sections. Responsible persons from the Expressway Project have dealt with the reports.

In an interview, Superintending Engineer Daw Hla Hla Thwe from the Road Research Division said that regarding quality control services, Public Works had assigned duties to 25 QC groups for groundwork and 25 QC groups for concrete work, and the Military Engineering Unit, 25 QC groups for groundwork and 13 QC groups for concrete work; that the expressway was estimated to cope with 5000 vehicles a day, whose weights ranged between 80 to 20 tons; that the facility was designed to be serviceable for 40 years, with CBR value of 6%; that according to the design, the wearing course was 12 inches thick, (cube compressive strength = 4000 psi) subbase course of plain concrete, six inches thick, and lean concrete (cube compressive strength = 200 psi); that in building the facility, concrete was mixed according to the types of the soil; that the alignment was designed to be as straight as possible with minimum curves and minimum amount of earth to fill lower parts; that for vehicles to run at 60 mph, each curve had at least 1300 feet radius and each slope was less than five percent.

She added that the facility would meet international standards of a road.

Translation: MS
Kyemon: 26-12-2011

Health Minister visits hospitals in Kyaukpyaw, NyaungU townships

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint on 14 January morning visited the people’s hospital in Kyaukpyaw Township, Mandalay Region, and looked into health care services being provided for the people.

In the afternoon, the minister inspected Taungzin Station Hospital and NyaungU People’s Hospital in NyaungU Township. On his inspection tour, the minister stressed the need for improvement of health care services and greening environs of the hospital. —MNA

57th Myanmar Doctors Conference (2011).

The quality medicines produced by Kunming Dihon Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd, Tianjan Tianyao Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd and manufactured by EMP Co., Ltd are available at special prices.

For more information, contact No.222, Bo Myat Tun Street, Pazundaung Township, Yangon (Ph-01-296995 and 291839) and No. (T2-2), Thazin Plaza, 31st and 32nd Street, between 77th and 78th Street, Chanayetthan Township, Mandalay (Ph-02-31363 and 91015701).

NAY PYI TAW, 19—Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Brig-Gen Than Tun Oo spoke words of encouragement and presented food, seasonal crop seeds and medicines in meeting with local people at Monehtaw village on 13 January.

Next, the commander inspected agricultural and livestock breeding works of the local battalion and buildings in Monghsat. The commander also inspected maintenance of road and bridge on Monghsat-Tachilek-Bushi-Mongphyat motorway and cleaning and beautifying tasks of Mongphyat in a motorcade.—MNA

EMP Co exhibits medicines and medical equipment

YANGON, 19 Jan—EMP Co., Ltd showcases medicines and medical equipment at medicines and medical equipment booths displayed at Myanmar Medical Association (MMA) in commemoration of Medical Association (MMA) in commemoration of EMP Co., Ltd displays medicines and medical equipment at Myanmar Medical Association (MMA).—MNA

A warning signboard expressing four major causes of traffic accidents.

COMMANDER visits local battalions in Mongton, Monghsat Stations

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Brig-Gen Than Tun Oo spoke words of encouragement and presented food, seasonal crop seeds and medicines in meeting with local people at Monehtaw village on 13 January.

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ASEAN Foreign Ministers welcome positive developments including …

(from page 1)

In the evening, the minister attended a dinner co-hosted by the Indonesian Foreign Minister and the Governor of the West Nusa Tenggara Province in honour of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers and the ASEAN Secretary-General at the Sheraton Senggigi Beach Resort Hotel.

The minister participated in the concluding session of the ASEAN foreign ministers’ retreat and the special meeting of the ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) 17 January at Oberoi Lombok Hotel. The Foreign Ministers considered and adopted the Terms of Reference of ASEAN Connectivity Coordina-ting Committee and exchanged views on the follow-up to the recommenda-tions of the High Level Task Force on ASEAN Connectivity. On 15 January, the minister met the Indonesian Foreign Minister and held cordial bilateral discussions on ASEAN-related matters and strengthening bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries. In Jakarta, the minister met Myanmar Ambassador to Indonesia and Permanent Representative of the Union of Myanmar to ASEAN U Nyan Lynn and staff of the Embassy and Permanent Mission at Borobudur Hotel and gave necessary instructions.

Director-General U Kyaw Tin of Political Department and the delegation members arrived back in Myanmar on the same flight.—MNA

MOAs inked on implementation of Ywathit, Nampawn, Namtamhpak, Lemro, Lemro-II and Saingdin hydropower projects

Nav Pyi Taw, 19 Jan—Minister for Electric Power No. 1 U Zaw Min met Vice-President Mr Zou Jiahua of China Datang Corporation and President Mr Kou Bingen and party of China Datang Overseas Investment Co Ltd of the People’s Republic of China at the hall of the Ministry, here, yesterday.

They discussed joint implementation of hydropower projects. A ceremony to sign the Memorandums of Agreement on implementa-tion of Ywathit, Nampawn, Namtamhpak, Lemro, Lemro-II and Saingdin hydropower projects between Department of Hydropower Planning under the Ministry of Electric Power No. 1 and China Datang Overseas Investment Co Ltd of the People’s Republic of China and Shwe Taung Hydropower Co Ltd followed at Yeeywa Hall.

It was attended by Minister for Electric Power No. 1 U Zaw Min, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Transport U Thein Swe, Minister for Commerce U Tin Naing Thein, Deputy Minister for Electric Power No. 1 U Myo Myint, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tin Swe, directors-general, managing directors, officials. Vice-President Mr Zou Jiahua of China Datang Corporation and President Mr Kou Bingen and party of China Datang Overseas Investment Co Ltd, the chairman of Shwe Taung Hydropower Co Ltd and officials.

Minister U Zaw Min made an address. Vice-President Mr Zou Jiahua of China Datang Corporation and the managing director of Shwe Taung Hydropower Co Ltd spoke words of thanks. Director-General of Department of Hydropower Planning U Kywee Soe, President Mr Kou Bingen and party of China Datang Overseas Investment Co Ltd and the managing director of Shwe Taung Hydropower Co Ltd signed the Memorandum of Agreements.

On the occasion, Department of Hydropower Planning under the Ministry of Electric Power No. 1, China Datang Overseas Investment Co Ltd and Shwe Taung Hydropower Co Ltd inked the MOAs for implementation of Ywathit, Nampawn, Namtamhpak, Lemro, Lemro-II and Saingdin hydropower projects.—MNA

Couple of human trafficking sentenced, two victims compensated

Nav Pyi Taw, 19 Jan—U Hsan Kaw and wife Ma Nan Li of Homaw Village in Hsipaw Township, Kyaukme District, Shan State (North) sold Ma---, 13 years old and Ma—, 15 years, for K 2.4 million to Ma Kham Aung of Hokkho village, Hsipaw on 24 October 2009.

While Ma Kham Aung was preparing to sell the two girls at Chinese border village Hukyint, the police force of the People’s Republic of China arrested her and handed over the two victims. Kyaukme District Court heard the human trafficking case and sentenced hard labour and 12 years’ imprisonment to U Hsan Kaw, hard labour and 10 years’ to Ma Nan Li and hard labour and 12 years’ to Ma Kham Aung on 12 July 2010.

The court handed down to compensate the two human trafficking victims with gold ornaments worth K 1,506,000 confiscated from the culprits. The Anti-Human Trafficking Law was promul-gated in 2005. It is the first time compensation for human trafficking victims according to the Article 33 of the law means that human trafficking victims shall be compensated with the money and property confiscated from the case.—MNA
Commander, Sports Minister tour Khamti District

NAV Pyi Taw, 19 Jan—Chairman of Sagaing Region Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen Soe Lwin together with Minister for Sports Tha U Aye Myint presented stationery to responsible persons at Pinlaung Village Basic Education Primary School in Khamti Township on 14 January. After hearing reports on progress of Khamti-Hsinbyume-Lhae road presented by an officer at Luangnak Village in Lhae Township, the commander and the minister presented school uniforms, warm clothes and personal goods for the students at Monhtway Village. At the hall of the local battalion in the township, the commander presented stationery, foodstuff and personal goods to families of servicemen. On 15 January, the commander and officials formally opened the new school building for Basic Education High School in Lhae.

Mandalay Mayor’s Trophy Vegetables and Fruit Show and Contest 12-18 Feb

NAV Pyi Taw, 19 Jan—A plan is under way to organize the Ninth Mandalay Mayor’s Trophy Vegetables and Fruit Show and Contest at the Public Recreation Park of Kandawgyi in Mandalay from 12 to 18 February. Handsome prizes will be awarded to the winners.

Page One Book Fair on 21 January

YANGON, 19 Jan—Books for people of all ages are available at Popular Bookstore, a franchise of Popular Book Co Pte Ltd in Singapore. Page One Book Fair will be organized at the promotion area of Myaynigon Center, here, from 21 to 23 January. Professional books published by Page One Publishing Pte Ltd in Singapore will be available in the sales.

Popular Bookstore which will host Page One Book Fair.—MNA

Rammar Chariot Micro Buses available at Automobile & Auto Parts Expo-2011

YANGON, 17 Jan—Automobile & Auto Parts Expo-2011, jointly organized by K-Furniture Co., Ltd and Rammar Automatic Manufacturing & Trading, will take place at Tatmadaw Convention Hall, here, from 21 to 24 January on a grand scale. At the expo, international-standard Chariot Micro Buses produced by Rammer and ISUZU Double cab will be on sale. During the promotion season, the customers may enjoy special sale. The sales also include installment system. The home-made Rammar buses are now winning the favors of customers due to its quality and designs and an environmental-friendly one. Like above expo, automobiles will be showed at trade fair to be held in Mandalay from 27 to 30 January as a main sponsor.

Forestry Minister attends 106th Intake of Graduation Parade of Myanmar Forest School

NAV Pyi Taw, 19 Jan—Minister for Forestry U Thein Aung attended the ceremony for 106th Intake of Graduation Parade of Myanmar Forest School of Forest Department under the Ministry of Forestry at the parade ground of the training school in PyinOoLwin on 17 January. He presented awards to the outstanding trainees.

The minister then addressed the ceremony to present completion certificate. Director-General U Sann Lwin of Planning and Statistics Department, Managing Director U Win Tun of Myanmar Timber Enterprise and Acting Director-General U Aye Myint Maung of Forest Department presented awards to the top-10 trainees. And officials concerned gave awards to outstanding trainees.

To set up trust funds for development of Myanmar Forest School, Secretary Dr Myo Than on behalf of Myanmar timber entrepreneurs donated K 1.7 million, Myanmar Timber Entrepreneurs Association K 1 million, Asia Green Co Ltd donated K 2 million to Myanmar Forest School, K 1 million to University of Forestry, K 1 million to Myanmar Timber Enterprise Training School No. 1 Nanchun, K 1 million to No. 2 Training School Pyimuna, K 2 million for development of social status of staff and K 3 million for food for elephants.

Later, the principal of Myanmar Forest School presented completion certificates to trainees.

“The girl with the white flag” in circulation


The first edition was published in 2003. The book is about the horrors of the war she encountered when she was a child.

10,117.6 acres of poppy fields destroyed in 2010-2011

NAV Pyi Taw, 19 Jan—Responsible persons are searching and destroying poppy plantations. From 1 September 2010 to 6 January 2011, 9144.41 acres of poppy plants in states and regions were destroyed.

From 7 to 13 January, 973.19 more acres of poppy farms were devastated, bringing the total acreage of eliminated poppy fields to 10,117.6.

The 973.19 more acres are 419.75 acres in Kunhing, Pinlaung, Hshsun, Pelkho and Hopang townships in Shan State (South), 202.5 acres in Mongton, Mongkhat, Mongping and Kengtung townships in Shan State (East), 253.84 acres in Tangyan, Kunlon, Lashio, Kukkai, Namkkham and Manton townships in Shan State (North), and 97 acres in Mogok Township in Mandalay Region.
Climate clues found in world’s deep waters

EDINBURGH, 19 Jan—European scientists say they are probing the Marianas Trench in the western Pacific, the deepest spot in the world’s oceans, for climatological clues.

The international team of researchers is using a submersible designed to withstand immense pressures to study the bottom of the 6.7-mile-deep underwater canyon, the BBC reported Monday.

Early results show ocean trenches are acting as carbon sinks, suggesting they are a bigger factor in regulating the Earth’s chemistry and climate than previously thought, researchers say.

Lead researcher Ronnie Glud, from the University of Southern Denmark and the Scottish Association for Marine Science, said operating at pressures of more than 2 million pounds per square inch was challenging, but advances in technology had made it possible.

“This is the first time we have been able to set down sophisticated instruments at these depths to measure how much carbon is buried there,” he told BBC News.

A lander equipped with special sensors packed in a titanium cylinder able to resist the pressures was launched from a ship and took 3 hours to free-fall to the sea bottom, carrying out pre-programmed experiments before releasing its ballast and returning to the surface.

The experiments allowed scientists to assess the abundance of carbon at the bottom of the deep trenches.—Internet

Astronomers describe hottest planet found

LONDON, 19 Jan—British astronomers say they’ve discovered the hottest planet ever found, circling a white-hot star 380 light-years away in the constellation Andromeda.

Until two decades ago, the hottest planet known was in our own solar system — Venus, at a blistering 860 degrees Fahrenheit, AAAS ScienceMagazine.org reported this week.

Then, astronomers looking outside our solar system began finding “hot Jupiters,” giant worlds as hot as 1,800 F, orbiting close to distant stars.

A man withdraws euros from a bank machine. Europe has closed ranks around its currency as its richest nations strained to reach a deal to boost the capacity of its bailout fund for fragile eurozone states.—INTERNET

Bigger breakfast doesn’t help weight loss

MUNICH, 19 Jan—Eating a big breakfast may help you lose weight — but only if you eat a lighter lunch or dinner, researchers in Germany say.

Dr Volker Schusdziarra of the Else-Kröner-Fresenius Centre of Nutritional Medicine in Munich, Germany, and colleagues say they wanted to address previous research which suggested that eating a big breakfast reduces total calorie intake during the day. The researchers say this research is misleading.

The study involved more than 300 people who were asked to keep a journal of what they usually ate — some ate a big breakfast, some ate a small breakfast and some skipped breakfast, Schusdziarra says.

The study, published in Nutrition Journal, showed that people ate the same at lunch and dinner, regardless of what they had for breakfast. A big breakfast, on average 400 calories greater than a small breakfast, resulted in a total increase in calories eaten during the day of about 400 calories.

The only difference seen was the skipping of a mid-morning snack when someone ate a really big breakfast but that was not enough to offset the extra calories they had already eaten, Schusdziarra says.

Authorities seek to snare stray pigs

SOUTHAMPTON, 19 Jan—British authorities said they were working to round up stray pigs seen wandering Southampton, England, before the animals cause a traffic collision.

Residents said they have regularly spotted at least two pigs, believed to be Vietnamese pot-bellied pigs, wandering in the Cofورد area of the city. Some said the animals may have escaped from an area farm, This Is Hampshire reported Monday.

“We need to get this resolved as a matter of urgency not just for the sake of the pigs, but more importantly before an accident is caused by these pigs roaming about on our local roads,” Ward Councillor Don Thomas said.

City officials said they are working with police and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to resolve the issue.

China-Thai panel agrees framework for joint investment train project

BANGKOK, 19 Jan—The China-Thai joint committee has resolved on the framework of the Sino-Thai high-speed train project, in which Thailand will hold 51 percent share and China will hold 49 percent, a local media said.

The framework agreed by the joint committee of the two countries is expected to submit for approval from the Transport Ministry and the cabinet in January, before negotiations begin with China. According to Supoth Sublom, permanent secretary of the Transport Ministry, the memorandum of understanding (MoU) is supposed to be signed in April. The project will be a joint venture with the right of routing operation for 30 years and automatic renewable for another 20 years.

Transport minister general Chula Sukmanop said earlier that after signing the MoU, both sides would take one year to conduct feasibility studies, covering economics, engineering, survey and designs, and another four years for construction. The service is likely to launch in 2015.

This high-speed train project consists of five main lines: Bangkok-northern Chiang Mai; Bangkok-northeastern Nong Khai province; Bangkok-north eastern Ubon Ratcha-tham Province; Bangkok-southernmost Padang Besar Province and Bangkok-central Chachoengsao Province.—INTERNET

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China destroys tonnes of fake, substandard drugs

BEIJING, 19 Jan—More than 60 tonnes of fake and substandard pharmaceuticals and medical equipment, worth 40 million yuan (6 million US dollars), were destroyed Tuesday in the country’s latest move to crack down on fake medicines.

The destroyed products, confiscated by Beijing’s municipal drug supervision bureau, involved some 130 kinds of drugs and 3,000 pieces of equipment, including fake Viagra and capsules for diabetes, according to the State Food and Drug Administration (SFDA).

The SFDA didn’t give further details about the products destroyed. SFDA deputy director Bian Zhenjia said that a large number of drug inspectors had been trained in an effort to regulate the country’s drug market.

Last month, the SFDA exposed 31 websites selling fake drugs over the Internet, as part of a crackdown which started in last November.

It is part of a nationwide crackdown on violation of intellectual property rights and the production and distribution of fake and shoddy products.

Spanish police destroy massive drug factory in Madrid

MADRID, 19 Jan—Spanish police on Tuesday destroyed a cocaine laboratory thought to be the biggest in Europe.

A total of 25 suspects of both Spanish and Colombian nationality were arrested during the operation, according to police. According to media reports, police also seized more than 300 kilograms of cocaine and around 30 tons of drug-making material.

The reports said a bout 2 million euros (2.7 million US dollars) in cash and assets worth more than 60 million dollars were seized.

The laboratory was located in the locality of Villanueva de Perales, just outside the Spanish Capital. Police said the operation, known as Operacion Colapso, began on 7 Dec, 2010, and its outcome was the result of a two-year investigation.

Malaysia kicks off largest stamp fair

KUALA LUMPUR, 19 Jan—The largest stamp exhibition in Malaysia’s history kicked off at the National Museum in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday, expecting to attract some 300,000 visitors to the fair that ends on 25 March.

Penny Black, the first adhesive postage stamp issued in Britain since 1840, and the signed-Malaysia state royal first day cover, the first of its kind introduced last year during the installation of a state ruler, are among the 50,000 philately on display at the museum.

The stamp exhibition also showcases stamps and first day covers from around the world, telling stories about historical events.

US says half under 65 have health problems

WASHINGTON, 19 Jan—A US government report released Tuesday said 1 in 2 non-elderly Americans have at least one pre-existing condition that could deny them healthcare coverage without new health reform law.

Making the case against Republican push to repeal the reform, the report released by Health and Human Services Department said without Affordable Care Act protections, in 2014, up to 129 million Americans under the age 65, who have some type of pre-existing health condition, like heart disease, high blood pressure, arthritis or cancer, would be at risk of losing health insurance when they need it most, or be denied coverage altogether.

"The Affordable Care Act is stopping insurance companies from discriminating against Americans with pre-existing conditions and is giving us all more freedom and control over our health care decisions," said Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius.

The report found anywhere from 50 to 129 million Americans under age 65 have some type of pre-existing condition. Examples of what may be considered a pre-existing condition include heart disease, cancer, asthma, high blood pressure and arthritis. Older people between ages 55 and 64 are at particular risk; 48 to 86 percent of people in that age bracket live with a pre-existing condition.

Prior to the healthcare reform, in the vast majority of states, insurance companies in the individual market could deny coverage, charge higher premiums, and/or limit benefits based on pre-existing conditions.

Germany boss termed EU satellite system ‘nonsense’, suspended

BREMEN, 19 Jan—The head of a German space technology company, OHB-Systems, has been suspended after damning remarks of his were published by WikiLeaks, a company spokesman told APA Tuesday.

Berry Smutny, the chief executive of OHB-Systems, described the EU’s Galileo satellite navigation (satsnav) system as a “waste of taxpayer money,” and “nonsense.” according to conversations with US Ambassador Philip Murphy, published through WikiLeaks.

A spokesman for the Bremen-based company, which has received an initial contract for the Galileo system, said they felt compelled to suspend Smutny, “to avert immense damage to our reputation.”

The remarks were part of WikiLeaks documents published in recent weeks by Norwegian daily Aftenposten.

Indonesia is investigating reports of an outbreak of Legionnaire’s disease on the resort island of Bali, an official said Tuesday after 10 Australians returned home with the disease.
THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Thursday, 20 January, 2011

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV HAL ADMIRALTY VOY NO (016)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HAL ADMIRALTY VOY NO (016) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.1.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS HARTMANN ASIA CONTAINERINES

Phone No: 256088/78316/76797

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV FREE KNIGHT VOY NO (01)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FREE KNIGHT VOY NO (01) are hereby notified that the vessel will arrive on 20.1.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: SAIGON SHIPPING JOINT STOCK CO.

Phone No: 256924/256914

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV SAIGON PRINCESS VOY NO (01)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SAIGON PRINCESS VOY NO (01) are hereby notified that the vessel will arrive on 20.1.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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Asian shares advance on high-tech rally

TOKYO, 19 Jan—Most Asian stock markets advanced Wednesday, with the region’s high-tech shares pushing higher after strong earnings results from Apple Inc and IBM Corp.

Japan’s Nikkei 225 stock average rose 0.2 percent to 10,538.93. The electronics sector, including Sony Corp and Hitachi Ltd, posted strong gains.

The Dow Jones industrial average hit its highest close since June 2008, led by Boeing Co and Caterpillar Inc. The two companies contributed more than half of the Dow’s 50 point rise.

In New York Tuesday, the Dow Jones industrial average hit its highest close since June 2008, led by Boeing Co and Caterpillar Inc. The two companies contributed more than half of the Dow’s 50 point rise.

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A man walks past the New York Stock Exchange in New York during the morning commute, on 18 Jan, 2011. —INTERNET

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TRADEMARK CAUTION

UNILEVER PLC, a company incorporated under the laws of England, is the holder of the trademarks for Sunlight, Wirlal, Merttseyse, CH12 4JD, England, is the Owner of the Trademarks.

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40 countries celebrate Italian pesto

Italian officials said Genovese pesto was featured at restaurants in about 40 countries as part of the International Day of Italian Cuisine.

The officials said Genovese pesto, which was chosen as the official dish of the fourth annual IDIC, was showcased Monday by more than 2,000 restaurants around the world, ANSA reported.

“Pesto Day will be an important showcase for our manufacturers to publicize, promote, and distinguish real Genovese pesto from false imitations,” Italian Agricultural Councillor Giovanni Barbagallo said in Genoa. “Defending the traditional pesto recipe from imitations is a priority for Liguria.”

40 countries celebrate Italian pesto

A young lady tries to keep her oversized Easter hat balanced as she works her way through the crowd outside of St Patrick Cathedral during the annual Easter Parade along 5th Avenue.

Mealworms and spring onions are stir-fried to be used in a quiche at the Rijn IJssel school for chefs in on 12 Jan, 2011.

The Rachel was ‘the ugliest haircut’

NEW YORK, 19 Jan—There was a time in the mid 1990s when women barraged their hair salons with photos of Jennifer Aniston to copy her haircut. The layered cut was given the name “The Rachel” for Aniston’s character, named Rachel Green, on the “Friends” television series. She wore the style on the show’s first and second season.

One person who was not a fan of “The Rachel,” however, was Aniston herself. Aniston, now 41, tells the February issue of Allure magazine it was not her best look.

“How do I say this? I think it was the ugliest haircut I’ve ever seen,” she says. “What I really want to know is, how did that thing have legs?” Aniston’s longtime hairstylist Chris McMillan came up with “The Rachel.” He still works with her today.

Spacey, Moore and 3D in focus at Berlin film fest

BERLIN, 19 Jan—A financial crisis thriller starring Kevin Spacey and Demi Moore and a French 3D animated feature will vie for the top prizes at next month’s Berlin film festival, organisers said Tuesday. The 61st edition of the festival, running from 10 to 20 February, will showcase 22 films in its main programme including 16 in the running for the festival’s coveted Golden and Silver Bear top prizes, the organisers said in a statement announcing the complete list of competitors.—Internet

Professor accused of student grade poll

University of California-Davis officials said they are probing allegations a professor polled his students on what grade to give a classmate. Chancellor Linda Katehi said the school will take “swift and appropriate action” if Edward Feldman, a veterinary school professor, is found to be guilty of misconduct, the Sacramento Bee reported Monday.

Feldman allegedly polled students on what grade should be given to a classmate who gave birth to a child and was expected to miss class for an unknown period of time.

“This alleged action, if found to be true, would present a serious deviation from the values and principles that guide our campus and our School of Veterinary Medicine, and I would be profoundly disappointed if the reported events did in fact transpire on this campus,” Katehi said.

Bullock denies Reynolds romance rumours

BEVERLY HILLS, 19 Jan—Hollywood actress Sandra Bullock says rumours she is romancing actor Ryan Reynolds are untrue.

Bullock, 46, and Reynolds, 34, were both married when their 2009 big-screen comedy, “The Proposal,” became a huge hit.

However, since then, Bullock has ended her marriage to TV personality Jesse James and Reynolds has separated from his actress/wife Scarlett Johansson.

Internet gossip in recent weeks has suggested Bullock and Reynolds are now dating.

“I think there will be a collective sigh amongst women across the United States when I say he’s not my lovah,” People.com reported Bullock told “Today’s” Al Roker on the red carpet before Sunday night’s Golden Globes in Beverly Hills, Calif. “He’s just an amazing friend for 10 years but I don’t get his loving after dark.”

The Oscar-winning actress went on to say the only man in her life right now is her 1-year-old adopted son, Louis.

“It’s all I can handle,” she said.

Chihuahua survives owl attack in suburban Chicago

An owl attack has left a 4-pound Chihuahua with a healthy fear of the dark.

The attack happened when Chico the Chihuahua was out for a walk with his owner George Kalomiris in the Chicago suburb of Crystal Lake last week. Kalomiris says they were walking down the street when a great horned owl swooped down and tried to fly away with the 3-year-old dog.

Kalomiris says he kept a firm grip on Chico’s leash as the bird dragged the dog across the sidewalk, and he managed to scare the owl away.

Chico was treated for a puncture wound caused by the owl’s talons, and his owner says he’s still traumatized. Kalomiris says the dog now refuses to go outside at night.

Chihuahua survives owl attack in suburban Chicago

A pair of twin brothers pose during the first similarity competition for multiple birth siblings in Yangon, Myanmar, on 16 Jan, 2011. The competition attracted a total of 101 pairs of contestants.

Chihuahua survives owl attack in suburban Chicago

Jennifer Aniston and Matthew Perry. Internet

Bullock denies Reynolds romance rumours

A model presents a creation of the Z Zegna Fall/Winter 2011 Men’s collection during the Milan Fashion Week in Milan, northern Italy, on 18 Jan, 2011.

Sandra Bullock

Sandra Bullock

Sandra Bullock

Sandra Bullock

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**Asian Cup: Australia, South Korea make quarters**

**DOHA, 19 Jan** — Australia and South Korea have reached the Asian Cup quarter-finals after winning their final group matches.

The Aussies beat Bahrain 1-0 in driving rain on Tuesday to finish first in Group C on goal difference. Mile Jedinak scored on a half-volley in the 37th minute. Australia lost to Japan on penalty kicks in the quarterfinals in 2007.

South Korea moved into the knockout round by defeating India 4-1 in Group D. The South Koreans had two goals from Ji Dong-won and one each from Koo Ja-cheol and Son Heung-min. India’s Sunil Chhetri made a penalty kick in the 12th minute.—INTERNET

**Osvaldo undergoes successful surgery**

**MADRID, 19 Jan** — Espanyol’s Argentine striker Pablo Daniel Osvaldo has undergone a successful operation to a torn thigh muscle which is expected to keep him sidelined for another two months, the club said.

**Pienaar seals Spurs switch**

**LONDON, 19 Jan** — South Africa midfielder Steven Pienaar completed his three million pounds ($4.1 million dollars) transfer to Tottenham from Everton on Tuesday.

In a statement on its website, Osvaldo, who also holds Italian nationality, is likely to remain in Argentina for two to three weeks before returning to Spain. He is not expected to return to the pitch for another two months, it said.

The 25-year-old was stretchered off during the 4-0 league win over Real Zaragoza on 9 January. He underwent a “successful” operation in Argentina on Tuesday, the Barcelona-based club said in a statement on its website.

Osvaldo, who also holds Italian nationality, is likely to remain in Argentina for two to three weeks before returning to Spain. He is not expected to return to the pitch for another two months, it said.

**Rangers close on Celtic after Inverness victory**

**Glasgow, 19 Jan** — Rangers moved to within two points of Celtic at the top of the Scottish Premier League as they scraped a 1-0 win over Inverness Cal-edonian Thistle at Brox on Tuesday.

Inverness, who have se-cured draws against both sides of the Old Firm in Glasgow this season, had a number of opportunities to take the lead before Steven Davis fired Rangers into the lead right on half-time. —INTERNET

**City dump old boss Eriksson out of FA Cup**

**LONDON, 19 Jan** — Manchester City dumped their former manager Sven Goran Eriksson out of the FA Cup as the Pre-mier League side beat Leicester 4-2 in a third round replay at Eastlands on Tuesday.

Joining City in the fourth round were fellow

**Spurs defender Woodgate ends injury nightmare**

**LONDON, 19 Jan** — Jonathan Woodgate finally returned to action after a career-threatening groin injury as the Tottenham defender played in a training ground friendly against QPR on Tuesday.

Woodgate’s injury-plagued career ap-peared over earlier this season when Spurs manager Harry Redknapp revealed treatment on the England international’s serious groin problem was proving un-successful.

But the 30-year-old former Real Ma-drid and Leeds centre-back, who has been out for four months, then began to show signs of improvement and took a huge stride forward by completing 45 minutes in the QPR friendly. “Woody was out-standing,” technical co-ordinator Tim Sherwood told Spurs’ official website.

“He’s not played for such a long time, but it was as if he’d never been away.” — INTERNET

**Osvaldo’s player Mile Jedinak, left, celebrates with his teammates after scores against Bahrain.—INTERNET**

**Napoli reach Coppa last eight**

**ROME, 19 Jan** — Napoli eased into the quarter-finals of the Coppa Italia after a com-fortable 2-1 victory at home to Bologna on Tuesday.

Goals from Hassan Yebda and Ezequiel Lavezzi put the Neapolitans in control before the break before Riccardo Meggiorini’s second half spot-kick threatened to make things interesting.

Napoli were fully de-
serving of their lead as Yebda headed home a Lavezzi corner. Lavezzi doubled the advantage after a brilliant dummy left a defender on the ground before he quickly toe-poked high into the net.

Bologna were gifted a route back into the game when Emilson Cribari was adjudged to have brought down Meggiorini in the box.

TV replays showed Cribari clearly winning the ball and Meggiorini throwing himself over the defender’s out-stretched leg.—INTERNET

**History-chasing Nadal gifted Australian Open win**

**MELBOURNE, 19 Jan** — Top seed Rafael Nadal was handed an easy route to the Australian Open second round on Tuesday when Marcos Daniel retired hurt, putting him a step closer to a historic fourth successive Grand Slam win.

The French Open, Wimbledon and US Open champion was leading 6-0, 5-0 when Brazilian jour-neyman Daniel, 32, threw in the towel after being troubled by a left knee problem. Andy Murray went through in similar cir-cumstances when Slo-vakia’s Karol Beck retired with a shoulder problem midway with the Briton leading 6-3, 6-1, 4-2.

Swedish fourth seed

Robin Soderling beat Ita-ly’s Potito Starace in straight sets, and 2009 US Open champion Juan Mar-tin del Potro enjoyed a suc-cessful return to Grand Slam tennis after being in-jured for most of last year.—INTERNET

**Olazabal picked as Europe Ryder Cup captain**

**ABU DHABI, 19 Jan** — Jose Maria Olazabal will cap-tain Europe’s Ryder Cup team when it defends the trophy against the United States at Medinah in 2012.

The 44-year-old Spaniard, who played in seven Ryder Cups and was Europe’s vice captain for the last two matches, was appointed captain on Tuesday. He succeeds Colin Montgomerie, who guided Europe to a 14 1/2-13 1/2 victory over the US at Celtic Manor, Wales, in October.

Olazabal, a two-time Masters champion and the unanimous choice among Europe’s leading players, described his appointment as “the proudest moment” of his career.—INTERNET

**Spain’s Rafael Nadal scores starring his first round men’s singles match against Brazil’s Marcos Daniel on the second day of the Australian Open in Melbourne.—INTERNET**
China’s Internet population rises to 457 million

BEIJING, 19 Jan — China’s online population rose to 457 million in 2010 as use of mobile phones to surf the Web spread rapidly, an industry group reported on Wednesday.

China’s population of Internet users a group more than 50 percent larger than the whole US population grew 19 percent in 2010 over the previous year, said the state-sanctioned China Internet Network Information Centre.

The number of people surfing the Web by mobile phone jumped 29.6 percent over 2009 to 303 million, the group said.

The communist government actively promotes Internet use for business and education, though it operates an extensive censorship system to block access to material it considers subversive or pornographic.

The number of people using online commerce and Internet entertainment services also grew rapidly in 2010, CNNIC said. It said the number of e-commerce customers rose 48.6 percent over 2009, though it gave no total.

China’s rapid rise in Web use has been driven by economic growth that forecasters say was close to 10 percent last year following the country’s rapid rebound from the global crisis — Internet.

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Forecast valid until evening of the 20th January 2011

Rain are likely to be isolated in Kachin and Shan States, Upper Saganeg Region and weather will be partly cloudy over the remaining States and Regions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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


Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 20-1-2011: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 20-1-2011: Partly cloudy.

Minimum temperature on 19-1-2011 was 58°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 19-1-2011 was (60%).

Total sunshine hours on 18-1-2011 was/9.3 hours(Approx).

Rainfall on 19-1-2011 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2011 was (1.97) inches at Mingaladon, (1.42) inches at Kaba-Aye and (2.95) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was(4) mph from South at (15:30) hours MST on 18-1-2011.

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

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★ 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 killer broadcasts designed to cause troubles

Contract inked on heavy production of coal in Sagaing Region, Shan State (South)

Nay Pyi Taw, 19 Jan—No. 3 Mining Enterprise under the Ministry of Mines and Four-Person Group Mining Co Ltd signed a production-sharing contract on heavy production of coal in Darthwaykyauk Creek region of Mawlaik Township, Mawlaik District, Sagaing Region and in Minpalaung region of Ywangan Township, Shan State (South), at the Ministry of Mines, here, yesterday evening.

Minister for Mines U Ohn Myint delivered an address. Managing Director U Win Htein of No. 3 Mining Enterprise reported on heavy production of coal. Managing Director U Yan Win of Four-Person Group Mining Co Ltd spoke words of thanks.

The managing Director of No. 3 Mining Enterprise and the Managing Director of Four-Person Group Mining Co Ltd signed the agreement. The minister presented permit to the Managing Director of Four-Person Group Mining Co Ltd.

Also present on the occasion were directors-general and managing directors under the ministry, officials of Myanmar Investment Commission and the Attorney-General’s Office and guests.—MNA

Climate change to spur crop shortages

An Indian laborer plucks tea leaves at a tea garden in Amchong tea estate, about 45 kilometers (28 miles) east of Gauhati, India.

INTERNET

Toronto, 19 Jan—The world may be 2.4 degrees warmer by the end of this decade, and that could have deadly consequences for global food production, according to a new study overseen by climate scientist Osvaldo Canziani.

“The Impacts of Climate Change on Food Production: A 2020 Perspective,” was published Tuesday afternoon by an Argentina-based non-profit group called the Universal Ecological Fund released (UEF).

According to the report, by 2020 there will be a shortfall of 14 per cent for global wheat production, 11 per cent for rice and nine per cent for maize. Soybeans will be the only major crop that will meet world demand, with a surplus of five per cent.

The number of people going hungry could therefore jump to 20 per cent of the world’s population from the current 14 per cent, the report estimates. The number of hungry children in the world could nearly double.—INTERNET