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Ywathaya, the first-ever village of solar power in Myanmar

Byline: Maung Maung Myint Swe; Photos: Tin Soe (Myanma Alin)

I heard good news that a village enjoyed sufficient electric power supply with solar power system thanks to government’s encouragement and cooperation of the Ministry of Industry-2 and ERES (Earth Renewable Energy Systems) Company. It is Ywathaya Village, about 12 miles northeast of Myingyan Township, Myingyan District. It is composed of 247 residences.

The village’s traditional business is agriculture. It is surrounded by thriving crop plantations. The solar power project for the village was launched (See page 7).

Boards of solar panel in Ywathaya Village, about 12 miles northeast of Myingyan Township.

Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Indian President

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan— On the occasion of the Republic Day of India which falls on 26 January 2011, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Mrs. Pratibha DeviSingh Patil, President of the Republic of India.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe felicitates Governor-General of Australia

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan— On the occasion of the anniversary of the Australia Day which falls on 26 January 2011, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Ms. Quentin Bryce AC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia.—MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye felicitates Indian Vice-President

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan— On the occasion of the Republic Day of India which falls on 26 January 2011, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Mohammad Hamid Ansari, Vice-President of the Republic of India.—MNA

Prime Minister U Thein Sein felicitates Indian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan— On the occasion of the Republic Day of India which falls on 26 January 2011, U Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of the Republic of India. MNA

Prime Minister U Thein Sein sends felicitations to Australian Prime Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan— On the occasion of the anniversary of the Australia Day which falls on 26 January 2011, U Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Ms. Julia Gillard, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia. MNA

True patriotism

* It is very important for everyone of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.
* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

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
PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 26 January, 2011

Use electric power most efficiently

Supply of sufficient electric power is a sine qua non for national development. Across the nation are a large number of water sources from which hydropower can be generated on a massive scale.

Tarpein (1) Hydropower Plant in Momauk Township, Kachin State, was inaugurated on 23 January. With four 60-megawatt turbines, the plant has an installed capacity of 240 megawatts and can produce 1065 million kilowatt hours per annum.

Of the 18 ongoing hydropower projects in Kachin State, Tarpein (1) Hydropower Plant is the first to have been put into service.

It yields multifarious benefits including increased power supply to the peoples of Myanmar and China, creation of jobs, supply of electric power to surrounding areas for their economic growth, and improvement in the economic and social conditions of the people.

During the time of the Tatmadaw government, the nation has witnessed 14 hydropower projects including Tarpein (1) Hydropower Plant, one coal-fired power plant, seven gas-fired power plants, totaling 22 more power plants with total capacity of 2756 megawatts. So far, the nation has 31 electric power plants, whose installed capacity is 3185 megawatts in total.

So, electric power is to be used most expeditiously to further improve the socio-economic status of the people and scale up progress of industries and enterprises.

Hainggyikyun TV retransmission station starts functioning

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan—According to the extended telecasting of TV programmes, the TV retransmission station was set up in Hainggyikyun of Ayeyawady Region on 19 January 2011.

The station started transmitting MRTV programmes through 300-watt UHF channel J-13 on 20 January.—MNA

Engineering, vocational courses at Glory Training Centre

YANGON, 25 Jan—With the aim of assisting the youths to have a better life, there has recently emerged GLORY Training Centre where vocational training courses can be taken both practically and theoretically.

It takes at least one month or three months for most of the courses—welding, plumber, lathe, mechanics, motorcar wiring, motor, dynamo, transformer, industry wiring, electrical control course, air conditioner, refrigerator service course, TV, DVD, EVD repair course; electronic course, marine electrical and fitter course and PIC, CNC, PLC engineering course.

Foreign Affairs Minister felicitates Indian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—On the occasion of the Republic Day of India which falls on 26th January 2011, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr SM Krishna, Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India.—MNA

Agreement signed for holding technical seminars

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan—The Ministry of Electric Power No. 1 and Japan Electric Power Information Centre of Japan signed an agreement for holding technical seminars at the hall of the ministry, here, yesterday afternoon.

Director-General U Myint Zaw of Hydropower Implementation Department and President Mr Kenshu Morooka of Japan Electric Power Information Centre of Japan signed the agreement.

Minister for Electric Power No. 1 U Zaw Min held discussion with President Mr Kenshu Morooka and party of Japan Electric Power Information Centre on holding the technical seminars.—MNA

F&R Minister receives World Bank officials

The engineering diploma and advanced diploma courses are available at GLORY regarded by City & Guilds (UK) as an approved training centre. The trainees of GLORY get job prospects at home and abroad.

For new courses in February, contact No 125/B (1st floor) at the corner of 38th Street ad Maha Bandoola Street in Kyauktada Township, Yangon and Ph: 01-373431 or 01-73121717 or Website:www.glory-education.com. —MNA

Minister U Hla Tun receives Executive Director Mr Hekinus Mamao of SEAVG of World Bank and Country Director Ms Annette Marine Dixon.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan—Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun received Executive Director Mr Hekinus Mamao of South East Asia Voting Group of World Bank and Country Director Ms Annette Marine Dixon at the ministry here yesterday. They discussed cooperation between the World Bank and Myanmar and monetary issues.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister U Hla Thein Swe, Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein and officials concerned.—MNA
Six more militants killed in Afghanistan’s Helmand province

LASHKAR GAH, 25 Jan— Six more Taleban militants were killed in Afghanistan’s southern Helmand Province when their position was struck by an air strike on Monday, spokesman for provincial administration said Tuesday. “Intelligence reports indicate that Taleban local leader in Nahr-e-Sarraj District namely Rahimi along with five of his comrades were killed as aircrafts of international forces pounded their hideout in Nahr-e-Sarraj District late Monday,” Daoud Ahmadi told Xinhua.

TALOQAN, 25 Jan— Afghan and NATO-led forces killed five Taleban militants during night raid operation in Takhar Province 245 km north of Capital Kabul, an official said Tuesday. “A combined unit of special operation force of Afghan army and NATO-led forces raided militants’ hideout in Khwaja Ghar District Monday night killing five militants,” provincial administration spokesman Faiz Mohammad Tawhidi told Xinhua. He said five other suspects have been detained by joint forces. —Xinhua

Eight foreigners killed in Moscow airport blast

MOSCOW, 25 Jan— Among the 35 people who were killed in the deadly explosion at Moscow’s Domodedovo Airport Monday night, there were eight foreigners, according to the latest figures released by the information department of the Russian Foreign Ministry Tuesday. “According to our estimates, eight foreign citizens were killed. They are from Kyrgyzstan, Germany, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Great Britain,” a source from the Foreign Ministry was quoted by Interfax news agency as saying. Meanwhile, the Chinese embassy in Russia confirmed Tuesday that no Chinese citizens were injured or killed in the blast. Nine foreigners from Serbia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Germany, Slovakia, France and Italy were hospitalized with injuries, and two from Nigeria were also hurt, the source said.

Bomb explosion wounds 7 Shiite pilgrims in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 25 Jan— Seven Shiite pilgrims were wounded by a roadside bomb explosion in east Baghdad on Tuesday, an Interior Ministry source said. The attack took place after midday when the blast hit a minibus carrying Shiites pilgrims in al-Shaab neighborhood, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. The pilgrims were returning to their homes after the major Shiite religious ceremony of Arbaeen in the city of Karbala, some 110 km southwest of Baghdad, the source said.

Talibinh, 25 Jan— The attacks came when the major Shiite ritual of Arbaeen reaches its climax on Tuesday, as hundreds of thousands of Shiite pilgrims observed the ceremony in the holy shrine city of Karbala. Arbaeen is the end of 40 days of mourning for the Imam Hussein, the Prophet Muhammad’s grandson who was killed at the battle of Karbala in 680 A.D. —Xinhua

Indonesian anti-terror squad arrests four alleged militants

JAKARTA, 25 Jan— Anti-terror police squad on Tuesday arrested four alleged militants in central Java on Tuesday, local media reported here. The squad arrested a man called Bandi along with his son and two others men in a raid in a house at Karang Patahi Village in Klaten, Metro television reported here. The police raided three other houses in separate place at the district and some other houses in Solo District. The alleged militants are allegedly linked with some terrorist acts, such as blast in a mosque in Yogyakarta and in church.

Indonesia had arrested more than one hundred militants last year in a series of crackdown in Aceh, North Sumatra and West Java after they engaged in training in remote jungle in Ache, committed on spectacular bank robbery and attacked police station in North Sumatra that killed three officers. —Xinhua

IED blast kills NATO soldier in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 25 Jan— A soldier with NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) was killed as an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) went off in Afghanistan’s southern region on Tuesday, a statement of the alliance released here said. “An International Security Assistance Force service member died following an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attack in southern Afghanistan today,” the statement added. However, it did not reveal the nationality of the victim, saying it is ISAF policy to defer casualty identification procedures to the relevant national authorities.

US forces kill two workers of stone mine

KABUL, 25 Jan— US forces shoot two Afghan workers of a stone mine in Logar Province, local officials said. The incident happened yesterday afternoon in Babos area in the central Logar Province and one other worker was wounded in the incident, Din Mohammad Darwish a spokesman for Logar said. The dead bodies have been taken away by US forces, he added. US forces have yet to comment about the incident. Babos area is bordered by Maidan Wardak Province and it is one of the insecure areas in Logar Province.

Iraqis inspect the site of a car bomb attack in the central Karrada District of Baghdad on 23 January. Car bombs and explosions have killed eight people, including a policeman and two teenage boys, in and around Baghdad, the latest in a spate of attacks indicating an apparent spike in unrest. —INTERNET

A destroyed car after a bombing in Karbala, 80 kilometres (50 miles) south of Baghdad, Iraq, on 20 Jan, 2011. A pair of bombs blasted through security checkpoints ringing the Iraqi holy city of Karbala Thursday and killed scores, most of whom were Shiite pilgrims headed to observe yearly religious rituals. —INTERNET

Iraqis gather at the site of a car bomb attack in Baghdad, Iraq, on 24 Jan, 2011. Violence has dropped dramatically in Iraq since the height of the war three years ago. But small-scale bombings and drive-by shootings still persist on a near daily basis. —INTERNET
Dinosaur’s single digit draws world attention

BEIJING, 25 Jan.—Scientists have discovered a new dinosaur species whose members were similar in size to a parrot but only had one finger. Scientists view that rare solitary digit as evidence that the evolution of dinosaurs was more complex than they first believed.

The new dinosaur was found in rocks formed from 84 million to 75 million years ago in Linhe, a city near the Yellow River.

The species belongs to a family within the carnivorous dinosaur group theropods, which later gave rise to modern birds, according to Xu Xing of the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleopathology, which is under the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

The new dinosaur, called Linhenykus, “most likely grew to a few feet tall and weighed only as much as a large parrot”, said Xu, who led the international team of scientists that discovered the species.

Unlike previously known types of theropods, this dinosaur is unusual in having hands with just one large claw, which may have been used to dig out insects like ants, said the scientists in a report to be published online on Tuesday in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The unusual physical attribute makes the specimen the only dinosaur known to have one finger. That uniqueness is what piqued the interest of scientists, Xu said.

A palaeontologist assembles the skeleton of a Tyrannosaurus-rex. Researchers in China have unearthed a miniature single-clawed dinosaur that was likely an early relative of the ferocious T. Rex and is the only such creature known to have just one finger.

INTERNET

Going digital may not improve US patient care

CHICAGO, 25 Jan.—Electronic health records — touted by the White House as a key way to improve healthcare in the United States — may actually do little to improve quality, US researchers said on Monday.

A team from Stanford University in California analyzed nationwide survey data from more than 250,000 visits to physicians’ offices and other outpatient settings between 2005 and 2007.

They found electronic health records did little to improve quality, even when there was “decision support” software that gives doctors tips on how best to treat individual patients.

“Across a wide range of quality indicators there was no consistent association between having those electronic tools available and providing better quality of care,” said Dr Randall Stafford of Stanford, whose study appears in the Archives of Internal Medicine.

Electronic health records systems that include this software have been shown in other studies to significantly improve health quality. President Barack Obama has made using information technology a central plank in his plan to cut costs out of the US healthcare system, offering up to $27 billion in government funds aimed at speeding the switch to electronic medical records.

Medical records at a doctor’s practice in Chantilly, Virginia, on 30 July, 2009.—INTERNET

Security apps boost Apple as BlackBerry alternative

TORONTO/SAN FRANCISCO, 25 Jan.—A slew of small software developers are helping Apple’s iPhone gain a foothold within corporations that were once the exclusive domain of Research In Motion’s BlackBerry.

The shift reflects efforts by some companies to accommodate the preference of many employees for Apple’s iconic smartphone, a trend that has led software makers to develop programmes to deliver secure email and other data over the iPhone.

To be sure, the status of BlackBerry’s security features as the industry standard is not under threat. But the new programmes could mean that many employees may no longer have to carry a company-sponsored BlackBerry in addition to their store-bought iPhones.

One company that is experimenting is Deutsche Bank.—Reuters

Facebook sees advertising prospects beyond games

MUNICH, 25 Jan.—Facebook, recently valued at $50 billion, sees opportunities to extend its advertising business beyond the gaming sector, a company executive said on Monday.

Facebook is already challenging big Web businesses such as Google and Yahoo for users’ time online and for advertising dollars, thanks to its audience of more than 500 million users and the information they share.

It has built a significant advertising business from social gaming, thanks to companies like Zynga who build games specifically for the Facebook platform.

Facebook is absolutely the most efficient advertising platform in the world,” Facebook’s chief economist of the International Energy Agency, said.—INTERNET

IEA’s Birol: Say goodbye to climate goals

PARIS, 25 Jan.—Without a serious policy turnaround from the world’s largest emitters, the world won’t meet its target of limiting the global temperature increase to no more than 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit, a top IEA official has warned.

The 3.6 degree F cap — 2 degrees Celsius — a threshold scientists say is crucial to averting the most catastrophic effects of the temperature increase, can’t be reached given the international community’s current level of commitment, said Fatih Birol, the chief economist of the International Energy Agency.

“As we stand now, we’re only a few meters away from saying goodbye to the 2-degree target,” The New York Times, in a story from the ClimateWire, quoted Birol as saying. “When I look at the next 10 years, even if I take into consideration the pledges made after the Copenhagen meeting, the best case is that this could put us on a trajectory in line with 3.5 degrees C,” or 6.3 degrees F. Decarbonization efforts had to be increased by 400 percent to stay within the 3.6 degree F limit, Birol said.

At a climate summit in Cancun, Mexico, the limit was included in a joint statement by the countries present, including the world’s two biggest emitters of greenhouse gases, China and the United States.

Yet the international community has still not agreed to a binding climate protection treaty. Adding up industrialized nations’ reduction targets while considering all the loopholes buried in the current agreements amount to carbon dioxide reductions of 2 percent in 2020 based on 1990 levels, the Heinrich Boll Foundation, a policy think tank linked to the German Green Party, said in its analysis of the decisions taken at the Cancun climate summit.

A Facebook page is displayed on a computer screen in Brussels on 23 April, 2010.—INTERNET

Facebook fans dance to the music of Michael Jackson’s hit “Thriller” in the Muziekpark on 19 July, 2009 in Amsterdam as they take part to a flashmob in different place in the capital. The organisation mobilised the fans by communitysites like Hyves and Facebook.—INTERNET

File photo shows an ethnic Jaw boatman near the energy giant Shell’s Egwa oil flow station in the Niger Delta, Nigeria. Amnesty International and Friends of the Earth Tuesday said they had filed an official complaint against Anglo-Dutch firm Shell for shirking responsibility for oil spills in Nigeria and wreaking havoc on the environment.—INTERNET
Social ties aid breast cancer patients

NASHVILLE, 25 Jan—Breast cancer patients may benefit from strong social ties the first year after diagnosis, a US researcher says.

Study leader Meira Epel of Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Centre in Nashville said six months after being diagnosed with breast cancer, women with the highest social well-being, quality-of-life scores had a 48 percent reduction in risk of cancer recurrence and a 38 percent reduction in risk of death — vs. women with the lowest scores.

“We found that social well-being in the first year after cancer diagnosis is an important prognostic factor for breast cancer recurrence or death,” Epel said in a statement. “This suggests that the opportunity exists for the design of treatment interventions to maintain or enhance social support soon after diagnosis to improve disease outcomes.”

The study, published in the Journal of Clinical Oncology Women, found patients reporting high satisfaction with marriage and family had a 43 percent risk reduction in cancer recurrence. Those with strong social support had a 40 percent risk reduction.

Those with favorable interpersonal relationships had a 35 percent risk reduction but social benefits became less important after the first year and lost significance by the third year after diagnosis.

A Pakistani mother holds her malnourished son at a relief camp in Sukkur. The world needs fundamental changes to the local food system to feed the expanding population, according to a British government report out Monday on how to feed the planet until 2050.
Kunming rocks

BEIJING, 25 Jan—The capital city of Yunnan Province is among the most famous historical and cultural cities in China and lies in the middle of the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau in Southwest China. It is known as the “city of eternal spring” due to its perpetual mild weather, providing the ideal climate for plants and flowers to grow and making the city being covered with blossoms and lush vegetation all-year round.

In addition to many places of historical interests, today the city continues to shine with its diverse ethnic customs.

As the home to 25 ethnic groups, Kunming is endowed with a remarkable traditional folk culture. Each group has its unique legends, featured costumes and festivals, making the city even more enchanting for visitors.

Kunming is also captivated visitors with its alluring plateau scenery and bewitching karst landscape.

With its proximity to Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam and Thailand, the city serves as a popular hub for connections with many of Southeast Asian countries. It is indeed a must-see.

Shilin (Stone Forest)

The Shilin stone forest is home to many intricate karsts, which form some of the most important tourist attractions in Kunming.—XINHUA

Among many peculiar and breathtaking natural landscapes in Kunming, Yunnan Province, Shilin, about 120km southeast of Kunming, is the best known, which takes only a three-hour drive from Kunming. It is one of the most important attractions of Yunnan.

Covering an area of 400 sq km, it is home to a series of towering and steep intricate karsts that come in all shapes and sizes. It is a geological park of typical karst formation, consisting of rock caves, arches and pavilions. Those natural stone masterpieces are in the shape of animals, plants, swords and even humans, with some elegant, some rugged, but each is lifelike with its own distinct characteristics.

A local saying goes that “It is a waste of time without being in Shilin while visiting Kunming”.

Vietnam’s flu A/H1N1 cases rise to 26 in early 2011

HANOI, 25 Jan—The flu/A H1N1 cases in Vietnam have totaled 26 on Monday, according to a report by the Ministry of Health, Vietnam News Agency reported.

Among the newly-confirmed cases, 15 are in Ho Chi Minh City, ten in the Vietnamese Capital of Hanoi, and one in Vietnam’s southern Long An Province, said the ministry.

Out of 26 cases, all are in good conditions now and without any complications, according to the report.

The ministry asked institutes of hygiene and epidemiology to closely supervise the infected cases in all localities in the country, timely determine the source of infection to handle of the outbreak, said the report.

CITS to represent world’s top cruise line

BEIJING, 25 Jan—China International Travel Service (CITS) announced on Monday in Beijing that it has recently become the general sales agent for Regent Seven Seas Cruises, the world’s top-rated cruise line.

Statistics show that a growing number of Chinese tourists have traveled overseas on cruises in recent years, which created a new growth point in the Chinese tourism industry and attracted many international cruise companies to China as well, according to CITS.

Regent Seven Seas Cruises operates three all-suite all-balcony cruise ships sailing to all five continents.

MNA/Xinhua
THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR  Wednesday, 26 January, 2011

Ywathaya, the first-ever village …

(from page 1) in September 2010 and completed in the last week of October the same year.

Manager (Engineering) U Aung Kyaw Thu of ERES Co said that they had set up 15 solar lamp posts along the four main roads of the village, and solar chips on each house in the village; that each lamp post was installed with an 85-watt solar chip, and houses, with 40-watt solar chips; that each house was equipped with 5-watt lamps, and each lamp post had a 25-watt high power LED bulb.

We found that each house was installed with a solar chip, solar power charging system, DC to AC system, 12 V 70 AH battery, 5-watt lamps, and a set of solar power equipment made up of wire and related accessories. If the solar chip is exposed to the sun for five hours, it is enough to light six bulbs at the same time for eight hours in a row.

However, the light from one central bulb thoroughly covers the whole home. So, villagers can use electric power the whole night.

“We never expected to get solar power in our wildest dreams.”

(U Sein Maw)

“We can study our lessons at night with solar power.”

(Maung Nyi Nyi Tun and Maung Win Naung)

(“Villagers are all happy with solar power.”

(Daw Khin Ohn)

U Sein Maw, 73, who has lived in the village for over 50 years, said, “I was born and have lived in this village the whole life. Previously, we had to light oil lamps and lanterns to get light at night. We hardly got to study our lessons at night with solar power. So, we no longer need oil lamps. We can study school lessons very well. We are very happy we can watch TV as well. We thank all those who worked for our village.”

Daw Khin Ohn, 74, of the northern part of the village said, “We never expected to get solar power in our wildest dreams. But, how nice it is to see the whole village is bright with electric power. I thank all those who worked for our village.”

Seven standard students aged 13: Maung Nyi Nyi Tun and Maung Win Naung said, “We worked for solar power supply to our village.”

The steel lamp posts in the village are 18 feet high. The light of a lamp post covers an area of 100 feet long and 30 feet wide. Each lamp has auto system to switch on and off the light. If a lamp is used for 10 hours a day, it can be serviceable for 10 years.

Families members watch TV while a child is studying with solar power.

A solar lamp post on the main road of Ywathaya Village.

Ywathaya Village is the pride of the nation for its pioneering role in solar power.

It is heartening to learn that the Ministry of Industry-2 will soon build a solar chip factory in South Dagon Industrial Zone. Solar power is cost-effective, and it does not cause any air pollution. Therefore, solar power system will be popular nationwide in the near future.

Ywathaya Village is the pride of the nation for its pioneering role in solar power.

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Translation: MS

Myanma Alin: 22-1-2011
**Commander attends fresher welcome of Pathein University**

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan — Fresher welcome of Pathein University for 2010-2011 academic year was held at Kanthaya Hall of Pathein University on 19 January. At the ceremony, Chairman, Myanmar Olympic Committee, Sports Minister Thura U Aye Myint received Chinese Ambassador of the People’s Republic of Myanmar, Mr. Li Junhua.

Gen Tin Maung Win extended greetings and cordially greeted the students. The following day, the commander attended prize-giving ceremony at Town Hall in Strand Road, Pathein. He made a speech and presented prizes to the district and township that made the best performance for economic development and the state/region-level outstanding students. After that, officials awarded the winners at education, agriculture and livestock sectors. On behalf of the winners, a teacher and a farmer spoke words of thanks. Then, the commander cordially greeted those present.—MNA

**Sports Minister receives Chinese Ambassador**

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan — Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Sports Minister Thura U Aye Myint receives Chinese Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr. Li Junhua.—MNA

China to Myanmar Mr. Li Junhua and party at the ministry here this morning. They held discussions on arranging friendly matches, hiring coaches, taking joint trainings, sharing experiences of organizing sports events and forging constant cooperation of the two nations in sports matters.—MNA

**Peace Myanmar Electric gets ISO 9001:2008 Certificate**


Delight Trading Co. Ltd opens showroom


Air compressors, generators, water pumps, voltage regulators, welding machines, piling machines, bored pile drilling machine, tube-well machine and PVC pipes are available at the showroom.

During the promotion period from January to March, goods will be sold at 10 per cent discount. Customers may dial 01-8010470, 01-581430 and Fax: 01-514857.

**Mayor opens concrete roads in Yangon**

YANGON, 25 Jan — Mayor opens concrete road in Htanaw Ward, Ahlon Township here and 850 feet long and 22 feet wide concrete roads. After opening the ceremonies, he inspected the newly-opened concrete roads. —MNA

**PBANRDA Minister receives Chinese Ambassador**

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan — Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs U Thein Nyunt received Chinese Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr. Li Junhua at his office here this afternoon. They discussed matters related to cooperation between the two countries.—MNA

**Mayor U Thein Nyunt receives Chinese Ambassador**

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**MWJA holds Knowledge Bank paper-reading session**

YANGON, 25 Jan — Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association organized Knowledge Bank paper-reading session at MWJA hall of Sarpay Beikman Building on Merchant Street here today.

MWJA Chairman U Tin Hlaing (Ledwinta Saw Chi) and responsible persons and bookworms were present at the paper-reading session.

The MWJA chairman introduced facts about the resource papers and U Aung Thein Win (Maung Khai Khant) read out the resource person’s profile. Resource person Hmaw Wun Kyei Myat read out the paper and replied queries lifted by the attendees.

After that, the paper-reading session ended after spoke words of thanks MWJA Secretary U Ko Ko (Ko Ko-Setthu Tekkatha).—MNA
**Yatanarpon Myothit (North) private housing project inspected**

**Mandalay, 25 Jan—** Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor U Phone Zaw Han on 10 January inspected construction of housings and 33/11KV(5) MVA sub-power station in Yatanarpon Myothit (North) private housing project near Thondaung Village of PyinOoLwin District Mandalay Region.

The mayor also looked into progress of building water tanks for supply of potable water to the satellite town.

He viewed construction tasks of private entrepreneurs in the project area and greeting tasks.

After inspecting the construction sites, he stressed the need to timely completion of housings and roads meeting set standards and attended to the needs of officials.—MCDC

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**JICA concludes MTSAT data utilization training course**

**May Pyi Taw, 25 Jan—** As part of promoting the tasks on daily weather issues, forecasts and early warnings of Meteorology and Hydrology Department, under the programme of Japan International Cooperation Agency, the concluding ceremony of MTSAT Data Utilization Training course was held at Multi-Hazard Early Warning Centre of Ministry of Transport here this morning.

It was attended by Director-General U Tin Ngwe of Meteorology and Hydrology Department and officials, Resident Representative of JICA Mr Hideo Miyamoto and officials, Japanese expert Mr Kunio Akatsu and trainees.

First, the director-general extended greetings, and the JICA resident chief explained how to use the devices and purpose of opening the course. Then, completion certificates were presented to the trainees, and documents related to the devices to the officials concerned.

Data received from the devices will be sent to weather forecast sections of Yangon (Kaba Aye) and Yangon International Airport through Internet network to forecast weather in aviation industry.—MNA

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**Reckless driving: major cause of traffic accidents**

**May Pyi Taw, 25 Jan—** A Hilux with Aung Naing Lwin at the wheel was involved in a head-to-head collision with a motorcycle between mile post Nos 6/1 and 6/2 on Hsenwi-Kunlong Road in Hsenwi Township, Shan State (North), at about 10:15 pm on 18 January.

Of the two on the motorcycle, one was killed and the other was slightly injured.

A motorbike lost control and fell down on the road to Pathein-Kangyidaunt Fertilizer Plant in Pathein Township at about 8 pm on 19 January, leaving the driver dead and the companion injured.

A motorcycle also lost control and ran into a roadside signboard at Bargayar curve on Mandalay-Sagaing Road in Amarapara Township at about 2:30 am on 20 January, killing one and injuring the other.

In another case, a jeep steered by Aung Moe ran into the telephone pole in front of RTC on Mandalay-Sagaing Road in Chamyathazi Township at about 3:45 pm on 20 January, He was killed in the accident.

The same afternoon, a motorized trailer driven by Aik San was involved in head-on collision with a motorcycle at the junction of Baho Street and Sein Pink Noodle Shop in Ward (4), PyinOoLwin. The female cyclist picked up injuries and her female companion was killed in the accident.

An official from May Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Enforcement Committee made a comment that reckless drive may lead to deaths, punishments and tragedies striking victims’ family members; and that so all drivers of vehicles should abide by traffic rules, and vehicles should not be driven at over speed.—MNA

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**Myanmar, Thailand focus on Employment of Myanmar Workers in Thailand**

**May Pyi Taw, 25 Jan—** At the invitation of Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, a Thai delegation led by Minister of Labour Mr Chalermchai Sri-On of Thailand arrived in Yangon by air on 22 January evening to attend the 9th Meeting Between Myanmar and Thailand on Employment of Myanmar Workers in Thailand. The delegation was welcomed by Director-General Dow Yan Yin Myint of Training, Research and Foreign Languages Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Apirath Vienravi and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

On 23 January, the visiting Thai minister and party, accompanied by the Thai Ambassador, arrived in PyinOoLwin to attend the meeting.

The 9th Meeting Between Myanmar and Thailand on Employment of Myanmar Workers in Thailand was held at Aureum Palace Hotel in PyinOoLwin on 23 January. It was attended by the Myanmar delegation led by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Thai delegation led by the Minister of Labour of Thailand. The two sides had fruitful discussion on the matters related to Nationality verification of Myanmar in Thailand, enjoying equal rights with Thai workers in safe and happy working atmosphere without any mistreatment and unfairness, getting opportunity to have all Myanmar workers in Thailand registered and get Temporary Myanmar Passport and dispatching fresh Myanmar workers to Thailand. Also present at the meeting were officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Immigration and Population, and office of the Attorney-General.

The Deputy Minister and the visiting Thai Minister attended the signing of the Agreed Minutes of the 9th Meeting at Aureum Palace Hotel in the evening.

Deputy Minister U Maung Myint hosted a dinner in honour of the Thai Labour Minister and the delegation at the same hotel in the evening. During the visit, the Thai Minister and party paid hommage to Shwedagon Pagoda, Chaukhtegyi Pagoda, Maha Arnhito Kantha Pagoda and Maha Muni Buddha Image and toured National Landmarks Gardens and National Kandawgyi Gardens.

The Thai Minister and party left Yangon for Thailand by air yesterday morning.

MNA

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**9th Meeting Between Myanmar and Thailand on Employment of Myanmar Workers in Thailand in progress at Aureum Palace Hotel in PyinOoLwin.—MNA**

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**MCDC Chairman Mayor U Phone Zaw Han looks into progress of housings in Yatanarpon satellite town (north).—MCDC**

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**9th Meeting Between Myanmar and Thailand on Employment of Myanmar Workers in Thailand**
Japan Hepatitis B patients agree to $39 bln deal

Tokyo, 25 Jan—Japanese Hepatitis B sufferers thought to have caught the disease from repeated use of needles during a vaccination programme have agreed to settle a dispute with the state, at the cost of $39 billion.

The decision will bring to an end a series of lawsuits across the country but it will pose the government with a headache as it looks for ways to raise the 3.2 trillion yen, with the possibility it may have to raise taxes.

Tokyo had already expressed a readiness to accept the proposal, bringing to an end the country’s largest medical dispute that will see it compensate about 430,000 people infected with the potentially fatal disease during decades ago.

Freezing weather affects over 4 million people in SW China Province

Beijing, 25 Jan—Snow and sleet have hit southwest China’s Yunnan Province many times this month, affecting 4.265 million people, the Ministry of Civil Affairs said.

The freezing weather has left one person dead and 472 sick or wounded as of 8 am Tuesday, a ministry statement said.

Over 110,000 people have been evacuated or are stranded in 51 counties in the province.

The accumulated ice has caused more than 45,000 homes to collapse. Economic losses are estimated at 1.57 billion yuan (238 million US dollars). The ministry has sent 20,000 cotton-padded coats and 20,000 quilts to the province to help those affected.

Currently, icy weather continues to hit northeast and northwest parts of the province.

Tourists stranded at airport near Mt Everest in Nepal

Kathmandu, 25 Jan—More than 140 international tourists have been stranded at Tenzing-Hillary airport, Lukla, the only airport for Everest region in Nepal, for more than six days.

They have been stranded there due to bad weather conditions. Tourists from China, England, New Zealand, Australia and among other countries are stranded in Lukla.

Talking to Xinhua, Chinese tourists and businessman Liu Jianxin said that the airport gave no confirmation as to when the flights would resume.

“The weather condition is very bad. We have been stranded here since the past six days and still there is no confirmation as to when we can get the flight back to Kathmandu,” Liu said.

Liu who has been staying at Khumbu resort said that due to the cold weather, the situation is very difficult.

Tenzing-Hillary airport also known as Lukla airport, is a small airport in the town of Lukla, Sagarmatha zone, eastern Nepal.

The airport is considered one of the world’s most dangerous one due to its surrounding terrain, thin air, highly changeable weather and the airport’s short, sloping runway.—Xinhua

Cranes to salvage capsized ship

A rescue ship arrives at a tanker ship capsized in the middle of the Rhine (Rhein) river, next to Loreley statue near Sankt Goarshausen on 14 Jan, 2011.—INTERNET

Berlin, 25 Jan—Cranes have begun working on salvaging a capsized tanker loaded with sulfuric acid that has been floating in the Rhine River for days.

German authorities say two of three cranes needed to right and recover the ship began work on Saturday. The work is expected to take several days or weeks. Limited, southbound shipping has been allowed to resume through the bend where the capsized ship is still listing on its side. No acid has leaked.

The accident happened on a picturesque stretch of the Rhine near the famed Loreley cliff, where the river runs 370 feet (113 metres) wide and 82 feet (25 metres) deep, making it one of the most dangerous bends in the river.

Nine poisoned as suspected toxic gas leak hits detention house in SW China

Kunming, 25 Jan—A suspected toxic gas leak near a detention facility in southwest China Monday caused the poisoning of nine inmates, witnesses and local officials said Tuesday.

Inmates of the Xishan Detention Centre in suburban Kunming City, Yunnan Province, said they smelt a pungent gas Monday night, a district government spokesman told reporters Tuesday.

Some inmates suffered headaches and nausea, and some had difficulty breathing. The nine poisoned inmates - three males, six females - were taken to hospital. The pungent gas had dispersed by late Monday night.—Xinhua

Cholera takes a breather in Haiti, but could surge

Saint-Marc, 25 Jan—The cholera epidemic that has raged across this country is claiming fewer victims, with a sharp drop in new cases everywhere from the shimmering rice fields of the Artibonite Valley to the crowded urban slums.

It is a welcome development, but tinged with doubt: It’s not yet known whether the epidemic that has killed nearly 4,000 people is fading or merely taking a break, only to surge again perhaps with the onset of the next rainy season.

“The general situation is improving. It’s clear,” Stefano Zannini, chief of mission for the aid group, said Sunday. “The problem is that the possible development of the epidemic is unpredictable. It is impossible to say whether the situation will continue stabilizing.”—Internet
Indiana mother killed three children, then herself, police say

INDIANAPOLIS, 25 Jan—A 30-year-old southern Indiana woman shot and killed her three children, set her house on fire, then killed herself, Indiana State Police said on Monday. Amanda Bennett, 30, of Austin, Indiana, and her children Jasmine Abbott, 14, Katelynn Bennett, 9, and Ryan Bennett, 4, were all found shot in the head Friday. The oldest three victims also had smoke inhalation.

While the investigation remains open until the autopsy reports are finalized, "indications are this case is a tragic case of murder/suicide that claimed three innocent lives along with the suspect of the murders, Amanda Bennett," Indiana State Police said in a statement.

An Austin police officer forced his way into the home to check on the family Friday afternoon. The family dog also was shot, but remains alive at a veterinary clinic.

Alaska sexual violence far worse than reported

ANCHORAGE, 25 Jan—For every case of rape reported to police in Alaska, the state that consistently posts the nation's highest rate of sexual assault, another nine cases likely go unreported, according to a new study presented on Monday to the state legislature.

The study, conducted by the University of Alaska Anchorage's Justice Centre and cooperating researchers, found that 37 percent of surveyed Alaska women had been victims of sexual violence, and 4.3 percent were raped. The state's性 assault rate is triple the national average, according to the study.

The survey found that 37 percent of surveyed Alaska women had been victims of sexual violence, and 4.3 percent within the last year. The 871 women surveyed for the study reported "astoundingly high" rates of sexual violence, said Andrew Rosay, director of the university's Justice Centre.

"More than one out of every three experienced sexual violence at some point in their lifetime," Rosay told state senators at a committee meeting held Monday in Juneau. The survey used extended telephone interviews of women around the state conducted last year, and was limited to English speakers with home telephones, Rosay said.

Nearly half of those surveyed said intimate partners had threatened them with violence or committed violence against them, according to results presented by Rosay and fellow researchers. The survey found that 44.8 percent had been victims of actual violence at some time in their lives, and 8.6 percent had been victims of such violence in the past year.

“The goal right now is to really raise the visibility of the issue," said Sherilyn Adams with the Larkin Street Youth Services in San Francisco.—Internet

11 officers killed in 24 hours in five states

ST PETERSBURG, 25 Jan—When two wounded law officers were rushed from the scene of a deadly shooting early Monday morning on Florida's Gulf Coast, someone handed St Petersburg Police Chief Chuck Harmon a ring, two bracelets and a badge.

They belonged to Sgt. Thomas Baitinger and Officer Jeffrey Yaslowitz, who died from the wounds they sustained helping to serve a warrant on a man with a long criminal history. "I'm having a hard time letting go of them," said Harmon, whose hands shook as he held the dead officers' mementos.

These were the latest police killings in a month that already proved fatal for 14 law officers across the nation. In just a 24-hour period between Sunday and Monday, 11 officers were shot in five states, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund.

In the small city of St Petersburg, officers, officials and residents were stunned by the morning's events.

Shortly before 7 am, a US marshal, a Pinellas County deputy and an undercover St Petersburg detective went to a home to arrest Hydra Lacy Jr. on an aggravated battery charge. Officials confirmed late Monday that's who killed the two officers, wounded a third and then died - either by his own hand or by an officer's bullet.—Internet
Lebanon government

BEIRUT, 25 Jan—Hezbollah and its allies won support on Monday to nominate their candidate for Lebanon’s Prime Minister, giving them the upper hand in attempts to form a government and sparking accusations of a pro-Iranian coup.

Telecoms tycoon Najib Mikati, backed by a Hezbollah-led coalition, looked set to be asked to form a government after the first of two days of consultations among Lebanese politicians.

Caretaker Prime Minister Saad al-Hariri, whose government collapsed earlier this month, said he and his group would not serve in an administration dominated by Hezbollah, and Hariri supporters in north Lebanon called for a “day of anger.”

Hezbollah-backed Mikati set to lead Lebanon government

Lebanon’s caretaker Prime Minister Saad al-Hariri (L) speaks as former Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora (R) listens during a news conference after meeting Lebanon’s President Michel Sleiman at the presidential palace in Baabda, near Beirut, during the start of the two-day parliamentary consultations to choose a new Prime Minister, on 24 Jan, 2011. —INTERNET

Rio to build houses for flood victims

SAO PAULO, 25 Jan—The Rio de Janeiro state government and local construction companies are reportedly teaming up to provide housing for hundreds of victims of the state’s recent devastating floods and mudslides. Brazilian news media are reporting that the partnership will donate 2,000 houses.

Rio vice Gov Luiz Fernando Pezao is quoted by the O Globo newspaper in its Sunday edition as saying that the government will donate the land and the companies will help build the houses. The information could not be confirmed immediately.

More than 6,000 people have lost their homes in floods and mudslides earlier this month that killed 799 in Rio’s mountainous region.—INTERNET

Peruvian court: No more prison for Lori Berenson

LIMA, 25 Jan—A Peruvian appeals court rejected a prosecutor’s attempt to revoke the parole of US activist Lori Berenson, who was released in May after serving 15 years for aiding leftist rebels. Berenson and her attorney told The Associated Press on Monday that the ruling is final and cannot be appealed by prosecutors, ending eight months of excruciating legal purgatory.

“I’m pleased with the decision and grateful for it,” Berenson said by telephone, adding that she was “greatly relieved.”

“The only thing that she can do now, with tranquility, is to plan her life,” said Anibal Apari, her attorney and the father of Berenson’s 20-month-old son, Salvador.

Under her parole, the 41-year-old New Yorker cannot leave Peru until her 20-year sentence ends in 2015 — unless President Alan Garcia decides to commute it. He has said he would consider doing so only once the legal case ran its course.—INTERNET

Leaks show Palestinians giving much ground to Israel

JERUSALEM, 25 Jan—Palestinian negotiators secretly told Israel it could keep swathes of occupied East Jerusalem, according to leaked documents that show Palestinians offering much bigger peace concessions than previously revealed.

The documents, obtained by the Al Jazeera television channel, could undermine the position of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, whose public declarations about Jerusalem are at odds with what his officials were promising in private.

Equally sobering for the Palestinian people, who want to create a state on land Israel seized in a 1967 war, is the fact that Israel offered nothing in return for the concessions and turned down their offer, saying it did not go far enough.

Lebanon’s caretaker Prime Minister Saad al-Hariri (L) speaks as former Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora (R) listens during a news conference after meeting Lebanon’s President Michel Sleiman at the presidential palace in Baabda, near Beirut, during the start of the two-day parliamentary consultations to choose a new Prime Minister, on 24 Jan, 2011. —INTERNET

The Dome of the Rock is seen during sunset in Jerusalem’s Old City.—INTERNET

Internet
Minn Bar to Roast Bear for Packers-Bears Game

A sports bar owner in Minnesota is showing his support for the Green Bay Packers in this weekend’s game against the Chicago Bears in a very literal way - by roasting a bear.

Blake Montpetit, the co-owner of Tiffany Sports Lounge in St Paul, says he plans to cook a 180-pound black bear in a pig-roaster over hickory and charcoal on Sunday.

He says his cousin shot it in northern Wisconsin during bear hunting season, which runs in September and October, and then froze it.

Montpetit says he planned to serve the meat to customers, but the state health department rejected the plan because the meat is unprocessed.

“A surgical team at St Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Centre in Phoenix performed the procedure Monday. A hospital spokeswoman says Michaels is recovering and remains in the hospital’s intensive care unit for observation. Doctors discovered the hole in Michaels’ heart in April when he was treated for a brain hemorrhage.

New Delhi, 25 Jan—Vocalist Pandit Bhimsen Joshi, a leading figure of Indian classical music, has died after a prolonged illness. He was 89.

Joshi, a leading figure of Indian classical music, was born in the southern State of Karnataka, Joshi moved to the entertainment capital Mumbai in 1943 to work as a radio singer and released his debut album by age 22.

He received India’s highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna, in 2008.

Pandit Jasraj, another top vocalist, said: “His death is a great loss to Indian classical music.”

Joshi is survived by three sons and a daughter.

Indian classical singer Pandit Bhimsen Joshi dies

lew-action film adaptation based on the first season of the animated television series “Avatar: The Last Airbender.”

It leads a pack with nine nominations including worst picture, worst actress and worst screenplay. This is “a jumbled, jumptut mess of a movie” that “fans of the TV show hated even more than critics did,” the organisers said.

“Twilight,” Aniston among nominees for Razzies

Among the many unpleasantries that can come from living in northern regions is being forced to shovel hundreds of pounds of snow during winter months.

A Massachusetts man found a way around that this winter. According to police, he was blowing up snow banks to avoid shoveling them.

Low J Powers, 23, of Abington, Mass, has been charged with threats to commit a crime and possession of incendiary devices, reports the Patriot Ledger.

Abington Police Chief David Majernski told the Patriot Ledger his department was tipped off about Powers explosive snow clearing, and they tracked the offender down to a rooming house.

Eventually, Police discovered Powers had “military-grade ammunition and other stuff, including powders of some sort” at his former address, the Patriot Ledger reports. The powder turned out to be an explosive of some kind, and these were the materials he had been using to blow up snow banks, police allege.

Shoveling snow is tough, but not your only option, apparently.

Archaeologists have identified the remains of the largest Stone Age building ever found in China — thought to be a prehistoric “town hall” — in the northwestern Shaanxi Province.

The remains of the pentagon-shaped structure, discovered at the Xiahe Site in Baoshui County, date back to the Yangshao culture era of 5,000 to 3,000 BC in the New Stone Age.

Covering 364 square metres, the building had a capacity to hold hundreds of people and might once have been used as a meeting hall, said Zhang Pengcheng, a researcher with the Shaanxi Archeological Research Institute.

“The ancients erected four large wooden pillars and columns along the walls, making the structure of this size possible,” said Zhang.

Large Stone Age building found in NW China’s Shaanxi

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Aniston .—Internet

LOS ANGELES, 25 Jan—The Twilight Saga: Eclipse and actress Jennifer Aniston were among the honorees that have performed worst enough to land on the list of the 31st Golden Razzie Awards, the organizers said on Monday.

The worst player, according to the Golden Raspberry Award Foundation, is an adventure fantasy film “The Last Airbender,” a

Man used bombs to clear snow

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Chelsea destroy Bolton in Premier League

BOLTON, 25 Jan—Didier Drogba, Florent Malouda, Nicolas Anelka and Ramires were all on target as Chelsea ended their miserable run of away form with a 4-0 victory at Bolton on Monday to keep alive their dim hopes of the Premier League title.

Carlo Ancelotti’s side had fallen away from contention for the title with a record of one win in nine matches but they have now won their past eight matches at the Reebok Stadium without conceding a goal.

Victory moved them up to fourth and to within seven points of leaders Manchester United, who travel to Blackpool on Tuesday which continued the poor run of Owen Coyle’s side, who have now suffered four defeats in their last five matches in a damaging run of form and are just eight points above the bottom three.—Internet

Babel puts Hoffenheim move back on track

LIVERPOOL, 25 Jan—Dutch international striker Ryan Babel’s on-off move to Bundesliga side Hoffenheim from English Premier League giants Liverpool was back on track on Monday as he was due to fly to Germany due to finalise personal terms.

The 24-year-old looked to have sealed a £7 million euros deal last week only for it to be placed in doubt as he said he would prefer a return to his former Ajax club but the club announced later on Monday that Babel was going to Germany after all.

“Ryan Babel has agreed a move to TSG 1899 Hoffenheim,” read a terse statement on the Liverpool website.—Internet

Winter World Cup would pose no problem: Platini

ROME, 25 Jan—Switching the dates of the 2022 World Cup finals to Qatar - a tiny oil-rich nation where temperatures in summer regularly soar past 43 degrees - has at least one great, who was praised widely for his heading up the organising of the 1998 World Cup, said: “It’s been an extremely well organised event by Qatar,” said the Asian Football Confederation president, who has not ruled out running against FIFA boss Sepp Blatter when he stands for re-election in May.

“If we played in summer, the matches could be played in temperatures of 55 degrees,” said the former France football great, who was praised widely for his heading up the organising of the 1998 finals.—Internet

Patrice Evra may leave Manchester United in the summer

LONDON, 25 Jan—Patrice Evra could leave Manchester United at the end of the season, his agent has revealed.

Goal.com UK exclusively revealed last November that the Frenchman wants to leave Old Trafford and see out the remainder of his career at Real Madrid. The 29-year-old’s current contract ends in 2012, and the player’s representative has admitted that there is a possibility that his client could leave United.

Inter had been thought to have been interested in acquiring the services of the former Monaco man, but he remained at Old Trafford. But now it appears that things could be changing, as the left-back’s agent, Federico Pastorello, told L’Equipe: “He’ll either extend his contract, or he’ll leave.”—Internet

Federer into eighth straight Aus Open semi

MELBOURNE, 25 Jan—Roger Federer cruised into his eighth consecutive Australian Open semi-final with a dominating straight-sets victory over his Swiss teammate Stanislas Wawrinka on Tuesday.

It was a no-contest as the all-time Grand Slam champion canned to a 6-1, 6-3, 6-3 win against the over-awed Wawrinka in just 1hr 47 min on Rod Laver Arena.

Federer will now take on either of 2008 champion Novak Djokovic or Czech sixth seed Tomas Berdych in Thursday’s semi-final.

Tuesday’s success extended Federer’s winning streak to 15 and a record 59th match win at the Australian Open.

“I definitely needed a good performance and I’ve obviously played Stan many times in practice and in matches and there were no real secrets out there for either of us,” Federer said.

“I think the start was really crucial. It may have been a battle for him to get used to the conditions after playing two such great matches at night.—Internet

Asian football chief praises Qatar

Doha, 25 Jan—Asian football chief Mohamed Bin Hammam has praised Qatar’s hosting of the Asian Cup, calling it the perfect rehearsal for the World Cup in 2022.

Bin Hammam, himself a Qatari, who was instrumental in helping bring the World Cup to his homeland, also hailed the quality of football on show at the continental showpiece. “It’s been an extremely well organised event by Qatar,” said the Asian Football Confederation president, who has not ruled out running against FIFA boss Sepp Blatter when he stands for re-election in May.

“Although it is 12 years (sic) between now and 2022, it was a very good rehearsal for that competition.”

The tiny but wealthy country has thrown plenty of money at the Asian Cup — the stadiums are shiny and modern, the organisation is excellent, facilities are top-notch and communications work flawlessly.—Internet

Jhonattan Vegas wins Hope Classic in playoff

LA QUINTA, 25 Jan—He has a unique golf pedigree, thorough power off the tee, and a first name that could confound any spell-checker.

Venezuelan rookie Jhonattan Vegas also has his first PGA Tour victory after showing the playoff poise of a veteran in the Bob Hope Classic. Vegas made a 13-foot par putt on the second playoff hole Sunday after putting his tee shot in the water, holding off Gary Woodland to win in just his fifth tour start.

Vegas is the first Venezuelan to win a PGA Tour event, but his performance over 92 holes in the five-day event suggests he’s capable of winning again — and maybe even energizing an unpopular sport in his homeland.

“Just to think about winning on the PGA Tour, that’s something,” Vegas said. “But to make it happen is something else, and it’s a crazy feeling. It was tough today to stay neutral and play golf, and that’s why.”—Internet

Milito named best Italy player of 2010

ROME, 25 Jan—FC Internazionale Milano striker Diego Milito has been named Player of the Year and Foreign Player of the Year at the Italian players association’s 2010 Oscar del Calcio awards.

U-21s forward Antonio Di Natale was selected as the best Italian player in Serie A, and Jose Mourinho, now at Real Madrid, was named best coach, local media reported Tuesday.

Milito scored both goals in the UEFA Champions League final against FC Bayern Munich in Madrid as Inter lifted the trophy for the first time in 45 years. Milito was not the only Inter player honoured; Julio Cesar was selected as best goalkeeper, Walter Samuel was best defender alongside Juventus and Italy centre-back Giorgio Chiellini.—Xinhua

Asian Football Confederation (AFC) president Mohamed bin Hammam delivers a speech in Kuala Lumpur.—INTERNET

Jhonattan Vegas of Venezuela, reacts after victory on the second playoff hole on the Palmer Private course.—INTERNET

Federer of FC Bayern Munich in Madrid as
The Arctic: a new frontier for oil, gas firms

LONDON, 25 Jan—BP’s deal with Rosneft to jointly explore the Arctic’s huge oil and gas reserves sets out a new frontier in the race for resources, but one that is dogged by technical and environmental concerns. More than one fifth of the world’s undiscovered but technically recoverable reserves of hydrocarbons are located north of the Arctic Circle, according to the US Geological Survey (USGS). The region accounts for about 13 percent of the world’s undiscovered oil and 30 percent of the undiscovered natural gas, USGS data shows. About 84 percent of the resources occur offshore, trapped below the icy waters. After its disastrous oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, BP hopes to secure its future with the 14 January deal with state-owned Russian firm Rosneft, which gives it access to 125,000 square kilometres of sea in the Russian Arctic.

A sign reading: “Gas!” in -40 degree celsius weather in Novy Urengoi, just below the Arctic Circle in far northern Russia.

WEATHER

Tuesday, 25th January, 2011

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 26-1-2011:

- Generally fair weather.
- Increase of night temperatures in the upper Myanmar Regions and about January average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Namhsan and Pinlaung (2°C) each, Heho (3°C) and Lashio (4°C).

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 26-1-2011:

- Partly cloudy.
- Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 26-1-2011: Generally fair weather.

Forecast valid until evening of the 26th January 2011:

- Light rain are likely to be isolated in Kachin and Mon States, Taninthayi Region, weather will be partly cloudy over Shan and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing and Ayeyawady Regions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent twodays: Likelihood of slight increase of night temperatures in the upper Myanmar areas.

* Myanmar Movies “Due to this True Hatred”
* Fashion Guide (i-gift)
* War Yin Late Art
* News
* Trip of Myanmar (Trip to Mingun)
* News
* Music Gallery
* Photo City
* Treasure Trove for Knowledge Seekers
* News
* Myanmar Movies “Due to this True Hated”

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MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL Programme Schedule (26-1-2011) (Wednesday)

Local Transmissions

- Opening
- News
- Tapestry; A Genuine Myanmar Handicraft
- News
- Unique Inlay Lake, Distinctive Inle Resort
- Atuladipatic Mahamuniathikaya Nine-Story Buddha Statue
- News
- Let’s Choose Pretty Shoes
- Arts of Myanmar Traditional Tapestry
- News
- Myanmar Drama (The Golden Palace)

Oversea Transmissions

* Opening
* News
* Tapestry; A Genuine Myanmar Handicraft
* News
* Unique Inlay Lake, Distinctive Inle Resort
* Atuladipatic Mahamuniathikaya Nine-Story Buddha Statue
* News
* Let’s Choose Pretty Shoes
* Arts of Myanmar Traditional Tapestry
* News
* Myanmar Drama (The Golden Palace)
* Photo City
* Music Gallery
* News
* Trip of Myanmar (Trip to Mingun)
* News
* War Yin Late Art
* Fashion Guide (i-gift)
* Myanmar Movies “Due to this True Hated”

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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

Use of combined paddy harvester demonstrated in Meiktila Township

Konno’s penalty, Kawashima’s saves send Japan past S Korea in thriller

DOHA, 25 Jan—Japan moved within one victory of lifting a record fourth Asian Cup as Alberto Zaccheroni’s side defeated South Korea 3-0 on penalties to reach the final on Tuesday evening.

With the score at 2-2 after 120 minutes, Yasuyuki Konno struck the winner from the spot as Eiji Kawashima kept out South Korea’s first two penalties and Hong Jeong Ho fired wide for Cho Kwang Rae’s side.

Japan, who beat South Korea for just the 12th time in 71 meetings, will face Australia in the final on Saturday.

Ki Sung Yong opened the scoring midway through the first half with a penalty won by captain Park Ji Sung, who was making his 100th international appearance.

Ryoichi Maeda leveled later in the half before substitute Hajime Hosogai put Japan up in the first half of extra time, followed by Hwang Jae Won who made it 2-2 at the last gasp in the 120th minute.

The two teams did not disappoint as they staged a thrilling opening half featuring end-to-end action at Al Gharafa Stadium.

The second half was more of the same but without the goals. Neither side came close before the final whistle, which sent the match into extra time — just like four years ago when they met in the third-place match which South Korea won on penalties.—Internet