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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

Secretary-1 attends meeting on progress of Uppatasanti Pagoda, enshrinement of religious objects, erection of pivot

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan—A coordination meeting on progress in building Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw and holding of the ceremony to enshrine religious objects at seven reliquaries and at the central reliquary and to erect the pivot at the pagoda was held at the Dhammayon on the hillock of the pagoda, here, at 2 p.m. today, with an address by Chairman of the Leading Committee for Construction of the pagoda Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo.

It was also attended by Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, members of the leading committee, the chairman and members of the work committee, guests and wellwishers.

The Secretary-1 gave instructions on progress in construction of the pagoda, enshrinement of religious objects at the seven reliquaries and at the central reliquary and erection of the pivot.

Chairman of the work committee Maj-Gen Than Huy of the Ministry of Defence reported on preparations for holding the ceremony and setting up of subcommittees.

Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin submitted reports on security measures for the ceremony.

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung presented reports on religious affairs for the ceremony and Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, on tasks of the financial subcommittee for construction of the pagoda.

Member of the leading committee Brig-Gen Nyan Tun of the Ministry of Defence briefed those present on the task for offering gold foils to the pagoda.

Head of Department of Yangon City Development Committee U Hla Myint Swe, on decoration of Myanmar handicraft works at the cave and Myanmar handicraft expert U Aung Zaw, on undertaking of Myanmar handicrafts at the precinct of the pagoda.

After hearing the reports, the Secretary-1 attended to the needs and gave concluding remarks.—MNA

Religious objects to be enshrined in Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw. —MNA

Earthquake News

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan—A strong earthquake of intensity (7.3) Richter Scale with its epicenter about (3,900) miles North-East of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory outside of Myanmar (the Russia Federation) was recorded at (00) hrs (30) min (00) sec M.S.T. on 16 January 2009, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.—MNA

Want to be a qualified software engineer?

YANGON, 16 Jan—U Zaw Moe Tun of Myanmar Information Technology Pte Ltd will give talks on opportunities for person who wants to be a qualified software engineer in IT field in a short time, at Room No.112, Building No.112, the hall of Myanmar Professionals Education Center, 8th mile on Pyay Road in Mayangon Township here on 21 January (Wednesday).

At the talks, explanation on six major subjects of Diploma in Software Engineering course being conducted for person wishing to work as a software engineering enthusiast, and advantages by doing projects to be applied in practical work will be made.

Those interested may contact Myanmar Professionals Education Center (MPEC), Ph-668779, 668259 and 650124.—MNA
**Perspectives**

**Saturday, 17 January, 2009**

**Anti-venom produced from egg shows successful**

Research is by nature to be done in a systematic way. Of the research fields, medical research intended to save lives, and research on clinical medicine to diagnose diseases of patients and produce vaccines against diseases need time.

The Department of Medical Research did medical research for several stages to produce vaccine against hepatitis B. When the research showed satisfactory, the vaccine started to be produced on a large scale.

Similarly, research on anti-venom has been carried out for 30 years. The research covers first aid given to snake-bite patients, preventive measures against snake-bite, method to measure the amount of venom in blood, technique to store anti-venom in a region that does not have access to electricity, and methods to produce anti-venom from goat serum and egg.

The research on production of anti-venom from egg was launched in 2002. The anti-venom was tested on rats, rabbits and monkeys, and there were no side effects in that case.

Further research showed that anti-venom produced from egg is several times better and costs less than that from horse serum.

The research on egg anti-venom is rewarding at many stages, and the medicine is tested on humans.

Achievements in various sorts of research such as anti-venom research are very fruitful for Myanmar. The World Health Organization (WHO) is recognizing Myanmar for successful anti-venom research.

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**People’s Desire**

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

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**Information Minister meets rural people**

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan cordially greeted local people of four village-tracts in Pale Township. — MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 16 Jan — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan attended a ceremony to open Kyaway Yadana self-reliant village library in Kyaukhmaw village of Yinnabin Township, Sagon Division, on 12 January. Chairman of Yinnabin Township Peace and Development Council U Soe Hlaing and donor U Win Myint and wife Daw Kyaw Khway Kyaw formally opened the library.

Next, the Minister viewed the library and then met with departmental officials, members of social organizations and the local people totalling 1300 from the six villages. The Minister heard reports on regional development work and fulfilled their requirements.

After that, the officials accepted cash donation for the library from the wellwishers.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presented K 1.2 million for the self-reliant libraries in the six villages and clothing, kitchen utensils and other items for local people to the officials concerned.

The Minister later cordially greeted the local people. He inspected building of Le Ngau-Chippyit road being undertaken by wellwishers, local people and members of social organizations. He also greeted the residents of Pabotha village.

In Pale Township, the Minister met with departmental officials, members of social organizations and the residents totalling 2000 from the eleven villages.

The officials reported on regional development work to the minister who attended to their needs.

The Minister presented K 1.4 million for supply of electricity to Nyaungbintha village, building of Basic Education Post-Primary School in Shinshin village and for the libraries in Khawthandi and Kanhth village.

He also donated clothing, kitchen utensils and other items to the residents.

Next, the Minister greeted the local people. In meeting with the local people, the Minister said the State is striving for the development of education sector and nowadays unprecedented development can be witnessed. The students from basic education level to higher education level have opportunities to easily pursue their education. It is acknowledged that the rural people are giving priority to the education of the children.

He continued to say that the rural people are to cultivate good reading habit by studying publications at the self-reliant village libraries. In addition, the rural people are to redouble efforts for development of living standard through agricultural work and livestock, and the government is rendering necessary assistance to the rural people.

He called upon the entire people to actively participate in successful implementation of the Seven-Step Road Map.

On 13 January, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspected Kyaukse District Information and Public Relations Department office and gave necessary instructions to the officials concerned. — MNA

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**Deputy Minister inspects hospital and dispensaries**

Nay Pyi Taw, 16 Jan — Secretary of National Health Committee Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo met with medical superintendent and health staff at Twantay Township People’s Hospital in Yangon Division on 13 January.

The deputy minister inspected being reconstructed of the hospital damaged by the storm and proceeded to Zawtii Village dispensary (Branch) and met with members of health committee, health staff, members of social organizations and local people.

The deputy minister also looked into Buyagyi Village and Natsingon Village dispensaries.

Next, the deputy minister inspected Kawkhu Township and Kungyangon Township People’s Hospitals and health care centre (Branches) and the dispensaries in the township. — MNA
Pakistan extends crackdown on Mumbai suspects

ISLAMABAD, 16 Jan — Pakistan insisted it would help India to bring those behind the Mumbai terrorist attacks to justice, saying on Thursday it had shut down extremist Web sites and suspected militant training camps, and detained 71 people in a deepening probe.

Still, a top Pakistani official said authorities needed to further investigate information about the attacks provided by archival India before it could be used to prosecute suspects in court.

Rehman Malik, the ministry’s top official, said authorities also had closed 20 offices, 94 schools, two libraries and six Web sites linked to the charity. He said authorities had shut more than a dozen relief camps of the charity, some of which are alleged to be militant training grounds.

Among those detained was Hafiz Mohammad Saeed, the head of Jamaat-ud-Dawa, along with Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi and Zarar Shah, who India says planned the Mumbai attacks.

Pakistan's Interior Minister Rehman Malik addresses a news conference in Islamabad, Pakistan, on 15 Jan, 2009.

War on terror a mistake, says British Foreign Secretary

LONDON, 16 Jan—British Foreign Secretary David Miliband said use of the phrase “war on terror” since September 11 attacks had been a mistake and may have caused “more harm than good,” a British newspaper said on Thursday.

Writing in The Guardian, Miliband said the phrase “war on terror” gave the false sense of a unified global enemy, and encouraged a primarily military reply.

“Since 9/11, the notion of ‘war on terror’ defined the terrain. The phrase had some merit: it captured the gravity of the threats, the need for solidarity, and the need to respond urgently – where necessary, with force. But ultimately, the notion was misleading and mistaken,” Miliband said.

Iraq Cabinet member escapes bomb in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 16 Jan—An Iraqi Cabinet member escaped injury Thursday when a roadside bomb exploded near his convoy in Baghdad, as tensions rose between Arab and Kurdish politicians in the north ahead of regional elections.

Abed Theyab, minister of higher education, was traveling to work when the bomb went off as he passed through the Karradah district, police said. No one in the convoy was hurt but three civilian bystanders were wounded, the police added.

In another attack, a government security guard was killed when a bomb exploded on Nidal Street near Tahrir Square in central Baghdad, police reported. The target was believed to have been a convoy carrying employees of the Housing Ministry to work.

Two British soldiers were killed in an explosion in southern Afghanistan, the British Ministry of Defence said on Thursday.

The two soldiers, one from 29 Command Regiment Royal Artillery and the other from 45 Commando Royal Marines were killed late on Wednesday during an operation against enemy forces in northeast of Geresik in central Helmand, the ministry said in a statement.

Their relatives have been informed of the tragedy.

Currently, Britain has deployed about 8,000 troops in Afghanistan, with the majority in the south of the country.

US Airways jet crashes into Hudson, all 155 aboard survive

NEW YORK, 16 Jan—A US Airways plane made a controlled crash landing on the Hudson River on Thursday afternoon following a failed takeoff blamed on a possible bird strike.

Authorities said all 150 passengers and five crew members aboard the plane survived with no major injuries.

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg said it appeared that all 155 people aboard are safe, although authorities were still verifying the tally of passengers.

Bloomberg told a press conference that the pilot of the plane, who he said made a “masterful” crash landing on the river, “walked the plane twice” after everyone was believed to have escaped.

Some of the injured were taken to hospitals in New York and New Jersey across the Hudson River, where some were treated for hypothermia. The air temperature was as low as minus 6.7 degrees Celsius while water temperature was at 4.4 degrees.

US Airways Flight 1549 was headed to Charlotte, North Carolina, from New York’s LaGuardia Airport, officials said.

A man is treated for his wounds from a mortar attack in Kirkuk, 290 kilometers (180 miles) north of Baghdad, Iraq, on 15 Jan, 2009. Police said a mortar round landed near the offices of Kirkuk’s governor Thursday evening, wounding two.—INTERNET

The US Airways jet on way from New York to Charlotte Thursday crashed into the Hudson River off the west side of Manhattan with more than 155 people on board.—INTERNET

Policemen stand near a crater caused by a roadside bomb attack in Baghdad on 15 Jan, 2009. The attack wounded two civilians, police said.

Internet

Passengers wait to be rescued on the wings of a US Airways plane after it landed in the Hudson River in New York, the United States, on 15 Jan, 2009. The US Airways jet on way from New York to Charlotte Thursday crashed into the Hudson River off the west side of Manhattan with more than 155 people on board.—INTERNET

Internet

Internet

Iraqi Cabinet member escapes bomb in Baghdad

Internet

Pakistan extends crackdown on Mumbai suspects

Internet

Pakistan’s Interior Minister Rehman Malik addresses a news conference in Islamabad, Pakistan, on 15 Jan, 2009.

Internet
EU threatens WTO action against US over beef trade sanctions

BRUSSELS, 16 Jan — The European Commission warned Thursday of taking action at the World Trade Organization (WTO) against a US decision to expand sanctions in a 13-year dispute over beef trade with the European Union (EU).

“It is clear that this move by the US administration means that we will have no choice but to start preparations in order to take this to the WTO,” the Commission said in a statement. “A great deal of effort has been put into finding a mutually agreed settlement to this ongoing dispute. This task has now become much more difficult,” it added.

Earlier Thursday, the United States announced changes to sanctions it applies to EU goods in retaliation for the bloc’s ban on US hormone-treated beef, escalating a long-standing trade dispute. The decision updated the list of EU goods falling under punitive duties, deleting some and adding dozens of new products including oats, sausages and mineral water. It also allowed Washington to revise, every six months, the list of goods subject to sanction. Xinhua

Five killed in aircraft collision in S Russia

MOSCOW, 16 Jan — Five crew members were killed and another injured as two transport airplanes collided at an airport in southern Russia, Interfax news agency reported on Thursday, citing a spokesman for the Interior Forces.

Two Il-76 transport aircraft collided on a runway at the Makhchakala airport in the republic of Dagestan on Thursday evening, Interfax cited an airport police as saying.

The fire caused by the accident has been extinguished, the police said. According to a source in the Dagestani law enforcement agency, one of the planes was about to take off and the second airplane was landing when they collided. Xinhua

Israelislinkills three senior Hamas leaders

GAZA, 16 Jan — Israeli F16 warplanes struck on Thursday evening a 3-story building in northern Gaza city killing five, including three senior leaders of Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), local medical sources said.

Paramedics told local radio stations that Hamas Interior Minister Said Siam, the head of its security apparatus, Salah Abu Sheh, and the head of its military wing, Mahmoud Wafiah were killed in the airstrike. Siam’s brother and son were also killed in the attack, with more than 30 wounded, medical sources added.

Witnesses said that an Israeli F16 warplane fired two rockets at the building belonging to the brother of Said Siam in al-Yarmook Street in northern Gaza City, adding that the building was completely destroyed.

Siam, No3 behind Ismail Haneya and Mahmoud Zahar in Hamas leadership and the effective founder of the Hamas-led police force, was viewed as the most extreme of the three leaders.

Meanwhile, the Israeli army warplanes and tanks continued carrying out airstrikes and shelling of different targets all over the Gaza Strip, focusing on Gaza City with around 700,000 population.

Gaza emergency chief Mo’aweya Hassanein said that since the beginning of the offensive three weeks ago, Israeli army have killed 1,077 Palestinians and wounded more than 5,000, adding that almost half of the casualties are civilians. Xinhua

California in state of emergency due to budget crisis

LOS ANGELES, 16 Jan — California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on Thursday stressed the urgency to resolve the state’s budget crisis, saying “our state is incapacitated until we solve the budget crisis.”

“Addressing this emergency is the first and greatest thing we must do for the people,” he noted. “The 42 billion dollar deficit is a rock upon our chest and we cannot breathe until we get it off.”

Without resolving the crisis, “it doesn’t make any sense to talk about education, infrastructure, water, health care reform and all these things,” he said in a statement.

The state legislature is currently in the midst of serious and good faith negotiations to resolve the crisis, according to the governor.

“One of the reasonable expectations the public has of government is that it will produce a sound and balanced budget,” he said. “That is what the legislative leaders are struggling to do right now. There is no course left open to us but this: to work together, to sacrifice together, to think of the common good — not our individual good.”

California’s budget crisis might prompt the state to delay tax refunds to millions of Californians, along with student grants and payments to vendors, authorities said. The crisis has left the state with little more than a month’s worth of cash in the treasury. —Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Five killed in aircraft collision in S Russia

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) ended their closed-door session of an emergency summit on Gaza war in the Saudi capital of Riyadh on Thursday evening, the United Arab Emirates’ (UAE) official news agency WAM reported.

The meeting was attended by the leaders of five GCC countries — Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Bahrain and Kuwait. The delegation of Oman, which is also a GCC member, was led by Deputy Prime Minister for Cabinet Affairs and Sultanate Fahd bin Mahmoud al-Said. —Xinhua

GCC leaders meet in Riyadh on Gaza war

RIYADH, 16 Jan — Leaders and representatives of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) ended their closed-door session of an emergency summit on Gaza war in the Saudi capital of Riyadh on Thursday evening.

Said. —Xinhua

Israelislinkills three senior Hamas leaders

Palestinians gather around the crater caused by an Israeli airstrike which hit the house of top Hamas official Said Siam’s brother in Gaza City, on 15 Jan, 2009. —Xinhua

Soul of Shaolin actors pose under their neon light box commercial on Boradway, New York City, with some American kungfu fans. —Xinhua

EU threatens WTO action against US over beef trade sanctions

The decision updated the list of EU goods falling under punitive duties, deleting some and adding dozens of new products including oats, sausages and mineral water. It also allowed Washington to revise, every six months, the list of goods subject to sanction. Xinhua
US probe into Afghan civil deaths “flawed”

KABUL, 16 Jan—A US investigation into an air strike in western Afghanistan last year was “deeply flawed” and casts doubt over the military’s commitment to reduce civilian casualties, a human rights group said on Thursday.

The accidental killing of Afghan civilians has eroded support for international forces in the country and opened a rift between President Hamid Karzai and his Western backers. After a US air strike in Azizabad in August, US forces reported five to seven civilian deaths. Both the Afghan government and the United Nations said more than 90 civilians had been killed. The US military reopened its investigation after a video emerged showing bodies of victims. The second inquiry, led by US Air Force Brigadier General Michael Callan, found 33 civilians had been killed.

But Human Rights Watch (HRW) criticized the way it was conducted and questioned the US army’s pledge to protect civilians in military operations. “The US military’s investigation into deadly and controversial air strikes in Azizabad in Afghanistan in August 2008 was deeply flawed,” the New York-based HRW said.—Internet

Airbus orders decline in 2008

PARIS, 16 Jan—European commercial aircraft manufacturer Airbus said on Thursday its orders fell by 42 percent in 2008 from the previous year, and forecast a difficult 2009.

Airbus received 777 aircraft orders in 2008, against 1,341 in 2007, according to Airbus chief executive Tom Enders. Its orders in 2008 were worth 100 billion US dollars, giving the company a global market share of 54 percent against 46 percent by its US rival Boeing Co, said Enders in Toulouse where Airbus is based.

Boeing Co said last week it sold 662 aircraft in 2008, down 52 percent from the previous year.—Internet

Series aftershocks rock West Papua, Indonesia

JAKARTA, 16 Jan—A series of tremors with magnitudes of 5.8, 5.4 and 5.3 respectively struck West Papua province in easternmost Indonesia on Friday, with no report of damage or casualty, meteorology agency said here.

The 5.8 magnitude quake hit at 06:58 Jakarta time (2358 GMT Thursday) with epicenter at 140 kilometers northwest of Manokwari town and at 10 kilometers in depth, an official of the agency said.

Six minutes earlier, another tremor measuring 5.3 on the Richter scale hit the province with epicenter at 156 kilometers northeast of Sorong town and at 10 kilometers in depth, the official said. The 5.4 magnitude quake occurred with epicenter at 138 kilometers northwest of Manokwari town and at 10 kilometers in depth, said the official.—Internet

Fisherman killed during pirate chase

SAN’A, 16 Jan—A Russian helicopter attack on Somali pirates in the Gulf of Aden earlier this week killed a Yemeni fisherman and three others, security officials said on Thursday.

The fishermen were in two boats nearby when the Russian helicopter fired on pirates in three speedboats trying to hijack a Dutch container ship on Tuesday, said two officials from Yemen’s Interior Ministry and coast guard.

A preliminary investigation showed the fishermen were hit by fire from the helicopter, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to news media.

The Russian Defence Ministry said it had no information on whether fishermen were hit in the operation, which prompted the pirates to abort their attempt to board the Dutch vessel.

The helicopter was dispatched from a Russian warship that was sent to the area in September after several of the 19 captured Somali pirates, with hands on their heads, were taken to the French naval vessel ‘Jean de Vienne’ which came to the rescue of two cargo ships in the Gulf of Aden in this on 4 Jan, 2009 photo released by the French Navy.—Internet

Pakistan says militants killed in Swat valley

ISLAMABAD, 16 Jan—Pakistan’s army says security forces have killed and injured a large number of militants in a restive valley in the country’s northwest.

An army statement said militants attacked a checkpoint in the Swat valley on Thursday morning. It said troops repelled the attack and inflicted heavy casualties on the assailants.—Internet

Pakistan trucks carrying supplies for US and NATO forces in Afghanistan, drive through Kozak Pass near the Pakistani border town of Chaman, on 14 Jan, 2009. Pakistan reopened a supply route for NATO and US forces in Afghanistan on Wednesday after tribesmen ended a three-day blockade.—Internet
Hutton attacks NATO over troops

LONDON, 16 Jan — John Hutton has hit out at Britain’s European allies for failing to send enough troops to Afghanistan and called on them to “step up to the plate”.

The defence secretary, at a news conference, accused NATO members of expecting the US to do the “heavy lifting” when fighting the Taliban. “That is not an alliance, that is one-way traffic,” he said.

Mr Hutton said the UK was one of only a “handful” of European countries playing their part in the Afghan battle. Ministers have been urging Eu-

opean nations, such as France and Germany, to do more in Afghanistan for some time.

In his most outspoken comments to date, Mr Hutton told the confer-
ence: “It is not honest, credible or, I think, sus-
tainable to say that the Americans can do more. “That is not an alliance, that is one-way traffic.”

He went on to call for all NATO members in Europe to play their part.

Mr Hutton said NATO members were not standing together. “It is not for us to go on saying the Americans can go on doing all the heavy lifting,” he said.

“NATO has to stand together. I do not believe that NATO members are currently doing that effi-
ciently and effectively.”

Man survives after 12cm knife thrust deep into head

Xi’an , 16 Jan — A man who walked into a hospital emergency room with a 12cm blade buried in his head says he was stabbed by his father. This amazing X-ray picture, obtained by Central Euro-

pean News, shows the blade plunged deep into his skull.

A nurse reportedly fainted as Wen Wen, 38, walked up to reception at a hospital in central China, and calmly an-
swered questions about his injury with the handle of the knife poking out of his head, UK tabloid The Sun reports.

The razor sharp blade sunk into Wen’s head above his right ear, down into the nasal cavity and finally emerged into his mouth. It narrowly missed several major ar-

teries, blood vessels and nerves.

DVD teaches autistic kids what a smile means

LONDON, 16 Jan — It wasn’t until Jude met Jenny that the 3-year-old autistic boy understood what happy people look like. Jenny, a green trolley car with a human face, had a furrowed brow when her wheel buckled and she got stuck on a track. But after being rescued by friends, she smiled broadly — and that’s when something clicked for little Jude Baines.

“It was revelatory,” his mother, Caron Freeborn told AP Television News in Cambridge, England. Be-
fore watching the video, Jude didn’t understand what emotions were and never noticed the expres-
sions on people’s faces, even those of his parents or younger brother.

On a knife’s edge ... the blade narrowly missed major arteries, blood vessels and nerves. Picture courtesy of EuroPics (CEN).

Noumea, 16 Jan — A strong 6.8-magnitude earth-quake has struck the island group of New Caledonia in the South Pacific, the US Geological Survey has reported.

It hit 420km (260 miles) east of Noumea, the USGS said.

No warning of a tsunami was issued. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center said local tidal waves could affect nearby coasts, but no damage was reported.

The quake was too deep to create a tsunami, an analyst at the French seismology bureau told

Internet

Man says he shot car with paintballs to deter DUI

Man found aboard idling Zamboni faces OUI charge

A Portland man faces a drunken driving charge after police found him aboard an idling Zamboni inside the Cumberland County Civic Center. Police and firefighters were alerted by an alarm at about 2 am on Tuesday that somebody was inside the arena, which is home to the Portland Pirates hockey team.

Police officers discovered a 22-year-old man attempting to operate the Zamboni, which had crashed into a wall inside the civic center’s storage area.

Police said the man appeared to be intoxicated, and that he had also operated two fork lifts and damaged a sprinkler system, interior walls and a hockey net.

EXECUTING a search warrant, deputies found about 50 items including ceramic angels, a pair of praying hands, small Christmas trees, lights and several flower arrangements in the home and on his property.

Man arrested after grave decorations found at home

Authorities in northeast Tennessee have arrested a man and charged him with possession of stolen property after grave decorations were found at his home, next to a cemetery. The Johnson City Press quoted Unicoi County Sheriff Kent Harris saying the man told investigators the decorations were blown onto his property by the wind.

Harris said his office received a tip on Wednesday from a man who said he saw someone take flowers from Evergreen Cemetery and take them to the man’s house.

Executing a search warrant, deputies found about 50 items including ceramic angels, a pair of praying hands, small Christmas trees, lights and several flower arrangements in the home and on his property.
600 tons of tin and tungsten targeted to be extracted at Heinda Mine yearly

In Dawei District of Taninthayi Division, Heinda and Harmyingyi regions are well-known due to production of tin and tungsten.

We, members of the news crew of the Myanmar Alin Daily had been in Taninthayi Division recently to write articles on regional development. We visited Heinda Mine, a famous and large deposit of metalliferous ore.

Before the visit to the mine, we had an opportunity to meet with Division General Manager U Kyaw Tint of No. 2 Mining Enterprise in Dawei. In an interview, he said, “Generally, there are three methods of extracting tin and tungsten. These extraction methods are the primary deposit, the silted deposit and the eluvial deposit. Of them, Heinda Mine is of eluvial deposit.”

“In undertaking the primary deposit, the rocks are to be exploded with the use of dynamite. However, the cost for gunpowder is very expensive for such method. The eluvial deposit method is the cheapest and the method is being applied at Heinda Mine. In the mining process, soils from the mine are dug by backhoe and conveyed by truck. Next, the soils are cleaned with the use of water,” explained U Kyaw Tint.

The mineral ore from the mine passes through the production process, soils from the primary deposit, the mixture of tin and tungsten. The mineral ore is being refined at Heinda Mine. The plant is producing the refined tin. The refined tin can be smelted from 26.77 million cubic yards of mineral bearing soils. One more survey conducted in 1999 indicated that there remains 8,087.7 tons of refined tin in 15.9 million cubic yards of the mine.”

So far, Myanmar Pongpipat Co Ltd has produced 4,303.5256 metric tons of refined tin up to the end of October 2008. Therefore, a total 3,784.2744 tons of refined tin is left to be produced,” he continued.

No. 2 Mining Enterprise could produce 50 tons of tin per month against the target of 600 tons at the mine in 2008-2009 financial year. In the whole area of Taninthayi Division, a total of 600 tons of tin have been extracted against the target of 842 tons this financial year.

The refined tin can be used in production of electronic devices and cans for condensed milk. Moreover, tin can be used in making electronic circuits, welding equipment and tins of foods. The use of tin is not like that of lead. Lead can be used in production of batteries only.

Tungsten can be used in making electric bulbs and reducing heat in the barrels of gun.

“According to the survey at the mine of a German geologist team in 1970, about 14,000 tons of refined tin can be smelted against the target of 600 tons at the mine in 2008-2009 financial year. In the whole area of Taninthayi Division, a total of 600 tons of tin have been extracted against the target of 842 tons this financial year.”

“U Saw Pyi Tha, further explained, “According to the survey at the mine of a German geologist team in 1970, about 14,000 tons of refined tin can be smelted.”

At the mine, Mine Project Manager U Saw Pyi Tha explained the brief history of the mine and production of tin, tungsten and other minerals to us. He said, “Heinda mine is located on Pholon Hill, 33 miles east of Dawei. In 1927, Anglo Burman Tin Co Ltd was established to produce minerals at the mine. In 1956, the government of Myanmar and the company continued the mineral production under the joint venture schemes. In 1963, the mine was nationalized, and minerals had been produced up to June 1999. From July 1999 to date, No. 2 Mining Enterprise of Dawei. The plant is producing the refined tin.

The news team visited Heinda mine, located at Pholon Hill, 33 miles east of Dawei. The mine is situated in 2,110 acres of land. It is a large deposit of metalliferous ore of Myanmar. In an interview, U Kyaw Tint, No. 2 Mining Enterprise, Dawei.

He said, “Heinda mine is located on Pholon Hill, 33 miles east of Dawei. In 1927, Anglo Burman Tin Co Ltd was established to produce minerals at the mine.”

“U Saw Pyi Tha, Manager, Heinda Mine.

No. 2 Mining Enterprise shares profits with Myanmar Pongpipat Co Ltd through the mineral production at Heinda Mine. The mineral powder sent from the mine is being refined at Thanlyin Tin Smelting Plant and the refined tin is being distributed to the domestic market.”

Translation: TTA
Myanmar Alin: 12-1-2009

THE  NEW  LIGHT  OF  MYANMAR   Saturday, 17  January, 2009
Management Committee discusses Observed of 62nd Anniversary Union Day ceremony

NA Pyi Taw, 16 Jan—The meeting of the Management Committee for Observance of the 62nd Anniversary Union Day was held at Paunglaung Yeiktha of Na Pyi Taw Command this morning, attended by Chairman of the Management Committee Commander of Na Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, members of the committee, chairman of subcommittees and officials. Chairman of the Management Committee for Observance of the 62nd Anniversary Union Day Maj-Gen Wai Lwin made an opening address. In his address, the commander said that the committee meeting on observance of the 62nd Anniversary Union Day was held under the leadership of the Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council on 6 January, and works are being undertaken by 14 subcommittees. He urged those present to coordinate preparatory tasks and difficulty of works to successfully hold the 62nd Anniversary Union Day based on the experiences of the previous year. He called on those present to successfully carry out the tasks of State Flag hoisting ceremony, compilation of Union Day message, performance of traditional dances of national races at the dinner, presentation of songs and dances with the development of States and Divisions in the background, expenditure for the ceremony, study tour for the delegates and the convenience of the delegates during their stay in Na Pyi Taw.

Next, chairman of subcommittees and officials reported to the commander on progress of works and arrangements for accommodation of delegations, transportation, health and security matters, holding of the dinner, preparations for the ceremony, expenditure, tasks of saluting the State Flag and reading out the message, putting up of billboards, information, entertainment programme at the dinner and study tours. Later, Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin attended to the needs and gave necessary instructions.

Sales promotion of Sakura, Orchid electronics held

Yangon, 16 Jan—Sales promotion of Sakura and Orchid electronics solely imported and distributed at home by Pyae Sone Win Naing Co Ltd took place along with dinner at the Sedona Hotel here yesterday evening. Chairman of the company delivered a speech. The chairman and members of the board of directors chose lucky draw winners for a foreign trip for sales agents, and gifts for the attendees, followed by dinner. The company’s lucky draw programme covering 50 radios, 10 Flat Orchid TV sets, 10 motorcycles with licences, which is now ongoing, under which lucky draw winners will be chosen among those who buy electronics between 15 January and 31 March. The company distributes quality electronics including Panasonic brand air-conditioners, washing machines, refrigerators, Sakura brand air-conditioners, TV, DVD, radios, and Orchid brand TV, DVD and radios.

Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin addresses meeting of Management Committee for observance of the 62nd Anniversary Union Day. — MNA

Orthopaedic specialists of Medical Services and a Singapore medical team perform surgical operations at Defence Services Orthopaedic Hospital (500-bed) in Mingaladon Township. — MNA

Yangon, 16 Jan—Under the arrangements of the Directorate of Medical Services of the Ministry of Defence, the orthopaedic specialists of the medical services and a 12-member medical team led by Orthopaedic specialist Prof. Tay Boon Keng of Singhealth Group-Singapore General Hospital of Singapore has provided health care and performed surgical operation on servicemen and family members at Defence Services Orthopaedic Hospital (500-bed) in Mingaladon Township from 15 to 18 January.

They have performed surgical operations on total hip replacement and disorder of vertebra with the use of modern equipment in addition to the maxillofacial plastic surgery. Moreover, the specialists are giving lectures and practical works to under- and post-graduate students of Defence Services Medical Academy.

Religious objects to be enshrined in Upalassanti Pagoda.

Yangon, 16 Jan—Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo visited the project site for building Yenwe diversion weir by the construction-1 of the Irrigation Department at Yenwe creek near Hsihsongon village in Kyauktaga Township, Bago Division, on 14 January. At the project site, the minister inspected construction tasks with the use of heavy machinery. The water from Yenwe dam will be supplied to 118,500 acres of farmlands through Yenwe diversion weir. — MNA

Yenwe diversion weir in Bago Div under construction

Yangon, 16 Jan—Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo visited the site for building Yenwe diversion weir by the construction-1 of the Irrigation Department at Yenwe creek near Hsihsongon village in Kyauktaga Township, Bago Division, on 14 January. At the project site, the minister inspected construction tasks with the use of heavy machinery. The water from Yenwe dam will be supplied to 118,500 acres of farmlands through Yenwe diversion weir. — MNA

MNA

Chairman U Win Naing Zaw of Pyae Sone Win Naing Co Ltd delivers an address at sales promotion ceremony of Sakura and Orchid brand electronic goods. — MNA
Maj-Gen Ko Ko inspects roadworks and hydropower project in Bago Div

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan—Maj-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence met with militarymen and families of Toungoo Station at Aye Chan Phyo Hall of Southern Command and gave instructions to them on 13 January. Maj-Gen Ko Ko accompanied by Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Brig-Gen Hla Min and officials, went to construction site of Nagapauk Bridge on DaikU-Sittoung road in Waw township where he heard reports on progress of the work and left necessary instructions.

Next, Maj-Gen Ko Ko and party proceeded to the project site of Nagapauk sluice gate near confluence of Nagapauk Creek and Khamong-Myitkyopyat Creek in which he heard reports on construction works and future tasks and gave necessary instructions and looked into works. On arriving at the Toll Gate of Shwe Thanlwin Highway Co Ltd near Phayagyi village on Yangon-Bago-Mawlamyine highway, Maj-Gen Ko Ko inspected the toll gate and maintenance works being carried out on Phayagyi Sittoung road section by Shwe Thanlwin Highway Co Ltd and gave necessary instructions.

Later, Maj-Gen Ko Ko and party went to the base camp of Shwe Thanlwin Highway Co Ltd near Pyinpongyi village on Yangon-Bago-Mandalay Highway where he heard reports on roadworks on Bago-Nyaunglebin road section, renovation of bridges and paving of AC roads and gave instructions. Maj-Gen Ko Ko and party then inspected roadworks along their way to Shwekyin Coconut Sculpture Course of PBANRDA concludes

YANGON, 16 Jan—Course No. 1 on Coconut Sculpture conducted by Education and Training Department under the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs was concluded at the Central Training School in Dagon Myothit (North), here Township today. Twenty instructors from women vocational training schools attended the 6-week course, and Daw Ni Lar Win, Assistant Instructor of Hpa-an Women Vocational Training School won the outstanding award of the course. Deputy Director-General U Win Aung of the Education and Training Department delivered an address at the closing ceremony to conclude the course and officials of departments under the ministry attended the ceremony.

After the ceremony, the deputy director-general inspected clerical courses No. 58 and No. 59, advanced vocational training course No. 20 and coconut sculptures. He also visited lecture halls, hostels, mess hall and vegetable plantation of the training school and fulfilled the requirements.

Cyclone shelter under construction in Pyapon Township

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan—On 12 January, Member of Natural Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing presented foodstuffs to the Pre-Primary School in Kani Village and Basic Education Primary School in Tinphalwe Model Village opened by Maternal and Child Welfare Association in Pyapon Township. In Tinphalwe Village, the minister gave instructions to officials after viewing progress in construction of the cyclone shelter by Yuzana Construction Company.

In the evening, the minister met members of the mobile rural educative teams at the office of Pyapon District Peace and Development Council.
To export ethanol by 2010 on target

(from page 16)

He added that in 2000, the company imported a milling machine with a capacity of 500 tons a day and established a sugar mill near the fishing village in Madaya Township; that the mill milled 800 tons of sugarcane a day in the present sugarcane season; and that the company constructed its second sugar mill near Maunggon Village in Htigyaing Township, Katha District, Sagaing Division in May 2005 because sugarcane sown acreage represented 95 percent of the total sown acreage of crops of the region and the site was close to the Ayeyawady River from which the mill could get adequate amount of water.

He continued to say that the construction of the mill was completed in November 2006 and during the test-run period, 100,000 tons of sugarcane were milled; that it could mill 2000 to 2500 tons a day; and that the mill purchased sugarcane from the areas 10 miles around it; that during the season from December to April, the mill ran round the clock daily; and that it milled 20 per cent of the total sugarcane output of the region.

We noticed that next to the sugar mill was the ethanol factory, which was designed to extract ethanol from the molasses that was obtained in the process of milling sugarcane.

He said that under the instructions of the government, the company laid down a plan in August 2006 to establish an ethanol factory; that in some countries, ethanol was also extracted from corn and tapioca; that the project was completed on 30 May 2008 and the test run was conducted on 24 June 2008; that the percentage of the ethanol produced by the factory was from 99.5 to 99.8, that the factory produced 120 tons (37,500 gallons) a day or 36,000 tons (over 11 million gallons) of ethanol a year; that ethanol could be used in combination with petrol to drive cars and motorcycles; that their second objective was to produce 100,000 tons (31 million gallons) of ethanol a year by 2010 and export the surplus; that they had a plan to distribute the product to Mandalay, Shwebo and Monywa in January and February 2009, and then to various regions across the nation; that the company had carried out a pilot cultivation of corn to produce ethanol from it; and that ethanol plus one ton of feedstock could be produced from one ton of corn.

The ethanol factory applies computer-aided system, so it has only a small workforce to operate. The factory will soon help ensure sufficiency of fuel in the nation.

Translation: MS
Kyemon: 12-1-2009

IBTC Open Golf Championship continues


After the third round Zaw Zaw Latt (Srixon) is leading with 211 strokes in Professional Golfers, Min Naing (Srixon) second with 213 strokes, Hla Myo (Srixon) third with 214, Aung San Win (Srixon) four with 215 and Soe Kyaw Naing (Srixon) five with 218.

In the Amateur event, Bo Bo Lay stood first with 210 strokes, Nay Bala Win Myint second with 214, Aung Win (Forestry) and Myo Win Aung third with 217 and Than Naing Oo (Monywa) four with 220.

Scientists bring painted warrior 2,000 years old to virtual life

Coventry, 16 Jan — A 2,000 year-old painted statue being restored to its original glory by scientists from WMG at the University of Warwick, the University of Southampton and the Herculaneum Conservation Project was discovered by the Herculaneum Conservation Project in the ancient ruins of Herculaneum, a town preserved in the same eruption that buried nearby Pompeii in AD 79. It is thought to represent a wounded Amazon warrior, complete with painted hair and eyes preserved by the ash that buried the town. Archaeologists at the University of Southampton and the Herculaneum Conservation Project contacted WMG after hearing about the Group’s expertise in three key technologies: high resolution laser scanning, rapid prototyping and ultra-realistic computer graphics.

Researchers from WMG at the University of Warwick, Southampton and Herculaneum are now scanning, modelling and digitally recreating the Amazon statue.
Honda extends shutdown at Swindon factory

LONDON, 16 Jan—Japanese auto giant Honda said Friday it would suspend production at its Swindon factory for an extra two months, bringing to four months the total amount of time the facility will be closed. Japan’s second-biggest automaker had planned to stop production at the plant in western England for February and March, but has now decided to extend that suspension until the end of May.

There were no plans however to cut jobs among the 4,200-strong workforce at the plant, it added.

Friday’s announcement comes just hours after the carmaker said it was cutting more than 3,000 jobs and reducing overall production in Japan because of the economic downturn.

“The European car market is not showing any signs of recovery yet and therefore we have to reduce our production output further to better match the current level of market demand,” said Honda UK Manufacturing Director David Hodgetts.—Internet

Somali pirates release Danish ship

NAIROBI, 16 Jan—Somali pirates have released a Danish-operated ship with 13 crew members after seizing it in November last year in the Gulf of Aden, regional maritime official confirmed on Friday.

Andrew Mwangura, the East Africa coordinator of Seafarers Assistance Program (SAP), said the CEC Fortune was released early Thursday by pirates after paying unknown ransom. “The vessel which was hijacked in November was released on Thursday. They must have paid ransom because they have been negotiating for it since then,” Mwangura told Xinhua by telephone.

Mwangura said the crew, most of whom are Russian, are unharmed and are on their way to Oman under the escort of a Russian warship.

Zimbabwe cholera death toll surges again

WASHINGTON, 16 Jan—Industrial production plunged by double the amount analysts expected in December.

The Federal Reserve says industrial output fell by 2 percent last month. The dismal showing underscores the heavy toll the housing, credit and financial crises are taking on the nation’s manufacturers.

The 2 percent drop, came after a 1.3 percent decline in November, which was even sharper than initially reported. Economists expected a 1 percent drop for last month.—Internet

EU: Carmakers won’t get a free ride in state help

BRUSSELS (Belgium), 16 Jan—The European Union’s industry chief says ailing automakers should not expect a free ride in state aid to overcome the financial crisis. EU Industry Commissioner Guenter Verheugen says carmakers should get better access to investment cash to keep the industry in step with technology, but insists the 27-nation bloc will not distort the global car market by funding overproduction.

Verheugen is warning that the slumping market would get worse this year compared to 2008, with up to 20 percent less in sales. The survival of millions of jobs is threatened. An informal meeting Friday of the EU’s industry ministers concluded that long-term investments to make safer and cleaner cars held the key to the survival of the EU’s biggest employer.—Internet

Industrial output drops more than expected in Dec

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South Africans bust rhinoceros poaching ring

JOHANNESBURG (South Africa), 16 Jan—South African police and game park rangers say they have arrested 11 suspects in an international rhinoceros poaching ring.

Police commissioner Ray Lalla said in a statement Friday that some of the rhinos had their horns hacked from them while they were still alive. “Investigators tracked the suspects — identified as South African, Chinese and Mozambican — for days.

They were charged with illegally hunting game in the national parks, illegally possessing and dealing in rhino horn and illegal possession of firearms.

Rhino horn is used in medicines in parts of Asia, where some believe it is an aphrodisiac.—Internet
UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (MAI)
IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT (ID)
FEASIBILITY STUDY AND PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING DESIGN FOR
IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT OF
PHYU CHAUNG DAM MULTI-PURPOSE PROJECT
INVITATION FOR PRE-CREDENTIALS PROCEDURE
FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES
Date: 14.1.2009
1. The Government of the Union of Myanmar has re-
ceived a grant from the Kuwait Fund managed by
the Government of Kuwait, hereinafter referred to
as “the Fund,” towards the cost of “Feasibility Study
and Preliminary Engineering Design for Irrigation
Development of Phyua Chiang Dam Multi-purpose
Project,” and intends to apply the full amount of
the proceeds of this grant to eligible payments un-
der the contract for the provision of the consultancy
services required to undertake this study for which
this Invitation for Prequalification is issued.
2. Prequalification is open to firms and voluntarily
formed joint ventures from eligible source countries.
3. A minimum requirement for prequalification is to
have successfully carried out at least three similar
assignments as lead consultant over the past five
(5) years.
4. Eligible applicants may obtain the prequalification
documents by writing faxing, or emailing ID through
the contacts given below. Written request must be
clearly marked “Request for Prequalification Docu-
ments for Consultancy Service for the Feasibility
Study and Preliminary Engineering Design for Irri-
gation Development of Phyua Chiang Dam Multi-
purpose Project.” The prequalification documents
can be either mailed to the applicant free of charge
or a hard copy can be collected by the applicant
by payment of a non-refundable fee of fifty
(50) United States Dollars (US$ 50). The prequalification
documents can also be purchased in kyats converted
at the Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank (MFTB), Yangon,
Myanmar, from Foreign Exchange.
5. Submissions of Applications for Prequalification
must be received in sealed envelopes, either deliv-
ered by hand or by registered mail, at the address
below before 12:00 hours of 15th March 2009 (lo-
tal time). Application must be clearly marked “Ap-
plication to Prequalify for the Consultancy Service
of the Feasibility Study and Preliminary Engineer-
ing Design for Irrigation Development of Phyua
Chiang Dam Multi-purpose Project.”
6. E-mail and faxed application will NOT be accepted.
Application submitted after the deadline will NOT
be considered.
7. Applicants will be advised, in due course, of the
results of their applications. Only firms and joint
ventures short-listed under this procedure will be
invited to submit proposals.
DIRECTOR GENERAL
IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT

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Latin America to hold summit to fight crime

Panama, 16 Jan—Viol-
ence and drug-trafficking
have become such a ma-

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Program at the Carter
Center in Atlanta, says it
is "encouraging that
presidents Felipe
Calderon of Mexico,
Alvaro Uribe of Colom-
bia, Alvaro Colom of
Guatemala and Martin
Torrijos of Panama not
only recognize the prob-
lem but want to meet to
see what they can do about
it.

"The issue of security
is vital in these countries
and in Latin America,""McCoy said.

It is not just a threat
for Latin America, a recent
report from the US mili-
tary says. The violence in
Mexico and elsewhere
south of the border could
spill over to the United
States, says the report is
sued in November by the
US Joint Forces Com-
mand.—Internet

700-pound man freed
from home

Memphis, 16 Jan—Rescue
workers in Memphis said
they cut a hole in the wall of
a home to free a 700-

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Boy’s tongue stuck to metal pole

Hammonds, 16 Jan—Police in northwest Indiana
said they were called to the scene when a 10-year-old boy

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St Helena penguins disappearing

London, 16 Jan—Envi-
ronmentalists say the Brit-
ish government is not do-
ing enough to prevent the
extinction of northern
rockhopper penguins.

The birds are vanishing
from the British territory
of St Helena in the South
Atlantic at a rate of 100
birds every day. The
Times of London said
about 2 million northern
rockhopper penguins have
appeared from Tristan da Cunha and
Gough Island over the
past five decades.

Ornithologists say they
don't know why the birds are
disappearing so quickly. The
newspaper said environmentalists
think the British govern-
ment "cannot be both-
ered" to put effort or re-
sources into wildlife con-
servation on the overseas
territories.—Internet

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A worker unloads sharks from wooden boats in a
dock in Banyuwangi in Indonesia’s East Java Province
in this on 27 June, 2008 file photo.

Three shark attacks in Australia in two days this
week sparked a global media frenzy of ‘Jaws’
proportions, but sharks are more at risk in the
ocean than humans with man killing million of
sharks each year.—Internet

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Cartridges and weapons seized from gangsters and
drug-traffickers at the Military Headquarter in
Mexico City.—Internet

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A 700-pound man freed from home.
US learns from Swiss, Dutch healthcare

NEW YORK, 16 Jan — Swiss and Dutch healthcare systems can serve as examples for US healthcare reformers, officials at a US non-profit group said.

Commonwealth Fund President Karen Davis said both countries cover all but 1 percent of their population due to an individual mandate to purchase health insurance and premium assistance for those with low incomes. Switzerland and the Netherlands have mixed public-private systems, with an individual mandate and insurance market reforms that are similar to the Massachusetts universal coverage law. Both countries’ health systems also feature patient choice, broad access to care and low rates of disparities in care, the study said.

Robert E. Leu of the University of Bern, Switzerland, and colleagues said the United States spent 15 percent of gross domestic product and $6,700 per capita on healthcare in 2006, while Switzerland spent 11 percent and the Netherlands 9 percent of GDP on healthcare. Per capita spending was $4,300 in Switzerland and $2,800 in the Netherlands.

Both countries achieve better health outcomes compared to the United States — in 2005 life expectancy in the United States was 77.8 years, compared with 81.4 years in Switzerland and 79.1 years in the Netherlands.

New light on Mars methane mystery

HOUSTON, 16 Jan — Large quantities of methane gas have been detected on Mars, NASA scientists have announced in Science journal. The gas could be produced either by geological activity or by life. Methane was detected in the Martian atmosphere five years ago; scientists have found it is more abundant over particular parts of the planet.

It should last for only a short time in the atmosphere until it is destroyed by sunlight, and so its continued presence means it is being replenished. This suggests the methane is made by an ongoing process. But the ultimate origin of the methane could either be an ancient or a modern one, say the researchers. "The fact that we have found three discrete regions where Mars is releasing methane at this time means we have a window into processes occurring under the surface of the planet," said co-author Michael Mumma, a senior planetary scientist at NASA’s Goddard Spaceflight Center in Maryland, US.

European virus linked to global warming

LEUVEN, 16 Jan — A sometimes deadly rodent-borne viral disease has become an epidemic in parts of Europe due to global warming, Belgian researchers said on Thursday.

The disease nephropathia epidemica was "scarcely known before 1990," but is now an epidemic in Belgium, France, Germany, Netherlands and Luxembourg, said viral epidemiologist Dr Jan Clement of the University of Leuven’s Rega Institute near Brussels.

Thirty-eight percent of known cases occurred between 2005 and 2007, Clement said in the International Journal of Health Geographics, which focuses on relationships involving people, location or environment, time and health.

"The fact that the growing combined effect of hotter summer and autumn seasons is matched by the growth of NE in recent years means this epidemic can be considered an effect of global warming," Clement said. The disease is transmitted by bank voles, which are mouse-like rodents that have increased in number in recent years due to a rise in acorns and beech nuts, known as "mast," falling from oak and beech trees, the researchers said. The voles eat the nuts.

Land under NJ project laden with toxins

EAST RUTHERFORD, 16 Jan — A glezy shopping and entertainment center in the Hackensack Meadowlands in New Jersey is being built on marsh laden with toxic waste, a report said. He bill for removal of contaminated soil from the Xanadu site is expected to run to more than $20 million, including as much as $6 million in public funds. The Record of Hackensack reported. The report by a project engineer describes what has been found and removed in four years of site preparation and construction.

Xanadu, a 2-million-square-foot complex, is being developed by Colony Capital on land owned by the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority near the Meadowlands Sports Center. Officials from the authority and the developer said the pollution at the site will not be harmful to employees and visitors when Xanadu opens.

European virus linked to global warming
**SPORTS**

**Milan confirm ‘colossal’ Kaka bid from Man City**

**ROME, 16 Jan—AC Milan revealed on Thursday that they had received a ‘colossal’ bid from Premier League side Manchester City for Brazilian superstar Kaka and are considering the world-record offer.**

Milan acknowledged for the first time the bid on their official TV channel.

Mediaiats, the TV company founded by Milan owner Silvio Berlusconi, claimed City had bid 150 million euros (£197.5 million dollars) for the former World Player of the Year and offered him a salary of 15 million euros (£19.8 million dollars) a season. “This is a delicate moment. There is an offer from Manchester City for Kaka and Milan are considering it,” said Milan TV presenter Mauro Suma.

“Considering it doesn’t mean there’s been a decision or acceptance. This is not a definitive decision or a ‘fait accompli’, there are hours and days ahead.”

Earlier in the day there had been conflicting reports over the state of play of City’s bid for the 26-year-old.

**Arsenal boss ‘hopeful’ over Arshavin pursuit**

**LONDON, 16 Jan—Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger insisted Thursday he was “very hopeful” the club would sign Russian playmaker Andrei Arshavin before the end of the January transfer window.**

The Premier League side have already seen Arshavin’s club Zenit St Petersburg reject an offer of 10 million pounds for the 27-year-old.

Wenger, who will be without injured captain Cesc Fabregas until April, said: “We are not close to signing anybody but there again, we are in negotiations, yes - but we want to respect our principles. ‘I am very hopeful. There is time left in the transfer window because we have only crossed halfway.

“But if it does not happen, it does not happen. There again, we want to continue to improve and focus and we can continue to improve here with the players we have.”

**Real president to resign over rigged assembly claims**

**REAL MADRID, 16 Jan—Real Madrid president Ramon Calderon will resign on Friday in the wake of allegations that he rigged last month’s annual general assembly which approved the club’s accounts for 2008 and 2009, Spanish media reported late on Thursday.**

Calderon will be replaced by the defending Spanish champion’s current vice president, Vicente Bolunuda. The board of Real have demanded that the 57-year-old “urgently” step down which could “speed up his resignation and he could announce it tonight or tomorrow,” the online edition of El Mundo reported, citing unnamed club sources.

**Nieminen upsets Djokovic to reach ATP Sydney final**

**SYDNEY, 16 Jan—Finnland’s Jarkko Nieminen cashed in on Novak Djokovic’s shaky form and sent the top seed crashing out of the Sydney International.**

The 40th-ranked Nieminen savoured one of his finest results on the ATP Tour to reach Saturday’s Sydney final with a 6-4, 7-6 (7/3) win in one hour and 40 minutes.

Left-handed Nieminen, who only reached the semi-finals on a walkover from injured Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, will play Argentine David Nalbandian in the final.

**Federer vs Wawrinka in all-Swiss Kooyong tennis final**

**MELBOURNE, 16 Jan—It will be an all-Swiss tennis final Down Under on Saturday when Roger Federer squares off against Stan Wawrinka for honours at the Kooyong Classic, a tune-up for next week’s Australian Open.**

Wawrinka, who won the doubles gold medal with Federer at the Beijing Olympics, will take on his partner in the final after a gutsy 7-6 (7/3), 6-7 (1/7), 6-4 win over Chile’s Fernando Gonzalez on Friday.

**Maruyama takes the lead at the Sony Open**

**HONOLULU, 16 Jan—Shigeki Maruyama took a step back from obscurity on the PGA Tour with a 5-under 65 in the wind and occasional rain Thursday afternoon for a one-shot lead in the Sony Open.**

Maruyama, who failed to keep his tour card last year for the first time this decade, showed signs of improving in Japan late last year and kept it up on a challenging afternoon at Waialae.

He dropped only one shot, and took the outright lead with a 5-foot birdie on the par-3 17th.

That knocked Geoff Ogilvy off the top of the leaderboard for the first time this year. The Sony Open is only the second tournament, but Ogilvy is coming off a wire-to-wire victory in the Mercedes-Benz Championship last week, and opened with a 66.

**Vinay Singh has knee surgery, out for 3 weeks**

**PORT VEDRA BEACH, 16 Jan—Three-time major champion Vijay Singh had surgery on his right knee and is expected to miss the next three weeks on the PGA Tour.**

Singh, the defending FedEx Cup champion, had arthroscopic surgery Wednesday in Jacksonville to repair torn cartilage. He hopes to return in time for the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

“The doctor says I’ll be on crutches for a few days, and then I’ll be OK,” Singh said. “I don’t consider this a big setback or anything. I think the knee will be much stronger in the long run, and it is certainly better that it happened now compared to the middle of the season.”

**Newcastle give up on Neill hunt**

**NEWCASTLE, 16 Jan—Newcastle boss Joe Kinnear was thwarted in his bid to sign Australian international Lucas Neill.**

“West Ham would like to make it clear that Lucas Neill is a contracted West Ham United player and that we have received no approach from any club for his services, including Newcastle United,” said a statement on the club website.

**Federer celebrates with Wawrinka after Kooyong Classic tennis tournament victory**

**STANISLAS WAWRINKA of Switzerland celebrates after defeating Fernando Gonzalez of Chile in the invitational Kooyong Classic tennis tournament in Melbourne, on 16 January.—INTERNET**

**Ogilvy reacts after chipping for birdie on 11th green during the first round of the Sony Open golf tournament at the Waialae Country Club, on 15 Jan, 2009 in Honolulu.—INTERNET**
Sony Ericsson posts loss of $245 mln in Q4

STOCKHOLM, 16 Jan—Mobile telephone maker Sony Ericsson said Friday it suffered a net loss of 187 million euros (about 245 million US dollars) in the fourth quarter of 2008.

Units shipped in the quarter totaled 24.2 million, down 21 percent from the same period in 2007, while sales totaled 2.9 billion euros (3.8 billion dollars), a decline of 23 percent compared to the same quarter in 2007, the Japan-Sweden joint venture said.

As a result, the company posted a net loss of 187 million euros (about 245 million dollars) in the quarter, compared to a net income of 373 million euros (about 492 million dollars) for the corresponding period in 2007. For the full year of 2008, Sony Ericsson suffered a net loss of 73 million euros (about 96 million dollars), compared with a profit of 1.1 billion euros (about 1.5 billion dollars) a year earlier. —INTERNET

WEATHER

Friday, 16 January, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Shan State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (5°C) to (6°C) below January average temperatures in Kayin State, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions; (3°C) to (4°C) below January average temperatures in Chin State, upper Sagaing, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions; (3°C) to (4°C) above January average temperature in Shan State, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and about January average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Hakha (0°C), Lilem (1°C), Namhsam and Pinlaung (3°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 15-1-2009 was 85°F. Minimum temperature on 16-1-2009 was 54°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 16-1-2009 was 57%.

Total sunshine hours on 15-1-2009 was (9.1) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 16-1-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (9 m.p.h) from Northeast at (11:30) hours MST on 15-1-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 17th January 2009: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin and Chin States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions.

State of the sea: Strong easterly wind with moderate to rough sea are likely attain Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Surface wing speed in strong easterly wind may reach (35) m.p.h. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperature in the lower Myanmar areas.


Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 17-1-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 17-1-2009: Partly cloudy.

Weather outlook for third weekend of January 2009: During the coming weekend, weather will be generally fair in Yangon Division, partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Division.
To export ethanol by 2010 on target

The sugarcane sown acreage of the area on the east bank of the Ayeyawady River in Htigyaing Township is more than 100,000. Teak groves and sugarcane plantations are seen alternatively along Bhamo-Mandalay Road between Myaung Village and Maunggon Village.

At Maunggon Sugar Mill of Great Wall Foodstuff Co Ltd, Managing Director U Tin Maung explained to the Kyemon Daily media team that the company established the sugar mill in Mandalay Industrial Zone in 1995 that produced 1000 bags of sugar a day; that a land of 2500 acres near Nyaungwun Village in Singu Township, PyinOoLwin District, Mandalay Division, was reclaimed to grow sugarcane for raw materials, and that it opened a sugarcane purchasing centre in Mandalay in 1999. (See page 10)

The ethanol factory and thriving sugarcane farm in Maunggon Village, Htigyaing Township, Katha District, Sagaing Division.

Breakthrough in treating premature babies

Adelaide, 16 Jan — Adelaide researchers have made a world breakthrough in treating premature babies at risk of developmental disorders. A six-year study led by Dr Maria Makrides from the Women’s & Children’s Health Research Institute and Professor Bob Gibson from the University of Adelaide has demonstrated that high doses of fatty acids administered to pre-term infants via their mother’s breast milk or infant formula can help their mental development.

Researchers found that a major lipid in the brain — the omega-3 fatty acid known as Docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) — is not developed sufficiently in babies born before 33 weeks’ gestation, leading to possible impaired mental development.

To counter this, increased doses of DHA (1000mg per day) were administered to lactating mothers with pre-term infants, in the form of tuna oil capsules. If required, infants were given supplementary formula with matching DHA levels.

"If the club is well run, and the money they now have is well spent on building a good team, Manchester City will be dangerous. But money cannot work a miracle overnight. "For example, Manchester United have an expensive team. Yet they won the title because they were a strong group of players, who played good football and had the belief."

Fabregas: Money won’t guarantee Manchester City success

ARSenal, 16 Jan — Arsenal skipper Cesc Fabregas has warned rivals Manchester City that spending £107 million on bringing in star names to the Eastlands Stadium it is not guaranteed to win titles.

Fabregas said: “A team is not built by the cheque-book alone. Money is not the most important thing in football. "I think the important thing is not to rush into signing a new player just because money is available. "A good team will develop naturally and trying to speed up this process with lots of money can be dangerous. "If the club is well

INSIDE

Achievements in various sorts of research such as anti-venom research are very fruitful for Myanmar. The World Health Organization has recognized the nation as the malaria research and training and teaching centre.

'Stellar Cannibalism' key to formation of overweight stars

SOUTHampton, 16 Jan — Astronomical researchers have discovered evidence that blue stragglers in globular clusters, whose existence has long puzzled astronomers, are the result of ‘stellar cannibalism’ in binary stars.

Dr Christian Knigge, Reader in the School of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Southampton, Alison Sills, associate professor in physics and astronomy at McMaster University, and Nathan Leigh, PhD student in physics and astronomy at McMaster, have published their findings in the journal Nature.

Globular clusters are collections of about 100,000 stars, tightly bound by gravity, giving them a spherical shape. Blue stragglers are stars within these clusters that are more massive, and appear younger, than the bulk of their counterparts. This violates standard theories of stellar evolution, in which all stars in a cluster are born at the same time. Stars as massive as blue stragglers should have died long ago according to these theories, yet virtually every observed cluster contains some of these overweight stars.