## 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

## Article: Myint Maung Soe;
Photos: Hla Shwe (Kaytumati)

Ahara Thukha Market, the largest of its kind in Nay Pyi Taw

Nay Pyi Taw Development Affairs Committee, in pursuance of the objective for prosperity of Nay Pyi Taw, is building basic foundations necessary for improvement of its economic infrastructure such as governmental offices, housing estates, roads, large markets, and vegetables and fish and meat markets.

Of them, Ahara Thukha Market near Kupundan Village, east of Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana is the largest of its kind, and earns a good reputation for fresh goods at fair prices.

(See page 7)

Ahara Thukha Market teeming with sellers and buyers.
Building dams for posterity of the nation

The government has been building irrigation facilities nationwide for the development of agriculture, the mainstay of the nation. Khinmon Dam, the 218th facility of the State, was inaugurated near Khinmon Village in Yesagyo Township, Magway Division, the other day.

Dams and tube wells have been built where there is scarcity of water for the convenience of local people. The newly opened dam is one of the 71 undertakings to ensure local food sufficiency and greening tasks in Pakokku District being implemented under the guidance of the Head of State.

As Magway Division is the major source of edible oil, the government has made efforts for exceeding the target of 400 per cent edible oil sufficiency. This year over 870,000 acres of rice and 160,000 acres of paddy are being cultivated.

The government implemented 71 projects including dams, lakes and small embankments for local sufficiency of rice and greening of the areas in Pakokku District. Twenty four small dams were built under the supervision of Magway Division Peace and Development Council. And 47 projects were undertaken by Irrigation Department. Altogether 63 dams including Khinmon Dam have been built benefiting 7,103 irrigated acres more.

Inauguration of Khinmon Dam is laying an economic foundation for posterity in the region. It is an earth dam built across the Deedok Creek near Khinmon Village in Yesagyo Township. It is 1,700 feet long and 50 feet high. The water storage capacity of the dam is 2,200 acre feet.

It is the duty of local people and farmers to maintain the dams which have been built spending a large amount of money and it is their duty to boost production of agricultural produce.

Chairperson Daw Wah Wah Tun of Myanmar Computer Entrepreneurs Association opens Star-Tech Authorized Service Center.— NLM

Minister for Foreign Affairs sends felicitations to Indian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—On the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the Republic Day of India which falls on 26th January 2009, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Pranab Mukherjee, Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India.—MNA

FM U Nyan Win felicitates Australian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—On the occasion of the anniversary of the Australia Day which falls on 26 January 2009, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Stephen Smith, MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia.

Myanmar Printing and Publishing Entrepreneurs Association holds 17th AGM

YANGON, 25 Jan—The 17th Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Printing and Publishing Entrepreneurs Association was held at the hall of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry on Minye Kyawswa Road in Lannadaw Township this morning, with addresses by Chairman of the association U Maung Maung and Vice-President of UMFCCI U Aung Lwin.

Vice-Chairman-1 of the association U Myint Maung read the report of executive committee and the financial statement.

Chairman U Maung Maung accepted cash donations for the association from wellwishers.

It was attended by Managing Director U Aung Nyen of Printing and Publishing Enterprise, Managing Director U Aung Myo Myint of Myanma Motion Picture Enterprise, departmental officials, Chairman of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association U Hla Myang (Ko Hsaung), vice-president of UMFCCI and CEC members, the chairman and executives of the PPEA and guests.—MNA

Star-Tech Authorized Service Center opened

YANGON, 25 Jan—Star-Tech launched the Star-Tech Authorized Service Center at Room No. 101 of Building No. 351 on Thimbyu Street in Mingala Taungnyunt Township yesterday.

Chairperson of Myanmar Computer Entrepreneurs Association Daw Wah Wah Tun formally opened the center. Star-Tech will give product warranty and services to the customers at the center.

New Salesroom of Star Power Computer Distribution was also opened at No. 259 on Bo Myat Tun Street in Botataung Township on 18 January. A4 Tech Keyboard & Mouse, JNC Casing and Golden Field Casing will be put on sale there.

Customers may dial 01-394270 and 384017, Fax: 01-579683, e-mail: sales@star-tech-info for Star-Tech Authorized Service Center and 01-299695 and Fax: 01-579683 for Star Power Computer Distribution.

Tobacco Kills
Suicide car bomb kills five policemen in W Iraq

Fallujah, 25 Jan — A suicide car bomber struck a police checkpoint in a town in west of Baghdad on Saturday, killing at least five policemen and wounding 13 other people, a local police source said.

“A suicide bomber drove his explosive-laden car before midday into a police checkpoint in the town of Garma, 15 km northwest of Fallujah City,” the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The blast killed three police officers and wounded two policemen and 13 others, including six policemen, the source said.

Fallujah, some 50 km west of Baghdad is part of the Sunni province of Anbar which had been a major stronghold for al-Qaida militants in Iraq after the US-led invasion in 2003.

Security situation in the province began to go in favor of the US military after the Sunnis shifted side and turned their guns against al-Qaida members in 2006 because they opposed to the indiscriminate terror attacks on civilians.

US troops in Iraq kill couple, wound daughter in raid on home

Baghdad, 25 Jan — US forces killed a couple and wounded their 9-year-old daughter during a raid on their home in northern Iraq early Saturday, US military and Iraqi officials said. The US military said the man was suspected of being part of the militant group Al Qaeda in Iraq, but local officials said he was a retired colonel with no links to militant groups.

The US military said it raided the home in the Hawija district near Kirkuk after arresting a suspected Al Qaeda militant in a nearby house. Troops opened fire when the woman, despite repeated warnings, reached for something beneath her mattress, the military said. One of the bullets passed through the woman’s body and wounded her 9-year-old daughter during a raid on their home in the Hawija district.

Iran welcomes planned US pullout from Iraq

Baghdad, 25 Jan — Iran on Saturday welcomed moves by the new US President Barack Obama to pull American troops out of Iraq and insisted that Teheran would not meddle in elections here.

“We definitely welcome a US troop pullout from Iraq,” Iran’s ambassador in Baghdad Hasan Kazemi Qomi told AFP in an interview.

“This is what the Iraqi people and the government wants.”

Obama has upped the tempo of a planned drawdown from Iraq since his inauguration on Tuesday, instructing top US commanders to prepare a “responsible” exit strategy, although other officials have been more cautious.

Suicide bomber kills one, wounds 8 in Afghanistan

Kabul, 25 Jan — A suicide bomber blew himself up at a market in eastern Afghanistan, killing a civilian and wounding eight others, an official said on Sunday.

The bomber’s target in the Saturday attack was an intelligence officer in Samkanai district of Pakhta Province, said Rohulla Samun, the spokesman for Pakhta’s governor. He missed the target but killed one civilian and wounded eight others at Samkanai’s market, Samun said.

Militants regularly launch suicide attacks against Afghan and foreign troops in the country. The majority of the victims in such attacks are civilians.
Pork imported from Ireland contaminated with dioxin

NANNING, 25 Jan — More than 23 tonnes of frozen pork shipped from Ireland to Nanning was found to contain toxic dioxin, according to the local inspection and quarantine authority said on Thursday. The pork was imported by a food company in Nanning City, was found to contain the chemical dioxin and ordered to be shipped back to Ireland.

Archaeologists unearth earliest man-made cave houses

XI’AN, 25 Jan — Archaeologists have unearthed the earliest man-made cave houses and privately-owned pottery workshops in China which date back 5,500 years. After four years of excavation, a row of 17 cave houses were found on a cliff along the Jinghe River in northwest China’s Shaanxi Province, Wang Weilin, deputy director of the Shaanxi Archaeology Institute and chief archaeologist of the excavation, told Xinhua.

A thrill-seeker slides down the “zip wire” suspended over the battlements of the Neemrana Fort-Palace in Rajasthan. Neemrana is one of several magnificent forts and palaces in Rajasthan that have been converted into luxury hotels and now it has added a new twist to the country’s popular “heritage trail”.

Air Canada cuts 345 jobs

TORONTO, 25 Jan — Air Canada has announced plans to cut another 345 jobs as it copes with a decrease in demand. Air Canada spokesman Peter Fitpatrick said Saturday that the cuts will mostly affect its 5,700 flight attendants, beginning 2 March.

Car dealers try to survive as economy, sales drop

NEW ORLEANS, 25 Jan — At this year’s version of the National Automobile Dealers Association convention, survival has passed maximizing profits as the focus of the annual event.

One of the engines from US Airways Flight 1549 is lifted up from the Hudson River in New York City. It was lifted more than a week after the accident, according to the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Sony sees a distant memory,” said Turki, who is the chairman of the King Faisal Centre for Research and Islamic Studies in Riyadh.
Malaysian leaders urge people to unite to tackle challenges ahead

KUALA LUMPUR, 25 Jan — Malaysian leaders have urged Malaysians to unite to tackle the challenges emerging from the global financial turmoil.

All parties must fully cooperate to implement the measures being taken by the Government to stimulate and strengthen the economy, Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said in his Chinese New Year message carried by local newspapers on Sunday.

Malaysia had successfully get through various economic challenges in the past based on a strong spirit and firm cooperation, he said.

Badawi stressed that unity among all races in the country was very important as development and economic progress could not take place if the country was in a state of chaos. The political stability in the country would not exist without the effort and cooperation of all Malaysians, he said.

He urged Malaysians to work together to make the country continue to develop and bring prosperity to all.

Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak also urged Malaysians to be more diligent and work hard to cushion themselves against the impact of the global economic crisis.

As the Chinese were ushering the Year of the Ox, he said, everyone should practice those good qualities of the Ox, such as resilience and determination as well as diligence and hard work. Najib said on Saturday in Pekan, Pahang State. — Xinhua

Bird flu confirmed in W Canada

OTTAWA, 25 Jan — An apparently low pathogenic strain of the bird flu has been detected on a turkey farm in western Canada, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) said on Saturday.

The agency confirmed “the presence of H5 avian influenza (AI) virus” in the farm located in Fraser Valley of British Columbia Province, where avian flu has been discovered in recent years.

Further testing is underway to assess the precise strain of the virus, but preliminary tests indicated that it was low pathogenic, the agency said.

“Tests to date indicate that the strain of AI in this case is low pathogenic,” said the CFIA.

To limit the virus from spreading, more than 50,000 birds “on the infected premises will be humanely euthanized and disposed of,” the agency said. Twenty-three farms within a 3-km radius of the turkey farm are under quarantine as officials do further blood check from the turkeys for confirmation.

“Nobody has been infected by the virus,” said Elizabeth Brodkin, medical officer of the Fraser Health Authority.

According to the World Health Organization, 252 people have died from the H5N1 strain of the bird flu since 2003.

On Saturday in Pekan, Pahang State.— Xinhua

India’s biggest annual tech festival launched in Mumbai

MUMBAI, 25 Jan — Techfest 2009, the biggest annual international science and technology festival of India was launched Saturday in Mumbai. The Techfest 2009, with over 45,000 university students and 1,500 corporate executives from all over India and abroad being part of it, is organized by Indian Institute of Technology Mumbai (IIT-B), which is located in Powai, suburb of Mumbai.

During the three-day event, a wide range of events including robot competitions, workshops, lectures and exhibitions will be held in the campus of IIT B. — Xinhua

Bird’s Nest, in the Olympic National Stadium, or the Bird’s Nest, in Beijing, on 24 Jan, 2009. — Xinhua

Tourists take photos at the Sentosa Flowers 2009 in Singapore, on 24 Jan, 2009. The island of Sentosa blossoms in some hundreds of flowers as the Sentosa Flowers, with the theme for 2009, Colours of Spring, opened here on Saturday. — Xinhua

Chinese workers position a giant festive lantern carrying a Chinese character of “ox” to welcome the traditional New Year of cattle in front of the Olympic National Stadium, or the Bird’s Nest, in Beijing, on 24 Jan, 2009. — Xinhua

Zardari protests against US missile strikes

ISLAMABAD, 25 Jan — Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday protested over US missile strikes on the tribal regions and said that such strikes were counterproductive, according to local Press reports.

The private NNI news agency quoted official sources as saying that Zardari told US Ambassador NW Patterson that the drone attacks could affect the war on terror.

Zardari made it clear to the US envoy that only Pakistan security forces had the right to act against the militants, according to the report. He hoped that the new US Administration would stop missile strikes on the tribal regions, adding that the Pakistani democratic government was under tremendous pressure due to the issue, it said.

The Pakistani parliament has adopted a unanimous resolution which clearly says that any US and NATO attacks would be considered as attack on the country’s sovereignty. — Xinhua

Black-tailed marmosets cling to a branch with their tails at Chiba Zoological Park in Chiba, near Tokyo, Japan, on 25 Jan, 2009.— INTERNET

Lebanese majority leader says unity among Arabs prevents Iran’s intervention

BEIRUT, 25 Jan — Lebanese Sunni majority leader Saad Hariri said on Saturday unity among Arab ranks would prevent Iran from interfering in Arab affairs, local ElNashra website reported. Addressing a dinner in Beirut hosting representatives of partisans living overseas, Hariri said “Iran was behind the Arab splits and divisions.” “There are several confrontations (in the region) and Lebanon is the first line of defence,” Hariri said, adding that the forthcoming elections in Lebanon are also the “first line in defence of Lebanon.”

He described the upcoming general parliamentary elections which is scheduled for June as “crucial.”

The upcoming elections will decide on who will rule the country for the next four years, and the competition is increasing between the ruling coalition backed by the Syrian army and the Lebanese opposition who are allies with the Syrians.

“Whatever the Syrians do, and whatever happens, they will never be able to return to Lebanon,” Hariri said. Following huge demonstrations after the assassination of Saad’s father, former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri on 14 Feb, Syrian troops withdrew from Lebanon in 2005, ending 29 years of military and political domination of its small neighbour. — Xinhua

Indian President Pratibha Patil on Friday extended her greetings to the Chinese leadership on the occasion of the Chinese New Year.

“The Indian people deeply value the contributions of the Chinese people to peace and prosperity of mankind, and look forward to further strengthening of bilateral friendship and cooperation,” Patil said in her message.

According to the Chinese lunar calendar, 2009 is the Year of the Ox. — Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency
Two suspected militants killed near Indian capital

NEW DELHI, 25 Jan — Indian police killed two suspected Pakistani militants after a car chase on the outskirts of Delhi, police said on Sunday.

Police shot dead the two men in Noida, a city a few miles from New Delhi, around 2 am (3:30 pm ET), and said they could have been Pakistanis.

“We recovered AK-47 rifles and grenades and some documents, including a Pakistani passport,” Navin Arora, a senior police officer in Noida, told reporters.

Brij Lal, a senior police officer, said the recovery of a passport indicated that the suspects were from Pakistan.

One policeman was injured in the gun battle. The incident came as India prepares to celebrate its Republic Day on Monday and when the country is on high alert after the Mumbai attacks last year.

In late November, militants killed 179 people in coordinated attacks in India and Pakistan, who have fought three wars since independence from Britain in 1947.— Internet

Deadly Hib infection signals a comeback

ST PAUL, 25 Jan — Health officials in Minnesota say they’re checking to see if deadly Hib infections have been reported in children in other states. Minnesota last year recorded five cases of infection from Haemophilus influenzae Type B, including the death of a 7-month-old — the first child Hib fatality in the state since 1991, The Washington Post reported on Saturday.

The dangerous bacterium’s return may be a consequence of a temporary vaccine shortage and a resistance by some parents to immunize their children, the Post reported.

“Parents need to know this disease is still around and that it is very dangerous,” said Anne Schuchat, head of immunization at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.— Internet

Japanese to learn English from Obama speeches

An English-learning textbook “The Speeches of Barack Obama” has sold more than 400,000 copies in two months in Japan, media reported.

US President-elect Barack Obama’s speeches are proving a best-seller, a big hit in Japan where few hit novels sell more than a million copies a year.

The 95-page paperback features Obama’s speeches in English from the 2004 Democratic National Convention and during the Democratic Party primaries, in which he defeated Hillary Clinton. They are accompanied by Japanese translations.

The 1,050 yen (11.6 US dollars) book, which includes a CD of the speeches, tops the bestseller list on bookseller Amazon’s Japanese Website.

“Speeches by presidents and presidential candidates are excellent as listening tools to learn English,” said Yuzo Yamamoto of Asahi Press, which produced the best-selling text book.

“Obama’s especially so. His speeches are so moving, and he also uses words such as ‘yes, we can,’ ‘change’ and ‘hope’ that even Japanese people can memorize,” he said.

Couple find antique signs in attic

A British couple said they discovered the floor of their attic was made up of antique railroad signs worth a total of $27,500.

Ian and Lynda Spires, both 48, said they were insulating the attic of their Milton Keynes, England, home when they discovered the floor was comprised of 49 antique signs put in place 50 years ago by a railroad worker who used to live in the home, The Sun reported.

“I saw the names at my feet as we scraped away dust,” Ian Spires said of the surprising find.

Auctioneer Neil Booth said the cache of signs was valued at a total of about $27,500.

“There was a treasure trove in that loft,” he said.

Wal-Mart worker accused of rolling back prices

A Wal-Mart employee has been charged with embezzlement after allegedly ringing up a sale of $5.25 for more than $500 worth of merchandise. Natchez Police Chief Mike Mullins said a 20-year-old cashier was arrested on Thursday along with a 22-year-old customer at the Walmart in Natchez.

Mullins said the cashier charged the customer $5.25 for seven pairs of jeans, a baby crib, a pair of scrubs, a picture frame, sweat suit, laundry detergent, a bra, four pairs of pants, diapers, pizza, coffee, four 12-packs of drinks, canned goods, air freshener, nachos, noodles, frozen foods, chips and a family pack of beef.

The actual total for the merchandise was $547.30.

Mullins said the two women were being held on Friday without bond pending an initial court appearance.

Passenger bus, truck collide in N Argentina, killing five

BUENOS AIRES, 25 Jan — At least five people were killed and 10 others injured in a traffic accident in northern Argentina, local media reported on Saturday.

A passenger vehicle and a truck collided head-on in Rosario, the largest city in Santa Fe Province, 300 km northwest of Buenos Aires, killing the driver of the passenger vehicle and four passengers, including a 7-month-old baby.

The injured have been sent to nearby hospitals. Two of them were in critical condition.

The cause of accident is still under investigation, and the police blamed the mishap on mechanical failure or human error.

5.0-magnitude earthquake jolts NW China

URUMQI, 25 Jan — An earthquake measuring 5.0 on the Richter scale jolted northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region at 9:47 am Sunday, according to the state earthquake authority.

The earthquake occurred in Xibe Autonomous County of Qapqal, 700 kilometres from the regional capital Urumqi. The epicenter was at 43.3 degrees north latitude and 80.9 degrees east longitude at a depth of 10 kilometres, the China Earthquake Administration said on Sunday.

The casualties are yet to be known.— Internet

A photographer takes pictures of natural ice creations in front of the Hukou waterfall of the Yellow River, North China’s Shanxi Province. Hukou waterfall is frozen due to temperature dropping, turning its splashing water beads into ice of various shapes and shades - a great attraction to winter tourists.

Animal keeper Lv Rubin blows a flute as he prepares to feed the birds in Chongqing Wildlife Park, southwest China’s Chongqing municipality. Lv has added the flute as he prepares to feed the birds in the park.

The photo shows the unique dining room “Jilun” of the world’s first underwater restaurant at the Conrad Maldives Rangali resort in Maldives. The US$5 million restaurant was constructed 5 metres below the waves of the Indian Ocean, offering 360 degrees of panoramic views of the sea-life. Designed by a New Zealand firm and constructed in Singapore, the restaurant was installed in November 2004 and took a team of divers and 50 locals 15 hours to set in place under the waves.

Fire dancers perform during a late night show in Minsk on 20 January, 2009.— Internet

The New Light of Myanmar
Ahara Thukha Market, the largest of its kind in Nay Pyi Taw

When we arrived at Ahara Thukha Market, it was late afternoon. So, shop owners were displaying their goods for night sale on the large ground in front of the market. The market was found dealing with a good trade with a large number of sellers and customers.

Prevailing prices of some consumer goods there are 4000 kyats for a viss of chicken; 2800 kyats, for a viss of Ngamyitchin fish (carp); 3500 kyats for a viss of Ngagyin fish (Hamilton's carp); 3000 kyats for a viss of groundnut or sesame oil. It is a one-stop market for housewives. U Tun Hla Aung, in-charge of the market, told the Myanma Alin Daily, “Our committee founded this market on 15 May 2008 for the convenience of local people of Nay Pyi Taw and surrounding areas. It has 1200 shops, 100 wholesales centres and 16 restaurants. It opens all day, so local people can get goods at any time.”

Due to the market, the region sees a swifter commodity flow, and drivers of three-wheel vehicles, passenger carrier motorcycles, trishaws and pony carts do well in their businesses. The fare of motorcycle for a short distance is, 500 kyats, three-wheeler, 300 kyats, and pony cart, 200 kyats. If passenger buses ply between the market and nearby regions, the market will see a larger trade.

On average, a three-wheel driver earns 10,000 kyats, and a motorcyclist driver, 5000 to 10,000 kyats. We noticed large plantations of crops such as mustard, Chinese kale, cabbage, cauliflower, coriander, chilli and onion around the market. Local farmers have come to boost production of agricultural produce to meet the higher demand due the emergence of the market.

Vegetables and fish and meat produced in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw Lewe, Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon, Yamethin and Meiktila apart from nearby regions flow to the market. It is like Thiri Mingalar Market of Yangon where commodities are available both in retail sale and in wholesale. Customers are family members from nearby regiments and units, government employees, local people and those who buy goods for sale.

Ahara Thukha Market of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana generates many job opportunities and provides greens, fish and meat at fair prices for local people.

Translation: MS

Myanma Alin: 25-1-2009
54th Maha Convocation for religious examinations held

YANGON, 25 Jan—The 54th Maha Convocation for religious examinations, organized by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council, was held at Maha Pasana Cave on Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill in Mayangon Township, here, at noon today.

At the ceremony, the certificates and titles were conferred on the monks who won credits in the Dhammaçariya, Paṭhāmabāyan, Abhidhamma and Visuddhimagga examinations. First, Chairman of Yangon Division PDC Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint conferred certificates and titles on the monk who won the first prize as Agga Maha Akyaw Dhammaçariya examination.

Departmental heads, officials, the wife of the Commander and the wife of the Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs also presented certificates and titles to the monks, the nuns and laypersons who secured the first, second and third prizes in the Paṭhāmabāyan, Nikāya, Abhidhamma and Visuddhimagga examinations.

First, who won credits in the Dhammaçariya, and titles were conferred on the monks who won the first prize as Agga Maha Akyaw Dhammaçariya examination and the monks who stood second and third in the Dhammaçariya examination.

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung also offered certificates and titles to the monks who stood first as Paṭhāmabāyan and two monks who stood second and third in the Paṭhāmabāyan examinations.

Maj-Gen Ko Ko of Ministry of Defence presents cash and teaching aids to students of Hsinma Village affiliated High School—MNA

Development tasks gaining ground…

From page 1 Maj-Gen Ko Ko gave cash assistance for the school and viewed the pre-test for the students and classrooms. He met with departmental officials, members of social organizations and town elders at the office of Ngayokkaung General Administration Department.

Yesterday, Maj-Gen Ko Ko, together with Deputy Commander Brig-Ghn Khin Maung Aye and officials, visited Bawa Alinyuung self-reliant library in Hsinma Village and presented books to the librarian.

At Hsinma Village Affiliated BEHS, he provided cash assistance and teaching aid for students through officials and met with members of the School Board of Trustees, students and village elders.

After greeting the local people, Maj-Gen Ko Ko heard reports on progress of agriculture and livestock breeding tasks of the village.—MNA

National Boxing Championships commence

YANGON, 25 Jan—The Myanmar Boxing Federation President’s Cup (A) and (B) Classes National Boxing Championships kicked off at Aung San Gymnasium, here, this afternoon.

First, Managing Director of GRD U Than Win extended greetings. Next, Sales and Marketing Managers Mr Prudzaj Smark, Mr Thanaphat and Mr Ruedon Samard said, “We introduced the products using technology of Holland made in Thailand. They replied to the queries raised by those present. Director U Tin Tun Lin of GRD spoke words of thanks.

More information is available at Glory Royal Diamond Co Ltd Room No (A-100/2) at Land Mark Tower near Shwegondan Junction in Bahan Township ph 557095, Fax-951 557095, Email grd@mar.com.mm. Glory Royal Diamond Co Ltd will plan to introduce the products of Thermaflex Company in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

Minister looks into progress of Thirimingala overpass

NAI PYI TAW, 25 Jan—Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun looked into maintenance works of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) this morning.

Then, the minister arrived at the construction site of Thirimingala overpass in Sagaing.

At the briefing hall, Deputy Superintendent Engineer U Kyaw Lin of Bridge Construction Project Special Group (1) reported on progress of the overpass and future plans. After fulfilling the requirements, the minister inspected the work site.

The Thirimingala overpass above the railroad in Sagaing is of reinforced concrete type. The overpass will be 485 feet long and it will have 28 feet wide motor road. The overpass can withstand 60-ton loads.

MMA to open Diabetes Management Course

YANGON, 25 Jan — CME of Myanmar Medical Association and Myanmar Endocrine and Metabolic Society will open Diabetes Management Course 2009 at MMA from 31 January to 1 February and 7 to 8 February.

Those wishing to attend the course may contact the MMA on 29 January from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.—MNA

Talks on traffic rules at Dagon Ayeya Highway Bus Terminal

YANGON, 25 Jan—Organized by Road Transport Administration Department under the Ministry of Rail Transportation, a supervisory team led by Head of Yangon Division Director U Tun Aung Kyaw and Head of Yangon North District Assistant Director Daw Ni Ni Shwe, together with Staff Officer (1) Police Captain Myint Aung of the Office of Yangon Division Wireless and Traffic Police Corp and Assistant Director U Myo Chit of Yangon Division Transport Planning Department, gave educative talks on traffic rules to 70 drivers and bus conductors at Dagon Ayeya Highway Bus Terminal in Hlinethaya Township yesterday.

Next, they supervised maintenance of the buses, driver licences and driving of buses in line with the traffic rules of the highway buses before departure for Ayeyawady Division from the terminal. Later, action was taken against those who broke the traffic rules.—MNA

More information is available at Glory Royal Diamond Co Ltd Room No (A-100/2) at Land Mark Tower near Shwegondan Junction in Bahan Township ph 557095, Fax-951 557095, Email grd@mar.com.mm. Glory Royal Diamond Co Ltd will plan to introduce the products of Thermaflex Company in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA
**Commander, Mayor attend opening of new buildings at basic education schools**

**YANGON, 25 Jan**—Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin this morning inspected laying of a concrete pavement along Inya Road in Kamayut Township and gave necessary instructions to officials.

At the ceremony to open the new building of Basic Education Primary School (Thanshin) in Shweepyitha Township, the commander, the mayor and the Director-General of No. 3 Department of Basic Education formally opened the new building.

Afterwards, they attended the opening ceremony of a new building at No. 15 BEPS and cut the ribbon to open the building. Next, they inspected the new building. At the meeting hall of the school, the mayor handed over the documents related to new buildings to the director-general of the No. 3 BED.

On Minye Kyawswa Road in Shweepyitha Township, the commander and the mayor inspected laying of asphalt on the road. The head of Engineering Department (Road/Bridge) and officials of YCDC reported on progress of tarmacking and the commander informed the mayor about the next steps.

At the office of Hline Township PDC, the head of Yangon Division Health Department and officials reported on outbreak and prevention against dengue hemorrhagic fever, diarrhoea and dysentery in the division and the township and efforts being made for proper flow of water at drains and carrying out of sanitation. After hearing the reports, the commander and the mayor gave necessary instructions.

Later, the mayor looked into participation of departmental personnel, members of social organizations and local people in undertaking sanitation tasks, fumigation, proper flow of water at drains, sanitation tasks and educative talks on health knowledge along 7th and 8th streets in Hline Township.

**River Water Pumping Projects under inspection in Hlegu Township**

**YANGON, 25 Jan**—At Hsinphon River Water Pumping Project site in Hlegu Township, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo this morning viewed supply of water and cultivation of summer paddy.

The water pumping station built on Hsinphon Creek near Hsinphon Village can irrigate 3,400 acres of farmlands. Thanks to irrigation facilities of the station, a total of 1,200 acres of summer paddy have been cultivated against the target of 2,000 acres.

At Malit River Water Pumping station project, the minister met farmers and inspected supply of water and thriving summer paddy plantations.

Afterwards, the minister inspected implementation of Sitpin River Water Pumping Project and met with summer paddy cultivators.

Sitpin river water pumping project is being implemented on Tawtaman Drain near North Sitpin Village of Hlegu Township. The station can supply water to 1,000 acres of farmlands. This year, the station is providing water to 155 acres of summer paddy against the target of 300 acres.

**Labour Ministry holds coord meeting**

**NAV PYI TAW, 25 Jan**—Ministry of Labour held its work coordination meeting at the ministry here today, with an address by Minister U Aung Kyi. Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Labour Brig-Gen Tin Tun Aung, the directors-general and officials concerned.

At the meeting, Directors of the departments reported to the minister on their completed tasks of the departments and the directors-general on the future plans.

The deputy minister gave supplementary reports.

The meeting ended with conclusion remarks by the deputy minister.

**Danube delta holds answers to ‘Noah’s Flood’ debate**

**BUCHAREST, 25 Jan**—Did a catastrophic flood of biblical proportions drown the shores of the Black Sea 9,500 years ago, wiping out early Neolithic settlements around its perimeter? A geologist with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) and two Romanian colleagues report in the January issue of Quaternary Science Reviews that, if the flood occurred at all, it was much smaller than previously proposed by other researchers.

Using sediment cores from the delta of the Danube River, which empties into the Black Sea, the researchers determined sea level was approximately 30 meters below present levels—rather than the 80 meters others hypothesized.

— Internet

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**Roads, bridges repaired in two townships**

**YANGON, 25 Jan**—Director U Aung Kyaw Nyin of Yangon Division Development Affairs Committee, Development Affairs Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs inspected a late-rater road which is under construction in Mayagawaddy extension ward in Hlegu Township on 23 January. The road is 3,870-feet long and 12-feet wide. He also inspected laying of laterate road section which is 2,100-feet long and 12-feet wide and is linking Yezin Road and Nawarit Yezin Road in Pyaytawtha Ward.

The director then looked into repairing a section of the district-to-district road in Hmawby Township between mile posts (8/0) and (16/4), re-construction of Ngayoutkaung wood bridge which is 100-feet long and 14-feet wide and completion of Pyaylan-Inlet-Phankhangone village-to-village road which is 7,920-feet long and 10-feet wide. The repair and reconstruction works are being undertaken by Hmawby Township Development Affairs Committee. —MNA

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**Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects Malit River Water Pumping Project in Hlegu Township**

**YANGON, 25 Jan**—Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Inspection Committee of Yangon Division Development Affairs and the township and efforts being made for proper flow of water at drains and carrying out of sanitation works were being undertaken by Hmawby Township Development Affairs Committee.
Dams, hydropower plants under construction on Mone Creek for ensuring socio-economic development

Article & Photos: Khin Maung Than (Sethmu)

(from page 16)

In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, the government has built Ayeyawady Bridge (Magway) linking Magway and Minbu regions to ensure development of western region of Magway Division. Moreover, thanks to implementation of dam projects, water can be supplied to grow paddy and other crops as double cropping in Magway Division.

As the western region of Magway Division is a dry area, Mone Creek Dam was built on Mone Creek for greening the region and increasing per-acre yield of crops. At present, water is being supplied to 108,000 acres of land. Furthermore, the local people from the western part of Magway Division are enjoying the fruits of electricity generated 380 million kilowatt-hours yearly through irrigation facility of Mone Creek Dam.

Mone Creek originates from the mountain ranges of Chin State and flows into Ayeyawady River at Kyungdawya of Lekaing in Pwintthu Township. Water from Mone Creek is being irrigated to the farmlands through Mezali Diversion Weir. Electricity generated from Mone Creek Power Plant is being supplied to the surrounding areas through Lawpita national grid.

Mone Creek Dam is located on Mone Creek between Aukpon and Thayankaing villages of Sedoktara Township, Magway Division. It was opened in December 2004. Thanks to construction of Mone Creek Dam, the local people are enjoying the fruits of irrigation facility and electricity.

I had one more opportunity to visit construction sites of Buywa Dam Project and Upper Buywa Dam project being implemented on Mone Creek.

Staff Officers U Kyaw Naing Oo and U Soe explained facts about Buywa Dam Project. The project site is located near Bu Village, 15 miles from Sedoktara Township.

Staff U Kyaw Naing Oo and Staff Officer U Soe explained matters related to Buywa Dam Project to me.

Indeed, Buywa and Upper Buywa Dam Projects are being implemented on the hilly regions. On completion, Upper Buywa Dam Project will generate about 120 more million kilowatt hours yearly in addition to the regular hydropower generating capacity.

Upper Buywa Dam Project is being implemented upstream of Buywa Dam project site along Mone Creek. The former facility is located 25 miles from Mone Creek Dam and 12 miles upstream of Buywa Dam Project site. The dam is under construction near Thagangkyn Village, 27 miles north of Sedoktara Township.

Upon completion of Buywa Dam, Kyeeohn-kyeewa Dam Project site, Mone Creek Dam will provide water to the irrigated area of Mezali Diversion Weir in the rainy season and summer.

During the tour, I observed progress of implementing the dam projects along Mone Creek. Together with Staff Officer U Than Tun, I visited Kyeeohn-kyeewa Dam Project site. We left Monbu along Pathein-Monywa Road, and we arrived at the dam construction site, eight miles west of mile post No. 133 on Pathein-Monywa Road.

Kyeeohn-kyeewa Dam Project will be installed with two 37-megawatt generators and it can generate 370 million kilowatt hours yearly and irrigate 96,777 acres of land. We saw the huge embankment of the dam with mountain ranges in the background.

Out of dam projects on Mone Creek, Mone Creek Dam had been opened, and remaining dams namely Buywa, Upper Buywa and Kyeeohn-kyeewa Dam projects are under construction with might and main.

For agricultural purpose, Upper Buywa Dam can store 1,459,400 acre feet of water, Buywa Dam 403,300 acre feet of water, Mone Creek Dam 674,400 acre feet of water and Kyeeohn-kyeewa Dam 463,000 acre feet of water, totaling 3,000,100.

As such, the local people of western region of Magway Division will enjoy the fruits of irrigation and hydropower facilities being built on Mone Creek coming years.

Translation: TTA

Kyemon: 24-1-2009

Kyeeohn-kyeewa Dam is under construction near Wunlo Village of Pwintthu Township on 5 November 2008.
Salmonella death in US rises to seven

WASHINGTON, 24 Jan—One Minnesota woman in her 80s has died from salmonella poisoning, bringing the total number of deaths related to the outbreak of salmonella in the US to seven, officials from the Minnesota Department of Health said on Saturday.

According to the officials, it was not clear whether the woman had eaten any contaminated peanut butter. In all, there have been three deaths in Minnesota, two in Virginia and one each in North Carolina and Idaho.

On Wednesday, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said the sole source of the US salmonella outbreak involving contaminated peanut butter appears to be the Peanut Corp of America’s Blakely, Georgia, processing facility.

The company produces peanut butter for use in nursing homes and cafeterias, as well as a concentrated product used in many commercially produced products, including cakes, cookies, crackers, candies, cereal and ice cream.

More than 200 peanut butter and peanut paste products from at least 38 companies have been recalled so far in the ongoing salmonella outbreak, according to the latest count posted on the website of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

As of Wednesday evening, 491 people had been reported infected by a salmonella outbreak by public health authorities in 43 of the 50 US states, the CDC said on its website.

Vietnam ferry sinks, 40 drowned

VIETNAM, 25 Jan—Most of the dead were women and children on their way to a market at the start of the week-long Lunar New Year festival, a police officer in Quang Binh Province said.

The accident happened in chilly temperatures when passengers stood up in a rush to get off the boat as it approached a pier on the river, Cao Thi Huong, identified as a survivor of the accident, was quoted as saying on the VnExpress website.

There had been 80 people on the boat, despite it only having a licence to carry 40, website reported.

The website said that police had detained Nguyen Xuan Quy, the captain and owner of the boat, while investigating the accident.

Ten mountaineers killed under avalanche in Turkey

ANKARA, 25 Jan—The death toll of the mountaineers in an avalanche in northern Turkey rose to 10 later on Sunday, reported the semi-official Anatolia news agency. Ten mountaineers died in the avalanche which occurred in Zigana Mountain of town Torul in the northeastern province of Gumushane earlier on Sunday, Public Works and Housing Minister Faruk Ozak was quoted as saying. According to the official, seven other mountaineers were rescued and the identities of the victims would be revealed later.
Three killed in Scotland avalanche

LONDON, 25 Jan — Three people died on Saturday and a fourth was injured by an avalanche in the Scottish Highlands, a police spokeswoman said.

Those who died were among several groups climbing the Buchaille Etive Mor in the Glencoe region. The avalanche happened about noon Saturday (5 am ET), according to the Northern Constabulary police. In all, nine people in two parties were caught up in the avalanche, but five people escaped in two parties were led to safety out of Colorado’s backcountry by 1 pm, The Denver Post reported.

Rescuers from the Royal Air Force were sent to assist the climbers, but blizzards hampered their efforts, and rescue teams with search dogs had to be dropped on the mountain to continue on foot.

The injured person was being treated for a shoulder injury from the avalanche, police said.

More British men seeking breast reduction

LONDON, 25 Jan — Doctors say a record number of British men last year sought breast-reduction surgery for “man boobs” or “moobs,” as some call them.

Breast-reduction surgery for men rose from 22 operations in 2003 to 224 operations last year, said the Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons in Britain.

More men concerned with their physique also are turning to anabolic steroids, with an estimated 179,000 men ages 16-59 having used them in Britain, The Daily Telegraph reported.

Needle-exchange projects also report more men are using needles to inject steroids for cosmetic reasons rather than for injecting heroin and other illicit intoxicating drugs, The Telegraph reported.—Internet

Undercover officer shot, three charged

BALTIMORE, 25 Jan — Police in Baltimore have charged three men with attempted murder in the shooting of an undercover officer outside a housing complex, officials said.

Officer Dante Arthur, an eight-year Baltimore Police Department veteran, was in critical but stable condition at Maryland Shock Trauma Center, The Baltimore Sun reported on Saturday. Arthur was shot twice in the face on Friday, after attempting to make an undercover drug purchase. He is expected to make a full recovery, the newspaper reported.—Internet

Nine dead in Congo rebel drive

GOMA, 25 Jan — The Congolese military says nine Hutu rebels have been killed in eastern DR Congo, as a joint drive with Rwandan soldiers against rebels is stepped up. A Congolese army commander reported fighting with Rwandan Hutu rebels in five villages in the Laberbo area, over 200km (125 miles) north of Goma.

Meanwhile there is no word on the possible extradition to DR Congo of Tutsi rebel chief Laurent Nkunda. He was was arrested in Rwanda on Thursday night.

Congolese soldiers are fighting alongside at least 3,500 Rwandan soldiers to disarm the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR). Members of this ethnic Hutu militia fled Rwanda after the 1994 genocide against Tutsis and moderate Hutus. Some FDLR leaders are accused of involvement in the genocide.

France reportedly has Gitmo plan

BRUSSELS, 25 Jan — The French government proposes European Union countries provide homes for 60 inmates from the US detention centre at Guantanamo, officials said. The government has forwarded its plan to other EU members so the proposal can be discussed when foreign ministers meet Monday in Brussels, Der Spiegel reported.

The Bush administration asked many of its allies not to accept detainees who had been determined not to be dangerous but who could not be returned to their home countries for fear of persecution. They include Muslims from the Uighur Autonomous area in western China.—Internet

Missing skiers in Colorado found safe

DENVER, 25 Jan — Six missing skiers in Colorado have been found safe and unharmed in Pitkin County, officials said on Saturday. The skiers, described as experienced, were spotted just before 11 am and were safely out of Colorado’s backcountry by 1 pm, The Denver Post reported.

A man who became separated from the six skiers in blizzard conditions reported the group lost Friday about 12 miles south of the Aspen Mountain ski area. The man said he had been hiking with the group in the Goodwin-Greene Hut area.—Internet

Spanish bullfighter Antonio Barrera is tackled by a bull during a bullfighting festival at Macarena bullring in Medellin on 24 Jan, 2009.—Internet

internet
In hard times, mobile homes look better

ST LOUIS, 25 Jan — The economic slump and the puncturing of the housing bubble in the United States could be good for at least one industry, the manufacture of mobile homes.

There was a slight uptick in the business last year. The St Louis Post-Dispatch reported. The number of mobile home loans insured by the Federal Housing Administration rose almost 14 percent to 1,569.

There is anecdotal evidence that people who want to own a home but can’t get a mortgage or find a conventional house, and those losing houses to foreclosure, are considering mobile homes, also known as trailers or, in the industry’s favored term, manufactured homes.

“We’re experiencing more people that are coming in that are basically coming from situations where foreclosure situations, they can’t afford a traditional house, they just don’t have the credit,” said Mac McCoy, a salesman at Brophy Mobile Home Sales near St Louis.

“We’ve seen an extra 10 (percent) to 15 percent in that category. We expect that to increase. I don’t see how it could not go up.”—Internet

Google maps misplaces NYC neighbourhood

NEW YORK, 25 Jan — A Google glitch is giving drivers trying to reach a neighbourhood in the New York City borough of Staten Island directions to the upstate city of Schenectady.

Google has placed the 10308 zip code, the one for the Great Kills section, in Schenectady, which lies a few miles west of Albany about three hours up the Hudson River, the New York Daily News reports.

So anyone trying to get to Great Kills and seeking driving directions from Google is being sent north.

“It ought to be fixed, because if somebody does that they’re in for a heck of a ride,” said Councilman Vince Ignizio, a Republican representing Staten Island.

“I don’t think it’s a personal attack on my community.

I just pray to God nobody actually took that trip.

Andrew Platis, owner of Andrew’s Diner in Great Kills, is grateful for Staten Island’s insularity.

“This is a neighbourhood place, everybody knows who we are,” he said.

Scientists see California quake pattern

LOS ANGELES, 25 Jan — Southern California could be overdue for a major earthquake along the San Andreas Fault, researchers say.

A study by scientists at the University of California at Irvine found there were five major temblors along a southern section of the San Andreas Fault in the past 700 years, the Los Angeles Times reported Saturday.

The first one is estimated to have occurred in 1310, followed 83 years later by one in 1393, 192 years after that in 1585, the next 85 years later in 1640 and the last one 217 years later.

“It’s now been 152 years since the last major quake along the Carrizo Plain section of the San Andreas — the Fort Tejon temblor of 1857, which was an estimated magnitude of 7.9,” Lisa Grant Ludwig, a principal investigator for the University of California-Irvine study, said scientists can’t be sure that the pattern will hold.

“But we know it increases the probability of an earthquake,” she said.

“There’s not any way I can look at the data and be comforted by it.”

On Saturday morning, there was a 3.1 magnitude quake in central California, about 15 miles from Trona, Calif., the US Geological Survey said.—Internet

Discovery could block blood clots

LONDON, 25 Jan — Scientists have found a potential way to prevent blood clots which can cause heart attacks. They believe the discovery could aid the development of better heart attack prevention and treatment.

The key is to remove a particular protein — PKC alpha — from specialist blood cells called platelets which play a key role in the formation of clots. The University of Bristol study, carried out in mice, appears in the Journal of Clinical Investigation.

Blood clots perform an essential function, limiting blood loss from a wound. However, when they form in diseased arteries feeding the heart they can be life-threatening, causing a heart attack in 146,000 people in the UK every year. Current anti-clotting medicines, such as aspirin, reduce the risk of heart attack — but in some people can also cause excessive and dangerous bleeding.

Platelets are small cells in the blood that sense when a blood vessel has been damaged. They rapidly become very sticky, and form a protective plaster over the site of damage. In a patient with heart disease, fatty plaques build up in the walls of the arteries feeding the heart.

Internet

Platelet cells play a key role in the formation of blood clots.—Internet

Calif hospitals cutting pediatrics units

LOS ANGELES, 25 Jan — California hospitals have been steadily cutting pediatric care during the past decade, the Los Angeles Times reported Saturday.

While the number of California children has grown to 10 million, more than 65 hospitals have either closed children’s units or gone under, the newspaper said.

At least two dozen have cut the number of beds for children and few counties north of Sacramento provide beds dedicated to pediatric care.

More than 800 in-patient pediatrics beds were eliminated between 1998 and 2007, a cut of 19 percent.

More than half of those were in Los Angeles County, where dozens more pediatric beds have been lost since 2007, the Times reported after analyzing data from the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development and the US Census.

Policy analysts and pediatric care professionals are concerned the changes, which appear to be large, as a result of financial considerations, are resulting in too few hospitals caring for concentrated numbers of children, with more pediatric care being delivered on an outpatient basis.

Paul Wise, a children’s health care policy researcher at Stanford University, told the newspaper “things are a mess” in California.

“There seems to be a lack of any coherent monitoring or oversight,” he said.

Diana Dooley, chief executive of the Children’s Hospital Association of California, said some children “will be denied the level of care that they need.”

“They’ll have to get no care or they’ll have to get care that isn’t delivered by… pediatricians trained in the special needs of children,” she said.—Internet
**Open tennis tournament France at the Australian**

**Jelena Jankovic of Serbia**

**Roger Federer fights back as Jankovic crashes out of Australian Open**

Federer looked like he could join Jankovic after losing the first two sets to Czech Berdych, battling back to win 4-6, 6-7 (4/7), 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 and stay on course for a record-equaling 14th Grand Slam title.

Roddick in ominous form as he downs Spaniard Tommy Robredo

**Andy Roddick**

Roddick smashed his Spanish opponent in the second and third set and second to send out a warning to his rivals. The American has been in great form at this year’s tournament, dropping only one set on his way to the last eight, against Belgian Xavier Malisse in the second round.

**Bryant leads season-opening Champions Tour event**

Kaupulele-Kona, 25 Jan—With a slim lead on a defenseless course, Brad Bryant won’t dare look in the rearview mirror in the Champions Tour’s season-opening Mitsubishi Electric Championship.

“Your just keep the pedal to the metal and hope the transmission don’t blow,” said Bryant, who shot a 7-under 65 on Saturday to take a one-shot lead over Bernhard Langer after two rounds in the winners-only event. Bryant, who birdied nine holes in the opening round, set the pace early by birdieing six of his first 10 holes and capped his round with a 10-foot birdie putt on 18 for a 13-under 69 total. The big-hitting Texan is seeking his first victory since the 2007 US Senior Open, where he made up five strokes in the final round and overtook Tom Watson in the second-largest comeback in Open history. Bryant will be the hunted on Sunday. Langer, the player and rookie of the year, made his move on the back nine, again, birdieing four of the final five holes for a 66. He shaved the hole on several putts before they eventually started falling, just as he did Friday in a back-nine 29. **Juande Ramos invites Saviola to abandon Real Madrid**

Madrid, 25 Jan—Real Madrid coach Juande Ramos has opened the door for striker Javier Saviola to abandon the club during the current winter transfer window. Saviola used an interview in sports daily Marca to complain about his lack of chances at Real Madrid this season. Despite the season-long injury to Ruud van Nistelrooy, Saviola has made only seven first team appearances this campaign in the Primera Liga, scoring one goal in 187 minutes of football. The arrival of Jan-Klaas Huntelaar from Ajax is only going to reduce his first team options for the rest of the season. However, if Saviola, a former Argentina international, was expecting any sympathy from the former Tottenham and Sevilla coach, he was mistaken.

**Ballsack bolsters case for Chelsea extension**

**Michael Ballack**

Ballack has been given a clear hint he will be offered a new deal to stay at the manager’s plans for next year.”

“His contribution has been excellent. He probably covers more acreage than anybody else in our side. With the work he puts in for the team, he’s untouchable—he’s extremely good.”

“Ferdner looked like he could join Jankovic after losing the first two sets to Czech Berdych, battling back to win 4-6, 6-7 (4/7), 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 and stay on course for a record-equalizing 14th Grand Slam title. Internet

Malisse in the second round.

Roddick blasted 13 aces against Robredo and won 84 percent of his first serve to have the Spanish player on the back foot throughout the match. He broke Robredo five times and wasn’t broken once—the Spaniard only had one break point over the three sets. Roddick’s quarter-final appearance equals his best Grand Slam performance of what was for him a disappointing 2008. He now plays either defending champion Novak Djokovic or 2006 runner-up and crowd favourite Marcos Baghdatis for a place in the semi-finals. Internet

**Adams downcast as Portsmouth crash out**

Portsmouth, 25 Jan—Tony Adams admitted Portsmouth got exactly what they deserved as the FA Cup holders crashed out in the fourth round after being out-played and out-fought by Championship team Swansea.

Adams was horrified by his team’s lack of desire and their failure to impose themselves during a dismal display at Fratton Park on Saturday. Last season, Portsmouth were parading the cup around Wembley after Harry Redknapp’s men defeated Cardiff in the final.

But a lot has changed at the Premier League club in the last seven months and Adams has presided over a shocking run since Redknapp quit to take over at Tottenham. Internet

**Answers to yesterday’s Crosswords Puzzle**

**FOUNDER FAULT**

**DRESS MOSTEN**

**GEO EXHAUSTED MUG**

**OLLER SEPTET**

**ED SO PRESSURE**

**BCU ECONOMY TRACT**

**MY OKED TOM FOOL**

**internet**
China raises rice prices to boost grain output

FILE PHOTO TAKEN ON 7 OCT, 2008, SHOWS PADDY FIELD IN SOUTHWEST CHINA'S GUIZHOU PROVINCE. — INTERNET

BEIJING, 25 Jan—China’s top economic planner said on Saturday it would raise the minimum state purchasing prices for rice in major rice-producing areas by as much as 16.9 percent this year.

The move was aimed at protecting farmers' interests, keeping grain prices stable and boosting grain output as grain growers had experienced higher costs since last year, according to the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC).

The state purchasing prices for japonica rice will rise 15.9 percent to 1900 yuan (280 US dollars) per ton this year, according to the NDRC.

In addition, prices for early and late indica rice will be 16.9 percent and 16.5 percent higher respectively to 1800 yuan and 1840 yuan per ton.

It was the biggest increase in grain purchasing prices since 2004, said Ding Jie, an official with the NDRC's price department.

In 2004, China started the practice of buying grains from farmers at a state-set minimum price when market prices drop below the protective price level in order to encourage grain production.

Saturday's announcement came before Chinese weather authorities forecast generally fair weather for the week, but said isolated light rain or thundershowers in parts of Myanmar and Thailand could produce floods.

Forecast valid until evening of 26th January 2009:

Sunday, 25 January, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, isolated light rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Divisions, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin and Shan States, Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (4°C) below January average temperatures in Chin State, (3°C) to (4°C) above January average temperatures in Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) above January average temperatures in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, (9°C) above January average temperature in Shan State and about January average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Hakha (0°C) and Pinlaung (2°C). The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Kawthoung (0.28 inch).

Maximum temperature on 24-1-2009 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 25-1-2009 was 67°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 25-1-2009 was 76%.

Total sunshine hours on 24-1-2009 was (9.3) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 25-1-2009 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 (4) mph from Northeast at (12:30) hours MST on 24-1-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 26th January 2009:

Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin and Shan States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas.

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

Lookout for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 26-1-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 26-1-2009: Party cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 26-1-2009: Generally fair weather.
Prime Minister General Thein Sein sends felicitations to Indian counterpart

NAI PYI TAW, 26 Jan—On the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the Republic Day of India which falls on 26th January 2009, General 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 General Thein Sein felicitates Australian counterpart

NAI PYI TAW, 26 Jan—On the occasion of the anniversary of the Australia Day which falls on 26th January 2009, General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Kevin Michael Rudd, Prime Minister of Australia. —MNA

Solar eclipse visible in whole Myanmar

NAI PYI TAW, 25 Jan—Meteorology and Hydrology Department announced today that there will be two eclipses of the sun and four eclipses of the moon in 2009. The first solar eclipse can be visible in Myanmar on 26 January. The solar eclipse can be seen from the southern regions of Myanmar beginning 3:15 p.m. The last solar eclipse can be seen from the northern regions of Myanmar at 5:35 p.m. The solar eclipse will be visible from Yangon at 4:31 p.m.—MNA

Dams, hydropower plants under construction on Mone Creek for ensuring socio-economic development

Article & Photos: Khin Maung Than (Sethmu)

Sources of climate-and-health-afflicting soot pollution identified

STOCKHOLM, 25 Jan — A gigantic brownish haze from various burning and combustion processes is blanketing India and surrounding land and oceans during the winter season.

This soot-laden Brown Cloud is affecting South Asian climate as much or more than carbon dioxide and cause premature deaths of 100,000s annually, yet its sources have been poorly understood.

In the journal Science Örjan Gustafsson and colleagues at Stockholm University and in India use a novel carbon-14 method to determine that two-thirds of the soot particles are from biomass combustion such as in household cooking and in slash-and-burn agriculture.

Brown Clouds, covering large parts of South and East Asia, originate from burning of wood, dung and crop residue as well as from industrial processes and traffic. Previous studies had left it unclear as to the relative source contributions of biomass versus fossil fuel combustion.

It is the duty of local people and farmers to maintain the dams which have been built spending a large amount of money and to boost production of agricultural produce.

Internet

Photo shows Mone Creek Dam supplying water to 108,000 acres of farmlands and generating hydropower for local people. (See page 10)

A soot-laden Brown Cloud is affecting South Asian climate as much or more than carbon dioxide and cause premature deaths of 100,000s annually, yet its sources have been poorly understood.