Established 1914

The New Light of Myanmar

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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

Socio-economic life of farmers in Danubyu Township improving

Byline & Photos: *Tin Win Lay (Kyimyindine)*

The government, with a view to exporting rice and beans and pulses of high quality, cutting out middlemen between crop growers and exporters so as to enable crop growers to gain more benefits, has been encouraging establishment of companies with systematic exportation procedure of rice, beans and pulses.

Eden Group of Companies, under the leadership of the government, is working for the benefit of farmers, establishing rice, beans and pulses companies based in Danubyu Township.

Our media crew of Kyemon daily attended a ceremony in which monsoon paddy growers repaid loan to Gold Delta Co Ltd and Daung Dagun Co Ltd lent loan to green gram growers. Gold Delta Co Ltd provided necessary input for cultivation of rice to farmers for 2009-2010 monsoon paddy cultivation season. And industrious Ayeyawady dwellers have reaped the fruits of their efforts. Thus, they are repaying agricultural loan to the company. It is the sign of mutual trust between the company and the farmers.

Farmers observing farming equipment.

In an interview, Chairman U Chit Khaing of the company said, "We are working to enhance the socio-economic status of the farmers and the fundamental strata of the nation. We are planning to spread our wings from Danubyu to the whole country."

The company last year raised a 5-acre pilot farm. With the application of farming methods provided by the company, 70 baskets of rice yield per acre rose to 100 baskets per acre. Seeing is believing and farmers were satisfied with farming methods of the company.

After the ceremony, we interviewed Associate Director U Myint Swe (Cultivation) who said that the company provided K 50,000 to K 55,000 for an acre of farm and loaned 4283 farmers in Danubyu Township for 35866.84 acres of farmland without strings attached; that they had to repay their loans only after harvest.

(See page 10)

Thriving paddy field of farmer U Aung Ngwe.

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 9 January, 2010

Make earnest efforts to become military medical personnel with physical and mental strength

The Defence Services Medical Corps is providing health care services to the Tatmadawmen who are discharging the defence duties.

On 7 January, the graduation parade of the 7th Intake of the Defence Services Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Science took place at the parade ground of the Defence Services Medical Academy in Yangon, with an address by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye.

In his address, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said, "You are about to serve your duties with respect to the motto "Member of the Tatmadaw Medical Crops, efficiency with helping hands''. For your career, you are to acquire both physical and mental strength. For a Tatmadawman, physical ability means combat ability and mental ability means good moral conduct, high morale, high integrity and brave sacrifice.''

The Defence Services Institute of Nursing was established in 2000, and it was expanded to the Defence Services Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Science in 2002. At present, the institute is continuously turning out the Tatmadaw nurses, medical attendants and pharmacists yearly.

The trainees who completed the courses of the institute have pursued the advanced nursing and paramedical sciences. They have also completed the military training. After completion of the training, they will join the forces to defend lives, property and security of the people in various front line areas.

It is sure that the graduate trainees of the Defence Services Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Science, as the military medical personnel with both physical and mental strength, are going to serve the interest of the State and the people while providing health care services to the Tatmadawmen and the people.

MBA undergraduates, graduates to hold get-together

YANGON, 8 Jan—The MBA get-together will be held at Chatrium Hotel, here, at 6 am on 23 January, and all the teachers and MBA graduates and undergraduates have been invited to attend it.

Those wishing to attend the get-together may contact Dr Pyone Pyone Han (Tel: 095004287), Ko Moe The (Tel: 095189880), Ma Lin Lin Tin Tun (Tel: 095118388), Dr Aung Naing Win (Tel: 095020079), Dr Maung Maung Latt (Tel: 095007249), Ma Thin Thin Hsat (Tel: 095001600), Ma Khin Thet Khine (Tel: 095004913), Ko Kyaw Thura (Tel: 095152374), U Aung Min (Tel: 095075181), Ko Thet Lwin Shwe (Tel: 099928310), Ko Tin Maung Oo (Tel: 095017531), Ko Nay Lin Zin (Tel: 095148839) and Ko Win Htet Maung Maung (Tel: 095014624).

MNA

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**

Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to Senior General Than Shwe

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Jan—*The followings are the messages of felicitations from foreign Heads of State sent to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council on the occasion of the 62nd Anniversary Independence Day.*

From President Mr. Md. Zillur Rahman of People's Republic of Bangladesh

Excellency,

It is indeed a matter of great pleasure for me to convey our heartiest felicitations and warmest greetings to you on the joyous occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

We attach great importance to our relations with Myanmar. We deeply value the close bonds of friendship that so happily exist between our two countries. I believe there exists tremendous potential to further expand and deepen our relations in various areas of mutual interest.

There is need for us to explore new avenues of cooperation. I would like to assure you of Bangladesh's full commitment to strengthen our relations in the days ahead for the shared benefit and prosperity of our countries and peoples.

I take this opportunity to convey my warm wishes for Your Excellency's good health, long life and happiness as well as for the continued peace, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Myanmar.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest considerations.

From President Mr. Felipe Calderon Hinojosa of the United Mexican States

Excellency,

On occasion of the National Day of the Union of Myanmar, I convey the most sincere regards on behalf of the people and the Government of Mexico.

I am convinced that the traditional bonds of friendship that unite our nations and our governments offer opportunities to develop and strengthen our mutual cooperation.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From President Mr. Asif Ali Zardari of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Excellency,

It gives me great pleasure to extend to Your Excellency our warmest felicitations and best wishes on the happy occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar. Pakistan and Myanmar enjoy close friendly relations. I am confident that the mutually beneficial ties between our two countries will be further strengthened in the years ahead. Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.—*MNA*

Golf friendly to mark Independence Day held

Deputy Minister U Maung Myint and diplomats pose for documentary photo at the golf friendly between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and diplomats. —MOFA

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Jan—The golf friendly between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and foreign diplomats was held to mark the 62nd Anniversary Independence Day at Myodaw Golf Club here on 4 January morning.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, diplomats led by Dean of Diplomatic Corps Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Robert Chua Hian Kong, and heads of the embassies, Resident Representative UN Mr Bishow B Para Juli, representatives from UN agencies, and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs took part in the tournament.

The awarding ceremony took place at the Mount Pleasant Tower of the Mount Pleasant Hotel here, attended by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Deputy Minister U Maung Myint, directors-general and officials under the ministry, foreign diplomats led by the Singaporean ambassador, heads of foreign embassies, and the UN resident representative.

MNA

British troops feared civilian casualties in Basra

LONDON, 8 Jan— A senior British army commander said on Thursday his troops were unwilling to help the Iraqi army in air strikes against militias in the city of Basra because they feared killing civilians.

The Iraqi army launched a major assault in Basra in March 2008 and complained bitterly at the time about Britain's lack of support.

Britain said in the past that it held back to ensure that the operation was seen as Iraqi-led. But Lt Gen Barney White-Spunner — commander of coalition forces in southeast Iraq from February to August 2008 — told an inquiry probing Britain's role in the war that the military's rules of engagement stopped its troops from agreeing to Iraq's early plans for an air attack.

"We were asked at times in those very chaotic early days to do some things by the Iraqis which, if we had agreed to, I would be sitting in front of a very different tribunal now," he said.

He added: "We were invited to drop aerial ordnance on areas which we considered not to have been thoroughly enough vetted, and which could have caused considerable civilian casualties."

The Iraq inquiry is investigating the decisions and mistakes surrounding the war. Deeply unpopular in Britain, the 2003 US-led invasion left 179 British soldiers dead, triggered massive public protests, and shadowed the final years of Tony Blair's premiership.

Internet

An injured man receives medical treatment in hospital in Khost, Afghanistan, on 6 Jan, 2010. —XINHUA

A tractor clears snow off roads in Hawick in Scotland. Eurostar passengers are facing further disruptions after one of its high-speed trains broke down in the Channel Tunnel again, less than three weeks after a major breakdown caused by snow.—INTERNET

EU president says to discuss climate negotiations at special summit

BRUSSELS, 8 Jan — European Union (EU) President Herman Van Rompuy said on Thursday that EU leaders would discuss how to move the global climate negotiations forward at a special summit in February.

"I have decided to add a reflection on 'post-Copenhagen' to the agenda of the informal European Council of February," Van Rompuy said at a Christian Social Union party conference in Wildbad Kreuth, Germany, according to a speech text released in Brussels.

European Council is the official name for the summit of EU leaders. Van Rompuy, the EU's first full-time president, had called for a special EU summit to discuss economic issues on his first working day earlier this week.

A UN climate change conference was held in Copenhagen, Denmark last month. The two-week-long negotiations ended with the issuance of the Copenhagen Accord, which was accepted by a large majority of countries, but the conference failed to produce a legally-binding deal, making the EU feel disappointed.

Van Rompuy said the Copenhagen conference is a further step in a long process, suggesting the EU should continue to push for a deal at the next conference in Mexico in November.

Xinhua

One killed, four injured in St Louis factory shooting rampage

NEW YORK, 8 Jan — A man armed with an assault rifle and handgun walked into a plant in St Louis, Missouri, on Thursday and opened fire, killing one person and wounding four others, authorities said.

According to reports reaching here, the shooting occurred around 6:30 am local time at the ABB Power factory on the city's north side. Some employees ran to the building's rooftop to escape the gunfire while another man barricaded himself in a maintenance room.

A company supervisor told police that the gunman was a disgruntled worker who may have recently lost his job, according to reports.

Fire Department spokesman Bob Keuss identified the suspected shooter as Timothy Herndon, of Webster Groves. Mo KMOX radio said Herndon had worked for the company for 23 years. A two-mile perimeter was established around the plant and Interstate 70 was shut down.

Xinhua

A member of the St Louis Fire Department pushes a person on a stretcher to a waiting ambulance outside ABB Inc,on 7 Jan, 2010, in St Louis, the US Police were called to the scene after a gunman with a rifle walked into the business and began shooting.—XINHUA

Fire near shopping centre in Auckland

WELLINGTON, 8 Jan — A major fire broke out near one of Auckland's largest shopping centre, St Lukes on Friday morning, police said.

The blaze broke out at 10:45 am (21:45 GMT Thursday) at Modus Architectural Lighting in Wagener Place, across the road from St Lukes Mall.

Nearby roads have been blocked off and police urged motorists to avoid the area.

Firemen at the scene said the cause was unlikely to have been arson, but rather something "left on" that caught alight.

Fire crews have extinguished the blaze and up to 12 fire crews remained at the scene dampening down hotspots, police said.—*Xinhua*

Twenty die as sides exchange shelling in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU, 8 Jan — At least 20 people were killed and more than 40 others wounded on Thursday after exchanges of heavy shelling between rebels and African Union peacekeeping forces in the Somali capital Mogadishu, witnesses and emergency officials said.

Emergency officials in Mogadishu said that 20 people, mostly civilians, died when the African union peacekeeping forces backing the Somali government troops retaliated to militant mortars in the north of the city.

Local ambulance services said that almost 40 people were injured as the shells showered over residential areas in the militant-held north of the Somali capital Mogadishu.

Witnesses said that shells also hit a number of other areas in the south of the restive coastal capital.

The duel came as a roadside bomb explosion targeting Somali army chief earlier killed at least one of the army commander's bodyguard and wounded five others but the newly-appointed army head, Mohamed Gele Kahiye, narrowly escaped as he was not in his vehicle at the time.

Both Somali government and hard-line militants have been preparing for a possible major confrontation over the control of Mogadishu, the Somalia capital which is partly controlled by the two sides.—*Xinhua*

Container ships are seen in Singapore, in November 2009. Singapore, one of the world's busiest ports, said it handled 13.5 percent less container traffic in 2009 from the previous year as the global downturn squeezed world trade.
INTERNET

Malaysian carmaker chosen to spearhead Peugeot's regional expansion

KUALA LUMPUR, 8 Jan — Malaysian carmaker Naza Group pledges to make Malaysia a regional hub for France's Peugeot automobiles, local media reported on Friday.

Naza said in a statement on Thursday that Peugeot had chosen the group to spearhead its expansion in the ASEAN region as its sales of Peugeot vehicles in 2009 hit 3,766 units, accounted for 86 percent of Peugeot sales in the region, said a local newspaper the *Star*.

Naza Group joint executive Chairman Nasarudin Nasimuddin said Naza is confident in making Peugeot's regional hub here.

He said that Naza planned to launch four models locally and ramp up exports of Peugeot vehicles manufactured at Gurun plant to other parts of the region this year.

Naza is expected to sell 2,930 Peugeot cars in Malaysia, which will include an entry-level model, codenamed T33, to be produced at its Gurun plant, he said.

As part of Peugeot's plans to expand its presence in the region and the importance of Malaysia to the French carmaker, the company will soon expand its ASEAN regional office in Petaling Jaya to coordinate operations for the entire Asia-Pacific region excluding China, he added.—*Xinhua*

Google to be sued over Nexus One name

BEIJING, 8 Jan—The family of the late Philip K Dick, the author of the book on which the film Blade Runner was based, say they are to sue Google for infringement of intellectual property rights.

The search giant's new mobile phone, the Nexus One, has a similar name to a group of rogue androids from the film called "replicants" that are identified through the model designation Nexus-6. The phone's operating system is called Android.

Isa Dick Hackett, Dick's daughter, claims the names are lifted straight from her father's science fiction novel "Do Android's Dream of Electric Sheep?" Philip K Dick's daughter was said to be "shocked and dismayed" at Google's naming of the phone without consultation.

"In my mind, there is a very obvious connection to my father's novel," said Isa Dick Hackett, president of the Dick estate outfit that handles licensing of his work, a few months back. "We were never consulted, no requests were made, and we didn't grant any sort of permissions." No case was immediately filed however and Google successfully acquired a patent with the US Patent and Trademark Office in mid-December.

But on Wednesday this week, soon after the launch of the phone, Google was sent a letter demanding the company cease using the name.

Xinhua

*The Feitian Extra-Vehicular Activity (EVA) Spacesuit by Chinese astronaut Zhai Zhigang is placed properly for display at the exhibition featuring Shenzhou VII manned space flight, which is in arrangement for opening, in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province, on 5 Jan, 2010.—*XINHUA

China ranks second in investment in Uganda

KAMPALA, 8 Jan— China has emerged as the second biggest foreign investment contributor in Uganda for the year of 2009 despite the global economic downturn, said a report released by Uganda Investment Authority (UIA) on Thursday.

"Despite the general economic downturn around the world, Britain and China have continued to be the best investors in Uganda," Maggie Kigozi, the executive director of UIA, told a Press conference here.

Xinhua

Poland's unemployment rate reaches 11.9% in December

WARSAW, 8 Jan—Poland's unemployment rate reached 11.9 percent in December 2009, the Ministry of Labour said in a Press release on Thursday.

According to the ministry, the number of unemployed at the end of December reached 1.893 million, up 82,000 from the end of November.

The number of the unemployed in the entire 2009 grew by 419,300 or 28.5 percent.

"December, like November, is a time of conclusion of seasonal work in the construction, forestry, horticulture branches as well as a period of the return of the unemployed to labour offices after their participation in active forms of unemployment prevention schemes," the ministry said.—*Xinhua*

Toyota's Prius top-selling car in Japan last year

TOKYO, 8 Jan—The Toyota Prius was the top-selling car in Japan last year — the first time a gaselectric hybrid has clinched that spot.

The Japan Automobile Dealers Association said on Friday that Toyota Motor Corp's Prius was No 1 in its ranking of sales by vehicle models with 208,876 Prius cars sold in 2009, nearly three times the numbers sold the previous year.

The big success of the Prius in the home market for Toyota, the world's biggest automaker, highlights the growing consumer acceptance of green vehicles.

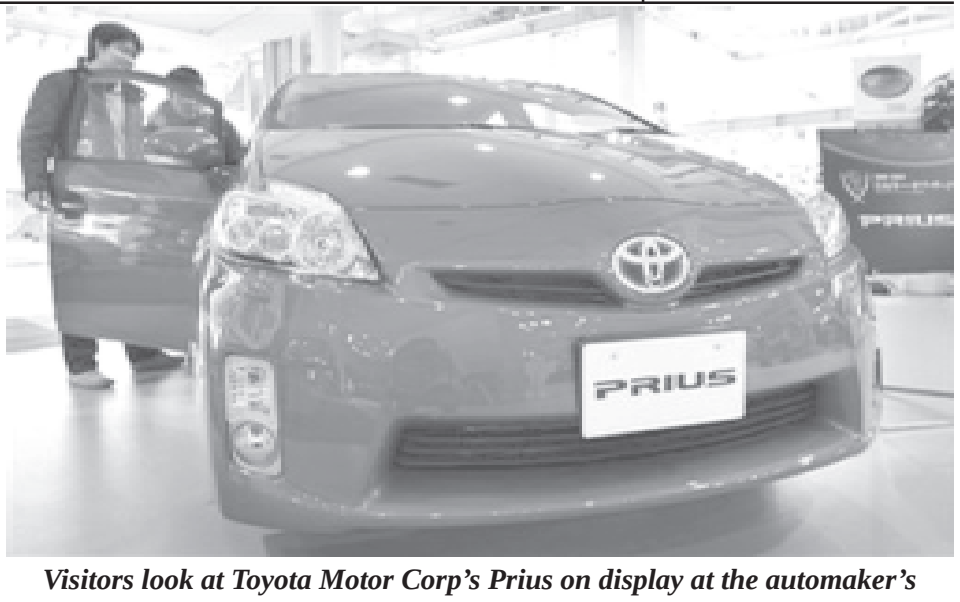
Hybrid sales already make up about 10 percent of new vehicle sales in Japan.

That's huge compared to other global markets, where hybrids are eye-catching but remain a relatively niche product. Green Car Congress, which researches and compiles reports on green technology, said hybrids have a 2.8 percent share of new vehicle sales in the US.

But car owners around the world may be about to embrace not only hybrids but also plug-in hybrids and electric vehicles, which are even greener than the Prius.

The competition in green autos is expected to heighten as new models from other automakers are expected in 2010, including the Chevrolet Volt electric vehicle from General Motors Co. So far, the Prius reigns supreme in Japan.

Internet



*Visitors look at Toyota Motor Corp's Prius on display at the automaker's showroom in Tokyo, on 8 Jan, 2010. The Japan Automobile Dealers Association said on Friday that the Prius, a gas-electric hybrid, was No 1 in its ranking of sales by vehicle models — with 208,876 Prius cars sold in 2009, nearly three times the numbers sold the previous year.—*INTERNET

A Panasonic 3D camcorder is displayed at the 2010 International Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, on 6 Jan, 2010.—XINHUA

Vietnam, India vow to cement solidarity and friendship

HANOI, 8 Jan—President of the Vietnam Fatherland Front Huynh Dam said here on Thursday that Vietnam always attaches importance to intensifying solidarity and friendship with India.

Dam made the statement at the talks with President of India-Vietnam Solidarity Committee Geetesh Sharma who heads the Indian delegation to attend the ongoing international conference on Vietnamese literature held here.

Dam expressed his hope that the India-Vietnam Solidarity Committee will be a bridge to connect solidarity and friendship between Vietnamese people and Indian people and international community as a whole. India will play a key role in promoting close cooperation among countries in the world for peace and friendship.

Geetesh Sharma expected that cooperation between India and Vietnam will be further elevated, especially in culture, journalism and communication. This will contribute to strengthening the traditional friendship relations between the two countries.—*Xinhua*

Italy to test first body scanners in three Airports

ROME, 8 Jan—Italian Interior Minister Roberto Maroni and Transport Minister Altero Matteoli announced on Thursday that the first body scanners will be tested in at least three Airports within two to three months maximum. The new anti-terror measures will address heightened security concerns following the failed Christmas bomb attack on a US plane.

The decision was taken during an air security special meeting, attended as well by the chief of the country's Civil Aviation Authority (ENAC) Vito Riggio. Scanners will be installed at Rome's Fiumicino airport, Milan's Malpensa hub and at Venice airport. Some 10 scanners are expected to be purchased by ENAC, which has already allocated 2 million euros (about 2.86 million US dollars). "The government believes air safety is a priority and the right to life comes before anything else.

It is superior to that of privacy," said Maroni, who guaranteed, however, that security measures in Italian airports had already been tightened.

Xinhua

A helicopter belonging to China Shanghai rescue team is on a rescue operation drilling in Shanghai on 7 Jan, 2010. Two such helicopters were imported and will be put into service during the Shanghai Expo. —XINHUA

All Items from Xinhua News Agency

Photo taken on 7 Jan shows a worker presenting a birthday cake to the long-life penguin(R2). China's Harbin Polar Museum celebrates birthday for a 27-years-old South Pole penguin.—XINHUA

Blasts in Japanese chemical plant injures five

TOKYO, 8 Jan—Blasts at a chemical plant in Japan's Yokohama on Thursday have left five people injured, local fire department officials said.

The explosions occurred at around 5:45 pm and 6 pm at the Japan Carlit Co plant in Yokohama's Kanazawa Ward, according to the officials. It was not immediately known how serious the injuries were, according to *Kyodo News.*

Xinhua

Magnitude-4.1 earthquake hits US Silicon Valley

SAN FRANCISCO, 8 Jan—An earthquake measuring 4.1 on the Richter scale rocked the Silicon Valley area in the United States on Thursday morning, the US Geological Survey (USGS) reported.

According to information posted on the USGS website, the quake occurred at 10:09 am local time and was centered 10 kilometres from Milpitas, a Silicon Valley city in the US state of California.

The quake was followed by a series of aftershocks ranging in magnitude from 1.5 to 2.2. KCBS radio and other local media reported that the tremor was felt in many parts in the Silicon Valley and as far as in San Francisco.—*Xinhua*

Flights canceled, schools closed as major snowstorm hits Chicago area

CHICAGO, 8 Jan—More than 500 flights have been cancelled, more than 150 schools closed and numerous spin-out accidents reported on expressways on Thursday morning as a major snowstorm moved across the Chicago area.

According to the US National Weather Service, anywhere from 7to 12 inches of snow is expected by the time the winter storm warning expires on Friday morning. Lingering snowfall through the weekend could leave a total of 13 to 15 inches along the lake from the Wisconsin to Michigan borders by Saturday, the weather service said.

The snow is expected to be light and fluffy, not the heavy, wetkind that induces snow-shoveling heart attacks. The heaviest snows are expected in the city of Chicago, extending to the north. As of 7:30 am local time, more than 400 flights had been canceled at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport and 100 flights scrubbed at Chicago's Midway Airport. —*Xinhua*

Fog disrupts air and rail services in Indian capital

NEW DELHI, 8 Jan—For the second day in a row, dense fog affected air and rail services in the Indian national capital on Friday, disrupting the schedule of at least 40 domestic flights and 15 international flights, and delaying some 50 trains, a senior government official said.

"Fog has played havoc with air and rail traffic affected after zero visibility conditions were witnessed early in the morning. Six domestic flights had been cancelled at India Gandhi International Airport, with nearly 40 domestic flights and some 15 international flights also being delayed," said the official.

Due to unavailability of parking bays as schedules of many flights were disrupted, several international flights waited for almost two hours on taxiways after landing before they were able to park and have their passengers disembark, said the official. Meanwhile at least seven trains have been cancelled due to poor visibility and more than 50 delayed, according to the official.

Dense fog, accompanied by cold waves, claimed the lives of at least 10 people and injured some 40 others due to three rail accidents in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh early this week. —*Xinhua*

A security officer examines a computer screen showing a scan from a RapiScan full-body scanner, being trialled by Manchester Airport, during a photocall at the airport, in Manchester, northern England on 7 January, 2010.
INTERNET

China's Hanvon debuts new eBook products for US market

LAS VEGAS, 8 Jan—Chinese eBook giant Hanvon on Thursday unveiled an array of new products for the US market, including more than 10 eBook readers and electromagnetic touch tablet devices, at the International Consumer Electronics Show (CES).

A world leader in handwriting recognition technology, Optical Character Recognition (OCR) and Biometric Recognition related products, Hanvon is a leading eBook reader manufacturer in the world, both under its own brand and as an Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM).

Hanvon's 25-year history in handwriting and electromagnetic technology has allowed it to develop a wide range of software and hardware solutions for partners and consumers worldwide, said Hanvon's officials.

Debuting at the CES, which kicked off on Thursday, Hanvon's WISE reader eBook readers will be available in five, six, eight and 9.7 inch displays, and come in a wide range of categories.

Hanvon's own electromagnetic touch tablet technology allows users to make annotations directly on the eBook page and save them on the device in clear handwriting and detailed annotations.

Xinhua

Japan's imported auto sales rise in Dec, hit 21-year low

TOKYO, 8 Jan—The number of vehicles produced by foreign manufacturers newly registered in Japan in December 2009, increased by 7.5 percent from a year earlier to 18,762 units, according to a report released on Friday by the Japanese Association of International Automobiles (JAIA).

However sales of imported vehicles in Japan for the year plummeted 18.6 percent from the previous year, marking a 21-year low of 178,527 units, as consumer demand slumped amid economic distress, analysts indicated. German automaker Volkswagen remained the top-selling imported vehicle brand in Japan last year, with the Golf and the Polo models being its two top sellers.

Volkswagen captured 21.24 percent of Japan's imported vehicle market with sales totaling 37,928 units, down 16.7 percent from a year earlier, according to the report.

Xinhua

Brazil announces emergency aid to storm-hit regions

RIO DE JANEIRO, 8 Jan—The Brazilian government announced on Thursday an emergency aid of 130 million reais (74.7 million US dollars) to towns in the country's southeastern region recently hit by storms.

A total of 80 million reais (45.97 million dollars) will be distributed to Angra dos Reis, a coastal city in the southwest of Rio de Janeiro state, where mudslides left 52 dead on New Year's Day and destroyed houses, said Minister of National Integration Geddel Vieira Lima. The town, a beach resort, has already seen a reduction in tourism revenues. Another 50 million reais (28.73 million dollars) will be allocated to six towns in Rio's metro area, in which another 22 people died because of flood-related disasters.—*Xinhua*

Venezuela registers highest inflation in L America in 2009

CARACAS, 8 Jan—Venezuela registered a 25.1 percent inflation in 2009, the highest rate in Latin America, the Central Bank of Venezuela (BCV) said on Thursday.

The accumulated variation of the consumer price index in 10 major cities of the country last year was some 5 percentage points less, compared with a year earlier. The index had an inter-monthly variation of 1.7 percent, lower than the figure of 2.6 percent in December 2008. According to the BCV, in Caracas, capital of Venezuela, the costs rose 26.9 percent and in Maracay, capital of Aragua state the yearly inflation rate was 27.1 percent. In the rest of the country the yearly average was 23.3 percent. With these figures, Venezuela had the highest inflation rate in Latin America. In Argentina, the yearly inflation rate was 15 percent, in Uruguay 5.9 percent, in Bolivia 4.5 percent, in Brazil4.5 percent, in Costa Rica 4.05 percent, in Peru 2.2 percent and in Colombia 2 percent.—*Xinhua*

Israeli frozen in ice emerges into New Year

An HYPERLINK "http://uk.news.yahoo.com/fc/israel.html" *Israeli* illusionist gave an icy reception to the New Year, emerging at midnight from 66 hours in an 8-tonne block of ice, breaking the record of American magician David Blaine.

Hezi Dean, 29, had himself sealed into a specially constructed transparent ice cube in Tel Aviv's Rabin Square, where he apparently stayed for nearly three days wearing just jeans and a thin T-shirt.

At the stroke of the New Year, assistants cut open the ice block and removed a weak-looking Dean, taking him straight to a waiting ambulance, according to an *AFP* photographer.

His condition was not immediately clear.

Some 200 onlookers celebrated the arrival of the new decade with Dean, many of the them carrying signs — from the encouraging "Hezi the great," to the more practical "Don't die Hezi Dean."

Dean had been attempting to break the record of David Blaine, who spent 63 hours in a similar ice cube in New York's Times Square in 2000.

Israeli frozen in ice emerges into New Year

False fire alarms cost NZ taxpayers $18 m a year

More than a quarter of all firecall-outs in the past financial year to June in New Zealand were false alarms, at a cost to taxpayers of up to 25 million NZ dollars (18 million US dollars).

Figures released on Wednesday under the Official Information Act showed of the 73,512 jobs the Fire Service attended, firefighters turned back from 20,373, the *New Zealand Herald* newspaper reported.

The majority of false alarms — 41 percent —came from the Auckland region, where up to 74 percent of all calls to central city stations turned out to be false alarms.

Wellington had the second-largest number of false alarms (15 percent) followed by Canterbury (12 percent).

A fire service call-out costs an average 1,250 NZ dollars, though a percentage of that amount is often reclaimed in fines.

The figures include bomb scares, excess smoke from a fire and alarm activations.

NEWS ALBUM

Berlin's favorite polar bear Knut, right, plays with his female companion Giovanna at the snow-covered zoo in the German capital. Zoo director Bernhard Blaszki said most animals can still roam outdoors in sub-zero temperatures — but not if the mercury were to drop to around minus 10 degrees Celsius. Blaszki said polar bears, however, are immune to the weather. "It doesn't matter whether it's snowing or the sun is shining — polar bears are always happy," he said.

Awoman uses a sled with her kids in snow in Berlin of Germany.

Cats spent 5 1/2 days trapped in wall

A Texas woman said her three cats spent 5 1/2 days trapped in the walls of her apartment after maintenance workers performed repairs.

Jackie Tucker said maintenance crews removed mold from her closet wall while she was out of town and she returned to her Austin apartment to find her cats, Luna, Harley and Mustang, were trapped inside the walls, KXAN-TV, Austin, reported on recently. Tucker said workers returned and removed a few inches of the wall and the cats eventually wandered out once they felt comfortable enough to emerge.

However, Tucker's cats are facing further problems as Ranier Property Management officials told her she did not have permission to have the felines in her apartment. "If she wanted to keep all three cats," Ranier Vice President Kathy Hull said. "She could not stay with us. Tucker said she does not want to remain in her apartment, as the workers freeing the cats uncovered more mold in her walls.

"In the way, the cats getting in there is kind of a blessing," she said.

Kyaik-hti-yoe, a pagoda on the hermit's head

Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

Myanmar, the land of pagodas, has many sites and places where pagodas are located usually and unusually. They are found on the ground, on hillocks, on mountain summits, on islet, on island, in lake, in mid-stream, on rock in the sea, on river bank, on sandbank, in cave, in tunnel and underground. But the most unusual among them is a pagoda built on a rocking stone boulder on the precipices of a mountain summit. It is a world renowned pagoda named "Kyaik-hti-yoe".

Kyaik-hti-yoe Pagoda stands on a literally rocking monolith of quite a huge size on the top of a mountain called Paung Laung range with a height of 3615 feet above sea level, situated in Kyaikto Township, Thaton District, Mon State in Myanmar. Because of its strange phenomenon, Kyaik-hti-yoe lures pilgrims and visitors from all directions of the world.

Legends woven around this pagoda and associated religious edifices in its vicinity are beyond scientific explanation. The history of the pagoda on this rocking stone goes for back to the life time of Gotama Buddha (B.C. 588-543) in the Maha Sakarit year 111 (B.C. 581) when Gotama Buddha had attained the 8th year of his Buddha-hood, a saint monk Gavampati, one of his disciples, invited the Buddha to his native land Suvannabhumi (Thaton) for preaching Dhamma. Two hermit brothers Tissa and Siha and the then Mon king Tissadhamma Siha Raja and his people, after hearing the Dhamma became Buddhists. They entreated the Buddha to leave his representations to worship and venerate. The Buddha offered strands of hair from his head to them. One of the recipients of the sacred hair relic was Hermit Tissa. Though other recipients had enshrined their share of sacred hair relics in the stupas, Hermit Tissa kept his in his hair knot. When he reached the ripe age and was about to die, he wished to enshrine the sacred relic hair in a stone which resembled his head. Sakko Deva (Thunder God) tried to help him by bringing up from the ocean bottom stones which might look like his head. Finally the hermit chose the one which he though was shaped exactly like his head. Sakko Deva placed the chosen stone on a high precipitious rocky mountain. A hole was drilled in the centre of the stone to a depth of over 3 cubits and a diameter of 6 inches. The sacred hair relic from the hair knot of the hermit was placed in an emerald-studded gold casket which was enshrined in the hole. In the Maha Sakarit year [Buddhist Era 114 (B.C. 574)] King of Thaton built a stupa on the enshrined hole. Since then, the stupa came to be known as "Kyaik-hti-yoe" meaning the pagoda on a rock shaped like the head of a rishi (hermit) Kyaik-hti-yoe is a derivative.

According to this legend, Kyaik-hti-yoe is now over 2750 years old. Over these long years the Pagoda fell into oblivion and was swallowed up by wild vegetation. In Kawza Sakarit 1185 (Myanmar Era, 1823 A.D) the governor of Sittaung town, Min Hla Thin Kha Thu discovered the pagoda. Since then, the pagoda has attracted pilgrims and visitors from far and near to venerate it, to marvel at its precarious position, as well as to enjoy the thrill of reaching the destination after a long arduous journey of hiking and mountaineering 33 forested hills.

Starting with King Bayint Naung of Hamsavadi successive Myanmar kings had put a new hti (umbrella like crown) on the pagoda. The original stupa was 13 feet and 8 inches high and the hti was 18 feet. In the Kawza Sakarit 1362 (2003 A.D) on 19 March a new hti of gold weighing 9 viss and 32 tickals and 10 feet and 9 inches high was put on the pagoda by the government. The pagoda was raised to 22 feet and 5 inches and was strengthened. In the three relic chambers were enshrined 3708 pieces of jewelleries and 1279 pieces of gold ornaments weighing 10 viss and 41 tickals all donated by devotees at home and abroad.

The boulder is a granite monolith, 26.75 feet high, 84 feet wide, weighing 611.75 tons. Its rests precariously on the top of a cliff of 83 cubits high and over 55 cubits wide with a vertically deep precipice down below. The rocky floor of the cliff is not even. It is high inward and it slides down outward. The boulder juts out 5 feet. The area where the boulder and the top of the cliff meet is also uneven and limited. It is only 7.69 square feet. They are of tow different types of stone. Besides, the cliff and the main mountain are naturally separated by a deep gap which is crossed over by a man made wooden bridge.

You can rock the boulder. Under the untouched space between the boulder and the cliff a hen can go in and rest comfortably. To test that the boulder and the cliff top are separate, you may put a rope or string under the boulder from one side and pull it out from the other side, or two persons, each holding one end of the string can swing it under the boulder.

Out in the open, on the top of a cliff in the remote forest weathering all climates, storms, and rain, and withstanding all natural disasters, this rocking boulder has mysteriously remained in its original position through centuries.

Questions are raised to explain this strange phenomenon scientifically. Is it a piece from a falling meteor? Is it a piece thrown out from the depth of earth by a volcanic eruption? Is it a piece left on the edge of this cliff by the tide when the sea receded? Is it a stone placed there for worship by pre-historic men as in the case of stone hinge in England? Why does not lightning strike it? Why does not forest fire consume it? Why it does not fall down from rain, storm or earthquake? Perhaps there is magnetic power in the boulder and the cliff?

The above questions crop up, as you gaze in awe at this shaky monolith on this precipitious cliff, at anytime of the day or night in any month of the year. There are strange rock formations in the vicinity but nothing of this sort.

All round developments have provided many facilitates to this pagoda. With motor roads, hotels, rest houses, wayside inns, restaurants as well as residences for monks and nuns. There is a helicopter pad on a range nearby.

The festive period to visit Kyaik-hti-yoe Pagoda begins on the fullmoon day of Thidinkyut (October) and ends on the fullmoon day of Kason (May) a long period of 7 months covering the cold and warm seasons of the country. But even in the peak of monsoon, pilgrims and visitors do go to pay homage to this pagoda.

Kyaikto, a town where railroad and motor road running between Yangon and Mawlamyine meet is the starting point to go up to Kyaik-hti-yoe. The distance by car from Kyaikto to Kin-pun station is 9 miles (144 km). From Kin-pun station to Yathay Taung station is 7 miles and 5 furlongs and from there to the pagoda platform is one mile and 4 furlongs, totalling 9 miles. It is an exacting and hair-raising up-hill car road with many u-twists and u-turns. Only specially trained drivers, driving specially geared and braked cars run the ferry services. No other cars are allowed on this uphill-downhill journey.

For hikers, mountaineers and adventure lovers 7.4 miles (12 km) uphill-downhill foot path awaits them. From Kin-pun station to the pagoda platform they have to climb 33 steep mountains and pass 17 stations. There are wayside inns where you may take an overnight rest. If you legs betray you during this arduous uphill journey, get on to a makeshift litter of bamboo borne on the shoulder by two stout local men, one at the front one at the rear who will take you to the pagoda platform and you pay them liberally for their hand labour.

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Foreign Heads of Government send messages of felicitations to Myanmar Prime Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Jan—*The following are messages of felicitations from foreign Heads of Government sent to General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar on the occasion of the 62nd Anniversary Independence Day.*

From Prime Minister Ms. Sheik Hasina of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Excellency,

On the joyous occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, on behalf of the people and Government of Bangladesh and on my own behalf, it gives me great pleasure to convey to you and the people of Myanmar, our heartiest felicitations and warmest greetings.

Bangladesh attaches very high importance to her relations with Myanmar. The close bonds of friendship that exist between our countries is a matter of great satisfaction for us. I believe there is tremendous potential to further expand and deepen our relations through enhanced cooperation in the many areas of mutual interest including trade, investment, infrastructure development, culture and tourism. We are committed to making all-out efforts for forging stronger partnership for mutual benefit of our two peoples.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh of the Republic of India

Excellency,

On the occasion of the Independence Day of Myanmar, it gives me great pleasure to convey my warmest felicitations and best wishes to Your Excellency and to the people of Myanmar.

India and Myanmar share a centuries old tradition of friendship. It is a matter of satisfaction that our countries have been able to build on this strong foundation for our mutual benefit. I am confident that the close cooperation which exists between our countries will be further strengthened and diversified in the years to come.

Please accept, Excellency, my best wishes for your personal well being and for the continued prosperity of the friendly people of Myanmar.

With assurances of my highest consideration.

From President H.E. Mr. Felipe Calderon Hinojosa of theUnited Mexican States

On behalf of the people and the Government of Mexico, I have the high honour to convey to Your Excellency, our warmest regards on the occasion of the National Day of the Union of Myanmar.

I wish that the bonds of friendship that exist between Mexico and Myanmar continue developing with understanding and cooperation.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Prime Minister Mr. Syed Yusuf Eaza Gilani of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Excellency,

On behalf of the Government and people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and on my own behalf, I have great pleasure in extending to Your Excellency our sincere greetings and warm felicitations on the auspicious occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

Pakistan and Myanmar enjoy cordial and cooperative relations. I am confident that the friendly ties between our two countries would be further strengthened in the years to come.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest considerations. —*MNA*

YIEPHS holds annual meeting, prize presentation ceremony

***Pro-Rector Dr Pyae Thein presents prize to 3-distinction winner Maung Thiha Shwe of Grade-9 at the 42nd annual meeting of Parent-Teacher Association of Yangon Institute of Education Practising High School held in conjunction with prize presentation ceremony.*—MNA**

YANGON, 8 Jan — The 42nd annual meeting of Parent-Teacher Association of Yangon Institute of Education Practising High School was held in conjunction with prize presentation ceremony at Pyinnya Beikman Hall of the school yesterday morning.

After saluting the State Flag, the Rector (In-charge) of Yangon Institute of Education made an opening address.

Next, the headmaster gave accounts on all-round development of the school.

Then officials presented prizes to outstanding students who passed the matriculation examination and eighth standard examination with flying colours for 2008-09.

In the afternoon, the 42nd annual meeting of PTA and prize presentation ceremony for outstanding students who passed the ninth standard examination with flying colours followed. The rector and the headmaster spoke on the occasion.

Then annual report of the executive committee and annual financial report was approved and new executive members for 2009-10 were selected.

The ceremony ended after prize presentation ceremony.—*MNA*

***School girls performing a dance at the 42nd annual meeting of Parent-Teacher Association of Yangon Institute of Education Practising High School held in conjunction with prize presentation ceremony.*—MNA**

EC of Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association holds meeting

YANGON, 8 Jan—The Executive Committee Meeting 2/2010 of Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association was held at the office tower of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Lanmadaw Township here yesterday afternoon.

Vice-Chairman of the association U Kyaw Myint (Shwe Myinbyan Gold Refinery) gave an opening speech. Secretary U Kyaw Win (U Hton Goldsmith) submitted the minute of the previous meeting and sought the approval. The meeting discussed the change of gold price. Responsible persons of the association from States and Divisions reported on their respective sectors.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the vice-chairman of the association.—*MNA*

Geotechnical Engineering Course on 15 January

YANGON, 8 Jan—The Geo-engineering Committee of the Myanmar Geosciences Society will open the Geotechnical Engineering Course No. 2 for Level-1 on 15 January.

The internationa lly recognized certificate course will last three months.

The graduates of BSc (Geology), BSc Engg (Gem & Gem Mining) and BTech/BE (Civil or Mining) may attend the course. Those wishing to attend the course may contact the association at Room 303, MES Building, Hline Township, Tel: 571673~6, Ext: 501, U Win Naing Tun, Tel: 095196758, U Aung Myat Kyaw, Tel: 095162169 and U Aye Lwin, Tel: 095006258.

MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin visits Ngwechi-6 long staple cotton purchase centres

Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin visits Ngwechi-6 long staple cotton purchase centres.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Jan—Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin visited cotton purchase centres of Ministry of Industry-1 in Myaukmyeik village-tract in Tatkon Township Nay Pyi Taw District this morning.

First, the commander and party visited cotton purchase centre No.2 of Myanmar Textile Industries of Ministry of Industry-1. They then went to vegetable gardens of Kyarthaeai village-tract in Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon Township and viewed display of vegetables of the garden. Later, they viewed vegetable gardens along the bank of Sinthae creek and cordially greeted local people.

MNA

Commander attends opening ceremony of Yangon Expo' 2010

YANGON, 8 Jan—A ceremony to open Yangon Expo' 2010 was held at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall in Dagon Township here this morning, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Win Myint.

The Commander and officials cut a ribbon to open the ceremony.

Then, the commander and guests viewed the booths displayed at the Expo'.

MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Win Myint views booths at the opening of Yangon Expo' 2010.—MNA

Supercool retreated tyre of Kyi Brothers Industries Co Ltd at Yangon Expo' 2010.—UMFCCI

EP-1 Ministry, DUHD sign MoU on Hydropower projects

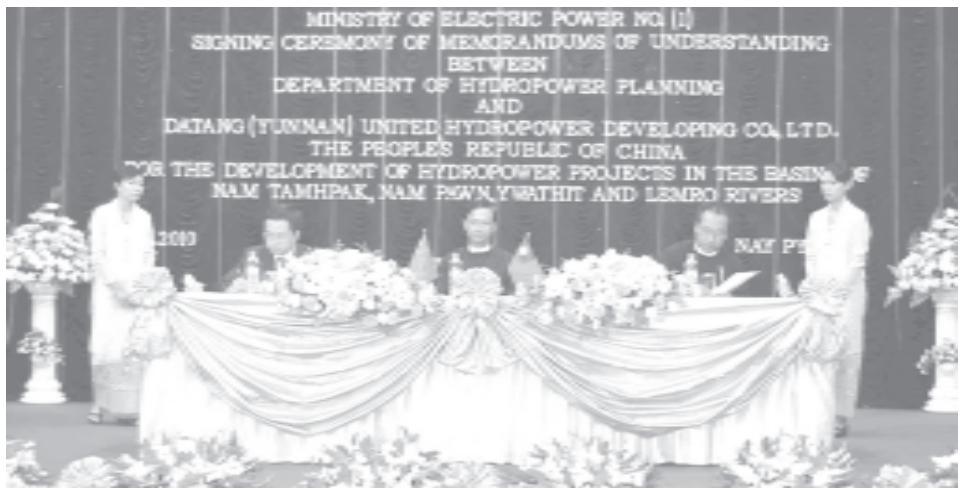
NAY PYI TAW, 8 Jan—Minister for Electric Power No. (1) Col Zaw Min received President Mr. Jiang Jianping of Datang (Yunnan) United Hydropower Developing Co., Ltd (DUHD) of the People's Republic of China at the Ministry here yesterday.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister U Myo Myint, Directors-General, Managing-Directors and officials of Departments and Corporations under the Ministry, Chief Economic Mr. Wu Jing and personnel of DUHD. At the meeting, the two sides discussed the matters related to hydropower projects in Myanmar.

After the meeting, the Hydropower Planning Department under the Ministry of Electric Power No.(1) and DUHD signed MoU at the ministry in the presence of Minister Col Zaw Min. The director-general of the Hydropower Planning Department and Mr Wu Jing, Chief Economic of DUHD inked the MoU and exchanged the documents.

Also present at the signing ceremony were Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Attorney-General U Aye Maung, deputy ministers, directors-general, managing directors of the departments under the ministry, President Mr Jiang Jiangping of DUHD and officials concerned.

MNA



Signing ceremony of MoU between Hydropower Planning Department of the Ministry of Electric Power No. (1) and Datang (Yunnan) United Hydropower Development Co. Ltd of the PRC in progress.—MNA

Special criminal appeal cases heard

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Jan—The Special Appellate Bench comprising Deputy Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (Nay Pyi Taw) U Htun Htun Oo, Supreme Court Judges of the Supreme Court (Mandalay) U San Tint Yi and U Sein Hlaing sitting at court room No. 1 of the Supreme Court (Nay Pyi Taw) delivered judgment of (5) special criminal appeal cases and (5) special civil appeal cases. And then heard (4) special criminal appeal cases under Section 7 of the Judiciary Law, 2000, on 8 January, 2010.—*MNA*

Officials of MWEA leave for India

YANGON, 8 Jan—Executive Daw Zar Zar Htay of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association and member Daw Phyu Phyu Myint Naing left here for India by air on 1 January to attend Entrepreneurship & Small Business Promotion Course to be conducted at Entrepreneurship Development Institute Ahmedabad from 4 January to 12 February under the programme of Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India. They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by founder of MWEA advisor Retd Professor Daw Yi Yi Myint, vice-presidents Daw Thet Yi and Daw Nu Nu Yi and officials.

MNA

Socio-economic life of farmers in Danubyu Township improving

Byline & Photos: *Tin Win Lay (Kyimyindine)*

(from page 1)

Then we interviewed a farmer from Yoegyi village, Negyi village-tract who said "I came to repay the loan. I grew 50 acres of monsoon paddy last year. The company not only lent agricultural loan but provided cash for necessities."

We next went to crowded place at the other side of the football pitch where farmers were test-driving the power tillers. The company so far has sold over K 90 million worth power tillers to farmers by installment.

The agricultural sector of the nation is in process of transition from manual to mechanized farming. Due to cooperation of national entrepreneurs' companies with the government, it has been able to produce high quality rice, beans and pulses. And doubtlessly the socio-economic life of farmers will also improve following exportation of high quality agricultural produce.

Translation: TKK

Kyemon (8-12-2009)

*****

"We hope the socio-economic life of farmers will improve."

U Chit Khaing
President
Gold Delta Co Ltd

Nay Pyi Taw Pobbathiri Township turns increasing attention to Ngwechi (6) long staple cotton

Byline: *Nyi Nyi Tun (MNA);* Photos: *Htein Nan Naw (MNA)*

Farmers observing thriving cotton plants.

(from page 16)

Now, Nay Pyi Taw Pobbathiri Township is successful in growing Ngwechi (6) long staple cotton with advanced agricultural methods under the guidance of the Head of State and close supervision of Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin. In meeting with local farmers from 23 village-tracts at Plot No (1613) near Yazathingaha Roundabout in Htangon, Nyaungbingyi Village-tract, Nay Pyi Taw Pobbathiri Township, on 18 November 2009, Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin called for extensive cultivation of Ngwechi (6) long staple cotton for higher incomes.

Farmers observing pesticides and fertilizers.

A thriving Ngwechi (6) strain long staple cotton plantation.

According to some local farmers, running an acre of Ngwechi (6) long staple cotton costs over 120,000 kyats, and the profit from the farm may be over one million kyats. And if the farm is run with workers, the cost is about 250,000 kyats and the profit is about over 900,000 kyats.

The Cotton and Sericulture Division is now distributing seeds of Ngwechi (6) strain long staple cotton and pamphlets on agricultural methods to farmers. Now, the townships in Nay Pyi Taw Division are growing Ngwechi (6) strain long staple cotton on a commercial scale.

Therefore, cotton farmers are urged to turn more attention to Ngwechi (6) strain long staple cotton for higher incomes and better living standard.

Translation: MS

Kyemon: 26-12-2009

Those at risk should get H1N1 vaccine

ATLANTA, 8 Jan — Public education campaigns should encourage patients at high risk for severe influenza to get vaccinated, US health officials said.

The Centres for Disease Control and Prevention's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report released Thursday said it is important that medical providers offer early anti-viral therapy for children under age 2 and to patients with underlying risk conditions.

In addition to young children and pregnant women, those at most risk of H1N1 include those with:

—Asthma.
—Disorders of the brain, spinal cord, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, stroke, intellectual disability, muscular dystrophy, or spinal cord injury.
—Chronic lung disease.
—Heart disease and blood disorders such as sickle cell disease.
—Diabetes mellitus.
—Kidney disorders
-- Liver disorders.
—Weakened immune system due to disease, medication, HIV, AIDS, or cancer.
—People under age 19 who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy.
—People with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Last spring, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene found of the first 99 patients hospitalized with H1N1, 59 percent were age 17 or younger and 74 percent had one or more underlying medical condition that increase risk of complications from influenza, putting them at greater risk for developing severe illness. Among hospitalized patients, 48 percent had asthma and some 60 percent of adults and 18 percent of children were obese, the report said.

Internet

A Hannspree polar bear television is displayed during a media preview for the 2010 International Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas on 5 January, 2010. The show runs 7-10 January. — XINHUA

Body scanners: Little biological effect

RESTON, 8 Jan — Radiation researchers say they have no evidence the full body scans the US government is adopting for airport security could harm travelers.

The Transportation Security Administration is in the process of increasing the use of whole body scanners at security checkpoints in U.S. airports. The scanners produce anatomically accurate images of the body and can detect objects and substances concealed by clothing.

A statement by the American College of Radiology says an airline passenger flying cross-country is exposed to more radiation from the flight than from screening by one of the two devices deployed by TSA.

TSA has deployed two types of scanning systems:

— Millimeter wave technology uses low-level radio waves in the millimeter wave spectrum. Two rotating antennae cover the passenger from head to toe with low-level radiofrequency energy.

— Backscatter technology uses extremely weak X-rays delivering less than 10 microRem of radiation per scan — the radiation equivalent one receives inside an aircraft flying for 2 minutes at 30,000 feet.

The National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurement has reported a traveler would need to experience 2,500 backscatter scans per year to reach what they classify as a negligible individual dose. The American College of Radiology say it agrees with this conclusion.

The radiology group encourages those interested in learning more regarding radiation associated with imaging and radiation oncology procedures as well as radiation naturally occurring in the Earth's atmosphere to visit www.radiologyinfo.org.

Internet

Surgery seems to help serious sinusitis

PORTLAND, 8 Jan — Endoscopic sinus surgery may be of help to some sinusitis patients, US researchers suggest.

Dr Timothy Smith of Oregon Health & Science University and colleagues found more than 76 percent of patients with chronic rhinosinusitis experienced significant quality of life improvements after undergoing endoscopic sinus surgery.

The researchers tracked 302 patients with chronic rhinosinusitis from three medical centers between July 2004 and December 2008 for approximately one-and-a-half years postoperatively.

The study authors note that several previous studies have reported improvement in the large majority of patients undergoing this surgery but these studies had retrospective data collection, unvalidated outcomes, limited sample sizes or other limitations.

Internet

Fake drugs getting more sophisticated

ATLANTA, 8 Jan — Those who make counterfeit prescriptions are using new tactics to get a piece of the estimated $75-billion market in knockoffs drugs, US researchers say.

An article in Chemical & Engineering News says counterfeiting ploys include embracing the same technology that pharmaceutical companies use to identify their products as genuine.

Sarah Everts, associate editor of Chemical & Engineering News, said today's fake drugs do not just look like the real thing, they may contain small amounts of real active ingredients like pain relievers such as acetaminophen to thwart testers or fool patients into thinking they're getting better.

Sometimes bogus pills contain unexpected drugs, such as Viagra found in counterfeit malaria medicine, but fake drugs may also contain toxic ingredients. Counterfeit cough medicines killed hundreds of people in Nigeria, Panama and Bangladesh in recent years, the article says.—*Internet*

Doctor: Obese limit pregnancy weight

ST LOUIS, 8 Jan — A US doctor challenges the recommended guideline that obese women should gain 11-20 pounds during pregnancy.

Dr Raul Artal, chairman of the department of obstetrics, gynecology and women's health at Saint Louis University in Missouri advises overweight or obese mothers-to-be to eat a nutrient-rich diet of between 2,000-2,500 calories a day, and in some cases, to lose weight. He says overweight or obese women should not gain more than 10 pounds when pregnant.

"Recommending a single standard of weight gain for all obese classes is of concern since higher body mass index levels are associated with more severe medical conditions and have long-term adverse health implications," Artal says in a statement.

Artal writes in a commentary for Obstetrics & Gynecology, that he does not endorse recommendations made by the Institutes of Medicine in Washington — an independent, non-profit organization that provides advice for health decision makers and the public.

"The recently published Institutes of Medicine recommendations for gestational weight gain are virtually identical to those published in 1990 with one exception — obese women are now recommended to gain 11-20 pounds compared to the previous recommendations of at least 15 pounds," Artal says. —*Internet*

Prints on teeth lead to burglary suspect

SEATTLE, 8 Jan — Seattle police said fingerprints on human teeth discovered in a bag on a sidewalk led to a suspect in a string of dental clinic and laboratory burglaries.

King County Deputy Prosecutor Maurice Classen said investigators found fingerprints belonging to Shane Carlson, 26, on human teeth discovered in a bag left on a North Seattle sidewalk in October, *The Seattle Times* reported Thursday.

Internet

A lone cygnet, young swan, defends it's territory against a playful dog on 7 January, 2010, at the lake at Virgina Water, southern England, which has been frozen by the plunging temperatures and severe snow storms of recent days. About 4,000 people were without electricity in southern England Thursdaya and drivers faced difficult journeys on icy roads. Major airports including Heathrow and Gatwick were open, but hundreds of flights were canceled due to snow and ice.—INTERNET

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV XIANG DA VOY NO (1000)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XIANG DA VOY NO (1000) are here by notified that the vessels will be arriving on 9.1.2010 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING (MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (489)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (489) are here by notified that the vessels will be arriving on 9.1.2010 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Critical H1N1 in children unpredictable

BALTIMORE, 8 Jan—A study of 13 children hospitalized with H1N1 found the patients survived but serious complications developed quickly and unpredictably, US researchers say.

Lead investigator Justin Lockman, a pediatric critical-care specialist at Johns Hopkins Children's Center in Baltimore says although all of the 13 children survived, they required a serious need for vigilant monitoring and quick treatment adjustments.

The analysis, published in the journal *Pediatric Critical Care Medicine*, shows that 12 of the 13 very ill children had underlying medical conditions that made them more vulnerable, including sickle cell disease, asthma and human immunodeficiency virus. Complications varied from temporary kidney failure to acute respiratory distress syndrome, dangerously low oxygen levels and dangerously low blood pressure.—*Internet*

ENGAGEMENT

No.(9) 73 Jumonville apt, Gatineau Quebec, J8Z1B9, Canada, daughter of Mr. Pero Pavlovic and Mrs. Nevenka Pavlovic,

MS. ANDREA PAVLOVIC

and

No. (732), Shwe Hninsi 6th Street, Mayangone Township, Yangon son of U Than Win and Daw Su Su Aye,

MAUNG LIN HTET AUNG

have been engaged by their both witnesses's mutual consent.

Both Parent's and
MS. ANDREA PAVLOVIC
MAUNG LIN HTET AUNG

Brazil to distribute 150,000 laptops to 300 schools in 2010

BRASILIA, 8 Jan—Brazil will distribute 150,000 laptops to 300 schools in the country in 2010 through the project "One Laptop per Student", local media reported on Thursday.

The project, which will cost the federal government 82 million reais (47.6 million US dollars), has been stalled since 2008 when products made by Comsat, winner of the government bidding, failed evaluation tests by Brazil's Ministry of Education.

In the government's final appointment, the CCE company, runner-up in the bidding, will replace Comsat and is set to provide the first 3,000 laptops to be used for teachers training in 30 days. Each laptop will cost about 550 reais (319 dollars).

Schools will begin receiving the computers after carrying out training for teachers on notebook use and achieving wireless Internet access.

The project is now carried out in schools in the states of Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Sul, Sao Paulo, Tocantins and the Federal District.—*Xinhua*

Int'l ice sculpture contest concludes in Moscow

MOSCOW, 8 Jan—Sculptors from Russia, Mexico and Japan grabbed medals from the Moscow leg of Russia's first international ice sculpture contest that concluded on Thursday.

Sergey Korolkov from Russia's Ural Autonomous Okrug of Yamalo-Nenets won the first prize with his work "Goddesses of Sun and Moon," which he said was inspired by the ancient myth of goddesses saving the world. The champion said he had worked three days from 10:00 am to 06:00 pm to finish the piece.

Some 11 sculptors from countries and regions including Russia, Mexico, Japan and Bulgaria took part in the four-day event started on Monday. Moscow's freezing temperature provided ideal conditions for their ice-made artwork.—*Xinhua*

Pedestrians wearing masks and mufflers walk in Seoul on 7 Jan, 2010 during this winter's coldest weather so far. Temperatures in Seoul reached 14 degree Celsius (6.8 degree Fahrenheit) on Thursday.—INTERNET

INVITATION FOR TENDER

TENDER NO. BRIDGE/NDN/NPT/2009-2010/ST-005

1. Sealed Tender is invited by Public Works, Ministry of Construction, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar for the supply of **Steel Truss and Accessories** for **AYEYAWADY BRIDGE (NYAUNGDON) Motor-cum- Rail Construction Project** across **Ayeyawady River** on **Yangon-Pathein Road** in **Ayeyawady Division.**
2. Tender application form of **NYAUNGDON BRIDGE** (including Technical Specifications, Terms of Tender, Tender Schedule and Offer Form) can be purchased with USD 3000.
3. The Payment for tender application must be paid to Public Works's Account **No. SEE 01015**, Myanma Economic Bank (2) through Myanma Foreign Trade Bank.
4. The Tender documents can be obtained from Bridge Division, Building No.(11), Public Works, Ministry of Construction, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar only with the Payment Receipt to Myanma Foreign Trade Bank.
5. Tender should be submitted to the above address not later than 16:30 hours on 10th March, 2010.
6. For further detail information, Please contact to Telephone No. 067-407276, 407466.

Managing Director
Public Works

Obesity drug said to reduce sleep apnea

MOUNTAIN VIEW, 8 Jan—US drug-development company Vivus Inc said Thursday a clinical study showed its obesity drug Qnexa helped reduce sleep apnea by increasing weight loss.

Vivus of Mountain View, Calif, said Qnexa — for which it filed for US regulatory approval last week as an obesity treatment — showed it decreased the incidence of sleep apnea events 69 percent.

Patients on the experimental drug also lost more weight than those who took a placebo, and they registered lower blood pressure and higher oxygen levels during sleep.—*Internet*

The ice sculpture that won the first prize in the Moscow contest of the Russian international ice sculpture championships is seen in Moscow, capital of Russia, on 7 Jan, 2010. Sculptors from Russia, Mexico and Japan claimed the top three prizes respectively in the contest.— XINHUA

France police probe 'air theft'

PARIS , 8 Jan — Police are investigating the suspected theft of thousands of euros from Air France business-class passengers as they slept on a Tokyo-to-Paris flight. A pick-pocket is thought to have pinched 4,000 euros (£3,600) from five sleeping passengers on the overnight flight, French newspaper *Le Figaro* reported.

Alerted by the flight's captain, police were waiting at *Paris' Charles de Gaulle* Airport when the flight landed.

No arrests were made but border police said an investigation was underway. While the company took responsibility for any luggage lost from the hold, passengers were responsible for cash and other valuables taken on board, an Air France spokesman was quoted as saying. Air France jets fly between Tokyo and Paris twice daily.

A one-way business class seat on the 12-hour flight can cost as much as £4,700. Typically, the *Boeing 777* carries just under 300 passengers — eight in first class, 64 in business, 26 in premium economy and 194 in economy. — *Internet*

Air France said passengers were responsible for cash on board.
INTERNET

The medical secret behind Mona Lisa's smile?

FLORENCE, 8 Jan — For centuries, art historians have been troubled by Mona Lisa's enigmatic smile — but, according to one doctor, her cholesterol levels were more worrying.

For Dr Vito Franco, from Palermo University, she shows clear signs of a build-up of fatty acids under the skin, caused by too much cholesterol.

He also suggests there seems to be a lipoma, or benign fatty-tissue tumour, in her right eye.

Dr Franco says his medical examinations reveal more than artistic viewings.

"Illness exists within the body, it does not have a metaphysical or supernatural dimension," Dr Franco told *La Stampa* newspaper.

"The people depicted in art reveal their physicality, tell us of their vulnerable humanity, regardless of the artist's awareness of it," he added.

The professor of pathological anatomy at Palermo University presented his finding at a medical conference in Florence.—*Internet*

***Forget the smile — Mona Lisa's eyes reveal a penchant for fatty foods.*—INTERNET**

US Holocaust museum murder suspect dies aged 89

WASHINGTON, 8 Jan — A US white supremacist accused of murdering a guard at Washington DC's Holocaust Memorial museum has died in a prison hospital, officials say. They say James von Brunn, aged 89, died in Butner, North Carolina, where he had been awaiting trial.

Mr von Brunn had been charged with first-degree murder, killing in a federal building and bias-motivated crime over the 10 June attack. He was shot in the face during the incident. Mr von Brunn died shortly before 1300 local time (1800 GMT), Butner prison spokeswoman Denise Simmons was quoted as saying by the *Associated Press. — Internet*

Mobile phone radiation 'protects' against Alzheimer's

Mice were exposed to signals from a centrally-located antenna.
INTERNET

LONDON , 8 Jan — After all the concern over possible damage to health from using mobile phones, scientists have found a potential benefit from radiation.

Their work has been carried out on mice, but it suggests mobiles might protect against Alzheimer's. Florida scientists found that phone radiation actually protected the memories of mice programmed to get Alzheimer's disease.

They are now testing more frequencies to see if they can get better results.

The study by the Florida Alzheimer's Disease Research Centre is published in the *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease*.

Internet

Seven Peruvian children die from rabid bat bites

LIMA, 8 Jan — Seven Peruvian children have died of rabies after being bitten by bats in the northern rainforest of Peru, local media reported on Wednesday. "Apparently, the victims had all the rabies symptoms such as photophobia, hydrophobia, body tension, excessive salivation and spasms," Elias Bohorquez, the regional health director of the northern province of Amazon, was quoted by the newspaper *Peru 21* as saying.

Bohorquez said the confirmation of medical diagnosis had been delayed because the indigenous people rejected autopsies. "The confirmation must be done through an autopsy of the victims' brains, but the natives consider it an insult," the official said. The tragedy happened in the native community of Kigkis, home to important ethnic groups such as the Awajun and Wampis, who usually built their huts with trunks and branches . The shabby huts often leave the inhabitants exposed to bat attacks at night, especially in summer. — *Xinhua*

Dead octopuses wash up on Portuguese beach

LISBON , 8 Jan — What is killing the octopus of Vila Nova de Gaia? That question has obsessed the Portuguese city, located just across the Douro River from Porto, since 2 Jan, when 1,100 lbs. (500 kg) of dead octopus were found on a 1.8-mile (3 km) stretch of local beach.

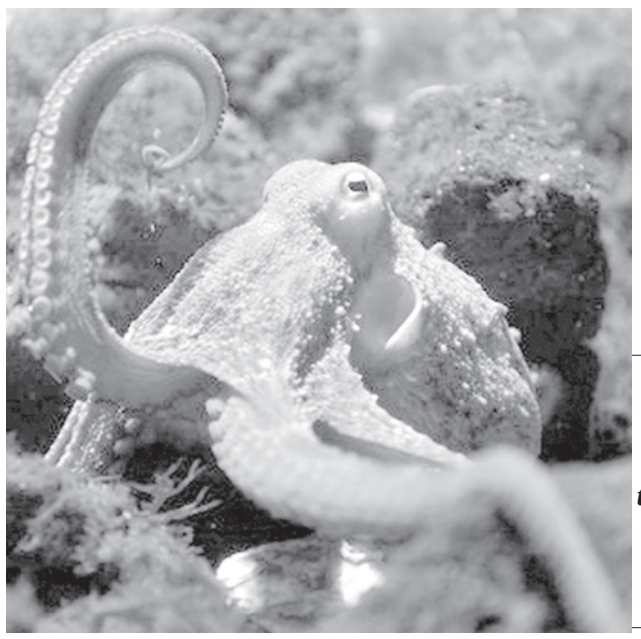
The following day, another 110 lbs (50 kg) appeared; today there was just one expired creature. "It's very strange that so many should be killed, and in such a confined area," says Nuno Oliveira, director of the Gaia Biological Park, a nature refuge on the outskirts of Vila Nova de Gaia. "There's nothing in the scientific literature for this kind of mass mortality among octopus."

Twelve hundred pounds is a lot of dead cephalopod, especially when no one seems to know for sure what killed them. Local biologists have ruled out pollution or contamination because no other species were affected.

And although some suggest that perhaps a boat, illegally fishing the multilegged creatures, threw them overboard in a panicked attempt to avoid detection, that possibility also seems unlikely. "The sea has been very rough," says Oliveira. "No one has been out fishing for days." .

After issuing multiple warnings that no townspeople should take the carcasses home for dinner (boiled octopus — perhaps sprinkled with a touch of paprika — is a Portuguese delicacy), Vila Nova de Gaia's municipal government had firefighters gather up the dead animals; many will now be sent to Lisbon's veterinary lab for testing, a process expected to take up to two weeks.

Internet



A file photo shows an octopus (octopus vulgaris) lifts one of its tentacles in his bassin at the zoo in Basel, Switzerland.
INTERNET

SPORTS

Vieira set for Manchester City move

LONDON, 8 Jan—Inter Milan midfielder Patrick Vieira confirmed on Thursday he is set to complete a dramatic return to English football by joining Manchester City. The former Arsenal captain moved closer to the deal when he underwent a medical on Thursday, ahead of a agreement which it is reported will keep him at the Premier League club until the end of the 2010/2011 season.

"I wanted to go to the World Cup and I need match play," Vieira told French sports channel Infosport of his decision to leave the Italian champions. "It's over, after a year at Turin and three and a half years at Milan," he said. "I have aims and I can't achieve them by staying at Inter where I'm not in favour with the coach. "What's important for me is to go to Manchester City, to show the coach (Roberto Mancini) that I'm the same as the time when he was at Inter. All that will help me to get into the France team."

Patrick Vieira

Vieira was reported to have flown into England on Thursday, having played his last match for Inter Milan - the club where City manager Roberto Mancini was previously in charge - against Chievo on Wednesday. Barring any last minute problems, such as fitness test issues or personal terms, France great Vieira could be confirmed as a City player as early as later on Thursday, although City could hold over any announcement until Friday.—*Internet*

Federer, Nadal advance into Qatar Open semis

ABU DHABI, 8 Jan — World number one Roger Federer struggled over three sets, while number two Rafael Nadal had an easy sail as both reach the Qatar Open semi-finals on Thursday. Federer survived a scare to down 21-year-old Latvian Ernests Gulbis winning 6-2, 4-6, 6-4 to set up showdown against Russian third seed Nikolay Davydenko who beat big-serving Croat Ivo Karlovic 7-6, 7-6.

Switzerland's Roger Federer watches a bouncing ball during his ATP Qatar Open tennis tournament match against Latvia's Ernests Gulbis in Doha on 7 Jan, 2010. — INTERNET

Nadal stayed in shape when Belgium's Steve Darcis retired with an injured back when the Spaniard was leading 6-1, 2-0 in their collision. Nadal will next play Serbia's Viktor Troicki who overcame Poland's Lukasz Kubot 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 "This wasn't the way I wanted to reach the semi-finals. I feel sorry for Darcis and wish him a speedy recovery. I hope he plays in the Australian Open. When you know you aren't well, it's better to stop," said Nadal. The Spaniard said he was back to his best after being plagued by knee and stomach injuries during 2009. "Last month, I had a shoulder problem, but I believe I'm back to my best. I may not serve as fast as Roger or Robin (Soderling), but if I can serve between 190 and 200 kph, that'll be fine."

Xinhua

Henin makes final of comeback WTA tournament

BRISBANE, 8 Jan – Belgium's Justine Henin thrashed third seed Ana Ivanovic 6-3, 6-2 on Friday to reach the final of her first tournament since coming out of an 18-month retirement. Henin, granted a wildcard to play this week's Brisbane International, was ruthless as she disposed of the glamorous Serb in just 65 minutes.

She will now play either compatriot Kim Clijsters or German Andrea Petkovic as she bids to complete a remarkable comeback and win her 42nd title on the WTA tour.

Henin, who retired from the sport in May 2008, looked as though she'd never been away against an increasingly dispirited Ivanovic.

Internet

Justine Henin of Belgium

PGA Tour season gets under way in Hawaii

KAPALUA, 8 Jan – US Open champion Lucas Glover returned to Kapalua and had another miserable start to the first round of a new PGA Tour season. The difference on Thursday was how he finished. Glover recovered from a double bogey on his opening hole by going 9-under par over a nine-hole stretch in the middle of his round. He finished it off with a tap-in birdie for a 7-under 66 on Thursday and a one-shot lead in the season-opening SBS Championship.

The last time he qualified for this winners-only tournament, Glover began his season with four straight bogeys. This time, he hit a weak 4-iron that disappeared into the native shrubs and led to a double bogey. "I was aiming 25 feet left of the hole and hit it 25 feet to the right," he said. "I got what I deserved." He made up for it in a big way.—*Internet*

Giggs promises Manchester United revival

MANCHESTER , 8 Jan—Ryan Giggs has insisted it won't be long before he and his Manchester United team-mates bounce back from their shock FA Cup exit at the hands of third-tier Leeds. Manchester United's 1-0 loss at their Old Trafford home last weekend was one of the most stunning Cup upsets of recent seasons.

But with United second in the Premier League, in the semi-finals of the League Cup and through to the knockout phase of Europe's Champions League, there is every chance of Giggs, English football's most decorated player, adding to his 11 league, two European Cups and two League Cup winners' medals.

Ryan Giggs

"It has always been the same here, one defeat and it is a disaster," Giggs said Thursday on ahead of United's league match against Birmingham on Saturday. "That is never going to change," the Welshman added. "But we don't get carried away with that, just the same as we wouldn't get carried away if we had won 10 on the bounce. It is up to us to work hard and get back to winning ways.

Internet

Arsenal may swap Fabregas for Higuain

MADRID , 8 Jan—Arsenal may be ready to sell Cesc Fabregas to Real Madrid — if they get Argentine star Gonzalo Higuain in return, a Spanish sports newspaper said on Thursday. Arsenal coach Arsene Wenger "is only willing to part with his captain if Real includes Gonzalo Higuain in the deal," said Marca, which did not indicate its sources.

It said Real would prefer to offer Dutch midfielder Rafael Van der Vaart to the London club, and would only release Higuain for 35 million euros, 10 million less than they would pay the Gunners for Fabregas, Marca said. But competition for the 22-year-old Spanish international from bitter rivals Barcelona may force their hand, it said.

In comments on the UEFA website, Higuain said he would like to end his career at Real Madrid, "the team and the city are my second home, and it would be fantastic." Fabregas, Arsenal's top scorer with 12 goals, is under contract with the Gunners until 2014 but his future has been the subject of much speculation this season.—*Internet*

Donovan hopes to revive Everton's season

LIVERPOOL, 8 Jan—American forward Landon Donovan hopes to revive Everton's season during his 10-week stint in the Premier League. Donovan, on loan from the Los Angeles Galaxy during the offseason, could make his debut on Saturday at Arsenal.

"They have a few injuries and need immediate help," the 27-year-old Donovan said Thursday. "The reality is I'm here to do a job and help the team win. I'm not just here to have fun for a few months. What I'm good at is creating chances and that is what I'll try to do here."Stung by injuries to strikers, Everton is 12th in the 20-team standings midway through the season.

"I just like to be a danger to the other team and I think most sides can use a player like that," Donovan said. "Now I have to prove I belong and help score some goals."

Internet

Everton's new loan signing Landon Donovan

United move Hull date to avoid fixture problems

MANCHSETER , 8 Jan—Manchester United have brought forward their Premier League match with Hull at Old Trafford to the new date of Saturday, January 23, it was announced on Thursday. The match had been scheduled for 26 January but was postponed as a knock-on effect of the decision to call-off Wednesday's League Cup semi-final between Manchester City and Manchester United because of spectator travel safety fears caused by the cold spell in Britain.

There is no scheduled Premier League programme on the weekend of 23-24 January as those days have been set aside for FA Cup fourth round ties. But with both United, stunningly beaten by third-tier Leeds, and Hull losing in the third round, the two clubs have a blank date and one that will prove particularly helpful for Sir Alex Ferguson's side ahead of the resumption of their Champions League campaign in February.

Internet

Snow and ice cover microphones at the stakeout position outside the West Wing of the White House, following an overnight dusting in Washington on 8 Jan, 2010.—INTERNET

Three more bodies recovered from capsized boat in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 8 Jan— Another three bodies were recovered on Friday in a search and rescue operation for the missing persons from a capsized Singapore-registered boat.

Eleven crew members were reported missing after the tugboat "Ocean Lark" capsized off Pedra Branca, an outlying island of Singapore, on Wednesday morning.

According to the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA)'s latest update, on Friday, another three bodies were recovered from "Ocean Lark," bringing the total number recovered to seven. Search efforts for the remaining four missing persons are still ongoing.

There were 13 crew members, all Indonesians, onboard the tugboat when it capsized, and two members have been rescued by a passing Singapore supply vessel, about 16 nautical miles east of Horsburgh Lighthouse. The tugboat had left Batam, Indonesia and was heading to Matak, Indonesia, when the incident happened.—*Internet*

MRTV-3
Programme Schedule
(9-1-2010) (Saturday)

Transmissions	Times
Local	- (09:00am~10:00am) MST
Europe	- (19:30pm~21:30pm) MST
North America	- (23:30pm~07:30am) MST

Local Transmission

* Signature Tune
* Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights
* A Journey to the Zalon Mountain
* Marketable Fruits
* National Dance
* A Day in A Farmer's life
* A Memorable Market Day (Inle Khaung Taing)
* Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights

Europe/ North America Transmission

* Signature Tune
* Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights
* A Journey to the Zalon Mountain
* Marketable Fruits
* National Dance
* A Day in A Farmer's life
* Myanmar Modern Song
* A Memorable Market Day (Inle Khaung Taing)
* Songs on Screen
* Sittway with Magnificent Sight
* Myanmar Movies Impact
* Myanmar Traditional Musical Instruments (String Instruments) (Myanmar Harp)
* Myanmar Melody on Screen
* Myanmar Modern Song
* Ancient City, Pakhangyi
* Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

Myanmar TV

Saturday, 9 January
View on today

7:00 am
1. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:10 am
2. မြတ်ဂုဏ်တော်သခင် (သန်းမြတ်စိုးတေးရေး-မောင်မောင်လတ်)

7:25 am
3. To Be Healthy Exercise

7:30 am
4. Morning News

7:40 am
5. ကဗျာပန်းဥယျာဉ်

7:55 am
6. Musical Programme

8:15 am
7. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:30 am
8. International News

8:40 am
9. Crossroads Cafe (Episode-22) (Helping Hands)

11:00 am
1. Martials Song

11:10 am
2. Musical Programme

11:25 am
3. Game For Children

11:50 am
4. Round Up Of The Week's TV Local News

12:50 pm
5. Yan Can Cook

1:00 pm
6. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ဟာသကမ္ဘာ" (အပိုင်း-၆၁)

2:00 pm
7. ရုပ်မြင်ရသတေးစုကဏ္ဍ

2:15 pm
8. လေ့လာစရာစုံလင်စွာ ကျောက်ဖြစ်အင်းကြင်း လိပ်ပြာကမ္ဘာ

2:30 pm
9. Songs Of National Races

2:40 pm
10. International News

3:45 pm
1. Myanmar National League MNL Cup (2009) ဘောလုံးပြိုင်ပွဲ တိုက်ရိုက်ထုတ်လွှင့်မှုအစီအစဉ် (မကွေး FC အသင်း နှင့် ဧယျာဝတီမြေ FC အသင်း)

5:45 pm
2. Musical Programme

6:00 pm
3. Evening News

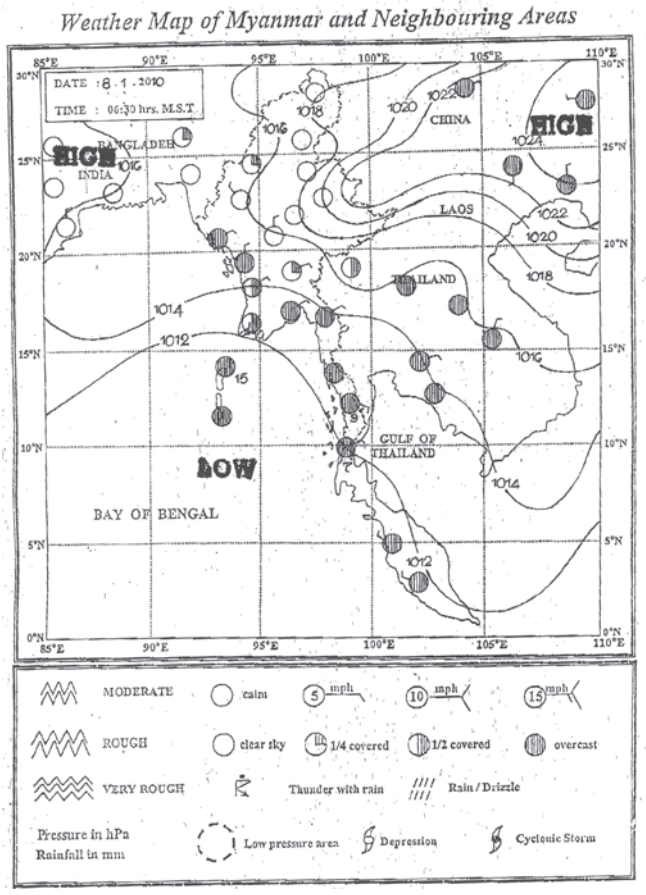
6:15 pm
4. Weather Report

6:20 pm
5. အလှရှာမယ်၊ အလှကမ္ဘာဝယ်

6:40 pm
6. ယဉ်တစ်ကိုယ်မယ် "ယဉ်တစ်ကိုယ်မယ်ရဲ့ ယဉ်တစ်ကိုယ်မယ်"

7:00 pm
7. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "တော်ဝင်နှလုံးသား" (အပိုင်း-၂၂)

8:00 pm
8. News
9. International News
10. Weather Report
11. ကာတွန်းအစီအစဉ် "ဒိုင်နိုဆောမိသားစု စွန့်စားခန်း"(အပိုင်း-၇၅)
12. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "နွေဦးကဗျာချစ်သံသာ" (အပိုင်း-၂၇)
13. ဂီတတံခါးလေးဖွင့်ပါဦး



WEATHER

Friday, 8th January, 2010

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, rain have been fairly widespread in Mon State, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, Scattered in Yangon Division, isolated in Kayin State and Ayeyawady Division and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) below January average temperatures in Northern Shan and Chin States, (6°C) below January average temperatures in upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above January average temperatures in Kayah and Mon States, Magway and Bago Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above January average temperatures in Rakhine State, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and about January average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Loilem (0°C), Namsam (2°C), Lashio, Haka and Mogok (3°C) each. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Zaungtu and Coco Island (0.59) inch, Shwegyin (0.47) inch, Myeik(0.35)inch,Hmawbi (0.32) inch and Kawthaung (0.27) inch.

Maximum temperature on 7-1-2010 was 84°F. Minimum temperature on 8-1-2010 was 60°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 8-1-2010 was 84%. Total sun shine hours on 7-1-2010 was (0.2) hours approx.

Rainfall on 8 -1-2010 was (Tr) at Mingaladon, (Nil) Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2010 was (Tr) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and (Nil) Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Northwest at (15:30) hours MST on 7-1-2010.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 9th January 2010: Rain are likely to be isolated in Mon States, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine and Kayin States, Mandalay, Bago and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of increase of night temperatures in the Lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 9-1-2010: Partly cloudy .

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 9-1-2010: Partly cloudy to cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 9-1-2010: Partly cloudy.

Weather outlook for second weekend of January 2010: During the coming weekend, weather will be partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.

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The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

★ Only with stability and peace will the nation develop

★ Only with stability and peace will democratization process be successful

★ Anarchy begets anarchy, not democracy
★ Riots beget riots, not democracy
★ Democracy can be introduced only through constitution

People's Desire

- We favour peace and stability
- We favour development
- We oppose unrest and violence
- Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence

- VOA, BBC-sowing hatred among the people
- RFA, DVB-generating public outrage
- Do not allow ourselves to be swayed
- By broadcasts designed to cause troubles

Nay Pyi Taw Pobbathiri Township turns increasing attention to Ngwechi (6) long staple cotton

Byline: ***Nyi Nyi Tun (MNA);*** **Photos:** ***Htein Nan Naw (MNA)***

A mature Ngwechi (6) strain long staple cotton plant.

Myanmar, being rich in natural resources and fertile soil, the people have never faced issues on basic needs. The people's basic needs are fulfilled without any difficulties due to surpluses of various crops including rice, cotton species including Ngwechi (6) long staple cotton, and thick forests, and cement plants.

In compliance with the guidance of the Head of State, suitable crops are grown increasingly in states and divisions in order to meet the food demand of the growing population.

Utilizing its rich land and water resources, Myanmar is trying to achieve significant development of all sectors with agriculture as the base.

Myanmar's major crops include rice, pea, corn, cotton and sesame. Now, farming cotton has become a lucrative business.

Cotton is grown mostly in Mandalay, Sagaing, Magway and Bago divisions, especially in Kyaukse, Meiktila, Myingyan and Yamethin districts. Ngwechi (6) strain long staple cotton has become popular among cotton farmers. Ngwechi (6) long staple cotton strain is resistant to pests, and it costs less in spraying pesticide on Ngwechi (6) long staple cotton fields.

The Cotton and Sericulture Division of the Myanma Industrial Crops Development Enterprise under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is now cooperating with farmers in growing cotton for extensive supply of seeds of high-yield cotton strains to them. Last season, cotton farmers got on with farming Ngwechi (6) strain long staple cotton due to its high-yield output.

Cotton farmers have turned to Ngwechi (6) strain long staple cotton this year owing to good characteristics of it. The sown acreage of Ngwechi (6) long staple cotton increased from 648 in 2006-2007 to 21,449 in 2007-2008, and 260,399 in 2008-2009.

The Cotton and Sericulture Division introduced Ngwechi (6) long staple cotton strain to local farmers in Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon Township in 1995-1996. The township launched a trial test putting 30 acres under the high-yield cotton strain in 2006-2007. Making dramatic progress, the township put all the cotton fields under Ngwechi (6) long staple cotton in 2008-2009 and 2009-2010, thereby extending its cotton sown acreage to 7871.

(See page 10)

Significant night temperature (8-1-2010)

Loilem	**(0° C)**
Namsam	**(2° C)**
Lashio	**(3° C)**
Haka	**(3° C)**
Mogok	**(3° C)**