

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

Observance of Union Day every year reflects noble traditions to regain independence and sovereignty through national solidarity

Secretary-1 attends coordination meeting on observance of 62nd Anniversary Union Day

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Jan —A coordination meeting on observance of the 62nd Anniversary Union Day was held at the office of the State Peace and Development Council here this afternoon, with an address by Chairman of Central Committee for Observance of the 62nd Anniversary Union Day Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo.

Also present were members of Central Committee for Observance of the 62nd Anniversary Union Day ministers, the deputy ministers, senior military officers, chairmen of work sub-committees and officials.

In his address, the



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo delivers an address at coordination meeting on observance of 62nd Anniversary Union Day. — MNA

The Union Day is observed with the aim of forging consolidated Union spirit of the people wherever they reside.

Secretary-1 said the meeting was to make arrangements for successful holding of the Union Day ceremony on a grand scale in accord with the noble traditions and national essence.

He said observance

of the Union Day every year reflects the noble traditions to regain independence and sovereignty of the State through national solidarity. The Union Day is observed with the aim of forging consolidated

Union spirit of people

wherever they reside.

He said the Central Committee for Observance of the Union Day and Management Committee have been assigned to successfully hold the 62nd Anniversary Union Day

with full national and political essence.

The meeting was to discuss the implementation of programmes in accord with the national objectives, he added.

He said the management committee and sub-committees are to make arrangements for round trips of Union Day delegates, for the convenience of the delegates during their stay in Nay Pyi Taw, accommodation of the delegates and study tours, health and food.

He called on the officials to successfully carry out the tasks of saluting the State Flag, reading of the message of the Head of State and holding of dinner.

He urged the work

sub-committees to minimize the expenditure allotted for holding of the Union Day ceremony.

The Union Day ceremony has been held in Nay Pyi Taw for three times including the one to be held in 2009.

He called for cooperation for successful holding of the Union Day ceremony with the five national objectives — for all national races to safeguard the national policy-non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty, for all the national races to keep the Union spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people, for all the national

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62nd Anniversary Union Day Objectives

- * For all national races to safeguard the national policy- non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty
- * For all the national races to keep the Union spirit ever alive and dynamic among the national people
- * For all the national races to prevent through the national solidarity, the danger of internal and external destructive elements attempting to undermine peace and stability of the State and the national development
- * For all the national races to make endeavours for building of a new modern developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation in accord with the State Constitution unanimously approved by the people
- * For all the national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-step Road Map

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 7 January, 2009

New transport facilities designed for regional development

In the past, national races could not deal with each other as much as it should due to poor transport as there are a lot of basins, heights and mountain ranges in the nation.

Now, the nation has seen a large number of new roads and bridges intended to overcome natural barriers to transport as a result of onerous efforts the government and the people have exerted in collaboration. Moreover, there has been smooth transport between one region and another along with commercial growth.

Ayeyawady Division has the potential for economic development as it is blessed with favourable conditions to run agricultural farms, fisheries and salt farms on a large scale. In the past, it faced a variety of challenges in the transport sector due to the fact that it is a region of rivers and creeks. Unlike previously, local people of the region have been enjoying fruitful results of smooth transport thanks to new roads and river and creek-crossing bridges emerging one after another.

Thongwachaung Bridge (Kyondainggyi) on Pantanaw-Einme Road in Pantanaw Township was put into commission on 1 January. It is the 217th bridge of above 180 feet long in the nation, and the 44th one in Ayeyawady Division.

The 270 feet long reinforced concrete facility can withstand 60 tons of loads. It will effectively help regenerate the economic, education, health and social sectors of local people of the villages of Myaungmya and Einme townships.

In addition, the government is constructing more and more new roads to form a network of transport facilities in the division. It is, therefore, believed that the region will be on the verge of greater commercial development with a swift commodity flow.

Headmistress of No. 29 Basic Education Primary School Daw Thin Thin Soe presents prize to Ma Aye Hnin Moe who won first prizes for five-consecutive years at School Family Day of the school on 3 January, 2009. —NLM



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

Commander attends meeting to discuss observing National Immunization Days 2009



Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint delivers address at meeting to discuss National Immunization Days for 2009. — MNA

YANGON, 6 Jan—A meeting to discuss observing National Immunization Days 2009, organized by Yangon Division Health Committee, was held at the meeting hall of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Office this afternoon, with an address by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint.

Afterwards, Head of Health Department of Yangon Division Dr Hla Myint reported on matters

related to eradication of polio and Yangon Division regional officer Dr Kyaw Kan Kaung on preparation for National Immunization Day 2009 and works being carried out.

The first National Immunization Days 2009 will be held from 10 January up to 12 January. A total of 2,105 vaccine giving groups will give polio vaccine to 685,000 children at the ages under five in Yangon Division at 5,500 centres.

MNA

Director-General of SPED meets athletes to take part in sports meets in Indonesia, Thailand

YANGON, 6 Jan—General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik met with a Myanmar volleyball player who is going to take part in Indonesia Proliga 2009 to

be held in Jakarta, Indonesia from 16 to 23 January along with players of Palembang Bank Sumsel Volleyball Club and Myanmar cricket players who are going to take part in ACC Trophy 2009 Cricket Contest to be held in Chiang Mei, Thailand from 12 to 21 January at the meeting hall-1 of Aung San Stadium here this afternoon and gave Ovada to them.—MNA

Thutapadetha Magazine of Sarpay Beikman in circulation

YANGON, 6 Jan— The Sarpay Beikman of Printing and Publishing Enterprise under the Ministry of Information has issued Volume 36, No. 1 of Thutapadetha Magazine for January 2009.

The publication carries informative, educational and entertaining works of Maung Hsu Shin, Dr Khin Maung Nyunt, Khin Saw Tint, Gyo Phyu Khin, U Ngwe Thein (Company Guide), Soe Thiha Naung, Maung Hlaing Thit, Maung Thein Hlaing, Maung Maung Myint Thein (YIT), Taungdwin Min Soe, KT Aung Thein (YU), Ayekari, Min Kyawt Shein, Dr Myint Than, Dr Myint Myint Thein, Myat Min, Maung Win Thu (Wakhema), Kyaw Sein Nyunt, Sein Win Maw, Laywadi Kyaw, Hla Toe (Psychology), Ko Swe (Panorama), Dr Hlwan Moe Han and Phu Pwint Thu plus translation works of international poems, articles and news.

It is available at No. 529-531, Sarpay Beikman Book House, on Merchant Street, Yangon as well as the Sarpay Beikman agents of different townships.—MNA

Those from US and British embassies visited NLD (Headquarters) 25 times in December

YANGON, 6 Jan— The National League for Democracy (Headquarters) has kept in touch with the US and British embassies and is following their instructions. The people are criticizing such act of the NLD and keeping a watchful eye on it.

Those from the US and British

embassies visited the NLD (Headquarters) on West Shwegondine Street here 25 times in December 2008. During their visit, they met with CEC members of the party and gave large and small envelopes and parcels to the latter.

MNA

Security developments in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 6 Jan—Two people were killed and one wounded in a drive-by shooting in northern Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said. The victims were drinking alcohol in the street, police said.

MOSUL - Unknown gunmen entered a pharmacy and killed a student pharmacist in Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

MOSUL - A car bomb wounded two Iraqi soldiers and four civilians when it struck an Iraqi army patrol in northern Mosul, police said.

MOSUL - Gunmen, one wearing a medical uniform, shot and seriously wounded a medical student at the hospital where he worked in Mosul, police said.

BAGHDAD - A roadside bomb killed three policemen and wounded six people, including three policemen, when it targeted a police patrol near central Baghdad's National al-Sha'ab stadium, police said.

BAGHDAD - Two roadside bombs exploded in quick succession, wounding eight people, in central Baghdad's Karrada district, police said.

BAGHDAD - Four people were wounded by a roadside bomb in al-Nidhal Street, central Baghdad, police said.

BAGHDAD - A car bomb wounded five people in the Abu Dsheer district of southern Baghdad, police said.

BAGHDAD - The body of a man was found in eastern Baghdad on Sunday, police said.—Internet



Fire fighters hose down cars at the site of a blast in Abu Dshir in Baghdad, Iraq, on 5 Jan, 2009. Seven people were wounded when a parked car bomb exploded and a number of cars were destroyed, police said.—INTERNET



Medical personnel treat a wounded Afghan soldier at Forward Operating Base Bostick in eastern Afghanistan on 5 Jan, 2009.—INTERNET

Australian soldier killed in Afghanistan

SYDNEY, 6 Jan—A Taliban rocket attack in southern Afghanistan has killed an Australian soldier, that country's defense ministry announced Monday.

The attack hit a coalition base in Oruzgan province, southwest of the Afghan capital Kabul, on Sunday, the ministry said.

"The soldier was killed instantly when a rocket exploded in the compound," Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston, the Australian military's chief of staff, said in a written statement.

There were no other coalition casualties in the attack, he said. The slain soldier was not immediately identified.

Internet

Injured people lying on the ground are assisted after a suicide attack in front of the shrine of Imam Mousa al-Kazim, one of the holiest men in Shiite Islam, in Baghdad's northern Shiite neighborhood of Kazimiyah, Iraq, on 4 Jan, 2009.—INTERNET



Little to eat for IDPs in makeshift Kabul camp

KABUL, 6 Jan—Azizullah's family left their home in the Sangin District of Helmand Province, southern Afghanistan, because of the worsening conflict, drought and food security situation. Their new home is a one-room mud-hut in the western outskirts of Kabul where over 4,500 internally displaced persons (IDPs) have established a makeshift camp.

"We abandoned our home because of aerial strikes [by international forces] and brutalities by the Taleban," Azizullah told IRIN as his six bare-foot children huddled around him on a cold afternoon on 28 December.

"Because of the conflict I could not

work and my children had nothing to eat. We have come here to live in peace and receive some assistance," he said.

The Ministry of Refugees and Returnees (MoRR) said about 770 IDP families (about 4,620 people) were living in the Charahi Qambar area of Kabul.

More than 200 families have sought refuge in the informal camp from the southern provinces of Helmand, Zabul and Uruzgan, according to camp residents. The camp is home to dozens of impoverished Kuchis (nomads), vulnerable returnees from Pakistan and conflict-affected households from different parts of the country.—Internet

Afghanistan expects bloody 2009

KABUL, 6 Jan—Afghanistan is likely to face a similar level of insurgent violence this year after a bloody 2008, but security forces will be in a better position to fight back, the defence ministry said on Monday.

Last year was the deadliest year for Afghan security forces and civil-

ians as well as for the nearly 70,000-strong international force deployed to Afghanistan since the US-led invasion toppled the Taleban regime in late 2001. "No doubt there will be more fierce battles in 2009, and it will not be very different in terms of violence from last year," defence ministry spokes-

man General Mohammad Zahir Azimi said in a statement.

But the 20,000-30,000 extra US troops expected to be deployed by the summer and an increase in the number of Afghan security forces "puts us in an even better position compared to 2008," he said.—Internet

Another Gitmo grows in Afghanistan

NEW YORK, 6 Jan—The incoming Obama Administration says it wants to shut down the US military prison at Guantánamo Bay. But even if Guantánamo closes, the controversial US practice of jailing suspected al-Qaeda militants and other terrorists indefinitely won't end, because such detentions continue on an even greater scale at the US military base at Bagram, Afghanistan, 40 miles north of Kabul. Approximately 250 detainees are currently being held at Guantánamo; an estimated 670 are locked up under similar conditions at Bagram.

The Obama transition team has declined to comment on whether US detention policy for enemy combatants will change with a new Administration. Nevertheless, the US military is building a new prison for what it calls "unlawful enemy combatants" at Bagram that won't be finished until Obama is well settled in the White House. "The Obama Administration is inheriting not so much a shrinking Guantánamo as an expanding Bagram," says Tina Foster, executive director of the International Justice Network, a nonprofit legal group based in New York City.—Internet



An Israeli reacts as he examines the damage in his house after a rocket fired by Palestinians militants from Gaza hit in Sderot, southern Israel, on 4 Jan, 2009.—INTERNET

Israelis relieved as army moves to halt rockets

SDEROT, 6 Jan—Israelis bombarded by Palestinian rockets have begun to emerge from homes and shelters, regaining confidence after columns of Israeli soldiers moved into Gaza to crush the militants who have rained missiles on them for eight years.

Towns near the Gaza Strip virtually shut down after Israel’s conflict with Gaza militants escalated into a showdown on 27 Dec. Israel launched an air campaign against the missile launchers and against Hamas, the Islamic militant movement that rules the territory, while the militants stepped up the barrage against Israeli towns and villages.

The ground offensive that began Saturday night brought cheer to Israeli civilians, convinced their government meant to end the missile terror even at the cost of what is likely to be heavy army casualties.

However, the armored and infantry assault brought no immediate respite from rocket attacks. At least 45 missiles fell on southern Israel on Sunday, wounding five people.—Internet



Mitsubishi Motors’ electric vehicle “iMiEV” in Tokyo. As mass-produced electric cars come closer to reality, their makers are trying to polish the image of what experts say could be a hard sell in the current recession.—INTERNET

Toyota to suspend production for 11 days in Japan

TOKYO, 6 Jan—Toyota is suspending production at all 12 of its Japan plants for 11 days over February and March, a stoppage of unprecedented scale for the nation’s top automaker as it grapples with shrinking global demand.

The last time Toyota Motor Corp halted production at all its Japan plants was in August 1993, when demand plunged because of a rising yen, and that was for only one day, according to the company.

A global economic downturn has hammered the auto industry in Japan and elsewhere, forcing carmakers to cut staff, lower production and delay new models. Major automakers in the US had teetered on the brink of

collapse until securing a multibillion dollar government lifeline.

“We are coping with a slump in global sales,” Toyota spokesman Hideaki Homma said Tuesday. “Demand in the world auto market is so depressed that every model is falling sharply in sales.”



File photo shows a worker at Japanese auto giant Toyota Motor Corp inspecting cars at the company’s Tahara plant in Aichi prefecture.—INTERNET

Toyota said last year that it was stopping production at its 12 domestic plants for three days in January. But it decided on additional closures because of the global downturn. Toyota will stop output for six days in February and five days in March, it said.

Internet

Lebanon not to drag into war in Gaza

BEIRUT, 6 Jan— Lebanese Information Minister Tareq Mitri told foreign press Monday that all factions in the Lebanese cabinet insist on not dragging the country into a war with Israel.

“There is a united stand in the government which insists on stability in the country,” Mitri said.

He added that there was no “sign that Hezbollah would jeopardize

to drag Lebanon into this conflict.”

He said the Lebanese cabinet which includes Hezbollah ministers clearly announced that it does not want another war with Israel.

However, he warned that the longer the international community fails to reach a solution to the situation in Gaza, the more there will be anger and hatred “which could lead to more violence, and could probably provoke a reaction from Hezbollah.”

Mitri pointed to the

stability and control inside the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon despite the anger which they are living through.

Over 400 thousand Palestinian refugees live in 12 camps across Lebanon. Their rival factions have been united recently after the Israeli attacks on Gaza. Hezbollah, which fought a devastating war with Israel in 2006, has limited its activities to demonstrations and moral support speeches to the Palestinians in Gaza.

Internet

Abbas tries to regain foothold in Gaza

RAMALLAH, 6 Jan— With Hamas weakened by Israel’s Gaza offensive, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas is trying to regain a foothold in the territory he lost to the Islamic militants in 2007.

Abbas is backing international efforts to end the violence, particularly an Egyptian proposal to deploy his forces on Gaza’s borders, along with other monitors. Yet he’s lost points at home for not displaying more sympathy for battered Gazans and for being perceived as too soft on Israel.

It’s not clear whether Hamas has been weakened enough by Israel’s air and ground attacks to even consider relinquishing some power to Abbas in Gaza. Before the operation, the rivals were on a collision course, with Hamas saying Abbas’ four-year term ends Friday and that it will not recognize him after that.—Internet

Chrysler sales drop 53 pct; others not much better

DETROIT, 6 Jan— Chrysler LLC’s December US sales plunged by more than half and it sold 30 percent fewer vehicles in 2008, dwarfing the steep declines at the other major automakers as consumers remained uncertain about the economy and their jobs.

Chrysler said Monday its December sales dropped 53 percent because of the recession and fewer fleet sales, while Toyota Motor Corp reported a 37 percent slide and Honda Motor Co said its sales tumbled 35 percent.

Ford Motor Co’s US sales fell 32 percent in December. General Motors Corp and Nissan Motor Co both posted 31 percent declines.

Ford’s sales for 2008

fell 21 percent from a year earlier, keeping the Dearborn automaker in third place in the US auto sales race, falling behind Toyota for the second straight year.

Toyota’s 2008 sales fell 16 percent to 2.22 million, compared with Ford’s 1.98 million. Detroit-based GM’s 2008 sales totaled 2.95 million,

down 23 percent from the year before. Honda’s 2008 sales fell 8 percent.

The auto Web site Edmunds.com predicted sales for the full year will total just over 13 million, down 18 percent from 2007 and the lowest level since 1992. Final industrywide results were expected later Monday.

Internet



Unsold 2008 Compasses and Grand Cherokees sit at a Chrysler/Jeep dealership in the west Denver suburb of Golden, Colo, on 28 Dec, 2008. —INTERNET

UN, Arab ministers agree to work closely on Gaza



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (L) shakes hands with Palestinian Foreign Minister Riad al-Malki prior to a meeting at the UN headquarters in New York, the United States, on 5 Jan, 2009.—XINHUA

UNITED NATIONS, 6 Jan—UN Secretary-general Ban Ki-moon said here on Monday that he and visiting Arab foreign ministers agreed to work closely so that the current Gaza conflict can end quickly.

“We have had a very good exchange of views on the very serious matters of security situation in Gaza and southern Israel,” he said. “This meeting has provided an excellent opportunity (for) us to discuss how we can bring this violence to an immediate end, and to restore peace and stability in the region.”

Speaking to reporters here after his meeting with the visiting Arab foreign ministers, Ban said, “We have agreed to work very closely so that the Security Council can take decisive, swift and practical actions for a binding resolution to immediately end the violence.”

During the meeting, the UN chief and the Arab ministers also touched upon how to bring durable peace to the region, which can be fully respected by all the parties concerned.

“We will continue to work very closely in the coming days” with the Security Council members and the key leaders in the region, Ban said.—Xinhua



Citizens line up to buy stamps marking the Chinese traditional lunar Jichou Year of 2009 at a post office in Nanjing, east China's Jiangsu Province on 5 Jan, 2009. XINHUA

Cambodia extends use of high-tech bio-digester for farmers

PHNOM PENH, 6 Jan—Some 17,500 rural households will be equipped with eco-friendly bio-digesters, which convert agricultural waste into cooking gas, English-language daily newspaper the *Phnom Penh Post* said on Tuesday.

“We hope this bio-digester will benefit not only households, but the agricultural sector as a whole because it can help reduce the rate of deforestation, and the waste left over will be used for natural fertilizer,” Agricultural Minister Chan Sarun was quoted as saying. The ministry, in partnership with the Netherlands Development Organization (SNV), began the National Bio-digester Program in 2005 and has installed 3,633 of planned bio-digesters so far.

A Dutch finance company has provided 2 million US dollars of low-interest loans for farmers to build bio-digester plants, each of which costs 200 to 1,000 US dollars.—Xinhua

Accident on Petrobras' oil platform kills one, injures two

RIO DE JANEIRO, 6 Jan—Brazil's state-run oil company said on Monday that an accident on an offshore platform killed one, injured two and suspended production. The mishap was caused by a flaw in a valve of Platform FPSO-34 in the Jubarte field off the coast of Espirito Santo state in southeast Brazil.

The dead was 28-year-old boiler operator William Robson Vasconcelos who worked for UTC Engineering, a company hired by Petrobras.

Two other UTC workers, identified as Mario Alves de Souza and Marivaldo Pedro Alves de Souza, suffered light injuries.—Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

French ship attacked by pirates in Nigeria with nine taken hostage

PARIS, 6 Jan—A French ship was seized by pirates off the coast of Nigeria during the weekend, with nine crew members taken hostage, the French media reported on Monday.

According to the report, the ship, Bourbon Leda, which belongs to the French maritime services company Bourbon, was attacked off Bonny, a major oil and gas terminal in southern Nigeria in the night of 3 Jan to 4 Jan. The nine crew members included five Nigerians, two Ghanaians, one Cameroonian and one Indonesian. The company was allowed to contact the ship through a call on 4 Jan, and all crew members were confirmed to be safe and in good health.

One of the two biggest oil producers in sub-Saharan Africa, Nigeria is facing a surge of violence featuring armed kidnap and sabotage. In October, another ship belonging to Bourbon was attacked by pirates off the Nigerian coast. In August, two French crew members aboard a Bourbon ship were kidnapped, and they were not freed until September.—Xinhua

GM reports 31 percent sales decline in US market

CHICAGO, 6 Jan—General Motors (GM), the major US automaker, on Monday reported a 31-percent decline in its December sales in its home country.

According to a report on GM's website, its dealers in the United States delivered 221,983 vehicles in December, down 31 percent compared with a year ago.

However, total deliveries were 67,000 vehicles more than November's result, up more than 43 percent month over month.

GM December car sales of 87,506 were off 25 percent and truck sales of 134,477 were down 35 percent compared with a year ago.

For the year, GM delivered 2,980,688 vehicles while maintaining an expected market share just above 22 percent.

Annual deliveries were down 23 percent compared with 2007, largely due to building weakness in the marketplace throughout the year spurred by economic headwinds such as the dramatic reduction in credit availability experienced in the fourth quarter, coupled with historically low levels of consumer confidence.

Xinhua



A massive bread is displayed in Mexico City, Mexico, on 4 Jan, 2009. The bread that is about 1,600 metres (one mile) long, and weighs close to 10,000 kilograms was baked Sunday for the traditional Magi party and was distributed to thousands of Mexican families.—XINHUA

Bird flu triggers alert in Nepali border areas with India

KATHMANDU, 6 Jan—Following the reported outbreak of Avian Influenza in bordering Indian state of West Bengal a few days ago, Nepali Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives has directed local administrations in the areas bordering the Indian state to fully prohibit the import of birds, ducks and poultry products from India, *The Himalayan Times* daily reported on Tuesday.

The Ministry Monday called on all people concern to be on high alert to prevent a possible outbreak of the deadly disease in Nepal.

“We need to be extra alert as there is a high risk of transmission of the disease in the country,” said spokesperson of the ministry Hari Dahal, adding, “we request all not to eat and even touch white eggs.”

The outbreak of bird flu was reported a few days ago in Darjeeling and Malad in West Bengal. Darjeeling is merely 13 km away from Nepal.

The ministry has also directed local administration to take action against anyone violating the government's instruction.—Xinhua

Guatemalan mudslide kills 35, injures 15

GUATEMALA CITY, 6 Jan— Rescuers dug through tons of mud late Monday in search of more victims of a massive landslide that buried a long stretch of highway in northern Guatemala, killing at least 35 coffee workers and travelers using the road.

Vice President Rafael Espada said he feared the death toll could rise by at least a dozen more. About 15 other people were injured when the mass of mud and rock roared down a mountain Sunday near the village of Aquil Grande.

Dozens of families watched anxiously as 165 rescuers dug through the collapsed mountainside, which continued to rain down rocks and dirt. Rescuers lined up the dead at a cemetery where people tried to identify them.

Roadwork along the highway could have triggered the slide, said Angel Estrada, the head of the rescue effort.

Authorities still do not know how many people were in the area when the landslide buried more than a kilometre (nearly a mile) of highway.—Internet



A view of the damage caused by a landslide outside San Cristobal, Guatemala, on 5 Jan, 2009.

INTERNET

Vietnamese top legislator vows to advance Sino-Vietnamese relations

HANOI, 6 Jan— Vietnamese top legislator Nguyen Phu Trong said here on Monday that the relations between Vietnam and China are in a phase of healthy development, and he expected the two sides could make concerted efforts to advance bilateral relations to a new high. Trong, who is the chairman of Vietnamese National Assembly, made the remarks when meeting with the newly-appointed Chinese ambassador to Vietnam Sun Guoxiang.

Last year, exchanges of high-level delegations of China and Vietnam

were frequent, said Trong. Bilateral trade hit a record of 21 billion US dollars. At the end of the year, China and Vietnam completed the work of land border demarcation and erecting land border markers on schedule. Trong said he hopes Ambassador Sun could further advance relations between Vietnam and China. During the meeting, Sun said the Communist Party of China and Chinese government attached great importance on the development of relations with Vietnam. The top leaders of the two countries have decided to establish an all-round strategic partnership of cooperation between China and Vietnam, a move that serves the common interests of the two countries.—Internet

Japanese whaling ship Yushin Maru harpoons a whale in the Southern Ocean off Antarctica.

INTERNET

Japanese whaler missing in Antarctic

TOKYO, 6 Jan— A crew member on Japan’s controversial whaling mission is believed to have fallen overboard in icy Antarctic Ocean waters, the fleet’s operator said Tuesday.

A 30-year-old oiler, Hajime Shirasaki, did not report Monday to his assignment in the engine room of the Kyoshin Maru No 2, the fleet’s vessel in charge of sighting whales.

“We are searching for him as he is thought to have fallen overboard,” said Hirohisa Shigemune, an official at the whaling fleet’s operator Kyodo Senpaku Kaisha Ltd. He said four whaling ships were looking for him. However, it is difficult to survive for long in the Antarctic Ocean due to the low temperature.

Internet



Scientists discover trigger for autoimmune diseases

Healthy adults have potential autoimmune disease-causing cells, but these cells stay in an “off” state, a US study shows.

Immune cells that attack the body cause autoimmune diseases such as lupus and rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Whether the switched-off cells in healthy adults are true precursors of the self-attacking immune cells and, if so, what prevents them from causing disease in certain people, isn’t known, the researchers said.

J Andrew Duty, of the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, and colleagues found that anergic (dormant) autoimmune disease-causing cells account for 2.5 percent of immune B-

cells circulating in the blood of healthy adults.

These anergic cells don’t appear to cause problems in healthy adults, but did produce self-reactive antibodies when exposed to a strong stimulus in lab experiments. This means these anergic cells may contain the precursors for the self-attacking B-cells in patients with autoimmune disease, the researchers said. In previously healthy people, anergy may somehow break down and allow self-attacking B-cells to cause autoimmune disease.

Man tries to go home for holidays by fire truck

What kind of mileage does that thing get? Police in South Salt Lake, Utah, have arrested a man they say tried to steal a fire truck so he could drive home — to Washington — for Christmas.

Detective Gary Keller says firefighters on a medical call heard the \$500,000 truck’s air horn blaring Monday and ran outside. They found a man in the driver’s seat trying to drive away. After a lengthy struggle, firefighters were finally able to subdue the man until police arrived.

Police say the 25-year-old man told them he wanted to go to Washington to see his mother for Christmas.

Mass man melting snow with blowtorch ignites home

Fire officials in New Bedford, Mass, say a man using a blowtorch to melt ice on his back porch ended up setting his house on fire, causing up to \$30,000 in damage.

Fire Capt Scott Kruger tells The Standard—Times of New Bedford that no one was injured during Monday’s incident at the three-story home.

Kruger says the man was using a torch hooked up to a 20-pound propane cylinder. He got too close to the building’s wood frame and ignited the vinyl siding. The fire quickly spread into the building’s second and third-floor apartments.



The last few days of the year are a time for many places to check their inventory—including Hamburg’s Zoo Hagenbeck, which had divers enter a giant fish tank on 29 Dec, to attempt to measure this rather impressive shark.



Song Evans of University Place, Wash, walks with a red umbrella under a dusky gray sky along the Puget Sound near Titlow Beach in Tacoma, Wash, as snow blanketed the area.



Jens Esch, right, and Thomas Seitel try on as many pairs of underwear as they possibly can in a TV studio in Cologne, Germany. This Saturday the two will try to set a world record in multiple underwear wearing during a taping of the “Guinness World Records” show.

NEWS ALBUM



A trader watches the French CAC market curve at an independant private banking company in Paris, in Jan 2008. In European morning deals Tuesday, Paris added 0.87 percent.

Labutta District to achieve record salt production

Article and photos: Mawgyun Myint Aung (IPRD)

Labutta District, the largest salt producing region in Ayeyawady Division, is a four-hour drive from Myaungmya. The riverside town is now enjoying commercial growth. In the mornings, the areas along the bank of the Ywe River are hustle and bustle with trade activities.

One and a half hours

assistance not only to large but also to small salt farms.

“Now, all salt farmers are happy with it. They are active in their work. The process has several stages, and it needs huge investments. A salt farmer can make a good profit if he respects his business and works hard.

“As you see, in the first stage, we have to do



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salt
farming
entrepreneur.**

after our departure by boat along the Ywe River, we got to the Thetkethaung River, which was found serene thanks to fine weather. From the river, we saw arrangements to restore sun-baked salt farms and reconstruction of houses in Gant Eik and Kapyo villages, and fishermen at work in the river.

About two hours later, we arrived at Hsincheya Hsaphosu Village of Hsincheya Village-tract.

In an interview, U Hla Thaung told the Kyemon Daily, “I am 70. I have run salt farms for 50 years. I have 250 acres of salt farms. The sun-baked salt farm over there is mine. Salt farms were damaged a lot in the storm “Nargis”, but we could restore them soon after the natural disaster. I thank the government for the assistance to fulfil all requirements of salt farmers. I would say, in this regard, it showed great loving-kindness and compassion to us. We expect to boost per acre yield of sun-baked salt this year.

“It is because the government provided

groundwork with the use of tractors. Now, workers are preparing the route for tractors.

“I think now you know the processes of a salt farm in general. I am sure the salt farming of our whole district will prove successful this season.”

U Hla Thaung was still hale and hearty at 70. He jumped onto a tractor and drove it for a demonstration.

Deputy Head of Township General Administration U Soe Myint Hlaing said, “Labutta District brings honour to Ayeyawady Division. Surely, it will hit a record production of salt because workers are working hard under the supervision of their employers. We are repairing the buildings for the workers to stay. District and township associations are also providing assistance for development of the salt farming”.

We also visited Kwinyah Village, one of the largest salt producing villages. There we found workers at work in the 100.9-acre salt farm of Daw Kyin Than. The large salt farm has three parts:



Tractors operating for groundwork at a salt farm.

rough field, middle field and final field. The first two fields have three stages each. Sun-baked salt can be produced when the concentration of salt in the seawater stands at 25 degree.

The produced crude salt is kept beside the

Using it, we can do groundwork for two acres a day.”

He also explained, “Labutta District has nine salt farming blocks. They are Mangyeebin, Thingangon, Thetkethaung, Mekhale, Hsincheya, Pyinsalu,

Ywethingangyi, Hsagyin, Kyauktangyi and Kyauktanlay. Now 771 workers work for 27,279.68 acres of salt farms. Salt production is expected to meet at least more than 300,000 tons this year. In the rainy season in June and July, we grow

paddy that is resistant to seawater in the salt farms of the first and second type fields. The paddy yield per acre is from 35 to 40 baskets. Salt farming is economically rewarding.

“Moreover, pregnant female tiger prawns get to the first and second stage fields of the rough fields along with the seawater in the rainy season, and lay their eggs there. We have to close the gates of the dykes in order that the eggs and the prawns cannot return to the sea. It is a type of seawater prawn breeding. Salt farmers make substantial profits from the farms.”

After the trip, I became confident that Labutta District would produce salt more than ever.

**Translation: MS
Kyemon: 6-1-2008**



Workers carrying out land preparation work.

warehouse for a night to let all the seawater in the salt drain off, and then it is stored in the warehouse.

Groundwork for sun-baked salt is carried out from October to December, and sun-baked salt is produced from January to April.

I was surprised with the scene that a tractor was being operated for groundwork in a salt farm. “Are you surprised, sir? It is the one-blade tractor we use for groundwork. It makes more progress than cattle and it saves time.



The salt farms of entrepreneur Daw Kyin Than of Kwinyah Village.

Commander, Minister inspect wharfs, airport in Rakhine State

YANGON, 6 Jan — Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Thaung Aye and Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspected wharfs and Kyaukpyu Airport in Rakhine State yesterday.

Before the tour of inspection, they met with officials concerned of Myanma Port Authority and heard reports on measures taken for running of watercrafts in Rakhine State and fulfilled the requirements.

Afterwards, the commander and the minister inspected No. 1 Concrete Wharf at Kyaukpyu Port. No. 1 Concrete Wharf is 70 ft

long and 24 ft wide, and it can handle 150-ton ships.

Commander Maj-Gen Thaung Aye and Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe visited Ngalaybwe Wharf and inspected loading and unloading of

goods at the wharf which is 240 ft long and 20 ft wide and can handle 1450-ton ships.

The commander and the minister met with officials of Department of Civil Aviation at

Kyaukpyu Airport in Rakhine State today and gave instructions on tasks to be carried out for the airport. After the meeting, they inspected the runway on a motorcade.

MNA

Shwe Thwe Journal Special Issue in circulation

YANGON, 6 Jan — Shwe Thwe Journal Special Issue 2009 to mark the 40th Anniversary of Shwe Thwe Journal published weekly by Sarpay Beikman of Printing and Publishing Enterprise under the Ministry of Information has been in circulation.

The journal carries works of artists and cartoonists Sayagyi U Ba

Kyi, U Than Kywe, U Aung Shein, U Sein, U Ba Htwe, U Kyaw San and U Aye Tin, cover of Shwe Thwe Journal issued in commemoration of 1st Anniversary of the journal, poems, cartoons, folktales, short stories and other programmes.

Copies of the journals are available at No (Ta/ 55), Sarpay Beikman bookstall in Thabyaegon

market, Nay Pyi Taw (Ph: 067-414681) and at No (529/531), Sarpay Beikman bookstall on Merchant Road, Yangon (Ph: 01-381448 and 249031) at K 900 per copy and wholesaler may buy at No (529/531), Sarpay Beikman sales center on Merchant Road, Yangon (Ph: 01-381448 and 249031) at K 850 per copy.

MNA

Observance of Union Day every year reflects...

(from page 1)

racers to prevent, through the national solidarity, the danger of internal and external destructive elements attempting to undermine peace and stability of the State and the national development, for all the national races to make endeavours for building of a new modern developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation in accord with the State Constitution unanimously approved by the people and for all the national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-step Road Map.

Next, Chairman of Management Committee Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin reported on arrangements for holding of the Union Day.

Those present reported on compilation of the Union Day message, holding of the Union Day ceremony, number of delegates and those to be invited the dinner, decoration of the ceremony, arrangements for the dinner, refreshments, entertainment programmes, study tour for the delegates and expenditure for the ceremony.

The Secretary-1 took part in the discussions. The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the Secretary-1.—MNA

Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Thaung Aye and Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspect Kyaukpyu Airport runway in Rakhine State.

MNA



Home Affairs Minister meets Chinese Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Jan — Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo received Chinese Ambassador Mr. Guan Mu who had completed his tour of duty at the minister's office here this evening.

Present also at the call were Director-General Brig-Gen Khin Yi of Myanmar

Police Force, Director-General U Myat Ko of General Administration Department, Director-General U Aung Saw Win of Bureau of Special Investigation, Head of Office U Nay Myo and Head of Transnational Criminal Department Police Col Sit Aye. — MNA



Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo receives Chinese Ambassador Mr. Guan Mu.—MNA

Buyers and Sellers Meet on 15 Jan

YANGON, 6 Jan — Organized by the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Indo-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of India, Buyers and Sellers Meet will be held at UMFCFI building here at 2 p.m. on 15 January (Thursday).

Myanmar entrepreneurs who want

to trade in rice, various kinds of beans, handicrafts, vehicle spare parts, medicines, clothes, foodstuff, wood based products, battery and boiler and feedstuff and to cooperate in tourism and other interesting businesses with Indian counterparts may enlist at UMFCFI not later than 12 January.

MNA

MCPA to give talks on Software Architecture with Design Pattern

YANGON, 6 Jan — For the development of information and communication technology, executive U Win Htein Win of Myanmar Computer Professionals Association will give talks on Software Architecture with Design Pattern, organized by Myanmar Computer Professionals Association and sponsored by Gusto Company Limited, at Room No.205, Myanmar Info-Tech, Hline Township here from 9.30 a.m. to noon on 10 January.

The talks will discuss concepts,

knowledge and system on software design that should be known by everyone interested in software development technology and those wishing to work as programmer in software filed at home and aboard as well as system analyst and software architect level.

Member of MCPA, software developers and enthusiasts may attend the talk. For further information, everyone may contact Room (4), Ward (4), office of MCPA (Ph-6522776).

MNA

Foreign Heads of States send messages of felicitations to Senior General Than Shwe

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Jan—*The following are messages of felicitations from foreign Heads of States sent to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, on the occasion of the 61st Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.*

From Dr Ram Baran Yadav, President of Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal

Your Excellency,

On the happy occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, on behalf of the Government and people of Nepal, and on my own, I extend to Your Excellency, and through you to the people of Myanmar, my sincere congratulations.

I wish you good health and happiness as well as progress and prosperity of the people of Myanmar.

I am confident that the friendly relations existing between our two countries will grow further in the years ahead.

From Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei

Your Excellency,

It gives me great pleasure to send my warmest congratulations together with those of the Government and people of Brunei Darussalam on the Independence Day Anniversary of the Union of Myanmar.

I very much appreciate the warm and friendly relations between our two countries and I look forward to continuing our efforts to strengthen our friendship and cooperation in the coming year.

Please accept my best wishes for your continued good health and happiness.

From Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia

Mr Chairman,

On the auspicious occasion of the 61st Anniversary of the Independence of the Union of Myanmar, I am very pleased to convey to Your Excellency, on behalf of the People of Cambodia and on my own behalf, my warmest congratulations and best wishes for Your good health and happiness as well as for the peace, progress and prosperity of the Union of Myanmar and its citizens.

I am convinced that the ties of friendship and cooperation between our two Countries will be further strengthened in the years ahead.

Please accept, Mr Chairman, the assurances of my highest consideration.

MNA

Foreign Heads of State/Government send felicitations to Myanmar Prime Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Jan—*The following are messages of felicitations from foreign Heads of State/Government sent to General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, on the occasion of the 61st Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.*

From Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda, Prime Minister of Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal

On the happy occasion of the Independence Day

of the Union of Myanmar, on behalf of the people and the Government of Nepal, and on my own, I extend to Your Excellency cordial felicitations and best wishes for Your Excellency's personal health and happiness and for the progress and prosperity of the people of Myanmar.

From Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei

Dear Prime Minister,

I have much pleasure in sending my warmest

congratulations to you, and to the government and the people of the Union of Myanmar on your Independence Day.

It was a pleasure to receive you in Brunei last year and I look forward to continuing our work in the coming year to strengthen our friendship and cooperation both bilaterally and as regional partners.

MNA



Vice-Presidents of UMFCCI hold talks with commerce delegation of People's Republic of China at UMFCCI office. (News reported)

UMFCCI

MBSF President's Trophy Billiard Competition on 17 Jan

YANGON, 6 Jan — Myanmar Billiard and Snooker Federation's President's Trophy will be held at Aung San Stadium here as from 17 January.

Any billiard athletes

may participate in the competition. Five athletes will be selected at the competition as tentatively selected billiard athletes and they will be camped.

Those wishing to

participate in the competition may enlist at MBSF Office at Aung San Stadium, and more information may contact ph: 09-5197578 and 375104.—MNA

Seminar on formulation of National Blood Policy and Blood Programme held

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Jan — The opening of Seminar on formulation of National Blood Policy and Blood Programme was held at the meeting hall of Disease Control Center of the Ministry of Health here yesterday morning attended by Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, departmental heads and officials, WHO Resident Representative

Professor Adik Wibowo and guests.

The deputy minister delivered an opening address and the WHO resident representative extended greetings.

Next, the deputy minister acted as the chairman of the meeting and Director-General Dr Tin Nyunt of Traditional Medicine Department explained rules and

regulations related to Blood Banks, Director Dr Nay Win of Public Health Laboratory Center, matters related to national blood policy and National Blood Unit In-charge Dr Thida Aung, works being carried out at blood units in Myanmar. Those present took part in discussions. The meeting continued today.

MNA



Seminar on Formulation of National Blood Policy and Blood Programme in progress.—MNA

SAY NO TO DRUGS

Kadappana Sluice Gate to irrigate some 15,000 acres of farmlands

Article: Tin Htwe (MNA); Photos: Thaung Myint (MNA)

(from page 16)

The sluice gate the Irrigation Department constructed on the Kayan Creek near Chaungwa Ywahaung Village in Thanlyin Township is of reinforced concrete type. It has a catchment area of 142 square miles, the 4000 feet long main canal, 2500 feet long outlet canal, and 40 16' high and 6' wide valves. It was put into commission on 12 May, 2005. It irrigates 30,000 acres of arable lands.

concrete type facility has a catchment area of 60 square miles, 1085 feet long main canal, 500 feet long outlet canal, and 21 6' wide and 16' high valves. The project finished in February 2008. Its irrigated area is 15,000 acres.

Now, Construction-6 under the Irrigation Department is constructing Kadappana Sluice Gate on the Kadappana Creek near Kadappana Village in Kyauktan Township. Its catchment area is 54.6 square miles. Its main canal is 2000 feet long, and



A construction site of Kadappana Sluice Gate Project.



Dagaw Sluice Gate near Dagaw Village in Thongwa Township benefits 15,000 acres of arable lands.

The Irrigation Department also constructed Dagaw Sluice Gate on the Dagaw Creek near Dagaw Village in Thongwa Township. The reinforced outlet main canal, 1000 feet long. It has 27 6' wide and 16' high valves. Upon completion, the reinforced concrete type irrigation facility will be able to benefit 15,000 acres of farmlands.

The Kadappana Sluice Gate Project began in 2006-2007 financial year and it is due to be completed by 2008-2009

financial year.

On completion, the irrigation facility will be able to protect nearby farmlands against floods and supply freshwater to summer paddy fields and plots of other crops. So, the prudent project will generate the agricultural and transport sectors of the region.

Translation: MS
Myanma Alin:
19-12-2008



Kayan Sluice Gate near Chaungwa Ywahaung Village in Thanlyin Township on completion will be able to irrigate 30,000 acres of farmlands.

Swarm of small earthquakes rattles Yellowstone National Park

SCIENCE DAILY, 6 Jan — The University of Utah Seismograph Stations reports that a notable swarm of earthquakes has been underway since 26 December, 2008 beneath Yellowstone Lake



Old Faithful Geyser in Yellowstone National Park.

in Yellowstone National Park, three to six miles south-southeast of Fishing Bridge, Wyoming.

This energetic sequence of events was most intense on 27 December, when the largest number of events of magnitude 3 and larger occurred.

The largest of the earthquakes was a magnitude 3.9 (revised from magnitude 3.8) at 10:15 pm MST on 27 Dec. The sequence has included nine events of magnitude 3 to 3.9 and approximately 24 of magnitude 2 to 3 at the time of this release.

Internet

OSLO, 6 Jan — Remember the cool girls, huddled together in high school restrooms, puffing their cigarettes? Well, here's consolation for the nerds in the crowd: Those teen smokers are more likely to experience obesity as adults, according to a new study from Finland.

Girls who smoke 10 cigarettes per day or more are at greatest risk, particularly for abdominal obesity. Their waist sizes are 1.34 inches larger than nonsmokers' waists are as young adults, according to

Teens girls smoke now, pay later with larger waistlines as adults

the study in the February 2009 issue of the American Journal of Public Health.

adolescence did not necessarily predict weight problems for men, according to the study.

But smoking in

Internet



Russian gas supplies to Croatia halted

BELGRADE, 6 Jan—Russian gas supplies to Croatia were completely cut off Tuesday amid the payments dispute between Russia and Ukraine, official Croatian news agency Hina reported.

It is necessary to reduce natural gas supply in certain sections in accordance with government's regulations, the agency said, citing a statement from Croatian oil and gas company INA.

The underground storage and the gas produced by the INA cannot make up for the shortfall, the agency reported.

INA called on consumers to reduce gas consumption and promised that supply to households would remain the priority for the company.

Russia cut off gas supplies to Ukraine on Jan. 1 after the two sides failed to reach a new agreement on gas prices for 2009 and debt repayments. About 80 percent of Russia's gas exports to Europe pass through Ukraine.—Internet



Former police officer Yukio Shige stands on the sheer cliffs of Tojinbo, one of the most known suicide spots in Japan.—INTERNET



Two workers install a VW logo in the wall of a Volkswagen center in September in Berlin. The German luxury sportscar maker Porsche has taken over Volkswagen, the biggest European car manufacturer, after purchasing more than 50 percent of VW shares, Porsche said late on Monday.—INTERNET

China calls for more overseas talents

BEIJING, 6 Jan—More effort should be made to attract outstanding overseas talents to work in China, the Ministry of Education said Monday.

"High-level talents with overseas education and work experience will greatly strengthen China's all-round development, especially as the country is implementing its strategy of invigorating the nation through science, technology and education," Lu Yugang, director of the ministry's talent development office, told *China Daily*.

The ministry, with the help of other ministries, has increased its financial

support for overseas talents and simplified the approval procedure to help them gain "citizen treatment" in China aiming at attracting a group of leading scholars in certain disciplines across the world and forming a group of excellent innovation organizations in China, Lu said. The ministry has been conducting some exemplary programs to attract scholars to China, he said.

The Chunhui (Spring Bud) Program is one of the programs targeting scholars with doctoral degrees and outstanding records, he said.

Internet

Women in Kimono, smile as they join the ceremony to start the first trading at the Tokyo Stock Exchange after the new year holidays in Tokyo. Global stock markets have held onto New Year optimism even as the euro suffered fresh losses amid signs of Europe's deepening recession and a looming energy standoff with Russia drove up oil prices.—INTERNET

Number of Cholera cases reduces in south Zambia

LUSAKA, 6 Jan—Cholera cases in Livingstone in Southern Province of Zambia have reduced following a reduction in rainfall, Zambia News and Information Services (ZANIS) reported on Friday.

Livingstone District Commissioner Francis Chika said only one person is still admitted to the cholera center in the city.

Chika has since warned the community to be extra careful when rainfall activities increase in the coming weeks. He has also urged all Livingstone residents to

uphold basic preventive measures in order to halt further spread of the disease.

"The cholera situation in Livingstone has stabilized owing to the weather situation. This has led to more discharge of people and only one person is remaining at the cholera center currently," he was quoted.

The commissioner said the district was doing well in curbing the further spread of cholera and has therefore called for concerted efforts from all stakeholders.

Internet



Motorola to offer phone made from recycled plastic bottles

TOKYO, 6 Jan—Hyperlink Motorola Inc. is still in the midst of plans to spin off its mobile handset division in 2010, but will show off a new cell phone made from recycled plastic water bottles at the Consumer Electronics Show later this week. The Moto

W233 Renew is described by Motorola as the "world's first carbon neutral mobile phone." Because it is based on recycled plastics, Motorola said today that 20% less energy is needed to produce the phone, compared to the standard plastic process.—Internet



UNICEF EAPRO Regional Director, Anupama Rao Singh speaks during a press conference at the UNICEF Conference for East Asia and Pacific Islands on Impact of the Economic Crisis on Children in Singapore.—INTERNET

Bulgaria faces serious gas crisis

SOFIA, 6 Jan—Bulgaria's natural gas consumption has been cut by two thirds since Tuesday morning as Russia cut off gas supplies, Bulgarian Prime Minister Sergei Stanishev said Tuesday.

Speaking at a special press conference after an emergency meeting of the Council of Ministers convened over the Russia-Ukraine gas dispute, Stanishev noted that the country will have to rely only on its reserves at the Chiren storage facility, which has 570 million cubic meters of on natural gas.

The reserves could fuel the Bulgarian economy with about 4.5 million cubic meters of gas daily, which was about one third of the country's normal daily consumption, he added. The prime minister guaranteed that natural gas supplies for public establishments such as hospitals, schools, and kindergartens, and for central heating would be a priority for the government.—Internet

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Ph : 371 990 7.Jan.2009

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Win Mu Tin
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
for SEPHORA
P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 7 January 2009

The 'not so old' suffer from Alzheimer's too

OTTAWA, 6 Jan—Alzheimer's disease affects not only the elderly, said a study Monday that found 14 percent of the estimated 500,000 Canadians suffering from dementia are under the age of 65.

The Alzheimer Society warned that an expected doubling of cases in the coming two decades, due to the aging population and the trend toward earlier diagnosis, risks overwhelming Canada's health care system.

"As it stands today, the number of Canadians living with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia will double within a generation," Ray Congdon of the Alzheimer Society said in a statement.

"This new data only reinforces the fact that Alzheimer's disease and related dementias are a rising concern in this country, an epidemic that has the potential to overwhelm the Canadian health care system."

In the meantime, businesses and industry sectors "are also being affected as our boomer generation, a generation of leaders and mentors, are affected by dementia," said the Canadian society's chief executive Scott Dudgeon.

Internet

A French warship foiled two attacks Sunday by Somali pirates, rescuing two commercial vessels in the Gulf of Aden, the French president's office said.—XINHUA

US health spending hits \$2.2t in 2007

WASHINGTON, 6 Jan—Americans spent 2.2 trillion US dollars on healthcare in 2007, or 7,421 US dollars per person, according to a US Government report released on Tuesday.

The 6.1-per-cent rate of growth over 2006 was the lowest since 1998, mostly because growth in spending on drugs slowed, the team at the Centres for Medicare and Medicaid Services found.

Cheaper generic drugs and worries about drug safety helped slow spending growth but the numbers kept the United States far ahead of all other countries on health spending. Health spending represented 16.2 per cent of US gross domestic product, up slightly from 16 per cent in 2006, the researchers reported in the journal *Health Affairs*.

"Slower spending growth for prescription drugs was one of the major factors driving down overall healthcare spending growth in 2007," Micah Hartman, a statistician at CMS who worked on the report, told reporters in a telephone briefing.

"In 2007, retail prescription drug spending increased 4.9 per cent to 227.5 billion US dollars; this was a deceleration from 8.6-per-cent growth in 2006," the CMS team wrote. Some of this loss hit drug companies.—MNA/Reuters



4-year-old boy shoots babysitter for stepping on foot

BEIJING, 6 Jan—A 4-year-old boy shot his babysitter because the sitter accidentally stepped on his foot in Jackson, Ohio, media reported on Tuesday.

Nathan Beavers, 18 years old, and several other teenagers were babysitting several young children in a mobile home on Sunday when the shooting occurred.

Police said the 4-year-old child was angry because Beavers accidentally stepped on his foot. Witnesses told police the child retrieved the shotgun from a bedroom closet and shot Beavers.

Beavers was hospitalized with minor pellet wounds to his arm and side. Another teen was also injured with shotgun pellets, according to the police.

Jackson County Sheriff John Shashteen said authorities are investigating the shooting. The child has not been charged.—Internet



Attendees visit the Toshiba booth at the 2008 Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, Nevada in 2008. Smart gadgets, lifelike video, and pocket versions of laptop computers are expected to be Consumer Electronics Show (CES) stars as the annual extravaganza follows its gizmos onto the Web.—INTERNET

Bosnia-Herzegovina decides to send peacekeepers to Afghanistan

BELGRADE, 6 Jan—Bosnia-Herzegovina's three-member presidency on Monday decided to send a small number of peacekeepers to Afghanistan later this year.

The 10 Bosnian army officers will perform operative, administrative and other tasks with the German and Danish contingent as members of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan, a

presidency statement said.

The decision, which has to be approved by the Bosnian parliament, is "one more step on the road towards (the country's) integration into Euro-Atlantic institutions," the presidency statement said.

Bosnia-Herzegovina, which joined NATO's Partnership for Peace Program in December 2006, withdrew its 90-strong contingent from Iraq in

mid December. The troops were sent in June 2005 at a NATO request to support the US-led coalition forces.

NATO leaders awarded Bosnia-Herzegovina in April 2008 an "intensified dialogue" on its membership aspirations, a step before a formal membership plan is granted. The Balkan country is expected to put forward "action plans" to prepare for membership.—Internet

Chinese shipmen escape from pirates in Gulf of Aden

BEIJING, 6 Jan—A Sierra Leone cargo ship with 32 Chinese onboard threw off the pursuit of four pirate boats in the Gulf of Aden on Monday, the China Maritime Search and Rescue Center said on Monday. The ship was carrying more than 10,000 tons of silicate and oil equipment from Singapore to the Republic of Djibouti in northeastern Africa when it met with the pirates, the center said in a statement.

Four pirate boats chased the vessel on the eastern water area of the gulf at 3:50 pm on Monday, with their speed reaching 19 nautical miles per hour, said the centre.

The Ministry of Transport immediately launched an emergency response plan and contacted the International Maritime Bureau to seek aid from nearby warships. The cargo ship was found secure at 4:20 pm.—Internet



A cleaner sweeps a pathway with the central business district skyline in the background in Singapore on 2 Jan, 2009. Singapore on Friday revised downward its 2009 economic forecast and said gross domestic product was expected to shrink 1-2 percent this year.—INTERNET

Sunlight can help children avoid myopia

SYDNEY, 6 Jan — Sending a couple of hours outdoors each day could help children avoid becoming short-sighted, Australian researchers said on Tuesday. Exposure to bright light for two to three hours daily helps regulate the eye's growth, dramatically reducing the risk of myopia, an Australian Research Council study found.

Short-sightedness, traditionally a problem among the highly educated, has reached record levels in east Asia, lead researcher Professor Ian Morgan told AFP. Growing numbers of children in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, Korea and China are struggling with their vision, with up to 90 percent of Singaporeans wearing glasses by the time they leave school, he said. "That would compare with about 20 percent of Australians. We were quite intrigued by this — that for a country that's quite well educated we have a serious lack of myopia in Australia," Morgan said.

A comparative study showed 30 percent of six and seven-year-old Singaporean children had already developed the condition, compared with just 1.3 percent of Australians of the same age.—Internet

People cover their mouths against pollution at a busy intersection in Hong Kong on 2 Jan. One in five Hong Kong residents is considering leaving the city because of its dire air quality, a survey released Monday has found.—INTERNET



New founding in cancer cell metastasis new hope for primary cancer

WASHINGTON, 6 Jan — Little is known about how metastatic cancer cells choose where to relocate but researchers at the Stanford University School of Medicine have found a relationship between a protein and the process.

"Metastasis is not a passive process," said Amato Giaccia, a professor of radiation oncology at Stanford and the senior author of the research to be published in the 6 Jan 6 issue of Cancer Cell, according to a news release by Stanford's medical centre. "Cells don't just

break off the primary tumor and lodge someplace else. Instead, the cells actually secrete substances to precondition target tissue and make it more amenable to subsequent invasion," he said. Scientists have known that certain primary cancers metastasize preferentially to other organs. They also have known that such colonization sites, called pre-metastatic niches, harbor large numbers of cells derived from bone marrow that somehow facilitate the cancer cells' entry.

Internet

Scientists find a gene that makes cancer spread

CHICAGO, 6 JAN — A single gene appears to play a crucial role in deadly breast cancers, increasing the chances the cancer will spread and making it resistant to chemotherapy, US researchers said on Monday. They found people with aggressive breast cancers have abnormal genetic alterations in a gene called MTDH, and drugs that block the gene could keep local tumors from metastasizing or spreading, increasing a woman's chances for survival.

"Not only has a new metastasis gene been identified, but this also is one of a few such genes for which the exact mode of

action has been elucidated," said Dr Michael Reiss of The Cancer Institute of New Jersey in New Brunswick, whose study appears in the journal Cancer Cell.—Internet

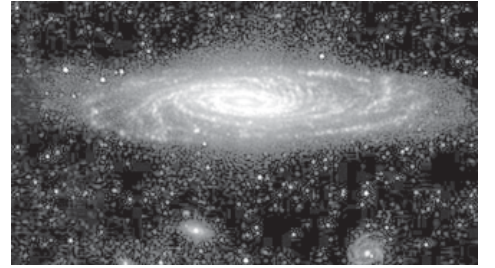
Milky Way spins faster, has more mass than thought

WASHINGTON, 6 Jan— The Milky Way, the Earth's home galaxy, is spinning much faster and has a mass 50 percent larger than previously believed, raising the probability of a collision with another galaxy, according to a report out Monday.

A team of international astronomers, with the aid of ten telescopes spread out between Hawaii, the Caribbean and the northeastern United States, determined that the Milky Way is rotating at a speed of 161,000 kilometres (100,000 miles) per hour faster than previously thought.

That increase in speed increases the Milky Way's mass by 50 percent, said Mark Reid, of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, in research presented at the American Astronomical Society meeting this week in Long Beach, California.

"No longer will we think of the Milky



This 2004 NASA Spitzer Space Telescope shows an infrared image of a nearby spiral galaxy that resembles our own Milky Way.—INTERNET

Way as the little sister of the Andromeda Galaxy," Reid said in a statement.

The larger mass however also means that it has a greater gravitational pull, which increases the likelihood of collisions with the Andromeda galaxy or smaller nearby galaxies, Reid said.

The earth's solar system is located some 28,000 light years from the center of the Milky Way.—Internet

Diamond dust shows comets hit 12,900 years ago

WASHINGTON, 6 Jan — Soil rich in diamond dust discovered across North America reinforces a theory that falling meteors caused the extinction of mammoths and other animals, said a study in the journal Science.

"These discoveries provide strong evidence for a cosmic impact event at approximately 12,900 years ago that would have had enormous environmental consequences for plants, animals and humans across North America," said Douglas Kennett of the University of Oregon, who led the research.

The findings appear to

bolster the theory set out in 2007 that several comets hitting the Earth triggered a 1,300-year-long ice age, causing the extinction of several species of animals and fragmented the prehistoric human Clovis culture. The Clovis people lived off of hunting and gathering in an area across what is now the United States, Mexico and Central America.

The peak of the Clovis era was from 13,200 to 12,900 years ago and scientists say the Clovis may have entered North America across a land bridge from Siberia.

Internet

A computer terminal is seen at a web cafe in central Kuala Lumpur. Malaysia is considering establishing a "cyber court" to deal with the increasing number of crimes related to the Internet and blogging, a report has said.

INTERNET



SPORTS

Redknapp ready for League Cup endurance test



Harry Redknapp, seen here, admits Tottenham's threadbare squad will be tested to the full before he can look forward to a return to Wembley.—INTERNET

LONDON, 6 Jan —Harry Redknapp admits Tottenham's threadbare squad will be tested to the full before he can look forward to a return to Wembley. Redknapp enjoyed the first taste of Wembley success in his long career when he led Portsmouth to FA Cup final victory over Cardiff last season and he is on the verge of another trip to the English national stadium. Now in charge at Tottenham, Redknapp will be walking out at Wembley again on March 1 if his new side can overcome Burnley in the League Cup semi-finals.

Tottenham, who beat Chelsea in last season's final, can take a giant step towards defending the trophy with a victory over the Championship club in the first leg at White Hart Lane on Tuesday.

But Redknapp fears a hectic schedule of four games in 12 days could stretch his injured-ravaged squad to breaking point.

Such is the severity of the injury crisis that Redknapp has been forced to call up that players who weren't even given squad numbers at the start of the season.—*Internet*

Unheralded Latvian tennis player downs Djokovic

BRISBANE, 6 JAN—Australian Open champion Novak Djokovic said preparations for his title defence were still on track despite a first-round loss Tuesday at the Brisbane International.

Latvian Ernests Gulbis sent the top-seeded Serb crashing out of the inaugural Brisbane tournament 6-4, 6-4. Djokovic, who along with fellow Serb Ana Ivanovic has enjoyed top billing here, never looked comfortable against the 53rd-ranked Gulbis and later said a number of factors had played a part in his defeat.

"I didn't play at all good today and I knew that the first match was going to be a very difficult one, especially if I played against a player who doesn't give me a lot of rhythm," he said.

"I changed a lot of things so there's still some things I'm not used to and unfortunately I got this result."—*Internet*



Ernests Gulbis of Latvia acknowledges the applause after beating top seed Novak Djokovic of Serbia in Brisbane 6-4, 6-4.—INTERNET

Tennis star Venus Williams says no plans to retire soon

HONG KONG, 6 Jan—Despite watching some of her biggest rivals hang up their rackets in recent years, five-time Grand Slam-winner Venus Williams says she still has plenty of goals to achieve in tennis.

"I love my job. I love hitting balls, running, jumping, chasing after that ball. I love what I do, so that's what keeps me motivated," the 28-year-old American said Tuesday in Hong Kong ahead of a warm-up exhibition tournament for the Australian Open.

While many of her contemporaries, like Belgians Justin Henin and Kim Clijsters, and Switzerland's Martina Hingis have left the WTA Tour, the elder of the two Williams sisters said she's still hungry for more.

Williams has won Wimbledon five times and the US Open twice, but has had less success at the two other Grand Slams, reaching the final at the French Open in 2002 and the Australian Open in 2003.—*Internet*

Benitez tells Reds to keep eyes on league prize



Liverpool's Spanish manager Rafael Benitez, seen here in November 2008, has told the Premier League leaders not to be distracted from their quest to win the English title by the hype surrounding their derby FA Cup tie with Everton.—INTERNET

LIVERPOOL, 6 Jan—Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez has told the Premier League leaders not to be distracted from their quest to win the English title by the hype surrounding their derby FA Cup tie with Everton. The Merseyside rivals will clash twice in a week, in the Premier League on January 19 and then in the fourth round of the Cup the following weekend. Both matches are at Liverpool's Anfield home ground and Benitez told the club's official website on Monday: "It is a draw which will excite everyone in the city, because everyone knows about the great rivalry that exists between the two clubs. "But we must remember that we have some big games coming up in the league before the cup tie - and we will be taking one game at a time," the cautious Spaniard added.—*Internet*

Dementieva battles to clear first round tennis hurdle



World number four Elena Dementieva, seen here, had to battle back from a big first set deficit to avoid a shock opening round exit at the hands of Taiwan's Yung-Jan Chan in the ASB Classic women's tournament. INTERNET

AUCKLAND, 6 Jan—World number four Elena Dementieva had to battle back from a big first set deficit to avoid a shock opening round exit at the hands of Taiwan's Yung-Jan Chan in the ASB Classic women's tournament here Tuesday.

The tournament's top seed fought back from 5-1 down in the first set to take the match 7-5, 6-3 after Chan threw everything at her more favoured opponent.

Second seed Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark had a much easier passage through to the second round, dispatching Italian qualifier Alberta Brianti 6-1, 6-0.—*Internet*



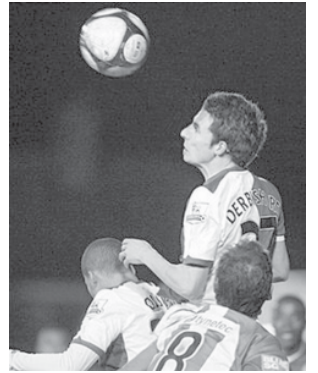
Venus Williams of the US attends a news conference ahead of the JB Group Classic tennis tournament in Hong Kong on 6 Jan, 2009.—INTERNET

Villanueva magic enough to see off valiant Spartans

BLYTH, 6 Jan—A brilliant freekick by Chilean international Carlos Villanueva proved the difference between Premiership side Blackburn Rovers and non-league Blyth Spartans here on Monday as Rovers ran out 1-0 winners.

Villanueva's 58th minute effort produced a justified result against a side 181 places below his team and earned them a fourth round clash with Premiership rivals Sunderland while extending their unbeaten record under Sam Allardyce since he took over four matches ago.

Allardyce - who fielded virtually a second string side - admitted he had been a little nervous towards the end with just the one goal advantage.



English Matt Derbyshire of Blackburn (Top) vies with English Chris McCabe of Blyth (Bottom) during a FA Cup, third round, football match between Blyth Spartans and Blackburn Rovers at Croft Park, Blyth. Rovers won 1-0.—INTERNET

"It was comfortable until the last few minutes, but having not converted our chances they were bound to get a chance at some stage.—*Internet*



Volkswagen driver Carlos Sainz, of Spain, competes to win the 2nd stage of the Argentina Dakar Rally 2009 between Santa Rosa de la Pampa and Puerto Madryn, Argentina, on 4 Jan, 2009.—INTERNET

Sainz wins second stage, takes Dakar Rally lead

BUENOS AIRES, 6 Jan—Former world rally champion Carlos Sainz of Spain negotiated blinding dust and a collision with a motorcycle entrant to win the second stage of the Dakar Rally on Sunday for the overall race lead. Volkswagen driver Sainz beat Frenchman Stephane Peterhansel to claim his 10th Dakar stage win when he finished the dusty, 147-mile stage from Santa Rosa de la Pampa to Puerto Madryn in Argentina in 1 hour, 56 minutes, 14 seconds.

"It was a very difficult stage with all the dust and the bikes. At times, we nearly had to stop," Sainz said. "I even hit a biker at one point. I hope he's going to be OK." Mitsubishi's Peterhansel was 1:14 seconds behind, while Sainz' Volkswagen teammate Giniel de Villiers of South Africa was third, 1:56 back. Sainz leads de Villiers by 2:19 after the first two stages and is 3:51 ahead of Peterhansel.

"The start of the special was very quick, but as soon as we arrived in the off-track part, it was not very easy to navigate and we got a little bit lost," de Villiers said. "We must have lost a minute or two. Then in the last section ... it was very difficult to get past the bikers. But I tried to be cautious and avoid any mishaps. We didn't do too badly."—*Internet*

U Yacoob (alias) Dr Yacoob Mohamed Hassanjee has expired on the 4th January 2009 at 94/96, Shwe Dagon Pagoda Road, Pabedan Township, Yangon, leaving a widow, Khatija Bi Bi Yacoob Attia, and the three children (1) Mariam Bi Bi Yacoob Hassanjee, (2) Mohamed Yacoob Hassanjee, and (3) Sara Bi Bi Yacoob Hassanjee. To be buried at Yayway Sunni Muslim Burial Grounds, Yangon.

30% of Cambodians live under poverty line

PHNOMPENH, 6 Jan—Some 30 percent of Cambodians now live under the poverty line, said Prime Minister Hun Sen here on Tuesday while addressing a bridge inauguration ceremony.

“We are making efforts to reduce poverty step by step and I couldn't achieve giant leap in this regard,” he said.

Cambodia realized 1 percent reduction of poverty on annual basis in the past years, thanks to the government policy and the economic growth, he said.

Cambodia is one among the 49 least developed countries in the world and the government previously claimed that 35 percent of the population lived under the poverty line of no more than 1 US dollar of daily income for a person.—*Internet*



Workers shape a snow sculpture at the Harbin International Ice and Snow Festival in Harbin, Heilongjiang Province on 6 January, 2009.
INTERNET



Pedestrians gather around the Honda in America float featuring a replica of Asimo, Honda's humanoid robot, during a Tournament of Rose Parade float display in Pasadena, Calif, on Friday, 2 Jan, 2009.—INTERNET

China corn futures dip after week of price increases, metals keep rising

BEIJING, 6 Jan—Major commodities kept an upward trend on Tuesday, with metals continuing a strong rise. Corn, however, dipped after a week-long price increase following an unprecedented large-volume state purchase.

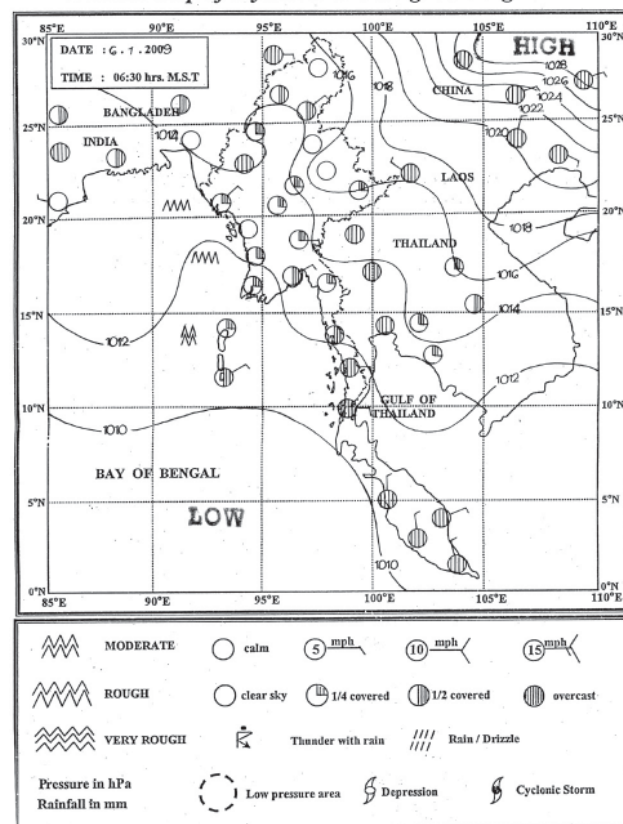
Corn contracts for May delivery closed 0.77 percent lower at 1,541 yuan (225.3 US dollars) a ton in the Dalian Commodity Exchange. The price was still much higher than the international level.

Corn contracts for March delivery on the Chicago Board of Trade slipped one penny to 4.11 US dollars a bushel on the latest trading day, equal to about 1,107 yuan a ton.

In an effort to encourage corn planting in 2009, the Chinese government announced last month that it would purchase 20 million tons of corn for state reserves from three northeastern provinces known as the country's major grain producers. This came after a previous purchase of 10 million tons.

The news of the state purchase failed to extend price increases, which also reflected sluggish market demand would continue to press the price, analysts said. They expected the price for corn to stay at around 1,500 yuan a tonne during the week.—*Internet*

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Tuesday, 6 January, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr

MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin, Shan and Chin States, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below January average temperatures in Chin State, upper Sagaing and Magway Divisions, (4°C) above January average temperatures in Taninthayi Division and about January average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Hakha (-3°C), Loilem (0°C) and Namhsan (2°C).

Maximum temperature on 5-1-2009 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 6-1-2009 was 60°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 6-1-2009 was 71%. Total sunshine hours on 5-1-2009 was (8.9) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 6-1-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from North at (12:30) hours MST on 5-1-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 7th January 2009:

Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, Shan, Rakhine and Mon States, Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair in the whole country.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 7-1-2009: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 7-1-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 7-1-2009: Fair weather.



Wednesday, 7 January
View on today

7:00 am

- မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

- To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

- Morning news

7:40 am

- Nice and sweet song

7:50 am

- အတီးဖြိုင်ပွဲ

8:05 am

- “တော်ပါပေတယ်ဘွားဘွားရယ်” (မင်းမော်ကွန်းမြတ်ကောသီအောင်) [ဒါရိုက်တာ-သိန်းဟန်(ဖီးနစ်)]

8:15 am

- Songs of national races

8:30 am

- International news

8:45 am

- Musical programme

4:00 pm

- Martial song

4:10 pm

- မြူးမြူးကြွကြွယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက

4:20 pm

- အဆိုဖြိုင်ပွဲ

4:30 pm

- Musical programme

4:45 pm

- အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ

ပထမနှစ် (ပထဝီဝင်အထူးပြု)
(ပထဝီဝင်)

4:55 pm

- Songs to uphold national spirit

5:00 pm

- နိုင်ငံ့စီးပွားအလေးထားကျေးလက် ထုတ်ကုန်များ

5:10 pm

- Classical song

5:20 pm

- အတီးဖြိုင်ပွဲ

5:30 pm

- “ကျွမ်းတိုင်းမကြမ်းနဲ့” (လျှမ်းထက်သတ္တိဖြိုးမောင်မောင်၊ သဇင်၊ ဇုချစ်ဇော်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဇော်လူထက်)

5:35 pm

- ရှုဖွယ်စုံလင်အာဆီယံအစီအစဉ်

5:45 pm

- Musical programme

6:00 pm

- Evening news

6:30 pm

- Weather report

6:35 pm

- မြန်မာ့ဓလေ့ရိုးရာလက်ရာ

6:55 pm

- ထက်မြက်ပျော်ရွှင်အိမ်ထောင်ရှင်

7:25 pm

- ရသပေါ်လွင်သရုပ်ဆောင်လွင်ပြင်

8:00 pm

- News

- International news

- Weather report

- မြန်မာ့ဒီမိုကရေစီလမ်း

- “လိပ်ပြာပြောတဲ့လွမ်းပုံပြင်” (မင်းမော်ကွန်း၊ နန္ဒာလှိုင်)

- (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်တင်ဦး)

Kadappana Sluice Gate to irrigate some 15,000 acres of farmlands

Article: Tin Htwe (MNA); Photos: Thaung Myint (MNA)

In consistence with the first of the four economic objectives laid down by the government: development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well, the Irrigation Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has been carrying out feasibility study constantly to exploit water and land sources effectively in pursuance of the goal for agricultural and regional development.

Now, the Irrigation Department is undertaking Kadappana Sluice Gate in Kyauktan Township with the aim of preventing floods from entering farmlands in the rainy season and supplying more water in summer in the north eastern part of Thanlyin Township, Yangon South District.

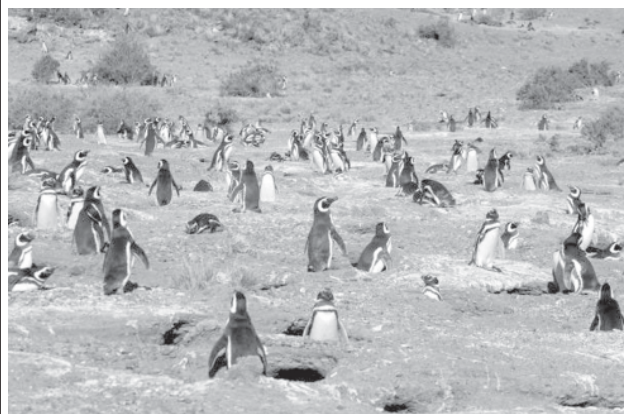
The department also constructed Kayan Sluice Gate in Thanlyin Township and Takaw Sluice Gate in Thongwa Township to prevent floods from entering watershed areas in Thanlyin, Thongwa and Kyauktan townships in Yangon South District when the river rages in the rainy season; to let the overflow water in inland areas flow back when the tide ebbs in order to ease the floods in farmlands; to supply freshwater to monsoon paddy fields in the late monsoon, to cold season crop plantations, and to contribute toward freshwater supply in summer; and to prevent saltwater and silt from entering the fields in summer.

(See page 10)



Kadappana Sluice Gate Project being undertaken by the Irrigation Department on the Kadappana Creek near Kadappana Village in Kyauktan Township.

New park protects penguins and other marine life in Argentina



BUENOS AIRES, 6 Jan—The Bronx Zoo-based Wildlife Conservation Society has just announced that its

efforts to protect a wildlife-rich coastal region in South America have paid off in the form of a new coastal marine park recently signed into law by the Government of Argentina.

The park, which became official in early December protects half a million penguins along with several species of rare seabirds and the region's only population of South American fur seals. It is the first protected area in Argentina specifically designed to safeguard not only onshore breeding colonies but also areas of ocean where wildlife feed at sea.

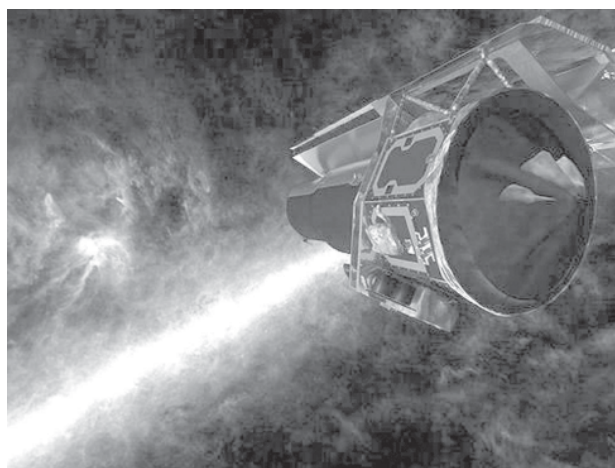
The park's creation represents a joint effort by the National Parks Service of Argentina, Government of Chubut, Wildlife Conservation Society and its local partner Fundación Patagonia Natural with support from the United Nations Development Programme and the Global Environment Facility.—*Internet*

Astronomers to gaze back in time and map history of Universe

HATFIELD, 6 Jan —UK astronomers are set to expand our knowledge of the history of our Universe with a new project to map the inception and formation of galaxies.

Making use of an Infrared Array Camera on NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope, the Spitzer Extragalactic Representative Volume Survey (SERVS) will make a very large map of the sky, capable of detecting extremely faint galaxies. The primary aim is to chart the distribution of stars and black holes from when the Universe was less than a billion years old to the present day.

The survey is one of the largest ever awards of observing time on a space-based observatory - a total of 1400 hours.—*Internet*



Artist's view of Spitzer seen against the infrared sky. The band of light is the glowing dust emission from the Milky Way galaxy seen at 100 microns.—*INTERNET*

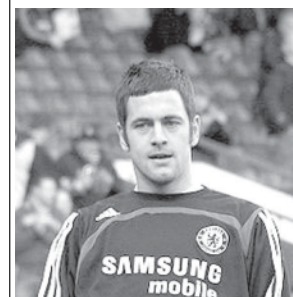
INSIDE

The government is constructing more and more new roads to form a network of transport facilities in Ayeyawady Division. It is, therefore, believed that the region will be on the verge of greater commercial development with a swift commodity flow.

PAGE 2

PERSPECTIVES

Joe Cole unhappy at Chelsea?



LONDON, 6 Jan — Joe Cole is apparently planning to hold talks with manager Luiz Felipe Scolari as the English international winger is said to be unhappy at Chelsea.

The 27-year-old's position at Stamford Bridge under Blues boss Scolari seems to have become shaky and as such, he wants to hold

showdown talks with the Brazilian tactician.

Cole was substituted before the final whistle during the Blues' 1-1 FA Cup draw against Southend, which is said to have left the former West Ham player angry. Saturday's game was the 12th time in a row he has been substituted and it appeared that Cole refused to shake his manager's hand as he left the field.

A source close to player told the Express: "Joe was not happy. He wants a chat with the manager to see where he stands."—*Internet*