

## Patients of Kyaukpyu receive free eye treatment



**Commander Maj-Gen Thaung Aye and Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe view free treatment being provided to eye patients of Kyaukpyu District at Kyaukpyu General Hospital (100-bed).**  
MNA

YANGON, 7 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 viewed free treatment being provided to eye patients of Kyaukpyu District by the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Transport, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation and social organizations at Kyaukpyu General Hospital (100-bed) in Kyaukpyu on 5 January.

The medical team comprising 23 doctors and nurses, the technician of AICON Co, Rakhine State

### MFF to hold talks

YANGON, 7 Jan—A talk to mark the 10th Anniversary of Myanmar Fisheries Federation will be held in the form of discussions at the federation on Bayintnaung Road in Insein Township at 2 p.m. on 10 January with the sponsorship of Toyo Battery.

The title of the talk is "Global Financial Crisis: Challenges and Opportunities". The talk will be in a roundtable discussions. Dr Nay Win Maung (CEO, Living Colour and the Voice Journal) will act as a facilitator. Dr U Myint (UN Senior Economist), Dr Sein Maung (Chairman of First Private Bank), U Tin Maung Than (Vice-Chairman of MFF), writer U Khin Maung Nyo (Economics) and writer U Ko Ko Hlaing (International Affairs Researcher) will participate in the discussions.

Such talk has been held for three years. Any person may attend the talks.

MNA

eye specialist Dr Moe Kyaw, doctors, nurses and health staff from Kyaukpyu Hospital, led by Head of Administration Department of MWAF Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe, Head of Discipline Department Daw Mya Theingi, eye specialists Professor Dr Kan Nyunt, Prof Dr Nyunt Aung and specialist Dr Nilar Thein, participated in the free treatment.

They gave free treatment to 1,302 eye patients on 5 January with the contribution of K 1 million by MWAF and medicines and other cost by Golden Wax Co Ltd and with the assistance of the Ministry of Transport, Rakhine State WAO and Rakhine State Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, social organizations, Head of Rakhine State Health Department Dr Cho Tun and officials.

MNA

### INSIDE

**The national objectives of the Union Day for this year indicate the national duties to be discharged at present or in the future.**

PAGE 2

PERSPECTIVES

### 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

## Klinsmann excited by Donovan potential

MUNICH, 7 Jan—Bayern Munich coach Jurgen Klinsmann insists that USA international Landon Donovan has not joined the Bundesliga club simply to make up the numbers.

Donovan has signed for Bayern on loan from the Los Angeles Galaxy until mid-March, and Klinsmann is convinced he will have a big part to play in his side's assault on three trophies this season.

The German champions are currently joint top of the Bundesliga, in the last 16 of the DFB-Pokal and at the same stage of the Champions League.

"We are all excited about him," Klinsmann said of Donovan on the club's website.

"He will make appearances in friendly matches, the DFB-Pokal and in the Bundesliga.

"He wants to show everybody responsible here, including me, that he is a player for FC Bayern. He has what it takes to make it."

Internet



**Donovan - loan spell in Munich.**

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 8 January, 2009

Unity is dignity of the Union

Myanmar is a country where national races reside in unity. All the national people have been living and consistently safeguarding their own nation, sovereignty and national prestige and integrity from time immemorial.

Myanmar regained independence and sovereignty through national solidarity. The Union Day is observed every year with the aim of keeping Union spirit alive and upholding fine traditions in the history among the people.

The national objectives of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Union Day are —

- 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 and,
- for all the national races to make concerted efforts for successful implementation of the seven-step Road Map.

Nowadays, the government is building a new modern developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation with the participation of all the national people. Brilliant achievements have been made in political, economic and social sectors.

The national objectives of the Union Day for this year indicate the national duties to be discharged by all at present or in the future. Therefore, all the national people need to discharge the national duties in accord with the Union spirit and noble traditions so that there will be peace, unity and prosperity nationwide.

Firemen honoured for risky performances

YANGON, 7 Jan—The members of Yangon Division Fire Services Department, who had put out the fire at risk, were lauded at Tamway Township Fire Services Department here this morning.

Head of Yangon Division Fire Services Department Deputy Director U Aung Kyaw Myint recounted their experiences to manage to distinguish the fire blazing in Yuzana Palaza at risk to life on 14 December. Fire Services Department (Lower Myanmar) Director U Zaw Win presented certificates of honour to them.—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

Ambassador U Hla Myint accredited to New Zealand

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Jan—The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Hla Myint, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Commonwealth of Australia, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to New Zealand.—MNA

Myanmarsar Dept get-together 11 Jan

YANGON, 7 Jan—Old students of Myanmarsar Department of Yangon University will pay respects to 46 retired faculty members aged 70 and above at Universities Dhammayon on 11 January at 1 pm. All old students are invited.

MNA

MYANMAR GAZETTE

YANGON, 7 Jan—The State Peace and Development Council has confirmed the appointment of the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

| Name              | Appointment                                                                                           |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (a) U Hla Htay    | Managing Director<br>Myanma Hotels and Tourism Services<br>Ministry of Hotels and Tourism             |
| (b) Dr. Aung Khin | Rector<br>University of Community Health (Magway)<br>Medical Science Department<br>Ministry of Health |

The State Peace and Development Council has appointed Pro-Rector Dr. Tin Min of University of Medicine-1, Yangon, under the Ministry of Health as Rector of Public Health University (Yangon) under the same ministry on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.—MNA

Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) swimming and water polo contests conclude

YANGON, 7 Jan— The prize presentation ceremony of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Shield Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) swimming and water polo contests was held at Tatmadaw (Navy) swimming pool of Ayeyawady Naval Region Command this morning. On behalf of the Defence Services Commander-in-Chief, Commander of Naval Dockyard Command Headquarters Commodore Han Sein opened the contests by delivering a speech.

At the competitions, the Central Command



Commodore Han Sein (Navy) presents champion shield to Office of Commander-in-Chief (Navy).—MNA

won water polo championship shield and senior class swimming championship shield and

the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), novice class swimming championship

shield.

Afterwards, officials presented prizes to winners.—MNA

9<sup>th</sup> MOC Chairman's Cup volleyball tournament concludes

YANGON, 7 Jan — The final match of the 9<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman's Cup Volleyball Tournament was held at Aung San Gymnasium on 5 January.

Among the spectators were MOC General Secretary Director-General U Thaung Htaik of Sports and Physical Education Department and officials, responsible persons of Myanmar Volleyball Federation, guests, managers and athletes of volleyball teams.

Next, the prize presentation ceremony followed.

On behalf of the Chairman of MOC the Minister for Sports, Director-General U Thaung Htaik presented championship trophies to Transport (A) women's team and Defence (A) men's team. Officials concerned also awarded athletes of first, second and third prize winning teams in men's and women's volleyball competitions and best players of the tournament.

MNA

## US troops open fire on car in Iraq, one killed

BAGHDAD, 7 Jan—US troops opened fire and killed a passenger in a car in central Iraq after the vehicle failed to heed warnings to keep its distance from a military convoy, the US military said on Tuesday.

“In Baqouba, a passenger in a vehicle was mortally wounded after the driver of the vehicle failed to respond to repeated

warning signals from a convoy,” a statement said.

A soldier opened fire after the car drove towards the convoy at an intersection despite the warnings, the military said, adding the driver of the vehicle was unharmed. The incident marked the second shooting of an Iraqi civilian by US forces in less than a week after US soldiers opened fire and criti-

cally wounded a newly-wed Iraqi female television producer in Baghdad on 1 Jan.

Both incidents are under investigation.

Baqouba, capital of Diyala Province, is one of the most dangerous parts of Iraq, with near-daily attacks despite improvements in security elsewhere in the war-battered country. —Internet



*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*



*A man is helped out of a hospital after being hurt in a road side bomb blast near Mustransiriyah Square in eastern Baghdad, Iraq, on 5 Jan, 2009. Seven people were wounded in the blast, police said.—INTERNET*

## Several killed in Iraq explosions

BAGHDAD, 7 Jan—At least one Iraqi civilian was killed and six others were injured, including three Iraqi soldiers, when a car bomb exploded on Tuesday in Baghdad. The explosion was near the marketplace of Halouani, KUNA, the Kuwaiti News Agency, reported on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, three American soldiers were injured when an Iraqi man tossed a hand grenade at a US Army patrol unit in southern Baghdad.

A source said the unknown Iraqi threw the hand grenade at the US vehicle causing injuries to three servicemen and damaging the vehicle, KUNA reported. US forces in the vehicle opened fire at the Iraqi gunmen and killed him, the source said.

In northern Iraq, two Iraqis died and eight others were injured in two separate explosions in Kirkuk and Mosul, the Kuwait news agency KUNA reported.

Police said two people died and at least one was injured when gunmen fired on three Iraqi civilians on the main road between Kirkuk and Salmaniya.

In Mosul, police said seven people—including five police officers—were injured when an explosives-laden vehicle exploded. Officials told KUNA the driver was targeting a police patrol.—Internet

## US military deaths in Iraq war at 4,222

WASHINGTON, 7 Jan—As of Tuesday, 6 Jan, 2009, at least 4,222 members of the US military had died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003.

The figure includes eight military civilians killed in action. At least 3,402 military personnel died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The British military has reported 178 deaths; Italy, 33; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 21; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Denmark, seven; El Salvador, five; Slovakia, four; Latvia and Georgia, three each; Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand and Romania, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan and South Korea, one death each.

Since the start of US military operations in Iraq, 30,934 US service members have been wounded in hostile action, according to the Defence Department's weekly tally.—Internet

*A municipality worker surveys the scene after a rocket landed on an empty kindergarten in the port city of Ashdod on 5 Jan, 2009.—INTERNET*

## Pakistan calls for foreign support, not troops

KABUL, 7 Jan—Pakistan's president called Tuesday for foreign allies to provide more support—not more troops—to help win the battle against extremist militias along its volatile border with Afghanistan.

Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari said his country's forces, together with the Afghan military, could do the fighting themselves

if given the right international support.

The comments come ahead of an expected influx of 20,000 American troops into Afghanistan to combat a Taliban insurgency that has sent violence skyrocketing in the last two years.

On his first official visit to Afghanistan since taking office in September, Zardari also discussed

trade partnerships with Afghan President Hamid Karzai. “We and my brother Karzai, we are going to fight them. And to the world we say, ‘Help us. We can fight. We can look out for ourselves. We want to win. We have the strength. All we need is the support. Given the proper support, we can do the job better and cheaper and easier than you can do.’ ”

Pakistan and Afghanistan are dependent on each other for any long-lasting peace. Al-Qaeda and Taliban fighters operate on both sides of the hard-to-police Afghan-Pakistan border, sometimes seeking sanctuary in Pakistan's tribal areas to launch attacks into Afghanistan, or within Pakistan.—Internet



**NATO  
soldier, three  
police  
killed in  
Afghanistan**

KABUL, 7 Jan—The NATO-led force in Afghanistan said that one of its soldiers was killed in action Tuesday in the south of the country, where new Taliban attacks also killed three policemen and an Afghan cleric. The International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) helping Afghanistan to fight a fierce Taliban-led uprising did not give the name and nationality of its latest fatality, the fourth this year.

“An ISAF serviceman was killed today in a hostile incident in southern Afghanistan,” it said in a statement that contained no other details.

There are more than 50,000 troops in ISAF, most of them Americans although many of those in the south are British, Canadian and Dutch.—Internet



*Afghan President Hamid Karzai, right, shakes hand with Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari during a joint press conference at the presidential palace in Kabul, Afghanistan on 6 Jan, 2009.—INTERNET*

## China urges Security Council to push for immediate ceasefire in Gaza

UNITED NATIONS, 7 Jan— China on Tuesday called on the UN Security Council to take swift action to push for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.

China's UN Ambassador Zhang Yesui made the appeal at a high-level meeting of the Security Council on the Gaza crisis.

"We hope the Security Council will respond to the will of the interna-



**Zhang Yesui, Chinese Permanent Representative to the United Nations, attends the meeting on Gaza crisis held by Security Council at the UN headquarters in New York, the United States, on 6 Jan, 2009.—XINHUA**

tional community and the appeals of Arab states, and take swift actions to adopt a resolution so as to send a positive and clear signal to the parties concerned and push for an immediate ceasefire," Zhang told the Council.

The Security Council, which shoulders primary responsibility for maintaining world peace and security, has every reason to play an active role in resolving the conflict in Gaza, he said.

Xinhua



**Missile destroyer "Wuhan" (Front) of a Chinese naval fleet leads Chinese ships sailing in the Gulf of Aden, on 6 Jan, 2009. The Chinese naval fleet arrived Tuesday in the waters of the Gulf of Aden off Somalia to carry out the first escort mission against pirates.—XINHUA**

## Plane makes emergency landing in Manila soon after take-off

MANILA, 7 Jan—A packed passenger aircraft bound for a popular Philippine tourist island made emergency landing soon after it took off from Manila airport Wednesday morning, the airline company said. The three dozens people on board were all safe.

The ATR 72-500 plane, belonged to domestic budget airline Cebu Pacific Air, returned to the runway of Manila Airport due to engine trouble at around 7:10 local time (2310GMT), some 10 minutes after take-off, the company said in a short statement.

Xinhua



**A total of 12.46 million Chinese applicants will take the entrance exam for postgraduate studies this weekend, sources with the Ministry of Education said on 6 Jan, 2009. —XINHUA**

## Uruguayan authorities evacuate tourists from forest fire

MONTEVIDEO, 7 Jan— Authorities on Tuesday evacuated 2,000 tourists from a resort in southeastern Uruguay because of a forest fire.

Daniel Pilar Altez, secretary of the management of Rocha department in southeastern Uruguay, said the fire near the La

Esmeralda resort threatens about 500,000 houses.

Firefighters and Air Force helicopters battled the blaze as authorities evacuated the tourists, officials with the Emergency Committee of Rocha said.

Smoke from the blaze, blamed on a fire built by

a woodsman to cook food, was visible from about 800 km away, witnesses said.

Uruguay is suffering from one of its worst-ever droughts and authorities in recent days have repeatedly reminded people that building fires for cooking or burning garbage is prohibited due to the risk of forest fires.

Xinhua



**A bride sits in a sedan, carried by people in traditional costume walking on stilts, during a wedding in the Chinese traditional style held at Wannan Village of Qinyang City, central China's Henan Province, on 6 Jan, 2009.—XINHUA**

## All items from Xinhua News Agency

## Israel seeking Gaza exit beside Hamas' wreck

JERUSALEM, 7 Jan—Israel is trying to blaze a favourable trail out of the warfare in the Gaza Strip as its troops continued the ground incursion on Tuesday to deal the biggest possible blow to the Islamist Hamas movement.

"The sooner, the better," Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert told local daily Ha'aretz when asked when the Israel Defence Forces(IDF) plans to end its operation. "We did not set out to occupy Gaza or kill every terrorist. We set out to bring change to the south."

Reiterating his country has no interest in a long assault in the Palestinian enclave, he said he was in contact with many world leaders in a bid to hammer out a diplomatic solution for the already 11-day-old offensive.

With the latest casualties count in Gaza showing over 670 killed and 3,000 wounded, international pressure is mounting for an immediate ceasefire, of which the most high-profile came from the European Union (EU) and France.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy, who unsuccessfully proposed an immediate 48-hour humanitarian truce last week, met Olmert and his Israeli counterpart Shimon Peres on Monday and urged Israel to revisit the initiative.

Xinhua

## Explosive devices detonate of little danger to public

PHNOM PENH, 7 Jan— The three explosive devices that were safely detonated on Friday near the Ministry of National Defence and the TV3 headquarters were of little danger to the public, national media reported on Wednesday.

According to the analysis of the bomb parts, they were made from aerosol cans packed

with TNT and would have been noisy but not destructive, said Heng Ratana, director general of the Cambodian Mine Action Center (CMAC).

CMAC barred any potential of the devices to cause fire or provoke chaos in the public, he was quoted by Khmer English language newspaper the Cambodia Daily as saying.

"It is difficult to draw conclusions," he said, adding that he was stumped as to the motives of the bomb planters.

The Cambodian police had identified two persons suspected of planting the explosive materials and were investigating more details of the case, said government spokesman Khieu Kanharith earlier this week.—Xinhua

# News safety organization says 109 journalists killed in 2008

BRUSSELS, 7 Jan—A total of 109 journalists and support workers died worldwide covering the news in 2008, according to a count of the International News Safety Institute (INSI) on Tuesday.

The figure for 2008 was significantly down from the 172 counted in 2007 due mainly to a major fall in deaths in Iraq, from 65 in 2007 to 16 in 2008, INSI said.

“We celebrate a safer environment for our Iraqi colleagues after five long years of great danger and terrible casualties. But Iraq remains the deadliest place in the world for the



**A journalist with helmet and bullet-proof vest looks into north Gaza Strip at the top of a hill near Gaza border, south Israel, on 4 Jan, 2009.**

INTERNET

news media,” said INSI Director Rodney Pinder in a press release.

In 2008, the deadliest countries after Iraq were India and Mexico, with 10 deaths each, Thailand (9), the Philippines (8) and Pakistan (7), according to the INSI count, cross-checked with data gathered by the International Federation of Journalists. Most of the deaths in 2008 were murders apparently because of their work. And 2009 has got off to a grim start with three deaths in the first four days, two in a suicide bombing in Pakistan and one gunned down in Somalia.—*Internet*



**Smokes rise following Israeli airstrikes in the northern Gaza Strip on 5 Jan, 2009. Israel continued on Monday its military attacks on the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip since the start on 27 Dec, 2008, leaving at least 514 people dead and 2,600 others wounded. —XINHUA**

## Mitsubishi Motors eyeing 900 more job cuts

TOKYO, 7 Jan—Mitsubishi Motors is preparing to cut some 900 more jobs as Japanese automakers downsize to cope with a slump in demand for cars, media reports said on Wednesday.

Japan’s fourth largest automaker will not renew contracts for selected temporary workers at a factory in Kurashiki in western Japan, public broadcaster NHK said.

The local Sanyo Shimbun said in its online edition that the factory had already terminated 250 jobs by the end of last month, and the fresh job cuts could push the total number of layoffs above 1,000. “The layoff is inevitable for us to cope with the rapid fall in sales,” a factory official told the Sanyo.—*Internet*

## M&S to shed over 1,000 jobs

LONDON, 7 Jan—Marks & Spencer is set to axe more than 1,000 jobs, reports said, bringing further gloom to the high street as it struggles under the weight of the downturn.

Unions voiced shock at the job cuts expected to be confirmed Wednesday by the clothing-to-food retailer, seen as a barometer of consumer sentiment.

“We want to know the business case for this decision and are seeking to meet with the company to have urgent meaningful consultation,” said John Gorle of the Usdaw union. “We hope other retailers will not panic and announce major redundancies as their staff are their greatest asset and Usdaw will always encourage companies to take a long-term view,” he said.—*Internet*

## Cambodia marks Khmer Rouge fall

PHNOM PENH, 7 Jan—Thousands of Cambodians celebrated on Wednesday the fall of the murderous Khmer Rouge regime 30 years ago as a UN-backed tribunal prepared to finally try some of its key leaders for crimes against humanity.

More than 40,000 people packed Phnom Penh’s Olympic Stadium for speeches and a parade to mark the day Vietnamese forces entered the capital to oust the ultra-communists from power.

Despite the deaths of 1.7 million or more Cambodians during the Khmer Rouge’s 1975-79 rule, none of the surviving leaders have yet faced justice.

One of the accused—Kaing Guek Eav, better known as Duch, who headed the Khmer Rouge’s largest torture center—is expected to take the stand in March, said co-prosecutor Robert Petit, adding that the trial is expected to take three to four months.

But the other four, all of them aging and ailing, probably won’t be tried until 2010 or later. Tribunal spokeswoman Helen Jarvis said Tuesday that they would hold a procedural meeting next week.—*Internet*

## Palestinian working for Iran media held in Israel

JERUSALEM, 7 Jan—A Palestinian working for an Iranian television station was held for questioning by Israeli police Tuesday on suspicion of violating censorship rules.

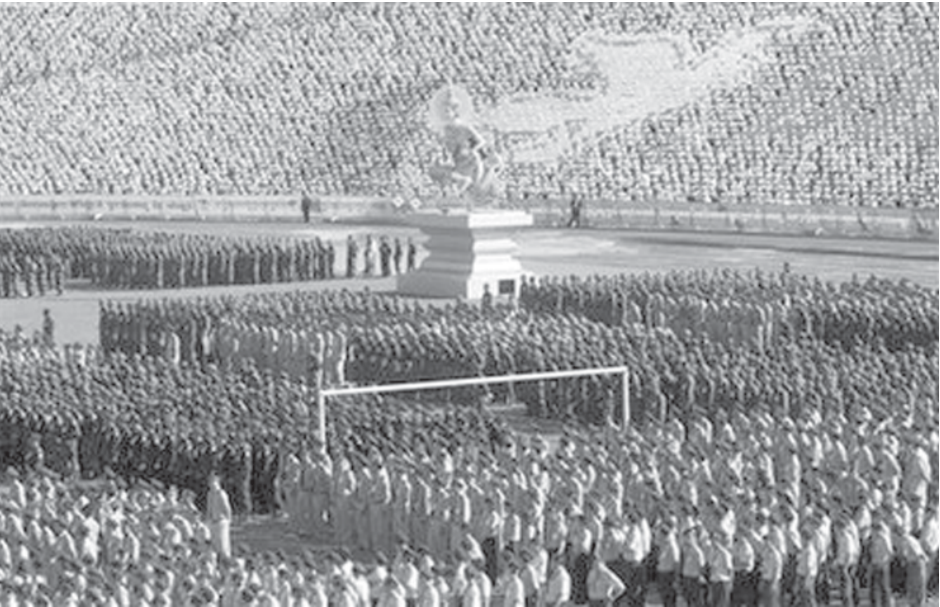
The man’s lawyer said the Palestinian was also suspected of passing confidential information to unauthorized persons —“a very harsh security offense”—but gave no further details.

Khadr Shahine, who reported for Iran’s state-owned Arabic language Al-Alam television station, violated the censorship rules when he reported the beginning of Israel’s ground offensive against the Gaza Strip before it was permitted by military censors, Israeli authorities said.

Shahine turned himself in Tuesday after hearing police wanted to question him, his lawyer said.

Israel’s military censor has broad powers to shut down media outlets or imprison journalists to prevent the release of information deemed threatening to the state’s security.

Internet



**Thousands of Cambodians look on during ceremonies at Olympic Stadium on 7 Jan, 2009, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, celebrating the fall of the Khmer Rouge regime 30 years ago. As scheduled, the first trial of the Khmer Rouge leaders will take place sometime in the first quarter of this year.—INTERNET**

## Gunmen attack TV station in northern Mexico

MONTERREY, 7 Jan—Masked gunmen opened fire and tossed a grenade at a Mexican television station as it aired its nightly newscast Tuesday, leaving behind a message warning the station about its coverage of drug gangs. No injuries were reported in the assault on the Televisa network’s studio in the northern city of Monterrey. It was the latest in a series of attacks on journalists covering drug cartels in Mexico.

Televisa Monterrey director Francisco Cobo said the masked gunmen arrived in two pickup trucks and opened fire during the station’s evening newscast.

Two news anchors asked for police help on the air. The assailants left a message outside the station that read: “Stop reporting only about us, also report about the narco-officials. This is a warning,” Cobo told the El Universal newspaper.

The attack comes as drug cartels wage bloody battles over turf and smuggling routes. The gangs have been known to kill journalists who report drug violence.

Officials say at least 5,300 people died in Mexico in drug-related slayings in 2008.

The federal Attorney General’s office confirmed Tuesday’s attack in a statement and said it would take over the investigation.—*Internet*

### Six killed in house fires in Japan

TOKYO, 7 Jan—At least six people were killed in house fires in Tokyo and the city of Nara early Wednesday morning, local media reported.

In Tokyo, four people, including two children, died in a 5:20 am (2020 GMT Tuesday) fire in Tokyo. Four other people in the house sustained injuries, Kyodo News quoted police source as saying.

In Nara, a fire broke out at around 2:35 am (1735 GMT Tuesday), killing two elderly people.

Meanwhile, in Hakodate, Hokkaido, 17 people were hospitalized after they inhaled smoke following a fire in a multi tenant building at around 5:30 am. None of them was in a life-threatening condition, according to local police. —Internet

### German billionaire commits suicide due to financial crisis

BERLIN, 7 Jan—German billionaire Adolf Merckle has committed suicide after his business empire was plunged into difficulties due to the financial crisis, his family said on Tuesday.

Merckle, 74, threw himself under a train on Monday evening at his hometown of Blaubeuren, a small town near southern Germany city of Ulm, and a railway worker found his body by the side of the track, German news agency DPA reported.

A statement released by the family said the financial crisis and its effects on Merckle’s 100-strong network of companies had turned him into a broken man.

“He took his own life,” the statement said. Local police said there was no indication that anyone else was involved in his death.

Merckle had been listed as Germany’s fifth richest man with an estimated fortune of 6.9 billion euros ( around 9.2 billion US dollars), and his empire ranged from generic drugs to cement.

Internet



**Workers move the wreckage of Continental Airlines flight 1404 to a site outside a Continental hangar at Denver International Airport in Denver on 3 Jan, 2009 from the ravine where it crash landed on 20 Dec, 2008. Aviation safety experts said on 6 Jan, strong crosswinds likely were a factor in an accident last month that sent a Continental Airlines jet into a bone-jarring veer off a Denver runway and across open, snowy fields before it came to a halt and caught fire.**

INTERNET

### Chinese bank says Bank of America selling shares

BEIJING, 7 Jan— Bank of America Corp is selling part of its stake in China Construction Bank Ltd, China’s second-largest state-owned lender, in a deal that could be worth up to \$3 billion as the US institution raises money to cope with trouble at home.

Bank of America will sell 5.62 billion Construction Bank shares, the Chinese bank said in a statement Wednesday. It gave no financial details but Construction Bank shares were trading at 4.24 Hong Kong dollars (54 US cents) on Wednesday morning in Hong Kong, which could make the deal worth up to \$3 billion.

Phone calls to Bank of America spokespeople at its Asian headquarters in Singapore and Hong Kong were not answered.—Internet

### Roadside bomb blast kills one African peacekeeper in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU, 7 Jan— One African Union peacekeeper was killed and another injured in a remote controlled roadside bomb explosion which hit their convoy as they conducted mine sweeping in the south of the Somali capital Mogadishu, the peacekeeping mission in Mogadishu said on Tuesday.

“As a result of the explosion one soldier was killed while another was injured. Both are from the Ugandan contingent,” said a statement from the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

Nearly 3,400 African Union peacekeepers from Uganda and Burundi are currently deployed in Mogadishu as part of a UN authorized 8,000 strong force. Other African countries that pledged to contribute have not so far sent in their share because of logistical difficulties.—Internet



**A file photo of French butchers working on the world’s longest sausage. Bucharest attempted a new world record with a 392-metre (1,286-foot) smoked sausage that took two weeks to prepare and weighs a hefty 150 kilogrammes (330 pounds).**

### MP3 player guides rescuers to lost tourists

The light from an MP3 player saved two lost tourists from a chilly night stuck out in the snowy Swiss mountains, rescue authorities said Saturday.

The two — a skier and snowboarder, both from France— had got lost late in the day Friday outside marked runs near the resort of Savognin in southeast Switzerland, said Gery Baumann, spokesman for mountain rescue service Rega.

They were able to alert authorities using a mobile phone, but it then ran out of battery power, Baumann said.

“The two winter sports enthusiasts were found by the crew of the Rega helicopter shortly after midnight— thanks to the faint light of their MP3 player,” he said.

The two men had only mild hypothermia, despite temperatures falling as low as 15 degrees Celsius.

### Brazilian toddler found alive days after lost in forest

A 21-month old toddler was found alive on Tuesday after being lost in forest for over four days in northern Brazil’s Amazon rainforest region.

The police said the girl, Ana Clara Abranches, fell into a hole. She was found asleep some 400 metres away from the place where she disappeared on the morning of 1 Jan. According to the Ariquemes’ Children’s Hospital, where she was being treated, Ana Clara was dehydrated and lost three kg in the past four days. Apart from some minor injuries, such as cuts and scrapes from the fall and insect bites, her health was considered good.

### Punk singer “hiccups for two years”

A British man has claimed that he has been suffering from the hiccups for two years. Christopher Sands from Lincoln, who fronts the punk band Ebullient, said that his condition has left him unable to sleep or hold down food.

The 25-year-old will undergo stomach surgery in an attempt to remedy the problem, for which he receives incapacity benefits. Just recently I have been bringing every meal I eat back up again, I am starting to feel quite weak and my trousers all need belts now, so I made a visit to the doctor’s, explained everything to her,” he wrote on his MySpace page.



**Citizen Du Wanli shows a handmade leaf-carving artwork featuring the patterns of ox in Jinan, capital of east China’s Shandong Province to welcome the forthcoming year of ox in Chinese lunar calendar.**



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

### Nurse missing for a week found alive in car boot

A nurse who had been missing for more than a week was found alive in the boot of her car in Scotland, reports said.

Magdeline Makola was last seen getting into her car outside the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary where she works in the cardiology unit.

Police officers found the 38-year-old nurse in the boot of the car which was parked on a suburban road some 40 miles away in Airdrie.

Makola was taken to hospital for treatment for minor injuries.

Her colleagues had raised the alarm when she failed to show up for a shift on December 18, an absence that police described as out of character.

## NEWS ALBUM

# Balar River Water Pumping Station benefits 1000 acres of arable lands

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

The Water Resources Utilization Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, in its bid to contribute to one of the Five Rural Development Programmes: Rural Water Supply, is implementing water pumping projects and river water pumping projects in Hmawby, Hlegu and Mingaladon townships of Yangon

Pumping Project (1) was launched on 1 December 2004 and completed on 27 February 2005.

It is located by Yangon-Mandalay Highway near No. 3 Highway in Mingaladon Township. It gets water from the canal of Ngamoeyeik Dam.

Balar River Water Pumping Project (1) pumps water as high as 10 feet. It has a stage to pump

feet in total, 46 canal structures, and two sets of 40 HP (30) KW water pump. It irrigates 300 acres of farmlands.

Balar River Water Pumping Project (2) commenced in 2004-2005 fiscal year, and was completed in 2005-2006 fiscal year.

It is situated by Yangon-Mandalay Highway, and it gets water from the new Barlar canal



**Water is pumped to main canal with the use of paddy husk-fired power at Balar Water Pumping Station.**

feet, with a water-pumping stage, a fixed type, the 10,000 feet long main canal, tributary canals stretching 19,000

feet in total, 52 canal structures, and three sets of 30 HP (22) KW water pump. It benefits 700 acres of farmlands.

to use of paddy husk-fired power generator.

Farmers get sufficient irrigation water whenever it is needed,



**An employee pouring paddy husk into fuel tank at Balar Water Pumping Station.**

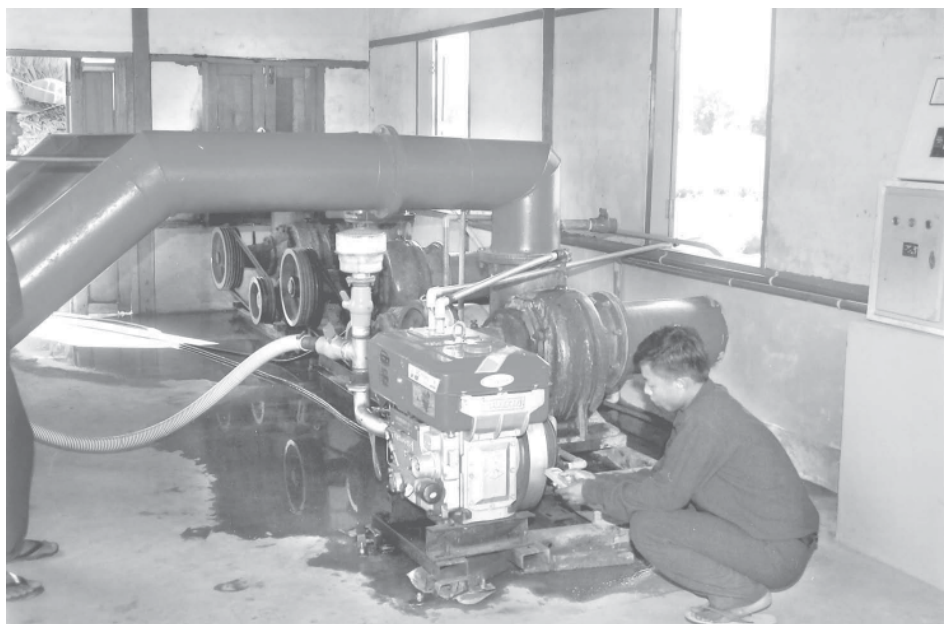
Division, one of which is Balar River Water Pumping Project.

Balar River Water

water, a fixed type, along with the 2500 feet long main canal, tributary canals stretching 13,000

of Ngamoeyeik Dam.

Balar River Water Pumping Project (2) pumps water as high as 15



**The fuel engine is reinforced by paddy husk biofuel.**



**The main canal of Balar Water Pumping Project.**

In pumping water at Balar River Water Pumping Project (2), 30 HP dual type engine is reinforced by a paddy husk-fired engine, and the combination system has proved successful. The innovation helps reduce diesel consumption by two-thirds, and save K 17,730 a one-acre summer paddy field.

Previously, farmers of Hlegu and Mingaladon townships had often to wait for supply of irrigation water in cultivating summer paddy when irrigation water could not be pumped due to power shortage. Now, irrigation water can be pumped at any time due

and paddy husk is purchased from them at the price of K 200 per basket to be used as biofuel in generating paddy husk-fired generators. So, they are enjoying higher incomes.

The Water Resources Utilization Department is planning to pump water with the use of paddy husk-fired power to supply irrigation water on a large scale across the nation. Simultaneously, it is working hard to supply electric power through paddy husk-fired power plants in rural areas.

**Translation: MS**  
**Myanma Alin: 7-1-2009**  
\*\*\*\*\*



Minister U Thaung together with outstanding students poses for documentary photo.—MNA

### Outstanding students and winners in English Debate Competition honoured

YANGON, 7 Jan—Prizes were given to a total of 209 outstanding students from Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University, Technological Universities, Colleges, Institutes and Computer Universities who had won distinctions in their examinations for 2007-2008 academic year and 6 students in Central Level English Debate Competition at the Convocation Hall of Mandalay Technological University.

Minister for Science and

Technology U Thaung attended the prize presentation ceremony, made a speech on the occasion and presented prizes to outstanding students. It was also attended by the directors-general of the ministry, rectors from respective universities, the deputy directors-general, principals, professors, heads of department, faculty members, outstanding students and their parents and guests.

Minister U Thaung

handed prizes to a total of 18 students who had got highest scores in the entire nation, a winner at senior level of English Debate Competition and a winner at junior level and then he posed for a documentary photo together with prize winners. Next, the directors-general, rectors, deputy directors-general and principals presented prizes to outstanding students and then two students spoke words of thanks.

MNA

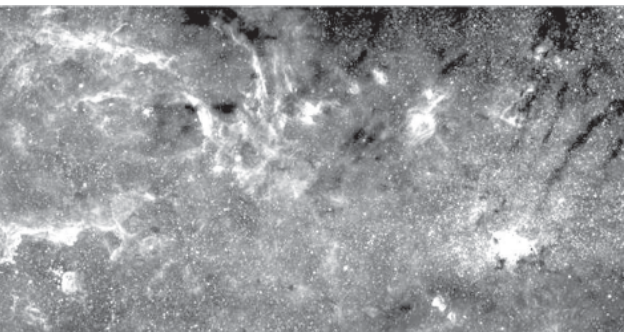
### Red Cross youth leadership course opens

YANGON, 7 Jan—Jointly-organized by Myanmar Red Cross Society and Mon State Red Cross Supervisory Committee, a Red Cross youth leadership course was opened at the training hall of Marine Science Department on Setse beach in Thanbyuzayet

Township of Mon State on 29 December. Head of Mon State Red Cross Society Member (1) of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of Mon State Police Force Police Col Tin Maung Maung and Executive U Tun Myint of MRCS made

speeches at the course. A total of 60 Red Cross members from respective universities of states and divisions are attending the course at which Secretary of Mon State Red Cross Supervisory Committee Dr Toe Toe Aung and instructors will give lectures.—MNA

### Hubble views galactic core in unprecedented new detail



This composite colour infrared image of the centre of our Milky Way galaxy reveals a new population of massive stars and new details in complex structures in the hot ionized gas swirling around the central 300 light-years.—INTERNET

BALTIMORE, 7 Jan — This composite color infrared image of the center of our Milky Way galaxy reveals a new population of massive stars and new details in complex structures in the hot ionized gas swirling around the central 300 light-years. This sweeping panorama is the sharpest infrared picture ever made of the Galactic core.

Internet

### 55th Conference of Myanmar Medical Association



From 14 to 20 January 2009 Yangon

### Yagyi Village has access to electricity

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Jan—The opening of the biofuel electric power station in Yagyi Village, Kani Township, Sagaing Division, was held yesterday morning. Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint formally opened the signboard of the station. Next, he visited Pan Gabar library.

from nearby villages, he donated a computer set and exercise books to Yagyi Village Affiliated Basic Education High School; publications to the library; and sports gear to the village. The 15 KVA power

station was built at a cost of 9.7 million kyats contributed by local people and wellwishers including Deputy Chief Justice U Thein Soe. The generated power is enough for 235 houses and lamp posts.—MNA

### Botahtaung No. 5 BEHS to honour outstanding students

YANGON, 6 Jan—No. 5 Basic Education High School of Botahtaung Township will hold a ceremony to honour outstanding students at the school hall on 10 January (Saturday).—MNA

### Digital auto-exchanges opened in Pakokku District

YANGON, 7 Jan — Deputy Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Maj-Gen Thein Tun met with local people at Myaing Township Peace and Development Council Office in Myaing on 3 January. At the meeting, the deputy minister donated cash to the township

hospital and cash assistance to the TV retransmission station in Myaing. Afterwards, the deputy minister attended a ceremony to upgrade the primary school in Kanni Village in the township to the Basic Education Middle School. On 4 January, Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Thein

Tun went to Kamma, Pakokku District, and inspected the use of the digital auto-exchange which is upgraded from Magneto exchange. The deputy minister also went to Pauk and attended a ceremony to open the digital auto-exchange and met with local people.

MNA



Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Thein Tun opens digital auto-exchange in Pauk.—CPT

## 25<sup>th</sup> Phyto Cetana free clinic opened

YANGON, 7 Jan—The opening of 25<sup>th</sup> Phyto Cetana free clinic took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> Zeya Thukha Street in (A) Ward, Thingangyun Township, here, this morning.

The clinic was established with the sponsorship of Daw Nyunt Nyunt Sein under the arrangements of Yangon City Development Committee and the social organizations.

YCDC Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin formally opened the facility and viewed health care to sick people.

The mayor inspected tasks for upgrading Hlaing

Hteik Khaung Tin Street in Ward 37, Dagon Myothit (North) Township to a tarred one undertaken by YCDC Engineering Department (Road and Bridge) and social organization.

He also viewed the sinking of a 12-foot diameter radial collector well in the staff quarter of YCDC Police Force in Kamayut Township. On completion, the facility will be able to pump about one million gallons of clean water a day, which will be supplied to Kamayut, Sangyoung and Kyimyindine townships.—MNA

## Mayor visits repaving of roads in Mayangon

YANGON, 7 Jan — Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin yesterday inspected paving of Tabinshwehti street and Ahlaungphaya street in Ward 1 in Mayangon Township conducted by Engineering Department (road and bridge) of YCDC to tarred one.

Next, the mayor met with town selders and officials concerned, calling for upgrading of streets in the township and fulfilling the needs.

YCDC has upgraded 46 streets, and 45 streets being repaved in Yangon.

MNA

## Mon State observes 61<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Independence Day 2009

YANGON, 7 Jan—The ceremony of 61<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Independence Day 2009 was held in Mawyawady Park of Mawlamyine, Mon State on 4 January, attended by Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win, Secretary U Khin Maung Tun and members, departmental heads at state level, national races, members of social

organizations and guests.

First, the State flag hoisting ceremony was held and then the ceremony of saluting the State flag continued. Next, the commander read out the message sent by Chairman of State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe and the ceremony brought to an end.

Afterwards, the commander made a speech at the ceremony

of presenting prizes held at State Hall in Mawlamyine. Next, the commander presented prizes to those who had won medals for outstanding performance in social field (first class), the secretary, those who had won medals for outstanding performance in social field (third class), Member (1) of Mon State PDC Commander of Mon State Police Force Police Col Tin Maung Maung, those

who had won medals for all-round subjects, Member (2) of Mon State PDC U Htay Aung, those who had won in essay competitions at university, high school and middle school levels.

Afterwards, prizes were presented to winners in poem and sports skills contests by officials and the commander and party viewed commemorative booths marking the 61<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Independence Day.—MNA



**Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Brig-Gen Hla Min reads out message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe at the 61st Anniversary Independence Day ceremony in Toungoo on 4 January.—MNA**

## Scotland's Loch Leven on road to recovery after decades of water quality problems

GLASGOW, 7 Jan — New results from 40 years of intensive scientific research show that Loch Leven, Scotland's freshwater 'jewel in the crown', is on the road to recovery after decades of water quality problems. The best water quality

since restoration measures began was recorded during 2008.

The conclusions will be presented at a symposium in Kinross, Scotland on 11 December 2008 by scientists from the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology who have

carried out a detailed water quality monitoring programme at Loch Leven since 1968.

Ecology and water chemistry monitoring has been undertaken at Loch Leven every other week since 1968 along with studies of aquatic plants, fish and birds. The latest results show that algal blooms are now less frequent, underwater plants are thriving again in the clearer water, and there has been a marked improvement in the fishery.

Dr Linda May, from the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, who has led the monitoring programme for the last fifteen years, said.

Internet

## Researchers create car parts from coconuts

SCIENCE DAILY, 7 Jan — A team of Baylor University researchers who have identified a variety of low-cost products that can be manufactured from coconuts in poor coastal regions have now developed a way to use coconut husks in automotive interiors.

The Baylor researchers have developed a technology to use coconut fiber as a replacement for synthetic polyester fibers in compression molded composites. Specifically, their goal is to use the coconut fibers to make trunk liners, floorboards and interior door covers on cars, marking the first time coconut fibers have been used in these



**Coconut husks. A team of Baylor University researchers who have identified a variety of low-cost products that can be manufactured from coconuts in poor coastal regions have now developed a way to use coconut husks in automotive interiors.—INTERNET**

applications.

Since coconuts are an abundant, renewable resource in all countries near the equator, Baylor's team is working to create

multiple products that could be manufactured from coconuts in those regions using simple and inexpensive technology.

Internet



**Loch Leven is on the road to recovery after decades of water quality problems.—INTERNET**

# Chaungtha beach full of outstanding natural beauty

Tin Win Lay (Kyimyindine)



Leader of the Chinese engineering group Mr Hao Thami signing an autograph to the Kyemon Daily group.

(from page 16)  
Five express buses full of tourists were found studying hotels one after another along the beach, and they eventually chose Chaungtha Oo Hotel. We members of the media team from the Kyemon Daily got into the hotel together with the tourists. To my surprise, hotel manager was a school friend of mine, Ko Aye Thwin, whom I had not met for ages. It was very thoughtful of my friend to fetch us at the hotel where we were putting up the next morning, and conveyed us to the Lai Lai Hotel where a meeting of hotel managers was going to take place. He also presented all hotel managers to us. The meeting focused on some programmes to be realized in cooperation with the government for better transport to regenerate development of the beach and its surrounding villages. Hoteliers have poured a lot of assistance and contributions to the social, economic, education and health sectors of local people. As a result, Chaungtha beach (Shwethaungyan Village) was found enjoying progress at the unprecedented level.

On our way back to the hotel, we noticed many tourists inclusive of several foreigners cooling themselves in the sea. We then came across a group of foreigners in front of the Shwethaungyan (Golden Beach) Hotel. In response to our enquiry, they said that they were Chinese engineers who had just completed their duties at Thabaung Pulp Factory, and were on a picnic before their return home to China. The leader of the group said that he was a Chinese man called Mr Hao Thami; that he lived in Beijing; that their group had 14 members; and that they were there to refresh themselves for New Year. When asked about his visit, he said, "I am very clear blue-greenish seawater. Visitors may stay there for recreation with family. Then, they may visit Kyauk Maunghnama island and learn some pitiable stories. At that time, we saw the statue of the sister missing a piece off its upper part due to the strike of the storm "Malar".

Manager U Kyaw Hoe of Khaingchaungtha Hotel said that after visiting Chaungtha beach, tourists may proceed to Ngwehsaung Beach by bicycle, passing three streams along the path through the forest; and that then they could enjoy a rural life that is unavailable in urban areas.



Visitors cooling themselves in the seawater.



A group of Chinese engineers on a picnic at Chaungtha Beach Resort.

delighted to visit this beach. I have never enjoyed such an impressive natural beauty and hospitality before. If circumstances favour me, I think I will visit this beach for the next time together with my family." So, I felt very proud to be a Myanmar citizen. My friend also conducted us round nearby places such as Thebyu island and Kyauk Maunghnama (sister and brother) island. Thebyu island is just a 20-minute motorboat ride from Chaungtha beach. The island is very pleasant to view due to its silvery sand and

Moreover, tourists can visit the new beach designated as Shwethaungyan Township and study colourful seashells in abundance. And they can study primary forest and rare species of animals at the place accessible from the branch of the road to Golden Beach. The site of three mountains: inner Mountain, outer mountain and middle mountain standing in the form of a triangle is also worth visiting. It is also a place where many Ziwasoe (edible-nest swiftlet) birds make their homes. So, it is also a very pleasant and beautiful place.

able in urban areas. In the village, food, souvenirs, Thayettawhto mount (traditional snack), prawn paste, dried fish and dried prawns are available at reasonable prices. Now, the road linking Patheingyi with Chaungtha Beach has been reconstructed by the Ministry of Construction under the instructions of the commander of South-West Command. So, it is easily accessible by car at any time. Therefore, people are urged to visit Chaungtha Beach Resort to smell the flowers.

Translation: MS  
Kyemon: 24-12-2008

## Organic plant waste proves effective weed control for citrus trees

CAIRO, 7 Jan — Interest in organic crop production is increasing around the world. Organics are healthy for consumers while adding environmental



benefits and decreasing the amount of synthetic herbicides in foods, soil, and water. While organics gain popularity with consumers, organic farmers are faced with new production challenges, especially managing and reducing invasive weeds. Synthetic mulches, manufactured from petroleum-based materials, have been used extensively for weed control. The downside: synthetic mulches cause increased runoff compared with "natural" mulches, disposal and landfill concerns, and are highly restricted in "certified organic" production. Interest in non-chemical weed control methods has increased in recent years with the spread of organic farming and environmental concerns over the adverse effects of herbicides. Economically and environmentally sustainable weed control alternatives, such as non-synthetic or natural mulch, can provide many benefits for growers. Natural mulches have been proven effective in weed suppression, moisture conservation, and improved water infiltration.—Internet

## Deputy Minister inspects communications in Chin State

YANGON, 6 Jan—Deputy Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Maj-Gen Thein Tun, together with Chairman of Chin State Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Hong Ngaing, met staff of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications in Mindat of Chin State on 29 December, departmental staff and local people of Mindat at District PDC office on 30 December, and departmental staff and local people of Matupi Township on 31 December. Afterwards, the deputy minister handed over cash for Myawady Television retransmission station in Matupi Township, donated by Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs and gave instruction on opening digital exchange in time. On 1 January, the deputy minister met with department personnel and local people in Kanpetlet.—MNA

## Russia supplies to South-East Europe halted

SOFIA, 7 Jan—All Russian gas supplies via Ukraine to Bulgaria, Turkey, Greece and Macedonia were halted on Tuesday as a result of the Moscow-Kiev price row, Bulgaria's Economy Ministry said.

"As of 3.30 a.m. (0130 GMT) supplies ... to Bulgaria as well as the transit to Turkey, Greece and Macedonia have been suspended," the ministry said in a statement. "We are in a crisis situation."

Bulgaria, which relies almost entirely on Russian gas for its needs, will be worst hit as, like Macedonia, it has no access to alternative pipeline routes.

The ministry told industrial users to switch to alternative fuels such as oil and urged households to start using other means for heating rather than central heating that runs on gas.

Prime Minister Sergei Stanishev called an emergency meeting later on Tuesday to discuss the situation. Bulgaria, where temperatures dropped below minus 15 degrees overnight, started pumping a maximum 4.3 million cubic metres of gas from its sole gas storage facility, the ministry said.

The country currently consumes about 11 million cubic metres of gas a day. Turkey can also receive Russian gas via a pipeline under the Black Sea and Greece gets additional supplies from Ankara.—MNA/Reuters



A woman passes by a gas pipe of the gas-compressor station in the small Ukrainian city of Boyarka, near Kiev on 4 January. Ukraine said on Tuesday that Russia had drastically cut gas supplies to Europe and warned of "problems" ahead as several European countries reported that deliveries of Russian gas had stopped.—INTERNET

## Handlers on phone ordered Mumbai gunmen to kill

NEW DELHI, 7 Jan— "Keep your phone switched on," a handler instructs a gunman by phone in the midst of the Mumbai siege, "so that we can hear the gunfire."

The ruthless commands come from a transcript of phone calls Indian authorities say they intercepted during the attacks in November. India says the men issuing orders, reprimands and encouragement to the young gunmen were Pakistani-based militants directing the attacks by mobile phone.

The men on the phone were confident, direct — and brutal.

"We have three foreigners, including women," a gunman said

into the phone from the Oberoi Hotel where hostages had been captured.

"Kill them," replied the handler. Gunshots then rang out, followed by cheering that could be heard over the phone.

"Inflict the maximum damage," they said.

The transcripts were part of a dossier of evidence India has given Pakistan this week that India says definitively proves that the siege that killed 164 people was launched from across the border. India says the 10 gunmen were all Pakistani and has blamed the Pakistani-based militant group, Lashkar-e-Taiba.

The Mumbai transcripts were translated

from Punjabi into English by Indian authorities and obtained by the newspaper The Hindu. The newspaper gave the transcripts to The Associated Press on

Wednesday.

They show that the 10 gunmen, who allegedly were trained in Lashkar camps, received instructions throughout the siege.—Internet

**In this 28 Nov, 2008 file photo, National Security Guard commandos come down a rope to reach the top of Nariman House, a location under siege by suspected militants in Mumbai, India.**  
INTERNET



## Vietnamese PM calls for harmony in religious land rows

HANOI, 7 Jan—Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung on Tuesday ordered state bodies using land linked to religious groups to do so in a way that did not hurt the feelings of the faithful.

At the same time, he warned that any activities relating to such land that created social disorder, "split national and community unity", or broke the law would be dealt with strictly.

Dung's directive comes in the context of a series of property disputes over the past year between Vietnamese Catholics and the state.

Last month, a court in Hanoi convicted eight Catholics of disturbing public order and damaging property for their role in one of a string of protests over a plot of land they say should belong to the adjacent Thai Hai church.

The eight, who avoided jail time with relatively light sentences, have appealed against the convictions.

"Buildings and land related to religion under state management, or allocated for use by organizations or agencies, must be used effectively for the correct purpose, and not affect the feelings of religious followers," said Dung's directive, posted on the government's website.

MNA/Reuters

## Hostages freed from pirates off Somalia, Nigeria

PARIS, 7 Jan— Pirates freed 20 hostages aboard a Turkish freighter commandeered off the Somali coast, as nine captives on a French boat were released off southern Nigeria, the boat owners said on Wednesday. The Yasa Holding Co. said pirates freed the Yasa Neslihan freighter Tuesday after paying a ransom. The Turkish ship was seized Oct. 29 in the Gulf of Aden, which connects the Red Sea to the Indian Ocean near Somalia. "They asked for ransom and it has been paid," company spokesman Fehmi Ulgener said. He refused to disclose the

amount paid. "All the crew members are fine and their morale is high." Piracy has soared off Somalia, which is caught up in an Islamic

insurgency and has no functioning government, with more than 100 vessels attacked around the Gulf of Aden in 2008.—Internet



Pirates in a speedboat off Somalia's coast. A Turkish-owned ship seized by pirates off Somalia in late October has been released in return for ransom.—INTERNET

## Depression may underlie "transmission" of poverty

NEW YORK, 7 Jan— Children from poor families are more likely than their peers to be depressed as teenagers, with effects that can ultimately make it harder to climb out from poverty, a new study suggests.

The study, which followed nearly 500 Iowa families for a decade, found that children in poorer families were at greater risk of depression symptoms by adolescence. These teenagers, in turn, were more likely to "grow up" faster -- including having

sex, leaving home or getting married at an earlier-than-average age.

This cycle, the study found, eventually put kids at risk of substantial obstacles in young adulthood, such as low education levels, unemployment and a lack of stable relationships in their lives.

"The main finding shows the continuity of family adversity over generations—from family-of-origin to a young adult's family," lead researcher K.A.S. Wickrama, a professor of

human development and family studies at Iowa State University in Ames, said in a written statement.

"In other words," he said, "it's the transmission of poverty."

The findings, which appear in the Journal of Health and Social Behavior, suggest that early-life stress and depression symptoms feed each other, ultimately making the transition to adulthood a tough one, according to Wickrama's team.

Internet

TRADE MARK CAUTION

**SRI Sports Limited**, a Company incorporated in Japan, of 6-9, 3-chome, Wakinhama-cho, Chuo-ku, Kobe-shi, Hyogo, Japan, is the Owner of the following Trade Marks:-

**TOUR SPECIAL**

Reg. No. 1727/1997

**PRO SPECIAL**

Reg. No. 1728/1997

in respect of "Bags, pouches, vanity cases, trunks, umbrellas and parasols; Clothing, footwear and headgear; Gymnastic and sporting articles".

**HI - BRID**

Reg. No. 3921/2003



Reg. No. 3154/2003

in respect of "Golf balls, golf clubs, golf gloves, golf bags, and other golf equipment and gears".

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Marks will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin

M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L

for **SRI Sports Limited**

P. O. Box 60, Yangon

Dated: 8 January 2009

TRADEMARK CAUTION

**Disease Control Textiles SA.**, a company incorporated in Switzerland at Chemin Messidor 5-7, 1006 Lausanne, Switzerland is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following Trademark:-



Reg : No. 4/2931/2002

Reg : No. 4/4917/2006

Reg : No. 4/6641/2008

In respect of: "Int'l Class 24: Textiles and textile goods (not included in other classes) including mosquito nets, covers.

The above trademark has now been assigned to **Vestergaard Frandsen SA** a company incorporated in Switzerland at Chemin Messidor 5-7, 1006 Lausanne, Switzerland by virtue of "Assignment of Trademark under Myanmar Registration No. 4/6641/2008 dated 2.October.2008.

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said Trademark shall be dealt with according to law.

U Myint Lwin, Advocate, LL.B, DBL

Dip in Marine Affairs(UK)

myint.advocate@mptmail.net.mm

Ph : 371 990 8 January 2009

**Donate Blood**

**Dr Juan Lubroth, left, head of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization Infectious Diseases Group-Emergency Prevention System, talks to reporters in suburban Quezon City, north of Manila, Philippines, on 7 Jan, 2009. International experts say the Ebola Reston virus found for the first time in pigs in the Philippines may pose some health risks but the extent would be determined after their 10-day investigation.—INTERNET**



**Grand Canyon, Loch Ness compete as nature wonders**

GENEVA, 7 Jan—The Grand Canyon, Mount Everest and Loch Ness will vie with more than 200 other spectacular places in the next phase of the global competition for the New 7 Wonders of Nature, organizers said on Wednesday.

The 261 nominees from 222 countries include some of the most

famous mountain peaks, lakes, and other attractions, such as the Great Barrier Reef and Niagara Falls. Over a billion people are expected to join in Internet voting that will nominate 77 semifinalists for the top natural wonders, which will share in the glory already enjoyed by the seven man-made wonders chosen 18 months ago.

"We are calling on peo-

ple all over the world to actively show their appreciation for our ... natural world by joining together to celebrate the most extraordinary sites on our planet," said Tia Viering, spokeswoman of the New 7 Wonders campaign. The Swiss-based nonprofit foundation collected 441 nominations over the Internet since it opened the selection process in 2007.—Internet

**In this on 1 Jan, 2009, photo released by the World Wide Fund Phils, shown are local residents pushing back to the water a giant sea cow belonging to a species facing a high risk of extinction after it was stranded in a shallow waters of Puerto Princesa in western Philippines. Sea cows are thought to live up to 70 years, but give birth to a single calf which takes up to 15 years to mature.—INTERNET**



**California sues company in San Francisco oil spill**

SAN FRANCISCO, 7 Jan—California has filed a lawsuit against the owners of a tanker which struck San Francisco's Bay Bridge in 2007 causing a massive oil spill that killed thousands of birds, a statement said.

Attorney General Edmund Brown said on Tuesday the state was suing the owners, operators and pilot of the Hong Kong-registered Cosco Busan, which struck a

bridge pillar in November 2007, causing 53,000 gallons of fuel to leak into the ocean.

"This was a preventable accident that had tragic consequences," Brown said. "The Cosco Busan crashed into the Bay Bridge, polluting our waters and killing thousands of birds." The spill forced the closure of miles of California's scenic coastline and wreaked havoc with the region's

wildlife.

The California Department of Fish and Game said at least 1,800 birds were killed by oil from the spill.

The pilot of the ship has already been charged with violations of environmental protection laws in connection with the spill. He faces a maximum of 18 months in prison and more than 100,000 dollars in fines if convicted.

Internet



**An oil-soaked duck is washed at the San Francisco Bay Oiled Wildlife Care Center . The US state has filed a lawsuit against the owners of a tanker which struck San Francisco's Bay Bridge causing a massive oil spill that killed thousands of birds, a statement has said.—INTERNET**

**Hepatitis**

**A vaccine**

**gives**

**long-lasting**

**protection**

NEW YORK, 7 Jan—Hepatitis A infections, usually transmitted via contaminated food, can cause debilitating illness, but protection afforded by the hepatitis A vaccine last more than a decade, a new study shows.

In fact, antibodies against hepatitis A virus persist for up to 27 years after vaccination, report investigators from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium in Anchorage.

Lead author Dr Laura L Hammit, now at the Kenya Medical Research Institute/Welcome Trust Collaboration in Kilifi, and colleagues enrolled 144 children and 128 adults who responded to a three-shot series of hepatitis A vaccine to assess the persistence of antibodies.

Internet

# Study backs deep brain stimulation for Parkinson's

WASHINGTON, 7 Jan — Deep brain stimulation dramatically improves Parkinson's disease symptoms such as trembling and slowness of movement, offering hope to many with the incurable ailment, researchers said on Tuesday.

Six months of deep brain stimulation with a device made by Minneapolis-based Medtronic Inc led to better quality of life and 4-1/2 additional hours per day of good motor functioning

for Parkinson's patients, but did not come without risks, the researchers said.

The small electrical device is implanted surgically in the chest, with wires leading to electrodes in the brain. It sends electrical signals to brain areas that control movement. One of the 121 Parkinson's patients in the study who got deep brain stimulation, or DBS, died from bleeding in the brain caused by a ruptured blood vessel after the surgery.

And compared to the

134 patients in the study who received only standard medical treatment, those getting DBS were 3.8 times more likely to have a "serious adverse event" such as a post-surgical infection. Most were quickly resolved, the researchers said.

But motor functioning improved for 71 percent of the DBS patients. Their quality of life — like carrying out daily activities, mobility and emotional well-being — also rose.

Internet



A general of Hong Kong's Victoria harbour seen from the Peak on 6 Jan, 2009. Hong Kong's property market contracted sharply in 2008, with the value and number of sales for all types of building units falling by more than a fifth, government data showed on Tuesday.—INTERNET

## Coffee may protect against oral cancers



A man drinks coffee at a coffee shop in Mumbai.— INTERNET

NEW YORK, 7 Jan —New research indicates that drinking coffee lowers the risk of developing cancer of the oral cavity or throat, at least in the general population of Japan.The consumption of coffee in Japan is relatively high, as is the rate of cancer of the esophagus in men.

To look into any protective effect of coffee drinking, Dr Toru Naganuma of Tohoku University, Sendai, and colleagues, analyzed data from the population-based Miyagi Cohort Study in Japan.

The study included information about diet, including coffee consumption. Among more than 38,000 study participants aged 40 to 64 years with no prior history of cancer, 157 cases of cancer of the mouth, pharynx and esophagus occurred during 13 years of follow up.

Compared with people who did not drink coffee, those who drank one or more cups per day had half the risk of developing these cancers, Naganuma's group reports in the *American Journal of Epidemiology*.—Internet

## Scientists doubt Europe can wipe out measles by 2010

LONDON, 7 Jan — Too many children remain unvaccinated against measles for Europe to have any realistic hope of eliminating the disease by 2010, researchers said on Wednesday.

In 2006 and 2007, more than 12,000 measles cases were reported in the region, mainly in Romania, Germany, Britain, Switzerland and Italy where fewer children have immunizations against the disease, they found.In their study pub-

lished in the journal *The Lancet*, the researchers found that 85 percent of the measles cases were reported in just these five countries.

"Measles is erroneously thought of to be a mild disease but it can cause complications, including fatal ones," said Mark Muscat, an epidemiologist at the Statens Serum Institut in Copenhagen, who led the study of 32 countries.

The vaccination rates across Europe ranged

from above 95 percent in Finland in recent periods to as low as 70 percent for children born between 1996 and 2003 in Germany, the researchers said.Measles kills about 250,000 people a year globally, mostly children in poor nations.

But parent refusal to have their children vaccinated has led to a rise in measles cases in the United States and parts of Europe in recent years.

Internet

## Bird flu infects poultry in second province in Vietnam

HANOI, 7 Jan — Vietnam's agriculture ministry has confirmed an outbreak of bird flu among poultry in the northern province of Thanh Hoa, where a girl was hospitalized with the deadly disease last week.

Some 400 chickens in Thanh Hoa's Ba Thuoc district had died of the disease, the agriculture ministry said in a report seen Wednesday.In response, authorities in Ba Thuoc, about 150 km (94 miles) south of Hanoi, have slaughtered nearly 8,000 chickens in the area to stop the virus from spreading, the report said.

Thanh Hoa is the second province in two weeks to report an outbreak of the bird-borne illness among poultry, the other being Thai Nguyen,

directly north of the capital.The health ministry has said an 8-year-old girl from Thanh Hoa was infected with bird flu after eating poultry.

Before the latest case in

Vietnam, the WHO said Vietnam had had 106 human infections, the second highest number among 15 countries with known human cases after Indonesia.—Internet

## China issues bird flu alert after woman dies

YANJIAO, 7 Jan — China issued a bird flu alert on Wednesday after a woman died of the virus, the first such death in the country in almost a year, and closed poultry markets for disinfecting in a province surrounding Beijing.

The 19-year-old woman died of the H5N1 virus after coming into contact with poultry in Hebei Province, bringing the total death toll in China to date to 21.

In Hebei's Yanjiao, where the dead woman had bought ducks, poultry

markets were closed and the sale of live birds stopped as workers in masks and white coats sprayed disinfectant.

WASHINGTON, 7 Jan — A dangerous type of snoring known as sleep apnea can cause stroke by decreasing blood flow, raising blood pressure and harming the brain's ability to modulate these changes, researchers reported on Tuesday.

The study may help explain why people with sleep apnea are more likely to have strokes and to die in their sleep, the team led by Vahid Mohsenin of Yale University in Connecticut said.An estimated 18 million Americans have sleep apnea, which is characterized by repeated episodes in which someone who is sleeping stops breathing.

Internet



A health worker sprays disinfectant at a rural market in Yanjiao, Hebei Province on 7 Jan, 2009.

INTERNET

## Study shows how sleep apnea may cause stroke

ity to modulate these changes, researchers reported on Tuesday.

The study may help explain why people with sleep apnea are more likely to have strokes and to die in their sleep, the team led by Vahid Mohsenin of Yale University in Connecticut said.An estimated 18 million Americans have sleep apnea, which is characterized by repeated episodes in which someone who is sleeping stops breathing.

"Three years ago we showed that patients with sleep apnea ... they die or have strokes three times more than people with a comparable age or risk factors without sleep apnea," Mohsenin said in a telephone interview.

"We asked the question of why they have a higher risk for stroke."

Writing in the *Journal of Applied Physiology*, Mohsenin and colleagues said they tested 48 middle-aged men and women, 22 of whom had sleep apnea but who were otherwise healthy.

They checked blood pressure and used ultrasound to monitor blood flow in the brain.They had the volunteers do a blood pressure test in which they squatted and then stood suddenly.

"We found that patients with sleep apnea had difficulty compensating for the change in blood pressure," Mohsenin said. "They actually had decreased blood flow to brain."

He said this showed the damage caused by sleep apnea continues throughout the day.

Internet

# SPORTS

## Buffon returns after long lay-off

ROME, 7 Jan—Italy World Cup winning goalkeeper Gianlugi Buffon made his long awaited return from injury on Tuesday as his side Juventus



**Italy World Cup winning goalkeeper Gianlugi Buffon**

drew 1-1 with French outfit Monaco but lost 6-5 on penalties in a friendly in Messina.

Buffon, widely regarded prior to his absence as the best goalkeeper in the world, had been out since the beginning of October, only playing in four out of Juve's 16 league matches, because of a back injury. Former Arsenal goalkeeper Alex Manninger had stepped in impressively for him. Buffon played for a full half of the match against the once proud but now modest French league side.—Internet

## Slovaks eye Hopman Cup tennis final

PERTH, 7 Jan—The Slovak Republic are on the verge of their fourth appearance in the Hopman Cup final after upsetting the host nation 2-1 here on Tuesday. The Slovaks, winners of the mixed teams tournament in 1998 and 2005, were seeded seventh in the eight-nation event, but beat top seeds USA on Monday and remained unbeaten by snatching the Group A tie against the Australians in the mixed doubles.

Victory over Germany on Thursday will guarantee the Slovak pairing of Dominika Cibulkova and Dominik Hrbaty a place in Friday's final, while the Australians are out of contention after dropping both their ties. After the singles had been split,



**Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia in action during the Hopman Cup in Perth.**

INTERNET

with Lleyton Hewitt beating Hrbaty in a marathon match and Cibulkova easily accounting for Casey Dellacqua, the Slovaks came from a set down in the mixed doubles to win in a match tie-break, 6-7 (5/7), 6-3, 10-4.

The determined Slovaks combined superbly and were able to capitalise on the frailties in an underdone Dellacqua's game at crucial times.—Internet

## Benitez to resist transfer temptation



**Liverpool's Spanish manager Rafael Benitez**

LIVERPOOL, 7 Jan—Rafael Benitez has suggested he will resist the temptation to add to his squad this month by emphasising his belief that his current squad can deliver a first league title in 19 years.

The Spanish manager has been linked with a move to bring former Liverpool striker Emile Heskey back to Anfield but there has been no movement on that front since the transfer window opened at the start of January. With Fernando Torres, Martin Skrtel, Fabio Aurelio and Alvaro Arbeloa all back from injury, Benitez believes Liverpool are in good shape for the battle with Manchester United and Chelsea over the second half of the season.

"We finished 2008 very well, we played with style and have scored a lot of goals," Benitez said. "I am very pleased and happy with the situation and hope it will be the same in the new year. We have other players apart from Torres coming back from injury. There is Skrtel, Aurelio and Arbeloa all fit now. It will be like signing three new players." "We do not need to go into the transfer market, we are certainly not desperate to do so." "If we find we need something we will try, but it is always hard in this window and very expensive.—Internet

## Dementieva through as other seeds tumble

AUCKLAND, 7 Jan—Top seed Elena Dementieva beat local favourite Marina Erakovic to grab a quarter-final spot in the ASB Classic as other seeds tumbled out of the women's tournament. The world number four and Olympic champion beat the New Zealander 6-2, 6-3 as five of the eight seeds fell in second round matches.

Erakovic's already slim chances of beating Dementieva were further hampered by abdominal and neck strains and she required an extended medical break at 3-4 down in the second set. Dementieva's victory sets up a quarter-final clash with fifth-seeded Israeli Shahar Peer on Thursday. The Russian said the match against Erakovic had been difficult because of the overwhelming crowd support for her opponent.—Internet



**Top seed Elena Dementieva beat local favourite Marina Erakovic to grab a quarter-final spot in the ASB Classic as other seeds tumbled out of the women's tournament. Dementieva won 6-2, 6-3.—INTERNET**

## Beckham debuts as Milan beat Hamburg in Dubai

DUBAI, 7 Jan—AC Milan capped their winter break training camp in Dubai by beating top German side SV Hamburg in a friendly here on Tues-



**British midfielder David Beckham kicks a free kick during the Dubai Challenge Cup football match between AC Milan and SV Hamburg in Dubai.—INTERNET**

day. In a match which saw English football icon David Beckham make his debut for the Italians, Milan drew 1-1 with the Bundesliga title-chasers side before running out 5-4 winners from the penalty spot.

Beckham, who has signed a short-term loan deal and is set to return to American club Los Angeles Galaxy in March, could make his Serie A debut for Milan in a league match away to AS Roma this Sunday. Former Manchester United and Real Madrid midfielder Beckham played the first 45 minutes before being replaced by Frenchman Mathieu Flamini for the second half.—Internet

## Mauresmo sees off spirited Coin in three hour tennis epic

BRISBANE, 7 Jan—It may have taken three and a quarter hours and five match points but Amelie Mauresmo finally saw off the challenge of compatriot Julie Coin to move into the quarter-finals of the Brisbane International.

Mauresmo, of France, joined countrywoman Marion Bartoli in the last eight when she beat Coin 5-7, 6-2, 7-6 (13/11) in a superb second round clash that belied the difference in class and experience between the two players. The match was the longest of Mauresmo's career, eclipsing the three hours seven minutes she took to beat Mary Pierce in the final of the 2005 Tour Championship.

The final set lasted 89 minutes alone as Mauresmo came from 2-5 down to force a tiebreak. "I said to myself it's only one break of serve so if I can win my serve and put a bit of pressure on hers, you know it could happen that I go back to five-all, which it did," she said.—Internet



**Amelie Mauresmo of France (left) kisses compatriot Julie Coin after winning the match in the second round of the Brisbane International, on 7 January. Mauresmo won 5-7, 6-2, 7-6.—INTERNET**



**Burnley's English striker Robbie Blake (L) vies with Tottenham's English striker Fraizer Campbell (R) during their Carling Cup semi final 1st leg match against Tottenham at White Hart Lane, London on 6 Jan, 2009. Tottenham won 4-1.—INTERNET**

## Messi hattrick gives Barcelona handsome win over Atletico

MADRID, 7 Jan—Argentine forward Lionel Messi scored three times to give Barcelona a 3-1 away win over Atletico Madrid in the Spanish Cup's last 16 first leg on Tuesday. Messi, who was rested for Barcelona's 3-1 win over Real Mallorca in the league on Saturday, raced up the right wing towards the area, slipped a pass to Daniel Alves who back-heeled to him.

The 21-year-old then used his left foot to send the ball past Atletico's French keeper Gregory Coupet in the 11th minute as Argentina's new national coach Diego Maradona watched from the stands. Messi scored again in the 58th minute with a penalty kick into the bottom left corner that sent Coupet scrambling in the other direction. His third goal came just 11 minutes from the final whistle with a clip with his left foot into an empty net after receiving the ball from Spanish international Andres Iniesta.—Internet



**Barcelona's Argentinian forward Lionel Messi beats Atletico Madrid's French goalkeeper Gregory Coupet to score one of his three goals during their King's Cup football match at the Vicente Calderon stadium in Madrid.—INTERNET**

**Maung Win Kyaw Phyo  
(27 years)**

Eldest Son of U Aye Kyaw-Daw Hnin Hnin Aye of Yangon; elder brother of Ma Ya Wai and Ma Zin Nwe passed away at 00:45 a.m. on 1 January 2009 in Bangkok. The remains will be buried at **WAT KUK, RAMA II, Soi 44** in Bangkok at 2 p.m. on 10 January 2009 (Saturday).

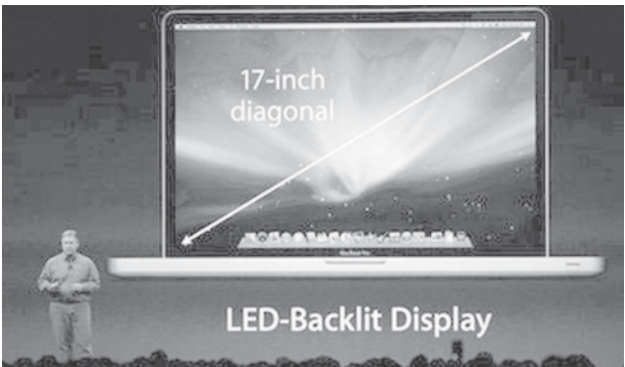
Bereaved family

**Generator fumes kill family of 13 in Nigeria**

OHAJI-EGBEMA (Nigeria), 7 Jan—Toxic fumes from a small power generator killed 13 members of a family, including four children, as they slept in a remote village in southeastern Nigeria, relatives said on Tuesday. The family, gathered for Christmas and New Year holidays, had been using the generator to power a television set but forgot to switch it off before going to bed, one of the relatives said.

“In the morning, nobody came out to join us in sweeping the compound, so we opened one of the windows and saw our relations lying dead, 13 of them,” said Majesta Oluwo, whose brother and sister-in-law and their four children were among the victims.

Despite Nigeria's oil wealth, its power system is in a shambolic state due to decades of corruption and mismanagement. Much of Nigeria goes without mains electricity for weeks at a time, leaving Nigerians to rely on gasoline-powered generators.—MNA/Xinhua



*Phil Schiller, senior vice president of worldwide product marketing for Apple Inc., introduces the new MacBook Pro 17' laptop during his keynote address at the Macworld Conference and Expo on Tuesday, 6 Jan, 2009, in San Francisco.—INTERNET*

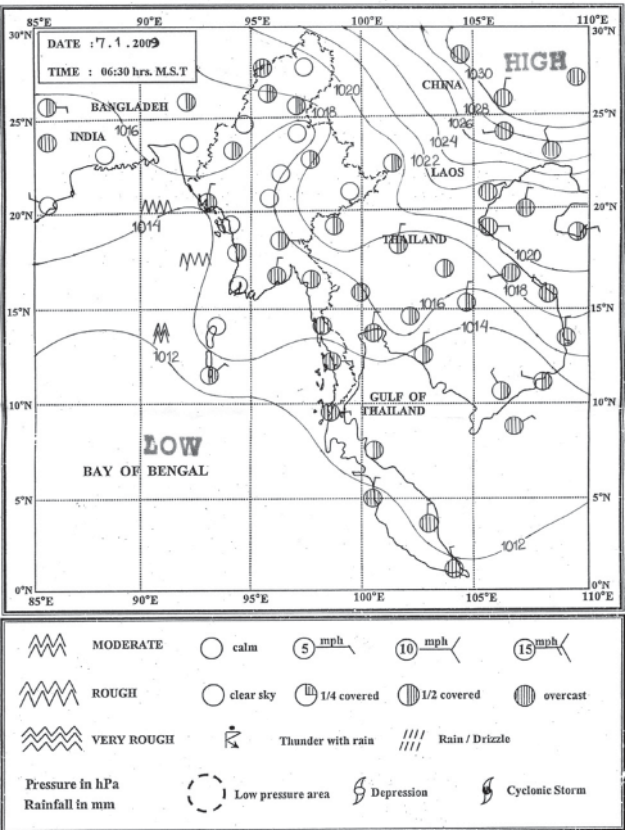
**Apple unveils new Laptop, upgrades to software**

SAN FRANCISCO, 7 Jan—Apple Inc. on Tuesday introduced a new laptop and some upgrades to its software at the annual Macworld trade show, which are basically refinements to the company's current product lines and not big announcements expected by Apple fans.

The new 17-inch MacBook Pro laptop features an aluminum unibody enclosure and weighs 6.6 pounds (about 3 kilogrammes), very thin for a notebook of its size, Philip Schiller, Apple's senior vice president of world product marketing, said in his keynote address at the Macworld Conference & Expo held in San Francisco.

It also boasts a new built-in battery that delivers up to eight hours of use and up to 1,000 recharges for more than three times the lifespan of conventional notebook batteries. Schiller also unveiled new versions of iLife and iWork, two of Apple's popular software applications suite, and several changes to Apple's iTunes online music, TV and movie store.—Internet

*Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas*



**WEATHER**

**Wednesday, 7 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, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below January average temperatures in Chin State, (3°C) to (4°C) above January average temperatures in Shan and Mon States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and about January average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Hakha (-2°C), Loilem (0°C), Namhsan (3°C), Pinlaung and Heho (4°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 6-1-2009 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 7-1-2009 was 61°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 7-1-2009 was 72%. Total sunshine hours on 6-1-2009 was (7.2) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 7-1-2009 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 6-1-2009.

**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 8<sup>th</sup> January 2009:** Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin and Shan States, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas.

**State of the sea:** Strong easterly winds with moderate to rough sea are likely at time Gulf of Mottama off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Surface wind speed in strong easterly wind may reach (35) to (40) mph. Sea will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar areas.

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

**Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 8-1-2009:** Generally fair weather.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 8-1-2009:** Partly cloudy.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 8-1-2009:** Generally fair weather.

**Ugandan peacekeeper, WFP worker killed in Somalia**

MOGADISHU, 7 Jan—A roadside bomb killed a Ugandan soldier in Somalia's capital on Tuesday and masked gunmen murdered a man working for the United Nation's World Food Programme in the southwest of the Horn of Africa nation. The killings come as Ethiopian troops who have been propping up an interim government and fighting Islamist insurgents for the past two years are pulling out of Somalia, saying their mission has been accomplished.

The withdrawal has fuelled fears of a power vacuum in a country where violence and chaos onshore have allowed piracy to flourish in the busy shipping lanes off Somalia's coast. More than 16,000 civilians have been killed since the insurgency started two years ago, a million Somalis have been displaced and a third of the population relies on food aid. The African Union's top diplomat, Jean Ping, said he was particularly concerned about the precarious security situation and urged the UN Security Council to approve support urgently so an African peacekeeping force in Somalia can be bolstered.—MNA/Reuters



**Thursday, 8 January  
View on today**

**7:00 am**

1. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

**7:25 am**

2. To be healthy exercise

**7:30 am**

3. Morning news

**7:40 am**

4. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

**7:50 am**

5. Dance variety

**8:05 am**

6. ကွန်ချောင်းရေလှောင်တံ

**8:15 am**

7. Musical programme

**8:30 am**

8. International news

**8:45 am**

9. “စင်စင်နှင့်ခြင်ကျား”  
(စင်စင်နှင့်ခြင်လင်းလင်းစင်စင်)  
(ဒါရိုက်တာ-စင်စင်မောင်မောင်)

**4:00 pm**

1. Martial song

**4:10 pm**

2. Dance of national races

**4:20 pm**

3. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

**4:30 pm**

4. အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ ဒုတိယနှစ် (အင်္ဂလိပ်စာအထူးပြု) (အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ)

**4:45 pm**

5. Songs to uphold national spirit

**4:55 pm**

6. Cute little dancers

**5:10 pm**

7. Musical programme

**5:25 pm**

8. ဆောင်းပဒေသာတီးကွက်ဆန်းများ

**5:40 pm**

9. ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲ့ရင်ခုန်သံ

**6:00 pm**

10. Evening news

**6:30 pm**

11. Weather report

**6:35 pm**

12. “ထူးဆန်းထွေးကွာများကိုသိပ္ပံဖြင့် ချဉ်းကပ်ခြင်း”

**6:55 pm**

13. Musical programme

**7:10 pm**

14. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ  
“ကုန်သွယ်မှုနံတိုင်း”  
(အပိုင်း-၄၁)

**8:00 pm**

15. News

16. International news

17. Weather report

18. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ  
“ပင်လယ်မျှော်မင်းသား”  
(အပိုင်း-၆၁)

# Chaungtha beach full of outstanding natural beauty

Tin Win Lay (Kyimyindine)



Some lovely hotels in traditional style at Chaungtha Beach Resort.

A beach resort is a place where someone can go on a picnic to refresh themselves with leisure activities for relaxation after a long work.

Chaungtha Zone or Chaungtha Beach Resort in Chaungtha beach in Patheingyi Township, Patheingyi District, Ayeyawady Division, is full of tourists in its season.

The 1.5-mile-long beach is 34 miles and four fur-

longs from Patheingyi. Among the shady coconut palms along the beach are 14 hotels—Max, Lai Lai, New Chaung Tha Lodge, Golden Beach, Grand, Belle, Diamond, Ambo, Seesein, Khaingchaungtha, Thiri, Shwehintha, Chaungtha Oo, and Wutyi and 30 lodging houses facing the sea and that can provide accommodation for nearly 2000 visitors.

The clean and tidy hotels are of a mixture of Myanmar traditional style and western style, so they are unusual and attractive in a way that makes local and foreign visitors notice them easily.

According to some visitors, the customer service there is so nice that the hotels never fail to allure them for next visits.

(See page 10)

## Oilfield Services & Technology Seminar held

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Jan—The Ministry of Energy launched the Oilfield Services & Technology Seminar in cooperation with China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC), China Oilfield Services Limited (COSL) and Asia World Co at Myat Tawwin Hotel here on 5 January morning.

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi in his speech called for seeking technical know-how on oil and gas exploration through the presentation to be submitted by COSL and effective use of the technologies in inland and offshore oil exploration. He expressed his thanks to the companies for their assistance for the seminar.

The managing director of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise and Vice-Chairman Mr Yu Zhanhai of COSL delivered speeches.

It was also attended by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Htay.—MNA

## Green turtle’s journey opens ‘oceanic superhighway’ mystery

DENPASAR, 7 Jan — The remarkable journey of a green turtle from Indonesia into Australian waters is helping conservationists to track the migratory route of this species to the Kimberley-Pilbara coast - one of the few relatively pristine coastal areas left on Earth.

Ana, a female green turtle, was tagged in Indonesia in November as part of a turtle tracking project by WWF and Udayana University in Bali, Indonesia, and has slowly made her way from a nesting beach in East Java, across the Indian Ocean, and is on track for the beaches of the Kimberley in Western Australia.

Her journey, monitored online by WWF, demonstrates the strong biological ties between Indonesia and the reefs on the west Australian coast.

“Ana’s journey is unique. She has revealed an ‘oceanic superhighway’ that helps us better under-



stand how marine turtles navigate around the world’s oceans as well as highlighting the strong ecological and evolutionary connections between Indonesia and Australia’s Kimberley-Pilbara coast,” said Gilly Llewellyn, WWF Ocean’s Program Leader.

Internet

## Toure flattered by Premier League link

BARCELONA, 7 Jan—Yaya Toure is happy to be linked with the likes of Arsenal and Manchester City but insists his focus is currently only on trying to do well on the pitch for Barcelona.

The Barclays Premier League rivals are both reportedly following the Ivory Coast international as they look to bolster their respective squads during the January transfer window.

But while Toure admits he is pleased to see his name associated with clubs like those, the 25-year-old refused to speculate on whether he would be willing to trade Barcelona for a move to England if the chance arose this month, preferring instead to leave off-field matters in the hands of his agent.

"I play for Barcelona now and I don't think about these things. But I have a manager who works for me and thinks about all these things because for me the most important thing is the football," Toure said after helping Barca beat Atletico Madrid in the Copa del Rey last night.—Internet



Toure focused on Barca.

## Myanmar Health Research Conference 12-16 Jan

YANGON, 7 Jan—The Ministry of Health will conduct the Myanmar Health Research Conference (2008) at the Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar) on Ziwaka Road here from 12 to 16 January.

Altogether 79 research papers and 16 posters will be submitted to the conference. To mark the technological week, local and foreign medical experts will present five subjects on medical science and health.

During the conference, five medical companies will display pharmaceuticals, laboratory apparatus and accessories. Anyone interested needs to get registered to attend the conference.—MNA