

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

Efficiency of MES plays a pivotal role in progress of nation

Prime Minister speaks at Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Engineering Society

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan — A ceremony to present Distinguished Honorary Fellowship by ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organizations took place in conjunction with the annual general meeting of Myanmar Engineering Society at the MES building in Yangon this morning. Prime Minister General Thein Sein delivered an address on the occasion.

Present also were Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, the ministers, the Yangon

mayor, the deputy ministers, the director-general of the Government Office, departmental heads, Secretary General Mr Tan Yean Chin of ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organizations, patron and Chairman of MES U Than Myint, CEC members and members of MES and guests.

In his speech, the Prime Minister said today is the 13th anniversary of Myanmar Engineering Society. It was founded in 1927 after Myanmar Engineering Congress, which emerged in 1916, had been

reconstituted. The society remained operational until the World War II. After the war, it started running again for 15 years until 1963. It was among the organizations that were all dissolved in 1963.

However, the society restarted its functions in 1995 in the time of the State Peace and Development Council. And as a result, the society emerged as a prestigious one in Myanmar. Under the correct leadership of the government, MES was able to mobilize all the engineers

from all corners of the country to take part in national development tasks. Now, the society can stand as a national force with the memberships of over 16,000 engineers.

As the Union of Myanmar became a member of ASEAN, Myanmar Engineering Society also

became a member of ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organizations in 2000. MES has been actively participating in the activities of AFEO and Myanmar, as a host country, held the Conference of the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organizations (CAFEO-22) in 2004. At

the conference, Myanmar engineers had the opportunity to meet and share experiences with their counterparts of member nations.

At the CAFEO-20 held in Phnom Penh in 2002, Myanmar was presented Outstanding Engineering Award for efforts (See page 8)

Myanmar is endowed with plentiful of natural resources. A modern developed nation is to be built with the utilization of available natural resources through modern techniques. This is the goal of the nation and building the nation without depending on others is something to be proud of.

Prime Minister

General Thein

Sein addresses

*opening of
annual general
meeting of MES.*

MNA



PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 11 January, 2009

Use fire with care, respect public notices against fire

Fire may break out at any time. Therefore, it is required to take fire preventive measures constantly. In particular, those responsible and local people of the township, wards and villages concerned have to take fire preventive measures effectively in the dry season.

The majority of fires are due to negligence. So, the people should use fire with care. In this regard, it is necessary to make sure that children and elderly persons do not involve in the cooking in the evening; embers are to be extinguished thoroughly after cooking meals, and mosquito coils, and burning candles and joss sticks are to be put out before going to bed.

Moreover, when electricity goes out, generators, water pumps, electric stoves and live electric apparatuses are to be switched off. It is also required to cultivate a good habit of switching off all the lights and the main switch whenever all the family members are to be away from home.

Wards, villages and markets need to have a 5000-gallon water tank each and fill them with water to put out fires. It is needed to carry out sanitation work regularly and the streets are to be wide enough for the vehicles.

Fire-extinguishers are to be kept in offices, schools, markets and houses, and fire drills are to be demonstrated in order that all know how to use a fire extinguisher.

Fire is the best friend, but the worst enemy. The people should, therefore, use fire with constant care and respect public notices against fire to be able to avert disasters.

MMC Meeting on 19 Jan instead of 26 Jan

YANGON, 10 Jan—The Myanmar Medical Council will hold its meeting 1/2009 at the building of Myanmar Medical Association on Theinbyu Road in Mingala Taungnyunt Township on 19 January instead of 26 January.

Members of MMC of States and Divisions are invited to attend the meeting without fail.—MNA

All this needs to be known

- * Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- * Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- * Do not be softened whenever appeased

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

UN Secretary-General sends felicitations to Senior General Than Shwe

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan — The following is the message of felicitations sent from United Nations Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, on the occasion of the 61st Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

Your Excellency

It is my great pleasure to extend to you and to the Government and people of Myanmar my warmest congratulations on the occasion of the Independence Day.

In the face of global challenges, the United Nations is needed now more than ever. Our work is crucial across many areas of common concern, from peacekeeping and safeguarding human rights to building a more prosperous, equitable and sustainable world for all.

The United Nations is uniquely placed to mobilize the collective effort we will need for

success. Working closely with Member States and all stakeholders, I am determined to strengthen the Organization so that it can serve more effectively as an agent of peace.

From combating climate change to redoubling our efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, the challenges we face are increasingly those of collaboration rather than confrontation. As we pursue this mission, it is heartening to know that the United Nations can count on the contributions, commitment and support of Myanmar.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.—MNA

New locomotives imported from China and India arrive

YANGON, 10 Jan—Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min inspected locomotives imported from the People's Republic of China and heavy machinery imported from the Republic of India to be used in road works at Yangon Central Railway Station here this morning. Firstly, Managing Director (M&E) U Tun Oo explained matters related to a 20 new

advanced technological devices-equipped locomotives from China.

Next, Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min, Deputy Ministers Thura U Thaung Lwin and U Pe Than, Managing Director U Min Swe of Myanma Railways and responsible persons of YMEC of the PRC sprinkled the scented water on them.

The minister and party inspected the locomotives and Deputy General Manager (M&E)

U Win Oo explained facts about the computer used to check conditions of mechanical and electrical devices including engine and generator and the system to be used in troubleshooting.

Next, Assistant General Manager (Civil) U Kyaw Moe Zaw and Assistant Engineer U Min Swe explained facts about computerized automatic leveling, lining & tamping machine, profile ballast

regulator and rail gang car with crane. The minister and party looked into heavy machinery and the minister called for effective use of locomotives and machines at worksite and conducting training course.

Eight locomotives arrived in Myanmar on 17 October, 2008 for the first batch and 12 on 28 December, 2008 for the second batch.

In the time of the State Peace and Development Council, Myanma Railway imported 96 diesel locomotives including 55 from China.

Out of new 20 locomotives, 14 will be used in the places of the old ones running on Yangon-Mandalay and Yangon-Mawlamyine railroads and the remaining six on Mandalay-Lashio.

Machines imported from India are designated to be used in construction of new railroads in time and upgrading of railroads in Myanmar.

MNA



New locomotives imported from the People's Republic of China seen at Yangon Railway Station. — MNA



A woman whose husband was killed during a shooting by employees of US security firm Blackwater, sits next to her daughter while attending a meeting with prosecutors and US Federal Bureau of Investigation officials in Baghdad 13 December, 2008.—INTERNET

US faulted for poorly managing private security in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 10 Jan — The US State Department was faulted for poorly managing Blackwater Worldwide and other private security firms operating in Iraq under a contract worth nearly two billion dollars.

“The department’s security operation in Iraq has been highly effective in ensuring the safety of chief of mission personnel,” according to the report by the department Office of Inspector General (OIG).

“However, the rapid rise in use and scale of private security contractors has strained the department’s ability to effectively manage them,” the OIG added.

“The department’s management of the security program in Iraq has been undermined by frequent staff turnover, understaffing, increased workload, and the lack of standardized operating poli-

cies and procedures,” it added.

It said that under the security contract, the embassy in Baghdad’s regional security office overseeing logistics is responsible for managing and controlling government-furnished vehicles, arms, communications and other equipment.

The office is directed by a personnel services contractor (PSC) which oversees six Blackwater administrative logistics security specialists, it added.

And OIG said it believes the use of “a PSC to direct — and Blackwater administrative specialists to carry out” — the mission of the logistics office to control “government-furnished equipment is a poor management practice.”

Such a practice may also violate Federal Acquisition Regulation policy stipulating that contractors not be used to carry out “inherently government functions,” it added.—*Internet*

Israel tells Gazans to brace for war escalation

GAZA CITY, 10 Jan— Gaza Strip — Israel pounded rocket sites and tunnels Saturday while its planes dropped leaflets warning of an escalation, and Palestinian leader Mah-moud Abbas predicted a “waterfall of blood” unless all parties adhere to the UN’s call for a durable ceasefire. Hamas fighters kept up attacks on southern Israel, launching 15 rockets. And with neither side ready to step down, the death toll in two weeks of fighting rose to more than 800 Palestinians, according to Palestinian medical officials, and 13 Israelis. Flames and smoke rose over Gaza City amid heavy fighting.—*Internet*

‘Suicide bomber’ caught after Lahore blasts

LAHORE, 10 Jan — Police have told that there has been a fifth blast in Lahore after four earlier explosions rocked Pakistan’s second biggest city.

Police and rescue workers rushed to the Tamaseel Theater on Ferozpur Road, where the latest explosion occurred. Police say the blast happened beneath a gas pipeline. No injuries have been reported.

The initial four explosions were triggered in rapid succession near Lahore’s Al-Falah theater around 8:45 pm local time (10:45 am ET) in the busy Mall Road district of the city, the officer said. Police said they injured six people but killed no one.

Investigators say they are trying to determine the type of the bombs used in the attack.

Earlier, police told a CNN stringer on the scene that the explosions were a result of grenades thrown by a suspected suicide-bomber who tossed



Emergency services at the scene of a series of explosions in Lahore.

INTERNET

them from an office building adjacent to the theater.

The suspected suicide bomber was arrested as he tried to blow himself up, the officer said.

Investigators now say two bombs were planted inside the theater and two near its main entrance. Security forces cordoned off the area and were checking for unexploded devices.

Internet

Three NATO troops, five civilians killed in S Afghanistan violence

KABUL, 10 Jan — Three US soldiers were killed as their vehicle struck a roadside bomb Friday in southern Afghan province of Zabul where the operation of international troops has left five civilians dead, officials said.

Ghulam Jailani Khan, the provincial police chief, told *Xinhua* that it occurred at 11 am local time when the armoured vehicle of international troops was hit by roadside mines planted by Taliban militants in advance, killing three foreign soldiers.

Earlier, a statement released by the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) confirmed the slain of three NATO soldiers in southern Afghanistan on Friday.

Moreover, the top police official in Zabul said five civilians from one family were killed in a raid by international troops in the wee hours on Friday in Shahr-e-Safa district.

Jailani Khan said international troops in the surprise raid on the house suspected of harbouring

Taleban militants actually killed five civilians inside.

Neither ISAF nor US-led Coalition forces have yet to make any comment.

A total of 10 foreign soldiers have been killed so far in 2009 as conflicts and Taleban-linked insurgency have left more than 5,000 people dead, with 2,000 civilians and 293 foreign troops in 2008, despite some 70,000-strong international troops stationed in militancy-plagued Afghanistan.

Internet

Explosions reported in E Pakistan, at least six injured

ISLAMABAD, 10 Jan — Four blasts took place in eastern Pakistan’s Punjab Province on Friday, injuring at least six persons, private TV channel DAWN NEWS reported.

The explosions occurred in the electric-control room of Al-Falah theater on Mall road, the main road in Lahore, capital city of Punjab Province, said the report.

The police have cordoned off the area and the rescue team have started relief activities.

TV footage showed that the blasts created a panic in the area, which is located on the main road of the city.

The rescue team said six people were injured in the incident, but DAWN NEWS TV channel quoted a local official as saying that none was injured.

Reports said that police arrested a suspect and shifted him to an unknown location. —*Internet*



Israelis mourn during the funeral of in Kibbutz Magal, near Hadera on 9 Jan, 2009.—INTERNET

Israel and Hamas ignore UN call for cease-fire

GAZA CITY, 10 Jan—Israeli jets and ground troops hammered at Hamas targets in the Gaza Strip and Islamic militants fired barrages of rockets at southern Israeli cities Friday, ignoring a UN resolution calling for an immediate cease-fire after two weeks of combat.

The Israeli prime minister's office said the UN action was not practical, and senior Cabinet minis-

ters decided to press on with the offensive. Israel will stop only when it succeeds in ending rocket fire from the Hamas-ruled territory, the government said.

Hopes that Thursday night's UN Security Council resolution would end Gaza's worst fighting in decades were further tempered by dismissive remarks from Hamas, angry that it was not con-

sulted during exhaustive diplomatic efforts at the world body.

Israel launched a heavy air bombardment 27 Dec in response to intensified rocket fire that has disrupted life in southern Israel. A week later, ground troops moved in, with artillery and tank fire that has contributed to a surge in civilian casualties that continued Friday on Gaza's ruined streets.—*Internet*

Brazil's agricultural exports hit record high in 2008

RIO DE JANEIRO, 10 Jan—Brazil's agricultural export reached a record 71.9 billion US dollars in 2008, up 23 percent from 58.5 billion dollars in 2007, the country's Agriculture

Ministry said on Friday.

Its agricultural imports totaled 11.8 billion dollars in 2008, up 35.8 percent from that in 2007. It was the first time the country's agricultural imports sur-

passed 10 billion dollars.

Meanwhile, trade surplus in the agricultural sector also reached a record 60 billion dollars.

China was the largest purchaser of the Brazilian agricultural products in 2008 with 11 percent. It was followed by the Netherlands with 9 percent and the United States with 8.7 percent. Soy exports, including soybeans, oil and flour, registered an increase of 58 percent in 2008. It remained to be Brazil's hottest agricultural export product with revenues reaching 18 billion dollars.

Meat exports were up 29 percent and ranked second. It had generated revenues of 14.5 billion dollars. According to the ministry, wheat imports cost Brazil 1.9 billion dollars in 2008 as a result of a 48 percent increase in wheat prices.—*Internet*



The 2009 Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas kicked off on 8 Jan, 2009 with exhibitors displaying gadgetry ranging from snazzy new smart phones to envelope-sized computers to 3D high-definition television sets.
XINHUA

Ships held by Somali pirates

KUALA LUMPUR, 10 Jan—More than a dozen vessels and about 300 crew members are in pirate hands, according to the International Maritime Bureau's piracy reporting centre. The ships include:

- Ukrainian cargo ship MV Faina, seized in September. The pirates had originally asked for \$20 million for the ship, which is laden with tanks and other heavy weapons.
- Liberian-flagged MV Biscaglia, seized late November with 30 crew on board.
- Turkish tanker Karagol, seized in November carrying 4,500 tons of chemicals and 14 Turkish personnel.
- Chinese fishing vessel Tianyu No 8, seized in mid-November.
- Bulk carrier African Sanderling and its 21 Filipino crewmen, seized in October.
- Egyptian cargo ship Blue Star with 28 crew, seized in January.—*Internet*



Russia's President Dmitry Medvedev (R) speaks with Gazprom Chief Executive Alexei Miller in Krasnaya Polyana, near Sochi, on 9 Jan, 2009. —XINHUA

Russia sets conditions to resume gas flows to Europe via Ukraine

MOSCOW, 10 Jan—Russia's state gas monopoly Gazprom said it would resume supplies to Europe via Ukraine on Friday if an agreement allowing a EU-led monitoring team to track gas flows through Ukraine was signed.

"We hope that a protocol on establishing an international independent mechanism to ensure transit of Russian gas via Ukraine will be signed today, and we will resume deliveries almost at once," Gazprom CEO Alexei Miller told Russian President Dmitry Medvedev at a meeting in the Black Sea resort of Sochi.

Medvedev said gas supplies to Ukraine would be resumed only after the necessary documents were signed.

"Of course we are interested in gas

transit resumption as soon as possible. But... all these actions can be performed only after the documents are signed," he was quoted by the RIA Novosti news agency as saying.

Shortly after the meeting, Miller told reporters that Kiev had agreed to allow Russian energy officials into Ukraine, removing a key obstacle to a document on restoring gas deliveries to Europe.

"Ukraine... accepted the proposal to create an international multilateral monitoring commission comprising representatives of Gazprom, Naftogaz (Ukraine's state gas company), Russian and Ukrainian energy ministries, European companies receiving Russian gas and an independent monitoring organization," Miller said. —*Internet*

Death toll rises to 9 from Costa Rica quake

SAN JOSE, 10 Jan—Helicopters plucked tourists from destroyed, mountaintop resorts as the death toll from Costa Rica's magnitude-6.1 earthquake rose to at least 9 victims, the Red Cross said on Friday. Dozens more remained missing

as survivors reported seeing people buried by landslides.

"I watched as the earth took my aunt and my cousins ... I watched them be buried," Miguel Angel Marin told Channel 7 news. The quake shook the

Central American nation Thursday afternoon, collapsing homes, unleashing massive landslides, and trapping hundreds of people in damaged mountain towns.

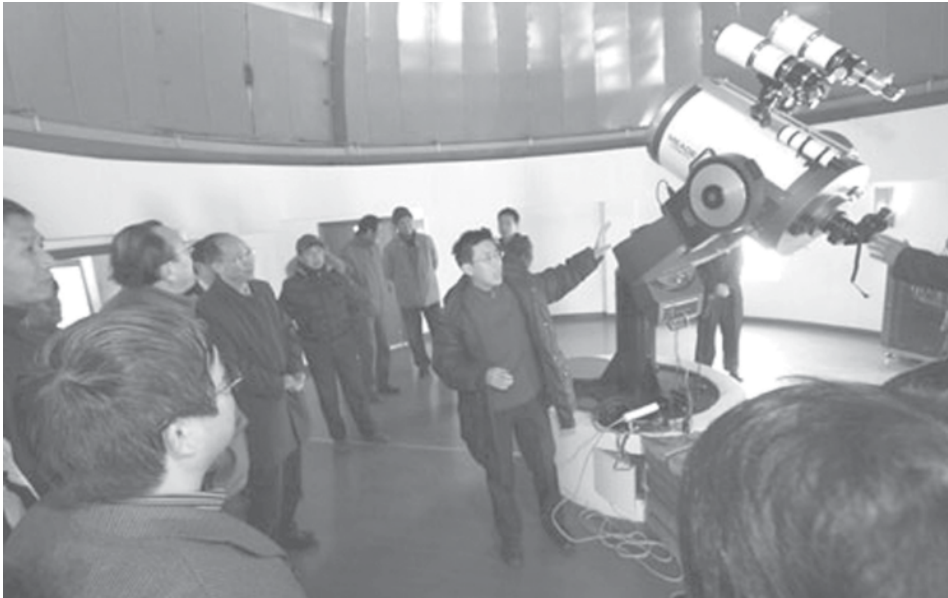
Red Cross spokeswoman Fiorella Vilca said the dead include 7- and 11-year-old sisters buried in a landslide, a 12-year-old girl whose home was crushed by falling earth, two men found dead in San Pedro de Poas, and three bodies found in a battered truck near the Angel waterfall popular with tourists. Another victim died of a heart attack in the capital, San Jose.

On Friday, rescue officials reached nearly 500 people trapped in the hardest hit zone—a mountainous area with few access roads, most of which were blocked by landslides.

Internet



The rear of a house collapsed is seen after a 6.1-magnitude earthquake in Poasito, some 30 km northwest of San Jose, on 8 Jan, 2009.—INTERNET



People visit an education base of astronomical popular science in Anji County of Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province, on 8 Jan, 2009. The education base of astronomical popular science of Shanghai Astronomical Observatory was opened on Thursday.—XINHUA

Environmental friendly and energy saving projects go wider in Tibet

BEIJING, 10 Jan — A Tibetan elder named Yudron, who lives at the 3,100 meters above the sea level, 40 kilometers away from the base of Mt. Qomolangma, has ended his piercing winter which relies on cow dung to get warm, thanks to the “Dubang Scientific Research Plan for Improving People’s Livelihood”.

The Mt Qomolangma Area, called as “world’s third pole”, is serious in environment and in deadly short of natural resources, hence, solar energy, which is widely used in Tibet Autonomous Region for years, is still unavailable in this world’s

highest residential estate. Winter seems even more chilly for dwellers here, where modern fuel and electricity are reachless.

A resolution for modern fuel and replaceable energy becomes an urgent problem to be coped with.

In May, 2008, the “Dubang Scientific Research Plan for Improving People’s Livelihood” of “Mt. Qomolangma—World’s Third Pole Campaign”, was set up in Lhasa in answer to it.

The researchers, through on-the-spot investigation, found wind and methane energies are hard to publicize as it requires high technology

while solar photovoltaic technology still has technology problem and is also high in expense.

Xinhua

Hamas says Abbas has no authority to be president

GAZA, 10 Jan — A senior Islamic Hamas leader said Friday that President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has no authority to be president anymore.

Musa Abu Marzooq, a top Hamas leader based in Damascus, told the pro-Hamas al-Aqsa Radio station that “After January 9, Abbas, according to the law, doesn’t have a presidential competence.”

He insisted that,

according to the law, Abbas was elected as President of the PNA in January 2005, “and now he doesn’t have the authority as a president anymore.”

“Abbas presidential term ends today. As we are living in exceptional situation, and the movement (Hamas) has now other priorities which are more important than discussing internal disputes,” he said.

He added that Hamas

is devoting its efforts and time “to challenge the ongoing Israeli military aggression on Gaza Strip that has been going on for 14 days.”

Israel had earlier decided to continue its offensive on Gaza Strip despite a UN ceasefire resolution which calls for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. So far, around 790 Palestinians have been killed and about 3,200 others wounded.

Xinhua

A worker makes a figure of a cow to usher in the year of the Ox, at a shopping mall in Shanghai on 6 Jan, 2009. According to the Chinese lunar calendar, 2009 is the Year of the Ox. —INTERNET



Eurozone economy shrinks as investments dry up

BRUSSELS, 10 Jan — The euro zone economy shrank by 0.2 per cent in the third quarter of 2008 mainly due to the

continuous drop in investments, confirming previous estimates, the European Union (EU)’s statistics bureau Eurostat said Thursday.

In the second quarter of 2008, the combined economy of the 15 EU nations that share the euro also contracted by 0.2 per cent compared with the first three months.

This denotes the euro zone economy is in a recession, as the phenomenon is broadly defined in technical terms as negative growth over two consecutive quarters.

Battered hard by the so-called credit crunch amid the ongoing financial crisis, investments in the euro zone fell by a further 0.6 per cent in the third quarter after a sharper drop of 0.9 per cent in the second, while house hold final consumption expenditure and exports remained unchanged from the previous quarter.

Xinhua

All items form Xinhua News Agency

Power tower blasts cause blackout in S Philippine

MANILA, 10 Jan — Three improvised bombs blew down a power tower in southern Philippines Saturday morning, causing blackout to parts of the insurgency-infested Mindanao region.

According to the online news network INQUIRER.Net, the entire Zamboanga Peninsula and the province of Misamis Occidental experienced the lack of power after the explosion in Kauwagan Town, Lanao del Norte at 2:30 a.m. local time (18:30 GMT).

The report said the fourth bomb, fashioned from an 81 millimetres shell, was later detonated by an explosive ordnance disposal team.

Muslim militants of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels were suspected to have carried out the attack. — MNA/Xinhua

Germany to set up multi-billion fund for companies

BERLIN, 10 Jan — Germany is set to establish a 100-billion-euro fund to provide loans for companies that have difficulties in borrowing from banks due to the global financial crisis, German Chancellor Angela Merkel has said.

In an interview with local newspaper Bild am Sonntag, Merkel said the package — worth some 100 billion euros (around 135 billion US dollars) — is designed to help healthy firms overcome tight credit until normal levels of bank lending resume. “With our package, we will agree on

investments in education and our infrastructure, we will improve rules for short-term working benefits to prevent layoffs, and we will create such a fund to help sound companies by providing

guarantees if needed,” Merkel was quoted as saying. “We do not need 100 billion euros of new money because this is about guarantees,” Merkel added.

Xinhua



Models present ox-shaped souvenirs during a souvenir fashion prediction show in Shanghai, east China, on 9 Jan, 2009. INTERNET

Obama joins Bush, former presidents in WH luncheon

WASHINGTON, 10 Jan — With no more than two weeks before the inauguration ceremony, US President-elect Barack Obama paid his second visit to the White House on Wednesday for an “extraordinary gathering” with all living former presidents and current President, George W Bush.

The historical luncheon started with photo taking by Obama, Bush, and three former presidents: Bill Clinton, George HW Bush and Jimmy Carter in the Oval Office, where Obama will officially move in on 20 January.

Obama told reporters that all of them understand the pressures as a president and he hopes he could learn from successes of his predecessors on how to lead the nation. “One message that I have and that I think we all share is that we want you to succeed,” the current President Bush told Obama before the private lunch.

Prior to the rare lunch, Obama and Bush held a 30-minute private meeting, where they were expected to discuss the crisis in the Middle East and US economic challenges, according to White House

spokeswoman Dana Perino.

The last meeting that included all current, past and future presidents dates back to 1981, when attendees were called to decide who would go to the funeral of assassinated Egyptian president Anwar Sadat.

In a related report, a new poll released on Wednesday shows that Americans now have a positive view of former presidents Jimmy Carter and George HW Bush despite their low approval ratings when they were in office.

MNA/Xinhua



Palestinians ride on a carriage past a Hamas government building damaged in an Israeli air strike in Gaza on 7 Jan, 2009.—INTERNET

NAM condemns escalated Israeli military aggression in Gaza

UNITED NATIONS, 10 Jan — The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) on Wednesday voiced its strong condemnation of the escalation of the Israeli military aggression in the Gaza Strip and called upon Israel to end the collective punishment of the Palestinian people.

The NAM statement came as Abelardo Moreno, the Cuban UN

Ambassador, was speaking at an open meeting of the UN Security Council on the Gaza conflict in his capacity as chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of the NAM.

NAM “strongly condemns the escalation of the military aggression being carried out by Israel, the occupying power, in the Gaza Strip,” Moreno

said. “NAM is gravely concerned by and condemns in particular the launching of the Israeli ground operation in Gaza in flagrant defiance of the calls by the international community for a cessation of military activities and of the regional and international diplomatic efforts to resolve the current crisis.”

MNA/Xinhua

Tamiflu resistance on the rise

NEW YORK, 10 Jan — Health officials say almost all of the cases of flu reported so far this season are resistant to the anti-viral drug Tamiflu. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is urging doctors to test suspected flu cases quickly to determine if it is the resistant H1N1 strain.

Only 11 percent of H1N1 flu cases last year were shown to be Tamiflu-resistant, compared to 99 percent of the cases this year, the New York Times (NYSE:NYT) reported Thursday. A publicist for Roche, the pharmaceutical firm that makes Tamiflu, noted the A(H3N2) and B viruses have shown no resistance.

“It’s quite shocking,” Dr Kent A Sepkowitz, director of infection control at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, told the newspaper. “We’ve never lost an antibiotic this fast. It blew me away.— Internet

Harmony in the heavens

A four-day deadline from the Russian space agency to find a solution to bringing astronauts safely back to earth is enough pressure for any NASA engineer.

One man was able to solve that spatial dilemma: a blind NASA electronics engineer named Marco Midon.

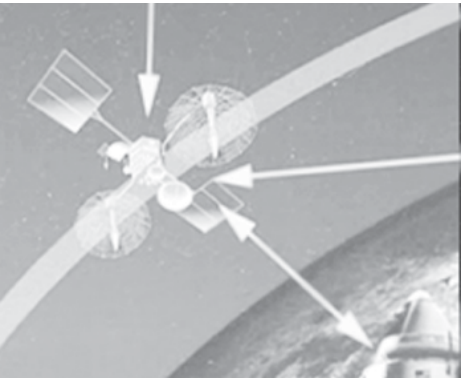
“I just got on the net, did a little research, learned what I could about the Soyuz and what the data formats were like and about two hours later I put together what I thought might be some equipment that would do it,” he explains.

With his equipment in hand, Midon and his team were ready for the grand final.

“There was another group of people figuring out, if we are going to do this and where are we going to do it from? Finally it ended up being Athens. The whole point of this is that we are going to get somewhere before the Russian ground stations in Kazakhstan can see it, so we are in a place where we can see the signal before them and we can get them the data they might not have otherwise,” Midon says.

Midon came up with a way to capture and record the signal so that it could then be transferred to the Russian controllers.

Having a disability never stopped the engineer from finding the solutions. On the contrary, because of his disability he is able to solve problems in an



unconventional way.

At the moment the two countries aren’t always in agreement. However, when it comes to space, for the US and Russia it’s a totally different matter.

“I think co-operation is what it’s all about. I think that space costs too much and is too big an arena really for one country. I think if we’re going to move beyond what we have now, it is going to require international co-operation,” Midon believes.

Zimbabwean bank unveils 50 billion notes

The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) has introduced new 20 billion and 50 billion Zimbabwean dollar notes as part of the measures to increase convenience to the banking public, local media reported.

The introduction of the new notes is also expected to coincide with the withdrawal of full salaries by workers upon the production of a pay slip, The Herald reported.

Acting Finance Minister Patrick Chinamasa made the announcement in a Statutory Instrument contained in an Extraordinary Government Gazette published on Friday in accordance with Section 40 of the RBZ Act.

NEWS ALBUM

Man spits on court floor after traffic conviction

A northern Idaho man convicted of a traffic violation in Bonner County was ordered to spend two days in jail after he spit on the courthouse floor in anger. First District Court Judge Justin Julian found 59-year-old Daniel Malone in contempt.

Julian said the man glared before “maliciously expelling a large amount of saliva” onto a carpet in the courthouse hallway. Earlier in the day, the judge found Malone guilty of failing to obey a stop sign in September.

He was ordered to pay a \$75 fine.

Malone said he is innocent of the traffic violation and suggested the judge should show mercy because it was Christmas Eve. Julian told Malone there was no excuse for his behavior.

Malone was released from jail.



An employee shows a pair of interactive partner robots in a booth at the China Beijing International Cultural & Creative Industry Expo (ICCIE) in Beijing.

Injured burglary suspect returns to Tenn store

Athens police said a burglary suspect who was cut when he entered a convenience store through a shattered glass door returned to the scene two hours later to ask officers for help. Police said a 21-year-old man will be charged with burglary when he is released from the hospital.

Officer Chandler Rollo said he was at the store waiting for a manager to arrive with a key after the break-in when the blood-covered suspect approached him Christmas Eve. The suspect required dozens of stitches in his hand and ankle.

Police said a couple of cartons of cigarettes, valued at \$36, were taken.

Ministry of Health providing OPV to children in all regions of country including remote areas with added momentum

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan—The Ministry of Health is giving priority to prevention against polio out of seven diseases for

National Immunization Days 2009 at the hall of the Ministry of Health, here, this morning.

The minister said

paralysis is being conducted in the country. The ministry is providing oral polio vaccine to the children in all regions of

days for four times.

He added that the infection of wild polio virus was clear throughout the nation as the polio eradication campaigns were launched from 2000 to February 2007. However, the infection of wild polio virus in Maungtau Township of Rakhine State from the neighbouring country was found in March 2007. The ministry immediately controlled infection of wild polio virus in time.

This year, he continued to say that the first National Immunization Days 2009 will be launched from 10 to 12 January and the second day from 7 to 9 February to feed OPV to children under five in 325 townships of the nation. The State Peace and Development Council had issued an order to implement the plans to provide OPV to the children of all regions of the nation. In doing so,

Tatmadaw will provide necessary assistance for launching the polio eradication campaign by helicopter.

In conclusion, the minister said that it is necessary to take preventive measure of polio virus infection by giving OPV. The polio infected children will be disabled in their lives. Therefore, the minister urged the people to participate in providing OPV to their children.

It was also attended by diplomats, WHO Resident Representative Prof. Adik Wibowo, Vice-President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Aye Aye, Joint-Secretary-1 Dr May Marlar, Leader of Nationalities Affairs Working Group Daw Kyin Khaing of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Leader of Environmental Conservation Working Group

Daw Nilar Thaw, representatives of UN agencies and international social organizations and health staff.

Next, Minister Dr Kyaw Myint and party visited the booth of National Immunization Days (2009). They gave OPV to 70 children of under five in front of the ministry and presented toys to them.

At Paunglaung Gymnasium in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township, Minister Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Ministers Dr Mya Oo and Dr Paing Soe cut the ribbon to launch the National Immunization Days 2009 and gave OPV to over 150 under-five children.

OPV is being given to the children under five throughout the nation for the first time from this morning to 12 January and the second time OPV giving ceremony will be held from 7 to 9 February.—MNA



Health Minister Dr Kyaw Myint gives oral polio vaccine to a child at opening of National Immunization Days 2009. — MNA

children in implementing the international health regulation adopted by the WHO Conference, said Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint at the launching ceremony of

that the Ministry of Health supervises oral polio vaccine given to the children under five on the National Immunization Days yearly. Moreover, the surveillance of infantile

the country including remote areas with added momentum. The National Immunization Days have been launched for nine times since 1996 and the region-wise immunization

Anyeint performance for local people

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan—The Ministry of Culture is performing entertainment to the service personnel and the people with Anyeint troupes.

Yesterday even-

ing, Shwe Myanmar Anyeint troupe presented dances and songs at the Ministry of Religious Affairs and the Ministry of Sports.

It was attended by Minister for Sports Brig-

Gen Thura Aye Myint, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and wife, departmental heads, staff and family members.

MNA

Monywa Invitation Golf Tournament 19-22 Jan

YANGON, 10 Jan—Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar PGA will jointly organize the Monywa Invitation

Golf Tournament at Monywa Golf Club in Monywa from 19 to 22 January.

Professional golfers

and amateur golfers (handicap 0-12) are allowed to take part in the competitions. The tournament will be organized in line with the rules and regulations of Saint Andrew and regional rules. Hole-in-one scorers will be awarded deservingly.

Those wishing to compete in the tournament may get registered by dialing 071-21550, 071-21553, 09-2037671 and 095017049 and enlist at Monywa Golf Club, not later than 2 p.m. on 17 January.—MNA

Winners awarded in Educational Staff's Sports Meet

YANGON, 10 Jan—A ceremony to present prizes to winners in the Educational Staff's Sports Meet of No. 2 Department of Basic Education was held at its hall yesterday, with an address by Director-General U Aye Lwin.

The director-general awarded the first prize to Financial Section in the men's and women's volleyball tournaments and the first prize to Administration Section (A) in the men's Sepak Takraw contest.

Deputy Director-General U Ye Lwin Aung presented second prizes to the respective winning teams.

MNA

Sarpay Lawka-5 Book Stall opened at new place

YANGON, 10 Jan—A ceremony to open Sarpay Lawka-5 Book Stall has been held at its new place at No. 354 on Maha Bandoolla Street between 39th and Seikkantha streets in Kyauktada Township.

The book stall was opened at No. 96/98 on

Pansodan Street in 2000 and it was moved to No. 222/228 on Sule Pagoda Road in 2006.

To mark the opening of the book stall at the new place, all the books are being sold at 10 per cent discount for the customers and at the special price for the

libraries, organizations and book shops up to 30 January.

Together Media Network that is opening Sarpay Lawka-5 Book Stall plans to set up Little Boy Publishing House and publish Alinkar Music Journal and Shumanyee Photo Magazine.—MNA



Newly-opened Sarpay Lawka-5 Book Stall on Maha Bandoolla Street in Kyauktada Township. —MNA

Efficiency of MES plays ...

(from page 1)
for undertaking the projects of constructing dams and reservoirs and tapping water resources on a self-reliant basis from 1988 to 2002. Again, Myanmar was presented the same award at CAFE0-21 held in Indonesia in 2003. And this shows that Myanmar engineers can stand among the ASEAN engineers with pride and glory.

He said development in science and technology is the issue that every nation is making endeavours constantly as today is the knowledge age. Myanmar is making concerted efforts to develop Myanmar science and technology sector to enable in order to keep abreast of developed nations, he said.

Efficiency of Myanmar Engineering Society plays a pivotal role in the progress of the nation. He stressed that Myanmar engineers are

as efficient and diligent as those from neighbouring countries. Implementation of the mammoth projects that cost a large sum of money through only technology of the national engineers reflects the efficiency of Myanmar engineers, he added.

He said Myanmar is endowed with rich natural resources. A modern developed nation is to be built with the utilization of available natural resources through modern techniques. This is the goal of the nation and building the nation without depending on others is something to be proud of, he added.

He quoted Head of State Senior General Than Shwe as saying in his speech at the graduation ceremony of the Defence Services Technological Academy on 19-12-2008 that since natural resources can be exhausted one day industrial technol-

ogy is needed for the survival of mankind. This is why the government has laid down four economic objectives and is implementing them for emergence of a modern developed nation, he said.

After the Tatmadaw government had taken up State duties, it continuously built motor roads, railways, dams, bridges across the rivers, airfields and universities one after another. Myanmar engineers take part in nation-building tasks without any gender discrimination. He said he was heartening to note that they are builders without depending on others.

In conclusion, he said, technologies are too many to complete studies as new ones are invented day after day and they are very wide.

He spoke of the need to learn advancing engineering without losing sight in order to keep abreast of the developing world. Only when an industrialized country can be built, will the country prosper. The Prime Minister urged the engineers to discharge the duties whatever role they are in after accepting that engineering is an important need for establishment of a modern developed nation.

Chairman of MES U Than Myint and AFEO Secretary-General Mr Tan Yean Chin extended greetings.



Prime Minister General Thein Sein accepts Distinguished Honorary Fellowship medal and certificate of AFEO presented by Secretary-General Mr. Tan Yean Chin of AFEO. — MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein accepted the Distinguished Honorary Fellowship Medal and certificate of AFEO presented by Secretary-General Mr Tan Yean Chin and gifts by Chairman of MES U Than Myint.

The Secretary-General also presented medals and certificates for AFEO Honorary Fellowship to Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein and U Tint Swe, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Pe Than and Deputy Minister for Electric Power No. 1 U Myo Myint.

Commissioner of AFEO Mr Rocky H.T. Wong gave medals and cer-

tificates for AFEO Honorary Membership to MES Joint General Secretaries U Khin Maung Chit and U Aung Myint and Treasurer U Ko Ko Gyi.

Chairman of the CAFE0-26 Organizing Committee AFEO ASEAN Engineering Outstanding Award for Ministry of Rail Transportation to Deputy Minister U Pe Than.

General Secretary U Win Khaing of MES reported on duties and functions of the MES.

The Prime Minister presented gifts to the wellwishers who had donated cash to the funds for relief and preparedness of natural disasters.

MES Chairman U

Than Myint also presented gifts to the wellwishers who donated cash to the wellwishers who donated cash to the funds for the Annual General Meeting of MES and the paper-reading session.

The Prime Minister and party posed for documentary photo.

After the ceremony, the Prime Minister and party viewed engineering and technological equipment at the booths of engineering companies.

A total of 20 members of MES have been awarded AFEO Honorary Fellowship and 25 persons, AFEO Honorary Membership.

MNA

Commander inspects preventive measures against DHF, diarrhoea

YANGON, 10 Jan—Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint visited the office of Kamayut Township Executive Officer this morning and heard reports on outbreak of diseases in the township and Yangon Division, preventive measures being taken and works being carried out for proper drainage and sanitation presented by Head of Yangon Division Health Department Dr Hla Myint and officials.

Next, the commander gave necessary instructions and inspected preventive measures against DHF and spraying of insecticide being carried out by departmental personnel, members of social organization and local people at Ward 4 and Ward 5 in the township and along Mingala Thukha, Sabei Marga and Myatlayon Kyaung streets, giving educative talks at No. 9 Basic Education Primary School and sanitation works.

MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Thaung Aye and Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe meet eye patients at free medical treatment to eye patients in Kyaukpyu. —TRANSPORT



Free operations performed on 571 with eye complaints in Kyaukpyu District

YANGON, 10 Jan—A ceremony to launch the programme for free treatments to those with eye complaints of Kyaukpyu District in Rakhine State took place at the general hospital in Kyaukpyu on 6 January.

Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Develop-

ment Committee Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Thaung Aye, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Patron of Rakhine State Women's Affairs Organization wife of the commander Daw Thin Myo Myo Aung and Head of the Discipline

Enforcement Department of the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Daw Mya Theingi presented gifts to the team members who had given treatments to local people of Kyaukpyu District with eye complaints.

At Kyaukpyu General Hospital on 7 and 8 January, Managing Director of the Inland Water Transport U Soe Tint, Head of MWAFF Administration Department Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe, optometrists including Professor Dr Kan Nyunt, assistant surgeons, and well-wishers of Yangon gave medicines and eyeglasses to the patients.

The operation was organized by Rakhine

State PDC under the arrangements of the Ministry of Transport, and with contributions of the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Health, MWAFF, social organizations and well-wishers of Yangon from 5 to 8 January.

The team comprised MWAFF Administration Department Head Dr Khin Hsan Nwe, Ophthalmologist Professor Dr Kan Nyunt, eye specialists and assistant surgeons. The team presented medicines and 994 pairs of eyeglasses to patients.

From 5 to 7 January, the team performed operations on 571, and gave free medical check-ups to 4,667 outpatients.—MNA

OPV fed to 685,000 children of under five in Yangon Division

YANGON, 10 Jan—Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint delivered an address at the launching of National Immunization Days 2009 of Yangon Division at University of Nursing (Yangon) in

Lanmadaw Township this afternoon.

Secretary of Yangon Division Health Committee Head of Yangon Division Health Department Dr Hla Myint reported on efforts made for holding the Yangon Division NID 2009.

The commander and Chairperson of

Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Kyin Myaing gave oral polio vaccine to children of under five and presented gifts to them.

Departmental heads and responsible persons of social organizations also fed OPV to the children.

A total of 2,105 national immunization teams will give OPV to 685,000 children of under five in Yangon Division up to 12 January.—MNA

Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint gives oral polio vaccine to a child of under five.

MNA



National Tennis Championship 18-21 Jan

YANGON, 10 Jan—The National Tennis Championship, organized by Myanmar Tennis Federation, will be held at Theinbyu Tennis Court, here, from 18 to 21 January.

The championship will be categorized as the men's open, the women's open, the above-35, the above-45, the above-55, the above-60 singles and double events.

Those wishing to take part in the competition may enlist at MTF, Tel: 372360, not later than 12 noon on 17 January.

MNA

Construction of pylons, installation of power lines looked into

YANGON, 10 Jan—Minister for Electric Power No. 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint

inspected construction of pylon No. 34 and No. 35 of Thayagon-Kamanat 230KV national grid yesterday.

The minister and party viewed arrival of constructional materials and distribution of them to projects near Aungsoemoe Village of DaikU Township. They also inspected functions of Kamanat Power

Station. At pylon No. 83 and No. 214 of Kamanat-Thanyin 230KV national grid, the minister looked into installation of power lines.

On arrival at Thanlyin Main Power Station, the minister heard reports on progress of Kamanat-Thanyin 230KV national grid and Thanlyin-Thakayta 230KV national grid

presented by officials. Next, the minister inspected installation of power line at the switch yard, keeping of transformers and laying cornerstones for switchbay.

The minister viewed installation of Thakayta-Thanyin 230KV national grid crossing Bago River and left necessary instructions.—MNA

Religious Affairs Minister visits staff quarters in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Jan—Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung visited staff quarters and hostels of the ministry here and viewed fruit and kitchen

plantations this morning.

Next, the ministers presented K 500,000 to service personnel of Building No. 1328 and 1321 who won first prize for fruit and kitchen

plantations and K 20000 each to staff of Building No. 323 and 324 in Kankaw housing complex and Building No. 107 of Khayay housing complex.—MNA

Development of Seikkyi-khanaungto Township inspected

YANGON, 10 Jan—Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa opened the hall for the workers of show moving vehicle of YCDC at the jetty in Seikkyi-khanaungto Township today.

The vice-mayor inspected placing of concrete on 9,460 feet long Shukhintha circular road. At Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Office, the vice-mayor gave oral polio vaccine to children and toys to them.

He also viewed construction of one-storey building that measures 120 feet by 30 feet at No. 5 Basic Education Primary School and met local people in Seikkyi-khanaungto West Ward.

The vice-mayor and officials inspected repair of jetty and pontoon in the township and steel structure school buildings at No. 1 BEHS built by YCDC.

While in Seikkyi-khanaungto, the vice-mayor presented sports gear and clothes donated by social organizations to the local people.

MNA

President of UMFCCI meets Bangladeshi guests

YANGON, 10 Jan—President U Win Myint, Vice-President U Zaw Min Win, General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing, Joint-Secretary Dr Maung Maung Lay and CEC member U Tun Aung of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry met President Mrs. Monowara Hakim Ali and Mr. H.M Hakim Ali, (Honorary Consul of Bangladesh at Chittagong) of Chittagong Women Chambers of Commerce



and Industry accompanied by Commercial Counsellor of the Embassy of the People's Republic of Bangladesh at the UMFCCI office on 6 January here.

They cordially discussed matters on

promoting of bilateral trade, cooperation in businesses, border trade, participating of Myanmar entrepreneurs in exhibition to be held in Bangladesh and schedule to jointly hold trade fairs.

MNA

New Track Maintenance Machine imported from the Republic of India to be used in railroad works seen at Yangon Railway Station. (News on page 2)

MNA

Beautiful Dawei getting neat and tidy

Article: Myint Maung Soe; Photos: Khin Maung Gyi (Dawei)

(from page 16)
Beyond the hills, we entered Thayetchaung Township which is one of four townships in Dawei District. The township has a large number of paddy sown acreage.

At the entrance to Dawei, we were welcomed by local correspondent U Khin Maung Gyi. We saw toddy palm plants along the road similar to the scenes of Kyaukpadaung and Meiktila.

Dawei is located on wider plain region like Yangon. Local people use motorbikes, bi-

cycles and three-wheeled motorcycles for transportation. In line with the town plan, houses were built in a row on the roads stretching from south to north and from east to west straightly. Most houses are two-storey buildings with roofs of contrary type as the local traditions.

Staff Officer U Maung Maung Lwin of Dawei Township Development Affairs Committee Office explained, "We are making all-out efforts for keeping Dawei clean and beautiful. The workers of the committee are carrying

out sanitation on local roads and in markets and parks daily."

He continued to say, "Dawei Myoma Market and Strand Market are prominent in Dawei. Moreover, Dawei Town Hall, Bronze Bogyoke Statue, Shwewei Thiri Playground, Dawei Golf Course and Township Development Affairs Committee Office are significant in the town."

The Staff Officer further explained, "The committee is undertaking maintenance of roads. In doing so, the cent per cent mainte-



Photo shows repaved Arzani Road in Dawei.

nance works have completed on the circular road, the road to airport, Pakokku Kyaung Road, Shwetaungsar Road, Neikban Road, Hsanchi Road and Yangyiaung Road in 2008-09 financial year. Furthermore, the committee carried out tarmacking of BEHS-1 road, Pahtokyaung road, the road to airport and Bogyoke road."

Together with local correspondent U Khin Maung Gyi, the news team observed progress of economic, education and health infrastructures built after 1988. While in

Dawei District, we visited Technological University (Dawei), self-reliant hydropower generating programme in Thayetchaung Township, Dawei University, markets of the DAC, the airport, the communication and post office, the 200-bed hospital and famous pagodas.

During the tour, we noticed that department stores, lodging houses, beauty saloons and shopping malls are attracting the travellers and the people.

Due to better and smooth transportation, Dawei has easy access to

other places through roads, waterways and flights. However, it is necessary to upgrade town-to-town roads and district-to-district road.

Better transportation, the production of agricultural produce, meat and aquatic products, the extraction of teak, minerals and jewellery and the progress of education and health sectors will contribute to Dawei to become a developing town soon.

Translation: TTA
Myanma Alin:
26-12-2008



The roundabout near Dawei Airport being beautified with colourful flags and landscape.

Extreme weather boosts antioxidant levels in soybean seeds

MARYLAND UNIVERSITY, 10 Jan — Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists have found that weather and climate play key roles in levels of a family of antioxidants tucked inside soybean seeds.

Lead plant physiologist Steven Britz of the ARS Food Compos-

nents and Health Laboratory, part of the Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center in Beltsville, Md., collaborated on the study with William Kenworthy with the University of Maryland in College Park.

The researchers found that weather and climate are significant fac-

tors affecting soybean seed tocopherol content. Tocopherols are a family of antioxidants that protect biological membranes. Among this family, alpha-tocopherol is the active form of vitamin E in humans.

Soybean seeds are a major source of vegetable oil in the U.S. diet, and consequently a major contributor to dietary tocopherol intake. The daily Recommended Dietary Allowance for vitamin E for men and women aged 14 and older is 15 milligrams. But more than 50 percent of American adults do not get adequate amounts of vitamin E, according to experts.

Internet



Jupiter-like planets could form around twin suns

HENRIETTA, 10 Jan — Life on a planet ruled by two suns might be a little complicated. Two sunrises, two sunsets. Twice the radiation field.

In a paper published in the December 2008 issue of Astronomy and Astrophysics, astronomer Joel Kastner and his team suggest that planets may easily form around certain types of twin (or "binary") star systems. A disk of molecules discovered orbiting a pair of twin young suns in the constellation Sagittarius strongly suggests that many such binary systems also host planets.

"We think the molecular gas orbiting these two stars almost literally represents 'smoking gun' evidence of recent or possibly ongoing 'giant' (Ju-

piter-like) planet formation around the binary star system," says Kastner, professor at Rochester Institute of Technology's Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science.

Internet



Economists see longest recession since World War Two

WASHINGTON, 10 Jan —The US recession will probably be the longest since World War Two and could worsen without heavy government spending, according to a closely-watched survey of economists released on Saturday.

The Blue Chip Economic Indicators poll of 52 economists from top financial firms, major companies and academia found that most expected a tepid recovery to begin later this year, with

growth returning to more normal levels in 2010.

A majority of those polled thought the recession would officially end in the third quarter of 2009, which would make this the longest downturn since World War Two.

However, more than half of respondents thought unemployment would peak no earlier than 2010, suggesting that economic pain may linger long after the recession is technically

over. For 2009, the consensus view was that real gross domestic product would fall 1.6 percent, gloomier than the previous month's forecast for a 1.1 percent decline. A drop of that magnitude would be the worst yearly performance since 1982.

Internet



Frost-covered spider's webs hang from a roof line in Godewaersvelde, France, as temperatures continue to drop.—INTERNET

Fire kills six children in Argentina squatters' home

BUENOS AIRES, 10 Jan —Six children are dead in the Argentine capital after a fire ripped through a former bank being used as a home by poor families.

Buenos Aires Civil Defense director Daniel Russo says the blaze began before dawn and the victims were all siblings, ages 1 to 13. Their parents survived.

Russo said Saturday that at least 28 people were "living illegally" in the building. Eight were injured in addition to the dead.—Internet

Ecuador ends oil contracts due to low prices

QUITO, 10 Jan—Ecuador will end its oil contracts with companies in France and Italy due to low prices, Mining and Oil Minister, Derlis Palacios, said on Friday.

He said current international oil prices made it difficult for his country to benefit, while it was paying high production costs to France's Perenco and Italy's Agip.

Meanwhile, Palacios said Ecuador would fulfill its agreement with the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to cut

oil production.

OPEC announced in December an oil output cut of 2.2 million barrels per day (bpd) from Jan. 1, the biggest-ever reduction prompted by tumbling prices and a flagging oil market.

Palacios also defended the need to find new export markets such as China, Venezuela, India and Iran.

"We are going to establish Ecuadorian-Iranian companies to exploit oil, which will allow us to have more financing and technology," Palacios

said.

Ecuador's oil export revenues accounted for almost 40 percent of the country's budget, totaling about 14 billion US dollars in 2008.

Internet

China Mobile to spend 58.8 bln yuan in 3G network construction

BEIJING, 10 Jan—China Mobile, the biggest mobile operator in the country, plans to invest 58.8 billion yuan (8.6 billion U.S. dollars) to build 60,000 base stations in 2009 for the expansion of its third generation (3G) mobile phone network, the company announced here on Saturday.

Upon completion, the total number of China Mobile's 3G network base stations will top 80,000, covering 70 percent of the cities under provincial level across the country. The 3G high-speed networks can handle faster data downloads, allowing handset users to make video calls and watch TV programs.

On Wednesday, China's telecommunications supervisor issued 3G mobile phone licenses to three domestic telecom companies. China Mobile was awarded a license for TD-SCDMA, the domestically-developed 3G standard. The other two main carriers, China Telecom and China Unicom, received licenses for the US developed CDMA2000 and Europe's WCDMA, respectively.

According to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, there could be about 280 billion yuan of direct investment in 3G networks over the next two years.

Internet

At least 30 killed in Peru bus mishap

LIMA, 10 Jan—At least 30 people were killed and over 20 injured in a bus accident early Saturday in Peru's northwestern province of Cajamarca, police said.

The tragedy occurred when the bus, with around 60 passengers onboard, swerved off the road and fell off a nearby cliff.

Rescuers have retrieved the bodies of the 30 victims, including those of six children.

Initial investigation showed that harsh weather conditions and overloading may have caused the accident.—Internet



Performers of China's Central Ballet Troupe rehearse at Paris Opera in Paris, France, on 9 Jan, 2009.—INTERNET

Germany to set up multi-billion fund for companies

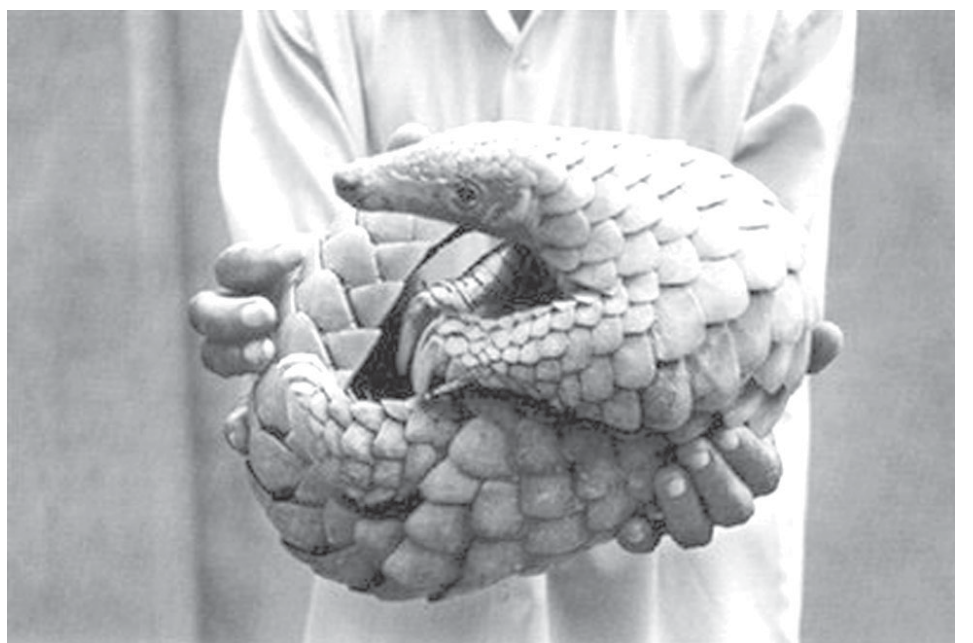
BERLIN, 10 Jan—Germany is set to establish a 100-billion-euro fund to provide loans for companies that have difficulties in borrowing from banks due to the global financial crisis, German Chancellor Angela Merkel has said.

In an interview with local newspaper Bild am Sonntag, Merkel said the package — worth some 100 billion euros (around 135 billion US dollars) — is designed to help healthy firms overcome tight credit until normal levels of bank lending resume.

"With our package, we will agree on investments in education and our infrastructure, we will improve rules for short-term working benefits to prevent layoffs, and we will create such a fund to help sound companies by providing guarantees if needed," Merkel was quoted as saying.

"We do not need 100 billion euros of new money because this is about guarantees," Merkel added. Earlier in October 2008, Berlin established a 400-billion-euro loan guarantee fund for banks wracked by the global financial crisis.

Banks wishing to make use of the guarantee must adhere to conditions such as a restriction on executive salaries but loans to companies will not come with strings attached, Merkel said.—Internet



A wildlife officer displays a pangolin. Wildlife trade monitors urged Vietnam on Friday to destroy rather than sell on seized illegal animals.—INTERNET

Yangon Sailing Club Annual General Meeting

All members of Yangon Sailing Club are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting to be held as follows:

Date : 25th January 2009
Place : Yangon Sailing Club
Time : 9:30 a.m.

Secretary
Yangon Sailing Club

Kiev shivers after main utility swaps to fuel oil

KIEV, 10 Jan—The main electricity and heat supplier in the Ukrainian capital said on Thursday it had started using oil to compensate for falling gas supplies, and residents reported a drop in temperature in their apartments.

It was not immediately clear whether gas deliveries fell because of a dispute with Russia, which has cut all supplies to Ukraine, or a longstanding local row over unpaid bills.

Some residents said temperatures in their apartments had fallen notice-

ably. The temperature in Kiev was about minus 8 degrees Celsius on Thursday morning, warmer than the day before when temperatures fell to lower than minus 20.

Ukrainian towns and cities are heated by central utilities which pipe hot water into flats and houses. "We are able to keep the water temperature at 64 to 68 degrees Celsius by using fuel oil, the reserves of which are intended for emergency situations," Kievenergo said in a statement. — MNA/Reuters



Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer gives the opening keynote address at the 2009 Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, Nevada, on 7 January. Microsoft chief executive Steve Ballmer has announced that a test version of the US software titan's Windows 7 operating system will be available worldwide on Friday.—INTERNET

Audi sales hits record high in 2008 despite global downturn

FRANKFURT (Germany), 10 Jan—Luxury carmaker Audi said on Thursday its global sales, going against the world trend, surpassed the one million mark in 2008, the first time in its history. It sold 1.0034 million cars worldwide in 2008, an increase of 4.1 per cent compared to 2007, the company said. A range of new models contributed to the boost in sales, it said.

In December 2008, its global sales increased by 17 per cent over the same month in 2007, to 82,800 from 70,523. Also in December, Audi sales in West Europe rose 23 per cent over December 2007, to 53,900. The year 2008 saw a 2.5-per-cent rise in sales in the region, to 667,000. The Asia-Pacific region witnessed a 16-per-cent rise in sales in December, to 14,000.

Affected by the financial crisis and economic recession, Audi sales in the United States in 2008 dropped to 87,760, a fall of 6.1 per cent over 2007.

The increase in sales growth for Audi in 2008 was not easy to achieve as the global automobile market is experiencing a downturn in sales, market observers said.— MNA/Xinhua

China bans weight loss drug fenfluramine hydrochloride

BEIJING, 10 Jan—China on Thursday banned the weight loss drug fenfluramine hydrochloride, citing adverse effects on humans.

China will stop the production, sale and use of the substance, in both material and product form, and revoke its approval, Yan Jiangying, spokeswoman with the State Food and Drug Administration, told a Press conference here. The change took effect on Wednesday, she said.

Side-effects monitoring found the drug could harm the heart and pulmonary arteries and lead to bloody urine and nausea, Yan said. She said the risks outweighed the benefits it could bring. She added that producers must recall their products and those who have bought the drug can ask for a refund from hospitals or drugstores.

The drug was banned in the United States and some European countries as early as 2000, according to Yan.—MNA/Xinhua



Kazutoshi Mizuno, chief vehicle engineer of Nissan Motor Co, introduces his staff to journalists as they stand around a new Nissan GT-R after a press conference at Nissan head office in Tokyo, on 8 Jan, 2009. Nissan showed on Thursday a 15 million yen (US\$161,300) souped up version of its GT-R sportscar that the Japanese automaker said was still a bargain compared to European rivals.—INTERNET

UNHCR says 50,000 fleeing Somalia risked sea crossing in '08

GENEVA, 10 Jan—More than 50,000 people fleeing chaotic conditions in Somalia and neighbouring countries crossed the pirate-infested Gulf of Aden to Yemen in 2008, the United Nations refugee agency UNHCR said on Friday.

At least 590 drowned and 359 were reported missing among the 50,091 known to have made the perilous voyage in Soma-

lia-based smugglers' boats last year, UNHCR spokesman Ron Redmond said.

The number of refugees was a 70-per-cent rise over 2007, when those

making the journey with often brutal smugglers was 29,500 — but the death toll was much higher in 2007 at 1,400, he told a news briefing.

MNA/Reuters

People wait in line to buy train tickets to go home at a temporary ticket office in Jiaxing, Zhejiang Province on 7 Jan, 2009. Railway stations across China have been encountering an early travel rush as millions of migrant workers return home for the Spring Festival holiday, according to China Daily.—INTERNET



China plans production controls for deadly melamine

BEIJING, 10 Jan—China plans to impose production controls on melamine, the cheap industrial ingredient at the centre of a milk tainting scandal that shocked China and the rest of the world last year, a newspaper said on Friday.

The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology has circulated for comment draft production permit rules aiming to stem a melamine production glut and stop it from tainting food, the *China Chemical Industry News* reported.

Melamine is used to make fertilizers, plastics and other industrial goods but gained notoriety as a cheap additive for milk and other foods. Rich in nitrogen, melamine can be used to fool tests for protein.

MNA/Reuters



Workers shape a snow sculpture in preparation for the Shenyang International Ice and Snow Festival in Shenyang, Liaoning Province on 8 Jan, 2009. The festival kicks off on 11 Jan, local media said. — INTERNET

Vietnam spends \$7m on poultry vaccination

HANOI, 10 Jan — Vietnamese Minister of Agricultural and Rural Development Cao Duc Phat approved a plan to spend seven million US dollars on buying bird flu vaccination, the local newspaper *Vietnam Economic Times* reported Friday.

The decision followed several recent bird flu outbreaks and one human infection case.

The minister sent an urgent message to ask all localities nationwide to tighten the prevention of the disease and make sure all poultry are vaccinated.

Phat also asked all localities to set up strict controls over the trade, transport, slaughtering and consumption of poultry to prevent the disease from spreading to humans.

MNA/Xinhua



Bird flu patient lies on a bed while receiving treatment from a doctor at a hospital in Thanh Hoa Province, 150 km (95 miles) south of Hanoi, on 7 Jan, 2009.—INTERNET

Protests over police shooting turns violent in US city

SAN FRANCISCO, 10 Jan — Protests over a police officer's fatal shooting of an unarmed Black man turned violent on Wednesday night in Oakland, local newspapers reported.

Hundreds of protesters took to the street in downtown Oakland, a city about eight miles (13 kilometers) east of San Francisco. They set fire to a trash bin and rammed it against a police car, the *Oakland Tribune* said on its website.

The protests were triggered by Johannes Mehserle, a police officer of BART, the rapid-transit commuter rail system that serves the San Francisco Bay area, who fatally shot 22-year-old Oscar Grant early on New Year's Day at an Oakland BART station..

Mehserle resigned on Wednesday, but Sean Dugar, president of the California National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Youth and College Division, said that was "not enough". —MNA/Xinhua

Getting rid of an old computer? Smash it up first

LONDON, 10 Jan — If you are planning on getting rid of an old computer, make sure you remove the hard drive first and smash it up with a hammer, a British consumer group advised on Thursday.

Which? Computing magazine said the only way to make sure fraudsters could not steal personal details from an old computer's hard drive was to utterly destroy it, as simply deleting files or wiping the drive was not sufficient. *Which?* said it had bought eight second-hand drives from Internet auction site eBay and recovered 22,000 "deleted" files, including some information that could be confidential.

Criminals, who it said trawled council waste sites and Internet sites

Developing sino-US relations goes with historical trend

BEIJING, 10 Jan — Continuously developing relations between China and the United States is in line with aspirations of the two peoples and historical trends, said Chinese Vice-President Xi Jinping on Thursday.

"Sino-US relations are now facing an opportunity for further development," Xi told US Deputy Secretary of State John D. Negroponte, who came to mark the 30th anniversary

of the establishment of Sino-US diplomatic relations. "China will work with the US to push forward the relationship in the new historical period," he said. Xi said China and the US should make joint efforts to maintain constructive cooperation, consider interests and concerns of each other, strengthen dialogues and properly handle disputes. He said the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and the US was a milestone in history that started a new era of cooperation between the two countries and had profound impact on the international situation.

Sino-US relations made remarkable progress over the past

three decades. In the past eight years in particular, cooperation in all areas had further developed and coordination in international and regional issues had been fruitful, said Xi.

Negroponte said no relationship in the world was more important than US-China relations. He said the two countries had worked together to safeguard peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific Region and the world through bilateral and multilateral contacts. Negroponte said US Administrations had long been committed to an engagement policy with China. He believed the new government would follow this policy too.

MNA/Xinhua



Farmer Wu Yulu drives his rickshaw pulled by a his self-made walking robot near his home in a village at the outskirts of Beijing on 8 Jan, 2009. This robot is the latest and largest development of hobby inventor Wu, who started to build robots in 1986, made of wire, metal, screws and nails found in rubbish sites.—INTERNET

China targets MSN in "vulgar" Internet crackdown

BEIJING, 10 Jan—China has widened an Internet crackdown on "vulgar" content to target 14 new sites, including Microsoft's MSN, and chided fellow American giant Google for not doing enough to clean up its pages.

China's ruling Communist Party is wary of threats to its grip on information and has conducted numerous censorship efforts targeting pornography, political criticism and web scams. But officials flagged tougher steps this time.

MSN was cited for the large amount of inappropriate images on its film channel and some "selected pictures" in its social messaging section, along with 13 other local sites. Microsoft could not immediately be reached for comment.

The campaign, launched earlier this week, originally accused 19 sites including search engines Baidu and Google of undermining public morality.—MNA/Reuters

SPORTS

Portuguese government backs joint World Cup bid with Spain

LISBON, 10 Jan—Portuguese government backs joint World Cup bid with Spain

The federations concerned have recently stated their availability for a joint bid, adding to interest from Belgium/Netherlands, Japan, China, Qatar, Mexico, USA, Russia and Australia to organise the four-yearly event.

Portugal’s sports minister Laurentino Dias said the government “is available to receive plans for a

bid,” in a letter to FPF president Gilberto Madail revealed by Lusa press agency.

Internet



The FIFA World Cup trophy

No complacency as Hodgson celebrates first year at Fulham

LONDON, 10 Jan — Roy Hodgson celebrates a remarkable first full year in charge of Fulham when his side meet Blackburn on Saturday but knows there will be little time to bask in his achievements.

The former Inter Milan coach took charge at Craven Cottage after Lawrie Sanchez left in December 2007 with the south-west London club languishing 19th in the Premier League table and hot favourites for relegation.

A slow start compounded the Cottagers’ situation but an incredible late run of form culminated in the west London

club preserving its top-flight status with a last-day win over Portsmouth.

Internet



Roy Hodgson, seen here, celebrates a remarkable first full year in charge of Fulham when his side meet Blackburn on Saturday but knows there will be little time to bask in his achievements.—INTERNET

BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE		
(10.1.2009)		
Arsenal	1 – 0	Bolton
Aston Villa	2 – 1	WBA
Everton	2 – 0	Hull City
Middlesbrough	1 – 1	Sunderland
Newcastle	2 – 2	West Ham Utd
Stoke City	0 – 0	Liverpool



Arsenal’s Robin Van Persie (R) challenges Bolton Wanderers’ Dan Shittu during their English Premier League soccer match at Emirates Stadium in London on 10 Jan, 2009.—INTERNET



Spain’s Fernando Verdasco will meet Radek Stepanek.—INTERNET

BRISBANE, 10 Jan — Spain’s Fernando Verdasco will meet Radek Stepanek of the Czech Republic in the final of the Brisbane International after contrasting victories over French opponents on Saturday.

Verdasco crushed Paul-Henri Mathieu 6-2, 6-1 in 75 minutes in the first semi-final before Stepanek outlasted Richard Gasquet 2-6, 6-2, 6-4 in two hours 12 minutes in the second.

Verdasco played almost faultless tennis as he blasted his way past Mathieu, the world number 32.

The second seeded Davis Cup winner dominated his French opponent in every department as he raced through the match.—Internet

Love starting to appreciate the meaning of 20 wins

KAPALUA, 10 Jan — It only takes a few good weeks to change fortunes on the PGA Tour.

Cameron Beckman and Marc Turnesa were on their way back to Q-school until winning late last year, and now they are watching rainbows pour into the Pacific Ocean as they start a new season with the other PGA Tour winners at Kapalua.

Such swift turnarounds even apply to someone like Davis Love III.

Despite earning over \$35 million in 23 years on the PGA Tour, he was on the cusp of having to use a one-time exemption from the career money list just to keep his card. Three weeks later, he won the final PGA Tour event of the season and became a lifetime member with his 20th victory.—Internet



Davis Love III reacts after making a birdie putt on the second green of the Plantation Course during the first round of the Mercedes-Benz Championship golf tournament in Kapalua, Hawaii.—INTERNET

Flu-hit Jankovic pulls out of Hong Kong event

HONG KONG, 10 Jan—World number one Jelena Jankovic pulled out of the Hong Kong World Team Challenge with flu on Saturday, throwing her Australian Open preparations into disarray.

The Serbian, who came into the tournament looking for vital match practice ahead of the year’s opening Grand Slam, said she had been struggling throughout the exhibition tournament.

“I have a flu and have been feeling weak and sick for the last couple of days. I really have been trying my best to go on the court but I feel slow and

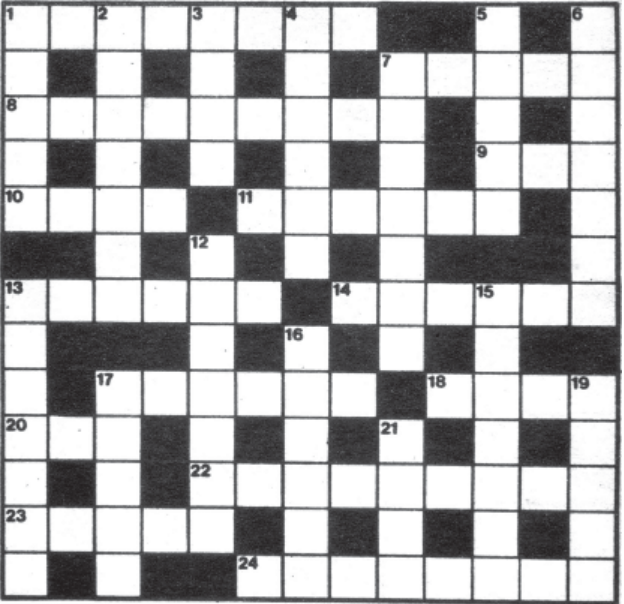
(have had) no reactions,” she said.

“I wanted to go out there for the crowd. It’s an exhibition event and as well I think it was a great opportunity for me to play some matches and try to get in form before the Australian Open but sometimes you cannot control it.”—Internet



World number one Jelena Jankovic of Serbia talks to the media in Hong Kong on 5 January. Jankovic pulled out of the Hong Kong World Team Challenge with flu on 10 January, throwing her Australian Open preparations into disarray.—INTERNET

CROSSWORDS PUZZLE



- ACROSS

 - 1 Solitary
 - 7 Wealth
 - 8 Dumb show
 - 9 Decline
 - 10 Dregs
 - 11 Sitings
 - 13 Prairic-wolf
 - 14 Pursue
 - 17 Brainy
 - 18 Bargain
 - 20 By way of
 - 22 Soapless cleanser
 - 23 Board game
 - 24 Captive
- DOWN

 - 1 Fold of coat
 - 2 Convent
 - 3 Shortly
 - 4 Girl
 - 5 Finished
 - 6 Supercilious feature
 - 7 Brief notice
 - 12 Waits on
 - 13 Time-serving 24
 - 15 Lamp
 - 16 Annoy persistently
 - 17 Frisk
 - 19 Boy’s name
 - 21 Flag

Zola plays down firesale fears at Upton Park

NEWCASTLE, 10 Jan—West Ham manager Gianfranco Zola insists the club is fighting hard to keep hold of its best players in the January transfer window.

The English Premier League side has been left in a vulnerable financial position after their Icelandic owner Bjorgolfur Gudmundsson became a high profile victim of the global credit crunch.

Gudmundsson has denied he will have to sell his controlling interest at Upton Park, but it’s widely anticipated there will be far more out-goings than incomings in the current month-long window to help balance the books.

Internet



West Ham manager Gianfranco Zola, seen here, insists the club is fighting hard to keep hold of its best players in the January transfer window.—INTERNET

5 Somali pirates drown with ransom share

MOGADISHU, 10 Jan—Five of the Somali pirates who released a hijacked oil-laden Saudi super-tanker drowned with their share of a reported \$3 million ransom after their small boat capsized, a pirate and port town resident said on Saturday.

Pirate Daud Nure says the boat with eight people on board overturned in a storm after dozens of pirates left the Sirius Star following a two-month standoff in the Gulf of Aden that ended Friday.

He said five people died and three people reached shore after swimming for several hours. Daud Nure was not part of the pirate operation but knew those involved.

Jamal Abdulle, a resident of the Somali coastal town of Haradhere,

close to where the ship had been anchored, also confirmed that the boat sank and that the eight's portion of the ransom money that had been shared among dozens of pirates was lost.

Saudi Arabian oil minister Ali Naimi said Saturday that the crew of the Sirius Star was safe and that the tanker had left Somali territorial waters and was on its way home.—Internet

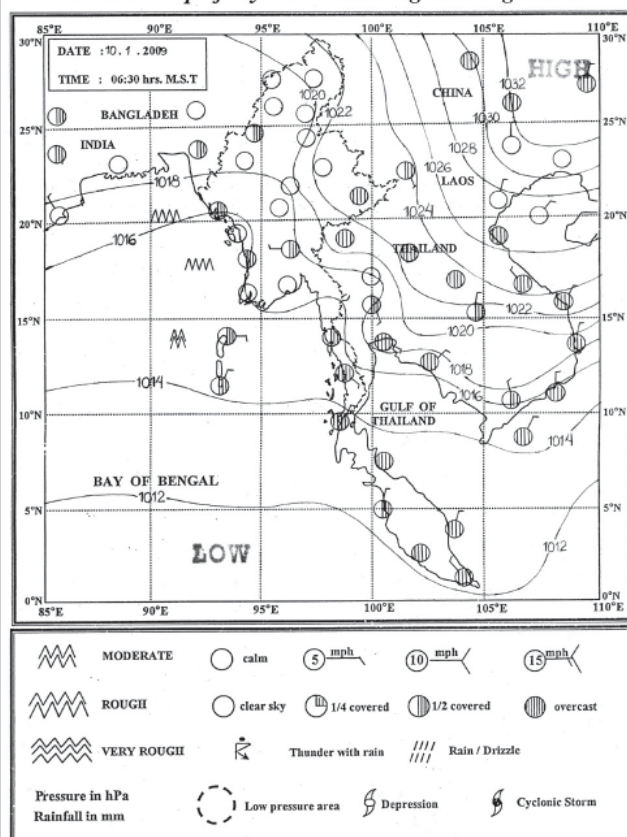


This US Navy photo shows the MV Sirius Star as it is observed at anchor by the US Navy. Somali pirates said Friday they had freed a Saudi-owned supertanker, whose capture nearly two months ago caused panic in international shipping and spurred the world into tougher anti-piracy action.—INTERNET

Iranian-chartered ship released by Somali pirates

TEHRAN, 10 Jan—An Iranian-chartered ship which was seized in the Gulf of Aden by Somali pirates in November has been released, Iran's semi-official Fars News Agency reported on Saturday. The ship named "Delight," which was carrying 36,000 tons of wheat when it was hijacked, was released Friday night, Fars quoted the urgent reaction committee of the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL) as saying. All 25 members of the crew are now in good health, said the report, adding that the Hong Kong-flagged Delight is sailing towards Iranian port. The report did not mention whether any ransom had been paid for the release of Delight. On Friday, Somali pirates also reportedly freed a Saudi-owned super-tanker carrying 2 million barrels of crude oil which was also hijacked in November.—Internet

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Saturday, 10 January, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Shan and Rakhine States, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below January average temperatures in Mon State, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) below January average temperatures in Chin State, (3°C) above January average temperatures in Shan State and about January average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Hakha (-2°C), Loilem (0°C) and Namhsan (2°C).

Maximum temperature on 9-1-2009 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 10-1-2009 was 61°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 10-1-2009 was 61%. Total sunshine hours on 9-1-2009 was (8.9) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 10-1-2009 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) m.p.h from East at (12:30) hours MST on 9-1-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 11th January 2009: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, Chin and Shan States, upper Sagaing 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 times Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Surface wind speed in strong easterly wind may reach (35) to (40) m.p.h. Sea will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 11-1-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 11-1-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 11-1-2009: Generally fair weather.

UK village post office worker killed in armed robbery

LONDON, 10 Jan— A Post Office worker was shot dead Friday in England and his father seriously injured during an armed robbery at their village post office by three balaclava-clad men. Craig Hodson-Walker was shot during the robbery at the family-run Fairfield Stores in Fairfield, near Bromsgrove, Worcestershire at 8:20 am. He was pronounced dead 40 minutes later. His father Ken was shot in the leg by the men, who were armed with a handgun and a sledgehammer, and is being treated in a hospital.—Internet



Sunday, 11 January
View on today

7:00 am

- မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ဝရိတ်တရားတော်
- ယောဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ဥပ္ပါတသန္တိပါဠိတော်

7:25 am

- To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

- Morning news

7:40 am

- Nice and sweet song

7:55 am

- နိုင်ငံစီးပွားအလေးထားကျေးလက် ထုတ်ကုန်များ

8:10 am

- အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:20 am

- Musical programme

8:30 am

- International news

8:45 am

- အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:50 am

- “သူငယ်ချင်းမရှိတဲ့ဥပဒေ” (မင်းစာမင်းစာဖြည့်ကျော်၊ ဧကရီကျော်ကျော်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်ယဉ်ကျော်)

11:00 am

- Martial song

11:10 am

- Musical programme

11:25 am

- Round up of the week's international news

11:40 am

- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “အားကိုးချစ်သူကျေးတောသူ” (အပိုင်း-၁၃)

12:35 pm

- Golf magazine (TV)

1:00 pm

- မြန်မာ့ဒီဇိုယိုဇာတ်လမ်း “ပြောတတ်ဖို့တော့လိုတယ်နော်” (ဒွေး၊ အိန္ဒြာကျော်ဇင်)

(ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကျော်ဇောလင်း)

2:40 pm

- Dance of national races

2:45 pm

- International news

2:50 pm

- အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

4:00 pm

- Martial song

4:10 pm

- အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

4:20 pm

- ဆိုင်းအဖွဲ့ဖျော်ဖြေခန်း

4:45 pm

- အဆေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ ဒုတိယနှစ် (ဓာတုဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ဓာတုဗေဒ)

5:00 pm

- Songs to uphold national spirit

5:10 pm

- Musical programme

5:20 pm

- မွေးမြူစိုက်ပျိုးစီးပွားတိုး (အပိုင်း-၂)

5:30 pm

- Sing and enjoy

6:00 pm

- Evening news

6:30 pm

- Weather report

6:35 pm

- ကာတွန်းအစီအစဉ် “Pocket Dragon Adventure”

6:55 pm

- တစ်မျက်နှာတစ်ကွက်စာ “ကွာရှင်းပြတ်စဲပြီးစီးခြင်း” (ထွန်းထွန်းဝင်း၊ အောင်ပြည့်၊ ဇို.ဇို.မြင့်အောင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-သုမောင်)

7:15 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “သစ္စာနှင့်ယှဉ်သောနှလုံးသား” (အပိုင်း-၁၀)

8:00 pm

- News

15. International news

16. Weather report

17. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

- “ကြွမ္မာမုန့်တိုင်း” (အပိုင်း-၂)

Beautiful Dawei getting neat and tidy

Article: Myint Maung Soe; Photos: Khin Maung Gyi (Dawei)

In Taninthayi Division, there are three towns namely Dawei, Myeik and Kawthoung, and Dawei, the largest of all, has the largest number of buildings with ancient style.

We, members of the news team of the Myanmar Alin Daily, recently arrived in Dawei by car via Myeik to present articles on development of Taninthayi Division. On the way, we passed through Palaw, Palauk and Thayetchaung townships. Along the road, we witnessed thriving rubber plantations. Indeed, these townships have large acreage of rubber in the division.

Moreover, we saw many betel nut palm plantations. Cultivation of areca palm and production of areca nut are being undertaken as household business by the local people on a manageable scale. In front of most houses, areca nuts and segments were kept in the sun. Actually, businesses of betel nut and rubber contribute to basic needs of the local people.

On the way, the bus carrying the news crew passed over the mills behind Palauk. It is estimated that the hills may be over 3,000 feet high. The hills are screened with thick foliage of trees and bamboos.

(See page 10)



The ring road of Dawei gets neat and tidy with shady and flowery plants.

Inter-State and Division Track & Field Meet for 2009 opened

YANGON, 10 Jan—The 40th Inter-State and Division Track & Field Meet for 2009 was opened at Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna) here at 3.30 pm yesterday.

After the participating teams taking their positions, defending champion Mandalay team that won the men & women's Championship Shield and all-round Championship Shield returned the trophies to Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik.

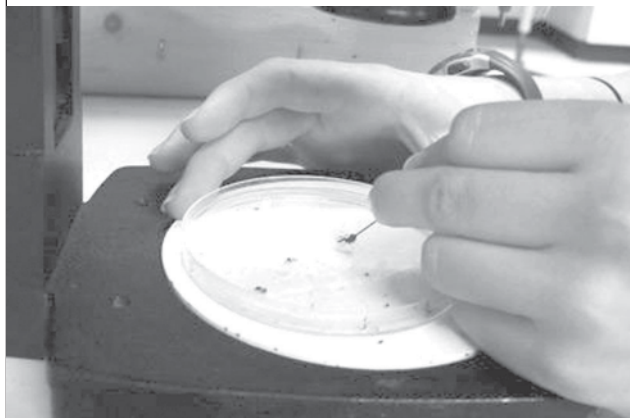
Next, General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General U Thaung Htaik, on behalf of the Chairman of MOC Minister for Sports, made a speech and formally opened the meet.

Afterwards, athletes from the state and division teams took the four oaths.

This was followed by the first day's events. The meet will continue up to 12 January at the same venue.—MNA

Mosquitoes create harmonic love song before mating, study finds

SCIENCE DAILY, 10 Jan — That pesky buzz of a nearby mosquito is the sound of love, scientists have known for some time. But a new Cornell study reports that males and females flap their wings and change their tune to create a harmonic duet just before mating. Cornell entomologists have discovered that male and female mosquitoes (*Aedes aegypti*), which can spread such diseases as yellow and dengue fevers, "interact



Graduate student and co-first author Lauren Cator records mosquito sound to study how mosquitoes that carry yellow and dengue fevers use sound in mating.—INTERNET

acoustically with each other when the two are within earshot — a few centimeters of each other," said Ron Hoy, professor of neurobiology and behavior.

The study is available online Jan. 8 and will be published in a February issue of Science, said Cornell associate professor of entomology and mosquito expert Laura Harrington, a co-senior author on the study with Hoy.

"The frequency at which males and females converge is a harmonic or multiple of their wing-beat frequencies, which is approximately 400 hertz [vibrations per second] for the female and 600 hertz for the male," said Hoy.

The mating duet, generated just before the couple mates on the fly, settles at around 1,200 hertz -- roughly an octave and a half above concert A (the pitch to which instruments are tuned — the A that has a frequency of 440 hertz and is above middle C). "That is significantly higher than what was previously thought to be mosquitoes' upper hearing limit," he added.

Interestingly, the mosquitoes adjust the harmonic resonance of their thoracic box to produce a harmonic frequency that converges at a frequency that is the female's third harmonic (three times her fundamental frequency) and the male's second harmonic (two times his fundamental frequency). The study also is the first to definitively show that contrary to previous thought, female mosquitoes are not deaf.—Internet

Beware of Fire

Ribery 'open to anything'

MUNICH, 10 Jan—Bayern Munich winger Franck Ribery admits he is open to offers as rumours continue to circulate about a possible move to Real Madrid.

The France international has taken the Bundesliga by storm since his switch to Bayern in the summer of 2007.

He is contracted to the Bavarians until 2011 but has been linked with other heavyweight clubs in Europe, including Madrid.

And comments made by Ribery in Dubai, where Bayern are currently based ahead of the resumption of the Bundesliga campaign, will do little to cool speculation.

"I feel really happy here but it is difficult," he is quoted as saying in Aujourd'hui Sport.

"I am open to anything. In the world of football, you never know what is going to happen." Cap: Ribery - doesn't know what will happen.

Internet

