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The New Light of Myanmar

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Four political objectives

* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
* National reconsolidation
* Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
* Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

* Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
* Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
* Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
* The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives

* Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
* Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
* Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
* Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

New school buildings for Thanlyin, Kyauktan Townships

YANGON, 15 Jan — Opening ceremonies of new school buildings in place of old ones that had been damaged by storm Nargis were held in Thanlyin and Kyauktan townships this morning.

At Htanhnapin Basic Education Primary School in South Myoma Ward of Thanlyin Township, Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint and the managing director of Shwetaung Development Co Ltd formally opened the new school building.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence views classrooms of new school building at Seikkyi BEMS in Seikkyi Village of Thanlyin Township.—MNA

After presenting exercise books, pencils and ball-pens, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the commander and the chairman of the company visited the new school building.

A similar ceremony was held at Seikkyi BEMS in Seikkyi Village of Thanlyin Township.

(See page 8)

Rivaldo: Messi is best

BARCELONA, 15 Jan— Cristiano Ronaldo may have walked off with all the main individual awards for 2008, but former world player of the year Rivaldo believes Barcelona ace Lionel Messi is the game's leading star.

Ronaldo this week added the FIFA World Player of the Year title to his FIFPro and Ballon d'Or awards after last season scoring 42 goals to help Manchester United win the Champions League and the Premier League.

The Portugal international finished well clear of second-placed Messi in the voting for the FIFA World Player of the Year, but in the eyes of 1999 winner Rivaldo, it is the Argentinian ace who is top dog.

"Between Cristiano Ronaldo and Messi, I go with Messi. For me he is the best in the world," said the former Brazil international. Cristiano is very good and you cannot argue about him getting all those awards because he has won a lot of titles and scored 42 goals, but I'm with Leo. For me, Messi is more aggressive than Cristiano, he reminds me of myself. Leo has a good attitude, can decide games and he is always trying to go forward no matter how many kicks he gets. And all this at only 21 years old."—*Internet*

Great Lakes water levels sensitive to climate change

OTTAWA, 15 Jan — The water level in the Great Lakes has varied by only about two meters during the last century, helping them to play a vital role in the region's shipping, fishing, recreation and power generation industries.

But new evidence by scientists from the University of Rhode Island and colleagues in the U.S. and Canada, published recently in the journal Eos, indicates that the water level in the lake system is highly sensitive to climate changes.

"In the distant past, there were great fluctuations in the water level of the Great Lakes, but it was thought to have been related entirely to the advance and retreat of the glaciers," said URI geological oceanographer John King, who led the study with URI visiting scientist Michael Lewis, emeritus scientist with the Geological Survey of Canada. "But the last time lake levels fell dramatically – down to 20 meters below the basin overflow outlets – it was due to dry climate conditions."

That event, which occurred between 7900 and 7500 years ago in the early Holocene period, caused the lakes to become disconnected as their overflow rivers, including the Niagara River, ran dry.—*Internet* from

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 16 January, 2009

For sustainable progress of self-reliant libraries

"Education for all" is necessary for boosting the economy and social standard of a nation.

Now, plans for formal education, non-formal education and informal education are being implemented in combination, and every school-age child has easy access to primary education, and every youth enjoys better opportunities to pursue education, as a result.

In addition, literacy campaigns are gathering momentum across the nation including rural and border areas. So, the literacy rate of the nation is on the increase. Continuing education programmes are well under way for sustainable progress in that regard.

So far, over 50,000 self-reliant village libraries have been established to help rural folks broaden their horizons. Moreover, plans are being implemented for sustainable development of the libraries, and equipping villages without libraries with furnished libraries, providing new publications, and producing competent librarians.

Sustainable progress of libraries is on target in various regions with the assistance of local organizations, contribution of donors, and hard work of service personnel concerned. Up to now, Sagaing Division has seen more than 5000 self-reliant libraries. A cash donation ceremony for progress of the libraries took place in Monywa on 11 January. The donations of the buildings plus cash were worth over 165.2 million kyats.

A growing number of self-reliant libraries helps rural residents cultivate a good habit of reading and acquire knowledge. In addition, that encourages book lovers and literate adults to carry out a constant study. Sustainable progress of self-reliant libraries calls for collaborative cooperation of well-wishers and service personnel.

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**

Regional development work inspected in Ye Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan – Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win and Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint met with entrepreneurs from salt and fishery businesses, townselders, social organization members, school teachers and departmental officials at the Dhammayon Hall of Ziphyutaung village in Ye Township on 11 January morning. After hearing reports on development of salt and fishery businesses and regional development tasks, the commander and minister gave necessary instructions.

A similar meeting was held at the office of Asin Village Peace and Development Council.

MNA

MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan—The State Peace and Development Council has appointed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

	Name	Appointment
(a)	U Myo Aung Director Directorate of Myanma Industrial Planning Ministry of Industry-2	Director-General Directorate of Myanma Industrial Planning Ministry of Industry-2
(b)	Dr. Than Win Pro-Rector University of Medicine (Mandalay) Medical Science Department Ministry of Health	Rector University of Medicine (Mandalay) Medical Science Department Ministry of Health

MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung delivers an address at opening ceremony of Danaw Village BEPS building in Ingapu Township.

FORESTRY

I&P Dy Minister meets employees in Mandalay Division

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan — Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population Brig-Gen Win Sein held meetings with employees of the ministry in Mandalay Division on 10 and 11 January.

The deputy minister met with employees of Immigration and National Registration Department in Mogok Township on 10 January and employees in Madaya, Thabeikkyin, Singu and Tagaung townships at Madaya Township Immigration and National Registration Department and employees in Mahaaungmye, Chanayethazan, Aungmyaythazan, Chanmyathazi, Pyigyidagun, Amarapura and Patheingyi townhips at Mandalay Division Immigration and Population Department on 11 January.

At the meetings, the deputy minister urged them to abide by the rules and regulations of the ministry and to issue the citizenship scrutiny cards to citizens in time. Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Win Sein also inspected records of the offices.

MNA

Minister facilitates arrangements to build new schools in Ingapu Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan—Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung inspected Tititu village Basic Education Primary School in Ingapu township of Ayeyawady Division on 10 January, met with the local people and arranged to construct the 90 feet long and 30 feet wide school.

The following day the minister looked into Kanyutkwin village BEPS and arranged to construct the 60 feet long and 30 feet wide school. Next, Managing Director of Myanma Timber Enterprise U Win Tun presented K 1 million to build the new school.

After inspecting progress in building Kywezin Post-BEPS, the minister presented K 2 million for the construction of the new school. The minister fulfilled the requirements to repair Leikpoundswe village BEHS (Branch) and met with town dwellers.

The next day the minister met with local people at Patoak village Post-BEHS and arranged to repair the 80 feet long and 30 feet wide school and build the 60 feet long and 30 feet wide school. Next, the minister and officials attended a ceremony to open Danaw village BEPS and the school was built at a cost of K 7.7 million with the contribution of the local people. Similarly, the minister attended a ceremony to open Daminkyun east village BEPS and it is 60 feet long and 30 feet wide and it was built at a cost of K 9.9 million.

After holding discussions on regional development tasks with the town dwellers in Yelekyun village, the minister met with the local people and fulfilled the requirements.

Next, the minister and wellwishers presented cash donations to fix the ceiling and dig the well and provide libraries. Upon arrival at Naukme BEMS (Branch), the minister presented K 1 million for the extended school building.

On 13 January, the minister attended a ceremony to open Zepinkwin east village BEPS and presented K 400,000 for the school. On arrival at Thetkepyin (Than) village, the minister observaed of the condition of the bank of Ngawun river and met with the local people.—*MNA*

Four Afghan districts out of govt control

KABUL, 15 Jan—Afghan Defence Ministry admitted Wednesday that government troops failed to maintain military presence in four districts of the insurgency-rampant country's southern region.

"There are four districts that the government does not exist and Taleban militants are there but in mobile groups," spokesman of Defence Ministry General Zahir Azimi told newsmen at a press conference.

Three of these districts, he added, are in the restive Helmand Province while one is in the southern central Daikundi.

"Baghran, Disho and Washir in Helmand Province and Gizab in Daikundi are the districts where the government does not exist," the spokesman said.

Moreover, the spokesman foresaw more violence in 2009, saying "we predict 2009 would be a tough year in term of conflict. We do not expect to have less violence in 2009 than 2008."

However, he was optimistic that the security forces would have more achievements and more successes against Taleban-led insurgents in the current year.

Over 5,000 people, with some 2,000 civilians and 194 foreign soldiers, had been killed in conflicts and Taleban-related violence in 2008.

Internet

Children are seen through a hole of a damaged wall at the site of a roadside bomb attack in Baghdad on 14 Jan, 2009. The attack wounded four civilians, police said. **INTERNET**

An Israeli soldier wounded in the Gaza Strip fighting is wheeled into the Soroka hospital in the southern city of Beersheva on 14 January. **INTERNET**

NATO troops ordered to do more to avoid civilian casualties

BRUSSELS, 15 Jan—NATO troops in Afghanistan have been ordered to behave in a way that would win the support of the Afghan people by avoiding civilian casualties and minimizing damage to property, said the alliance on Wednesday. In a "tactical directive" issued by International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Commander Gen David McKiernan, the NATO troops were told not to take Afghan popular support for granted. They were also told to show respect for the Afghan people, their culture, religion and customs.

The directive was dated on 30 Dec, 2008, but was only made public on Wednesday.

In the directive, Gen McKiernan asked commanders to ensure troops are properly trained to minimize the need to resort to deadly force. Signals, signs and warnings must be unambiguous and repeated to ensure the safety of innocent civilians.—*Internet*

Bush disappointed that CIA gave him incorrect info on Iraq

WASHINGTON, 15 Jan—At the fag end of his Presidency, George W Bush has acknowledged his disappointment at the CIA giving him wrong information about the presence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, on the premise of which America invaded that country.

"Are you angry at them (CIA)," Larry King asked the US President on CNN last night. "No. I'm disappointed, you know?" Bush said. Bush had decided to attack Iraq based on American intelligence that the country had weapons of mass destruction. "Were you angry at the people who told you there were? I mean, you didn't go inspect. You didn't..." Larry King asked on his popular show."I didn't — I was unhappy... But rather than sitting around being unhappy, I decided to do something about it and to — had a full investigation of why things went wrong. And then we reformed our intelligence services," Bush said. But then, the US President said, everyone else across the world also said the same. "It just wasn't the US," he said.—*Internet*

Three killed in northern Iraq attacks

BAGHDAD, 15 Jan— Three people were killed, including an Iraqi soldier, and three others were wounded in a suicide attack and a roadside bombing on Wednesday in northern Iraq, police said.

"Two people, one of whom an Iraqi army soldier, were killed and two others were wounded when a suicide bomber driving a vehicle exploded," in Mosul, the local police spokesman in the northern city, Colonel Safa al-Zaidi, told *AFP*.

He added that the suicide bomber targeted a military check point in the city centre. Attacks in Mosul occur on a nearly daily basis in what the US military says is the last urban stronghold of Al-Qaeda in Iraq.

In the second incident one person was killed and another one wounded in a roadside bombing in the town of Jalawla, north of Baghdad, in Diyala Province, a police source said.—*Internet*

Soldier suicides in Afghanistan rose sharply last year

WASHINGTON, 15 Jan—Soldiers in Afghanistan committed suicide in record numbers in 2008, in step with a dramatic spike in combat deaths in the country, new military figures show.

Seven Army soldiers committed suicide in Afghanistan last year, compared with 15 suicides in total during the previous 75 months of Operation Enduring Freedom, according to figures from the Defence Manpower Data Centre. Col Elspeth Ritchie, a top Army psychiatrist, said military officials during the past several years have tracked an increase in mental health problems among soldiers serving in Afghanistan. In 2004, she said, anxiety and depression were far less common among soldiers in Afghanistan, compared with those in Iraq. But by 2007 and early 2008, soldiers in Afghanistan were suffering depression and anxiety at the same rates as their counterparts in Iraq, she said. "In Afghanistan, there are considerable barriers for providers getting to the troops due to the difficulties in travel and weather, compared to Iraq," Ritchie said. After a spike in suicides in Iraq in the early months of the war, Army officials sent special mental health teams to the war zone in an effort to understand and prevent soldier deaths. Ritchie said the military is always looking for ways to improve suicide-prevention programmes, but said she was not aware of any plans to specifically address the recent spike in Afghanistan.—*Internet*

***Iraqi policemen secure the site of a bomb attack in central Baghdad on 12 Jan, 2009.*—INTERNET**

*An Israeli youth carries the remains of a rocket fired by Palestinian militants in Gaza after it landed near Kibbutz Nir Am, just outside the northern Gaza Strip on 14 Jan, 2009.—*INTERNET

Russia to complete Iran's Bushehr nuclear power plant in 2009

TEHERAN, 15 Jan— Iran's ambassador to Russia Mahmoud Reza Sajjadi said that Russia would complete Iran's Bushehr nuclear power plant this year, the semi-official Fars news agency reported on Wednesday.

"Delays in completion of Iran's first nuclear plant in southern city Bushehr are not only Russia's fault," but Russia was committed and determined to complete the project, Sajjadi was quoted as saying.

He noted that there were some other countries which had not fulfilled their commitments to provide equipment on time required for the plant.

"Russia has a greater chance compared to other countries" to participate in Iran's other projects of nuclear power plants, he maintained.

Earlier in Dec, Iranian lawmaker Alaeddin Boroujerdi said that Iran's Bushehr nuclear plant would start operation by 2010.

Boroujerdi, who is also head of Iran's Parliament (Majlis) National Security and Foreign Policy Commission, said that "Bushehr nuclear power plant has made good progress, hoping that it will become operational by March 2010."

Internet

Lebanese minister denounces firing rockets from S Lebanon

BEIRUT, 15 Jan— Lebanese Information Minister Tareq Mitri denounced on Wednesday the firing of rockets from southern Lebanon into northern Israel, local Naharnet website reported.

"Firing rockets targeting Lebanon's national interest and the interest of the Palestinian," Mitri told reporters after meeting with Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Seniora.

Mitri said last week that all Lebanese factions inside the government reached a unanimous consensus on avoiding dragging Lebanon into a confrontation with Israel.—*Internet*

Israeli troops under fire from Jordan

JERUSALEM, 15 Jan — An Israeli security patrol was attacked on Tuesday by fire from the Jordanian side of the Israel-Jordan border, said the Israel Defence Forces (IDF).

The Border Guard unit returned fire in the incident near the Rabin Border Crossing with Jordan, some three kilometres north of Israel's southernmost city of Eilat, said the IDF, adding that no casualty or damage was reported.

It is still unknown who launched the attack, and an IDF investigation is underway with Jordanian cooperation. On Sunday, a group of IDF soldiers conducting engineering work near the Israel-Syria border fence came under cross-border fire from the Syrian side, causing no casualty. —*Internet*

Traffic moves slowly on Interstate 465 after snow fell in Carmel, Ind, on 14 Jan , 2009. Snow accumulation of 1 to 3 inches is expected.
INTERNET

Audit finds fault with KBR, others in Iraq rebuilding

WASHINGTON, 15 Jan — A project costing $722 million to restore Iraq's oil production facilities was undermined by weak management, contractor mistakes and Iraqi neglect, US auditors say in a new report similar to many others examining the country's reconstruction.

The report from the office of the special inspector general for Iraq reconstruction points to security concerns, postwar looting and the shoddy shape of the oil network as primary contributors to the cost of the contract awarded to Houston-based KBR in January 2004.

As if this were not a challenging enough climate, the effort, administered by the US Army Corps of Engineers, was hampered by a lack of direction, the report says. Cost overruns and frequent contract changes led to work being delayed or canceled.—*Internet*

Motorola to cut 4,000 more jobs in 2009

LOS ANGELES, 15 Jan—Mobile handset maker Motorola Inc said on Wednesday it will cut 4,000 more jobs in 2009, in addition to 3,000 it announced in October.

The company said the move will save about $700 million a year starting in 2009, and total $1.5 billion in annual savings when combined with the previous cut.

Most of the new layoffs will hit the mobile devices business, while about 1,000 jobs are tied to corporate functions and other business units.

The move is the latest in cost-cutting measures by Motorola, which has been struggling to revive its business in recent years.

Internet

Basra is focus of Shiite rivalry in southern Iraq

BASRA,15 Jan—Freed last year from the grip of militias, Basra has emerged as the main battleground for rival Shiites in elections for control of the oil-rich south - a race that will test the power of religious parties and the influence of neighbouring Iran.

The 31 Jan ballot, in which voters across the country will choose ruling provincial councils, will be the first since US-backed Iraqi forces wrested control of Basra from Shiite militias and criminal gangs.

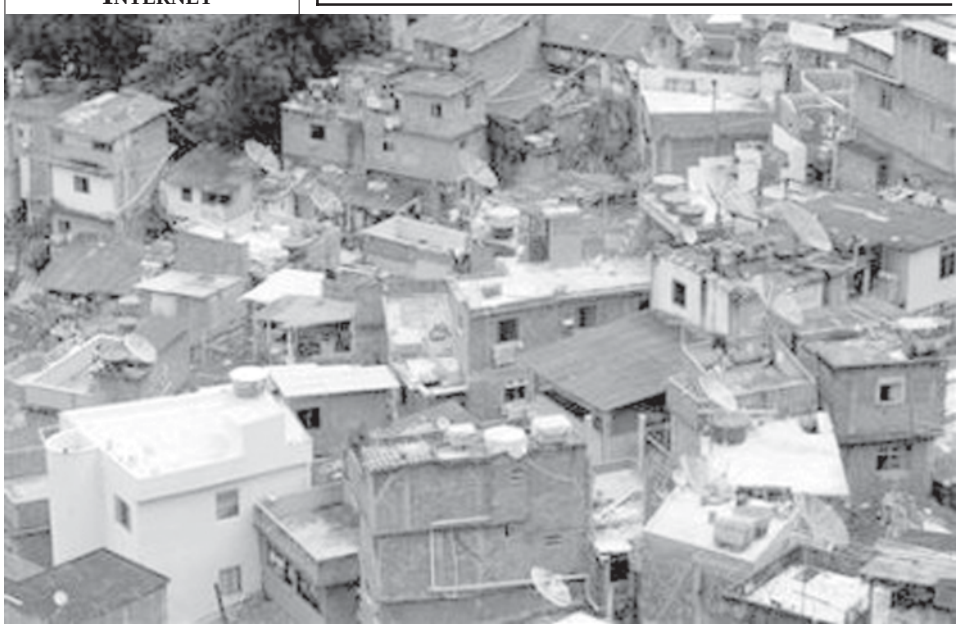
American officials will be watching the outcome for any sign that the militias might return in Iraq's second largest city of about 2 million people, located only a few miles from the Iranian border.

More than 1,000 candidates have entered the race for Basra's 35 council seats, filling the city's dusty and traffic-choked streets with campaign posters and flyers that give the city a festive look. The outcome will help shape the political future of the southern Shiite heartland ahead of national elections expected by year's end.

Basra has been relatively quiet since last year's military crackdown, which ended three years of Shiite militia rule, rampant crime and turmoil. Today, thousands of national police and army soldiers patrol its streets.

At the commercial heart of the city, the soldiers and policemen rub shoulders with the thousands of residents who throng stores until late into the night. —*Internet*

A view of Santa Marta slum in Rio de Janeiro on 14 Jan, 2009. In their long, bloody battle to take back control of hundreds of slums from drug gangs, Rio's police are trying a new tactic — staying in place and talking to people.
INTERNET



China's five standpoints on Mideast "welcomed in principle" by Israel

TELAVIV, 15 Jan— China's five standpoints on the current Middle East situation "are welcomed and accepted in principle" by the Israeli side, a Chinese envoy said on Wednesday.

Sun Bigan, China's special envoy on the Middle East issue, made the remarks in an exclusive briefing with *Xinhua*, hours after he held talks with Israeli officials on the latest developments of the embattled Gaza Strip.

Sun, who arrived in Israel on Tuesday, said he put forward the five standpoints on the current Middle East situation during the talks.

"The five standpoints are welcomed and accepted in principle by the Israeli side," the Chinese envoy told *Xinhua.*

In the five standpoints, China calls on all parties concerned to abide by the UN Security Council Resolution 1860 and cease all military actions immediately to avert more casualties, Sun said.

Measures should be taken to ease the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, Sun said.

He added that a stable channel for humanitarian supplies, including food, medicine and fuel, should be opened as soon as possible, and that the concerned parties should provide the necessary guarantee in this regard.

Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Pupils show their handmade Taohuawu woodcut New Year paintings in Taowu Central Elementary School in Suzhou, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 14 Jan, 2009.—XINHUA

Fire in Karaoke bar kills eight in S Korea's Busan

SEOUL, 15 Jan— A fire at a karaoke bar in South Korea's southeastern port city of Busan killed at least eight people and injured another on Wednesday night, South Korea's *Yonhap* News Agency reported on Thursday.

According to Yonhap, the fire broke out around 8:45 pm (1145 GMT on Wednesday) in Namhangdong, Youngdo ward in Busan. Tens of customers escaped from the site.

Local police said they are investigating into the exact cause of the fire and confirming the number of casualties.—*Xinhua*

A shopper touches a giant statue of Ox at a shopping mall in downtown Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 15 Jan , 2009. Ethnic Chinese Malaysians will celebrate the Chinese Lunar New Year of the Ox, which falls on 26 Jan.—INTERNET

Iran, China sign oilfield development deal

TEHERAN, 15 Jan— Iran and China signed a 1.76 billion US dollars deal here on Wednesday for the initial development of Iran's North Azadegan oil field, the official *IRNA* news agency reported.

The deal was signed between China National Petroleum Corporation(CNPC) and the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) in the presence of Iranian oil minister Gholam Hossein Nozari and Chinese ambassador Xie Xiaoyan, *IRNA* said.

The North Azadegan oil field which located in Iran's western province of Khuzestan has an estimated reserve of six billion barrels of oil and can produce 75,000 barrels per day for 25 years, Nozari was quoted as saying.

Under the deal, CNPC is committed to developing the oil field in two phases, *IRNA* said.

Oil output of the North Azadegan oil field will reach 150,000 barrels per day when both the two phases of the project are finished, Nozari added.

According to *IRNA*, the deal is in the form of buy-back terms, based on which CNPC hands over the operation of the field to NIOC after development and receives payment from oil production for a few years to cover its investment.

Xinhua

Vietnam seeks $12 bln for infrastructure projects

HANOI, 15 Jan — The Vietnamese Ministry of Planning and Investment has announced a list of more than 60 urban infrastructure projects, calling on an estimated 12 billion US dollars of investment in the period of 2009 and 2016, the local newspaper *The Youth* reported on Thursday.

The projects involve the construction and upgrade of traffic system, infrastructure, sewage plants and water supply and drainage systems in 15 provinces and cities nationwide, said Truong Van Doan, Deputy Minister of Planning and Investment.

Thirty percent of the projects are expected to be funded by official development assistance from French and Spanish governments, the German Reconstruction and Development Bank, the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Asian Development Bank, said the newspaper.—*Xinhua*

Five dead in landslide in northeastern Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 15 Jan — Five people, including an eight-year-old child, died on Wednesday morning in a landslide in northeastern Brazil.

Two houses were damaged by the landslide in Recife, Pernambuco state, which was probably caused by water infiltration in a clay scarp after a burst in water pipes, the local Fire Department said.

The rescue team took three hours to remove the bodies from the debris. The other residents were evacuated as three gas pipes also ruptured after the landslide.

Xinhua

Medical staff check ferry survivors in Makassar, south Sulawesi on 13 January after being rescued from Majene waters.—INTERNET

Death toll in Gaza rises to 1,017

GAZA, 15 Jan— In spite of the good news that Hamas welcomed in Cairo an Egyptian-brokered initiative on a ceasefire, the Israeli offensive on Gaza continued on Wednesday, leaving so far 1,017 people killed.

Gaza emergency chief Mo'aweya Hassanein said on Wednesday night that the Israeli army killed on Wednesday 28 Palestinians and wounded about 80 others, adding that the death toll since 27 Dec has hit 1,017 with more than 4,600 wounded.

Earlier on Wednesday, the Gaza-based news agency of "Ramattan" said that Hamas has accepted the Egyptian initiative of a ceasefire between the group and Israel, but Israeli warplanes continued striking several targets in the blockaded enclave.

Hassanein said that in an Israeli airstrike on a building north of Gaza City, two people were killed and 17 wounded, three of the mare members of the Palestinian firefighting department.

Xinhua

Sri Lankan troops capture last strip of rebel land in Jaffna

COLOMBO, 15 Jan — Sri Lankan government troops have captured the last landmass held by the Tamil Tiger rebels in the northern Jaffna peninsula, defence officials said on Wednesday.

Chundikulam area was taken control with 100 boats belonging to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels, officials said. A large haul of anti-personnel mines was also captured.

The entire Jaffna peninsula is now under Army control after last week's capture of Elephant Pass, the isthmus between Jaffna and the northern Wanni district.

Jaffna was taken under Army's control in December 1995 after it was controlled by the LTTE since 1990. But parts of the peninsula remained under LTTE hands until last week. —*Internet*

An Israeli man takes cover next to a car as a siren sounds warning of incoming rockets in the southern town of Ashkelon on 13 Jan, 2009.

INTERNET

Six civilians killed in insurgent attack in Somali capital

MOGADISHU, 15 Jan— At least six civilians were killed and nearly 18 others wounded as Somali government forces responded with heavy artillery fire following insurgents' mortar attack against the Presidential Palace and withdrawing Ethiopian troops in the capital of Mogadishu.

The insurgent fighters launched several rounds of mortar shells against the Presidential Palace compound where Somali Prime Minister Nur Hassan Hussein and a number of government officials were staying but there was no reports of anyone harmed at the compound.

Rebel fighters also attacked Ethiopian army units as they left the Mogadishu Football Stadium, a major Ethiopian base in the north of the Somali capital Mogadishu, prompting heavy artillery fire from the units.

Artillery shells fired by Somali government forces at the palace compound and tank shells fired by withdrawing Ethiopian troops attacked by insurgent fighters landed in residential areas around the city, killing at six civilians, local media reports said.

Officials at the Mogadishu's main hospitals said that 18 civilians were injured by stray bullets and shrapnel from the artillery shells. —*Internet*

Russian navy saves Dutch ship from Somali pirates

KUALA LUMPUR, 15 Jan—The Russian navy helped foil an attack by Somali pirates on a Dutch container ship in the dangerous Gulf of Aden, a maritime watchdog said on Wednesday.

Six pirates fired rocket-propelled grenades at the ship, which took evasive maneuvers while calling for help, said Noel Choong, head of the International Maritime Bureau's piracy reporting centre in Malaysia.

The pirates chased the vessel for about 30 minutes but aborted their attempt to board the ship after a Russian warship and helicopter arrived at the scene, Choong said.

Pirates last year attacked 111 ships and seized 42 off the Horn of Africa, many in the Gulf of Aden. An international flotilla including US warships has stopped many attacks, but the area is too vast to keep all ships safe in the vital sea lane that links Asia to Europe.—*Internet*

Al-Qaeda recruits children as suicide bombers in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 15 Jan—A boy masquerading as a flower seller blew himself up last September before the house of Sheikh Imad Jassem, the joint-leader of the Sons of Iraq in Tarmiya, 25 km north of Baghdad.

The boy, as young as 10 years old, had been stalking Jassem for three days before tripping on his flip-flops several meters away from his target. The bomb exploded prematurely, seriously wounding the leader.

The innocent and immature young have been recruited and trained to be suicide bombers of the al-Qaeda network in Iraq to attack Iraqi high-profile officials as well as civilians.

Since the beginning of US-led war in Iraq in 2003, the war-torn country is plagued by countless explosions and attacks, among which the suicide bombing are the most fatal, killing 600,000 Iraqi civilians and over 4,200 US soldiers.

The notorious terror group started its first recruiting programme of women and children as early as 2005, when dozens were brought to a training camp in Doura district in southern Baghdad.—*Internet*

And to shut him up give a one-finger salute

In a couple of years Wii users won't be the only ones waving their hands in front of their TVs. Gestures may soon replace remote controls suggest leading producers.

The Japanese companies Hitachi and Toshiba have presented their versions of motion reading television in Las Vegas at the Consumer Electronics Show, one of the biggest events featuring new consumer products and technology. Both companies' TVs are prototypes that use infra-red sensors to track the movements of user's hands, reports PC World magazine.

Hitachi's version allows basic control with a couple of gestures. It can be turned on and off with a wave, channels are switched with a side-to-side motion, and the volume is changed by moving your hand in circles.

Toshiba's TV recognizes three-dimensional movements and employs the technology for recorded video content navigation.

Hopefully, the times of running around your living room yelling "where the hell is that remote control?' will soon be over. And we won't see a new " format war' over which hand you should wave to bring your TV to life.

Mich twins born on different days, months, years

They're twins, all right, despite what their spanking new birth certificates say. Tariq Griffin entered the world at 12:17 am on New Year's Day at Crittenton Hospital in Rochester, Mich Twin brother Tarrance was born a bit earlier — 26 minutes to be exact.

That means the boys have the unique distinction of having been born on different days, months and years.

Their dad, Tarrance Sr, is also a twin. The parents say the boys are doing well, which is their main concern.

140-year-old lobster to regain freedom

A lobster thought to be about 140 years old will be returned to the ocean after becoming the mascot for a restaurant in New York City, Media reported Saturday.

The 9-kg (about 20 pounds) lobster was captured off the coast of Newfoundland in Canada a week-and-a-half ago and shipped to New York.

It was bought for 100 US dollars by City Crab and Seafood to become its mascot.

"We bought a big lobster, started taking pictures with kids and it worked out real well," said the restaurant manager Keith Valenti.

We never intended to sell the giant lobster, just draw attention to the restaurant, said the manager.

The lobster will be driven to Maine from the New York restaurant by animal rights activists and allowed to reacquaint himself in the waters around Kennebunk port, where lobster trapping is banned.

A lobster's age can be worked out from how much it weighs, with each pound counting for 7 to 10 years, according to Valenti.

Club helps members laugh off economic crisis

A unique laughter club was recently founded in Xiamen, Fujian Province.

The laughter club has more than 100 members, including teachers, doctors and company managers and aims to mitigate pent-up anxieties.

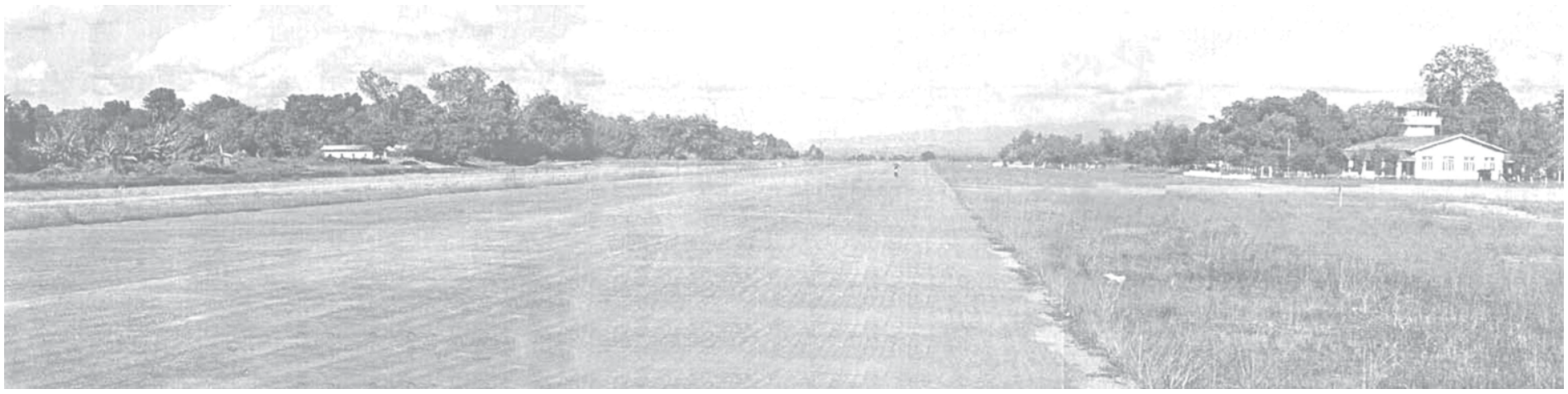
Dai Shimei, founder of the club, is also a member of the Peasants and Workers Democratic Party and head of a local suicide prevention centre. She said psychotherapy is especially important to reduce anxiety wrought by the global financial crisis. Instructors will help first-time participants to relax and laugh to their hearts' content.

NEWS ALBUM

A bus with colorful paintings runs in Panama City, Panama, on 2 Jan, 2009. The local authorities of the capital city has made a decision to purchase 420 new buses instead of the old uncomfortable buses which were dubed as "Diablo Rojo", red evil, due to frequent traffic accidents they caused.

Khamti Airport Runway Project

Article: Zaw Win (Kyemon); Photos: Khin Maung Win (Kyemon)



The runway of Khamti Airport being upgraded to a fine one.

Khamti Township is located in the north-west hilly region of the northern part of Myanmar. It has many mountain ranges and ravines such as Naga Mountain Range that stretches from Mt. Khakaborazi and Patkoi Mountain Range. The mountain ranges are higher in the west and north parts and go downhill in the south. It hardly has plains, and the Chindwin River flows through the heart of the township. Many strong creeks and steep ravines are natural barriers to transport.

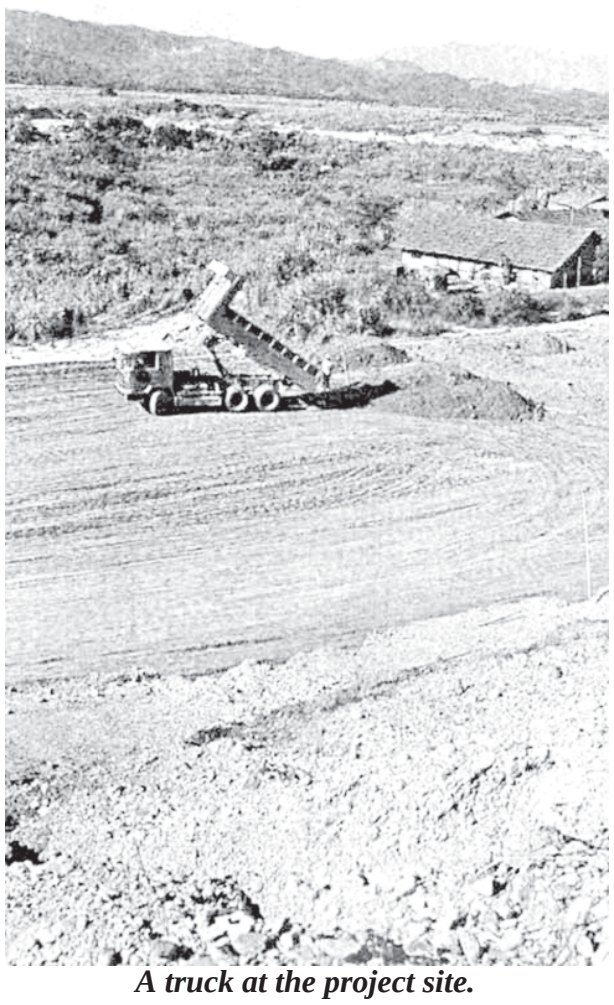
In the past, the geographical features consigned the township a secluded region upstream the Chindwin River. The township is surrounded by mountain ranges and heights standing at an altitude of 400 to 2000 feet and covered with evergreen forests. Previously, the Chindwin River is the only means for transport for it.

Now, the township's transport has been reinforced by Khamti-Phalamone, Khamti-Pinma (Maha Myaing), and Hsinthe-Lahe roads.

When asked about the Khamti Airport Runway Extension Project, Junior Engineer (1) U Soe Aung of Airport Project Special Group (3) of Public Works said that Khamti has only few large plains and Khamti Airport was about 600 feet above sea level; that it was constructed in 1952 with a 4200 feet long and 100 feet wide runway, and was put into service in May 1963; that the runway was just a small one and could withstand 45,000 lbs of loads, so it was serviceable just for F 27 Fokker; and flight schedules were cancelled whenever the weather was bad.

He added that the project was launched on 8 August 2002 and it consisted of two phases; that the first phase was to upgrade the runway to a 4,800 feet long and 100 feet wide facility serviceable all weather for F 27 aircraft, and the second phase was to upgrade it to a 6000 feet long one for F 28 aircraft that weighs 71,000 lbs; that upon completion, the facility would have a 200 feet long over run, two 25 feet wide shoulders, a 200' x 200' apron, a 225' x 50' turning area; that then the facility had been extended to a 6000' x 100' one with a 200' x 200' apron, and a 75' x 100' over run; that and two 175' x 50' turning areas and two conduits, each on either top of the runway were under construction.

Therefore, in the near future, Khamti in Sagaing Division will be accessible by air from Yangon, Mandalay and Monywa all-year round with rapid development in the economic, social, education and health sectors.



A truck at the project site.

Translation: MS

Kyemon: 11-1-2009

An aerial view of the construction site.

Khamti in Sagaing Division will be accessible by air from Yangon, Mandalay and Monywa all-year round with rapid development in the economic, social, education and health sectors.

Industry-1 Minister receives Indian trade delegation

Minister U Aung Thaung receives delegation of Indo-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce & Industries from the Republic of India.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan —Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung received a delegation of Indo-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce & Industries from the Republic of India at Ministry of Industry-1 here on 13 January.

At the meeting, they discussed matters related to bilateral cooperation in the industrial sector. *MNA*

New school buildings for Thanlyin, Kyauktan Townships…

(from page 1)

The commander, the chairman of District PDC and responsible person of the company cut the ribbon to open the new school building.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party looked into the school building. The chairman of the company presented stationery for the school to officials.

In Thanlyin Station, Deputy Director-General U Myo Myint of No. 3 Department of Basic Education and the managing director of Shwetaung Development Co Ltd formally opened the school building (Mayyu) at BEHS (Branch). Afterwards, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party visited the new building. The company donated stationery to the school.

A ceremony to open the new building of Myayayoe Basic Education Post-Primary School was held in Letyetsan Village. The commander, the deputy director-general and responsible person of the company inaugurated the building.

After presenting stationery, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party inspected the school building.

Next, the commander, the deputy director-general and responsible person of the company commissioned the new school building at Post-Primary School in Aleywa Village.

Responsible persons donated stationery to the school. Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party visited the school building.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the commander and the chairman of the company cut the ribbon to open the new building at Shansu BEPS in Nyaungwaing Village-tract in Kyauktan Township.

The managing director of the donor company handed over documents related to the new school buildings to the deputy director-general of No. 3 BED. The District Education Officer spoke words of thanks.—*MNA*

Minister meets staff of Planning Department offices in three divisions

Minister U Soe Tha delivers an address to officers from division, districts and townships PD offices in Magway Division.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan—Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha held a meeting with those in charge of Bago Division (West) Planning Department offices, Thayawady District offices, and township offices in the district at Thayawady District PD office on 12 January.

The minister gave instructions on work programmes, and inspected the offices of Zeegon and Nattalin townships.

He also met with service personnel of township PD offices at Bago Division (West) office in Pyay, and at Aunglan PD office in Magway Division.

The following day, Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe and the minister held a meeting with service personnel of division, district and township PD offices at Magway Division planning office. Next, he inspected Pwintbyu, Seikphyu and Chauk township offices.

Yesterday, the minister meet service personnel at NyaungU planning office in Mandalay Division; and those in charge and staff of PD offices of Myingyan District and townships at Myingyan District office, and inspected Mahlaing Township PD office.

In the afternoon, the minister met those in charge of township PD offices in Meiktila District planning office, and looked into Pyawbwe Township and Yamethin District PD offices.

MNA

Ahmar on path to normalcy

YANGON, 15 Jan—Member of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing inspected maintenance of Myogon Bridge on Pyapon-Kadonkadun-Ahmar Road on 10 January morning.

Chief Engineer U Tin Aye Kyi of Pyapon District Public Works reported on maintenance work. The minister fulfilled the requirements.

He had a meeting with service personnel, members of social organizations and townselders at the office of Ahmar Peace and Development Council, and presented foodstuff, personal goods and seeds of crops to local people through the officials.

He inspected reconstruction of Ahmar Basic Education High School and the site where a cyclone shelter will be built.

The minister looked into the sites chosen to construct a primary school in Bawathit-2 Village and a post-primary school in Bawathit-3 Village, and presented clothes and foodstuff to the villages.

Next, he held a meeting with officials and village elders at the affiliated BEMS in Hseikma Village, and inspected the scale model of a cyclone shelter to be built in Daw Nyein Village, and the rural dispensary donated by IOM.

He also inspected tasks for raising the road linking Myogon Village with Daw Nyein Village, and provided foodstuff and clothes to local people in Myogon Village.—*MNA*

Take Fire Preventive Measures

Special sales of Industry-1 on going

YANGON, 15 Jan— Special sales of the Ministry of Industry-1 are being kept open in Maubin Township in Ayeyawady Division from 10 to 16 January, Paungde in Bago Division from 12 to 18 January, Minbu in Magway Division from 12 to 18 January and Mayangon Township in Yangon Division from 13 to 19 January, and will be held at Kangyidauk Township in Ayeyawady Division from 17 to 23 January. —*MNA*

Lepantaung Village in Sagaing Div to get new library

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan—A ceremony to drive stakes for construction of Yaungni-Oo Library was held in Letpantaung Village in Salingyi Township on 11 January afternoon.

Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Myint Soe, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and guests drove stakes and sprinkled scented water on them.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Soe unveils the signboard of Soe Phyo new school building in Kudohgon Village in Salingyi Township.—MNA

At Basic Education Primary School in Kudohgon Village of Salingyi Township, they attended the opening ceremony of Soe Phyo new school building. Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Bhaddanta Avudha of Maha Thondarayama Pariyatti Monastery of Pyigyidagun Township and wellwishers U Han Soe-Daw Nu Nu Aye formally opened the building.

The commander unveiled the signboard of the building.

Afterwards, the commander and the minister met departmental personnel, social organization members and local people from Ywashe, Nyaungbingyi and Tonywama village-tracts, totalling over 1,800. The commander and the minister delivered speeches.

Wellwisher U Han Soe explained the purpose of donations, and a local spoke words of thanks.

The wellwisher handed over documents related to the school building to Salingyi Township Education Officer U Khin Maung Aye. The commander presented a certificate of honour to wellwisher U Han Soe.

The Sayadaw donated five sets of computer to be used in regional development to the commander.

Officials accepted K 9.5 million for the rural health care centre in Letpantaung Village, K 1.6 million for construction of Shwehlay Village BEPS, K 500,000 for Salingyi Township Hospital, K 500,000 for Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Women's Affairs Organization, 250 dozens of exercise books and pencils for schools of the township and 57 in bags for students of Kudohgon Village, K 500,000 for Naga traditional festival donated by U Pyae Phyo Aung and family; K 500,000 for Sagaing Division MCWA by U Saw Lwin and family; K 500,000 for Sagaing Division WAO; K 500,000 for Letpantaung Village BEHS (Branch) by U Zaw Min Oo and family; K 3 million for the library by local people; K 300,000 each for Shwehlay Village BEPS by U Than Ngwe and family and U Zaw Naing and family.

The minister presented K 400,000 for construction of Palaung Village Library, K 400,000 for Kudohgon Village Library, clothes and personal goods for local people and publications for the village libraries to officials.

Later, the commander and the minister cordially greeted the local people.

MNA

Information Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents cash assistance, clothes and publications to an official.—MNA

Knowledge on traffic rules disseminated

YANGON, 15 Jan —Police Captain Myint Aung of Yangon Division Wireless and Traffic Police Corps gave educative talks on traffic rules to 50 drivers of Hlinethaya Paint Factory on Seikantha Street in Industrial Zone (1), Hlinethaya Township on 10 January.—*MNA*

FSD D-G visits Thakayta Fire Station

YANGON, 15 Jan—The Director-General of Fire Services Department of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement inspected availability of water, measures being taken to get ready for fire engines and firemen for emergency and beautifying and cleaning tasks at Thakayta Township Fire Station on 15 January.—*MNA*

Workshop on Myanmar-ASEAN-Japan human resource development held

YANGON, 15 Jan—The opening ceremony of workshop on Myanmar-ASEAN-Japan human resource development was held at Traders Hotel here this morning. Deputy Minister for Labour Brig-Gen Tin Tun Aung delivered an opening speech on the occasion.

Also present on the occasion were officials of the Ministry of Labour, representatives of the ministries, responsible persons of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Industrialists Association, Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs' Association, Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited, Myanmar Economic Corporation, Myanmar Timber Entrepreneurs Association and Myanmar Engineering Society, owners and workers' representatives of industrial zones, observers officials of Japanese Embassy and Japanese representatives of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Welfare of oversea job training group of Japan.

MNA

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Tin Tun Aung delivers speech at the opening ceremony of workshop on Myanmar-ASEAN-Japan human resource development.

MNA

Kataik Dam and Sluice Gate contribute to prevention of floods, cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy, double crops in Thaton District

Article: Kyaw Sein; Photos: Aung Than (Mingala Taungnyunt)

(from page 16)

During the tour, Assistant Director (1) U Nyunt Htay of Construction-6 of Irrigation Department conducted the news crew of the Myanma Alin Daily round the work sites for prevention against floods in Thaton District.

He said that the Construction (6) built many dams and sluice gates in Mon and Kayin States. The office of Assistant Director (1) was opened on 18-3-2003. During the period of five and a half years, Zaikkaye, Kyonhtaw and Yinnyein sluice gates were constructed. After building the irrigation network of Kataik Dam, Yaybok Dam is under construction in Hlaingbwe Township.

"On completion of Naungkalar and Bainglaung sluice gates all the areas of Thaton District will be totally free from sea water ."
U Nyunt Htay (Assistant Director-1)
Construction (6)

He continued to say that Yinnyein Sluice Gate will prevent flooding of about 20,000 acres of farmlands. Kataik Dam will irrigate 3,200 acres of summer paddy through Yinnyein Sluice Gate. Next year, the plan is under way to build Naungkalar Sluice Gate downstream of Zaikkaye Sluice Gate. Bainglaung Creek is located downstream of Yinnyein. The irrigation facility will be the cluster type. As Naungkalar Dam has been built, the cluster of irrigation facilities will be complete in Thaton District. If Bainglaung Sluice Gate is finished, Thaton District will have a cluster of dams.

The Assistant Director said that there are five sluice gates in Thaton District. Of the two more sluice gates, Naungkalar will benefit 15,000 acres of land and Bainglaung, 15,000 acres of land. Dam clusters have been established in eastern and western Bago mountain ranges. On completion of all the sluice gates, sea water cannot enter practically all the areas of Thaton District.

Yinnyein Sluice Gate stores water at Yinnyein Creek.

In another interview, Staff Officer U Win Myint said that construction of Yinnyein Sluice Gate commenced in 2004-2005 and it was inaugurated on 27-2-2006. Before the construction of the sluice gate, farmlands were damaged due to the inflow of sea water. Last year, Yinnyein sluice gate and Kataik sluice gate supplied water to 1,000 acres of summer paddy through Yinnyein Creek. This year, efforts are being made to irrigate 3,200 acres of summer paddy.

"This year, efforts are being made to irrigate 3,200 acres of summer paddy."
Staff Officer U Win Myint, Construction (6)

The news crew who accompanied Assistant Director (1) U Nyunt Htay, Staff Officer U Win Myint and party visited sluice gates.

On 11 December, the news team went to Kyonhtaw Sluice Gate in Paung Township. The sluice gate is built near Kyonhtaw Creek and it benefits 22,000 acres of farmlands. The news team had an interview with farmer Ma Mya San near the sluice gate. She expressed that she cultivated 10 acres of farmland. The sluice gate contributed to successful cultivation of paddy. Before construction of the sluice gate, the farmlands were damaged due to floods and sea water. At present, the local farmers thank the government and local authorities for construction of the sluice gate there.

"I thank the government and local authorities for construction of the sluice gate."
Ma Mya San (farmer), Kyonhtaw Village.

Photo shows silted area and sea water that cannot flow into Yinnyein Creek due to blockage of Yinnyein Sluice Gate.

Yinnyein Sluice Gate built with 40 valves in Kyonhtaw Village of Paung Township to control the inflow of sea water and supply of fresh water.

Kataik, Mayangon, Seikkyun, Zaikkaye, Kyonhtaw and Yinnyein sluice gates prevent floods in Thaton District of Mon State. Kataik Dam, which can store 28,098 acre-feet of water, is supplying water to Yinnyein Sluice Gate. Mayangon sluice gate has 15 valves, Seikkyun sluice gate 15 valves, Zaikkaye sluice gate 21 valves, Kyonhtaw sluice gate 27 valves and Yinnyein sluice gate 40 valves.

On completion of Naungkalar sluice gate, the flow of water can be controlled at the main drains of Pinlelay field, namely, Seikkyun, Naungbo-Zayatchaung and new Naungkalar creek. The benefited areas of Zaikkaye, Kyonhtaw and Yinnyein sluice gates will become the vast contiguous area of land, and more paddy fields will emerge in the western coastal area of Thaton District.

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Translation: TTA

Myanma Alin: 14-1-2008

Iran says US must limit interference within own borders

TEHERAN, 15 Jan— Iran's president said on Thursday the new US administration must make two change in Washington's approaches. First change must be in the field of America's interference, says Iranian president.

Ahmedinejad said that Washington must change its behavior to Iran.—INTERNET

Asked about President-elect Barack Obama, who has promised to engage more with Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad told a news conference:

"Any administration in America that takes office should at least make two changes in its behaviour, the first change is in the field of America's interference ... The circle of interference should be limited to within American borders."

"The second change is the approach of the American government towards Iran," he said. "If there are real and fundamental changes I think it would be welcomed by nations."

Internet

A rescue team searches for victims of a ferry which sunk off Sulawesi island on Sunday, January 14, 2009. Indonesian disaster investigators are focusing on the weather as the cause of a weekend ferry sinking, an official said on Wednesday.
INTERNET

Somali pirates sack Ukraine tank ship mediators

SOMALIA, 15 Jan — Pirates holding a Ukrainian cargo ship loaded with tanks have sacked Somali middlemen trying to secure its release and are negotiating directly with the owners, an associate of the gang said on Thursday.

Gunmen from Somalia caused havoc in one of the world's busiest shipping lanes last year, hijacking dozens of ships and demanding tens of millions of dollars in ransom payments to free them. The MV Faina was carrying 33 Soviet-era T-72 tanks and other weapons when it was seized in September. The pirates initially demanded a $20 million ransom, lowered to $5 million.

Osman Farah, an onshore associate of the gang on the Faina, said his colleagues now expected more than $5 million after they sacked the middlemen negotiating on their behalf.

"Somali brokers had been delaying the process by reporting only half, or less, of the ransom being offered," Farah told *Reuters* by telephone from the coastal town of Haradheere.—*Internet*

Poland unearths 1,800 bodies in WW2 mass grave

WARSAW, 15 Jan— Polish authorities have unearthed the remains of 1,800 bodies and expect to find even more in a mass grave first discovered three months ago and believed to date back to the final days of World War Two.

The site is in a corner of northern Poland that was part of Germany until 1945 and the authorities suspect the remains are of ethnic German civilians, at least some of whom were probably killed by advancing Soviet forces.

"We are dealing with a mass grave of civilians, probably of German origin. The presence of children... suggests they were civilians," Zbigniew Sawicki, a Polish archaeologist supervising the exhumation, told *Reuters* on Wednesday.

"It is very puzzling that no personal belongings have been found among the remains... We have few clues as to how these people died, though there is a high probability they were war victims," Sawicki added.

Some 30 bodies were found with gunshot wounds, though the probable cause of death for many was hunger and cold, he said.

The first few skeletons were unearthed last October by construction workers laying the foundations of a new hotel in the town of Malbork, whose imposing castle—built by Teutonic Knights in the 13th century—is a major draw for tourists.

When the grave was discovered, authorities initially found the remains of just 60 people but the figure mounted rapidly.

"We are looking for witnesses, or sources of information. We hope to find some leads because we still know virtually nothing about the mass grave and the victims," said Piotr Wojciechowski of the district public prosecutor's office in Malbork.—*Internet*

Polish authorities expect to find even more in a mass grave first discovered three months ago and believed to date back to the final days of World War Two.—INTERNET

Aid workers taken in Philippines

MANILA, 15 Jan—Gunmen have abducted three aid workers from Italy, Switzerland and the Philippines on southern Jolo island, the Philippine National Red Cross says.

The Red Cross chairman, Senator Richard Gordon, said the three were in a car on their way to Jolo airport. They had been visiting a local jail when they were intercepted by armed men on motorbikes, he said.

The island is a stronghold of the Abu Sayyaf group, which is notorious for kidnappings and terror attacks.

A regional military spokeswoman has identified the three aid workers from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) as Swiss Andreas Notter, Italian Eugenio Vagni and Filipino Jean Lacaba.

Internet

UN's Ban: Gaza death toll unbearable

JERUSALEM, 15 Jan— UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told Israel on Thursday that the death toll from fighting in the Gaza Strip had reached an "unbearable point".

"The number of casualties has reached an unbearable point," Ban-Ki-Moon said at a meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni.—INTERNET

"The number of casualties has reached an unbearable point," Ban said at a meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni.

The Palestinian death toll from Israel's air-and-ground offensive has risen to at least 1,055, according to the Hamas-run Health Ministry in Gaza. A Palestinian rights group said 670 of the dead were civilians.

Thirteen Israelis have been killed—10 soldiers and three civilians hit by Hamas rocket fire.

Internet

UN fund allocates $7 mln for Gaza relief

UNITED NATIONS, 15 Jan—The United Nations said on Wednesday it was allocating $7 million from an emergency fund to help provide food and clean water in Gaza, where the Palestinian death toll has risen above 1,000.

The funding will also be used to repair damaged shelters, provide fuel for powering water pumping stations and hospitals, provide clean drinking water in shelters and finance ready-made meals, UN humanitarian affairs chief John Holmes said.

Holmes said in a statement that 500,000 Gazans had no access to running water.

The U.N. children's agency, UNICEF, said over 300 children had been killed and more than 1,500 wounded in Gaza.

"Beyond the immediate needs of the children who have lost their homes, have no access to water, electricity and medicine, beyond the horrific physical scars and injuries however, are the deeper psychological wounds of these children," UNICEF Executive Director Ann Veneman said in a statement.—*Internet*

UN said it was allocating $7 million from an emergency fund to help provide food and clean water in Gaza.—INTERNET

Grenade blast wounds 33 at Ethiopian bus station

ADDIS ABABA, 15 Jan —An apparently accidental hand-grenade explosion wounded 33 people, nine seriously, on Thursday at the central bus station in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, police said.

"This does not appear to be a terrorist attack. It seems a passenger was carrying the grenade in their luggage and it detonated accidentally," federal police commander Demash Hailu told.

Internet

Donation Programme for Donors in Nargis Release Area

On 2,3 May 2008, Cyclone Nargis ravaged the delta region causing severe detriment and loss of lives of the farmers and their families.Even though, those areas reached acertain level of rescue and rehabilitation by the State Government, all concerned de partments, general public, INGOs & NGOs.

We would like to say **"THANK YOU VERY MUCH"** to the State Government, INGOs,NGOs; all domestic and international donor for donating **(of BIO SUPREEME Bio -Fertilizer)** tens of thousands bags (up to 50000bags) to the Cyclone Nargis affected areas with consortium efforts.

We, SUPREME GROUP OF COMPANIES had also donated 3 thousand bags of BIO SUPREME Bio-fertilizers to those affected areas with the courtesy of the State Government, INGOs and NGOs' cooperative efforts.

We have sent to our Bio-fertilizers donors, such as INGOs & NGOs regarding for the results of using **BIO SUPREME** in the Cyclone Nargis areas. There, we made video records, interview records and our company's activities on how our technicians went to those areas, giving right application methods, other technical supports training to the farmers directly.

So,for anyone who did not received the results of donations and our movements records,you may inquire at **SUPREME GROUP OF COMPANIES** at any time.

Fertilizer Office
No. 19, Nawaday Housing Complex,Hlaing Thayar Township,Yangon,Myanmar.
Tel : + 95 (1) 685237, 689376 ~ 9, 723542, 685411, 685488
Fax : + 95 (1) 685237 Mobile: + 95 (0) 9 9922160, (0) 98610320

Cold temps put people at hypothermia risk

ATLANTA, 15 Jan—Sub-zero US temperatures can put people at risk for hypothermia, or abnormally low body temperature, federal health officials said.

Health officials at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said that when exposed to cold temperatures, the body begins to lose heat faster than it can be produced, which can result in hypothermia. Body temperature that is too low affects the brain, making the victim unable to think clearly or move well.

Hypothermia occurs most commonly at very cold environmental temperatures, but can occur even at cool temperatures — above 40 degrees F if a person becomes chilled from rain, sweat, or submersion in cold water.

Those most at risk of hypothermia are:

— Elderly people with inadequate food, clothing or heating.

— Babies sleeping in cold bedrooms.

— Children left unattended.

— Adults under the influence of alcohol.

— Mentally ill individuals.

— People who remain outdoors for long periods such as the homeless, hikers, hunters and outdoor workers. The signs of hypothermia include shivering/ exhaustion, confusion/fumbling hands, memory loss/ slurred speech and drowziness.

However, signs of hypothermia in infants are bright red, cold skin and very low energy.

If hypothermia is suspected, take the person's temperature and if it is below 95 degrees F get medical attention immediately.—*Internet*

Check woman's heart before contraceptives

LOS ANGELES, 15 Jan—Healthcare providers should evaluate each woman's risk factors prior to starting any contraceptive therapy, US researchers suggest.

Study co-author Dr Chrisandra L Shufelt of Cedars-Sinai Heart Institute, said although pre-menopausal women have a much lower risk of cardiovascular disease, routine screening for potential problems and follow-up is important. Earlier contraceptives used higher levels of estrogen than the newer formulations. The newer formulations use lower doses of estrogen, which is safer in terms of lowering the risk of blood clots, and they tend to use a progestin, a synthetic version of progesterone that is not likely to raise blood pressure and may even slightly reduce it, said Bairey Merz, also of Cedars-Sinai.

Since 2000, death rates have increased in women between the ages of 35 and 44, while all other age groups have seen a decline. Among factors that may be contributing to the rise are increases in obesity and smoking, a decline in physical activity and a significant increase in the use of oral contraceptives.

Internet

Cell phones not linked to eye melanoma

WITTENBERG, 15 Jan—Cell phone use is not associated with the risk of melanoma of the eye, researchers in Germany said.

Dr Andreas Stang of the Martin-Luther-University of Halle-Wittenberg in Germany and colleagues examined the association between cell phone use and risk of uveal melanoma — melanoma of the eye — in 459 patients and 1,194 control subjects.

Control subjects were drawn from the general population, from ophthalmology clinics and from siblings of the patients. The investigators grouped study participants according to amount of time spent on the phone, as never users, sporadic users and regular users. The study, published in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, said there was no statistically significant association between cell phone use of up to about 10 years and uveal melanoma risk.

"In conclusion, we observed no overall increased risk of uveal melanoma among regular cell phone users or users of radio sets in Germany, where digital cell phone technology was introduced in the early 1990s," the study authors said in a statement.—*Internet*

Diabetes links to different brain injuries

SEATTLE, 15 Jan—Patients with dementia and diabetes display a different pattern of injuries in their brains than patients with dementia but no diabetes, US researchers say.

Dr Joshua A Sonnen of the University of Washington in Seattle and colleagues studied 196 individuals who were part of the Adult Changes in Thought Study, a community-based investigation of dementia.

After the participants died, autopsies were conducted on their brains and their cases were divided into four groups based on clinical information: those with diabetes and dementia, those with diabetes but no dementia, those with dementia but no diabetes and those without either disease.—*Internet*

Athletes can have metabolic syndrome

COLUMBUS, 15 Jan—College-age football players who gain weight to add power to their blocks and tackles may increase their diabetes and heart risk, US researchers said.

Metabolic syndrome involves a cluster of clinical symptoms that include excess fat in the abdominal area, borderline or high blood pressure, cholesterol problems that foster plaque buildup in arteries, insulin resistance or glucose intolerance indicating the body can't properly use insulin or blood sugar and the presence of a blood protein indicating inflammation. Lead author Jackie Buell, director of sports nutrition at Ohio State University, said based on the study results, standard health screening for these risk factors might be a good idea for all collegiate football players.

The study, published in the Journal of Athletic Training, found nearly half of a sample of 70 collegiate offensive and defensive linemen had metabolic syndrome — meaning the players had at least three of five risk factors that indicate a person has higher chances of developing heart disease and diabetes than those without the risk factors. If a male athlete's waist measurements and blood pressure exceed a 40-inch waist and a blood pressure reading higher than 130 over 85—he ideally should undergo a blood test to see if high cholesterol, glucose and triglyceride levels, too, indicate that he might benefit from health guidance to prevent chronic disease down the road, Buell said.—*Internet*

Japan's toy maker Sega Toys employee Minako Sakanoue displays the company's new toy "Hanappa", sunflower, daisy and marguerite models, which can bow and flap its flowers and leaves in response to human voice in Tokyo on 14 January.

INTERNET

Regular walking can relieve blocked leg arteries

LOS ANGELES, 15 Jan— Regular six-minute walks on a treadmill improve the endurance and quality of life for people with the leg blood-vessel blockage called peripheral arterial disease (PAD), a new study has found.

Researchers at the Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago came to the conclusion after studying 156 people with PAD, many of whom didn't have the pain that is the classic symptom of artery blockage.

Over the six months of the study, the participants who did their regular six-minute treadmill walks increased their walking distance by about 69 feet, while those who did not walk regularly saw a decrease of 49 feet, according to the study published in theJan. 14 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

While walking is a standard recommendation for people with PAD, the study was different in two ways, said study lead author Dr Mary McDermott, an associate professor of medicine at the school. "All prior studies have focused on patients with intermittent claudicating — the symptom of PAD," McDermott said. "Some of the patients in this study were asymptomatic. Also, we included testing of leg strength. This is the largest trial to do so."

McDermott recommended a 40-minute walk three times a week for at least six months.

Internet

Indonesian residents look from the second floor of their houses as a man makes his way through a flooded neighborhood in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 14 Jan, 2009. Heavy overnight rain triggered flooding in many parts of the city, like it does every year around the rainy season.—INTERNET

NASA's space shuttle Discovery ready for Feb launch

WASHINGTON, 15 Jan — The space shuttle Discovery has been moved to a launch pad at NASA's Kennedy Space Center ahead of a February supply run to the International Space Station, NASA said on Wednesday.

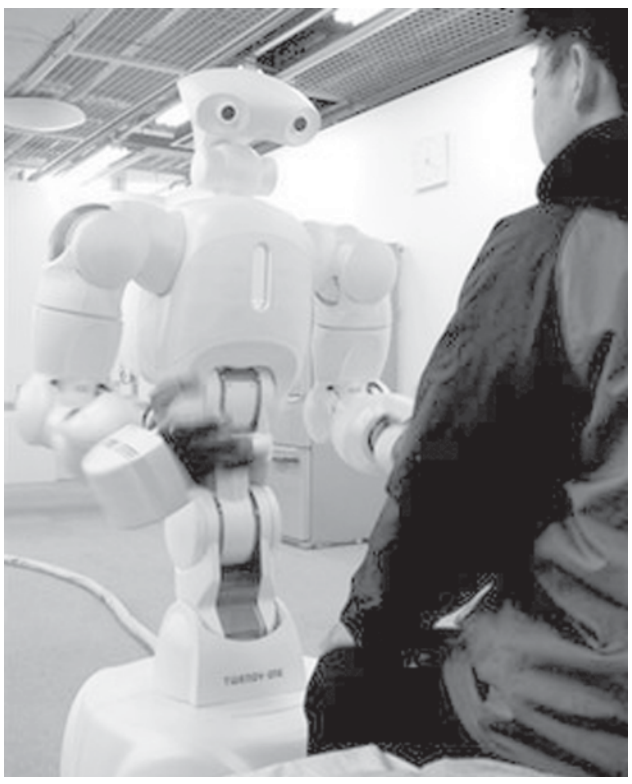
Seven astronauts are scheduled to blast off around sunrise 12 Feb. Lee Archambault will command the mission and Tony Antonelli will be the pilot.

The mission specialists are Joseph Acaba, SteveSwanson, Richard Arnold, John Phillips and Koichi Wakata, a Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency astronaut.

Wakata will remain on the station as a resident crew member, replacing station Flight Engineer Sandra Magnus, who will return home on Discovery.

During the 14-day mission, the astronauts will install an S6 truss segment to the starboard, or right side of the station and deploy its solar arrays. Four space walks will also be conducted.

Internet



Twendy-One tries to assist a man to stand up during its demonstration at the Department of Mechanical Engineering laboratory in Waseda University in Tokyo, Japan, on 14 Jan, 2009. —INTERNET

Asian economies expected to grow at 5.5% in 2009

SINGAPORE, 15 Jan — Asian economies are expected to grow at 5.5 percent this year, down from the 7 percent growth seen in 2008, local media reported on Tuesday.

According to Channel news Asia's report, Robert Prior-Wandesforde, senior Asian economist of HSBC, said both falling demand from developed economies and domestic factors will contribute to the slowdown in Asia.

He said Tuesday at a media conference on the bank's outlook for Asia that the slide of growth will lead in economies such as China's Hong Kong and Taiwan, South Korea and Singapore, while China and India will be the main supports of growth.

The media's report said the HSBC is taking comfort in the massively synchronized and powerful fiscal and monetary policies Asian economies are adopting, and also in falling commodity prices which are seeing the largest declines in 50 years.

The bank also expects Singapore's economy to bottom out in the first quarter and round up the year with a 2.8 percent contraction.

Internet

Gunmen kill 3 policemen in SW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 15 Jan — Unidentified gunmen Wednesday shot dead three policemen in southwestern Pakistan's Quetta city, private TV channel Geo reported.

Unknown attackers riding on a motor bike opened fire on a police mobile vehicle near Government Girls Polytechnic college in Quetta, capital city of Balochistan Province.

As a result, a senior police officer Hasan Ali and two other policemen were killed while three other policemen sustained injuries.

The attackers managed to flee from the scene and police cordoned off the area.

Internet

Palestinians ride in a vehicle with their belongings as they leave their houses in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip on 12 Jan, 2009.
INTERNET

Public will back Bruce Lee memorial proposal

HONG KONG, 15 Jan— Hong Kong officials said they believe the public will support conserving Bruce Lee's former Kowloon Tong home and turning it into a tourist resort commemorating the late movie legend.

Rita Lau, Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development of Hong Kong government, told legislators Wednesday the Hong Kong government has been monitoring public views on the establishment of a Bruce Lee memorial hall.

"We believe the community will support the proposal," she said, adding the Kowloon City District Council discussed and supported the idea at a meeting last July.

Lau and other oficials recently met Yu Pang-lin, the current owner of the property, popularly known as Crane's Nest, where Lee spent his last years before he died in 1973.

But details of the project, including funding, have yet to be hammered out.

"Both sides have agreed to actively explore specific management and operation options under the broad principle of preserving and restoring the original appearance of the residence. This includes seeking the assistance of Bruce Lee's family and identifying suitable partners. We will then consult Yu on concrete proposals," said Lau.

Internet

SPORTS

Julio Baptista fires Roma back into Champions League contention

AS Roma's Brazilian forward Julio Cesar Baptista eyes his second goal during an Italian serie A football match AS Roma vs Sampdoria, at Olympic stadium in Rome. Roma won 2-0.
INTERNET

ROME ,15 Jan — Two-goal Brazilian forward Julio Baptista was the star of the show in AS Roma's 2-0 home victory against Sampdoria at the Stadio Olimpico on Wednesday as the Cup holders reignited their Champions League challenge.

Two individual efforts from Julio Baptista moved Roma up to eighth place in Serie A following a sixth win in eight matches in a game that was originally due to be played in October.

They are now just six points behind Napoli in fourth place, the final Champions League qualification position.

It means their disastrous start to the season, in which they lost six and won just two of their opening 10 matches, is well and truly behind them.

"We had to be at our best technically because Sampdoria were in better physical condition," said Roma coach Luciano Spalletti, who praised Julio Baptista's versatility. — *Internet*

Adebayor favoured for top African award

Arsenal and Togo striker Emmanuel Adebayor.

JOHANNESBURG ,15 Jan – A new name will be engraved on the African Footballer of the Year trophy next month after three stars were shortlisted on Wednesday for the 2008 award.

Arsenal and Togo striker Emmanuel Adebayor is favoured to top a poll among Africa-based national coaches with midfielders Michael Essien of Chelsea and Ghana and Mohamed Aboutraika of Al-Ahly and Egypt the other contenders.

Long-term injury casualty Essien finished second and third in the previous two editions of the African Football Confederation-organized competition while Adebayor and Aboutraika have never featured among the top three.

The omission from the original list of struggling Chelsea striker Didier Drogba came as no surprise and saved the organizers potential embarrassment as the Ivorian said he had no interest in the award.

His decision stemmed from being denied the title last year after refusing to leave the African Nations Cup tournament in Ghana to attend the Footballer of the Year ceremony in neighbouring Togo.

France-born Mali striker Frederic Kanoute received the trophy instead and became the first footballer born outside Africa to win a competition started in 1970 and taken over by CAF 16 years ago.

Internet

Manchester United win but face losing Rooney for three weeks

MANCHESTER ,15 Jan – Wayne Rooney is facing three weeks out of Manchester United's title charge after scoring the winner and then being struck down by a hamstring injury as the champions sealed a narrow 1-0 win against Wigan Athletic at Old Trafford on Wednesday.

Rooney, 22, lasted just seven minutes of United's win, which takes them to within two points of leaders Liverpool with a game in hand, before limping out of the action.

United can claim top spot in the Premier League for the first time this season if they defeat Bolton at the Reebok on Saturday, but Rooney will be forced to watch from the sidelines after suffering his injury blow.

Internet

Manchester United's English forward Wayne Rooney.

Dementieva crushes Serena to reach Sydney tennis final

SYDNEY ,15 Jan – Russian Elena Dementieva stretched her winning streak to nine matches with a dominant straight-sets victory over a subdued Serena Williams to reach the final of the Sydney WTA International on Thursday.

The world number four pounded away the winners, only dropped her serve once, and gave the tournament top seed no way out in reeling off a 6-3, 6-1 win in 68 minutes.

Internet

Russian Elena Dementieva, seen here, stretched her winning streak to nine matches with a dominant 6-3, 6-1 victory over a subdued Serena Williams.

Federer passes three-set test ahead of Open

MELBOURNE, 15 Jan – Roger Federer passed a tough test on Thursday to reach the final of Australia's Kooyong Classic, needing three sets and more than two hours to defeat Fernando Verdasco.

The Swiss world number 2 got a workout before finally subduing Spain's Davis Cup finals hero, firing an ace on the fourth match point to win 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (7/5). Federer will await the winner of Friday's Promotion round match at the eight-man Australian Open tune-up, which will see his Davis Cup teammate Stan Wawrinka face Chile's Fernando Gonzalez.

Internet

Roger Federer of Switzerland during his 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 victory over Fernando Verdasco of Spain in Melbourne.
INTERNET

Nadal, Jankovic top seeds at Australian tennis Open

MELBOURNE , 15 Jan – World number ones Rafael Nadal and Jelena Jankovic were Thursday confirmed as the top seeds for next week's Australian Open.

Organizers issued the list of 32 seeds for the men's and women's singles tournaments with all but one of the top 32 ranked men, and 30 of the top 32 ranked women seeded.

Russia's Nikolay Davydenko has withdrawn with a heel injury, while Maria Sharapova is not fully recovered from shoulder surgery and will be unable to defend her Australian Open 2008 title.

Internet

World number ones Rafael Nadal, seen here, and Jelena Jankovic were Thursday confirmed as the top seeds for next week's Australian Open.—INTERNET

Barcelona ease through to Spanish Cup quarter-finals

MADRID ,15 Jan – An under-strength Barcelona side was still too good for Atletico Madrid on Wednesday as they inflicted a fourth successive defeat on their opponents with a 2-1 victory (5-2 on aggregate) and a place in the Spanish Cup quarter-finals.

Barcelona - who were without six first choice players such as Samuel Eto'o, Thierry Henry and Lionel Messi as Josep Guardiola opted to either rest them or put them on the bench - scored through Bojan Krkic and Icelandic international Eidur Gudjohnsen.—*Internet*

Barcelona's Brazilian defender Daniel Alves (L) vies for the ball with Athletico Madrid's Camacho during the King's Cup football match at Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona.
INTERNET

Bordeaux and Paris Saint Germain to meet in French League Cup

PARIS,15 Jan – Bordeaux will meet holders Paris Saint Germain in the semi-finals of the French League Cup after Wednesday's quarter-finals saw them win 2-1 against Chateauroux and 2-0 over Lens respectively.

No offensive banners were unveiled at the Parc des Princes following the controversial scenes in last year's final between PSG and Lens at the Stade de France when northern Frenchmen were vilified in a banner, which almost had the Paris club barred from defending their trophy.—*Internet*

Bordeaux's Abdou Traore (L) vies with Chateauroux's Xavier Thiago during their French League cup quarter final football match—Bordeaux versus Chateauroux at the Chaban-Delmas stadium in Bordeaux, southwestern France.
INTERNET

Eye study shows how deadly form of malaria kills

LIVERPOOL, 15 Jan— The human eye can help doctors understand how an acute form of malaria attacks the brain, researchers said on Wednesday, opening the way to new and better treatments for one of Africa's biggest killers.

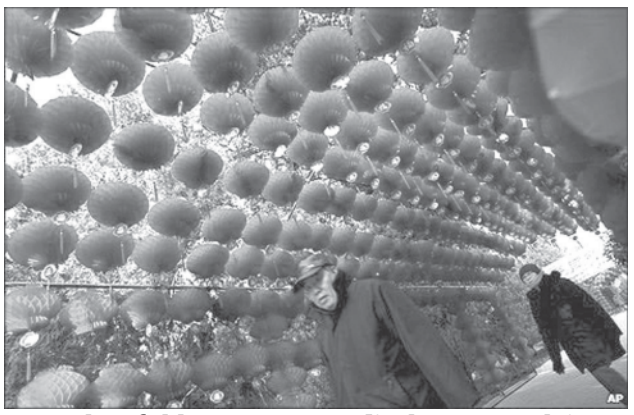
By examining the eyes of people with cerebral malaria, researchers detected tiny blood vessel blockages in the brain which they believe starve brain cells and cause the disease, which mainly affects children.

The finding means that drugs such as statins which help improve circulation could be used in new treatments to fight cerebral malaria, the researchers said.

"What we are talking about is multiple small areas of blockages in the brain where the brain isn't getting enough blood and oxygen," Nick Beare of the Royal Liverpool University Hospital, who led the research, said in a telephone interview.

"We think this is critical in causing coma and death in cerebral malaria," he said. Malaria killed 881,000 people and infected 247 million worldwide in 2006, mainly in Africa, according to the World Health Organization's latest statistics. Some malaria experts say those numbers underestimate the problem. The disease, which is caused by a parasite transmitted by mosquitoes, has become resistant to some drugs, and work on a vaccine has been slow. One effective treatment is Novartis AG's Coartem. The problem with these treatments is they only target the parasite and do not address problems which can lead to coma and death, Beare said.

Internet



Colourful lanterns go on display at a park in Beijing, China, for the forthcoming Chinese Spring Festival.—Internet

Too much caffeine linked to hallucinations

WASHINGTON, 15 Jan —Hearing voices when nobody is around or seeing things that aren't there? Too much caffeine could be to blame, British researchers reported on Wednesday.

Their study found that students who consumed more than the equivalent of seven cups of instant coffee a day were three times more likely to have had these kinds of hallucinations compared to people on a single daily cup.

"This is the first step toward looking at the wider factors associated with hallucinations," said Simon Jones, a psychologist at Durham University in Britain who led the study.

The findings are also the latest in mounting evidence indicating the amount of caffeine a person consumes may directly affect a person's health.

Recent studies have suggested caffeine may lower a woman's risk of ovarian cancer while others have found too much doubles the risk of miscarriage.

Currently, people treated for hallucinations receive drugs or counselling but Jones said his research aims to explore whether changing a person's diet could help.

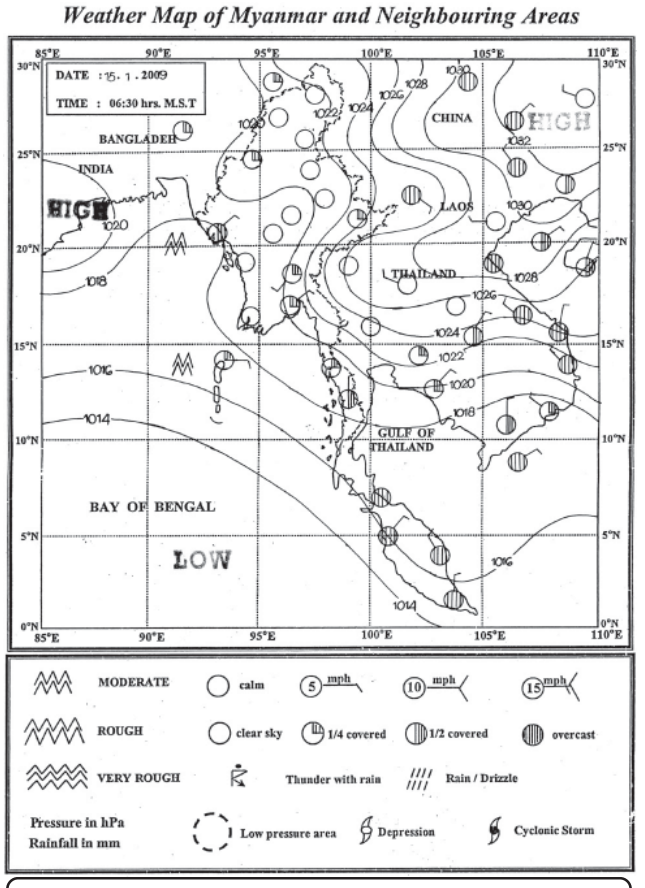
"This is the first time to my knowledge caffeine and hallucinations have been looked at," Jones said in a telephone interview. For the study published in the journal Personality and Individual Differences, Jones and colleagues asked 200 students about their typical intake of coffee, tea, energy drinks and other products containing caffeine. They also measured stress. Students who consumed the most caffeine were more likely to report hallucinatory experiences such as hearing voices and seeing things that are not there, the researchers said.

Internet

Friday, 16 January
View on today

7:00 am
1. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော် ယောဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ဥပ္ပါတသန္တိပါဠိတော်
7:30 am
2. Morning news
7:40 am
3. Nice and sweet song
7:55 am
4. Song of national races
8:10 am
5. "ချစ်သောမြေ၊ချစ်သောရေ" (ရာဇာနေဝင်း၊ ခိုင်နှင်းဝေ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ–နွဲ့.နွဲ့.မူ)
8:20 am
6. The mirror images of the musical oldies
8:30 am
7. International news
8:45 am
8. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
4:00 pm
1. Martial song
4:10 pm
2. လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းပေးဂီတတေး
4:20 pm
3. မြန်မာစာ၊မြန်မာစကား
4:35 pm
4. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ တတိယနှစ် (အင်္ဂလိပ်စာအထူးပြု) (မြန်မာစာ)
4:50 pm
5. Song to uphold national spirit
5:00 pm
6. Songs of yesteryears
5:15 pm
7. "ဆီးချိုသွေးချိုကာကွယ်ပါ" (ထွန်းထွန်းဝင်း၊ မိုးဒီ၊ ဖြိုးငွေစိုး၊ မျိုးစန္ဒီကျော်၊ ကောင်းခန့်ရတနာမိုင်၊ ဝင့်နန္ဒာဖြိုး) [ဒါရိုက်တာ–တင်အောင်ရွှေ (သုတေသီ)]
5:40 pm
8. ၂၀၀၇ခုနှစ်စာပေဗိမာန်စာမူဆုရှင်များ၏ပုံရိပ်များနှင့် ရင်တွင်းစကား (အပိုင်း–၂)
6:00 pm
9. Evening news
6:30 pm
10. Weather report
6:35 pm
11. သုတစုံလင်ရွှေဥာဏ်ရှင်
7:05 pm
12. Musical programme
7:15 pm
13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ကုန်သွယ်မှုနှင့်တိုင်း" (အပိုင်း–၄၄)
8:00 pm
14. News
15. International news
16. Weather report
17. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ပင်လယ်ပျော်မင်းသား" (အပိုင်း–၆၄)

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Thursday, 15 January, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin, Shan and Chin States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3˚C) to (4˚C) below January average temperatures in Chin and Kayin States, upper Sagaing Division, (5˚C) below January average temperatures in Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, (3˚C) above January average temperature in Shan State and about January average temperatures in the remaining areas. The Significant night temperatures were Loilem (1˚C), Hakah (2˚C), Pinlaung (3˚C) and Mogok (4˚C).

Maximum temperature on 14-1-2009 was 88˚F. Minimum temperature on 15-1-2009 was 54˚F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 15-1-2009 was 62%. Total sunshine hours on 14-1-2009 was (9.5) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 15-1-2009 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 (8) m.p.h from West at (15:30) hours MST on 14-1-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 16th January 2009: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin and Shan States Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions.

State of the sea: Strong easterly wind with moderate to rough sea are likely attime Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Surface wing speed in strong easterly wind may reach (35) to (40) m.p.h. Seas will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of decrease of night temperature in the whole country.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 16-1-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 16-1-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 16-1-2009: Partly cloudy.

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The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Hydropower projects in progress

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan—Maj-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence inspected Swa Creek Bridge, Thaukyaykhat-2 Hydropower Project, Pyu Creek Multi-purpose Dam Project and Kun Creek Hydropower Project and King Bayintnaung Statue and gave necessary instructions to officials concerned on 12 January.

Maj-Gen Ko Ko together with Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Brig-Gen Hla Min and officials looked into Swa Creek Bridge in Yedashe Township and the toll gate at mile post No 198 on Yangon-Nay-Pyi-Taw-Mandalay motor road.

Upon arrival at Thaukyaykhat-2 Hydropower Project, 14 miles east of Toungoo, Maj-Gen Ko Ko inspected progress in carrying out project tasks from the viewing deck.

At Pyu Creek Multi-purpose Dam Project, Maj-Gen Ko Ko oversaw project tasks being carried out with the use of heavy machinery. Next, Maj-Gen Ko Ko inspected Kun Creek Hydropower Project on the Kun Creek, about nine miles south-west of Pyu, and King Bayintnaung Statue in Toungoo.—*MNA*

***Maj-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence inspects Swa Creek Bridge in Yedashe Township, Bago Division.*—MNA**

Kataik Dam and Sluice Gate contribute to prevention of floods, cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy, double crops in Thaton District

Article: Kyaw Sein;
Photos: Aung Than (Mingala Taungnyunt)

For all-round development of the country, the government is trying to realize the economic objectives including "development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well". In doing so, sluice gate projects are being implemented in Thaton Township for undertaking cultivation of crops in wetland areas in time, increasing the area of arable lands, taking preventive measures against floods in the rainy season and supplying water in summer. *(See page 10)*

Kataik Dam built at a site two miles from Kataik Village of Paung Township seen with storage of water.

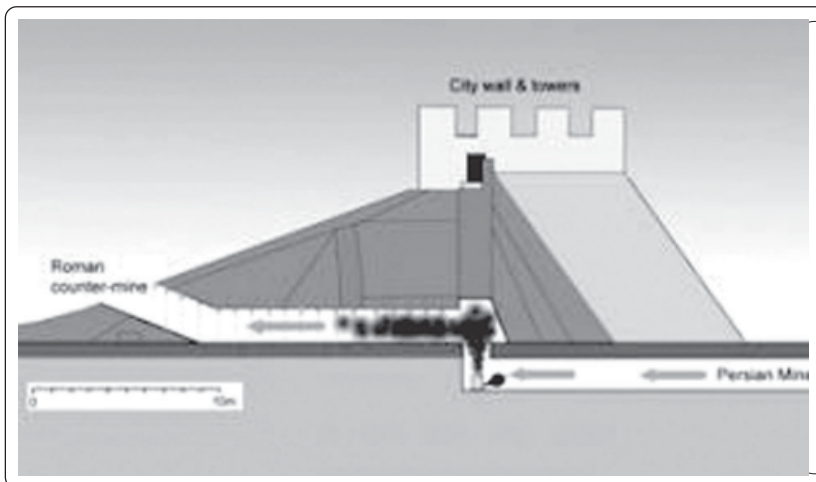

Diagram showing the Sasanian Persian mine designed to collapse Dura's city wall and adjacent tower.

Archaeologist uncovers evidence of ancient chemical warfare

LEICESTER, 15 Jan — A researcher from the University of Leicester has identified what looks to be the oldest archaeological evidence for chemical warfare — from Roman times.

At the meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America, University of Leicester archaeologist Simon James presented CSI-style arguments that about twenty Roman soldiers, found in a siege-mine at the city of Dura-Europos, Syria, met their deaths not as a result of sword or spear, but through asphyxiation.

Dura-Europos on the Euphrates was conquered by the Romans who installed a large garrison. Around AD 256, the city was subjected to a ferocious siege by an army from the powerful new Sasanian Persian empire. The dramatic story is told entirely from archaeological remains; no ancient text describes it. Excavations during the 1920s-30s, renewed in recent years, have resulted in spectacular and gruesome discoveries.—*Internet*