

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

Prime Minister attends inauguration of Machine and Machine Tools Factory (Myaing)

Government making efforts not for gratitude and show but for development of its own nation and people

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan—A ceremony to inaugurate Machine and Machine Tools Factory (Myaing) under the Ministry of Industry-2 was held at the pandal of the factory in Myaing Township, Pakokku District, Magway Division, this morning, with an address by Prime Minister General Thein Sein.

Also present on the occasion were Lt-Gen Khin Zaw of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Myint Soe, Chairman of Mandalay Division PDC Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe, the ministers, the deputy ministers, the Chairman of Magway Division PDC, the director-general of the Government Office and departmental heads, district and township level departmental officials, members of social organizations, responsible personnel of Sinotech International Corporation Ltd of the People's Republic of China, staff of the factory, local people, guests and dance troupes.

(See page 8)

Newly inaugurated Machine and Machine Tools Factory (Myaing). — MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects products of Machine and Machine Tools Factory (Myaing). —MNA



PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 18 January, 2009

Boost production of farm implements and machinery

Myanmar still has to place much reliance on agriculture as the main business, so it is now concentrating on establishment of more and more industries in its bid to transform itself from agro-based into industrialized country.

The government is working hard to boost production of goods by constructing import-substitute goods factories and new ones on a wider scale while improving the capacity of industries for industrial development. Private-owned factories and industries in the industrial zones produce machine and accessories and personal goods extensively.

At the core of economic growth of the nation lies agriculture. With this subject in view, two farm implement factories have been established: one in Ingon, Mandalay Division, and the other, in Ywathagyi, Yangon Division. The two factories manufacture Leya-16 power-tillers, Leya-22 power-tillers, highland power-tillers, paddy reapers, 22-blade tractors and farm implements.

The demonstration of the combine-harvester innovated by the Agriculture Mechanization Department took place at the farmland of farmers of Innlyet Village-tract in Hmawby Township on 14 January.

The majority of its parts were produced by the Farm Implement Factory under the Agriculture Mechanization Department, and No (1) Main Workshop Factory assembled the combine-harvester, which can harvest an acre of paddy in two hours.

In order to set up the two farm implement factories, the government had to spend huge sums of funds and a lot of labour. So, the factories have to boost production of farm equipment for boosting agricultural produce.



Workshop of Child Rights Committee in progress.

SWD

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

Expediting of development tasks discussed



Minister Col Thein Nyunt speaks at meeting to coordinate expediting development tasks of State and Division Development Affairs Committees and Township DACs.

PBANRDA

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Jan—A meeting to coordinate expediting development tasks of State and Division Development Affairs Committees and of Township DACs was held at the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, here, yesterday morning.

Director-General U Myo Myint of DAD submitted the second fourth-monthly report on development tasks and Directors of State and Division ADCs on

construction of urban and rural roads and bridges and availability of potable water and progress in undertaking development tasks with the contribution of the government.

The deputy director-general discussed management, financial, law, tax and inspection and engineering works.

This morning, Deputy Minister Col Tin Ngwe gave instructions on engineering works.

Acting Director-General U Khin Kyu of Department for Progress of Border Areas and National Races, Director-General U Than Win of Education and Training Department and Managing Director U

Khin Lat of Si Bin Tha Yar Yay Bank Ltd explained points undertakings of respective departments.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks by Minister Col Thein Nyunt.

Up to 2007-2008 financial year, the Development Affairs Department constructed 323 miles and five furlongs long section out of 400 miles and one furlong long No. 1 district-to-district road, 163 miles long section out of 440 miles and six furlongs long No. 2 district-to-district road.

Township DACs upgraded the urban roads stretching 296 miles and five furlongs and the rural roads stretching

907 miles and four furlongs. Up to December 2008, 848 miles and four furlongs long new roads were constructed. There were rural and urban roads stretching 5,936 miles and two furlongs in 1988. At present, a total of 38,823 miles and four furlongs roads have been constructed up to 2008-09 financial year. Moreover, a total of 2,157 water supply facilities out of 2,679 have been undertaken in urban and rural areas. From 2000-2001 to December 2008, a total of 12,459 rural water supply facilities have been built in Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay Divisions.

MNA

Child Rights Committee holds workshop

YANGON, 17 Jan—The Workshop of Child Rights Committee was held at Micasa Hotel in Mayangon Township, here, yesterday afternoon, with an address by Secretary of the National Committee for Child Rights Director-General U Soe

Kyi of Social Welfare Department.

Chairman of Yangon Division Child Rights Committee Secretary of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council U Hla Soe, Director U Sein Win of SWD and Head of Yangon Division

SWD U Tint Lwin Oo explained rights of children and endeavours of the department for the child rights.

Responsible persons of UNICEF, World Vision, Save the Children and other organizations participated in the discussions.—MNA

11 wounded at German Embassy bombing in Kabul

KABUL, 17 Jan— A bomb blast at a heavily guarded road between the German Embassy and a US military base set the embassy on fire Saturday and wounded at least 11 people, including four US troops.

Firefighters raced to the site and doused the embassy with water.

A spokesman for the German Embassy, Philipp Wendel, said he couldn't immediately give any information on the attack.

"Unfortunately we have a tight security situation right now," he said.

Lt Col Chris Kubik, a spokesman for the US military, said four US personnel were wounded by shrapnel from the blast. He said some windows at the base were blown out.

"It did not breach the wall (of the base)," he said. "It was fairly close but I can't tell you if they were targeting us or not."

At least seven Afghan civilians were also

wounded, said Interior Ministry spokesman Zemer Bashary.

The German Embassy shares a small, two-lane road with Camp Eggers, a US base that serves as the headquarters for soldiers training Afghan police and army personnel. Dozens of armed Afghan security personnel guard the street, and blast walls of concrete line the road.

The explosion damaged several vehicles on the street.—Internet



People are seen outside the German Embassy following a blast in Kabul on 17 Jan, 2009. Three Afghan civilians were killed in a large blast outside the embassy and a US base in the Afghan capital on Saturday a witness said.—INTERNET



Lebanese soldiers inspect the remains of two rockets, which were fired towards Israel but fell short in south Lebanon, in al-Meri village in southern Lebanon on 14 Jan, 2009.—INTERNET

Venezuela's Chavez says Castro still working

CARACAS, 17 Jan—Fidel Castro is working, writing and staying on top of world affairs, his friend Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said Friday amid speculation about the former Cuban leader's health.

The 82-year-old Castro has not appeared in public since undergoing emergency intestinal surgery in July 2006, and a monthlong halt in his regular essays has raised renewed concerns about condition.

On Friday, Venezuela's presidential press office confirmed that Chavez had said Fidel Castro "is

working, writing" and following international affairs. The socialist Venezuelan leader — who often communicates with Castro — made the comment to a reporter on the sidelines of a meeting with Brazil's president in western Venezuela.

Concern about Castro's health grew after he failed to send any message beyond a one-line salutation to the Cuban people on his revolution's 50th anniversary 1 Jan. The speculation also stems from Chavez's statement Sunday that is unlikely Fidel Castro will be seen in public again.—Internet

Afghanistan troop deaths could be friendly fire

LONDON, 17 Jan — Britain is investigating whether the deaths of two British soldiers in Afghanistan this week were due to friendly fire, the Ministry of Defence said on Friday.

"We have confirmed that an investigation is under way into a suspected friendly fire incident," said an MoD spokesman, after the deaths late Wednesday in the volatile southern Helmand Province.

Announcing the deaths Thursday, the International Security Assistance Force

(ISAF) in Afghanistan said the two servicemen were killed in a "hostile incident."

The MoD said they died in an explosion during an operation against enemy forces northeast of Gereshk. They were named Friday as Captain Tom Sawyer, 26, of the Royal Artillery, and Corporal Danny Winter, 28, of the Royal Marines.

The Sun newspaper reported in its early Saturday edition that the pair were killed by a missile suspected to have been fired

by Nepalese Gurkha soldiers who mistook them for Taleban forces.

A Ministry of Defence spokeswoman said she was not able to corroborate the report. There are just over 50,000 soldiers from nearly 40 nations in ISAF helping Kabul to fight an militant led by the Taleban, who were in power between 1996 and 2001.

There are Australian, British, Canadian, Dutch and US troops stationed in southern Afghanistan.

Internet

US military deaths in Iraq war at 4,227

WASHINGTON, 17 Jan— As of Friday, 16 Jan, 2009, at least 4,227 members of the US military had died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003.

The figure includes eight military civilians killed in action. At least 3,404 military personnel died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

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

Internet

Mich man accused of spying for Iraq pleads guilty

DETROIT, 17 Jan—A suburban Detroit man accused of spying for Saddam Hussein's former regime and sharing information with the executed Iraqi dictator's intelligence service has pleaded guilty.

Najib (nah-JEEB') Shemami (shuh-MAH'-me) pleaded guilty Friday to aiding Iraq without approval from the US government. The 60-year-old was accused of traveling to Iraq to report on US and Turkish military activities and supply information about Iraqi natives living in the United States.

Defence lawyer Ed Wishnow says he'll argue at sentencing in May that the Sterling Heights man was coerced by Saddam's regime.

Shemami likely faces about four years in prison. His case began with documents obtained by the government after the US invasion of Iraq.—Internet



The wreckage of a US Black Hawk helicopter is seen after it crashed in the outskirts of Kabul, Afghanistan, on 16 Jan, 2009. The US military says one of its Black Hawk helicopters has gone down near Afghanistan's capital. No deaths were reported.—INTERNET



A Palestinian girl, who, according to local medics, was wounded during Israel’s offensive, is carried in Jabalya in the northern Gaza Strip on 13 Jan, 2009.—INTERNET

Some 800 people fall ill for food poisoning in Brazil

BRASILIA, 17 Jan—Some 800 people, including patients, doctors and visitors, fell ill Friday after consuming food in a hospital in Palmas, in centre-northern Brazil, Brazilian media reported.

These people showed symptoms of poisoning

after consuming food on Thursday in the General Hospital of Palmas, the main medical centre of Tocantins state.

Experts from the Epidemiological and Health Surveillance would inspect the hospital to find out what caused the poisoning.

Meals in the hospital are prepared by a company contracted by the state’s Department of Health. The same company is also in charge of the hospital’s cleaning. —Internet

India allows rice exports to African nations

NEW DELHI, 17 Jan — India has allowed exports of non-basmati rice totalling 55,000 tonnes to four African nations, a trade ministry statement said on Friday.

The sales will be directed through government-run trading firm State Trading Corp Ltd, the statement said. Nigeria, Senegal, and Ghana will each be shipped 15,000 tonnes, while 10,000 tonnes will go to Cameroon, it said.

India banned non-basmati rice exports in April to ensure supplies for its more than one billion people, but has agreed limited shipments recently after diplomatic requests.

Internet

Obama’s half brother performs in China

SHENZHEN, 17 Jan—The news release didn’t say who Mark Ndesandjo was. Nor did the posters and e-mails promoting the concert Friday in this southern Chinese boomtown where he played piano to raise money for orphans.

But the 200 or so people who showed up for the fundraiser at a posh hotel resort knew the man in a Chinese-style brown silk shirt was the half brother of President-elect Barack Obama. They had a rare encounter with Ndesandjo, who has been dodging the media since his family ties were made public last summer.

For the past seven years, Ndesandjo has been living in Shenzhen, a freewheeling city just across the border from Hong Kong. The announcement for his piano concert identified him as a

strategic marketing consultant. He also helped start a chain of eateries in China called Cabin BBQ.

Ndesandjo has a thin mustache, shaved head and a gold stud in his left earlobe. He slightly resembles his half brother, and shares the same trim, athletic physique. He speaks Mandarin, is a vegetarian and practices Chinese calligraphy.

And he said on Friday that he has just finished a novel called “Nairobi to Shenzhen,” but as yet has no publisher.

Ndesandjo apparently wants a low-key life separate from Obama. No one mentioned his family when he was introduced at the charity concert and cocktail party sponsored by the American Chamber of Commerce in South China.

Internet

Russia hopes US will not seek NATO expansion

MOSCOW, 17 Jan — Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov says Russia hopes the new US president will not raise tensions by making Ukrainian and Georgian membership in NATO a priority.

Lavrov says he believes the US and Russia need an agenda that unites

rather than divides them. He says that President-elect Barack Obama will face the overwhelming problem of the global financial crisis from his first days in office and the US should concentrate on tackling that crisis rather than expanding the country’s geopolitical

influence.

Lavrov told reporters Friday at his annual January news conference that he hopes for improvements in US foreign policy under the new president, and that Russia and the US can cooperate closely.

Internet

UN intends to establish Somalia peacekeeping force

UNITED NATIONS, 17 Jan — The UN Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution Friday expressing its intention to establish a UN peace-keeping force in Somalia, but putting off a decision for several months in order to assess the volatile situation in the Horn of Africa nation.

The resolution renewed the mandate of the African Union force, known as AMISOM, for another six months and urged African nations to beef up AMISOM’s troop strength from the current 2,600 to the 8,000 originally authorized.

The resolution expressed the council’s

“intent to establish a United Nations Peacekeeping Operation in Somalia as a follow-on force to AMISOM, subject to a further decision of the Security Council by 1 June, 2009.”

Somalia is currently at a dangerous crossroads. The president resigned in late December, saying he has lost control of most of the country to Islamic insurgents.

The Ethiopian troops who have been protecting the fragile, UN-backed government are pulling out, leaving a dangerous power vacuum. Islamic groups are starting to fight among themselves for power, and piracy is rampant off its coast.

US Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad said the United States, which drafted the resolution, believes there must be a comprehensive approach.

Internet



An Israeli woman is evacuated from the scene after a rocket fired by Palestinian militants in Gaza landed in the southern city of Beersheba, on 15 Jan, 2009.—INTERNET



An Iraqi policeman stands guard in Basra, Iraq’s second-largest city, 550 kilometers (340 miles) southeast of Baghdad, Iraq, on 12 Jan, 2009.

INTERNET



Construction workers erect a tower for an ultra-high voltage power transmission line from Baiyin to Yongdeng in Gansu Province in Northwest China.—XINHUA

Olympics a “shot in the arm” for economy

LONDON, 17 Jan — British Prime Minister Gordon Brown Friday hailed the London 2012 Olympics as a “shot in the arm for the economy.”

He made the remarks during a visit to the Olympic site in east London to mark the half-way point between the winning of the bid and the 2012 opening ceremony.

Brown said work on the Olympic Park and Village will provide work for 30,000 people over the next few years, with a peak workforce of 11,000 in 2010. It will also provide 250 new construction apprenticeships over the course of the project, bringing the total number up to 350.

Xinhua

Fruits and vegetables are on display at the International Green Week trade show in Berlin on 16 Jan, 2009. Some 1,600 exhibitors from around the world attended the fair beginning here Friday.—XINHUA

Arab economic unity council proposes to enhance inter-Arab trade

KUWAIT CITY, 17 Jan — Arab Economy Unity Council called on Friday for strengthening efforts to boost bilateral trade exchange and free trade in the Arab world.

The council has proposed a programme to develop inter-Arab trade, especially in light of the global economic crisis, in a working paper to be submitted to the Arab Economic, Development and Social Summit scheduled to be held in Kuwait on 19-20 Jan, said Kuwait's official news agency KUNA.

The proposed programme aims to raise the proportion of inter-Arab trade in the total foreign trade of Arab states from 11.4 percent to 20 percent in five years, which requires a remarkable increase in the size and value of inter-Arab

trade equivalent of 7.5 billion U.S dollars, said the report.

The council also made it clear in the programme that the trade gap in the various Arab commodities and goods estimated to be around 93 billion dollars

annually. The council said some Arab countries are witnessing a surplus in some of their goods while others experience a deficit in the same goods, stressing importance on a better Arab coordination to address this issue.—Xinhua



A shopkeeper lays out scarfs printed with photos of US President-elect Barack Obama in downtown Nairobi on 15 Jan, 2009. — XINHUA

Ghana’s Vice President reiterates commitment to one-China policy

LAGOS, 17 Jan — Ghana will continue adhering to the one-China policy, the west African country’s Vice President John Dramani Mahama has said in Accra while meeting Chinese Ambassador Yu Wenzhe.

Mahama made the remarks on Thursday when the Chinese ambassador to Ghana paid a visit to greet his victory as vice president of Ghana in the general election held last December. Mahama said his country would work side by side with China to boost bilateral relationship

and promote political and economic ties between the two countries.

The vice president thanked Chinese President Hu Jintao and Vice President Xi Jinping for their congratulatory messages to President John Atta Mills and himself.

He lauded the “very close” Ghana-China relations and commended China's support to Ghana in the past 20 years, and recounted the long lasting relationship between the two countries. Mahama also commended the Chinese government for

supporting the construction of some important projects like the National Theater, the Afife Rice project in the Volta Region, and the Bui Dam.

For his part, Ambassador Yu lauded the vice president and commended Ghanaians for conducting a smooth election, a feat the whole world had acknowledged. He said China was happy with the progress the nation was making to ensure social, educational and economic well-being of the people.

Xinhua



Japan remains China’s 3rd largest trade partner

BEIJING, 17 Jan — Sino-Japanese trade amounted to 246.2 billion US dollars in the first 11 months of 2008, a growth of 15.2 percent on the same period of 2007, the General Administration of Customs said on Saturday.

The figure accounted for 10.4 percent of China's total external trade for the Jan-Nov period of 2008, continuing to rank Japan third among China's trade partners.

Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

UNIFIL, Lebanese, Israeli army representatives met in S Lebanon

BEIRUT, 17 Jan — A meeting took place Friday at the headquarters of UN Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in south Lebanon, which gathered UNIFIL commander Gen Claudio Graziano, and representatives from the Lebanese and Israeli armies, Lebanese security sources said.

The discussions focused on the recent incidents which took place along the Lebanese-Israeli border areas, and the presence of Israeli forces in parts of the Lebanese Gajar town.

Katyusha rockets were launched Wednesday from south Lebanon into northern Israel prompting an Israeli retaliation. Meanwhile, the Lebanese army and UNIFIL troops in past two days reinforced security and military measures in south Lebanon to ensure stability in the region.—Xinhua

Israeli cabinet to decide on Egyptian proposal for Gaza ceasefire

JERUSALEM, 17 Jan — Israeli cabinet will convene on Saturday to decide on the Egyptian proposal for a ceasefire in warring Gaza Strip, an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman told Xinhua Friday evening.

According to Yigal Palmor, the spokesman, on Saturday, Israeli cabinet will examine the result of negotiations in Cairo with Egyptian officials.

Based on the examination, Israeli cabinet will decide whether to continue the negotiations or accept the Egyptian proposal as it is, said Palmor.

Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) released a statement, saying that “Significant progress was made during talks Israeli officials held with the Egyptian intelligence chief.”

Xinhua

Yangon Division Secure and Smooth Transport Supervisory Committee meets

YANGON, 17 Jan — The coordination meeting of Yangon Division Secure and Smooth Transport Supervisory Committee was held at the meeting hall of All-Bus Lines Control Committee (Head Office) in Tamway Township here yesterday afternoon with an address by Chairman of the supervisory committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint.

After hearing reports on matters related to universities ferries, traffic rules enforcement and measures being taken for convenience of passengers, the commander attended to the needs. The meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by the commander.

At Thingangyun Township Executive Officer's Office of DAC, the commander heard reports on outbreak of DHF, preventive measures against the disease, proper flow of water and sanitation works being carried out in the township and division presented by the head of Yangon Division Health Department and officials and gave necessary instructions.

Next, the commander and party inspected preventive measures against DHF, spraying of insecticide and sanitation works being carried out by departmental personnel, social organization members and local people and organizing educative talks at No. (13) Basic Education Primary School.

MNA

Myanmar Hajis honoured

YANGON, 17 Jan — Organized by All Myanmar-Muslim Organization, the 19th ceremony to honour Myanmar Hajis was held at Central Hotel here this morning with an address by the chairman of the organization.

Next, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung gave a speech.

Afterwards, a patron of the organization spoke words of praise and chairman of the organizing committee spoke words of thanks.

On behalf of Myanmar Hajis for 2008, a haji of Yangon Division spoke words of thanks.

MNA

Groundnut plantation in Shwegyin, upgrading of road sections on Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay Highway inspected



Maj-Gen Ko Ko views groundnut plants in Myoma Pwelon in Shwegyin Township.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan — Maj-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence together with Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Brig-Gen Hla Min and officials met with servicemen and their families of Shwegyin Station at Myawady Hall of the station and inspected groundnut plantation of farmer U Soe Tint at Myoma Pwelon on 14 January.

Next, Maj-Gen Ko Ko and party looked into progress of building of Toll Gate between mile post Nos (107/4) and (107/5) on Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay Highway and modern devices to be used in the gate, repair of Highway between mile post Nos (132/4) and (132/5) and resurfacing of road sections between mile post Nos (164/4) and (164/5).

MNA

Forestry Minister receives Indian delegation

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan—Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung received a delegation led by Mr. G.L Goenka of Indo Myanmar Chamber of Commerce & Industries from New Delhi, the Republic of India, at his office on 14 January.

MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung receives Mr GL Goenka and party of Indo Myanmar Chamber of Commerce and Industries.—FORESTRY

ILBC science show held

YANGON, 17 Jan—A science show took place at the International Language & Business Centre (ILBC) at 34, Laydaunkan Street in Tamway Township here from 1 pm to 6 pm today.

It was ILBC's third science show in which the works of the research the

students had done the whole previous year were on display for outsider students and parents.

The show comprised 10 booths on physics, 35 booths on chemistry and general science, five booths on zoology, three booths on mathematics, two special booths, and

one booth on geography.

Over 1800 students, whose standards ranges from Primary (1) to Secondary (4), are studying in subjects of Myanmar, English, mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, geography, economics, history, computer, sport and music.—MNA



Parents and students observe Science Show of ILBC.

MNA

Nantsalein creek bridge opened for smooth transport

YANGON, 17 Jan — Nantsalein creek bridge that is situated between Khamti Township and Lahe Township in Sagaing Division was commissioned into service yesterday.

The bridge was opened in the presence of Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Myint Soe, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, departmental officials and local people.

In his speech, the commander urged the local Naga national to put their efforts into development of agriculture and livestock breeding tasks in the region. He also said that local Naga people are to participate in nation building tasks in joining hands with the State, the people and the Tatmadaw.

Col Aung San Chit of the local station and the Superintending Engineer formally opened the bridge, which is the 17th one of above 180-foot bridges in Sagaing Division.

The commander unveiled the stone inscription of the bridge and the ministers sprinkled scented water on it. They later strolled along the bridge. The suspension bridge is 250-foot long and has 10-foot wide motor way. It can withstand 25 tons of load.—MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein addresses annual meeting of fishery associations.—MNA



IBTC Open Golf Championship concludes

YANGON, 17 Jan—The second leg of IBTC Open Golf Championships of Myanmar Golf Tour 2008-2009, organized by Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar P.G.A, mainly sponsored by International Beverages Trading Co Ltd continued its fourth round and prize presenting ceremony at Yedaguntaung Golf Course of Mandalay Township, Mandalay Division, on 14 January.

After the fourth

round, Executive Director U Tint Oo of International Beverages Trading Co Ltd presented Hole-In-One prizes to Than Naing (Srixon) and Aye Ko (Srixon). Executive U Ko Ko Lay of MGF presented prizes to daily best winners at amateur level and Brig-Gen Hla Win also gave prizes to daily best winners at professional golfers level.

Next, Executive Director U Tint Oo presented prizes to Bo Bo who stood first with 284

strokes, Naybala Win Myint second with 285 strokes and Aung Win (Forest) third with 289 strokes in the amateur event.

Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han also gave prizes to Min Naing (Srixon) who stood first with 280 strokes including trophy and cheques, Hla Myo (Srixon), second with 282 strokes and Zaw Zaw Latt (Srixon), third with 284 strokes.

On behalf of the

President of Myanmar Golf Federation, Vice President U Min Thein presented honour prize to Bo Bo who stood first at the amateur level and cheques to Min Naing (Srixon) who stood first at the professional golfers level.

Afterwards, the executive director presented gift and K 1 million and executive of MGF U Chan Han K 1 million to joint secretary U San Maung of MCDC.

MNA

H&T Minister meets hoteliers, hotel staff



Minister Maj-Gen Soe Naing meeting with hoteliers and managers of hotels in Bagan.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Jan — Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing met with hoteliers and managers of hotels in Bagan at Ayeya Hotel in Bagan this morning.

The minister urged those present to make

collaborative efforts for development of hotel and tourism industry in Bagan and pledged that the ministry will attend to the needs. After hearing reports, the minister fulfilled the requirements.

MNA

MFF associations hold annual meeting

YANGON, 17 Jan — The annual meeting of Myanmar Shrimp Entrepreneurs Association, Myanmar Fishery Products Processors and Exporters Association, Eel Entrepreneurs Association, Crab Entrepreneurs Association and Ornamental Fish

Entrepreneurs Association under Myanmar Fisheries Federation was held at Thiri Annawah hall of MFF in Insein Township here this afternoon, attended by Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein.

MFF President U Htay Myint, MSEA Chairman U Hla Maung Shwe, EEA Chairman U Ba Thaw, CEA Chairman U Hnin Oo, OFA Chairman U Lo Kin Hsaing and MFPPEA Chairman U Nyo Min delivered addresses.

Next, annual and financial reports of the associations were read out and approved. The meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by the minister.

MNA



Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han presents prize to winner Min Naing (Srixon).—MGF



Prime Minister General Thein Sein attends opening of Machine and Machine Tools Factory (Myaing). —MNA

Prime Minister attends...

(from page 1)
Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister General Thein Sein said that today is a new day for development of industrial sector of the State and an auspicious day for local people in Pakokku District to gain regional development opportunities.
The government has been making endeavours to transform the nation into a modern developed one through systematic transition since it took office. He said building a nation is not a matter of routine. It is known to all that the government implemented special projects that would really serve the interest of the people. He said cost of the projects was huge and the task was also great. Continuing, he said, the government laid down basic foundations in the interest of the nation and its people in accord with the correct objectives.
At the same time, he said priority was given to national solidarity essential for the State. With the national solidarity, peace and stability has been restored. The government carried out 24-special regions project, bor-

der area development projects and rural development projects with the aim of achieving better economic foundations, enhancing life expectancy of the people enjoying good health and promoting education standard.
Establishment of essential foundations in every sector means for better legacy of the posterity. That is why the government is working day and night with the intention of development of the nation and its people and it is undertaking the projects effectively with the concepts of development of the Union, raising the standard of living of the people and serving the interest of the posterity, he added.
He said the government is making endeavours to narrow development gap among the regions in the Union and to achieve equitable development in all regions.
Despite a lot of difficulties, considerable achievements have been made nationwide. In the country dams, roads, railroads, bridges across rivers, hydropower stations, factories and workshops have

emerged one after another. Universities and colleges that will produce human resources and hospitals that provide health care services have been opened. The people now enjoy fruits of development, he added.
The Prime Minister said **priority is being given to the regions where there are a lot of requirements after the Head of State has undertaken the general reviews on the country. The government is making efforts not for winning gratitude and show but for the development of its own nation and its people. All the tasks the government is implementing are for development of local people, for alleviation of poverty and for promotion of social life of the people.**
Local people in Pakokku can now witness the development of their region. This is due to the Head of State's genuine goodwill towards all the region. Pakokku District including Myaing Township is in Magway Division and it is an important region on the west bank of the Ayeyawady River. Therefore, arrangements are being made to become Pakokku a major city on the west bank of the Ayeyawady River. Pakokku region has

developed in a short time for the government is making strenuous efforts for development of that region while implementing the 24-special region projects.
The government has spent a large sums of money on agriculture as it is the major occupation of the majority of rural people. Before 1988, there was no availability of water such as dams, lakes, embankment, river water pumping stations and underground water tapping station. Under the Tatmadaw government, 38 irrigation networks have been built, two under construction, 11 river water pumping stations and three under construction and 460 wells since 1988. They benefited 43,837 acres of cultivable areas and crops production increased.
He said Pakokku region needs no gold but water.

Due to the efforts of the government, cultivation acreage increased up to 130,437 acres of monsoon paddy and 11,117 acres of summer paddy. Arrangements will be made for farmers for their long-term interest.
As construction of basic education schools has been extended in the education sector, the whole Pakokku district now has 19 high schools, 47 middle schools, 194 post-primary schools and 845 primary schools totalling 1105, and this has contributed a lot to the regional education. Moreover, for pursuing higher education, Pakokku University, Technological University (Pakokku), University of Computer Studies (Pakokku) have been opened. Domestic training schools also have been opened for the local

people to learn their professional skills. It is known to all that education opportunities have been created in the region as development of human resources plays an important role in regional development.
For the longevity of the locals, plans have been carried out to improve the health sector. Pakokku district has now seen five hospitals including a 200-bed one and 10 station hospitals installed with modern medical equipment so as to provide good health care for the local people.
As the Ayeyawady river poses a barrier to the Pakokku region, there was not easy access to the parts of the eastern bank. So, two river-crossing bridges were built namely Anawrahta bridge with 5192 feet in length on

The government is making endeavours to narrow development gap among the regions in the Union and to achieve equitable development in all regions.



Production Process of Machine and Machine Tools Factory (Myaing). —MNA

Chauk-Seikpyu road in Chauk Township and Ayeyawady bridge (Magway) with 8989 feet in length on Magway-Minbu road linking the western bank and the eastern bank in Magway Division. Besides, the 4957-foot-long Hsinbyushin bridge across Chindwin river linking Yesagyo and ChaungU was built. As a result, the regions on the western bank including Pakokku district can link those on the eastern bank through the three bridges.
(See page 9)

Prime Minister attends...

(from page 8)

For Pakokku region to become the centre of the western bank, the 97 miles and 7 furlongs long Pakokku-Pauk-Tapyin-Kyaukhtu-Mindat road and the 140 miles long Pakokku-Pauk-Htilin-Gangaw road have been constructed. Many 180 feet and above long bridges and small ones including Yaw creek bridge on Seikpyu-Kantwin-Pakokku road and Natho creek bridge on Pakokku-Pauk-Kyaukhtu road have been built in the regions on the west bank of the Ayeyawady. The local people will realize that those bridges will help the local people go to and from the regions of the eastern and western banks.

He continued to say that railroad links are being built in some regions of the west bank of the river where there was no railroad links in the past. Building of Patheingyi-Hinthada-Kyangin railroad that goes to Pakokku is well under way and so is Chaung-U-Pakokku-Gangaw-Kalay railroad section. In aviation sector, jet aircraft can take off and land on newly-built Pakokku airfield. As a result, the people of the remaining regions can have easy transportation through these facilities.

Industrial sector plays a key role in building of a new nation. Therefore, 18 industrial zones and 28 branch zones have been established to boost private sector. Pakokku industrial zone, one of the industrial zones, has developed to a certain degree. In Pakokku district, there were four State-run factories in 1988. Nowadays, there are 12 State-run factories and 578 private-run factories and workshops. The local people can have job opportunities in these factories such as Textile Mill, Printing and Dyeing Plant, Garment Factory, Kyunchaung Fertilizer Plant and Cigarette Factory that contribute to the production of the State. These are glorious development of the region.

Overall, it is apparent that the government is implementing plans for all-round development of the west bank of the river with Pakokku as the heart, and improving the living and working conditions of the

1.5-million population of Pakokku District. Local people are urged to participate in the nation-building tasks in response to the projects the government is implementing for regional development so as to bridge the development gap between one region and another in a short time.

The Machine and Machine Tools Factory (Myaing) has been inaugurated, which will bring honour to the region. The Ministry of Industry-2 launched the factory project in 2006, spending US\$ 21 million. The newly-opened factory will somewhat contribute to the heavy industries of the State as well as to pri-

velopment of agro-based industries, quantitative and qualitative progress of goods, boosting production of new industrial items, manufacturing equipment for industries, and transforming the nation into an industrialized one. The Machine and Machine Tools Factory (Myaing) is established in accordance with the five objectives, so it will soon contribute not only to the industrial development of the State but also to regional development.

Building a modern developed nation calls for reforms in various sectors that are related to the political, economic and social sectors. The government alone is not capable of accomplishing the tasks, so

At any situations, the people are to protect the nation against destructive acts, upholding Our Three Main National Causes for peace and development of the nation.

The government has to show great resilience and tenacity in its bid to ensure equitable development of all parts of the nation. The government is exerting great diligence and mobilizing national unity to surmount a wide range of difficulties and hindrances for development of the motherland and the people. In

and party sprinkled scented water on the signboard and the plaque.

Afterwards, they viewed CNC machines at Machine Shop, CNC machines and CNC Tutor Room at Assembly Shop (2), creation of programme, CNC lathes and ordinary lathes at Mould and Die Macking Shop, machine parts and equipment, stor-

ucts not only for domestic use but also for export and supervise timely completion of the project tasks.

Minister Vice-Admiral Soe Thein presented a scale model of machinery to be manufactured from the factory to the Prime Minister.

Mrs Lisa Li of Sinotech International Corporation Ltd presented a



Prime Minister General Thein Sein unveils stone inscription of Machine and Machine Tools Factory (Myaing).—MNA

vate-owned industries in the states and divisions, so it serves as a foundation for development of the industry sector of the nation.

The government is trying to keep a good balance of development between the State-owned industries and private-owned ones. From 1988 to date, the number of State-owned industries has mounted to 793 from 624 and private-owned industries, to 113,000 from 35,000. This year, the nation has achieved industrial development by 21.2 per cent. The factories in Pakokku including the newly-inaugurated one make substantial contribution toward national development fulfillment of the basic needs of the people, and generate a large number of job opportunities.

Now, the government is in constant pursuance of the four economic objectives for the nation's economic growth. In that case, the Head of State has given guidance on the five objectives for industrial development — work for de-

the people have to do their bit.

In recognition of the goodwill the government has demonstrated in building basic foundations for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation, the people showed their support for the fourth step of the State's seven-step Road Map "State constitution (draft)" in May 2008 by casting approving votes accounting for 92.48 per cent. As the fifth step, "multiparty democracy general elections" will be held in 2010. Certain foreign countries and internal anti-government groups are committing a variety of disruptions as they do not try to understand the prevailing conditions of the nation. However, the State's goal is coming into shape gradually. Therefore, at any situations, the people are to protect the nation against destructive acts, upholding Our Three Main National Causes for peace and development of the nation.

the meantime, the nation, the people and the Tatmadaw are working hard together. That is the factor for sustainable progress. In conclusion, the Prime Minister called for continued cooperation of the nation, the people and the Tatmadaw for greater development of the nation and regional development in accordance with the motto, "the strength of the nation lies within".

U Saw Tun, a local, spoke words of thanks.

The Prime Minister and party cordially greeted those present at the ceremony.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Soe, Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein and Chairman of Magway Division PDC Col Phone Maw Shwe cut the ribbon to open the factory.

The Prime Minister and party posed for documentary photos in front of the archway of the factory. Next, the Prime Minister unveiled the signboard and plaque of the factory.

The Prime Minister

age and issuing of raw materials at Ware House, functions of Foundry Shop and Heat Treatment Shop.

Before the opening ceremony, Minister Vice-Admiral Soe Thein reported to the Prime Minister on implementing of Machine and Machine Tools Factory (Myaing) for fulfillment of industries and manufacturing of new machinery items in accord with the guidance of the Head of State, signing of the agreement between Sinotech International Corporation Ltd and Myanma Machine and Machine Tools Industries, aims and investments of the factory, technological designs, location of the factory, supply of power and water and arrangements for manufacturing of machinery to supply the demand of market.

After hearing the reports, the Prime Minister instructed officials to distribute quality machinery for use of the people, strive for production of import-substitute machinery, manufacture quality prod-

scale model of crystal yacht to the Prime Minister.

Machine and Machine Tools Factory (Myaing) is located on right side of mile posts 4/0 and 7/0 on Myaing-Kamma Road in Myaing Township.

The factory will manufacture CNC Lathe (ML 258), CNC Lathe (ML-260), Semi CNC Lathe (DL-660), Heavy Duty Precision Lathe (HG-720), Plate Rolling Machine (HR-0613), Bed Type Vertical & Horizontal Milling Machine (JY-H 480), Plano Milling Machine (CI 900x2500), Radial Drilling Machine (TF-11005), Radial Drilling Machine (TF-1700H), Universal Cylindrical Grinding Machine (G 27-55 AGC) and Precision Surface Grinding Machine (C&Y 50-100 AHR). Moreover, the factory will produce machinery and machines under the orders of government departments and private entrepreneurs.

MNA

Kayan Creek Water Pumping Project in Thanlyin Township

Article: Tin Htwe (MNA); Photos: WRUD

(from page 16)

Kayan Creek Water Pumping Project pumps water as high as 26 feet. It has one platform to pump water. On completion, it will have a waterworks, a fixed type water pumping system, the 13,000 feet long right main canal, the 18,000 feet long left main canal, tributary canals stretching 42,000 feet in total, and 260 canal structures.

The water pumping station will be installed with five 185 KW 40 Cusec Pumps, six miles of 33 KV power lines, and five 180-foot-long 30-diameter steel pipelines from the filtering tank to still tank.

Kayan Creek Water Pumping Station is located at the site, six miles from Kalawe Village near Dagon Bridge linking Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township and



Staff Officer U Min Min Zaw (Civil), Project In-charge.

Thanlyin Township. The project is due to be completed by 2010-2011 fiscal year. On completion, it will be able to irrigate about 5000 acres of farmlands of seven surrounding villages—2070 acres

of Yonethabyekan Village, 100 acres of Bagandaung Village, 900 acres of Mingalun Village, 1300 acres of Bawt Thabyegan Village, 300 acres of Nyaunglebin Village, 1300 acres of Kalawe

Village, and 200 acres of Ngabyema Village.

The station is under construction with the green light given at the meeting No (1/2006) of the Special Projects Implementation Committee. It is designed to benefit 5000 of the 30,000 irrigated acres of the Kayan Sluice Gate constructed by the Irrigation Department.

The Kayan Creek rises in Kayan Township

and empties itself into the Bago River. Before Kayan Sluice Gate was constructed, water from the creek could not be used for the agricultural purpose due to seawater entering the crop fields. Thanks to the facility, seawater is prevented from entering farmlands in summer, and water in the creek from flowing into the river.

The project is in-

Water Pumping Project said, "Up to now, paddy cannot be grown yet here. On completion of the project, farmers will be able to grow cold season crops in addition to monsoon and summer paddy, so they can apply triple cropping pattern a year then, and they can earn more money. Moreover, the project will contribute to supply of clean water."



A canal for the filtering lake at Kayan Creek Water Pumping Project.



Kayan Creek that originates in Kayan Township flows into Bago River.

tended to pump water in the Kayan Creek blocked by the sluice gate to the arable lands, so the two projects are interrelated with each other.

Now, the Irrigation Department is planning to pump water from Moeyungyi Lake into the Kayan Creek at the rate of 1500 cubic feet per second. When the project shows successful, many more acres can be added to the irrigated areas of the Kayan Creek Water Pumping Project.

Regarding the programme, U Min Min Zaw (Staff Officer, Civil) in-charge of the Kayan Creek

Notwithstanding being situated near the Bago River, some villages in Thanlyin Township, Yangon South District, get seawater only, and water for drinking and irrigation is scarce in summer, let alone growing summer paddy. Local people thus have to dig small lakes for freshwater.

The Kayan Creek Water Pumping Project will soon provide irrigation water to farmlands and clean water to local people.

Translation: MS
Myanma Alin:
16-1-2009



Social and Culture Working Group organizes educative talks

YANGON, 17 Jan—The Social and Culture Working Group and the Education and Culture

Dr Daw Sanda Aung speaks at educative talks in Yangon Institute of Education.

MNA

Sub-Working Group of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation jointly organized the educative talks at the hall of Yangon Institute of Education yesterday morning.

Head of the Working Group Dr Daw Sanda Aung gave a speech.

Retired Professor Dr Khin Aye of Myanmar

Department of Yangon University gave talks on preservation of Myanmar culture and retired Professor Dr Daw Htoo Htoo Aung of Yangon Institute of Education, quality of education.

Later, Pro-Rector Dr Daw Lwin Lwin Soe of YIE spoke words of thanks.—MNA

US consumer prices fall for 3rd straight month in Dec

WASHINGTON, 17 Jan — Consumer prices in the United States tumbled 0.7 percent in December, the third straight monthly fall, as energy prices continued to decline, the Labor Department reported on Friday. The fall followed steeper falls of 1.7 percent in November and 1.0 percent in October but was

slightly smaller than the 0.9 percent decline economists had expected for the month. For December, energy prices decreased 8.3 percent, compared with a 17 percent plunge in November, marking the fifth consecutive monthly decline in energy costs. The back-to-back retreat came after energy costs recorded big advances in May, June and July. Meanwhile, food costs edged down 0.1 percent in December after having risen by 0.2 percent in the previous month. “Core” consumer prices, which exclude volatile energy and food costs, was flat in December, the same as in November.

Internet

Acrobats from the Xinjiang Acrobatics Troupe perform during the big acrobatic show “Hello, Atainde” in Urumqi, capital of northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on 15 Jan, 2009.—XINHUA



Russia plans Navy bases in Libya, Syria, Yemen

MOSCOW, 17 Jan — Russia has decided to establish naval bases in Libya, Syria and Yemen within a few years, ITAR-TASS news agency quoted military officials as saying on Friday, in a sign of Moscow’s growing foreign policy ambitions. “It is difficult to say how much time it will take to create the bases for our fleet in these countries, but within a few years this will be done without question,” a military official was quoted as saying. “The political

decision on this question has been taken,” the official said. A spokesman for the Russian Navy could not immediately be reached for comment. A senior general said it was too early to name any foreign ports that could host Russian bases. “There are negotiations conducted with foreign governments. Such publications (on bases) may have a negative effect on the way of these talks,” ITAR-TASS quoted the Russian Army’s deputy chief of staff, Colonel-

General Anatoly Nogovitsyn, as saying. The Kremlin is seeking to play a more assertive role in world politics and has been using its military to project its new-found confidence beyond its borders. Analysts have said that the Syrian port of Tartus could be revived as a Russian naval base. During the Cold War, the Soviet Navy had a permanent presence in the Mediterranean, using Tartus as a supply point.

MNA/Reuters

24,000 gallons of oil spill on North Slope

ANCHORAGE, 17 Jan — The Alaskan tundra appears to have been spared ecological harm from a 24,000-gallon spill of crude oil at the BP Milne Point field, a state official says.

The spill was the sixth-largest ever on the North Slope, the Anchorage (Alaska) Daily News reported. It was the biggest since a record 201,000-gallon spill, also involving BP, at Prudhoe Bay in 2006.

Steven Rinehart, a BP spokesman, said automated flow controls failed Monday in a tank, sending crude oil into a containment pond and then to a frozen pad of gravel. He said an alarm sounded immediately and workers were able to stop the flow within 20 minutes. “We are very interested in finding out what happened to this device,” Rinehart said. “We take any incident like this seriously.” Ed Meggert, coordinator at the site for the state Department of Environmental Conservation, said a cleanup crew was removing gravel from the pad to determine how deep the oil seeped.—Internet

Sleep eight hours a night keeps cold away

If you sleep short of seven hours a night, you’re three times more likely to catch a cold. And if you sleep poorly, you’re five times more susceptible to one as well.

A new study in the Archives of Internal Medicine shows Monday that anything less than seven to eight hours of solid sleep can lower your resistance to the common cold virus.

“Participants were interviewed daily over a two-week period, reporting how many hours they slept per night, what percentage of their time in bed was spent asleep (sleep efficiency) and



A new study in the Archives of Internal Medicine shows Monday that anything less than seven to eight hours of solid sleep can lower your resistance to the common cold virus.

whether they felt rested,” said the study by Sheldon Cohen and colleagues at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Bugs —“the lion of” Antarctica

Lurking among rocks on the Antarctic Peninsula, the most aggressive land predator on the frozen continent on the prowl for microscopic prey is a fearsome reddish bug, according to the British Antarctic Survey as quoted by media reports.

Scientists are stepping up their study of these tiny creatures. The continent is best known for penguins, seals and whales who but all rely on the sea for food, unlike its Lilliputian land-based creatures.

Australian surfer saves cousin by punching shark’s nose

An Australian surfer dragged his 13-year-old cousin out of the jaws of a Great White shark after punching it on the nose, said media reports.

Horried Syb Mundy, 33, saw screaming Hannah Mighall dragged under the water after the five-metre shark bit a chunk out of her surfboard and seized one of her legs. Syb, who was surfing off the coast of Tasmania, said, “The shark was thrashing her around like a rag doll. I can remember seeing its head come out of the water and I was going to try and poke it in the eye if I could get close enough.”



A surfboard which a bite taken out of it by a shark in Binalong Bay, near St Helens, Tasmania is seen in this hand-out obtained. An Australian surfer punched a five-metre (16-ft) shark in the head as he rescued his 13-year-old cousin who had been bitten on the leg and dragged beneath the water, local media reported.

Open-plan office workers sick and stressed

Open-plan offices are making people sick, with workers more likely to suffer stress, catch a cold and be less productive, Australian researchers have found.

A review of global studies into the impact of modern office design found the switch to open-plan spaces had been overwhelmingly negative, with 90 percent reporting adverse health and psychological effects.

High levels of stress and conflict, elevated blood pressure, and rapid staff turnover were associated with open-plan environments, according to review au-



Open-plan offices are making people sick, with workers more likely to suffer stress, catch a cold and be less productive, Australian researchers have found. A review of global studies into the impact of modern office design found the switch to open-plan spaces had been overwhelmingly negative, with 90 percent reporting adverse health and psychological effects.

thor Vinesh Oommen.

“Employees face a multitude of problems such as the loss of privacy, loss of identity, low work productivity, various health issues, overstimula-

tion and low job satisfaction when working in an open plan work environment,” Oommen wrote in the latest Asia-Pacific Journal of Health Management.

NEWS ALBUM



People enjoy a sunny day on an artificial beach in Buenos Aires, on 15 Jan , 2009. Two artificial beaches were inaugurated in Buenos Aires on Thursday, freeing Buenos Aires people from the trouble of travelling hundreds of kilometers to the seaside in order to enjoy beach leisure.—XINHUA

FDA warns of lidocaine risk

WASHINGTON, 17 Jan — The US Food and Drug Administration is warning of potentially life-threatening side effects of skin numbing products. The products, known as topical anesthetics contain lidocaine, tetracaine, benzocaine and prilocaine in a cream, ointment or gel. The FDA is concerned the anesthetic drugs, if used improperly, may cause life-threatening side effects, such as irregular heartbeat, seizures, breathing difficulties, coma or even death. The agency said two women died using topical anesthetics before laser hair removal. When skin temperature

increases, the amount of anesthetic reaching the blood steam is unpredictable, the FDA said on Friday. The agency is advising consumers not to apply heavy amounts of topical anesthetic to large areas of skin and to avoid wrapping the treated skin with plastic wrap or applying heat from a heating pad to treated areas. “When skin temperature increases, the amount of anesthetic reaching the blood stream is unpredictable and the risk of life-threatening side effects increases with greater amounts of lidocaine in the blood,” the FDA said in a statement. Internet

Both engines missing from fallen plane in Hudson

NEW YORK, 17 Jan — Both engines of the plane that made a splash landing on Hudson River on Thursday are still missing, according to an investigator. Kitty Higgins, member of the National Transportation Safety Board, told a press briefing that police divers were combing the Hudson River with sonar to find the missing engines, which apparently broke off the plane after hitting the water. The press briefing was conducted on Friday afternoon after initial investigation into the crash of a US Airways Airbus A-320 into the Hudson River. The type of engine on the Airbus 320 is designed to withstand a4-pound bird strike, which is fairly typical for commercial airliners and their engines. Internet

Nepal reports first H5N1 bird flu outbreak

KATHMANDU, 17 Jan — Nepal said on Friday it had found the H5N1 bird flu in poultry, the first time the deadly virus has surfaced in the Himalayan nation, prompting culling operations in the country's southeast. "The virus has been found in chicken and ducks. We have confirmed it is H5N1 virus," Agriculture Minister Jai Prakash Prasad Gupta told Reuters. Bird flu was reported in poultry from the crowded southeast Nepal town of Kakarvitta, bordering India, officials said. "We have declared that area

crisis-hit," said Krishna Bahadur Mahara, Minister for Communication and Information. The epicentre of the outbreak is close to India's West Bengal state which has been fighting to contain intermittent outbreaks of the virus in poultry since last year. Hari Dahal, a Nepali Agriculture Ministry spokesman, said no bird flu symptoms had been noticed among people in the affected area. He said the virus could have come from India. MNA/Reuters

Toyota to halve domestic output, suspends production

TOKYO, 17 Jan — Toyota Motor Corp suspended operations at 11 of its 12 domestic factories on Saturday and aimed to halve domestic production from February to April from a year earlier to correspond to global economic recession, local media reported. Toyota set the production target for the period at about 9,000 units per operating day and will suspend operations for a total of14 days between January and March, Kyodo News reported on Saturday.

Toyota’s domestic output for 2008 averaged about 20,000 units per day. Late last year, the company had set the production level for the January-March period at 12,000 units per day but apparently decided to reduce the level from February due to the worse-than-projected deterioration in terms of new car sales. The scale of suspension is unparalleled for Toyota. It suspended production in August 1993 at all its domestic plants for one day to deal with the

yen’s rapid appreciation against the dollar that cut into its earnings. In January, Toyota will stop operations at 11 of the 12 factories for three days — 24 Jan and 30 Jan in addition to Saturday. In February and March, the carmaker will suspend operations at all of the 12 factories for 11 days. Toyota’s three manufacturing subsidiaries — Toyota Motor Hokkaido Inc, Toyota Motor Tohoku Corp and Toyota Motor Kyushu Inc. — will also suspend operations during January and March in line with the move by the parent.

Wild boar sends hunters to emergency room

BEIJING, 17 Jan — Two villagers hunting a boar became the prey when the 100-kg animal attacked them in Pingjiang county, Hunan Province. Zhu Yuxi, 45, and Li Qingan, 58, were rushed to the hospital where doctors conducted emergency surgeries. They suffered massive hemorrhage after their legs were bitten by the wild boar, which escaped. Both are expected to recover fully.—Internet

Internet



Israeli police officers walk behind the remains of a rocket fired by Palestinian militants in Gaza after it landed near the port city of Ashdod on 16 Jan, 2009.—INTERNET

Model may explain body weight regulation

BOSTON, 17 Jan — A mathematical model may better explain how the body regulates weight — and why it is so hard to lose weight, US researchers said. “There are problems with both of the current hypotheses for how the body balances energy intake and expenditure to maintain a stable weight,” lead author Joshua Tam, a doctoral student at the Massachusetts General Hospital, said in a statement. The study, published in Cell Metabolism, outlines a system in which there may be several

steady states to which an animal’s weight tends to gravitate, rather than a single “set point.” The well-known tendency for body weight to remain stable despite changes in diet or energy expenditure — observed in both humans and other mammals — led to the development of the “set-point” hypothesis, which holds that an individual’s metabolism acts to oppose changes to a physiologically predetermined body weight. However, opponents of the theory argue that a natural set-point would prevent the devel-

opment of obesity in the first place. They say the body’s weight “settling point” is determined solely by environmental factors, such as the availability of food, along with physical activity and other behavioral factors. Opposing the settling point theory are study results showing that, if given access only to low-calorie foods, some animals will maintain their weight by increasing the amount of food they consume, supporting a tendency to return to an established weight.—Internet

Protein may aid breast cancer growth

MONTREAL, 17 Jan — Canadian researchers say they have identified a protein that may play a critical role in breast cancer cell growth.

The study, published in the Journal of Biological Chemistry, says the protein — known as ARF1 — is also involved in the spread of tumors.

“Until now, ARF1 has been associated with harmless albeit important housekeeping duties of cells,” senior study author Audrey Claing of the University of Montreal says in a statement. “The University of Montreal

and the University of Alberta team is the first to characterize the role of ARF1 in breast cancer.”

Claing and colleagues used invasive breast cancer cell lines to study ARF1’s role. These cells are sensitive to a particular growth factor, called epidermal growth factor, which has been shown to stimulate tumor growth and invasion.

The researchers suggest epidermal growth factor works through ARF1 in these cells. In addition, when ARF1 activity was chemically blocked, breast cancer

cell migration and growth was reduced. Conversely, when ARF1 was overproduced in these cells, their movement was enhanced.

“Taken together our findings reveal an unsuspected role for ARF1 and indicate that this small protein may be a potential therapeutic target for the treatment of invasive breast cancers,” Claing said.—*Internet*

An Arabian baboon baby plays with its keeper

Inkeller Judit in the Pecs Zoo, southern Hungary, on 13 Jan, 2009.

The one-month-old baboon baby was abandoned by its mother after birth.

XINHUA



Lunar rover to travel inaugural parade route

WASHINGTON, 17 Jan — A prototype of NASA’s Lunar Electric Rover will make the journey along Washington’s Pennsylvania Avenue Tuesday in honor of Barack Obama’s presidential inauguration, the space agency said Friday.

The pickup truck-sized vehicle, which is equipped with beds and a toilet, can accommodate two astronauts for a fortnight for extended lunar explorations.

To be able to cover the moon’s rugged terrain, the electric-motored vehicle can also move in any direction — even sideways, like a crab.

Its versatility may not be as useful on 20 January, but it will have a good view of the elite guests, dignitaries and Washington insiders that will line the inaugural parade route, as Obama moves from the swearing-in ceremony at the Capitol to his new residence at the White

House.

Unless the Obama administration makes changes to current plans, US astronauts are set to return to the moon before 2020 under the Constellation programme, with the aim of establishing permanent lunar bases.

The visit is widely considered to be the first step towards further exploring the solar system, including an eventual colonization of Mars.

Internet



A girl smiles as she touches a snowman at the annual Kanda Snowman Festival in Tokyo on 17 Jan, 2009. About 70 tonnes of snow was brought from the mountainous Gunma Prefecture and about 100,000 visitors were expected to attend the three-day event.—INTERNET

Hepatitis C may up pancreatic cancer risk

HOUSTON, 17 Jan — Infection with hepatitis C increases a person’s risk for cancer of the biliary tree, the bile pathway from the liver and pancreas, US researchers said.

To better understand the associations between hepatitis C and cancer, study leader Hashem El-Serag of Baylor College of Medicine conducted a

retrospective cohort study of more than 718,000 US veterans who were treated at Veterans Affairs medical facilities from 1 Oct, 1988, to 30 Sept, 2004. Among the veterans, 146,394 were infected with hepatitis C and 572,293 were not. Uninfected subjects were matched to infected ones by sex, age and type and date of visit.—*Internet*

Understanding why aging bones heal less

ROCHESTER, 17 Jan — US researchers said they have unraveled crucial details on how aging causes broken bones to heal slowly — or not at all.

In animal studies, published in the Journal of Bone and Mineral Research, found levels of the enzyme cyclooxygenase 2 drop dramatically with age and confirmed healing ability lost with age can be rescued by manipulating the cyclooxygenase 2 pathway.

“The skeleton loses the ability to repair itself as we age,” study corresponding author Dr Regis O’Keefe of the University of Rochester Medical Center said in a statement. “Our results position the cyclooxygenase 2 pathway as one of several under exploration with the common goal of accelerating healing in aging humans, and with the potential to come together in future combination therapies.”—*Internet*

Giant crocodile spooks park employees

DARWIN, 17 Jan — An Australian park ranger and his girlfriend, a park surveillance officer, say a giant crocodile butted their dinghy in a marshy area in Kakadu Park.

The crocodile, which they estimated as close to 20 feet long, then stuck its head out of the water Tuesday and gave them a long look, Matt Dunley and Sarah Bentley told *The Australian*. They immediately abandoned their fishing trip.

The couple and Bentley’s sister, Megan, were on a tributary of the Alligator River.

“I heard this big whack under the boat,” Dunn

said. “I looked down and saw this big croc head right next to the boat. It pulled its head back and went whack, whack, twice on the side of the boat. And it came up the side of the boat, with its mouth open and glared at us.”

Rangers searched fruitlessly for the crocodile Wednesday.

“I know that croc,” Dunn said. “He’s been there since last year. Last year, as more people were fishing that creek, he got cheekier and cheekier, but this is the first time he’s ever done that. It makes you realize you’re not the top of the food chain.”—*Internet*

Three million hit by Windows worm

LONDON, 17 Jan — A worm that spreads through low security networks, memory sticks, and PCs without the latest security updates is posing a growing threat to users.

The malicious programme, known as Conficker, Downadup, or Kido was first discovered in October 2008. Although Microsoft released a patch, it has gone on to infect 3.5m machines.

Experts warn this figure could be far higher and say users should have up-to-date anti-virus software and install Microsoft’s MS08-067 patch. According to Microsoft, the worm works by searching for a Windows executable file called “services.exe” and then becomes part of that code.

It then copies itself into the Windows system folder as a random file of a type known as a “dll”. It gives itself a 5-8 character name, such as piftoc.dll, and then modifies the Registry, which lists key Windows settings, to run the infected dll file as a service.

Once the worm is up and running, it creates an HTTP server, resets a machine’s System Restore point (making



The worm can also spread via USB flash drives.—INTERNET

it far harder to recover the infected system) and then downloads files from the hacker’s web site.

Most malware uses one of a handful of sites to download files from, making them fairly easy to locate, target, and shut down. But Conficker does things differently.

Anti-virus firm F-Secure says that the worm uses a complicated algorithm to generate hundreds of different domain names every day, such as mphtfrxs.net, imctaeef.cc, and hcweu.org. Only one of these will actually be the site used to download the hackers’ files. On the face of it, tracing this one site is almost impossible. —*Internet*

SPORTS

Scolari ready to sell unhappy Chelsea stars



Luiz Felipe Scolari

LONDON, 17 Jan — Luiz Felipe Scolari is ready to sell any player unhappy with life at Chelsea as the Blues boss tries to revive the club’s flagging spirits.

Scolari is fed up of hearing complaints from several of his stars about tactics and team selection and then watching those same players produce lacklustre displays. The Brazilian believes some members of his squad have been unsettled by interest from other clubs and he is determined to clear out the disaffected before the transfer window closes.

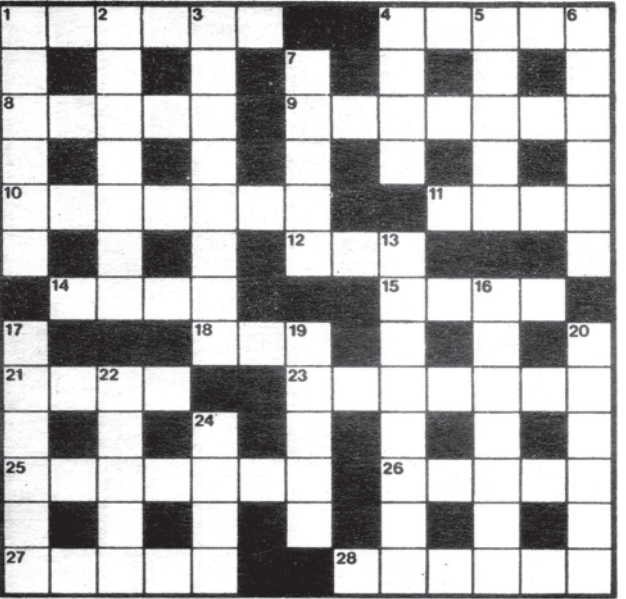
Didier Drogba, Nicolas Anelka, Ricardo Carvalho, John Terry and Frank Lampard have all reportedly had disagreements with Scolari in recent weeks as the pressure of the team’s spluttering form begins to tell.

Internet



Spanish tennis player Rafael Nadal is seen here during a practice session in Melbourne, on 17 January. INTERNET

CROSSWORDS PUZZLE



- ACROSS
- 1 Quarter

4 Commit to paper

8 Alternate

9 Disembarking

10 Feat of daring

11 Knock unconscious

12 Edge of dress

14 Affirmative voters

15 Motor car

18 Tree

21 Competent

23 Survive

25 Monastic hairstyle

26 Thrust forward

27 Line of hills

28 Talking bird
- DOWN
- 1 Blossom

2 Sad

3 Terrapin

4 Slender rod

5 Madman

6 Motor

7 Fabric

13 Iberian headgear

16 Coach

17 Swap goods

19 Customs

20 Give evidence

22 Flaxen cloth

24 Unsullied

Newcastle offer Kinnear extended deal



Joe Kinnear, claims he has been offered the chance to carry on as Newcastle’s manager beyond the end of the season on what he described as “very lucrative” terms.—INTERNET

NEWCASTLE, 17 Jan—Joe Kinnear claims he has been offered the chance to carry on as Newcastle’s manager beyond the end of the season on what he described as “very lucrative” terms.

Kinnear was expected to be only an interim appointment when he arrived at St James’ Park in September in the aftermath of Kevin Keegan’s acrimonious departure from the manager’s seat.

But his first short-term contract was extended until the end of the season and the 62-year-old, who has led Newcastle out of the relegation zone, is now set to agree a longer deal with owner Mike Ashley, who has abandoned his plan to sell the club.

“I know what my own future is. I’m just mulling over things in my head at the moment. I have been offered a very lucrative contract,” Kinnear said on Friday.—Internet

Nadal, Murray back call to move Aussie Open

MELBOURNE, 17 Jan—World number one Rafael Nadal and Britain’s Andy Murray backed calls to hold the Australian Open in February as support for the move gathered pace.

The two were speaking after Roger Federer, the world number two and ATP Players Council president, said he would raise the suggestion with new tour chief Adam Helfant.

Nadal said he believed most players would prefer a longer build-up to the Open, which starts on Monday just two weeks into the new season.

“It’s a very good option, yeah. I would love to have the first Grand Slam of the season a little bit later,” he said.

“I can’t talk for rest of the players, but I think the feeling for everybody is the same: you start the season and after one week you are playing one of the most important tournaments of the season.—Internet

Pompey in bid for Pennant

LONDON, 17 Jan—Liverpool have accepted an undisclosed bid for out-of-favour Jermaine Pennant from Portsmouth but the



Liverpool have accepted an undisclosed bid for out-of-favour winger Jermaine Pennant, from Portsmouth.—INTERNET

former Arsenal and Birmingham winger is reluctant to move to the south coast. Pennant, who cost Liverpool 6.7 million pounds when he joined them from Birmingham in 2006, has also attracted interest from Real Madrid and AC Milan. But he insists that he wants to stay at Liverpool.

“My preference is to stay at Liverpool and I am still hoping to do so,” he said.” There has been a lot of speculation about my future but I have always maintained my position of wanting to stay at the club.”I am happy to compete for my place and hope I am given the chance to do so.”—Internet

BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE			
(17.1.2009)			
Blackburn	3 – 0	Newcastle	
Bolton	0 – 1	Man Utd	
Chelsea	2 – 1	Stoke City	
Hull City	1 – 3	Arsenal	
Manchester City	1 – 0	Wigan Athletic	
Sunderland	1 – 2	Aston Villa	
WBA	3 – 0	Middlesbrough	



Bolton Wanderers’ Kevin Davies (R) challenges Manchester United’s John O’Shea during their English Premier League soccer match in Bolton, northern England, on 17 Jan, 2009.—INTERNET



Chelsea’s Miroslav Stoch (L) challenges Stoke City’s Andy Griffin during their English Premier League soccer match at Stamford Bridge in London on 17 Jan, 2009.—INTERNET

Tennis champ Serena warns her best is yet to come

MELBOURNE, 17 Jan—Serena Williams might have won nine Grand Slams but she has warned that she plans to be around for years to come with her best tennis still ahead.The 27-year-old is angling for a fourth Australian Open title after winning here in 2003, 2005, 2007.

“I feel like I’m trying to improve on my game and get better. You know, I feel like I just want to continue to get better, so I haven’t reached my best yet,” she said.

Only a few select women, including Steffi Graf, Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert, have won more major titles although Williams still has some way to match Margaret Court, who collected 24.But she still has time on her side.

Asked how long she would continue playing, she replied: “Well, hopefully a really long time.”

Internet

Chinese parents of dead child accept compensation

LANZHOU, 17 Jan—The parents of the first child who died after drinking chemically-tainted milk formula in China have been paid by Sanlu Group Co.

Yi Yongsheng and Jiao Hongfang, villagers in Gangu County of northwestern Gansu Province, confirmed with *Xinhua* on Friday that they received 200,000 yuan (29,247 US dollars) from the company Wednesday.

Yi declined to give further details on the compensation. He said he was busy and then hung up the phone.

Their five-month-old son died on May 1, 2008 after suffering from kidney failure caused by the contaminated milk. He was believed to be the first child who died after drinking formula containing the industrial chemical, melamine. By accepting the money from Sanlu, Yi and Jiao gave up their rights to sue the company.—*MNA/Xinhua*



Christof Innerhofer of Italy speeds down in front of the Silverhorn mountain to finish seventh placed in the men's Alpine Skiing World Cup Lauberhorn Downhill race in Wengen on 17 Jan, 2009.—INTERNET

MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (18.1.2009) (Sunday)

Transmission Times

Local Transmission	- (09:00am ~ 10:00am) MST
Abroad Transmission (Europe)	- (15:30pm ~ 23:30pm) MST
Abroad Transmission (North America)	- (23:30pm ~ 07:30am) MST

Local Transmission

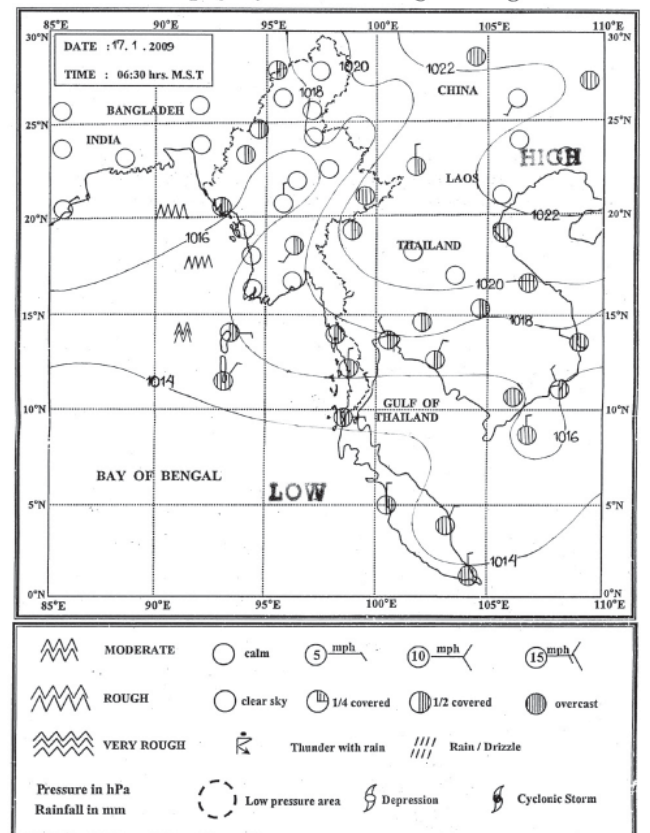
- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- * Pleasant Inkyin Park
- * Travelogue (Inlay)
- * Lucky Bamboo
- * Breeding of Mythun
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Abroad Transmissions

- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- * The Fascinating Oceanography of Myanmar
- * Off-shore Finishing Boat Construction
- * Woods Finishing Industry
- * Leisurely Cruise Along The Coast (Mawlamying to Myeik)
- * Hukaung Valley Rattan Survey (Part II)
- * Innovative Skills of Myanmar Handicrafts (Part I)
- * Myanmar Modern Song
- * Pleasant Inkyin Park
- * Travelogue Inlay
- * Breeding of Mythun
- * Marine Business in Sittway Township
- * Hukaung Valley Rattan Survey (Part III)
- * A Little Village of Kyar Ton
- * Innovative Skills of Myanmar Handicrafts (Part II)
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Saturday, 17 January, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin and Chin States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below January average temperatures in Chin State, upper Sagaing and Ayeyawady Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) below January average temperatures in Kachin State, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) above January average temperatures in Shan State, lower Sagaing and Bago Divisions and about January average temperatures in the remaining State and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Loilem (0°C), Hakha (2°C) and Pinlaung (3°C).

Maximum temperature on 16-1-2009 was 86°F. Minimum temperature on 17-1-2009 was 53°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 17-1-2009 was 65%. Total sunshine hours on 16-1-2009 was (9.6) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 17-1-2009 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 (4) m.p.h from Northeast at (17:30) hours MST on 16-1-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 18th January 2009: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin and Chin States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas.

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 (45) m.p.h. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in the lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 18-1-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 18-1-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 18-1-2009: Generally fair weather.



Sunday, 18 January
View on today

7:00 am

1. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. Nice and sweet song

7:55 am

5. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:10 am

6. “စီးဆင်းပါစေမေတ္တာရည်” (မေကဗျာ၊ ဖူးဖူး) [ဒါရိုက်တာ-ခင်ဇော် (ကုမုဒြာ)]

8:20 am

7. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:30 am

8. International news

8:45 am

9. Musical programme

11:00 am

1. Martial song

11:10 am

2. Musical programme

11:25 am

3. Round up of the week's international news

11:40 am

4. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “အားကိုးချစ်သူကျေးတောသူ” (အပိုင်း-၁၅)

12:20 pm

5. Golf magazine TV

12:40 pm

6. မြန်မာရုပ်ရှင် “ကျွန်တော်နှင့်ကိုဘကျော်” (ကျော်ဆွေကောလိပ်ရှင်နေဝင်း၊ ဇော်ဝမ်းတင်တင်ညို၊ စံရှားတင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ပန်ချီစိုးမိုး)

2:45 pm

7. International news

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:10 pm

2. Dance of national races

4:25 pm

3. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ ဒုတိယနှစ် (ရုက္ခဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ရုက္ခဗေဒ)

4:40 pm

4. Songs to uphold national spirit

4:55 pm

5. Musical programme

5:10 pm

6. “အမျိုးနှင့်မျိုး” (နေမျိုးအောင်၊ မိုးပြည့်ပြည့်မောင်၊ ဧရာ၊ ဝင်းနိုင်(အနုပညာ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဖုန်းမြင့်အောင်)

5:25 pm

7. Sing and enjoy

6:00 pm

8. Evening news

6:30 pm

9. Weather report

6:35 pm

10. ကာတွန်းအစီအစဉ် “Pocket Dragon Adventure”

6:55 pm

11. တစ်မျက်နှာတစ်ကွက်စာ “ဟတ်ချို” (ကွန်းဇော်ထက်၊ ဦးချစ်ဖြိုး၊ မြသင်းမြယ်၊ ဝမ်းပုံကြီး) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-အာယု)

7:15 pm

12. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “သစ္စာနှင့်ယဉ်သောမေတ္တာ” (အပိုင်း-၁၂)

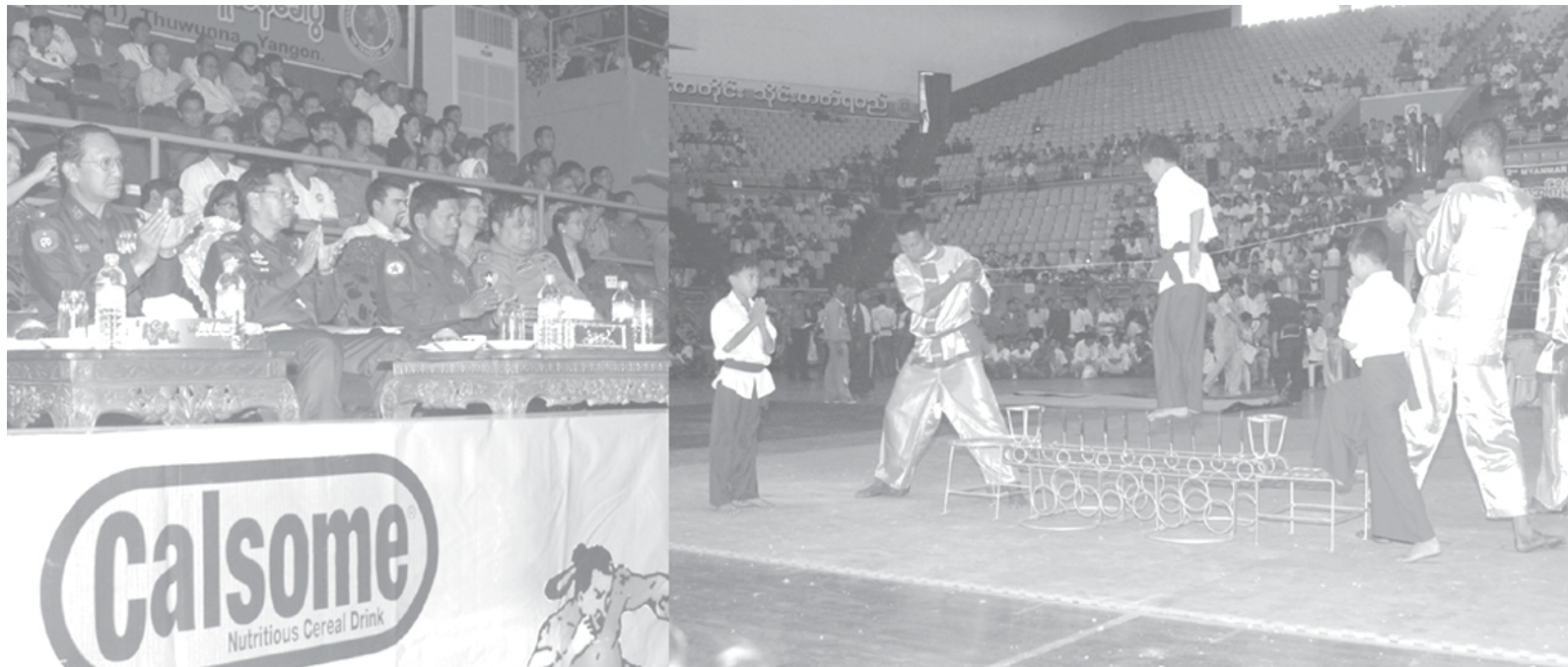
8:00 pm

13. News
14. International news
15. Weather report
16. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ကြမ္မာမုန်တိုင်း” (အပိုင်း-၄)
17. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ အရပ်ဆယ်မျက်နှာမေတ္တာ ဘာဝနာပွားများခြင်းတရားတော်

Lt-Gen Myint Swe attends opening of 2nd Martial Arts Show, 3rd Bando (Attack) and special challenge competitions

YANGON, 17 Jan — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence attended the opening of the 2nd Martial Arts Show and the 3rd Bando (Attack) and special challenge competitions jointly organized by the Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Martial Arts Federation at National Indoor Stadium-1 in Thingangyun Township here this morning.

Present also were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint, Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye



Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence attends the opening of 2nd Martial Arts Show.—MNA

Myint, officials of the ministry, diplomats and military attaches, MMAF President Police Brig-Gen

Than Han and officials, guests, Myanmar traditional martial arts masters, athletes and fans.

First, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint delivered an opening address. Next the minister

and officials greeted athletes.

Later, physical strength demonstration

and Bando special challenge competitions followed.

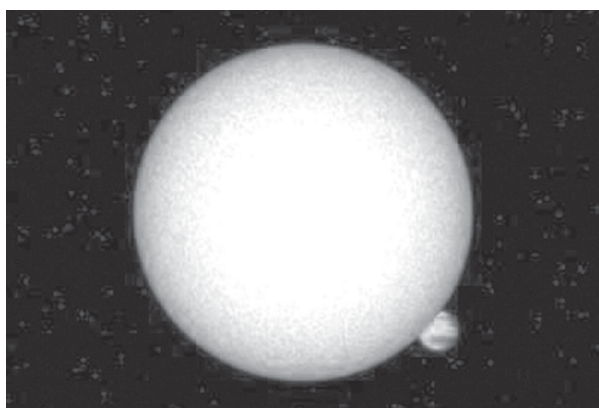
MNA

Exoplanet atmospheres detected from Earth

SCIENCE DAILY, 17 Jan — Two independent groups have simultaneously made the first-ever ground-based detection of extrasolar planets thermal emissions. Until now, virtually everything known about atmospheres of planets orbiting other stars in the Milky Way has come from space-based observations.

These new results open a new frontier to studying these alien worlds and are especially critical because the major space-based workhorse to these studies, the Spitzer telescope, will soon run out of cryogenics, highly limiting its capabilities.

One team of scientists observed a planet named OGLE-TR-56b, which is a "hot Jupiter." Hot Jupiters are massive planets that orbit very close to their stars, whipping around them in 2 to 3 days. Since they are so close to their stars, they are believed to be hot enough to emit radiation in the optical and near-infrared wavelengths and be detectable from Earth. The orbit of OGLE-TR-56b carries it behind its host star from the perspective of an observer on Earth, but a challenge to observing is that the planet is faint and in a crowded field, located in the direction of the center of our galaxy, about 5,000 light years away.—Internet



Kayan Creek Water Pumping Project in Thanlyin Township

As part of the Project for Greening 30-mile Radius of Yangon, Kayan Sluice Gate in Thanlyin Township, Yangon South District, was constructed, and Kayan Creek Water Pumping Project was launched in 2007.

Yangon Division Water Resources Utilization Department began Kayan Creek Water Pumping

**Article: Tin Htwe (MNA);
Photos: WRUD**

Project on 4 January 2007 near Yone-thabyegan Village in Thanlyin Township, pumping water from the Kayan Creek. (See page 10)



A bulldozer and an excavator carrying groundwork at Kayan Creek Water Pumping Project.