

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

Commander inspects cultivation of summer paddy in Hlegu Tsp

YANGON, 18 Jan—Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint visited plot-1300 (a) at Wanetgontoung field of farmer U Tun in Ohnhnegon Village, Hlegu Township yesterday.

At the summer paddy farm, the commander inspected sample paddy strain, pilot paddy fields and cultivation method, cultivation of paddy with the use of machines, ploughing and broadcasting fertilizer.

Next, the commander



held a meeting with residents. During the tour, the commander visited Letpan Nagmoeyeik,

No.4 Hsinpon, Malip and Ngwenantha river water pumping stations. The commander

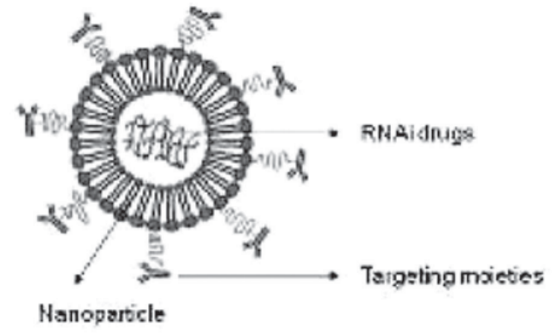


gave necessary instructions to officials concerned. MNA

Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint visits Ngamoeyeik river water pumping station in Hlegu Township.—MNA

'Mini-submarine' to blast cells

TEL AVIV, 18 Jan — Ever since the 1966 Hollywood movie, doctors have imagined a real-life Fantastic Voyage a medical vehicle shrunk small enough to "submarine" in and fix faulty cells in the body. Thanks to new research by Tel Aviv University scientists, that reality may be only three years away. The blueprints for the submarine and a map of its proposed maiden voyage were published earlier this year in Science by Dr. Dan Peer, who now leads the Tel Aviv University team at the Department of Cell Research and Immunology. The team will build and test-run the actual "machine" in human bodies. Dr. Peer originally developed the scenario at Harvard University.—Internet



A nanoparticle with targeting agents that guide it to a specific cell type, leaving healthy cells untouched.

Combine harvesters to be manufactured locally soon

Article: Myint Soe (Hlaing); Photos: Khin Yun San



A combine harvester is demonstrated in a paddy field. (See page 7)

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 19 January, 2009

Foundations being laid for emergence of new nation

The Machine and Machine Tools Factory of the Ministry of Industry-2 was inaugurated in Myaing Township, Pakokku District, Magway Division the other day, graced by the presence of Prime Minister General Thein Sein.

Industrial sector plays a pivotal role in building of a new nation and the government has established industrial zones and branch zones nationwide.

Inauguration of the factory is a new chapter for development of industrial sector of the State. The government has been making endeavours to transform the nation to become a modern developed one. Building a nation is not a matter of routine and the government is implementing special projects that will really serve the interest of the people. Endeavours are being made to narrow development gap among the regions in the Union and to achieve equitable development in all regions.

For industrial development of the country, the government is establishing industries with the intention of bringing about development in agro-based industries, increase of quantity of the products of the factories and high quality, production of new machinery items for industrial use. It is thereby laying basic foundations to transform the nation into an industrialized one.

Priority is being given to the regions where requirements are badly in need. 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.

The people on their part are to participate in the tasks to lay down better foundations for the emergence of a peaceful modern developed nation through perseverance, diligence, and consolidated unity after realizing the goodwill of the government.

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

Forestry Minister visits finished wood-products factories

YANGON, 18 Jan — Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung inspected National Wood Finished Wood-product Factory in Dagon East Industrial Zone, Dagon

Myothit (East) Township yesterday.

At the factory, Managing Director U Kyaw Win reported to the minister on production process of the

factory. Next, Managing Director U Win Tun of Myanmar Timber Enterprise, Chairman of Myanmar Forest Products and Timber Merchants Association

U Sein Lwin and Director U Win Myint of Forest Department gave supplementary reports to the minister. Afterwards, the minister gave instructions.

The minister viewed production of value-added Swan timber and packing of Swan timber wood to be exported. During his tour, the minister inspected producing finishing products of wood and furniture at the finished wood-product factory of Green Gold Industrial Ltd of PW& GG Joint Venture Company in South Okkalapa Township.

MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung inspects National Wood Finished Wood-product Factory in Dagon Myothit (East) Township.—FOREST

Respect paying ceremony of librarians 24 Jan

YANGON, 18 Jan— Myanmar Librarians Association will hold the 11th ceremony to pay respects to the aged librarians at Universities' Dhammayon, here, on 24 January morning.

Members of the association have been invited to attend the ceremony without fail. For further information, may contact U Cho Aye

(Adviser), Tel: 699518, 0980-20400, U Thein Shwe (Head of Library and Information Science Department, Yangon University), Tel: 534772, U Kyaw Oo (Director of National Library), Tel: 0950-04065 and Daw Tin Win Yi (Librarian of Universities' Central Library), Tel: 553847 and 536927.

MNA

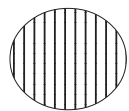
Power Jewellery Shop in Lanmadaw Condo

YANGON, 18 Jan— The Power Jewellery moved its shop from Seingayha on Pyay Road to

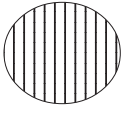
No. 01-02 Building A of Lanmadaw Condominium near Lanmadaw junction on Maha Bandoola Street this morning.

Managing Director Daw Latt Latt opened the shop with new address. The shop will sell all kinds of gems. Gem ornaments will be sold at discount up to 25 January.

Brother shops of Power Jewellery keep open at No. 671 and No. 601 on Maha Bandoola Street in Latha Township.—MNA



Managing Director Daw Latt Latt formally opens Power Jewellery



All this needs to be known

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



An vehicle burns at the site of an explosion in Kabul, capital of Afghanistan, on 17 Jan, 2009. —INTERNET

Iraqi driver killed, four injured in bomb attacks in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 18 Jan — A driver of a municipal official was killed and four civilians were injured in two bomb explosions in Baghdad on Saturday, an Interior Ministry source said.

An explosive-charge stuck to the car of the head of municipal office of Mansour District detonated in Baghdad’s west-

ern neighbourhood of Yarmouk, killing the driver and wounding a bystander, the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity. The attack took place in the morning when the driver was heading to the residence of the official to take him for work, the source said.

In a separate incident, three civilians were

wounded when a roadside bomb went off near a primary school in the al-Furat neighbourhood in southwestern Baghdad, the source added.

Sporadic bombings continue in Baghdad despite the announcement of the US and Iraqi officials about a steep drop of violence in recent months.

Internet

A NATO soldier killed in southern Afghanistan

KABUL, 18 Jan — A NATO soldier was killed in a clash with insurgents in southern Afghanistan, the military alliance said on Sunday.

The soldier was on a patrol when he was killed on Saturday, NATO said in a statement.

It did not release the soldier’s nationality or the exact location of the clash.

Southern Afghanistan is the centre of the

Taleban-led insurgency, and the world’s largest drug producing area.

The Taleban have made a comeback after their initial defeat during the US-led invasion in 2001.

Violence in the war-torn country has reached a record level.

According to an *Associated Press* tally, 286 foreign military personnel died last year in Afghani-

stan, including 151 Americans and 51 Britons.

NATO has more than 52,000 soldiers in Afghanistan and there are an additional 13,000 American troops in the US-led coalition.

The deteriorating situation in Afghanistan has forced the US to deploy as many as 30,000 more soldiers to the central Asian country this year.—*Internet*



US soldiers evacuate a wounded comrade from the site of a suicide attack in front of the German embassy in Kabul, on 17 January.

INTERNET

Bomber targets military convoy in Afghanistan

KABUL, 18 Jan — A suicide bomber driving a van packed with explosives detonated in eastern Afghanistan on Saturday, killing at least one civilian and wounding several others, including three Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers, government spokesman Ahmadzia Abdulzai told.

The blast occurred at 12 pm (2:30 am ET) in the Chapar Har district of Nangarhar Province, near the Pakistan border, and targeted coalition and ANA forces, Abdulzai said. One coalition vehicle was destroyed. The Taleban took responsibility for the assault. Taleban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid said the suicide attacker targeted a US military convoy, killing seven Americans and three Afghan police officers.

An International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) spokesman said there were no military fatalities.—*Internet*



Afghan police officers and villagers stand near a destroyed vehicle which was used by a suicide bomber in Chaparhar District of Ningarhar Province, east of Kabul, Afghanistan on 17 Jan, 2009. A separate suicide bomber attacked a convoy of NATO and Afghan police in eastern Afghanistan later in the day, killing one civilian, officials said. — INTERNET

Two US troops killed in separate Afghanistan attacks

KABUL, 18 Jan — A suicide car bomb attack on Saturday on a heavily guarded road between a US military base and the German Embassy in the Afghan capital killed one US service member and four Afghan civilians, officials said.

Separately, a US service member died when militants fired at a *CH-47* transport helicopter and it made a “hard landing” in eastern Kunar Province, the US military said. Military spokesman Col Greg Julian said it wasn’t immediately clear whether the incoming fire brought down the helicopter.

The attacks come at a time of increasing attention on Afghanistan as President-elect Barack Obama is set to take office. Obama has promised to increase America’s focus on the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan while decreasing troop levels in Iraq.

The US has said it will send up to 30,000 new troops into Afghanistan in 2009, including some 3,000 forces in two provinces adjacent to Kabul, where militants now have free reign. The US now has some 32,000 troops in Afghanistan.—*Internet*

Al-Qaeda threatens Germany over presence in Afghanistan

BERLIN, 18 Jan — A presumed member of Al-Qaeda threatened Germany with reprisals for its presence in Afghanistan in a video made public late Saturday by the US centre for surveillance of Islamist sites SITE.

In the 30-minute video message, an individual calling himself Abu Talha Al-Alamani said the Germans were “gullible and naive”

if they thought they could “escape unscathed when they are the third occupation force in Afghanistan.”

“Letting me blow myself up in the name of Allah has been my wish since 1993,” said the man whose face was hidden by a black turban, adding: “Time is running out for the Germans. I say to the German people ‘arise and become just again’.”

SITE said the video, in German with Arabic subtitles, had been produced by Al-Qaeda’s production unit As-Sahab and was dated October 2008. Its authenticity had not been verified.

The message, headed “The Plan to Save Germany,” went on: “The world economic crisis has hit the pride of the Germans head-on”.

Internet



President-elect Barack Obama, accompanied by his wife Michelle, right, and Vice President-elect Joe Biden, and his wife Jill Biden, waves from their train car after a stop on their inaugural whistle stop train trip in Wilmington, Del, on 17 Jan, 2009.—INTERNET

Obama rides the rails to DC for inaugural kickoff

WASHINGTON, 18 Jan — Invoking hope and history, President-elect Barack Obama rolled into the capital city on Saturday night after pledging to help bring the nation “a new Declaration of Independence” and promising to rise to the stern challenges of the times. He kicked off a four-day inaugural celebration with a daylong rail trip, retracing the path Abraham Lincoln took in 1861.

Obama began his day in Philadelphia, where he said the young nation had faced its “first true test” as a fragile democracy. He ended it in Washington, where his own tests await after his inauguration on Tuesday.

The president-in-waiting drew on a grand heritage of American giants as he appealed “not to our easy instincts but to our better angels,” an echo of Lincoln’s first inaugural address. He took note of the enormous challenges that lie ahead and promised to act with “fierce urgency,” a phrase often used by the Rev Martin Luther King Jr Riding a vintage railcar on his whistle-stop trip to Washington, Obama carried with him the hopes of a nation weary of war, frightened of economic chaos and searching for better days. Vice President-elect Joe Biden joined the journey en route, from his home in Delaware, and spoke for many when he said he was excited and ready for Tuesday. Then, sobered by the challenges of governing, Biden added: “I think it’s Wednesday we need to be ready.”—*Internet*

Palestinian civilians, only loser in Gaza war

RAMALLAH, 18 Jan— Israel declared a unilateral ceasefire after 22 days of offensive against the Gaza Strip on Saturday night. As both sides, Israel and Hamas, boasted their victory, Palestinian observers say that the only loser in this war is the Palestinian civilians.

At Saturday night’s press conference, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert described the Israeli military operation as “successful,” and the army has achieved all its goals. Before announcing the ceasefire, the Israeli government signed an agreement with the United States, which Israel said will guarantee the stop of weapon smuggling to Hamas.

In addition, Olmert mentioned on Saturday night that the Jewish state has received different European countries’ offer to help solve the weapon smuggling issue.

The agreement, from the Palestinians point of view, “will bring about a real siege on Gaza,” according to the spokesman of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) Yasser Abed Rabbo’s statement on Saturday.

On the other hand, Hamas leader Osama Hamdan said on Saturday that if Israel makes this decision from one side, “We will stay on the ground, and will continue our resistance against the Israeli occupation.”

Internet

US moves 6 Gitmo detainees, rejects hearing delays

GUANTANAMO NAVAL BASE, 18 Jan — The US Department of Defence announced on Saturday that it transferred six detainees out of Guantanamo, leaving about 245 at the offshore prison as President-elect Barack Obama prepares to take office.

Four detainees were sent to Iraq, one to Algeria and one to Afghanistan after a series of reviews, the Defence Department said in a statement. Obama has vowed to close the detention centre in southeast Cuba and stop the military commissions, or war-crimes trials.

Still, military judges rejected last-minute requests to postpone

pretrial hearings scheduled to begin Monday for five men accused of orchestrating the 11 Sept attacks and a Canadian accused of killing an American soldier with a grenade in Afghanistan.

Defence lawyers have sought to halt the cases — or at least delay them pending a review by the Obama administration.

And the chief prosecutor, Army Col Lawrence Morris, said the prosecution was seeking a brief delay for “efficiency” and legal reasons.

Internet

Gunfire kills one, injures two in Montana town

GLASGOW, 18 Jan — Shots were fired near the Glasgow hospital’s ambulance barn on Saturday, killing one person and wounding two, and a manhunt was under way for the shooter, police said.

Valley County Sheriff Glenn Meier told the Great Falls Tribune the other two shooting victims were in stable condition. He did not release the names of the victims.

Frances Mahon Deaconess Hospital was under a lockdown and a spokesman said it was caring for the gunfire victims.

“We’re on a lockdown, with no admittance to the facility permitted at this time,” spokesman Nickolas Dirkes said. “An ambulance crew is available offsite and we have initiated our incident command system.”

Sports reporter Beth Henville of the Glasgow Courier said Glasgow High School was locked down during basketball games at the school.

“They did allow people to leave after the police were able to come up and secure the area,” she said. Glasgow residents were told to “go directly home and lock the doors.”— *Internet*



Two jack-up rigs stand at shipyard in Singapore. Singapore’s once-roaring oil rig industry has been hit by contract cancellations due to weaker energy demand and as plummeting crude prices dampen exploration.—INTERNET

Girl in China critically ill with bird flu

BEIJING, 18 Jan — A 2-year-old girl in northern China has tested positive for bird flu and is in critical condition — the second case of human infection in a month.

The girl fell ill on 7 Jan in central Hunan Province and was taken to a hospital by her grandparents four days later after she returned home to Shanxi Province, the Health Ministry said in a notice on its Web site late Saturday.

Tests confirmed she was infected with the H5N1 bird flu virus, it said. It did not say how the girl, surnamed Peng, was infected or what she was

doing in Hunan.

“The patient is in critical condition, and the health department of Shanxi Province is sparing no efforts” to save the girl, the notice said.

All the people who had close contact with the girl were under medical observation, the ministry said, and no one else has been found ill.

The case comes at a worrisome time for authorities as tens of millions of people are on the move between cities and rural hometowns for Chinese New Year, which begins on 26 Jan.

Internet



Children run through a destroyed house in a camp in Masisi, 85kms west of Goma. Masisi territory is being controlled by several different armed groups.

INTERNET



Singapore's international airport. Low-cost carriers will soar to higher earnings in the year ahead, as customers migrate from full-service airlines which face steep revenue declines and forced mergers, industry experts said. —XINHUA

Russian gas transit to Europe may resume soon

MOSCOW, 18 Jan — Gas supplies to Europe may soon be restarted after Russia and Ukraine reached a comprehensive agreement over their gas dispute, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said on Sunday.

"As our Ukrainian partner assured us, the transit will be resumed shortly," Putin said in a televised comment after talks with his Ukrainian counterpart Yulia Tymoshenko in Moscow.

Tymoshenko said the Russian and Ukrainian energy companies had to draw up agreements no later than Monday and "all natural gas supplies will resume as soon as these documents are signed."

"The talks were not easy, but we have achieved a mutual understanding that allows us to sign agreements," she added.

Under the new gas transit deal, Moscow and Kiev agreed that Russia would sell Ukraine gas "based on the European price formula" but would offer a 20 per cent discount for 2009.

"Starting from 1 January, 2010, we will completely switch to European prices standard both on gas and gas transit," Putin said. —Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Iraqi parliament may delay voting on new speaker

BAGHDAD, 18 Jan — The Iraqi parliament probably will postpone the voting on a new speaker over persisting disputes about the candidate among parliamentary political blocs, the state-run *al-Sabah* newspaper said on Saturday.

"The final date for voting over the new speaker may delay for two more days to give more time for

a common agreement among political blocs over the new speaker's personality," an anonymous source in the parliament was quoted as saying.

The voting by the lawmakers on a new speaker would be by secret ballot, the paper said.

The Iraqi parliament was scheduled to vote on a new parliament leader to replace the former

speaker Mahmoud al-Mashhadani, a Sunni Arab politician who was forced to resign last month.

Last week, the parliament decided to delay the voting on Ayad al-Samaraie, the candidate of the Sunni Arab Accordance Front, an official in the parliament told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

Xinhua

Israel cease fire in Gaza

GAZA, 18 Jan — Israeli forces started to implement a unilateral ceasefire in the Gaza Strip early Sunday after a 22-day fierce offensive on the Hamas-ruled area.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert declared the truce late Saturday, beginning from 2 am (0000 GMT) Sunday, saying the goals of the operation in Gaza had been "met in full."

"We reached all of our objectives in Gaza," Olmert told a press conference in Tel Aviv, adding Hamas has been dealt a heavy blow by Israel

Defence Forces (IDF), and Hamas leaders are now in hiding.

But he ordered troops to remain in the enclave and return fire if they came under attack.

Minutes after Olmert declared the unilateral ceasefire in Gaza, Islamic Hamas movement's armed wing al-Qassam Brigades sent a statement to reporters, saying they will "continue resistance as long as the occupation of Gaza continues and the blockade is imposed."

The United States on Saturday welcomed Israel's decision to implement



Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert speaks at a press conference after security cabinet meeting in Tel Aviv, on 17 Jan, 2008. —INTERNET

a unilateral ceasefire. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said in a statement she hoped for a durable ceasefire and a long-term settlement for the problems of Gaza.

Xinhua



French soldiers exit from an army helicopter to take part in military manoeuvres with UN peacekeepers at Bouna airport, in the Ivory Coast, on 13 Jan, 2009. A military helicopter carrying 10 French soldiers crashed in the sea off the west African nation of Gabon during a bilateral exercise, the French presidency said on Saturday. —INTERNET

One killed, three survive, six missing in French helicopter crash

PARIS, 18 Jan — One soldier was killed, three survived, and six others were still missing in a French helicopter crash off the Gabon coast, the armed forces headquarters in Paris said early Sunday.

Two of the survivors were injured, said the army. The accident occurred during a joint military drill between France and Gabon in west Africa.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy has ordered Defence Minister Herve Morin to immediately go to the scene.

Xinhua

Hamas' armed wing vows to continue resistance despite Israeli unilateral ceasefire

GAZA, 18 Jan — Islamic Hamas movement's armed wing al-Qassam Brigades vowed to continue resistance shortly after Israel declared a unilateral ceasefire in the Gaza Strip Saturday evening.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert on Saturday evening declared a unilateral ceasefire in the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip, beginning from 2 am (0000 GMT) Sunday, but Israeli troops will remain in the strip.

In a statement sent to the reporters, al-Qassam Brigades said "The declaration of Olmert showed Israel is defeated before the Palestinian armed resistance," and "the Israeli declaration of unilateral ceasefire is an evidence of the occupation failure to achieve victory in Gaza."

Al-Qassam Brigades also said they "will continue resistance as long as the occupation of Gaza continues and the blockade is imposed."

Al-Qassam Brigades claimed responsibility for launching three rockets towards the southern Israel during the speech of Olmert and after, saying that "firing rockets is evidence for Olmert's failure." —Xinhua

Japanese auto giant Toyota Motor Corp will halve domestic production for three months and reduce operations at domestic factories amid plummeting demand, according to the latest reports. —XINHUA



Chavez says Obama has “stench” of Bush

CAMPO CARABOBO, 18 Jan — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said on Saturday Barack Obama had the “stench” of his predecessor as US President and was at risk of being killed if he tries to change the American “empire.” Most world leaders expect a new era of US foreign relations when Obama, a Democrat, is sworn in as President on Tuesday after Republican George W Bush’s eight years in the White House.

But Chavez said frayed ties with Washington were unlikely to improve despite the departure of Bush, who the Venezuelan leader has often called the “devil”.

“I hope I am wrong, but I believe Obama brings the same stench, to not say another word,” Chavez said at a political rally on a historic Venezuelan battlefield.

“If Obama as President of the United States does not obey the orders of the empire, they will kill him, like they killed Kennedy, like they killed Martin Luther King, or Lincoln, who freed the blacks and paid with his life.”

Obama, who will be the first black president in US history, was given Secret Service protection on the campaign trail earlier than is customary for candidates and security for Tuesday’s inauguration is extremely tight. Venezuela is a leading supplier of oil to the United States and the two countries once enjoyed close ties. — MNA/Reuters

A rusty military helmet used during the Korean War 1950-1953, is displayed in Ganghwa, located inside of the civilian passage restriction line that separates the two Koreas since the Korean War, northwest of Seoul, South Korea, on 18 Jan, 2009.—INTERNET

South Korean experts find way to remove lead from blood

HONG KONG, 18 Jan — South Korean scientists may have found a way to remove dangerous heavy metals such as lead from blood by using specially designed magnetic receptors.

The receptors bind strongly to lead ions and can be easily removed, along with their lead cargo, using magnets, they wrote in an article in *Angewandte Chemie International Edition*, a leading chemistry

journal.

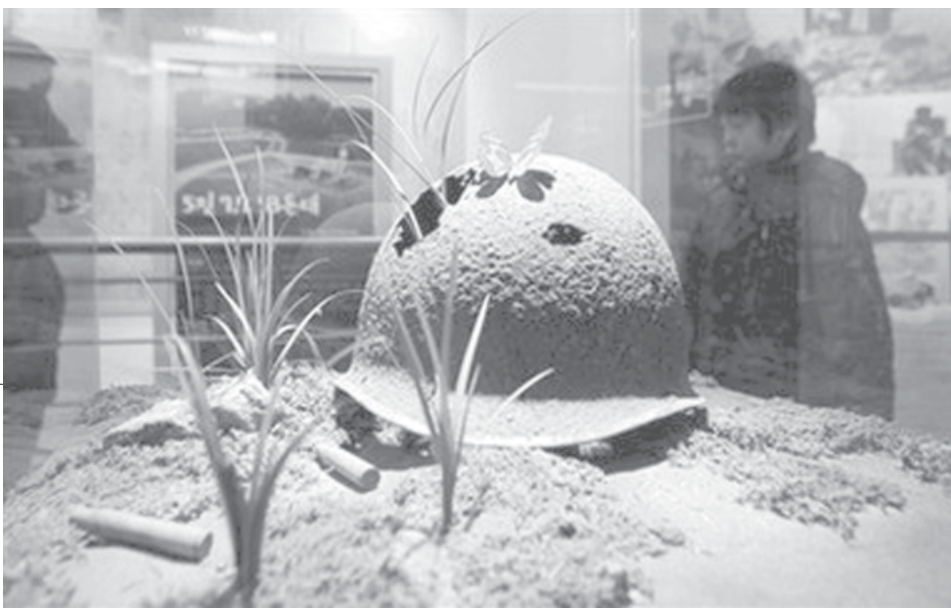
“Detoxification could theoretically work like hemodialysis: the blood is diverted out of the body and into a special chamber containing the biocompatible magnetic particles,” they wrote in a statement.

“By using magnetic fields, the charged magnetic particles could be fished out. The purified blood is then reintroduced to the patient.”

Lead is a dangerous heavy metal and is especially toxic to children. Safe and effective detoxification processes are especially important.

The South Korean team, lead by Jong Hwa Jung at the Gyeongsang National University’s department of chemistry, managed to remove 96 per cent of lead ions from blood samples using these magnetic particles.

MNA/Reuters



Accidents kill over 91,100 in China in 2008

BEIJING, 18 Jan — China’s top work safety official said here on Friday that 91,172 people were killed in 413,752 traffic and work-related accidents last year. The number of deaths was down 10.2 per cent from 2007 and that of accidents was down 18.3 per cent as the country stepped up efforts to ensure work safety.

Luo Lin, Head of the State Administration of Work Safety, said the 2008 death toll fell below 100,000 for the first time since 1995 as work safety conditions improved in various sectors, including coal mines.

Fatalities from coal mine accidents fell 15.1 per cent and deaths from road accidents dropped 10 per cent, Luo said, without providing the specific figures.

MNA/Xinhua



Jeff Koons polychromed wood sculpture “Stacked” is displayed at Sotheby’s in New York . The sculpture will be auctioned with an estimate of 3.4- 4.9 million US dollars.

Boy sells his clothes to fund girlfriend’s party

A high school student in Chongqing municipality gave his girlfriend the clothes off his back - almost literally.

The boy, Cheng Ying, couldn’t afford to throw a birthday party for his sweetheart so he sold 1,000 yuan worth of new clothes his mother gave him for just 300 yuan (44 US dollars).

“Tuesday was my girlfriend’s birthday and I wanted to give her a happy party, so I sold the clothes to my classmates for 100 yuan each,” he said. He later regretted the move and apologized to his mother.

Clean water could be killing cockles

A Welsh report says sewage treatment may be making water in Burry Estuary too clean for cockles to survive.

Researchers from University College Bangor say mass deaths of the small clams, which had previously been blamed on high levels of sewage spilling from a nearby treatment plant, may now be caused by a lack of food, the *Western Mail* reported on Friday.

The report said improvements to the treatment plant have limited food sources for the shellfish.

Environment Agency Wales spokesman John Rowlands, however, said current evidence “was not conclusive.”

US man jailed for stealing pages from rare books

A wealthy US businessman with a passion for books about the Middle East was sentenced to two years in jail on Friday for stealing pages from rare texts at two of Britain’s most venerable libraries.

Farhad Hakimzadeh sneaked a scalpel into the London’s British Library to surgically removed leaves from books, according to library staff. He

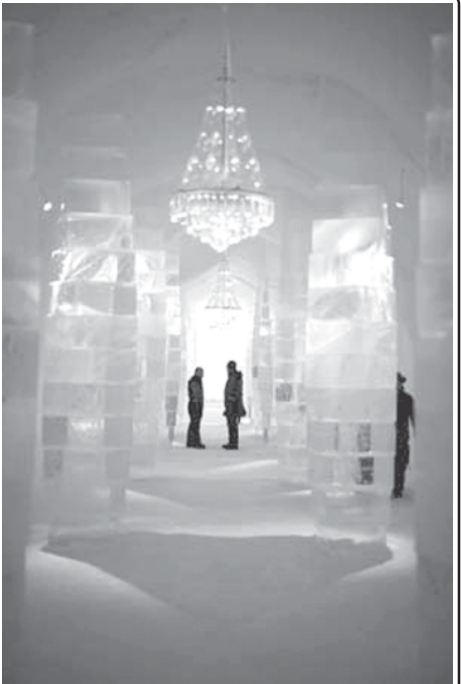
Speeding driver puzzles police with his IV drip

Police were not sure what to think when they noticed a speeding driver was also hooked up to an intravenous drip on his right arm.

As police checked for speeding vehicles in the Jingjiang section of Highway 336 in Wuxi, Jiangsu Province, on Monday, they noticed an IV tube was hanging on the rearview mirror, connected to a tube that was inserted into the man’s arm.

The driver said he was in a hurry to get home and informed police it wasn’t the first time he did that.

He was given a 200-yuan (30 US dollars) fine for speeding.



Visitors stand in the hallway of Jukkasjaervi Ice Hotel in Sweden.



A view of the new luxury train Royal Rajasthan on Wheels (RROW) is seen on the railway station of Jaisalmer in the desert Indian state of Rajasthan.

NEWS ALBUM

Combine harvesters to be manufactured locally soon

Article: Myint Soe (Hlaing); Photos: Khin Yun San

(from page 1)

Myanmar is trying to transform its agriculture from conventional into mechanized farming. Combine-harvesters that had been innovated for over one year were demonstrated under the arrangements of the Agriculture Mechanization Department at the paddy field of U San Myint in Inn-yet Village-tract, Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, on 14 January morning.

At the clarification made at the Agriculture Mechanization Department in Kyaikkaloe, Mingaladon Township, before the demonstration, Director-General U Win Maw said that Myanmar used to be the largest rice exporting country before the World War II till 1954; that Ayeyawady Division was the granary of lower Myanmar and Sagaing Division, the granary of

upper Myanmar; that in growing paddy, conventional farming was being transformed into mechanized farming; that as part of the process, a farm machinery factory was being constructed with the assistance of the People's Republic of China near Inngon Village in Kyaukse Township, and the drive called for a good deal of modern machinery; that head feed type combine harvesters,



U Soe Hlaing, Director of the Factory and Research Division.

which were appropriate for the Myanmar's farming and attracted the in-

terest of local farmers, were manufactured in compliance with the guidance of the Head of State for boosting cultivation capability and production of quality of crops; that so innovation was carried out based on the types of combine harvesters from some Asian countries to produce the present type of combine harvesters; that the machine was introduced on 1 November 2007 and was upgraded several times and then its quality was on a par with that of some Asian countries.

In the process of innovation, five factories in Yangon under the Agriculture Mechanization Department produced 990 of 1263 parts of the combine harvester, and the 273 remaining parts



U Aung Soe, Deputy Director.

were imported from China.

Deputy Director U Aung Soe said, "A combine harvester is a mixture of 80 percent of local-made and 20 per-



Director-General U Win Maw of the Agriculture Mechanization Department.

cent of foreign-made parts.

"Such a machine is worth about 60 million kyats if it is imported, but it costs only about 25 million to produce one domestically. So, it saves about 35 million kyats for a unit."

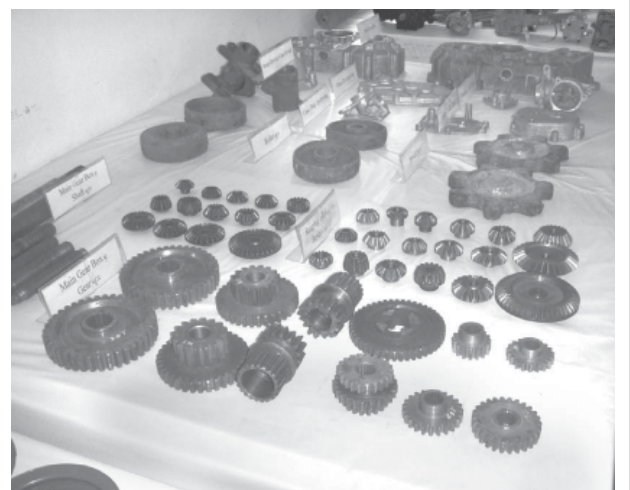
Factory Manager U Aye Than said, "After we had got all kinds of parts, we started to assemble them into combine harvesters. We conducted test driving several times in Ywathagyi from 4 to 11 December 2008 and in Hmawby from 6 to 11 January, and we renovated it several times to achieve this level. A 48 HP combine harvester can do an acre of paddy field in two hours, and it

consumes diesel only 1.25 gallons an hour. Paddy is hardly wasted if we use this machine."

Previously, the department charged 30,000 kyats for an acre of paddy field, using the use of foreign-made machines. Now, it is planning to assemble five more com-

bine harvesters to reap paddy fields of farmers at reasonable charges and then to manufacture combine harvesters for those farmers wishing to get them for agricultural purpose.

**Translation: MS
Myanma Alin:
15-1-2009**



Some parts of a combine harvester.



U Aye Than, Factory Manager of No. (1) Workshop.



Farmer U San Myint.

UN provides \$5m for Zimbabwe health workers

HARERE, 18 Jan — The UN children's fund UNICEF said on Saturday it had set up a 5 million-US-dollar fund to provide salaries for workers in Zimbabwe's ailing health sector.

Health workers in the southern African country — where many public hospitals have been forced to close due to a shortage of staff, drugs and equipment — have been refusing to turn up for work, demanding salaries in foreign cur-

rency.

They recently rejected a government offer of 50-US dollars for the lowest paid and 850 US dollars for doctors per month.

"I'm pleased to announce today that the United Nations will be providing five million-US dollars for salaries for health workers. We want to provide resources for health care workers so they remain in their jobs," UNICEF executive direc-

tor Ann Veneman told a news conference in Harare.

"It (the money) is going through a trust fund set up by some of the donors to provide incentives for health care workers to continue turning up for work."

Veneman and UNICEF officials would not give details about how the fund would work, except to say payments would be made to workers through the trust, not the government. —MNA/Reuters

Congo Govt, diplomats optimistic on peace deal

KISHASA, 18 Jan — A pledge by Congolese Tutsi rebels to abandon their four-year insurgency marks a major step towards ending more than a decade of conflict in the war-ravaged east, Congo's Government and foreign diplomats said on Saturday.

A delegation of commanders from the rebel National Congress for the

Defence of the People (CNDP), led by military chief General Bosco Ntaganda, said on Friday it was ready to end its war on government troops and reintegrate with the Army.

On Saturday, PA-RECO, the largest pro-government militia operating in eastern Congo and one of the CNDP's pri-

mary enemies, said it too was placing its fighters under government command.

"For the government, this is a very good thing that renders the evolution towards peace more real. This is a significant advance," Information Minister Lambert Mende told Reuters. —MNA/Reuters

Donate blood



Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint being welcomed by Military Attache of Thailand to Myanmar Colonel Ekachai Harnpoonvittaya at the reception to mark the Royal Thai Armed Forces Day on 18 January.—MNA

Executive of MFPTMA leaves for Malaysia

YANGON, 18 Jan— Executive U Min Thein of Myanmar Forest Product and Timber Merchants Association left for Malaysia by air this morning to attend Total Quality Management-Introductory Course organized by Association for Overseas Technical Schlorship (AOTS). The executive was seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials concerned.

MNA



Executive U Min Thein of Myanmar Forest Product and Timber Merchants Association seen at Yangon International Airport.— MNA

Thousands march in Rome against Israel offensive

ROME, 18 Jan — Thousands of people waving Palestinian flags marched through Rome on Saturday in a demonstration against Israel's offensive in Gaza. Some of the demonstrators held banners with Nazi swastikas super-imposed on the Star of David. Others carried large pictures of Palestinian children killed since Israel launched air strikes on the Gaza Strip on December 27. Ground troops pushed in a week later. A large banner reading "Life, land and liberty for the Palestinian people" led the Rome demonstration. —MNA/Reuters

Minister receives IDE, Chinese delegation

YANGON, 18 Jan— Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo received the economists led by Mr. David Dapcie of International Development Enterprises (IDE) at 1 pm and a delegation led by Mr. Xia Baolin of Chinese Academy of Agricultural Mechanization Sciences of the People's Republic of China at the Irrigation Department in Yankin Township, here, at 2:30 pm yesterday. At the meeting, the minister and delegations held discussions on extending cooperation in agriculture works. Also present at the calls were Directors-General and Managing Directors of Departments and Enterprises under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.—MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo receives Mr Xia Baolin and party of Chinese Academy of Agriculture Mechanization Sciences.— A & I

Prevention of Illicit Transfer and Illegal Trafficking of Cultural Properties discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Jan—The Workshop on Prevention of Illicit Transfer and Illegal Trafficking of Cultural Properties in ASEAN Region was held at the hall of Bagan Nanmyint Tower in Bagan Archaeological Region in NyaungU Township yesterday morning. Chairman of Myanmar ASEAN-COCI Member of Myanmar Historical Commission Dr Khin Maung Nyunt delivered an opening address. Those present had documentary photo taken. The workshop was chaired by Dr Khin Maung Nyunt together with members of the panel of chairmen Police Col Sit Aye of Transnational Crime Department of Myanmar Police Force and retired Professor Dr Daw Than Nwe of Law Department of YU. In the first day session, Abd Lam Hin Haji Abu Baken of Brunei Darusalam, Mr Prak Sonnarai of Cambodia, Mr Syarif Rahman of Indonesia and Mr Phouvong of Lao PDR submitted papers to the workshop and replied to the queries. The first-day session of the workshop ended with concluding remarks of the chairman. In the evening, ASEAN-COCI Chairman Dr Khin Maung Nyunt hosted a dinner to the delegates of the ASEAN countries at Shwe Nandaw Hotel in Bagan.—MNA

Sino-US trade grows at slower pace upon financial crisis

BEIJING,18 Jan—China's trade with the United States took the blunt of the financial crisis to slow down in the first 11 months of 2008, the General Administration of Customs said on Saturday. Between January and November last year, the bilateral trade amounted to 307.82 billion US dollars, a growth of 11.6 per cent on the same period of 2007. The growth rate was 3.9 percentage points lower than the year-earlier level, or 9.3 percentage points below that for China's total external trade. The bilateral trade volume included 233.09 billion US dollars in export value, up 9.6 per cent, and 74.73 billion US dollars in import value, up 18.5 per cent. The growth rate for exports was 5.6 percentage points lower than the year-earlier level, but that for imports was 1.6 percentage points higher. China's trade surplus with the United States went up 5.8 per cent to 158.36 billion USdollars, accounting for 61.9 per cent of China's total trade surplus for the 11-month period.—MNA/Xinhua

Eritrea rejects UN demand for border pull-back

NAIROBI, 18 Jan—Eritrea has rejected a UN Security Council demand that it withdraw military forces from its border with Djibouti within five weeks. Djibouti accuses its Horn of Africa neighbour of sending troops across the frontier last June, triggering several days of battles that killed a dozen Djiboutian troops and wounded dozens more. Eritrea denies making any incursions. "Under strong pressure from self-interested powers, the UN Security Council...adopted an ill-considered, unbalanced and unnecessary resolution against Eritrea," the Foreign Ministry in Asmara said in a statement on Thursday night. "Any balanced examination of the situation would lead to the conclusion that this measure cannot have been motivated by any genuine considerations of the rule of law." Djibouti hosts US and French military bases and is the main route to the sea for Eritrea's arch-foe and Washington's main regional ally, Ethiopia. Djibouti also accuses Eritrea of seizing what it says is its territory on the Red Sea coast.—MNA/Reuters

Gold plates, cash donated to Uppatasanti Pagoda of Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Jan—For offering gold foils and gold plates to Uppatasanti Pagoda being built in Nay Pyi Taw, a ceremony to donate gold plates and cash was held at the Dhammayon on the hill of the pagoda, here, this afternoon.

It was attended by Chairman of the Financial Committee for the pagoda Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Attorney-General U Aye Maung and members, guests and wellwishers.

At the ceremony, the ministers and officials accepted five gold plates weighing three ticals each donated by Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin-Daw Swe Swe Oo and servicemen; one gold plate weighing three ticals by Attorney-General U Aye Maung-Daw Khin Mya Mya; three gold plates weighing three ticals each by the minister and staff families of Ministry of

Industry-2; one gold plate weighing three ticals by staff families of Ministry of PBANRDA; two gold plates weighing three ticals each by Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries; five gold plates weighing three ticals each by staff families of Ministry of Finance and Revenue; one gold plate weighing three ticals by Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, wife Daw Khin Khin Yi and family; two gold plates weighing three ticals each and one gold plate weighing one tical by Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung-Daw Aye Aye Tun, staff families of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee; one gold plate weighing three ticals by Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo-Daw Ni Ni Win and family; one gold plate weighing one tical by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein-Daw Aye Aye and family; one gold plate weighing three ticals by Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen

Aung Min-Dr Daw Wai Wai Tha and family; one gold plate weighing three ticals by Minister for PBANRDA Col Thein Nyunt-Daw Kyin Khaing and family; in memory of parents and brothers and sisters U Tin Aye and niece Daw Tin Myint of

Development Affairs Department, brothers and sisters under the aegis of mother Daw Thin Kyaing; 10 gold plates weighing three ticals each by Agga Maha Thirithudhamma Manijotadhara U Tint Hsan (ACE Co.)-Dr Daw Htay Htay Nyein (Award

Tha Htay (Original Group Co.) and U Thet Lin (TZTM Co); two gold plates weighing three ticals each by U Thein Win-Daw Tin Tin Win and family; one gold plate weighing one tical by Secretary of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee U Tun Kyi-

and two yway by Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd and K 100,000 by the State Peace and Development Council Chairman's Office.

Certificates of honour were presented to the wellwishers.

Today's donations by



Gold plates and cash donation ceremony for Uppatasanti pagoda in progress in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

Pantanaw one gold plate weighing three ticals; one gold plate weighing three ticals by Deputy Minister for PBANRDA Col Tin Ngwe-Daw Khin Mya Chit and family; one gold plate weighing three ticals by Director-General U Myo Myint of

winner of Excellent Performance in Industrial Field-First Class) and family; six gold plates weighing three ticals each by U Win Naing and family and staff of WEG; one gold plate weighing three ticals by U Tint Hsan (ACE Co), U Yan Win (A-1 Co), U

Daw Than Than Mya; one gold plate each weighing one tical by Development Affairs Department, Department for Progress of Border Areas and National Races, Education and Training Department and Si Bin Thar Yar Yay Bank Ltd; 10 viss, one pe

27 wellwishers amounted to 46 gold plates weighing three ticals each and seven gold plates weighing one tical each.

Other 38 wellwishers who did not attend the ceremony also donated 53 gold plates weighing three ticals each.—MNA

IP Dy Minister tours Tsp, District office in Mdy

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Jan—Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population Brig-Gen Win Sein met service personnel of Immigration and National Registration Department at Mogok Township office on 10 January.

On 11 January, the deputy minister also met service personnel of Madaya, Thabeikkyin, Singu, Tagaung Townships at Madaya Township Immigration and National Registration Department office. In the evening, he met Head of Mandalay District Office

and Heads of Township and staff from Mahaangmay, Chanayethazan, Aungmyaythazan, Chanmyathazi, Pyigyitagun, Amayapura and Patheingyi townships at Mandalay Division Immigration and National Registration Department.

Next, he instructed the aim of ensuring the three main duties of the ministry, to follow by law and procedures and to produce the national registration cards in time and inspected the record rooms of concerned offices.—MNA

N Korea says plutonium “weaponized” and off-limits

BEIJING, 18 Jan — North Korea says it has “weaponized” enough plutonium for four to five nuclear weapons, a US expert said on Saturday after talks in Pyongyang.

North Korea has made a series of demands as well as offers of cooperation over its nuclear program as US President-elect

Barack Obama prepares to enter the White House.

The North's leader Kim Jong-il appears to have given up handling many day-to-day tasks after suffering a stroke and this may explain the North's hardening stance, Selig Harrison, a scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Centre for Scholars, a policy institute

in Washington D.C., said.

Harrison said senior North Korean officials had told him this week that 30.8 kilogrammes (68 pounds) of plutonium their government had listed as part of a preliminary disarmament agreement had been “weaponized”—incorporated into warheads or other arms.

MNA/Reuters

Egypt prosecutors charge 11 in baby buying scheme

CAIRO, 18 Jan — Egyptian authorities have charged 11 people including two US citizens of involvement in a scheme to buy four newborn Egyptian infants for illegal adoption, security sources said on Friday.

The sources said the two Americans were

women, at least one of whom was of Egyptian origin. They were accused of taking part in purchasing the children for sums of up to 20,000 Egyptian pounds (3,600 US dollars) for a girl and 25,000 pounds for a boy, the sources said.

“We are aware of this

investigation and it is led by the Egyptian authorities. We are cooperating fully,” a US Embassy official said, but declined to give more information including whether US citizens had been arrested or charged, citing privacy laws.

MNA/Reuters



UNAIDS Executive Director and Under Secretary General of UNAIDS, Peter Piot addresses the launch of the AIDS Epidemic Update conference at the Parliament house annexe in New Delhi.

River water pumping projects in Taikkyi Township benefiting 12,523 acres of arable lands

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

(from page 16)
water pumping platform, 800 feet long main canal and seven sets of 30 KW water pump.

At Tawlati Village, Tawlati river water pumping project is supplying water from Hline River to 403 acres of cultivable lands. The pumping station of the project is equipped with seven

is located near Tawlati Village. By utilizing water from Hline River, the pumping station, equipped with four sets of 160 KW pumps, is irrigating 5,000 acres of land through 1.69 miles long main canal with a 32 feet high water pumping platform.

Near Taungyat Zigon Village in Taikkyi Town-

with three sets of 30 KW water pump to supply water to the farmlands through 10,000 feet long main canal with a 20 feet high water pumping platform.

Apart from the complete pumping stations in Taikkyi Township, the WRUD sets plans to implement two more river water pumping projects.

pumping project near Hsinchan Village with the use of water from Bawle River.

The plan is under way to complete the implementation of Minhlaw river water pumping project in 2010-2012 financial year. On completion, the pumping station of the project will benefit 1,500 acres of farmlands.

Likewise, the department will implement Hsinchan river water pumping project up to 2012-2013 financial year. On completion, the pumping station will supply water to 1,200 acres of arable lands.

Upon completion,



Water being pumped into main canal at Alabok river water pumping station.

Minhlaw and Hsinchan river water pumping projects to be undertaken by Yangon Division WRUD will benefit 12,523 acres of farmlands in total in Taikkyi Township.

Translation: TTA
Myanma Alin:
12-1-2009



Aingkalaung river water pumping station pumping up water from Hline River by water pump and pipes.

sets of 30 KW pumping motors to pump water as high as 20 feet, with a water pumping platform and 5,000 feet long main canal.

Thabyetan river water pumping project site

ship, Taungyat Zigon river water pumping project is contributing to cultivation of crops on 1,000 acres of land with the use of water resource from Hline River. The pumping station of the project is equipped

Minhlaw river water pumping project will be implemented near Minhlaw Village in Taikkyi Township with the use of water resource from Hline River and Hsinchan river water



Taungyat Zigon river water pumping station installed with water pump and pipes to use water from Hline River.

Cuba says US embargo blocking human rights

HAVANA, 18 Jan—Cuba has blamed the long-standing United States trade embargo for limiting human rights on the Communist-run island, in a report to the United Nations released on Friday.

“The policy of hostility, blockade and aggression by successive US Governments against Cuba has been a serious obstacle to full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental liberties of Cubans,” said the report, which Cuba submitted to

the UN Human Rights Council.

It said such things as the right to live in peace and to free will were damaged by the embargo, which the United States imposed against Cuba almost 47 years ago.

It went on to say that Cuba respects, among other things, the right to health and education and to religious freedom.

Cuba is often criticized for suppressing political dissent, free speech, a free Press and the right to travel. Opponents say

more than 200 dissidents are currently in Cuban jails.

The Cuban Government blames many of its human rights shortcomings on having to fend off five decades of US attempts to topple its government.

Dissident Elizardo Sanchez, head of the illegal but tolerated Cuban Commission on Human Rights, criticized the report, which the UN council will use when it reviews Cuba's rights situation next month. —MNA/Reuters

Indian PM urges speedy Pakistan probe into attacks

MUMBAI, 18 Jan—Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Saturday urged Pakistan to fully disclose all facts about the attack in Mumbai last November that killed 179 people and to act swiftly against militant groups on its soil.

India has sent evidence to Pakistan that it said linked Pakistani militants to the attacks and has

asked for the suspects to be extradited.

“We expect Pakistan to take all the consequent next steps against all those who have planned, organized and executed these horrific crimes,” Singh said at a function at the Trident hotel, one of the sites attacked by 10 gunmen. Pakistan's de facto Interior Minister Rehman Malik said the govern-

ment had directed its investigating team to complete its inquiry within 10 days.

“It's a 10-day deadline with the instructions to do it as quickly as possible. The report of their findings can come even before 10 days,” the adviser to the prime minister on interior matters told a news conference.

MNA/Reuters

Take Fire Preventive Measures

Almost all US cities to lose jobs in 2009

WASHINGTON, 18 Jan—All but five US cities will experience job losses this year, with New York suffering the largest decline, according to a forecast released by the US Conference of Mayors on Saturday.

Global Insight, an international economic forecasting firm that put together the outlook for the mayors' group, projected that by the end of 2009 one-third of all metropolitan areas in the country would have experienced no overall job growth for the first decade of the century.

New York will likely shed 181,000 jobs this year, with more than 50,000 in the financial services industry alone, the firm said. Los Angeles will lose 164,000 jobs. Overall, 171 cities will see job losses in excess of 2 per cent through 2009.

Unemployment rates will rise above 10 per cent this year in 70 of the 363 metropolitan areas in the United States, Global Insight said.

In November, 23 cities had jobless rates of at least 10 per cent, according to a report released this month by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, while 121 had rates of at least 7 percent. Metropolitan areas are home to 90 per cent of the country's wage income, according to the firm.—MNA/Reuters

Nepal steps up culling in first bird flu outbreak

KATHMANDU, 18 Jan—Dozens of veterinary workers in protective suits descended on a town in east Nepal on Saturday to intensify culling of poultry to prevent the spread of bird flu after the H5N1 virus was first detected in the Himalayan nation.

"Teams with safety masks, head covers, body gowns, shoes, gloves and goggles have already been sent and they will intensify culling today or tomorrow," said Prabhakar Pathak, chief of the department of livestock services in Kathmandu on Saturday.

Bird flu was detected in chickens and ducks in the densely populated town of Kakarvitta, 275 kilometres (172 miles), southeast of capital Kathmandu, authorities said on Friday, piling on problems for the Maoist-led government in the impoverished country.

MNA/Reuters



A crane moves US Airways flight 1549 from its makeshift mooring along a seawall in lower Manhattan in New York to a barge late Saturday evening, on 17 Jan, 2009. Flight 1549 crashed into the Hudson River on Thursday, on 15 Jan, 2009. All 155 people aboard the flight miraculously survived.

INTERNET



An ox sculpture made of ring-top cans is displayed on Taidong pedestrian street in Qingdao, a coastal city in east China's Shandong Province, on 17 Jan, 2009. The 2.5-metre-high and 3-metre-long sculpture was made of 2,000 cans to welcome the Chinese lunar Year of Ox starting from on 26 Jan.—INTERNET

British chain bans eggs from caged hens

LONDON, 18 Jan—Sainsbury's, the third-largest supermarket chain in England, says it will stop selling eggs from hens kept in tight quarters called battery cages.

The grocer plans to only sell eggs from uncaged hens in what is considered a major victory for animal rights groups, which oppose cages, The Times of London reported on Saturday.

"We are delighted that all Sainsbury's shoppers will now enjoy higher welfare eggs whilst the other major retailers still continue with over half their eggs coming from caged hens," said Sainsbury's egg buyer

Finbar Cartlidge.

Sainsbury's action comes three years before a European Union-wide ban on conventional factory-farm produced eggs comes into force.

"It's fantastic news. When Sainsbury's makes a move like this it has huge impact, making animal welfare more mainstream," said Rowen West-Henzell, food business manager for Compassion in World Farming. "They are doing the right thing on behalf of the consumer. My question to the other retailers is why aren't they responding? They've got a lot of catching up to do."

Internet

Residents living in a garbage dump wait for distribution of relief goods by the Red Crescent organization in Zaafaraniya district, southeast of Baghdad on 18 Jan, 2009.—INTERNET

Smoke rises after an Israeli air strike in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip on 17 January, 2009.—INTERNET

Author says chopsticks help weight loss

LONDON, 18 Jan—Using chopsticks helps you eat less and lose weight, says Kimiko Barber, author of "The Chopsticks Diet."

The human brain takes 20 minutes to register what the stomach contains, so using chopsticks slows a person's consumption, leaving them feeling satisfied while eating less, Barber said.

Chopsticks users also take smaller bites, which means food tends to be chewed more, making it easier to digest, she told The Daily Telegraph in a story published on Saturday. In Britain alone, an estimated 10 million people—24 percent of the population—are clinically obese, The Telegraph reported, noting a third of the country is expected to qualify as obese by 2012 if eating habits remain the same. Doctors say obesity contributes to heart disease, Type 2 diabetes and many cancers.—Internet

ICRC says Captive Red Cross staff in Philippines are alive

MANILA, 18 Jan—Three workers of the International Committee on the Red Cross held captive in southern Philippines made first contact with the agency on Saturday and said they were all unharmed, the ICRC said.

The agency, however, declined to give further information on the captives or the identity of the gunmen who abducted the three workers, including an Italian and a Swiss national, two days ago on the southern island of Jolo.—Internet



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Manager vanishes with hedge funds’ value

SARASOTA, 18 Jan — Arthur Nadel, a Florida hedge-fund manager and philanthropist suspected of scamming his clients has disappeared, leaving a suicide note, authorities said.His wife, Peg Nadel, reported his disappearance to police this week, the Sarasota Herald-Tribune reported.

Neil V Moody, Arthur Nadel’s partner, told clients on Thursday the part-

ners’ three funds — Viking, Valhalla and Scoop — appeared to be out of money, the newspaper said. Moody reportedly told clients he was not involved with trading and did not know about any problems until this week.

“Unfortunately, just yesterday afternoon we became aware of an extremely serious situation suggesting that the funds may have virtually no re-

maining value,” Moody said in a statement to clients.As recently as November, clients were told their investments were up 8 percent despite turmoil in global markets.

The Nadels were generous to charities that included Habitat for Humanity, Girls Inc. and Jewish Family & Children’s Services. None of those groups had invested money with Nadel, but some non-profits did, including the Sarasota YMCA Foundation, the newspaper said.

Internet



A model wears a design as part of the collection Fashion Shenzhen by the Shenzhen Garment Industry Association during Hong Kong Fashion Week in Hong Kong.—INTERNET

Destroyed buildings are seen in the northern Gaza Strip on 17 Jan, 2009. Israel declared an end to its first war with Hamas in the Gaza Strip on Sunday, but few think it will be the last.

INTERNET



Loch Lomond has deep canyon underneath

EDINBURGH, 18 Jan — The first survey of Loch Lomond in 147 years has found Scotland’s most famous loch is 600 feet deep in places with sheer cliffs lining an underwater canyon.

The British Geological Survey used the latest technology — multi-

beam sonar — to map the floor of Loch Lomond, The Scotsman reported. The last time the bottom of the loch was surveyed, in 1861, Captain HC Otter of the Admiralty used fishing line with lead weights attached to take soundings from a rowboat.

Loch Lomond is deeper

than the North Sea. The loch was gouged out by a glacier as the last Ice Age ended with a deeply sculpted northern end. The southern end of the loch is wider and shallower.“The challenge was to produce a detailed map of the loch floor,” said Alan Stevenson, who led the mapping team. “At some points it is 190 metres deep at the north end and you don’t find that in the open Atlantic until you get out beyond St Kilda.”

Internet

No bail for four in post office killing

REDDITCH (England), 18 Jan — Four men charged with killing the son of a village postmaster during a botched robbery in the English Midlands appeared in court on Saturday.

A magistrate ordered all four held without bail pending another hearing this month, *The Times* of London reported. The suspects were identified as Christopher Morrissey, 31, his brother, Declan,

33, Anselm Ribera, 33, and Adrian Snape, 24, all of Birmingham.

Craig Hodson-Walker, 29, who worked with his parents, Ken and Judy, at the Fairfield General Stores and Post Office, was shot in the chest on 9 Jan when three masked men armed with a gun and sledgehammer entered the store. Fairfield is a village about 10 miles southwest of Birmingham.

Internet

Thai villagers work to keep snakes warm

BAN KHOK SANGA, 18 Jan — Residents of a village in Thailand have had an unusual problem recently — unusual for them, anyway — keeping their cobras warm.

Ban Khok Sanga in the northeastern part of the country is famous for its cobra shows, Thai News Agency reports. The village is home to about 300 king cobras — the world’s largest venomous snake — and 20 snake charmers.

Thailand has been hit with unusually cold weather with temperatures dropping low enough to kill unprotected snakes. The cold also makes the cobras lethargic.—Internet

Toy kills goat at Canadian Zoo

CALGARY (Alberta), 18 Jan — A wild goat died at the Calgary Zoo when it got tangled in a hanging toy zookeepers had placed in its enclosure, officials at the Canadian facility say.

Zoo employees working in a nearby exhibit cut loose the 2-year-old male Turkmenian markhor when they realized it was in trouble on Friday, the Canadian Broadcasting Corp reported on Saturday. However, their efforts to get the animal breathing again were fruitless.“This was a very unfortunate accident that happened while the markhor was playing with an enrichment device placed in the enclosure to provide mental stimulation,” said Cathy Gaviller, the zoo’s conservation director.”It had been there for several years, but somehow the markhor managed to get the rope tangled around its neck, then lost its footing.”—Internet



Protestors dressed like prisoners of the US military prison at Guantanamo in Cuba march on the street in Washington, DC to demand the closure of the camp. With Barack Obama set to shut down the controversial “war on terror” detention camp after his inauguration, Guantanamo Bay detainees could see their military commissions trials canceled.—INTERNET

Chinese car maker Chery to launch MPV type in Indonesian market

JAKARTA, 18 Jan—PT Unicor Prima Motor (UPM), the sole agent for Chinese car maker Chery, will put a model of multi purpose vehicle (MPV) B14 on to the Indonesian market to strengthen its branding, the *Indonesian Business* daily reported on Saturday.

The new model of Chery, namely B14, has an engine of 2,000 cc -2,400 cc and a capacity of seven seaters. UPM plans to begin the distribution in the first semester of 2009.

Before that, Chery has been penetrating the Indonesian market with its superior model, namely City Car QQ and sport utility vehicle (SUV) Tiggo.

According to Tan Kim Piau, the UPM will import B14 from Malaysia.—*Internet*



French Roquefort blue cheeses are displayed in a shop in Paris on 16 January, 2009. France attacked a US decision to triple import duties on its renowned Roquefort cheese on Thursday but said it hoped to be able to resolve the issue after President-elect Barack Obama takes office next week.—INTERNET

Obama urges Americans to meet challenges ahead

PHILADELPHIA, 18 Jan —Three days ahead of his inauguration, US President-elect Barack Obama on Saturday called on Americans to meet the challenges ahead.

“There is much work to be done. But now, all Americans hold within our hands the promise of a new beginning,” Obama said in his weekly radio

and Internet address, which touched on themes he promised to address at the inauguration on Tuesday.

“That is why the events of the next several days are not simply about the inauguration of an American president — they will be a celebration of the American people.”

Obama also thanked outgoing President George W Bush and his team, who have “extended the hand of cooperation, and provided invaluable assistance to my team as we prepare to hit the ground running on 20 January.”

He made the remarks as he prepared to set out on Saturday on a symbolic train trip from Philadelphia to Washington, retracing the steps that Abraham Lincoln took ahead of his inauguration in 1861.

Internet



A health worker disinfects a vehicle coming from India into Nepal, in Kakarvitta on 16 January, 2009. 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.—INTERNET

Quake experts say Calif buildings at risk

LOS ANGELES, 18 Jan — Thousands of so-called soft-story apartments in California remain vulnerable to earthquakes, experts say. *The Los Angeles Times* reported on Saturday that just 800 of 20,000 such buildings in Los Angeles have been retrofitted since the Northridge earthquake in 1994, when the Northridge Meadows apartment complex collapsed, killing 16 people.

The state Seismic Safety Commission says only one county and about a dozen cities, including Los Angeles, have even begun to address multi-unit buildings that have a weak ground floor.

“It’s an issue we need to go back and address again,” said Los Angeles Councilman Greig Smith. As a councilman’s aide, he helped pass a local ordinance encouraging volun-

tary retrofits soon after the Northridge quake, which was a magnitude 6.7 temblor. “It was a partial fix, and there needs to be a complete fix,” Smith said.

After the Northridge quake, the Seismic Safety Commission recommended that addressing existing buildings that were vulnerable in earthquakes should be one of the state’s top priorities.

Internet

Japan records first heart-lung transplant

OSAKA, 18 Jan — A medical team in Japan on Saturday recorded the country’s first successful combined heart-lung transplant operation, hospital officials said.

The patient is a man in his 30s who received the

donor organs of another man, also in his 30s, who had been certified as brain dead at a hospital in Kobe. The recipient was in stable condition following the surgery at Osaka University Hospital, *Kyodo News Service* reported.

The news service said the dead man’s hearts and lungs were removed, put in a cooled container and driven in a taxi led by a police escort to the Osaka hospital. The recipient had been suffering from Eisenmenger’s syndrome, a combination of serious heart and lung disorders.

Kyodo said the donor’s liver was transplanted into a man in his 50s in Fukuoka, his pancreas and one kidney into a woman in her 40s in Tokyo, and the other kidney into a man in his 50s in Nishinomiya.

Internet



Ono Lisa sings at her vocal concert in Shanghai, east China, on 16 Jan, 2009. Famous Japanese jazz singer Ono Lisa, known as the “queen of Bossa Nova”, held her concert at the Shanghai Grand Stage on Friday during the Fifth Jazzy Shanghai. INTERNET

Vietnam, Cambodia boost neighbourliness

HANOI, 18 Jan— Comprehensive cooperation and border demarcation were two of the topics in the spotlight during discussions between Vietnamese National Assembly Chairman Nguyen Phu Trong and Cambodian National Assembly President Samdech Heng Samrin, the *Vietnam News Agency* reported on Friday.

Samdech Heng Samrin paid an official friendship visit to Vietnam from 15 January to 19 January, at the invitation of his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Phu Trong. Trong praised Samdech Heng Samrin’s outstanding contributions to strengthening and developing the friendship

and cooperation between the two countries, after congratulating him on his re-election as Chairman of Cambodia National Assembly. Vietnam always nurtures the traditional friendly ties

and comprehensive cooperation with Cambodia under the motto of “good neighbourliness, traditional friendship and comprehensive and long-lasting cooperation”, said Trong.—*Internet*



A breeder feeds giant panda Dudu at Zhengzhou Zoo in Zhengzhou, capital of central China’s Henan Provnce, on 17 Jan, 2009.—INTERNET

SPORTS

Another show of wobbles raises doubts over Nalbandian's tennis

SYDNEY, 18 Jan—David Nalbandian heads to the Australian Open fresh from taking his 10th ATP title, but another bout of mid-match wobbles in the final have raised old doubts about whether he can ever win a grand slam.

Nalbandian comes to Melbourne unbeaten in four matches this year after becoming the first Argentine ever to win the Sydney International, capturing the title on Saturday night.

But the Argentine, whose 2002 Wimbledon final is his best return in 28 grand slams, again displayed one of the anxiety attacks that have beset his career during his three-set win over Finnish journeyman Jarkko Nieminen.

Internet

Johnson leads at Sony Open, but 18-year-old in mix

HONOLULU, 18 Jan—Tadd Fujikawa returned to the putting green late Saturday afternoon, hours after his 8-under 62 put his name atop the leaderboard at the Sony Open and showed everyone he was serious about becoming the PGA Tour's youngest winner ever.

With the sun setting behind him, Fujikawa's shadow stretched across the green. At 5-foot-1, he

never felt bigger. Fujikawa made birdies on half of his holes for the best round of his life, pulling him within two shots of former Masters champion Zach Johnson and giving golf its biggest buzz since the Ryder Cup.

Johnson had a bogey-free 66 for the lead, but it's so crowded at the top that a dozen players were separated by three shots, giving just about everyone a chance to win — even an 18-year-old senior in high school.

Internet



Tadd Fujikawa reacts to a birdie putt on the third green during the third round of the Sony Open golf tournament at the Waialae Country Club, on 17 Jan, 2009 in Honolulu. INTERNET



Manchester City's Pablo Zabaleta (C) scores against Wigan Athletic during a Premier League football match. City supporters may be eagerly anticipating the arrival of Kaka but Zabaleta offered them a reminder of the Latin American quality already on the books at Eastlands scoring off a superb 25-yard strike to earn City a much needed 1-0.—INTERNET

Arsenal ramp up Arshavin pursuit

HULL, 18 Jan—Arsenal will step-up their bid to sign Andrei Arshavin this week by sending a delegation to eastern Europe in the hope of securing a 20-million-pound deal for the Russian international.

Arshavin is expected to hold another round of talks with Arsenal chief executive Ivan Gazidis with manager Arsene Wenger desperate to land the playmaker before the transfer window closes as hopes of winning silverware begin to fade.

But Wenger could face a battle to keep striker Emmanuel Adebayor at the Emirates. Adebayor, who scored in his side's hard-fought 3-1 win at Hull City on Saturday, is a target of AC Milan and Barcelona.

Milan, who are expected to sell Kaka to



Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger stands in the rain during a Premier League football match against Hull City.—INTERNET

Manchester City later this week, have untold riches to spend on finding a replacement and want Adebayor at the San Siro.

Arsenal would find a 30-million-pound offer for the Togo international difficult to refuse, but Wenger is more concerned with the thankless task of trying to catch Manchester United at the top of the Premier League table.

Internet

Benitez contract row overshadows crunch derby

LIVERPOOL, 18 Jan—Rafael Benitez has attempted to reassure Liverpool fans that uncertainty over his future will not seep through to the dressing room ahead of Monday's crucial derby game with Everton at Anfield.

Benitez revealed on Friday that talks over a contract extension had stalled, sparking fears that the Spaniard is ready to quit the club he joined in 2004.

His current deal expires in the summer of 2010 yet negotiations between Benitez's agent and Liverpool's co-owners Tom Hicks and George Gillett have ended without the two parties being able to agree on the extent of the manager's remit. Benitez is happy with the financial terms of the deal but has demanded more control over football matters, and is adamant that he should not have to answer to chief executive Rick Parry over the buying and selling of players.

Benitez is negotiating from a position of strength with Liverpool mounting a serious challenge for their first title since 1990, and Hicks has insisted the outstanding contractual issues can be resolved.—Internet

Drogba's future at Chelsea in doubt

LONDON, 18 Jan—Didier Drogba's future at Chelsea has been thrown into doubt after the Ivory Coast striker was again excluded from Luiz Felipe Scolari's squad for the dramatic 2-1 win over Stoke.

Drogba had been dropped for the midweek FA Cup victory over Southend in the wake of a lacklustre display in last weekend's heavy defeat against Manchester United. And the decision of Scolari to include teenagers Franco Di Santo and Miroslav Stoch on the substitutes bench ahead of Drogba underlined how far the former Marseille star has fallen out of favour.

The gamble looked set to backfire on Scolari when his side trailed struggling Stoke to Rory



Didier Drogba

Delap's 60th minute opening goal at Stamford Bridge on Saturday. But Juliano Belletti and Frank Lampard scored in the final four minutes to complete a remarkable win that bought Scolari some much-needed breathing space. And the Brazilian coach defended his stance after seeing Stoch and Di Santo appear as late substitutes as Chelsea staged their late rally.—Internet

Answers to yesterday's Crosswords Puzzle

1	F	O	U	R	T	H				4	W	R	I	T	E		
	L		N		O		7	C		A		D		N			
8	O	T	H	E	R			9	L	A	N	D	I	N	G		
	W		A		T		O			D		O		I			
10	E	X	P	L	O	I	T				11	S	T	U	N		
	R		P		I			12	H	E					E		
			A	Y	E	S					15	A	U	T	O		
17	B						18	E	L		19	M				20	A
21	A	B		L	E					23	O	U	T	L	A	S	T
	R			I			24	P			R		I		I		T
25	T	O	N	S	U	R	E				26	L	U	N	G	E	
	E		E			R		S			L		E			S	
27	R	A	N	G	E						28	P	A	R	R	O	T

Record-breaking Barcelona crank up pressure on Real

MADRID, 18 Jan —Barcelona were back to their brilliant best crushing Deportivo La Coruna 5-0 at Camp Nou on Saturday to move 15 points clear of Real Madrid and 12 ahead of Sevilla at the top of the Spanish first division.

A mesmerising first half display saw Barcelona score three times with Lionel Messi, voted second behind Cristiano Ronaldo in the World Player of the Year award on Monday, Thierry Henry and Samuel Eto'o all on the scoresheet. Henry grabbed his 11th goal of the season with eight minutes left while Eto'o took his personal tally to 18 with a second from the penalty spot in the closing stages.

The Catalan giants are now 17 matches unbeaten in the league and have set a new record of 50 points at the halfway point of the season. Real set the previous best of 47 points last season.—Internet



Barcelona's Cameroonian forward Samuel Eto'o celebrates after scoring a goal against Deportivo during their Spanish League football match at Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona. Barca won 5-0.—INTERENT

Fire destroys Ohio downtown block in frigid cold



Columbus firefighters work to control a fire that spread through stores and businesses Saturday, on 17 Jan, 2009, in Columbus, Ohio.—INTERNET

COLUMBUS (Ohio), 18 Jan—Firefighters have put out a fire that burned for several hours and destroyed a block of buildings in downtown Columbus, Ohio on Saturday.

Fire Battalion Chief Doug Smith said winds helped spread the blaze Saturday. Between 13 and 17 businesses, including a restaurant and a candle shop, were blackened.

At least one hundred firefighters were rotated in and out of frigid weather to fight the blaze. The National Weather Service said temperatures were in the teens with about 18 mph winds.

Smith said crews were “battling the elements.”

The only injury reported was a firefighter being treated for facial burns.—Internet

MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (19.1.2009) (Monday)

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

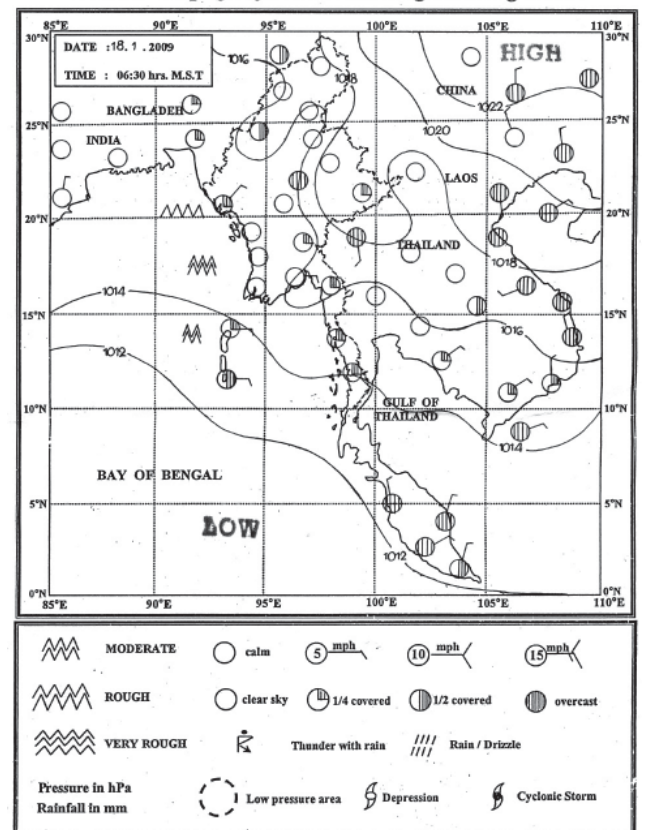
- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- * Myanma Toddy Palm: A Source of Rural Income
- * Let's Talk About Lahu Nationals
- * Reed Handbag
- * The Unique Pindaya Shan Paper
- * Kyaing Tong: Town in the beautiful Valley
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Abroad Transmissions

- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- * Travelogue (Inlay)
- * Lucky Bamboo
- * Breeding of Mythun
- * Hukaung Valley Rattan Survey (Part-III)
- * A Little Village of Kyar Ton
- * Innovative Skills of Myanmar Handicrafts (Part-II)
- * Myanmar Modern Song
- * Myanma Toddy Palm: A Source of Rural Income
- * Let's Talk About Lahu Nationals
- * The Unique Pindaya Shan Paper
- * Kyaing Tong: Town in the beautiful Valley
- * Hukaung Valley Rattan Survey (Part-IV)
- * Reed Handbag
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Sunday, 18 January, 2009

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

Maximum temperature on 17-1-2009 was 87°F. Minimum temperature on 18-1-2009 was 53°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 18-1-2009 was 73%. Total sunshine hours on 17-1-2009 was (9.1) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 18-1-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) m.p.h from Southeast at (13:30) hours MST on 17-1-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 19th January 2009: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, Chin and Shan States, Taninthayi Division 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) m.p.h. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of light rain in the extreme Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 19-1-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 19-1-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 19-1-2009: Generally fair weather.



**Monday, 19 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

7:50 am

5. Cute little Dancers

8:00 am

6. Song of national races

8:10 am

7. “ကြိုဆိုလျက်ပါ”
(မင်းထက်ကျော်ဇင်၊နေထူးနိုင်၊
ငှက်ပျောကြော်၊နေယံ၊မိုးယံစွန်၊
သင်စာဝင့်ကျော်၊ဇင်ဇင်ဇော်မြင့်၊
နန်းဆုရတီစိုး)
[ဒါရိုက်တာ-အောင်မိုး(ပဲရစ်)]

8:20 am

8. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:30 am

9. International news

8:45 am

9. Musical programme

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:10 pm

2. Dance variety

4:20 pm

3. Musical programme

(The radio Myanmar modern musical troupe)

4:35 pm

4. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ တတိယနှစ် (စီးပွားရေးပညာ အထူးပြု) (စီးပွားရေးပညာ)

4:50 pm

5. Songs to uphold national spirit

5:00 pm

6. ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန နိုင်ငံတော်ဆိုင်းဝိုင်းကြီး ဖျော်ဖြေတင်ဆက်မှုအစီအစဉ်

5:15 pm

7. မြန်မာစာ၊မြန်မာစကား

5:30 pm

8. Musical programme

5:45 pm

9. ၂၀၀၇ခုနှစ် စာပေဗိမာန်

စာမူဆုရှင်များ၏ ပုံရိပ်များနှင့် ရင်တွင်းစကား (အပိုင်း-၁)

6:00 pm

10. Evening news

6:30 pm

11. Weather report

6:35 pm

12. Sing and enjoy

7:15 pm

13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “နွဲ့ဆိုးဆိုးသူကိုယ့်ချစ်သူ” (အပိုင်း-၄)

8:00 pm

14. News

15. International news

16. Weather report

17. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

- “မြင့်မြတ်နုလုံးသားပိုင်ရှင်” (အပိုင်း-၁၉)

River water pumping projects in Taikkyi Township benefiting 12,523 acres of arable lands

Article: Tin Htwe (MNA); Photos: WRUD

Under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the Water Resources Utilization Department is implementing three aims: to pump up water from rivers and creeks, to undertake underground water tapping and to efficiently use water in agriculture tasks across the nation.

As part of efforts to benefit the agriculture tasks, the department implemented river water pumping projects in Taikkyi, Htantabin, Hmawby, Mingaladon, Hlegu and Thanlyin townships of Yangon Division.

At present, five river water pumping projects in Taikkyi Township are benefiting 12,523 acres of cultivable lands.

Aingkalaung river water pumping project site, located on the Aphyauk-Taikkyi road near Aingkalaung Village in Taikkyi Township, uses water from Hline River to irrigate 5,000 acres of farmlands.

The project pumps water as high as 32 feet, with a water-pumping platform, the 2.67 miles long main canal, tributary canals stretching 14.88 miles in total and six sets of 132 KW water pump.

Alabok river water pumping project, near Alabok Village of Taikkyi Township, is pumping water from Hline River to benefit 1,120 acres of farmlands. The project also pumps water as high as 20 feet, with a
(See page 10)



Thabyetan river water pumping station supplying water from Hline River to farmlands through main canal.

Shwe Myanmar Anyeint troupe presents entertainment

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Jan—The Ministry of Culture managed entertainment of Anyeint troupes for the staff and the people.

Yesterday evening,

Shwe Myanmar Anyeint troupe of the Fine Arts Department performed entertainment at the Ministry of Education.

It was attended by Minister for Education

Dr Chan Nyein, Deputy Ministers U Myo Nyunt and Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, directors-general, staff and family members.

MNA

Slight changes in climate may trigger abrupt ecosystem responses



Forest fire near Bailey, Colorado. A new analysis shows that slight changes in climate may trigger major abrupt ecosystem responses — including insect outbreaks, wildfire, and forest dieback — that are not easily reversible.

SCIENCE DAILY, 18 Jan — Slight changes in climate may trigger major abrupt ecosystem responses that are not easily reversible.

Some of these re-

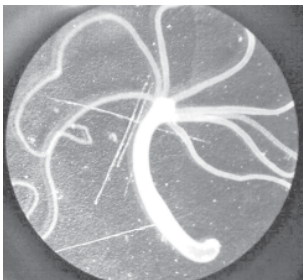
sponses, including insect outbreaks, wildfire, and forest dieback, may adversely affect people as well as ecosystems and their plants and animals.

The US Geological

Survey led a new assessment of the implications of a warming world on "ecological thresholds" in North America. The report, which was commissioned by the US Climate Change Science Program and authored by a team of federal and academic climate scientists, is based on a synthesis of published scientific literature and addresses what research and steps are needed to help mitigate resulting effects.

An ecological threshold is the point at which there is an abrupt change in an ecosystem that produces large, persistent and potentially irreversible changes.—Internet

New family of antibacterial agents uncovered



Hydra.

KIEL, 18 Jan — As bacteria resistant to commonly used antibiotics continue to increase in number, scientists keep searching for new sources of drugs. One potential new bactericide has now

been found in the tiny freshwater animal Hydra.

The protein identified by Joachim Grötzinger, Thomas Bosch and colleagues at the University of Kiel, hydramacin-1, is unusual (and also clinically valuable) as it shares virtually no similarity with any other known antibacterial proteins except for two antimicrobials found in another ancient animal, the leech.

Hydramacin proved to be extremely effective

though; in a series of laboratory experiments, this protein could kill a wide range of both Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria, including clinically-isolated drug-resistant strains like Klebsiella oxytoca (a common cause of nosocomial infections). Hydramacin works by sticking to the bacterial surface, promoting the clumping of nearby bacteria, then disrupting the bacterial membrane.

Internet

Real Madrid match Kaka offer?

MADRID, 18 Jan — Real Madrid are reportedly ready to match Manchester City's offer for Kaka, so he could force Milan to wait until the summer.

Rossoneri general manager Adriano Galliani had refused to part with the Ballon d'Or winner when Real made a reported £80m bid last year, but times have changed.

"The world is now worth half of what it was a year ago," he warned after last night's 1-0 win over Fiorentina.

"I have the same feelings as the fans and love this club, but as general manager I have to keep sentiment and reasoning together."

Milan are eager to cash in on Kaka, but Manchester City do not provide a draw for the player, as they are unlikely to qualify for the Champions League for at least another year.—Internet

