Established 1914

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

Development of Chaungtha, Shwe Thaung Yan

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan – Maj-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence together with Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe and officials inspected patient wards, medicine store and operation theater at Chaungtha Station Hospital in Chaungtha, Ayeyawady Division on 21 January and presented cash assistance to the patients.

Next, they looked into preparations for construction of new school building for Chaungtha Township Basic Education High School and learning of school children, and met with teachers and members of the board of trustees of the school at the school. They also visited No. 8 Basic Education Primary School in the township and Chaungtha Township Electrical Engineer's Office.

On 22 January, Maj-Gen Ko Ko accompanied by the commander and officials inspected development of Chaungtha region and met with departmental officials, members of social organizations and townselders at the office of township General Administration Department in Shwe Thaung Yan.

At People's Hospital in the township, Maj-Gen Ko Ko and party inspected patient ward, medicine store and X-ray room of the hospital and presented cash assistance to the patients.

Next, Maj-Gen Ko Ko heard reports on academic matters presented by Ayeyawady Division Education Officer at township BEHS and provided matriculation students with cash assistance, teaching aids and blankets. The commander and officials presented blankets to the students.

Afterwards, Maj-Gen Ko Ko gave instructions on academic matters to the students and looked into classrooms in the school. – *MNA*

Maj-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence inspects learning of school children at Chaungtha Township BEHS. —MNA

INSIDE

Newly-constructed bridges on the Ayeyawady River have generated smooth transport and there has been an increase in trade in the regions on the east and west banks.

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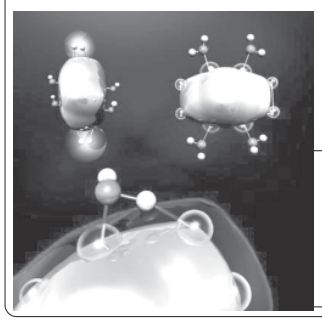
New way to produce hydrogen

PENN STATE UNIVERSITY, 24 Jan — Scientists at Penn State University and the Virginia Commonwealth University have discovered a way to produce hydrogen by exposing selected clusters of aluminum atoms to water. The findings are important because they demonstrate that it is the geometries of these aluminum clusters, rather than solely their electronic properties, that govern the proximity of the clusters' exposed active sites. The proximity of the clusters' exposed sites plays an important role in affecting the clusters' reactions with water.—*Internet*



The figure shows aluminum clusters reacting with water to produce hydrogen.

ILBC hiking and mountaineering team's victory over ice-capped Mt. Phonganrazi

Article: Maung Maung Htwe (MNA); Photos: Thaung Myint (MNA)

Members of ILBC hiking and mountaineering team celebrate the victory at the peak of 11,860-foot-high ice-covered Mt. Phonganrazi in Putao, Kachin State, on 1 January 2009. **(See page 7)**

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 25 January, 2009

Expedite development of regions on west bank of Ayeyawady River

Pakokku in Magway Division on the west bank of the Ayeyawady River is an economically strategic region. So, the government is fulfilling requirements in various aspects for its all-round development through the 24 Special Regions Development Project.

Newly-constructed bridges on the Ayeyawady River have generated smooth transport and there has been an increase in trade in the regions on the east and west banks.

Magway Division has a low rainfall, so it will see an agricultural boom if it has access to sufficient irrigation water supply. Upon completion, many dam projects including multipurpose ones along the Mone Creek will make significant contribution toward hydropower generation and agriculture of the region. Many small dams, lakes and river water pumping stations in Pakokku District have helped increase its sown acreage of monsoon paddy to over 100,000 and summer paddy, to over 10,000. Moreover, the region is boosting cultivation of edible oil crops and beans and pulses.

Over 500 State-owned and private-owned factories such as textile factories, dyeing and printing factories, garment factories, Kyunchaung fertilizer plant, cigarette factory, tobacco blending factory and machine and machine tools factory in the district have generated regional development and many job opportunities.

The government is exerting all possible means in various sectors for all-round development of the whole Union, thus bringing about regional development and improving the living conditions of the people.

It is, therefore, required to continue to work hard for completion of the ongoing projects ahead of schedule, operation of the factories at full capacity, and boosting production of modern machines for greater development of the regions on the west bank of the Ayeyawady River.

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**

Refresher Course for Management Staff Grade-II concludes

YANGON, 24 Jan— A ceremony to conclude the Refresher Course No. 1/2008 for Management Staff Grade-II was held at the training school of General Administration Department in Mingaladon Township, here, this morning.

In his address, Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo urged the trainees to carry out their tasks with better performance by applying the experiences obtained from the training course and observe the conduct rules of government services.

The minister awarded prizes to the outstanding trainees and presented completion certificates to a trainee representative.

The course was attended by 36 trainees from GAD (Head Office), States/Divisions, Districts and Townships, and the course lasted six weeks.

MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo presents completion certificate to a trainee.

MNA

TMC's scholarship program under way

YANGON, 24 Jan— TMC Educational Group will conduct the scholarship test for English and Critical and Analytic Thinking, at Traders Hotel, here, on 14 February (Wednesday) from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Scholarship awarded winners will be awarded S$ 5,000 each to attend the subject-wise courses of 2009 April intake.

TMC is a private college of international, recognized by the Republic of Singapore. Those who had passed the matriculation examination may attend diploma and degree courses at TMC but the graduates may directly enroll higher diploma course.

For international level degrees conferred by universities of Australia, the USA and the UK, diploma and degree holders of TMC may grasp job opportunities.

The courses cover journalism, mass communications, public relations, accounting & finance, international business management, international marketing, logistics management, management, marketing, computing, E-business & E-commerce, multi-media, construction management & property, hospitality & tourism, English, GCE "O" level and preparatory course for government schools.

Those wishing to sit for the exam may contact Asia Pacific Consultancy Ltd (APC) at No. 67, D-1, Natmauk street on Po Sein Road, Bahan Township (Tel: 01-554475, 549929, 556617 and 0951-70688, up to 30 January.

MNA

Basic English Proficiency Course concludes

YANGON, 24 Jan—Organized by the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the Basic English Proficiency Course No. 1, jointly conducted by the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana and Maha Karuna Buddhist Association of Singapore, concluded at the training hall of Pitakat Building on Kaba Aye Hill, here, this afternoon.

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung delivered an opening address. Next, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Adviser U Arnt Manug, Director-General Dr Myo Myint of DPPS and Pro-Rector (Admin) Dr Myint Kyi of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University presented completion certificates to the trainees and prizes to outstanding trainees.

Afterwards, the opening ceremony of the basic course No. 2 followed. A total of 60 trainees are attending the course that will last six months.

MNA

***Head of Mandalay Division Fire Services Department U Tin Min, Head of the Township FSD U Aung Thu and officials inspected fire preventative measures taken in Phonetawto Ward, Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay recently.*—NLM**

US, Afghan villagers differ over 15 killed in raid

KABUL, 24 Jan — The US coalition said on Saturday that an overnight raid killed 15 Taleban militants but village elders who quickly traveled to speak with government officials said the dead were all civilians.

A detailed US statement said multiple teams of militants fired on the coalition forces during a raid in the eastern province of Laghman, including a woman the US said was carrying a rocket-propelled grenade.

"We know the people who were killed were shooting at us," said Col Greg Julian, the top US spokesman in Afghanistan. "The people who were killed today were running around, maneuvering against our forces, and we killed them."

But Hamididan Abdul Rahmzai, the head of the provincial council in Laghman, said village elders arrived at his office hours after the early morning operation to complain that the 15 killed were innocent civilians.

During a call from an Associated Press reporter, Rahmzai relayed questions to the village elders directly, who angrily shouted that they would swear on the Quran, the Muslim holy book, that all those killed were civilians. The elders claimed that women and children were among the dead.

The villagers told Rahmzai that they are shepherds and have no ties to militants.

Internet

Pakistani paramedics treat a victim of a missile attack in Bannu on 23 January. Six more bodies were recovered from the rubble of an Al-Qaeda den hit by a US missile, pushing the death toll in two separate strikes to 21, security officials have said.—INTERNET

Gunmen kill family of eight in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 24 Jan — Gunmen killed eight members of a family, including six women, and kidnapped two others in a tense area northeast of Baghdad where Shiite militiamen still operate, officials said on Friday.

The ambush was a grisly example of the dangers still facing Iraqis as the new US administration prepares to withdraw its troops.

The gunmen stormed the al-Karawi family's home late Thursday and shot the eight victims to death in their sleep, according to Brig Gen Abdul-Karim al-Rubaie, the head of the security headquarters for Diyala Province.

He initially said the dead included two women but later said there were six women, including one who was only 16 years old. The family was poor and had moved to the Maamil village a year ago to work at brick factories in the area, he said.

The US military said four men, four women and one child died. Conflicting casualty tolls are common in Iraq where access is limited because of security concerns. Al-Rubaie declined to speculate on the reason for the attack, saying it was still under investigation.

But Iraqi police officials contacted in the nearby town of Balad Ruz and the provincial capital of Baqouba gave conflicting motives. One said it was a family dispute while another blamed it on Shiite extremists he said still wield influence in the area.— *Internet*

The crime scene where Oaxaca's former police director Aristeo Lopez was killed during a shooting in Oaxaca, Mexico, on 23 Jan, 2009.
INTERNET

NATO friendly fire kills two civilians, wounds four more in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 24 Jan — Two civilians have been unintentionally killed with four more wounded by friendly fire of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in southern Afghan province of Helmand, said ISAF statements received here on Saturday.

A local man, who was suspected laying IEDs (Improvised Explosive Device) near an ISAF base in Gereshk district, was killed by ISAF forces on Thursday, the statement said.

It added that an ISAF soldier killed the victim after he ignored two warning shot and kept digging.

"ISAF broadcasts frequent public service announcements and undertakes advertising campaigns to inform the local population of the need to follow the directions given by ISAF personnel. This is for their safety as well as for the safety of ISAF's soldiers," it added.

In another incident in Sagin district, "a local man was unintentionally killed and four others injured in an incident on Wednesday when ISAF forces came under attack from enemy fire and were forced to act in self defence," said the statement.

Internet

US military deaths in Afghanistan region at 570

WASHINGTON, 24 Jan—As of Friday, 23 Jan, 2009, at least 570 members of the US military had died in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan as a result of the US invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001, according to the Defence Department. The department last updated its figures Friday at 10 am EST.

Of those, the military reports 415 were killed by hostile action.

Outside the Afghan region, the Defence Department reports 66 more members of the US military died in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Of those, three were the result of hostile action. The military lists these other locations as Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba; Djibouti; Eritrea; Ethiopia; Jordan; Kenya; Kyrgyzstan; Philippines; Seychelles; Sudan; Tajikistan; Turkey; and Yemen.

There were also four CIA officer deaths and one military civilian death.—*Internet*

Commercial airline pilots prepare for takeoff. Indian pilots have a new weapon to combat mid-flight fatigue: talking with their cabin crew.—INTERNET

US soldier dies when vehicle rolls over in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 24 Jan — The US military says an American soldier has died in a vehicle accident in Iraq.

A statement says the Multi-National Division — Centre soldier died on Thursday when the vehicle rolled over.

The military says the accident was not related to combat and is under investigation.

Friday's statement doesn't identify the soldier or give more details about where the accident occurred. The soldier's division operates in an area south of Baghdad.

The death raises to at least 4,230 members of the US military who have died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003. That's according to an Associated Press count.—*Internet*

Economic downturn fails to dent festivities

BEIJING, 24 Jan — Unlike in recent years, Beijinger Bai Meng did not receive any bonus from her boss this year.

But the researcher with an American-owned chemical firm in Beijing still said she would spend the last day before the Spring Festival at one of the capital's largest supermarkets and splurge on ingredients for the traditional family reunion feast on the eve of the Lunar New Year on Sunday.

The dinner on the Spring Festival eve is very important for every family member, and I will shop and prepare it myself this year," Bai, 26, told China Daily on Friday.

"I didn't get the bonus this year because of the global financial crisis, and that's why we decided not to celebrate in a restaurant," she said.

From supermarkets to shopping malls, Beijingers like Bai are busy with last-minute preparations to celebrate Spring Festival, even as the global financial crisis and job security loomed large with the ushering in of the Year of the Ox. Shops displayed red lanterns and ox-motif paper-cuts as customary decorations of joy and hope.

"We gave a 70 percent discount on some products and arranged various entertainment shows in the mall to attract younger shoppers," said a marketing manager at Joy City in Xicheng district, one of Beijing's main shopping areas.—*Internet*

A local resident shop for "festival necessities" for the upcoming Chinese Lunar New Year at a supermarket in Beijing, on 23 Jan, 2009.—INTERNET

Members of a police bomb squad handle a corroded World War II bomb on 24 Jan, 2009 in Manila for proper disposal. Construction workers unearthed about 100 pieces of heavily corroded artillery shells and mortars found inside the US embassy compound where a construction is going on.—INTERNET

WWII bombs found in US Embassy compound in Manila

MANILA, 24 Jan — Construction workers accidentally unearthed about 100 bombs from World War II in the US Embassy compound in the Philippine capital, but the explosives posed no immediate danger, police said on Saturday.

The heavily corroded mortar bombs and artillery shells will be taken to an aerial bombing range in the northern Philippines for disposal, police Senior Superintendent Pablo Francisco Balagtas said.

It was not immediately clear if the ordinance was American or Japanese, Balatagas said.

US Embassy spokeswoman Rebecca Thompson said workers found the bombs Friday as they were digging the foundations for new visa and veterans' facilities at the seaside embassy. Workers and staff were immediately evacuated as a safety precaution while the police bomb squad removed the explosives, Thompson said.

Normal embassy operations resumed Saturday, she said.Manila was the scene of heavy fighting between US and Japanese forces during the liberation of the Philippines in 1945, and war-era explosives are often found in the city.—*Internet*

Hamas says it's back in control of the Gaza Strip

GAZA CITY, 24 Jan — Bearded Hamas activists on Friday delivered an envelope with five crisp $100 bills to a veiled woman whose house was damaged during Israel's invasion of Gaza, the first of promised relief payments by the militant group.In another part of the territory, a bulldozer cleared rubble and filled in a bomb crater where a week before a top Hamas leader had been killed in an Israeli air strike.

Since a truce took hold this week, ending Israel's three-week onslaught, Gaza's Hamas rulers have declared victory and gone out of their way to show they are in control.

They have pledged $52 million of the group's funds to help repair lives, the money divied up by category. The veiled woman received emergency relief money for her two-story home in the northern town of Beit Lahiya.

Hamas, which is believed to be funded by donations from the Muslim world and Iran, said the emergency relief would include $1,300 for a death in the family, $650 for an injury, $5,200 for a destroyed house and $2,600 for a damaged house.

More than 4,000 houses were destroyed and about 20,000 damaged, according to independent estimates.—*Internet*

Chilean private mining companies criticized for firing 14,000 workers

SANTIAGO, 24 Jan — Chilean private mining companies were criticized by the country's labour union for having laid off more than 14,000 workers since 2008, local media reported on Friday.

President of the Central Union of Workers in Chile Arturo Martinez said that such move "is a company policy to make the employees pay for the financial crisis."

"The businessmen think of themselves more than their workers, though they have earned a lot of money at the good prices of the copper," Martinez said. The recent massive dismissal was done by the multinational company BHP Billition, controlling the Escondida Mine, which fired 2,000 workers this week, allegedly for the low prices of the copper.—*Internet*

Two dead, seven injured in northwest Miami shooting

MIAMI, 24 Jan — Two people were killed and seven injured during a shooting Friday night in a residential area in northwest Miami, authorities said.

At least one of the wounded was in critical condition at a hospital, police spokeswoman Kenia Alfonso said. Authorities didn't have anyone in custody and didn't know how many people were involved or what prompted the shooting outside a store in Liberty City."We have someone out there that is armed, it is a dangerous situation," Alfonso said.

When paramedics arrived, many of those who had been shot were lying in the street. Lt Ignatius Carroll with Miami Fire Rescue said the scene was chaotic.—*Internet*

Rescue workers work in front of the childcare centre in Dendermonde, 30 km north of Brussels. A 20-year-old Belgian man armed with a long knife and wearing face paint killed two infants and an adult in a rampage at a creche on Friday, officials said.—INTERNET

Asia braces for tough tourism year

BEIJING, 24 Jan — Across Asia, hotels, airlines and tourism operators are bracing for another tough year as the financial crisis sees long-haul visitors remain at home, and regional travelers tighten purse-strings with shorter, budget trips.

"There'll definitely be a drop in business, fewer tourists is a reality," said Laurence Lai, the owner of photo galleries located in two of Hong Kong's busiest tourist hotspots including the Star Ferry pier.

"I expect a 30-percent fall at least. I'm having to shift my strategies to confront this financial tsunami, but you just have to stand firm and face the winds," added Lai, who relies on tourists for half his sales.

Asia's blend of diverse cultures, geography, bargains and exoticism, with travel gems ranging from snowy Himalayan kingdoms to neon-lit capitals, crumbling Khmer ruins and powdery beaches - have made it one of the world's fastest growing tourism regions in recent years, along with the Middle East.

But since the downturn intensified last year, travel markets spanning Asia have suffered sharp contractions, at times worsened by political turmoil, with many projecting negative growth in 2009.

Hong Kong, now one of Asia's top tourist hubs with 29.5 million visitors last year, is predicting visitor arrivals to dip 1.6 percent in 2009, though a steeper drop of 9.2 percent is forecast for non-Chinese visitors.

Xinhua

The crew members of the Chinese cargo ship Zhenhua 4 and guests pose for cameras during a commendation ceremony at Changxing Island Port in Shanghai, east China, on 23 Jan, 2009. Shanghai Zhenhua Port Machinery Co Ltd held a commendation ceremony here on Friday, and rewarded 30 of its seamen with 10,000 US dollars each for their bravery and courage. Nine pirates armed with rocket launchers and heavy machine guns boarded the ship in the Gulf of Aden on 17 Dec. —XINHUA

Brazil's Petrobras to invest $174.4 bln by 2013

RIO DE JANEIRO, 24 Jan— Brazil's state owned oil and gas giant Petrobras on Friday announced its 2009-2013 business plan which foresees a total investment of 174.4 billion US dollars, up 55 percent from the 2008-2012 plan.

The plan's publication has been postponed several times since September, as the company said it needed to be reviewed taking into consideration the international financial crisis and its effects on the oil market.

According to the plan, 90 percent of the total investment, or 157.3 billion dollars, will be used in projects at home.

The figures were calculated based on an average oil price of 42 dollars per barrel.

Petrobas will invest 92 billion dollars on exploration and production, up 71 percent from the previous plan. A total of 28 billion dollars will be injected into pre-salt layer oil field projects.

Petrobras' CEO Jose Sergio Gabrielli said the plan was sound and viable in both short and long terms, though the actual amount of the investment envisioned in the plan may be lower, with costs expected to drop because of the falling oil prices.

The company aims to produce 3.3 million barrels of oil equivalent (boe) per day by 2013, up 37.5 percent from current production. By 2020, it expects to produce a daily total of 5.7 million boe.

Xinhua

Two actors attend the full dress rehearsal of the Republic Day parade in New Delhi, capital of India, on 23 Jan, 2009. XINHUA

All item from Xinhua News Agency

Lebanese de-mining worker wounded by war-left cluster bomb

BEIRUT, 24 Jan. — A member of the Lebanese de-mining team Mine Action Group (MAG) was wounded Friday in south Lebanon when a cluster bomb left over from the 2006 Israel-Hezbollah war went off, the state-run National news agency reported.

Ali Mrad was wounded when one of the cluster bombs exploded near the southern town of Arabsalim, and was taken to Nabatieh hospital, the report said.

Many areas in south Lebanon are littered with unexploded cluster bombs dropped by Israel.

Over 285 cluster bomb locations are present across south Lebanon, according to a UN mine action spokeswoman. — *Xinhua*

California jobless rate rockets to 9.3%

LOS ANGELES, 24 Jan — California's unemployment rate jumped to 9.3 per cent in December last year, up from 8.4 per cent in November, it was announced on Friday. The December unemployment rate was the highest in 15 years, highlighting the severity of the economic slowdown, the California Employment Development Department (EDD) said.

In the Los Angeles County, the jobless rate was 9.5 per cent. The department said the rising unemployment rates were due to lackluster holiday sales, continued home value declines and a heightened tempo of layoffs at companies across all sectors of the economy.

Xinhua

Railway policemen perform for travelers on a train on 23 Jan, 2009. An evening party was held on board to celebrate the upcoming Spring Festival with travelers.—XINHUA

China's private airline resumes flights

TIANJIN, 24 Jan — China's first private airline, Okay Airways, resumes operation Saturday morning after suspension of seven weeks.

Its first plane, a Boeing 737-800, took off at 9:00 am from Tianjin Binhai International Airport, carrying 62 passengers to Harbin.

The flight, coded BK2821, is set to make a landing at 10:50 am. Six other flights will also be resumed Saturday. —*Xinhua*

Air taxi service to begin operation in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 24 Jan — The operation of air taxi through single engine aircraft is to begin in Nepal for the first time with the objective of ensuring ample flight services in remote areas at lower price, the National News Agency RSS reported on Saturday.

According to the RSS, the air taxi service was brought to operation in the context that chartered flight could only be operated through single engine aircraft and was difficult to run scheduled flight service, and the government allowed the market to determine chartered flight fare on competition, according to Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation.—*Xinhua*

New Middle East envoy to visit region soon

WASHINGTON, 24 Jan — Middle East special envoy George Mitchell could be traveling to the region as early as next week, two Obama administration officials said.

The schedule is still being planned, but initial stops include Jerusalem; Ramallah, West Bank; Cairo, Egypt; Amman, Jordan; and possibly Saudi Arabia as well as Europe.

President Barack Obama on Thursday named Mitchell as his special envoy to the region.

Obama said Mitchell will help implement a cease-fire between Israelis and Hamas and support anti-smuggling efforts to prevent the latter from rearming.

But he added, "Lasting peace requires more than a long cease-fire, and that's why I will sustain an active commitment to seek two states living side by side in peace and security."

After he was officially named an envoy at a State Department ceremony Thursday, Mitchell said, "I don't underestimate the difficulty of this assignment."

"The situation in the Middle East is volatile, complex and dangerous. But the president and the secretary of state have made it clear that danger and difficulty cannot cause the United States to turn away," he said. —*Internet*

A man carries a tray of meat dumplings at a village hall in Daxing, south of Beijing, on 24 Jan, 2009. Villagers gathered Saturday to make thousands of meat dumplings in preparation for a feast to celebrate Chinese New Year, which begins on Monday. Dumplings are a traditional food eaten to celebrate the New Year.—INTERNET

UK Pentagon hacker can challenge US extradition

LONDON, 24 Jan — A British computer expert accused by the United States of the "biggest military hack of all time" won the right on Friday to launch a new legal challenge against plans to extradite him.

Gary McKinnon was arrested in 2002 after US prosecutors charged him with illegally accessing computers, including the Pentagon, US Army, Navy and NASA systems, and causing 700,000 US dollars worth of damage.

He has been fighting attempts to extradite him ever since a British court ruled in 2006 that he should be sent to the United States for trial. In the latest round of his legal battle, two judges at London's High Court ruled that he could seek a judicial review of Home Secretary (Interior Minister) Jacqui Smith's decision to approve the extradition, the Press Association reported.

Lawyers for McKinnon, who has been diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome, argued his health would suffer and he would be at real risk of suicide if he was handed over to US authorities.

"It is the right decision," his lawyer Karen Todner said after Friday's ruling. "This case has been going on since 2002 and finally we have got the first right decision." —*Internet*

Ban welcomes US decision to close Guantanamo Bay

UNITED NATIONS, 24 Jan — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon Friday welcomed the decision by US President Barack Obama to begin the process of closing the detention facility in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Ban also hailed the new US leader's orders to review detention policies and introduce measures to ensure lawful interrogations, as well as the US administration's ban on certain types of interrogation.

"The United Nations has previously called for the closure of the Guantanamo Bay detention facility, and is encouraged that President Obama has given the highest priority to ensuring respect for fundamental rights," Ban said in a statement, issued here by his spokesperson. The UN Secretary-General also said he looks forward to working with all UN member states to tackle terrorism "while fully respecting international human rights obligations".—*Internet*

A woman (L) receives a piece of a traditional "Rosca de Reyes", a large ring-shaped cake baked for Epiphany, in Mexico City. The biggest "rosca de Reyes" of the world, of 1978 metres of length, was distributed among 250,000 people at the Zocalo square in Mexico City.

Newspaper claims car thief transformed into a goat

One of Nigeria's biggest daily newspapers reported that police implicated a goat in an attempted automobile theft. In a front-page article on Friday, the Vanguard newspaper said that two men tried to steal a Mazda car two days earlier in Kwara State, with one suspect transforming himself into a goat as vigilantes cornered him.

The paper quoted police spokesman Tunde Mohammed as saying that while one suspect escaped, the other transformed into a goat as he was about to be apprehended.

The newspaper reported that police paraded the goat before journalists, and published a picture of the animal.

Police in the state couldn't immediately be reached for comment.

Belief in black magic is widespread in Nigeria, particularly in far-flung rural areas.

A woman makes ox lanterns to welcome the Year of the OX in Kuisan village, East China's Shandong Province.

Test-tube babies account for 2.5% of Dutch new borns

More than 2.5 percent of babies born in the Netherlands in 2007 were the results of in vitro fertilization (IVF), Dutch daily De Volkskrant reported.

The percentage translates to one in 39 babies, which was much higher than the figure in 1996, when one in 11,000 babies conceived from a test tube.

The Netherlands has 13 IVF units which carry out over 16,000 treatments a year, the report said. About a quarter of treatments led to a live birth, up from the success ratio of 18 percent in 1996.

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

Man charged with driving with worker on car hood

A man is facing assault charges after deputies said he hit a state transportation worker and continued driving several miles while the man clung to the hood of the car. Marin County prosecutors charged 73-year-old Peter Buchanan with assault with a deadly weapon, reckless driving and hit-and-run driving .

Authorities say Buchanan, an attorney, was returning to his office on 27 Dec when he drove through a line of cones in Mill Valley and hit David Ramsey, a member of a Caltrans crew.

To avoid getting run over, authorities say Ramsey jumped on the hood of the Mercedes. But Buchanan allegedly continued driving, heading north on Highway 101 at speeds of 40 mph.

Authorities said Ramsey was able to jump off after two drivers blocked Buchanan's car when it exited the highway. Ramsey was not hurt.

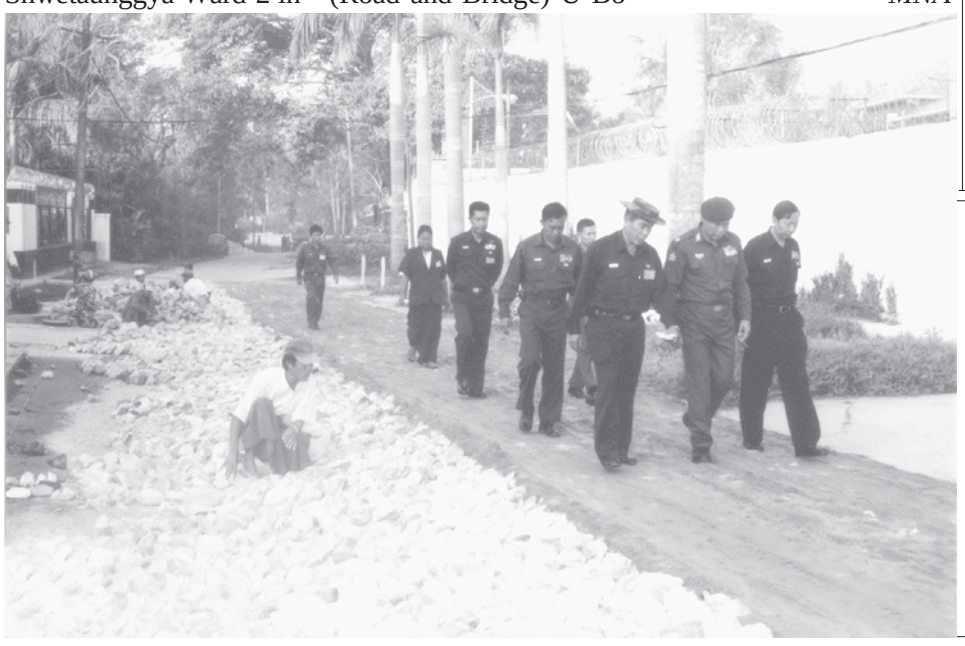
NEWS ALBUM

Yangon Mayor inspects upgrading of road and pavement

YANGON, 24 Jan – Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected upgrading of 1240-foot long and 18-foot wide Shwetaunggya Road at Shwetaunggya Ward-2 in Bahan Township and laying of concrete along four-foot wide pavement of Innya Road between University Avenue and Pyay Road in Kamaryut Township this morning. Head of Engineering Department (Road and Bridge) U Bo Htay and in-charge engineers conducted the mayor round the workplaces.

The mayor stressed the need to make sustained efforts on upgrading of roads and pavements and attended to the needs.

MNA



***Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspects roadworks on Shwetaunggya road in Bahan Township.*—YCDC**

Regional development in Hainggyikyun inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan – Member of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint inspected construction of two-storey basic education post-primary school in Thayachaung Village in Hainggyikyun, Ayeyawady Division, repair of rural road and thriving vegetable plantation of Pyinkharei Village police station on 21 January.

The minister also inspected the site chosen for construction of two cyclone shelters each of which can accommodate 500 people, earth survey and ground leveling with the use of heavy machinery.

Next the minister looked into construction of two storey basic education primary school in Thabyengu Village and met with village people. The minister went to Chaungwa village basic education high school and inspected construction of two-storey school building by Shwe Thanlwin Co. In the afternoon, he met local salt-makers in Kondan Village and went to Kanyinchaung Village basic education middle school (branch) where he inspected construction of new school building.

The minister and party inspected salt farm of U Thein Tun of Mayangwin Village-tract. They inspected environmental conservation and fisheries and met members of mobile rural development educative team.—*MNA*

SAY NO TO DRUGS

ILBC hiking and mountaineering team's victory over ice-capped Mt. Phonganrazi

Article: Maung Maung Htwe (MNA); Photos: Thaung Myint (MNA)

(from page 1)

Members of International Language & Business Centre (ILBC) hiking and mountaineering team led by principal U Lay Maung started to climb ice-capped Mt. Phonganrazi in Putao Township, Kachin State, at 5.30 a.m. on 1 January 2009.

The ages of the members ranged between 14 and 16. The team comprised 39 members including 21 students and the principal.

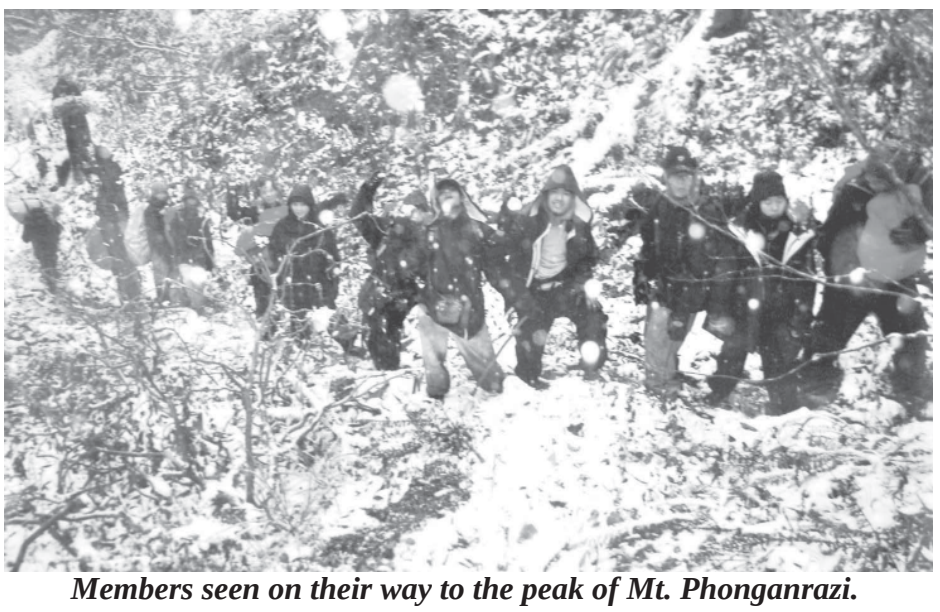
They set their feet on the ice-capped peak of the 11860-foot-high mountain at 9 a.m. the same day. When they reached the top of the mountain, they were all exhausted, but their tiredness was no more just as they erected the State Flag of the Union of Myanmar there to celebrate their victory.

They set out their trip on 27 December 2008. They left Yangon by air for Putao. They got to upper Shangaung Village at 4.30 p.m. and stopped for the night there.

At 7.30 a.m. the following day, they began their hike and they arrived at Wah-hsamden Village at 4.30 p.m. and spent the night there. During their long range penetration (LPR), they climbed Mt Hsalaing Marden with a height of over 5000 feet.

On 29 December, they left Wah-hsamden Village and arrived at Ziyaden Village at 3 p.m. and it was the last village.

They departed from lower Thitpingyi camp at 8.30 a.m. on 31 December. They got to Khamtauk River camp, then to Yaykhesut point at 4 p.m.



Members seen on their way to the peak of Mt. Phonganrazi.

Members passing through an icy stream.

The New Year Day of 2009 became one of the days of happy memories in their lives. They left the Yaykhesut gathering point at 5.30 a.m. and climbed Mt. Phonganrazi. After reaching the peak, they returned to the Yaykhesut gathering point. When they got back to lower Thitpingyi camp, it was at 9.30 p.m. They had to take 14 hours to complete the climbing of Mt. Phonganrazi.

They left Thitpingyi camp for Ziyadem Village on 2 January, and for Wah-hsamden Village on 3 January, and for upper Shangaung Village the following day. They got back to Putao in the evening.

In total, the members hiked 86 miles during the two-week trip from 27 December to 9 January 2009.

The team has a plan to climb many other high mountains. In my opinion, the youth of today should study the geographical features of the nation not only theoretically but also practically. It is because the more they know the geography and national races of their motherland the more they will come to love and cherish their country and people.

*****

Translation: MS

Myanma Alin:
21-1-2009

Wood-based factories produce export quality sawn timber, parquet

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan – Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung visited wood-based factory of Myanma Technologies Industry Co Ltd (MTI) in Dagon East Industrial Zone yesterday.

The minister fulfilled the requirements presented by officials concerned. He inspected production of export quality thin layer of teak and sawn timber.

The minister went to Shwethanthahein Co and inspected production of anti-slip parquet and sawn timber that are exported.—*MNA*

Coord meeting, signing contract of Medium-Term Action Plan-2 held

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—A coordination meeting on implementation of Medium-term Action Plan-2 was held in conjunction with a ceremony to sign a contract between the Ministry of Forestry and International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), at Kyun Shwe War Hall of the ministry, here, this morning.

It was attended by Director-General Dr. Andreas Schild of ICIMOD and Directors-General of the Ministry of Forestry, Rector of University of Forestry, Deputy Director-General and responsible persons.

Next, Director-General U San Lwin of the Planning and Statistics Department under the ministry and Director-General Dr. Andreas Schild of ICIMOD signed the MoU to implement the medium-term action plan-2.

The ICIMOD is an organization that provides technology, assistance and advice to conduct research, geographical information by computer, map drawing system, workshop and training for professionals from the respective departments and students of the University of Forestry and University of Agriculture. *MNA*

Signing ceremony of Medium-Term Action Plan (MTAP) II between Ministry of Forestry and International Centre For Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) in progress.

FORESTRY

Blood donated to military hospitals

YANGON, 24 Jan—The 53rd blood donation ceremony of Myittamon blood donors association of Shine Hope Co in Sangyoung Township was held at No. 1 Defence Services General Hospital (1000-bed) in Mingaladon Township this morning.

On behalf of the commandant of the hospital, Head of Pathology Department Pathologist Lt-Col Daw Tin Moe Mya gave a speech. Daw Nyunt Nyunt Wai of Shine Hope Co explained the purpose of donation. Pathologist Captain Aung Ko Than explained disciplines for the blood donors.

Lt-Col Daw Tin Moe Mya accepted K 300,000 for the hospital and K 100,000 for the Pathology department donated by Shine Hope Co and spoke words of thanks.

Officials viewed blood donation of 50 donors from the association.

A total of 20 persons from the association also donated blood at No. 1 Defence Services Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Children's Hospital (300-bed) and 30 persons at Defence Services Orthopaedic Specialist Hospital (500-bed).

MNA

All this needs to be known

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

Myanma Fine Arts and Theatrical Drama discussed

Director-General U Yan Naing Oo extends greetings at paper reading sessions.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—Organized by the Ministry of Culture, the Paper-reading Session on Myanma Fine Arts and Theatrical Drama was held at the hall of the ministry, here, today, with an introductory speech by Director-General U Yan Naing Oo of the Fine Arts Department.

Alternate Chairmen of the session Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Thabin Asiayon U Ye Dway, member of Myanmar Historical Commission Dr Khin Maung Nyunt and member of Myanmar Language Commission U Myint Kyi presided over the paper reading session.

Professor (Theatrical Drama) Daw Nu Nu Khin of National Culture and Fine Arts University (Mandalay), Deputy Director U Su Aung of Fine Arts Department (Mandalay Branch), Staff Officer Daw Chaw Su Su Kyi of Fine Arts Department, Research Officer U Maung Maung Latt of Fine Arts Department, Expert in Yamayana Drama U Ohn Maung (Pyinnya Alinpya) and Director (Retd) U Aung Thwin of Fine Arts Department submitted their papers to the session.

Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Thabin Asiayon U Ye Dway, member of Myanmar Historical Commission Dr Khin Maung Nyunt, member of Myanmar Language Commission U Myint Kyi, Director-General U Sann Win of Archaeology, National Museum and Library Department, Director-General U Yan Naing Oo of Fine Arts Department, Director-General Dr Ba Maung of Historical Research Department, Deputy Director-General U Sein Win of ANMLD (North), Principal U Thein Lwin of Archaeological Technology Training School, guests and researchers took part in the discussions. The resource persons replied to the queries of those present.—*MNA*

UDNR trainees go on excursion to Mandalay Div

YANGON, 24 Jan—Trainees of four-year B.Ed Course No. 40 of the University for Development National Races on 21 January observed Yeywa Hydropower Project being implement by No. (2) Construction of the Hydropower Department under the Ministry of Electric Power No. 1 in Mandalay Division.

The following day, they visited the Myanmar Institute of Lacquerware, Lacquer Museum, Lacquer Hall, and Lacquer Shop of the Cottage Industries Department under the Ministry of Cooperatives, and Mt. Popa in Kyaukpadaung Township, Myingyan District.

Yesterday, they visited Kyetmauktaung Dam of the Irrigation Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the Central Institute of Transport and Communications under the Ministry of Rail Transportation, Cement Plant in Kyaukse Industrial Zone, the bicycle factory under the Myanma General and Maintenance Industries, and the vest factory under the Myanma Textile Industries.

During their three-day excursion, they were accompanied by Pro-Rector (Academic) U Htay Lwin and faculty members.— *MNA*

Trainees of four-year B.Ed Course No. 40 of UDNR visit Yeywa Hydropower Project site of Hydropower Department under Ministry of Electric Power No. 1 in Mandalay Division. —MNA

All Earth's seasons arrive two days earlier

Autumn leaves. Human activity may be the cause of the shift in the cycle of seasons.

BERKELEY, 24 Jan — Not only has the average global temperature increased in the past 50 years, but the hottest day of the year has shifted nearly two days earlier, according to a new study by scientists from the University of California, Berkeley, and Harvard University.

Just as human-generated greenhouse gases appear to the be the cause of global warming, human activity may also be the cause of the shift in the cycle of seasons, according to Alexander R. Stine, a graduate student in UC Berkeley's Department of Earth and Planetary Science and first author of the report.

"We see 100 years where there is a very natural pattern of variability, and then we see a large departure from that pattern at the same time as global mean temperatures start increasing, which makes us suspect that there's a human role here," he said.—*Internet*

Smoking linked to most male cancer deaths

A new analysis linked smoking to more than 70 percent of the cancer death burden among Massachusetts men in 2003. This percentage is much higher than the previous estimate of 34 percent in 2001.

SCIENCE DAILY, 24 Jan — The association between tobacco smoke and cancer deaths — beyond lung cancer deaths — has been strengthened by a recent study from a UC Davis researcher, suggesting that increased tobacco control efforts could save more lives than previously estimated.

The epidemiological analysis linked smoking to more than 70 percent of the cancer death burden among Massachusetts men in 2003. This percentage is much higher than the previous estimate of 34 percent in 2001.

"This study provides support for the growing understanding among researchers that smoking is a cause of many more cancer deaths besides lung cancer," said lead author Bruce Leistikow, a UC Davis associate adjunct professor of public health sciences. "The full impacts of tobacco smoke, including secondhand smoke, have been overlooked in the rush to examine such potential cancer factors as diet and environmental contaminants. As it turns out, much of the answer was probably smoking all along."—*Internet*

Scientific submarine makes deep-sea discoveries

HOBART, 24 Jan — A four-week expedition to explore the deep ocean south-west of Tasmania has revealed new species of animals and more evidence of impacts of increasing carbon dioxide on deep-sea corals.

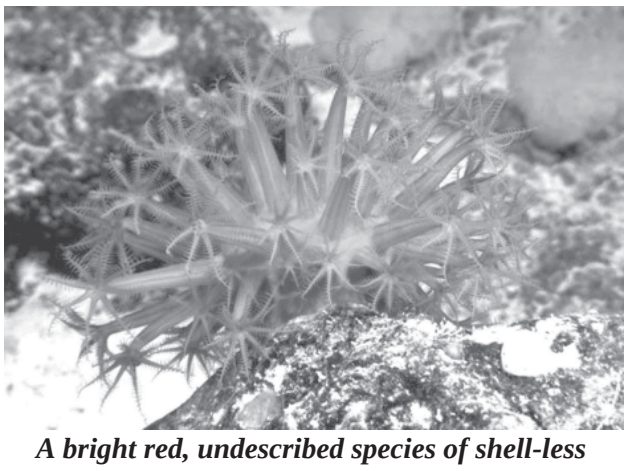
The collaborative voyage of US and Australian researchers was led by chief scientists Dr Jess Adkins from the California Institute of Technology and Dr Ron Thresher from CSIRO's Climate Adaptation and Wealth from Oceans Flagships.

"We set out to search for life deeper than any previous voyage in Australian waters," Dr Thresher says. "We also gathered data to assess the threat posed by ocean acidification and climate change on Australia's unique deep-water coral reefs."

The survey through the Tasman Fracture Commonwealth Marine Reserve, south-west of Tasmania, explored the near vertical slice in the earth's crust, known as the Tasman Fracture Zone, which drops from approximately 2000 metres to over 4000 metres.

"Our sampling documented the deepest known Australian fauna, including a bizarre carnivorous sea squirt, sea spiders and giant sponges, and previously unknown marine communities dominated by gooseneck barnacles and millions of round, purple-spotted sea anemones."

All of these new species are located more than 2000 metres below the surface.—*Internet*



A bright red, undescribed species of shell-less coral, called an anthomastid or gorgons-head coral, at 1700 metres deep at the Cascade Plateau, off south-east Tasmania.

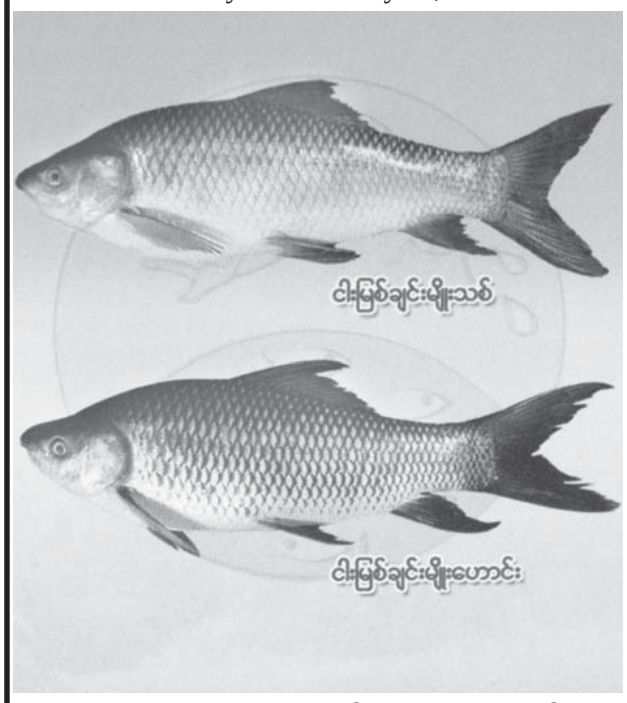
Serving national interest for gaining greater development

Article: Maung Maung Htwe (MNA); Photos: Thaung Myint (MNA)

(from page 16)

He further explained, "We have planned to hire the technicians from abroad to improve cold storages for the aquatic products processing of Myanmar to meet the international standard based on EU standard. Moreover, efforts are being made for establishment of the auction market in Maungtaw region of Rakhine State. The association will strive not only for processing of Myanma aquatic products but also for production of value-added ones."

Chairman U Ba Thaw of Myanmar Eel Entrepreneurs Association explained, "I have been discharging duty as chairman of the association since the fifth annual general meeting held on 6 December 2006. The exporting of eel earns foreign exchange for the State. In 2007-2008 financial year, US$ 17.8 million was fetched through exporting 7,882 tons of eel. At Muse 105th mile camp of the border trade route, a total of 35 companies are exporting eel to foreign countries."



New and old species of Ngamyitchin fish* (Labeo rohita) *are in high demands in foreign market.

Chairman U Lo Kim Hsaing of Myanmar Ornamental Fish Entrepreneurs Association replying to queries of the news team.

The chairman added, "Our association has set the aims for Myanmar Eel Entrepreneurs Association and eel entrepreneurs to join hands in their work unitedly, to be able to seek the appropriate market for the fishery products; processors and exporters, are to observe the law, procedures, rules and regulations of fishery work for prevention against the depletion of fish stocks, and they do their businesses in line with the aims."

Domestic species of ornamental fish of Myanmar that won prizes in international contests earn foreign exchange for the nation.

Afterwards, Chairman U Lo Kim Hsaing of Myanmar Ornamental Fish Entrepreneurs Association said, "Our association was formed on 5 December 2006. For broadening the domestic ornamental fish market, the Ornamental Fish Market was opened in the compound of the Freshwater Fish Garden in the Education Zone of National Kandawgyi Gardens on 7 March 2008. Up to now, various species and sizes of ornamental fish are being traded at the market."

He recounted, "The indigenous species of ornamental fish are popular in the foreign market and the export of such fish fetched US$ 2.3 million in the 2007-2008 financial year. The Myanmar entrepreneurs won the prizes in the international ornamental fish contests by showing the species of ornamental fish from Ayeyawady and Bago Divisions and Rakhine and Shan States."

"With a view to producing domestic ornamental fish as a water resource in the long run, he added, our association will adopt the future programmes to focus on realizing the Sustainable Development of Fisheries Sector and to promote the Myanmar ornamental fish business similar to that of some ASEAN member countries."

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Translation: TTA

Kyemon: 22-1-2009

Nutrient supports bone health over time

SCIENCE DAILY, 24 Jan — Findings from a new study suggest that natural pigments found in plants may help protect against bone loss in older men and women. Researchers funded by the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) reported the findings in a paper published online by The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition.

The study was led by epidemiologist Katherine Tucker with the Jean Mayer USDA Human Nutrition Research Centre on Aging (HNRCA) at Tufts University in Boston, Mass. Tucker directs the HNRCA's Dietary Assessment and Epidemiology Research Program.

Other studies have consistently shown that fruit and vegetable intake is good for bones. Biological antioxidants in fruits and vegetables, such as carotenoids, protect cells and tissues from damage caused by naturally occurring oxygen free radicals in the body. Such plant nutrients may help protect the skeleton by reducing oxidative stress and thereby inhibiting bone breakdown or resorption.—*Internet*

Plant pigments commonly found in colourful fruits and vegetables appear to have a protective effect against bone loss in older adults, according to a new study.

New insights into convection in planets and stars

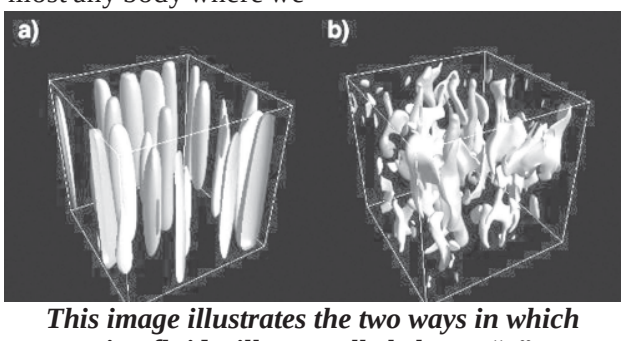
BERLIN, 24 Jan — A new study by UCLA planetary scientists and their colleagues in Germany overturns a longstanding scientific tenet and provides new insights into how convection controls much of what we observe in planets and stars.

The research unifies results from an extensive array of previous experiments. It appears in the Jan. 15 edition of the journal Nature.

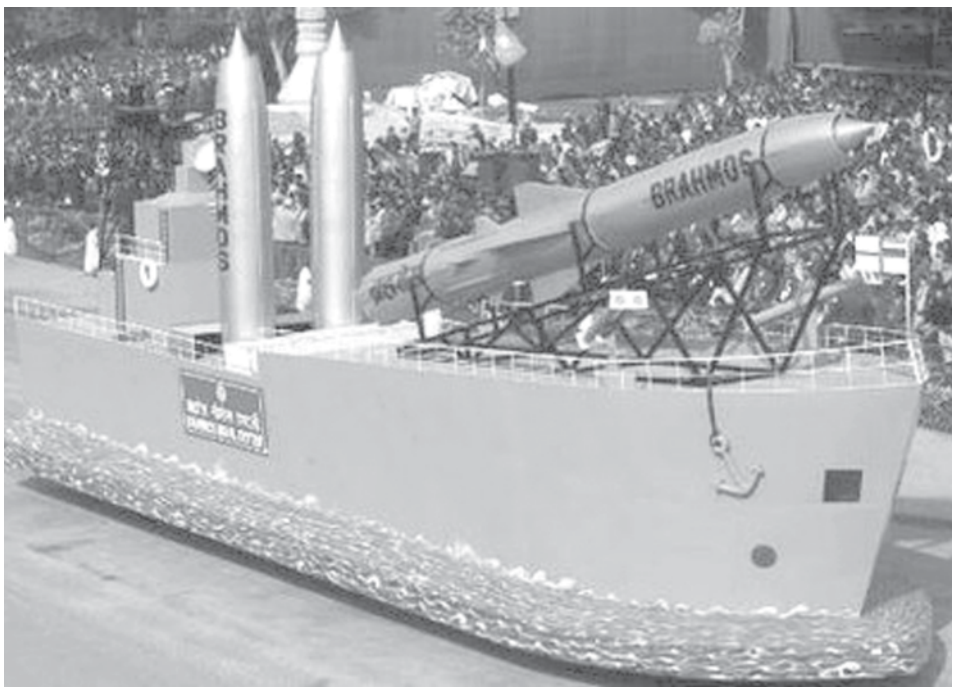
"The Nature paper allows us new and meaningful predictions for where we should observe different behaviors throughout the universe wherever there are rotating convection systems, and that means planets and stars," said study co-author Jonathan Aurnou, a UCLA associate professor of planetary physics. "This allows us to make predictions for almost any body where we can measure the rotation rate and heat coming out. For me, that's exciting."

Convection describes the transfer of heat, or thermal energy, from one location to another through the movement of fluids such as liquids, gases and slow-flowing solids.

Internet



This image illustrates the two ways in which convecting fluid will generally behave; "a" represents rapidly rotating convection, and "b" represents chaotic, non-rotating convection.



India's Brahmos supersonic cruise missiles are seen during the full dress rehearsal for the Republic Day parade in New Delhi on 23 Jan, 2009. India will celebrate its Republic Day on Monday.—INTERNET

Shanghai reports coldest winter for 18 years

SHANGHAI, 24 Jan — East China's business hub Shanghai reported a temperature of minus 5.9 degrees Celsius in its downtown Saturday, the lowest for 18 years, as a cold snap swept China from north to south, the municipal meteorological observatory said. The temperature in the Xujiahui area in downtown Shanghai reached minus 5.9 degrees Celsius early Saturday, the lowest since 1992, the city's Central Meteorological Observatory said.

Records show the lowest temperature in downtown Shanghai was minus 8 degrees Celsius in 1991.

The observatory said the city's temperatures would also be below minus 5 degrees Celsius Sunday, the eve of Chinese New Year. But it forecast the city's temperatures would rise from Monday.

China Central Meteorological Observatory forecast the cold snap, which has caused a temperature drop of about 15 degrees Celsius in parts of east and south China, would end Sunday.

Internet

Iraq to reopen notorious Abu Ghraib prison

BAGHDAD, 24 Jan — Iraq will reopen the notorious Abu Ghraib prison next month, but it's getting a facelift and a new name, a senior justice official said Saturday.

The announcement comes as the US military has begun handing over detainees in its custody to the Iraqis under a new security agreement.

The renovated facility will be called Baghdad's Central Prison because the name Abu Ghraib has left a "bitter feeling inside Iraqis' hearts," deputy Justice Minister Busho Ibrahim said.

Abu Ghraib, which was a torture center under Saddam Hussein and later came to symbolize American mistreatment of some prisoners captured in Iraq, has been closed since 2006. The prison will house 3,500 inmates when it reopens in mid-February and will have a capacity for about 15,000 by the end of this year, Ibrahim told The Associated Press in a telephone interview.

Internet

Earthquake hits Timor region

HONG KONG, 24 Jan — An earthquake measuring 5.2 on the Richter scale occurred in Timor region at 9:52 Saturday (0152 GMT Saturday), according to a bulletin released by the Hong Kong Observatory.

The epicenter was initially determined to be 8.4 degrees south latitude and 125.1 degrees east longitude, about 620 kilometers south-southwest of Ambon, Indonesia. There were no reports of casualties or damage so far. —*Internet*

Spain: Sports centre roof collapse kills at least three children

MADRID, 24 Jan — Three children were killed and 16 others injured after a sports centre roof collapsed in strong winds near Barcelona, news reaching here said Friday.

There were between 20 and 30 children in the building at Sant Boi de Llobregat when the accident occurred, reports quoted a regional government spokes-woman as saying. Destructive storm swept through the Mediterranean for a second day.

Winds of up to 172 km per hour (107 miles per hour) have been battering northern Spain and southwest France, interrupted electricity supplies, and closing roads, railways and airports, the reports said.

Two other deaths have been reported in Spain amid the storm. Spain's interior ministry advised people to stay at home and avoid any outdoor activity. —*Internet*

Gaza children pose for photos during their break in the Beit Loliya Boys Elementary School in Gaza city on 24 Jan, 2009. Some 200,000 Gaza children returned to school for the first time since Israel's offensive.
INTERNET

Brazil model who lost hands, feet dies

RIO DE JANEIRO, 24 Jan — A Brazilian model whose feet and hands were amputated following a drug-resistant infection died early on Saturday, health officials said.

Brazilian model Mariana Bridi.
INTERNET

Mariana Bridi, 20, died at 2:30 am from complications related to a generalized infection caused by the bacteria Pseudomonas aeruginosa, the Espirito Santo State Health Secretariat said in a statement. The bacteria is known to be resistant to multiple kinds of antibiotics.

Bridi had been in the hospital in the city of Serra in Espirito Santo state since 3 Jan.

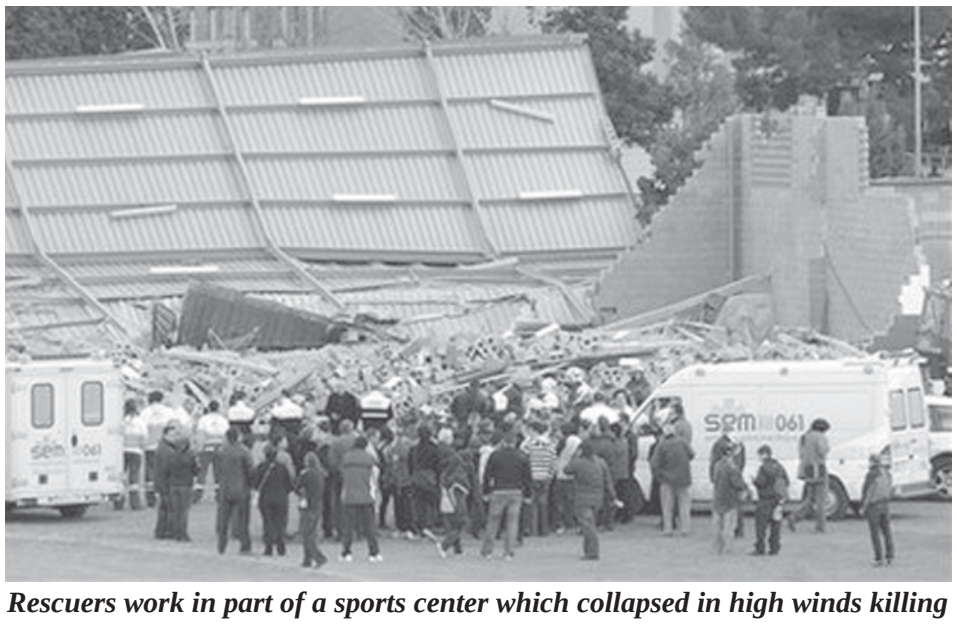
Doctors originally diagnosed her with kidney stones in December, local media said. But as her condition worsened, she was diagnosed with a urinary tract infection that spread.

The cause of the infection was not immediately known.

It reduced the flow of oxygen to her limbs, causing her feet to be amputated last week and her hands this week. Part of Bridi's stomach was also removed as doctors tried to contain internal bleeding, local media said.

Health officials on Friday said Bridi was not breathing on her own and was undergoing hemodialysis at a hospital in the city of Serra.

Internet



Rescuers work in part of a sports center which collapsed in high winds killing four children and trapping and injuring others in Sant Boi Llobregat, Spain, on 24 Jan, 2009. Freak weather conditions have caused winds gusting to 160 kph (100 mph) in many places throughout Spain. A woman died when a wall fell on her in Barcelona and a traffic officer was killed by a falling tree in northwest Galicia.—INTERNET

Car bomb attack in Somali capital kills at least 14

MOGADISHU, 24 Jan — A car bomb attack in the Somali capital of Mogadishu killed at least 14 people on Saturday, according to agencies' reports.

The attack took place near a base of African Union peacekeepers. The bomb-laden vehicle reportedly aroused the suspect of police who opened fire at it, then the car blew up.

The victims include 13 civilians and a policeman. No peacekeeper was hurt in the incident.

It was unknown who was behind the car bomb assault.—*Internet*

ချိုပ်ပိတ်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း

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မြန်မာ့ကြွေထည်မြေထည်လုပ်ငန်း

Four life terms for teen who killed family

TOWSON, 24 Jan — A judge in Maryland on Friday sentenced a teenager to four life terms in prison for killing his parents and two brothers.

As he faced sentencing in a Towson, Md, courtroom for the February 2008 shooting deaths, Nicholas Browning, 16, asked his remaining relatives for forgiveness, The *Baltimore Sun* reported. Browning, in tears, was unable to read a prepared statement so his lawyer, Joshua R Treem, read it for him. "I cannot make the pain go away," the statement said. "I never considered what effect my actions would have. I thought only of myself."

Browning admitted he killed his parents, John and Tamara Browning, and his brothers, Gregory, 14, and Benjamin, 11, in their sleep. He said he used his father's pistol to kill his family after years of physical abuse and insults by his father.

Baltimore County Circuit Judge Thomas J Bollinger Sr said he did not take Browning's allegation of abuse into account as a mitigating factor in the killings, The Sun said. The judge sentenced Browning to two consecutive life terms and two concurrent life terms.

Browning could be eligible for parole in 30 years, the report said.—*Internet*

Army worm caterpillar invades Liberia

MONROVIA, 24 Jan — Hordes of caterpillars are destroying crops and vegetation in northern Liberia, posing a threat to food security, the United Nations said. The situation in Liberia is a national emergency and likely will escalate into a regional crisis involving Guinea, Sierra Leone and Cote d'Ivoire, Winfred Hammon, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization representative, said in a news release.

The agency has created a task force to assess the situation, prepare an action plan and develop medium- and long-term measures, said Hammond. Liberia set up three emergency committees to provide planning, resources mobilization and communication and information.

The caterpillars, described by villagers as "black, creeping and hairy," are advancing in the tens of millions, he said, devouring plants and food crops in their path and in sometimes overrunning homes and buildings.

The food organization said some villagers couldn't reach their farms because of the pests, suspected to be African army worms."The situation is getting worse," Rennie Jackson, superintendent of Bong County, told the UN Integrated Regional Information Networks. "Most drinking water sources, including creeks and wells, have been polluted with the feces of the worms. The number of affected people is in the thousands."

The army worm, the caterpillar form of the noctuid or Owlet moth, is native to North and South America. Its name comes from its habit, in tropic areas, of moving into a region in a large group, consuming all available food and then moving on.—*Internet*

Three convicted of deadly Manila bombing

MANILA, 24 Jan — Three men were sentenced to life without parole on Friday in the Philippines for a bombing at a Manila light rail station that claimed 11 lives.

A court convicted Mukhlis Hadji Yunos aka Saifulla Yunos Muklis, Mohamad Amir aka Abdul Fatak Paute, and Zainal Paks aka Mamasao Naga of multiple counts of murder and attempted murder, Inquirer.net reported. They were also ordered to pay damages to the families of the victims.

The bombing, which also injured 19 people, was one of five in Manila on 30 Dec, 2000, marking the anniversary of the 1896 execution of Dr. Jose Rizal by the Spanish colonial government. Rizal, an advocate of independence, is one of the country's national heroes.

Prosecutors say the three men convicted of the killings are members of Jemaah Islamiyah, an Islamist group.

One of the key witnesses was a survivor whose children were also injured. She testified she saw Yunos on the train with a bag and then saw him leave the bag behind as he got off.

Internet

People wear masks at a crowded intersection in Hong Kong on 22 January . Pollution again reached dangerous levels in the territory with parts of the population advised not to stay on busy streets for too long due to the high risk.—INTERNET

Teens jailed for life for schoolboy murder of Lyle Tulloch

LONDON, 24 Jan — Two teenagers were given life sentences today for the murder of schoolboy Lyle Tulloch who was stabbed 13 times during an argument over a mobile phone at a birthday party. Damien Solowabe, 18, and Tobi Peters, 17, both of London, will serve a minimum 12 years after being found guilty at the Old Bailey last December. Lyle, 15, from Peckham, had been at a party in Southwark, south-east London, last May when his friend asked to use Solowabe's phone.

When Solowabe could not find it an argument began and Lyle was chased outside and into a stairwell where he was stabbed in the chest and thigh.

"This is another tragic example of what can happen when knives are used to settle arguments," said Scotland Yard's Detective Inspector David Willis, in a statement after sentencing. –*Internet*

Commander says US to deploy 20,000 Marines to Afghanistan

WASHINGTON, 24 Jan — The US military is to deploy about 20,000 Marines to Afghanistan in six to eight months, said a senior military officer on Friday.

"The time is right for Marines to leave Iraq," Marine Commandant James Conway told reporters, adding the deployment is a result of troop withdrawal from Iraq. The Pentagon early said that they were planning to send an addition of up to 30,000 troops to Afghanistan, where Taleban and other extremist militants revived, within the next 18 months.

Currently, there are approximately 33,000 US troops, including 2,200 Marines. A total of 142,000 US troops are stationed in Iraq, including more than 20,000 Marines. According to Conway, Marines "have been steadily removing equipment from theater in Iraq", and will get the rest of equipment out of Iraq in next six to eight months. However, he cautioned that deployment of too many Marines to Afghanistan could jeopardize Marines' ability to resume training in vital areas, and he hopes "the number is 20,000 or less".

President Barack Obama has asked the Pentagon to draw options to end the Iraq war, including a plan to withdraw all combat troops from Iraq in the first 16 months of his presidency, and shift resources to Afghanistan, where the prime frontline to fight against terrorists is.

MNA/Xinhua

China baby dies of hand, foot and mouth disease

BEIJING, 24 Jan — A toddler has died of hand, foot and mouth disease, state media reported on Friday, in an eastern Chinese province that was the epicentre of a deadly outbreak last spring.

The 17-month-old boy died on Monday in Lixin county, near the cities of Bozhou and Fuyang in Anhui province, the local health authority said Friday.

MNA/Reuters

Aussie yacht owner shot in Caribbean

ANTIGUA , 24 Jan — An Australian man who was shot dead on a Caribbean island is believed to be the victim of a mugging.

Drew Gollan, from New South Wales, was shot in the chest at close range as he walked near English Harbour, Antigua, with his girlfriend on Thursday night, according to local authorities.

The 38-year-old was the skipper of luxury 50m sailing yacht Perseus which is available for charters at $US175,000 ($266,700) per week. A Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade spokesman said Mr Gollan was shot and killed during a suspected mugging.

He said consular staff from the Australian High Commission in Port of Spain were liaising with local police who were investigating the crime. The man's family in Australia were aware of his death and DFAT and consular staff were offering them assistance, he said.—*Internet*

Fatal bat condition spreading in Northeast

NEWARK, 24 Jan — A lethal condition that has been killing bats in New York for two years has spread into New Jersey and Pennsylvania, wildlife authorities said Friday.

The discovery of hundreds of dead bats and the expansion of "white-nose syndrome" has left people with "a kind of helpless feeling," Mick Valent, a zoologist with the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, told the Newark Star-Ledger. "You can't start treating something when you don't know the cause of it."

First detected in New York in early 2007, the condition rouses bats from hibernation during winter, from where they take flight, burning stored fat and dropping to the ground dead, the newspaper said.

New York researchers called the condition "white-nose syndrome" because a white fungus develops around noses and wing membranes of many of the affected bats.

The fungus was present on many dead bats found inside and outside three abandoned mines in Rockaway Township and Denville, where the majority of New Jersey's bat populations are located.

At least six of the nine bat species found in the Northeast appear to be vulnerable to the phenomenon in New York, Vermont and Massachusetts, researchers said. The Pennsylvania Game Commissioner said Thursday the syndrome spread into the state's bat population.

Internet

Songs can cue specific memories

MANHATTAN, 24 Jan — Thinking about a particular song — no matter if the music of your life was doo-wop or disco — can cue vivid memories of the past, US researchers found.

"We thought that actually hearing the song would bring back the most vivid memories," Richard Harris of the Kansas State University said in a statement. "But in our study there wasn't a lot of difference in memory between those who heard the song and those who didn't. What we determined was happening is that you already know the song and you're hearing it in your mind."

Harris and Elizabeth Cady, a 2006 doctoral graduate in psychology, and J Bret Knappenberger, an undergraduate, wanted to understand whether memories were cued by actually hearing the song or by thinking about it in other ways.

They tested 124 subjects ages 18-20 in spring 2003. A pilot study had the subjects list songs from five stages of life — early childhood, grade school, middle school, high school and college.

Harris said he and Cady were surprised at how many participants reported strong memories associated with the same song.

For the grade-school era, 26 percent of participants had strong memories associated with Vanilla Ice's song "Ice Ice Baby." For middle school, 36 percent reported strong memories associated with Coolio's "Gangsta's Paradise."

Internet

Mr Meza says he "didn't feel anything" when getting rid of the bodies.—INTERNET

Mexico man 'dissolved 300 bodies'

TIJUANA ,24 Jan — A man arrested by Mexican police says he disposed of 300 bodies for a drugs gang over the past decade by dissolving them in chemicals.

Santiago Meza, called the "stew maker", said he was paid $600 (£440) a week to dissolve the bodies of murdered rival gang members in caustic soda. He was presented to the media by the Mexican army after being arrested on Thursday near the city of Tijuana.

Over 700 people died in the US border city last year in an ongoing drugs war. The Mexican army says it believes Mr Meza's claims are true.

"They brought me the bodies and I just got rid of them," Mr Meza told journalists at a construction site where he disposed of the bodies over a 10-year period. "I didn't feel anything."

The 300 corpses were said to belong to murdered rivals of Mexican drug kingpin Teodoro Garcia Simental, who is battling for control over drug trafficking routes through Tijuana, after defecting from the powerful Arellano Felix cartel.

Mexico's drug violence has surged and grown more gruesome in recent years, particularly in the northern border cities of Tijuana and Ciudad Juarez.

Also on Friday, two human heads were found inside coolers near police stations in the central Guanajuato state, officials said.

Internet

Study indicates tree death-global warming tie found

FLAGSTAFF, 24 Jan — Death rates among trees have more than doubled in recent decades largely because of global warming, Northern Arizona University research indicates.

The study "offers data to show that there is a problem with tree mortality in the West and that climate is an important element in the problem," Pete Fule, NAU School of Forestry associate professor and research co-author, said in a news release.

The research was published Friday in Science journal Eleven scientists provided long-term data sets taken from trees across the Pacific Northwest, California, Idaho, Colorado and Arizona, Fule said. The research concludes tree death rates more than doubled in recent decades in old forests largely because of regional warming.

"The gist is that we now have these long-term data sets from old trees across much of the western part of the country and one thing those forests have in common is that the trees are dying increasingly fast," Fule said.

To determine when trees died because of climate change, scientists documented climate-related incidents that caused trees to die, such as bark beetle attacks or forest fires.

Internet

Schizophrenia may blur brain boundaries

BOSTON, 24 Jan — Schizophrenia may blur boundaries in the brain, causing an exaggerated focus on self, US researchers suggest.

A brain imaging study by researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University found schizophrenia may blur the boundary between internal and external realities by overactivating a brain system that is involved in self-reflection — thus causing an exaggerated focus on self.

The traditional view of schizophrenia is that the disturbed thoughts, perceptions and emotions that characterize the disease are caused by disconnections among the brain regions that control the different functions.However, the study published online ahead of print in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, found that schizophrenia also involves an excess of connectivity between the so-called default brain regions, which are involved in self-reflection and become active when we are thinking about nothing in particular, or thinking about ourselves.—*Internet*

Baby ape takes flight — monkey business class

BIRMINGHAM, 24 Jan — A baby ape born in the UK is settling into a new life in a German zoo after flying from Birmingham to Frankfurt — monkey business class.

The three-month old male bonobo — who is to be fostered by a family of German apes after being rejected by his natural mother — was considered too young and too fragile to travel cargo class, a spokeswoman for the UK's Twycross Zoo told CNN.

Instead, the tiny ape named Bili checked in for the Lufthansa flight with special travel documents — including a fake passport in the name of "Bili the Bonobo" — before taking a seat in the cabin alongside a handler from Frankfurt Zoo, who had flown over to accompany him on his unusual journey.

"He was with his keeper all the way to make him feel more comfortable and relaxed, rather than being in a crate," said spokeswoman Kim Riley. "I just wish I'd been there to see the other passengers' faces."

Bonobos, which originate from the Democratic Republic of Congo, are considered particularly intelligent primates. They are the human species' closest relation in the animal world, sharing 99.6 percent of our DNA.—*Internet*

***Bili the bonobo is to be fostered by an ape at Frankfurt Zoo.*—INTERENT**

SPORTS

Wigan snap up Mido as Heskey heads for Villa

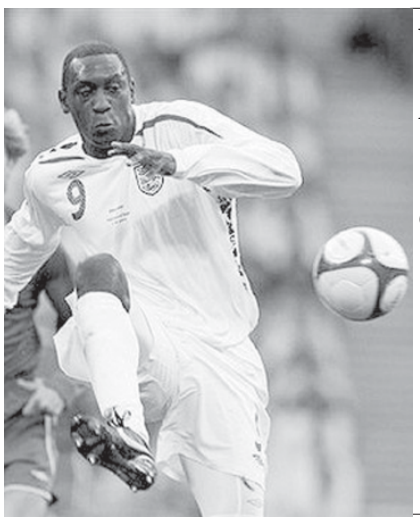
LONDON, 24 Jan—Wigan on Friday sold Emile Heskey to Aston Villa for 3.5 million pounds and immediately snapped up Egypt striker Mido on loan from Middlesbrough as cover until the end of the season.

England forward Heskey's move to Villa was completed after he passed a medical and agreed personal terms while Mido was being lined up to form an Egyptian double act with compatriot Amr Zaki.

Heskey's move will reunite him with Villa boss Martin O'Neill, who was in charge of Leicester when they sold the forward to Liverpool for 11 million pounds in 2000.

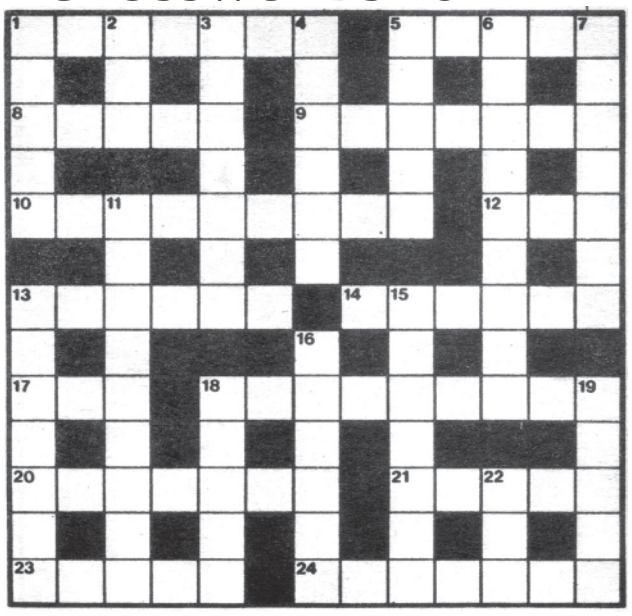
Heskey, 31, has signed a three-and-a-half-year contract and O'Neill believes he will strengthen the club's drive for a place in the Champions League.

"I hope we can achieve a lot together. Aston Villa is a big club and it's been taking strides to get back to where it should be," said Heskey.—*Internet*



Wigan on Friday sold Emile Heskey, to Aston Villa for 3.5 million pounds and immediately snapped up Egypt striker Mido on loan from Middlesbrough as cover until the end of the season.
INTERNET

CROSSWORDS PUZZLE



ACROSS
1 Go to the bottom
5 Imperfection
8 Clothe
9 Wet slightly
10 Worn out
12 Attack and rob
13 Long heavy wave
14 Set of seven
17 Purchase
18 Plan of events
20 Thrift
21 Pamphlet
23 Enslaved
24 Buffoon

DOWN
1 Soft sweetmeat
2 Yorkshire river
3 Call in question
4 Distant
5 Cooked in fat
6 Final terms
7 After this evening
11 Garden flower
13 Violent personal theft
15 Printed error
16 Immediately? No! (3,3)
18 Arrogant
19 Praise
22 Fuss

FA Cup revenge is Everton's focus, says manager Benitez

LIVERPOOL, 24 Jan—Rafael Benitez expects Liverpool to shrug off the dual distractions of takeover talk and Steven Gerrard's court appearance by gaining revenge over Everton in the FA Cup on Sunday.

After plotting a serene course through the first half of the season, Benitez has endured a turbulent period that threatens to blow his plans for domestic and European glory to pieces.

Benitez's astonishing rant at Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson earlier this month hinted that the Liverpool manager was starting to feel the strain of challenging for the title.

The Spaniard followed that outburst by admitting he had rejected Liverpool's offer of a new contract.

Then George Gillett and Tom Hicks, the Premier League side's American owners, made it clear they are ready to start a potentially distracting auction after the Kuwait-based Al-Kharafi family reportedly expressed interest in launching a 500 million pounds takeover.—*Internet*

Wenger faces up to Cardiff FA Cup clash

CARDIFF, 24 Jan—Arsene Wenger's claim that the Premier League fixture list will benefit Manchester United has underlined the importance of this weekend's FA Cup clash with Cardiff City to the Arsenal manager.

With a full league programme on Tuesday and Wednesday, Wenger has pointed out that Sir Alex Ferguson's side will enjoy a five-day break between games while Arsenal will have just two days to recover from their trip to Everton before facing West Ham.

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger

The Frenchman believes this will could be a huge advantage to United's hopes of retaining the title. And with Arsenal currently lying in fifth spot, that could spell the end of the Gunners championship ambitions and reinforce the view that the FA Cup is the club's best hope of ending a four-year wait for silverware.

Wenger knows he must deliver success soon after failing to lift a trophy since the 2005 FA Cup final victory over United.
Internet

Rusty Serena on track as French tennis open revolution gathers pace

MELBOURNE, 24 Jan—Rusty triple champion Serena Williams booked an Australian Open fourth round clash with rising teen star Victoria Azarenka Saturday as the men's French revolution gathered pace.

Williams, the tournament favourite, crushed China's Peng Shuai 6-1, 6-4 to set up an intriguing showdown with Azarenka after the Belarusian ended any hope Amelie Mauresmo had of repeating her 2006 heroics here.

Stung by a listless "D-minus" performance in the second round and sister Venus' shock exit at the same stage, Williams stamped her authority on the match early.

Peng mounted a stiffer challenge in the second set but couldn't match the American's power, leaving Zheng Jie as China's only player left in the draw.—*Internet*

Ivanovic crashes out, Jankovic battles on at Aussie Open

MELBOURNE, 24 Jan—Serb pin-up Ana Ivanovic was dumped from the Australian Open in a three-set thriller Friday while her top seeded compatriot Jelena Jankovic made a stuttering advance into the fourth round.

It was a stark contrast with the fortunes of third seed Dinara Safina and fellow Russian Vera Zvonareva, seeded seventh, who both cruised into the last 16.

Australia's former world number four Jelena Dokic also fired local hopes when she her dream comeback at the season-opening Grand Slam continued with a come-from-behind win over 11th seed Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark.

Ivanovic's 7-5, 6-7 (5/7), 6-2 loss to Russian teenager Alisa Kleybanova continues a form slump that has dogged the glamourous 21-year-old since her breakthrough Grand Slam win at last year's French Open.—*Internet*

Ana Ivanovic of Serbia reacts after missing a point during her women's singles match against Alisa Kleybanova of Russia at the Australian Open in Melbourne. Kleybanova won 7-5. 6-7. 6-2.
INTERNET

Langer, Bryant lead season-opening Mitsubishi

KAUPULEHU-KONA (Hawaii), 24 Jan—Playing in the final group and facing a leaderboard jammed with low scores, Bernhard Langer drew inspiration by watching another shootout across the Pacific at the Bob Hope Classic. "I saw them (on TV) shooting the lights out there, so I'm thinking, 'Hey, we used to do that,'" Langer said.

Langer had seven birdies on the back nine on his way to an 8-under 64 and a share of the lead with Brad Bryant on Friday in the Champions Tour's season-opening Mitsubishi Electric Championship.

Langer, the tour's player and rookie of the year, was 1 over through six holes, then birdied nine of his last 12 holes in the first round.—*Internet*

Rangers due win in Aberdeen, says Miller

GLASGOW, 24 Jan—Kenny Miller believes a rare win at Pittodrie for Rangers will be vital if the Glasgow giants are to wrestle the Scottish Premier League title away from Celtic. The Ibrox club travel north on Saturday to take on fierce rivals Aberdeen knowing a win would see them go top for the first time since November.

Aberdeen are in red-hot form, having won six of their last seven league games including last week's defeat of Celtic, and Scottish international Miller knows it will be a tough task with Rangers having won only once on their last seven visits to Pittodrie.

"It's always tough whenever we go up to Pittodrie. Aberdeen seem to raise their game against us and they make it very hard to get anything.

"Aberdeen have done really well in the last few weeks. They've got a good team with some fantastic players. They're starting to score a lot of goals and Lee Miller in particular has begun to find the net fairly regularly over the last couple of months.—*Internet*

Picture taken on 23 Jan, 2009 shows festive lanterns decorating local buildings in Shanghai, China. A local show of festive lanterns is to open to greet the traditional Spring Festival, or lunar New Year, which falls on 26 Jan this year.—INTERNET

Sri Lanka editor stabbed in latest attack on media

COLOMBO, 24 Jan—A Sri Lankan editor was stabbed in the face and beaten by a gang of assailants on motorcyles as he drove to work on Friday in the third assault on a journalist in the country this month.

Upali Thennakoon, editor of the Sinhalese language weekly newspaper Rivira, told Reuters his wife saved him from death by wrapping her arms around him until the attackers fled. She, too, was injured. The attack was similar to the killing two weeks ago of Sunday Leader editor Lasantha Wickramatunga, who was also intercepted on his way to work by men on motorcyles.

His murder came days after gunmen destroyed the main studio of MBC, Sri Lanka's largest private broadcaster. The two assaults drew international condemnation and calls for the government to protect journalists and prosecute their attackers.

This week in parliament, the government's chief whip, Urban Development Minister Dinesh Gunawardena, said nine journalists had been killed and 27 attacked since 2006.—*MNA/Reuters*

MRTV-3
Programme Schedule (25.1.2009) (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

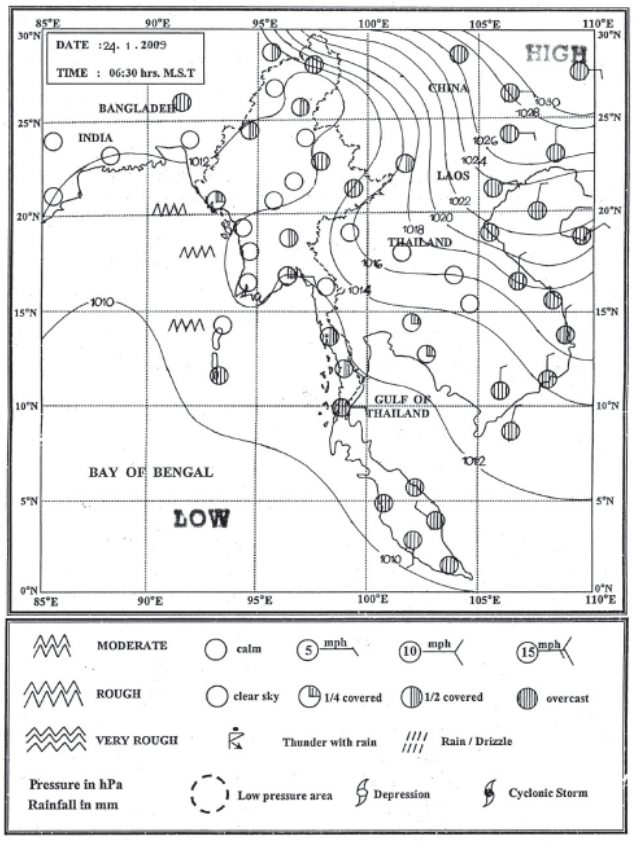
* Signature Tune
* Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
* Ayeyawady Dolphin Expedition (Part-I)
* Cultural Museum (Kengtaung)
* Grassland Survey in Hukaung Tiger Reserve
* A Clean and Green Brewery
* Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Abroad Transmissions

* Signature Tune
* Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
* Valuable Myanmar Native Orchids
* The Art of Silk-screen Painting
* Taunggyi: An Environmentally Sustainable City
* Rakhine State Cultural Museum
* Deaf School
* How To Make Chinlone
* Expedition of Rare Crocodile Species Inhabiting in Fresh And Seawaters (III)
* Ayeyawady Dolphin Expendition (Part-I)
* Cultural Museum (Keng Tong)
* A Clean and Green Brewery
* The Art of Sculpture from Sagaing Hill
* Mind...the essence of Love!
* Expedition of Rare Crocodile Species Inhabiting in Fresh And Seawaters (IV)
* Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Saturday, 24 January, 2009

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

Maximum temperature on 23-1-2009 was 92˚F. Minimum temperature on 24-1-2009 was 62˚F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 24-1-2009 was 61%. Total sunshine hours on 23-1-2009 was (9.6) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 24-1-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Southeast at (18:30) hours MST on 23-1-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 25th January 2009: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin and Shan States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas.

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in Southern Shan, Kayah and Kayin States.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 25-1-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 25-1-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 25-1-2009: Generally fair weather.

TV Myanmar

Sunday, 25 January
View on today

7:00 am
1. ဗောင်တန်းသာသနာပြုဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am
3. Morning news
7:40 am
4. တိရစ္ဆာန်ဥယျာဉ်နေ့ပြည်တော်သွားလိုက်ကြစို့.တူပျော်ပျော် (အပိုင်း–၂)
7:50 am
5. Nice and sweet song
8:00 am
6. အကဖြိုင်ပွဲ
8:10 am
7. နိုင်ငံစီးပွားအလေးထားကျေးလက်ထုတ်ကုန်များ
8:20 am
8. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
8:30 am
9. International news
8:45 am
10. 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–၁၇)
12:20 pm
5. Golf Magazine (TV)
12:45 pm
6. မြန်မာရုပ်ရှင် "နှလုံးလှလူမိုက်" (မင်းမော်ကွန်း၊ နေအောင်၊ ခိုင်သင်းကြည်၊ မေသန္တာဦး၊ မြင့်မြင့်ခင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ–မောင်တင်ဦး)
2:45 pm
7. International news
4:00 pm
1. Martial song
4:10 pm
2. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
4:20 pm
3. Dance of national races
4:30 pm
4. Musical programme
4:40 pm
5. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ တတိယနှစ် (အင်္ဂလိပ်စာအထူးပြု) (အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ)
4:55 pm
6. Songs to uphold national spirit
5:05 pm
7. "လှေကားသုံးထစ်ဆင်းတဲ့အခါ" (အရိုင်း၊ မင်းသူ၊ အေးသီတာ) [ဒါရိုက်တာ–သိန်းဟန်(ဖီးနစ်)]
5:15 pm
8. Musical programme
5:25 pm
9. Sing and enjoy
6:00 pm
10. Evening news
6:30 pm
11. Weather report
6:35 pm
12. ကာတွန်းအစီအစဉ် "Pocket Dragon Adventure"
6:55 pm
13. တစ်မျက်နှာတစ်ကွက်စာ
7:15 pm
14. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "သစ္စာနှင့်ယှဉ်သောမေတ္တာ" (အပိုင်း–၁၄)
8:00 pm
15. News
16. International news
17. Weather report
18. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ကြမ္မာမုန်တိုင်း" (အပိုင်း–၆)
19. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ အရပ်ဆယ်မျက်နှာမေတ္တာဘာဝနာ ပွားများခြင်းတရားတော်

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Yesagyo Township gets new irrigation facility for regional greening task

YANGON, 24 Jan— Khinmon Dam, built by Irrigation Department (Maintenance) near Khinmon Village of Yesagyo Township, was inaugurated near the dam this morning, attended by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Myint Soe.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman of Magway Division PDC Col Phone Maw Shwe said that the already opened Khinmon Dam is one of the 71 irrigation facilities for ensuring food sufficiency and greening of Pakokku District in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. Magway Division has made efforts for over 400 per cent edible oil sufficiency, and over 870,000 acres of monsoon paddy had been grown and plan is under way to grow 160,000 acres of summer paddy for gaining 101.46 per cent rice sufficiency, he said.

He continued to say that there were 43 dams and lakes and 261,261 irrigated acres in Magway Division in the past. Thanks to construction of 44 dams including Khinmon Dam, the number of irrigated area reaches 261,561 acres in the division. Out of 71 irrigation facilities for greening Pakokku District, 24 small dams were built with the assistance of the Division PDC, supervision of Pakokku District and Township PDCs and technology contribution of Irrigation Department, and the remaining 47 dams were constructed by Irrigation Department alone. So far, completion of 63 dams including Khinmon Dam benefit 7,103 acres of farmlands, he explained.

He added that at present, efforts are being made for timely completion of the remaining dams, and in conclusion, Col Phone Maw Shwe urged those present to maintain the dams for their durability.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint delivered a speech.

A local from Yesagyo Township spoke words of thanks for construction of Khinmon Dam.

The commander unveiled the stone plaque, and Col Phone Maw Shwe and Deputy Minister U Ohn Myint sprinkled scented water on it.

Col Phone Maw Shwe and Deputy Minister U Ohn Myint cut the ribbon to open the dam. The commander and officials visited the dam.

Khinmon Dam, the 218th irrigation facility is of earthen type, built by the State at a cost of K 750 million on Deedok Creek. Its embankment is 50 feet high and 1,700 feet long. The dam that can store 2,200 acre feet of water will irrigate 300 acres of paddy and other crops and contribute to greening of the region. *MNA*

Khinmon Dam is one of the 71 irrigation facilities for ensuring food sufficiency and greening of Pakokku District in accord with the guidance of the Head of State.

Organizers of Charity Fair of Hninzigon Home for the Aged honoured

YANGON, 24 Jan—A ceremony to honour the wellwishers who organized the 47th Charity Fair of Hninzigon Home for the Aged of Bahan Township was held at the hall of the home, here, today.

Chairman of the Home Executive Committee Lt-Col Kyaw Shein (Retd) spoke words of thanks. Vice-Chairman Major Aung Than (Retd) read the list of wellwishers for the fair and the amount of cash donation.

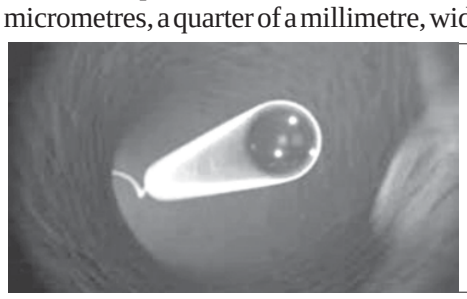
Those present at the ceremony shared merits gained for the pious deeds.—*MNA*

Beware of Fire

Microbot motors fit to swim human arteries

MELBOURNE, 24 Jan — A range of complex surgical operations necessary to treat stroke victims, confront hardened arteries or address blockages in the bloodstream are about to be made safer as researchers from the Micro/Nanophysics Research Laboratory at Australia's Monash University put the final touches to the design of micro-motors small enough to be injected into the human bloodstream.

A research paper, published in the Journal of Micromechanics and Microengineering, details how researchers are harnessing piezoelectricity, the energy force most commonly used to trigger-start a gas stove, to produce microbot motors just 250 micrometres, a quarter of a millimetre, wide.—*Internet*



Microbot.

Serving national interest for gaining greater development

Article: Maung Maung Htwe (MNA); Photos: Thaung Myint (MNA)

Recently, we had an opportunity to interview some chairmen of the brother associations of the Myanmar Fishery Federation on their undertakings of the association for ensuring more development of national economy of the State.

First, Chairman U Nyo Min of Myanmar Fishery Products Processors and Exporters Association said, "Our association was established on 2 November 2004. HACCP, GMP and SSOP are member factories of the association. Moreover, maintenance workers of the factories are being provided with training courses, jointly conducted by Yangon Fishery Training School of Yangon Division under the Fisheries Department and the Fishery Inspection and Quality Control (FIQC) Division."

He continued to say, "We had displayed the canned foods and Myanmar aquatic products such as fish, prawn, crab and eel at the booths at the Dubai Seafood Expo 2008 held in Dubai of the Middle East Region, the China-ASEAN Expo 2008 held in Nanning of the People's Republic of China and the China-Myanmar Border Trade Fair held in December 2008 with a view to penetrating into the international market." *(See page 10)*

A trawler at work in territorial waters of Myanmar.