

Senior General Than Shwe felicitates President of India

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—On the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the Republic Day of India which falls on 26th January 2009, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Mrs. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, President of the Republic of India.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Australia

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—On the occasion of the anniversary of the Australia Day which falls on 26th January 2009, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Ms. Quentin Bryce AC, Governor-General of Australia.—MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sends felicitations to Vice-President of India

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—On the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the Republic Day of India which falls on 26th January 2009, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Mohammad Hamid Ansari, Vice-President of the Republic of India.—MNA

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 tasks gaining ground in Ayeyawady Division

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan—Accompanied by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe and departmental officials, Maj-Gen

Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence viewed maintenance of Ngwehsaung-Hsinma road and sanitation carried out at villages on 23 January morning.

At Ngayokkaung Station Hospital in Ngapudaw

Township, he comforted patients and presented cash assistance to them.

At Ngayokkaung Basic Education High School,
(See page 8)

Ahara Thukha Market, the largest of its kind in Nay Pyi Taw



**Article: Myint Maung Soe;
Photos: Hla Shwe (Kaytumati)**

NAY PYI TAW Development Affairs Committee, in pursuance of the objective for prosperity of Nay Pyi Taw, is building basic foundations necessary for improvement of its economic infrastructure such as governmental offices, housing estates, roads, large markets, and vegetables and fish and meat markets.

Of them, Ahara Thukha Market near Kinpundan Village, east of Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana is the largest of its kind, and earns a good reputation for fresh goods at fair prices.

(See page 7)

**Ahara Thukha Market teeming with sellers
and buyers.**

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 26 January, 2009

Building dams for posterity of the nation

The government has been building irrigation facilities nationwide for development of agriculture, the mainstay of the nation. Khinmon Dam, the 218th facility of the State, was inaugurated near Khinmon Village in Yesagyo Township, Magway Division, the other day.

Dams and tube wells have been built where there is scarcity of water for convenience of local people. The newly opened dam is one of the 71 undertakings to ensure local food sufficiency and greening tasks in Pakokku District being implemented under the guidance of the Head of State.

As Magway Division is the major source of edible oil, the government has made efforts for exceeding the target of 400 per cent edible oil sufficiency. This year over 870,000 acres of monsoon paddy were grown for local sufficiency of rice and 160,000 acres of summer paddy are being cultivated.

The government implemented 71 projects including dams, lakes and small embankments for local sufficiency of rice and greening of the areas in Pakokku District. Twenty four small dams were built under the supervision of Magway Division Peace and Development Council. And 47 projects were undertaken by Irrigation Department. Altogether 63 dams including Khinmon Dam have been built benefiting 7,103 irrigated acres more.

Inauguration of Khinmon Dam is laying an economic foundation for posterity in the region. It is an earth dam built across the Deedok Creek near Khinmon Village in Yesagyo Township. It is 1,700 feet long and 50 feet high. The water storage capacity of the dam is 2,200 acre feet.

It is the duty of local people and farmers to maintain the dams which have been built spending a large amount of money and it is their duty to boost production of agricultural produce.

Chairperson Daw Wah Wah Tun of Myanmar Computer Entrepreneurs Association opens Star-Tech Authorized Service Center.—NLM



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

Minister for Foreign Affairs sends felicitations to Indian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—On the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the Republic Day of India which falls on 26th January 2009, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Pranab Mukherjee, Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India.—MNA

FM U Nyan Win felicitates Australian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—On the occasion of the anniversary of the Australia Day which falls on 26 January 2009, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Stephen Smith, MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia. MNA

Myanmar Printing and Publishing Entrepreneurs Association holds 17th AGM



Vice-Chairman-1 U Myint Maung speaks at 17th Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Printing and Publishing Entrepreneurs Association.—MNA

YANGON, 25 Jan—The 17th Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Printing and Publishing Entrepreneurs Association was held at the hall of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry on Minye Kyawswa Road in Lanmadaw Township this morning, with

addresses by Chairman of the association U Maung Maung and Vice-President of UMFCCI U Aung Lwin.

Vice-Chairman-1 of the association U Myint Maung read the report of executive committee and the financial statement.

Chairman U Maung Maung accepted cash donations for the association from wellwishers.

It was attended by Managing Director U Aung Nyein of Printing and Publishing Enterprise, Managing Director U Aung Myo Myint of

Myanma Motion Picture Enterprise, departmental officials, Chairman of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung), vice-president of UMFCCI and CEC members, the chairman and executives of the PPEA and guests. MNA

Star-Tech Authorized Service Center opened

YANGON, 25 Jan—Star-Tech launched the Star-Tech Authorized Service Center at Room No. 101 of Building No. 351 on Theinbyu Street in Mingala Taungnyunt Township yesterday.

Chairperson of Myanmar Computer Entrepreneurs Association Daw Wah Wah Tun formally opened the center. Star-Tech will give product warranty and

services to the customers at the center.

New Salesroom of Star Power Computer Distribution was also opened at No. 259 on Bo Myat Tun Street in Botahtanug Township on 18 January. A4Tech Keyboard & Mouse, JNC Casing and Golden Field Casing will be

put on sale there. Customers may dial 01-394270 and 384017, Fax: 01-579683, e-mail: sales@star-tech-info for Star-Tech Authorized Service Center and 01-299695 and Fax: 01-579683 for Star Power Computer Distribution. MNA

Tobacco Kills

Suicide car bomb kills five policemen in W Iraq

FALLUJAH, 25 Jan— A suicide car bomber struck a police checkpoint in a town in west of Baghdad on Saturday, killing at least five policemen and wounding 13 other people, a local police source said.

“A suicide bomber drove his explosive-laden car before midday into a police checkpoint in the town of Garma, 15 km

northeast of Fallujah City,” the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

The blast killed three police officers and two policemen and wounded 13 others, including six policemen, the source said.

Fallujah, some 50 km west of Baghdad is part of the Sunni province of Anbar which had been a

major stronghold for al-Qaida militants in Iraq after the US-led invasion in 2003.

Security situation in the province began to go in favor of the US military after the Sunnis shifted side and turned their guns against al-Qaida members in 2006 because they opposed to the indiscriminate terror attacks on civilians.

Internet



Firefighters look over the charred remains of a truck set ablaze in a neighbourhood of the border city of Ciudad Juarez on 24 Jan, 2009. The charred bodies of three men were found in the trunk of the truck early Saturday in a crime that could be linked to rival drug gangs fighting over smuggling routes to Texas, according to local media.—INTERNET

US troops in Iraq kill couple, wound daughter in raid on home

BAGHDAD 25 Jan — US forces killed a couple and wounded their 9-year-old daughter during a raid on their home in northern Iraq early Saturday, US military and Iraqi officials said. The US military said the man was suspected of being part of the militant group Al Qaeda in Iraq, but local officials said he was a retired colonel with no links to militant groups.

The US military said it raided the home in the Hawija district near Kirkuk after arresting a suspected Al Qaeda in Iraq militant in a nearby house. Troops opened fire when the woman, despite repeated warnings, reached for something beneath her mattress, the military said. One of the bullets passed through the woman’s body and wounded the couple’s daughter in the leg.—*Internet*

Iran welcomes planned US pullout from Iraq

BAGHDAD, 25 Jan — Iran on Saturday welcomed moves by the new US President Barack Obama to pull American troops out of Iraq and insisted that Teheran would not meddle in elections here.

“We definitely welcome a US troop pullout from Iraq,” Iran’s ambassador in Baghdad Hasan Kazemi Qomi told *AFP* in an interview.

“This is what the Iraqi people and the government wants.”

Obama has upped the tempo of a planned drawdown from Iraq since his inauguration on Tuesday, instructing top US commanders to prepare a “responsible” exit strategy, although other officials have been more cautious.—*Internet*

US military deaths in Iraq war at 4,232

WASHINGTON, 25 Jan — As of Saturday, 24 Jan, 2009, at least 4,232 members of the US military had died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003.

The figure includes eight military civilians killed in action. At least 3,406 military personnel died as a result of hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

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

Internet



Photo shows demonstrators from the group “World Can’t Wait” holding a mock waterboarding torture of a prisoner in Times Square, New York. A US Army field manual that bars the use of “waterboarding” and other harsh interrogation techniques was set forth Thursday as the single standard for interrogations of prisoners.—INTERNET

Suicide bomber kills one, wounds 8 in Afghanistan

KABUL, 25 Jan — A suicide bomber blew himself up at a market in eastern Afghanistan, killing a civilian and wounding eight others, an official said on Sunday.

The bomber’s target in the Saturday attack was an intelligence officer in Samkanai district of Paktia Province, said Rohulla Samun, the spokesman for Paktia’s governor. He missed the target but killed one civilian and wounded eight others at Samkanai’s market, Samun said.

Militants regularly launch suicide attacks against Afghan and foreign troops in the country. The majority of the victims in such attacks are civilians.

Internet

Gaza children return to school after war

GAZA CITY, 25 Jan — Tens of thousands of children returned to schools across Gaza on Saturday after three weeks of war, playing games for some relief from the devastation and telling friends and teachers about the explosions they heard and relatives they lost.

In one classroom, signs with the names of three 14-year-old boys killed in the fighting were set on their desks — and their deskmates sat with stunned expressions next to the empty seats as the teacher encouraged the class to talk about their experiences.

“It’s very hard when one used to see 30 students in class, and after what happened, I see 27,” their teacher, Bassam Salha told the class at the UN’s Fakhoura Elementary school. “We lived three weeks in sadness. I want you students to help me to get out of the sad mood I am in now.”

Meanwhile, an Israeli foreign office official said President Barack Obama’s newly-appointed special envoy to the Middle East is expected in Israel on Wednesday for talks on reviving Mideast peace negotiations after the Gaza fighting and on ensuring an arms blockade on the territory’s Hamas rulers.

Internet



Palestinian school boys and their teacher are seen at Beach Elementary School for Boys at Shati refugee camp in Gaza City, on 25 Jan, 2009.

INTERNET

Saudi Prince says US-Saudi ties at risk if no peace

RIYADH, 25 Jan—Saudi Arabia’s ex-ambassador to Washington said former President George W Bush left a “sickening legacy” in the Middle East and warned that US-Saudi relations would be at risk if the Obama administration doesn’t change America’s policy in the region.

Prince Turki al-Faisal’s unusually tough words were the latest blunt assessment by the Saudi royal family that prospects for Arab-Israeli peace are

growing dim unless dramatic policy changes are made.

Turki said he strongly promoted the Arab-Israeli peace process in his decades as a public servant. But after Israel’s three-week assault in the Gaza Strip, the prince said, “these pleas for optimism and co-operation now seem a distant memory,” he said in a *Financial Times* op-ed published on Friday.

The kingdom has resisted calls for a holy

war against Israel, “but every day this restraint becomes more difficult to maintain,” he added.

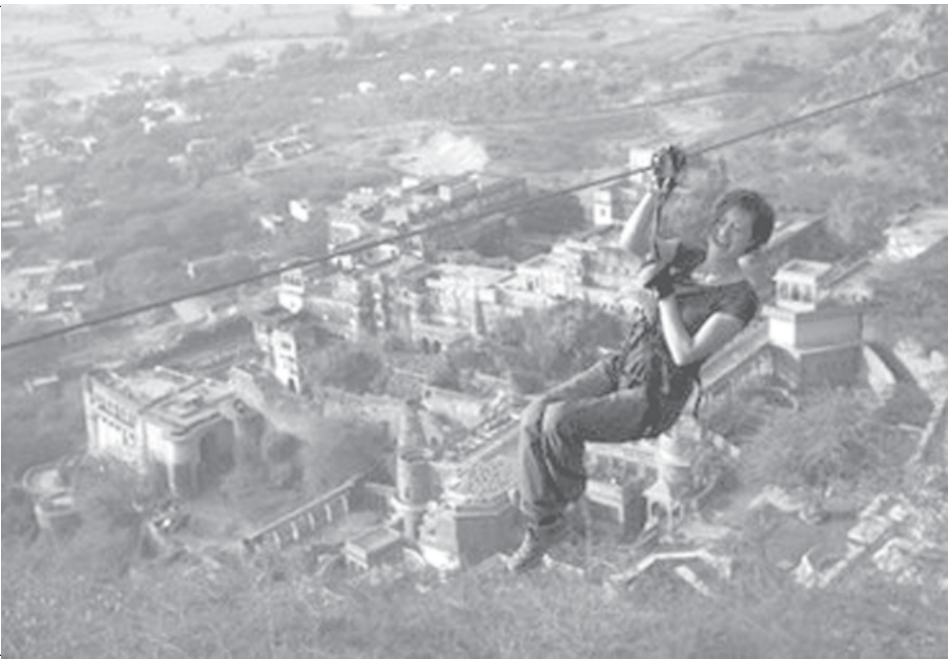
The comments followed a warning from King Abdullah on Monday that his 2002 Arab-Israeli peace initiative won’t remain on the table forever.

“America is not innocent in this calamity,” said Turki, who is the chairman of the King Faisal Centre for Research and Islamic Studies in Riyadh.—Internet



One of the engines from US Airways Flight 1549 is lifted up from the Hudson River in New York City. It was lifted more than a week after the accident, according to the US Army Corps of Engineers.—INTERNET

A thrill-seeker slides down the ‘zip wire’ suspended over the battlements of the Neemrana Fort-Palace in Rajasthan. Neemrana is one of several magnificent forts and palaces in Rajasthan that have been converted into luxury hotels and now it has added a new twist to the country’s popular “heritage trail”.
INTERNET



Car dealers try to survive as economy, sales drop

NEW ORLEANS, 25 Jan —At this year’s version of the National Automobile Dealers Association convention, survival has passed maximizing profits as the focus of the annual event. So as thousands of dealers from across the US gathered on Saturday in New Orleans, they were greeted by workshops entitled “Selling up in a down

economy: Taking the bull by the horns” and “Tough times, tougher dealers: Saving your dealership’s assets.” By almost all accounts, 2009 will be among the toughest years ever faced by the roughly 20,000 new car dealerships in the US, with sales of cars and lightweight trucks projected to shrink by as much as 6 million vehicles from the 16.1 million sold as recently as 2007. Sales last year were 13.2 million, down 18 percent from 2007, and December sales ran at an annual rate of around 10 million. Last year’s sales were the worst in 26 years. The workshops, said convention Chairman Jeff Carlson, are designed to help dealers cope with 2009 and make it to the day when the auto market bounces back.

Pork imported from Ireland contaminated with dioxin

NANJING, 25 Jan — More than 23 tonnes of frozen pork shipped from Ireland to Nanjing was found to contain toxic dioxin and ordered to be shipped back on Friday, a local inspection and quarantine authority said on Sunday. The 937 cases of pork, imported by a food company in Suzhou City,

was found to contain the chemical dioxin, according to the Suzhou Municipal Entry-exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau. Dioxin is carcinogen specifically linked to breast cancer. Inspectors sealed the pork and ordered the company to send it back. The pork was imported

through the Shanghai Customs on 30 Oct. China’s entry-exit and quarantine inspectors detained about 312 tonnes of Irish pork products across the country, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) said in December.—Interent

Air Canada cuts 345 jobs

TORONTO, 25 Jan —Air Canada has announced plans to cut another 345 jobs as it copes with a decrease in demand. Air Canada spokesman Peter Fitzpatrick said Saturday that the cuts will mostly affect its 5,700 flight attendants, beginning 2 March . The airline says it will have one less flight attendant in business-class cabins on trans-Atlantic flights as part of its downsizing efforts. The latest job cuts are in addition to the 2,000 positions Air Canada said it was eliminating last June, when fuel prices were sky high. Air Canada currently employs about 26,600 workers across the country.

Internet Interent

Archaeologists unearth earliest man-made cave houses

XI’AN, 25 Jan — Archaeologists have unearthed the earliest man-made cave houses and privately-owned pottery workshops in China which date back 5,500 years. After four years of excavation, a row of 17 cave houses were found on a cliff along the Jinghe River in northwest China’s Shaanxi Province, Wang

Weilin, deputy director of the Shaanxi Archaeology Institute and chief archaeologist of the excavation, told *Xinhua*. They were built between 3,500 to 3,000 BC, near the Yangganzai village of Gaoling county, 20 km away from the provincial capital Xi’an. Wang said the row of houses are within a 16,000-

square-meter site which is being excavated. The cave houses belonged to a late Neolithic culture named Yangshao. It originated in the middle reach of the Yellow River and was considered a main origin of Chinese civilization. Yangshao is best known for red pottery ware with painted patterns and animals.—Internet



A car sits under tree branches on Via Augusta street after heavy winds on 24 January in Barcelona. Hurricane-force winds lashed Spain and France, killing at least 15 people including four children when part of a sports hall collapsed, while over a million were left without power.—INTERNET



Tourists take photos at the Sentosa Flowers 2009 in Singapore, on 24 Jan, 2009. The island of Sentosa blossoms in some hundreds of flowers as the Sentosa Flowers, with the theme for 2009, Colours of Spring, opened here on Saturday. — XINHUA

Lebanese majority leader says unity among Arabs prevents Iran’s intervention

BEIRUT, 25 Jan — Lebanese Sunni majority leader Saad Hariri said on Saturday unity among Arab ranks would prevent Iran from interfering in Arab affairs, local Elnashra website reported. Addressing a dinner in Beirut hosting representatives of partisans living overseas, Hariri said “Iran was behind the Arab splits and divisions.” “There are several confrontations (in the region) and Lebanon is the first line of defence,” Hariri said, adding that the forthcoming elections in Lebanon are also the “first line in defence of Lebanon.”

He described the upcoming general parliamentary elections which is scheduled for June as “crucial.”

The upcoming elections will decide on who will rule the country for the next four years, and the competition is increasing between the ruling coalition backed by the West and the opposition led by Shiite militant group Hezbollah. Hariri, however, assured his guests that Syria would never return to Lebanon, pointing to the Lebanese opposition who are allies with the Syrians.

“Whatever the Syrians do, and whatever happens, they will never be able to return to Lebanon,” Hariri said. Following huge demonstrations after the assassination of Saad’s father, former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri on 14 Feb, Syrian troops withdrew from Lebanon in 2005, ending 29 years of military and political domination of its small neighbour.—Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency



Chinese workers position a giant festive lantern carrying a Chinese character of “ox” to welcome the traditional New Year of cattle in front of the Olympic National Stadium, or the Bird’s Nest, in Beijing, on 24 Jan, 2009. XINHUA

India’s biggest annual tech festival launched in Mumbai

MUMBAI, 25 Jan — Techfest 2009, the biggest annual international science and technology festival of India was launched Saturday in Mumbai. The Techfest 2009, with over 45,000 university students and 1, 500 corporate executives from all over India and abroad being part of it, is organized by India Institute of Technology Mumbai(IIT-B), which is located in Powai, suburb of Mumbai.

During the three-day event, a wide range of events including robot competitions, workshops, lectures and exhibitions will be held in the campus of IIT B. — Xinhua

Zardari protests against US missile strikes

ISLAMABAD, 25 Jan — Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday protested over US missile strikes on the tribal regions and said that such strikes were counterproductive, according to local Press reports.

The private NNI news agency quoted official sources as saying that Zardari told US

Ambassador NW Patterson that the drone attacks could affect the war on terror.

Zardari made it clear to the US envoy that only Pakistani security forces had the right to act against the militants, according to the report. He hoped that the new US Administration would stop missile strikes on the tribal regions, adding that

the Pakistani democratic government was under tremendous pressure due to the issue, it said.

The Pakistani parliament has adopted a unanimous resolution which clearly says that any US and NATO attacks would be considered as attack on the country’s sovereignty.

Xinhua

Malaysian leaders urge people to unite to tackle challenges ahead

KUALA LUMPUR, 25 Jan — Malaysian leaders have urged Malaysians to unite to tackle the challenges emerging from the global financial turmoil.

All parties must fully cooperate to implement the measures being taken by the Government to stimulate and strengthen the economy, Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said in his Chinese New Year message carried by local newspapers on Sunday.

Malaysia had successfully get through various economic challenges in the past based on a strong spirit and firm cooperation, he said.

Badawi stressed that unity among all races in the country was very important as development and economic progress could

not take place if the country was in a state of chaos. The political stability in the country would not exist without the effort and cooperation of all Malaysians, he said.

He urged Malaysians to work together to make the country continue to develop and bring prosperity to all.

Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak also urged Malaysians to be more diligent and work hard to cushion themselves against the impact of the global economic crisis.

As the Chinese were ushering the Year of the Ox, he said, everyone should practice those good qualities of the Ox, such as resilience and determination as well as diligence and hard work, Najib said on Saturday in Pekan, Pahang State.—Xinhua

Bird flu confirmed in W Canada

OTTAWA, 25 Jan —An apparently low pathogenic strain of the bird flu has been detected on a turkey farm in western Canada, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) said on Saturday.

The agency confirmed “the presence of H5 avian influenza (AI) virus” in the farm located in Fraser Valley of British Columbia Province, where avian flu has been discovered in recent years.

Further testing is underway to assess the precise strain of the virus, but preliminary tests indicated that it was low pathogenic, the agency said.

“Tests to date indicate that the strain of AI in this case is low pathogenic,” said the CFIA.

To limit the virus from spreading, more than 50,000 birds “on the infected premises will be humanely euthanized and disposed of,” the agency said. Twenty-three farms within a 3-km radius of the turkey farm are under quarantine as officials do further blood check from the turkeys for confirmation.

“Nobody has been infected by the virus,” said Elizabeth Brodtkin, medical officer of the Fraser Health Authority.

According to the World Health Organization, 252 people have died from the H5N1 strain of the bird flu since 2003.

Following an outbreak of the H7N3 strain of the bird flu, 17 million birds were slaughtered in the Fraser Valley in February 2004. —Xinhua



Black-tailed marmosets cling to a branch with their tails at Chiba Zoological Park in Chiba, near Tokyo, Japan, on 25 Jan , 2009.—INTERNET



Fire dancers perform during a late night show in Minsk on 20 January, 2009.—INTERNET

Two suspected militants killed near Indian capital

NEW DELHI, 25 Jan — Indian police killed two suspected Pakistani militants after a car chase on the outskirts of Delhi, police said on Sunday.

Police shot dead the two men in Noida, a city a few miles from New Delhi, around 2 am (3:30 pm ET), and said they could have been Pakistanis.

“We recovered AK-47 rifles and grenades and some documents, including a Pakistani passport,” Navin Arora, a senior police officer in Noida, told reporters.

Brij Lal, a senior police officer, said the recovery of a passport indicated that the suspects were from Pakistan.

One policeman was injured in the gun battle. The incident came as India prepares to celebrate its Republic Day on Monday and when the country is on high alert after the Mumbai attacks last year.

In late November, militants killed 179 people in coordinated attacks in India’s financial capital. The attacks have raised tensions between India and Pakistan, who have fought three wars since independence from Britain in 1947.—Internet



A photographer takes pictures of natural ice creations in front of the Hukou waterfall of the Yellow River, North China’s Shanxi Province. Hukou waterfall is frozen due to temperature dropping, turning its splashing water beads into ice of various shapes and shades - a great attraction to winter tourists.



Animal keeper Lv Rubin blows a flute as he prepares to feed the birds in Chongqing Wildlife Park, southwest China’s Chongqing municipality. Lv has added the music into his everyday feeding task for over 1,000 birds in the park .

Passenger bus, truck collide in N Argentina, killing five

BUENOS AIRES, 25 Jan — At least five people were killed and 10 others injured in a traffic accident in northern Argentina, local media reported on Saturday.

A passenger vehicle and a truck collided head-on in Rosario, the largest city in Santa Fe Province, 300 km northwest of Buenos Aires, killing the driver of the passenger vehicle and four passengers, including a 7-month-old baby.

The injured have been sent to nearby hospitals. Two of them were in critical condition.

The cause of accident is still under investigation, and the police blamed the mishap on mechanical failure or human error.

Internet

5.0-magnitude earthquake jolts NW China

URUMQI, 25 Jan — An earthquake measuring 5.0 on the Richter scale jolted northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region at 9:47 am Sunday, according to the state earthquake authority.

The earthquake occurred in Xibe Autonomous County of Qapqal, 700 kilometres from the regional capital Urumqi. The epicenter was at 43.3 degrees north latitude and 80.9 degrees east longitude at a depth of 10 kilometres, the China Earthquake Administration said on Sunday.

The casualties are yet to be known.—Internet

Deadly Hib infection signals a comeback

ST PAUL, 25 Jan — Health officials in Minnesota say they’re checking to see if deadly Hib infections have been reported in children in other states. Minnesota last year recorded five cases of infection from Haemophilus influenzae Type B, including the death of a 7-month-old — the first child Hib fatality in the state since 1991, The Washington Post reported on Saturday.

The dangerous bacterium’s return may be a consequence of a temporary vaccine shortage and a resistance by some parents to immunize their children, the Post reported.

“Parents need to know this disease is still around and that it is very dangerous,” said Anne Schuchat, head of immunization at the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.—Internet

Japanese to learn English from Obama speeches

An English-learning textbook “The Speeches of Barack Obama” has sold more than 400,000 copies in two months in Japan, media reported.

US President-elect Barack Obama’s speeches are proving a best-seller, a big hit in Japan where few hit novels sell more than a million copies a year.

The 95-page paperback features Obama’s speeches in English from the 2004 Democratic National Convention and during the Democratic Party primaries, in which he defeated Hillary Clinton. They are accompanied by Japanese translations.

The 1,050 yen (11.6 US dollars) book, which includes a CD of the speeches, tops the bestseller list on bookseller Amazon’s Japanese Website.

“Speeches by presidents and presidential candidates are excellent as listening tools to learn English.” said Yuzo Yamamoto of Asahi Press, which produced the best-selling text book.

“Obama’s is especially so. His speeches are so moving, and he also uses words such as ‘yes, we can,’ ‘change’ and ‘hope’ that even Japanese people can memorize,” he said.

Couple find antique signs in attic

A British couple said they discovered the floor of their attic was made up of antique railroad signs worth a total of \$27,500.

Ian and Lynda Spires, both 48, said they were insulating the attic of their Milton Keynes, England, home when they discovered the floor was comprised of 49 antique signs put in place 50 years ago by a railroad worker who used to live in the home, The Sun reported.

“I saw the names at my feet as we scraped away dust,” Ian Spires said of the surprising find.

Auctioneer Neil Booth said the cache of signs was valued at a total of about \$27,500.

“There was a treasure trove in that loft,” he said.



The photo shows the unique dining room “Ithaa” of the world’s first underwater restaurant at the Conrad Maldives Rangali resort in Maldives. The US\$5 million restaurant was constructed 5 metres below the waves of the Indian Ocean, offering 270 degrees of panoramic views of the sea-life. Designed by a New Zealand firm and constructed in Singapore, the restaurant was installed in November 2004 and took a team of divers and 50 locals 13 hours to set in place under the waves.

Wal-Mart worker accused of rolling back prices

A Wal-Mart employee has been charged with embezzlement after allegedly ringing up a sale of \$5.25 for more than \$500 worth of merchandise. Natchez Police Chief Mike Mullins said a 20-year-old cashier was arrested on Thursday along with a 22-year-old customer at the Wal-Mart in Natchez.

Mullins said the cashier charged the customer \$5.25 for seven pairs of jeans, a baby crib, a pair of scrubs, a picture frame, sweat suit, laundry detergent, a bra, four pairs of pants, diapers, pizza, coffee, four 12-packs of drinks, canned goods, air freshener, nachos, noodles, frozen goods, chips and a family pack of beef.

The actual total for the merchandise was \$547.50.

Mullins said the two women were being held on Friday without bond pending an initial court appearance.

NEWS ALBUM

Ahara Thukha Market, the largest of its kind in Nay Pyi Taw

Article: *Myint Maung Soe*; Photos: *Hla Shwe (Kaytumati)*



Shops offering a large variety of goods for buyers.

(from page 1)

When we arrived at Ahara Thukha Market, it was late afternoon. So, shop

goods there are 4000 kyats for a viss of chicken; 2800 kyats, for a viss of Ngamyitchin fish (carp); 3500 kyats for

"Our committee founded this market on 15 May 2008 for the convenience of local people of Nay Pyi Taw and surrounding areas. It has 1200 shops, 100 wholesales centres and 16 restaurants. It opens all day, so local people can get goods at any time."

Due to the market, the region sees a swifter commodity flow, and drivers of three-wheel vehicles, passenger carrier motorcycles, trishaws and pony carts do

around the market. Local farmers have come to boost production of agricultural produce to meet the higher demand due the emergence of the market.

Vegetables and fish and meat produced in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw Lewe, Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon, Yamethin and Meiktila apart from nearby regions flow to the market. It is like Thiri Mingalar Market of Yangon



A row of banana and coconut shops.

owners were displaying their goods for night sale on the large ground in front of the market. The market was found dealing with a good trade with a large number of sellers and customers.

Prevailing prices of some consumer

a viss of Ngagyin fish (Hamilton's carp); 3000 kyats for a viss of groundnut or sesame oil. It is a one-stop market for housewives.

U Tun Hla Aung, in-charge of the market, told the Myanmar Alin Daily,



Ahara Thukha Market lively with trade activities in the evening.

well in their businesses. The fare of motorcycle for a short distance is, 500 kyats, three-wheeler, 300 kyats, and pony cart, 200 kyats. If passenger buses ply between the market and nearby regions, the market will see a larger trade.

On average, a three-wheel driver earns 10,000 kyats, and a motorcyclist driver, 5000 to 10,000 kyats.

We noticed large plantations of crops such as mustard, Chinese kale, cabbage, cauliflower, coriander, chilli and onion

where commodities are available both in retail sale and in wholesale. Customers are family members from nearby regiments and units, government employees, local people and those who buy goods for sale.

Ahara Thukha Market of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana generates many job opportunities and provides greens, fish and meat at fair prices for local people.

Translation: MS

Myanma Alin: 25-1-2009



The stand of three-wheel vehicles.

54th Maha Convocation for religious examinations held

YANGON, 25 Jan—The 54th Maha Convocation for religious examinations, organized by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council, was held at Maha Pasana Cave on Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill in Mayangon Township, here, at noon today.

At the ceremony, the certificates and titles were conferred on the monks who won credits in the Dhammaçariya, Pahtamabyan, Abhidhamma and Visuddhimagga examinations. First, Chairman of Yangon Division PDC Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint conferred certificates and titles on the monk who won the first prize as Agga Maha Akyaw Dhammaçariya in the examination and

the monks who stood second and third in the Dhammaçariya examination.

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung also offered certificates and titles to the monk who stood first as Pahtamagyaw and two monks who stood second and third in the Pahtamagyi examinations.

Departmental heads, officials, the wife of the Commander and the wife of the Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs also presented certificates and titles to the monks, the nuns and laypersons who secured the first, second and third prizes in the Pahtamabyan, Nikaya, Abhidhamma and Visuddhimagga examinations.

MNA

Minister looks into progress of Thirimingala overpass

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan—Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun looked into maintenance works of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) this morning.

Then, the minister arrived at the construction site of Thirimingala overpass in Sagaing.

At the briefing hall, Deputy Superintending Engineer U Kyaw Lin of Bridge Construction Project Special Group

(4) reported on progress of the overpass and future plans. After fulfilling the requirements, the minister inspected the work site.

The Thirimingala overpass above the railroad in Sagaing is of reinforced concrete type. The overpass will be 485 feet long and it will have 28 feet wide motor road. The overpass can withstand 60-ton loads.

MNA

MMA to open Diabetes Management Course

YANGON, 25 Jan — CME of Myanmar Medical Association and Myanmar Endocrine and Metabolic Society will open Diabetes Management Course 2009 at MMA from 31 January to 1 February and 7 to 8 February.

Those wishing to attend the course may contact the MMA on 29 January from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.—MNA

Talks on traffic rules at Dagon Ayeya Highway Bus Terminal

YANGON, 25 Jan— Organized by Road Transport Administration Department under the Ministry of Rail Transportation, a supervisory team led by Head of Yangon Division Director U Tun Aung Kyaw and Head of Yangon North District Assistant Director Daw Ni Ni Shwe, together with Staff Officer (1) Police Captain Myint Aung of the Office of Yangon Division Wireless and Traffic Police Corp and Assistant Director U Myo Chit of Yangon Division

Transport Planning Department, gave educative talks on traffic rules to 70 drivers and bus conductors at Dagon Ayeya Highway Bus Terminal in Hlinethaya Township yesterday.

Next, they supervised maintenance of the buses, driver licences and driving of buses in line with the traffic rules of the highway buses before departure for Ayeyawady Division from the terminal. Later, action was taken against those who broke the traffic rules.— MNA



Maj-Gen Ko Ko of Ministry of Defence presents cash and teaching aids to students of Hsinma Village affiliated High School.—MNA

Development tasks gaining ground...

(from page 1)

Maj-Gen Ko Ko gave cash assistance for the school and viewed the pre-test for the students and classrooms.

He met with departmental officials, members of social organizations and townsenders at the office of Ngayokkaung General Administration Department.

Yesterday, Maj-Gen Ko Ko, together with Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Khin Maung Aye and officials,

visited Bawa Alinyaung self-reliant library in Hsinma Village and presented books to the librarian.

At Hsinma Village Affiliated BEHS, he provided cash assistance and teaching aid for students through officials and met with members of the School Board of Trustees, students and village-elders.

After greeting the local people, Maj-Gen Ko Ko heard reports on progress of agriculture and livestock breeding tasks of the village.—MNA

National Boxing Championships commence

YANGON, 25 Jan— The Myanmar Boxing Federation President's Cup (A) and (B) Classes National Boxing Championships kicked off at Aung San Gymnasium,

here, this afternoon.

On behalf of the MOC Chairman Minister for Sports, MOC General Secretary Director-General of Sports and Physical Education U

Thaung Htaik delivered an address and opened the championships.

The competition will last up to 30 January.

MNA

Glory Royal Diamond Co introduces Thermaflex' products

YANGON, 25 Jan — Glory Royal Diamond (GRD) introduced accessories for air-conditioners, electrical device, pipes for cool and hot water and underground

and related items mamufactured by Thermaflex Company in Thailan, at Chatrium Hotel in Bahan Township yesterday.

First, Managing Director of GRD U Than Win extended greetings. Next, Sales and Marketing Managers Mr Prudzaji Smard, Mr Thanaphat and Mr Ruedon Samard

introduced the products using technology of Holand made in Thailand. They replied to the queries raised by those present. Director U Tin Tun Lin of GRD spoke words of thanks.

More information is available at Glory Royal Diamoad Co Ltd Room No (A-10/02) at Land Mark Tower near Shawgondaing Junction in Bahan Township ph 557095, Fax-951 557095, Email graddiamond @ Myanmar.com.mm. Glory Royal Diamond Co Ltd will plan to introduce the products of Thermaflex Company in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

Sale and Marketing Manager Mr Prudzaji Smard explains accessories for air-conditioners and electrical devices.— MNA



Commander, Mayor attend opening of new buildings at basic education schools

YANGON, 25 Jan—Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin this morning inspected laying of a concrete pavement along Inya Road in Kamayut Township and gave necessary instructions to officials.

At the ceremony to open the new building of Basic Education Primary School (Thanshin) in Shwepyitha Township, the commander, the mayor and the Director-General of No. 3 Department of Basic Education formally opened the new building.

Afterwards, they attended the opening ceremony of new building at No. 15 BEPS and cut the ribbon to open the building. Next, they inspected the new building. At the meeting hall of the school, the mayor handed over the documents related to new buildings to the director-general of the No. 3 BED. The Township Education Officer spoke words of thanks.

On Minye Kyawswa Road in Shwepyitha Township, the commander and the mayor inspected laying of asphalt on the road. The head of Engineering Department (Road/Bridge) and officials of YCDC reported on progress of tarmacking. The commander and the mayor left necessary instructions.

At the office of Hline Township PDC, the head of Yangon Division Health Department and officials reported on outbreak and prevention against dengue hemorrhagic fever, diarrhoea and dysentery in the division and the township and efforts being made for proper flow of water at drains and carrying out of sanitation. After hearing the reports, the commander and the mayor gave necessary instructions.

Later, the mayor looked into participation of departmental personnel, members of social organizations and local people in undertaking sanitation tasks, fumigation, proper flow of water at drains, sanitation tasks and educative talks on health knowledge along 7th and 8th streets in Hline Township.—MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects Malit River Water Pumping Project in Hlegu Township.—MNA

River Water Pumping Projects under inspection in Hlegu Township

YANGON, 25 Jan—At Hsinphon River Water Pumping Project site in Hlegu Township, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo this morning viewed supply of water and cultivation of summer paddy.

The water pumping station built on Hsinphon Creek near Hsinphon Village can irrigate 3,400 acres of farmlands. Thanks to irrigation facilities of the station, a total of 1,200 acres of summer paddy have been cultivated against the target of 2,000 acres.

At Malit River Water Pumping station project, the

minister met farmers and inspected supply of water and thriving summer paddy plantations.

Afterwards, the minister inspected implementation of Sitpin River Water Pumping Project and met with summer paddy cultivators.

Sitpin river water pumping project is being implemented on Tawtaman Drain near North Sitpin Village of Hlegu Township. The station can supply water to 1,000 acres of farmlands. This year, the station is providing water to 155 acres of summer paddy against the target of 300 acres.—MNA

Labour Ministry holds coord meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan—Ministry of Labour held its work coordination meeting at the ministry here today, with an address by Minister U Aung Kyi. Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Labour Bring-Gen Tin Tun Aung, the directors-general and officials concerned.

At the meeting, Directors of the departments reported to the minister on their completed tasks of the departments

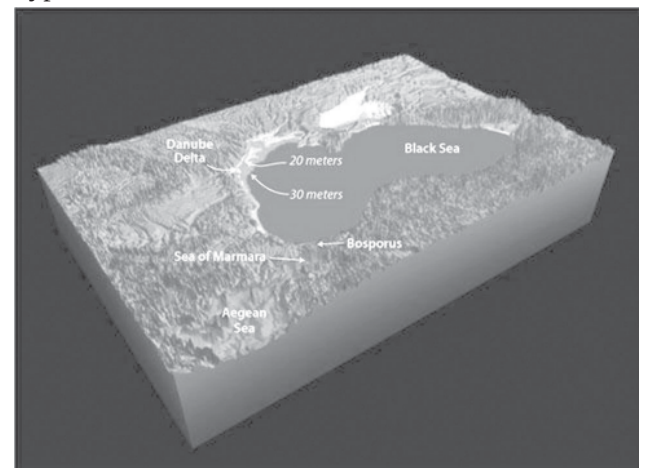
and the directors-general on the future plans.

The deputy minister gave supplementary reports. The meeting ended with conclusion remarks by the deputy minister.—MNA

Danube delta holds answers to 'Noah's Flood' debate

BUCHAREST, 25 Jan — Did a catastrophic flood of biblical proportions drown the shores of the Black Sea 9,500 years ago, wiping out early Neolithic settlements around its perimeter? A geologist with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) and two Romanian colleagues report in the January issue of Quaternary Science Reviews that, if the flood occurred at all, it was much smaller than previously proposed by other researchers.

Using sediment cores from the delta of the Danube River, which empties into the Black Sea, the researchers determined sea level was approximately 30 meters below present levels—rather than the 80 meters others hypothesized.— Internet



Giosan and his colleagues estimate that the Black Sea was around 30 meters below present day level.



Minister U Aung Kyi addresses coordinating meeting of the Ministry of Labour.—MNA

Roads, bridges repaired in two townships

YANGON, 25 Jan—Director U Aung Kyaw Nyein of Yangon Division Development Affairs Committee, Development Affairs Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs inspected a laterate road which is under construction in Maygawaddy extension ward in Hlegu Township on 23 January. The road is 3,870-feet long and 12-feet wide. He also inspected laying of laterate road section which is 2,100-feet long and 12-feet wide and is linking Yezin Road and Nawaratt Yezin

Road in Pyaytawtha Ward.

The director then looked into repairing of a section of the district-to-district road in Hmawby Township between mile posts (8/0) and (16/4), re-construction of Ngayoutkaung wood bridge which is 100-feet long and 14-feet wide and completion of Pyaylan-Inlet-Phankhargone village-to-village road which is 7,920-feet long and 10-feet wide. The repair and reconstruction works are being undertaken by Hmawby Township Development Affairs Committee.—MNA

Dams, hydropower plants under construction on Mone Creek for ensuring socio-economic development

Article & Photos: *Khin Maung Than (Sethmu)*

(from page 16)

In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, the government has built Ayeyawady Bridge (Magway) linking Magway and Minbu regions to ensure development of western region of Magway Division. Moreover, thanks to implementation of dam projects, water can be supplied to grow paddy and other crops as double cropping in Magway Division.

As the western region of Magway Division is a dry area, Mone Creek Dam was built on Mone Creek for greening the region and increasing per-acre yield of crops. At present, water is being supplied to 108,000 acres of land. Furthermore, the local people from the western part of Magway Division

are enjoying the fruits of electricity generated 380 million kilowatt hours yearly through irrigation facility of Mone Creek Dam.

Mone Creek originates from the mountain ranges of Chin State and flows into Ayeyawady River at Kyaungdawya of Lekaing in Pwintbyu Township. Water from Mone Creek is being irrigated to the farmlands through Mezali Diversion Weir. Electricity generated from Mone Creek Power Plant is being supplied to the surrounding areas through Lawpita national grid.

Mone Creek Dam is located on Mone Creek between Aukpon and Thayankaing villages of Sedoktara Township, Magway Division. It was opened in December 2004. Thanks to construction

of Mone Creek Dam, the local people are enjoying the fruits of irrigation facility and electricity.

I had one more opportunity to visit construction sites of Buywa Dam Project and Upper Buywa Dam project being implemented on Mone Creek. Staff Officers U Kyaw Naing Oo and U Soe explained facts about Buywa Dam Project. The project site is located near Bu Village, 15 miles from Sedoktara Township (13 miles from Mone Creek Dam).

Upon completion of Buywa Dam, Kyeeohn-kyeewa Dam Project will generate about 120 million kilowatt hours yearly in addition to the regular hydropower generating capacity.

Upper Buywa Dam Project is being implemented

upstream of Buywa Dam project site along Mone Creek. The former facility is located 25 miles from Mone Creek Dam and 12 miles upstream of Buywa Dam Project site. The dam is under construction near Thagaungkyin Village, 27 miles north of Sedoktara Township.

Staff U Kyaw Naing Oo and Staff Officer U Soe explained matters related to Buywa Dam Project to me.

Indeed, Buywa and Upper Buywa Dam Projects are being implemented on the hilly regions. On completion, Upper Buywa Dam Project can generate 534 million kilowatt hours yearly. In addition, Mone Creek Dam will supply electricity to Kyeeohn-kyeewa Dam project through Upper Buywa

Dam and provide water to the irrigated area of Mezali Diversion Weir in the rainy season and summer.

During the tour, I observed progress of implementing the dam projects along Mone Creek. Together with Staff Officer U Than Tun, I visited Kyeeohn-kyeewa Dam Project. We left Monbu along Pathein-Monywa Road, and we arrived at the dam construction site, eight miles west of mile post No. 133 on Pathein-Monywa Road.

Kyeeohn-kyeewa Multi-purpose Dam Project will be installed with two 37-megawatt generators and it can generate 370 million kilowatt hours yearly and irrigate 96,777 acres of land. We saw the huge embankment of the dam with mountain ranges in the background.

Out of dam projects

on Mone Creek, Mone Creek Dam had been opened, and remaining dams namely Buywa, Upper Buywa and Kyeeohn-kyeewa Dam projects are under construction with might and main.

For agricultural purpose, Upper Buywa Dam can store 1,459,400 acre feet of water, Buywa Dam 403,300 acre feet of water, Mone Creek Dam 674,400 acre feet of water and Kyeeohn-kyeewa Dam 463,000 acre feet of water, totaling 3,000,100.

As such, the local people of western region of Magway Division will enjoy the fruits of irrigation and hydropower facilities being built on Mone Creek coming years.

Translation: TTA
Kyemon: 24-1-2009



Kyeeohn-kyeewa Dam is under construction near Wunlo Village of Pwintbyu Township on 5 November 2008.



Emergency services work at a sports hall where high winds brought down part of a wall killing four children near Barcelona. Hurricane-force winds lashed Spain and France Saturday, killing at least 14 including four children when part of a sports hall collapsed, while nearly two million were left without power.—INTERNET

Four children die when sports hall collapses in Barcelona

MADRID, 25 Jan—Four children tragically died on Saturday when a sports hall collapsed due to high winds on the outskirts of Barcelona.

The children, who were between 9 and 16 years old, were members of a baseball club from the locality of Sant Boi de Llobregat, which is the home town of Spanish basketball stars Pau and Marc Gasol. As well as the four deaths, another 16 youngsters had to be taken to hospital, one of

them in a critical state.

The youngsters had been practicing on Saturday morning, when the strong winds, which have affected all of the Iberian peninsular this weekend, forced them to seek shelter inside. Tragically as they were sheltering, the wind, which was gusting at speeds of up to 110 km per hour, lifted the metal roof off the facility and caused the roof to fall in, crushing those inside.

Local neighbours called the emergency

services and helped with the rescue, but could do nothing for the youngsters who had already died.

A total of 12 people have died in Spain since the high winds began on Friday.—*Internet*

Emergency services work at a sports hall where high winds brought down part of a wall killing four children near Barcelona.—INTERNET



Salmonella death in US rises to seven

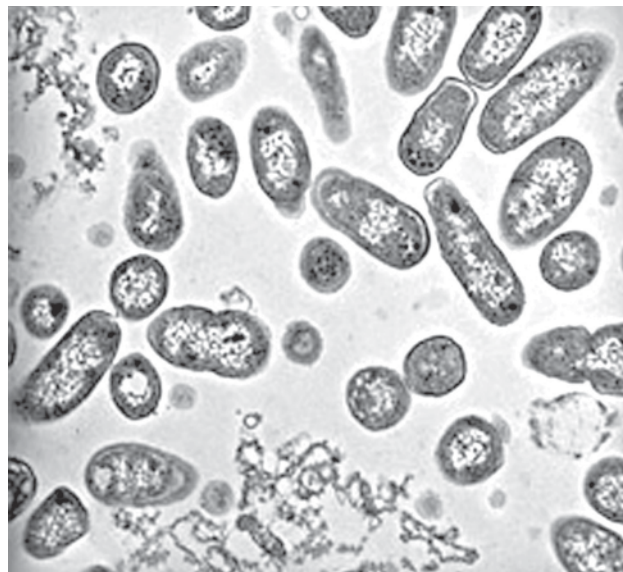
WASHINGTON, 24 Jan—One Minnesota woman in her 80s has died from salmonella poisoning, bringing the total number of deaths related to the outbreak of salmonella in the US to seven, officials from the Minnesota Department of Health said on Saturday.

According to the officials, it was not clear whether the woman had eaten any contaminated peanut butter. In all, there have been three deaths in Minnesota, two in Virginia and one each in North Carolina and Idaho.

On Wednesday, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said the sole source of the US salmonella outbreak involving contaminated peanut butter appears to be the Peanut Corp of America's Blakely, Georgia, processing facility.

The company produces peanut butter for use in nursing homes and cafeterias, as well as a concentrated product used in many commercially produced products, including cakes, cookies, crackers, candies, cereal and ice cream.

More than 200 peanut butter and peanut paste products from at least 38 companies have been recalled



Salmonella bacteria.—INTERNET

so far in the ongoing salmonella outbreak, according to the latest count posted on the website of the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). As of Wednesday evening, 491 people had been reported infected by a salmonella outbreak by public health authorities in 43 of the 50 US states, the CDC said on its website.—*Internet*

Vietnam ferry sinks, 40 drowned

VIETNAM, 25 Jan—Most of the dead were women and children on their way to a market at the start of the week-long Lunar New Year festival, a police officer in Quang Binh Province said.

The accident happened in chilly temperatures when passengers stood up in a rush to get off the boat as it approached a pier on the river, Cao Thi Huong, identified as a survivor of the accident, was quoted as saying on the *VnExpress* website.

There had been 80 people on the boat, de-

spite it only having a licence to carry 40, website reported.

The website said that police had detained Nguyen Xuan Quy, the captain and owner of the boat, while investigating the accident.—*Internet*



At least 40 people drowned when a ferry sank in central Vietnam on Sunday, police said. INTERNET



Thailand's "Scorpion Queen" Kanchana Kaetkaew, 38, poses with scorpions inside a glass room at the Ripley's Believe It or Not museum in Pattaya, on 24 January, 2009. —INTERNET

Japan to provide \$9.5 mln food aid to Philippines

MANILA, 25 Jan—Japan will provide an emergency food aid amounting to 9.5 million US dollars to the thousands of war-displaced persons in the southern Philippine region of Mindanao, its embassy in Manila said on Sunday.

The assistance will cover the distribution of 7,500 metric tons of rice to affected civilians through the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP). "Japan sincerely hopes that this emergency food aid through the WFP would help mitigating the current humanitarian crisis in Mindanao and strongly expects a cease-fire and the immediate resumption of peace talks between the government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF)," the embassy said in a statement.

The 12,000-strong MILF, which used to be a part of a larger separatist group that signed a peace deal with the

government in 1996, had been battling for self-rule in Mindanao since 1978.

After the aborted signing of an expanded Muslim homeland deal with the Philippine government in August 2008, MILF rebels forcibly occupied some Mindanao towns, killed civilians and looted and burned their homes. More than half a million of people have been affected by the conflict since government troops launched a military offensive against the rebels afterwards.

"Earlier in 2006, Japan had provided food aid amounting to 280 million yen or approximately 2.8 million US dollars for the displaced in the conflict-affected areas in Mindanao also through the WFP. This time, the aid will be substantially larger in its scale," the embassy said. Recently, the Philippine government has announced it is ready to resume talks with the Muslim rebels, but the displaced are still afraid to go back home for fear of the unstable situation in the south.—*Internet*

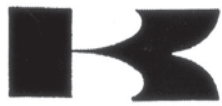
Ten mountaineers killed under avalanche in Turkey

ANKARA, 25 Jan—The death toll of the mountaineers in an avalanche in northern Turkey rose to 10 later on Sunday, reported the semi-official Anatolia news agency. Ten mountaineers died in the avalanche which occurred in Zigana Mountain of town Torul in the northeastern province of Gumushane earlier on Sunday, Public Works and Housing Minister Faruk Ozak was quoted as saying. According to the official, seven other mountaineers were rescued and the identities of the victims would be revealed later.

Internet

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National Capital Region
e-mail: dandi@vsnl.com
India. 26 January 2009

Three killed in Scotland avalanche

LONDON, 25 Jan — Three people died on Saturday and a fourth was injured by an avalanche in the Scottish Highlands, a police spokeswoman said.

Those who died were among several groups climbing the Buchaille Etive Mor in the Glencoe region. The avalanche happened about noon Saturday (5 am ET), according to the Northern Constabulary police. In all, nine people in two parties were caught up in the avalanche, but five people escaped injury, police said.

Rescuers from the Royal Air Force were sent to assist the climbers, but blizzards hampered their efforts, and rescue teams with search dogs had to be dropped on the mountain to continue on foot.

The injured person was being treated for a shoulder injury from the avalanche, police said.

Internet

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Dated.26 January,2009

More British men seeking breast reduction

LONDON, 25 Jan — Doctors say a record number of British men last year sought breast-reduction surgery for "man boobs" or "moobs," as some call them.

Breast-reduction surgery for men rose from 22 operations in 2003 to 224 operations last year, said the Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons in Britain.

More men concerned with their physique also are turning to anabolic steroids, with an estimated 179,000 men ages 16-59 having used them in Britain, *The Daily Telegraph* reported on Saturday.

Needle-exchange projects also report more men are using needles to inject steroids for cosmetic reasons rather than for injecting heroin and other illicit intoxicating drugs, *the Telegraph* reported.—Internet

Undercover officer shot, three charged

BALTIMORE, 25 Jan — Police in Baltimore have charged three men with attempted murder in the shooting of an undercover officer outside a housing complex, officials said.

Officer Dante Arthur, an eight-year Baltimore Police Department veteran, was in critical but stable condition at Maryland Shock Trauma Center, The Baltimore Sun reported on Saturday. Arthur was shot twice in the face on Friday, after attempting to make an undercover drug purchase. He is expected to make a full recovery, the newspaper reported.—Internet

Nine dead in Congo rebel drive

GOMA, 25 Jan — The Congolese military says nine Hutu rebels have been killed in eastern DR Congo, as a joint drive with Rwandan soldiers

against rebels is stepped up. A Congolese army commander reported fighting with Rwandan Hutu rebels in five villages in the Lubero area, over

200km (125 miles) north of Goma.

Meanwhile there is no word on the possible extradition to DR Congo of Tutsi rebel chief Laurent Nkunda. He was was arrested in Rwanda on Thursday night.

Congolese soldiers are fighting alongside at least 3,500 Rwandan soldiers to disarm the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR).

Members of this ethnic Hutu militia fled Rwanda after the 1994 genocide against Tutsis and moderate Hutus. Some FDLR leaders are accused of involvement in the genocide.

Internet

France reportedly has Gitmo plan

BRUSSELS, 25 Jan— The French government proposes European Union countries provide homes for 60 inmates from the US detention centre at Guantanamo, officials said. The government has forwarded its plan to other EU members so the proposal can be discussed when foreign ministers meet Monday in Brussels, *Der Spiegel* reported.

The Bush administration asked many of its allies to take in detainees who had been determined not to be dangerous but who could not be returned to their home countries for fear of persecution. They include Muslims from the Uighur Autonomous Area in western China.—Internet



Miss Indiana Katie R Stam reacts as she is crowned Miss America 2009 by 2008 winner Kirsten Haglund during the Miss America Pageant at the Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada on 24 Jan, 2009.—INTERNET

Missing skiers in Colorado found safe

DENVER, 25 Jan — Six missing skiers in Colorado have been found safe and unharmed in Pitkin County, officials said on Saturday. The skiers, described as experienced, were spotted just before 11 am and were safely out of Colorado's backcountry by 1 pm, *The Denver Post* reported.

A man who became separated from the six skiers in blizzard conditions reported the group lost Friday about 12 miles south of the Aspen Mountain ski area. The man said he had been hiking with the group in the Goodwin-Greene Hut area.—Internet

Spanish bullfighter Antonio Barrera is tackled by a bull during a bullfighting festival at Macarena bullring in Medellin on 24 Jan, 2009.—INTERNET



In hard times, mobile homes look better

ST LOUIS, 25 Jan — The economic slump and the puncturing of the housing bubble in the United States could be good for at least one industry, the manufacture of mobile homes.

There was a slight uptick in the business last year, The St Louis Post-Dispatch reported. The number of mobile home loans insured by the Federal Housing Administration rose almost 14 percent to 1,569.

There is anecdotal evidence that people who want to own a home but can't get a mortgage or find a conventional house, and those losing houses to foreclosure, are considering mobile homes, also known as trailers or, in the industry's favored term, manufactured homes.

"We're experiencing more people that are coming in that are basically coming from situations where foreclosure situations, they can't afford a traditional house, they just don't have the credit," said Mac McCoy, a salesman at Bropfs Mobile Home Sales near St Louis. "We've seen an extra 10 (percent) to 15 percent in that category. We expect that to increase. I don't see how it could not go up."—*Internet*



Men work on top of a tiled-roof house to remove branches from an uprooted tree after a winter storm with high winds hit Lege Cap-Ferret in southwestern France on 24 Jan, 2009.—INTERNET

Google maps misplaces NYC neighbourhood

NEW YORK, 25 Jan — A Google glitch is giving drivers trying to reach a neighbourhood in the New York City borough of Staten Island directions to the upstate city of Schenectady.

Google has placed the 10308 zip code, the one for the Great Kills section, in Schenectady, which lies a few miles west of Albany about three hours up the Hudson River, the *New York Daily News* reports.

So anyone trying to get to Great Kills and seeking driving directions from Google is being sent north.

"It ought to be fixed, because if somebody does do that they're in for a heck of a ride," said Councilman Vince Ignizio, a Republican representing Staten Island. "I don't think it's a personal attack on my community."

I just pray to God nobody actually took that trip.

Andrew Plaitis, owner of Andrew's Diner in Great Kills, is grateful for Staten Island's insularity.

"This is a neighborhood place, everybody knows who we are," he said.

—*Internet*

Scientists see California quake pattern

LOS ANGELES, 25 Jan — Southern California could be overdue for a major earthquake along the San Andreas Fault, researchers say.

A study by scientists at the University of California at Irvine found there were five major temblors along a southern section of the San Andreas Fault in the past 700 years, the *Los Angeles Times* reported Saturday.

The first one is estimated to have occurred

in 1310, followed 83 years later by one in 1393, 192 years after that in 1585, the next 85 years later in 1640 and the last one 217 years later.

It's now been 152 years since the last major quake along the Carrizo Plain section of the San Andreas — the Fort Tejon temblor of 1857, which was an estimated magnitude of 7.9.

Lisa Grant Ludwig, a principal investigator

for the University of California-Irvine study, said scientists can't be sure that the pattern will hold.

"But we know it increases the probability of an earthquake," she said. "There's not any way I can look at the data and be comforted by it." On Saturday morning, there was a 3.1 magnitude quake in central California, about 15 miles from Trona, Calif, the US Geological Survey said.—*Internet*



Women access the Internet at a Jakarta shopping mall in Indonesia.

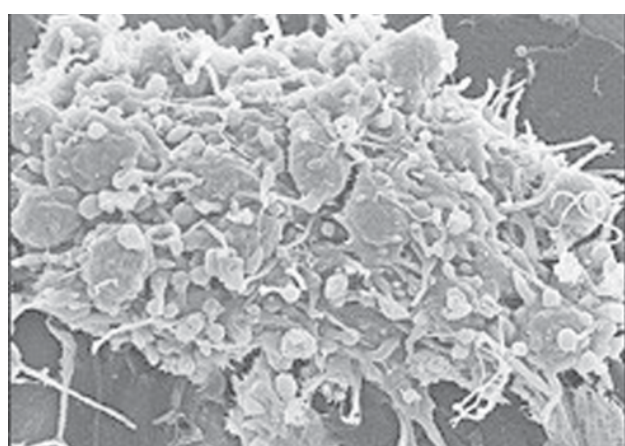
—*INTERNET*

Discovery could block blood clots

LONDON, 25 Jan — Scientists have found a potential way to prevent blood clots which can cause heart attacks. They believe the discovery could aid the development of better heart attack prevention and treatment.

The key is to remove a particular protein — PKC alpha — from specialist blood cells called platelets which play a key role in the formation of clots. The University of Bristol study, carried out in mice, appears in the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. Blood clots perform an essential function, limiting blood loss from a wound.

However, when they form in diseased arteries feeding the heart they can be life-threatening, caus-



Platelet cells play a key role in the formation of blood clots.—INTERNET

ing a heart attack in 146,000 people in the UK every year. Current anti-clotting medicines, such as aspirin, reduce the risk of heart attack — but in some people can also cause excessive and dangerous bleeding.

Platelets are small cells in the blood that sense

when a blood vessel has been damaged. They rapidly become very sticky, and form a protective plaster over the site of damage. In a patient with heart disease, fatty plaques build up in the walls of the arteries feeding the heart.

—*Internet*

Calif hospitals cutting pediatrics units

LOS ANGELES, 25 Jan —California hospitals have been steadily cutting pediatric care during the past decade, the *Los Angeles Times* reported Saturday.

While the number of California children has grown to 10 million, more than 65 hospitals have either closed children's units or gone under, the newspaper said.

At least two dozen have cut the number of beds for children and few counties north of Sacramento provide beds dedicated to pediatric care.

More than 800 in-patient pediatrics beds were eliminated between 1998

and 2007, a cut of 19 percent.

More than half of those were in Los Angeles County, where dozens more pediatric beds have been lost since 2007, the *Times* reported after analyzing data from the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development and the US Census.

Policy analysts and pediatric care professionals are concerned the changes, which appear to be largely a result of financial considerations, are resulting in too few hospitals caring for concentrated numbers of children, with more pediatric care being delivered on an

outpatient basis.

Paul Wise, a children's healthcare policy researcher at Stanford University, told the newspaper "things are a mess" in California.

"There seems to be a lack of any coherent monitoring or oversight," he said.

Diana Dooley, chief executive of the Children's Hospital Association of California, said some children "will be denied the level of care that they need."

"They'll have to get no care or they'll have to get care that isn't delivered by ... pediatricians trained in the special needs of children," she said.—*Internet*

SPORTS

Manchester United counting cost of five-trophy assault

MANCHESTER, 25 Jan—Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson saw his dreams of landing five trophies kept alive, but admitted that the 2-1 FA Cup fourth round win over Tottenham came at a cost.



Manchester United's Argentinian forward Carlos Tévez.

Dimitar Berbatov's first-half strike against his former club settled the tie in United's favour at Old Trafford after a Tom Huddlestone own goal had cancelled out Roman Pavlyuchenko's early opener.

But Ferguson's team didn't emerge unscathed. "Cristiano Ronaldo had a stomach bug and it showed because he was nowhere near the player we know he can be," said the United manager. "Fabio da Silva picked up a calf injury and Danny Welbeck has injured his knee. The full-back positions are causing us a bit of concern at the moment."—Internet

Federer fights back as Jankovic crashes out of Australian Open

MELBOURNE, 25 Jan—The Australian Open was blown wide open when top seed Jelena Jankovic crashed out while Roger Federer was forced to mount a memorable

comeback to beat Tomas Berdych.

The Serb's crushing 6-1, 6-4 defeat to French 16th seed Marion Bartoli put her alongside Ana Ivanovic and Venus Williams as high-profile early round casualties, raising further questions about her world number one status.

Federer looked like he could join Jankovic after losing the first two sets to Czech Berdych, battling back to win 4-6, 6-7 (4/7), 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 and stay on course for a record-equaling 14th Grand Slam title.—Internet



Jelena Jankovic of Serbia reacts during her match against Marion Bartoli of France at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne, on 25 January. Bartoli won 6-1, 6-4.—INTERNET

Answers to yesterday's Crosswords Puzzle

1	F	O	U	N	D	E	R		5	F	A	U	L	T			
	U		R		I		E		R		L		O				
8	D	R	E	S	S			9	M	O	I	S	T	E	N		
	G				P		O		E		I		I				
10	E	X	H	A	U	S	T	E	D			12	M	U	G		
			O		T		E	E				A		H			
13	R	O	L	L	E	R			14	S	E	P	T	E	T		
	O		L					16	N		R		U				
17	B	U	Y				18	P	R	O	G	R	A	M	M	19	E
	B		H			R		T		A						X	
20	E	C	O	N	O	M	Y			21	T	R	22	A	C	T	
	R		C		U		E			U		D		O			
23	Y	O	K	E	D				24	T	O	M	F	O	O	L	

Ballack bolsters case for Chelsea extension

LONDON, 25 Jan—Michael Ballack has been given a clear hint he will be offered a new deal to stay at Chelsea next season.

The German midfielder is out of contract at the end of this campaign but his two-goal display in the FA Cup fourth round victory over Ipswich Town was a timely reminder of his value to the Stamford Bridge club.

Ballack has struggled to make an impact this year and his strikes were only his second and third goals of the campaign - and he is still to get off the mark in the Premier League.

But Chelsea number two Ray Wilkins insisted manager Luiz Felipe Scolari is happy with the former Bayern Munich man's contribution and expects Ballack to stay put.

"I would have thought he will be in

the manager's plans for next year," Wilkins said. "He's a top quality player and that is what the club has been bringing in, top quality.

"His contribution has been excellent. He probably covers more acreage than anybody else in our side. With the work he puts in for the team, he's untouchable, he's extremely good."—Internet



Chelsea's Michael Ballack (left) holds off a challenge from Ipswich Town's Pablo Counago (back) and Owen Garvan during their FA Cup 4th round match at Stamford Bridge in London.—INTERNET

Roddick in ominous form as he downs Robredo at Australian Open

MELBOURNE, 25 Jan—Seventh seeded American Andy Roddick was in ominous form as he downed Spaniard Tommy Robredo 7-5, 6-1, 6-3 to reach the Australian Open quarter-finals.

After battling out a tight first set, Roddick steamrolled his Spanish opponent in the second and third to send out a warning to his rivals. The American has been in great form at this year's tournament, dropping only one set on his way to the last eight, against Belgium's Xavier Malisse in the second round.

Roddick blasted 13 aces against Robredo and won 84 percent of his first serves to have the Spanish player on the back foot throughout the match. He broke Robredo five times and wasn't broken once — the Spaniard only had one break point over the

three sets.

Roddick's quarter-final appearance equals his best Grand Slam performance of what was for him a disappointing 2008. He now plays either defending champion Novak Djokovic or 2006 runner-up and crowd favourite Marcos Baghdatis for a place in the semi-finals.—Internet



Andy Roddick of the US returns the ball to Tommy Robredo of Spain during their match on the seventh day of the Australian Open in Melbourne, on 25 January.—INTERNET

Bryant leads season-opening Champions Tour event

KAUPULEHE-KONA, 25 Jan—With a slim lead on a defenseless course, Brad Bryant won't dare look in the rearview mirror in the Champions Tour's season-opening Mitsubishi Electric Championship.

"You just keep the pedal to the metal and hope the transmission don't blow," said Bryant, who shot a 7-under 65 on Saturday to take a one-shot lead over Bernhard Langer after two rounds in the winners-only event.

Bryant, who birdied nine holes in the opening round, set the pace early by birdieing six of his first 10 holes and capped his round with a 10-foot birdie putt on 18 for a 15-under 129 total. The big-hitting Texan is seeking his first victory since the 2007 US Senior Open, where he made up five strokes in the final round and overtook Tom Watson in the second-largest comeback in Open history. Bryant will be the hunted on Sunday.

Langer, the player and rookie of the year, made his move on the back nine, again, birdieing four of the final six holes for a 66. He shaved the hole on several putts before they eventually started falling, just as he did Friday in a back-nine 29.—Internet

Adams downcast as Portsmouth crash out

PORTSMOUTH, 25 Jan—Tony Adams admitted Portsmouth got exactly what they deserved as the FA Cup holders crashed out in the fourth round after being out-played and out-fought by Championship team Swansea.

Adams was horrified by his team's lack of desire and their failure to impose themselves during a dismal display at Fratton Park on Saturday. Last season, Portsmouth were parading the cup around Wembley after Harry Redknapp's men defeated Cardiff in the final.

But a lot has changed at the Premier League club in the last seven months and Adams has presided over a shocking run since Redknapp quit to take over at Tottenham.—Internet



Sean Davis of Portsmouth (C) is challenged by Swansea City's Jason Scotland (R) and Leon Britton during their FA Cup Fourth round football match at Fratton Park in Portsmouth.—INTERNET

China raises rice prices to boost grain output



File photo taken on 7 Oct, 2008, shows paddy field in Southwest China's Guizhou Province.—INTERNET

BEIJING, 25 Jan—China's top economic planner said on Saturday it would raise the minimum state purchasing prices for rice in major rice-producing areas by as much as 16.9 percent this year.

The move was aimed at protecting farmers' interests, keeping grain prices stable and boosting grain output as grain growers had experienced higher costs since last year, according to the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC).

The state purchasing prices for japonica rice will rise 15.9 percent to 1900 yuan (280 US dollars) per ton this year, according to the NDRC.

In addition, prices for early and late indica rice will be 16.9 percent and 16.5 percent higher respectively to 1800 yuan and 1840 yuan per ton.

It was the biggest increase in grain purchasing prices since 2004, said Ding Jie, an official with the NDRC's price department.

In 2004, China started the practice of buying grains from farmers at a state-set minimum price when market prices drop below the protective price level in order to encourage grain production.

Saturday's announcement came before Chinese farmers kick off the spring planting season, as the government tried to prevent the grain growers' enthusiasm from being eroded by higher costs of fertilizers and other production materials.—Internet

MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (26.1.2009) (Monday)

Transmission Times

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

Local Transmission

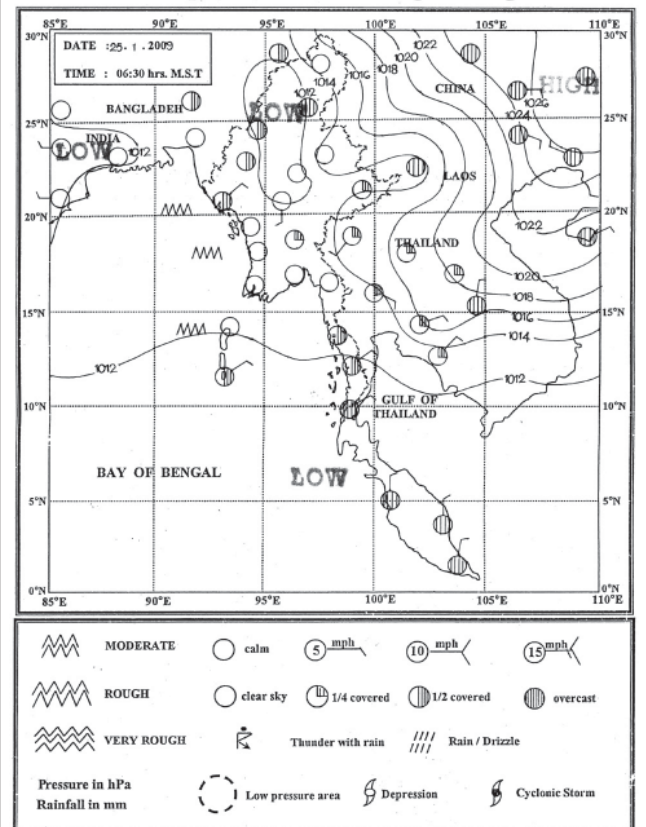
- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- * A Gift from The Sea
- * Extensive Network of Railroads across the Nation
- * Native of Pa-O Nationals (Kyauktalone)
- * Ayeyawady Dolphin Expedition (Part-II)
- * Coffee Production in Myanmar
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Abroad Transmissions

- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- * Ayeyawady Dolphin Expedition (Part-I)
- * Cultural Museum (Kengtaung)
- * Grassland Survey in Hukaung Tiger Reserve
- * Water Hyacinth Furniture
- * The Art of Sculpture from Sagyin Hill
- * Expedition of Rare Crocodile Species Inhabiting in Fresh And Seawaters (IV)
- * A Gift from The Sea
- * Extensive Network of Railroads across the Nation
- * Native of Pa-O Nationals (Kyauktalone)
- * Ayeyawady Dolphin Expedition (Part-II)
- * Coffee Production in Myanmar
- * Producing of Quality Medicine
- * Expedition of Rare Crocodile Species Inhabiting in Fresh And Seawaters (V)
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Sunday, 25 January, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, isolated light rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Divisions, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin and Shan States, Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (4°C) below January average temperatures in Chin State, (3°C) to (4°C) above January average temperatures in Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) above January average temperatures in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, (9°C) above January average temperature in Shan State and about January average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Hakha (0°C) and Pinlaung (2°C). The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Kawthong (0.28) inch.

Maximum temperature on 24-1-2009 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 25-1-2009 was 63°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 25-1-2009 was 76%. Total sunshine hours on 24-1-2009 was (9.3) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 25-1-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Northeast at (12:30) hours MST on 24-1-2009.

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 26th January 2009: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin and Shan States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon 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 isolated light rain or thundershowers in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 26-1-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 26-1-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 26-1-2009: Generally fair weather.



Monday, 26 January
View on today

7:00 am

1. တောင်တန်းသာသနာပြုဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၏ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. Cute little dancers

7:50 am

5. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:00 am

6. Musical programme

8:10 am

7. “စက်မှုဇုန်မှာကျွန်မစက်ရုံ လာတည်တော့မယ်” (မြိုးငွေစိုး၊မိုးဒီ၊သဇင်၊နင်းဆီ၊ ခင်မိုးမိုးအေး) [ဒါရိုက်တာ-တင်အောင်ရွှေ (သုတေသီ)]

8:20 am

8. ဖြူးချောင်းတံတား

8:30 am

9. International news

8:45 am

10. Local talent

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:10 pm

2. Song of national races

4:20 pm

3. မြန်မာစာမြန်မာစကား

4:35 pm

4. Dance variety

5:00 pm

5. Musical programme (The radio Myanmar modern musical troupe)

5:10 pm

6. ၂၀၀၉ခုနှစ်တက္ကသိုလ်ဝင်စာမေးပွဲ ဘာသာရပ်ဆိုင်ရာသင်ခန်းစာ (မြန်မာစာဘာသာရပ်)

5:30 pm

7. Songs to uphold national spirit

5:40 pm

8. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

5:50 pm

9. Musical programme

6:00 pm

10. Evening news

6:30 pm

11. Weather report

6:35 pm

12. Sing and enjoy

7:05 pm

13. သူရွေးသိရာတေးကဗျာ

7:20 pm

14. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “နွဲ့ဆိုးဆိုးသူကိုယ့်ချစ်သူ” (အပိုင်း-၆)

8:00 pm

15. News

16. International news

17. Weather report

18. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

- “မြင့်မြတ်နုလုံးသားပိုင်ရှင်” (အပိုင်း-၂၁)

Prime Minister General Thein Sein sends felicitations to Indian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—On the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the Republic Day of India which falls on 26th January 2009, General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of the Republic of India.—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein felicitates Australian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—On the occasion of the anniversary of the Australia Day which falls on 26th January 2009, General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Kevin Michael Rudd, Prime Minister of Australia.

MNA

Dams, hydropower plants under construction on Mone Creek for ensuring socio-economic development

Article & Photos: *Khin Maung Than (Sethmu)*



Photo shows Mone Creek Dam supplying water to 108,000 acres of farmlands and generating hydropower for local people. (See page 10)



A soot-laden Brown Cloud is affecting South Asian climate as much or more than carbon dioxide and cause premature deaths of 100,000s annually, yet its sources have been poorly understood.

Sources of climate-and-health-afflicting soot pollution identified

STOCKHOLM, 25 Jan — A gigantic brownish haze from various burning and combustion processes is blanketing India and surrounding land and oceans during the winter season.

This soot-laden Brown Cloud is affecting South Asian climate as much or more than carbon dioxide and cause premature deaths of 100,000s annually, yet its sources have been poorly understood.

In the journal Science Örjan Gustafsson and colleagues at Stockholm University and in India use a novel carbon-14 method to determine that two-thirds of the soot particles are from biomass combustion such as in household cooking and in slash-and-burn agriculture.

Brown Clouds, covering large parts of South and East Asia, originate from burning of wood, dung and crop residue as well as from industrial processes and traffic. Previous studies had left it unclear as to the relative source contributions of biomass versus fossil fuel combustion.

Internet

Solar eclipse visible in whole Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan — Meteorology and Hydrology Department announced today that there will be two eclipses of the sun and four eclipses of the moon in 2009. The first solar eclipse can be visible in Myanmar on 26 January.

The solar eclipse can be seen from the southern regions of Myanmar beginning 3:15 p.m. The last solar eclipse can be seen from the northern regions of Myanmar at 5:35 p.m.

The solar eclipse will be visible from Yangon at 4:31 p.m.—MNA

INSIDE

It is the duty of local people and farmers to maintain the dams which have been built spending a large amount of money and to boost production of agricultural produce.

Page 2

PERSPECTIVES